



The Andover Township Open Space and Recreation Plan Outreach Report  
Community & Public Participation Summary for the October 26<sup>th</sup> Andover Community Workshop



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Recreation Plan Outreach Report  
Public Participation Summary for the  
October 26<sup>th</sup> Community Workshop

Prepared By:



architects + engineers  
practical approach. creative results.

Workshop Date:  
October 26, 2021

Prepared Date:  
November 3, 2021



# Community & Public Participation

## Purpose

This Open Space and Recreation Plan Report cannot be written, nor recommendations made without input from the people who live, work, and visit Andover Township. Without valuable public input, this document will not accurately represent the wants and needs of Andover residents. The Open Space and Recreation Plan Team is working hard to obtain ideas, opinions, feedback, and concerns from the public throughout the Recreation and Open Space Plan process using “high touch” to “high tech” approaches, ranging from traditional workshops to online engagement. This collaborative approach provides community insight on the future of Andover. The goal for the October 26<sup>th</sup> workshop was to engage, preserve, and enhance community outreach communicated by individuals to foster inclusivity and diversity of community assets. The Master Plan aimed to evolve such public engagement to proactively develop strategies for future implementation and development.

## Community Workshop

An Open Space Plan Subcommittee comprised of Andover community leaders is helping to guide the Master Plan process. The Township of Andover and the Open Space Plan Team worked with Community Stakeholders and the Planning Board to plan one community workshop to both provide information to residents and solicit their input. The workshop was held in the Township Municipal Building on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7pm. The workshop featured several interactive tables that provided residents in attendance the opportunity to voice their opinions on the various elements of the Open Space Plan.

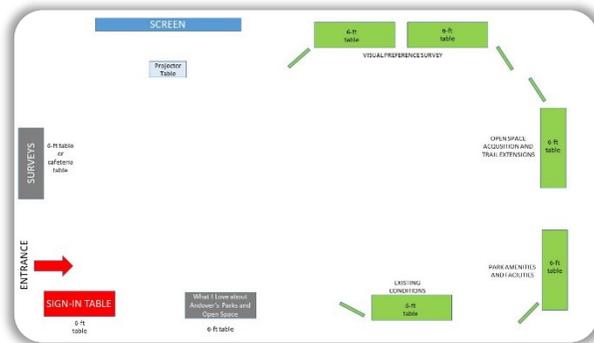


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## Community & Public Participation Summary for the October 26<sup>th</sup> Andover Community Workshop

The workshop was spearheaded by Ryan Conklin of H2M Associates, the Project Manager preparing the Open Space Plan Report and head organizer of the event. Various other members of the H2M team, and the Planning Board were also in attendance helping to lead the event.

Upon sign in, participants were introduced the Open Space Plan and the layout of the room. Attendees were able to go to any of the tables that they desired to discuss the issues that were most important to them.



Above: Room layout; Right: Open Space Plan Flyer

Andover presents:  
**Andover Open Space Plan**

Andover Township is launching the Open Space Plan to shape the physical, environmental, and recreational future of the Township. The updated Open Space Plan will provide a framework for enhancing the Township's quality of life through improvements to open space and recreational opportunities.

**Join Us at the Upcoming Community Workshop**  
Tuesday, October 26, 5-7pm  
at Township Municipal Building

**Get Involved!**  
As part of the planning process, we are holding a public meeting in our community, and spreading the word on the new project website. We are talking to residents, businesses, and other stakeholders about the issues you face. We want you to share your ideas!

**What is an Open Space Plan?**  
A Master Plan provides a guide to the future of open spaces, developing, preservation and acquisition.  
The Open Space Plan is considered an element of the Township's Master Plan, a document that gives the Township the legal authority to control future development. An Open Space Plan also allows the Township to apply for and receive funding to implement the goals and recommendations of the plan.  
The last time Andover Township promulgated a full Open Space Plan was in 2003. The Township has since continued to update Master Plans. The new Open Space Plan is expected to be complete by the end of 2021.

**The Plan covers the following topics related to open space:**

- Facility Improvements
- Open Space Acquisition
- Preservation
- Walking/Biking Trails
- Sustainability
- Environmental Protection

Visit the project website:  
1. [PublicInput.com/AndoverOpenSpace](http://PublicInput.com/AndoverOpenSpace)  
2. [www.andoverwp.org](http://www.andoverwp.org)



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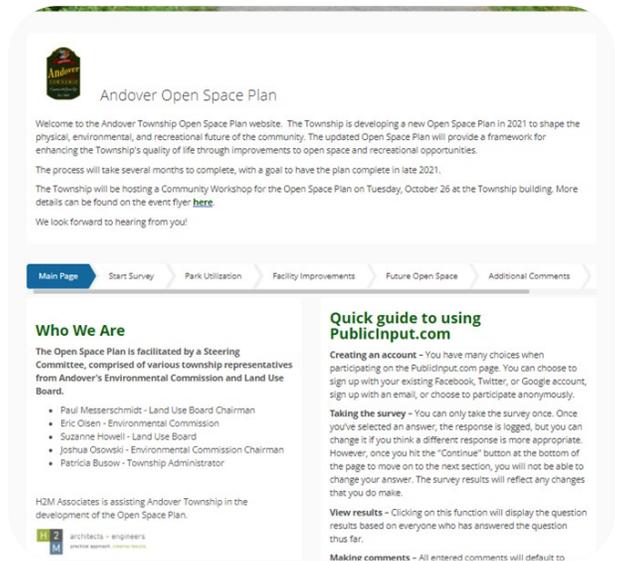
The Open Space Plan Report and the purposes of the night’s workshop were the following:

1. To gain an understanding of Andover community open space and recreation issues through the eyes of residents.
2. To promote the Open Space Plan Report public participation process by encouraging participants to be ambassadors to the Plan.

Attendees were notified upon signing in about the workshop of the public survey website, <https://publicinput.com/AndoverOpenSpace> and were encouraged to visit the site to see the results of the public survey and to keep up to date on future events in the Open Space Plan process. It was also pointed out that the workshop was intended to build upon the questions that were asked during the online survey.

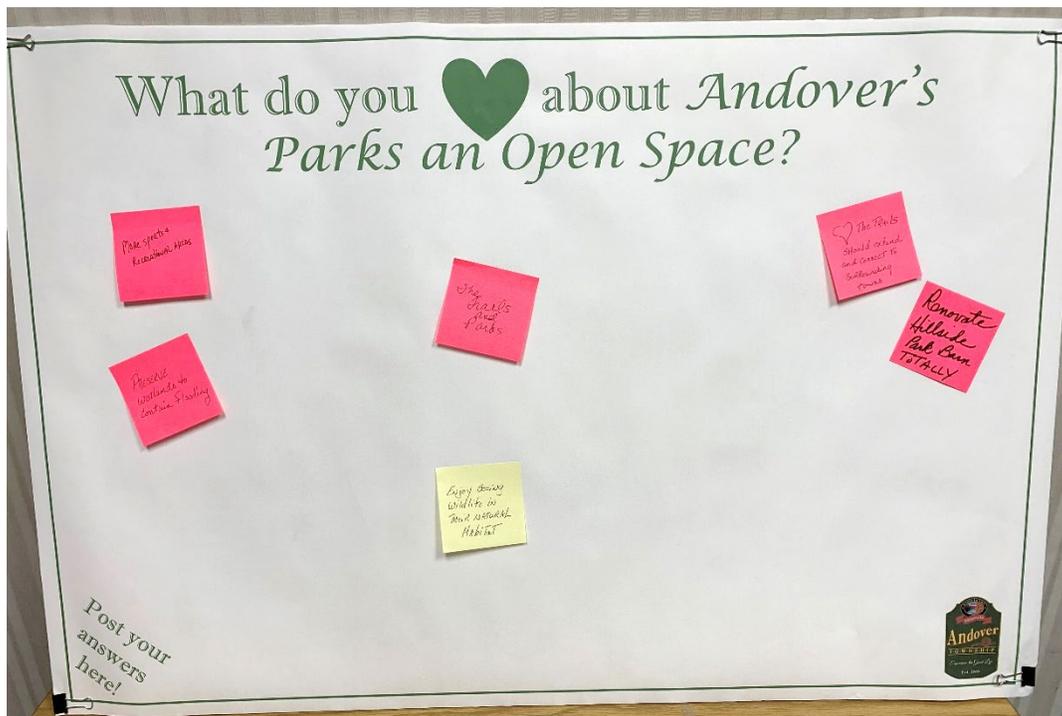
## Interactive Portion

This interactive part of the workshop required workshop participants to join in conversation with the “topic table” facilitators broken out into (1) **Parks and Open Space Vision**, (2) **Visual Preferences**, (3) **Open Space Acquisitions and Trail Extension**, (4) **Park Amenities and Facilities**, and (5) **Existing Conditions** to express their opinions, ideas, ask questions, and state their concerns. Each Topic Table was equipped with a handout for participants containing a 3-4 bulleted list of topics that could be discussed and a handful of guidance questions to help kickstart the brainstorming/interactive participation process. Each “topic table” was facilitated by an Open Space Plan Team member. A summary of issues resulting from the October 26<sup>th</sup> workshop is listed on the following pages. **Bolded** items indicate popular or repeated sentiments.





# 1. Parks and Open Space Vision

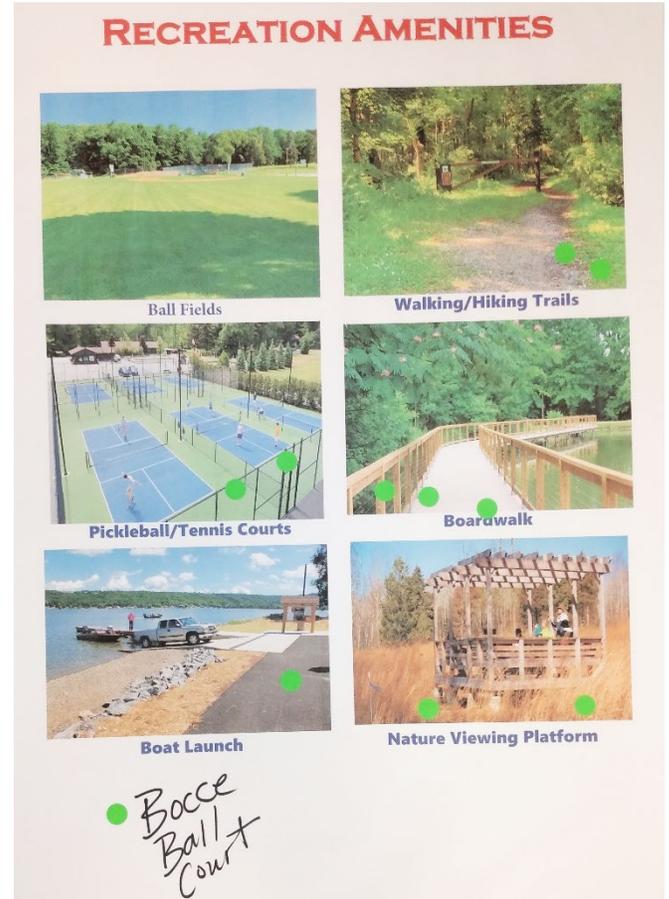


## What do you love about Andover's Parks and Open Space?

- More sports and recreational areas
- Preserve wetlands to contain flooding
- Enjoy being in wildlife in their natural habitat
- The trails and parks
- The trails should extend and connect surrounding towns
- Renovate Hillside Park Barn Totally



## 2. Visual Preferences



### Visual Preferences include:

#### Future Open Space:

- Preserved Farmland (1)
- Preserved Open Space (3)
- Trail Expansion (3)
- Wetlands & Waterways Preservation (3)

### Recreation Amenities

- Walking/Hiking Trails (2)
- Pickleball/Tennis Courts (2)
- Boardwalk (3)
- Boat Launch (1)
- Nature Viewing Platform (2)
- Bocce Ball Court (1)
- Walk and Bike Path (1)
- Community Garden (1)
- Outdoor Classroom (1)



# The Andover Township Open Space and Recreation Plan Outreach Report Community & Public Participation Summary for the October 26<sup>th</sup> Andover Community Workshop

## RECREATION AMENITIES

	
Dog Park	Pavillion & Tables
	
Playground	Rink & Courts
	
Spray Park	Walk and Bike Path
	
Community Garden	Outdoor Classroom



### 3. Open Space Acquisitions and Trail Extension





## 4. Park Amenities and Facilities

 **ANDOVER TOWNSHIP**  
SUSSEX COUNTY • NEW JERSEY

### OPEN SPACE, PARKS & RECREATION

Is there a park near you? Do you use it?  
*Kittatinny Park is a real gem*

What do you like to do most at parks in <sup>Andover</sup> [redacted]? What ideas do you have to make them better?  
*Better marking of parking areas at Goodell soccer fields*

Are there areas in the Township where a new park or park expansion should go? If so, where are those locations?  
*Land should be preserved just for the sake of preservation.  
Water preservation (particularly important since everyone is on well water)*

What amenities or upgrades would you like to see at local parks? Which parks need these upgrades?  
*Fishing access on Lake Iliff  
more benches along trails → memorial benches that families sponsor  
Have improved signage (educational like native bird species or historic railroad photos)*

Are there any type(s) of recreational opportunity that the Township doesn't have that you would like to see in Andover? If so, what is that?

Would you like to see more active recreational opportunities like basketball courts, soccer/baseball fields? If so, where in the Township?

Would you like to see more passive recreational opportunities like walking/biking trails, hiking trails, etc.? If so, where in the Township?

### Park Amenities and Facilities concerns include:

- Better marking of parking areas at Goodell soccer fields
- Land preservation
- Water preservation and well water resources
- Fishing access on Lake Iliff
- More benches along trails – memorial benches that families sponsor
- Educational signage, historic and ecological



## 5. Existing Conditions





