

Ocean City Open Space and Recreation Plan

Ocean City Environmental
Commission

May 8, 2014



Ocean City Environmental Commission

- Members
 - Pete Ault (Chairperson)
 - Ken Cooper
 - John Loeper (Planning Board Liaison)
 - Marty Mozzo
 - Jim Tweed
 - Donna Moore
- Alternate Members
 - Positions Open
- Student Members
 - Lauren Vetter
 - Aine Boyle
- City Liaison
 - Laurie Howey



Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) Grant

- Develop an Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)
 - “Municipal Land Use Law” (NJS 40:55D-28.b7)
 - NJDEP Green Acres Open Space and Recreation Plan Guidelines
- Grant Awarded: August, 2012
- Projected Completion: Summer 2014



Why prepare an Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)?

- Provide critical guidance for future city planning
 - Protect natural resources and advance sustainability goals
 - Expand on 2004 OSRP ideas
 - Establish a vision for Ocean City
- Coordinate with the State Green Acres and County Open Space programs
 - Increase funding opportunities
 - Matching funds and “pre-approval”



What is Open Space?

Public or privately-owned undeveloped land that is important and could be used for active or passive recreation, or have important ecological or scenic qualities worthy of preservation

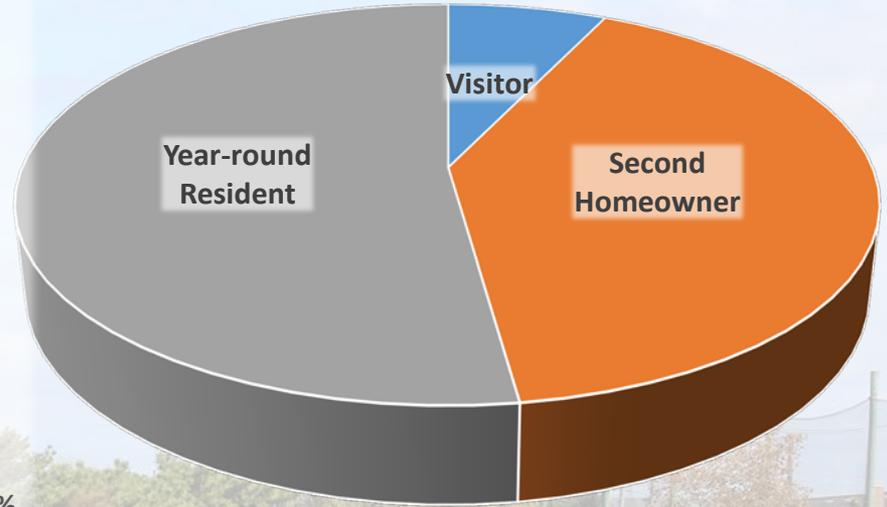
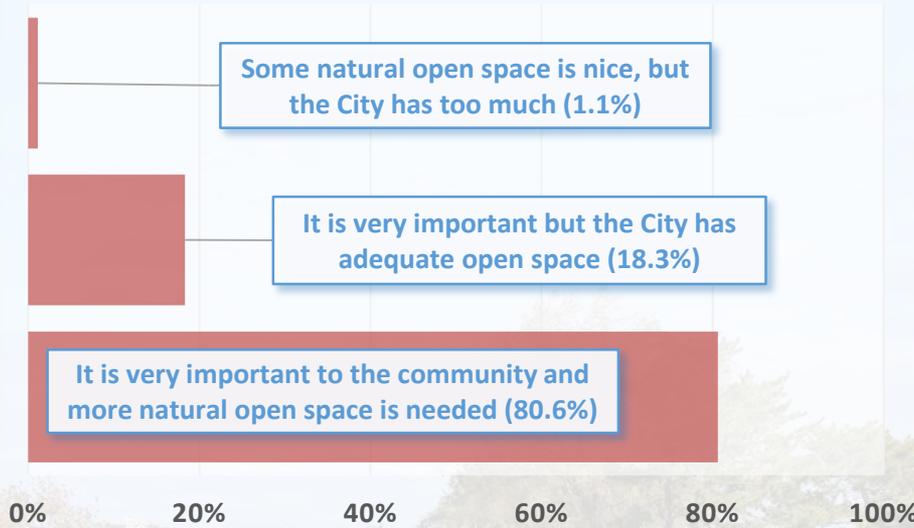


Public Input Process

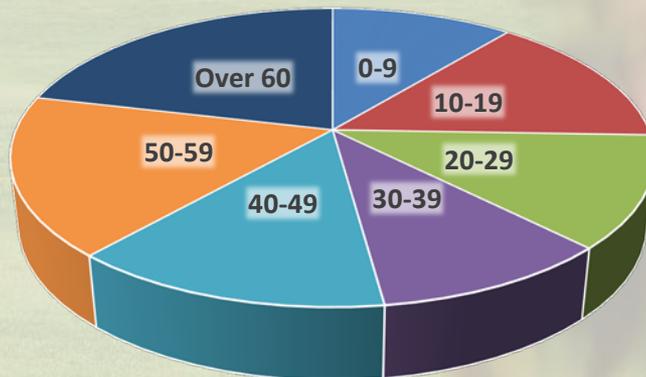
- Open Space Survey (Oct2013-Jan 2014)
 - 13 Question/10 minute survey
 - Completed electronically via the city website (www.ocnj.us/openspace)
 - Paper copy available from City Hall
- Public Meetings
 - October 10, 2013 Council Meeting
 - November 4, 2013 & December 14, 2013
 - Most OC Environmental Commission Meetings
- Outreach to individuals and organizations



307 Survey Respondents



Age Groups Represented



Most Important Benefits of Recreation and Open Space

	All Responses	Year Round	Second Homeowners	Visitors
Enjoy Nature	74.1%	72.5%	77.1%	65.0%
Relaxation	70.0%	67.8%	71.2%	70.0%
Physical Exercise	58.7%	59.1%	61.0%	40.0%
Environmental Protection	58.4%	59.7%	60.2%	30.0%
Access to Water	50.2%	49.0%	50.8%	50.0%
Health and wellness	48.1%	46.3%	50.0%	50.0%
Entertain Children	26.3%	26.2%	25.4%	20.0%
Opportunities for youth	25.6%	30.9%	18.6%	25.0%
Special Event	22.2%	22.1%	22.9%	10.0%
Cultural opportunities	20.5%	19.5%	22.0%	15.0%
Socializing	16.7%	20.1%	12.7%	15.0%
Competitive Athletics	10.2%	16.8%	2.5%	10.0%



Top Ten Facilities Ocean City Needs to Add or Expand

- Bike paths (82.7%)
- Hiking and walking trails (78.2%)
- Conservation areas (74.7%)
- Access to waterways (63.8%)
- Family picnic areas (56.3%)
- Year-round recreation programming (56.3%)
- Boat ramps (44.9%)
- Summer recreational programs (42.2%)
- Children's play areas (38.8%)
- Skateboard park (37.9%)

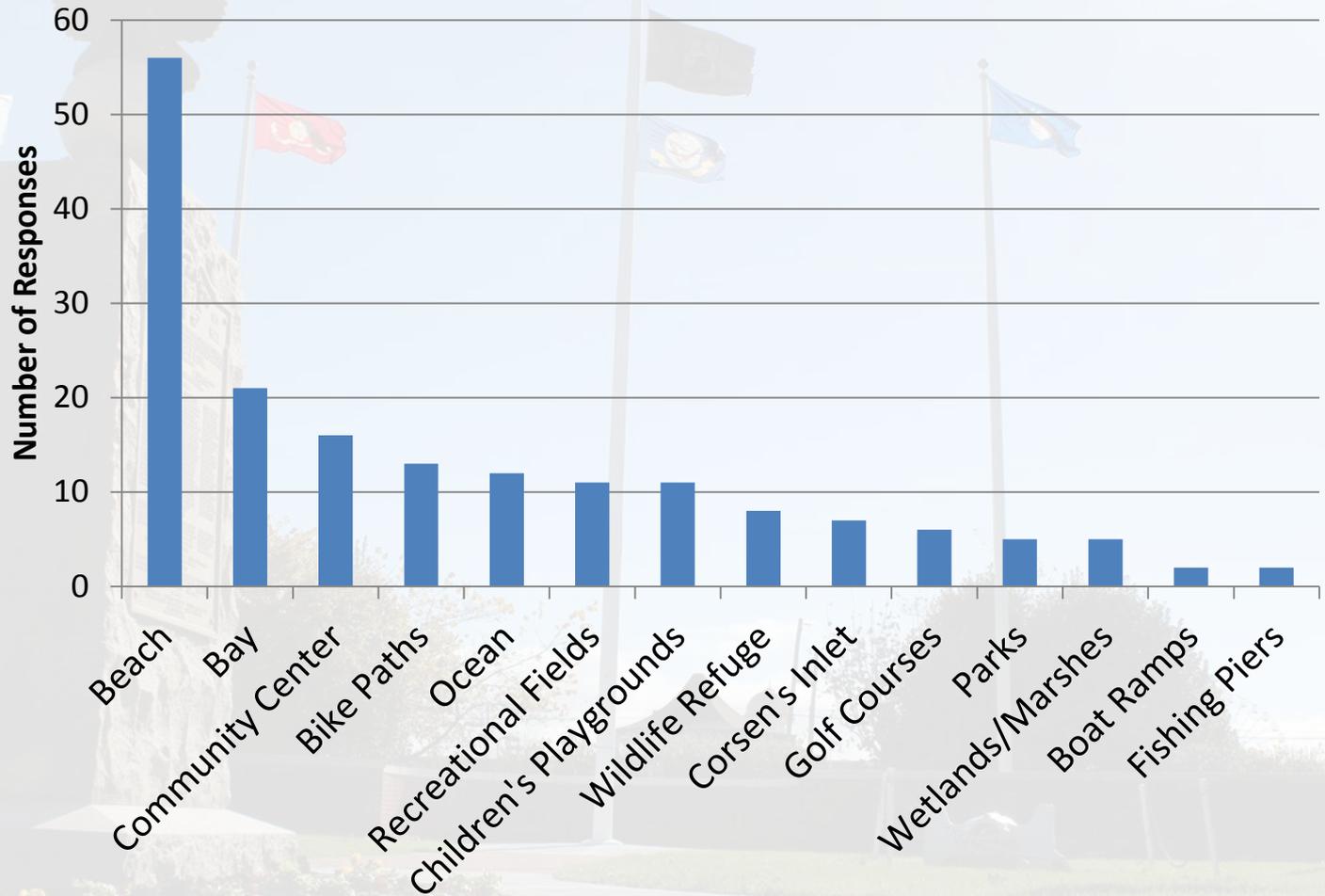


Top Ten Important Criteria for Open Space Acquisition

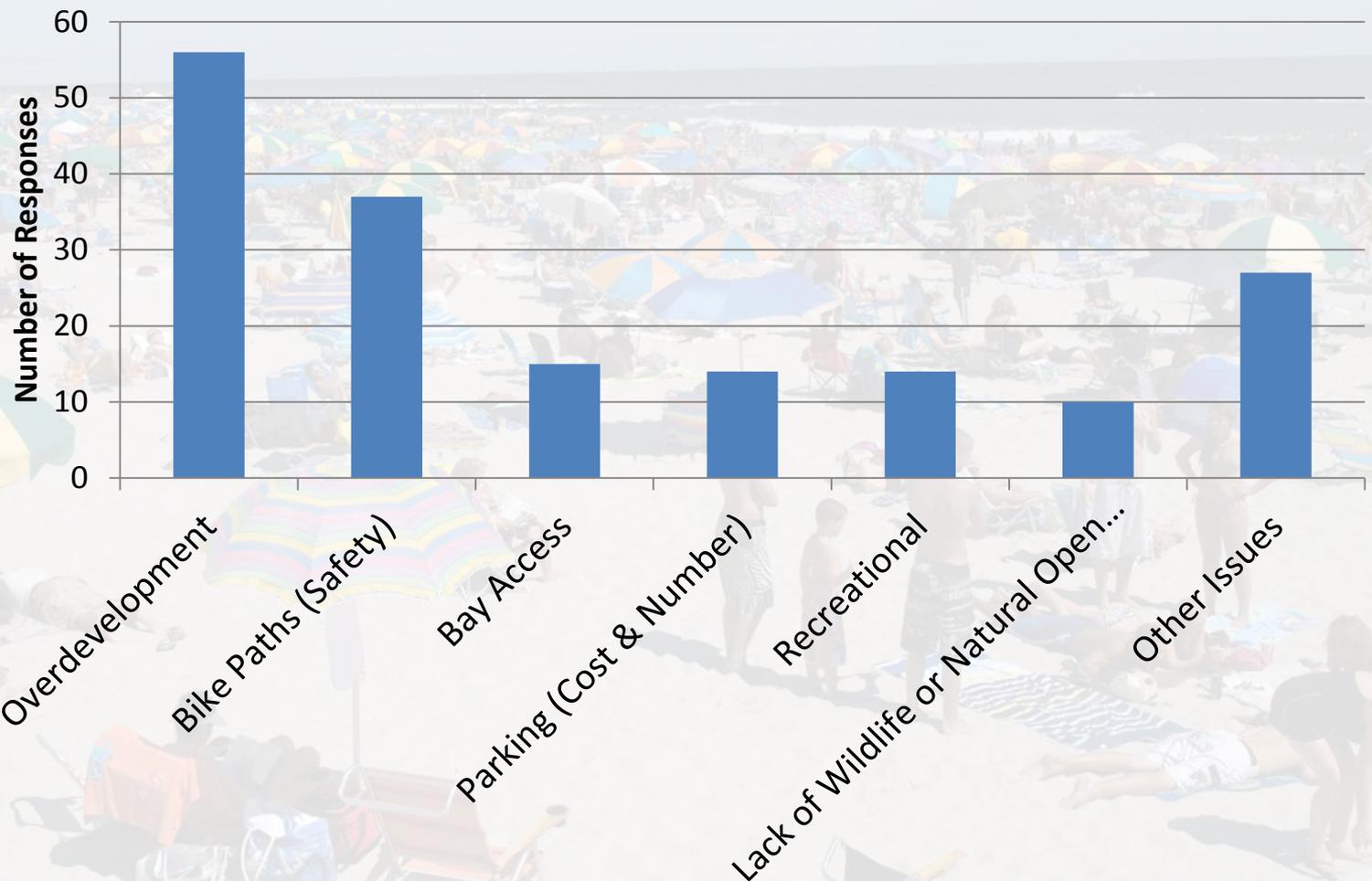
- Protection of environmentally-sensitive lands and/or waters
- Protection of plant and/or wildlife habitat
- Accessibility to potential users
- Availability of outside funding support
- Development limiting
- Acquisition costs
- Potential for linear recreation system (trail, bikeway, greenway)
- Preservation of a key historic resource
- Development costs
- Opportunity for neighborhood improvement



Ocean City's Strengths



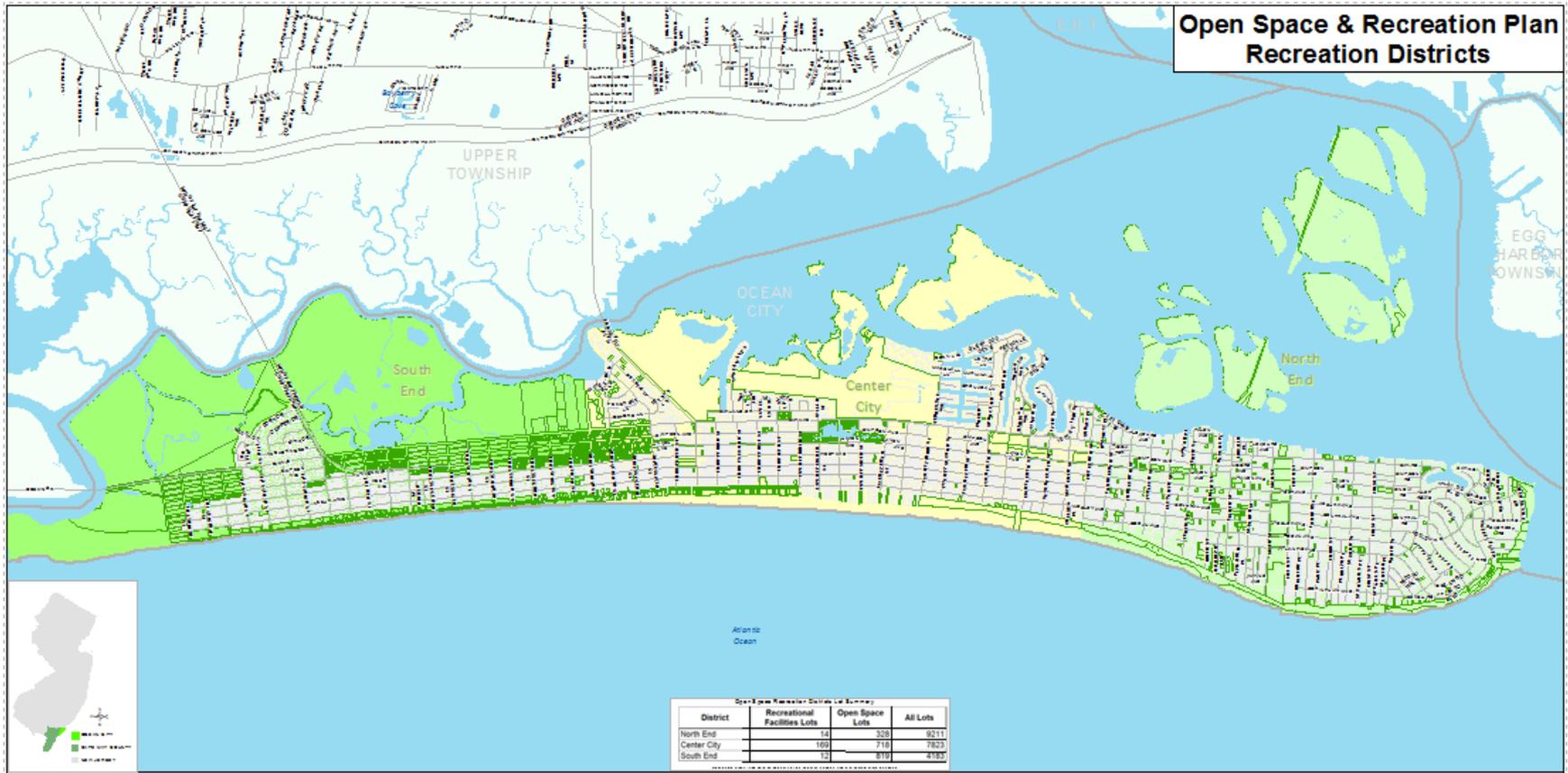
Challenges We Face



Nobody goes there any more...its too crowded!



Open Space & Recreation Plan Recreation Districts

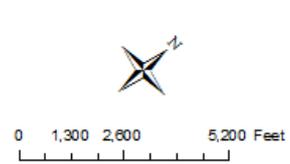


Open Space Recreation District Summary

District	Recreational Facilities Lots	Open Space Lots	All Lots
North End	14	320	9211
Center City	169	718	7823
South End	12	819	4187



Open Space Parcels	Road ways
Ocean City Recreation Districts	Parcel Boundary
North End	Municipality Boundary
Center City	Water
South End	



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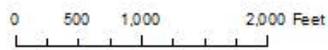
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Open Space & Recreation Plan Center City



- Recreation Facilities: 169 Lots
- Open Space Parcels: 718 Lots
- Center City
- Municipality Boundary
- Water

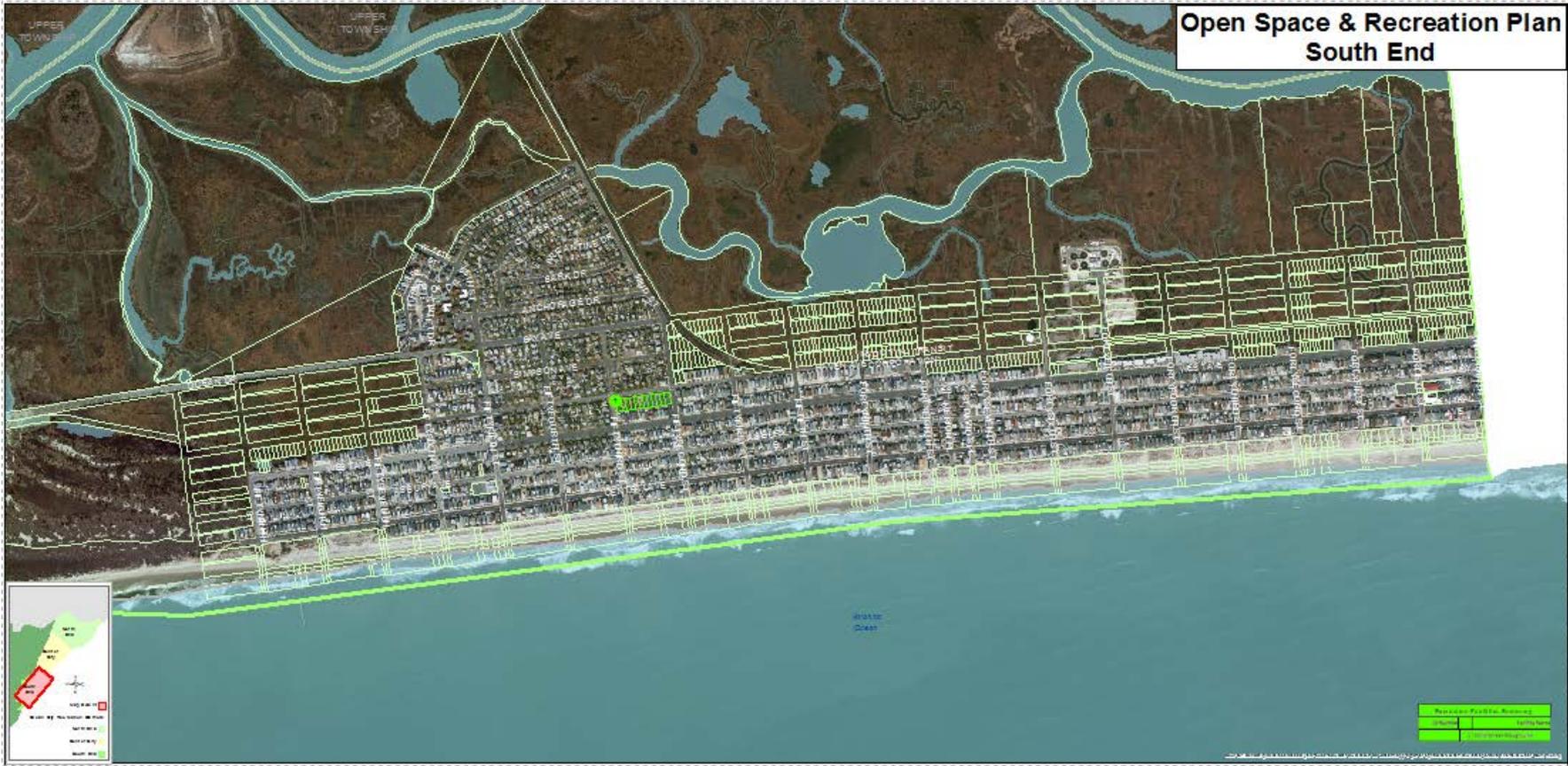


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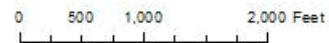
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Open Space & Recreation Plan South End



- Recreation Facilities: 12 Lots
- Open Space Parcels: 319 Lots
- South End
- Municipality Boundary
- Water



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File: OceanCity/OpenSpace/ASPH0502014 Date: 5/6/2014



OSRP Project Path Forward

- Formalize Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan Element in May, 2014
- Outreach to City groups for feedback on draft plan
- Present Open Space and Recreation Plan to Planning Board for Approval – Late Summer
- Identify/develop City projects which are supported by the OSRP



Project Examples

- Green Acres/County Open Space Proposals for property acquisitions
 - Lots/Partial Lots
- Development of Beach/Bay access plans
 - NJDEP Grant
- Manage existing open space
 - Make better use of bay access points
 - Encourage multiple uses of parks and playgrounds



Project Examples

- Development of linear routes
 - Property easements along bike path and bayfront?
 - Streetscape grants?
- Tax Incentives for maintaining open space
- Activities that promote existing open space

Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work.

— Daniel Hudson Burnham (1846-1912)



Thank You!

Questions?

