FINAL DRAFT 2019 FINAL DRAFT

Town of Westfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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2019 Westfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Westfield, New Jersey

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Need for a Plan

Westfield, located in northeastern New Jersey, has a population of approximately 32,000 as of 2018. This population has increased slightly since 1980 and is expected to remain steady into the future (see Chapter 2 for demographics). The makeup of the population has changed over time, and these changes have implications to both the current and future needs for parks and recreation in Westfield.

Recognizing that the needs of the population should be assessed, Town Council and Recreation staff determined that a comprehensive process was needed to determine the future needs of the community, leading to the authorization of this Master Plan. The 2019 Westfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan represents the culmination of the master planning process and will provide guidance for parks, recreation, open space, and trails in Westfield for the next five to ten years and beyond.

The quality of a community's parks and recreation system is viewed as one of the indicators of the overall quality of life. A recent study, *The Economic Benefits of Land Conservation* by John L. Crompton for the Trust for Public Land, investigated the impact of parks and open space on property taxes. This study indicated that property values were higher for properties near quality parks and open spaces than for similar properties located elsewhere.

Parks provide numerous benefits to the health and wellness of a community. Parks can be an effective component of a strategy to address issues such as poor nutrition, hunger, obesity, and physical inactivity. Living closer to a park leads to higher activity levels, and adolescents with access to a variety of recreation facilities are more physically active and less likely to be overweight. Studies also indicate that a connection to nature can relieve stress, improve interpersonal relationships, and improve mental health.[1] Finally, parks are important because they can serve as gathering places for the community and can help cultivate community ties, leading to a sense of connectedness that leads to a more livable and desirable community.[2]

Existing Conditions of Parks and Recreation in Westfield

For many residents, parks provide their primary access to the natural environment, and for all residents, parks provide a variety of natural and active outdoor recreational opportunities. Access to these facilities helps to promote the health and wellness of the community.

Westfield offers 189 acres of parkland and 11 parks, including three (3) Mini Parks, one (1) Neighborhood Park, and two (2) Community Parks. The town also offers two (2) Special Use Parks, four (4) Natural Areas/Open Space. Elementary schools (Westfield Public Schools) offer opportunities that supplement these offerings. Union County also offers parks in and near Westfield.

Demographic Analysis

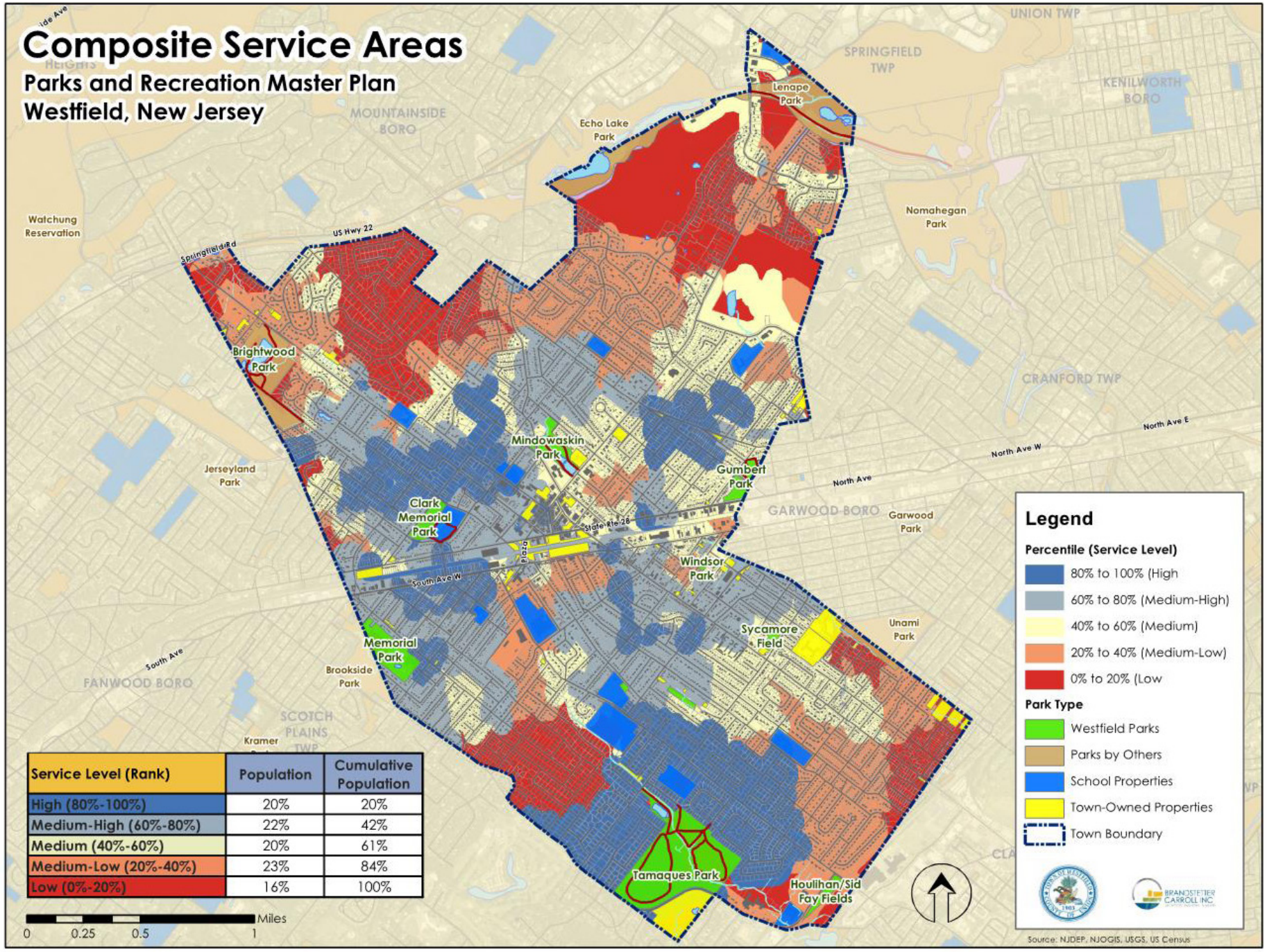
A review of demographic and population trends was important to identify present and anticipate future needs for parks and recreation services and facilities. Trends showed an aging and older population for Westfield and increasing diversity. This analysis also indicated that the makeup of the population in Westfield will likely continue to change into the future. The direction chosen for parks and recreation will determine the availability of opportunities for these

1 National Recreation and Park Association, "Health and Wellness," https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/health-wellness/, (May 14, 2019)

2 National Recreation and Park Association, "Social Equity," https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/social-equity/, (May 14, 2019)

Composite Service Areas

Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Westfield, New Jersey



Service Level (Rank)	Population	Cumulative Population
High (80%-100%)	20%	20%
Medium-High (60%-80%)	22%	42%
Medium (40%-60%)	20%	61%
Medium-Low (20%-40%)	23%	84%
Low (0%-20%)	16%	100%

residents and will help to enrich the quality of life in Westfield.

Service Area Analysis (Gaps)

Service areas for types of parks and for individual facilities were mapped to identify the "Service Gaps" or underserved areas. Maps were produced showing access to two (2) park classifications and eight (8) facilities. A composite service areas map (see left page) was created showing the overall level of service for parks and facilities. Dark shades of blue indicate a high level of service for parks and facilities at that location within Westfield. Red areas have the lowest level of service to parks and facilities. Approximately 42% of the Westfield population live in the highest two categories, and 39% live in the lowest two categories combined.

Residents near Tamaques Park or in the southeastern portion of the town have the highest level of service (High). Much of the northern and far southeastern parts of the town have "Medium-Low" or "Low" service levels. The table below shows the percentage of the population by service level.

Service Level (Rank)	Population	Cumulative Population
High (80%-100%)	20%	20%
Medium-High (60%-80%)	22%	42%
Medium (40%-60%)	20%	61%
Medium-Low (20%-40%)	23%	84%
Low (0%-20%)	16%	100%

A Citizen Driven Plan

As the purpose of this plan is to address the needs of the community, a primary focus of the master planning process was to identify those needs. A number of methods were utilized to determine the needs and desires of Westfield residents for parks and recreation facilities and programs. The summary below indicates the many ways the public was involved throughout this process.

Engagement Summary

- Public Workshops – Open Houses
- Stakeholder Groups (17)
- Event
- Dollar Voting
- Surveys (2)

1. The first meeting was held on April 3 in the Community Room at Town Hall, and the second was held on April 24 at Edison School in the cafeteria to introduce the project and solicit feedback from the community
2. Meetings with stakeholder groups representing (April, 2019):

   Town Administration and Staff
   - Town Administrator
   - Recreation Staff
   - Westfield PD

   Sports Groups
   - Baseball
   - Softball
   - Lacrosse
   - Rugby
   - Soccer
   - Football (Tackle/Flag)
   - Westfield Soccer Association
   - Youth Boys Basketball
   - Wrestling & Cheerleading
   - Ultimate Frisbee School Program
   - Westfield High School Athletic Director and Coaches

   Other Organizations
   - Friends of Mindowaskin Park
   - Mountain Bike Group
   - Skateboard Park Group
   - Westfield Public Schools
3. A booth setup at the Spring Fling in May, 2019 to allow attendees to provide input
4. "Voting with Dollars" at events and public workshop (197 participants)
5. A statistically valid needs assessment survey conducted by the ETC Institute that was completed by 583 Westfield households
6. A handout and web survey that was completed by 1,573 residents

What Westfield Residents Said

Information gathered from these public input methods was used to identify the needs of Westfield residents. A brief summary of the findings is described below.

Community Meetings

Most discussed topics included:

1. More/Improve Athletic Fields (224)
2. Artificial Turf Fields (175)
3. Existing Park Improvements – Not Fields or New Development (68)
4. Maintenance – Not Fields (65)
5. Trail Improvements (43)
6. No Turf (40)
7. Preservation/Restoration of Natural Areas (31)
8. Athletic Fields Lighting (24)
9. More Programs (22)
10. Trees (22)
11. School Fields (22)
12. Restrooms (21)

Stakeholder Groups

Most discussed topics included:

- Connectivity throughout Town/More Trails
- Improved Facilities
- Something for Everyone
- Health and Wellness
- Year-Round Opportunities (Indoor Facilities)
- Better Fields
- Artificial Turf Fields
- Wrestling and Cheer Facility
- Partnership with BoE
- More Restrooms
- Host Tournaments
- More Programs

Dollar Voting

Participants at the public workshops were asked how they would allocate $1000 among different types of parks and recreation facility improvements in Westfield. The responses ranked as follows:

Action (Box Title)	Total
Build new athletic fields	38%
Upgrade existing parks and facilities	20%
Build new walking and biking trails	13%
Build new parks (including acquiring land)	9%
Develop a recreation center	6%
Develop an indoor pool	3%
Upgrade Memorial Pool	2%
Expand program offerings	2%
Other	6%
Total	**100%**

Statistically Valid Mail Survey

Ninety-two percent (92%) of residents visited a park in Westfield over the past year, and 72% of these residents visited parks more than 10 times. Tamaques Park was the most visited park (82% reporting visiting), followed by the Mindowaskin Park (73%).

The top reasons for not using parks more often included:

- Use other agencies facilities (38%)
- Do not know what is offered (38%)
- Poor condition of facilities (25%)
- Use facilities out of town (23%)
- Facility or program not offered (22%)

The improvements households would most like to see to existing parks included:

- Restrooms (55%)
- Walking/hiking trails (50%)
- Drinking fountains (47%)
- Bike Trails (32%)
- Trees and landscaping (31%)
- Shade structures (26%)

The most important parks and recreation facilities for households were (sum of top four choices):

- Walking and hiking trails (41%)
- Small neighborhood parks (28%
- Large community parks (27%)
- Natural areas/nature parks (22%)
- Paved bike trails (19%))

The results of the most important facilities were combined with the reported unmet needs to determine high (top 5) priorities for investment:

1. Walking & hiking trails
2. Paved bike trails
3. Natural areas/nature parks
4. Small neighborhood parks
5. Large community parks

The most important parks and recreation programs for households were:

- Special events (33%)
- Adult fitness & wellness (28%)
- Summer concerts (28%)
- Youth sports (21%)
- Programs for ages 50+ (19%)

The results of the most important programs were combined with the reported unmet needs to determine the high (top 5) priorities for investment:

1. Special events
2. Adult fitness & wellness
3. Summer concerts
4. Program or age 50+
5. Adult sports

Key Findings (all methods)

Results indicate that the community desires:

- Upgrades to existing parks
- Improved maintenance of parks, including natural areas
- Trail improvements
  - Improvements to existing trails
  - More and better-connected trails
  - Nature trails
  - Tamaques cross-country trail improvements
- More/better restrooms
- Preservation of open space
- Tree plantings and beautification
- New playground equipment
- More picnic shelters
- Pickleball courts
- Improvements to athletic fields
  - Better field conditions
  - Improvements to Board of Education fields
  - More artificial turf fields
  - Field lighting
- Long-term solution for temporary ice rink/ permanent rink
- Field house for wrestling, cheerleading, and other programming
- Support features
  - Security cameras and lighting
  - Drinking fountains
  - Seating
  - Shade structures
  - Wi-Fi
- An amphitheater for concerts and movies
- An indoor recreation center
  - Walking track
  - Gyms
  - Cardio room
  - Program space
- Improved marketing and communication
- Expanded program offerings
  - Adult fitness & wellness programs
  - More special events
  - Youth and adult sports
  - Programs for persons aged 50+
  - Nature programs
  - More concerts and movies (need amphitheater to avoid over use of Mindowaskin Park)

Vision, Mission, and Values for Parks and Recreation in Westfield

Mission

Build community, enhance quality of life, and provide a meaningful difference through parks, cultural arts, and play while preserving our diverse resources

Vision

Lead, innovate, and grow through recreational opportunities

Values

Service

We deliver amazing experiences.

History

We respect the rich history of our community and the accomplishments of its residents.

Innovation

We find new and creative ways to do things better.

Community

We build a stronger community through our facilities and programs.

Safety

We provide safe and clean places to play.

Culture

We are building a culture of outstanding customer service, wellness, and FUN!

Inclusivity

We believe everyone should have convenient access to a broad range of parks, facilities, and programs.

Goals & Objectives

The following goals and objectives will guide the operations, improvements, and services in parks and recreation in Westfield over the next five to ten years.

Goal 1: Great Places & Spaces

Our parks, places, and spaces will connect people, build community, and create amazing experiences for current and future generations.

Objective 1.1 – **Connectivity:** Acquire, plan, develop, and maintain trails and spaces that connect people, build community and provide opportunities for health, wellness, and discovery

Objective 1.2 – **Modernization:** Invest in renewing and modernizing existing parks and facilities while simultaneously adding new features that provide innovative, safe, and diverse experiences

Objective 1.3 – **Sports:** Provide up-to-date venues for team and individual sports to encourage increased participation for youth and adults

Objective 1.4 – **Access to Nature:** Provide connections between the community and the natural environment through preservation, conservation, and education

Goal 2: Great Experiences

Our programs, events and services will promote health and wellness, learning, creativity and fun to enrich the lives of our diverse and everchanging community.

Objective 2.1 – **Programs & Classes:** Strengthen the mix and quality of time-honored and trendsetting services that appeal to and are accessible to all segments of our community

Objective 2.2 – **Cultural Arts:** Increase awareness and appreciation of, access to and engagement in a diversity of experiences in the arts

Objective 2.3 – **Events:** Expand the variety, frequency and scope of special events to build community and bolster economic development

Objective 2.4 – **Wellness:** Create opportunities to inspire residents to improve their health and wellness

Goal 3: Team Empowerment and Preparation

Our Town leadership, staff and community will work together to deliver innovative, accessible, affordable, and inclusive experiences that meet the changing needs of our community.

Objective 3.1 – **People:** Build, grow, and invest in a team of knowledgeable, skilled, diverse, passionate and highly valued staff

Objective 3.2 – **Community:** Engage all sectors of the community to promote, plan, increase access, encourage volunteerism, and improve the quality of parks, recreation, and cultural arts

Objective 3.3 – **Maintenance:** Enhance safety, accessibility, quality, and cost effectiveness by developing and implementing maintenance and operations standards and best practices

Objective 3.4 – **Partners and Sponsors:** Build relationships and partnerships with foundations, schools, businesses, governments, and nonprofit organizations to meet current and future needs of the community

Goal 4: Operational Excellence & Fiscal Responsibility

Our department will implement modern best practices to ensure our people, policies, processes, finances, and resources are aligned to fulfill our mission and realize our vision.

Objective 4.1 – **Finances:** Expand and enhance facility, program, and service offerings through alternative funding, management best practices, and cost recovery efforts

Objective 4.2 – **Technology:** Maximize the use of technology to enhance business operations and customer experience

Objective 4.3 – **Policy, Process,** Planning: Modernize, streamline, and consistently apply internal business processes, policies and planning practices

Objective 4.4 – **Marketing:** Increase the level of awareness, support, and engagement in parks, recreation, and cultural arts through innovative and consistent marketing, branding, and communications

Systemwide Recommendations

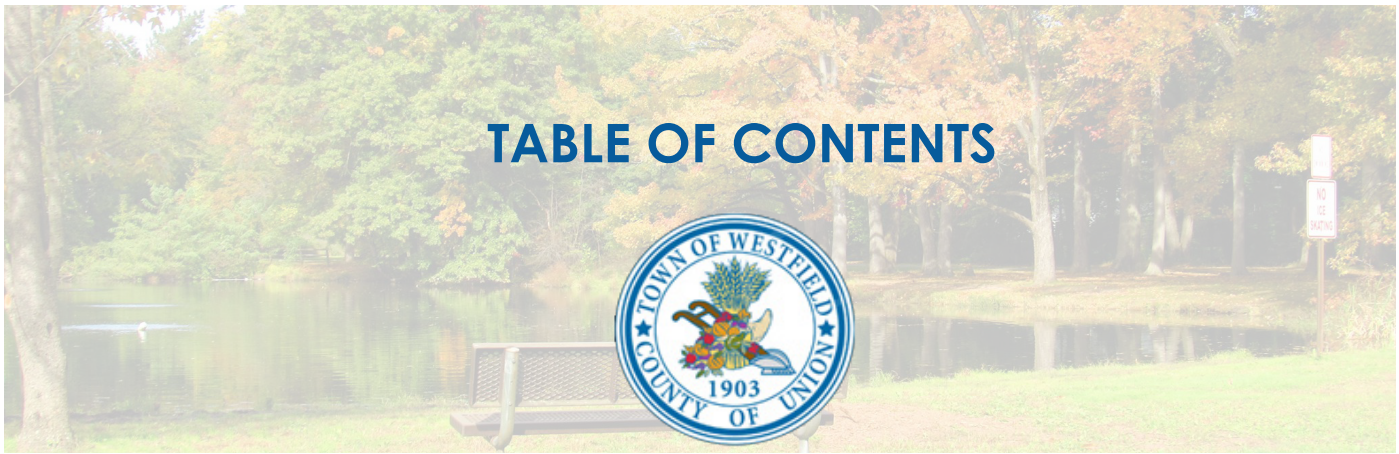
The Public Input (Chapter 4) and Needs Assessment (Chapter 5) were used to establish the overall priorities for improvements to parks in Westfield. The following items are the top priorities for park improvements as determined by the master planning process and consultation with the steering committee.

1. Improve ADA access throughout the park system, including walkways to all facilities and seating areas
2. Improve maintenance at existing parks, including natural areas
3. Prepare Park Master Plans for Brightwood Park, Clark Memorial Park, Edison Intermediate School, Elm Street Property, Memorial Park, and Tamaques Park (update)
4. Convert the four diamond fields at Memorial Park to artificial turf with lights; include lining for rectangular fields sports
5. Develop an artificial turf field with lights at the Elm Street Property with lines for multiple sports
6. Develop two artificial turf fields with lights at Edison Intermediate School with lines for multiple sports
7. Add artificial turf infields at Gumbert Park to reduce rainouts
8. Develop a field house in Tamaques Park for wrestling and cheerleading with storage space for football and other sports
9. Begin implementation of the Bike Walk Westfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to improve connectivity and safety throughout Westfield
10. Add paved trail loops within existing parks (and schools) that lack this facility (Edison Intermediate School, Sycamore Field, Clark Memorial Park, and Memorial Park) and in any future parks
11. Add natural surface trails in Memorial Park, Tamaques Park, and Brightwood Park
12. Design the new natural surface trails at Brightwood Park for mountain biking while allowing other uses
13. Add outdoor fitness equipment at select parks throughout Westfield (Brightwood Park, Clark Memorial Park, Gumbert Park, Memorial Park, Mindowaskin Park, Sycamore Field, and Tamaques Park) to expand opportunities for improved community health
14. Develop a dog park at Tamaques Park to provide a place for dogs to go unleashed and for dog owners to gather
15. Pursue opportunities if they arise for new parks in the north portions of the town and other underserved parts of Westfield
16. Develop the Elm Street Property as a Neighborhood Park with a variety of features needed in Westfield
17. Develop an amphitheater at the Elm Street Property to accommodate concerts and special events which have been requested by the people of Westfield
18. Upgrade Brightwood Park to a Nature Park to provide improved access to nature, additional and improve passive amenities, and a venue for nature programs
19. Add nature programming at Brightwood Park, Tamaques Park, and, potentially, the Dunham Avenue Bird Sanctuary
20. Pursue a location to develop a recreation center with gym space to help meet the unmet need for programs that require this type of facility
21. Expand program offerings to meet unmet community needs, including adult fitness and wellness programs, summer concerts/movies, and programs for age 50+
22. Identify standard formatting for all marketing and promotional efforts (consider samples provided above) based on this platform
23. Improve website and expand social media presence
24. Establish and hire an Aquatics Manager separate from the Assistant Director position
25. Encourage the creation a Westfield Parks Foundation to raise funds and recruit and organize volunteers

This master plan provides capital improvement recommendations for each park in Westfield. These recommendations with cost estimates can be found in Chapter 8.

Action Plan

The 2019 Westfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes a detailed Action Plan with 150 strategies. These strategies, which can be found in Chapter 9, represent specific actions for Parks and Recreation and the Town of Westfield to take to implement this plan.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Westfield is a very unique community which places a very high value on its parks and athletic/recreation facilities due to the very high level of participation and use of the facilities. This is evidenced by the survey results which illustrate that over 92% of residents indicated they have visited a park in Westfield in the past year and 58% visited 20 or more times. The national average of over 700 communities that have prepared parks and recreation surveys is 78% visitation. The School Administration identified that over 1,400 of the 1,900 students in Westfield High School participate in sports activities. The sports leagues all indicated a very high participation level in a wide variety of sports, including baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, ultimate frisbee, football, flag football, wrestling, cheerleading, ice hockey, basketball, and more.

Residents showed an extremely high level of interest in their parks with nearly 30% returning the random sample survey, over 1,500 completing the online survey, and over 200 people participating in the two public open houses.

In addition, Westfield has a strong and proud tradition of successful sports teams at the state level and the youth leagues coordinate with the schools to partner as feeders for the school programs, helping to lead to this success.

Westfield has developed a system of unique parks that offer both active sports areas as well as passive and more natural areas, which make for very pleasant and a wide variety of park experiences. For example, the walking trail at Tamaques Park is very heavily used year-round. Memorial Pool is well used and offers one of the best community pools in New Jersey. The high level of sports participation and park use does put a strain on the ability to maintain quality facilities on the limited number of fields and facilities.

The surveys also indicated a strong demand for life-long and non-sports facilities and activities such as trails, natural areas, neighborhood parks, dog parks, and more. This Master Plan provides a vision for the Town to:

> ***Lead, innovate, and grow through recreational opportunities.***

The proposed Mission is to:

> ***Build community, enhance quality of life, and provide a meaningful difference through parks, cultural arts, and play while preserving our diverse resources***

1.2 The Need for a Plan

Westfield, located in northeastern New Jersey, has a population of approximately 32,000 as of 2018. This population has increased slightly since 1980 and is expected to remain steady into the future (see Chapter 2 for demographics). The makeup of the population has changed over time, and these changes have implications to both the current and future needs for parks and recreation in Westfield

Westfield offers 189 acres of parkland and 11 parks, including three (3) Mini Parks, one (1) Neighborhood Park, and two (2) Community Parks. The town also offers two (2) Special Use Parks, four (4) Natural Areas/Open Space. Elementary schools (Westfield Public Schools) offer opportunities that supplement these offerings. Union County also offers parks in and near Westfield.

Recognizing that the needs of the population should be assessed to develop a plan for the future, the Town Council, Recreation Commission, and Recreation Department staff determined that a comprehensive process should be completed to determine the needs of the community for the future, leading to the authorization of this Master Plan.

The Town appointed a steering committee to guide the planning process. The *2019 Westfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan* represents the culmination of the master planning process and will provide guidance for parks, recreation, culture, open space, and trails in Westfield for the next five to ten years and beyond.

1.3 The Importance of Parks

This master planning effort, which will help determine the future of parks and recreation in Westfield, is important because parks provide a number of benefits and services to the community. Additionally, local agencies have the responsibility to manage parkland in an efficient manner that is consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the community, and this Master Plan is intended to assist and direct the management of these lands and facilities. For many residents, parks provide their primary access to the natural environment, and for all residents, parks offer a variety of natural and active outdoor recreational opportunities. Access to these facilities helps to promote the health and wellness of the community.

The quality of a community's parks and recreation system is viewed as one of the indicators of the overall quality of life. A recent study, *The Economic Benefits of Land Conservation* by John L. Crompton for the Trust for Public Land, investigated the impact of parks and open space on property taxes. This study found that property values were higher for properties near quality parks and open spaces than for similar properties located elsewhere. In addition, recent surveys of home buyers by the National Association of Home Builders indicated that trails, parks, and playgrounds were three of the top five amenities that home buyers desire when considering a new home purchase. Finally, the preliminary findings of a recent study, *The Economic Significance of Local and Regional Park Systems' Spending on the United States* Economy, conducted by the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University (GMU) for the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) found that local and regional parks created $140 billion in economic activity per year and supported nearly one million jobs in the United States.

Parks provide numerous benefits to the health and wellness of a community. Parks can be an effective component of a strategy to address issues such as poor nutrition, hunger, obesity, and physical inactivity. Living closer to a park leads to higher activity levels, and adolescents with access to a variety of recreation facilities are more physically active and less likely to be overweight. Studies also indicate that a connection to nature can relieve stress, improve interpersonal relationships, and improve mental health. Some programs and facilities, such as community gardens, can actually provide healthy food for residents.[1] Finally, parks are important because they can serve as gathering places for the community and can help cultivate community ties, leading to a sense of connectedness that increases livability and desirability.[2]

The residents and the leadership of Westfield place a high value on parks and recreation services. According to the Town of Westfield Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey, 87% of residents support upgrading

[1] National Recreation and Park Association, "Health and Wellness," http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Health-and-Wellness/, (December, 10 2019).

[2] National Recreation and Park Association, "Social Equity," http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Social-Equity/, (December, 10 2019).

existing parks and facilities and 80% support developing new or connecting existing trails (see Chapter 4 for more information). Through the implementation of this plan, parks will continue to serve as gathering places for the community and improve the quality of life of Westfield residents.

1.4 Master Planning Process

The master planning process consisted of four phases with frequent meetings between representatives of Westfield and the Consultant. Westfield Recreation staff and the Recreation Commission appointed a Steering Committee made up of staff, community leaders, and stakeholders to work with the Consultant throughout the process. Each phase concluded with the submittal of documentation and a presentation of findings through that point of the process. The next four sections provide a summary of each phase: Evaluate →Engage → Envision → Plan.

1.5 Evaluate

The planning process launched with meetings with Westfield representatives, the gathering of information on Town demographics, and a review of existing data.

1.5.1 Demographic Analysis

Using information provided by the town and other sources, the Consultant performed an analysis of the demographic and population characteristics of Westfield. Information included:

- Population trends and five-year population projections
- Demographic characteristics (quantity, ages, race, etc.)
- Household size and composition
- Median household income and educational attainment
- Population diversity

1.5.2 Benchmarking Analysis

Benchmarking comparisons were compiled of 45 agencies that were located in New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont that served populations between 10,000 and 50,000 that participated in the Park Metrics program. Comparisons between these park systems included several criteria such as parkland inventory, department functions, staffing, budgets, facilities offered, and other relevant characteristics.

1.5.3 Inventory of Parks, Facilities, and Programs

This process consisted of an analysis of existing parks, facilities, and programs in their current form. This analysis was important in order to assess current conditions to later compare against the desires of Westfield residents as presented in the later needs assessment phase.

Park Classification

An update to the classifications for parks in Westfield was developed to evaluate the overall recreation opportunities that are available to the public. Parks were classified as Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Special Use Parks, Natural Areas, or Trails.

Parks, Open Space, and Facilities Inventory

This process entailed an inventory of all existing parks and open space properties available in the Town of Westfield. Site visits were made to all parks to identify existing conditions and assess opportunities for improvements. After this analysis was completed, each of the properties was assigned to one of the updated park classifications. A table was produced to provide a summary of the amenities offered at each property. Maps were prepared using GIS software to illustrate the locations of the town-owned parks and recreation facilities.

The facility inventory included trails located throughout Westfield, and also considered amenities available at local schools (Westfield Public Schools). Finally, the process identified recreational opportunities offered by other park systems and private organizations.

Programs Inventory

The programs inventory described activities based on the Core Program Components:

- Broad Appeal
- Administrative Feasibility
- Coordination
- Settings and Times
- Constructive Nature
- Range of Activities

The programs inventory also provided a participation summary and a list of the organizations that manage sports leagues with the facilities used.

1.5.4 Needs Assessment and Identification

Level of Service Guidelines

Level of service guidelines were developed based on public input, benchmarking comparisons, and existing standards and guidelines. Level of service standards were developed for each of the park classifications. Levels of service standards were similarly developed for recreation facilities and for total acreage of parkland and open space.

Geographic Distribution – Service Gap Analysis

Analysis was conducted to determine service gaps by mapping the locations of and access to existing facilities. The mapping included parks by classification and specific recreation facilities, with defined service areas to determine locations within Westfield lacking access to facilities. A map was prepared showing access to parks, and eight (8) maps were prepared for specific recreation facilities. A Composite Service Levels map was produced to show a combined level of service for parks and facilities for all areas of Westfield.

1.5.5 Trends

Parks and recreation trends were analyzed to review changes in demand for activities and facilities. The analysis also included a review of participation rates and changes in user service demands.

1.6 Engage

The public input process entailed a wide variety of methods intended to reach both park users and non-users to determine needs and desires for the future or parks and recreation in Westfield.

1.6.1 Westfield Parks and Recreation Survey

A statistically valid mail survey (Mail Survey) was conducted by ETC Institute with 583 surveys completed by Westfield residents. This portion of the public input was initiated early in the process (winter 2019). The survey was used to identify:

- Current satisfaction levels with programs and facilities
- Participation and satisfaction with current programs and events
- Parks currently used
- Needs for various facilities and programs
- Most needed facilities

- Primary actions that should be taken by Westfield regarding parks, recreation, open space, trails, programs, and facilities

1.6.2 Public Workshop Open House

The town conducted two public workshops (open house meeting) for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to introduce the project to the public and to solicit feedback from the community regarding the present and future of parks and recreation in Westfield. The first meeting was held on April 3 in the Community Room at Town Hall, and the second was held on April 24 at Edison School in the cafeteria. Both meetings were held jointly with the Town Master Plan Update. The purpose of these meetings was to solicit input from citizens and users regarding their concerns and opinions about existing facilities and programs and to determine their desires for future facilities and programs. The meetings allowed participants to visit a series of stations in order to provide their input and learn more about the master plan.

1.6.3 Stakeholder Groups

A series of stakeholder group meetings were conducted between April 3 and April 25, 2019 to determine the parks and recreation priorities for various interest groups. A total of 17 stakeholder groups were engaged as part of this master plan. At these meetings, stakeholders were asked a series of questions about Westfield parks, recreation facilities, and programs, beginning with a discussion of strengths before moving to a discussion of opportunities for the future.

1.6.4 Web-Based Survey

The planning team also prepared a handout and web-based survey. The survey was completed by 1,573 individuals and consisted of similar questions to the Mail Survey about the future of parks in Westfield. Results of the two surveys are presented and compared in Chapter 4.

1.7 Envision

Parks and Recreation Mission and Strategic Plan with Goals and Objectives

After the completion of the Evaluate and Engage phases, the results and findings were presented to the Steering Committee and Recreation Department staff. The Consultant led members of the staff and the steering committee through an exercise to produce an updated Strategic Plan for parks and recreation in Westfield.

The results of these meetings led to the creation of a vision for the future of parks and recreation services in Westfield. The new Strategic Plan consists of an updated mission, a vision, and a series of goals and objectives for parks and recreation in Westfield.

1.8 Plan

Using the data collected throughout the master planning process, a series of recommendations were formulated to meet the needs and expectations of Westfield residents. The recommendations were separated into the following groupings.

1.8.1 Recommendations

Systemwide improvements for facilities, programs, and operations (Chapter 7) were provided to direct parks and recreation over the next five to ten years and beyond. Priorities were provided for improvements that apply to the entire system and Westfield as a whole, such as operations, programs, budgets, development practices, and priorities for upgrades. Long-term needs for land acquisition were also included in these recommendations. Recommendations for individual parks were also developed and are included in Chapter 8.

1.8.2 Action Plan

This portion of the process consisted of the creation of a detailed Action Plan with specific strategies for the implementation of this master plan.

The Action Plan provided specific strategies for:

- Existing Park Improvements
- Trails and Connectivity
- New Park and Facility Development
- Natural Areas, Open Space, and Nature Education
- Outdoor Athletic Fields and Courts
- Indoor Recreation
- Programming
- Operations, Maintenance, and Promotion
- Budget and Funding
- Partnerships and Sponsorships

The strategies in this Action Plan were categorized under the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan developed during this planning process. The action steps for the implementation of the plan were categorized as short-term (0-2 years), mid-term (3-5 years), or long-term (6-10 years) strategies. Additionally, the plan identified the responsible party and potential funding source for each strategy.

Draft Master Plan

A draft of the *2019 Westfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan* was presented to Westfield Recreation and the steering committee in December 2019. Master Plan findings and recommendations will be presented to the Recreation Commission on January 15, 2020

2 PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 Introduction

The Planning Context chapter provides a summary of factors and trends that may influence the delivery of parks and recreation services throughout the Town of Westfield. This chapter begins with a summary of population and demographic trends in Westfield and concludes with a benchmarking analysis comparing parks and recreation in the Town of Westfield with other municipalities throughout the United States.

2.2 Population and Demographic Trends

An overall understanding of population trends of Westfield is necessary to identify current conditions and to anticipate future needs for parks and recreation services and facilities. Needs vary between demographic groups, and these needs also change over time. Each of the following demographic categories examines specific elements of the population.

2.2.1 Population Growth

Figure 2.1 illustrates the population change in Westfield from 1980 to 2023. This table uses U.S. Census Bureau data for historic figures and Esri forecasts for 2018 and 2023. These numbers indicate a steady population in Westfield since 1980. The town has hovered at around 30,000 since 1980 with a drop of nearly 2,000 in 1990 and more recent gains. Some growth is expected through 2023.

2.2.2 Household Size

Table 2.1 shows the number of households in 2018 and household size from 2000 to 2023 for Westfield, Union County, New Jersey, and the USA. The table indicates that in Westfield, the average household size increased substantially from 2000 to 2010 and has continued to increase since. Since 2010, the household size in Westfield has been higher than all comparisons and much higher than the USA. Households size in all geographies is expected to remain stable through 2023.

Figure 2.1: Westfield Population Growth

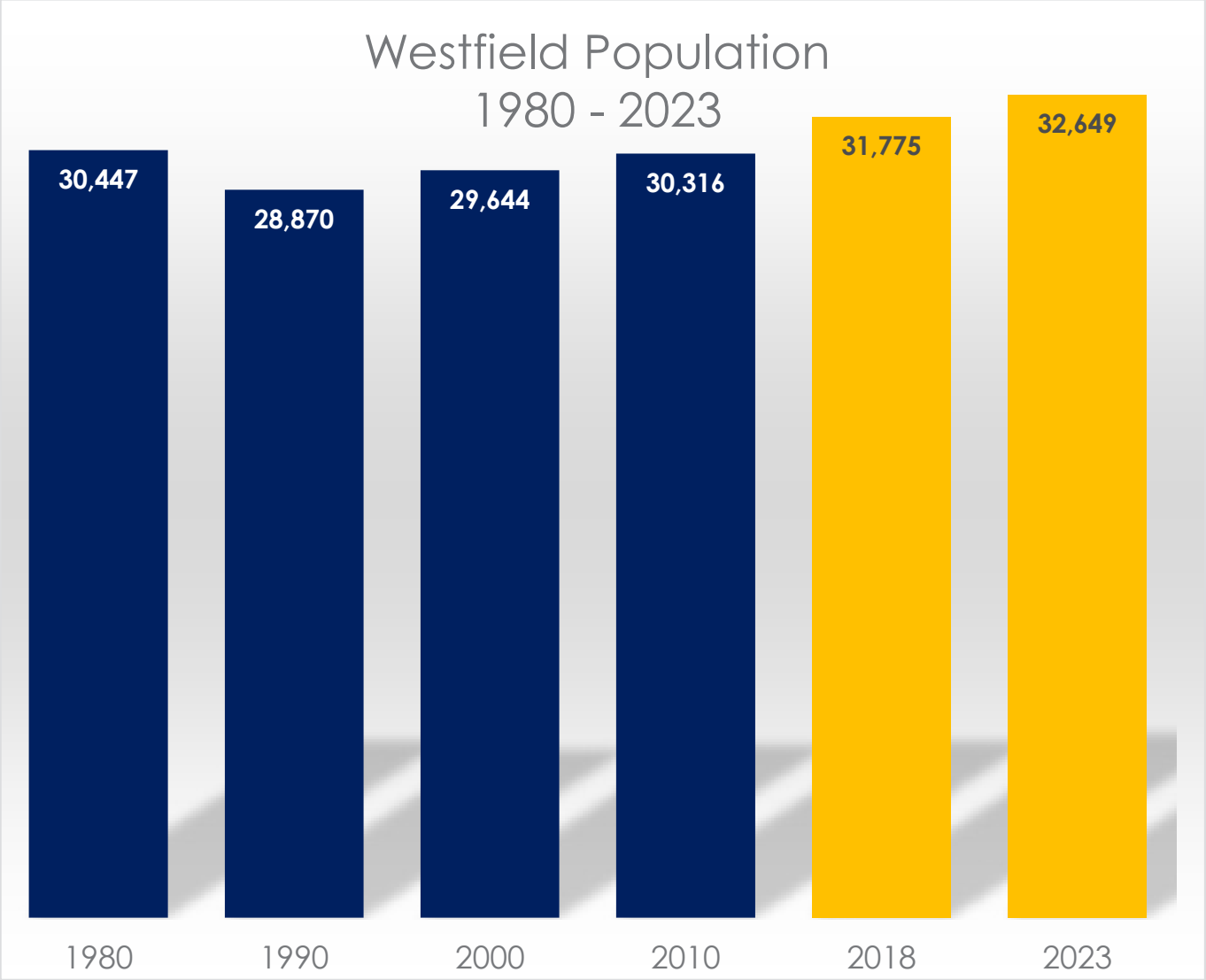


Table 2.1: Average Household Size (2000 to 2023)

	Households	Average Household Size			
	2018	2000	2010	2018	2023
USA	330,088,686	2.59	2.58	2.59	2.60
New Jersey	3,306,213	2.68	2.68	2.70	2.71
Union County	195,510	2.77	2.82	2.86	2.87
Westfield	10,932	2.77	2.85	2.89	2.90

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts

2.2.3 Median Age

Table 2.2 shows the median age for Westfield, Union County, New Jersey, and the USA from 2000 through 2023. The median age in Westfield increased between 2000 and 2010 and again by 2018. All geographic levels are increasing, and Westfield has a higher median age than the comparisons in all years indicated.

The 2000 median age in Westfield (38.6) was higher than Union County, the State of New Jersey, and the USA. The 2018 median age was 42.8 and is expected to continue to increase through 2023. The age of the residents is important because Westfield needs to plan for the appropriate age groups that it will be serving.

Table 2.2: Median Age (2000-2023)

	2000	2010	2018	2023
USA	35.3	37.1	38.3	39.0
New Jersey	36.7	38.9	40.1	40.9
Union County	36.6	37.9	38.8	39.6
Westfield	38.6	41.0	42.8	43.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts

2.2.4 Senior Population

Table 2.3 displays the population age 65 and over from 2000 to 2023 and shows that this age group has increased as a percentage of the population over this time period and is expected to continue to do so through 2023 for all geographic levels. In Westfield, the proportion of the population over 65 increased between 2000 and 2018 from 13.5% to 16.5%. The same trend is apparent for the other geographic areas. The proportion of the population age 65 and over is expected to continue to increase. By 2023, Westfield is projected to have 19% of the total population in this age cohort. As of 2018, Westfield's percentage over age 65 is higher than Union County but similar to New Jersey and the USA.

Table 2.3: Population Age 65 and over (2000-2023)

	2000	2010	2018	2023
USA	12.4%	13.0%	16.0%	18.0%
New Jersey	13.2%	13.5%	16.6%	18.7%
Union County	13.8%	12.6%	15.1%	16.9%
Westfield	13.5%	13.1%	16.5%	19.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts

2.2.5.Children

Table 2.5 presents the population under age 18 from 2000 to 2023. The table indicates that in Westfield the percentage of children decreased from 28.4% in 2000 to 27.4% in 2018. The percentage of the population within this age group is expected to drop further to 25.1% by 2023. The trend of a declining percentage of children is apparent at the state, regional, and national levels. Although the child population is decreasing at all geographic levels, Westfield has and will continue to have a larger percentage within this age cohort than the comparison geographies. Additionally, children will continue to represent over a quarter of the population.

Table 2.4: Population Under Age 18 (2000-2023)

	2000	2010	2018	2023
USA	25.7%	24.0%	22.2%	21.9%
New Jersey	24.8%	23.5%	21.8%	20.8%
Union County	24.9%	24.5%	23.1%	22.0%
Westfield	28.4%	30.0%	27.4%	25.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts

2.2.5 Age Distribution

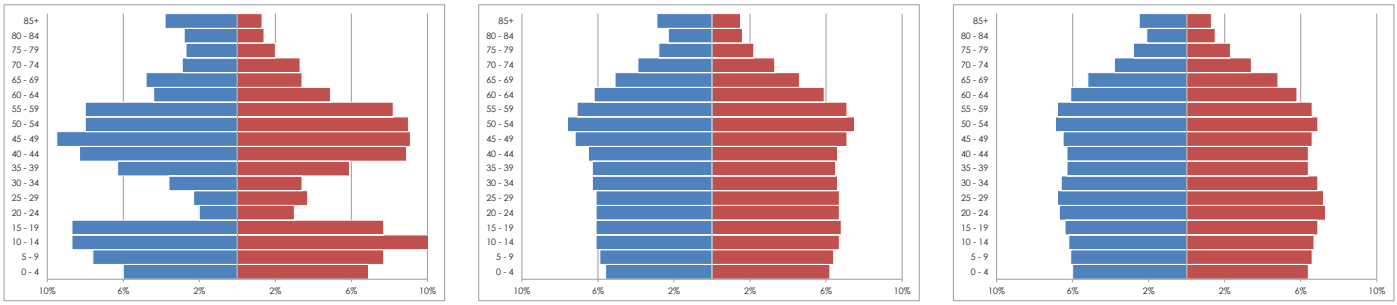
Figure 2.2 shows population by age group and sex for Westfield, the State of New Jersey, and the USA for 2017.[1] These charts help explain how Westfield has both more children than the comparisons and a higher median age. From these population pyramids, it is apparent that the largest age cohorts in Westfield are those in the 5-19 and 44-59 age ranges. The percentages drop significantly at the 20 to 24 cohort before

[1] 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

jumping at the 40 to 44 cohort. The population percentages peak at the 45-49 age cohort, then begin to decrease for each of the later age groups.

The age distribution of Westfield is very different from the State of New Jersey which is apparent in Figure 2.2. Westfield's distribution indicates more older residents and fewer younger residents, particularly those between 20 and 34. The New Jersey distribution indicates more residents in the middle age cohorts (45-59) compared to the USA pyramid. All geographies show a larger percentage of female residents in the older cohorts.

Figure 2.2: Population by Age and Sex 2017 (Females-Blue/Males-Red)



Westfield New Jersey USA

2.2.6 Income and Educational Attainment

The 2018 median household income in Westfield ($154,031) was much higher than the values for Union County ($74,700), the State of New Jersey ($78,126), and the nation ($58,100). Household income in Westfield has grown since 2000 and, unlike the other geographies, has easily outpaced inflation (see Table 2.5). Per capita income in Westfield is higher than the figures for the other geographic levels. Per capita income has increased more than inflation since 2000 in Westfield and has kept pace with inflation at the other geographic levels.

Table 2.5: Household Income (2000-2023)

	2000	2000 Adjusted	2018	2023
Median Household Income				
USA	$41,994	$61,664	$58,100	$65,727
New Jersey	$55,146	$80,977	$78,126	$87,133
Union County	$55,339	$81,260	$74,700	$83,114
Westfield	$98,390	$144,477	$154,031	$166,817
Per Capita Income				
USA	$21,587	$31,698	$31,950	$36,530
New Jersey	$27,006	$39,656	$40,482	$46,021
Union County	$26,992	$39,635	$38,414	$43,469
Westfield	$47,187	$69,290	$72,990	$80,270

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forcasets

As can be seen in Table 2.6, educational attainment has increased in Westfield since 2000. As of 2018, nearly three quarters (72%) of residents age 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or above, and more than a third of residents in Westfield age 25 or over had a master's degree or above. These number are much higher than the comparison geographies. New Jersey's educational attainment was the closest of the comparisons with just under 40% with a bachelor's degree or above. In contrast, 32% of Americans had a bachelors or above in 2018. All areas have experienced increased educational attainment since 2000.

Table 2.6: Educational Attainment Age 25 and Over (2000-2018)

Educational Attainment (Highest Level)	Westfield		Union County		New Jersey		USA	
	2000	2018	2000	2018	2000	2018	2000	2018
No High School Diploma	4.7%	2.2%	20.7%	13.6%	17.9%	10.5%	19.6%	12.3%
High School/GED	15.1%	12.3%	29.7%	28.5%	29.4%	27.2%	28.6%	27.0%
Some College, No Degree	1300.0%	8.9%	16.3%	16.9%	17.6%	16.5%	21.1%	20.5%
Associates Degree	13.0%	4.6%	4.8%	5.9%	5.3%	6.5%	6.3%	8.5%
Bachelors Degree	32.7%	37.5%	17.6%	21.1%	18.8%	23.9%	15.5%	19.6%
Graduate/Professional/Doctorate Degree	29.8%	34.5%	10.9%	14.0%	11.0%	15.2%	8.9%	12.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts

2.2.7 Growth of Ethnic Populations

Westfield has experienced a reduction in the proportion of the population consisting of White residents, while many other minority populations have increased (Table 2.7). The White population, while still representing the largest population group, declined to 85.3% in 2016, compared to 90.0% in 2000. Additionally, over the same time period, minority population groups have grown. Of the minority populations, the Hispanic community had the largest increase as a percentage (over 7.6%) and in total numbers (1,488). The Asian population has also grown rapidly over the same time period. These growing populations may have different recreation preferences than the population during the time many of the parks were constructed. These populations are projected to continue growing, so engagement of these residents is essential for the town to continue to meet the parks and recreation needs of the population.

Table 2.7: Race and Hispanic Origin (2000-2017)

Year	Total Population	White Alone		Black Alone		Asian Alone		Other Race Alone		Two or More Races		Hispanic	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2000	29,644	26,675	90.0%	1,151	3.9%	1,208	4.1%	215	0.7%	395	1.3%	836	2.8%
2017	30,591	26,086	85.3%	1,064	3.5%	1,922	6.3%	937	3.1%	582	1.9%	2,324	7.6%
# Change	947	-589		-87		714		722		187		1,488	
% Change	3.2%	-2.2%		-7.6%		59.1%		335.8%		47.3%		178.0%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates (2012-2016)

2.2.8 Conclusion

These demographic trends indicate aging of the population, increased income and educational levels, and diversification of the population of Westfield. These trends will collectively shape the future of Westfield. The direction chosen for parks and recreation in Westfield will determine the availability of opportunities for these residents and will help to enrich the quality of life in the community for years to come.

2.3 Benchmarking Comparisons

One method of evaluating parks and recreation services offered in a community is to use benchmarking comparisons to other communities. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Park Metrics program provides a variety of data for use in benchmarking. The ensuing analysis uses data from 45 agencies that were located in New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont that served populations between 10,000 and 50,000 that participated in the Park Metrics program (Table 2.8). The organization also provides an annual report[2] that includes national performance benchmarks, which was also used as part of this process.

[2] National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), "2018 NRPA Agency Performance Review Park And Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks," https://www.nrpa.org/siteassets/nrpa-agency-performance-review.pdf (accessed March 19 2018).

Table 2.8: Benchmark Agencies

Agency	Year	State	Population	Budget
Bangor Parks and Recreation	2018	ME	31,000	$2,100,000
Binghamton (City of) Department of Parks & Recreation	2018	NY	47,376	$2,481,206
Bucks County Planning Commission	2018	PA	33,108	$12,316,125
Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department	2018	VT	42,239	$7,888,357
Coventry Parks and Recreation Department	2018	CT	12,446	$606,065
Danvers (Town of)	2017	MA	26,493	$647,367
Darien Parks and Recreation	2018	CT	21,000	$1,342,000
East Goshen Township	2018	PA	18,026	$675,000
East Greenwich Parks & Recreation Department	2018	RI	13,200	$1,195,175
East Hampton Parks and Recreation	2018	CT	13,000	$388,824
East Lampeter Township	2018	PA	17,000	$247,886
Falmouth Parks & Community Programs	2018	ME	12,162	$511,449
Forks Township	2018	PA	15,452	$10,000,000
Garden City Recreation Department	2017	NY	21,000	$6,533,560
Groton Parks and Recreation	2018	CT	39,986	$3,924,326
Haverford Township Parks and Recreation Department	2018	PA	49,500	$3,278,842
Hebron Park & Rec Dept	2018	CT	10,000	$90,000
Hilton-Parma Parks & Recreation	2018	NY	15,912	$1,167,212
Hudson (Town of) Division of Recreation	2017	MA	19,063	$364,207
Lebanon Recreation & Parks Department	2018	NH	13,522	$1,003,060
Lexington Recreation Department	2018	MA	32,000	N/A
Littleton Parks and Recreation	2018	MA	10,115	$725,225
Medfield Parks & Recreation	2018	MA	12,845	$60,000
Middletown Township Parks & Recreation	2017	PA	45,436	$1,389,569
Morris Township Dept. of Parks & Recreation	2017	NJ	23,000	$1,470,000
Mount Pleasant (Town of)	2018	NY	43,221	$3,663,726
Neptune Township Recreation	2018	NJ	27,860	$258,000
New London Recreation Department	2017	CT	27,545	$532,480
Oneida County Parks and Recreation	2018	NY	11,000	$370,000
Perinton Parks Deparmemt	2017	NY	46,000	$4,321,712
Radnor Township Recreation & Community Programming	2017	PA	32,000	$2,600,000
Rye Recreation Department	2018	NY	15,000	N/A
South Burlington Recreation & Parks	2018	VT	18,612	$1,152,638
South Kingstown Parks and Recreation	2018	RI	30,577	$2,957,896
Southbury Parks & Recreation Department	2017	CT	20,000	N/A
Spring (Township of)	2018	PA	27,300	$1,146,115
Susquehanna Twp Parks & Recreation	2018	PA	25,054	$480,000
Susquehanna Twp Parks & Recreation	2017	PA	24,036	$407,160
Upper Merion Township Parks and Recreation	2018	PA	30,000	$3,586,099
Victor (Town of) Parks and Recreation	2018	NY	16,000	$1,360,000
Warminster Township Parks & Recreation	2018	PA	32,000	$1,051,975

Table 2.8: Benchmark Agencies (Continued)

Agency	Year	State	Population	Budget
West Springfield Park & Recreation Dept	2017	MA	28,000	$1,100,000
Weston Recreation Dept	2018	MA	11,500	$1,698,061
Wethersfield Parks and Recreation	2017	CT	26,668	$1,986,151
Wilbraham Parks & Recreation Department	2018	MA	14,671	$600,000

Westfield is not a participant in the NRPA Park Metrics program, so figures were determined based on information provided by the town. Because the data for other park systems was limited to parks and facilities managed by those agencies, only parks and facilities managed by the Town of Westfield were included in this analysis (school and private facilities were not included). The figures used in this analysis for Westfield were for the 2018 fiscal year, and the figures for the comparison municipalities were those entered for 2017 or 2018.

The comparisons are organized into the following categories: parkland information, trail information, department functions, staffing, operating budget, capital budget, programs, and facilities. The following text details the findings of the benchmarking analysis. The values presented in these comparisons are based on information reported to Park Metrics by the municipalities and may vary from actual budgets and measurements.

2.3.1 Parkland Information

Table 2.9 indicates that the Town of Westfield provides 5.9 acres of parkland per thousand population. This number is lower than the benchmark median of 8.5. This number indicates that Westfield provides less parkland and open space than other communities. Westfield's population per park of 2,889 is higher than the benchmark median of 1,849, indicating a lower level of service.

The parkland as a percentage of total jurisdiction land measurement of 4.4% places Westfield well above the benchmark median (1.9%) and above the upper quartile value. These comparisons indicate that the town is more densely populated than many of the comparisons as the service levels are lower despite a higher percentage of the town represented by parkland.

A look at the percentage of parkland that is developed for parks and recreation purposes shows that Westfield has a lower percentage of developed parkland (53%) than other benchmark communities (62%).

Table 2.9: Parkland Information

PARKLAND INFORMATION	Westfield	Benchmark	National
Acreage of Parkland			
Lower Quartile		115.0	
Median	**189.0**	**200.0**	**N/A**
Upper Quartile		375.0	
Acreage of Parkland per 1,000 Population			
Lower Quartile		5.3	
Median	**5.9**	**8.5**	**10.1**
Upper Quartile		15.9	
Population per Park			
Lower Quartile		1,150	1,233
Median	**2,889**	**1,849**	**2,114**
Upper Quartile		2,625	4,451
Parkland as a Percentage of Total Jurisdiction Land			
Lower Quartile		1.0%	
Median	**4.4%**	**1.9%**	**N/A**
Upper Quartile		3.7%	
Percent of Acreage Developed for Parks and Recreation Purposes			
Lower Quartile		40%	
Median	**53%**	**62%**	**N/A**
Upper Quartile		93%	

2.3.2 Trail Information

The comparison of total miles of trails managed by the Town of Westfield (Table 2.10) shows 4.8 miles of trails, compared to the benchmark median of 9.0 miles. Total trail miles per jurisdiction square mile is a measurement that controls for differences in the physical size of comparative municipalities. Westfield has 0.71 miles of trails per square mile of the town, above the benchmark median.

The trail miles per ten thousand population measurement, which controls for the population difference between the benchmark communities, shows a value of 1.5 for Westfield which is much lower than the benchmark median (3.2). These numbers indicate that Westfield is behind other jurisdictions regarding the provision of trails.

Table 2.10: Trail Information

TRAIL INFORMATION	Westfield	Benchmark
Total Trail Miles Managed or Maintained		
Lower Quartile		3.8
Median	**4.8**	**9.0**
Upper Quartile		16.3
Total Trail Miles per Jurisdiction Sq. Mi.		
Lower Quartile		0.18
Median	**0.71**	**0.41**
Upper Quartile		1.04
Total Trail Miles per 10,000 Population		
Lower Quartile		1.7
Median	**1.5**	**3.2**
Upper Quartile		7.8

2.3.3 Department Functions

The list of department functions in Table 2.11 shows the percentage of benchmark departments that provide these services and whether Westfield currently performs the function. The town conducts most of the functions at the top of the list to some degree. The most notable functions in this comparison currently not provided by Westfield Recreation are *operate and maintain non-park sites* and *administer community gardens*. Both functions are conducted by over 50% of the benchmark communities but are not currently performed by Westfield Recreation. Public Works handles maintenance of parks and other sites in Westfield.

Table 2.11: Department Functions

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES	Westfield	Benchmark	National
The agency...			
Provide recreation programming and services	X	94%	92%
Operate and maintain park sites	X*	92%	95%
Have budgetary responsibility for its administrative staff	X	92%	89%
Conduct major jurisdiction wide special events	X	75%	73%
Operate and maintain indoor facilities	X*	72%	88%
Operate, maintain, or manage trails, greenways, and/or blueways (TGB)	X	72%	75%
Operate and maintain non-park sites		61%	63%
Operate, maintain, or manage special purpose parks and open spaces	X	61%	66%
Include in its operating budget the funding for planning and development functions	X	58%	62%
Administer community gardens		50%	41%
Operate, maintain, or contract outdoor swim facilities/water parks	X	47%	48%
Operate, maintain, or contract tennis center facilities	X	47%	46%
Manage large performance outdoor amphitheaters		22%	24%
Administer or manage tournament/event quality outdoor sports complexes	X	19%	55%
Operate, maintain, or contract tourism attractions		19%	28%
Operate, maintain, or contract indoor swim facility		17%	25%
Administer or manage farmer's markets		17%	18%
Operate, maintain, or contract golf courses		14%	32%
Maintain, manage or lease indoor performing arts center		11%	18%
Administer or manage tournament/event quality indoor sports complexes		3%	19%
Operate, maintain, or contract campgrounds		3%	16%

*Performed by or partially by another town department

2.3.4 Staffing

Values related to staffing are provided for Westfield and benchmark communities in Table 2.12. Westfield employs 13 full-time employees, including Public Works staff assigned to the Parks Division, which is above the benchmark median. Other departments may not include their maintenance staff, and without those staff, Westfield employs six (6) full-time employees. The department employs several part-time representing the equivalent of 13.6 FTEs for a total of 26.6, well above the benchmark median. Many of these staff work at Memorial Pool, and most of the benchmark agencies do not operate pools.

On a per population basis, Westfield employs slightly more FTE staff (8.4 per 10,000 population) compared to the benchmark median (6.4). Westfield has a much lower number of acres of parkland per FTE at 7.1 than the benchmark median of 19.5, indicating that compared to the number of acres offered by Westfield, the town employs a larger number of staff members. This difference is likely due to the operation of Memorial Pool and other agencies not counting maintenance staff.

Table 2.12: Staffing

STAFFING	Westfield	Benchmark	National
Number of Full-Time Employees			
Lower Quartile		3.0	
Median	**13**	**7.0**	**N/A**
Upper Quartile		12.5	
Number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees			
Lower Quartile		7.3	
Median	**26.6**	**10.9**	**N/A**
Upper Quartile		17.4	
FTE per 10,000 Population			
Lower Quartile		3.1	
Median	**8.4**	**6.4**	**7.9**
Upper Quartile		10.0	
Acres of Parkland per FTE			
Lower Quartile		10.2	
Median	**7.1**	**19.5**	**N/A**
Upper Quartile		44.6	

2.3.5 Operating Budget

The total operating budget (Table 2.13) for parks and recreation in Westfield for 2018 was about $1.7 million, which is above the $1.2 million median of the benchmark municipalities. These numbers include general fund allocations for Recreation (2018 FY), the Dedicated Swimming Pool Utility Budget (2018 FY), and recreation program trust funds (2018). The per capita operating expenditure for the Town of Westfield was $53, lower than the benchmark median of $63; however, the maintenance costs are not included because the town budget does not include a line item for parks maintenance. The benchmark agencies may or may not have included values for maintenance. These funds do include capital funding and debit service for Memorial Pool since it is paid out of the operating budget. As a result, capital expenses represent a much larger proportion of the operating budget in Westfield (22%) than the benchmark communities (3%).

Westfield's expenditures per FTE are lower than the comparisons, however, because the department has more staff than the benchmarks. Westfield spends $107,493 per FTE, compared to $115,851 for the benchmark. Westfield's value is above the national median of $92,916. Westfield has both a larger budget and more staff than the benchmarks due to Memorial Pool, but these numbers indicate that they spend less per staff member.

The $1.5 million in earned revenue is much higher than the benchmark median and is higher than the upper quartile value. Similarly, this revenue represents 89% of the Recreation budget, which is far above the benchmark median (42%). Finally, Westfield Recreation generated $47 per capita in 2018, much more than the benchmark median ($27). The town's higher cost recovery numbers are related to the operation of Memorial Pool as most revenue comes from the facility.

2.3.6 Capital Budget

Table 2.14 shows capital budget comparisons for the benchmark communities. These numbers indicate a capital budget of $353,216 for Westfield Recreation which is above the benchmark median. The capital expenditures per capita in Westfield ($11) are much higher than the benchmark ($6). These numbers only represent one year, however, and most improvements are funded through the Park Improvement Fund, which generated $88,450 over the same timeframe.

Because this master plan is intended to provide direction for capital improvements, the five-year capital budget has not yet been determined for Westfield. The median of the benchmark communities is $1 million, but the upper quartile value is much higher at just under $4 million.

Table 2.13: Operating Budget

OPERATING BUDGET[1]	Westfield	Benchmark	National
Agency's TOTAL Operating Expenditures for the Fiscal Year			
Lower Quartile		$527,222	
Median	**$1,676,887**	**$1,159,925**	**N/A**
Upper Quartile		$2,689,474	
Agency's TOTAL Non-Tax Revenue for the Fiscal Year			
Lower Quartile		$118,000	
Median	**$1,485,085**	**$575,000**	**N/A**
Upper Quartile		$1,049,500	
Percentage of Total Operating Expenditures within the Following Categories[2]			
Personnel Services	45%	62%	
Operating Expenses	33%	33%	**N/A**
Capital Expense not in CIP	22%	3%	
Other	0%	2%	
Total revenue to total operating expenditures[3]			
Lower Quartile		21%	
Median	**89%**	**42%**	**28%**
Upper Quartile		59%	
Operating Expenditures per Capita			
Lower Quartile		$31	$42
Median	**$53**	**$63**	**$78**
Upper Quartile		$87	$151
Operating Expenditures per FTE[4]			
Lower Quartile		$62,545	$68,344
Median	**$107,493**	**$115,851**	**$92,916**
Upper Quartile		$159,926	$134,812
Non-Tax Revenue per Capita			
Lower Quartile		$8	$6
Median	**$47**	**$27**	**$19**
Upper Quartile		$51	$51

1. Operating budget includes general fund allocation for Recreation and the Dedicated Swimming Pool Utility Budget
2. Average values used
3. Revenue includes only Dedicated Swimming Pool Utility Budget
4. Maintenance staff not included

Table 2.14: Capital Budget

CAPITAL BUDGET	Westfield	Benchmark
Total Capital Park Budget for Next 5-Years		
Lower Quartile		$100,000
Median	**TBD**	**$1,000,000**
Upper Quartile		$3,906,483
Total Capital Budget this Fiscal Year		
Lower Quartile		$8,797
Median	**$353,216**	**$172,000**
Upper Quartile		$368,000
Total Capital Costs per Capita this Fiscal Year		
Lower Quartile		$1
Median	**$11**	**$6**
Upper Quartile		$24

2.3.7 Programs

The list of program categories in Table 2.15 includes the percentage of benchmark departments that offer each type of program. The table also indicates whether Westfield offers programs of each type. The table is separated into two groups of programs: "Activities" which include programs for all users and "Out-of-School Time Activities" which include programs for specific user groups (children, seniors, etc.).

Westfield currently offers a wide variety of programming. The department offers many of the activity types to some degree but does not offer social recreation events, health and wellness education, performing arts, visual arts, or natural and cultural history activities.

The list of out-of-school time (OST) activities shows that Westfield has offerings in only two categories. The most notable category not offered is programs for teens which are offered by 72% of benchmark communities.

Table 2.15: Programs

PROGRAMS	Westfield	Benchmark	National
Activities			
Team sports	X	94%	86%
Fitness enhancement classes	X	88%	78%
Safety training	X	84%	71%
Individual sports	X	84%	68%
Social recreation events		84%	81%
Themed special events	X	84%	84%
Trips and tours	X	84%	64%
Health and wellness education		81%	78%
Racquet sports	X	81%	62%
Performing arts		78%	62%
Visual arts		66%	56%
Natural and cultural history activities		66%	53%
Martial arts	X	59%	61%
Aquatics	X	59%	69%
Cultural crafts	X	59%	58%
Golf		56%	47%
Out-of-School Time (OST) Activities			
Summer camp	X	91%	84%
Specific senior programs	X	78%	79%
Specific teen programs		72%	63%
After school programs		59%	55%
Programs for people with disabilities		59%	62%
Preschool		34%	36%
Before school programs		16%	21%
Full daycare		0%	8%

2.3.8 Facilities

Table 2.16 provides a list of recreational facilities with a mark to indicate whether the facility is offered by Westfield. This table also shows the percentage of benchmark communities that offer the facility. Westfield offers most of the outdoor facilities offered by a majority of benchmark departments except an adult baseball field. A dog park is offered by 55% of communities nationally and 29% of benchmark agencies but not by Westfield. For indoor facilities, Westfield offers a community center (Community Room), which is offered by 53% of benchmark departments. Westfield does not offer any other indoor facilities. Recreation centers and senior centers are offered by 41% of the benchmark agencies.

A comparison of population per facility provides a way to evaluate the existing quantity of each type of amenity compared to other communities. This comparison can help to identify facilities that the town might

want to add in the future. Population per facility values for playgrounds, tennis courts (outdoor), basketball courts (outdoor), ballfields (youth baseball, youth softball, and adult softball diamonds), and rectangular fields are presented in Figure 2.2.[3] Tables 2.17 and 2.18 show the numeric values for these and other facilities plus upper and lower quartile values. A lower value indicates a higher level of service.

The Town of Westfield has seven (7) playgrounds at six (6) different parks throughout the town. The resulting population per playground is 4,539, which is a slightly lower level of service than the benchmark median. Westfield offers 14 tennis courts at Tamaques and Memorial Parks, providing a higher level of service (one per 2,270 people) than the benchmark median (3,884). The town also has a similar level of service to the benchmark median for basketball courts with 6.5 at three parks or 4,888 population per facility, compared to 5,000 for the benchmark median.

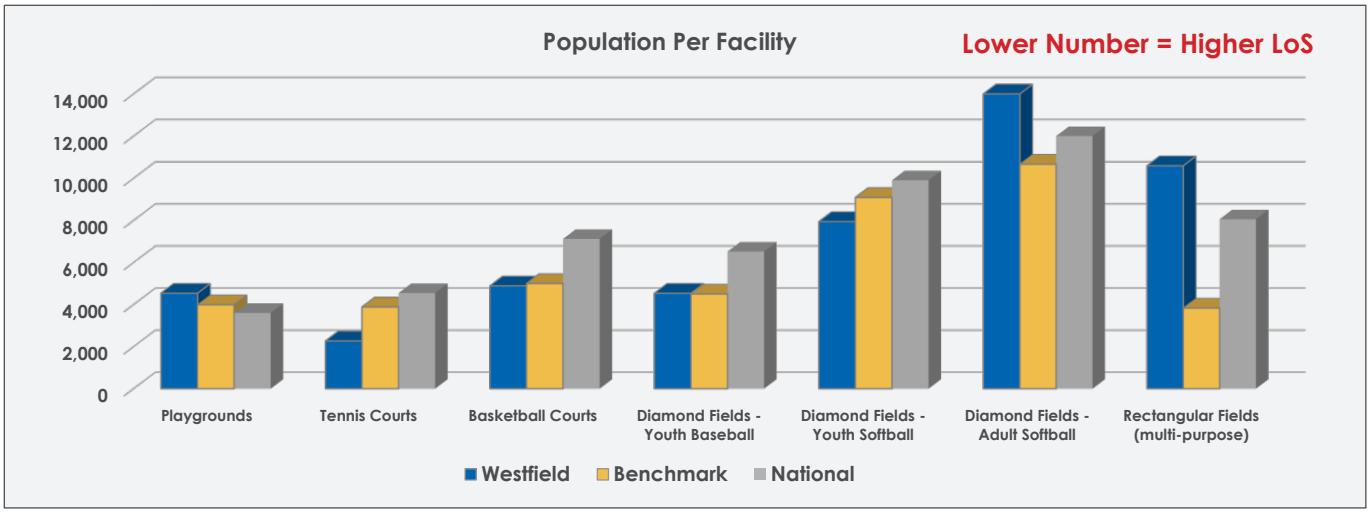
The chart also shows population per facility values for three types of diamond fields. For youth baseball and softball fields, Westfield provides a similar or higher level of service. Westfield has a lower level of service for adult softball fields than the benchmark and national medians. The town has a much lower level of service for rectangular fields 10,592 population per facility than the benchmark of 3,833 and lower than the national median (8,055).

Table 2.16: Facilities

FACILITIES	Westfield	Benchmark	National
Outdoor Activity Areas			
Playgrounds	X	94%	92%
Basketball courts	X	91%	83%
Tennis courts (outdoor only)	X	88%	77%
Diamond fields: baseball - youth	X	85%	75%
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose	X	74%	63%
Diamond fields: softball fields - adult	X	68%	66%
Diamond fields: softball fields - youth	X	68%	59%
Diamond fields: baseball - adult		56%	55%
Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth	X	47%	47%
Community gardens		47%	46%
Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult	X	44%	42%
Rectangular fields: football field		32%	38%
Diamond fields: tee-ball		32%	38%
Dog park		29%	55%
Swimming pools (outdoor only)	X	29%	52%
Skate park		26%	14%
Multipurpose synthetic field	X	26%	15%
Ice rink (outdoor only)		15%	16%
Rectangular fields: lacrosse field		15%	11%
Rectangular fields: field hockey field		3%	4%
Indoor Activity Areas			
Community centers	X	53%	54%
Recreation centers		41%	57%
Senior centers		41%	41%
Gyms		18%	55%
Performance amphitheater		18%	30%
Nature centers		15%	26%
Ice rink		12%	18%
Teen centers		12%	12%
Stadiums		12%	17%
Competitive swimming pools		9%	N/A
Non-competitive pool (leisure only)		3%	N/A
Fitness center		3%	38%
Indoor track		3%	13%

[3] The analysis was limited to these facilities due to availability of data for comparison departments.

Figure 2.3: Median Population Per Facility



Westfield offers two (2) synthetic turf multipurpose rectangular fields, providing a higher level of service than the benchmarks. Westfield provides one (1) swimming, giving the town a lower level of service (one per 31,775 population) than the benchmark (11,250) but similar to the national median. Westfield does not offer a skate park, a dog park, or community gardens, but they are included for reference in Table 2.16. Based on the benchmark numbers in the table, Westfield's population would accommodate one (1) skate park, one (1) dog park, and one (1) community garden location to provide a similar or slightly lower level of service than the benchmark communities.

Table 2.17: Population Per Facility (Outdoor)

POPULATION PER FACILITY (OUTDOOR)	Westfield	Benchmark	National
Playgrounds			
Lower Quartile		2,727	
Median	**4,539**	**3,990**	**3,600**
Upper Quartile		5,188	
Tennis Courts			
Lower Quartile		2,023	
Median	**2,270**	**3,884**	**4,545**
Upper Quartile		9,090	
Basketball Courts			
Lower Quartile		3,061	
Median	**4,888**	**5,000**	**7,122**
Upper Quartile		7,750	
Diamond Fields - Youth Baseball			
Lower Quartile		2,955	
Median	**4,539**	**4,500**	**6,519**
Upper Quartile		10,257	
Diamond Fields - Youth Softball			
Lower Quartile		4,507	
Median	**7,944**	**9,087**	**9,900**
Upper Quartile		15,912	
Diamond Fields - Adult Softball			
Lower Quartile		6,965	
Median	**15,888**	**10,667**	**12,000**
Upper Quartile		17,000	

Table 2.17: Population Per Facility (Outdoor) (Continued)

POPULATION PER FACILITY (OUTDOOR)	Westfield	Benchmark	National
Rectangular Fields (multi-purpose)			
Lower Quartile		2,151	
Median	**10,592**	**3,833**	**8,055**
Upper Quartile		8,485	
Multipurpose Synthetic Field			
Lower Quartile		13,486	
Median	**15,888**	**21,000**	**N/A**
Upper Quartile		29,334	
Swimming Pools			
Lower Quartile		9,875	
Median	**31,775**	**11,250**	**31,709**
Upper Quartile		15,001	
Skate Park			
Lower Quartile		15,456	
Median	**N/A**	**31,000**	**46,850**
Upper Quartile		37,120	
Dog Park			
Lower Quartile		19,653	
Median	**N/A**	**24,834**	**41,500**
Upper Quartile		34,828	
Community Gardens			
Lower Quartile		9,165	
Median	**N/A**	**21,000**	**27,587**
Upper Quartile		30,215	

Westfield offers one (1) of the indoor facilities indicated in Table 2.18. The community center (Community Room) provides a lower level of service than the benchmarks. Five facilities are included in the table that are not offered by Westfield Recreation. Based on these median benchmarks, the town population could accommodate a single recreation center, senior center, gym, swimming pool, and nature center.

Table 2.18: Population Per Facility (Indoor)

POPULATION PER FACILITY (INDOOR)	Westfield	Benchmark	National
Recreation Centers			
Lower Quartile		13,111	
Median	**N/A**	**18,500**	**27,375**
Upper Quartile		40,549	
Community Centers			
Lower Quartile		13,012	
Median	**31,775**	**20,805**	**27,486**
Upper Quartile		42,060	
Senior Centers			
Lower Quartile		15,684	
Median	**N/A**	**25,791**	**45,436**
Upper Quartile		42,060	
Gymnasiums			
Lower Quartile		4,239	
Median	**N/A**	**23,834**	**27,334**
Upper Quartile		35,500	

Table 2.18: Population Per Facility (Indoor) (Continued)

POPULATION PER FACILITY (INDOOR)	Westfield	Benchmark	National
Competitive Swimming Pools			
Lower Quartile		7,956	
Median	**N/A**	**11,500**	**53,312**
Upper Quartile		20,000	
Nature Centers			
Lower Quartile		21,334	
Median	**N/A**	**27,300**	**99,783**
Upper Quartile		47,750	

3 INVENTORY OF PARKS, FACILITIES, AND PROGRAMS

3.1 Introduction

This chapter of the Master Plan identifies existing conditions of parks and recreation facilities in Westfield. It begins with a description of park classifications to provide an understanding of their functions. An inventory of parks and recreation facilities follows, including park locations, facilities offered, and other observations. An inventory of programs offered by Westfield Recreation and other organizations concludes this chapter.

3.2 Parkland and Recreation Area Classification System

The purpose of a parks and recreation classification system is to evaluate the overall recreation opportunities that are available to the public. In some cases, communities "meet the standard" in terms of acreage, but this provision is met through a single park that does not provide for the entire community. A park system should be evaluated as a composite of recreation areas with each meeting a particular public need. Therefore, a system of parks is necessary to provide a combination of smaller Neighborhood Parks, larger Community Parks, and Special Use Parks that meet specific needs.

The parks and recreation facilities inventory in this chapter identifies each park by its park classification and lists the specific facilities provided at each location. Table 3.1 defines each park category by its typical size and service area, population served, typical features and facilities, and desirable characteristics. The categories and descriptions were adapted from Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, published by the National Recreation and Park Association in 1987 and 1995.

Table 3.1: Park Classifications

PARK CLASSIFICATION	TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA	DEVELOPED ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/ FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Local Space				
Mini Park (MP)	Size: Less than 3 acres of developed parkland; less than 5 total acres 1/2 mile service area 10-minute walk	Combined with Neighborhood Park	Typical facilities may include playgrounds, small multi-use court area, and benches.	Often provided in association with school facilities. Some developed as part of residential developments. May also provide open space as needed to serve high density neighborhoods where households have limited yard space.

Table 3.1: Park Classifications (Continued)

PARK CLASSIFICATION	TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA	DEVELOPED ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/ FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Local Space				
Neighborhood Park (NP)	Size: 3-10 acres of developed parkland; 5-15 total acres ½-1.0 mile service area 10-minute walk To serve a population up to 3,000	0.5 Acre/1,000	Suited for intense development Typical facilities include athletic fields, game courts, playgrounds, drinking fountains, picnic areas/shelters, and walking trails.	Easily accessible to neighborhood population (safe walking and bike distance). May be developed as park/school facility or in conjunction with service agency facility. May not be needed in areas served locally by larger parks.
Community Park (CP)	10-30+ acres of developed parkland; 20 or more total acres 1.0-2.0 mile service radius 5-minute drive To serve several neighborhoods with populations up to 20,000	2 Acres/1,000	Typical facilities include all those listed for Neighborhood Parks plus; major swimming pool, field or game court complex, major recreation or community center, etc. May include an area of natural quality for picnicking, walking, etc. May have an active or passive recreation focus or a balance of both - parks with passive focus will have a higher percentage of undeveloped land.	Capable of providing a range of intensive recreational activities; or, provides one or two activities that attract users from multi-neighborhood areas. Park should ideally be located near schools. May meet Neighborhood Park needs for users within a 10-minute walk.
Special Use (SU)	Serves community-wide area	N/A (but may contribute to total open space requirement)	Area for specialized or single purpose recreational activities such as plazas, major pools, riverfront park areas, golf courses, athletic complexes, indoor facilities, etc.	Area should be located to meet the specific needs of the intended use.
Open Space (OS)	N/A	N/A (but contributes to total open space requirement)	Special use areas of low or limited development. Includes undeveloped areas, urban greenspaces, and small designated natural areas. May include urban greenspaces (mowed and landscaped areas) of any size. These areas are considered developed but have predominantly passive uses, few structures, and limited impervious areas. Typical facilities include walking/hiking trails, picnic areas, gardens, and open grass areas.	Includes undeveloped properties that may be developed in the future. May also function as small Nature Parks. Educational opportunities desirable in developed or undeveloped areas.
Regional Space				
Regional Park (RP)	Size: 100 + Acres 3-5 mile service radius Travel time within 10 minutes (potentially longer depending on amenities) To serve most of the town but located regionally	5.0 Acres/1,000 (Developed) 10.0 Acres/1000 (Total)	Large properties that contain some active recreation facilities and a large percentage of natural or geographical features. Should include both active and passive features. Target size of 100 or more acres with up to 50% developed for recreation. Should be located near major roads. Destination-oriented parks. May contain picnic areas, any of the active elements found in local space, regional aquatic facilities, and regional indoor facilities. Should connect to linear park and trail system.	Capable of providing a range of specific recreational facilities. May include unique natural areas of ecological interest. May meet smaller park needs for users within those service areas. May be located in rural areas but should be readily accessible to most of the town and county population. Service multiple jurisdictions. May serve population outside of the county as well.

Table 3.1: Park Classifications (Continued)

PARK CLASSIFICATION	TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA	DEVELOPED ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/ FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Regional Space				
Nature Parks or Preserves (NatP)	Size as needed to protect the resource	N/A (but contributes to total open space requirement)	Majority of park to remain in its natural state (less than 20% developed). Facilities should focus on education by use of "nature activities" and should reinforce that philosophy by offering habitat enhancement, trails, nature centers, and interpretive signage. Should also include parking and restrooms.	The park should be of sufficient size to protect the natural resource and provide a buffer from offsite conditions. Should include unique natural areas with ecological interest. Typical size should be over 50 acres for management efficiency and to promote ecosystem services.
State Parks (SP)	Size as needed to protect natural resources of State or regional significance	N/A	Majority of park to remain in its natural state. The park should be of sufficient size to protect the natural resource and provide a buffer from offsite conditions.	Should include unique natural areas with ecological interest, lakes, or other features of state or regional interest. Serve state-wide area or beyond. Size will vary based on the area required to protect the resource.

3.3 Inventory of Westfield Parks and Recreation Areas

Residents of Westfield are offered a variety of parks, recreation facilities, and programs. Table 3.2, Park and Recreation Resources Inventory provides a summary of parks, recreation areas, and facilities in the Town of Westfield with an indication of the park classification for each property.

The table indicates the location of the property by park type category as defined in Table 3.1. The Existing Parks and Trails map (Figure 3.1) shows the location of each of the parks and recreation areas offered by the Town of Westfield. The following text provides a detailed narrative summary of these facilities. Aerial photos of each park can be found in Appendix B.

3.4 Neighborhood Parks

A Neighborhood Park is a small but highly developed park located within a short walking (10-minutes) or biking distance of residents with facilities such as game courts, playgrounds, picnic areas/shelters, athletic fields, and walking trails. A Mini Park is a small Neighborhood Park, typically located in more densely populated areas where availability of land is limited.

3.4.1 Gumbert Park (8.2 acres) – Neighborhood Park

Site Location

Gumbert Park is located at the eastern edge of Westfield on Chestnut Street near the boundary with Garwood.

Existing Facilities

- Playground – Includes one piece of equipment (age 2-5 age only) with slides and swings
- 3 diamond fields (2 with dirt infields and 215' fence and one with a grass infield and 240' fence), dugouts, scoreboards
- Paved walking trail (0.3 miles)

- Meeting rooms/restroom building
- 4 basketball courts
- Temporary ice rink (at basketball courts)
- 2 parking lots (49 spaces)

Park Issues

- Lack of age 5-12 equipment at playground, old swings with no surfacing
- Lack of walkways between features
- Limited accessibility (ADA) of facilities and buildings
- Infields difficult to maintain due to heavy use
- No sidewalks in park along road
- Poor condition of trail pavement

3.4.2 Lincoln School Playground (0.6 acres) – Mini Park

Site Location

Lincoln School Playground is located on Westfield Avenue behind Lincoln School and adjacent to Kehler Football Stadium.

Existing Facilities

- Playground – Includes two pieces of equipment (age 2-5 and 5-12) and swings
- Open field

Park Issues

- Limited accessibility (ADA) of facilities
- No edging at playground
- Limited features
- Park used as dog park, although dogs not allowed
- Lacks signage identifying as town park

3.4.3 Sycamore Field (2.3 acres) – Mini Park

Site Location

Sycamore Field is located on Sycamore Street off of Central Avenue in southeast Westfield. The park also has pedestrian access from Boynton Avenue.

Existing Facilities

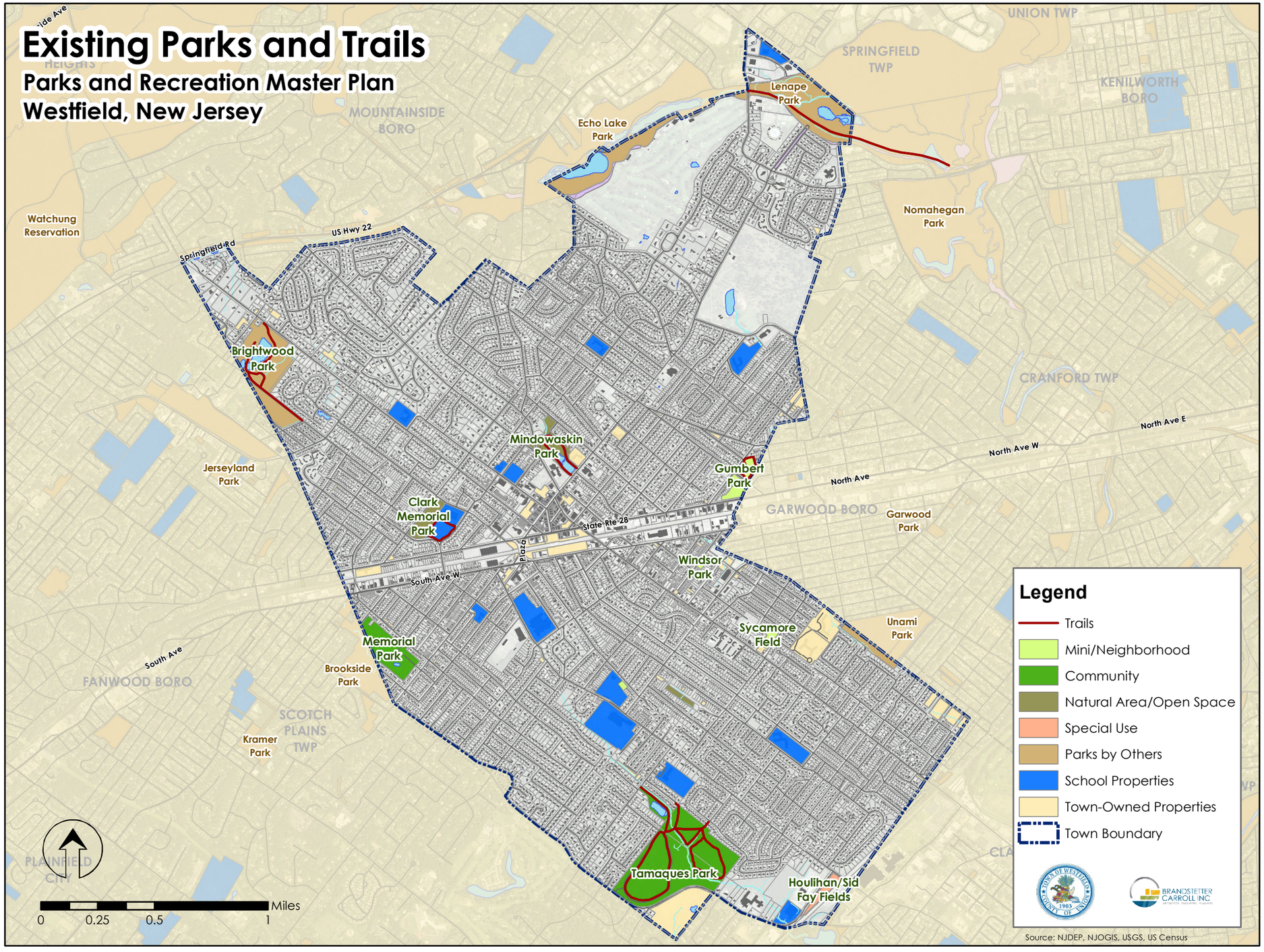
- Playground – Includes two pieces of equipment (age 2-5 and 5-12) and swings
- Multipurpose rectangular field

Table 3.2: Parks and Recreation Resource Inventory

PARK NAME	PARK TYPE	Acreage		Athletic Fields						Game Courts		Outdoor Facilities		Trails (Mi)			Natural Areas			Support					Special Feature/Notes
		Total	Developed	Small Baseball	Small Softball	Large Softball	Batting Cages	Multipurpose	Artificial Turf Multipurpose	Basketball	Tennis	Playgrounds	Swimming Pools	Shared-Use (Paved)	Walking (Paved/Cinders)	Unpaved	Fishing Access	Lake/Pond	Natural/Wooded Area	Picnic Shelters	Gazebos/Small Shelters	Restrooms	Concessions Building	Parking	
Westfield Parks and Recreation																									
Neighborhood Parks																									
Gumbert Park	Neighborhood	8.2	6.6	3			1			4		1			0.3				X				1	49	Temporary ice rink
Lincoln School Playground	Mini	0.6	0.6									1												0	
Sycamore Field	Mini	2.3	2.3					1				1												0	
Windsor Park	Mini	0.5	0.5							1		1												0	
Subtotal - Neighborhood Parks		**11.6**	**10.0**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**0.0**	**0.3**	**0.0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**49**	
Community Parks																									
Memorial Park	Community	19.7	17.0		4		2				6	1	1						X			2	1	269	
Tamaques Park	Community	88.5	38.7		4	2	2			2	8	2		1.1	0.8	0.6	X	X	X	1	1	1		222	Shuffleboard, practice wall
Subtotal - Community Parks		**108.2**	**55.7**	**0**	**8**	**2**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**14**	**3**	**1**	**1.1**	**0.8**	**0.6**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**491**	
Special Use Parks																									
Town Hall Community Room	Special Use	N/A	N/A																						Meeting/program rooms
Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields	Special Use	4.6	3.9					2	2										X		1			48	Artificial turf
Subtotal - Special Use Parks		**4.6**	**3.9**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**48**	
Natural Areas/Open Space																									
Brightwood Park	Nature	42.2	11.5													1.6	X	X	X					40	1/2 mile loop
Clark Memorial Park	Open Space	8.0	6.2																X		1			0	
Dunham Ave Bird Sanctuary	Natural Area	2.1	0.0																					0	
Mindowaskin Park	Open Space	12.4	12.4												0.4			X	X		1			31	All abilities playground
Subtotal - Open Space		**64.6**	**30.1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0**	**0.4**	**1.6**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**71**	
Total - Westfield Parks and Recreation		**189.0**	**99.7**	**3**	**8**	**2**	**5**	**3**	**2**	**6.5**	**14**	**7**	**1**	**1.1**	**1.5**	**2.2**	**2**	**3**	**7**	**1**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**659**	
Parks by Others*																									
Echo Lake Park (Union County Parks)	Regional	28.8	0.0															X	X					N/A	138 total acres
Lenape Park (Union County Parks)	Nature	45.8	6.5											0.5			X	X	X					N/A	308 total acres
Unami Park (Union County Parks)	Community	4.7	0.0																X					N/A	34 total acres
Subtotal - Trails		**79.2**	**6.5**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	
Total - Within Westfield		**268.3**	**106.2**	**3**	**8**	**2**	**5**	**3**	**2**	**7**	**14**	**7**	**1**	**1.6**	**1.5**	**2.2**	**2**	**3**	**7**	**1**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**659**	

*include only portion within Westfield

Figure 3.1: Existing Parks and Trails



Park Issues

- Lack and condition of walkways – not accessible
- Age and condition of playground, no edging
- Condition of field turf
- Limited accessibility (ADA)
- Lacks perimeter trail
- No off-street parking

3.4.4 Windsor Park (0.5 acres) – Mini Park

Site Location

Windsor Park is located on Windsor Road on the east side of Westfield near the boundary with Garwood.

Existing Facilities

- Playground – Includes one pieces of equipment (age 5-12) and swings
- Basketball court

Park Issues

- Lack walkways between features
- Age and condition of playground, no edging and insufficient surfacing
- Limited accessibility (ADA)
- Lacks features
- Poor condition of fencing

3.5 Community Parks

Community Parks are larger parks that serve multiple neighborhoods and offer a wider variety of facilities. Community Parks should be conveniently located (approximately a five-minute drive) and easily accessible with facilities intended to occupy visitors for extended periods of time (field or game court complex, swimming pool, etc.).

3.5.1 Memorial Park (19.7 acres)

Site Location

Memorial Park is located at the western edge of Westfield at the border with Scotch Plains. It can be accessed at N Scotch Plains and Cumberland Street or W Broad Street and Marion Avenue. The park borders Brookside Park in Scotch Plains, but there is no formal connection between to the two parks.

Existing Facilities

- Memorial Pool
  - Lap pool
  - Waterslides

- Sprayground
- Shallow water pool
- Playground
- Restrooms

- Playground – Includes one large piece of equipment (age 5-12) and swings with a combination poured-in-place surfacing
- 4 diamond fields with dirt infields, oriented so the outfields can be used for rectangular field sports
- 2 batting cages
- 6 tennis courts – not lighted
- Restroom building
- Drinking fountains
- Maintenance building
- Wooded area
- 2 parking lots (269 spaces)

Park Issues

- Lack of walkways between features
- Limited accessibility (ADA) of facilities
- Lack of separate age 2-5 equipment at playground, insufficient surfacing and no edging
- Insufficient parking
- No lights at tennis courts, fencing on eastern 3 courts
- No trails in park
- Not connected to adjacent Brookside Park or Brookside Nature Trail

3.5.2 Tamaques Park (88.5 acres)

Site Location

Tamaques Park consists of over 88 acres of parkland at the southern edge of Westfield. The main entrance is on Lamberts Mill Road, and the park can also be accessed from Dickson Drive. Additional pedestrian access is available from Willow Grove Road, Seward Avenue, and Tamaques Way.

Existing Facilities

- 6 diamond field with dirt infield (200' fence) without outfield fences for use for rectangular field sports
- 2 batting cages
- 2 playgrounds – one with 2-5 age equipment and one with 5-12 age equipment
- Pond with fishing access
- Large picnic shelter
- 8 tennis courts – lighted

- Practice wall
- Restroom building
- One and a half basketball courts
- 6 shuffleboard courts
- Natural area (≈45 acres)
- Paved trail loop (on road) – 0.8 miles
- Walking path (cinders) – 0.8 miles
- Nature trail loop – 0.6 miles
- Cross-country course
- Parking lots (222 spaces)

Facility Issues

- Lack of walkways and accessibility to facilities
- Lack of signage at secondary entrances
- Lack of storage
- Condition of picnic shelter
- Condition of shuffleboard courts
- 2-5 age and 5-12 age equipment at different locations
- Poor condition of cabins/restroom in north portion of park – not open to public
- Field conditions due to heavy use
- Underutilized natural area
- Trail maintenance
- Insufficient parking
- Floodplain and wetland areas

3.6 Special Use Parks

Special Use Parks are areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, including plazas and community centers.

3.6.1 Town Hall Community Room

Site Location

The Town Hall Community Room is in the Municipal Building on East Broad Street, adjacent to Mindowaskin Park.

Existing Facilities

- Meeting room

Park Issues

- In use every day, no room for additional programs
- Basement room is not ADA accessible.

3.6.2 Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields (4.6 acres)

Site Location

The Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields are located at the southeastern edge of Westfield between Lamberts Mill Road and railroad tracks.

Existing Facilities

- Two artificial turf fields (330' x 175' and 270' x 130')
- Parking lot (48 spaces)
- Small picnic shelter
- Portable toilets

Park Issues

- Insufficient parking
- Lack of restrooms

3.7 Natural Areas/Open Space

3.7.1 Brightwood Park (42.2 acres)

Site Location

Brightwood Park occupies 42 acres on the west side of Westfield at the border with Scotch Plains. The main entrance to the park is on Prospect Street. A secondary entrance can be accessed from Fanwood Avenue.

Existing Facilities

- Nature trails – 1.6 miles
- Pond
- Parking lot (40 spaces)

Park Issues

- Lack of signage at secondary entrance
- Limited accessibility
- Underutilized
- Condition of parking lot
- Trail definition and maintenance
- Lack of educational amenities
- Lack of features
- Invasive species
- Wetland areas

3.7.2 Clark Memorial Park (8.0 acres)

Site Location

Clark Memorial Park is a passive park on West Dudley Avenue between Tuttle Parkway and Clark Street, adjacent to Roosevelt Intermediate School.

Existing Facilities

- Gazebo

Park Issues

- No sign to identify as a town park
- Condition of gazebo
- No sidewalks along W Dudley Ave
- Lack of features
- Park required to remain passive

3.7.3 Dunham Ave Bird Sanctuary (2.1 acres)

Site Location

The Dunham Ave Bird Sanctuary is located in southern Westfield the main entrance is on Summit Avenue and a secondary entrance is at the end of Dunham Avenue.

Existing Facilities

- Nature trail

Park Issues

- No sign at secondary entrance
- Not identified as a park on town website

3.7.4 Mindowaskin Park (12.4 acres)

Site Location

Mindowaskin Park is a passive park located just north of downtown Westfield on East Broad Street, adjacent to the Municipal Building. The park can also be accessed from Park Drive at North Euclid Avenue and Mountain Avenue. The Friends of Mindowaskin Park is a non-profit organization that raises funds for park improvements.

Existing Facilities

- Playground – All access (new)
- Walking trails – 0.4 miles
- Gazebo – Used for concerts
- Pond
- Parking lots (30 spaces)

Park Issues

- Trails/walkways cracking, need resurfacing
- No ADA parking
- Gazebo not ADA compliant
- No signage at some entrances

3.8 Facility Summary

The table (Table 3.3) below provides a summary of the recreation facilities offered by the Westfield Recreation Department.

Table 3.3: Recreation Facility Summary

Athletic Fields	#
Small Baseball	3
Small Softball	8
Large Softball	2
Batting Cages	5
Multipurpose	3
Artificial Turf Multipurpose	2
Game Courts	**#**
Basketball Courts	6.5
Tennis Courts	14
Outdoor Facilities	**#**
Playgrounds	7
Swimming Pools	1

Trails (Miles)	#
Shared-Use (Paved)	1.1
Walking (Paved/Cinders)	1.5
Unpaved	2.2
Natural Areas	**#**
Fishing Access	2
Lake/Pond	3
Natural/Wooded Area	7
Other/Support Facilities	**#**
Picnic Shelters	1
Gazebos/Small Shelters	4
Restrooms	3
Concessions	2

3.9 County Parks

3.9.1 Echo Lake Park (138 acres/28.8 in Westfield)

Site Location

Echo Lake Park is located at the northern edge of Westfield. Most of the park is in Mountainside, but just under 30 acres are within Westfield. None of the features listed below are located within Westfield, however.

Existing Facilities (Outside Westfield)

- Dog Park
- Lake with fishing access, ice skating, pedal boats
- Fitness trail
- Picnic area
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Athletic fields

3.9.2 Lenape Park (308 acres/45.8 in Westfield)

Site Location

Lenape Park is accessible at the northeastern edge of Westfield from Nomahegan Drive. The park offers limited amenities. Most of the park is located outside of Westfield.

Existing Facilities (Within Westfield)

- Shared-use path
- Pond

3.9.3 Unami Park (34 acres/4.7 in Westfield)

Site Location

Unami Park is located in Cranford, Garwood, and Westfield. Only a small portion of the park is within Westfield which can be reached at the end of Twin Oaks Terrace, but no walkways connect to park features and no signage is present. The parking lot is on Lexington Avenue at the Cranford/Garwood boundary.

Existing Facilities (Outside Westfield)

- Playground
- 3 tennis courts
- 3 baseball/softball fields
- 3 multipurpose rectangular fields
- Parking lot

3.10 Schools

In addition to the sites offered by the Town of Westfield, elementary schools throughout the town offer some recreation areas for residents (Westfield Public Schools). These areas tend to offer amenities similar to what would be found in a Neighborhood Park; however, the array of features is often more limited, and hours are often restricted. These facilities can help to meet the recreational needs of residents. Due to the limited availability of field space in Westfield, many of the school fields are used extensively by youth sports leagues. Table 3.4 provides a summary of these facilities.

3.11 Other Parks

Many other parks are located near the Town of Westfield. Figure 3.4 shows the parks closest to Westfield that contribute to recreational opportunities for Westfield residents. These parks offer a variety of features, including some that are not offered by the Town of Westfield. Many of these fields as well as others are used by Westfield athletic leagues.

Table 3.4: Other Recreation Areas

Facility Name	Agency	Playgrounds	Basketball Courts	Diamond Fields	Multipurpose Fields	Tennis Courts	Dog Park	Trails (Miles)	Picnic Shelter/Area
Other Recreation Areas									
School Parks - Within Westfield									
Edison Intermediate School	Westfield Public Schools			2	1				
Elm St Property	Westfield Public Schools				1	4			
Franklin Elementary School	Westfield Public Schools	1	3	1					
Jefferson Elementary School	Westfield Public Schools	1	1						
Lincoln Early Childhood	Westfield Public Schools	1							
McKinley Elementary School	Westfield Public Schools	1							
Roosevelt Intermediate School	Westfield Public Schools			1	1			0.3	
Tamaques Elementary School	Westfield Public Schools	1			1				
Washington Elementary School	Westfield Public Schools	1	1	1	1			0.2	
Westfield High School	Westfield Public Schools			2	1				
Wilson Elementary School	Westfield Public Schools	1	2						
TOTAL - Schools		**7**	**7**	**7**	**6**	**4**	**0**	**0.5**	**0**
Nearby Parks									
Brookside	Scotch Plains Parks and Recreation	1		1				0.4	1
Echo Lake Park	Union County Parks	1		1	1		1	X	X
Garwood Sports and Recreation Complex	Garwood Recreation	1	1	1	1				
Jerseyland Park	Scotch Plains Parks and Recreation	1	2	1					
Kramer Park	Scotch Plains Parks and Recreation	1		1	1	10			
Lenape Park	Union County Parks							1.0	
Nomahegan Park	Union County Parks	1		2					
Unami Park	Union County Parks	1		3		3			
Watchung Reservation	Union County Parks	1						X	X
Subtotal - Other Public Properties		**8**	**3**	**10**	**3**	**13**	**1**	**1.4**	**3**
Subtotal - Other Park Facilities		**15**	**10**	**17**	**9**	**17**	**1**	**1.9**	**3**

3.12 Programs Inventory

Quality recreational programming is an important aspect of a healthy community. As citizens of all ages seek to enrich their lives with productive use of leisure time, the availability of a diverse range of recreational activities becomes increasingly vital. Quality recreational programs also promote societal values such as civic pride and improve a community's attractiveness to parents and business leaders.

3.12.1 Core Program Guidelines

The core program concept provides direction in the planning, scheduling and coordination of community-based recreational activities. Emphasis must be given to the involvement of community representatives, parents, participants, and advisory groups in the planning and development of program opportunities.

The Core Program Guidelines include six components to utilize as benchmarks for determining specific activities conducted at each program location. The level of Core Program offering may vary in activity type, intensity, and scope depending on such factors as size of the building, equipment available and the

amount of staff required. The discussion below provides a description of the core program components and a summary of if and how well Westfield Recreation is meeting these targets.

Appendix D provides an expanded description of each broad program category (component six). It includes possible program formats, identifies the primary values served by the activity, and lists specific program examples. The list can serve as a resource for determining and developing programs in the Town of Westfield.

Core Program Components

The summary below uses the following abbreviations after each bullet point to describe whether Westfield is meeting the core program components:

Y=Yes offered by Westfield Parks and Recreation

L=Limited offerings by Westfield Parks and Recreation

O=Offered by partner organizations in Westfield

N=No not offered in Westfield

1. Broad Appeal

Parks and community centers should have broad appeal by conducting activities and special events for people young and old and of varying needs and skill levels. Target groups for programs include:

- Preschool (Y)
- Elementary School Age (Y)
- Teens (Y)
- Adults (Y)
- Seniors (Y)
- Intergenerational (L)
- Multiple Ages (Y)
- Special Needs (N)

2. Administratively Feasible

Activities should be administratively feasible, and the following factors should be considered as part of any program development process:

- Facility and Equipment Requirements (Y)
- Safety (Y)
- Cost vs. Benefits – (N)
- Specialized Instruction Requirements – (Y)

Westfield has not yet completed a detailed analysis of the costs of programs. This type of analysis can determine the cost of each program per participant in terms of dollars and staff time and compare those numbers to program outcomes and revenues. This type of an analysis can be especially useful for evaluating partnerships with partner organizations.

3. Coordination

Program and service offerings should be of a coordinated nature within the community, thus serving to complement rather than duplicate activities already provided elsewhere by other organizations or agencies.

Westfield coordinates with several partner organizations to ensure complementary services. The department coordinates with the leagues identified in Subsection 3.12.3 to ensure the availability of these athletic opportunities. The department also coordinates with Westfield Public Schools, Union County Parks, Westfield YMCA, Westfield Community Center, and the Westfield National Guard Armory for the provision of facilities and programs, although these partnerships could be expanded and improved.

4. Variety of Settings and Times

Activities should be conducted in a variety of settings and formats, formal and informal. Programs should also be offered at a variety of times to meet the competing schedules of residents. For example, working adults

may not be able to participate in programs until the evening or on weekends. Additionally, parents with children may benefit from availability of childcare or children's programs running concurrent to their chosen activity.

Settings and formats include:

- Instructional Classes (Y)
- Progressive Skill Levels (Y)
- Drop-In (N)
- Special Events (Y)
- Special Interest Clubs (N)
- Leagues and/or Tournaments (Y & O)
- Outings and Field Trips (N)
- After School Programs (N)
- Camps and Clinics (Y)

Westfield offers programs in all the settings and formats listed above to some degree, although some are limited to specific age groups.

5. Constructive Nature

Programs should be constructive in nature and satisfy the creative, cultural, physical, and social desires of the participants.

6. Diverse Range of Activities

A diverse range of activities should be offered and should include a balanced mix of the following broad program categories:

- Athletics (Y & O) – Offered by Recreation and partners
- Health, Fitness, and Wellness Activities (L) – Only a few program types
- Health and Wellness Education (N)
- Creative Arts (L) – Only a few program types
- Performing Arts (N) – No longer offered
- Cultural Performances (N)
- Education, Life Skills, and Fun (Y)
- Community and Annual Events (L & O)
- Games (N)
- Nature/Outdoor Programs (N) – Fishing offered previously
- Green Living/Environmental Education (N)
- Heritage and History (N)
- Volunteer Training (N)

3.12.2 Westfield Recreation Program Participation

Westfield Recreation provides a wide variety programs. These programs are held at a variety of locations in Westfield, including Westfield Community Room, Gumbert Park, Tamaques Park, Memorial Park, Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields, Mindowaskin Park, and more.

Program Participation

Table 3.5 shows the number of participants by program category from 2017 to 2019. Program participation in Westfield declined slightly from 2017 to 2018, primarily due to programs that were discontinued. The numbers for 2019 include only Winter and Spring, but the numbers for these two seasons have increased compared to 2017 and 2018.

Table 3.5: Participation Summary

Participation Summary	2017		2018		2019
	Win./Spr.	Sum./Fall	Win./Spr.	Sum./Fall	Win./Spr.
Athletics	601	1,126	740	1,045	735
Community and Annual Events	547	0	523	0	538
Creative Arts	0	0	0	4	27
Performing Arts	25	78	0	0	0
Education, Life Skills, and Fun	75	231	12	227	119
Health, Fitness, and Wellness Activities	20	25	21	26	24
Nature/Outdoor Programs	4	0	0	0	0
Semiannual Total	**1,272**	**1,460**	**1,296**	**1,302**	**1,443**
Annual Total	**2,732**		**2,598**		**1,443**

3.12.3 Sports Leagues

Several sports leagues in Westfield are managed by other organizations which are listed below with the facilities used.

Baseball

- Westfield Baseball League – Youth (≈900 participants)
  - Gumbert Park (3 fields)
  - Tamaques Park (fields 2, 3, 4, 6)
  - Jefferson Elementary
  - Franklin Elementary
  - Edison Varsity Field (summer)

T-Ball

- Westfield Baseball League
  - Jefferson School

Softball

- Girls Softball League of Westfield – Youth (≈475-500 participants)
  - Memorial Park (4 fields)

Flag Football

- Police Athletic League – Youth (≈750 participants)
  - Tamaques Park (10 fields)

Tackle Football

- Police Athletic League – Youth (≈200 participants)
  - Tamaques Park – 7 days per week
  - Edison School – Practice
  - Keene University – Night
  - Kehler Stadium – Sunday for games

Soccer

- Westfield Soccer Association – Youth/Adult (≈2,500 participants)
  - Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields
  - Elm Street Property
  - Tamaques Elementary
  - Washington Elementary
  - Union County Fields
  - Armory – Indoor

Ice Hockey

- Westfield Ice Hockey – Rec/Travel
  - Gumbert Temporary Ice Rink

Ultimate Frisbee

- Westfield Ultimate – Youth (≈170 participants)
  - Jefferson Elementary
  - Franklin Elementary
  - Edison Intermediate

Lacrosse

- Westfield Lacrosse Club – Boys/Girls/Men's (≈800 participants)
  - Tamaques Elementary – Practice
  - Houlihan – Games (Sid Fay too small)

Rugby

- Union County Rugby Football Club – Youth/Adult (≈400 participants)
  - Unami Park
  - Friendly's Field

Wrestling

- Police Athletic League – Youth (≈125 participants)
  - Edison Intermediate School Cafeteria
  - Other school cafeterias

Cheerleading

- Police Athletic League (≈120 participants)
  - Diamond Gymnastics (rental)

Basketball

- Westfield Basketball Association – Boys/Girls/Travel (≈2,000 participants)
  - School gyms

4 PUBLIC INPUT

4.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the processes used and the public input gathered throughout the planning process and summarizes of the following elements:

1. Public meetings (open houses and stakeholder groups)
2. Dollar voting exercise
3. Statistically valid Parks and Recreation Survey (by ETC Institute)
4. Web-based and handout survey
5. Online engagement (powered by MindMixer)

The public engagement process is essential to identify the needs and preferences of Westfield residents. The findings of the public input process are, therefore, integral to the Needs Assessment and Identification (Chapter 5) and serve as the foundation of the recommendations of this master plan.

4.2 Public Meetings

This section provides a summary of public meetings (public workshop, stakeholder groups, and events) held or attended as part of the master planning process. Over 300 community members were engaged in person at these meetings, which were held in April of 2019.

4.2.1 Public Workshop

The town conducted two public workshops (open house meeting) for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to introduce the project to the public and to solicit feedback from the community regarding the present and future of parks and recreation in Westfield. The first meeting was held on April 3 in the Community Room at Town Hall, and the second was held on April 24 at Edison School in the cafeteria. Both meetings were held jointly with the Town Master Plan Update.

The meeting allowed participants to visit a series of stations in order to provide their input and learn more about the master plan. The primary input stations were arranged around the room and provided opportunities for input on three general topics. At each of these stations, participants were asked to share their responses to two questions: “What makes them great now?” and “What would make them better?” Participants were

able to provide their comments on the provided sheets and were encouraged to place a checkmark next to comments by others that they supported.

The three input topics were as follows:

- Parks and Facilities
- Trails and Natural Areas
- Programs and Events

A voting for improvements station provided two activities, dollar voting (see Subsection 4.2.3) and preference boards for facilities and programs. Summaries of comments in the ensuing text indicate the number of times a topic was mentioned in parentheses after the item, and comments could be counted in more than one category as many mentioned more than one topic. The full text of comments can be found in Appendix C.

Parks and Facilities

This topic represented built amenities and general recommendations for parks. Athletic fields were by far the subject of the largest number of comments, and most of those were about artificial turf fields. Many comments were also in opposition to artificial turf fields. Improvements to existing parks were also a common topic. Many participants requested better maintenance as well.

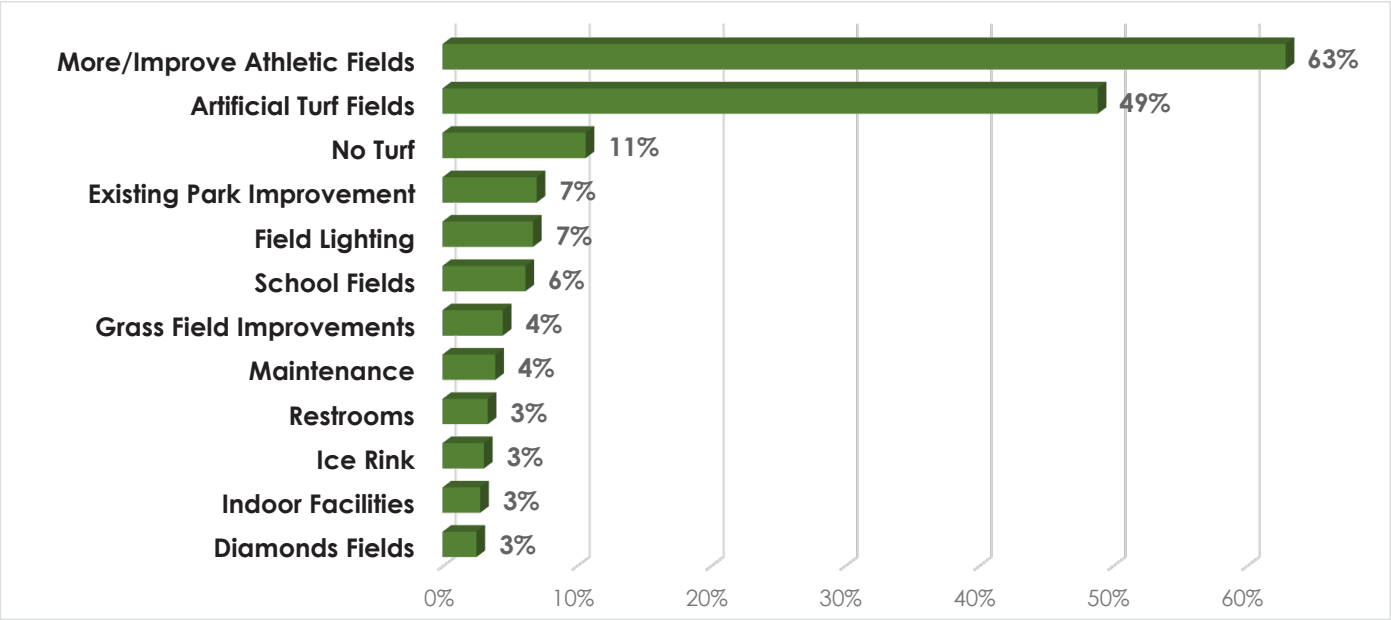
What makes them great now?

- Playgrounds
- Tamaques
- Mindowaskin
- Memorial Pool

What would make them better? (# of comments/checkmarks in parentheses) – 356 comments and checks

- More/Improve Athletic Fields (224)
- Artificial Turf Fields (174)
- No Turf (38)
- Existing Park Improvement (25)
- Field Lighting (24)
- School Fields (22)
- Grass Field Improvements (16)
- Maintenance (14)
- Restrooms (12)
- Ice Rink (11)
- Indoor Facilities (10)
- Diamonds Fields (9)
- Parks for Everyone (7)
- Pickleball Courts (6)
- Landscaping/Beautification (4)

Figure 4.1: Most Discussed Topics – Parks and Facilities (Percentage of Comments/Checks)



Trails and Natural Areas

This station encouraged discussion of natural areas, conservation/preservation, and trails. The focus of most of the comments was on the need for trail improvements and a desire for better maintenance of existing trails and natural areas. Many comments specifically requested improvements to Brightwood Park and Tamaques Park, including improved safety. Participants wanted more trails in general and more tree plantings along with better tree maintenance. Several commenters also requested preservation/improvement of the cross-country course.

What makes them great now?

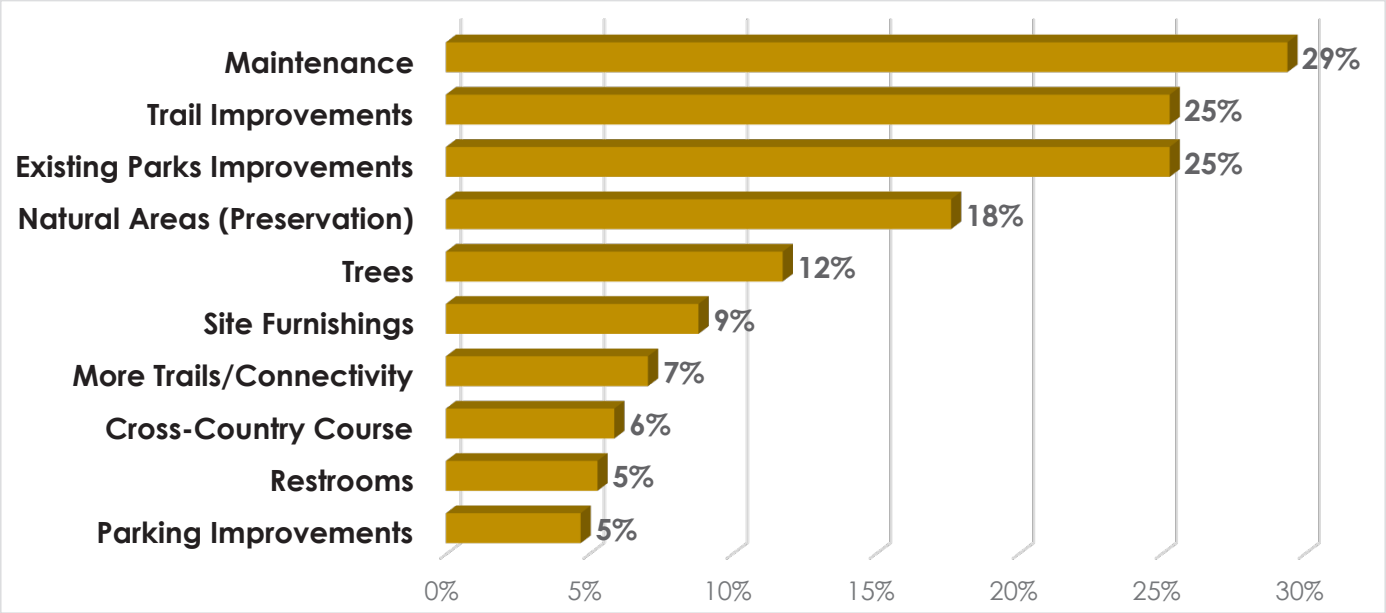
- Access to nature
- Beautiful
- Quiet

What would make them better? (# of comments/checkmarks in parentheses) – 170 comments and checks

- Maintenance (50)
- Existing Park Improvements (43)
- Trail Improvements (43)
- Preservation/Restoration of Natural Areas (30)
- Trees (20)
- Site Furnishings – Benches/Trash Cans/Pet Waste Dispensers/Etc. (15)
- More Trails/Connectivity (12)
- Cross-Country Course (10)
- Restrooms (9)
- Parking Improvements (8)
- Dog Parks (7)
- Safety/Security (7)
- Parks for Everyone/Preserve Park Character (6)

- Marketing/Communication/Outreach (6)
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment (5)

Figure 4.2: Most Discussed Topics – Trails and Natural Areas (Percentage of Comments/Checks)



Programs and Events

This topic provided a location for comments about programs, including sports, camps, nature programs, arts, and events. More programs in general and special events in particular were the most discussed topics.

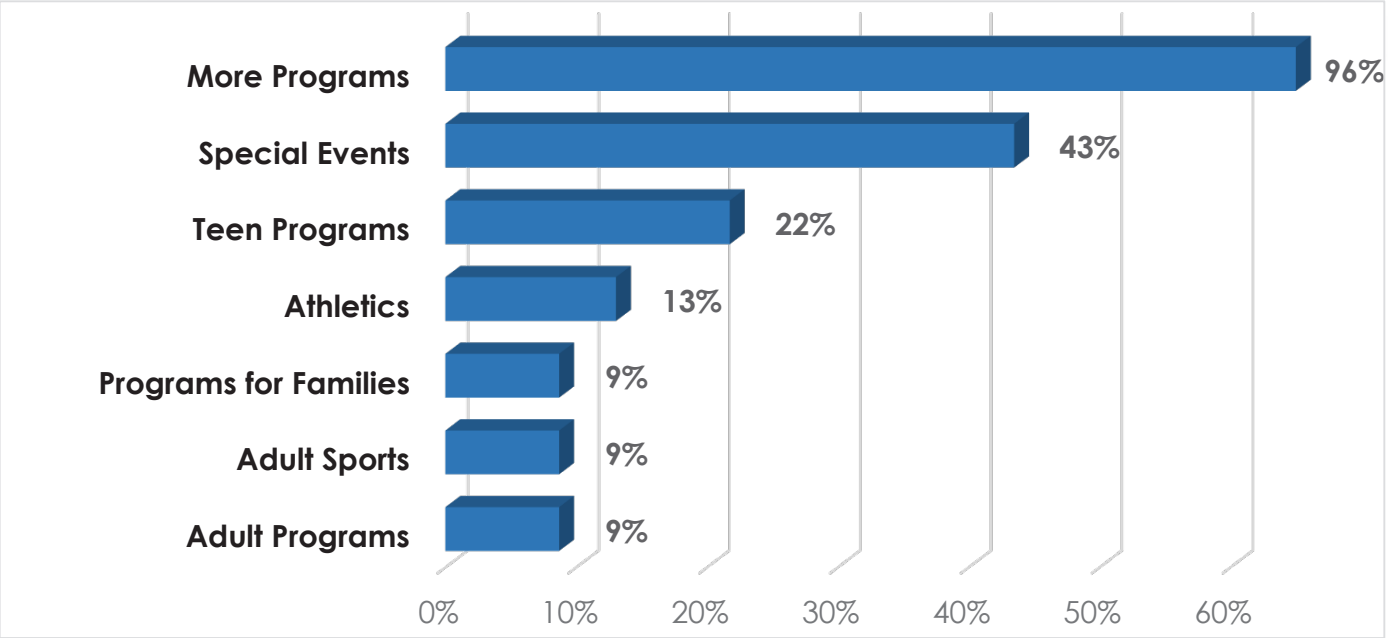
What makes them great now?

- Variety of offerings
- Lots to do
- Free
- Events

What would make them better? (# of comments/ checkmarks in parentheses) – 23 comments and checks

- More Programs (22)
- Special Events (10)
- Teen Programs (5)
- Athletics (3)
- Adult Programs (2)
- Adult Sports (2)
- Programs for Families (2)

Figure 4.3: Most Discussed Topics – Programs and Events (Percentage of Comments/Checks)



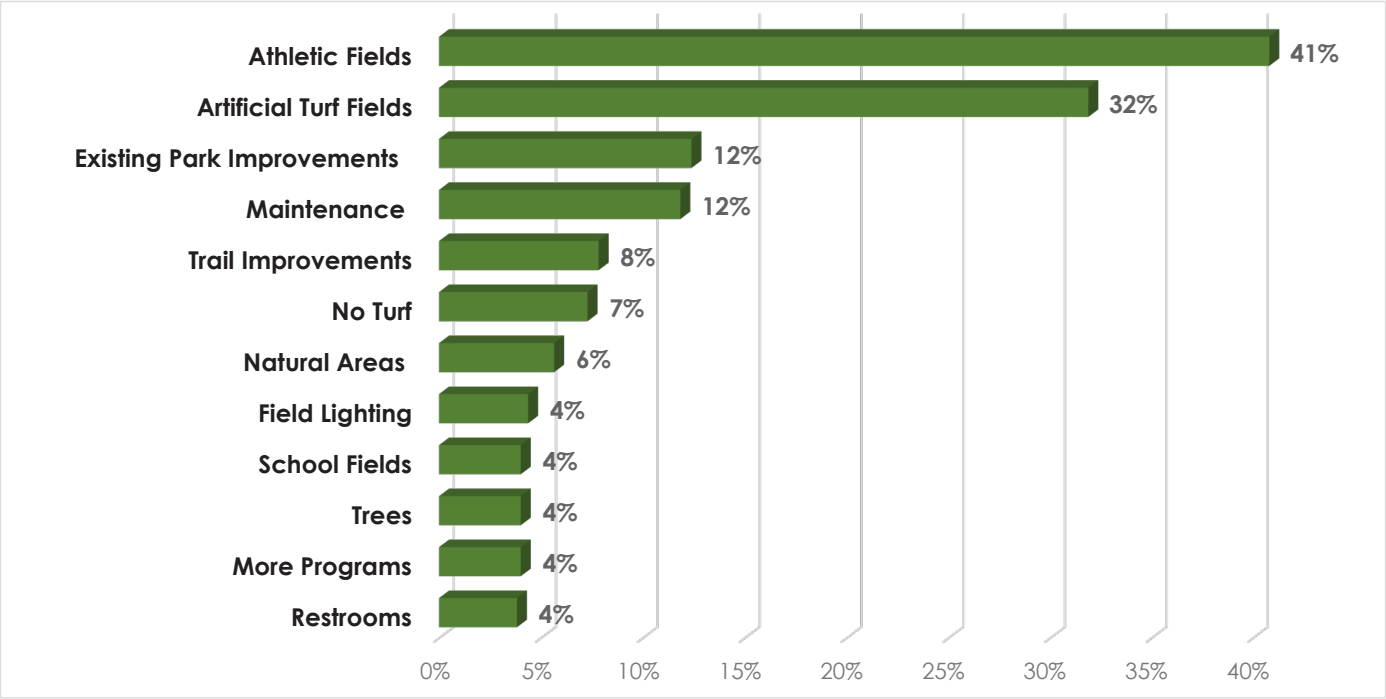
Overall Open House Comment Summary

The list below provides a count of the comments to the question, "What would make them better?" at all stations. Each of the nearly 550 comments and checkmarks were placed into one or more categories to show what improvements attendees of the meetings desired to see in the future. The list includes both general and specific items, so many comments qualified for multiple categories. Additionally, some comments discussed more than one topic and were categorized accordingly.

Most Discussed Topics (# of comments/checkmarks in parentheses):

- More/Improve Athletic Fields (224)
- Artificial Turf Fields (175)
- Existing Park Improvements – Not Fields or New Development (68)
- Maintenance – Not Fields (65)
- Trail Improvements (43)
- No Turf (40)
- Preservation/Restoration of Natural Areas (31)
- Athletic Fields Lighting (24)
- More Programs (22)
- Trees (22)
- School Fields (22)
- Restrooms (21)
- Site Furnishings – Benches/Trash cans/Pet Waste Dispensers/Etc. (18)
- Grass Field Improvements (16)
- Parks for Everyone/Preserve Park Character (13)
- More Trails/Connectivity (12)
- Cross-Country Course (12)
- Parking Improvements (11)
- Ice Rink (11)
- Special Events (10)
- Indoor Facilities (10)

Figure 4.4: Most Discussed Topics – Overall (Percentage of Comments/Checks)



Preference Boards

Attendees of the Open House meeting were given three blue dots and three red dots to place on a boards indicating their preferences. One board provided a list of 15 park amenities (represented by pictures) plus an option for "Anything Else." The other board provided a list of 15 programs (also represented by pictures) plus an option for "Anything Else." These activities requested that participants choose the features and programs most important to them and their households. Children were also invited to participate. Between the two events, 196 community members participated in the activity for features and 179 participated for programs. Count of the selections by event are presented in Tables 4.1 and 4.2.

On the features board (Table 4.1), multipurpose fields received the largest number of dots (194), followed by natural areas (83) and trails (57). All options received some support, indicating that all of these amenities are important to Westfield residents to varying degrees. The provided features were intended to be general, so features were combined into categories whenever possible. The "Anything Else" selections were requests for a wrestling facility. On the programs board (Table 4.2), athletics received the largest number of dots (207) by far, followed by movies/music concerts (52). Like for the features board, all options received some support. There were no "Anything Else" selections.

4.2.2 Stakeholder Groups

A series of stakeholder group meetings were conducted between April 3 and April 25, 2019 to determine the parks and recreation priorities for various interest groups. A total of 17 stakeholder groups were engaged as part of this master plan. At these meetings, stakeholders were asked a series of questions about Westfield parks, recreation facilities, and programs, beginning with a discussion of strengths before moving to a discussion of opportunities for the future. Summaries of the meetings with complete comments can be found in Appendix C.

Table 4.1: Feature Preference Results

Feature	Event		Total	%
	Open House #1	Open House #2		
Multipurpose Fields	69	125	194	33%
Natural Areas	38	45	83	14%
Trails	28	29	57	10%
Ice Rinks	12	32	44	7%
Restrooms	22	17	39	7%
Dog Parks	13	18	31	5%
Event Spaces	17	7	24	4%
Game Courts	18	6	24	4%
Playgrounds	10	13	23	4%
Recreation Centers	12	11	23	4%
Ball Diamonds	5	11	16	3%
Outdoor Aquatics	4	11	15	3%
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	2	5	7	1%
Picnic Shelter	2	2	4	1%
Disc Golf	2	0	2	0%
Anything Else	0	2	2	0%
Total	**254**	**334**	**588**	
Participants	**85**	**111**	**196**	

Table 4.2: Program Preference Results

Program	Event		Total	%
	Open House #1	Open House #2		
Athletics	68	139	207	39%
Movies/Music Concerts	29	23	52	10%
Festivals	25	19	44	8%
Nature Programs	25	15	40	7%
Summer Camps	12	18	30	6%
Senior Programs	19	10	29	5%
Athletic Tournaments	7	19	26	5%
Annual Special Events	14	10	24	4%
After School Programs	13	8	21	4%
Fitness Classes	8	8	16	3%
Enrichment Programs	4	12	16	3%
Aquatics	1	11	12	2%
Music Classes	3	3	6	1%
Dance and Drama Classes	3	2	5	1%
Other	0	5	5	1%
Arts & Crafts Classes	3	1	4	1%
Total	**234**	**303**	**537**	
Participants	**78**	**101**	**179**	

The following stakeholder group meetings were held as part of this master plan:

Town Administration and Staff

- Town Administrator
- Recreation Staff
- Westfield PD

Sports Groups

- Baseball
- Softball
- Lacrosse
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Football (Tackle/Flag)
- Westfield Soccer Association
- Youth Boys Basketball
- Wrestling & Cheerleading
- Ultimate Frisbee School Program
- Westfield High School Athletic Director and Coaches

Other Organizations

- Friends of Mindowaskin Park
- Mountain Bike Group(JORBA)
- Skateboard Park Group

Stakeholder Top Recommendations

- Connectivity throughout Town/More Trails
- Improved Facilities
- Something for Everyone
- Health and Wellness
- Year-Round Opportunities (Indoor Facilities)
- Better Fields
- Artificial Turf Fields
- Wrestling and Cheer Facility
- Partnership with BoE
- More Restrooms
- Host Tournaments
- More Programs

4.2.3 Dollar Voting

Participants at the two open house public workshops were given $1,000 in play money to place into boxes to indicate how they would like Westfield to allocate funds for parks and recreation. Table 4.3 shows the total allocations for each of eight (8) categories (or boxes). Participants could also place money into an "other" box, in order to request specific amenities or improvements not included on one of the eight provided categories. The combined results for the 197 participants at the events are presented below with the allocation for each park improvement category with the percentage of the total allocation.

Build new athletic fields received the largest allocation at $74,900 or 38%. *Upgrade existing parks and facilities* was second with 20% of the total allocation, and *build new walking and biking trails* was third with 13%. For "Other" improvements, participants wrote their chosen improvements with the allocation on a card and placed it and the money into the "Other" box. Ice rink was the most requested item in this box. Individual comments by event can be found in Appendix C.

Table 4.3: Dollar Voting Allocation

Action (Box Title)	Event		Total
	Open House #1	Open House #2	
Build new athletic fields	$29,300	$45,600	**$74,900**
	35%	*40%*	*38%*
Upgrade existing parks and facilities	$17,700	$22,700	**$40,400**
	21%	*20%*	*20%*
Build new walking and biking trails	$12,400	$13,600	**$26,000**
	15%	*12%*	*13%*
Build new parks	$8,600	$8,400	**$17,000**
	10%	*7%*	*9%*
Develop a recreation center	$6,200	$5,300	**$11,500**
	7%	*5%*	*6%*
Develop an indoor pool	$1,500	$4,200	**$5,700**
	2%	*4%*	*3%*
Upgrade Memorial Pool	$2,700	$2,100	**$4,800**
	3%	*2%*	*2%*
Expand program offerings	$2,400	$1,900	**$4,300**
	3%	*2%*	*2%*
Other	$2,700	$9,800	**$12,500**
	3%	*9%*	*6%*
Total	$83,500	$113,600	**$197,100**

4.3 Public Opinion Surveys

The following pages summarize the findings of the statistically valid survey (Mail Survey) and the web and handout survey (Web Survey). Because the Mail Survey results were collected using a statistically valid random sample, they are intended to represent the residents of Westfield as a whole, both users and non-users. Web Survey results represent the respondents of the survey, but not necessarily Westfield residents as a whole. Some figures show only the top results; however, the full results with all response options can be found in Appendices E and F.

4.3.1 Statistically Valid Survey – Overview and Methodology

ETC Institute conducted a Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey (Mail Survey) in the winter of 2019 to help establish priorities for the future development of parks, trails, programs, and open space in Westfield. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the town and was administered by mail and web.

The Brandstetter Carroll Inc. project team worked with Westfield Recreation staff and the steering committee on the development of the survey questionnaire. This collaboration resulted in a survey tailored to issues of strategic local importance, providing a tool for effective planning of the future of the parks, recreation, trails, and open space in Westfield. The five-page survey was mailed to a random sample of households throughout Westfield. These households were also provided with a web address to complete the survey online as an alternative to completing it by hand and returning it by mail.

For the purpose of providing statistically valid results, the goal was to obtain a total of at least 400 completed surveys. ETC Institute exceeded that goal with a total of 583 surveys. Based on this random sample of households, this survey has precision of at least +/- 4.2% at the 95% level of confidence.

4.3.2 National Benchmarking

Since 1998, ETC Institute has conducted household surveys for needs assessments, feasibility studies, customer satisfaction, fees and charges comparisons, and other parks and recreation issues in more than 700 communities in over 49 states across the country.

The results of these surveys have provided an unparalleled database of information to compare responses from households in client communities to "National Averages" and, therefore, provide a unique tool to "assist organizations in better decision making." The National Benchmarking summary is included in Appendix E with the full survey report. Select information for this benchmarking is described within this section.

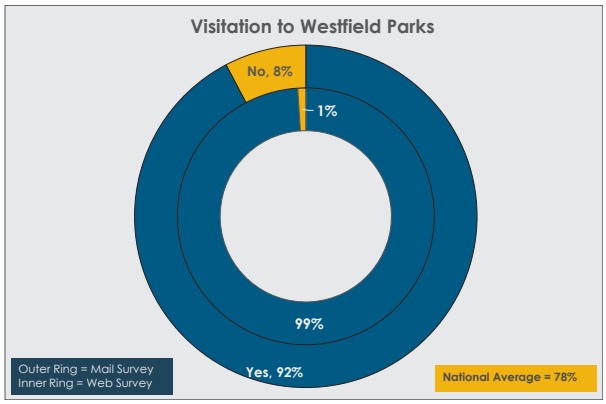
4.3.3 Web Survey – Overview and Methodology

On online and handout survey was administered by BCI and consisted of similar questions to the Mail Survey but with a reduced overall length (2 pages instead of 4). The web version was powered by PublicInput.com, and the handout version was available at the public meetings and the Westfield Recreation office. The goal of this survey was to engage anyone who wished to share their ideas and 1,573 community members participated. The survey could be completed by anyone interested. The full survey report can be found in Appendix F.

4.3.4 Visitation of Parks Offered in Westfield

Respondents to the survey were asked about their visitation to parks in Westfield over the last year. Figure 4.5 shows the proportion of respondents that reported that a member of their household visited a park in the last year. According to the statistically valid Mail Survey (outer ring), **92% of households visited parks** in Westfield. The national average for park visitation is 78%. Accordingly, residents in Westfield were more likely than residents of other communities to visit parks. Respondents to the Web Survey (inner ring) were more likely to visit parks at 99%.

Figure 4.5: Visitation to Parks in Westfield

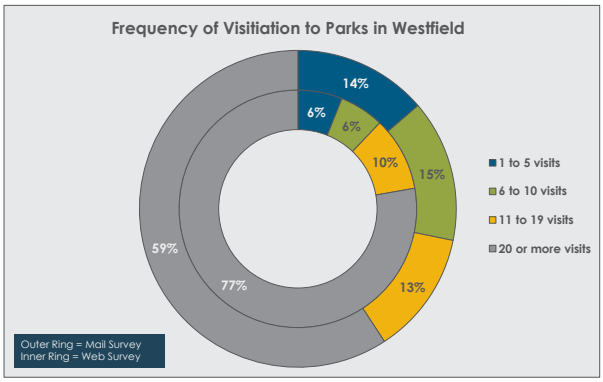


4.3.5 Frequency of Visits to Parks & Recreation Facilities in Westfield

Respondent households that visited parks and recreation facilities in Westfield during the last year were asked to indicate how often they have visited those facilities over that time. The results are presented in Figure 4.6.

According to the Mail Survey, Westfield households who visited parks or recreation facilities likely visited numerous times. Fifty-nine percent (59%) reported visiting facilities 20 or more times over the last year. Results for the other visitation rates were: 1-5 times (14%), 6-10 times (15%), and 11-19 times (13%). Looking at the responses cumulatively, 72% of households visited parks 11 or more times, and 86% visited parks six or more times. Usage rates were even higher among respondents to the Web Survey.

Figure 4.6: Frequency of Visitation to Parks in Westfield

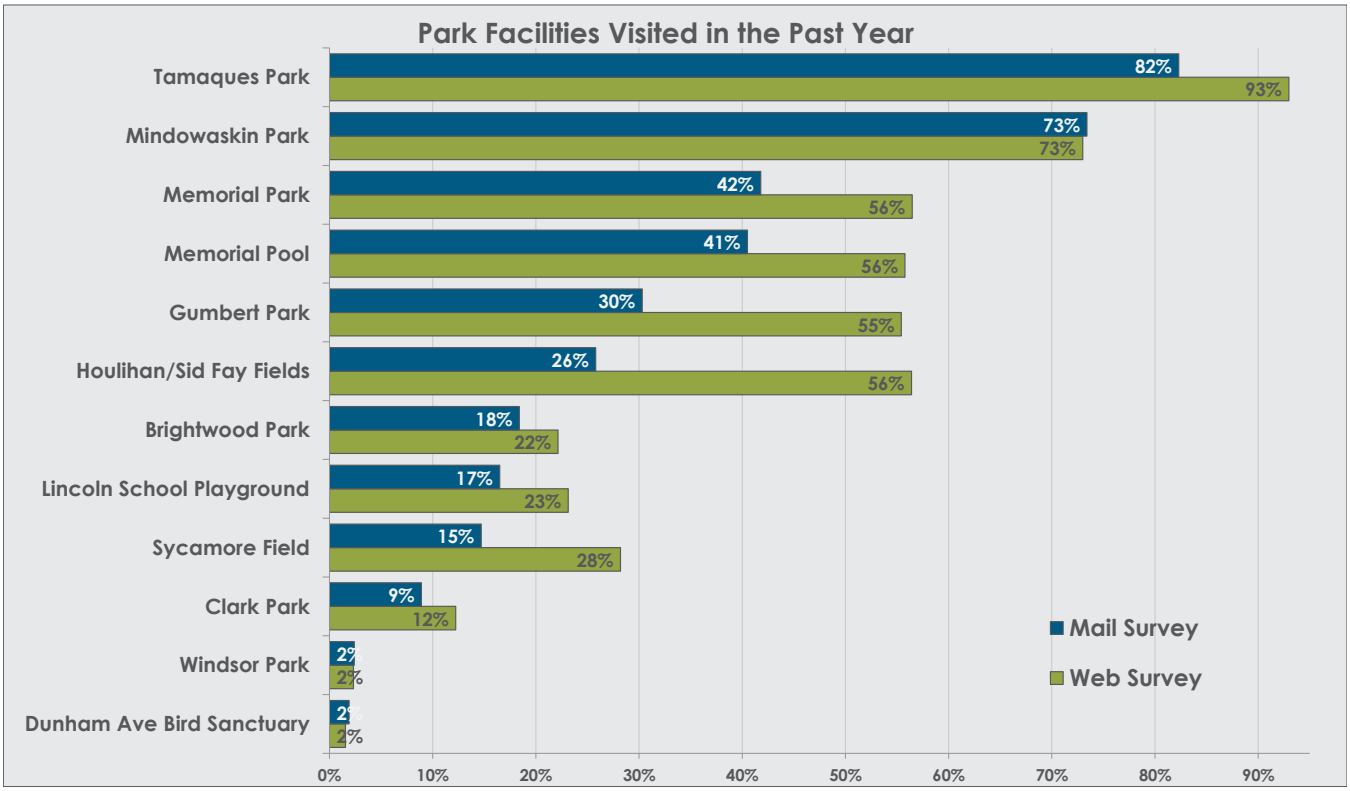


4.3.6 Parks and Recreation Facilities Visited Over the Past Year

Survey respondents were asked to indicate each of the parks offered by the Town of Westfield their households visited over the past year. Figure 4.7 shows the percentage of respondents whose households used each facility.

According to the Mail Survey, **82% of Westfield households visited Bob Noble Park** over the past year. Mindowaskin Park was second at 73%. The most used facilities were those with the widest variety of amenities or those offering programs or hosting events. Web Survey respondents reported higher levels of usage for most parks, particularly those with athletic fields.

Figure 4.7: Parks Visited

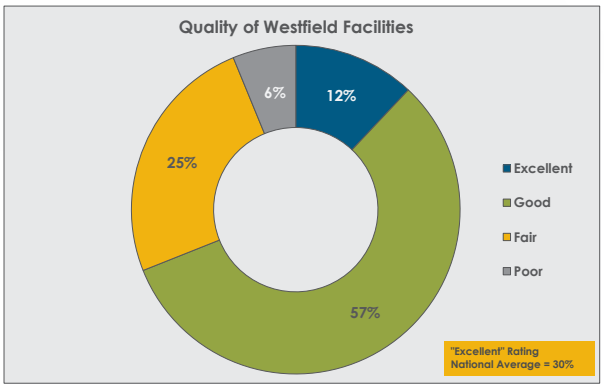


4.3.7 Physical Condition of Facilities Offered by Westfield

Respondent households were asked to rate the physical condition of facilities they visited. Figure 4.8 shows respondents' ratings of the condition of Westfield facilities.

According to the Mail Survey, 57% of households who visited these facilities over the past year rated the condition of those facilities as *good*, **12% rated the condition of the facilities as *excellent*,** and 25% rated the condition as *fair*. Six percent (6%) rated the facilities as *poor*. The numbers for *excellent* in Westfield are well below the National Average (by ETC Institute) of 30%.

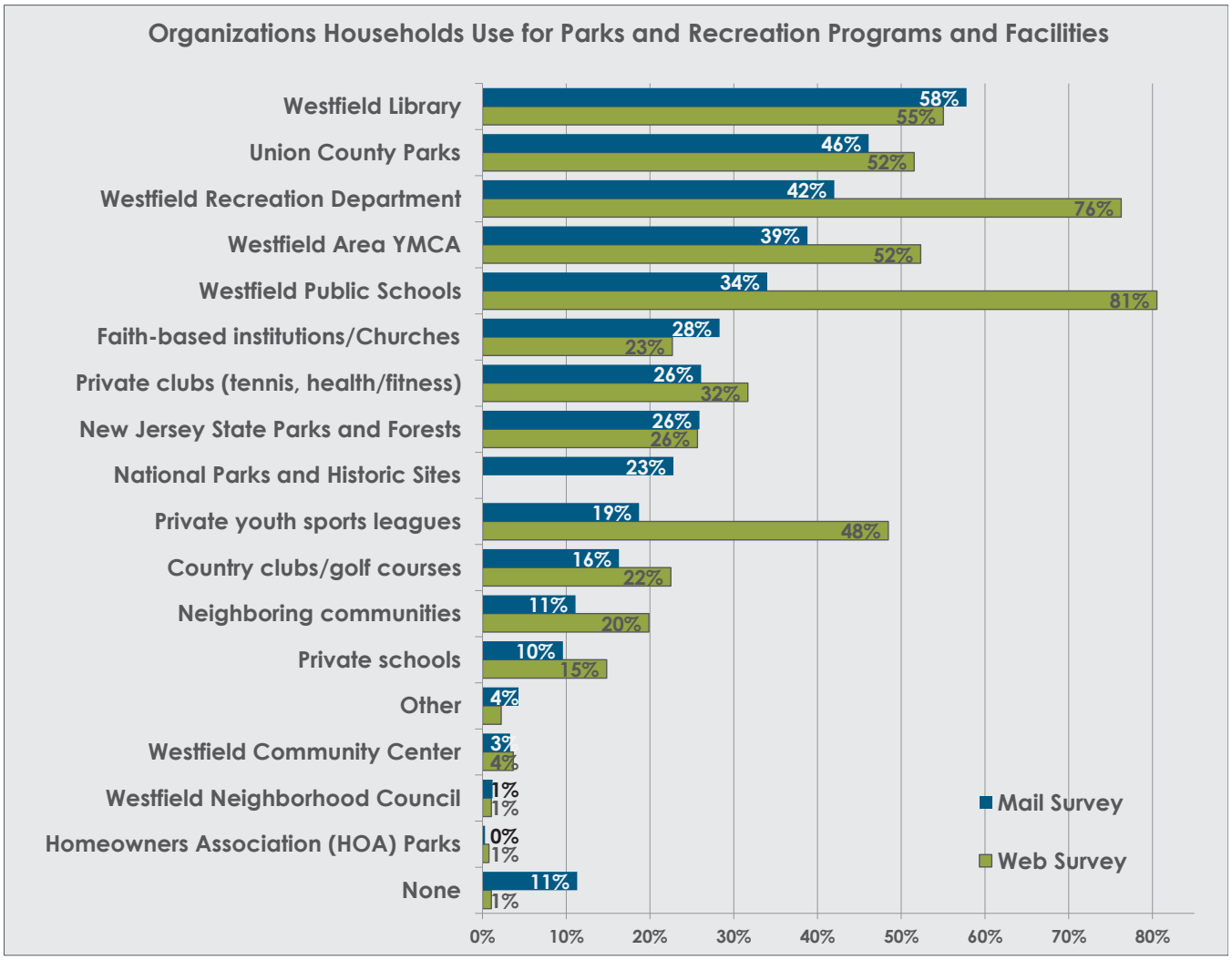
Figure 4.8: Quality of Facilities



4.3.8 Organizations Used for Parks and Recreation

The Mail Survey asked respondents to indicate which organizations they used for parks and recreation (Figure 4.9), and the Westfield Recreation Department ranked third with 42% of respondents. Westfield Library ranked first with 58%, and Union County Parks ranked second at 46%. Westfield Pubic Schools ranked first for Web Survey respondents.

Figure 4.9: Organizations Used for Parks and Recreation



4.3.9 Participation in Programs Offered by Westfield

Respondents were asked if any members of their household participated in programs offered by Westfield Recreation over the past year. These results are shown in Figure 4.10. According to the Mail Survey, just over a third (36%) of Westfield households participated in programs offered by Westfield, and 64% did not. The number is just above the National Average of 34%.

4.3.10 Quality of Programs

Respondents who participated in programs offered by Westfield were asked to rate the quality of those programs, and Figure 4.11 shows the results. Two-thirds (66%) of households rated programs as *good*, **18% rated programs as *excellent*,** 11% rated programs as *fair*, and 5% rated them *poor*. These results are well below the National Benchmarks of 34% for *excellent*.

Figure 4.10: Participation in Programs by Westfield

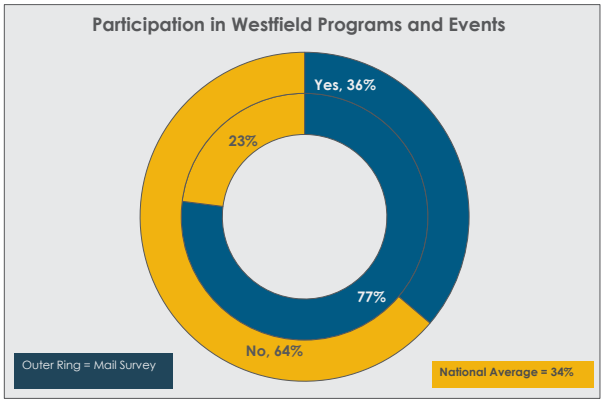
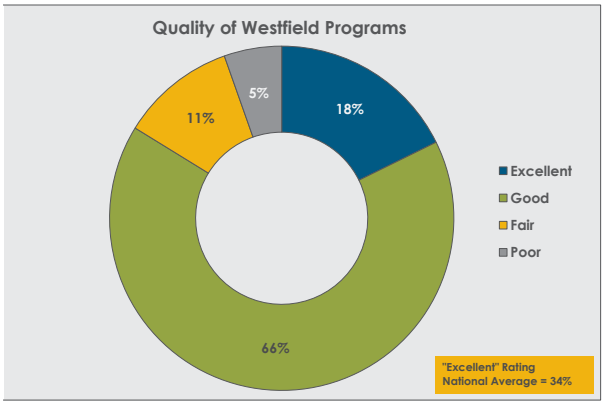


Figure 4.11: Quality of Westfield Programs



4.3.11 Upgrades to Existing Parks

Respondents were asked to identify upgrades their household would like to see to existing parks, and the responses can be seen in Figure 4.12. The **top response in the Mail Survey was *new/improved restrooms* (55%).** *Walking/hiking trails* (50%) ranked second with *drinking fountains* (47%) close behind. In general, the top items represent amenities that improve the overall park experience and can be included at most parks. Most features had more support in the Web Survey, but the most notable difference was for support for artificial turf fields and sports field lighting. Artificial turf fields ranked first in the Web Survey, compared to 12th in the Mail Survey. Sports field lighting ranked third, compared to ninth. The other comments were related to an ice rink and maintenance in the Mail Survey and artificial turf fields, lighting, and a wrestling facility in the Web Survey.

4.3.12 Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities

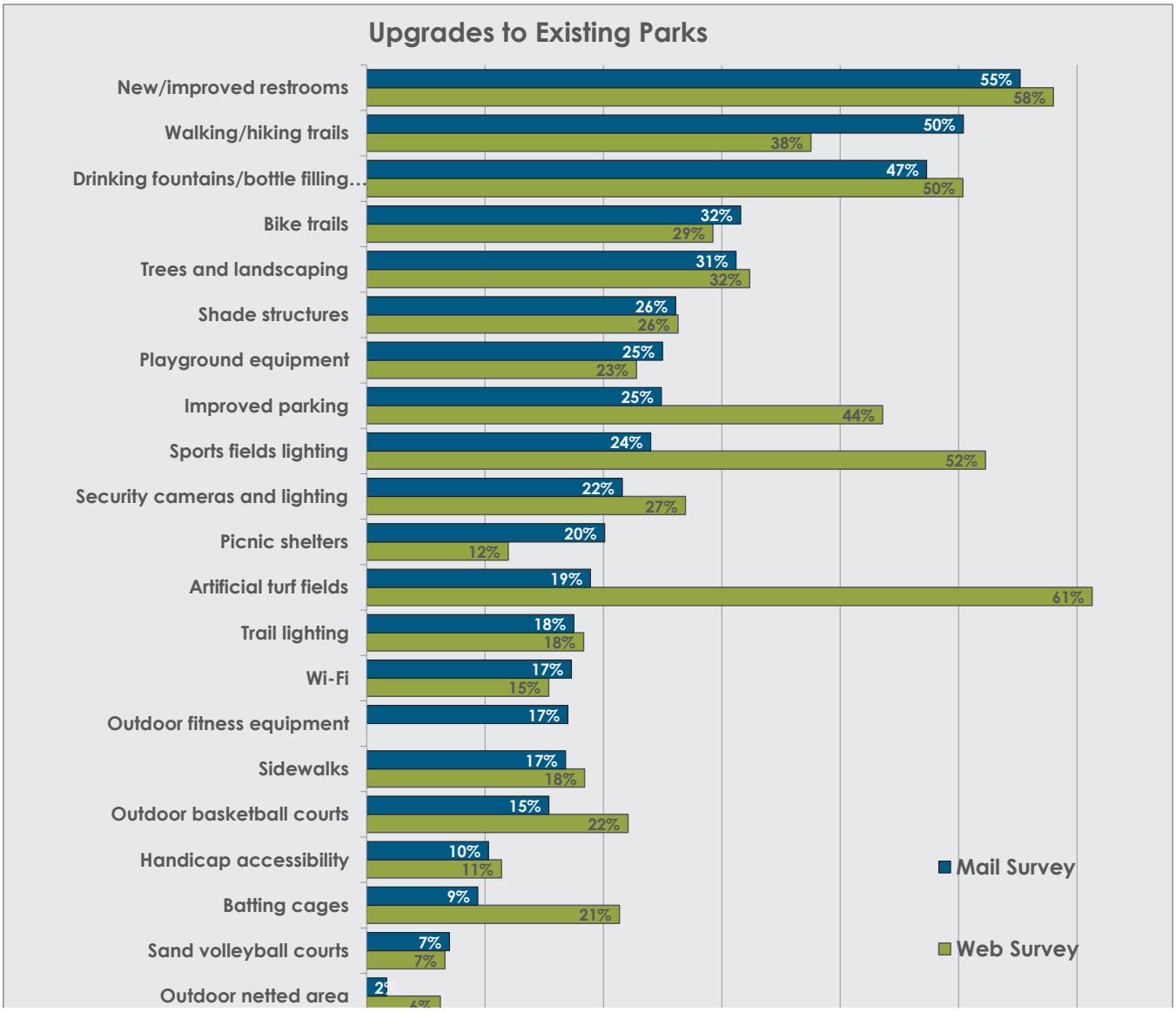
Respondents of the Mail Survey were asked to indicate facilities needed by any members of their households from a list of 32 parks and recreation facilities. Figure 4.13 shows the results as well as the national average for each facility.[1] In the column along the right side of the chart, national averages shown in red indicate Westfield's need at 5% or more below the national average. Black indicates less than 5% above or below the national average or that comparison numbers are not available, while blue indicates Westfield household needs at 5% or more above the national average.

According to the survey, the **highest percentage of Westfield households (70%) had a need for *walking & hiking trails*.** *Large community parks* ranked second, and small neighborhood parks were third, both at 59%. *Nature areas/nature parks* were next with 56% of households indicating a need. Westfield households indicated a higher level of need than the national average for five facilities: *large community parks, tennis courts, baseball & softball diamonds, and lacrosse fields*. Households had a lower level of need for many facilities, including *picnic shelters/picnic areas* and *indoor swimming pools*.

[1] Provided by ETC Institute (see Appendix E).

The survey also asked respondents how well their needs were met for parks and recreation facilities and then estimated the number of households for which needs were met at 50% or less based on these responses, combined with the total number of households in Westfield. Figure 4.14 shows the estimated number of households with needs met at 50% or less for these facilities.

Figure 4.12: Upgrades to Existing Parks



The order of the items in Figure 4.14 varies substantially from the list of needed facilities (Figure 4.13). However, **the most needed facility, *walking & hiking trails,* is number one in both lists indicating that 5,400 households have unmet needs.** Paved bike trails ranked second for households (4,098) with unmet needs compared to fifth for percentage with needs. Other notable differences were for community gardens which ranked fourth for households with unmet needs (2,500 households) after ranking 14th for the percentage of households with a need and off-leash dog parks which ranked seventh for unmet needs after ranking 17th for households with needs, indicating that needs are currently poorly met.

The most important facilities (total of top four choices) are presented in Figure 4.15. Overall, these items are similar to the results indicated in Figure 4.13 with some changes to the order of facilities. ***Walking & hiking trails* ranked as the most important facility to Westfield households by far** with 41% of households ranking them as one of their four most important facilities. *Small neighborhood parks, large community parks*, and *natural areas/nature parks were* next, all with over 20%.

The survey results provided by ETC Institute included a Priority Investment Ranking for each of the facilities in this list that combines the unmet need ranking and most important facilities ranking for these facilities (see Appendix E for methodology). The results for the high and medium priority facilities can be seen in Figure 4.16.

Based on these results, the **top five facility priorities** for investment in Westfield are:

1. **Walking & hiking trails**
2. **Paved bike trails**
3. **Natural areas/nature parks**
4. **Small neighborhood parks**
5. **Large community parks**

4.3.13 New Recreation Center – Desired Features

Survey respondents were asked what features they would most like to see in a new recreation center (Figure 4.17). A walking track ranked as the most preferred feature at a recreation center with a majority (55%) of households indicating in the Mail Survey they would use this feature. A cardio room ranked second (41%). *Game courts/gyms* ranked third at 36%. Web Survey respondents ranked *game courts/gyms* highest of all features.

4.3.14 Need for Programs

Respondents were asked to identify which programs were needed by their households from a list of 19 recreation program categories. Figure 4.18 shows the results as well as the national average for each program. As indicated previously for facilities, the national averages are shown in red to indicate Westfield's need at 5% or more under the national average, blue to indicate Westfield's need at 5% or more above the national average, and black indicates within 5% above or below the national average or that comparison numbers are not available.

According to the survey, ***special events* at 52% were the most needed recreation program** by Westfield households with *summer concerts* ranking a close second at 51% and *adult fitness and wellness* third at 47%. Westfield households showed similar need for most of the programs in the list with greater needs for special events and youth sports and lesser needs for nature programs, youth learn to swim programs, and water fitness programs.

The survey also asked respondents how well their needs were met for recreation programs and then estimated the number of households for which needs were met at 50% or less based on these responses and the total number of households in Westfield. Figure 4.19 shows the estimated number of households with needs met at 50% or less for these programs.

The order of the items in Figure 4.19 was similar to the list of needed programs in Figure 4.19 with the top items appearing in both figures but in different orders, indicating a need for the addition or expansion of these types of programs. ***Adult fitness & wellness programs* ranked first with nearly 4,000 households indicating unmet needs.** *Special events ranked* second, and summer concerts ranked third (both at over 3,000 households), indicating a demand for more of these events.

The survey results by ETC Institute also included a Priority Investment Ranking for programs, combining the unmet needs ranking and most important programs ranking (Figure 4.20). The results for the high and medium priority facilities can be seen in Figure 4.21.

Based on these results, the top six program priorities for investment in Westfield are:

1. **Special events (festivals, parades, etc.)**
2. **Adult fitness & wellness programs**
3. **Summer concerts**
4. **Programs for persons ages 50+**
5. **Adult sports programs**
6. **Nature programs**

Figure 4.13: Need for Facilities

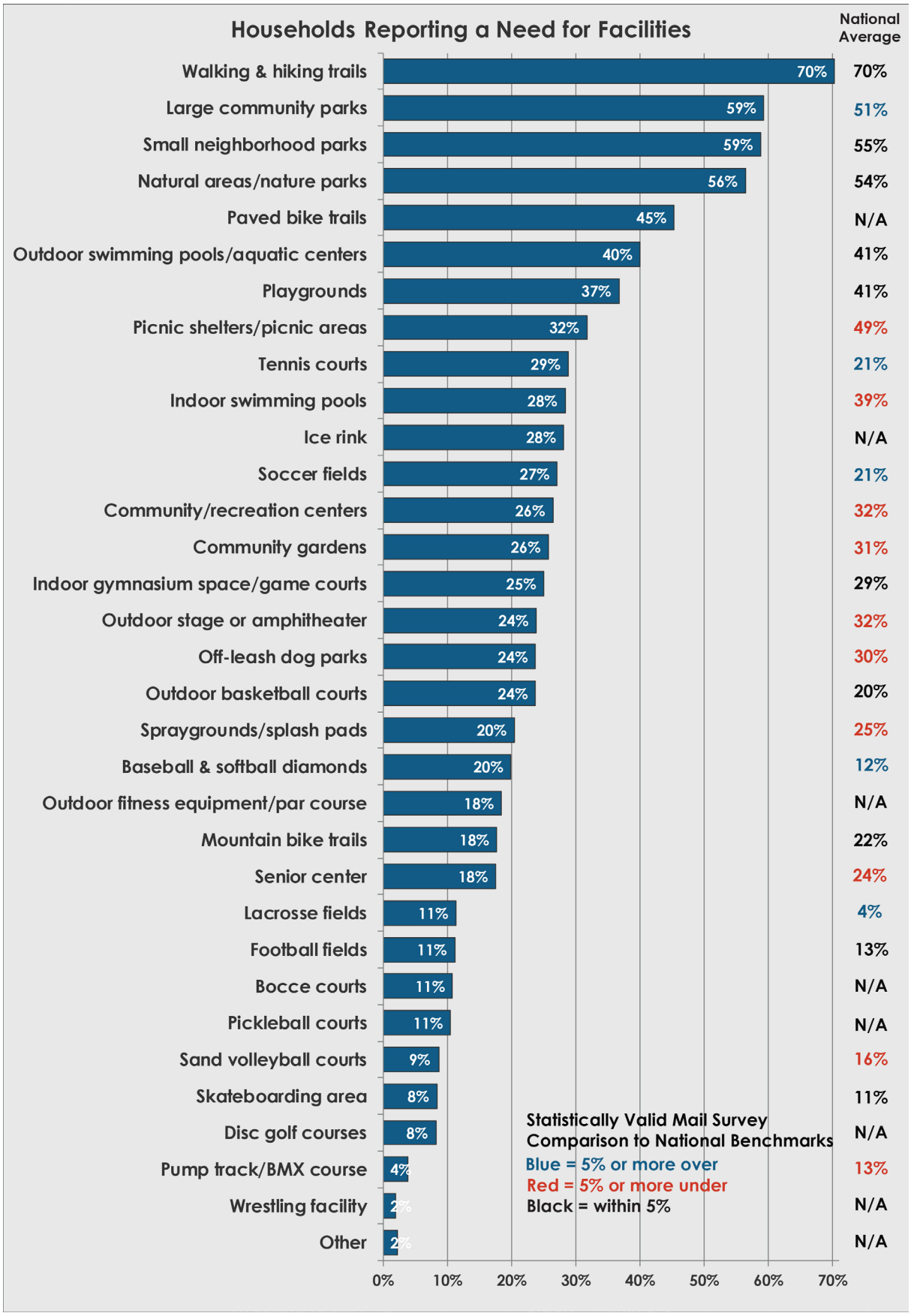


Figure 4.14: Estimated Number of Households with Unmet Facility Needs

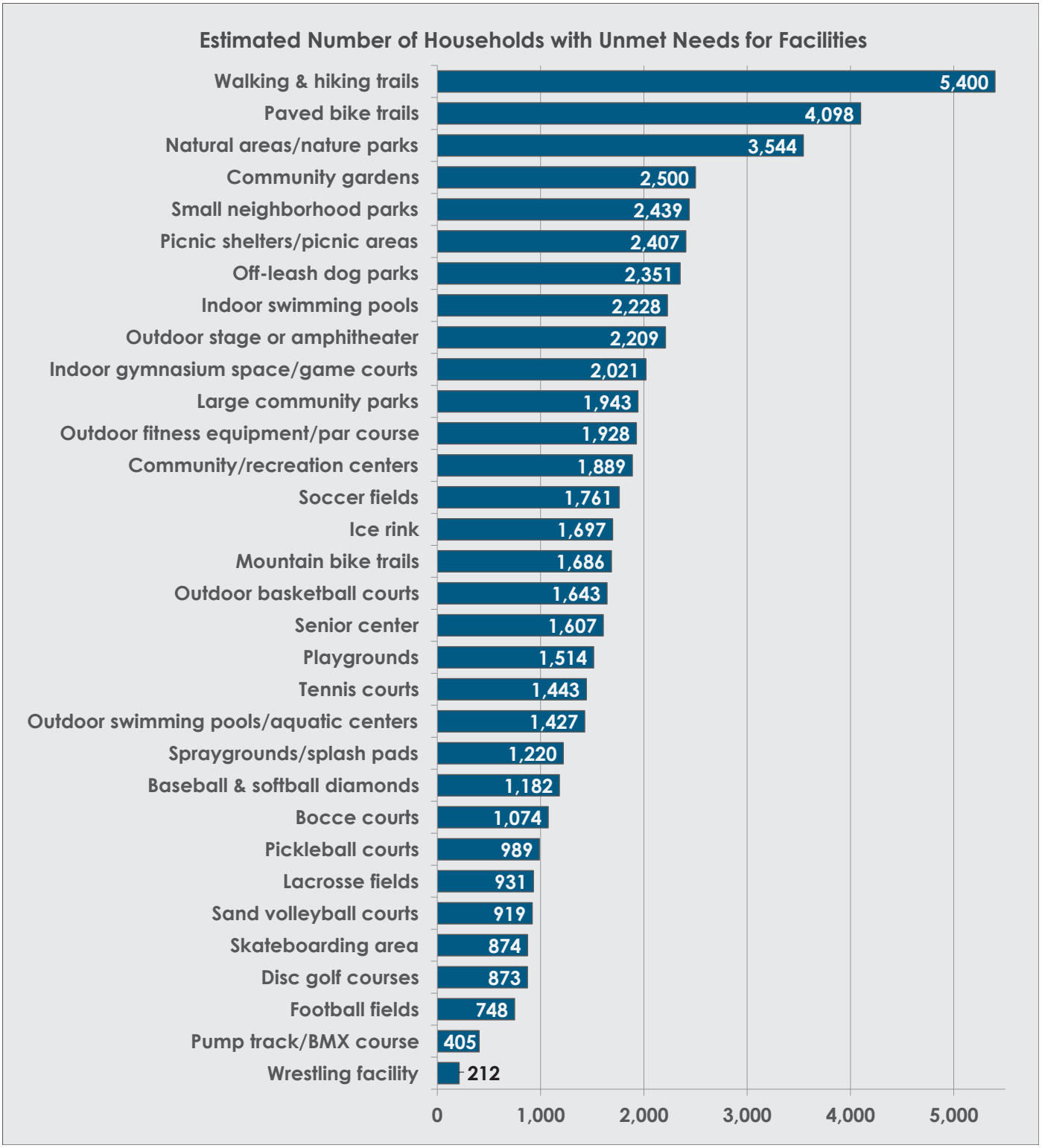


Figure 4.15: Most Important Facilities

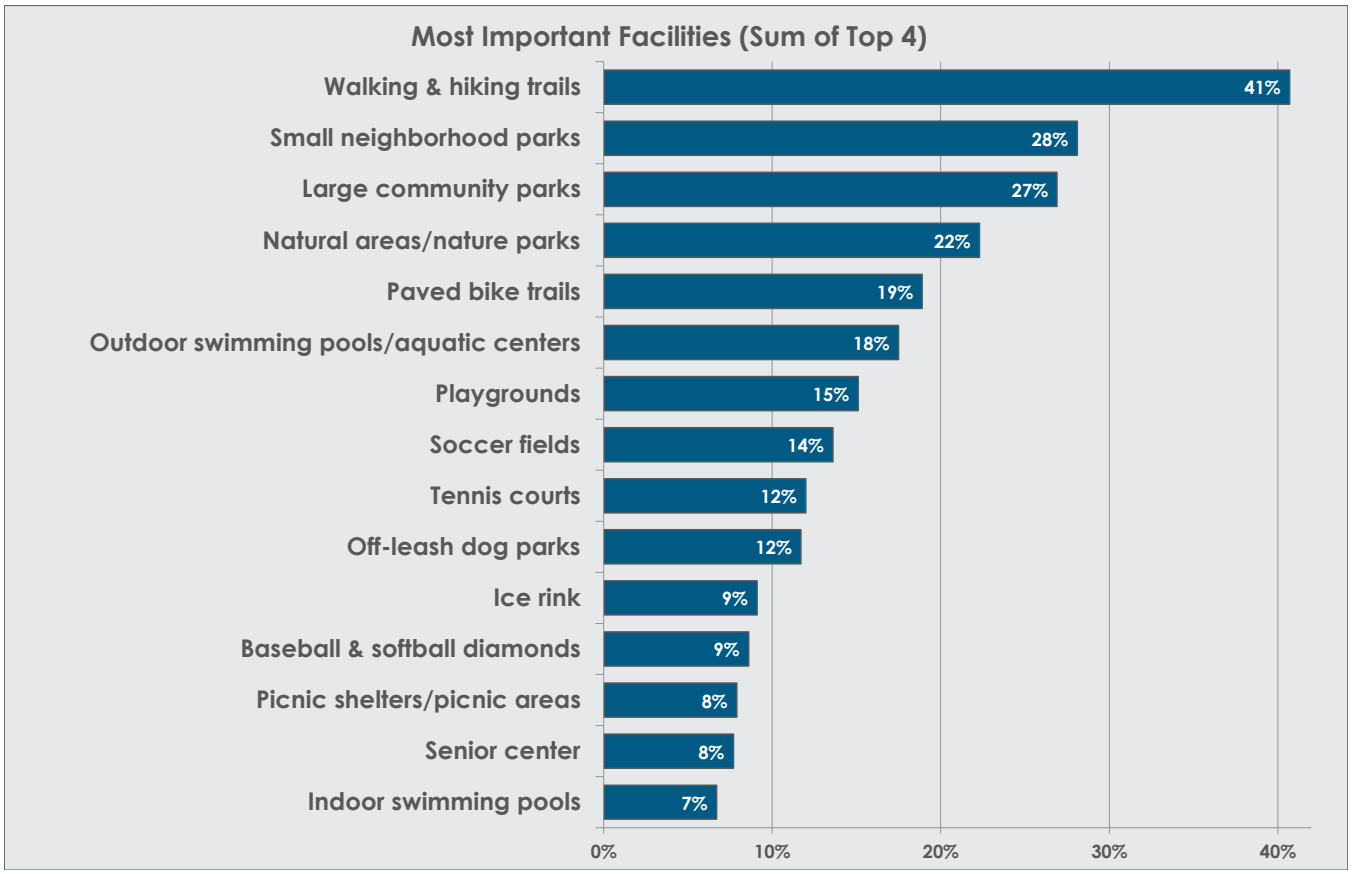


Figure 4.16: Facility Priorities for Investment

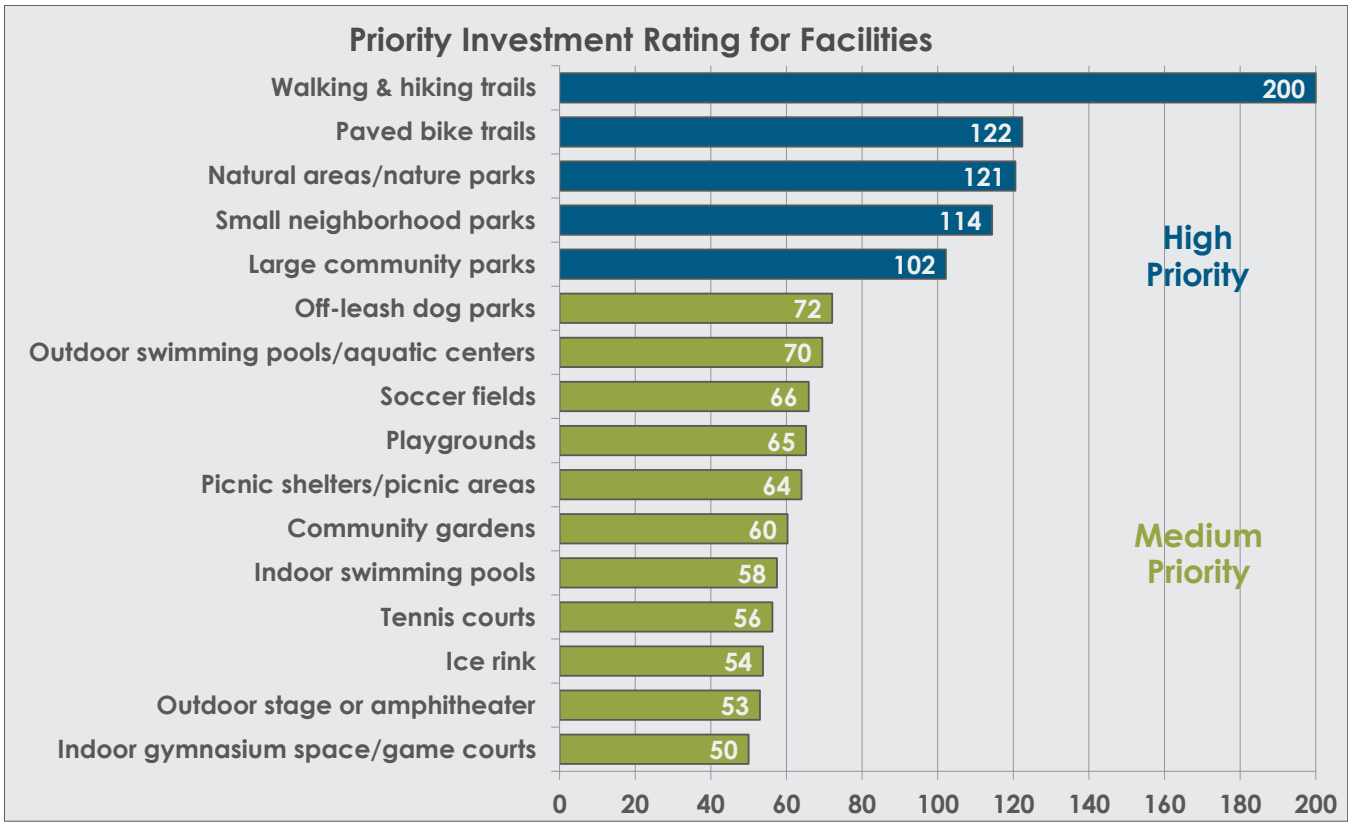


Figure 4.17: Preferred Features at a New Recreation Center

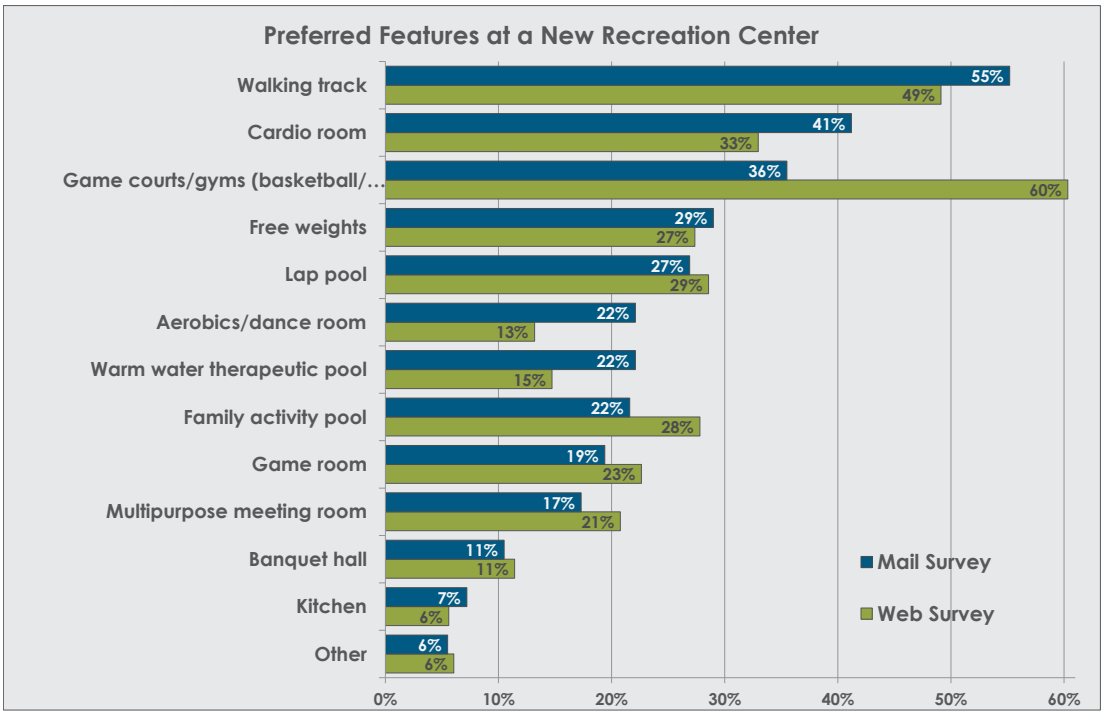


Figure 4.18: Need for Programs

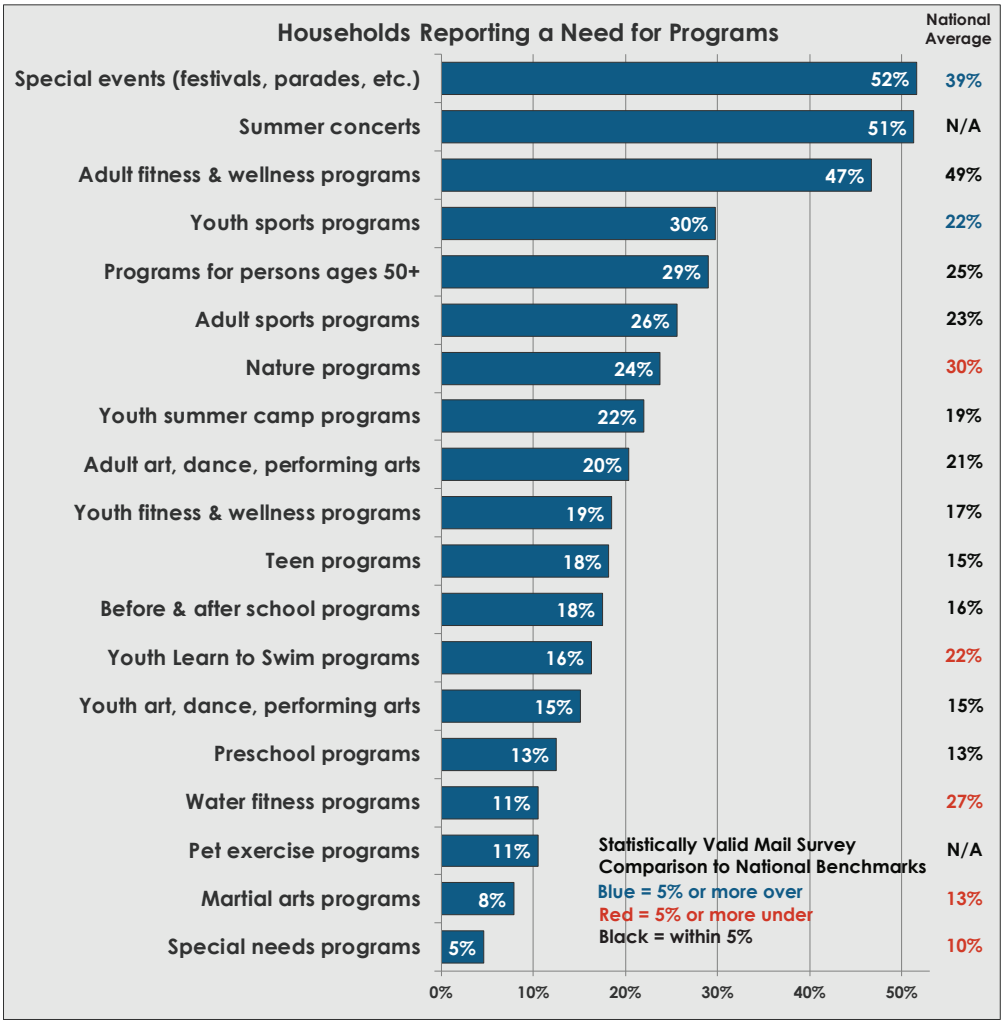


Figure 4.19: Estimated Number of Households with Unmet Program Needs

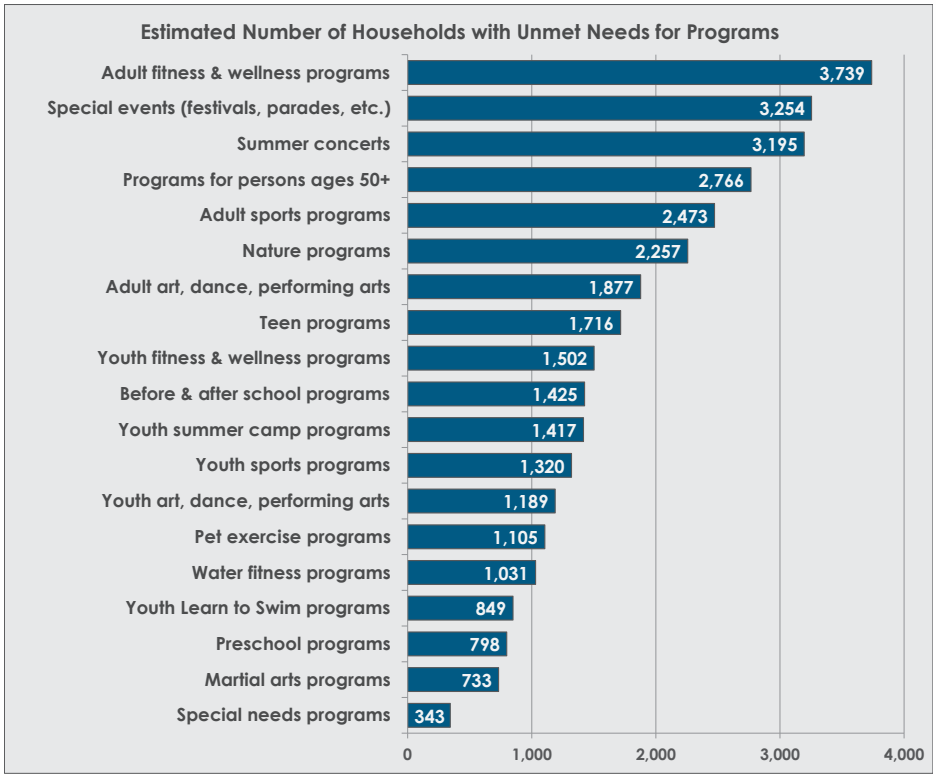


Figure 4.20: Most Important Programs

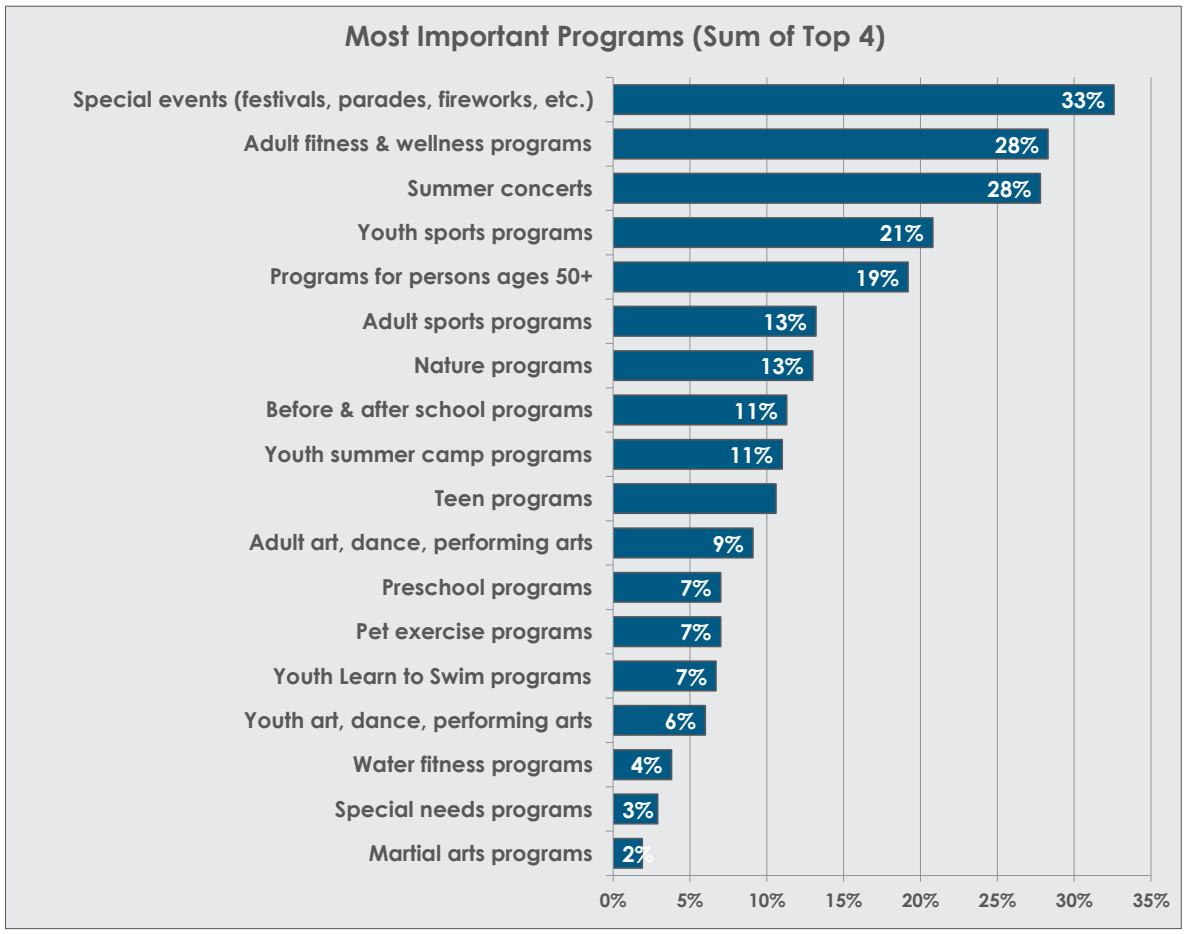
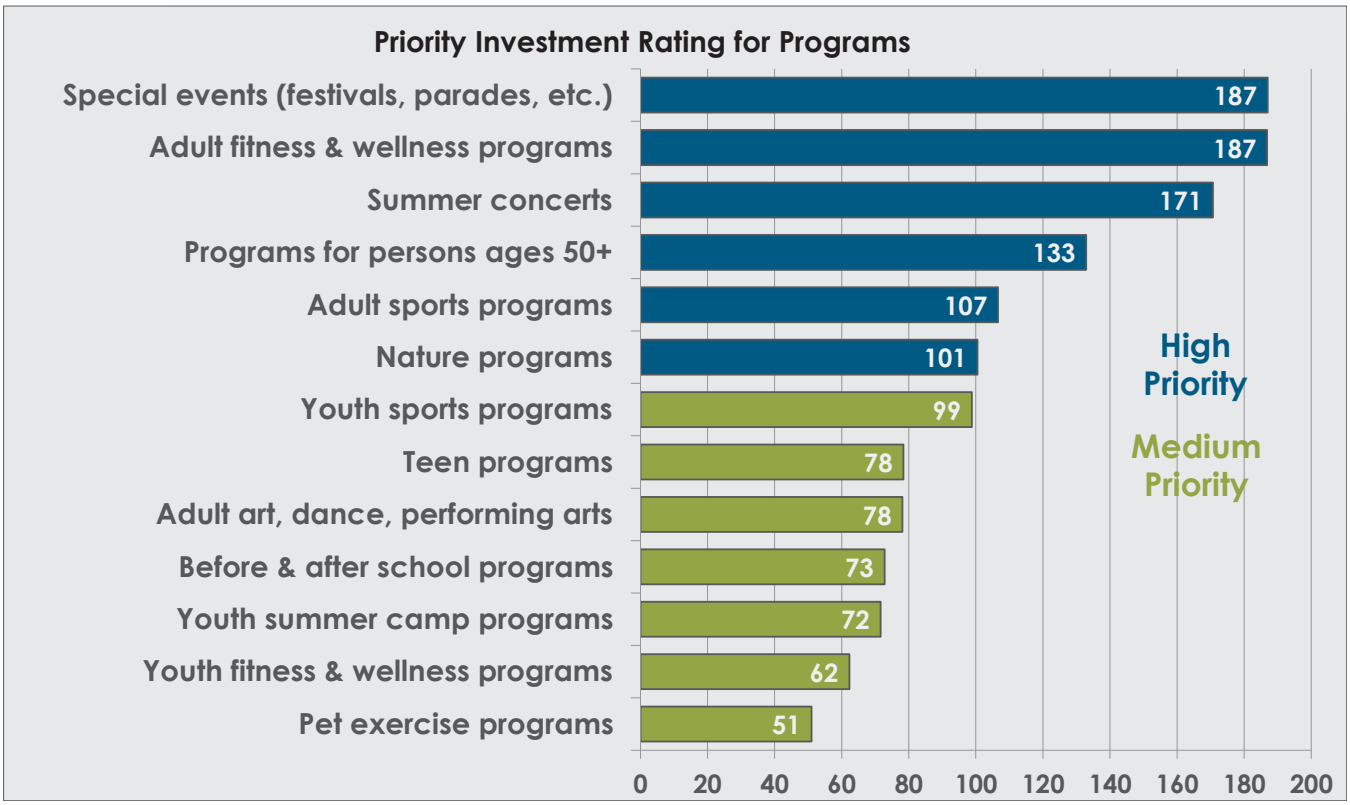


Figure 4.21: Program Priorities for Investment



4.3.15 Support for Park Improvements

Respondents to the Mail Survey were asked to indicate whether they were *very supportive, somewhat supportive, not supportive, or not sure* of 12 actions Westfield could take to improve parks and recreation services. The results, which can be seen in Figure 4.22, show the combined total of *very supportive* and *somewhat supportive* responses.

***Upgrade existing parks & facilities* received the highest level of support with 87% of respondents supporting this action** (64% *very supportive*). *Develop new recreation trails & connect existing trails* ranked second with 80% of respondents supporting this action (56% *very supportive*). More than 50% of respondents were supportive of all actions except for *develop an indoor pool*. These results indicate support for parks and recreation improvements in general by Westfield residents.

4.3.16 Allocation of $100 Between Parks and Recreation Improvements

Survey respondents were asked how they would allocate $100 between seven different parks and recreation improvements in Westfield. Of the options provided (Figure 4.23), **residents would allocate the largest amount of the presented options to *upgrade existing parks* ($13)**. *Build new athletic fields* ranked second, and *build new walking & biking trails* were third, both also with $13. *Other* received the largest allocation at $18, and comments included an ice rink, upgrade fields, and a dog park.

4.3.17 Learning about Recreation or Activities in Westfield

Respondents were asked to identify ways from which they learn about Westfield Parks and Recreation activities. The results can be seen in Figure 4.24. Respondents indicated the *word of mouth* as the most common way they learn of programs and activities with 61% of Mail Survey respondents choosing this option. *Newspaper* ranked second at 50%, followed by *Parks & Recreation flyer* and *social networking (Facebook/ Twitter/Instagram.*

Figure 4.22: Support for Actions to Improve Parks and Recreation

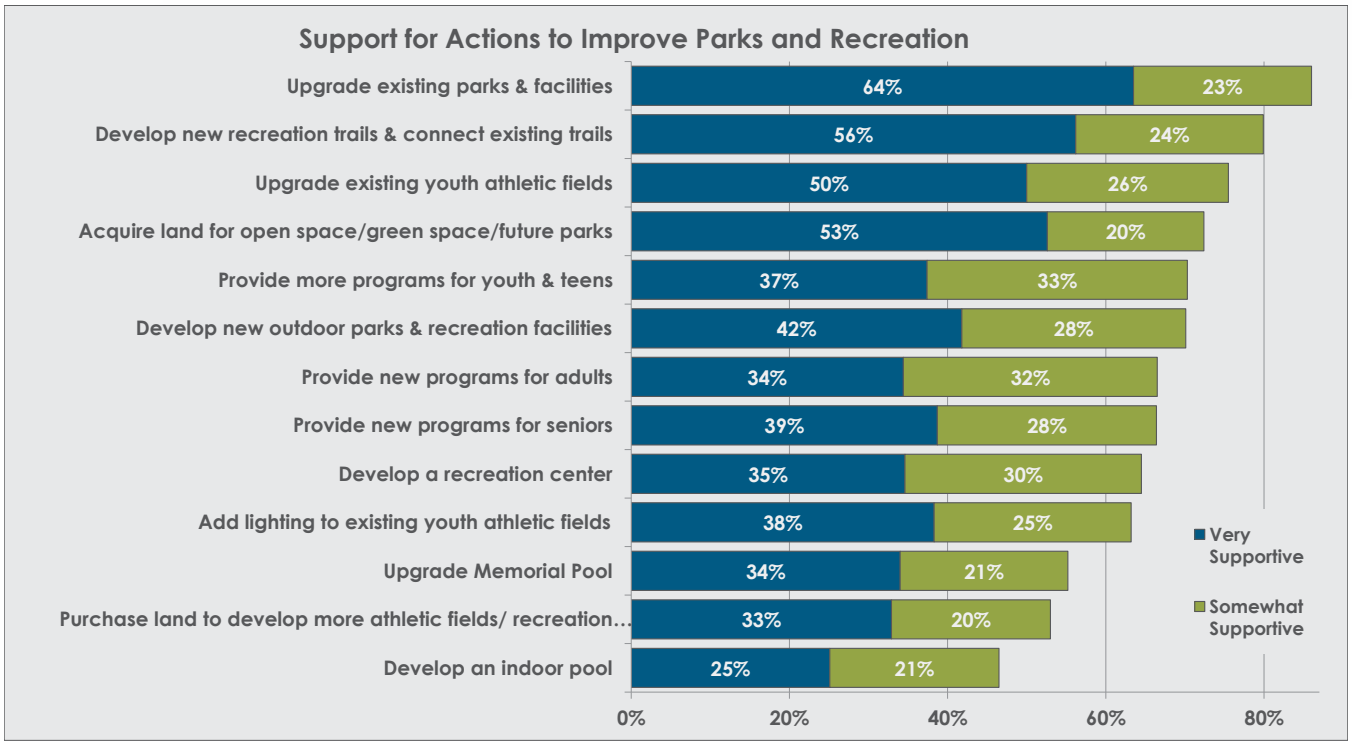


Figure 4.23: $100 Allocation for Park Improvements

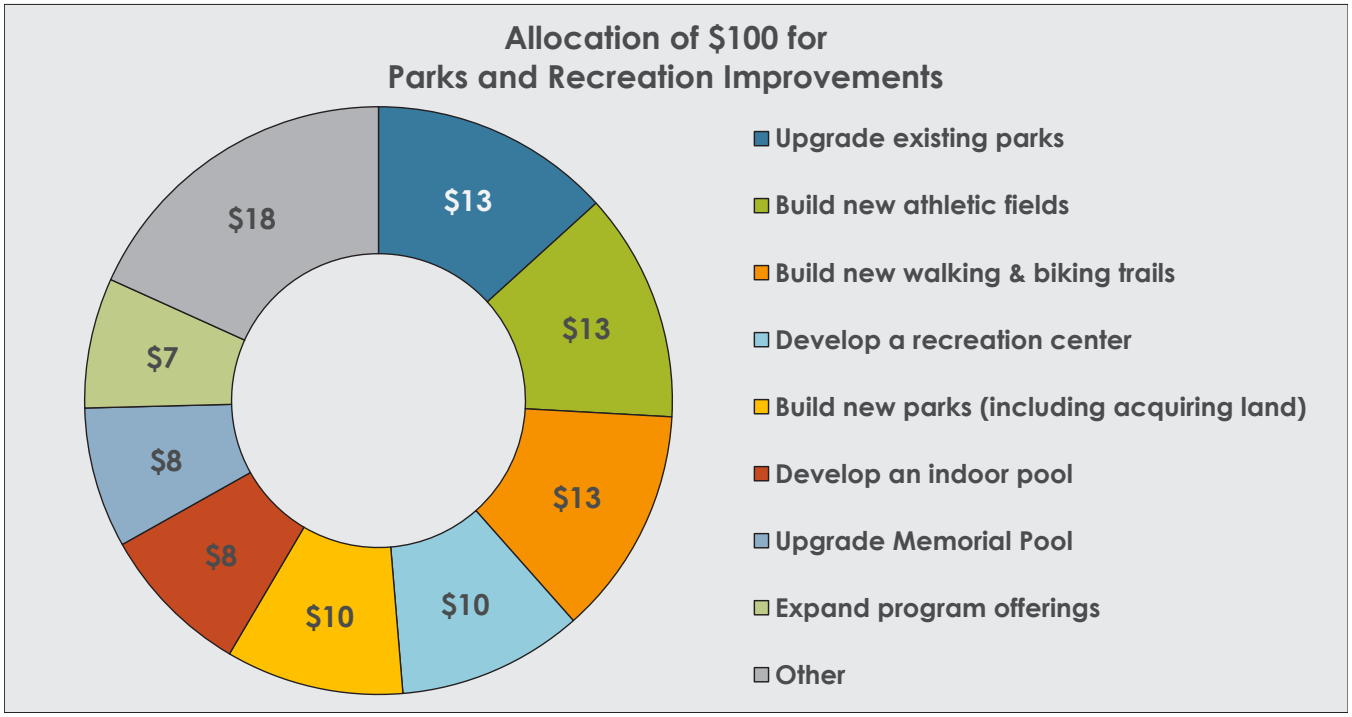
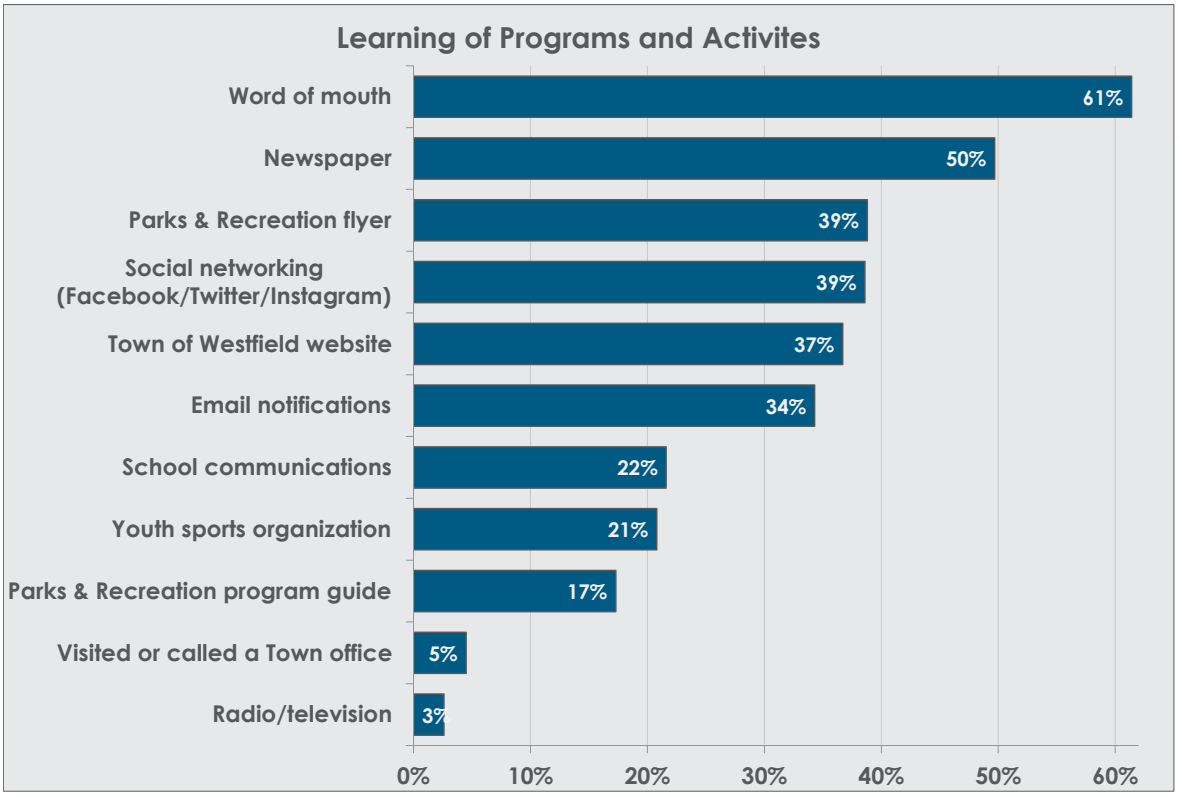


Figure 4.24: Ways Households Learn about Recreation and Activities



4.3.18 Reasons Preventing Use of Parks, Recreation Facilities, Trails, and Programs More Often

Respondents to both surveys were asked to select barriers to their households' use of parks, recreation facilities, trails, and programs from a list of 14 options. Figure 4.25 shows the results. According to the Mail Survey, **the number one reason was that households *use other agencies' facilities*, followed closely by *do not know what is offered* (both at 38%)**. According to the National Benchmarking,[2] the use of other organizations facilities and program is much higher than in other communities as the national average is 11%. The *do not know what is offered* response is only slightly above the national average of 34%. The third most common reason was *poor condition of facilities* (25% - national average of 10%). Web Survey respondents indicated that the condition was by far their biggest reason for not using Westfield facilities. These results indicate that the condition of facilities in Westfield parks is having a substantial impact of usage.

4.3.19 Survey Household Demographics

In an effort to verify the demographic representation of the survey responses with that of the population of Westfield, the distribution of age groups of respondent households was compared to the most recent population estimates.[3] Figure 4.26 shows the representation by age of survey respondent household members and the estimated 2017 Westfield population of each age cohort (the most recent available for these age demographics).

Based on this comparison, the respondents of the Mail Survey closely aligned with the age demographics of the Westfield population. The Mail Survey slightly overrepresented ages 20-24. The Web Survey, in contrast, greatly overrepresented families with children (age 35-44 combined with ages 5-14) and underrepresented those 55+.

4.3.20 Distribution of Returned Surveys

ETC Institute provided data for the location of returned surveys (to nearest block). The results can be seen in Figure 4.27. This figure indicates a relatively balanced distribution of responses throughout Westfield.

[2] Provided by ETC Institute (see Appendix E).
[3] 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Figure 4.25: Reasons for Not Using Parks, Recreation Facilities, Trails, and Programs

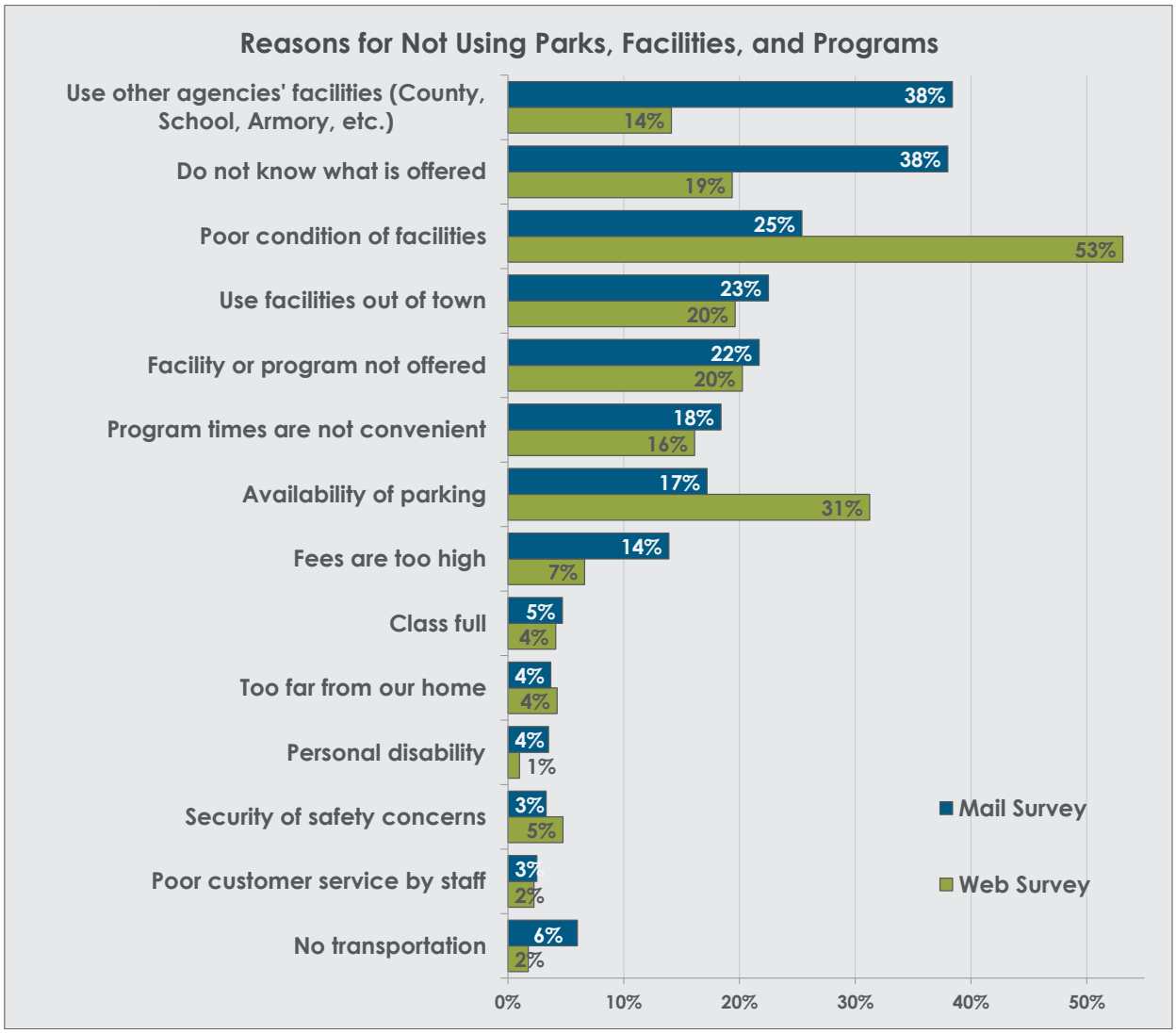


Figure 4.26: Survey Household Demographics

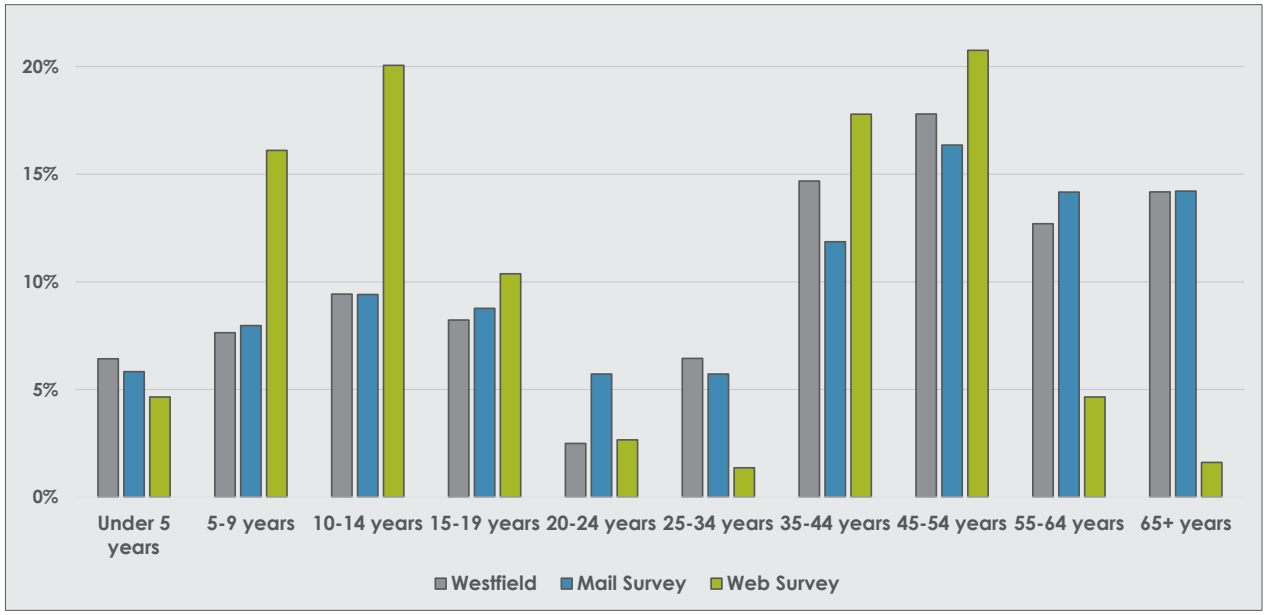
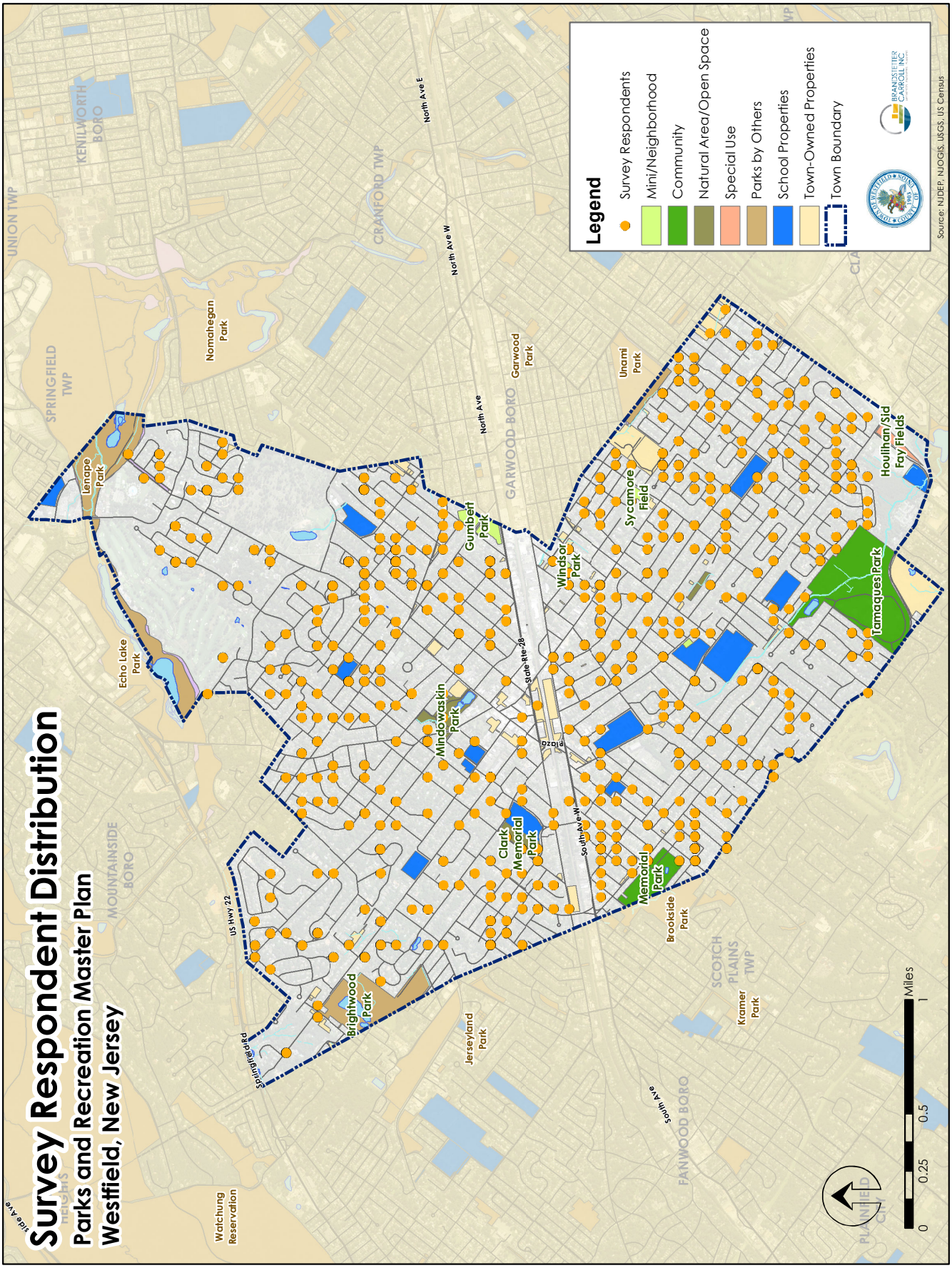


Figure 4.27: Survey Respondent Locations



4.4 Conclusion

The public input process as a whole provided an abundance of information about the needs and desires of Westfield residents. Although data was gathered through a variety of methods, some trends were apparent throughout the process.

Results indicate that the community desires:

- Upgrades to existing parks
- Improved maintenance of parks, including natural areas
- Trail improvements
  - Improvements to existing trails
  - More and better-connected trails
  - Nature trails
  - Tamaques cross-country trail improvements
- More/better restrooms
- Preservation of open space
- Tree plantings and beautification
- New playground equipment
- More picnic shelters
- Pickleball courts
- Improvements to athletic fields
  - Better field conditions
  - Improvements to Board of Education fields
  - More artificial turf fields
  - Field lighting
- Long-term solution for temporary ice rink/permanent rink
- Field house for wrestling, cheerleading, and other programming
- Support features
  - Security cameras and lighting
  - Drinking fountains
  - Seating
  - Shade structures
  - Wi-Fi
- An amphitheater for concerts and movies
- An indoor recreation center
  - Walking track
  - Gyms
  - Cardio room
  - Program space
- Improved marketing and communication
- Expanded program offerings
  - Adult fitness & wellness programs
  - More special events

- Youth and adult sports
- Programs for persons aged 50+
- Nature programs
- More concerts and movies (need amphitheater to avoid overuse of Mindowaskin Park)

A word cloud, which uses font sizes to show the frequency of word appearance, can be seen in Figure 4.31. This concluding image, created using text of the open-ended comments from the survey on PublicInput.com provides a visual representation of the voice of the community through this public input process and serves to reinforce the results presented above and throughout this chapter.

Figure 4.28: Public Input Word Cloud

tamaques
sports
fields
turf
facilities
need
parking
community
creation
programs
better
wrestling
rink
grass
space
kids
school
towns
facility
playground
mindowaskin
brightwood
people
lighting
lacrosse
play
area
ice
teams
residents
children
hockey
basketball
football
softball
bathrooms
lighted
enough
program
maintained
needs
new
elm
used
tennis
street
think
pool
courts
games
soccer
needed
memorial
support
baseball
improvements
walking
lights
youth
years
indoor
private
high
natural
keep
already
time
love
get
improve
practice
dedicated
gumbert
families
recreation
quality
existing
conditions
athletic
year
open
sport
areas
travel
dog
trees
water
nature
center
team
pay
even
rec
poor
due
taxes
bike
trails
home
live
place
best
local
number
improved
traffic
lack
build
safety
schools
dangerous
parents
girls
playing
maintenance
county
limited
outdoor
spring
good
track
without
another
night
made
visit
want
clean
long
huge
leave
always
things
bad
big
gym
bathroom
outside
path
road
street
beauty
little
pool
local
number
improved
traffic
safety
skating
cafeteria
recreation
quality
existing
conditions
athletic
tennis
year
lack
build
bike
taxes
idea
issue
two
lot
new
elm
used
grass
rink
sport
state
open
travel
areas
teams
natural
high
hockey
basketball
dangerous
schools
children
need
space
lights
playing
maintenance
growing
multiple
parents
girls
gym
huge
years
youth
indoor
private
county
always
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road
bad
things
games
limited
game
soccer
needed
outdoor
spring
want
made
visit
good
track
memorial
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5 NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

5.1 Introduction

This chapter of the Master Plan comprises the assessment and identification of needs in Westfield and consists of the following elements:

1. Parkland and recreation area needs and level of service analysis
2. Facilities needs analysis and level of service standards
3. Geographic analysis of the distribution of parks and recreation facilities

This information and the public input (Chapter 4) form the basis of the recommendations for improvements in this plan which are presented in Chapter 7.

5.2 Parkland and Recreation Area Needs, Standards, and Guidelines

The parks and recreation area classifications were described in Chapter 3, followed by an overview of facilities in Westfield, and the classifications are generally consistent with the National Recreation and Park Association Guidelines with some modifications to match local circumstances. Level of Service Standards (acres per thousand population) for each park classification in Westfield were established following a thorough analysis of existing conditions and with consideration to public input. These goals were tailored specifically for Westfield and are intended to represent obtainable standards while still encouraging the town to make improvements to meet the needs of residents.

5.2.1 Town-Wide Level of Service Standards

Table 5.1, Level of Service Standards by Park Classification, provides a breakdown of the needs (or target acres) for each type of park in Westfield. This table includes only properties offered by the Town of Westfield. These standards consider developed acres only because they represent the improved portions of parks and, therefore, provide a better basis of comparison of the availability of features.

Table 5.1: Level of Service Standards for Developed Acreage by Park Classification

Park Classification	Existing Developed Acres	Existing Developed Acres per 1000 Population	Target Acres per 1000 Population	2018 Developed Acres Target	2018 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)	2023 Developed Acres Target	2023 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)
Neighborhood	10.0	0.3	0.5	15.9	-5.9	16.3	-6.3
Community	55.7	1.5	2	63.6	-7.8	65.3	-9.6
Special Use	3.9	0.1	0.2	6.4	-2.5	6.4	-2.5
Natural Areas/Open Space	30.1	0.9	1	31.8	-1.7	32.6	-2.5
Total	99.7	2.9	3.7	117.6	-17.9	120.6	-20.9

1. See Chapter 2 for population estimates
2. Does not include parks by others or school grounds
3. Mini Parks included with Neighborhood Park totals

This table identifies the current developed park acreage for Westfield and estimates the future needs based on population change through 2023. The town is expecting limited population growth through 2023 (see Chapter 2), so increases based on population are limited. The table identifies a current deficit of 17.9 acres of developed parkland in 2018. The numbers indicate only a modest need for additional developed parkland, but Westfield's recreation needs can largely be met through redevelopment of existing parkland.

5.2.2 Open Space Guidelines

Open space provides benefits to the environment and human health, including improvements to air and water quality, increased biodiversity, wildlife habitat protection, noise reduction, reduction of erosion, and protection of water resources,[1] although some of these benefits may be reduced in developed portions of parks.

In general, conservation is better accomplished through targeted acquisitions based on the resource rather than using acreage standards, as these resources must be preserved in the locations in which they are observed. Additionally, the amount of land required for preservation depends on the resource. However, acreage targets can be useful metrics to measure progress, and it is also important to provide a somewhat equitable distribution of parks and open space throughout the community because many of the benefits of land preservation, such as increased quality of life and property values, are more beneficial to those who live in closer proximity to those resources.

Method of Measurement

Two common metrics for measuring the level of service of open space are provided to serve as guidelines evaluating and measuring open space in Westfield: acres per population and percentage of total area. Table 5.2 identifies total acres of parks and open space, developed and undeveloped, in the Town of Westfield,[2] showing inventory targets based on both 7 acres per 1000 population and 5% of the total acreage in the Town of Westfield.

The 5% of total areas target is a slight increase over the existing 4.4% in Westfield, while the 7 acres per 1000 population target is between the existing value of 5.9 and the benchmark median of 8.5. This value was chosen because Westfield is below the median but reaching the median is likely unobtainable even in the long-term due to the high cost and lack of available land. However, Westfield has needs for open space acquisition based on public input and the service area mapping provided later in this chapter (Sections 5.4 and 5.5).

Acres per Population

Using the target of 7 acres per 1,000 population, Westfield currently has an open space deficit of 33.4 acres, which will increase to 39.5 by 2023. The target represents a long-term goal, likely requiring a longer timeframe and is dependent on the availability of land. Union County Parks are shown under "Other" for reference only.

They are not included in the recommendations because the town has no control over them, and parks by others were not included in the benchmark comparisons.

Percentage of Total Town Area

The percentage of total area metric is not tied to population and, therefore, can potentially represent a long-term objective that can be updated over time. Westfield parks currently represent 4.4% of the land in the town, and parks by others provide another 1.8%. Westfield is well above the benchmark median (1.9%). The difference between the two measurements is due to the higher density of the population in Westfield, which also make acquisition more challenging. As noted above, Table 5.2 includes targets for the town based on a 5% of total area goal. This target would require the acquisition of about 27 acres and, like the per population target, represents a long-term goal.

Table 5.2: Open space Guidelines

Open Space Category	Existing Acres	Existing Acres Per 1000	7 Acres per 1000 Population				Existing % Preserved	5% of Area	
			2018 Target Acres	2018 Surplus/ Deficit	2023 Target Acres	2023 Surplus/ Deficit		Target Acres	Surplus/ Deficit
Town Parks	189.0	5.9	222.4	-33.4	228.5	-39.5	4.4%	215.7	-26.7
Other Parks	79.2	2.5	N/A	79.2	N/A	79.2	1.8%	N/A	79.2
Total	268.2	8.4	222.4	45.8	228.5	39.7	6.2%	215.7	52.5

1. See Chapter 2 for population estimates
2. Town Parks include those owned or operated by Westfield (see Chapter 3)
3. Other Parks include Union County Parks

5.3 Facilities Needs Analysis and Level of Service Standards

Like the recommendations for parkland described previously, level of service standards for individual park facilities are useful for determining the needed quantity of recreation facilities, now and in the future. These standards are the result of examination of benchmarking from Chapter 2 and the public input findings from Chapter 4 in conjunction with commonly used standards and guidelines. Table 5.3 details the facilities by type with the available supply compared to the supply needed to meet the targets identified in the table.

5.3.1 Facility Level of Service Rationale

The following text provides the basis for the per population targets for each of the facilities in Table 5.3. Each item describes how the per population target compares to the existing per population supply and indicates the justification for any changes. These targets utilize the benchmarking from Chapter 2, combined with the public input from Chapter 4.

Outdoor Recreation Areas

- Playgrounds – Set at benchmark, slight increase due to demand and current distribution
- Picnic Pavilions/Shelters – Set at increase due to demand and current distribution
- Paved Trails (miles) – Set at increase due to demand and trends (trails currently at or below benchmarks)
- Unpaved Trails (miles) – Set at increase due to demand and trends
- Skate Parks – Set at 1, similar to benchmark
- Outdoor Theaters – Set at 1, no benchmark
- Swimming Pools – Set at current, below benchmark but meeting demand
- Dog Park – Set at 1, slightly below benchmark (none currently)

Outdoor Fields & Courts

- Youth Baseball – Set at current, similar to benchmark
- Youth Softball – Set at current, above benchmark

- Adult Softball – Set at current, below benchmark but meeting demand
- Multipurpose Fields – Set at increase due to demand but still below benchmark
- Artificial Turf Multipurpose Fields – Set at increase due to demand, currently above benchmark
- Basketball Courts – Set at current, similar to benchmark
- Tennis Courts – Set at current, above benchmark

Indoor Areas

- Recreation Centers – Set at 1, below benchmark (none currently)
- Gymnasiums – Set at increase above benchmark due to demand (none currently)
- Senior Centers – Set at 1, below benchmark (none currently)

Table 5.3: Facility Level of Service Standards

Facility	Per Population Target	Existing Per Population	Existing Total Supply	2018 Target	2018 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)	2023 Target	2023 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)
Outdoor Recreation Areas							
Playgrounds	4,000	4,539	7	7.9	-0.9	8.2	-1.2
Picnic Pavilions/Shelters	5,000	31,775	1	6.4	-5.4	6.5	-5.5
Paved Trails (miles)	6,000	17,653	1.8	5.3	-3.5	5.4	-3.6
Unpaved Trails (miles)	5,000	10,592	3.0	6.4	-3.4	6.5	-3.5
Skate Parks	32,000	N/A	0	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0
Outdoor Theaters	32,000	N/A	0	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0
Swimming Pools	32,000	31,775	1	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Dog Parks	32,000	N/A	0	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0
Outdoor Fields & Courts							
Youth Baseball Fields	3,750	4,539	7	8.5	-1.5	8.7	-1.7
Youth Softball Fields	6,000	7,944	4	5.3	-1.3	5.4	-1.4
Adult Softball Fields	9,000	15,888	2	3.5	-1.5	3.6	-1.6
Multipurpose Fields	5,000	10,592	3	6.4	-3.4	6.5	-3.5
Artificial Turf Multipurpose Fields	6,000	15,888	2	5.3	-3.3	5.4	-3.4
Basketball Courts	5,000	4,888	6.5	6.4	0.1	6.5	0.0
Tennis Courts	2,300	2,270	14	13.8	0.2	14.2	-0.2
Indoor Areas							
Recreation Center	32,000	N/A	0	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0
Gymnasiums	16,000	N/A	0	2.0	-2.0	2.0	-2.0
Senior Centers	32,000	N/A	0	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0

1. See Chapter 2 for population estimates and benchmarking

5.3.2 Facility Level of Service Standards

The values in Table 5.3 indicate a potential need for various facilities. The largest current facility deficits (2018) are for picnic shelters due to the current inventory of only one. The town also has a large need for multipurpose fields, particularly artificial turf fields. The table indicates a need for a dog park, a skate park, and an amphitheater, consistent with public input. The town has only a small deficit for playgrounds, but several need to be replaced. The demand for additional trails was clear through the public input and the benchmarking affirms the somewhat lower level of service in Westfield, despite the trails at Tamaques Park. The bottom of the table shows indoor facilities and indicates that Westfield has a potential need for a recreation center, a senior center, and two gymnasiums.

The values in Table 5.3 indicate the number of additional facilities needed to meet the needs of the population of Westfield but do not indicate where new facilities should be located. The next sections (5.4 and 5.5) will help to identify gaps in service and, therefore, potential locations for new facilities.

5.4 Geographic Distribution of Parks and Recreation Areas

The spatial distribution of parks throughout Westfield is important because residents are more able and willing to access facilities that are close to their homes. Figure 5.1, Park Service Areas, shows existing parks with service areas for various park classifications. The methodology for this analysis (and the facility analysis in Section 5.5) can be found in Appendix A. These service areas do not necessarily represent all users of the parks as some users are willing to travel greater distances than those indicated in the figures; however, the most frequent users likely live within the areas indicated and usage rates tend to decline sharply for residents that require greater travel times.

The green areas represent a 10-minute walk to a Neighborhood Park (or larger). Orange areas represent a 5-minute drive to a Community Park. Parks by other agencies are included because they help meet needs of Westfield residents who live nearby. This map serves to indicate the gaps where neighborhoods are not served very well by parks.

Much of the town is well served by Neighborhood Parks, but some portions are located beyond the service areas. Portions of the town located outside of the 10-minute walk areas to a Neighborhood Park include the following:

- Northeast edge of town
- Southeast corner of town

Westfield offers two Community Parks, Memorial Park and Tamaques Park. These parks are both located in the southern part of Westfield, providing access within a 5-minute drive for most residents of south and central Westfield. Many residents of the northern portion of town are more than a 5-minute drive to a Community Park.

A 10-minute walking distance represents about a half mile distance and is a commonly used range for measuring the walkability of an area as most residents can easily travel this distance without a car. The Trust for Public Land, NRPA, and the Urban Land Institute have joined forces to promote a 10-Minute Walk Campaign where cities make a promise to ensure that all residents have access to a park within a 10-minute walk of their home by 2050. Mayors throughout the country are invited to take the pledge. Several in North Jersey have done so, including the mayors of Bloomfield, Elizabeth, Fair Lawn, Fanwood, Patterson, and Teaneck.[3] **Currently, two-thirds (66%) of the population lives within a 10-minute walk to a park in Westfield, including Union County Parks, and an additional 17% live within a 10-minute walk of a school park for a total of 83%.**

5.5 Geographic Distribution of Facilities

The next portion of the needs analysis consists of a review of the geographic distribution of facilities provided by Westfield for use by for residents. Service areas for these key facilities are indicated in Figures 5.3 through 5.10. These maps present areas of Westfield that are located within the service areas of these facilities.

Larger and more unique facilities are intended to serve larger populations, and residents are typically willing to travel greater distances for those amenities. In contrast, smaller, more common facilities serve smaller, more local populations, generally within walking distance. Although the ensuing discussion highlights portions of the town that are located outside of the service areas for each facility, a new facility is not necessarily recommended in these areas as this analysis is only a portion of the overall needs assessment.

5.5.1 Playgrounds

Figure 5.3 shows the service areas (10-minute walk) for playgrounds in Westfield. The town offers playgrounds at six (6) different parks, shown with green service areas. Playgrounds are also available at six (6) elementary schools, which are shown in blue. The map indicates that these facilities are well distributed, and few areas are beyond a 10-minute walk. Much of the residential area in Westfield is in or near these service areas, but some notable parts of the town are located outside of these areas. The following locations are outside of the service areas for playgrounds:

Figure 5.1: Park Service Areas

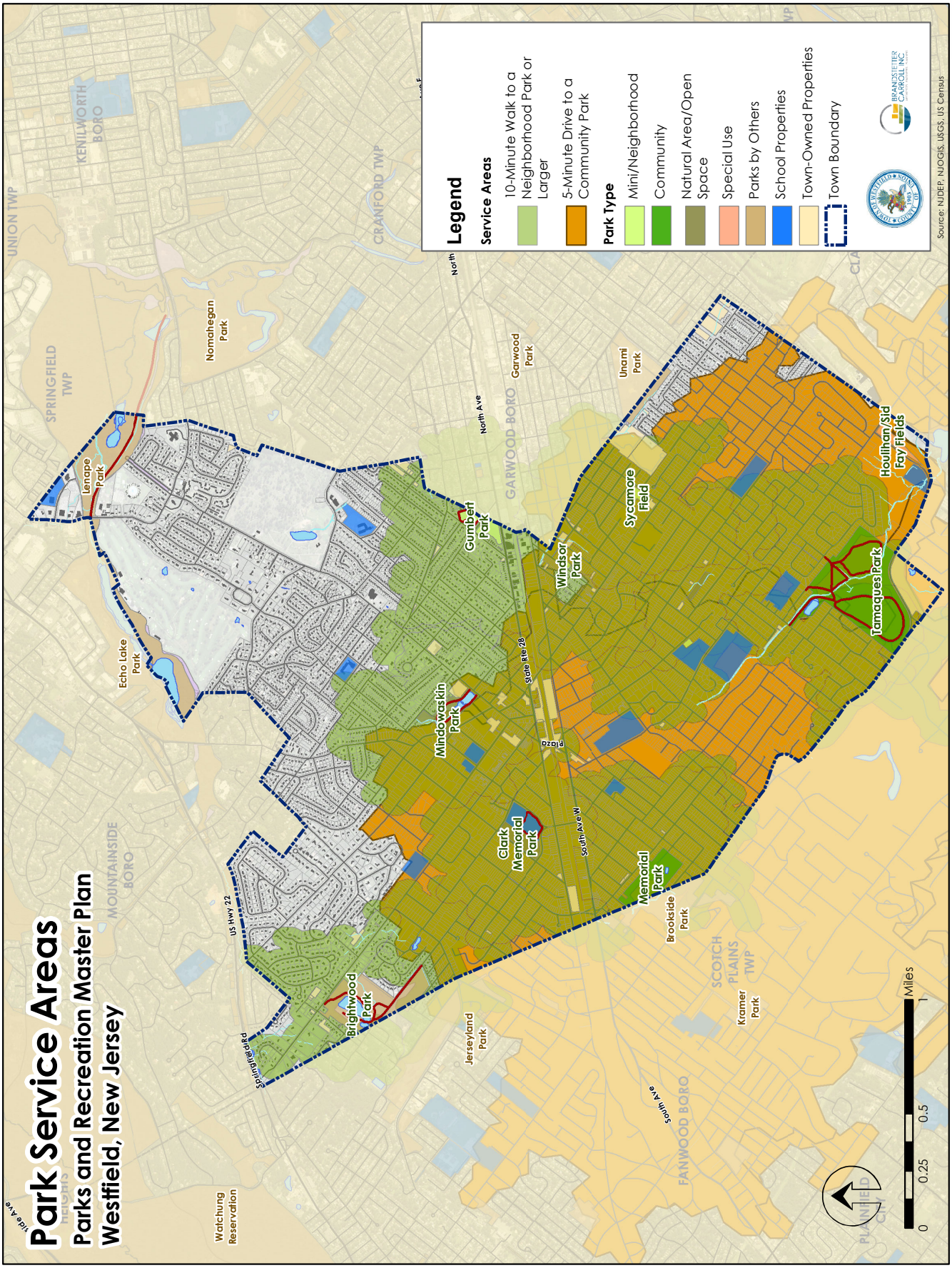
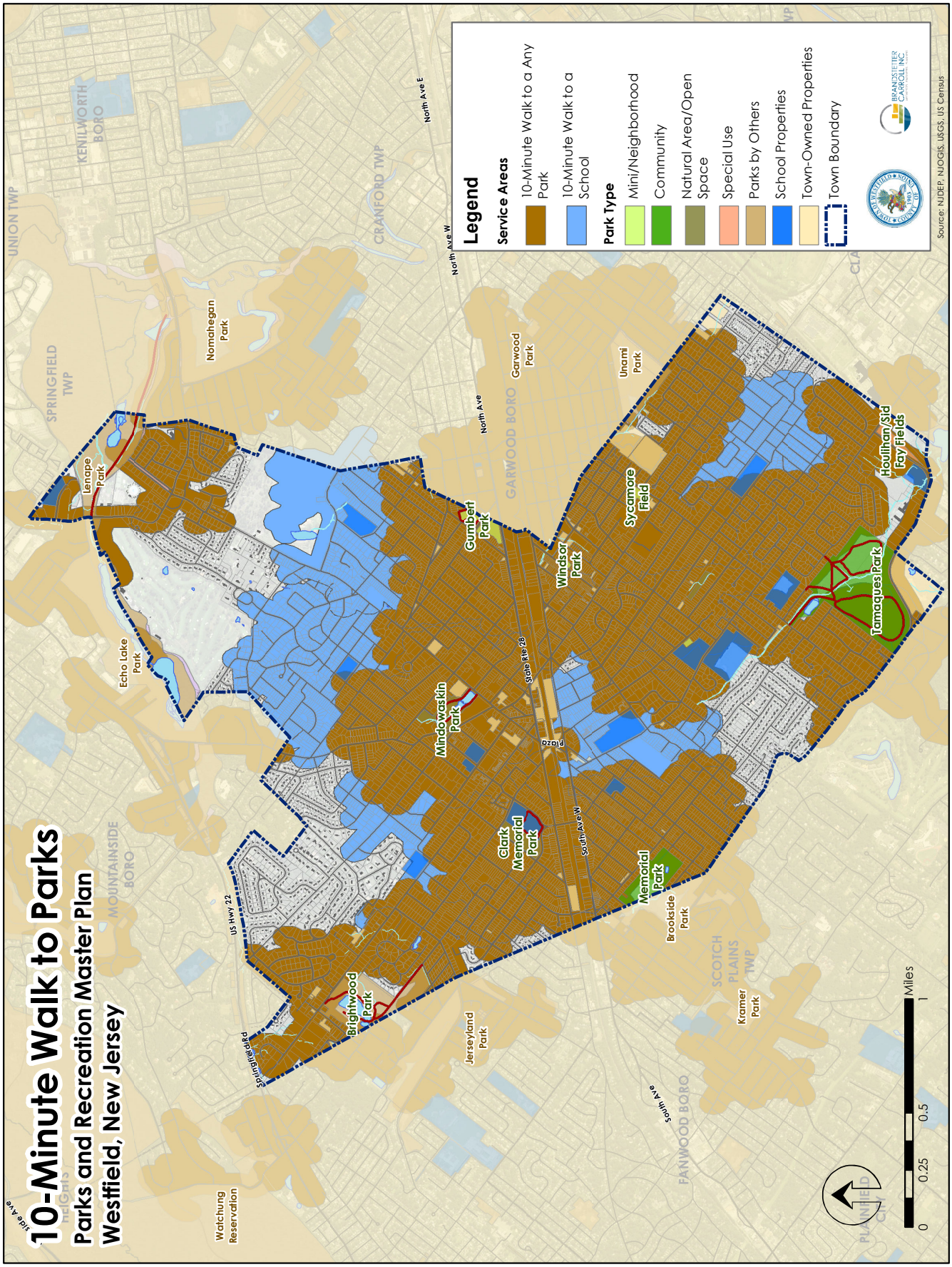


Figure 5.2: 10-Minute Walk to Parks



- Northwest, near Brightwood Park
- Northeast, near Lenape Park
- South central, between Memorial Park and Tamaques Park along the town boundary

5.5.2 Outdoor Basketball Courts

Service areas representing a 10-minute walk to an outdoor basketball court are displayed in Figure 5.4. Westfield offers basketball courts in three (3) parks, including four in Gumbert Park. Four (4) elementary schools also offer basketball courts. The map shows that the existing basketball courts are distributed throughout the Town of Westfield. Large parts of the town are outside of these service areas, most notably portions of the northeast, northeast, and southwest.

5.5.3 Picnic Shelters

Picnic shelter service areas are depicted in Figure 5.5. The town has only one picnic shelter at Tamaques Park. As a result, few residents live within a walking distance of a shelter. However, most residents live within a 5-minute drive of a shelter, most of which are located outside of Westfield.

5.5.4 Diamond Fields

The service areas for ballfields (baseball and softball) in Westfield are presented in Figure 5.6. The town offers 13 fields in total at three (3) parks. The locations are well distributed, and, combined with fields at schools, provide access within a 10-minute walk for many residents. Parks in nearby communities provide some access for all residents to these facilities within a 5-minute drive.

5.5.5 Multipurpose (Rectangular) Fields

Figure 5.7 displays the service areas for multipurpose rectangular fields in Westfield. The town offers few multipurpose fields that are not shared with diamond fields (not included in mapping) with dedicated fields only at Houlihan/Sid Fay and Sycamore Field. Six (6) school properties also supply fields that are used for leagues in Westfield. These fields, plus those nearby in other communities, provide access for most residents within a 5-minute drive.

5.5.6 Tennis Courts

Westfield has 14 tennis courts at Tamaques and Memorial Parks (see Figure 5.8). These locations in the southern portion of Westfield leaves most of the town more than a 10-minute walk from a tennis court, even considering the courts at the Elm Street property. Tennis courts are available at adjacent towns, but residents of the northeastern part of the town live more than a 5-minute drive of a tennis court.

5.5.7 Aquatic Facilities

Figure 5.9 shows 5- and 10-minute drivetimes to Memorial Pool as well as a 10-minute walk. Only a few residents live within a 10-minute walk (green) of this facility, but more than a third of residents live within a 5-minute drive (orange) of the pool. A 10-minute drive is included because users are typically willing to travel greater distances to access aquatic facilities due to longer visits, and all residents live within a 10-minute drive of the facility.

5.5.8 Trails

Figure 5.10 shows trail service areas in Westfield. Green areas indicate a 10-minute walking distance to a trail at a park (including those outside of Westfield), and the blue areas indicate a 10-minute walk to a trail at a school. A 5-minute drive is shown only to trails a mile long or longer. Because Westfield lacks a town-wide trails system and several parks lack trail, many residents live beyond a 10-minute walk to a trail. Most do live within a 5-minute drive of a longer trail.

Figure 5.3: Playground Service Areas

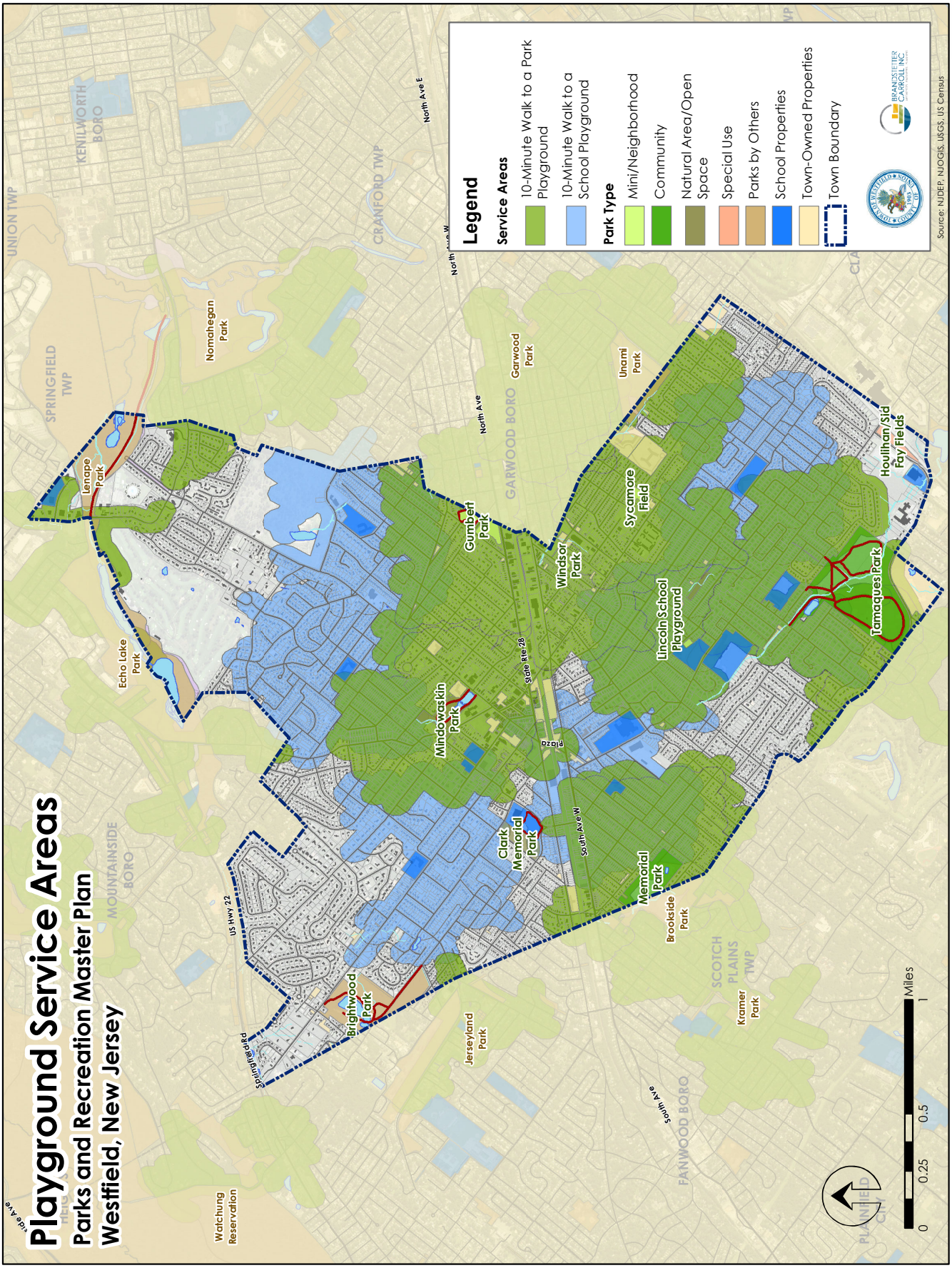


Figure 5.4: Outdoor Basketball Court Service Areas

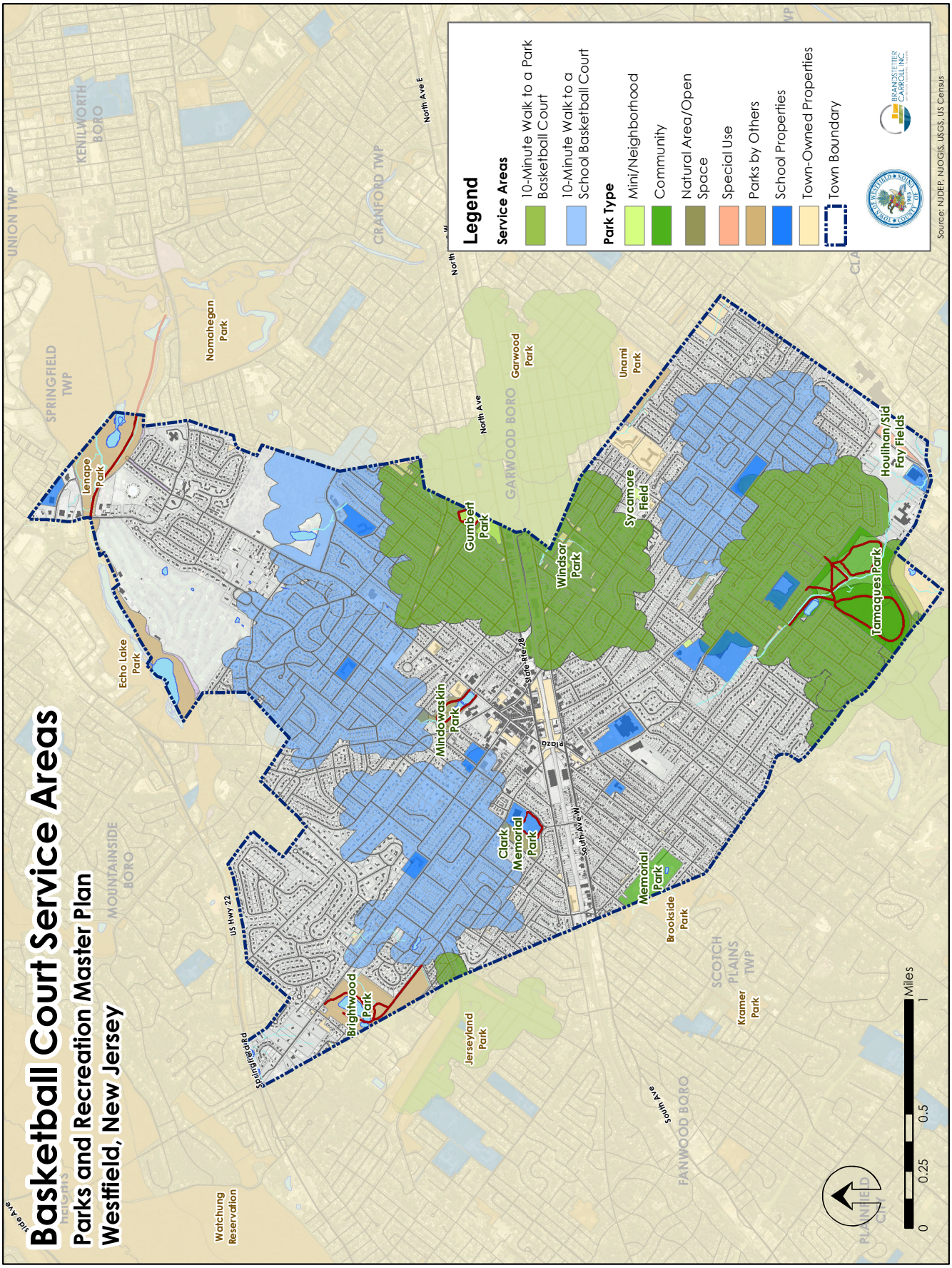


Figure 5.5: Picnic Shelter Service Areas

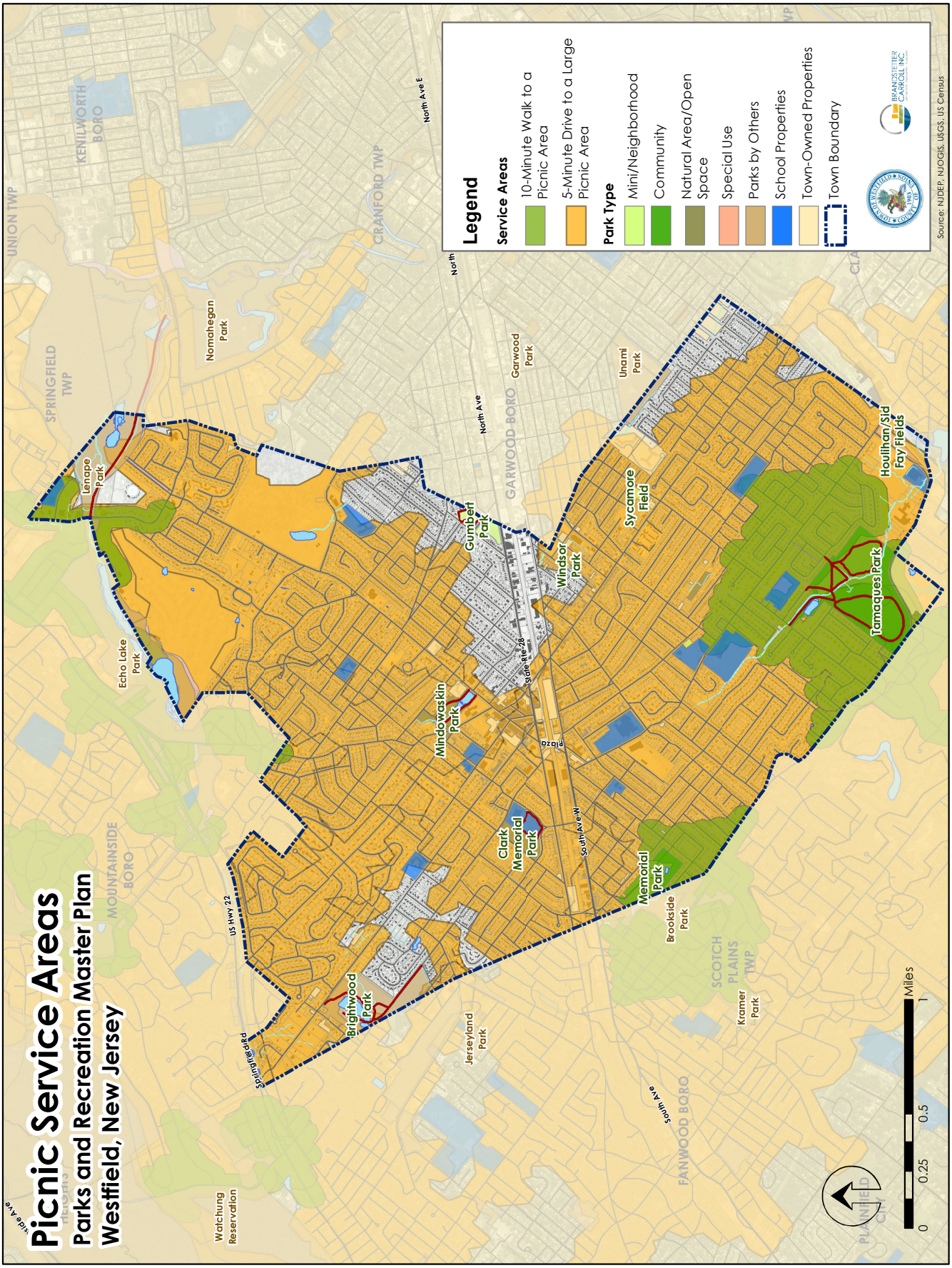


Figure 5.6: Diamond Field Service Areas

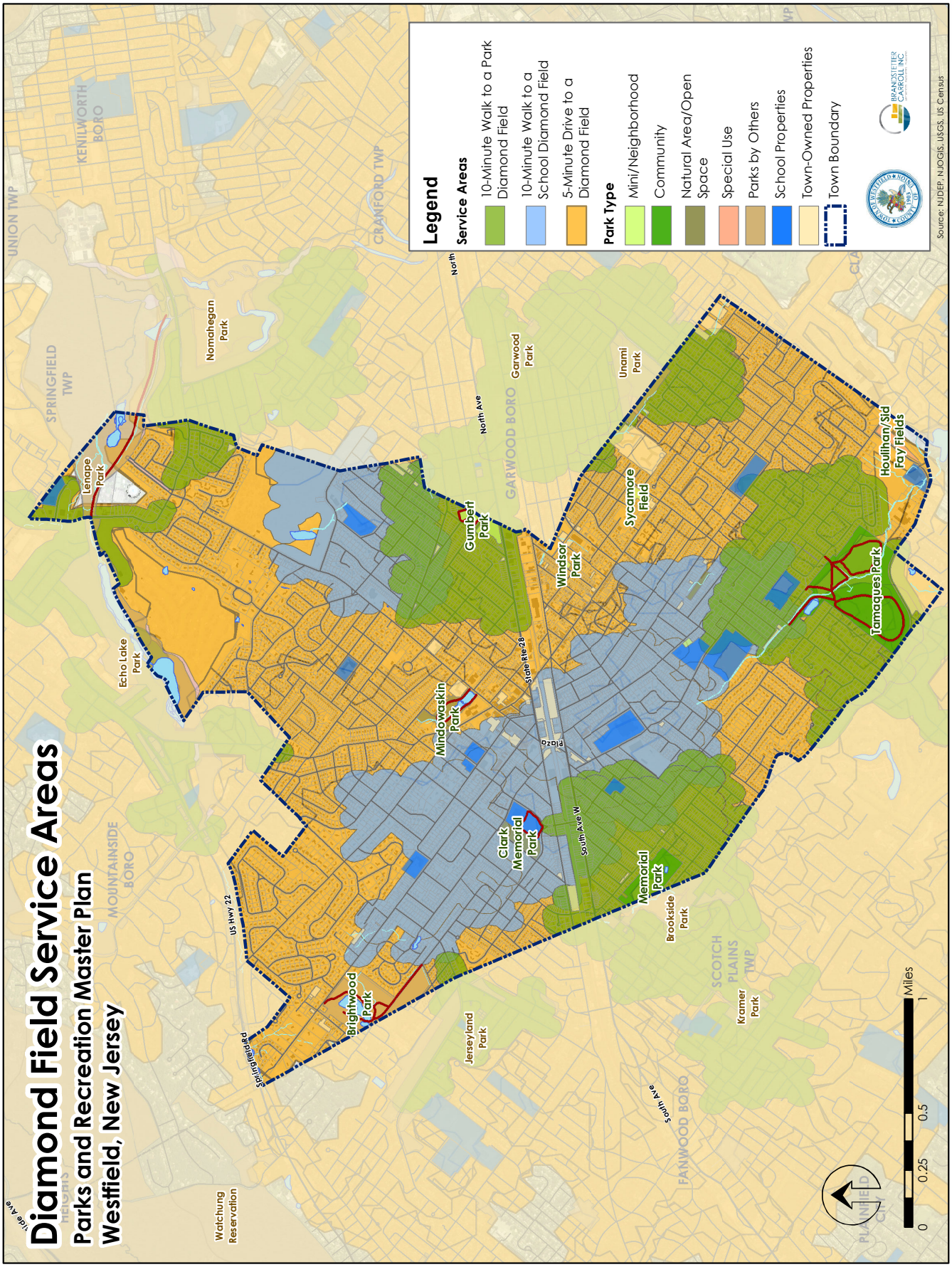


Figure 5.7: Multipurpose Field Service Areas

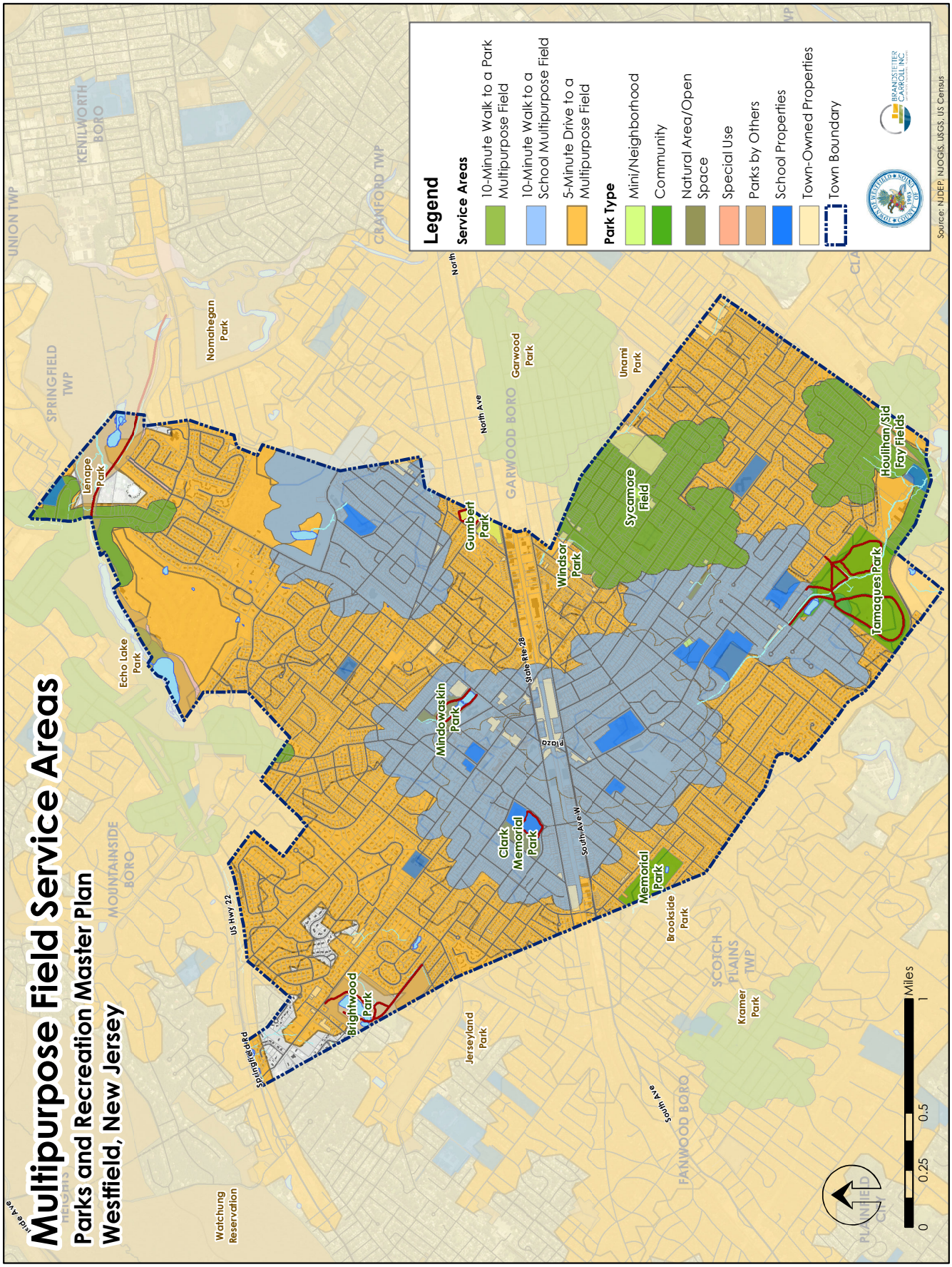


Figure 5.8: Tennis Court Service Areas

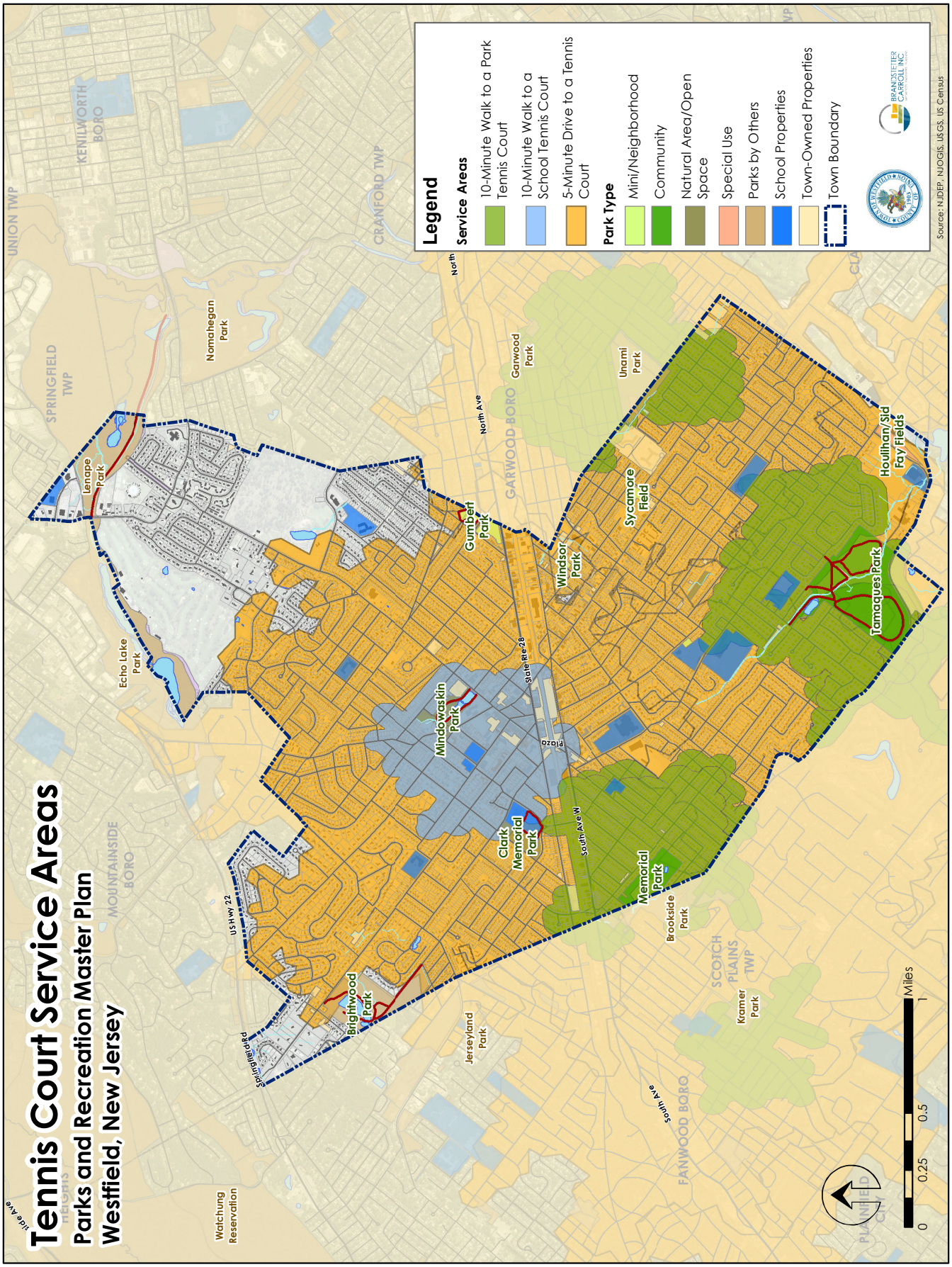


Figure 5.9: Aquatic Service Areas

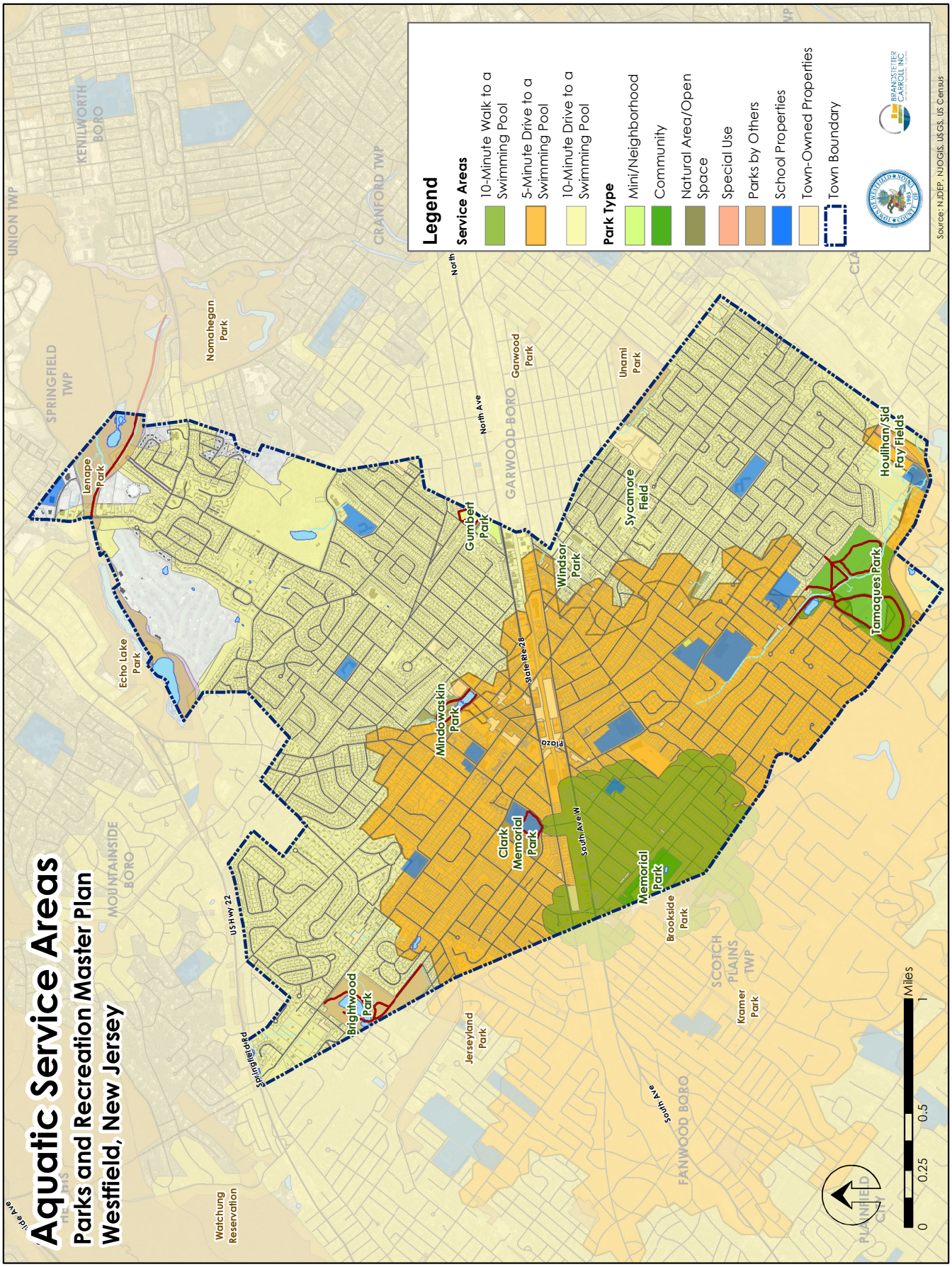
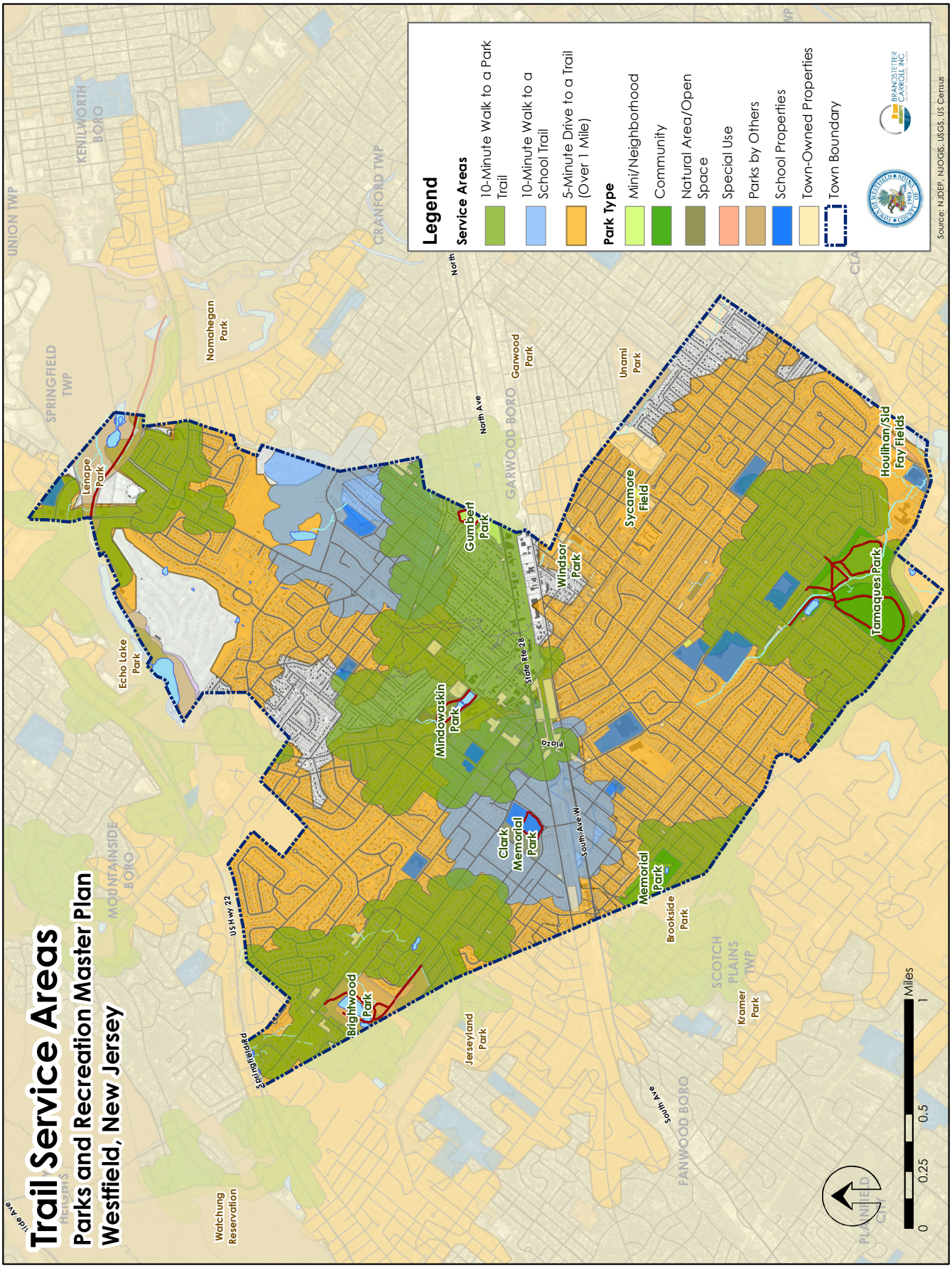


Figure 5.10: Trail Service Areas



5.6 Composite Geographic Park Service Areas

While the preceding text describes the level of access to parks by classification and an assortment of recreation facilities in Westfield, a composite analysis provides a better idea of the overall level of service by locations throughout the town. Service areas for two (2) park classifications and ten (10) facilities were assigned scores based on distance from the amenity (e.g., 5-minute drive vs. 10-minute walk), and GIS software (ArcGIS) was used to produce an overlay map with a combined score for all areas of the Town of Westfield. Figure 5.11 shows the composite service areas for the town based on the level of access to parks and recreation facilities (compared to other parts of the town). A more detailed description of the methodology can be found in Appendix A.

In the figure, dark shades of blue indicate a high level of service for parks and facilities at that location within Westfield. Red areas have the lowest level of service to parks and facilities. For example, a resident living within one of the dark blue areas would likely be within a walking distance of a park and many of the other facilities described in the previous section.

According to this figure, residents near Tamaques Park have the highest level of service (High). Much of the northern part of the town has "Medium-Low" or "Low" service levels, while the central and western portions are generally characterized by "Medium-High" or "Medium" service levels. The southeastern end also has low levels of service.

The percentage of the population living within each of the composite service areas along with the percentage of land area covered can be seen in Table 5.4. Twenty percent (20%) of residents live in the "High" areas, and over 40% live in the highest two categories. Twenty percent (20%) of the population lives in the middle ranking (Medium). About 40% live in the lowest two categories combined. The similar percentages for each service level (ranging from a minimum of 16% to a maximum of 23%) are consistent with the population distribution throughout Westfield, which is distributed fairly evenly throughout the town.

The area measurements show similar percentages of the town within each of the service areas, indicating that the population and facilities of Westfield are evenly distributed throughout the town. Overall, these numbers indicate that Westfield provides a moderate level of service regarding the location of facilities. Most areas with lower levels of service could be improved with additional features at or better connections to existing parks, including Union County Parks, but some would require new parks.

Table 5.4: Population by Composite Service Area

Service Level (Rank)	Proportion at Composite Service Level			
	Population	Cumulative Population	Area	Cumulative Area
High (80%-100%)	20%	20%	19%	19%
Medium-High (60%-80%)	22%	42%	19%	38%
Medium (40%-60%)	20%	61%	20%	59%
Medium-Low (20%-40%)	23%	84%	21%	80%
Low (0%-20%)	16%	100%	20%	100%

5.7 Trends in Parks and Recreation

The following text provides an analysis of trends in outdoor recreation, including both activities and the associated facilities. The analysis begins with a description of usage rates of various outdoor activities. This discussion is followed by an examination of program and facility trends in parks and recreation related to outdoor recreation.

5.7.1 Trends in Recreation Participation

The Sport and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) conducts an annual survey of individuals and households throughout the United States to determine participation in a variety of sports and fitness activities. The 2017 sample consisted of 24,134 online interviews (11,453 individuals and 12,681 households) and is intended to serve as representation of US population ages 6 and older. The following discussion uses data from the SFIA report.

Figure 5.11: Composite Park Service Areas

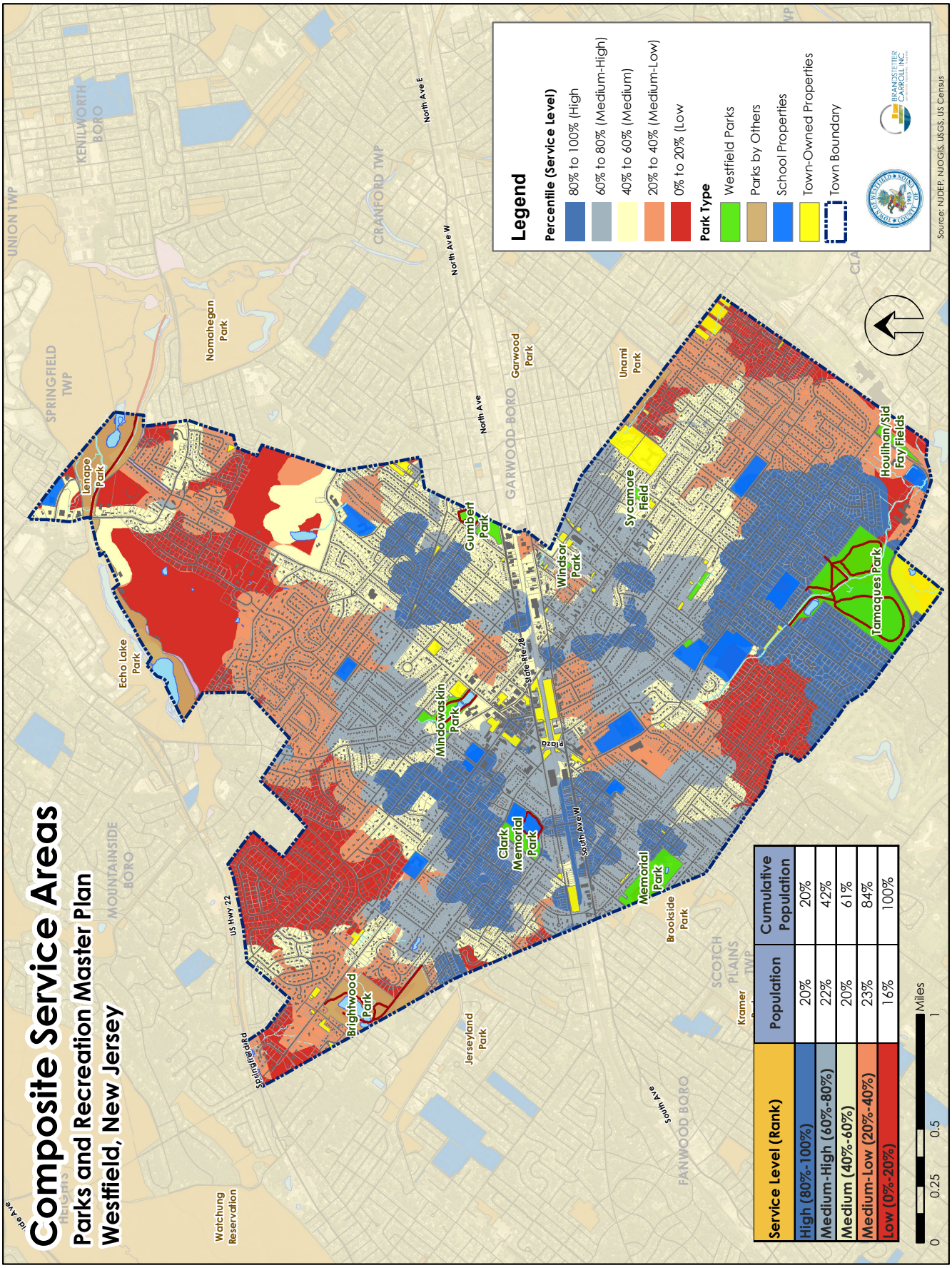


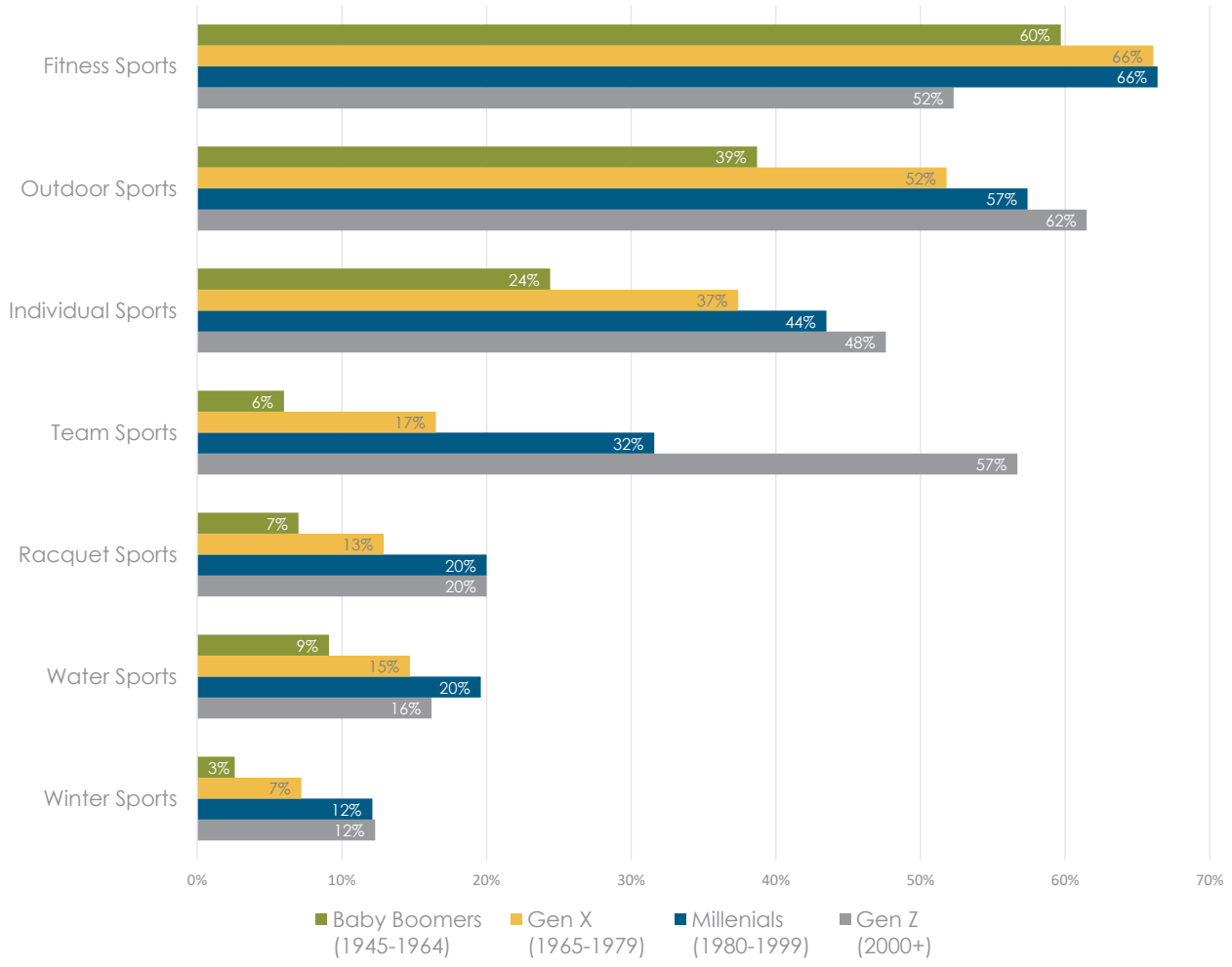
Figure 5.12 shows the difference in participation rates between generations for seven types of sports. The youngest generation (Gen Z) had the highest participation rates for Individual Sports, Team Sports, and Outdoor Sports. Participation rates dropped for these three types of sports with each older generation. The youngest generation had the lowest participation in Fitness Sports, while the other three generational groups had the highest participation rates for this type of sport. The remaining three types of sports (Racquet, Winter, and Water Sports) have similar trends with Millennials and Gen Z representing the highest levels of participation.

The high demand for fitness sports programs in the Town of Westfield is consistent with these findings (see Chapter 4). With high percentages of residents in the older two generations, this type of program is likely to increase in demand into the future. Despite decreasing in popularity with age, outdoor sports are still popular with all age groups. Team sports are far more popular with the youngest generation. The availability of these facilities and programs will be an important consideration for families with children when choosing to live in Westfield.

Table 5.5 displays the 5-year participation rates for 44 different sports and fitness activities. This table also shows the 5-year annual growth rate and highlights activities with significant growth or decline in participation rates. The fastest growing sports are highlighted in blue with Stand Up Paddling, Adventure Racing, Rugby, and Bicycling (BMX) showing the fastest rate of growth over the last five years.

Walking for Fitness, Free Weights (Hand Weights), Running/Jogging, Hiking (Day), and Bicycling (Road/Paved Surface), and Fishing (Freshwater) have the largest number of participants. Walking for fitness has the greatest number of participants by a large margin at well over 100 million participants nationally, and Hiking (Day) is growing at nearly 5% annually despite the high level of participation (over 40 million). With four of the top five activities using trails, it is no surprise these facilities are in such high demand.

Figure 5.12: Participation Rates by Generation



Residents of Westfield have similarly expressed a strong interest in trail-based activities, leading to a need for more of these facilities. Also, the town could accommodate the fast-growing field sports, lacrosse and rugby, by ensuring that new multipurpose rectangular fields can accommodate the sport. Investment in trails and related programs in Westfield would help meet the needs for trail running, hiking, and walking for fitness. Additional fitness and aerobic activities could potentially be met at a recreation center. Pickleball, another fast-growing sport, has recently been added to Memorial and Tamaques Park tennis courts (in response to early feedback from this master plan) on two of the tennis courts. It could be expanded by adding dedicated courts at a park in Westfield.

Table 5.5: Nationwide Five-Year History of Selected Sports Participation (2011-2016)

Sport/Fitness Activity	Category	Participants (In Thousands)						5-Year Average Annual Growth
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2016	2016	
Adventure Racing	Individual Sports	1,202	1,618	2,095	2,368	2,864	2,999	20.6%
Aquatic Exercise	Aerobic Activities	9,042	9,177	8,483	9,122	8,226	10,575	3.4%
Archery	Individual Sports	6,471	7,173	7,647	8,435	8,378	7,903	4.3%
Baseball	Team Sports	13,561	12,976	13,284	13,152	13,711	14,760	1.8%
Basketball	Team Sports	24,790	23,708	23,669	23,067	23,410	22,343	-2.0%
Bicycling (BMX)	Outdoor Activities	1,958	1,861	2,168	2,350	2,690	3,104	10.0%
Bicycling (Mountain/Non Bicycling)	Outdoor Activities	6,989	7,265	8,542	8,044	8,316	8,615	4.5%
Bicycling (Road/Paved Surface)	Outdoor Activities	39,834	39,790	40,888	39,725	38,280	38,365	-0.7%
Birdwatching (>¼ Mile from Home)	Outdoor Activities	13,067	13,535	14,152	13,179	13,093	11,589	-2.2%
Elliptical Motion Trainer	Aerobic Activities	29,734	28,560	30,410	31,826	32,321	32,218	1.7%
Fishing (Freshwater)	Outdoor Activities	38,864	39,002	37,796	37,821	37,682	38,121	-0.4%
Football (Tackle)	Team Sports	6,448	6,220	6,165	5,978	6,222	5,481	-3.1%
Free Weights (Hand Weights)	Strength	N/A	N/A	58,267	56,124	54,716	51,513	4.0%*
Gymnastics	Team Sports	4,824	5,115	4,972	4,621	4,679	5,381	2.5%
High Impact/Intensity & Training	Aerobic Activities	15,755	16,178	17,323	19,746	20,464	21,390	6.4%
Hiking (Day)	Outdoor Activities	33,494	34,519	34,378	36,222	37,232	42,128	4.8%
Ice Hockey	Team Sports	2,131	2,363	2,393	2,421	2,546	2,697	4.9%
Ice Skating	Individual Sports	11,626	11,214	10,679	10,649	10,485	10,315	-2.4%
Kayaking (Recreational)	Water Sports	7,347	8,187	8,716	8,855	9,499	10,017	6.4%
Lacrosse	Team Sports	1,501	1,607	1,813	2,011	2,094	2,090	7.0%
Kayaking (White Water)	Water Sports	1,694	1,878	2,146	2,351	2,518	2,552	8.6%
Martial Arts	Individual Sports	5,037	5,075	5,314	5,364	5,507	5,745	2.7%
Mixed Martial Arts for Fitness	Individual Sports	1,697	1,977	2,255	2,455	2,612	2,446	7.9%
Pickleball	Racquet Sports	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,462	2,506	2,815	7.1%*
Pilates Training	Conditioning	8,507	8,519	8,069	8,504	8,594	8,893	1.0%
Rugby	Team Sports	850	887	1,183	1,276	1,349	1,550	13.3%
Running/Jogging	Aerobic Activities	50,061	51,450	54,188	51,127	48,496	47,384	-1.0%
Scuba Diving	Water Sports	2,866	2,781	3,174	3,145	3,274	3,111	1.9%
Skateboarding	Individual Sports	6,318	6,227	6,350	6,582	6,436	6,442	0.4%
Soccer (Outdoor)	Team Sports	13,667	12,944	12,726	12,592	12,646	11,932	-2.6%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	Team Sports	2,400	2,624	2,498	2,424	2,460	2,467	0.7%
Softball (Slow-Pitch)	Team Sports	7,809	7,411	6,868	7,077	7,114	7,690	-0.2%
Stand Up Paddling	Water Sports	1,146	1,392	1,993	2,751	3,020	3,220	23.8%
Stationary Cycling	Aerobic Activities	36,341	35,987	35,293	35,693	35,553	36,188	-0.1%
Swimming for Fitness	Aerobic Activities	21,517	23,216	26,354	25,304	26,319	26,601	4.5%
Swimming on a Team	Team Sports	2,363	2,502	2,638	2,710	2,892	3,369	7.4%
Table Tennis	Racquet Sports	18,561	16,823	17,079	16,385	16,565	16,568	-2.2%
Tai Chi	Conditioning	2,975	3,203	3,469	3,446	3,651	3,706	4.6%
Tennis	Racquet Sports	17,772	17,020	17,678	17,904	17,963	18,079	0.4%
Trail Running	Individual Sports	5,373	5,806	6,792	7,531	8,139	8,582	9.9%
Triathlon (Traditional/Road)	Individual Sports	1,686	1,789	2,262	2,203	2,498	2,374	7.7%
Ultimate Frisbee	Team Sports	4,868	5,131	5,077	4,530	4,409	3,673	-5.2%

Table 5.5: Nationwide Five-Year History of Selected Sports Participation (2011-2016) (Continued)

Sport/Fitness Activity	Category	Participants (In Thousands)						5-Year Average Annual Growth
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2016	2016	
Volleyball (Beach/Sand)	Team Sports	4,451	4,505	4,769	4,651	4,785	5,489	4.4%
Volleyball (Court)	Team Sports	6,662	6,384	6,433	6,304	6,423	6,216	-1.3%
Walking for Fitness	Aerobic Activities	112,715	114,029	117,351	112,583	109,829	107,895	-0.8%
Weight/Resistance Machines	Strength	39,548	38,999	36,267	35,841	35,310	35,768	-2.0%
Yoga	Conditioning	22,107	23,253	24,310	25,262	25,289	26,268	3.5%

*Based on reduced time period. SFIA has not yet collected five years of participation for Pickleball or Free Weights.

Legend

	>5% Increase
	2-5% Increase
	Minimal Change
	1-3% Decrease
	>3% Decrease

5.7.2 The Aging Population

Throughout the United States and in Westfield, the median age of the population is increasing (currently 42 in Westfield and 38 in the USA). The number of persons in the age group 65 and over is growing rapidly. Census data indicates that the percentage of the Westfield population age 65 and older was 14.3% in 2010 but is expected to increase to reach 21.5% by 2023 (see Chapter 2).

The relative health of these individuals is better than ever before and the activities they desire are more active than in the past. Senior citizens centers offering card games and other sedentary activities have become less desirable to these residents who have indicated desires for more active fitness programs which could include hiking and biking programs as well as other nature programs.

This aging of the population encourages parks and recreation agencies to invest more in activities, programs, and facilities for the older population, increasing demand for walking trails, fishing areas, community gardens, and cultural and nature education programs which are in demand for multiple age groups.

This data points clearly to the growing need to provide quality facilities and programs for this growing population in Westfield. The surveys and other forms of public engagement (see Chapter 4) indicate support from the community for providing additional programs and facilities for residents age 50 and older.

5.7.3 Demand for Universal Access

Many park systems are developing unique facilities that are designed to go well beyond the minimum requirement for the Americans with Disabilities Act. By creating an environment that is totally accessible to persons of all ages and abilities, park system administrators are setting the best example for other organizations to follow. According to the CDC, approximately 1 in 59 children have autism spectrum disorder (ASD), which is four times as common in boys as in girls. Additionally, 1 in 6 children have a developmental disability.[4] According to the American Community Survey, 12.6% of the population in the USA have a disability (hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living), including 4.2% of children under age 18.[5]

Textured edging on trails can help to make the facilities more accessible to the visually impaired. Fragrant

[4] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Data & Statistics on Autism Spectrum Disorder," http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Health-and-Wellness/, (December 5, 2019)

[5] U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

plants and sensory gardens and interactive displays that allow a hands-on approach to education have also been developed to promote a better experience for special populations. Universal access should extend to interpretive facilities, buildings, and all programs and facilities offered by the community. Providing barrier-free parks can and should be part of the process for any park improvement. The new playground at Mindowaskin Park features poured-in-place surfacing and accessible features such as an inclusive spinner, a wheelchair rocker, and wide ramps.

5.7.4 Fitness and Wellness Activities

A strong emphasis has been placed at the state and the federal levels to improve the fitness of individuals throughout the United States, and local parks and recreation departments are often building upon this message. These departments are in a good position to make an impact on the overall fitness of the community through programs, promotions, and facilities that are available to nearby residents.

Fitness facilities do not need to be confined to indoor spaces as modern equipment can now be provided in outdoor environments that are like those seen typically in fitness centers. Such facilities can serve as an alternative to the old fitness and par-course trails. Several of the town's parks could be potential locations for these activities. Additionally, many communities partner with health providers to offer fitness facilities and programs. The health benefits that can be provided by parks extend to mental health benefits as studies indicate that a connection to nature can relieve stress, improve interpersonal relationships, and improves mental health.[6]

5.7.5 Technology

The use of technology is becoming increasingly common in parks and recreation. Many park users desire to remain connected while visiting parks and desire instant access to information about facilities and programs at those parks. They also desire mobile registration for the events and programs they discover. Apps like Pokemon GO can be utilized to encourage young people to experience the outdoors. Technology provides a tool to enhance park experiences and may be necessary to keep today's youth engaged.

The use of technology in parks has many advantages. Many users desire Wi-Fi to stay connected to social media or other online activities. Charging benches can be used to keep those devices powered-up. Park apps can inform visitors of opportunities at the park or other parks in the system. A park app in Los Angeles allows visitors to report areas in need of maintenance or cleaning.

This technology can also provide data about park usage. For example, Wi-Fi connections can record the number of connections or searches for hotspots, providing visitation trends.[7] Beacon counters can detect cellphone signals to help determine the number of users in an area.[8] This data can also be used to compare park activity at different times or after new features are added. Sensors along paths can distinguish between walkers, runners, and cyclists and provide counts of usage.

Westfield has begun to take advantage of social media for marketing and promotion, but it has many more untapped applications. When visitors share their park experiences on social media, they assist with park promotion and encourage future use. Some parks have used social media as "crowd-sourced, data-gathering tools" to monitor wildlife or vegetation, including invasive species.[5]

Photo credit: NRPA

5.7.6 Geocaching

Geocaching is a technology-based activity that has been growing in popularity since 2000 when GPS technology improved significantly. Participants travel to

[6] National Recreation and Park Association, "Health and Wellness," http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Health-and-Wellness/, (April 8, 2019)

[7] National Recreation and Park Association, "Parks Using Technology to Engage and Inspire," https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2017/may/parks-using-technology-to-engage-and-inspire/. (May 1, 2017)

[8] Dolesh, R. J. (2019, January). Top Trends in Parks and Recreation for 2019. Parks & Recreation.

local parks and open spaces to hunt for objects previously hidden by others armed with only a set of coordinates and a digital GPS device, usually a smart phone. Once found, geocachers often take the item and replace it with another so another participant can use the same geocache in the future. The games can have varying levels of complexity where one cache leads to another or a puzzle must be completed.[9] Geocaches are likely already present in Westfield parks, but opportunities exist for the department to promote and encourage this activity by creating caches or organizing events.

5.7.7 Environmental Education

The success of environmental education centers throughout the country, combined with a strong desire for nature education demonstrated through the public input, including the public meetings, indicates a need for expanded environmental education opportunities. Potential subjects include natural processes, resource management, and nature education activities.

Environmental education cultivates understanding of the benefits of natural habitats and open spaces (including those in Westfield). Many park departments take an outreach approach by providing environmental curriculum to schools in the form of nature center classes and activities. This tactic provides a method for promoting more use and appreciation of parks. These programs also provide an opportunity for larger park systems and universities to work closely with local parks and recreation departments to provide a level of programming that the municipalities could not perform on their own.

Union County Parks and Recreation offers some of these programs at their parks, but their offerings are limited. Westfield could supplement these programs at some of their parks as the town has several high-quality natural areas. Brightwood Park provides the best opportunities for nature education programs and activities, such as guided hikes and plant identification programs. Dunham Avenue Bird Sanctuary and Memorial Park also have potential for nature programs. Partnerships with the Westfield Public Schools and Union County Parks and Recreation could also utilize these parks for youth programming.

Nature education provides opportunities to engage all ages and abilities. These activities also provide great opportunities for intergenerational programming. Programs can be formatted as guided hikes, camps, community events, field trips, or classes and cover topics such as habitat restoration, wildlife identification (see bird watching below), invasive species removal, and more.

5.7.8 Birdwatching (or Birding)

Photo credit: USFWS

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service nearly 50 million Americans participate in birdwatching (as of 2011) or about 20 percent of the population. The most common form of birding is watching birds near one's home; however, 38 percent of birders, or 18 million people, participate in birding away from the home. Participants in birdwatching tend to be older and more highly educated than the general population.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report also includes an analysis of the economic impact of birdwatching activities. Birdwatchers direct substantial amounts of dollars into the economy because of trip-related ($15 million) and

[9] National Recreation and Park Association, "How to Leverage Geocaching to Promote Park and Recreation Events," https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2017/october/how-to-leverage-geocaching-to-promote-park-and-recreation-events/. (October 5, 2017)

equipment expenditures ($26 million). The report finds that the birding industry, including indirect effects resulting from the multiplier effect, generates over $100 billion annually throughout the United States and supports 666,000 jobs. These expenditures lead to an additional $6 million in state tax revenues and $7 million in federal tax revenues.[10]

Westfield residents likely already use many the parks for birdwatching; however, formal programs could help residents identify bird species and increase interest in natural areas in Westfield.

5.7.9 Environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Many communities utilize parks as examples of best management practices (BMPs) to serve as models for minimizing environmental impacts and maximizing the sustainability of both park sites and operations. Parks and recreation departments are in great positions to lead in the implementation of these practices because they are typically among the largest land owners (if not the largest) in their jurisdictions. To assist in the implementation of these practices, some park departments establish manuals detailing the BMPs which are generally divided into categories.[11] Some potential categories include (with examples):

- Site Selection (which properties to acquire and protect)
- Design (strategies for management of stormwater, water quality, riparian/wetland buffers; use of vegetation; choice of building materials)
- Construction (controlling of pollutants, soil restoration, recycling of construction materials)
- Operation and Maintenance (practices for water conservation, use of organics, weed control, composting, energy use, etc.)
- Programs and Special Events (consider carrying capacity of facility, provide recycling receptacles)

5.7.10 Trails and Interconnectivity

The demand for increased availability of trails and trail linkages between parks and open spaces (and other popular destinations) has been growing in most communities, including Westfield. A high level of demand for these facilities is identified in nearly every community where surveys have been conducted. Even communities with extensive trail systems have a strong desire to continually connect and link the trails to neighborhoods, schools, shopping areas, and other community attractions.

Communities with extensive, connected trail systems are very livable communities where residents report a high quality of life. The need for trails for both recreational use and for transportation was conveyed clearly through the public input process. Trails ranked second for improvements at existing parks and were the top priority for investment according to the statistically valid Mail Survey.

5.7.11 Nature Play Areas

Many parks and recreation agencies are placing increased emphasis on the availability of nature play areas and programming for children. The Natural Learning Initiative (NLI) and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) recently released a document titled Nature Play & Learning Places, which provides a series of national guidelines for the creation of places for children to interact with nature. The guidelines are intended to help communities develop opportunities for children to learn about the natural environment and to promote physical activity. Additionally, the guidelines indicate that these areas should be characterized by natural materials, including plants, stones, water, fallen trees, and other natural elements that allow children to interact with the natural environment. The document defines a nature play or learning place as:

[10] Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis, Addendum to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2013.

[11] Environmental Best Management Practices Manual. Town of Fort Collins Parks and Recreation. 2011.

"A designated, managed area in an existing or modified outdoor environment where children of all ages and abilities play and learn by engaging with and manipulating diverse natural elements, materials, organisms, and habitats, through sensory, fine motor and gross motor experiences."[12]

Some potential nature play area features are described in the text below.

Natural Play Structures

Permanent play structures can be constructed from natural materials such as logs and rocks. The guidelines encourage the engagement of local children for ideas and the use of indigenous materials in the design.

Natural Play Structure (Silver Falls State Park – Oregon)

Multipurpose Lawns

Multipurpose lawns, depending on size, can support a wide variety of activities and events. These lawns can be utilized for programmed and unprogrammed play for both large and small groups.

Meadows and Woodlands

Meadows, or fields of non-woody plants, can be utilized to provide ecosystems that children can explore and observe wildlife, most notably insects. These fields can also provide opportunities for children to see a variety of plants and learn about the diversity of these ecosystems, particularly compared to a carefully managed lawn.

Woodlands also offer diverse ecosystems of plants and wildlife and can provide a multitude of educational and play opportunities. Additionally, woodlands can be utilized for learning about seasonal plant cycles.

Vegetable Gardens

Vegetable gardens allow children to participate in the growth of vegetables and can provide opportunities for them to eat fresh vegetables. The children can learn more about the source of the food that they eat.

Aquatics

Existing natural streams, ponds, wetlands, and marshes provide educational opportunities, and these features can be constructed if not already available at a park. Aquatic features can provide children with multi-sensory experiences and the opportunity to interact with aquatic wildlife.

Gathering and Performance Structures

Gathering structures provide places for users to gather for social interaction and for programming opportunities and can be in the form of decks, patios, or gazebos. Performance structures include features such as stages, campfire circles, and small amphitheaters which can be utilized to encourage teamwork and group presentations.[13]

Opportunities in Westfield

Westfield does not currently offer any of these features; however, existing parks represent excellent locations to add some of these amenities in Westfield. Brightwood, Clark Memorial, and Tamaques Parks represent great opportunities to incorporate these features to the more passive nature of these properties. Playgrounds could also incorporate natural play features, including climbing structures, when replaced to provide more diversity of play options.

[12] Moore, R. (2014). Nature Play & Learning Places. Creating and managing places where children engage with nature. Raleigh, NC: Natural Learning Initiative and Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation. Version 1.6. (pages vii, 5, 7-8, 51, 65, 71-83).

[13] Moore, R. (2014). Nature Play & Learning Places. Creating and managing places where children engage with nature. Raleigh, NC: Natural Learning Initiative and Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation. Version 1.6. (pages vii, 5, 7-8, 51, 65, 71-83).

5.7.12 Mountain Bike and BMX Facilities

Off-road bicycling activities are growing in popularity, although they still represent a relatively small percentage of all bicycling activities. Modern mountain biking originated in the 1970s in California with a group of enthusiasts who modified existing bikes for off-road use. These cyclists organized first downhill races which they called "Repack." This name referred to the need to "repack" the brakes with fresh grease after each race due to the excessive heat from braking during the descent.[14]

Flow Trail

During the early years of mountain biking, enthusiasts used singletrack trails intended for hiking as bikes were not specifically forbidden from using these trails. However, as the sport gained in popularly, bikes have been banned from most hiking trails, and singletrack trails designed specifically for mountain bikes have been established.[15] More recently, a new style of trail called a "flow trail" has appeared which provides more predictable surfaces, banked turns, and a lack of obstacles. These trails require little peddling and minimal braking that appeal to a wider variety of users, including families. These trails can be designed to allow beginners to bypass any more technical trails.[16]

Pump Track

Another trend in off-road bicycle facilities is the pump track. These tracks, which began to appear in the 2000s, are looping tracks that can be ridden continuously without the need to pedal. A user's speed is dependent on "pumping" the terrain transitions of the track. A pump track requires approximately 50' by 50' of space (minimum) and generally feature a series of rollers and steeply bermed corners.[17] Unlike many of the other off-road facilities, pump tracks are usable by both mountain bike and BMX riders.

Westfield does not currently offer any mountain biking trails, but Brightwood Park offers a great opportunity in the underutilized eastern portion of the park that offers suitable topography. A pump track could be developed at an existing park and would be an appropriate facility to locate adjacent to a skate park or in a passive park.

5.7.13 Aquatics

Older rectangle and L-shaped swimming pools have a limited appeal to modern users. The desire for 3½ foot depths for flip turns or competition swimming dictated a deeper water depth and a lack of shallow water. As a result, younger children were relegated to wading pools, which are intended for babies and toddlers. Inadequate amenities for 4- to10-year-olds limit the draw of these pool facilities.

The newer family aquatic centers are geared toward the entire family with zero depth access, shallow water, interactive water spray activities, along with the traditional competition lanes and diving boards. Newer aquatic facilities often incorporate lazy rivers, which are popular with people of all ages, and large waterslides. These elements,

[14] Marin Museum of Bicycling, "Mountain Biking History," http://mmbhof.org/mtn-bike-hall-of-fame/history/, (April 8, 2019).
[15] Singletracks, "Visiting the Birthplace of Mountain Biking: Marin County, California," http://www.singletracks.com/blog/mtb-trails/visiting-the-birthplace-of-mountain-biking-marin-county-california/, (April 8, 2019).
[16] IMBA, "Flow Trails," https://www.imba.com/model-trails/flow-trails, (April 15, 2016).
[17] Adventure Sports Journal, "Pumpin': An Introduction to the World of Pump Tracks," http://adventuresportsjournal.com/pumpin-an-introduction-to-the-world-of-pump-tracks/, (April 8, 2019).

along with shade structures, larger grass beach areas, and quality concessions, have resulted in a complete turnaround in the net operating costs to municipalities for aquatic facilities. Memorial Pool represents a similar success attracting visitors from adjacent towns to use the facilities and its variety of modern features.

Where older pools were a drain on the budget, the newer facilities are often able to generate funds for the operations cost, and some have even shown a surplus, which can be used to pay off some of the debt service for the capital construction. This demand provides an opportunity for charging higher fees which may result in a greater profit margin. Westfield aquatic needs are currently met by Memorial Pool, which generates revenue to cover operating fees and debit service.

The survey indicated that the top-ranking aquatic need was for indoor swimming pools with over 2,200 households indicating unmet needs for outdoor swimming pools/ aquatic centers. Development of these facilities often requires partnerships with other agencies and organizations, because they do not tend to generate sufficient revenue to cover operating expenses. They can also be included as part of a recreation center. Trends indicate that partnerships for these facilities are becoming increasingly common and even necessary in many communities.

Another trending concept is the development of splash pads or spraygrounds. These facilities have replaced wading pools at many aquatic facilities but can also be developed as standalone wet playgrounds in other park areas. Spraygrounds have several benefits compared to pools. Because there is no standing water, lifeguards are not needed. Therefore, the operation costs for a sprayground are considerably lower than for a swimming facility. In most instances, spraygrounds recirculate water. The Town of Westfield currently offers a sprayground as part of Memorial Pool. A standalone sprayground could be developed in an existing park in the future if needs increase.

5.7.14 Dog Parks

Dog parks have been increasing in popularity throughout the country. The development of these fence enclosed areas where dogs can run leash free can be a positive addition to a community. Dog parks are good for improving social interaction skills of dogs and are a very good social attraction for the dog owners as well. Quality dog parks need careful planning and a fairly extensive operating budget for maintenance and upkeep.

Optimally, dog parks will be at least three acres in size and provide three separate areas: one for large dogs, one for small dogs, and one rotating, unused area to allow for regeneration of turf. Many dog parks are much larger with many reaching well over 10 acres in size. Shade, sitting areas, water, and restrooms are typical amenities at these parks.

Westfield does not currently offer a dog park, but dog parks ranked in the top ten for facilities with unmet needs and for most important facilities to households in the Needs Assessment Survey. They were a reoccurring theme throughout the other methods of public input as well. An optimal site would be centrally located to maximize access and buffered from adjacent residential areas to minimize unwanted noise. Land for a dog

park is limited in Westfield, so the best location is likely at Tamaques Park where dogs are frequently allowed off-leash, although no official area exists.

5.8 Conclusion

The analysis conducted throughout this chapter serves to provide an indication of needs for parks and recreation services in Westfield. The analysis indicates that a variety of parks and facilities are located throughout the town; however, not all amenities are evenly distributed throughout Westfield.

The level of service standards in the first part of this chapter, which were developed with consideration to public input from residents of Westfield, provide guidelines for the number of parks, open space, and recreation facilities needed in Westfield. These standards indicate a need for trails, multipurpose fields, picnic shelters, a dog park, a skate park, an amphitheater, and a recreation center and a potential need for additional parkland if it can be identified.

The geographic analysis of service areas identifies specific areas to target for investment in additional parks and recreation facilities. The mapping analysis shows an overall high level of service based on the location and quantity of facilities in much of the town. These findings, combined with public input requesting improvement to existing parks, indicate that improvements and replacement of existing facilities should be the highest priorities for this master plan. Addition of features to existing parks is another high priority which will help improve service levels without requiring additional land.

Westfield is in a good position to confront many of the trends discussed in this chapter that have not yet been addressed. The aging population of Westfield provides additional incentive for the town to address many of these trends, including fitness programming, universal access, nature education, and expansion of trails. The analyses from this chapter and the preceding chapters provide the foundation for the specific recommendations presented later in this document.

6 STRATEGIC PLAN

6.1 Introduction

This master plan represents the collective vision for parks and recreation in Westfield. This cohesive vision for continually improving parks and recreation opportunities represents a culmination of the engagement process. The vision, mission, and values outlined below will guide implementation of this master plan and the future of parks, recreation, and trails in Westfield. A series of goals and objectives will help realize this vision.

6.2 Mission

6.2.1 Purpose of a Mission

A mission identifies your purpose and reason for existence. A mission should:

1. Be simple, concise statement
2. Express reason for being, reason for existence
3. Provide guidance
4. Consider what you do, who you do it for, how you do it, and why
5. Be EASY to remember and recite
6. Clearly define your purpose (why you exist) to:
    - Staff
    - Customers
    - Partners
    - Stakeholders
7. Provide focus – energy, time, and resources
8. Anchor decision making
9. Guide all aspects of the organization – what you will and will not do

6.2.2 Proposed Mission for Westfield Parks and Recreation

Considering the nine factors described above and building on the existing mission and upon the vision exercise of the Master Plan Steering Committee, the proposed mission for Westfield Parks and Recreation is:

Build community, enhance quality of life, and provide a meaningful difference through parks, cultural arts, and play while preserving our diverse resources

6.3 Vision

6.3.1 Purpose of a Vision

A vision answers the questions – What do you hope to become? What impact will you make in Westfield. The vision:

1. Defines an envisioned future
2. Describes where you want to go and what you hope to become
3. Identifies what impact you hope to make
4. Is long range – usually 10 to 20 years out
5. Establishes focus, direction, and a clear finish line
6. Shapes organizational strategy and priority setting
7. Motivates and inspires
8. Serves as a unifying force; aligns people and activities
9. Guides decision making – what you will do and not do
10. Serves as a "north star" during times of uncertainty or turbulence
11. Promotes change and hope for the future

6.3.2 Proposed Vision for Westfield Parks and Recreation

With those factors in mind and building upon the vision exercise of the Master Plan Steering Committee, the proposed vision is:

Lead, innovate, and grow through recreational opportunities

6.4 Values for Westfield Parks and Recreation

6.4.1 Definition

An organization's values identify their beliefs and guiding principles. Values should accomplish the following:

1. Lay the foundation for how the department conducts itself
2. Guide decision making, behaviors, and interactions with others
3. Convey the personality of the department
4. Reflect the essence of your identity
5. Can never be compromised
6. Communicate what is important
7. Inspire behaviors that support mission attainment
8. Influence positive behavior
9. Shape organizational culture

10. Lead to greater employee engagement
11. Support quality recruitment efforts (enhances good job fit)

6.4.2 Core Values

The core values should be unique to your department. Based upon the citizen engagement and Steering Committee discussions, the following values are proposed:

Service

We deliver amazing experiences.

History

We respect the rich history of our community and the accomplishments of its residents.

Innovation

We find new and creative ways to do things better.

Community

We build a stronger community through our facilities and programs.

Safety

We provide safe and clean places to play.

Culture

We are building a culture of outstanding customer service, wellness, and FUN!

Inclusivity

We believe everyone should have convenient access to a broad range of parks, facilities, and programs.

6.5 Goals and Objectives

6.5.1 Function of Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives identify your areas of strategic priority and accomplish the following:

1. Describe in a more concrete way how the department will fulfill its mission and seek to realize its vision within a designated planning timeframe
2. Provide focus and direction
3. Indicate how the department will invest its time, talents and resources
4. Clarify what the department will/will not do

Goals – Outcomes

- Overarching areas of strategic priority
- Broad, demonstrates intentions
- Outcome vs activity based
- Three-to-five-year timeframe (or more)

Objectives – Directions

- More concrete; describe what the department seeks to have happen with an issue

- Written in observable terms (increase, expand, decrease, reduce, consolidate, abandon, improve, distribute, enhance)
- One-to-five-year timeframe (or more)

6.5.2 Proposed Goals and Objectives for Westfield Parks and Recreation

The following goals and objectives will guide the operations, improvements, and services in parks and recreation in Westfield over the next five to ten years.

Goal 1: Great Places & Spaces

Our parks, places, and spaces will connect people, build community, and create amazing experiences for current and future generations.

Objective 1.1 – **Connectivity:** Acquire, plan, develop, and maintain trails and spaces that connect people, build community and provide opportunities for health, wellness, and discovery

Objective 1.2 – **Modernization:** Invest in renewing and modernizing existing parks and facilities while simultaneously adding new features that provide innovative, safe, and diverse experiences

Objective 1.3 – **Sports:** Provide up-to-date venues for team and individual sports to encourage increased participation for youth and adults

Objective 1.4 – **Access to Nature:** Provide connections between the community and the natural environment through preservation, conservation, and education

Goal 2: Great Experiences

Our programs, events and services will promote health and wellness, learning, creativity and fun to enrich the lives of our diverse and everchanging community.

Objective 2.1 – **Programs & Classes:** Strengthen the mix and quality of time-honored and trendsetting services that appeal to and are accessible to all segments of our community

Objective 2.2 – **Cultural Arts:** Increase awareness and appreciation of, access to and engagement in a diversity of experiences in the arts

Objective 2.3 – **Events:** Expand the variety, frequency and scope of special events to build community and bolster economic development

Objective 2.4 – **Wellness:** Create opportunities to inspire residents to improve their health and wellness

Goal 3: Team Empowerment and Preparation

Our Town leadership, staff and community will work together to deliver innovative, accessible, affordable, and inclusive experiences that meet the changing needs of our community.

Objective 3.1 – **People:** Build, grow, and invest in a team of knowledgeable, skilled, diverse, passionate and highly valued staff

Objective 3.2 – **Community:** Engage all sectors of the community to promote, plan, increase access, encourage volunteerism, and improve the quality of parks, recreation, and cultural arts

Objective 3.3 – **Maintenance:** Enhance safety, accessibility, quality, and cost effectiveness by developing and implementing maintenance and operations standards and best practices

Objective 3.4 – **Partners and Sponsors:** Build relationships and partnerships with foundations, schools, businesses, governments, and nonprofit organizations to meet current and future needs of the community

Goal 4: Operational Excellence & Fiscal Responsibility

Our department will implement modern best practices to ensure our people, policies, processes, finances, and resources are aligned to fulfill our mission and realize our vision.

Objective 4.1 – **Finances:** Expand and enhance facility, program, and service offerings through alternative funding, management best practices, and cost recovery efforts

Objective 4.2 – **Technology:** Maximize the use of technology to enhance business operations and customer experience

Objective 4.3 – **Policy, Process, Planning:** Modernize, streamline, and consistently apply internal business processes, policies and planning practices

Objective 4.4 – **Marketing:** Increase the level of awareness, support, and engagement in parks, recreation, and cultural arts through innovative and consistent marketing, branding, and communications

6.6 Strategies

Specific strategies will be identified for each objective listed above. The strategies will be discussed in Chapter 7 under categories of recommendations and will be listed in the Action Plan in Chapter 9, which also identifies a timeframe, responsible party, and potential funding source.

7 SYSTEMWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a series of observations and findings gained through the first three phases of this master plan. Specific recommendations are provided to address these findings. The recommendations are divided into the following categories:

- Existing Park Improvements
- Trails and Connectivity
- New Park and Facility Development
- Natural Areas, Open Space, and Nature Education
- Outdoor Athletic Fields and Courts
- Indoor Recreation
- Programming
- Operations, Maintenance, and Promotion
- Budget and Funding
- Partnerships and Sponsorships

Recommendations by park are provided in Chapter 8, which also includes detailed cost estimates for improvements.

7.2 Existing Park Improvements

7.2.1 Observations and Analysis

Through the public input process, Westfield residents voiced a strong desire for improvements to existing parks. According to the Mail Survey, residents would allocate the largest amount of funds to upgrading existing parks, and the option to upgrade existing parks received the second highest allocation of the nine options in the dollar voting exercise (20%) at public meetings, indicating that Westfield should pursue this action to improve parks and recreation services.

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of households who visited parks over the past year rated them as good, 12% rated them as excellent, and 25% rated them as fair. These numbers are far below the National Benchmarking by ETC Institute showing 30% for excellent. A quarter of households cited the poor condition of facilities as a reason in the Mail Survey for not using Westfield parks and programs (well above the national average of 10%). More than half of Web Survey respondents cited this reason.

These numbers combined with the support for improvements indicate that residents would like the parks to be better and may indicate a desire for more features in the parks. Site assessments indicated that the parks were generally in good condition, which combined with the lower opinion of conditions of the parks, indicates that Westfield households have higher expectations for quality of facilities than other communities.

For preferred upgrades to existing parks, the top response for the Mail Survey was restrooms at 55% (second in the Web Survey) and drinking fountains were third. Trees & landscaping, shade structures, playground equipment, improved parking, and security cameras and lighting also ranked in the top ten improvements to existing parks. Accessibility deficiencies were noted throughout the park system during the park site assessments.

Forty-two percent (42%) of the population lives in areas with "High" or "Medium-High" service levels, and 39% live in areas with "Low" or "Medium-Low" service levels (see Composite Service Areas map, Figure 5.4). Improvements at existing parks would increase the service level for many residents living in areas with lower service levels. Many gaps in service can be filled through improvements at existing parks, although new parks would be needed in select locations (see Section 7.4).

While needs for an outdoor aquatic center were mostly met, according to public input, Memorial Pool needs some improvements (over half indicated support for improvements). The facility needs accessibility improvements and the playground within the pool fence needs to be replaced. The chemical controllers, filters, and pump will need to be replaced in the medium term. Some residents and stakeholders indicated a desire for a bubble for the lap pool to allow use in the winter, which would also require pool heaters and a restroom/filter building. The town may also wish to consider additional features such as a lazy river or zip line in order to increase attendance or maintain interest as other aquatic facilities are developed in neighboring communities.

7.2.2 Recommendations

1. Improve maintenance at existing parks, including natural areas
2. Upgrade and replace existing facilities that are at the end of their useful life or in poor condition
3. Add support features throughout the park system such as shade structures, drinking fountains, security lighting, and landscaping
4. Develop a tree planting and replacement program
5. Add or upgrade restrooms at all Community Parks and other heavily used parks
6. Replace outdated and deteriorated playgrounds throughout the town and include unique or themed features at each park
7. Add Wi-Fi in high traffic areas, including buildings, athletic complexes, and event spaces
8. Incorporate nature play structures as part of playground development and replacement
9. Develop and implement a consistent signage program for all town parks
10. Perform an ADA Accessibility Assessment of all facilities, programs, and communications (by an outside consultant)
11. Improve ADA access throughout the park system, including walkways to all facilities and seating areas
12. Prepare Park Master Plans for Brightwood Park, Clark Memorial Park, Edison Intermediate School, Elm Street Property, Memorial Park, and Tamaques Park (update)
13. Acquire land contiguous to existing parks if it becomes available to allow for additional features and to increase the total amount of parkland available to residents
14. Complete needed accessibility improvements and repairs at Memorial Pool

15. Monitor chemical controllers, filters and pumps and replace when needed
16. Consider adding a bubble to the lap pool to allow year-round use, likely as part of a partnership
17. Investigate the demand for additional features at Memorial Pool in order to maintain or increase attendance or in response to request by residents
18. Include neighborhood determined features as part of Neighborhood Park improvements to meet the specific needs of residents that live near these parks (A neighborhood feature could be anything from public art to gathering spaces or specific facilities like game courts.)

7.3 Trails and Connectivity

7.3.1 Observations and Analyses

According to the benchmarking in Chapter 2, Westfield has 0.73 miles of trails per square mile of the town, higher than the benchmarked communities; however, Westfield has fewer trails miles per ten thousand population (1.5) than the benchmark median (3.2). Additionally, most of the trails are located in two parks, Tamaques and Brightwood. Westfield residents requested more trails at the public workshops. Trails received the third largest number of dots on the feature preference board at the public workshops and were third in the dollar voting exercise. Stakeholders indicated a need for mountain bike trails in Westfield.

Trails are consistently a top request for improvements throughout the country, including in jurisdictions with the most extensive networks of trails. Similarly, the need for trails continues to grow in Westfield. The highest percentage of Westfield households (70%) had a need for walking & hiking trails, they ranked first for unmet needs (over 5,400 households). Pave bike trails were the fourth most needed (45%) and second highest unmet need (4,100 households).

Walking/hiking trails ranked second for improvements households would like to see at existing parks. Walking & hiking trails ranked as the most important facility to Westfield households by far (41% of households ranked as one of four most important facilities; next most received 28%). Most households (80%) were supportive of developing new and connecting existing trails in Westfield. Finally, walking & hiking trails ranked first in the Priority Investment Rankings by ETC, and paved bike trails were second.

Westfield lacks a town-wide trail system, and trail loops are not offered in most town parks. The town recently completed the *Bike Walk Westfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan* in November 2019. The plan highlights priority improvements for sidewalks, including along some parks, most notable Gumbert and Clark Memorial. The plan recommends improvements to pedestrian safety and traffic calming which will make walking to parks safer and more pleasant. It proposes crossing improvements with a focus on the town center, including access into Mindowaskin Park and the Town Hall. Due to the limited availability of land for trails due to the built-out nature of the town and narrow rights-of-way, most bike improvements focus on on-street facilities, including bike lanes. The plan does show a pedestrian connection between Edison School and the Tamaques Park Trail at Willow Grove Road and a bike path from Lincoln School (Westfield Avenue) through Kehler Stadium and Edison School to Willow Grove Road.

7.3.2 Recommendations

1. Begin implementation of the *Bike Walk Westfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan* to improve connectivity and safety throughout Westfield
2. Add sidewalks along Westfield parks where none are present
3. Add paved trail loops within existing parks (and schools) that lack this facility (Edison Intermediate School, Sycamore Field, Clark Memorial Park, and Memorial Park) and in any future parks
4. Add natural surface trails in Memorial Park, Tamaques Park, and Brightwood Park
5. Design the new natural surface trails at Brightwood Park for mountain biking while allowing other uses
6. Improve connectivity between parks and adjacent neighborhoods by adding connecting paths where possible, including schools and Union County Parks
7. Add a paved connection between Clark Memorial Park and Roosevelt Intermediate School

8. Add a connection between Memorial Park and the adjacent Brookside Park in Scotch Plains
9. Partner with Union County to add an accessible paved connection into Unami Park from Twin Oaks Terrace
10. Add trail markers and emergency signage (mileage/color coding) at trailheads and along trails in Westfield Parks
11. Improve the cross-country course at Tamaques Park (surfacing/markers/signage)

7.4 New Park and Facility Development

7.4.1 Observations and Analyses

Trends indicate slow but steady population growth in Westfield since 1980, but the town has not kept pace with parks and recreation trends and changing needs of residents. Additionally, the median age in Westfield (42.8) has increased since 2000 and is higher than the State of New Jersey which is higher than the USA. The population age 65 and over has increased as a percentage since 2000 and is expected to reach 19% by 2022. Over the same time period, the percentage of children is expected to decrease to 25% of the population. Despite this trend, Westfield has a higher percentage of children than the comparisons. Westfield has a much smaller age 20-34 population than other communities.

Educational attainment has also increased in Westfield since 2000, and now nearly three quarters of residents age 25 or older hold a bachelor's degree or above, much higher than the county, the state, or the USA (between 35% and 40%). Incomes are similarly high comparatively at double the state or county numbers, which are both higher than the USA. At the same time, the community has become more diverse.

These demographic changes have led to changing recreation needs, which the town has only begun to address. Westfield offers no senior center, but facilities for seniors were requested though the public input. Facilities for active adults are a trend for parks and recreation agencies throughout the country. These facilities include outdoor fitness equipment, pickleball courts (see Section 7.6), and trails (see Section 7.3). Outdoor fitness equipment has become a popular addition to parks for users of all ages (in addition to active adults/seniors). The community indicated a need for more concerts, but the gazebo at Mindowaskin Park cannot accommodate additional programs and is limited in size. Stakeholders also indicated a need for a skatepark in Westfield.

Westfield provides fewer (5.9) acres of parkland per thousand population than the benchmark median (8.5), and population per park (2,889) is higher than the benchmark median (1,849). These numbers indicate that Westfield has fewer parks than other communities, and some portions of the town remain underserved by parks, according to the service area analysis (Chapter 5). Parkland represents 4.4% the land in Westfield, well above the benchmark median of 1.9%, indicating that the higher density of the population in Westfield plays a role in the comparatively lower levels of service.

The most notable portions of the town lacking access to parks and facilities are on the northern side of Westfield (see Park Service Areas and Composite Service Areas maps in Chapter 5). New parks would increase access in lower service level areas in Westfield, but land in the town is difficult to obtain due to high property values and lack of undeveloped space. Additional feature development at some existing parks in underserved areas, including Brightwood Park, can also help improve levels of service in this area. This development does not necessarily need to disturb any new land in these parks.

A dog park was also requested by public workshop attendees, including on the parks and facilities station and the features board. They were also the seventh ranked unmet need in the Parks and Recreation Survey (over 2,300 households). Many residents mentioned many dogs off leash (unauthorized) in parks, especially Tamaques Park, emphasizing the need for a place for dogs needing to run. Westfield also offers only one picnic shelter, which needs improvements.

7.4.2 Recommendations

1. Add outdoor fitness equipment at select parks throughout Westfield (Brightwood Park, Clark Memorial Park, Gumbert Park, Memorial Park, Mindowaskin Park, Sycamore Field, and Tamaques Park) to expand opportunities for improved community health
2. Upgrade Clark Memorial Park to a passive Neighborhood Park with a nature play area, a perimeter trail, community gardens, and more to fill service gaps for park facilities in this portion of Westfield
3. Develop a dog park at Tamaques Park to provide a place for dogs to go unleashed and for dog owners to gather
4. Pursue opportunities if they arise for new parks in the north portions of the town and other underserved parts of Westfield
5. Develop the Elm Street Property as a Neighborhood Park with a variety of features needed in Westfield
6. Develop an amphitheater at the Elm Street Property to accommodate concerts and special events which have been requested by the people of Westfield
7. Develop a skatepark at the Elm Street Property to provide a central and accessible location for a demographic that is currently undeserved in Westfield
8. Add picnic shelters at existing and future parks to expand access to these facilities and to promote opportunities for community gatherings
9. Add disc golf at Tamaques Park in locations that minimize conflict with other park users

7.5 Natural Areas, Open Space, and Nature Education

7.5.1 Observations and Analyses

Park and recreation agencies are increasingly focusing on preservation and restoration of natural resources. Natural areas provide numerous benefits to the health and wellness of a community, including opportunities for all residents. Studies indicate that a connection to nature can relieve stress, improve interpersonal relationships, and improve mental health.[1] Because they are typically among the largest land owners in their jurisdictions, park and recreation departments have the opportunity to lead in the implementation of sustainability or best management practices (BMPs), which also provide potential educational opportunities for residents.

As noted in the trends section of Chapter 5, environmental education cultivates understanding of the benefits of natural habitats and open spaces. Nature education provides opportunities to engage all ages and abilities and provide great opportunities for intergenerational programming. Environmental programs represent a potential partnership with the schools in the form of nature classes and activities (see Section 7.10). Potential programs include community events, field trips, or classes covering habitat restoration, wildlife identification (e.g., bird watching), invasive species removal, and more.

Westfield offers several open space and natural areas, including Brightwood Park, Mindowaskin Park, and more. Additionally, some active parks, such as Tamaques and Memorial, also have natural areas. Public input indicated support for conservation and preservation of natural resources. Opportunities exist to take advantage of Westfield properties for educational purposes while preserving natural resources.

Attendees of the public workshop indicated a need for access to more natural areas in Westfield. Nature programs were a high priority (sixth) in the Priority Investment Ratings by ETC. More than half of households (56%) indicated a need for natural areas (Mail Survey), and most survey respondents indicated these needs were unmet (representing over 3,500 households). Natural areas were the fourth most important facility.

7.5.2 Recommendations

1. Upgrade Brightwood Park to a Nature Park to provide improved access to nature, additional and improve passive amenities, and a venue for nature programs

[1] National Recreation and Park Association, "Health and Wellness," http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Health-and-Wellness/, (August 31, 2016)

2. Add nature programming at Brightwood Park, Tamaques Park, and, potentially, the Dunham Avenue Bird Sanctuary
3. Develop an educational shelter in Brightwood Park to provide a location for nature education classes
4. Utilize nature trails for programming, including guided hikes, plant identification, and bird watching
5. Seek opportunities for additional natural areas and open space if land becomes available
6. Implement conservation policies and sustainable practices for development and management of park properties
7. Utilize parks as examples of Best Management Practices (BMP) for stormwater detention, recycling, etc.
8. Promote conservation and sustainability efforts as they are implemented to encourage reduced levels of consumption and waste generation at the household and community levels
9. Establish partnerships for nature education programs within Westfield parks (see also Section 7.10)

7.6 Outdoor Athletic Fields and Courts

7.6.1 Observations and Analyses

Westfield provides a similar level of service for both youth baseball and softball fields as the benchmark comparisons. Public input indicated that they generally had access to enough fields, but the conditions of the fields needed improvement, especially the softball fields. Westfield Baseball League indicated that the fields at Gumbert Park have poor drainage, leading to a large number of rainouts.

Westfield has a much lower level of service for multipurpose rectangular fields than the benchmarks (10,592 residents per field compared to 3,833), and land for additional fields is limited. As a result, many residents and stakeholders would like to see more artificial turf fields and lighted fields in Westfield. More athletic fields and artificial turf fields specifically were the most requested facilities at the public workshops. Multipurpose fields ranked first in the feature preference board. While artificial turf fields ranked 12th for improvements to existing parks in the Mail Survey, they were first in the Web Survey with nearly two-thirds (64%) of respondents supporting their development. These results indicate that these fields are very important to a vocal segment of the population in Westfield.

A substantial number of attendees to the public workshops were opposed to the development of artificial turf fields as well, so locations must be carefully chosen. The opposition to the proposed artificial turf field at Tamaques Park field emphasizes this divide. Many residents were also concerned about lighted fields effects on their property values. However, modern lights have a high level of precision, preventing light from spilling to neighboring properties. Lighting should first be added to fields further from neighborhoods to demonstrate the limited impact before installing lights closer to neighbors.

Westfield offers 14 tennis courts at two parks, a much higher level of service (one per 2,270 people) than the benchmark median (3,884). As noted in Section 7.4, pickleball courts are a current trend in parks and recreation due to their popularity with older residents. Westfield recently added lines at the courts at Memorial and plans to add them at Tamaques Park. However, the town has no dedicated courts. The town also has a similar lower level of service as the benchmark median for basketball courts with six (6) full and one half court at three parks or 4,888 population per facility, compared to 5,000 for the benchmark median. This service level will decrease with the proposed expansion of parking at Tamaques Park to the area where the basketball courts are currently located.

7.6.2 Recommendations

1. Convert the four diamond fields at Memorial Park to artificial turf with lights; include lining for rectangular fields sports
2. Develop an artificial turf field with lights at the Elm Street Property with lines for multiple sports
3. Develop two artificial turf fields with lights at Edison Intermediate School with lines for multiple sports
4. Add artificial turf infields at Gumbert Park to reduce rainouts

5. Regrade fields and improve turf and drainage at Tamaques Park and add lights to a field on the eastern side of the park (farthest from neighbors)
6. Regrade and improve turf conditions at Sycamore Field
7. Add a covered basketball court at Tamaques Park when the existing courts are removed and add a half basketball courts at Lincoln School Playground to maintain access to these facilities throughout Westfield
8. Develop dedicated pickleball courts at Tamaques Park and the Elm Street property and add pickleball court lines to the courts at Tamaques Park

7.7 Indoor Recreation

7.7.1 Observations and Analyses

Limited indoor recreation opportunities are available in Westfield as the Community Room at the Town Hall is the primary indoor program space available to Westfield Recreation, and it is used nearly every day of the year. A room in the basement was formerly used as a teen room, but opportunities for use of this room are limited due to the lack of an elevator. The town does not offer any gyms or indoor court space. Gumbert Park offers a field house that is used for team meetings.

A temporary ice rink was provided in Gumbert Park for the winter of 2018-2019 and is back for the 2019-2020 season. The rink is very popular and helps meet the needs of Westfield hockey teams. The location in the park has limited parking, and some residents have complained that they think the rink should be relocated to another park.

A few other organizations offer some indoor facilities and programs, including the Westfield Area YMCA, the Westfield Library, Westfield Community Center, and Westfield National Guard Armory. These facilities help to meet the needs of Westfield residents, but public input indicates a desire for more indoor programs, especially fitness and wellness programs and age 50+ programs that require indoor facilities. Additionally, the wrestling teams must use cafeterias for practice and meets, which is labor intensive and a potential health hazard. They would like an indoor facility that they could share with the cheerleading teams who are also lacking a home.

The need for indoor space was a theme at the stakeholder groups and ranked as a medium priority in the Priority Investment Ratings by ETC. Approximately 2,000 households indicated unmet needs for recreation centers and gymnasiums. The surveys asked respondents to indicate their preferred feature at a new recreation center, and a walking track ranked first in the Mail Survey (55%), followed by a cardio room (41%). Game courts/gyms ranked first in the Web Survey (60%).

7.7.2 Recommendations

1. Develop a field house in Tamaques Park for wrestling and cheerleading with storage space for football and other sports
2. Pursue a location to develop a recreation center with gym space to help meet the unmet need for programs that require this type of facility
3. Develop a feasibility study for a recreation center with development programs and pro forma prior to the development of such a facility
    - Development programs will identify facility needs, and operating pro forma will ensure that the town is aware of budget and staffing requirements prior to the authorization and development of these facilities.
4. Develop a recreation center with a gym, a fitness center, meeting rooms, classrooms, and more if the facility is deemed feasible
5. Remove islands and regrade the west parking lot to accommodate the temporary ice rink (following an agreement with provider)
6. Seek opportunities for use of the National Guard Armory for additional program opportunities

7.8 Programming

7.8.1 Observations and Analyses

Special events were the most needed recreation programs in Westfield (52% of households) according to the Mail Survey with summer concerts ranking second (51%). Adult fitness and wellness programs were third at 47%. These same programs ranked as the most important programs. Adult fitness & wellness programs were the top unmet need with nearly 4,000 households indicating an unmet need, while special events were second (3,300 households) and summer concerts were third (3,200 households). Other unmet needs indicated by the survey include programs for age 50+ (2,800 households) and adult sports (2,500 households). The limited availability of athletic fields in Westfield likely posed challenges for finding venues for adult sports.

At the public workshops, residents requested more programs in general and requested special events, teen programs, family programs, and adult programs, including sports. Athletics were the top selection by far on the program board. Movies/concerts were second and festivals were third. Overall, Westfield residents indicated a desire for programs that bring the community together and for Recreation to offer something for everyone. Stakeholder groups indicated a need for more health and wellness programs and year-round programs. Westfield also lacks special needs programs.

There is a tremendous opportunity to place an emphasis on the historic and cultural aspects of what makes Westfield the great community that it is. Cultural activities can be expanded at facilities within Westfield and at a future recreation center. Mindowaskin Park, Tamaques Park, and other parks contain significant historical features and could be a foundation to launch a cultural history emphasis for the department. Westfield Recreation currently offers limited creative, visual, and cultural arts programming, but these programs are growing in popularity and are available through many agencies in New Jersey and throughout the USA.

As noted in Section 7.4, Westfield has an aging population and a large percentage of residents over age 65. Residents also requested more senior programs. Westfield offers no senior center and has limited access to indoor facilities. Additionally, many citizens, who qualify as seniors according to an arbitrary age, do not consider themselves to be seniors and will not participate due to the perception that some have of seniors. Communities that program "seniors," under one umbrella, often have this problem. Some of the most active people in fitness and more active programs are over the age of 60. It is important to brand and market active senior programs together under a separate program name (i.e., Westfield Active Adults). Programs that fit into this category should be grouped together and marketed to more active seniors. Hospitals, health insurance providers, and grocery store chains provide an attractive source of prospecting for sponsors for programs and events. Tamaques Park is a virtual fitness facility for seniors providing a location for these programs during the warmer months.

7.8.2 Recommendations

1. Be a Mission driven agency; pay very close attention to the Mission of Parks and Recreation
   - Make sure actions and decisions always tie back to the mission
2. Establish an annual assessment process to determine if Westfield should stop offering a program, continue offering a program, or start a new program
3. Utilize a new amphitheater at the Elm Street Property for additional and enhanced program opportunities, including summer concerts, movies, and children's theater
4. Expand program offerings to meet unmet community needs, including adult fitness and wellness programs, summer concerts/movies, and programs for age 50+
5. Examine unmet needs for adult sports as indicated by public input, especially as lighted facilities are developed that might be able to support these programs
6. Utilize new facilities, including a dog park, outdoor fitness equipment, amphitheater, a recreation center, and more, for expanded program opportunities that result from the availability of these facilities
7. Brand and market active senior programs together under a separate program name, "Westfield Active Adults," and offer these programs at the new recreation center
8. Group and market these programs to more active seniors

9. Establish a pickleball program (indoor and outdoor) following the development of the required facilities
10. Continuously monitor trends in recreation, particularly amongst growing population groups, to ensure program offerings meet the needs of the community
11. Develop additional programs to meet needs for more creative and cultural arts programs for both youth and adults
12. Consider utilizing Mindowaskin Park, Tamaques Park, and other parks with significant historical features as the foundation of a cultural history emphasis for the department
13. Utilize the Core Program Guidelines in Appendix D as a source for potential program offerings
14. Develop therapeutic recreation programs and expand access for those with special needs to existing programs
15. Utilize new amenities developed at a future recreation center for additional program opportunities, including active adult, and fitness programs
16. Schedule more special events, concerts, and movies to bring the community together and encourage unity
17. Consider expansion of programming coming from vendors and contractors through the private sector
    - Allows for expansion of programming without hiring additional staff
    - Most new requests by public can be provided by private vendors

7.9 Operations, Maintenance, and Promotion

7.9.1 Observations and Analyses

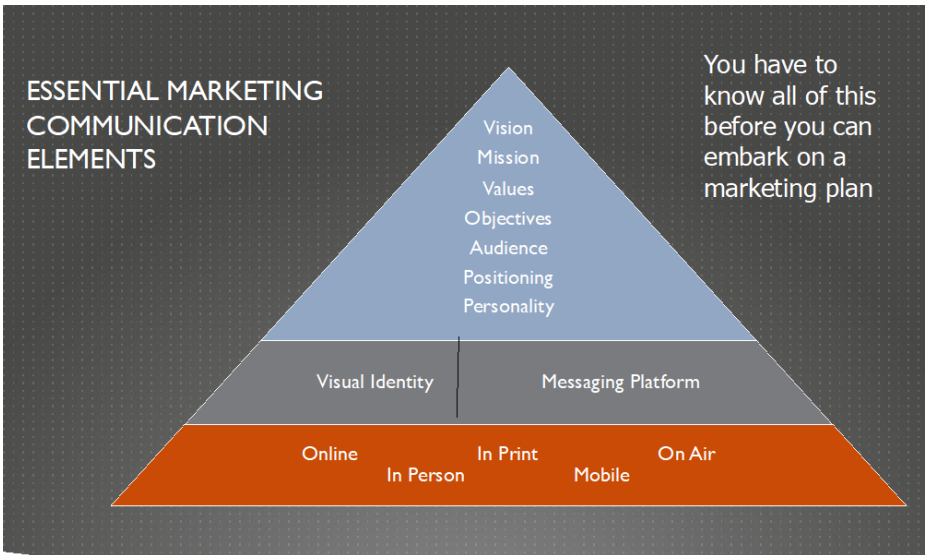
On a per population basis, Westfield employs more full-time equivalent (FTE) staff (8.4 per 10,000 population) than the benchmark median (6.4). Accordingly, Westfield has a lower number of acres of parkland per FTE at 7.1 than the benchmark median of 19.5 due to the smaller amount of parkland. Westfield's expenditures per FTE are lower than the comparisons, as Westfield spends $107,193 per FTE, compared to $115,851 for the benchmark median.

There is a need for a reorganization of staff to improve efficiency of operations. There is a need for a full time, 100% assistant director, year-round. With the numerous partnerships, and the current lack of organizational agreements, there is much work to be done in this area. The current Assistant Director is also the Aquatics Manager. During aquatic season, she is unavailable for other department administration. The aquatic facility is the crown jewel of Westfield and needs superior oversight and should have a separate full-time staff to oversee operations.

The second ranked reason for not using parks and programs was that households do not know what is offered (38%). The town should not be overly criticized for residents' level of knowledge about parks and programs as this is often the answer to this question all around the country. However, it is critically important to create simple and easy fundamental marketing and branding techniques that will enable the staff to promote programs in a simple and efficient manner.

Parks and recreation services are some of the most positive service the town offers. These facilities and services should be well branded to show off and develop a sense of pride in the community. There is a need for consistent signage, with consistent logos, and colors, as well as consistent program marketing materials. Figure 7.1 shows the three elements necessary for a successful marketing campaign. The top section in the figure indicates the identity of the agency. The middle area, containing the visual identity and messaging platform, expresses what brochures, ads, flyers, and media will look like. The bottom provides examples of how the message will be distributed. This figure is meant to be a guide.

Figure 7.1: Essential Marketing Communication Elements



The strategic plan in Chapter 6 defines most of the top element for Westfield Recreation. The middle element then defines the agency's visual identity and messaging platform accordingly. The result must be easy to implement and modify as needed. Standard formatting should be established for all marketing and promotional efforts. Figure 7.2 represents an example of a very simple "one look" that everyone will recognize as the department's messaging platform. The title and images of a standard flyer or brochure can easily be changed within minutes based on what the agency is doing.

The standard event flyer format should include:

- Pictures (at the top and middle)
- Event name (in the front banner)
- When and where (across the middle)
- Sponsors (at the bottom)

Other efforts, like the brochure in Figure 7.3, should employ the same visual identity and messaging platform.

Figure 7.2: Sample Event Flyer

Figure 7.3: Sample Brochure

7.9.2 Recommendations

1. Develop a capital maintenance and replacement program (will require an increased parks and recreation capital budget)
2. Increase maintenance budget to accommodate new facilities and programs
3. Determine the agency's visual identity and messaging platform
4. Identify standard formatting for all marketing and promotional efforts (consider samples provided above) based on this platform
5. Improve website and expand social media presence
6. Expand marketing of programs and facilities to improve awareness of existing and future opportunities
7. Establish and hire an Aquatics Manager separate from the Assistant Director position

7.10 Budget and Funding

The total operating budget (see Table 2.13) for parks and recreation in Westfield for 2018 at $1.7 million is higher than the $1.2 million median of the benchmark municipalities. The per capita operating expenditures for the Town of Westfield of $53 is below the benchmark median of $63. In contrast, generated revenue represents 89% of the Recreation budget, which is above the benchmark median (42%) and upper quartile value (59%). New programs will generate revenue as will any additional rental opportunities. New facilities, such as a recreation center, will generate revenue, although likely not enough to offset its operating costs. Sponsorships (see Section 7.11) can also be utilized to increase cost recovery. The following recommendations can help maintain or even reduce this amount of subsidy, but more importantly adoption of these findings will enable the staff, the administration, and elected officials to understand the complete financial story.

7.10.1 Financial Recommendations

Adoption of a Department Cost Recovery model

As of now, there is no department mandate on the percentage of costs that each program should recover. This amount can vary based on staff and council decisions. As a general rule, programs and events that serve the greater need of the citizens of Westfield will have a higher subsidy by the community than those that provide individual benefits to those participating. This exercise may take years of "continual tweaking," but not having any plan to recover costs and why, makes cost recovery very difficult to manage.

1. Maintain cost recovery at the current level after adding facilities and expanding programs

Gaining Control and an Understanding of Maintenance Costs

The department should know the exact cost to maintain outdoor parks. With regard to athletic fields, the town is typically responsible for the mowing of grassed areas where contracted groups are responsible for infield maintenance and field marking. A maintenance standard should be set by season, and the number of people required to maintain one acre of parkland should be determined using simple math. It is likely that in the future more parkland will be purchased, existing land will be cleared, and more facilities will be developed within future and existing parks. When new parkland is brought into the department, the maintenance costs should be a part of all discussions. This can be done by developing maintenance standards.

2. Determine maintenance standards that identify the number of employees required to maintain one acre of parkland and consider these costs when adding parkland to the system

Consistent Pricing for Programming

It will be important to have programming fees reflect the indirect costs of putting on the program. As department costs increase, these costs need to be explained, and then passed on to the contractors teaching the class.

3. Identify direct and indirect costs of programs and adjust fees accordingly

Agreement Trade for Service Costs

There are inconsistent agreements with various groups that utilize Westfield facilities. Although difficult, it would be optimal if all services provided by the town and contracted groups had a cost associated with the work each are providing.

4. Develop consistent agreements with groups that utilize Westfield facilities that include associated costs

7.10.2 Potential Funding Sources

The days of cities providing all park and recreation services with tax dollars are behind us. Financially sustainable parks and recreation agencies no longer rely on taxes as their only source of revenue generation. The park systems of the future will develop new options to support both operational and capital park and recreation needs. It is recommended that the Town of Westfield start immediately to develop policies on pricing of services (to include cost recovery models) and firm up the vendor and partnership agreements. In addition, the Town of Westfield has a unique opportunity to create facilities, amenities, programs, and events that will enhance economic development.

There are numerous sources that will show ways to fund parks and recreation projects but many of these are very hard to establish and take years to see any results. Examples of some of these ideas include maintenance endowment funds, conservation districts, license tags, transient occupancy tax, income tax, lease backs, real-estate transfer fees, land dedication and/or park impact fees, and park authorities. Although, all of these can be explained and tried, three sources have been identified that can have an immediate impact on the operations of Westfield Recreation.

Formation of a Parks Foundation

With the wealth in the Westfield community, there is a tremendous opportunity to explore the opportunity to start a Parks Foundation. The success of Friends of Mindowaskin Park is evidence of the generosity in Westfield. The foundation will enable for the town and its programs and facilities to be the recipient of these philanthropic funds. There are people in Westfield that have the ability and desire to donate to a parks foundation.

1. Encourage the creation a Westfield Parks Foundation to raise funds and recruit and organize volunteers

Grants and Foundation Application for Funding

Not all grants are beneficial. Some are more work for staff than the grant provides, but most are very positive. The Town of Westfield should constantly be on the lookout for grants that will enhance the park system. Applying to "foundations" for funding is often easier and is accepted at a higher rate. There also are local foundations that like to give to local causes. Grants can come through the federal government, state grant sources, and local sources. Indianapolis, for example, has received over $100 million in foundation grants within the past 20 years from the Lilly Endowment for park related improvements in the town.

Example Grant Sources:

- National Recreation Trails Program
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program
- Community Forest and Open Space Program (Federal)
- Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Grants, (USDA)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (Federal)
- Union County Grants
  - Union County Heart Grant Program (History, Education, and Arts)
  - Union County History Grant Program Special Project Grant (History)
  - Union County Local Arts Grant Program (Arts)
  - Kids Recreation Trust Fund

2. Seek grants and apply to foundations for funding for projects to enhance the park system, consistent with the mission of Recreation with consideration to associated costs to the town

Creating Revenue from Events

The Town of Westfield and its family friendly reputation lends itself to a series of community-wide events that can generate substantial revenue from operations and sponsors.

3. Identify potential revenue sources at community events, including sponsorships and entry fees

Other Funding Sources for Parks, Recreation, and Sports Facility Operations

Below is a general list of ideas that communities have used to supplement costs of operations. Some of these may work, some may not.

- User Fees in line with true costs
- Official Drink for Recreation
- Tournament Fees – When an outside vendor makes money the town should also.
- Concessions – Food Trucks are a perfect alternative in a shared revenue agreement.
- Scoreboard Sponsors
- Parking fees at events
- Field permits when outside groups are not using the fields
- Advertising Sales

- Wi-Fi Revenue through sponsorship if a vendor provides the Wi-Fi
- Cell Tower Leases
- Privatization of various park and recreation programs and services
- Volunteerism – This is an indirect revenue source
- Sports Booster Clubs
- Adopt a trail program
- Adopt an area of a park
- Corporate Sponsorship in exchange for advertising

4. Establish a fee to reserve picnic shelters (as they are developed) for 2-hour increments (with an hour between reservations) to allow additional use of existing facilities
   - This may require the emptying of trash receptacles between rented sessions to provide the level of service expected. If town staff cannot work on weekends, then this service may be outsourced.

7.10.3 Planning for Future Financial Sustainability

For any town, the subject of parks and recreation financial sustainability is a very important issue. The Town of Westfield is doing well, but proper planning should be completed when things are going well to avoid future issues. The following principles provide a framework for future planning.

In order to professionally manage the business elements of the Westfield Recreation Department emphasis should be placed on the Senior Staff to keep financial sustainability in all that is done. The following principles will assist in solid professional financial management.

Fundraising

1. Find dedicated funding sources that can be counted on annually
2. Find philanthropists in the community to support the agency's causes
3. Establish and control a Parks Foundation (see Appendix E: Starting a Park Foundation)

Partnering

4. Develop working agreements with each partner with measurable outcomes and reviewed within a minimum of every two years
5. Do not enter into any agreement unless agency costs are known, both indirect and direct, and know how much investment the partner is bringing to the agreement
6. Never allow private or not-for-profit groups to make money from Westfield facilities unless the town receives a share of the gross revenue
7. Privatize services where capital dollars are insufficient to maintain and operate the facility
8. Have working, signed agreements with all partners

Government Finance

9. Know the value of assets (not including land) and where those assets are in their life cycle
10. Dedicate staff to Business Development to seek grants, establish effective partnerships, create revenue, and develop business plans with staff managing revenue producing facilities
11. Develop an annual revenue plan for Recreation
12. Understand the true costs to deliver services (direct and indirect costs)

Cost Recovery

13. Classify the agency's services by how they fit into the agency's mission
14. Price services furthest away from the mission at full cost recovery levels

Management

15. Stop maintaining features and spaces in the park system that are unused and remove them from the system
16. Train staff
    - Create and implement professional and career development plans for management and supervisory staff
    - Identify and allocate funding for critical staff development opportunities (including conferences, training, memberships, etc.) with consideration to licensure and certification requirements
    - Encourage continued staff training for leadership and continued growth within their respective fields
    - Encourage management level staff to attend professional development programs offered by state, regional, and national training organizations
17. Inform users, partners, and citizens to what the true costs of services are
18. Know the demographics of the citizens that are served
19. Track population trends
20. Control labor costs

7.11 Partnerships and Sponsorships

7.11.1 Observations and Analyses

Partnerships and sponsorships can help reduce costs or provide revenues to help expand parks and recreation opportunities for residents. Stakeholder groups indicated a need for more partnerships. Westfield currently partners with many organizations, including the sports leagues, civic groups, business groups, and more, to offer programs and events in Westfield.

Westfield Recreation partners with athletic leagues for maintenance of sports fields. The department also partners with Friends of Mindowaskin Park for maintenance and programming at Mindowaskin Park. Additional opportunities exist to partner with the Westfield Public Schools and Union County Parks to expand youth programming as described in Section 7.8. The fields on land owned by the schools offer a great opportunity for a partnership between the Town of Westfield and Westfield Public Schools. The schools have the land but lack the resources to improve or maintain the facilities.

There is a strong need to bring current partnerships and vendor agreements to a consistent level and to ensure that all groups offering programs have signed agreements with the town. It appears as if there is great inconsistency with each group that the town contracts for services. This is very difficult to manage in its current state.

7.11.2 Recommendations

1. Treat all vendors, contractors, and partners in a professional, consistent manner with a legal, signed contract containing the following:
    - Name, entity, and address
    - Obligations of each party
    - Terms of the contract
    - Price (if any, and who pays for what)
    - Representations and warranties – (Insurance, who owns what?)
    - Termination of the contract – when and by whom
    - Signed, witnessed, and reviewed periodically
2. Seek opportunities to expand partnerships with local organizations to improve access to recreation facilities and programs

3. Establish policies for accepting sponsorships and selling naming rights
4. Expand efforts toward obtaining sponsors
5. Partner with other organizations, including the Central Jersey Convention and Visitors Bureau and athletic leagues, to bring tournaments to Westfield and for the development of needed facilities
6. Consider opportunities to expand existing partnerships to increase program opportunities and use of facilities
7. Partner with Westfield Public Schools and Union County Parks for nature education programs at Brightwood Park and other passive parks in Westfield
8. Seek partnerships with health providers for the operation and programming of a proposed recreation center and recreation programs offered within
9. Partner with Westfield Public Schools and Union County Parks to improve connectivity between parks, schools, and neighborhoods
10. Collaborate with the Jersey Off Road Bicycle Association (JORBA) for the development and maintenance of mountain bike trails in Brightwood Park
11. Seek a formal agreement with Westfield Public Schools to develop facilities at Edison Intermediate School and the Elm Street Property
12. Partner with Westfield Public Schools to improve and maintain fields at other schools used by athletic leagues in Westfield
13. Prepare a formal, long term agreement with Arena Realty Partners or another entity prior to investing in modifications to the Memorial Park parking lot for the ice rink
14. Expand the partnership with the National Guard Armory for additional program opportunities at that facility
15. Collaborate with other agencies for cross-promotion of facilities and events

8 INDIVIDUAL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Introduction

This chapter details recommendations for improvements to the existing parks and proposed new facilities. These recommendations should be used as a starting point for further discussions with the community, users, and neighbors in the design of the parks. Further investigation of these parks is required to determine their capability to support the desired facilities and to identify the precise arrangement of facilities. This chapter also provides a level of priority for each improvement based on public engagement and steering committee input. The cost estimates for each park are located at the end of this chapter.

8.2 Neighborhood Parks

8.2.1 Gumbert Park

Background

The playground lacks equipment for ages 2-5, and old swings remain that have no safety surface which presents a safety issue. Sidewalks along the street terminate at the park and continue after the park. The Westfield Baseball League indicated that they would like artificial turf on the infields at the park and offered to partner with the town to fund the project. Some nearby residents complained about the presence of the temporary ice rink in the park.

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Lack of age 2-5 equipment at playground, old swings with no surfacing
- Lack of walkways between features
- Limited accessibility (ADA) of facilities and buildings
- Infields difficult to maintain due to heavy use
- No sidewalks in park along road
- Poor condition of trail pavement
- Limited parking near temporary ice rink

Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Add batting cages to improve the baseball complex
2. Resurface existing walking trail
3. Add site and security lighting
4. Add security cameras to improve safety and deter vandalism
5. Add accessible walkways to all features and a sidewalk along the edge of the park
6. Replace dirt infields with artificial turf infields at all three ballfields
7. Add outdoor fitness equipment to provide opportunities for improved community fitness and workout opportunities
8. Add a small picnic shelter
9. Add age 2-5 equipment and replace playground at end of its useful life
10. Remove old swings that lack a safety surface
11. Add support amenities including drinking fountains with bottle fillers, Wi-Fi hotspots, trees, landscaping, site furnishings, and entrance signage
12. Develop a neighborhood feature based on the preferences of the nearby residents as determined through neighborhood outreach

8.2.2 Lincoln School Playground

Background

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Limited accessibility (ADA) of facilities
- No edging at playground
- Limited features
- Park used as dog park, although dogs are not allowed
- Lacks signage identifying as town park

Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Add site and security lighting
2. Replace playground and upgrade surfacing and edging
3. Add accessible walkways to all features
4. Develop a half basketball court to provide an additional feature at this park and to expand access to these facilities in Westfield
5. Add support amenities including a drinking fountain with bottle filler, trees, landscaping, site furnishings, and entrance signage
6. Develop a neighborhood feature based on the preferences of the nearby residents as determined through neighborhood outreach

8.2.3 Sycamore Field

Background

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Lack and condition of walkways – not accessible
- Age and condition of playground, no edging
- Condition of field turf

- Limited accessibility (ADA)
- Lacks perimeter trail
- No off-street parking

Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Improve turf and regrade the field for athletic teams that use the facility
2. Add site and security lighting
3. Replace playground and provide unique features
4. Add accessible walkways to all features
5. Add outdoor fitness equipment to provide opportunities for improved community fitness and workout opportunities
6. Add a small picnic shelter to provide a community gathering space
7. Develop a 10' wide paved perimeter trail with connections to Boynton Ave and Sycamore St
8. Add support amenities including a drinking fountain with bottle filler, trees, landscaping, site furnishings, and entrance signage
9. Develop a neighborhood feature based on the preferences of the nearby residents as determined through neighborhood outreach

8.2.4 Windsor Park

Background

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Lack walkways between features
- Age and condition of playground, no edging and insufficient surfacing
- Limited accessibility (ADA)
- Lacks features
- Poor condition of fencing

Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Add site and security lighting
2. Replace playground with separate age 2-5 and age 5-12 equipment and provide unique features, safety surfacing, and edging
3. Add accessible walkways to all features
4. Add a small picnic shelter to provide a community gathering space
5. Add support amenities including drinking fountain with bottle filler, trees, landscaping, site furnishings, and entrance signage
6. Develop a neighborhood feature based on the preferences of the nearby residents as determined through neighborhood outreach

8.3 Community Parks

8.3.1 Memorial Park

Background

Memorial Park is the third most visited park in Westfield (42% of households) after Tamaques and Mindowaskin Parks. Nearly the same percentage (41%) reported using Memorial Pool, indicating that nearly all visitors of

the park also use the pool. In addition to the pool, the park features a playground, tennis courts, and athletic fields. Some features lack accessible walkways, and the park has no perimeter trail. Additionally, Memorial Park is adjacent to Brookside Park and the Brookside Nature Trail, but no connections to these adjacent facilities exist. As noted in Chapter 7 (Section 7.2), Memorial Pool needs some improvements. According to the surveys, Westfield residents are generally supportive of improvements to the pool, although they do not rate them as a high priority. The fields at Memorial Park present the best opportunity to add artificial turf fields within Westfield Parks due to the size of the field space, the location of the park, and its high level of development.

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Lack of walkways between features
- Limited accessibility (ADA) of facilities
- Lack of separate age 2-5 equipment at playground, insufficient surfacing and no edging
- Insufficient parking
- No lights at tennis courts, fencing on eastern 3 courts
- No trails in park
- Not connected to adjacent Brookside Park or Brookside Nature Trail

Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Develop a Park Master Plan to better determine which features will be included as well as their precise arrangement and location
2. Add site and security lighting
3. Expand the east parking lot (approximately 20 spaces)
4. Remove Islands and regrade the west parking lot to accommodate the temporary ice rink (after a partnership agreement)
5. Develop a 10' wide paved perimeter trail with a connection to Brookside Park (Scotch Plains)
6. Add accessible walkways to all features
7. Add field lighting for all four diamond fields and the rectangular fields within
8. Upgrade fields to artificial turf (all four existing diamond fields) with lining for 1 large or 2 smaller multipurpose rectangular fields
9. Replace and upgrade backstops when fields are upgraded to artificial turf
10. Add scoreboards for all fields
11. Add outdoor fitness equipment to provide opportunities for improved community fitness and workout opportunities
12. Develop a picnic shelter near the playground to provide a rental facility and a gathering space for park users, including sports teams
13. Add security cameras to improve safety and deter vandalism
14. Replace tennis court fencing at the eastern courts and add lighting at all courts
15. Add a natural surface trail behind the ballfields with a connection to Brookside Nature Trail that runs along the southern boundary of the park
16. Replace the playground at the end of its useful life with a large all access playground
17. Complete needed accessibility improvements and repairs at Memorial Pool
18. Replace the playground within the Memorial Pool fence
19. Monitor chemical controllers (completed), filters and pumps and replace when needed
20. Consider adding a bubble over the lap/diving pool with a heater and a new restroom and filter building to provide year-round aquatic access at Memorial Pool

Figure 8.1: Memorial Park Concept Plan

Figure 8.2: Tamaques Park Concept Plan

21. Monitor demands for a new aquatic feature at Memorial Pool (e.g., lazy river, lazy river falls, zip line)
22. Add support amenities including a drinking fountain with bottle filler, Wi-Fi hotspots, trees, landscaping, site furnishings, and entrance signage (main and secondary)

Concept Plan

The concept plan for Memorial Park can be seen in Figure 8.1. The concept shows the field space upgraded to artificial turf with a perimeter trail around the fields and connecting to park amenities. The concept also shows a nature trail in the northern portion of the park. The central portion of the park shows the reconfigured parking lot with the temporary ice rink. This location would allow use of some of the parking space at that parking lot in addition to the entire east parking lot.

8.3.2 Tamaques Park

Background

Tamaques Park is the largest and most visited park in Westfield. Most households in Westfield (82%) reported visiting the park in the past year. Tamaques Park has the widest variety of features of any park in town, including athletic fields, trails, playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, natural areas, and more. Residents of Westfield value this park and want to preserve the character of the park. As a result, many oppose the development of features such as artificial turf fields and a three-story field house that might detract from the character of the park. The park also contains natural features, including streams and wetlands, that limited development potential.

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Lack of walkways and accessibility to facilities
- Lack of signage at secondary entrances
- Lack of storage
- Condition of picnic shelter
- Condition of shuffleboard courts
- 2-5 age and 5-12 age equipment at different locations
- Poor condition of cabins/restroom in north portion of park – not open to public
- Field conditions due to heavy use
- Underutilized natural area
- Trail maintenance
- Insufficient parking
- Floodplain and wetland areas
- Desire by public to keep balance of passive and active elements

Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Develop a Park Master Plan update to better determine which features will be included as well as their precise arrangement and location
2. Perform a wetland delineation study to determine the location of these sensitive environmental resources within the park (in progress)
3. Add site and security lighting
4. Add accessible walkways to all features
5. Improve and preserve the cross-country course (surfacing/markers/signage)
6. Add a dog park in the north wooded portion of the park where many visitors currently let dogs run off-leash

7. Improve turf, regrade, and improve drainage at all fields
8. Add a dock at the pond
9. Replace and widen the footbridge (10' wide) into the wooded area in the northern part of the park
10. Add a left turn lane at the main entrance to improve safety and reduce traffic as users exit the park after events
11. Add a secondary vehicular entrance from Lamberts Mill Road across from the Conservation Center to reduce traffic on the main park road
12. Resurface existing parking lots and park road/trail
13. Add two pickleball courts at the former shuffleboard area
14. Add outdoor fitness equipment to provide opportunities for improved community fitness and workout opportunities at the former shuffleboard area
15. Renovate the restroom building near the tennis courts
16. Expand parking throughout the park
17. Upgrade and replace the existing natural surface trail in the eastern wooded portion of the park to improve definition and safety after the completion of the wetland delineation study
18. Resurface existing paved path in the north wooded area
19. Resurface existing unpaved path (cinders) around the main develop park area
20. Relocate basketball court and add a cover to accommodate expanded parking
21. Provide bean bag toss near new picnic shelters
22. Develop a field house for wrestling, cheerleading, meeting space, and storage
23. Add a nature playscape (near the large picnic shelter)
24. Develop several picnic shelters of various sizes throughout the park to provide gathering and event spaces for Westfield residents
25. Develop a year-round rental/meeting facility with glass garage style doors overlooking the pond
26. Add a new restroom building near the north wooded area to serve the new picnic shelters
27. Add security cameras to improve safety and deter vandalism
28. Develop interpretive signage throughout the site (will require a signage plan)
29. Provide wayfinding signage at multiple locations to assist visitors in locating features
30. Add lights to a field on the eastern side of the park (farthest from neighbors)
31. Replace the playground at the end of its useful life with a large all access playground
32. Partner with a local disc golf association to add disc golf in locations that minimize conflict with other park users
33. Add support amenities including drinking fountains with bottle fillers, Wi-Fi hotspots, trees, landscaping, site furnishings, and entrance signage (main and secondary)

Concept Plan

The concept plan for Tamaques Park can be seen in Figure 8.2. The concept shows the potential location of the dog park in the north wooded area. Most of the trees could be preserved as only a fence is needed around the perimeter and to separate large and small dogs. The wooded area also shown the potential location of picnic shelters and a nature playscape. The improved nature trail is shown next to the dog park. A restroom building is shown just on the other side of the bridge which would also serve the adjacent outdoor fitness equipment, pickleball courts, and picnic shelter.

Potential rental facility overlooking pond

Two new structures with indoor space are shown in the concept. A proposed rental/meeting facility with glass garage style doors would overlook the pond and provide a location for year-round rentals, meetings, and events. This building could be constructed with garage-style doors that would open during nice weather and could be designed to match the natural character of the park (see example to the right). The field house is shown behind the parking lot in the area that previously housed a shooting range and currently contains large amounts of trash and undesirable tree species. This building would only be a single story and tucked behind the parking should not detract from the park's character.

A secondary entrance is shown from Lamberts Mill Road that would connect directly with expanded parking to help reduce traffic on the park road. A potential redevelopment area is shown to the northeast of the new entrance, which could offer additional park features in the future. Field lights are indicated for the two diamond fields closest to this entrance, which would also allow for a lighted multipurpose rectangular field in the outfield.

8.4 Special Use Parks

8.4.1 Town Hall Community Room

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- In use every day, no room for additional programs
- Basement room is not ADA accessible.

Because the community room is at capacity, additional indoor space is needed and recommended at other parks in Westfield. An elevator is necessary to make the basement room accessible but is not feasible.

8.4.2 Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields

Background

Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields is the home the town's two existing artificial turf fields. The fields are heavily used but lack restrooms and do not have enough parking. Users reported concerns about traffic safety on busy days.

Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Add site and security lighting
2. Add accessible walkways to all features
3. Expand the parking lot and add a second entrance
4. Add security cameras to improve safety and deter vandalism
5. Add a restroom building with storage
6. Add support amenities including a drinking fountain with bottle filler, Wi-Fi hotspots, trees, landscaping, site furnishings, and entrance signage

Concept Plan

The concept plan for Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields can be seen in Figure 8.3. The concept shows an expanded parking lot with a restroom building near the entrance to the fields. The expanded parking offers a second entrance and 77 more spaces than are currently offered for a total of 121 spaces.

Figure 8.3: Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields Concept Plan

Figure 8.4: Brightwood Park Concept Plan

Wetland

8.5 Natural Areas/Open Space

8.5.1 Brightwood Park

Background

Brightwood Park provides over 40 acres of natural area in northwestern Westfield. Nearly 20% of households reported visiting the park of the past year despite the limited number of features. Improvements to the park would attract users to visit more often and would provide more amenities in an area of Westfield with lower levels of service to park. Improvements should be limited to passive features that do not detract from the existing character of the park.

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Lack of signage at secondary entrance
- Limited accessibility
- Underutilized
- Condition of parking lot
- Trail definition and maintenance
- Lack of educational amenities
- Lack of features
- Invasive species
- Wetland areas

Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Develop a Park Master Plan to better determine which features will be included as well as their precise arrangement and location
2. Upgrade the park to a Nature Park to provide improved access to nature, additional and improve passive amenities, and a venue for nature programs
3. Add site and security lighting
4. Develop a nature play area consistent with the passive setting of the park
5. Resurface the existing parking lot
6. Selectively clear vegetation along the edge of the pond to improve the viewshed
7. Improve the existing path around the pond with a crushed stone surface
8. Add bird blinds along the walking path
9. Add a fishing dock and kayak/canoe launch to provide opportunities for visitors at access and utilize the pond for recreation
10. Add outdoor fitness equipment to provide opportunities for improved community fitness and workout opportunities
11. Add a picnic shelter to provide gathering space with access to nature
12. Add security cameras to improve safety and deter vandalism
13. Develop an interpretive and educational shelter to provide a venue for nature programs
14. Add a restroom building to support programming and events at the park
15. Provide interpretive signage along trails for educational purposes and to highlight natural features of the park (will require a signage plan)
16. Provide wayfinding signage at multiple locations to assist visitors in locating features

17. Partner with Jersey Off Road Bicycle Association (JORBA) to develop a mountain bike trail in the underutilized space to the east of the pond which offers desirable topography for this type of facility
18. Add support amenities including a drinking fountain with bottle filler, Wi-Fi hotspots, trees, landscaping, site furnishings, and entrance signage (main and secondary)

Concept Plan

The concept plan for Brightwood Park can be seen in Figure 8.4. The concept shows the park largely remaining in its current natural state with a few additional features that will help users enjoy the natural environment offered at the site. A fishing dock and boat launch is shown to the east of the resurfaced parking lot to provide better access to the pond. Most of the new features, including the restroom building shelters, nature play area, and fitness equipment, would be located near the end of the parking lot. The mountain bike trail, which would also permit hiking, is shown in the eastern and southern portions of the site. Bike access in the park would be limited to the portions of the main trails needed to access the mountain bike trails.

8.5.2 Clark Memorial Park

Background

Clark Memorial Park currently lacks features, offering only a small gazebo in an 8-acre park. The park is required to remain passive as a condition of the acquisition. However, passive features can help meet the recreational needs of residents, while maintaining the character of the site. No athletic fields should be added to this park.

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- No sign to identify as a town park
- Condition of gazebo
- No sidewalks along W Dudley Ave
- Lack of features
- Park required to remain passive

Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Develop a Park Master Plan to determine arrangement and location of features
2. Upgrade Clark Memorial Park to a passive Neighborhood Park to fill service gaps for park facilities in this portion of Westfield
3. Add site and security lighting
4. Add accessible walkways to all features
5. Develop community gardens to provide plots for residents without space for gardens at home as well as educational and social opportunities
6. Develop a small nature play area to provide a passive recreational area for children
7. Add outdoor fitness equipment to provide opportunities for improved community fitness and workout opportunities
8. Add a picnic shelter to provide gathering space for residents
9. Develop interpretive signage throughout the site (will require a signage plan)
10. Develop a 10' wide paved perimeter trail with connection to Roosevelt Intermediate School and its existing trail
11. Develop a passive neighborhood feature based on the preferences of the nearby residents as determined through neighborhood outreach
12. Add support amenities including a drinking fountain with bottle filler, trees, landscaping, site furnishings, and entrance signage

Figure 8.5: Edison Intermediate School Concept Plan

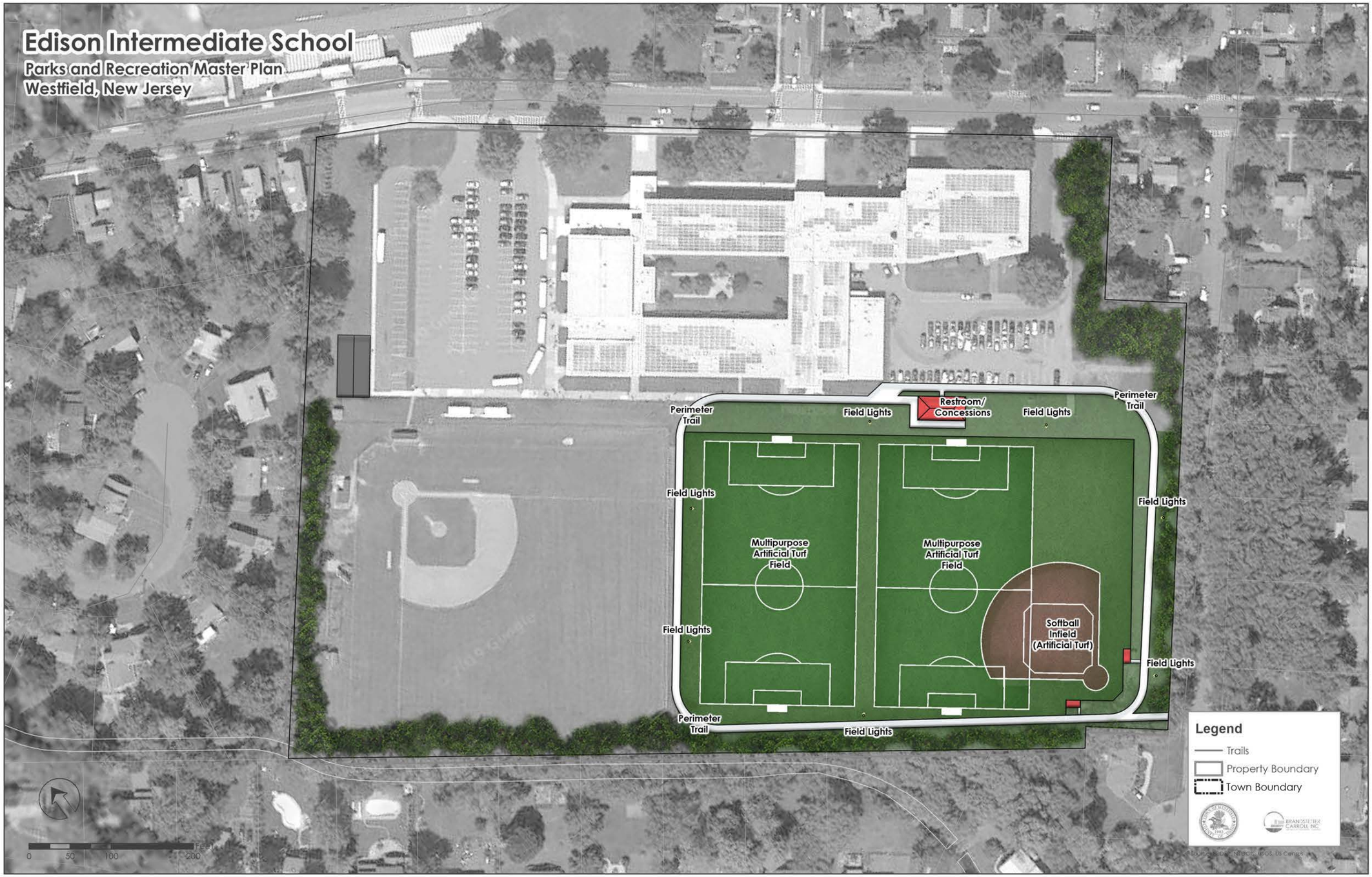


Figure 8.6: Elm Street Property Concept Plan

8.5.3 Dunham Avenue Bird Sanctuary

Background

Many residents indicated that they were unaware of the Dunham Avenue Bird Sanctuary, and only 2% reported visiting the park over the past year. The town recently added a sign at the main entrance on Summit Avenue.

Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Add bird blinds to aid in birdwatching
2. Develop interpretive signage throughout the site (will require a signage plan)
3. Add support amenities including site furnishings and secondary entrance signage

8.5.4 Mindowaskin Park

Background

Mindowaskin Park is the second most visited park in Westfield with nearly three quarters or households reporting visiting in the past year. The Friends of Mindowaskin Park is a non-profit organization devoted to improving, maintaining, and promoting the park. Despite their efforts, the park still needs some improvements.

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Trails/walkways cracking, need resurfacing
- No ADA parking
- Gazebo not ADA compliant
- No signage at some entrances

Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Add fencing around the playground as requested by users
2. Replace ramp to the gazebo to meet ADA standards
3. Add site and security lighting at playground
4. Add ADA parking spaces at parking lot by the playground
5. Replace and widen trails and walkways throughout the park (in progress)
6. Prepare a tree replacement program for the park
7. Add charging stations at seating areas
8. Add outdoor fitness equipment near the playground to provide opportunities for improved community fitness and workout opportunities
9. Develop pocket park elements
10. Add security cameras to improve safety and deter vandalism
11. Develop a plan to mitigate streambank erosion
12. Provide interpretive signage along trails for educational purposes and to highlight historic features of the park (will require a signage plan)
13. Add support amenities including a drinking fountain with bottle filler, Wi-Fi hotspots, trees, landscaping, site furnishings, and secondary entrance signage

8.6 School Parks

Development of the facilities at the school sites below will require the purchase of the land or a formal partnership with Westfield Public Schools, including a lease agreement, or both. Partnerships will also be required at the early phases of the process in order to develop master plans for development.

8.6.1 Edison Intermediate School

Background

Edison Intermediate School has a large field space behind the school that is utilized by both school teams and recreational leagues. The space is large enough to offer more fields than are currently available. The condition of the fields also needs to be improved.

Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Develop a Park Master Plan to better determine which features will be included as well as their precise arrangement and location
2. Develop two full-sized artificial turf multipurpose rectangular turf fields with lights and scoreboards
    - While the schools may not have a need for the field lights, they will be necessary for other groups to secure enough field time to justify the expenditure by the Town of Westfield.
3. Add site and security lighting
4. Add accessible walkways to all features
5. Relocate or replace the batting cages to make room for the proposed fields
6. Add a restroom, concessions, and storage building
7. Add security cameras to improve safety and deter vandalism
8. Develop a 10' wide paved perimeter trail around the field area
9. Add accessible walkways to all features
10. Add support amenities including a drinking fountain with bottle filler, Wi-Fi hotspots, trees, landscaping, site furnishings, and secondary entrance signage (main and secondary)

Concept Plan

The concept plan for Edison Intermediate School can be seen in Figure 8.5. The concept shows two artificial turf fields in the area that is currently used for the JV baseball field and the practice football field. The whole area would have artificial turf and would be lighted. A perimeter trail surrounds the fields and connects to a new restroom and concessions building. The varsity baseball field is undisturbed except for the relocation of the batting cages.

8.6.2 Elm Street Property

Background

The Elm Street Property is an underutilize site right in the heart of Westfield. The property currently offers a multipurpose rectangular field and tennis courts that are in poor condition. The property has the potential to offer much more and is easily accessible for most residents.

Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Develop a Park Master Plan to better determine which features will be included as well as their precise arrangement and location
2. Develop the Elm Street Property as a Neighborhood Park with a variety of features needed in Westfield
3. Develop a full-sized artificial turf multipurpose rectangular field with lights and a scoreboard
4. Add site and security lighting

5. Add accessible walkways to all features
6. Develop of parking lot for park visitors
7. Develop four pickleball courts to meet the growing demand for this sport
8. Add security cameras to improve safety and deter vandalism
9. Develop an amphitheater to accommodate concerts and special events
10. Develop a skatepark that could potentially incorporate the amphitheater to provide a larger skating area
11. Include a small playground to provide activities for all ages of park users
12. Develop a restroom building near the amphitheater and skatepark
13. Add support amenities including a drinking fountain with bottle filler, Wi-Fi hotspots, trees, landscaping, site furnishings, and secondary entrance signage (main and secondary)

Concept Plan

The concept plan for the Elm Street Property can be seen in Figure 8.6. The artificial turf field covers most of the site, but the concept shows that there would still be room for a parking lot with 58 spaces, four pickleball courts, a playground, a skatepark, and an amphitheater. The location of the skatepark adjacent to the amphitheater would allow it to be incorporated into the skatepark when not in use for events, increasing the utility of the facility. This park would meet many of the unmet facility needs in Westfield in an easily accessible location.

8.7 New Parks

Opportunities for new parks are limited in Westfield; however, if land because available in an underserved part of the community, the town should consider acquisition to improve access to parks and facilities. The text below outlines the features that should be included in the development of new parks in Westfield. The development of any new park should be preceded by the preparation of a detailed master plan for the property that utilizes community input.

8.7.1 New Neighborhood Parks (Long-Term)

Optimally, a Neighborhood Park should be a minimum of 8 to 10 acres in size. The elements listed below should be included when developing a new Neighborhood Park. As noted in Chapter 5, some parts of Westfield have low levels of service, including the northern portion of the town.

Typical Neighborhood Park Elements include:

- Small playground
- ½ basketball court
- Gathering area/small picnic shelter with seating
- Small walking trail
- Good circulation – walkways/ADA access
- Landscaping
- Trees for shade
- Security/lighting
- Athletic field – open play/practice if space allows
- Neighborhood determined feature
- Small parking lot
- Entrance signage

8.8 Park Improvement Costs

The cost estimates for park improvements are presented in Table 8.1. These cost estimates include new park development and follow-up planning studies. The total cost for all improvements will depend on which of the recommendations are ultimately implemented. However, the total cost for the projects described in this chapter comes to just under $42 million. Land acquisition for new parks is not included in these estimates.

Construction items include a 20% contingency and 12% for design, survey, and bidding. Grant opportunities exist and should be explored for many of these improvements, particularly trail system development, helping to reduce the required contributions by the Town of Westfield. Additionally, partnerships, including fundraising, should be considered as part of any improvement, particularly those with substantial capital costs.

Table 8.1: Capital Improvement Projects Cost Estimates

	Park Name	Term	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Total
	Neighborhood Parks		Total	Total	Total	
	Gumbert Park					
1	Lighting - Security	Short	$64,000	$0	$0	$64,000
2	Batting Cages	Short	$31,000	$0	$0	$31,000
3	Site Furnishings (Benches/Trash Receptacles/Dog Waste Stations/Bike Racks)	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
4	Trail Resurfacing	Short	$23,000	$0	$0	$23,000
5	Walkways (ADA) - 6' Wide	Short	$23,000	$0	$0	$23,000
6	Trees and Landscaping	Short	$20,000	$0	$0	$20,000
7	Drinking Fountains with Bottle Filler (2)	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
8	Security Cameras	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
9	Signage - Main Entry	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
10	Artificial Turf Infields (3)	Medium	$0	$503,000	$0	$503,000
11	Playground Replacement	Medium	$0	$134,000	$0	$134,000
12	Picnic Shelter (Small)	Medium	$0	$54,000	$0	$54,000
13	Outdoor Fitness/Gym/Workout Equipment	Medium	$0	$27,000	$0	$27,000
14	Neighborhood Determined Feature (TBD)	Long	$0	$0	$54,000	$54,000
	Project Total		**$227,000**	**$718,000**	**$54,000**	**$999,000**
	Lincoln School Playground					
1	Playground Replacement with new surfacing and edging	Short	$235,000	$0	$0	$235,000
2	Walkways (ADA) - 6' Wide	Short	$28,000	$0	$0	$28,000
3	Lighting - Security	Short	$21,000	$0	$0	$21,000
4	Trees and Landscaping	Short	$20,000	$0	$0	$20,000
5	Drinking Fountain with Bottle Filler	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
6	Signage - Main Entry	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
7	Site Furnishings (Benches/Trash Receptacles/Bike Racks)	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
8	Neighborhood Determined Feature (TBD)	Long	$0	$0	$54,000	$54,000
9	Basketball - Half Court	Long	$0	$0	$20,000	$20,000
	Project Total		**$343,000**	**$0**	**$74,000**	**$417,000**
	Sycamore Field					
1	Playground Replacement	Short	$168,000	$0	$0	$168,000
2	Field Improvement - Turf and Regrading	Short	$80,000	$0	$0	$80,000
3	Lighting - Security	Short	$54,000	$0	$0	$54,000
4	Site Furnishings (Benches/Trash Receptacles/Dog Waste Stations/Bike Racks)	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
5	Trees and Landscaping	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
6	Walkways (ADA) - 6' Wide	Short	$23,000	$0	$0	$23,000
7	Drinking Fountain with Bottle Filler	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
8	Signage - Main Entry	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
9	Picnic Shelter (Small)	Medium	$0	$107,000	$0	$107,000
10	Trail - Perimeter - 10' Wide (Connections to Boynton Ave and Sycamore St)	Medium	$0	$70,000	$0	$70,000
11	Outdoor Fitness/Gym/Workout Equipment	Medium	$0	$13,000	$0	$13,000
12	Neighborhood Determined Feature (TBD)	Long	$0	$0	$54,000	$54,000
	Project Total		**$405,000**	**$190,000**	**$54,000**	**$649,000**
	Windsor Park					
1	Playground Replacement	Short	$168,000	$0	$0	$168,000
2	Walkways (ADA) - 6' Wide	Short	$23,000	$0	$0	$23,000
3	Site Furnishings (Benches/Trash Receptacles/Dog Waste Stations/Bike Racks)	Short	$20,000	$0	$0	$20,000
4	Trees and Landscaping	Short	$20,000	$0	$0	$20,000
5	Lighting - Security	Short	$16,000	$0	$0	$16,000
6	Drinking Fountain with Bottle Filler	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
7	Signage - Main Entry	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
8	Neighborhood Determined Feature (TBD)	Medium	$0	$54,000	$0	$54,000
9	Picnic Shelter (Small)	Medium	$0	$54,000	$0	$54,000
	Project Total		**$273,000**	**$108,000**	**$0**	**$381,000**

Table 8.1: Capital Improvement Projects Cost Estimates (Continued)

	Park Name	Term	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Total
	Community Parks					
	Memorial Park					
1	Park Master Plan	Short	$50,000	$0	$0	$50,000
2	Pickleball Lining (Complete)	Short	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	Field Lighting	Short	$670,000	$0	$0	$670,000
4	Paving - West Parking Lot - Remove Islands and Regrade for Temporary Ice Rink	Short	$258,000	$0	$0	$258,000
5	Trail - Perimeter with Connection to Brookside Park (Scotch Plains) - 10' Wide	Short	$150,000	$0	$0	$150,000
6	Walkways (ADA) - 6' Wide	Short	$75,000	$0	$0	$75,000
7	Lighting - Security	Short	$64,000	$0	$0	$64,000
8	Trees and Landscaping	Short	$47,000	$0	$0	$47,000
9	Site Furnishings (Benches/Trash Receptacles/Dog Waste Stations/Bike Racks)	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
10	Paving - East Parking Lot - Expansion (12 Space)	Short	$14,000	$0	$0	$14,000
11	Signage - Main Entry	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
12	Signage - Secondary Entry	Short	$7,000	$0	$0	$7,000
13	Artificial Turf Fields with Lights (All 4 Existing Fields) - Lining for 1 Large or 2 Smaller Fields	Medium	$0	$1,717,000	$0	$1,717,000
14	Backstops (4)	Medium	$0	$134,000	$0	$134,000
15	Picnic Shelter - Medium (Near Playground)	Medium	$0	$101,000	$0	$101,000
16	Trail - Natural Surface - Behind Ballfields (Connect to Brookside Nature Trail)	Medium	$0	$34,000	$0	$34,000
17	Scoreboards (4)	Medium	$0	$32,000	$0	$32,000
18	Tennis Court Fencing (East Courts)	Medium	$0	$32,000	$0	$32,000
19	Drinking Fountain with Bottle Filler	Medium	$0	$27,000	$0	$27,000
20	Security Cameras	Medium	$0	$27,000	$0	$27,000
21	Outdoor Fitness/Gym/Workout Equipment	Medium	$0	$13,000	$0	$13,000
22	Tennis Court Lighting	Medium	$0	$11,000	$0	$11,000
23	Playground Replacement - All Access	Long	$0	$0	$268,000	$268,000
	Memorial Pool Improvements					
24	Playground Replacement	Short	$268,000	$0	$0	$268,000
25	Retaining Wall and Railing Repair	Short	$101,000	$0	$0	$101,000
26	Walkways to the Playground	Short	$14,000	$0	$0	$14,000
27	Add toe guard on 50' of ramp	Short	$7,000	$0	$0	$7,000
28	Add safety railing on one side of ramp	Short	$5,000	$0	$0	$5,000
29	Concession Area Light Replacement	Short	$5,000	$0	$0	$5,000
30	New Chemical Controllers (Completed)	Medium	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
31	Replace Filters and Pumps	Medium		$335,000	$0	$335,000
32	Bubble over Lap/Diving Pool	Long		$0	$670,000	$670,000
33	Pool Heater	Long		$0	$161,000	$161,000
34	New Restroom/Filter Building	Long		$0	$536,000	$536,000
35	New Feature (E.g., Lazy River, Lazy River Falls, Zip Line)	Long		$0	$670,000	$670,000
	Project Total		**$1,775,000**	**$2,463,000**	**$2,305,000**	**$6,543,000**
	Tamaques Park					
1	Park Master Plan Update	Short	$75,000	$0	$0	$75,000
2	Walkways (ADA) - 6' Wide	Short	$657,000	$0	$0	$657,000
3	Field Improvement - Turf and Regrading/Drainage	Short	$201,000	$0	$0	$201,000
4	Paving - Parking Lot Resurfacing	Short	$154,000	$0	$0	$154,000
5	Dog Park	Short	$134,000	$0	$0	$134,000
6	Restroom Renovation near Tennis Courts	Short	$134,000	$0	$0	$134,000
7	Trail - Natural Surface - New/Renovation throughout Natural Area (Improve Definition)	Short	$134,000	$0	$0	$134,000
8	Pickleball Courts (2 Courts at Shuffleboard)	Short	$107,000	$0	$0	$107,000
9	Site Furnishings (Benches/Trash Receptacles/Dog Waste Stations/Bike Racks)	Short	$67,000	$0	$0	$67,000
10	Trees and Landscaping	Short	$67,000	$0	$0	$67,000
11	Outdoor Fitness/Gym/Workout Equipment (Former Shuffleboard Area)	Short	$54,000	$0	$0	$54,000
12	Dock	Short	$34,000	$0	$0	$34,000
13	Footbridge - 10' Wide to Wooded Area	Short	$34,000	$0	$0	$34,000
14	Trail Improvements - Existing Paved Path in North Wooded Area	Short	$34,000	$0	$0	$34,000
15	Cross-Country Course Improvements - Surfacing/Markers/Signage	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
16	Drinking Fountain with Bottle Filler	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
17	Signage - Main Entry (2)	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
18	Signage - Secondary Entry (3)	Short	$20,000	$0	$0	$20,000
19	Left Turn Lane at Main Entrance	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
20	Field House - Wrestling & Cheerleading Area/Football Storage & Meeting Area/Restrooms	Medium	$0	$2,948,000	$0	$2,948,000
21	Rental/Meeting Facility Overlooking Pond (Year Round with Glass Garage Style Doors)	Medium	$0	$402,000	$0	$402,000
22	Lighting - Security	Medium	$0	$375,000	$0	$375,000
23	Paving - Parking Lot Expansion	Medium	$0	$322,000	$0	$322,000
24	Restroom Building - New (Near Picnic Shelter and Bridge)	Medium	$0	$268,000	$0	$268,000
25	Basketball Court Relocation with Cover	Medium	$0	$201,000	$0	$201,000
26	Picnic Shelters - Medium (2)	Medium	$0	$201,000	$0	$201,000
27	Paving - Secondary Entrance from Lamberts Mill Rd.	Medium	$0	$134,000	$0	$134,000
28	Picnic Shelters - Large	Medium	$0	$134,000	$0	$134,000
29	Nature Playscape (Near Picnic Shelter)	Medium	$0	$67,000	$0	$67,000

Table 8.1: Capital Improvement Projects Cost Estimates (Continued)

	Park Name	Term	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Total
30	Security Cameras	Medium	$0	$34,000	$0	$34,000
31	Disc Golf - 18 Holes	Medium	$0	$24,000	$0	$24,000
32	Signage - Interpretive with Signage Plan	Medium	$0	$20,000	$0	$20,000
33	Signage - Wayfinding	Medium	$0	$20,000	$0	$20,000
34	Drinking Fountains with Bottle Filler (2)	Medium	$0	$13,000	$0	$13,000
35	Bean Bag Toss near Picnic Shelters	Medium	$0	$1,000	$0	$1,000
36	Paving - Trail/Road Resurfacing	Long	$0	$0	$290,000	$290,000
37	Playground Replacement - All Access	Long	$0	$0	$168,000	$168,000
38	Field Lighting	Long	$0	$0	$134,000	$134,000
39	Trail Improvements - Existing Unpaved Path (Cinders)	Long	$0	$0	$115,000	$115,000
	Project Total		**$2,000,000**	**$5,164,000**	**$707,000**	**$7,871,000**
Special Use Parks						
Town Hall Community Room						
1	No improvements recommended		$0	$0	$0	$0
	Project Total		**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields						
1	Paving - Parking Lot Expansion	Short	$177,000	$0	$0	$177,000
2	Lighting - Security	Short	$75,000	$0	$0	$75,000
3	Trees and Landscaping	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
4	Security Cameras	Short	$20,000	$0	$0	$20,000
5	Walkways (ADA) - 6' Wide	Short	$19,000	$0	$0	$19,000
6	Drinking Fountain with Bottle Filler	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
7	Signage - Main Entry	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
8	Restroom Building with Storage	Medium	$0	$402,000	$0	$402,000
	Project Total		**$344,000**	**$402,000**	**$0**	**$746,000**
Natural Areas/Open Space						
Brightwood Park						
1	Park Master Plan	Short	$50,000	$0	$0	$50,000
2	Trail Improvements - Existing Path Around Pond - Crushed Stone Surface	Short	$84,000	$0	$0	$84,000
3	Lighting - Security	Short	$64,000	$0	$0	$64,000
4	Paving - Parking Lot Resurfacing	Short	$56,000	$0	$0	$56,000
5	Trees and Landscaping	Short	$40,000	$0	$0	$40,000
6	Site Furnishings (Benches/Trash Receptacles/Dog Waste Stations/Bike Racks)	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
7	Signage - Main Entry	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
8	Selective Clearing of Vegetation to Improve Viewshed of Pond	Short	$7,000	$0	$0	$7,000
9	Signage - Secondary Entry	Short	$7,000	$0	$0	$7,000
10	Trail - Natural Surface/Mountain Bike (East of Pond)	Medium	$0	$221,000	$0	$221,000
11	Shelter - Educational with Interpretive Displays	Medium	$0	$168,000	$0	$168,000
12	Picnic Shelters - Medium	Medium	$0	$101,000	$0	$101,000
13	Kayak/Canoe Launch	Medium	$0	$67,000	$0	$67,000
14	Fishing Dock	Medium	$0	$54,000	$0	$54,000
15	Nature Play Area	Medium	$0	$54,000	$0	$54,000
16	Outdoor Fitness/Gym/Workout Equipment	Medium	$0	$34,000	$0	$34,000
17	Drinking Fountains with Bottle Filler	Medium	$0	$20,000	$0	$20,000
18	Signage - Interpretive with Signage Plan	Medium	$0	$20,000	$0	$20,000
19	Bird Blinds	Medium	$0	$16,000	$0	$16,000
20	Security Cameras	Medium	$0	$13,000	$0	$13,000
21	Signage - Wayfinding	Medium	$0	$7,000	$0	$7,000
	Project Total		**$348,000**	**$775,000**	**$0**	**$1,123,000**
Clark Memorial Park						
1	Park Master Plan	Short	$25,000	$0	$0	$25,000
2	Trees and Landscaping	Short	$34,000	$0	$0	$34,000
3	Lighting - Security	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
4	Site Furnishings (Benches/Trash Receptacles/Dog Waste Stations/Bike Racks)	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
5	Drinking Fountain with Bottle Filler	Short	$20,000	$0	$0	$20,000
6	Walkways (ADA) - 6' Wide	Short	$19,000	$0	$0	$19,000
7	Signage - Main Entry	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
8	Trail - Perimeter - 10' Wide with Connection to Roosevelt Intermediate School	Medium	$0	$258,000	$0	$258,000
9	Picnic Shelter - Medium	Medium	$0	$101,000	$0	$101,000
10	Community Gardens	Medium	$0	$67,000	$0	$67,000
11	Nature Play Area	Medium	$0	$54,000	$0	$54,000
12	Outdoor Fitness/Gym/Workout Equipment	Medium	$0	$34,000	$0	$34,000
13	Signage - Interpretive with Signage Plan	Medium	$0	$7,000	$0	$7,000
14	Neighborhood Determined Feature (TBD)	Long	$0	$0	$54,000	$54,000
	Project Total		**$165,000**	**$521,000**	**$54,000**	**$740,000**
Dunham Ave Bird Sanctuary						
1	Signage - Secondary Entry	Short	$7,000	$0	$0	$7,000
2	Site Furnishings (Benches)	Short	$7,000	$0	$0	$7,000

Table 8.1: Capital Improvement Projects Cost Estimates (Continued)

	Park Name	Term	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Total
3	Signage - Interpretive with Signage Plan	Medium	$0	$13,000	$0	$13,000
4	Bird Blinds	Medium	$0	$8,000	$0	$8,000
	Project Total		**$14,000**	**$21,000**	**$0**	**$35,000**
Mindowaskin Park						
1	Trail/Walkway Improvements and Replacement/Widening (in progress)	Short	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Tree Replacement Program	Short	$67,000	$0	$0	$67,000
3	Paving - Parking Lot at Playground (ADA Spaces Needed)	Short	$47,000	$0	$0	$47,000
4	Fencing at Playground	Short	$34,000	$0	$0	$34,000
5	Gazebo-Rebuild Ramp to ADA Standards	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
6	Landscaping	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
7	Lighting - Security (At Playground)	Short	$21,000	$0	$0	$21,000
8	Site Furnishings (Benches/Trash Receptacles/Dog Waste Stations/Bike Racks)	Short	$20,000	$0	$0	$20,000
9	Drinking Fountains with Bottle Filler	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
10	Signage - Main Entry	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
11	Signage - Secondary Entry (2)	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
12	Pocket Park Elements	Medium	$0	$134,000	$0	$134,000
13	Charging Stations	Medium	$0	$40,000	$0	$40,000
14	Security Cameras	Medium	$0	$27,000	$0	$27,000
15	Signage - Interpretive with Signage Plan	Medium	$0	$20,000	$0	$20,000
16	Outdoor Fitness/Gym/Workout Equipment	Medium	$0	$13,000	$0	$13,000
17	Bird Boxes	Medium	$0	$3,000	$0	$3,000
18	Streambank Erosion Control	Long	$0	$0	$50,000	$50,000
	Project Total		**$282,000**	**$237,000**	**$50,000**	**$569,000**
School Properties						
Edison Intermediate School						
1	Park Master Plan	Short	$40,000	$0	$0	$40,000
2	Artificial Turf Fields - Full-Sized Rectangular (2) with Lights	Short	$2,680,000	$0	$0	$2,680,000
3	Restroom/Storage Building	Short	$436,000	$0	$0	$436,000
4	Trail - Perimeter - 10' Wide	Short	$188,000	$0	$0	$188,000
5	Trees and Landscaping	Short	$34,000	$0	$0	$34,000
6	Batting Cages (Relocated/Replaced)	Short	$31,000	$0	$0	$31,000
7	Site Furnishings (Benches/Trash Receptacles/Dog Waste Stations/Bike Racks)	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
8	Lighting - Security	Short	$21,000	$0	$0	$21,000
9	Drinking Fountains with Bottle Filler	Short	$20,000	$0	$0	$20,000
10	Security Cameras	Short	$20,000	$0	$0	$20,000
11	Scoreboards (2)	Short	$16,000	$0	$0	$16,000
12	Walkways - 6' Wide	Short	$14,000	$0	$0	$14,000
13	Signage - Main Entry	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
14	Signage - Secondary Entry	Short	$7,000	$0	$0	$7,000
	Project Total		**$3,547,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$3,547,000**
Elm Street Property						
1	Park Master Plan	Short	$25,000	$0	$0	$25,000
2	Pickleball Courts (4)	Short	$214,000	$0	$0	$214,000
3	Parking Lot (58 Spaces)	Short	$93,000	$0	$0	$93,000
4	Walkways - 6' Wide	Short	$56,000	$0	$0	$56,000
5	Lighting - Security	Short	$54,000	$0	$0	$54,000
6	Trees and Landscaping	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
7	Site Furnishings (Benches/Trash Receptacles/Dog Waste Stations/Bike Racks)	Short	$20,000	$0	$0	$20,000
8	Drinking Fountains with Bottle Filler	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
9	Security Cameras	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
10	Signage - Main Entry	Short	$13,000	$0	$0	$13,000
11	Scoreboards	Short	$8,000	$0	$0	$8,000
12	Signage - Secondary Entry	Short	$7,000	$0	$0	$7,000
13	Artificial Turf Field with Lights	Medium	$0	$1,340,000	$0	$1,340,000
14	Amphitheater	Medium	$0	$536,000	$0	$536,000
15	Restroom Building	Medium	$0	$302,000	$0	$302,000
16	Skatepark	Medium	$0	$201,000	$0	$201,000
17	Playground	Medium	$0	$168,000	$0	$168,000
	Project Total		**$543,000**	**$2,547,000**	**$0**	**$3,090,000**
Systemwide						
1	ADA Accessibility Assessment (Required)	Short	$75,000	$0	$0	$75,000
2	Indoor Recreation Center (Cost will vary based upon the design and features)	Short	$0	$13,400,000	$0	$13,400,000
3	Trail - Connection to Unami Park - 10' Wide (Partner with Union County)	Short	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
4	Wayfinding Signage (Outside of Parks)	Short	$27,000	$0	$0	$27,000
5	Wi-Fi in Heavily Used Parks and Facilities	Short	$34,000	$34,000	$34,000	$102,000
6	New Neighborhood Park - North	Long	$0	$0	$1,340,000	$1,340,000
7	Trail Markers and Emergency Signage (Mileage/Color Coding)	Long	$0	$0	$27,000	$27,000
	Project Total		**$136,000**	**$13,434,000**	**$1,401,000**	**$14,971,000**
TOTAL PARKS			**$10,402,000**	**$26,580,000**	**$4,699,000**	**$41,681,000**

*Values include 20% contingency and 12% for design, engineering, bidding, construction administration, etc. (except non-construction items)

9 ACTION PLAN

9.1 Introduction

The Action Plan table on the following pages (Table 9.1) provides a detailed list of recommendations for the *2019 Westfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan*. These strategies represent specific actions for parks and recreation in the Town of Westfield to take in order to implement this master plan.

9.2 Action Plan Strategies

These strategies are listed under the four (4) goals and 16 objectives from the Strategic Plan (Chapter 6). The legend at the top of the table identifies the abbreviations used throughout the table. Checkmarks indicate the timeframe for the completion of each strategy within the time periods of 0-2 years, 3-5 years, or 6-10 years. Some strategies are indicated as "Ongoing" as they apply to all timeframes or represent more general actions that should always be considered. A total count of strategies by timeframe is located at the end of the table in the corresponding columns.

The other columns provide information regarding the implementation of each strategy. "Category" describes the type of action within the following four options: capital (capital improvements); policy (guidelines for the Town Council and the Recreation Department, possibly including legislation); planning (long-term parks outlook, which includes conduction of studies); or operations. The column for "Agency" indicates who is expected to implement the strategy, usually Westfield Recreation or another town department. "Funding Source" indicates how the strategy should be funded or the type of funds used (operating or capital funds).

9.3 Capital Improvement Ranking

The steering committee reviewed potential solutions and recommendations and participated in an exercise to help establish capital improvement priorities for the Action Plan. Committee members were asked to rank each of the potential improvement projects with a High Priority (3), Medium Priority (2), Low Priority (1), or Not Needed (0).

The priority ranking was used to help rank the importance of improvements but not necessarily the order in which they should be developed. Table 9.2, located after the Action Plan, identifies the capital improvement ranking based on the average of the ranking for each item. These rankings were used as part of the process for recommending priorities along with public input and analyses completed throughout this master planning process.

Table 9.1: Action Plan

ACTION PLAN - *2019 WESTFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN*						
Legend of Abbreviations/Organizations						
Rec = Westfield Recreation				OP = Recreation Operating Budget		
Town = Town Council, Other Town Departments				CIP = Capital Improvement Budget		
Partners = Other Organizations (foundations, businesses, schools, civic associations, state/federal grants, etc.)				Revenue = Items that Generate Additional Revenue		
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	**Timeframe (Years)**			**Category**	**Agency**	**Funding Source**
	0-2	**3-5**	**6-10**			
Goal 1: Great Places & Spaces						
Our parks, places, and spaces will connect people, build community, and create amazing experiences for current and future generations.						
Objective 1.1 – Connectivity: Acquire, plan, develop, and maintain trails and spaces that connect people, build community and provide opportunities for health, wellness, and discovery						
Strategy 1.1.1: Begin implementation of the *Bike Walk Westfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan* to improve connectivity and safety throughout Westfield	✓			Capital	Rec, Town	CIP
Strategy 1.1.2: Add sidewalks along Westfield parks where none are present	✓			Capital, Planning	Rec, Town	CIP
Strategy 1.1.3: Add paved trail loops within existing parks (and schools) that lack this facility (Edison Intermediate School, Sycamore Field, Clark Memorial Park, and Memorial Park) and in any future parks	✓	✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.1.4: Add or improve natural surface trails in Memorial Park, Tamaques Park, and Brightwood Park	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.1.5: Design the new natural surface trails at Brightwood Park for mountain biking while allowing other uses	✓	✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.1.6: Improve connectivity between parks and adjacent neighborhoods by adding connecting paths where possible, including schools and Union County Parks	✓	✓		Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Strategy 1.1.7: Add a paved connection between Clark Memorial Park and Roosevelt Intermediate School		✓		Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Strategy 1.1.8: Add a connection between Memorial Park and the adjacent Brookside Park in Scotch Plains	✓			Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Strategy 1.1.9: Partner with Union County to add an accessible paved connection into Unami Park from Twin Oaks Terrace	✓			Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Strategy 1.1.10: Add trail markers and emergency signage (mileage/color coding) at trailheads and along trails in Westfield Parks			✓	Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.1.11: Improve the cross-country course at Tamaques Park (surfacing/markers/signage)	✓			Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Strategy 1.1.12: Develop a dog park at Tamaques Park to provide a place for dogs to go unleashed and for dog owners to gather	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.1.13: Include neighborhood determined features as part of Neighborhood Park improvements to meet the specific needs of residents that live near these parks	*Ongoing*			Capital, Policy	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.1.14: Pursue opportunities if they arise for new parks in the north portions of the town and other underserved parts of Westfield	*Ongoing*			Capital, Planning	Town, Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.1.15: Develop the Elm Street Property as a Neighborhood Park with a variety of features needed in Westfield	✓			Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Strategy 1.1.16: Develop an amphitheater at the Elm Street Property to accommodate concerts and special events which have been requested by the people of Westfield		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.1.17: Develop a skatepark at the Elm Street Property to provide a central and accessible location for a demographic that is currently undeserved in Westfield		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.1.18: Add picnic shelters at existing and future parks to expand access to these facilities and to promote opportunities for community gatherings		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.1.19: Resurface walking trails at Gumbert and Tamaques Parks	✓		✓	Capital	Rec	CIP

Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years) 0-2	3-5	6-10	Category	Agency	Funding Source
Objective 1.2 – Modernization: Invest in renewing and modernizing existing parks and facilities while simultaneously adding new features that provide innovative, safe, and diverse experiences						
Strategy 1.2.1: Upgrade and replace existing facilities that are at the end of their useful life or in poor condition	✓	✓	✓	Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.2.2: Add support features throughout the park system such as shade structures, drinking fountains, security lighting, and landscaping	*Ongoing*			Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.2.3: Add or upgrade restrooms at all Community Parks and other heavily used parks	✓	✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.2.4: Replace outdated and deteriorated playgrounds throughout the town and include unique or themed features at each park	*Ongoing*			Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.2.5: Incorporate nature play structures as part of playground development and replacement	*Ongoing*			Capital, Policy	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.2.6: Perform an ADA Accessibility Assessment of all facilities, programs, and communications (by an outside consultant)	✓	✓		Capital	Rec, Town	CIP
Strategy 1.2.7: Improve ADA access throughout the park system, including walkways to all facilities and seating areas	*Ongoing*			Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.2.8: Acquire land contiguous to existing parks if it becomes available to allow for additional features and to increase the total amount of parkland available to residents	*Ongoing*			Capital, Planning	Rec, Town	CIP
Strategy 1.2.9: Complete needed accessibility improvements and repairs at Memorial Pool	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.2.10: Monitor chemical controllers, filters and pumps and replace when needed	*Ongoing*			Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.2.11: Consider adding a bubble to the lap pool to allow year-round use, likely as part of a partnership	*Ongoing*			Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Strategy 1.2.12: Investigate the demand for additional features at Memorial Pool in order to maintain or increase attendance or in response to request by residents	*Ongoing*			Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.2.13: Add outdoor fitness equipment at select parks throughout Westfield (Brightwood Park, Clark Memorial Park, Gumbert Park, Memorial Park, Mindowaskin Park, Sycamore Field, and Tamaques Park) to expand opportunities for improved community health	✓	✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.2.14: Add disc golf at Tamaques Park in locations that minimize conflict with other park users		✓		Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Strategy 1.2.15: Develop a recreation center with a gym, a fitness center, meeting rooms, classrooms, and more if the facility is deemed feasible			✓	Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Strategy 1.2.16: Remove islands and regrade the west parking lot at Memorial Park to accommodate the temporary ice rink (following an agreement with provider)		✓		Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Strategy 1.2.17: Add security cameras at heavily used parks to improve safety and deter vandalism (See Chapter 8 for locations)		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.2.18: Add a left turn lane at the main entrance, a secondary vehicular entrance from Lamberts Mill Road, and additional parking at Tamaques Park to improve safety and reduce traffic		✓		Capital	Rec, Town	CIP
Strategy 1.2.19: Develop a year-round rental/meeting facility with glass garage style doors at Tamaques Park overlooking the pond		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.2.20: Provide wayfinding signage to park and within park at multiple location within parks to assist visitors in locating features		✓		Capital	Rec, Town	CIP
Strategy 1.2.21: Develop pocket park elements, add charging stations, and mitigate streambank erosion at Mindowaskin Park		✓		Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Objective 1.3 – Sports: Provide up-to-date venues for team and individual sports to encourage increased participation for youth and adults						
Strategy 1.3.1: Regrade and improve turf conditions at Sycamore Field	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.3.2: Expand parking, add a second entrance/exit, and add a restroom at Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP

Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source
	0-2	3-5	6-10			
Strategy 1.3.3: Develop dedicated pickleball courts at Tamaques Park and the Elm Street property and add pickleball court lines to the courts at Tamaques Park	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.3.4: Develop two artificial turf fields with lights at Edison Intermediate School with lines for multiple sports (partnership with Westfield Public Schools)	✓			Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Strategy 1.3.5: Convert the four diamond fields at Memorial Park to artificial turf with lights; include lining for rectangular fields sports		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.3.6: Develop an artificial turf field with lights at the Elm Street Property with lines for multiple sports (partnership with Westfield Public Schools)		✓		Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Strategy 1.3.7: Add artificial turf infields at Gumbert Park to reduce rainouts		✓		Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Strategy 1.3.8: Regrade fields and improve turf and drainage at Tamaques Park and add lights to a field on the eastern side of the park (farthest from neighbors)		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.3.9: Add a covered basketball court at Tamaques Park when the existing courts are removed and add a half basketball court at Lincoln School Playground to maintain access to these facilities throughout Westfield		✓	✓	Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.3.10: Develop a field house in Tamaques Park for wrestling and cheerleading with storage space for football and other sports		✓		Capital	Rec, Partners	CIP, Partners
Objective 1.4 – Access to Nature: Provide connections between the community and the natural environment through preservation, conservation, and education						
Strategy 1.4.1: Add nature programming at Brightwood Park, Tamaques Park, and, potentially, the Dunham Avenue Bird Sanctuary	✓			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 1.4.2: Perform a wetland delineation study to determine the location of these sensitive environmental resources within Tamaques Park (in progress)	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.4.3: Develop interpretive signage throughout the park system (will require signage plans) to help visitors understand the natural features and history of Westfield Parks	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.4.4: Upgrade Brightwood Park to a Nature Park to provide improved access to nature, additional and improve passive amenities, and a venue for nature programs		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.4.5: Upgrade Clark Memorial Park to a passive Neighborhood Park with a nature play area, a perimeter trail, community gardens, and more to fill service gaps for park facilities in this portion of Westfield		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.4.6: Develop an educational shelter in Brightwood Park to provide a location for nature education classes		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.4.7: Utilize nature trails for programming, including guided hikes, plant identification, and bird watching	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 1.4.8: Seek opportunities for additional natural areas and open space if land becomes available	*Ongoing*			Capital, Planning	Rec, Town	CIP
Strategy 1.4.9: Add a fishing dock and kayak/canoe launch at Brightwood Park to provide opportunities for visitors at access and utilize the pond for recreation		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Strategy 1.4.10: Establish a tree replacement program to maintain and improve the tree canopy in Westfield Parks	*Ongoing*			Capital, Planning	Rec	CIP, OP
Strategy 1.4.11: Develop nature play areas at Brightwood Park, Clark Memorial Park, and Tamaques Park		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP
Goal 2: Great Experiences						
Our programs, events and services will promote health and wellness, learning, creativity and fun to enrich the lives of our diverse and everchanging community.						
Objective 2.1 – Programs & Classes: Strengthen the mix and quality of time-honored and trendsetting services that appeal to and are accessible to all segments of our community						
Strategy 2.1.1: Establish an annual assessment process to determine if Westfield should stop offering a program, continue offering a program, or start a new program	✓	✓	✓	Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 2.1.2: Continuously monitor trends in recreation, particularly amongst growing population groups, to ensure program offerings meet the needs of the community	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 2.1.3: Examine unmet needs for adult sports as indicated by public input, especially as lighted facilities are developed that might be able to support these programs	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP

Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source
	0-2	3-5	6-10			
Strategy 2.1.4: Utilize new facilities, including a dog park, a recreation center, and more, for expanded program opportunities that result from the availability of these facilities	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 2.1.5: Utilize the Core Program Guidelines in Appendix D as a source for potential program offerings	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 2.1.6: Develop therapeutic recreation programs and expand access for those with special needs to existing programs	✓			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 2.1.7: Establish a pickleball program (indoor and outdoor) following the development of the required facilities	✓			Operations	Rec	OP
Objective 2.2 – Cultural Arts: Increase awareness and appreciation of, access to and engagement in a diversity of experiences in the arts						
Strategy 2.2.1: Develop additional programs to meet needs for more creative and cultural arts programs for both youth and adults	✓			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 2.2.2: Consider utilizing Mindowaskin Park, Tamaques Park, and other parks with significant historical features as the foundation of a cultural history emphasis for the department	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 2.2.3: Utilize new facilities, including an amphitheater, a recreation center, and more, for expanded cultural arts program opportunities that result from the availability of these facilities	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Objective 2.3 – Events: Expand the variety, frequency and scope of special events to build community and bolster economic development						
Strategy 2.3.1: Utilize a new amphitheater at the Elm Street Property for additional and enhanced program opportunities, including summer concerts, movies, and children's theater	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 2.3.2: Schedule more special events, concerts, and movies to bring the community together and encourage unity	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 2.3.3: Expand program offerings to meet unmet community needs, including summer concerts/movies, festivals, and more	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 2.3.4: Utilize new facilities, including a dog park, amphitheater, a recreation center, and more, for expanded event opportunities that result from the availability of these facilities	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 2.3.5: Engage diverse populations in cultural heritage celebrations	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Objective 2.4 – Wellness: Create opportunities to inspire residents to improve their health and wellness						
Strategy 2.4.1: Expand program offerings to meet unmet community needs for adult fitness and wellness programs	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 2.4.2: Brand and market active senior programs together under a separate program name, "Westfield Active Adults," and offer these programs at the new recreation center	✓			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 2.4.3: Group and market Westfield Active Adult programs to more active seniors	✓			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 2.4.4: Utilize new amenities developed at a future recreation center for additional program opportunities, including active adult, and fitness programs	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Goal 3: Team Empowerment and Preparation						
Our Town leadership, staff and community will work together to deliver innovative, accessible, affordable, and inclusive experiences that meet the changing needs of our community.						
Objective 3.1 – People: Build, grow, and invest in a team of knowledgeable, skilled, diverse, passionate and highly valued staff						
Strategy 3.1.1: Establish and hire an Aquatics Manager separate from the Assistant Director position	✓			Operations	Rec, Town	OP
Strategy 3.1.2: Dedicate staff to Business Development to seek grants, establish effective partnerships, create revenue, and develop business plans with staff managing revenue producing facilities	✓			Operations	Rec, Town	OP
Strategy 3.1.3: Create and implement professional and career development plans for management and supervisory staff	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 3.1.4: Identify and allocate funding for critical staff development opportunities (including conferences, training, memberships, etc.) with consideration to licensure and certification requirements	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP

Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source
	0-2	3-5	6-10			
Strategy 3.1.5: Encourage continued staff training for leadership and continued growth within their respective fields	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 3.1.6: Encourage management level staff to attend professional development programs offered by state, regional, and national training organizations	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Objective 3.2 – Community: Engage all sectors of the community to promote, plan, increase access, encourage volunteerism, and improve the quality of parks, recreation, and cultural arts						
Strategy 3.2.1: Promote conservation and sustainability efforts as they are implemented to encourage reduced levels of consumption and waste generation at the household and community levels	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 3.2.2: Know the demographics of the citizens that are served and track population trends	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 3.2.3: Prepare Park Master Plans for Brightwood Park, Clark Memorial Park, Edison Intermediate School, Elm Street Property, Memorial Park, and Tamaques Park (update)	✓			Capital	Rec, Town	OP, CIP
Strategy 3.2.4: Develop a feasibility study for a recreation center with development programs and pro forma prior to the development of such a facility	✓			Capital	Rec, Town	OP, CIP
Objective 3.3 – Maintenance: Enhance safety, accessibility, quality, and cost effectiveness by developing and implementing maintenance and operations standards and best practices						
Strategy 3.3.1: Improve maintenance at existing parks, including natural areas	✓			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 3.3.2: Determine maintenance standards that identify the number of employees required to maintain one acre of parkland and consider these costs when adding parkland to the system	✓			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 3.3.3: Develop a capital maintenance and replacement program (will require an increased parks and recreation capital budget)	✓			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 3.3.4: Implement conservation policies and sustainable practices for development and management of park properties	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 3.3.5: Utilize parks as examples of Best Management Practices (BMP) for stormwater detention, recycling, etc.	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 3.3.6: Increase maintenance budget to accommodate new facilities and programs	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 3.3.7: Stop maintaining features and spaces in the park system that are unused and remove them from the system	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Objective 3.4 – Partners and Sponsors: Build relationships and partnerships with foundations, schools, businesses, governments, and nonprofit organizations to meet current and future needs of the community						
Strategy 3.4.1: Develop working agreements with each partner with measurable outcomes that include associated costs and review within a minimum of every two years	✓	✓	✓	Operations, Policy	Rec	OP
Strategy 3.4.2: Seek a formal agreement with Westfield Public Schools to develop facilities at Edison Intermediate School and the Elm Street Property	✓			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 3.4.3: Partner with Westfield Public Schools and Union County Parks for nature education programs at Brightwood Park and other passive parks in Westfield	✓			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 3.4.4: Prepare a formal, long term agreement with Arena Realty Partners or another entity prior to investing in modifications to the Memorial Park parking lot for the ice rink	✓			Operations	Rec	OP, Partners
Strategy 3.4.5: Expand the partnership with the National Guard Armory for additional program opportunities at that facility	✓			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 3.4.6: Seek opportunities for use of the National Guard Armory for additional program opportunities	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 3.4.7: Do not enter into any agreement unless agency costs are known, both indirect and direct, and know how much investment the partner is bringing to the agreement	*Ongoing*			Operations, Policy	Rec	OP
Strategy 3.4.8: Never allow private or not-for-profit groups to make money from Westfield facilities unless the town receives a share of the gross revenue	*Ongoing*			Operations, Policy	Rec	OP
Strategy 3.4.9: Privatize services where capital dollars are insufficient to maintain and operate the facility	*Ongoing*			Operations, Policy	Rec	OP, Partners

Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source
	0-2	3-5	6-10			
Strategy 3.4.10: Treat all vendors, contractors, and partners in a professional, consistent manner with a legal, signed contract	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP, Partners
Strategy 3.4.11: Seek opportunities to expand partnerships with local organizations to improve access to recreation facilities and programs	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP, Partners
Strategy 3.4.12: Establish policies for accepting sponsorships and selling naming rights	✓			Operations	Rec	OP, Partners
Strategy 3.4.13: Expand efforts toward obtaining sponsors	✓			Operations	Rec	OP, Partners
Strategy 3.4.14: Partner with other organizations, including the Central Jersey Convention and Visitors Bureau and athletic leagues, to bring tournaments to Westfield and for the development of needed facilities	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 3.4.15: Consider opportunities to expand existing partnerships to increase program opportunities and use of facilities	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 3.4.16: Seek partnerships with health providers for the operation and programming of a proposed recreation center and recreation programs offered within	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 3.4.17: Partner with Westfield Public Schools and Union County Parks to improve connectivity between parks, schools, and neighborhoods	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 3.4.18: Collaborate with the Jersey Off Road Bicycle Association (JORBA) for the development and maintenance of mountain bike trails in Brightwood Park	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Strategy 3.4.19: Partner with Westfield Public Schools to improve and maintain fields at other schools used by athletic leagues in Westfield	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP, Partners
Goal 4: Operational Excellence & Fiscal Responsibility						
Our department will implement modern best practices to ensure our people, policies, processes, finances, and resources are aligned to fulfill our mission and realize our vision.						
Objective 4.1 – Finances: Expand and enhance facility, program, and service offerings through alternative funding, management best practices, and cost recovery efforts						
Strategy 4.1.1: Maintain cost recovery at the current level after adding facilities and expanding programs	✓			Policy	Rec, Town	N/A
Strategy 4.1.2: Consider expansion of programming coming from vendors and contractors through the private sector	✓			Policy	Rec, Town	N/A
Strategy 4.1.3: Identify direct and indirect costs of programs and adjust fees accordingly	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec	Revenue
Strategy 4.1.4: Encourage the creation a Westfield Parks Foundation to raise funds and recruit and organize volunteers	✓			Operations, Capital	Rec	Revenue
Strategy 4.1.5: Seek grants and apply to foundations for funding for projects to enhance the park system, consistent with the mission of Recreation with consideration to associated costs to the town	*Ongoing*			Planning, Capital	Rec	Revenue
Strategy 4.1.6: Identify potential revenue sources at community events, including sponsorships and entry fees	*Ongoing*			Planning, Capital	Rec, Town	Revenue
Strategy 4.1.7: Establish a fee to reserve picnic shelters (as they are developed) for 2-hour increments (with an hour between reservations) to allow additional use of existing facilities.	✓			Operations	Rec	Revenue
Strategy 4.1.8: Find dedicated funding sources that can be counted on annually	*Ongoing*			Policy, Planning	Rec, Town	Revenue
Strategy 4.1.9: Find philanthropists in the community to support the agency's causes	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	Revenue
Strategy 4.1.10: Know the value of assets (not including land) and where those assets are in their life cycle	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.1.11: Price services furthest away from the mission at full cost recovery levels	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec	Revenue
Strategy 4.1.12: Develop an annual revenue plan for Recreation	*Ongoing*			Operations, Planning	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.1.13: Understand the true costs to deliver services (direct and indirect costs)	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP

Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years) 0-2	3-5	6-10	Category	Agency	Funding Source
Strategy 4.1.14: Control labor costs	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Objective 4.2 – Technology: Maximize the use of technology to enhance business operations and customer experience						
Strategy 4.2.1: Continuously evaluate and implement new technologies to provide contemporary services (Wi-Fi, mobile friendly platforms, social media, etc.) expected by Westfield residents now and in the future	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.2.2: Implement new technology such as mobile apps and beacon counters to enhance park experiences, engage youth, and monitor usage rates of facilities and trails	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.2.3: Supply an internal, digital version of policies for quick access by staff	✓			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.2.4: Provide a digital copy of the external policies on the website for access by the public	✓			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.2.5: Add Wi-Fi in high traffic areas, including buildings, athletic complexes, and event spaces	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.2.6: Develop an app to provide interactive park maps, event schedules, self-led programs, etc. to allow visitors to maximize their use and enjoyment of parks		✓		Operations, Capital	Rec, Town	CIP
Objective 4.3 – Policy, Process, Planning: Modernize, streamline, and consistently apply internal business processes, policies and planning practices						
Strategy 4.3.1: Formally recognize this master plan as the guiding document for park development, improvement, and operations	✓			Policy	Town	N/A
Strategy 4.3.2: Establish an implementation committee to monitor timelines, measure progress, update priorities, and ensure continued enthusiasm for Master Plan goals and recommendations	✓			Policy	Rec, Town	N/A
Strategy 4.3.3: Review and update this master plan at intervals not to exceed five years to evaluate progress and to reassess priorities		✓	✓	Policy	Rec, Town	CIP
Strategy 4.3.4: Be a Mission driven agency; pay very close attention to the Mission of Parks and Recreation	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.3.5: Make sure actions and decisions always tie back to the mission	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.3.6: Classify the agency's services by how they fit into the agency's mission	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.3.7: Pursue a location to develop a recreation center with gym space to help meet the unmet need for programs that require this type of facility	*Ongoing*			Planning, Capital	Rec, Town	OP, CIP
Objective 4.4 – Marketing: Increase the level of awareness, support, and engagement in parks, recreation, and cultural arts through innovative and consistent marketing, branding, and communications						
Strategy 4.4.1: Develop and implement a consistent signage program for all town parks	✓			Operations	Rec, Town	OP
Strategy 4.4.2: Determine the agency's visual identity and messaging platform	✓			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.4.3: Identify standard formatting for all marketing and promotional efforts based on this platform	✓			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.4.4: Improve website and expand social media presence	✓			Operations	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.4.5: Expand marketing of programs and facilities to improve awareness of existing and future opportunities	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.4.6: Inform users, partners, and citizens to what the true costs of services are	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec	OP
Strategy 4.4.7: Collaborate with other agencies for cross-promotion of facilities and events	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec, Partners	OP, Partners
Totals by Timeframe **Ongoing = 69**	**55**	**33**	**8**			
Total Number of Strategies = 150						

Table 9.2: Capital Priority Ranking

Steering Committee Members were asked to indicate a High Priority (3), Medium Priority (2), Low Priority (1), or Not Needed (0) for each item on the list. The priority ranking is for the level of importance of the improvements and not necessarily the order in which they will be developed. Items are ranked based on their average score. When tied, the item with more values of "3" were ranked higher.

Capital Projects Rank - High (3), Medium (2), Low (1), or Not Needed (0).

Priority Rank	Priority Level	*Capital Improvement*
1	3.00	Systemwide - Existing Field Improvements
2	2.67	Systemwide - ADA walkways and access
3	2.58	Systemwide - Existing Park Facility Improvements and Replacements
3	2.58	Memorial Park - Artificial Turf Fields with Lights (4 Diamonds with 2 Rectangular Fields)
3	2.58	Tamaques Park - Field House - Wrestling & Cheerleading Area/Football Storage & Meeting Area/Restrooms
6	2.50	Edison Intermediate School Improvements - Artificial turf fields (2 Full-Sized Rectangular) with Lights, Restrooms
6	2.50	Restrooms - Memorial Park, Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields, Edison Intermediate School, Elm Street Property, Tamaques Park (New), Tamaques Park (Renovation)
6	2.50	Tamaques Park - Field Lighting
9	2.42	Recreation Center with indoor gym, walking track, fitness areas, meeting/event rooms, etc. (Scope to be determined in Recreation Center Feasibility Study.)
10	2.42	Parking and Roadway Improvement/Expansion - Mindowaskin Park, Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields, Tamaques Park, Brightwood Park, Memorial Park
11	2.25	Systemwide - Bike and Pedestrian Connectivity Plan
12	2.17	Elm St Property - Artificial Turf Field with Lights
13	2.08	Park Master Plans - Brightwood Park, Clark Memorial Park, Edison Intermediate School, Elm Street Property, Memorial Park, Tamaques Park (Update)
14	2.00	Perimeter Trail Loops - Memorial Park, Sycamore Field, Edison Intermediate School
14	2.00	Playground Replacements - Memorial Park (All Access), Tamaques Park (All Access), Gumbert Park, Lincoln School Playground, Sycamore Field, Windsor Park
16	1.92	Systemwide - Consistent Entry Signs at All Parks (Primary and Secondary Entrances)
17	1.92	Systemwide - Drinking Fountains with Bottle Fillers
18	1.83	Elm St Property - Skatepark
18	1.83	Tamaques Park - Dog Park

Table 9.2: Capital Priority Ranking (Continued)

Capital Projects Rank - High (3), Medium (2), Low (1), or Not Needed (0).		
Priority Rank	**Priority Level**	***Capital Improvement***
18	1.83	Brightwood Park Improvements - Environmental Education Center with Nature/Mountain Bike Trails, Education Shelter, Nature Play Area, Boat Launch/Fishing Dock, Bird Blinds, Outdoor Fitness Equipment
18	1.83	Nature Trails (Improvements and Expansion) - Memorial Park, Tamaques Park, Brightwood Park
22	1.79	Wi-Fi in Heavily Used Parks and Facilities
23	1.75	Gumbert Park - Artificial Turf Fields and Batting Cages
23	1.75	Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage
23	1.75	Mindowaskin Park Improvements - Walkway Replacement/Widening, Fencing at Playground, Gazebo-Rebuild Ramp to ADA Standards, Bird Boxes, Charging Stations, Pocket Park Elements, Streambank Erosion Control
26	1.67	Tamaques Park - Rental/Meeting Facility Overlooking Pond (Year Round with Glass Garage Style Doors)
27	1.67	Memorial Pool Improvements (Maintenance and Renovation)
28	1.58	Systemwide - Upgrade/Replace Site Furnishings (Benches, bike racks, trash receptacles, etc.)
29	1.58	Systemwide - Improved Site Security with Lighting (All Parks) and Cameras (Larger Parks/High Value Features)
30	1.50	Picnic Shelters - Clark Memorial Park, Memorial Park, Tamaques Park, Brightwood Park, Windsor Park (Small), Sycamore Field (Small), Gumbert (Small)
31	1.38	Outdoor Fitness Equipment - Gumbert Park, Memorial Park, Mindowaskin Park, Sycamore Field, Tamaques Park
32	1.33	Elm St Property - Amphitheater
32	1.33	Pickleball - Elm St (2 Courts), Tamaques (2 Courts), Memorial (Lining 2 Courts on One Tennis Court)
32	1.33	Systemwide - Tree Replacement Plan and Improved Landscaping
32	1.33	Clark Memorial Park - Community Gardens, Nature Play Area, Outdoor Fitness/Gym/Workout Equipment, Picnic Shelter (Medium), Perimeter Trail with Connection to Roosevelt Intermediate School
36	1.25	Memorial Pool - Bubble over Lap/Diving Pool, Pool Heater, New Restroom/Filter Building
37	0.92	Memorial Pool - New Feature (E.g., Lazy River, Lazy River Falls, Zip Line)

APPENDIX A - METHODOLOGY

A.1 Service Area Analysis

The spatial distribution of parks throughout Westfield is important because residents are more able and willing to access facilities that are close to their homes. For this analysis, travel times (walking or driving) based on the street network were used to determine service areas for parks by park type and for specific facilities within parks. The size of service areas varies depending on the amenity in question. This analysis used the ArcGIS Online and ArcMap by ESRI for the development of both the spatial data and the maps used in the report.

This process to develop the service area consisted of five steps for each service area distances.

1. Create shapefile with park entrances in ArcMap
2. Upload shapefile with park entrance points to ArcGIS online
3. Select "Perform Analysis" → "Use Proximity" → "Create Drive-Time Areas"
4. Select Walking Time or Driving Time (depending on measurement)
5. Select "Run Analysis"
6. "Export to Shapefile" and download

This process was repeated to generate service areas representing the following travel times:

- 10-minute walk
- 5-minute drive
- 10-minute drive

The shapefile for park entrances was created using the "Road_Centerline" (streets) and "Westfield_parcels" shapefiles provided by the Town of Westfield, combined with aerial imagery (Google Maps). Additionally, the process above was repeated to determine a 10-minute walk to the schools in Westfield with playgrounds and/or basketball courts.

Once the service areas were generated, the results were reduced to a single polygon for each site using the "Dissolve" function in ArcGIS. The service area shapefiles were then linked to the inventory table presented in Chapter 3 (Table 3.2) to allow for the selection of the service area of each site by facilities offered.

Once the service area ranges were calculated, the next step in the process was to assign service areas to parks by park type and to various recreational facilities. The travel times associated with each park or facility are based on common travel time measurements. For example, a 10-minute walk is a commonly used measurement for the distance a person will travel for a frequently used service. The travel times assigned are based on the use level of the amenity, which corresponds, with the length of time a user is likely to spend at the destination. For example, users are likely to be willing to travel a greater distance to use a large Community Park than a Neighborhood Park, because the larger park will likely keep visitors and their families occupied for longer.

The travel time shapefiles for the previous step were used to create a series of service area maps. For each map, the locations of each amenity in question were selected using "Definition Query" from the travel time layers. For example, the Park Service Areas map (Figure 5.1) shows a 10-minute walk to any park (green for Mini, Neighborhood, or Community; orange for Any Other Park). In contrast, a 5-minute drive is indicated only for a Community or County Park (10-minute drive as well). These areas were turned-on (or the other areas were turned-off) in the corresponding travel time layers within ArcGIS (using "Definition Query") because they were contained the specific park feature represented in the map.

Most maps show more than one travel time to a feature to show varying levels of service, because even if the target service area is a 5-minute drive, those within a 10-minute walk have better access to the facility. As noted previously, the information presented in Table 3.1 (Chapter 3) was used to assign park type classification and to select the service areas corresponding to the sites where each of the mapped park features were located.

The composite service areas map consists of a weighted overlay of each of the park and facility service areas. A single shapefile was created for each of the 12 facilities and park classifications listed in Table A.1 below (playgrounds and basketball courts at schools are part of those data layers) with the levels of service (travel times) indicated in the table. Scores were assigned to the travel time from each facility as indicated with a higher score for a shorter travel time. The "Union" function in ArcGIS was used to combine these 12 layers into one layer.

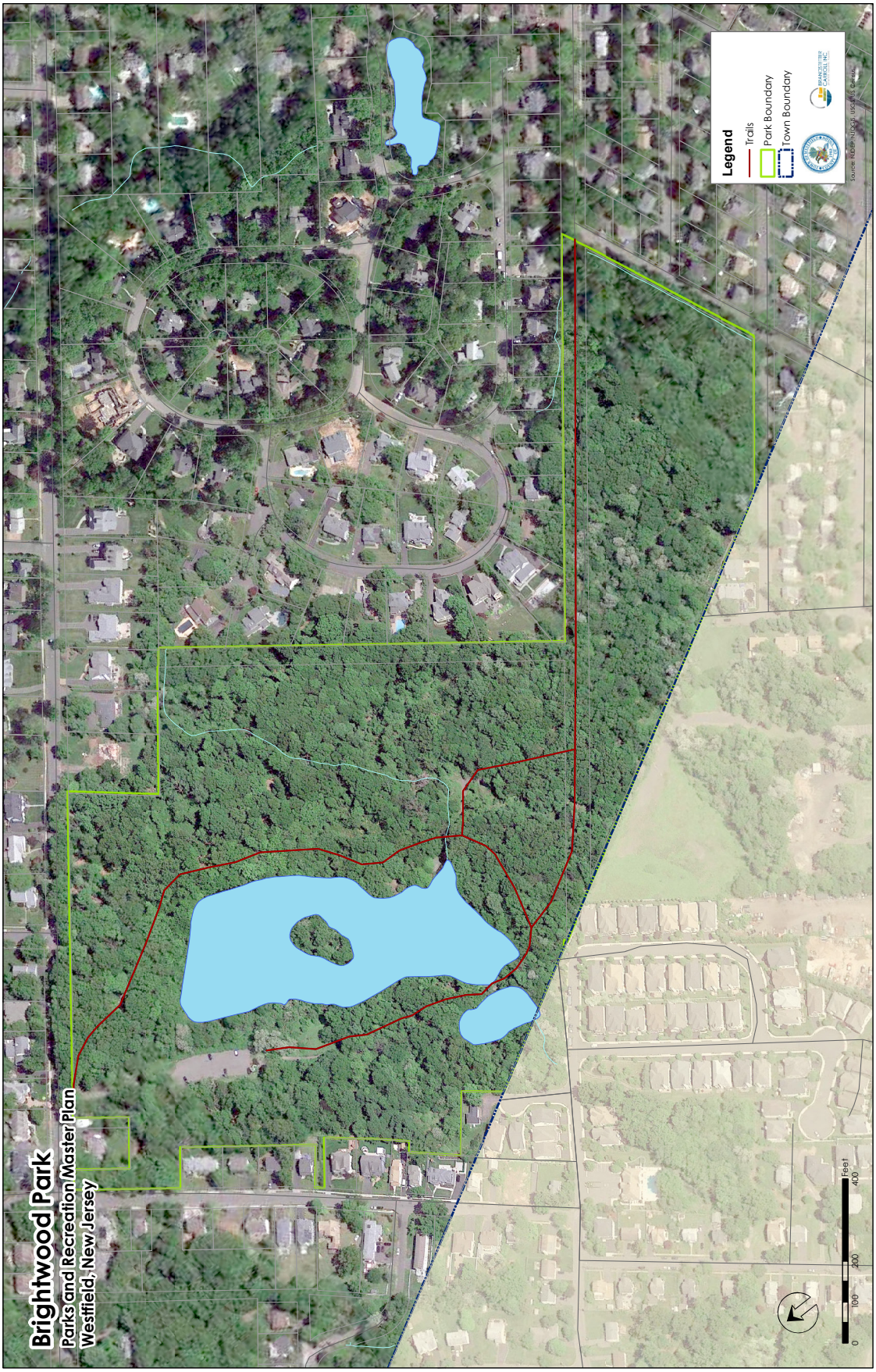
Once the scoring for all layers was combined into a single layer, a Field was added to the Attribute Table to indicate the composite score. The scores for the 12 facilities and park classifications were tallied to represent this composite score for all areas in Westfield. To accommodate the ranking in quantiles, the Town of Westfield was divided into a grid of equal sized boxes using the "Grid Index Features" function. Each of the five ranges represents approximately 20% of the town area. The highest scoring location in Westfield scored a 37 (out of 40 possible points), and the lowest was 7. These areas were then presented in the Composite Park Service Levels map. The five areas with then exported to a new shapefile and uploaded to ESRI Business Analyst to estimate the population living within each level of service.

Table A.1: Composite Map Scoring

Facility/Score	10 Minute Walk	5 Minute Drive	10 Minute Drive	Total Points	Notes
Park Classification					
Neighborhood Park	6	3	N/A	6	Includes Mini and Community Parks
Other Parks	4	2	N/A		Natural areas, Special Use, Parks by Others
Schools	3	1	N/A		Schools
Community Park	N/A	2	1	2	
Park Points				**8**	
Recreation Facilities					
Playground	4	2	1	4	
School Playground	*3*	*1*	*N/A*		
Basketball Court	4	2	1	4	
School Basketball Court	*3*	*1*	*N/A*		
Paved Trails	4	2	1	4	Longer travel times for longer trails only
Swimming Pool	3	2	1	3	
Tennis Courts	3	2	1	3	
Diamond Ballfields	3	2	1	3	
Multipurpose Fields	3	2	1	3	
Picnic Shelters	3	2	1	3	10-minute includes gazebos
Dog Park*	N/A	2	1	2	Echo Lake
Fishing Access*	3	2	1	3	
Facility Points				**32**	
Total Points				**40**	

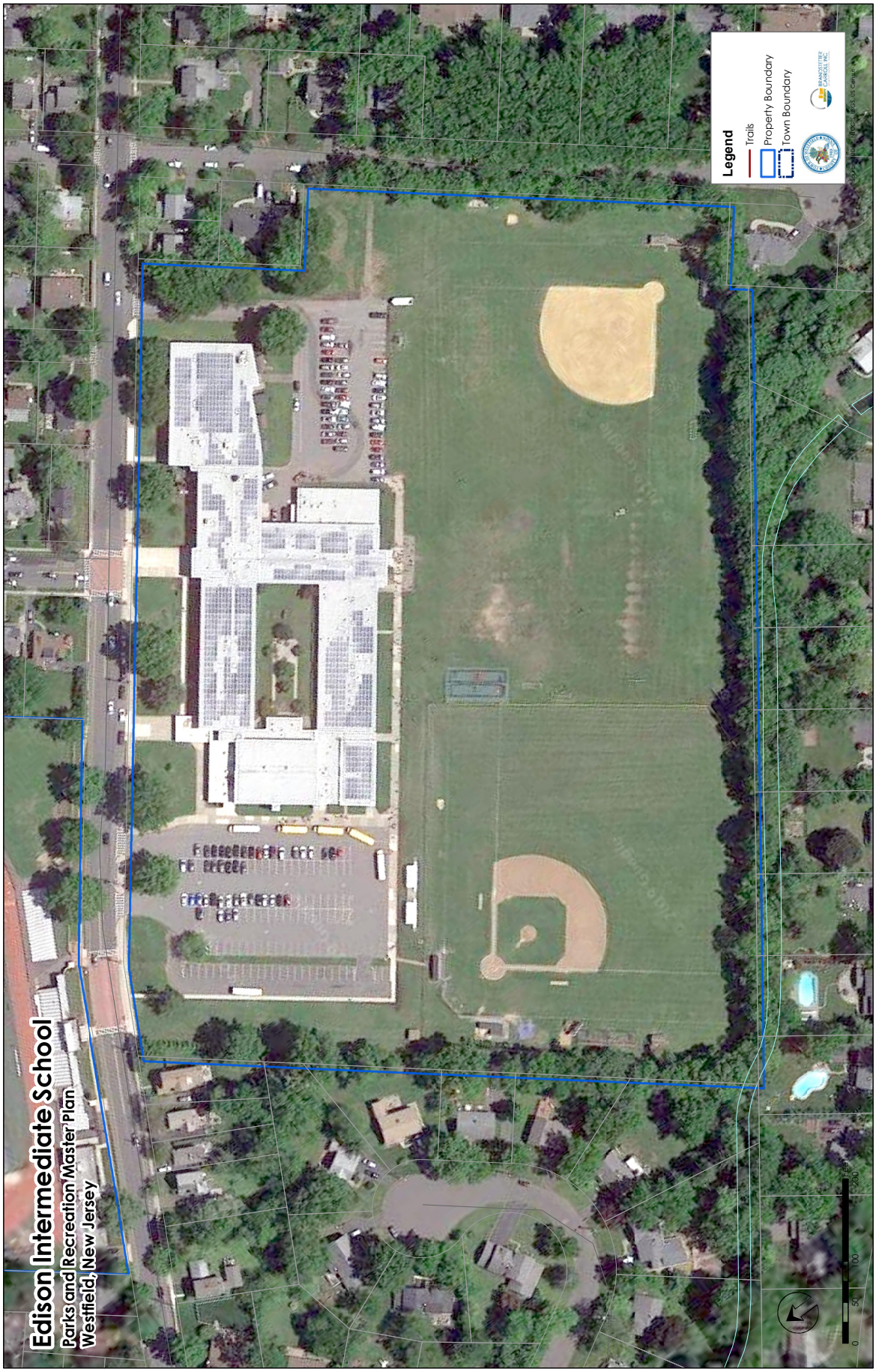
*Not Mapped

APPENDIX B - PARK AERIALS



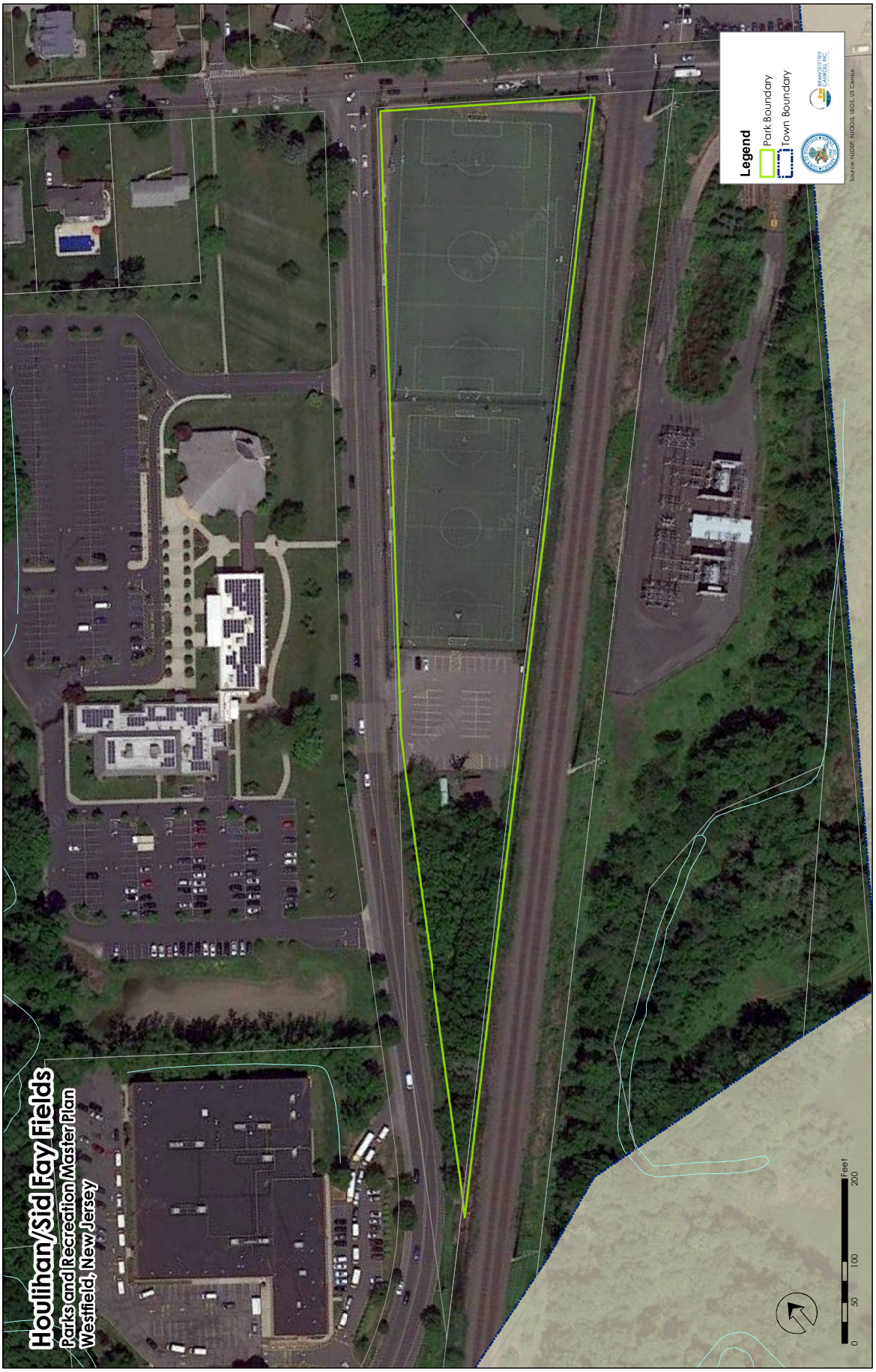
Clark Memorial Park
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Westfield, New Jersey
Legend
Trails
Park Boundary
Town Boundary
0
100
200 Feet

Dunham Ave Bird Sanctuary
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Westfield, New Jersey
Legend
Trails
Park Boundary
Town Boundary
0
30
60
120
Feet


Edison Intermediate School
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Westfield, New Jersey
Legend
Trails
Property Boundary
Town Boundary
0
50
100
200 Feet

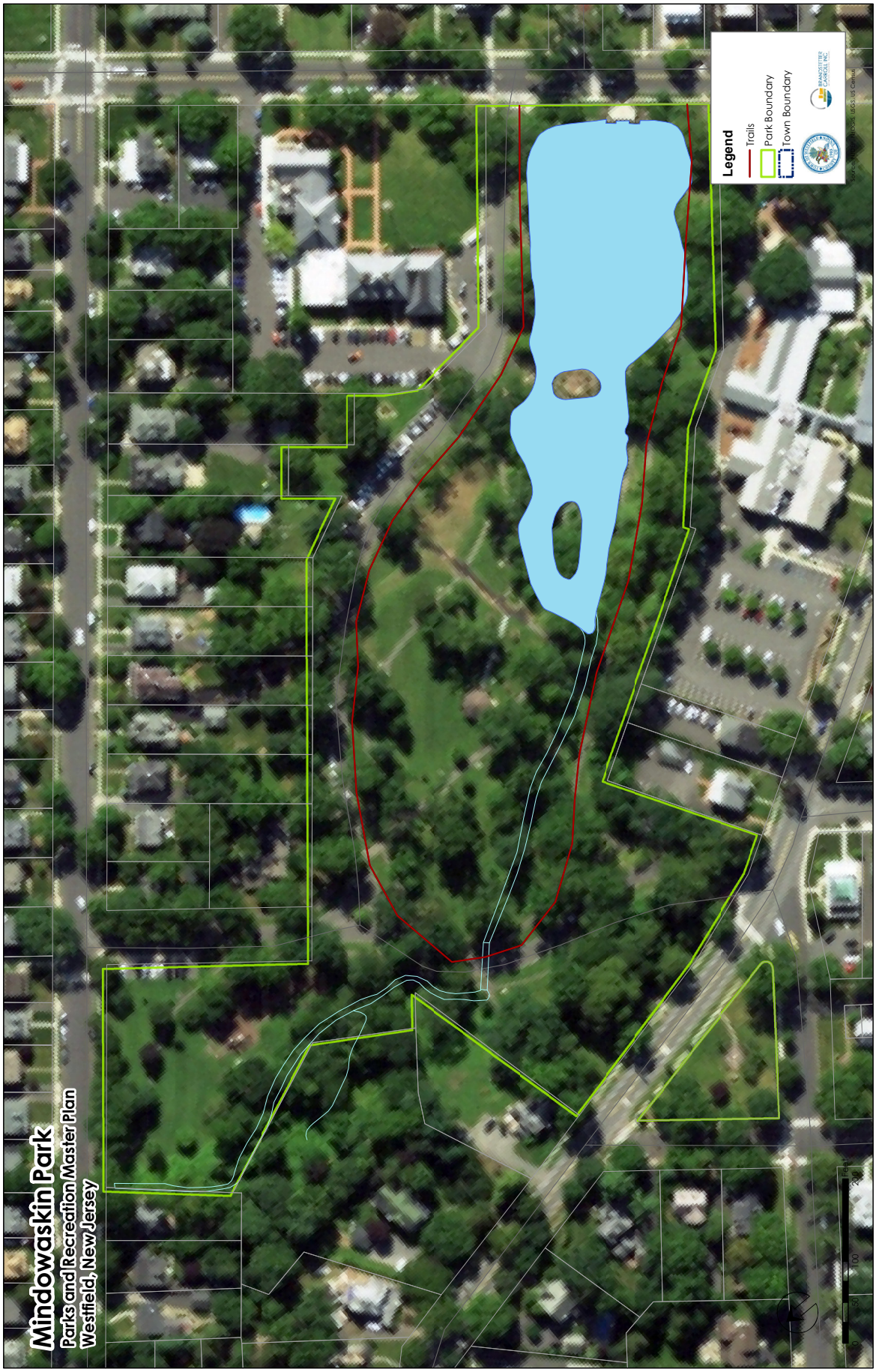
Elm St Property
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Westfield, New Jersey
Legend
Trails
Property Boundary
Town Boundary
0
25
50
100
Feet

Gumbert Park
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Westfield, New Jersey
North Ave
North Ave
North Ave
Legend
Trails
Park Boundary
Town Boundary
Source: NJDEP, NJOGIS, USGS, US Census
0
50
100
200
Feet


Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Westfield, New Jersey
Legend
Park Boundary
Town Boundary
Source: NJDEP, NJOGIS, USGS, US Census.
0
50
100
200
Feet

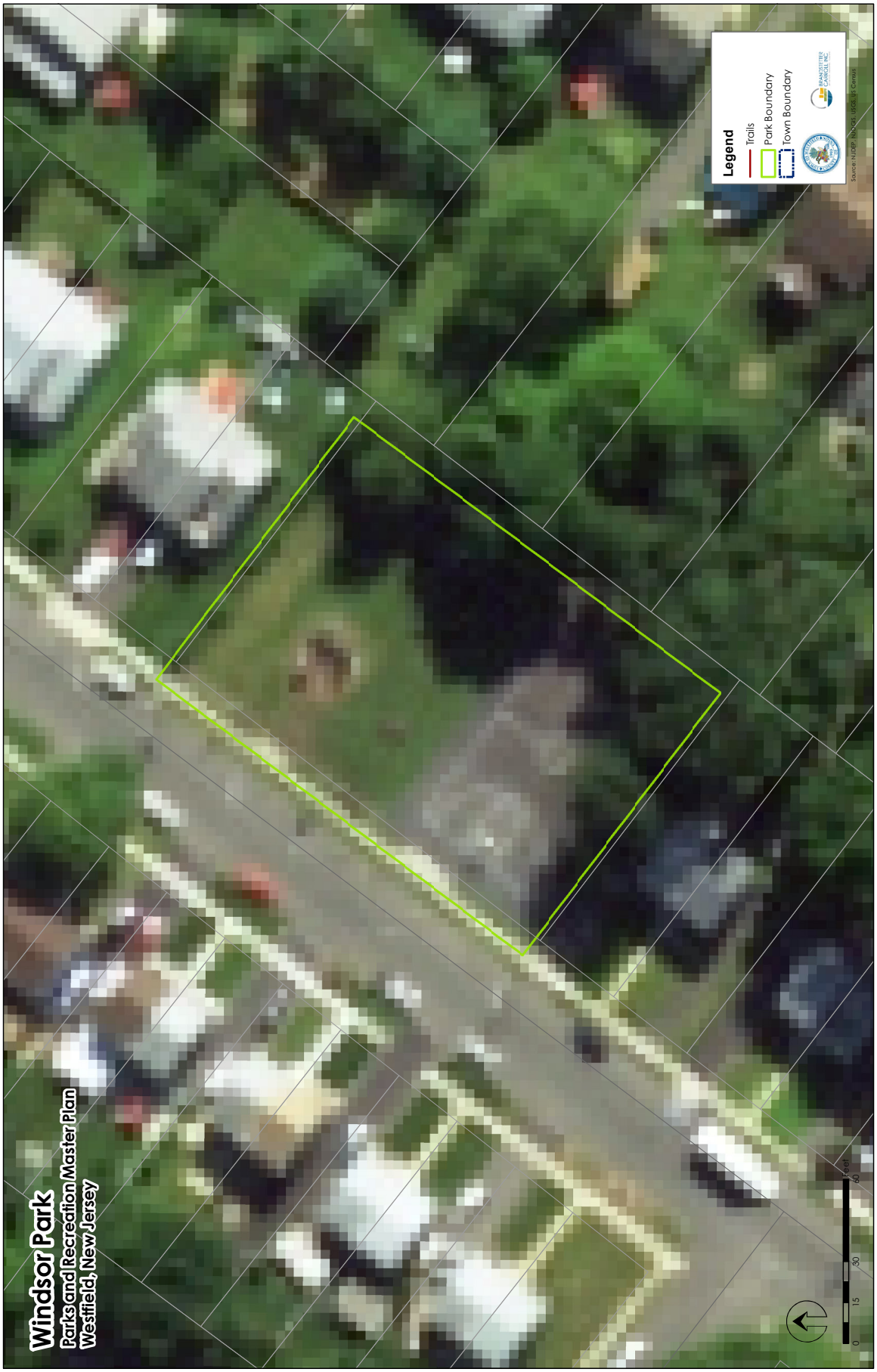
Lincoln School Playground
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Westfield, New Jersey
0
15
30
60
Feet
Legend
Trails
Park Boundary
Town Boundary
BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC.

Memorial Park
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Westfield, New Jersey
Legend
Park Boundary
Town Boundary
0
50
100
200
Feet


Mindowaskin Park
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Westfield, New Jersey
Legend
Trails
Park Boundary
Town Boundary
0
50
100
200
Feet

Sycamore Field
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Westfield, New Jersey
Legend
Trails
Park Boundary
Town Boundary
0
20
40
80
Feet

Tamaques Park
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Westfield, New Jersey
Legend
Trails
Park Boundary
Town Boundary
BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC.
Source: NJDEP, NJOGIS, USGS, US Census
0
200
400
800
Feet


Windsor Park
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Westfield, New Jersey
Legend
Trails
Park Boundary
Town Boundary
0 15 30 60 Feet
Source: NJDEP, NJ-GIS, USGS, LB Consult

APPENDIX C - PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARIES

CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY
WESTFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
WESTFIELD, NJ
PROJECT NO. 18157

BY: Keith E. Rodenhauser, AICP, SITES AP, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
Patrick Hoagland, ASLA, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

April 24, 2019

Two Public Workshop Open House Meetings were held in April 2019. The first was held on April 3 in the Community Room at Town Hall, and the second was held on April 24 at Edison School in the cafeteria. Both meetings were held jointly with the Town Master Plan Update.

As they entered, participants were given three red and three blue dots to vote on their most important features and programs. Participants were also given $1,000 in play money to vote for improvements that should be made to parks. They were shown to three stations where they could provide input. The following are the responses to the write-in comments at each of the three stations. A √ indicates where a person seconded a comment. Responses are shown separately for the two meetings.

Parks and Facilities – Meeting #1

1. What makes them great now?
    - Overall well done
    - Accessibility from all parts of town
    - Wide variety for all ages
    - Youth sports and teen/tween activities
    - A place for our kids to socialize, be off devices!
    - 24/7 access for runners to use unpaved paths in parks
    - Love the pool
    - Love Tamaques, Mindowaskin
    - The playgrounds
    - Tamaques is a gem
    - New playgrounds at Mindowaskin
    - Facilities at Memorial Pool
    - Ice rink!
    - Mindowaskin is as quiet and special as ever
    - Memorial Pool is the best around
    - Playgrounds
2. What would make them better?
    - More turf fields
    - More turf fields
    - That we remember that people other than athletes use the parks too!

- Use school fields especially behind Edison ✓
- Improve conditions of existing fields used by existing programming
- Turf fields with lights
- Better grass fields
- More turf fields + lights
- More turf fields
- Improve school fields
- More sporting fields
- More turf fields, better maintained grass fields
- More options for the multiple teams
- More fields in town nearby so we don't have to leave Westfield to play
- More turf fields in Westfield
- More fields but don't lose character of park in process
- Improve school fields – consider turf
- Add skate park
- Improve fields (school) schedule practices to accommodate working parents
- More turf fields
- Redo sporting fields and school fields
- More turf fields – Sycamore, Memorial, Tamaques, DMV parking lot, Conservation Center, Elm, BoE Facilities
- Better maintenance of grass fields
- More basketball courts
- Outdoor fitness trail
- Add bubble for indoor
- Turf fields
- Progress plans at faster pace ✓✓
- No lights on Kehler!
- Add bubble over existing turf fields to make all weather
- Add turf fields w/ lighting
- We would like turf fields!! ✓
- No turf fields in Tamaques Park ✓
- More turf fields and lighting ✓
- Turf and light fields by Franklin and Roosevelt Schools
- Maintain the grass fields we have for all – not turf fields for some
- Use Tamaques as intended – a recreation park
- Turf and light Tamaques Park fields ✓
- More turf fields!!!

- Turf/light/bubble fields
- Light Kehler
- Permanent ice rink
- Turf field with lights
- Turf and light Elm Street field
- Turf Sycamore
- Small dog park in Clark Park
- Grade grass fields so water does not sit
- Existing athletic fields (mostly school based) need major improvements in order to ensure and future usage for multiple sports ✓
- Move Kehler or football
- Improve existing fields (school) make safer with lighting
- Turf field with lights and open to resident/public (not only for children)
- Bathroom facilities at Mindowaskin ✓
- Add functioning water fountain (Mindowaskin)
- A continuous plan for tree trimming and removal – safety! ✓
- Disc golf in town
- Public bathrooms open at all sporting facilities!!!
- Bubble the memorial lap pool
- Don't turn my quiet neighborhood into a city-like block by lighting Kehler and ruining my nights!!!
- More parking at fields ✓✓
- Put the ice rink at Memorial Pool Park field and utilize changing and bathrooms at the pool complex. Safe parking and plenty of it. Trees make it private to neighbors/residences.
- Revitalize the picnic pavilions at Tamaques
- New bathroom at Tamaques Park – Revitalize picnic areas at Tamaques Park
- Turf Memorial. Turf part of Tamaques. Build facility to support sports clubs (soccer, lacrosse, wrestling). Second floor with storage below.
- More turf fields and bathrooms
- More picnic shelters
- Explore highest and best use of Gumbert
- I don't want to play my home games in Clark, Edison, and Garwood!!! I want to play in Westfield. SOCCER ✓
- Memorial Pool fields – Maintained and used
- Move football field!
- Continue ice hockey rink
- Roller hockey rink

Trails and Natural Areas – Meeting #1

1. What makes them great now?
    - Relatively unspoiled
    - "Breathing room"
    - Nature
    - Quiet
    - Enjoy nature – especially trails and oval at Tamaques
    - Lack of "improvements"
    - Addresses todays nature deficit ✓
    - Not too busy
    - Natural beauty of our parks – respite
    - Natural and unspoiled
    - Unpaved paths
    - Tamaques Park is great – love the paths, playgrounds and picnic pavilion
2. What would make them better?
    - Poor paving
    - More picnic areas might be nice (Tamaques)
    - Improved maintenance/surfaces ✓✓✓
    - Improved surfaces of trails/roadways ✓✓✓
    - Please improve Brightwood. Beautiful space for trails. ✓✓✓
    - More promotion of what exists. Bird Sanctuary?
    - Better maintenance of open grassy areas ✓✓
    - Gravel paths, or proper paving ✓
    - Market better – not everyone is aware ✓
    - Is there opportunity to increase the number of trails in existing parks? If so, would be great.
    - Adequate garbage cans and recycling containers ✓✓✓
    - Uninterrupted biking trails (across town transport)
    - After storm, clear paths of debris ✓✓
    - Explore highest best use of large Conservation Center!
    - Raingardens in developed parks like Mindowaskin, especially near parking
    - Bike trails in park and in town
    - Solving parking ✓
    - Trash cans located where people will use them
    - Trash cans and recycling containers picked up more often ✓✓
    - Outdoor fitness trail ✓

- We need to balance open space with athletic needs
- Help the back of Tamaques Park!
- Make Brightwood better! ✓✓
- Tree preservation, pruning, etc. ✓
- Regular maintenance
- Better plant and tree maintenance ✓✓
- Better pathways
- Address safety issues at Brightwood Park ✓
- Address safety at Brightwood. Create a real walking trail which explains the various plants and wildlife that live in the park. ✓
- Address pollution in parks and bike trails and preserve more land to help our environment ✓
- Maybe plant more trees on town property to offset trees lost to new homes/knockdowns
- Tree preservation – Pruning
- Cut a tree, add two trees
- Bike trails from end of town to the other
- More unpaved paths
- Enhance/preserve cross country running path used for high school races (improve surface, mile markers)
- Unpaved trails
- Tamaques cross-country course ✓
- Open spaces ✓✓
- Improve natural area of Tamaques
- Make Brightwood more "user friendly" for passive use
- Improve/maintain cross-country course surface
- More biking trails
- Outdoor fitness trail
- Preservation of open space – not everyone plays soccer! ✓
- Cross country course markers
- Improve cross-country course path

Programs and Events – Meeting #1

1. What makes them great now?
    - Well run programs
    - Ice skating class
    - Programs for every skill level
    - Wide variety of sports/events for all ages
    - Adams Fest!! Awesome town wide event
    - Breadth of offerings

- Recreation department has a lot of diverse offerings
- Summer camp at the elementary schools! Its great

2. What would make them better?
    - Need some special events in the parks – Fireworks, movies, cross country ski
    - Women's volleyball league
    - Soccer tournaments
    - Adult sports programs (after hours)
    - Girls flag football teams!!!!!
    - More special town events

Parks and Facilities – Meeting #2

1. What makes them great now?
    - I like Tamaques because of its fields
    - Love courts at Memorial
    - Parks are multiuse
    - Pool complex provides summer fun for families ✓
    - Keep Tamaques Park as something for everyone – ballfields, open grass, walk laps around circle, walking wooded paths ✓✓
    - The pool is outstanding! ✓
    - Good playground areas ✓✓
    - Tamaques is great now for all of the everyday exercisers/runners/walkers/strollers!
    - Westfield Ice Rink was a fantastic addition to Westfield! Bravo!!!
    - The Westfield Ice Rink was very valuable to the WHS sports program!
    - Kids sports build community ✓
2. What would make them better?
    - No turf fields ✓✓✓
    - We need more turf fields! We only have two fields, and they are both grass. When it rains, they get flooded and we can't use them. I don't like how our home field is in Clark. I don't feel like we are representing Westfield, but we are representing Clark. Turf fields would make it easier for all the sports teams! ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
    - More turf at Elementary Schools but without lights – better maintenance of school grounds to provide more options for fields
    - We need more plants to help our town look more beautiful and better ✓✓✓
    - More fields – it is an embarrassment that we can't accommodate our own teams
    - Green! We need to accommodate everyone who uses parks – sports and everyone else! We all pay taxes and all need to be able to enjoy it
    - Recycle receptacles
    - Turf fields in Tamaques would be great
    - We are lucky to have a lot of stuff – but we need to improve and clean up old stuff. Such an active town and our parks don't provide adequate things

- Turf infield at Gumbert
- Add areas for senior activities ✓
- Improve the playground and drainage by tennis courts at Tamaques
- Upgrade the bathroom facilities at Tamaques ✓✓
- Maintain the area by the picnic shed – do not keep it "natural" – dangerous to walk the path by the water and up the hill
- Long-term solution for the ice rink ✓
- Increase number of turf fields ✓✓
- Create a fenced dog park in the wooded area behind Tamaques park – too many dogs running off-leash
- Put a sign by the garbage cans at the picnic pavilion at Tamaques to please not throw dog waste – people want to picnic there, and it smells like dog poo!
- Increase the quality and quantity of athletic fields including lights
- No turf fields in parks ✓✓✓✓✓
- Upgrade security at Tamaques park bathrooms
- Our town parks can't be just for athletic events ✓
- What would make the town better is having more turf fields. Other fields get flooded and I have nowhere to play! ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
- More green spaces – Some turf but not all turf – paving paradise to put in parking lots
- Improve maintenance – clean up debris
- Pave walkways
- Use surplus of Conservation Center mulch to spruce up playground and back park areas
- Empty the drums more frequently in winter (the overflow with poop bags)
- Renovate the Tamaques bathrooms
- More dog bag stations in all parks
- Sports programs need more turf fields – soccer, lacrosse, baseball ✓
- Sports programs need lit fields for night practice ✓
- Repave the road around Tamaques for pedestrians and cars ✓✓
- More turf fields in town!! ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
- Upgrade grilling area at Tamaques ✓✓
- Sycamore field improvement
- No turf at Tamaques ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
- Leave our parks green, consider other areas for turf ✓✓✓✓
- Have some green spaces and let the various sports programs pony up and spend some dollars form all the fees they collect to buy property for turf and maintenance
- Why can't town utilize school fields and improve them to gain some more space for sports. Better idea than putting turf all over
- Fields for athletics must be sited with consideration of parking, neighborhoods, egress and traffic, borders to community. Evaluate each choice for all factors.

- Partner with Board of Education to turf school fields before taking over natural area at Tamaques Park ✓✓
- Grass fields at schools are in poor shape. They are already designated for youth. Turfing Tamaques School, Back of R/S are examples of grass fields that are not maintained at all! Light those fields too and the space can be maximized for longer hours.
- We need more turf fields. We need more turf fields because I have to play in Clark or Garwood. Not in Westfield where I am supposed to play. ✓✓✓✓
- I need to play my home games at home not Clark or Garwood! ✓
- Field lighting, batting cages, upgraded modern bathrooms
- We need more turf fields at the parks and in the Town of Westfield, NJ. ✓
- Hockey rink seems wanted but not in a residential area
- Bathrooms at Memorial Park need an upgrade and Tamaques ✓
- Turf fields at Gumbert for baseball
- More, better maintained fields for baseball at Tamaques
- Lights for playing fields
- For residents who border Tamaques it is not clear what impact lights would have. We are adjacent and bought our home because of the access and tranquility. We play sports too and want more understanding of the impact on that in evening and to mature trees which surround and are in the park.
- The BOE fields are not well maintained or efficiently used as a result
- Multiuse facility at Tamaques for all sports
- Better use and development for sports fields of unused acreage at Tamaques
- Please consider the residents around Tamaques Park – We love the peacefulness of our neighborhood! I'm concerned about the noise of new fields are put in as well as the parking situation. We don't want our peaceful street to become a parking lot lined with cars every weekend! ✓
- Permanent hockey rink. New multipurpose/wrestling facility in Tamaques Park
- Tamaques Park needs more turf fields. They should also add a recreation site.
- On-deck safety cage for baseball fields
- A permanent rink is Westfield would be a valuable asset to Westfields. Be a leader Westfield!
- Rebuild the ground in the picnic area where water sits after storms – Great breeding ground for mosquitos
- Better clean up branches
- Turf Elm Street field and add lights – Improved foot traffic downtown, more revenue at local businesses, not having to turf Tamaques field, less impact on residential areas
- Memorial Park need to be updated! Sad!
- Improve and expand baseball fields – deficient compared to other towns
- Our parks are not well kept – Clean up dead stuff.
- Our playgrounds are not sufficient for a town with so many families. Mindowaskin should be the norm not a special treat. ✓

- Elm Street tennis courts need fixing
- Tennis courts should have priority so we can host JV and V teams – signage, etc.
- School grounds and town grounds combine to save dollars, time, and equipment
- Visit other towns to see what best practices they have
- Playgrounds with fences and poured-in-place surfaces
- More bike racks at middle school and in town to encourage biking
- Parks vs. sports – I'm for parks
- Memorial Park needs a major upgrade
- Turf Elm field
- Turf fields ✓✓ – Boo
- Turf fields ✓ – Boo
- Turf fields ✓
- Turf fields ✓
- Turf fields ✓ – No
- Turf fields ✓ – No
- Turf fields ✓✓ – No
- Turf fields ✓ – No
- Turf fields ✓ – No
- Turf fields ✓ – No
- Turf fields ✓ – No
- Turf fields ✓ – No
- Add pickleball! (to Memorial) at Tamaques too! ✓✓✓✓✓
- Tamaques needs to make turf fields, recreation sites, etc.
- Turf fields
- Recreation center
- Turf fields
- Turf field
- Move forward with the Tamaques renovation plan – use the wealth of info already developed ✓
- For all sports (lacrosse, soccer, etc.) we need more turf fields. When we practice lacrosse we have to practice on Elm which gets muddy. Also, for soccer I need to drive 20-30 minutes away just to practice. All in all, we NEED (not want) turf fields!! ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
- We need more softball fields in Westfield and soccer fields
- More lighted fields ✓
- Turf fields ✓
- More turf fields to play on ✓✓✓
- Westfield Soccer "home" fields is in Garwood! ✓

- Downtown field "Elm" – draw business to town pre and post games, events, concerts
- More fields for baseball
- Ice rink ✓
- We need more fields ✓
- We need more turf fields our grass fields get flooded constantly and Westfield teams can't play ✓✓
- Turf fields at Gumbert
- Turf fields at Gumbert for baseball
- More multiuse fields (baseball, soccer, lacrosse)
- An additional track – Kehler is always in use!
- Turf fields ✓
- Lights ✓✓
- Permanent hockey rink
- New wresting multipurpose facility in Tamaques Park
- Turf fields
- Turf fields ✓
- Turf fields ✓
- Turf fields ✓
- Turf fields ✓
- Turf fields ✓
- Turf fields ✓
- Turf fields ✓
- Turf fields ✓✓
- Lacrosse turf fields
- Basketball facility
- We need more turf fields because all the sports don't have a place to play in. I have to drive all the way to Oak Ridge just for practice. ✓✓✓✓

<u>Trails and Natural Areas – Meeting #2</u>

1. What makes them great now?
    - I'm in Tamaques Park every day for the past 18 years. I love the park but see my feedback – possible improvement areas/opportunities ✓
    - Always great to have parks with multiple uses – at park often
    - Great place close by to enjoy nature.
    - I live on Tamaques Park. I walk on Tamaques Park trails every day – Tamaques Park is a spiritual experience ✓
    - Turf field would impact this experience (Tamaques Park)
    - Tamaques – Love the walking path around park. Make it car free and move parking near entrance.

- We need to have more beautiful flowers on the open green spaces
- Nice outdoor space for spending time outdoors.
- In Westfield but still feels remote!
- Love Tamaques – it's a multiuse park for all generations – Sports yes, but also strollers, dogs, joggers, walkers – Keep it green – trees, trails… if we must add turf, keep it to a minimum
- Tamaques is intergenerational!
- Tamaques open space is great!
- Walking/jogging gravel trail at Tamaques
- Tamaques – birds, ducks, hawks, foxes, deer, tons of wildlife!
- Love playground at Mindowaskin

2. What would make them better?
    - Keep Tamaques natural: please no bike trails
    - We need to have more beautiful flowers on the open green spaces
    - Preserve/enhance cross-country courses at Tamaques
    - Trail/exercise program/equipment
    - Tamaques Park – clean up tree debris and poison ivy ✓✓✓✓
    - Tamaques Park – Update bathrooms ✓✓✓✓
    - Tamaques Park – Use surplus of Conservation Center and spruce up playground and grandstands ✓✓✓
    - Tamaques Park – Replant trees at end of Dickson where new home nocked them down ✓✓✓✓
    - Tamaques Park – Make a couple additional parking areas ✓✓✓✓
    - Long range planning effort is an excellent start!
    - Designate more dog friendly areas or create a dog park ✓✓
    - Tamaques – Additional exit ✓
    - Dog park in Tamaques Park ✓
    - Clean up back woods trails of blocked paths by fallen trees and the dam that caused a pool of debris in the creek ✓✓
    - Trail maps and trail blazes
    - Tamaques park needs more benches ✓
    - Tamaques needs more natural areas
    - Don't cut down the trees ✓ – No turf
    - Keep natural areas
    - Parks are parks, not sports complexes
    - Improve information about them (natural areas) to the community ✓
    - The bathrooms at Tamaques need TLC
    - Better restroom facilities
    - Fishing lake

- Keep Mindowaskin Park and quiet place, not built for large events
- Mindowaskin needs some TLC – trees planted, walking paths, repaved, mucky areas addressed ✓
- Too much garbage in Mindowaskin lake – should be skimmed weekly
- Tamaques needs the trails re-blazed and re-chipped. We need more trash receptacles in Tamaques Park, especially for the dog walkers ✓✓✓✓✓
- Better tree pruning, field drainage
- We need more places to swim and be outdoors, like lake, bike trails and more community centers!
- Maintain Tamaques Park. Clean up trails. Have designated area for dogs to run.
- Trails/preservation off Lamberts Mil Rd
- Turf fields at Tamaques without cutting too many trees
- Proper, adequate maintenance – trim trees, cut grass, repair walks, better lighting, safety needs to be considered
- Tag trees and plant types along walkways
- Anything to link trails around town would be nice
- No turf
- Bathrooms
- Better bathrooms
- Improve the trails and wooded areas – clean up old dead trees
- Keep parks natural and add minimal turf
- Bike trails and running trails
- If dog area, keep small and fenced in
- I think we need bike trails like the pictures
- Don't nail signs to trees
- Improve the high school cross-country course at Tamaques Park
- Keep the high school cross-country course in Tamaques
- Create mile markers on cross-country course in Tamaques
- High school cross-country course at Tamaques is legendary! Keep it there. Better yet improve it. Remove debris, tree roots. Add mile markers
- Keep as much open, unimproved space as possible – once it's gone it's gone for good.
- Constant upkeep of walking paths (add gravel)
- Trail exercise stations
- Improve walking/biking path at Tamaques (by the softball field)
- Improve high school cross-country course at Tamaques.
- Improve walking path around oval at Tamaques

Programs and Events – Meeting #2

1. What makes them great now?
    - Diversity ✓
    - More programs for seniors
    - Memorial Pool great place in the summer – lots for kids to do
    - Great pool, appreciate the continued updates
    - Playground camp – now no lunch break! Yeah!
    - Jazz night
    - Great pool area
    - Lots of schools
    - Love jazz – don't change a thing
    - Fitness programs – Health and wellness ✓
    - Summer day camp
    - Great lifeguards at Memorial Pool
    - Soccer program!
    - Jazz night and occasional shutdown of Elm St are great
    - Love jazz festival, additional events that bring diversity ✓✓
2. What would make them better?
    - Swimming classes in the afternoon
    - More programs for families with babies and toddlers
    - Jazz night – Maybe extend into September ✓✓
    - Senior programs (aerobics/events and activities)
    - Maintained fulltime
    - Offer special programs for physically challenged
    - Early evening (kids go to bed at 8)
    - Programs for teens (12-18)
    - Program for teen employment opportunities to connect local employers with teens
    - Job fair for teens like Berkley Heights
    - More family event nights at Tamaques or Memorial ✓
    - We need more town events, something like the Spring Fling. Our town needs to connect more and become more interactive ✓
    - The town could get more town events like the Spring Fling

Dollar Voting

Participants were given $1,000 in play money to place in boxes with the following categories:

Action (Box Title)	Event		Total
	Open House #1	Open House #2	
Build new athletic fields	$29,300	$45,600	**$74,900**
	35%	*40%*	*38%*
Upgrade existing parks and facilities	$17,700	$22,700	**$40,400**
	21%	*20%*	*20%*
Build new walking and biking trails	$12,400	$13,600	**$26,000**
	15%	*12%*	*13%*
Build new parks	$8,600	$8,400	**$17,000**
	10%	*7%*	*9%*
Develop a recreation center	$6,200	$5,300	**$11,500**
	7%	*5%*	*6%*
Develop an indoor pool	$1,500	$4,200	**$5,700**
	2%	*4%*	*3%*
Upgrade Memorial Pool	$2,700	$2,100	**$4,800**
	3%	*2%*	*2%*
Expand program offerings	$2,400	$1,900	**$4,300**
	3%	*2%*	*2%*
Other	$2,700	$9,800	**$12,500**
	3%	*9%*	*6%*
Total	$83,500	$113,600	**$197,100**

Other

The comments with dollars are listed below. Some participants wrote numbers on the cards that differed from that amount inserted, and some wrote comments with no money attached. As a result, the total below does not match the total for the "Other" box in the previous table.

Ice rink	$1,100	$3,900	**$5,000**
Maintenance		$2,000	**$2,000**
Convert Elm field and courts to joint field and community center		$1,000	**$1,000**
Cross country Trail	$1,000		**$1,000**
Dog friendly/exclusive areas		$1,000	**$1,000**
Tamaques/Memorial		$1,000	**$1,000**
Turf fields for baseball with lights		$1,000	**$1,000**
Field house - Indoor soccer, basketball courts	$500		**$500**
Kids hangout lounge		$500	**$500**
Lights at athletic fields		$500	**$500**
Wrestling facility		$400	**$400**
Complement the YMCA, add a gym		$300	**$300**
Hockey at Memorial pool		$300	**$300**
Ice/roller skating		$300	**$300**
Park improvement		$300	**$300**
Rain gardens	$300		**$300**
Clean up existing passive parks (Clark and Brightwood)	$200		**$200**
Room for senior activities		$200	**$200**
Dog park (small at Clark Park)	$100		**$100**
Open spaces in town to eat like Summit	$100		**$100**
Walking trails		$100	**$100**
	$3,300	$12,800	**$16,100**

No money attached

- Ice rink (5)
- Field house and hockey rink
- Keep sidewalks and curbs free of debris
- Kids hangout
- Maintain passive parks (Mindowaskin, Brightwood) - keep passive but give them some TLC
- More natural green space
- More turf fields
- Public space donation
- Upgrade all school fields and park fields!!
- Upgrade Memorial park
- Don't buy when current stuff needs upgrading
- More green all around heart of town

Feature Board

Participants were given three red dots to place on 16 park amenities (represented by pictures), including an option for "Anything Else" not included in these categories. The results in the table below show the count from both meetings.

Feature	Event		Total	%
	Open House #1	Open House #2		
Multipurpose Fields	69	125	194	33%
Natural Areas	38	45	83	14%
Trails	28	29	57	10%
Ice Rinks	12	32	44	7%
Restrooms	22	17	39	7%
Dog Parks	13	18	31	5%
Event Spaces	17	7	24	4%
Game Courts	18	6	24	4%
Playgrounds	10	13	23	4%
Recreation Centers	12	11	23	4%
Ball Diamonds	5	11	16	3%
Outdoor Aquatics	4	11	15	3%
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	2	5	7	1%
Picnic Shelter	2	2	4	1%
Disc Golf	2	0	2	0%
Other	0	2	2	0%
Total	**254**	**334**	**588**	
Participants	**85**	**111**	**196**	

Anything Else

- Wrestling facility (2)

Programs Board

Participants were given three red dots to place on 16 programs (represented by pictures, including an option for "Anything Else" not included in these categories. The results in the table below show the count from both meetings.

Program	Event		Total	%
	Open House #1	Open House #2		
Athletics	68	139	207	39%
Movies/Music Concerts	29	23	52	10%
Festivals	25	19	44	8%
Nature Programs	25	15	40	7%
Summer Camps	12	18	30	6%
Senior Programs	19	10	29	5%
Athletic Tournaments	7	19	26	5%
Annual Special Events	14	10	24	4%
After School Programs	13	8	21	4%
Fitness Classes	8	8	16	3%
Enrichment Programs	4	12	16	3%
Aquatics	1	11	12	2%
Music Classes	3	3	6	1%
Dance and Drama Classes	3	2	5	1%
Other	0	5	5	1%
Arts & Crafts Classes	3	1	4	1%
Total	**234**	**303**	**537**	
Participants	**78**	**101**	**179**	

Anything Else

- Sweet Sound (3)
- Family Events (1)
- Maintenance (1)

Keith E. Rodenhauser, AICP, SITES AP 4/24/2019

KER/ker

cc: Pat Hoagland
Don Bogardus
File

APPENDIX D - CORE PROGRAM

CORE PROGRAM CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

D.1 Athletics

Definition: Leisure activities which focus on skill development and athletic enjoyment.

1. **Formats:**
   - Seasonal
   - Team
   - Individual
   - Participant & Spectator
   - Competitive
   - Progressive levels of skill development
2. **Athletic activities provide the opportunity to:**
   - Have fun
   - Develop and maintain an effective level of physical fitness
   - Utilize a positive outlet for aggressive behavior
   - Provide an opportunity to feel connected to and participate with a group (socialization).
   - Compete
   - Develop sportsmanship and character
3. **Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**
   - Badminton
   - Baseball
   - Basketball
   - Bocce
   - Bowling
   - Cricket
   - Cycling
   - Equestrian Programs
   - Fencing
   - Flag Football
   - Golf
   - Lacrosse
   - Martial Arts
   - Pickleball
   - Racquet Ball
   - Roller Hockey
   - Ice Hockey
   - Skating
   - Soccer
   - Softball
   - Swim team
   - Tennis
   - Ultimate Frisbee
   - Volleyball
   - Evolving and new sports

D.2 Health, Fitness, and Wellness Activities

Definition: Leisure activities which focus on body movement oriented in direction of fitness, skill development, and physical enjoyment.

1. **Formats:**
   - Seasonal
   - Team
   - Individual
   - Participant & Spectator
   - Progressive levels of skill development

2. **Activities provide the opportunity to:**

- Have fun
- Develop and maintain an effective level of physical fitness
- Utilize a positive outlet for aggressive behavior
- Provide an opportunity to feel connected to and participate with a group (socialization)
- Compete
- Develop sportsmanship and character

3. **Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**

- Aerobics
- Cycling
- Fitness Activities
- Boot Camp
- Cross Country Skiing
- Walking Clubs
- Therapeutic Horseback Riding
- Movement Fitness
- Silver Sneakers/Senior programs
- Yoga
- Paddling
- Walking
- Cardio Hikes
- 5/10K Runs
- Snowshoeing
- Water aerobics and exercise
- Swimming
- Weight lifting

D.3 Health and Wellness Education

Definition: These programs go beyond the traditional view of recreation and promote the individual's optimal well being physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually.

1. **Format:**

- Testing/Screening
- Instructional Workshops and Classes
- Speakers
- Community Forums
- Partnerships/Programs with Other Agencies

2. **Health, Wellness and Educational Programs provide opportunities to:**

- Enhanced self-esteem
- Extend and continue the learning process
- Create public awareness and understanding
- Allow the individual to feel connected to his/her community

3. **Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**

- Stress Management
- Substance Abuse
- Smoke Enders
- Nutrition & Weight Control
- Vision Screening
- Medicare
- Personal Training
- Diabetes
- Arthritis
- A fib
- Heart

D.4 Creative Arts

Definition: Activities that result in the creation of something tangible. The process usually involves artistic or imaginable effort:

1. **Format:**
   - Progressive Skill Development
   - Individual and/or Group Projects
   - Exhibits, Shows, Displays
   - Classes and Workshops
2. **Creative Arts provide the opportunity to:**
   - Express creativity
   - Work with hands
   - Develop fine motor skills
   - Enhance the appreciation for the arts
   - Give personal satisfaction and pride in accomplishment
3. **Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**
   - Ceramics/Glass
     - Glazing & Staining
     - Greenware
     - Hand Building
     - Raku
     - Stained Glass
     - Wheel (Throwing)
   - Crafts
     - Copper Foil
     - Paper Making
     - Decoupage
     - Paper Mache
     - Enameling
     - Plaster Crafts
     - Jewelry Making
     - Plastic Crafts
     - Mobiles
     - Print Making
     - Mosaics
     - Silk Screening
     - Paper Crafts
     - Wood Working
   - Drawing/Painting-Calligraphy
     - Pastels
     - Cartooning
     - Pen & Ink
     - Charcoal
     - Sketching
     - Mixed Media
     - Water Colors
     - Oil
     - Pre-School Drawing
   - Fabric
     - Batik
     - Needle Point
     - Crochet
     - Quilting
     - Knitting
     - Sewing

- Photography
  - Composition
  - Pinhole Cameras
  - Using 35mm Cameras
  - Digital Workshops
- Sculpture
  - Casting
  - Plaster
  - Clay
  - Soft (Fabric)
  - Mobiles
  - Wire
  - Paper
- Weaving
  - Basketry
  - Dyeing
  - On or Off the Loom
  - Spinning

D.5 Performing Arts

Definition: The type of activity that allows the participant to use himself/herself as the medium of expression. The "Doing" process is important whether or not an audience is involved.

1. **Format:**
   - Progressive skill level development
   - Classes and Workshops
   - Special Events
   - Neighborhood Projects
2. **Creative Arts provide the opportunity to:**
   - Provide the participant with the opportunity to discover himself/herself as a person, by being creatively involved in learning new skills, exploring and expressing talents
   - Allows the participant to create his/her own entertainment
   - May be enjoyed by people of all ages
   - Serves to develop and enrich cultural appreciation
3. **Types of Activities:**
   - Dance
     - Ballet
     - Ballroom Dance
     - Clogging
     - Creative Movement
     - Folk Dance
     - Jazz Dance
     - Modern Dance
     - Square Dance
     - Tap Dance
     - Line Dancing
   - Drama
     - Acting
     - Backstage Crafts
     - Games, Charades, Stunts, and Skits
     - Pantomime and Improvisation
     - Poetry Readings
     - Puppetry
     - Storytelling
     - Theater Groups

- Music
  - Choral Groups
  - Guitar
  - Piano
  - Recorder
  - Singing
  - Talent/Variety Shows
  - Special Needs Music Program
  - Music Fundamentals
  - Rhythm Instruments (Bells, triangles, blocks, Drums)

D.6 Cultural Performances

Definition: Activities in which the person is a spectator of a cultural performance.

1. **Format:**
   - Progressive skill level development
   - Special Events
2. **Cultural Performances provide the opportunity to:**
   - Provide the participant with the opportunity to discover and appreciate various forms of performing arts
   - Serves to develop and enrich cultural appreciation
3. **Types of Activities:**
   - Ballet
   - Musical performances
   - Concerts, recitals
   - Theater - Plays
   - Musicals
   - Talent shows

D.7 Education, Life Skills, and Fun

Definition: These programs offer fun and educational activities which can be enjoyed for a lifetime

1. **Format:**
   - Individual
   - Families
   - Group
   - Instructional Workshops and Classes
   - Speakers
   - All ages
2. **Education and Life Skills Programs provide opportunities to:**
   - Enhance a skill
   - Improve safety and awareness
   - Learn

3. **Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**

- Informational Referrals
- CPR & First Aid
- Parenting Skills
- G.E.D. Programs
- Tutoring
- Personal Safety
- Kids Computer
- Baby Sitting Classes
- Financial
- Computer
- Bicycle Maintenance
- Tax Assistance
- Social Meetings
- Movies
- Guide to Social Security
- Computer
- Scout Programs
- Aquatics
  - Swim Lessons
  - Red Cross Courses
  - Scuba

D.8 Community and Annual Events

Definition: Activities that bring the community together to celebrate holidays, traditions, etc. May overlap with Cultural Performances.

1. **Formats:**

- Large gatherings in parks or along parade routes
- May or many not charge an admission fee

2. **Events provide opportunities to:**

- Gather with your community to celebrate holidays, events and traditions
- Meet your neighbors
- Build a sense of community

3. **Types of Activities:**

- Festivals
- Parades
- Fairs
- Concerts
- Cultural celebrations
- July 4th Fireworks
- Holiday events
- Seasonal Events
- Social Activities

D.9 Games

Definition: Activities of play that are governed by specific rules and intended to provide challenges, diversion and enjoyment.

1. **Formats:**

- Active or Semi active Group Games
- Social Games, Mixers, Ice Breakers
- Mental Games, Quizzes, Puzzles, Paper & Pencil Games
- Table and Equipment Games
- Quiet Games

2. **Games provide the opportunity to:**

- Develop ability to cooperate effectively with others
- Learn to accept and abide by the rules of the game
- Accept victory and/or defeat in good spirit
- Learn to persevere and keep trying
- Develop good sportsmanship and consideration for the rights of others
- Learn to take turns and accept boundary limits (either in a physical sense, or in terms of personal behavior)

3. **Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**

- Air Hockey
- Billiards
- Board & Table Games
- Cards
- Checkers
- Chess
- Dominoes
- Foosball
- Horse Shoes
- Low Organized Games (Lead-Up, Relays, Tag, Dodge ball)
- Magic Stunts & Tricks
- Table Tennis
- Skittles
- Word Games
- World Wide Games

D.10 Nature/Outdoor Programs

Definition: Those recreational activities that can best be carried on outdoors and that have, in some way, a direct relationship or dependence on nature or that place the participant in direct contact with the elements.

1. **Format:**

- Individual or Group Activities/Classes/Workshops
- Teambuilding
- Partnerships and Programs with Other Agencies
- Role Playing
- Outing and Field Trips
- Sensory Awareness Activities
- School Groups / Summer Camps

2. **Outdoor education activities provide the opportunity to:**

- Develop an awareness and appreciation of our natural resources
- Develop skills for adaptation to vocational or leisure pursuits

3. **Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**

- Bird Feeding & Watching
- Sledding
- Orienteering
- Canoeing
- Cross Country Skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Archery
- Paddling (Canoe and Kayak)
- Hiking
- Fishing / Fishing Derby

- Nature Play
- Camping
- Glamping (Glamour Camping)
- Geocaching
- Pet Shows
- Repelling/Climbing
- Survival Skills

D.11 Green Living/Environmental Education

Definition: Programs and activities which help the individual or group minimize the impact on the environment while providing for a sustainable future.

1. **Formats:**
   - Seasonal
   - Family
   - Individual
   - Participant
   - School Groups / Summer Camps
2. **Activities provide the opportunity to:**
   - Learn methods to minimize our footprint on the environment
   - Participate with others toward a goal of a more sustainable future
   - Learn methods which can be practiced at home and in parks at a larger scale
3. **Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**
   - Land/Wildlife Conservation
   - Recycling
   - Gardening
   - Rain Barrel Making
   - Small Footprint Spring Cleaning
   - Landscaping with Native Plants
   - Earth Day Celebrations
   - Butterfly Gardens
   - Backyard Conservation Workshops
   - Composting
   - Invasive Species Removal
   - Weather, Climate

D.12 Heritage and History

Definition: These programs offer educational opportunities to interpret the heritage and history of a community, location, environment, or culture.

1. **Format:**
   - Individual
   - Families
   - Group
   - Instructional Workshops and Classes
   - Speakers
   - School Groups
2. **Heritage and History Programs provide opportunities to:**
   - Understand and celebrate the natural and cultural history
   - Enjoy nature as a family or group
   - Allow the individual to feel connected to the environment

3. **Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**

- Heritage Walks
- Maple Sugaring
- Heritage Farming Methods
- Native American Studies
- Storytelling

D.13 Volunteer Training

Definition: The parks and recreation department staff cannot possibly perform all of the tasks needed to accomplish its Mission. Volunteers are necessary to assist in fulfilling the Mission. These programs coordinate, educate, and supervise the volunteers to work in an efficient and effective manner.

1. **Format:**

- Individual
- Families
- Group
- Partners

2. **Volunteer Training Programs provide opportunities to:**

- Learn methods to participate toward the overall goals of the department
- Assist in tasks that are beyond the staff limitations of the agency in terms of the quantity of people necessary to accomplish the task in a timely and efficient manner
- Allow the individual to feel part of an organization to protect the environment and the facilities and programs offered
- Gain experience using a wide array of skills
- Share your interests with people of all ages
- Improve the quality of life in the community
- Get professional training on a variety of topics
- Learn more about the natural world
- Develop friendships
- Interact with park visitors
- Get exercise in the great outdoors
- Use creativity

3. **Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**

- Orientations
- Park Cleanups
- Educational Session Leader Training
- Nature Center Hosts
- Naturalist Training
- Invasive Species Removal
- Adopt a Park/Trail
- Trail Patrol and Maintenance
- Sustainable Trail Building
- Conservation Orientation

APPENDIX E - STARTING A PARK FOUNDATION, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, OR FRIENDS GROUP - A STEP BY STEP APPROACH

E.1 Overview

For most public park and recreation professionals, budget discussions start shortly after a new budget is adopted. Usually, the scenario is the same. The direction from Mayor, Council, Town Administration to the Recreation Director is quite clear. Do more with less. Again!

For those waiting for things to get "better," you may have a very long wait. There are no indicators that there will be magic tax dollars infused within your park and recreation agency. If you study the situation, the reasons that cities have less money is understandable. The costs of doing business within a municipality, like the costs of doing business in the private sector, increase each year. It is hard to find voters that want to raise taxes, and even harder to find elected officials that will prioritize money for park and recreation programs over police, fire, and other government services. Municipalities are forced to deal with unfunded pensions to the point where the Federal Government has issued mandates to cities to escrow funds for post-employment benefits.

One solution to long term financial sustainability is the formulation of a Park and Recreation Foundation.

E.2 WHY start a Park and Recreation Foundation or Non-profit Organization?

It is important that a park and recreation agency knows why it should consider the formulation of a park foundation. The main reason that most park and recreation agencies contemplate this action is to take advantage of the growing generosity within the philanthropic community. Simply put, funding opportunities for the expansion of park programs and services in public park and recreation departments is shrinking. Progressive agencies with an entrepreneurial spirit, are becoming more aggressive with developing and seeking out their own funding.

If you cannot answer this question with a strong conviction, you may want to wait to take the first step. Just by taking the appropriate steps to create a 501 C (3) park foundation does not mean that money and donations will start to flow to your organization. A foundation or nonprofit must be prepared to commit to a plan and appropriate resources, both through personnel and monetary allocations, to treat your organization as the "business," that it is.

Some reasons that a park system may enter into an undertaking to create a foundation or nonprofit are as follows:

- The park system may have financial needs beyond what the governing body may be able to provide. The opportunity to tap into the philanthropic community is a funding source that they may have not ever considered.
- The funding for the core services, traditionally provided by a park system, are diminishing each year.
- The public is interested in expanded services outside the scope of traditional park services that have no existing funding source.
- The community in which you operate has a robust philanthropic community that you are not currently tapped in to.
- The park system is experiencing budget cuts.

E.3 Understand the advantages and disadvantages of having a Foundation

When stacking the many advantages to having a park foundation, the main advantage is a properly managed park foundation will provide an additional funding source to accomplish the mission and vision for your agency. The disadvantage is that a park foundation is a separate organization from your park agency, managed by a separate Board of Directors. Your park foundation will be managed by a written set of by-laws that place the management of your foundation in the hands of a completely separate Board of Directors. This will not be a problem if the by-laws ensure that the resources obtained by the foundation stay within the park agency that created it. Having control of your foundation in the hands of an outside Board of Directors is not a bad thing.

E.4 Should I create a Park Foundation or a Non-profit Organization?

The question should be a little broader than that. There are many options, and this document will never provide all of the information for you to make a final decision. I will highlight a general overview of the subject.

There are public charities, private foundations, private nonoperating foundations, private operating foundations, and public charities that appear to act as foundation. These are usually separated by how the IRS treats contributions. Many of you have heard a foundation known as a 501 C (3). That is the code in which the IRS places these organizations.

The term "foundation" can be confusing as a non-profit organization can use the word foundation in its name and simply be a non-profit. This is a common practice. In my professional career, I was the Executive Director of The Parklands Foundation of Charleston County, Inc. It was not a Foundation, it was a non-profit organization.

E.4.1 Public Non-Profit Charity

In simple terms, a public charity is a charitable organization that (a) has broad public support, and(b) actively exists to support another charitable organization, like a public park and recreation department. Donations to public charities are fully tax deductible. These nonprofits have a mission that usually support community issues. A public charity usually has support from a public entity, like a park and recreation department.

E.4.2 A Private Foundation

Private foundations are charitable organizations that do not qualify as public charities. In practice, they usually are nonprofits that were established with funds from a single source or specific dedicated source, such as family or corporate money – instead of funding from the general public.

Although contributions to private foundations technically are tax deductible, many of these nonprofits do not accept donations. Instead, private foundations usually invest their principal funding, then distribute the income from investments for charitable purposes. Many have endowments. A Park Foundation can grant this money to themselves, but in general a Park Foundation or nonprofit can obtain gifts from Private Foundations to fund their mission.

The term "foundation" is confusing because not every organization that uses the word "foundation" in its name is a private foundation, and the word "foundation" has no legal meaning in and of itself.

Chronological Order to Establishing your Foundation or Non-profit.

1. Why are you starting the Foundation?
    - Mission
    - Vision
    - Values

2. Establish By-Laws to Support the Mission, Vision, and Values

The by-laws will state:

- Purpose
- Corporate Powers
- Member of the Corporation – Usually the Park and Recreation Agency
- Reservation of Powers
  - How to appoint Board Members
  - Meeting schedule and place
  - How to act
  - Voting
- Board of Director Authorities and Officers
  - Number and how long is the term
  - Attendance Requirement
  - Compensation, if any.
  - Special Meetings, Special Attendees, and meeting notices
  - Quorum and action by Directors
  - Meeting procedures and powers
  - Committee formulation and meeting procedure
  - Officers – Title, Duties, and Terms
  - Executive Director Duties, selection, and other staffing
  - General Provisions
  - Annual Statement, (Report)
  - Indemnification
  - Books and Records
  - Execution of Documents
  - Conflict of Interest
  - Dissolution and distribution of assets
  - Fiscal Year determination

Sample by-laws can be provided but it is recommended to use corporate counsel with Non-profit and Foundation experience to write your own by-laws.

3. Establishing Your Board of Directors

Most park foundations have an average board size of 10 members. When choosing board members, the most important component is that they believe in, and will support your mission. Board members' primary support is fund raising. Successful foundations make it very clear to prospective board members that there is an expectation to donate or raise a specific amount of money. Having 100% of your board members contributing to your cause is critical to making sure that there is support for your fund-raising projects.

4. Staffing Your Foundation

Depending upon the size of your foundation, the need for full time staff will vary. In the Park Foundation that I managed there was one employee, me. My title was the Executive Director. All support staff came from the agency that was receiving the funds. This worked well because although our Foundation was a separate entity, the close affiliation with our park agency, through the by-laws, made the staff vested partners in the

success of the Foundation. Since the Foundation's fund raising efforts all came back to the park agency, they knew that their efforts were helping the greater mission and vision of the park agency.

As foundations grow, the following could represent various future staff positions;

- Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director
- Chief Financial Officer
- Human Resource Officer
- Director of Marketing, Branding, and Public Relations
- Event Coordinator

5. Putting the Pieces Together

If a park agency has determined that starting a Park Foundation or nonprofit organization is something they want to do, we would recommend a one-day retreat with a combination of key park agency staff to include finance staff, park board representatives, and town or county oversight staff, to help set up the details of the by-laws and discuss board structure and potential board candidates. It will also be important to come to an agreement on how the Executive Director will be selected and supervised, as well as their association with the park agency the foundation will represent.

Town of Westfield
Parks and Recreation Survey

Final Findings Report

...helping organizations make better decisions since 1982

2019

Submitted to the Town of Westfield, New Jersey

ETC Institute
725 W. Frontier Lane,
Olathe, Kansas
66061

April 2019

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2019 Town of Westfield Parks and Recreation Survey Executive Summary

Overview

ETC Institute administered a Parks and Recreation Survey for Westfield in the winter of 2019. The survey was conducted as part of the Town's efforts to assist in prioritizing demands and opportunities that will improve and maintain parks, recreation facilities, programs, and services. The results of this survey will guide the Town in making decisions that will best serve the needs of its residents.

Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in Westfield, New Jersey. Each survey packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it online at www.WestfieldSurvey.org.

Ten days after the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute sent emails and placed phone calls to the households that received the survey to encourage participation. The emails contained a link to the online version of the survey to make it easy for residents to complete. To prevent people who were not residents of Westfield from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with the addresses that were originally selected for the random sample. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not counted.

The goal was to obtain completed surveys from at least 400 residents. The goal was exceeded with a total of 583 residents completing the survey. The overall results for the sample of 583 households have a precision of at least +/-4.02% at the 95% level of confidence.

This report contains the following:

- Charts showing the overall results of the survey (Section 1)
- Priority Investment Rating (PIR) that identifies priorities for facilities and programs (Section 2)
- Benchmarking analysis comparing the Town's results to national results (Section 3)
- Tabular data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey (Section 4)
- A copy of the survey instrument (Section 5)

The major findings of the survey are summarized on the following pages.

Use and Rating of Parks and Facilities

Use. Ninety-two percent (92%) of respondent households indicated they or any member of their household had visited parks and recreation facilities offered by the Town of Westfield in the past year. Of those households who had visited parks/recreation facilities in the past year (92%), over half (58%) indicated they had made 20 or more visits, 12% of respondents made between 11 to 19 visits, 14% made between 6 to 10 visits, and 13% made between 1 to 5 visits.

The parks and recreation facilities that were most visited in the past year, as indicated by respondent households, were: Tamaques Park (82%), Mindowaskin Park (73%), Memorial Park (42%), and Memorial Pool (41%). The facilities that respondent households indicated they visit most, based on the sum of their top three choices, were: Tamaques Park (71%), Mindowaskin Park (54%), and Memorial Pool (28%).

Rating. Of the households who had visited parks/recreation facilities in the past year (92%), eleven percent (11%) rated the condition as "excellent," 53% of households rated the condition as "good," 23% of households rated the condition as "fair," and 6% of households rated the condition as "poor."

Use and Rating of Recreation Programs

Use. Thirty-six percent (36%) of households indicated they have used recreation programs offered by the Town of Westfield in the past year. The top-rated organizations that respondent households indicated they use for parks and recreation activities were: Westfield Library (58%), Union County parks (46%), Westfield public schools (42%), and Westfield Area YMCA (39%). The organizations that respondent households indicated they use the most for recreation parks programs and facilities, based on the sum of respondents' two choices, were: Westfield public schools (25%), Westfield Library (24%), and Westfield Area YMCA (21%).

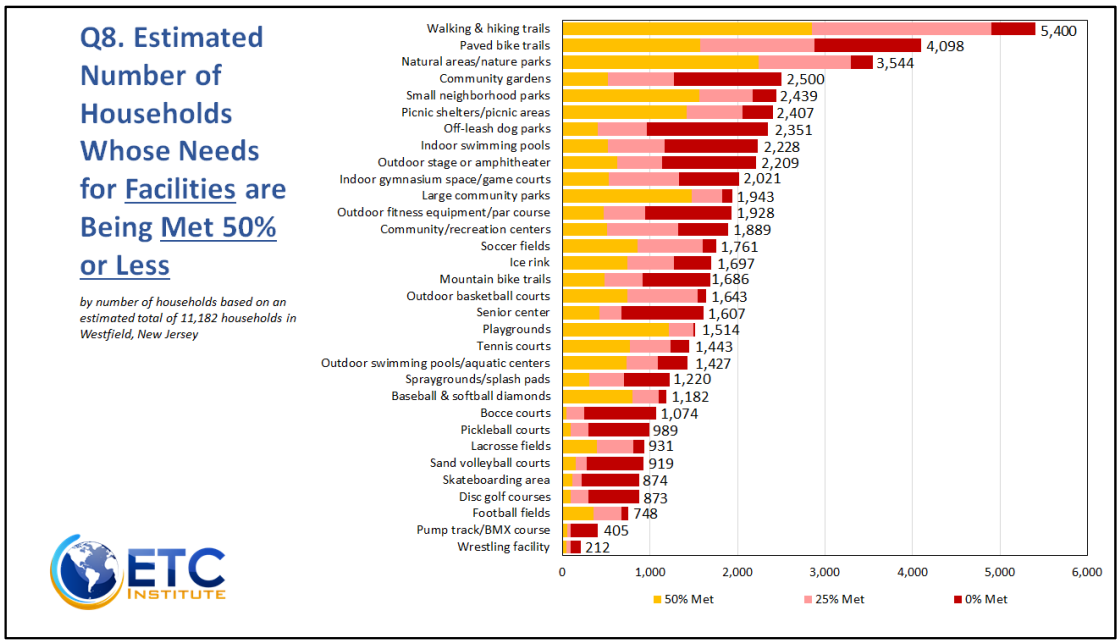
Rating. Of the respondents that used recreation programs in the past year (36%), 17% rated the quality of the programs as "excellent," 64% of households rated the quality of the programs as "good," 10% of respondent households rated the quality of programs as "fair," and 5% of respondent households rated the quality of programs as "poor."

Facility Needs and Priorities

Facility Needs: Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 32 recreation facilities and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest "unmet" need for various facilities.

The top four recreation facilities with the highest percentage of households that indicated a need for the facility were: walking and hiking trails (70%), large community parks (59%), small neighborhood parks (59%), and natural areas/nature parks (56%). ETC Institute estimates a total of 7,861 households out of the 11,182 households in Westfield have a need for walking and hiking trails, an estimated total of 6,631 households out of the 11,182 households in Westfield have a need for large community parks, and an estimated total of 6,575 households out of the 11,182

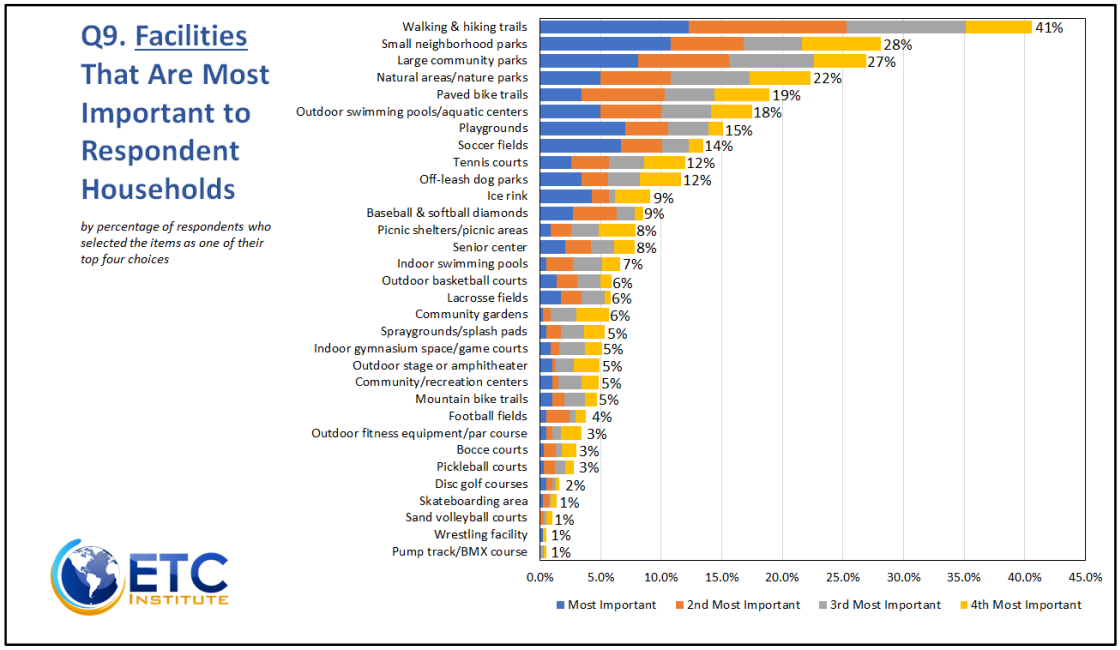
households in Westfield have a need for small neighborhood parks. ETC Institute estimates a total of 5,400 households out of the 11,182 households in Westfield have unmet needs for walking and hiking trails, an estimated total of 4,098 households out of the 11,182 households in Westfield have unmet needs for paved bike trails, and an estimated total of 3,544 households out of the 11,182 households in Westfield have unmet needs for natural areas/nature parks. The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 32 facilities that were assessed is shown in the chart below.



Facility Importance: In addition to assessing the needs for each facility, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each facility. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, the four most important facilities to residents were:

1. walking and hiking trails (41%),
2. small neighborhood parks (28%),
3. large community parks (27%), and
4. natural areas/nature parks (22%).

The percentage of residents who selected each facility as one of their top four choices is shown in the chart at the top of the following page.

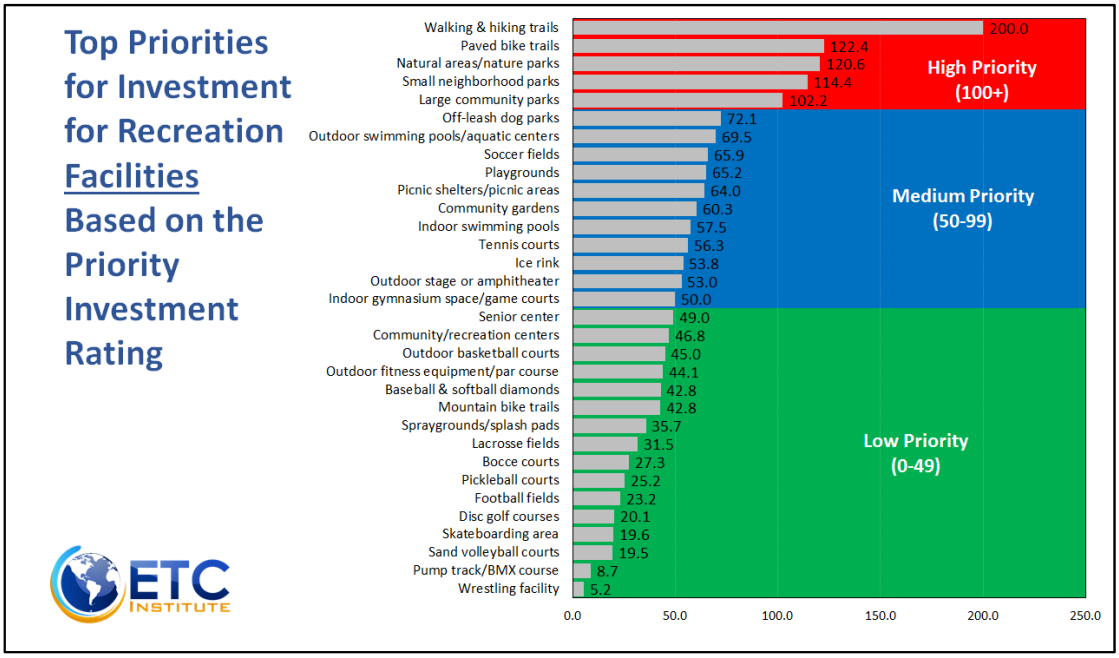


Priorities for Facility Investments. The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on Parks and Recreation investments. The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** equally weights (1) the importance that residents place on facilities and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the facility. [Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided in Section 2 of this report.]

Based the **Priority Investment Rating (PIR),** the following five facilities were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Walking and hiking trails (PIR=200.0)
- Paved bike trails (PIR=122.4)
- Natural areas/nature parks (PIR=120.6)
- Small neighborhood parks (PIR=114.4)
- Large community parks (PIR=102.2)

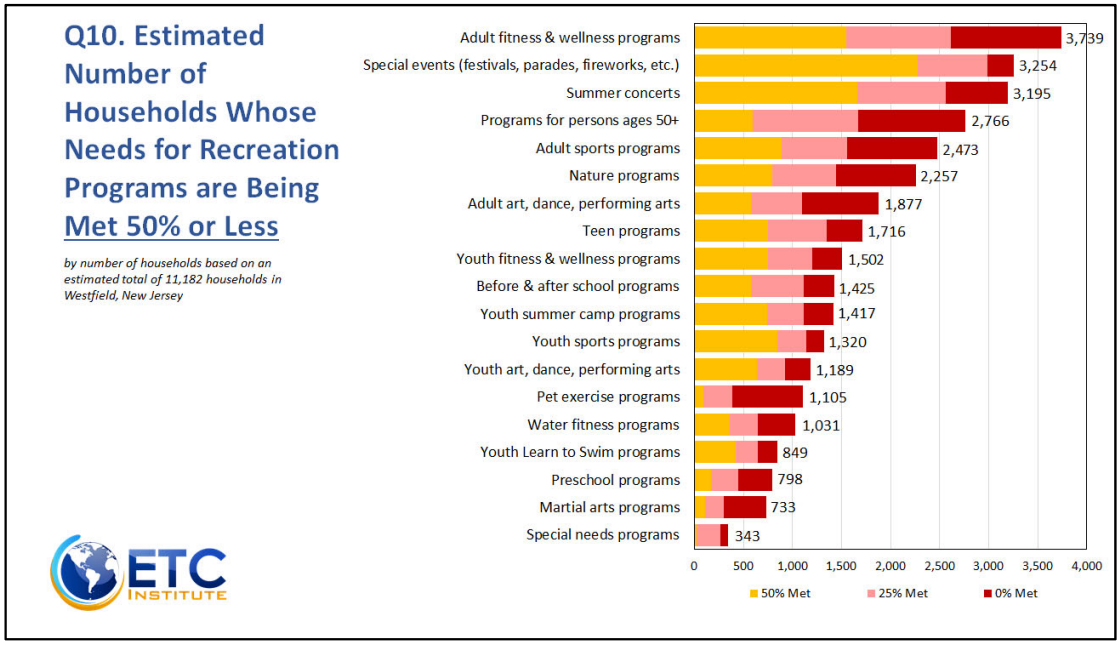
The chart at the top of the following page shows the **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** for each of the 32 facilities that were assessed on the survey.



Program Needs and Priorities

Program Needs. Respondents were also asked to identify if their household had a need for 19 recreational programs and rate how well their needs for each program were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had "unmet" needs for each program.

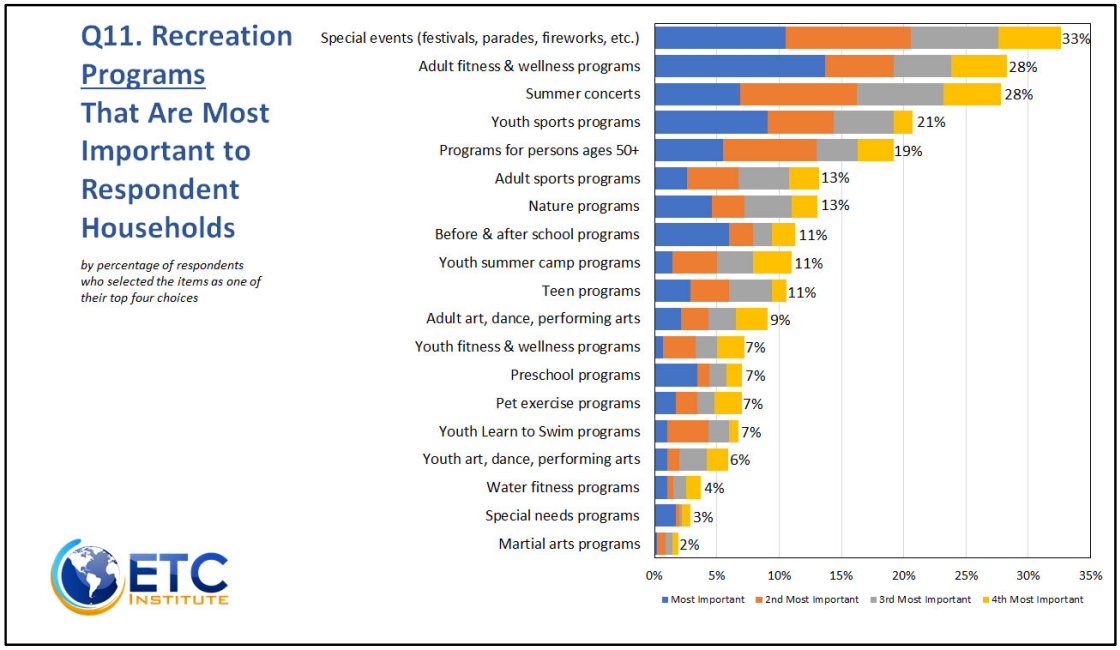
The four programs with the highest percentage of households that had needs were: special events (52%), summer concerts (51%), adult fitness and wellness programs (47%), and youth sports programs (30%). ETC Institute estimates a total of 5,770 households out of the 11,182 households in Westfield have a need for special events, an estimated total of 5,738 households out of the 11,182 households in Westfield have a need for summer concerts, and an estimated total of 5,222 households out of the 11,182 households in Westfield have a need for adult fitness and wellness programs. ETC Institute estimates a total of 3,739 households out of the 11,182 households in Westfield have unmet needs for adult fitness and wellness programs, an estimated total of 3,254 households out of the 11,182 households in Westfield have unmet needs for special events, and an estimated total of 3,195 households out of the 11,182 households in Westfield have unmet needs for summer concerts. The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 19 programs that were assessed is shown in the chart at the top of the following page.



Program Importance. In addition to assessing the needs for each program, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each program. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, the four most important programs to residents were:

1. special events (33%),
2. adult fitness and wellness programs (28%),
3. summer concerts (28%), and
4. youth sports programs (21%).

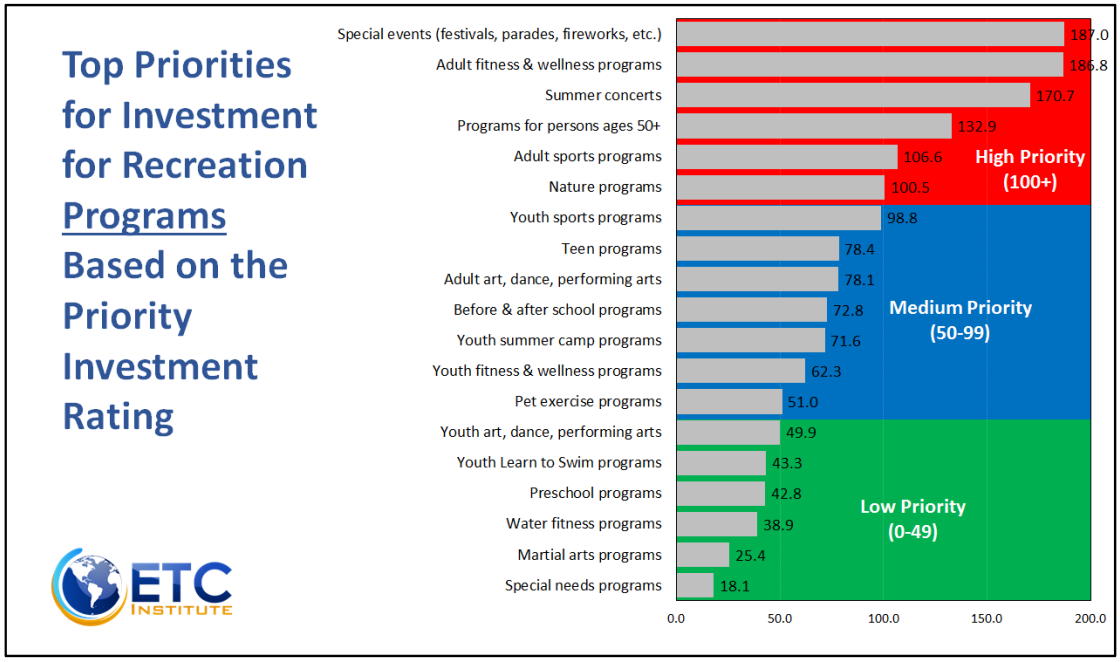
The percentage of residents who selected each program as one of their top four choices is shown in the chart at the top of the following page.



Priorities for Program Investments. Based on the **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)**, which was described briefly on Page iv of this Executive Summary and is described in more detail in Section 2 of this report, the following six programs were rated as "high priorities" for investment:

- Special events (PIR=187.0)
- Adult fitness and wellness programs (PIR=186.8)
- Summer concerts (PIR=170.7)
- Programs for persons ages 50+ (PIR=132.9)
- Adult sports programs (PIR=106.6)
- Nature programs (PIR=100.5)

The chart at the top of the following page shows the **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** for each of the 19 programs that were rated.



Additional Findings

The highest rated upgrades that respondent households indicated they would like to see done to existing parks in Westfield were: new/improved restrooms (55%), walking/hiking trails (50%), and drinking fountains/bottle filling stations (47%).

The programs that respondent households indicated they participate in most often, based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, were: special events (31%), summer concerts (23%), adult fitness and wellness programs (20%), and youth sports programs (19%).

Respondent households were given 14 various reasons that keep them and/or members of their household from using parks, recreation facilities, trails, and programs more often, the top-rated reasons were: use other agencies' facilities (32%), do not know what is offered (32%), and poor condition of facilities (21%).

The highest levels of support for various actions that Westfield could take to improve Parks and Recreation, based on the combined "very supportive" and "somewhat supportive" responses among residents *who had an opinion*, were: upgrade existing parks and facilities (87%), develop new recreation trails and connect existing trails (80%), and upgrade existing youth athletic fields (76%). The actions that respondent households indicated as being the most important to them, based on the sum of their top three choices, were: upgrade existing parks and facilities (39%), develop new recreation trails and connect existing trails (26%), and acquire land for open space/green space/future park land (26%).

If the Town of Westfield were to develop (or partner to develop) a new recreation center, the top-rated amenities that respondent households indicated they would use were: walking track (55%), cardio room with fitness equipment (41%), and game courts/gyms (36%).

The highest-rated methods of learning about programs or activities, as indicated by respondent households, were: word of mouth (61%) and newspaper (50%).

Recommendations

To ensure the Town of Westfield meets the needs and expectations of the community, ETC Institute recommends that the Parks and Recreation Department sustain and/or improve the performance in areas that were identified as "high priorities" by the **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)**. The facilities and programs with the highest PIR ratings are listed below.

Facility Priorities

- Walking and hiking trails (PIR=200.0)
- Paved bike trails (PIR=122.4)
- Natural areas/nature parks (PIR=120.6)
- Small neighborhood parks (PIR=114.4)
- Large community parks (PIR=102.2)

Program Priorities

- Special events (PIR=187.0)
- Adult fitness and wellness programs (PIR=186.8)
- Summer concerts (PIR=170.7)
- Programs for persons ages 50+ (PIR=132.9)
- Adult sports programs (PIR=106.6)
- Nature programs (PIR=100.5)

Section 1
Charts and Graphs

2019 Town of Westfield Parks and Recreation Survey Charts and Graphs of Overall Results

ETC INSTITUTE

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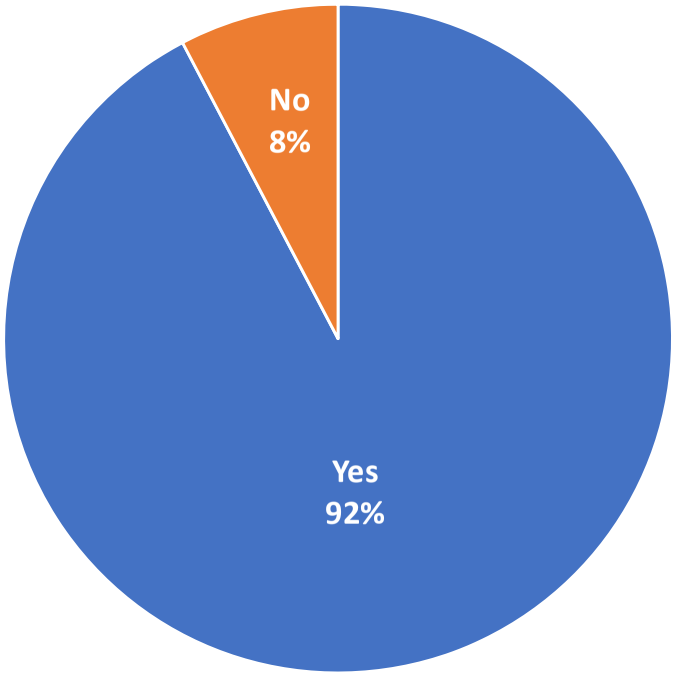
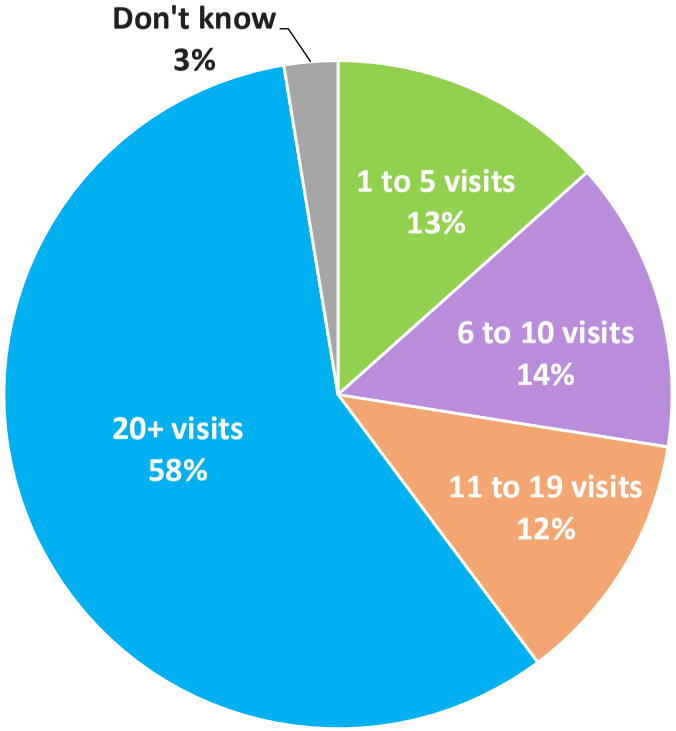
Q1. Have you or any member of your household visited any parks or recreation facilities offered by the Town of Westfield in the past year?

by percentage of respondents



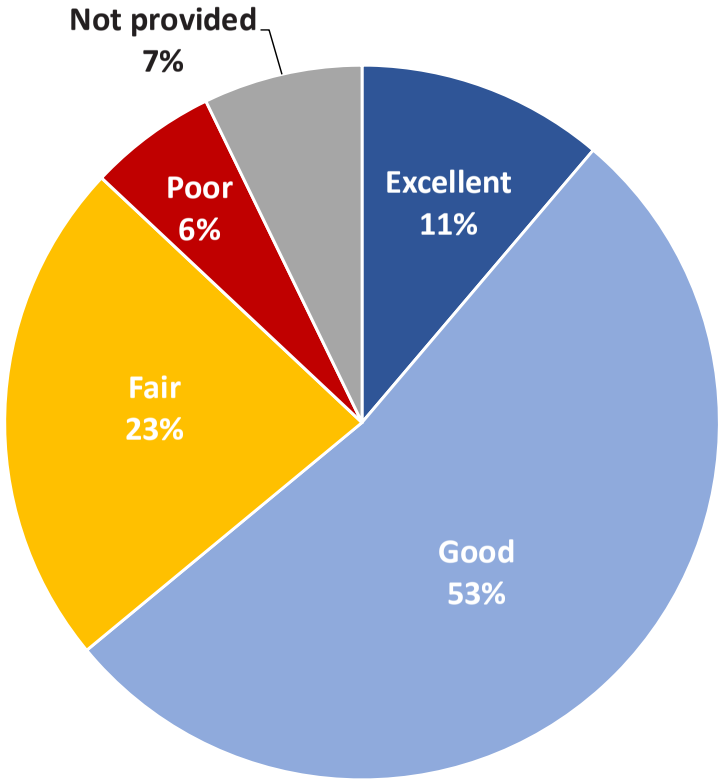
Q1a. If YES to Question 1, how often did you or any member of your household visit during the PAST YEAR?

by percentage of respondents who have visited facilities in the past year



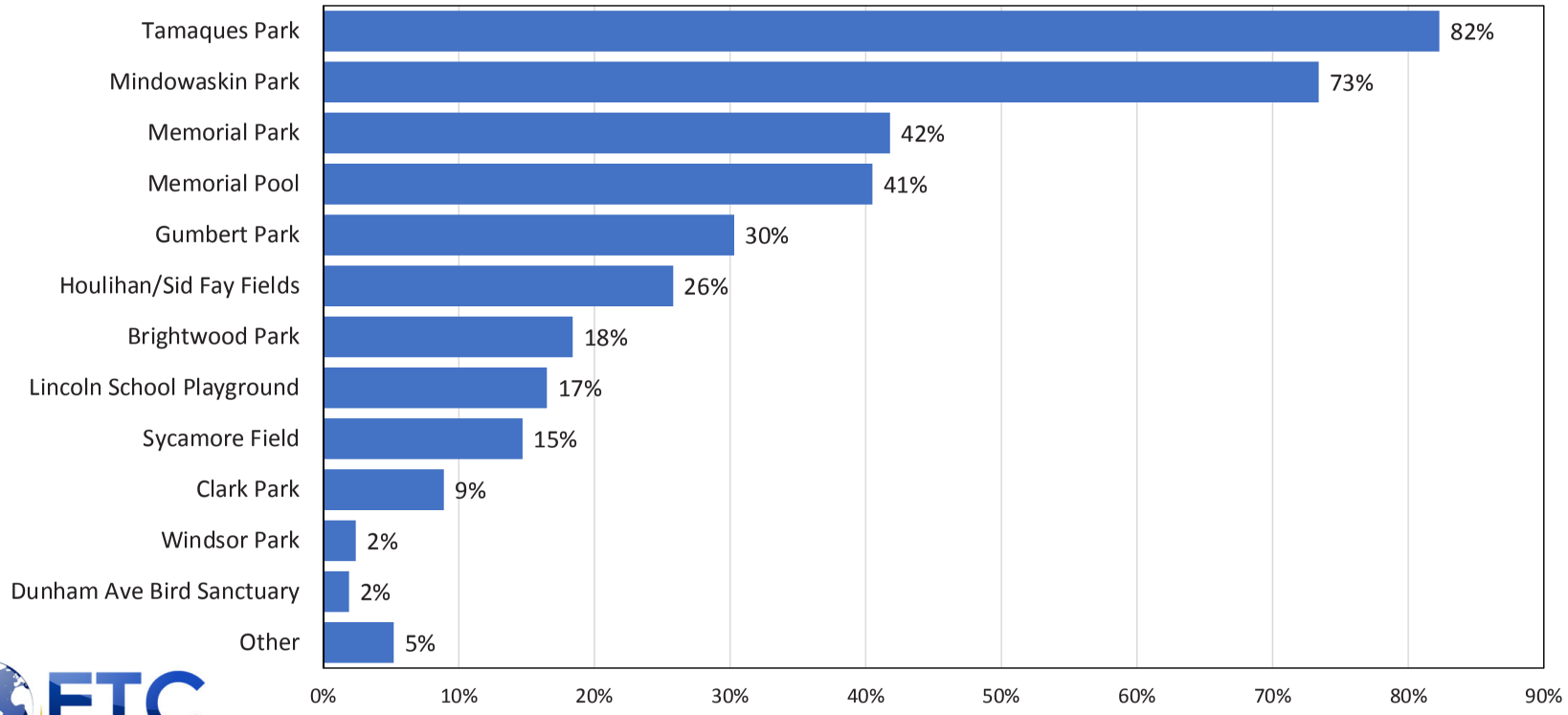
Q1b. If YES to Question 1, how would you rate their condition?

by percentage of respondents who have visited facilities in the past year



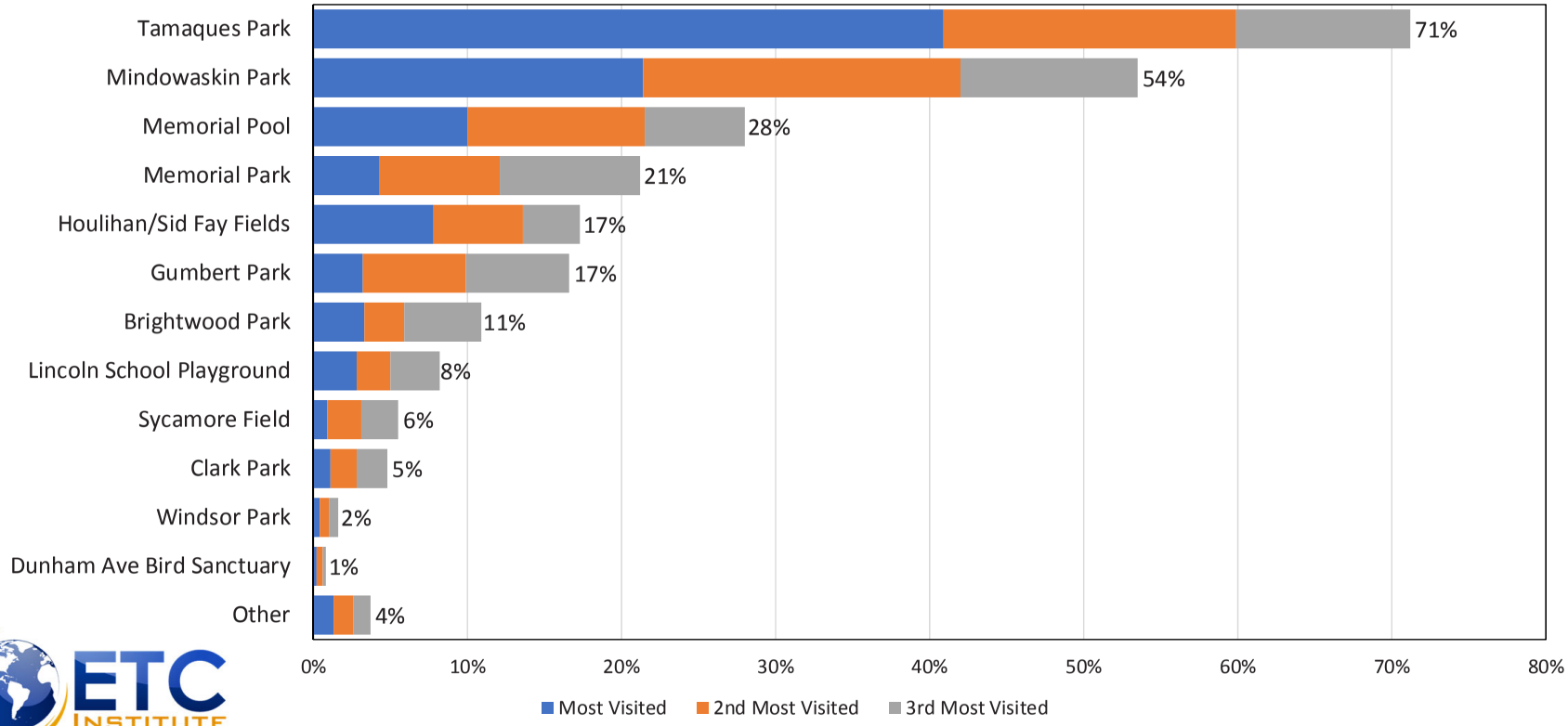
Q2. Please CHECK ALL of the following parks and recreation facilities in Westfield that you or any member of your household have visited in the PAST YEAR.

by percentage of respondents



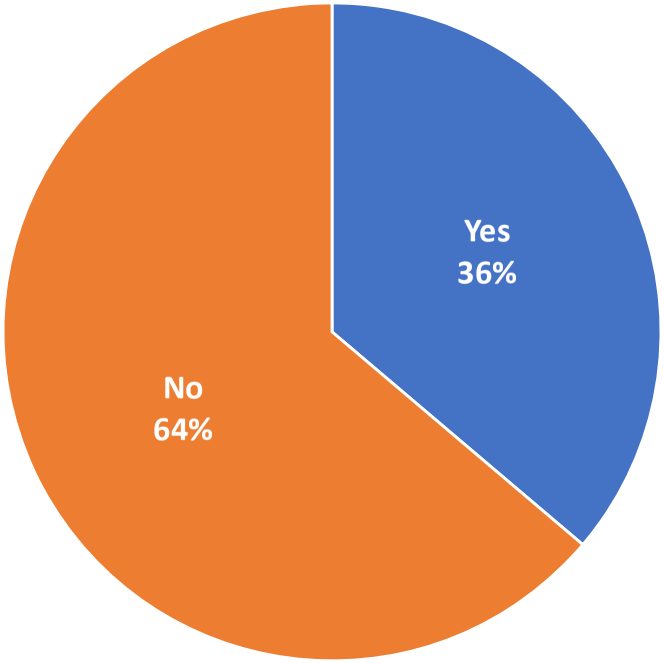
Q3. Which THREE of the facilities listed in Question 2 did you or any member of your household VISIT MOST?

by percentage of respondents



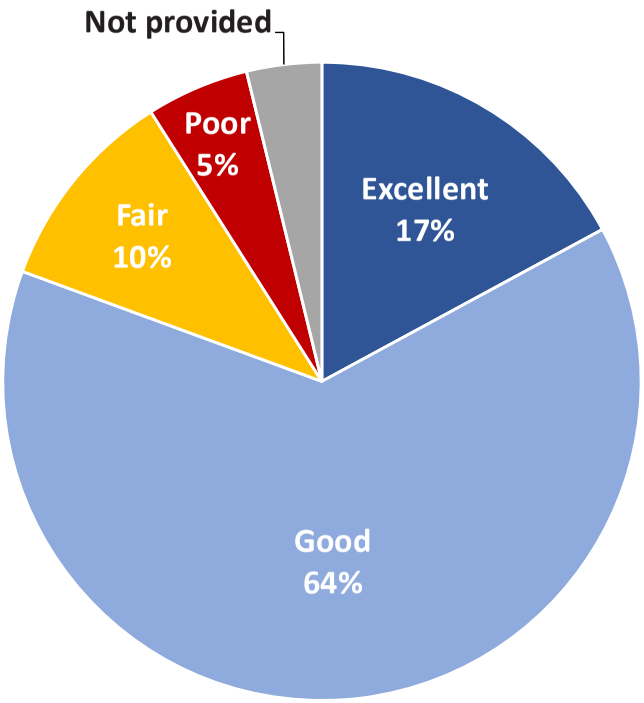
Q4. Have you or any member of your household used any of the recreation programs offered by the Town of Westfield in the PAST YEAR?

by percentage of respondents



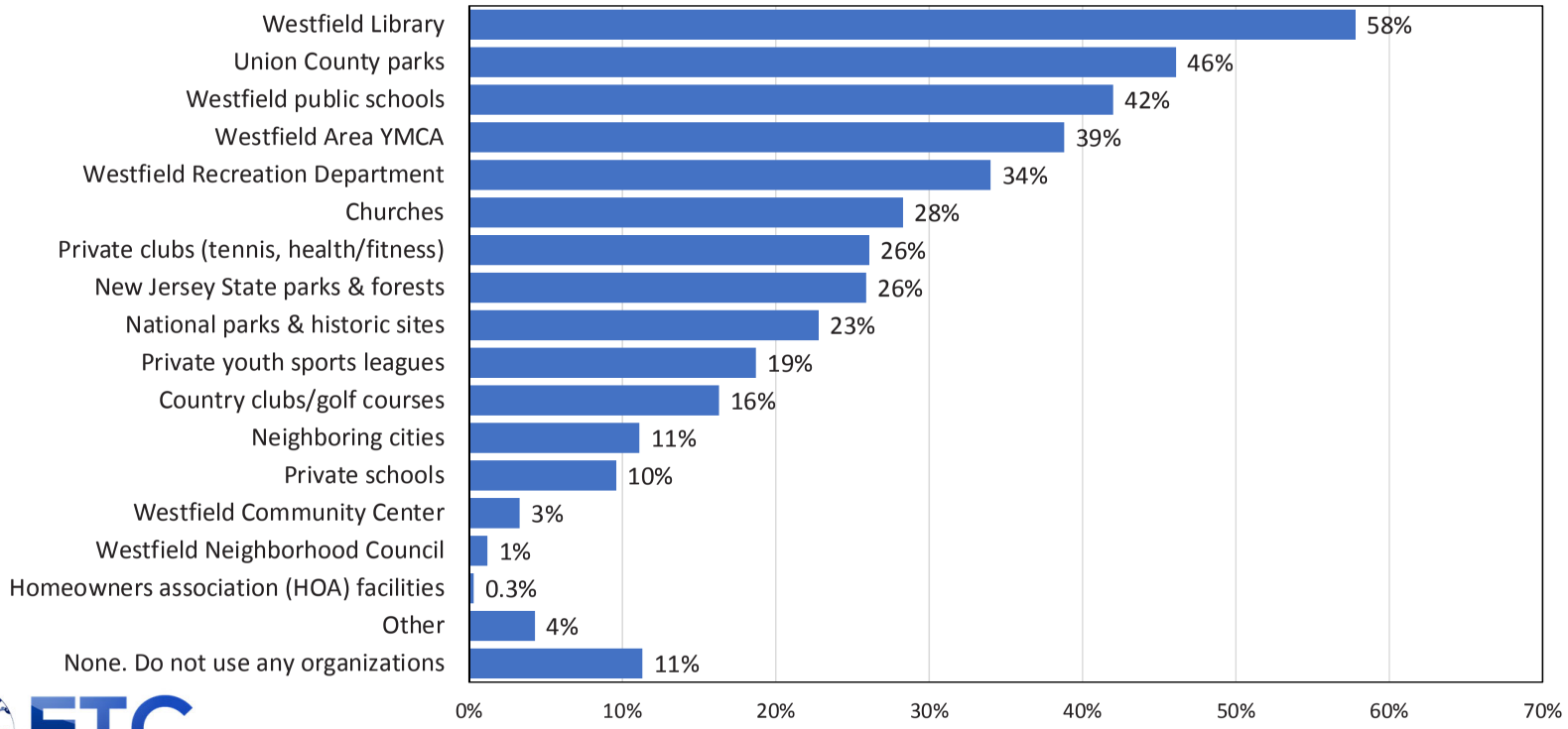
Q4a. If YES to Question 4, how would you rate the quality of these programs?

by percentage of respondents



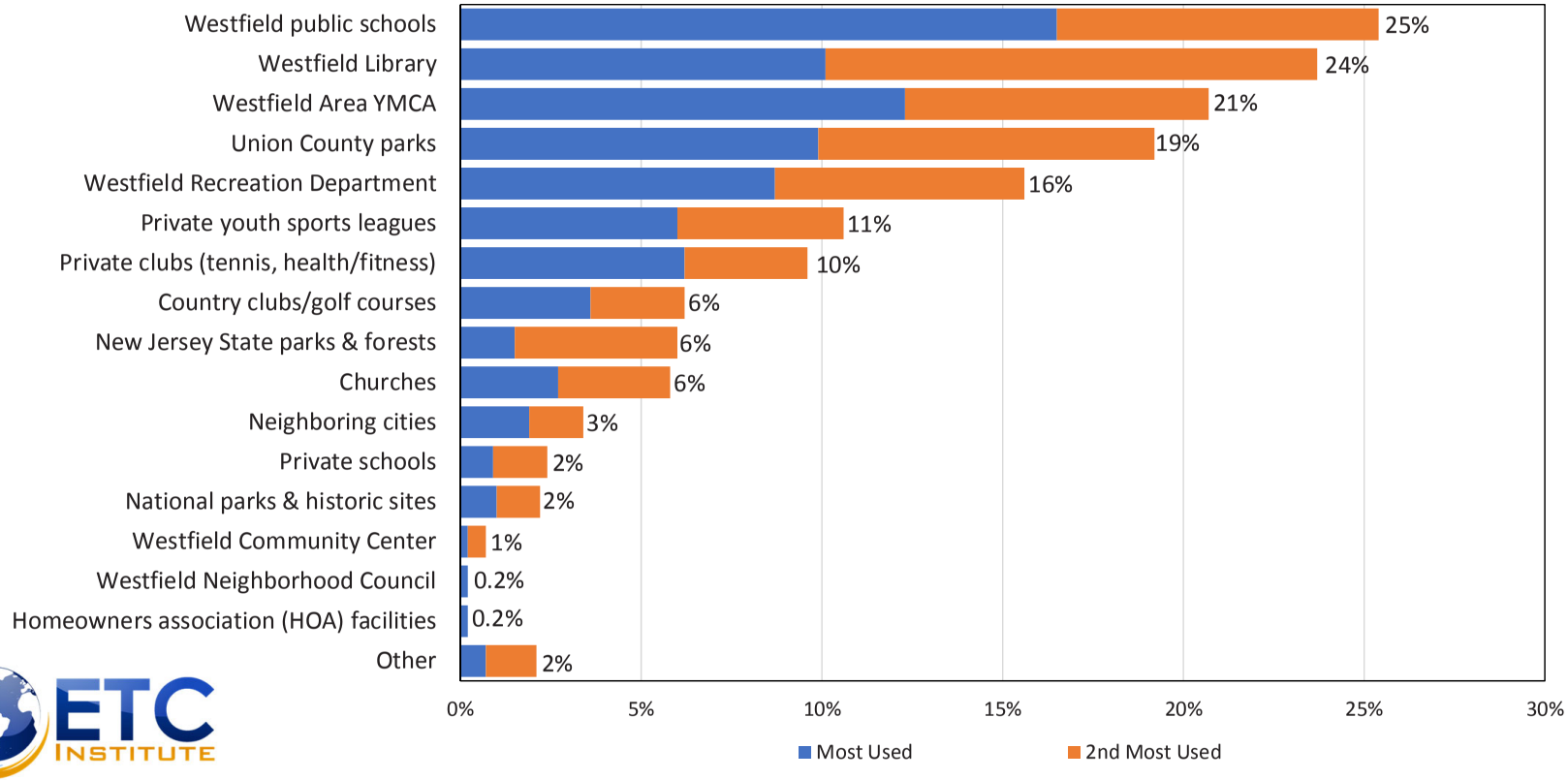
Q5. Please CHECK ALL of the following organizations that you or any member of your household use for parks and recreation activities.

by percentage of respondents



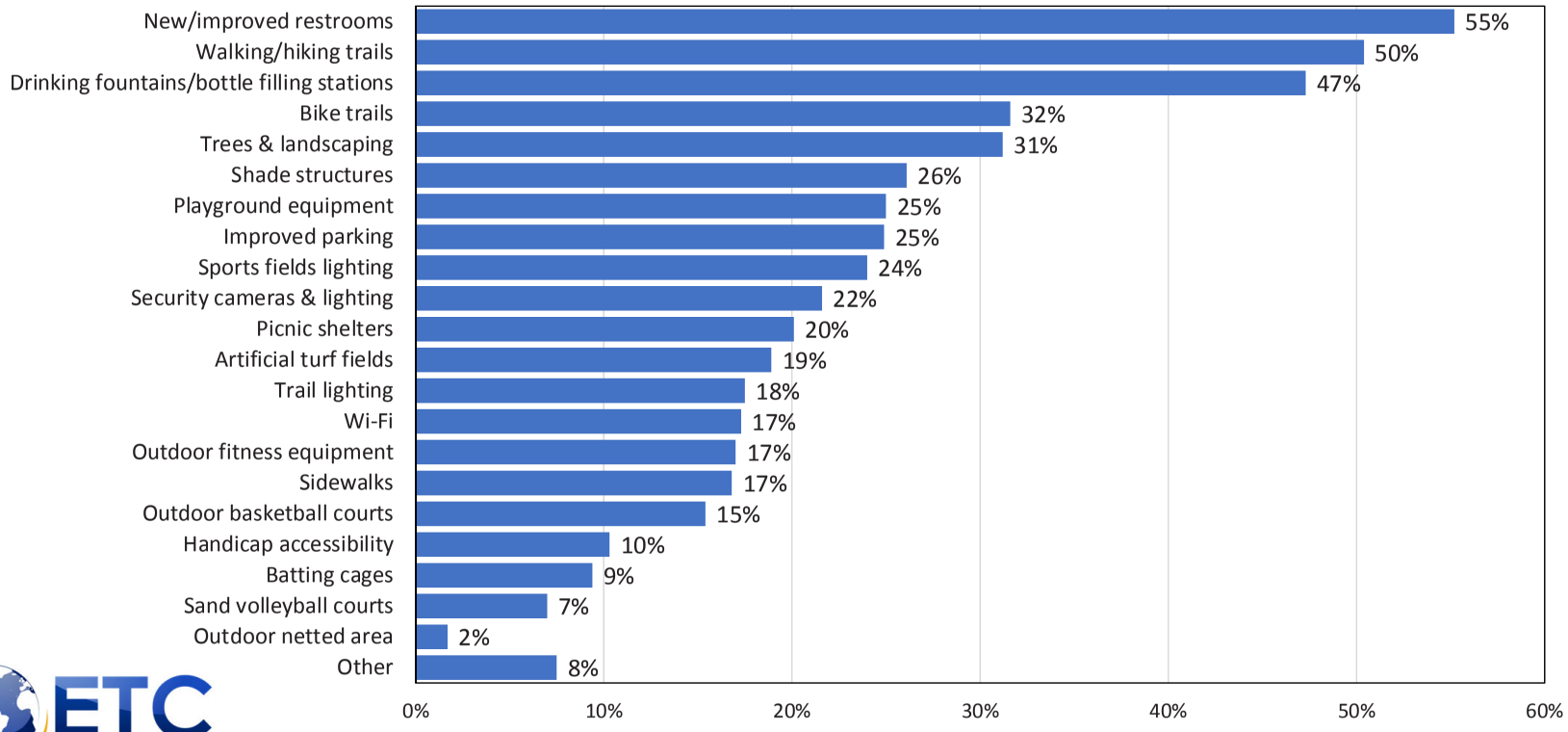
Q6. Which TWO organizations listed in Question 5 do you and your household use the MOST for recreation and parks programs and facilities?

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top two choices



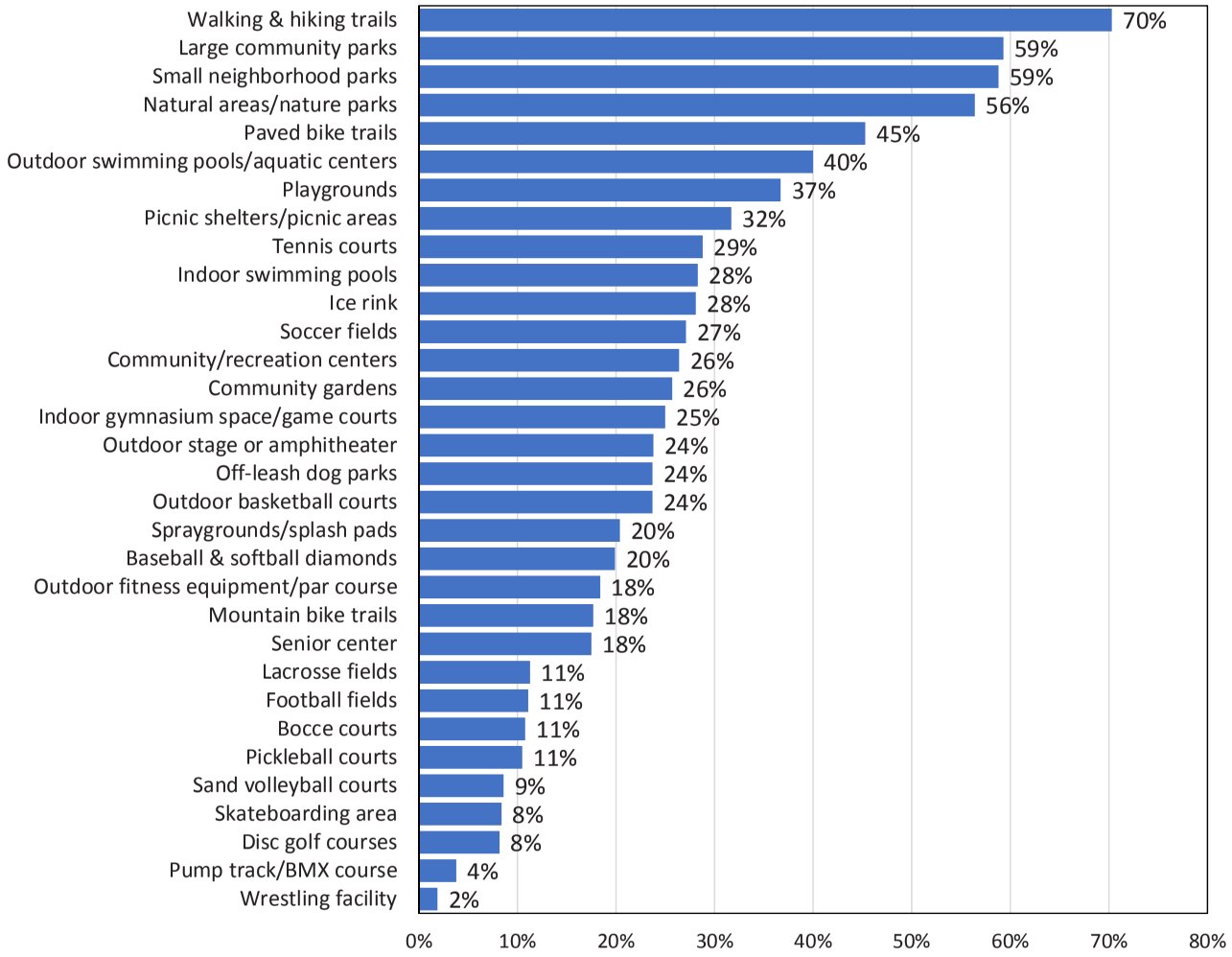
Q7. Please CHECK ALL of the following upgrades you would like to see at existing parks in Westfield.

by percentage of respondents



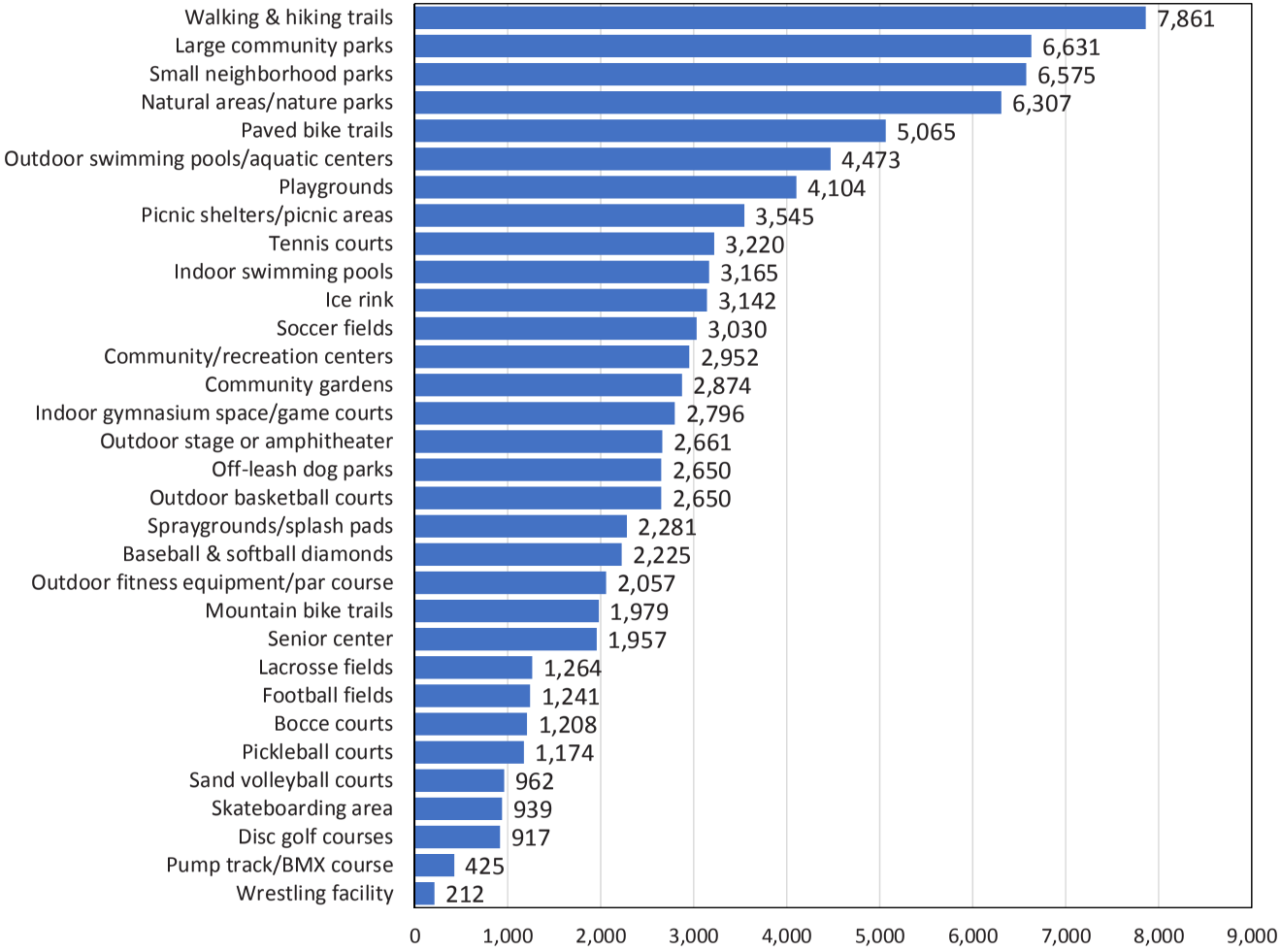
Q8. Recreation Facilities Respondent Households Have a Need For

by percentage of respondents
(multiple choices could be chosen)



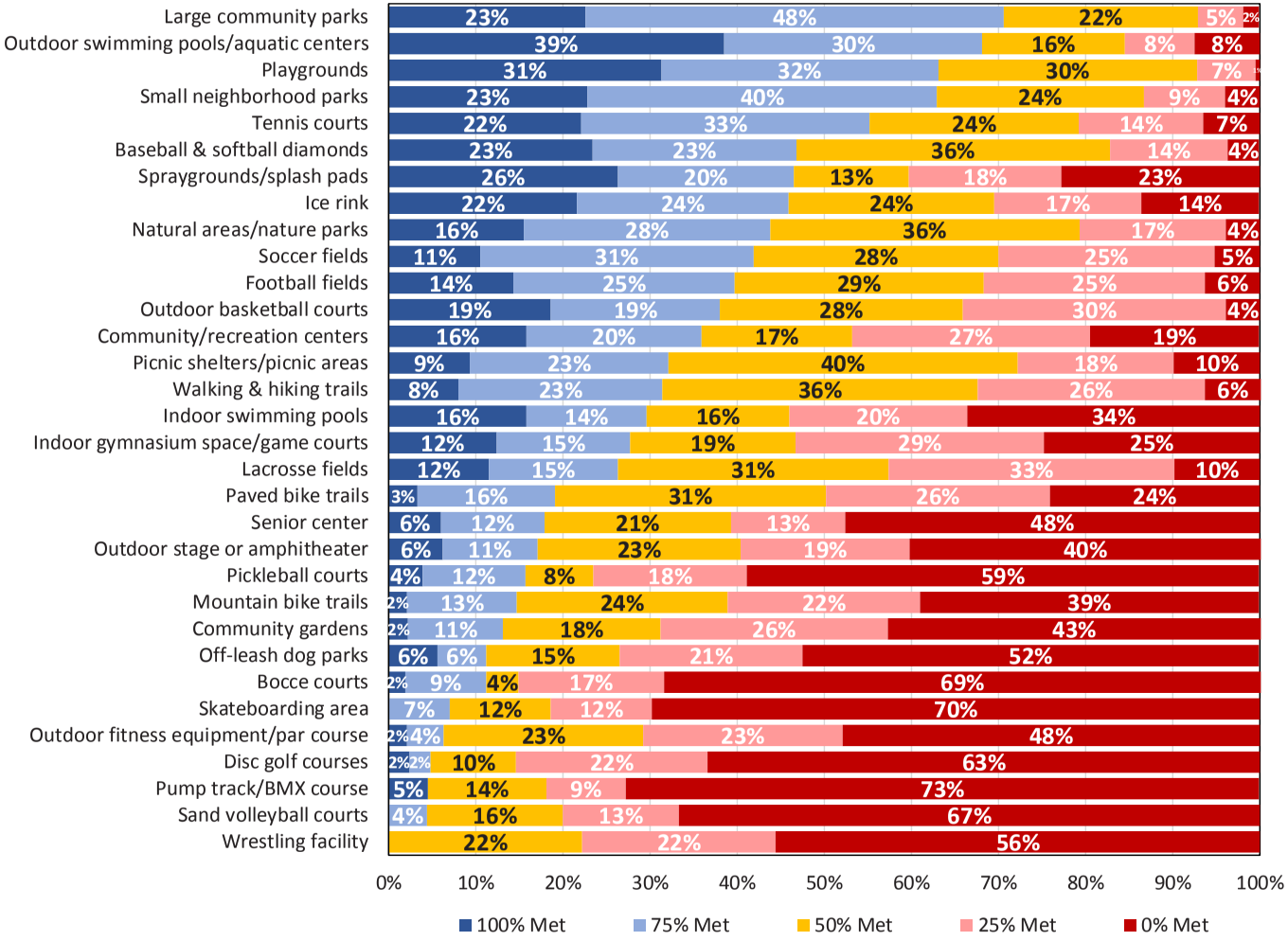
Q8. Estimated Number of Households that Have a Need for Facilities

by number of households based on an estimated total of 11,182 households in Westfield, New Jersey



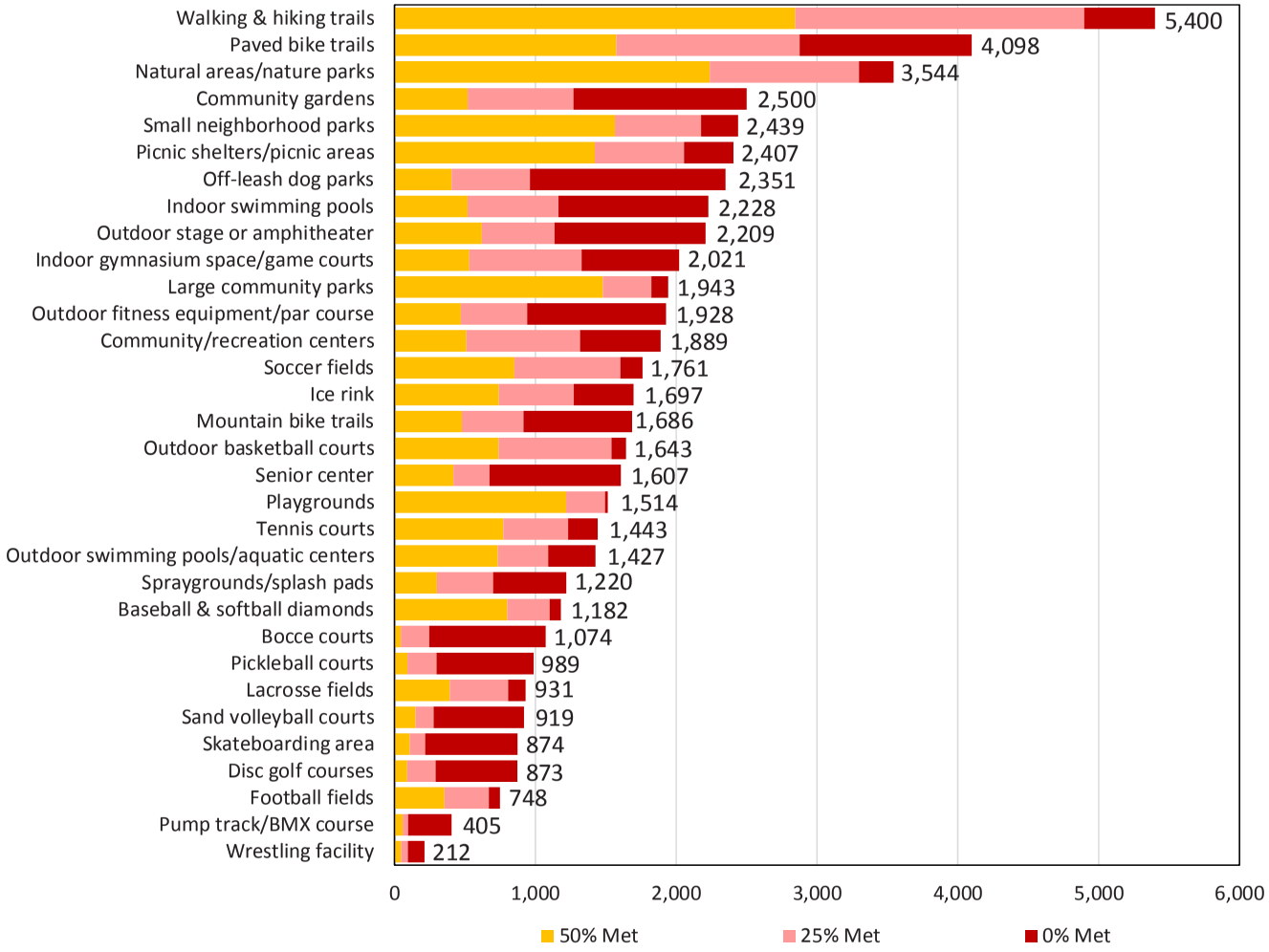
Q8. How Well Facilities Meet the Needs to Respondent Households

by percentage of respondents with a need for recreation facilities



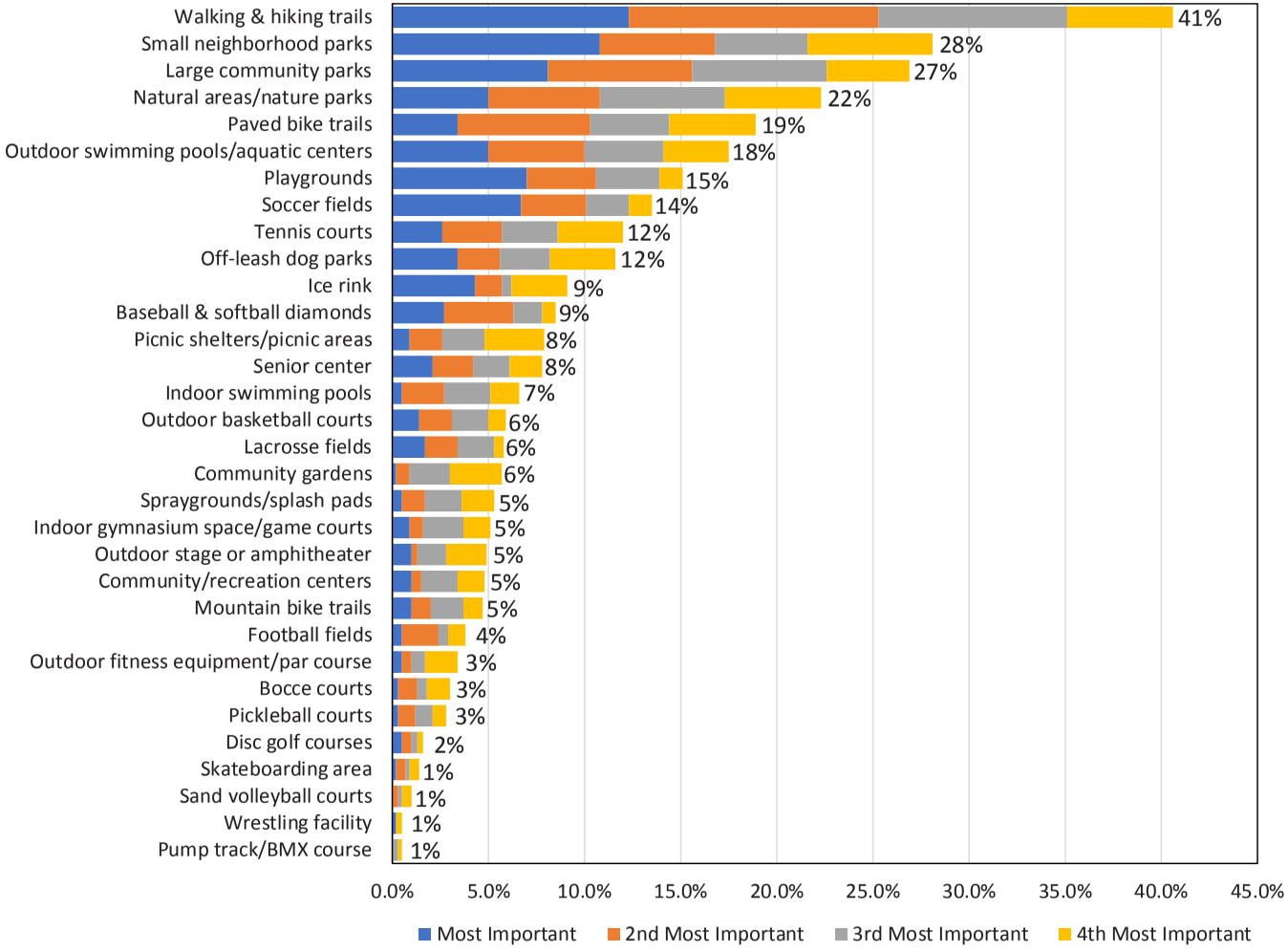
Q8. Estimated Number of Households Whose Needs for Facilities are Being Met 50% or Less

by number of households based on an estimated total of 11,182 households in Westfield, New Jersey



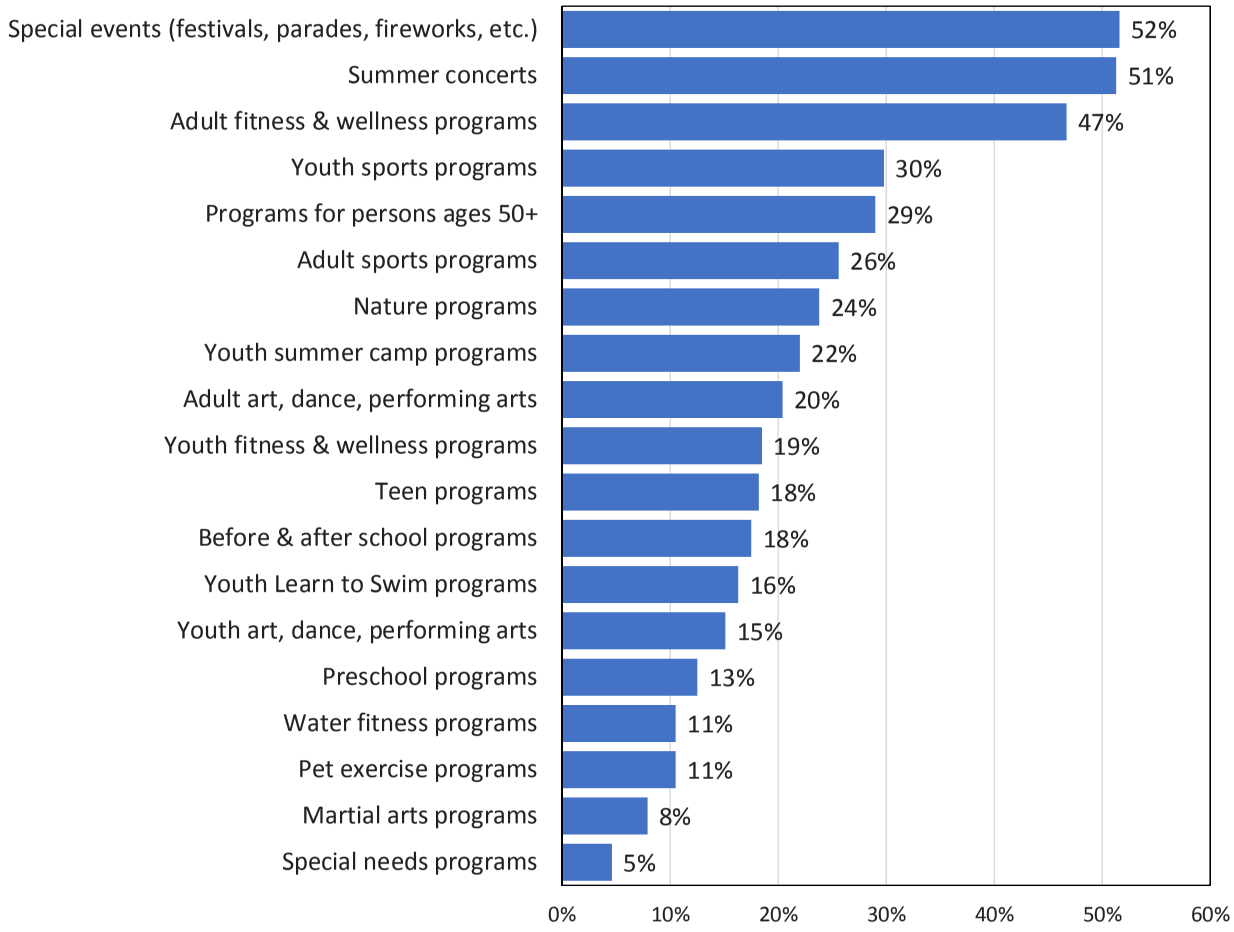
Q9. Facilities That Are Most Important to Respondent Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top four choices



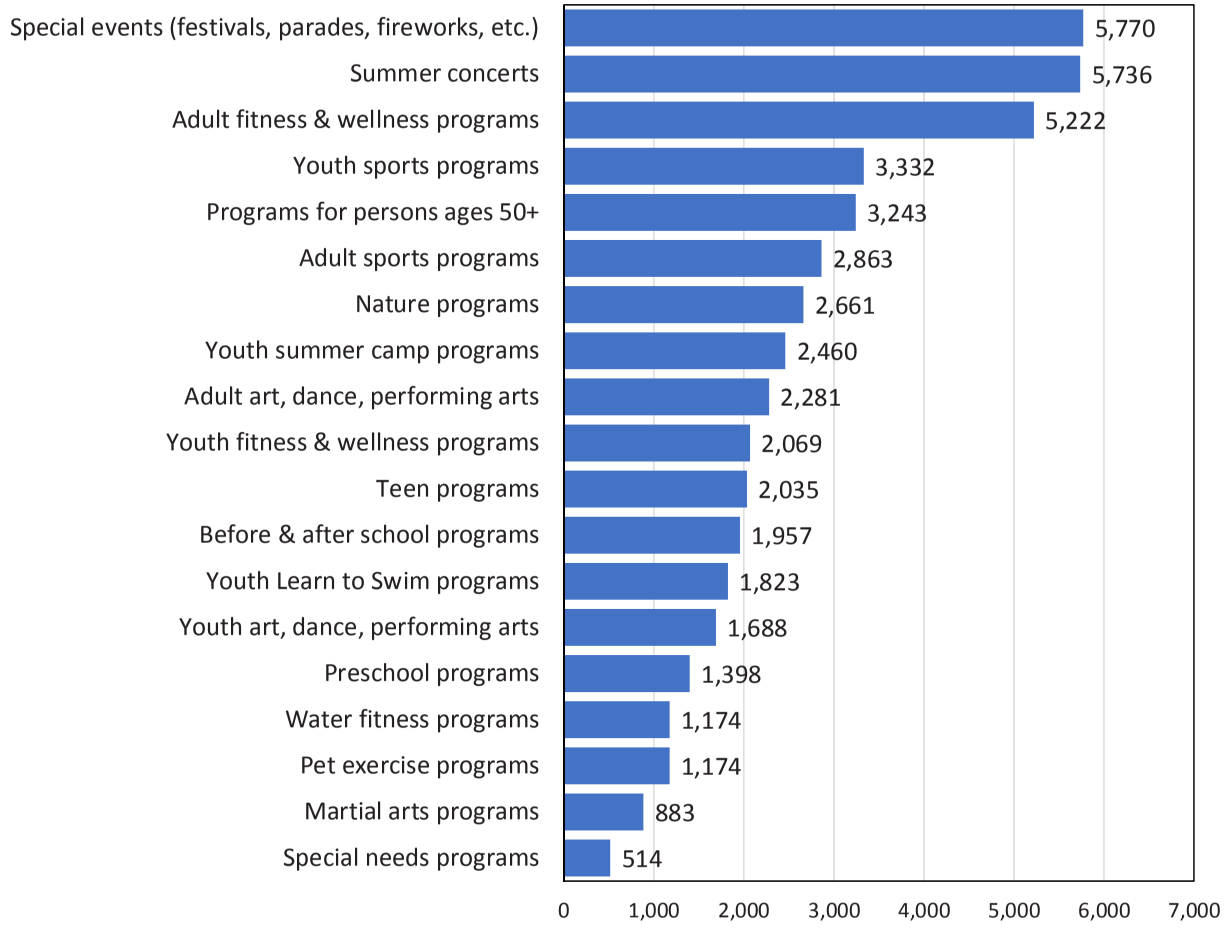
Q10. Recreation Programs that Respondent Households Have a Need For

by percentage of respondents
(multiple choices could be chosen)



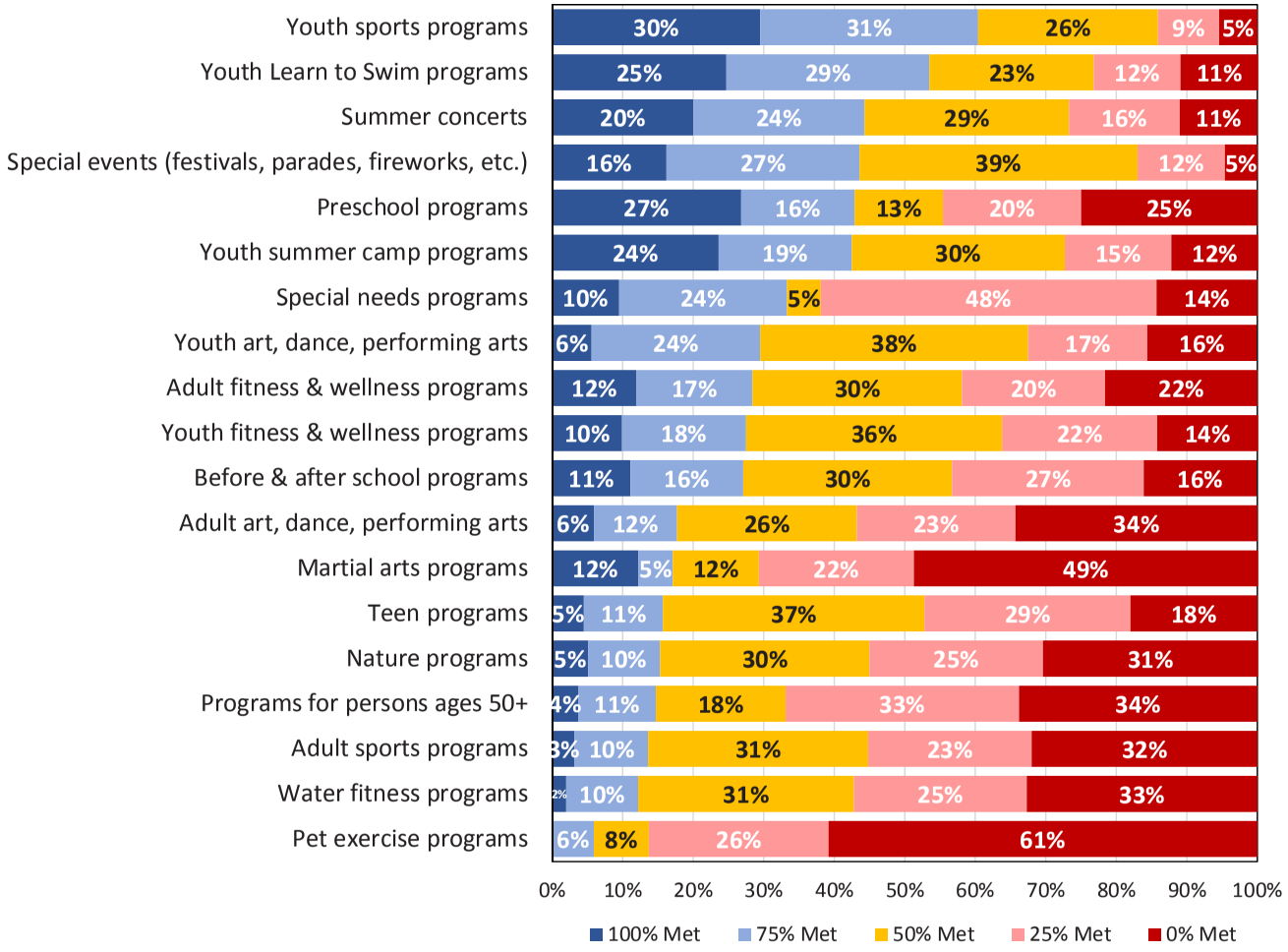
Q10. Estimated Number of Households that Have a Need for Various Recreation Programs

by number of households based on an estimated total of 11,182 households in Westfield, New Jersey



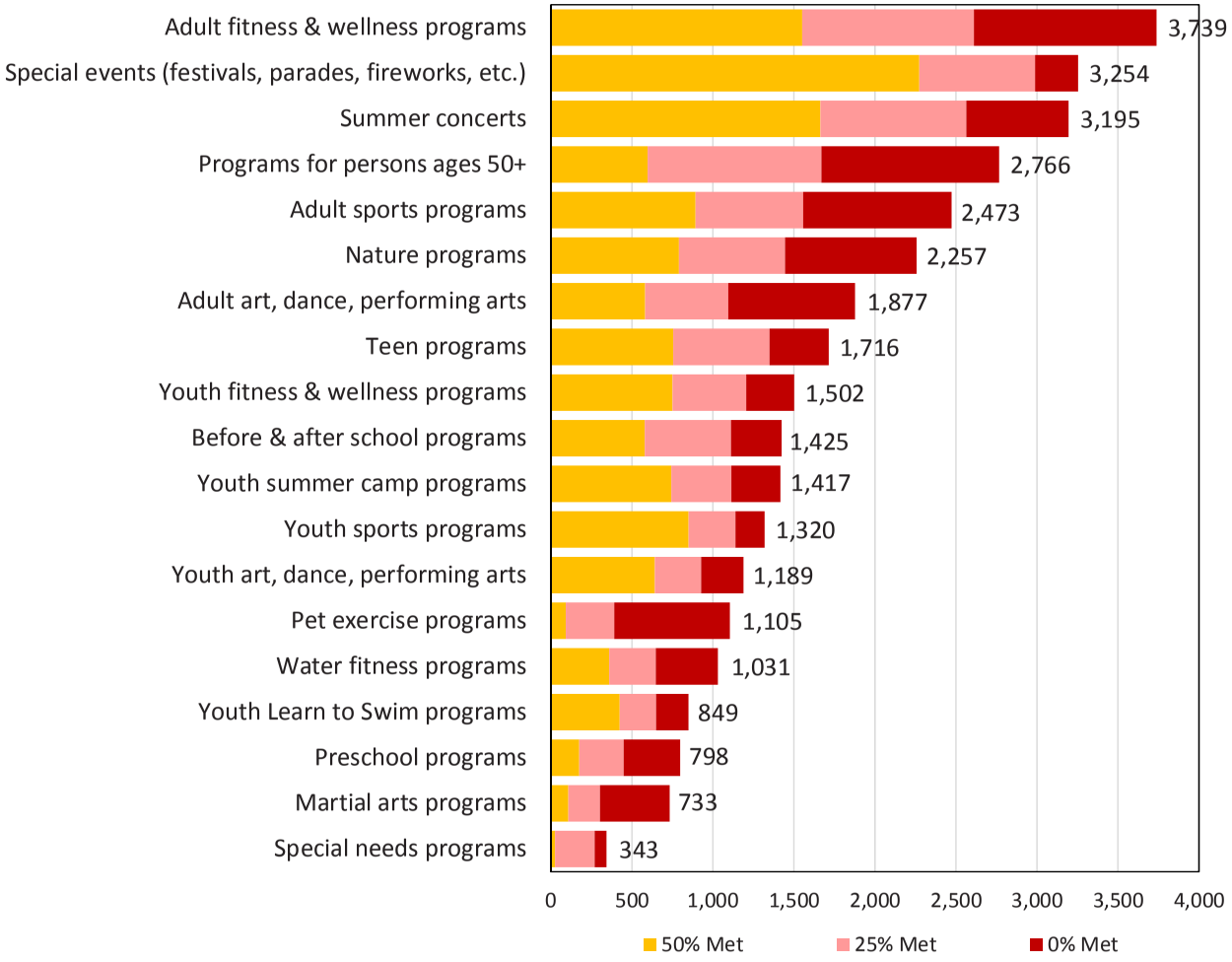
Q10. How Well Respondent Household's Recreation Program Needs Are Being Met

by percentage of respondents with a need for recreation programs



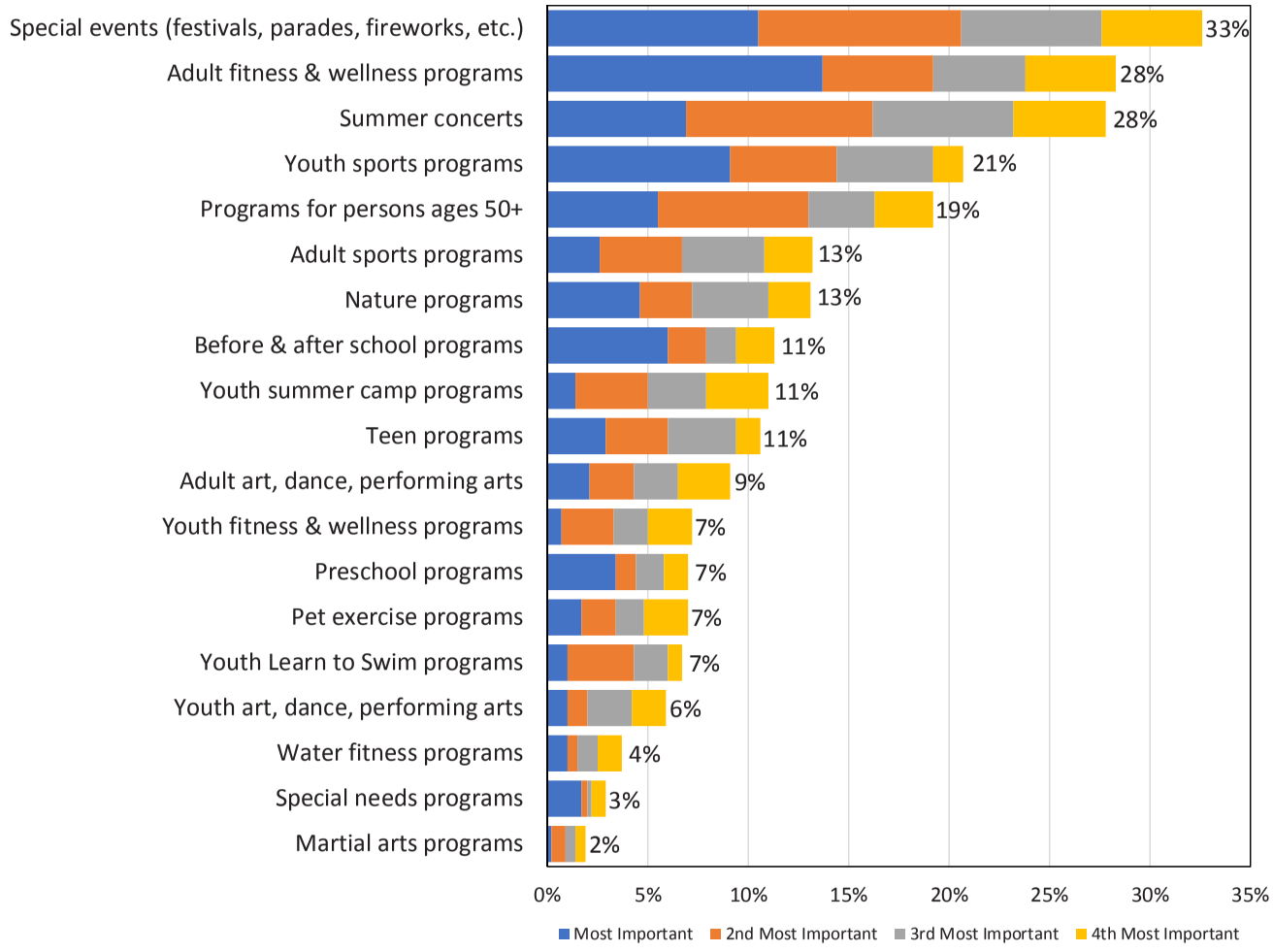
Q10. Estimated Number of Households Whose Needs for Recreation Programs are Being Met 50% or Less

by number of households based on an estimated total of 11,182 households in Westfield, New Jersey



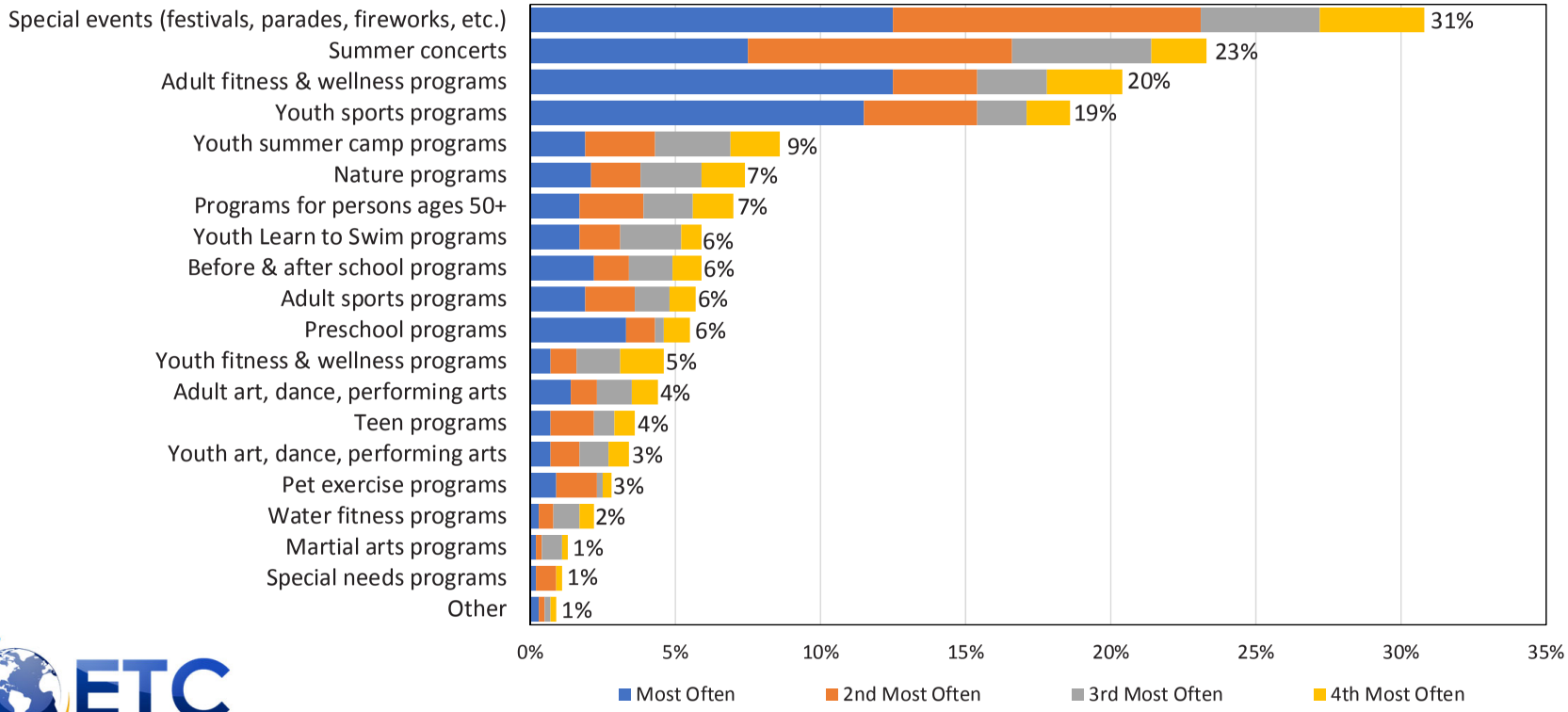
Q11. Recreation Programs That Are Most Important to Respondent Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top four choices



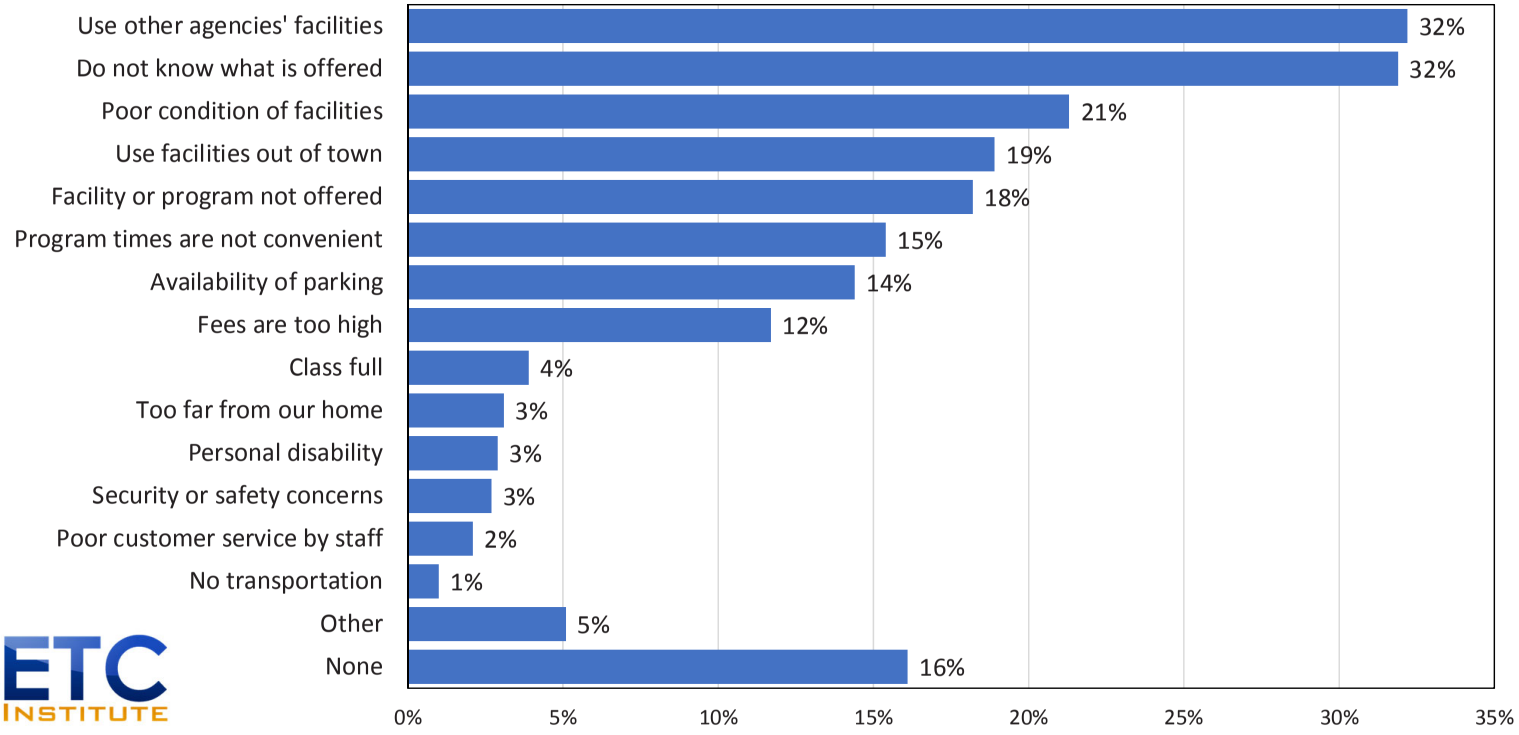
Q12. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 10 do you currently participate in MOST OFTEN?

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices



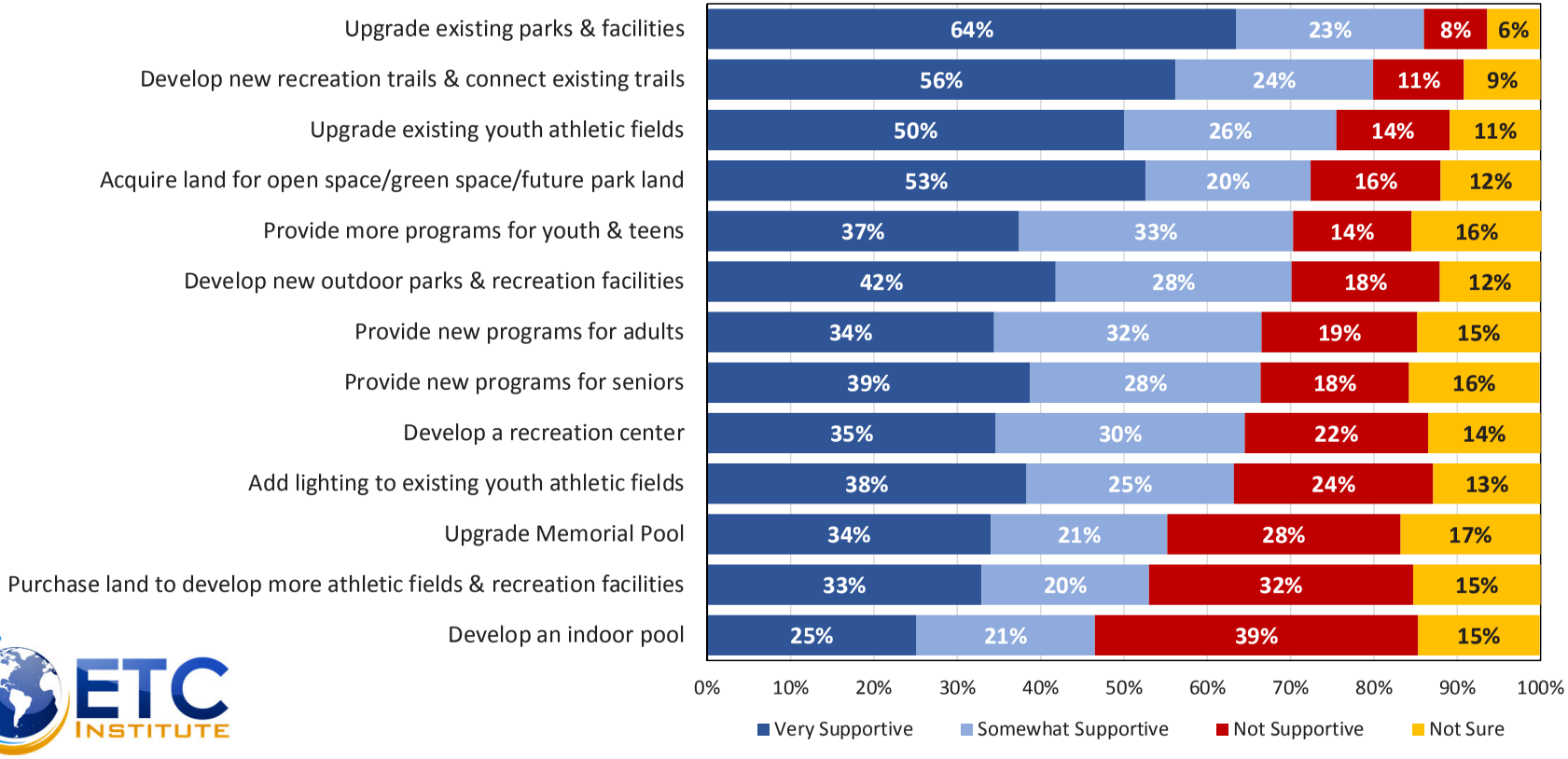
Q13. Please CHECK ALL of the following items that keep you or any member of your household from using Westfield Town-owned parks, recreation facilities, trails, and Westfield Recreation Department programs more often.

by percentage of respondents



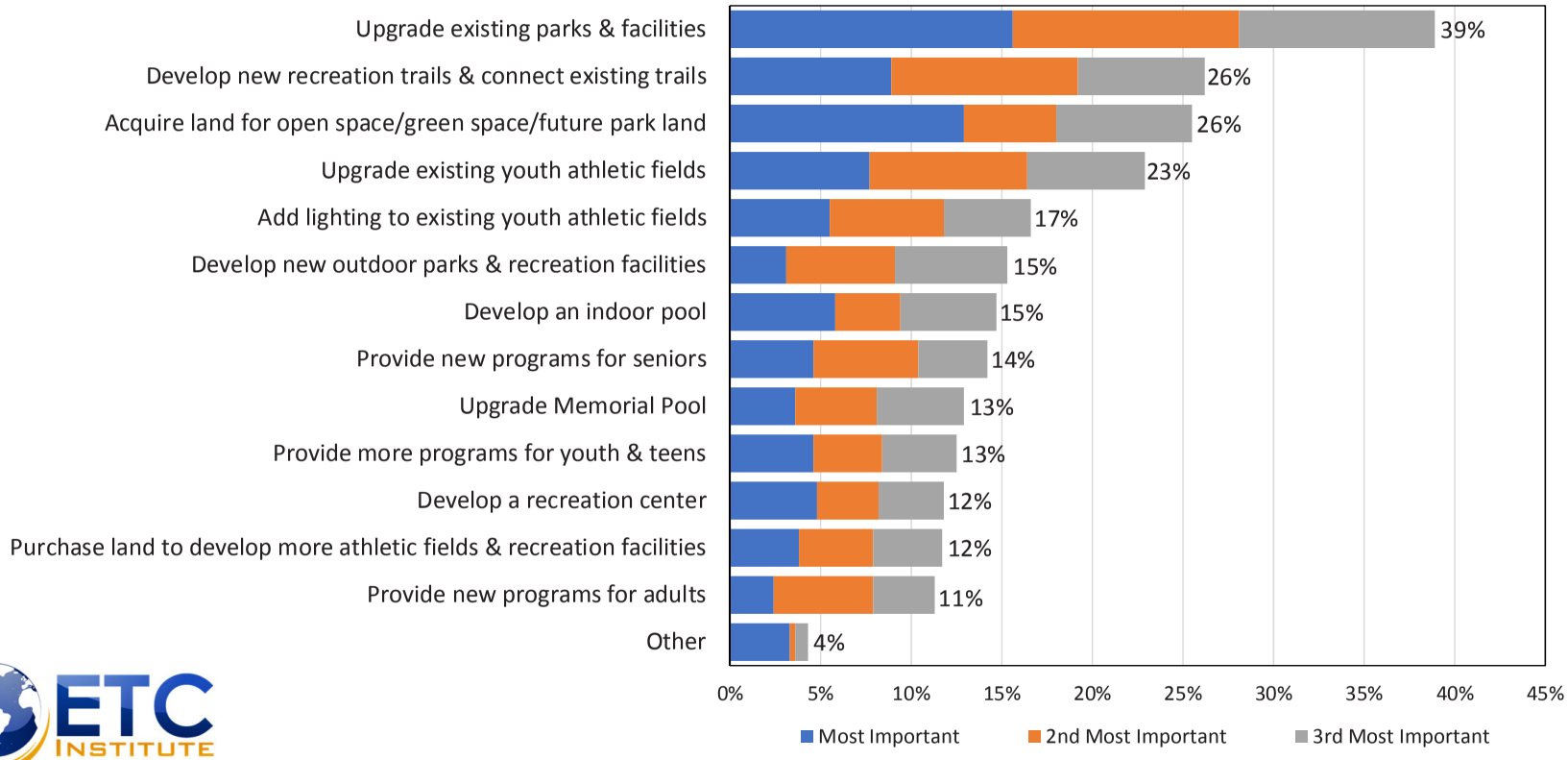
Q14. Please indicate how supportive you would be of each of the following actions that Westfield could take to improve Parks and Recreation.

by percentage of respondents (without "not provided")



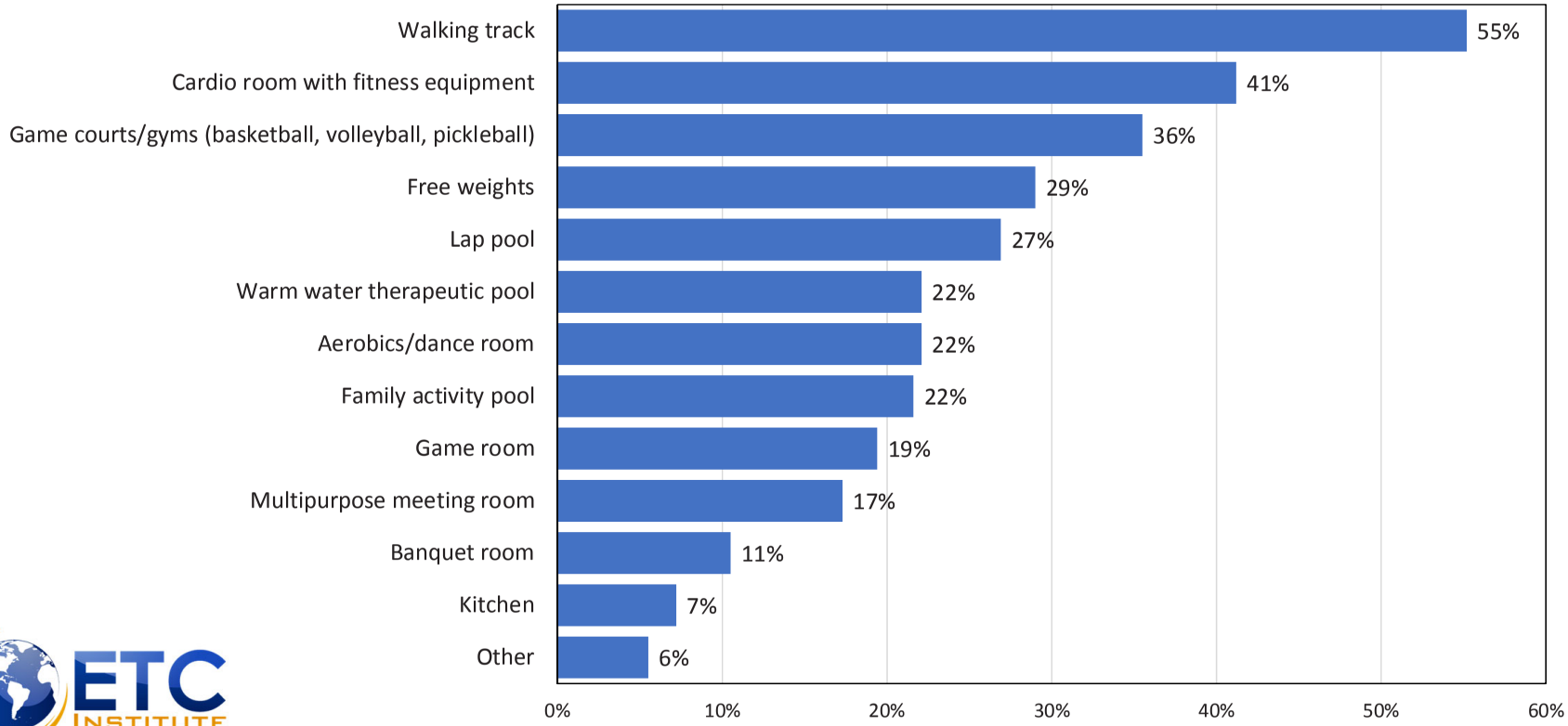
Q15. Which THREE of the actions listed in Question 14 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT?

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices



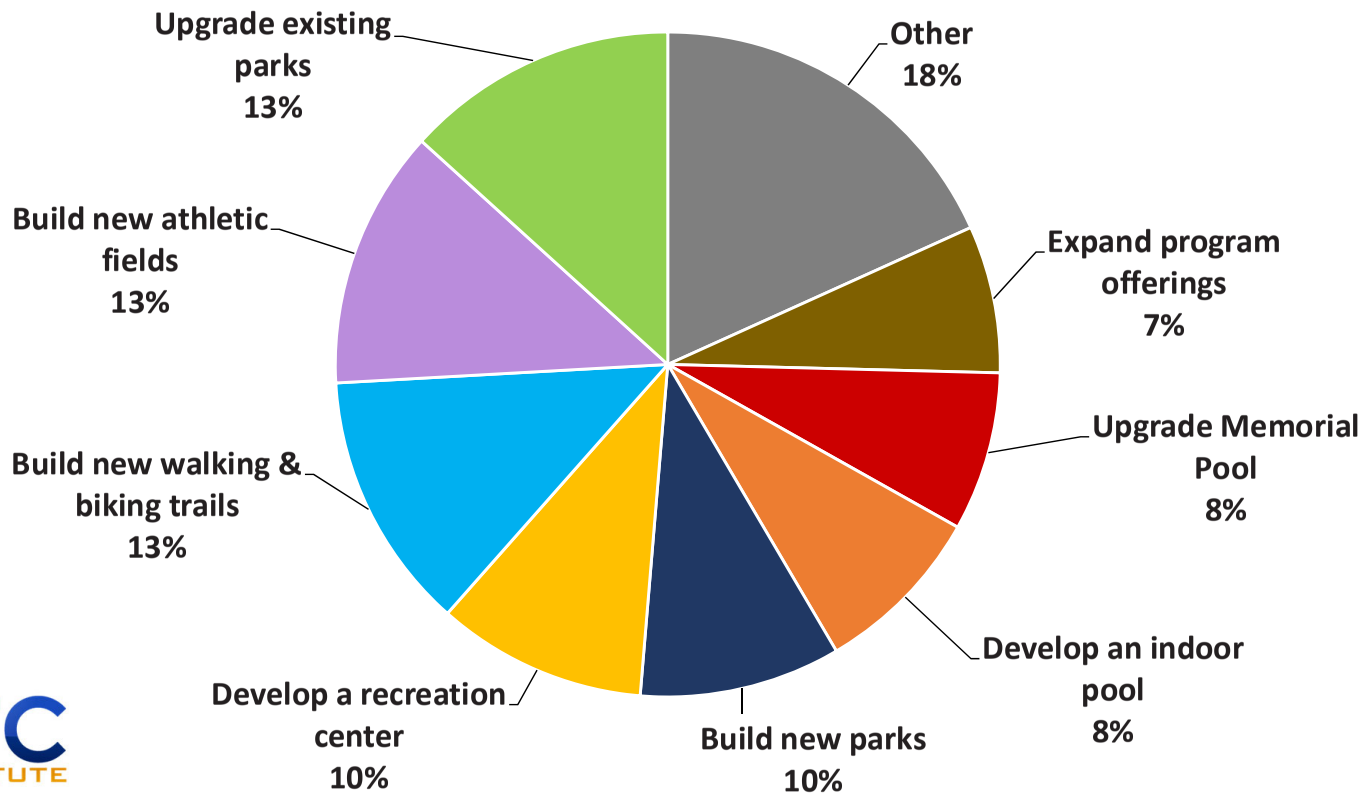
Q16. If the Town of Westfield were to develop (or partner to develop) a new recreation center, which of the following amenities would you use?

by percentage of respondents



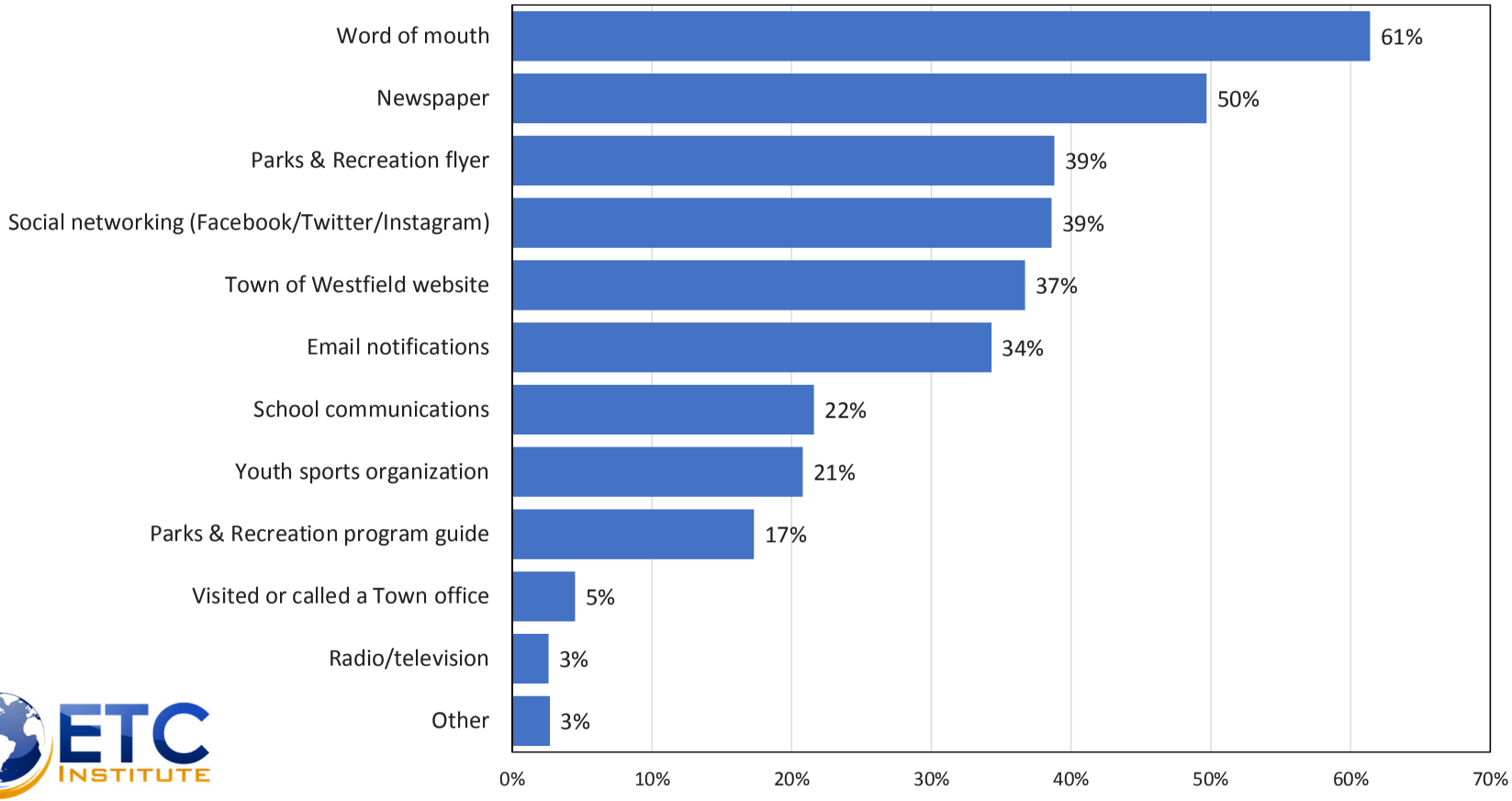
Q17. How would you allocate $100 on Parks and Recreation improvements in Westfield?

by percentage of respondents



Q18. Please CHECK ALL of the ways you learn about programs or activities.

by percentage of respondents



Demographics

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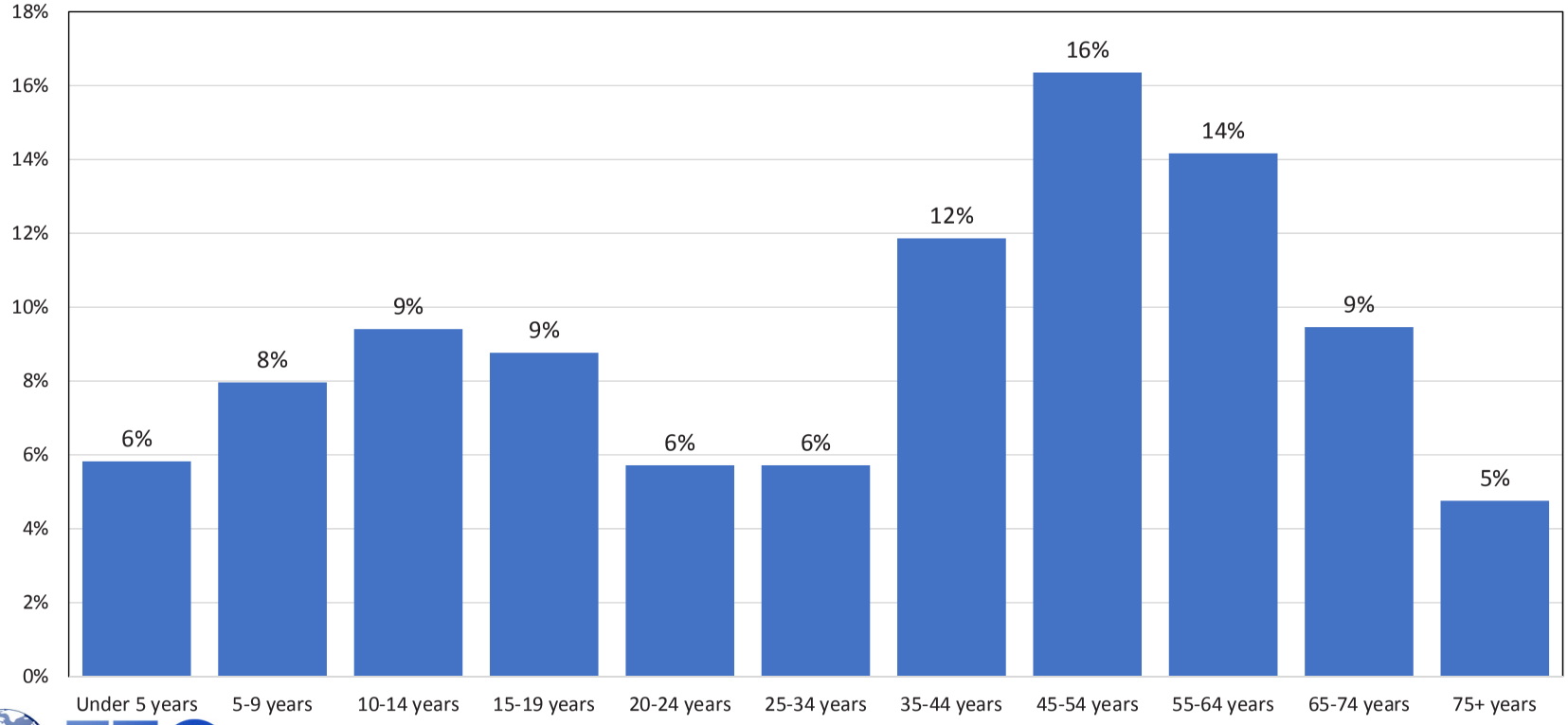
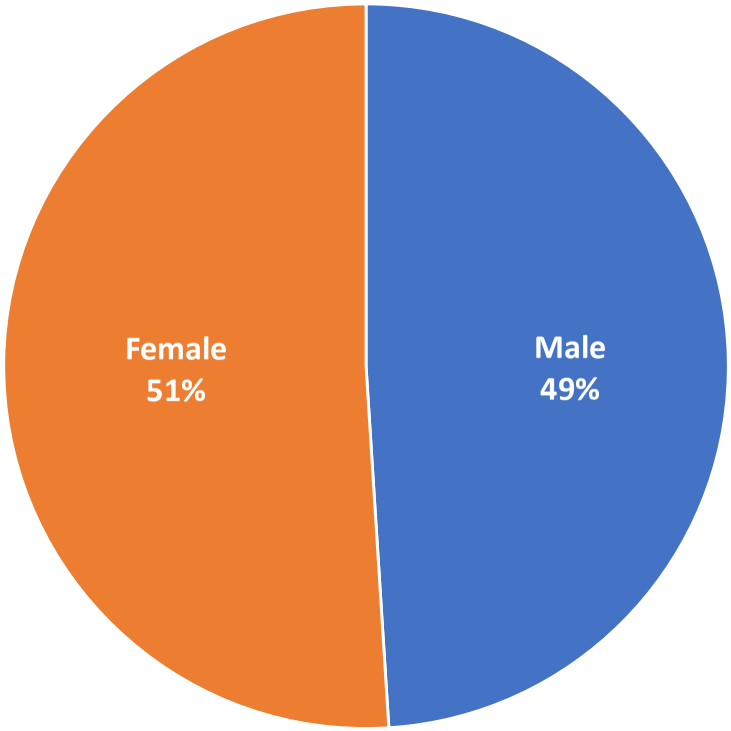
Q19. Counting yourself, how many people in your home are...

by percentage of respondents



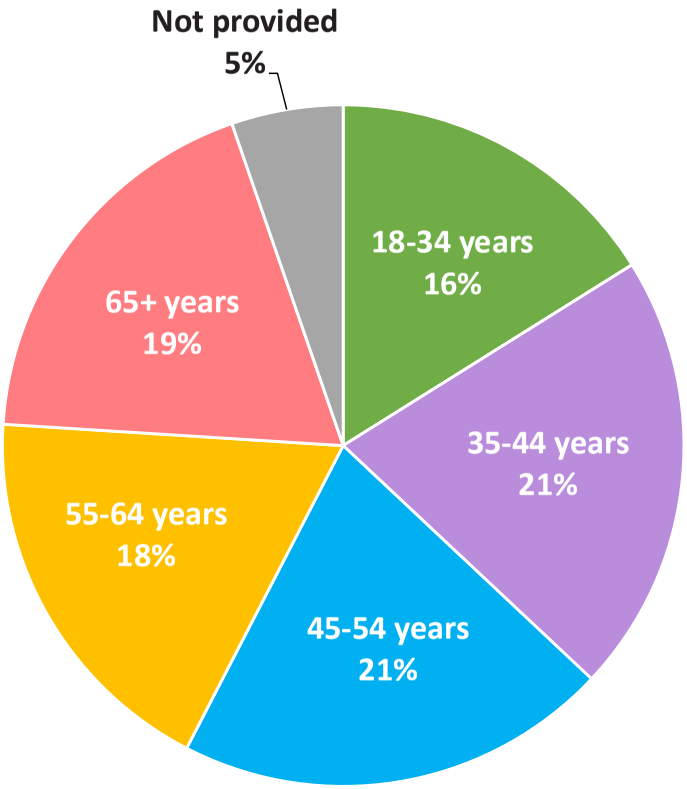
Q20. Your gender:

by percentage of respondents (without "not provided")



Q21. What is your age?

by percentage of respondents



Section 2
Priority Investment Rating

Priority Investment Rating
Town of Westfield, New Jersey

The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** was developed by ETC Institute to provide governments with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on parks and recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating was developed by ETC Institute to identify the facilities and programs residents think should receive the highest priority for investment. The priority investment rating reflects the importance residents place on items (sum of top 4 choices) and the unmet needs (needs that are only being partly or not met) for each facility/program relative to the facility/program that rated the highest overall. Since decisions related to future investments should consider both the level of unmet need and the importance of facilities and programs, the PIR weights each of these components equally.

The PIR reflects the sum of the Unmet Needs Rating and the Importance Rating as shown in the equation below:

PIR = UNR + IR

For example, suppose the Unmet Needs Rating for walking & hiking trails is 100.0 (out of 100) and the Importance Rating for walking & hiking trails is 100.0 (out of 100), the Priority Investment Rating for walking & hiking trails is 200.0 (out of 200).

How to Analyze the Charts:

- **High Priority Areas** are those with a PIR of at least 100. A rating of 100 or above generally indicates there is a relatively high level of unmet need and residents generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements in this area are likely to have a positive impact on the greatest number of households.
- **Medium Priority Areas** are those with a PIR of 50-99. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a medium to high level of unmet need or a significant percentage of residents generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas.
- **Low Priority Areas** are those with a PIR below 50. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a relatively low level of unmet need and residents do not think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements may be warranted if the needs of very specialized populations are being targeted.

The following pages show the Unmet Needs Rating, Importance Rating, and Priority Investment Rating for facilities and programs.

2019 Town of Westfield Parks and Recreation Survey Priority Investment Ratings Facilities and Programs

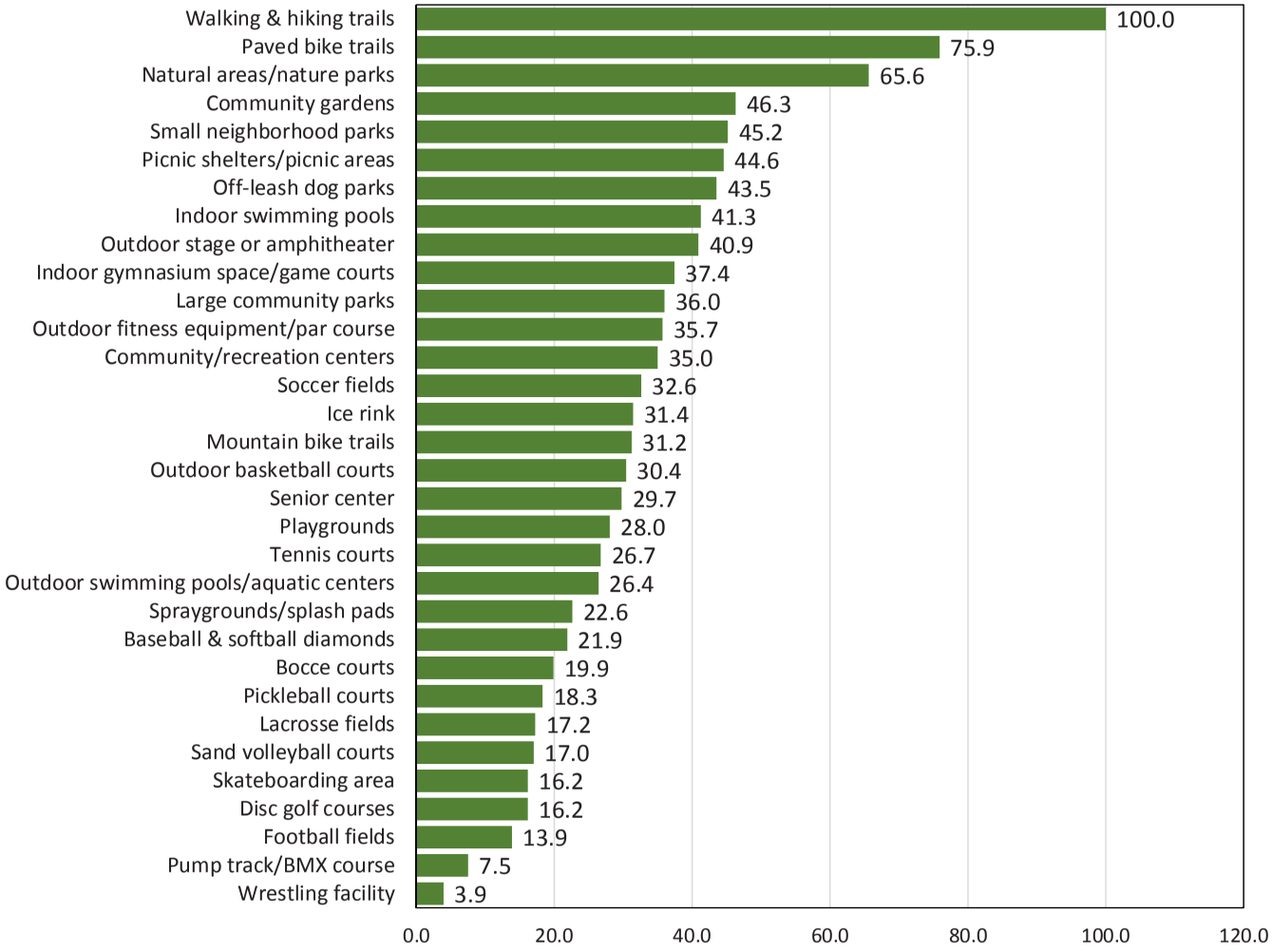
ETC INSTITUTE

...helping organizations make better decisions since 1982

Unmet Needs Rating for Recreation Facilities

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100

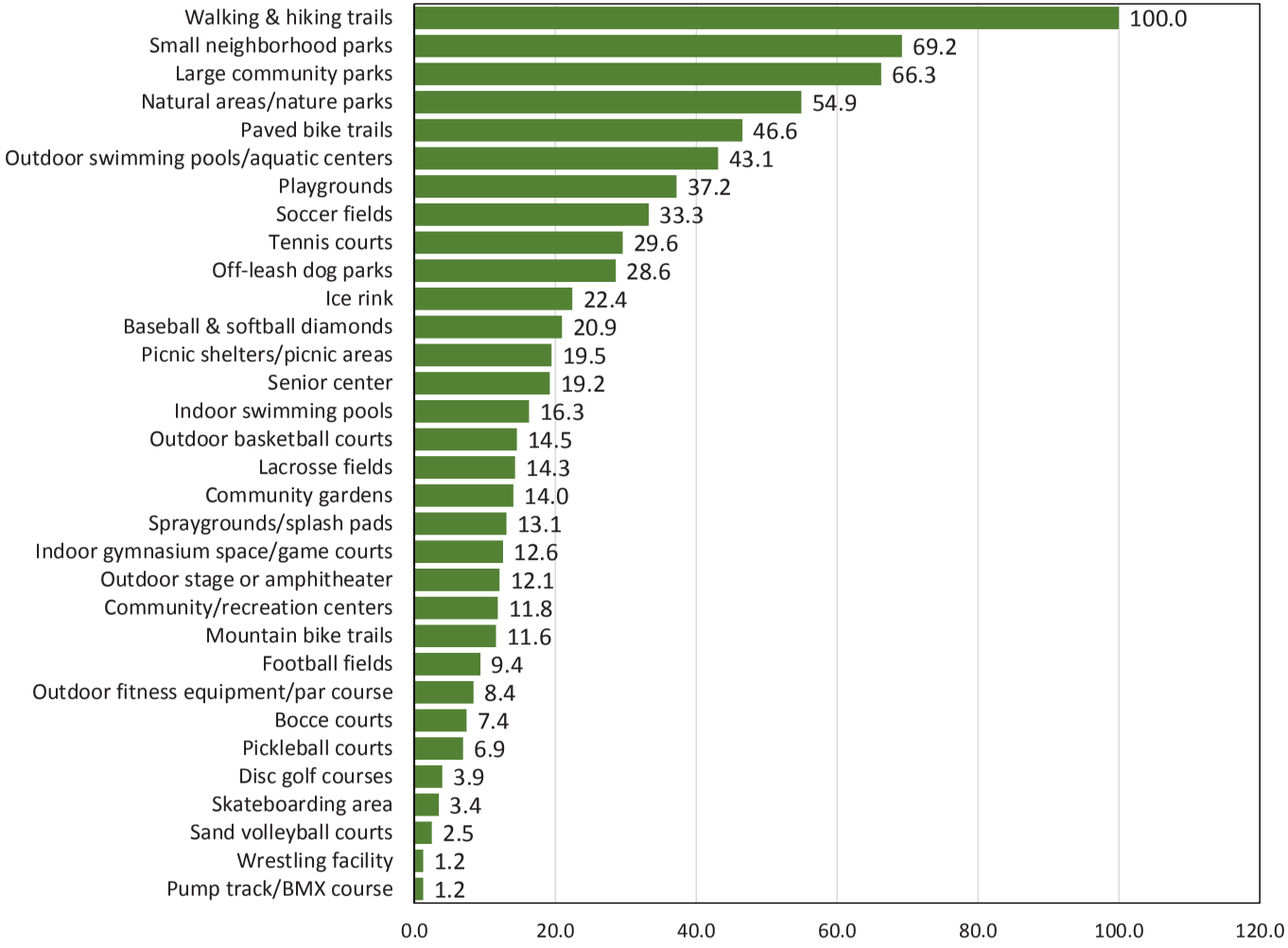
the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need



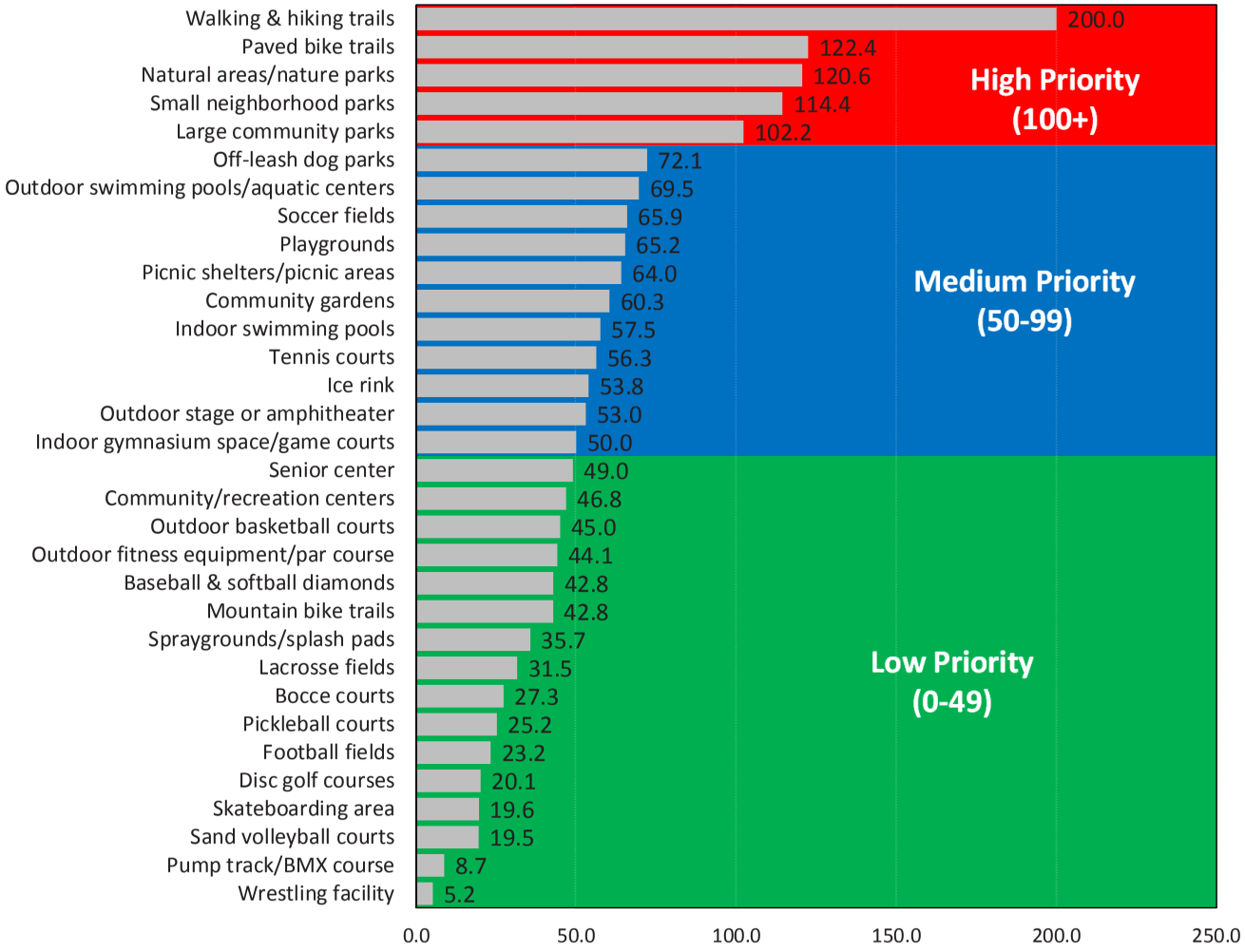
Importance Rating for Recreation Facilities

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100

the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need



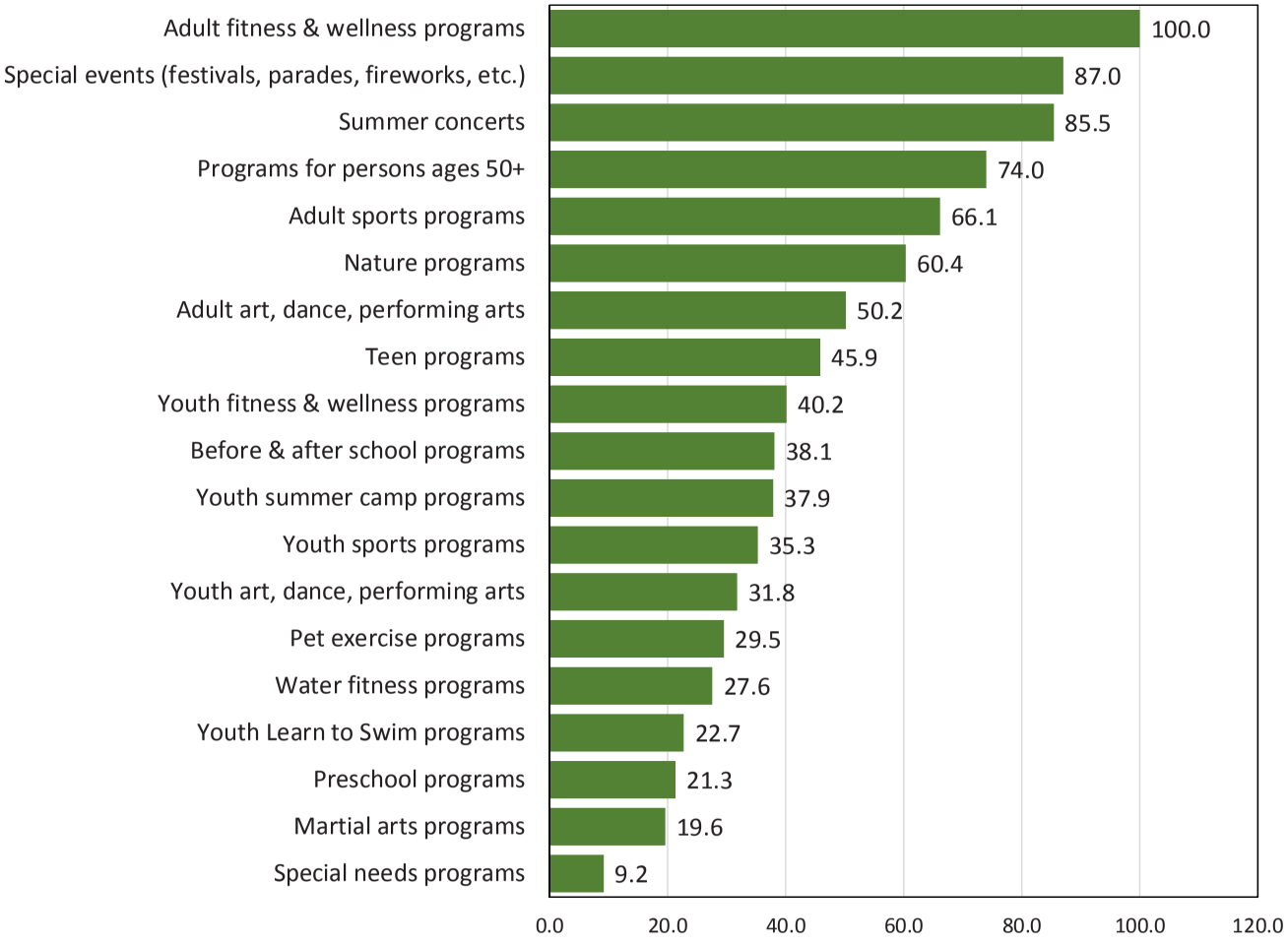
Top Priorities for Investment for Recreation Facilities Based on the Priority Investment Rating



Unmet Needs Rating for Recreation Programs

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100

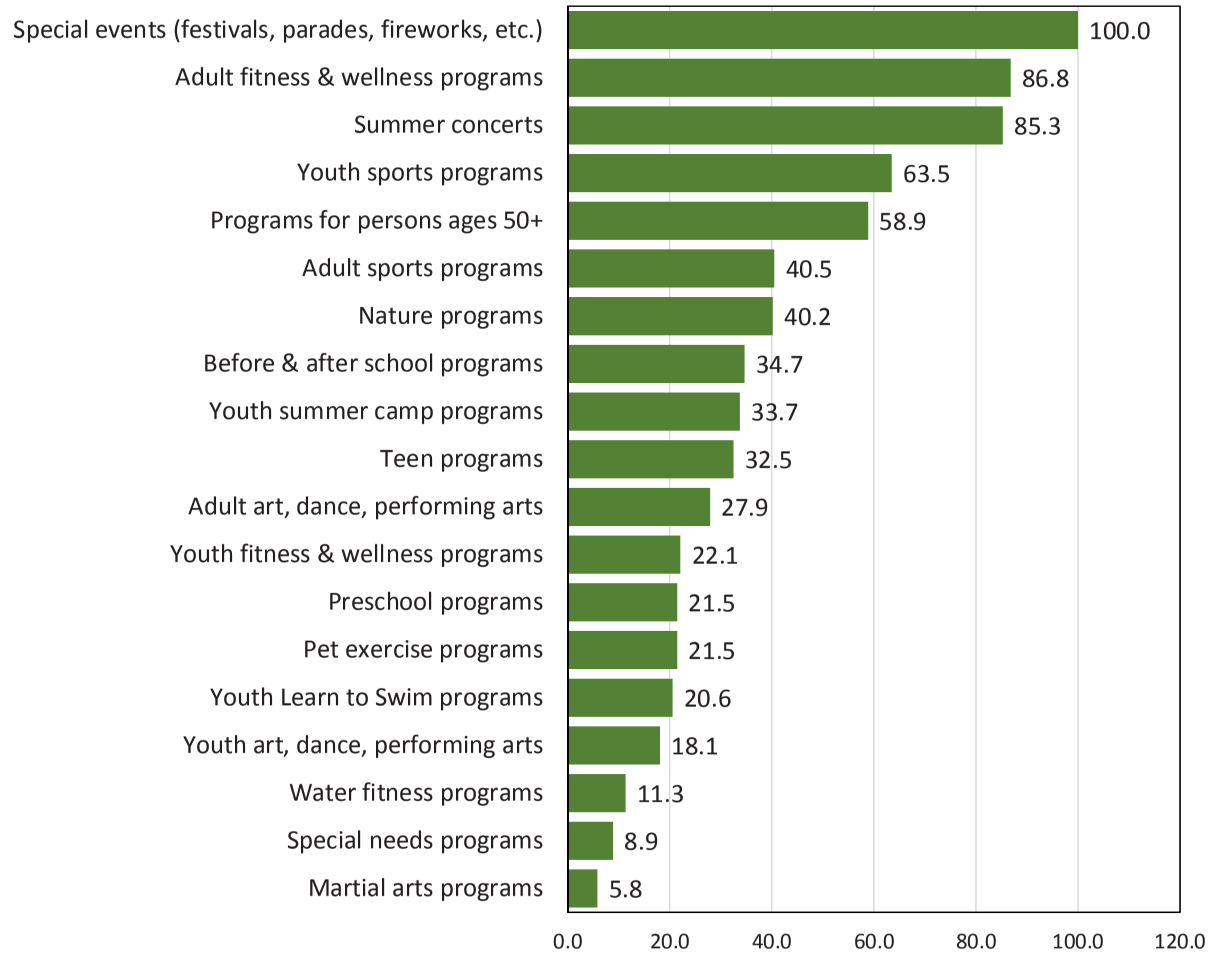
the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need



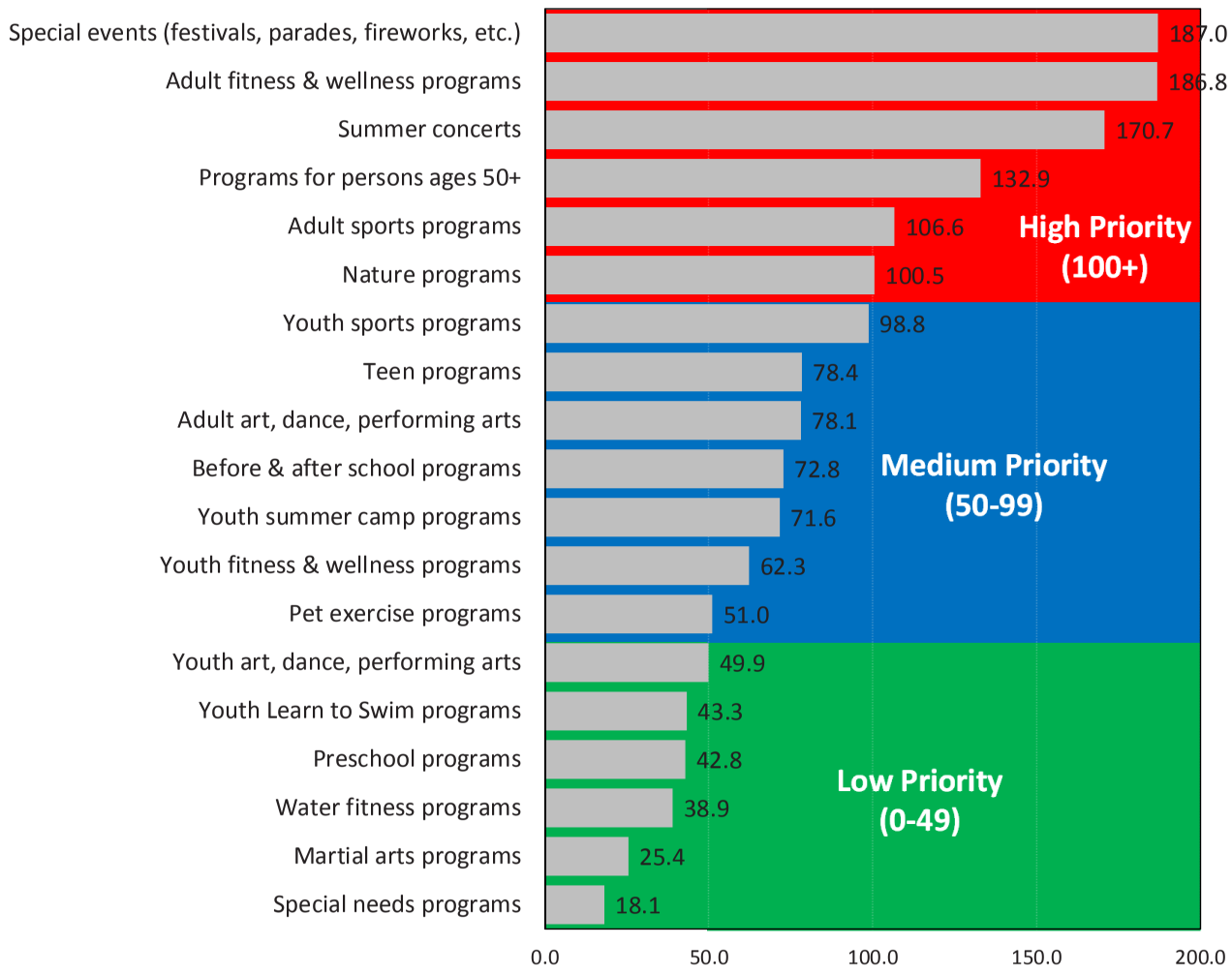
Importance Rating for Recreation Programs

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100

the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need



Top Priorities for Investment for Recreation Programs Based on the Priority Investment Rating



Section 3
Benchmarking Analysis

Benchmarking Summary Report
Town of Westfield, New Jersey

Since 1998, ETC Institute has conducted household surveys for needs assessments, feasibility studies, customer satisfaction, fees and charges comparisons, and other parks and recreation issues in more than 400 communities in 49 states across the country.

The results of these surveys has provided an unparalleled data base of information to compare responses from household residents in client communities to "National Averages" and therefore provide a unique tool to "assist organizations in better decision making."

Communities within the data base include a full-range of municipal and county governments from 20,000 in population through over 1 million in population. They include communities in warm weather climates and cold weather climates, mature communities and some of the fastest growing cities and counties in the country.

"National Averages" have been developed for numerous strategically important parks and recreation planning and management issues including: customer satisfaction and usage of parks and programs; methods for receiving marketing information; reasons that prevent members of households from using parks and recreation facilities more often; priority recreation programs, parks, facilities and trails to improve or develop; priority programming spaces to have in planned community centers and aquatic facilities; potential attendance for planned indoor community centers and outdoor aquatic centers; etc.

Results from household responses for Westfield, New Jersey were compared to National Benchmarks to gain further strategic information. A summary of all tabular comparisons are shown on the following page.

Note: The benchmarking data contained in this report is protected intellectual property. Any reproduction of the benchmarking information in this report by persons or organizations not directly affiliated with Westfield is not authorized without written consent from ETC Institute.

Benchmarking for Westfield, New Jersey		
	National Average	**Westfield 2019**
Have you or members of your household visited any City/County/Park District facilities over the past year?		
Yes	78%	**92%**
No	22%	**8%**
How would you rate the quality of all the parks you've visited?		
Excellent	30%	**12%**
Good	53%	**57%**
Fair	14%	**25%**
Poor	3%	**6%**
Have you or members of your household participated in City/County/Park District recreation programs during the past year?		
Yes	32%	**36%**
No	68%	**64%**
How would you rate the quality of all the recreation programs you've participated in?		
Excellent	34%	**18%**
Good	54%	**66%**
Fair	10%	**11%**
Poor	2%	**5%**

Benchmarking for Westfield, New Jersey		
	National Average	**Westfield 2019**
Ways respondents learn about recreation programs and activities		
Word of Mouth/Friends/Coworkers	49%	**61%**
Newspaper	34%	**50%**
Newsletters/Flyers/Brochures	24%	**39%**
Social media - Facebook/Twitter	25%	**39%**
Website	37%	**37%**
E-mail bulletins/notification (Email)	15%	**34%**
School flyers (Program fliers at school)	12%	**22%**
Departmental Brochure (Seasonal program guide)	42%	**17%**
Visited or called a parks/recreation office	5%	**5%**
Radio	14%	**3%**
Organizations used for parks and recreation programs and facilities		
Library	0%	**58%**
County/State Parks	38%	**46%**
School District	24%	**42%**
YMCA	17%	**39%**
City/County Parks & Recreation Department	52%	**34%**
Churches	26%	**28%**
Private Clubs	22%	**26%**
Youth Sports Leagues	14%	**19%**
Other Cities/Park Districts	29%	**11%**
Homeowners Associations/Similar	16%	**0.3%**

Benchmarking for Westfield, New Jersey		
	National Average	**Westfield 2019**
Reasons preventing the use of parks and recreation facilities and programs more often		
Use facilities/programs of other organizations	11%	**38%**
I do not know what is being offered	34%	**38%**
Facilities are not well maintained	10%	**25%**
Use facilities in other Cities/Park Districts	11%	**23%**
Program/Facility I am interested in are not offered	19%	**22%**
Program times are not convenient	19%	**18%**
Lack of parking	8%	**17%**
Fees are too expensive	16%	**14%**
Waiting list/programs were full	6%	**5%**
Too far from residence	14%	**4%**
Not accessible for people with disabilities	3%	**4%**
Security is insufficient	9%	**3%**
Poor customer service by staff	4%	**3%**
Lack of transportation	4%	**1%**

Benchmarking for Westfield, New Jersey		
	National Average	**Westfield 2019**
Recreation programs that respondent households have a need for		
Special events	39%	**52%**
Adult fitness and wellness programs	49%	**47%**
Youth sports programs	22%	**30%**
Seniors/Adult programs for 50 years and older	25%	**29%**
Adult sports programs	23%	**26%**
Nature programs/environmental education	30%	**24%**
Youth summer camp programs	19%	**22%**
Adult arts, dance, performing arts	21%	**20%**
Youth fitness and wellness programs	17%	**19%**
Teen programs	15%	**18%**
Before and after school programs	16%	**18%**
Youth Learn to Swim programs	22%	**16%**
Youth art, dance, performing arts	15%	**15%**
Preschool programs	13%	**13%**
Water fitness programs	27%	**11%**
Martial arts programs	13%	**8%**
Programs for people with disabilities	10%	**5%**

Benchmarking for Westfield, New Jersey		
	National Average	**Westfield 2019**
Most important recreation programs (sum of top choices)		
Special events	21%	**33%**
Adult fitness and wellness programs	30%	**28%**
Youth sports programs	12%	**21%**
Seniors/Adult programs for 50 years and older	16%	**19%**
Adult sports programs	10%	**13%**
Nature programs/environmental education	14%	**13%**
Before and after school programs	8%	**11%**
Youth summer camp programs	8%	**11%**
Teen programs	6%	**11%**
Adult arts, dance, performing arts	9%	**9%**
Youth fitness and wellness programs	6%	**7%**
Preschool programs	6%	**7%**
Youth Learn to Swim programs	11%	**7%**
Youth art, dance, performing arts	5%	**6%**
Water fitness programs	11%	**4%**
Programs for people with special needs/disabled	4%	**3%**
Martial arts programs	4%	**2%**

Benchmarking for Westfield, New Jersey		
	National Average	**Westfield 2019**
Parks and recreation facilities that respondent households have a need for		
Walking & Biking Trails	70%	**70%**
Large Multi Use Community Parks	51%	**59%**
Small neighborhood parks	55%	**59%**
Natural areas/wildlife habitats (Greenspace and natural areas)	54%	**56%**
Outdoor Swimming Pools/Aquatic Center	41%	**40%**
Playground Equipment	41%	**37%**
Picnic Areas and Shelters	49%	**32%**
Tennis Courts	21%	**29%**
Indoor Swimming Pools/Aquatic Center	39%	**28%**
Outdoor field space	21%	**27%**
Community/Recreation Centers	32%	**26%**
Community Gardens	31%	**26%**
Indoor Gyms/Multi-Purpose Rec Center	29%	**25%**
Outdoor Amphitheater	32%	**24%**
Off-Leash Dog Park	30%	**24%**
Outdoor basketball/multi-use courts	20%	**24%**
Splash park/pad	25%	**20%**
Baseball/Softball Fields	12%	**20%**
Mountain bike trails	22%	**18%**
Senior Centers (Senior activity space)	24%	**18%**
Lacrosse fields	4%	**11%**
Football Fields	13%	**11%**
Sand Volleyball	16%	**9%**
Skateboarding Park/Area	11%	**8%**
Ultimate Frisbee/Disc Golf	13%	**8%**
BMX Bicycle Course	13%	**4%**

Benchmarking for Westfield, New Jersey		
	National Average	**Westfield 2019**
Most important parks and recreation facilities (sum of top choices)		
Walking & Biking Trails	45%	**41%**
Small Neighborhood Parks	24%	**28%**
Large Community Parks	20%	**27%**
Natural areas/wildlife habitats (Greenspace and natural areas)	21%	**22%**
Outdoor Swimming Pools/Aquatic Facilities	17%	**18%**
Playground Equipment	18%	**15%**
Outdoor field space	7%	**14%**
Tennis Courts	6%	**12%**
Off-Leash Dog Park	15%	**12%**
Baseball/Softball Fields	3%	**9%**
Picnic Areas and Shelters	14%	**8%**
Senior Centers (Senior activity space)	10%	**8%**
Indoor Swimming Pools/Aquatic Facilities	17%	**7%**
Lacrosse fields	1%	**6%**
Outdoor basketball/multi-use courts	4%	**6%**
Community Gardens	9%	**6%**
Splash park/pad	8%	**5%**
Indoor Gyms/Multi-Purpose Rec Centers	10%	**5%**
Outdoor Amphitheater	8%	**5%**
Community/Recreation Centers	11%	**5%**
Mountain bike trails	7%	**5%**
Football fields	4%	**4%**
Ultimate Frisbee/Disc Golf	3%	**2%**
Skateboarding Area	2%	**1%**
Sand Volleyball	2%	**1%**
BMX Bicycle Course	2%	**1%**

Section 4
Tabular Data

Q1. Have you or any member of your household visited any parks or recreation facilities offered by the Town of Westfield in the past year?

Q1. Have you visited any parks or recreation facilities offered by Town of Westfield in past year	Number	Percent
Yes	538	92.3 %
No	45	7.7 %
Total	583	100.0 %

Q1a. If YES to Question 1, how often did you or any member of your household visit during the PAST YEAR?

Q1a. How often did you visit them during past year	Number	Percent
1 to 5 visits	72	13.4 %
6 to 10 visits	76	14.1 %
11 to 19 visits	66	12.3 %
20+ visits	310	57.6 %
Don't know	14	2.6 %
Total	538	100.0 %

WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW"

Q1a. If YES to Question 1, how often did you or any member of your household visit during the PAST YEAR? (without "don't know")

Q1a. How often did you visit them during past year	Number	Percent
1 to 5 visits	72	13.7 %
6 to 10 visits	76	14.5 %
11 to 19 visits	66	12.6 %
20+ visits	310	59.2 %
Total	524	100.0 %

Q1b. If YES to Question 1, how would you rate their condition?

Q1b. How would you rate their condition	Number	Percent
Excellent	60	11.2 %
Good	284	52.8 %
Fair	124	23.0 %
Poor	31	5.8 %
Not provided	39	7.2 %
Total	538	100.0 %

WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"

Q1b. If YES to Question 1, how would you rate their condition? (without "not provided")

Q1b. How would you rate their condition	Number	Percent
Excellent	60	12.0 %
Good	284	56.9 %
Fair	124	24.8 %
Poor	31	6.2 %
Total	499	100.0 %

Q2. Please CHECK ALL of the following parks and recreation facilities in Westfield that you or any member of your household have visited in the PAST YEAR.

Q2. All parks & recreation facilities you have visited in past year	Number	Percent
Brightwood Park	99	18.4 %
Clark Park	48	8.9 %
Dunham Ave Bird Sanctuary	10	1.9 %
Gumbert Park	163	30.3 %
Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields	139	25.8 %
Lincoln School Playground	89	16.5 %
Memorial Park	225	41.8 %
Memorial Pool	218	40.5 %
Mindowaskin Park	395	73.4 %
Sycamore Field	79	14.7 %
Tamaques Park	443	82.3 %
Windsor Park	13	2.4 %
Other	28	5.2 %
Total	1949	

Q2-13. Other

Q2-13. Other	Number	Percent
Echo Lake Park	4	14.8 %
Elm St	2	7.4 %
JEFFERSON PARK	2	7.4 %
EDGEWOOD & FOREST AVE TREE PARK	1	3.7 %
Foundation Park	1	3.7 %
School fields	1	3.7 %
Jefferson School Field	1	3.7 %
MCKINLEY	1	3.7 %
Washington School Park	1	3.7 %
McKinley School Playground	1	3.7 %
Galloping Hill	1	3.7 %
Elm St Tennis	1	3.7 %
Ice Rink	1	3.7 %
Jefferson School Playground	1	3.7 %
TRIANGLE PARK	1	3.7 %
Washington School Playground	1	3.7 %
Nomehagan, Echo Lake	1	3.7 %
LENAPE PARK	1	3.7 %
WILSON SCHOOL PLAYGROUND	1	3.7 %
JEFFERSON SCHOOL	1	3.7 %
COMMUNITY ROOM	1	3.7 %
Westfield Hockey Rink	1	3.7 %
Total	27	100.0 %

Q3. Which THREE of the facilities listed in Question 2 did you or any member of your household VISIT MOST?

Q3. Top choice	Number	Percent
Brightwood Park	18	3.3 %
Clark Park	6	1.1 %
Dunham Ave Bird Sanctuary	1	0.2 %
Gumbert Park	17	3.2 %
Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields	42	7.8 %
Lincoln School Playground	15	2.8 %
Memorial Park	23	4.3 %
Memorial Pool	54	10.0 %
Mindowaskin Park	115	21.4 %
Sycamore Field	5	0.9 %
Tamaques Park	220	40.9 %
Windsor Park	2	0.4 %
Other	7	1.3 %
None chosen	13	2.4 %
Total	538	100.0 %

Q3. Which THREE of the facilities listed in Question 2 did you or any member of your household VISIT MOST?

Q3. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Brightwood Park	14	2.6 %
Clark Park	9	1.7 %
Dunham Ave Bird Sanctuary	2	0.4 %
Gumbert Park	36	6.7 %
Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields	31	5.8 %
Lincoln School Playground	12	2.2 %
Memorial Park	42	7.8 %
Memorial Pool	62	11.5 %
Mindowaskin Park	111	20.6 %
Sycamore Field	12	2.2 %
Tamaques Park	102	19.0 %
Windsor Park	3	0.6 %
Other	7	1.3 %
None chosen	95	17.7 %
Total	538	100.0 %

Q3. Which THREE of the facilities listed in Question 2 did you or any member of your household VISIT MOST?

Q3. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Brightwood Park	27	5.0 %
Clark Park	11	2.0 %
Dunham Ave Bird Sanctuary	1	0.2 %
Gumbert Park	36	6.7 %
Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields	20	3.7 %
Lincoln School Playground	17	3.2 %
Memorial Park	49	9.1 %
Memorial Pool	35	6.5 %
Mindowaskin Park	62	11.5 %
Sycamore Field	13	2.4 %
Tamaques Park	61	11.3 %
Windsor Park	3	0.6 %
Other	6	1.1 %
None chosen	197	36.6 %
Total	538	100.0 %

SUM OF THE TOP THREE

Q3. Which THREE of the facilities listed in Question 2 did you or any member of your household VISIT MOST? (top 3)

Q3. Top choice	Number	Percent
Brightwood Park	59	11.0 %
Clark Park	26	4.8 %
Dunham Ave Bird Sanctuary	4	0.7 %
Gumbert Park	89	16.5 %
Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields	93	17.3 %
Lincoln School Playground	44	8.2 %
Memorial Park	114	21.2 %
Memorial Pool	151	28.1 %
Mindowaskin Park	288	53.5 %
Sycamore Field	30	5.6 %
Tamaques Park	383	71.2 %
Windsor Park	8	1.5 %
Other	20	3.7 %
None chosen	13	2.4 %
Total	1322	

Q4. Have you or any member of your household used any of the recreation programs offered by the Town of Westfield in the PAST YEAR?

Q4. Have you used any recreation programs in past year	Number	Percent
Yes	211	36.2 %
No	372	63.8 %
Total	583	100.0 %

Q4a. If YES to Question 4, how would you rate the quality of these programs?

Q4a. How would you rate quality of these programs	Number	Percent
Excellent	36	17.1 %
Good	134	63.5 %
Fair	22	10.4 %
Poor	11	5.2 %
Not provided	8	3.8 %
Total	211	100.0 %

WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"

Q4a. If YES to Question 4, how would you rate the quality of these programs? (without "not provided")

Q4a. How would you rate quality of these programs	Number	Percent
Excellent	36	17.7 %
Good	134	66.0 %
Fair	22	10.8 %
Poor	11	5.4 %
Total	203	100.0 %

Q5. Please CHECK ALL of the following organizations that you or any member of your household use for parks and recreation activities.

Q5. All organizations you use for parks & recreation activities	Number	Percent
Westfield Recreation Department	198	34.0 %
Westfield public schools	245	42.0 %
Union County parks	269	46.1 %
New Jersey State parks & forests	151	25.9 %
National parks & historic sites	133	22.8 %
Homeowners association (HOA) facilities	2	0.3 %
Private schools	56	9.6 %
Private youth sports leagues	109	18.7 %
Churches	165	28.3 %
Private clubs (tennis, health/fitness)	152	26.1 %
Country clubs/golf courses	95	16.3 %
Westfield Area YMCA	226	38.8 %
Westfield Library	337	57.8 %
Westfield Community Center	19	3.3 %
Westfield Neighborhood Council	7	1.2 %
Neighboring cities	65	11.1 %
Other	25	4.3 %
None. Do not use any organizations	66	11.3 %
Total	2320	

WITHOUT "NONE"

Q5. Please CHECK ALL of the following organizations that you or any member of your household use for parks and recreation activities. (without "none")

Q5. All organizations you use for parks & recreation activities	Number	Percent
Westfield Recreation Department	198	38.3 %
Westfield public schools	245	47.4 %
Union County parks	269	52.0 %
New Jersey State parks & forests	151	29.2 %
National parks & historic sites	133	25.7 %
Homeowners association (HOA) facilities	2	0.4 %
Private schools	56	10.8 %
Private youth sports leagues	109	21.1 %
Churches	165	31.9 %
Private clubs (tennis, health/fitness)	152	29.4 %
Country clubs/golf courses	95	18.4 %
Westfield Area YMCA	226	43.7 %
Westfield Library	337	65.2 %
Westfield Community Center	19	3.7 %
Westfield Neighborhood Council	7	1.4 %
Neighboring cities	65	12.6 %
Other	25	4.8 %
Total	2254	

Q5-16. Neighboring cities:

Q5-16. What neighboring cities	Number	Percent
Cranford	14	21.5 %
Scotch Plains	9	13.8 %
Cranford, Scotch Plains	5	7.7 %
NEW YORK CITY	3	4.6 %
Garwood	2	3.1 %
CRANFORD, GARWOOD	2	3.1 %
Jerseyland Scotch Plains	1	1.5 %
Garwood, Clark, Scotch Plains	1	1.5 %
Summit, Scotch Plains, Edison, Mountainside	1	1.5 %
Garwood, Clark	1	1.5 %
Fanwood, Cranford	1	1.5 %
West Orange	1	1.5 %
Cranford, Scotch Plains, Summit	1	1.5 %
Union Sports Arena, West 9 Golf Plainfield, Galloping Hill Golf Kenilworth	1	1.5 %
BERKLYN HTS	1	1.5 %
FSPY	1	1.5 %
CLARK	1	1.5 %
Edison	1	1.5 %
Cranford, Clark	1	1.5 %
Scotch Plains, YMCA	1	1.5 %
MAPLEWOOD, MILBURN	1	1.5 %
FANWOOD/SCOTCH PLAINS	1	1.5 %
Elizabeth, Mountainside, Sandy Hook	1	1.5 %
Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Garwood, Cranford	1	1.5 %
Scotch Plains, Garwood	1	1.5 %
Echo Lake	1	1.5 %
Rehway Park	1	1.5 %
RANFORD, LIBRARIES	1	1.5 %
MOUNTAINSIDE (ECHO LAKE)	1	1.5 %
NYC AND SCOTCH PLAINS YMCA	1	1.5 %
SOUTH ORANGE FACILITIES	1	1.5 %
RAHWAY, ELIZABETH	1	1.5 %
SUMMIT, MOUNTAINSIDE, CHATHAM	1	1.5 %
NYC, SCOTCH PLAINS	1	1.5 %
Garwood Sports Complex	1	1.5 %
Scotch Plains, Cranford, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit, Watchung, Plainfield	1	1.5 %
Total	65	100.0 %

Q5-17. Other:

Q5-17. Other	Number	Percent
MEMORIAL POOL	2	8.0 %
SHORE NYC	1	4.0 %
Chimney Rock, Lewis Morris Park, Six Mile Run, Allaire State Park and High Point park	1	4.0 %
JCC	1	4.0 %
Westfield pal	1	4.0 %
Ice Rink	1	4.0 %
Westfield Art Association	1	4.0 %
Echo Lake Park	1	4.0 %
JCC, Temple Emanuel	1	4.0 %
TAI CHI GROUP	1	4.0 %
WARINANCO PARK	1	4.0 %
USFWS GREAT SWAMP NWR	1	4.0 %
ORANGE THEORY, GARWOOD, 24 HR FITNESS CLARK	1	4.0 %
Gravity Vault Chatham	1	4.0 %
NYC	1	4.0 %
Scouts	1	4.0 %
Cranford	1	4.0 %
WESTFIELD SOCCER	1	4.0 %
MANOR PARK POOL	1	4.0 %
Synagogue	1	4.0 %
CYCLE GROUP	1	4.0 %
HOCKEY RINK	1	4.0 %
TANWOOD YMCA	1	4.0 %
WSA, Armory, Wardlawn	1	4.0 %
Total	25	100.0 %

Q6. Which TWO organizations listed in Question 5 do you and your household use the MOST for recreation and parks programs and facilities?

Q6. Top choice	Number	Percent
Westfield Recreation Department	51	8.7 %
Westfield public schools	96	16.5 %
Union County parks	58	9.9 %
New Jersey State parks & forests	9	1.5 %
National parks & historic sites	6	1.0 %
Homeowners association (HOA) facilities	1	0.2 %
Private schools	5	0.9 %
Private youth sports leagues	35	6.0 %
Churches	16	2.7 %
Private clubs (tennis, health/fitness)	36	6.2 %
Country clubs/golf courses	21	3.6 %
Westfield Area YMCA	72	12.3 %
Westfield Library	59	10.1 %
Westfield Community Center	1	0.2 %
Westfield Neighborhood Council	1	0.2 %
Neighboring cities	11	1.9 %
Other	4	0.7 %
None. Do not use any organizations	101	17.3 %
Total	583	100.0 %

Q6. Which TWO organizations listed in Question 5 do you and your household use the MOST for recreation and parks programs and facilities?

Q6. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Westfield Recreation Department	40	6.9 %
Westfield public schools	52	8.9 %
Union County parks	54	9.3 %
New Jersey State parks & forests	26	4.5 %
National parks & historic sites	7	1.2 %
Private schools	9	1.5 %
Private youth sports leagues	27	4.6 %
Churches	18	3.1 %
Private clubs (tennis, health/fitness)	20	3.4 %
Country clubs/golf courses	15	2.6 %
Westfield Area YMCA	49	8.4 %
Westfield Library	79	13.6 %
Westfield Community Center	3	0.5 %
Neighboring cities	9	1.5 %
Other	8	1.4 %
None. Do not use any organizations	167	28.6 %
Total	583	100.0 %

SUM OF THE TOP TWO CHOICES

Q6. Which TWO organizations listed in Question 5 do you and your household use the MOST for recreation and parks programs and facilities? (top 2)

Q6. Top choice	Number	Percent
Westfield Recreation Department	91	15.6 %
Westfield public schools	148	25.4 %
Union County parks	112	19.2 %
New Jersey State parks & forests	35	6.0 %
National parks & historic sites	13	2.2 %
Homeowners association (HOA) facilities	1	0.2 %
Private schools	14	2.4 %
Private youth sports leagues	62	10.6 %
Churches	34	5.8 %
Private clubs (tennis, health/fitness)	56	9.6 %
Country clubs/golf courses	36	6.2 %
Westfield Area YMCA	121	20.8 %
Westfield Library	138	23.7 %
Westfield Community Center	4	0.7 %
Westfield Neighborhood Council	1	0.2 %
Neighboring cities	20	3.4 %
Other	12	2.1 %
None. Do not use any organizations	101	17.3 %
Total	999	

Q7. Please CHECK ALL of the following upgrades you would like to see at existing parks in Westfield.

Q7. All upgrades you would like to see at existing parks in Westfield	Number	Percent
Playground equipment	146	25.0 %
Picnic shelters	117	20.1 %
Outdoor basketball courts	90	15.4 %
Drinking fountains/bottle filling stations	276	47.3 %
New/improved restrooms	322	55.2 %
Shade structures	152	26.1 %
Sand volleyball courts	41	7.0 %
Outdoor netted area	10	1.7 %
Improved parking	145	24.9 %
Sidewalks	98	16.8 %
Walking/hiking trails	294	50.4 %
Bike trails	184	31.6 %
Trail lighting	102	17.5 %
Artificial turf fields	110	18.9 %
Sports fields lighting	140	24.0 %
Handicap accessibility	60	10.3 %
Security cameras & lighting	126	21.6 %
Wi-Fi	101	17.3 %
Trees & landscaping	182	31.2 %
Outdoor fitness equipment	99	17.0 %
Batting cages	55	9.4 %
Other	44	7.5 %
Total	2894	

Q7-22. Other:

Q7-22. Other	Number	Percent
Tennis courts	4	9.1 %
Ice rink	3	6.8 %
Dog park	2	4.5 %
Tennis nets and wind guards, shrub trees maintenance near courts	1	2.3 %
Better grass maintenance	1	2.3 %
Shade trees, bocce courts	1	2.3 %
HEALTHY PONDS RECYCLING CANS, GARBAGE CANS	1	2.3 %
Native plantings	1	2.3 %
Fix bathrooms	1	2.3 %
INDOOR TENNIS	1	2.3 %
MARKED JOGGING PATHS	1	2.3 %
Dunham Ave bird sanctuary needs regular trash cleaning	1	2.3 %
Food concessions, community garden, Yoga space, outdoor sculptures in Garwood	1	2.3 %
Garage maintenance	1	2.3 %
Bird blinds and/or native reclaimed wood benches in some parks	1	2.3 %
I have watchded tax mony squandered on kiddi park near police station	1	2.3 %
Indoor space	1	2.3 %
MAINTAINING TENNIS COURT NETS	1	2.3 %
Maintain areas	1	2.3 %
Tracks	1	2.3 %
FISHING	1	2.3 %
IMPROVED ROADWAYS	1	2.3 %
BETTER LITTER CLEANUP	1	2.3 %
Increase police presence	1	2.3 %
Better WiFi, branch removal, dog poop bags	1	2.3 %
MORE SEATING BETTER WALKING PATHS	1	2.3 %
Bocce court	1	2.3 %
Cleanup ponds and lakes	1	2.3 %
Better soccer fields	1	2.3 %
ICE SKATING RINK AT TAMAQUES PARK	1	2.3 %
GOLF SWING CAGES & LIGHTS	1	2.3 %
CLEARLY MARKED & ACCESSIBLE TRASH/ RECYCLING CANS	1	2.3 %
BOCCE COURT	1	2.3 %
IMPROVED GROUNDS	1	2.3 %
THE FOUNTAIN IN TAMAQUES PARK	1	2.3 %
ICE SKATING IN TAMAQUES PARK	1	2.3 %
Bird feces	1	2.3 %
Lighting	1	2.3 %
Total	44	100.0 %

Q8. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need for each of the facilities listed below.

(N=583)

	Yes	No
Q8-1. Small neighborhood parks	58.8%	41.2%
Q8-2. Large community parks	59.3%	40.7%
Q8-3. Natural areas/nature parks	56.4%	43.6%
Q8-4. Baseball & softball diamonds	19.9%	80.1%
Q8-5. Soccer fields	27.1%	72.9%
Q8-6. Football fields	11.1%	88.9%
Q8-7. Lacrosse fields	11.3%	88.7%
Q8-8. Playgrounds	36.7%	63.3%
Q8-9. Picnic shelters/picnic areas	31.7%	68.3%
Q8-10. Walking & hiking trails	70.3%	29.7%
Q8-11. Paved bike trails	45.3%	54.7%
Q8-12. Mountain bike trails	17.7%	82.3%
Q8-13. Outdoor basketball courts	23.7%	76.3%
Q8-14. Tennis courts	28.8%	71.2%
Q8-15. Pickleball courts	10.5%	89.5%
Q8-16. Bocce courts	10.8%	89.2%
Q8-17. Outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers	40.0%	60.0%
Q8-18. Spraygrounds/splash pads	20.4%	79.6%
Q8-19. Community/recreation centers	26.4%	73.6%
Q8-20. Senior center	17.5%	82.5%
Q8-21. Indoor gymnasium space/game courts	25.0%	75.0%

Q8. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need for each of the facilities listed below.

	Yes	No
Q8-22. Indoor swimming pools	28.3%	71.7%
Q8-23. Outdoor stage or amphitheater	23.8%	76.2%
Q8-24. Off-leash dog parks	23.7%	76.3%
Q8-25. Community gardens	25.7%	74.3%
Q8-26. Disc golf courses	8.2%	91.8%
Q8-27. Outdoor fitness equipment/par course	18.4%	81.6%
Q8-28. Skateboarding area	8.4%	91.6%
Q8-29. Pump track/BMX course	3.8%	96.2%
Q8-30. Wrestling facility	1.9%	98.1%
Q8-31. Ice rink	28.1%	71.9%
Q8-32. Sand volleyball courts	8.6%	91.4%
Q8-33. Other	2.2%	97.8%

Q8. If "Yes," please rate how well that facility is currently meeting your needs using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% met" and 1 means "0% met."

(N=547)

	100% met	75% met	50% met	25% met	0% met
Q8-1. Small neighborhood parks	22.8%	40.1%	23.8%	9.3%	4.0%
Q8-2. Large community parks	22.6%	48.0%	22.3%	5.2%	1.8%
Q8-3. Natural areas/nature parks	15.5%	28.3%	35.5%	16.8%	3.9%
Q8-4. Baseball & softball diamonds	23.4%	23.4%	36.0%	13.5%	3.6%
Q8-5. Soccer fields	10.5%	31.4%	28.1%	24.8%	5.2%
Q8-6. Football fields	14.3%	25.4%	28.6%	25.4%	6.3%
Q8-7. Lacrosse fields	11.5%	14.8%	31.1%	32.8%	9.8%
Q8-8. Playgrounds	31.3%	31.8%	29.7%	6.7%	0.5%
Q8-9. Picnic shelters/picnic areas	9.3%	22.8%	40.1%	17.9%	9.9%
Q8-10. Walking & hiking trails	8.0%	23.4%	36.2%	26.1%	6.4%
Q8-11. Paved bike trails	3.3%	15.8%	31.1%	25.7%	24.1%
Q8-12. Mountain bike trails	2.1%	12.6%	24.2%	22.1%	38.9%
Q8-13. Outdoor basketball courts	18.6%	19.4%	27.9%	30.2%	3.9%
Q8-14. Tennis courts	22.1%	33.1%	24.0%	14.3%	6.5%
Q8-15. Pickleball courts	3.9%	11.8%	7.8%	17.6%	58.8%
Q8-16. Bocce courts	1.9%	9.3%	3.7%	16.7%	68.5%
Q8-17. Outdoor swimming pools/ aquatic centers	38.5%	29.6%	16.4%	8.0%	7.5%
Q8-18. Spraygrounds/splash pads	26.3%	20.2%	13.2%	17.5%	22.8%
Q8-19. Community/recreation centers	15.8%	20.1%	17.3%	27.3%	19.4%
Q8-20. Senior center	6.0%	11.9%	21.4%	13.1%	47.6%

Q8. If "Yes," please rate how well that facility is currently meeting your needs using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% met" and 1 means "0% met."

	100% met	75% met	50% met	25% met	0% met
Q8-21. Indoor gymnasium space/ game courts	12.4%	15.3%	19.0%	28.5%	24.8%
Q8-22. Indoor swimming pools	15.8%	13.8%	16.4%	20.4%	33.6%
Q8-23. Outdoor stage or amphitheater	6.2%	10.9%	23.3%	19.4%	40.3%
Q8-24. Off-leash dog parks	5.6%	5.6%	15.3%	21.0%	52.4%
Q8-25. Community gardens	2.2%	10.9%	18.1%	26.1%	42.8%
Q8-26. Disc golf courses	2.4%	2.4%	9.8%	22.0%	63.4%
Q8-27. Outdoor fitness equipment/par course	2.1%	4.2%	22.9%	22.9%	47.9%
Q8-28. Skateboarding area	0.0%	7.0%	11.6%	11.6%	69.8%
Q8-29. Pump track/BMX course	4.5%	0.0%	13.6%	9.1%	72.7%
Q8-30. Wrestling facility	0.0%	0.0%	22.2%	22.2%	55.6%
Q8-31. Ice rink	21.6%	24.3%	23.6%	16.9%	13.5%
Q8-32. Sand volleyball courts	0.0%	4.4%	15.6%	13.3%	66.7%
Q8-33. Other	8.3%	0.0%	8.3%	58.3%	25.0%

Q8-33. Other:

Q8-33. Other	Number	Percent
Lights	1	7.7 %
GYMNASTICS	1	7.7 %
Small kiosks with historical information	1	7.7 %
Track	1	7.7 %
Pickleball courts	1	7.7 %
Cross country trail	1	7.7 %
FISHING	1	7.7 %
GOLF COURSE	1	7.7 %
Art/sculpture garden	1	7.7 %
Frisbee	1	7.7 %
Camping area	1	7.7 %
MEETING ROOMS WITH THE ABILITY TO SERVE FOOD	1	7.7 %
RUNNING TRAILS	1	7.7 %
Total	13	100.0 %

Q9. Which FOUR of the facilities listed in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q9. Top choice	Number	Percent
Small neighborhood parks	63	10.8 %
Large community parks	47	8.1 %
Natural areas/nature parks	29	5.0 %
Baseball & softball diamonds	16	2.7 %
Soccer fields	39	6.7 %
Football fields	3	0.5 %
Lacrosse fields	10	1.7 %
Playgrounds	41	7.0 %
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	5	0.9 %
Walking & hiking trails	72	12.3 %
Paved bike trails	20	3.4 %
Mountain bike trails	6	1.0 %
Outdoor basketball courts	8	1.4 %
Tennis courts	15	2.6 %
Pickleball courts	2	0.3 %
Bocce courts	2	0.3 %
Outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers	29	5.0 %
Spraygrounds/splash pads	3	0.5 %
Community/recreation centers	6	1.0 %
Senior center	12	2.1 %
Indoor gymnasium space/game courts	5	0.9 %
Indoor swimming pools	3	0.5 %
Outdoor stage or amphitheater	6	1.0 %
Off-leash dog parks	20	3.4 %
Community gardens	1	0.2 %
Disc golf courses	3	0.5 %
Outdoor fitness equipment/par course	3	0.5 %
Skateboarding area	1	0.2 %
Wrestling facility	1	0.2 %
Ice rink	25	4.3 %
Other	2	0.3 %
None chosen	85	14.6 %
Total	583	100.0 %

Q9. Which FOUR of the facilities listed in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q9. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Small neighborhood parks	35	6.0 %
Large community parks	44	7.5 %
Natural areas/nature parks	34	5.8 %
Baseball & softball diamonds	21	3.6 %
Soccer fields	20	3.4 %
Football fields	11	1.9 %
Lacrosse fields	10	1.7 %
Playgrounds	21	3.6 %
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	10	1.7 %
Walking & hiking trails	76	13.0 %
Paved bike trails	40	6.9 %
Mountain bike trails	6	1.0 %
Outdoor basketball courts	10	1.7 %
Tennis courts	18	3.1 %
Pickleball courts	5	0.9 %
Bocce courts	6	1.0 %
Outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers	29	5.0 %
Spraygrounds/splash pads	7	1.2 %
Community/recreation centers	3	0.5 %
Senior center	12	2.1 %
Indoor gymnasium space/game courts	4	0.7 %
Indoor swimming pools	13	2.2 %
Outdoor stage or amphitheater	2	0.3 %
Off-leash dog parks	13	2.2 %
Community gardens	4	0.7 %
Disc golf courses	3	0.5 %
Outdoor fitness equipment/par course	3	0.5 %
Skateboarding area	3	0.5 %
Ice rink	8	1.4 %
Sand volleyball courts	2	0.3 %
Other	1	0.2 %
None chosen	109	18.7 %
Total	583	100.0 %

Q9. Which FOUR of the facilities listed in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q9. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Small neighborhood parks	28	4.8 %
Large community parks	41	7.0 %
Natural areas/nature parks	38	6.5 %
Baseball & softball diamonds	9	1.5 %
Soccer fields	13	2.2 %
Football fields	3	0.5 %
Lacrosse fields	11	1.9 %
Playgrounds	19	3.3 %
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	13	2.2 %
Walking & hiking trails	57	9.8 %
Paved bike trails	24	4.1 %
Mountain bike trails	10	1.7 %
Outdoor basketball courts	11	1.9 %
Tennis courts	17	2.9 %
Pickleball courts	5	0.9 %
Bocce courts	3	0.5 %
Outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers	24	4.1 %
Spraygrounds/splash pads	11	1.9 %
Community/recreation centers	11	1.9 %
Senior center	11	1.9 %
Indoor gymnasium space/game courts	12	2.1 %
Indoor swimming pools	14	2.4 %
Outdoor stage or amphitheater	9	1.5 %
Off-leash dog parks	15	2.6 %
Community gardens	12	2.1 %
Disc golf courses	2	0.3 %
Outdoor fitness equipment/par course	4	0.7 %
Skateboarding area	1	0.2 %
Pump track/BMX course	2	0.3 %
Ice rink	3	0.5 %
Sand volleyball courts	1	0.2 %
Other	2	0.3 %
None chosen	147	25.2 %
Total	583	100.0 %

Q9. Which FOUR of the facilities listed in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q9. 4th choice	Number	Percent
Small neighborhood parks	38	6.5 %
Large community parks	25	4.3 %
Natural areas/nature parks	29	5.0 %
Baseball & softball diamonds	4	0.7 %
Soccer fields	7	1.2 %
Football fields	5	0.9 %
Lacrosse fields	3	0.5 %
Playgrounds	7	1.2 %
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	18	3.1 %
Walking & hiking trails	32	5.5 %
Paved bike trails	26	4.5 %
Mountain bike trails	6	1.0 %
Outdoor basketball courts	5	0.9 %
Tennis courts	20	3.4 %
Pickleball courts	4	0.7 %
Bocce courts	7	1.2 %
Outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers	20	3.4 %
Spraygrounds/splash pads	10	1.7 %
Community/recreation centers	8	1.4 %
Senior center	10	1.7 %
Indoor gymnasium space/game courts	8	1.4 %
Indoor swimming pools	9	1.5 %
Outdoor stage or amphitheater	12	2.1 %
Off-leash dog parks	20	3.4 %
Community gardens	16	2.7 %
Disc golf courses	2	0.3 %
Outdoor fitness equipment/par course	10	1.7 %
Skateboarding area	3	0.5 %
Pump track/BMX course	1	0.2 %
Wrestling facility	2	0.3 %
Ice rink	17	2.9 %
Sand volleyball courts	3	0.5 %
Other	3	0.5 %
None chosen	193	33.1 %
Total	583	100.0 %

SUM OF THE TOP FOUR CHOICES

Q9. Which FOUR of the facilities listed in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? (top 4)

Q9. Top choice	Number	Percent
Small neighborhood parks	164	28.1 %
Large community parks	157	26.9 %
Natural areas/nature parks	130	22.3 %
Baseball & softball diamonds	50	8.6 %
Soccer fields	79	13.6 %
Football fields	22	3.8 %
Lacrosse fields	34	5.8 %
Playgrounds	88	15.1 %
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	46	7.9 %
Walking & hiking trails	237	40.7 %
Paved bike trails	110	18.9 %
Mountain bike trails	28	4.8 %
Outdoor basketball courts	34	5.8 %
Tennis courts	70	12.0 %
Pickleball courts	16	2.7 %
Bocce courts	18	3.1 %
Outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers	102	17.5 %
Spraygrounds/splash pads	31	5.3 %
Community/recreation centers	28	4.8 %
Senior center	45	7.7 %
Indoor gymnasium space/game courts	29	5.0 %
Indoor swimming pools	39	6.7 %
Outdoor stage or amphitheater	29	5.0 %
Off-leash dog parks	68	11.7 %
Community gardens	33	5.7 %
Disc golf courses	10	1.7 %
Outdoor fitness equipment/par course	20	3.4 %
Skateboarding area	8	1.4 %
Pump track/BMX course	3	0.5 %
Wrestling facility	3	0.5 %
Ice rink	53	9.1 %
Sand volleyball courts	6	1.0 %
Other	8	1.4 %
None chosen	85	14.6 %
Total	1883	

Q10. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need for each of the recreation programs listed below.

(N=583)

	Yes	No
Q10-1. Adult art, dance, performing arts	20.4%	79.6%
Q10-2. Adult fitness & wellness programs	46.7%	53.3%
Q10-3. Adult sports programs	25.6%	74.4%
Q10-4. Before & after school programs	17.5%	82.5%
Q10-5. Martial arts programs	7.9%	92.1%
Q10-6. Nature programs	23.8%	76.2%
Q10-7. Pet exercise programs	10.5%	89.5%
Q10-8. Preschool programs	12.5%	87.5%
Q10-9. Programs for persons ages 50+	29.0%	71.0%
Q10-10. Special events (festivals, parades, fireworks, etc.)	51.6%	48.4%
Q10-11. Special needs programs	4.6%	95.4%
Q10-12. Summer concerts	51.3%	48.7%
Q10-13. Teen programs	18.2%	81.8%
Q10-14. Water fitness programs	10.5%	89.5%
Q10-15. Youth art, dance, performing arts	15.1%	84.9%
Q10-16. Youth fitness & wellness programs	18.5%	81.5%
Q10-17. Youth Learn to Swim programs	16.3%	83.7%
Q10-18. Youth sports programs	29.8%	70.2%
Q10-19. Youth summer camp programs	22.0%	78.0%
Q10-20. Other	1.4%	98.6%

Q10. If "Yes," please rate how well that program is meeting your needs using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% met" and 1 means "0% met."

(N=480)

	100% met	75% met	50% met	25% met	0% met
Q10-1. Adult art, dance, performing arts	5.9%	11.8%	25.5%	22.5%	34.3%
Q10-2. Adult fitness & wellness programs	11.9%	16.5%	29.7%	20.3%	21.6%
Q10-3. Adult sports programs	3.2%	10.4%	31.2%	23.2%	32.0%
Q10-4. Before & after school programs	11.1%	16.0%	29.6%	27.2%	16.0%
Q10-5. Martial arts programs	12.2%	4.9%	12.2%	22.0%	48.8%
Q10-6. Nature programs	5.1%	10.2%	29.7%	24.6%	30.5%
Q10-7. Pet exercise programs	0.0%	5.9%	7.8%	25.5%	60.8%
Q10-8. Preschool programs	26.8%	16.1%	12.5%	19.6%	25.0%
Q10-9. Programs for persons ages 50+	3.7%	11.0%	18.4%	33.1%	33.8%
Q10-10. Special events (festivals, parades, fireworks, etc.)	16.2%	27.4%	39.4%	12.4%	4.6%
Q10-11. Special needs programs	9.5%	23.8%	4.8%	47.6%	14.3%
Q10-12. Summer concerts	20.0%	24.3%	29.0%	15.7%	11.0%
Q10-13. Teen programs	4.5%	11.2%	37.1%	29.2%	18.0%
Q10-14. Water fitness programs	2.0%	10.2%	30.6%	24.5%	32.7%
Q10-15. Youth art, dance, performing arts	5.6%	23.9%	38.0%	16.9%	15.5%
Q10-16. Youth fitness & wellness programs	9.9%	17.6%	36.3%	22.0%	14.3%
Q10-17. Youth Learn to Swim programs	24.7%	28.8%	23.3%	12.3%	11.0%
Q10-18. Youth sports programs	29.5%	30.9%	25.5%	8.7%	5.4%

Q10. If "Yes," please rate how well that program is meeting your needs using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% met" and 1 means "0% met."

	100% met	75% met	50% met	25% met	0% met
Q10-19. Youth summer camp programs	23.6%	18.9%	30.2%	15.1%	12.3%
Q10-20. Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%

Q10-20. Other:

Q10-20. Other	Number	Percent
Senior events	1	12.5 %
ADULT WATER FITNESS	1	12.5 %
Early morning swimming	1	12.5 %
Music	1	12.5 %
Youth golf	1	12.5 %
Shooting range	1	12.5 %
PLACE TO PLAY BRIDGE	1	12.5 %
OUTDOOR THEATER IN SUMMER	1	12.5 %
Total	8	100.0 %

Q11. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 10 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q11. Top choice	Number	Percent
Adult art, dance, performing arts	12	2.1 %
Adult fitness & wellness programs	80	13.7 %
Adult sports programs	15	2.6 %
Before & after school programs	35	6.0 %
Martial arts programs	1	0.2 %
Nature programs	27	4.6 %
Pet exercise programs	10	1.7 %
Preschool programs	20	3.4 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	32	5.5 %
Special events (festivals, parades, fireworks, etc.)	61	10.5 %
Special needs programs	10	1.7 %
Summer concerts	40	6.9 %
Teen programs	17	2.9 %
Water fitness programs	6	1.0 %
Youth art, dance, performing arts	6	1.0 %
Youth fitness & wellness programs	4	0.7 %
Youth Learn to Swim programs	6	1.0 %
Youth sports programs	53	9.1 %
Youth summer camp programs	8	1.4 %
Other	4	0.7 %
None chosen	136	23.3 %
Total	583	100.0 %

Q11. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 10 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q11. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Adult art, dance, performing arts	13	2.2 %
Adult fitness & wellness programs	32	5.5 %
Adult sports programs	24	4.1 %
Before & after school programs	11	1.9 %
Martial arts programs	4	0.7 %
Nature programs	15	2.6 %
Pet exercise programs	10	1.7 %
Preschool programs	6	1.0 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	44	7.5 %
Special events (festivals, parades, fireworks, etc.)	59	10.1 %
Special needs programs	2	0.3 %
Summer concerts	54	9.3 %
Teen programs	18	3.1 %
Water fitness programs	3	0.5 %
Youth art, dance, performing arts	6	1.0 %
Youth fitness & wellness programs	15	2.6 %
Youth Learn to Swim programs	19	3.3 %
Youth sports programs	31	5.3 %
Youth summer camp programs	21	3.6 %
Other	2	0.3 %
None chosen	194	33.3 %
Total	583	100.0 %

Q11. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 10 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q11. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Adult art, dance, performing arts	13	2.2 %
Adult fitness & wellness programs	27	4.6 %
Adult sports programs	24	4.1 %
Before & after school programs	9	1.5 %
Martial arts programs	3	0.5 %
Nature programs	22	3.8 %
Pet exercise programs	8	1.4 %
Preschool programs	8	1.4 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	19	3.3 %
Special events (festivals, parades, fireworks, etc.)	41	7.0 %
Special needs programs	1	0.2 %
Summer concerts	41	7.0 %
Teen programs	20	3.4 %
Water fitness programs	6	1.0 %
Youth art, dance, performing arts	13	2.2 %
Youth fitness & wellness programs	10	1.7 %
Youth Learn to Swim programs	10	1.7 %
Youth sports programs	28	4.8 %
Youth summer camp programs	17	2.9 %
Other	1	0.2 %
None chosen	262	44.9 %
Total	583	100.0 %

Q11. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 10 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q11. 4th choice	Number	Percent
Adult art, dance, performing arts	15	2.6 %
Adult fitness & wellness programs	26	4.5 %
Adult sports programs	14	2.4 %
Before & after school programs	11	1.9 %
Martial arts programs	3	0.5 %
Nature programs	12	2.1 %
Pet exercise programs	13	2.2 %
Preschool programs	7	1.2 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	17	2.9 %
Special events (festivals, parades, fireworks, etc.)	29	5.0 %
Special needs programs	4	0.7 %
Summer concerts	27	4.6 %
Teen programs	7	1.2 %
Water fitness programs	7	1.2 %
Youth art, dance, performing arts	10	1.7 %
Youth fitness & wellness programs	13	2.2 %
Youth Learn to Swim programs	4	0.7 %
Youth sports programs	9	1.5 %
Youth summer camp programs	18	3.1 %
Other	2	0.3 %
None chosen	335	57.5 %
Total	583	100.0 %

SUM OF THE TOP FOUR CHOICES

Q11. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 10 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? (top 4)

Q11. Top choice	Number	Percent
Adult art, dance, performing arts	53	9.1 %
Adult fitness & wellness programs	165	28.3 %
Adult sports programs	77	13.2 %
Before & after school programs	66	11.3 %
Martial arts programs	11	1.9 %
Nature programs	76	13.0 %
Pet exercise programs	41	7.0 %
Preschool programs	41	7.0 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	112	19.2 %
Special events (festivals, parades, fireworks, etc.)	190	32.6 %
Special needs programs	17	2.9 %
Summer concerts	162	27.8 %
Teen programs	62	10.6 %
Water fitness programs	22	3.8 %
Youth art, dance, performing arts	35	6.0 %
Youth fitness & wellness programs	42	7.2 %
Youth Learn to Swim programs	39	6.7 %
Youth sports programs	121	20.8 %
Youth summer camp programs	64	11.0 %
Other	9	1.5 %
None chosen	136	23.3 %
Total	1541	

Q12. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 10 do you currently participate in MOST OFTEN?

Q12. Top choice	Number	Percent
Adult art, dance, performing arts	8	1.4 %
Adult fitness & wellness programs	73	12.5 %
Adult sports programs	11	1.9 %
Before & after school programs	13	2.2 %
Martial arts programs	1	0.2 %
Nature programs	12	2.1 %
Pet exercise programs	5	0.9 %
Preschool programs	19	3.3 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	10	1.7 %
Special events (festivals, parades, fireworks, etc.)	73	12.5 %
Special needs programs	1	0.2 %
Summer concerts	44	7.5 %
Teen programs	4	0.7 %
Water fitness programs	2	0.3 %
Youth art, dance, performing arts	4	0.7 %
Youth fitness & wellness programs	4	0.7 %
Youth Learn to Swim programs	10	1.7 %
Youth sports programs	67	11.5 %
Youth summer camp programs	11	1.9 %
Other	2	0.3 %
None chosen	209	35.8 %
Total	583	100.0 %

Q12. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 10 do you currently participate in MOST OFTEN?

Q12. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Adult art, dance, performing arts	5	0.9 %
Adult fitness & wellness programs	17	2.9 %
Adult sports programs	10	1.7 %
Before & after school programs	7	1.2 %
Martial arts programs	1	0.2 %
Nature programs	10	1.7 %
Pet exercise programs	8	1.4 %
Preschool programs	6	1.0 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	13	2.2 %
Special events (festivals, parades, fireworks, etc.)	62	10.6 %
Special needs programs	4	0.7 %
Summer concerts	53	9.1 %
Teen programs	9	1.5 %
Water fitness programs	3	0.5 %
Youth art, dance, performing arts	6	1.0 %
Youth fitness & wellness programs	5	0.9 %
Youth Learn to Swim programs	8	1.4 %
Youth sports programs	23	3.9 %
Youth summer camp programs	14	2.4 %
Other	1	0.2 %
None chosen	318	54.5 %
Total	583	100.0 %

Q12. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 10 do you currently participate in MOST OFTEN?

Q12. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Adult art, dance, performing arts	7	1.2 %
Adult fitness & wellness programs	14	2.4 %
Adult sports programs	7	1.2 %
Before & after school programs	9	1.5 %
Martial arts programs	4	0.7 %
Nature programs	12	2.1 %
Pet exercise programs	1	0.2 %
Preschool programs	2	0.3 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	10	1.7 %
Special events (festivals, parades, fireworks, etc.)	24	4.1 %
Summer concerts	28	4.8 %
Teen programs	4	0.7 %
Water fitness programs	5	0.9 %
Youth art, dance, performing arts	6	1.0 %
Youth fitness & wellness programs	9	1.5 %
Youth Learn to Swim programs	12	2.1 %
Youth sports programs	10	1.7 %
Youth summer camp programs	15	2.6 %
Other	1	0.2 %
None chosen	403	69.1 %
Total	583	100.0 %

Q12. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 10 do you currently participate in MOST OFTEN?

Q12. 4th choice	Number	Percent
Adult art, dance, performing arts	5	0.9 %
Adult fitness & wellness programs	15	2.6 %
Adult sports programs	5	0.9 %
Before & after school programs	6	1.0 %
Martial arts programs	1	0.2 %
Nature programs	9	1.5 %
Pet exercise programs	2	0.3 %
Preschool programs	5	0.9 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	8	1.4 %
Special events (festivals, parades, fireworks, etc.)	21	3.6 %
Special needs programs	1	0.2 %
Summer concerts	11	1.9 %
Teen programs	4	0.7 %
Water fitness programs	3	0.5 %
Youth art, dance, performing arts	4	0.7 %
Youth fitness & wellness programs	9	1.5 %
Youth Learn to Swim programs	4	0.7 %
Youth sports programs	9	1.5 %
Youth summer camp programs	10	1.7 %
Other	1	0.2 %
None chosen	450	77.2 %
Total	583	100.0 %

SUM OF THE TOP FOUR CHOICES

Q12. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 10 do you currently participate in MOST OFTEN? (top 4)

Q12. Top choice	Number	Percent
Adult art, dance, performing arts	25	4.3 %
Adult fitness & wellness programs	119	20.4 %
Adult sports programs	33	5.7 %
Before & after school programs	35	6.0 %
Martial arts programs	7	1.2 %
Nature programs	43	7.4 %
Pet exercise programs	16	2.7 %
Preschool programs	32	5.5 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	41	7.0 %
Special events (festivals, parades, fireworks, etc.)	180	30.9 %
Special needs programs	6	1.0 %
Summer concerts	136	23.3 %
Teen programs	21	3.6 %
Water fitness programs	13	2.2 %
Youth art, dance, performing arts	20	3.4 %
Youth fitness & wellness programs	27	4.6 %
Youth Learn to Swim programs	34	5.8 %
Youth sports programs	109	18.7 %
Youth summer camp programs	50	8.6 %
Other	5	0.9 %
None chosen	209	35.8 %
Total	1161	

Q13. Please CHECK ALL of the following items that keep you or any member of your household from using Westfield Town-owned parks, recreation facilities, trails, and Westfield Recreation Department programs more often.

Q13. All items that keep you from using Westfield Town owned parks, recreation facilities, trails, & Westfield Recreation Department programs more often	Number	Percent
Use other agencies' facilities (County parks, schools, armory, etc.)	188	32.2 %
Do not know what is offered	186	31.9 %
Too far from our home	18	3.1 %
No transportation	6	1.0 %
Class full	23	3.9 %
Fees are too high	68	11.7 %
Program times are not convenient	90	15.4 %
Use facilities out of town	110	18.9 %
Personal disability	17	2.9 %
Availability of parking	84	14.4 %
Poor customer service by staff	12	2.1 %
Poor condition of facilities	124	21.3 %
Facility or program not offered	106	18.2 %
Security or safety concerns	16	2.7 %
Other	30	5.1 %
None	94	16.1 %
Total	1172	

WITHOUT "NONE"

Q13. Please CHECK ALL of the following items that keep you or any member of your household from using Westfield Town-owned parks, recreation facilities, trails, and Westfield Recreation Department programs more often. (without "none")

Q13. All items that keep you from using Westfield Town owned parks, recreation facilities, trails, & Westfield Recreation Department programs more often	Number	Percent
Use other agencies' facilities (County parks, schools, armory, etc.)	188	38.4 %
Do not know what is offered	186	38.0 %
Too far from our home	18	3.7 %
No transportation	6	1.2 %
Class full	23	4.7 %
Fees are too high	68	13.9 %
Program times are not convenient	90	18.4 %
Use facilities out of town	110	22.5 %
Personal disability	17	3.5 %
Availability of parking	84	17.2 %
Poor customer service by staff	12	2.5 %
Poor condition of facilities	124	25.4 %
Facility or program not offered	106	21.7 %
Security or safety concerns	16	3.3 %
Other	30	6.1 %
Total	1078	

Q13-15. Other:

Q13-15. Other	Number	Percent
BUSY SCHEDULE	2	6.7 %
Time	2	6.7 %
Too busy to go	1	3.3 %
No interest	1	3.3 %
WORK SCHEDULE	1	3.3 %
TOO MANY OFF LEASH DOGS	1	3.3 %
Fields are crowded	1	3.3 %
No senior center/programs	1	3.3 %
No turf fields	1	3.3 %
JUST MOVED TO WESTFIELD	1	3.3 %
Schedule conflict	1	3.3 %
SUPPORT PRIVATE BUSINESS NOT TAX SUBSIDIZED GOVT PROGRAMS	1	3.3 %
Lack of field lighting (all sports)	1	3.3 %
USE OTHER BIKING TRAILS	1	3.3 %
PAY FOR MY OWN	1	3.3 %
BATHROOM AT TAMAQUES PARK A MESS NO WATER FOUNTAIN	1	3.3 %
My life style has changed	1	3.3 %
BATHROOMS AT PARKS ARE TERRIBLE	1	3.3 %
WORK TOO MUCH	1	3.3 %
OFFERINGS ARE NOT OF INTEREST	1	3.3 %
WESTFIELD YMCA IS NOT DIVERSE	1	3.3 %
NON FUNCTIONING WATER FOUNTAINS	1	3.3 %
TOO BUSY	1	3.3 %
POOR FIELD CONDITIONS	1	3.3 %
MORE TRACK FIELD AND PARKS ARE NEEDED	1	3.3 %
LACK OF PROGRAMS	1	3.3 %
DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS AVAILABLE	1	3.3 %
Childcare	1	3.3 %
Total	30	100.0 %

Q14. Please indicate how supportive you would be of each of the following actions that Westfield could take to improve Parks and Recreation.

(N=583)

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Not supportive	Not sure	Not provided
Q14-1. Acquire land for open space/ green space/future park land	47.3%	17.8%	14.1%	10.8%	9.9%
Q14-2. Add lighting to existing youth athletic fields	34.6%	22.5%	21.6%	11.7%	9.6%
Q14-3. Develop a recreation center	30.7%	26.6%	19.6%	12.0%	11.1%
Q14-4. Develop an indoor pool	22.1%	18.9%	34.1%	12.9%	12.0%
Q14-5. Develop new outdoor parks & recreation facilities	36.7%	24.9%	15.6%	10.6%	12.2%
Q14-6. Develop new recreation trails & connect existing trails	50.4%	21.3%	9.8%	8.2%	10.3%
Q14-7. Provide more programs for youth & teens	32.9%	29.0%	12.5%	13.7%	11.8%
Q14-8. Provide new programs for adults	30.4%	28.3%	16.5%	13.0%	11.8%
Q14-9. Provide new programs for seniors	35.0%	25.0%	16.1%	14.2%	9.6%
Q14-10. Purchase land to develop more athletic fields & recreation facilities	29.2%	17.8%	28.1%	13.6%	11.3%
Q14-11. Upgrade existing parks & facilities	58.5%	20.8%	7.0%	5.8%	7.9%

Q14. Please indicate how supportive you would be of each of the following actions that Westfield could take to improve Parks and Recreation.

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Not supportive	Not sure	Not provided
Q14-12. Upgrade existing youth athletic fields	44.8%	22.8%	12.2%	9.8%	10.5%
Q14-13. Upgrade Memorial Pool	30.2%	18.9%	24.9%	14.9%	11.1%
Q14-14. Other	91.9%	0.0%	0.0%	8.1%	0.0%

WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"

Q14. Please indicate how supportive you would be of each of the following actions that Westfield could take to improve Parks and Recreation. (without "not provided")

(N=583)

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Not supportive	Not sure
Q14-1. Acquire land for open space/ green space/future park land	52.6%	19.8%	15.6%	12.0%
Q14-2. Add lighting to existing youth athletic fields	38.3%	24.9%	23.9%	12.9%
Q14-3. Develop a recreation center	34.6%	29.9%	22.0%	13.5%
Q14-4. Develop an indoor pool	25.1%	21.4%	38.8%	14.6%
Q14-5. Develop new outdoor parks & recreation facilities	41.8%	28.3%	17.8%	12.1%
Q14-6. Develop new recreation trails & connect existing trails	56.2%	23.7%	10.9%	9.2%
Q14-7. Provide more programs for youth & teens	37.4%	32.9%	14.2%	15.6%
Q14-8. Provide new programs for adults	34.4%	32.1%	18.7%	14.8%
Q14-9. Provide new programs for seniors	38.7%	27.7%	17.8%	15.7%
Q14-10. Purchase land to develop more athletic fields & recreation facilities	32.9%	20.1%	31.7%	15.3%
Q14-11. Upgrade existing parks & facilities	63.5%	22.5%	7.6%	6.3%
Q14-12. Upgrade existing youth athletic fields	50.0%	25.5%	13.6%	10.9%
Q14-13. Upgrade Memorial Pool	34.0%	21.2%	28.0%	16.8%
Q14-14. Other	91.9%	0.0%	0.0%	8.1%

Q14-14. Other:

Q14-14. Other	Number	Percent
Improve roads	1	2.7 %
Upgrade Tamaques/create northside facilities	1	2.7 %
Permanent ice rink	1	2.7 %
Upgrade and maintain Brightwood Park	1	2.7 %
MAINTAIN CURRENT PARKS	1	2.7 %
ADD LIGHTING TO MEMORIAL PARK TENNIS COURT	1	2.7 %
NO TURF FIELDS	1	2.7 %
UPGRADE TURF FIELDS/NEW TURF FIELDS	1	2.7 %
INDOOR SWIMMING	1	2.7 %
Build a permant ice rink	1	2.7 %
Indoor sports space all year round for basketball, volleyball, hockey	1	2.7 %
Special needs programs	1	2.7 %
Dog park	1	2.7 %
Turf fields	1	2.7 %
Buy Echo Lake Golf Course	1	2.7 %
Upgrade tennis courts on Elm St	1	2.7 %
FIX WHAT WE HAVE (PARKS)	1	2.7 %
BETTER MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING AREAS	1	2.7 %
BETTER MAINTAINANCE LITTER CLEANUP	1	2.7 %
Upgrade special needs accessibility	1	2.7 %
PROVIDE A PERMANENT LOCATION FOR AN ICE RINK	1	2.7 %
Running track	1	2.7 %
Create a Skeet shooting range	1	2.7 %
Improve and maintain grass fields	1	2.7 %
Public parking	1	2.7 %
Playground	1	2.7 %
ADD HOT WHIRLPOOL	1	2.7 %
REOPEN OAK RIDGE GOLF COURSE 9 OR 18 HOLES	1	2.7 %
DON'T WASTE MONEY ON PAVERS	1	2.7 %
REFRESH AMAQUEZ PARK	1	2.7 %
On road bike lanes	1	2.7 %
MORE PUBLIC GOLF COURSES AND PRACTICE CAGES	1	2.7 %
KEEP PARKS CLEAN FROM LITTER AND BEAUTIFY THEM	1	2.7 %
MAKE EVERYTHING DISABILITY FRIENDLY	1	2.7 %
ICE RINK	1	2.7 %
Lightning alert system	1	2.7 %
Install lights at Kehler	1	2.7 %
Total	37	100.0 %

Q15. Which THREE of the actions listed in Question 14 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT?

Q15. Top choice	Number	Percent
Acquire land for open space/green space/future park land	75	12.9 %
Add lighting to existing youth athletic fields	32	5.5 %
Develop a recreation center	28	4.8 %
Develop an indoor pool	34	5.8 %
Develop new outdoor parks & recreation facilities	18	3.1 %
Develop new recreation trails & connect existing trails	52	8.9 %
Provide more programs for youth & teens	27	4.6 %
Provide new programs for adults	14	2.4 %
Provide new programs for seniors	27	4.6 %
Purchase land to develop more athletic fields & recreation facilities	22	3.8 %
Upgrade existing parks & facilities	91	15.6 %
Upgrade existing youth athletic fields	45	7.7 %
Upgrade Memorial Pool	21	3.6 %
Other	19	3.3 %
None chosen	78	13.4 %
Total	583	100.0 %

Q15. Which THREE of the actions listed in Question 14 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT?

Q15. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Acquire land for open space/green space/future park land	30	5.1 %
Add lighting to existing youth athletic fields	37	6.3 %
Develop a recreation center	20	3.4 %
Develop an indoor pool	21	3.6 %
Develop new outdoor parks & recreation facilities	35	6.0 %
Develop new recreation trails & connect existing trails	60	10.3 %
Provide more programs for youth & teens	22	3.8 %
Provide new programs for adults	32	5.5 %
Provide new programs for seniors	34	5.8 %
Purchase land to develop more athletic fields & recreation facilities	24	4.1 %
Upgrade existing parks & facilities	73	12.5 %
Upgrade existing youth athletic fields	51	8.7 %
Upgrade Memorial Pool	26	4.5 %
Other	2	0.3 %
None chosen	116	19.9 %
Total	583	100.0 %

Q15. Which THREE of the actions listed in Question 14 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT?

Q15. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Acquire land for open space/green space/future park land	44	7.5 %
Add lighting to existing youth athletic fields	28	4.8 %
Develop a recreation center	21	3.6 %
Develop an indoor pool	31	5.3 %
Develop new outdoor parks & recreation facilities	36	6.2 %
Develop new recreation trails & connect existing trails	41	7.0 %
Provide more programs for youth & teens	24	4.1 %
Provide new programs for adults	20	3.4 %
Provide new programs for seniors	22	3.8 %
Purchase land to develop more athletic fields & recreation facilities	22	3.8 %
Upgrade existing parks & facilities	63	10.8 %
Upgrade existing youth athletic fields	38	6.5 %
Upgrade Memorial Pool	28	4.8 %
Other	4	0.7 %
None chosen	161	27.6 %
Total	583	100.0 %

SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES

Q15. Which THREE of the actions listed in Question 14 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT? (top 3)

Q15. Top choice	Number	Percent
Acquire land for open space/green space/future park land	149	25.6 %
Add lighting to existing youth athletic fields	97	16.6 %
Develop a recreation center	69	11.8 %
Develop an indoor pool	86	14.8 %
Develop new outdoor parks & recreation facilities	89	15.3 %
Develop new recreation trails & connect existing trails	153	26.2 %
Provide more programs for youth & teens	73	12.5 %
Provide new programs for adults	66	11.3 %
Provide new programs for seniors	83	14.2 %
Purchase land to develop more athletic fields & recreation facilities	68	11.7 %
Upgrade existing parks & facilities	227	38.9 %
Upgrade existing youth athletic fields	134	23.0 %
Upgrade Memorial Pool	75	12.9 %
Other	25	4.3 %
None chosen	78	13.4 %
Total	1472	

Q16. If the Town of Westfield were to develop (or partner to develop) a new recreation center, which of the following amenities would you use?

Q16. What amenities would you use	Number	Percent
Walking track	322	55.2 %
Game courts/gyms (basketball, volleyball, pickleball)	207	35.5 %
Aerobics/dance room	129	22.1 %
Cardio room with fitness equipment	240	41.2 %
Free weights	169	29.0 %
Multipurpose meeting room	101	17.3 %
Banquet room	61	10.5 %
Kitchen	42	7.2 %
Game room	113	19.4 %
Lap pool	157	26.9 %
Family activity pool	126	21.6 %
Warm water therapeutic pool	129	22.1 %
Other	32	5.5 %
Total	1828	

Q16-13. Other:

Q16-13. Other	Number	Percent
ICE RINK	3	9.4 %
TOWN SHOULD NOT GET INVOLVED	1	3.1 %
Ping Pong table tennis	1	3.1 %
Bocce courts	1	3.1 %
ROLLER SKATING	1	3.1 %
PULL UP BARS	1	3.1 %
DANCE ROOM	1	3.1 %
Obviously it depends on what the REC center offers	1	3.1 %
Wrestlng room	1	3.1 %
Indoor turf	1	3.1 %
Senior center and programs	1	3.1 %
Table tennis, badminton	1	3.1 %
TAI CHI PROGRAM	1	3.1 %
FAR TOO EXPENSIVE TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN	1	3.1 %
ICE RINK LIKE WOODBRIGE	1	3.1 %
ICE HOCKEY	1	3.1 %
Rock climbing, building wall	1	3.1 %
We use the Y, much of Q16 is redundant	1	3.1 %
MEETING ROOMS FOR NON-PROFITE ORG TO USE	1	3.1 %
WESTFIELD Y HAS MOST OF THESE FACILITIES	1	3.1 %
Town doesn't need a new rec center, the YMCA provides that	1	3.1 %
Frisbee golf for special needs	1	3.1 %
TUTORING SPACE	1	3.1 %
WRESTLING ROOM	1	3.1 %
DOG FRIENDLY AREAS	1	3.1 %
ART EXHIBITION SPACE	1	3.1 %
PHYSICAL THERAPY/PERSONAL TRAINING	1	3.1 %
SKATE RINK	1	3.1 %
RAQUETBALL COURTS	1	3.1 %
MEETING ROOM FOR LECTURES, COOKING DEMOS	1	3.1 %
Total	32	100.0 %

Q17. How would you allocate $100 on Parks and Recreation improvements in Westfield?

	Mean
Build new parks (including acquiring land)	25.83
Build new walking & biking trails	33.18
Upgrade existing parks (i.e., playgrounds, game courts, picnic areas, etc.)	35.02
Build new athletic fields (i.e., softball, soccer, baseball, football, etc.)	33.28
Develop a recreation center	26.93
Upgrade Memorial Pool	20.42
Develop an indoor pool	22.14
Expand program offerings	18.89
Other	48.13

Q17. Other:

Q17. Other	Number	Percent
Ice rink	3	7.5 %
Dog park	2	5.0 %
Senior center	2	5.0 %
Lights in Tamaquer and Kelliy's field	1	2.5 %
Improve roads	1	2.5 %
TAX PAYERS CHOICE	1	2.5 %
More parking available at existing parks	1	2.5 %
FUND LIBRARY	1	2.5 %
Build a permant ice rink	1	2.5 %
Upgrade some of the school fields like Jefferson	1	2.5 %
Fitness equipment	1	2.5 %
Lighting for existing fields	1	2.5 %
Enclosed dog park	1	2.5 %
MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING FACILITIES	1	2.5 %
Update existing fields	1	2.5 %
Upgrade Westfield website	1	2.5 %
Track	1	2.5 %
General maintenance of weeds	1	2.5 %
Upgrade toilet and water fountains	1	2.5 %
Provide water fountains	1	2.5 %
Art/sculpture garden	1	2.5 %
ADD FITNESS EQUIPMENT TO EXISTING PARKS	1	2.5 %
Special needs upgrads	1	2.5 %
PERMANENT ICE RINK	1	2.5 %
Maintenance/cleaning	1	2.5 %
Upgrade fields	1	2.5 %
GOLF RANGE	1	2.5 %
UPGRADE FIELDS ESPECIALLY JEFFERSON	1	2.5 %
KEEP THE PARKS CLEAN	1	2.5 %
BEAUTIFY EXISTING PARKS WITH PLANTINGS AND IMPROVED LANDSCAPING	1	2.5 %
DISABILITY WELCOMING	1	2.5 %
FIX POTHOLES	1	2.5 %
BUILD/DEVELOP ICE RINK	1	2.5 %
MAINTAIN CURRENT FACILITIES AND PLANT MORE TREES	1	2.5 %
Running track	1	2.5 %
Build new indoor turf bubble	1	2.5 %
Total	40	100.0 %

Q18. Please CHECK ALL of the ways you learn about programs or activities.

Q18. All of the ways you learn about programs or activities	Number	Percent
Newspaper	290	49.7 %
Parks & Recreation flyer	226	38.8 %
Parks & Recreation program guide	101	17.3 %
Word of mouth	358	61.4 %
Town of Westfield website	214	36.7 %
Social networking (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram)	225	38.6 %
Youth sports organization	121	20.8 %
Visited or called a Town office	26	4.5 %
School communications	126	21.6 %
Email notifications	200	34.3 %
Radio/television	15	2.6 %
Other	16	2.7 %
Total	1918	

Q18-12. Other:

Q18-12. Other	Number	Percent
Google search	3	18.8 %
WESTFIELD PATCH	2	12.5 %
TAP email	2	12.5 %
THE WESTFIELD	1	6.3 %
Online	1	6.3 %
Mail	1	6.3 %
YMCA	1	6.3 %
No good communication	1	6.3 %
Internet	1	6.3 %
Newsletter	1	6.3 %
Lack of information	1	6.3 %
WOULD LOVE TO KNOW MORE	1	6.3 %
Total	16	100.0 %

Q19. Counting yourself, how many people in your home are...

	Mean	Sum
number	3.3	1871
Under 5 years	0.2	109
5-9 years	0.3	149
10-14 years	0.3	176
15-19 years	0.3	164
20-24 years	0.2	107
25-34 years	0.2	107
35-44 years	0.4	222
45-54 years	0.5	306
55-64 years	0.5	265
65-74 years	0.3	177
75+ years	0.2	89

Q20. Your gender:

Q20. Your gender	Number	Percent
Male	284	48.7 %
Female	296	50.8 %
Not provided	3	0.5 %
Total	583	100.0 %

WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"

Q20. Your gender: (without "not provided")

Q20. Your gender	Number	Percent
Male	284	49.0 %
Female	296	51.0 %
Total	580	100.0 %

Q21. What is your age?

Q21. Your age	Number	Percent
18-34	94	16.1 %
35-44	122	20.9 %
45-54	120	20.6 %
55-64	107	18.4 %
65+	109	18.7 %
Not provided	31	5.3 %
Total	583	100.0 %

WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"

Q21. What is your age? (without "not provided")

Q21. Your age	Number	Percent
18-34	94	17.0 %
35-44	122	22.1 %
45-54	120	21.7 %
55-64	107	19.4 %
65+	109	19.7 %
Total	552	100.0 %

Section 5
Survey Instrument

The Town of Westfield needs help to determine plans for parks, recreation, trails, programs, events, and open space. The survey results are for use in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The survey will take about 10 minutes to finish. Please return it in the enclosed postage-paid, return-reply envelope. If you prefer, you can complete the survey online at www.westfieldsurvey.org. Thank you for your time.

1. Have you or any member of your household visited any parks or recreation facilities offered by the Town of Westfield in the past year? *[See Question 2 for a list of Town parks.]*

____(1) Yes ____(2) No *[Skip to Q4.]*

1a. *If "Yes,"* how often did you or any member of your household visit during the PAST YEAR?

____(1) 1 to 5 visits ____(3) 11 to 19 visits ____(9) Don't know
____(2) 6 to 10 visits ____(4) 20 or more visits

1b. *If "Yes,"* how would you rate their condition?

____(4) Excellent ____(3) Good ____(2) Fair ____(1) Poor

2. Please CHECK ALL of the following parks and recreation facilities in Westfield that you or any member of your household have visited in the PAST YEAR.

Town Parks
___ (01) Brightwood Park
___ (02) Clark Park
___ (03) Dunham Ave Bird Sanctuary
___ (04) Gumbert Park
___ (05) Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields
___ (06) Lincoln School Playground
___ (07) Memorial Park
___ (08) Memorial Pool
___ (09) Mindowaskin Park
___ (10) Sycamore Field
___ (11) Tamaques Park
___ (12) Windsor Park
___ (13) Other:_____

3. Which THREE of the facilities listed in Question 2 did you or any member of your household VISIT MOST? *[Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 2, or circle "NONE."]*

1st: _____ 2nd: _____ 3rd: _____ NONE

4. Have you or any member of your household used any of the recreation programs offered by the Town of Westfield in the PAST YEAR?

____(1) Yes ____(2) No *[Skip to Q5.]*

4a. *If "Yes,"* how would you rate the quality of these programs?

____ (4) Excellent ____ (3) Good ____ (2) Fair ____ (1) Poor

5. Please CHECK ALL of the following organizations that you or any member of your household use for parks and recreation activities.

____ (01) Westfield Recreation Department
____ (02) Westfield Public Schools
____ (03) Union County Parks
____ (04) New Jersey State Parks & Forests
____ (05) National Parks and Historic Sites
____ (06) Homeowners Association (HOA) Facilities
____ (07) Private schools
____ (08) Private youth sports leagues
____ (09) Churches
____ (10) Private clubs (tennis, health/fitness)
____ (11) Country clubs/golf courses
____ (12) Westfield Area YMCA
____ (13) Westfield Library
____ (14) Westfield Community Center
____ (15) Westfield Neighborhood Council
____ (16) Neighboring cities (list): _____
____ (17) Other: _____
____ (99) None - do not use any organizations

6. Which TWO organizations listed in Question 5 do you and your household use the MOST for recreation and parks programs and facilities? *[Write in the numbers from the list in Question 5 for the TWO agencies you use most, or circle "NONE."]*

Use Most: _____ Used 2nd Most: _____ NONE

7. Please CHECK ALL of the following upgrades you would like to see at existing parks in Westfield.

____ (01) Playground equipment
____ (02) Picnic shelters
____ (03) Outdoor basketball courts
____ (04) Drinking fountains/bottle filling stations
____ (05) New/improved restrooms
____ (06) Shade structures
____ (07) Sand volleyball courts
____ (08) Outdoor netted area
____ (09) Improved parking
____ (10) Sidewalks
____ (11) Walking/hiking trails
____ (12) Bike trails
____ (13) Trail lighting
____ (14) Artificial turf fields
____ (15) Sports fields lighting
____ (16) Handicap accessibility
____ (17) Security cameras and lighting
____ (18) Wi-Fi
____ (19) Trees and landscaping
____ (20) Outdoor fitness equipment
____ (21) Batting cages
____ (22) Other: _____

8. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need for each of the facilities listed below by circling either "Yes" or "No" next to each item.

***If "Yes,"* please rate how well that facility is currently meeting your needs using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

	Type of Facility	Do you have a need for this facility?		If "Yes", how well are your needs being met?				
				100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
01.	Small neighborhood parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
02.	Large community parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
03.	Natural areas/nature parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
04.	Baseball and softball diamonds	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
05.	Soccer fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
06.	Football fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
07.	Lacrosse fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
08.	Playgrounds	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
09.	Picnic shelters/picnic areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
10.	Walking and hiking trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
11.	Paved bike trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
12.	Mountain bike trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
13.	Outdoor basketball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
14.	Tennis courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
15.	Pickleball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
16.	Bocce courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
17.	Outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
18.	Spraygrounds/splash pads	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
19.	Community/recreation centers	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
20.	Senior center	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
21.	Indoor gymnasium space/game courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
22.	Indoor swimming pools	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
23.	Outdoor stage or amphitheater	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
24.	Off-leash dog parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
25.	Community gardens	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
26.	Disc golf courses	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
27.	Outdoor fitness equipment/par course	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
28.	Skateboarding area	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
29.	Pump track/BMX course	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
30.	Wrestling facility	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
31.	Ice rink	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
32.	Sand volleyball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
33.	Other: _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

9. Which FOUR of the facilities listed in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?
[Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 8, or circle "NONE."]

1st: _____ 2nd: _____ 3rd: _____ 4th: _____ NONE

10. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need for each of the recreation programs listed below by circling either "Yes" or "No" next to each item.

***If "Yes,"* please rate how well that program is meeting your needs using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

	Type of Program	Do you have a need for this program?		If "Yes", how well are your needs being met?				
				100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
01.	Adult art, dance, performing arts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
02.	Adult fitness and wellness programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
03.	Adult sports programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
04.	Before and after school programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
05.	Martial arts programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
06.	Nature programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
07.	Pet exercise programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
08.	Preschool programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
09.	Programs for persons ages 50+	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
10.	Special events (festivals, parades, fireworks, etc.)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
11.	Special needs programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
12.	Summer concerts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
13.	Teen programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
14.	Water fitness programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
15.	Youth art, dance, performing arts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
16.	Youth fitness and wellness programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
17.	Youth Learn to Swim programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
18.	Youth sports programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
19.	Youth summer camp programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
20.	Other: _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

11. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 10 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? *[Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 10, or circle "NONE."]*

1st: _____ 2nd: _____ 3rd: _____ 4th: _____ NONE

12. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 10 do you currently participate in MOST OFTEN? *[Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 10, or circle "NONE."]*

1st: _____ 2nd: _____ 3rd: _____ 4th: _____ NONE

13. Please CHECK ALL of the following items that keep you or any member of your household from using Westfield Town-owned parks, recreation facilities, trails, and Westfield Recreation Department programs more often.

____ (01) Use other agencies' facilities (County Parks, Schools, Armory, etc.)
____ (02) Do not know what is offered
____ (03) Too far from our home
____ (04) No transportation
____ (05) Class full
____ (06) Fees are too high
____ (07) Program times are not convenient
____ (08) Use facilities out of town
____ (09) Personal disability
____ (10) Availability of parking
____ (11) Poor customer service by staff
____ (12) Poor condition of facilities
____ (13) Facility or program not offered
____ (14) Security or safety concerns
____ (15) Other: _____
____ (99) None

14. Please indicate how supportive you would be of each of the following actions that Westfield could take to improve Parks and Recreation.

		Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Not Sure
01.	Acquire land for open space/green space/future park land	4	3	2	1
02.	Add lighting to existing youth athletic fields	4	3	2	1
03.	Develop a recreation center	4	3	2	1
04.	Develop an indoor pool	4	3	2	1
05.	Develop new outdoor parks and recreation facilities	4	3	2	1
06.	Develop new recreation trails and connect existing trails	4	3	2	1
07.	Provide more programs for youth and teens	4	3	2	1
08.	Provide new programs for adults	4	3	2	1
09.	Provide new programs for seniors	4	3	2	1
10.	Purchase land to develop more athletic fields and recreation facilities	4	3	2	1
11.	Upgrade existing parks and facilities	4	3	2	1
12.	Upgrade existing youth athletic fields	4	3	2	1
13.	Upgrade Memorial Pool	4	3	2	1
14.	Other: _____	4	3	2	1

15. Which THREE of the actions listed in Question 14 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT? *[Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 14, or circle "NONE."]*

1st: _____ 2nd: _____ 3rd: _____ NONE

16. If the Town of Westfield were to develop (or partner to develop) a new recreation center, which of the following amenities would you use?

____ (01) Walking track
____ (02) Game courts/gyms (basketball, volleyball, pickleball)
____ (03) Aerobics/dance room
____ (04) Cardio room with fitness equipment
____ (05) Free weights
____ (06) Multipurpose meeting room
____ (07) Banquet room
____ (08) Kitchen
____ (09) Game room
____ (10) Lap pool
____ (11) Family activity pool
____ (12) Warm water therapeutic pool
____ (13) Other: _____

17. How would you allocate $100 on Parks and Recreation improvements in Westfield? *[Please be sure your total adds up to $100. Use increments of $10.]*

$_____ Build new parks (including acquiring land)
$_____ Build new walking and biking trails
$_____ Upgrade existing parks (i.e., playgrounds, game courts, picnic areas, etc.)
$_____ Build new athletic fields (i.e., softball, soccer, baseball, football, etc.)
$_____ Develop a recreation center
$_____ Upgrade Memorial Pool
$_____ Develop an indoor pool
$_____ Expand program offerings
$_____ Other: _____

$100 TOTAL

18. Please CHECK ALL of the ways you learn about programs or activities.

____ (01) Newspaper
____ (02) Parks and Recreation flyer
____ (03) Parks and Recreation Program Guide
____ (04) Word of mouth
____ (05) Town of Westfield website
____ (06) Social networking (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram)
____ (07) Youth sports organization
____ (08) Visited or called a Town office
____ (09) School communications
____ (10) Email notifications
____ (11) Radio/television
____ (12) Other: _____

19. Counting yourself, how many people in your home are...

Under 5 years: ____	15 - 19 years: ____	35 - 44 years: ____	65 - 74 years: ____
5 - 9 years: ____	20 - 24 years: ____	45 - 54 years: ____	75+ years: ____
10 - 14 years: ____	25 - 34 years: ____	55 - 64 years: ____	

20. Your gender: ____ (1) Male ____ (2) Female

21. What is your age? _____ years

This concludes the survey – Thank you for your time!

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed return-reply envelope addressed to:
ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061

Your responses will remain completely confidential. The information printed to the right will ONLY be used to help identify which areas of the Town are having difficulties with Town services. If your address is not correct, please provide the correct information. Thank you!

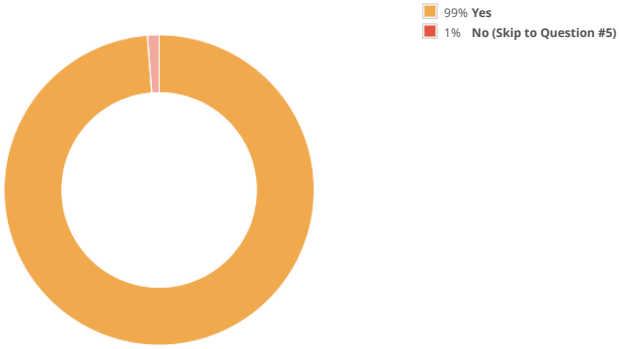
APPENDIX G - WEB/HANDOUT SURVEY REPORT

Westfield Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan

Project Engagement

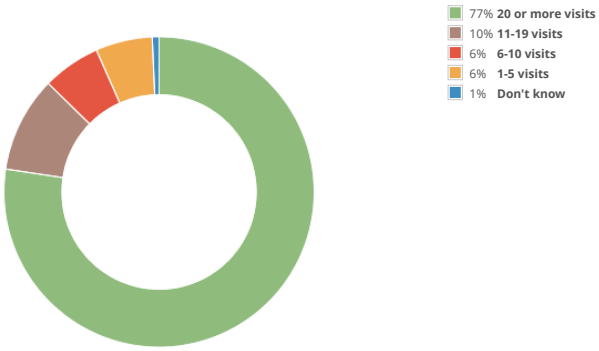
VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS
3,869	1,660	40,195	2,508

1. Have you (or those who live with you) visited any parks or recreation facilities offered by the Town of Westfield in the past year? (see Question #3 for list of Town Parks)



1,573 respondents

2. If you answered YES to Question #1, how often did you (or those who live with you) visit during the past year?



1,555 respondents

3. Please check ALL parks and recreation facilities you (or those who live with you) visited in the past year. (Select all that apply)

93%	Tamaques Park	1322 ✔
73%	Mindowaskin Park	1038 ✔
56%	Memorial Park	803 ✔
56%	Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields	802 ✔
56%	Memorial Pool	793 ✔
55%	Gumbert Park	788 ✔
28%	Sycamore Field	401 ✔
23%	Lincoln School Playground	329 ✔
22%	Brightwood Park	315 ✔
12%	Clark Park	174 ✔
5%	Other. Please comment below.	76 ✔
2%	Windsor Park	33 ✔
2%	Dunham Ave Bird Sanctuary	22 ✔

3. Please check ALL parks and recreation facilities you (or those who live with you) visited in the past year. (Select all that apply)

Strongly support updating fields and rec facilities in town. There are not enough turf and lighted fields for all of the rec and high school teams to practice. Our facilities are embarrassing compared to other towns. I appreciate the need for open space and grass, but we need to accommodate all of the sports programs as well. I love all the enhancements to Mindowaskin park. It looks fabulous. We need to improve Tamaques park as well. The parking needs to be revised, we need turf fields that can be used by all sports and we need to add lighting. We also need to build a new rec building at Tamaques for wrestling, cheerleading and other indoor activities. There is not enough room in the school gyms and cafeterias currently to house all of these programs. I love the hockey rink. It is a wonderful enhancement to our community and a great way for families to do outdoor activities together. A permanent rink should be incorporated into the master plan.

8 months ago 58 Agree

Just please move the commercial hockey rink out of a residential neighborhood! The rink is overwhelmingly being used by other towns.

8 months ago 11 Agree

Not true.. Westfield High School has 4 hockey teams and sources ice at two other rinks as well because there is not enough ice time to accommodate their needs. What other town in the state can boast they have 1 Boys Varsity Team, 2 Boys JV teams and 1 Girls Varsity Team? Hockey is a big part of this community, and should be a permanent part of our plan.

8 months ago 18 Agree

It is true, stats are based on the hourly usage from the rink schedule. Gumbert Park is a residentially zoned park with a commercial for profit ice hockey rink. No one purchasing their house would have expected that. It's just not the right

No one purchasing their house would have expected that. It's just not the right location.
8 months ago 10 Agree

Totally disagree. Other towns have to come in to play our teams of course, but not sure where people are getting their stats other than making them up. Love Love Love the Ice Rink. It's in a public park area which is what everyone purchased their houses around. Areas for our children to play sports and have fun. We should be thrilled to have opportunities for our kids to be kids and do new things. Just because some people don't like it, doesn't mean it's wrong. KEEP THE RINK!!!!!!
8 months ago 13 Agree

That is a false statement. The children/teens that use this rink are from Westfield high school, middle school and club teams which have a majority of Westfield residents.
8 months ago 10 Agree

Not according to the records of use that were kept.
6 months ago 1 Agree

This isn't a residential neighborhood!!! It is across from a VERY busy Shoprite and lumber yard in addition to being next to a shopping center.
7 months ago 9 Agree

I live there! It is residential! One of the reasons I chose to live here was so I could use the park -- but have not been able to for months. Please, please, get rid of the rink forever.
7 months ago 3 Agree

Disagree with your opinion on the rink . It's a good addition to the town , and the kids have enjoyed it a lot this season
7 months ago 6 Agree

I believe the town plan from a few years ago included a wrestling and hockey facility in Tamaques Park. I think that is a great idea and would serve the needs of our town without infringing in residents. I live right next to Tamaques and would be fine with such an addition
7 months ago 4 Agree

Should we apologize to Garwood, Edison, and all the other towns we routinely go to to use thier sports complexes because ours are inadequate or is your gripe just about outsiders in Westfield. Perhaps you want a no outsiders or maybe even a wall
7 months ago 4 Agree

Quality field space is a major concern. My 3 kids all play soccer, and we have to go out of town to find a viable field even for practices (Unami, Echo Lake, Wardlaw, Garwood, Edison). By the end of the fall, most of the grass fields were in poor condition and the Spring hasn't been much better.

Better maintained grass fields would greatly increase the quality of life for all of our kids playing sports. If the maintenance is too much of a burden for the town, additional turf field spaces would greatly alleviate the congestion that our kids playing Spring sports face.

One other item - Tamaques could use a fenced dog park. Currently people let their dogs run around off leash in the picnic area back in the woods, which does not seem optimal.
8 months ago 26 Agree

Completely agree, an off-leash dog jumped on my 3 year old after running at full speed this past summer. Luckily, she wasn't badly hurt but this is completely unacceptable. I also feel like dog owners care more about their dog's exercise than the safety of everyone around them.
7 months ago 2 Agree

Perhaps the WSA will fund the construction of turf field for soccer since the organization is the largest private enterprise to use Westfield fields.
8 months ago 1 Agree

We can use some additional turf fields, and lit fields. Please preserve the wooded area of Tamaquas park.
8 months ago 17 Agree

Agree with the need to preserve the wooded areas of Tanaques!
8 months ago 6 Agree

Tamaques park needs to be revamped. More parking needs to be added, as well as a minimum of 2 turf fields with lights. Maybe even a snack bar that is open daily and especially on weekends. With all the children that play sports in this town, it is embarrassing to host out of town teams at our facilities. The ice rink at Gumbert is a great use of space in the colder months

our facilities. The ice rink at Gumbert is a great use of space in the colder months.
8 months ago 17 Agree

I'm at Tamaques Park almost every day. In general, I love this park. However, it could be even better with some attention to some details:
- The public bathrooms need to be refreshed. Nothing fancy, but the stalls/toilets are kind of gross.
- I'd like to see the running/walking trails better maintained, including adding more loose gravel to the "low spots' where all the mud accumulates.
- Most of the trees need trimming -- and the woodsy areas (around the ball fields) need annual trash and debris clean outs.
- Many surrounding trees have been cut down lately -- around the pond area because of that new house that chopped down too many trees, as well as along the trails. Those should be replaced.
- The wooden fence by the picnic area and stream is broken and fallen down. It's been this way for almost a year. Again, it's attention to detail / maintenance.
- More special town-wide events should be held at Tamaques -- not just the Turkey Trot.
- Lighting would be appreciated
- Maybe some solar panels could help offset the cost of the upgraded bathrooms and lighting.
8 months ago 14 Agree

Need more and better fields, including options for sports beyond baseball/softball, basketball, soccer & lacrosse. Make better use of existing town & school fields by lighting them to expand usable hours. Considering bubbling certain fields/tennis courts for winter use with public/private partnerships. Add facilities for hockey/skating, rollerskating/skateboarding, wrestling/cheerleading.
8 months ago 14 Agree

With so many kids playing sports in town it would be great if we had fields that were better maintained and with facilities. We end up playing on board of Ed pitches that are in such bad condition it’s embarrassing! The amount of times opposition teams have asked us if there is a bathroom and we have to say no! Tamaques is such a great park it would be amazing if it had better parking and organized fields. Maybe even a turf pitch since we can’t all play in sid fey!
8 months ago 14 Agree

I think all kids in this town are entitled to the facilities they need for sports. We live and pay high taxes in these towns for our kids. We live near and use the Westfield Rink at Gumbert. I know there are about 10-15 people that are completely against it but I know there are more for the rink than against (and I hope that the Garwood residents don't have an impact on anyones decision in our town). Our opinions were not taken into consideration when they put the Shoprite in Garwood and the development behind the baseball fields in Garwood. The residents in those 55 and older facilities should not have an impact on our children's sport since they most certainly don't have children living there with them. In addition, they chose to live by a baseball field and public park property. I hope we do what is best for the majority in this town as opposed to backing down to the loud few!
8 months ago 13 Agree

> The rink is a blight on the neighborhood and Westfield should be embarrassed by the mess they've created.
> 8 months ago 3 Agree
>
> > What is a mess is an underutilized basketball court overgrown with weeds. We are the envy of every other town (Summit, Chatham etc.).
> > 7 months ago 2 Agree

Point blank the sad true of the matter is this:

The amount, availability, and condition of the athletic fields and facilities etc for our children given the size of our tax base is nothing short of appalling!!
We are lucky to live in such an amazing town,
but honestly in this regard we have woefully fallen short!!
8 months ago 9 Agree

> The Town portion of each tax dollar is less than 17 cents. The balance goes to the Board of Education and the County of Union. Neither that the town has control over.
> 6 months ago

My three kids play with WSA. Poor field situation relative to Clark, Scotch Plains and other towns. Most of their home games are now played outside of Westfield as there are insufficient fields relative to demand. Unfortunately this means spending money and time in other downtowns.
8 months ago 9 Agree

The soccer fields are embarrassing.
8 months ago 9 Agree

We need to invest in our parks for Westfield teams and residents, Gumbert Park Ice rink mainly benefits the contractor and ice hockey teams outside of Westfield (90% usage hockey teams outside of Westfield - data from week 2/4/19).
8 months ago 8 Agree

All I can say is if you happened to swing by the rink on a Friday evening & watched the learn to play program with kids putting on equipment for the first time & trying their hand at hockey, you would surely change your tune. The joy on the children's faces & on the faces of all those watching these Pre- & Kindergartners would be enough to bring about a shift in your perspective. In my opinion the rink is an incredible community builder
With Parents bonding over their kids & their new found love if hockey. All of my kids have enjoyed the rink both recreationally as well as through their sports programs. My middle son volunteers coaching wee ones there & my eldest walks down with his friends for open skates.
8 months ago 7 Agree

When putting these stats out there you should really publish your source. I'd love to know where this data is coming from?? Love the rink, think its an amazing addition to Westfield.
8 months ago 2 Agree

Many folks love the rink but it's simply the wrong location. The parking lot cannot handle the sheer number of visitors to the rink. It is a source of noise and light pollution in what used to be a quiet and dark park in the wintertime.
8 months ago 3 Agree

Tired of this misinformation being distributed by the same 6 families against the rink. There hasn't been an instance where parking wasn't sufficient (unlike times when all the baseball fields are running). Noise and light pollution...really? The town and the partnership has bent over backwards to be accommodative to the area. The location is adjacent to a shopping area and across from a Shoprite and Lumber yard....a commercial part of town.
7 months ago 5 Agree

Odd.. looks to me the high school has 4 teams, more than any other school in the state. I also know for a fact they buy ice from 2 other sources because there is not enough ice to go around. Lastly, the bulk of the season is over now (as of the end of Jan, so your data may be incorrect)
8 months ago 1 Agree

I love the natural beauty of Tamaques Park, especially the treed area across the foot bridge. I would hope you will maintain this area and not develop it or turn it into a parking lot. The bathrooms need some work. It seems like you can make improvements to the basketball area. The natural fields are so nice. We have turf fields around town, I hope you will leave these natural and perhaps work on improving drainage issues, but not turning them into more plastic turf fields. Lighting would be great for teams, but I am sure that will require input from the residents.
8 months ago 8 Agree

No ice rink at Gumbert. It sounds like a shooting range and is horrible quality of live issues for many Garwood and Westfield residents nearby. Update playground at gumbert. Create a dedicated dog park somewhere in town.
8 months ago 8 Agree

Leave Brightwood Park alone.
8 months ago 7 Agree

Perhaps they can build the Ice Rink there next year! Plenty of room to do it.
8 months ago 2 Agree

Ice rink at Brightwood Park?? NO, NO, and NO.
7 months ago 3 Agree

Add some real soccer fields in Tamaques Park, not just goals with ripped nets.
8 months ago 7 Agree

I frequent Clark Park and Brightwood Park, both passive parks. I strongly urge the continuation of both parks as passive parks, with no developed sporting activities. Both parks need public works attention to make them clean and safe.
8 months ago 6 Agree

Couldn't agree more. Don't know why Clark park is even mentioned. Utilize other places and leave some scenery in town. Not ideal safety wise for parking and kids anyway. However the town just like summit does needs to tend to it using our tax dollars. Never gets attention

8 months ago 2 Agree

Agree 100%. I "visit" Clark Park almost daily walking our dog and appreciate its passive and undeveloped tranquility, which is in keeping with its history and intended purpose. Clark should never become a playing field. Also, the lack of parking and fast moving cars on Dudley as a through street pose safety and logistical issues.
7 months ago 3 Agree

I understand the need for more field space for youth sports, but there are many adults (including a lot of seniors) who use Tamaques and other parks for walking, running, etc., and their needs are also important.
8 months ago 5 Agree

I am a coach in town for football and lacrosse and have 3 boys playing on various teams. Westfield fields are consistently sub par and it's really embarrassing hosting other towns. The fact that we pay significantly more taxes than many/most of the towns we compete against, and have far inferior fields/parks/facilities says a lot about how poorly this has been handled. And wrestling practice/matches in cafeteria space is just crazy...though somehow has become normal and acceptable in Westfield!! Every family I speak with is beyond frustrated and it's long overdue to get this stuff done. Almost every lacrosse game this year will be away...because we don't have fields. I'm a big fan of the new ice rink and many WF teams, including our high school, get a lot of use out of it. Not to mention it's great for 'free skate' time for kids. We are way overdue for some serious upgrades!!!
8 months ago 5 Agree

While I understand the need for turf fields for sports in town - I dont think it should come at the expense of grassed areas. There is a value in natural grass fields that shouldn't be easily written off and I am opposed to ruining Tamaques park with artificial turf.
8 months ago 5 Agree

As a coach, board member of our youth sports teams and most importantly a parent our facilities are an embarrassment. I couldn't agree more with the other comments below. We need to create a more up to date set of facilities for all to enjoy!
8 months ago 5 Agree

My three boys play multiple sports in town, baseball, basketball, wrestling, football, flag football! The fields and facilities they have to play/practice at are unacceptable. Specifically my 11 year old practices tackle football at Tamaques in the dark! My other son now wrestles and for matches we are in the Edison school cafeteria! Some improvements have been made to Gumpert for baseball however when we have to play at Tamaques there are rocks on the field which can hurt boys/girls when sliding. I am never one to complain however when we look at the taxes we pay and compare that to other towns I find it unacceptable that these conditions are what our kids have to play under. When we go to other towns there are facilities that are so much more appropriate it's quite embarrassing and I mean for every sport! Wrestling some have actual wrestling facilities or rec centers with mats and bleachers; baseball fields that are well maintained with proper drainage, football fields under the lights and basketball games that are not an hour and a half behind because we are all playing in the same gym. Maybe a solution could be using space behind Edison School or even Franklin to make basketball and wrestling facilities, there is plenty of room, and please some lights at Tamaques!
8 months ago 5 Agree

Tamaques park is the hub of this town on weekends especially in the fall, we need better grounds and more room to actually have games. Lights would be a welcome addition..
8 months ago 5 Agree

Keep Tamaques Park as passive recreation. It is a great place to walk on daily basis.
8 months ago 4 Agree

Keep Tamaques Park as passive recreation. I walk every morning in Tamaques Park.

The ice rink should be moved to the parking lot at Memorial Pool to accommodate the parking.
8 months ago 4 Agree

BIKING
We need more bike lanes around town and the parks. There are many busy roads around town and biking is unsafe! We should add bike lanes and markings on the streets and connect bike lanes to parks.

SPORTS FIELDS
Many residents are urging for more sports fields, especially turf fields. However, research on the effects of rubber mulch on children's health is still in its early stages, and Dr. Diana Zuckerman, president of the National Center for Health Research, is against investment in such fields:
http://stopcancerfund.org/policy/testimony-dr-diana-zuckerman-maryland-house-delegates

http://stopcancerfund.org/policy/testimony-dr-diana-zuckerman-maryland-house-delegates-appropriations-committee-health-risks-artificial-turf/

I support improving and updating the town's sports fields but with natural materials and methods, rather than applying turf. Further, turf is bad for the environment and its economic benefit is questionable.

I also feel that the need to support sports fields should be balanced against preserving the natural setting and beauty of our town parks. While I support improving and increasing sports field space with natural materials, I am against completely "paving" our parks with sports field after sports field.

8 months ago 4 Agree

Having the Westfield Ice Rink at Gumbert Park has been fantastic winter activity opportunity for Westfield residents of all ages. It's also brought so many families to our community from other towns that have never explored downtown Westfield before and its businesses. Sports is a huge part of our community. Instead of our sports programs having to pay other towns like Garwood, Cranford, Bridgewater and Edison for practice time on their fields or ice rinks, it would be better to have sports facilities here that not only support Westfield's teams, but that also attract more people to our downtown businesses.

8 months ago 4 Agree

> The rink does not belong at Gumbert. It is an eye sore. And NO ONE who is visiting the ice rink is exploring Westfield. In fact, it has resulted in a decrease in the Garwood businesses because rink users are taking commercial parking spots. An ice rink is nice, but it does not belong at Gumbert which does not have the infrastructure to support it.
>
> 8 months ago 4 Agree

Quantity is ok. Quality is not. Also, the ice rink seems unnecessary. The limited numbers of public skating (about five hours per week) is insufficient compared to the disruption. The rink is mostly used for hockey and most of the hockey is for out of town teams

8 months ago 4 Agree

> Where are you getting your information on the rink usage?? It's great and hockey players should be allowed an arena in town too. That's like saying baseball players shouldn't have a place to play baseball. It is a benefit to so many families in this town that have hockey players. Just cause it's not to you doesn't make it wrong. Ice Rink is TOTALLY NECESSARY!!!! LOVE IT. Long Live the Westfield Ice Rink!!!!!
>
> 8 months ago 4 Agree
>
> The ice rink benefits so few Westfield residents at the expense of a neighborhood (and to the benefit of the contractor). Seems like our resources could be put to better use.
>
> 8 months ago 4 Agree

Proximity to Tamaques Park was an enormous draw when we bought our house. Please do not ruin the open natural space beyond the bridge.

8 months ago 4 Agree

As a Landscapd Architect living in Westfield I look forward to seeing the analysis the parks master planning committee does that influences the programming and overall plan. In my opinion the plan needs to provide a balance between both passive and active use. Th Plan should look to accommodate active use for all seasons. Including but not limited to winter facilities for skating and in door field house. Both of these facilities would provide revenue streams for the town to offset the cost to build them.
I also think our community has a need for a dog park which provide for a meeting place for the community.
Additional Athletic fields should be determined by the current and future need to accommodate the required need. Number of fields may be reduced by having turf fields that allow for play at all time and lighting fields my also extend the use of the field. These options may reduce the number of fields needed and maximize the yield the field can accommodate.
For the passive use I would like to see a connection between the town and adjacent county parks with walking and bike paths added to the master plan. This link can also allow for accessibility via bike or walking to the downtown shopping district.

8 months ago 4 Agree

Please keep the park as it is. Do not "develop" it further. As needed, fix whatever breaks but do not add new amenities or change the nature of the park. Do not add lighting; do not accommodate more teams or sports programs. Not here! Find somewhere else to take care of those needs.

8 months ago 4 Agree

My kids are heavily involved in sports in town and there is a glaring need to improve the state of our athletic fields. The grass fields we currently have simply cannot support the usage that currently exists. The answer is not to have fewer participants in the programs currently offered but to improve the fields that currently exist. This would happen with the addition of more turf

but to improve the fields that currently exist. This would happen with the addition of more turf fields. In a perfect world, the town could improve the grass fields that we have by taking some out of the rotation and refurbishing them over the course of time by amending the soil, regrading and overseeding. However, there simply aren't enough fields to make this a reality and any money thrown at the fields now is simply wasted as the fields go right back to the current state of disrepair within a year.

8 months ago 4 Agree

Was really disappointed that the ice rink at Gumbert Park is not an open, friendly, family place -- was hoping it would be like the one in Bryant Park in Manhattan, where one can sit and watch kids and families. This one is a big, ugly, noisy tent and just seems to be for the benefit of a private company -- on public land!

8 months ago 4 Agree

Brightwood Park is a severely under-utilized park of our town park system. The addition of a disc golf course would allow for a low impact, healthy activity to make use of the park areas away from the trail areas

8 months ago 4 Agree

> Brightwwod park is NOT under-utilized. The park is frequented by many many people on a daily basis from walkers, joggers, nature lovers, fishermen, dog walkers you name it. Leave Brightwood park alone. It's a treasure in this town.
>
> 5 months ago 1 Agree

ideas on what? preserve parks, keep pool open until 8:30 till 8.1 for those of us who work - bring back lounge chaises. the paving at tamaques should have been done with non-run off material. Please - no white plastic fencing - and why on earth does gumbert need that big bunker? There needs to be consideration for the people who live nearby - and those who use other than the one hour in and out rec teams - the rec teams are good - my kids partipated - but honestly - it is just rec stuff - scoreboards for 6-year olds - not a good way to spend taxpayer dollars

8 months ago 4 Agree

To address the field issues in town why don't we look at the conversation center as a possible solution. Over the years we have been stockpiling mulch at an alarming rate. The mounds tower and cover a large area of otherwise useful space. I would suggest converting that space to 2 lit fields. It's proximity to Tamaques Park and Sid Fay/Houlihan would make it possible for Westfield to build stronger programs and host tournaments. The conservation center could be connected to Tamaques Park with a pedestrian bridge or tunnel. Don't reject this idea without driving by and looking with fresh eyes and an open mind. Solving for conservation space might be easier than solving for 2 lit fields w/ parking.

7 months ago 3 Agree

Platform Tennis and Pickleball are 2 of the fast growing forms of racquet sports, planning for the future is less expensive. Keep Westfield ahead of the curve is what makes our town great!

8 months ago 3 Agree

We pay a ton of money to live in Westfield and our children should have the opportunity and luxury of playing on a home field. It is ridiculous that the high school students don't have their own fields for ALL sports. This is a nightmare

8 months ago 3 Agree

a town rink is urgent

8 months ago 3 Agree

> TOTALLY agree. Leave it at Gumbert!!!! Love it!
>
> 8 months ago 1 Agree
>
> > The rink does not belong at Gumbert. Move it to some place where the infrastructure is available to support a more permanent facility.
> >
> > 8 months ago 4 Agree

Would love to see no cars in Tamaques on Sundays - check out Bloomfield/Montclair Brookdale park weekend car plans - it works! No dog walking in special lanes - hard to run when dogs on leashes. Find a place for dog area in town. During high sports season need more parking. Need to consider rush hour light at Raritan Rd /Lambert Mill - hard to enter lambert mill road due to volume of cars exiting Tamaques park during sports season. Would love an adult only quiet area by lap pool . Upgrade the food at memorial pool. Pickle ball courts somewhere.

8 months ago 3 Agree

Having been a resident of Westfield since the early 1980s, I have watched and advocated for the growth in the Athletic programs. The diversity in sports is fantastic and offers a number of different choices to all youths irrespective of gender. My concern, as Amy be for many other residents, is the growth in sports programs without an equal assessment for the recreational

fields required to support all of the programs. Our facilities are woefully outdated and in much need of repair and/or a significant overhaul. Fields without restrooms or adequate seating, and sometimes, adequate field conditionsis just not the Westfield standard that we have been accustomed to over the last 3 decades. We really need to evaluate all options and, if possible, pool our resources across adjoining towns to reach what we know is the ideal. We need to work with the town, bird of education and all sports programs to promote one fully integrated solution.

8 months ago 3 Agree

Parks generally seem inferior to other towns. When our son plays in other communities, the facilities almost always are newer and in better condition. Overall, the quality of fields is subpar. The town also could use at least one lighted facility that would expand the timeframe available for activities and help ease overcrowding.

8 months ago 3 Agree

Tamaques Park is a sanctuary. To rip it up for turf fields is sheer lunacy. This is the only open space in town. Tear downs abound cutting off light to neighbors and now to rip up the grass fields only adds to carbon footprint of the community

8 months ago 3 Agree

Brightwood Park is one of a few remaining passive parklands left in our area, and is important to Westfield to remain as such. Westfield continues to grow, and needs to meet the changing needs of the town, but this land should remain passive recreation, and not be allowed to have any fields or courts in it. Brightwood offers a unique and special attraction that many towns no longer have. Brightwood Park is home to many varieties of flora and fauna and is a natural wildlife refuge. This uniqueness adds to the beauty of the town. We are lucky to have many parks in our town, and many of them already have active recreational facilities. if we need more fields/courts, i encourage the town to add them to existing parks where they already exist. Please keep Brightwood Park a special sanctuary for the town

7 months ago 2 Agree

I walk in Tamaques Park several times a week, and I strongly oppose plans to redevelop it with artificial turf fields, lights, more parking lots, and new buildings. This park is beautiful precisely because of its wide open, grassy vistas, woods, and pastoral feel. It's an oasis of simple nature in an otherwise highly developed town and county. The pressure to develop spaces such as Tamaques for the benefit of sports teams is unrelenting, but the town needs to balance those needs with the right to quiet enjoyment of its parks. I raised two children in Westfield, both of whom participated in several team sports, and so I fail to understand why there is such a shortage of spaces for sports activities now, despite the school population being essentially the same. Turf fields also must be replaced every 10 to 15 years, so the expense of installing and maintaining them, not to mention the new buildings, etc., far exceeds the cost of simply mowing the grass. I urge the mayor and town council to resist the pressure to build new facilities in Tamaques Park and to keep it open, undeveloped, and beautiful.

7 months ago 2 Agree

Please enforce the dogs off the leash at Tamaques Park, especially in the wooded area. People seem to think it's a dog park. It's only a matter of time before someone gets hurt. To that point, please create a dog park where owners can let their dogs roam free, safely and legally.

7 months ago 2 Agree

We desperately need adequate fields. Westfield has a lot of kids and the majority of them play at least one sport. Our fields are embarrassing compared to surrounding towns. I understand open space is an issue but Tamaques is an ideal location for upgraded field space. Although more parking will obviously be needed, Tamaques can be upgraded with fields while still preserving the park for non-youth sports activities. Our kids are forced to practice at bad times (9pm on a school night), often in the dark, on uneven grass fields. It's dangerous and absurd. There was already a plan in place to turf Tamaques. I understand that the new administration wants to review that plan and obviously safety concerns must be addressed, but please let's not spend the next five years hiring consultants and having meetings. Adequate field space has long been an issue in Westfield. Let's address it.

7 months ago 2 Agree

An updated park plan would incorporate all the fields and parks in town to managed under one system. It would include fields and a rink for sports both competitive and recreational, marked paths for walking and running, nature areas, a dog park, courts for pickle ball, tennis, bacci, shuffle board etc...We need to remember that outdoor space is a HUGE component to quality of life for all ages in Westfield.

7 months ago 2 Agree

Ice rink is awesome addition to Gumbert. Great for the town with little impact to neighbors. I live very close and negative impact is highly exaggerated.

7 months ago 2 Agree

Build public paddle tennis courts. Great sport cheap to build and played year round

Build public paddle tennis courts. Great sport cheap to build and played year round

8 months ago 2 Agree

I think a lot of people in this town are very short-sighted . People move to Westfield because of the schools. Our property values are directly tied to the quality of our schools and, of course, athletic facilities. I wish everyone could go to other towns to see what they have. Towns like Madison, Ridge, Summit...their facilities are incredible. It is just plain embarrassing having folks here. Money needs to be spent NOW in order to catch up. It is absolutely amazing how well our sports teams do given the limited practice areas they have. As for the hockey rink, we love it!!!! Keep the rink. One of the few things that makes our town special athletically!!!

8 months ago 2 Agree

Field adequacy and quality are a big part of this conversation so the survey should also address the Board of Education assets (Elm St; Edison; Roosevelt; Washington, Tamaques) as well as the Tamaques Park open space.

Bottom line is the quantity and quality of fields available to support the demand of the town's many recreational and school sports teams is insufficient. The same could be said for gym space where a town of 30k has only 3 regulation floors (HS and 2 Middle Schools.). While Westfield unlike Windsor/South Jersey doesn't have acres and acres of open space to reclaim for fields it could do a much better job positioning the current assets to be used more efficiently. These options include improved grading, drainage and maintenance on the grass fields and conversion of some (min 2) from grass to turf. 2 Turfing a portion of the Edison fields makes good sense given the available space (could get a regulation soccer field); parking and proximity to the HS. Lighting Kehler and Edison within reasonable hours is also necessary to extend the availability for use in the dusky fall and early spring. Turfing Elm makes sense as well. The location offers ample parking; is used heavily by the younger kids and central location in a relatively commercial area less disruptive to private residences.

Parks are of no less importance. The improvements in Mindowaskin will be more easily appreciated come springtime.

8 months ago 2 Agree

We need better fields for sports, especially lacrosse. Most of our games are away and the travel is overwhelming, especially for young players. Our town and residents deserve better facilities. The rink is a great addition. A permanent rink would certainly be a great asset to the town.

8 months ago 2 Agree

Tamaques Park must maintain its character as a park. My family uses the park daily for over 20 years of walking and running.
It is imperative to keep a large natural grass park in our community.

8 months ago 2 Agree

We need more usable space in Westfield. And we need to have it available into the evening hours, which means we need more lighted fields. We had a plan for a turf field at Tamaques (that was funded) and now it is on hold. We need to move forward with adding more turf and lights to extend usable hours. It is shameful when you compare Westfield facilities to comparable towns. We lack space and what we have is not maintained. Whether you are talking outdoor or indoor spaces, it is embarrassing to compare. We want to have great sports programs, but then we do not support them with the appropriate attention and funding. That $14.5 million surplus we have should all be allocated to improve facilities around town.

8 months ago 2 Agree

My children are involved in multiple sports in this town. We pay a premium for homes and taxes and our facilities are an embarrassment. It's time we start investing money in the facilities that are used but multiple sport teams. The parking situation is horrible. The field conditions are in poor condition. Football is playing in mud- there is no grass. So the people that love the natural beauty of Tamaques park must be looking at something different because the grassy areas are non existent.

8 months ago 2 Agree

We live in close proximity to Tamaques Park. My family walks in the park daily. Currently, the baseball fields and tennis courts are well integrated and maintain the natural beauty of the space. Some of Westfield's oldest trees are located in the park. If everyone who is proposing more turf, lights and buildings actually walked the park (not just drive in, drop your kids for sports and pick them up afterwards), they would recognize that doing so would forever destroy the natural beauty of the park. Not to mention the additional parking space that would be required, threatening the loss of more green space. My kids play sports also, I understand the frustration. But I am more than willing to continue to drive to other existing facilities or play fewer games etc. to preserve the beauty of Tamaques Park and our town. I would support the town purchasing property, perhaps adjacent to the Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields or other low residential impact areas, for additional turf fields.

5 months ago 1 Agree

A number of years ago I reported the absence of a basketball hoop in Tamaques Park. The hoop has never been replaced, making it impossible to play a proper game of basketball. Recently I was advised that my request would need to wait until the strategic plan goes into effect. Although I am not an athlete nor have family members who play basketball I feel that the replacement of the hoop is essential to our community.The cost is relatively inexpensive and would allow its use to many people. Thank you.

5 months ago 1 Agree

The skating rink could be relocated to Memorial Pool parking lot since the seasons are opposite. The rental price is rather high. The Tamaques park bathrooms need to be upgraded. Keep the wooded areas unspoiled. The greenery is crucial to the ecosystem.

5 months ago 1 Agree

I visit Tamaques park at least 5 days a week. Tamaques Park is in desperate need of improvements. The bathrooms near the picnic area of been closed secondary to vandalism for years. The "picnic" area is overgrown and ignored. The leaves were not even picked up for over 2 years. The grading if off and any time there is any rainfall there a huge mud puddles everywhere. The wooded area is used a tremendous amount by many people and is completely forgotten/ignored. There are downed trees everywhere and several within the stream that are causing damming to occur. The damming is collecting trash and debris, that is disgusting. Many of the trees are dead with falling limbs. One of my friends was struck in the head with a falling limb and required 42 stitches. That area desperately needs to be addressed. Our town puts too much emphasis on turfed fields and sports and forget about all the rest of the people that use the parks for recreation. There needs to be a balance between natural surfaces and turfed surfaces. Not all fields in town should be turfed.

6 months ago 1 Agree

Now that my kids are grown, I use the parks primarily for walking. However, I recognize the field situation is bad. One solution that really needs to be considered is better communication and use between the school board and the town. it is unfortunate that Kehler field is often empty, especially in the evenings because there are no lights. Lights on this field would also allow high school to start later and still have practice late in the fall and early in the spring. Vegetative screening could be provided to the few homes that abut the field.

There is a need for better fields and turf fields. However, good grass fields can work as well. The school closed the field at Tamaques for a year (kids could not play for recess) and reseeded, but did not put in sprinklers and within a year or two it was not in good shape. Not every field can be turf as the cost is too high and there is a need for open, grass areas as well.

Parking at Tamaques park is an issue. Over 10 years ago, parking was allowed around the perimeter of the circle. This possibly could be allowed again in certain areas without requiring trees to be removed or impacting pedestrian safety.

I would NOT support taking down trees for parking

I support the hockey rink in its current location. It is NOT a residential neighborhood; it is a commerical locatoin. If it was possible to re-do the parking lot at Memorial pool, that would be a better location but the cost might be too high.

6 months ago 1 Agree

As a player of the girls Westfield hockey team please bring back the rink for next year we need it we have four hockey teams if you are counting the boys too and there are is not enough ice time for all of us and with the growth of the girls hockey team we will have less ice time

6 months ago 1 Agree

The ice rink is in a great location where it is by a busy street and close to towns that lack winter sports activities. There is a lot of profit that this rink has and could continue to make. It is understandable for residents to be upset about problems on parking but there are many things that others can do to avoid any further complaints instead of using drastic means to get rid of a profitable project.

6 months ago 1 Agree

Westfield Ice Rink is an amazing edition to this town. It provides a community gathering multiple times for fun, practices for the hockey teams, and an overall great addition to Westfield. Many outsiders do come visit, they have had people visiting from multiple states that would like to skate (I have seen the records kept). Albeit being near a residential neighborhood, do you not complain about the baseball games? It is a sports-oriented park, not a quiet one. Thus, “residential area” argument is invalid.

6 months ago 1 Agree

The ice rink was great.

6 months ago 1 Agree

The ice rink at Gumbert was the best thing for our hockey program. It was also a nice place for the kids to hangout on the weekends during the winter.
6 months ago 1 Agree

Elm street/Sycamore Fields could be utilized as a quick turnaround turf field while larger plans for parks such as Tamaques are discussed
6 months ago 1 Agree

I use Tamaques park 3 times per week (sometimes more!) for exercise. I am greatly concerned that if the park undergoes construction that 1) it will be closed for a period of time which would really impact all the people I see in the park every week who would have their usual exercise routine interrupted and 2) that if the park is converted to a more commercial and less residential park than those of us who use it recreationally will lose that ability to run/walk/do yoga, etc because of the more commercial use of the fields. Additionally, as a resident who lives adjacent to the park, I am concerned about additional traffic and people parking on our side streets (which is already an issue!) I plan to come to the meeting on Wednesday night to Learn more and have a better understanding of what the plans are for the park. Thank you for including the public's opinions in your strategic plan.
6 months ago 1 Agree

I definitely am opposed to putting any artificial turf fields at Tamaques. I enjoy going there and seeing the green grass ever since my son played traveling baseball for Westfield in his youth. I think artificial turf fields are dangerous and unsightly.
6 months ago 1 Agree

We. We'd to keep the natural beauty of our parks. Fields belong near school where there is already parking and bathroom facilities. The fields behind Edison school and around Roosevelt are prime areas for turf fields. Roosevelt especially has large amounts of unused fields. Also all additional parking facilities lots or otherwise and all new bathroom facilities should have solar power and be built to the highest sustainability standards.
6 months ago 1 Agree

Keep the ice rink, it's a nice addition to use a park that was vacant in Past Winters
6 months ago 1 Agree

The Westfield Rink was a huge success. Not only do we need to bring it back, we need to make a stronger commitment to bringing it back for many years to come, so as to incentivize local teams to switch to this rink for their ice time commitments.
6 months ago 1 Agree

The parks are used by and entire community of residents ranging in age from 0-100. Tamaques Park is the only large open green space in town for walking with strollers and babies, running, biking, playing frisbee, flying kites, Tai Chi, and pick up style games, etc. accommodating all of the residents desired uses not just organized sports. I see part of the issue is the ever increasing demand of practice and game commitments at at a younger and younger age. Early age elementary school children should not be practicing more than one night/day per week in addition to one game. Perhaps limiting the amount of times per week the elementary school age sports programs per week will open up additional time slots. There is myriad research studies and evidence pointing to the positive physical and emotional effects that open green spaces have on individuals and communities. Think of the effect Central Park has on NYC. There comes a point when "progress" to meet the ever increasing demands and needs to take a back seat to the preservation of open green space for the enjoyment of all. Turning Tamaques PARK into a sports facility with lights and turf fields will destroy the park and purpose in which it was intended. We all agree our children and families are over burdened by the ever demanding schedule activities...so here is the opportunity to take stock, pull back, and lessen the sports demands on our families and preserve our park. Skip the extra practice take your kid by the hand and walk or bike to the park and go fly a kite or play frisbee, bring a picnic blanket for the natural green grass and enjoy the sun, trees, and fresh air!
7 months ago 1 Agree

Instead of putting the ice ring in Gumbert Park, why don't we move it to memorial field. There is plenty of space and plenty of parking. Also It would be great to have to have fitness equipment along the way in Tamaques park, something like the items for balance, pushups, etc. Tamaques Park is a wonderful place in Westfield. It is unique and really puts you in nature. To cut down a ton of trees and add turf would be a shame.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Westfield has fewer quality sports fields available given the demands of the town. More times than not, we have to use the fields of the surrounding towns. I'd suggest the town of Westfield either solely or in partnership with Scotch Plains buy the nearby Shackamaxon Country Club and

either solely or in partnership with Scotch Plains buy the nearby Shackamaxon Country Club and convert it into a state-of-the-art sports complex (to be used year-round). We have such great sports programs in Westfield with such highly committed families but, have such embarrassing facilities to support them..

7 months ago 1 Agree

Thank you for the support of the ultimate frisbee.

FOr tuft fields, I would support tuft fields behind Edison school or Roosevelt school. I think we need to keep Tamaques park for multi-use and I would not add parking spaces.

7 months ago 1 Agree

Westfield Rink at Gumbert Park was a fantastic addition to the town's recreation offerings. Well-run and orderly. Great experience playing hockey there. Much better than having to drive to Union, Dunellen, Bridgewater or points farther. And it brought people to Westfield from surrounding communities.

7 months ago 1 Agree

I am unsure why the town has left sycamore field and the and the elm street tennis courts in their current condition. The field is an ankle breaker and the tennis courts are embarrassing. The town would benefit from a turf field at that location b/c people would subsequently walk downtown for food and drink after a game. Any residents that live around this field would have to understand the lights required as they have chosen to live in a downtown area. Stop & Shop is very bright at night and a turf field would not be any different. It is unfortunate we have not choosen to utilize our current fields and beautify our town.

7 months ago 1 Agree

I do NOT want our parks all turned into recreation playing fields. On occasion Inhave seen scarlet tanagers in the deep woods section of the park in summer. Stunning and glorious!

7 months ago 1 Agree

I strongly oppose any development of Tamaques Park, such as the installation of new turf field, lights, buildings, parking lots, and so forth. The park's beauty lies in its wide-open, grassy vistas, trees, woods, and generally open feel. It's one of the few oases of nature remaining in an otherwise crowded and dense town and county, and should be preserved for quite recreation and enjoyment. I raised two children in the Westfield school system, both of who participated in many team sports, and don't understand the sudden need for more fields and spaces when the school population is essentially unchanged. Let's not lose this pastoral gem to the pressure for development.

7 months ago 1 Agree

I think the scope is too narrow. The fields, playgrounds and open areas that are part of Bd of Education properties are part of the community and need to be part of a comprehensive plan. The "us and them" attitude that has existed for decades between the Town governing body and Bd of Ed is detrimental. The plan needs to include upgrade, maintenance and usage for existing and improved facilities - including privately held (eg schools, community center etc)
Whether the funds are spent out of the budget of the Town, or the Bd of Ed doesn't make a difference to the taxpayer, who pays the tax no matter who spends the money. It is "OK" and likely desirable for the TOWN to pay for improvements at School fields since town and local sports (soccer, football, lacrosse, field hockey, softball, baseball, etc) use those "school" fields, and the Board of Ed will only maintain the portion of outdoor space to a minimal satisfactory level and not for ancillary uses.
The above question should include every school facility and the private swim clubs and ELCC (for swim and golf), and the private tennis clubs (indoor and outdoor) to get a true picture of recreational and park use in town.
Finally, development has taken several of the "gateway" properties in town that had large green spaces, eg the site of 333 Central, as a visitor enters downtown , and the wooded area across from the indoor tennis courts. opportunities should be found to return developed property to green space - using the added funds from development elsewhere - eg acquire and convert the long closed lube shop on the northwest corner of South and Central to a green space (funded in part by the payment made by the developer of 333 Central to close New St to facilitate a larger development.

7 months ago 1 Agree

Tamaques ceased being a park a long time ago. It's an athletic complex and becomes more of one as time goes on. Don't make matters worse.

7 months ago 1 Agree

It has always been Tamaques Recreation Park. People may walk or play frisbee but its purpose was as the Town Recreation Facility.

one month ago

Having just relocated from a smaller town with similar characteristics (good school system, higher property taxes, shortage of open space and athletic facilities), we were surprised that this long

term planning exercise was only just beginning. It's a great opportunity to take stock of the resources we have and how we can work with community partners (school district, youth athletic organizations, Union County, etc.) to help move our priorities forward. Improvements to athletic facilities and fields would be at the top of my list, particularly for player safety and addressing the overuse of the limited number of fields we have. Having to travel to neighboring towns and pay to rent field space is a valid short term fix, but isn't a sustainable way to address our needs long term. Putting in turf and lights at Elm Street seems to be a lower impact as it is in a mixed commercial/residential area, and would take some pressure off of Houlihan/Sid Fay. Since Elm and many of the fields not listed above are owned and maintained by the school district, it is important to make sure we are working with them as well.

7 months ago 1 Agree

We need additional turf fields and better maintained grass fields. Every other town we play at has bathroom facilities at their fields. We are playing our home games away and and in Garwood.

7 months ago 1 Agree

There is a massive shortage of fields for soccer (and lacrosse) - Soccer is the largest sport in town and the largest club in the state and the majority of time is spent out of Westfield to play - Garwood, Wardlaw, Inman and when its not out of town, the fields in town are mediocre and poor (see Sycamore, Elm and even SF/HH needs work). A town like Westfield should have much better fields and facilities. It benefits our kids, residents and property values in the long term.

7 months ago 1 Agree

The various town and BoE fields throughout town all need to be upgraded. Our children should not have to go to Oak Ridge Park, Wardlaw-Hartridge and Garwood for practices! Lighted turf fields and an upgrade (and maintenance) of remaining grass fields should be the top priority of the Recreation Department.

7 months ago 1 Agree

The quality of our grass fields is poor. In many cases, the fields border on being unsafe for children to participate in organized youth sports. It is disappointing that the process to address the poor quality of fields will take years to improve outcomes. Our children and the character and image of Westfield will suffer until meaningful improvements are made. Parents will be inconvenienced driving their children to training sessions out of town. Our programming fees will be used, in part, to subsidize the building and maintenance of fields in other towns. Those investments should be made in our own town.

7 months ago 1 Agree

Would greatly appreciate additional turf fields in town. We are lucky to have so many wonderful sports programs but everybody also deserves equal playing time on fields that are in great shape to play. As a manager for a travel soccer team in town, I can attest first hand to the difficulty we have every year in getting playable field space for our kids to play.

7 months ago 1 Agree

The town needs more turf fields and lighted fields to support all of the sports teams which the kids love to be a part of. Our three kids have participated in many sports over the years at different levels (town, travel and high school). The facilities that we currently have fall short in a few areas. There are not enough turf fields for the kids to play on (especially when the weather does not cooperate), the grass fields are in terrible condition due primarily to their overuse and there are not enough lighted fields. It seems like Tamaques park, Sycamore field and Elm Street fields would be perfect for a lighted turf field.

7 months ago 1 Agree

Westfield needs more turf fields. Ideally those that can be used for night use.

7 months ago 1 Agree

I live near Clark Park and walk my dog there daily. There is so much garbage in the woods.... including old posts and cement from Roosevelt. This park needs more care.

I walk at Brightwood several times a week and LOVE it!! It also has some trash in the woods.

Both parks would benefit from some service project type assistance (maybe Eagle Scout projects?)

7 months ago 1 Agree

Recently we have to drive to other towns (sometimes over 20 minutes away) for soccer practice since there is a challenge with field space in Westfield.

7 months ago 1 Agree

Also strongly support updating fields and rec facilities in town. There are not enough turf and lighted fields for all of the rec and high school teams to practice.

7 months ago 1 Agree

My son currently plays soccer, baseball and tennis. I grew up in Fanwood and played sports my whole life in that area. I decided to move to Westfield and can not believe the condition of the fields our children are supposed to play on. The fields in Westfield are unacceptable and dangerous for our children and other players that visit. We are constantly having to play "home" games on fields in Garwood because we don't even have fields of our own that we can be proud of. SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE. We pay extremely high taxes to live in this amazing town and we want our fields to reflect that for our children. Please approve the fields plan.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Please keep Brightwood Park an undeveloped, passive park. Westfield has ample fields, they are just poorly maintained. Please remember the needs of all citizens for spaces to walk, run, sit, etc. and let's not use every available inch of green space for playing fields, despite the organized lobbying campaigns by our local youth sports organizations to influence this survey. And the hockey rink was a great addition to the town!
7 months ago 1 Agree

> couldn't agree more! LEAVE BRIGHTWWOD PARK ALONE
> 5 months ago 1 Agree

We clearly need more artificial turf pitches. Elm Street appears one obvious choice; used for almost nothing, perfect size and has easy access parking. Tamaques is another option or Roosevelt as although there is good space it is often off limits. Ward law Hattridge good example of what could have.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Our town is in desperate need of Sports facilities. Our sports programs should not being paying other towns for our children to have practices and games. The not in my backyard excuse is not a valid one. It is an embarrassment when other towns come to us to play sports and we have no bathroom facilities, but even more no appropriate fields.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Bird Santuary? Didn’t know about it. Will go next week!
7 months ago 1 Agree

The recent improvements completed at Mindowaskin Park should be used as a benchmark for all parks in Town. Our neighborhood park "Windsor Park" really needs some work done before we can call it a park. I hope we can all work together to make this town look beautiful.
8 months ago 1 Agree

> The most recent improvement in Mindowaskin Park, the new playground equipment, was only accomplished with an enormous amount of private money donated ($400K from the Westfield Foundation + various other matching grants + Town $ specifically for this allowed the Town to make this improvement). Mindowaskin has a private group that has invested over a million private dollars into the property over the past 26 years. Playground equipment, Bandstand, Walks, granite Overlook, lampposts, benches, drainage repair, regrading, plantings. Tamaques and Brightwood have tried, at different times, to start groups to be stewards for those properties with no success. It requires a lot of time, effort and sweat equity on Board members parts. If people see a need they should step up. The Town can only do so much with the less than .17 of each tax dollar they get.
> 6 months ago

Making the parks user friendly is very important and I would like to see Tamaques Park pond cleaned with updated fountains/ aeration and the path around it lighted up for evening use.
8 months ago 1 Agree

We need a recreation center that includes a youth wrestling room, senior citizen activities center and conference/ meeting room.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Not enough playable fields for all the sports and activities that Westfield has to offer. Kids have to go to other towns to practice which isn’t right. This is a great town and we love how much the kids can participate in but the lack of fields is really an issue that needs to be rectified.
8 months ago 1 Agree

I injured my ankle when I stepped into a hole playing soccer with my daughter's team at Elm Street in June of 2017. The grass fields in Westfield are not maintained and are unplayable. There is not enough playing space in Westfield for all of the team sports and it causes major problems, especially in the spring. Lastly, we would like to be able to host charity sporting events but are not able due to the lack of fields. For town as active as Westfield, we are severely lacking in recreational space and should be doing better.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Elm Street field is Board of Education owned & control property, not Town of Westfield. My favorite sport in HS involved horses as do many current students. Should the TOWN build a stable and riding rink? Simple fact is that Westfield is built to capacity. We should be grateful that there are other facilities of various types close by. Short of knocking down a block of homes or businesses there isn't open space to add more facilities. I'm more concerned with finding an adequate home for our Firehouse, as noted as needed in the past few Master Plans.
6 months ago

We need more turf fields for practices and games. Given our high taxes we should have access to better favilities
8 months ago 1 Agree

For the amount of money we pay in taxes, the recreation facilities are horrific when taking that into account. Nothing like seeing neighboring towns have better facilities and knowing they pay less in taxes.

- Memorial Park needs drainage and to be regraded (which is probably most of our fields)
- The local schools fields (e.g. Franklin, Washington, Jefferson) are all in terrible shape and need grading as well to address issues and ditches
- Lights on a handful of fields, definitely not enough to allow for full utilization, impacting the number of kids that can play.
- Within 3 months of our new turf fields on Houlihan/Sid Fay, the turf was coming up.

For the first time in at least over 16 years (as far back as I go in the town) , the dilapidated Mindowaskin Park finally has a facelift. Time will tell if the town maintains it.
8 months ago 1 Agree

I believe the parks are an essential component of the town for all residents of Westfield. Existing parks should be maintained & improved and new parks for unused spaces should be evaluated to be added.
For example, The addition of the Westfield ice rink in gumpert Park has been a significant addition to the town and a differentiator.
Tamaques park, Memorial pool fields and the fields by the fire house on central could use improvement.
Snack bar idea at tamaques park is a great one...
Also dog park in tamaques would be a unique addition as well
8 months ago 1 Agree

Tamaques Park pond and polar area are in need of tremendous attention. The water is stagnate and full of debris. At one time it was aerated and clean, it should have the same care as Mindowaskin
8 months ago 1 Agree

The 2 softball fields at Westfield High School are atrocious! There are weeds growing in the infield and the infield especially the pitchers mound is like QUICK SAND. The pitcher can't grip the ground and ends up creating a huge hole at the rubber after the inning is over. The infield especially the pitchers mound must first have a hard clay foundation and proper field dirt. This will avoid injuries too!!
8 months ago 1 Agree

Overall, the recreational venues and fields do not meet the standards of what we expect and need in Westfield. Grass fields are uneven; have holes, significant bare spots; and flood easily. Having more turf fields would mitigate challenges noted associated with grass fields. There are insufficient venues to support the diversity of sports and recreational interests in Westfield for both kids and adults - including a multiple-purpose facility that would support in-door/winter sports (i.e. ice skating, wrestling, cheerleading, etc.). It seems there's space on the Tamaques Park property to support such a facility - while other properties should also be evaluated.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Jefferson School Field
8 months ago 1 Agree

I've heard bathrooms are being added at Memorial - that is great! It would also be great if drainage issues could be fixed. So many games have to be canceled there because the fields are flooded.
Also, baseball and soccer games at Jefferson are a joke, as there are no field markings. How do you expect kids to learn baseball when there are no bases or pitcher's mounds?
All of the elementary school playgrounds need to be upgraded significantly.
8 months ago 1 Agree

"Also, baseball and soccer games at Jefferson are a joke, as there are no field markings. How

do you expect kids to learn baseball when there are no bases or pitcher's mounds?"....Jefferson field has abandoned the Kid-Pitch format years ago so no need for a pitchers mound. Fields are now solely for T-Ball, or at least should be. This is where the kids should be learning the basics of the game at an early age. Too bad many of these Dad coaches insist on pitching to these kids too early and abandon the T-ball/learning format that was intended for the Kindergarten and First Graders

5 months ago

That reply is not true. Go to Jefferson any weeknight and you will see pitching for practice.

5 months ago

We do not have enough parks in this town and, relatedly, do not have enough fields for sports (particularly soccer).

8 months ago 1 Agree

Various other elementary school playgrounds

8 months ago 1 Agree

All the school parks: Tamaques, Wilson, Washington, Franklin, McKinley, Jefferson, and Elm Street

8 months ago 1 Agree

Fields are much in need of repair. We travel all over the state and out of state as well for soccer and generally fields are far better than ours, even in areas that one would expect to have less resources than us. It is also unfortunate that we do not have more lighted fields so that more practices could be help earlier in the evening. Even for high school aged players, an 8:00 - 9:30 PM practice is less than ideal. Perhaps if we lit Tamaques and possibly and possibly another field as well it would enable us to spread out the evening practices and offer earlier practices for all.

8 months ago 1 Agree

WE have also visited other town recreation facilities such as school fields at Tamaques School, Edison and the high school.

8 months ago 1 Agree

the playground equipment in all parks needs maintenance/updating. Better lighting in all parks is needed also

8 months ago 1 Agree

by the end of the football season last Fall, there was no grass to speak of, it was just a holy mess, the kids were sliding in the mud.

8 months ago 1 Agree

We need better fields and buildings at all of our parks -- starting with Tamaques and Memorial. Mindowaskin park is a beautiful park, but trees need to be pruned and/or removed on a more regular basis. Also, find a different location for the hockey rink -- it's a good idea but Gumbert is a horrible location.

8 months ago 1 Agree

Overall, Westfield's parks are wonderful. If anything, it would be nice if the DPW would be more proactive in picking up litter in and around the parks and fields. At Tamaques, it would be great if the restroom area was redone. Perhaps, the building could be renovated or expanded to include a concession area. Not sure how popular shuffle board is anymore, but personally, I think it would be awesome if the shuffle board courts were resurfaced!

one month ago

Jefferson

one month ago

Westfield parks meet a variety of needs, from peace and quiet, beauty and wildlife to sports and rec. We need balance. Every park can't meet all these needs. I would like to see each park be developed and well-maintained for it's special character.

one month ago

Clean up the woodsy areas which could Ben great for picnics. Also cleaning up the maps so the wood trails are used more would be great. The basketball nets could also use an update. Finally, what about adding a beach volleyball court? I've seen people playing volleyball but it's quite a pain to set up your own net. If one were already here that would be amazing!

5 months ago

The parks should be updated - equipment, landscaping, draining - also the graffiti should be

The parks should be updated - equipment, landscaping, draining - also the graffiti should be removed.
5 months ago

Tamaques needs to be cleaned up and playgrounds improved. It's sad that such a beautiful setting is not maintained. Also, the Memorial Park Complex playground is in need of updating. These two parks should be out shining stars.
5 months ago

Add picnic tables or benches to area near playground in Mindowaskin park
5 months ago

We visit The Loop playground in the Watchung Reserve.
5 months ago

The baseball and soccer fields are inadequate for a town the size and with the prestige of Westfield. Our baseball fields should have lights and be accessible to the community in the evenings. Lights will not be a burden on the surrounding homes. Reasonable time frames/rules can be put in place. The grass fields for soccer and baseball have been neglected and are in horrible shape. Some should be turfed and others should have drainage upgraded. It's embarrassing that games need to be cancelled days after rains have stopped and not fair that Westfield young kids are forced to play so many away games because limited fields are booked or waterlogged. This is an extremely important issue for the well-being of our town.
5 months ago

Washington school Park
5 months ago

Tamaques Park is a waste of such a big land. It's dirty, the kids play area is a joke and the walkways are distasteful. It would also help to have a separate dog park section (with compartmentalized sections for small and big dogs).
5 months ago

Update to Mindowaskin park amazing! Took our granddaughter. Hoping other parks will be updated for more to enjoy!
5 months ago

Unami
5 months ago

Need fences around the playground at Mindowaskin, the proximity to the road as well as the creek is very scary with young children.
5 months ago

Behind Edison
5 months ago

Need to add benches to the new playground at Mindowaskin Park. There is nowhere to sit down to eat a snack, take a break, or for a grandparent to rest and watch their grandkids play. Also, for the size of Tamaques Park, the playgrounds are very small. Please consider renovating the two playgrounds and creating one large area for kids of all ages to play, instead of two completely separate playgrounds.
5 months ago

McKinley Field
Washington Field
5 months ago

Parks need to be revamped
5 months ago

Please clean up the downed trees blocking trails at Brightwood park. Clean up around the pond as well. There is an area by the front of the fence on prospect that collects a huge amount of mosquito infested water. Drainage would correct that problem. I am building a house next to it and would be happy to help dump dirt over it and help clean up.
5 months ago

Jefferson
5 months ago

Should update the playgrounds at Tamaques Park like Mindowaskin Park playground and reopen the restroom near the pond.
5 months ago

Ice rink is great, just not in the right location. Can we put it at the pool ?
5 months ago

Benches and a fence around Mindowaskin playground
5 months ago

Please consider fencing for the playgrounds, and installing new or repairing water fountains for kids!
5 months ago

The lack of town fields for all sport and especially turf fields a lit fields is embarrassing. We have to go to so many away games, due to lack of field availability and when we do host, our lack of facilities is embarrassing. We expect teams to travel from PA, CT or even parts of NJ with over an hours travel time and we can only offer them a grotty porta-potty and certainly no refreshment hut. Some of the smaller, less affluent towns we play at usually have better facilities then Westfield and yet we pay significant taxes. Improvements need to be made to accommodate the growing number of children in town, the calibre of sports our town is playing at and position Westfield as a leader.
5 months ago

Elm St.
5 months ago

Courts on Elm St (need to be resurfaced)
5 months ago

Thank you for supporting Ultimate Frisbee, my son loves playing the sport. Thank you for giving field time to the league and I hope you can continue giving more field time to this sport in the future. Thank you.
6 months ago

Jefferson school green space
Wilson school green space
6 months ago

I strongly support updating fields and rec facilities. We need more fields for all our sports. Thank you for supporting Ultimate Frisbee this year. I look forward to having more events closer to home next year.
6 months ago

Tamaques park has the most potential to update our lights and fields, while also maintaining the passive element and pedestrian nature of the park. There is a section of unused park, behind the basketball courts, formerly used by the town to dump wood chips (not the current conservation center) I'd like to see a parking lot added to this area which can only be accessed by Lamberts Mill Rd, thereby adding parking without adding cars on the circle. It would be great if the community could get together, instead of everyone claiming, not in my backyard!
6 months ago

I've lived in Westfield since 2006. As much as we love the town, its overall recreation facilities, particularly those supporting outdoor youth sports like lacrosse, soccer, flag, etc., have been woefully insufficient, inadequate, and below those of other towns. It is time that we have and execute a plan that improves this situation in the short and long term. This investment will help to support Westfield as an attractive destination and will ensure that our children have the space needed to participate in a wide variety of sports.
6 months ago

Please add a fence and perhaps a bathroom to Mindowaskin! It's gorgeous and thanks you!
6 months ago

Unami Park

6 months ago

I am in favor of
Keeping the ice skating rink. I think is was well run and respectful of the neighborhood. If a new and better location could be found it could be a win-win for all.
6 months ago

We enjoy all the parks in Westfield
6 months ago

Nothing to add
6 months ago

Please add a fence around the new playground at Mindowaskin park. The new playground is wonderful, but since it is now so spread out it is almost impossible to keep track of more than one child. Since there is a stream on one side of the playground and a road on the other, it could be very easy for a toddler to wander off and have an accident.
6 months ago

The new playground at Mindowaskin is wonderful. Love the soft surface! However, the playground needs seating for adults, and more importantly, it needs to be fenced in. It was built to be inclusive so that handicapped children can enjoy it, but without fencing, it is dangerous for mentally handicapped children to visit. In particular, I'm thinking about autistic children, many of whom are inclined to run off and lack regard for dangerous situations. Toddlers too of course would be safer with a fence, and I've always wondered why the playground wasn't. I assumed that would be an improvement that would have been made with the new playground. The playground is very close to the street, and despite that it is in a park and the playground is quite visible, cars travel past the playground at too-high rates of speed. Moving the swings off to a separately fenced area would also be a good safety feature. It is too easy for toddlers and the mentally handicapped to walk smack in front of a moving swing. It's very stressful for the parent or grandparent of a mentally handicapped child to take them to any park, which is so unfortunate, and could readily be addressed.
6 months ago

I recently moved to the town of Westfield and I am pleasantly surprised with how well taken care of the parks are in my area. My children and I thoroughly enjoy using them often. Just wish there was a closer dog park for our puppy!
6 months ago

> Great on the Echo Lake Park!
> one month ago

Having coached in the town for many years - particularly lacrosse - we have been in desperate need for additional turf fields for the kids (lacrosse and soccer).
6 months ago

We need more suitable fields for our children to remain active in sports. Please consider fixing them to better serve the youth in town. Proving turfs, lighting, and better drainage would be some necessary improvements. Thank You
6 months ago

Would be great to get additional turf fields
6 months ago

We need additional soccer and lacrosse fields included fields with lights. Bathrooms too
6 months ago

Pickle ball player. Also enjoy walking in Tamaques park
6 months ago

Mindawaskin Park is shabby. The asphalt walkway is in disrepair. The seating options are bland. This park should be the jewel of the downtown town. Instead, it’s a missed opportunity. If there is a Friends group there that controls the improvements, they have fallen short and have had many years to bring this park up to be a first class destination. How about getting some new ideas from a blue ribbon group of NEW volunteers/professionals to write a brilliant roadmap for Mindawaskin Park!
6 months ago

Triangle Park
6 months ago

A field like Sycamore is begging for turf. Even if lights can't be put in, the field is impossible to keep in good shape and could be so much better as a turf field, especially for the younger kids.

Also, the parking at Tamaques Park during fall and spring seasons can use some re-thinking and re-organization so there is enough parking to accommodate all the games.
6 months ago

Elm street tennis courts
6 months ago

This town's charm should be preserved at all costs. We are already moving toward the cookie cutter towns. The loss of green space and the influx of extraneous lights into our community change the very essence of the quaint town that Westfield was. People complain about the "chain stores". An increase in lit fields would create much more traffic and cause a decrease in the quality of life for many residents. If you were looking for a town with that profile Westfield did not fit and should not be changed to reflect that lifestyle.
6 months ago

Better fishing opportunities would be beneficial and get more kids into the outdoors beyond playing sports.
6 months ago

It would be nice to see the playgrounds at Tamaques Park updated as well as the picnic area. It would also be nice to have bathrooms at the fields at Memorial pool.
6 months ago

I thought this survey had to do with the shed at Tamaques. It would be worth it to expand the shed for other uses, but the expansion should be limited so that too much more parking (pavement) is required. On a separate note, we enjoyed the hockey rink this year.
6 months ago

Tamaques Park woods trails need significant clean up of debris that has fallen on the paths blocking them. Cleaning up the underbrush would help the area stay green and support the wildlife in the park. The creek has disgusting foam that has collected where fallen debris from storms has created a blockage. The runoff does not have free flow.
6 months ago

Tamaqua's park is a beautiful park and clearly needs to be renovated and refurbished. As the town books to enhance the park, we should keep it as a true park with some athletic facilities, but not make it and athletic facility on its own. With all of the multiple sports programs and others who use the park, parking has become a major concern especially for those who walk the park. Getting additional parking spaces utilizing the wooded areas near Lamberts Mill Road could be a viable option as well as adding and entrance to the park off of Lamberts Mill Road and closing down the entrance to the park off of Dixon Drive would be of great benefit to the residents in those neighborhoods. Lastly, creating a more efficient use of the existing brick shed in Tamaquaes park adjacent to the tennis courts would be of great benefit to all sports programs who use the park facilities. Specifically, there should be consideration to demolishing the existing shed and rebuilding one that has storage in the basement, facilities for the various sports programs on the first level (including storage by sports program, bathroom facilities, locker room changing facilities for tennis program and other sports, possibly a snack stand type of use to help as a possible source of revenue) a second level that could be used as meeting room space, as well as a multi-purpose space for The PAL wrestling and cheerleading programs both of whom are in desperate need of space to practice and hold matches. As far as the actual field space, I believe that artificial turf would be a very good use of the space, however it should not be entirely throughout the park. There still needs to be some form of Greengrass to maintain the parks stature and appeal. Taking into consideration the residents who live adjacent to this park, there should also be strong consideration for some of the park space to be lighted to allow for additional usage in the later part of the year when the days become shorter with sunlight.
6 months ago

Strongly support more field access and turf field access. Considering the amount of sports programs and costs involved it is unreal that we have to drive to other towns for our children to practice and play. We also need fields that have access to lighting at night.
6 months ago

The school gyms are the "other" option I selected. These are also very heavily used by multiple sports and activities, especially on Saturdays during the Fall and Winter.

6 months ago

Forget the hockey rink at Gumbert or memorial.
7 months ago

Tamaques is a gem.The gravel trail for running is superb . In addition the xc trail used by WHS XC team for decades is a classic. Please do not alter the route .School records are made and broke over this long establish trail..
On a side note ,I thoroughly enjoy the convenience of Tamaques after a snow storm to go xc skiing (I must have done that 30 times over the past 2 decades) It is magical.
7 months ago

Echo Lake park, the pool off Sycamore Field, as well. Great to see Mindowaskin park back. The lighted-Cross installed on South and Boulevard should be considered to Mindowaskin as cross path on East broad is busy. In addition, if the town can work out the relocation of Verizon and its Truck parking would be great. If no vehicle allowed to park on Mountain Ave. off Episcopal Church -they have plenty of parking space- even greater. If no 18-wheeler be allowed to cross Downtown - greatest!
7 months ago

We need bette soccer fields. Almist every town we visit to play has superior facilities.
7 months ago

As a mom with young kids it would help if the playground areas were fenced in, espcecislly the new mindowaskin playground since it is right next to the road. It was be much easier to relax if you knew your kids couldn't just run off.
7 months ago

We need another turf field. Crazy that we have to drive to other towns because our town can't accommodate the amazing sports programs we have, soccer in particular. Our kids deserve better.
7 months ago

More turf fields for spring fall games. Enclose park for dogs , hockey net for roller skater, park for skateboarder.
Maintain the ice rink! Great tennis fields!
7 months ago

The new Mindowaskin Park is great for kids and appeals to a wide age range. Please help maintain grass in all other parks!
7 months ago

Some parks such as bright wood could use some help clearing the trails. Come summer there was so much overgrowth and a majority of it was poison ivy. Also, what used to be cut trails in the park at Echolake, are no more. It would be great to have those back.
7 months ago

Watchung Reservation and Echo Lake Park
Strongly support building a safe bike routes and more sidewalks that will be connected with the center of the town.
7 months ago

I strongly support building safe bike trails and sidewalks.
7 months ago

We loved the ice rink this year. I do NOT want artificial turf used in town. There is too much health risk associated with artificial turf.
7 months ago

Also Tamaques School Playground and McKinley School Playground.
7 months ago

Strongly support the need to improve the Westfield Parks and fields. There are a large number of families with children participating in activities that require fields and facilities. These fields could be dramatically improved, including the use of turf on several fields for greater functional use.
7 months ago

We need to upgrade our turf fields which should represent the size and reputation of our town.

We travel and host a lot of sports teams and we are always amazed by going to other towns that are half our size and average income and they have better facilities. The town has an opportunity to showcase a fantastic complex that will drive in more potential residents back to our town for non sporting events. Thank you for taking this project to completion.
7 months ago

These responses are crazy. The citizens are unable to agree on a direction. Leadership of the community should say what the direction is and move forward. These comments are absurd. We should be focused on growing the community and building a great environment for our children to grow and learn.
7 months ago

Need more Turf fields for soccer and lax. Maybe it will be done by the time my kids are in college.
7 months ago

Tamaques Park should be upgraded to better support the residents of Westfield and their sports programs.
7 months ago

Hey, just wanted to show appreciation from the Westfield Ultimate Frisbee program for the opportunity to use the fields and parks that our town has to offer. I'm a senior at Westfield High School and have been playing frisbee since 6th grade. We have recently gained more field time over the past year or two so we are very grateful for that. Thank you.
7 months ago

It is embarassing that certain sports in Westfield are given turf and lighted fields while others are limited to poorly drained areas that are shared amogst the pee-wee level of the preferred sports leagues. My daughter has played Softball for years, and even with funds available to improve and retain the girls fields, the rec department does not seem to offer support for the GSLW. Meanwhile I live near Houlihan and Sid Fey, and the lights are on year round for Soccer and Lacross without any adjustment. Perhaps the timer for the lights can be adjusted for actual field use time, and save a few dollars for some priority approval for Girls softball to have a rest room available or not loose the fields to fall soccer for youngest kids.

When traveling to other neighboring towns the girls are offered full support with facilities and plumbing, and well maintained fields. I do not get the impression that the Town of Westfield has the same priority for anything. It is embarrassing for Softball supporters in Westfield, since other sports in our town are given higher privileges than ours.
7 months ago

Unless the hockey rink is making money for the town, it should be removed. We should not be subsidizing a private enterprise at the expense of people who live in the neighborhood. If the private entity managing the rink shows a loss or fails to generate any substantial income for the town, the project should be scrapped. If income is generated, then it should be used in the neighborhood with the rink to fortify sound barriers and address traffic issues, it should not be used for any other purpose. There is a need for a rink. It would be better if it were placed in Tamaques Park for the winter rather than its current location.

Lights should be added to Tamaques to allow for evening play and practices. There are already lights in Tamaques for tennis, there is no good reason additional lighting should not be added to that park. Add a turf field to Tamaques as well to accommodate all sports, lacrosse, soccer, baseball, football, etc.
7 months ago

Improvement of all sports fields/facilities in our town is imperative, but let's do our best to be inclusive and environmentally aware in the process.
7 months ago

While some Westfield residents are trying to improve the parks around their area (good for them), the residents on Myrtle Avenue are witnessing how the little wooded area ar the end of the street is being destroyed and being replaced with affordable housing units.
7 months ago

There was a theater company that did free Shakespeare at Mindowaskin Park around Labor Day. That was great (and would be better if there were accessible bathrooms- I'm sure the parents who use the playground area would love one too.
Mindowaskin is great for those plays and the weekly concerts the Westfield Community Band has in the Summer. Anything that can be done to bring back that theater company and keep the band concerts would be great.
Keeping Memorial Pool Open thru September would be nice- the weather still supports it. Don't expand Memorial Pool or Field- the pool was upgraded (and we lost the high dive) a few years back. It's not a water park. The wooded area near the fields should also be left as is. In the s

Summer, dozens of bats come out of the woods at dusk and keep the mosquitoes away. Part of the beauty of that areas the green wooded backdrop (we don't want to pave paradise and put up a parking lot;-)
7 months ago

Edgewood Ave. tree park should be included
7 months ago

Please make sure the cross country course in Tamaques Park is not changed or destroyed during any renovations, this course has been the same for many years and has course records dating back over 30 years.
7 months ago

I think Tamaques Park lack of lighting is dangerous for kids. Surely there are options that will keep kids safe and neighbors happy.
7 months ago

Westfield Rink
7 months ago

I enjoy time outdoors in our beautiful parks. It is great to have some natural environments to relax in.
7 months ago

Our family has been in Westfield for 11 years. We have 3 children that are very active in the sports communities. It's unfortunate when we have to drive so far, and pay a lot of money to use other town's fields, whether grass or turf. It seems there is enough space in town to build or turf the areas we have, thus helping our own community AND making money by charging other towns for their use. Lighting is also needed. We strongly support updating our fields, rec facilities, and building more to enhance and serve the community.
7 months ago

great opportunity to add turf and make tamaques best in class park
7 months ago

An explosion of cash cow club teams and school teams within the past 15 years has turned many parents into thinking that everyone should bow to their kids' sports practices, when nothing could be further from the truth. The town's population has hovered around 28-31K for the past 40 years. The HS had more students in the 60's, with split sessions. What they didn't have was turf fields, night practices, or expensive sports clubs, yet the HS football team players were state champs. The parks are here for all to enjoy, not just for ego-driven parents hoping to get their kids a scholarship. It is time people thought about others, and instead of fighting that people don't matter in residential neighborhoods, think how they would feel if the explosion of kids, noise, cars, lights, etc was in THEIR backyard. No one would want it- that's how you know it's the wrong thing to do.
7 months ago

I love the quiet solitude that our parks provide and the chance to commune with nature. Walking the Brightwoid or Mindowaskin Park loops is like going on a vacation. I regret that the town took down the mulberry bushes at the entrance to the path at Brightwood. They were attracting some delightful Baltimore Orioles each spring, and I do not see the Orioles there now that the mulberries are gone.

Mindowaskin in a beautiful manmade park in town. I often visit it.
7 months ago

We love the natural unspoiled beauty of Brightwood Park. It is a vacation to walk through there and commune with nature. It is very disappointing that mulberry bushes were destroyed/removed by the town at the entrance of the park a number of years ago, as they attracted Baltimore Orioles to the park in early May for many years. They do not seem to choose it as a place to visit now that the mulberries are gone.

I did not know that Westfield has a bird sanctuary. I must look into that!

I do not wish for more athletic fields to be built in our parks. Mindowaskin Park is beautiful.
7 months ago

The sports playing fields situation is ridiculous in the town. Please add more turf fields. Last year's graduation class of ~500 kids had at least 400 athletes, meaning kids who involved in some kind of sport.

7 months ago

wilson playground
7 months ago

We need better patrol, signage and actual consequences for people who take their dogs off the leash. It's a huge problem in Tamaques Park and our family feels unsafe with many many large dogs running around off the leash. It's illegal and should be enforced that way.
7 months ago

This town is a disgrace for sports. Absolutely pathetic with regards to resources for the kids to play on and at. With all the tax money going into the town I shouldn't have to be embarrassed for my kids team that they have to wrestleing matches in a school cafeteria at Edison...The lackmpf quality soccer fields (minus the ones by the train tracks and decent baseball fields is ridiculous. Stop catering to old money in this town and get with the times. Hard working families put a large amount of earned income into the taxes here and have greater expectations for their kids athletic facilities then what it is currently offered...we are a joke compared to surrounding towns and within the state.
7 months ago

Please help us upgrade the softball fields at Memorial. We don't understand why Gumbert Park always looks so beautiful, with green and even grass, beautiful even dirt on the infield and great dugouts. Our softball fields at Memorial are awful and when it rains, forget about it. The softball families call the infield areas "The rivers and tributaries of Memorial' because the infields are so uneven and uncared for, the rain causes days of mini rivers and puddles all over. It's really an embarrassment, especially as compared to the gorgeous fields for baseball at Gumbert Park. How did we have money for the new ice skating pop up rink this winter, complete with new permanent signage, several new sidewalks and special lighting? That money should have first gone to improve the existing sports fields in our town like Memorial and Tamaques, fields that are in desperate need of upkeep. It's a big embarrassment to host other towns at Memorial softball games, we don't even have bleachers on each side of every field!
7 months ago

Tamaques park
7 months ago

We definitely need to update our parks. Sports fields are limited for the amount of teams we have in the town and school system. Also we need a wrestling facility. It's unacceptable that we have to transportation to different locations for the PAL wrestling teams
7 months ago

Some of these parks people have visited, but have no idea what the names are (like Clark Park)
7 months ago

I am against artificial turf fields in Tamaques Park. Artificial turf fields are bad for the environment, can have drainage issues, and would ruin the beautiful natural parkscape. They absorb heat so would be very hot in the summer, while grass is actually cooling. Also, grass produces oxygen while absorbing carbon dioxide. A 2500 sq ft area of grass produces enough oxygen for a family of 4.
7 months ago

Cultural facilities that could be used by town residents and visitors would be a draw to the town.
7 months ago

Quality recreational and athletic facilities are drastically needed. Not only outdoor facilities but others as well (i.e. hockey / skating rink(s), basketball / volleyball, etc.). Outdoor facilities need to be improved to minimize wear and tear, as well as playability after rain.
7 months ago

My kids are no longer at home, but I still feel that this town needs more turf fields. The Tamaques turf field was put on hold a year ago, and it doesn't sound like much has been done in terms of reviewing the master plan since then.
7 months ago

Need more turf fields!
7 months ago

Our athletic fields and facilities are weak, especially compared to our peer towns

7 months ago

Would be nice to have more than one playground in tow with the rubber instead of mud/mulch
7 months ago

We also visited fields at Washington School, and the gyms at most of the elementary schools. Our facilities are not up to par with neighboring towns on many levels.
7 months ago

The women's bathroom in tamaques park is always filthy.
7 months ago

Need turf fields, esp for baseball. Gumbert is embarrassing.
7 months ago

I would love to see improved grass fields, the addition of turf fields at Tamaques, with better parking, and an option to drive through mid way to reduce traffic at the far end of the park (toward the wooded area and pond). On weekends while sports are being played, it is difficult, if not impossible, for young kids to ride bikes safely.
7 months ago

The Gumbert Rink was a HUGE success and I hope it returns!!
7 months ago

We desperately need more soccer fields. We have one of the biggest soccer programs in NJ and we don't have nearly enough fields for all of our kids who want to participate in the program to go to. For a town and soccer program like ours, we shouldn't have to use neighboring towns' fields for our kids to play. Please make this a priority as you work on the master plan for the parks!
7 months ago

Our children are in dire need of a legitimate sports complex for Softball and Soccer. Particularly for softball, the fact that we do not have a facility that has legitimate bathrooms and a snack stand is a disgrace. This is particularly the case when you consider that our neighbors in Cranford have two such complexes and Clark also has a solid facility. Tamaques is the ideal location for such a complex and the fact that work has not been undertaken at that site already is disappointing. Changes can't be made soon enough to improve the conditions for our children.
7 months ago

I just moved to Westfield in the beginning of the year. I live on the block of the Westfield Rink. In fact, the rink is what attracted me to the house we purchased. I saw it as such a wonderful neighborhood enhancement to promote physical activity for our children. As a hockey mom, the rink is especially meaningful to our family. My family enjoyed the rink many times since it's been open while we were in the process of purchasing the home. Being able to watch my children walk to the rink with their skates on their shoulder was picture-perfect! Norman Rockwell at his best! I know there have been many opinions about whether or not to go forward with the rink again next year, but I truly hope my new hometown realizes the joy it has brought to our children.
7 months ago

Westfield leadership should seize upon the opportunity to make a tremendously positive impact on the lives of our current and future residents, students, and athletes in formalizing the parks and recreation plan. We have so many talented athletes that could achieve even greater accomplishments with thoughtful and forward-looking planning of our numerous acres of existing park space. Tamaques Park, in particular, can be leveraged much further for multi-sport turf fields, expansion of lighting beyond that of the tennis courts, and better parking. There is much unused space at the southeastern end of the park that needs to be in scope for the creation of fields. Our kids deserve better than the dangerous and embarrassing surfaces they have to play on at the various makeshift fields the town has provided for its soccer programs, which is the largest in the state and run by dedicated and passionate leaders and coaches. Visiting towns have commented on their negative portrayal of our fields. Many other towns in Union County have superior playing surfaces and facilities, and it's time for Westfield to come up to par with our neighbors in the county. And it should not be taking this long to finalize this. We all know this needs to get done asap, and we should leverage (to the greatest extent possible) the robust plan that was previously completed prior to the current administration putting the brakes on it. This will save money on all of these consultant that we're hiring, and put some of these savings into tangible facilities for the benefit of our town. Input from the town residents and each of the sports competing for space has been resounding.. It's time to stop soliciting input - let's get on with it!
7 months ago

The point of families moving to a big vibrant suburb is community, schools, the downtown and recreational and other local offerings like the library. We should have high quality facilities and not be ina situation driving all over the county for sports. It really detracts from livability. I cannot understand how people in town would prefer kids to be sitting on screens at home or worse gathering in mobs downtown. Exercise and sport is great in building confidence, resilience, teamwork and grit. We are fortunate enough to have space available and resources to provide this. It defies all logic why anyone would want to keep this out.
7 months ago

We need better fields for sports, it is a shame that our kids have travel to other towns to practice soccer
7 months ago

The town needs better softball and baseball facilities. Compared to neighboring town, Westfield's facilities are lacking. There is also a need for lighted fields to allow games to be played here and reduce the amount of travel the kids are forced to do in order to participate.
7 months ago

We need a ice rink in Westfield. The girls team tripled in the last 3 years. We have 3 boys teams and 2 girls teams .It is a growing sport. Also none ice hockey famalies skated in the Rink. Adults used it also . It is an asset to our town.
7 months ago

I think it is very important we have a ice rink. I personally saw the girls ice hockey team triple the members in the last 3 years! We need a Rink. It is a growing sport for girls & boys. I personally went skating with friends it was a nice activity for adults to use Rink also! Non hockey families enjoyed skating with their children also.
7 months ago

Need more indoor basketball courts :)
7 months ago

The girls softball facilities at Memorial Fields are a disgrace -- especially when compared to the boys fields at Gumbert Park. The town should apply some equity -- regardless of the fact that the boys baseball league out fundraises the girls. My kids have participated in both the WBL and the GSLW.
7 months ago

The lack of fields for the various sports played in Westfield is an embarrassment. We need more fields or at least some fields with lights to alleviate the difficult situation we face as parents and coaches. This survey should have been issued as soon as the plan for Tamaques Park was pulled by the mayor. We have lost plenty of time already.
7 months ago

The town should upgrade the soccer fields close to the town center Elm Street, Clark and consider placing fields in Mindowaskin Park. This will invite people to visit downtown after games and be good for local business. We do also need more turf field for sports.
7 months ago

We need fields to play ball on
7 months ago

Really hoping the Ice skating rink will be back, town's growing hockey program benefited tremendously form having the rink right here! The provided "learn to skate" program had a wait list from day one, proving the need of such facility in our neighborhood! The rink also provided employment for teens of the surrounding towns - they had a chance to make some money while doing what they love! Please please work with Anderson's family to find a better place for it, they are a wonderful family, very responsive and responsible!
7 months ago

The ice rink is a great facility and right down the street from me. People need a place to ice skate and play hockey. I think a few families are the driving force for moving the rink and if there is a better place for it at Tamaques or elsewhere then it should be moved but it isn't the major disruption to the neighborhood that some would lead you to believe. All of the parks should be kept as Public parks which many were designated as such, not sports fields so although I would agree that we do need more sports fields, we should destroy our public park system to do that.
7 months ago

Please keep Gumbert Park Ice Rink. It’s an amazing way to get our children together and keep them active.

7 months ago

I support the Westfield Rink at Gumbert park
7 months ago

Parks are great. Part of the charm of the town. This includes the most utilized park of this winter, Gumbert.
7 months ago

Keep the Westfield Rink at Gumbert
7 months ago

Happy to see the skating rink and an additional winter recreational option. I think the location is fine. (near busy North Ave., NJTransit, stores) The parks I utilize are in generally good condition, I wish there were more open space fields (a la Brightwood) throughout town.
7 months ago

The town athletic fields are in poor condition. They SO underrepresent the quality and character of the families who live here and are proud to call Westfield their home. In many cases, the fields border on being unsafe for children to play or practice organized youth sports.
7 months ago

Mindowaskin, Clark and Elm street should all have top notch soccer field. Investing in these park so they have good sport field would lure a lot of visitor and local to town after games. This would be a good Benefits our local business.
7 months ago

Mindowaskin, Clark park and Elm street park are walking from town and they are under utilized because of the poor shape. This is a shame because these are ideal locations for soccer events and if improved, they would naturally lure a lot of people to town after games helping local businesses.
7 months ago

I do not think that they should turn foelds into dog parks
7 months ago

Leave the passive parks alone. No new addl lighted fields etc!,Where is the funding for thus coming from?
Sid Fey/Houlihan should have been made into two legal fields. Would have saved you some Issues.
7 months ago

Elm Street field, Washington school field, Unami park - all for Westfield travel soccer and LAX
7 months ago

The parks are in desperate need of additional parking to avoid the predatory ticketing of people using the facilities.
7 months ago

We support updating fields and rec facilities in town. There are not enough turf and lighted fields. Tamaques Park is the only park w/ restrooms. Our facilities are embarrassing compared to other towns, ie Summit.
7 months ago

Let cars park on the grass at around the loop at Tamques. Many of the sports involve little kids that parents can't just drop off and then find parking. It's actually more dangerous to have cars circling the loop when so many kids are walking to and from fields. Parking on the grass also means less cars parking in the neighborhoods jamming up the streets.
7 months ago

With kids playing numerous sports year round, our fields are struggling to keep up. They are overused, especially in bad weather, and then in poor condition, becoming dangerous to play on. We need to have some additional options/all weather options.
7 months ago

The condition of our fields is atrocious. For the amount of taxes we pay we should have top of the line fields and this should have been taken care of a long time ago.
I also dont think we utilize all of our fields to the best of our abilities because of lighting etc a

methodology needs to be in place to add lighting and make scheduling fields easier and more available to all .
7 months ago

I feel the parks in Westfield are pathetic.
For a town like Westfield, these “offerings” are an embarrassment.
7 months ago

We definitely need to add new fields and to improve existing facilities! There is plenty of active kids in town (good!) but not enough places to host their activities (bad!). We need more soccer and multipurpose fields, and we need those fields to be well-maintained.
7 months ago

Our kids need more turf fields desperately
7 months ago

Please add turf field space to Tamaques Park. Do not add lights!
7 months ago

Westfield needs more turf fields (preferably without cancer-causing tire crumbs) and with lights! Home games are limited due to the lack of fields and lighting. Other towns have nicer fields, even Elizabeth! Please preserve some of Tamaques wooded areas.
7 months ago

Turf field with lights needed desparatly !!!
7 months ago

We could definitely upgrade our fields for all sports.: Baseball, football, softball, soccer and lacrosse. Adding lights would also help as so many programs run in the evening with parents coaching after work. I’ve been to many other towns for multiple sports and our facilities are not on par. We need new fields, lights, better restroom facilities as well as added parking.
7 months ago

Westfield tax base vs. Quality of town facilities is an absolute abomination.
Completely embarrassing and I question where our money goes??
7 months ago

Town bike trails , better park facilities , improve memorial pool area , more turf fields
7 months ago

Westfield needs to improve the sports fields in town. With the number of children that participate in sports, we need to add additional turf and lighted fields. Elm Street, Memorial, and the high school should all be considered. In addition, our wrestling program is one of the most successful programs in town, while the participants are required to wrestle in the middle school cafeteria! Health and cleanliness are critical to the safety of the participants. A dedicated wrestling room must be considered.
7 months ago

Our facilities are embarrassing compared to other towns. We need more turf, more lights and we need these improvements now. Sports are a central part of this community and our facilities can’t support the continued growth.
7 months ago

We need more fields for lacrosse! Our children play lacrosse and it seems like each spring there are issues with finding space to practice.
7 months ago

Our sport fields are lacking in quantity and quality
7 months ago

we need more athletic fields and we need some with lights. We have very competitive teams in a variety of sports. To keep them competitive we need facilities to accommodate them.
7 months ago

We need more turf fields. Please put through the plan that was going to turf one of the fields in Tamaques Park
7 months ago

We need more space for lacrosse games and hockey. Thought Gumbert hockey rink was amazing. Perfect location in an otherwise desolate area during the winter.
7 months ago

We need more Lacrosse fields
7 months ago

We MAJORLY need a new, updated playground at Tamaques Park PLEASE!!!!
7 months ago

The town needs to update our parks and add more park space. Parking should also be considered.
7 months ago

We are beyond thrilled with the ice rink. It has made our life easier for our children to play hockey and to skate on a recreational level. It has also proven to be a place of inclusion - great work! This has been a much needed addition to our town.
7 months ago

We need more turf fields for our kids
7 months ago

We definitely need more turf and lighted fields.
7 months ago

must have more turf fields. the amount and level of girls and boys sports (all) is off the charts. i coach the town travel lacrosse team and we have NO home games. it is absurd
7 months ago

We need more turf fields!
7 months ago

We could also really use a wrestling facility
7 months ago

Desperately need more fields that can be used Year round. In favor of turning fields behind memorial into turf
7 months ago

7 months ago

I also strongly support updating fields and rec facilities in town. There truly are not enough turf and lighted fields for all of the rec and high school teams to practice. . Families move to Westfield, largely, to raise families which sports play a huge role in. Our facilities are embarrassing and dangerous compared to other towns. I've coached tackle and flag football for years. I've had players get significantly injured tripping on manhole covers, stepping in divots or slipping in mud because we don't have turf fields. Its really ridiculous, especially when you see our tax dollars going to other towns and their facilities are superior to ours? To those that oppose because you back up to Kehler or another field, you CHOSE to purchase that home. You also likely purchased that house at a discount as a result. Wouldn't it be reasonable to assume that families in Westfield would want a better experience for their children which would require enhancements to our fields??? Think about it...
7 months ago

Strongly support more facilities and fields for sports. It ‘s challenging getting fields for existing teams. I also support the hockey rink, I live a block away and we used it a lot this winter.
7 months ago

We left the soccer program because they didn’t have any field time.
7 months ago

We need more field space for children in Westfield. How can we discuss the obesity epidemic in the United States and then discourage participation in sports at all ages with inadequate fields

7 months ago

Need sporting fields
7 months ago

Improvement needed for parking at both locations.
7 months ago

These parks are the best part of living in Westfield. Maintaining the quality of athletic fields needs to be a priority so our children stay safe, healthy and continue to wear their Westfield Uniforms in a proud way! Additional turf and all season fields should be a priority. Our sporting facilities for soccer and lacrosse are sub par to all towns we visit including the cities. Restrooms or alternatives should be provided at all sporting facilities as well.
7 months ago

Westfield needs more high quality fields for sports. My daughter was injured due to poor field conditions at Roosevelt (hole in field) and missed 2 months of play. We now are driving to other towns where she plays on high quality turf. Given the incomes in Westfield it's an embarrassment that we cannot have safe fields for our kids.
7 months ago

We desperately need to update turf fields for football, soccer, and lacrosse. It seems the town keeps building playgrounds which is great but we need fields that can accommodate our children at all age levels including our high school & middle school team sports.
7 months ago

strongly support updating current fields, adding fields (turf) and lighting
7 months ago

I never heard of Dunham Ave Bird Sanctuary. I would like to learn more about that one. Mindowaskin Park is a special place as is Brightwood Park. I used to frequent Tamaques Park for walks, but not so much now, because there is too much traffic. I am not in favor of creating large sports arenas with cars (mostly large SUVs now) and people from everywhere creating congestion and traffic and noise. It seems that some people want to have every need met within a mile of home. Be careful what you wish for!
7 months ago

Upgrades are definitely needed across the boards to support sports - field improvements, lights, etc. The ice rink has been an amazing addition to Westfield - not only for our high school teams but the community as a whole with open skates, family hockey, school skate nights, curling, special programs, etc. We need bike lanes and better support for bikes as transportation.
The new Mindowaskin playground is fantastic; other parks need playground improvements as well (Memorial, Tamaques). Please preserve wooded/natural areas when making decisions about improvements going forward!
7 months ago

Tamaques Park is a gem. A lighted turf field and improved parking are needed and can be accommodated to minimally impact the neighbors. At the same time, the natural area in the rear of the park is in dire need of tree trimming, path re-surfacing from Tamaques Way, and removal of the old, unused BBQs. There is a low spot off the path in the center of the back area which needs fill and grading to eliminate water retention (mosquitos!). Ways to utilize property at the recycling center should be explored for development into a sports field complex rather than adding field to Tamaques and destroying natural spaces.
7 months ago

We need more playable sports fields for our children. At least one additional turf field and improvements to existing fields that become unplayable when it rains.
7 months ago

When my children were growing up in town they participated in the sports programs, I coached baseball and soccer (including a traveling girls soccer team) and both were both multi sport varsity athletes in high school. Accordingly, I am familiar with all of the comments regarding the condition of the fields, the need for more fields and that the sports facilities are far superior in other towns. Little has changed over the years, including where new facilities could be located and how the town would pay for them. Westfield is a mature town with little available land for new sports facilities. There is also the issue whether any undeveloped land is committed for affordable housing. We could clear cut all or part Brightwood and/or Tamaques Parks, but that is unrealistic and would be unacceptable to a large number of taxpayers. The only realistic spot would be the Armory property on Rahway Avenue, which I understand is not committed for affordable housing. However, I doubt the State of New Jersey would sell it. Also, because the Armory is surrounded by

homes I am not sure the homeowners would be happy with turning it into a rec facility, especially if the fields are lighted. An alternative would be the parking lot at the closed inspection station, but I am not sure if it is large enough for a field. Regarding paying for these facilities, where will the money come from to pay for all of the items on the numerous wish lists? Taxes are already too high, forcing people to move out of town. A possibility would be a Green Acres grant from the county. In view of the fact that a Westfield resident is now a Freeholder this maybe a possibility, especially when one considers how much in taxes the Town gives to the county. Bottom line is that without first resolving the available space and payment issues a parks master plan will be of little value.

Finally, regarding the ice rink, it is in a poor location, loud (especially AM on Saturdays) and is what it is, a temporary facility under a tent. When its newness wears off will be the test. What is needed is a permanent, year round facility. A good location would be the PathMart site in Garwood.

8 months ago

removing the graffiti from memorial park playground and updating it would be great
8 months ago

removing the graffiti from the memorial park playground and updating it would be great
8 months ago

Echo Lake Park, Mindowaskin playground, Nomahagen Park
8 months ago

I love our parks but do not have children. Please make sure you keep the parks nice for people who use them besides kids playing sports. There are more varieties of residents than just sports players and their parents who use and appreciate the parks.
8 months ago

We love the new ice rink and since our kids play hockey their teams have been using the rink for practice on a regular basis (we are Westfield residents). This makes our lives, as working parents, so much better since the drive to practice is under 10 minutes (compare to 30 minutes at other rinks). We hope there will be a permanent rink option since a local rink is really needed!
We would also love to see improvements to the play area for children in Tamaques Park.
8 months ago

First, I commend the town council and the recreation commission for continuously evaluating the community parks and services. Secondly, I appreciate the opportunity to share my experiences and recommendations for your consideration.

Living near Mindowaskin Park, i feel privledged to have such a beautiful park in our community. I'm very grateful to the dedicated volunteers in the Friends of Mindowskin Park, Historical Preservation Commission, and Rake & Hoe for the tireless efforts to presrve and improve this local treasure. These organizations, and many others, worked very closely with the Town Council and Public Works in a public-volunteer partnership and today's park is a testament to their dedication and collaboration. Thank You.

The Westfield Ice Rink at Gumbert Park is another example of how Westfield has successfully partnered with a non-public entity to deliver services to Westfield residents and the local community. Again, thank you!

These two examples required a tremendous amount of work by Westfield elected officials and employees. It also required an equally tremendous amount of work by partners and volunteers. Westfield has demonstrated a willingness to partner with volunteers our other entities to deliver enhanced services to the community. This model appears to working well. To the other organizations seeeking enhanced facilities or services, organize volunteers and get engaged. Good things can happen for you as well.
8 months ago

Our parks and fields need to be updated. Our facilities are embarrassing compared to other towns. Turf fields need to be a priority. Why do we need to use other towns fields are our “home” fields? Bathrooms at Tamaques need to be upgraded.
8 months ago

Since the county takes so much of our revenue. We should consider turning some of our parks over to them. The Westfield Y flyers had a practice at Rahway park, that is managed by the county. It was hands down maintained better than Tamaques.

8 months ago

Brightwood park needs attention. Downed trees, sloppy trails, and stagnant pond.
8 months ago

The field at Jefferson school needs an overhaul.
8 months ago

Not very aware of many of the parks in town. Would love better publicity of those parks and what they have to offer.
8 months ago

We need more facilities...level grass fields, turf fields, indoor facilities with gyms and a track.
8 months ago

Tamaques Park needs a makeover, including bike amenities.
8 months ago

Our recreational facilities for sports are embarrassing. Most residents understand that space is limited but when existing space is not maximized it's frustrating. The Town ended a plan vetted by the Rec Commission for a turf field in Tamaques and a replacement plan is years away. The BOE does a terrible job of maintaining their facilities and remembering that they should be a partner to the town rec programs that are made up of the same tax paying residents that send their children to the schools. BOE treats the programs as a nuisance rather than recognizing that space is limited and they should be using some of their tax funding to make sure fields, courts, etc. are in top shape and available for the rec programs.
8 months ago

I walk daily in Clark Park on the Track. Many others run and walk. The Y years ago built that track. The crushed stone is depleted and there is a need for grading as there is standing water. Also Roosevelt kids run and walk that track. The Poison Ivy and RAGWEED is encroaching on the track- a clear cut along the border of the woods and perhaps ridding that area of invasive species would benefit all. I do not want CLARK PARK to become another playing field. T It was designed to be a passive park. Please keep it so but maintain it.

I have not used the Ice Rink it is an awesome value added for the youth of our Town. Would till love to see a Skate Board Park and another value added would be a DISC GOLF Park. The Dicsc Golf could totally be placed in Brightwood and staged in the woods with some clearing (mostly of invasive species). The youth need more to do in this Town.
I also would like to see early lap swimming for members and bring back Adult Swim. Cranford has Adult Swim . Adult Swim clears the pool - helps families keep a tab on their kids and gives us Seniors some time to swim. Love the new programming at the pool for families !
8 months ago

Build high quality turf fields in Tamaques park and elsewhere so we can stay competitive with top tier towns in field sports and not have to play on the road and have cancelled games due to soggy fields.

Thoughtfully designed full size fields that towns like Basking Ridge Have would allow Tamaques Park to stay a park - don't require unsightly buildings or major changes to traffic patterns - and will give our children the environment they deserve, especially at the tax level we are paying here in town.

High quality turf fields can support many sports our town is highly competitive in, from Lacrosse to soccer, field hockey, tackle football (recent 3 time state champs) and more.
8 months ago

Lenape, echo lake
8 months ago

Poor parking options for sports
8 months ago

Need better parking and restrooms at parks in general. Need better parking at Tamaques.
8 months ago

I have been a Westfield mother since 1996 and in the Urban and interior Design Business since

1985. My kids are now in High School. My biggest issue is the lack of bathrooms for younger kids at major parks. After a big renovation of the play ground at Mindowaskin Park, it is unfortunate that bathrooms were not more of a priority. They rarely can make it to the police station and this also seems like a non-solution. This is my biggest issue. My daughter still plays sports at Tamaques. These bathrooms are also filthy all of the time. Issues like these - cleanliness/hygene should be factored in as part of the Urban master planning in our town. Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields - I wish rubber tire carcinogen material could be replaced by healthier alternative. My Daughter is in the High school so she now only uses Kehler . I love the Hockey rink and feel this was a great addition to our town. I think the rink adds to our park system and gumbert area . I completely disagree with the issue of it being in a residential area and I live in the Washington School district. I wish there was at least one decent indoor basketball gym that could be refurbished in one of the middle schools.

8 months ago

ymca

8 months ago

The quality & condition of our fields is an embarrassment. We go to other towns for travel sports & are always amazed at how our fields pale in comparison. We have a beautiful community & our fields should reflect the pride we feel for our community. We should not be embarrassed to play friends & family who visit Westfield for sports and always have the same chorus-"Your fields are terrible!" Our kids deserve to have the opportunity to excel & should not have to travel to out of town sports complexes for practices. This year in lacrosse we have only two home games. This is not a viable or fair option for the members of this community. We need more turf fields & we need lighted fields so that all the sports programs in town can be accommodated. My family & many others have benefitted greatly from the Gumpert Ice Rink & the addition of that space greatly added to the fun factor in Westfield. What a wonderful community experience!! I assure you if you happened by on a Friday evening and saw the learn to play program in full swing you would have seen the joy in the faces of all the children & parents in attendance. It created a definitive sense of community & it was such a pleasure to have this ice rink right in our town. I had friends from other hockey teams that were blown away at our rink & for the first time I was proud of our facilities. Please don't let that pride be stripped away! We are so fortunate to have a development program like this in our community drawing our children & our families together. Let's not move backwards, but continue to progress on the much needed enhancements to our community. A big shout out for the renovations at Mindowaskin Park. My children are overjoyed at the new park. It feels just like a city park with something for everyone. It had gotten my children away from their screens & outside running around. It keeps them busy for hours & it is almost impossible to tear them away at the end of the day. We are grateful for improvements like Mindowaskin & Gumpert & we only hope that this forward March continues with the addition of lighted & turf field & indoor facilities as well!! Go Westfield!!!

8 months ago

The state of the grass fields used for sports in Westfield is embarrassing. I make sure i turn up at least 30 mins early to clear away rocks and stones, trash, dog poop, and whatever else maybe be lying in wait for our children. And even if the field is clean that state of the grass is terrible.

8 months ago

Please add more turf fields!

8 months ago

Our parks need to be upgraded! Specially Tamaques Park! We need more turf fields too!

8 months ago

Brightwood and Elm Street Parks are underutilized assets. We need to invest in increasing the amount of walking and mountain biking trails at Brightwood. Elm St. needs a complete overhaul; remove the tennis courts and the parking lot and build underground parking and put two turf field on top.

8 months ago

Tamaques Bathroom needs to be refreshed and cleaned a bit more often.
Memorial Pool needs chairs and chase lounges around the pool and grass areas!

8 months ago

Houlihan/Sid Fey

8 months ago

additional turf and lighted fields required. lights at HS

8 months ago

I agree with other comments that we lack quality field space. Due to this sports get cancelled or the kids are playing on fields that are mainly dirt. This past fall my daughter played soccer in mud for several weekends at Tamaques. This spring we are travelling to Edison in order for her to have a field to play on. We need to invest in these fields in order to support our children.

I also would like to see Tamaques park changed so that there is no vehicle traffic around the circle, and instead a parking lot on one end. The traffic all around the park is dangerous for the families walking, running and biking.

8 months ago

It is a shame that the town of Westfield does not have adequate recreational facilities for its citizens and children. There is an urgent need for more turf fields with lighting for multi-use sports. Why isn't the Elm street field (which is an embarassment to this town) transitioned to a downtowm stadium with lights and a grandstand to create an amazing downtown experience and drive traffic to the downtown businesses. In general the town is under served by its current sports fields and is in desperate need of many uograde. Unfortunately, this effort is a decade too late...

8 months ago

Our student population is larger than many surrounding towns (500-600 per graduating class). We need (1) more turf fields, ideally lighted and (2) enhance existing fields; (3) keep Westfield Ice Rink to enable more kids to develop and keep playing. Other surrounding towns have gotten creative to solve this problem and we can too. Also, the Westfield Ice Rink supports Westfield High School and Middle School teams as well as local hockey club teams with a ton of Westfield kids on them (Cranford, Union Thunder). Also, the Gumpert and Union rinks have provided employment and first jobs to MANY Westfield kids.

8 months ago

Westfield needs (1) more turf and lighted fields and (2) better quality fields; (3) continued presence of Gumbert ice rink. Westfield has some of the largest student bodies of any town in our area (500-600 kids per class). In order to promote athletic participation of a broader group of kids and continued support of Westfield athletic programs, we need more space to play and better fields. This has been accomplished in other surrounding towns and with focus and creativity, we can do it in Westfield. Finally, we need to keep the Westfield ice rink operational next year. It is a primary rink for Westfield High School hockey, Westfield Middle School hockey, Cranford and Union Thunder Hockey Clubs (which has a high percentage of kids from Westfield). Finally, this rink has employed MANY Westfield kids this year, providing them their first jobs.

8 months ago

As it is closest to me Tamaques is where I primarily go- it's a great park because it is used for walking, tennis courts and sports as well- tennis courts are tough to play on as they are not level- the trees in the back in picnic areas and dog runs need attention esp trees. Dog run in back is well kept by dog lovers and yes, many are off leash with no issues- even our furry friends deserve some freedom. I understand why that is not the case in areas more trafficked by public and many who are afraid of dogs. In terms of sports facilities there simply must be more garbage cans- after games around Edison garbage is overwhelming- strewn around on ground,plastic everywhere- there is not enough done by the adults supervising the kids at activities, parents and kids themselves to take out what they bring in and it ruins our environment and clearly says a lot about the pride we should have for our own communities cleanliness and appreciation of nature -

8 months ago

You get what you pay for. This town has been run very efficiently. The shopping lists mentioned could easily cost $25 million. If you are prepared to pay higher taxes, which are no longer deductible, then go for it.

8 months ago

There is a lack of quality fields for lacrosse in Westfield. Our facilities are embarrassing compared to the surrounding towns (Chatham, Summit, Berkeley Heights, etc). Tamaques Park needs to be completely revamped.

8 months ago

We love the new Mindowaskin park. Thank you! Would love to see Tamaques renovated to help us get more updated fields and a sports complex for the town kids and activities.

8 months ago

There is a hugely insufficient number of fields for all sports in WESTFIELD. We cannot host events and have to play away more often and what fields we do have have no parking, let along facilities such as restrooms. It's is embarrassing when you see the superior facilities of small less affluent towns where residents pay lower taxes.
WESTFIELD also needs more lighted field and turf options. Can we not extend the Houlihan fields along the track and add facilities? As well as the proposed Tamaques park fields.

8 months ago

1. Brightwood Park is being [illegible] with in-ani a Japanese Knot[illegible] and Left [illegible] unchecked this plant

1. Brightwood Park is being over run with invasive Japanese Knotweed. Left unchecked, this plant will devour the park and choke out the natural plant life. Google it.
2. Can the Brightwood trail be expanded to more of the park to possibly include novice mountain bike trails for kids to enjoy?
8 months ago

One or more new turf fields are needed immediately!
8 months ago

Kehler stadium , Roosevelt field
8 months ago

We are not a hockey family but have thoroughly enjoyed the ice rink for recreational skating. I think it adds a feeling of community and provides a family oriented outdoor activity in winter. Very disappointed that the mayor stopped the Tamaques project and delayed it after so much thought had been put in by previous admin. A completely unnecessary delay and much increased spending for new plan. Parking is a major issue at Tamaques and we need a lit field there, snack bar and better paths for dog walking and running. Brightwood park has real potential but is run down and needs a facelift. I agree with the suggestions to do more with the Elm Street area. The tennis courts are not used much and the space there could be used for a field with families then able to walk downtown for pizza or ice cream after practice. Westfield needs a dog park but the echo lake one has become a mud bath...careful attention to the ground used in such a park is critical and grass is impractical
8 months ago

Quality field space is very important for our children. We do not have enough fields to have home games and play the sports that keep our kids active.
8 months ago

Roosevelt, Washington school, kehler
8 months ago

Tennis courts on Elm St
8 months ago

I think we can all agree there are not enough turf fields for sports, my one suggestion is to talk to the Board of Ed as I believe they own the field and possibly the tennis courts on Elm Street. I feel this space is not utilized to the best of its abilities. Coming from Hoboken over 10 years ago...my husband and I loved to walk around downtown Hoboken and ended up at the soccer fields to watch people play...I feel like we should have turf fields if possible at Elm street and proper seating and hopefully draw more people to downtown! The tennis courts are in Bad Shape...on a positive note, I live across from Mindowaskin Playground and by the amount of cars parked outside my house and my neighbors the park is a huge hit! I will not complain about those who block my driveway, I understood when I moved in across from a park that this would be something I would potentially deal with, but the benefits certainly outweigh any negative traffic. Thank you.
8 months ago

Westfield has always been a family oriented town with exceptional education opportunities, and offers a safe & social atmosphere we desire for our children. It is first and foremost a wonderful living environment to raise a family. We have always valued Sports & Recreation as a top priority for this type of community.
8 months ago

Please keep the Gumbert Hockey rink! Our children are getting a ton of use out of it.. Over 70 kids in the 4 Westfield High School teams we have - Varsity, two Junior Varsity and a Girls Varsity team. What other town in the state can say they have 4 High School Hockey teams? Most districts need to combine schools to make even 1 team.

Hockey is a HUGE part of this community and the rink is an asset to our town and children. I would even like to see a permanent rink built on the site of the Armory across from the High School
8 months ago

> The Armory would be a great place for the ice rink! Easy access to HS! The rink does not belong where it is now, however!
> 8 months ago 2 Agree

Our fields are an unplayable mess, it's embarrassing that we have to go to other towns to rent their fields. Tamaques Park would be a great spot to build a turf field, check out the previous plan,

it was a great solution to the lack of fields in town. If the Mayor hadn't delayed the previous project our teams would be playing this spring. The previous administration spent 80k on the previously proposed plan and now were spending again, having Town hall Meetings to prove what we already know. We need more fields.
8 months ago

Need more turf fields since the conditions of grass fields cannot keep up with the demand. Tamaques is perfect for a turf surface and should include lighting to extend the hours along with sufficient parking.
8 months ago

My daughter and I are not a resident of the area, but it's a shame that the town has not kept up with the upkeep of the town recreational areas. We are humbled by the UCFC allowing my daughter to play in their competitive and family friendly team, but it's dreadful to see the children play in less than safe and adequate facilities. Being a town that I believe the residents pay more than their share of property taxes, there shouldn't be any excuses to discount their children to better and safer fields. Shame on the people responsible in letter this happen.
8 months ago

I live on the south side of town and visit Tamaques park frequently - for dog walks and bike rides. I love the character of the park, and really hope that any changes that are made take into consideration all residents who utilize the park. Having kids who participated in soccer, I recognize the need for better fields (for soccer and other sports) - our fields are woefully inadequate. I do recognize that we have land space limitations relative to some other towns - but I do hope we can find a spot for a couple of turf fields. I am not sure that Tamaques park is the best spot - would hate to see the natural feel of that park changed, and I question whether or not there would be adequate parking in the park to accommodate additional cars if a turf field were added (the parking can't accommodate the current use of the grass fields). And I beg the town to retain the natural wooded area of the park with walking trails - it is one of the best features - really tremendous. I wonder if a small-sided turf field could be put in the Elm street park? The field behind Edison School could be another consideration for turf.....the "grass" currently there is not maintained at all, so perhaps turf would be a solution. One other comment about Tamaques park - the pond is in need of improvement. The current aeration system does not appear to be up to par, as the pond is really scummy much of the year. Finally, it is very disappointing that the large house built adjacent to the park has a massive fence which does not blend in with surroundings. Is it possible for the town to plant some additional trees to help with the transition from residential to common (park) areas?
8 months ago

With multiple children in travel soccer programs, I am shocked and embarrassed at what Westfield offers in terms of facilities vs many towns who do not have the economic vitality as us.

Lack of public bathrooms, lights for nighttime practice/games, snack bars, and turf is inconceivable.

To start, Tamaques Park needs to be completely revamped, turfed and lit. Even if there is just 1 turf field added, that would make a world of difference. Additional parking for that facility is critical as well.

The park across from Stop and Shop is a complete nightmare in terms of conditions and should be turfed.

It just seems crazy to me that one of my child's "home field" is in Garwood (at a beautiful facility by the way) and the other spends far too much time at Wardlaw school.

It is amazing to see the sports success at a high school level of the children in this town when the struggle to get adequate facilities throughout their childhood is so high.
8 months ago

The facilities in Westfield should be at a level that is above standard, not falling grossly below standards in this area, as compared to surrounding towns.
8 months ago

Fields are a major issue in our town and represent one of the few shortcomings our town has.
8 months ago

My comments relate entirely to kids sports. We simply need more turf fields and better maintained grass fields with lighting. We are a large town with an enormous group of young athletes engaged in multiple field sports and there simply isn't enough quality field space to accommodate all the sports teams, and more importantly, support the sports to a high standard. WSA is impacted most due to the sheer number of teams and to play soccer to a high standard you need a good playing surface to train and play on, and we don't have enough. Many of our grass fields are a source of embarrassment compared to most of the towns we travel to in the

Mid NJ League.
8 months ago

The current state of fields in Westfield is horrendous. The fields are unusable for much of the early spring due to water and, even after the water is gone, the fields are in terrible shape. Many of the fields we rely on for sports are not level, are only partially covered in grass and, frankly, are a bit of an embarrassment. Expanded turfing of fields (specifically Elm street, Sycamore, Memorial) would be preferred.
8 months ago

I like the new mindowaskin park playground. So like keep that up.
8 months ago

Windsor park needs some TLC. Maybe add some privacy fencing or new fencing. Something that kind of gives neighbors a bit more privacy. For example, at Lincoln school, that playground that lines the side of residential homes has wooden fencing. Something to make this park a bit nicer.
8 months ago

Windsor Park needs some TLC. Maybe add some privacy fencing/new fencing so the neighbors have a little more privacy from the park as well.
8 months ago

We simply do not have enough athletic playing fields for the current population and demand across numerous, vibrant youth sports leagues and the school teams. The condition of those fields we do have range from adequately maintained, at best, to poorly maintained/renovated for many.
8 months ago

I am a big fan of Westfield and have 2 daughters heavily active in sports, 1st and 4th grade. I spend a ton of time at the elementary school fields, middle school fields, parks and turf fields for soccer softball, etc. The biggest focus is on soccer right now and I am extremely disappointed with the lack of soccer fields for grass and turf and the awful condition they are in. It is pretty simple, there are not enough fields for the girls to play on and the grass fields in some cases are just not safe. They are not well kept and it is embarrassing for other towns to come in and play us given the conditions of the fields.
There have been 2 instances where the opposing team from other towns has told us (Westfield parents) that these are the worst fields they have played on and when they come to Westfield they do not expect this.
My frustration is that they are correct and we have made no attempt to add a turf or grass soccer field for the girls to play on. Other towns have 7 to 8 more soccer fields then Westfield.
As a member of the Westfield community and someone who really enjoys living here, I would urge the Town of Westfield and the board to reconsider alternatives to use our resources to add grass and turf fields for the kids. The results over the long-term would be great for the town. Parks and fields are vital to a community's growth and it would bring incentive for people to want to move to Westfield.
8 months ago

RE: Tamaques Park shuffleboard courts. These courts are in a horrible state of disrepair and need to be removed. I have always thought the two could benefit by turning these into bocce courts. The equipment for shuffleboard is bulky and not easy to find locally. A complete bocce setup fits into a neat carry bag and is affordable. It's a highly social game who's court requires little maintenance.
8 months ago

We need better and many more athletic facilities.
8 months ago

Bathrooms at Tamaques need to be updated
8 months ago

where is this bird sanctuary? Sounds lovely :)
8 months ago

Town leaders should publicize the legal restrictions on any changes in the present use of Brightwood Park. It's always been generally understood that the "Green Acres" funding for the establishment of the park prohibits changes to its entirely "passive" use as a nature preserve. If this is not the case, all residents should know it so that devotees of the park's passive nature can recognize the need to mobilize their energies to defeat proposals for constructing playing fields and the like in the park.

8 months ago

I think permanently relocating the Ice Rink to Brightwood Park would be an excellent idea. Plenty of room to develop all of that unused space.
8 months ago

I run through Tamaques Park and up until a few years ago all the water fountains were in working= condition. They all need to be fixed along with both bathroom facilities should be open all year.
8 months ago

Lights, more parking, and all weather turf have been needed at Tamaques Park and Memorial= Park for years and always comes up in these discussions. Either get it done or stop talking about= it. There is an excess in the budget and would not cost resident anything if you do it now.
8 months ago

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8 months ago

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8 months ago

ssss
8 months ago

Fix the trails, bathrooms, lighting, parking and grounds/tree maintenance at Tamaques.
8 months ago

the playground equipment needs updating, all parks need better lighting as well
8 months ago

Lenape and Echo Lake
8 months ago

Our sports fields are an embarrassment to our town and an insult given our tax dollars. Sports is= such a big part of growing up in Westfield, I hope the town truly embraces the changes that are= needed to upgrade (and maybe increase) the fields in this town. We are far too reliant on BoE= fields and thank really should change.
8 months ago

Had no idea that there is a bird sanctuary in town.
8 months ago

continue to maintain all parks
8 months ago

All public parks should be preserved and should remain as accessible as possible (no perimeter= fencing in parks that do not currently have such)
8 months ago

4. Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of the facilities you have visited?

Average

Excellent Poor

4. Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of the facilities you have visited?

We need a dedicated wrestling facility to help build the program.
8 months ago 14 Agree

I agree 💯. The wrestling program is the ugly step child in this town. If we have a wrestling facility, which wouldn't be a huge expense, it would make a huge difference in the program.
7 months ago 7 Agree

We can't ignore that the PAL wrestling program is increasing in numbers. Parents currently drop off 7 yr old boys off in a dark foyer with a tire holding the door open at a tiny HS side gym. I personally dont feel safe walking out in a dark unlit Edison parking lot at night in the middle of winter before and after a match. Our matches are held in a middle school cafeteria with limited space for participants and parents. I hope the town recognizes Wrestling and provides adequate facilities for our children to be safe and havd better quality experience.
7 months ago 4 Agree

100% agree! There needs to be a dedicated wrestling facility. It is embarrassing to have other towns come to Westfield for a match in a middle school cafeteria.
7 months ago 4 Agree

Can't you use a gym?
8 months ago

We don't have access to gyms for practice and many matches because we wait in line for basketball or other priorities. I'm a coach on the PAL wrestling program and we are relegated to cafeteria space which is both unsafe and, quite frankly, embarrassing for a town of our stature. Warren Hills, South Plainfield, Woodbridge, Rahway and countless other towns have recreation facilities with dedicated mats. Unlike others sports where you simply show up with a ball, our coaches have to roll out mats and clean them before and after every match and practice.
7 months ago 7 Agree

I love the parks that I visit but most other towns have great parks and I always feel like our parks are 'rag-tag'. Always be prepared to leave when you have to go to the bathroom, double check a tree isn't going to fall down when you go by, don't stand too close to the creek in case there is something awful in the water etc etc.
8 months ago 8 Agree

We are requesting a dedicated wrestling facility to improve the health and safety of our wrestlers
8 months ago 6 Agree

Sport fields are all in bad shape. Houlihan Sid Fay turf is a relatively new turf but deteriorating quickly due to lack of minimum maintenance required. Parking lot needs to be redone to meet traffic requirements. Sycamore, Tamaques, Memorial grass fields are all a disaster. Need more turf facilities with urgency. Grass will never meet the usage requirements of all sports in town.
8 months ago 5 Agree

The grass fields are poorly maintained. Drainage, grading is not kept up. The fields need to be regularly taken out of commission for rest and maintenance. Restroom facilities are usually filthy or not present or available Parking can be challenging - especially at Tamaques but even by SF/Houlihan. A light should be installed at corner or Rahway and Lamberts Mill as left turns (for nearly all Westfielders) are risky.
8 months ago 4 Agree

Leave Brightwood park ALONE.
8 months ago 4 Agree

Brightwood park is lovely
8 months ago 2 Agree

BRIGHTWWOD PARK NEEDS TO REMAIN UNTOUCHED
5 months ago 1 Agree

The Wrestling Program should have a dedicated facility.
8 months ago 4 Agree

soccer fields are in bad shape and lack there of. WF memorial park is always wet.
8 months ago 4 Agree

Many grass fields were unusable during the fall. More turf fields are needed.
8 months ago 4 Agree

Maintaining grass fields would be easier if we could rest them with an expansion of turf facilities.
8 months ago 4 Agree

We need a wrestling facility at Tamaques that can also be used for the play ground summer teen program when it rains.
8 months ago 3 Agree

athletic fields are an embarassment, as is having a "home" game in garwood or edison. makes the town look bad
8 months ago 3 Agree

The condition of our grass fields is embarassing.
8 months ago 3 Agree

It is shameful! We have very few updated/well run/well maintained spaces.
8 months ago 3 Agree

Our grass fields are in terrible shape. Based on the amount of players who enjoy our fields, there is not enough maintenance time to sufficiently take care of them as ultimately grass needs rest. The town is in need of another multi-use turf field to adequately satisfy the number of active youth players & sports offered in town.
8 months ago 3 Agree

Tamques park is 106 acres!!! Much of that is underutilized woods. This is where WF should focus it efforts to build new, turf fields with lights...PERIOD.
8 months ago 3 Agree

> Compared to other towns of equal means, our facilities would most likely rank near the bottom. Some facilities, such as gumpert baseball fields are only in decent shape due to funding from the program and the work of parent volunteers to maintain.
> 7 months ago

> No
> 8 months ago

Grass fields are overused and that will not change based on the current makeup of the town. They will never get a rest due to limited number of facilities and the high number of children participating in programs.
8 months ago 3 Agree

I only visited Brightwood for the first time recently... what an underutilized piece of property in our town! With some maintenance, it would be a wonderful spot for walking trails, disc golf, etc.
8 months ago 3 Agree

> I love that Brightwood is left natural.
> 8 months ago 2 Agree

> Brightwood Park (also known as the Noel A. Taylor Park) was created/dedicated as a permanent natural refuge, not to have 'established' trails or activities."So that the children of Westfield will forever have this natural land to cherish" Visit the property and read the dedication plaque OR (Not allowed to paste link) google publication Last Works: Lessons in Leaving by Mark C. Taylor, Noel's son. There is a photo of plaque on page 297)
> 6 months ago

We need proper wrestling facilities for our program. Most other towns visited have dedicated wrestling spaces for practice and matches. We are in Edison cafeteria, quite honestly it's embarrassing and not sanitary or safe for our wrestlers.
7 months ago 2 Agree

We have three boys participating in travel sports year round. Our fields are shameful, somewhat dangerous, and have been neglected for far to long. We have thriving youth sports programs in Westfield, that should be celebrated and supported. Any given Saturday morning in the fall, a trip to Tamaques Park is a testament to what a wonderful community Westfield is. If you look past the parking problem you see the hundreds of children playing flag football. It is such a heart warming sight to see the children playing, the parents socializing, not to mention the community service it provides-collecting food for food banks, clothing for shelters, cancer....our children deserve more! Last year the fields were pure mud by the end of the season because so overused. Our lacrosse program in Westfield has no where to practice and almost every game has to be played away due to lack of field space.
Tamaques park desperately needs to be updated. I spend many hours walking there every day, watching flag football, travel football practices, fishing in the pond with my sons, and baseball games. I spend many hours envisioning the potential of this park. It has been sorely neglected for years. The bathrooms are atrocious. Most people do not even know there is a pavilion there that

can be rented. I have rented it for several parties- only after going to clean it up prior with brooms, rakes, and coverings for all the benches because they are in such poor shape. There are so many dead trees that are dangerous to the children playing there. With proper planning it can maintain its tranquil beauty and still service the youth of this town by accommodating night practices with lights, and indoor facitility for wrestling/cheerleading, etc., safer baseball, and basketball courts, etc. Memorial pool complex parking lot is underused and sits vacant most of the winter- that potential should be utilized.

7 months ago 2 Agree

With 3 kids playing soccer, I spend 3 night and weekends at sid fay/houlihan. The fields are located too far from town. Kids cannot bike to practice. The toilets are awful and we could use a little shed as a club house.

7 months ago 2 Agree

The problem in Westfield is that there are too many sports and too many teams. It is great to see all the boys and girls so interested in sports, but we cannot support them all. There is only so much room to work with and not enough to make everyone happy. If everyone got everything they wanted, there would be no more parks.

7 months ago 2 Agree

Park lawns are in substandard condition.

5 months ago 1 Agree

Brightwood park is largely undeveloped which is how it should be and is fine with me. There are a couple of areas where removal of deposited lawn debris should be removed.

5 months ago 1 Agree

For profit leagues shouldn't be dictating our need for fields. Schools, then n town rec leagues oor the Y should have priority. Tennis courts at Elm need improvement, Brightwood needs to be cleaned up. Our parks should be for walkers and quiet relaxation as well. Not just for sports . Creating parking lots to accommodate for'profit sports leagues is not the oatj I see fit.. If sports had "seasons" not year round then maybe not such an issue. There needs to be more bike racks, and bike paths to our parks. There should be more water fountains. It would also be nice to have fountains with the ability to refill a water bottle or dog bowl. Please consider seperate waste containers for dog waste and lots of them.

6 months ago 1 Agree

There are so many wrestlers in town and there is no dedicated space for them to meet. We need a wrestling facility badly!

7 months ago 1 Agree

We need better soccer fields. We need dedicated wrestling facilities. Most home Wrestling matches are in the Edison cafeteria which is too small and can be dangerous.

7 months ago 1 Agree

Grass field are a mess. Hooligans/ Sid fay is nice but basic

7 months ago 1 Agree

Sycamore Field is in dire need of resurfacing.

7 months ago 1 Agree

For a town this size and wealth it's a shame there are not enough fields and facilities to handle the many sport teams. Summit, Chatham, Madison and the list goes on, all have better facilities. There needs to be more turf fields in town period.

7 months ago 1 Agree

The town's grass fields are worn out and in desperate need of time to rejuvenate. Time is not available given the limited number of fields and the large numbers choosing to participate in sports and recreational programs offered. Field demand is high indicating the needs of the community. The Town officials should be accelerating plans to address this obvious need.

7 months ago 1 Agree

The quality of our grass fields is poor. In many cases, the fields border on being unsafe for children to participate in organized youth sports. It is disappointing that the process to address the poor quality of fields will take years to improve outcomes. Our children and the character and image of Westfield will suffer until meaningful improvements are made. Parents will be inconvenienced driving their children to training sessions out of town. Our programming fees will be used, in part, to subsidize the building and maintenance of fields in other towns. Those investments should be made in our own town.

7 months ago 1 Agree

Soccer/lacrosse fields need work and need more of them. We had to travel to Edison (town, not school) for U7 soccer practice for 1/2 the season. Wrestling needs a facility. Having practice and matches in a cafeteria is well below the standards of Westfield. It is also very dangerous at times because kids start playing near and climbing on the folded tables. Would love the Ice rink to stay.
7 months ago 1 Agree

The grass fields in Westfield are in terrible shape. Houlihan / Sid Fey are terrific. We need more turf fields like them.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Sycamore field is in terrible disrepair. Needs to be resurfaced.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Mindo is clean and seems less used and Tamaques needs work and is always in use. Seems there is a discrepancy
8 months ago 1 Agree

> Mindowaskin has had the support, as the benifactor of the Town's first public/private partnership, with The Friends of Mindowaskin Park. The Friends have donated all of the Mahogany and Iron benches, the cast iron lamp posts, restoration of the Bandstand (2x), The Bluestone & Granite Memory Walk, The Granite Overlook, one of the last three playgrounds, Dozens of specimen trees and dedicated gardens and much more. Thousands of volunteer hours and, most importantly, respect to preserve this now 101 year old passive park. Over a Million private dollars, 26 years and much more to come. info dot mindowaskinpark dot com.
> one month ago

We need a Rec center like they have in so many other town - Clark Rec is a great example of something that Westfield should invest in.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Generally, parks I visit in many other towns are maintained much better.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Tamaques Park fields see lots of use and show the wear. Many do not like turf, but hardened grass field from overuse is little better environmentally and much less useful.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Tamaques Park is so heavily used that it doesn't have time to restore itself! We need more turf fields.
8 months ago 1 Agree

The turf fields at Sid Fey and Houlihan are excellent, however, our grass playing fields are all in very poor condition
8 months ago 1 Agree

The new playground at Mindowaskin is beautiful. The walking path at Mindowaskin, surrounding the pond needs an overhaul. Rutted, holes, cracks. Difficult to push a stroller or wheelchair
8 months ago 1 Agree

> New walks were to be installed by June of 2018. We are all still waiting for that to happen. According to the Town Code and Property Committee they are working on it.
> one month ago

the playground equipment needs updating, all parks need better lighting as well
8 months ago 1 Agree

Tamaques park needs a complete overhaul. The parking needs to be addressed. it is silly that every car entering the park needs to drive around the park to exit. There needs to be a simpler way in and out. We need turf fields and lighting. Kids are practicing football in the dark. We need to build a recreation facility to house the wrestling and cheerleading programs. We also need to provide better bathrooms, football storage and meeting space.
8 months ago 1 Agree

I am pleased that after every snow storm the walking path is plowed. I am pleased that parking on the grass during flag football has been addressed. Limits on the number of flag football teams might go further to maintaining the park
8 months ago 1 Agree

Insufficient drainage to handle rain frequency. Consider moving to more turf fields in appropriate locations.
8 months ago 1 Agree

why is my response automatically switched to POOR? Some predetermined outcome seems afoot.
one month ago

1) Leave Brightwood as a nice wooded area. Would love to see it expanded.
2) The running trail in Tamaques needs to be better maintained.
one month ago

M
2 months ago

Tamaques park could use an uplift and the paths in Brightwood could be maintained a bit better.
3 months ago

Tamaques could use some upgrades. Brightwood park could use a little path maintenance.
3 months ago

The parks have varying degrees of maintenance. Many are not properly cleaned up after storms for a few weeks but over all, maintenance is adequate. Beautification programs should be launched especially in Mindowaskin as it is a center piece of the town.
3 months ago

> Mindowaskin should have a dedicated, regular maintenance plan as should all the parks. A tree plan and inventory is sorely needed for Mindowaskin Park as recommended by several arborists.
> one month ago

We are new to town, but the parks here seem very well maintained.
4 months ago

Fair to middling. Memorial Pool is nice and I'm happy to hear there will be more lounge chairs. The tennis courts were redone but unfortunately they are cracking, again. Not sure there's any way to prevent that given our winters. Some of the fencing around the courts is damaged and needs repair or replacement. I'd love to see a turf field in Tamaques, but am concerned about the idea of building a structure to house wrestling and other sports. I feel that would really take away the feeling of Tamaques as an open space and park. Is the community center on West Broad Street in use? Could it be renovated to be used for wrestling or cheer?
5 months ago

Brightwood (also known as the Noel A. Taylor Park) was created/dedicated as a premanent natural refuge, not to have 'established' trails or activities. Worried about Mindowaskin Park becoming a victim of being 'loved' to death. The property should be treated as passive. Not the place for large rallies or concerts, food truck rallies. There are no toilets, very little parking, no picnic grounds and no water available. It should, except for the rare use to help support the property and the occasional wedding ceremony or photos, be marked and treated as passive with NO large groups allowed as the park does not and has not had the attention it has needed. DPW can only do so much given there are so many other things to be attended to in our Town. There are many infrastructure issues and many trees that need to be removed asap IME
5 months ago

Just look at parks from neighbor towns. They are newer, cleaner, more facilities, more variety.
5 months ago

The fields could be kept up much nicer. My son plays soccer at Tamaques Park and the quality of the field/grass is disappointing
5 months ago

shabby for an upstat town
5 months ago

The new Mindowaskin Park is amazing! It is lacking benches though.
5 months ago

Variable
5 months ago

Proper drainage is needed because all fields are constantly wet. Tamaques bathroom needs renovating. Ice hockey rink needs a more permanent location - perhaps memorial. Elm St and Sycamore fields seem under utilized. Playground at sycamore needs attention.
5 months ago

Both Clark and Brightwood park are passive natural parks. Both could use some attention in dealing with trails and downed trees, but essentially they are the way I like them.
5 months ago

One or two porta-potty's at fields is not adequate and even Tamaques Park facilities are a little run down. The parking at all our facilities is so limited, that we have to park on the streets and often receive parking tickets. The school fields and even Sycamore are so uneven and worn out, so they are not quality field options and an embarrassment to the town.
5 months ago

Westfield needs to think out of the box. In addition to Tamaques upgrades, we should look to utilize additional space at our schools. There is a lot of real estate at Roosevelt--we could add multiple fields there with parking. We can't have everything at Tamaques--the traffic congestion will be even more of a nuisance if everything is only upgraded there. Maybe add multiple lacrosse fields at Roosevelt. The parking at Houlihan is dangerous--someone is going to get hit by a car--please improve. For the amount of kids that play sports in our town, we should be doing better. A facility to house wrestling and other winter activities would be a tremendous asset to the Community--not just for sports kids, but maybe band kids could utilize as well. Proper restrooms would be appreciated.
5 months ago

> The property adjacent to Roosevelt is a dedicated park, given to the Town of Westfield as a memorial of sons lost in WWI (I believe) by the Clark Family. It was to be kept as given, open with memorial trees. The original drawing for this park used to hang in the Town Administrators Conference room until 5ish years ago.
> one month ago

Depends The walking path at Tamaques is not in good shape so everyone walks on the walking side of the road. Some of the fields are in poor shape and need upgrades. The Houlihan/Sid Fey fields with lights are a great asset. A better playground at Tamaques could be a great asset to the community. The wooded walking/biking paths at Tamaques are very nice.
6 months ago

The majority of our park time is spent in Tamaques in the back where people walk their dogs. I have to assume that area was, at one time, a dump as there's a tremendous amount of buried garbage along the stream. Perhaps some of that can be dug up and disposed of properly. The other thing the trails could use is either mulch, more soil, or rocks to keep them from getting muddy.
6 months ago

Turf fields in poor shape, drainage on others subpar. Parking can be very restricted and/or dangerous (Sid Fey)
6 months ago

I think that we need more turf fields. I also feel that the parking situation at Sid Fay/Houlihan is dangerous. There aren't enough parking spaces and it's always over crowded. Which makes it dangerous for the kids to get to the fields.
6 months ago

The wrestling program could be one of the best in the state - so many dedicated coaches and parents. Yet, there is no where sufficient to practice and hold matches. Other towns, who pay a lot less in taxes, have found ways to have dedicated, safe, state-of-the-art space for the wrestling community. C'mon Westfield!
6 months ago

The bathrooms at Tamaques could be updated, however, I think the maintenance crew does a great job of keeping them clean. They also do a great job of keeping the grass cut and landscaping!
6 months ago

Mindowaskin upkeep is supported by own Friends Association but we need municipal govt to channel federal and state current funding to update our facilities.

6 months ago

Things need to be upgraded. We should be making better use of rooftops for revenue generating solar electricity.
6 months ago

Westfield is grossly misrepresented with the number of and overall quality of its facilities to service a top heavy community that includes thousands of children who are actively involved in sports and related activities. Residents and newcomers move to Westfield to raise a family in a safe and beautiful town that offers great schools, a wonderful downtown, a local symphony, many many restaurants, and other great amenities, however, falls woefully short when it comes to its ability to service all of its sports programs. Turf facilities are needed. Our neighboring town of Summit which is often revered for it's Master Plan has 3x the number of turf fields, publicly and privately owned, at the disposal of it's constituents and residents. This lack of proper facilities impacts all sports, as many of our children and players of all ages that play several different sports throughout the calendar year. This is less about soccer, lacrosse, baseball, etc., and ALL about Westfield's ability to service its community. We have great pride in our town, however are exposed to ridicule from neighboring towns as well as thousands of visiting families when our sports teams play "at home". By the way, these visiting families often dine in Westfield, bringing economic dollars to our downtown area. Playing "at home" is relative given that many events are held outside of Westfield at a cost to the players. This is on top of the $15 every player pays through their sports clubs for every season (Fall/Spring) that they use a town facility, even once. For example, if your child plays baseball, flag football, and soccer in the Fall, you will pay through user fees up to $45 to the Recreation Commission. These funds are restricted to maintain and improve our facilities! Have you seen the grass at Tamaques? Westfield celebrates its rich High School athletic (and academic) history, celebrating State and County Championships and needs to reflect that it all starts at the younger ages by developing young athletes through the love of sport. Looking forward to a Master Plan that includes viable and expedited solutions to this extremely important need. Thank you.
6 months ago

Memorial Park feels forgotten by the town.
Tamaques Park is wonderful; we need better playing fields and turf in our town to stay competitive, but I worry adding turf fields and lights to Tamaques will make it a sport complex and not a park--it's the only wide open space we have to explore in our town and truly special.
My family loved the Gumbert Skating rink--none of us play hockey.
It's a stretch to call Sycamore a park or recreation facility.
Houlihan and Sid Fey desperately need bathrooms--the portable toilets are disgusting and used by workmen, bus, van drivers, and other professional and random drivers while children are practicing on the field.
7 months ago

Major improvements needed on walking paths and restroom facilities (tamaques).
7 months ago

Terrible fields
7 months ago

The bathrooms in Tamaques park are disgusting, they need to be better maintains and functional. Compared to other parks, the playground at Tamaques is outdated and old.
7 months ago

The only place that would think our areas are nice are people from NJ. I've lived in Cincinnati, Denver, Atlanta, Columbus and Southern California and the condition of the parks here are sad. Invest more in our children...we build one new park and the place is overrun and likely driving neighbors crazy.
7 months ago

Adequate at best. Should be significantly better(all fields/facilities).
7 months ago

Memorial Pool and its fields have been much improved. Tamaques and Sycamore are an embarrassment. No drainage, the fields are not maintained or cared for.
7 months ago

I agree that our fields are in poor shape, that being said we have a large wrestling program and there isn't a dedicated facility for them to practice let alone have tournaments. Having practice and tournaments at cafeteria in Edison is unsafe. The coaches have to pull out mats clean them and put them away for every practice. These kids deserve a clean and safe environment. The fact that it is embarrassing is a whole other subject. The fact is that it is not safe for our kids with the

current setup.
7 months ago

In the Tamaques Park, bathrooms need an overhaul and gravel paths need more material in low lying areas.
7 months ago

I am unsure what our tax dollars are spent on, but it isn't our fields and facilities.
7 months ago

Memorial Park needs an upgrade
7 months ago

Kids already should be playing on a lighted, turf field at Tamaques, and parents already should parking in the additional lots that were proposed in 2017. Also need a new fieldhouse in Tamaques, as previously planned. Edgewood Ave. tree park should be improved with new trees and other landscaping.
7 months ago

The bathroom facilities in Tamaques park are very poor. We could also use much better drainage on our softball fields. The new basketball hoops at Tamaques School playground are very good - we should install similar ones throughout the town
7 months ago

Mindowaskin is very nice. The renovations are really great. Others are poorly maintained, paths covered by fallen branches and other debris.
7 months ago

Embarrassing. Shabby. Disgraceful
7 months ago

need more best in class turf fields (soccer, lacrosse, football, baseball, etc) as well as some high quality outdoor basketball facilities
7 months ago

Fields are in terrible shape as are the fields at the schools (I realize they are separate entity but since they are used for town-wide sports, need to be addressed as well).
7 months ago

We need turf fields and lights. Wet, unplayable, unsafe fields and early sunsets in the fall months drastically impact all of our team games and practices. We also desperately need a wrestling facility!!! The one that was proposed in the TP plan was perfect for wrestling and also other indoor sports.
7 months ago

Sid Fay is okay for soccer and Gumpert is great for baseball but the fields at Memorial are AWFUL. How do we have soccer AND softball at a location with no field house, no bathrooms and no vending station. The porta potty's are awful. It may be a good thing you can't buy a water because there are no bathrooms!! Also, how about a designated area for batting cages and pitching mounds?
7 months ago

I officiate two sports so I visit dozens of sites each season and Westfield's facilities are below average, and at times barely playable. Your task force needs to review the original plans for Tamaques Park - which included use of the now-Conservation Center land for recreation / fields , and had fields in the triangle between Lamberts Mill Rd, the road to the old pistol range and the interior road in the park. an additional ingress/egress (probably right turn only to exit) at the pistol range access road and parking accessible without driving on the oval. The oval path should probably be re-routed to make a longer loop in that area. Multiple turf fields and a quality stand / bathroom facility. The turf field should be large enough to accommodate all sports played at the HS level and marked for both boys AND girls sports. (We should consider Chatham's example of a turf field lined for girls sports only) This includes "storage area" for unused soccer goals when lax is played, etc and proper off field area for when play carries over a sideline. These fields and parking areas need to be lighted. (see Summit and Madison) All the other fields in Tamaques need to be regraded and sodded and then properly maintained. (possibly install sprinkler systems to keep turf maintained) School fields should be similarly rebuilt during the planning timeline. Fields need to be professionally and centrally managed , and grass fields rotated out of service / rotated locations to provide recovery time.
7 months ago

Our facilities rate among the poorest in the state. I have either played at myself or had my children play in more than 75 towns in NJ for a variety of indoor and outdoor sports. We need to address one item at a time in town and keep checking off the list
7 months ago

Everyone double check your response to question 4. They rigged the survey from best to worse instead of worst to best like most surveys. Clearly they are more interested in "checking the box" they polled people then getting the truth. Working in advertising for many years I can promise you the results will not be accurate because of this. Good try Westfield but I see through your tricks.
7 months ago

> Great, just great.
> one month ago

Nice try have this go from best to worse where most charts go from worse to best... don't try to put the fix in here. The facilities really suck and you probably know it. Tamaques most visited park in town is falling apart....absolute joke.....use the $14m surplus and do something about it before it's to late. Already can't keep business in town. Next families will be moving on too. And don't kid yourself about the schools being selling points here. They are falling apart too!
7 months ago

The fields at Tamaques park become unusable after it rains. Something needs to be done
7 months ago

The fields definitely need an update very badly. When it rains the fields at tamaques are unusable
7 months ago

Sycamore Field is an embarrassment to have travel soccer games at.
7 months ago

I appreciate news of pool improvements, because they were very much needed. Tamaques is a treasure that just needs more upkeep (to bathrooms and trails) Keep the woods! The Memorial softball fields are in need of LONG overdue updates. No bathrooms, no concessions, limited bleachers, etc. I know there was something in the works, but it's been YEARS with little progress. YEARS. Hoping to be pleasantly surprised this spring.
7 months ago

The beginning part of the walking path into Tamaques Park from the corner of Norwood and Tamaques Way needs to be repaved. It is riddled with pot holes
7 months ago

Grass fields can get beaten up easily in bad weather. Need more turf fields
7 months ago

We need updated turf and fields desperately.
7 months ago

The grass fields at Sycamore and the elementary schools are sub-par for soccer
7 months ago

Need dedicated Wrestling facility
7 months ago

Athletic fields are weak and we do not have enough.
7 months ago

Our fields are pitted, full of weeds, not level, and have no actual facilities associated with them (bathrooms, indoor spaces to wait in the cold, etc.)
7 months ago

Muddy, wet, lack of real grass, tons of weeds, uneven surfaces.
7 months ago

The bathrooms by the lake at Tamaques are often locked or extremely dirty. Our softball fields are horrible with no facilities like there are in other towns. There are no public bathrooms at most of the parks except for porta potties. We live in a high end community but our parks do not reflect that.
7 months ago

The sports fields in Westfield are an embarrassment; easily the worst in Union County. Other than Sid Fay/Houlihan the facilities are a disaster
7 months ago

Fields are a mess and some even dangerous to the level of play such as high school softball field.
7 months ago

muddy, littered, walkways can be uneven, unattractive landscaping
7 months ago

Just average. Was pleased with the renovations to Mindowaskin but town wide our rec facilities are in need of serious upgrade. Given the wealth in town and taxes it's surprising how dated most everything feels compared to other NJ towns. Did love the rink in town. Should be made permanent and more beautified around it.
7 months ago

> Much of the improvements to Mindowaskin are done with donated monies. The recent Playground had a $400,000 contribution from the WF Foundation due to monies left by a deceased resident, plus matching monies from the Optimist Club, the Glasser Foundation and two matching grants from Union County.
> one month ago

Fields are often too muddy to be used. Even if weather is ok games are cancelled due to condition of fields
7 months ago

Lack of lighted fields limit the availability to a large town. Poor drainage results in a long time for fields to dry. Lack of turf fields is pretty apparent when compared to neighboring towns.
7 months ago

The fields are in horrible shape and we're often moved to other locations because we can't use the fields.
7 months ago

Fields are bad especially after rain. No parking at tamaques park. No indoor facility's.
7 months ago

Tamaques bicycle path has so many pot holes!!! It hasn't been fixed in 20 years one side of the park. Same cracks there!!!
7 months ago

Memorial Fields are consistently flooded during the spring. I feel sorry for my daughter, who has to practice softball in fields in such a disastrous state while my son plays baseball in a much better kept Gumbert or Tamaques Park. I would want to keep as many fields as possible with grass and not turf due that material's tendency to retain heat. This can be dangerous for kids. Also, Tamaques Park's parking options leave a lot to be desired.
7 months ago

Memorial Park needs attention. The grounds around the playground turn into a mud pit after rainfall.
7 months ago

The cutting down of the trees surrounding the smaller playground in Tamaques has led to the equipment being extremely hot and unusable on a hot day
7 months ago

Gumbert and Sid Fey are decent. The rest of the fields are not maintained very well- some are neglected. We trail similar towns in field quality.
7 months ago

We do not have enough maintained grass field and therefore use Board of Education Fields which are not maintained at all and in some cases actually dangerous.
7 months ago

B+ condition. The bathroom facilities at Tamaques are not kept clean. Port-a-johns at Memorial Park are an unpleasant option.
7 months ago

All of the town's facilities, with the exception of Sid Fay, are tired and depressing. Even with the beautification of Mindowaskin, there is still no attractive grass areas. The non turf fields in town are not grass but 100% weeds. Tamaques is a sea of dandelions in the spring.
7 months ago

Restrooms are desperately needed at all fields and are in need of repair / upgrades in many locations where they do currently exist such as Houlihan field.
7 months ago

In comparaison to other towns our sports fields are awful.
7 months ago

Tamaques Park in general is in good shape, but the sports fields are in poor condition, as are most of the fields around town.
7 months ago

Tamaques Park in general is in good shape, but the sports fields are struggling at Tamaques Park and other fields around town.
7 months ago

We have beautiful parks but there is too much trash. Not sure how to make people more responsible about this...
7 months ago

The restroom and water fountain facilities are a disgrace in this town. We need to provide those as part of parks plan. Tamaques Park has an incredible amount of under utilized space. In addition to the poor condition of all of the fields, renovations need to happen to the picnic area, cross country path and the wooded area behind Tamaques Way.
7 months ago

Memorial Softball field grass area (outfields) are in poor shape, very muddy or have standing water and holes
7 months ago

Sid day is great but we don't have enough fields I. Town for our programs and field space is very difficult to get for tram practices.
7 months ago

Sid Fay is great tamaques park is great but soccer field is not good. Many parks in town are dangerous as many holes where kids can and do get injured
7 months ago

My son is a lacrosse player. I am shocked every single time I visit any other town for a game and prefer it to Westfield. Our fields are awful.
7 months ago

It's about time we as a community address the state of our fields. It's embarrassing.
7 months ago

The grass fields aren't maintain and we desparatly need turf field with lights! PAL football had to travel out of town to get access to a turf field for practice.
7 months ago

As a parent whose kids love sports, they get the job done. For all the phanatical nut jobs in town who require state of the art facilities, I understand their concern. Notice most comments are about 'embarrassment' vs having enough playingspace for the required demand. It's keeping up with the Jones mentality vs being focused on what's important - can we provide facilities to enable all that want to play to play.
7 months ago

We need more turf fields and I also agree with the other comments, would be great if there was a dedicated wrestling facility
7 months ago

Poor
7 months ago

We have by far the worst fields and facilities of all surronding towns. It's embarrassing to be honest.
7 months ago

Some facilities are in need of repair. Tennis courts are in poor condition. Field space is very limited and frills are in poor condition
7 months ago

Other towns are way ahead of us on facilities
7 months ago

Grass fields definitely need improvement.
7 months ago

My daughter was injured due to poor field conditions at Roosevelt. The turf in town is too limited
7 months ago

I have not been to Tamaques Park in a while, but Mindowaskin is special and love the natural setting of Brightwood Park.
7 months ago

Overall the parks are nice, but could be enhanced with better drainage, grounds and playgrounds. The Mindowaskin Park frequently has puddles on grass and walk ways after rain storms that impede normal traffic. Adding areas for bocce ball or other outdoor activities in addition to the traditional swing sets will provide activities for a larger age range. Benchmarking other parks that are considered the best should be done so we have the best in NJ.
i.e.
https://www.earlychildhoodeducationzone.com/best-playgrounds-in-america/
7 months ago

They're not in the greatest shape from fields to amenities. Some are better than others (Memorial > Tamaques, for example). I don't think artificial surfaces with chopped up tires for 'dirt' are the way to go necessarily. We need real green - trees, grass, etc - in open spaces because we're losing more & more as construction continues to tear down one & build 5 in its place.
7 months ago

A basketball hoop was knocked over several yesterday she and never replaced. The dangerous shard was finally removed, but no hop to replace it.
8 months ago

Fields are bad, new Mindowaskin playground is awesome. Brightwood is a hidden gem that could be amazing with some attention and vision.
8 months ago

> Please leave Brightwood alone as it was intended.
> one month ago

If anyone possible adding bathroom facilities to Mindowaskin would be fantastic- it was often a problem when my daughter was a toddler.
8 months ago

Could definitely use updating or addition of public restrooms in parks
8 months ago

We need more staff to maintain.
8 months ago

Maintenance is not Westfield's strong suit. In some towns volunteers help maintain fields, but here we really only have the DPW which is understaffed and underfunded to do the job well.
8 months ago

Our sporting facilities, other than Gumbert, look second rate and as if all our tax dollars go to renovate and provide facilities in lower income Union County towns.
8 months ago

8 months ago

Tamaques and Memorial Park grass is almost always a mess due to overuse and associated lack of time for maintenance. Bathrooms at Tamaques are disgusting, and parking is grossly undersized. Houlihan/Sid Fey turf is nice but has limited space for spectators and parking.
8 months ago

EMBARASSING!!!!
8 months ago

Grass fields are not maintained, making them unplayable.
8 months ago

At Tamaques Park, the water fountains don't work. The bathroom by the tennis courts doesn't have soap and is poorly maintained. The other bathroom closer to the picnic area seems to be always locked.
8 months ago

Grass fields are poorly maintained and overused and dangerous for our children to play on due to ruts.
Insufficient fields require practices to be too late in the evening (to 9:30 on a school night) and our kids to practice in cramped conditions - jamming too many teams on a small space.
8 months ago

Please take a look at Jefferson School field. It is used for WSA fun of soccer as well as their U9 program. It is a mess and to put it blunt completely unfair to those who use it and for the students who go to Jefferson.
8 months ago

We pay too much in taxes for the quality we have. Last group was voted out, we will see if this one improves, I know people crossed party lines, probably will happen again if taxes go up and services remain subpar.
Aging, even Memorial Pool was poorly designed at the time, it's essentially an oversized wading pool due to the size and lack of areas for various levels of swimming.
Depends on the weather for the fields, nearly all field usage is cancelled with a drop of water
Only new Mindowaskin Park is in good shape for childrens playground (plus the park pond was cleaned up).
8 months ago

Few bathrooms - or no bathrooms- or filthy bathrooms
Pot holes in the grass fields ..dangerous
8 months ago

Sid Fey and Houlihan are in OK shape but the other fields are a mess...mostly because of over-use.
8 months ago

> Agreed fields are nice, but how could they be built without a proper bathroom facility and bleachers? Also we need a 3 way stop sign / light at Rahway and Lamberts Mill to make turns safer and ease traffic congestion.
> 7 months ago

we need more quality fields
8 months ago

fields at Tamaques in bad shape.
8 months ago

Physical conditions of the grass fields are poor. Turf fields at Sid Fay/Houlihan is adequate. However, parking is an issue. Turf field at Kehler definitely needs replacement.
8 months ago

I saved my response too early! My "poor" rating is speaking only about the condition of the fields...which are poor. Houlihan/Sid Fey is a nice field, but could use enhancements (eg restrooms). Other aspects of the facilities range from very good to mediocre, depending on which park we are talking about.
8 months ago

Some are adequately maintained... many are in need of significant upgrade/renovation... and we

simply need more facilities to serve the current population and demand.
8 months ago

Our facilities seem average, but we're dealing with limited space and limited funding and= resources to maintain thm
8 months ago

Restroom facilities need to be improved and added as needed.
8 months ago

Need better bathrooms at Tamaques Park. Need bathroom facilities at Memorial Park for girls= softball.
8 months ago

I'm a goalkeeper in soccer, and the condition of Houlihan is simply atrocious. I come home from= training with scrapes on my elbows and legs due to the rough rubber things all over the field. Get= rid of those and put better rubber stuff like Kehler (which by no means is a good field either)
8 months ago

Some parks and fields are in better conditions than others. Tamaques in general is kept in very= good condition. School fields need more upkeep. Houlihan/Sid Fey is a great complex but it could= use nicer bleachers, more parking, and an entrance to the field further away from the parking lot.
8 months ago

Tamaques' trees, paths, fencing, and bathrooms need maintenance. So many trees were cut down= when that new house was approved at the end of Dickinson. Those 200-year-old Oaks can never= be "replaced" but it's been more than 1.5 years and no new tree plantings have taken place. The= parking situation needs addressing too -- but not at the expense of cutting down more trees.

"They paved paradise and put up a parking lot..."
8 months ago

Sid Fay/Houlihan fields recently turfed, need to maintain better, Tamaques park and school grass= soccer fields are a mess, school soccer teams play on embarrassing conditions with unplayable= bounces, Gumbert Park needs improved basketball courts and for the ice rink to be housed= elsewhere.
8 months ago

I think the facilities need to be updated. I grew up in Westfield and Tamaques Park hasn't changed= too much.
8 months ago

Brightwood is choked with poison ivy, by adding activities in the forested areas of the park (like a= disc golf course) it would encourage better maintenance and use of the grounds.
8 months ago

Mindowaskin looks great!
8 months ago

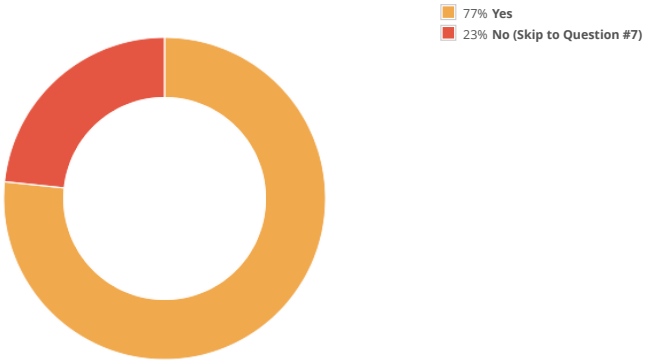
Grass fields are very poorly maintained.

Playground equipment and child play areas are nice and well maintained.
8 months ago

I tried to rate the physical condition as poor but it did not work so this response is not accurate.
8 months ago

depends - memorial is clean - so great - i love tamaques - too much goose poop in mindowskin - but that is because geese no longer migrate.
8 months ago

5. Have you (or those who live with you) participated in recreation programs offered by the Town of Westfield in the past year?



1,294 respondents

Click here to edit this text block

6. How would you rate the quality of these programs?

7. Please check ALL the upgrades you would like to see to existing parks in Westfield. (Select all that apply)

61%	Artificial turf fields	769 ✔
58%	New/improved restrooms	728 ✔
52%	Sports fields lighting	656 ✔
50%	Drinking fountains/bottle filling stations	632 ✔
44%	Improved parking	547 ✔
38%	Walking/hiking trails	471 ✔
32%	Trees and landscaping	406 ✔
29%	Bike trails	367 ✔
27%	Security cameras and lighting	338 ✔
26%	Shade structures	330 ✔
23%	Playground equipment	286 ✔
22%	Outdoor basketball courts	277 ✔
21%	Batting cages	268 ✔
18%	Sidewalks	231 ✔
18%	Trail lighting	230 ✔
15%	Wi-Fi	193 ✔
12%	Picnic shelters	150 ✔
11%	Handicap accessibility	143 ✔
7%	Sand volleyball courts	83 ✔
6%	Outdoor netted area	78 ✔
5%	Other. Please comment below	62 ✔

7. Please check ALL the upgrades you would like to see to existing parks in Westfield. (Select all that apply)

new wresting facility to support the wrestling program at all ages K-12
8 months ago 17 Agree

Love the idea of the wrestling facility for the health and safety of those athletes.
8 months ago 13 Agree

Town of westfield needs a building dedicated to wrestling
8 months ago 12 Agree

Wrestling facilities needed. Embarrassing having our wrestlers wrestle around tables in a cafeteria.
7 months ago 6 Agree

Turf Memorial Complex - parking already in place and low utilization by non-sports groups outside of Summer months.
8 months ago 6 Agree

New wrestling facility to support the PAL, middle school and high school programs.
8 months ago 5 Agree

The lack of turf fields in Westfield is a major issue given the poor quality of grass fields. My daughter was injured due to poor field conditions at Roosevelt. We are in desperate need of more turf. Other less affluent towns have far better fields. Ours are often an embarrassment
7 months ago 4 Agree

A Disc golf course in the under utilized wooded areas of tamaques or brightwood, community garden/green house, upgraded softball fields so the girls facilities are as nice as the boys
8 months ago 4 Agree

> Brightwood is not appropriate for disc golf, a dangerous sport if hit with one of those extremely heavy discs; which is quite likely with everyone in the forest and all the trees/foliage. There aren't even grass areas that could accommodate such an outlandish request! Have you been there ever? Are you suggesting clear cutting? Sorry it's permanently protected from any development by law.
> 7 months ago 1 Agree
>
> > I have been there, many times over my last 30 years of living in Westfield and know the park quite well. Disc golf is usually played in wooded areas, there is no need to do any cutting at all. Maybe you are thinking of ultimate frisbee which is played on open fields?
> >
> > Proper course design takes into account pedestrian traffic from walking trails etc. and makes sure that there is no overlap between the two activities.
> > 7 months ago
>
> Thank you for raising this equity issue!
> 8 months ago

While we need more turf fields, I don't want to see the Tamaques park turned into a turf field recreation area. I would like another solution.
8 months ago 3 Agree

New wrestling facility would be nice
8 months ago 3 Agree

Hockey rink seems unnecessary. Not enough interest and use to justify the cost and disruption
8 months ago 3 Agree

Dedicated wrestling facility especially since girls wrestling is increasing in popularity.
8 months ago 3 Agree

New wrestling facility to support the wrestling program in our town, grades K - 12
8 months ago 3 Agree

My 14 year old son would like to see a skate park in Westfield. I think we need more athletic fields

and need to get creative in accomplishing since we have so little open space. One idea is to put a bubble over Sid Fey/Houlihan during the winter. Another is to add turf and lighting to Memorial Field. I'd hate to see Tamaques Park turned into a recreation facility with multiple turf fields and lights -- it would ruin this beautiful park. another possibility is to look closely at the Conservation Center and whether some of this space could be used for fields.

8 months ago 3 Agree

Add sidewalks to both sides of chestnut at Gumbert and along 4th Avenue

8 months ago 3 Agree

Please add benches and picnic tables at Mindowaskin Park.

6 months ago 2 Agree

Ice hockey's explosive growth is evident in the participation statistics from The Westfield Rink and USA Hockey, the governing body of amateur hockey in the U.S. Westfield high school had FIVE (5) ice hockey teams this past season, including 3 boys and 2 girls. Additionally, Westfield had THREE (3) Middle School teams that exceeded capacity (meaning we had to turn kids away). I have been personally involved in managing the Westfield Hockey Club for ten years and coached many of these players. The Westfield ice hockey program is deeper than any program in NJ. You will not find a non-co-op community with as many organizaed ice hockey players as Westfield. The vision 10 years ago was to grow the coolest game at the youth level and deliver a solid pipeline to the high school. With a pipeline of talented players, Westfield high school is now part of the conversation when knowledgeable hockey folks discuss top programs in NJ. We're now reaping the benefits of a 10+ years of commitment. And the WHS Boys varsity team game within 1 goal of advancing to the State championship game this past season before losing to an eventual state champion, Ridge. A big part of that team's success has been attributed to more ice/practice time thanks to The Westfield Rink.

Westfield has a long storied history of supporting and producing championship programs. The in-town ice rink demonstrates Westfield's support of ice sports, including hockey, skating, and curling for all ages.

6 months ago 2 Agree

I would like to see a permanent ice rink.

6 months ago 2 Agree

Hockey Rink

7 months ago 2 Agree

We desperately need a wrestling facility. There is nowhere for them to go. The cafeteria is definitely not a suitable place for practiace or meets. The gyms are AWLAYS taken. It's embarassing.

7 months ago 2 Agree

Improved fields should be the priority. Infrastructure, such as maintained bathrooms and parking, should go along with that.

7 months ago 2 Agree

We need turf fields for our kids to play.

7 months ago 2 Agree

Please consider putting artificial turf on the memorial fields behind the tennis courts. There is adequate parking and would be better suited for turf fields than Tamaques Park.

7 months ago 2 Agree

We need a recreation space with dedicated mat space.

7 months ago 2 Agree

There is a demand for turf fields and as the father of an avid athlete I feel the pain every time I drive his team to Union late at night for practice. However, when making decisions you must consider parking, buffers with neighbors, and traffic impacts. Many demand lighting and turf on specific fields. However, some of these fields lack parking, adequate buffering for neighbors, and traffic access. The town MUST make a total package analysis rather than a popular vote on what fields to target. That is what building codes are for.

8 months ago 2 Agree

Being outside and close

To nature can only happen if we get people outside and in the parks ! Spaces where you can do yoga, have an outdoor concert or show , watch the stars, have nature programs all very welcome- it's not just about sports for kids
8 months ago 2 Agree

We should find a permanent place for The Westfield Rink.
8 months ago 2 Agree

Perhaps giving the police a different activities as to not give parking tickets out while a large number of our residents are at our parks
8 months ago 2 Agree

The fencing at Tamaques near the picnic area and the stream needs repair.
Trees have been cut down at Tamaques, but none replaced.
The bathrooms at Tamaques are gross.
Lighting and parking at Tamaques needs improvement.
8 months ago 2 Agree

While I love the new renovations made to the Mindowaskin Park playground, I am very concerned that there is a lack of fence around its perimeter. The line of sight can be very limited, especially when the park is crowded, and I am worried that children can run into oncoming traffic. Also, I am concerned that they may fall into the creek. I think that a fence is very much needed in this playground. The park can get very crowded, and as a mother of two young children who love to run, I fear for their safety. I have spoken to many moms about this issue, and they have also expressed their concerns about a lack of fence. I hope this issue is taken seriously. Also, it would be great if there was a garbage can nearby.
6 months ago 1 Agree

Outdoor track around gumbert basketball courts! This would be much more far reaching than a hockey rink. The track at Kehler is off limits for most of the day with sports team practices. This town loves running - The track and cross teams have hundreds of kids. This could help with the underutilization of Gumbert without such a negative impact to the neighborhood.
6 months ago 1 Agree

A very big NO to turf fields and field lights. Priority should be instead placed on ensuring our schools have adequate classroom facilities. When I hear that students have to stand in some classes at the HS and are eating lunch at wacky hours like 10:30 am, something is wrong. Many of the schools are overcrowded, as enrollment has increased markedly over the years because of young families moving here from cities for the good schools. But we have not invested in expanding facilities to handle this additional capacity and it shows. I am a big believer in public schools but sadly moved my child out of the system to private school because of how they have deteriorated. I know I'm not alone in noticing and being concerned about the decay. If we don't do something about it, the schools will cease to be a draw and the rest of the town will deteriorate. Home values, downtown vibrancy. Everything. Before we spend money on athletic programs in which a minority of students participate, let's make sure the class facilities that everyone uses are up to standards.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Better maintained softball fields by our Town.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Ice rink is a great idea but a bad location. Wouldn't Memorial Pool be better? Rink could occupy half of the parking lot, plenty of parking for buses, cars and the infrastructure already exists.
7 months ago 1 Agree

We need a dedicated wrestling space. Other towns, no where near as affluent as Westfield, have such better spaces. It is sad for our kids and our community. Please consider fixing this problem. It would be a huge win for the town!
7 months ago 1 Agree

Wrestling facility to help the program would be great!
7 months ago 1 Agree

For what we pay in taxes we should she all these amenities. Ridiculous you're even asking us to select them...
7 months ago 1 Agree

New wrestling facility to support the wrestling programs for all grades K-12
7 months ago 1 Agree

Wrestling facility.
7 months ago 1 Agree

The new playground at Mindowaskin in beautiful! Thank you! Would love to see more parks upgraded like that.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Wrestling facility and lighted turf fields. Embarrassing compared to other nearby towns!
7 months ago 1 Agree

There are existing fields such as Jefferson that flood too easily. Would benefit from either elevation or drainage.
7 months ago 1 Agree

More garbage cans and supervision of trash/recycling
7 months ago 1 Agree

New wrestling facilities please! The town program is great but the facilities are embarrassing and sub-par.
7 months ago 1 Agree

A new wrestling facility must be considered for the health and safety of participants.
7 months ago 1 Agree

I agree that we need more turf fields, however not every outdoor sport should be played on turf - baseball, softball. Would like there to be a balance between the 2. The grass fields are in need of some refreshing.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Some of these comments are not realistic/of benefit to the town as it relates to sport-specific needs (like wrestling). Also, we don't own the armory, so that's not an option unless we want to all pitch in tax dollars to purchase it back. I'd rather consider not having as much retail space and make downtown more activity-centric. Skate park, ice rink, other things outside that draw traffic.
7 months ago 1 Agree

> By reading the multitude of comments regarding a wrestling facility as a need I must politely disagree. As mentioned in my previous comment many neighboring towns already have dedicated facilities and we are falling behind. We have a recreation and middle school program with nearly 100 wrestlers and growing. Our high school team just won our district and made the sectional finals including multiple state qualifiers. This isn't a "nice to have" but a necessity if we are to continue to compete at a high level. Right now we are folding up tables and rolling out mats in a cafeteria just to host PAL matches so I don't know how this isn't an a priority.
> 7 months ago 2 Agree

WE NEED MORE LIGHTED TURF FIELDS!!! I would love it if WF kids could all play on beautiful, lush green grass. Unfortunately we just don't have enough field space to accommodate all the town sports, so grass gets overused and under maintained, resulting in poor and often dangerous conditions. And grass field availability is often reduced by always abundant spring season rain. More turf is really the only answer, since it's easy to maintain and can handle wear and tear even in wet conditions. And we need to add lights so availability is not reduced by fall season early sunsets. I understand there are always a handful of homeowners who think lighted fields will destroy their property values, but lighting fields until 8 or 9pm during the short days of fall and winter is not really much different than the sunshine the keeps these same fields operating til 8 or 9 during spring and summer. Lighted turf would work well at Tamaques, Memorial and even Elm St. And I would LOVE to see Friday Night Lights football games at Kehler!
8 months ago 1 Agree

We need more lighted turf fields. it is ridiculous that our facilities are so poor. We are one of the biggest towns with the worst facilities around. Embarrassing.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Get rid of the armory!!! Put a couple of lit turf fields there with a field house and parking!!!
8 months ago 1 Agree

Need improved drainage and grading. I'm on the fence with turf fields, nothing like the real thing and better for the environment. Don't need wifi, people can pay for their own, price keeps

dropping.
8 months ago 1 Agree

The lack of turf fields and the terrible state of the grass fields is embarrassing and we always have to play away....where less affluent towns have FAR better facilities.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Lighted turf fields are needed, as is a dedicated wrestling facility for the town.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Not in favor of adding turf fields to existing multi-use parks (like Tamaques) - I think to benefit the entire community we need to retain so "natural" areas. Consider adding turf to school fields (Edison, Roosevelt, WHS)? I personally don't think the wooded areas of Tamaques or Brightwood are underutilized.....they are utilized by folks who enjoy walking in a natural environment
8 months ago 1 Agree

Turf fields are desperately needed in town and not just for use by one program but for all programs. And not just one field, but multiple fields in multiple locations.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Town needs turf and lighting to replace existing sports fields at tamaques. The woods at tamaques should be left alone.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Need better soccer fields
8 months ago 1 Agree

Would like to see a permanent hockey rink and new wrestling facility
8 months ago 1 Agree

new turf fields with lights need to be added to Tamques' underutilized wooded area with an additional parking and an new entrance/exit further down Lamberts Mill Rd across from recycling center (i.e. non-residential area).
8 months ago 1 Agree

I agree that some fiends need to be turf, but not every sport is played on turf and would like to retain some of the grass fields.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Tennis courts improved Tamaques Park, can we do anything about the field on Elm - the soccer field and tennis courts are unplayable.
8 months ago 1 Agree

The parking situation at Tamaques was pretty bad last Fall. If your child's game is the 2nd or third on a Saturday morning, good luck finding parking! Out of desperation, parents are parking along the road, and then being ticketed. It's not been planned or properly thought through.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Proper concession options for the inter town games / activities.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Better maintained grass fields or turf fields!!!
8 months ago 1 Agree

turf field - not needed everywhere- there is a time and place for that - sid fey is perfect for that - and if another location is needed - find it - but do not cover up grass. I know summit has it - but this is not a competition
8 months ago 1 Agree

sidewalks around Mindowaskin are shamefully run down and ugly. Seating is placed inconvientley and sparseley. Better group seating is needed. This park is should be a showcase and hub for the Town. What do the Friends do with ALL of the money the collect from the public? Let's get a different Association to work with the Town to improve Mindowaskin Park. Get the police vehicles OFF Mindowaskin's ring road. Add permeable grass pavers for police parking on the lawn of the Town Hall.

More parking is needed at Tamaques.

Remove the self serving, pay-for-play advertisements at Gumpert Field.
one month ago

The bathrooms at Tamaques need to be upgraded. Perhaps the structure can be renovated to include a concession stand. It would also be nice to redo the shuffle board courts. The basketball court at Tamaques should also be resurfaced. Sid Fey should also have permanent bathrooms installed.
one month ago

Please consider alternative access to the parks as well as in the parks themselves. It should be safe to bike & walk to all our parks. Many parks have no access by a sidewalk and there are NO bike paths to any park or to the pool. This is really backwards.
one month ago

Short of knocking down blocks of homes or churches or private pool clubs there simply is no more land in Westfield. Westfield has several parks that each serve different needs. Tamaques Recreation Park is just that. There used to be a second exit out to Lamberts Mill Road, near the Conservation Center. Perhaps the CC could be an answer for a place for a recreation facility with parking and the CC could be partnered with Fanwood, just over the Town line on North Avenue. Mindowaskin has at least 27 trees that need to come down for safety and there is a major erosion issue on the Mountain Avenue Hillside and behind the pour and play under the new playground. I have a recommendation for a tree plan from noted arborist Paul Cowie, previously give to the TOW more than once. Please fell free to contact me for a copy.
one month ago

Year round pool facility (with long course pool).
3 months ago

Basketball hoop at The Park.
5 months ago

All these new and up coming sports require a multi purpose indoor facility to accommodate the different and particular users. On the general point of view, Update the parks as it is, make some more walk/stroller friendly trails so anybody at any age can use.
5 months ago

More garbage cans
5 months ago

Yes to turf fields and improved bathrooms!!
5 months ago

The baseball and softball fields in Tamaques are among the worst you will find anywhere, and I've seen almost everywhere. The outfields are dangerous on account of the crabgrass and uneven terrain. Would love to see attention here, especially given the shortage of baseball facilities in a baseball town.
5 months ago

I would love to see some workout stations --such as chin up bars and a dip station- in Tamaques park.
5 months ago

Benches for Mindowaskin's new playground
5 months ago

Clearing of debris from parks promptly after storm
5 months ago

We are desperate for turf fields and lighting them is the only option to maximize their use!
5 months ago

Not sure about bike trails. I don't think the major roads are wide enough to provide safe bike lanes. They are not needed on local roads. Better fields with lights (especially at the high school) but preservation of the natural areas.
6 months ago

A multi-purpose facility that can house an ice rink in the winter.
6 months ago

See my comments shared above re the new playground at Mindowaskin - needs seating and most importantly, a fence around it.
6 months ago

Natural grass fields until the town can ensure sufficient studies have been conducted regarding the effects of artificial turf on children's health.
6 months ago

Would love to see those fitness stations you see in other parks be added to Tamaques Park!
6 months ago

Community gardens, better use of solar and sustainable vegetation.
6 months ago

Synthetic turf fields are needed.
Restrooms are needed.
The ability to host tournaments.
AED availability
6 months ago

Fewer signs.
6 months ago

We need turf. We need lights. We need field house, bathrooms, storage shared by sports clubs.
6 months ago

A skate park would be a nice addition
6 months ago

Need to have Echo lake dog park fixed up. It's become a giant mud pit and could use the refresh
7 months ago

Skateboarding and Bike park
7 months ago

It would be nice to have a skate park in town.
7 months ago

would like outdoor fitness equipment that has various stations around Tamaques park.
7 months ago

I don't feel that the high intensity lighting and turf fields are not a necessity
7 months ago

We desperately need a wrestling facility! Practinging and having other towns come to a cafeteria is unsafe and unsanitary.
7 months ago

We NEED additional turf fields. In comparison to surrounding towns, our fields are a disgrace. We promote Westfield as a town to raise a family, yet we do not support the growth of our children from an atheltic/recreational stand point. We do not have a proper recreation facility, we do not have a wrestling facility (our boys are forced to wrestle in cafeterias!!!, which is both a nuisance and unsanitary), we do not have enough turf fields to support a town half our size.
7 months ago

Cheer practice space with bounce flooring to prevent injuries.
7 months ago

Accessible AEDs.
7 months ago

I am the parent of a special needs child who has benefitted from a variety of school and town services. That is just one reason I will strongly support expenditures for any needed athletic facilities or improvements to existing facilities that will serve the needs of all Westfield students.
7 months ago

I do not want trail lighting. We have enough light pollution in the area as it stands! Less is more. Give the taxpayers a break!
7 months ago

Memorial is by far the most neglected and least equipped field. I was so happy when my daughter aged up and played soccer at the Garwood location. Unfortunately, softball is always there - no bathrooms and no water.
7 months ago

Memorial needs to have bleachers on each side of every field. So embarrassing when visiting teams come and there is no where to sit....those of us from Westfield know we have subpar fields with 50% seating, but visiting teams do not!
7 months ago

The towns with dedicated wrestling facilities have great programs that eventually get the whole community excited and involved
7 months ago

The beginning section of the asphalt walking path into Tamaques Park from the intersection of Norwood and Tamaques Way needs to be repaved. It is riddled with pot holes. I run along it 5 days a week, and always need to be careful of not twisting my ankle.
7 months ago

Lighted turf fields!
7 months ago

Turf fields are dangerous and NOT environmentally sound. Spend the money taking care of existing green space. https://www.safehealthyplayingfields.org/injuries-and-player-preference
7 months ago

The idea of taking park land for a wrestling facility makes NO sense. What percentage of population would that serve? How i that a good use of taxpayer's money? How is reducing park space for another poorly used build a good use of space? If build there would need to be more parking. Again how is that good use of space and how does that support the environment?
7 months ago

Artificial Turf is dangerous, expensive and not environmentally sound. When proposed for the High School, the loan period was LONGER than the life of the field. How is that a good use of money?
7 months ago

Please please create a dog park in the back area part of tamaques park! It's like a wild dog sanctuary back there, really hard to run and not safe for our kids.
7 months ago

Preserve nature aspect of parks.
7 months ago

Please add more soccer fields! We don't have enough!
7 months ago

More fields needed!!!!!!!
7 months ago

It would be great if Westfield would install designated bike lanes connecting the various residential areas with the parks, down town and train station. It currently isn't safe for kids to travel anywhere on their bicycles.
7 months ago

How does Westfield NOT have a lighted baseball field at any park in town?
7 months ago

We need a rec center
7 months ago

More turf and fields to support the most popular sports like LAX, soccer, etc.
7 months ago

Bathrooms! We need more of them, everywhere. The WHS boy's varsity lacrosse team is using Sid Fey this spring as their home field, and there needs to be permanent, clean facilities for all visitors to use.
7 months ago

Also actual landscaping maintenance for the fields that make them look decent
7 months ago

I oppose additional turf fields on environmental grounds
7 months ago

Fields fro lacrosse, soccer and football specifically
7 months ago

The athletic facilities in Westfield are an EMBARRASSMENT.
7 months ago

Lacrosse fields! It's a joke that we have to play home games away.
7 months ago

Desperately need turf fields in this town -particularly for youth sports like baseball and soccer. I volunteer as a coach in both sports and fields these kids play on are a mess. The grass on our baseball field last spring was up to my shins. After a few days of heavy rain this past fall the soccer fields were a mess and unplayable. The town needs to invest in turf fields to provide our kids with a safe space on which they can properly learn the game and can play on without fear of injury.
7 months ago

We seriously need more fields for lacrosse and soccer teams! Woefully lacking compared to other towns! Competitive soccer teams sometimes drive 90 minutes to play at Roosevelt field and we can't offer a restroom? We pride ourselves on a strong lacrosse program but there aren't enough spots to practice or play.
7 months ago

We need new and improved soccer facilities, both outdoors and indoors!
7 months ago

Add turf and lights to Memorial complex. Preserve the natural setting of Tamaques Park.
7 months ago

We need more turf field for town sports
7 months ago

For safety and accessibility, lighting, parking, cameras, and water are important elements to all recreational activities. Everything should be inclusive and handicap accessibility should be a priority.
7 months ago

Would be great to have more turf field, another full track, another turf field with field goal posts, and a dedicated place for kids to wrestle
7 months ago

We need more firlds

7 months ago

Additional lacrosse fields are needed
7 months ago

Community garden would be a nice idea. There is a bit of underutilized space at Brightwood that could work.
7 months ago

We need turf fields!!!
7 months ago

Turf fields and surrounding facility are a must to preserve our competitive lands act. We are loosing ground to other towns!
7 months ago

Lighting would allow our teams to play just as many home games as away games. Turf creates a safe playing field with minimal maintenance.
7 months ago

More dedicated fields for sports program are needed. Currently in the spring you have travel soccer, town soccer, lacrosse and track programs vying for space. Another track and two more turf fields would alleviate the pressure and scheduling issues while serving the largest contingent of users of the parks.
8 months ago

Seriously, no artificial turf fielfs
8 months ago

Skate board area
8 months ago

Would prefer playground areas to be fenced in when possible. Makes it easier to enjoy playgrounds when with younger children.
8 months ago

I am not in favor of more artifical turf fields
8 months ago

Ideally, I would like to see the road in Tamaques Park be closed to traffic, with the parking lots opened from the surrounding streets.
8 months ago

It is so nice to be asked, Thank you!
8 months ago

Paddle tennis courts
8 months ago

Improvement of all field conditions from grass to the type of turf used, includes all school fields that are dangerous and an embarrasment
8 months ago

Fence at sycamore field
8 months ago

Another multi-use indoor facility would be useful. It's great that we have the Armory for indoor soccer in the winter, but there seems to be a lot of competition for availability of indoor space.
8 months ago

More lighted turf fields!
8 months ago

Long overdue for a well designed and built concrete skatepark.
8 months ago

Snack bars
Dog park
8 months ago

Please consider installing a dog accessible water fountain - I've seen them elsewhere - great idea
Also doggy poop bags at tamaques and mindowaskin parks
8 months ago

Facility to support ice skating and other in-door activities
8 months ago

Please don't add lighting to our parks
8 months ago

I am not in favor of adding turf fields to our multi-use parks. I am significantly concerned that this= would impact the overall "natural" feel of the parks, and also concerned about parking. There are= a couple of parks that are really just fields already, and maybe those would be acceptable= candidates for a turf field. The fields associated with schools (Roosevelt, Edison) may also be= candidates.
8 months ago

These would all be great but then you start thinking how is this going to be paid and you realize - oh yes, by tax increases, of course and we already pay pretty high taxes. ugh
8 months ago

skate/bike park; More Live Music events & spaces; beer garden please haha
8 months ago

We need more lighting
8 months ago

Field house that can provide programming for spring sports programs and provide a revenue= stream
Sharing rink which provided more winter activity space.
8 months ago

Mindowaskin is fabulous with the new playground equipment...but it needs better lighting= because it is a dark place for people to lurk at night and will be defaced just like the old= playground if not lit better. improving all the public play spaces with better lighting and better= play structures is ideal.
8 months ago

NOT Wi-Fi. But would love to see some of the drainage problems remedied - areas around= Mindawaskin and Brightwood get flooded and/or very muddy. However, it looks like there have= been some measures to prevent that in the new playground, which is great.
8 months ago

We need an indoor recreation facility at tamaques
8 months ago

I was also hoping we could have a community garden. Also, I would like us to consider planting= fruit and nut trees. We plant non productive tress while there are people in need of food.= Community gardens and maximizing fruit/nut trees could either be an income stream or a= community service where we help to supply food banks. In either case we are not just= squandering our valuable space but using it to benefit food production.
8 months ago

we should not have to wait til mid may for the batting cages and backstops to be fixed at= tamaques..
8 months ago

8. Which facilities would you (or those who live with you) most like to see developed or expanded? (Please select up to **FOUR** options)

53%	Soccer, football and lacrosse fields	668 ✔
24%	Walking and hiking trails	307 ✔
19%	Baseball and softball diamonds	238 ✔
18%	Ice rink	229 ✔
15%	Natural areas/nature parks	184 ✔
13%	Indoor gymnasium space/game courts	164 ✔
13%	Paved bike trails	158 ✔
12%	Playgrounds	147 ✔
12%	Upgrade Memorial Pool	146 ✔
11%	Off-leash dog parks	145 ✔
10%	Small neighborhood parks	125 ✔
10%	Wrestling room	122 ✔
9%	Outdoor basketball courts	119 ✔
9%	Community/recreation centers	117 ✔
9%	Outdoor stage or ampitheater	109 ✔
8%	Community gardens	105 ✔
8%	Large community parks	101 ✔
8%	Mountain bike trails	100 ✔
8%	Tennis courts	97 ✔
8%	Spraygrounds/splash pads	96 ✔
6%	Indoor swimming pools	75 ✔
5%	Pickleball	65 ✔

5%	Picnic shelters/picnic areas	64 ✔
5%	Skateboarding area	64 ✔
4%	Golf courses	53 ✔
3%	Bocce	43 ✔
3%	Disc golf courses	40 ✔
3%	Sand volleyball	38 ✔
3%	Senior center	33 ✔
2%	Pump track/BMX course	27 ✔
1%	Other. Please comment below	17 ✔

8. Which facilities would you (or those who live with you) most like to see developed or expanded? (Please select up to **FOUR** options)

Our wrestling program is strong and continuing to grow every year. The fact that our youth have meets in cafeterias at middle schools is crazy. The HS wrestling room is too small and we need a facility for wrestling that eliminates bacteria that too easily finds its way onto our mats when the wrestling room is used by others. A new facility would provide a much cleaner and safer environment. To me this is not a nice to have. it is a need to have.

8 months ago 25 Agree

The PAL wrestling program is in dire need of better facilities. The kids are currently wrestling on mats in the middle school cafeteria. When we host away teams, we can only accommodate them in the cafeteria. It's embarrassing to see how much nicer other towns facilities are.

8 months ago 25 Agree

We are in desperate need for a clean facility for the PAL wrestling program. Kids are practicing and hosting matches in cafeterias. The PAL, middle school and high school programs are rolling out and rolling back up wrestling mats before and after practice. The new ice hockey rink is wonderful and should be incorporated into the master plan as a permanent rink. It is a great opportunity for families and children to learn to skate, and offers closer skating options for the current rec and high school hockey programs.

8 months ago 23 Agree

A dedicated space for our wrestling program is much needed. The youth and middle school wrestlers very often have matches in the Edison cafeteria. Not only is it embarrassing to host a match in the cafeteria, but it is a very small space since all of the lunch tables are still there. Many times parents or the ref will need to jump in front of the wrestlers to make sure they don't wrestle off the mat into one of the tables or cement post in the middle of the cafeteria.
In addition, there are skin infection issues that can be reduced by having a dedicated space just for wrestling. When non-wrestlers use the HS wrestling gym and are in "street shoes", it invites dirt and bacteria into the mats. A dedicated space would provide more natural lighting and better localized temperature control.
Our PAL wrestling program has grown significantly in recent years and has had much success. A dedicated wrestling facility will help with the program's growth and success.

8 months ago 16 Agree

It's time to invest in the Wrestling program in this town. The program and its success has grown over the years. The conditions in which these kids practice/compete is disgusting. Parents are rolling mats and transporting mats to and from different facilities. Matches and practices are hosted in the MS cafeteria- need I say more. Germs and bacteria are already an issue in this sport and hosting such events in school cafaterias is harmful and an embarrassment. There is little room for parents to sit and watch during matches. Cafeteria tables are folded up along the walls and is a safety issue. This project has been put off long enough. It's time to address it!

8 months ago 14 Agree

Wrestling a sport that requires extreme care to its facility. This is something that Westfield wrestling lacks. The teams at the youth level, middle school, and even high school are plagued with bacterial diseases every single season. It is embarrassing that kids have to sit out of an activity that they love to a problem that is easily avoidable. If the wrestling teams got upgraded/new facilities it would bring our programs to even higher levels due to the fact that we would not have kids sidelined day in and day out to skin diseases.
8 months ago 13 Agree

We need a dedicated wrestling facility for our program. We have made the high school sectional finals two years in a row. With further investment and development our wrestling program can be an elite program each and every year. The wrestling program needs dedicated facilities.
8 months ago 13 Agree

Wrestling facility would be crucial to building our program. The sport is big in town and our kids are competing at a high level. We could improve with better access to dedicated wrestling facilities.

Our youth lax fields need some help, too!
Mountain bike trails would be spectacular.
Would love to take the dogs off leash!
8 months ago 11 Agree

The Westfield wrestling program has seen tremendous growth and success over the last 10 years. From the PAL Rec program through the grade school travel teams up through the 2 X Sectional Final HS Team. For the safety of our children (skin diseases, hazards of wrestling in a cafeteria etc...) we need a wrestling facility. A facility will not only support a program that is growing successfully but will show the athletes we care about their safety and commitment to their sport. It will be used all year long.
8 months ago 9 Agree

We need a dedicated wrestling facility. Our children are constantly plagued by skin disease (ringworm, impetigo) due to sharing their mats. This facility will improve their health and safety. There are a great many families in town who are committed to our youth wrestling program from grades K - 12. This facility would be used to full capacity.
8 months ago 8 Agree

Our wrestling team has been to two strait sectional finals in the past 2 years. Many of the wrestlers on HS team are forced to sit out of practice and sometimes even duel meets/tournaments because of all the fungus on the mat, brought in by non wrestlers wearing street shoes. We can eliminate this by having a wrestling facility. It's also super embarrassing to have the middle school and grade school wrestling teams have to wrestle in a cafeteria. Also everyday before practice the middle school team has to role out the mats and roll up the mats after practice, this takes valuable practice time away. We really need a new wrestling facility.
8 months ago 8 Agree

A dedicated wrestling facility is a must. Considering the number of groups that require mat time, the limited availability of gym space, the disadvantages of having to use cafeterias and the health benefits of a dedicated wrestling space, it's inclusion into the parks and recreations plan would be tremendously beneficial to our youth.
8 months ago 7 Agree

Wrestling needs a facility that can
Also be used on off season, we share with the HS and street shoes are allowed in during gym class which spread infection. Our town has a great pal feeder wrestling problem and to have them in cafeterias is pretty gross
8 months ago 7 Agree

Our wrestling program cannot compete with other towns that have their own training facilities and can practice year round. This should really be addressed as the program is very successful and growing. Our matches are held in the Edison School cafeteria. The use of this facility is an indication to the wrestlers of Westfield and our opponents the level of commitment our town gives to the wrestling program. A new facility is important and necessary.
7 months ago 5 Agree

We need a good facility for our wrestling program. It is growing and the wrestling room at the HS is used by so many different people. We need something specifically for our wrestlers.
8 months ago 5 Agree

The wrestling program is so well run despite the facility's they are forced to use. It is a healthy and growing program that needs a facility.

7 months ago 4 Agree

I strongly support a new multi-purpose building in Tamaques park. Wrestling, cheerleading need facility space during the winter months. Overall gym capacity is a major issue for our youth athletic programs. School gym space is insufficient. Great opportunity to create utility for Tamaques during the winter months when that park is not active and parking is not an issue. Perfect location.
Spring/summer/fall a multi-purpose facility can support all youth sports through expanded bathrooms/locker rooms/storage - coffee & donuts, etc.. Appropriate architecture and design. Inside or outside the oval, whatever makes the most sense.
8 months ago 4 Agree

Concrete skatepark for skateboards, scooters, BMX riders, and inline skaters! So many NJ towns have nice concrete skateparks now. Our teens play organized sports but in their free time it would be excellent to have a nice skatepark in town that they don't need a ride to get to. Also, a designated location decreases traffic hazards which increases safety for riders and all residents.
8 months ago 4 Agree

Westfield needs a facility for its wrestlers. Practices and matches in a cafeteria is simply unsafe and not sanitary. Building a facility would allow for programs for the wrestlers year round. Having clinics, during the off season, in a dedicated facility rather than going to another town for clinics would be a great . This is a great program that would be able to develop even further with its own facility.
7 months ago 3 Agree

A dedicated wrestling facility is necessary for the health of our wrestlers. Wrestling in a cafeteria with lunch tables and cement pillars is a hazard to their safety. It's an embarrassment when visiting teams comment on the horrible atmosphere. Our high school wrestlers are put in jeopardy of skin infections from street shoes walking across their mats by others using the room. The program is growing and we need to give our athletes the opportunity to wrestle safely.
7 months ago 3 Agree

Upgraded fields for soccer. This would save hundreds of parents time and money by allowing teams to play and practice in Westfield.
8 months ago 3 Agree

The wrestling community is a small community but a growing community. Our team holds weekly practices in middle school cafeterias. children and coaches are rolling and unrolling mats before and after practices. We can and should provide a more sanitary and healthier environment for our children. Our team works hard and deserves a dedicated facility which in addition would help to dispose of common infections associated with this sport by eliminating the introduction of bacteria brought in by street shoes. Our teams and children who love and are so dedicated to this sport would benefit from having the option of year round access to wrestling. It's time that Westfield acknowledge and invests in this sport!
7 months ago 2 Agree

Having multiple children playing many sports, the sentiments about the wrestling program could not be more accurate and needed (more than any other sport or activity). It goes beyond the athletic portion. It speaks to pride, appropriate hygiene, and our ability to continue to attract new families to the sport. The program should also get a fair share of the gym space in the event we do not initiate a new wrestling room (they get near zero at this time).
7 months ago 2 Agree

A separate building for wrestling and or gymnastics /community room
7 months ago 2 Agree

Buildinf for wrestling and/or gymnastics
7 months ago 2 Agree

I agree- our wrestling facilities do not correlate with our success in the sport. We need to update rec wrestling facilities if we want the program to continue to grow.
Also, mountain biking trails would be great. I read a few years ago that the county was supposed to link bike paths in neighboring parks so that you could on-road/off-road bike with limited exposure from cars. Right now, you can mountain bike from Echo Lake to Lenape Park to Black Brook Park into Galloping Hill-- but it is mostly ad hoc. There is no dedicated trail or signage. Also, including bike lanes on some streets like Cranford has would be great, as well.
8 months ago 2 Agree

Recreational soccer played st Jefferson School this year- and it was always being moved. If you are going to use schools for town recreational programs, than it should be fixed by the town.
Jefferson field is unusable at times because it floods.

8 months ago 2 Agree

Westfield Soccer and Westfield Lacrosse are in dire need of Turf fields and it is imperative that we find ways to turn our existing fields into usable, playable spaces from the dirt lots they are now
8 months ago 2 Agree

The Elm St tennis courts could be dramatically improved.
8 months ago 2 Agree

The ice rink has been a wonderful addition to the town. I like the current location and it's proximity to neighborhoods and businesses, but understand a better, more permanent spot could be developed. Please include the ice rink in the master plan!
8 months ago 2 Agree

> Move the ice rink elsewhere! A commercial hockey rink does not belong in the middle of a residential neighborhood!
> 8 months ago 2 Agree
>
> > I agree. I felt terrible for the residents in the area that had to put up with that noise.
> > 7 months ago

Community Gardens
8 months ago 2 Agree

volleyball is also a good idea - and the ice rink is a boon to that contractor - not the area
8 months ago 2 Agree

Again a new facility for wrestling. Our program is growing through all grades. It's unacceptable that our PAL wrestling teams have to practice and have meets in a school cafeteria! A facility for wrestling would benefit all from grades K-12
7 months ago 1 Agree

We need a dog park where dogs can get their exercise. Right now, everyone just uses Tamaques park as a dog park.
7 months ago 1 Agree

There are so many kids in the wrestling program and so many parents dedicated to the sport - yet the town seems to ignore the program entirely. We practice in cafeterias while other towns, like Kenilworth, Woodbridge, etc. have designed spaces over the years entirely for their wrestling program. It is a sport that currently gets so little support from the town. Why? It makes no sense when so many residents are interested in making Westfield a top-notch program.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Girls softball fields in the Memorial Field area could use upgrade such as permanent restrooms, utility building, better field grading. The program has expanded and if able to host tournaments could self-generate funds for upkeep and further upgrades.
8 months ago 1 Agree

We need a dedicated wrestling facility.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Gumbert Park is a small residential neighborhood park over utilized with the ice rink, please move the ice rink to different location, upgrade the playground which is a mess and floods, improve the basketball courts and provide some quiet natural grassy/tree areas with benches/picnic area for residents.
8 months ago 1 Agree

> Absolutely agree!
> 8 months ago

skatepark! many kids would be introduced to skateboarding: a hobby of creativity, patience and self-improvement. so many ledges and other spots are a risk to pedestrians and buisnesses. other towns are already taking this idea seriously.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Disc golf!
8 months ago 1 Agree

Disc golf is a great idea!!
8 months ago
1 Agree

love idea of a community garden - but I don't know if it is needed.
8 months ago
1 Agree

Please consider relocating the ice rink to the memorial pool area. This area is vastly underused outside of the summer and has parking and changing rooms available. Technology is available to put the freezing equipment inside the pool (the pool is lined and protected) and the rink floats on top. We would need to solve a restroom problem by at least heating that area, but it seems do-able. There would be room for refreshments - hot chocolate & s'mores??? Do not forget about free skating - not everyone plays hockey. But everyone needs an active outing in the winter.
one month ago

none
one month ago

Westfield needs more toddler parks! Even Mindowaskin doesn't have a great option for the really young kids. Check out church square park in hoboken for ideas or Newport's green for ideas. AND PLEASE- FENCE THE MINDOWASKIN PLAYGROUND!
5 months ago

This town is growing significantly year on year with families moving to town in the ever increasing number of new build houses and so there are increasing numbers of children participating in sports. This growth will not slow down and we must accommodate sports with more fields to share across sports, turf fields and other facilities.
5 months ago

More fields for ultimate frisbee please.
6 months ago

Fields are necessary for the ever growing child population. If we want to stay vibrant and relevant we need to always improve our facilities. Just like our home. Need to maintain and improve. Many fields in town need to be improved and we always need more. Of course need to balance the needs of some against everyone but fields are necessary to maintain our status as athletic powerhouse. Need field for small children to practice on to become valuable high school athletes. Community parks are also necessary but we have one that just got an upgrade which is awesome
6 months ago

Although wrestling currently isn't as big as soccer or football, hence the lack of votes, it could be one of the best programs in the town! People just don't know about it because there is no where to practice, no funds are allocated towards it, and the success of the program is IN SPITE of the lack of town support and resources. We could have one of the best programs in the state if we had better facilities. If you build it, they will come!!!
6 months ago

Connect bike trails around the town and to the parks. Provide areas to lock up bikes where people could stop near downtown. Fishing would be good addition as well. Please no dog park, they destroy the ground, just look at the park in Echo Lake. The ammonia smell is horrific on warm days.
6 months ago

We need a permanent hockey rink, even if only seasonal.
6 months ago

It is a balance of things but we have so many parks ...
7 months ago

Running our Lacrosse program this year it is very unfortunate that we have to travel for 80% to 90% of games due to the over crowding nature of our fields. We have one of the largest lacrosse, soccer, & football non profit youth programs in the state and we have one field complex to have these kids practice and play games. There are solutions that can make it more convenient for all the parents and kids and make us all proud of the town we represent. THANK YOU.
7 months ago

The soccer fields for all of our kids need serious upgrades. Half the season gets canceled due to mud and other poor field conditions!

mud and other poor field conditions!
7 months ago

Westfield needs a permanent ice rink.
7 months ago

PLEASE, PLEASE separate softball from baseball!! Baseball gets much more attention over softball, and it continues up through the high school. Just compare the facilities and you tell me what else I should conclude...
7 months ago

I see too much emphasis in responses and comments on student athletic facilities. This is a survey about public parks and recreational facilities. Yes, Westfield is a town of young families but not exclusively so. Let's think about the entire public, not just student athletes and adult athletes. Nature areas, gardens, outdoor stages will all contribute to the quality of the town. Let's not use all our valuable public space for student athletics. Besides, that's the BOE's concern, and they're already not doing enough to address the serious overcrowding we have in our classrooms, which affects all students, not just the minority of them that participate in sports. The coaches and parents of student athletes advocate very passionately for their interests, and I credit them for that, but we need to consider the needs of everyone in town and the broader interests of the town, not just that vocal minority.
7 months ago

An outdoor stage/amphitheater would be a fantastic addition to the town. We have the Sweet Sounds program but could expand to have more live music events, which bring in visitors and their dollars from surrounding areas. There are lots of local bands and music schools that would participate. Creating a vibrant arts and music scene in the downtown can only help (think of SOPAC in South Orange and MPAC in Morristown). Whether this is using outdoor/recreational space or indoors (less of a parks/rec issue, I know), I think it would be a huge benefit to Westfield.
7 months ago

We need more softball diamonds!
7 months ago

We need more fields to accommodate football, soccer and LAX.
7 months ago

Upgrading the Elm St. tennis courts would be nice.
7 months ago

The rectangular fields (listed by you as "soccer, football and lacrosse) should include field hockey (a WHS varsity, JV and freshman sport, and 8th grade sport, and growing youth level sport) and several of the existing and all of the new fields should be turf. Turf type should be considered - what is the "best" for football, might not be sub-optimal for field hockey.

A feasibility study should be conducted to determine if one of the pools at Memorial Pool can be covered (bubble / fabric tent) on a seasonal basis to provide year round swimming (especially long course) This is especially interesting if Memorial Park is considered as a permanent site for the seasonal winter ice rink. Other indoor facilities , including use of the armory or adding indoor space on the armory site needs to be studied.
7 months ago

Wrestling rooms are a waste of taxpayers money and would serve a tiny percentage of the population.
7 months ago

> You have no idea what you are talking about. Period.
> 7 months ago

Especially when it comes to our soccer fields, Westfield facilities are much worse than expected given neighboring towns.
7 months ago

We need better baseball facilities!
7 months ago

Elm Street tennis courts are a mess and need resurfacing and fencing. Elm Street field needs some attractive plantings along the borders of the soccer field. Memorial Pool used to have a tennis/lacrosse wall that was removed. That would be great to see up again.

tennis/lacrosse wall that was removed. That would be great to see up again.

7 months ago

We are desperate for field space for soccer and lacrosse. I would also like to see street or roller hockey facilities

7 months ago

Indoor basketball/volleyball gym (seen cheer and Gym at these before too) with outsourced food vendors for year round practice and games.

7 months ago

I'd like to see more bike friendly lanes.

7 months ago

I would have selected the box for baseball and softball diamonds except for the fact that the baseball fields are already SO superior to the softball fields. I fear that if I select this box, even more $$ would go to the boys and the girls would, again, be discriminated against.

7 months ago

I strongly support additional natural areas. Our houses are covering more and more property and it's important to have open space for walking, hiking, birding, etc.

7 months ago

Fields, fields, fields. Our recreational facilities in town are an embarrassment, not to mention unsafe.

7 months ago

Upgrade Memorial Softball fields so that we can host tournaments and grow the program further. Many times our girls travel to leagues up in Long Hill or South Plainfield because they have better facilities (snack bars, lights, practice/warm up areas)

7 months ago

Turf fields are needed with the multitude of sports games scheduled there is no time for rain outs and turf allows games to be played

7 months ago

Please find a way to make an ice rink in Westfield permanent! We have loved having the Gumpert rink this year as our children have used it for their hockey team practices and games and as a family we have enjoyed the family hockey sessions.

7 months ago

Football, Soccer and especially Lacrosse programs help define a town, much like universities. Top programs result in better rankings ... which lead to higher property values. Westfield needs to improve recreation space to stay competitive.

7 months ago

Paddle tennis. Putts

7 months ago

A must have. We are way behind our pier towns.

7 months ago

Please, need better and more fields for kids sports.

7 months ago

A permanent ice rink would be ideal. Gumpert is a great spot to put it. Outside of the very vocal 6 families who are against it, everyone in town knows it has been a huge success.

7 months ago

turf fields

7 months ago

Basketball at Tamaques could use help

7 months ago

The ice rink has been great this winter. Met a lot of other families and people from town from all of the activities they have held. All of the complaints are overblown

of the activities they have field. All of the complaints are overblown.
8 months ago

An additional track would be used by a very large number of town residents. The Y and Holy Trinity have more than 700 participants who are part their programs throughout the year and adults are constantly using the track from morning to night. (This number does not include the 200+ athletes on the high school team) Track is one of the few programs that must have a specific facility for its events. There is no real substitute for a jump pit or 8 lane track.
8 months ago

walking paths and bike paths would be wonderful as would DISC GOLF
8 months ago

Disc Golf would be awesome!
8 months ago

We need more field space for lacrosse. And turf would be preferred to avoid frequent practice and game cancellations due to abundant rain during the Spring season. Too many lacrosse games are played AWAY because other towns have adequate facilities while Westfield does not.
8 months ago

Athletics is a big part of any school! Our athletic facilities are terrible! Get rid of the armory and turn it into parking and fields!!!!!
8 months ago

Platform Tennis courts
8 months ago

Soccer and lacrosse fields are an embarrassment compared to most other communities
8 months ago

There is insufficient field space and pool space in this town. Kids are practicing in unsafe conditions.
The Elm street tennis courts and grass field are in horrific condition - why isn't that space made into a turf field?
8 months ago

There is zero available space, so we need to upgrade what we have. Re-purposing and expanding the grounds for additional features is just ripe for additional neglect from the local gov't for more money.
8 months ago

Mountain bike trails would add a great family amenity and cost the town virtually zero by utilizing volunteer organizations (JORBA) and student Mountain Bike Club to build maintain the trail network. Provides great opportunity to engage members of the community in improving our town.
8 months ago

The only 3 quality soccer fields we have in this town are sid fey, houlihan and kehler. This is not enough for a town of our size and is unfair to all the people that use these crappy grass fields. Turf fields would be great, but if turf fields are too expensive the town can focus on maintaining the grass fields. Now none of the grass fields are maintained at all (such as unami, tamaques school, elm street field, sycamore).
8 months ago

The attire of some Memorial Pool patrons is unacceptable.
8 months ago

The ice rink is a fantastic addition to Westfield. Would love to see a better set up for parents to watch the kids skate
8 months ago

The town needs a a wrestling facility for the kids. The current situation is just horrible, this should be addressed ASAP.
8 months ago

It's very old
8 months ago

we need to develop our natural space to make it enjoyable/easy for people to use
8 months ago

I would love a better changing facility for swimmers. Also, a community garden. An outdoor= performance space would be amazing. We have very little culture in this town.
8 months ago

My number one is community gardens and food/nut producing trees. We have a looming= environmental disaster coming as well as an expected inability for us to maintain feeding the= planet with the present food consumption. We must be forward thinking about these issues.
8 months ago

Raised two active children in this town with all its perceived limitations. It is fine if we don't have= the best this or that. The whole community is excellent. Wait to see the land values when every= field is turf, lighted and in use 18 hours a day
8 months ago

I would like to see all of the above however let's start with the sports for kids
8 months ago

inclose the tennis courts at tamaques
8 months ago

9. Which programs would you (or those who live with you) most like to see developed or expanded? (Select up to **FOUR** options)

42%	Youth sports programs	459 ✔
36%	Summer concerts	396 ✔
34%	Special events (festivals, parades, fireworks, etc.)	374 ✔
24%	Teen programs	264 ✔
22%	Youth fitness and wellness programs	247 ✔
21%	Youth summer camp programs	229 ✔
20%	Before and after school programs	221 ✔
18%	Adult sports programs	202 ✔
16%	Nature programs	177 ✔
15%	Adult fitness and wellness programs	168 ✔
11%	Youth art, dance, performing arts	120 ✔
10%	Programs for persons 50+	107 ✔
8%	Preschool programs	83 ✔
7%	Pet exercise/programs	81 ✔
7%	Programs for mentally/physically challenged	79 ✔
6%	Youth Learn to Swim programs	70 ✔
6%	Adult art, dance, performing arts	69 ✔
4%	Martial arts programs	40 ✔
4%	Water fitness programs	39 ✔
1%	Other. Please comment below	14 ✔

9. Which programs would you (or those who live with you) most like to see developed or expanded? (Select up to **FOUR** options)

We need more turf fields and they should be have lights. Tamaques is a great spot for a turf facility, it already has lights and the current grass field are unplayable. Our youth sports teams

play almost all thier games on the road, build turf fields and it will drive trafic to our downtown.
8 months ago 15 Agree

Turf fields will only destroy the town and hurt our environment as they do not absorb heat like grass.
8 months ago 9 Agree

Turf fields will help the town
8 months ago 2 Agree

Destroy the town?
8 months ago

100% we need lighted full size turf fields at Tamaques.
8 months ago 6 Agree

Soccer is the biggest program in this town by far. It needs dedicated space that can be used in all weather.
8 months ago 7 Agree

We absolutely need more turf fields for lacrosse, football, soccer, field hockey. The number of youth participating in these programs versus the number of fields available is highly disproportionate.
7 months ago 4 Agree

The WSA runs free programs for children with special needs. It also runs adult programs.
8 months ago 4 Agree

Westfield needs better fields including more turf fields. My two children play soccer and often have to travel to other towns just for their practice.
8 months ago 4 Agree

We need improved turf fields with lighting
8 months ago 3 Agree

My daughter played high school lacrosse last year and had practice in the parking lot of memorial. Pool due to lack of fields. My daughter played soccer and every time she stepped out on a field i was afraid of her tearing her knees.
7 months ago 2 Agree

Our grass "fields" are a disgrace. they should all have working sprinkler systems and drainage. In the absence of playable grass fields, the town needs to install turf fields so all sports can utilize them. We can't even access the unplayable grass fields until April 1.
8 months ago 2 Agree

We need MORE TURF fields. Should be most important thing right now!!!!!
8 months ago 2 Agree

I would rather see funding for “programs” be utilized to improve/create better facilities/amenities. Let the private sector offer “programs”.
8 months ago 2 Agree

We need fields
Specifically Turf fields
Can’t have great sports teams with no where to practice or very limited practice times
8 months ago 2 Agree

Turf fields. How are we forced to practice in Clark.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Turf fields and lights!!!!!!
7 months ago 1 Agree

WE NEED TURF!!!!!
7 months ago 1 Agree

Let the free enterprise private market develop programs, if the free marketplace will support

them. The private market can purchase old stores, buildings and redevelop if the business model will support. Keep government out of it. No more not-for-profits taking property off the tax rolls just so they can "profit" from the residents of Westfied. Government should not be in the youth sports, programs business.
one month ago

I would like to see a sliding scale for people who don't have a lot of money to participate. I know of several families that couldn't participate this summer for their kids because it was too expensive. It would have really helped them and I was sad that Westfield couldn't step up and help it's citizens.
one month ago

There are thousands of children in Westfield and sports is excellent for team-work, exercise, for the town to have strong sports teams and these children may even go onto College with sports, so this needs more investment in time and resources.
5 months ago

I feel like the facilities need to be improved before we try to expand what is already going on. The current programs already have trouble finding time and space on fields & courts.
6 months ago

Incorporate fairview cemetery into nature programs.
6 months ago

incorporate Fairview Cemetery into nature programs . trees species, open space, birds.
6 months ago

The lack of before and after school care is absurd. Many of the families in town have two working parents. Why don't our schools offer on site before care? Why don't all schools offer on site after care? It would also be nice if the town offered summer camp with hours that actually worked for working parents. It's crazy that the up until this year, the playground camp required kids to go home for lunch, it's not 1950!! I think the town needs to get with the times more, many families have two parents that work outside of the home! Full day kindergarten would also be helpful and before care for kindergarten! Working parents really can't even send their kids to Lincoln without the very limited wrap at the Y or a nanny. This is absurd!
6 months ago

I think the Y is covering many of these proposed activities....focus on those not yet covered
7 months ago

Turf field are terrible for the environment, make the environment hotter, and smell. No turf fields
7 months ago

We are upset they are cutting down trees for electric poles but digging up real grass and replacing with turf is an option?
7 months ago

The quality of our athletes and our records for teams FAR surpasses the facilities on which the athletes play. It is amazing we are as good as we are with such lousy facilities. My children are both teenagers and each play multiple sports and I can honestly say that EVERY single facility we visit is better than our own. That includes less-suburban outdoor facilities (my point is, it isn't just the argument "we don't have the space"... Roselle Park and Elizabeth put our softball facilities to shame). Tamaques also has lights already for tennis, so what's the harm in lighting a baseball and a softball field?
7 months ago

Arts and music are a critical component of creating a vibrant culture, and we undervalue and underemphasize them here. We have some good programs like Sweet Sounds and Festifall/Spring Fling but can do more.
7 months ago

I am unsure how to respond to this question. Our sports programs are run by amazing parents that VOLUNTEER to teach children to get active and learn a sport. The town doesn't have anything to do with them, the only thing we ask for is better fields. More fields. You are offering teen progams..to be held where? we do not have an aqequate recreational facility to improve or increase any programs. Our town pool is only open during the summer and it isn't open to everyone, you have to be a member.
7 months ago

Self-defense classes- we don't want to join martial arts and have to wear a uniform But I would like a women's self defense class for women and teens
7 months ago

Spare us taxpayers!
7 months ago

Wrestling
7 months ago

More summer concerts!
7 months ago

More adult tennis programs/tennis reservations for court time. Court time should be for Westfield residents and not those from other towns
7 months ago

I don't need more programming options. We have plenty, and private sector can handle this if we provide the locations.
7 months ago

Men's softball
7 months ago

I oppose additional lighted fields. Many of our fields are in residential areas and those residents deserve quiet evenings. Turf fields are an environmental problem and should be avoided.
7 months ago

Guided nature hikes
7 months ago

Any school aged programs for developmentally disabled -summer camp, after school ESY program, cooking class, fitness and wellness
7 months ago

A review of the list indicted that we have almost all of these programs already.
8 months ago

The PAL Wrestling program needs a dedicated space.
The kids need more turf fields with the ability to play under lights when appropriate.
8 months ago

Fireworks Fireworks
8 months ago

Turf soccer/lax field at Tamaques that the JV soccer/lax teams can use
8 months ago

better fields is ideal, as well as playground and lighting improvements
8 months ago

I think any community programs should be organized and referred to private local businesses....the tow does not need to reach that far and provide these services already offered.
8 months ago

10. If the Town of Westfield were to develop (or partner to develop) a new recreation center, which facilities would you use? (Select all that apply)

59%	Game courts/gyms (basketball/volleyball/pickleball courts)	607 ✔
49%	Walking track	503 ✔
33%	Cardio room	336 ✔
28%	Family activity pool	290 ✔
28%	Lap pool	287 ✔
27%	Free weights	277 ✔
23%	Game room	236 ✔
21%	Multipurpose meeting room	217 ✔
16%	Warm water therapeutic pool	162 ✔
14%	Aerobics/dance room	141 ✔
12%	Banquet hall	122 ✔
6%	Other. Please comment below.	59 ✔
5%	Kitchen	56 ✔

10. If the Town of Westfield were to develop (or partner to develop) a new recreation center, which facilities would you use? (Select all that apply)

i don't think Westfield needs this. There are several indoor recreation facilities including the YMCA and RWJ Rahway. We need more athletic fields for the major sports like soccer/lacrosse/flag football as well as a space for wrestling.
8 months ago 21 Agree

> 100% agree - we have the Y, RWJ, Lifetime Athletic and countless other smaller gyms run by local business owners. We don't need to compete with this. Public lands and funds should be used in ways the private sector cannot meet the communities interests, like fields where all of our youth can benefit.
> 8 months ago 10 Agree

More soccer fields
8 months ago 6 Agree

I don't think we should spend any money on new facilities until the field improvements that were ALREADY APPROVED AND PLANNED are implemented, most importantly BATHROOMS at the softball fields and better fields/parking at tamaques. Anyone with kids who play sports in Westfield knows that our fields and facilities are an embarrassment and not adequate to support our young athletes, many of whom end up playing most of their games away or not getting practice time.
8 months ago 5 Agree

With the Y in town, I don't see a need for a town rec center. The land could be better put to use as fields or park space.

8 months ago 5 Agree

WRESTLING FACILITY!!!!!!!! Game room- yestrercades. GYM- several in the area. POOL- join the Y. Aerobics/dance- JOIN THE Y
8 months ago 4 Agree

That is why we have the YMCA and the JCC. Tax dollars do not need to be used to offer this service to a minority of the community
8 months ago 4 Agree

Probably none. We already have the YMCA and several private gyms/rec facilities.
8 months ago 3 Agree

We already have access to a town arcade, we have a great town pool, and a wonderful Y with gym. Westfield should focus on playground upgrades like Mindowaskin, lit turf fields, dog park and walking trails.
8 months ago 3 Agree

Wrestling room
8 months ago 3 Agree

Wrestling facility
8 months ago 3 Agree

We need a wrestling facility
8 months ago 3 Agree

A new wrestling facility
8 months ago 3 Agree

Turf Playing Fields
8 months ago 3 Agree

Wrestling facilities
8 months ago 3 Agree

A rec center could accommodate so many of the issues addressed in the comment. There could be a wrestling room, courts for basketball/volleyball, indoor turf could accommodate soccer/lax/batting cages....
8 months ago 2 Agree

TURF FIELDS so our kids can play sports in the spring!!
8 months ago 2 Agree

Improving our fields and a dedicated wrestling room to support the youth programs
8 months ago 2 Agree

Field house used for a mutltude of sports
8 months ago 2 Agree

A new wrestling facility is needed
8 months ago 2 Agree

new wrestling facility, hockey rink
8 months ago 2 Agree

We need a wrestling facility!!
7 months ago 1 Agree

Dedicated wrestling room
7 months ago 1 Agree

7 months ago 1 Agree

Wrestling facilities .
7 months ago 1 Agree

No thanks!
8 months ago 1 Agree

new wrestling facility
8 months ago 1 Agree

skatepark
8 months ago 1 Agree

We need more affordable meeting space around town. It would be great if it was also banquet ready and wired for sound and audio.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Running track would be helpful with high volume usage of field at Kehler stadium
8 months ago 1 Agree

keep government out of "partnering". It only raises the residents taxes and give the privateer "partners" the profit. Government should get out of the way and let the marketplace decide if recreational activities or centers can survive AND any development should NOT be approved if the property comes off the tax roles.....ie Westfield Y, redevelopment corps, curches, other nont-for-profits
one month ago

Anything but wrestling!
one month ago

Would not use, Town already has several facilities and more in surrounding towns. This track of spending should be put to a town wide vote.
one month ago

No need for a town sponsored recreation center given local area gyms (eg YMCA)
5 months ago

I don’t think we need another space. My vote is less building and more green space. No thank every inch of town needs to “developed” and built upon.
5 months ago

It was hard to answer this question. I don’t see a need for any of these options.
5 months ago

We rely on the YMCA facility and yet we are a huge town and no indoor facilities.
5 months ago

Westfield WRESTLING needs proper space!! Look at Watchung or South Plainfield....it's basic, but proper.
5 months ago

Relative to the other ideas listed on the survey (improved fields, lighting, ice rink, wrestling) and existing Rec centers in the area, I don't think Westfield needs a Rec center.
6 months ago

The town does not need this given other venues
7 months ago

I don’t see the need for this
7 months ago

I don't think this is needed.
7 months ago

I think indoor turf fields would be amazing for the sports teams, especially during winter
7 months ago

I'd rather see the town invest in gardens, nature areas, stages/ampitheaters than in duplicating facilities listed above that are generally available from existing private and public facilities.
7 months ago

Not needed.
7 months ago

The water/stage
7 months ago

An indoor facility would be of great use - whether for wrestling, basketball, or other sports.
7 months ago

Spare us any extra taxes!
7 months ago

Zero interest in this, we have ton of private gyms in the area to choose from. Add a turf field for soccer/lax
7 months ago

I don't feel Westfield needs this. We have the "Y" and there are facilities like this in surrounding towns. We need more athletic fields and a wrestling facility
7 months ago

nothing on this list
7 months ago

No need for this. There are plenty of nearby private facilities that fulfill all of this. The constraint is access to high quality, usable fields for team sports.
7 months ago

Improve parking at the Y instead of building a new building. They already do a good job and know what they are doing.
7 months ago

My family would use this for the courts. That is it. We belong to other gym facilities that cover the rest of what you are proposing.
7 months ago

Turf fields
7 months ago

I think the YMCA covers most of these needs
7 months ago

don't need it
7 months ago

Not needed
7 months ago

We already have this at the ymca.
7 months ago

Rock WAll, Tree Top Ropes course

7 months ago

Rock wall for kids and adults and a spa
7 months ago

Totally agree with other comments. I don't think Westfield needs this.
7 months ago

we don't need this.
7 months ago

Not sure this is actually needed....
7 months ago

Indoor turf field for youth sports teams
7 months ago

WIth the exception of indoor gym for the youth to use for wrestling and indoor courts, I agree with the comments that we have the Y, RWJ, and private fitness gyms. We need fields!!!!!
7 months ago

Ice rink
7 months ago

Where would this be and what outdoor space would we give up to get it? I don't think this is important.
7 months ago

This does not seem to be a reasonable investment to make for the town. There are many other more pressing needs we have as a community.
7 months ago

We need more outdoor artificial turf fields, not a recreational center. Most residents use the YMCA as their recreation center.
7 months ago

I do not think this would be a good use of resources. Westfield needs more fields to support all the kids that play in this town. In comparison to other towns in the area, our venues are embarrassing. I am unsure where all our tax dollars are spent.
7 months ago

No need!
7 months ago

Agreed that these ideas are redundant to what YMCA, RWJ Rahway, etc already provide. Let's focus on improving our fields, building turf fields for soccer, lacrosse, etc.
7 months ago

We have the Y - let's not put it out of business. We need FIELDS.
7 months ago

Rec center for wrestling! And turf fields too!
7 months ago

Besides indoor basketball courts, I'd love to see a turf field in a new facility.
7 months ago

None needed
7 months ago

Why are we the only town in the area who does NOTHING to help our young wrestlers get the

facilities they need to practice. It is so unfair!! We could be such a stronger wrestling town - we have amazing coaches, amazing athletes, terrific community of wrestling parents - just nowhere good to practice or host matches!! Other towns laugh at our cafeteria wrestling space. So inequitable.
7 months ago

Wrestling facilities. Indoor sports fields - my daughter couldn't participate in lacrosse this winter because there was no Rec program offered because of the lack of indoor space. The only option was a private program at $50/hour. It's crazy the town hasn't opened up more sports facilities!!
7 months ago

Don't think Westfield needs a recreation facility !
7 months ago

NOT NEEDED. Fields are needed.
7 months ago

None. We belong to a local community center that we enjoy and plan to continue using. There are enough local options already.
7 months ago

Agree that money would be better spent on improving or building new outdoor fields, especially for sports like soccer and lacrosse.
7 months ago

Athletic fields
7 months ago

Need field space way before a rev center - they field unavailability is such a joke
7 months ago

All of these I believe are already offered in some capacity. The YMCA offers many programs as well, with financial assistance for those who are unable to pay. Not necessary to replicate facilities at taxpayers expense.
7 months ago

Ice rink
7 months ago

Dont need a recreation center...money better spent on finding permanent home for ice rink.
7 months ago

Turf fields
7 months ago

Not needed
7 months ago

Not needed!
7 months ago

A banquet hall? It appears that these activities are already provided by non-profits and private businesses in the area. Also, where would it be located? Where in Westfield is there space for such a large facility with the necessary parking?
8 months ago

I wouldn't use this. I am a member of the Y and I really like it there.
8 months ago

I don't feel like there is a need for this. We have lots of local options and personally our family would continue our membership at the nearby JCC in Scotch Plains.
8 months ago

A multipurpose meeting space would be a great addition to town. In particular local groups, Westfield Welcome Club, Newcomers Club of Westfield and similar organizations could utilize that space for monthly meetings, programs, etc.
8 months ago

There are enough facilities nearby and the Y this is something that does not need to be a priority.
8 months ago

A meeting space would be wonderful for the Community Groups.
Even if a fee were charged.
8 months ago

Would love meeting space
8 months ago

There is no space for clubs and organizations to hold meetings. Our Garden Club rents space in Scotch Plains.
8 months ago

Don't believe this is needed. There are competitive options to satisfy the listed needs.
8 months ago

I do not believe this should be developed at the expense of playable sports fields, whether they are grass, turf, lighted, etc.
8 months ago

I'm not sure we need this. We already have most of these facilities in town.
8 months ago

nothing, but says I havent answered this question so had to pick a random ting above
8 months ago

nothing
8 months ago

Not a good use of town funds!!!!!!
8 months ago

We need a rec ctr with a wrestling room for the youth program.
8 months ago

No tax dollars for a rec center... leave that for commercial enterprises.
8 months ago

Soccer fields, Indoor Turf fields
8 months ago

Indoor turf fields
8 months ago

We do not need redundancy of superior facilities (e.g. weight rooms), we need things that are easy to maintain and difficult obtain (basketball courts). The girls do not have a high school program due to space. Plus courts can be reused for other activities (e.g. wrestling)
8 months ago

wrestling room, cheerleading gym
8 months ago

Wrestling and cheerleading gym
8 months ago

Ice Rink
8 months ago

Need more lacrosse fields
8 months ago

The PAL Wrestling program should be given a dedicated facility to train and hold matches.
8 months ago

Indoor Turf Field
8 months ago

limited resources would be better spent on improving our outdoor facilities.
8 months ago

is there space for a community/rec center and parking anywhere in town????

11. Please check ALL the organizations you (or those who live with you) use for parks and recreation activities.

78%	Westfield Public Schools	911 ✔
75%	Westfield Recreation Department	865 ✔
56%	Westfield Library	647 ✔
53%	Union County Parks	612 ✔
51%	Westfield Area YMCA	595 ✔
47%	Private youth sports leagues	549 ✔
31%	Private clubs (tennis, health/fitness)	359 ✔
26%	New Jersey State Parks	303 ✔
22%	Faith-based institutions	250 ✔
21%	Country clubs/golf courses	247 ✔
20%	Neighboring communities	229 ✔
14%	Private schools	164 ✔
4%	Westfield Community Center	43 ✔
2%	Other. Please comment below.	28 ✔
1%	None. Do not use any organizations.	16 ✔
1%	Homeowners Association (HOA) Parks	12 ✔
1%	Westfield Neighborhood Council	12 ✔

11. Please check ALL the organizations you (or those who live with you) use for parks and recreation activities.

The town is in such need of fields we are paying for and driving to Edison and Garwood for in-town sport programs. Unacceptable.
8 months ago ⊕14 Agree

Private facilities and other town facilities are used by the kids playing soccer as there is not enough field space in Westfield to accommodate the number of kids playing.
8 months ago ⊕11 Agree

The 2 softball fields at Westfield High School are atrocious! There are weeds growing in the infield and the infield especially the pitchers mound is like QUICK SAND. The pitcher can't grip the ground and ends up creating a huge hole at the rubber after the inning is over. The infield especially the pitchers mound must first have a hard clay foundation and proper field dirt. This

will avoid injuries too!! The field furthest away from the school NEEDS netting to prevent many many foul balls from going over the fence into the neighbor's yard. Lastly, the entry door to get onto the fields doesn't open all the way. It's very difficult to get equipment through the narrow opening without scraping your side or arm, especially the catcher's bag and pitching machine.
8 months ago 2 Agree

County Parks are much better in Essex County / Middlesex. They definitely have more resources allocated toward them
6 months ago 1 Agree

The Westfield Community Center should be upgraded and made into a viable indoor facility! Grass fields need significant improvement.
8 months ago 1 Agree

The garbage cans / metal drums at the baseball fields at Edison haven't been emptied since the fall. It's now almost March, and they're overflowing with dog poop bags and water. Ewwww. Can't wait for spring baseball season to begin and the visiting teams get a whiff of those stinkers!
8 months ago 1 Agree

skateparks
8 months ago 1 Agree

Why are churches included but not temples or others? Please edit this questions right away. It is offensive.
8 months ago 1 Agree

why do you have churches on this list but not other types of religions.. this says a lot about the town we live in..
8 months ago 1 Agree

We use the tax paying residents of Westfield who ultimately pay for ALL of the above entities thru our ever increasing propety taxes paid to government and the school system and private charges to private businesses (who pay high rents due to high property taxes.)
one month ago

5 months ago

JCC
5 months ago

Nation parks and historic sites
5 months ago

Westfield has an excellent sports program for most sports and we are fortunate to have parent coaches who excelled at College, but its a shame there are such limited facilities and fields to maximize the potential.
5 months ago

We used to use the public schools amd sports leagues, but kids are grown. These organizations are great for kids and get them off the couch and excercising.
6 months ago

Softball fields at WHS are atrocious. The Town in conjunction with the Westfield Softball League needs to pay for the improvements. Softball is a BOE sponsored sport, so I don't understand why our Town will not take most of the responsibility for improving these fields. Also, the scoreboard hasn't worked in years and the surrounding fence....embarrassing.
7 months ago

We really need better softball diamonds/facilities. This year my travel team (2nd grade) had to go to Long Hill for our games. It is a shame we don't have a facility that our kids can play on.
7 months ago

> Other towns were not built for decades and have the luxury of available space. Westfield has other things that make our town desirable.
> one month ago

Girls softball league of Westfield

7 months ago

We need more sports fields. We don't have nearly enough for all the sports that's our town offers
7 months ago

WSA
7 months ago

Westfield soccer
7 months ago

I have to use so many of these things because the town doesn't have sufficient facilities.
7 months ago

We need turf and the WF "community center"? That place is awful to look at. Have you seen Cranfords?
7 months ago

One of my children attends Westfield Pubic schools and another attends UCVTS -Magnet School
7 months ago

Not enough field space - not even close
7 months ago

PAL Football
7 months ago

Would love to see upgrades to the Westfield Community Center.
8 months ago

I use Union County fields outside Westfield for my son's team sports as we have no equivalents in town. Union County provides little for this town considering what they take in taxes.
8 months ago

My children play WSA programs. We have to travel to Garwood or Edison for HOME matches. We need fields in town.
8 months ago

WSA
8 months ago

Agree! Overflowing cans at Edison School field need to be emptied today!
8 months ago

County Golf Course - Ash Brook
8 months ago

school grounds are often littered with trash or very muddy

12. Please check ALL the reasons that keep you (or those who live with you) from using parks, recreation facilities, trails, and programs of the Westfield Parks and Recreation Department more often. (Select all that apply)

51%	Poor condition of facilities	458 ✔
31%	Availability of parking	277 ✔
20%	Do not know what is offered	184 ✔
20%	Facility or program not offered	181 ✔
19%	Use facilities out of town	172 ✔
17%	Program times are not convenient	152 ✔
14%	Use other agencies' facilities (County, School, Armory, etc.)	126 ✔
7%	Fees are too high	59 ✔
5%	Security of safety concerns	41 ✔
5%	Other. Please comment below	41 ✔
4%	Too far from our home	38 ✔
4%	Class full	36 ✔
2%	Poor customer service by staff	19 ✔
2%	No transportation	18 ✔
1%	Personal disability	8 ✔

12. Please check ALL the reasons that keep you (or those who live with you) from using parks, recreation facilities, trails, and programs of the Westfield Parks and Recreation Department more often. (Select all that apply)

why is "overuse/unavailable" not an option? bc that is why WF soccer teams are forced to use Garwood and other town fields for games...
8 months ago 16 Agree

Field closure for safety reasons was a key issue this past fall for soccer. Almost every grass field was closed at one time or had so much standing water that you couldn't even traverse the field let alone use it for sports.
8 months ago 11 Agree

flooded or poor condition.
8 months ago 5 Agree

Gumbert Park fields can not be used by residents when occupied by baseball teams spring, summer, fall and basketball courts can not be used when the ice rink was in use and being set up/taken down (October 1- April 1).
8 months ago 5 Agree

8 months ago 3 Agree

Agree! This is the only park I can get to easily but there is little space to sit and enjoy it.
8 months ago 2 Agree

NEED FIELDS FOR YOUTH SPORTS PLEASE
7 months ago 3 Agree

The bathrooms at Gumbert and tamaques parks need updating
8 months ago 2 Agree

We need turf.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Availability should be a choice
7 months ago 1 Agree

Need more turf fields and lighted turf fields.
7 months ago 1 Agree

No turf fields... need to leave town to use other facilities
7 months ago 1 Agree

Overuse. Having worked with two sports programs in town, it is clear that the availability of fields and facilities is the real problem.
8 months ago 1 Agree

As affluent residents, we make the choices to patronize the places that are compatible with our needs. If the private free enterprise market wants to compete with the government owned/operated and not-for-profit owned facilities which do not pay property and school taxes, it will happen organically.
one month ago

I have noticed that the swing seats for handicapped children in Memorial Park seem never to be used. There are at least three or four of them, and few or no swings for non-handicapped children. The result is that the swings don't seem to serve anyone at all. I am in full support of providing swings for children who cannot use conventional ones, but I think some of the swings currently designed for handicapped children should be replaced with conventional swings so that the swing set is used by all. Replacing a few of the swing seats would not be hugely expensive.
5 months ago

Most adults would like to swim before the hottest time of the day. Memorial Pool should open earlier 8 or 9am at the latest.
5 months ago

Tamaques is too crowded in evenings and weekends with different games and schools using track. Parking is difficult
5 months ago

Parking is awful at almost all the facilities and the police even ticket where you have to park on the street - not encouraging. The facilities are also poor with quality of the fields, lack of turf and only porta-potties at most places.
5 months ago

Generally, I don't use other facilities because the programs are not of interest, are at inconvenient times, or i use other private facilities or other parks such as Nomahegan for walking.
6 months ago

Poor question, I do not have any issue with facilities. 3 children raised in this town, all played sports including soccer and lacrosse. 2 played in college. Do not change the character of Tamaques Park at all.
6 months ago

I tried Adult Education classes at the High School on two separate occasions Classes were disappointing in quality. I also attend the Westfield Library but it has limited conference room space. Generally when I have organization meetings they are held at a local church / synagogue or in Cranford.

6 months ago

sometimes it is too crowded, for example tamaques park during baseball season, is not useful if you aren't involved in the ongoing baseball games.
6 months ago

Kids sports dominate the fields which pretty much closes them off to use for others. Bike trails are not connected to other parks and downtown, limiting use. Many cities use trails next to rivers and streams to provide walking and biking trails. Offering that will also alleviate traffic and parking downtown
6 months ago

Plan to have a trasportation system for kids to move around Town.
7 months ago

Nothing keeps me from using the parks
7 months ago

A year-round ice rink would get a lot of use, though simply continuing the Westfield Rink at Gumbert in future years would be a better use of tax dollars
7 months ago

I have four children and due to the LACK of field space, I have to travel away for 26 games for EACH of my two older children. We do not have enough field space to have an aggressive all year soccer program and a successful lacrosse program. The TAXPAYERS end up getting the short end of the stick.. We are forced to travel to every game. Which in turn means less revenue for our town. Which in turn is going to cause our downtown to become even more desolote than it currently is.. I am unsure what the disconnect is, as I know people have been requesting additional field, better fields for YEARS!
7 months ago

Any activity that starts before 5:00 pm is almost a guaranteed no for working parents unless you can carpool. That's no always possible if your child is in aftercare.
7 months ago

Unavailable would be a choice needed
7 months ago

I have a gym membership which accommodates most of my needs however I do frequent Tamaques Park about 5 times a week on my own.
7 months ago

Facilities are often booked by other groups.
7 months ago

We take our kids to Tamaques Park and the amount of dogs off leash is frightening to them. They charge at my kids on occasion, terrifying them.
7 months ago

Poor field conditions - no bathrooms
7 months ago

WEstfield cops ticket parents that park at tamaques.
7 months ago

Availability is primary issue followed by flooding/poor condition.
7 months ago

flooding
7 months ago

There simply aren't enough fields which has led to overuse. Even if Westfield employed the Yankees grounds crew they couldn't keep the fields in proper condition. The idea of grass fields is wonderful and poetic, but simply not practical. Artificial fields are required here and need to be implemented with lighting.

7 months ago

Lack of bathrooms
7 months ago

Not enough in town facilities - lap pool and turf fields are needed
7 months ago

Parking and field closures are biggest reasons
7 months ago

We just need more recreational facilities. Instead of building apartment complexes we should look at preserving space for fields.
7 months ago

Providing fields and rinks and other recreation facilities encourages residents to stay local for athletic and recreation programs. It also attracts coaches and trainers to our town. It's a cycle where if more people frequent Westfield they will visit our shops, families will move here and become active residents.
7 months ago

Conditions are dispicable. Field availability even worse.
7 months ago

Elm street tennis courts need to be improved!
7 months ago

Board of Education Property, Not Town of Westfield
5 months ago

No lights.
7 months ago

This is the first year we were able to skate and play hockey locally. Having ice rinks 20 minutes away is inconvenient and not inclusive.
7 months ago

Ice rink is very inconvenient and not inclusive for those who live near by.
7 months ago

Grass fields are in terrible condition.
7 months ago

Unavailable fields
7 months ago

Not enough turf fields for all the teams and sports
7 months ago

No time.
7 months ago

Poor communication about programming
8 months ago

Would love to see more “Rec Sports” options available.
8 months ago

Would make sense to have basic bike lanes and amenities that connect neighborhoods to facilities to improve access and reduce traffic and parking problems
8 months ago

Agree with other comment - we do use the facilities and if we don't it's because of "overuse/unavailable "
8 months ago

No restroom facilities
8 months ago

Tamaques Tennis Courts are always packed- never an opportunity to get onto a court without a long wait or problems from other people using courts too long. I'm forced to join a ladder in another town.
8 months ago

??
8 months ago

Without lights we are not adults have very limited access to fields and other facilities
8 months ago

Availability of fields and courts is the root cause of the problem. More capacity = more programs for wider audience.
8 months ago

Limited availability of fields and basketball courts in number and condition. This is the underlying cause or the problem.
8 months ago

Westfield is one of the few, or surrounding towns, that charge its residents to take classes offered in our Community Room.
These classes should be free of charge to residents.
8 months ago

Programs are canceled due to poor field conditions.
8 months ago

A few of the parks and school fields seem to be in dire need of better drainage.
8 months ago

Facilities are booked
8 months ago

none
8 months ago

Road not plowed (Tamaques)
8 months ago

No Lights is a horrible situation.
No Wrestling facility available.
8 months ago

The Westfield recreation programs seem geared to younger kids and my kids are older. Plus as the kids get older, they get involved in town sports leagues so there is less need for the town's recreation offerings
8 months ago

the playground equipment needs updating, all parks need better lighting as well
8 months ago

No reason
8 months ago

i really like tamaques

8 months ago

Not much here that stops me from using the parks. Weekends at Tamaques can be too crowded but during the weekdays it is great.
8 months ago

13. Counting yourself, what are the ages of the people in your household?

48, 48, 17 and 12
one month ago

66
one month ago

70, 57, 26, 22
one month ago

In our 70s.
2 months ago

43, 40, 5, 3
2 months ago

56, 58, 19
3 months ago

44, 59, 10, 8
4 months ago

41,48,8
4 months ago

54, 59, 20, 18
5 months ago

57, 56, 19, 17
5 months ago

57,56
5 months ago

50, 57, 22, ,20
5 months ago

10, 49, 52
5 months ago

over 20
5 months ago

52
5 months ago

37, 35 and 3
5 months ago

52, 51, 19, 17

52, 51, 15, 17
5 months ago

39,4,2
5 months ago

55 -17- 15
5 months ago

40, 38, 5, 1
5 months ago

47, 44, 14, 11
5 months ago

81, 72, 46, 44, 20, 16, 3
5 months ago

40,39,10,8
5 months ago

Over 40 and 4 years old
5 months ago

34,31,4,18 months
5 months ago

42,40,3
5 months ago

33,32,3,1
5 months ago

65 - 66
5 months ago

39 40 4 and 1 year
5 months ago

60, 58
5 months ago

40, 38, 9, 9, 6
5 months ago

38, 38, 6, 2
5 months ago

69
5 months ago

56, 63
5 months ago

50,47,12,15
5 months ago

60.59.
5 months ago

51, 17, 12
5 months ago

37,36,3
5 months ago

18, 18, 59, 62
5 months ago

45,39,3 and 7
5 months ago

48, 45, 9, 5
5 months ago

54, 53, 18
5 months ago

47, 46, 11, 8 error in last submission
5 months ago

47, 46, 21, 8
5 months ago

40,51, 9, 6
5 months ago

36, 35, 2
5 months ago

47,46,16,14,11
5 months ago

34, 32, 3, 3,
5 months ago

48 48 16 16 7
5 months ago

50+ and 20's
5 months ago

One person under the age of 5, two people ages 25-34
5 months ago

68, 73, 33
5 months ago

60, 18,18, 62
5 months ago

36, 36, 5, and 2
5 months ago

49, 45, 13, 10
5 months ago

1 person 25-34 years, 2 people 65-74 years
5 months ago

36,35,8,5
5 months ago

65+
5 months ago

3, 33
5 months ago

14-54
5 months ago

71
5 months ago

48, 51, 13, 11
5 months ago

45, 45, 14, 11, 8
5 months ago

55, 46, 13, 10
5 months ago

42, 41, 9, 6
5 months ago

54, 54,19,15
6 months ago

60, 42, 9
6 months ago

50,53,18,16,13
6 months ago

47, 17, 11
6 months ago

52,51,16
6 months ago

15, 15, 17, 48, 53
6 months ago

37,37,7,5
6 months ago

50, 40, 10, 7
6 months ago

50, 49, 14,14
6 months ago

22, 20, 17, 57,57
6 months ago

50,48,23,20,11
6 months ago

38, 41, 9, 6
6 months ago

47,46, 13 and 9
6 months ago

50, 50, 16, 14, 11
6 months ago

59,57,22
6 months ago

43, 39, 9, 6, 3
6 months ago

42, 36, 13, 9, 1
6 months ago

58, 63
6 months ago

44, 39, 9, 6, 3
6 months ago

42,40,10,8
6 months ago

45, 44, 10, 9
6 months ago

41,38,10,8,7, 1
6 months ago

52,52
6 months ago

57, 56, 23
6 months ago

39,39,8,6
6 months ago

40, 40, 7, 5
6 months ago

54, 50, 21,18
6 months ago

47,45,16,14,12
6 months ago

46, 43 8, 5
6 months ago

46, 43, 12, 9
6 months ago

51,45,16,14,11
6 months ago

43,42,11,9,5
6 months ago

12, 10, 43, 45
6 months ago

48, 16,14,10
6 months ago

46, 46, 15, 13, 9
6 months ago

38 and 39
6 months ago

20, 24, 54 and 55
6 months ago

48,42,9,12
6 months ago

Adults in 50's & teenaged children
6 months ago

15 and above
6 months ago

prefer not to answer
6 months ago

57, 53, 17, 13
6 months ago

58,58,26,23
6 months ago

raised my kids in town but they are grown so just my husband and I
6 months ago

60, 54, 20, 17
6 months ago

50, 43, 9, 6
6 months ago

51, 40, 12, u
6 months ago

2, 34 and 34
6 months ago

60,60,
6 months ago

12 & 50
6 months ago

Kids, 13, 10, 6, Two Adults > 35
6 months ago

45, 14 ,11, 8
6 months ago

43, 42, 10, 8
6 months ago

51,47,16,13
6 months ago

3, 6, 42, 44
6 months ago

44, 39, 9, 6, 3
6 months ago

36, 36, 5, 2
6 months ago

43, 42, 6
6 months ago

14, 12,53, 53
6 months ago

45,43,10,8
6 months ago

4/8/35/36
6 months ago

44, 13,12, 9
6 months ago

47, 48, 15, 13
6 months ago

53, 46, 8, 4
6 months ago

56, 55, 21,19,17
6 months ago

60.60,22,25
6 months ago

38,36,5,4,1
6 months ago

40s and teens
6 months ago

54, 47,13,10
7 months ago

45 44 14 10 8
7 months ago

52,50,21,19,13
7 months ago

42, 36, 8, 5
7 months ago

56,55,21,17,15
7 months ago

From 9 to 50
7 months ago

40, 39, 8, 5
7 months ago

36, 2, 5
7 months ago

46, 44, 13, 10
7 months ago

36, 37 & 3
7 months ago

30
7 months ago

31
7 months ago

44, 46, 10, 7
7 months ago

above 60
7 months ago

45, 52, 12, 6
7 months ago

60, 57 , 24,
7 months ago

49, 45, 10, 8
7 months ago

54, 45, 13, 10
7 months ago

15 and 12
7 months ago

15, 12, 55, 53
7 months ago

46, 44, 11, 9, 7
7 months ago

50, 47,14,12,9
7 months ago

58, 57, 24, 15
7 months ago

46, 44, 6, 5
7 months ago

7, 9, 9, 13
7 months ago

47, 46, 15, 11
7 months ago

52, 20, 12
7 months ago

41, 42, 10, 8
7 months ago

51 49 19 16 14
7 months ago

47, 46, 13, 11, 9, 7
7 months ago

42, 11
7 months ago

39, 40, 7, 5
7 months ago

15-50
7 months ago

7 months ago

47, 46, 13, 10
7 months ago

60, 57, 21
7 months ago

59, 58, 41, 40, 12, 10
7 months ago

48, 48, 20, 16
7 months ago

46, 47, 12
7 months ago

62. 66
7 months ago

43, 42, 10, 8, 5
7 months ago

53, 52, 17
7 months ago

48, 47, 17, 16, 8
7 months ago

7-44
7 months ago

8, 10, 48
7 months ago

57, 52, 18, 15, 13
7 months ago

early 50s, 18 and 22.
7 months ago

49,47,17,14,12
7 months ago

9, 7, 42, 40
7 months ago

40,38,10,7
7 months ago

51, 51, 22, 20
7 months ago

54,52,15,15
7 months ago

56,55,17,15
7 months ago

49,48,12,9
7 months ago

5, 2, 50
7 months ago

87, 68, 45, 45, 12, 8 and 6
7 months ago

64, 60, 23
7 months ago

43, 40, 8, 6, 3
7 months ago

40s and under 10
7 months ago

50, 46, 12, 9, 7
7 months ago

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7 months ago

15, 13
7 months ago

50, 47, 17, 15
7 months ago

43,40,13,10
7 months ago

37 and 12
7 months ago

48,48,13,10
7 months ago

61 and 61
7 months ago

8, 10, 12, 45, 47
7 months ago

39, 35, 4, 4, 2
7 months ago

8, 44, 75
7 months ago

15 - 45
7 months ago

68, 67
7 months ago

64 and 66
7 months ago

49, 48, 15, 11
7 months ago

46, 46, 12, 12
7 months ago

44,43,14,11
7 months ago

51,49,19,17,14
7 months ago

44, 43, 14, 11
7 months ago

43, 43,11,8,6
7 months ago

43, 42, 11, 8, 6
7 months ago

45 41 13 11 6
7 months ago

74, 44,44, 8
7 months ago

43, 42, 15 and 13
7 months ago

42; 40; 8;5
7 months ago

35, 34, 6, and 4 year old twins
7 months ago

51,45,10,8
7 months ago

46,47,16,14,9
7 months ago

9,12,43
7 months ago

46, 46, 15, 10
7 months ago

mid-50's

7 months ago

43, 42 and 9
7 months ago

43, 42, 9, 9
7 months ago

none
7 months ago

60
7 months ago

55,54,18
7 months ago

50, 50, 13. 19
7 months ago

50, 46, 8 and 4
7 months ago

44,43,14,11,8
7 months ago

36,34,3,74
7 months ago

40, 38. 6. 4. 1.5
7 months ago

55, 51, 18
7 months ago

46, 43, 13, 11
7 months ago

40's and 10
7 months ago

43,42,11,9
7 months ago

43, 45, 8, 4
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43, 43, 11, 9
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51, 46, 13, 10, 10
7 months ago

48, 45, 15, 11
7 months ago

38, 38, 2.5
7 months ago

48, 48, 11
7 months ago

39, 37, 6, 2
7 months ago

39, 46, 10, 9, 7
7 months ago

41, 40, 9, 7, 4
7 months ago

45, 44, 13, 10, 8
7 months ago

40,39, 8,5
7 months ago

53, 51, 17, 15
7 months ago

41, 41, 13, 9
7 months ago

52 50 20 17 15 12
7 months ago

40, 40, 6, 8
7 months ago

34, 33, 5
7 months ago

46, 44, 10, 7
7 months ago

45,39,13,10
7 months ago

2 teenagers, 1 middle school
7 months ago

47, 14, 12
7 months ago

36,33,2
7 months ago

43, 41, 12, 10
7 months ago

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7 months ago

54, 57
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48,46,17,14
7 months ago

44,43,11,7
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41,44,12,10
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48, 48, 14, 11, 11
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40, 39, 10, 8, 7
7 months ago

37/38/6/3/4 months
7 months ago

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5-40
7 months ago

9/7
7 months ago

2,5,36,37
7 months ago

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7 months ago

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10,12, 12, 44,45
7 months ago

41,40,9,6,2
7 months ago

49, 44,14,12
7 months ago

43,40,11,8
7 months ago

45, 45, 12, 8

7 months ago

42,43,8,12
7 months ago

50, 51, 15, 15, 12
7 months ago

Late 40s and below 10
7 months ago

38 37 6 3
7 months ago

50 23 21 19
7 months ago

various
7 months ago

41, 42, 11 and 6
7 months ago

46, 44, 7, 5
7 months ago

42,42,10,11
7 months ago

46, 45, 9, 6
7 months ago

51,50,19,16,13
7 months ago

12, 52 and 54
7 months ago

41, 41, 9, 7
7 months ago

43,43,10, 13
7 months ago

50,46,11,14
7 months ago

41, 40, 7, 6, and 3 days old
7 months ago

45,46,13,5
7 months ago

45, 45, 13,7
7 months ago

78, 44,44,12,8
7 months ago

49, 13, 6
7 months ago

48, 45, 13, 10, 3
7 months ago

39-38-8-7-6
7 months ago

40, 39, 7, 5
7 months ago

43, 44, 12, 10
7 months ago

39, 34, 7, 5, 2
7 months ago

7, 11, 13,13,39,42
7 months ago

45, 44, 12, 9
7 months ago

41,39, 8, 6, 4
7 months ago

38, 37, 8, 6, 3
7 months ago

40,42,4,7,9
7 months ago

52, 48, 15, 13, 9
7 months ago

37, 37, 6, 4
7 months ago

43, 44, 13 & 11
7 months ago

37,37,5,3
7 months ago

43, 42, 6
7 months ago

39,36,8,5
7 months ago

48, 42, 12, 8
7 months ago

48, 42, 12 and 8
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45,46,11,7
7 months ago

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7 months ago

47, 43, 12, 8
7 months ago

45,43,11,9,6
7 months ago

50, 42, 12, 9, 9
7 months ago

41, 40, 9, 7, 4
7 months ago

38,34,4,1
7 months ago

46, 43, 13
7 months ago

37, 5, 3
7 months ago

42,38,24,7,5,1
7 months ago

11, 13, 43, 44
7 months ago

44, 10, 11
7 months ago

44, 44, 16, 13, 11
7 months ago

36, 35, 7, 5
7 months ago

48, 49, 11
7 months ago

46,44,15,13,9
7 months ago

13 16 17 48 48
7 months ago

42, 42, 12, 9, 6

7 months ago

47, 46, 12, 8, 8
7 months ago

52
7 months ago

32, 30, 1.5
7 months ago

52, 47, 16, 13, 10
7 months ago

5, 4, 2
7 months ago

45, 47, 18, 16, 12
7 months ago

8 -54
7 months ago

8 years old-54 years old
7 months ago

8-52
7 months ago

44,40, 9 and 7
7 months ago

47, 46, 15, 13, 9
7 months ago

5
7 months ago

45,45,15,13
7 months ago

40, 42, 3, 9, 12
7 months ago

37, 38, 6, 3
7 months ago

college kids and adults
7 months ago

3, 8mo, 36, 33
7 months ago

6,7,37,38
7 months ago

41, 41, 11, 8, 5
7 months ago

65, 61, 24
7 months ago

48, 47, 16, & 13
7 months ago

37,36,9,7,5,3
7 months ago

14,12,10,5
7 months ago

48, 45, 9, 7
7 months ago

68,73
7 months ago

49, 46, 17, 14, 9
7 months ago

54,48,12,12,8
7 months ago

50,50,17,15,11
7 months ago

50+, 50+, three teens
7 months ago

43, 42, 11, 5
7 months ago

48, 48, 21, 13
7 months ago

43, 48, 11, 9
7 months ago

42, 42, 11, 8
7 months ago

50, 13, 15 and 46
7 months ago

56, 56, 17
7 months ago

42, 40, 12, 10, 6
7 months ago

59,59
7 months ago

50,45,12, 9
7 months ago

49,49,18,16,13
7 months ago

43, 14, 12, 10, 8
7 months ago

48, 41, 10, 8, 6
7 months ago

43, 42, 11, 9, 6, 5
7 months ago

44, 41, 14, 11, 9
7 months ago

44, 42, 11, 7
7 months ago

53,44,12,14
7 months ago

12-51
7 months ago

41, 41, 11, 9, 7
7 months ago

46, 46, 13, 11, 9
7 months ago

57, 57, 21, 19
7 months ago

10 and 11
7 months ago

44, 43, 9, 7, 5
7 months ago

54,53, 10 & 7
7 months ago

46, 45, 11, 7
7 months ago

37, 37, 6, 3
7 months ago

53 51 20 17 12
7 months ago

48,47,18,16,13,11

7 months ago

49, 43, 9, and 7
7 months ago

50,49,19,17,12
7 months ago

48, 48, 16, 14, 10, 7
7 months ago

56, 48, 15, 12
7 months ago

40,40,13,11,7
7 months ago

48, 47, 10, 10
7 months ago

42, 41, 7, 6, 4
7 months ago

59, 58, 24
7 months ago

44, 40 and 6
7 months ago

40
7 months ago

55, 53, 23, 21, 18
7 months ago

48,46, 14 & 15.
7 months ago

71 and 66
7 months ago

9,10,45,49
7 months ago

49, 48, 12, 10
7 months ago

42,43,11,8
7 months ago

21, 19, 14
7 months ago

46, 46, 14, 12
7 months ago

43, 40, 8, 7
7 months ago

51, 51, 14, and 12
7 months ago

48, 53, 13, 10
7 months ago

46, 46, 15,13, 12
7 months ago

50, 43, 11 and 10
7 months ago

53, 19, 15
7 months ago

8-6-4
7 months ago

68, 43, 42, 13, 11
7 months ago

40,41,8,6
7 months ago

47. 47, 14,12,9
7 months ago

54, 48, 24, 22, 20, 15
7 months ago

42, 41, 8, 6, 3
7 months ago

44,39,9,1
7 months ago

46, 45, 13, 12, 10
7 months ago

45,44, 13, 11, 9
7 months ago

42,40,12,10,6
7 months ago

46,46,11,9
7 months ago

42, 42, 9, 7, and 4
7 months ago

49, 21,18,15
7 months ago

44, 42, 10, 10
7 months ago

49,49,17,15,12
7 months ago

43, 49, 8 ,4
7 months ago

53,54,16,18,20
7 months ago

42,37,9,7,5,3
7 months ago

43,43,10,9,7,5
7 months ago

Old and young
7 months ago

47,46,15,12,12
7 months ago

45, 42, 11, 8, 5
7 months ago

47/44/14/12/10
7 months ago

47, 48, 13, 15
7 months ago

18,17,13
7 months ago

14-55
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53,49,13, 12 and 10
7 months ago

13,16,17, 48, 48
7 months ago

44 , 42 , 12 ,10
7 months ago

42,43, 14, 9
7 months ago

44, 42, 11, 9, 6, 4
7 months ago

50, 42, 12, 9 & 9

7 months ago

48, 48, 12, 4
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44, 8, 12
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43, 41, 11 and 11
7 months ago

8,9,10,47,47
7 months ago

47, 50, 12, 14
7 months ago

57,48,15,13
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13,16,50,53
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43,12,10
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37,38,9,6
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51, 48, 14 & 12
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43,44,10,12
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49,48,17,14,14
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50,50,18,15,11
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40, 12, 9, 6
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4 to 42
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50, 16, 14
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40,40,11,9
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3, 7, 9, 12, 40, 41
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47, 47, 16, 13, 11, 8
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44, 45, 13, 10, 7
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47, 46, 15, 13, 11
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56 , 55 , 22 , 18, 12
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60,47,17,14
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48, 48, 16, 14, 11
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50,44,13,11
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47,45,14,9,6
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47, 46, 15, 13 and 9
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46, 45, 13, 11, 8
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44,55,13,11,7
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45, 42, 12, 10
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48, 48, 18,17,15
7 months ago

44, 8, 7
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39, 42, 6 and 9
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43, 42, 11, 9, 4
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46, 41, 9, 8
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14,24,49,48
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50,45, 12, 11, 8
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37, 37, 8, 6, 4
7 months ago

46,46,14,11
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48,18,17,13,12
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37,36,6,4,1
7 months ago

48/47/13/15
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60,57,19
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47, 49, 12, 9
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45, 45, 16, 14, 11
7 months ago

46, 46, 10, 9, 7
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44, 15, 12, 7
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42,40,8,6

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4,6,8,43,45
7 months ago

49, 49, 20, 17
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42, 43, 12, 9
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45,43,10,9,6
7 months ago

56, 62
7 months ago

50.49 16,15 and 13
7 months ago

45, 9, and 7
7 months ago

51-11
7 months ago

4 children 11-17 and parents over 40
7 months ago

38, 37, 8, 6
7 months ago

52, 50, 16, 13, 7
7 months ago

42,13,9,11
7 months ago

50
7 months ago

46,45,15,13,9
7 months ago

11, 13, 15, 17, 50
7 months ago

42, 40, 9, 7, 2
7 months ago

35, 35, 1
7 months ago

45, 42, 14, 12, 6
7 months ago

58, 54, 15,13
7 months ago

53, 52, 14, 17, 19
7 months ago

Teens and middle aged
7 months ago

40,42,13,11,2
7 months ago

45,44,15,13,11
7 months ago

17, 49, 21
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13, 16
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45, 16, 13
7 months ago

3 youth, 2 adults
7 months ago

Range from 90, 50s, 21 and 18
7 months ago

45, 44. 14, 11, 8, 5
7 months ago

9, 14, 48, and 48
7 months ago

42, 41, 9, 6
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46, 44, 11, 9, 6
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42, 43, 10, 9, 8
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48, 48,17,15,13
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44,43,15,11
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40, 40, 9, 5
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42,42, 12, 10,7
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37 35 6 3 1
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41 40 13 10 5
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38, 38, 22, 7, 5
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50, 49, 18, 16, 12
7 months ago

44,44,5,5,4
7 months ago

9-50
7 months ago

50, 47, 14, 11 ans 11
7 months ago

38, 39, 7, 4
7 months ago

41, 43, 5, 8, 12

41, 45, 5, 8, 12
7 months ago

9,16,46,49
7 months ago

6, 11, 13, 43, 45
7 months ago

31
7 months ago

72, 73, 38
7 months ago

44, 9, 6
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62,54,14,11
7 months ago

50*14*16
7 months ago

40, 33, 4, 1
7 months ago

45, 42, 6, 2
7 months ago

64- two of us
7 months ago

75, 62
7 months ago

40,40,5,3,3
7 months ago

50, 19, 17, 12
8 months ago

54, 55, 20, 18, 13
8 months ago

65+
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49,45,19,15,12
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33, 30, 5, 1 1/2
8 months ago

46,45,21,18,15,13
8 months ago

35, 33
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1 3 35 38
8 months ago

35; 31; 7; 4.
8 months ago

4
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41,35,14,6
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50's teens
8 months ago

43, 11, 9
8 months ago

15-53 years
8 months ago

45, 43, 12, 10, 7
8 months ago

37,37,4,1
8 months ago

48, 13, 8,5,3
8 months ago

42, 37, 6, 2
8 months ago

37, 37, 6, 6, 5, 3
8 months ago

57, 61
8 months ago

65 and 70
8 months ago

48, 49, 16, 14, 11
8 months ago

8, 14, 49, 55
8 months ago

48, 47, 13, 11, 9 & 9
8 months ago

40, 40, 11, 9, 6
8 months ago

58, 53, 24, 23, 19
8 months ago

over 60
8 months ago

45, 44, 16, 16, 13, 11
8 months ago

46, 44, 13, 11, 9
8 months ago

43,44,11,8
8 months ago

48,47,13,15
8 months ago

56,53,24,21,18,17
8 months ago

11, 14, 16, and 51 (2 of us)
8 months ago

55,50,15
8 months ago

66 and 64
8 months ago

49, 49, 17, 16, 14
8 months ago

44, 44, 14,11,8 and 4
8 months ago

60, 59,24, & 23; answers above reflected the time we actively used all Westfiled has to offer. Right now we just run at the track.
8 months ago

81 and 50
8 months ago

57,52,24,22,19
8 months ago

7,11,13,42,42
8 months ago

17-52
8 months ago

44, 44, 13, 11, 6
8 months ago

66, 61, 18
8 months ago

55,53,15,12
8 months ago

55, 44, 19,17,15
8 months ago

57, 55, 24, 22, 19
8 months ago

10 - 49
8 months ago

Two adults, 58 & 60
8 months ago

41, 40, 13, 9, 8, 4
8 months ago

19 to 55 years old
8 months ago

58,57, 24, 22
8 months ago

57 and 56
8 months ago

Adults
8 months ago

56,54,19,16
8 months ago

43, 42, 13, 10
8 months ago

41, 41, 1, 5
8 months ago

54, 50, 12, 11
8 months ago

52, 52
8 months ago

43, 43, 12, 6
8 months ago

48, 48, 20, 18, 16, 14
8 months ago

50,45,10,8
8 months ago

50-15
8 months ago

26 to 60
8 months ago

51,52,10
8 months ago

13 to 57
8 months ago

2,33,33
8 months ago

40, 39, 8, 6, 2
8 months ago

50, 44, 9, 6
8 months ago

50, 50, 18, 16
8 months ago

46 45 11 7 7
8 months ago

46, 45, 11, 7, 7
8 months ago

21 to 58
8 months ago

50, 50, 16, 17
8 months ago

51 55 14 19 19
8 months ago

51, 41, 6, 4
8 months ago

13, 17, 50s
8 months ago

49, 16, 12
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48, 45, 10, 11
8 months ago

65, 56
8 months ago

47,46,13,11,8

8 months ago

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41, 40, 15, 11, 7
8 months ago

57, 55, 26
8 months ago

42,41,10,7,3
8 months ago

3, 6, 42, 43, 69, 75
8 months ago

45, 45, 15, 13
8 months ago

49, 45, 14, 12
8 months ago

54, 50, 16, 14
8 months ago

51, 42, 14, 14, 6
8 months ago

10,13,18,51,51
8 months ago

50 and 10
8 months ago

6 people: ages 13-50
8 months ago

30-44
8 months ago

58, 57, 15
8 months ago

57,58 and 22
8 months ago

49,19,17
8 months ago

45, 46, 15,13,11
8 months ago

6, 10, 42, 42
8 months ago

40, 39
8 months ago

55, 50, 12, 11
8 months ago

38, 38, 5, 3
8 months ago

55, 50, 17, 16, 13, 11
8 months ago

44. 40, 8, 6
8 months ago

10, 44, 48
8 months ago

51, 52, 22, 20, 28, 16
8 months ago

45, 45, 14, 12
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52, 48, 10, 5
8 months ago

41, 40, 9, 7, 5
8 months ago

11,13,14
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70, 70
8 months ago

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50, 47, 16, 13
8 months ago

45, 44, 13, 10
8 months ago

45, 46, 9, 7
8 months ago

21, three are 60+
8 months ago

47, 46, 13. 10
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8 months ago

46, 53, 14
8 months ago

18, 18 54 57
8 months ago

44, 44, 7, 4, 1
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8 months ago

48 48 14 09
8 months ago

40, 38, 9, 7
8 months ago

76, 70, 45, 15 and 10
8 months ago

48, 47, 17, 14 & 11
8 months ago

10-50
8 months ago

46, 44, 15 , 12
8 months ago

40ish, 7-9ish
8 months ago

44,44,14,10
8 months ago

14, 18, 20, 52, 53
8 months ago

54, 45, 18, 16, 14, 11
8 months ago

15, 17, 47, 50
8 months ago

48, 45, 15, 13, 10

8 months ago

53,53,22,19,15
8 months ago

32 and 33
8 months ago

53, 48, 14, 11, 8
8 months ago

3 young boys
8 months ago

42 / 12 / 8 / 5
8 months ago

45, 43, 14, 12, 11
8 months ago

55,53,15,15
8 months ago

52, 51,22,19
8 months ago

59, 53, 18, 17
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48,47,16,13,10,10
8 months ago

44, 44, 7,5
8 months ago

40 37 5 3 1
8 months ago

46, 46, 17, 15
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12, 14, 16, 48, 50
8 months ago

39, 38, 10, 8, 6
8 months ago

55, 69, 15
8 months ago

41, 41, 11, 9, 7
8 months ago

38, 37, 7, 5
8 months ago

54,55,10
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52, 50, 18, 15
8 months ago

45, 44, 12, 8
8 months ago

41, 10, 6
8 months ago

35, 30
8 months ago

4",35,7,4,1
8 months ago

40, 36, 7,5, 1
8 months ago

36,37,3
8 months ago

46,45,11,8
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8 months ago

50, 48, 16, 14, 10
8 months ago

38,37,7,4
8 months ago

31
8 months ago

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49,39,11,8
8 months ago

41, 41, 10 , 6
8 months ago

44,40,10,8,6
8 months ago

42, 40, 8, 5
8 months ago

46, 42, 11 and 7
8 months ago

65 66
8 months ago

45,43,13,11,8
8 months ago

48, 12, 4
8 months ago

39, 39, 8, 6, 3
8 months ago

66, 67
8 months ago

59, 57, 22
8 months ago

40 40 10 7
8 months ago

Adult and teen
8 months ago

53,45,12,7
8 months ago

54, 53, 16
8 months ago

1,2,3,35,35
8 months ago

44, 10, and 8
8 months ago

43, 42, 13, 10
8 months ago

53, 51,20,18,16 and 11.
8 months ago

7,9,40,42
8 months ago

18,20,22,51,52
8 months ago

46, 42, 10, 7
8 months ago

50, 49, 17, 15, 11
8 months ago

68, 68

8 months ago

53, 51, 20, 18, 17, 12
8 months ago

36, 36, 7, 5
8 months ago

51, 50, 15, 15, 14
8 months ago

60's
8 months ago

45,44,13,7
8 months ago

43, 43,11,8
8 months ago

46, 17, 13, 11
8 months ago

59, 56, 16
8 months ago

9,9,12,39,43
8 months ago

9,46, 49
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71
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66, 63
8 months ago

49, 48, 17, 14 and 11
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62,60,31,29,3,1
8 months ago

54, 49, 21, 19, 16, 14
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53,50,21,18,15,8
8 months ago

49, 48, 14, 11, 7
8 months ago

15, 11, 46, 45
8 months ago

43, 10, 13
8 months ago

50, 51, 21, 16
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52, 50, 17, 12
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49, 46, 16, 9
8 months ago

36,30, 15, 10
8 months ago

47,46,16,14
8 months ago

15-50
8 months ago

37, 42, 4 and 9 months
8 months ago

4
8 months ago

49, 49, 18 and 15
8 months ago

50, 49, 16, 14, 11
8 months ago

10, 11, 50, 57
8 months ago

41, 40, 15, 11, 7
8 months ago

48 47 14 9
8 months ago

40, 38, 12, 10, 5, 4
8 months ago

48, 19, 17, 14
8 months ago

41-36-9-6
8 months ago

3 teens and 2 adults in 50's
8 months ago

47, 46, 15, 11
8 months ago

50, 50, 18. 16
8 months ago

8,10,44
8 months ago

49, 48, 18, 17, 15, 15, 15
8 months ago

38,38,11,9,7
8 months ago

38, 37, 10, 8, 6
8 months ago

40, 40, 6, 5, 12.5 (dog)
8 months ago

44, 42, 5, 2
8 months ago

4 teenagers, 2 adults (52 and 53)
8 months ago

Mom & Dad in late 40's, middle schooler aged 13, elementary school age 9
8 months ago

60, 54, 19, 16
8 months ago

5-47
8 months ago

36, 35, 5, 3 ,22
8 months ago

60, 56 21
8 months ago

Teenager and 2 50 year old parents
8 months ago

46,45,11,7,7
8 months ago

33, 33, 4 years
8 months ago

11, 14, 45, 48
8 months ago

44, 44, 12, 10, 8
8 months ago

47, 43, 13, 9

8 months ago

45,40,16,14,13,12
8 months ago

37, 36, 11, 10, 7
8 months ago

45, 16, 13
8 months ago

48, 45, 11, 10, 8.5
8 months ago

children 8-10 and my wife - 40 plus
8 months ago

46, 42, 11, 9, 6
8 months ago

59 + 60
8 months ago

48, 45, 9 7
8 months ago

36,38, 2, 2 minths
8 months ago

56, 60
8 months ago

48,45,16,13
8 months ago

60, 50, 20
8 months ago

60,55,21
8 months ago

52, 69 and 70
8 months ago

37, 36, 3, 1
8 months ago

63, 58, 23
8 months ago

14. What recommendations would you like for the Town of Westfield to consider in the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan?

Westfield needs more field space for major sports in town. I think we need to be creative in finding solutions. I don't think we should transform Tamaques Park by adding two lit turf fields and a 9k square foot field house and undermine it's natural beauty. I think there are other ways to accommodate the pressing need including: 1) adding a bubble over Sid Fey/Houlihan, 2) Turfing a school field; 3) Turfing Memorial Field; 4) Using some of the space at the Conservation Center across Lambert's Mill Rd from Tamaques Park; 5) Reconfiguring Elm Street Field and the tennis courts there to add a turf field there with lights (since I don't believe there are any residents there and there's a town parking lot across the street plus the Board of Ed lot)

8 months ago 19 Agree

Great ideas! Completely agree!

8 months ago 1 Agree

Agree as weill!!!

5 months ago

The high quality of the services offered by our in town youth sports programs is not reflected in the grass fields that our kids currently play on. Having to play on poor grass fields, not enough turf for the programs to utilize, and having to have the in-town kids pay for rental space on out of town fields can't be the solution. Our kids should be staying and playing in town on quality fields.

I greatly appreciate a holistic approach out our in town parks and recreation situation and look forward to participating in the upcoming community events.

8 months ago 17 Agree

Do something with that space on Elm. The tennis courts are a distaster and it is an underused space.
Find a NEW HOME for the ice rink. You've imposed on the Ward 2 community enough.

8 months ago 13 Agree

I live in Ward 2 near the rink and love it! Great for the community. I love to see kids and families walking to the rink to skate. Terrific winter activity for our community.

8 months ago 10 Agree

I live in ward 2 very close to the rink and love it. Have taken decible readings in the rink during games and can't get anything over 90 inside the rink. Once you move out the decible readings go down, so not sure where these nay sayers are getting their stats and complaining its too loud. I hear the train more than the rink. Its an area for kids to grow and thrive and be kids, which is what our parks are for. Please keep imposing the rink on us in Ward 2!!!!! Love it!!!!

8 months ago 7 Agree

I agree the Elm Street “space” is not utilized to the best of its ability. I know the BOE owns it but we need to partner with them or something, this is a perfect spot for turf fields!!! Everyone walking around town can stop by and watch a game! The tennis courts are a disaster....and agree the iceri j is great but she moved to Memorial Field parking lot!

8 months ago 6 Agree

We have used the tennis courts here for years, but we would love to see them get an upgrade.

7 months ago

Agree about Elm Street

8 months ago

I live in Ward 2 very close to the rink and have no issues with it.

8 months ago 4 Agree

Please, please, please add a turf field to Westfield. The Tamaques plan was great but would also love to buy the Elm St field from the BoE and turf it. It would bring so much traffic to downtown if we could get travel soccer/lacrosse/etc games held in town.

8 months ago 11 Agree

Please try to keep the nature and beaty in rapidly developing area. Ice rink at Gumbert is in a horrible location and terrible for Garwoid and Westfield residents nearby. It is incredibly loud with slap shots and pucks hitting walls. Only 10% of time is it even open to general public. A new public track would be wonderful given how popular Kehler is and how inaccessible it can be with team sport practices. Promote ride sharing to cut down on parking at parks as Tamaques, Gumbert, and Mindowadin issues.

8 months ago 8 Agree

Please consider a dog park. It would be a place people could go to and “legally” be able to take their dog off a leash. Dog are running free on playgrounds and other area where they aren’t

suppose to.
8 months ago 7 Agree

No ice rink in the middle of a residential neighborhood!
8 months ago 7 Agree

same 6 families against it.
7 months ago

I'm not one of those "same 6." I'm against its LOCATION, not having it.
7 months ago 1 Agree

A large recreation facility that could accommodate indoor basketball and wrestling. Better maintenance of baseball fields with proper drainage, lights and better parking at Tamaques.
8 months ago 7 Agree

Recognize that there is no such thing as a perfect solution that will make everyone happy, so take in the feedback provided in this survey, define a plan, and do SOMETHING! Any improvement or increase in capacity in field or court space will be well received by enough to be worthwhile. "Perfect is the enemy of good"
6 months ago 5 Agree

My kids are young and they aren't elite athletes but I'm not aware of lack of fields ever being a problem for us. They have participated in soccer, baseball, flag and lacrosse. I am concerned that the people that are demanding new sports facilities are a loud minority. My family loves cycling, nature and climbing. The perfect plan for me would be very balanced and not heavily weighted with investments on new sports facilities. How big is the wrestling program that has been campaigning loudly on this survey for example? I would hope that if there was a wrestling facility that it wouldn't be dedicated only to that sport and was more multi-use.
8 months ago 5 Agree

Adding turf and lighting to more Board of Education facilities such as the space behind Edison School, the Elm street field, and the WHS property. Prohibiting the use of full cleats on turf surfaces (make them turf shoes only) will also prolong the life of the fields.
8 months ago 5 Agree

I have 3 school age children who all play sports, but that CANNOT be the only focus of our parks and recreation plan. I love this town and would like to stay in it well past my children growing up and moving out, so investing in things other than new atheltic fields is big for me. I'm encouraged with the options that describe things like disc golf, walking trails and bocce as amenities that could be added. Activities that are enjoyable for both old and young and can be done independently are huge wins in keeping people in this community for the long term.
8 months ago 5 Agree

Please keep the natural beauty of our parks. Turf fields are only for sports, they are an eyesore any other time. Yes, we need fields but we need to balance the nature with team sports.
8 months ago 5 Agree

Do not waste time reinventing the wheel, start by meeting with all the constituencies that assisted in pulling together the Tamaques Park plan to learn what they considered and why. Then have outreach from there. Same for the hockey rink -- meet with not just the hockey teams but the Gumbert neighbors and then town residents in general to learn what works and what doesn't. Have a similar approach to our other fields and parks. There are a lot of knowledgeable people in town who have worked on these in the past, so use them to come up to speed.
8 months ago 5 Agree

Lots of knowledge, but where was the execution?
5 months ago

Please remember the people who use the parks for things other than organized sports.
8 months ago 5 Agree

Yes! When you are old you will understand the need.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Move rink to memorial parking lot.
7 months ago 4 Agree

Tamaques is a sports complex that already contains lights and other facilities, included paved sports (tennis, basketball). The replacement of some sports fields in Tamaques with lit, turfed,

fields would improve the ability of soccer to keep Westfield kids and their families in Westfield and would provide a backup for events like Kehler refurbishment. If Elm was turfed that would drive players through downtown. Roughly 60 players and families every 90 minutes...(in a soccer game).
8 months ago 4 Agree

It shouldn't be all about sports but should focus on what's the best outcome for the town over the next ten years. It should be inclusive of activities that will attract the next generation to our town - experience focused, high connectivity, entertainment and food service oriented, and natural. I played sports growing up and appreciate the need for an investment in our fields but it has to be a balanced approach.
8 months ago 4 Agree

To bear in mind that we need to encourage more walking & biking in our town. make it more convenient & safe to do so. Its so congested right now with cars & traffic, and there seems to be a lack of awareness & courtesy towards bikers & pedestrians. Making the town safer for pedestrians should be a priority.
8 months ago 4 Agree

> Agree 100%!!
> 8 months ago 1 Agree

Don't engage in special interest favortism as is too often the case with this new town administration. Don't cater to small vocal minorities who demand things less than 5% of the town is going to use. (Disc Golf?!!? REALLY??). Do not attempt to turn Westfield into some kind of tai-chi retreat. Focus on things the overwhelming majority of the largest demographic groups will use frequently, not one a few Brooklyn transplants demand just do they can tell their friends their town "has this" and isn't so bad not being in "Brooklyn" anymore.

In other words, make adult and professional decisions, please.
7 months ago 3 Agree

> Excellent comment.
> 7 months ago

I really want you to consider that there are many residents in this town that don't care about children's sports programs. I hate the idea of having turf fields at Tamaques Park because when I ride my bike there to sit in the grass and read a book, I really don't want to be sitting on turf. I probably wouldn't go to the park any more.
8 months ago 3 Agree

That hockey rink is an abominable eyesore and was crammed down the throats of it's neighbors. Can it. If it is important, put it in Tamaques Park or on the Elm Street field. No? Then I guess it isn't that important.
8 months ago 3 Agree

> Agree 100%
> 7 months ago 1 Agree

Maximize use of existing facilities with all-weather turf, lights, and winter bubbles prior to spending on new fields. Hockey rink is terrific for community and use of public/private partnership makes it affordable for town. Consider building a viable location to permanently house such a rink as part of other development. Do not let NIMBY attitudes pervasive in WF prevent progress on recreational and other developmental needs. Any improvements will impact neighbors somewhere - there are few, if any, options to expand facilities in spaces not near anybody.
8 months ago 3 Agree

do not let rec dominate and dictate - and gumbert is an example - bunker - what is the purpose and reason for that? keep parks open for all! I like the parks here!
8 months ago 3 Agree

The parks are used for sports for our kids in town, and that is a great thing. But they are also used for recreation not tied to organized sports, like walking, running, dog walking, biking, etc. Please make sure that all are accommodated.
8 months ago 3 Agree

Please keep the integrity of the High School cross country course in Tamaques Park, there are over 30 years of records and tradition associated with it and this record setting high school team (100 consecutive wins).
7 months ago 2 Agree

Our town should do more events that are targeted to Gen X and Millennials. I'm not interested in

seeing the Westfield Community Band play, or even that interested in Jazz and classical music. Bring in some rock bands or other types of non-musical performances that are interesting to our generation. This will draw people to town, thereby helping the DWC. The DWC and Dept of Rec should have a strategic partnership to draw more people to Westfield utilizing events.

7 months ago 2 Agree

I'd like to see more events that draw people to Westfield. We should have a partnership between the parks and rec department and the DWC to help each other. Events could draw people to our businesses, but they also engender town pride and make the community a fun place to live. But I'd also like to see these events more geared toward Generation X and Millenials. I'm not interested in seeing the Westfield Community Band or even really Jazz Night. I want to see concerts and performances that are of interest to my age group.

7 months ago 2 Agree

The town needs more bike amenities. Downtown has TWO public bike racks other than Trader Joe's, the Y, and the train station where thefts are common. No bike lanes or simple road striping that I know of. Bikes are great for short trips around town. But we need amenities to make it viable and safe.

8 months ago 2 Agree

The tennis courts near Elm Street are in bad shape. It would be nice to have some usable public courts on this side of town. I would not want to see a large building/facility in Tamaques. It is one of the few open, farily natural spaces we have left.

8 months ago 2 Agree

The skew of this survey to Parks & Rec and not encompassing Bd of Ed fields threatens to create an incomplete picture. Parks and Rec and the Board of Ed should be fully aligned on the question of facilities, upkeep and availability. We are one town and all folks benefit from the collective property of the town. Strategic decisions should be based on these COLLECTIVE resources. Overcoming the legal, jurisdictional hurdles that prevent this collective view is probably difficult given we are in NJ but its critical.

8 months ago 2 Agree

> Absolutely agree! Our focus must begin with improving existing field space which includes collaboration w/BOE. Residents are demanding improved conditions for youth sports and Westfield youth is the priority of the BOE. Collabororation between the Westfield town and the BOE, to maximize school fields, to build turf and implement improvements is smart. Turf fields at Elm St, RIS, Tamaques school, and Jefferson should be considered. Sycamore should be turfed. Converting some school grass, that's in poor condition as is, to turf also solves the flooding issues which regularly prevents the grass from being used at all. Also, LIGHTS!! No lights at Kehler is UNACCEPTABLE! Lights expand usage and consolidates the quantity of field space needed, it's that simple.
>
> 8 months ago 1 Agree

Improve conditions of all existing field space used for sports and bathroom facilities. Alter existing fields as necessary to maximize usage for multiple sports. Share feedback from this survey w/BOE to demonstrate the need for improvements to school fields. Coordinate w/BOE to change the Elm St grass field to turf and to transform rundown Walnut St tennis courts (which BOE has not maintained) into a concrete skatepark + basketball court + bathrooms. I like the idea of a turf track at Tamaques park and a bike trail system throughout the town.

8 months ago 2 Agree

Be inclusive of all residents

8 months ago 2 Agree

Mountain Bike trails at Tamaques and Brightwood. Bike lanes connecting these trails and also critical routes through town (schools/parks). Skatepark is sorely needed and about 20 years overdue. Lit turf fields also sorely overdue. I grew up here through the 70s-80s and much our our rec facilities haven't changed.

8 months ago 2 Agree

Buy the Lord & Taylor property and turn it into an indoor sports facility.

8 months ago 2 Agree

Tamaques Park is the heart of our town and utilized at all hours by people walking and enjoying nature. There is not enough space for parking if this facility is converted into a multi turf complex. The neighborhood cannot support that much traffic either.

8 months ago 2 Agree

> Tamaques was designed as the Recreation Park in Town. Each Park has a specific purpose. A buffer was left around Tamaques and a former egress was closed and taken over by growth.

I understand that this is where target shoot took place as well as dumping in the mid-late 90's. If this property is disturbed it will probably involve major $ due to investigation and subsequent clean up. It would be most appropriate to build a facility to house wrestling and other sports. Not sure about turf but most appropriate to build more fields on Tamaques Property.
5 months ago

do not ruin tamaques park with artificial turf fields
8 months ago 2 Agree

Fix tamaques by turfing existing grass fields and adding lights and a multipurpose storage and classroom space. Leave the woods be.
8 months ago 2 Agree

Eliminate baseball fields. They are limited use. Large open rectangle fields can be used for numerous activities.
8 months ago 2 Agree

In the age of overdevelopment, please keep natural open spaces available for our children. Please police the area for off leash dogs.
8 months ago 2 Agree

Consider improving the fields, the facilities, and add additional turf fields so that all of the Westfield kids that play sports and all of the Westfield residents have safe and available facilities and fields to use. Westfield residents should not have to travel to other towns and pay to use others fields and facilities because our town won't improve the ones in our own town.
8 months ago 2 Agree

Please add more space for soccer and other field-based sports! We are too big of a town and pay too much in taxes for our kids to have to share fields or play at ridiculous hours. Also, please add parking for the available (and hopefully new) spaces. It is ridiculous that my daughters coach was getting a parking ticket every Saturday morning because he couldn't find a space to park before he coached our girls...
8 months ago 2 Agree

Youth sport programs being among the major reasons why new young families come to settle here, it's only realistic and responsible to recognize the great value they add to the quality of life for what is probably the biggest segment of the community... and to recognize the importance of those programs to the ever appreciating property values of the town. The current plight of programs that must beg neighboring communities for the use of their facilities is probably just as discouraging to prospective new families as is the absence of full-day kindergarten in the school system. Both deficits are commonly characterized as pathetic "embarrassments" for the town, and that sort of reputation is gaining greater and greater currency inside and outside of the town. No one's property values can benefit from that trend.
8 months ago 2 Agree

Do not expand sporting activities into passive parks like Clark Park and Brightwood Park. Maintain the passive parks.
8 months ago 2 Agree

Brightwood park is enjoyed by many people on daily basis! It needs to remain passive do not destroy it by adding sports fields.
5 months ago

Addition of at least one turf field. Current grass fields are in such a state of disrepair and can't be properly repaired based on current and future expected usage. They can't keep up and any money used to fix them is an short term bandaid that quickly comes off.
8 months ago 2 Agree

New wrestling facility is needed to support our program.
Keep turf at Tamaques to a mimimum, is used at all
8 months ago 2 Agree

Wrestling facility.
I would love my 11 year old to be able to enjoy this before he goes to high school.
8 months ago 2 Agree

be careful with development - and turf fields and lighting should be placed appropriately and not supplant green grass - trees are needed - and the rec people should not dominate here.
8 months ago 2 Agree

Westfield needs to think out of the box. In addition to Tamaques upgrades, we should look to utilize additional space at our schools. There is a lot of real estate at Roosevelt--we could add multiple fields there with parking. We can't have everything at Tamaques--the traffic congestion will be even more of a nuisance if everything is only upgraded there. Maybe add multiple lacrosse fields at Roosevelt. The parking at Houlihan is dangerous--someone is going to get hit by a car--please improve. For the amount of kids that play sports in our town, we should be doing better. A facility to house wrestling and other winter activities would be a tremendous asset to the Community--not just for sports kids, but maybe band kids could utilize as well. Proper restrooms would be appreciated.

5 months ago 1 Agree

> Not RIS BOE property - It's Clark Park, a memorial donated to remember Westfield Sons lost in War. Think of it like a cemetery with our bodies buried
>
> 5 months ago

> Not RIS BOE property - It's Clark Park, a memorial donated to remember Westfield Sons lost in War. Think of it like a cemetery with our bodies buried
>
> 5 months ago

Westfield needs to consider lights at the high school field. All of the towns we currently play against have lights.

6 months ago 1 Agree

Keep as many natural areas as possible. There is wildlife in Westfield and it needs a habitat.

6 months ago 1 Agree

my biggest concern is a rush to judgement on the need for turf fields without better understanding the effects of turf vs grass on children's health.

6 months ago 1 Agree

Please do not chop up our natural parks to make fields. Make the fields we have better. Turf at Jefferson School and Edison School as well as Roosevelt would mean more useful playing time. These facilities already have bathrooms and parking. Leave the beauty of the natural parks. Incorporate solar power and connect all parks with bike paths. This would mean less cars!!!

6 months ago 1 Agree

Don't turf and light Tamaques Park--keep it an open space.

Turf and light Memorial Park and Sycamore--make these areas feel useful and part of the town rather than like throwaways.

Restrooms at Houlihan/Sid Fey (e.g., the facilities at Garwood turf field)

Keep the ice rink.

7 months ago 1 Agree

We seem to always have a problem with parking, I'd like to suggest that the town consider offering different transportation options, safe bike lanes for commuting to practices and games, shuttle busses from the North side to Tamaques, or from the South side to Gumpert or easy and accessible walkways to the various parks for pedestrians.

7 months ago 1 Agree

Consider all residents , not only those of the organized sports groups. Having raised a family in Westfield, and having been part of the sports teams, I appreciate all the benefits these organizations offer to maturing children. But, I would hate to see the few natural open spaces we have be lost for yet another sports field. We no longer belong to the Memorial pool as the teams take too many hours from the average public.

7 months ago 1 Agree

The recommendations have many "wants", but are short on how they to pay for them or where they can be located. Westfield is already overtaxed and there is little, if any, undeveloped land for new facilities, except for clear cutting Tamaques or Brightwood Parks or using eminent domain to obtain land. This is especially true in view of the fact that any new facility will require parking. A long term plan should be developed for the rehabilitation of our existing facilities that the town can afford without going into debt. Lighted fields should be limited to non-residential areas, which rules out Elm Street and Kehler fields. Due to their cost, turf fields should be limited, maybe to Elm Street and Tamaques parks. Passive parks, Brightwood, Clark and the wooded area of Tamaques, should remain passive. If it is decided to continue with the ice rink it should be moved to a non residential area, that has parking.

7 months ago 1 Agree

Please please please install a dog park, preferably in Tamaques Park. It's extremely unsafe to have

dogs running through the woods with bikers, runners, hikers and children. It's not hard to imagine a scenario where a lawsuit is brought against the town if someone is seriously injured. Dog owners from all over the region come to the park because they think it's a dog park. Please help.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Judging by the survey results and comments, it seems very clear that all resources should be geared towards Turf, Lights, and Parking. Everything else is a distant second place. Also, if viable, moving the hockey rink to memorial pool would offer much more parking.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Elm Street across from Stop and Shop. Should be a great turf field. Dedicated Wrestling Facility is a must. Wrestling in a cafeteria is embarrassing and definitely not the most sanitary.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Dog park, renovated and more available bathrooms and water fountains in all our parks. Memorial Pool lap pool open before and after work hours. More turf fields or restructure of current grass fields with better drainage so they are usable given our rainy spring and fall.
7 months ago 1 Agree

More fields with lights. Dog park.
7 months ago 1 Agree

More fields with lights. Dog park at Tampa Qui's.
7 months ago 1 Agree

More fields are needed for sports. We often have to play games on rented fields in other towns. We do love having natural spaces for walking and hiking. Bathrooms are also needed at parks and fields where sports take place.
7 months ago 1 Agree

There appears to be a lot of opportunity to upgrade local turf for soccer, lacrosse, and baseball, upgrade/repair tennis courts, continue to provide for ice arena. We want to offer our youth healthy and approachable means to remain connected to our community and foster a sense of healthy empowerment. Lifestyle activities improve family and social communication and connectivity. We cannot complain about our youth engaging in ineffective/inappropriate behaviors without supporting effective alternatives and solutions.
7 months ago 1 Agree

The town is in desperate need to lit turf turkeys for lacrosse and soccer. Do to the fact it lacks enough of these fields, most games need to be played in other towns. Bringing people to Westfield for sports games also brings more revenue into the town since people tend to stay for lunch or explore the town after a game.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Simple build turf fields in tamaques Park or somewhere in Westfield - so lacrosse and soccer have access
7 months ago 1 Agree

You need more viable options for sports. The fields are dangerous and few. A town like this should have so much more with the number of kids playing sports in this town. Not to mention the taxes we pay.
7 months ago 1 Agree

More turf fields and grass fields that drain better. Field space for adult soccer in the evenings. More basketball courts...the Y is the only option for open gym time and it's very limited.
7 months ago 1 Agree

We live in a large town with a lot of resources. Our fields are unsafe, mostly unplayable and quite honestly embarrassing. Building a quality turf field at Tamaques Park will not interfere with any current activity as the middle of the park seems to be used by people with their dogs illegally off leash. Someone can figure out a better parking situation.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Turf fields at Tamaques Park or at Elm Street
7 months ago 1 Agree

Some residents stay here after kids are grown. Don't make everything about youth sports. Include adults without kids at home, such as bus trips to NYC for example.
7 months ago 1 Agree

I would like to see the town improve the existing parks, keep them clean, add bathrooms and working water fountains. I think the parks should maintain nature. I am not in support of fake turf athletic fields. I feel the ask for fake fields is a symptom of the out of control nature of youth sports.
7 months ago 1 Agree

Please do not turn Tamaques Park into a sports arena and parking lot. This is one of the only places in town for people to walk, jog and ride bikes safely (though fewer cars driving around the loop would be even better). Rehab and utilize existing, underutilized spaces such as Elm Street, Sycamore field and Memorial Field. More walking and biking trails in/around town would be great as well. I see people have commented that an indoor space for wrestling and cheerleading is needed. Perhaps the community room at the front of the municipal building could be adapted for this purpose.
8 months ago 1 Agree

I prefer keeping more natural settings (i.e. not in favor of more turf fields or paved areas or disc golf etc).
8 months ago 1 Agree

Improve underutilized space first such as Elm Street tennis courts and Brightwood Park.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Don't lose the good things we have like the current parks and outdoor areas, I especially don't want to see Tamaques Park become something that is only for children and teens. We do need more turf fields and more options for night time and winter activities, but I would like to see that done without taking away from Tamaques Park.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Make Elm Street turf and do not allow xmas trees to be sold on that field. The holes made are not always filled after and it could lead to injury. Do something more with Elm...make it turf.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Area for clean and safe dog park and green space
8 months ago 1 Agree

Please try to retain the natural beauty of our parks, which are here to be used by all residents. There is a clear need for additional fields for youth sports (I feel the pain having kids who play soccer), but the town should be mindful of the wishes of all of our residents.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Most grass playing fields need to be re-seeded with the right type of grass, and drainage needs to be addressed. The drainage at memorial is particularly bad. There needs to be more lighted turf fields, ideally with a facilities building attached. The town also needs an indoor field sports complex for the winter months. The Armory is great, but another facility would be awesome.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Ensure parks can act as a sponge for water. Maintain as much natural space as possible. Make last mile transportation available in town to reduce parking stress (bike share, scooters, etc.).
8 months ago 1 Agree

Consider the relative size of programs and whether the existing breakdown of dedicated fields matches sports kids play now.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Better quality/more sports fields w turf and lighting
8 months ago 1 Agree

Leave Tamaques Park alone. Do not mess it up by developing it.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Focus any physical improvements for sporting activities to existing facilities that have sporting activities. Keep passive parks passive
8 months ago 1 Agree

Facilities Managers to address rude, abusive, and unruly parents during sporting non school related events
8 months ago 1 Agree

Wrestling facility
8 months ago 1 Agree

I wrote this in response to the first question above, but Tamaques needs a lot of attention.
- TREES -- so many have been cut down, but none replaced. Also, a healthy trim is needed to the park's trees.
- BRUSH AREAS -- The brush areas need to be raked out and trash needs to be removed. This should be done once a year at least. To my knowledge, it hasn't been don't since before Hurricane Irene! A non-toxic mosquito/tick spray would be appreciated.
- JOGGING TRAILS -- Need maintence and re-filling of gravel in the low, muddy spots
- BATHROOMS -- are gross and are often overflowing or clogged. Also, in the winter, the heat is always turned up really hot in them... perhaps some solar panels would help offset some costs.
- LIGHTING -- solar panels and solar lights would be a huge improvement
- PARKING -- Some new parking spaces need to be added, but not at the expensive of chopping down the trees.
- NATURE PROGRAMS -- so much development / over development in town! I think if more Nature Programs were offered, we could re-educate the public on how important Green Spaces and trees are to the environment, our neighborhoods and community.
- SPECIAL EVENTS -- I think the Parks Dept. could offer many more public events, and team up with the schools, churches, synagogues, daycares, etc. re: the Nature Programs.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Would like to see the town incorporate as much ecologically advanced technology as possible when making these improvements. We need to address green buildings, incorporate rain gardens, recapturing storm water. Explore alternative energy buildings, solar panels etc. we should be utilizing roofs for gardens or creating alternative roofs with plant life to reduce energy costs or better still use the capture of solar power to be a revenue stream.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Preserve open space. Don't tear down our parks like the rest of town is being torn down.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Lights for Football track soccer lacrosse Kehler field. Tamaques park turf fields and lighted. Otherwise don’t bother making any changes without lights
8 months ago 1 Agree

Maintenance of existing trees
8 months ago 1 Agree

Development of updated and current facilities for our town sports to thrive.
8 months ago 1 Agree

Act quickly. Turf, turf, turf.
8 months ago 1 Agree

We NEED mountain biking options, whether in-town of at Watchung Reservation. Mountain biking could of had it's own set of mountain bike trails at the reservation which would have disturbed NO ONE! This needs to be re-visited as well as an in-town option.
8 months ago 1 Agree

stop saving money and make this town a destination for sports and activities..
8 months ago 1 Agree

Let the free market decide. The Town of Westfield SHOULD NOT get into the business of "Public-Private Partnerships" because it is always the public who pay (in terms of higher taxes) and the Private developer gets the profit.
one month ago

Westfield has unused land that it owns at the end of Grandview Avenue (not far from Unami Park). I am not aware of the exact number of acres it encompasses or whether it contains wetlands. Perhaps the Town can transform this land into a passive park like Brightwood but on a smaller scale. I think our Town should maximize its use of open space to create natural areas with walking and hiking trails.
one month ago

I think Parks are best kept up by a dedicated staff that is personally involved in the activities.

Therefore I would recommend:

(1) Decreasing the Rec space at town hall and moving some people to create a staffed "log cabin" (or something consistent with the Tamaques architecture) AT Tamaques and have people available to sign up for things, borrow balls, meet a match opponent, get some water etc. That way the staff could also use the facilities on break, or teach a class and could spot problems and have them fixed. People would really appreciate the partnership between the users and the staff. (Would free up space at town hall too)

2) Make safe walking and biking ACCESS to the parks part of the plan. It's crazy that it's not really safe for kids to bike to our pool, our parks. We all need more access to safe walking and biking paths for our health, if nothing else, and every age would use them.

3) move the ice rink to the memorial pool area and expand the idea to winter fun

4) provide a template for "friends of X" where X is a park or rec center. Make a succession & rule plan part of that template so one person or a small set of people dominate. These can be "active" or "inactive", depending on the level of interest, but you would do the work of setting them up. Westfield has always had a strong volunteer spirit which has enhanced the town and these groups can help maintain the spirit and welcomeness of each place.

one month ago

Utilize Tamaques as it was intended, as the Town's Recreation Park.

one month ago

Transportation options that don't involve driving.

2 months ago

Year round swimming facility.

3 months ago

Fix the various grass fields

3 months ago

Pool should be free to residents and significant fee for out of town guests.

4 months ago

While I agree this town needs more quality fields, I strongly oppose turfing Tamaques. It is our town's major nature park and is meant for more than just kids sports. Turfing parts of it mean less space for others to enjoy the space. It is a myopic answer to an issue that affects a large portion of the community but certainly not everyone. Find another spot to turf!

5 months ago

There are a couple of people in our family who are birders. However, we have never visited the Dunham Bird Sanctuary (or whatever the official name is). I tried to find it once, and couldn't locate the entrance. In fact it was hard to find on a map, too. It is rarely mentioned in the press except when a boy scout takes on a project there. It would be nice to have better signage and perhaps a write-up about it in the local press, perhaps with commentary from a local naturalist. I've lived here fifteen years and have yet to visit it.

5 months ago

I've had three children go through the soccer, baseball, hockey and basketball programs in town / travel. Our facilities in most cases were not as good as surrounding towns, those we traveled to. Although there are space limitations in a mature town like Westfield, we need to work together to develop fields, leverage lighting some areas ect. and get beyond the "not in my neighborhood" attitude that exists in our town to provide good facilities for our families. I'm glad our town is looking for feedback, but I'll be surprised if we gain consensus.

5 months ago

I know the sports organizations are extremely vocal about their needs. It is also important to have big open spaces in our parks, like at Tamaquas, for non-sports activities. Parks could also be a good place to put a sample raingarden or other natural feature (like at the County gardens near Trailside in Moutainside). It might be nice to have some casual outdoor activities like Kite Day, or Frisbee Day - something free & casual for families. Or combine these with an outdoor movie.

5 months ago

Why is an Ice Rink to basically give WHSV & JV Teams a place to play an issue for the Town Government to deal with? If Kehler Field was to become a large sinkhole tomorrow which entity would be responsible for finding/funding a place for the football team to play? Why isn't the

Board of Education, that gets the lions share of each tax dollar, investigating building ice on its own properties? Being Edison School would be logical. Existing Locker rooms and bathrooms at Kehler could be utilized and there is plenty of parking at EIS.
5 months ago

Natural looking environments and improved playgrounds on he more popular parks. It's sad that we have such beautiful spaces and the playgrounds are a joke.
5 months ago

Develop bike lanes for roads
5 months ago

The addition of a basketball hoop in Tamaques Park which has been missing for a number of years in spite of requests to have it replaced after it was accidentally knocked down by a town truck. This is a relatively inexpensive item which could be used by many people and benefit our town.
5 months ago

Existing fields are in terrible condition and cannot be used when it rains. Ridiculous that we need to go to other towns to use fields. Baseball does not have dedicated 50/70 fields and only has one 60/90 field that is in terrible condition. Soccer fields are also in bad condition and no where near enough of them to come close to satisfying the large soccer club in town. Kids leave town to play for other clubs because the facilities are so poor. Doesn't bode well for their prospects of going to Westfield HS and playing sports. Put lights on the fields and turf some PLEASE!
5 months ago

Talk to Ridgewood (Bergen county) and try to emulate them.
5 months ago

Nice fields! Shaded play areas!
5 months ago

Urgent. Please install fence in minadowskin playground for safety purposes. Please also install benches.
5 months ago

make the parks more up to date with water filling station, clean bathrooms
5 months ago

Add benches at new Mindowaskin playground. Nowhere for people to sit down for a snack or take a break or for grandparents to rest and watch their grandkids play.
5 months ago

Integrating bike paths/trails in the parks, adding turf fields, and improving fields in general for our youth sports. Thank you for supporting Ultimate Frisbee, my son has benefited greatly from the outstanding Westfield Ultimate program. I hope you can give more field time to this sport in the future."
5 months ago

I wish there was a sidewalk on my block
5 months ago

We have so few green spaces open to all, please don't cover them with turf and fences. Maintain and improve the grass fields and better drainage, yes!
5 months ago

Please create a skate park. The one in Fanwood is close, and in heavy use, but my son wound love one in Westfield. Could easily be added to 1-2 parks in town.
5 months ago

Fixing fields to play after rain.
Indoor community center for indoor sports, and activities.
5 months ago

Lighted fields, upgraded softball fields, walking trails, turf field
5 months ago

Improved soccer fields, paved bike lanes, running trails connecting parks
5 months ago

leave the nature areas alone
5 months ago

Totally agree. Leave natural treasures like Brightwood Park alone!
5 months ago

For profits need to pay to use, upgrade, create fields. Not our tax dollars.
5 months ago

Let the for profits pay for field upgrades and maintenance or create new fields at their expense.. why should the tax payers pay for this? Our kids never played "field" sports. It's ridiculous these for profitsgroups have on influencing the rec commission. Rec fields for schools and town run programs, not private programs.
5 months ago

Moving conservation center so more land available at Tamaques Park - to use for parking.
5 months ago

Ice rink is a great idea but it needs a more permanent location. Perhaps memorial. Sycamore and Elm St fields seem under utilized. The playground at Sycamore needs attention. Tamaques bathroom is in desperate need of renovations.
5 months ago

Take into account all members of the community. Young and old, active and less active people who enjoy being outside
5 months ago

More turf fields with lights and also lighting for other fields.
The grass fields to have an overhaul to improve the quality.
Overall there must be improvement in the facilities at each field or facility - i.e. a porta-potty is not sufficient when we are asking teams to travel over an hour to play us - and parking.
The calibre of our many sports teams does not match the poor and few fields that we have and their availability is so hard to get, due to the huge demand.
What you are doing is a great thing, but please consider that with so very many small house being torn down across town and being replaced by large 4 or 5 bedroom houses the number of children in town will forever be increasing at a huge rate.
5 months ago

Please leave Tamaques Park alone! Do not add facilities or allow more organized sports.
5 months ago

We tend to travel to other towns for our children's sports as we don't seem to have the capacity in Westfield to support the demand. A multipurpose turf field/track would be great, better facilities at the fields (bathrooms)
5 months ago

Mark more tennis courts for pickleball and/or create pickleball-only courts.
5 months ago

Balance the need for more fields with preservation of natural areas. Better upkeep of grass fields along with turf fields. Better use of schools and town facilities for sports teams and lights at Kehler field. Better communication about field use and reservation. Keep the ice rink!
6 months ago

Thanks for supporting Ultimate Frisbee, my son enjoys playing. I hope you can give more field time to this sport in the future.
6 months ago

The ice rink coming back next year. The kids in hockey really need it and need the ice time. Also, it is a great activity for everyone
6 months ago

Ample and good quality fields to allow for the many youth sports played in this town.

6 months ago

Tamaques park should not be have a turf field.
6 months ago

Upgrade the Elm Street tennis courts
6 months ago

Turf fields and improving the varsity softball fields
6 months ago

although i am not a dog owner, i like the idea of a dog park. so many of our residents use tamaques park/school playground to let their dogs run off leash. it is dangerous and unsanitary.
6 months ago

A few hours a weekend when the park us closed to car traffic so young children and families can ride bikes safely. More traffic and playing till late at night doesn't improve quality of life .
6 months ago

turf fields
6 months ago

Please add more turf fields and better parking at Sid Fay/ Houlihan and Tamaques Park
6 months ago

Please add more turf fields and better parking
6 months ago

Please consider the neighboring streets around the parks that you may alter or upgrade. We live living in our quiet neighborhood and we don't mind that a few times a year there are cars parked along our street for special events like the Turkey Trot 5K or Hangover run. But we would feel very disrupted if that were to occur EVERY weekend because of new fields facilities that would draw people to Tamaques park. If you do end up expanding the facilities in the park PLEASE create adequate parking so that our residential neighborhood isn't affected.
6 months ago

More turf fields would help.
6 months ago

I think we need more venues for concerts, theater, festivals, etc.
6 months ago

We live in a wonderful own that is ridiculed by our neighbors and visiting opponents who come to play our "home games" in another town not called Westfield. We need ample, proper, quality fields and infrastructure to support our community comprised of thousands of children who need our support. In other words, we need more turf fields!
6 months ago

Better walking trails, biking lanes, safe routes through town to parks for bikes; upgrade bathrooms, water fountains, facilities at parks
6 months ago

We walk Tamaques park most every day or ride our road bikes around the loop. Too much traffic and he conditions of Rahway Avenue is too dangerous at certain times during the day to cycle. We do have budding teenage athletes and are also feeling the pain of have late practices at night because of the lack of fields.
6 months ago

Better fields, making a designated dog area in Tamaques Park. Or designating dog friendly hours for the woods so dog owners and non dog owners can peacefully enjoy the park together.
6 months ago

Be nice to have some trails, picnic tables, restrooms and improved water fountain for strolling at some of the parks.

6 months ago

Invest more money in the basics - walking paths, parking and sports fields. The current conditions are unacceptable.
7 months ago

Multi purpose parks and Focus on quality and upkeep. Condition of parks is borderline embarrassing as are the walking trails.
7 months ago

Additional turf fields, better bathroom facilities and parking.
7 months ago

Affordable and accessible
7 months ago

Balance the need and interest for youth sports with other community needs. Not all youth are into team sports and they, along with adults, need outdoor spaces.
7 months ago

We should have high quality fields and facilities in our town. We should have programs that bring the community together. I think we have other space and parks in town that can be upgraded rather than destroy the natural beauty of Tamaques park. I agree with some of the comments below that we can turf other fields like some of the school fields. I don't think that Tamaques should be turfed but I think it needs upgrades. A fence separating the area behind the picnic tables would be great so dogs can run free, add the exercise equipt. in the park, make the basketball courts usable, improve the bathrooms, a snack bar in tamaques park would be great, make sure the grass is maintained and the drainage system is working property. But please don't turf the park and don't cut down too many trees to build more field and buildings
7 months ago

lighted field so kids can have pep rallies for school games
high school field should be redone
bathrooms
bleachers at baseball fields
community center for teens
7 months ago

Please put in the new Turf complex in Tamaques Park
7 months ago

Build a park like Mindawaskin on the NW side of town. Nothing is on that side of Westfield.
7 months ago

We need a wrestling facility and more turf fields. We moved here for our youth sports programs and is unfortunate our facilities are not like those of other towns.
7 months ago

Plant native species
7 months ago

Please do not make Tamaques a county park; since the town has accepted funds/grants to help fund improvements, I would hate to have us be beholden to the rest of the county to share our park.. Our kids have lost out for too long on quality fields... I'm beyond frustrated that the mayor and town council are spending over $90,000 to study this AGAIN after a plan was already in place... my younger athlete will now never get to play on renovated fields. Stop worrying about legalizing marijuana or making rooftop gardens: THIS is the issue for our town, right now.
7 months ago

I sympathize with the complaints of people whose kids are active in sports about the dearth of field space. We have a bigger problem, though, that affects every student in the schools, not just the minority who are athletes: not enough classroom space! Why on earth would we address the former before (indeed, at the expense of) the latter? Build a new school (or two or three) where all that field space would go (or better yet, where all the apartment complexes have been going up, exacerbating the crowding issue). Bond for it honestly and cleanly, without lumping in a bunch of other stuff like turf fields that benefit a minority, and I vote yes. So do a lot of other parents. Then we could offer full-day K and HS classes would not have to be standing-room-only, with kids assigned to lunch periods at 10:30 in the morning. Elementary and middle schools would not be

overflowing. Our priorities are out of whack. The longer the overcrowding issue is not addressed, the worse it gets. As a hockey player, I love the rink being at Gumbert. But I'd trade it for more classroom facilities at that location in a heartbeat. This is a BOE issue. Town funds shouldn't be spent on student athletic facilities.
7 months ago

Definitely an amphitheater/public stages for concerts (as well as an indoor performing arts center, though I know that's not a parks/rec thing necessarily). Keep the Westfield Rink going. Nature areas, gardens. Summer concerts. Arts/Music programs for all ages. Foster the arts and restaurants/shops/other culture thrives!
7 months ago

No excessive lighting or turf
7 months ago

Should have stuck with Tamaques redevelopment plan, which would have addressed most comments here. Ignoring work just because it was not done by you is not resident-focused.
7 months ago

Betterment of our athletic fields/facilities should be number one on your list especially for our Town's athletes to be competitive. Maintaining the beauty of our current parks and making improvements that will benefit the most people in our Town, not special interest groups.
7 months ago

IMPROVE OUR FIELDS PLEASE. Add a few turf fields. Improve the current status of our grass fields.
7 months ago

No more turf. It is too costly to maintain.
7 months ago

No more turf. It requires higher maintenance costs.
7 months ago

No more turf fields. Grass is safer.
7 months ago

I don't feel we need more turf. Turf causes greater injures as it is less giving than grass.
7 months ago

Clean up Windsor Ave park!
7 months ago

Permanent site for a temporary skating rink. More trees. Execute the Tamaques Park plan from 2017.
7 months ago

We need lighted fields but NOT in Tamaques. I'd like to see a permanent covered ice rink that could be Roller Skating/ Ice Skating depending on season.
7 months ago

Keeping nature in the parks and expanding educational programming.
7 months ago

I would develop Tamaques Park - put in an indoor gym facility and ice rink, and work on the condition/drainage of the softball/baseball fields.
7 months ago

Please consider all residents and not only organized sports teams. Keeping natural, green space is equally as important. We love hiking, biking and enjoying the outdoors.
7 months ago

More, better quality soccer fields, lights for longer usable hours
7 months ago

more turf fields - tamaques in particular can be a best in class facility for our town
7 months ago

Be very careful when it comes to expanding parks for sports if they are in residential neighborhoods. We've had a huge influx of sports teams, academies and the like, with parents happy to pay for their kids to be playing in a uniform instead of playing in their own yard. Westfield has been a leader in sports for decades, in spite of all of these complaints listed above. Balance is key.
7 months ago

Our sports fields are an embarrassment for our community. Check other local community fields such as Chatham Twp and see what we're missing although we also pay high taxes
7 months ago

Absolutely need at least 1, realistically, 2 to 3 artificial turf fields with lights. It is completely unacceptable to participate in a Westfield sport, yet have to travel to other towns for quality fields.
7 months ago

Please consider the environment and nature. Please consider that people will need to move away if the taxes get any higher.
7 months ago

Wrestling facility & more turf playing fields
7 months ago

You HAVE TO put bathrooms in Memorial, at the least, and more water fountains/filling stations. Plus a field/house snack shack. There's definitely the space and the demand. The ice cream truck makes a killing.
7 months ago

Turf parts of tamaques park and update playgrounds like you did at mindowaskin park
7 months ago

Please add a turf field for soccer!
7 months ago

One management structure for all Town and School park, field, and indoor recreation facilities cooperatively managed. Upgrade maintenance protocol and equipment and properly train staff. Implement a five year capital plan and field construction, re-build and upgrade plan. Obtain financial commitments from BOE, Town and private sports organizations (PAL, WSA, WBL, etc) and prioritize by NEED, adding new fields and taking others out of play for a season for re-building
Think outside-the-box - develop a plan to put recreation / fields where none exist today - the back half of the Armory, wooded section between basketball courts and Lamberts Mill Rd , install single level deck at WHS over current field and parking area, and place turf fields on the upper deck for school and town use. (eg at UCLA, the parking is under the intramural field) This will also solve the longstanding issue of student parking on surrounding streets disturbing neighbors
Another location to consider is the Elm St/old Washington School/Tennis Courts, where downtown development requires and will pay for the new parking and the field is small and poorly maintained.

Consider creating a non-profit (eg Central Park Conservancy) to manage all park and recreation facilities in town - both BOE and Town.
Make strategic acquisitions of underutilized / difficult spaces and convert to green space
Develop a plan for future use of the historic firehouse and it will become obsolete and need to be replaced in the coming generation. Also consider re-use of the Central avenue station if a single station is developed in a central location
Finally, Westfield tends to do "just enough" rather than spend to have a premier facility with lower long term costs. We need to look at lifetime costs , not just upfront capital costs
Branding - the county signs are garish and self congatulatory, but Westfield's signage are generally Eagle Scout projects. Create a brand / style for uniform signage for not only the parks, but at the major roads entering town, and all street signs. (Several of the blue grey "Westfield" signs have been knocked down and not replaced over the last 20 years (eg northbound on Central Ave at Clark border)
7 months ago

Please add a wrestling facility.
7 months ago

Fields, grass or turf, should be added to all of the open space at Roosevelt School. Wrestling facility is also needed.
7 months ago

A wrestling room that could double as an athletic center for other activities as well. Common sense we don't have this and every other town does. Get with the times...
7 months ago

Upgrade Memorial softball Fields to be the equivalent of Gumbert Park baseball fields. We must dedicate Memorial fields to softball only so that the girls have Memorial and the boys have Gumbert. Move soccer to Tamaques completely.
7 months ago

Prioritize the need for better sports fields and facilities. It's a shame & unsafe what our children are currently using.
7 months ago

Desperately need a sidewalk on Springfield Ave. connecting Park Drive (Echo Lake Park) to E Broad Street.
7 months ago

Stop letting a few cry babies stop things because they do not understand the issue or just to not want it in their neighborhood.
7 months ago

Bring back the ice rink next year. Hockey is a growing sport for girls and the access provided by an in-town rink enables greater participation. See this wsj article about the girls in this sport: https://www.wsj.com/articles/for-many-girls-figure-skating-loses-its-edge-to-hockey-11551802166
7 months ago

Please do not install artificial turf at Tamaques Park!
7 months ago

Turf fields, a community center type space, cultural space that would be used by residents and visitors
7 months ago

the recreation programs are wonderful, the pool is amazing, and the sports programs are top notched
7 months ago

Updated fields/turf with lighting
Ice rink
7 months ago

More fields would be great, also more bike and walking friendly areas generally. Current fields should be maintained better, better drainage options.
7 months ago

More turf/soccer fields in town. Tennis courts with reservations. Fix tennis courts on Elm Street. No instruction/reserving courts for hours and hours at a time at Memorial (a woman named Kim teaches outside there, charges her own fees and sits on the court for hours)
7 months ago

Refurbishing fields and creating a building dedicated to wrestling.
7 months ago

We need more multi-sports fields, including a complete upgrade to our existing grass fields and and the construction of new turf fields. Safety, overcrowding and cost are all becoming too much to bear and we need a solution soon.
7 months ago

More green space. More street trees.
7 months ago

Ice rink with free skate was great! Better grass or surfaces for playgrounds and fields. They seem to be mostly mud
7 months ago

Consider using the public/private partnership model to fund athletic field improvements. While fees to join soccer/lacrosse/baseball leagues are pretty high, the organizations are large enough to help kick in some funding for development and ongoing maintenance.
7 months ago

The Elm Street Fields are a great space for turf fields. I love having the ice rink in town but it should be moved to a better location.
7 months ago

As a top priority, please improve the quality of the fields and add bathrooms to all of them to enable them to be comfortable locations for sports and fans.
7 months ago

Keep the rink!
7 months ago

I think the town needs an indoor/outdoor sports and recreation facility. Something that all sports can use. The Clark rec Center is a good example. First time I went there I was wondering why we don't gave something similar in Westfield.
7 months ago

Leave some space for natural parks...not all organized sports.
7 months ago

Preservation of the town's natural beauty and resources is the most sensible, reasonable, and financially responsible objective for the purposes of the P&R Strategic Plan. Those who feel entitled to demand construction/maintenance of new lighted turf fields and additional expensive sports facilities should step up as permanent weekend volunteers for the Westfield Public Works Department and build some sweat equity actively caring for Westfield's excellent existing parks and resources before trying to prioritize everyone else's tax dollars toward their special interest sports activities.
7 months ago

More space for soccer fields and upgrades to the existing fields and facilities
7 months ago

Better and fair allotment of fields to all sports
7 months ago

I would love to see the space on Elm Street revamped b/c it is wasted now. We need better (and more) baseball/softball fields! We need more bathrooms at public facilities where are kids sports teams are playing. They should not be peeing in the woods because there is no where to go!
7 months ago

The high quality of the services offered by our in town youth sports programs is not reflected in the grass fields that our kids currently play on. Having to play on poor grass fields, not enough turf for the programs to utilize, and having to have the in-town kids pay for rental space on out of town fields can't be the solution. Our kids should be staying and playing in town on quality fields.

I greatly appreciate a holistic approach out our in town parks and recreation situation and look forward to participating in the upcoming community events.

I live in ward 2 and have NO ISSUE with the rink.
7 months ago

Use existing fields but update with consideration for local residents and environmental impact
7 months ago

More field space for sports with environmental concerns considered
7 months ago

Turf fields. I would concentrate on building new facilities, physical upgrades, etc more so than programming.
7 months ago

Provide better fields for kids sports
7 months ago

Fields are a mess. Availability of fields are a mess.
7 months ago

More fields! Better Tamaques parking
7 months ago

My son plays travel soccer with WSA. We are in need of new turf fields. The grass fields that we play on are not in good condition. I really appreciate that we are given this opportunity to voice our opinions and show support that building new turf fields in Westfield makes sense for our children.
7 months ago

Better grass or turf fields
7 months ago

Lighted softball/baseball fields for later games. Parity for girls' sports fields.
7 months ago

Let’s upgrade these parks for our youth sports programs and compete with other towns. This includes beautifying the space that exists and upgrading fields that are used all year long. Our town (and the youth within it) deserve Fields they can be proud to play on.
7 months ago

We need more fields for the sports programs and they need to be better quality.
7 months ago

Opportunities for physical activities for all ages such as rock wall and tree top ropes course
7 months ago

More activities for tweens and teens that don't involve the typical sports of basketball, baseball, football, like rock climbing, and tree ropes etc.
7 months ago

I would really like to see more turf fields, an improvement I our parks, and sports fields.
7 months ago

We NEED lighted baseball field somewhere in Westfield.
7 months ago

Upgrade sports fields and add lights
7 months ago

better fields for baseball and soccer; turf fields
7 months ago

No reason Westfield kids sports should be played in mud. Turf up or shut up.
7 months ago

We need more facilities for sports! Fields, courts, rinks, pools, everything!
7 months ago

I definitely agree with better utilization of the Elm Street space!
7 months ago

Playground safety
7 months ago

Field space, field space, field space
7 months ago

Keep the westfield Rink. It was the best addition to this town!
7 months ago

Fields that represent this
Town and the sports programs. More turf, more lights, more parking, better bathrooms and snack area
7 months ago

Lap pool, outdoor turf fields, indoor turf fields
7 months ago

More fields
7 months ago

We need more turf and grass fields with lights. So many kids play the sports that require these fields. Young children are practicing late at night or super early. It is embarrassing AND dangerous. How many WHS students tore their knees up on Kehler last year? We need solid good facilities for our kids.
7 months ago

More fields, lighted fields and better maintenance on existing fields is most important.
7 months ago

Create a bike trail network so our kids can ride to practice and school safely. We need dedicated bike lanes away from traffic, cutting through back road and paths.
7 months ago

Please work with the Anderson family on returning of the rink! The rink provided so much for the community! The extra ice for our hockey teams to practice right here in town is absolutely invaluable! The "learn to skate" program got filled up on day one! Ask teenagers who got an opportunity to work at the rink as skate guards and teachers to little kids if they want it back! Andersons are very accommodating, responding to every concern that have been raise through such short season, really hope the rink will stay!
7 months ago

Fence in mindo
7 months ago

Walking paths
7 months ago

Majority of use of facilities in this town are for youth sports. While I do appreciate the need to accommodate other uses for other residents (e.g., trails, bike paths, etc.), maximum thought needs to be put in to maximizing use of space for as many youth sports programs as possible. Also, these kids have little to no existing space to play/train during the Winter months and that is a huge detriment to their development, but also a missed opportunity to monetize that with other programs in the area. In short, figure out a way to integrate the other park use cases into an optimal layout for playing fields/surfaces, not the other way around.
7 months ago

I would love to see facilities that my kids can use in town for Soccer, Lacrosse other field sports. Our home games aware mostly played away and when we do have home games we end of playing on Board of Ed fields which are horrible. Tamaques should be an amazing location to combine nature, fields and parking and yet its not used as much as it could due to lack of parking/lighting and fields not being properly outlined or maintained. We could have so many sports playing side by side there at the weekends.
7 months ago

Make every attempt to preserve the little open space we still have. I believe this is the best way to improve our quality of life and assure the financial stability of our town and property values.
7 months ago

Figure out where to put new fields!
7 months ago

Make investments in turf fields to serve the growing number of youth sports participants. Field space in the Spring is especially tight given the rainy weather and high demand. We need fields that can support play in wet weather and not be damaged by it. Lit turf fields close to town will drive business in the downtown area too.
7 months ago

Better fields. More field space, need for wrestling facilities, place for all WHS sports to practice - lighting on fields
7 months ago

Improved and expanded athletic field space is essential. High school, middle school and youth sports are desperate for improved facilities. Organized athletics offers a substantial number of children opportunities to learn outside of the classroom, fosters community, teaches life skills, and builds self-esteem and confidence.
7 months ago

New large turf complex like Millburn's that can accommodate many sports and games at a time.
7 months ago

Improve the condition of grass fields, convert some grass fields that are in poor condition to artificial turf fields and add lighting to one or two more fields.
7 months ago

Since Tamaques Park is used by so many residents for activities other than than youth sports, and because it is such a beautiful natural space, can we look to add turf fields at both Memorial Field and Elm Street Field?
7 months ago

Please please please get our kids some decent fields.
7 months ago

Better parking, better conditions, more options
7 months ago

Keep the ice rink. It's great for the whole community!
7 months ago

Poor quality and limited number of sports fields relative to other towns.
7 months ago

Please install a turf field at Tamaques Park and upgrade the fields at elm Street field, Sycamore Park, Tamaques school field and Washington school field.
7 months ago

Understanding there isn't enough of capital to do everything that should be done, look into investing in the areas that will provide the most capacity and utility to the largest user groups of the facilities. In my mind that is adding new turf field(s) and lights to the turf fields (i.e. WHS Kehler field).
7 months ago

Neighboring towns have great complexes on little land. Just learn from them and move forward. Would like to see a mix of turf and grass fields but they have to be maintained. I live in Ward 2 and love the ice hockey rink. Less noisy and busy than 3 seasons of baseball at Gumbert so I just don't understand the outcry. Better bathroom facilities especially at Sid Fay. Let people park on the grass at Tamaques. Many of the sports programs involve little kids that parents can't just drop off and then find parking. Cuts down on cars circling the loop which is dangerous with so many kids walking to/from fields and minimizes cars in the neighborhoods.
7 months ago

Our parks are poorly maintained. Towns next door have much better facilities on just as little land like Garwood. we should do much better. More turf fields to ease long term maintenance.
7 months ago

Better facilities for baseball softball and lacrosse therefore better field conditions with ample lighting . More seating and shade around tennis courts as well
7 months ago

Let's not overbuild - don't need expense of new buildings or community centers. What little green space and hiking trails we have should remain green and where needed be improved (trails at Tamaques wooded area are a gem). I support turf fields where existing space is fully dedicated to sports anyways, and field conditions often render these unusable - yet sports that operate year round (eg Soccer) should take a back seat to sports that are in their primary season (eg Soccer/Football take priority in fall, Lacrosse/Baseball take priority in spring).

I like the ice rink idea, but town residents should see more transparency around the economic arrangement - (1) are we just giving this private enterprise a favorable access to town space, and for the risk of developing and operating the facility that enterprise has all upside and downside risk for the tradeoff of the public good of a rink?, or (2) after a year of operations and insight into demand, is the town leaving revenue on the table - should we strike a revenue share and/or put this out to competitive bid?
7 months ago

More all weather fields (Soccer, lacrosse, baseball/softball), and like the idea of the rink at Memorial Pool Parking lot where there is more parking and less disturbing of local businesses and residents. But, I think the rink is great for the town and the kids that play hockey!
7 months ago

Give the youth of Westfield safe fields and facilities for sports
7 months ago

Fix the Elm street courts. Upgrade the bathrooms st Tamaques and add lighting.
7 months ago

Lacrosse fields with lights and quality turf.
7 months ago

More lacrosse fields and a hockey rink so we don't need to use the disgusting facilities at Union or go 20 minutes to warinaco.
7 months ago

More emphasis on recycling/trash, teaching stewardship to coaches and players (leaving fields clean - discarding water bottles and trash properly). Encouraging stewardship projects for youth.
7 months ago

Definitely need fields made with field turf. Often times fields are rendered unplayable after a heavy rain. Field turf would prevent a hard rain from creating unplayable surfaces. I think this is the biggest need going forward. Baseball/softball diamonds, soccer and football fields should utilize field turf
7 months ago

Dog park, public restrooms and water fountains in all our parks. Easy access for signing up for tennis courts, Memorial Pool lap pool before and after work hours.
7 months ago

Turf fields. Other towns have facilities that are impressive compared to some of the fields in Westfield.
7 months ago

More turf fields and lights.
7 months ago

More fields, updated fields we have, and fields with lights so more time is available.
7 months ago

More turf fields, improve Memorial Softball facility so Westfield can host more tournaments/ competitive teams
7 months ago

Turf fields
7 months ago

TURF!
7 months ago

Westfield is quite a competitive sports town with fields not suitable for youth athletics. Available options for youth sports within town would be preferable to playing “home” in other towns
7 months ago

Turf fields
7 months ago

Support team sports activities by providing decent facilities for teams to practice and host visitors at.
7 months ago

We need more turf fields. Elm Street is prime candidate for lit, turf field.
7 months ago

More turf fields! It is ridiculous that our children rarely have home games in the fall and spring because we don't have adequate fields.
7 months ago

Turf fields. Please!!!!
7 months ago

Turf fields are badly needed. Tamaques is a great space for that. An upgrade to the parking facilities there (or just leniency when the fields are over crowded) is needed as well. All elementary school fields are interrible condition. They need be upgraded as well.
7 months ago

Make more fields for sports
7 months ago

Lighted turf fields.
7 months ago

Lacrosse and soccer need field space IN TOWN
7 months ago

Permanent hockey rink
7 months ago

Add turf field with lights
7 months ago

Add more turf fields.
7 months ago

More fields AND BETTER CONDITIONS.
7 months ago

Please fix the fields. I don’t care which fields. We needs fields. Fix the school fields, make them turf, make them real grass, whatever is cost efficient and safe to play on. I’ve lived in Westfield almost 20 years. There is little difference today in the fields, from when I moved to town. I’m disappointed that my family has basically missed the boat for this survey as they are all athletes, and would have benefited from the future field improvements.
7 months ago

We desperately need your help for more field space for our kids.
7 months ago

More parks , fields , turn high school field into turf , add lights to Keller , middle school and high school fields to allow late evening games
7 months ago

Turf and lighting
7 months ago

Ample field and basketball court space -seems to be a logistical challenge to support the number of kids/teams with the existing fields and courts.
7 months ago

Please keep the ice rink!
Please find a way for more turf fields for youth lacrosse practices and games.
7 months ago

We need more turf field for our sports. The town of westfield is severely behind other towns.
7 months ago

NO LIGHTS AT KEHLER!! There is already a parking problem near Kehler. People block our driveway all the time and don't seem to see why that's a problem. If you're going to upgrade/turf a field, do it at Memorial Pool or Tamaques Park and put the lights there!
7 months ago

Turf fields and lights.
7 months ago

Don't cater to negative people who complain about everything or make excuses for why something shouldn't be done or allowed to be done. Those people should go live under a rock.
7 months ago

Roller hockey rink
7 months ago

Fields, fields, fields.....need space for our kids and adults to play.
7 months ago

More turf fields
7 months ago

Redevelop Memoral Pool area as a rec hub for the town. Pool, rink, ball fields. Ample parking.
7 months ago

Better year round use of memorial pool complex. Huge area with parking not used enough year round. Could be redeveloped as a recreation hub in the town. Pool, rink, ball fields and parking all in one location.
7 months ago

More turf fields with lighting
7 months ago

More turf fields for town soccer and lacrosse leagues, please.
7 months ago

Additional turf fields for town soccer and lacrosse leagues, please.
7 months ago

REALLY need a new, updated playground at Tamaques Park.
Would LOVE an indoor recreational facility with basketball courts, turf field, game room, gym, food area, etc.
7 months ago

Lights at Tamaques are needed. The ice rink was a great addition.
7 months ago

We need more turf fields with lighting, another track, and wrestling room/gym.
7 months ago

expanded turf fields for all sports. with lights and parking
7 months ago

More turf fields please
7 months ago

MORE TURF FIELDS
MORE TURF FIELDS
7 months ago

Turf fields!
7 months ago

Provide more fields for sports
7 months ago

Really need improvement on the fields. There has to be a more effective use of the space that this town has. At least one more turf field and the grass fields need much better maintenance.
7 months ago

Turf fields
7 months ago

Turf fields, lights and make grass fields well drained and safe - without holes and puddles!
7 months ago

More fields to use for lacrosse and more lighting
7 months ago

More turf fields
7 months ago

Paddle tennis courts in tamaques Park
7 months ago

More turf fields and lights for fields.
7 months ago

More turf/lit fields. Majority of youth play soccer, lacrosse, football, and field hockey. Wrestling is ONE sport accommodating a small number of youth.
7 months ago

More field space.
7 months ago

More fields for soccer and lacrosse. Also like the ice rink.
7 months ago

Turf field at HS
7 months ago

Trash can empire more often
7 months ago

The need for additional recreational space to accommodate youth programs should be at the top of the list and should be an immediate concern of the town. We have been waiting years for improvements which is ridiculous! Why do I have to drive my children 1/2 hour away to participate in sports - there should be facilities right here in our town!
7 months ago

Build an outdoor turf field with lights for lacrosse/soccer/football
7 months ago

Turf fields (with lighting) and dedicated wrestling room!
7 months ago

We need more fields with turf
7 months ago

We need a dedicated building for the indoor winter programs like wrestling. Parking needs to be addressed at many fields.
7 months ago

Better parking for seniors
7 months ago

More turf fields for sports
7 months ago

We need more fields for kids to play soccer, lacrosse, etc.
7 months ago

More space for lacrosse fields
7 months ago

More sports fields, better sports fields, please. Our fields are over-capacity and we end up practicing and playing on fields in other towns because of this. Embarrassing situation for our town.
7 months ago

More turf fields for lacrosse and soccer
7 months ago

We need turf fields for sports teams
7 months ago

Ice Rink
7 months ago

Field complex with concessions parking lighting bathrooms etc.
7 months ago

More and Improved Sports facilities for our soccer programs. We should not being paying other towns for our children to have practices and games. Bathroom facilities at all fields even if they need to be the high end porta johns
7 months ago

Fields, lighting, concessions, bathrooms, basketball courts
7 months ago

We need more turf fields so kids stop getting injured due to poor field conditions
7 months ago

More turf fields for soccer, football, and lacrosse

7 months ago

More sports fields
7 months ago

Sports fields are in terrible shape and significantly more are needed to accommodate the community. Existing fields need to be turfed or dramatically upgraded. The field across from Stop N Shop is a hazard. The space adjacent to HS should be improved. The “Clark Park” next to Roosevelt is a huge waste and could be utilized for youth programs.
7 months ago

Safety
7 months ago

Na
7 months ago

Not everything needs to be turf. Grass fields are healthier and more environmentally friendly. An indoor multi-purpose space similar to Clark Brewer would be great to have - could have meetings, basketball, wrestling, volleyball, etc.
7 months ago

Turf some of the current fields, providing all year long accessibility for a variety of programs and activities
7 months ago

Keep the Tamaques, Brightwood park trails chipped or cindered so mud isn’t a deterrent
7 months ago

Please keep aesthetics top of mind for structures and parking, preserve the few natural areas we have and make them more accessible with better/paved trails and lighting.
8 months ago

I’d like to see more trails and natural environments preserved, there are so few. Also please take aesthetics into account when planning for structures, parking, etc.
8 months ago

Improving tamaques park- turn playground into splash pad
8 months ago

to have a maintenance plan..
8 months ago

The lack of quality fields is a problem. An additional track would also be heavily used by citizens. It is clear that PAL wrestling has an effort to support their sport, which is great, but an assessment of # participants and hours of use needs to be done to determine the best way to develop rec facilities.
8 months ago

Please, more activities indoor, because kids need place to spend energy during winter or warm days.
8 months ago

Biking walking trails lighted
8 months ago

Please find a way to keep an ice rink in Westfield! We loved using the rink this year and both of children had a lot of their team games and practices there and it made our lives so much better to not have to drive far away.
Please improve the Elm Street tennis courts... they are in horrible condition!
Please also consider upgrading the play equipment at Tamaques Park.
8 months ago

Keep the ice rink in Westfield and improve the tennis courts on Elm Street. They're underused because they're in poor condition.

8 months ago

Redo Sycamore Park Playground. Do not do ASTRO turf or lighting on sycamore field.
8 months ago

Partner with the county to get funding
8 months ago

Some of the fields like the one by
Jefferson school look shabby. A town like ours with strong athletics should not have facilities that look so run down.
8 months ago

Would love to explore the idea of a multipurpose community facility. Something that can be utilized by seniors, youth, local social groups in town, etc.
8 months ago

More turf fields
8 months ago

Quality turf fields for our town youth sports programs
8 months ago

Youth programs are expensive. Part of the reason is all the money they spend to rent space in other towns. We are a great family town with active, engaged kids. We need facilities to meet the demands of the programs. BOE resources can and should be so much better utilized in conjunction with the town programs.
8 months ago

Please consider the residents that live near the current or any new fields. We have to be careful not to impact the quality of life and the neighborhoods when planning new fields. We are not a sprawling rural community with lots of open space to add new fields.
Adding some in Tamaques park is a great idea. But you can't have lighted evening activities in purely residential neighborhoods without that having a negative impact. Use our space for us and not private businesses making a profit from our youth sports leagues.
8 months ago

Improvement at Elm Street needed
8 months ago

Ask me again in 6 months. I am trying to move, and sell my house and find a place to l]ive.
8 months ago

That none of our teams should have to leave town to practice, where parents take on the burden of paying to rent such spaces. We pay an awful lot in taxes to have such crappy fields & facilities, low cooperation between the town & schools on usage, and then paying again to rent space in other towns.
8 months ago

A community center with leagues like Rahway has for women's vball; an indoor-outdoor pool (bubble the lap pool at memorial for year round use); dedicated softball fields that won't get ruined or taken over by soccer; a large community gathering space so we aren't so reliant on the Armory.
8 months ago

Lighted fields, turf fields and playable grass fields with sprinklers. All kids should be able to play sports under the lights.
8 months ago

We need more turf fields, lighting to accomodate night usage and better indoor gym space (the basketball program uses the elementary school gyms that are small and hoops are not up to par)
8 months ago

Westfield prides itself on being a family oriented town. As many of our children play multiple sports, the town is currently unable to accommodate the needs of our sports programs. As a result, our kids have to play in other towns, at inconvenient times and in some cases, teams/programs are forced to be cut. This lack of resources is completely unacceptable for our

teams, programs are forced to be cut. This lack of resources is completely unacceptable for our town. In addition, the condition of our fields is an embarrassment when we host other teams. Creating additional fields and investing in those we currently have should be our first priority.
8 months ago

A variety of community rooms that can be used by Westfield organizations for meeting space.
8 months ago

The needs of the children are paramount, but adults need a space too.
8 months ago

Upgrade the restrooms and add concession stands to the facilities used for youth sports. Also, improve the maintenance on these facilities and fields. The appearance, condition and lack of resources at our athletic fields is an embarrassment to our town and our young athletes.

8 months ago

Please fix the fields at Jefferson School. The area becomes a swamp for days after it rains. The area needs to be regraded and proper drainage should be installed.
8 months ago

We need more turf fields that are easy to maintain and can handle wear and tear even in wet conditions. And we need to add lights so availability is not reduced by fall season early sunsets. I'd like to see lighted turf at Tamaques, Memorial and Elm St, and would LOVE to see Friday Night Lights football games at Kehler.
8 months ago

build lighted turf fields
8 months ago

it says I have an unanswered question, just wondering if this is it
8 months ago

stop wasting time
8 months ago

just tell them to stop wasting time.
8 months ago

I wish the town would get rid of the armory and replace it with two turf fields and parking.
8 months ago

We need AT LEAST two more turf fields with lighting, parking and a track! This is the bare minimum!!! These would serve hundreds of lax/soccer/football/track families!!!
8 months ago

Add box lacrosse barriers for use on turf fields
8 months ago

Use the hockey rink in the summer for roller hockey and box lacrosse
8 months ago

Add more lighted fields
8 months ago

Platform tennis and pickleball
8 months ago

Per previous comment. Look to develop fields for recreational youth sports. But do so objectively with consideration of traffic impacts, parking, neighbor proximity and buffering, and lighting not just for fields, but for the safety of those parking and egressing from those fields.
8 months ago

Update the local playgrounds for the growing population of young families. Sycamore play ground looks horrid.
8 months ago

Tamaques is a great existing resource but its condition is an embarrassment.
8 months ago

Make Memorial Pool even better than it is
8 months ago

Better field conditions
8 months ago

We need turf soccer fields in town.
8 months ago

Adding more field space and improving conditions of existing fields.
8 months ago

i appreciate the many items you have identified in this survey - many would be great to have. But the issue is there are inadequate sports fields available. Given the unavailability of open space, turf and lights are required.
8 months ago

Strongly support new turf fields with lighting for our growing lacrosse, soccer and football programs. Addition of a rec facility that would support other youth programs like wrestling, basketball, cheerleading. The ice rink has proven to be a success and would make an excellent permanent addition to our town.
8 months ago

More fields for sports
8 months ago

My children are involved in several field sports so I empathize with the desperate need for nearby field access.
However local parks should be a natural refuge for all ages from strollers to wheelchairs.
In 10yrs. those screaming to turf now, will appreciate the green tranquility and wildlife that our town parks have to offer.
Once we build on these locations it will be difficult to undue. I appreciate the board hitting the pause button.
I'm not crazy about turf fields, but it does provide year round availability. But since turf primarily serves school-aged residents, I feel turf fields should be located on school properties. WHS, RIS, EIS, to start, are ideal locations for sports complexes. They already have parking, signage, etc. It would allow the kids to walk directly to their practices, reducing traffic, carpools,etc. It would create revenue for the schools if they rent field time to private entities. It would also allow for year-round outdoor gym classes.
In addition Elm street central location would be ideal for ice rink. Central, walkable, business location. Since Memorial already has the pool complex and central location, it would be another ideal location for sports complex.
I have lived in Tamaques park area for decades. Parking is NOT an issue. It's not worth adding additional lots for those few Saturday mornings in the fall. I would suggest limit parking on Dickson Dr. on one side only on Sat.mornings 8am-12noon. It can be a little tight and unsafe for pedestrians.
8 months ago

More sports fields, including turf and lights
8 months ago

Dog park
8 months ago

An indoor recreation center that offers basketball and other indoor games. The Y is great, but offer limited basketball open court times. The kids love getting together to play and as teenagers a more preferable way to spend their down time.
8 months ago

Better field layouts, grading, and upkeep.
8 months ago

Please revamp Tamaques Park and consider a turf field for Lacrosse/Soccer.
8 months ago

multi-use facility in Tamaques park
8 months ago

Soccer fields that aren't just piles of dirt.
8 months ago

Build an indoor building for wrestling and cheerleading - spring floor board - more field space for all outdoor sports
8 months ago

8 months ago

HOCKEY/ICE RINK
8 months ago

More turf fields, preferably lighted and improved grass fields and facilities at each.
Sports fight for time on the Turf and grass fields and we end up having to play away or if we host it's is very embarrassing having teams travel more than an hour away and there are no bathrooms and poor condition of fields!! We are beyond desperate for more fields with facilities (ie. parking & bathrooms) and there is room to put them. When we play away and see the facilities of many less affluent towns, ours are truly a disgrace.
8 months ago

Bubble tomciver fiekds
8 months ago

Build turf fields throughout the town asap. This should have been done years ago
8 months ago

Can't you work out something with the ARMORY ? I know soccer palace rents space out - but it is expensive and they have bad/dangerous "turf" they use
8 months ago

We need all weather fields !! It's always raining in NJ - and lots of field closures because of poor drainage
8 months ago

Agree with making better use of underused facilities - elm tennis courts
8 months ago

Think big -
Don't just implement something that will be out dated in 5 years
WHS has top rate spirts teams - despite the poor facilities for training - more sports centers and sports fields make Westfield a
More desirable town to live in
8 months ago

Add more turf and lighted fields and upgrade the indoor facilities.
8 months ago

Please move forward with construction of one or more turf fields as soon as possible. This issue was already decided, and for the amount of fees WSA families have paid to the town in recent years, it is shameful that the Tamaques turf field was delayed.
8 months ago

The 2 softball fields at Westfield High School are atrocious! There are weeds growing in the infield

and the infield especially the pitchers mound is like QUICK SAND. The pitcher can't grip the ground and ends up creating a huge hole at the rubber after the inning is over. The infield especially the pitchers mound must first have a hard clay foundation and proper field dirt. This will avoid injuries too!! The field furthest away from the school NEEDS netting to prevent many many foul balls from going over the fence into the neighbor's yard. The entry door to get onto the fields doesn't open all the way. It's very difficult to get equipment through the narrow opening without scraping your side or arm, especially the catcher's bag and pitching machine. The batting cage needs to be replaced with a new one and lastly, the score board needs to be fixed. Please support Westfield Softball too. Those players are amazing and talented!!
8 months ago

A serious commitment to more turf fields for youth sports. I have there children who have used just about every park in town for soccer, lacrosse, baseball, football, wrestling and swimming. Compared to other towns of lesser means, our facilities leave a lot to be desired. What do we pay all of these taxes for?
8 months ago

Why is the development of Tamaques still on hold? We pay a ton of money and property taxes where does it all go? Our town is embarrassing compared to other towns we go to for children's soccer games. The nicest facility we have is Houlihan And the parking there is a nightmare and trying to get out of there at the stop sign is an even bigger nightmare. On top of that there are no real restrooms- only two Porta potty's.
8 months ago

Indoor pool complex for the swim program
8 months ago

Pool complex to support the swimming teams
8 months ago

more fields
8 months ago

Be smart and forward thinking
8 months ago

If you're going to use Jefferson School for recreational programs- the field needs to be fixed!
8 months ago

Give the kids a wrestling facility, currently there is none and it is embarrassing when visiting teams show up to a match at the Edison Middle School cafeteria.
Add lighted turf fields at Tamaques!
8 months ago

New Turf Fields with lights
8 months ago

New Turf Fields with lights.
8 months ago

add turf fields even without lights would allow more fields to be used when it rains, etc. Why not turf the high school field and not put up lights. Provides a nice alternative to all the high school teams competing for fields in the fall and spring. Softball team can use Memorial Field. And plenty of parking with HS lot right there. Scotch Plains has a turf field next to their football field and no lights and it's a great addition to have another turf field. Turf Elm - that field is a disgrace and the tennis courts aren't maintained and in terrible shape. Make the courts a parking lot and put in a small-sided field.
8 months ago

Turf field is a must at Tamaques Park with adequate parking & lighting. Footprint towards picnic area & basketball courts needs to be expanded in order to accommodate more parking. Bathrooms need updating. Tennis courts at Elm & Memorial pool are in need of repair and maintenance.
8 months ago

Not to add lights to parks. Safe biking & walking paths. Consider the over 55 population. Regrade

parts of Tamaques park where rain water collects and attracts insects. Make sure what you build can be maintained and staffed. Keep the balance of nature and turf.
8 months ago

We need to develop and make use of all possible fields for our recreation and sports team... Elm Street, Tamaques Park, Memorial Fields, Sycamore... but many of these facilities can not be use due to the poor grass conditions. More turf fields are needed.
8 months ago

Love the ice rink. More turf fields for soccer!!!!!
8 months ago

Need to re-evaluate certain “parks” and what the county has control of vs. The communities who “host” and use those parks and the emerging needs due to “wear and tear” of overuse and changes in demand. Would like to see a better balance between preservation of nature and the needs of the communities.
8 months ago

Better grass soccer fields, Playgrounds for toddlers and better parking
8 months ago

Update bathrooms
8 months ago

Turf fields. Lighted fields.
8 months ago

As mentioned, more soccer fields - turf
8 months ago

There are a lot of great people in Westfield. Let them help.
8 months ago

Think big. No open spaces should be off limits
8 months ago

Lighted fields
8 months ago

Better maintenance of fields
8 months ago

A Town-wide rec center that includes a host of facilities like gym, exercise area, pool ...
8 months ago

More soccer fields with lighting. The fields space is extremely tight for both UCFC teams and Westfield teams. I think UCFC should have our own fields that won’t be used by Westfield teams
8 months ago

Large field house for indoor activities.
8 months ago

added additional fields with lights to Tamques Park's unused wooded area and add additional parking and entrance. this will help lighten the traffic on existing fields and prolong there useful life.
8 months ago

Leave Tamaques Park alone. Do not develop it further.
8 months ago

Wrestling facility, turf and lights at Tamques. Update the Elm Street fields. That place is in horrible condition

condition.
8 months ago

Please fund a new wrestling facility
8 months ago

No parking tickets, police presence, wrestling building, turf football field, frisbee golf, more garbage cans, volunteer program
8 months ago

Build the turf fields!!
8 months ago

Turf abs lighting are needed but please keep some grass fields. Need a multi-purpose facility similar to Brewer in Clark - courts, multi-purpose rooms. Outdoor courts and fields.
8 months ago

Improved attention to tree care, weeds at Tamaques Park, and the wrestling facility.
8 months ago

Please consider sport activities that have increased or decreased over the last 10-20 years when determining how to best utilize our limited space. Please consider those not playing sports that still use the parks. Please try as best as possible to maintain/improve the natural beauty of our parks. Please upgrade the fields and facilities (maybe an upgrade is enough and turf isn't needed in all cases). Please look to public/private partnerships where necessary and feasible to limit the costs. Please consider how BOE land can be incorporated into the Plan since it all benefits residents. May God bless you! (am I allowed to say that?)
8 months ago

Improve the soccer fields for the Westfield High School teams and local private/recreation teams, no ice rink in Gumbert Park (benefits do not go to overall community - we need our parks to benefit westfield teams and residents, not enough space to include something that is more beneficial for towns outside of Westfield (90% non-westfield hockey teams benefit), improve the tennis courts.
8 months ago

better drainage, mosquito control in the summer, better play equipment, more lighting in public spaces, repave mindowaskin's asphalt toepath
8 months ago

Field's! Field's! Field's!.... Lights! Lights! Lights!..... The condition of our BOE and recreation fields is a discrete. Why do we not have someone who is just in charge of taking care of all our athletic fields?
8 months ago

Brightwood is severely underutilized! With some investment in improvements, this park could be used for walking, hiking, disc golf and more! It would also be good for Boy and Girl Scout outdoor activities.

Tamaques Park would be improved by a second exit and more parking. Parking on neighboring residential streets should also be reviewed. Dickson Drive is DANGEROUS during flag football season. Parking should only be allowed on one side of the street on Dickson Drive on Saturdays.
8 months ago

Improvements at Brightwood! Walking trails.... space for Boy/Girl Scout outdoor activities... disc golf.

For Tamaques, I hope the town considers the feasibility of adding a second exit and improving parking in the park, but also on residential streets neighboring the park. Dickson Drive is DANGEROUS during flag football season -- perhaps it could be changed to parking on one side of the street only on weekends.
8 months ago

Improve the parking situation at Tamaques park. Incorporate a same way entrance and exit instead of going around the park. Build a recreational facility in Tamaques to house the wrestling and cheerleading programs, meeting space, football storage and new bathrooms. This is desperately needed. Provide lighting for the football fields at Tamaques. Incorporate more turfed fields in town to accommodate all of the sports programs. Incorporate a permanent hockey rink into the master plan. I think all of this can be accomplished while still maintaining the park like atmosphere at Tamaques.

8 months ago

Many towns have recreation centers that also include a library, pool and park space.

8 months ago

Preserve and maintain in excellent condition all open public parks and set aside more open public parks. Continue to plant trees and other indigenous vegetation.

8 months ago

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