

'Just the Facts'

For those sporting "no sports complex" signs on their lawns, as well as the curious, I offer the following;

- Yes, the township has been examining a myriad of potential sites to accommodate an athletic field.

- The 15-acre Gilligan/Marasuchi tract in Lincroft is one of many being examined in the township inventory to address a **possible** existing need to separate two sports sharing the same field, as well as other emerging needs such as girls' and boys' lacrosse.

- That search includes working with the school district, and will ultimately involve a complete study of existing utilization of all venues, activities and participants. It would be premature to discuss ANY site's specific issues if it could ultimately be determined there is no need based on more judicious use of existing facilities, or that a specific site is unusable.

- The use of terms such as "sports complex", "stadium" and "mini-meadowlands" have been used to raise unwarranted concerns and hysteria, not to mention political fodder. At no time have there been discussions regarding lighting, audio systems, "grandstands" etc for three simple reasons:
 - It has yet to be determined which sport or activity needs to be re-located and to where

 - A traffic study to gauge the impact a sports field would have on the area can't be done with accuracy until we know what sports can be played there and what days or times they're played.

 - The use of that specific tract, like many others, cannot be determined for ANY purpose without doing a wetland delineation

- Organized sports and activities for our youth are an integral part of what has made Middletown rated #50 in Money Magazines top 100 towns of its size to reside. We will continue to be committed to supporting the 4,200 plus children on 330 individual teams by providing safe and appropriate facilities.

The bottom line? The Township is in the process of preparing a request for proposals to have a Recreation Master Plan completed. It will be some time before that happens. Based on commitments made previously, I can assure you open public meetings and dialogue will occur before any specific site is given serious consideration or is chosen.

- Mayor Tom Hall