

# Appendix 9.2:

## Public Outreach & Surveys

The Bergen County Parks Master Plan process included a robust public outreach effort to determine public parkland needs and gauge resident's opinion of existing conditions. Comments and data in this Appendix are drawn from the online survey (2,245 participants), eleven public meetings held in 2017, conversations with stakeholder groups, and digital communications from residents.

Documents in this Appendix include:

- Online Survey Summary
- Online Survey Raw Data
- Public Meeting Notes
- Stakeholder Group Conversation Notes
- Public Comments By Park
- Email Public Comments
- Other Public Comments

The project team has endeavored to include all public comments received via the online survey, eleven public meetings, conversations with stakeholder groups, and digital communications. Feedback received during the formal Public Comment period in 2018 will be documented in Appendix 9.II.

## 9.2 ONLINE SURVEY SUMMARY

### SUMMARY OF ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

In addition to other public comment platforms made available, individuals could submit comments about the Bergen County Parks through an online survey. This survey was approved by Rutgers IRB and open to the general public, available through a CUES website (<http://cues.rutgers.edu/bergen-park-system/>) between 11/21/2016 and 6/1/2017. This survey was completed by 2,245 participants. The online survey was powered by Qualtrics. The survey was set up to allow an identified computer to respond only once. Respondents were free to skip any question(s) they wished.

Highlights of the CUES online survey results are included in this Appendix. The raw data from the online survey is included later in Appendix 9.2.

ONLINE PUBLIC SURVEY

Park use is influenced by cultural interests, age, and income levels. To characterize the demographics of online survey respondents, participants were asked to identify their age group (Fig. 1) and annual household income level (Fig. 2). Approximately half the respondents were in the 45-64 age range (1036), followed by 30% in the 25-44 age bracket (644). Almost two-thirds of the households taking the online survey had annual income of \$100,000 or higher.

Age Group of Online Survey Respondents

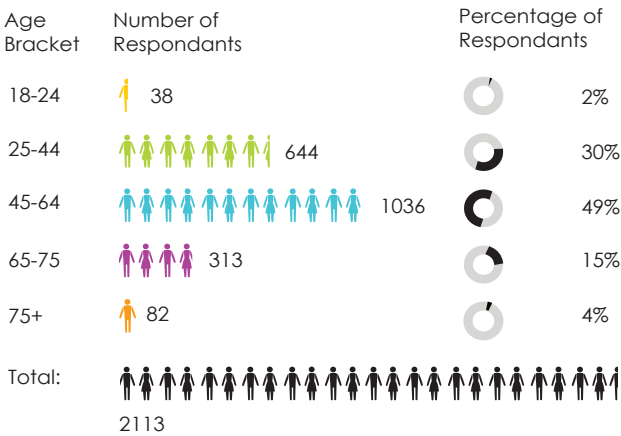


Figure 1. Approximately half of respondents were in the 45-64 age bracket, while one-third of respondents were in the 25-44 age bracket (Courtesy of CUES).

Annual Household Income of Online Survey Respondents

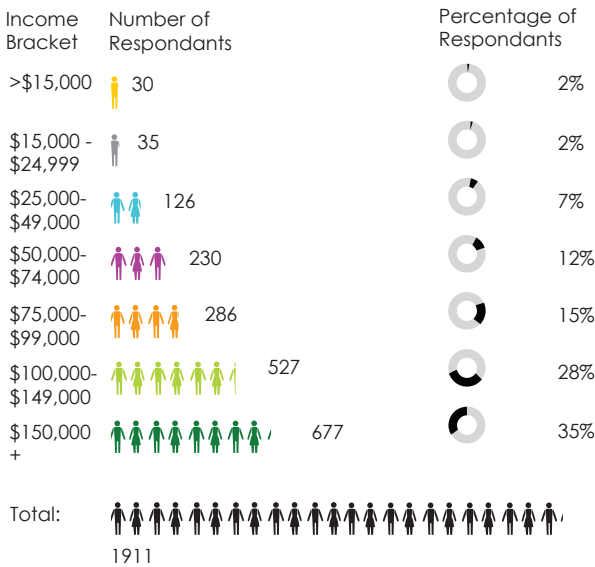


Figure 2. Almost two-thirds of the respondents were in households with an annual income of \$100,000 or higher (Courtesy of CUES).

The number of online survey responses by municipality was determined based upon self-identification of home zip codes. A significant number of responses (100 or more) came from residents of municipalities that were home to some of the larger County parks (Fig. 3), including Mahwah (Ramapo Reservation), Paramus (Van Saun), and Ridgewood (Saddle River). There were no online survey responses from residents of the municipalities of Teterboro or Northvale.

Online Survey Responses by Bergen County Municipality

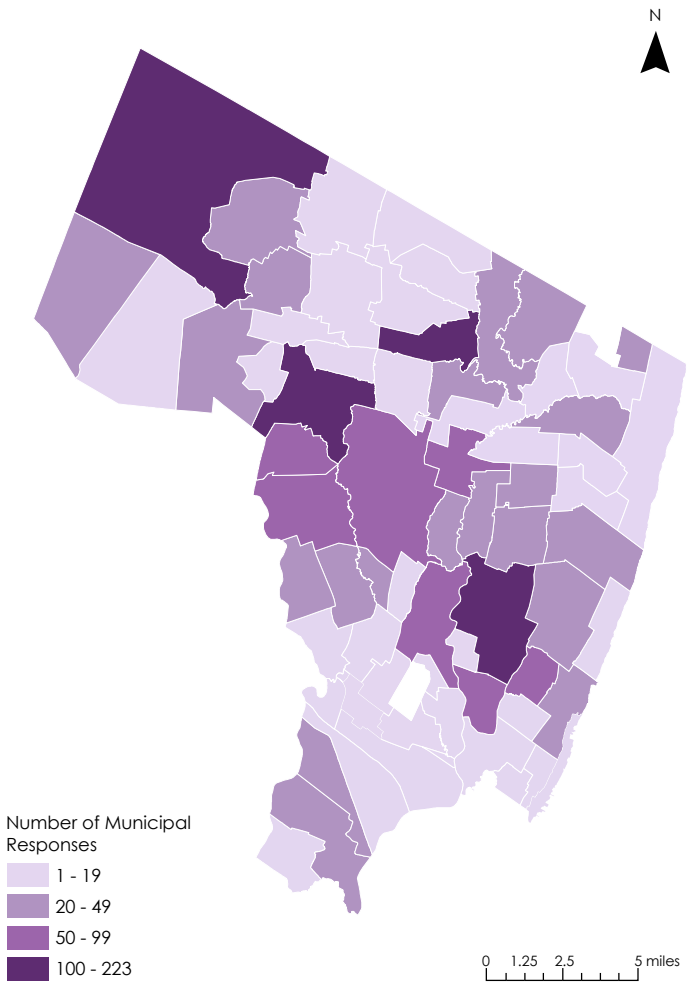
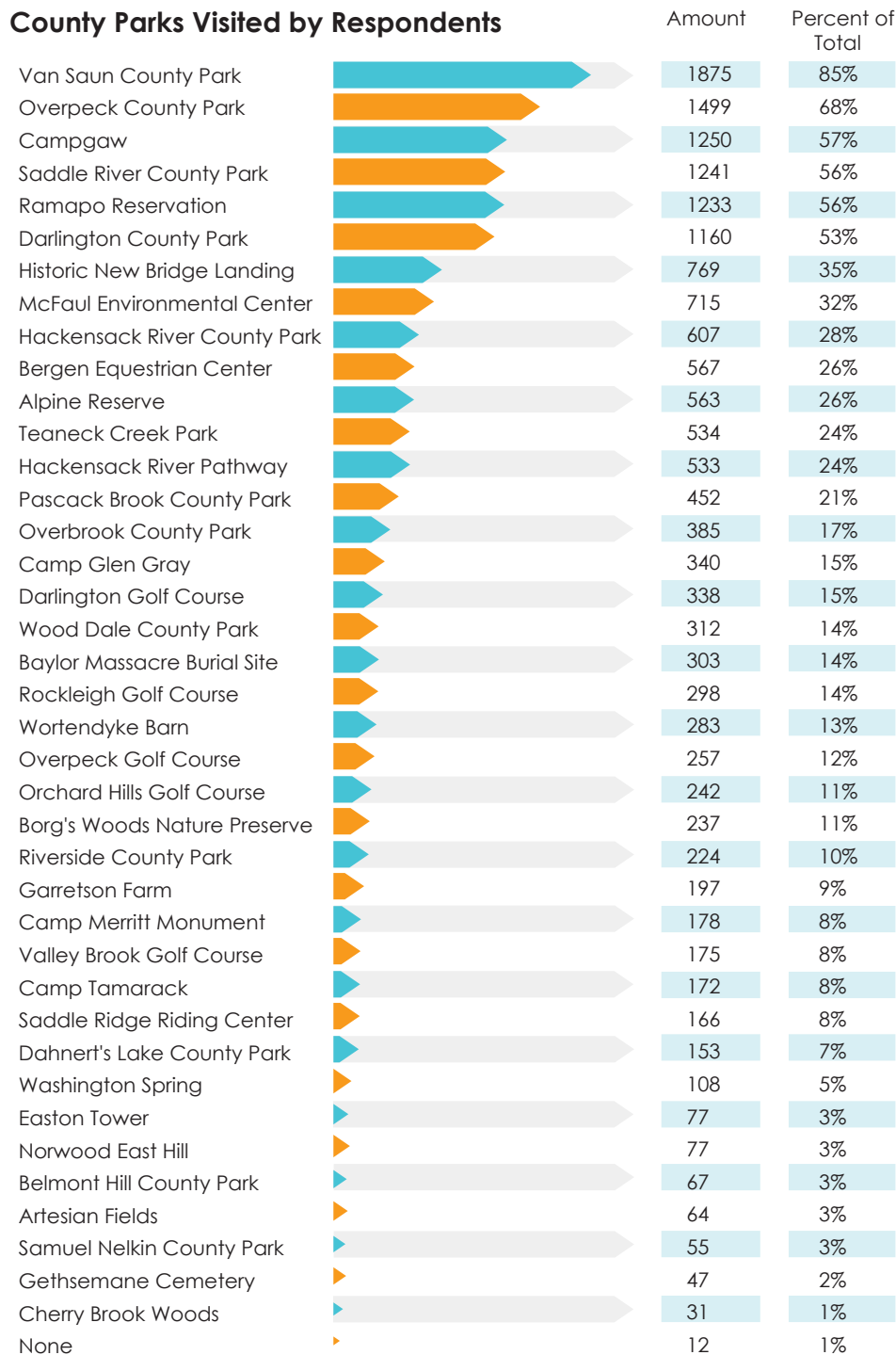


Figure 3. Map indicating the number of online survey responses per Bergen County municipality (Courtesy of CUES).



**Total # of Respondents: 2204**

Figure 4. All County parks identified as visited by online survey respondents (Courtesy of CUES).

To understand resident preferences and use of the various County parks, participants were asked to select from a list all Bergen County Parks they had ever visited. The most

frequently named (Fig. 4) was Van Saun (85%) followed by Overpeck (68%), Campgaw (57%), Saddle River (56%), and the Ramapo Reservation (56%).



## Most Recently Visited Park

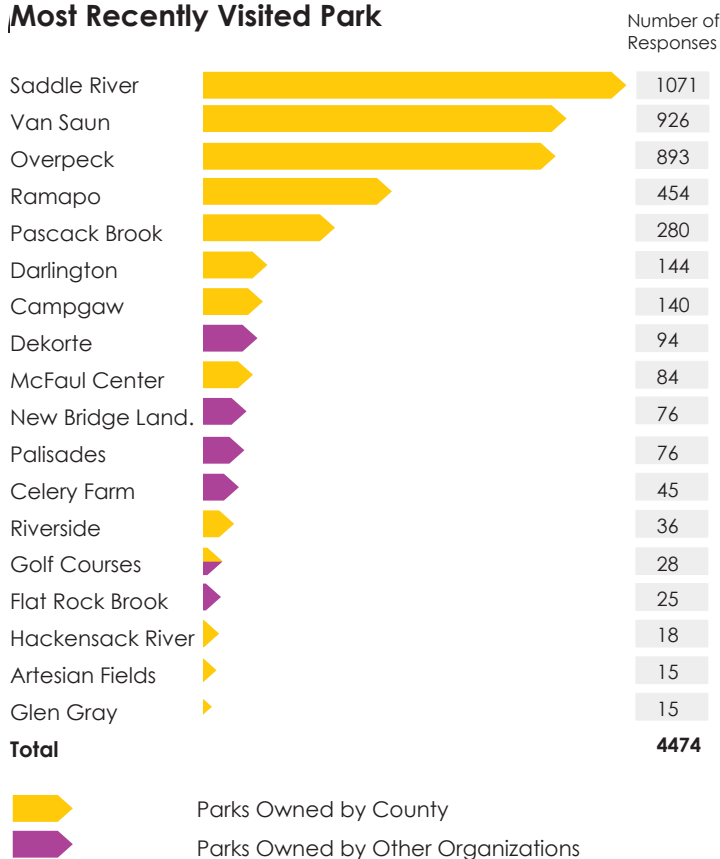


Figure 5. Parks identified by online survey respondents as most recently visited (Courtesy of CUES).

To identify preferred parks used most frequently, respondents were asked What three (3) county parks they had visited most recently? (Fig. 5). The neighborhood Saddle River Park(s) was most frequently mentioned, followed by visits to the three large regional parks Van Saun, Overpeck, and Ramapo.

When asked “How often do you visit your preferred park?”, more than two-thirds (70%) of the survey participants said they visited Bergen County parks daily, weekly, or monthly (Fig. 6), suggesting a high degree of repeat park visitation.

Reasons for visiting the Bergen County parks reflect the County’s diversity (Fig. 7). Respondents could select all activities that applied. The most often cited activities included walking and hiking, access to the natural environment, exercise, being with family and friends, and child-centered family activities.

## Frequency of Park Visits



Figure 6. Online survey response to the question “How often do you visit a County Park?” (Courtesy of CUES).

## Why Do You Visit the Park?

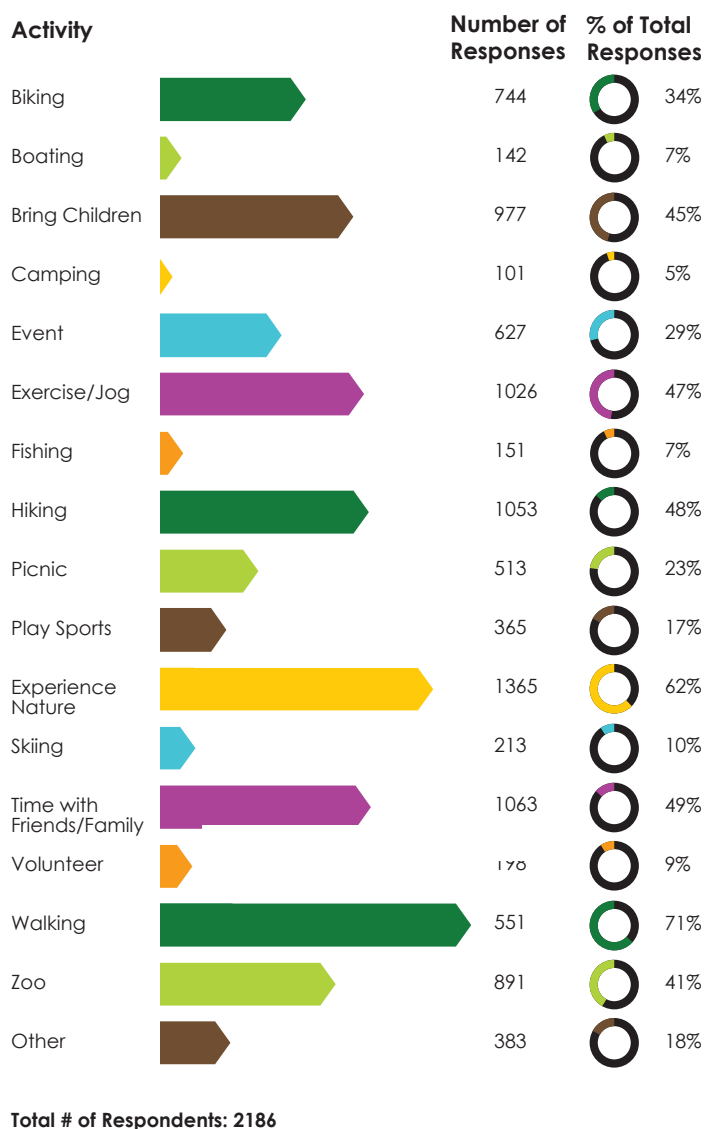


Figure 7. Respondents were allowed to select multiple activities they participate in when visiting a park (Courtesy of CUES).

## Parks Visited Outside of Bergen County

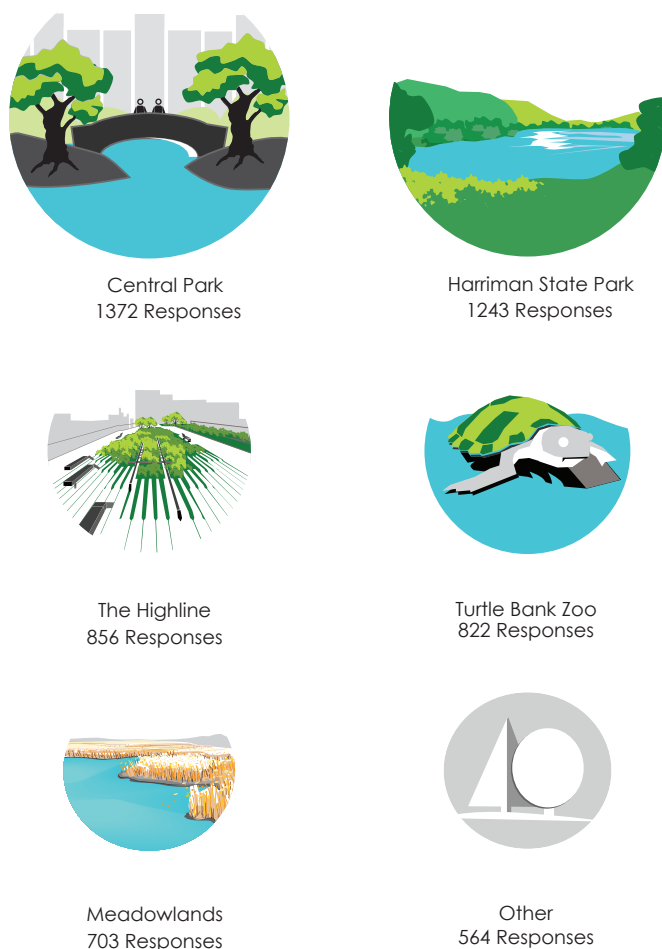


Figure 8. Parks selected from a list of options. For “Other responses” survey participants were able to write in names of other parks (Courtesy of CUES).

When asked to select from a list of non-Bergen County parks they had visited (Fig 8), New York Parks (Central Park, Highline, Harriman State Park) were most frequently named, followed by Turtle Bank Zoo (Essex County) and DeKorte Park in the Meadowlands District.

Survey participants could also write in other favorite parks outside the County park system. The parks identified were predominately natural areas, such as Bear Mountain, Palisades Interstate Park, Ringwood, Sterling Forest, High Point, and Garrett Mountain. In addition to Central Park, urban New York City Park favorites included Prospect Park, Brooklyn, Riverside Park, and the Bronx Zoo. Various botanical gardens were also named as destinations outside Bergen County.

## Favorite Park in the World

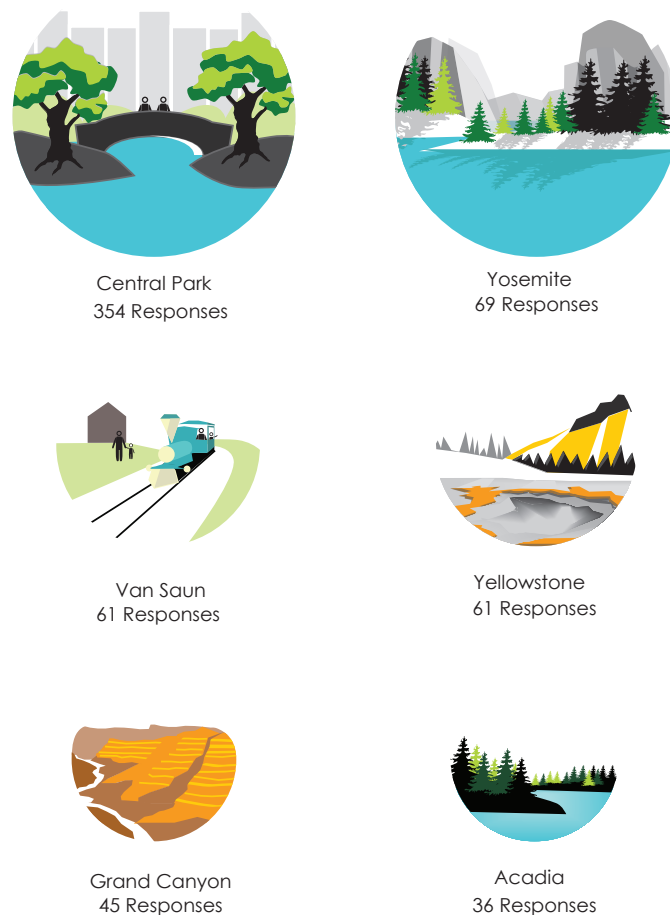
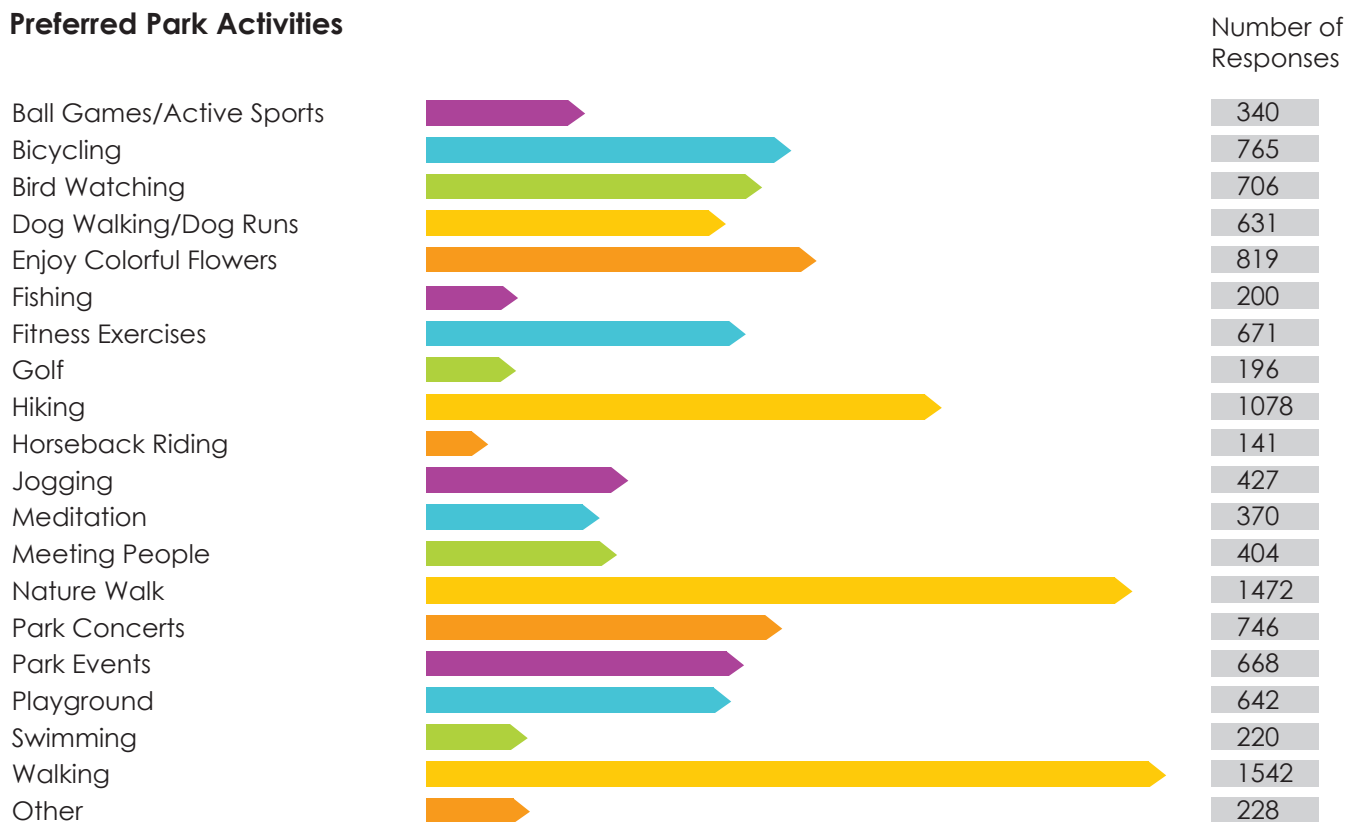


Figure 9. Favorite park in the world. Central Park received the highest number of responses (Courtesy of CUES).

Survey participants were asked to name their favorite park in the world (Fig. 9). Bergen County’s connection to New York City was evident in the #1 response of Central Park, named by 354 individuals. This local icon was followed by a number of national parks (Yosemite, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Acadia). However, the strong feelings residents have for Bergen County Parks, particularly Van Saun, was evident in its selection as one of the favorite parks in the world.

## Preferred Park Activities



**Total #of Respondents: 2146**

Figure 10. Similar to the diversity of answers illustrated in Figure 8, this question elicited a wide range of preferred activities from survey participants (Courtesy of CUES).

The desire for activities related to the natural environment was also seen in response to the question “What are your preferred park activities?” The diversity of resident choices to a list of options (Figure 10) ranged from walking to enjoying flowers, exercising, going to concerts and events, meeting people, and fishing. Nature walks and hiking were named by over 50% of the survey respondents as their preferred activity.

When asked to describe the best aspect of their preferred park(s), a diverse range of responses was again observed (Fig. 11). Survey participants cited Nature most often (45%), followed by Amenities, Accessibility, Cleanliness & Safety, Children, Family & Friends, and Athletics (55%).

## Best Aspects of Bergen County Parks

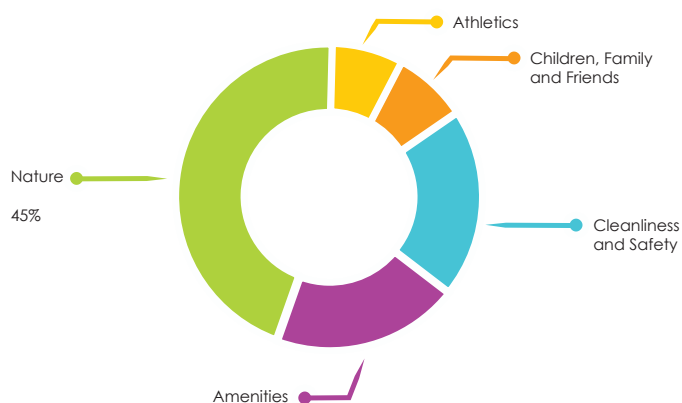


Figure 11. Respondents most frequently responded that Nature was the best aspect of the Bergen County Parks (Courtesy of CUES).

## Most Iconic Representation of Bergen County

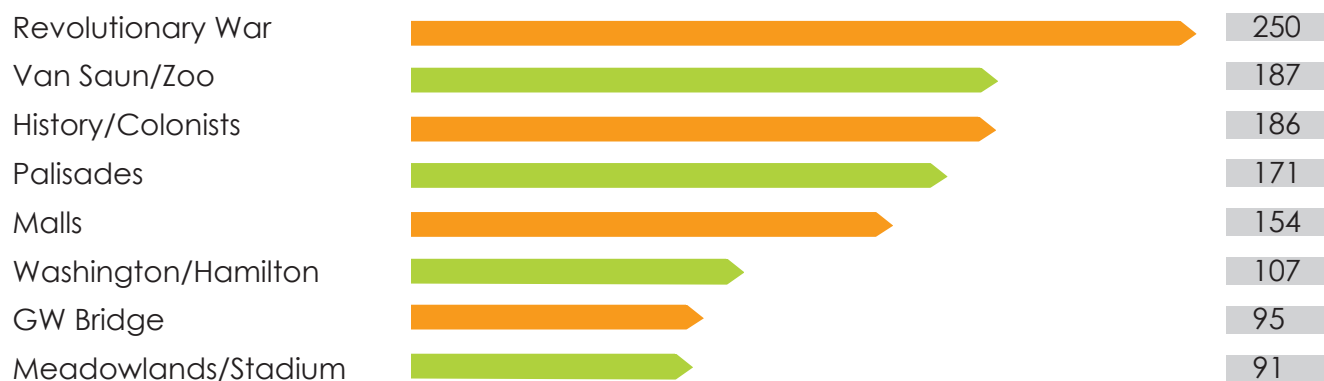


Figure 12. While there was a strong association with the County's history, Van Saun Park and the Bergen County Zoo had the second highest number of responses, followed by the Palisades (Courtesy of CUES).

To identify symbols that residents most associated with Bergen County we asked survey participants to write in an answer to the question “What is an iconic representation of Bergen County?” There was a very strong association (543 responses) with the region’s history (Revolution, pre- and post-colonial history, George Washington and Hamilton/Burr). However, the second most cited icon was Van Saun Park and its zoo (Fig. 12). There was an emotional

attachment to Van Saun cited in a number of responses. Individuals referred to their childhood memories of the zoo or taking their children and grandchildren to visit Van Saun Park. Malls were named by 154 individuals, and these references included comments that were not positive, often in association with the word “traffic”. Malls, traffic, and crowding were the three most negative associations in response to this question.

## Important Natural Resources Selected by Participants

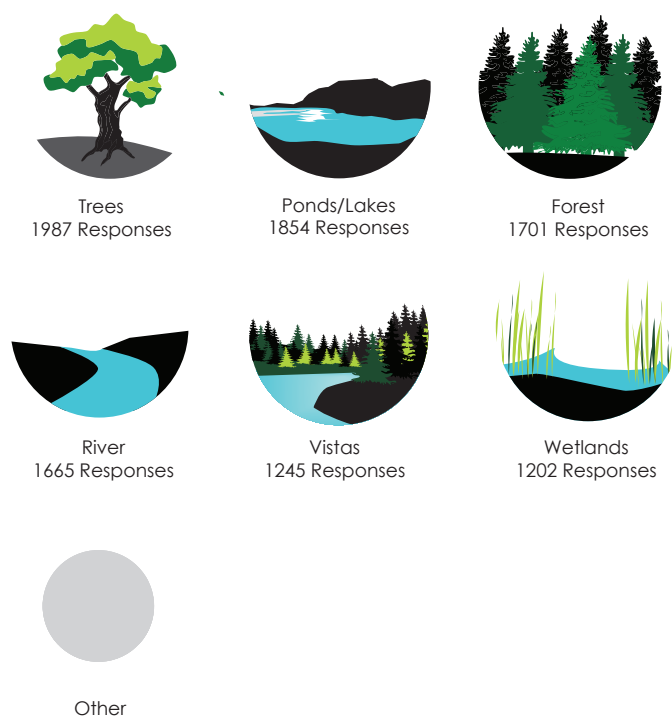
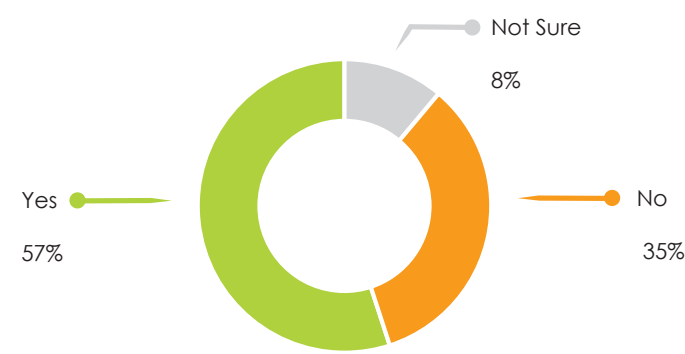


Figure 13. Important natural resources selected by participants from a list of options (Courtesy of CUES).

In response to the question “What natural resources are important to you?” survey participants named trees and water features most frequently (Fig. 13). Wetlands and landscape vistas were important to more than half the respondents. Flowers, especially native plants, were important to 35 participants and 28 respondents said all natural resources were important to them.

Number of Respondents Who Have Attended An Event In Bergen County Parks



Total: 2062 Respondents

Figure 14. Over half the online survey participants had attended an event in a County Park (Courtesy of CUES).

To determine the type of events that residents would like to see at the Bergen County Parks, survey participants were asked “Have you ever attended an event in Bergen County Parks?” Over half (55%) had attended a County park event; one-third had not; and about 10% did not know (Fig. 14). For those who had participated in a park event, respondents were asked which event(s) they had attended. Most often mentioned events fairs and festivals, concerts, and events associated with Van Saun Park, specifically Bergen County Zoo events and the 2016 Winter Wonderland (Fig. 15). There were also a diversity of events that appealed to specific interests, ranging from charity fund raising to historic, nature, and art events.

Type of Events Attended by Respondents

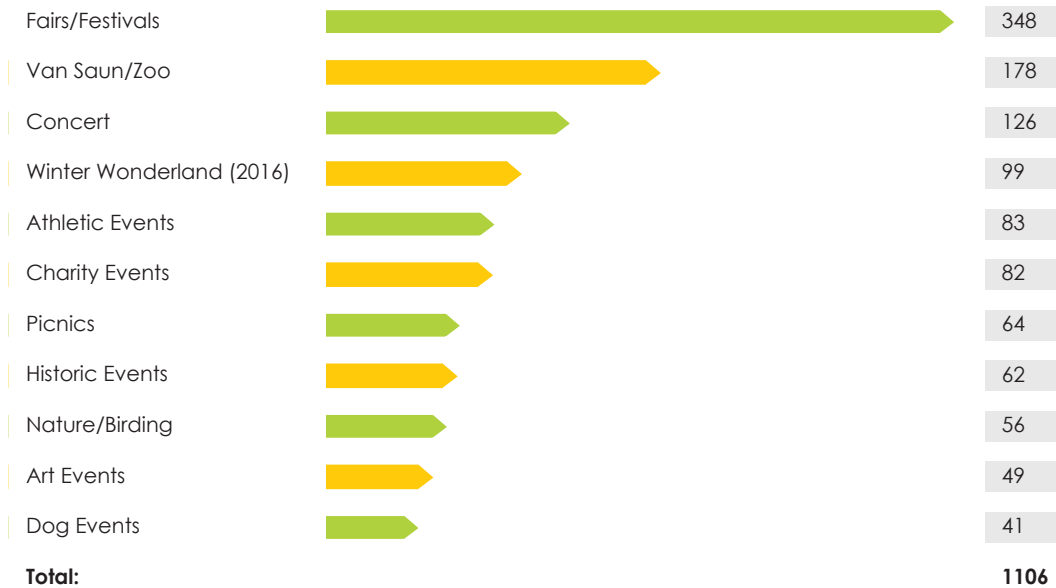


Figure 15. The types of events respondents attend in the parks was fairly consistent with the responses survey participants indicated as types they would like to see hosted more often in the Bergen County Parks (Courtesy of CUES).

Type of Event Respondents Would Like to See Offered

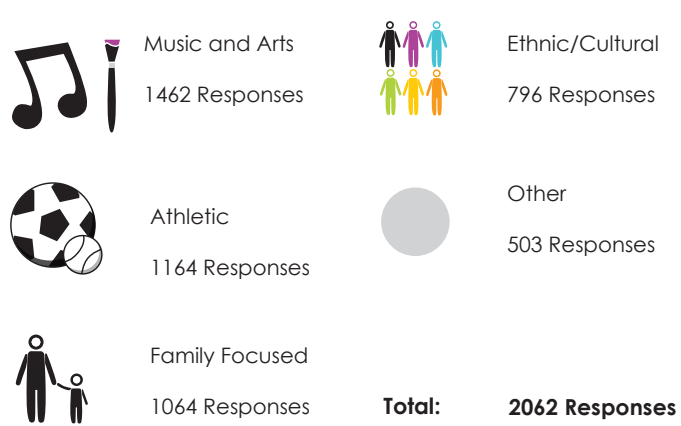


Figure 16. Responses indicate interest in a wide variety of events (Courtesy of CUES).

Participants frequently identified music and art as the type of event that they would most like to see offered by the County Park system. Athletic and Family-Focused events were also popular responses (Fig. 16) Fewer respondents named Ethnic/Cultural events, although ethnic festivals and fairs were mentioned as events attended by the largest number of survey respondents. When given the opportunity to identify types of events from other choices listed, the largest number of survey participants identified Nature-oriented events (walks, hikes, bird watching). The number of survey respondents wanting “no additional events” was equal to those wanting to add mountain biking, more athletics, and events related to animals, primarily dogs. There were also requests for historical reenactments.

## Mode of Transportation to Parks

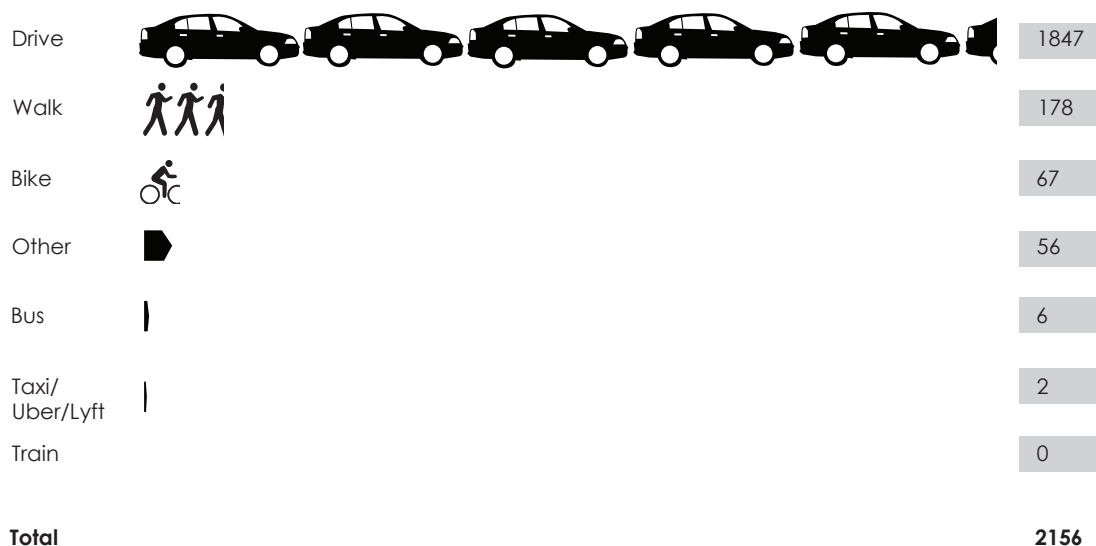


Figure 17. The overwhelming majority of respondents drive to Bergen County parks (Courtesy of CUES).

To augment the Voorhees Transportation Center in-park intercept survey, we asked transportation related questions in the online survey (Fig. 17). The overwhelming majority (86%) of survey participants drove to their preferred park. Relatively few cycled to reach the parks (67), but some residents bring their bikes to the park on their car and then cycle within the park.

Safety of cycling on Bergen County roads was mentioned frequently in the public meetings as a reason for not biking to the parks. Most participants currently do not use alternate transportation options such as Uber/Lyft and mass transit (buses, trains) to travel to Bergen County parks. Three individuals used a motorcycle and eleven participants run/jog to their preferred park.

Because of the reliance on automobile travel to the parks, 85% of the survey participants use the designated parking spaces in County parks (Fig. 18). Twenty five percent of respondents said they have experienced difficulties getting to or using their preferred park. Difficulties cited were related to traffic and parking availability (258) and/or park overcrowding (85), especially on weekends and during events.

## Frequency of Use of Parking Spaces in Park

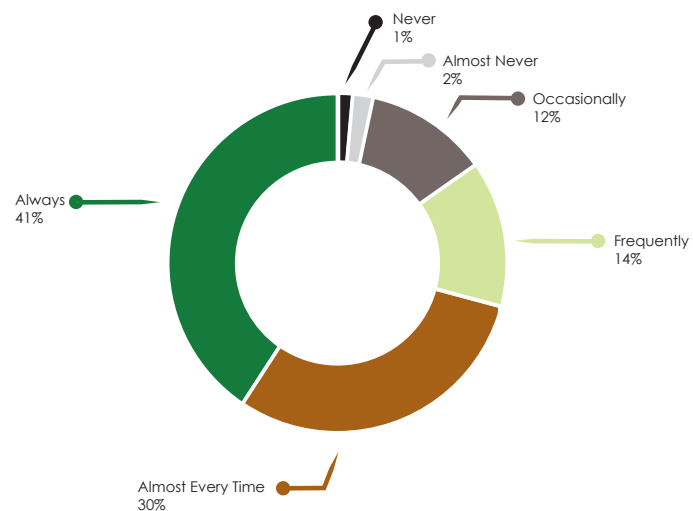
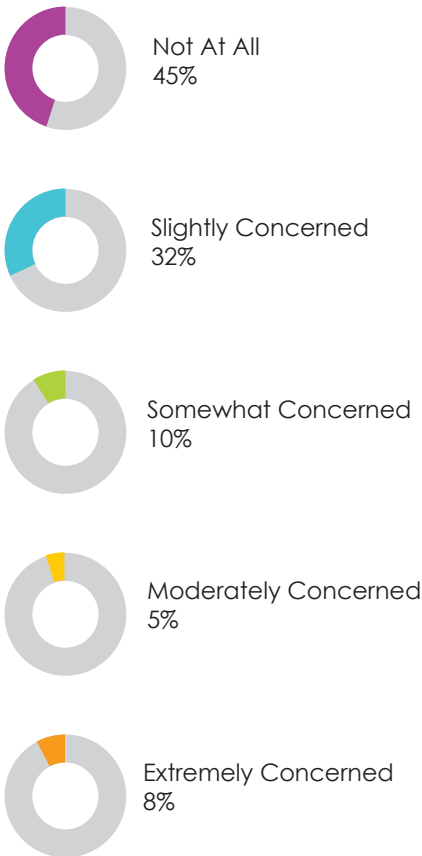


Figure 18. The majority of respondents use designated parking spaces when visiting the County parks (Courtesy of CUES).

Concern About Safety in Parks



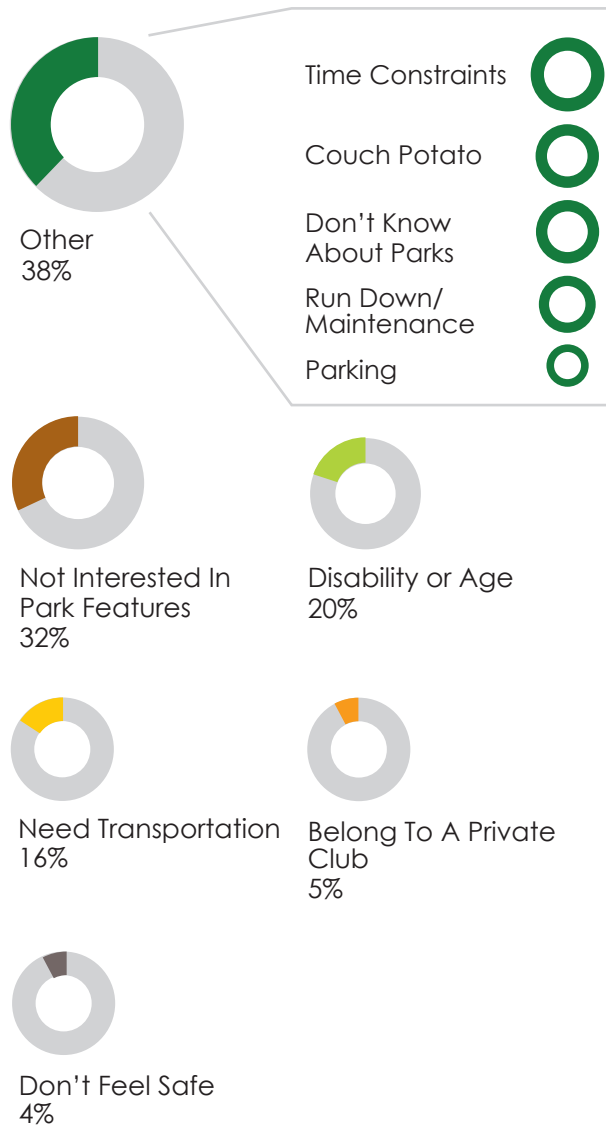
Total: 2139 Responses

Figure 19. The majority of respondents did not feel significant safety concerns in the County parks (Courtesy of CUES).

Bergen County Parks are viewed as safe by approximately 80% of the survey participants (Fig. 19). However, about 8% (162 people) said they were extremely concerned about their safety in the parks. Issues related to safety expressed during the public meetings and in the survey’s “other comments” mentioned lighting in the parks, especially if there was an evening event, and user conflicts involving pedestrians and cyclists recreating on the same pathway.

When asked the “Reason household members seldom or never use the County parks?” only 4% (49) of respondents cited safety as the reason (Fig. 20). The reason cited most frequently for not using the parks was the lack of desired amenities. Another common reason for not using the County parks was a lack of leisure time. Twenty five percent of the survey participants responded that they were “too busy.”

Reason for Not Using County Parks



Total: 1102 Responses

Figure 20. Concern about personal safety was not a key reason for not using the County parks. Lack of desired amenities and being too busy were more common reasons (Courtesy of CUES).



Over 96% of the online survey respondents believe that Bergen County parks and open spaces provide an economic benefit to the County, and 94% believe that Bergen County parks contribute to their quality of life (Fig. 21).

Survey respondents were asked if they were happy with the amenities offered in their preferred Bergen County Park(s). The number of participants (52%) who were dissatisfied was slightly greater than those who were satisfied (48%) (Fig 22). The most frequent comments related to food and beverage offerings were the requests for cafes, food trucks, and water stations.

The amenity most frequently requested was a clean bathroom facility that was open (Fig. 23). Well-maintained walking/ hiking trails was also frequently mentioned as a desired amenity. There were also a significant number of requests for bike trails, including legal trail biking opportunities.

The most often cited issues related to poor maintenance were the Ridgewood Duck Pond and the condition of the golf courses, in both cases because of goose excrement. There were requests for expanded or improved playground facilities and requests for splash pads for children. Amenities for dog owners in the form of dog runs or walking areas were requested. There were requests for lighting during evening hours and better availability of parking. Requests for new or better maintained facilities for tennis, pickleball, and cricket were also mentioned.

### Do Parks Contribute to Bergen County Quality of Life?



Figure 21. When asked if the Bergen County parks contribute to quality of life, survey responded with a resounding yes (94%) (Courtesy of CUES).

### Satisfaction with Park Amenities



Total: 1936 Respondents  
Figure 22. A slightly higher number of survey participants wished their preferred park offered more food and beverage amenities than those who were satisfied with current offerings (Courtesy of CUES).

### Requested Park Amenities



Figure 23. The amenity most frequently requested was a clean open bathroom facility, followed by well-maintained walking/hiking trails (Courtesy of CUES).



Survey respondents were asked “Would you be willing to pay a minimal fee for enhanced park amenities?” Fifty-four percent (54%) answered positively (Fig. 24).

However, the amount that the majority of participants were willing to pay for enhanced amenities was low – between \$1 to \$5 per person, or \$10 to \$20 per family (Fig. 25). A number of participants (212) answered that whether they would be willing to pay for an “enhancement” depended on what the amenity was. This indicates that there is not universal support for a variety of possible enhancements. Other suggestions related to fees for amenity enhancements included offering a senior discount, instituting fees for non-Bergen County residents, and ensuring parks are free to all children.

Willing to Pay a Minimal Fee for Enhanced Amenities?



Total: 2039 Respondents

Figure 24. The number of survey participants who were willing to pay a minimal fee for enhanced park amenities was slightly higher than those who were not (Courtesy of CUES).

Amount Respondents are Willing to Pay for Enhanced Amenities

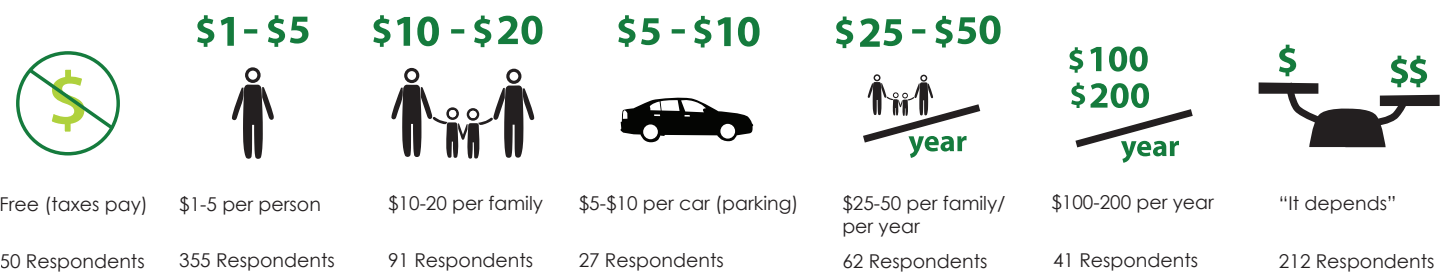


Figure 25. Of the 54% of survey respondents who were willing to pay for enhanced amenities, most were willing to pay a low amount of \$1-\$5 per person. Another sizeable group said the amount they were willing to pay depended on what the amenity enhancement was (Courtesy of CUES).

# Default Report

*Bergen County Park Master Plan survey*

June 1st 2017, 12:27 pm MDT

**Q32 - You are invited to participate in a research study that is being conducted by WOLFRAM HOEFER, who is a Professor in the Landscape Architecture Department at Rutgers University. The purpose of this research is to determine public perceptions of the Bergen County Park system and to obtain input from the public for the ongoing planning efforts. The survey takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete.**

**We really appreciate your input and would like to offer you the opportunity to win a voucher for a Bergen County Park amenity after completing the survey. To let you know if you were lucky, we will ask for your email address. That address will not be linked to your answers. You may, of course, take the survey without giving your email.**

**This research is anonymous. Anonymous means that we will collect no information that could identify you. There will be no linkage between your identity and your response in the research. There will be no way to link your responses back to you. Therefore, data collection is anonymous.**

**The research team and the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Rutgers University are the only parties that will be allowed to see the data, except as may be required by law. If a report of this study is published, or the results are presented at a professional conference, only group results will be stated. All study data will be kept for at least 3 years.**

There are no foreseeable risks to participation in this study. In addition, you may receive no direct benefit from taking part in this study.

Participation in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to participate, and you may withdraw at any time without any penalty to you. In addition, you may choose not to answer any questions with which you are not comfortable.

If you have any questions about the study or study procedures, you may contact myself Wolfram Hoefer, 93 Lipman Drive, Rutgers University, New Brunswick; Phone: 848-932-9313; Email: [whoefer@sebs.rutgers.edu](mailto:whoefer@sebs.rutgers.edu).

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact an IRB Administrator at the Rutgers University, Arts and Sciences IRB:

**Institutional Review Board**

**Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey**

**Liberty Plaza / Suite 3200,**

**335 George Street, 3rd Floor**

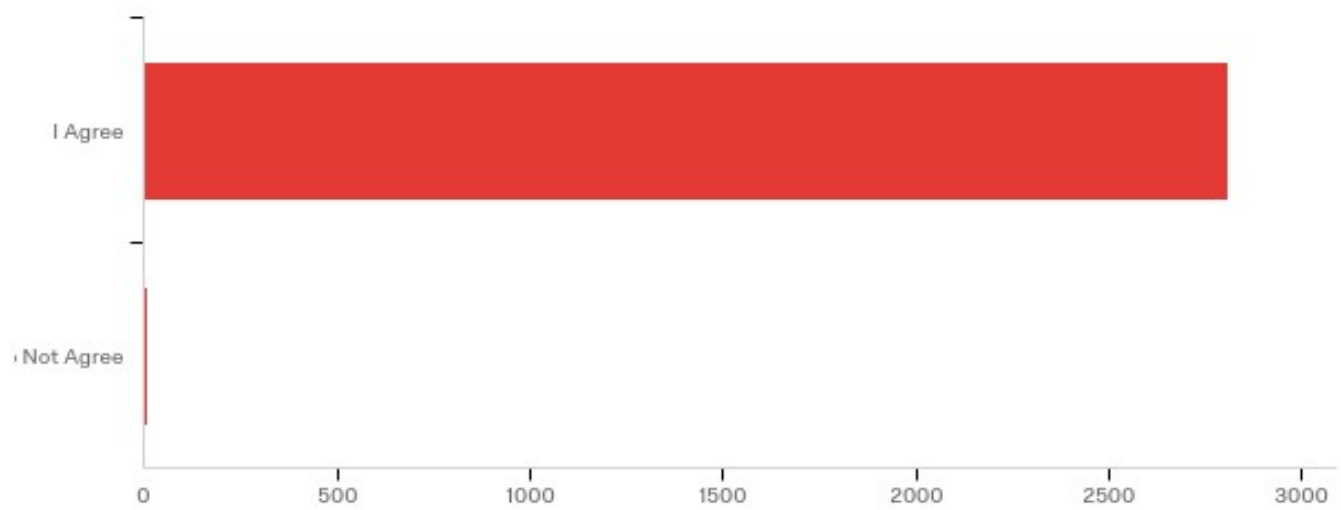
**New Brunswick, NJ 08901**

**Phone: 732-235-9806**

**Email: [humansubjects@orsp.rutgers.edu](mailto:humansubjects@orsp.rutgers.edu)**

**Please retain a copy of this form for your records. By participating in the above stated procedures, then you agree to participation in this study.**

**If you are 18 years of age or older, understand the statements above, and will consent to participate in the study, click on the "I Agree" button to begin the survey/experiment. If not, please click on the "I Do Not Agree" button, which will exit you from this program.**



#	Answer	%	Count
1	I Agree	99.72%	2811
2	I Do Not Agree	0.28%	8
	Total	100%	2819

## Q2 - What three (3) parks have you most recently visited?

Park #1	Park #2	Park #3
Glen Rock	Ridgewood	Van Saun
Van Saun	Berdan Grove park	
Six Mile	Stephen	Allaire
Otto pele	Van saun	Ridgewood duck pond
Saddle river park	Overpeck park	
Van saun		
Glen Rock Saddle River Park	Ridgewood Saddle River Park	Van Saun Park
celery farm	ridgewood duck pond	james mcfaul wildlife center
Overpeck-Leonia		
Demarest Park	Froggy Park Tenaflly	Haworth Park
Van Saun	Overlook	Pascack Brook
New Overpeck Park	Van Saun Park	McGowan Park
Overpeck County Park	Wood Park	Edgewater community center
Saddle river county park	Van saun	Ridgewood duck pond
veterans park ridgefield park	overpeck county park	van saun county park
Overpeck Park	Veterans Park	
The New Overpeck	Flat Rock Brook Nature Preserve	Greenbrook Nature Sanctuary
Van Saun	Ridgewood duck pond	
Darlington	Van saun	
Veterans Park Ridgefield Park	Overpeck County Park Ridgefield Park	Overpeck County Park Leonia
Bergen County Park	Saddle River Park	Thrilled Arboretum
Overpeck Leonia NJ	Wood Park Leonia NJ	
Ramapo Valley County Reservation	Norvin Green State Forest	Van Saun
Palisades Interstate Park	Chapultepec Park	Montreal Botanical Garden
Overpeck	Van Saun	
Overpeck Park Ridgefield park	Van saun park	
Overpeck County Park		
Van Saun	J. A. McFaul Environmental Center	Saddle River County Park

Ramapo Reservation	Van Saun	Darlington
Overpeck Community	Veteran's Park	Van Saun Park
McGowan Park	Overpeck Park	Van Saun Park
Overpeck park	Van saun	
the new over peak	same as above	same as above
Overpeck County Park-Leonia		
Van zaun		
Van saun	Ramapo reservation	Winter park
Overpeck	Van Saun	Ridge wood Duck pond
New Overpeck Park		
Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, Englewood	State Line Lookout, Alpine	Lincoln Park West, Jersey City
Overpack park	McGowan park	Veterans park
Overpeck Park-Leonia Ridgefield	Van Saun Pk	
Van Saun Park	Overpeck Park	
Overpeck	VanSaun	Saddle River
Veterans Field, Ridgewood, NJ		
saddle river	overpeck	
overpeck		
Overpeck park	Hudson county park	Woodland park
Historic New Bridge Landing	Overpeck	Van Saun
Teaneck Creek	Overpeck	Historic New Bridge Landing
Overpeck	Saddle River County Park	Van Saun
Overpeck	Saddle River	Van Saun
Overpeck	Fellowship	Veterans
Overpeck Park		
Veterans park	Overpeck county park	Fort lee dog park
Lewis Morris	Ramapo Mountain	Wildcat Ridge
Ramapo Reservation		
Overpeck	Veterans	
Overpeck	Van Suan	
Van Saun Park	Overpeck	Dunkerhook
Overpeck		

Overpeck park		
Overpeck Ridgefield Park	Overpeck Leonia	Dunkerhook
New Overpeck County Park	Ridgewood Duck Pond	
Overpeck	Van Saun	
Van Saun park		
OVERPECK on North Side of Ft Lee Road	OVERPECK on South side of Ft Lee Road	
Saddle Brook County Park	Goffle Brook Park	Van Saun Park
Overpeck	Saddle River	Van Saun
Darlington	Van saughn	Ramapo reservation
Palisades Interstate Park	Fort Lee Historic Park	Historic New Bridge Landing SP
Wood Park	Overpeck Park	Constitution Park
Van Saun in Paramus	Lake George, NY	
Van Saun	Bergen County Zoo	Overpeck
Van Saun County Park	Ramapo Valley reservation	Saddle Brook park
Overpeck, Leonia	Overpeck, Ridgefield Park	Wood Park, Leonia
Overpeck Park Leonia	Dunkerhook	Van Saun
Camp Glen Gray	Darlington	
Van Saun	Alpine State Park	Overpeck
Overpeck County Park	Veterans Memorial Park in Ridgefield	Zalewski Park
Overpeck Park	Flat Rock Brook Park	
Overpeck Park Leonia (new)	Overpeck Park Leonia (old)	Van Saun Park
Darlington golf course	Darlington swim club	Rockleigh golf course
glen rock duck pond	ridgewood duck pond	wyckoff environmental center
LEONIA & RIDGEFIELD PARK OVERPECK		
Dunkerhook	Glen Rock	Rochelle Park
Glen Rock Arboretum	Saddle River County Park	Allen dale Celery Farm
Overpeck	New overpeck	
Duck Pond	Van Neste	Van Suan
Ramapo Reservation	Parsons Pond Park (Franklin Lakes)	Franklin Lakes Nature Preserve
PALISADES PARK SPORTSPLEX	HENRY HOEBEL - LEONIA	NEW OVERPECK PARK
Otto C.Pehle Park Saddle Brook		



Ramapo reservation	Duck pond	Van saun
Winters Park	Continental Soldiers Field	Finch Park
Memorial park fair Lawn	Ridgewood Duck Pond	Van Saun
Saddle River	Van Saun	
Glen rock	Saddle brook	Van sayn
Overpeck Park	Hackensack River Park	Van Saun Park
McKinley	Van saun	Westvale
Woodcliff (North Bergen)	Little Ferry	McGowen Park
Saddle River County Park	Van Saun Park	
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Q3 - What is your home zip code?

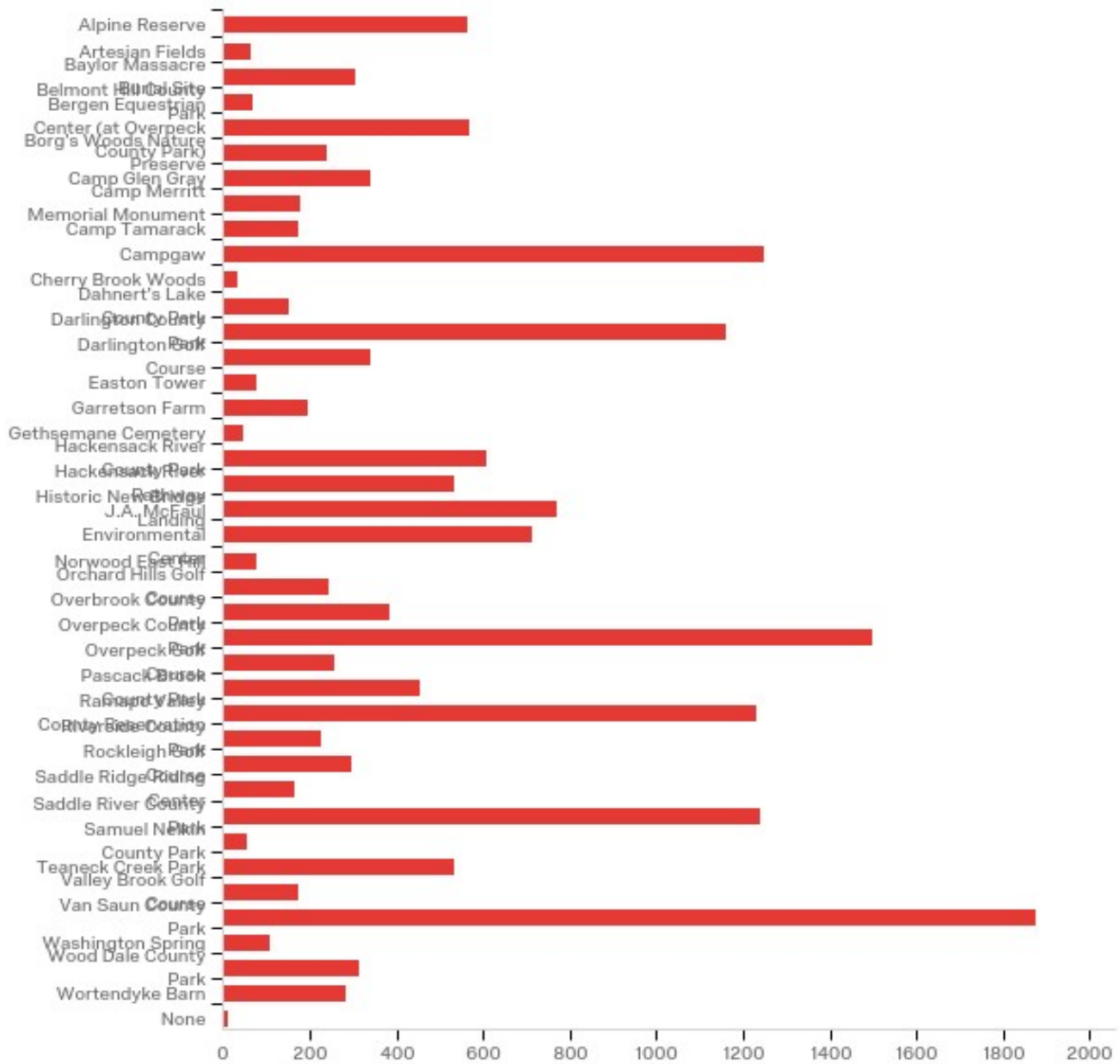
What is your home zip code? (If you prefer to not answer this question, ple...
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07410
07002
07663
07410
07660
07452
07446
07605
07627
07649
07660
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07436
07632
07663

07430
07430
07410
07452
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07006
07675
07660
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## Q4 - Which Bergen County park(s) have you ever visited? (check all that apply)



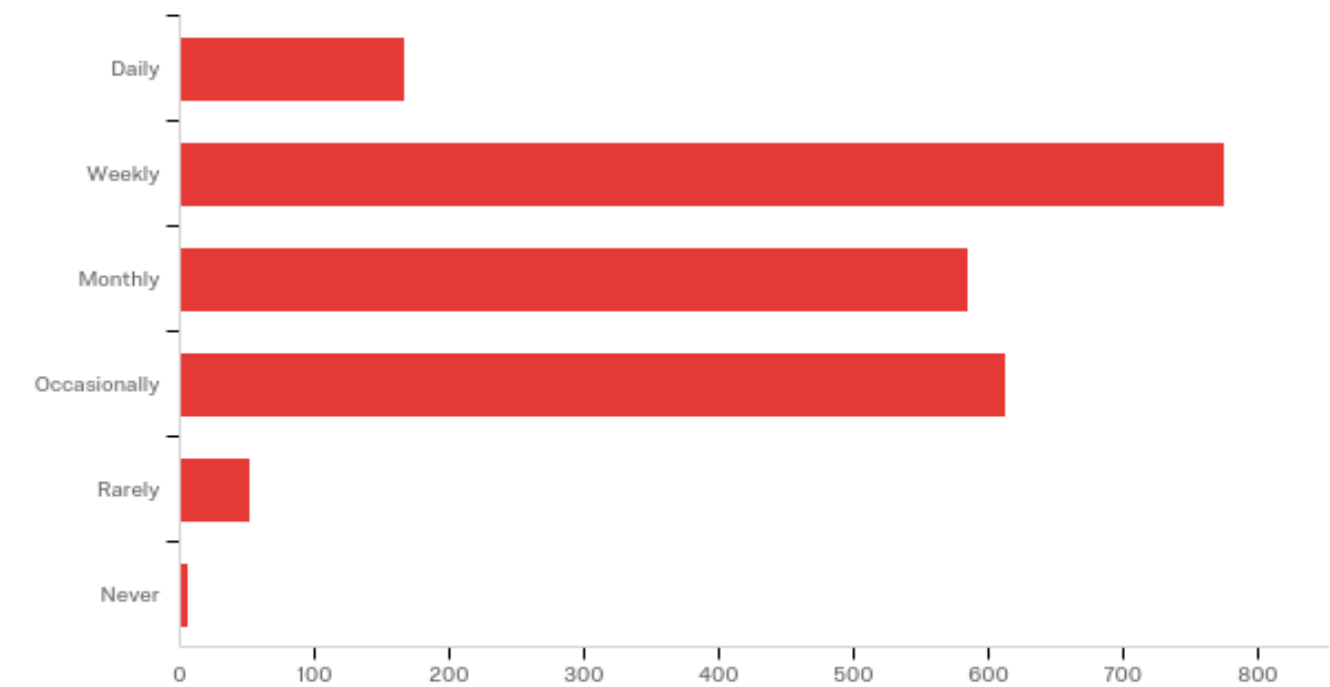
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Alpine Reserve	25.54%	563
2	Artesian Fields	2.90%	64
3	Baylor Massacre Burial Site	13.75%	303
4	Belmont Hill County Park	3.04%	67
5	Bergen Equestrian Center (at Overpeck County Park)	25.73%	567
6	Borg's Woods Nature Preserve	10.75%	237

7	Camp Glen Gray	15.43%	340
8	Camp Merritt Memorial Monument	8.08%	178
9	Camp Tamarack	7.80%	172
10	Campgaw	56.72%	1250
11	Cherry Brook Woods	1.41%	31
12	Dahnert's Lake County Park	6.94%	153
13	Darlington County Park	52.63%	1160
14	Darlington Golf Course	15.34%	338
15	Easton Tower	3.49%	77
16	Garretson Farm	8.94%	197
17	Gethsemane Cemetery	2.13%	47
18	Hackensack River County Park	27.54%	607
19	Hackensack River Pathway	24.18%	533
20	Historic New Bridge Landing	34.89%	769
21	J.A. McFaul Environmental Center	32.44%	715
22	Norwood East Hill	3.49%	77
23	Orchard Hills Golf Course	10.98%	242
24	Overbrook County Park	17.47%	385
25	Overpeck County Park	68.01%	1499
26	Overpeck Golf Course	11.66%	257
27	Pascack Brook County Park	20.51%	452
28	Ramapo Valley County Reservation	55.94%	1233
29	Riverside County Park	10.16%	224
30	Rockleigh Golf Course	13.52%	298
31	Saddle Ridge Riding Center	7.53%	166
32	Saddle River County Park	56.31%	1241
33	Samuel Nelkin County Park	2.50%	55
34	Teaneck Creek Park	24.23%	534
35	Valley Brook Golf Course	7.94%	175
36	Van Saun County Park	85.07%	1875
37	Washington Spring	4.90%	108
38	Wood Dale County Park	14.16%	312

39	Wortendyke Barn	12.84%	283
40	None	0.54%	12
	Total	100%	2204



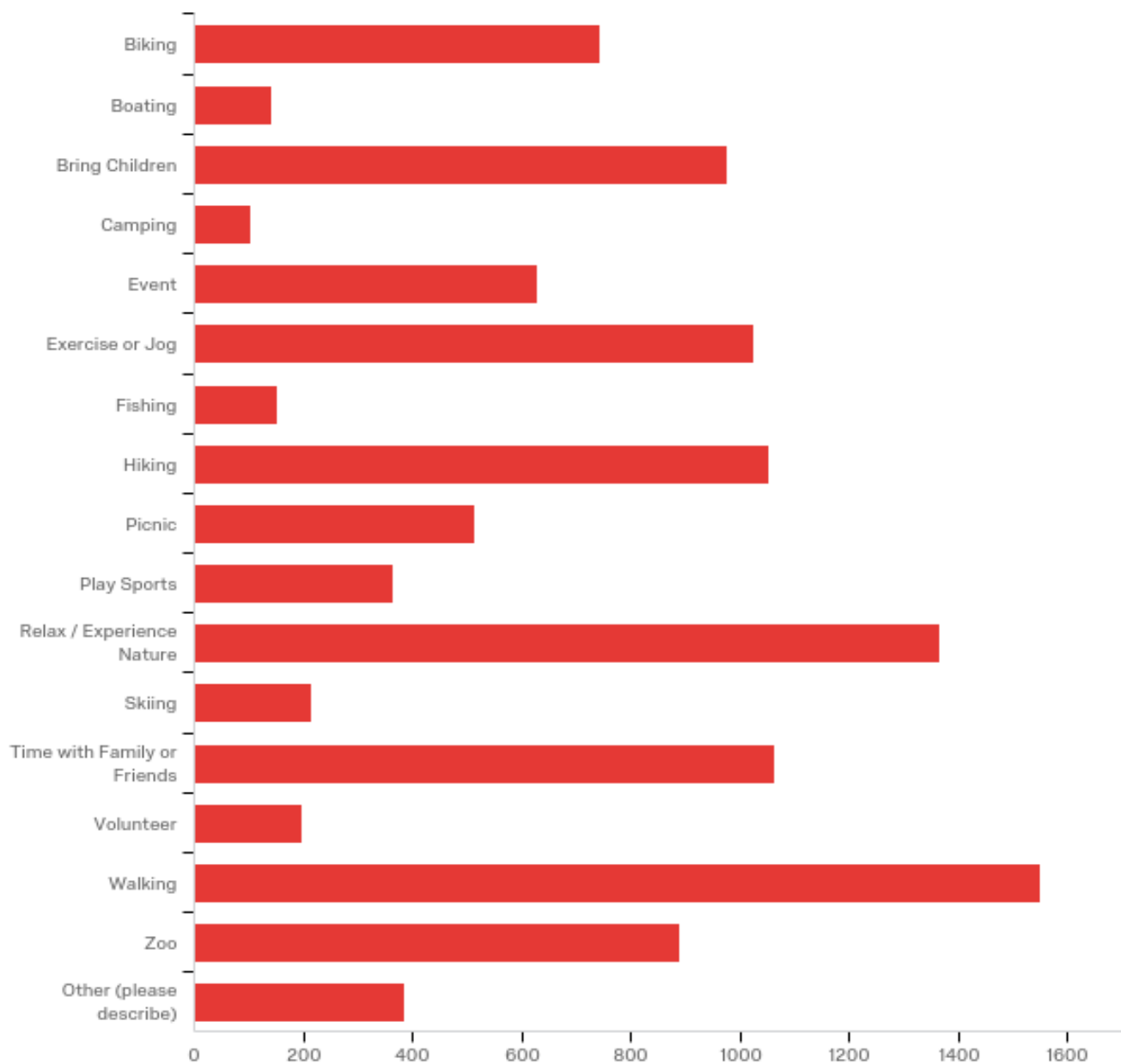
Q5 - How often do you visit the County parks?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Daily	7.60%	167
2	Weekly	35.32%	776
3	Monthly	26.63%	585
4	Occasionally	27.90%	613
5	Rarely	2.32%	51
6	Never	0.23%	5
	Total	100%	2197

## Q6 - Why do you visit the parks? (check all that apply)

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Biking	34.03%	744
2	Boating	6.50%	142
3	Bring Children	44.69%	977
4	Camping	4.62%	101
5	Event	28.68%	627
6	Exercise or Jog	46.94%	1026
7	Fishing	6.91%	151
8	Hiking	48.17%	1053
9	Picnic	23.47%	513
10	Play Sports	16.70%	365
11	Relax / Experience Nature	62.44%	1365
12	Skiing	9.74%	213
13	Time with Family or Friends	48.63%	1063
14	Volunteer	9.06%	198
15	Walking	70.95%	1551
16	Zoo	40.76%	891
17	Other (please describe)	17.52%	383
	Total	100%	2186

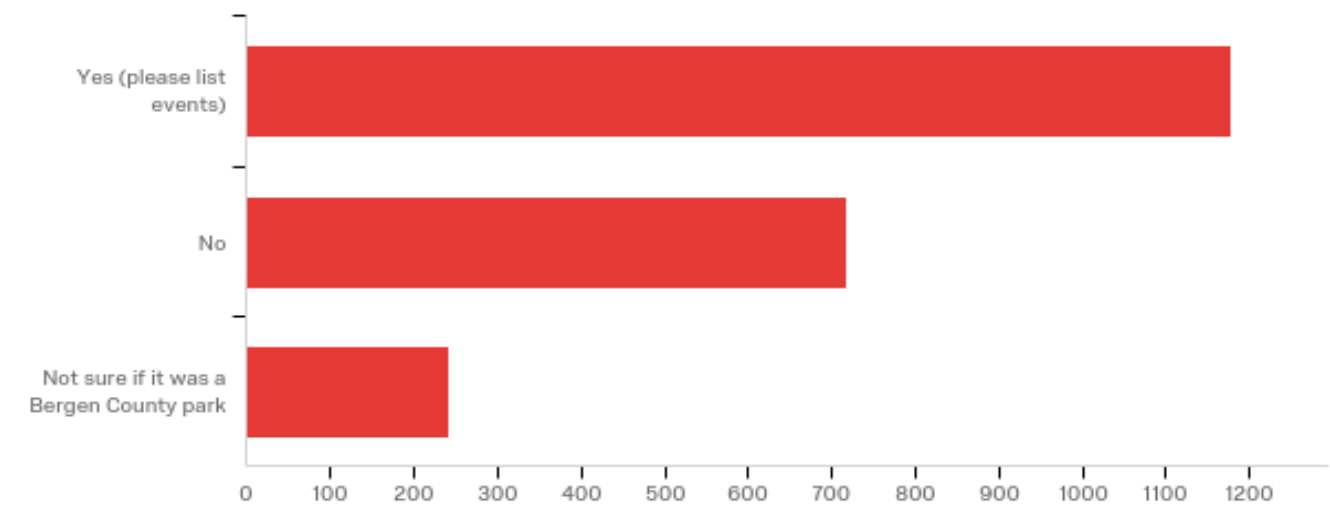


Q6 - Why do you visit the parks? (check all that apply)

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Biking	34.03%	744
2	Boating	6.50%	142
3	Bring Children	44.69%	977
4	Camping	4.62%	101
5	Event	28.68%	627
6	Exercise or Jog	46.94%	1026
7	Fishing	6.91%	151

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15	Walking	70.95%	1551
16	Zoo	40.76%	891
17	Other (please describe)	17.52%	383
	Total	100%	2186

Q7 - Have you ever attended an event in a Bergen County park?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes (please list events)	55.05%	1178
2	No	33.60%	719
3	Not sure if it was a Bergen County park	11.36%	243
	Total	100%	2140

Q7\_1\_TEXT - Yes (please list events)

Yes (please list events)
Many events at Van Saun
Hackensack Riverkeeper events
Zoo boo
Dog event, company picnic
4H, concerts
carnivals
Winter Wonderland
Carnivals , food truck, concerts
Leonia Sports Booster Carnival, Food Truck Festival
Christmas at Van Saun; members events at Van Saun

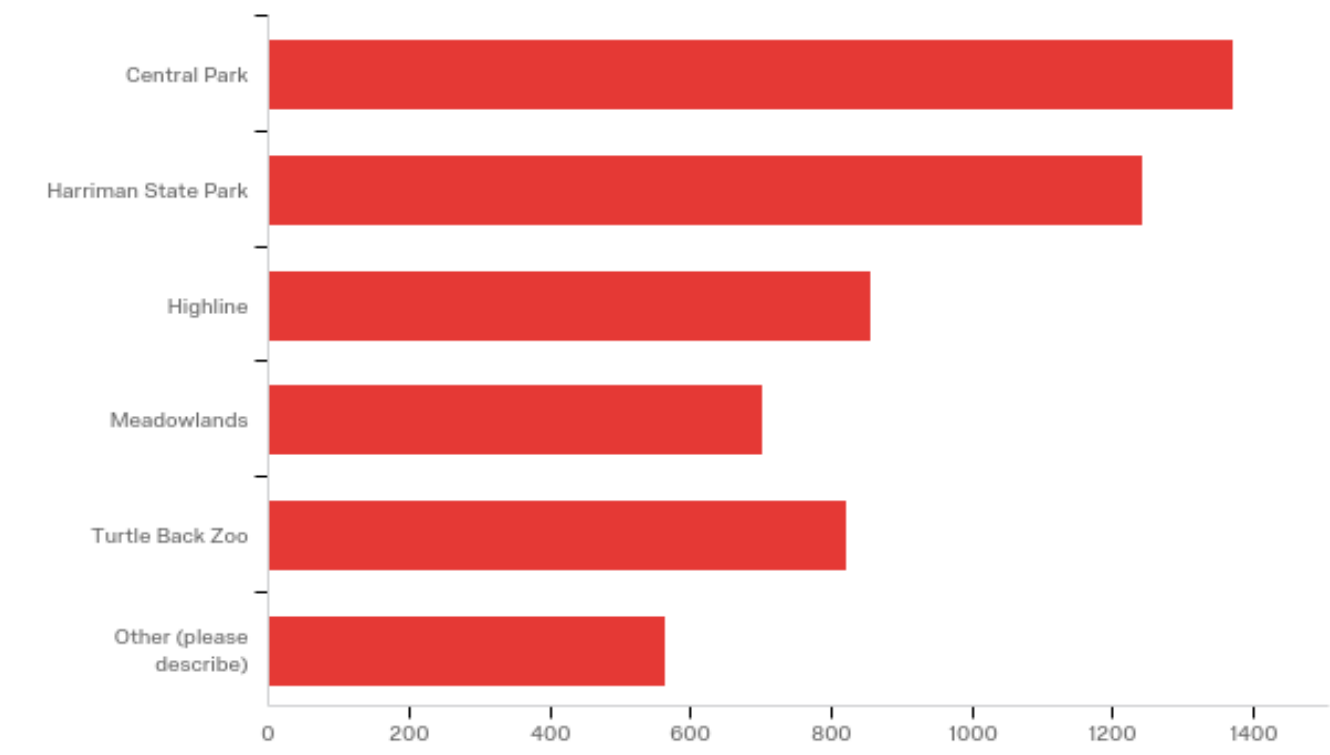
Diwali
Organization picnics
Food Truck Fest
Earth day, spring festival
MS walk, Irish festival
Breakfast made by the Rangers
Food Truck Festival, Boo at the Zoo
Colombian festival, memorial walks
food truck
Concerts, Fairs
Several new bridge landing events and environmental & Halloween events at van zaun
Van saun winter fest
Food truck festival
Charity walks
I attended a rock 'n roll concert in Overpeck in the last 4 years, I have been to the Leonia carnival serveral times, I've been to the senior picnic at Van Saun.
Concerts
Fairs and festivals
Shakespeare in the park
Overpeck Events - Frequent events at New Bridge Landing
History Walk
Food truck festival, county fair
Wine tasting, food trucks, rowing events
Festival
Autism Awareness, special needs day
Habitat for Humanity 5k run
concerts/carnivals/craft shows/wine and food truck events/cultural events
concerts
Concerts
Various events at Amphitheater
Winter wonderland, zoo boo
Vietnam Memorial, concerts races
Environmental Day-Overpeck; Carnival-Overpeck; Food Trucks - Overpeck

Union picnic
Winter Festival, Movie nights
leonia fairs and county fairs
Weekend events at Camp Glen Gray
Food Trucks/Carnival at Overpeck
Earth Day at Overpeck Park, Dawali Festival Overpeck Park,
hosted my son's birthday party
Zooboo
Earth Day, Bergen County Environmental Council
CONCERTS, CARNIVALS, SPORTS
art show
Various carnivals
Korean Thanksgiving Festival
5k races
Fundraising events
Halloween
Party for the Planet
Earth day, xmas event, boo at zoo 4 h club
zoo
Fair at Overpeck County Park
Most zoo member events, carnivals, Earth Day celebrations
Zoo Boo
5k
Bicycle Touring Club of Northern NJ rides and picnics, art shows, fairs, zoo, summer theater, water events, birding
Air drum barbecue Irish festival
Earthfest, Members night at Bergen County Zoo,
5k, fun runs
Winter fest at van saun
I can't remember which specific events
Boo at the zoo, carnivals
MS Walk at Overpeck, Sheep Festival at Van Saun
Butterfly Day, speakers and other special events with Audbon club. Monarch event,

Bonfire and Square Dance in Alpine Boat Basin, movies, lectures and re-inactments in Fort Lee Historic Park , Washington Birthday @ Campbell-Christie site
earth day
Making Strides against breast cancer
Work picnic
Art Show, Boy Scout Event
Food truck,overpeck
tour guide; party;
Winter festival at Van saun
Bergen Cty Audubon Society events
Nature Walks
Birthday parties, fund raising events, social club events, family gathering, and races
A play in Overpeck County Park
Irish Festival in Overpeck     cant list anymore, the site wont let me
River Keeper Earth Day
Carnival concerts
Butterfly exhibition
Festivals overpeck
Charity Walk
spring festival
winter wonderland
Winter fest at van Saun, historical events at new bridge landin
Als walk
School functions and Jewish functions
Carnivals, holiday events at van saun, food truck events
Sheep shearing
Boo at the Zoo
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Q8 - Do you visit parks outside Bergen County? (check all that apply)



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Central Park	67.89%	1372
2	Harriman State Park	61.50%	1243
3	Highline	42.36%	856
4	Meadowlands	34.78%	703
5	Turtle Back Zoo	40.67%	822
6	Other (please describe)	27.91%	564
	Total	100%	2021

Other (please describe)

Other (please describe)
Hudson River parks, Renault nature center, Greenbrook, Englewood nature center
Storm King Mt and Bear Mt
Trails along the Palisades, The Appalachian Trail, High Point State Park, Kittatiny State Park, and a bunch of other

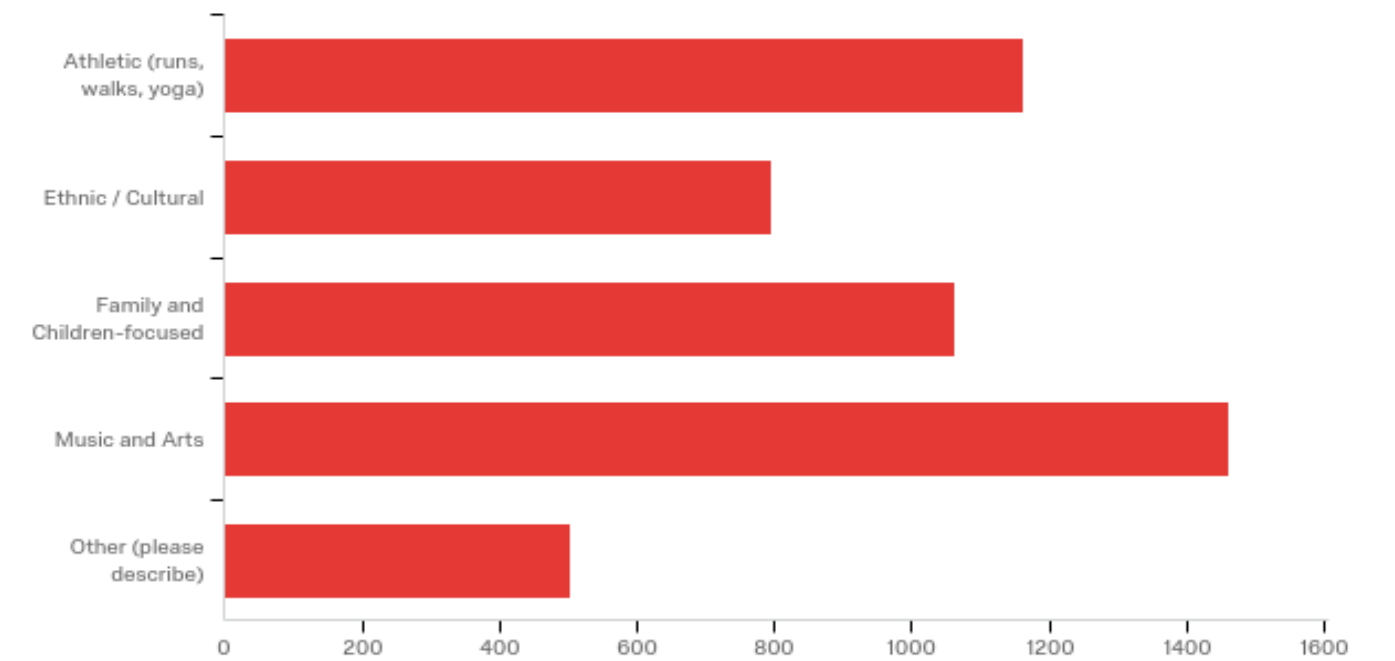
State parks throughout NJ & NY that I cannot recall their names at the moment
Cape May Zoo
Sterling Forest, Wawayanda, and multiple others to hike
Parks and Botanical Gardens in states and countries that I have visited
None in particular,unless gardens
Liberty State Park, Jersey City; West Lincoln Park, Jersey City; Hackensack River walkway and New York Harbor walkways in Bayonne (don't remember the names of those two parks). All the lookouts along the Palisades, including the Englewood Boat Basin, Alpine Lookout, Rockefeller Lookout, the paths on the Palisades, Ross Dock, and Allison Park (east and west).
High point state park
Garrett Mountain
Ringwood Manor - Skylands Manor - Long Pond Ironworks - Palisades Interstate Parks
Lewis Morris, Chimney Rock, Watchung
No
PIP, Fort Lee HP, Morristown NHP, Jockey Hollow NHP, Sandy Hook Gateway NRA
Weehawken Waterfront Park and Rec Center
South Mountain Reservation
Hudson and union county parks
Adirondacks
Rockefeller State Park, Croton Park, Bowline, more
Passaic County & Hudson county Parks
Nature Conservancy Meadows in Cape May, Lighthouse State Park in Cape May, Bronx Zoo
Bear mountain, bronx zoo,
Brookdale park in Montclair, NJ
Ramapo Valley County Reservation; Fort Tryon Park, NYC; Verona Park; Brookdale Park, Bloomfield, NJ
Branch Brook Park, Island Beach in Ocean Cty,
parks when traveling, and other ny parks
Passaic County Parks, Morris County Parks and State Parks and Forests
Alonzal bonzal, garret mt. Res. , rifle camp park, sandy hook,
other Parks in NYC, parks in other states and in other countries
Hacklebarney
Bear mountain
sterling forest

Prospect Park
Bear Mountain NY, Jay Peak VT, White Mountain NH, Beaver Brook Reservation MA
Not often, but i have, and some not in decades
Washington Sq. Sterling Forest, Bear Mountain, St. James (London), Hyde Park( London)
Ringwood State Park Botanical Gardens, Liberty State Park, Branch Brook Park
Parks in orange and ulster county NY. That is where I am from.
High Point, Stokes Forest, Wawayanda, Norvin Green, Ramapo Lake, Delaware River
Dorbrook Park
Visit national and state parks all over the country
Riverside Park
Bronx zoo
Park in warren nj
City Park and Audubon Park, New Orleans, National Park in Blue Ridge Mountain, Bear Mountain
NJ Botanical Gardens/ Sky lands Shepherd Lake
RIVERSIDE PARK
Multiple in Hudson County NJ and Rockland County NY
other golf
Catskills, green mountains
Bear Mountain
West Point
Secaucus boat launch, Sandy hook, seven presidents park
Many others in Nyc, Adirondacks, catskills etc
Union & Monmouth county parks
Bear mountain
Rockland Lake, Bear Mountain
NY botanical Garden, Flat Rock Brook, local municipal parks
Branch Brook Park, Clove Lake Park
bear mountain, high point state, state parks by the ocean in south jersey
Brookdale Park
High Point
State Parks National Parks
Bear Mountain, Other for Camping

Tallman State Park
Newport Green Park in Jersey City and Church Square Park in Hoboken
Monmouth, Morris, Ocean & Passaic County Parks
VERMONT ALL THE TIME!!! And the shore - usually spring lake or cape may
Many
Walkway over the Hudson; Palisades Interstate Park
Various state parks in other states such as Vermont
Ringwood
Tallman State Park, Palisades Interstate Park
Island Beach, Stokes State Forest, Fair Lawn parks, Great Swamp, Great Falls,
Clousters, NYBotanical. NYC parks, state line lookout,
Jones Beach, Robert Moses
Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx; parks across Europe
Lake walk Essex County Park, Palisades, Fort Trion/Cloisters, Wave Hill, Sterling Forest, Ringwood Manor/Skylands
Various bike paths in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania
Delaware Water Gap area parks, Sandy Hook, Liberty State Park, Laurel Hill Park and many others
Lake Hopatcong
Palisades Interstate Park (NJ area: Edgewater to Alpine) AND Bear Mountain State Park AND many others in NYC
Prospect Park (Brooklyn), Bryant Park (NYC), Route 94 in Sussex County
Local parks
Cape May County Zoo
Fort Tryon Park
Goffle Brook, various town parks
Gofflebrook Park
Bryant Park, NYC
Miniwasacki, bear mountain
Bronx Zoo
Bear Mountain
Brook dale Park
Bear Mountain, Tarrytown Riverside Park (not sure of the name)
New Jersey Botanical Gardens; New York Botanical Gardens
Cape May County Park

Ramapo
High point
Palisades Park, Carl Shurz Park, Riverside Park
Cats kill state park
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Q9 - What types of events would you like to see in a Bergen County Park? (check all that apply)



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Athletic (runs, walks, yoga)	56.45%	1164
2	Ethnic / Cultural	38.60%	796
3	Family and Children-focused	51.60%	1064
4	Music and Arts	70.90%	1462
5	Other (please describe)	24.39%	503
	Total	100%	2062

Other (please describe)

Other (please describe)
Bird watching, wild flower identification, tree identification, etc. Pretty much anything to help connect more with nature
Nature exhibits
I'm not really that keen on events in the parks. The traffic and the burden on surrounding communities is intense, sometimes the judgement of the parks officials is completely lacking, and I prefer to keep the parks open for normal recreational activities, not beseiged by lots of people who would not otherwise be in the park and who

really don't respect the park or the surrounding area.
Flea markets, festivals, food events
History walks and lectures at historic sites
Bike rides and races
Special Education activities
Food trucks
Preserve the natural environment, allow people to experience nature
More arts! Guided walks by artists, large scale projections at night, more!
Heritage
Environmental
Training/ Learning sessions ( about trees, plants etc) Native Plant sales and Historic reenactments like at Old Bridge Landing
canada geese population reduction program (GEESEPEACE)
Events for dogs
Dog related events
Nature appreciation
Biking
Those (in smaller scale) similar to the Hudson River Festivals Croton NY (which Pete Seeger was a part of) that focuses on clean energy and forward-thinking think tanks.
Nature related
Holiday events
RC aircraft exhibition for kids to get interested
More access to water for boating (non motorized- ex kayak
Nature appreciation - esp for children
Environmental Events, Passive/non-recreational- hiking, bird-watching
Historic related events
Events that relate to understanding and enjoying nature. No noise,
bird watching/identifying walks; also for plant/tree identification
Nature / environment oriented events
Dog park
BIRD WATCHING PROGRAMS AND HORTICULTURAL PROGRAMS
Nature programs
Environmental education events

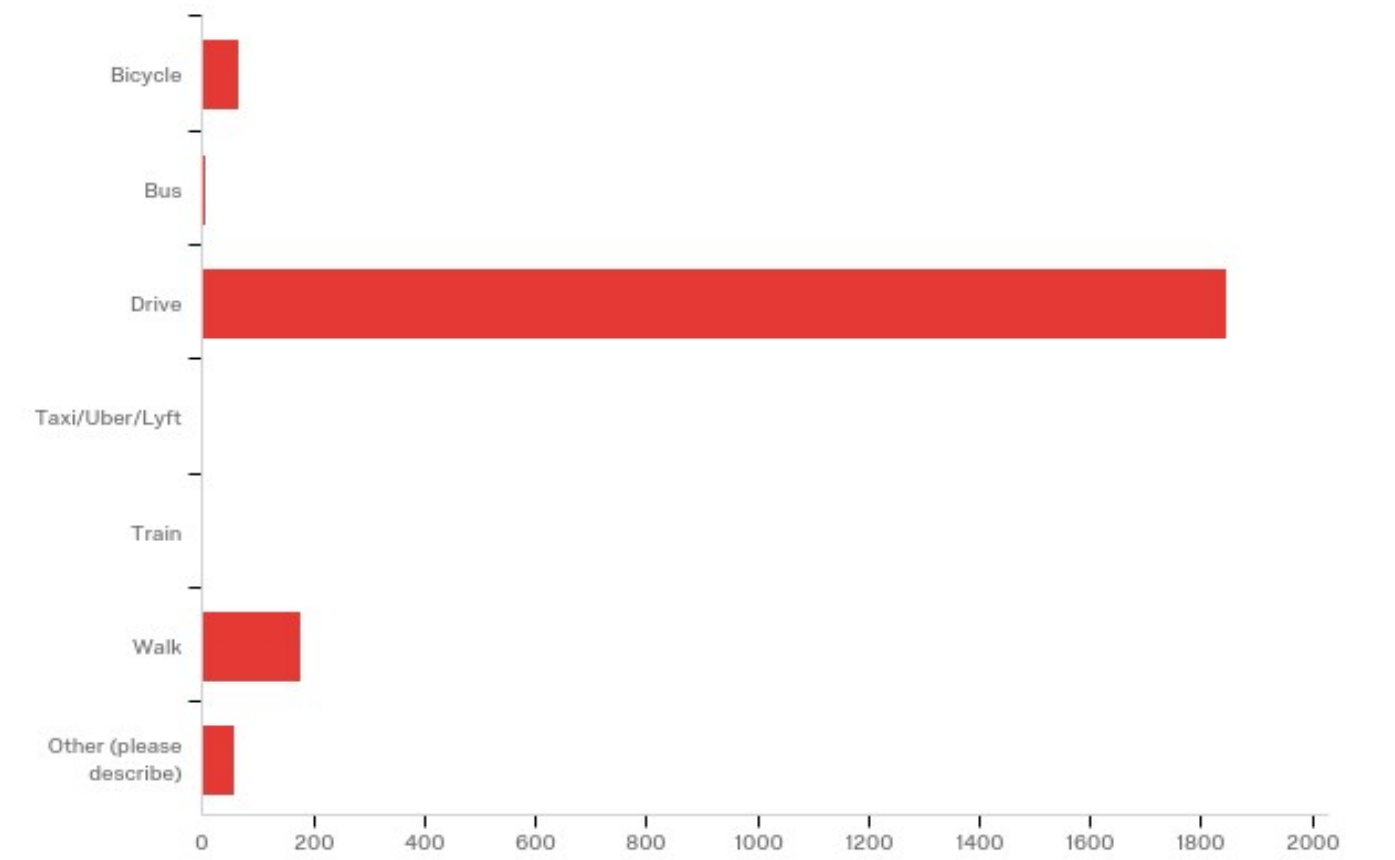
Experience the park as a natural setting, Birding
photo contest
Food wine festivals. More hiking, guided if avail. Camping
Bicycle competitions , Remote Control model competitions
Dog friendly
keep the parks Natural
Sustainability, Pets- animals
Food Festivals
for dogs
RC Flying compitition
Dog parks are critical for condo and apartment residents
Food Trucks
Model air plane flying
Model aircraft flying
Model Airplane Competitions and shows
Nature
Events for Bergen County residents only
History related
NONE - Keep things as natural as possible and not commercial.
Fishing
Dog events
Gospel and Jazz Music Festivals Book Festivals Poetry Festivals
sports/pickleball
Pickleball
Pickleball Courts
Permanent Pickleball courts
No events it's a park - you go for the quietude
Saddle Brook Park needs dog run park-lots of dogs here
SOMETHING FOR THE TOWN ONLY, OFTEN TIMES THE PARKS ARE SO OVERCROWDED IT WOULD BE NICE FOR SOMETHING TO FOR ONCE JUST BE OFFERED TO PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE TOWN ONLY OR AT LEAST IN THE COUNTY ONLY. WE HAVE TO BURDEN THE TRAFFIC ALL THE TIME TIME WHY NOT GIVE BACK TO THE ACTUAL TOWN THAT MAKES THE SACRIFICE.
Food, Fairs



Food truck events
Animal related
Adult focused events- Beer and Food Truck Festival
Environmental learning - show us how to build a rain garden - make a model and let us learn how. Make a model solar powered, i dunno, swing set or whirly bird, or something,
VR / augmented reality social games
Camping, Camping, Camping, Hiking, outdoor activities associated with nature
environmental
Environmental Education
More Wildlife.
nature - want all animals to be protected and preserved and not murdered - no logging of trees either
Regenerative Agriculture Events (educational and hands on for adults as well as children), Transition towns <a href="https://transitionnetwork.org/about-the-movement/what-is-transition/">https://transitionnetwork.org/about-the-movement/what-is-transition/</a> , permaculture <a href="http://permacultureconvergence.com/">http://permacultureconvergence.com/</a> ,
none, leave the parks alone. no need for artificial entertainment.
Cricket
I want more of a focus on sustainability. Trash cleanups, community gardens, native tree or shrub plantings or invasive plant removals
Pools, swimming.
Larged fenced in spaces for dogs to run. open lots of hours, NOT the small mud pit at overpeck
Saddle Brook needs a dog park
Cricket
Plain old walking with my dog in a natural area
Swim
Maintaining the natural landscape as much as possible. The last thing I want to see are trees taken down to put in an asphalt lot for sports.
Dog parks
Dog parks. Dogs allowed in water.
kayaking
Educational - re nature walks, birds, protection: fire, litter
None. Prefer passive use
environmental
boating, kayaking, paddle boats, etc.
Environmental awareness events
Birding events

Birding events
Nature oriented programs about water, dirt, plants, bugs, birds and trees - seasonally
Birdwatching events
Birding Events
Also like the Dog Park at Overpeck
appreciation of nature
Additional golf choices (like purchasing Emerson Golf Club); and rebuilding Rockland Blue Golf Course so it is actually usable.
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Q10 - How do you normally travel to the parks?



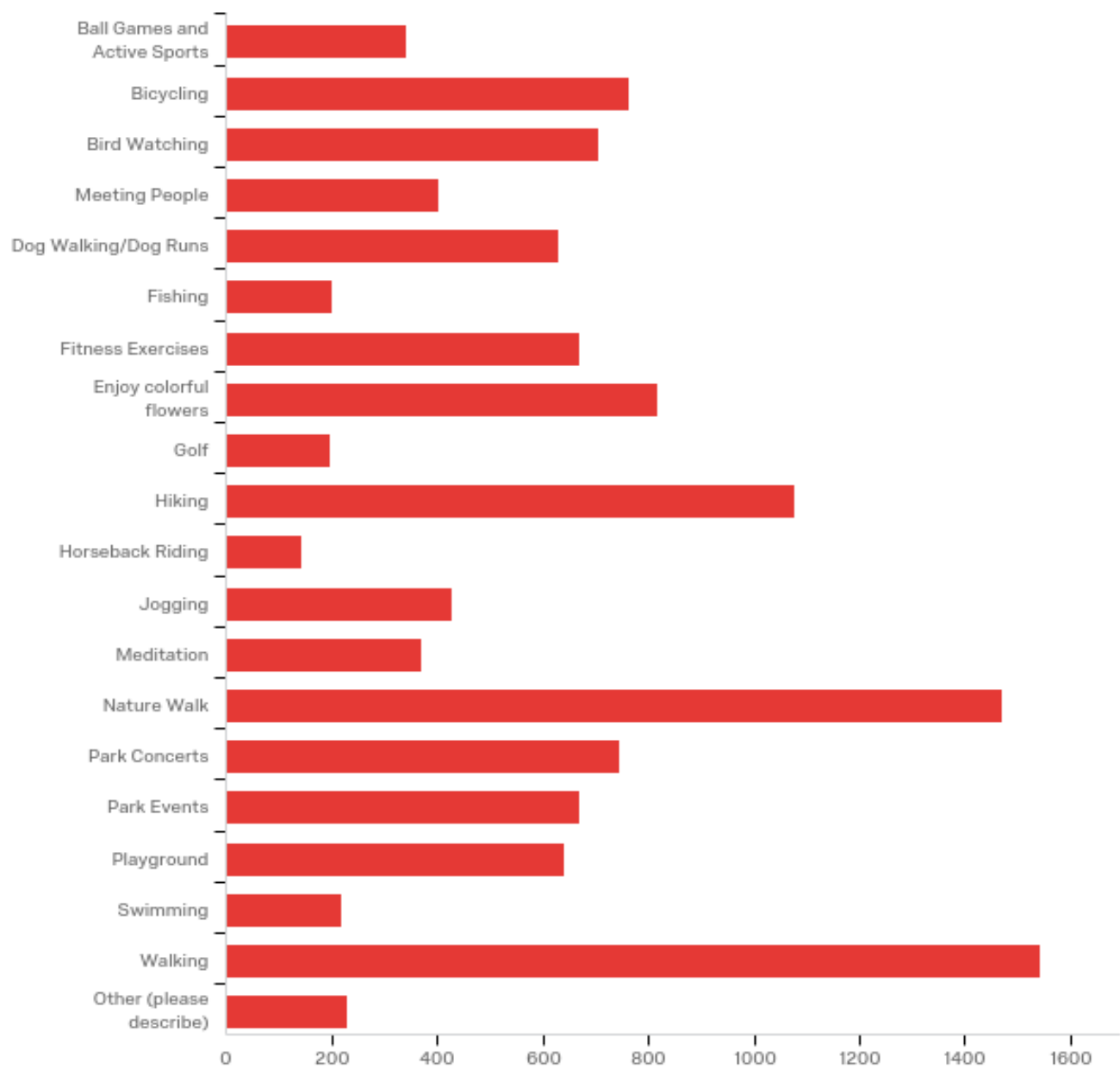
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Bicycle	3.11%	67
2	Bus	0.28%	6
3	Drive	85.67%	1847
4	Taxi/Uber/Lyft	0.09%	2
5	Train	0.00%	0
6	Walk	8.26%	178
7	Other (please describe)	2.60%	56
	Total	100%	2156

Other (please describe)

Other (please describe)
car
Would like to walk but no easy access to overpeck
also drive
Run
We also walk to certain parks
Run
Walk
run
I also work in University Plaza and walk the river pathway most days; not sure if that counts :)
Cricket
Walk or Cycle? Are you crazy? You can't do that in Bergen county without getting run down.
I walk or run to many parks and bring dog. also watch games with and without my children
Walk or bike to close parks, or drive
Walk to local parks, drive to ones that are not within walking distance
run
Walk or drive
Run and Jog
Car
train, walk, drive
Car, bike or walk
We would rather walk, however most towns do not have a walking trail or path.
drive and walk if park is close
Car
walk and drive depends on where the park is
Cycle and walk someimes.
Bicycle and Vehicle
I would walk but there aren't sidewalks
drive and walk
Walk and bike and drive.
Train / bus to some.
Teaneck Creek near my house, so walk - other places, drive

Walk if close car if far
Motorcycle
Run
People in Glen rock may say they need bike lanes to get there. They don't. They need a dog park in that park.
run
Run
run to the park
Indoor types
Run
Run
This isn't necessarily an either/or. I cycle sometimes and I drive sometimes
Why only one option? It all depends on where I am coming from: drive, walk, train—used to bicycle, but not recently.
Depending on the park and what I am doing, sometimes I bike, sometimes I run and sometimes I drive
Motorcycle
drive and walk
We walk to Pascack Brook but drive to the others
motorcycle
If not a neighborhood Park, I drive. otherwise, I would walk or bike.
Sometimes I walk or bike to them; usually drive.
dirve to more distant parks and mostly walk (occasionally drive) to nearby parks
Drive most but bike a lot.
And drive and bicycle.
walk, drive with friends
Drive, bicycle, or walk
Walk and bike too.

Q11 - What are your preferred park activities? (check all that apply)

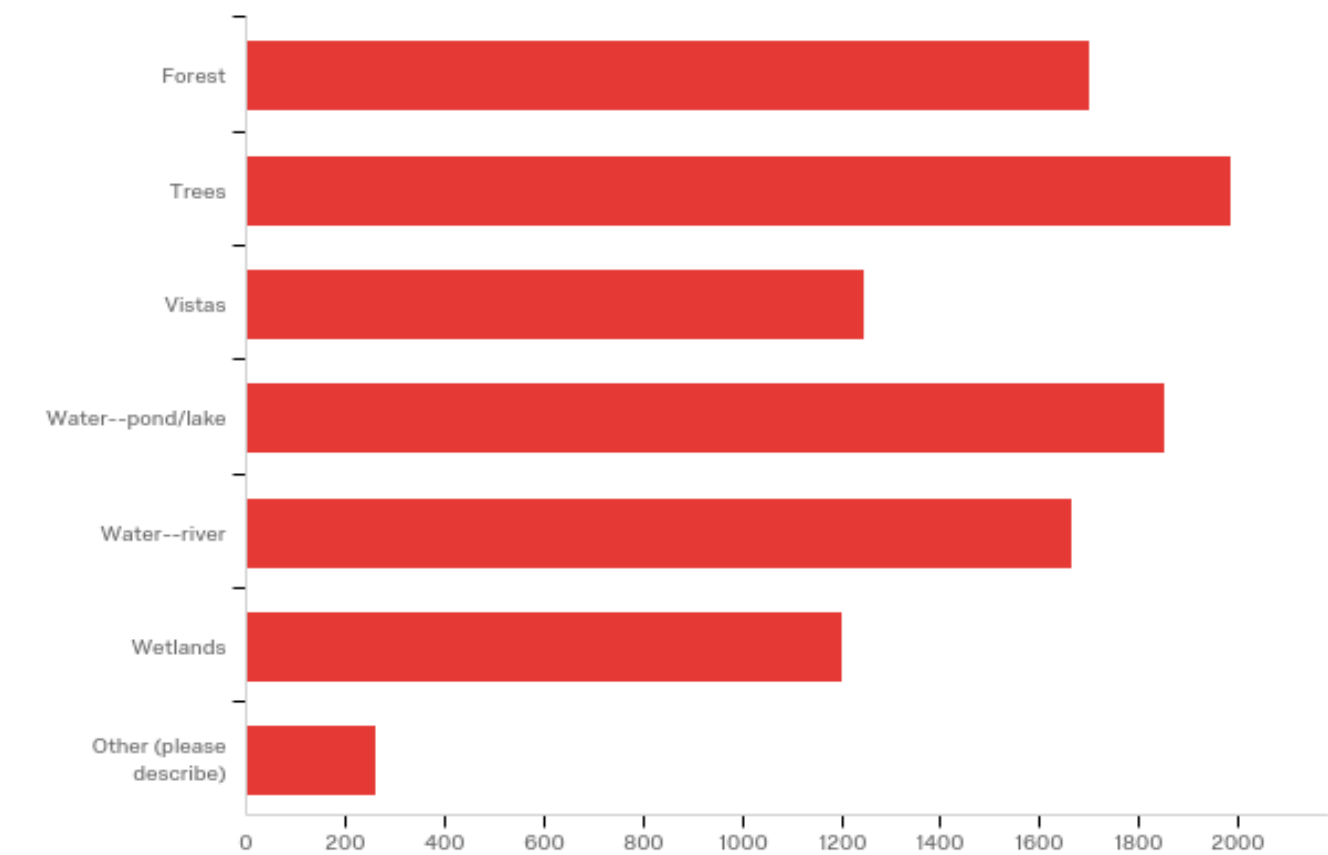


#	Answer	%	Count
1	Ball Games and Active Sports	15.84%	340
2	Bicycling	35.65%	765
3	Bird Watching	32.90%	706
4	Meeting People	18.83%	404
5	Dog Walking/Dog Runs	29.40%	631
6	Fishing	9.32%	200

7	Fitness Exercises	31.27%	671
8	Enjoy colorful flowers	38.16%	819
9	Golf	9.13%	196
10	Hiking	50.23%	1078
11	Horseback Riding	6.57%	141
12	Jogging	19.90%	427
13	Meditation	17.24%	370
14	Nature Walk	68.59%	1472
15	Park Concerts	34.76%	746
16	Park Events	31.13%	668
17	Playground	29.92%	642
18	Swimming	10.25%	220
19	Walking	71.85%	1542
20	Other (please describe)	10.62%	228
	Total	100%	2146

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Q12 - What natural resources are important to you in Bergen County? (check all that apply)



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Forest	80.20%	1701
2	Trees	93.68%	1987
3	Vistas	58.70%	1245
4	Water--pond/lake	87.41%	1854
5	Water--river	78.50%	1665
6	Wetlands	56.67%	1202
7	Other (please describe)	12.31%	261
	Total	100%	2121

Other (please describe)



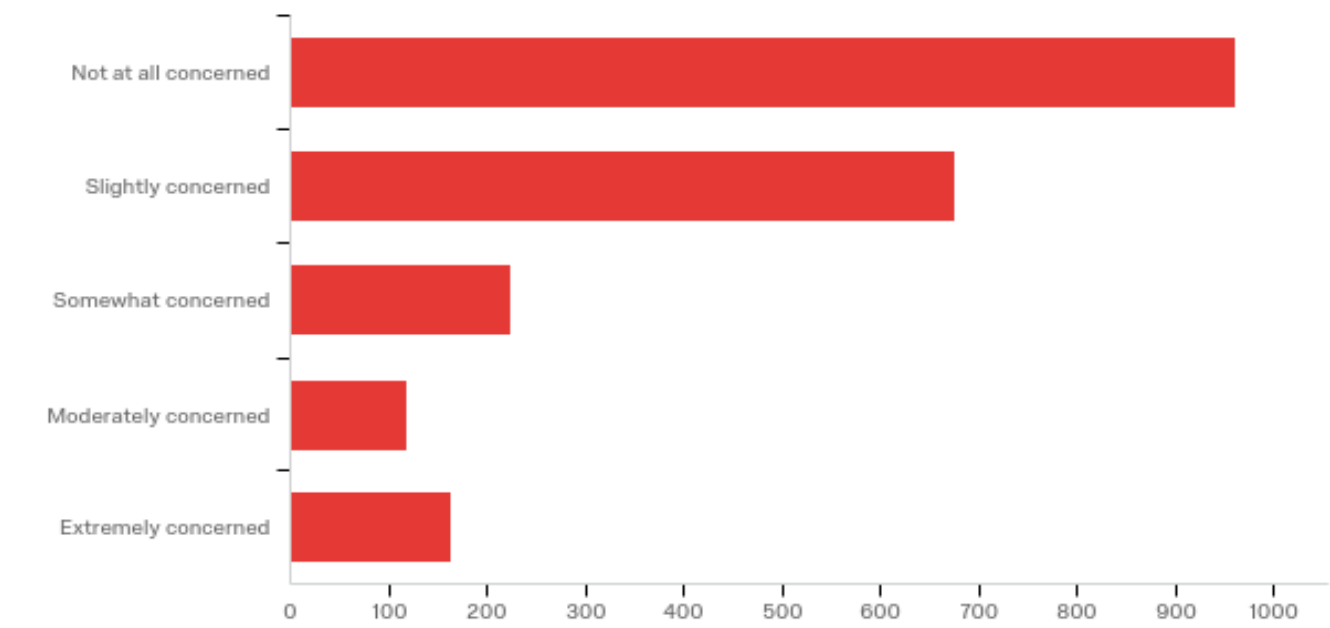
Other (please describe)
gardens or nice landscape
Mountains
gardens
Drinking water. Much of our parkland is over aquifers
Historic sites
Flowers and landscape
wildlife
Reservoirs, peace, natural....no zoos, no rides, no structural intrusions....sculptures here or there that fit with a park character might be interesting
All natural features
WILDLIFE
Solar power to charge RC aircraft batteries
Native plants, birds,wildlife
Native plants, gardens
Preserving all nature
Woodlands; wild (undeveloped) areas
Flowers, bushes, picnic areas, animals that are free and belong in the parks
Maintaining natural settings
Playground Equipment, Hiking Trails
the use of sunlight as a resource used to charge batteries to fly the RC planes and other equipment
Sunlight with the assistance of a solar panel which could be used to charge various batteries to power and Fly Remote Control (RC) airplanes.
Flowers and butterflies
sunlight with the assistance of a solar panel that can be used to charge various batteries to power and fly remote control airplanes
Sunlight with the assistance of a solar panel which could be used to charge various batteries to power and Fly Remote Control (RC) airplanes.
Sunlight with the assistance of a solar panel which could be used to charge various batteries to power and Fly Remote Control (RC) airplanes.
Fly Remote Control (RC) Airplanes
UNOBSTRUCTED GRASSY AREAS
Historical sites
Flood Remediation/ Saddle River Sprout Brook causes damage in Town and inside the Parks
Flowers, natural flora and fauna

Flooding Remediation
Engaging children in these spaces
Flowers / Birds / Butterflies / All animals
Open preserved space
the wildlife living in the park.
Play ground equipment for children. Clean facilities for bathrooms
open areas for sports and picnicing
introducing NJ natives back to the parks - golden rod weed, crabs or clams back into the streams/ rivers, teach us what used to be there and start to bring it back
birds, flowers and bees
In natural state
Wildlife.
wildlife, birds, trees - all should be preserved and protected
Open space
Wildflowers, Native Plants
Places to swim.
usable cheap space for all. We already pay taxes for parks \$200 to use-not right. take locks off fields
Historic sites
undisturbed beauty
I NEED A SAFE WAY TO GET TO THE PARK FROM RIDGEFIELD PARK!!! I HAVE BEEN CROSSING ROADS AND HIGHWAYS WE NEED OUR BRIDGE
Endangered species and endangered areas
Wildlife
all
Less sportsfields and more interesting and engaging walking paths for seniors, physically challenged and those who just don't participate in organized sports of all ages. Also add adult swings to parks outside of playgrounds.
gardens
Palisades Cliffs/Hudson Riverfront
ALL NATURAL areas -- PLEASE do not overdevelop natural beauty
Saving Golf Courses from Development (like Apple Ridge, High Mountain, Tammybrook, etc.)
Bird habitats
Nature Preserve
Natural Animals, Trails
Tagged paths that align with maps so we can plan our way to see all the wonderful things! I know this isn't a natural resource, but it certainly impacts my ability to enjoy them

Clean air
Clean Water
flowers
Relocate the American Dream Mall to Newark
Flowers
Flowers
High School Athletic Events
BALLFIELDS
gardens
Anything for rollerskating is fine
Habitats
Ski slopes and golf courses
Animal habitats
bio diversity
Safe places to walk . Take kids and pets
Very important to safe guard the river and pond as my home was flooded in 2011 and 1999
Preserving historic sites
WILDLIFE !
All that is Nature is what make Bergen county Great place to live... please leave Nature as it is!
wildlife
Protect all wildlife including banning systematic gassing of the geese that have NO where to go
Please pass the Northern Valley CSX Greenwsy Initiative
Wildlife
Wildlife
Indigenous plants (I have several in my garden and try to plant them when I see a spot). They are Tiger Lily and Yellow and Blue Flag Iris.
anything that pertains to nature!!?
Birds/wildlife
Sustaining wildlife and the earths balance
Safe and lit walkways; wide walkways so that there is enough room to accommodate walkers, dogs on leashes, inline skaters and bicyclists; and ample room to park your cars.
Plantings for butterflies/hummingbirds
no hunt

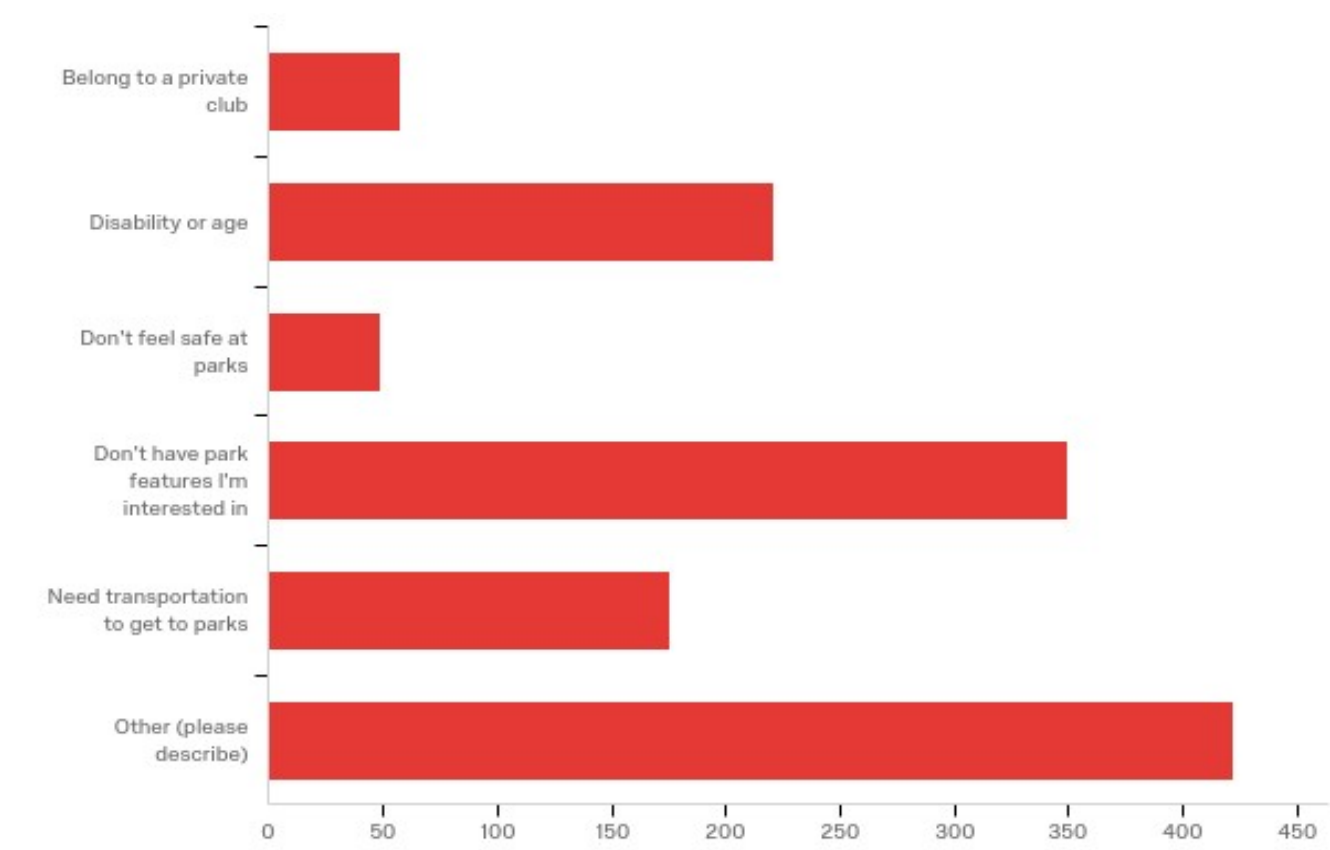
Parks with natural areas maintained for nature study
Less development
Wildlife
Protected natural habitats
open space
History
over developement of both open and historic areas
Preserving historical buildings and sites
Historic sites, playgrounds
Too many rows for PDF export, try exporting to Word or CSV

Q13 - How concerned are you with your safety in the parks you visit?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Not at all concerned	44.93%	961
2	Slightly concerned	31.56%	675
3	Somewhat concerned	10.47%	224
4	Moderately concerned	5.47%	117
5	Extremely concerned	7.57%	162
	Total	100%	2139

Q14 - If members of your household seldom or never use County parks, what are the reasons? (check all that apply)



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Belong to a private club	5.26%	58
2	Disability or age	20.05%	221
3	Don't feel safe at parks	4.45%	49
4	Don't have park features I'm interested in	31.76%	350
5	Need transportation to get to parks	15.97%	176
6	Other (please describe)	38.29%	422
	Total	100%	1102

Q14\_6\_TEXT - Other (please describe)

Other (please describe)
N/A
n/a
Lack of time
No time
Work/time
none
Does not apply
Busy with other activities
No Time
We live in a beautiful and private neighborhood that abuts Ramapo Preserve.
N/A
Just too busy
n/a
Many ticks at big overpeck park
not interested
Always use public parks
Sometimes there arent enough unique natural niches that allow one to be in the main'arena', yet segue into a cozy more private niche.
Lazy
Accessibility for pediatric wheelchair.
NOT APPLICABLE
Don't know
Lack of time
I have never asked them.
Do not have family or friends to go with most of the time when I would want to go
Not enough time
did not know about them
Not sure
Not interested in all things "Nature" like me. They have a different idea for fun than Parks. : (
Not applicable
Do not know much about what each park has to offer

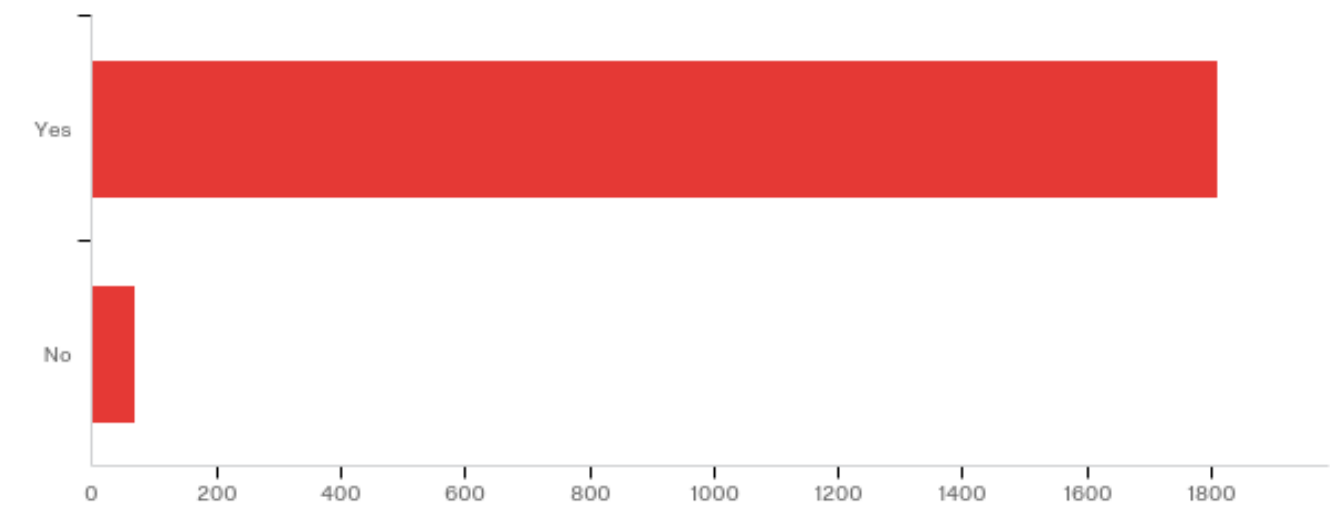
N/A
Park is too crowded
too crowded
time
We like to visit parks for a variety of reasons including just enjoying nature.
Time
Not enough time
N/A
Too hot, not enough shade
Parks in town that we go to more regularly
Not interested
THERE IS NO ONE ELSE
Busy working
Some parks are run down and look abandoned
busy
not enough event like concerts
Very crowded when he is available to go. County parks are very crowded with NY crowd who camp out for the entire day.
Uninformed about park's attractions
Too busy with work
Don't have time
Don't know about events
too busy
Lazy
not applicable
Not really sure why
Too busy, work out of country, no leisure time
there are no members of my household that do not regularly use the parks
Overcrowded walking/biking paths
ALWAYS CROWDED WITH PEOPLE THAT DON'T LIVE ANYWHERE NEAR THE AREA THAT COME TO BBQ OR WITH HUGE GROUPS, I ENJOY THE PEACEFULNESS OF A PARK NOT HERDS OF PEOPLE IN GROUPS
work a lot!
Lazy



Not applicable
Lack of time
None
None
parking
doesn't like outdoors
no time
Have no interest
Not really a park person...we own a house on a lake
Haven't lived here long enough and also haven't heard of most of them
we all use the parks, young and old.
Don't have the time
Lazy
Unfortunately, grass is filled with geese droppings. Difficult to use grass especially with small children.
Just not their thing
Work too much
busy but they still like to know nature is there to keep them healthy - nature keeps people healthy even if it's not at their doorstep
not interested. would rather be shopping. too lazy
not interested
Other interests take higher priority
We live in Ridgefield Park and unless I drive my kids we can not go to Overpeck
We all use the parks a lot. Want to use more but fields are locked. Outside basketball court that is sheltered from rain
not familiar with Alpine Park
We live in Ridgefield Park, which is very close to Overpeck Park but has poor pedestrian access.
Less free time.
NO SAFE WAY TO RUN OR BIKE TO PARK WITHOUT CROSSING HIGHWAYS AND BUSY DANGEROUS ROADS
Lazy/ too far/ no dogs park
time
get caught up in other things like gardening; surfing web
We use the parks
Not interested in being outside

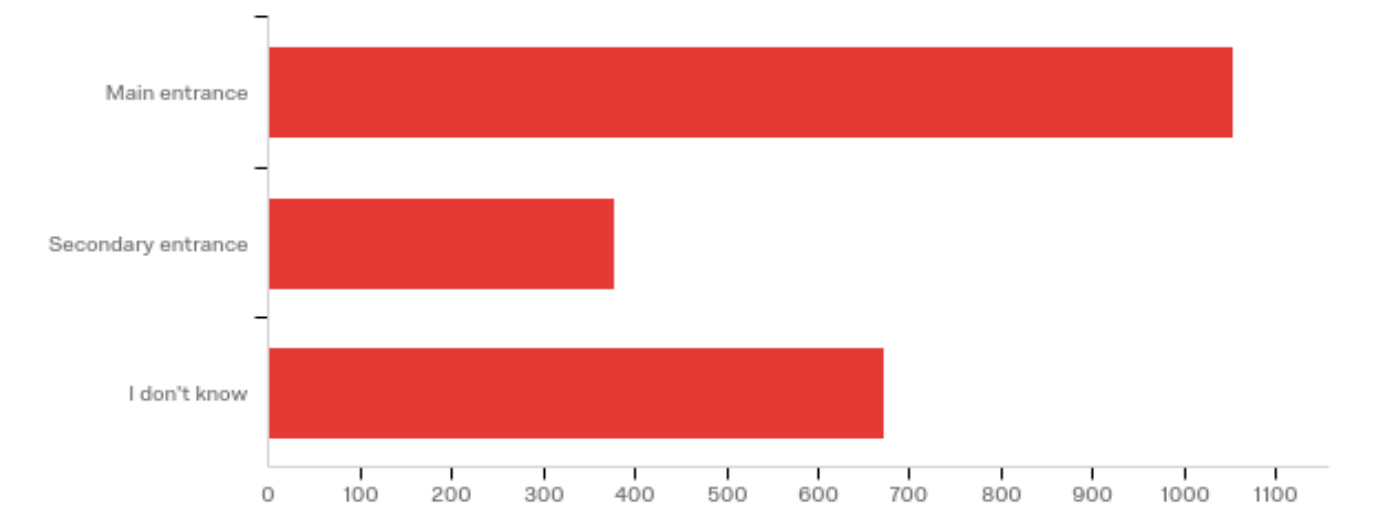
Not interested
Time
N/a
LAZY
working full time leaves only weekends to enjoy parks, sometimes we cannot find the time to visit parks even though we'd like to.
I live alone
WALING TO OVERPEACK PARK IS DANGEROUS FROM rIDGEFIELD pARK
Nearby access to municipal/borough parks
Too many rows for PDF export, try exporting to Word or CSV

Q15 - Do you think parks and open spaces provide economic benefits to Bergen County?



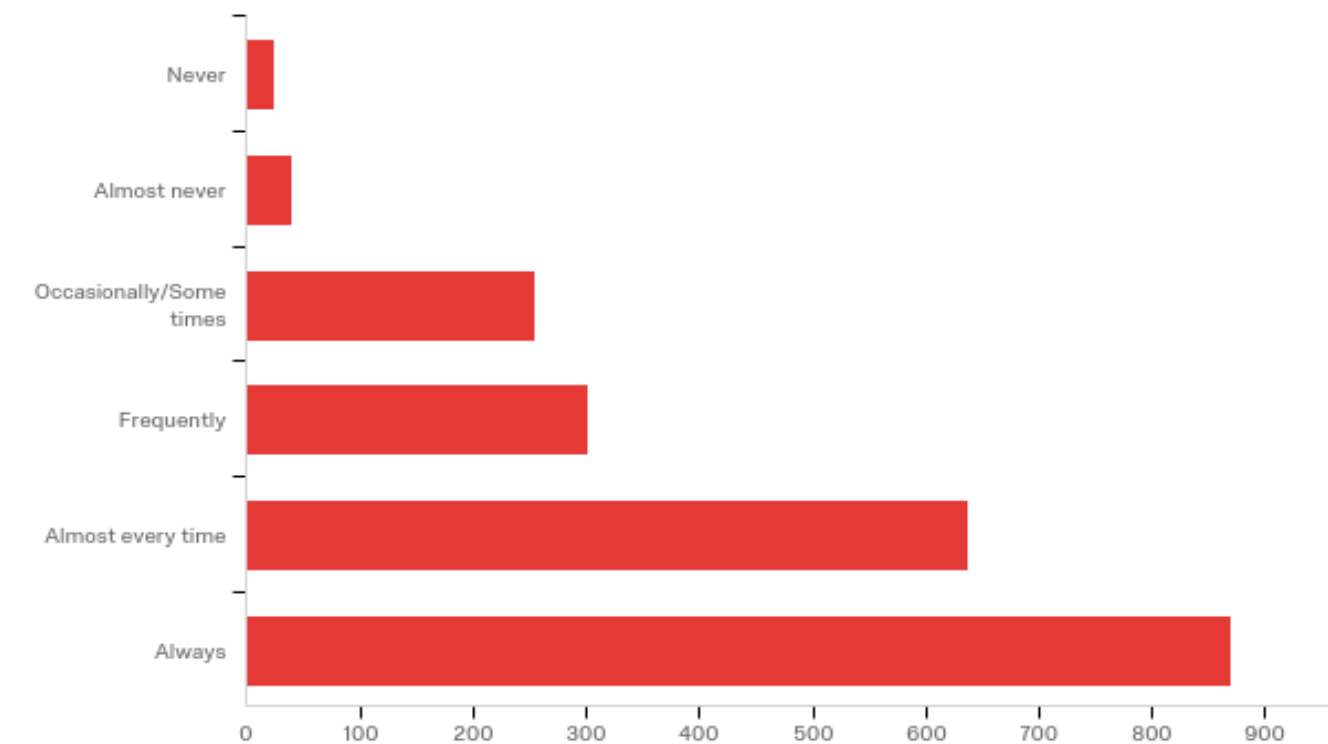
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	96.33%	1810
2	No	3.67%	69
	Total	100%	1879

Q16 - Do you prefer to use the main entrance or a secondary entrance when visiting the park?



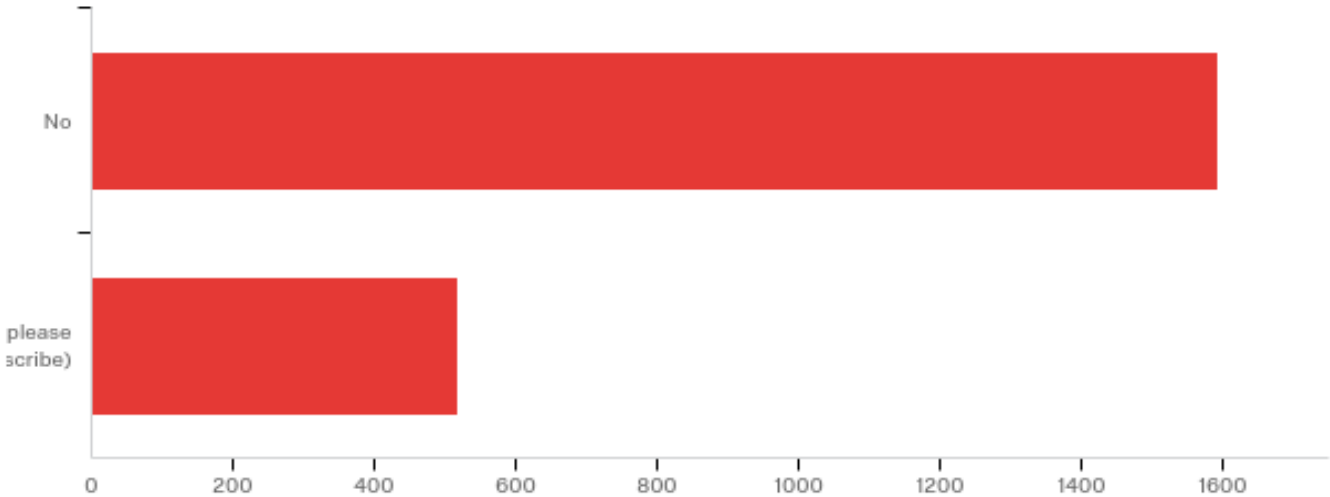
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Main entrance	50.10%	1054
2	Secondary entrance	17.92%	377
3	I don't know	31.99%	673
	Total	100%	2104

Q17 - How often do you use the parking spaces in the park(s) you visit?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Never	1.13%	24
2	Almost never	1.88%	40
3	Occasionally/Sometimes	11.94%	254
4	Frequently	14.15%	301
5	Almost every time	30.00%	638
6	Always	40.90%	870
	Total	100%	2127

Q18 - Have you experienced difficulties getting to or using your preferred park(s)?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	No	75.51%	1591
2	Yes (please describe)	24.49%	516
	Total	100%	2107

Q18\_2\_TEXT - Yes (please describe)

Yes (please describe)
Not enough spots during peak times in popular areas of the park
Due to events/parking
n)Parking at Van Saun is difficult on busy days (often). Frsutrating they removed those beautiful trees to create more parking but never open that area to cars/parking.
When there has been a large event or undue traffic on Fort Lee Road
Lack of parking
When there is an event there is not enough parking
Packed and no parking
Van Saun and Ramapo don't have enough parking
I cannot safely walk over to Overpeck County Park. There should be a path or bridge from Ridgefield Park to the park.
Only in the winter.

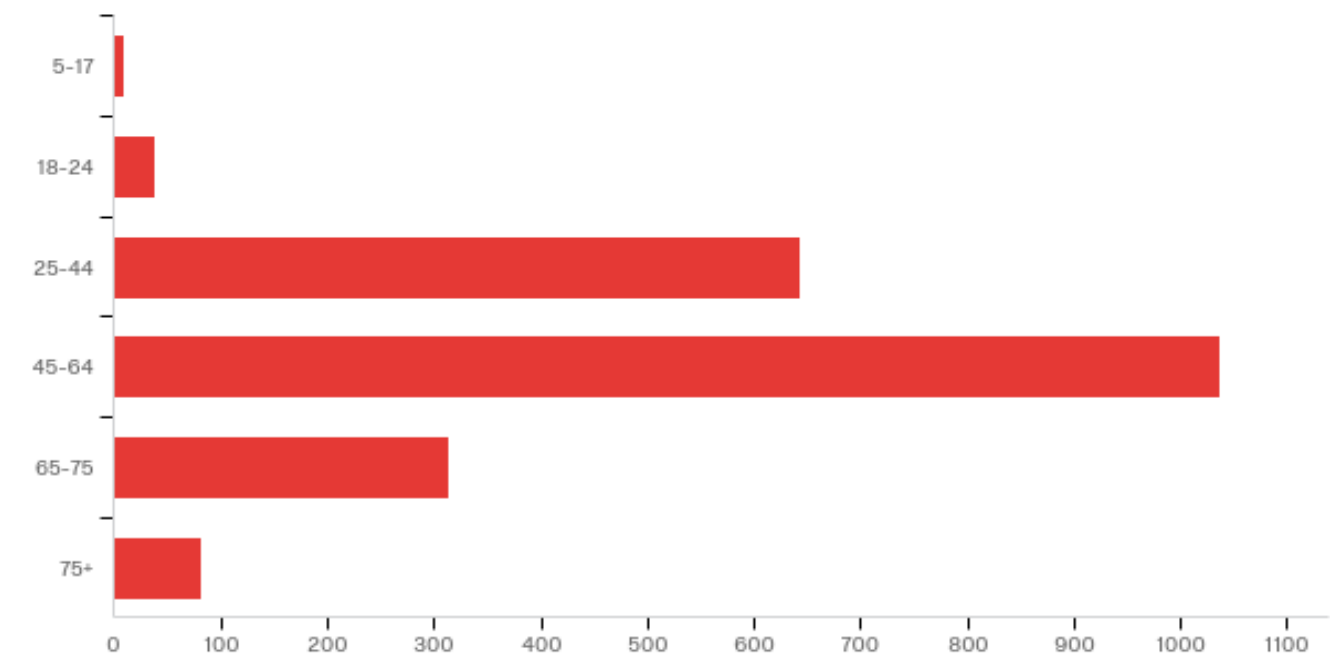
Traffic during An event
Overpeck gets crowded with events. Several times I haven't gotten in with my car.
When there are events st overpack itgetd very orowded
Not enough spaces available
Mostly parking issues for events
Disabled. Must Walk, or have someone else drive!!
People are cutting thru New Overpeck Park to get to GWB. County police need to stop those cars please
No safe bike route to get there
Sometimes it's difficult to cross the street when visiting overpeck park
Crowded
there is no walking/biking access to Overpeck County Park from my home in Ridgefield Park!!!
It is hard to get there. It would he nice to have a pedestrian walkway
Overpeck equestrian area is now overrun by equestrian expansion (turnouts, parking and acess road) and columbia rowing which has taken over another section, often using ALL the parking that is left available. They also leave trash everywhere.
Van Saun - not enough parking in summer
I live in Ridgefield Park which is where Overpeck Park is, but there is no safe way to walk there. It would be much more convenient to walk, especially with two small children in a stroller rather than have to load and buckle into the car to drive just a few minutes to enjoy the park when there could be a pedestrian bridge over the freeway.
Signage could be improved on access to certain parks, especially on alternative entrances
sometimes people park for their commute and then there's fewer spots
on a good day, parking overflows
Usually when there is an event such as the Korean day or a carnival
Players and coaches who have games have been denied access to the parking near the field. Especially, those who are not familiar with the parks may find it very inconvenient, causing delays and problems with the league and the referees.
Some of the parks do not offer adequate parking
My children are in wheelchairs and playgrounds are inaccessible.
Park administration
At peak times, some sections are overcrowded resulting in lack of parking
Directions were confusing.
Can't find addresses for driving directions. Also, hard to find good parks by googling as I only moved to the area a year ago and didn't know there were more than a few BC parks
Lines for van suan can be crazy.
No parking. Too crowed to walk in peace.
Overpeck Park too crowded during events and police fail to block entrance or inform us of shuttle

Sometimes lots are full in late mornings and afternoons on weekends
Limited parking
Overpeck wsy too many muslim parties
sometimes in winter Hudson Terrace is closed
Parking at ramapo reservation is awful. When parked along side, you get ticketed this discourages me from going there on the weekends with family and friends
Limited Parking at High Mountain Reserve
Not enough parking at saddle Brook park
Not enough parking at Van Saun Park
Too many cars
Van say playground is crowded and the play areas are wide open. I am too scared to take my kids there. There is no security near the playground.
crowded/no spaces up in Mahwah (or is ti Oakland?)
Duck Pond park has lack of parking
not enough parking space on weekends at Ramapo
Crowded events at Overpeck. I was late to a Breast Cancer fundraiser as well as a food truck event due to traffic
Difficult when Parking is hard to find or not near the attractions
Parkin spaces are consumed by employees of Kulite company adjacent to Overpeck Park(Hoebel area))
Events the park is crowded and parking is lacking
Not enough parking spaces
No parking at Votee park in Teaneck. Have to park on a busy street.
Van Suan is crazy on the weekends, parking is very difficult
Van saun is often too crowded
Handicap parking, difficulty getting around.
Regular weekend traffic. Especially in Paramus.
Lions Park, in Upper Saddle River, has resident-only parking.
Parking lots are full
Too many people to park at van Saun in the summer
Van saun parking lots near zoo and playground are too crowded
Spaces fill up early
Van saun zoo
Overcrowded if ever an event
traffic in accessing park, difficulty parking



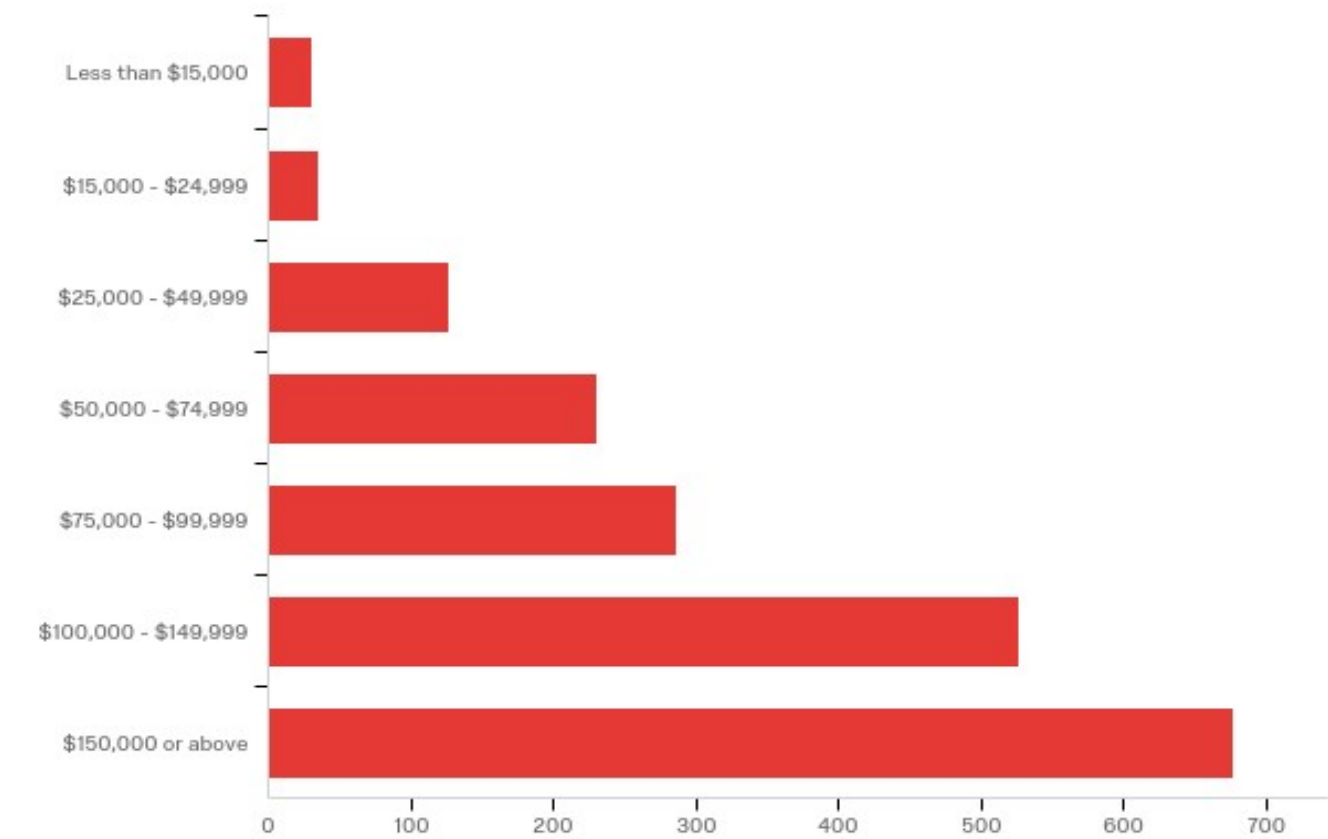
event at Overpeck was so crowded we left without participating
Overpeck can get backed up with traffic cutting through to get to 95
Overcrowding from non-residents is a problem at Van Saun
Lack of parking space, ie Bergen County Zoo. They should have shuttle for special events
Van saun is over crowded many times of the year, once you find parking, you may dread attending due to lines and crowds
The parking lots get very crowded with NY cars. These cars tend to stay for the entire day. It makes it difficult to find a spot.
Overcrowding
Overcrowded, no parking
Parking at Overpeck is often difficult during festivals/events.
None available
Yes
Not enough parking
Sometimes too crowded
Van suan terrible parking
Parking lot full on weekends
There is not an easy way to walk from Ridgefield Park to Overpeck Park, so without a car it is difficult to get there.
Parking Lots Full
During times the saddle river overflowed
If there is an event there is parking. So if you came to walk you wouldn't be able to.
No Pickle Ball Courts
Over used by non-residents
Sometimes parking is difficult
Sometimes at Saddle Brook park there is no where to park / At Van Saun Zoo can be a problem finding parking right nearby it unless you park a ways away and walk over.
Lack of bathroom facilities and old playground equipment
Too many new Yorkers or out of county people
PARKING CAN BE DIFFICULT SOMETIMES ESPECIALLY AT VAN SAUN & VERY CROWDED
Van Saun can at times be a nightmare
Parking at Van Saun is atrocious
Van saun seems overrun by non county residents
too many people; not enough open space
Too many rows for PDF export, try exporting to Word or CSV

Q19 - What is your age?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	5-17	0.42%	9
2	18-24	1.79%	38
3	25-44	30.35%	644
4	45-64	48.82%	1036
5	65-75	14.75%	313
6	75+	3.86%	82
	Total	100%	2122

Q20 - What is your annual household income?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Less than \$15,000	1.57%	30
2	\$15,000 - \$24,999	1.83%	35
3	\$25,000 - \$49,999	6.59%	126
4	\$50,000 - \$74,999	12.04%	230
5	\$75,000 - \$99,999	14.97%	286
6	\$100,000 - \$149,999	27.58%	527
7	\$150,000 or above	35.43%	677
	Total	100%	1911

## Q21 - What is the best aspect of your preferred park(s)? (Please describe)

What is the best aspect of your preferred park(s)? (Please describe) (If yo...
Dog Parks, Playgrounds Lakes
Children's area
They're free and close by
paved trails for stroller, quiet, birds/wildlife, peaceful, near water
walking/biking paths in old and new Overpeck, great for riding my bike
the playgrounds and swing sets for kids
Beauty, well-maintained areas to play and walk.
Sense of community, many activities for my family, proximity
The best aspect would be if you could build a foot bridge from Ridgefield Park to Overpeck Park.
Proximity to home, quiet, lots of trees and natural habitats
Trees; walking paths; flowers
History and beauty
Size security playground walking area
Native plants- natural landscape wildness
walking paths nature quiet
The variety and clarity of the trails available for hiking
Natural Natural features
peaceful, lots of greenery
Walking paths
Walking path
paths..some need cleaning
Safe place for my children to play and ride bikes.
Safety and accessibility
Playground
like the water
Proximity to my home.
Close to my house so I can walk or bike there
Walking trails with water view

Scenery
Open space, clean air, fresh and green.
Proximity to home
Proximity to home
proximity
Open space
nature
bike paths
Clean, safe, and fun for kids
Close by for "Quick Escape"
Getting Out-Doors
The cedar bridge at overpeck and getting to see crew row on the river. I like the shadiness of saddle river
Trails and ability to walk my dog
Multi Use, Bike trails
Natural beauty and tranquility
Different activities
Clean and safe
Clean open air areas
Offerings for children.
Running track
very clean environment/great facilities/scenic views
openness, waterfront, clean smooth walkways
Bike paths
Overpeck equestrian side was the only local area with mature trees for shade in the summer. These are for the most part unavailable now because of all the turnouts and rowing boats with trucks associated with them.
The proximity of the zoo, playground, and carousel. You could go to all 3 in a short walk
quiet experience with nature
Child friendly
trees; water elements like ponds or rivers; shade; easily traveled paths
Clean, large, natural setting
Heritage
quietness and cleanliness
Paths to walk/jog on; areas for children to enjoy (nature walks, playground, splash pad, zoo, etc)

The ability to enjoy and connect with nature
the grounds and well kept
The pristine remoteness and access to it
Trails to walk/jog
Overpeck park: Playground is separate from the walking area so that my toddler doesn't see one or the other depending on what we are doing at the park that day.
Lots of empty space and fields to run and do unstructured activities.
Paved trails.
Bathrooms.
Parking.
Proximity to home, having a nice day outdoors, picnicking or walking without a long drive. Having large unbroken tracts of open space in densely populated North Jersey provides oxygen, to help the air, encourages wildlife for us to see and enjoy and provides much needed breaks from urban living.
open space for kids to run
Being outside
the variety of people, languages, and just "getting out"!
I enjoying the drive through of the park. a scenic travel is so much more calming and I enjoy driving my elderly parents through the park. to take this away because people don't like the traffic once in awhile is not fair to those who enjoy it.
It is wonderful to have that green space available
Open space
Peaceful, relatively quiet, well lit (as far as the big park)
Walking path is paved and has a dog park with beautiful brook
Experience nature
Close to our house. Easy access to parking.
that is encompasses 4 or 5 towns and views
The beauty and serenity of nature
The playgrounds.
Kids enjoy playground
Preserved green space and trails
Availability clean
fresh air, quiet, peaceful, trails
Nature

quiet and nature surroundings
The children's playgrounds.
Tennis and rc airplane
Natural beauty; the ability to be with others or seek solitude
Combination of kids activities, and walkability
zoo
Peace and quiet
The playground for toddlers ( not common in BC)
Forest/ wetlands combination
The nature.
WE ALL NEED OPEN SPACE TO SOOTH OUR SOULS.
Being allowed to fly RC aircraft
The best aspect would be the beautiful areas to walk. Especially, along creeks and duck ponds. It's nice when they also include playgrounds/restrooms for the children. I also enjoy nature trails and picnic areas.
water, walking/ hiking trails, closeness to nature
Walking trail
Open space to run
Too many rows for PDF export, try exporting to Word or CSV

## Q22 - What is your favorite park in the world?

What is your favorite park in the world? (If you prefer to not answer this...
Glen Rock
Turtle back
Stupid question
the parks in minneapolis, esp bc they are connected by bike paths
Central Park, but have not visited that many parks
central park
Central Park
Flat Rock Brook Nature Center
Unknown
The Appalachian Trail
St. James Park, London
Banff
Acadia
Central Park
Yosemite National Park
Aviary in Koala Lumpur
Central Park
Central Park nyc
Disney
Central Park.
Van Saun
Central Park
Central Park
Central park
don't have one
Don't know
Ramapo reservation
Hoboken Peir A waterfront



New Overpeck is my happy place
Hyde Park in London
Overpack county park
I don't know
Central Park
So many can't decide
Yosemite
national zoo, washington, dc
Overpeck park
Palisades Interstate Park System
Baxter State Park, Millinocket, Maine.
Central Park
Yosemite
Overpeck county park
Yosemite
Yosemite
Central park
Central park
Central park
Overpeck
Overpeck park in Ridgefield Park
Overpeck in Ridgefield Park and Dunkerhook
I don't know but there are certainly many unspoiled parks in England.
They are in Vermont
Central Park
Glacier national park in Montana
Palisades Interstate Park
Adirondacks
Balboa Park in San Diego, CA
Central Park, NY and Golden Gate National Recreation area
don't have one
Prospect Park

Even though it's not a park, the NY Botanical Garden in the Bronx
Yosemite
Long wood gardens
difficult to say! I have been all around the world, so many many favorites; in the US: grand canyon, utah, yellowstone, central park, etc etc
Golden Gate
Grand Canyon
Central Park
Parc guell, spain or Yellowstone in montana
Sculpture park in Norway
Rocky Mountain National Park
Central Park (Manhattan)
Saddle River Park -Saddle Brook
Unsure
Smokey National Parks (although there was not a playground)
Parque de Palermo Buenos Aires Argentina
Central Park
Saddle brook duck pond
Yellowstone
Central park
grand canyon so far
I don't have a particular favorite.
Bcma
Cant choose but those that have a presence of peace, harmony, and that stun in some way...the light, an amazing species, a beautiful lay of the land...
Jin-yang-ho in Jinju, South Korea
Central Park, NYC
Acadia
Not sure
Red Rocks State Park, Nv
Yellowstone
YOSEMITE
Yellowstone

Glen Rock Arboretum and Playground
NA
Don't have a favorite
Central Park
Yellowstone
Local parks in my hometown- Ridgefield Nature Center/ Skeetkill Creek Marsh.
Yosemite
?
Central Park
Too many rows for PDF export, try exporting to Word or CSV

## Q23 - What are the most iconic places, landmarks, people or stories that come to mind when you think of Bergen County?

What are the most iconic places, landmarks, people or stories that come to...
American Revolution/fort lee
meadowlands, van saun zoo, and malls (which i try not to go to!) i think most people are interested in shopping, esp with garden state mall and rt 17 in our backyard
Pretty little, mostly expensive towns. Shopping.
Overpeck County Park
I have no opinion on this
George Washington and the Revolution The Palisades and the story of how they have been preserved
Blauvelt Mansion in Oradell, New Bridge Landing in River Edge, George Washington, LaFayette, unfortunately shopping centers
Dutch
Overpeck County Park
George Washington bridge
Historic Park. Paterson Falls , Overpeck Park
The revolutionary war, iron mines, bears, trees and birds.
Palisades Interstate Park; Fort Lee Historic Park and the retreat story; G W Bridge, American Revolutionary War
Overpeck Park and VanSaun park
Van saun park
Dutch houses ,Historic sights, natural spots.
Major Andre
Bergen County Zoo, Van Saun Park. I've had the best time there with my family.
New Bridge Landing, Fort Lee Historical Site
when the park first open up I heard people saying from the High school to the park there was going to be a bridge too walk from the school to the park to make it easy for the students to go play baseball or when they had practice that never happen
Darlington mansion
Revolution War
The Palisades -- all of it. Beautiful and unique, and on the Hudson. Flat Rock Brook Nature Center The Ramapo River and its parks Bear Swamp Creek and surround
Parks and history

teterboro airport, meadowlands stadium, meadowlands nature center, Maywood train station, palisades park.
Bergen County was at the "Crossroads of the Revolutionary War". Washington spent a lot of time in what was then a large "Bergen County". If our troops had not been able to evacuate Fort Lee via "New Bridge" the war would have been over all too soon. Van Saun Park was a huge encampment area and is one of my favorite parks for childhood memories of picnics and train rides...Wish the county and state were better able to garner interest in our rich history.
the Heritage of New Bridge Landing.
Unfortunately malls. Wish more people knew about our parks
The scene and atmosphere
Colonial History of the area. How it played a vital role in the American Revolution
Old Bridge Landing, Fort Lee Park
Malls
It would be really nice to find a park that isn't geared so much towards sporting venues. There are people who appreciate a quiet atmosphere and nature.
I think the revolutionary war history is the most significant to this area.
Don't know
American Revolution
Van Saun County Park and Zoo
George Washington Bridge, Palisades, Ramapo valley
Unfortunately the malls
Van Saun Park
George Washington, Fort Lee, GWB
The Historic Sites. Our Revolutionary War sites in Hackensack, and along the Hackensack River. The settling of the area after the war, the farms and mills and merchants, bloody battles with Native Americans. The barns you still see in Saddle River and Mahwah and the northern part of the county. And the incredible wealth and development that followed.
Malls unfortunately
Schubert years
Dutch influence, Washington and troops, people interested in preserving history. Historic New Bridge Landing, the Hermitage, Fell House.
Overpeck & Van Saun Parks.
Celebration of George Washington and tales of Revolutionary times
Fort lee historic park, general Washington
- Van Suan park and ZooBoo -Turtle Back Zoo -Duck Pond
tranquility and excersise
Ridgewood parks and charming town, Mahwah seminary and Crocker mansion, Van Saun Park

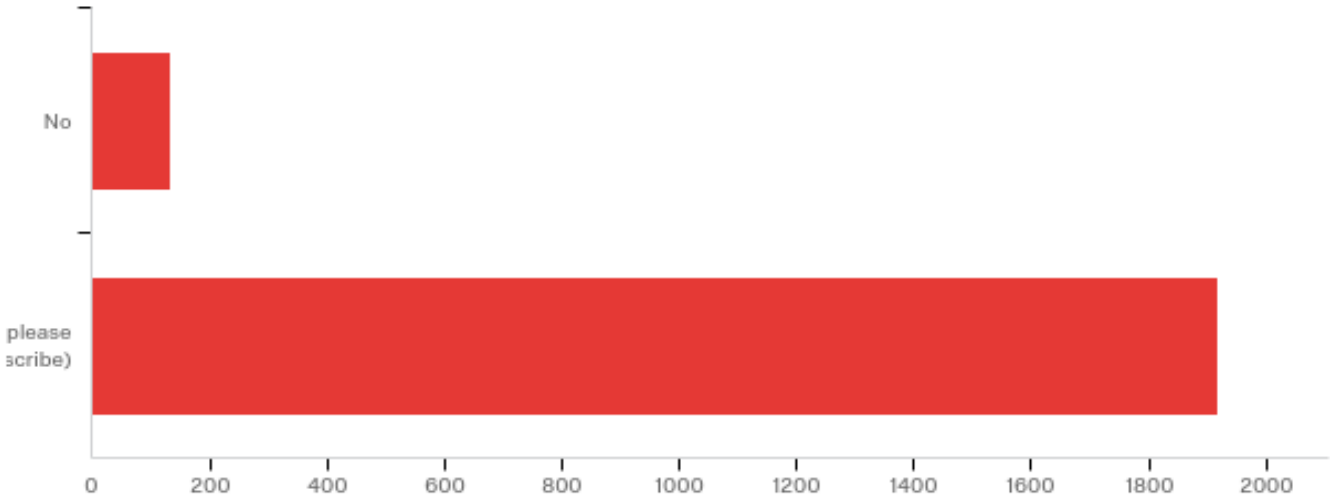
Ramapo Reservation
Not many iconic
Revolutionary War history. American history.
Van sauna zoo
Hudson River shore Oradell Reservoir Bald Eagles Palisades Meadowlands GW Bridge Greenbrook Sanctuary Van saun park
the beauty in our back yards
None
Rc flying field
The Hudson River, the Palisades, the filmmaking, bootlegging, our forefathers adventures, notable architecture, at one time all the many farms and nurseries that are tragically gone....Sadly, the county has changed for the worse as it has become over-saturated with people and development that lacks smart planning and vision.
The Revolutionary War.
Too much traffic. Too much building going on, which brings even more people and traffic to the County.
Revolutionary war
Fort lee bridge park-- with all the war stuff
Meadowlands, Ramapo Valley forests. Revolutionary War history
PATERSON FALLS, ALPINE ALONG THE HUDSON, HARRIMAN STATE PARK, SADDLE RIVER COUNTY PARK, RAMAPO RESERVATION: EXPERIENCE GATHERING WITH GOOD FRIENDS FOR OUTINGS OR HIKING, BIKING, PICNICS, VERY CLOSE TO HOME!
Their cleanliness
Revolutionary War sites, Historical homes and sites
The Palisades
BC Zoo (Van Saun), Blauvelt Museum, Hermitage, the many nature preserves - includingTeaneck Creek, Celery Farm, Thielke Arboretum, Demarest, Closter,Tenafly,and more.
Meadowlands
George Washington's army and routes throughout Bergen County. George Washington Bridge most iconic landmark including the Palisades!

I haven't lived here long, so I guess van saun park is what I hear about most. We also like to go to fort lee historical park/center.
Things related to the revolutionary war.
History related and nature related places,
Van saun park,
The meadowlands and all that dwell within
after the shopping malls the most iconic please is Met Life Stadium
The parkl ands along the palisades. Many areas are interesting to walk in and the view of the river is calming.
Those places that celebrate our revolutionary past, George Washington and the people who settled our area and the immigrants who followed
Suburbs, Malls, Mix of people, and story of building the GW Bridge.
Seeing owls and red-headed woodpeckers
All the parks All the golf courses County Courthouse
The fact that all the parks connect, the CeleryFarm, Van Saun Park, The Ridgewood Duck Pond, Saddle River Park, Glen Rock Park Ringwood Manor and the parks there, Camp Yaw Paw, The park by Ramapo College New Bridge landing. There are so many more.
cleanliness of the parks; friendliness of the patrons
George Washington, revolutionary war
Historic sites throughout the state during revolutionary war
Jim Wright conducting bird watching events with the Bergen Cty Audubon group. It is how/where I learned to love bird watching
Stiles Thomas who worked with Allendale to create The Celery Farm nature preserve. New Bridge Landing, The Fell House
Greenbrook Sanctuary
The revolutionary war sites. The history of the area.
Van Saun Zoo
None
The Hudson views from Palisades
Overpeck, Radburn, Van Saun park
All of the history , camp merrit,
Garden State plaza, Van saun park, saddle Brook Park.
Can't think of anything iconic in Bergen county really
Van Saun Zoo
Too many rows for PDF export, try exporting to Word or CSV





Q24 - Do Bergen County parks contribute to your quality of life?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	No	6.44%	132
2	Yes (please describe)	93.56%	1917
	Total	100%	2049

Q24\_2\_TEXT - Yes (please describe)

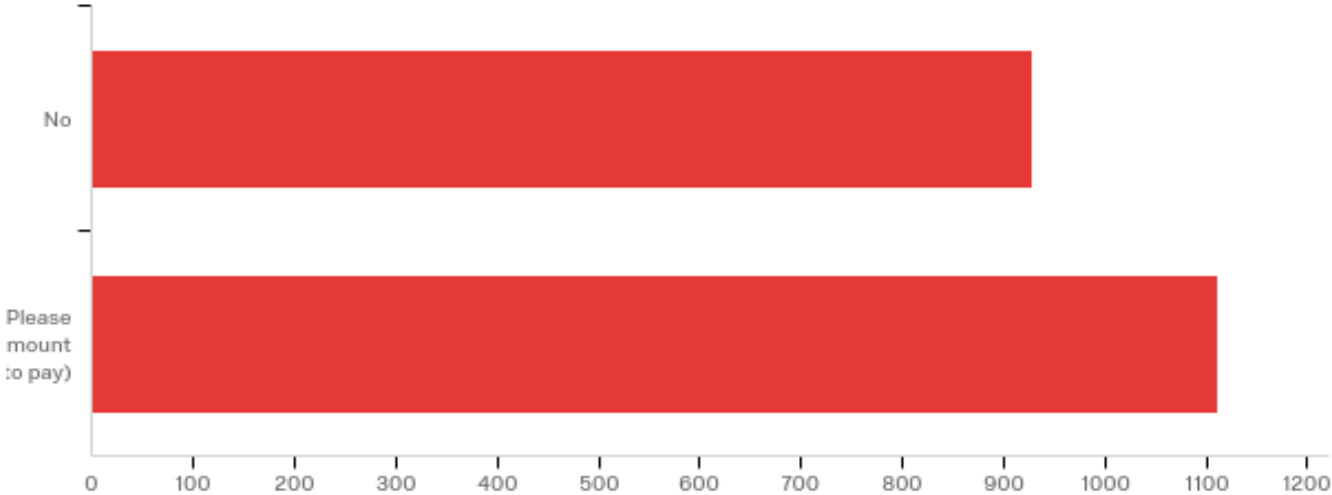
Yes (please describe)
We go there almost every day
Provides better quality of life
absolutely, especially now with a baby. i am always looking for a new park to explore
fresh air, ability to get some exercise
family time
Recreation opportunities that provide family time close to home.
They are well maintained, safe, provide a place for my family to create memories together
Brings the market value up in our town
Bergen County Parks allow me access to the natural world in any area where there is little to no natural space left. This access gives me a sense of peace and a place to "recharge" in my busy urban life.
Provide open space, availability to nature that is disappearing in Bergen County
Relaxation, meditation, joy

Provide a place to see nature and exercise at the same time while seeing neighbors !
They give me the opportunity to see natural beauty near my home.
A place for families and pets to enjoy
Get out of the house,mostly free
Being able to visit them make my family happier
Fun place to spend time as a family
It gives me a place to walk and enjoy various events.
Relaxing health benefits
Beautiful place to walk
They are the largest and best-kept parks in the county, except for the Palisades.
Allows me to connect with nature, de stress
Able to walk and enjoy the biew
health
exercise and relaxation
Getting to enjoy time outside with my kids is healthy and fun
I love the "closeness" of Overpeck and the "new" section with the fabulous river walks
Without Parks, this Whole Area would be just one Continuous Urban Wasteland.
I run at the park daily because it's a safe, well lit place with restrooms and water.
I walk my dog in Overpeck (new and old) every day
Gives me peace of mind
Enjoying the outdoors is essential to living a happy and healthy life.
Love to bring the kids there on a nice day. Bergen County Zoo and Train are fun and affordable
It helps me spend more time with my family, gives us more things to do
Walk and see nature
They give me a place to take my special needs child. He loves the parks and the carousel at Van Saun Park
great to have open space for adults and children, pets. supply area for exercise and sports and just relax etc
let me get in touch w/nature on a daily/weekly basis
The company now charged with the upkeep are far less responsible than the bergen county employees who worked there up to last year.
The proximity and accessibility of van Saun park makes it a go to park for my family. We like that it is small, but has resources like the zoo, the carousel, the train, the horses, and the playground. We like that its size keeps it a community park and that it is not designed for tourists and profits. I would not like to see it turn into turtleback zoo.
experience a quiet moment in natural setting

provide a place for safe, comfortable walking environment
Recreation meditation health
The trees provide fresh air for all to breathe
They give our family a place to walk and exercise as well as enjoy being outside in nature together.
They absolutely provide a wonderful experience outside of your immediate neighborhood, and much needed space to relax and bond with nature
a nice peaceful place to go
They give me the opportunity to enjoy nature and to volunteer to help bring others closer to it
Great place to relax and enjoy nature.
Whether its spending time in them or just driving past the open space
open space is minimal and my kids need space to run
healthy outlook after a nice long walk!
relaxing to just take a drive through or to sit and have lunch or breakfast.
It is refreshing to have a place to go where one can hear bird calls, see trees, check the level of the river
Peaceful respite and walking path
excercise, peaceful
Parks enhance the beauty and life of the county. They bring people together and provide something constructive to do rather than a shopping mall or strip mall for people to hang out in.
We use the parks weekly. It's one of the reasons why we love where we live.
I like to walk around and bring my family
They offer a respite from the crowds, the traffic, and bustle of everyday life
Nature is an essential part of all lives
The parks give me a safe place to interact with and entertain my family.
Thing
I value their presence and hope they remain even if I do not find myself a too frequent visitor to many. We all need open spaces that nourish our spirits and senses. We do not need any more malls, entertainment venues, virtual sideshows. We need the tranquility, clean, safe spaces of parks that allow us time, activities, interactions not provided by our busy lives.
They provide a valuable respite from the nearly-urban suburban life here.
Chose home based on proximity to park
Just being out in nature, getting fresh air, destressing
Place for families to gather and appreciate nature
I GREW UP ON A FARM IN HARRINGTON PARK. THE LAND IS DEAR TO ME. AS I GROW OLDER, I NEED TO BE OUTSIDE, NOT IN FRONT OF A COMPUTER SCREEN! PLEASE SAVE OUR BERGEN COUNTY PARKS FOR US, SENIORS AND THE FUTURE GENERATIONS WHO WILL NEED IT MORE!
Yes being outside to pursue my hobby

Parks provide an oasis of nature to counteract the congestion and routine of life in bergen county
Provides relaxation
Being able to go somewhere peaceful, away from the busy roads and the packed malls, is very restorative.
Place to go to connect with nature. Place to volunteer and meet with like-minded individuals.
Being able to find a good park close to home means you can go more frequently which means happier kids and consequently happier families!! frequently
I like to get my kids out in nature. They like to learn about different bugs, plants, wildlife.
Fitness and fun - both important to your health
But it could be better.
Bergen County is so crowded that it is so important to me to have the more nature related places to go.
Great places to get kids outside and socializing and exercising especially when you don't have a yard of your own
Green and open spaces provide environmental, social, physical and emotional benefits for everyone.
All the reasons I have answered as to why I like the parks. Just keep them assessable. Do not try to update with electronic push buttons to hear electronic sounds. Just let nature take its course
Being able to be outdoors in a beautiful park is beneficial to my health and ability to relax.
they provide a place to get outdoors and exercise
Having a lovely area in which to walk, talk, and enjoy the season, is wonderful.
a day at the park is truly a reprieve from working, shopping and the everyday errands that make life too busy
availability
Provide wonderful hiking opportunities
Passive recreation is under threat, trees are being replaced by ball fields and artifical turf
Enjoyable and relaxing recreational spaces
They are a very important part of our well being health and peace of mind. Without them there would be no life.
They make it enjoyable
Gives people quiet see nature change of pace
peace and quiet
Available open space and options
Escape
They bring me closer to the natural world in the midst of such chaos of urban life
In the turmoil of this world, visiting a natural place allows you to relax, regroup, and realize that the natural world is bigger than all of us.
They give you a chance to be out in nature with out travel far away this is very important to me
Completely. They allow me to breathe and live life outside the daily rough and tumble
Too many rows for PDF export, try exporting to Word or CSV

Q26 - Would you be willing to pay a minimal amount for use of enhanced park facilities?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	No	45.51%	928
2	Yes (Please type amount willing to pay)	54.49%	1111
	Total	100%	2039

Yes (Please type amount willing to pay)

Yes (Please type amount willing to pay)
\$100 a year
i guess, maybe a small amount for parking.
up to \$5.00
\$100
Already do for Van Saun - zoo, carousel, stables.
5
\$5-10 per visit
2\$
25\$ a year
I already do so by contributing to the NYNJ Trail Conference
5

1.00 per person per visit or try a donation bin.
Under \$10
\$60 per year
Not sure
I am already paying for these parks.
\$5 or \$10 per car
It depends on the park and the enhancements
small fees ( \$5 - \$10 ) for certain activities feel acceptable. But they need to be beyond typical park access. i.e. paddle boat rentals
\$5
5
for concerts, etc... but not for use of the park for walking, biking, etc... my taxes pay for that!
I would be willing to pay if the parks were kept better and some of the auxillary problems were not given such freedom to upset the use for locals.
If you are adding amenities I would pay \$5 a person, but I don't think people should be charged for general use or parking in the park.
\$3
\$2 per visit
5
\$10
\$5
Would vary by purpose
I guess
\$5
Not sure what is meant by "enhanced" facilities- but a few dollars yes
50\$per year
for zoo, merry go round, train at VanSaun; otherwise no
I'm not sure but I do think there ought to be a charge for out of county people to use Van Saun Park
Depending on what they were...a water area
yes, but depends what enhanced means
\$5
3\$
\$5
Depends on what the amenities are. We pay enough taxes that we shouldn't have to pay extra to enjoy what we have already

5.00
What does 'enhanced ...facilities' mean?
Zoo, train, rides, experiences, events-- but ideal if accept Apple Pay/ cc vs always needing cash. Or monthly passes
MONTHLY ALLOTMENTS: \$10.
Our club pays a permit fee for using the park
It depends on what facilities are being offered- e.g. I've paid the fee for Van saun park zoo
Should have lower rates for seniors
It would surely depend on what the "enhanced" feature is.
\$5
Depends on what that enhanced park facility was and whether I was going to the use the park after that enhancement was made.
The park would have to be pretty amazing for me to pay. I guess the amount would depend on how good the space is. Also, requiring accompanying adults to pay a fee as well would deter me (for example in a Elmwood Park the water park requires every child and adult to pay \$5 or so. I have never taken my kids as I feel \$15 for only one of my kids to enjoy it for such a short period because it's so small isn't worth it)
Annual \$100
This is a qualified yes. If it meant having to pay to take my children to the playground the answer is no.
It might depend on enhancement but \$5. easily and maybe up to \$10.
Under \$5
\$5-10
120 a year
a few dollars
Not sure. A small donation by each visitor would be acceptable. Parks, though, are meant to be free. It is part of their appeal.
\$5.00 per person
depends... what is enhanced? I like the parks to remain natural. If small fee is required to preserve the environment that's ok
FIVE DOLARS
I would pay for parks to be left in a natural state, I never visit parks with active recreation and ball fields
Five dollars
2.00
Depends on type of activity
\$5.00
\$3.00
\$10
dont know

\$5
Depending on enhancements, I think I'd pay up to \$50/year to use the parks.
That's what taxes are for, public goods.
\$5-\$10 per month
3 dollars
\$5 per car if you park
If it's under five dollars and for special events only
Depends on what I was getting. \$25
\$5-10 per family
10
If similar to Van Saun, then yes.
It depends what the facilities are
not really but to comment i had to check yes, keep natural/nature
Depending on the park and purpose of visit - \$2 - \$10. Or perhaps an annual pass would be good.
Couple dollars per person
\$1
\$5
Like Van Saun Park, if it were a pay to play system for a nice attraction, like 2-5\$, absolutely.
&lt;\$5
\$5
I believe Bergen county is one of the highest taxed areas around. should not have to pay additional money to enjoy the area.
\$5-\$10
\$10 per car
\$50 per year
10
Less than 5
\$25
\$5
Too many rows for PDF export, try exporting to Word or CSV



Q27 - Are you satisfied with the food and beverage offerings at your preferred park(s)?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	48.40%	937
2	No (please describe)	51.60%	999
	Total	100%	1936

## Q29 - What was the last purchase you made in a park? (Please describe)

What was the last purchase you made in a park? (Please describe) (If you pr...
Nothing available for purchase.
ice cream sandwich
n/a
Carousel in Van Saun
Ice cream from an ice cream truck
N/A
Reluctantly a bottle of water
Don't remember
Water
None
none
Train ticket at Van Saun
Coffee
Ice cream
none
Train and carousel tickets. Also Zoo camp
Vending machine, bottled water
Tickets for the train at Van Saun
Tickets at a carnival
Don't remember
Food truck
Drinks
I don't recall every making a purchase in a park, except perhaps for the minature train in Van Saun when my children were young.
Ice cream during food festival
None
water
\$2
bottle of water

Lemonade
books
Map
Fries at New Overpeck snack bar
Water and hot dogs
zoo passes
Zoo and Train Tickets
Carousel ride
water bottles
water bottle bag at earth day at overpeck
I got a hotdog from the food truck at van Saun in the fall
never
Tickets to enter Van Saun zoo
Train tickets at Van Saun Zoo
Paid for rides
Logo merchandise
toys
Carnival
Lunch and a few items at the Earth Day in Overpeck Park
train ride at Van Saun
Zoo ticket
years ago, with grandchildren, at Van Saun, otherwise, no purchases
none
Bring my own
None
None
nothing
Didn't purchase
None.
Ice cream and hot dog
Train ride at Van Saun Zoo
Water

bought a hat to keep the sun off my face
Train or carousel tickets at van saun
icecream
Food
Food
A meal at State Line lookout.
Lunch
Water
Train ticket
Never buy anything in a park - how ridiculous
None
ICE CREAM
Permit fees
A book of local hikes in Harriman
None
None
Admission to Bergen County Zoo and rides for the train.
Train ride at van saun
Pony ride
Ice cream
I can't remember
probably admission to zoo at Van Saun or train ride for children
Train ride tickets
Ice cream
Merry-go-round ride
O these parks are not in the middle of nowhere. People should bring in water if nec, and bring out garbage.
None
purchase zoo membership at van sun
I cannot remember ever making a purchase in a park. Maybe an ice cream, during a craft fair display.
Toys in Van Saun, Ice-cream in Overpeck and hot dogs and drinks at State Line Lookout
earth day event, assorted plants, etc
Pony Ride

Field guide
None
There is no food at the parks I use
Brar mountain state park
hot dogs
none
food truck
Snacks
Too many rows for PDF export, try exporting to Word or CSV

### Q30 - Do you wish your local park offered more amenities? (Please describe)

Do you wish your local park offered more amenities? (Please describe) (If y...
Yes
Yes, entertainment like summer concerts.
more restrooms
I would like to learn to roller skate so would like a designated area for this, with a smooth surface and free of children
more upgraded swings and swing sets
I wish more parks had nicer playgrounds (like Van Suan) and nicer plantings.
No
Yes. Food and drinks but the most important would be a FOOT BRIDGE going from Ridgefield Park to Overpeck Park!
No, I wish they offered more trees
More benches and walking paths
Yes
No
I am happy
Kiosks with maps.
yes
Yes, more like Central Park
No,just maintenance. The breakfasts were fun though.Halloween and Christmas as well.
I am very happy with our parks.
Yes, a facility open during the afternoon that sells food and drink and snacks.
Opening the soccer fields on the weekends for families to play when there aren't any scheduled games. At Overpeck they are locked.
yes they should have a basketball court and a few other things that others can do
No
Walkway from Ridgefield Park to new Overpeck park
Yes, we should have a pedestrian bridge since RP gave up the land.
I'd love to see some small cafes, but I don't want to see a lot of paper goods, throwaways and trash around. And the food would have to be edible.
Overpack Park in Ridgefield Park needs to have an overpass to allow safe access to the residents of Ridgefield park.
I bridge to connect my town to the park

no
rest rooms and water fountains; every park should have them.
No, I am thrilled with the Overpeck river walk for a quick break.
NO, the Wilder the Better.
I wish there was a pedestrian bridge over the turnpike to get to Overpeck from Ridgefield Park
More food choices. Not just snack bars
Yes more activities
Bike trails
Depends on the park, actually would like them to expand the Zoo. Make it more like Turtle Back Zoo
Maybe an overpass, for safety
Yes. Food and drink
At this time, our park really needs a bridge connection from Ridgefield Park to the park area. Also, since soccer is more popular, they should convert the baseball fields to additional soccer fields since they are not used as much.
no
New Overpeck County Park would be nice if it was more accessible
No bnut water fountains should be in working order.
No. I would rather that the park is maintained.
no, less is better, keep it natural
possibly a place to get snack or drink
no
I wish there was a pedestrian bridge to connect residential Ridgefield Park to Overpeck Park as was originally planned. There is currently no safe way to get to this park on foot.
Yes, healthy eating choices, as well as a running/jogging track.
no
Yes! Updated playground equipment, bathrooms.
More seating and/or tables at suitable areas
no
Yes, boats, rafts, food
THE less commercialization, the better; should be one place in our crowded county where we can enjoy less commercialization!
Where will it end? We supported renewing the 1C open space tax, and we all pay very high property taxes, as well as county taxes, etc. It should be the responsibility of the town, the county, the state, to give residents a commercial free experience!
bathrooms are the best facilities.
overpeck with the boats is great. but people,especially the students that use the facility should be required to use life vests. other places require it; for some reason overpeck does not and crazy that the CHILDREN/TEENS are not

required. Lawsuit waiting to happen. We see the high/college school competing and no vests. Just crazy! But love the boating, for both participation & watching. Very soothing.
Maybe allow parking outside of spaces when there are more cars that fit?
Yes absolutely need more garbage cans. They are always near the parking areas and neve near the back sides of either of the park
No - Nature is fine A bathroom is easy & accessible DO NOT COMMERCIALIZE THE PARK
Bike path, exercise tools.
no
Outdoor music or festivals
No.
Yes
Food & Beverage. Pavilions. Swimming.
No. Bergen County is already packed with amenities. What we need is open space, left unencumbered by commercial stuff. The parks do not need rides, or stores, or food. All of that just crowds out the quiet and beauty that one wants to experience. Save Nature, not commerce
We are very satisfied with the amenities at our local parks- nature, flowers, paths, playgrounds
Can't think of any at this time.
No
I wish there were more splash pads, and playgrounds in shady areas.
I'd prefer more nature and less building. "Less is more", at a park.
Bucket swings/ play areas for toddlers, splash parks, etc.
No - offer less
Yes. More accessible playgrounds and playground equipment for children in wheelchairs and walkers.
RESTROOM FACILITIES ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT.
Yes
Satisfied with the park I go to.
No
No
Bathrooms most important.
I wish our small community parks were more updated. I haven't been to many of the big parks in BC (I didn't know they existed until this survey) so I'm not sure what majority offer
I wish there were a local/larger spray park. Also, I've seen swings where the parent sits across from the child -would enjoy that.
Better bathrooms, better food options. Bergen county is a generally fairly affluent area and I think it would benefit from more community and family centered spaces. Draw people w better food and nicer amenities that make



people want to visit
Fairly happy now but maybe guided trails with nature labeling and probably good bathrooms
Bathrooms
More splash pads!!
No. Just maintain acne.
Bathroom ok. But no amusements,
no keep them natural
Swimming where applicable.
no
I wish some parks would have identification tags on the trees.
People should be able to distinguish the different trees, and that would help them teach kids about them. Parents would be encouraged to bring a tree identifier and look up details about each trees characteristics, etc. It would make a walk more purposeful.
yes, rent bikes, paddleboats etc
Maybe more water fountains
no
No, overdevelopment is ruining the parks, shopping is for malls, not parks, but good clean bathrooms need to always be available
No
No
No
no
I am satisfied with what is offered; however I would appreciate more events to attend.
No, Just enjoy time with family and friends
Too many rows for PDF export, try exporting to Word or CSV

**Q34 - Please share any additional comments you have about the Bergen County Parks that you feel would be helpful to consider in the Master Plan process.**

What is the best aspect of your preferred park(s)? (Please describe)
Dog Parks, Playgrounds Lakes
Children's area
They're free and close by
paved trails for stroller, quiet, birds/wildlife, peaceful, near water
walking/biking paths in old and new Overpeck, great for riding my bike
the playgrounds and swing sets for kids
Beauty, well-maintained areas to play and walk.
Sense of community, many activities for my family, proximity
The best aspect would be if you could build a foot bridge from Ridgefield Park to Overpeck Park.
Proximity to home, quiet, lots of trees and natural habitats
Trees; walking paths; flowers
History and beauty
Size security playground walking area
Native plants- natural landscape wildness
walking paths nature quiet
The variety and clarity of the trails available for hiking
Natural
Natural features
peaceful, lots of greenery
Walking paths
Walking path
paths..some need cleaning
Safe place for my children to play and ride bikes.
Safety and accessibility
Playground
like the water
Proximity to my home.
Close to my house so I can walk or bike there

Walking trails with water view
Scenery
Open space, clean air, fresh and green.
Proximity to home
Proximity to home
proximity
Open space
nature
bike paths
Clean, safe, and fun for kids
Close by for "Quick Escape"
Getting Out-Doors
The cedar bridge at overpeck and getting to see crew row on the river. I like the shadiness of saddle river
Trails and ability to walk my dog
Multi Use, Bike trails
Natural beauty and tranquility
Different activities
Clean and safe
Clean open air areas
Offerings for children.
Running track
very clean environment/great facilities/scenic views
openness, waterfront, clean smooth walkways
Bike paths
Overpeck equestrian side was the only local area with mature trees for shade in the summer. These are for the most part unavailable now because of all the turnouts and rowing boats with trucks associated with them.
The proximity of the zoo, playground, and carousel. You could go to all 3 in a short walk
quiet experience with nature
Child friendly
trees; water elements like ponds or rivers; shade; easily traveled paths
Clean, large, natural setting
Heritage
quietness and cleanliness

Paths to walk/jog on; areas for children to enjoy (nature walks, playground, splash pad, zoo, etc)
The ability to enjoy and connect with nature
the grounds and well kept
The pristine remoteness and access to it
Trails to walk/jog
Overpeck park: Playground is separate from the walking area so that my toddler doesn't see one or the other depending on what we are doing at the park that day.
Lots of empty space and fields to run and do unstructured activities.
Paved trails.
Bathrooms.
Parking.
Proximity to home, having a nice day outdoors, picnicking or walking without a long drive. Having large unbroken tracts of open space in densely populated North Jersey provides oxygen, to help the air, encourages wildlife for us to see and enjoy and provides much needed breaks from urban living.
open space for kids to run
Being outside
the variety of people, languages, and just "getting out"!
I enjoying the drive through of the park. a scenic travel is so much more calming and I enjoy driving my elderly parents through the park. to take this away because people don't like the traffic once in awhile is not fair to those who enjoy it.
It is wonderful to have that green space available
Open space
Peaceful, relatively quiet, well lit (as far as the big park)
Walking path is paved and has a dog park with beautiful brook
Experience nature
Close to our house. Easy access to parking.
that is encompasses 4 or 5 towns and views
The beauty and serenity of nature
The playgrounds.
Kids enjoy playground
Preserved green space and trails
Availability clean
fresh air, quiet, peaceful, trails

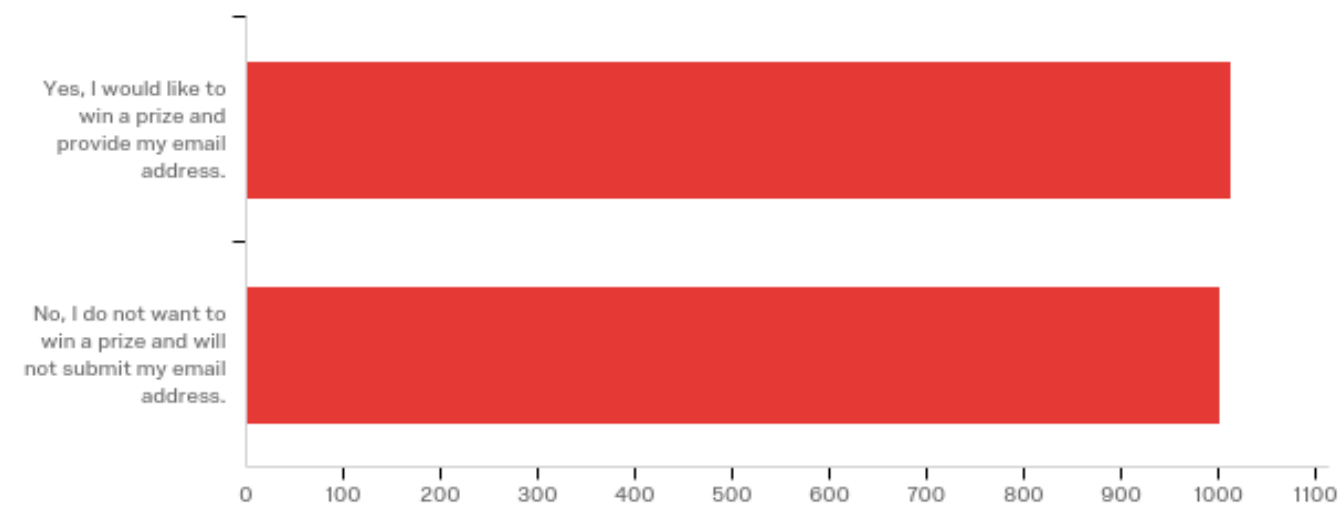
Nature
quiet and nature surroundings
The children's playgrounds.
Tennis and rc airplane
Natural beauty; the ability to be with others or seek solitude
Combination of kids activities, and walkability
zoo
Peace and quiet
The playground for toddlers ( not common in BC)
Forest/ wetlands combination
The nature.
WE ALL NEED OPEN SPACE TO SOOTH OUR SOULS.
Being allowed to fly RC aircraft
The best aspect would be the beautiful areas to walk. Especially, along creeks and duck ponds. It's nice when they also include playgrounds/restrooms for the children. I also enjoy nature trails and picnic areas.
water, walking/ hiking trails, closeness to nature
Walking trail
Open space to run
Too many rows for PDF export, try exporting to Word or CSV

Q34 - Thank you for participating in our survey. Your responses are very important to us.

To thank you for taking the time to participate, you are invited to enter your name to win one of two (2) prizes:

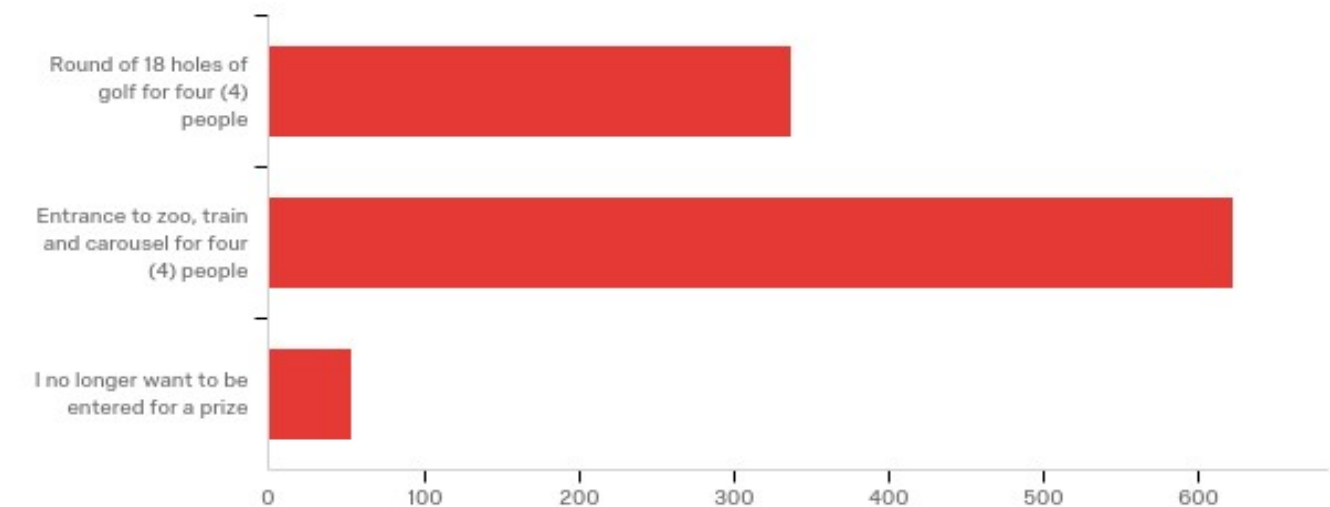
- a. A voucher for a free round of 18 holes of golf for four (4) people at a Bergen County-owned golf course
- b. A voucher for a free entrance to the zoo, train and carousel at Van Saun County Park for four (4) people

To inform you in case you a win a prize, we need you to provide your email address. This email address will not be linked to your answers, so your survey responses will remain anonymous. Would you like to be entered into a drawing for a prize?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes, I would like to win a prize and provide my email address.	50.30%	1014
2	No, I do not want to win a prize and will not submit my email address.	49.70%	1002
	Total	100%	2016

Q35 - For which prize would you like your name to be entered?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Round of 18 holes of golf for four (4) people	33.33%	338
2	Entrance to zoo, train and carousel for four (4) people	61.44%	623
3	I no longer want to be entered for a prize	5.23%	53
	Total	100%	1014

## **Public Comments from Public Information Session on 1/10/2017, 7:00-9:00pm**

Location: Richard Rodda Community Center, 250 Colonial Court, Teaneck NJ

Participants: Wolfram Hoefer, Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, Jim Koth, Adam Strobel, Will Atwater (videographer), members of the public (see sign in sheet)

### ***Local & County Open Space Integration***

- How will the Master Plan integrate existing municipal parks with County parks/open space?
- Inventory should take into account local ballfields when considering location of more
- Make each municipality deliver their master plan to County so it can take the information into account
- “Natural” gems like Celery Farm should be included & highlighted in the Master Plan as compliments to the County parks and linkages in green connections
- PIP is great for bikers, and Bergen County has some opportunities for north-south commuter biking, but east-west is hard and dangerous
- Need sidewalks along Fort Lee Road that connect to the park for walkers & bikers.

### ***Access, Connections, Transportation***

- Residents desire contiguous greenways (e.g. Greenway along Hackensack River)
- Parking deck required by NJ Transit in exchange for making a Leonia rail stop could make traffic nightmares in Leonia worse. Events at Overpeck gridlock Leonia like Bridgegate. Having public roads through the park makes no sense. GPS re-routes traffic through the park whenever there is an accident on the highways, creating major problems.
- Consider external connections to state & federal level.
  - How to connect to national & state parks/open space?
  - National Heritage Trail & Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail could be better marked or used?
  - Rail-to-trail opportunities?

### ***Parks for All Ages***

- Residents use parks differently as they age (e.g. take young kids to Van Saun zoo & train, row at Overpeck as empty nesters). Master Plan needs to accommodate seniors, as well as other age groups.
- Need access & different experiences for aging/retired population. E.g. at Overpeck, benches stop partway through the park, so elderly are only able to use the part with benches. Need more shade (especially over the benches) for elderly park users.

### ***Environmentally-Friendly Maintenance Practices***

- Need more environmentally-friendly maintenance practices in parks
- No more volcano mulch around trees at Overpeck!



- No more Round-up and other chemicals sprayed near streams

### ***Overpeck***

- Tennis courts at Overpeck need shade. Choose trees appropriate to the landfill context.
- Food trucks would be welcome concession at Overpeck
- Concerned that Dinosaur Park at Overpeck could squeeze out other park users (e.g. by using up scarce parking)
- New rail line should have a stop for Overpeck to increase access (people can bring their bikes on the train rather than drive, etc.).
- Need parking near dock for boat rentals at Overpeck.
- Poor drainage on Overpeck paths needs to be resolved. Puddles freeze on pedestrian paths, making them unsafe.
- Overpeck is great place for rowing (distance, depth, etc.) as well as wonderful environment for enjoying nature & wildlife...enhance the rowing opportunities.
  - Shave some area off Overpeck Area 4 for 4/5-lane buoy course (Columbia University now comes to Overpeck to train, so it is becoming a rowing destination!)
  - Could use boathouse and invasive species removal on Leonia side (e.g. knotweed problem in boat pen)
  - Overpeck is a jewel for recreational & competitive rowing...need to support and balance both uses
- Need to connect Overpeck areas for pedestrians

### ***Park Information & Publicity***

- New areas open for use need to be better publicized so people know to use them (e.g. the new amphitheater could be used by college drama/dance departments if they knew about it)
- Highlight more of the heritage of the parks (e.g. Van Saun zoo has interesting history with rare plants and animals that were once common in Bergen County and even the structures are tied to Bergen County history but no one knows it)
- Need more information available about less known park properties like Camp Glen Gray.

### ***Miscellaneous***

- There is lots of public action that makes the Greenway, etc. happen. Master Plan should have a human inventory of active volunteer/Friends groups that can support the parks & initiatives.
- Need bathroom facilities at Ramapo (porta-potties, etc.)
- Please don't plan on such a grandiose scale that it is financially unfeasible to maintain. For example, lots of money was spent on Van Saun zoo upgrades, but when kids arrive excited about the new exhibits, they are closed or cages are empty. Zoo needs better management in this respect.
- Concessions should not crowd out regular public use.
- Arts should be integrated into the parks (benches, sculptures, etc.). High quality and highlighting Bergen County artists.

- Elmwood Park woods is scary. Would be nice to have walking paths and safe feel (passive trails, water features).
- I do more activities in NYC where I work, but I would like more year-round events available in the parks here.

## **Public Comments from Public Information Session on 1/12/2017, 7:00-9:00pm**

Location: Bergen County Law & Public Safety Institute, 281 Campgaw Road, Mahwah, NJ

Participants: Wolfram Hoefer, Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, Jim Koth, Adam Strobel, Will Atwater (videographer), members of the public (see sign in sheet)

### ***Balancing Human Use & Pristine Nature***

- Noise pollution should be considered—planes routed over parks are noisy. Silence is golden.
- Ramapo is such a precious place to us. Very pristine. A lot of wildlife. Very worried about the possibility of pipeline going through after already living through Tennessee Gas Expansion Project. Vehicles leak fluids along roads. There are Barred Owls and endangered species and we are concerned about them with noise & light pollution. Concerned about increased human use of the park reducing the feeling of pristine nature. ATVs and motorcycles are destroying the paths and preserved areas. Concerned that negative impacts will increase if the park is opened up to the public more—as much as we want people to be able to enjoy the area, will this lead to more people destroying the park?
- Forest fire previously occurred from camp bonfire & is a very frightening concern to nearby residents with increase park use
- Ramapo needs to remain natural—it's the last bit that we have here.
- Ramapo is huge asset! How to avoid overusing & destroying the natural appeal?

### ***Dog Issues***

- Ramapo Reserve, while typically considered a nature experience is actually a dog-walking experience. Anyone trying to hike the trails is confronted by dogs. Put a dog park by the ski area with wi-fi, etc. so it becomes a social destination. Do it right, provide the parking. It would enhance the experience at the Ramapo Reservation.
- Too many dogs off leash in Ramapo. Dog park would alleviate some of the dog issues at Ramapo.
- Too many dogs and too much dog refuse is not cleaned up. Would be great if that was taken away so that people could hike and the park wasn't destroyed.
- Old survey indicated that people were willing to pay \$ to support improvements they wanted (e.g. dog park)
- If dog park is done well (to help alleviate dog pressure in Ramapo), it is a good idea. Main dog problem is irresponsible owners letting dogs off lead and not cleaning up after them.
- Need more garbage cans for dog refuse. No one wants to walk around carrying it.

### ***Campgaw Pump***

- Fix the pump at the Campgaw spring. Campgaw had a natural spring that people liked to use for filling jugs for drinking. Pump broke & was never fixed.

- Water pump was an important historical source of water for poor people as well as important community place. Lots of people benefited from it and it was a sad day when it broke, because many residents stopped at MEVO farm wondering where they would go now. Bringing the pump back would not be a big issue...wouldn't hurt anybody and simple way to provide for people who really needed help.

### ***Illicit or Destructive Activity & Rule Enforcement***

- Mountain biking is illegal but a lot of mountain bikes are coming in. Biker volunteers have made extensive trail network throughout the region: trails in Skyline State Park, Ringwood State Park, and now making interconnects through NY State into New Milford. Would like to come into Bergen County to make trail interconnect between the various state parks. Amount of people that come down for mountain biking is something that needs to be looked into—it's all volunteer hours. [Not clear if gentleman was for or against mountain biking—more just reporting a situation that needs to be addressed in some way]
- Massive amount of off-roading is destroying the Stag Hill area & illegal dumping needs to be addressed. MEVO has tried to help, current administration has very willing to help (prior administration was not), but the problems persist and need to be addressed so they stop destroying the park. Just because we don't go hiking there doesn't mean that it's not a problem.
- Which rules are going to be enforced, especially with increased use? About 1% actually violate the smaller rules (leaving clothes, not picking up after dogs, etc.), but many people want to swim there all the time, which is not allowed.

### ***Access & Transportation***

- Mahwah looking into possibility of a bike trail, which could be a great asset. More than 800 students at Ramapo College who want to get out and experience nature. Ramapo Reserve is a jewel for us now, but will be a gem for them in the future and a draw for students to the College.
- Bike paths are needed to connect to train and to parks to eliminate some of parking/vehicular traffic issues. Not the safest place to ride a bike to the parks at present.
- Widen paths for emergency vehicle access so patients at top of hills are easy to access. Currently ambulance can only get to the bottom lake, then has to wait for 4-wheeler to arrive to access farther up the mountain. Not ideal when time is of the essence!
- Make parks accessible to seniors ("grey panthers"): paths & amenities that support them, remove obstacles to enjoyment.
- Amazing number of people using Ramapo (lots are full by noon & college pedestrians abound). It has become a destination for whole region. Need to spread parking out so it is convenient and adequate.

### ***Health of Parks***

- Concerned about the effects of pipelines if they go through Ramapo Reservation. Hope that we will always be organized to stop them.

- Health of parks needs attention—health of the plants and trees because of the deer. Maintenance issues like invasive vine removal need to be addressed
- Strange odor emanates near Continental Field where football is played—every night there is an odor. What is it from [& can it be eliminated]?
- Vegetated buffers & other ways to preserve & enhance water quality in streams & water bodies are needed
- Deer are destroying the forest—need to be addressed

### ***Miscellaneous***

- If Audubon Society eventually not able to maintain their property in Wyckoff, can it be brought into the County park system?
- Useful signage (e.g. what to do in bear encounters) would be helpful
- How does the County decide which groups can use park land for particular use? MEVO farm group is now allowed to farm on only flat field in the area, where scout troops and other children's groups had previously been able to camp and use that plot. [Polite response from MEVO Executive Director in attendance explaining process for approvals & extensive public programming that happens on farm]
- Farmland preservation is important to include in Master Plan/future acquisitions. Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund actively purchases farmland & other open space for various uses so they don't become developed.
- Branding of parks will be very important especially to get south Bergen residents up north and vice versa, so they can appreciate all the variety of parks offered.
- Want to see historic Cleveland Bridge (Mahwah) preserved along with other historic buildings within the parks. Fear of unsavory use should not be the reason to allow them to be lost.
- Re-use historical buildings for responsible activities, while considering how to deal with wear on historic properties that accompanies increased use

## **Public Comments from Public Information Session on 1/17/2017, 7:00-9:00pm**

Location: Closter Public Library, 280 High Street, Closter, NJ

Participants: Wolfram Hoefer, Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, Jim Koth, Will Atwater (videographer), members of the public (see sign in sheet)

### ***Mountain Biking***

- Rockleigh allows dogs offleash & mountain biking. Once people do it there, they continue to do it through the whole trail system (including Camp Alpine NJ & NY, Rockleigh, Alpine North & South). County parks do not authorize mountain biking at present. In Alpine Reserves, however, bikers have made their own biking trails, and there is a lot of mountain biking actually happening. What does the County want to do about it (i.e. permit, enforce, or continue to ignore)? Needs to be taken into account moving forward.
- Offroading is fun—small, unpaved paths on varying terrain (hills) that offer interesting features and little challenges along the trail. Consider looking at Sterling Forest & Blauvelt (Rockland County) for sanctioned, sustainable, professionally-designed mountain bike trails.
- Look at Lewis Morris County Park, Ringwood State Park, and Jungle Habitat as inspiration for sustainable biking trails.
- Potential contacts re: mountain biking—Tenaflly Bicycle Workshop (Sheppard Grinker), Northern Valley Greenway Initiative, Palisades MTB (carries own insurance, affiliated with hundreds of members in the area, lots of volunteers and very experienced in building sustainable trails)

### ***Transportation/Access/Connectivity***

- Difficult access issues need to be addressed in Alpine North & South areas.
- Norwood East Hill is only accessible through Camp Alpine NY. Rockleigh does connect with it topographically, but it is lowland wetlands, so would not want to put a trail in through there. There are houses in Norwood on the other side and not really street parking. For that whole area, Rockleigh Borough Hall and Camp Alpine are main access points used (some access along Ruckman Road, too). Lot of different property owners/managers in that area, with half of them not managing their properties.
- Bike trails around Saddle River Park are great. We use them all the time! Would be great if all of the parks were connected via bike trails. E.g. can bike paths connect center of Glen Rock to park so people can bike from center of town to parks, and from parks to center of town for dining, shopping, etc.?
- It's great that more people are getting out to bike, but there aren't a lot of greenways to support it. Consider rails to trails? Incidence of bike-auto accidents are increasing. Not safe to have kids biking on roads in Northern Valley. Have to get in a car to go to another park.
- In order for people to bike in the parks, they have to come from somewhere outside the parks. Consider how to make safe recreational biking outside of the parks that links to them. Linear park concept is good way to link lots of areas. Biking & running accidents are escalating—something has happened within the past couple of years. The place is becoming more dangerous. Greener/linear

bikeways are key for future generations. That is a local community issue also, but the County can take a lead on this.

- Overpeck is magnificent! Remediation area in Overpeck & other park parcels could be connected. Remediation could be bike trails. Sports fields behind ShopRite could be linked and walked and biked to Overpeck and beyond.
- Great greenway (Gold Coast) exists in Edgewater, but it's broken into parcels and it is not clear who is responsible for maintaining what. Would be nice to know this, as it is a great greenway that could use more management and care. Would like to see more greenways like this.
- More connections to Passaic River would be good. Has been cleaned up significantly (can see the bottom of the river now!), and has lots of wonderful wildlife. Elmwood Park has the only boat basin entrance into the river and it is something that could be utilized by the County. Could make it something really spectacular for the County. Take a canoe from Garfield hydro plant all the way up into Paterson.

### ***Partnering with Environmental/Non-profit Groups***

- How can the Parks Master Plan enable small struggling environmental centers to make them more effective and efficient in supporting public open space? Programs to help them (education, provide services, help with planning, etc.) would be beneficial.
- Very challenging to run community groups that support nature & open space. Many of the nature/open space organizations already connect to each other heavily, but would be great if environmental organizations could have access to professionals because groups are made up of volunteers and desire access to professional resources/knowledge. E.g. Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office with Master Gardeners, but for parks & at a County level.

### ***Easy Access to Parks Information***

- Need central source of information about all of the parks (nearby parks, activities supported, etc.)
- Need better access to info for parents to plan taking kids to parks. Scavenger hunts in park (Pokemon was a big draw for kids last summer to get them into parks), walking trails, bike trails are great for kids. Should have a mobile app that is user-friendly and makes it easy to access information.

### ***Miscellaneous***

- How will parks respond to climate change issues?
- Creative placemaking & arts integration in the parks is desired.
- Art & nature can be integrated tastefully even in very natural, rustic-feeling environments.
- Artesian Fields needs help. Has gravel trail in one section and has one area that is essentially untouched.
- Bergen County doesn't have a park for kids with special needs (wheelchair swings, etc.) and adults with special needs. We need more than just handicapped parking accommodation. Nature is very, very important, but so are recreational opportunities for people with special needs.

- Farmland preservation is important. Check out MacBain Farm Park in Closter. Preserved farm as park and working farm. Farms are important social, historical, and cultural places worth saving. Demarest Farm functions much as a park. Farms can function like parks to a certain degree and form part of an open space nexus with parks.



## **Public Comments from Public Information Session on 1/18/2017, 7:00-9:00pm**

Location: Bergen County Special Services School District Building, 540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, NJ

Participants: Wolfram Hoefer, Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, Jim Koth, Adam Strobel, Will Atwater (videographer), members of the public (see sign in sheet)

### ***Open Space Linkages/Access Issues***

- Waterworks & parts of Overpeck still are not open to the public. When will this move forward?
- Waterworks/Van Buskirk Island efforts need to be stepped up—the building is falling into further disrepair. Stormwater issues could get worse, because a 13-acre parcel in New Milford immediately south of Van Buskirk is scheduled to be paved over/developed (ShopRite, bank, etc.), but would make a great multi-use park (add a football field with track, passive activities, etc.) if acquired by County. Area is rich with flora & fauna that is scheduled to be destroyed. New Milford has lots of flooding issues and very little open space already; developing the parcel as scheduled will only make flooding worse and would be a lost opportunity for open space.
- Open space preservation is essential. Need to find funds to save open spaces before they are lost. Long Mountain Tract in Oakland would be great purchase opportunity, several hundred acres stretching from Wayne to Ramapo River. Purchase this tract of land to connect area from High Mountain to underutilized Cannonball Trail in Pompton Lakes. Great project if County & surrounding communities could purchase it & address stormwater, etc. Would make a great long through trail from William Patterson College up to Harriman Park system in NY. Big bang for the buck!
- County has done tremendous things in parks around the County, but Artesian Fields has received almost no attention & funding from the County over the years. It has lots of potential given its nature. Great access: only 5-minute drive from many major highways and 3 NJ Transit bus lines run through park. School district owns land between Passaic River & Artesian Fields (connectivity of open space). Would be great if nature, athletics, etc. opportunities could be incorporated in a continuous park through the borough.
- Activities Club of Glen Rock (Retirees club) uses Saddle River Park on daily basis (walking, biking, and hiking groups). Old trolley line from Patterson to Suffern connects center of town to the park is PSE&G right-of-way. Used by dogwalkers, etc. Nice to make it a walk/hike path to avoid needing to access the park by car—can County make this an access way? Lots of young families put bikes on car because they don't feel safe biking to the park at present.
- We love Overpeck Park. Need safer way for kids & people to walk/bike to Overpeck given traffic on DeGraw Ave without sidewalks and having to negotiate highway ramps. Need soft connections (bike paths) to surrounding towns. In Teaneck, could widen bike paths, but still have challenge of ramps
- Saddle River Park bikers don't like to bike on street (car conflicts from open doors, etc.). Well-used park in summer (pedestrians, cyclists, roller bladers, etc.). How to accommodate bikers & pedestrians on paths without conflict? Hoboken is great example of separate biking & pedestrian accommodations.
- Hackensack has a greenway, but needs better access to the river.
- Van Saun—The proposed plan to close entrance on Continental Avenue to expand the zoo is concerning because it is a major entrance/exit. Intersection of Forest Avenue & Howland Avenue

needs help because it can barely handle existing traffic let alone some of the proposed changes. Need better walking trails & safer pedestrian access...traffic is very busy around park.

- No way for Ridgefield Park residents to walk or bike into Overpeck because of Route 95 exit ramps. Town donated 260 acres for Overpeck formation, but it took 60 years for park to materialize and we still have no safe pedestrian access. The only way to get to park safely is by car. Pedestrian access is not an amenity...it is a necessity!
- [John Turontis, State Parks & Forestry] Park planning is essential given population density & development pressures in the region. CUES survey responses & public comments (regarding linkages, etc.) mirror national trends. State Parks system would like to offer assistance in connecting County open space to State-owned open space & the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> National Memorial Trail. Lots of opportunities for Bergen County to easily link to these!
- Oakland area at base of Ramapo is not preserved private land—it is up for development. This would be a great place to connect to the Cannonball Trail & Ramapo Mountain State Park. It's a bird flyway. Great opportunity for acquisition.

### ***Environmental Issues***

- Broaden diversity of vegetation, native plants & wildlife, and remove invasives. Look at management of Overpeck now that it is becoming such a destination.
- Invasive species are an issue. Deer are eating forest understory, contributing to conflicts with vehicles, etc. Have we considered deer culls, etc. in master plan? The problem is not going away & needs to be addressed. We need biodiversity!
- Bergen County has major air pollution issues. There are many days that we fail for ozone. Trees & vegetation are important ways to deal with it.
- The problem is not the deer but the overpopulation of people & cars!
- Garden State Plaza stormwater goes right into the waterways. Major flooding & stormwater with pollutants from cars is going right into the brook. Major flooding issues in Rochelle Park area. Resident says she has had raw sewage in her home 3 times. School kids in schools lost everything in floods...arrive with no show & tell items...very afraid about flooding when storms are forecast. Becomes a property value issue, too.

### ***Signage***

- Educational signage in parks about wildlife (e.g. coyotes, deer) would be valuable. For example, about coyotes not being dangerous to people, geese population control measures, how to handle wildlife encounters, public education about species info & role in ecosystem, etc.
- Signage in Overpeck about paths would be good. Distance & trail maps for walkers would help, because they already often ask this information. Could be a relatively easy fix that happens now, rather than taking years to accomplish.

### ***Miscellaneous***

- Overpeck Area 3 is in Ridgefield Park, not Ridgefield as listed in inventory report [\*AAJ corrected map & overview text in 1/24 version & Word]
- Van Buskirk Island had beautiful plan that years later still has not been realized. Will something happen there? Overpeck also has some areas not yet developed, too.
- Mountain bikes in Ramapo Reservation were evicted once because of problems with accidents and people getting hit. Unfortunate as one would like everyone to be able to enjoy the parks, but it was creating a problem.
- What is the timeline and where is funding for the Master Plan project coming from?
- Rochelle Park section of Saddle River Park is not very attractive. Downed trees are left on the Green and puddles collect on paths. Garretson Farm is a favorite. Garretson volunteers work very hard but do not get much help.
- National Parks charge 1-time fee of \$10 for pass that allows entrance to/use of any of their parks. Maybe there is a way to adapt that model to our situation.
- Want more water fountains.
- Van Saun—pond was special location of wedding photos, but pond is so overgrown that it is not recognizable. Neighbors are surprised to find out that the beautiful pond in the pictures is at Van Saun because it is so overgrown now that it is unrecognizable. Go back to the fountains in pond (pumps are probably still there). Need more walking trails. Zoo is great. Add restrooms and food, please. Go back to the way it used to be—you can't even tell the pond is there, but people used to be able to walk around & enjoy it.
- Need to make it clear to the public that parks [or park master plan?] is infrastructure just like a road that is important.
- Coyotes have helped to keep the geese population down in some Saddle River Park neighborhoods.

## **Public Comments from Public Information Session on 1/19/2017, 5:30-8:00pm**

Location: NJSEA Meadowlands Environmental Center, 1 DeKorte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst, NJ

Participants: Wolfram Hoefer, Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, Jim Koth, Will Atwater (videographer), members of the public (see sign in sheet)

### ***Miscellaneous***

- Parks were an afterthought for many decades. County has been reversing that. Great to have master plan. Certain places should be left for nature. Public lands should not always equal taking down trees for ballfields—County has some great active recreation facilities. Important to leave habitat for wildlife, too—not just consider human recreation. Make sure people have the opportunity to interact (not in negative way) with wildlife.
- NJ Sports & Exposition might be interested in partnering with County on some of the NJSEA parks as they were not really keen on managing parks when they inherited them from Meadowlands Commission. Would be good to make the wetlands in south more accessible to people. DeKorte Park is world famous...people come from all over the planet to it. Better access to the area could broaden horizons of public recreation, provide people with important outdoor nature recreation. County footprint in southeast BC could be expanded.
- I spotted 12 bald eagles at Overpeck Creek. If that park is not done right, those 12 bald eagles might not be there next year or years after that. Need to put emphasis on preserving the natural areas that are left—we're built out. Everything has its place, but Dinosaur Park on park land is not where I see County Parks headed. Audubon brings 1000s of people to the Meadowlands each year. Take what was done right at the Lyndhurst Environmental Center. Nature preservation is not only important for wildlife, but also important for people being able to enjoy nature. Do it right, as this may be the last chance.
- Events in parks should be things that we already see being done successfully (Audubon Butterfly Day, Riverkeeper activities, etc.). Non-profits & organizations already working on parks & open space should be included in the Master Plan.
- Events could be nature-related, not just concerts, etc. but I'm not sure the County thinks about it that way.
- I like walking trails, especially long ones. Need less noise in the parks (vehicular traffic, maintenance equipment is too loud). Need to plant more native plants, especially flowering ones like milkweed that are important food sources for butterflies & pollinators. Duck Pond & walking trails around Saddle River Park are nice but need to keep water/woods free of garbage.

## **Public Comments from Public Information Session on 1/25/2017, 7:00-9:00pm**

Location: Valley Brook Golf Course Clubhouse, 15 Rivervale Road, River Vale, NJ

Participants: Wolfram Hoefer, Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, Adam Strobel, Will Atwater (videographer), members of the public (see sign in sheet)

### ***Golf Courses***

- Golf courses provide such aesthetic beauty (nature, animals). Need to address geese problem—not good for kids to step on goose droppings in fields & fall, etc. More color on golf courses, e.g. Valley Brook. Adding color would add more appeal. Very green, which is beautiful, and feels very natural with streams, etc. but want more color. Open up food concessions for family days, etc.—the food and service is very good at Valley Brook.
- Autistic students golf program @ Valley Brook Golf Course in conjunction with County. The staff is great about meeting needs of the students. Tremendous asset & fantastic cooperation from golf course staff. So very proud of this program. 14 years the program has been in existence. But the students or parents bring them. Great that they can come here every day.
- Women's Golf Association of NJ. 2 leagues in NJ. Come to Valley Brook and squeezing 300 women per week into Paramus golf course because of the concessions (places to sit and eat together). Not using other County golf courses because need food/concessions/places to sit & socialize afterwards. County is missing great opportunity.
- Happy to hear “suitable” rather than just “efficient.” Restaurant like this (at Valley Brook) is appropriate for the golf course & would like to see more suitable food/restaurant options at other golf course properties.
- Many people find golf elitist & may not feel welcome. Numbers going down nationally in golf use. Sport should be promoted. Amount of land devoted to golf vs. other sports seems a little heavy.

### ***Other Sports***

- More & more people spending time outside. Love the nature & getting outside with kids & families. Impressed by all of the park options that I did not know about. What is the status of the tennis courts? Know that at least two parks in the local vicinity with courts in deplorable condition. Right now the usage is very low because of the quality. Some are not even open to the public. Are there plans to improve them—would be cheaper to fix existing courts than build new ones.
- Where are all of these County tennis courts located? I run a tennis program—offshoot of old Van Saun league—always looking for courts to play on, but some towns are locking up their courts except for use by town residents. Using County courts would be great if they were more scattered throughout the area.
- Some of us are willing to pay a yearly fee for regular access to the courts, like paying for the golf.
- Were you able to tap into the Parks Department's data about requests for events, sports, etc. to help inform master plan? Then you could cross check what people are asking for on online survey with what they County has been able to actually provide thus far, and be able to assess where there are

funding problems, other barriers to those request being met. Then you could compare with other counties to see what's working there. For example, there is not enough open space for sports in Bergen County. Cricket team has been using parks for 10 years and having difficulty securing a regular pitch. In other counties there are specific field allocated for that. So how are you capturing all of this data of people's visions?

- As a parent, I want my kids to spend as much time outside as possible, especially with all of the time they spend on iPads, TV, etc. Not easy to take kids out, especially in winter—what can I do to get them out in winter? Temporary ice skating rinks or other off-peak activities would be good.
- Are you looking at demographic change (age, cultural shifts, etc.)? Demographics are completely changing in the County (age, country of origin, etc.) and this affects use. Lots of Asians in the County who want to play cricket & should be allowed to play cricket.
- Need to balance sports & preserved nature. Kids in electronic age not spending time outside. Important to provide facilities to get kids & their parents outside & promote community.
- Youth cricket is opportunity for building confidence, leadership, etc. especially if kids not good in other sports. Need the facilities (steady pitch location). Other NJ counties are more supportive.
- Tennis Men's Group. Marc Cohen [med645@optonline.net](mailto:med645@optonline.net). Connect with Andrew Kim Foundation?

### ***Nature & Sustainability***

- Lots of people talking about sports but my vision is keeping parks as natural as possible. Lots of sports emphasis on municipal level, so important to keep parks as natural & undeveloped as possible on County level. People want to walk, sit on a bench. Afraid development will take over everything.
- Want to see streams protected, habitat thrive, buffers, existing forests kept like they are precious gold, etc. Don't want to see more a lot more development, but where there is development, I want to see it serve people as best as possible. The more we develop, the more flooding, erosion, and more depletion of the things that we love to see out in nature. Most County parks encompass a waterway—want to us make a religion out of putting a protective buffer around those waterways. As soft approach to paths as possible. If fields are in a wet area, maybe leave as a wetland and siting the fields better for everyone's best interest. Would love to see Master Plan naturalizing the County Parks, making native plant gardens & colorful flowers. We don't have a County park with lots of flowers & color, but could make it an ecological jewel.
- Sustainable energy component to Master Plan for park facilities? I'm not seeing renewable energy, water re-use programs, etc. at present. Would like to see Bergen County demonstrate leadership in energy sustainability. Restroom, amphitheater, maintenance buildings...ample opportunities exist for energy sustainable facilities.
- Bergen SWAN litigation settlement with water company resulted in over 3100 acres into protective Green Acres easement. Is this going to be included in plan? Between Suez & DEP, you can get a lot of information.

### ***Acquisitions & Historic Properties Re-use***

- Acquire Bluefield, the Atwood-Blauvelt mansion. Historic site that could become a community center. Huge Tudor style mansion. Indoor & outdoor space with deep history. Founders very important to

Bergen history—created utilities, banks, coal company, etc. Deserves to be saved & townspeople would like it to be saved. Perfect opportunity for acquisition.

- More pastoral areas where larger #s of people accommodated (e.g. Great Lawn in Central Park).
- How are you handling data collection & analysis for parks that are grossly underutilized or unused? Oradell Waterworks still not realized after all these years. Still not available to residents. Would be great for people to be able to safely bike & walk, rather than people currently walking around the perimeter, looking through fence at eagles, etc. Lots of community support for boat launch, helping Audubon putting in safe pass through, etc. Oradell municipal government would like to partner with County to make these changes happen.

### ***Access & Connectivity***

- Are you considering connecting existing municipal facilities & County parks? Westwood partnered with Bergen County on a tremendous project. Developed municipal landfill into 45-acre active/passive multi-use recreational facility. County added amazing connecting walking path through woods along Pascack Brook into Pascack Brook County Park. Great experience for people to experience nature (turtles, stream, nature, wildlife, etc.). Is County considering these types of partnerships with municipalities in the Master Plan?
- More improvements needed in Pascack Brook. First phase of walking path has generated so much use (connected 110 acres of park land), but could be continued around the park. County has done good job of developing different destinations for specific amenities (Van Saun as family-friendly, Overpeck for cultural activities with amphitheater). Pascack Brook as community park where people are walking to it & enjoying amenities there, but athletic facilities underutilized because of drainage problem. Strongly recommend drainage improvements to softball fields, etc. for more efficient use. Great opportunity for cricket, some cricket users already. Westwood did really good job trying to make more walkable community connections.
- We could really use NJ Transit lines on Forest Ave (near Van Saun) extended to Sunday. NJ Transit thinks they just take people to work and back, but people use the bus for much more. Not everyone can drive freely on Sundays. Need bus transit to parks—would be easy fix. Important for County to help advocate for this.

### ***Miscellaneous***

- Are you concerned about [validity] of data collected in winter when park usage was at its lowest? In usage study, did you find that usage was highest in summer? Concerned that you are missing surveys from when the parks are being used the most.
- Would be nice to have weekend public hearing for folks that work, but really happy to have the public hearings & hope that this is model for going forward. Mixed feelings because of “concessions” and “development”—that is my biggest fear. Really hope that any new open space money that comes in goes to things like buying Blauvelt Mansion or improving existing open space, rather than adding expensive concession facilities. I really don’t want to see bunch of food stands & more development. Van Saun is nature park to me. Saw garish lights from Winter Wonderland...”What’s that doing in Van Saun? Those don’t belong there!” When I grew up it was natural, had picnic tables. We used to skate

on Walden Pond. Don't expand like Turtle Back Zoo—let people go to Turtle Back Zoo and leave Van Saun as it is. Project in New Milford (Shoprite) is a problem. Do not want parks to become commercial, money-making properties. Keep them natural.

- Refreshing to see government project start at the grassroots level. Are seniors (not tech savvy) needs/feedback being gathered?
- Professional Planning firm would be happy to share GIS resources. Saddle River Park is heavily used. Great example of linear park. Very successful example.
- Is there a plan to present phasing, priorities, finances involved in Master Plan at the April meetings?



## **Public Comments from Public Information Session on 2/2/2017, 7:00-9:00pm**

Location: Elmwood Park Mayor & Council Chambers, 182 Market Street, Elmwood Park, NJ

Participants: Wolfram Hoefer, Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, Jim Koth, Will Atwater (videographer), members of the public (see sign in sheet)

### ***Appropriate Park Maintenance & Enforcement***

- Maintaining parks is an important consideration. For example, Artesian Fields has maintenance problems (downed & leaning trees sometimes present dangerous situations, etc.). Concerned that Master Plan will be similar example of County acquiring Artesian Fields property and initially adding some nice (but unlighted) walking paths but not maintaining property, so after hurricane damage the park doesn't look very good and in some cases seems a little unsafe to walk there. Where in the Master Plan process is attention being paid to maintaining what the Parks Department currently has and from that point moving on?
- Maintenance is important. Campgaw paths are eroded (e.g. Indian Path going up the mountain). In Saddle River Park certain sections of the riverbank are in horrendous shape in terms of erosion (Rochelle Park & Dunkerhook areas in particular). Really nice to have the active part, and then areas of swamps and woods where you can hear birds, etc. are nice. One of the great values of the river is that it floods; important to consider appropriate plans for flood-prone areas (placement of trails & concessions, etc.).
- Open space is so important. Saddle Brook area of Saddle River Park is so delightful and people from all over are coming (not just Bergen County residents)...people have come from Passaic County to that area because it's just so pristine. Very well maintained. Borg's Woods is incredible. Trails really aren't maintained though—schools & scouts sometimes get involved in cleaning it up. It is just a little neighborhood park, so not sure how much could be done without losing the feeling of standing in the middle and not knowing where you are [“getting lost in nature” feeling as opposed to being surrounded by residential neighborhood], which is so wonderful. Saddle Brook and Van Saun very well maintained. Incredible how the paths are clean—can go walking the same day.

### ***Expanding Recreation Opportunities***

- JORBA group would like to see mountain biking opportunities—currently have to go to Passaic to ride because mountain biking not allowed in Bergen County parks. Passaic has lots of mountain biking trails & they are all maintained by volunteers—that could be done here in Bergen County, too. Just a waiver and get it done. Connections between the parks important: old rail line starting in Elmwood Park going to Old Suffern (PSE&G owned) is currently cabled off, but people walk there. Glen Rock High School has actually taken part of the rail line as part of its own backyard. Section where you can walk all the way past Ridgewood—would be nice to have path here. Crushed stone paths work better than paved (for infiltration, no ice).
- Climbing advocacy group that partners with state & local governments would like to see more climbing opportunities. Can be very safe & great youth development tool (schools, clubs, etc.). Climbing especially growing in the Mahwah Ramapo/Campgaw area. It's already happening there,

but would like to see it allowed (County can add a little clause about climbing at your own risk to avoid liability). Great way for people to explore & be challenged. Organization helps facilitate climbing at Harriman, and number of people coming out of NY to climb at Harriman is astounding—didn't realize that it would be that popular. By having County & state lands open up legal climbing in certain areas, it would lessen impact of people in areas where it is currently open.

- Need places dedicated to special needs/disabled children—not many in the state. Not doing enough for our children. Only 1 opportunity at a town park in Fair Lawn. Need parks to be accessible to all. Van Saun & Overpeck have no opportunities for kids with special needs. Lack of opportunities for disabled kids means that families cannot enjoy the park together—parents have to split kids up to accommodate their different abilities. Would like to see committee of parents to inform the designs. Let Them Be Little x2 organization has educated volunteers that could help in the parks & with events on playgrounds.
- Vendor would like to see more outdoor fitness equipment in parks and offered his. Useful for seniors & teens. Machines in Teaneck used heavily & would like to see them used in County parks.
- Great to have walking paths in Elmwood Park that are lit...they allow people to enjoy nature. Multipurpose parks. Piazza like in Italy, fountains, vendors, so people can enjoy food, coffee & time with family, get to know neighbors, socialize with community members, and sit outside and enjoy the evening. With all our busy lives, we hardly ever have the time to really just sit, talk, get off the Internet/cellphones, and socialize and enjoy each other. Park should be a little bit of everything: a little exercise, some nature, and socializing...it's very important and we lack that.
- Bergen Bowmen. Bergen County has one of the only roving archery ranges within 1000 miles. Bergen Bowmen maintain the trail, but need help from County in making some archery trail improvements in Mahwah area.
- In Saddle River County Park (Paramus area), motorized bikes are making paths along the river. Would be nice to see canoeing/kayaking in Saddle River County Park (Paramus area).

### ***Connectivity***

- Bergen County is very much a railroad-laced community. Rutherford Rails-to-Trails project good idea for Bergen County. Connect parks in southern Bergen County via rivers and rails.

### ***Historic Preservation & Celebration***

- Bergen County is one of the densest communities with history in the nation & in NJ. Experiencing history in the parks is very important. One of the ways to enhance the history is to improve the connectivity (via WiFi, etc.). Good to have waypoints in parks so people can look up information on their handheld devices and learn about the area (natural elements, historic buildings, earlier cultures, etc.). Historic preservation is looking at the past & bringing it into the future. Ethnology of Bergen County & history bring us to the very foundations of our country & are a mirror of country's history.

### ***Miscellaneous***

- Van Saun Zoo is destination—when schools are closed for holidays, the parking lot is packed with NY license plates. NY has discovered Van Saun! Suggest extending season in which entrance fees are charged to increase revenues...that's a cash cow.
- Open space meeting happening in County on March 21.
- Bergen Bowmen (one half) invites us to attend any of their public meetings: Elks Club in Paramus on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month.

## **Public Comments from Public Information Session on 2/7/2017, 7:00-9:00pm**

Location: Fort Lee Historic Park Visitor Center, Hudson Terrace, Fort Lee, NJ

Participants: Wolfram Hoefer, Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, Jim Koth, Will Atwater (videographer), members of the public (see sign in sheet)

### ***Wildlife/Nature***

- Enjoyed Winter Wonderland with 9-year old twins & other special events there. Never knew what McFaul Environmental Center's name was...always just called in the Wyckoff Wildlife Center. Maybe convert McFaul & Van Saun for wildlife rescue & rehabilitation locations. Would be helpful for residents who find injured wildlife to have place to take them...we find animals but don't know where to take them. Very happy that there is plan preserve the parks because most important thing is to coexist with other animals. I enjoy the deer, geese, coyotes and foxes. Need to continue to live peacefully together and not build up too much. Need to keep forests and open spaces.
- Would significant non-profit natural areas/spaces be included in the inventory along with state and municipal open spaces, because in some cases they provide unique resources that are not plentiful in certain parts of the County?
- Demarest Nature Center. Strong need for more educational signage regarding why not to feed the wildlife. Need to avoid unnecessary killing of innocent animals & provided example from NY State Parks. (Angelwing & why not to feed geese)
- Urban farming using aquatics might be possibility at the Waterworks [provided article about it]. Great if County Parks system could serve as laboratory for re-introducing/ testing native plant species that can handle climate change, diseases, etc. in County open space (e.g. Chestnut research).
- Details on programs to reach out to nature centers?

### ***Financial/Maintenance Considerations***

- Maintenance & management issues need to be considered. As more intensive development increases, so does need for more intensive maintenance vs. more extensive management of natural areas, so need to consider this in Master Plan.
- Dismayed by vandalism at Teaneck Creek. The Conservancy has tried so hard at the site and didn't have enough funding for regular security.
- Seemed to be wholesale installation of paver pathways in the County in recent years as opposed to using crushed stone...this decision has both capital cost and maintenance cost implications. Will Master Plan consider vision of material choices/options and how to maintain them? Very interested in Hackensack Waterworks & have material choice implications been considered there, too?

- Plans to expand Van Saun Zoo—project of that magnitude would subsume the resources that could potentially be used for improving rest of park system. Decisions need to be weighed among multiple objectives rather than support one super project.

### ***Historical Sites/Networks***

- Bergen County has a gem in Historic New Bridge Landing. Longtime headquarters of the BC Historical Society. Very exciting that the Parks Master Plan is happening now because there are lots of opportunities...very forward-thinking. Built Society up to be one of the largest in the state with very active & successful programming. Encourage the Parks Master Plan team to visit and see the site.
- Sand stone buildings at New Bridge Landing are threatened. History is not listed as a pre-programmed answer on the online survey so it is remarkable that so many responses listed history as iconic features of Bergen County.
- Bergen County was hotbed of Revolutionary War activity. Had Nathanael Greene & George Washington's forces not been able to escape at New Bridge Landing, the War might have been lost. Old sandstone building on Oritami field in Hackensack is going to be demolished. Not enough room for it at New Bridge Landing, but Van Saun used to be Revolutionary War encampment. Frustrated that the County has not taken it & put it at Van Saun by the trains...it's little. The builder actually offered to move it for us. Otherwise it's going to be torn down. Oldest Dutch sandstone house in County & one of the oldest in the state. Once they're gone, they're gone. Van Saun is wonderful park, one of my favorites. Wonderful for history and special because it's big enough to offer something for everyone (Winter Wonderland, etc.)...would be great to have a historic building there, too.
- Garretson Farm is unknown and neglected gem. County should take more interest in it (greenhouse is leaking, etc.). Nice festivals and they work hard, but turnout could be better with more advertising, better sign on the road. Place that could be really great facility.
- Vision for New Bridge Landing is competition with Williamsburg, VA as a historic site. We have a unique history at New Bridge Landing. The state is not funding us at all, we are operating with all volunteers. At one point they had more than 50,000 children visit per year and walk up the same stairway where George Washington walked. But not able to have children visitors anymore because of lack of funding. We could be very positive historic source in Bergen County & could be a rival of Williamsburg for historical tourism, which would be an economic engine for Bergen County. People that travel like historic places. So close to NYC—should make HNBL a destination.
- Washington-Rochambeau activities that led to victory at Yorktown is part of Bergen County's story because it happened here. Washington-Rochambeau trail/story important. County could cooperate with state signage & trail efforts. Retreat to Victory trail in Fort Lee could benefit from more interpretive signage. Link Fort Lee Historic Park to New Bridge Landing to Passaic River by walking trail (historical) would be an asset. Transportation links exist at both ends. Not many East-West trails in Bergen County—difficult to do, so these two trails could be good.

- Two nationally-recognized recreational trails are in the Fort Lee Historic Park (Long Path & Short Trail)—very long distance trail that lead up into NY State. PIP Commission manages some of them. Need to create loop system for exercise & historic awareness/appreciation. Loops allow for variety & choice in length, difficulty, etc.
- Hackensack Water Works—pleased with County’s current direction to use funds to improve the site. Not clear what the long-term vision for it is. Need for non-profit group that cares for a particular site, supporting & making it a success (e.g. a Conservancy group). Parks As Classrooms program like National Parks program—local schools not only asking for marine biology, but also landside biology & geology opportunities. Lesson here for County Parks system. Immersive activity is very important for learning (especially with so much screen time); getting the kids out to experience nature and history is part of the park’s mission for the future.
- Would be wonderful if State had historic tour of Bergen County—we have so much Revolutionary War history here; we should make it a historic touristic attraction!
- Please reach out to Historic Society & New Bridge Landing Commission for input/tweaking of report, opportunity to provide input, etc.

### ***Miscellaneous***

- The survey is online. What about people who do not have online access, how are you gathering their input?
- Bergen County commissioned Hudson River Walkway Master Plan some years ago—what is the status of this plan and will this be incorporated into the County Parks Master Plan?
- Hudson River Conservancy group should be added to the list of community groups.
- Van Buskirk Island—26 years since it became County-owned park. We were promised open space & historic preservation. Are there plans for canoe launch there to facilitate Riverkeeper cleanups, etc.?
- Any thought to have round table with reps from special interest groups (Audubon, mountain bikers, etc.) for their feedback about large open spaces (e.g. Ramapo trails, etc.)
- Who is on advisory committee? Important to have people involved onsite with visitors, not just remote individuals.

## Notes from Hackensack Community Meeting on 5/9/2017

Location: Two Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, NJ

Participants: Wolfram Hoefer, Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, Jim Koth, Adam Strobel, Will Atwater (videographer), members of the public (see sign in sheet)

- There was poor advertising about the public meetings in the parks themselves. Saddle River Park had one little sign bent over on the ground and then another on the tennis court. Without advertising these meetings in the parks adequately, it seems like this process is just a façade and public input is not important.
- Overpeck dog park has year round use and generates LOTS of people, but also has major problems. The low fence allows dogs to go over and under. One of the worst dog parks around, very antiquated. It is a dust bowl much of the year, until it rains and then it becomes a mud pit. Check out the K9 grass website for information and examples of how artificial turf for dogs has been employed in other parks. Gravel is not good—not comfortable on the dogs or owners and doesn't really address the root problems of smell, dust, and bacteria from dog waste. The Duck Pond has a great dog park! Agility infrastructure and pools are great amenities for dogs. Thinking about connections—the old Teterboro Dog Shelter is now a County property. People like to volunteer to walk dogs even if they cannot adopt them. If you annexed the shelter/connected it to Overpeck Park by the stables, people could sign up to walk the dogs in the park (good for the dogs, good for the people). Lots of dogs fight in the dog parks. Good to have hoses & umbrellas for breaking up fights (opening up an umbrella is very effective way to stop a fight). Need to educate pet owners that dog parks are not dog bathrooms—even if the solid waste is picked up, the urine still remains & produces a lot of bacteria in the dog park. Need to educate people to relieve their dogs before entering the dog runs. Maybe removing pet waste bags inside the dog park would help? Teach them to walk dog before entering so the urine is not all concentrated in the dog park. Perhaps grass around the perimeter of the park, so people don't have dogs peeing on the same lawns that kids are playing on? The dog park needs to be a quality installation and the design well-thought out to work well. If done right, it will attract even more people and become a highly-sought after amenity. You could even sell advertisements tastefully at the dog park to help generate revenue for maintenance (e.g. mesh signs for dog groomers, vets, etc. at perhaps \$100/month per sign).
- Overpeck has lightbulbs out. Members of the public need easy way to let maintenance know about these issues so they can be resolved quickly and efficiently.
- When you put a racquet and a wiffle ball together, you have the fastest growing sports in the United States today, which is called pickleball. Pickleball is huge sport today in Florida, Arizona and California—all states that have sizeable populations of citizens over the age of 50 and will become an important sport for the state of NJ and particularly the County of Bergen because of its concentration. The American Sports Association, trade association of people that build sports facilities, estimates the # of pickleball players at beginning of 2016 at 2 million and they expect it to grow by the end of 2018—just 3 years—to 8 million. That's quadrupling in a 3-year period, which is incredible growth. Another aspect of the growth that you can see: NJ Pickleball Association, which is a private Bergen County group that requires a membership fee & requires you to pay for daily pay, has grown in just the last year from 200 members to 450 members. I represent a group of 14 people

here out of 29 players that we have from Fort Lee, Leonia, Cliffside Park and Paramus. We began a year ago and have not recruited new players over the past year because we don't have enough nets and we don't have enough venues—particularly outdoor venues—to play pickleball. We play indoors at Fort Lee—started the program at Fort Lee—and play in Leonia, however in the summer months, both those municipalities have camp programs for local kids and use that facility, so we had to move outdoors. We went to Overpeck (in Palisades Park) to 4 tennis courts in deteriorating condition, but we lined those courts with tape every week and put up our nets on loan from Leonia and were able to pickleball. I wrote an extensive letter to the Parks Department at this time last year regarding developing pickleball courts at Overpeck, but unfortunately I never received a response. So tonight we are here to request that you consider our proposal to take 2 of the 12 tennis courts that exist either at Overpeck at Ridgefield Park (there are 6 of courts) or Overpeck at Leonia (where there are 6 courts) and turn them into 8 permanent pickleball courts. You can fit 4 pickleball courts on 1 tennis court. That means you can increase the number of players on just one tennis court from 4 tennis players to 16 pickleball players. Using existing tennis courts substantially reduces the cost of creating new pickleball courts because all you need is nets and re-lining of the courts. \*Document hardcopy letters provided.\* By adding pickleball courts now, you are going to be able to meet a definite current need and be able to provide an amenity for future County residents before they are really needed and making better use of current tennis courts by allowing more people to use them (in that 4 tennis players converts to 16 pickleball players. Pickleball while any age can play it, is a sport that has been taken to heart by seniors.

- As a resident of Rochelle Park, I have experienced significant and devastating flooding in my life and I have also heard similar stories from family and friends from surrounding towns such as Lodi, Paramus, Garfield and Saddle Brook. Your poster entitled Natural Resources mentions prioritizing stormwater management. To many of us along the Saddle River, our livelihoods are entangled with how you choose to manage stormwater. A pleasant park experience with a charming golf course means nothing if we do not have homes. Can you explain your stormwater management?
- I live in Saddle Brook right on the park. I walk out my backyard to the park and I have been flooded twice: once through Sandy and once through Irene. I never have been more infuriated in my life than when I went to the park in the fall and I saw the County workers blowing the leaves into the river. We're increasing the height of the river and increasing the chance of flood, so before we start doing anything else, we need to stop that activity. We also need to find a way to get some of those people who are involved in environmental issues to be able to communicate about how we can clean the river, because when the river is low, there is so much garbage, so many water bottles—some of them coming because they've removed a lot of the garbage cans from the area and people are throwing their bottles right into the water. There is so much garbage and that river needs to be cleaned up because it's a safety hazard and a flooding hazard for those of us who live there.
- One of the issues that I wanted to talk about was the flooding and drainage issues in the park. Although we [Bogota] have a large park along the river, very often it's not useable...the baseball fields and things flood—it's in a flood plain—it can flood for days. It's not useful space. It's difficult for the borough to have enough resources to tackle a problem like that that is an ongoing problem year after year. Also Overpeck is nearby. It has often been a thought of mine, "Why build this beautiful park with so little access?" I watch people try to bike up DeGraw Avenue and over 95, I wonder how many accidents do happen. It does look very dangerous and when you have the County seat here, I think it just makes sense to try to have some kind of a bike path. I'm sure that people who work here would



love to have access to ride their bike up to that park, which is really not that far away. The state has a focus on bike paths but there are very few safe bike paths in this area, so it seems like Ridgefield Park, Bogota, Hackensack, Teaneck...they should be able to get to Overpeck without driving. The idea of something like Bergen Bikes—City Bikes is such a wonderful program in the City—if you had a way to just grab a bike and ride, it would enhance the quality of life in the region. Another thing that makes sense to me if it happened on the County level would be to encourage shared services. We have very limited space in our town and it's divided—the Board of Ed has their property and the Borough has their property, and the Board of Ed property is fenced off. Although we're trying to come to an agreement to use the space together, it would be nice to encourage on the County level where open space money could be provided if you come to a shared services agreement and we could make better use of the space that we do have. Very often, the fenced off space is empty. The people of the borough, seniors, could make use of that. The river is a beautiful resource but at low tide there is really very little flow through Hackensack and Teaneck. You really don't see it flow. I don't know if the sediment and the silting is preventing a flow, but I know at Overpeck now, it's beautiful with bald eagles now and more life there, and you can see that with the flow of the water comes life, comes fish, comes wildlife and I think that it is something that needs to be done on a state level, but if there could be some dredging done to at least increase the flow, that would bring life and it would be a much more enjoyable experience to be along the river than it is right now.

- I'm trying to be not be too insulted, especially when it comes to the Meadowlands. There are a lot of programs going on at the Meadowland for a long time that we've been running for free: Butterfly Day, which brings thousands, Nature Walks programs...so that's something that could be brought everywhere. And I'm so happy to see nature at the top of the list, of course, but let me say that nature doesn't only exist up at the Ramapos and it doesn't only exist down at the Meadowlands. It exists everywhere in between and the County has to understand that. And you want to bring kids out. Every kid deserves a natural education...education of what's going on with the natural world—something they've been denied of most of the time, something they don't get any more. So whether you live in Hackensack or you live in Mahwah, every kid deserves to get out in nature and learn about nature and that what we have to get from this plan—to make sure there's places that you can go and enjoy nature and I don't care whether you call it a birder or a hiker...I don't care what title you want to give it. It's that we all need nature, we all need to be in nature, and this plan should have nature in every neighborhood and every area that we can to protect it before it's gone.
- I would like to add...some more examples to Norman's presentation earlier involving pickleball. I was struck when your example of the group you focused on were the ages of 25-44. While I don't have the exact number, I am under the impression that the largest population segment are baby boomers....So while I was going to speak specifically about Overpeck....I would suggest that you apply your planning to include what has become a very physically, athletically active population segment. I know of very few examples where your economy of scale or your financial output to put in an athletic facility increases or can increase doubly or quadruply while not affecting negatively the original intent....You increase your return on investment while offering the newest and quickest growing sport in the country. And it's not only to seniors or baby boomers...pickleball is now starting to be taught in school. And why? Because besides having the opportunity to learn a new sport, this particular sport develops teamwork, hand-eye coordination, reflexes and strategic thinking. So with everything that is involved...is nothing but a positive. While I would like to see pickleball incorporated

for this summer's offering of activities...it will be around for quite some time, affecting every age group from children to seniors.

- I use a lot of the parks.... One of the main problems is maintenance of what we have now. And it is infuriating, because I have seen the deterioration of the parks, what I call orphan parks. It's not Darlington...Mahwah...Overpeck. It's the orphan parks. Come on in, straighten up what's going on there, put a little paint, fix the bathrooms, do more than cut the grass. And by the way, they are taking away our garbage cans. They are trying to train us like they do in the state parks—that "garbage in, garbage out." But I ain't going to happen here, all right? Put the garbage cans back. Fix the bathrooms and the fences that you don't paint and the ones that you do that are half missing. Take a real look at it. I think it's a wonderful idea as far as being able to facilitate the disabled more than you are now...not only children, but adults. Be creative about it. How about a little quiet garden with a labyrinth in some of the parks? And did I mention maintenance? That we really have to look at maintenance? There is no rhyme or reason when it comes to memorials because we can have an open space (very little in the south of Rochelle Park) and you will plant a tree right...where you could have a touch football game...or Frisbees playing, but you've taken away by planting 1 or 2 trees with no rhyme or reason, but it is a memorial, it is a money maker. Not that I'm against memorials, but be conscious about them—be conscious of how to do it, have a uniformity with it, and make it look nice. Just don't stick it in, because you're taking up open space, which we have very little of. The other thing that I have a real problem with...do we really have recycling in these parks? Really? Or do we have fake recycling? We may have recycling bins in Overpeck and maybe Darlington...but do they really recycle? And if they do, why aren't we recycling in ALL of the parks? Because...I believe, we really don't recycle. SO if we're not recycling, then take away the recycling bin and bring back the garbage cans. Let's be honest about it. And let's work on conservation. Let's clean up the bathrooms. I think my grandmother's initials are still one of the stalls in there. It's time to really do some work with these bathrooms. And let's do something more than what I call basic maintenance. You take out the garbage and you cut the grass. But what else is happening? It's wonderful with all these big parks, and then there's the orphans, which by the way, a lot of people come to because we have a lot of problems parking, so they are in use. Did I mention maintenance? It's a thing of the past, but yet we are going to have all of this. How the hell do we take care of what we're doing now?
- I teach outdoor nature classes in Saddle River each summer in the Bergen County Park system. What is concerning is that I am relatively new to Bergen County—I have been here for the last 3 years and every spring as I walk along, I see that the number of invasive species is just growing. The amount of garlic mustard...it's taken over four miles of this parkway and it's just exponential. It blows your mind. The Norway maples.... Because I teach the kids, I grew more interested in finding out is this is wildflower. No, it's an invasive species. Not this in not native; it's an invasive species. And it's really concerning.
- Permaculture principles could be incorporated in the parks for more holistic land management. Jeff Lawton permaculture solutions. As just one example, we could be teaching kids to compost, then use compost in the parks for richer soil, etc.
- I see that you have identified a couple of tracts in Alpine. We are very fortunate to have in our part of the County preserved, protected, undeveloped natural parkland and believe it or not it does get used. And it is becoming increasingly know to people in the County, whether it's bikers or hikers or mountain bikers or boy scouts. They come here to use these tracts. The people that I'm in touch with, that I hear from in my town, really value and cherish this natural space, which happens to also be

very sensitive environmental space. It's a watershed area with steep slopes and all sorts of other factors....So...we would be most appreciative if the space that is in our town that you've identified as County owned or partially owned remain passive use....

- We've been blessed with a pair of nesting Bald Eagles in the town of Ridgefield Park. They have been with us for several years. There is only one reason why we have a nesting pair of Bald Eagles and that's because of the Overpeck Creek right nearby, so I really would support developing a recreation nature study in all of the parks, specifically looking closely at Overpeck Park in regard to how it impacts the nesting eagles. We have had as many as 36 wintering Bald Eagles on Overpeck Park. They have attracted a lot of attention; there's lots of park visitors that are photographers and bird watchers, so it's really an asset for that particular park, especially during the winter months. One detrimental aspect of the development of Overpeck Park, and that is the amphitheater at the park. It really has impacted negatively on our village of Ridgefield Park in a real quality of life aspect. Every time there is a park event at Overpeck, we can barely go outside in our yards in the community itself. The amphitheater acts as a parabola and focuses sound directly on our village and our town, so much so that it's really like having a loud, blaring radio right in your backyard when you're trying to have a barbecue or enjoy the outdoors. So I would encourage the Park Commission to look at that negative aspects and see if there isn't a way to develop a landscaped berm of trees or shrubs that would act as a sound buffer, or a sound-absorbing wall would be appreciated or just make it a real stipulation that sound levels are kept low at those park events.
- People mentioned nature and conservation efforts, as well as flooding and how rainwater is being dispersed, and I just wanted to mention...a project going on with the Teaneck Creek Conservancy, where we are bringing rainwater barrels to Hawthorn Elementary School along with water sustainability curriculum for the school. \*Invitation to attend.\* We would like to expand that system to parks or other schools that are looking for that curriculum. People who want to be educated about water sustainability and have the water re-used...the system does allow people to re-use the water in flushing toilets, water their gardens, with proper filtration you can even drink it.
- I appreciate all this incredible work, unfortunately I find it very hard to trust the County because of what other people have talked about in terms of maintenance. The same time that I appreciate what Don Torino talked about wanting everyone to have access to nature, we see the damage to a very sensitive area in our park [Ramapo] and the County does nothing to help alleviate that...to clean up the dog feces left all over the place, to even maintain Route 202 where we just had a 26-year-old girl killed by falling tree because they don't even help maintain the road system on 202, which is their road. So it's just hard to trust that here we sit with these wonderful plans...it's wonderful if they have the money to integrate and do all of this, but are they really going to put the money out there to hire the individuals to maintain this and upkeep it and help the communities where these parks are so that they are left beautiful and natural. I know you talked about integrating the competing forces here of trying to service more people but at the same time protecting these very sensitive areas, and I don't trust that unfortunately, because of the experience that I now have living here for so many years and if they could do this, why aren't they doing it now? I agree...why aren't they doing it now? It's very upsetting, so that would be my biggest.... How do you make us feel that this will really be taken care of properly? It's not happening now, so why will it happen in the future? I really don't understand it. And in addition...my association lives on the boundaries of this beautiful mountain along the river and we've been unincluded in this process. As an association that is so close to everything. And when we've asked to be told what is going to happen with our property—we've

asked 3-4 times to have a meeting and gotten nothing. So it is very concerning for us, and we feel very much left out of the equation.

- You say that when this plan is done, it will go to the County to be approved. Is there a way for us to have the County, when they do approve it so it doesn't go into a drawer, that they can have a mandate to look at it in a year: where are we, where do we go, what worked, what didn't, how far along are we.... And then it isn't a wonderful plan that doesn't get implemented. We need a measurable process for how the plan is being followed.
- Metrics are important. I haven't seen a reference to them yet, so I hope that in your next iteration, you develop set [implementation] metrics for this plan. Arts programming in the parks...the Palisades Parks Conservancy, we're implementing an early program, one of our first beginning to introduce music in our parks in a very small, relatable way. We're also working on education and place-based learning in the Palisades. We're working with Ramapo College and we're introducing an on-site field study program for students in middle school right now and hope to expand the program. Parks are...an opportunity for learning and I think this is an important role for the parks education mission, both in nature and history/heritage, and we have an interstate park here in Bergen County that represents the finest in the history of conservation of America. It's a National Historic Landmark for its history of conservation, so we have an important conservation record here in Bergen County. That could extend, obviously directly by a program engaging more institutes of higher learning here in Bergen County and nearby, including...Rutgers.... Lastly...I believe the business model portion to this presentation. I'd like to see...how the business community could be more engaged in the parks system....there's a very interesting experiment in NYC in Brooklyn Bridge Park going on, and as we think about that Garden State Parkway corridor and those large, large areas of open space around corporate headquarters and that redevelopment issue, I'd like you to think about experiments that may evolve in developing significant support for the parks system. ...The parks system really doesn't have external trails to parks, and as part of your connectivity study, I would like to encourage you to think in terms of connecting to some of the parks through historic trails. We have one now in Bergen County—it's the Retreat to Victory Trail....—and then we have the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, which is a nationally-recognized route about the story of getting to ultimate victory with the help of the French. And the last one...which is the attack and burning of our Court House. Maybe that sends the wrong message, but it is part of our history.
- They are removing garbage can from the parks to "improve aesthetics," but it is creating more litter instead. Also, we have nowhere to put dog waste anymore now that the garbage cans are gone from Saddle River Park.
- I'm listening and hearing about all of the pressure on the parks and all the response to the density of our population, so...is there going to be any acquisition involved in this and is there going to be any attention paid to try to acquire enough to keep a certain proportion of open space to whatever you develop so it doesn't change into an over-developed area that looks very much like any other over-developed part...of the way we live.
- People are talking about education and also trying to clean up some of our streams and rivers. I think it all ties together. I know we could utilize--and I love the fact that people are thinking about education and nature and conservation and historical—but we could also utilize a lot of the school systems. There are a lot of organizations, especially in the high schools where kids can get extra credit and it helps on college applications, if they help clean up some of the parks, the streams, and reach out to boy scout organizations and girl scouts, but there really are a lot of ways we can

incorporate educating people about keeping our parks and our nature close to us so we all have it for years to come. Definitely reach out to as many organizations as you can.

## Comments from Community Meeting on 5/10/2017

Location: McFaul Environmental Center, 150 Crescent Ave, Wyckoff, NJ.

Participants: Wolfram Hoefer, Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, Adam Strobel, Will Atwater (videographer), members of the public (see sign in sheet)

- The path down to Dunkerhook is ravaged. It's dangerous for bikers in places in winter. Also, bikers are multi-ethnic and do not always understand signs or ways of communicating with pedestrians, leading to bike/balk accidents. Pedestrians do not stay to the right when bikers alert them that they are passing on the left, which is also problematic. Dog leash lengths vary, so we need wider shared bike/walk paths—even screaming warnings, bikers cannot get pedestrians to move to the side to allow passing. Some bikers use bike paths for training for races so they can move very fast, but the problems exist even at lower, normal speeds. Cracks in paths are dangerous and not always filled in properly. In addition, I have seen kids taking baseball bats to the landscaping in Otto Pehle area, which is distressing.
- The international yield triangle is recognized by people from many different cultures around the world—maybe post graphic signs like this in the parks to help with bike/walk conflicts? It has worked well in state parkland.
- The Waterworks in Oradell is a County park? What's happening with that?
- I have a question about the golf courses.... You said they take up 10% of the land. What percentage of the people—the residents—use them? And are they self-sustaining financially in terms of the fees that they generate? And also you mentioned possible opening them up to people who aren't golfers. What were the ideas with respect to that?
- It is legal in the state of NJ to establish a revolving fund for park entities...but a local political decision needs to be made as to whether that approach is supportable.
- One, I urge you to seriously consider a dog park [Mahwah] or more dog parks. Number two, in regards to your to get more funding issues, I would suggest that you look into bringing into Campgaw some more motor home that type of camping. I've been doing it for 40 years and there are some really, really nice county parks. One of them is outside of Charleston, SC, the other is outside of Myrtle Beach. And the county does very well down there as a funding source. And the third issue is to encourage you to look at ways we can open up the vast acreage we have in Ramapo to more parking. And to me a way to do that is not to make a massive parking lot, but to look at other areas that can be opened up—for instance up on Stag Hill and down by the Bear Swamp and that area. One of the ways that they do it down outside of Virginia Beach is they have a shuttle. It takes you out into the park, drops you off and picks you up, because the way they have it now, if anyone wants to participate in the Ramapo Valley Park, which is a great thing...but if anyone wants to go up in that area [Bear Lake], it's like a 2 hour walk, so you've gotta open that up to more access to the people. And I know that parking is a problem. But I also urge you to look at the Darlington Campgaw area which is underserved—Darlington is only used 2-3 months out of the year; that area could be opened up. At Campgaw, the ski area is only open 3-4 months out of the year—that area could be opened up to concerts and things like that, because that has parking.
- John Trontis [NJ State Parks & Forestry]...look forward to working with the County and sharing idea, because our planning process and yours, we're not competing—we're serving the same population.

I said last time that very easily you could link State Park areas with County Parks. 10% of county land is golf course, meanwhile you mentioned that an important part of the Master Plan is protection of natural areas as a goal, so why not combine them. I would propose managing golf courses as environmental resources.... [State] just bought a course in Gloucester County and took it out of golf. The cart path there provides an accessible route for travel and we're turning the fairways into grassland bird habitat and it's an amazing resource. You can take a wheelchair across the entire course and look at the wildlife that is now teeming back into the area. [In Hunterdon County], we entered our course in the River Friendly program.... There's a golf course River Friendly certification that you can build up certification levels and get more and more environmentally-friendly and you could turn your non-play areas into wildlife habitat...not just for beautification and flowers, but also improving habitat. You mentioned the Meadowlands and ID-ed it as an underserved area in the southern end of the County and mentioned potential linkage to the northern end—I've gotta tell you, I worked with the Meadowlands Commission from 1985-1998 and I planned all their parkland there (Richard DeKorte Park and other areas) and we designed a path that was never realized. Less than 10 miles of meadows path was realized. And that path was meant to go from Kearny to the Oradell Reservoir, so with a little bit of coordination between Hudson and Bergen Counties you could actually make that that happen. It's really not such a stretch. It took 2 years to get utility rights-of-way to let us use their service roads through the marshes. SO I would hope that would be a goal. You mentioned dog parks and...dogs off leash—well, education and enforcement is a must, but when I say education about dogs (now I'm a dog person, so don't take this the wrong way).... When I would come upon somebody with a dog off leash, I would say, "Do you know that dogs should be on leash in this park?" I approached them in a friendly manner...and then a half hour later I'd see them in another area and the dog would be off leash again. "Didn't I approach you a while ago?" "Oh yes, but there are no people here." So people with dogs, for the most part, are thinking that the rule for dogs on leash is to protect people. I believe it's also to protect habitat, and dogs off leash can ravage grassland birds—ground nesting birds—and other wildlife. And it's to protect the dogs, and a dog running into the pond is just a happy dog. But a dog running into a pond, kicking a fish or frog egg mass is going to obliterate wildlife, so it's an educational problem. And about animal waste, I run County stables and a good place to get rid of the effluent is the mushroom farmers in PA. They'll take all of the effluent you can give them.

- You talked about infrastructure, you talked about maintenance, you talked about repairs and things like that. It's very nice to put in new venues, it's very nice to have exciting new projects underway, but it's also equally important to figure out that you have aging infrastructure in some of the County parks that need upgrades, both for the safety and the enjoyment of the residents and that really needs to happen. Let's follow this out. Having been involved with both local and County government for over 40 years, I can tell you that government does not always move at a rapid pace. But let's assume that your study—which I wholeheartedly endorse—to come up with a Master Plan, the question is what's going to happen with it once it's done? You come up with a Master Plan by the end of the year, that Master Plan gets submitted to Bergen County administration, administration will certainly review it very thoroughly and tweak it and change it and modify it and do whatever they feel is proper, and at the proper time they will submit it to the County board of freeholders and hopefully they will look at it seriously and hopefully the plan in whatever plan it's in will be endorsed by the Freeholders. Now you go back a step to administration and you find out what administration wants to do to prioritize all the things you've come up with during this very lengthy study.... And

after you prioritize, now you have to go for funding, so now you're into a budget cycle and this and that and everything else. So what happens to the repair of electricity, what happens to the aging buildings, what happens to the aging septic systems, what happens to all the things that don't look good on the front page of the County Life section of the Bergen Record? What happens to those things that really need money to get done after all this time and all this priority and all this budget process? I think it needs to be addressed very seriously.

- You were talking about animal waste at the zoo. One of the things you might think about doing is offering that waste to various farm-type places like Garretson [Farm] or...the Hermitage is starting a garden, so any of those places that need manure.
- Glen Gray and Tamarack. I know they are relatively recent acquisitions by the County and to my knowledge, unless something has changed relatively recently, there is very limited public access to those parks. And I can imagine some of the reasons why, having been to those facilities. Is there a plan to expand access to those park areas? And parking and vehicular access to Glen Gray for example is an issue.
- Just a quick follow up to that point, several years ago there was a Ramapo Mountain/Greenway study which was conducted with lots of municipal input, lots of people, lots of discussion groups, focus groups, etc. And that was done at the request, I believe, of the State Green Acres Program, which has spent a lot of money personally in these properties. And that was a wonderful result, but it's sitting on the shelf. I can't imagine that we have to go back and start over again to redevelop some of the data that was put together that you folks should use right now.
- These issues are not unusual. It happens all over. [The State] buys Scout Camps and we have to make sure that there's public access or Green Acres will not invest public monies. We had to turn one down in Warren County because access was only by reservation through a power company property, so we lost that property.... Green Acres has looked into this because they needed to make sure, for the citizens of NJ, that if you're buying a private property and the use is going to continue by Scout campers, will it be open to the general public... So...it happens all over the state. Before we spend public monies, we need to make sure there is public access.
- I did a media piece on the Waterworks back in 2010, which may not seem too long ago, but I'm just watching this building sit there. There are a lot of great plans that you're talking about: I saw the signage for a canopy walkway, which sounded really interesting, but through being in Outdoor Adventure, we bring all of these students all over NJ and also into NY. One national park is actually the Thomas Edison (Museum) in NJ—I think something similar could be done there. There are a lot of great things happening there as well. And NY, as part of a funding mechanism, I go camping a lot and they offer camping gift cards through the Department of Environmental Protection. That's something interesting that you could open to literally anything that's a zoo, or something like that. And as far as going further to get people outside...maybe offering wi-fi in some of the parks. A lot of people like studying outside on the internet.
- Yea, wi-fi would be nice. I'm just speaking as a local Ridgewood resident who has been going to the duck pond for 30-whatever years since my kids were little and I...see the bikers, which I'm scared of now because I can't hear anymore very well and I can't tell my left from my right [dyslexia] and I have a balance issue, so I can't go too close to the edge of the [path]. Anyway, besides that...where's the water? Why can't you fix low-hanging fruit that's right in front of your face? Where's our water?
- The water issue was fixed at Wood Dale! Why not at the Duck Pond?
- [The Duck Pond] has been a big mud puddle for years. They promised to fix it for years.



- If you are talking about big plans, why can't you prioritize small fixes like the Duck Pond?
- Contact DEP Dam Safety. They have a loan program—it's very expensive to fix dams, weirs. Any water control structure is a bear.... Dam safety at 501 East Street has people that can review and assist and they have a loan program for municipalities.
- I live in Mahwah along the Ramapo River.... How much input do we have as homeowners is Bergen County wants to put a bike path through our back yards, literally? Do we have a say in that?
- Going back to the duck pond, is there a speed limit for bikers, because I've been almost hit a few times as have other people that I walk with. I've been cursed at, and I turn around and the bike is right there, speeding by. Is there a speed limit?
- Public amenities near private properties and commercial properties drive up the value, so sometimes remote properties that are then connected by a trail element...can raise property values by something like 10%.
- Is there a means for residents who can't make these meetings still give input, is this through the survey?
- I use the parks all around.... We all know there is difficulty parking at Ramapo Reservation. Have they looked into solutions to make it safer to walk along 202 to get to the other parking that is in the area, because that is really dangerous? You can tell me I can't park in the Reservation, but you say I can park at Ramapo College, but it is not a safe walk from one point to the other. Are they addressing that?
- Also, dead wood all along 202 is dangerous. A 26-year-old woman was critically injured by falling wood here.
- Does the long-term plan consider things like climate change and rising temperatures? Because just one thing at Saddle River—that bike path floods, so is that going to be in the future as water levels rise, are we going to have that flood more? Is it smart to maybe consider not putting things next to rivers that could flood a lot more in future?
- Every one of those 70 municipalities in Bergen County has a different definition of what coverage is impervious or pervious. Is a deck pervious, is it impervious? They count them different ways for your coverage and it makes no sense. It's either pervious or it's impervious.... I wish the State would just come in and solve that....
- There are turtles hatching on one side of the road at the Duck Pond that migrate each year and get flattened by cars on the road. It happens every spring. If you come into the park by the maintenance building—that stretch of road. I have a whole collection of flattened baby turtle shells because it happens each spring. Does the park know about this? Is there something that can be done to allow the baby turtles to migrate safely across the road?

## Notes from Community Meeting on 5/11/2017

Location: Bergen Community College at the Meadowlands, 1280 Wall Street West, Lyndhurst, NJ.

Participants: Wolfram Hoefer, Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, Jim Koth, Adam Strobel, Will Atwater (videographer), members of the public (see sign in sheet)

- [In Chamber of Commerce economic development planning] the last few times that we were successful...we talked about in the priority list things that we consider to be some low-hanging fruit that you can accomplish that did not take significant amount of funding dollars but could also have a great effect on the quality of life or the perception of life. For instance, you showed the flowers around the tee boxes at the golf course—those types of things in terms of beautification and aesthetics, because...the parks in the southern part of Bergen County, while I use it 3-4 times a week either for walking or bike riding, they are not pretty and they're not as pretty as the parks perhaps in the northern part of the County. So, that makes a difference to the perception of the people who use the parks. That may perhaps be a low-cost item to address, so perhaps in your planning process, in your prioritization of what you're doing, think about the things that could be accomplished with not a lot of money and some creativity and...there may be some public private partnerships or municipal county partnerships that can be had to draw things. [San Antonio park example] They were trying to get people to not drive to the parks—you talked about parking and not having a lot of spaces—and very cleverly...they took points in the community and listed the distance from that point to the park and they were encouraging people through public awareness to walk to parks. SO as people were sitting there looking at their phones watching the steps—how many steps they're taking—so if it's a half mile from the center of Lyndhurst to a Bergen County park, and then I'm going to walk down there and walk back, I know I'm adding an extra mile...to that process. It was an interesting way to get people out of their cars, walk to the park, create that kind of linkage. Also creating paths—walking paths and/or biking paths—with those distance meters from one park to the other...so that might be something to think about also. From a tourism standpoint, we're looking at tourism in the Meadowlands as a growing economic impact in the future, especially if American Dream opens up and other things develop in this particular region that would create a destination here in the Meadowlands. I can tell you unequivocally that visitors that come here and stay in our hotels want to be able to bike and walk and have easy access to them. My job is that when a visitor comes here, instead of just being a cheap alternative to a NYC hotel—where they stay here and then go spend all their money in NYC—my job is to get them to stay here and spend more of their money in local communities, in local businesses...and the only way to do that is to give them more reasons to stay here. If we can give them reasons to play and have things to do and events to attend, they'll stay here and this becomes a primary destination as opposed to just being a cheaper place to get a hotel room.... We'll assist in any way possible, we'll share some tourist data that perhaps we have if you think that that is helpful.... [On Community Groups diagram] While you thought perhaps about health and wellness perhaps in athletics, I think it's a separate group, and there are some very interesting things happening in parks around the country in collaboration with hospitals in terms of wellness and exercise and cardio and other activities that are done in the outdoors. That could be very creative and also funded through those entities. That could be a great public private partnership for that particular effort. I think health & wellness...could be a group or it could be a sub-group of athletics.

One of the things from an economic development stand point that we are thinking about very much is how to keep our young people here. And it is a great concern. We educate our kids and then they don't find enough reasons to stay here and...the millennials and Gen-Xers want greater opportunities for this. So as we're creating the jobs perhaps for them, you have to have the kind of living space that they're looking for and you have to have the kinds of recreation and "things to do" that they're looking for: easy access to public transportation into wherever they want—they don't always want to go into the City, but they want to be able to get around and they want to have those other things to do. That's what they perceive to be a quality of life. The quality of life for millennials is a little different from quality of life for me, but we have to be cognizant of quality of life to all those extra groups.

- It's about my kids and about my grandkids, and what I think this generation of adults should leave to them is a natural environment that's not toxic. We've learned from the 60s and years of neglect that happened at Overpeck Park, for example, and this generation of adults is going to make a difference and we're going to learn to live with plants and animals and birds and not allow capitalism in a sense—that is, developers, to take our land and just create a super-dense County. The southern part of Bergen County is vastly underserved...so...I love the idea of getting the Meadowlands up and going....I guess you can call me a two trick pony: air and water—those are my two tricks. Those are the two most important things in my life. Now I focus my life on the 46 acres at the Teaneck Creek Conservancy....Our vision of this 46 acres has been to add the 78 acres on the south side of DeGraw Ave, which I believe is Area II of the Overpeck Preserve, to be passive recreation, to be an area that will be for birds, animals, and passive trails. Unfortunately I have seen plans that include a 500 slot parking area, and that I am vehemently opposed to. I think your ideas are great: connecting parks are wonderful. But I think we need to connect them naturally as well. The plans that I've seen for that 78 acres are wrong, in my opinion, and I think the things that you've said in this plan show just how wrong they are. That land should stay natural. It's in the southern part of Bergen County, it's a underutilized area, it helps create a natural connectivity that we've lost through the creek. So, I hope that ultimately when the recreational master plan is written, it will include that land—Area II—after the landfill is cleaned up, to be preserved in perpetuity as natural land.
- I'm concerned about the Blauvelt Mansion, Bluefield in Oradell. I'd like this to be integrated into a park, into some sort of park plan, and with this property you would get history, culture and a community center that would be meaningful. Mr. Blauvelt was one of the founders of Bergen County. He brought everything to them and we're working on a book about him now and I'd like everyone to know about him. You could have wonderful events at Bluefield, so I hope that you will keep that in mind. Preserving historic New Jersey is important.
- I think the connectivity that you make as a key thing is going to be very hard. Not impossible, but hard. We saw during the Bloomberg administration in NYC, they took on this transportation...you know, getting more pathways and bikeways and so on, and there was a lot of pushback on that. But to actually get bicycle and pedestrian access to make much of a dent on your pie chart as to how people get to parks, the County would really have to adopt some major program that they were totally committed to year after year and see it change over time, which I'm in favor of, but I'm just not sure there is the willpower to do that. On the other hand, what we see, even though we are in state parks and national parks and county parks, what we see as the biggest growth of...activity in the hiking and walking realm is linear parks, whether they're railroad beds or riverways and that type of things. It seems to me when you look at the river park in south Bergen, you have these little parks

along the river but they need to be connected. They're built right up to the banks, but it seems to me that something cantilevered or in the tidal flats that would connect those things, you would see an explosion of economic activity in those communities. If you go now to Atlanta to...the big loop around Atlanta that they're building, whenever they put in a new section, another problem goes from poverty to gentrification because there are so many people just rushing into there. The same in LA with the Los Angeles River, Chicago with the 606...and you have to think big though.... I know that someone... said "without spending much money." Well, it's not going to happen without spending much money. And it has to happen in a really good way to bring all of those benefits and to last. But it's worth it. It really is. It pays dividends well into the future. So I would look at abandoned railroads or non-abandoned railroads and the rivers for big investments, and of course, I love the connectivity idea.

- It was very exciting when the Gold Coast began, the whole concept of the Gold Coast, and it was going to be Jersey City, it was coming up Hoboken and even now, we can still come from Hoboken and walk all the way up almost to the bridge. Except, nobody cares. Each town is responsible for the brick walkways—they're there, they're in place—but Sandy came and they're kind of all...you know, you have to kind of hop over bricks, but they're right on the Hudson River, they are absolutely magnificent. And they go right into the Palisades, so right at the bridge you can keep going and there you are. You're walking now along paths along trails into the Palisades. So there's the linear that's so wonderful, but who is caring for it? So each town doesn't want to put up the bucks to maintain it.
- I think the County needs to consider how will people react to it if you say "We only need another \$10 a house in order to afford this Master Plan." We've seen instances where wonderful properties broken up because families died or the money's gone. It would seem that one of the things that the County can do within its own purview, is to make it an advantage for someone who owns property to pass it to the County so that it wouldn't have the investment for the new land and it doesn't have to be 100%, it can be a big piece of it for example. So you could leave your land—I don't think we have a naming program for our parks yet—I wouldn't mind having a Young Park somewhere in the County and I'm sure that most of the very very wealthy people would love to be able to give us a few million dollars from their big estates. We say that Bergen County is one of the richest areas in the whole country and that means that all of these not-for-profits have got money and that if we work the program right and that we use the County as the vehicle to get that money, get free property—and who knows? It may be endowments also to keep it running because they're not going to run for nothing...so consider it in your long-range plan as to how that's going to be financed.
- I live close to Van Buskirk Island. It's got everything: the Waterworks and future passive park. But it connects to the Hackensack River and I think that's a really great resource. You're talking about linear parks and such, and here's a linear river. Recently I participated with the Hackensack Riverkeeper...just to be with canoes and kayaks there on the river...it was like being in another world. So I'd like to see more access to that river. We were able to go from the Elm Street Bridge in Oradell down to River Edge, but you need to make it a little more accessible to do that, maybe with a boat launch. I've heard discussion about it but would like to see that.
- I was thinking of our Marriott Hotel in Teaneck and that many people I'm sure would like to go jogging when they go to town and the jogging path in Overpeck Park is lit until 10:00 at night, but there's no way to get across. You can jog easily, but the only thing that's necessary is sidewalks and maybe the County should provide a map of area along County roads that doesn't have sidewalks and make a program to—especially between parks—to put in sidewalks along County roads. That's when

the people come at 5:00, 6:00 so they can run over at Overpeck Park and run their hearts out. And it would be a wonderful amenity for the Marriott.

- Give us a bridge [at Overpeck].
- I'd like to address the gentleman who talked about the dollar signs. I'm kind of the eternal optimist when it comes to advancing these kinds of initiatives, and the plans that are produced well like what you've got going on here as you build consensus and you bring commitment to the table—we already see a commitment by the County by taking on this effort and I think the County under Jim Tedesco and the freeholders can convince the municipalities to participate in this—so while it seems like it's a far reach, we've got to put a plan together. Those great plans are things that can be accomplished when lots of different people come together for the right cause for the right thing, so keep that positive. I want to get back to a word that a lot of people have used today and that's that "connectivity" and that linkage. That's really, really important, especially when it comes to biking and one of the things that was so exciting to me when I first heard the possibility of the Meadowlands endeavor in the park here was linking perhaps a bike path from say Losen Sloat all the way to the Meadowlands and then as I'm sitting here tonight, I can envision Lyndhurst doing a designated bike path from the Meadowlands park down to the County Parks and perhaps Lyndhurst and Rutherford doing something where that bike path can be extended from Lyndhurst County Park along River Road into the Rutherford park system there and now you've just put yourself together something that's probably 10 or 12 miles of bike path, which is really something that is appealing to both residents and visitors. And that type of product is achievable when someone can see the vision. Someone has to lay out that vision of what the possibilities are and that's what you're doing. That connectivity is really, really important as part of that.
- You can think about some of these things in phases. You don't have to accomplish it all. Sometimes people need to see it before they get on board and can understand it....If you lay out a plan and are successful at building a component, and people can see it, you can point to the success, show them the data and how many people are using it and here are the possibilities if we can expand it, everybody loves a winner. If you build something that wins, people will want to be part of the team.
- I bird with Bergen County Audubon...we have a commitment at DeKorte park twice a month and Teaneck Creek. We have native plants in both areas we have a butterfly garden in Teaneck Creek and in Overpeck, so it doesn't have to be widespread. If you can concentrate, then have that come out and be publicized so people can say, "Well, it won't cost me that much, but if I come out and volunteer with Master Gardeners or something like that that could really be helpful." As opposed to a commercial thing like that Dinosaur Park...we're concerned about that.
- We have almost a 1000 people that come out at Butterfly Day in the Meadowlands, by the way, and we're having a big birding festival on October 7<sup>th</sup> in the Meadowlands which should get a lot of people if we do it up right, so there will be a lot of tourism to some extent that show an interest in the outdoors and it's free. No one has to pay for this. We're a non-profit, so you walk with us, you don't pay us a dime. You just enjoy the walk. We even have binoculars for the kids. Just to mention tourism, we're a real asset with that. And we're volunteers.
- We're volunteers. That's an asset that's not tapped as much as it could be.
- Sculpture for Leonia is a non-profit community group for arts at Overpeck. \*Add to Community Groups Diagram.
- I was concerned about overdevelopment in the parks when I first heard about this [Master Plan] project. But I feel much more comfortable now with the direction you are taking, balancing

protecting nature with human activity. Are you planning to connect all of the parks so we could walk or bike to all of them? That would be great!

## Notes from Teaneck Creek Conservancy Informal Conversations on 12/21/2016

Participants: Wolfram Hoefer, Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, see sign-in sheet for community members (more than 39 members of public from Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Weed Warriors, BC Audubon Society, Overpeck Equestrian + other groups)

### Project Questions

- Couldn't you find a branding company closer to NJ than DNA in Seattle? Why wasn't a more local organization hired?
- Sidewalks linking homes to parks are in disrepair, causing residents to feel in danger if they try to walk to the park (especially in Teaneck Creek area of Overpeck given the highways)
- NYC parks have clear entrances and paths, making them more user-friendly than many current County parks
- Open space tax should be raised back up to ½ cent from ¼ cent because we lose out on matching grants as things stand now
- Sustainability ≠ environmentally-friendly (e.g. cutting down acres of forest to install solar panel array); need to be sure that the master plan doesn't sacrifice environmental resources unnecessarily in the name of sustainability
- Are we headed to privatized zoo & Dino Park type recreation? County seems to be taking "real" open space for commercialized recreation (Dinosaur park was very clearly not favored by the community members at this meeting).
- Visioning is great, but how are we going to make this binding? Are we spending lots of money on a master plan that is going to be ignored by future administrations? How can residents have some power to keep new administrations' caprices from doing whatever they want with the citizens' natural resources? Should community groups hire a professional advocate who has experience in government?
- When there is very little environmental/passive parkland in the center/south of the County, taking land for the Dino Park and commercialized things is a bad idea. From a capitalistic view, going to the expense of installing the Dino Park and a sea of parking for it doesn't make sense because it will not last long (maybe 3 years—families will only visit the park a couple of times; it doesn't have much repeat appeal); what happens to the park land when interest in the Dino Park has waned? Also, installing the Dino Park where proposed means that locals will have to pay for Dino Park in order to easily access other parts of Overpeck beyond it.

- Open space & natural areas are desired and becoming a scarce resource—some people (Woodcliff Lake, etc.) are selling their properties and moving out because they are seeing the open space & farmland that originally attracted them to the area being developed
- Perhaps add signage for walking trails (e.g. British walking trails show 1.2 miles to main loop, etc.)
- Non-profit managers of County land (e.g. Teaneck Creek Conservancy) need to be involved because they are affected by any plan—CUES needs a list of non-profits/sanctuaries/co-ops, etc. so that they can be contacted/involved because there is not enough time to physically meet with them separately
- Is there any plan for communication between parks?
- Does each County park have a mission? If not, this should be developed & articulated for master plan.

#### **Presentation Improvement Suggestions**

- Need data layer on maps showing municipal park land/open space
- What is the criteria for the park categories? Need some qualifier statement noting that there are blended resources in each park (sports and nature, or social and nature, etc.), so these are very general categories.
- If park is labelled social/cultural (e.g. Overpeck area) on map, is future decision going to ignore the nature side of this and develop the social/cultural instead (i.e. focus on events to the detriment of the nature)?
- On the New Typologies slide, if nature comprises largest area, it should be at the top of the typologies list (it is also first alphabetically).
- Give an agenda at the beginning of each talk (we will present for approx. 40 minutes about project & then open for your comments/discussion)



## Notes from MEVO Informal Conversations on 12/21/2016

Participants: Wolfram Hoefer, Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, Eric Fuchs-Stengel (MEVO), Isabel Arrieche (MEVO)

- Are there ways to involve/integrate environmental & special interest groups in events (farm festivals, open air concerts with MEVO food, etc.)? It could reduce “commercialization” stigma and build awareness of important groups/movements and provide education for the public.
- MEVO planned to put farm in Fair Lawn section of Saddle River County Park
- CityGreen (Passaic) & MEVO do most of community gardens; Englewood group does community garden management
- It would be great to see sculpture gardens & art incorporated in to the parks, community involvement in gardens & plantings
- Maybe talk to the people who actually work in the parks to find out what the issues & opportunities are (e.g. Matt Grave in Mahwah DPW was former Darlington Parks head)
- MEVO will connect their contacts to the survey; will connect us with chief of Lenape Tribe
- \*\*\*Camping is very limited—so much red tape to get a permit (age limits, endless paperwork & info required) that most youth just go elsewhere (e.g. drive over border to NY parks rather than local ones)
- Many youth go to Harriman because they are not interested in lawns and golf
- Would be good to see more meadows & pollinator gardens rather than just lawn & flower beds
- Parking enforcement (especially at Campgaw) is very inconsistent & varies according to which enforcer is on duty; signage is missing or isn't clear re: where parking is allowed; places where people have parked for years suddenly becomes no parking for no clear reason so people take No Parking signs down; very re-active system
- Plenty of vacant buildings on County properties that are ripe for re-use with new purpose that benefits community. Example: Campgaw lodge (formerly for tobogganing) not used; MEVO used temporarily but told to vacate because of zipline installation, which still has not materialized
  - Need a building count/inventory to identify vacant properties for re-use
- Stag Hill section of Reservation has lots of illegal dumping, pollution, illegal poaching, logging, off-roading, but there is no interest in County government to enforce rules & put stop to it.

- German House (on County land) is totally trashed (same park as the pristine Reservation, but no action in the German House area)
  - County understandably doesn't want to invite the public into its "messy room" part of the park, but leaving it alone just perpetuates the problem
  - MEVO has done much clean-up, but there is too much for them to do on their own & cannot deal with pollution issues
  - Only action by County was initial little bit of clean-up, but no follow-up
  - No clear accountability or sense of whose responsibility the issue is
  - Ways to frame iconic project in the Stag Hill area to get more support for trails & action on pollution?
- Illegal dumping over long periods of time = different type of brownfield
- NJ Highlands, Patagonia & NJ Clean Communities have sponsored MEVO
- Maybe find ways for NY/NJ trail youth crews to help County with trail projects?
- Need "Next Steps" chapter of report for what needs further investigation; include MEVO investigations info to appendix so it does gain more attention?
- Can we add illegal dumping sites (from MEVO report) to Campgaw inventory?
- People will come from far distances to MEVO farm, so similar "branch" farms could potentially exist in more urban parts of the County
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension has not been supportive partner to MEVO—MEVO has used Cornell Cooperative Extension instead

## **Notes from Informal Conversation With WGANJ on 2/8/2017, 6-7:00pm**

Location: Valley Brook Golf Course Clubhouse, 15 Rivervale Road, River Vale, NJ

Participants: Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, Mike Young, Tom McGovern (General Manager of Valley Brook Golf Course), Kate McDuggan (WGANJ), Kerri Donnelly (WGANJ), Pat Roque (WGANJ), and other WGANJ members

- WGANJ has 500+ total members: 411 live in Bergen County (BC), but only 33 play the BC courses. 36 Women's leagues. WGANJ is growing in spite of national drop in golfing: 214 members in 2010, 600 members in 2017 and still growing. Most members are still working; retirees tend to move away.
- People enjoy 9 holes before dark + a drink + socialization!

### ***Landscaping***

- Greenskeeping in general is amazing at the courses—much improved
- Morris & Somerset courses “pristine” and nicer (no burnt out spots, etc.)
- Baywood Greens, Delaware one of their favorite courses for its beauty: flowers, picturesque bridge, different colored foliage, different shrub textures, etc. [They whipped out phones to start showing us pictures they had snapped at favorite courses!]
- Pretty photo ops would be nice—lot of the ladies like to take pretty pictures as memento or to share. Need to site these at Par 3 or other places where waits are expected so as to not delay play of game.

### ***Amenities***

- Would like nice restaurant & clean restroom at clubhouses so they can socialize; even temporary/“pop up” structures out on course with temporary seats would be fine as pilot projects
  - Beverage cart
  - Farmstead Club has tiki hut with grill & beverages out at intersection of 9-hole courses...very effective without expenditure of major building construction/renovation
  - Healthy food options desired by women (fruits, wraps, granola/protein bars, Gatorade, etc.)
  - Might be good to add more ethnic food options at certain courses (e.g. Overpeck & Rockleigh) depending on patron demographics
- There is nothing special about the Paramus course. WGANJ is forcing members to use it...it is not a voluntary choice.
- Women need clean restrooms (even just porta-john with hand sanitizer & toilet paper) out somewhere on the course. Some women won't play at the County courses because they know they cannot go 9 holes without restroom access.

- Ball washer & garbage can at each red tee instead of only at back tees where men tend to play would go a long way in making the courses feel more women-friendly (low-hanging fruit, too!). Could even have sponsors to help finance it.
- Pro shop please? Apparently the bidding process is extremely tedious and hard to complete with low equipment prices at places like Dick's Sporting Goods. Still, there are times when would be good to be able to make emergency purchases for ball replacements, etc.
- Would be nice to have clocks or nice rangers reminding people of tee time periodically spread across course to help keep play progressing at good rate.
- Would be good to have more women pros. Apparently County had a fantastic woman pro years back—tremendous asset—but most of the women pros are already working elsewhere
- Would be nice to add benches, especially shaded ones at places where people are likely to have to wait, and consider other senior-friendly amenities
- Other courses have gone to Segways for player & golf bag rather than carts. Nice because play can go more quickly (not have to wait for 2<sup>nd</sup> person to finish before moving onto next hole).

#### ***Payments, Processes & Customer Service***

- Frustrated that when 10 WGANJ members show up to play, they will be charged for 2 missing people to make up the last foursome, even though no one else is there to use the course. Cannot afford to pay for 2 “dummy” players so 2 women end up not playing. Would be willing to let others join to fill the foursome. Would appreciate more flexibility regarding this, especially as they have been faithful patrons & are the largest league that plays the County courses. Course doesn't want to only charge partial fee since they might be able to get a full foursome.
- No groups are allowed on weekends, which is not great for groups, but does provide time for members of the public to play.
- “We work better with courses outside the County because those places work better with us.”
- Showed up for regular tee time only to find it was maintenance day and so no practice area was available—why no warning or other area provided?
- Communication between courses & leagues could be improved so info is more apparent: not realize that could play “back 9” at discounted rate, that walk-in slots were allocated every hour, etc. This info is apparently on info sheet if people read it, but these seasoned golfers were not aware
- Being in charge of fixing divots at last hole at one course was really fun & helped the ladies feel a sense of ownership. Some people are apparently not as enthusiastic & do not want to pay a lot of money to play and then be required to fix divots.
- Driving range at Darlington finished contract & now County is having difficulty in getting a replacement—bidding process, etc.
- BC Courses soon switching from automated call system for booking tee times to a human call center—this seems more expensive and diverts man hours.
- Auto lightning warning system wasn't working & had to be manually operated because company that ran it went out of business.

- Some rangers could be more congenial to players as evening approaches when reminding them that they need to finish.
- Would appreciate more flexibility with pros.

### ***Miscellaneous***

- Need to deal with geese—especially terrible at Rockleigh. Droppings everywhere are a big turn-off to women.
- WGANJ is very involved in many different charities and fund-raisers. They could potentially be great partners with the County for community events.

## Informal Conversation with Trail Riders on 2/16/2017 at 7:00-9:00pm

Location: 5 Colgate Street, Closter, NJ

Participants: Beth Ravit, Angela Johnsen, NICA, PalisadesMTB, JORBA.

- NJ Interscholastic Cycling League, chapter of National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA), has Palisades Cyclones team for high school students.
- 170 kids in the league in the state; 2 active teams.
- Strong high school group in West Milford
- League rules require legal designation for practice sites
- Great, healthy alternative to ball sports for kids & family activity
- Sandy & Shepard are coaches
- <http://www.newjerseymtb.org/>
- Rockleigh is only legal venue nearby, but too far to take kids on regular basis (long drives for parents)
- Alpine North = Lamont Reserve
- Better to call mountain biking “trail riding” – more accurate in Alpine case and has less baggage associated with it
- Other NJ counties allow trail riding, but not motorized. Legitimate trail riders serve as extra eyes & ears to deter illegal ATV use, etc.
- NY State Sterling Forest—see master trail plan
- Bikers should not enforce, but can report illegal activities (e.g. NY dumping hotline or alert land manager)
- Rockleigh permits unleashed dogs
- Would need to coordinate with trail crews re: water issues (bikers want dry)
- JORBA model—trail rep who is responsible for collaborating with park manager re: maintenance, etc.
- Widening for horses & ATVs changes the user experience
- Pilot project locations: Alpine N&S, potentially Camp Glen Gray/Campgaw
- Avoid high-value hiking paths; make bike trail more desirable than hiking trail so bikers self-sort to it
- Must have signage for hiking & biking areas
- PIP owns land access to Alpine S (via Ruckland Rd entrance and boy scout camp)
- Hiking only on Hudson River side of 9W, shared biking & hiking on other side (owner probably ok with a viable suggestion)
- Camp Alpine has the key trail link in the this open space area
- Do not consider/market Alpine a biking destination; should be walking or biking to the park rather than driving
- High Mountain (Nature Conservancy, NJ Natural Land Trust, Wayne Twp.)
- Camp Glen Gray would be great for biking; Campgaw, too, in the Western part (informal trails currently exist that bikers have been using)—would need integrated plan connecting it to Glen Gray
- Experience of cross-country biking is different from hikers because they travel farther distances; will self-segregate given opportunity because want a different experience from hikers
- Friends of Camp Glen Gray group; only registered users at Camp Glen Gray allowed to park. Parking on Skyline Drive, other roads, etc. PACKED on a nice day.

- Easy trails for strollers, families close to parking, loops of increasing difficulty going out
- Campgaw area more challenging for bikers than Alpine
- Stag Hill is ATV territory; Wild West feel, not well-suited to mtn biking; one biker had shotgun pointed at him & told to leave
- Generational, “I have the right to recreate” vibe to many ATV users
- Glen Rock in Saddle River County Park has kids on mountain bikes (not serious bikers & not sustainably executed trails)
- Looking for nature experience, various levels of challenges. For beginners, shorter loops with some uphill & downhill. Alpine S would be great for beginners.
- Trails not generally overrun with mountain bikers. Maybe 25-50 riders/day. 4.5 riders per day @ Blouvelt (maybe 10 on weekend & 2 on weekdays—more dog walkers and hikers)
- IMBA publishes trail design books & other resources
- Strava app—bikers race against each other
- Trail Forks app—find mountain biking trails
- Alpine proximity to NYC could be an issue—trails are already used by NYers (joggers & bikers)—but majority of Manhattan riders more likely to go to Blue Mountain & other nicer biking destinations with longer loops, etc. Pilot study would help shed light on this.
- Talk to West Chester County about biking trails; has one of best public/private partnership plans with bikers

### ***Pilot Project***

- Inventory with park manager (existing trails, etc.)
- Negotiate trail locations/design
- Coordinate trail maintenance with land manager
- Land manager will get calls from neighbors & call relay them to biker org. (some neighbors will be unhappy if used to claiming public property as their own yard for extended period of time; good to have public meeting at library where those feelings can be aired, the issue discussed, reassurances made—the calls usually dissipate afterwards)
- Minimal input required from land manager: bikers update them about maintenance
- Signage (bikers/hikers only vs shared trails); trail map with loop colors; suggest which trails are best for what level of challenge; basic trail etiquette info/educate; trail user council/forum for education, outreach coordination, etc.
- Design of trails can increase challenge while discouraging use by ATVs; tight, twisty trails, side-hilling very uncomfortable for ATVs. Motorized bikes not as deterred.
- Lots of ATV use already; mountain biking as legitimate use could be positive means of discouraging damaging ATV use.
- Enforcement—land managers don’t have resources to enforce ATV rules (can’t chase, no vehicle to impound the ATV, etc.)
- Permitting adds other levels of complexity (logistics of permitting, go gets permits can create 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizen feelings, who has the resources to check that only permitted users are on the trails?); mountain bikers not necessarily opposed to permits, but recommend leaving them for private biking destination that are great.
- Park ambassadors on trails to answer questions, help people, educate new users

- Bike orgs great for teaching trail etiquette & trail maintenance to next generation of bikers
- Liability issues
- Having two options (A-line=easier; B-line=more advanced features) on trail allows user to choose which level is more appropriate for their skill/comfort. Signage re: level of difficulty of trail loops/features like on ski slopes (black diamond, etc.); use natural features like boulders rather than structures as much as possible.
- Liability of landowner is same as for hiking trails, etc. Bike groups are self-insured for trail creation & maintenance
- West Milford Pump Track
- BC could have partners in JORBA, etc.
- Bikers are great resource to the County: experienced but willing to volunteer; lots of money in biking community and fundraising is never an issue so funding would not be huge drain
- There is a growing critical mass. Best to pick a parcel & do a pilot project rather than have illegal use & frustration. Just do the trails right & embrace it.
- West Chester County has very impressive biking partnership
- Cunningham Park in NYC works, High Bridge Park in Manhattan—if NYC can do it, so can Bergen County.
- Rockleigh is going to keep mountain biking legal, so doesn't make sense to have adjacent BC properties not have legal, sustainable trails. Just do it right with a working relationship with the biking community
- Middle section of Alpine pilot project is the sticking point
- Alpine S would be ideal for the NICA kids
- Neighbors not an insurmountable problem
- Legalize 1 trail for the North-South track; not really adding users, just legitimizing the current shadow users and making activity more sustainable.
- Request mtn biking legal only in a few specific locations
- Great way to get kids outside; healthy family activities & community bonding; positive, challenging activity for teenagers (training, teams, education, etc.)



## Notes from Informal Conversation Re: CSX Northern Valley Trail on March 22, 2017

Participants: [REDACTED] Beth Ravit,  
Angela Johnsen, Dean Janulis

- All 6 northern valley municipalities have passed resolutions to do rails to convert CSX line (Tenaflly up through North Vale) to greenway; authorized an exploratory steering group; each mayor has appointed 2 representative (councilperson liaison and a “worker bee”); have charter from municipalities to explore the concept and report to the municipalities, but cannot commit to anything on behalf of the municipalities
- Tenaflly Chamber of Commerce & Rotary member got the ball rolling; previous attempts to discuss with CSX were unsuccessful, but recently [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] CSX has acknowledged some interest
- County has the resources to make it happen
- [REDACTED] has been trying to connect with the County; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- 50 some acres of rail line (approx. \$1-1.5 million per mile estimated cost)
- CSX is only interested in selling the land with option to buy back with option to buy back in x # of years.
- A number of people were interested in rail access above Englewood. Tenaflly protests against light rail & high density development. Long main street with too many rail crossings, so Tenaflly felt, “what is the real benefit of light rail to the community?” If enough communities north of Tenaflly in the future want light rail, that might change. Federal government transportation budget cuts make current light rail plans uncertain, so little chance of federal funding for light rail through north in foreseeable future.
- [REDACTED]
- County support & funding welcome, but as County gets involved, it needs to maintain communication and partnership with the small community groups and municipalities rather than coming in, taking over, saying thank you, and then shutting the door to collaboration.
- The towns that stopped the light rail from going up through Tenaflly, etc.—the same constituents—would be upset if County just took over because this is a local community park; the local communities and community organizations are the ones who would benefit most & so they want the most say in what happens. A lot of the donations might dry up if the County tries to take over (vs. just helping by leveraging some of its resources and adding its support to local efforts).

## **PUBLIC FEEDBACK BY PARK**

(Includes Meeting comments, sticky notes, emails, online survey)

STK-TK = Sticky Notes Teaneck  
STK-MW = Sticky Notes Mahwah  
STK-PS = Sticky Notes Paramus  
STK-RV = Sticky Notes River Vale  
STK-EP = Sticky Notes Elmwood Park  
STK-FL = Sticky Notes Fort Lee  
OS = Online Survey  
EML = Email  
NTK = Notes Teaneck Meeting 1/10/2017  
NMW = Notes Mahwah Meeting 1/12/2017  
NCL = Notes Closter Meeting 1/17/2017  
NPS = Notes Paramus Meeting 1/18/2017  
NLY1 = Notes Lyndhurst Meeting 1/19/2017  
NRV = Notes River Vale Meeting 1/25/2017  
NEP = Notes Elmwood Park Meeting 2/2/2017  
NFL = Notes Fort Lee Meeting 2/7/2017  
NMVO = Notes MEVO meeting  
NTCC = Notes Teaneck Creek Conservancy  
NWGA = Notes Womens Golf Association of NJ  
RC = resident comment  
NMB = Notes Mountain Biking Meeting  
NHA = Notes Hackensack Meeting 5/9/2017  
NWY = Notes Wyckoff Meeting 5/10/2017  
NLY5 = Notes Lyndhurst Meeting 5/11/2017

### **Alpine Reserves North & South**

OS	not familiar with Alpine Park
OS	once could not find entrance to Alpine landing
OS	We love to visit the Alpine overlooks. The events that they have had always get my family out of the house.
NCL	Rockleigh allows dogs offleash & mountain biking. Once people do it there, they continue to do it through the whole trail system (including Camp Alpine NJ & NY, Rockleigh, Alpine North & South). County parks do not authorize mountain biking at present. In Alpine Reserves, however, bikers have made their own biking trails, and there is a lot of mountain biking actually happening. What does the County want to do about it (i.e. permit, enforce, or continue to ignore)? Needs to be taken into account moving forward.
NCL	Difficult access issues need to be addressed in Alpine North & South areas.
STK-FL	Great opportunity for greenway connections with neighbors [not clear if this was intended for NEH or Alpine Reserve South]

- NMB Not looking for trail riding in every County park; just a few specific, most suitable locations. Alpine N/S and potentially Campgaw/Glen Gray would make great great pilot project sites for sustainable mountain biking in County Parks. Alpine South terrain would be ideal for beginners loop (esp. for kids, who need more locations to legally train--lack of convenient training locations is keeping interested students from being able to participate); Camp Glen Gray & Campgaw would provide more challenge.
- NMB Do not consider/market Alpine as a biking destination; access more appropriate by walking & biking than driving from far distances. Proximity to NYC could possibly be an issue as some NYers already use Alpine area trails, but majority of Manhattan riders are more likely to go to a nicer biking destination with longer loops, etc. than Alpine
- NMB Mountain biking already happening at Alpine. Mountain biking (and dogs off leash) are allowed at Rockleigh and other adjacent areas, so people continue to do it in Alpine Reserves (in the woods, no one knows where one property ends and another starts). Legalizing one trail wouldn't really be adding more users, just legitimizing the current shadow users and allowing them to ride in more sustainable manner
- NMB Trail connectivity would require partnerships with other landowners of adjacent properties; Camp Alpine is the key link in this open space area
- NHA I see that you have identified a couple of tracts in Alpine. We are very fortunate to have in our part of the County preserved, protected, undeveloped natural parkland and believe it or not it does get used. And it is becoming increasingly known to people in the County, whether it's bikers or hikers or mountain bikers or boy scouts. They come here to use these tracts. The people that I'm in touch with, that I hear from in my town, really value and cherish this natural space, which happens to also be very sensitive environmental space. It's a watershed area with steep slopes and all sorts of other factors....So...we would be most appreciative if the space that is in our town that you've identified as County owned or partially owned remain passive use....

## Artesian Fields

- STK-TK Thank you for preserving this property
- STK-TK Please clean it up! This park is in Elmwood Park, not East Rutherford as listed in your survey.
- STK-EP Clear forest bottom. (Needs...) Plaza with a water feature.
- STK-EP Gilbert Ave residents dumping garden waste!
- STK-EP (Needs...) Soccer fields
- STK-EP (Needs...) Community swim club
- STK-EP (Needs...) Education outdoor classroom
- STK-EP (Needs...) Geese prevention
- OS Parking at Artesian Fields next to Gilbert Ave School needs to be fixed. Parking lot is dangerous to drive or walk on.
- OS My home backs up to Artesian Fields and I have safety concerns. I don't like to bike or walk through there. I feel it's very isolated and I don't like that people can see into my yard. The fence is also damaged and though I called the county about it, no one ever responded to me.
- OS The parking lot next to Gilbert Ave school. The baseball field. That parking lot is dangerous
- OS Parking across from Gilbert Ave school is dangerous. It is not paved and the numerous holes in the surface are never filled. The lot should be paved and maintained properly.

- OS Saddle Brook and Van Saun are well maintained, but Artesian Fields (especially parking near the ballfields) needs to be given same attention as other county parks.
- OS The parks in elmwood park are a disgrace compared to the other ones in Bergen county. I don't like going to the ones in my hometown. I also wish the parking lot to the park next to Gilbert Ave was less dangerous. Having a child with a visual disability makes it hard for him to maneuver around the giant holes.
- OS Artesian Fields needs better parking near the ballfields and a more welcoming appearance at that entrance to the park.
- OS I wish Artesian Field was more developed. Currently there is nothing there, residents are too scared to use the walking path because there is a lack of openness and light and has not been maintained by the County. There is great space there and potential to develop a children playground and a walking path for residents to utilize.
- OS My local park (artesian fields) feels like it has not been finished. It would be great if it could be cleaned up regularly and finished and perhaps adding a small dog park . It would be a great asset to have a more local dog park instead of having to travel
- OS Wish Artesian Fields County Park had better amenities and things for kids
- OS Artesian Fields (especially parking near the ballfields) needs to be given same attention as other county parks.
- NEP For example, Artesian Fields has maintenance problems (downed & leaning trees sometimes present dangerous situations, etc.). Concerned that Master Plan will be similar example of County acquiring Artesian Fields property and initially adding some nice (but unlighted) walking paths but not maintaining property, so after hurricane damage the park doesn't look very good and in some cases seems a little unsafe to walk there.
- NEP Great to have walking paths in Elmwood Park that are lit...they allow people to enjoy nature.
- NCL Artesian Fields needs help. Has gravel trail in one section and has one area that is essentially untouched.
- NPS County has done tremendous things in parks around the County, but Artesian Fields has received almost no attention & funding from the County over the years. It has lots of potential given its nature. Great access: only 5-minute drive from many major highways and 3 NJ Transit bus lines run through park. School district owns land between Passaic River & Artesian Fields (connectivity of open space). Would be great if nature, athletics, etc. opportunities could be incorporated in a continuous park through the borough.
- NTK Elmwood Park woods is scary. Would be nice to have walking paths and safe feel (passive trails, water features).

### **Baylor Massacre Burial Site**

STK-EP Awesome Revolutionary War history

### **Belmont Hill County Park**

OS There are no food/beverage at Belmont Hill/Dahnert's Lake other than ice cream trucks that stop by over the Summer. They can be monitored more for graffiti.

### **Borg's Woods Nature Preserve**

- STK-TK      Lovely treasure. 5 Stars. Magical Place. Protect--especially no chemicals or removing trees.
- STK-RV      Wonderful natural place in neighborhood
- NEP          Borg's Woods is incredible. Trails really aren't maintained though—schools & scouts sometimes get involved in cleaning it up. It is just a little neighborhood park, so not sure how much could be done without losing the feeling of standing in the middle and not knowing where you are [“getting lost in nature” feeling as opposed to being surrounded by residential neighborhood], which is so wonderful.
- RC          This place is awesome! It feels like you're in the woods, just like when we played in the woods as kids before there was so much development.

### **Camp Glen Gray**

- OS          Camp Glen Gray presently offers camping to the general public only on Friday and Saturday nights. I wish the days available would be expanded.
- OS          We wish Camp Glen Gray offered more than just Friday night and Saturday night camping. I would hope for at least four nights each week for camping.
- OS          Glen Grey/Campgaw...Natural off the beaten path, camping, hiking.
- OS          [Favorite aspect of preferred park...] the outdoor 'chapel' at the Glen Gray boyscout lake
- OS          Yes, but I feel that more should be done to appreciate the natural, like Glen Grey
- NMB        Integrated with Campgaw, Camp Glen Gray would be great as a pilot project location for more challenging sustainable mountain biking trails than those proposed at Alpine. Parking could be an issue, although bikers do cover much longer distances on bikes than pedestrians; only registered users may park at Camp Glen Gray and roads in the area (e.g. Skyline Drive) are PACKED on a nice day.
- NWY        Glen Gray and Tamarack. I know they are relatively recent acquisitions by the County and to my knowledge, unless something has changed relatively recently, there is very limited public access to those parks. And I can imagine some of the reasons why, having been to those facilities. Is there a plan to expand access to those park areas? And parking and vehicular access to Glen Gray for example is an issue.

### **Camp Merritt Memorial Monument**

- STK-EP      100 years ago this year!
- STK-FL      Needs signs to explain significance.
- OS          Many of the current "parks" are entirely too tiny to be fully appreciated and should be expanded (Camp Merritt, Easton Tower, Gethsemane Cemetery).
- OS          And why the heck is Camp Merritt so bare? This was a MAJOR place and one has no real sense of it.

### **Camp Tamarack**

- STK-MW      Need mountain bike trails between Skyline & Ringwood Park. Check out Kingdom Trails, VT.

NWY Glen Gray and Tamarack. I know they are relatively recent acquisitions by the County and to my knowledge, unless something has changed relatively recently, there is very limited public access to those parks. And I can imagine some of the reasons why, having been to those facilities. Is there a plan to expand access to those park areas? And parking and vehicular access to Glen Gray for example is an issue.

### **Campgaw Mountain Reservation**

STK-MW (Needs...) Dog park.  
STK-MW (Needs...) Dog park.  
STK-MW (Needs...) Dog park.  
STK-MW (Needs...) Dog park.  
STK-MW (Needs...) Dog park please.  
STK-MW (Needs...) Dog park @ Campgaw.  
STK-MW Repair natural spring pump. Dog park.  
STK-EP Allow cycling in the county. Jorba.org  
STK-EP Allow hunting to control deer for forest regeneration. Make sure wetland by toboggan holds water for amphibian breeding. Maintain trails.  
STK-FL (Favorite because...) Learned to ski here.  
OS Dog Park in Campgaw, plenty of parking, use area in front of abandoned buildings. Motor Home parking should be developed, Campgaw not suitable for tent camping due to highway noise  
OS [difficult to access the park...] When the police academy closes the main lot at Campgaw.  
OS [Favorite aspect...] CAMPGAW'S DISC GOLF COURSE  
OS But only if I saw that money be used to improve something. For instance, it has not been possible for years to get spring water at Campgaw, making long hikes in the summer and camping difficult. Though we ask the Bergen County employees who drive through when the pumps would be fixed/replaced, they have no idea. I would happily pay a use-age fee repairs and upkeep like this were maintained.  
OS [Want to see...] Dog park at Campgaw, A zip line would be great at Campgaw. Overnight RV parking.  
  
OS it would be great if the Campgaw ski area could have alternate uses in the warmer weather  
OS Campgaw has great parking and good trails especially for dogs  
OS my son loves the disc golf at campgaw  
OS a trip to Campgaw for a day at the lake—all of these are minibreaks from the stress of a congested area and a busy life style  
OS Everyone in our family of four uses the parks - particularly Ramapo and Campgaw  
OS Most public archery ranges have just a small practice area. Bergen counties Archery range has a roving practice area where you can walk through the woods and shoot. I don't know of any other public archery range in the US that offers this to the public. Almost all of them are privately owned  
OS Disc golf courses!  
OS The Disc Golf Course  
OS Campgaw Ski Area (how cool is it that we have this little ski area so close to home?)  
OS [Best aspect of favorite park...] The top view of Campgaw, after a short hike up.  
OS I helped build the Disc Golf Course at Campgaw. I play it and volunteer there a lot!

OS Being a Mahwah resident, I love that we have Campgaw so close. In fact my husband and I both teach skiing there in the winter. Our kids learned there. I love that we have places like Ramapo Reservation so close. Nothing like hiking there in the fall.

OS I make sure to make them part of my frequent visits back to my home ground. Van Saun, the Bike Path, Ramapo, Campgaw (Disc Golf!), more!

OS access to bike riding, also Disc Golf

OS Glen Grey/Campgaw...Natural off the beaten path, camping, hiking.

OS Can't imagine having a better backyard than having Ramapo 10 minutes from our house. Great family outings at campgaw from skiing when the kids were little to disc golf now.

OS We hike and ski, camp with scouts

OS Overpeck County, Ramapo, Campgaw, Darlington, Van Saun...they are all the same....they NEED MORE PARKING.

OS Hunting in the Bear Swamp area, Dog park at Campgaw, A zip line would be great at Campgaw. Overnight RV parking.

OS I live in Mahwah, and our county parks don't seem to be the focus of attention. The county swim area is not upscale and it would be great if the Campgaw ski area could have alternate uses in the warmer weather. What about activities for senior citizens or teens ? The county hosts a countywide senior picnic at Van Saun. What about senior events/teen events in Northern Bergen?

OS Skiing

OS It's the only public roving archery range that I know of.

OS CAMPGAW'S DISC GOLF COURSE

OS [Difficulty accessing park?] Parking ramapo campgaw

NEP Campgaw paths are eroded (e,g, Indian Path going up the mountain).

NEP Climbing especially growing in the Mahwah Ramapo/Campgaw area. It's already happening there, but would like to see it allowed (County can add a little clause about climbing at your own risk to avoid liability). Great way for people to explore & be challenged.

NEP Bergen Bowmen maintain the trail, but need help from County in making some archery trail improvements in Mahwah area.

NMW Fix the pump at the Campgaw spring. Campgaw had a natural spring that people liked to use for filling jugs for drinking. Pump broke & was never fixed.

NMW Water pump was an important historical source of water for poor people as well as important community place. Lots of people benefited from it and it was a sad day when it broke, because many residents stopped at MEVO farm wondering where they would go now. Bringing the pump back would not be a big issue...wouldn't hurt anybody and simple way to provide for people who really needed help.

NMW Widen paths for emergency vehicle access so patients at top of hills are easy to access. Currently ambulance can only get to the bottom lake, then has to wait for 4-wheeler to arrive to access farther up the mountain. Not ideal when time is of the essence!

STK-EP Campgaw--nice "in the woods" feel

NMVO Parking enforcement (especially at Campgaw) is very inconsistent & varies according to which enforcer is on duty; signage is missing or isn't clear re: where parking is allowed; places where people have parked for years suddenly becomes no parking for no clear reason so people take No Parking signs down; very re-active system

- NMVO Plenty of vacant buildings on County properties that are ripe for re-use with new purpose that benefits community. Example: Campgaw lodge (formerly for tobogganing) not used; MEVO used temporarily but told to vacate because of zipline installation, which still has not materialized
- NMB Integrated with Camp Glen Gray, Campgaw would be great as a pilot project location for more challenging sustainable mountain biking trails than those proposed at Alpine. Bikers have already been using existing informal trails in the Western portion).
- NWY One, I urge you to seriously consider a dog park [Mahwah] or more dog parks. Number two, in regards to your to get more funding issues, I would suggest that you look into bringing into Campgaw some more motor home that type of camping. I've been doing it for 40 years and there are some really, really nice county parks. One of them is outside of Charleston, SC, the other is outside of Myrtle Beach. And the county does very well down there as a funding source. But I also urge you to look at the Darlington/Campgaw area which is underserved—Darlington is only used 2-3 months out of the year; that area could be opened up. At Campgaw, the ski area is only open 3-4 months out of the year—that area could be opened up to concerts and things like that, because that has parking.

### **Cherry Brook Woods**

No comments

### **Dahnert's Lake County Park**

- STK-EP (Needs...) Boating?
- OS Yes. I wish Dahnert's Lake was cleaned up so that it could freeze over the winter time again for ice skating. There are no food/beverage at Belmont Hill/Dahnert's Lake other than ice cream trucks that stop by over the Summer. They can be monitored more for graffiti.
- OS I prefer that parks remain PARKS, not circuses full of paved amenities (a la what they have done to Dahnert Park in Garfield - they basically ruined it. We used to go ice-skating there, and in season it was full of waterfowl - now it is bocce courts and huge rocks around the lake and not natural at all anymore)
- OS It would be nice if Dahnert Lake had a dog park installed. There seems to be enough space by the roller rink

### **Darlington County Park**

- STK-MW Boats, kayaks, canoes
- STK-RV So many cross country meets are held here--take advantage of that to market all aspects of the park
- STK-EP Used to be wonderful. No food/drink concessions any more. Bad element-frequent location-non B.C. residents.
- OS [Difficult to access park...] Darlington park was full
- OS I do not go on the weekends. Ramapo reservation & Darlington are weekend nightmares
- OS Overpeck County, Ramapo, Campgaw, Darlington, Van Saun...they are all the same....they NEED MORE PARKING.
- OS Was very disappointed when Darlington closed the back lake to the public. Me and my daughter enjoyed the back lake as it was quieter and less crowded than the front



- OS Darlington is great because there are really decent rest rooms. That is the same for the Meadowlands Museum and for James A. McFaul Center.
- OS Darlington is convenient for swimming.
- OS Darlington gets packed fast
- OS [Favorite aspect fo preferred park...] the lake for swimming at Darlington.
- OS Darlinton is cheap for county residents and close to the archy range.
- OS Darlington - running trials that are actually trials and not paved paths
- OS Run at Ramapo, Darlington and Ridgewood
- OS Loved taking my kids frequently to zoo and darlington when they were little.
- OS As long as it would not hurt the park, yes. Especially rest rooms. I love the Celery Farm but there is no rest area. Darlington is great because there are really decent rest rooms. That is the same for the Meadowlands Museum and for James A. McFaul Center. Some have decent rest rooms but others have nothing much.
- OS The zoo, carousel and train for the children at Van Saun and the lake for swimming at Darlington.
- OS Yes. Boating, wish the county golf courses were better maintained. Even though I live near Valley Brook and close to Darlington I prefer Morris County Courses
- OS Many of the current "parks" are entirely too tiny to be fully appreciated and should be expanded (Camp Merritt, Easton Tower, Gethsemane Cemetery).
- OS Yes. Now that you mention it, healthy food options or farmers markets going on during weekends would be great. Garretson Farm for example.
- EML I would also like to speak to you about the use of Darlington Park for Cross country meets in the fall. There has been talk that the county will begin to charge high fees for the use of Darlington for both practice and meets. While I freely admit that it is fair for a fee to be charged, I hope that this issue can be resolved in a manner that is fair to all parties. All cross country meets take place after the lake has been closed for the season. It would seem to me that the County would be happy to see the park being used by thousands of Bergen County residents on a given day when it would otherwise be empty.
- NWY But I also urge you to look at the Darlington/Campgaw area which is underserved—Darlington is only used 2-3 months out of the year; that area could be opened up. At Campgaw, the ski area is only open 3-4 months out of the year—that area could be opened up to concerts and things like that, because that has parking.

### **Garretson Farm**

- STK-TK Wonderful historic details & programs that relate to historic event details
- STK-RV Better publicity for the amazing programs--no one really knows about this place
- STK-EP A living farm. Our craftsman farms.
- STK-FL A great gem. Needs help in repairs, advertisement to the public, love & care.
- OS Now that you mention it, healthy food options or farmers markets going on during weekends would be great. Garretson Farm for example.
- NFL Garretson Farm is unknown and neglected gem. County should take more interest in it (greehouse is leaking, etc.). Nice festivals and they work hard, but turnout could be better with more advertising, better sign on the road. Place that could be really great facility.
- NPS Garretson Farm is a favorite. Garretson volunteers work very hard but do not get much help.

NWY      You were talking about animal waste at the zoo. One of the things you might think about doing is offering that waste to various farm-type places like Garretson [Farm] or...the Hermitage is starting a garden, so any of those places that need manure.

### **Gethsemane Cemetery**

STK-EP    Incredible African American culture!  
OS        Many of the current "parks" are entirely too tiny to be fully appreciated and should be expanded (Camp Merritt, Easton Tower, Gethsemane Cemetery).

### **Hackensack River County Park**

STK-TK    Love this park for passive use, nature & wildlife watching. This park is very important as wildlife habitat!  
STK-FL    Gross disrepair and neglect of a great potential resource  
OS        I am eagerly anticipating convenient access to the Hackensack River from Hackensack.  
OS        Better and longer bike paths in general and an expansion of the walking path along the Hackensack River and within Pascack Brook County Park.  
OS        Hackensack River Park is shamefully unkept.  
OS        The Hackensack Greenway walk has handicap accessibility and stretches along the Hackensack River with easy access in many different places. it offers some fabulous views of nature/wildlife and even though high usage, most often, it offers solace and privacy.

### **Hackensack River Pathway**

STK-TK    Keep paths natural dirt--no gravel! Prohibit please pesticide use!  
STK-TK    They justified use of round-up & another chemical to eradicate weeds for Mary Topalski Trail on River Road Teaneck--I found dead bees, dead birds & dead turtle in the river after chemicals  
STK-PS    Get FDU involved!

### **Hackensack Water Works & Van Buskirk Island**

STK-TK    Please add to survey so residents may comment on this park in progress  
STK-MW    Community space, café, start-up entrepreneurship  
STK-PS    Needs attention now!  
STK-RV    Bird watching--only eagle couple that had live birth was @ the Oradell Reservoir; big draw for Audubon & other groups  
STK-RV    Boat/kayak launch across the street from main building  
STK-RV    Move forward with next phases!!!  
STK-RV    Walking paths w/ access to the river & retention basin on the property  
STK-RV    Concession--brew pub that plays on the industrial design; profit to fund facility upkeep  
STK-RV    Preserve historic building--educational  
STK-EP    Restore this area. Open trails.  
STK-FL    Continue restoration of Water Works & passive park. Build boat launch.

- OS Easton Tower is stuck in a corner, most people drive by it everyday not knowing it's there, they never get out to look at it and with all the businesses dumping their storm water runoff into the brooks and rivers that connect to the park are ruining the good parts of the parks.
- OS Many of the current "parks" are entirely too tiny to be fully appreciated and should be expanded (Camp Merritt, Easton Tower, Gethsemane Cemetery).
- OS And the Easton Tower is without signage and historical interpretation. Why?
- OS I wish Bergen County would annex the Suez property in New Milford adjacent to the Water Works property in Oradell already owned by Bergen County. It is a perfect spot for athletic facilities and passive parkland.
- OS Easton Tower is stuck in a corner, most people drive by it everyday not knowing it's there, they never get out to look at it and with all the businesses dumping their storm water runoff into the brooks and rivers that connect to the park are ruining the good parts of the parks.
- NFL Urban farming using aquatics might be possibility at the Waterworks [provided article about it].
- NFL Van Buskirk Island—26 years since it became County-owned park. We were promised open space & historic preservation. Are there plans for canoe launch there to facilitate Riverkeeper cleanups, etc.?
- NRV Oradell Waterworks still not realized after all these years. Still not available to residents. Would be great for people to be able to safely bike & walk, rather than people currently walking around the perimeter, looking through fence at eagles, etc. Lots of community support for boat launch, helping Audubon putting in safe pass through, etc. Oradell municipal government would like to partner with County to make these changes happen.
- NPS Waterworks/Van Buskirk Island efforts need to be stepped up—the building is falling into further disrepair. Stormwater issues could get worse, because a 13-acre parcel in New Milford immediately south of Van Buskirk is scheduled to be paved over/developed (ShopRite, bank, etc.), but would make a great multi-use park (add a football field with track, passive activities, etc.) if acquired by County. Area is rich with flora & fauna that is scheduled to be destroyed. New Milford has lots of flooding issues and very little open space already; developing the parcel as scheduled will only make flooding worse and would be a lost opportunity for open space.
- NWY The Waterworks in Oradell is a County park? What's happening with that?
- NWY I did a media piece on the Waterworks back in 2010, which may not seem too long ago, but I'm just watching this building sit there. There are a lot of great plans that you're talking about: I saw the signage for a canopy walkway, which sounded really interesting, but through being in Outdoor Adventure, we bring all of these students all over NJ and also into NY. One national park is actually the Thomas Edison (Museum) in NJ—I think something similar could be done there.
- NLY5 I live close to Van Buskirk Island. It's got everything: the Waterworks and future passive park. But it connects to the Hackensack River and I think that's a really great resource. You're talking about linear parks and such, and here's a linear river. Recently I participated with the Hackensack Riverkeeper...just to be with canoes and kayaks there on the river...it was like being in another world. So I'd like to see more access to that river. We were able to go from the Elm Street Bridge in Oradell down to River Edge, but you need to make it a little more accessible to do that, maybe with a boat launch. I've heard discussion about it but would like to see that.

## Historic New Bridge Landing

- STK-EP Bergen County Stone houses are one of the most unique American architectural styles.
- STK-FL Hoping that BC & Historic New Bridge Landing become touristic destinations!
- STK-FL An historic gem on our doorstep.
- OS Provide funding so places like the New Bridge Landing and Wortendyke Barn are open all the time. Provide funds to make them better.
- OS The historic parks like New Bridge Landing and Wortendyke Barn are seldom open.
- OS I love the New bridge Landing Site for their devotion to saving and teaching about our historical treasures !!! They really do a superb job!!
- OS [Favorite aspect...] The history attached to New Bridge Landing
- OS I also feel it is important to honor our heritage and history by saving historic places such as at Neew Bridge Landing.
- OS Would like to see the New Bridge Landing raise all of the funds needed to build a museum on the site. The county's neglect of this site is nothing short of shameful.
- OS historical reenactments at New Bridge Landing with period food and maybe a microbrew.
- OS [Need...] Bathrooms at HNBL!!
- OS I love the New bridge Landing Site for their devotion to saving and teaching about our historical treasures !!! They really do a superb job!!
- OS [Best aspect] The history attached to New Bridge Landing
- NFL Sand stone buildings at New Bridge Landing are threatened.
- NFL Vision for New Bridge Landing is competition with Williamsburg, VA as a historic site. We have a unique history at New Bridge Landing. The state is not funding us at all, we are operating with all volunteers. At one point they had more than 50,000 children visit per year and walk up the same stairway where George Washington walked. But not able to have children visitors anymore because of lack of funding. We could be very positive historic source in Bergen County & could be a rival of Williamsburg for historical tourism, which would be an economic engine for Bergen County. People that travel like historic places. So close to NYC—should make HNBL a destination.

## James A. McFaul Environmental Center

- STK-MW (Favorite because...) Great visits with kids. Main building needs renovation.
- STK-MW (Needs...) Courtesy rules on walking paths.
- STK-EP (Favorite because...?) Good birding. Boardwalk accessible.
- OS The Grandchildren love the snapping turtle at McFaul and the other animals.
- OS I fear that SOME parks keep cluttering the place. McFaul for example. I prefer simplicity. maintain the trees and paths.
- OS James mCcaul environmental center needs to be updated. Main building is showing its age. Some of the furs are rotted and have signs of maggots
- OS I wish that McFaul would extend their summer hours into the evening
- OS Darlington is great because there are really decent rest rooms. That is the same for the Meadowlands Museum and for James A. McFaul Center.
- OS I enjoy taking grandkids to Van Saun and Mcfaul
- NFL Maybe convert McFaul & Van Saun for wildlife rescue & rehabilitation locations. Would be helpful for residents who find injured wildlife to have place to take them...we find animals but don't know where to take them.

## **Norwood East Hill**

- STK-FL Great opportunity for greenway connections with neighbors [not clear if this was intended for NEH or Alpine Reserve South]
- NCL Norwood East Hill is only accessible through Camp Alpine NY. Rockleigh does connect with it topographically, but it is lowland wetlands, so would not want to put a trail in through there. There are houses in Norwood on the other side and not really street parking. For that whole area, Rockleigh Borough Hall and Camp Alpine are main access points used (some access along Ruckman Road, too). Lot of different property owners/managers in that area, with half of them not managing their properties.
- NHA I see that you have identified a couple of tracts in Alpine. We are very fortunate to have in our part of the County preserved, protected, undeveloped natural parkland and believe it or not it does get used. And it is becoming increasingly know to people in the County, whether it's bikers or hikers or mountain bikers or boy scouts. They come here to use these tracts. The people that I'm in touch with, that I hear from in my town, really value and cherish this natural space, which happens to also be very sensitive environmental space. It's a watershed area with steep slopes and all sorts of other factors....So...we would be most appreciative if the space that is in our town that you've identified as County owned or partially owned remain passive use....

## **Overbrook County Park**

- STK-RV Has been overdeveloped

## **Overpeck County Park**

- STK-TK Overpeck favorite because I'm there 4-6 days/week to run
- STK-TK Overpeck favorite--a good balance of sports, bike trails & birding
- STK-TK Overpeck favorite--restrooms on Leonia side adjacent to dock. Remove invasive plants. Pedestrian access to dock area from Fort Lee Rd. bridge. Water service for washing boats
- STK-TK Eliminate cut-thru traffic. Improve drainage to prevent constant walkway flooding. Add pedestrian walkway between parking area and ballfields
- STK-TK Tennis Courts. Natural features. Historical structures.
- STK-TK More benches needed. Benches need to have shade trees so people can be comfortable in hot weather. Cottonwoods need to be controlled. Drainage needs help. Proper mulching of trees.
- STK-MW Spray for ticks near the boating docks
- STK-CL (Favorite) Overpeck County. Saw 5 eagles this day. Concerned about old park remediation.
- STK-RV Noise level in Ridgefield Park is too high from events held at the amphitheatre
- STK-RV We have focused on this park to the exclusion of others and it needs to change
- STK-RV We miss playing cricket at this park. Please allocate the field for cricket.
- STK-RV Overdeveloped. No longer natural, restful.
- OS Nothing with loud over-amplified music that intrudes upon the peace of neighboring residential areas. Such as happens with the Amphitheater in Overpeck County Park. Which is unbelievably loud in the Village of Ridgefield Park. And which affects our quality of life.

- OS A rowing hub would be amazing, such as a new boathouse/ docks. The lake is ideal for regattas and is wide enough to accomodate a good amount of boat traffic. Regattas would bring people from all across the northeast and mid atlantic to the region, just like what happens at the Cooper Lake Park in Camden County. It would help local businesses a great deal. Especially in Leonia
- OS [Would like to see...] Carousel and Ice Skating Rink in Overpeck Park
- OS If the event is too popular you can't get to the park or find parking Has happened at Overpeck and Van Saun
- OS During crowd events (carnivals, concerts, charities) at Overpeck County Park, parking is limited
- OS Couldn't get to food truck event at overpeck a few years ago. Too crowded
- OS Waiting in traffic for over an hour to enter Overpeck for the Food Truck program was insane. Also the lines for bathrooms and food were torturous. We never returned to another event like that one.
- OS Events at Overpeck will fill the parking lots so that someone who just wants to walk the paths and enjoy the natural areas is out of luck. Especially the rowing competitions. They take over the place and other visitors are pushed out.
- OS During Concerts New Overpeck Park becomes overcrowded and unpleasant - very noisy
- OS unintentionally going to Overpeck at the same time it was hosting some fair led to my usual parking lot being full, noise, etc.
- OS Traffic on Fort Lee Rd to get to Overpeck.
- OS Overpeck Creek Park is near me and I would walk but there is no sidewalk crossing 80. Have to drive.
- OS Parking at overpeck is VERY far from dog run. If I had any kind of disability I wouldn't be able to excercise my dog.
- OS It can be difficult to find parking at Overpeck sometimes.
- OS Overpeck is sometimes overwhelmed with an event
- OS Sometimes (unavoidable) traffic, eg Overpeck during morning rush hour
- OS Sometimes there is not enough parking at the Ramapo Reservation or at Overpeck Park
- OS Occasionally big events at Overpeck mean there isn't parking close enough to Kayak Center.
- OS [difficult to access the park...] Yes, when there are big festivals or special events, e.g. Overpeck and Van Saun
- OS not enough spots at overpeck launch area and no drop off for boats
- OS A couple of years ago, there was a food truck event in Overpeck Park. It was a disaster!! The county and event organizers underestimated the amount of people who would attend and there were hour long waits for food, no parking, and almost no security personnel to direct traffic, etc.
- OS Ft Lee Rd leading to Overpeck gets very crowded, very difficult to use
- OS VAN SUAN VERY CROWDED, OVERPACK CROWDED WITH FOOD TRUCK CHALLENGE
- OS Traffic on Fort Lee Road in Leona backs up delaying access to New Overpeck Park.
- OS Fort lee rd. Traffic and traffic cutting through Overpeck to access as a short cut. They speed and are not thee for the park.
- OS traffic congestion on Fort Lee Road in Leonia as an alternate to GWB
- OS Route 95 traffic using Overpeck as a shortcut
- OS kayaking at Overpeck is not possible with private kayak due to inavailability of parking
- OS Grand Ave is dangerous to cross, even at the traffic lights, to get to Overpeck Park
- OS I like Overpeck because it has festival facilities and a playground with lots of open space parking and access to the water.

- OS Bergen County Rowing Academy - terrific program - just need cleaner water
- OS The fields in New Overpeck are well maintained
- OS overpeck is great to walk in
- OS Overpeck Park is great for events
- OS [Favorite aspect...] Overpeck Lake as a rowing venue.
- OS well maintained /clean washrooms great settings with the water OVERPECK PARK
- OS The dog park in Overpeck, which has been very neglected, has no water and is very popular in spite of this. This is a place where dog people meet and talk in spite of having no place to sit (the benches are on the outside of the dog park). I believe the dog park is one of the main attractions at the old Overpeck Park and it would be wonderful if it could be updated, enlarged and generally taken care of.
- OS [Favorite & iconic aspects...] Bald eagles & birdwatching in Overpeck
- OS I walk and hugely enjoy the relatively new pursuit of eagle-watching from Overpeck County Park. Indeed, I enjoy the wide variety of avifauna and occasional mammals to be seen there. The circuit walks at Teaneck Creek and varied and marvelous for the variety of birds and mammals to be seen there, too.
- OS [Last purchase in park...] BURGER AT OVERPECK - DISGUSTING
- OS I wish, vainly I'm sure, that Overpeck County Park would host fewer public events in season, such as the concerts, prayer meetings(!), carnivals, etc. Those make the park less accessible for other use, and obnoxiously loud, as the noise rises offensively to where I live, at least a mile away, sometimes well into a summer evening.
- OS [More amenities?] cleaner water at overpeck. rat control (are a LOT of rats near the Rowing Academy and Kayaking centers). vending machines near the bathrooms would be nice.
- OS I wish Overpeck Park had plantings for butterflies and hummingbirds, but I do not think this is what you mean by amenities. I prefer LESS development, not more. The bathrooms are well-placed and clean. That is all I need to be happy. As I mentioned in the beginning, the amphitheatre at Overpeck is an amenity I wish it didn't have. The sound system is so incredibly loud that it can be heard clearly (every word) in my house in Ridgefield Park with the windows open. Sometimes, sitting out in the yard during an event at the Amphitheater is just impossible due to the sound.
- OS [More amenities?] No. New Overpeck County Park has too many already. They need more passive natural areas for nature study and relaxation. New Overpeck County Park's Bandshell/amphitheater is awful , creating noise, overcrowding, and litter.
- OS wish Teaneck Creek had a bathroom
- OS I am hoping the County completes its obligation to provide the pedestrian bridge from Ridgefield Park to allow safe access to the park
- OS [More amenities?] cost positive amenities like food trucks at Overpeck
- OS More arts and entertainment events. I loved Shakespeare at Overpeck.
- OS swimming or sprinklers would be nice for summer at Overpeck
- OS I wish that Overpeck Park had a nice boathouse that helps the club expand it's offerings to the local community. Bergen County Rowing Academy offers inexpensive rowing to people of Bergen County and it would be great to get more kids into the sport. It builds friendships and bonds because we are all in it together and we go on many trips. Taking Camden's spot as rowing capital of NJ would be great for our local economy and the health of the people in the area.
- OS Overpeck County, Ramapo, Campgaw, Darlington, Van Saun...they are all the same....they NEED MORE PARKING.

- OS I am looking forward to the planned boathouse in Overpeck Park. I am also looking forward to the further development and enhancement of Overpeck Lake as a full regatta course for rowers.
- OS [More amenities?] No not at overpeck. Keep it as a quiet relatively calm place to enjoy nature relax and get away from mad crowds.
- OS Swimming areas at Van Saun and/or Overpeck
- OS Overpeck is my local park and I really can't think of anything I would add. I think it is a very well designed park for relaxing and recreation.
- OS Place in Overpeck for families to have barbecues.
- OS [More amenities?] No, if talking about Overpeck. It has everything and God forbid it gets commercial. Refreshingly free of rubbish at the moment.
- OS I wish that Teaneck Creek had an outdoor bathroom.
- OS I wish there was a buoyed course at Overpeck Lake for rowing regattas.
- OS I think they need to do a better job mowing by over peck creek to keep ticks and mosquitoes under control
- OS The tennis courts at Overpeck Park could use some off court structure for shade and rain in the summer.
- OS Overpeck south cost us over \$100MM and although it's nice...my taxes are too high and I wouldn't have spent that money on another Park for out of towners to blow us out of our own back yards. This was a politicians resume building "look what I've done" at our expense. Overpeck North was just fine... just needed expanded parking facilities.
- OS Overpeck has nothing for seniors. Never see any there when we go. No amenities for older adults.
- OS Better parking options especially at kayak launch. The small lot at Overpeck South is insufficient. More kayak launches at parks.
- OS [More amenities?] Food Turf field in Henry Hoebel area
- OS the Overpeck amphitheater could be used more for concerts / festivals, especially once light rail access is established. Also, Henry Hoebel area's great lawn could use a Bethesda Fountain or other focal point like a carousel or ice rink.
- OS [Would like to see] Nature hikes in Overpeck Preserve
- OS The playground at the new Overpeck is great.
- OS [Favorite aspect...] The long walking path with a great view, especially of the Overpeck Creek. Love being by the water.
- OS I like walking the circle in Overpeck
- OS I enjoy overpeck park because they have a cycling lane. There really aren't any parks around mahwah where you have cycling lanes.
- OS birds, beautiful walking vista by Overpeck Creek.
- OS [Favorite aspect] Mixed use opportunities (Overpeck) e.g. Great playground and open spaces
- OS I love the scenery in and around Bergen County Equestrian Center
- OS Horses at Bergen Equestrian Center
- OS Overpeck. So many life enriching activities in one space. Equestrian is the family favorite.
- OS Overpeck Park has a lot of walking space and the nicest facilities
- OS eagles and hawks flying in the air above me over a migratory route while riding horses on a beautiful property that houses and audobon garden, meditation garden, and is 5 mins from the GWB
- OS Overpeck offers beauty to more residents with ample parking and a wide variety of activities for all types and ages.



- OS I LOVE Overpeck. I get outside, kayak - when I can get a friend to join since a buddy is required, get a little fresh air and exercise, and I love to see all the different ages and cultures of the people there. It's one of the best things about Bergen County.
- OS Walking paths in new Overpeck Park
- OS The fields in New Overpeck are well maintained
- OS Keeping it natural and preserving endangered habitats. We don't need a dinosaur park or more parking lots
- OS I love the easy access to the lake for kayaking in Overpeck
- OS The beautiful horses at Bergen Equestrian Center and the wonder instructors who teach there. I hope that Bergen County will value this equestrian program enough to continue to support it.
- OS Overpeck Park is definately up there with its open spaces and nice scenery. And the rowing is great too.
- OS My father and I enjoy walking our dogs in overpeck park
- OS Relieved to have a place to breathe, relax, see the creek (please provide more viewing access) and all the amazing birds, eagles, ospreys, warblers in Spring and Winter ducks. Annoyed that boaters are allowed unlimited access as they disturb nesting birds. The Northern side of the creek should be forbidden to boaters as they are allowed to go to the rest of the creek. Northern side should be left alone for nesting birds! So hope someone actually reads this.
- OS Allows us to create special memories for our children. Two weeks ago we went to overpeck and were able to go to an amazing playground, have a nature walk, and teach a lesson on keeping our waterways clean all in one visit
- OS Overpeck Park and Flatrock bring you back to nature, and provide a relaxing place to walk, meditate and enjoy life. Activities and friends can all be together with nature at peace.
- OS Overpeck is boardered by highway at least it absorbes some of the noise and pollution
- OS Bergen County's natural spaces are quickly disappearing. I don't even like Overpeck Park very much because in making the park the trees were clear cut. There is very little nature left there. I'm not a tree hugger, but I don't understand why the county wants to spend money when our property taxes among the highest in the nation and our infrastructure is crumbling.
- OS Disappointed that the part of Overpeck near the equestrian center never reopened for use as birding location
- OS Teaneck Creek Park needs restrooms (even composting would be better than nothing!).
- NFL Dismayed by vandalism at Teaneck Creek. The Conservancy has tried so hard at the site and didn't have enough funding for regular security.
- NEP Van Saun & Overpeck have no opportunities for kids with special needs. Lack of opportunities for disabled kids means that families cannot enjoy the park together—parents have to split kids up to accommodate their different abilities.
- NCL Overpeck is magnificent! Remediation area in Overpeck & other park parcels could be connected. Remediation could be bike trails. Sports fields behind ShopRite could be linked and walked and biked to Overpeck and beyond.
- NPS We love Overpeck Park. Need safer way for kids & people to walk/bike to Overpeck given traffic on DeGraw Ave without sidewalks and having to negotiate highway ramps. Need soft connections (bike paths) to surrounding towns. In Teaneck, could widen bike paths, but still have challenge of ramps
- NPS No way for Ridgfield Park residents to walk or bike into Overpeck because of Route 95 exit ramps. Town donated 260 acres for Overpeck formation, but it took 60 years for park to materialize and we still have no safe pedestrian access. The only way to get to park safely is by car. Pedestrian access is not an amenity...it is a necessity!

NPS Broaden diversity of vegetation, native plants & wildlife, and remove invasives. Look at management of Overpeck now that it is becoming such a destination.

NPS Signage in Overpeck about paths would be good. Distance & trail maps for walkers would help, because they already often ask this information. Could be a relatively easy fix that happens now, rather than taking years to accomplish.

NTK Need sidewalks along Fort Lee Road that connect to the park for walkers & bikers

NTK Parking deck required by NJ Transit in exchange for making a Leonia rail stop could make traffic nightmares in Leonia worse. Events at Overpeck gridlock Leonia like Bridgegate. Having public roads through the park makes no sense. GPS re-routes traffic through the park whenever there is an accident on the highways, creating major problems.

NTK Need access & different experiences for aging/retired population. E.g. at Overpeck, benches stop partway through the park, so elderly are only able to use the part with benches. Need more shade (especially over the benches) for elderly park users.

NTK No more volcano mulch around trees at Overpeck!

NTK Tennis courts at Overpeck need shade. Choose trees appropriate to the landfill context.

NTK Food trucks would be welcome concession at Overpeck

NTK Concerned that Dinosaur Park at Overpeck could squeeze out other park users (e.g. by using up scarce parking)

NTK New rail line should have a stop for Overpeck to increase access (people can bring their bikes on the train rather than drive, etc.).

NTK Need parking near dock for boat rentals at Overpeck.

NTK Poor drainage on Overpeck paths needs to be resolved. Puddles freeze on pedestrian paths, making them unsafe.

NTK Overpeck is great place for rowing (distance, depth, etc.) as well as wonderful environment for enjoying nature & wildlife...enhance the rowing opportunities. o Shave some area off Overpeck Area 4 for 4/5-lane buoy course (Columbia University now comes to Overpeck to train, so it is becoming a rowing destination!). Could use boathouse and invasive species removal on Leonia side (e.g. knotweed problem in boat pen). o Overpeck is a jewel for recreational & competitive rowing...need to support and balance both uses

NTK Need to connect Overpeck areas for pedestrians

NTK New areas open for use need to be better publicized so people know to use them (e.g. the new amphitheater could be used by college drama/dance departments if they knew about it)

NLY1 I spotted 12 bald eagles at Overpeck Creek. If that park is not done right, those 12 bald eagles might not be there next year or years after that. Need to put emphasis on preserving the natural areas that are left—we're built out. Everything has its place, but Dinosaur Park on park land is not where I see County Parks headed. Audubon brings 1000s of people to the Meadowlands each year. Take what was done right at the Lyndhurst Environmental Center. Nature preservation is not only important for wildlife, but also important for people being able to enjoy nature. Do it right, as this may be the last chance.

EML As an open space advocate I strongly oppose the building of a dinosaur park on the south side of DeGraw Ave -the 78 acres should be annexed to the TCC and used as passive recreation. This most valuable land is the home of many animals and a critical area for migratory birds. The paving of parking areas will destroy this habitat. In the incredible shrinking Bergen County landscape, the last thing we need is new development.

EML I would like to make suggestion before the process starts. The County should make and effort to provide bike lanes/paths connecting their parks to each other and to the local communities there in. There is to be a light rail station bordering Overpeck Park and a bike lane along Fort Lee Road would serve Overpeck Park and the light rail and give access to the GWB. Sidewalks should be constructed connecting the parks to the communities. A first step would be to provide missing links along County roads near parks. An existing sidewalk map would be useful.

EML I would like to make the following suggestions primarily about Overpeck Park. 1) 1. The Hoebel Area could use additional shade especially in the seating near the tennis courts. That area is used be the players and walkers. Trees would be a long-term answer. 2) The tennis players would like year round access to the court as was the case in the past. This would save money on the removal and storage of the nets.3. The banks along Overpeck Creek should be stabilized so garage does not wash into Creek.4. The toxic site should be remediated on the South side of Fort Lee Road.5. The historic stone structure that supported the trolley trestle in Overpeck Creek should be noted and preserved.6. The North and South sections of the park should be connected with a walkway under Fort Lee Road perhaps at the Overpeck Creek Bridge.7. There should be a balance between paid events and the amount of parking available.8. A food truck might service the Hoebel Area with fees to the County.

EML The track and field facility at Overpeck Park in Palisades Park was a world class facility upon its completion in the mid-2000s. The only reason that a facility such as that would no longer be considered world class in such a short period is neglect. The facility has gone from world class to borderline unsafe for use. The track has holes and tears, as do the jumping runways in addition to unusable and unsafe throwing cages and jumping mats that have been destroyed from lack of supervision and proper storage.

STK-TK Hoebel @ Overpeck Tennis facilities very used!

STK-TK New Overpeck pretty place to walk but needs shade

STK-EP Teaneck Creek & Area IV of Overpeck (before it was closed). Nature undisturbed. Great for birding.

STK-TK Overpeck--install BBQ grills

STK-TK Overpeck--offer onstage concerts & more performances

STK-TK Overpeck--allow motorized water crafts

STK-TK Overpeck--1) add basketball courts. 2) Add swimming pools

STK-TK No motorized watercraft at Overpeck!

NTCC Sidewalks linking homes to parks are in disrepair, causing residents to feel in danger if they try to walk to the park (especially in Teaneck Creek area of Overpeck given the highways)

NTCC When there is very little environmental/passive parkland in the center/south of the County, taking land for the Dino Park and commercialized things is a bad idea. From a capitalistic view, going to the expense of installing the Dino Park and a sea of parking for it doesn't make sense because it will not last long (maybe 3 years—families will only visit the park a couple of times; it doesn't have much repeat appeal); what happens to the park land when interest in the Dino Park has waned? Also, installing the Dinosaur Park where proposed means that locals will have to pay for Dino Park in order to easily access other parts of Overpeck beyond it.

NHA Overpeck dog park has year round use and generates LOTS of people, but also has major problems. The low fence allows dogs to go over and under. One of the worst dog parks around, very antiquated. It is a dust bowl much of the year, until it rains and then it becomes a mud pit. Check out the K9 grass website for information and examples of how artificial turf for dogs has been employed in other parks. Gravel is not good—not comfortable on the dogs or owners and doesn't really address the root problems of smell, dust, and bacteria from dog waste. The Duck Pond has a great dog park! Agility infrastructure and pools are great amenities for dogs. Thinking about connections—the old Teterboro Dog Shelter is now a County property. People like to volunteer to walk dogs even if they cannot adopt them. If you annexed the shelter/connected it to Overpeck Park by the stables, people could sign up to walk the dogs in the park (good for the dogs, good for the people). Lots of dogs fight in the dog parks. Good to have hoses & umbrellas for breaking up fights (opening up an umbrella is very effective way to stop a fight). Need to educate pet owners that dog parks are not dog bathrooms—even if the solid waste is picked up, the urine still remains & produces a lot of bacteria in the dog park. Need to educate people to relieve their dogs before entering the dog runs. Maybe removing pet waste bags inside the dog park would help? Teach them to walk dog before entering so the urine is not all concentrated in the dog park. Perhaps grass around the perimeter of the park, so people don't have dogs peeing on the same lawns that kids are playing on? The dog park needs to be a quality installation and the design well-thought out to work well. If done right, it will attract even more people and become a highly-sought after amenity. You could even sell advertisements tastefully at the dog park to help generate revenue for maintenance (e.g. mesh signs for dog groomers, vets, etc. at perhaps \$100/month per sign).

NHA Overpeck has lightbulbs out. Members of the public need easy way to let maintenance know about these issues so they can be resolved quickly and efficiently.

NHA I represent a group of 14 people here out of 29 players that we have from Fort Lee, Leonia, Cliffside Park and Paramus. We began a year ago and have not recruited new players over the past year because we don't have enough nets and we don't have enough venues—particularly outdoor venues—to play pickleball. We play indoors at Fort Lee—started the program at Fort Lee—and play in Leonia, however in the summer months, both those municipalities have camp programs for local kids and use that facility, so we had to move outdoors. We went to Overpeck (in Palisades Park) to 4 tennis courts in deteriorating condition, but we lined those courts with tape every week and put up our nets on loan from Leonia and were able to pickleball. I wrote an extensive letter to the Parks Department at this time last year regarding developing pickleball courts at Overpeck, but unfortunately I never received a response. So tonight we are here to request that you consider our proposal to take 2 of the 12 tennis courts that exist either at Overpeck at Ridgefield Park (there are 6 of courts) or Overpeck at Leonia (where there are 6 courts) and turn them into 8 permanent pickleball courts. You can fit 4 pickleball courts on 1 tennis court. That means you can increase the number of players on just one tennis court from 4 tennis players to 16 pickleball players. Using existing tennis courts substantially reduces the cost of creating new pickleball courts because all you need is nets and re-lining of the courts.

- NHA Also Overpeck is nearby. It has often been a thought of mine, “Why build this beautiful park with so little access?” I watch people try to bike up DeGraw Avenue and over 95, I wonder how many accidents do happen. It does look very dangerous and when you have the County seat here, I think it just makes sense to try to have some kind of a bike path. I’m sure that people who work here would love to have access to ride their bike up to that park, which is really not that far away. The state has a focus on bike paths but there are very few safe bike paths in this area, so it seems like Ridgefield Park, Bogota, Hackensack, Teaneck...they should be able to get to Overpeck without driving. The idea of something like Bergen Bikes—City Bikes is such a wonderful program in the City—if you had a way to just grab a bike and ride, it would enhance the quality of life in the region.
- NHA The river is a beautiful resource but at low tide there is really very little flow through Hackensack and Teaneck. You really don’t see it flow. I don’t know if the sediment and the silting is preventing a flow, but I know at Overpeck now, it’s beautiful with bald eagles now and more life there, and you can see that with the flow of the water comes life, comes fish, comes wildlife and I think that it is something that needs to be done on a state level, but if there could be some dredging done to at least increase the flow, that would bring life and it would be a much more enjoyable experience to be along the river than it is right now.
- NHA I would like to add...some more examples to Norman’s presentation earlier involving pickleball. I was struck when your example of the group you focused on were the ages of 25-44. While I don’t have the exact number, I am under the impression that the largest population segment are baby boomers....So while I was going to speak specifically about Overpeck....I would suggest that you apply your planning to include what has become a very physically, athletically active population segment. I know of very few examples where your economy of scale or your financial output to put in an athletic facility increases or can increase doubly or quadruply while not affecting negatively the original intent....You increase your return on investment while offering the newest and quickest growing sport in the country. And it’s not only to seniors or baby boomers...pickleball is now starting to be taught in school. And why? Because besides having the opportunity to learn a new sport, this particular sport develops teamwork, hand-eye coordination, reflexes and strategic thinking. So with everything that is involved...is nothing but a positive. While I would like to see pickleball incorporated for this summer’s offering of activities...it will be around for quite some time, affecting every age group from children to seniors.
- NHA The other thing that I have a real problem with...do we really have recycling in these parks? Really? Or do we have fake recycling? We may have recycling bins in Overpeck and maybe Darlington...but do they really recycle? And if they do, why aren’t we recycling in ALL of the parks? Because...I believe, we really don’t recycle. SO if we’re not recycling, then take away the recycling bin and bring back the garbage cans. Let’s be honest about it.

NHA We've been blessed with a pair of nesting Bald Eagles in the town of Ridgefield Park. They have been with us for several years. There is only one reason why we have a nesting pair of Bald Eagles and that's because of the Overpeck Creek right nearby, so I really would support developing a recreation nature study in all of the parks, specifically looking closely at Overpeck Park in regard to how it impacts the nesting eagles. We have had as many as 36 wintering Bald Eagles on Overpeck Park. They have attracted a lot of attention; there's lots of park visitors that are photographers and bird watchers, so it's really an asset for that particular park, especially during the winter months. One detrimental aspect of the development of Overpeck Park, and that is the amphitheater at the park. It really has impacted negatively on our village of Ridgefield Park in a real quality of life aspect. Every time there is a park event at Overpeck, we can barely go outside in our yards in the community itself. The amphitheater acts as a parabola and focuses sound directly on our village and our town, so much so that it's really like having a loud, blaring radio right in your backyard when you're trying to have a barbecue or enjoy the outdoors. So I would encourage the Park Commission to look at that negative aspects and see if there isn't a way to develop a landscaped berm of trees or shrubs that would act as a sound buffer, or a sound-absorbing wall would be appreciated or just make it a real stipulation that sound levels are kept low at those park events.

### **Pascack Brook County Park**

STK-RV Update tennis courts!

STK-RV Complete 2nd phase of the path!!!

STK-RV Use the municipal partnership here w/ Westwood as a model for future partnerships (ex. Oradell-Waterworks)

STK-FL Great park for walking & observing nature

OS Fix the tennis courts that are in Wood Dale and Pascack Brook. At this moment these courts are probably fixable. If nothing will be done, they will become unusable and their condition will degrade to the point that they will need much larger investments to rebuild them!!

OS Fix the tennis courts at Pascack Brook County Park

OS Better and longer bike paths in general and an expansion of the walking path along the Hackensack River and within Pascack Brook County Park.

OS my closest park is Pascal brook in river Vale and would love a real outdoor fitness area.

OS Pascack Brook should update bathrooms

OS Perhaps some lighting. Pascack Brook has no lights but the adjacent Westvale Park in Westwood does making it usable after dark

OS All natural areas are important. Path between Pascack Brook & Westvale is perfect for many different types of activities.

OS [Favorite aspect] Pascack Brook County Park - walking between the pond and the brook in the woods.

- NRV More improvements needed in Pascack Brook. First phase of walking path has generated so much use (connected 110 acres of park land), but could be continued around the park. County has done good job of developing different destinations for specific amenities (Van Saun as family-friendly, Overpeck for cultural activities with amphitheater). Pascack Brook as community park where people are walking to it & enjoying amenities there, but athletic facilities underutilized because of drainage problem. Strongly recommend drainage improvements to softball fields, etc. for more efficient use. Great opportunity for cricket, some cricket users already. Westwood did really good job trying to make more walkable community connections.
- NLY5 It's about my kids and about my grandkids, and what I think this generation of adults should leave to them is a natural environment that's not toxic. We've learned from the 60s and years of neglect that happened at Overpeck Park, for example, and this generation of adults is going to make a difference and we're going to learn to live with plants and animals and birds and not allow capitalism in a sense—that is, developers, to take our land and just create a super-dense County. I guess you can call me a two trick pony: air and water—those are my two tricks. Those are the two most important things in my life. Now I focus my life on the 46 acres at the Teaneck Creek Conservancy....Our vision of this 46 acres has been to add the 78 acres on the south side of DeGraw Ave, which I believe is Area II of the Overpeck Preserve, to be passive recreation, to be an area that will be for birds, animals, and passive trails. Unfortunately I have seen plans that include a 500 slot parking area, and that I am vehemently opposed to. I think your ideas are great: connecting parks are wonderful. But I think we need to connect them naturally as well. The plans that I've seen for that 78 acres are wrong, in my opinion, and I think the things that you've said in this plan show just how wrong they are. That land should stay natural. It's in the southern part of Bergen County, it's a underutilized area, it helps create a natural connectivity that we've lost through the creek. So, I hope that ultimately when the recreational master plan is written, it will include that land—Area II—after the landfill is cleaned up, to be preserved in perpetuity as natural land.
- NLY5 I was thinking of our Marriott Hotel in Teaneck and that many people I'm sure would like to go jogging when they go to town and the jogging path in Overpeck Park is lit until 10:00 at night, but there's no way to get across. You can jog easily, but the only thing that's necessary is sidewalks and maybe the County should provide a map of area along County roads that doesn't have sidewalks and make a program to—especially between parks—to put in sidewalks along County roads. That's when the people come at 5:00, 6:00 so they can run over at Overpeck Park and run their hearts out. And it would be a wonderful amenity for the Marriott.
- NLY5 Give us a bridge [at Overpeck].
- NLY5 I bird with Bergen County Audubon...we have a commitment at DeKorte park twice a month and Teaneck Creek. We have native plants in both areas we have a butterfly garden in Teaneck Creek and in Overpeck, so it doesn't have to be widespread. If you can concentrate, then have that come out and be publicized so people can say, "Well, it won't cost me that much, but if I come out and volunteer with Master Gardeners or something like that that could really be helpful." As opposed to a commercial thing like that Dinosaur Park...we're concerned about that.
- NLY5 Sculpture for Leonia is a non-profit community group for arts at Overpeck. \*Add to Community Groups Diagram.

## Ramapo Valley County Reservation

STK-TK Porta potties needed in parking area

STK-MW More garbage/recycle along major trails aka B trail to McMillion

STK-MW Lake Henry--paddle boat canoe

STK-MW Follow parks in Park City, Utah

STK-MW No oil pipelines!

STK-MW No pipelines

STK-MW No pipelines

STK-MW No oil pipelines

STK-MW More parking

STK-MW Dog park

STK-MW More parking

STK-MW Penalize people who do not obey park & litter. More policing.

STK-MW Need to try to enforce keeping dogs on leash.

STK-MW More direct access to metering stations for safety--direct easement underneath the station

STK-RV Hiking Trails

STK-EP More parking. Open it to swimming.

STK-FL Good hikes. Good views.

STK-FL (Favorite because...) Many great hikes here over many years w/ family & friends.

OS reservation is packed on the weekends in mahwah

OS Ramapo Valley Park has limited parking on weekends

OS Insufficient parking at Ramapo Forest, Ramapo Reservation, Harriman

OS parking can be an issue at times at some trails such as the lower parking area on skyline drive in oakland nj

OS Parking lots full at Ramapo Reservation & loose dogs there

OS Parking limits at Ramapo Reservation

OS Ramapo doesn't have enough spaces

OS Sometimes the parking lot at the Ramapo Valley County Reservation is full/overflowing

OS Parking at Ramapo Reservation can sometimes be at a premium and no nearby places to park.

OS The area of Ramapo Reservation I prefer to use is up Bear Swamp Road. Some days there are too many cars going to the boyscout camp and the pipeline to be walking here with a child. lately there have been more and more quads that go up there too, going very fast and being very loud

OS Ramapo Reservation is frequently packed with people trolling for parking spaces.

OS Ramapo Valley County Reservation lots are frequently overflowing

OS Parking at Ramapo Reservation and Skyline Drive lots

OS Parking at Ramapo Reservation usually packed on weekends

OS Ramapo is usually filled to capacity and you can not get in on the weekend unless you arrive before noon

OS Sometimes there is not enough parking at the Ramapo Reservation or at Overpeck Park

OS The Ramapo Reservation is overused on the weekends when the weather is nice, so I use a different park

OS Parking at some parks is difficult at peak times (Duh!), especially Ramapo Reservation.

OS For some reason there is a no left turn sign at the entrance of Ramapo Reservation on the northbound side of 202. It's not illegal to turn left when leaving the park and it's much more dangerous there. So I have to drive out of my way to make a U turn in the Darlington schoolhouse or make a dangerous U turn someplace else. It doesn't make sense.



OS For safety reasons, there is no left turn on RTE 202 South into main entrance to Ramapo Reservation -  
 - People frequently make illegal turns. They slam on their brakes and stop/ turn without warning.  
 Causing traffic back ups and accidents. Please enforce this no turn rule!!!

OS Ramapo, on weekends, go early or don't go

OS I do not go on the weekends. Ramapo reservation & Darlington are weekend nightmares

OS Ramapo Reservation over use. Lack of parking and trail maintenance.

OS Locked Gate and No parking near the Bear Swamp entrance of Ramapo Reservation.

OS Traveling north you cannot make left turn into parking area for Ramapo valley reservation, also too crowded on the weekends

OS So nice on a hot summer day to walk in the cool shady natural areas (esp. Ramapo Reservation)

OS The Ramapo mountain trails are breathtaking.

OS Ramon has a variety of trails...every visit is different

OS my car was broken into and cash and credit cards stolen when I was fishing at Ramapo Reservation. There should be better supervision of the parking area there.

OS I love the hiking in Ramapo Reservation

OS Ramapo Reservation and Ramapo Mountain State Forest (even though not a county property) can be terribly crowded and it can lead to a diminished experience

OS I wish Ramapo offered rock climbing, I have to go all the way to harriman to do that unfortunately and parking isn't the best there....

OS Ramapo Valley Reservation does not offer any bathroom facilities, which would be a nice feature to have.

OS [More amenities?] Bike / Multi-Use trail along Ramapo River from Suffern/Mahwah to Oakland. Access to huge unused sections of parks by providing new major access point from Stag Hill, which will also relieve the overcrowded Ramapo Reservation entrance. (As a side benefit, it will force county law enforcement (and local police) to finally earn their pay, by having to curtail the open, steady, illegal (ab)use by 4-wheelers, Jeep excursions coming up from Hillburn, along the power lines, dirt bikers, and illegal dumping,...)

OS I wish the Ramapo Park could be somewhat cleared of the hundreds of dead trees lying on the ground. It looks to me like a "tree cemetery" and makes me sad.

OS Tired of dog poop smell at ram res

OS Overpeck County, Ramapo, Campgaw, Darlington, Van Saun...they are all the same....they NEED MORE PARKING.

OS Yes, I would love to see legal Mountain Biking in some of the parks, Ramapo..

OS I wish Field of Creams was open more often not just for events.

OS [Want to see...] Hunting in the Bear Swamp area

OS Too many dogs off leach at Ramapo Reservation Too many dogs period. Park is referred to as "Ramapooo" -- for all the dog poop Shameful!!

OS I wish I could purchase hiking books and maps in the parks, I can do this in Harriman and Sterling Forest but not at Ramapo Reservation.

OS Ramapo Reservation's parking lot is packed all day on Saturday and Sunday, adding more parking is a double edged sword, more parking equals more people and more wear and tear of the trails.

OS [What deters family from using the parks?] Dogs not on leash (Ramapo reservation)

OS Great and varied Hiking at Ramapo

OS Once I get away from the crowds, I enjoy the solitude of Ramapo Valley County Reservation

OS [Favorite aspect] Trails and lake at Ramapo Reservation

OS ramapo reservation is my favorite in bergen County for the views and good hikes

- OS Paths that lead through quiet forested or naturally-planted areas. So nice on a hot summer day to walk in the cool shady natural areas (esp. Ramapo Reservation)
- OS beautiful water areas at Ramapo Mtn
- OS [Favorite aspect] Fishing the Ramapo river
- OS Ramapo Reservation - Once you get a mile in, it is very private, easy to get away from the crowds
- OS [Favorite aspect] The untouched nature of Ramapo Valley Reserve for walking/hiking
- OS Having local access to the beauty of our county parks has enhanced the well being of our entire family. Our grandchildren live in NYC and love our hikes in the woods. They never tire of climbing up the Ramapo trails; love to get to the top for the views. BTW, the oldest is only 6!
- OS I love that we have places like Ramapo Reservation so close. Nothing like hiking there in the fall.
- NEP Climbing especially growing in the Mahwah Ramapo/Campgaw area. It's already happening there, but would like to see it allowed (County can add a little clause about climbing at your own risk to avoid liability). Great way for people to explore & be challenged.
- NMW Ramapo is such a precious place to us. Very pristine. A lot of wildlife. Very worried about the possibility of pipeline going through after already living through Tennessee Gas Expansion Project. Vehicles leak fluids along roads. There are Barred Owls and endangered species and we are concerned about them with noise & light pollution. Concerned about increased human use of the park reducing the feeling of pristine nature. ATVs and motorcycles are destroying the paths and preserved areas. Concerned that negative impacts will increase if the park is opened up to the public more—as much as we want people to be able to enjoy the area, will this lead to more people destroying the park?
- NMW Forest fire previously occurred from camp bonfire & is a very frightening concern to nearby residents with increase park use
- NMW Ramapo needs to remain natural—it's the last bit that we have here.
- NMW Ramapo is huge asset! How to avoid overusing & destroying the natural appeal?
- NMW Ramapo Reserve, while typically considered a nature experience is actually a dog-walking experience. Anyone trying to hike the trails is confronted by dogs. Put a dog park by the ski area with wi-fi, etc. so it becomes a social destination. Do it right, provide the parking. It would enhance the experience at the Ramapo Reservation.
- NMW Too many dogs off leash in Ramapo. Dog park would alleviate some of the dog issues at Ramapo.
- NMW Too many dogs and too much dog refuse is not cleaned up. Would be great if that was taken away so that people could hike and the park wasn't destroyed.
- NMW Need more garbage cans for dog refuse. No one wants to walk around carrying it.
- NMW Mountain biking is illegal but a lot of mountain bikes are coming in. Biker volunteers have made extensive trail network throughout the region: trails in Skyline State Park, Ringwood State Park, and now making interconnects through NY State into New Milford. Would like to come into Bergen County to make trail interconnect between the various state parks. Amount of people that come down for mountain biking is something that needs to be looked into—it's all volunteer hours.
- NMW Massive amount of off-roading is destroying the Stag Hill area & illegal dumping needs to be addressed.
- NMW many people want to swim there all the time, which is not allowed

NMW Mahwah looking into possibility of a bike trail, which could be a great asset. More than 800 students at Ramapo College who want to get out and experience nature. Ramapo Reserve is a jewel for us now, but will be a gem for them in the future and a draw for students to the College.

NMW Bike paths are needed to connect to train and to parks to eliminate some of parking/vehicular traffic issues. Not the safest place to ride a bike to the parks at present.

NMW Widen paths for emergency vehicle access so patients at top of hills are easy to access. Currently ambulance can only get to the bottom lake, then has to wait for 4-wheeler to arrive to access farther up the mountain. Not ideal when time is of the essence!

NMW Amazing number of people using Ramapo (lots are full by noon & college pedestrians abound). It has become a destination for whole region. Need to spread parking out so it is convenient and adequate.

NMW Concerned about the effects of pipelines if they go through Ramapo Reservation. Hope that we will always be organized to stop them.

NPS Mountain bikes in Ramapo Reservation were evicted once because of problems with accidents and people getting hit. Unfortunate as one would like everyone to be able to enjoy the parks, but it was creating a problem.

NTK Need bathroom facilities at Ramapo (porta-potties, etc.)

STK-MW Ramapo Reservation. Love the natural untouched landscape.

STK-MW Ramapo Rez! For all the great places to SWIM...shhhhh!

STK-MW Ramapo Reservation is great but too crowded.

STK-MW The Res [Ramapo]. Scarlets Pond. Excellent fishing spot for the whole family.

STK-MW Ramapo Reservation--keep natural, don't overcrowd!

STK-MW Lake Henry-Continental [Field-- both in Mahwah]. Allow dogs around lake, not in the sports complex.

NMVO Stag Hill section of Reservation has lots of illegal dumping, pollution, illegal poaching, logging, off-roading, but there is no interest in County government to enforce rules & put stop to it.

NMB Stag Hill area is ATV territory. Has a Wild West feel, not well-suited to mountain biking. One biker had shotgun pointed at him by ATVer and was told to leave. Many ATVers have generational "I have the right to recreate here" vibe--"My father rode here, I grew up riding here, and my kids are going to ride here.

NHA Unfortunately, I find it very hard to trust the County because of what other people have talked about in terms of maintenance. The same time that I appreciate what Don Torino talked about wanting everyone to have access to nature, we see the damage to a very sensitive area in our park [Ramapo] and the County does nothing to help alleviate that...to clean up the dog feces left all over the place, to even maintain Route 202 where we just had a 26-year-old girl killed by falling tree because they don't even help maintain the road system on 202, which is their road. So it's just hard to trust that here we sit with these wonderful plans—it's wonderful if they have the money to integrate and do all of this—but are they really going to put the money out there to hire the individuals to maintain this and upkeep it and help the communities where these parks are so that they are left beautiful and natural? ....And in addition...my association lives on the boundaries of this beautiful mountain along the river and we've been unincluded in this process. As an association that is so close to everything. And when we've asked to be told what is going to happen with our property—we've asked 3-4 times to have a meeting and gotten nothing. So it is very concerning for us, and we feel very much left out of the equation.

- NWY One, I urge you to seriously consider a dog park [Mahwah] or more dog parks. ....And the third issue is to encourage you to look at ways we can open up the vast acreage we have in Ramapo to more parking. And to me a way to do that is not to make a massive parking lot, but to look at other areas that can be opened up—for instance up on Stag Hill and down by the Bear Swamp and that area. One of the ways that they do it down outside of Virginia Beach is they have a shuttle. It takes you out into the park, drops you off and picks you up, because the way they have it now, if anyone wants to participate in the Ramapo Valley Park, which is a great thing...but if anyone wants to go up in that area [Bear Lake], it's like a 2 hour walk, so you've gotta open that up to more access to the people. And I know that parking is a problem.
- NWY Just a quick follow up to that point, several years ago there was a Ramapo Mountain/Greenway study which was conducted with lots of municipal input, lots of people, lots of discussion groups, focus groups, etc. And that was done at the request, I believe, of the State Green Acres Program, which has spent a lot of money personally in these properties. And that was a wonderful result, but it's sitting on the shelf. I can't imagine that we have to go back and start over again to redevelop some of the data that was put together that you folks should use right now.
- NWY I use the parks all around.... We all know there is difficulty parking at Ramapo Reservation. Have they looked into solutions to make it safer to walk along 202 to get to the other parking that is in the area, because that is really dangerous? You can tell me I can't park in the Reservation, but you say I can park at Ramapo College, but it is not a safe walk from one point to the other. Are they addressing that?
- NWY Also, dead wood all along 202 is dangerous. A 26-year-old woman was critically injured by falling wood here.

### **Riverside County Parks North & South**

- OS Riverside County Park is the closest park to me - there are several stands of trees that I have been able to find neotropical migrants using during spring migration.
- OS Riverside Park often has locked restrooms and I have never seen the concession open.
- NLY5 ...What we see as the biggest growth of...activity in the hiking and walking realm is linear parks, whether they're railroad beds or riverways and that type of things. It seems to me when you look at the river park in south Bergen, you have these little parks along the river but they need to be connected. They're built right up to the banks, but it seems to me that something cantilevered or in the tidal flats that would connect those things, you would see an explosion of economic activity in those communities. If you go now to Atlanta to...the big loop around Atlanta that they're building, whenever they put in a new section, another problem goes from poverty to gentrification because there are so many people just rushing into there. The same in LA with the Los Angeles River, Chicago with the 606...and you have to think big though.... I know that someone... said "without spending much money." Well, it's not going to happen without spending much money. And it has to happen in a really good way to bring all of those benefits and to last. But it's worth it. It really is. It pays dividends well into the future. So I would look at abandoned railroads or non-abandoned railroads and the rivers for big investments, and of course, I love the connectivity idea.

### **Saddle Ridge Riding Center**

- STK-RV Need to better publicize horseback riding opportunities around the county

STK-RV      Saddle Ridge Riding Center--Awesome venue & experience for alternative sport

### **Saddle River County Park**

- STK-RV      [Like or want to see?] CRICKET PITCH in Saddle River County Park
- STK-RV      Need an area to play cricket.
- STK-RV      Great cricket facility. Please don't move it.
- STK-EP      Keep the open space! Limit car traffic...
- STK-EP      (Favorite aspect?) Easily walkable
- STK-EP      Enforce no feeding of wildlife laws
- STK-EP      Stop heavy erosion & sedimentation along Saddle River. Garbage (litter) in swamp behind maint[enance?] building. Stop invasive plants. More trees for shade/block wind in Rochelle Park area.
- 
- STK-EP      (Favorite because...) Nice that it has woods/swamps in addition to lawn. Gives floods somewhere to go. Provide wildlife plantings, etc. like toad breeding ponds.
- OS          The Saddle River Park, particularly Saddle Brook, is very well utilized so don't need events
- OS          People in Glen rock may say they need bike lanes to get there. They don't. They need a dog park in that park.
- OS          Safety concerns with the coyotes. I know they won't go after me, but I also don't want to see them tear apart a goose and not something children should see. I was in the Saddle River Park at dusk geese to the left and twigs snapping to the right with the overgrown foliage I couldn't see what was on the river side breaking the twigs and that put me potentially in the middle of a coyote going after the geese I ran to my car.
- OS          YES the bike path along the Saddle River has spots under overpasses (Century Road, Midland Avenue) that are impassable virtually every time it rains. How this is not resolved is unclear to me but I end up covered in mud EVERY TIME
- OS          [Difficult to access the park...] County park glen rock no spots on weekends people from out of town take up spots
- OS          van saun,saddle brook no parking available,then cop with ticket book chases me out for not parking in designated spot
- OS          Path is narrow. Too many bikes, rude cyclists and no bike rules. Dogs on retractable leashes and irresponsible dog owners. In cold/snowy weather the pathway at the Ridgewood duck pond (especially) through rochelle park, is icy and dangerous (for some reason rarely completely cleared and salted); no warning signs either. Prevents use of park. risk particularly for seniors and children, and is a potential liability.
- OS          The parking area of the Saddle River County Park in Rochelle Park sometimes gets full.
- OS          We visited Saddle River park in July, the day of a fireworks display in Saddle Brook. On our return to our car in Rochelle Park we found that the police had blocked the bike paths and we were obliged to use local streets.
- OS          One got a parking ticket in Saddle River for parking after dark. NOWHERE is there any sign or notice that that is prohibited.
- OS          Otto pehle lot crowded
- OS          It was the duck pond but the water has leaked out, it's very unattractive. Please help fix?

- OS My preferred park is just a few blocks from my home, the Ridgewood Duck Pond. When my children were very young we walked there every single day. We spent many, many hours walking around the duckpond and enjoying the playground. Unfortunately, over time, the condition of the duck pond has seriously deteriorated. Incorporation of the dog parks has created a smelly, dirty mess. The pond is not clean or full and is very unsightly. Additionally, it is a real eyesore for people entering the town of Ridgewood. I'm saddened to say that my youngest child has hardly ever experienced the duck pond even though we live but two blocks away. It's just not a pleasant place to visit any longer. It would be great if Bergen County could revitalize this county asset.
- OS Saddle Brook and Van Saun are well maintained, but Artesian Fields (especially parking near the ballfields) needs to be given same attention as other county parks.
- OS [Favorite aspect...] The length of saddle river park for long runs or bike rides and changing landscape
- OS Cricket field at saddle river county park
- OS The Cricket Field at the Saddle River Park is excellent.
- OS Saddle River: Lovely paved river walk for walking/running, nature walk
- OS Saddle River Park is clean, good walking paths
- OS Saddle River Duck Pond is a putrid mess that needs to be cleaned up.
- OS Sadly the Duck Pond is in terrible shape and the Pond was the best aspect and hasn't been for many many years
- OS Nice long bike path at saddle river county park
- OS We love that our favorite parks are connected by a safe biking trail. We hope more parks are linked to this Saddle River biking trail...
- OS Ridgewood Wild Duck Pond and Van Saun. I grew up in Paramus and live in Ridgewood. I'm a lifelong Bergen County resident. These two parks hold special meaning to most BC residents as we have fond childhood memories here, and enjoy taking our own children now. It's unfortunate that the duck pond is in such poor condition.
- OS [Iconic features...] Duck pond when I was young Ice skating on basketball court that used to be filled for skating in Saddle Brook Worst memory is when they allowed motorized model boats on pond and the buzzing annoyed everyone living along the park on Sundays.
- OS The scenery I a summer day with family and friends enjoying a picnic at saddle river park. The beautiful trees and laughter of local and family enjoying a beautiful day out at the park.
- OS As a child I walked to the Otto C. Phele side of the Saddle River Park we ice skated in the park, many town picnic's were held there. You could go into the river from the bank, have a tug a war across it. Can't get near the bank of the river now. All the charm is gone. You could walk around the lake and see the other side, there are wonderful benches that you can sit on and now your only view is of overgrown foliage. It looks horrible, that's where many wedding pictures were taken. Not anymore they go to the lake with the fountain in front of the office building.
- OS I run most everyday at the Saddle River Bike Path. Great park to see people using it. Not too crowded and has everything from playgrounds, bathrooms, fishing, model boats, ice skating, soccer, baseball etc, etc. A great park!
- OS The ability to walk along the 6 mile path (normally starting at Ridgewood or Dunkerhook) and escape a little into less developed space is incredibly calming.
- OS Yes, used to have snack shack in Saddle brook duck pond, my kids would ride their bikes with me there for the promise of a treat. I am a foodie, would love GOOD food to make a walk an event!
- OS The Ridgewood duck pond needs a liner, water has disappeared

OS I wish there was a better, more interesting playground at the Ridgewood Duck Pond

OS Clean up Saddle River Coubty Park (Duck Pond) in Ridgewood. It has gotten disgusting with Pond drying up.

OS [More amenities?} Not the duck pond, no. What is there just needs to be maintained better.

OS The parks are in bad repair. There is little to no grass at the Duck Pond. It's dusty in the summer and muddy in other seasons. The pond is just mud.

OS [More amenities?] No because the park in Saddle Brook is already very crowded with people who just enjoy walking, skating or riding bikes. Some people might like a dog park but I am not in favor or against the idea.

OS I also wouldn't mind a dog park in Fair Lawn. Or a duck pond! :)

OS improvements should be made to the walkways in Ridgewood. Very cracked and uneven.

OS The Naugle House in Fair Lawn should be obtained as it is almost exactly half way between Rochelle Park and Ridgewood. It would be a perfect spot for a bicycle pump, water fountains, and an interpretive museum.

OS The most local county park by me is Saddle River County Park and the part i like to visit has alot of residential homes in front of it which may make it hard to hold events, but the pitch by 208/rt 4 behinds Oceanos and the Hyatt is a nice space that could be used more and hold some sort of event. The problem may be the residents close by and parking.

OS The Saddle River Park / Ridgewood Duck Pond is a mess. I prefer passive recreation and I prefer they keep it that way. However, the Duck Pond has been deteriorating since it was drained in 1997 and Bergen County is doing absolutely nothing to repair the inflow and liner of the pond. It smells, it's got algal blooms and fish kills. No one want to go there anymore. I live six houses away and won't go anymore.

OS [More amenities?] not for saddle river park

OS The Ridgewood Duck Pond is a waste of space. It needs more attention on many levels.

OS Years ago the County dredged our Duck Pond and relined it with clay. They did a terrible job and it has not properly held water for almost a decade. It's a real eyesore. I wish the County would correct this and restore the pod to its former glory.

OS Yes, Saddle River has very few amenities and again whatever it put their has to survive a storm and be disinfected afterwards. Turf fields is a waste of money in this type of area. Maybe disk golf I believe they are medal and can be washed down with bleach.

OS WE SHOULD HAVE A DOG RUN AT SADDLE RIVER COUNTY PARK

OS Saddle River County park needs more parking

OS Yes policing the bike riders who ride as if they are on the roads going in excess of 20 mph endangering everyone else at rudgewood duck pond and adjoining parks

OS Living in Glen Rock, there is a PSEG right of way that could connect downtown Glen Rock to the Park bike path system. If other towns could do that, it would be help

OS bathrooms and a water fountain in the Rochelle Park section would be nice. I think there might be a bathroom there, but I'm not sure. It might not be clearly marked if there is one. Also, the water fountain at Saddle Brook needs to be fixed or replaced. Other than that, everything is great.

OS saddle river really has no food or drinks

OS The Duck Pond in Ridgewood is really poorly maintained. The Pond needs work once water levels are higher. There is no grass and it seems dusty and dirty.

OS For the long path in Saddle River Park, some sort of safety features.

OS The rest room at the Duck Pond in Ridgewood is a disgrace.

OS [Best aspect] It was the duck pond but the water has leaked out, it's very unattractive. Please help fix?

OS [Best aspect] Running path on Ridgewood Duck Pond

OS Saddle Brook and Van Saun are well maintained

OS Would like to see a dog run at the one in Glen rock

OS WE use the bike path from Glen Rock to Ridgewood or Saddle Brook frequently

OS Limited parking at saddle river.

OS [Favorite aspect...] Continuous bike path that connects GR to Rdgwd to SB

OS I like walking through Saddle River park. Walking trail is nicely maintained and it appears that some ornamental grasses have been planted. I like the changing landscape.

OS Saddle River: Lovely paved river walk for walking/running, nature walk

OS I love the 6 miles of continuous path in Saddle River Park

OS there is a great path that goes all the way around the Saddle River; it is always peaceful and lovely, and the waterfowl are delightful to watch

OS trails in Saddle River parkway to walk

OS Its great to walk from my house to the Saddle River park. I often see migrating birds

NEP In Saddle River Park certain sections of the riverbank are in horrendous shape in terms of erosion (Rochelle Park & Dunkerhook areas in particular). Really nice to have the active part, and then areas of swamps and woods where you can hear birds, etc. are nice. One of the great values of the river is that it floods; important to consider appropriate plans for flood-prone areas (placement of trails & concessions, etc.).

NEP Saddle Brook area of Saddle River Park is so delightful and people from all over are coming (not just Bergen County residents)...people have come from Passaic County to that area because it's just so pristine. Very well maintained.

NEP Saddle Brook and Van Saun very well maintained. Incredible how the paths are clean—can go walking the same day.

NEP In Saddle River County Park (Paramus area), motorized bikes are making paths along the river. Would be nice to see canoeing/kayaking in Saddle River County Park (Paramus area).

NCL Bike trails around Saddle River Park are great. We use them all the time! Would be great if all of the parks were connected via bike trails. E.g. can bike paths connect center of Glen Rock to park so people can bike from center of town to parks, and from parks to center of town for dining, shopping, etc.?

NPS Activities Club of Glen Rock (Retirees club) uses Saddle River Park on daily basis (walking, biking, and hiking groups). Old trolley line from Patterson to Suffern connects center of town to the park is PSE&G right-of-way. Used by dogwalkers, etc. Nice to make it a walk/hike path to avoid needing to access the park by car—can County make this an access way? Lots of young families put bikes on car because they don't feel safe biking to the park at present.

NPS Saddle River Park bikers don't like to bike on street (car conflicts from open doors, etc.). Well-used park in summer (pedestrians, cyclists, roller bladers, etc.). How to accommodate bikers & pedestrians on paths without conflict? Hoboken is great example of separate biking & pedestrian accommodations.

NPS Garden State Plaza stormwater goes right into the waterways. Major flooding & stormwater with pollutants from cars is going right into the brook. Major flooding issues in Rochelle Park area. Resident says she has had raw sewage in her home 3 times. School kids in schools lost everything in floods...arrive with no show & tell items...very afraid about flooding when storms are forecast. Becomes a property value issue, too.



- NPS Rochelle Park section of Saddle River Park is not very attractive. Downed trees are left on the Green and puddles collect on paths.
- NLY1 I like walking trails, especially long ones. Need less noise in the parks (vehicular traffic, maintenance equipment is too loud). Need to plant more native plants, especially flowering ones like milkweed that are important food sources for butterflies & pollinators. Duck Pond & walking trails around Saddle River Park are nice but need to keep water/woods free of garbage.
- EML The point I made at the meeting was to explore bike paths from the center of towns where a park is located close to a town - which describes Glen Rock perfectly.  
<http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/DocumentCenter/View/5651> Not only is Glen Rock about 1 mile from the park, there is a PSE&G right of way (ROW) accessible from town to the park which provides an opportunity.
- STK-RV Saddle River Park--A great place for a LONG walk or bike ride without car traffic/conflicts, BUT I have to drive to get to that experience.
- STK-PS (Favorite...)Saddle River County Park. Please put the needs of the people before the wants. Make stormwater management here a priority.
- NMB Glen Rock in Saddle River County Park has kids on mountain bikes (not serious riders and not riding on sustainably executed trails)
- NHA As a resident of Rochelle Park, I have experienced significant and devastating flooding in my life and I have also heard similar stories from family and friends from surrounding towns such as Lodi, Paramus, Garfield and Saddle Brook. Your poster entitled Natural Resources mentions prioritizing stormwater management. To many of us along the Saddle River, our livelihoods are entangled with how you choose to manage stormwater. A pleasant park experience with a charming golf course means nothing if we do not have homes. Can you explain your stormwater management?
- NHA I live in Saddle Brook right on the park. I walk out my backyard to the park and I have been flooded twice: once through Sandy and once through Irene. I never have been more infuriated in my life than when I went to the park in the fall and I saw the County workers blowing the leaves into the river. We're increasing the height of the river and increasing the chance of flood, so before we start doing anything else, we need to stop that activity. We also need to find a way to get some of those people who are involved in environmental issues to be able to communicate about how we can clean the river, because when the river is low, there is so much garbage, so many water bottles—some of them coming because they've removed a lot of the garbage cans from the area and people are throwing their bottles right into the water. There is so much garbage and that river needs to be cleaned up because it's a safety hazard and a flooding hazard for those of us who live there.
- NHA They are removing garbage can from the parks to "improve aesthetics," but it is creating more litter instead. Also, we have nowhere to put dog waste anymore now that the garbage cans are gone from Saddle River Park.
- NWY The path down to Dunkerhook is ravaged. It's dangerous for bikers in places in winter. Also, bikers are multi-ethnic and do not always understand signs or ways of communicating with pedestrians, leading to bike/balk accidents. Pedestrians do not stay to the right when bikers alert them that they are passing on the left, which is also problematic. Dog leash lengths vary, so we need wider shared bike/walk paths—even screaming warnings, bikers cannot get pedestrians to move to the side to allow passing. Some bikers use bike paths for training for races so they can move very fast, but the problems exist even at lower, normal speeds. Cracks in paths are dangerous and not always filled in properly. In addition, I have seen kids taking baseball bats to the landscaping in Otto Pehle area, which is distressing.

- NWY I'm just speaking as a local Ridgewood resident who has been going to the Duck Pond for 30- whatever years since my kids were little and I...see the bikers, which I'm scared of now because I can't hear anymore very well and I can't tell my left from my right [dyslexia] and I have a balance issue, so I can't go too close to the edge of the [path]. Anyway, besides that...where's the water? Why can't you fix low-hanging fruit that's right in front of your face? Where's our water? If you are talking about big plans, why can't you prioritize small fixes like the Duck Pond?
- NWY The water issue was fixed at Wood Dale! Why not at the Duck Pond?
- NWY [The Duck Pond] has been a big mud puddle for years. They promised to fix it for years.
- NWY Contact DEP Dam Safety [regarding the Duck Pond]. They have a loan program—it's very expensive to fix dams, weirs. Any water control structure is a bear.... Dam safety at 501 East Street has people that can review and assist and they have a loan program for municipalities.
- NWY Going back to the Duck Pond, is there a speed limit for bikers, because I've been almost hit a few times as have other people that I walk with. I've been cursed at, and I turn around and the bike is right there, speeding by. Is there a speed limit?
- NWY Does the long-term plan consider things like climate change and rising temperatures? Because just one thing at Saddle River—that bike path floods, so is that going to be in the future as water levels rise, are we going to have that flood more? Is it smart to maybe consider not putting things next to rivers that could flood a lot more in future?
- NWY There are turtles hatching on one side of the road at the Duck Pond that migrate each year and get flattened by cars on the road. It happens every spring. If you come into the park by the maintenance building—that stretch of road. I have a whole collection of flattened baby turtle shells because it happens each spring. Does the park know about this? Is there something that can be done to allow the baby turtles to migrate safely across the road?

### **Samuel Nelkin County Park**

- STK-EP Work on natural springs on the hill for a water feature.
- OS Crossing Patterson Plank to enter Sam Nelkin is difficult without a crosswalk
- EML Resident expressed concern about a plan to allow private multi-family housing development within the park [this was actually found to NOT be the case. Private development was going to happen outside the park property; the County was allowing a roadway easement through the park for access to the development.] An extensive amount of traffic onto an extremely hectic Paterson Ave, or the new complex where helpless children and families currently walk without hindrance into the park will be a cause of disaster and catastrophe. Also, this will be an opportunity for pedophiles and drug dealers to be near out children. Our and surrounding towns are overbuilt and residents have limited amount of grassy areas and they depend on the county park where they can enjoy a great area of nature....Thank you in advance for any way you can assist and make available important information to expand our park and preserve its open space and keep it safe from dangerous elements prowling around our families; especially your children.
- EML ...The Bergen County government granted a roadway easement through the Samuel Nelkin County Park...to...Jersey Development Street, LLC. I can't believe that you are not interceding to protect our precious park and stop the local and county governments from squandering our park away for commercial interests. Having a public road go through our park where children are playing are grounds for tragedy. Our local and county governments gamble with lives of children for blood money and this is a prime example of pay to play. Thank you in advance for any way you can assist in protecting our beloved park.

## Van Saun County Park

- STK-TK I love Washington Spring Gardens in Van Saun. It's peaceful, quiet & beautiful in spring when the flowers bloom.
- STK-TK Better horticultural facilities are needed. Better control of vandalism
- STK-PS Keep zoo small. Improve quality.
- STK-RV [Favorite] Zoo.
- STK-RV Love the zoo & picnic area.
- STK-RV [Favorite aspect?] Entrance on Continental Ave--even if I can't stay, I can drive through
- STK-EP Dredge lake?
- STK-FL Please keep a cap on commercialism
- OS The kids playground area at van Saun is not gated and given that it is so big kids can run off. With lots of different types of people at the park it becomes tough to manage for a family of 5
- OS Van Saun Park can sometimes be hard to find parking
- OS Not enough parking at Van Saun
- OS If the event is too popular you can't get to the park or find parking Has happened at Overpeck and Van Saun
- OS Van Saun is often so busy it's impossible to access/enjoy
- OS Van Saun parking is terrible
- OS van saun,saddle brook no parking available,then cop with ticket book chases me out for not parking in designated spot
- OS Van Saun has limited parking
- OS Parking can be difficult at Van Saun Park and Zoo
- OS Over crowding at Van Saun sometimes prohibits my visiting AND I have a handicap pass!
- OS Van Saun needs better signs to help motorists find specific locations within the park
- OS [difficult to access the park...] Van Saun/Winter Wonderland
- OS [difficult to access the park...] Always at van saun
- OS [difficult to access the park...] Yes, when there are big festivals or special events, e.g. Overpeck and Van Saun
- OS Barriers at Van Saun Park entrance are sometimes not removed early in the morning.
- OS Poor traffic flow at Van Saun
- OS VAN SUAN VERY CROWDED, OVERPACK CROWDED WITH FOOD TRUCK CHALLENGE
- OS heavy traffic van saun park
- OS On weekends van Saun is too crowded with limited parking near the core activities
- OS [Favorite aspects...] Van saun - variety of things for children
- OS I like Van Saun for the kids stuff like the zoo carosel and train ride and kids playground
- OS I LOVE Van Saun Park for the beautiful zoo , train ride and wonderful carousel and their other activities
- OS [Favorite aspects...] Open land and pond walk in Van Saun Park
- OS Saddle Brook and Van Saun are well maintained, but Artesian Fields (especially parking near the ballfields) needs to be given same attention as other county parks.
- OS [Favorite aspects...] Playgrounds and walking paths and the zoo
- OS [Favorite aspects...] Playgrounds, walking/biking paths. The zoo, train, carousel and pony rides at Van Saun make it such a special place for kids! Mine love it and I did as a child too!!

- OS [Favorite aspects...] Van Saun because of the variety of things to son within walking distance - ride a horse, ride the carousel, go to zoo(which way below turtle back zoo standards, and playground
- OS [Favorite aspect...] Zoo, train, carousel and playground at Van Saun
- OS Van saun is across the street and peaceful and pleasant during the weekdays
- OS Van Saun - usually plenty of room to enjoy being alone or, not!
- OS Ridgewood Wild Duck Pond and Van Saun. I grew up in Paramus and live in Ridgewood. I'm a lifelong Bergen County resident. These two parks hold special meaning to most BC residents as we have fond childhood memories here, and enjoy taking our own children now. It's unfortunate that the duck pond is in such poor condition.
- OS The zoo stands out but is completely dated
- OS We visited Van Saun Park regularly when our children were young to play and visit the zoo. It was and still is wonderful to have open spaces to play, experience nature, be outside away from traffic, and to participate in educational events on occasion.
- OS i enjoy walking/biking in van zuan -- its relaxing
- OS I love the variety offered in Van Saun
- OS They provide open space for our children to play in and experience nature. This county is SO OVERBUILT already we need to maintain our open space. The current plan to renovate or expand Van Saun is ABSOLUTE JOKE. THERE IS NO NEED TO BUILD A PARKING GARAGE OR EXPAND THIS ZOO. WHAT A WASTE OF MONEY THAT WOULD BE!!!!
- OS And I'll say that this park absolutely does not have enough food and beverage options.
- OS I think the recent ice skating rink at Van Saun Park is a nice idea as a family activity, but adding the beer garden to it is a terrible idea for a local park. Only non-alcoholic beverages should be offered.
- OS the paths get a bit flooded with the rain so better drainage would be a plus (around the pond at Van Saun).
- OS Park should be preserved as is. It seems like Bergen Country wants to "pave paradise and put up a parking lot" with Van Saun. They did in fact do just that, by paving over an open field to add a parking lot.
- OS Please do not expand the zoo. Zoos are bad. We do not support zoos.
- OS I suppose the Van saun park and zoo could offer healthier food options.
- OS I do not want to see the parks paved over for additional parking. This defeats the green open space. Parking garage at Van Saun is not needed. Restaurants are not needed. Zoo ecpansion is not needed. If you want a bigger zoo go to the bronx.
- OS Perhaps more nature talks or videos at the zoos nature center.More animals on zoo
- OS Overpeck County, Ramapo, Campgaw, Darlington, Van Saun...they are all the same....they NEED MORE PARKING.
- OS A way to make sure my child is safe at the playground at Van Saun when it gets crowded. I have lost sight of her many times. I have also helped other parents, who I didn't know, find their child.
- OS GIVEN THAT HAVE NO INTENTION OF ICESKATING I WISH VAN SAUN DIDNT CHARGE SO MUCH FOR THEIR WINTER-WONDERLAND
- OS Swimming areas at Van Saun and/or Overpeck
- OS Why do we need a parking deck in Van Saun Park ? The place is packed on the weekends in nice weather, how many more people do you want to put there?
- OS Maybe Van Saun could have some food
- OS [Best aspect] Van saun - variety of things for children

OS Van Saun Park has a wonderful zoo.

OS Open land and pond walk in Van Saun Park

OS Saddle Brook and Van Saun are well maintained

OS I am satisfied with the current allocation of space for use at Van Saun County Park

OS Zoos are cruel.

OS [What natural resources are important?] Fieldspace for sports, e.g. north end of Van Saun has a volunteer calling games on/off due to weather, reseeding, etc.

OS Van Saun's carousel and train are great for the grandkids.

OS I like the picnic facilities in Van Saun

OS Zoo, train, carousel and playground at Van Saun

OS [Favorite aspect] Irises at Van Saun

OS Van Saun has so many pocket parts you can choose what to do all within walking distance

OS like to visit the zoo, but not excited about the plan to double the size.

OS Fieldspace is hard to keep for an unpopular sport, which is why the long-running game in van saun is both a novelty and worth the effort to travel to and sustain.

OS The Zoo has been a family traditional visiting place for many years with different generations.

OS Even driving through Van Saun Park from Continental to Howland is a minibreak—sometimes I can even stop and enjoy the pond, the ducks, the paths

NFL Enjoyed Winter Wonderland with 9-year old twins & other special events there.

NFL Maybe convert McFaul & Van Saun for wildlife rescue & rehabilitation locations. Would be helpful for residents who find injured wildlife to have place to take them...we find animals but don't know where to take them.

NFL Plans to expand Van Saun Zoo—project of that magnitude would subsume the resources that could potentially be used for improving rest of park system. Decisions need to be weighed among multiple objectives rather than support one super project.

NFL Old sandstone building on Oritami field in Hackensack is going to be demolished. Not enough room for it at New Bridge Landing, but Van Saun used to be Revolutionary War encampment. Frustrated that the County has not taken it & put it at Van Saun by the trains...it's little. The builder actually offered to move it for us. Otherwise it's going to be torn down. Oldest Dutch sandstone house in County & one of the oldest in the state. Once they're gone, they're gone. Van Saun is wonderful park, one of my favorites. Wonderful for history and special because it's big enough to offer something for everyone (Winter Wonderland, etc.)...would be great to have a historic building there, too.

NEP Saddle Brook and Van Saun very well maintained. Incredible how the paths are clean—can go walking the same day.

NEP Van Saun & Overpeck have no opportunities for kids with special needs. Lack of opportunities for disabled kids means that families cannot enjoy the park together—parents have to split kids up to accommodate their different abilities.

NEP Van Saun Zoo is destination—when schools are closed for holidays, the parking lot is packed with NY license plates. NY has discovered Van Saun! Suggest extending season in which entrance fees are charged to increase revenues...that's a cash cow.

NRV We could really use NJ Transit lines on Forest Ave (near Van Saun) extended to Sunday. NJ Transit thinks they just take people to work and back, but people use the bus for much more. Not everyone can drive freely on Sundays. Need bus transit to parks—would be easy fix. Important for County to help advocate for this.

NRV	Van Saun is nature park to me. Saw garish lights from Winter Wonderland..."What's that doing in Van Saun? Those don't belong there!" When I grew up it was natural, had picnic tables. We used to skate on Walden Pond. Don't expand like Turtle Back Zoo—let people go to Turtle Back Zoo and leave Van Saun as it is.
NPS	Van Saun—The proposed plan to close entrance on Continental Avenue to expand the zoo is concerning because it is a major entrance/exit. Intersection of Forest Avenue & Howland Avenue needs help because it can barely handle existing traffic let alone some of the proposed changes. Need better walking trails & safer pedestrian access...traffic is very busy around park.
NPS	Van Saun—pond was special location of wedding photos, but pond is so overgrown that it is not recognizable. Neighbors are surprised to find out that the beautiful pond in the pictures is at Van Saun because it is so overgrown now that it is unrecognizable. Go back to the fountains in pond (pumps are probably still there). Need more walking trails. Zoo is great. Add restrooms and food, please. Go back to the way it used to be—you can't even tell the pond is there, but people used to be able to walk around & enjoy it.
NTK	Highlight more of the heritage of the parks (e.g. Van Saun zoo has interesting history with rare plants and animals that were once common in Bergen County and even the structures are tied to Bergen County history but no one knows it)
EML	This is a petition to stop cutting down trees for future projects in Van Saun Park in paramus New Jersey. There are a lot of people who enjoy this park just to walk in both for exercise or to walk their dogs.
EML	Some suggested expanding the zoo at Van Suan and adding typical park like upgrades like gardens, hiking paths, picnic areas etc.
STK-PS	Van Saun Park. It is a little "gem of land in the middle of Paramus!
STK-PS	Van Saun should not be over developed. Please keep it as open as possible. Thanks!

## Wood Dale County Park

- STK-RV Running path instead of in the road.
- STK-RV Update tennis courts!
- OS Although events would be pleasing, I believe the parks--particularly Wood Dale the one I visit--should be places of serenity that people can use as harbors away from their busy lives.
- OS Wood Dale park does not have sidewalks so we can't bike there nor can we walk our dog there. Parents can't push a stroller there even though we live nearby.
- OS Tennis courts at Wood Dale are not maintained.
- OS [Favorite aspect...] Playground at Wood Dale
- OS there is a tremendous discrepancy in the two parking areas at Wood Dale Park. One was repaved, repainted during the Park improvement period; the other is a pot-holed parking area with no parking spots delineated by painted lines.
- OS I wish Wood Dale had nicer bathrooms, better places to eat, and maybe some food trucks!
- OS Fix the tennis courts that are in Wood Dale and Pascack Brook. At this moment these courts are probably fixable. If nothing will be done, they will become unusable and their condition will degrade to the point that they will need much larger investments to rebuild them!!
- OS woodale park needs an updated restroom facilities near playground as well as updated play space
- OS Repair or replace lights at Wood Dale tennis courts
- OS Yes - recycling has been a law in NJ since 1987. Wood Dale Park has no recycling containers for visitors. If the intent is carry-in/carryout, then there should be signs advising visitors placed near trash containers
- OS Wood Dale favorite park
- OS Walking is an essential part of my life; Wood Dale allows me to do this in a setting of quiet and, until the more recent car-breakins, safety.

## Wortendyke Barn

- STK-RV [Would like to see?] Historical lectures
- STK-RV More concerts!!!
- STK-RV (Concerts) Ok, but acoustic, low-key, unplugged--in tune w/ historic atmosphere
- STK-EP Wonderful venue for music & culture.
- OS Provide funding so places like the New Bridge Landing and Wortendyke Barn are open all the time. Provide funds to make them better.
- OS The historic parks like New Bridge Landing and Wortendyke Barn are seldom open.

## Golf Courses--General

- OS [Willing to pay for amenities?] Yes if you refurbish pitifully maintained golf clubhouses such as Overpeck, Orchatd Hills. These clubhouses provide opportunities for Bergen to rent out space for formal gatherings if they rebuild these horribly maintained structures. I've always said you can immediately tell when the county gets involved by the run down nature of the buildings. Valley Brook golf course a good example. Before it became a Bergen county course, the grounds and building including locker/rest rooms were beautiful.
- OS The golf courses are in very good condition
- OS [Best aspect] Golf to play at a reasonable price

OS Well maintained Golf Courses

OS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO GET TEE TIMES FOR GOLF

OS Tee times can be very difficult to get

NRV Golf courses provide such aesthetic beauty (nature, animals). Need to address geese problem—not good for kids to step on goose droppings in fields & fall, etc. More color on golf courses, e.g. Valley Brook. Adding color would add more appeal. Very green, which is beautiful, and feels very natural with streams, etc. but want more color. Open up food concessions for family days, etc.—the food and service is very good at Valley Brook.

NRV Women’s Golf Association of NJ. 2 leagues in NJ. Come to Valley Brook and squeezing 300 women per week into Paramus golf course because of the concessions (places to sit and eat together). Not using other County golf courses because need food/concessions/places to sit & socialize afterwards. County is missing great opportunity.

NRV Restaurant like this (at Valley Brook) is appropriate for the golf course & would like to see more suitable food/restaurant options at other golf course properties.

NRV Many people find golf elitist & may not feel welcome. Numbers going down nationally in golf use. Sport should be promoted. Amount of land devoted to golf vs. other sports seems a little heavy.

EML (FYI - old Apple Ridge course has issues and maybe purchase land to open another 9 hole course in that location). Add synthetic putting greens to regular parks

NWGA Greenskeeping in general is amazing at the courses—much improved

NWGA Morris & Somerset courses “pristine” and nicer (no burnt out spots, etc.)

NWGA Baywood Greens, Delaware one of their favorite courses for its beauty: flowers, picturesque bridge, different colored foliage, different shrub textures, etc. [They whipped out phones to start showing us pictures they had snapped at favorite courses!]

NWGA Pretty photo ops would be nice—lot of the ladies like to take pretty pictures as memento or to share. Need to site these at Par 3 or other places where waits are expected so as to not delay play of game.

NWGA People enjoy 9 holes before dark + a drink + socialization!

NWGA WGANJ has 500+ total members: 411 live in Bergen County (BC), but only 33 play the BC courses. 36 Women’s leagues. WGANJ is growing in spite of national drop in golfing: 214 members in 2010, 600 members in 2017 and still growing. Most members are still working; retirees tend to move away.

NWGA Would like nice restaurant & clean restroom at clubhouses so they can socialize; even temporary/”pop up” structures out on course with temporary seats would be fine as pilot projects. o Farmstead Club has tiki hut with grill & beverages out at intersection of 9-hole courses...very effective without expenditure of major building construction/renovation. o Healthy food options desired by women (fruits, wraps, granola/protein bars, Gatorade, etc.). Might be good to add more ethnic food options at certain courses (e.g. Overpeck & Rockleigh) depending on patron demographics

NWGA Women need clean restrooms (even just porta-john with hand sanitizer & toilet paper) out somewhere on the course. Some women won’t play at the County courses because they know they cannot go 9 holes without restroom access.

NWGA Ball washer & garbage can at each red tee instead of only at back tees where men tend to play would go a long way in making the courses feel more women-friendly (low-hanging fruit, too!). Could even have sponsors to help finance it.



NWGA Pro shop please? Apparently the bidding process is extremely tedious and hard to complete with low equipment prices at places like Dick's Sporting Goods. Still, there are times when would be good to be able to make emergency purchases for ball replacements, etc.

NWGA Would be nice to have clocks or nice rangers reminding people of tee time periodically spread across course to help keep play progressing at good rate.

NWGA Would be good to have more women pros. Apparently County had a fantastic woman pro years back—tremendous asset—but most of the women pros are already working elsewhere

NWGA Would be nice to add benches, especially shaded ones at places where people are likely to have to wait, and consider other senior-friendly amenities

NWGA Other courses have gone to Segway/hoverboards for play & golf bag rather than carts. Nice because play can go more quickly (not have to wait for 2nd person to finish before moving onto next hole).

NWGA Frustrated that when 10 WGANJ members show up to play, they will be charged for 2 missing people to make up the last foursome, even though no one else is there to use the course. Cannot afford to pay for 2 "dummy" players so 2 women end up not playing. Would be willing to let others join to fill the foursome. Would appreciate more flexibility regarding this, especially as they have been faithful patrons & are the largest league that plays the County courses. Course doesn't want to only charge partial fee since they might be able to get a full foursome.

NWGA No groups are allowed on weekends, which is not great for groups, but does provide time for members of the public to play.

NWGA "We work better with courses outside the County because those places work better with us."

NWGA Showed up for regular tee time only to find it was maintenance day and so no practice area was available—why no warning or other area provided?

NWGA Communication between courses & leagues could be improved so info is more apparent: not realize that could play "back 9" at discounted rate, that walk-in slots were allocated every hour, etc. This info is apparently on info sheet if people read it, but these seasoned golfers were not aware

NWGA Being in charge of fixing divots at last hole at one course was really fun & helped the ladies feel a sense of ownership. Some people are apparently not as enthusiastic & do not want to pay a lot of money to play and then be required to fix divots.

NWGA Driving range at Darlington finished contract & now County is having difficulty in getting a replacement—bidding process, etc.

NWGA BC Courses soon switching from automated call system for booking tee times to a human call center—this seems more expensive and diverts man hours.

NWGA Auto lightning warning system wasn't working & had to be manually operated because company that ran it went out of business.

NWGA Some rangers could be more congenial to players as evening approaches when reminding them that they need to finish.

NWGA Would appreciate more flexibility with pros.

NWGA Need to deal with geese—especially terrible at Rockleigh. Droppings everywhere are a big turn-off to women.

NWGA WGANJ is very involved in many different charities and fund-raisers. They could potentially be great partners with the County for community events.

NWY I have a question about the golf courses.... You said they take up 10% of the land. What percentage of the people—the residents—use them? And are they self-sustaining financially in terms of the fees that they generate? And also you mentioned possible opening them up to people who aren't golfers. What were the ideas with respect to that?

NWY      10% of county land is golf course, meanwhile you mentioned that an important part of the Master Plan is protection of natural areas as a goal, so why not combine them? I would propose managing golf courses as environmental resources.... [State] just bought a course in Gloucester County and took it out of golf. The cart path there provides an accessible route for travel and we're turning the fairways into grassland bird habitat and it's an amazing resource. You can take a wheelchair across the entire course and look at the wildlife that is now teeming back into the area. [In Hunterdon County], we entered our course in the River Friendly program.... There's a golf course River Friendly certification that you can build up certification levels and get more and more environmentally-friendly and you could turn your non-play areas into wildlife habitat...not just for beautification and flowers, but also improving habitat.

### **Darlington Golf Course**

- STK-RV We definitely need a restaurant
- STK-FL Great for cross country skiing & snowshoeing, BUT golf courses worry me--playing golf is not being out "in nature."

### **Valley Brook Golf Course**

- STK-PS Drainage issues!
- STK-RV Goose control
- STK-RV [Favorite] Valley Brook--Great course. Very pretty. Get rid of the geese. Great concession.
- STK-RV [Favorite] Valley Brook. Lots of nature. Great Food. Enjoyable.
- STK-RV [Favorite] Valley Brook. Keep the concessions!
- NRV Autistic students golf program @ Valley Brook Golf Course in conjunction with County. The staff is great about meeting needs of the students. Tremendous asset & fantastic cooperation from golf course staff. So very proud of this program. 14 years the program has been in existence. Bus the students in or parents bring them. Great that they can come here every day.

### **Rockleigh Golf Course**

- STK-PS Blue course renovate!
- EML Upgrade Rockleigh Blue 9 hole golf course and look to acquire more land for golf parks.
- NWGA Need to deal with geese—especially terrible at Rockleigh. Droppings everywhere are a big turn-off to women.

### **Orchard Hills Golf Course**

- OS [Willing to pay for amenities?] Yes if you referbish pitifully maintained golf clubhouses such as Overpeck, Orchatd Hills. These clubhouses provide opportunities for Bergen to rent out space for formal gatherings if they rebuild these horribly maintained structures. I've always said you can immediately tell when the county gets involved by the run down nature of the buildings. Valley Brook golf course a good example. Before it became a Bergen county course, the grounds and building including locker/rest rooms were beautiful.
- NWGA There is nothing special about the Paramus (Orchard Hills) course. WGANJ is forcing members to use it...it is not a voluntary choice.

### **Overpeck Golf Course**

- STK-PS Water quality improve! New clubhouse!
- STK-RV Overpeck--Fix the concession and restrooms.
- STK-RV I would like to see more passive recreation opportunities. So many acres of golf course land but much more use could be had if the land was open to walkways & picnic use.
- OS [Willing to pay for amenities?] Yes if you referbish pitifully maintained golf clubhouses such as Overpeck, Orchatd Hills. These clubhouses provide opportunities for Bergen to rent out space for formal gatherings if they rebuild these horribly maintained structures. I've always said you can immediately tell when the county gets involved by the run down nature of the buildings. Valley Brook golf course a good example. Before it became a Bergen county course, the grounds and building including locker/rest rooms were beautiful.
- OS AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, THERE IS NO FOOD CONCESSION AT OVERPACK, AND THE CLUB HOUSE IS A WRECK.

## Email Communications

[REDACTED]  
Wed 12/21/2016, 5:45 PM

I am absolutely opposed to the Dinosaur park on the south side of Degraw Ave

Sincerely  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Wednesday, December 21, 2016 1:03 PM  
Teaneck Creek

Hello- It was a pleasure meeting you today at Teaneck Creek and wanted to add a few items.

As an open space advocate I strongly oppose the building of a dinosaur park on the south side of DeGraw Ave -the 78 acres should be annexed to the TCC and used as passive recreation. This most valuable land is the home of many animals and a critical area for migratory birds. The paving of parking areas will destroy this habitat. In the incredible shrinking Bergen County landscape, the last thing we need is new development. Which leads to my next point. When open space becomes available it must be purchased and removed from possible development. As the most densely built out County in the state it is imperative that we focus on redeveloping existing infrastructure and preserve the little remaining open space we have. This is most important in the central/north region of the County. I understand that with home rule many municipalities are blinded by the ambition of increased ratables for their tax base. Unfortunately, this has been proven to be an elusive target and in most cases results in an increase in expenses which counter the increase in taxes payable.

As my experience with Teaneck's RMP, without the strength of binding proposals, most of this planning is a wasted effort as politics precludes common sense and taxpayer wishes.

Finally, I think it will be very important to create an overlay map that includes all Federal, State and Municipal Parks and Schools as part of your surveying.

[REDACTED]  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Thu 1/5, 3:48 PM

Hello,

I took the survey recently but I wanted to follow up by contacting you regarding a petition that I have been having people sign. This is a petition to stop cutting down trees for future projects in Van Saun Park in Paramus New Jersey.

There are a lot of people who enjoy this park just to walk in both for exercise or to walk their dogs. I don't exactly know to whom I should send my petition, perhaps you are the one that could make the best use of it.

I have 50 signatures so far but wanted to get 100 before I send it in.

Please let me know if you would be interested in seeing my petition, or let me know who I should send my petition to...

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sunday, January 8, 2017 9:17 AM

Ms. Ravit,

I would like to make suggestion before the process starts. The County should make an effort to provide bike lanes/paths connecting their parks to each other and to the local communities there in. There is to be a light rail station bordering Overpeck Park and a bike lane along Fort Lee Road would serve Overpeck Park and the light rail and give access to the GWB.

Sidewalks should be constructed connecting the parks to the communities. A first step would be to provide missing links along County roads near parks. An existing sidewalk map would be useful.

See you on Tuesday.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:06 PM

Re: Parks Master Plan 2017

I would like to make the following suggestions primarily about Overpeck Park.

1. The Hoebel Area could use additional shade especially in the seating near the tennis courts. That area is used by the players and walkers. Trees would be a long-term answer.
2. The tennis players would like year round access to the court as was the case in the past. This would save money on the removal and storage of the nets.
3. The banks along Overpeck Creek should be stabilized so garbage does not wash into Creek.
4. The toxic site should be remediated on the South side of Fort Lee Road.
5. The historic stone structure that supported the trolley trestle in Overpeck Creek should be noted and preserved.
6. The North and South sections of the park should be connected with a walkway under Fort Lee Road perhaps at the Overpeck Creek Bridge.
7. There should be a balance between paid events and the amount of parking available.
8. A food truck might service the Hoebel Area with fees to the County.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:44 PM

Re: Bergen County Parks Master Plan - Athletic Director feedback

Hi:

It took awhile for some school districts to give me feedback, but the following suggestions have been made by many Bergen County Athletic Directors: (Most of the feedback was based on venues hosting out county tournaments that are located outside of Bergen County - swimming, wrestling, indoor track, ice hockey etc.). [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1. An indoor Arena that could host numerous county events including volleyball, basketball and wrestling - perhaps also ice hockey. Also could host cultural activities, expos and concerts.
2. An Indoor track and field facility similar to the NYC Armory on 168th street. This would be huge for schools and younger children.
3. More multi purpose all weather synthetic turf fields for baseball, softball, lacrosse and soccer.
4. Upgrade Rockleigh Blue 9 hole golf course and look to acquire more land for golf (FYI - old Apple Ridge course has issues and maybe purchase land to open another 9 hole course in that location). Add synthetic putting greens to regular parks.
5. Indoor swimming - there are not enough pools to house all of the high school swim programs; many are looking for more space. We are sure adults and small children with their parents would also want a couple of pools added within the county.
6. Some suggested expanding the zoo at Van Suan and adding typical park like upgrades like gardens, hiking paths, picnic areas etc.

I hope this helps. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Call me if you have any questions [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Sun 2/5, 8:55 PM

According to Rutgers cooperative extension , we are classified as agriculture. We are not a sport with a nature element. Can that be updated please .

Thank you

Wed 2/15, 6:52 PM

Hi Angela,

I'm sorry I didn't get back to you sooner. We were at one of the Teaneck creek pre meeting and we were not listed on the map and in the book we were not designated as agriculture.

Thank you  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
To: Jon Carnegie

Fri 1/13, 12:40 PM

Dear Dr. Carnegie,

As part of our work on transportation and pedestrian & bicycle safety our committee would be very interested in your findings on transportation/traffic issues in and around Leonia. We have been tasked with four specific issues:

Work with Bergen county to prevent cut-through traffic going through Overpeck Park from the NJ Turnpike in Ridgefield and exiting onto Fort Lee Road in Leonia

Seek support from Port Authority with traffic management during backups originating at GWB causing regular gridlock in Leonia

Address issues of pedestrian and bicycle safety in our community

Continue to coordinate with state, county, neighboring communities regarding the Light Rail extension

Any information from your work that touches on these issues would be appreciated.

Dr. Hoefer mentioned a smartphone app used by Rutgers students to inventory the county parks. We would like to use such an app to conduct a street, bike & pedestrian inventory of Leonia. Is this app available for lay/"civilian" use? If so, please put me in touch with someone who could assist us. If not, are there any user-friendly alternatives?

Again, we appreciate any assistance you can provide. We will be happy to share out findings.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Friday, February 10, 2017 8:57 AM

To: ravit@envsci.rutgers.edu; whoefer@sebs.rutgers.edu Cc: Brian B. Cassin

Subject: Bergen Park Master Plan: Glen Rock's Park

Dear Beth and Wolfram,

We met at the information session earlier this year. I am [REDACTED] in Glen Rock, where one of the parks is located. The point I made at the meeting was to explore bike paths from the center of towns where a park is located close to a town - which describes Glen Rock perfectly.

<http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/DocumentCenter/View/5651> Not only is Glen Rock about 1 mile from the park, there is a PSE&G right of way (ROW) accessible from town to the park which provides an opportunity. I have reached out to PSE&G and have set a meeting to "explore" what may or may not be done. While PSE&G - as a general rule - does not look favorably on their ROW's used, I am encouraged that Glen Rock's unique situation might prove to be a win/win/win for all.

Do you have any suggestions regarding our approach? I know the ROW is not your issue but since Rutgers has been engaged to perform the long range strategic plan for a park system. A park system that does have significant connecting bike paths between several parks. Perhaps you might have suggestions to help bring this potential to fruition. Particularly as you might want to explore it for other parks you are including in your study. We are having our Grant Writers look into this as well to see what might be added to the mix.

Please let me know your thoughts and I thank you in advance for any guidance you can provide.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Friday, February 10, 2017 11:35 AM

To: 'William Huisking'; Elizabeth Ravit; Wolfram Hoefer

Subject: RE: Bergen Park Master Plan: Glen Rock's Park

Skip

Well said!

The first question I want to ask PSE&G is why did they choose to install 65 foot utility poles on Maple Ave? If the answer is that it was convenient then we need to have the same approach to requesting the use of the Right of Way. It would be very convenient to connect our two parks Wild Memorial and Saddle River County Park. If PSE&G is not going to use the ROW for power lines please let us use it.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wed 5/10, 10:01 AM

To: Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability [CUES]

Subject: Dog Park Recommendation

Photo Gallery Artificial Grass | K9Grass by ForeverLawn

[See photos in email.]

[REDACTED]

Wed 5/10/2017 2:29 PM

To: Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability [CUES]

The pleasure was truly mine. Once again I apologize for my attire. Under normal circumstances, I would've been dressed properly but, had come from the dog park in Fort Lee, which is a disaster. I refuse to destroy another pair of shoes because of the massive dust from the gravel. Anyhoo . . .



I'm hoping you were able to locate and see some of these photo's and get an idea why I myself was so overwhelmingly impressed, but especially in comparison to what currently exists, throughout all of Bergen County. Primarily, the individual town facilities.

I think it's a GREAT idea and a win-win for so many. The politicians of course and what this all always boils down to. VOTES! I can think of no time during the day and or year these facilities are NOT busy. At no given time are there less than 30 people per hour in Ridgewood. On a really nice day well over 50/hour. They come and go all. day. long.

The nicer the park, the faster word spreads - the more people come. And of course, just the polar opposite. People talk about Overpeck ALL. THE. TIME. and how it is in dire need of replacement. I can think of not one good thing anyone has to say about it. Of course I mean no disrespect nor malice and merely bring this to your attention.

The dogs off leash has to be addressed. There are signs up all over and people ignore them. If you have a contact name or number for me . . . or would inform them ASAP.

All this being said my suggestions were as follows:

The K-9 grass is fabulous. Be careful, there's seem to be another company that pilfered the idea called K-9 Turf which also appears to be no where near the same quality in comparison.

Check out those photo's for some fabulous idea's. I can't seem to find the park (photo) that has a fountain as well for when it gets hot. Another fabulous idea.

Personally speaking I like the idea of both grass and pavement. Aesthetically I think it's looks great and may wear better per se. But you guys will formulate all of this. Benches are an absolute must or wall to sit on. You always want comfortable benches. People spend hours there.

I think selling (classy) advertisement is another great idea which in turn will help pay for the costs and up-keep, which is really minimal. They could easily generate well over a hundred thousand dollars/year. I'm thinking much closer to \$200,000. \$100/ad/month.

Overpeck really has a lot of land for a great park so perhaps they could incorporate a little agility course inside the facility. Some of the dogs that come REALLY like to run and jump. These are strictly idea's based on personal experience, which is what you requested.

I think the nicer the park the more will definitely show up. Therefore not only do you need two sides (large dog and small dog) but perhaps 2-3 offshoots attached to both sides for older less active dogs that are unable to withstand large packs. Again just. Or for those dogs that may not play well with others but still like to be near and or around dogs.

I think pet fountains with running water opposed to bowls are absolutely imperative. The way it is now, it's a breeding ground for bacteria and most people don't even allow their dogs to drink from them, myself included.

Small cases that contain umbrellas to separate dogs in case of confrontation might also be a good idea. You can't hang umbrellas or they gather water. If they were in a "break glass in case of emergency" type of enclosure, I doubt anyone would steal them. Worse case scenario, who doesn't own a ton of umbrella's and the daily visitors (of which there are a plethora, mind you) would simply replace them.

I think you need a hose or 2 as well for the same thing. The sad fact of the matter is many people are not familiar with dog park (unwritten) rules and how dogs behave or DON'T so of course that too would be imperative. I like explaining that these are dos PARKS designed specifically for exercise and socialization and NOT a dog bathroom in lieu of walking your dog especially if people expect it to maintain it's pristine quality!!!

I'm tired of the dog "walkers" who come and take over the parks when they are PAID to be walking the dogs! Big bucks mind you. One woman supposedly earns over \$150,000 year talking her dogs in a van.

I also love the idea of building an Bergen County Animal Shelter annex. Not only could they schedule a specific time for these dogs to solely use this facility but the dog walking idea I think is a great concept. So many shelters have dog walkers come in daily to walk dogs but no where to actually walk them. In your case you have plenty of people and space TO WALK but no dogs. Since Bergen County owns both again it's a win-win. Even if you couldn't build it close to the dog park people would walk from the shelter. I think adoptions would also then skyrocket.

I don't know what the goals are regarding these parks. If it's to attract people, I can assure and absolutely guarantee, nothing and I do mean nothing, attracts more people than a dog park 365 days per year.

Again it was my pleasure meeting YOU and thank you for taking the time to talk to me. I would've never stood up at that meeting for fear I would've been pelted. I was very impressed with your boss and the gentleman that opened the meeting. Even though the first man appeared to be a County official I found him to be very sincere and genuine.

Cheers!



[REDACTED]  
Mon 5/15, 11:24 PM

To: Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES)

Subject: great article – read to the end (informative)

[How to Design an Excellent Dog Park - CityLab](#)

[see article link in email]

[REDACTED]  
Fri 5/12/2017 10:09 AM

To: Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES)

Can you tell me if there are plans to build a parking garage in Van Saun County Park? I live near the park by the entrance on Continental Ave. Are there plans to close the entrance on Continental Ave? Is the zoo going to be extended into the field on Continental? Am I going to be looking at a black fence like by the one that surrounds the rest of the zoo?

[REDACTED]  
Tuesday, May 16, 2017 9:59 AM

To: Elizabeth Ravit

Subject: Saddle River trail connector

Beth, at No Valley Greenway event I met Saddle River biker who suggested connecting trail to adjacent college (I think Bergen Community)

[REDACTED]  
Sun 5/21, 4:18 PM

Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES)

[3 photos attached]

Hello,

Here's my concern. Can you help?

My conversations with Bergen County Sheriff's Dept. have fallen on deaf ears. My reports to the Bergen County Park Security have disappeared into a black hole it seems. Phone calls to Bergen County Parks Dept. go

unanswered and unreturned. An online request in the Bergen County "RequestTracker" system remains dormant weeks after creation. Here's a description of the issue, along with three attached photographs:

Employees of Kulite company with multiple buildings located on Willow Tree Rd./Fort Lee Rd. in Leonia are parking their vehicles on county property in Overpeck Park - Henry Hoebel area - on a daily basis. They can all be observed crossing the railroad tracks on Willow Tree Rd. using a dangerous crossing location to return to their vehicles in the park at exactly 4:30 P.M. Mon-Thurs, 4:00 P.M. on Fridays. There are approximately 15 cars being parked on county property inside the park on a daily basis. This has been ongoing for a period of years now. Most of the cars are being parked at the end of the first parking lot encountered when entering the park - best described as closest to the WTC Memorial and exercise area - which is also where the clearing for walking across the tracks is. Two or three vehicles may be parked in the beginning of the next(second) parking area encountered, as well. Can this practice of parking vehicles in the county park while working at a private company during the day please be investigated and stopped if warranted? It consumes valuable parking spaces that could be used by visitors to the park, especially during the summer when those spaces are needed more.

more detail: Kulite employees can be observed crossing the tracks at approximately the intersection of Willow Tree Road and Schor Ave. in order to enter the park to retrieve their vehicles. They first walk through an area behind a guardrail at that intersection (near the employee parking lots for Kulite buildings located 1 Willow tree Road and 400 Willow Tree Road) before proceeding down a muddy embankment, crossing over a ditch via a wooden plank, then finally crossing the tracks and up another embankment into the park very close to where their cars are parked. This occurs Mon. - Fri at exactly 4:30 P.M., and Fridays at 4P.M.. I have also attached photographs to this request taken from the park side depicting where employee vehicles are parked, and the employees themselves entering the park from the railroad track clearing in order to retrieve their vehicles.

I think I know why they are doing this - it's to avoid waiting in a line of cars for a few minutes for the light at Willow Tree Rd. and Fort Lee Rd., but in my view that is not a valid reason to park in a county park lot while at work in a Leonia facility.

Sincerely,

██████████ a concerned Bergen County resident and frequent visitor of Overpeck Park

██  
Wed 5/31, 2:11 PM

Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES)

Please help,

The picnic tables at the Otto Pile part of the Saddle river county park are in very bad Condition they are all covered with Green mold & they smell bad from the Mold, also some are broken, they are well weathered, If possible a lot of them need replacement, perhaps using a wood Composite.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wed 5/31/2017 3:04 PM

Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES)

I walk daily in Overpeck park. I am in the minority as I do not own a dog. There are more dogs there because of the dog run - dogs off leashes, even if they are on a leash it is 5 feet long across the whole path - fun trying to pass a pit bull or any dog for that matter - why can't they assign part of the park just for people? Move the dog run to the back? Or just remove it - people exercising do not need defecating, urinating, barking dogs around them.

[REDACTED]

Thursday, June 1, 10:51 AM

Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES)

Good morning,

I am against the plan to build a 500 plus parking garage in Overpeck Park, Leonia in conjunction with the Hudson-Bergen light rail project. A parking garage of any size will have a negative impact on the use and access to the park.

Please prevent the building of this parking garage in Overpeck Park. The garage should be built in another town such as Palisades Park or Englewood.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Leonia, NJ

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thu 6/1/2017 12:24 AM

Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES)

Please keep our remaining natural parks, unspoiled and minimally developed. We are already overrun with wild animals driven from their homes by clearing away nature.

[REDACTED] Leonia

[REDACTED]

Monday, June 5, 2017 12:22 PM

To: Wolfram Hoefer; Elizabeth Ravit

See the attached article and just as importantly, the photos.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/02/sports/soccer/premier-league-proving-grounds.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fsports&action=click&contentCollection=sports&region=rank&module=package&version=highlights&contentPlacement=5&pgtype=sectionfront>

[REDACTED]

Wed 6/21, 4:22 PM

Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES)

[see attachment [REDACTED]]

Good Afternoon,

I was made aware of the Bergen County Parks plan and would like to submit input of ways to integrate a large park like overpeck into our neighborhood.

Since the parcel of land is directly integrated into our town's street grid near Teaneck Road, is directly adjacent with another great park facility (Teaneck Creek Conservancy) and has three high-frequency bus routes passing within walking distance of the park, I request that we do everything in our power to ensure that this parcel of parkland is developed in consistency with our Town's multiple master plans and goals for high quality of life, walkability and having everything connect well to each other unlike many suburban towns where one is trapped on the single road in/out of a facility.

I am making the following requests for the township to work with Bergen County Engineering to make this Bergen County Park fit into our community:

Pedestrian Access points at all major connections to the west, shown on the attached map, for local residents to enjoy the park and for other Teaneck residents to access the park via the 5- 10 bus stops along the park.

A pedestrian underpass below Degraw Ave to link this park with the existing paths at the park next door, Teaneck Creek Conservancy. The county has experience with similar facilities such as the multiple crossings of the Saddle River Park.

I hope we can work with Bergen County to make this a neighborhood park we are greatly proud of, like Votey Park as well as a regional park.

[REDACTED]  
Wed 6/21, 10:18 PM

Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES)

I visit this park every day, for years, because I live nearby- I also live on the Hackensack River ( Teaneck).

I am very concerned that Bergen County has provided absolutely zero maintenance for about one year now. Plum Zero.

What is involved with the maintenance?

1) The garbage cans have not been emptied for one year. They are packed full of garbage, with garbage spilling over to the surrounding ground.

2) There is a large open field/ meadow on the riverbank that lies parallel to the parking lot for Riverside Mall. This year is the first year that Bergen County Parks Dept has not mowed the grass, at all, zero. I have been using the park every year since 2005. The grass in the field has always been mowed by previous park superintendents. The grass is now 15 inches high. No one wants to walk thru it for fear of ticks. This field is also used by a small herd of deer and chipmunks. Therefore it is important for Public Health, to keep the grass mowed. Otherwise, ticks become a health hazard. There are several serious tick borne diseases.

Also, if the grass is now mowed, we will eventually see field succession to a forest.

People are really concerned and cannot understand why the County has scheduled this park for what seems like deliberate neglect. It's extremely offensive. They should remove the garbage cans altogether if they plan to terminate emptying the cans.

I am considering a complaint to the State Board of Health about the tall grasses/ deer/ chipmunks and ticks in an area so close to active daily pedestrian use.

And there is also the liability hazards with holes in the decking that a foot could get stuck in, 2 inch nails protruding upwards from the park benches( all of which are splintered or totally disintegrated if they are wood), trip hazards where patio bricks are lifting, and general filth. I bring my own chair if I plan to sit in the park.

I am told that some people did try to contact the County Parks about the unmowed grass and garbage, but nothing happened. It seems to be a deliberate plan by the County to destroy the park thru neglect.

Perhaps they are hoping to qualify for a million dollar grant. But mowing the grass should only cost a few hundred dollars.

Best Regards  
[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to share my thoughts on Bergen County Parks. I am [REDACTED] of the Northeast Chapter of Track Officials, and though and I am not speaking on behalf of any organization, I wish to make suggestions as to what I have seen as needs of Bergen County Parks to serve the thousands of Bergen County residents who use the parks to practice and compete.

The track and field facility at Overpeck Park in Palisades Park was a world class facility upon its completion in the mid-2000s. The only reason that a facility such as that would no longer be considered world class in such a short period is neglect. The facility has gone from world class to borderline unsafe for use.

The track has holes and tears, as do the jumping runways in addition to unusable and unsafe throwing cages and jumping mats that have been destroyed from lack of supervision and proper storage.

I would also like to speak to you about the use of Darlington Park for Cross country meets in the fall.

There has been talk that the county will begin to charge high fees for the use of Darlington for both practice and meets.

While I freely admit that it is fair for a fee to be charged, I hope that this issue can be resolved in a manner that is fair to all parties. All cross country meets take place after the lake has been closed for the season. It would seem to me that the County would be happy to see the park being used by thousands of Bergen County residents on a given day when it would otherwise be empty.

I would like to once again stress that these are my thoughts and observations, and I do not speak for any organizations.

I would look forward to speaking with someone from the County to discuss any of these matters further.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]





# Borough of Montvale

12 Mercedes Drive, 2nd Floor  
Montvale, NJ 07645

[www.montvale.org](http://www.montvale.org)

Ph: 201-391-5700  
Fx: 201-391-9317

Dr. Beth Ravit  
Office of Agriculture & Urban Programs  
Rutgers, The State University of NJ  
Blake Hall, RM 145  
93 Lipman Drive  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8524

June 20, 2017

Dear Dr. Ravit,

The Montvale Environmental Commission wishes to thank you for attending the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
The presentation was informative and the EC supports Bergen County efforts.

It was a pleasure meeting you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Hanrahan Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Hanrahan  
Montvale Environmental



**BOROUGH OF NORTHVALE**

116 Paris Avenue  
Northvale, New Jersey 07647  
201-767-3330 (fax) 201-767-9631  
E-mail – [epiehler@boroughofnorthvale.com](mailto:epiehler@boroughofnorthvale.com)

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*Stanley E. Piehler*  
**Mayor**

County Executive Tedesco,

As the Bergen County Parks Department partners with Rutgers CUES to develop a comprehensive Master Plan for its Parks System, it is our hope that a “Greenway” conversion of the CSX Eastern Rail Line (which runs from Northvale south through Norwood, Closter, Demarest, Cresskill, Tenafly and Englewood) will be considered for inclusion.

This abandoned rail line has not seen train traffic in many years. What remains of the track is dangerous and in a continual state of disrepair; overgrown with trees and brush and littered with garbage and graffiti. Traversing the center of towns, it is an eyesore for our communities.

With a conversion to a “Greenway”, such a project would give Bergen County residents access to 12 miles of walking, running, hiking, and biking. It would link our neighbors to the north, connecting residents to miles of trails into New York State via the Joseph P Clark Rail to Trail system. Moving south, residents would have access to the towns along the line, and ultimately be connected to the Light Rail Line that ends at Englewood Hospital. With strategic bike lanes and road routes the “Greenway” could potentially give residents access to Overpeck Park and the County Parks system beyond. In addition, many elderly residents who reside close to the current tracks would have a safe place to walk with wheelchair access as an option.

The “Greenway” would also help to remove pedestrians and bicycle traffic from local over crowded roads.

I have resolutions from several municipalities supporting such a conversion. The resolutions were passed by governing bodies along the line as well as nearby communities who believe they would also benefit.

I look forward to discussing the benefits and welcome an opportunity to discuss the project further.

Best Regards,

Ed Piehler  
Mayor, Borough of Northvale

CC: James Koth, Parks and Recreation Director  
Ron Subramaniam, Assistant Parks Director  
Peter Botsolas, Senior Policy and Planning Advisor

May 19, 2016

James Koth, Director  
Bergen County Parks & Recreation  
One Bergen County Plaza  
Fourth Floor  
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Dear Mr. Koth:

I am writing as the representative of a group of Bergen County residents (identified below) who are very much interested in having your Department consider the installation of one or more Pickleball courts at Overpeck County Park. The relatively new sport of Pickleball is being taken up increasingly by seniors and others. It is one of the fastest growing sports in the country.

Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines many of the elements of tennis, ping pong and badminton. It is played with a ping pong type of racquet; a large, plastic whiffle ball; and a net. Two pickleball courts can easily fit onto one tennis court or can be easily placed on any concrete or hard surface, like that of a basketball court. It is usually played in a doubles format.

The USA Pickleball Association is organized to promote the growth and development of pickleball, on both a national and international level. Information on the association and more details about the game can be found at [www.usapa.org](http://www.usapa.org).

For your information I have attached some additional information on the rules and court dimensions.

I have visited the Overpeck park facilities and have some observations regarding our pickleball request that hopefully you might take into consideration:

(1) There are currently 16 tennis courts at three locations. By far the least costly and quickest solution to our request is to take one tennis court and transform it into two pickleball courts. This would only require repainting the surface, painting on new lines and installing a net.

(2) There are currently 4 one wall handball courts at the Henry Hoebel Area-Leonia North. As shown in the attached photograph #1, one such court could be converted to one pickleball court, again by repainting; painting on new lines; installing a net; and adding fencing. This pickleball court would extend beyond the current western boundary of the tennis courts and would not look as aesthetically as well as other alternatives.

(3) At the Henry Hoebel Area-Leonia North, there is a paved section at the football field that probably held temporary stands, as shown in attached photograph #2. Part of this area could be easily turned into a pickleball court by smooth paving the existing surface, painting on lines and installing a net. No additional fencing would be required.

(4) At the Henry Hoebel Area-Leonia North section just before the one wall handball court, there is sufficient space up to the curb to place a pickleball court (See attached photo #3). This would require leveling the current surface, painting on lines, installing a net and installing fencing.

(5) Next to the current tennis courts at Area III-Ridgefield Park, there is a large open space which could easily support the installation of multiple pickleball courts (see attached photograph #4). This would be more costly and time consuming than the other alternatives.

(6) Between the playground and soccer fields at Area III-Ridgefield Park, there is another large open space which could easily support the installation of multiple pickleball courts (see attached photograph #5). This would be more costly and time consuming than the other alternatives.

(7) Next to the football stands at the Palisades Park

Sportsplex, there is a large, flat unused piece of land (see photograph #6) that could also support the installation of multiple pickleball courts. This would be more costly than other alternatives.

A group of us would be appreciative of meeting with you or your representatives at your earliest convenience to discuss a pickleball program at Overpeck County Park.

We look forward to hearing from you.

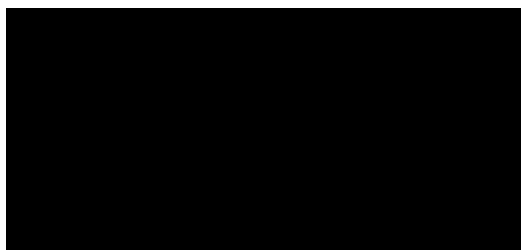
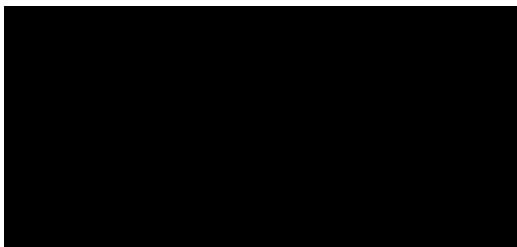
Very truly yours,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Fort Lee, NJ 07024

A black rectangular redaction box covering the address of the sender.

Other Interested Residents:

A black rectangular redaction box covering the name of an interested resident.A black rectangular redaction box covering the name of another interested resident.

May 9, 2017

Mr. James Koth, Director  
Bergen County Parks & Recreation  
One Bergen County Plaza  
Fourth Floor  
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Dear Mr. Koth:

I am writing again as the representative of a group of Bergen County residents who love the game of pickleball. We are very much interested in having your Department consider the importance and need for pickleball courts at Overpeck County Park. In my letter to you of May 19, 2016, I suggested possible alternative sites for the location of pickleball courts at Overpeck County Park but have never received any acknowledgement. Since that date I have seen and developed a more concrete proposal for the consideration of the Parks & Recreation Department.

First, I would like to describe pickleball development nationally and in Bergen County since 2016. The American Sports Builders Association estimated in 2016 the number of pickleball players at 2 million, growing to 8 million by the end of 2018. With respect to Bergen County, beginning with a small group of players from Leonia, playing indoors at the Leonia Recreation Center, we moved outside in the summer of 2016 to play at the tennis courts at Overpeck County Park-Palisades Park Sports Complex. Each time we played we were required to tape the courts plus use temporary nets on loan from the Leonia Recreation Center. Beginning in September 2016, I started an indoor program for residents of Fort Lee at the Fort Lee Recreation Center, who generously purchased the nets and balls for us to use. We currently play each Monday and Wednesday from 9 am to 12 pm. The total number of Leonia, Fort Lee, Cliffside Park and Paramus players now part of our group totals 29, with no attempts made to increase participation because of lack of sufficient equipment. Once again, as summer approaches, there is an absolute need to move to outside play since municipal summer camps in Fort Lee and Leonia make use of their indoor facilities. The remaining pickleball play in Bergen County is provided through a private

organization, the New Jersey Pickleball Association, which requires a membership fee and daily play fees at facilities in Tenafly, Fairlawn, Allendale, Westwood, Ridgewood and Waldwick. As an indication of the growing popularity of the sport, their membership has grown from 200 to 450 players over the past 12 months.

Second, this brings me to the current request from my pickleball colleagues to the Bergen County Parks & Recreation Department. We propose that you make **2 of 12 tennis** courts at Overpeck County Park-Henry Hoebel Area Leonia North **OR** at Overpeck County Park-Area III Ridgefield Park into **8** permanent pickleball courts for the residents of Bergen County. 4 pickleball courts can easily fit on one tennis court (2 on each side of the tennis net, which remains in place as a court divider). All this requires is the purchase and installation of 8 permanent pickleball nets and the relining of the existing tennis courts. This alternative is not only less costly than previously proposed alternatives, but can be accomplished quickly and without any disruption or inconvenience to tennis play.

We respectfully request a meeting with you or the appropriate member of your staff that would handle our proposal. With the increasing popularity of the sport, particularly with a growing older population that can no longer play tennis, I hope that you will give strong consideration to begin providing your Bergen County taxpayers with the necessary facilities for this sport.

Very truly yours, ✓

Fort Lee, NJ 07024

Enclosures:

1. "Pickleball by the Numbers" by American Sports Builders Association.
2. Pickleball article from Colorado Springs Style, May 2017.
3. ASBA/USAPA Pickleball Construction Manual from USAPA.
4. Outdoor Court Surfaces FAQ from USAPA.
5. Current List of players from Fort Lee, Leonia, Cliffside Park and Paramus.



Thank you for having these hearings; I feel a little like I am looking a gift horse in the mouth when I mention that it would have been great to have a weekend time slot, so that folks who work nights could have spoken in person. I am actually quite impressed with having 6 meetings all around the county; thank you. I do hope that this plus a weekend session will be a continuing standard. I also applaud the online survey, though I am not sure how extensively it was publicized—I am on a huge number of e-mail lists, subscribe to blogs, etc.—most people are not so connected.

I have mixed feelings about the concept of having a master plan, particularly given the timing in relation to increased Open Space money. I hope that any extra Open Space revenues that come to the county are used for just that—acquiring and maintaining open space—not adding facilities. What I appreciate most in our county is access to nature, as unspoiled as possible, with minimal amenities.

I am particularly concerned about the park nearest where I grew up, and where my parents still live in Paramus: Van Saun Park. I did not think too much about all the Winter Wonderland ads I saw until I drove past after dark and saw all the lights—it was just so wrong! That is not the character of the Van Saun Park in which I grew up; that park was mostly natural, with picnic tables and playground equipment, skating on the natural pond when weather permitted (long gone between pollution and climate change!), with the zoo and train, the pony rides, a few restrooms and water fountains, maybe ice cream in the summer. The carousel fits with that—a low-tech feature mainly for children—but garish electric lights for special events simply do not belong.

Along these lines, I am concerned about rumors I have heard, for instance about expanding the zoo to more-or-less compete with the Turtle Back Zoo, along the lines of a miniBronx Zoo. If I want to go to a “world-class” zoo, it is relatively easy to go across the bridge (and the new bus terminal will make it even more pleasant) The Van Saun Zoo I think of as having mostly farm animals, connected with the farm display and local history, with some more exotic animals who never seemed to really belong, as interesting as they are. Other rumors include restaurants and a parking garage—both terrible ideas, from my perspective, changing the park’s atmosphere from natural and as bucolic as possible in our densely populated county to commercial and more like a downtown area.

With that in mind, I then just recently saw an ill-conceived approval of development on wetlands in New Milford, near the old water works. This makes me more nervous about this whole master plan concept—would the plan have supported or opposed such development? Or is that a town issue regarding which the plan would have no relevance? Whereas developing a plan sounds on the surface



to be a chance to align around an overarching vision for open space in our county, it is perhaps inappropriate for the same reason—will our parks lose their current identity to conform to a planning document? Is that something that residents want?

Will this plan consider access other than simply by geographic location? For instance, regarding cars at Van Saun in particular, if the NJ Transit 168 and 752 bus line routes extended to or past the park on Sundays, as they do on weekdays and Saturdays, instead of the 752 not running at all and the 168 ending in Hackensack, people could get to and from the park (and to supermarkets at the Bergen Mall) without relying on a car. Yes, we love our traffic-free roads on Sundays—we vote repeatedly to keep businesses closed, to give both workers and drivers a break—but we forget that not everyone has a car in which to enjoy them; there are more reasons to ride a bus than going to work or shopping—such as visiting friends and family, visiting grave sites, attending church services, going to a restaurant or theatre, and of course, spending time in a park. Residents could use the advocacy of the county executive and freeholders with New Jersey Transit to extend those lines—and with outreach to the public once it happens, so that potential riders are aware of the new options.

I am also concerned that this plan could be a thinly-disguised attempt to put our parks on a commercial, money-making basis. I do not pay tax dollars to the county to have the freeholders “invest” in revenue-generating parks; I pay the county government to maintain public parks to be freely enjoyed by all, with no or minimal cost. Expensive entertainment options do not belong in our public parks—there are other venues for those, from theatres to arenas to municipal bandshells to auditoria in schools and churches. There is a vast variety of restaurants in our county, the majority with take-out capacity, for purchasing picnic lunches to bring to the park. That helps existing businesses, rather than competing with them, and gives park-goers more of a choice than ever could be presented in a single park—even if one might have to make an extra stop, or plan ahead. This philosophy—providing water fountains, rest rooms, bike racks, and some parking, some athletic fields, but not a lot of amenities to compete with local businesses in their own locations, is the philosophy I would like to see our county take in managing our park system. I would like us to ensure that historical spaces are purchased and maintained with proper educational documentation. I would like to see us using our resources to purchase mini lots that could be pocket parks or community gardens. I would like to see open space money going to preserve more land, not to make questionable improvements on our existing parks, which I believe are doing quite well, needing only continued maintenance and minimal low-impact upgrades to remain the crown jewel of the county.

Facilities such as golf course, athletic fields, boat launch, etc. of course should continue with specialized emphasis, but natural parks must stay that way.

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25 January 2017

Woodliff Lake, NJ

Bergen Master Plan Comments

support County purchase of Blawie Memorial

[REDACTED]  
Wallington, NJ 07057

October 8, 2016

Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES)  
93 Lipman Drive, Blake Hall  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8524

To Dr. Wolfram Hoefler, Mr. Zenon Tech-Czarny,  
Dr. Beth Ravit, Dr. Laura J. Lawson:

After reading the article in The Record I was impressed with your concern to provide a guide that addresses the needs to save open space and expand the growth of the Bergen County Parks system in our overdeveloped Northern New Jersey area.

I'm writing to you because you had said that input from the public is the key and I am responding by stating there are plans in the Wallington Borough Clerk's Office to build a mega complex inside Samuel Nelkin County Park on Paterson Ave, Wallington and I trust your integrity that you will do your best to address this issue in your master plan and insist that this does not happen because it is detrimental to the county park and the open space in it which is vital to our town and Bergen County residents.

An extensive amount of traffic to an extremely hectic Paterson Ave, or the new complex where helpless children and families current walk without hindrance into the park will be a cause of disaster and catastrophe. Also, this will be an opportunity for pedophiles and drug dealers to be near our children.

Our and surrounding towns are overbuilt and residents have limited amount of grassy areas and they depend on the county park where they can enjoy a great area of nature.

I have read in the newspaper that improvements have been approved for other county parks but not the vacant land inside the park which can be taken over by Bergen County.

Thank you in advance for any way you can assist and make available important information to expand our park and preserve its open space and keep it safe from dangerous elements prowling around our families; especially our children.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
cc: The Record-Mr. Jeff Pillets  
The Record-Mr. John Ensslin  
County Extension Dept. Head, Agricultural Agent-Mr. Joel S. Flagler  
County Extension Horticultural Consultant-Mr. Joe Papa

  
East Rutherford, NJ 07057

November 1, 2016

Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES)  
93 Lipman Drive, Blake Hall  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8524

Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC)  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
33 Livingston Avenue, Fourth Floor  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

State of New Jersey  
Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning  
401 East State St. 7<sup>th</sup> Floor 401-OB  
Trenton, NJ 08625

To Dr. Wolfram Hoefer, Mr. Zenon Tech-Czarny, Dr. Beth Ravit,  
Dr. Laura J. Lawson, Mr. Jon A. Carnegie, AICP/PP,  
Ms. Elizabeth Semple:

I did some research and found out that the Bergen County government granted a roadway easement through the Samuel Nelkin County Park in Wallington, NJ to Mateusz Mroczek's business Jersey Development Street, LLC. I am including a copy of this document. I can't believe that you are not interceding to protect our precious park and stop the local and county governments from squandering our park away for commercial interests. Having a public road go through our park where children are playing are grounds for tragedy. Our local and county governments gamble with lives of our children for blood money and this is a prime example of pay to play. Thank you in advance for any way you can assist in protecting our beloved park.

Sincerely,



cc: County Extension Dept. Head, Agricultural Agent-Mr. Joel S. Flagler  
County Extension Horticultural Consultant-Mr. Joe Papa