

# 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



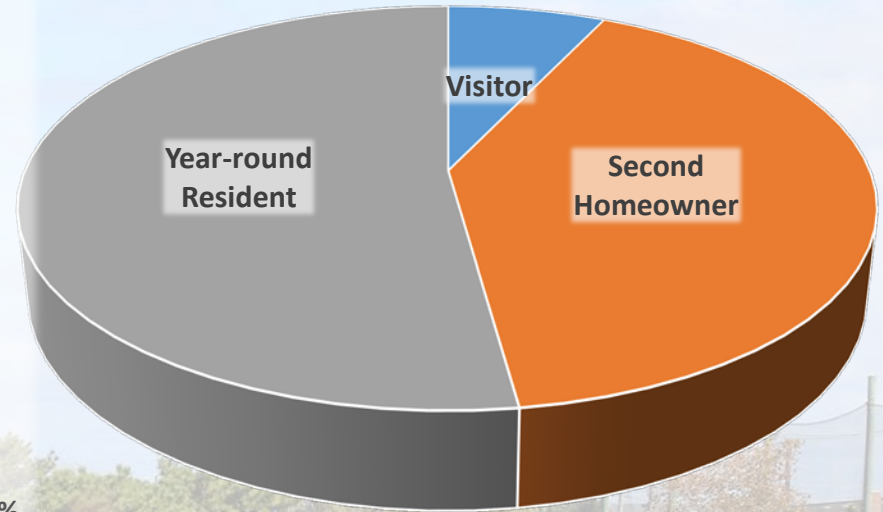
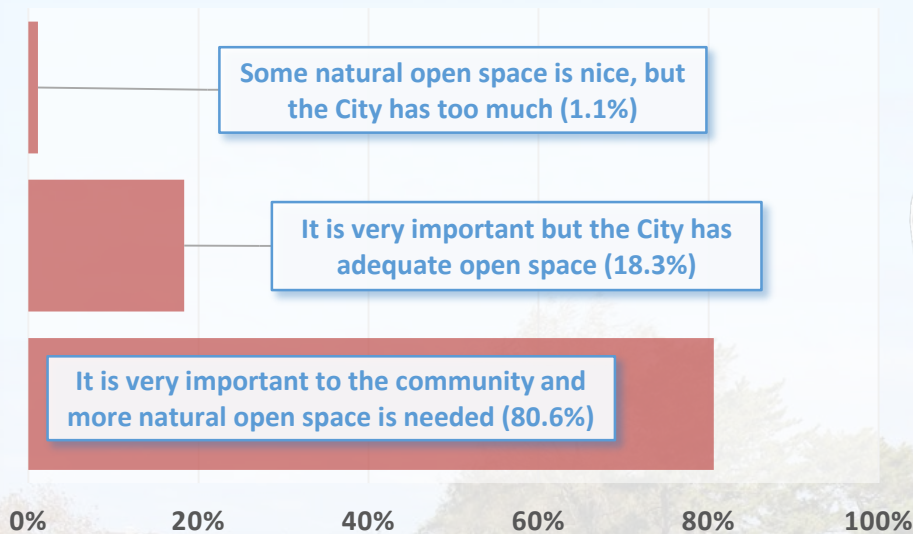
# Public Input Process

- Open Space Survey (Oct2013-Jan 2014)
  - 13 Question/10 minute survey
  - Completed electronically via the city website ([www.ocnj.us/openspace](http://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

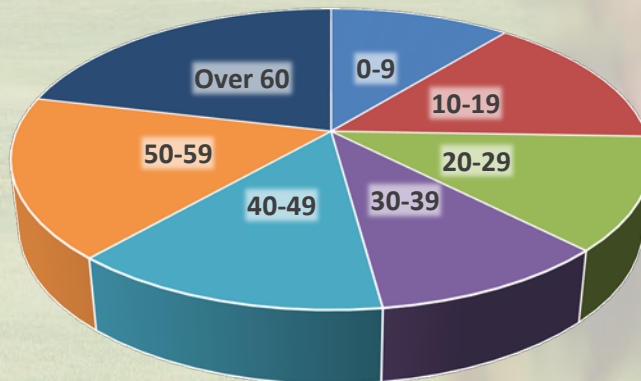




# 307 Survey Responses



*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%)





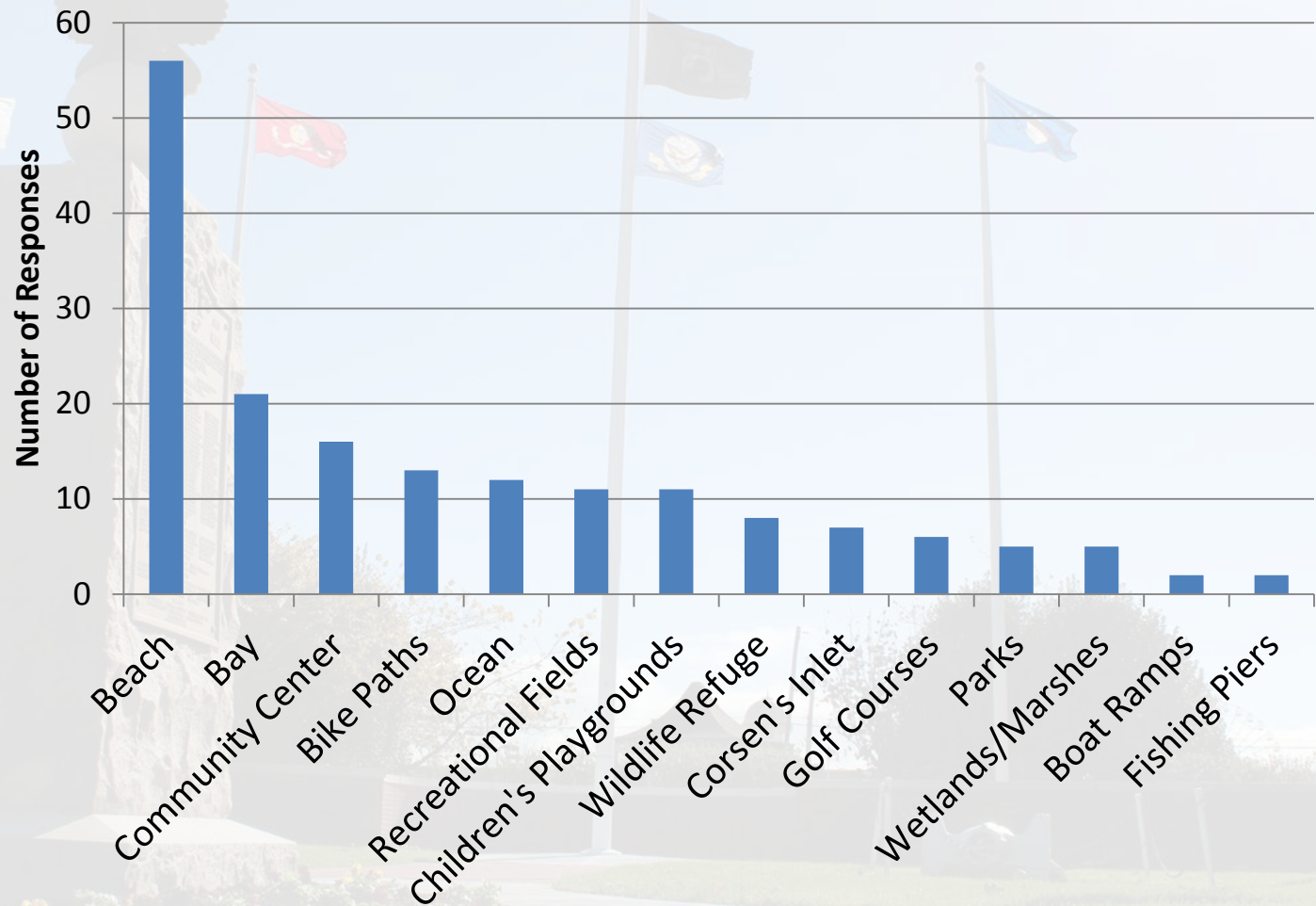
# Top Ten Important Criteria for Open Space Acquisition

- 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

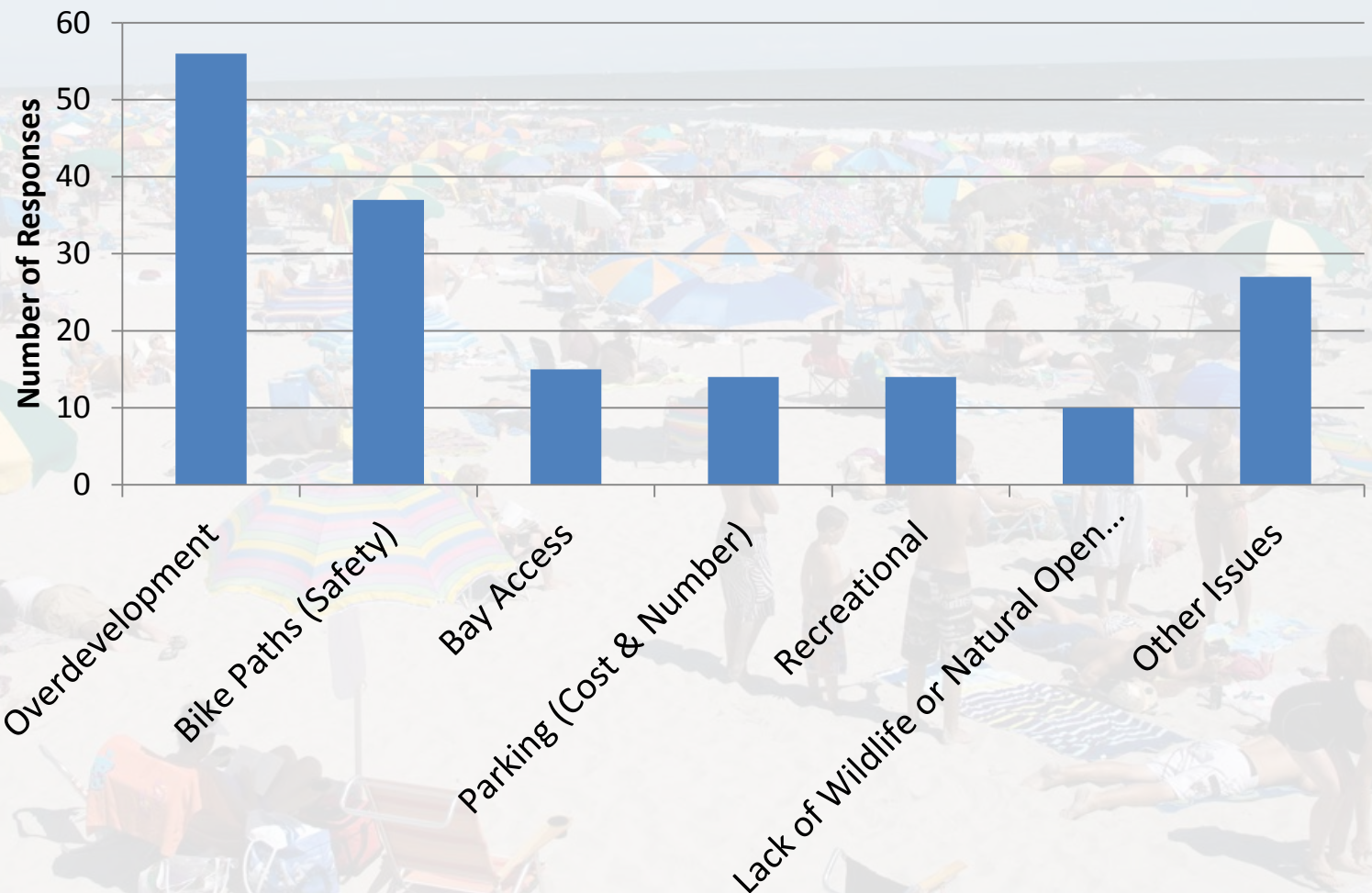




# Ocean City's Strengths



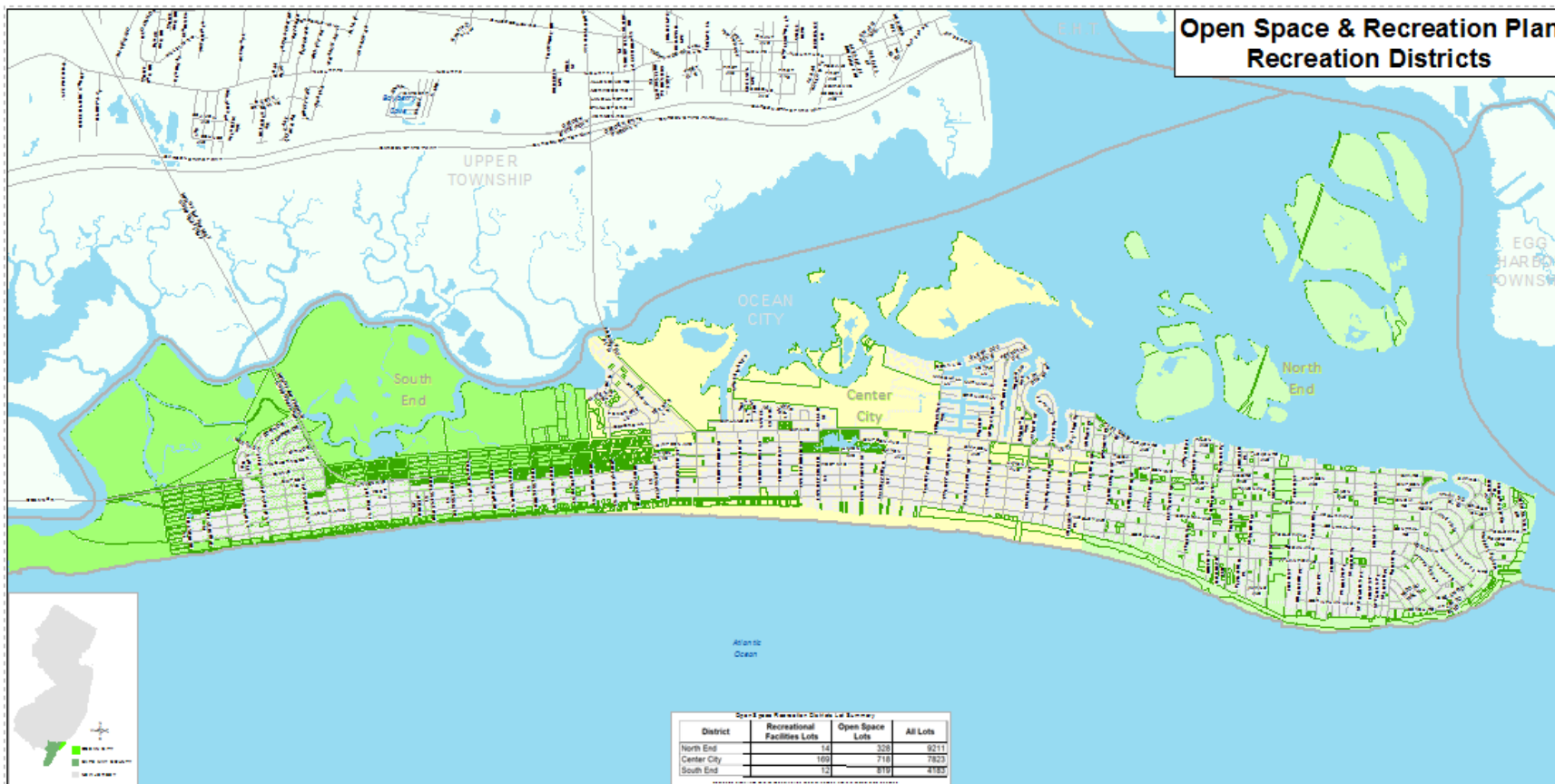
# Challenges We Face



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



# Open Space & Recreation Plan Recreation Districts



May 6, 2014

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**S**olutions  
scsolutions@gmail.com  
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1000 1st Avenue, Suite 100  
Ocean City, NJ 08226

■ Open Space Parcels     Roadways  
■ Ocean City Recreation Districts     Parcel Boundary  
■ North End     Municipality Boundary  
■ Center City     Water  
■ South End



# Open Space & Recreation Plan North End



**S**cheule  
**P**lanning  
**S**olutions  
11111 Highway 101, Suite 101  
PO Box 1111  
Ocean City, NJ 08226  
Tel: 609.661.1111

- Recreation Facilities: 14 Lots
- Open Space Parcels: 328 Lots
- North End District Boundary
- Municipality Boundary
- Water



0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

May 6, 2014

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**Open Space & Recreation Plan  
Center City**

ID Number	Name
1	City Park
2	City Park
3	City Park
4	City Park
5	City Park
6	City Park
7	City Park
8	City Park
9	City Park
10	City Park



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



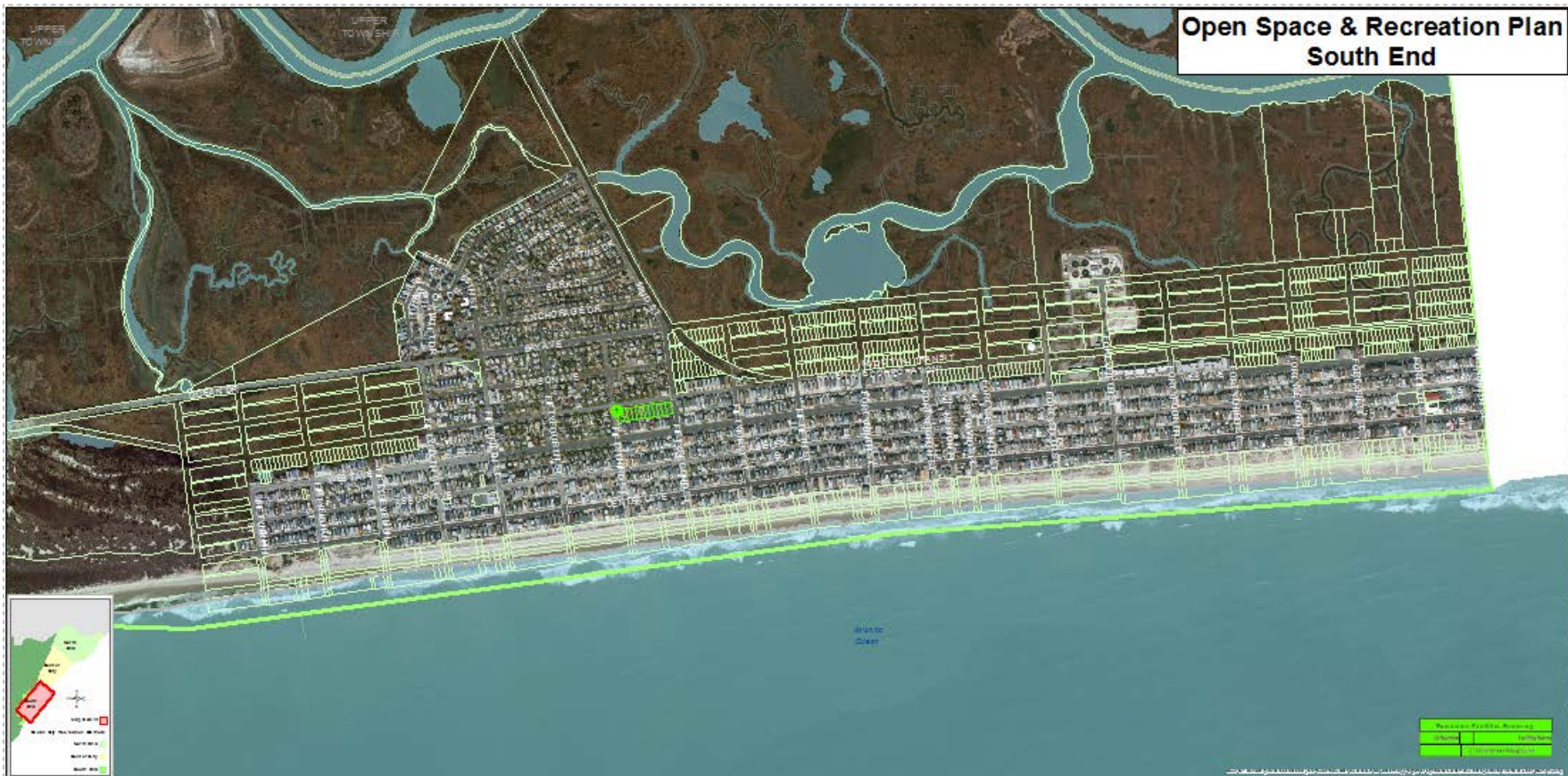
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# OSRP Project Path Forward

- 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?

