

LAKEWOOD TOWNSHIP

Parks & Open Space Subcommittee Report to the Master Plan Committee: 2016

FINAL

1/15/2017

As part of that prestigious Master Plan Committee, multiple Subcommittees were formed to help determine current conditions, based on subject matter, conduct research, and make recommendations regarding the future of Lakewood Township. In this venue, Parks and Open Space Subcommittee of the Master Plan Committee were established.

Township of Lakewood

Master Plan Committee

Parks and Open Space Subcommittee

BACKGROUND:

Lakewood Township has empanelled a Master Plan Committee to prepare the 2016 Master Plan. The previous Master Plan Committee was established to conduct the 2006 Master Plan. This Master Plan was augmented by a series of updates. They are as follows:

2007 Master Plan Re-Examination,
2008 Addendum to the Re-Examination Report,
2009 Smart Growth Plan was not adopted, but continued to be revised, yielding,
2013 Smart Growth Plan which was adopted.
2014 Amendment to the Re-Examination Report
2014 Master Plan Amendment
2016 Lakewood – Recommendation Report Draft

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The difficult but necessary research, discussions, planning, and negotiations needed to adequately address the needs of the 2016 Master Plan Committee is an awesome project of major proportions. Like all major projects such as this, the leadership has elected to divide the project into multiple component parts, where each component part will be addressed by subcommittees. Subcommittees will address their part of the project and the chair and vice chair will deliver the results to the Committee leadership for further analysis and discussion. Reverse feedback will occur from the leadership back to the subcommittee for further discussion.

The new Master Plan, when approved by the Master Plan Committee and then the Planning Board and subsequently by the Township Committee, will become a guide for Lakewood's Zoning and Planning Board decisions regarding growth and orderly development of properties within Lakewood Township.

The Township Committee will then prepare ordinances for the recommendations when or if appropriate, to write into law, the recommendations.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

The leadership has approved these seven (7) subcommittees as component parts of the whole Master Plan Committee project:

1. Housing Density
2. Parks & Open Space
 - a. **Subcommittee Members are:**
 - b. Bill Hobday, Chairman – iPhone 732-232-7812
 - c. Ally Morris, Vice Chairman

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- d. Nechama Morgan
- e. Yitzy Levi
- 3. Transportation
- 4. Downtown
- 5. Land for Schools
- 6. Traffic Control / Infrastructure Repair & Improvements
- 7. Senior Community Needs

The members of the Parks and Open Space Subcommittee of the 2016 Master Plan Committee have been selected to give of their time, talents, and dedication to the Township of Lakewood to assist with the formation of a new Master Plan.

The Parks and Open Space Subcommittee will need to familiarize themselves with the Lakewood Smart Growth Plan of June 2013, as it relates to Parks and Open Space. I direct your attention to pages 20-22 of that document. You will see that this is part 5 of that document entitled Environmental Preservation Strategy.

Subcommittee members should also examine the complete series of studies conducted since the last Master Plan of 2006. I have attached these documents for your review. If you do not have the wherewithal to open these MS WORD documents, now is the time to let us know. We will get a hard copy to you without delay.

Upon becoming familiar with the documents, the committee can begin discussion as to what worked, what did not work, and how or to what extent the subcommittee can make recommendations for a positive change to the document. Start on page 20 of the 2013 Smart Growth Plan which was adopted:

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO MEET WITH

Lakewood Parks & Recreation Advisory Board/Special Events – Members – 2016

Michael Cohen
John Doyle
Jorge Esmart
William Lindsey
Fred Ponti
Toni Ponti
Jorge Ramos
Henry Sanchez
Donna Santoli-Riegel
Sgt. Frank Work

Lakewood Department of Public Works

Lakewood, an area of 26 square miles, has 217 miles of Township streets. The Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance and repair of Township roads and sewers, **Township parks and open space**, snowplowing of Township streets, leaf and brush collection,

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garbage and recycling collection and tire, refrigerator and appliances that contain refrigerants collection.

Patrick Donnelly

Director

Ocean County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

This information will be added at a later date.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION STRATEGY

Lakewood's environmental preservation strategy presents a framework for planning and zoning decisions that protect natural resources while at the same time promote sustainable development. This community-based environmental preservation strategy was developed using the Township's adopted Natural Resource inventory and through technical assistance from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

There are predefined land areas in Lakewood dedicated for recreation and open space. To serve the needs of the Township residents, Lakewood will continue to protect and preserve its existing open space and maintain and improve where needed its existing recreation areas. Lakewood will list all existing Township owned parks and open space on Lakewood's Recreation and Open Space Inventory.

LAKWOOD'S EXISTING PARKS:

http://www.lakewoodnj.gov/parks_detail.php#parkslakesplaygrounds

Parks, Lakes & Playgrounds

Whatever your interests or your age, visitors will find Lakewood an ideal place to relax, picnic, or simply enjoy recreation of all kinds. Visitors can play or watch sports at Lakewood's many softball and soccer fields, or volleyball and tennis courts. Besides more than a dozen playgrounds, there is exercise and bike trails; on-site row boats, paddle boats, and canoe rentals; and several parks, some of which have swimming and fishing. The John F. Patrick Sports Complex, due to open in the summer of 2005, will add an additional four baseball fields and four soccer fields.



Parks Department | 732-367-6737

Lake Carasaljo

Route 9 (River Avenue)
732-367-6737



The lake was named in the late 1800's for Carolina, Sarah and Josephine Brick, the daughters of pioneering businessman Joseph W. Brick. Found in the center of town near the Victorian shopping area, Lake Carasaljo is one of the jewels in Lakewood's crown. The lake has a perimeter of 4.5 miles and sits on 176

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acres of parkland. During warmer months a wide variety of activities, including fishing, swimming, bicycling, running and picnicking, take place in and around its sparkling waters. The Lakewood Amphitheatre, just a stone's throw from the lake, is a popular venue for community events and is the perfect spot to watch July 4th fireworks. In winter, ice skaters happily glide along the lake's frozen surface.

Ocean County Park

700 Route 88 (Ocean Avenue)
732-506-9090



Ocean County Park No. 1 was once the estate of John D. Rockefeller. This beautiful, 565 acre park is filled with white pine, hemlock and many unique specimen trees. The park's offerings include tennis courts, open play fields, trails, a playground for children and a pristine lake, perfect for swimming. When winter snows fall, the park becomes a Mecca for cross-country skiers.

- 323 acres
- Bike trail
- Cross-country skiing
- Driving range
- Fishing
- Fitness trail
- Lake swimming
- Handicap accessible
- Off-leash dog area
- Open playing fields
- Picnic areas
- Playgrounds
- Restrooms
- Shuffleboard
- Softball field
- Tennis courts
- Volleyball courts

Lake Shenandoah County Park

Route 88 (Ocean Avenue)
732-506-9090



If you're hooked on fishing, you'll love Lake Shenandoah County Park. Anglers have access to large piers, on-site boat rentals and a bait & tackle shop - not to mention a 100 acre lake stocked with trout. Towering oaks and pines ring the lake and foster a tranquil mood - a mood only broken when a "big one" strikes!

- 143 acres
- 100 acre lake
- Bike trail
- Boat rental
- Picnic area
- Restrooms
- Conservation area
- Fishing
- Handicap accessibility

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- Playground
- Small boat launch - (electric motors only)
- 84 acre sports complex
- Largest soccer complex in New Jersey
- 6 soccer fields
- 2 softball fields
- Basketball courts

Pine Park

500 Country Club Drive,
off County Line Road (Route 526)
732-367-6737



Pine Park, on the northwest corner of town, was once a part of George Jay Gould's estate, the park's 149 acres now sport campgrounds and ball fields, as well as basketball, handball and tennis courts. The park often hosts large community events.

- 149 acres
- Basketball court
- Campgrounds
- Handball court
- Picnic areas
- Playgrounds
- Open areas
- Softball fields
- Tennis courts

John F. Patrick Sports Complex

Vine Street
732-367-6737



Named for former Lakewood School's Superintendent John Patrick, the 40+ acre complex hosts six soccer fields and four baseball fields, equipped with lighting for night games, ample parking, restrooms, plus a full service concession stand. The complex is the new home to the Lakewood Little League and Lakewood Soccer League.

- 40+ acre complex
- 6 soccer fields (Four lighted)
- 4 lighted playing fields for baseball and softball

Smaller Municipal Parks & Playgrounds

Canterbury Park

Canterbury Drive
Basketball, Playground

Clifton Avenue School

Between 6th & 7th Streets
Playground, Parking lot

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Community Center

20 4th Street | 732-367-0040

Monday-Friday, 9AM-9PM

Basketball, Playground, Community Center building with weight room and indoor recreation

D'zio Park

Locust Street & New Hampshire Avenue

Basketball, Baseball, Playground, Picnic area, Shelter, Parking lot

Frank Bartolf Sports Complex

Brook Road

Little League field, Playground with shelter, Football field, Picnic area, two soccer fields, Parking lot

Head Start

East 8th Street - (between Princeton Avenue and the railroad)

Playground

Hearthstone Park

Hearthstone Drive

Playground, Baseball field, Parking lot

North Beach Park

North Lake Drive

Playground, Parking lot

Oak Street School

Oak Street

Playground, Playground with apparatus for special needs. Parking lot

Revered Clayton Park

John Street

Playground, Shelter, Softball field, Basketball

South Beach

South Lake Drive

Playground, Parking lot

Spruce Street School

Spruce Street

Playground, Basketball, Parking lot

Sunset Park

Sunset Avenue

Basketball, Baseball, Playground, Picnic area, Shelter, Parking lot

Recreational Programs

Throughout the year, Lakewood offers a full slate of recreational programs and special activities geared to children, adults and families.

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Lakewood Little League

Through proper guidance and exemplary leadership, the Lakewood Little League program assists youth in developing the qualities of citizenship, discipline, teamwork and physical well-being. By espousing the virtues of character, courage and loyalty, Lakewood's Little League Baseball program is designed to develop superior citizens rather than superior athletes.



[Lakewood Little League Website](#)

FirstEnergy Park

First Energy Park

2 Stadium Way
Lakewood, NJ 08701
732-901-7000



[Directions to FirstEnergy Park](#)

Lakewood BlueClaws

Lakewood is the home of the award-winning "Single A" Minor League baseball team, the Lakewood BlueClaws, of the South Atlantic League. The BlueClaws have won three SAL championships, 2006, 2009, and 2010. The BlueClaws, SAL affiliate of the Phillies, play their April to September season at FirstEnergy Park, located at the intersection of New Hampshire (CR 623) and Cedar Bridge Avenues (CR 528).

FirstEnergy Park is the perfect spot to take in a ballgame. It seats 6,588 fans with grass seating for up to 3,000 more. The park features 17 Skyboxes, a brand new Kimball Medical Center Champions Club party-box which can hold up to 50 people, and two party decks. There are three picnic areas, perfect for group outings like company picnics and family reunions. Concession stands sell traditional ballpark food as well as specialty items. Fans can find the latest BlueClaws memorabilia at the team's retail store, Claws Cove.

BlueClaws tickets are reasonably priced, making a trip to FirstEnergy Park fun and affordable for the entire family. So come on out to the ballpark and cheer on Lakewood's team, the BlueClaws!

For information and tickets | Call 732-901-7000
or visit www.lakewoodblueclaws.com



Conference Center

FirstEnergy Park is also home to 900 feet of meeting space. The Conference Center serves as a convenient meeting place for businesses and organizations in Monmouth and Ocean Counties

ABOUT THE PARKS

1. Only 3 parks can accommodate team sports (football, soccer, baseball, etc) right now:
 - a. Pine Park
 - b. Bartoff/Brook Park

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- c. Vine Park
- d. John J Patrick Park
 - i. Appears to be underutilized.
 - ii. Recommend meeting of teams to work out a schedule to include additional team sport activities.
 - iii. Make strong recommendation to fully utilize existing parks.
- 2. Maintenance and upkeep is required.
 - a. Basketball nets.
 - b. Pavement and walkways.
 - c. Field maintenance and striping.
- 3. Funding for existing parks.
 - a. The budget for maintenance needs to be examined for adequacy.
 - b. Each park needs a budget line item for maintenance/repair/replacement.
 - c. Routine monitoring is needed.
- 3. Funding for new parks and possible supplemental funding for existing parks.
 - a. Possible “recreation trust fund”
 - b. Recreation fee for each new building permit received (1,000 permits per year at \$25 each is \$250,000).
- 4. Upcoming development areas with anticipated park needs
 - a. Prospect/Cross triangle
 - i. T&M to identify Twp owned properties in this area that could be used
 - b. Drake/White/Cross area likely to be rezoned
 - i. T&M to check the fringes of the CLP for properties that could be used
 - c. James Street area
 - d. Oak Street Corridor
 - i. Pocket/linear parks already proposed, but some rights-of-way need to be vacated to accomplish this.
 - ii. More recreational space is needed and recommended.
- 5. Kennedy Boulevard right-of-way
 - a. Wide right-of-way (120’) that could be utilized
 - i. T&M prepared a plan some time ago for a bike path from approximately the rail road to Brook Road park consisting of asphalt path, basic lighting
 - b. Recommend utilizing the entire right of way and all abutting Township properties to be dedicated to a newly designated park.
 - i. Asphalt paving
 - ii. Benches at intervals
 - iii. Basketball pole, extension, hoop, and net
 - iv. Bicycle lanes
 - v. Skateboard areas
 - vi. Shelter areas at intervals

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SUMMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. Lakewood needs to better maintain the recreational facilities that are present. Costs analysis and priority, are important parameters.
2. Lakewood needs to better fund the recreational facilities. Possible dedicated additional cost for each permit to add to recreational budget.
3. Insure that all existing recreational facilities are adequately serving the needs of residents in the area.
4. Consider establishing a Recreation Commission to help oversee Parks and Open Spaces.
5. Post the condition of parks on the Township website. (Out of Order, Under Repair, Good, Better, Best)
6. Encourage the establishment of a recreational “Suggestion Box” on the Township Website.
7. Post booked recreational activities schedule on Township website.
8. Encourage an “Adopt A Park” program for groups and sponsors.
9. Preserve and closely examine adding the right-of-way of Kennedy Blvd East from Squankum Road in the west to the municipal boundary with Brick and Howell in the east.

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