

**II. Planning Context**

**A. Introduction**

The Master Planning Process starts with basic information about the community and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs to provide the framework, or Planning Context, within which the Plan will evolve. This section provides information regarding population trends, land use trends, existing programs, and the existing budget. Section III continues this process with an inventory of the existing park and recreation resources serving the Township of Middletown.

**B. Population Trends**

Population History and Projections

An overall understanding of the population trends of Middletown Township is necessary to identify the present and predicted future needs for parks and recreation facilities. Table 1 illustrates the population trends for the Township from 1990 to 2025. These projections use U.S. Census Bureau data, ESRI BIS forecast, Monmouth County Planning Board, and State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce projections. The trends indicate the population is currently at about 69,029 residents and would grow to about 71,597. This population increase of nearly 2,500 people by the year 2025 indicates that there is not a tremendous amount of growth expected in the area and would not place a tremendous amount of additional demand on parks and recreation facilities and programs.

Table 2 indicates the average household sizes from 2000 to 2012. The table indicates that the average household size and family size are higher in the Township than in the County, State or the U.S. and the trend is to decrease slightly by 2012.

Table 3 summarizes the median age from 1990 to 2012 and indicates that the median age is higher in the Township than the County, State or the U.S. and the trend is for the median age to continue to increase.

Table 4 identifies the population over age 65 from 1990 to 2007 and indicates that the quantity and percentage of persons over age 65 has increased in the Township from 11.7% in 1990 to 13.6% in 2007. The percentages in the U.S. and New Jersey have remained fairly steady. Meanwhile, Table 5 indicates that the population under age 18 has decreased in the U.S., increased in the State and Monmouth County, and has remained steady at 28.3% in Middletown.

**C. Land Use Trends**

Land use trends are of significant importance to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process due to the fact that residents want parks close to home. Therefore, identifying the existing and proposed residential areas becomes extremely

important. The Township needs to identify the proposed residential development areas to ensure adequate land is set aside to serve each population's growth areas.

The Township of Middletown Master Plan dated October 27, 2004, identified that vacant or undeveloped land occupies 1,419 acres or 6% of the total land area of the Township. However, approximately 1,183 acres or 4.8% consist of tidal and fresh water wetlands which are essentially not developable. This leaves very little vacant and developable land. The population trends which were discussed previously indicate that the community is relatively mature and will not grow a considerable amount.

**Table 1: Population History and Projections (1990-2025)**

	1990 <sup>1</sup>	2000 <sup>1</sup>	2007 <sup>2</sup>	2012 <sup>2</sup>	2020 <sup>3,4</sup>	2025 <sup>3,4</sup>
Monmouth County	553,124	615,301	646,801	664,272	700,000	723,700
Middletown Township	68,189	66,327	69,029	70,080	70,764 <sup>3</sup>	71,597 <sup>3</sup>

1 - Source: US Census

2 - Source ESRI Bis Forecast

3 - Source State of New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development

4 - Source Monmouth County Planning Board

**Table 2: Average Household Size (2000-2012)**

	Housing Units	Average Household Size		Average Family Size		Average Household Size	
		2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	2007
USA	105,480,101	2.63	2.59	3.16	3.14	2.59	2.58
New Jersey	3,064,645	2.7	2.68	3.21	3.21	2.69	2.69
Monmouth County	240,884	2.74	2.7	3.24	3.24	2.7	2.69
Middletown Township	23,494	2.95	2.84	3.34	3.27	2.82	2.81

1 - Source ESRI Bis Forecast

**Table 3: Median Age (1990-2012)**

	1990	2000	2007	2012
USA	32.9	35.3	36.5	37.5
New Jersey	34.5	36.7	38.3	39.6
Monmouth County	35.0	37.7	39.9	41.1
Middletown Township	35.3	38.8	40.9	42.0

1 - Source: US Census & ESRI Bis Forecast

**Table 4: Population Over Age 65 (1990-2007)**

	1990		2000		2007	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
USA	31,241,831	12.6%	34,991,753	12.4%	38,405,812	12.6%
New Jersey	1,032,025	13.4%	1,113,136	13.2%	1,191,568	13.3%
Monmouth County	70,387	12.7%	76,923	12.5%	84,761	13.1%
Middletown Township	7,947	11.7%	8,487	12.8%	9,384	13.6%

1 - Source : US Census and ESRI Bis Forcas

**Table 5: Population Under 18 (1990-2007)**

	1990		2000		2007	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
USA	71,321,886	28.7%	80,473,265	28.6%	83,823,013	27.3%
New Jersey	2,012,052	26.0%	2,284,107	27.1%	2,437,682	27.4%
Monmouth County	148,993	26.8%	131,937	28.2%	184,544	28.6%
Middletown Township	19,307	28.3%	173,618	28.2%	19,540	28.3%

1 - Source : US Census and ESRI Bis Forecast

#### **D. Existing Programs**

The Middletown Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (MDPRCA) provides and oversees many programs for the Community of Middletown with annual full time program staff and full time maintenance staff. They do this by utilizing partnerships, volunteers, schools, and many non-profit organizations. Some of the program opportunities afforded the community include:

1. Tonya Keller Bayshore Recreation Center

Programs are limited in this mature building. Space is an issue, however, excellent programs are still provided for toddlers to Pre-K called “Just for Toddlers”. This program does generate revenue for the operation of the center and programs.

Additional Programs include:

- a. Women’s Aerobics
- b. Adult Ceramics
- c. After School Program for youth and teens

In 2006, the attendance was over 27,000 participants.

2. Hillside Community Center

This facility is small and has limited program space. Primary programs offered are:

- a. Just for Toddlers – 2's, 3's and Pre-K
- b. After school recreation for youth

In 2006, the attendance was over 16,000 participants.

3. Senior Center at Croydon Hall

This facility provides space for a variety of program opportunities for the senior population. The programs include:

- a. Dances
- b. Billiards
- c. Game room for cards etc.
- d. Special events
- e. Bus Tours
- f. Fitness
- g. Gym Activities

4. Youth and Teen Programs

These programs are offered in various recreation and non-recreation facilities throughout the community due to limited indoor space owned and operated by the Department.

These programs include:

- a. Science Experiment
- b. Computer Classes
- c. Karate
- d. Ceramics
- e. Gymnastics
- f. Teen Gym
- g. Art and Dance
- h. Roller Hockey

5. Summer Youth Camps

A variety of exciting seasonal programs are made available to younger people and some of the programs are supervised by community organizations such as Head Over Heels Gymnastics. The programs include:

- a. Bodies in Motion Dance
- b. Computer
- c. Baseball
- d. Basketball
- e. Gymnastics
- f. Cheer Leading
- g. Softball
- h. Karate
- i. Soccer
- j. Lacrosse
- k. Swimming
- l. Science

6. Special Events

The Department offers a variety of special events throughout the year including large special events each year such as Middletown Day held at Croydon Hall Park with over 15,000 residents attending.

Other special events include:

- a. Pre New Years Eve Dance Party
- b. Art Show
- c. Spring Eggstravaganza
- d. Girls Night Out
- e. Many trips such as the Family Ski Trip

7. Athletics

Athletic leagues are managed by a variety of community groups utilizing ball fields, gyms, tennis courts etc., available to them through the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. The Department does provide some of the following programs:

- a. Tennis Lessons
- b. Tennis Leagues, Camps
- c. Adult Basketball

- d. Roller Hockey
- e. Miniature Golf
- f. Volleyball

8. Adult Programs

The Department provides a variety of adult activities such as:

- a. Computer Classes
- b. Yoga
- c. Pilates
- d. Low Impact Cardio
- e. Kick Boxing
- f. Seasonal Training
- g. Ceramics

9. Middletown Swim and Tennis Club

This is a membership only facility and is not open for general public use. It is considered as a self-sustaining utility with the Middletown Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs providing management and oversight. In 2007, it created revenue of \$492,311, covering all operational expense.

10. Youth Sports Organizations

Several youth sports organizations operate leagues for children in Middletown. Some of the organizations include:

- a. BYAA – Bayshore Youth Athletic Association
- b. MYAA – Middletown Youth Athletic Association
- c. Middletown Little League
- d. Middletown Babe Ruth Baseball
- e. Lincroft Athletic Association
- f. Lincroft Little League
- g. Challenged Youth Sports
- h. Middletown Athletic Club
- i. Middletown Soccer Club
- j. Middletown Travel Baseball
- k. River Plaza Youth Club
- l. Sandy Hook Little League

- m. St. Mary's Athletic Association
  - n. Thompson Youth Basketball Association
  - o. Hockey in Middletown
11. Adult Sports Organizations
- a. U.S. Over Thirty Baseball
  - b. Bayshore Men's Softball
  - c. Bayshore Women's Softball
  - d. Lincroft Men's Softball
  - e. Men's Monday Softball League
  - f. Middletown Co-ed Softball
  - g. Middletown Firemen's League
  - h. Middletown Friday ARC
  - i. Middletown Men's Modified Softball – 18 to 50 years old
  - j. Middletown Men's Softball League
  - k. Middletown PBA 124 "B" Softball
  - l. Monmouth County Men's Senior Softball
  - m. Monmouth Legends Over 35 Softball
  - n. Monmouth Women's Softball
  - o. Tutti Rinaldi Memorial Softball League
  - p. Middletown Men's Soccer Team 1 and 2
  - q. Middletown Tennis Association

**E. Existing Budget**

MDPRCA had an annual budget in 2007 of approximately \$2,508,000 and annual revenue of \$398,000. The breakdown of the budget based upon revenues, expenses and the Township contribution is as follows:

1. Department Operations

This includes the operating cost for the Department such as salaries, recreation centers, art center, beaches, maintenance, special events, senior facilities and transportation, and parks.

Budget	\$2,373,000
Township Contribution	100%

MDPRCA included in their annual budget approximately \$111,000 for the operation of the Arts Center. The \$111,000 is for the salaries of the Center Director, some part time employees and supplies. The remainder of the budget to operate the Arts Center is handled by a nonprofit organization (The Middletown Arts Council). All program revenues, rentals etc. plus the remainder of the center's expenses are covered by the nonprofit organization.

2. Revenue Programs

Revenue is generated from recreation programs conducted at the recreation centers, athletic leagues, instructional programs, miniature golf, sports camps, and special events.

Revenue \$351,000

The Township receives the revenue generated by these programs and reduces the Township's budget responsibility by approximately 14.8% annually.

3. Swim Club Utility

This utility includes the Middletown Swim and Tennis Club. This facility is a member only operation and is considered self sustaining.

Estimated annual income (2007) \$492,311 (2006) \$528,000

Estimated annual expenses (2007) \$460,000 (2006) \$470,000

The annual expenses covers all operational cost of the facility to include staff salaries, materials and supplies, maintenance, utilities, capital improvements, etc. The expense includes the annual debt service bonded for the purchase of the Swim Club.