

**Field Assessment
from
Master Plan Update**
by Ballard King & Associates, Ltd

October 25, 2012



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& ASSOCIATES LTD
Recreation Facility Planning and Operation Consultants

Executive Summary: Fields

Ballard*King & Associates was retained by the Town of Pittsford to provide an update to the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. This executive summary looks to summarize findings of the report in respect of allocation of playing fields.

Master Plan Update: From the demographics obtained in Section I of this report it should be remembered that the make-up of the service areas along with median income and current rates of spending are such that they do support strong levels of youth sports programming within the Town of Pittsford. When you overlay this demographic information with the National Sporting Goods Association 2011 Survey and combine that with participation numbers provided by the youth sports groups it indicates that many of the field use activities that take place in the Town have reached a point of saturation with the exception being the sport of Lacrosse.

It should be noted that when the Recreation Department first began to operate from the Spiegel Community Center they were providing many youth sports activities. As time passed the Recreation Department began transitioning from the provider of these activities to working with local coaches to assist them with obtaining insurance and running the programs. That has further evolved to the point where the Recreation Department runs very few youth sports activities and has become a provider of space in conjunction with the Town Parks Department.

The most significant role that the Recreation Department plays with regards to youth sports is the allocation of field space for games. In allocating said field space, the Recreation Department works with the School District so that the entire field inventory within the Town is allocated as one community asset. Because of the amount of use by School District programs and youth sports programs the School District has investigated developing 3 turf fields on school property. The Town has subsequently offered a 4th option to the School District which would locate one of the turf fields at TFP-1. It should be noted that neither the Recreation Department or School District permit practice space, that is allocated on a first come first serve basis.

In a series of stakeholder meetings, B*K and representatives from the Town met with youth sports organizations that accounted for baseball, softball, lacrosse and football. A common theme amongst those meetings was the feeling that the field resources in the combined inventory of the Town and School District are inadequate. Leaders of these youth sport organizations were concerned that their participants were not getting the same facility experience that they received in other communities. In addressing that question in particular the Town has begun to identify some of these communities and determine how their field projects are funded.

If you look at the information collected through SCORP standards, the number of field use hours and the collective inventory of rectangles and triangles it would lead one to the conclusion that approximately 30% of the total available field hours from May through October are being used, minus practices. This would also lead one to believe that the available field space is more than adequate. However, what must be taken into account is the concentration of use in the months of May, June and early July. At that time of the year the demand is so great for field space that any disruption in the availability of fields due to weather or maintenance creates a significant shortage of fields available for games.

The results of this inability to take fields off line during prime growing seasons is that both Town and School District fields, rectangles and diamonds are not getting the quantity of maintenance and/or attention that they deserve in order to keep them in optimal condition. The addition of three turf fields to the collective inventory would allow for the season to begin as early as March and end as late as Thanksgiving, weather permitting. This would in effect allow for a more collective effort between the Town and School District for continued field maintenance and upkeep.

In looking at the Town inventory proper, the 2 primary locations that B*K feels should consider significant change to the configuration are Thornell Farm Park and Great Embankment Park.

- The addition of a turf field at Thornell Farm Park would be an asset to the community as a whole and the Town will need to work to further underscore their scheduling control of that piece of property. In adding that space to Thornell Farm Park the Town may also want to look at Master Planning that property to ensure that the most efficient use of space is being achieved. Moving the remaining rectangles and diamonds to more of an enhanced playing surface or an additional turf field that could be used as a rectangle or 2 diamonds should be considered. Given the dollars that the youth sports groups are currently spending to rent facilities in off-seasons the Town may also want to investigate “doming” the field at Thornell Farm Park for off-season use.
- The upper fields at Great Embankment Park need to be reconsidered given the lack of use at this time. It is the opinion of B*K that GEP D-2 should be removed and that the entire upper area be graded so that an additional rectangle can be accommodated on the upper level. This grading of the upper level would accommodate at least 1 full-size rectangle or 2 non-regulation size rectangle which allow for additional flexibility with maintenance. GEP D-1 should remain a diamond but should be converted so that it can be used as either a 60-40 or 70-50 field.

B*K would recommend the following with regards to updating the field allocation within the Town:

- The Town and School District should continue to move forward with the development of the designated turf fields at Sutherland, Mendon and Thornell Farm Park.
- The Town should move forward with a reconfiguration of Great Embankment Park to provide additional flexibility to accommodate field maintenance for rectangles.
- The Town and School District need to formalize their cooperative agreement of facilities and spell out priorities of use and shared maintenance costs.
- The Town Parks Department should sit down with the School District Facilities Department and develop a 5, 10 and 15-year plan for the fields specifically. Outlined within those plans should be annual maintenance required of each space, a minimum standard and a capital improvement plan that accounts for taking fields off-line on an annual basis so as to provide them opportunity to regenerate. In order for the maintenance to be successful it must be a combined effort between the Town and School District.
- With the additional dollars that should be invested in maintaining the fields the Town and School District should look at implementing a field rental fee that is consistent between both organizations.
- An additional investment that both the Town and School District should consider is staffing levels that would allow for monitoring of spaces to ensure that they are being used appropriately.
- As the Town and School District fields are being looked at as community assets there should be consideration given to implementing a process and appropriate technology where there is a 1-stop clearing house for all field reservations. In other words a combined scheduling system specific to field reservations.
- With the Town and School District fields being community assets priority of reservations for games should be given to organizations whose membership is primarily Town residents. To that end rosters, to include coaches should be provided with addresses and telephone numbers at the time field requests are made.
- Any future additional field space that is required should be looked at a cooperative venture between the Town/School District and the youth sports organizations themselves. Additionally, if there is a higher level of maintenance that the youth sports groups require beyond the standard set by the Town and School District the youth sports groups should bear that cost.

Section I: Demographic Orientation

Ballard*King & Associates has been tasked by the Town of Pittsford with updating their Parks & Recreation Master Plan, specifically addressing field allocation use. As a foundation, B*K has provided a detailed demographic breakdown of the service areas that have been identified with the assistance of the Town.

In Section II the demographic information will be overlay with participation statistics from the National Sporting Goods Associates 2011 Survey specific to indoor community center activities along with participation statistics from the National Endowment of the Arts. These participation statistics combined with public input and an assessment of the current recreation operation will lead to recommendations as to the community center concept that the Town of Pittsford should consider pursuing.

It should be noted that the following demographic information points to a very vibrant, affluent community that is comprised of families with older children, empty nesters and retirees.

Service Areas: First and foremost the Town of Pittsford has a responsibility to serve the needs of the residents and taxpayers of the Town. To that end the Town has a policy that both Town residents and members of the Pittsford School District are eligible to pay resident rates at the Spiegel Community Center and for other Town sponsored programs. Therefore B*K has identified a primary service area that encompasses the boundaries of the Town and the School District. It is not uncommon for community centers to have larger secondary service areas and in addressing that a 12-minute drive time has been established from the 4-corners intersection in the Village of Pittsford.

Primary Service Areas are usually defined by the distance people will travel on a regular basis (a minimum of once a week) to utilize a facility or its programs. Secondary service areas are usually defined by the distance people will travel on a less consistent basis (a minimum of once a month) to utilize a facility or its programs. Use by individuals in a secondary area will primarily be limited to special events (tournaments, etc.).

Service areas can also vary in size with the types of components that are included in a facility. A center with active elements (weight cardiovascular equipment area, gym, track, etc.) will generally have a larger service area than a more passively oriented facility. Specialized facilities such as a sports field house, ice arena or large competitive aquatic venue will have even larger service areas that make them more of a regional destination.

Service areas can also be based upon a facility's proximity to major thoroughfares. Other factors impacting the use as it relates to driving distance are the presence of alternative service providers in the Primary Service Area. Alternative service providers can have an impact upon membership, daily admissions and the associated penetration rates for programs and services.

Table A – Service Area Comparison Chart:

	Town of Pittsford	Primary Service Area	Secondary Service Area
Population:			
2010 Census	29,405	36,137	248,902
2011 Estimate	29,508	36,297	248,950
2016 Estimate	29,580	36,491	249,473
Households:			
2010 Census	10,341	12,907	106,675
2011 Estimate	10,371	12,961	106,632
2016 Estimate	10,466	13,145	107,680
Families:			
2010 Census	7,666	9,517	57,779
2011 Estimate	7,702	9,571	57,895
2016 Estimate	7,713	9,614	57,692
Average Household Size:			
2010 Census	2.57	2.57	2.20
2011 Estimate	2.57	2.57	2.20
2016 Estimate	2.56	2.55	2.18
Ethnicity: (2010 Census)			
Hispanic	2.4%	2.3%	5.5%
White	89.2%	90.1%	78.0%
Black	1.7%	1.7%	12.6%
American Indian	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Asian	6.8%	6.1%	4.9%
Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.02%	0.04%
Other	0.5%	0.5%	1.7%
Multiple	1.5%	1.5%	2.5%
Median Age:			
2010 Census	42.9	43.9	38.5
2011 Estimate	43.0	44.0	38.6
2016 Estimate	44.0	45.1	39.1
Median Income:			
2011 Estimate	\$112,509	\$108,814	\$58,762
2016 Estimate	\$123,415	\$118,433	\$71,658
Household Budget Expenditures¹:			
Housing	211	205	125
Entertainment & Recreation	216	210	124

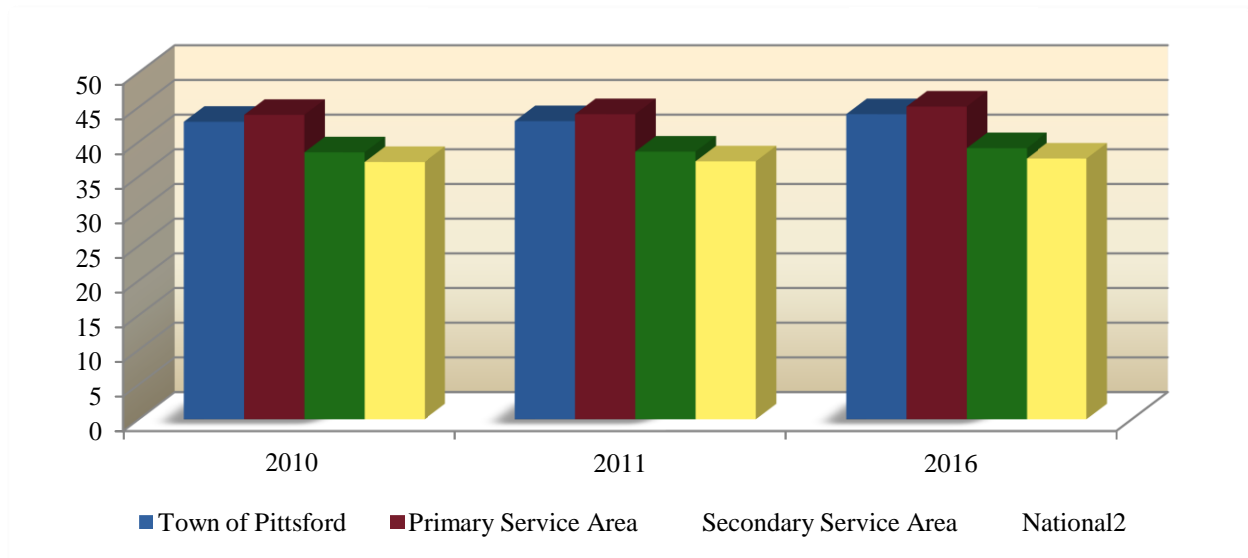
¹ This information is placed on an index with a reference point being the National average of 100.

The median age and household income levels are compared with the national number as both of these factors are primary determiners of participation in recreation activities. The lower the median age, the higher the participation rates are for most activities. The level of participation also increases as the median income level goes up.

Table B – Median Age:

	2010 Census	2011 Projection	2 16 Projection
Town of Pittsford	42.9	43.0	44.0
Primary Service Area	43.9	44.0	45.1
Secondary Service Area	38.5	38.6	39.1
Nationally	37.1	37.2	37.6

Chart A – Median Age



With the median age in the Primary Service Area being higher than the National number it would point to a community comprised of families with older children, empty nesters and retirees.

Map A – 2010 Median Age by Census Block Groups

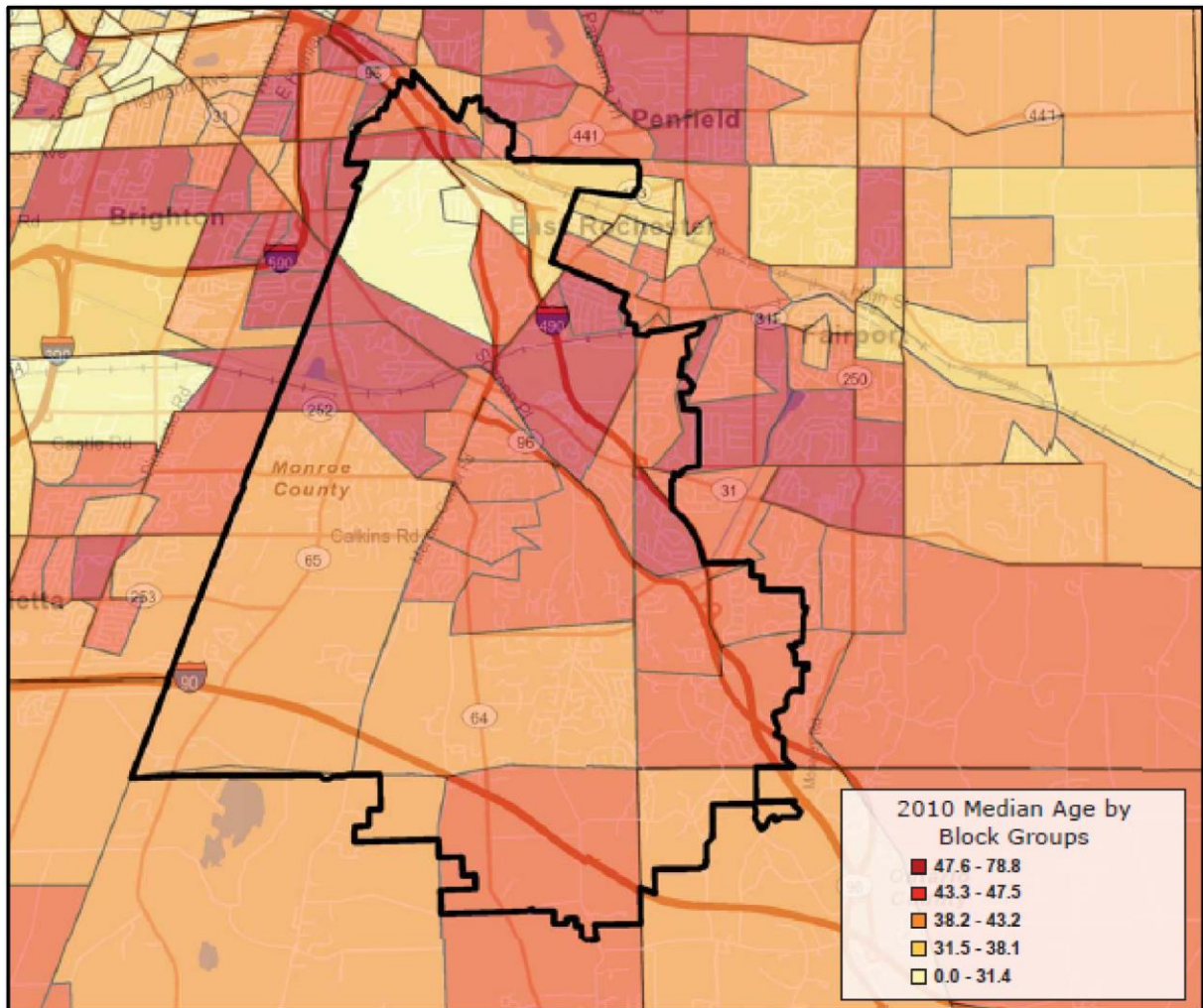
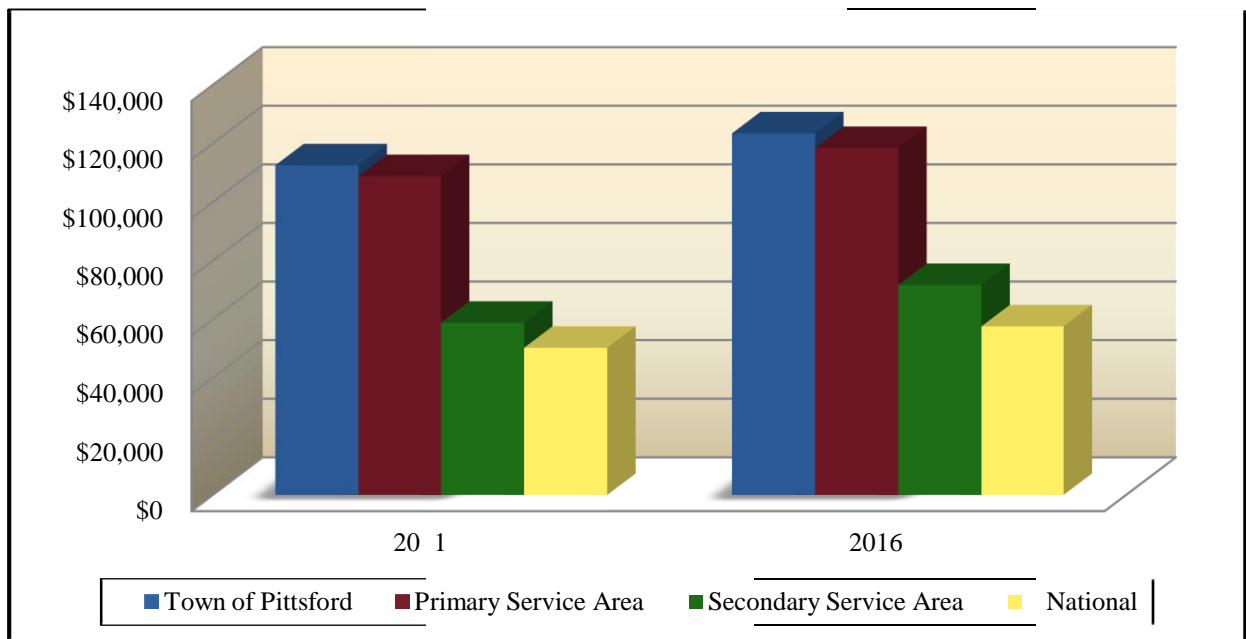


Table C – Median Household Income:

	2011 Estimate	2016 Projection
Town of Pittsford	\$112,509	\$123,415
Primary Service Area	\$108,814	\$118,433
Secondary Service Area	\$58,762	\$71,658
Nationally	\$50,227	\$57,536

Chart B – Median Household Income



Based upon 2011 projections the following narrative can be provided for each service area:

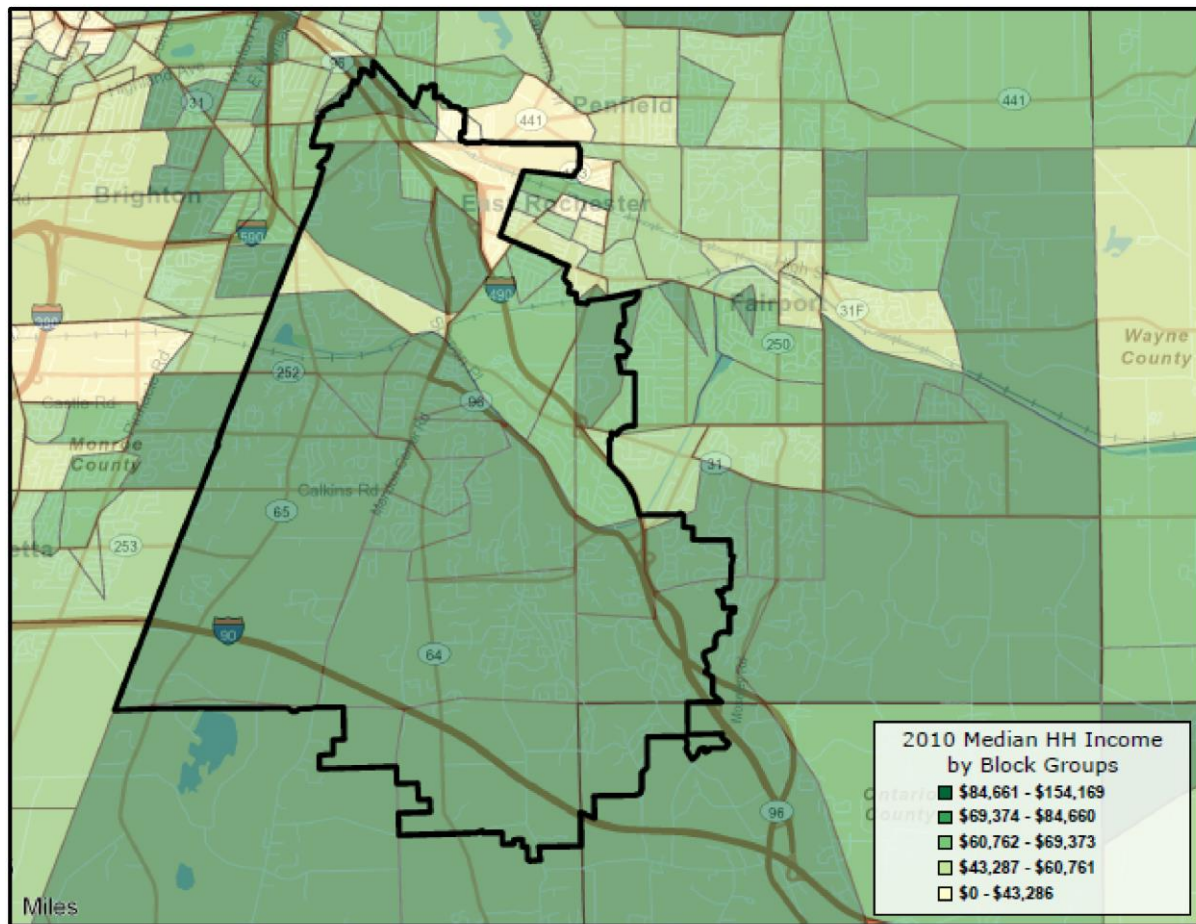
In the Town of Pittsford the percentage of households with median income over \$50,000 per year is 82.3% compared to 50.3% on a national level. Furthermore, the percentage of the households in the Town with median income less than \$25,000 per year is 6.4% compared to a level of 24.7% nationally.

In the Primary Service Area the percentage of households with median income over \$50,000 per year is 81.2% compared to 50.3% on a national level. Furthermore, the percentage of the households in the service area with median income less than \$25,000 per year is 6.9% compared to a level of 24.7% nationally.

In the Secondary Service Area the percentage of households with median income over \$50,000 per year is 57.9% compared to 50.3% on a national level. Furthermore, the percentage of the households in the service area with median income less than \$25,000 per year is 20.1% compared to a level of 24.7% nationally.

These statistics indicate there may be a significantly higher level of discretionary income within the Primary Service Area, but this information must be balanced with the cost of living.

Map B – 2010 Median Income by Census Block Group



In addition to taking a look at Median Age and Median Income, it is important to examine Household Budget Expenditures. In particular looking at housing information; shelter, utilities, fuel and public services along with entertainment & recreation can provide a snap shot into the cost of living and spending patterns in the services areas. The table below looks at that information and compares the service areas to the State of New York.

Table D – Household Budget Expenditures²

Town of Pittsford	SPI	Average Amount Spent	Percent
Housing	211	\$41,530.99	31.1%
Shelter	216	\$32,992.09	24.7%
Utilities, Fuel, Public Service	194	\$8,538.90	6.4%
Entertainment & Recreation	216	\$6,746.93	5.0%

Primary Service Area	SPI	Average Amount Spent	Percent
Housing	205	\$40,466.83	31.1%
Shelter	210	\$32,102.53	24.6%
Utilities, Fuel, Public Service	190	\$8,364.30	6.4%
Entertainment & Recreation	210	\$6,570.06	5.0%

Secondary Service Area	SPI	Average Amount Spent	Percent
Housing	125	\$24,662.21	31.1%
Shelter	126	\$19,257.26	24.3%
Utilities, Fuel, Public Service	123	\$5,404.95	6.8%
Entertainment & Recreation	124	\$3,881.85	4.9%

State of New York	SPI	Average Amount Spent	Percent
Housing	120	\$23,624.60	32.0%
Shelter	122	\$18,624.56	25.2%
Utilities, Fuel, Public Service	114	\$5,000.04	6.8%
Entertainment & Recreation	115	\$3,583.97	4.9%

SPI: Spending Potential Index as compared to the National number of 100.

Average Amount Spent: The average amount spent per household.

Percent: Percent of the total 100% of household expenditures. Note: Shelter along with Utilities, Fuel, Public Service are a portion of the Housing percentage.

² Consumer Spending data are derived from the 2004 and 2005 Consumer Expenditure Surveys, Bureau of Labor Statistics. ESRI forecasts for 2010 and 2015.

Chart C – Household Budget Expenditures Spending Potential Index

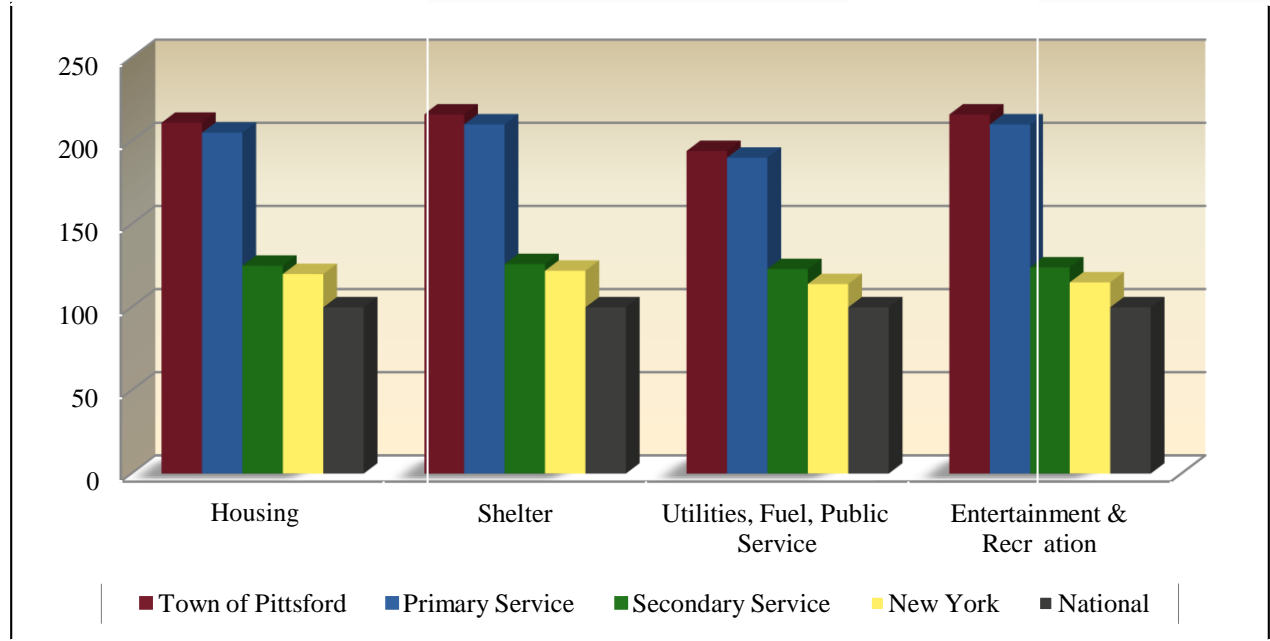


Chart-C, illustrates that the Household Budget Expenditures Spending Potential Index in the State of New York is higher than the National level indicating that as a state more dollars are being spent for those services as compared to a National level.

The Household Budget Expenditures Spending Potential Index of the Town of Pittsford and the Primary Service Area would indicate that the dollars being spent is significantly greater than what is being spent on a state level and a National level. This would indicate a higher cost of living in the Primary Service Area, but it must also be remembered that the median household income in the service area can support that cost of living.

It will be important to keep this information in mind when developing fee structure and looking at an appropriate cost recovery philosophy.

Recreation Expenditures Spending Potential Index: In addition to participation in recreation activities ESRI, the demographic provide that B*K uses also measures recreation expenditures in a number of different areas and then indexes this against national numbers. The following comparisons are possible.

Table E – Recreation Expenditures Spending Potential Index³

Town of Pittsford	SPI	Average Spent
Fees for Participant Sports	238	\$245.74
Fees for Recreational Lessons	258	\$341.13
Social, Recreation, Club Membership	254	\$403.23
Exercise Equipment/Game Tables	178	\$141.24
Other Sports Equipment	207	\$19.00

Primary Service Area	SPI	Average Spent
Fees for Participant Sports	231	\$238.88
Fees for Recreational Lessons	248	\$328.55
Social, Recreation, Club Membership	246	\$390.40
Exercise Equipment/Game Tables	173	\$137.22
Other Sports Equipment	202	\$18.50

Secondary Service Area	SPI	Average Spent
Fees for Participant Sports	125	\$129.13
Fees for Recreational Lessons	123	\$162.90
Social, Recreation, Club Membership	129	\$204.62
Exercise Equipment/Game Tables	100	\$79.74
Other Sports Equipment	122	\$11.19

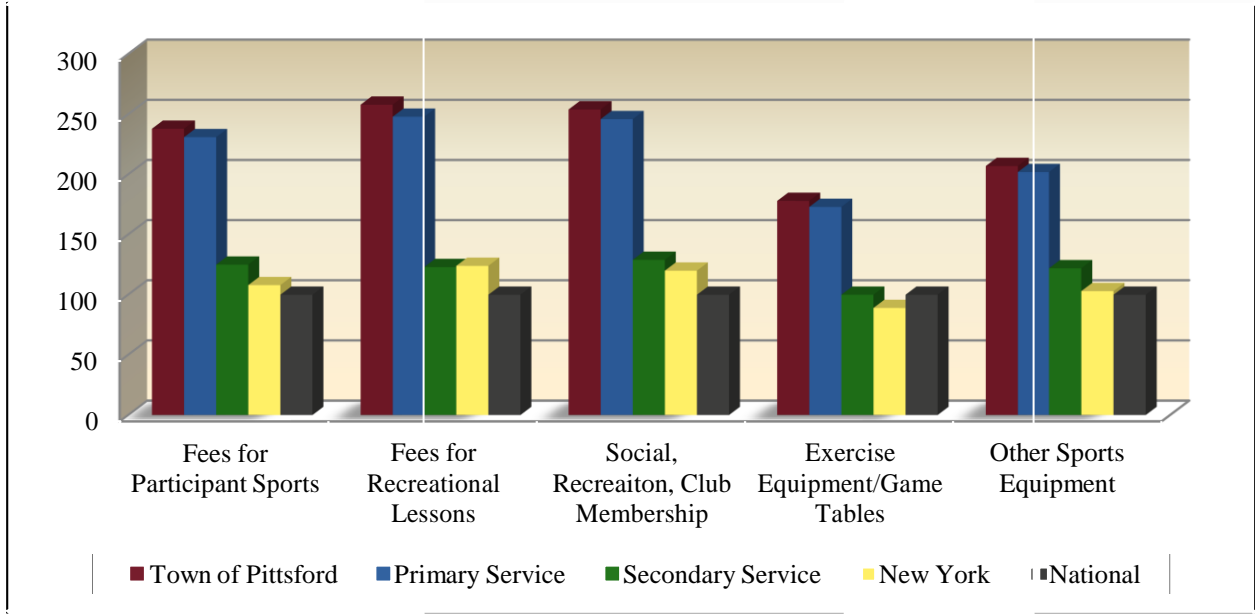
State of New York	SPI	Average Spent
Fees for Participant Sports	108	\$112.15
Fees for Recreational Lessons	124	\$164.65
Social, Recreation, Club Membership	120	\$191.34
Exercise Equipment/Game Tables	89	\$70.86
Other Sports Equipment	103	\$9.48

Average Amount Spent: The average amount spent for the service or item in a year.

SPI: Spending potential index as compared to the national number of 100.

³ Consumer Spending data are derived from the 2006 and 2007 Consumer Expenditure Surveys, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

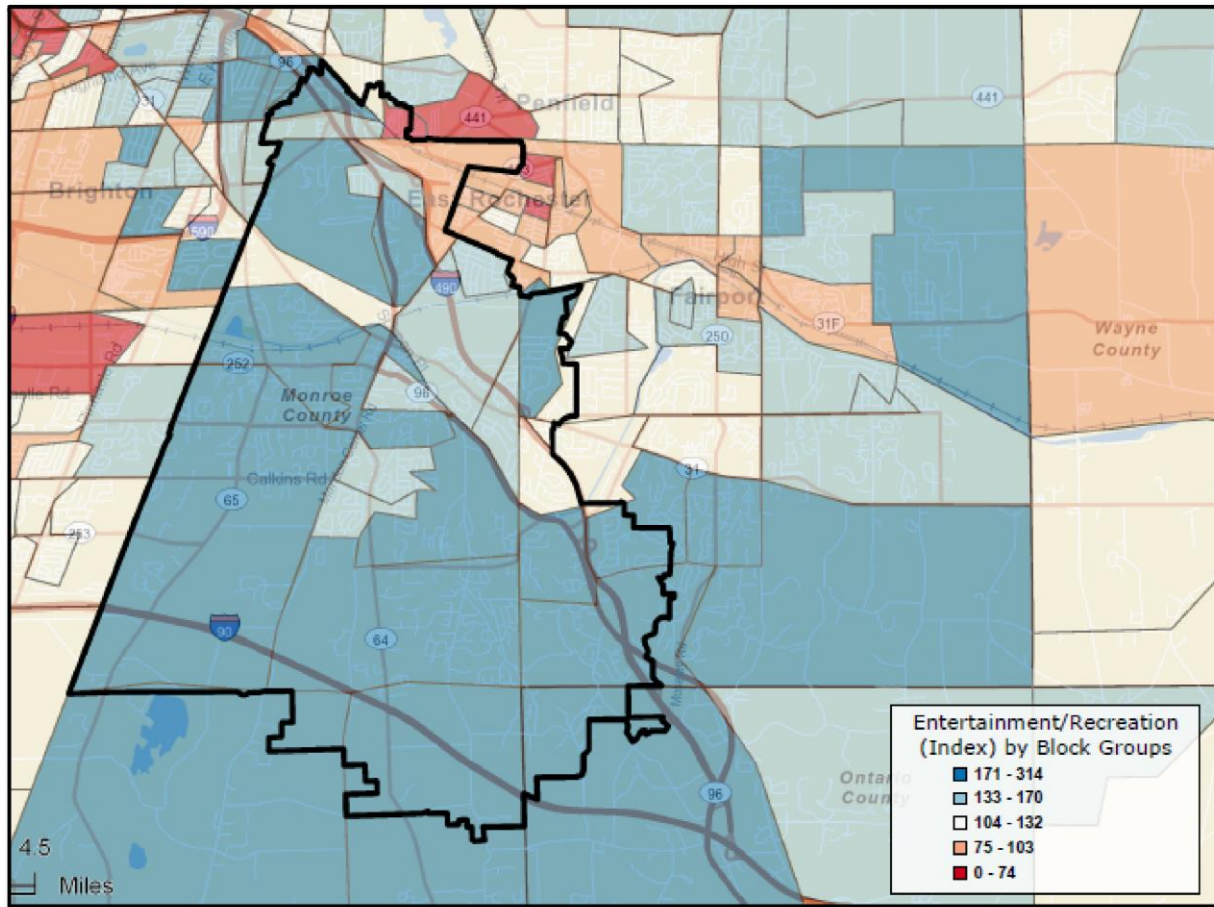
Chart D – Recreation Spending Potential Index



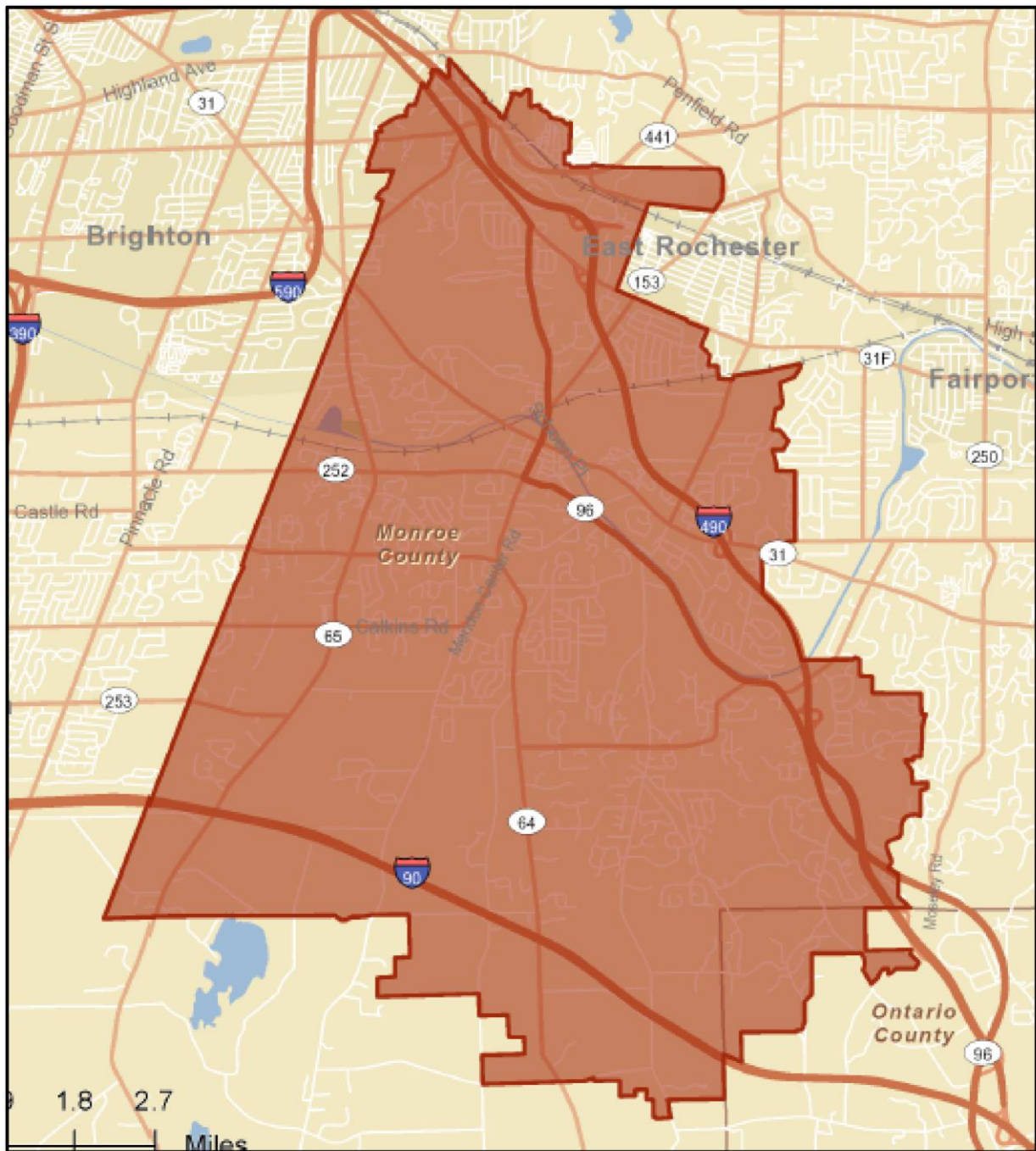
The SPI index indicates that in the Primary Service Area the rate of spending is significantly higher, almost double the state average and the National Spending Potential Index (SPI) of 100. This information is very important when determining a price point for activities and cost recovery philosophy.

It is also important to note that these dollars are currently being spent, so the identification of alternative service providers and the ability of another facility to capture a portion of these dollars will be important.

Map C – 2010 Entertainment & Recreation Spending by Census Tract



Map D – Primary Service Area Map



Population Distribution by Age: Utilizing census information for the Primary Service Area, the following comparisons are possible.

Table F – 2011 Primary Service Area Age Distribution
(ESRI estimates)

Ages	Population	% of Total	Nat. Population	Difference
-5	1,601	4.4%	6.5%	-2.1%
5-17	7,322	20.2%	17.6%	+2.6%
18-24	3,664	10.1%	9.8%	+0.3%
25-44	6,041	16.6%	26.6%	-10.0%
45-54	5,972	16.5%	14.5%	+2.0%
55-64	5,039	13.9%	12.0%	+1.9%
65-74	3,200	8.8%	7.2%	+1.6%
75+	3,455	9.5%	6.0%	+3.5%

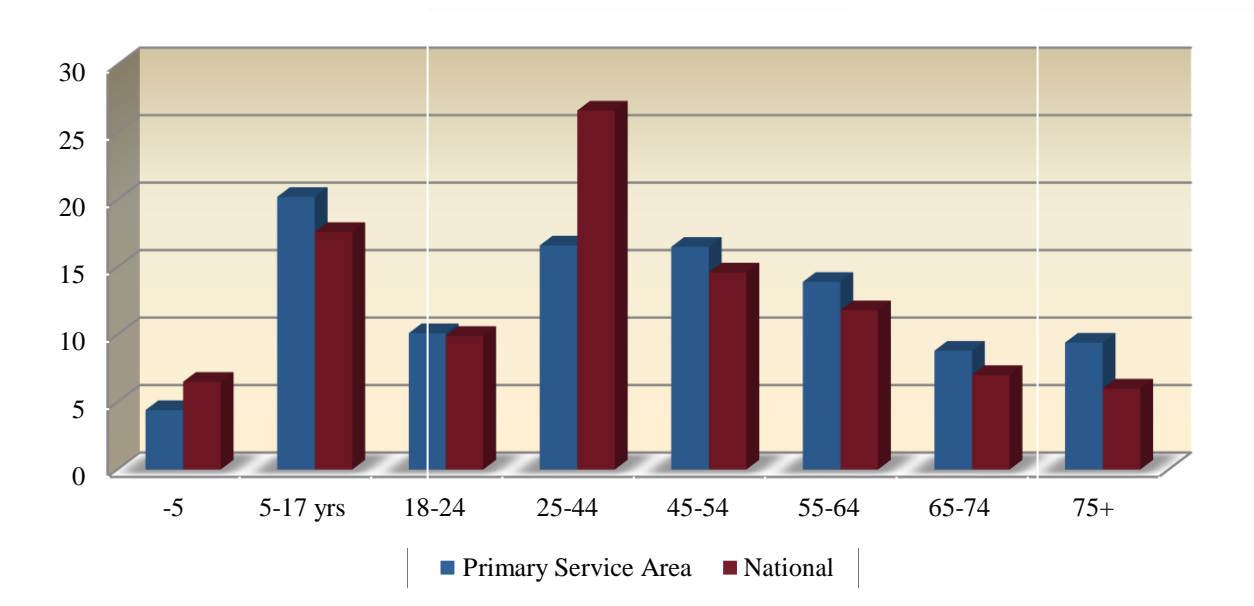
Population: 2011 census estimates in the different age groups in the Primary Service Area.

% of Total: Percentage of the Primary Service Area population in the age group.

National Population: Percentage of the national population in the age group.

Difference: Percentage difference between the Primary Service Area population and the national population.

Chart E – 2011 Primary Service Area Age Group Distribution



The demographic makeup of the Primary Service Area, when compared to the characteristics of the national population, indicates that there are some differences with an equal or larger population in the 5-17, 18-24, 45-54, 55-64 and 75+ age groups and a smaller population in the -5 and 25-44 age groups. The largest positive variance is in the 75+ age group with +3.5%, while the greatest negative variance is in the 25-44 age groups with -10%.

Population Distribution Comparison by Age: Utilizing census information from the Primary Service Area, the following comparisons are possible.

Table G – 2011 Primary Service Area Population Estimates

(U.S. Census Information and ESRI)

Ages	2010 Census	2011 Projection	2016 Projection	Percent Change	Percent Change Nat'l
-5	1,612	1,601	1,612	+0.0%	+3.4%
5-17	7,314	7,322	7,208	-1.4%	+1.6%
18-24	3,652	3,664	3,532	-3.3%	-0.9%
25-44	6,048	6,041	5,846	-3.3%	+2.7%
45-54	6,001	5,972	5,438	-9.4%	-6.1%
55-64	4,968	5,039	5,368	+8.1%	+11.8%
65-74	3,111	3,200	3,870	+24.4%	+28.6%
75+	3,432	3,455	3,615	+5.3%	+7.0%

Chart F – Primary Service Area Population Growth

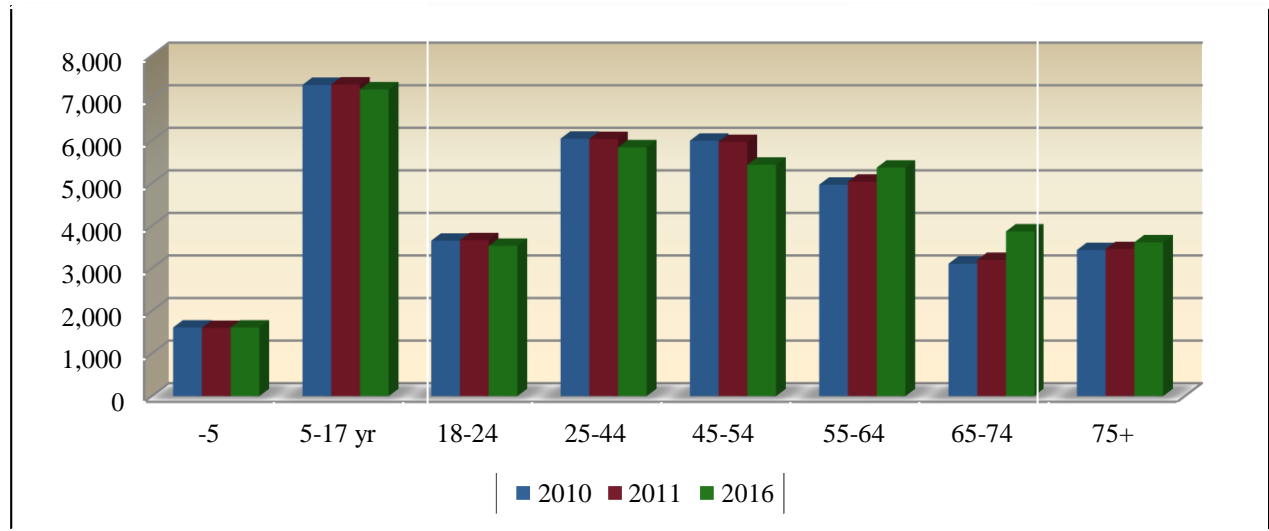


Table-G, illustrates the growth or decline in age group numbers from the 2010 census until the year 2016. It is projected that all of the age categories except 5-17, 18-24, 25-44 and 45-54 will see an increase in population or remain static. It must be remembered that the population of the United States as a whole is aging and it is not unusual to find negative growth numbers in the younger age groups and significant net gains in the 45 plus age groupings in communities which are relatively stable in their population numbers.

Below is listed the distribution of the population by race and ethnicity for the Primary Service Area based on 2011 Census Data.

Table H – Primary Service Area Ethnic Population and Median Age

(Source – U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI)

Ethnicity	Total Population	Median Age	% of Population	% of New York Population
Hispanic	819	21.4	2.3%	17.8%

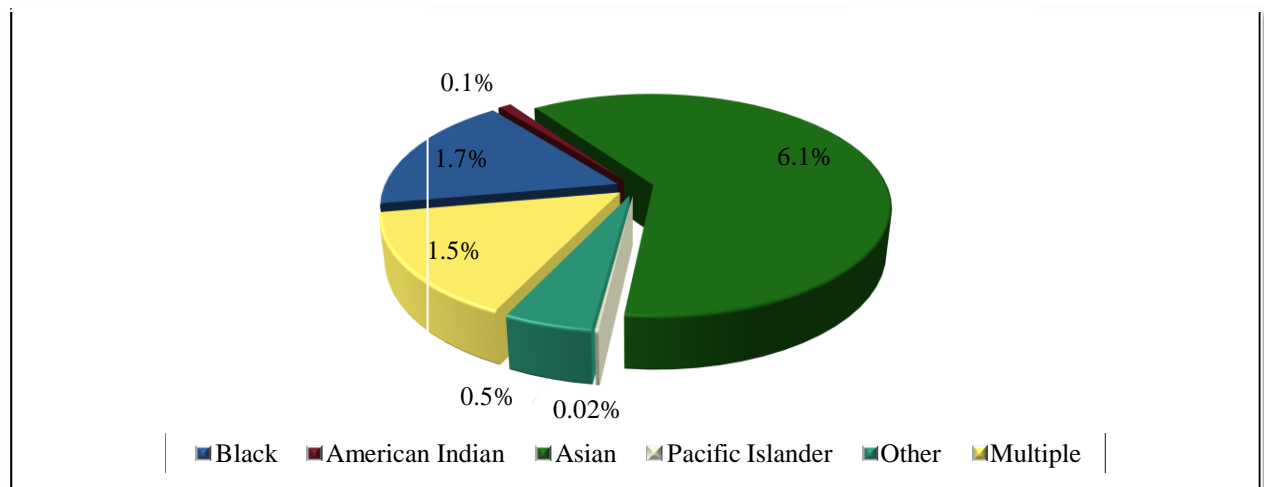
Table I – Primary Service Area Population by Race and Median Age

(Source – U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI)

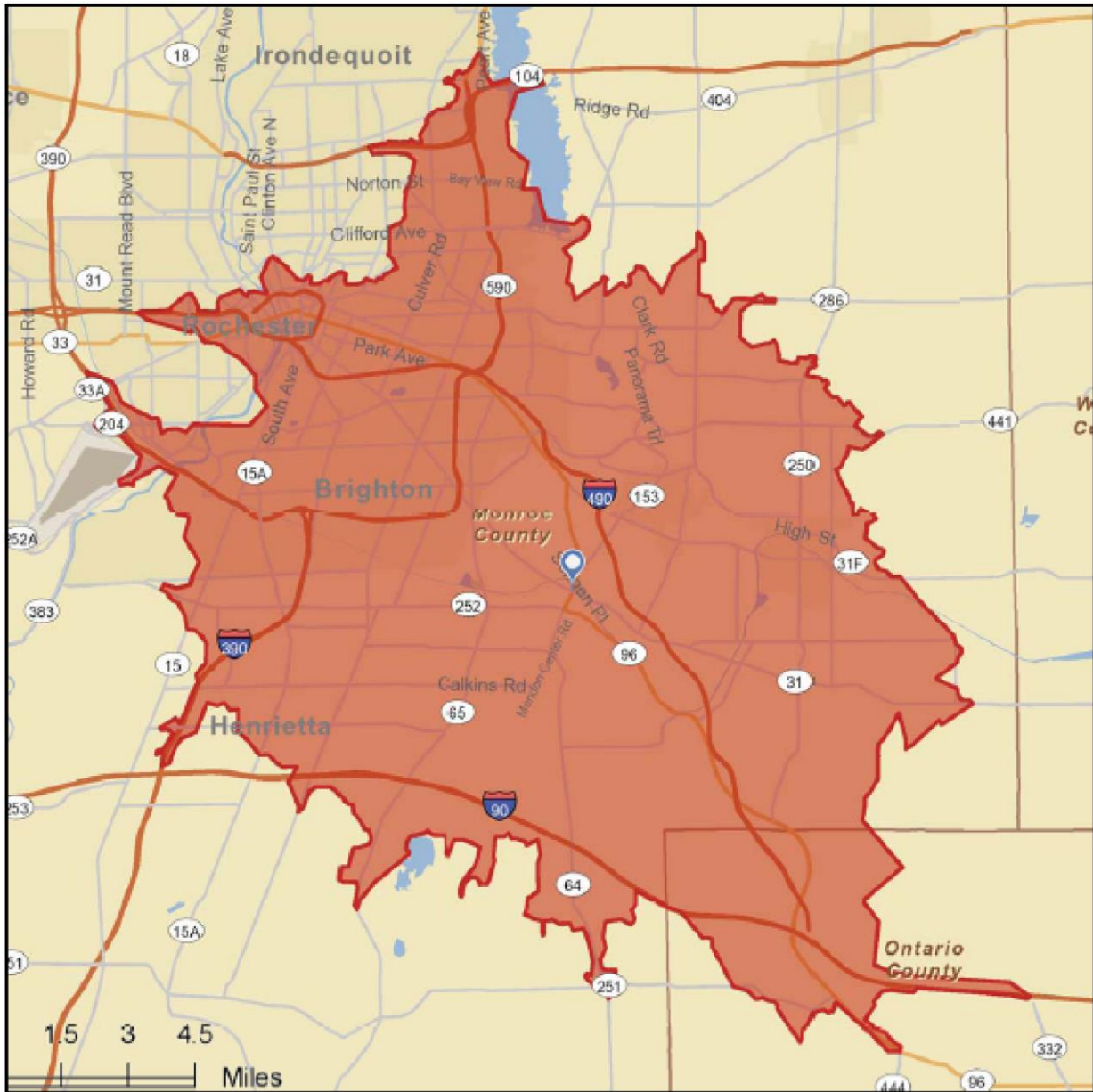
Ethnicity	Total Population	Median Age	% of Population	% of New York Population
White	32,688	45.0	90.1%	65.7%
Black	612	35.2	1.7%	15.9%
American Indian	42	27.5	0.1%	0.6%
Asian	2,215	39.0	6.1%	7.3%
Pacific Islander	6	37.5	0.02%	0.05%
Other	188	19.4	0.5%	7.5%
Multiple	546	15.9	1.5%	3.0%

2011 Primary Service Area Total Population: 36,297 Residents

Chart G – Primary Service Area Non-White Population by Race



Map E – Secondary Service Area Map



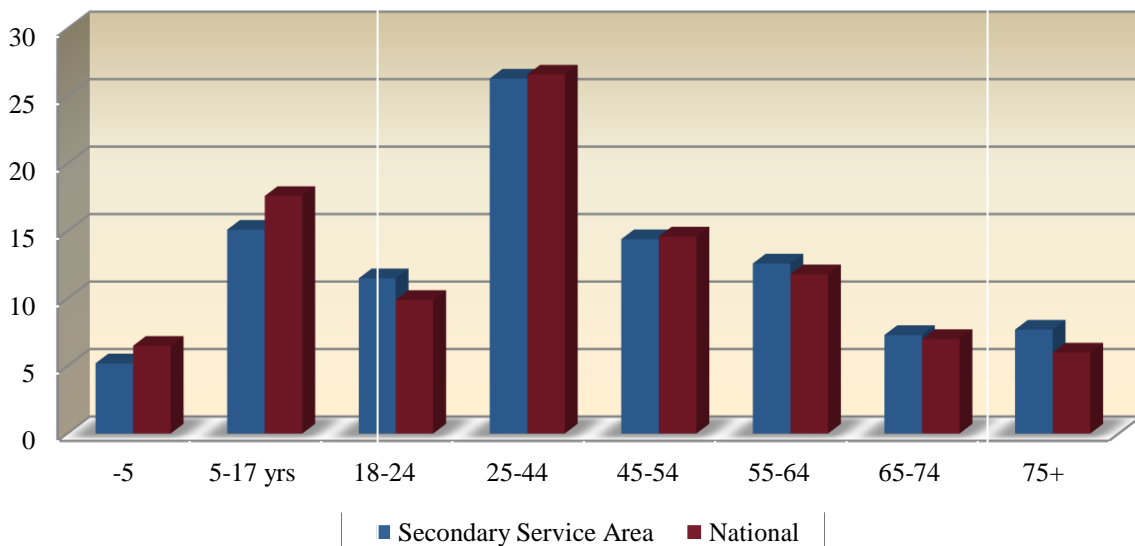
Population Distribution by Age: Utilizing census information for the Secondary Service Area, the following comparisons are possible.

Table J – 2011 Secondary Service Area Age Distribution
(ESRI estimates)

Ages	Population	% of Total	Nat. Population	Difference
-5	12,905	5.2%	6.5%	-1.3%
5-17	37,590	15.1%	17.6%	-2.5%
18-24	28,648	11.5%	9.8%	+1.7%
25-44	65,413	26.3%	26.6%	+0.3%
45-54	35,813	14.4%	14.5%	+0.1%
55-64	31,265	12.6%	12.0%	+0.6%
65-74	18,180	7.3%	7.2%	+0.1%
75+	19,136	7.7%	6.0%	+1.7%

Population: 2011 census estimates in the different age groups in the Secondary Service Area.
 % of Total: Percentage of the Secondary Service Area population in the age group.
 National Population: Percentage of the national population in the age group.
 Difference: Percentage difference between the Secondary Service Area population and the national population.

Chart H – 2011 Secondary Service Area Age Group Distribution



The demographic makeup of the Secondary Service Area, when compared to the characteristics of the national population, indicates that there are some differences with an equal or larger population in the 18-24, 25-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74 and 75+ age groups and a smaller population in the -5 and 5-17 age groups. The largest positive variance is in the 18-24 and 75+ age groups with +1.7%, while the greatest negative variance is in the 5-17 age groups with -2.5%.

Population Distribution Comparison by Age: Utilizing census information from the Secondary Service Area, the following comparisons are possible.

Table K – 2011 Secondary Service Area Population Estimates
(U.S. Census Information and ESRI)

Ages	2010 Census	2011 Projection	2016 Projection	Percent Change	Percent Change Nat'l
-5	13,077	12,905	12,991	+0.7%	+3.4%
5-17	37,692	37,590	36,862	-2.2%	+1.6%
18-24	28,522	28,648	27,587	-3.3%	-0.9%
25-44	65,636	65,413	64,517	-1.7%	+2.7%
45-54	36,102	35,813	32,646	-9.6%	-6.1%
55-64	30,932	31,265	33,233	+7.4%	+11.8%
65-74	17,791	18,180	21,895	+23.1%	+28.6%
75+	19,149	19,136	19,742	+3.1	+7.0%

Chart I – Secondary Service Area Population Growth

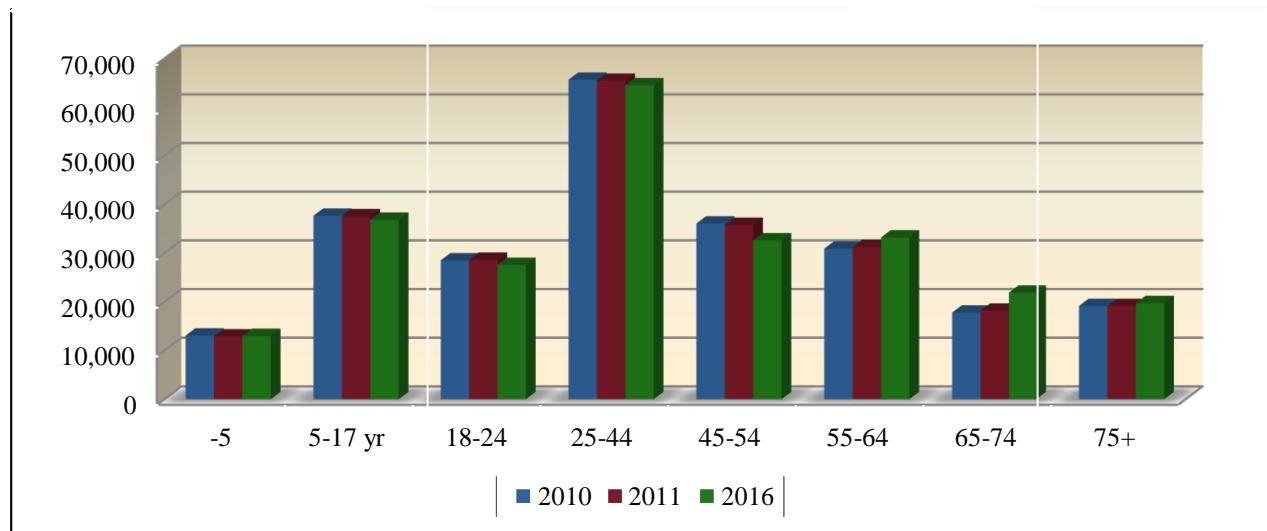


Table-K, illustrates the growth or decline in age group numbers from the 2010 census until the year 2016. It is projected that all of the age categories except 5-17, 18-24, 25-44 and 45-54 will see an increase in population. It must be remembered that the population of the United States as a whole is aging and it is not unusual to find negative growth numbers in the younger age groups and significant net gains in the 45 plus age groupings in communities which are relatively stable in their population numbers.

Below is listed the distribution of the population by race and ethnicity for the Secondary Service Area based on 2011 Census Data.

Table L – Secondary Service Area Ethnic Population and Median Age

(Source – U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI)

Ethnicity	Total Population	Median Age	% of Population	% of New York Population
Hispanic	13,674	25.6	5.5%	17.8%

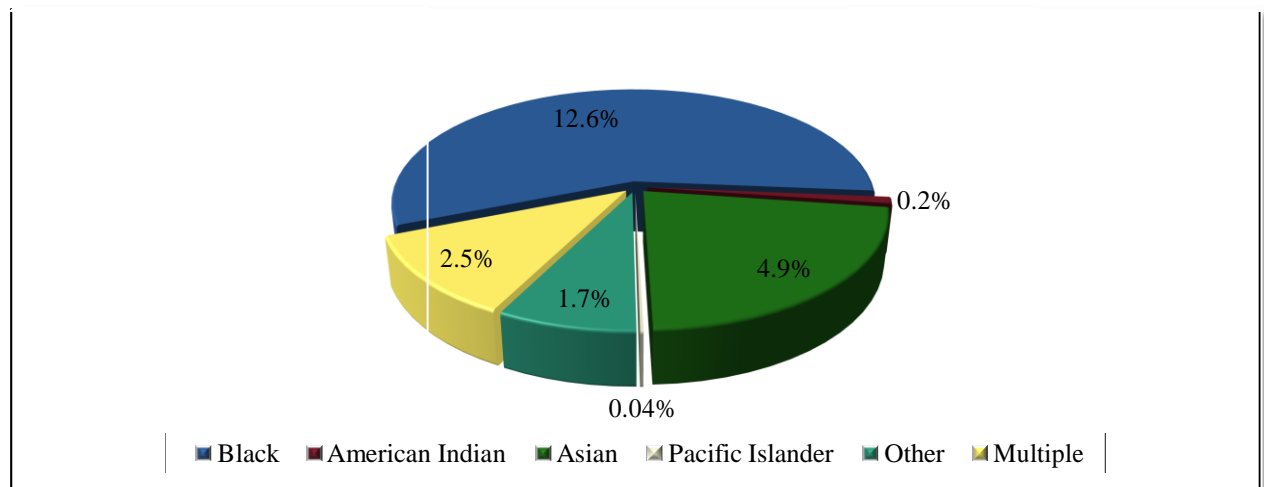
Table M – Secondary Service Area Population by Race and Median Age

(Source – U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI)

Ethnicity	Total Population	Median Age	% of Population	% of New York Population
White	194,187	42.0	78.0%	65.7%
Black	31,473	30.2	12.6%	15.9%
American Indian	579	33.2	0.2%	0.6%
Asian	12,112	29.8	4.9%	7.3%
Pacific Islander	101	24.6	0.04%	0.05%
Other	4,213	26.8	1.7%	7.5%
Multiple	6,284	18.3	2.5%	3.0%

2011 Secondary Service Area Total Population: 109,829 Residents

Chart J – Secondary Service Area Non-White Population by Race



Section II – Field Assessment Master Plan Update

Future Programs and Service Recommendations: These recommendations are specific to future actions that the Town should keep in mind when implementing their Parks Master Plan. The pages following the recommendations provide detailed data that support these recommendations.

School District Specific

- B*K would recommend that the reciprocal agreement that has existed in word only to this point between the Town and School District become a formal document that is reviewed on an annual or bi-annual agreement. This document should not only reflect priorities of use, but should also reflect responsibilities as it relates to costs associated with maintaining facilities.
 - It would be the expectation of B*K that the agreement outline what type of access the community will have to all current and future varsity fields both rectangles and diamonds. To date, any primarily varsity competition fields have not been available to the public in order to maintain a quality environment. With the introduction of turf to these facilities it should expand the availability of those fields to the community at large.
 - B*K would also recommend that a 5-10 year (and beyond) joint capital improvement plan be developed between the School District and the Town. It is not the intent of this recommendation that the School District pay for Town C.I.P. or vice versa, but that both entities efforts be coordinated in such a way to maintain maximum playable fields while also ensuring appropriate levels of maintenance be delivered to the end user.
 - Currently the Town and School District sit down together with the youth sports organizations; lacrosse and soccer to schedule their field use for competition. B*K would recommend that this practice continue. B*K would further recommend that the Town and School District require rosters from the youth sports organizations that identify coaches and athletes along with their residence and contact information. Priority in field scheduling should then be given to the groups with highest percentage of Pittsford residents participating in their program. Those teams and/or organizations that do not have a significant percentage of Pittsford residents should be allowed to reserve field space only after resident needs have been met.
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Town Specific

- It would be the recommendation of B*K that the Town move forward in developing TFP-1 into a turf field with stadium seating and lighting. It would also be the recommendation of B*K that the Town maintain scheduling rights to this facility and with the School District being a primary user of this space, they provide capital for the ongoing maintenance and capital improvement of this space.
 - As part of the inclusion of a turf stadium field on TFP-1 B*K would also recommend that the Town undertake a master planning effort for Thornell Farm Park proper. It is the opinion of B*K that other efficiencies and extended seasons may be gained by including either a second turf field that can be used as a rectangle and 2 diamonds or by converting the existing rectangles to enhanced fields. If either option was pursued, a Master Plan of that space would provide further direction and assure that all space is being utilized appropriately.
 - Along with the turf stadium field at TFP-1 the Town should explore the feasibility of installing a temporary dome over the playing surface to maximize usage of the space during winter months. The current rental rates being paid by the youth sports organizations could offset the operational costs of such a structure.
 - If Thornell Farm Park is going to continue to develop as more of an active athletic competition or sports park, B*K would recommend increasing the size of the building adjacent to TFP D-1 so that space can be provided for seasonal and/or part-time staff to monitor the activities at the park. Further, B*K would recommend that additional dollars be allocated so that the fields, Town and School District can be monitored on a more consistent basis to ensure that if sport specific play is required, that it is in fact being enforced.
 - B*K would recommend the purchase of portable pitching mounds for use at TFP so that those 40-60 fields could accommodate Little League. This is also an opportunity for the Town to go back to Little League and ask them to make the investment in their future use of the park.
 - It would be the recommendation of B*K that the Town adopt a field rental policy for competitions only and that the field rental rate be consistent with the School District as well.
 - When the upper portion of Great Embankment Park was developed, it was done so to accommodate the additional need for baseball. It would be the recommendation of B*K that GEP D-1 be maintained as a diamond that can be played in a 40-60 or 50-70
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configuration, this being accomplished by the availability of a portable pitching mound. B*K would also recommend that GEP D-2 be removed and that the green space beyond GEP D-1 be graded so that the green space can be used for additional rectangles on an as needed basis.

- B*K would recommend that the Town re-evaluate its sport specific field use policy in particular with the introduction of turf field and enhanced fields. With the introduction of turf to the overall inventory it would be in line with industry standards to allow diamond oriented use to access those spaces.
- B*K would strongly recommend looking at developing a Town-wide and School District-wide map that identifies “playable” green space. In all of the meetings with youth sports, a consistent topic was the ability to accommodate practice space. The development of a map that illustrated the playable spaces, dedicated and non-dedicated throughout the Town could in effect alleviate some of the concerns.

Participation Statistics:

Recreation and Sports Participation Statistics: On an annual basis the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) conducts an in-depth study and survey of how Americans spend their leisure time. This information provides the data necessary to overlay rate of participation onto the Primary Service Area to determine market potential.

Comparison With National Statistics: Utilizing information from the National Sporting Goods Association 2011 Survey and comparing them with the demographics from the Primary Service Area, the following participation projections can be made (statistics were compared based on age, household income, regional population and national population).

Table A – Recreation Activity Participation Rates for Primary Service Area

Activity	Age	Income	Region	Nation	Average
Baseball	4.4%	5.7%	5.8%	4.4%	5.1%
Bicycle Riding	14.5%	18.4%	11.7%	13.9%	14.6%
Exercise Walking	34.8%	40.1%	30.4%	34.6%	35.0%
Football	3.5%	2.5%	3.5%	3.2%	3.2%
Hiking	0.9%	17.5%	13.1%	13.9%	11.4%
Lacrosse	9.0%	1.8%	1.6%	1.0%	3.4%
Mtn-Biking (off-road)	1.9%	3.6%	2.2%	2.1%	2.5%
Running/Jogging	12.3%	16.6%	11.4%	13.8%	13.5%
Skateboarding	2.5%	2.1%	2.3%	2.4%	2.3%
Soccer	5.2%	6.5%	5.1%	5.0%	5.5%
Softball	3.5%	5.2%	4.1%	3.7%	4.1%
Tennis	4.4%	6.9%	5.2%	4.7%	5.3%

Age: Participation based on individuals ages 7 & Up of the Primary Service Area.
Income: Participation based on the 2011 estimated median household income in the Primary Service Area.
Region: Participation based on regional statistics (Mid-Atlantic).
National: Participation based on national statistics.
Average: Average of the four columns.

Anticipated Participation Numbers by Activity: Utilizing the average percentage from Table-A above plus the 2011 census information and census estimates for 2011 and 2016 (over age 7) the following comparisons can be made.

Table B – Participation Rates Primary Service Area

Activity	Average	2010 Part.	2011 Part.	2016 Part.	Difference
Baseball	5.1%	1,706	1,742	1,747	+41
Bicycle Riding	14.6%	4,908	5,013	5,027	+119
Exercise Walking	35.0%	11,741	11,993	12,025	+284
Football	3.2%	1,062	1,085	1,088	+26
Hiking	11.4%	3,812	3,894	3,904	+92
Lacrosse	3.4%	1,128	1,153	1,156	+27
Mtn-Biking (off-road)	2.5%	825	843	845	+20
Running/Jogging	13.5%	4,539	4,637	4,649	+110
Skateboarding	2.3%	781	798	800	+19
Soccer	5.5%	1,832	1,872	1,877	+44
Softball	4.1%	1,385	1,415	1,419	+34
Tennis	5.3%	1,778	1,816	1,821	+43

Note: The estimated participation numbers indicated above are for outdoor activities and activities that would utilize fields, both rectangles and diamonds within the Primary Service Area. While these numbers provide an estimate of the number of participants, they do not necessarily correlate to participation levels within various activities. That information must be obtained from the existing youth sports providers and other users of fields within the community.

Participation by Ethnicity and Race: Participation in sports activities is also tracked by ethnicity and race. The table below compares the overall rate of participation nationally with the rate for Hispanics and African Americans. Utilizing information provided by the National Sporting Goods Association's 2011 survey, the following comparisons are possible.

Table C – Comparison of National, African American and Hispanic Participation Rates

	Primary Service Area	National Participation	African American Participation	Hispanic Participation
Baseball	5.1%	4.4%	2.2%	7.8%
Bicycle Riding	14.6%	13.9%	8.4%	13.0%
Exercise Walking	35.0%	34.6%	28.2%	31.0%
Football	3.2%	3.2%	5.5%	6.3%
Hiking	11.4%	13.9%	2.2%	11.5%
Lacrosse	3.4%	1.0%	0.4%	4.1%
Mtn-Biking (off-road)	2.5%	2.1%	1.1%	4.0%
Running/Jogging	13.5%	13.8%	11.0%	15.9%
Skateboarding	2.3%	2.4%	2.2%	3.8%
Soccer	5.5%	5.0%	2.4%	9.9%
Softball	4.1%	3.7%	2.7%	5.5%
Tennis	5.3%	4.7%	2.9%	7.3%

Primary Service Part: The unique participation percentage developed for the Primary Service Area.

National Rate: The national percentage of individuals who participate in the given activity.

African American Rate: The percentage of African Americans who participate in the given activity.

Hispanic Rate: The percentage of Hispanics who participate in the given activity.

Based on the fact that there is not a significant Hispanic and Black population in the Primary Service Area those participation rates become less relevant to the impact on overall participation percentages.

Summary of Sports Participation: The following chart summarizes participation in both indoor and outdoor activities utilizing information from the 2011 National Sporting Goods Association survey.

Table D – Sports Participation Summary

Sport	Nat'l Rank ¹	Nat'l Participation (in millions)	Primary Service	Primary Service % Participation
Exercise Walking	1	97.1	1	35.0%
Bicycle Riding	6	39.1	2	14.6%
Hiking	7	39.1	4	11.4%
Running/Jogging	8	38.7	3	13.5%
Soccer	21	13.9	5	5.5%
Tennis	22	13.1	6	5.3%
Baseball	23	12.3	7	5.1%
Softball	28	10.4	8	4.1%
Football	33	9.0	10	3.2%
Skateboarding	36	6.6	12	2.3%
Mtn Biking (off-road)	39	6.0	11	2.5%
Lacrosse	51	2.7	9	3.4%

Nat'l Rank: Popularity of sport based on national survey.

Nat'l Participation: Percent of population that participate in this sport on national survey.

Primary Service %: Ranking of activities based upon average from Table-A.

Primary Service Rank: The rank of the activity within the Primary Service Area.

¹ This rank is based upon the 51 activities reported on by NSGA in their 2010 survey instrument.

Comparison of State Statistics with National Statistics: Utilizing information from the National Sporting Goods Association, the following charts illustrate the participation numbers in selected sports in the State of New York.

State of New York participation numbers in selected indoor and outdoor sports - As reported by the National Sporting Goods Association in 2011.

Table E – New York Participation Rates

Sport	New York Participation (in thousands) ²	Age Group	Largest Number
Exercise Walking	5,550	65-74	45-54
Bicycle Riding	2,316	7-11	7-11
Hiking	2,657	25-34	25-34
Running/Jogging	2,090	12-17	25-34
Soccer	1,150	7-11	7-11
Tennis	1,184	12-17	25-34
Baseball	121	7-11	7-11
Softball	977	7-11	25-34
Football	705	12-17	12-17
Skateboarding	552	7-11	12-17
Mtn-Biking (off-road)	0	18-24	25-34
Lacrosse	0	12-17	12-17

NY Participation: The number of people (in thousands) in New York who participated more than once in the activity in 2011 and are at least 7 years of age.

Age Group: The age group in which the sport is most popular or in other words, where the highest percentage of the age group participates in the activity. (Example: The highest percent of an age group that participates in exercise walking is 55-64.) This is a national statistic.

Largest Number: The age group with the highest number of participants. Example: The greatest number of exercise walkers is in the 45-54 age group. (Note: This statistic is driven more by the sheer number of people in the age group than by the popularity of the sport in the age span.) This is a national statistic.

² The chart illustrates “0” participants in Lacrosse and Mtn-Biking within the State of New York, in this particular instance there was not data reported to the NSGA about these activities.

New York sport percentage of participation compared with the population percentage of the United States:

New York's population represents 6.2% of the population of the United States (based on 2011 Estimates).

Table F – New York Participation Correlation

Sport	Participation Percentages
Softball	9.4%
Tennis	9.0%
Skateboarding	8.4%
Soccer	8.3%
Football	7.8%
Hiking	6.8%
Bicycle Riding	5.9%
Exercise Walking	5.7%
Running/Jogging	5.4%
Baseball	1.0%
Mtn Biking (off-road)	0.0%
Lacrosse	0.0%

Note: Sports participation percentages refer to the total percent of the national population that participates in a sport that comes from the State of New York's population. The fact that the rate of participation is equal to or greater in 6 of the 12 activities listed indicates a great rate of participation.

Map A – Town of Pittsford & School District Facilities:

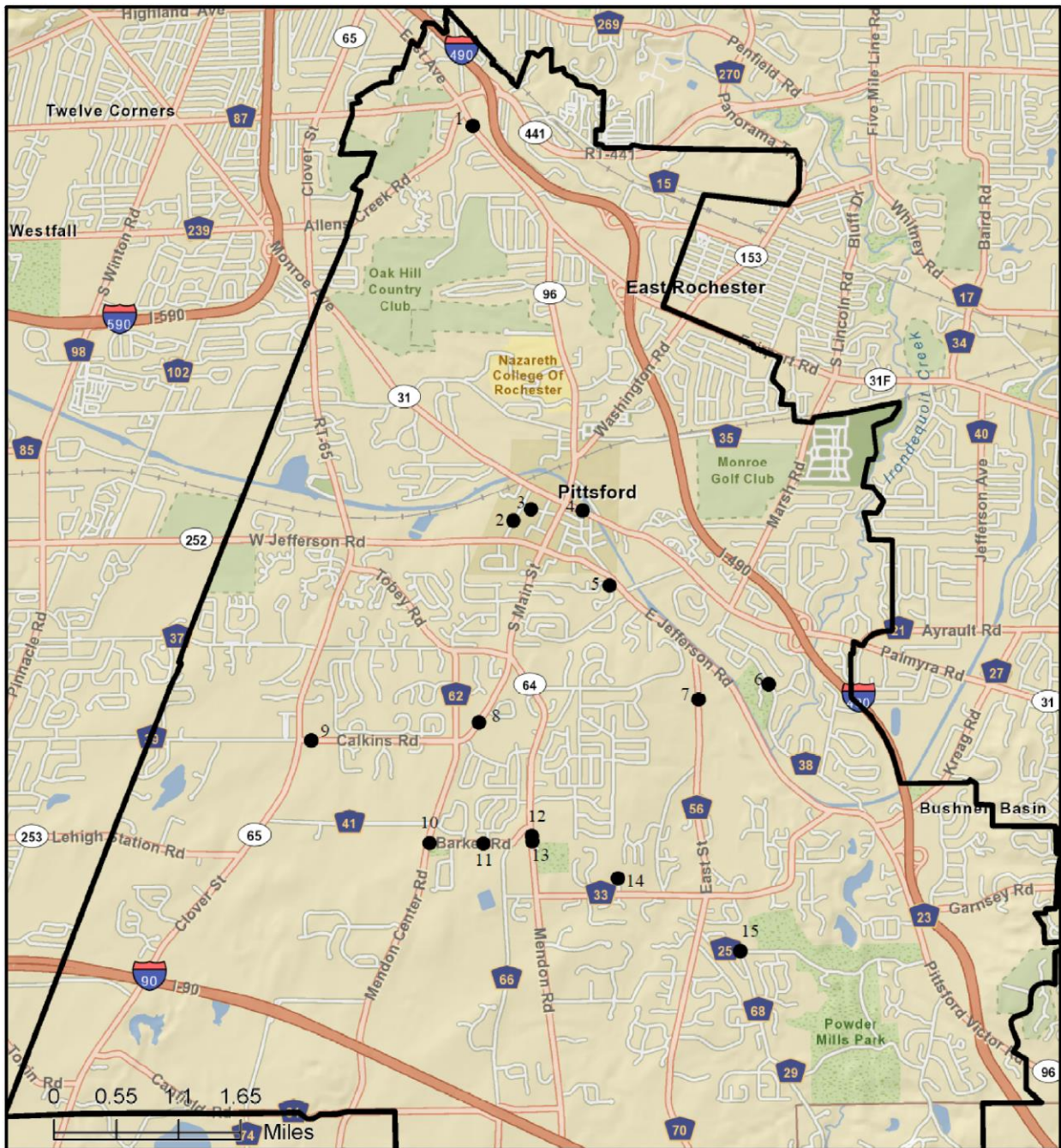


Table G – Town & School District Facility Assets:

	Facility	Rectangle	Baseball	Softball	Tennis	Gym	Pool
1	Allen Creek Elem.	X				X	
2	Sutherland H.S.	X	X	X	X	X	X
3	Spiegel Center	X				X	
4	Pittsford Library						
5	Jefferson Rd. Elem.	X		X		X	
6	Great Embankment Park	X	X				
7	Habecker Fields		X				
8	Mendon Center Elem.	X	X			X	
9	Calkins Rd. Middle	X		X	X	X	X
10	Hopkins Park	X					
11	Barker Rd. Middle	X		X	X	X	X
12	Mendon H.S.	X	X		X	X	X
13	Thornell Farm Park	X		X	X		
14	Thornell Rd. Elem.	X				X	
15	Park Road Elem.	X				X	

There are a number of facilities that reside within the Primary Service Area that are not illustrated on this map. Those are:

- Bob Ford Fields. This facility has 2 baseball fields, but is scheduled and maintained by the Little League Association.
- Nazareth College. The college has a field-turf practice facility and a natural grass stadium facility. In addition they have indoor health, wellness and recreation opportunities for students.
- St. John Fisher College. The college has both a field-turf stadium facility and a natural grass stadium facility. In addition they have indoor health, wellness and recreation opportunities for students.

It should be noted that there are times when the School District and Pittsford Youth Football have utilized the college facilities, but neither the School District or the Town have any responsibility for scheduling and/or maintaining those facilities.

Athletic Field Market Constraints:

- The community and youth sports providers view all of the fields within the community as community assets and as such there is little to no differentiation between what the Town and School District is responsible for. As the community members are already paying taxes there is a general feeling that there is a lack of attention being paid to the fields and that they are somehow being short-changed with regards to the overall inventory and care of those facilities.
 - The participants in youth sports activities travel the greater Rochester area and Upstate New York to participate in various events and from that, there is a great deal of facility envy that develops. That relates back to questions of why communities with significantly less taxes and/or median household income are able to afford “better” or “more” indoor and outdoor facilities.
 - The youth sports organizations along with the school district are primary users of fields within the primary service area. As such, the Town has become more of a purveyor and allocator of fields. The youth sports organizations have seen tremendous growth during that time and subsequently there has been limited expansion of Town fields.
 - While the school district has seen expansion of field space and indoor spaces with the addition of a new middle school, expansion of Sutherland H.S. and renovation of Mendon H.S. those new facilities have been largely used by school based program. Subsequently there is minimal time for the general public, youth sports and the Recreation Department to utilize those indoor and outdoor spaces.
 - Because of the weather that exists in Upstate New York there is a regulation that keeps groups from utilizing outdoor spaces until May 1 and eliminates use of those facilities as of October 1. With this truncated time frame, the amount of use fields receive from May 1 through July 1 creates an environment where it is very difficult, if not impossible for the Town and School District to properly maintain those outdoor spaces.
 - When facilities, indoor and outdoor do undergo significant maintenance or are taken off-line there is a greater focus on the potentially limited resources that the community has, which re-emphasizes the facility envy that many community members have.
 - While the relationship between the Town and the School District is healthy, there are challenges in that the maintenance schedule for indoor spaces and fields is not coordinated between the two groups.
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- Through conversation with the youth sports groups it would appear that almost all competitive events, utilizing both rectangles and diamond can be accommodated. However, major issues still exist in the area of accommodating practice times in appropriate spaces and if any field spaces are taken off-line for maintenance and/or renovation it creates a significant negative impact upon allocating fields for competition and practice.
 - All youth sports organizations have continued to grow at an exponential rate, despite a lack of growth of new indoor and outdoor spaces.

Athletic Fields Market Opportunities:

- In conversations with the youth sports groups and other users of indoor and outdoor spaces there is a great deal of support with regards to the re-emphasis of maintenance and upkeep of those spaces.
 - Also in conversation with the youth sports group they were very accepting of the concept of paying a field rental fee. The School District already assesses a lining fee for the use of their fields so the one caveat these groups expresses is that the charges be consistent between the Town and the School District. However, the expectations and demands of the youth sports groups will change as rental fees are imposed.
 - Within the list of constraints it was indicated that there is not a coordinated effort of maintenance between the indoor and outdoor spaces. While that is a reality, the positive relationship between the School District and Town would indicate that creating consistency between the two organizations is a reality that could be achieved with a focused group effort.
 - Both the Town and School District are currently undertaking studies to determine how their respective facilities could be better utilized in order to accommodate the groups that currently use facilities.
 - Because of the high level of involvement from the youth sports organizations there is an opportunity to “partner” with them on long term improvements as it relates to field development and field maintenance. This is evident in how the little league group handles the Bob Ford Fields and their involvement in the maintenance and development of the Habecker Fields. Additionally the Mustangs Youth Soccer organization has invested in fields on school district and Town property.
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- With the potential development of a stadium-like field-turf facility at Thornell Farm Park, there is an opportunity to develop that location into more of a sports complex. While the School District has invested into Field #3 for their softball programs there is an opportunity to look at the complete re-orientation and re-grading of the space to accommodate more/better field space.
 - Most of the youth sports organizations are at a point where they are not interested or able to continue to grow their programs beyond the current enrollment. The exception to that is in the area of youth lacrosse, which is still realizing exponential growth.
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School District Stakeholder Meeting:

The Pittsford School District was a primary stakeholder that B*K met with in this process and their recently completed study of field use is a primary factor in the Town choosing to update their Master Plan as it relates to fields. To that end, it is important to outline the discussions had and historical relationship between the Town and School District to provide framework for moving forward and for recommendation purposes.

- The School District and Town have long maintained a reciprocal agreement for facility use with the Town receiving first priority of the School District's facilities and the School District receiving first priority of the Town's facilities.
- At one point the Town functioned as the provider of insurance and as a "bank" for many of the athletic coaches and their ability to offer off-season camps. This relationship further enhanced the need for the aforementioned reciprocal agreement. However as insurance has become cheaper and with the formation of booster clubs for athletic teams the Town has functioned less and less in this role.
- As a function of the study the School District commissioned on field use there were approximately 3,034 School District events and approximately 2,255 community events that took place on a combination of primarily School District and some Town parks. While this represents a huge number of activities taking place on these pieces of property it is important to note that very few, if any of the community events were Town sponsored events.
- The primary School District facilities that the Town uses are 1 of the 4 pools to support their year around aquatics program and 1 elementary school location to support their summer fun program.
- As part of the recommendation of the School District's study it was indicated that the addition of turf fields to the School District inventory would alleviate some of the overuse of the current grass fields. The School District's initial plan was to install 1 turf field at Sutherland H.S., 1 turf field at the current stadium location at Mendon H.S. and an additional turf field behind Mendon H.S. The Town recognizing some of the challenges of the additional field behind Mendon H.S. has offered another option of converting TFP-1 into a turf field with stadium seating and lights. This again points to the collaborative nature of the relationship between the Town and School District.

While B*K recognizes the positive working relationship between the School District and the Town the number one concern that B*K has with regards to the development of a turf field on

TFP-1 to be used as a primary stadium field for the School District, is access. Both the Town and the School District need to look at all of the fields within the inventory as community assets.

Youth Sports Stakeholder Input & Assessment:

As part of the overall process of updating the master plan, in particular addressing field use B*K met with the primary users of School District and Town fields to discuss the current state of their programs, unmet needs and also future demand. For each group there are some specific notes but some general statements can be made about the youth sports groups:

- With many of these youth sports groups traveling to different communities in the greater Rochester area there is very much a feeling of facility envy. That is to say many of the participants and parents of participants look at what other communities have for athletic facilities and ask the question, “Why do we not have something of that nature in Pittsford?” The answer to that question may be as varied as the different funding mechanisms for the facilities, irrespective of that it is an issue that both the Town and School District face.
 - When talking about needs and service gaps for field use it was acknowledged by most groups that the issue has less to do with accommodating competition and more to do with accommodating practices. To date, both the Town and School District have maintained that they will issue permits for competitions, but practices will be addressed on a first come first serve basis.
 - There has been a movement by the Town and School District to ensure that appropriate activities take place in appropriate spaces, which is to say sports that need rectangles should use appropriate spaces and sports that need diamonds should use appropriate spaces. From the feedback B*K received it sounds as though there are still groups using inappropriate spaces for practices, which could lead to safety concerns if not addressed.
 - All of the youth sports organizations acknowledged the fact that the bulk of the fields in the Town and School District inventory could use an increase in the level of maintenance that they receive. However, they were also quick to point out that taking of fields, rectangles or diamonds offline would create an even larger gap and greater challenge in accommodating competitions and practices.
 - Currently the School District charges a “lining fee” for use of their fields. When they were asked their feeling on the appropriateness of a facility “rental” fee being applied to fields so that additional dollars were available for maintenance almost all groups accepted such a fee as commonplace and would simply pass that cost on to the end user.
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- Almost all of the groups indicated that they are renting indoor facility space outside of the Town of Pittsford and School District boundaries. In total there is approximately \$200,000 being spent to rent these facilities. All groups indicated that their preference would be to keep these dollars within the community but there is currently not a provider with appropriate facilities to rent.
 - There was a general feeling in particular from the baseball groups that “nothing new” has been done with Town field facilities and that they are the same as they were 20 years ago. While many of the fields are in their original location as part of the School District improvement plan and with the addition of the upper portion of Great Embankment Park School District properties have been streamlined to maximize playing surfaces and the Town has added 60-90 baseball diamonds.
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The Town and School District provide field space for many local sport organizations that serve the residents of Pittsford and surrounding area. Important issues with the sports organizations include:

Baseball

Meetings with the baseball associations serving the Pittsford area involved representatives from the Pittsford Little League, Rayson-Miller Legion Team and Panthers. The groups indicated there is a need for about 1,000 games slots per year not including practice. There was a strong push from the baseball organizations for the Town to add more fields to the park facilities inventory or at the very least, making improvements to the Great Embankment Park fields to accommodate more game and practice times. The organizations represent about 1,276 players under age of 19. Statistically speaking, based on data from NSGA, the 1,276 players represent about 120% of market potential. It should be noted that NSGA reports that participation in baseball has dropped about 21% over the past ten years. This statistical information suggests that the baseball program is fully saturated in the Pittsford market and the fact that interest in playing baseball is declining in the U.S. This raises a legitimate question from a statistical perspective that the need for more baseball fields, beyond improvements to Great Embankment Park, is not supported statistically.

The Pittsford Little League reported a significant drop-off in participation in the 13 year old age group. It should be noted that this is a national trend and to that Little League has adopted an additional field dimension (50-70) in recent years to assist in reaching participants that might otherwise stop participation in baseball at 13 years of age. To that end, Pittsford Little League had a keen interest in a field with these dimensions either being added to the inventory or at the very least one of the current fields modified.

Soccer

B*K met with representatives from the Mustang Soccer Association and Pittsford Untied Adult League, while the Hawks Soccer Association was invited to the table to discuss the topic at hand, they did not have representation present. The Mustangs serve about 1,600 players while the adult league has about 140 participants in the Pittsford area. Participation has been consistent over the past few years. The Hawk's Soccer club did not respond to the invitation to participate and information on participation numbers is not available. The NSGA statistics indicate that the market potential in the Pittsford area is about 1,622 players. This information suggests that participation in soccer is reaching a saturation point. The Mustang's indicated that they have about 20-30 game slots per year that they are unable to fill. This unmet demand for field space for games could be eliminated with a synthetic Turf field with access to lighting.

It was also indicated to B*K that there have been times where Mustang teams have had games cancelled by official due to the unplayable nature of the designated game field. Further when these games were cancelled the club incurred a fine. In a follow-up conversation with a representative from the Mustangs, it was indicated that this happens on an infrequent basis and when it has happened it has not been on Town fields, but rather School District fields. The point of the follow-up conversation with the Mustangs was not to assign blame, but to identify how frequently this is happening and where.

Lacrosse

Representatives from Pittsford Lacrosse reported that participation in Lacrosse is growing. Currently the program serves about 500 players. The K-6grade program has increased from 100 participants in 2006 to a level of 300 participants in 2011. Without more access to fields the Lacrosse program will be forced to limit participants at about 360 players in the K-6 program. Statistically speaking Lacrosse has only reached about 50% of its capacity in Pittsford. It should be noted that lacrosse is an emerging sport with national participation growing about 125% over the past ten years. The existing inventory of field space cannot accommodate the growth in lacrosse and the program will be faced with having to go outside the community for field space to meet the program demands within the near future or this growing demand could be met with the expanded playability of a synthetic turf field.

Football

The Pittsford Football program serves about 230 players in the Pittsford area and report a waiting list of about 15 players. The football program cannot expand until they have enough players to field three more teams (going from 6 teams to 9 teams) or about 70-75 players. Participation in football has remained strong as Pittsford has more teams than neighboring communities that compete in the same league. Applying the NSGA statistics indicate that football has reached about 40% of its market potential in Pittsford and nationally, participation in football has increased a modest 15% over the past 10 years but experienced a 4% decrease in participation between 2010 and 2011. This downward trend could possibly continue given the exposure and concerns being raised over concussions and the long term effect on athletes. Currently the Football program is utilizing School District facilities for practices and games. The football program indicated that the School District fields handle their basic needs but finding space for make-up games is a problem, especially during the week. The program indicated a desire for a 50-yard field for practice and scrimmage support.

NRPA and SCORP Standards: Since 1993 the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has published a Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guideline publications to assist communities in developing park and recreation plans. In addition, the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) establishes standards that provide guidelines and suggested requirement based on an approximate number of acres needed to support the recreation demands for a community based on a scale of per 1,000 in population. The New York Office of Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation developed the SCORP guidelines through researching various recreation activities and canvassing other governmental agencies that provide recreation activities. These standards can be used as a benchmark for the Town of Pittsford in determining the need for additional recreation facilities.

Table H – SCORP Standards

Facility Type	Max user Density	Standard per 1,000 Pop.	Comments
Field Games	15 users/acre	3 acres/1,000	May be provided through off-peak use of school facilities
Basketball Courts	6 users/court	1 court/1,000	
Swimming Pool	1 user/25 sq. ft.	750 sq. ft./1,000	No delineation between an indoor or outdoor pool
Tennis Courts	4 users/court	1 court/1,000	

Overlaying the SCORP standards to the inventory of field space in Pittsford allows for the following comparison

Table I – SCORP w/ Pittsford Overlay

Facility Type	SCORP Standard	Pittsford Inventory	Difference
Field Games	88.5 acres	98 acres*	+9.5 acres
Basketball Courts	29.5 courts	14 courts**	-15.5 courts
Swimming Pool	22,125 SF	12,800 SF	-9,325 SF
Tennis Courts	29.5 courts	31 courts	+1.5 courts

*Based on 2 T-ball fields and 4 Little League fields at an estimate of 1 acre each, 7 baseball fields at an estimate of 3 acres each, 7 softball fields at an estimate of 2 acres each, 20 regulation soccer/lacrosse fields at an estimate of 2 acres each and 12 non-regulation soccer/lacrosse fields at an estimate of 1.5 acres each.

** Does not include outdoor courts

*** Based on an estimate of 3,200Sf per pool

Comparing the Town of Pittsford existing inventory of recreation facilities to the SCORP Standards suggest that the Town has done a good job in meeting the recreation needs of the community, especially for field space. However, it should be noted that the overlay of SCORP Standards onto the Town of Pittsford is just one tool in determining the overall recreation needs in a community. However, the stakeholder meetings and data collected from the youth sports organization support the notion that the Town is meeting their program needs today with the exception of 20-30 soccer games slots per year and making the necessary improvements to the Great Embankment Park to bring the fields up to a playing level.

Recreation Facilities and Parks Assessment: The Town of Pittsford has a substantial number of parks that have passive and active use elements as well as organized sports amenities. While there are a considerable number of playing fields there is a limit to the number of teams and programs that can be served, especially youth. The Town has limited indoor recreation space and this has resulted in strong use of school facilities in the community as well as other private and non-profit facilities. The overall lack of indoor recreation space has also significantly limited the number of indoor recreation activities that the Town of Pittsford can offer.

Field Need Summary – The following summarizes basic field use by community organizations as reported by the Town and School District.

Groups	Field Demand
Town Reservations	3,098 hours
School District Reservations	7,933 hours
Total Demand	11,031 hours
Existing Inventory ³	29,640 hours

* Calculations based on 3 hours/evening on week nights and 12 hours/week end day totaling 39 hours per week per field. Total hours per field multiplied by 38 fields (20 rectangles and 18 ballfields).

Although the perception is that there is a shortage of field space in the Town of Pittsford it appears that most all of the demand for game space is being accommodated between the Town and School District. In contrast the information gathered from the individual sport organization indicated a shortage of field space. This leads to the conclusion that the existing inventory of fields is put under tremendous scheduling stress during a relatively short period of time.

³ This is both Town and School District combined.

The table above indicates that the occupancy rate and demand for the existing field inventory is only about 37% of capacity over the course of a 20 week season. Staggering the individual sport seasons could help reduce the peak demand for field space in May and June.

Future Field Maintenance

A key point of discussion with the youth sports groups was the maintenance of the fields that are used for games. In the summer of 2011 there was a total of approximately \$114,150 spent for maintenance between the fields at the Spiegel Community Center, Thornell Farm Park, Great Embankment Park and Hopkins Park with Thornell Farm Park consuming the majority of the resources. In this context it is important to understand that those dollars account for maintenance hours both salaried and seasonal, mowing both salaried and seasonal along with general park maintenance and fertilizer. That dollar figure does not include any significant capital improvement dollars for 2011.

As the Town and School District move forward, it will be important for the two agencies to develop a cohesive maintenance plan. B*K would envision the plan evolving in the following manner:

1. Determine “typical” use for fields at each facility. In determining this use the age of players, sport and frequency should be taken into account.
2. Determine any significant capital improvements that need to take place at the various locations. Those capital improvements should either be absorbed immediately, budgeted for or both groups should go to the end user and they should bear the cost.
3. Once that inventory of typical use and necessary capital improvement has been complete the School District and Town should determine the standard by which each field is maintained. Those standards should outline; mowing regularity, fertilization, aeration, etc. and regularity with which is completed.
4. Finally a long range capital improvement plan should be developed that outlines which fields, rectangles or diamonds should be taken off-line, how frequently and for what duration. It should be understood that without the addition of the turf fields and redevelopment of both Thornell Farm Park and Great Embankment Park taking any playing surface off-line will create a severe constraint on end users ability to play all necessary contests.

As this cohesive plan is put in place and implemented it would be the expectation of B*K that there would be an increase in the overall cost of maintaining the facilities. However, it should be pointed out that almost all of the youth sports agencies would be agreeable to some type of field rental fee being assessed as that would then be the burden of the membership.

It has been the experience of B*K that many school districts and governments around the country have established these standards for the care of fields.

To that end, in many instances if youth sports organizations are looking for a level of service beyond that standard that has been set they are required to bear that cost. In bearing said cost it does not give groups preference of scheduling or exclusivity of use the Town or School District would still retain scheduling rights to the facility. This is an important point of discussion for both the Town and School District when they are establishing these standards and will be important to ask the question, “At what point do the youth sports organizations need to have a greater financial responsibility for the end product?”

While the addition of turf fields to the total inventory with the Town and School District will extend seasons and increase the overall number of hours and activities that can take place it is not without equal if not greater cost to the organization. With the addition of turf fields to the inventory required maintenance of those spaces includes:

- Dragging fields, potentially on a daily basis depending up use to maintain substructure for optimal playability.
- Because of the sand and rubber mix that is used with these fields some organizations recommend treating them with a pesticide to eliminate grass and weeds growing in the turf.
- Because of the heat that these playing surfaces radiate from absorption of sun light some groups recommend using a water cannon on the playing surface prior to contests.
- Depending upon the manufacture of the turf surface B*K has heard life span of these surfaces vary from 8-15 years. To that end, both the School District and Town will need to allocate resources to replace those surfaces in that time frame, said replacement could be \$500,000-\$750,000 per surface.

The most important point that should be gleaned from this is that the installation of a turf system does decrease the day-to-day maintenance requirements, but it does not eliminate them completely. As it relates to the capital replacement costs in particular the willingness of some groups to rent indoor facility time might make a temporary dome more feasible for the field at Thornell Farm Park and create a revenue stream for the initial investment of the dome and long term replacement of the playing surface.
