

GLOUCESTER CITY MASTER PLAN

RECREATION PLAN ELEMENT

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I. INTRODUCTION

The location and effectiveness of recreational and open space opportunities have a significant impact on the form and function of a city. These spaces and opportunities also help to improve the local quality of life and environment. The purpose of this element of the Master Plan is to identify the type, location, and condition of recreational facilities in Gloucester City and to provide recommendations for improvements to existing facilities and the development of new recreational and open space opportunities.

A. Recreational Facilities Inventory

The location of all municipally-maintained parks and recreation facilities is presented on the map designated as Figure REC-1. The recreational facilities indicated on that map are keyed to Figure REC-2.

As reflected in these two Figures, there are over 54 acres¹ of municipally maintained parks and recreational facilities throughout the city. These 54 acres are less than the 78 acres of parks and recreational areas reported to be in Gloucester City by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.² The discrepancy between these two numbers can be attributed to the broad scope of the DVRPC report, which not only included the City-maintained recreational areas, but also included the athletic and recreational facilities of the Gloucester City Board of Education and privately-owned recreational land.

As indicated in both Figures REC-1 and REC-2, most of the recreational areas are sized and located to serve the immediate area. The exceptions to this are what will be referred to as the Newton Creek Recreational Complex (consisting of all the recreational facilities situated between Johnson Boulevard and Newton Creek), the adjacent Martins Lake Park and Proprietors Park.

Analysis of Figure REC-1 has also identified an absence of municipal recreational facilities in two areas: the core of the West Broadway residential area (bounded by Hudson Street, Broadway, Hunter Street, and King Street) and in Park Manor (bounded by Newton Creek, Mt. Ephraim, Market Street, and Route 130). The absence of municipal recreational facilities in these areas, particularly in the higher density area west of Broadway, is an item that will be addressed in this Element.

¹The reported 54 acres of recreational areas excludes the area of the Sherman Street Park, which is located beneath the Walt Whitman Bridge on land owned by the Delaware River Port Authority

²DVRPC Data Bulletin No. 48, entitled "1990 Land Use Information," reports that based on the interpretation of aerial photography flown in 1990, 0.1217 square miles of Gloucester City (or 77.88 acres) are occupied by recreational areas. Recreational areas are identified in the Appendix to this report to include parks, recreational sites (playgrounds, etc) as interpreted, amusement parks, resorts and camps, public assembly sites and golf courses.