



---

Trumansburg  
Community  
Recreation  
Needs Assessment

---

Trumansburg, NY

Report Prepared by:

Design Connect: Cornell University  
Fall 2017

# Table of Contents

---

INTRODUCTION .....	3
ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING CONDITIONS.....	5
PUBLICINVOLVEMENT.....	8
FINDINGS AND RECOMENDATIONS.....	15
APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY MEETING ACTIVITIES.....	17
APPENDIX B: SURVEY INFORMATION .....	29

# Introduction

---

In the Trumansburg Comprehensive Plan, adopted by the Trumansburg Village Board of Trustees February 11, 2008, it states that there are only limited facilities and opportunities for indoor recreation and exercise in the Village. The Village of Trumansburg developed the following 20-year plan for the importance of recreation in the community as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan.

“In 2028, Trumansburg recognizes that recreational activities are important to the economic, environmental and social health of its community. The Village has an established physical connection to the Black Diamond Trail for extended hiking and biking opportunities. Indoor and outdoor recreational activities such as swimming, skateboarding, basketball, and tennis are available for all generations of residents. There is a multi-purpose community center available for residents of all ages.”

During the Village’s Comprehensive Plan development process, the city conducted a mail-in survey and held three public workshops. A summary of the results related to recreation, one of six main elements of the plan, are summarized in SECTION XX.

Established in 2016 as a 501(c)3, Trumansburg Community Recreation, Inc. (TCR), is a not for profit organization, created to develop community recreational facilities for community use. This includes but is not limited to projects such as new sporting fields, walking paths, a skate park, a community center, and an indoor swimming pool.

In the fall of 2017, TCR applied and was selected as a project for Design Connect, a multi-disciplinary, student-run, community design organization based at Cornell University. Design Connect is rooted in collaborative, democratic, and sustainable principles for the advancement of towns in upstate New York. Formed in 2008, Design Connect provides design and planning services for local municipalities and non-profits that may not have the resources to hire professionals while offering practical experience to students.

In collaboration with Design Connect, TCR’s goals for the project are for a needs assessment for recreation fields, community center and pool, and a conceptual plan that reflects the evaluation of the needs assessment. The project was broken into four phases, project assessment, outreach and schematic design development, design development, and presentation. This needs assessment report is a component of phase 2.

This report summarizes the findings of the initial assessment work. The scope of work that was completed as part of this effort is as follows:

## **Task 1 – Assessment of Existing Conditions**

Design Connect conducted research and an assessment of various facilities within the Village of Trumansburg as well as the surrounding communities. Through this research,

Design Connect was able to develop a list of existing programming in the community.

### **Task 2 – Public Involvement**

Design Connect hosted a Community Input Meeting at the American Legion in Trumansburg on November 9, 2017, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Notice for this meeting was sent out via email, posters were put up at 11 businesses and restaurants in town, and a Facebook event was created and shared. The meeting was an informal open house setting where residents interacted with members of the project team, voted on opportunity boards, and were able to fill out the survey.

### **Task 3 – Report and Recommendations**

Design Connect has developed this report based on the information gathered during Tasks 1 and 2. Included in this document are the survey results, information gathered from the public input meeting and the initial assessment and recommendations for further study and improvements to address residents concerns. The information in this preliminary assessment should be used to develop a Master Plan with short and long-term goals for raising funds and improving the recreational opportunities within the Village of Trumansburg.

# Assessment of Existing Conditions

---

The Village of Trumansburg has an active community with current facilities that offer services to the residents. This section includes a list of the existing facilities in the Trumansburg community. The purpose of this section is to establish an understanding of what currently exists so that any proposed facilities do not duplicate or take services away from another facility.

## **T-Fit Fitness**

Standard gym equipment. Various classes including post-physical therapy exercise, age-friendly exercise, yoga classes, Zumba, belly dancing, etc.

Centrally located at 61 W Main Street, T-Fit Fitness is a 24-hour fitness center. Members can use a variety of cardiovascular machines, weight machines, free weights, and training area. Offers various exercise classes, yoga, belly dancing, and Zumba.

## **Taughannock Soccer Club**

The Taughannock Soccer Club uses the high school facility at 100 Whig Street. Their goal is to provide soccer opportunities—both recreational and competitive—for youth in the area, fostering technical and tactical training at levels that are appropriate for a player’s age.

## **The Hidden Door Yoga and Dance**

This facility is located at 27 W Main Street and offers yoga classes and individual sessions, yoga teacher training, belly and drum dance, core strengthening.

## **Lakshmi Living Arts**

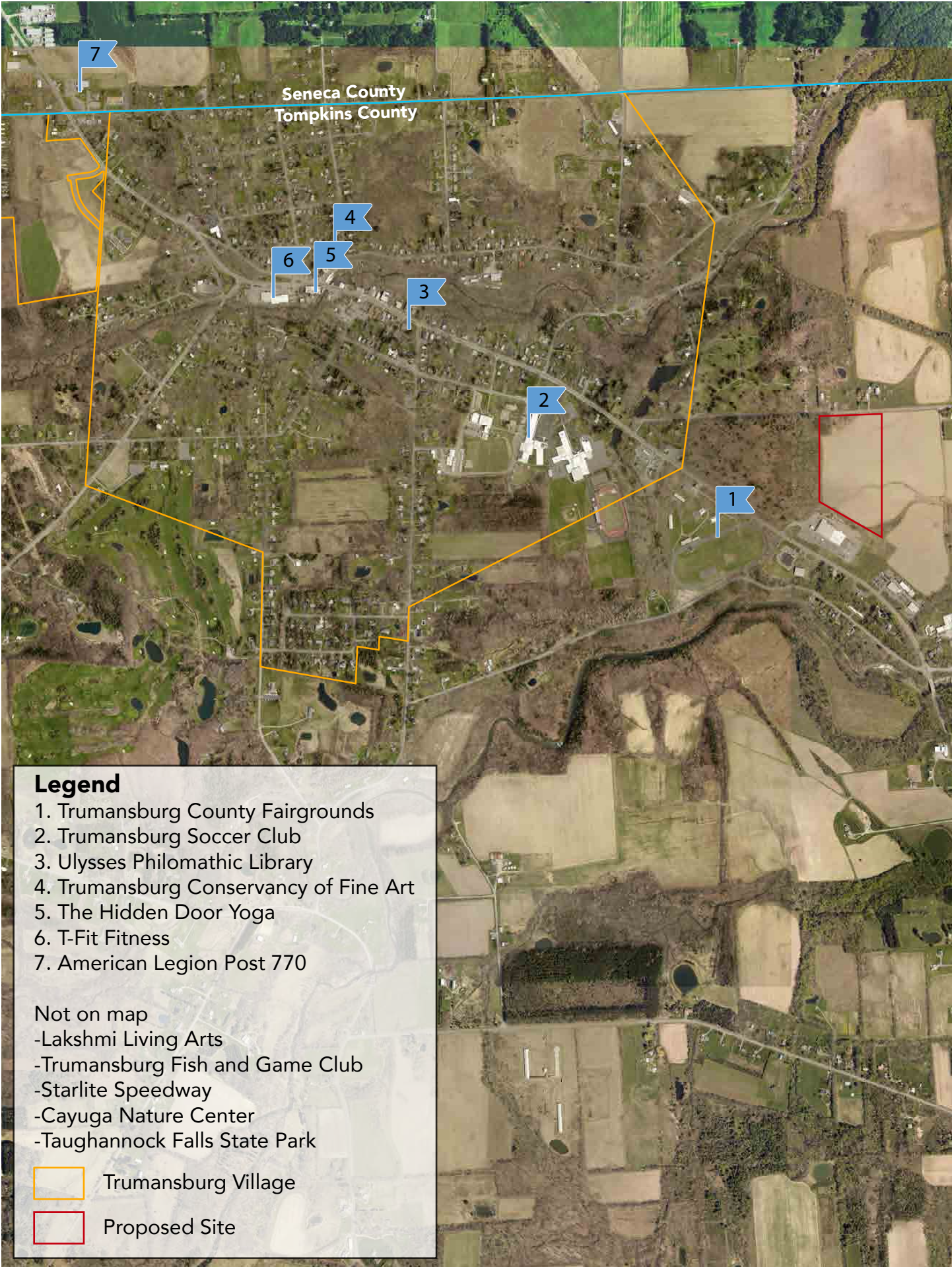
This facility is located at 1966 Trumansburg Road and offers Anusara and Yoga classes.

## **Dragon Fire Martial Arts Association**

Located at 5166 Cold Springs Road, Dragon Fire Martial Arts Association teaches classes in Karate, Kung Fu, Sword, Taichi, and Qigong.

## **Trumansburg Fish & Game Club**

The Trumansburg Fish and Game Club at 7227 Searsburg Road was founded in 1949 for the purpose of promoting the shooting sports to men, women, and young adults of all ages in the community and surrounding area. They offer Trap, Skeet, Pistol, Rifle and Sporter Rifle shooting, along with skilled, qualified instructors.





Seneca County  
Tompkins County

**Legend**

- 1. Trumansburg County Fairgrounds
- 2. Trumansburg Soccer Club
- 3. Ulysses Philomathic Library
- 4. Trumansburg Conservancy of Fine Art
- 5. The Hidden Door Yoga
- 6. T-Fit Fitness
- 7. American Legion Post 770

Not on map  
-Lakshmi Living Arts  
-Trumansburg Fish and Game Club  
-Starlite Speedway  
-Cayuga Nature Center  
-Taughannock Falls State Park

-  Trumansburg Village
-  Proposed Site

### **Starlite Speedway**

The Starlite Speedway located at 5287 Searsburg Road offers various classes for recreation including go-karts, hurricane, and tractors.

### **Trumansburg Conservatory of Fine Arts**

Located at 5 McLallen Street, the mission of the Trumansburg Conservatory of Fine Arts, Inc. is to provide affordable opportunities for exposure to the arts through education, collaboration, performance, and exhibition, thereby enriching the quality of life in our community. Offering space for rentals, musical and theatrical performances, music lessons, and various classes.

### **Ulysses Philomathic Library**

The library, located at 74 E Main Street strives to meet the informational, creative and leisure needs of all community residents. Providing a broad collection of materials and access to a wide network of contemporary resources and media. Hosts various events throughout the year as well as classes and activities.

### **The Trumansburg Fairgrounds**

Located at 2150 Trumansburg Road, the fairgrounds host numerous events, concerts, and festivals throughout the year.

### **American Legion Post 770**

Located at 4431 E Seneca Road, the American Legion offers spaces to rent for community events, holds youth classes, organizes a blood drive, BBQ event, and a charity run.

### **Taughannock Falls State Park**

A 750-acre natural area with 3.5 miles of hiking and walking trails, open all year.

### **Cayuga Nature Center**

The Cayuga Nature Center is a Paleontological research institution located at 1420 Taughannock Blvd with collections and exhibits. There is rental space available for weddings, organized outdoor walks of the gorges, summer programs, and fossil collecting.

# Public Involvement

Public input is essential for establishing the appropriate level of service and programming for the Village of Trumansburg. Working with Design Connect, a Community Input Meeting was held to gather the public’s feedback. The data the was gathered from this meeting is included in this section.

## Posters

During the Community Meeting, seven large posters were spread out on tables as an interactive activity for attendees to participate in. The categories were, fields/sports, pool, adult and youth programming, and architecture. Design Connect has had good success in the past using this method, the activity is designed to be easy for adults and fun for kids. Putting colored stickers in each area they were interested, one sticker = one vote (no meaning behind the colors)

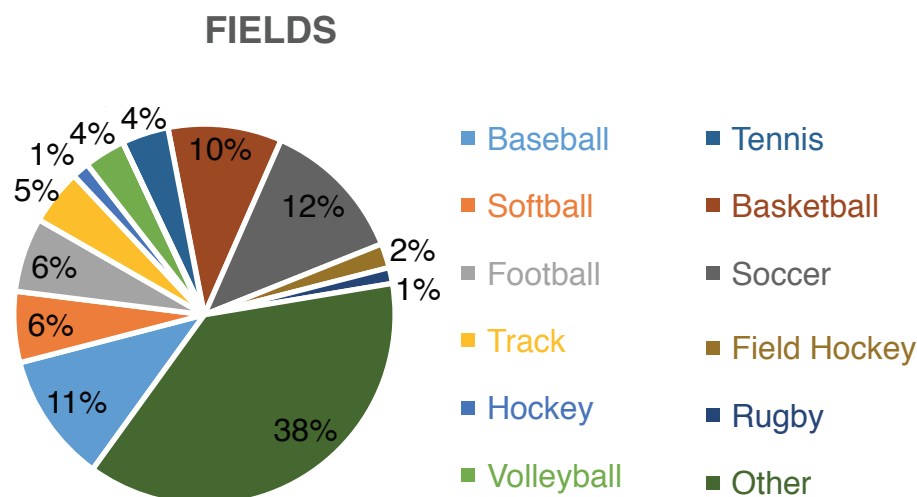
“other” category, difficult to tally values. Counted the person who wrote it in as one vote, plus any stickers as an additional vote.

(give a summary of each board with graphs and charts. Have a photo of each board in appendix at the end)

## FIELDS/SPORTS

On two boards, 11 different sports were listed. Sports were picked by what Design Connect members grew up playing, and what is generally popular and upcoming (rugby). Surprisingly, a skate park, climbing wall, and dog park were the most popular answers, all added in the “other” section. The top three sports were soccer, baseball, and basketball.

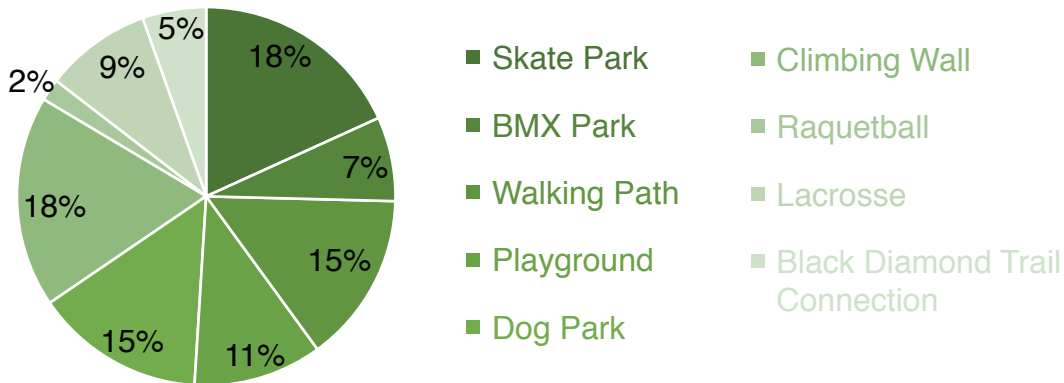
There was also a small board that showed the pros and cons of both a synthetic turf field and a natural grass field. The purpose was to educate people on the environmental differences as well as potential health issues. Understanding what people wanted also provided the information to think about long-term maintenance and



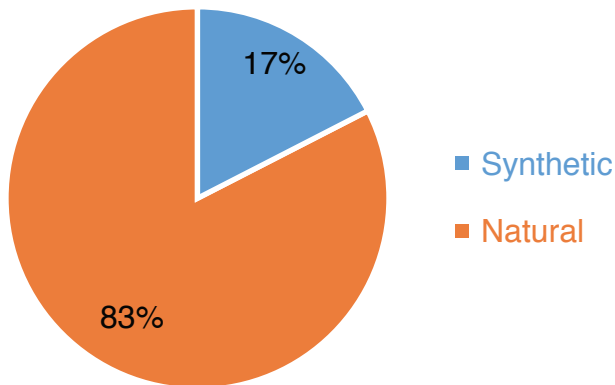
differences as well as potential health issues. Understanding what people wanted also provided the information to think about long-term maintenance and



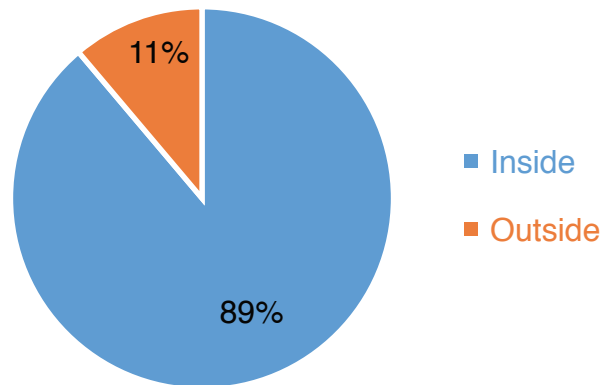
## FIELDS "OTHER"



## TURF



## POOL LOCATION



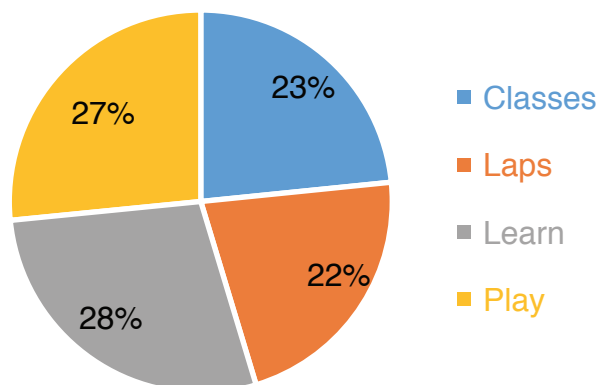
costs associated with each field. A majority (83%) of the votes were for natural turf.

## POOL

Pools are a facility that has a large age range of interest. On the pool board, the question was asked of an indoor or outdoor pool. 89% of people wanted an indoor pool. This was not a surprise since an outdoor pool can only be for a few months of the year. Several people indicated interest in a salt water pool.

At the bottom of the board, programming questions were asked about how residents would like to use the pool. The results were fairly evenly distributed between classes

## POOL PROGRAMMING

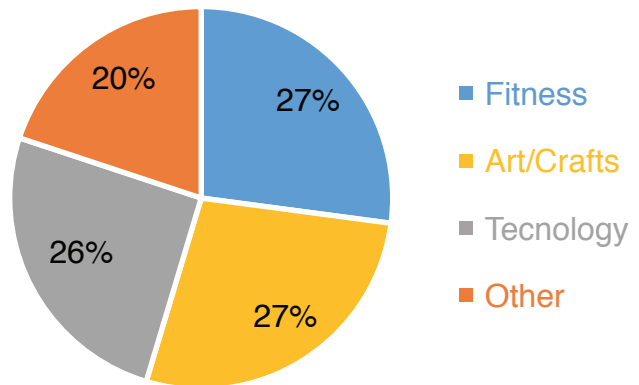


(23%), laps (27%), learning to swim (28%), and play (27%)

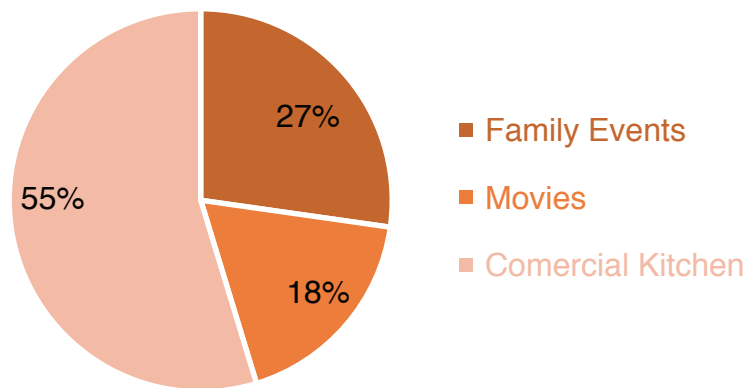
### COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAMMING

Community centers are designed to bring the community together and provide activities and services. The community center will be for residents of all ages. On two separate boards, preliminary programming ideas were presented, some designed for adults and the others for children.

### ADULT PROGRAMMING



### ADULT PROGRAMMING "OTHER"



Results were split evenly on the adult programming board between fitness, art and crafts, and technology. In the "other" category, several people wrote down answers that were similar to the preliminary ideas, those answers were regrouped. People indicated interests in a commercial kitchen that could be rented out, family events, and movies with a majority interested in a

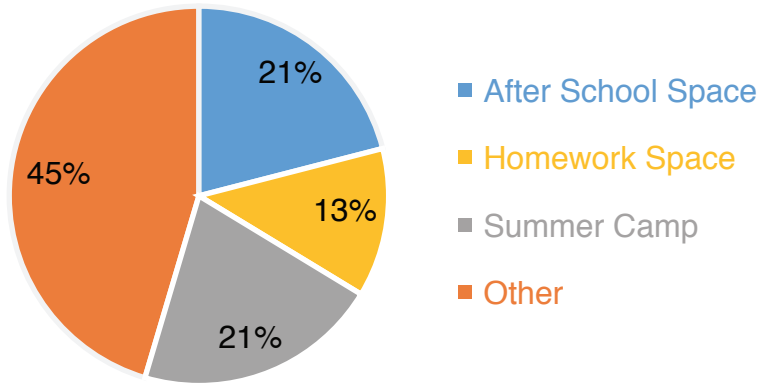
commercial kitchen.

The kids programming board had more activity, with numerous other ideas listed. Not all of the items listed in the "other" category were about programming for youth, but we used them as valid responses. Most of the interest in programming for kids was a place for them to go after school; an after-school space, teen hangout, homework area.

### COMMUNITY CENTER ARCHITECTURE

Beginning to ask the question of what should this building look like. Many factors go into what the cost of the building will be, one of them is the style and appearance. Preliminary ideas were presented showing a variety of building styles from historical to modern. Most participants were interested in a modern building that used natural materials like stone and wood.

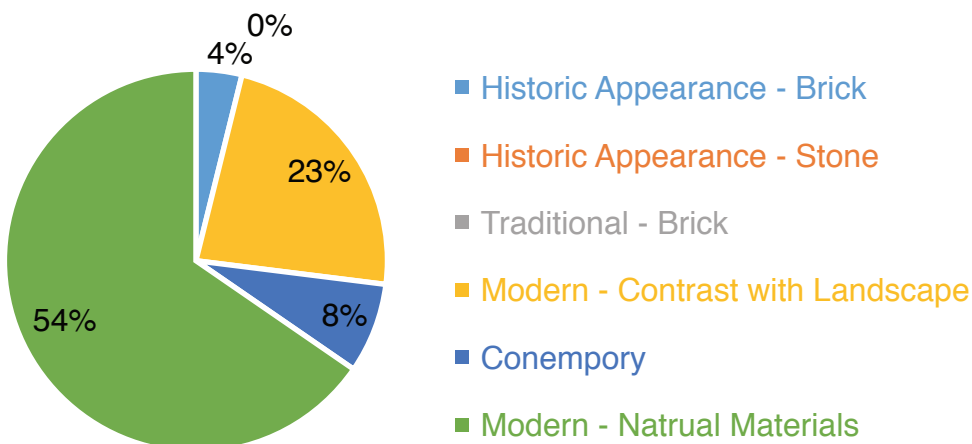
## KIDS PROGRAMMING



## KIDS PROGRAMMING “OTHER”



## ARCHITECTURE



## Survey

Design Connect and TCR administered a survey as a means of gaining further feedback from the community meeting attendees. A hard copy of this survey is included in APPENDIX A. The survey was anonymous and was available at a station during the community meeting. A total of 19 surveys were completed during the two-hour meeting. This equates to roughly 1.1% of the population taking the survey. It is important to note that the percentage listed here reflect the opinions of the respondents to the survey and not the entire population of the village. However, Design Connect feels that results are an indicator of the overall sentiment of the community as a whole.

The results of the survey have been tabulated and summarized below.

### 1. What Zip code do you reside in?

Almost all participants indicated that they reside in the Trumansburg zip code, 14886. Only person indicated that they live in Ithaca, 14850

### 2. What are the ages of the members of your household?

From the results received, we concluded that the results signify that a majority of the respondents were families, with parents under the age of 55 and had at least one child between 3 and 18, with most having two or three children. Two people indicated that the people living in their house were over the age of 55.

### 3. Assuming the recreation center is in the village, what mode of transportation would you want to use to get to the center (bike, walk, drive)?

This question asked respondents to indicate which mode of transportation they would use to get to the recreation center if it was in the village. Most people indicated that they would walk, bike, and drive, with most people indicating that they would drive.

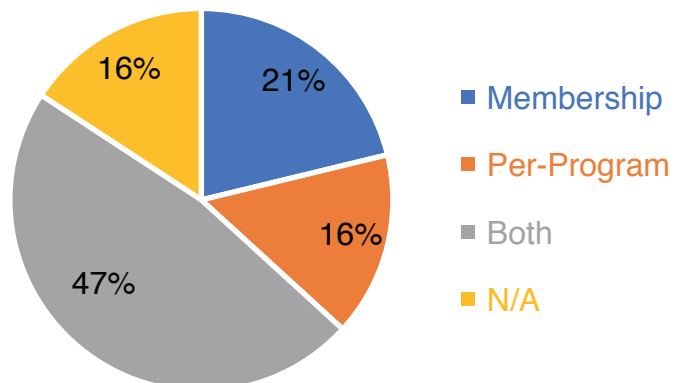
### 4. What facilities do you currently use in Trumansburg?

This question asked respondents to write in an answer. The most popular answer was that they currently are using facilities at the High School.

### 5. To ensure that the facility is self-sustaining there would have to be a monetary fee to use the space. Would you want to pay this fee via a membership or per program?

Most people indicated that they would be willing to pay either a membership fee or pay per program to use the recreation facilities. 84% said that they would be willing to pay either a membership fee or pay per

## PAYMENT OPTIONS



program to use the recreation facilities, with 47% indicating “both” as an option. 16% of respondents said it would depend or did not answer.

6. What type of facilities are needed or currently lacking in the Trumansburg area that you would like to see or participate in?

The top facilities that were indicated as needed or lacking in Trumansburg were a pool and aqua center, a community center, program/event spaces, and playing fields listed by 70% of respondents. The remaining things listed are a teen space, climbing wall, skate park, indoor sports area, and a gym space.

### LACKING IN COMMUNITY



7. Overall, how would you want to use the recreation space? (improve health and fitness, spend time with family/friends, meet new people, etc.)

Most people responded with that they would use the space for health, fitness, and wellness, along with spending time with family and friends.

To add to the results of the survey, Design Connect analyzed the recreational components of the survey and workshops held in 2007 that were used to develop the 20-year vision for Trumansburg.

On the mail-in survey from 2007, questions one and three asked about recreational services. Question one provided a list of various Village services and asked whether levels of service should be increased or decreased. In regards to recreational services, residents indicated that they wanted to see an increase in recreation programs, youth programs, recreation facilities within the Village. Question three of the survey asked residents what activities they would like to see the community develop for young people. A skateboard park, along with an “other” option were the least popular. More people favored doing “nothing” additional for young people in the community. The largest number of people looked favorably on the category of “after school activities”.

Three workshop sessions were held in 2007 in addition to the mail in survey. The first workshop was held at the High School to gain feedback from the younger generation concerning the future of their community. The students indicated that they were interested in a skate park, a place to hang out, bowling alley, skating rink, organized intermurals, and poetry slams.

The second two workshops were public events that were well attended. Resident indicated items that they would like to see Trumansburg have in 20 years, many of them can be incorporated into a recreational facility. Interests in a connection to the Black Diamond Trail for walking/hiking and biking to Ithaca, bike access, club sports for youths (outside of school sports) and adults, after-school programs for youths, adult educational classes. A pool for swimming classes, hot tub, sauna and steam room. Outdoor facilities that include soccer fields, skate park, basketball, tennis, baseball, and the incorporation of non-conventional sports. Residents also indicated that these facilities and amenities must be multi-seasonal, family inclusive, multigenerational, linked and easily accessible to other sites in the community.

For the complete survey and workshop results, consult the 2008 Trumansburg Comprehensive Plan "VILLAGE OF TRUMANSBURG COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY: ANALYSIS OF RESULTS," page 56.

# Findings and Recommendations

---

Currently, aside from the High School, there are no recreational facilities available in Trumansburg. There is evidence that the public is utilizing facilities and the need for more. There are also signs that the public is unaware of the existing programming in Trumansburg.

The proposed Trumansburg Community Recreation Complex will house a community center, youth center, senior center, aquatic complex, recreational space, and athletic fields. The goal is for this to become the center of activity in Trumansburg.

There is already community-based programming within Trumansburg, but we recommend the community center has an open design that can allow spaces to be either public or private, with folding doors and walls which can be opened or closed to create a variety of room sizes. This space will be used by organizations and groups to have meetings; we envision this space to also be luxurious enough to host large events to be able to generate income with access to a commercial kitchen. Design for future use should be considered, as changing demographics and interests of the community change to keep the facility current. Part of the community center will be a center for youths and seniors. The youth center will be a space where kids can go after school to hang out and provide help and resources for homework. The senior center will be the gathering spot for seniors to stay active with programming from group fitness to cards and board games.

The recreational space will include fitness rooms, basketball courts that can also be used for volleyball, an indoor track (1/16th of a mile is recommended), rooms for squash and racquetball, as well as a climbing wall. We are not recommending a gym with fitness equipment and weights because there is an existing gym, T-Fit, with equipment already in Trumansburg.

The aquatics center will have a pool for laps and a family oriented pool for playing. Recommended programming is lap swimming, open swim sessions, learn to swim classes, and water aerobics classes. There is community interest in having the pool be salt water, this can provide a draw for residents in the area who wish to utilize a salt water pool.

The recommended athletic facilities outside consist of two multipurpose fields that are able to support soccer, football, lacrosse, field hockey, and rugby. A Little League regulation baseball diamond, softball can also use this field. A skate park, tennis courts, basketball courts, and a playground. Currently, there is no designated skate park in the area, so this will attract skaters to use the park and not other areas of town. A concession stand to generate income during games. And a locker room with restrooms that can be used during game events.

Synthetic turf is recommended for at least one of the multi-use fields. While there are

numerous negative aspects to having a synthetic turf playing field, they can withstand more use than a traditional grass field. We recommend that all fields and courts be built to National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards, this way competitive games can be hosted at the facility.

There was a strong interest in soccer, we think that there is potential to have an indoor soccer field. This could be another way to help generate income during the winter when the weather is too cold to play outside.

Please be aware that this assessment is only a preliminary needs assessment. It is based on the input gathered through the survey and public meeting. If Trumansburg Community Recreation does pursue the development of such facilities, it is the recommendation of this report that they consider the following action items:

- Perform further assessment and analysis of existing facilities and programs. This analysis should focus in on what programs are not currently offered and begin to develop a list of programs that the facility would offer.
- Hold more community events to raise awareness of the organization and to develop programming further.
- Develop recreational standards that accurately reflect the needs of the citizens of Trumansburg and surrounding communities, and develop a Recreation Master Plan that achieves the desired level of service. The Master Plan should include a short term and long range work plan for the development and improvement of facilities, activities, and programs.
- Explore the feasibility of an indoor soccer field.
- Explore the feasibility of a saltwater pool. Are there public health concerns?
- Coordinate the efforts of the TCR with other local organizations to promote existing services.



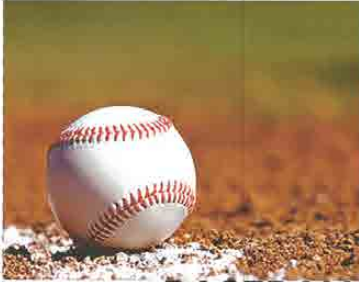
# Appendix A: Community Meeting Activities

---

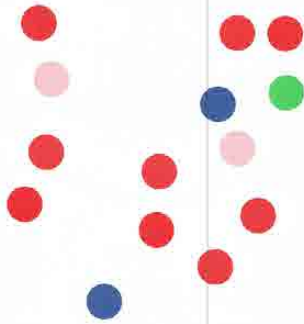




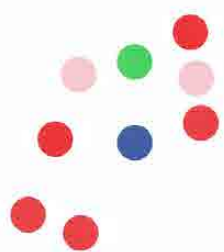
## ATHLETIC FIELDS



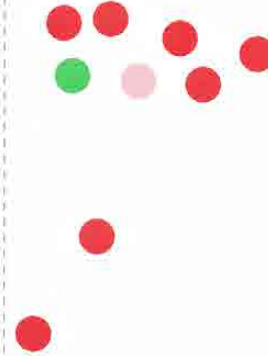
**BASEBALL**



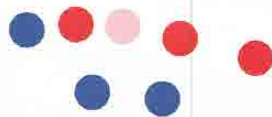
**SOFTBALL**



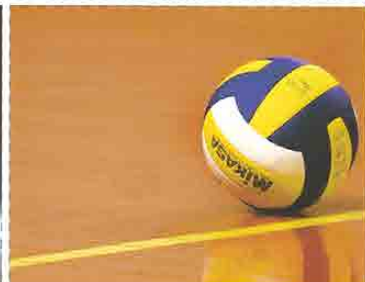
**FOOTBALL**



**TRACK**



**HOCKEY**



**VOLLEYBALL**





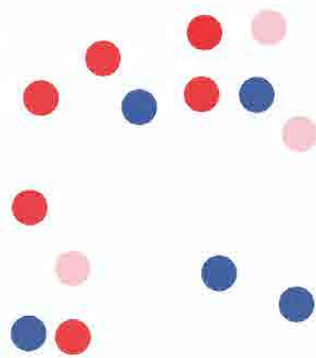
### ATHLETIC FIELDS



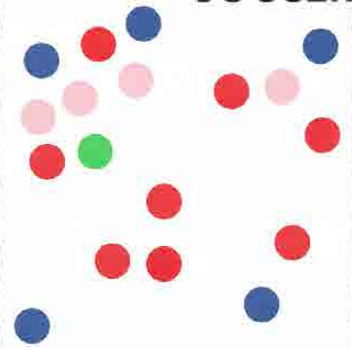
TENNIS



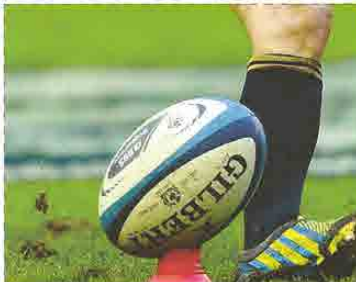
BASKETBALL



SOCCER



FIELD HOCKEY



RUGBY



### OTHER

Place a sticky note here with your ideas  
HERE!

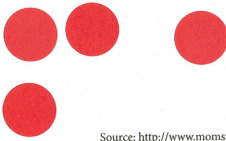
- Skate park
- Bmx park
- walking path
- Playground
- Dog Park
- CLIMBING WALL
- RAQUETBALL
- LA CROSSE
- Spur to connect to bus tunnel (1st)
- BASEBALL - SPECIAL LITTLE LEAGUE SPACES



## SYNTHETIC TURF

### PROS

- Lower maintenance costs
- Pesticide-free
- Increased playability
- Fewer injuries
- Saves water



### CONS

- Heat hazard
- Contain heavy metals and harmful chemicals
- Bacterial breeding ground
- Adverse affect on asthmatics
- Once artificial, always artificial



## NATURAL GRASS

### PROS

- Does not hold heat
- Inexpensive and easy to repair
- Easy to convert natural fields from one sport to another



### CONS

- Short season to use
- Increased maintenance (mowing, irrigation)
- Require pesticide and fertilizer applications (organic methods available)
- Fields can flood and get muddy = cancelled games
- Needs a 'rest' period between heavy uses

Source: <http://www.momsteam.com/health-safety/turf-wars-pros-and-cons-of-artificial-turf/>

Source: <https://www.sportsbuilders.org/press/LandscapeArchBusinessNaturalGrassSynthTurf.pdf>



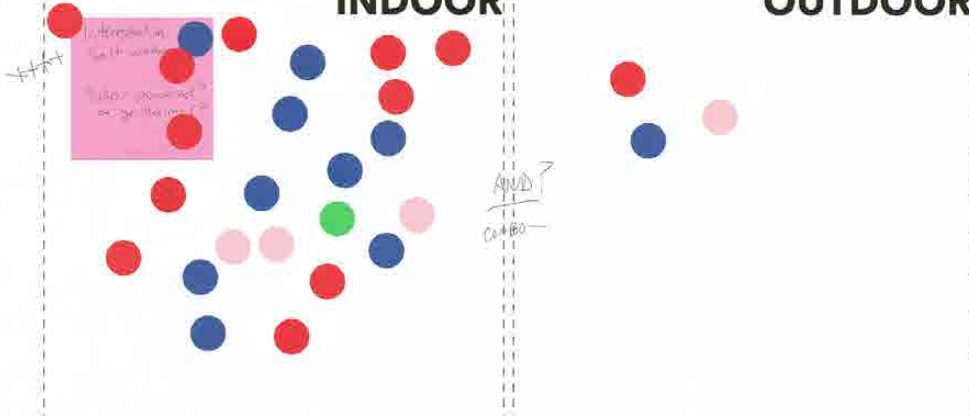
# POOL



INDOOR



OUTDOOR



LAPS



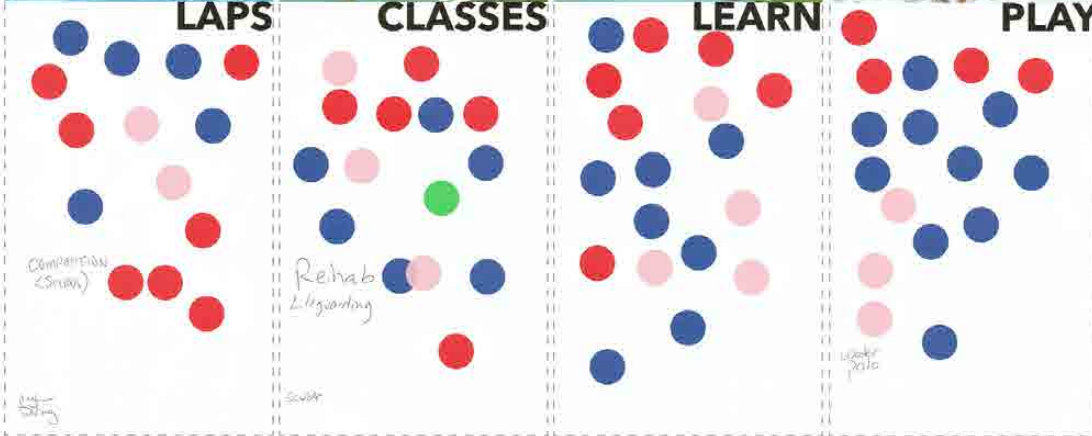
CLASSES



LEARN



PLAY





# COMMUNITY CENTER

INSPIRATION IMAGES: PLACE A STICKER BELOW THE IMAGES YOU LIKE

Be sure to really consider the size of a community center. It can't be too small. Be met by natural building, solid materials, history, etc.



HISTORIC APPEARANCE - BRICK



HISTORIC APPEARANCE - STONE



TRADITIONAL - BRICK

Sticker placement area for Historic Appearance - Brick, featuring a single pink dot.

Sticker placement area for Historic Appearance - Stone.

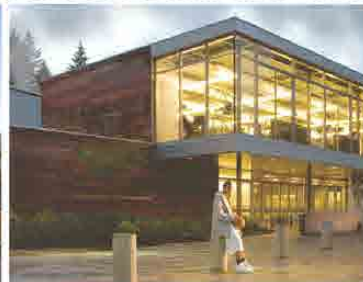
Sticker placement area for Traditional - Brick.



MODERN - CONTRAST WITH LANDSCAPE



CONTEMPORARY



MODERN - WITH NATURALISTIC MATERIALS

Sticker placement area for Modern - Contrast with Landscape, featuring several blue, red, and pink dots.

Sticker placement area for Contemporary, featuring a single red dot and handwritten notes: "look at bridge @ Upper trumansburg park in allison for inspiration" and "\*TIMBER FRAME\*".

Sticker placement area for Modern - with Naturalistic Materials, featuring a cluster of blue, red, pink, and green dots, and handwritten notes: "P. BARN/GW".



## COMMUNITY CENTER - ADULT PROGRAMS



**FITNESS**



**ARTS/CRAFTS**



**TECHNOLOGY CLASS**

Area for program ideas with colored dots (blue, red, green, pink) scattered across the space.

Place a sticky note here with your program ideas HERE!

Handwritten notes and sticky notes:

- Web Search
- Security and privacy on Web
- International Cuisine
- Game night / family centered event
- community nights (bingo, cards, etc)
- Movie night / discussion
- Summer

Includes a blue sticky note with illegible text and several colored dots.





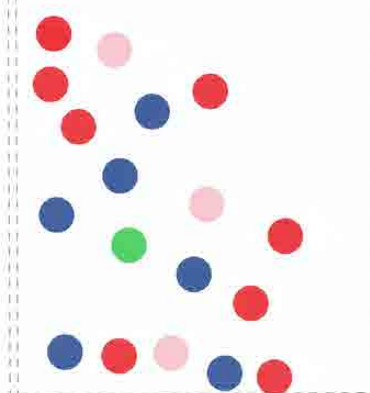
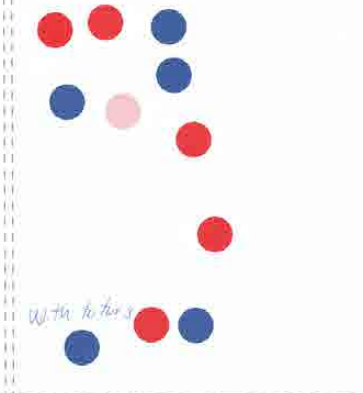
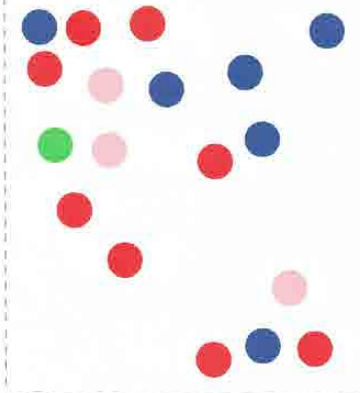
### COMMUNITY CENTER - KID/TEEN PROGRAMS



AFTER SCHOOL SPACE

HOMEWORK SPACE

SUMMER CAMP



Place a sticky note here with your program ideas HERE!

Program space for elders ●●

pick ●

Open space for special events ●

Dances / Age group recreation / entertainment nights ●●●●

● Mexico Camp ●●●

Meeting rooms ●●●

Home scheduling space ●●●●●

Outdoor education ●●●●

● Teen Space ●●●●

● Music Studio ●

Community "GAME NIGHTS" (board games, etc) "MUSIC NIGHTS"

● Space for STEM activities ●●●

Baby's first training ●

CPR training

●

●



## ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

The sticky notes contain the following text:

- Top Left (Red):**

GRACEY  
 \* KIDLY WATER  
 WASH STATION \*  
 \* SHOWER ROOM \*  
 \* AUTHORITY VISORS ONLY
- Top Right (Red):**

express group /  
 be multi purpose  
 along to accessible  
 wheelchair friendly
- Middle Left (Red):**

Pool -  
 - SAID WATER  
 - WASH STATION  
 - AUTHORITY VISORS ONLY  
 - SHOWER ROOM
- Middle Right (Red):**

national standards  
 - see  
 multistandard +
- Bottom Left (Red):**

Sustainable  
 materials  
 + energy
- Bottom Middle (Red):**

Year  
 gathering  
 space  
 of play area  
 small tables  
 etc.
- Bottom Right (Red):**

Self-enclosed  
 pool

# Appendix B: Survey Information

---



TRUMANSBURG  
COMMUNITY  
RECREATION

DESIGN  
CONNECT

---

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

1. What Zip code do you reside in?
2. What are the ages of the members of your household?
3. Assuming the recreation center is in the village, what mode of transportation would you want to use to get to the center (bike, walk, drive)?
4. What facilities do you currently use in Trumansburg?
5. To ensure that the facility is self-sustaining there would have to be a monetary fee to use the space. Would you want to pay this fee via a membership or per program?
6. What type of facilities are needed or currently lacking in the Trumansburg area that you would like to see or participate in?
7. Overall, how would you want to use the recreation space? (improve health and fitness, spend time with family/friends, meet new people, etc.)