

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
PLANNING BOARD MINUTES
JUNE 28, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Hopewell Township Planning Board was held in the Hopewell Township Municipal Building Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 28, 2018.

Ms. Murphy, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She stated that notice of the meeting was posted in the Municipal Building and had been forwarded to the Hopewell Valley News, The Times of Trenton, The Trentonian and the Hopewell Express in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Members present: Karen Murphy, Chairperson, Jack Belmont, Larry Clarke, Milind Khare, Paul Kiss, Kristin McLaughlin, Rex Parker, Russell Swanson, Courtney Peters-Manning and Vanessa Sandom. Also present: Cheryl Bergailo, PP, Community Development Coordinator; Frank Banisch, Planner, Banisch Associates, Frank Linnus, Esq. and Jaimie Williamson, Acting Secretary. Absent: Kevin Kuchinski and Mark Kataryniak, PE

Announcements

Ms. Murphy announced that Cheryl Bergailo, professional planner and the Township's Community Development Coordinator would be sitting in for Mr. Kataryniak. Ms. Bergailo was sworn in by Mr. Linnus.

Minutes for Approval

Mr. Swanson moved and Mr. Kiss seconded a motion approving the minutes of the February 22, 2018 Planning Board meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

Mr. Swanson moved and Mr. Kiss seconded a motion approving the minutes of the March 1, 2018 Special Planning Board meeting. The minutes were approved as presented with Mr. Clarke, Mr. Khare and Mr. Parker abstaining.

Mr. Swanson moved and Mr. Kiss seconded a motion approving the minutes of the March 22, 2018 Planning Board meeting. The minutes were approved as presented with Ms. Peters-Manning abstaining.

Public Hearing - Open Space and Recreation Plan Element of the Hopewell Township Master Plan

Ms. Murphy stated she had some revisions to the document. Mr. Linnus explained that since this is a Public Hearing and the Plan was required to be on file at least ten (10) days before tonight's hearing, the revisions could not be substantive. Mr. Banisch stated

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the technical revisions speak to existing inventory to ensure accuracy; the revisions do not relate to any new proposals to acquire or develop new facilities. The editorial revisions are merely wording changes resulting in a clearer and better flowing document. Mr. Banisch proceeded to review the document with the Board (a copy of the revised pages are hereby attached and made a part of these minutes.)

Mr. Banisch stated that the Plan that was previously adopted reflected a series of proposals and conditions at the time of that adoption; it has now been updated to reflect the conditions that currently exist.

The Board discussed minor typos in the Plan. It was the consensus of the Board that the document was a great improvement and was needed to meet the requirements of the County's Green Acres program; however, they discussed the need for a continued review to further refine the Plan.

Ms. Murphy asked for questions or comments from the public.

Ms. Lisa Wolff, a Township resident and Executive Director of the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FOHVOS), stated that she appreciates the efforts made to update the Plan; however, she noted that there was no section in the document that recognized Non-Profit Owned lands. She asked that any future iteration of the Plan include a section with respect to Non-Profit Owned lands. She commented that she has spoken to members of the Township Committee and the Planning Board who have indicated that they are in agreement with respect to the importance of a collaborative process, which includes partnering with non-profits. She requested that a collaborative process should be included as part of the Action Plan in the document. She also requested that specific language be added to the Plan with respect to the conservation efforts of the FOHVOS.

Mr. Linnus stated that as an amendment to the Master Plan, the document that the Board is reviewing for adoption must be on file at least ten (10) days prior to the Public Hearing. As such, the document cannot be subject to substantive changes.

Mr. Banisch stated that the changes the Board discussed prior to opening public comment were not substantive changes; therefore, if so inclined, the Board could adopt the Plan with those revisions.

It was the consensus of the Board that Ms. Wolff's comments would be a valuable addition to the Plan and would be reviewed for inclusion in any future update.

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Harvey Lester, a Township resident, stated that the Table entitled "Township Owned Lands" contained a typographical error with respect to identification of Lot 26 in Block 85; it is identified as the "Hutcheson/Zaitz Tract." He noted that while they were purchased together, the "Zaitz Tract" is no longer open space. Mr. Banisch noted that was a typographical error and the reference to "Zaitz" would be removed.

The Board discussed revisions to the draft resolution prepared by Mr. Linnus. Mr. Swanson moved and Mr. Kiss seconded a motion approving the Amended Open Space and Recreation Plan Element of the Master Plan with the non-substantive revisions the Board discussed. It was voted on and passed.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes:	Belmont, Clarke, Khare, Kiss, McLaughlin, Murphy, Parker, Swanson, Peters-Manning
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Kuchinski
Not Voting:	Sandom

Ms. Murphy stated that a subcommittee would be formed consisting of two (2) members from the Environmental Commission, the Recreation Advisory Committee, the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Planning Board to further review and refine the goals and objectives of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Element. Board members Mr. Swanson and Ms. Peters-Manning volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. It was noted that the Community Development Office would reach out to the commission and committees to determine volunteers and schedule dates for the subcommittee meetings.

There was no public comment with respect to items not on the agenda.

The Board entered Closed Session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss litigation, Hopewell Township Planning Board, et al advs Deer Valley Realty, Docket No. MER-L-002326-17; at 8:16 p.m. the Board returned to public session.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jaimie Williamson
Acting Secretary

The audio recording of this meeting can be accessed here:
<http://hopewelltpw.org/DocumentCenter/View/3137/Planning-Board-Regular-Meeting-June-28-2018-MP3>

Executive Summary

Hopewell Township is a 58.91 square mile municipality in Mercer County, New Jersey which contains a rich ecological, historic, cultural and scenic diversity that gives rise to the rural character and sense of place cherished by residents and admired by visitors. The Township is flanked by rich farmlands, the Sourland Mountains to the north, ~~rich farmland to the south and to the west~~, the federally-designated Wild and Scenic Delaware River to the west. The cultural landscape is represented by historic settlement areas and land use patterns that reflect this unique mix of resources. The Township's understanding of these valuable features has resulted in unified planning and management regulations to preserve environmentally sensitive lands.

Hopewell, like much of New Jersey, is faced with increasing development pressures that could potentially impact the natural resources of the Township. Limited groundwater, critical habitat for threatened and endangered species, high quality surface waters, and a host of other environmental indicators require preservation and conservation to maintain these features for future generations. To this end, the Township's goal of land management is to conserve resources, open lands and farmland.

The preservation and conservation of natural resources is furthered by the acquisition, use and maintenance of open space and recreation areas in the Township. The purchase of open space areas that expand existing contiguous preserved land and create linkages of open space and recreation facilities can provide an additional safe guard to the Township's resources while helping to guide development to appropriate and suitable areas.

The Township is fortunate to contain a variety of both active recreation facilities and passive open space areas that are owned and managed by a variety of State, County, local and non-profit organizations. The combination of these lands allows residents to enjoy a large assortment of recreational opportunities from hiking, fishing and bird watching to organized athletic leagues, skate parks and educational activities.

The goal of the Open Space and Recreation Plan is to identify the current inventory of active and passive recreational areas, identify the needs of the Township for these lands, highlight natural resources in need of preservation, and identify an action plan to acquire, manage and use open space and recreation facilities. Through careful planning and use of these lands, the Township can retain its bucolic character and natural resources while providing all Township residents with a variety of recreational opportunities.

Goals

The purpose of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is to provide guidance for current and future acquisition, preservation and management of open space and recreation areas in Hopewell Township. The following goals, taken from the Township's Master Plan and amplified in the development of this OSRP, are designed to offer guiding principles when considering the acquisition and use of open space and recreation areas in the Township. These goals, like the

Township-Owned Lands

Hopewell Township owns a variety of recreational and open space areas that provide an assortment of passive and active recreational opportunities for Township residents. The following section provides a summary of these lands. Where the Lot contains a recognizable facility, the facility name is identified under the Description column. Where the Lot is vacant, the location is listed under the Description column.

Table 1: Township-Owned Open Space and Recreation Lands by Block and Lot

Block	Lot	Description	Acres
15	2.98	Hopewell-Rocky Hill Road – Open Space	43.4
15	14.01	St. Michael's – Open Space	33.68
22	3	Stony Brook Road – Open Space	2.33
22	18	Stony Brook Road – Open Space	3.89
22	17	Stony Brook Road – Open Space	6.26
28	3.01 & 11	Harbourton-Rocktown Road – Open Space	60.3
29	18.01	Regan – Open Space	12
31	64	Route 31 – Open Space	2.09
31	3	Route 31 – Open Space	4
32	6.09	Route 31 – Open Space	10.33
37	19	Farmland (Else)	67.18
39	14.01	Carter Road/Mt. Rose – Open Space	65.14
58	69	Riparian Rights	0.08
75	1.01	Twin Pines Recreation Facility	50.04
78.31	63.01	Independence Park	14.89
78.42	26	Independence Park	7.05
85	26	Hutcheson/Zaitz – Open Space	27.78
88	5.021	Weidel – Open Space	27.6
92	5	Weidel	54.4
92	6	Old School House	0.48
92	9	Woolsey Park (Alliger tract)	167.3
92	49	Municipal Building	10 _[MK1]
92	2.012	Else – Open Space	5.29
39	26, 32	Martin – Open Space	86.3
93	pending	CF Hopewell – Open Space Greenbelt	174.02
TOTAL			964.31

Township-owned Facilities

The vast majority of Township-owned recreation and open space land is undeveloped open space. There are several parcels which contain active recreation amenities including the following:

Hopewell Township Municipal Athletic Complex

The Hopewell Township Municipal Athletic Complex offers a variety of active recreation facilities and is the main park for organized sport activities. It is located behind the Township Municipal Building. The site contains:

- 4 baseball fields (3 lighted)
- 1 baseball/softball field (lighted)
- 1 football/multi-purpose field (lighted)
- 1 playground
- Skate park
- Restrooms (limited access)
- Snack bar
- Storage buildings

Independence Park

Independence Park is located on Stephenson Road. This park is fully developed and contains a variety of active recreation facilities including:

- 2 baseball/softball fields
- 2 multi-purpose fields
- 2 outdoor basketball courts
- 4 tennis courts
- Playground
- Walking/jogging trail
- Restrooms (limited access)/Pavilion
- Storage buildings

Twin Pines Recreation Area

The purchase of Twin Pines Airport was a joint proposal with Hopewell Township, Lawrence Township, Hopewell Borough and Pennington Borough proposing to develop multi-purpose athletic fields on the 51-acre property on the Lawrence-Hopewell border. The acquisition of the property occurred in 2007 following the award of the Mercer at Play Grant, Municipal Assistant grants by Mercer County and additional funds from Hopewell and Lawrence Townships.

There is a 138,000 sq. ft. synthetic turf field at this site that is operated and maintained by the Hopewell Township Parks & Recreation Department. The field is lighted for night use. This portion of the site is accessed by Pennington-Lawrenceville Road and contains a parking lot. The

turf field is available to youth and adult sport organizations by permit only. The public has access to the field when not used by an approved organization for a permitted use.

There are also three soccer/multi-purpose fields located at this site. These fields are operated and maintained by the Lawrence Township Recreation Department. A parking lot for vehicles for this section of the site is accessed by Federal City Road.

The walking/jogging trail at Twin Pines connects to the trail in Independence Park by crossing over Pennington-Lawrenceville Road. It also connects to the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail by crossing over Federal City Road.

Woolsey Park

Woolsey Park is 167 acres of mostly undeveloped land located near the Municipal Athletic Complex. The site offers the opportunity for a wide variety of both passive and active recreation and community activities. It is the site of the Hopewell Valley Veterans Memorial and the September 11th and Emergency Services Volunteer Memorial. This site abuts the Township municipal complex and public works facilities.

Quarry Field

Quarry Field is leased to the HVBSA by the Trap Rock Corporation and is located on the Trap Rock Quarry property. The site contains:

- 1 softball field (lighted)
- Restrooms (limited access)
- Picnic area

Table 2: Total Number of Facilities located on Township-Owned Land by Type

Facility Type	Number of Fields/Facilities
Baseball/Softball Fields	7
Multi-Purpose Fields	2
Football Field	1
Football Practice Field	1
Tennis Courts	4
Basketball Half Courts	2
Playground	2
Walking/Jogging Trail	2
Synthetic Turf Field with Lights	1
Skate Park	1

Board of Education-Owned Lands

The Board of Education also provides a variety of recreational opportunities for Township residents. They are as follows:

Table 3: Board of Education Sites by Block and Lot^[MK2]

Block	Lot	Description	Acres
18	9	Hopewell Elementary School	3.52
18	64	Hopewell Elementary School	14.28
38	72	Vacant – across Scotch Road from Timberlane Middle School	2.76
63	27	Timberlane Middle School	2.76
63	4	Timberlane Fields	62.44
63.01	1	Hopewell Valley Central High School	38.82
78.31	62	Stony Brook Elementary School	12.74
95	31	Bear Tavern Elementary School	27.32
TOTAL			204.96

Board of Education-owned Facilities

Central High School and Timberlane Middle School Complex

These two schools combined contain the following facilities:

- 1 turf ~~football~~-multi-purpose field / stadium with lights (High School)
- 2 ~~field hockey/women’s lacrosse~~grass practice fields (High School)
- 2 large gymnasiums (High School)
- 1 small gymnasium (High School- under construction)
- 1 dance studio (High School – under construction)
- Weight/fitness room (not for public use) (High School)
- Auditorium (High School)
- 4 ~~grass multi-purposes~~ fields (Back Timberlane)
- 1 baseball field (Back Timberlane)
- 2 softball fields (Back Timberlane and High School)
- 1 ~~small baseball/softball/practice~~ field (Middle School)
- ~~1 lacrosse/field hockey field~~
- 2 multi-purpose/practice fields (Back Timberlane)

- 1 outdoor basketball court (Middle School)
- 6 tennis courts (Middle School)
- Running track / ~~track and field~~ grass football field (Middle School)
- Cross-Country course (Back Timberlane)
- 12 gymnasiums (Middle School)
- 24 small gymnasiums (Middle School)
- 1 weight/fitness center (Middle School)
- 24 fitness trails / rope course (Middle School and High School)

Bear Tavern Elementary School

The Bear Tavern Elementary School complex offers some recreational opportunities such as:

- 4 multi-purpose fields
- 2 playgrounds
- 1 outdoor basketball court and black top
- 1 small gymnasium

Stony Brook Elementary School

This school has few available recreational facilities. Independence Park, which is adjacent to the school, largely provides the outdoor recreational facilities for the school. The school property contains the following:

- 1 playground / black top
- 1 small gymnasium

Toll Gate Elementary

The Toll Gate Elementary School sits on 11 acres in Pennington Borough and has the following facilities:

- 1 softball/ baseball practice field
- 1 multipurpose / soccer field
- 1 playground
- 1 outdoor basketball court / black top
- 1 small gymnasium

Hopewell Elementary School

The Hopewell Elementary School is located on 29 acres (18 acres in the Township) and contains:

- 3 multi-use fields
- 1 softball / baseball practice field
- 1 outdoor basketball court

- 1 playground
- 1 small gymnasium

Hopewell Valley Regional School District Administrative Building

The Administrative Building is located in Pennington Borough and contains:

- 1 open field used for pee wee soccer and t-ball stations
- 1 small gymnasium

Table 4: Total Number of Facilities located on Board of Education-Owned Land by Type

Facility Type	Number of Fields/Facilities
Baseball/Softball Fields	6
Soccer/Lacrosse/Field Hockey <u>Multipurpose practice</u> Fields	<u>812</u>
Tennis Courts	6
Gymnasiums	<u>810</u>
<u>Outdoor</u> Basketball Courts	<u>34</u>
Playgrounds	<u>65</u>
Running Track	1
Walking/Jogging <u>Fitness Trails / Ropes</u>	<u>23</u>
Football <u>Multi-sportpurpose game</u> Fields	<u>116</u>
<u>Dance Studio</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Auditorium</u>	<u>1</u>

County-owned Lands

The Mercer County Parks Department and related entities own 3,722 acres of open space, farmland and recreational areas in the Township. These parks add to the recreational opportunities for Township and County residents. Where the Lot contains a recognizable facility, the facility name is identified under the Description column. The following is an inventory of County-owned lands in the Township:

Table 5: County-Owned Sites by Block and Lot

Block	Lot(s)	Description	Acres
2	9.02, 29, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37	Undeveloped	68
15	14.03		45.07
16	18.01		53.46
16	4.012 & 4.013		38.64
17	1	Joint Green Acres/vacant	16.85
18	2.02, 8.02, 13 & 31	Joint Green Acres/vacant	100.66

2018 Hopewell Township Open Space and Recreation Plan

Block	Lot(s)	Description	Acres
20	11, 32, 70, 77, 78, 85	Trails	145.27
31	7.01	Undeveloped (Woodward tract)	76.6
37	1 & 1.01		68.84
37	25.02	Niederer	1.3
38	21		30.31
44	6, 7, 9,10, 11.02, 12, 17.02	Rosedale Park	497.15
45	1.03	Undeveloped	78.26
46	5.02	Neiderer	2.1
52	8, 19.01, 32	Undeveloped	156.79
54	5, 6, 7, 8	Howell Living History Farm	63.83
55	1, 2	Howell Living History Farm	84.89
59	13.01, 13.02 & 13.03	Howell Living History Farm	37.13
59	1 & 3 (partial lots)	Valley Road Picnic Area	127.42
59	6.02	Pizzini	8.8
59	2	Baldpate Mountain	18.7
60	4.02, 5, 6, 7.01, 17, 18, 21, 23.01-23.03, 27, 28, 31, 32, 37, 38, 43, 47, 50, 54, 59	Baldpate Mountain	1202.88
		Mercer Meadows - Riding Arena	
72	72.01	Mercer Meadows - Curlis Lake	8.9
77	1, 8	Mercer Meadows - Northwest Park	8.9
88	5.03		16.51
94	1	North of Mountainview Golf Course	89.79
94.01	3	Farm	17.22
133	13.01 & 14.04	Hollystone	107.8
TOTAL			3,722.08

County-owned Facilities

Some of the County’s facilities in the Township include the following:

Mercer Meadows

The Township contains portions of the County’s Mercer Meadows Park, including the Rosedale Park District, Equestrian District and Curlis Woods. The overall park contains an equestrian center, historic farmstead, fishing, boating, playgrounds, picnic areas, dog park, multiple trails, natural areas and restrooms. Mercer Meadows is located off Federal City Road near the junction of Blackwell Road.

Ted Stiles Preserve at Baldpate Mountain

This former ski area was purchased by the County and now features multiple trails, parking areas, a remnant farmstead, historic houses and a visitor center. The main entrance is off Fiddlers Creek Road near the intersection of Route 29.

Valley Road Picnic Area

Located in Hopewell Township on Valley Road, ½ mile east of Route 29, the Valley Road Picnic Area is available to groups on a reservation basis.

The area is a 19-acre facility in its natural state comprised of picnic tables scattered under and around the pavilion. The pavilion area can accommodate up to 300 people and is available to reserve seven days a week. The pavilion has two stationary cooking grills and one barbecue pit, as well as a beverage bin, electricity and running water. There is a softball field, volleyball court, basketball, court, ~~quiet area~~ and children's play equipment. Ample parking, permanent rest rooms and trash/recycle containers are available.

State-Owned Lands

State-owned lands in the Township total 2,589 acres. While many acres are undeveloped open space lands, two significant parks exist in the Township, Washington Crossing State Park and the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park. Washington Crossing State Park offers not only active and passive recreational opportunities but also contains resources of historic and cultural significance. The other significant State-owned park is the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park. The following is a summary of State-owned facilities in the Township:

The park supports an interesting assortment of plants including mixed hardwoods, red cedar forests, plantings of Eastern white pine, Japanese larch, Norway spruce and red pine. A splendid variety of spring and summer wildflowers can be found throughout the park. Among the most notable species of wildlife are White-tailed Deer, fox, raccoon, Great-Horned Owl, Screech Owl, Red-tailed hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk and Eastern Bluebird. The park also is popular for picnicking and, in the winter, for cross-country skiing on existing hiking trails.

- Museum / visitor center
- Johnson Ferry House
- Nelson House
- Swan Historical Foundation Collection of the American Revolution
- Interpretive center
- Picnic tables, picnic shelters, group picnic facilities, group picnic shelters
- Playground
- Fishing
- Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing
- Hiking
- Nature trails
- Horseback riding
- Mountain biking
- Outdoor amphitheater
- Restrooms (limited access)
- 3 grass soccer fields
- Cross country trail
- Camp sites

The Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park

The Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park is one of central New Jersey's most popular recreational corridors for canoeing, jogging, hiking, bicycling, fishing and horseback riding. The canal and towpath are part of the National Recreational Trail System. The 70-mile linear park is a valuable wildlife corridor connecting fields, forests and water habitats.

With its 19th-century bridges, bridgetender houses, past and present locks, cobblestone spillways and hand-built stone-arched culverts, the canal is a tremendous attraction for history lovers. The upper reach of the feeder canal wanders through quaint New Jersey towns along the Delaware River such as Stockton and Lambertville, and continues through Titusville and Washington Crossing in the Township. The main canal passes the Port Mercer canal house, through the charming village of Griggstown to Blackwells Mills, ending up in New Brunswick. Canoes can be rented at points from private concessionaires.

Most of the canal system remains intact today and is a reminder of the days when the delivery of freight depended upon a team of mules or steam tugboats. Nearly 36 miles of the main canal and 22 miles of the feeder canal still exist, with many historic structures along the canal.

Facilities & Activities:

- Cook Natural Area (South Brunswick, Middlesex County)
- Six Mile Run site (Franklin Township, Somerset County)
- Trails
- Picnic tables
- Fishing
- Boating/Canoeing
- Cross-country skiing
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Mountain biking
- Biking

Semi-Public Recreational Facilities

Non-profit, semi-public organizations have taken an active interest in purchasing property in the Township. In total 2,439 acres have been purchased in the Township through the efforts of non-profit organizations. These organizations purchase lands for the purpose of preservation and generally allow public, low impact access to the areas.

Lawrence Hopewell Trail Corporation

The Lawrence Hopewell Trail Corporation is a non-profit organization seeking to create a connected series of pedestrian oriented paths throughout the region. The length of the trail is currently over 20 miles. The main objective of these paths is to create a multi-modal connection to a variety of community centers, such as parks, school, businesses and recreational sites to each other. Currently, the trail links Educational Testing Service, Carson Road Woods, three Bristol-Meyers Squibb campuses, [Princeton Pike Office Park](#), Maidenhead Meadows Park, The Lawrenceville School, Village Park, Mercer Meadows Park and The Watershed Institute. Remaining linkages are primarily to the Mt. Rose Preserve, as well as improved internal linkages to enhance access and safety. The Township contributes to the Trail primarily through the granting of easements as well as safety improvements along local roads [and road crossings](#).

Crossroads of the Revolution Project Area

Green Acres, along with the National Parks Service, has been undertaking a variety of projects highlighting the rich historical role New Jersey played in the Revolutionary War. A variety of proposed project areas and trail systems to document significant Revolutionary War sites and events have been instituted. One such project is the Crossroads of the Revolution Project Area, which aims to preserve the landscapes and trail corridor system from Morristown National Historic Park, Washington's Crossing State Park, The Trenton Barracks, Princeton Battlefield State Park and the Monmouth Battlefield State Park.

Other Providers

The Watershed Institute's, formerly known as the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association, properties offer a wealth of recreational opportunities to the Township, including

Summary of Open Space and Recreation Areas

The preceding analysis indicates that the 12,275 acres, 34% of the Township, are dedicated to open space, recreation and preserved lands.

Table 7: Summary of Open Space and Recreation Areas

Category	Acreage
Township Owned	964.31
County Owned	3,722.08
State Owned	2,589.09
Total Publicly Owned	7,275.48
Board of Education	204.96
Semi-Public	2,439.00
Preserved Farmland	2,416.18
Conservation Easements	538.64
TOTAL including easements	12,874.26

Needs Analysis

There are a number of standards that can be utilized to determine the recreation lands and facilities needed to continue to meet the requirements of the various programs and users in the Township. One is the Balanced Land Use Concept, endorsed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). The Balanced Land Use Concept, as outlined by the NJDEP, will be discussed and applied to the Township. Another Standard is the application of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) “Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines”, published in 1996. In addition to these concept standards, the Township authorized a report entitled “A Recreation Report for Hopewell Township’s Outdoor Recreation System” in 2003, by Kinsey Associates. This report also provides an extensive look at the ~~current~~ recreation system in the Township, and provides a series of recommendations. The following recreation needs analysis of the Township is conducted using the Balanced Land Use Concept and the report prepared in 2003 by Kinsey Associates.

Active Recreation Facility Needs Analysis

2003 Recreation Report

The Township, with the assistance of Kinsey Associates, prepared “A Recreation Report for Hopewell Township’s Outdoor Recreation System” in 2003. This report set out to not only document the Township’s active recreation facilities, but also to identify each park’s long term and short term needs and its ability to service the residents of the Township.

- Develop the Back Timberlane park area and identify the best future arrangement for the Timberlane/High School site complex. [Project was completed].
- Identify and develop appropriate sites for future active recreation facilities.

After consideration of the Kinsey Recreation Report, the Planning Board prepared a series of recommendations and comments. The Board emphasized the following recommendations seen in the Recreation Report:

- The Township is lacking in active recreation facilities and a plan should be instituted to respond to these deficiencies through identification, modification and construction of existing and future recreation areas. [Recreation deficiencies have in large part been addressed by the improvements at Twin Pines facility and development of school properties.]
- Reinforce and amplify existing relationships with citizen associations.
- Reinforce and amplify partnerships with Pennington and Hopewell Boroughs.
- Create nature areas, trails and passive open space on the Else and Alliger tracts, and active recreational facilities on the Else tract. [~~Completed except there are no recreational facilities on the Else tract~~ Work on Alliger tract completed.]
- Identify and address the need for adequate restroom facilities at all parks, especially in any new active recreation facility.
- Modify existing sites with attractive and appropriate plantings to make recreation areas more appealing. Develop a relationship with local operations to produce native plantings to effectuate this objective.
- Evaluate the need to construct a community swimming pool.
- Evaluate the need and ability to form or create a community center.

The Board disagreed with the following items:

- Funds raised through the open space tax should not contribute to development of Board of Education recreation facilities or to the purchase of properties abutting Board of Education properties and, instead, other cost sharing options should be investigated.
- The Board questions the need for pocket parks in the locations identified in the Recreation Report.