

Table 13: Publicly-Owned Potential Open Space and Recreation Resources Opportunities
(see Figure 8)

BLOCK/ LOT	OPPORTUNITIES ENVISIONED BY RIVER VALE FOR THE TOWNSHIP'S OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION SYSTEM
507/4; 510/3 & 11; 509/3	This narrow drainage corridor provides a respite of natural land within a heavily developed and underserved residential neighborhood. It could serve as a passive trail that offers users the opportunity to enjoy the woodlands and stream corridor, and that connects two existing neighborhoods to the undeveloped Beechcrest Park.
801/30	This narrow drainage corridor would provide a natural land linkage to other open spaces in neighboring Park Ridge Borough, and then back into other potential open space resources within River Vale, and could include a trail.
903/7 & 13.01; 908/13	An expanded open space on its north, and a long narrow corridor on its south, this parcel would continue the western greenway south of Prospect Ave. from the potential open space resource mentioned in 801/30.
813/6; 814/5; 913/6; 905/8; 906/8 & 20; 909/5	This is a narrow natural corridor featuring woodlands and a drainage stream. It extends for approximately 3,500 linear feet through five residential neighborhoods, potentially providing a valuable pedestrian linkage.
601/24; 602/5.01	These parcels would permit pedestrian access into the Bergen Hills Golf Course property, should it become publicly owned.
14.01/25	This property already supports two heavily used public tennis courts, and would then be included as an officially dedicated township recreation facility.
1509/3	This narrow drainage corridor provides a respite of natural land within a heavily developed and underserved residential neighborhood. It could serve as a passive trail that offers users the opportunity to enjoy the woodlands and stream corridor, and that connects an existing neighborhood to the larger undeveloped and protected open spaces.
1505/8	This is a beautiful natural open space within a residential neighborhood with substantial width to almost match its length.

11.5 NEEDS ANALYSIS

River Vale's residents have come to realize that the open spaces remaining in the Township are precious resources that are priceless in their contributions to the quality of life in River Vale. Residents have concluded that open space provides for their mental and physical health, in addition to providing recreational opportunities. Some of the qualities they associate with open space include peace, tranquility, aesthetics, and relief from urban and suburban congestion. River Vale residents also recognize that their open spaces help to define a sense of place, or unique identity, for their community. River Vale residents further acknowledge that the dwindling resource that is their open space provides them with an enormity of values. Many of these values are measurable, and can therefore be quantified, such as water resource protection and opportunities for recreation. More common, however, are the intangible benefits which can only be described in qualitative terms. Together these values enrich the lives of River Vale's residents and bring them closer to the natural environment of which they are a part.

The evaluations of River Vale's open space and recreation needs have been on-going processes for over three decades, led mainly by the Planning Board. More recently, the Open Space Advisory Committee has taken the lead on addressing the Township's open space needs, and over the course of the past three years has prevailed in swaying public opinion in favor of increasing the provisions of open space, based primarily on current need and projections of future need. This claim is supported by a review of River Vale's voting record in favor of all N.J. Green Acres bond issues by wide margins of over 4 to 1. In addition, passing by a large margin in 1998 and then again in 2004, the Township's voters elected to tax themselves for open space, again based primarily on need. This action itself, along with the preparation of this Open Space and