

2. Cranbury-Millstone Park

LOCATION: Old Trenton Road
(see Figure 5)

BLOCK: 21

LOT(S): 8.18

ACREAGE: 12.83

FUNDED/UNFUNDED: Unfunded

FACILITIES: 1 T-ball/minor league field
1 short-sided practice soccer field
2 practice spaces
1 short-sided games-only soccer/lacrosse field
1 play structure for older children with swings
Picnic grove

PERMANENT/MOVABLE GOALS:
Movable

IRRIGATION & MAINTENANCE:
The Cranbury-Millstone Park fields are not irrigated. Generally the park is well maintained, but as described below, heavy use coupled with the lack of irrigation has caused some of the fields to fall into a poor state. This led the Recreation Commission to designate one of the fields as a game only field. They also closed down another practice area for rehabilitation.

FUNCTION:
Land for Cranbury-Millstone Park was dedicated as a result of the approval of the adjacent Shadow Oaks clustered single-family subdivision. Cranbury-Millstone Park has one T-ball field and four soccer fields of various sizes and purposes. Presently, one soccer field is reserved for games only, two are practice fields, and one field is located partially in the outfield of the T-ball/minor league field. This field is not available while the T-ball field is in use, and is used for soccer practice only. None of the fields at Cranbury-Millstone Park



are irrigated. In order to combat the wear and tear caused by overuse of the soccer fields, the Recreation Commission has experimented in the past with rotating both the use and actual positioning of the fields. This year the Commission fenced off one of the practice fields to prevent any use whatsoever, so that it could be rehabilitated. Next year this field will be put back in use, and another of the fields within the Park will be set aside for a year. Because the T-ball/minor baseball field is oriented towards the northwest, that is, with the batters looking into the sun in the morning, and fielders in the afternoon, the field can only be used either in the early morning or in the evening.

Cranbury-Millstone Park is located at the outskirts of the Village, and at the edge of Cranbury's residential areas. It has frontage on and is accessible only from Old Trenton Road, a heavily-traveled arterial roadway. Although there is an off-street parking lot within Millstone Park, many people park on the shoulder of Old Trenton Road, especially if they are using the small children's playground at the far eastern end of the park. Concerns have been raised that the on-street parking is unsafe on such a busy street and that residents coming from the neighborhoods across Old Trenton Road are at risk of an accident when crossing the street.

In 2001, arsenic-contaminated soil was discovered in Cranbury-Millstone Park. Results of tests taken showed that



the contamination was confined to a low-lying area of the creek running along the Park's boundary, and were not present on or immediately adjacent to the ballfields. Several abandoned barrels were discovered in the park near Old Trenton Road which were thought to have been the source of the contamination.

These barrels may have contained arsenic-based pesticides used in farming until the late 1970s. Levels of up to 27 parts per million—slightly above those acceptable by the State—were found. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) requires arsenic levels above 20 parts per million to be cleaned up. Upon receiving the results, the Township ordered the barrels to be removed and had the area fenced off from the public. As part of the sanctioned plan to remediate the contamination and bring it up to standards acceptable to the State, a remedial action work plan was filed with the NJDEP. The remediation is complete and the NJDEP has issued a "No Further Action" letter, verifying that it is no longer a threat to public health and safety. The Township has also filed a deed notice on the contamination. In addition, The Township also planted "thorny" bushes to restrict access to the area of original contamination.

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