

Town of Southampton Recreation Plan

III. Southampton Recreation Today

A. Community Recreation Profile

WHAT IS THE POPULATION THIS PLAN IS INTENDED TO SERVE?

Southampton is a community that can be looked at in a variety of ways, and as containing a variety of components affecting recreation planning:

- *East & West*

Long and narrow, Southampton is bisected by the Shinnecock Canal — which functions as both a physical and psychological divide. In the various surveys taken regarding recreation, as well as in interviews, meetings and the like, residents consistently report they would prefer not to have to cross the canal to reach specific facilities such as a pool or sports center.

The traffic barrier presented by the canal suggests that Southampton seek a geographical balance in the distribution of major recreational facilities. But while geography and distance are foremost in *consumers'* minds, the ultimate measure of facility feasibility is *market size*. For example, the YMCA of Long Island uses a population radius of 100,000 as a guide for siting facilities with pools; Southampton roughly comes within this range when considering a year-round and seasonal population average, but it is clear that more than one pool (i.e. one on each side of the canal) would require subsidization. In this instance, the desire to accommodate regional interests in the Town is at odds with the municipal goal of fiscal self-sufficiency.

The practicality of striking a geographic balance in the distribution of rec-

The Town's long and narrow geography and traffic congestion east of the Shinnecock Canal points to a need for major recreation facilities to be decentralized, with some sited in the east and some west.

recreation facilities is further complicated by the fact that the bulk of Southampton's year round population lives west of the canal. A balance along strict geographic lines is not necessarily an equitable one.

Pursuit of an equitable balance dictates policies that provide for multiple siting of facilities when feasible. When cost factors dictate against this, then the balance struck should be one of scale. For example, if an indoor pool is built in the east, then efforts should be made to site a comparable facility, such as an ice rink, in the west — or vice versa.

- *Hamlets, Village Centers, School Districts and other units*

There are 6 incorporated Villages in Southampton, along with hamlet centers in the unincorporated areas of the Town. The Town's 1999 Comprehensive Plan update urges the siting of new recreational facilities in and near Village and hamlet center areas to promote accessibility and economic development.

Additionally, there are a variety of other sub-municipal geographical breakdowns. There are school districts and fire districts, and — most germane to this effort — park districts. But the latter are little known and little used. Established to allow the Town to assess fees to cover improvements in the specific district, only one park has been funded through district fees.

The 1970 Town Master Plan divided the Town into 8 planning districts, in an effort to strike a manageable compromise between Town-wide recommendations and the nearly 20 neighborhood/community units of the Town. This Plan follows that lead, but instead of working with the specially created planning districts, it looks at planning areas based on school district boundaries. These divisions are presented and discussed in the following chapter on local recreation needs.

School districts are used here as a geographic base for several reasons:

- There are fewer school districts than community or neighborhood areas, making a school district approach more manageable.
- Families tend to identify with their school district areas, as well as their hamlets or villages.
- The 1999 Comprehensive Plan Update suggested increasing the use of schools as a way of meeting recreation needs with existing facilities. Some of this is already occurring —

the Sag Harbor recreation group YARD has an exemplary partnership with area schools — but there are limitations to what can be done because many school facilities are already overbooked. (In fact, the North Sea recreation center was conceived largely as an answer to the unavailability of school gymnasiums.) Nonetheless, there is some potential for increased school-recreation partnerships, including the joint development of new facilities.

- *Year-round and Seasonal Residents*

As a resort community, Southampton is made up of year-round and seasonal residents, as well as tourists. Forums and conversations with residents regarding recreation planning brought forth the sentiment that the needs of full-time, permanent residents should come first — that is, indoor facilities for families and children, providing activities for the Labor Day through Memorial Day period.

Economic development interests of the Town seek to increase the amount of time spent by second homeowners in the area, to increase the patronage of local businesses by this important market segment. This strategy supports a goal of developing recreation catering to the seasonal resident.

While the goals of full-time residents and economic development appear to be in conflict when it comes to recreation, there is a common interest: facilities to increase the recreation activities available in the off-season months would satisfy both. These include indoor swimming and sports facilities, rock climbing walls, skating rinks, eco-tourism focused on seasonal changes (i.e. harvest festivals, bird migration), walking, cycling and cross-country ski trails.

A portion of the Town's seasonal residents have their recreation needs met by private golf, beach and country clubs. These facilities charge high fees, are profitable and therefore market driven. In contrast, facilities serving the middle and lower end of the recreation market tend to require municipal incentives, assistance or development. It is the latter type of facility that is the concern of this plan.

MARKET CHARACTERISTICS

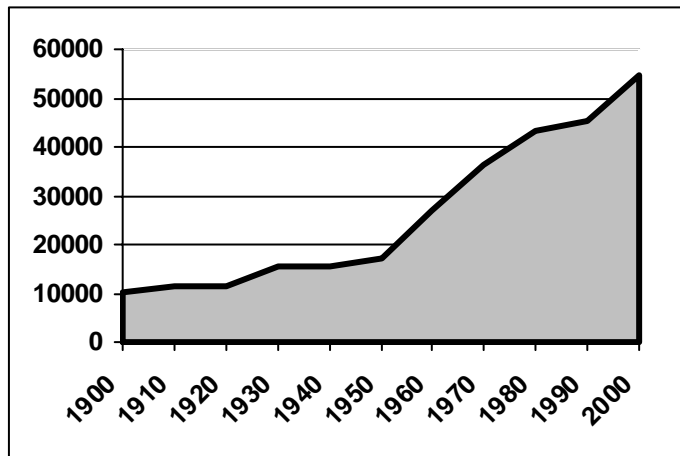
Figures III-1 through III-3 present current demographic information from the 2000 US Census.

- *Size & Growth*

The 2000 US Census reported a resident population for the town of approximately 54,000, a near 20 percent increase over the 1990 figure of 46,000. The 2000 Census figure is also substantially higher than the estimated 49,000 projected by the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) for that year.

LIPA estimates are derived from U.S. Census data and utility records of active residential electric meters. A relationship is established between households and residential electric meters to derive a base population estimate, which is then adjusted to reflect demographic change and local trends. The 2000 Census figure demonstrates actual growth far outpacing predictions — returning to post-war rates after a brief leveling off period in the 1980's.

**Figure III-1.
Town of Southampton Year-Round Population Growth, 1900-2000**



Source: US Census Data, LIPA

- *Seasonal Population*

Estimates for Southampton's seasonal population vary, but range between two and three times the year round figure. This would yield a peak population of between 110,000 and 160,000.

- *Seasonally Adjusted Average*

A weighted average for Southampton's year-round and seasonal populations is 90,000. This assumes four months of peak and eight months of non-peak population levels.

- *Population Distribution*

Hampton Bays is the Town of Southampton's population center, a position that was more deeply entrenched over the past decade

as it added some 4,343 people — more than the total population of Southampton’s next largest hamlets and villages, such as North Sea, East Quogue and Southampton Village. While Hampton Bays hosted 17 percent of the Town’s year-round residents in 1990, by 2000 its share grew to 22 percent.

In general, the vast majority of Southampton’s permanent resident population growth occurred west of the Shinnecock canal. Population there grew a whopping 37 percent over the past decade, as opposed to a relatively scant 4 percent in the east. The areas of town farthest west, Remsenburg-Speonk and Riverside, had the highest growth rates — 40 and 64 percent respectively.

In 1990, the area west of the Shinnecock had only a slight edge over the east in terms of population size). By 2000, its share, and dominance, grew substantially, from 53% to 60% of Southampton’s year-round population.

- *Ages & Stages*

Southampton’s population skews somewhat older than New York State averages — understandable for a resort community with appeal for retirees, and where high real estate values can pose a barrier to younger families starting out.

The Town’s median age is 40.4, more than 16 percent of the population is past 65, and 21.1 percent is under the age of 18.

A simple proportionate distribution of population alone would tend to give the western part of the town more young people than the east, but western areas also tend to have higher shares of people under the age of 18: Flanders, Westhampton and East Quogue have the highest concentrations of school-aged children (28, 27, and 24 percent, respectively), while the Shinnecock Hills and Sag Harbor/North Haven areas have the lowest concentrations (14, 16, and 17 percent, respectively). Over the past decade, the amount of young people west of the canal grew 47 percent, nearly half, in contrast to an overall decline of 14 percent in the east.

These figures suggest that efforts to create new facilities for youth be focused in the west. Current activity, however, is located east of the canal — most notably the North Sea Athletic Center, and also the Sag Harbor skateboard park. Both projects illustrate factors other than demographics at work. In the case of North Sea, the project’s location was driven in large part by the availability of municipal property adjacent to recently designated parkland. The Sag Harbor initiative reflects a variety of conditions in that community including relative geographic isolation (the village is at a dis-

tance from the new skateboard facility in Red Creek Park) and an organized and experienced grassroots.

- *Income*

Southampton's status as a premiere resort community suggests a wealthy population, which is supported by 2000 Census data¹:

- median household income is \$53,887, approximately \$10,000 and 25 percent higher than the statewide median of \$43,393.
- per capita income is \$31,320 — again, considerably higher than the statewide figure of \$23,389.
- 5.8 percent of families report incomes of \$200,000 or more — nearly 2 points higher than the statewide average of 4.0 percent;
- 25.9 percent of families report incomes of \$100,000 or more; 41.9 percent, \$75,000 or more.

Moreover, wealth in the community is on the rise. In 1990, 3.4 percent of Southampton families reported incomes of \$150,000 or more. A decade later, that figure rose to 10.3 percent; families reporting incomes of \$200,000 and higher — a bracket that was not broken out in the 1990 census tables — were 5.8 percent. Looking at the top three brackets for each decade, 20 percent of families reported incomes of \$75,000 and above in 1990 while 26 percent reported incomes of \$100,000 and above in 2000.

Such figures characterize a population that has means for contributing to its recreational needs. They also show the market base for high-end private facilities rising rapidly.

At the other end of the spectrum, Census income data also show that Southampton is not exclusively exclusive. Most year-round residents fall into the middle brackets — 24 percent report family incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000; 22 percent between \$50,000 and \$75,000; and 16 percent between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

Nearly 12 percent of year-round Southampton residents report family incomes of less than \$25,000. Depending on the size of the family unit, many of these people would fall under the federal threshold for poverty.² It is this 12 percent that most needs publicly provided recreation facilities and programming, and requires subsidies to

¹ 2000 Census data on income is available for the Town. Breakdowns at the level of census place have not yet been released (5/24/02).

² \$10,869 for a family of two, \$13,290 for a family of three, \$17,029 for a family of four, \$25,912 for a family of seven.

gain access to those that are fee-based. Over the past decade, the proportion of families in the bottom income tiers has increased slightly — with 5 percent of families reporting incomes in the bottom two tiers in 1990 v. 5.6 percent in 2000; 10.4 percent in the bottom three brackets in 1990 v. 11.9 percent in 2000.

Figure III-2.
Town of Southampton Year-Round Population Change, 1990-2000

Census Place	1990	2000	Population Change	Percentage Change
Remsenburg-Speonk CDP	1,851	2,675	824	0.40
Riverside	1,300	2,875	1,575	0.64
Northampton		468	na	na
Flanders CDP	3,231	3,646	415	0.16
Westhampton CDP	2,129	2,869	740	0.35
Westhampton Beach village	1,571	1,902	331	0.22
West Hampton Dunes village ³		11	na	na
Qiogue CDP	898	800	-984	-0.15
Quogue village		1,018	na	na
East Quogue CDP	4,372	4,265	-107	-0.03
Hampton Bays	7,893	12,236	4,343	0.45
TOTAL, west of the Shinnecock	23,245	32,765	9,520	0.37
Shinnecock Hills CDP	2,847	1,749	-1,098	-0.73
Tuckahoe		1,741	na	na
Southampton village	3,980	3,965	-15	0.00
Southampton CDP	1,302		na	na
North Sea CDP	2,530	4,493	1,963	0.55
Watermill CDP	1,893	1,724	-169	-0.12
Bridgehampton CDP	1,997	1,381	-616	-0.31
Sagaponack CDP		582	na	na

³ Note that Census place divisions changed somewhat between 1990 and 2000. Westhampton Dunes, Quogue, Tuckahoe and Sagaponack were added to the places counted in the 2000 census, while the Southampton CDP was removed. Also note that the breakdown here is approximate, and that the total population for the entire Town of Southampton is larger, by 560 persons for the year 2000, than the total population calculated by adding the separate populations of Census places within the Town.

⁴ Population declines reported for some places are likely to be attributable to shifts in Census Place divisions — e.g. the populations of East Quogue and Qiogue were reported as down, but a new place, the Quogue CDP, was added, more than accounting for these differences; similarly, the addition of Tuckahoe appears to account for declines in the Shinnecock Hills CDP. The drop in Bridgehampton's population may be the result of the creation of the new Sagaponack place division.

Census Place	1990	2000	Population Change	Percentage Change
Noyack CDP	2,059	2,696	637	0.30
North Haven village	713	743	30	0.05
Sag Harbor village	2,134	2,313	179	0.09
TOTAL, east of the Shinnecock	20,689	21,387	698	0.04
TOWN TOTAL	43,934	54,152	10,218	0.24

Source: US Census Data, SMP

Figure III-3.
Town of Southampton Population by Geography & Age, 2000

Geographic area	Total	2000 LIPA Estimate	Percent of total population					Median
			0-18	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	
New York State	18,976,457		24.7	9.3	30.7	22.3	12.9	35.9
Southampton town, Suffolk County	54,712	49,351	21.1	7.7	28.5	26	16.6	40.4
PLACE AND COUNTY SUBDIVISION								
Incorporated Villages								
North Haven village, Suffolk County	743	825	17.4	3.5	22.3	28.7	28.1	49.6
Quogue village, Suffolk County	1,018	971	17.7	4.7	22.1	34.9	20.6	48.3
Sag Harbor village, Suffolk County	2,313	1,265	16.5	5.4	25.4	28.6	24.2	46.3
Southampton village, Suffolk County	3,965	4,122	19.5	7.3	24.8	27.2	21.1	43.8
Westhampton Beach village, Suffolk County	1,902	1,614	20.5	6.1	24.6	28.2	20.7	44.4
West Hampton Dunes village, Suffolk County	11	10	0	0	18.2	36.4	45.5	58.5
	9952	8807						
Designated Places								
Bridgehampton CDP, Suffolk County	1,381	2,375	17.7	4.1	22.2	33.2	22.9	48.7
Eastport CDP, Suffolk County	1,454	843	23.9	5.8	30.7	25.8	13.8	38.5
East Quogue CDP, Suffolk County	4,265	4,697	24.2	6.1	29.8	27.0	12.9	39.3
Flanders CDP, Suffolk County	3,646	3,392	27.8	9.6	31.7	22.1	8.9	34.5
Hampton Bays CDP, Suffolk County	12,236	8,517	20.8	7.8	31.1	23.9	16.5	38.8
North Sea CDP, Suffolk County	4,493	2,673	20.5	5.3	28.4	30.0	15.8	42.7
Noyack CDP, Suffolk County	2,696	2,387	21.3	4.4	27.3	27.2	19.8	43.6
Quioque CDP, Suffolk County	800	585	22.3	8.0	31.0	21.9	16.9	38.6
Remsenburg-Speonk CDP, Suffolk County	2,675	2,016	23.8	4.3	27.6	26.8	17.5	41.9
Riverside CDP, Suffolk County	2,875	2,984	14.5	13.0	36.3	18.3	17.8	37.4

Geographic area	Total		Percent of total population					
Sagaponack CDP, Suffolk County	582	421	19.4	4.0	24.6	33.8	18.2	46.5
Shinnecock Hills CDP, Suffolk County	1,749	2,959	13.8	34.0	17.6	20.5	14.1	28.1
Tuckahoe CDP, Suffolk County	1,741		21.9	7.4	31.5	23.7	15.6	39.1
Watermill CDP, Suffolk County	1,724	2,324	20.1	4.6	24.0	31.5	19.8	45.8
Westhampton CDP, Suffolk County	2,869	2,417	26.6	7.1	30.3	25.5	10.6	37
Westhampton Beach, uninc.		40						
Southampton, uninc.		1539						
	45,186	38,630						
Special Population								
Shinnecock Reservation, Suffolk County	504	375	31.2	8.5	27.4	19	13.9	34.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, Matrices PCT12 and P13

**Figure III-4.
Town of Southampton Income Distribution, 1990 & 2000**

1990			2000		
Income Bracket	Family Households		Income Bracket	Family Households	
Less than \$5,000	288	2.40%	Less than \$10,000	455	3.26%
\$5,000 to \$9,999	316	2.63%	\$10,000 to \$14,999	324	2.32%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	647	5.38%	\$15,000 to \$24,999	877	6.28%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	1,360	11.31%	\$25,000 to \$34,999	1473	10.55%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,753	14.58%	\$35,000 to \$49,999	1920	13.75%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	2,589	21.54%	\$50,000 to \$74,999	3069	21.98%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	2,689	22.37%	\$75,000 to \$99,999	2239	16.04%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,020	8.49%	\$100,000 to \$149,999	2171	15.55%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	754	6.27%	\$150,000 or more	629	4.51%
\$150,000 or more	605	5.03%	\$200,000 or more	803	5.75%
	12,021	100%		13,960	100%

B. Recreation and the Southampton Economy

TOWN RECREATION SPENDING: GENERAL FUND BUDGET

The General Fund Budget for Southampton's Parks and Recreation Department was combined with its Human Services Department up through the year 2000 and were separated in 2001. As a result, while

program spending can be looked at individually it is not yet possible to provide a totally clear picture of Town recreation spending, particularly with respect to overall department salaries.

The Parks and Recreation Department budget, presented below in Figure III-5., has remained relatively static over the last two years, with the exception of the buildings maintenance category. In categories where no change in dollar figures has occurred, actual expenditures are shrinking with inflation.

**Figure III-5.
Parks, Recreation & Human Services
1999-2000 Adopted General Fund Budget Figures**

General Fund Budget Categories	1999	2000	Percent Change 1999-2000
General Department Overhead ⁵	\$254,455	\$262,083	3
Youth Recreation Programs	\$109,700	\$109,700	0
Adult Recreation Programs	\$61,500	\$61,500	0
Beaches	\$435,080	\$470,280	7.5
Cemeteries Maintenance	\$3,500	\$3,500	0
Buildings Maintenance	\$348,952	\$572,231	39
Community Centers	\$162,174	\$162,956	0.004
Grants for Local Cultural and Recreational Programs	\$50,000	\$50,000	0
Senior Citizen Programs	\$167,048	\$173,529	3.9

Source: Town of Southampton 2000 Annual Budget Narrative

TOWN RECREATION SPENDING: CAPITAL BUDGET

The Town’s preliminary capital program for the years 2001 to 2005 includes \$7,215,500 for recreation related capital improvements., which are detailed in Figure III-6 below. These amount to approximately 15 percent of the total 2001-2005 Capital Program budget — \$47.4 million funded via bonds, direct appropriation and grants.

⁵ Includes Human Services staff salaries and overhead, which are now in a separate Human Services Department.

**Figure III-6.
Town of Southampton
2001-2005 Recreation Department Capital Improvements**

Location	Project Description	Development Timeframe	Funding Source	Projected Cost	Estimated Increase in Annual Costs	
					Maintenance	Personnel
East Quogue Village Green	Develop park/improvements to Village Green	2001-2002	Bond	\$450,000	\$3,000	N/A
East Quogue Damascus Park	Recreational Facility Development	2002-2005	Bond	\$1,275,000	\$20,000	\$50,000
Bridgehampton Militia Green	Develop Pocket Park	2001	Bond	\$155,000	N/A	N/A
North Sea Park Recreational Facility	Recreational Development of the Site	2001-2005	Prior Financing/Bond	\$1,125,000	\$20,000	\$50,000
Tiana Beach	Pavilion Reconstruction	2002	Bond	\$450,000	0	0
Wildwood Lake	Build park with improvements	2002	Direct Appropriation	\$250,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Jackson Avenue Facilities	Build municipal building to house fire, police, trustees, and parks dept.	2001-2003	Direct Appropriation	\$1,025,000	N/A	N/A
W. Scott Cameron Beach	Replace parking area and construct new pavilion	2001	Bond	\$200,000	\$3,000 ⁶	N/A
Bridgehampton Senior Center	1500 Square foot addition	2002	Bond	\$250,000	10-15% increase in center operation costs	N/A

⁶ This facility is projected to produce \$10,000 in annual revenue.

Location	Project Description	Development Timeframe	Funding Source	Projected Cost	Estimated Increase in Annual Costs	
					Maintenance	Personnel
South Fork Bikeway	Develop Bike Path	2001-2004	Prior Financing, Grant, Bond	\$1,420,500	To be determined	To be determined
Community Centers	General Maintenance	2001-2005	Direct Appropriation	\$140,000	0	0
Park Improvements	Ongoing Maintenance and Improvements	2001-2005	Direct Appropriation	\$250,000	0	0
Red Creek Park	Add light on soccer fields	2002	Direct Appropriation	\$75,000	\$10,000	0
Senior Citizen Program Equipment	Purchase 15-passenger bus	2001	Grant	\$50,000	\$2,500	0
Study and Inventory of all Landscaped Areas in Town	Minimize pesticide use and develop drainage and utility system	2001-2002	Bond	\$100,000	\$2,500	0
TOTAL				\$7,215,500	\$64,000	\$103,000

Source: Town of Southampton Preliminary 2001-2005 Capital Budget

RECREATION'S ROLE IN THE TOWN ECONOMY

Although Southampton is a resort community, the arts, entertainment and recreation sector is actually a relatively small component of the Town's business make-up, employment and sales activity, as shown in figures III-6 through III-9 below. But they play a vital role in attracting the substantial numbers of seasonal residents, renters and visitors who fuel the Town's major economic engines: retail, accommodations and food services.

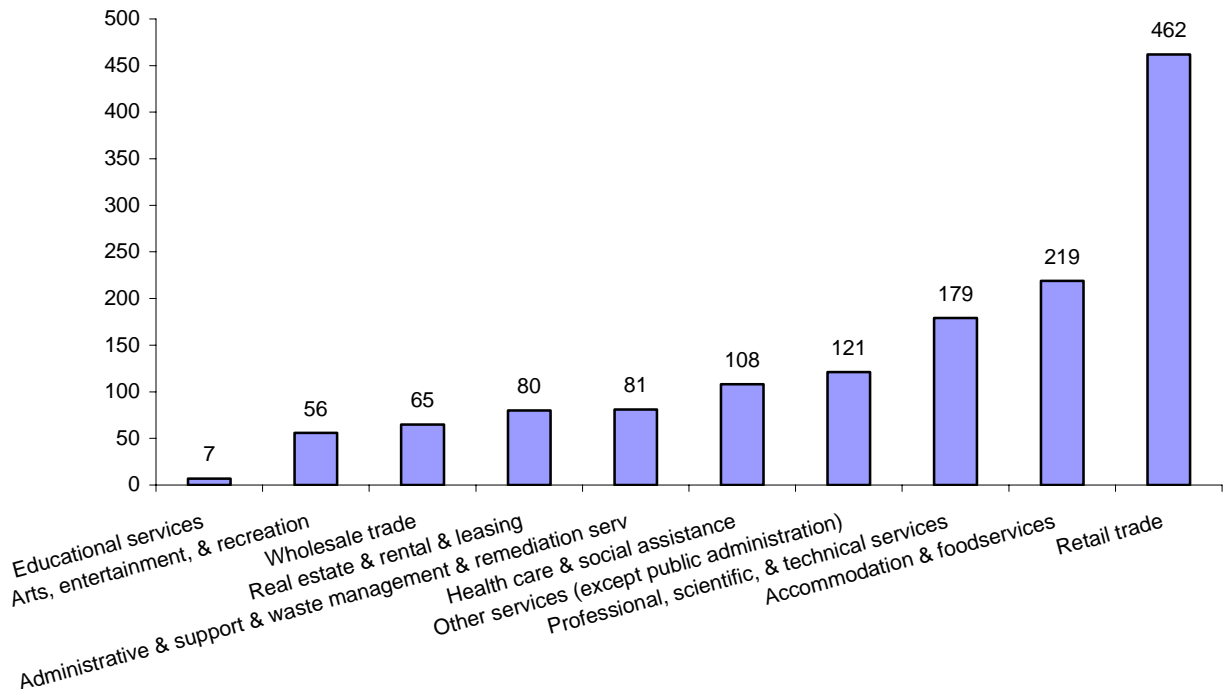
Summertime is the high season, with the rental market maintaining strict Memorial to Labor Day boundaries. As a result, economic

development interests in the town are focused on season extension, looking to use recreation as a means to attract more frequent, and longer, stays by second home owners and visitors. Because of this, certain types of recreation spending may justly be viewed as community investment.

It is a stated goal of the 1999 Comprehensive Plan Update and of this Recreation Plan to make the Town's recreation management functions self-sustaining. However, because of recreation's important role in the Southampton economy, returns for some facilities may not come so much from fees, permits and the like, but from spin-off economic activity such as increased jobs and consumer spending.

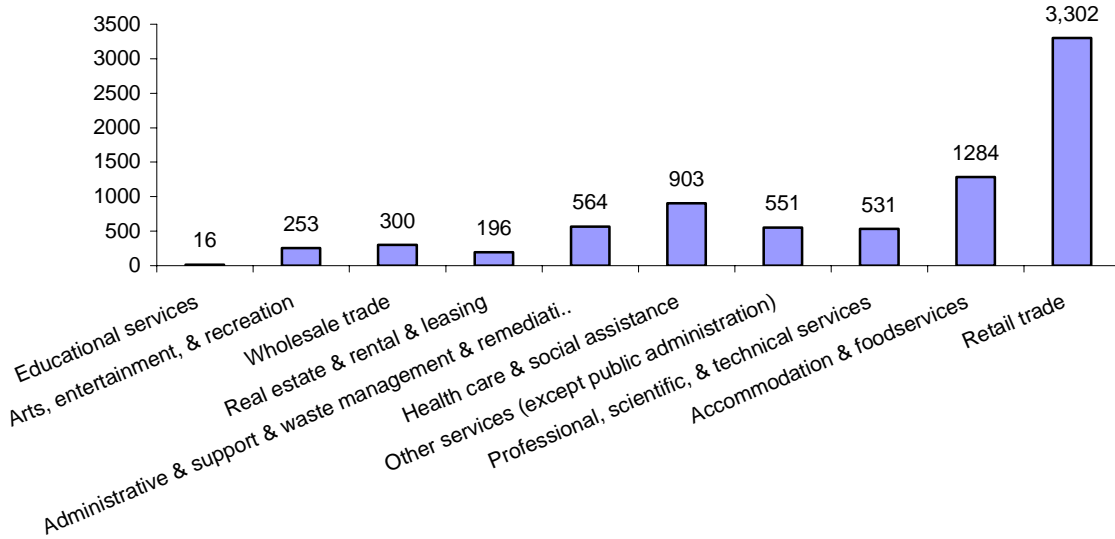
However, year-round residents at the public forums and on the advisory committee for this plan expressed concerns about this strategy. They expressed relief when summer ends, crowds diminish, travel becomes easier, and access to amenities is less competitive.

Figure III-7.
Town of Southampton
Business Categories by Number of Establishments



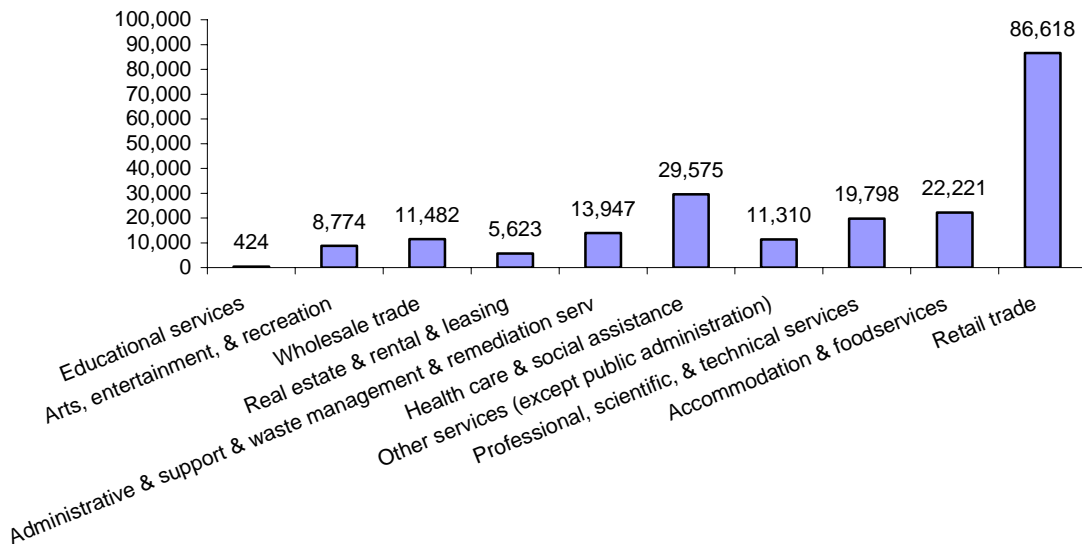
Source: 1997 US Economic Census

Figure III-8.
Town of Southampton
Businesses by Number of Employees



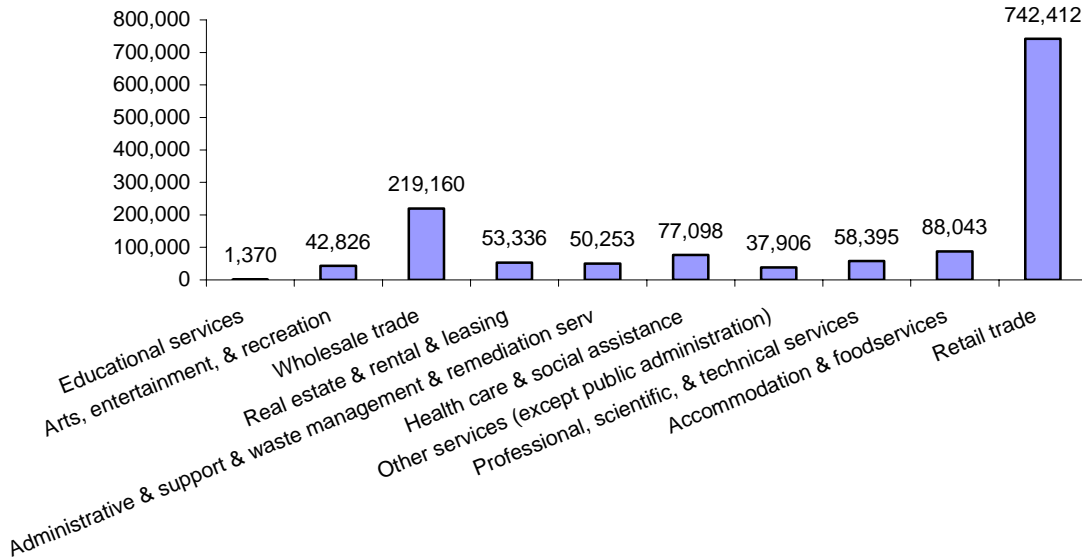
Source: 1997 US Economic Census

Figure III-9.
Town of Southampton
Businesses by Payroll



Source: 1997 US Economic Census

Figure III-10.
Town of Southampton
Business Categories by Sales



Source: 1997 US Economic Census

In considering the development of recreation facilities as a means of economic development, it is important to recognize that second homeowners and tourists may be attracted to different types of activities and facilities than year-round, full-time residents. Facilities catering to a full-time population include youth and team sports facilities, community centers and indoor swimming pools. Seasonal residents and visitors will make more use of tourist-oriented facilities such as visitors centers, heritage trails, bikeways, museums, etc.

Also, certain facilities, such as beach access points and indoor sport courts, readily lend themselves to fee systems, while other recreation opportunities, particularly trails, do not. Recreation facilities that can be linked to economic development may be eligible for Federal, State, County or even private funding. These outside sources can play an important role in developing facilities that will not generate income directly.

Although the Town wants to move towards a self-sustaining recreation function, not all recreation facilities can generate income directly. However, some may be viewed as investments for stimulating economic activity.

An important policy decision for the Town is to determine which recreation activities and/or facilities should be self-sustaining via user fees, which should be funded through public-private partnerships and which should be supported primarily by the Town and other public funding entities.

C. Town Recreation Management, Programs and Operations

Recreation in the Town of Southampton is primarily under the auspices of the Town’s Parks and Recreation Department. But the broad nature of recreation means that other entities, both public and private, also have important roles. Here is a review of the key players in the provision of recreation facilities and services in the Town of Southampton.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

As noted above, starting in 2001 Southampton’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Human Services was separated into two entities: a Parks and Recreation Department and a Human Services Department. This change moved significant responsibilities out of Parks and Recreation including community relations, human services committees, youth services, senior programs and human services organizations such as the American Red Cross. Parks and Recreation continues to run summer beach operations, buildings and ground maintenance, and recreation program development and administration. The Parks and Recreation Department supervises and maintains Town-owned facilities and offers a variety of youth and adult recreation programs.

For years, the Parks and Recreation department has been housed in Town Hall although there are plans to move to a new facility, to be located on Jackson Avenue in Hampton Bays, adjacent to Red Creek Park. Most departmental personnel supported this move, because it both increases the department’s space and puts it close to the Town’s largest active recreation park.

The recent split of Parks and Recreation from Human Services will allow for a sharper focus on recreation, but the Department retains its custodial function of municipal properties.

Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department is situated on the recently acquired Tollefson Property, a future waterfront park adjacent to the Shinnecock Canal.

Over the last five years the Department's duties have increased significantly. The number of facilities has grown and several existing facilities are beginning to show signs of age. Demands put on facilities have increased with population growth and changes in the demographic make up of the community. The combination of increased usage, increased number of facilities, and aging facilities, has resulted in the majority of work in the department revolving around physical plant maintenance.

The Department's buildings and grounds maintenance responsibilities include nine beaches, one active recreation park, 10 historic sites, Town cemeteries and landscaping for municipal buildings. The department is in charge of custodial services, minor building upgrades, and repair and renovations for six community centers and the Town Hall. The department also maintains the fishing pier and marina near Ponquoque Bridge and the recently acquired Conscience Point Marina. Several pocket parks and greens have also been placed under Parks Department Stewardship as well as recently configured CPF properties.

Recreation programming is developed, publicized and managed by a single staff person. It serves youth, adults and seniors, with a focus primarily on summer activities and particularly for youth. Adult programs are intensified in the winter months when children are in school. Senior programs are offered year round in conjunction with the Human Services Department. The Department has a philosophy to avoid duplicating programs that are offered elsewhere; instead, it often sponsors programs run by schools or private organizations. While the types of specific offerings change over time with recreational fads and fashions, the overall size of the program has not increased (for example, country line dancing is out; aerobics is still in). Program staff includes part-time and seasonal workers, which are generally filled by high school and college students. Like the Department's budget, wages for these positions have been static over the last several years, and are considered low an uncompetitive, making it difficult to hire and maintain program personnel.

While the Department is dedicated to providing as many programs as the community needs, at times and locations that are convenient, it has no capacity for internal review of the programming. The program

director expressed an interest and a desire to review the recreation programming to assess how well it is fulfilling its mission — for example, through an audit of class registration, or user feedback from surveys — but has no staff time to devote to such an endeavor.

The reach of the program is also limited by staffing. Brochures are currently prepared internally by the department, and are distributed to a mailing list comprised of families who have previously participated in the program or who have called the Recreation Department specifically to be put on the list. This means that unless you've already been involved with the program, there's a good chance you might not know about it. At one meeting of the Advisory Committee for this Recreation Plan, one member had received a copy of the latest program offerings, while others were unaware as to what was available or how to become informed. The Department views the limited distribution of brochures as a means of controlling demand; were copies sent to every Town resident, many people might have to be turned away.

The Recreation Department has been operating under a spending cap, which kept both spending and staffing levels low. The spending cap was voter approved and affected all Town Departments as well as program offerings, and expired in 2001. That year also saw a move by the Town Board to increase recreation fees. The cost of a resident sticker moved from \$10.00 to \$20.00; senior citizen, \$5.00 to \$10.00; daily pass (non resident) \$10.00 to \$15.00; and seasonal (non resident) \$100.00 to \$150.00. These fees have been channeled to a Parks and Recreation Department enterprise fund, where they will be expected to cover department operating costs for beach operations.

Departmental oversight is currently performed through the Town's committee system, in which each Town Board member serves as a committee liaison for selected departments. The Parks and Recreation Department also has a relationship with the Town's capital projects committee; as detailed above, the new capital budget includes a substantial number of recreation projects.

Southampton's recreation Department is undergoing a variety of changes including:

- *a split from the Dept. of Human Services;*
- *a change in physical location and plant;*
- *increase in permit fees;*
- *planned enterprise fund;*
- *change in Town Board liason.*

These changes open new opportunities for enhancing the department's functions. They may also set the stage for an exploration of how the Recreation Department interacts with the Town Board, other municipal departments and private sector entities.

Town Trustees

A 5-member Board of Trustees for the Freeholders and Community of Southampton is charged with oversight of and planning for the Town's water bodies and beaches, and holds all lands beneath lakes, streams, rivers, bays and the ocean to mean tide line or to the top of the dunes (depending on location) in trust on behalf of the public. The Duncan Patten Agreement (received from England in the early days of settlement in North America) gives them responsibility for caring for these water bodies and beaches, and provides public access easements to lakes, streams and beaches in the Town.

Trustees are elected on a Town-wide basis to two-year terms, although they each are generally assigned a geographic area of responsibility. One member of the Board of Trustees serves as President. The Trustees operate with a small staff and an annual budget of about \$250,000. This operation is funded through the Town Board yet the Trustees operate independent of the Town Board's jurisdiction as a separate body politic. However, the Trustees often work with the Town on projects, providing information, access to Trustee lands, and help in securing outside funding sources. The Town Board and the Town Trustees have expressed many recreation related goals in common: increased access to water resources, increased trails and pathways, increased eco-tourism and passive recreation opportunities such as kayaking, canoeing and hiking, and increased access to water-related recreation such as boating and fishing for Town residents.

The Town Trustees are responsible for initiating and enacting legislation that will protect Southampton natural resources and shorefront while maintaining public access to publicly owned resources. Their responsibilities also include monitoring all Trustee property, i.e. all water bottom lands, waterways, and access roads, and regulation of all related actions associated with this property such as shell fishing, fresh water fishing, elvers (baby eels), sanctuaries, saltwater fishing, and other related items such as moorings, bulkheading, dewatering, ramps, beaches, beach access roads (trustee roads), parking,

Several ongoing Trustee projects address recreational goals:

- *a Shoreline Management Plan will detail ways to increase public access to water resources;*
- *a Harbor Management Plan will identify ways to increase harbor access;*
- *fish stocking, shoreline trail development and other activities will promote eco-tourism.*

seaplane activity, etc. The Trustees also repair and maintain waterways, navigational markers, waterway access ramps, docks, and Town boats. Last year they added over 2000 acres of shell fishing bottomlands to the Town's inventory.

The Trustees are currently involved in several projects related to recreation. A Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) is being developed in stages, and includes a Shoreline Management Plan which will detail ways to increase public access to water resources. One new aspect of public access that the Trustees are exploring is a land based trail system that provides for scenic coastal views and access to waterways. This system is focusing on public education and forms of eco-tourism that help visitors learn about the habitats and ecosystems of the ocean, beaches, and waterways. The LWRP also includes a Harbor Management Plan that will highlight public access to and methods for developing more harbor access. The Trustees also work on a continuing basis to enforce existing access points.

Occasionally, the Trustee's mission to protect natural resources may come into conflict with providing recreation. For example, its activities to maintain and protect piping plover habitat is at odds with the interests of dog owners to walk their pets on the beach, as may be done in East Hampton. The Parks and Recreation Department's 2001 Beach Report has asked that the Town's Dog Ordinance be reevaluated.

The Trustees must be involved in any decision involving public lands, facilities or other natural resources such as beaches, lakes, ponds, woods, etc. Therefore, a key issue for improving water-related recreation is the process by which the Trustees and the Town Board communicate and work together toward their common goals. One example of close coordination in this area is the collaboration between the Parks and Recreation Department and Trustee staff in the re-opening of Pikes Beach, which is a Piping Plover nesting area requiring protection by the Trustees. This Recreation Plan will explore methods for institutionalizing processes for communication and coordination between the Town Trustees and the Town Board.

The Recreation Plan provides an opportunity to explore, enhance and establish protocols for the continued collaboration of Town Trustees and Town administration.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND

Southampton’s Community Preservation Fund (CPF) is the result of state legislation passed in 1998 enabling the five towns of the Peconic Bay to establish a two percent transfer tax on real estate transactions through local referendums. The Fund represents a significant opportunity to further the Town’s goals for the protection and preservation of open space, significant natural areas, and historic places — and for the provision of park and recreation opportunities.

Expenditure of the fund is based on the Community Preservation Plan, which includes goals and target areas for purchase, and the original target property list of 3,000 parcels. The first update of the original plan is currently being conducted. It is expected to be complete by August 2001 and will extend the plan until 2006. Only the properties listed in this updated plan will be eligible for purchase with Community Preservation Funds.

The fund seeks to preserve farmland, open space, historic areas and to provide park and recreation areas. With recreation one of the lower priorities for fund use, a challenge and opportunity is to find the places where park and recreation activities overlap with other CPF goals. For example, in the community workshops held for this Recreation Plan, residents expressed an interest in community gardening and participating in organic gardening and farming as a recreation activity. Historic preservation may coincide with recreation needs, if historic areas or structures can also be used as community centers or park areas.

The Community Preservation Fund Program is actively purchasing parcels, and has also hired a steward to create a program to plan for and manage these parcels once they are under Town ownership. Additionally, some cooperative efforts with the County and Nature Conservancy are underway to plan for recreational use and management of specific parcels. However, there remain a variety of issues to be ex-

CPF represents a new frontier in meeting Town recreation needs. Issues to be addressed include:

- *Protocols for determining potential recreation uses of CPF property*
- *Funding for the recreational development of CPF property*
- *Long-term maintenance and management of recreationally used CPF properties*
- *The relationship between CPF and Southampton’s Parks and Recreation, and other municipal, departments*

plored, such as how recreation opportunities on CPF properties will be planned and provided for, how resource protection will be balanced with access, and how the community may be brought into the process. This Recreation Plan will address these needs in subsequent chapters.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Southampton’s Comprehensive Plan recommends exploring the shared utilization of school district facilities as one way of expanding recreational opportunity and access. However, the experiences of civic leaders on the advisory committee to this Recreation Plan, as well as participants in the community workshops, suggest that in some areas school facilities are already overbooked and there is little to be shared. Yet a precedent and potential model for increased use of school facilities exists in Sag Harbor’s YARD organization, discussed directly below.

As part of the Community Preservation Plan Update, Southampton Town officials met with school district superintendents from East Quogue, Sagaponack, Riverhead, Tuckahoe, Southampton, Sag Harbor, Remsenburg/Speonk and Hamp-

Although the Town Comprehensive Plan update points to shared school-Town facilities as a way of meeting recreation needs, civic leaders and school officials say there are few opportunities for sharing, and that more active recreation facilities are needed.

ton Bays to discuss how the CPF might be used to expand school recreation facilities. Among the concepts discussed was a scenario under which the Town would use CPF funds to buy existing school-owned property; the school district involved would then use the proceeds from the sale to develop recreational facilities on the site. Specific concerns expressed echo those of the general public:

- very few recreation facilities exist east of the canal;
- public transportation is woefully inadequate.
- Facility needs include an ice hockey rink, soccer and other ball-fields, and skate board parks.

SAG HARBOR YARD PROGRAM

Sag Harbor School District and the Village of Sag Harbor have created a model program of cooperation between the school district and the

Village in order to provide after-school and summer recreation programs. The 3-year old program, known as YARD, is currently funded by the Sag Harbor school district, the Village of Sag Harbor, Easthampton and Southampton Towns, Suffolk County and New York State although its director hopes to make it self-sustaining.

Among YARD's programs are a youth center drop in lounge for high school students, summer evening programs for teens, and a half-day summer daycare/camp program. The summer program for elementary school students operates on school grounds, while the older student program is run at the beach. It should be noted that YARD's focus in sharing school facilities is on having a place for the children and teens to go to, rather than providing facilities for specific sports.

The YARD program works closely with Southampton's Human Services department, essentially taking over the provision of youth recreational services for the Sag Harbor area from the Town in exchange for funding. Town contributions are leveraged by funds from a variety of other sources, enabling YARD to offer strong value.

YARD's program director promotes its programs and mission through a monthly column in the weekly *Sag Harbor Express*, highlighting upcoming youth activities. Additional promotion is expected to come from a youth activity guide being developed by a group called the Sag Harbor Youth Committee. A 2500 print run is anticipated, with information on parks and recreation programs and facilities, beach access, museums and other cultural activities, and public transit (including maps and bus schedules). The Village of Sag Harbor operates a youth bus that travels from the Village center to the beach one day a week in the summer.

The YARD program highlights the potential for the Town to coordinate more closely with school districts to utilize existing facilities for the provision of park and recreation activities. It can be promoted as a model for other areas.

D. Community Perceptions

As discussed in the Introduction, two techniques were used to collect public input on what the Southampton community feels are its recreation needs: 1) a scientifically-conducted telephone survey; and 2) community forums/workshops.

Community Poll Findings

From February 13th, 2001 to February 15th, 2001, Strategic Planning Systems conducted a random sample poll of 402 Southampton residents. The 45-question poll queried resident's recreation preferences in activities, use of existing and desire for additional parks and facilities, and willingness to pay for new programs and facilities.

Poll Methodology

The poll was designed to reach year round residents, renters and property owners, as well as summer homeowners. To reach these three populations, a list of residents was selected by combining a list of all Town of Southampton registered voters with all property owners. This resident list was matched against a nationwide telephone file to ensure that part-time residents could be reached at their out of town homes. This generated a list of 8,000 households that was then randomly sorted to create a random sample for the poll. Residents were called sequentially from a cross section of the random sample until at least 400 polls were completed. The poll has a 95 percent confidence level with a plus/minus error margin of 4.9 making it a statistically valid survey.

Summary of Poll Findings

The poll shows that the respondents are generally satisfied with the Town's existing recreational facilities, however they do see the need for more Town facilities and they are willing to pay for it in some fashion. There is, particularly, wide spread support for facilities such as a recreation center, town pool and ice-skating rink. Proximity is the number one influence in choosing a recreational facility and recreation facilities are more important to people than structured recreational programs. Following are summaries of some of the findings from the poll for various topics.

Activities

Running, walking or jogging was the number one recreational activity among respondents, followed by beach swimming, golf, boating, gardening and tennis. Tennis was more popular with part-time residents. Walking, golf and gardening were more popular with senior residents. Respondents overwhelmingly (63.18 percent) participated in these activities more than once a week, while 16.67 percent of the respondents participate in these activities once a week.

Beaches

Ponquogue Beach was the most popular beach with 19.40 percent of the respondents selecting it as their favorite beach. However, 37.06 percent said they use beaches outside of Town, while 46.02 percent of the respondents use Town beaches. Proximity to home was the number one factor among respondents in choosing a beach at 26.12 percent. Likewise for most questions on recreation choices, proximity to home was the most important factor in selecting a beach. Cleanliness came in second at 14.93 percent, followed by lack of crowds at 11.44 percent and parking at 10.45 percent.

Parks

Red Creek Park was the most popular park among respondents, however only 12.69 percent of the respondents use the park. Most respondents don't frequent a Town park, 47.51 percent, and 27.11 percent of respondents were in the don't know/undecided category. Again, when it came to factors in choosing a park, proximity to home was most important at 18.16 percent. Cleanliness again came in second at 8.96 percent, followed by facilities for active recreation at 7.96 percent and safety at 6.22 percent. Respondents were generally pleased with the condition of the parks, giving high marks for maintenance and accessibility, satisfactory marks in terms of equipment and giving no overall poor marks to the parks.

Trails

Respondents use Red Creek Trail more than any other trail, however most respondents (58.96 percent) don't use trails and 28.86 percent were in the undecided/don't know category. Once again, when it came to factors in choosing a trail, proximity to home was most important at 6.47 percent. Views from the trails came in second at 5.22 percent.

Programs and Facilities

The construction of a new indoor pool was the most popular choice (22.64 percent) for a new Town facility, followed by a recreational center at 11.19 percent, ice skating rink was third at 6.47 percent and golf course fourth at 4.98 percent. Respondents with children improved the percentage for the most desired facilities, except for a golf course where the percentage went down. 34.78 percent of those with children supported an indoor pool, 16.52 percent supported a recreational center, 8.70 percent an ice skating rink, while support for the golf course went down to 2.61 percent. 38.81 percent of respondents in

the 36-45 age group supported the indoor pool. But not surprisingly, respondents' primary form of recreation mirrored their top choice for an additional facility — i.e., if they reported swimming as their favorite activity, they supported pool development; if they golf, they wanted a golf course, etc.

When asked about the construction of individual recreational facilities, there were mixed results. The golf course registered a strong no vote (66.67 percent) with only 25.62 percent supporting construction of a golf course and 7.71 percent undecided. The ice skating rink was a popular choice at 59.45 percent yes, 34.08 percent no and 6.47 percent undecided. The older the respondent, the less likely they were to support the idea of the rink. Less than half of the 66 plus age group (43.59 percent) supported construction of an ice skating rink.

The concept of one centrally located indoor pool was popular with 58.21 percent of respondents supporting the idea and 33.83 percent rejecting it, while 7.79 percent were undecided. The 18-45 age group overwhelmingly supported construction of a pool. As with the rink, the 66 plus age group was the only group without majority support for construction of a pool, with only a 36.75 percent yes support vote. The proposition to construct two pools at either end of town was rejected by the majority of respondents (64.18 percent) with only 28.11 percent saying yes and 7.71 percent being undecided. The youth center was the most popular single project with a 74.88 percent yes and only a 16.42 percent no and 8.71 percent undecided. Respondents both with and without children supported a youth center, as did every single age group.

A strong plurality of respondents (49 percent) did not report an interest in structured recreational programs. Seniors weren't any more likely than any other group (48.72 percent) to want such programming. Swimming was the number one choice for recreation programs, with 19.40 percent expressing an interest in greater access to swimming programs.

In general most people responded that they have good access to the kinds of recreational facilities that they and their families like to use. When asked, 58.96 percent strongly agreed with this statement and 22.89 percent somewhat agreed, for a combined 81.86 percent agree rate. Respondents had relatively few problems with existing facilities but the two that were most prominent were that the facility was too far from home (13.43 percent) and that the facility was too crowded (12.19 percent).

Willingness to Travel to Facilities

The residents of Southampton had very clear ideas about the time they were willing to spend traveling to recreational opportunities. An overwhelming majority of respondents (84.83 percent) must be within a half hour of recreation opportunities to utilize them. Almost half of the respondents (48.51 percent) said they would travel between 15 – 30 minutes to recreate while slightly less (36.32 percent) said they would only travel a maximum of 15 minutes.

A majority of respondents (59.70 percent) report rarely or never crossing the Shinnecock Canal to utilize recreational facilities. This compares with only 13.18 percent who said they frequently cross the canal and 21.39 percent who said they occasionally cross it. The Shinnecock Canal bridges on Montauk Highway and on Sunrise Highway are considered central crossroads of Town. The figures affirm what has long been suspected — people residing east of the Canal rarely venture west of it and vice versa for recreational purposes.

Public/Private Facilities

Respondents use Town facilities more than any other facilities for recreation (40.05 percent). Village facilities are used second most frequently (15.67 percent), and private facilities are third most frequented at 10.20 percent. School facilities are used fourth most frequently at 7.46 percent, followed by state facilities at 5.47 percent and county facilities at 5.47 percent. Belonging to a gym was the number one private club membership answer at 12.94 percent, followed by golf club at 6.97 percent. People don't differentiate preference for a facility based on public or private ownership. Most people felt that public/private partnership is the best method for meeting recreational needs.

Willingness to Pay for Facilities

The majority of people (73.64 percent) support paying for new facilities in some combination with tax dollars, user fees, and private investment. While few people supported higher taxes (4.98 percent) a plurality of 38.31 percent supported a combination of user fees, membership dues and taxes to pay for added recreational opportunities.

Access to Recreation

Very few people, only 13.43 percent, felt that the Town facilities should be limited to town residents. 42.54 percent said the facilities should be open to town residents and guests and 38.56 percent said the facilities should be open to all.

Information on Recreation

A majority of respondents (61.44 percent) said they get information about recreational activities and programs from the local newspaper. This was followed by 13.18 percent saying word of mouth. In third place, only 6.72 percent said Town literature.

Poll Conclusions

Respondent's primary current recreation activities include running, walking or jogging, beach swimming, golf, tennis, gardening and boating. However, when asked which facility they would like to see built in the Town, the majority of respondents chose a pool, recreation center or ice skating rink, showing that there are activities that people do not commonly engage in, and that they would like to do if they had access to a facility.

Access and use of existing facilities pivoted on proximity to the facility. While Red Creek Park was the most popular park, only around 12 percent of respondents used the park and many respondents don't use any park. The likely reason is that those who are close to Red Creek Park use it while those who are further away and don't have access to a park, don't use one. The same is true for trails. Beaches are more widely used than parks or trails, however, proximity to the beach is still the most important selection factor. In general, respondents were willing to spend up to a half an hour traveling to a recreation facility. The Shinnecock Bay divides the Town, with most respondents rarely crossing the divide to seek recreation opportunities.

While most respondents said they were satisfied with existing facilities and their access to the facilities, they also acknowledged the need more facilities. People support the concept of one centrally located pool more than the concept of two pools located on either side of Town. This response is incongruent with responses related to access and willingness to travel and may be predicated on other issues, i.e. price for two pools versus one. The lack of a concrete proposed location for the pool may also prompt people to agree with the concept, barring the fact that in reality the location may be too distant to be considered accessible.

Respondents didn't support higher taxes to build new facilities but they did support a combination of public funding, user fees and private investment. Respondents felt public/private partnerships were the best way to meet recreation needs in the community and did not feel that private ownership of a facility detracted from its viability as a recreation option.

COMMUNITY FORUMS/WORKSHOPS

To provide a mechanism for collecting input from any community member who wanted to participate, whether or not they were contacted via the telephone survey, two public forums were held. Both were identical in purpose and format. One was conducted east of the canal and the other west of it. This was done to make it convenient for people to attend.

The Town publicized the forums through direct contacts with CACs and an extensive list of community organizations, the list of which is included in the Appendices, along with copies of media coverage and lists of attendees.

At each forum, Town Board member Steve Kenney provided an introduction to the project, which was followed by an overview from the consultant team. Participants were then broken out into groups of 5-7 people each, and were given time to brainstorm what they thought were the Town's recreational assets and what they thought its recreational needs were. The small groups were asked to identify their top five items in each category, and report them back to the larger group for discussion. As a closing exercise, each participant was asked to name what they felt was the Town's most important recreation need.

Although each participant and small group involved in these exercises brought their own particular interests and ideas, there was general consensus and consistency of opinion regarding Town recreation priorities. These included:

- Facilities for serving youth — and families
- Public Indoor Swimming
- Transportation for children and seniors
- Facilities for team sports

In the first forum, an initial focus on youth evolved during the evening into the concept of a community center serving all generations with a variety of activities — a place where the entire family could go at the same time, but engage in separate activities. This evolution is comparable to the change in thought process and project focus in Southampton Village, where efforts to create a Youth Center turned into a proposal for a multi-purpose rec center.

Ecology, the environment and nature-oriented recreation also emerged as a theme at this first forum. Feelings were expressed that since Southampton has such a wealth of natural resources, the development of new recreational opportunities and facilities should capitalize on them — and promote them as strong elements of the community's heritage and identity. Specific activities mentioned included organic community gardens and farms, farm tours/trails, eco-tourism, and state-of-the art ecologically managed golf.

Participants at the forum west of the canal were somewhat less focused on the community center idea, and also expressed interest in a variety of other recreational activities including camp grounds, bike paths, public boat ramps and access, a roller /ice skating rink, ball-fields and gazebos/outdoor theaters. However, although the emphasis on a multi-generational community center may have been diluted by the larger menu of needs, the idea continued to enjoy strong support.

One participant at the western forum advocated for "returning the Duck" to its former position in Town. Although no one present agreed that this should be Southampton's number one recreational priority, the comment clearly struck a chord with those present. The Big Duck is a valued and powerful icon, and represents a potential asset to any recreational development.

Transportation was an important issue at both forums, emerging as strongly as the provision of any facility. Participants wanted:

- more alternative transportation options, to allow their children to be able to access recreational opportunities — specifically safe bicycling routes;
- recreational opportunities for children of different ages clustered so parents could avoid having to criss-cross the Town;
- shuttle bus service geared toward children and teens.

E. Recreation Trends

National trends affecting recreation planning are also well-represented in Southampton, as evidenced by the results of the public workshops, focus groups, and community poll. What follows is a compilation of local and national trends and attitudes affecting recreation, and the planning to meet, recreational needs.

a) Environmental Trends

- Increasing concern over loss of natural resources, open spaces and natural habitats, original landscapes, wetlands and natural drainages, forests, beaches and other water-related resources.
- Loss of recreation areas due to environmental changes and invasive species, i.e. loss of ponds for ice-skating in winter.
- Increasing concern over pollution of natural resources and waterways and a desire for a reduction of pollution particularly in relation to water-related resources.
- Increasing desire for a reduction in use of pesticides and herbicides in landscape maintenance.
- Increasing feeling of a loss of the 'rural' landscape and community identity as a rural place.
- Desire for more interaction with nature, natural areas and waterways.

b) Social Trends

- Increased youth crime activity due to lack of activities for youth.
- Decreased feeling of safety for children resulting in a greater need for structured, supervised activities for youth.
- Increased desire for places to interact with community, i.e. community centers and meeting places.
- Increased desire for integrated intergenerational community centers that provide for all segments of the community.
- Desire for increased citizen participation in planning for recreation activities.
- Decreasing tolerance for traveling long distances to engage in recreational activities.
- Increasing provincialism, where each hamlet and Village wants individual facilities to serve recreational needs.

National Level

- People empowerment – opportunities for building community and social bonding, neighborhood watch and community policing.
- Social service networking – organizing community resources to attack complex social problems.
- Increasing concerns for personal and family safety.
- Increasing importance of wellness activities.
- Increased inclusiveness – laws and public policies addressing discrimination, equal rights and accessibility of public facilities and services.
- Desire to preserve and maintain cultural heritages.
- Volunteerism – making more effective and efficient use of volunteers.

c) Economic Trends

- Decreasing desire to support recreation activities through increased taxes.
- Increasing support for public/private partnerships to achieve recreation needs.
- Increasing property values making it more difficult for public entities to purchase land.
- Some support for eco-tourism and methods for increasing shoulder seasons.
- Increasing number of grassroots movements to provide for recreational needs utilizing private funding and public/private partnerships.

National Level

- Increasing public costs associated with health, social services, environmental protection and cleanup and aging infrastructure.
- Tax limitation measures – reduction in and/or caps on revenue traditionally used to support public programs (education, recreation, etc).
- Leisure services provided by multiple providers – private and non-private sectors.
- More partnerships – doing more with less in conjunction with others.
- Growing importance of eco-tourism and travel.
- Recognition of economic value of parks, open spaces, and amenity in infrastructure.

d) Trends in Land Use Patterns

- Increased development of farmland and open space.
- Increased congestion on roads making travel very difficult and undesirable.

National Level

- Increased urban sprawl – located primarily along major transportation corridors and mass transit routes.
- Greater “in-fill” development – lands considered marginal will be upgraded for new development and increasing density in the urban core.

e) Demographic Trends

- Increase in older population and retiree settlement
- Area west of the Shinnecock Canal continues to show strong residential growth
- Slight increase in population in the bottom income tiers

National Level

- Aging of society – by 2030 baby boomers will be senior citizens (1/3 of the population).
- Sharp increase in the proportion of middle-aged Americans.
- Fewer “traditional” family households.
- More emphasis on both eldercare and childcare.
- Declining divorce rate – more emphasis on families and family values.
- Increasing cultural diversity.
- Greater number of smaller households.

*f) Technological Trends**National Level*

- Rapid pace of technological change will continue.
- Advances in information technology will make products, services and information more accessible and targeted.
- Increased contact with computers; information technology will blur distinction between work and home.
- Increased media maladies – information overload, privacy, objectionable material and distorted reality.
- More public meetings aired on public/access cable television – more education on issues and services.

F. Needs & Wants, Opportunities & Constraints Summaries

Quantifying Southampton’s recreational needs involves comparing what the Town lacks with what it has in order to identify gaps. The previous discussion has described its wants, which are summarized below.

SUMMARY OF PERCEIVED NEEDS*a) Facilities & Programs*

- Family-oriented community centers * priority
- Teen-specific facilities, socially-oriented
- Specialized sports facilities:
 - Indoor swimming * priority

- Skating — ice, roller & boards
- Golf
- Indoor & outdoor team sports fields ❖ priority
- Bicycle routes and trails ❖ priority
- Increased beach parking
- Enhanced beach facilities — e.g. restaurants, cafes, band shells
- Hamlet and village-center greens, with tot lots, benches, gazebos
- “Eco-tourism” and agriculturally-based facilities (i.e. community gardens, farm tours, etc.)

b) Policy/Procedures

- Procedures and forums for communication and collaboration among the various entities involved in providing for recreation within the Town.
- Protocols for programming the recreational use of CPF and other municipal properties.
- Procedures for balancing the environmental preservation and protection needs with public desires for active recreation and access to natural areas.
- Incentives for private-sector recreation development.

c) Regulatory Enhancements/Revisions

- Regulations controlling the environmental impacts of golf-course development.
- Revised regulations concerning dogs on Town beaches (potential).
- Revised regulations to support marina development and expansion.
- Revised subdivision regulations to facilitate trail dedications and promote connectivity.
- Code revisions to clarify the assessment of parkland or park fees.
- Design guidelines for the development of new facilities.

d) Administrative

- Enhanced promotion of facilities and programs, via:
 - Coordinated signage/ facility wayfinding system
 - Increased program distribution
 - Coordinated publications development — e.g. trail maps, farm tour maps, facilities guides, etc.
- Methodology for quantifying staffing needs, along with revised job descriptions/classifications and improved recruitment.
- Facilitation of key planning efforts — e.g. harbor and coastal access plans, trail planning.
- Support for, and facilitation of, private sector recreation development.

e) Transportation

- Transportation for teens & children to and from facilities and programs (e.g. “kids shuttle”)
- Bicycle routes & trails providing access to recreation facilities
- The use of transportation considerations in locating new facilities

f) Fiscal

- Funds for developing, managing and maintaining recreational uses of select CPF properties.
- Capital funding for both public sector and private non-profit facility development
- Funds for salary increases and potential new staff positions (potential need; pending further review)

OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS SUMMARY

<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Constraints</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent changes in Town’s Parks & Recreation Department create a platform for ongoing improvements • Grassroots organizations are mobilizing to satisfy perceived needs — i.e. RAPP and YARD skateboard parks, SYA North Sea project, Southampton Community Center Inc. • Community Preservation Fund is acquiring substantial new properties for recreational use — in number and size • Ongoing planning efforts address recreational issues — i.e. Town transportation plan, Trustees Harbor and Coastline Management Plans, CPF Stewardship Plan, Beach Access Plan • Increase in recreation fees & permits/anticipated enterprise fund • Private funding has been raised toward new facilities development, and offers additional potential • Environmental planning efforts are exploring ways to resolve conflicts between recreation and preservation/protection goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of administrative & staff capacity — to manage & operate existing resources, and to pursue & implement plans • Multiple recreation resources/ providers with few established links or communications protocols • Community Preservation Fund acquires property, but does not provide funds for recreational development, management or maintenance • Geography is a limiting factor — distance checks facility use/town-wide “central” location not possible • The Town does not have an established economic development staff position to pursue and aid the development of private-sector recreation facilities • Fundraising efforts for facilities being developed by private, grassroots entities may conflict with each other and hamper their success • Environmental and land preservation concerns inhibit golf course development

