

# NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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## **Woodbridge Township Secures \$1.5 Million Recreational Facilities Special Needs Grant**

### **Mayor McCormac Targets Grant \$\$\$ to Expand Special Needs Facilities at Cypress Recreation Center in Port Reading**

**Woodbridge, Twp.** -- Mayor John E. McCormac today announced that the Township Administration has secured a \$1.5 million Recreational Facilities Special Needs Improvement grant from the State of New Jersey which will be used to construct new level playing fields and fully-accessible recreational facilities and playground apparatus specifically designed for challenged and handicapped children of all ages and abilities. The Special Need Grant funds are earmarked for improvements at the Cypress Recreational Center located in Port Reading – the Cypress Center is home to the Our House program, a private, non-profit 501©3 organization that provides innovative program, employment and recreational services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

"We truly appreciate the consideration and funding assistance received from the State of New Jersey's Recreational Facilities Special Needs Improvement program that will allow the Township to move forward with the construction of special needs recreational facilities at the Cypress Recreation Center," said Mayor McCormac. "I would like to thank Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, along with State Senator Joseph Vitale, for their leadership in securing the funding for this innovative and unique project which will provide recreational facilities to the Woodbridge Township special needs population."

According to Mayor McCormac, the field will be usable for baseball, softball and soccer, plus a track around the entire complex that will afford special needs citizens the opportunity to enjoy the mental and physical benefits of sports participation. Level playing fields and fully-accessible facilities provide handicapped and challenged citizens of all ages, skills and experience with many and varied play events. The custom-designed fields and facilities will include wheelchair access ramps and equipment that is fully compliant with federal, state, county and municipal safety standards.

"The state Grants-In-Aid program provides funding for projects that have wide-ranging benefits to the community. In this case, the \$1.5 million dollars in state aid will allow Woodbridge Township to move forward with construction of special needs facilities that will benefit not only Woodbridge Township residents, but everyone visiting the Our House program at the Cypress Recreational Center," said Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin.

"It is extremely important that the State of New Jersey invests in projects like the Cypress Recreation Center. I look forward to the development that will be taking place at the field and the many benefits it will provide," said Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez.

"The Cypress recreation Center is the perfect place for this facility since 24 adults with special needs are there every day," said Councilman Brian Small (At-Large).

"Woodbridge Township parks and recreational facilities are a showcase and, with the addition of the level playing fields, our Township recreational facilities will be even better, offering more opportunities for everyone in the community," said Township Councilman Cory Spillar.

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