



MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP
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Riley, Van Noord Announce Township Open Space and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOUNT LAUREL- Mount Laurel Township Deputy Mayor Dennis Riley and Mayor Richard Van Noord unveiled the Township's plans for recreation improvements and open space preservation at a press conference at the Township Municipal Building.

"We are embarking on a ten year plan that will help the Township address the recreation needs of more than 3,000 children as well as addressing the future needs of open space preservation," said Riley. "The council feels strongly that we support our children in their athletic endeavors, but also feel strongly that we need to make sure the character of Mount Laurel is preserved."

Among the improvements planned include improving two playgrounds at Laurel Acres Park and adding a new 50 person pavilion, replacing the turf field at Memorial Park and install a new turf field and install lighting at Spencer Field, Laurel Acres Park and Trotters Fields. In addition, the Virginia Lane, Springville and Cornwallis Tot Lots will all be addressed.

"Our plan also includes setting aside funds for open space acquisition as well," said Van Noord. "More than \$8 million has been set aside to acquire more open space and pay the bond debts on space we've already acquired. Not only have we planned for a decade in the future, we haven't raised taxes one penny on the residents of Mount Laurel and addressed past debt."

Plans for open space cannot be revealed since any negotiations would be privileged. "We are engaged in talks that may lead to the Township acquiring more open space," said Riley. "The council understands that part of what makes Mount Laurel a great place to live, work and raise a family includes open spaces."

The Township Planning Board has approved the plans for recreation improvements and most of the bids for the projects have been received. Work on the playground areas at Laurel Acres Park have already begun.