

Exeter Township

Trout Run Sports Complex Master Plan - DRAFT

November 2018







November 2018

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- Chris Cupitt - Exeter Little League
- Larry Drogo - Resident
- Laurie Getz - Recreation Director
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- Bill Jaeger - Exeter Lions Club
- Denise and Mark Kramer - Boys and Girls Scouts
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Prepared for:



Prepared by:



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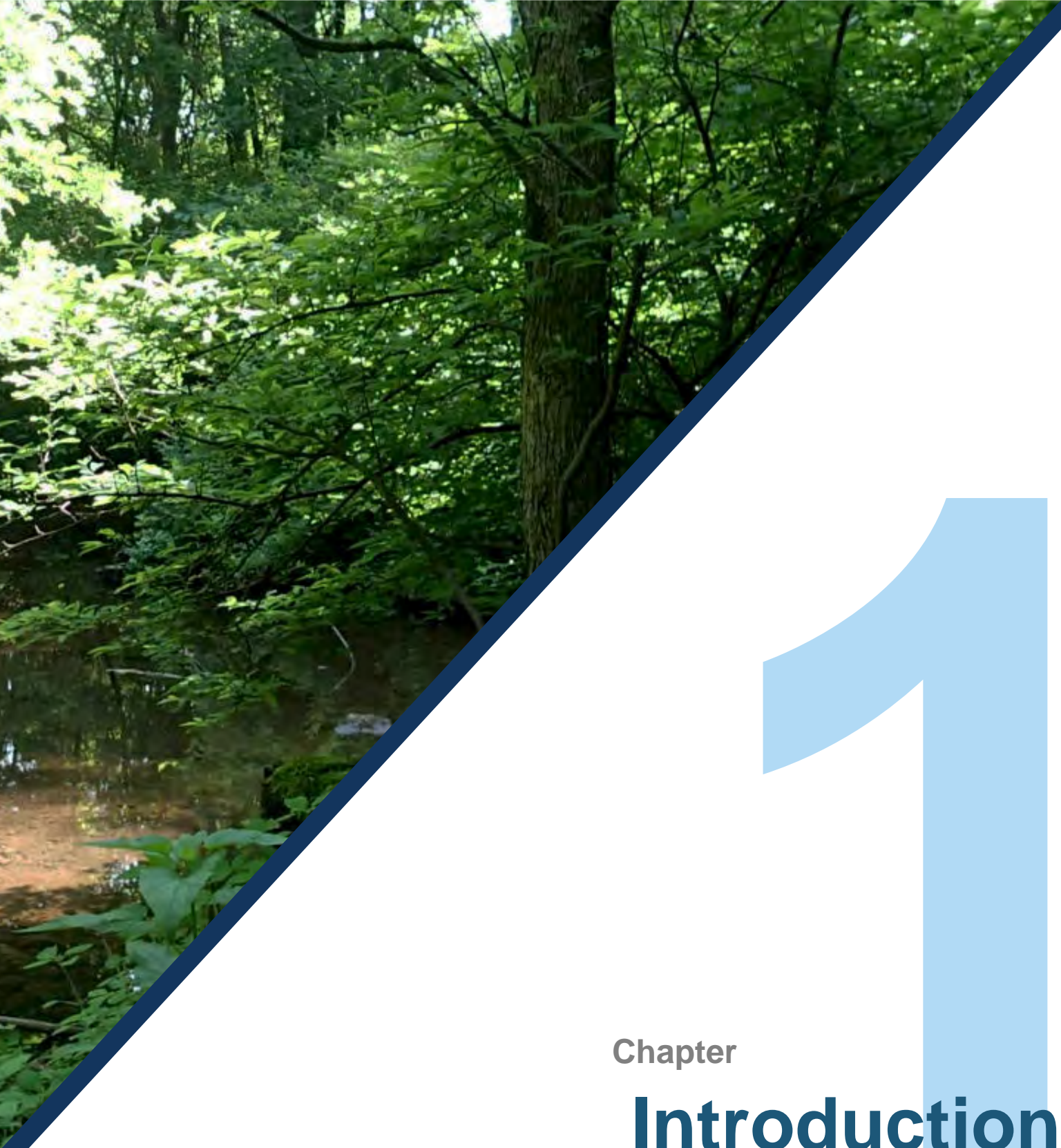
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Chapter 1





Chapter

Introduction

Purpose of Study

Exeter Township, located in Berks County, Pennsylvania, commissioned this Master Site Plan for the redevelopment of the Trout Run Sports Complex. The property is situated in the southern portion of the Township, bounded by the Schuylkill River to the south and the Norfolk-Southern freight rail line to the north. The total size of the Park is 113 acres. The Park currently serves primarily as an active recreation facility and as a trailhead for the Exeter Scenic Trail. There is also a large undeveloped area that comprises the eastern section of the Park and contains wetlands and an eight acre lake.

The Township applied for and received a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) grant to partially fund and prepare a master site development plan according to DCNR guidelines. This plan is the result of a collaboration between the public, a project steering committee, Township staff, project consultants, and the Exeter Township Board of Supervisors. This document outlines the planning process and provides a vision for the future of the Park.

The reason for creating a master site plan, the “why,” is to envision a better park for the residents of Exeter

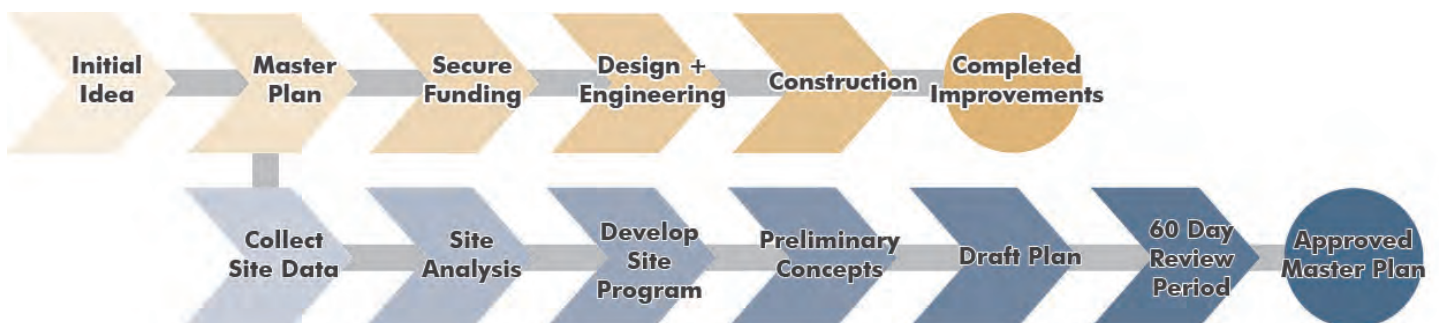
Township. The hope for a renewed Trout Run is for a park that maximizes enjoyment in recreation and opportunities for socialization; adheres to both aesthetics and functionality in its design; and works within the constraints of its environment as sustainably as possible. A park such as this can only be realized through the involvement of groups and individuals who know the park. Their participation lends credence to the reason for developing the plan, and ultimately, for its recommendations to be supported and implemented.

Master Planning Process

The master plan is an early step in the park improvement process for improvements and facilities to be constructed at Trout Run Sports Complex. The master plan includes cost estimates for development, outlines a strategy for phasing improvements and positions the Township for funding from a variety of potential funding sources. This is a guidance document that is intended to be a blueprint for park improvements while remaining flexible enough to adapt to the future desires and needs of the community.

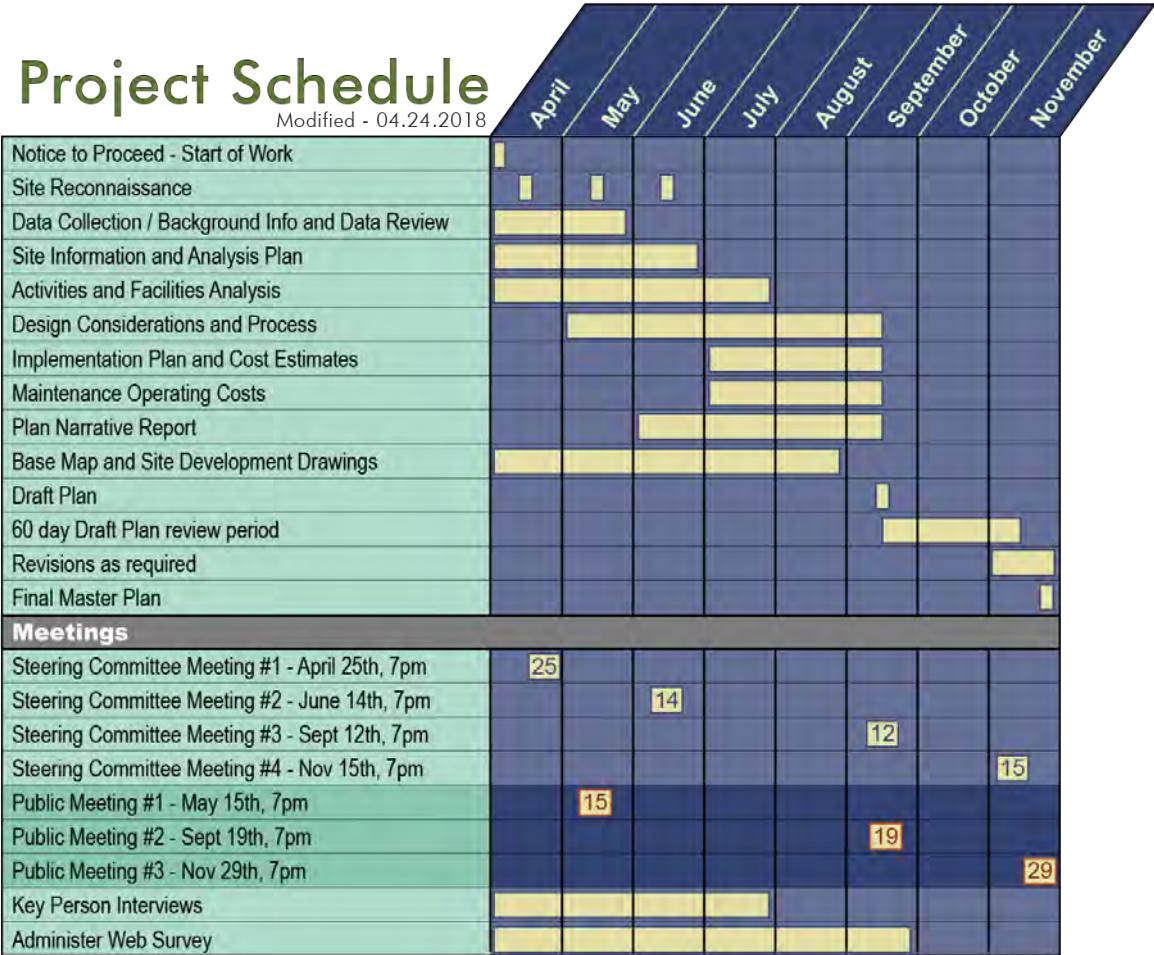
Following the completion of this master site development plan, the next step toward implementation is to identify and acquire funding for improvements. Once funding is obtained, detailed design and

Master Planning Process Diagram



Project Schedule

Modified - 04.24.2018



engineering will commence to develop construction documents. Construction documents can be publicly bid and a contract awarded for construction. A master plan is typically implemented through a series of phases, dependent on funding, over a period of years. In the case of Trout Run, two to three phases spanning three to twelve years is a realistic timeframe for the implementation of all park improvements.

Project Team

Exeter Township selected Simone Collins Landscape Architecture to lead the project team. A project study committee, comprised of residents and Township staff informed the process.

Simone Collins Landscape Architecture (SC) is a planning and design firm with a portfolio of award-winning projects in the areas of parks, trails, greenways and recreational facilities.

Public Participation

The consultants worked with the project study committee to tailor the public participation process to the project. Community input is a critical component of all successful master plans. It was important for the project team to hear citizens’ observations, needs, and ideas, and incorporate them as appropriate into the master plan.

The public participation process included three public

Chapter 1

meetings, four study committee meetings, nine key person interviews and an online public opinion survey. A project schedule is on the previous page. Meeting notes and attendance sheets for each meeting can be found in the appendix of this report.

Committee Meeting 1 – April 25, 2018

Study committee meeting one focused on presenting background information for the site. The consultants led a brainstorming activity that developed Park goals, facts, concepts, and potential partners.

Public Meeting 1 – May 15, 2018

The first public meeting introduced the project team to residents and provided an overview of the master plan process. A site inventory and analysis was presented, including a photographic tour of the site. The consultants led a brainstorming activity that gathered public goals, facts, concepts, for the Park. Preliminary design concepts were also discussed.

Committee Meeting 2 – June 14, 2018

Findings from the first committee meeting and the first public meeting were presented and reviewed during the second committee meeting. The consultant team also presented area demographics and results from the online survey. Refined design concepts were also reviewed.

Committee Meeting 3 – September 12, 2018

The consultant team presented the draft plan to the committee for comments.

Public Meeting 2 – September 19, 2018

The draft plan was presented to the public at the second public meeting. The consultant team led an informal discussion of proposed improvements.

Committee Meeting 4 – November 15, 2018

The final study committee meeting discussed draft plan comments, preliminary costs, and a phasing strategy. Decisions were made regarding which comments and changes should be made to the final plan.

Public Meeting 3 – November 29, 2018

The final plan was presented at the third public meeting. The consultants provided a brief overview of the master plan, and discussed cost estimates and implementation strategies.

Data Collection and Methodology

Elements for this plan were compiled using the best available information. This information included Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping obtained from Exeter Township, aerial photography, information gathered from previous and ongoing planning efforts, committee and public meetings, key person interviews, and site reconnaissance visits.



Plan Goals



Establish a vision for the future of Trout Run Sports Complex.



Provide for passive and active recreation opportunities for all ages and user groups.



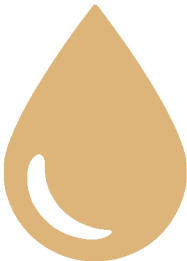
Assess existing storage structures and recommend a strategy for future organizational needs.



Protect the abundant natural resources of the park.



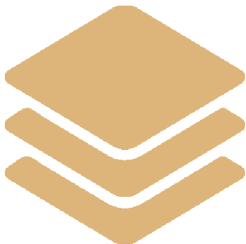
Look for ways to provide additional programming at the park.



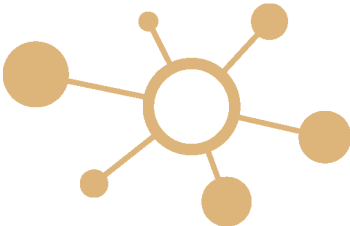
Enhance the efficiency of existing Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) to better address Township MS4 requirements.



Provide ADA compliant facilities and access where feasible in the park.



Prioritize park improvements into a phasing plan with cost estimates and implementation strategies.



Improve vehicular and pedestrian access and connectivity, into the park and to area amenities.



Develop a maintenance strategy that fits within the current maintenance capacity of the Township.

Chapter 2





Chapter

Inventory and Analysis

Site Description

Trout Run Sports Complex is located in the southern portion of the Township. It is bordered by East Neversink Road and the PA Department of Environmental Protection siltation basin to the west, the Norfolk-Southern railroad track to the north, Gibraltar Road to the east and the Schuylkill River to the south. It is 113 acres in size and contains four baseball/softball fields, bathroom facilities, two football fields, grills, three multipurpose fields and a pavilion/rental space. There are approximately 235 parking spaces with three handicap spaces. The Park also contains seven storage sheds. The park also serves as a trailhead for the Exeter Scenic River Trail. Most of the park is undeveloped land with access to the Scenic Trail only at the trailhead. A large wetland area lies at the eastern end of the park. The football fields are used by Exeter Youth Football and the softball fields are used by the Stonersville Flames Girls Fast Pitch softball team. The multipurpose fields are used by Exeter Youth Soccer and Exeter Youth Lacrosse. The annual Hayride Event is usually held at Trout Run, but due to construction work on the Neversink Road railroad underpass, the event was moved to the Reading Country Club in 2017. Access to the park is from East Neversink Road where an internal road leads to the facilities and large parking lot. There is no sidewalk access to the park but pedestrians and cyclists can enter the park via the Scenic Trail from a trailhead off Gibraltar Road near the bridge.

Regional Context

The regional context map shows the relationship between Exeter Township, Berks County and the State of Pennsylvania. Exeter Township is bordered by Alsace Township directly to the north, Oley Township to the northeast, Amity Township to the east, Birdsboro Township to the southeast, Robeson Township to the south, Cumru Township to the southwest, Mt. Penn

Borough directly west, and Lower Alsace Township to the northwest.

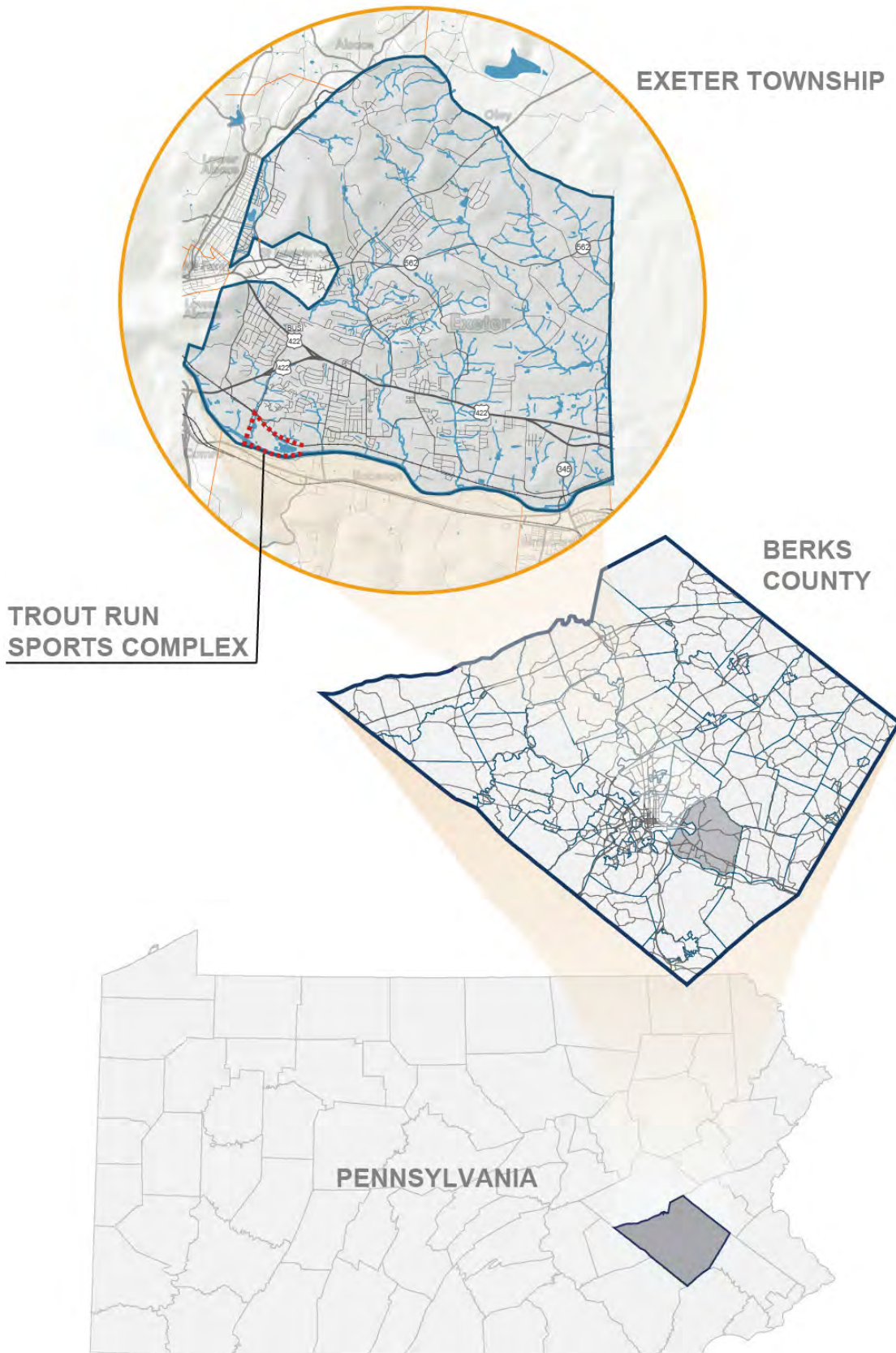
The Township is bisected by Route 422 which connects the Township to Reading to the west and eventually to Harrisburg after Route 422 merges with US Route 322. US Route 422 also connects the Township to King of Prussia to the east and to Philadelphia by way of Interstate 76. In the northern half of the Township, the municipality is bisected by PA Route 562 which merges with Oley Turnpike Road on the western edge of the Township and feeds into downtown Reading.

The Township has two major natural boundaries: the Schuylkill River to the south and Mount Penn to the northwest. The Schuylkill River is directly along the southern edge of the Township and creates a natural border to the neighboring Townships. The River is a major attraction to the area. The water trail and the paralleling Schuylkill River Trail, located on the opposite bank in Chester County, extends roughly 15 miles east to Pottstown (and beyond) and 25 miles west to Hamburg. Mount Penn, although not in the Township, serves as a natural edge to the northwestern portion of the Township. Mount Penn is within Lower Alsace Township which directly neighbors Exeter Township. Mount Penn is a major recreational attraction to the area and includes various sports, activities, and mountain biking for locals and visitors.

Exeter Township Parks and Recreation System

Trout Run Sports Complex is one of seven public parks operated by Exeter Township and is the largest of all the parks. The Park system includes approximately 220 acres of parkland. Along with the parks, the Township owns and operates the Dunn Community Center and the Reading Country Club.

Inventory and Analysis

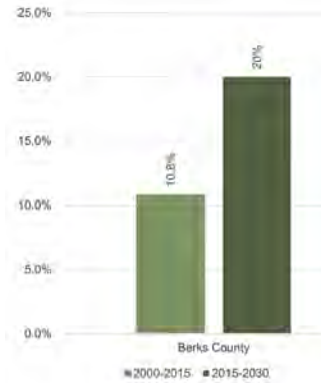


Chapter 2

BERKS COUNTY



AGE

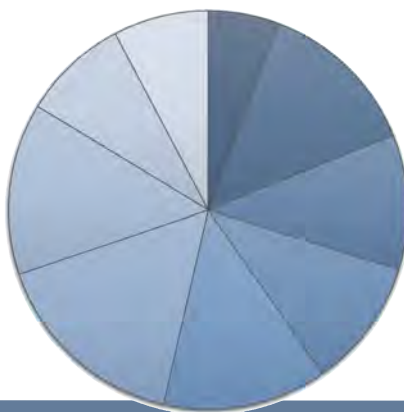


POPULATION

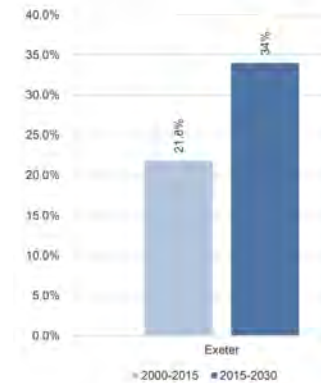
Present Population
413,965

Projected Population 2030
491,914

EXETER TOWNSHIP



AGE



POPULATION

Present Population
25,764

Projected Population 2030
34,560

Demographics

Exeter Township has a population of 25,764 residents according to the 2015 American Community Survey (ACS), and is expected to reach 34,560 by 2030. This is a 34% increase from the present population. Data is also compared to Berks County to assess general demographics within the region.

The two largest age cohorts are 45-54 (24%) and 55-64 (16.4%). This indicates that Exeter Township is an aging population, which is a trend found among suburban communities. Median age in the Township is 42.6.

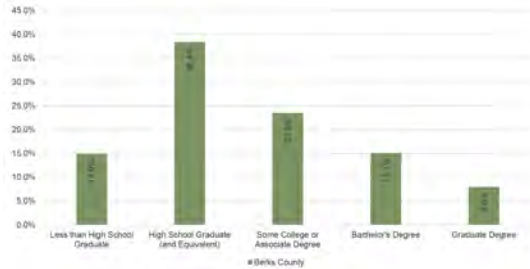
The population in Berks County is 413,965 residents. The population is expected to grow by 20% and reach 491,914 by 2030. Unlike Exeter Township, the two largest age cohorts are 45-54 (14.8%) and 15-24 (14.2%), indicating the presence of a large number of families throughout the County. Median age in the County is 39.7.

Nearly 90% of the Exeter Township population identifies as Caucasian. The other 10% is mixed between African American, Asian, Hispanic, and two or more races. Berks County is also predominantly Caucasian, but there is a large Hispanic presence in the county. The other races make up the remaining 7.1% of the population.

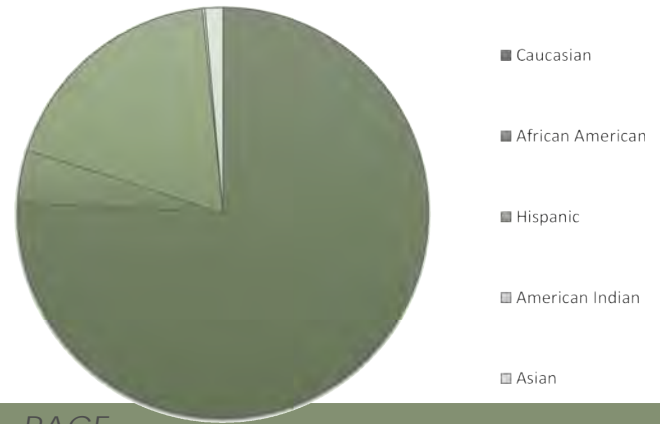
Inventory and Analysis

Median Household Income **\$55,963**

Average Household Size **2.66**



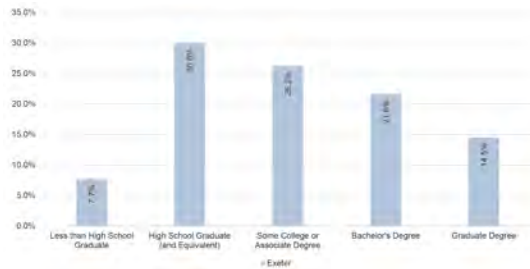
HOUSEHOLD



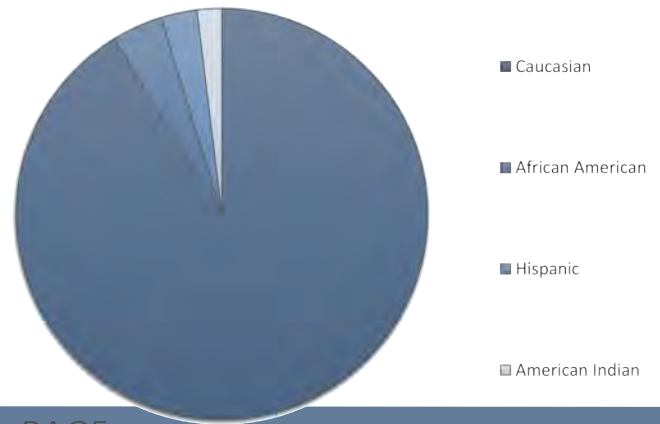
RACE

Median Household Income **\$75,402**

Average Household Size **2.64**



HOUSEHOLD



RACE

The majority of the population of Exeter Township has received some higher education. This differs from Berks County with nearly half of the population not receiving any college education.

The median household income in Exeter Township is \$75,402. This is roughly 35% more than the Berks County median household income of \$55,963. Berks County's median household income is similar to both Pennsylvania and the United States.

Key Person Interviews

The consultants interviewed nine key persons during

the design process. These conversations were with stakeholders, including emergency personnel and sports organizations who have vested interests in the facilities at the Park and who provided in-depth and critical insight into field usage, constraints and recommendations for the master plan. Most of the sports organizations, such as soccer, lacrosse and softball, are seeing their memberships grow and want to ensure the continued and successful accommodations of their teams within the overall context of field and access improvements for all users.

The key person interviews included individuals from: Exeter Board of Supervisors, Exeter Police Department, Exeter Fire Department, Exeter Highway

Chapter 2

Department, Exeter Youth Football, Exeter Youth Lacrosse, Stonersville Flames Softball, Exeter Little League and Exeter Lions Club. The key person interview notes are found in the Appendix of the report.

On-Site Reconnaissance

The consultants conducted site reconnaissance of the park multiple times. Initial site visits included inventory and analysis that helped to inform the master plan. The consultants toured the facilities on the property to assist with the assessment and recommendations for existing structures. Follow-up site visits were conducted to verify the feasibility of proposed improvements.

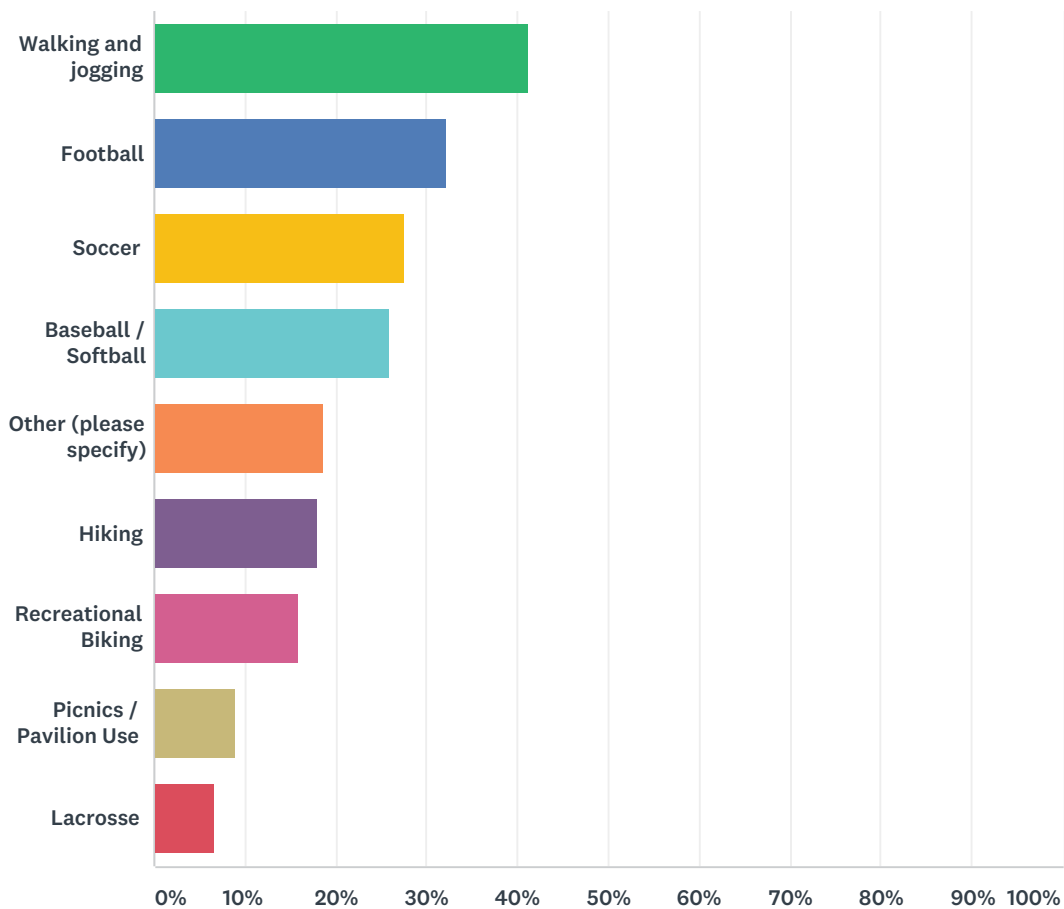


Public Opinion Survey

A 24 question online public opinion survey was open to the public from May 2018 until September 2018. The survey received a total of 327 responses. Respondents were kept confidential and responses were compiled together and analyzed. The complete survey is found in the appendix of the report. Select responses are shown below.

Please list all the activities you and members of your household participated in.

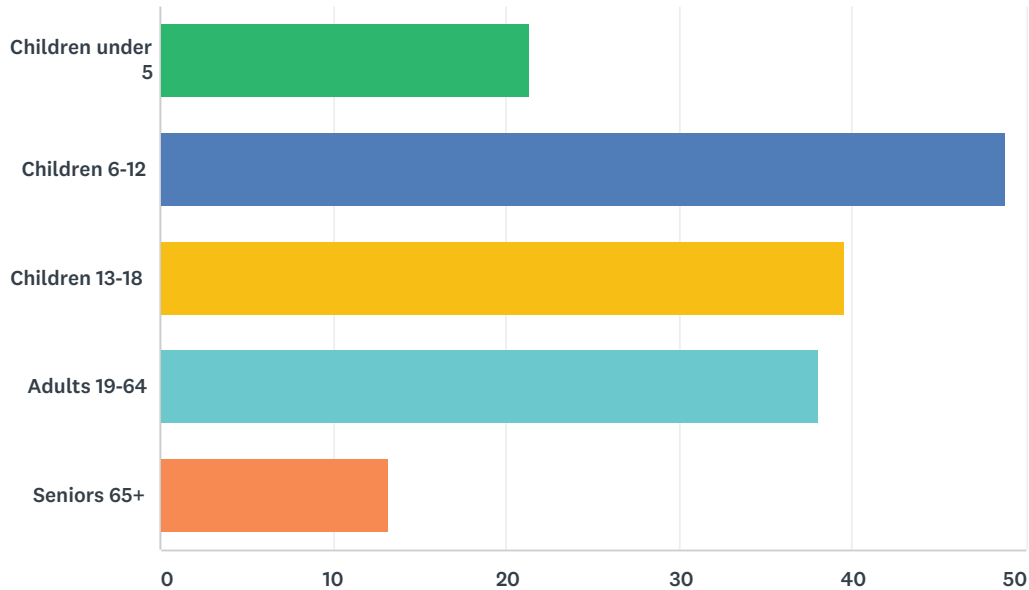
Answered: 177 Skipped: 150



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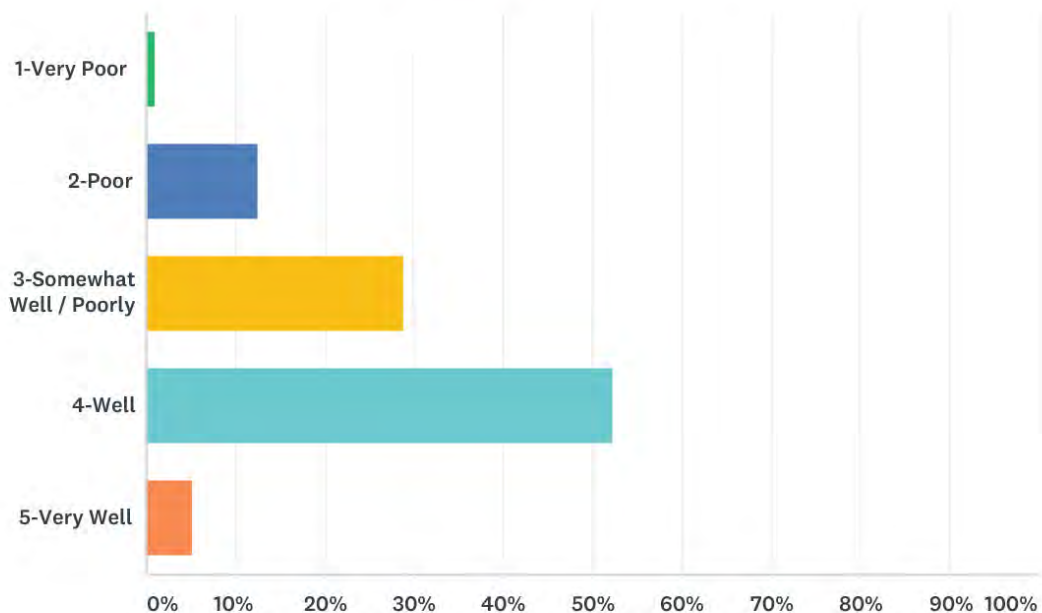
In general, how well do you think the age groups listed below are served by Trout Run?

Answered: 222 Skipped: 105



On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being very well maintained, how well-maintained do you feel Trout Run is?

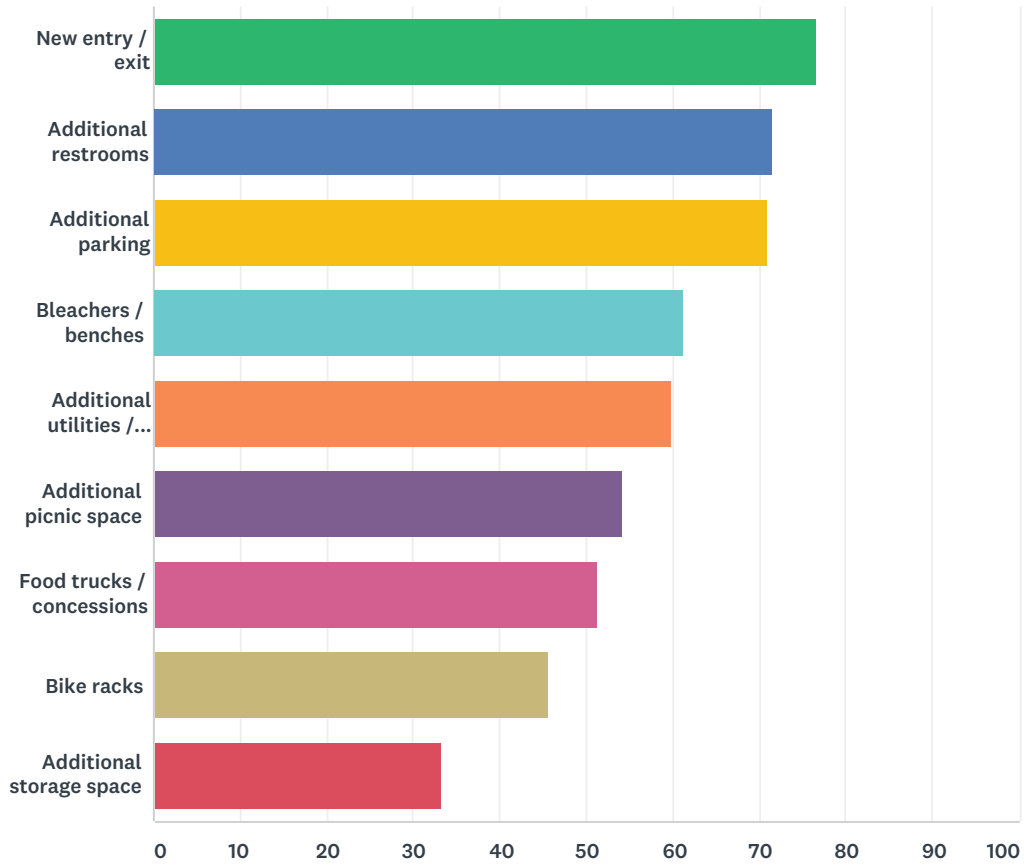
Answered: 191 Skipped: 136



Inventory and Analysis

In general, how important do you feel the following amenities/facilities are for a better and more comfortable experience at Trout Run?

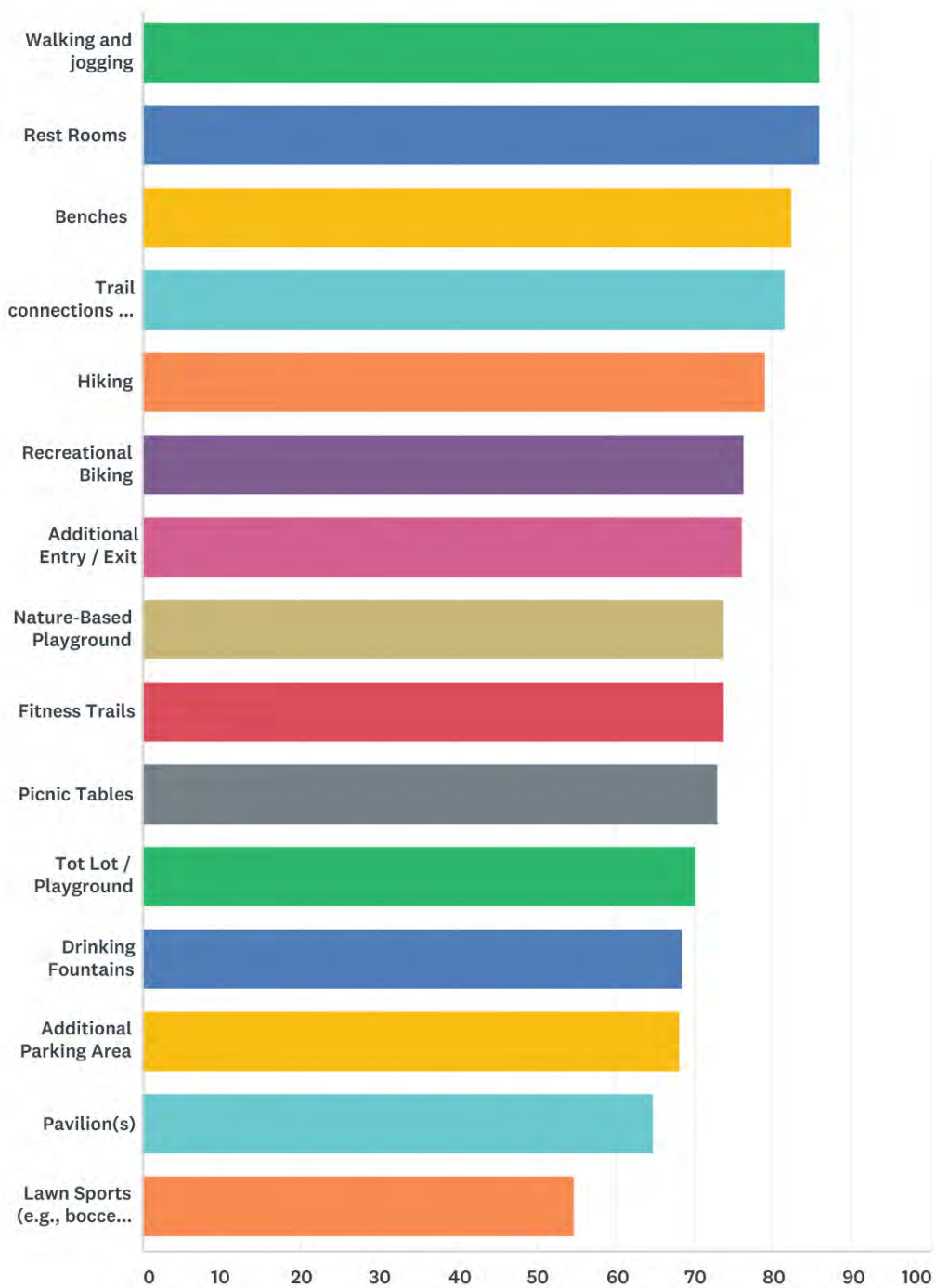
Answered: 232 Skipped: 95



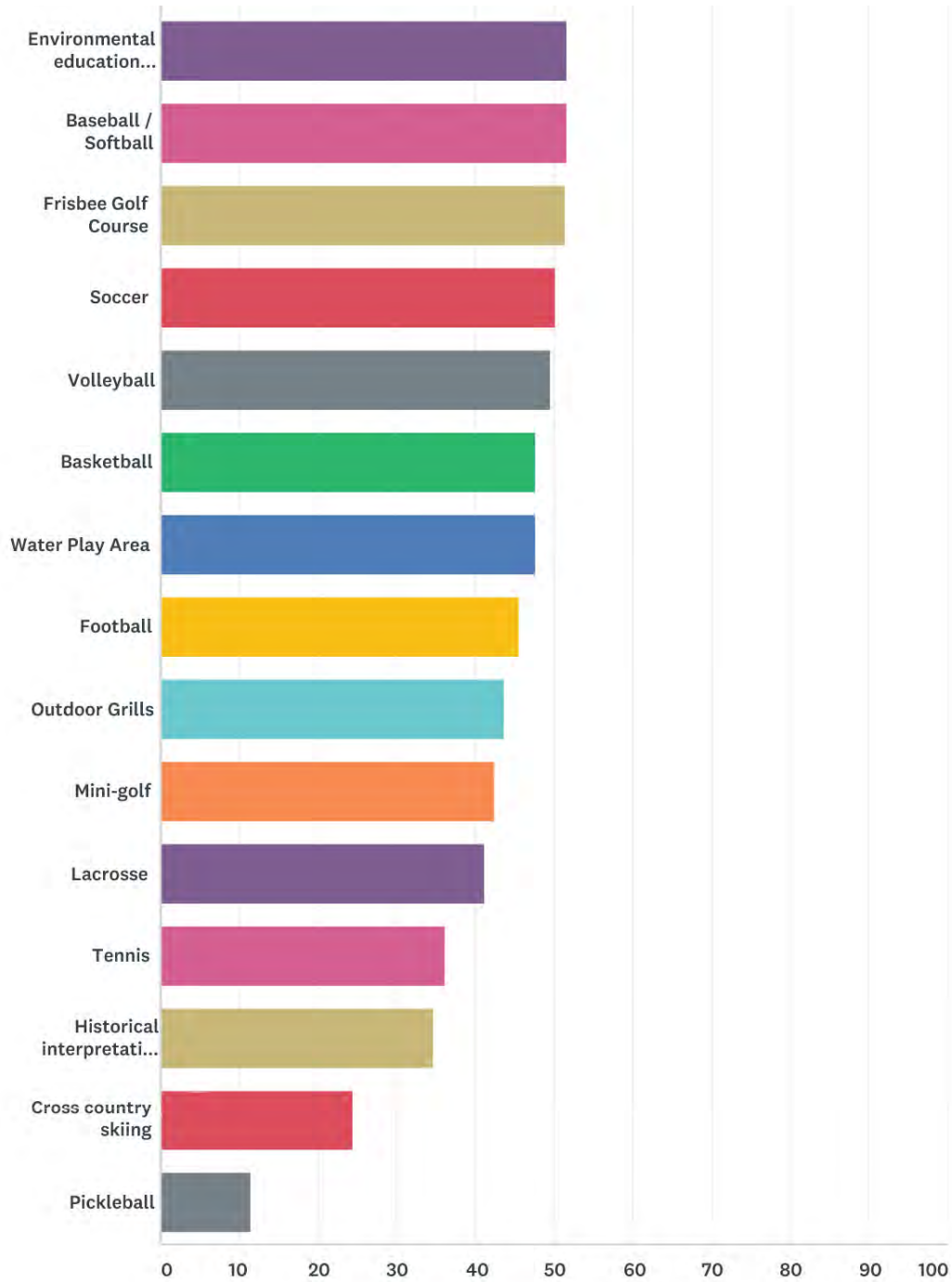
Chapter 2

Specifically regarding the master plan for Trout Run, which new or additional facilities and activities do you think should be considered?

Answered: 233 Skipped: 94



Inventory and Analysis



Planning Documents

Exeter Township Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan 2018

This report provides a guide for Exeter Township to accurately and effectively plan for parks, recreation, and preserved open space as its population continues to increase. The report provides regional context, demographics, and industry information. The report also includes survey results, an inventory of existing parks and open spaces, and provides a set of recommendations including:

- Evaluating the need for an indoor community center
- Pursuing master plans for specific parks
- Improvements to existing parks
- Trail planning and development
- Maintaining and building partnerships
- Exploring the use of existing Township land for active and passive recreation
- Investing in recreational management software and recruiting instructors for new programming

Trout Run Sports Complex is mentioned in the report as an existing park that is in need of a new master plan. This report is structured to be instrumental to the success of Exeter Township's ability to address the recreational needs of the current and future population.

Joint Comprehensive Plan for Amity Township, Exeter Township, St. Lawrence Borough, 2005

The plan identifies common goals and objectives for topics including land use, resources, housing and community facilities, open space and recreation, and preservation. The plan also addresses policies and techniques pertaining to these topics. The primary objectives outlined by this plan and to be addressed by each municipality include:

- Protect, conserve, sustain, and enhance the natural and scenic resources for benefit and enjoyment of

current and future generations

- Preserve and enhance the historic, architectural, and cultural heritage
- Preserve remaining agricultural areas for agricultural use
- Provide open space through the preservation and acquisition of farmland, river and stream corridors, woodlands and hills, and the development and retention of recreation areas and parks
- Plan a regional pattern of land use which recognizes the existing character and land use patterns
- Achieve a safe and efficient regional circulation system which will enhance pedestrian and bicycle movement, ease vehicular travel, and minimize adverse impacts on residential neighborhoods.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan addresses all these goals while also considering other important recommendations for the municipalities involved. The plan can be found at: http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Documents/MultiMunicipalPlanning/JointComprehensivePlans/AmityExeterSaintLawrence/FULL_DOCUMENT.pdf

Berks County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan, 2008

The 2008 Berks County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan is an update to the 1994 Plan and sets a specific course of action Berks County should take to provide future open space, greenways, and recreation. This plan serves as a guide for individual municipalities to follow regarding distribution of resources. The goals and objectives are based on the Berks County Comprehensive Plan, and are set forth with the possibility of change kept in mind due to the shifting dynamic of recreational needs. Through the identification of important natural and historical resources, as well as inventory of existing recreational services and facilities, five (5) major goals were established:

- Acquisition and preservation of important natural areas and stream corridors

- Protection of critical and unique natural areas including Schuylkill River Corridor, Neversink Mountain, and Kittatiny Ridge
- Interconnecting a greenway system along natural areas and stream corridors
- Establishing an ecological network to promote biodiversity and connect additional areas in the Northern Piedmont of Pennsylvania
- Protection and preservation of historical sites and districts based on their status or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

The plan can be found online at: <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/TheBerksCountyGreenway,ParkandRecreationPlan.aspx>.

Berks County Comprehensive Plan 2030 (2013)

The Berks County Comprehensive Plan 2030, also referred to as the Berks Vision, serves as an update to the Comprehensive Plan of 2003. This plan serves as a set of recommendations and a guide for growth and development within the County. It assists the Berks County Planning Commission in evaluating development proposals. The Plan created a vision statement for the county. This vision statement includes:

- Taking full advantage of the county's geographic location along major roadways connecting Berks County to the Philadelphia Region, Lehigh Valley, New York / New Jersey Metro Region, Lancaster, and Baltimore / Washington Metro Region.
- Continuing to protect its rich agricultural land and heritage while expanding its parks and trail systems
- Expanding its use of new technology to link the County's economic, educational, and social institutions, as well as promoting smart growth policies and practices to accomplish these end results

The Plan, including all subsequent documents, can

be found at: <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/Berks-County-Comprehensive-Plan.aspx>.

Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2014 - 2019

The 2014 Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, completed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, provides a guide for developers, local governments, state governments, and others for outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania. This plan is updated every five years. The plan includes various surveys and studies that identify priorities and findings throughout the state of Pennsylvania. Using these findings and other research, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan lists priorities for outdoor recreation. The five major priorities include:

- Health and Wellness
- Local Parks and Recreation
- Tourism and Economic Development
- Resource Management and Stewardship
- Funding/Financial Stability of Recreational Assets and Opportunities

The Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan can be found at: <http://www.paoutdoorrecplan.com/>.

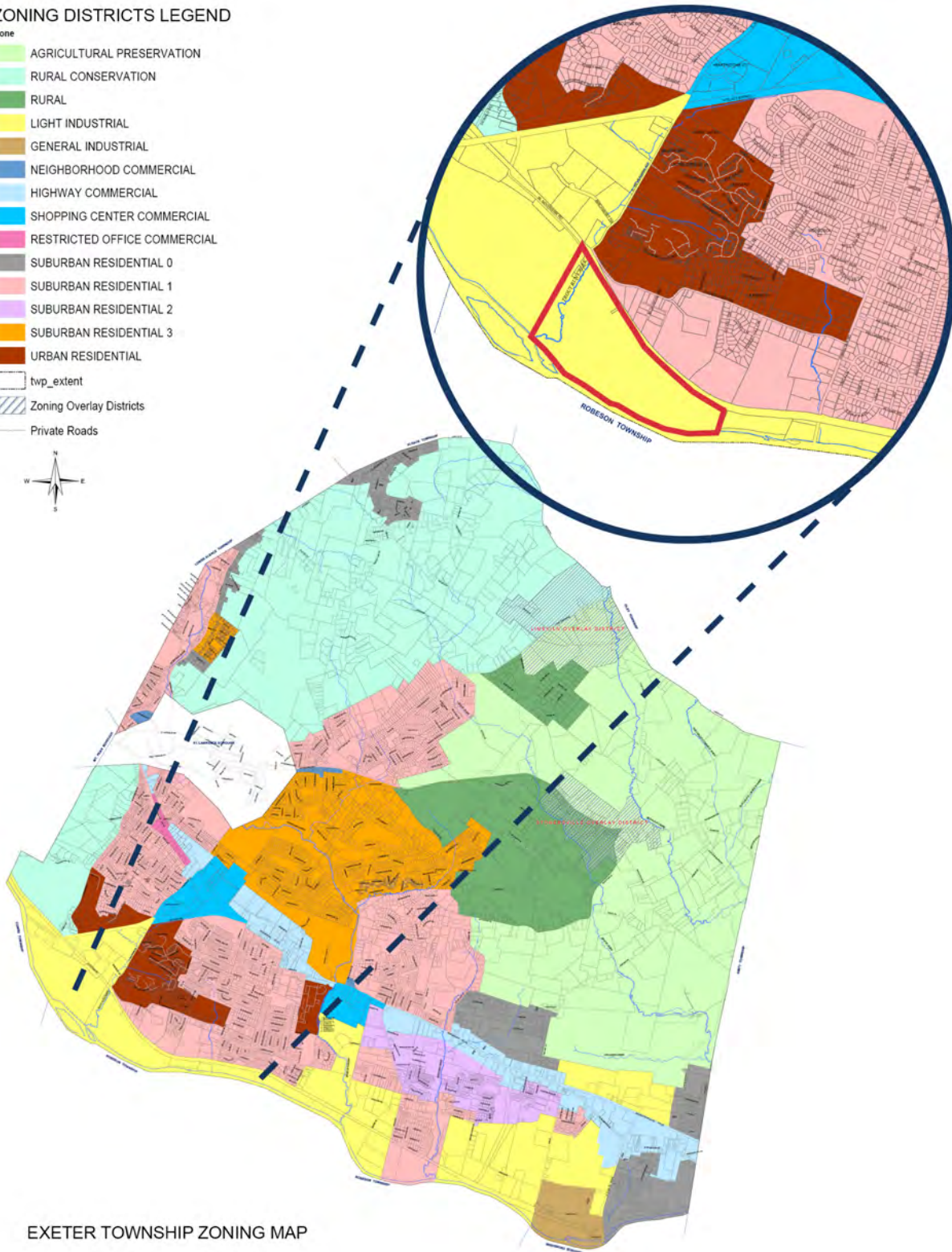
Developing Water Trails in PA

Developing Water Trails in PA, published by the PA Water Trails Partnership, is a handbook intended for users and developers of water trails in Pennsylvania. A water trail is a defined corridor along a waterway that provides recreational, educational, and economical opportunities for users with connections to history, ecology, heritage, and wildlife. The document includes a checklist for implementing a water trail and guiding principles for promoting and developing trails. The 8 principles are partnerships, stewardships, volunteerism, education, conservation, community

Chapter 2

ZONING DISTRICTS LEGEND

- Zone
- AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION
- RURAL CONSERVATION
- RURAL
- LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
- GENERAL INDUSTRIAL
- NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL
- HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL
- SHOPPING CENTER COMMERCIAL
- RESTRICTED OFFICE COMMERCIAL
- SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL 0
- SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL 1
- SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL 2
- SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL 3
- URBAN RESIDENTIAL
- twp_extnt
- Zoning Overlay Districts
- Private Roads



EXETER TOWNSHIP ZONING MAP

vitality, diversity, and wellness and wellbeing. The handbook can be found at <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/water/PAwatertrailrecomm.html>.

Summary of Relevant Township Zoning and SALDO Ordinances

The following is a review of existing Township ordinances that relate to parks, recreation, open space and natural resource protection.

Zoning Districts

LI-Light Industrial District: Zoning Ordinance Section 390-24

Trout Run Sports Complex is zoned Light Industrial. This district's intent is to provide an area in which a variety of industrial uses may locate provided that they will not adversely affect the public health, safety and general welfare of the residents and inhabitants of the Township. To accomplish this, performance standards are established. Uses permitted by right include office buildings; wholesaling and warehousing activities; printing and publishing activities; research activities; municipal uses; parks, except amusement parks and conservation areas; self-storage units; testing, production, packaging and related activities of food, goods and materials, and repair and cleaning activities related thereto; electric power production; trade school; college/university; telecommunications tower; forestry activities; yard sales; boarding kennels; and passive agriculture. Amusement parks, drive-ins and indoor recreation are permitted by special exception.

SR1-Suburban Residential 1 District: Zoning Ordinance Section 390-15

The area to the north of the Park is zoned SR1. This district's intent is to provide for the maintenance and expansion of residential areas at medium to high densities of development, depending upon the availability of public disposal and water supply facilities.

Uses permitted by right include single family detached dwelling; municipal use; no impact home based business; open space/conservation development; conventional development of less than 10 acres; forestry activities; yard sale; home occupation; and passive agriculture. Parks (except amusement parks), playgrounds and picnic grounds are permitted by special exception. Conventional development of 10 acres or more is permitted by conditional use.

Fee in Lieu of Open Space/Park Dedication

Recreational and Open Space Areas and Fees: SALDO Section 330-45

- The intent of this section is to provide adequate open space, recreational lands and recreational facilities to serve the residents of Exeter Township for both active and passive recreation. This section shall apply to any subdivision or land development for which a preliminary plan and/or final plan is submitted and a per dwelling unit fee will be collected at the time of building permit issuance and will be calculated by using the fee in effect at that time. The Fee-in-Lieu of Contribution - which is \$115,000 (as amended from time to time by resolution of the Board of Supervisors) per acre based on the land dedication formula of 0.04 acres dedicated per each gross acre of the tract being subdivided or developed - can be used at Trout Run for the development of public recreational facilities, park landscaping, engineering and design work and maintenance of facilities, in accordance with the Municipalities Planning Code.

Floodplain and Riparian Buffers Ordinance No. 725

The Township has adopted a Floodplain and Riparian Buffer Area Management Ordinance and is applicable toward Trout Run as it lies in a floodplain and contains the Trout Run creek and a large wetland area.

Chapter 2

The riparian corridor conservation buffer areas for the Schuylkill River and Trout Run shall be as follows:

- A minimum width of 50 feet from each defined edge of the watercourse at the top of the bank, measured perpendicular to the edge of the watercourse at the top of the bank
- A minimum of 25 feet beyond the outer edge of delineated wetland bordering a stream, where the buffer from such wetland would be more than 50 feet from the edge of the watercourse at the top of the bank

The riparian corridor conservation buffer areas for surface water features shall be a minimum width of 25 feet from the outer edge of the wetland or water body, measured perpendicular to the edge; for wetlands located at the edge of a water body, the measurement shall be made from the outer edge of the wetland.

Permitted uses within the riparian buffer related to recreation and open space include:

- Open space uses, including wildlife sanctuaries, nature preserves, forest preserves, passive areas of public and private parklands, recreational trails, and reforestation
- Driveways serving recreational trails
- Passive use areas, such as camps, campgrounds, picnic areas, golf courses, active recreation fields, playgrounds, and courts, provided that such uses are not located within 25 feet of any surface water feature and that the uses are designed in a manner that will not cause concentrated stormwater flow.

Removal of trees in excess of improvement cutting and removal or disturbance of vegetation in a manner that is inconsistent with erosion control and riparian corridor protection are prohibited.

Landscaping

Removal of Natural Resources: Zoning Ordinance Section 390-49

Trout Run is ripe with a large number of natural resources and features. Natural resources are defined to include: trees, water, topsoil, minerals, rocks and

other products of the earth. Except where listed as a permitted use elsewhere in the Zoning Ordinance, or where permitted as part of the land development process by the Exeter Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, removal of natural resources from a lot is not permitted.

Natural Features: SALDO Section 330-40

All natural features, such as large trees, wooded areas, rock outcroppings, the natural terrain, steep slope areas, wetlands, and natural water courses and bodies of water shall be preserved unless selective relief is granted by the Township Board of Supervisors and other governmental agencies having jurisdiction.

Park and Recreation Areas/ Community Facilities

Parks and Recreation Areas: Ordinance No. 325

It is the intent, purpose and scope of this chapter to ensure the preservation of outdoor public parklands, outdoor recreation facilities and outdoor playground areas within the Township of Exeter for the perpetual enjoyment of the residents of the Township of Exeter. With regards to Trout Run, the complex shall be restricted for use by youth sports groups/organizations and for other youth activities by permit only

Community Facilities: SALDO Section 330-44

In reviewing the subdivision plans, the Planning Commission will consider the adequacy of existing or proposed community facilities to serve the additional dwellings proposed by the subdivision or land development. Applicants shall give earnest consideration to the desirability of providing or reserving areas for facilities normally required in residential neighborhoods, including churches, libraries, schools and other public buildings, parks, playgrounds and play fields. Areas provided or reserved for such community facilities should be adequate to provide

for building sites, landscaping, and off-street parking appropriate to the use proposed. Such areas should be located in a manner to best serve the public likely to use the same and to utilize, to the greatest degree, any existing desirable topographical features.

Steep Slope

Steep Slope Controls: Zoning Ordinance Section 390-48

The intent of this Section is to establish certain restrictions relating to permitted uses, bulk, area and coverage requirements for property located on (mean) slopes of fifteen percent (15%) or more and to control the creation of new, man-made very steep slope areas and their attendant problems. It is not the intent, however, to prohibit development, but merely to insure that adequate consideration has been given to these unique problems and that adequate safeguards will be taken.

Category I steep slopes are defined as any area, whether existing or proposed, where the mean slope of the land is fifteen percent (15%) or greater but less than twenty-five percent (25%), and has an elevation change of ten feet (10') or greater and Category II steep slopes are defined as any area, whether existing or proposed, where the mean slope of the land is twenty-five percent (25%) or greater and has an elevation change of ten feet (10') or greater. Because of its historic development as part of a siltation basin operation, Trout Run contains areas of Category I and II steep slopes.

Existing (Non-Manmade) Category II Steep Slopes shall not be altered, regraded, cleared, built upon or otherwise disturbed unless such disturbance is necessary to accommodate a trail or trails that are part of an existing or planned trail network and are located and constructed based upon accepted best management practices for minimizing erosion. In no case shall more than ten percent (10%) of the area containing existing (Non-Manmade) Category II Steep Slopes be disturbed. Except as previously permitted,

existing (Non-Manmade) Category II Steep Slope areas shall be left undisturbed and shall be subject to a permanent conservation easement that specifically prohibits removal of healthy trees and/or vegetation (exotic or noxious species excepted). In no case shall more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the area containing Existing (Non-Manmade) Category I Steep Slopes be disturbed

Stormwater Management

Ordinance No. 676

The Township has adopted a Stormwater Management Ordinance. This ordinance is intended to serve as a framework to manage the increased runoff resulting from land development and redevelopment. Implementation of this ordinance can help mitigate effects from stormwater runoff and help maintain the natural hydrologic regime and sustain higher water quality, groundwater recharge, stream baseflow and aquatic ecosystems. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the public health, safety, and welfare within the Schuylkill River Watershed, and specifically at Trout Run, these could be through provisions designed to:

- Promote nonstructural Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Minimize increases in stormwater volume
- Minimize impervious surfaces
- Manage stormwater impacts close to the runoff source, which requires a minimum of structures and relies on natural processes
- Preserve and restore the flood-carrying capacity of streams
- Prevent scour and erosion of streambanks and streambeds



1939



1958

History

The History of Trout Run Sports Complex is tied to the history of the Schuylkill River. The park was originally farmland until it was acquired by the state to become a silt basin for the The Schuylkill River Project from 1947-1951. This project removed millions of tons of accumulated coal culm from the river. Although dredging continued after the completion of the project, the basin built at Trout Run (Seyfert No.2) was never used, but the basin just north (Seyfert No. 1) still sees action, as the Stoudts Ferry Prep Seyfert Impounding Basin, and is used for Anthracite Coal Refuse Reproduction. Groundwork for the park was laid out by the Exeter Youth Association (EYA) in the late 1990s, but it wasn't until the early 2000s when Exeter Township started to develop the park into what it is today.

1939

Aerial photography shows the area to be dominated by farming. There is some development in Seyfert and Gibraltar. The train line built by Reading Railroad runs through the site. There is some development along Perkiomen Avenue.

1958

Aerial photography in 1958 shows where the basins were constructed for use in the The Schuylkill River Project. The small lake at the southern end of the site can be seen. The land around the site is still primarily farm land. More development occurs along Perkiomen Avenue.



1971



1992

1971

Significant development begins to move into the area in 1971, as Perkiomen Avenue begins its transformation into Route 422. There is also a connection to I-176 to the north. New development expands along Gibraltar Road and East Neversink Road. The Park site is yet to be developed.

1992

Aerial photography in 1992 shows many neighborhood developments now lie north of the site. There were many changes since 1971, besides the obvious housing construction. Reading Railroad sells to Conrail and Pennsylvania Railroad abandons its lines which will become part of the Schuylkill River Trail. The Allegheny Aqueduct Historical Park is completed in 1990. And in 1974, Hurricane Agnes destroys the Gibraltar Road Bridge, so a new alignment is constructed with the new bridge. Ridgewood to the west is starting to develop. Godiva Chocolatier and Boscov's Transportation Center are constructed to the north of the site.

Chapter 2



1999



2004

1999

Between 1991 and 1999, Trout Run Sports Complex starts to see some clearing and development as the site is acquired by the Township and the EYA assists with tree removal, landscaping, drainage, roadwork, soil testing and fund raising. In the area around the Park, Ridgewood also becomes more developed. There is little change to the north of the site, but some of the remaining farm fields are now becoming developed.

2004

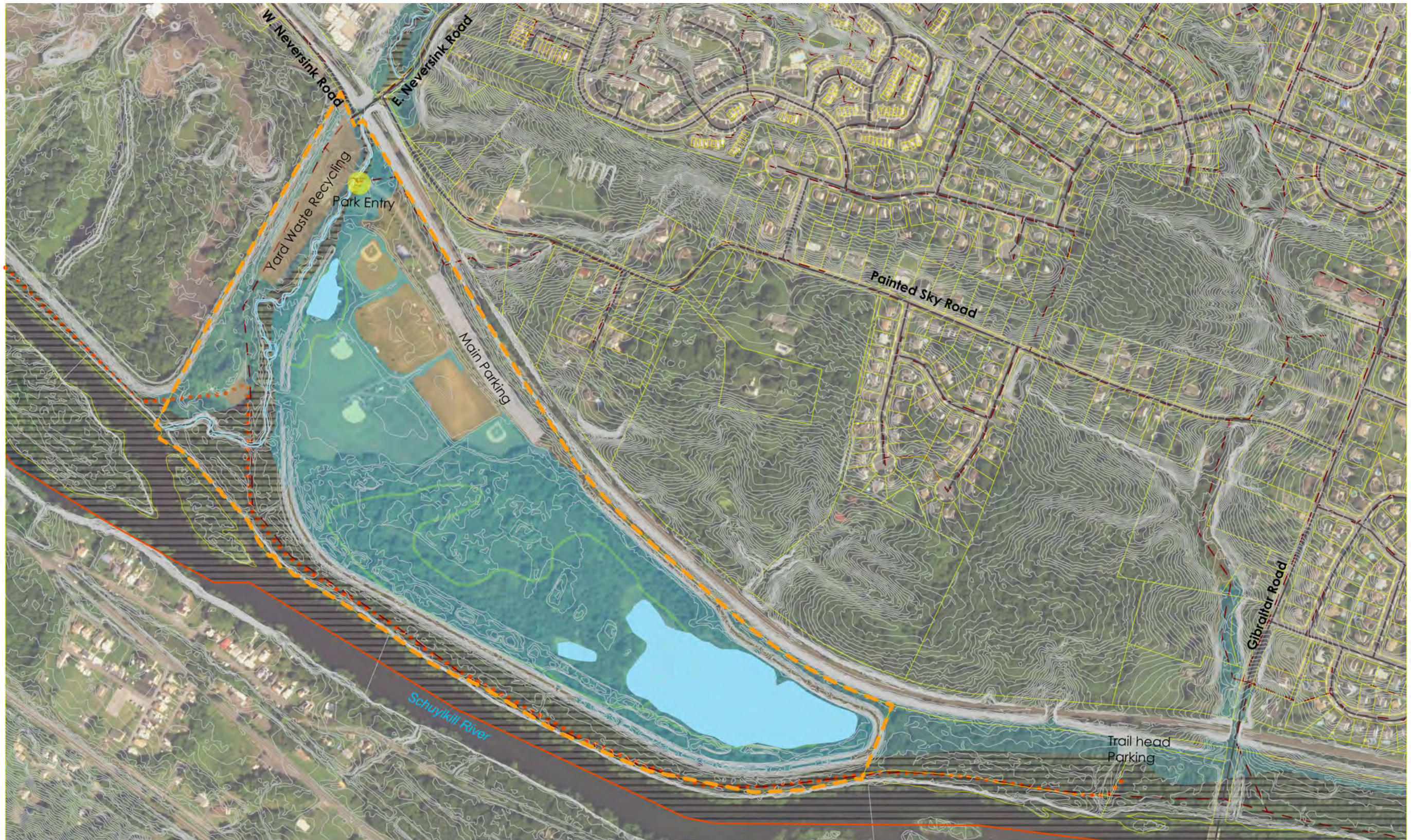
Aerial photography in 2004 shows Trout Run Sports Complex as it is today. The fields and parking are constructed. The House that existed on the northwest side of the property becomes the yard waste recycling area. There is no real development change in the area.



2016

Aerial photography shows no significant change in the park from 2004 to 2016. The only major development is the Exeter Commons along Route 422, and Ridgewood to the west of the site.



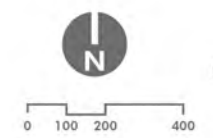


Trout Run Sports Complex

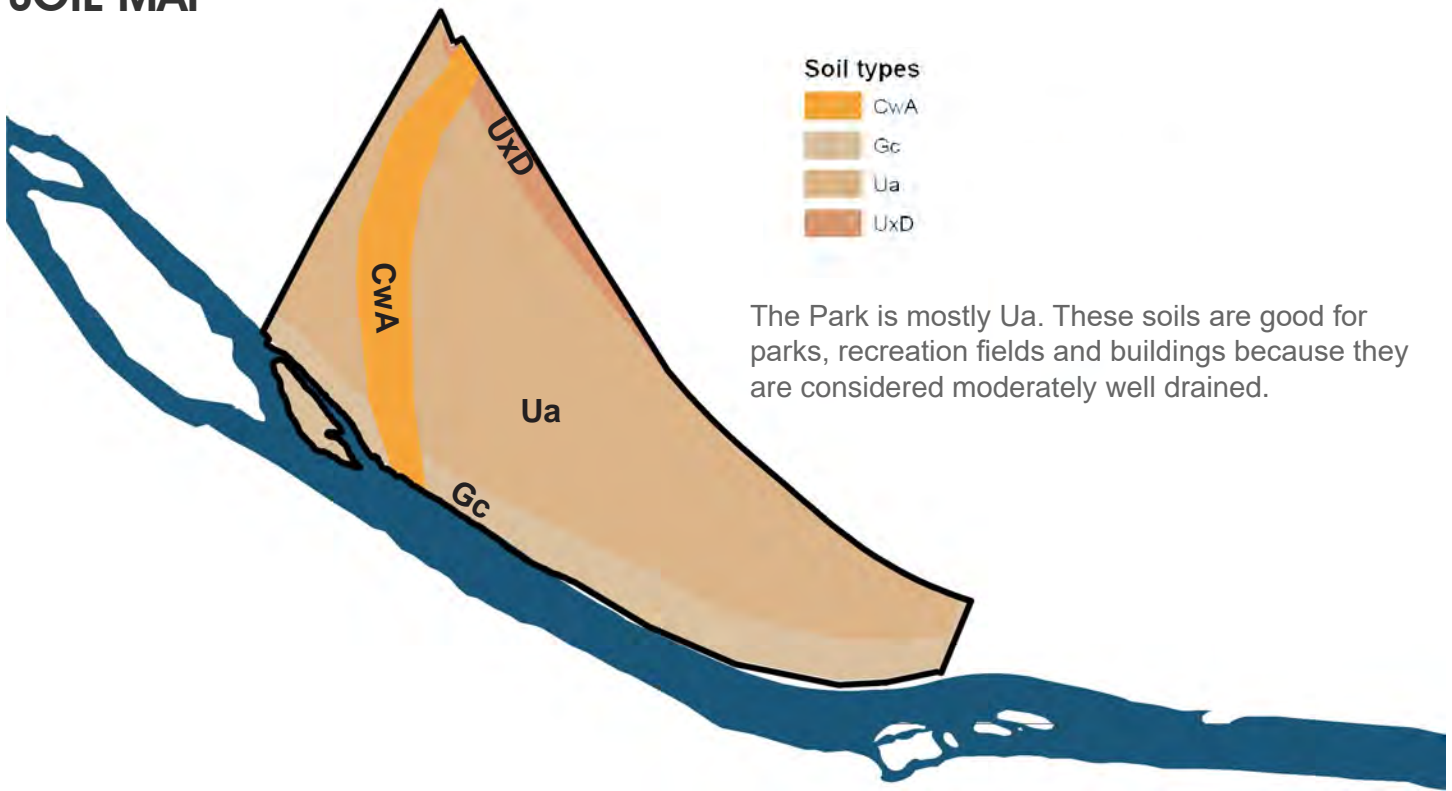
Existing Site Conditions

Exeter Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania

- LEGEND**
- Site Boundary
 - Water
 - Wetland Boundary
 - Floodway
 - Floodplain
 - Parcel Boundaries
 - Exeter Scenic River Trail
 - Sanitation Line



SOIL MAP



The Park is mostly Ua. These soils are good for parks, recreation fields and buildings because they are considered moderately well drained.

Circulation

Access to Trout Run Sports Complex is limited for both vehicular and pedestrian users. Vehicular access is provided from West and East Neversink Road. The access drive enters the park from the northwest. This is currently the only access to the park by car.

Pedestrian access to the park is very limited as there are no sidewalks to the park. Most pedestrian access to the park can be achieved by the Scenic Trail by way of a trailhead located off of Gibraltar Road. This is an approximate 1.2 mile walk.

There is a path system that currently exists within the sports field areas. It is partially paved. There is no paved path that connects to the Scenic Trail.

Geology and Soils

The site is located within the Lebanon Valley which is part of The Great Valley Section of the New England

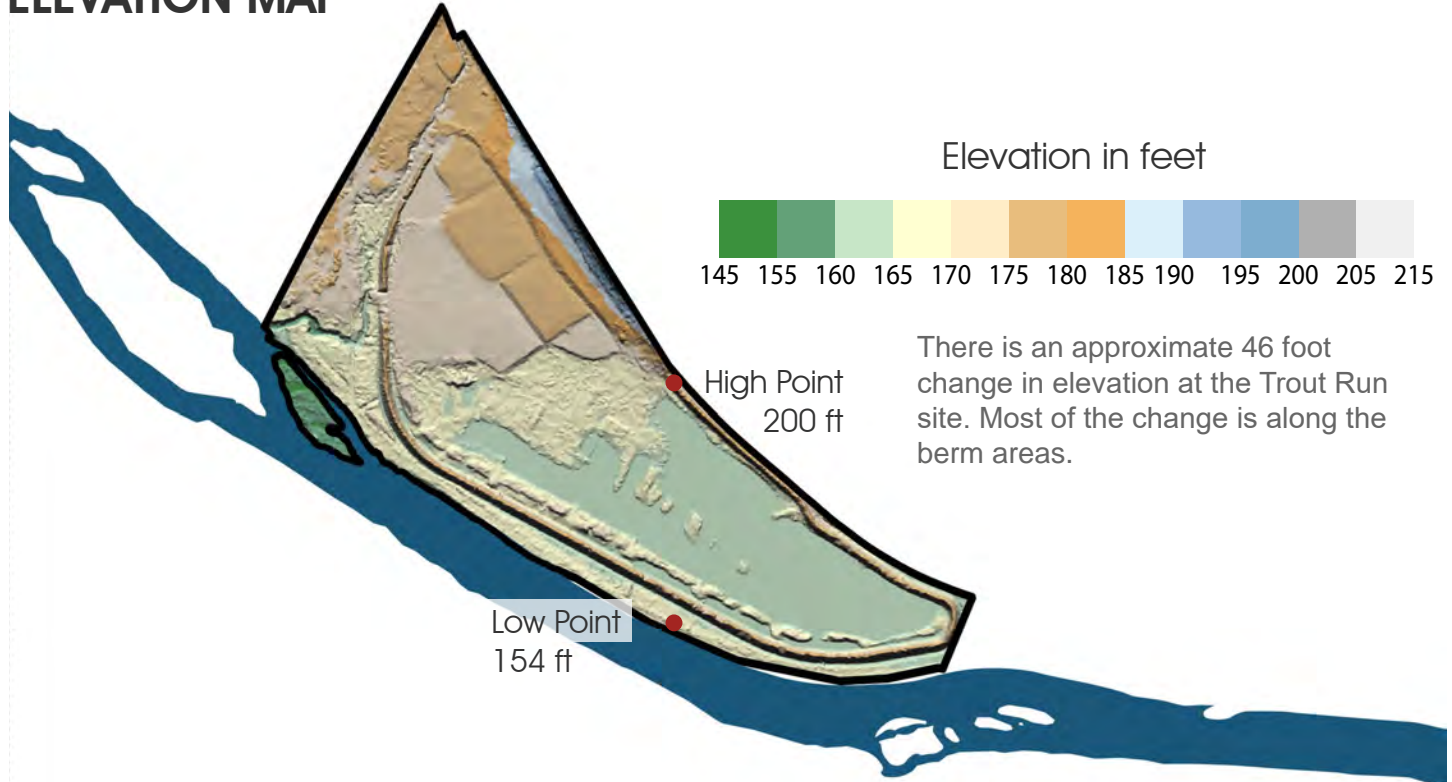
Province of Pennsylvania. The region is known for its rolling hills and valleys. Rocks that are characteristic of this area are limestone, dolostone, slate, shale, sandstone, siltstone, and some basalt.

Trout Run Sports Complex consists of a single bedrock formation: Brunswick Formation formed during the Triassic age. Brunswick Formation consists of mudstone, siltstone, shale, and argillite. (Geological Map of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Resources)

The following soils are found on the site: Croton silt Loam (CwA), Gibraltar silt loam (Gc), Udorthents (Ua), and Urban land-Penn complex (UxD). Information for the various soil types was acquired from the United States Department of Agriculture’s online Web Soil Survey.

Croton silt loam (CwA) – Found along the Northwest side of the property. The soil is 0% to 3% in slope and make up 9.6% of the site. The soil is shallow with 0 to 6 inches to the water table, 18 to 20 inches to fragipan, and 40 to 60 inches to lithic bedrock. This soil is poorly drained with occasional ponding.

ELEVATION MAP



Gibraltar silt Loam – Found along The Schuylkill River and makes up 27.1% of the site. The soil is 0 to 2% slope with 36 to 60 inches to water table and 60 to 72 inches to lithic bedrock. The soil is considered to be well drained.

Udorthents (Ua) – This soil makes up 56.9% of the site. The soil is 0 to 8% in slope, is more than 80 inches to the water table, and 10 to 100 inches to lithic bedrock. The soil is considered moderately well drained with a very high run off class.

Urban land-Penn complex (UxD) – Found along the railroad tracks. The soil makes up 6.4% of the site with 8% to 25% slope. This is well drained soil with 20 to 40 inches to lithic bedrock. Depth to water table is more than 80 inches.

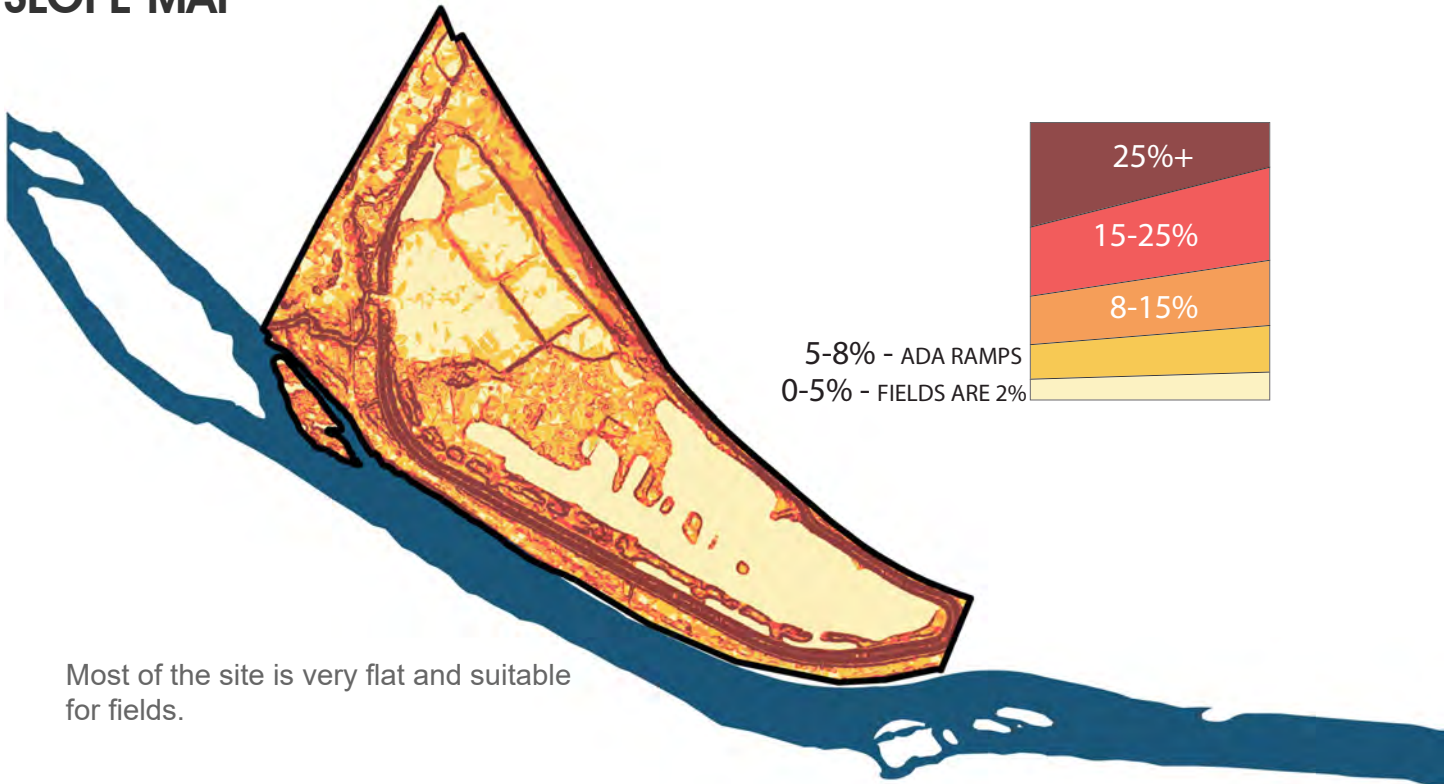
Topography

The topography at Trout Run Sports Complex is primarily flat, with the exception of the built basin side slopes and along Trout Run. This allows for sports fields, but as the basin walls surround a majority of the site, this has also created wetland areas.

The maximum elevation in the park is 200 feet above sea level, located along the railroad tracks. The low point of the site is located along the Schuylkill River and is 154 feet above sea level. The steepest slopes of above 25% are found along in the basin walls, Trout Run and the railroad tracks.

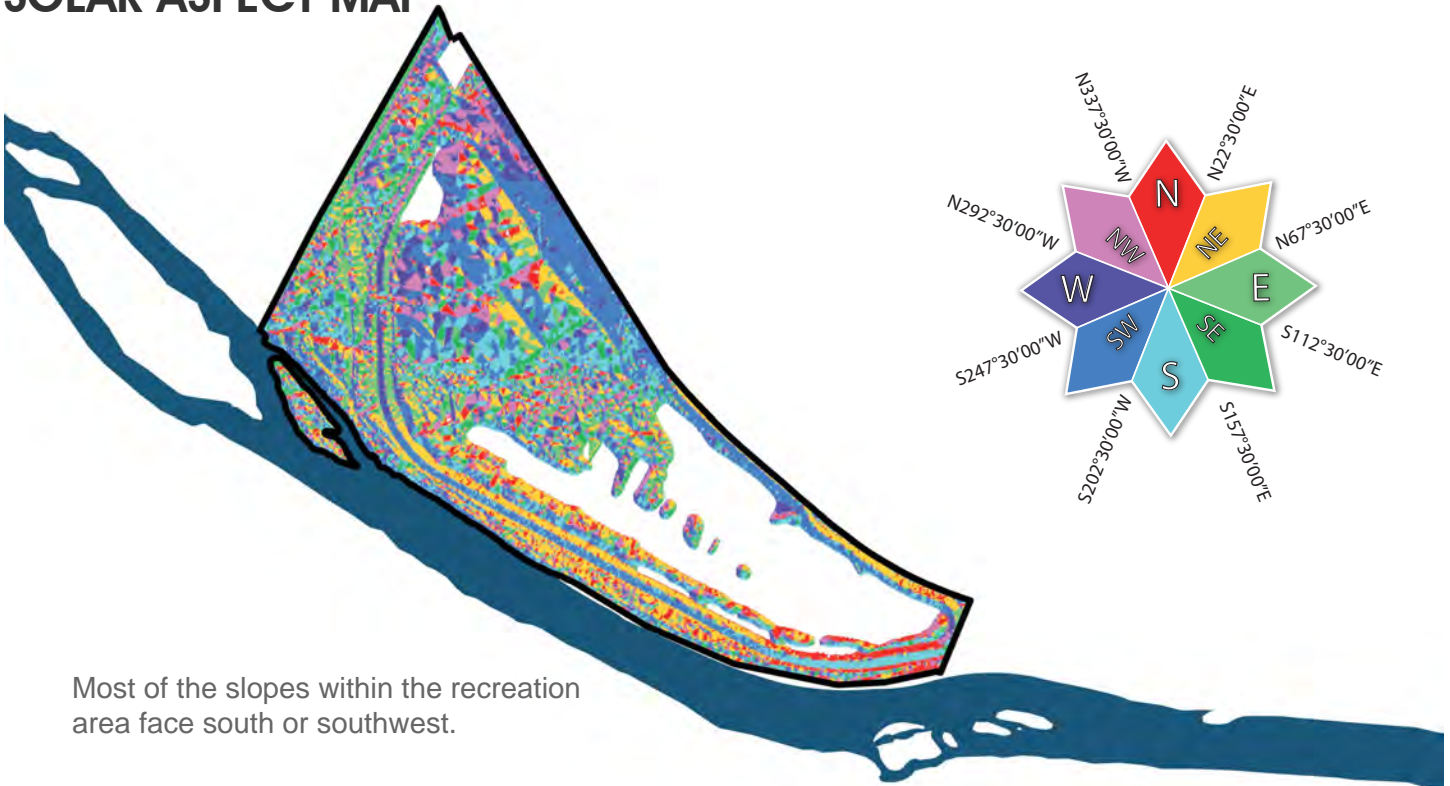
The direction of slope faces, or solar aspect, has environmental impact and can change how a person experiences the space throughout the seasons. Many of the solar aspects do not cover a large area, providing opportunities for micro-climates. The top of the basin walls allow for many unique viewsheds in all directions.

SLOPE MAP



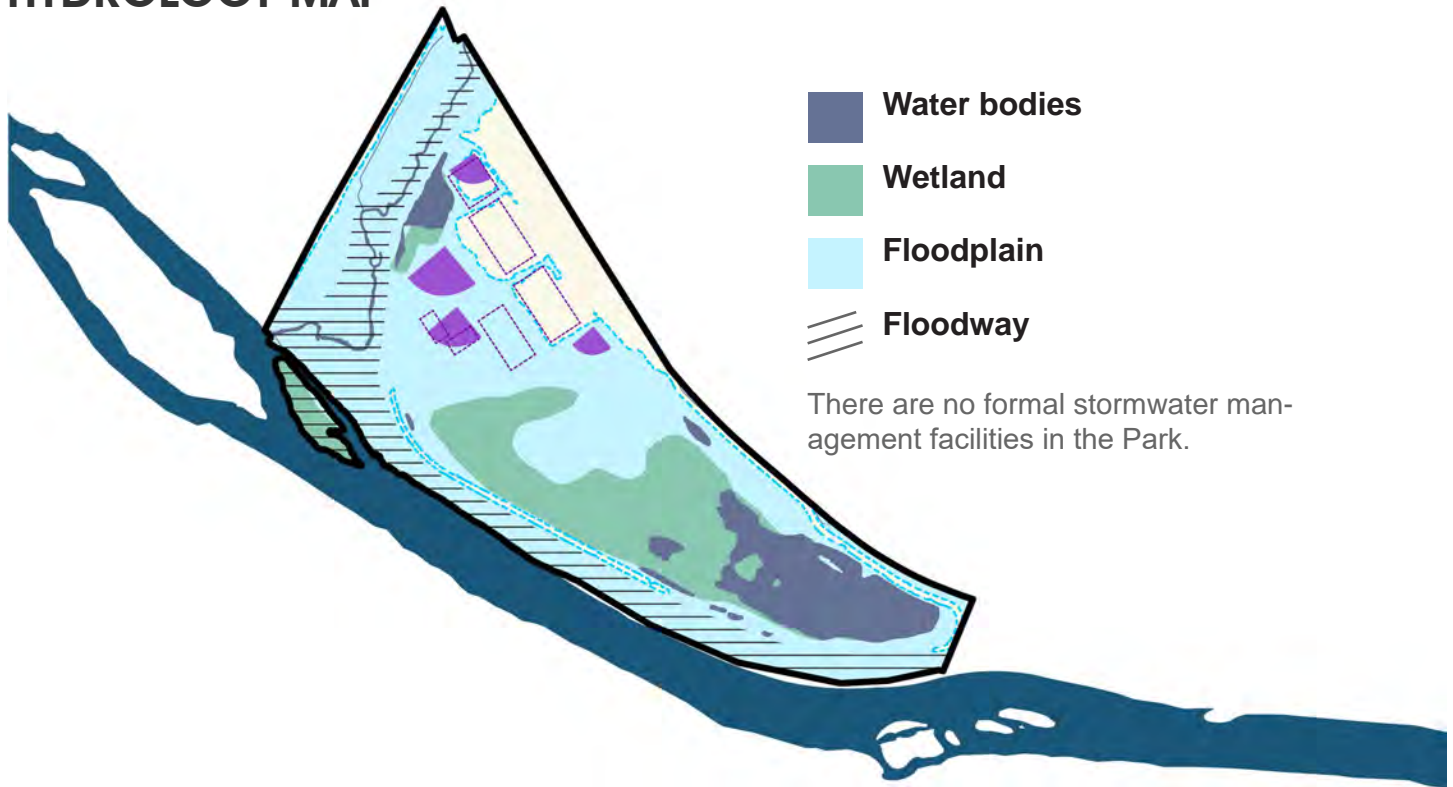
Most of the site is very flat and suitable for fields.

SOLAR ASPECT MAP



Most of the slopes within the recreation area face south or southwest.

HYDROLOGY MAP



Hydrology

Trout Run Sports Complex is located within the Schuylkill River watershed which is part of the larger Lower Delaware River drainage basin. Trout Run watershed is a small area along the west side of Exeter. It feeds into the Schuylkill River on the west side of the property. There are two ponds on site. The smaller pond on the west side of the site covers approximately 10,000 sf. The larger pond located on the east side of the property can fluctuate from approximately 265,000 sf to 425,000 sf. There is approximately 965,000 sf of wetland that also exist on site.

According to FEMA flood hazard information, the areas along Trout Run and between the Schuylkill River and the basin walls are considered regulatory floodway. The majority of the site lies within the High Risk AE zone, meaning that it has 1% (100 yr storm) probability of flooding and is a base floodplain that base flood elevations can be provided. The remaining areas, along the northern fields, parking lot, and the majority of the top of the basin walls is considered to

be 2% (500 yr storm) annual flood hazard chance.

There are some drainage swales located by the existing sports fields. They direct water from the fields to the ponds on site. There is also a drainage ditch along the roadway along Trout Run.

The PAMS4 Program has the primary goals of assisting with flood preventions and to eliminate pollution from stormwater. Exeter Township has been successful in complying with the current regulations. It is important to note that Trout Run is classified as an impaired stream due to siltation and streambank erosion, and may require a Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP).

Vegetation and Wildlife

The vegetation found at Trout Run Sports Complex is a mixture of lawn along the sports fields, and a mix of mesic to hydric plant communities. The native plant community is considered to be floodplain forests. It is characterized by sycamore, maples, red oak, and pine oak. This area is also surrounded by many natural

VEGETATION AND PROGRAM MAP



areas of concern according to the Berks County Natural Heritage Inventory, including Neversink Mountain, Ridgewood Natural Area, and the Allegheny Aqueduct Historical Park. The rich biodiversity that exists due to the riparian ecosystem should be considered throughout the design process.

A Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Index (PNDI) was conducted for the site. PNDI records indicate that the PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources will require further review of the project to resolve any potential impact to *Lycopus rubellus* – Bugleweed. PA Fish and Wildlife Service will require a Phase 1 Bog Turtle survey, and the PA Fish and Boat Commission has identified a sensitive species, in which the agency considers to be collectible, having economic value, or is susceptible to decline from visitation. Further review is required. The PNDI receipt is found in the appendix of this report.

Existing Programming

The Trout Run Sports Complex contains four baseball/softball fields, two football fields, three multi-purpose fields, and a pavilion/ rental space. There are some grills for picnicking. One restroom facility serves this park. There are porta-potties located throughout the sports field area, during seasonal sports.

The sports fields see the most use by the Exeter Youth Football and the Stonersville Flames Girls Fast Pitch softball team. In March, Exeter Youth Lacrosse uses both upper football fields. Spring soccer occupies the lower multi-purpose field, and Little League uses the two top small baseball fields for practice. From March to October, the Stonersville Flames uses the two lower ball fields. In the fall, football occupies the two football fields and any open outfields. Cheerleading takes place around the pavilion and soccer is played on the lower soccer field. There is limited organized usage in July and August. Many of the sports organizations, such as soccer and lacrosse, are experiencing annual growth. Lacrosse, for example, experienced a 25%

growth in its last two seasons.

The Exeter Scenic River Trail runs through the western part of the park, along the Schuylkill River. Most of the trail in the park follows the sanitation line that runs through the park. There are also benches along the trail. The park serves as a trail head, additionally, there is a trail head off Gibraltar Road.

In terms of additional programming, the annual Hay Ride/Haunted House is held at Trout Run. Over 3,500 people attend the event annually and it is overseen by over 100 volunteers. Refreshments are donated by area businesses and the event nets approximately \$10,000 each year.

Currently there is also a Township-operated yard waste recycling center and brush depository located on the west side of the park where Township residents can drop-off recyclables as well as brush which is

converted to mulch for pickup.

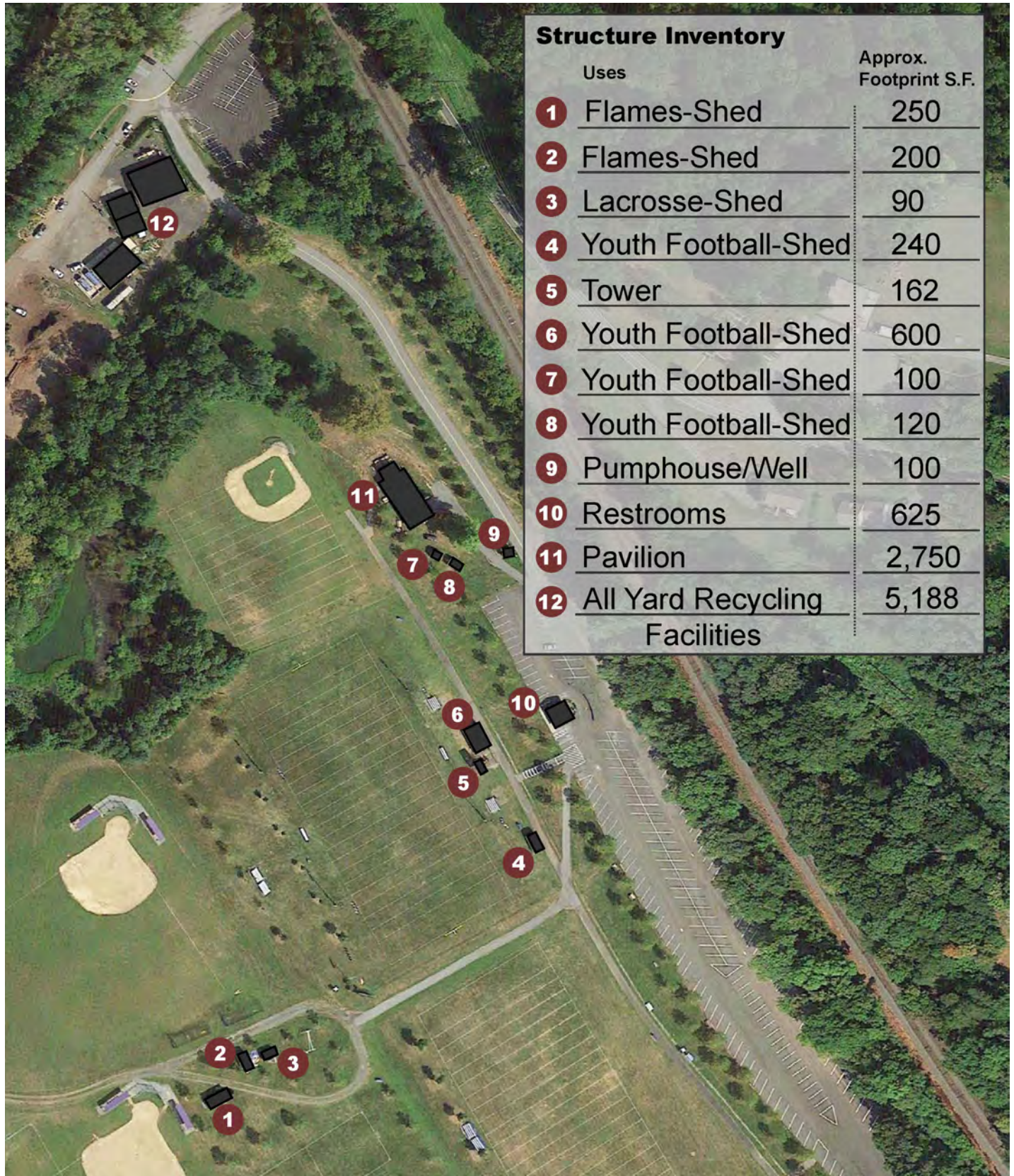
Inventory of Existing Structures

There are seven storage sheds located throughout the sports fields area: two are used by the Stonersville Flames; one is used by Exeter Youth Lacrosse; and four are used by Exeter Youth Football and Cheer. A Township well and water pumping station directly over the well also exist on site, although the well does not have enough capacity and is constantly being treated. There is also a large restroom facility, pavilion with grill and football observation tower. All the buildings are in good condition. Six structures associated with the recycling center are located to the west of the Park.



Existing Pavilion within the park.

Inventory and Analysis



Opportunities and Constraints

Trout Run Sports Complex offers many opportunities to maintain and improve upon the existing facilities and operations at the park, as well as constraints that will limit the development of new facilities and programs.

Access

Opportunities. There are many opportunities at Trout Run Sports Complex to improve trail and vehicular connectivity. Currently, there is only one entry/exit at the Park at East Neversink Road. When there are multiple games or tournaments occurring, especially on weekends, this entrance can become congested, causing delays and backups. This congestion has become compounded with the closure of East Neversink at the railroad bridge due to construction, which is expected to last until 2019. This forces users to make a circuitous detour around to West Neversink Road to access the Park. Moreover, if freight trains are crossing West Neversink, Park users and visitors

must wait to exit after the train cars have crossed. With the recent agreement between Pennsylvania American Water and Exeter Township for the company to purchase the Township's wastewater system, and the planning of a new sewer main by the company along the southern edge of the Park, an opportunity exists for a new access road next to the Scenic Trail that could be constructed during the installation of the sewer main. This new road, which would enter from Gibraltar Road, would greatly ease the congestion at East Neversink and provide quicker access for residents and visitors coming from the eastern half of the Township.

The Exeter Scenic Trail already crosses through the park along the Schuylkill River. Making a better connection from the parking lots to the trail will allow for more users at one time. The trail connection can give users options to how they wander through the space.

Constraints. Building a road along Trout Run will require another culvert to be built.



Existing path, fields and structures in the park.



The existing parking lot for visitors.

Existing Wetland, Ponds and Waterways

Opportunities. The existing wetlands and ponds give the park great ecological value. Creating a series of trails that allow users to these natural areas can give greater appreciation of the ecological functions of these important ecosystems. In addition, providing educational signage can help inform users of these functions and about the history as to how and why the basin was formed.

The wetland areas function as stormwater management areas. Currently, most of the water that falls on the play fields area run to these areas. Using the existing swales and converting them to bio-swales will further enhance the capabilities of the wetlands to manage stormwater.

There is also an opportunity to have a paddler's boat launch along the Schuylkill River with the inclusion of an extended drive and drop off.

Constraints. The wetlands do not allow for further expansion of the current ball field areas. Protection of these ecosystems needs to be considered when designing the trail system.

Existing Facilities and Field Layout

Opportunities. The existing facilities at the sports complex are heavily used. The large flat playing fields offer opportunities to rethink field layout and maximize active recreational use of the park. There is also room for adding playgrounds, restrooms, pavilions, and picnic areas. A path system can be used for fitness as well to connect to the fields that exist on the site. In addition, a new building could be constructed to gather all the storage in the center of the field area into one central location.

Constraints. The use of the sports complex by multiple sports organizations at one time is limited with its current field layout and parking. The size of the park limits the number of recreation facilities that can be added to the park. The current orientation of the softball field also has to be shifted so the line between home plate and the pitcher's mound is the proper solar orientation. Home plate to second base must be north – northeast so that the batter is protected from looking into the sun. Currently storage is scattered throughout the sports field area, with a congregation of sheds located in the middle of the field space.

Chapter 3





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Recommendations

Chapter 3



Anticipated Level of Use

Based on community input, it is clear that Trout Run Sports Complex will need to serve Exeter Township residents as both an active and passive recreation facility. The Park currently receives a high level of use, and this is anticipated to continue and increase as Park development proposed in this master plan occurs. Improvements will seek to fulfill the recreation needs of user groups of all ages and abilities, and create a connection to the natural elements that exist on site.

Draft Plan

The public involvement process generated a community consensus of ideas and themes. These were developed into a draft plan that was presented to the committee and public for comment. The following were the primary facilities that were presented in the draft plan:

- New vehicular entrance to Gibraltar Road
- Trail connection to Exeter Scenic Trail
- Additional hiking and walking trails
- Improved ball fields
- Basketball courts
- Restrooms
- Benches / picnic tables
- Additional parking
- Pavilions
- Playgrounds
- Amphitheater / pond boardwalk

Draft Master Plan - Overview

The proposed draft plan for Trout Run Sports Complex incorporates the most needed and highest priority elements formulated during the public and committee meetings and artfully marries them to the site. A balance between active recreation and passive recreation was sought to create a Park facility that will meet the needs of the greater community. The western half of the Park continues to be the concentration of active recreation, with improved fields, new facilities such as basketball courts and playgrounds and a central storage structure to support the organizational uses. Trails are also incorporated along with existing paths to provide better access throughout the Park. An amphitheater and boardwalk situated at the pond which can host additional programming and special events as well as serving daily park user needs. The

eastern portion of the Park presents a passive focus within the context of the wetlands and lake with a new trail system that meanders through this natural area. These proposed improvements are described herein:

- 2.9** miles of multi-use trails
- 1.5** miles of hiking trails
- 2** playgrounds
- 2** multi-purpose / soccer fields
- 3-4** softball/baseball fields
- 2** football fields
- 2** basketball courts
- 5** pavilions
- 3** restroom facilities
- 6,100** sf pond
- 8** acre lake

Draft Master Plan



TROUT RUN SPORTS COMPLEX
 Master Site Development Plan
 Exeter Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania
 17017.20 09/12/2018



Chapter 3

Draft Master Plan - Alternate with Ball Field



New Access Road

A new entry road is proposed from the southern end of Gibraltar Road (at the existing parking area between the railroad tracks and the Schuylkill River). This road is proposed to run along the river next to the Scenic Trail, crossing Trout Run and running along its west side before connecting to the new entrance from East and West Neversink Roads. A boat launch is situated off the road to provide access to the river and 13 parking spaces are available for people using the boat launch. This access road is 24 feet wide to handle two-way traffic, with a 5 foot buffer that will accommodate recommended pedestrian and vehicular lighting. Trout Run hosts night-time sports events on its' lighted field. The road is parallel to the Exeter Scenic Trail and the river riparian zone. There is also an access point to the eastern Park nature trails from the road. The parking

lot off of Gibraltar Road has also been redesigned to provide improved circulation and is formalized with 24 spaces. A new culvert will also have to be installed at the Trout Run crossing.

The Township can work with Pennsylvania American Water during their planned installation of a replacement sewer main along the river's edge. The presence of a new road into and out of the Park will greatly alleviate traffic at the East and West Neversink Road entrance and make it easier for all users to access and enjoy the Park's facilities. The new roadway also provides for emergency access should one access road be blocked.

In addition, new nature trails are proposed for the eastern section of the Park. An expansive natural area, complete with wetlands and a large lake, occupies this side of the complex. A system of 3 foot wide, single-track hiking trails, totaling approximately 1.5 miles,

Recommendations

will traverse the area, providing a new experience in passive recreation and will allow people to enjoy the natural features and lake and wildlife views on this side of the Park.

Improved Park Entrance

The draft plan explores a new park entrance that is realigned to slow down traffic and to create easier and safer access to the park from East and West Neversink Roads. Parking has been increased by redesigning the existing parking lot and adding another lot along the west side of the site, at the existing yard recycling

facility. If the Township decides to go to weekly residential recycling pick-up and close the recycling facility, then this area could be developed for park programming and facilities. Handicap parking will be available in both lots. The main lot would accommodate approximately 470 spaces with an additional 8 ADA and 2 van ADA spaces. The west side lot would accommodate approximately 70 spaces, with an additional 5 ADA and 1 van ADA space.

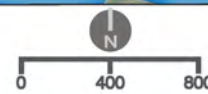
Park pedestrians will be able to access the 10 foot wide ADA paved multi-use trail from the parking area. This approximately 3-mile trail traverses the western portion of the Park and allows for a 0.7 mile loop around the fields as well as connection to the Exeter Scenic Trail. A picnic area is also provided in between the 2 parking lots with two pavilions.

Draft Plan with New Access Road

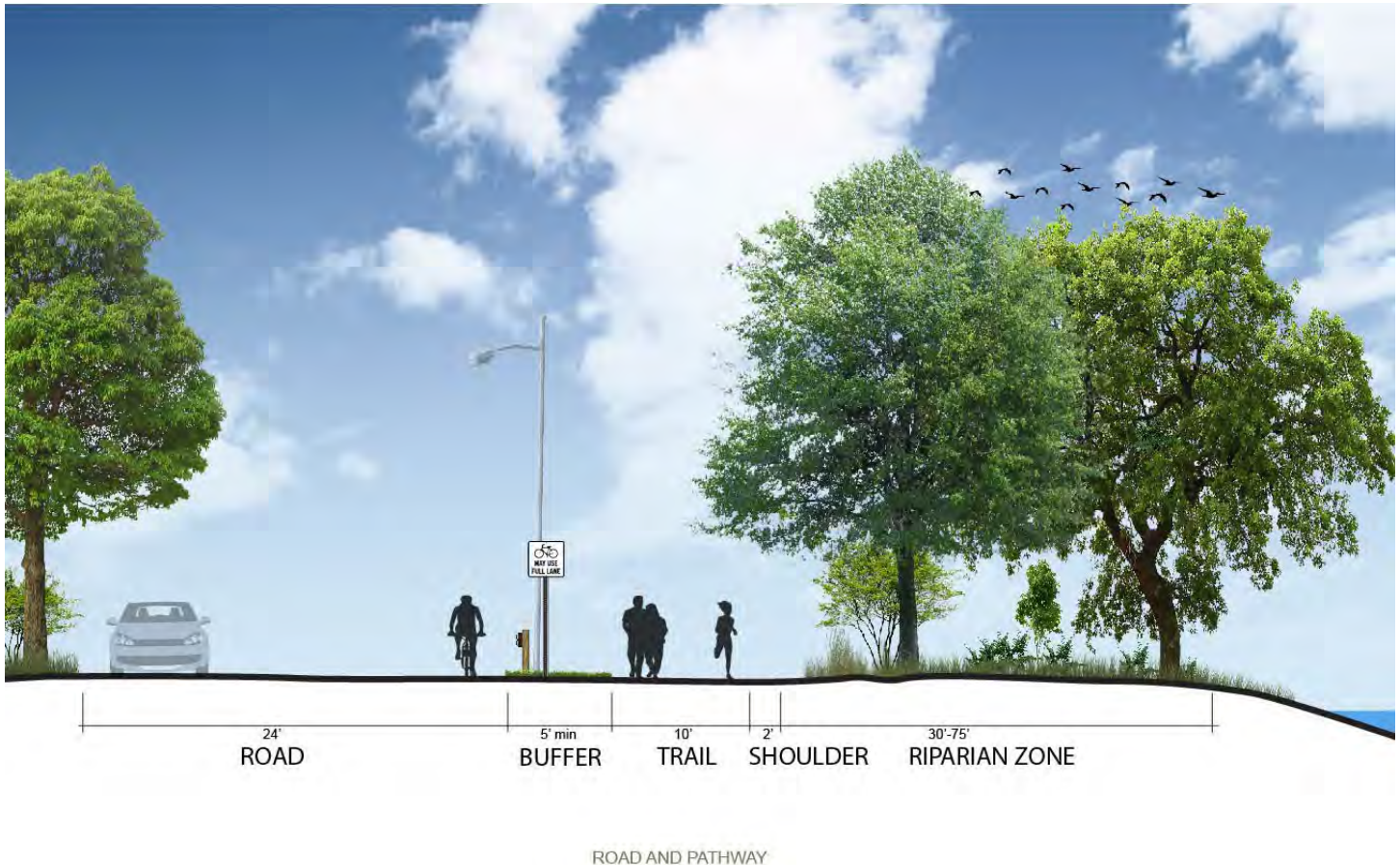


TROUT RUN SPORTS COMPLEX
Master Site Development Plan
Exeter Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania
17017.20 09/12/2018

- New Access and Entry Road
- ADA Multi-use Paths - 10'
- Single Track Hiking Paths



New Access Road Cross-Section



New Courts, Playground and Amphitheater (and Alternate with Ball Field)

Additional improvements at the redesigned recycling facility include two basketball courts, a pavilion with restrooms and an inclusive (all abilities) playground. The multi-use trail from the parking lot continues through this section, down to the river. In addition, a 5 foot wide, 500 foot long ADA accessible boardwalk extends from the multi-use trail and crosses Trout Run to extend down to the eastern side of the pond before connecting back to the multi-use trail. This boardwalk includes a wider deck space that can host events when this area of the park functions as an amphitheater. This stage area uses the pond as a natural backdrop. Moreover, as the boardwalk is situated near the ponds

edge, park-goers would be able to fish from the pond side of this structure.

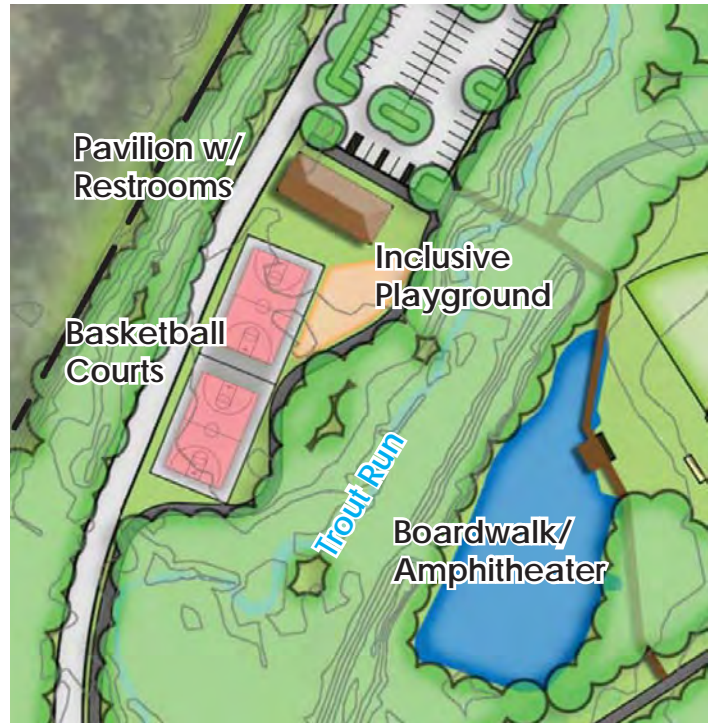
One plan option shows the northernmost softball field that currently exists at this location being replaced by a large lawn area to provide for seating for the amphitheater or to enjoy the open space when there is no scheduled programming. However, an alternate plan has been developed which keeps the field in this location so it may continue to serve Little League and softball games and practice. The field can also serve as seating for any events on the boardwalk stage. If maintained, the field solar orientation needs to be reversed to meet DCNR safety standards.

Recommendations

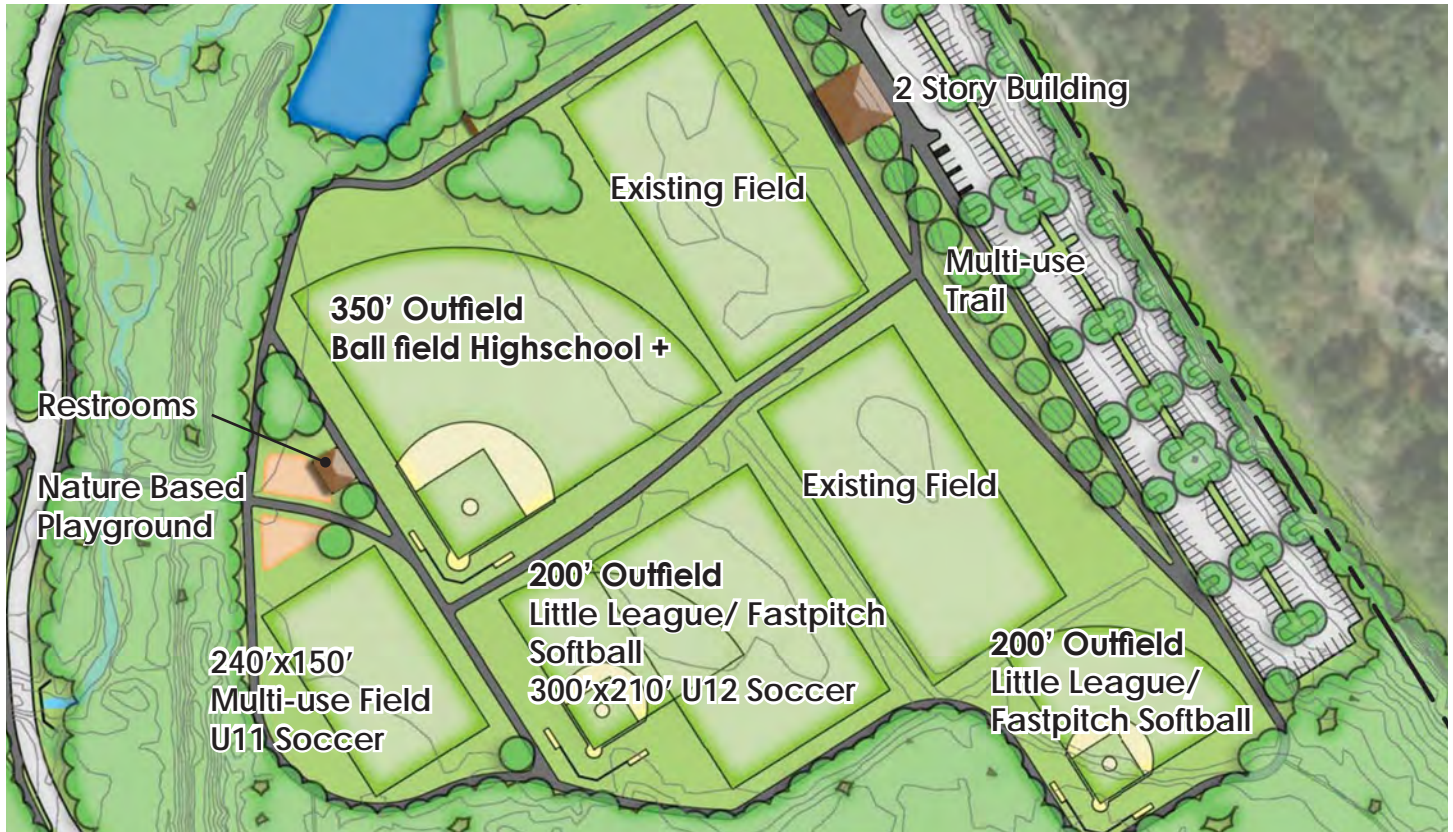
Improved Park Entrance



Courts, Playground and Amphitheater



Improved Fields



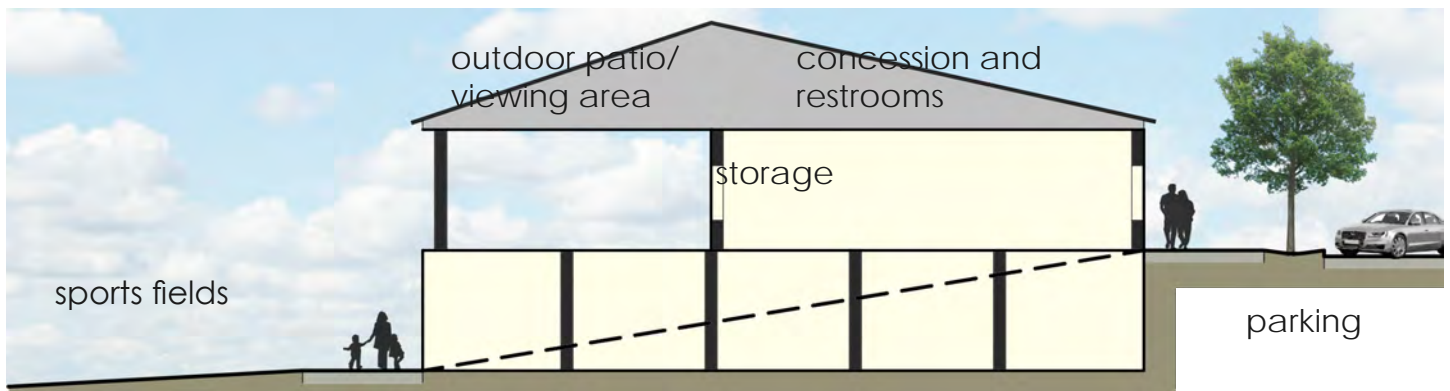
Chapter 3

Improved Fields

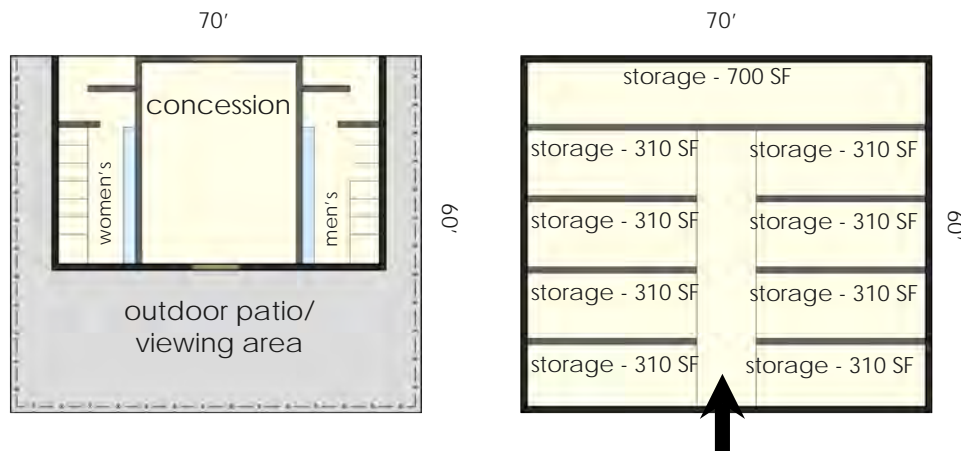
Improvements at the recreation fields include the reorientation of the softball/baseball fields (to proper solar orientation), improved multi-use/soccer fields, a nature-based playground, pavilion with restrooms and 10 foot wide multi-use trail, which provides recreational and maintenance access to all the fields, the boardwalk and pond and a connection to the Scenic Trail. One of the lower softball fields has been replaced with a larger field to accommodate adult leagues. The football fields remain as they are. Programming for the southeastern softball field and multi-purpose field will have to be carefully managed since the fields overlap. In order for the nature-based playground to be developed, the field above it needs to be reoriented to face north/northwest as balls hit by batters have a risk of entering the playground space in the field's current orientation.

In addition to these improvements, the group of sheds located in the middle of the fields have been removed and replaced by a single two-story structure located at the top of the upper football field adjacent to the main parking lot. This structure gives all the organizations that use the existing sheds a single, central space for their storage needs. The building footprint is approximately 4,200 square feet and incorporates eight storage spaces approximately 300 sf in size and one storage area 700 sf in size. Other interior storage dimensions are of course possible. Along with the storage spaces, a second level contains restrooms, a concession area and outdoor patio/viewing area. As the structure is on a slight slope, access to the storage area is directly from the fields while access to the concessions/viewing area is off the parking lot, with paths next to the structure providing access from the fields.

2-Story Building Elevation



2-Story Building Floorplan



NRPA Metrics

Benchmarking was completed as a means of assessing the improved facilities that Trout Run will offer Township residents. Comparisons were made to both current and future population projections to allow the Township to accurately plan for future growth.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) compiles park and recreation agency information from across the country. The organization creates averages for total acres of parkland, total number of parks, facility type totals, and average operating expenses. According to these NRPA metrics (noted in the chart

below), Exeter Township with its current population has a deficit of 5 baseball/softball fields, 7 miles of hiking trails and 2 youth play areas, or playgrounds.

Some of these deficiencies are addressed with the improvements at Trout Run. The introduction of 2 new playgrounds will erase the present youth play area deficiency, while the development of 3 miles of new trails will decrease this present deficiency. The new basketball courts and pavilions will add to the existing inventory of these facilities to adequately meet residents' recreational needs.

NRPA Metrics - Existing Facilities

	Exeter Twp Berks County Pennsylvania	NRPA Standards Assuming 2015 Population	Difference from Average (2015)	NRPA Standards Assuming 2030 Population	Difference from Average (2030)
POPULATION	25,764	25,764		34,560	
EXISTING FACILITIES					
BASEBALL / SOFTBALL	7	12.10	-5	16.23	-9
BASKETBALL	6	3.64	2	4.88	1
BIKING / HIKING TRAILS	3	10.00	-7	11.00	-8
FOOTBALL	2	0.98	1	1.32	1
MULTIPURPOSE FIELD	6	2.07	4	2.77	3
PAVILION / RENTAL SPACE	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SOCCER	4	6.26	-2	8.40	-4
YOUTH PLAY AREAS	7	9.20	-2	12.35	-5

NRPA Metrics - Facilities with Trout Run Improvements

	Exeter Twp Berks County Pennsylvania	NRPA Standards Assuming 2015 Population	Difference from Average (2015)	NRPA Standards Assuming 2030 Population	Difference from Average (2030)
POPULATION	25,764	25,764		34,560	
FACILITIES WITH TROUT RUN IMPROVEMENTS					
BASEBALL / SOFTBALL	7	12.10	-5	16.23	-9
BASKETBALL	8	3.64	4	4.88	3
BIKING / HIKING TRAILS	6	10.00	-4	11.00	-5
FOOTBALL	2	0.98	1	1.32	1
MULTIPURPOSE FIELD	6	2.07	4	2.77	3
PAVILION / RENTAL SPACE	11	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SOCCER	4	6.26	-2	8.40	-4
YOUTH PLAY AREAS	9	9.20	0	12.35	-3

Playground

There are multiple playgrounds that are planned for the park. A 4,600 square foot inclusive (all abilities) playground area is proposed by the basketball courts. The large footprint provides enough area to implement a range of playground structures for children of various ages and abilities. Having this playground by the parking area and restrooms will allow easy ADA accessibility and not require someone with a disability to travel far to enjoy these facilities.

A nature-based playground (6,300 square foot) is proposed by the ball fields on the south side of the park. Nature-based playgrounds are becoming more popular at public parks. These facilities use natural features such as boulders, landform, tree trunks, in combination with manufactured equipment, to create

unique play environments that challenge children to build fitness, confidence, imagination, and social bonds. Playground design and selection of structures are specific to age groups, which are toddlers (6 months to 2 years), pre-school age (2 to 5 years) and school age (5 to 12 years).

Playgrounds require a safety surface to minimize injury. Typical surface options include rubber matting, poured-in-place rubber surface, engineered wood fiber mulch, and rubber mulch. Proper drainage must be installed under these surfaces that collects and removes storm drainage. Site furnishings such as benches, tables and trash receptacles, should be positioned around the playground, but outside of safety fall zones of play equipment.

nature-based playground examples



inclusive playground examples



Chapter 3

Trail Facilities

Four trail types are proposed for Trout Run Sports Complex.

Asphalt Surfaces - Asphalt surfaces provide for the widest variety of trail users including bicyclists, walkers, joggers, wheelchair users, and in-line skaters. Porous asphalt can also be used in situations where stormwater infiltration or a pervious surface is required. Porous asphalt should not be used in flood prone areas where silt will clog the voids in the pavement. Asphalt paths will be 8 to 10 feet wide and will support access for township maintenance vehicles.

Wood Plank / Boardwalk Surfaces - Wood plank / boardwalk surfaces are often used in floodplains and wetland areas where wet and inundated ground surface is common. Boardwalks can provide an elevated, accessible surface for trail users but are often not as slip resistant. They are also more costly than other surfaces mentioned. Pre-cast concrete decking is another option for boardwalk structures, but is not recommended for Trout Run due to the rustic or natural character of this park.

Single Track Hiking Trails - Single-track hiking trails are compact earthen surfaces and are the least expensive to install, however they limit the types and number of trail users. Compact earthen surfaces are primarily used for hiking only or horse trails adjacent to multi-use trails that receive significantly less trail user volume. Hiking trails should be considered as a means to reach the more environmentally sensitive areas and provide for environmental education, bird watching or fishing opportunities. Hiking trails do not meet ADA requirements. These are recommended in the eastern portion of the park through the wetlands areas and lake.

Compacted Aggregate Surfaces - Compacted aggregate or stone dust can accommodate all trail user types with the exception of in-line skaters and could be implemented at Trout Run Sports Complex. Initial installation costs for this trail surface are lower than asphalt. However, long term maintenance costs increase due this surface's susceptibility to erosion, especially if not properly installed with swales and



under drains. Crushed limestone or sandstone or “Trail Surface Aggregate (TSA) Mix” are typical aggregates used for this surface. A compacted aggregate surface can also serve as base material for an asphalt surface if trail use increases or funds become available for a surfacing upgrade. Compacted aggregate surfaces should be avoided in flood prone areas or on slopes over 5%.

Sources:

Guide For Development of Bicycle Facilities, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), 2012;

Pennsylvania Trail Design & Development Principles, Guidelines for Sustainable, Non-motorized Trails, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), 2013

ADA Accessibility

Improvements at Trout Run Sports Complex must be in compliance with current ADA accessibility standards. The most recent version of the standards are found at: <http://www.ada.gov>. Additional guidelines have also been developed for outdoor recreation facilities. These can be found at: <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities>

The site plan at the beginning of the chapter shows the location of ADA parking spaces. All athletic fields have accessible routes from handicapped parking spaces to field spectator areas. The inclusive playground is also accessible.

Vehicular Circulation and Parking

Vehicular drive aisles and parking have to be designed to Township standards per the Exeter Township Zoning Ordinance and the Exeter Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. Accordingly, parking stalls are shown at 10 feet by 18 feet and drive aisles are shown at 24 feet wide for two-way circulation.

ADA parking is allocated throughout the parking lots at multiple locations to provide access to the various

recreation amenities.

Ecological Enhancements and Protection

Enhancements and protection of the ecology of the site have countless benefits including improved stormwater management, lower maintenance costs, increased animal and plant biodiversity, and improved user experiences. The existing natural area is already very important as a habitat for different plant and animal species. Creating opportunities for people to experience and learn from the natural areas will bring different user groups to the park. There are opportunities to increase the value of the natural areas with better management of invasive plants and animals, like mosquitoes which are pervasive to the site.

Stormwater Best Management Practices

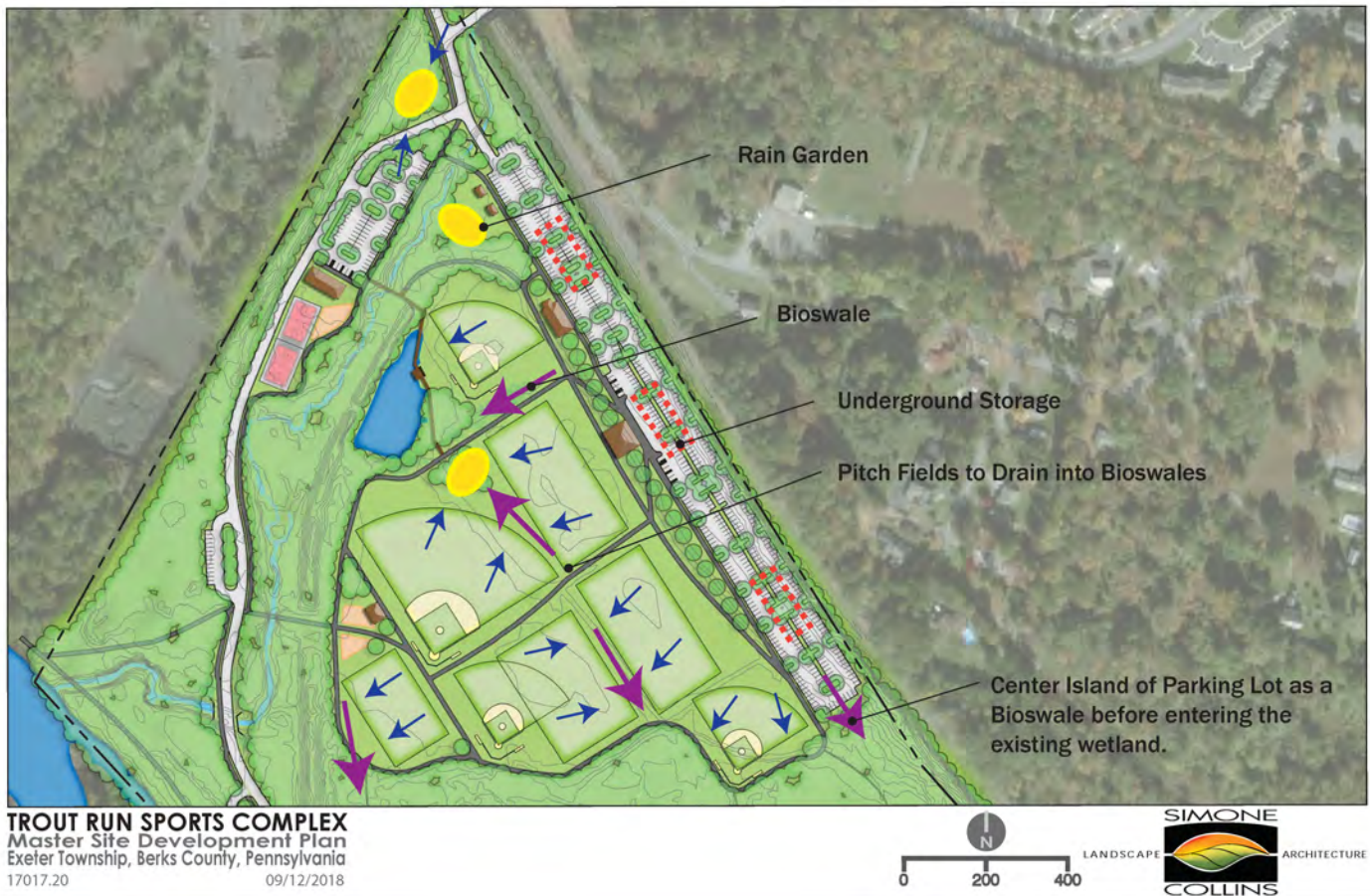
Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) are important to implement throughout the Park to improve water quality and to help mitigate stormwater flows during small rain events. Rain gardens are recommended near the entrance, the picnic area close to the parking lot and against the large softball/baseball field. In addition, bioswales are proposed between playfields, along paths and the parking lot center island to both infiltrate and carry stormwater into the rain gardens or wetlands. Underground storage systems are also proposed under the main parking lot to temporarily detain stormwater before it is slowly released into the soil, in conformance with Township and County stormwater management and water quality regulations.

Additional feasibility and stormwater quantity studies need to be completed during the design and engineering phase of implementation to design these features.

The Pennsylvania Stormwater BMP Manual provides analysis, design, and implementation information for Best Management Practices. The link to the 2006 manual is: <http://pecpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Stormwater-BMP-Manual.pdf>

Chapter 3

Draft Plan - Stormwater Management



Site Furnishings

Site furnishings include: benches, picnic and game tables and trash receptacles. Low level bollard-type lighting along the multi-use trail and boardwalk trail should be provided to provide comfort for visitors at dusk. Pavilions are recommended structures for Trout Run Sports Complex. These provide users with areas to rest and gather, while providing the Township with the ability to rent out pavilions for family reunions and similar events.

Restrooms are a highly desired Park facility that could be implemented in stages. As funding becomes available, permanent structures can be installed. These could include typical bathroom structures that link to existing sewer systems or they could be composting toilets which require no sewer connection.

Programming

The proposed improvements for the park will allow existing programming to be maintained while additional programming is added. The increased overall use of the park has the potential to create new stakeholders or stewards of the park. The Township should work with the local community to determine the best programs for the greater community. Potential options include:

Recreational Field Programming

Currently the programming at Trout Run Sports Complex is dominated by sports organizational use of the recreation fields. This programming should continue as additional organizational groups are



pavilion with restroom example



bioswale example

encouraged to utilize the Park's facilities. The Township should stay in communication with sports organizations to determine the demand for certain field types. Pavilions are recommended structures for Trout Run Sports Complex. These provide users with areas to rest and gather, while providing the Township with the ability to rent out pavilions for family reunions and similar events.

Restrooms are a highly desired Park facility that could be implemented in stages. As funding becomes available, permanent structures can be installed. These could include typical bathroom structures that link to existing sewer systems or they could be composting toilets which require no sewer connection.

Year Round Programs and Events

Trout Run Sports Complex currently lacks a year round program of events. The annual hayride is the marquee community event at the Park, but this can be complimented with events at the amphitheater and passive and educational opportunities in the natural area. Specific programs should be determined by the Township and appeal to area residents. Examples might be:

- Concerts and plays (late spring through summer and early fall)

- Earth Day clean-ups (spring)
- Playground programs (summer)
- Sports camps (summer)
- Seasonal festivals (year round)
- Food/beer festivals (alcohol is permitted at Trout Run by permit) (year-round)
- Bird watching (year round)
- Sunset Yoga (late spring through summer and early fall)
- Stargazing (year round)

Environmental Education

Interpretive signage and education programs can inform Park users of site features and preferred environmental practices to sustainably maintain the park. Signage should be placed along the nature trails and boardwalks to inform people of important ecological processes performed by wetland areas. Additionally, signage can educate people of the importance of clean waterways and water quality and stormwater management measures included in the Park's design.



The proposed amphitheater can host events such as concerts and plays.



The amphitheater can be completed with lighting for nighttime events.

Safety

Various measures are proposed throughout the Park to ensure the safety and well-being of all Park users.

Minimize Pedestrian and Vehicle Conflicts

Pedestrian and vehicular crossings and conflicts should be limited wherever possible. Two pedestrian / vehicle crossings will occur in the Park: one where the multi-use trail crosses the road to the western parking lot and the other is a crossing of the trail coming from the Scenic Trail along the new road by the boat launch parking.

Three-way stop signs will be provided at the intersection of the roads to the two parking lots as well as at the entry of the Park to slow traffic and provide safe pedestrian movement. Crosswalks and signage provide both pedestrians and motorists with road markings and signs that dictate pedestrian crossing areas. A slow and safe speed limit, typically 10 miles per hour, is recommended and signs should be posted throughout the Park.

Site Maintenance

Maintenance Recommendations and Responsibilities

Maintenance at Trout Run Sports Complex is already well provided for. According to the online public opinion survey, 57% of respondents felt that the park was well to very well-maintained. Currently, trail inspection occurs 2-3 times a week. Mowing is performed once a week, and restrooms are cleaned and trash is collected daily from mid-April to mid-October. Snow removal is not currently performed as the Park is closed in the winter. Other maintenance is performed as needed. The proposed master plan does add additional maintenance responsibilities for Exeter Township. These should be accounted for prior to the implementation of capital improvements.

Trails should continue to be regularly maintained and trash regularly collected to provide a safe and pleasant user environment. Field maintenance and mowing should be done on a regular basis and mowing in other areas should be kept to a minimum by allowing for more naturalized areas. The pond by the boardwalk should be clear and cleaned of debris. Maintenance of structures is required. Structures should also be locked at night to deter vandalism. Periodic repairs may be necessary to maintain the quality of facilities at Trout Run Sports Complex.

Please refer to the maintenance chart on the next page for an overview of the typical maintenance tasks that can be expected for the park.

Maintenance costs for Trout Run for 2017 are noted below:

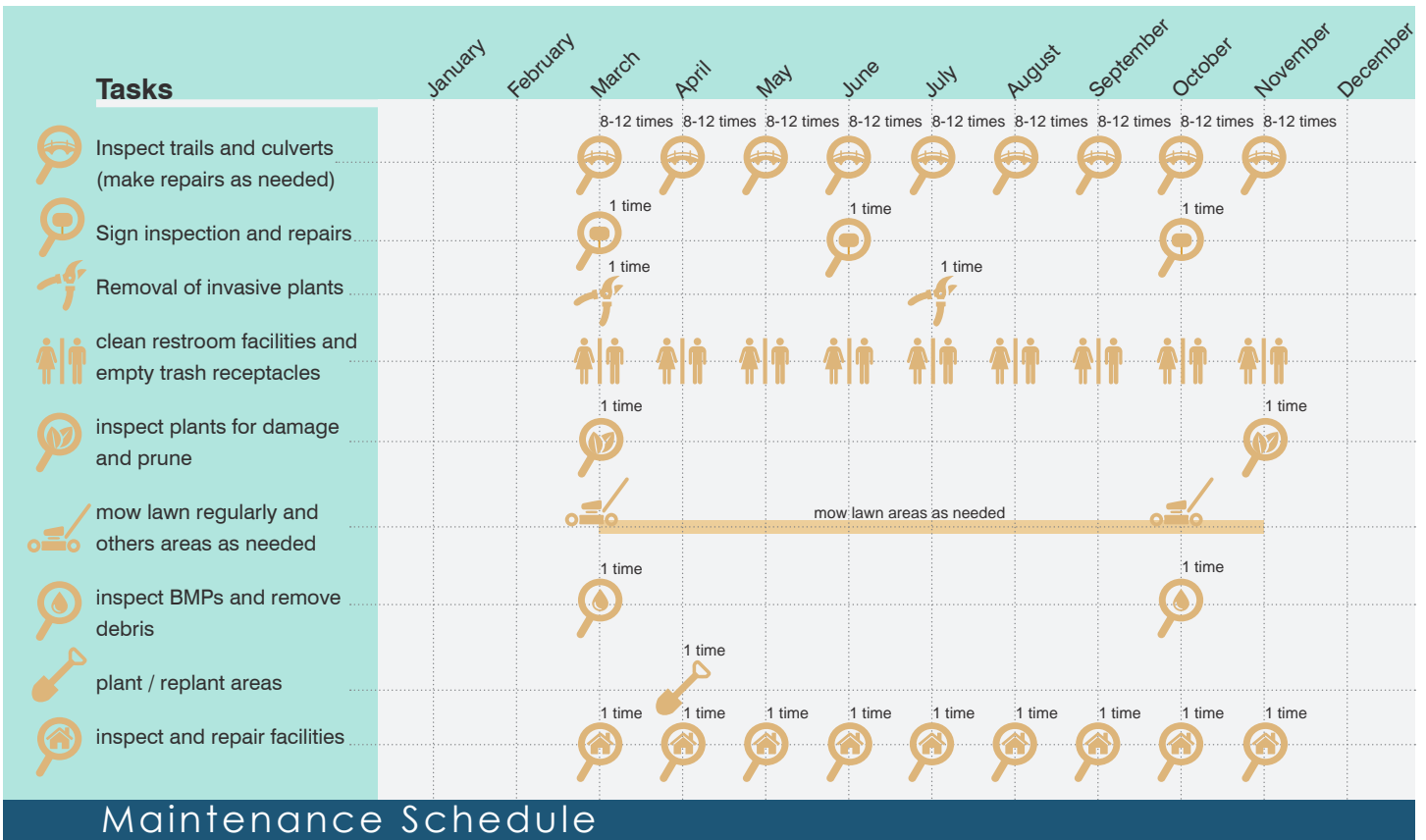
Fuel/Propane	\$523.37
Supplies	\$547.80
Trash Cans	\$134.91
Trash Removal	\$1,050.12
Water Systems	\$530.75
Portable Restrooms	\$2,124.00
Ice Machine	\$127.50

Mowing	\$8,998.08
General Expenses	\$794.31
Total Maintenance Cost	\$14,830.84

Public Water

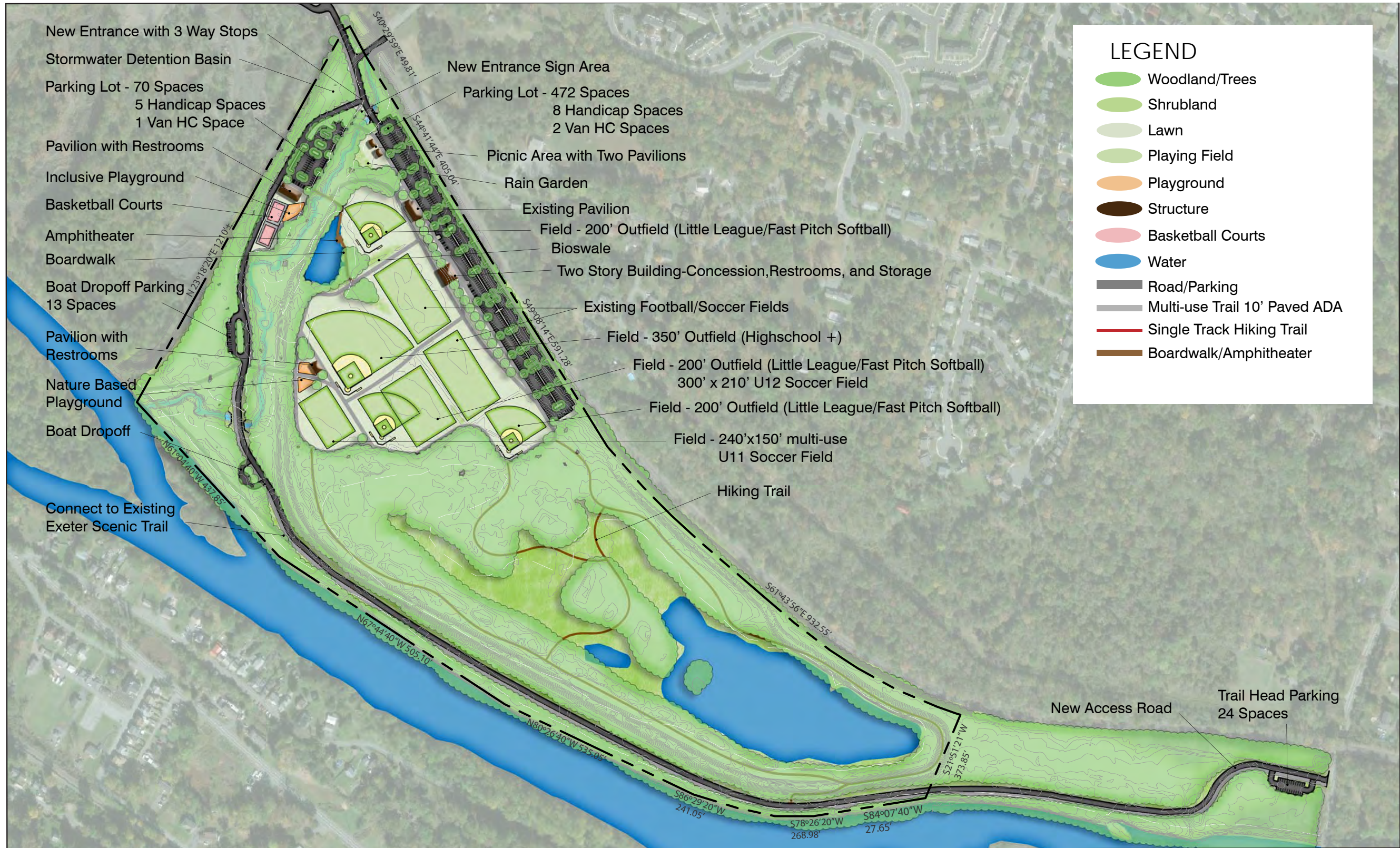
As only well water is available at the site, and facilities such as concessions and restrooms are proposed that will require adequate water capacity and potability, the Township should consider extending public water service to the Park. A new public water line would provide a clean source of drinking water to park users as the well water consistently fails tests as a potable water supply. Two options for public water service are proposed. One option would be to extend the water line on Puffin Drive north of the Park along Painted Sky Road, running down the existing sanitary sewer easement into the Park. This option would require access under the Norfolk Southern line where a 2-inch main line would cross into the Park along the easement. This option could concurrently provide public water service to residences along Blue Ridge Road which may not presently have it. The second option would avoid traversing the railroad line. This options extends the water line from Birchmont Drive down East Neversink Road straight into the site.

Chapter 3



Existing tree lined entrance into the park.

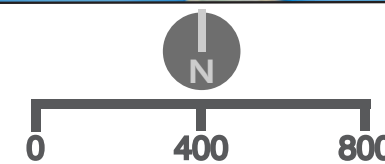
Site Development Plan - Draft



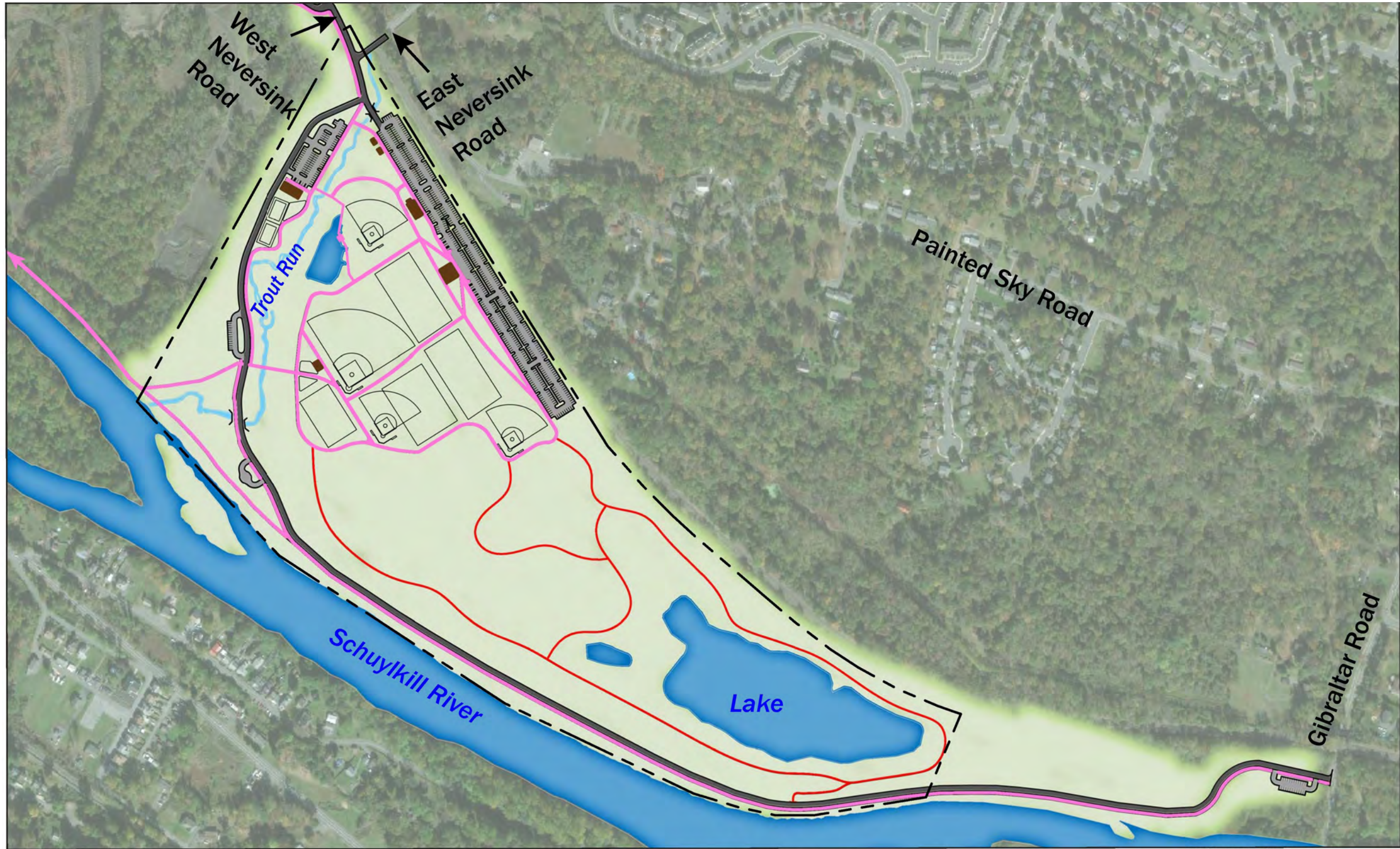
LEGEND

- Woodland/Trees
- Shrubland
- Lawn
- Playing Field
- Playground
- Structure
- Basketball Courts
- Water
- Road/Parking
- Multi-use Trail 10' Paved ADA
- Single Track Hiking Trail
- Boardwalk/Amphitheater




TROUT RUN SPORTS COMPLEX
 Master Site Development Plan
 Exeter Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania
 17017.20 09/20/2018

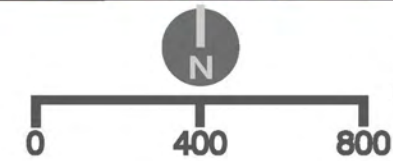


Master Plan - Draft



TROUT RUN SPORTS COMPLEX
Master Site Development Plan
Exeter Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania
17017.20 09/12/2018

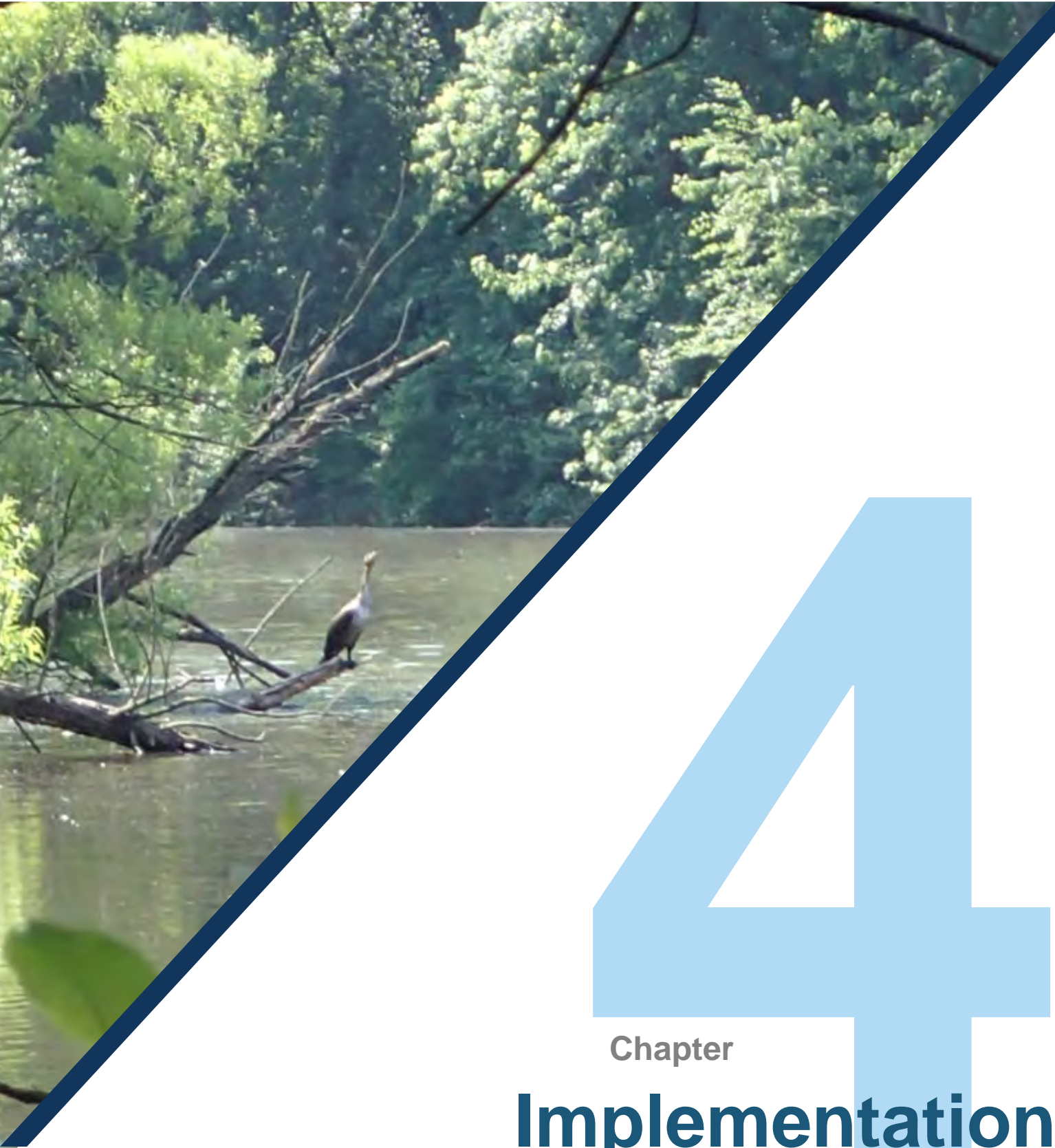
-  New Access and Entry Road
-  ADA Multi-use Paths - 10'
-  Single Track Hiking Paths



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Chapter 4





4

Chapter

Implementation

Project Phasing

Improvements to Trout Run Sports Complex are divided into 6 project priorities as potential strategies for implementation. These are based on the immediate and long-term recreational needs of the Township. Other priorities are dependent on the timing and completion of different projects, such as Pennsylvania American Water's construction of the water main along the river and the possible closure and repurposing of the recycling facility.

The timing and scope of the priorities will be determined by the amount of future funding available and the Township's success with grant applications over the next five or more years.

Priorities

Priority 1 includes the construction of the two-story storage/concessions/restroom building between the upper football field and parking lot and utility connections to this facility.

Priority 2 includes the construction of the 10-foot wide multi-use ADA path through the Park, the picnic pavilion by the parking lot, stormwater BMPs, low-level lighting, site amenities, such as benches and waste receptacles, and plantings.

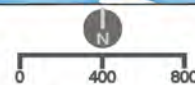
Priority 3 includes construction of the nature-based playground, pavilion with restroom by the lower fields, site amenities and plantings.

Priority 4 includes construction of the new entrance, Phase 1 of the main parking lot (approximately 290 spaces), a segment of the multi-use path, pedestrian safety enhancements, stormwater BMPs, street

Priority Plan



TROUT RUN SPORTS COMPLEX
Master Site Development Plan
Exeter Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania
17017.20 09/12/2018



lighting and plantings.

Priority 5 includes construction of the 5-foot wide boardwalk, amphitheater, connecting trail to the multi-use path, stormwater BMPs and low-level lighting.

Priority 6 includes construction of Phase 2 of the main parking lot (approximately 190 spaces), the 3-foot wide single-track hiking trails in the natural area, street lighting and plantings.

Other Priorities

Sports Fields includes the reorientation and construction of the fields as noted in the Priority Plan and listed below:

- Field A: 200-foot outfield Little League / Fast pitch softball field
- Field B: 200-foot outfield Little League / Fast pitch softball field
- Field C: 350-foot outfield High School / Adult ball field
- Field D: 200-foot outfield Little League / Fast pitch softball field and 300' x 210' U12 soccer field
- Field E: 240' x 150' Multi-use field / U11 soccer field

Yard Recycling Facilities improvements include the construction of the western parking lot (approximately 76 spaces), the new access road from the entrance to the boat launch, a segment of the multi-use path, 2 basketball courts, inclusive (all abilities) playground, pavilion with restroom, boat launch and 13 space parking lot, street lighting, pedestrian safety enhancements, site amenities and plantings.

Access Road improvements include the construction of the new access road from Gibraltar Road to the boat launch, 10-foot multi-use trail, trail head parking lot (24 spaces), guide rail and street lighting.

Cost Estimates of Capital Improvements

A detailed cost estimate of proposed capital improvements is provided in the Appendix of this report. A breakdown in phasing cost is shown on the next page. Unit costs were established based on construction costs of similar projects and reflect State prevailing wage rates that are required for construction projects that utilize public funds.

Construction Practices

Safe and environmentally sensitive construction practices for improvements should be observed. The Township will need to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for improvements. An open conversation with the Berks County Conservation District is encouraged during the design and engineering phase to understand Conservation District concerns and policies. This will relate to the entire project but especially for work that includes the stormwater management areas and the Township using this project to satisfy its' MS4 requirements.

A Chapter 105 Permit (Joint Permit) will also be required for the proposed work within the floodway of the both the Schuylkill River and Trout Run. If the finished grade of the access road is designed and constructed to match existing topography, then floodplain hydraulic modeling and a comprehensive floodway study may not be required as the project could qualify as a "small project." This can only be determined by detailed engineering studies.

Chapter 4

Priority Estimated Costs of Development	
Work Item	Total Cost
<i>Priority 1 New Two Story Building</i>	\$ 350,000
<i>Priority 2 Interior Trails and Picnic Area</i>	\$ 871,436
<i>Priority 3 Nature Based Playground and Pavilion</i>	\$ 456,021
<i>Priority 4 New Entrance and Phase 1 of Main Parking Lot</i>	\$ 940,842
<i>Priority 5 Boardwalk, Connecting Trail, and Amphitheater</i>	\$ 227,278
<i>Priority 6 Phase 2 of Main Parking Lot and Hiking Trail</i>	\$ 337,302
Subtotal	\$ 3,182,878
Mobilization (3%)	\$ 95,486
Construction Surveying (2%)	\$ 63,658
Erosion and Sedimentation Control (2%)	\$ 63,658
Construction Contingency (10%)	\$ 318,288
Design and Engineering (12%)	\$ 381,945
Total Estimated Project Costs - Priority Work	\$ 4,105,912
Estimated Costs of Development of Sports Fields	
<i>Field A Ball field 200' Center Field</i>	\$ 201,590
<i>Field B Ball field 200' Center Field</i>	\$ 201,590
<i>Field C Ball field 350' Center Field</i>	\$ 243,478
<i>Field D Ball field 200' Center Field and Soccer Field</i>	\$ 272,107
<i>Field E Multi-use Field</i>	\$ 59,050
Subtotal	\$ 977,814
Mobilization (3%)	\$ 29,334
Construction Surveying (2%)	\$ 19,556
Erosion and Sedimentation Control (2%)	\$ 19,556
Construction Contingency (10%)	\$ 97,781
Design and Engineering (12%)	\$ 117,338
Total Estimated Project Costs - Sport Fields	\$ 1,261,380
Yard Recycling Facilities - Access Road from Entrance to Boat Launch	
<i>Road - Main Entrance</i>	\$ 920,438
<i>Parking Lot</i>	\$ 170,137
<i>Boat Launch Dropoff and Parking</i>	\$ 76,749
<i>Basketball/Playground/Pavilion and Restrooms</i>	\$ 606,384
Subtotal	\$ 1,773,708
Mobilization (3%)	\$ 53,211
Construction Surveying (2%)	\$ 35,474
Erosion and Sedimentation Control (2%)	\$ 35,474
Construction Contingency (10%)	\$ 177,371
Design and Engineering (12%)	\$ 212,845
Total Estimated Project Costs - Yard Recycling Facilities	\$ 2,288,083
New Access Road (Gibraltar Road to Boat Launch)	
<i>Access Road from Main Entrance</i>	\$ 1,649,305
Subtotal	\$ 1,649,305
Mobilization (3%)	\$ 49,479
Construction Surveying (2%)	\$ 32,986
Erosion and Sedimentation Control (2%)	\$ 32,986
Construction Contingency (10%)	\$ 164,930
Design and Engineering (12%)	\$ 197,917
Total Estimated Project Costs - New Access Road	\$ 2,127,603
Total Costs of Development	\$ 9,782,979

Potential Partners

Local partners include:

- Youth/Adult Sports Leagues
- Exeter Township School District
- Scouts BSA
- Social and Religious Organizations
- Other Recreation Groups
- Nonprofits

County / Regional partners include:

- Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC)
BCPC is the county planning agency and they can help determine if proposed recreational improvements for Exeter Township are congruent with comprehensive plans. BCPC support of Township grant applications is also important in grant application success.
- Berks County Parks & Recreation Department
The Berks County Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for the development, operation and maintenance of all County-owned parks, recreation facilities and historic sites. This agency can help to guide Exeter Township on recreational best practices that can be utilized at the local level. They may also be able to offer advice on arts programming at the proposed amphitheater.
- Berks Nature
Berks Nature is a 501(c)(3) non-profit conservation organization. Partnering with this organization could assist with stewardship of the natural area. Additionally, this group could assist with education and increased programming at the Park.

State partners include:

- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)

DCNR and DCED can provide planning, design, and construction funding through grants. These are described further in the Potential Funding Sources section of this chapter.

- Pennsylvania Infrastructure Reinvestment Authority (PennVEST)
PennVEST serves the communities and citizens of Pennsylvania by funding sewer, stormwater and drinking projects.

Throughout the master plan process, various partners and stewards were identified that may assist with implementation, maintenance, programming, and funding of Park improvements. These are listed below:

Potential Funding Sources

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR)

Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2)

The Community Recreation and Conservation Program through the PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) provides funding to municipalities and authorized nonprofit organizations for recreation, park, trail and conservation projects. These include planning for feasibility studies, trail studies, conservation plans, master site development plans, and comprehensive recreation park and open space and greenway plans. In addition to planning efforts, the program provides funding for land acquisition for active or passive parks, trails and conservation purposes, and construction and rehabilitation of parks, trails, and recreation facilities. Projects will receive additional consideration for using “green” technology or practices. Most of these projects require a 50% match, which can include a combination of cash and/or non-cash values. The first step is to contact the DCNR regional advisor.

Chapter 4

Grant applications for the C2P2 program are accepted annually—usually in April.

More information can be found at: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/Pages/default.aspx>

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED)

Commonwealth Financing Agency (CFA) - Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP)

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) is a program that helps fund for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects. Grant applications cannot exceed \$250,000 and require a 15% matching funds. Applications are due on May 31st for consideration in the Fall.

More information can be found at: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/greenways-trails-and-recreation-program-gtrp/>

Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP)

DCED Watershed Restoration and Protection Program is a funding program to restore, and maintain restored stream reaches impaired by the uncontrolled discharge of nonpoint source polluted runoff. Funds may be used for construction, improvement, expansion, repair, maintenance or rehabilitation of new or existing watershed protection BMPs; stream bank bio-engineering; and design services. Grant applications cannot exceed \$300,000 and require a 15% matching funds. Applications are due in May for consideration in the Fall.

More information can be found at: <http://community.newpa.com/programs/watershed-restoration-protection-program-wrpp/>

PennVEST (Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority)

Pennvest oversees the administration and finance of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) for the state of Pennsylvania. The CWSRF program provides funding to projects throughout Pennsylvania for the construction and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities, stormwater management projects, nonpoint source pollution controls, and watershed and estuary management. The program offers low interest loans with flexible terms to assist a variety of borrowers that include local governments, municipalities, and privately-owned entities and to establish partnerships to leverage other funding sources.

More information can be found at: <http://www.pennvest.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx#.Vcux3WfbJ9A>

Schuylkill River Restoration Fund

The Schuylkill River Restoration Fund awards grants to government agencies and non-profit organizations for projects that will improve water quality within the watershed. The focus of the grants is for three major sources of pollution: stormwater run-off, agricultural pollution, and abandoned mine drainage that can affect the Schuylkill River and its tributaries. Grant applications may request between \$20,000 and \$100,000 with a required minimum 25% match. Applications are due in April.

More information can be found at: http://www.schuylkillriver.org/restoration_fund.aspx

Lions Club International

Standard Grants

This charitable organization of Lions Club International awards grants for large-scale humanitarian projects and are the most common type of grant awarded.

To qualify, projects must serve many people and be beyond the scope of traditional club and/or district/multiple district fundraising capabilities. LCIF provides matching funds of up to US\$75,000 to provide capital funding for equipment and infrastructure needs, and typical standard grant projects include safe places for children to play.

More information can be found at: <http://www.lcif.org/EN/apply-for-a-grant/humanitarian-grants/standard.php>

Environmental Education

The Pennsylvania Environmental Education Grants Program awards funding to schools, nonprofit groups and county conservation districts to develop new or expanded current environmental education programming. The funds are administered through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for projects ranging from creative, hands-on lessons for students and teacher training programs to ecological education for community residents. Educational Resources, including exhibits, educational signage, and demonstration projects, also qualify for funding. Grant applications cannot exceed \$3,000 and require no match, however it is recommended. Applications are due in December and awarded in April.

More information can be found at: <http://www.dep.pa.gov/citizens/environmentaleducation/grants/pages/default.aspx>

Legislative Funding

State and federal elected officials can sometimes include items into legislation for worthy projects in their districts. A conversation between county and municipal officials and legislators is the way to begin this process. This type of funding should be targeted toward capital improvement projects.

Private Foundations

There may be regional corporations and foundations that support public works such as park development. Competition for these funds is usually brisk, but opportunities should be researched. Funding is often to non-profit organizations.

Foundations and institutions represent another potential source of funding for education-related site improvements and programming. Grants are available to support student field trips, provide teacher training in science, and provide other educational opportunities. Education tied to research can increase the pool of potential funds. The science community and research institutions are the logical starting points for solicitation foundation funds.

Schools and Local Organizations

Local schools and sports organizations may also be of assistance in several ways. These groups might get involved with club, fundraising events, and park cleanup days. The school faculty might incorporate the Park, especially the natural area and BMPs, into various curricula with students helping to develop and possibly maintain the Park as part of a classroom assignment or after school club. While the amount of funds raised may be relatively small, this process builds constituents and support that is critical to the long-term success of the Park.

Chapter 5





- Public Meetings
- Key Person Interviews
- Online Public Opinion Survey Results
- Trout Run Sports Complex PNDI
- Cost Analysis for New Access Road
- Estimated Costs of Development

Chapter

Appendix

Exeter Township Trout Run Sports Complex Master Plan - DRAFT

November 2018

Prepared For:



Prepared By:

