

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP

RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

FEBRUARY 2025

PASHEK MTR



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Plan reflects significant contributions of time, expertise, and advice from the following individuals, as well as input and perspective from a variety of stakeholders and the many people who live and/or work in Rostraver Township. This Plan would not have been possible without the valuable assistance of all.

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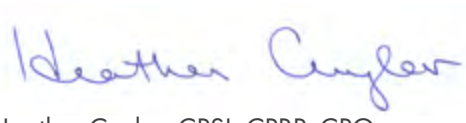
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This Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan was developed to achieve consistency with the goals of the Township, as well as Pennsylvania and National visions for outdoor recreation. During the public input process, residents, staff members and other stakeholders contributed additional ideas, issues and concerns that the Township intends to address during the next 10 years. These matters are gathered in this report.

This Plan provides a blueprint for the continued development of parks and recreation in Rostraver Township. As the Township makes progress implementing strategies in each category, it will continue to provide excellent local government services and collaborate with other agencies, governments, groups and individuals to pursue shared goals.



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Recreation Planner
Pashek + MTR, Ltd.

This Plan was prepared with the assistance of: PASHEK MTR

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INTRODUCTION

COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Rostraver Township

In 2024, the Township of Rostraver hired Pashek+MTR, a Landscape Architecture and Community Planning firm based in Pittsburgh, to complete the Township's Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan Update. The approach used to generate the Plan included a detailed inventory and professional assessment of existing recreational opportunities; a wide-ranging public input process; and the development of a vision for the future of recreation, parks, open space and greenways in Rostraver Township. Additionally, Pashek+MTR worked closely with the project Steering Committee throughout the planning process. This Plan is designed to serve as a tool for addressing the current and future recreation needs of the Township's residents and to establish a framework for the decisions that must be made in order to provide adequate recreation facilities and programs. This Plan is broad in scope, encompassing a variety of issues pertinent to parks, recreation and open space in the Township. It lays the groundwork for the continued successful planning and development of recreation, parks, trails, amenities, facilities, and programs.

THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

Where are we now?

↓

Where do we want to be?

↓

How do we get there?

This Plan is not law or a regulatory document. It is a guide, not a mandate, for future actions and decisions. It recommends an approach to maintain and provide a parks and recreation system that serves all Rostraver residents throughout their lifetime with diverse and inclusive recreation opportunities. It suggests recommendations and strategies to maintain and provide residents with quality recreation opportunities. The Plan will serve as a reference for Township officials, staff, and advisory boards; partner organizations; and other interested parties. Implementation of recommendations contained herein will require further discussion, public involvement, and approval for the actions to be undertaken.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Planning Process was led by a three-step progression of questions that would allow this plan to be tailored to Rostraver Township.

➔ Where Are We Now?

This question prompted research of the existing Township recreation and parks opportunities. It is important to identify the types of recreation and natural resources already available to the community and the area of the Township which they serve. These facilities and resources could be Township owned and operated or they may be offerings and amenities provided by non-profits, school districts, private entities, and other government agencies. The management, finances, and operations of these recreation facilities was researched and compared to State and National Statistics.

➔ Where Do We Want To Be?

This question drove the public engagement process to help project what the future of parks and recreation should be in the Township. Public input was gathered through a variety of sources including: a steering committee that was representative of local interest groups; two public meetings, key person interviews, and a digital and paper recreation questionnaire. In addition, Pashek+MTR completed a thorough analysis of existing conditions to determine needs for the future.

➔ How Do We Get There?

The culmination of the answers to the two previous questions established the direction the Township needs to take to meet the recreational needs, wants, and desires of its residents. It includes a vision statement that depicts what the future of recreation should be, goals for bringing the vision to fruition, and implementation strategies to accomplish the goals.

PARKS AND RECREATION – GOOD FOR YOU: GOOD FOR ALL

Parks and recreation is a critical component of community services for all Pennsylvania residents. As one looks at recreation, parks, and open space across the country, the benefits are evident –senior citizens exercise to stay active and healthy; youth learn life skills by playing baseball, soccer or other youth sports; families strengthen relationships by hiking, biking or picnicking together; communities come together through special events.

Numerous studies show there are physical and mental health benefits to spending time in green spaces. Local parks, trails and open spaces have recently become even more of a respite from stress. Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society says: Parks and Recreation are **good for you and good for all.**



PA STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Recreation for All - Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2024 identifies the following priorities for action to protect these lands and waters and investing in future recreation needs for all Pennsylvanians. Rostraver's priorities for parks and recreation were guided by these priorities.

Health

1. Educate on the connection between health and outdoor recreation.
2. Support programs that connect health and outdoor recreation.
3. Equip health care providers with the tools needed to promote the health benefits of outdoor recreation.
4. Create walking and biking networks that provide safe, close-to-home access to recreation and encourage healthy behavior in communities.

Recreation for All

1. Provide opportunities for everyone to regularly engage in outdoor recreation.
2. Enhance recreational amenities to fit the needs and expectations of underserved people.
3. Provide equitable access to outdoor recreation and conservation programs.
4. Build a diverse workforce and volunteer base.

Sustainable Systems

1. Address infrastructure and maintenance needs in Pennsylvania's existing outdoor recreation areas.
2. Protect and conserve lands and waters considering the impacts of climate change on outdoor recreation.
3. Foster stewardship for Pennsylvania's recreation areas and natural, cultural, and historic resources.
4. Design outdoor recreation areas to minimize impacts on the environment or conflicts among user groups.

Funding and Economic Development

1. Protect and expand public and private investments in outdoor recreation.
2. Build strategic coalitions to maximize the economic impacts of outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania.
3. Market Pennsylvania as an outdoor recreation destination.
4. Demonstrate the benefits and impacts of nature-based solutions to addressing community needs.

Technology

1. Increase mobile connectivity in outdoor recreation.
2. Develop best practices for emerging outdoor recreation technologies.
3. Use technologies to support health goals and find places to recreate outdoors.
4. Enrich the understanding of the natural, cultural, and historic aspects of the outdoors through technology.

Parks and recreation opportunities encourage citizens to be engaged in their communities as volunteers, stewards, advocates, and students. Access to parks and recreation facilities leads to healthy lifestyles for people of all ages. Activities in parks build self-esteem, reduce stress, and improve overall wellness. Parks enhance property values, contribute to healthy and productive work forces and help attract and retain businesses. Parks give communities a vital identity. Well maintained, accessible parks and recreation facilities are key elements of strong, safe, family-friendly communities.

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

The Plan provides a framework to fulfill the community's vision for the future of recreation, parks, open space, and greenways. It also provides the Township with a wealth of data and background information to support the enhancement of its recreation facilities, the preservation of natural features, connections to local assets, and the addition and development of new park land. The broad scope of this Plan includes the documentation and analysis of a variety of issues pertinent to recreation, parks, open space and greenways in Rostraver.

The recommendations presented in this document offer a clear direction for future recreation and green space initiatives. The wide scope of recommendations and strategies leads to realistic planning for implementation. The detailed information provided will assist the Township and other stakeholders in setting financial goals and the appropriate allocation of needed financial support. The document will be a valuable resource of supporting information as the implementation strategies are completed and new strategies are developed.

Recommendations and implementation strategies were outlined and prioritized to guide parks and recreation in Rostraver for the next 5-10 years. The Plan also provides needed information to support grant applications for the acquisition, improvement and expansion of recreation facilities.

Residents will be the ultimate beneficiaries of new recreation facilities and preserved resources based on the outcomes of the Plan. Residents have demonstrated an on-going interest in the growth of a high-quality recreation, parks, open space and greenways, and the preservation of natural resources.

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1 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

PROFILE OF ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP

Rostraver's first settlers were Native Americans who used the area both as a place to live and hunt. The first European setters arrived in the 1750s and it is believed the Township was given its name by settlers from the tiny village of Rostraver in County Down, Northern Ireland. In 1773, when Westmoreland County was organized, Rostraver was one of its original Townships. The size of the Township decreased to its present 36-square miles as the counties of Fayette and Allegheny were formed. Like many Pennsylvania towns, Rostraver was mainly a farming community. The rollings hills and natural river borders - Monongahela River to the west and Youghiogheny River to the east - give the community beauty and natural resources. Today, the Township is the home of approximately 11,417 people.

ROSTRAVER'S PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Rostraver's Recreation Commission is an appointed seven member board, each serving a six-year term. They offer recommendations to the Township Board of Commissioners regarding sports and recreation within the Township. They also review future projects and planning for the recreation facilities and programs. Facilities include the 36-acre DiVirgilio Sports Complex as well as 5 smaller parks: Betty Ambler Park, Clair Manor Ballfields, Collinsburg Community Park, Fellsburg Park, and Webster Park.

In addition to the Township parks, Rostraver makes use of fields owned and maintained by the Belle Vernon Area School District and Westmoreland County in Cedar Creek Park. These facilities are used for football, wrestling, softball, baseball, soccer, swimming, cheerleading, and scouting programs.

Rostraver Township is also strategically located for outdoor recreation. The Great Allegheny Passage travels for approximately 9.5 miles along the Township's eastern border. Cedar Creek Park is maintained by Westmoreland County and offers ball fields, an amphitheater, pavilions, trails, camping and playgrounds. Within a 25-mile drive residents can visit 15 Pennsylvania County parks, 6 state game land properties, a state-owned park and forest, and a blending of 14 land and water trails.

PAST PLANNING RECREATION EFFORTS

In the process of creating this Plan, past planning efforts in were taken into consideration in order to align this Plan's goals with the over-arching goals of these plans:

- Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2024 as discussed in page iii
- 2000 Westmoreland County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan "New Horizons"
- 2008 Rostraver Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan
- 2020 Rostraver Comprehensive Plan Update

2000 Westmoreland CRPOS Plan	2008 Rostraver CRPOS Plan	2020 Rostraver Comp Plan	This Plan
Increase public support for parks and recreation by promoting awareness and appreciation of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the County.	Awareness of facilities requested by Rostraver's residents (e.g.: community center, skate park, neighborhood parks, etc.)		Promote health, wellness, and outdoor recreation opportunities. (Goal #3)
Provide adequate, as well as handicapped accessible park, open space and recreation facilities/programs to meet the needs of current and future County residents.	Addressing specific needs within each of existing parks. (e.g.: ADA compliance, updating equipment, ball field improvements, etc.)	In future planning for recreation improvements and programming, consideration of the changing interest of residents as laid out in the Plan.	Upgrade the Township Parks which are not ADA compliant. (Goal #1)
Develop a diverse and comprehensive park and open space system that improves the connections and proximity between parks, open space and activity centers.	Providing recreations programs through the Township.	Give more attention to recreation programs, focusing on youth and seniors.	Develop inclusive and diverse programs. (Goal #4) Increase connections from neighborhoods to Township parks by acquiring land and trail easements. (Goal #3) Connect to the GAP. (Goal #3)
Acquire and/or manage lands of significant recreational, cultural and/or ecological value.	Further development of Park Facilities. Developing and implementing a workable Park Maintenance Plan.		Adopt updated Mandatory Dedication Ordinance. (Goal #2)
Optimize fiscal, physical, cultural and ecological resources when providing park and recreation opportunities.			Update recreation areas to minimize impacts on the environment or conflicts among user groups. (Goal #1)
Develop administrative and operational procedures that are structured to implement the Comprehensive Plan.	Clarification of the role, responsibilities, and authority of the Recreation Commission. Creating guidance on the general administration of the parks and programs done by the Recreation Commission.	Consideration of creating a Parks and Rec Director position which is vital to growing parks and recreation opportunities.	Increase Park Recreation Staff/ Develop Parks and Recreation Department. (Goal #1)
Forge public-private partnerships between government agencies, community organizations and individuals to expand diversity and quality of parks and recreation.	Sourcing funds for park upgrades and development.	The creation of a senior center at or near the Township building and park.	Adopt a 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan. (Goal #2) Establish annual budget. (Goal #2) Leverage funds through grants. (Goal #2)
Stimulate and compliment economic development through the provision and promotion of parks, recreation and open space.			Promote the Township as a "Trail Town"/Outdoor Recreation area by working with GAP and other trail towns/groups and the PA OOR. (Goals #3 and #5)

DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

As part of the Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan, the profile of the community was reviewed to understand how each segment might apply to this plan.

Demographic Analysis (2024)

- Current Municipal Classification: Township
- School District: Belle Vernon Area School District
- Population: estimated 11,417
- Population per square mile: 318.02
- Age Distribution: Under 5: 8%, Ages 6 - 19: 12.4%, Ages 19 - 65: 57.6%, 65 and up: 22%
- Median Age: 49 years old
- Household Data: Total Households: 4,917
  - > Median Household income: $73,387
  - > Percentage of persons below the poverty level: 12.8%

Rostraver Township Population			
Year	Population	Growth	Growth Rate
2024	11,417	24	0.52%
2020	11,393	141	1.25%
2015	11,252	-111	-0.98%
2010	11,363	-388	-3.3%
2005	11,751		

Understanding how population is distributed among various age groups is relevant when determining how to meet the recreational needs of an area. For purposes of benchmarking and comparison, the distribution of the population within certain age ranges in 2024 was compared to the corresponding statistics from 2020. By doing so, we can draw the following conclusions about the Township:

- The total population has increased from 11,393 (2020) to 11,417 (2024), an increase of only 0.52%
- The population of over 65 years of age has stayed about the same from 2020 to 2024: 22%
- The population of the combined ages under 19 decreased from 19% (2020) to 12.4% (2024).
- The population under the age of 5 has increased from 6.8% (2020) to 8% (2024).

What does this mean?

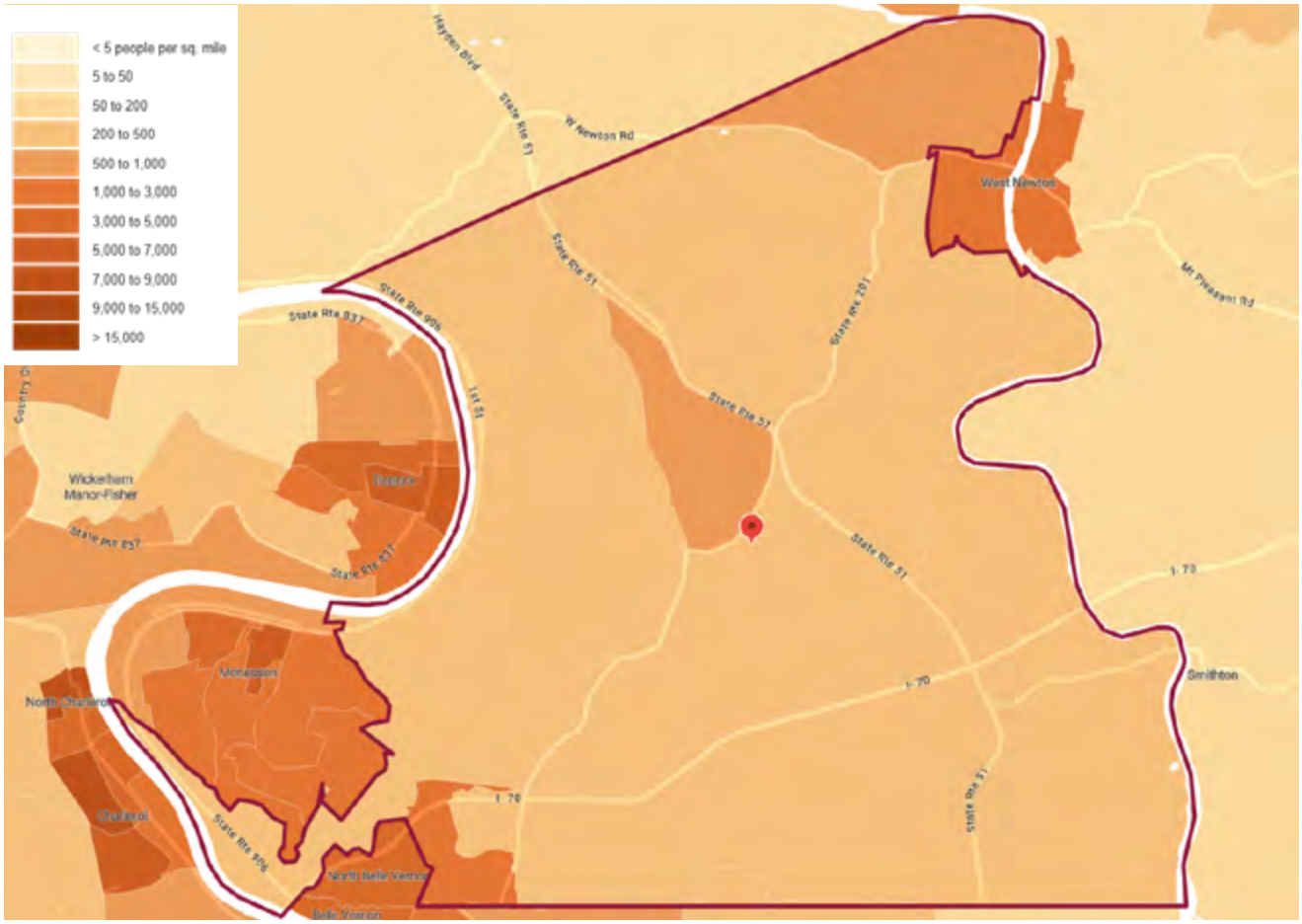
Population growth or decline is not an exact science, but economists in Pennsylvania are predicting a heavy decline in Westmoreland County population over the next 25 years (https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/at-16-westmoreland-tops-local-population-loss-estimates/), which corresponds with findings the County's 2018 Comp Plan and of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update for Rostraver. In recent years, Rostraver's population has inched forward by approximately 4 people a year. If this continues, the Township's population could increase to approximately 11,440 by 2030 and 11,520 by 2050 - defying the projected trend.

Decline can happen for many reasons, but an aging population is one of the area's major contributors. The Township should consider recommendations laid out in the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update on how to attract a younger population through community revitalization, especially young families. Recreational programs and park facilities are often attractive to younger Millennials and older Gen-Zs who are personally passionate about outdoor recreation and encourage this passion in their children.

And while attracting younger families is important, it is equally vital to give support to the aging population of Rostraver with programs and easily accessible recreational opportunities. Seniors enjoy walking, yoga, and passive recreation that allows them to

move and be with their friends. Many of them also have visiting grandchildren they enjoy taking to parks and watching in sporting events.

As seen on the population density map below, the population of Rostraver is proportionately distributed through most of the Township, allowing opportunity throughout the area for open spaces and parks. Whether the population of Rostraver grows, declines, or simply remains the same; building a community people want to live in is the most important thing a municipality can give its current and future residents. Parks, safe connections, and recreational programming are all important components in building a vibrant community. An evenly distributed population gives Rostraver the chance to build and preserve these opportunities anywhere within their Township.



Transportation

- PA 51 – Pennsylvania Route 51 runs for 89 miles from Uniontown to the Ohio border near Darlington. It enters Rostraver from Pittsburgh at the northwest boundary and exits at the southeastern edge, acting as a primary corridor for commuters and commerce.
- PA 201 – Pennsylvania Route 201 splits off from PA 136 in the northeast corner of Rostraver and runs for 25-miles southwest to Connellsville. It intersects Route 51, forming a key north-south link
- PA 136 – Pennsylvania Route 136 crosses the northwest quadrant, connecting Elizabeth Township to West Newton as it runs from Greensburg to Washington in Washington County.
- PA 906 – Pennsylvania Route 906 runs along the eastern border of Rostraver as it follows the Monongahela River from Forward to Washington Township.

- Vance DeiCas Highway - This short 1.6 mile divided highway in the southwest section of Rostraver connects Donora to the PA 201/1-70 interchange.
- PA 981 - Pennsylvania Route 981 begins just south of the PA 51/I-70 interchange in the southeast corner of Rostraver. It runs east over the Youghiogheny River and then northward to the community of Salina.
- I -70 – Interstate 70 serves as a critical east-west connector through the township's southern section, offering two interchanges that provide local road access. It cuts through the south section of Rostraver.

Government

Rostraver's government is run by a five member Board of Commissioners. The Board members are elected to staggered, four-year terms in at-large elections. They are responsible for the adoption of ordinances, resolutions, and policies which guide the operation of Township government.

The Board also appoints members to the various advisory and authority boards including the Zoning Hearing Board, Recreation Commission, Sewage Authority, Health and Welfare, and Administration.

Economic Trends

Rostraver Township is positioned well geographically. Its location close to the City of Pittsburgh provides an easy commute to employers in the region. However, the Township does not have a vast number of large employers within its own boundaries. The 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update confirmed that Rostraver is a good economic position. Like many small municipalities, Rostraver faces fiscal pressure from industries that have moved out of the region. The Township may shift the workforce and economic structure to possibly focus on small businesses and retail growth. The 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update laid out detailed strategies to help grow the Township economically. These should be considered and developed into action.

Tourism and recreation have gained importance as Rostraver Township has developed into a suburban area. The Township's location along the Monongahela River, proximity to the Youghiogheny and Great Allegheny Passage have made it a location for outdoor activities.

Schools

Belle Vernon Area School District

The Belle Vernon Area School District consists of one high school, one middle school, and two elementary schools. The high school and Rostraver Elementary are both located within Rostraver. The district serves Rostraver Township, Washington Township, Belle Vernon, North Belle Vernon, and Fayette City. Approximately 2,600 students.

The Belle Vernon Area School District also includes the James Weir Stadium and the Multiplex Building, both in Rostraver. The latter houses the district's transportation fleet as well as offices for maintenance and athletic support personnel. It also contains a weight room, softball hitting room, and wrestling area as well as showcasing extensive displays of sports memorabilia.

This district offers many sports and athletic programs including:

- **High School:** Football (Varsity, JV), Baseball (Var, JV), Boys/Girls Basketball (Var, JV). Boys/Girls Golf (Var, JV), Boys/Girls Soccer (Var, JV), Boys/Girls Swimming (Var, JV), Boys/Girls Track & Field (Var, JV), Boys Wrestling (Var, JV),

Cheerleading (Var, JV), Softball, Girls Volleyball (Var, JV), Bocce, Bowling, Archery, Girls Flag Football

- **Middle School:** Baseball, Boys/Girls Basketball, Football, Boys/Girls Soccer, Boys/Girls Swimming, Softball, Girls Volleyball, Cross Country, Bowling, Archery, Boys/Girls Track & Field
- **Youth Sports Organizations:** Baseball, Metro Youth Basketball, Washington Township Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Wrestling, Archery, Cross Country, Track & Field

COMMUNITY PARKS, RECREATION, AND NATURAL FEATURES

Rostraver is a community with many natural features to be enjoyed. These included Township owned parks, a County owned park, and access to both the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers.

Park and Recreational Features

Rostraver Township recreation facilities include:

- DiVirgilio Sports Complex
- Betty Ambler Park
- Clair Manor Ballfields
- Collinsburg Community Park (privately owned)
- Fellsburg Park
- Webster Park
- Elk's Place (undeveloped)
- St. Anne's Ballfield (privately owned)
- Cedar Creek Park (County owned)
- Belle Vernon Area School District fields and facilities (School District owned)

In addition to these community parks and fields, the county owned Cedar Creek Park is also located within the Township. Nine and a half miles of the Great Allegheny Passage also follows the Youghiogheny River through Rostraver. These facilities are reviewed in detail in Chapter 2.

Sports Associations

Sports are a valuable asset to Rostraver's residents and renowned throughout the area. They include:

- Belle Vernon Swim Club
- Rostraver Youth Baseball Association
- Rostraver Township Cheer Association
- Belle Vernon Area Youth Soccer Club
- Rostraver Midget Football
- Rostraver Township Girls Softball League
- Belle Vernon Wrestling
- Cub Scout Pack #1590
- Boy Scout Scout Troop #1543

Land Use and Natural Features

Rostraver Township is shaped by its prominent transportation corridors, which include Interstate 70 and State Routes 51, 201, and 136. Since the adoption of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan, Rostraver has experienced significant growth, particularly in the residential and commercial sectors. New residential developments like the Courtyards at Rolling Hills Farm Planned Residential Development (PRD). The Willowbrook Golf Course—once one of the township's largest recreational assets—has been re-purposed for residential use. The 72-acre site is being transformed into a neighborhood featuring 113 new homes. These expanding residential areas have required upgrades to infrastructure, including new road networks and enhanced utility services to ensure connectivity.

Commercial growth has remained concentrated along the township's major transportation arteries, particularly Routes 51 and 201, while industrial development continues to be strategically located near the Monongahela River, the Rostraver Airport, and neighboring communities like Belle Vernon and Monessen. Route 51 continues to attract new businesses and economic opportunities, spurring discussions about improving traffic flow, infrastructure, and connectivity to support ongoing growth and activity.

In terms of land use, forested land remains the largest category, accounting for approximately 37% of Rostraver's total area. Urban built-up land—encompassing residential, commercial, and industrial uses—now accounts for 32%, reflecting the township's growth since 2008. Agricultural land has declined, making up just under 20% of the total land area, compared to 26% in 2008 when it was the Township's second-largest land use. Around 2,680 acres in the Township feature slopes exceeding 25%, making these parcels unsuitable for development due to concerns over stormwater runoff, erosion, and landslide risks.

Rostraver natural assets present valuable opportunities for passive and active recreation as well as land conservation. Strategic land use planning has supported the expansion of parks, open spaces, and trail systems while preserving vital natural resources. Since 2008, efforts have been underway to further develop and enhance recreation amenities as the Township remains committed to expanding its parks and recreation opportunities to better serve residents and visitors.

Monongahela River

Referred to as "The Mon" by locals, the Monongahela is a 130-mile long river running from Fairmont, West Virginia north to Pittsburgh where it joins the Allegheny River to form the Ohio River. A portion of Rostraver's western border lies along a bend of the River, but it lacks easy access for recreational purposes.

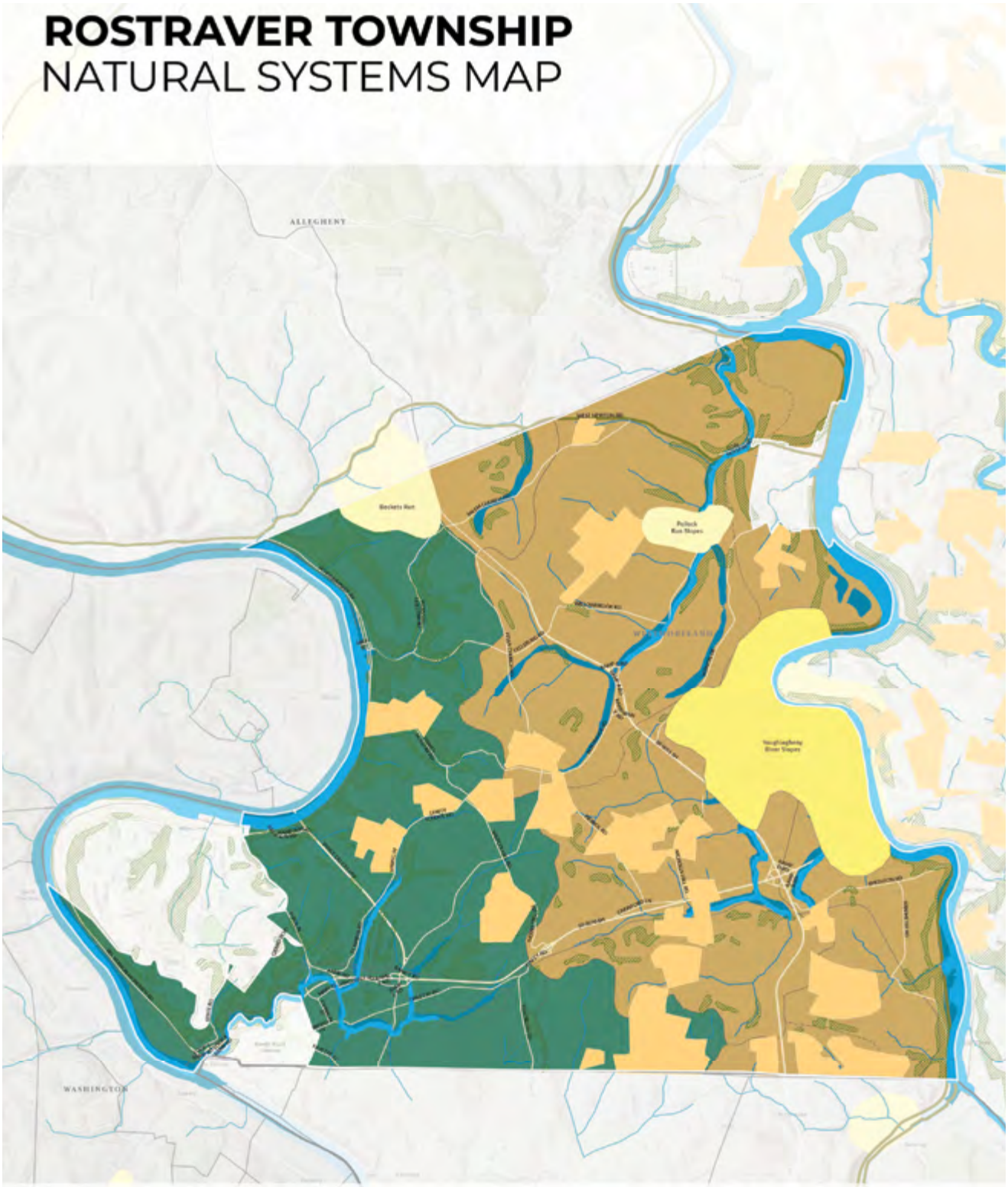
Youghiogheny River

The Youghiogheny River (or "Yough") is a tributary of the Monongahela which flows from Preston County, West Virginia into Maryland and then joins the Monongahela at McKeesport near Pittsburgh. It is very popular for whitewater canoing, kayaking, and rafting, especially in Ohiopyle. The eastern border of Rostraver is made up entirely of the Youghiogheny except where the community of West Newton carves into Rostraver. The Great Allegheny Passage runs alongside the Yough through Rostraver, giving the Township a great opportunity to form connection to a very popular trail.

Conclusion

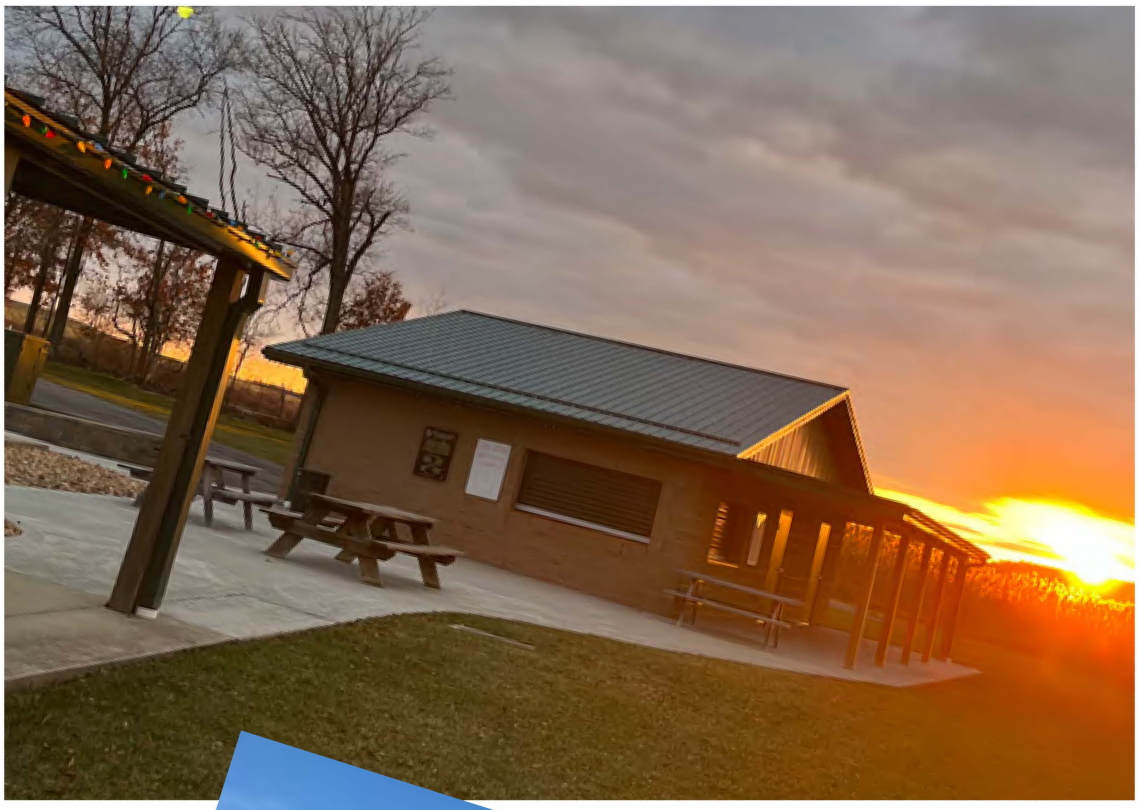
Rostraver is a community with a lot of potential and opportunity, both to update their existing facilities but also create programs. The following chapters will review in detail the Township's current amenities and recreational programs, the opinions of its residents, and how the Township can achieve its recreational goals.

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
NATURAL SYSTEMS MAP



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2 INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES, AND GREENWAY INVENTORY AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This Plan identifies opportunities to achieve a better match between provided facilities and programming. It also focuses on the needs and preferences of the current and future population. The Township's current assets have been inventoried and analyzed in order to establish a baseline of current offerings. Information has been gathered to show how these resources are managed, maintained, operated, and funded. This information was then compared to established benchmarks and similar municipalities in order to determine how Rostraver Township is doing compared to its peers and which direction it should head as it plans for the future.

The following recreational assets that serve the residents of Rostraver Township will be reviewed:

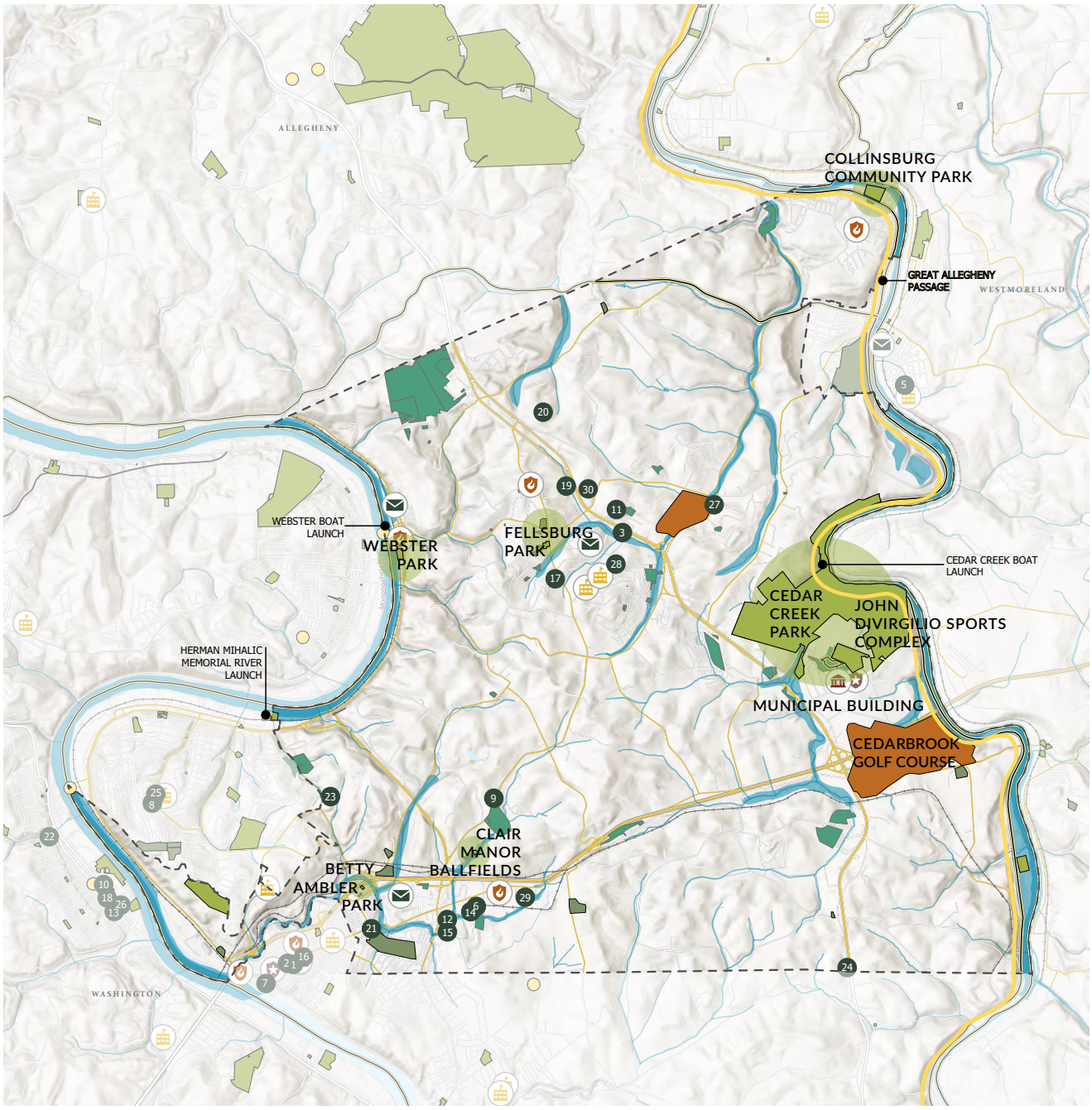
- Inventory of Parks, Facilities, Trails and Open Space
- Township's Recreation Programs and Events
- The Area's Recreation Opportunities
- Township Finances
- Recreation and Parks Administration and Personnel

Inventory of Parks, Facilities, Trails and Open Space

Rostraver is home to the following parks, each one is a unique treasure loved by residents and visitors:

- Betty Ambler Park
- Collinsburg Park (owned and maintained by Collinsburg HOA)
- Fellsburg Park
- Clair Manor Ballfield
- Elks Place (undeveloped)
- Webster Park
- John DiVirgilio Sports Complex

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY FEATURES MAP



LEGEND

- Highways
- Railroad
- Roads
- Hydrology
- Great Allegheny Passage

- Parks
- Open Spaces
- Golf Courses
- Cemeteries
- Rostraver Parcels

Trail Network
- EXISTING
- PLANNED
- PROPOSED

Community Features
- Public Facility
- Fire Station
- Police Station
- Post Office
- Schools
- Historic Site
- Private Recreation Facility

N

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

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The Township is also the home of Westmoreland County's Cedar Creek Park, Belle Vernon Area School District facilities, the Cedarbrook Golf Course which is open to the public, and other non-profit and private recreation facilities including:

1. Belle Vernon Public Library, 503 Speer St
2. STRIVE Performing Arts Center, 406 Broad Ave
3. Bill's Golfland and Dek Hockey, 209 Bills Ln
4. Cedarbrook Golf Course, 215 PA-981
5. West Newton Swimming Pool, 201 Peach Aly
6. KD Dance Studio, 158 Finley Rd
7. Betsy's Dance Studio, 247 Main St
8. Feel the Rhythm Dance Studio, 1295 Grand Blvd
9. Rise Above Dance Academy, 1175 Rostraver Rd
10. The Dance Loft, 532 McKean Ave
11. MV Healthplex, 800 Plaza Dr, Suite 100
12. Belle Vernon Fitness, 750 Rostraver Rd
13. Twisted Fitness, 301 Fallowfield Ave
14. Anytime Fitness, 156 Finley Rd
15. Planet Fitness, 760 Rostraver Rd
16. Mav's Gym, 522 Broad Ave
17. Ninjability, 1268 Fells Church Rd
18. The Boxing Cave, 422 Fallowfield Ave
19. AMF Belle Vernon Lanes, 4742 PA-51
20. cfsbank Event Center (ice rink), 111 Gallitin Rd
21. Performance Martial Arts & Fitness, 1102 Broad Ave
22. Charleroi Lanes, 1301 Prospect
23. Falcon Gymnastics & Fieldhouse, 226 Nazareth Dr
24. MV Gymnastics, 4049 PA-51
25. Resonate Yoga, Reiki & Wellness Center, 1295 Grand Blvd
26. Moke's Martial Arts, 301 Fallowfield Ave
27. St. Anne's Ballfield, 1870 Rostraver Rd
28. James Weir Stadium, 250 Crest Ave
29. Belle Vernon Area School District Multiplex, 274 Finley Rd
30. Rostraver Public Library, 700 Plaza Dr

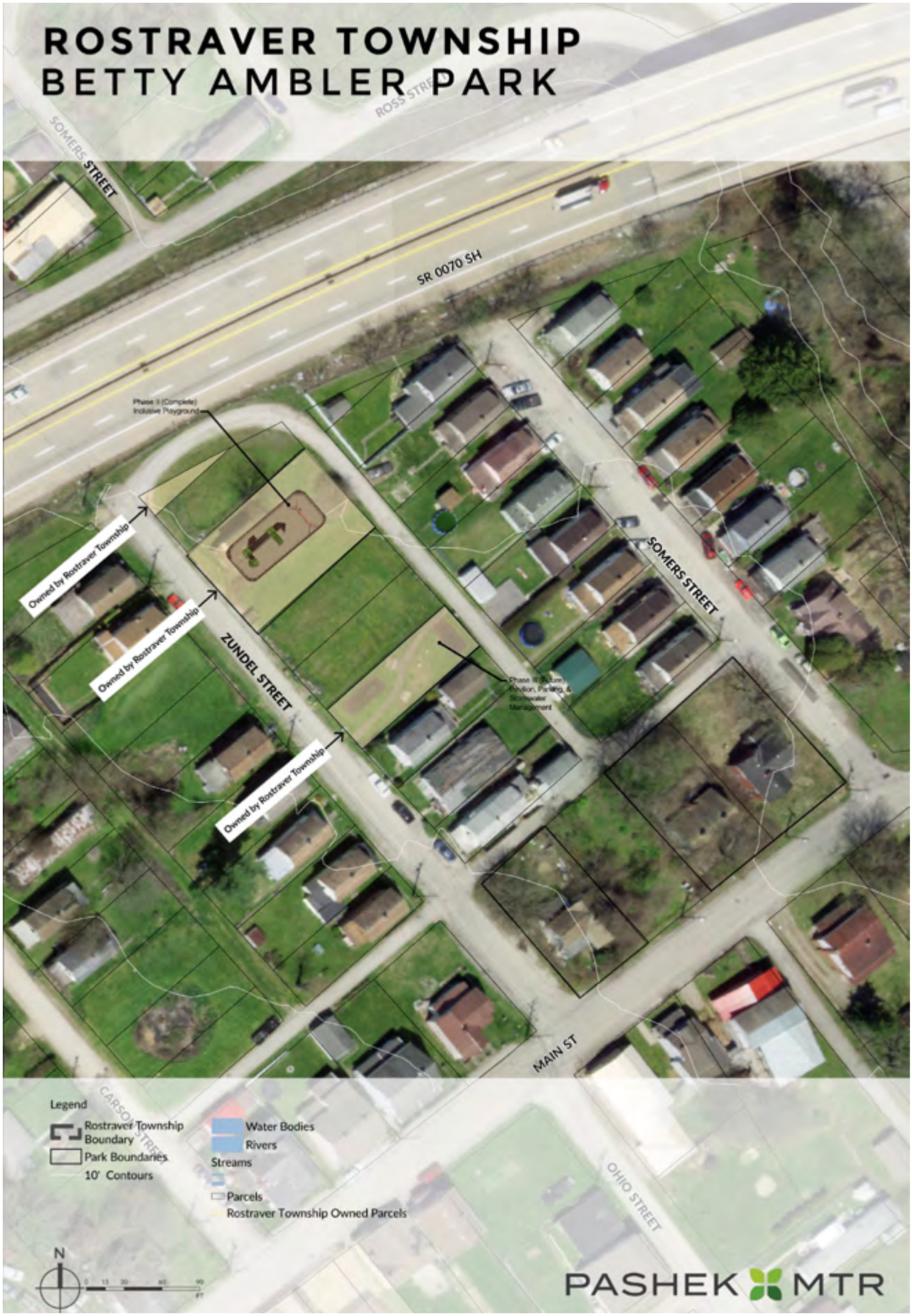
For a comprehensive list of the Belle Area Vernon School District recreation amenities refer to page 42.

Township Parks

In reviewing each of the parks/areas owned or maintained by the Township, consideration of the different ways in which people use recreational facilities has been given. The function or use of a park can depend upon its size, location, local recreational programming, and available facilities. Parks can be organized into "classifications" which define their functions, locations, and site criteria. The chart below defines these classifications:

Park Classifications

Classifications	General Description	Location Criteria	Site Criteria
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational focus of the neighborhood.	¼ mile to ½ mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers	5 acres is considered minimum size; 5 to 10 acres is optimal
School Park	Depending on the circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as Neighborhood or Community.	Determined by location of school district property	Variable; depends on function
Community Park	Serves a broader purpose than Neighborhood Park; focus is on meeting community based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 miles distance	As needed to accommodate desired uses; usually a minimum of 30 acres
Large Urban Park	Serves a broader purpose than Community Parks and is used when Community and Neighborhood are not adequate to serve the needs of the community.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site; usually serves entire community	As needed to accommodate desired uses; usually a minimum of 50 acres
Natural Resource Areas	Land set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual/aesthetics/buffering	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable
Greenways	Effectively tie park systems together to form a continuous park environment	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable
Special Use	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs	Variable, dependent on specific use	Variable


ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
BETTY AMBLER PARK
SOMERS STREET
SR 0070 SH
Phase II (Complete)
Inclusive Playground
Owned by Rostraver Township
Owned by Rostraver Township
Owned by Rostraver Township
ZUNDEL STREET
SOMERS STREET
MAIN ST
OHIO STREET
Legend
Rostraver Township Boundary
Park Boundaries
10' Contours
Water Bodies
Rivers
Streams
Parcels
Rostraver Township Owned Parcels
N
PASHEK MTR







BETTY AMBLER PARK

Zundel Street
0.25 Acres

Park Type: Neighborhood

Maintenance: Township Staff

Ownership: Rostraver Township

Use: Township Residents

Analysis:

Facility	Condition	Lights	Accessibility	Notes
Play Equipment	New	N	N	Gametime play equipment
Pavilion	N/A	N/A	N/A	future phase 3
Fencing	Good	N/A	N/A	
Parking	Poor	N	N	on street only - future phase 3
Site Amenities	Fair	N	N	picnic tables

Comments:

- Newly installed play equipment
- Playground should be inspected weekly.
- Merry-go-round surfacing is uneven (12" on one side and 5" on the other)
- S-hooks should be closed completely to prevent entanglements
- Shade should be considered

Future Use:

- The Township should consider acquiring the parcels adjacent to the Township owned parcels
- ADA parking should be developed
- Install signage
- Future phase #3 includes a new pavilion, parking and stormwater management (funded by a grant from the Community Development Block Grant)

Detailed concept drawings and cost estimates can be found in Chapter 4.







COLLINSBURG COMMUNITY PARK

566 Collinsburg Road

6.4 Acres

Park Type: Neighborhood

Ownership: Collinsburg Community Organization

Maintenance: Township maintains grass; Teams maintain infield

Use: Primarily softball and baseball leagues

Analysis:

Facility	Condition	Lights	Accessibility	Notes
Ballfield	Fair	N	N	RF-312' LF-330' C-315' Base-90' Northwest Orientation- No Dugouts and limited spectator seating
Play Equipment	New	N	N	
Basketball Court	New	N	N	
Wayfinding	N/A			Possible signage installation near Newton Trailhead Entrance sign
Parking	Poor	N	N	Inadequate
Site Amenities	N/A			
Trail to River	Fair	N	N	ATV Trail
Restrooms	N/A	N	N	Port-o-johns during season - used by bikers and patrons
Pavilion	Good	N	N	

Comments:

- New playground, pavilion and basketball court
- Facilities do not meet ADA standards: parking, seating restrooms and accessible routes, basketball court, playground, and pavilion
- Baseball field is oriented Northwest. Safety standards recommend the batter be facing north, northeast or east
- Port-o-johns are provided in the Summer
- Pavilion is not available to be reserved - used on a first come, first serve basis
- Township maintains grass, teams maintain infield
- No fee is implemented for the use of the field

Future Use:

- Explore acquisition of park and adjacent parcels, coordination with Collinsburg Community Organization and the Fire Department
- Construct accessible restrooms with security, lighting and the ability to lock the facility overnight
- Expand parking including accessible parking and accessible pedestrian routes, and food truck area
- Expand trail to the Youghiogheny River and develop an overlook area
- Develop interior trail system with benches
- Bike racks will be added
- Serve as a trailhead
- Install signage
- Construct crosswalk to the GAP
- Baseball field: raise left field fence to 10 feet; enlarge the infield
- Right field, which is Sewage Authority property, could be used for parking

Detailed concept drawings and cost estimates can be found in Chapter 4.




ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
FELLSBURG PARK
LARSON BOULEVARD
FELL AVENUE
ELMHURST DRIVE
LINGREL STREET
NAYLOR DRIVE
FELLS CHURCH RD
Legend
Rostraver Township Boundary
10' Contours
Water Bodies
Rostraver Township Owned Parcels
Parcels
Park Boundaries
N
0 20 40 80 120
FT
PASHEK MTR







Elmhurst Drive and Fells Church Road

1.7 Acres

Park Type: Neighborhood

Maintenance: Township Staff

Ownership: Rostraver Township

Use: Girls softball

Analysis:

Facility	Condition	Lights	Accessibility	Notes
Tennis Court	Poor	N	N	Northeast/Southeast orientation - no longer in use
Basketball Court	Fair	N	N	42' x 87' Southeast/Northeast orientation
Batting cages	Fair	N	N	
Ballfield	Good	N	N	RF-175' LF-160' Base-60' Northeast Orientation -Softball
Parking	Fair	N	N	
Wayfinding & Lighting	N/A			

Comments:

- Walkable park
- Tennis and basketball courts are unusable
- Parking should be expanded
- Batting cage is in fair condition
- Facilities do not meet ADA standards: parking, seating, restrooms (do not exist) and accessible routes
- Additional 1.28 acre parcel is located across the street

Future Use:

- Redevelopment of tennis court, basketball court or skate park
- Improve accessible routes and parking
- Add shaded accessible seating areas
- Develop additional parcel with Nature Play initiatives, walking trail, benches and plantings
- Install signage
- Crosswalk with pedestrian-activated rectangular rapid flashing beacon and speed hump should be installed on Elmhurst Drive

Detailed concept drawings and cost estimates can be found in Chapter 4.







CLAIR MANOR BALLFIELD

Bonnie Street

0.8 Acres (2 parcels)

Park Type: Neighborhood

Maintenance: Township Staff

Ownership: Rostraver Township

Use: Girls softball

Analysis:

Facility	Condition	Lights	Accessibility	Notes
Ballfield	Fair	N	N	RF-195'LF-175' Base-60' North Orientation-fencing new
Basketball hoop	Fair	N	N	
Parking	Fair	N	N	adjacent parcel should be considered
Wayfinding	N/A			
Lighting	N/A			

Comments:

- Located in residential area
- One hoop basketball area
- Limited parking
- Facilities do not meet ADA standards: parking, seating, restrooms (do not exist) and accessible routes

Future Use:

- Expand and improve parking to include accessible parking and accessible pedestrian routes
- Improve basketball court area to half court
- Develop accessible playground area
- Develop accessible routes
- Install accessible benches
- Install signage

Detailed concept drawings and cost estimates can be found in Chapter 4.

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
CLAIR MANOR BALLFIELD



Legend

- Rostraver Township Boundary
- Park Boundaries
- 10' Contours
- Water Bodies
- Rivers
- Streams
- Parcels
- Park Boundaries

N

0 20 40 80 120 FT

PASHEK MTR


ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
ELKS PLACE
BROAD AVENUE EXT
ELKS PLACE
Legend
Rostraver Township Boundary
Park Boundaries
10' Contours
Water Bodies
Rivers
Streams
N
PASHEK MTR

Elks Place

0.7 Acres (vacant)

Park Type: Neighborhood

Maintenance: Township Staff

Ownership: Rostraver Township

Use: no current use

Comments:

- Park is located along a stream, riparian buffering should be completed prior to development of the park
- Stormwater management and plantings are planned for Phase 1 of this area

Future Use:

- Construct accessible walkways
- Develop court areas including bocce, sand volleyball and basketball
- Develop picnic area
- Develop parking including accessible parking and accessible pedestrian routes
- Plant native shade trees

Detailed concept drawings and cost estimates can be found in Chapter 4.

ELKS PLACE







WEBSTER PARK

First Street

3.58 Acres

Park Type: Neighborhood

Maintenance: Township Staff

Ownership: Rostraver Township

Use: Rostraver Baseball and Softball

Analysis:

Facility	Condition	Lights	Accessibility	Notes
Ballfield	Fair	N	N	RF-250' LF-210' Base 60' West Orientation-Outfield fencing is snow fencing.
Basketball Court	Fair	N	N	46' x 90' North-South Orientation
Parking	Poor	N	N	Parking at recycling plant or along street
Lighting	N/A	N	N	
Site Amenities	N/A			

Comments:

- Park is located near an active railroad
- Parking is located on an adjacent property
- Baseball field is oriented with the batter facing to the west and does not comply with safety standards
- Ballfield is in poor condition
- All fencing is in poor condition
- Basketball court is in poor condition
- Facilities do not meet ADA standards: parking, seating, restrooms (do not exist) and accessible routes

Future Use:

- All fencing should be replaced
- Additional fencing and native tree buffering should be installed between the ballfield and the railroad tracks
- Develop additional parking including accessible parking and accessible pedestrian routes
- Install accessible restrooms
- Possible use as multi-purpose field
- Possible location of a skatepark
- Construct public sidewalk along Webster Road
- Security should be included in improvements to deter vandalism
- Install inclusive play equipment
- Install signage

Detailed concept drawings and cost estimates can be found in Chapter 4.




ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
JOHN DIVIRGILIO SPORTS COMPLEX
LYNN ROAD
EVERGREEN DRIVE
RECREATION DRIVE
MUNICIPAL DRIVE
TIMMS LANE
Legend
Rostraver Township Boundary
Park Boundaries
10' Contours
Area Trails
Great Allegheny Passage
BicyclePA Route S
Water Bodies
Rivers
Parcels
Rostraver Owned Parcels
N
0 100 200 400 600
FT
PASHEK MTR







JOHN DIVIRGILIO SPORTS COMPLEX

100 Recreation Drive

36 Acres

Park Type: Community Park

Ownership: Rostraver Township

Maintenance: Township Staff

Use: Youth baseball, softball and soccer associations, BVAHS

The DiVirgilio Sports Complex is a gem of the Township and surrounding communities. Developed in 2001, this complex continues to provide high quality sports facilities, trails, playgrounds and five newly constructed pickleball courts. The advancement of sports in the area has initiated the need for additional sports fields. In 2024, two natural turf fields were constructed in house. Open space near the War Memorial is also utilized for soccer practice. Regrading or rolling this turf area should be considered to assure a safe playing area.

The walking trail is an exceptional asset to the community residents and is heavily used. The park has its share of stormwater management challenges which have been maintained well by the Department of Public Works.

As the Township continues to enhance the facilities within the park, stormwater management practices should continue to be part of capital improvements. Parking at the facilities is at a premium during high use times. Fortunately, the complex is located near the Municipal Building which allows for overflow parking. The Complex is located in close proximity to the Westmoreland County's Cedar Creek Park and a connection between the parks should be a priority and coordinated with County officials.

The development of a pond in the vicinity of the walking trail and newly developed multi-purpose fields would provide passive recreation opportunities to complement the active sports complex. The Township should work with the Conservation District to determine any wetland delineation or permitting that would be necessary to develop a pond in this area of DiVirgilio Sports Complex.

The Township has initiated discussions with the County regarding the potential acquisition of the section of Cedar Creek Park that includes diamond ballfields 3, 4, and 5, a pavilion, and parking areas. These fields are currently leased to Rostraver Youth Football for practice purposes. The Township aims to transform this area into multi-purpose fields, with plans to install synthetic turf. Several factors will need to be considered, such as access, utilities, costs related to acquisition, and rental fees.

ANALYSIS:

Facility	Condition	Lights	Accessibility	Notes
Pony Baseball Field #1	Good	Y	Y	RF-195' LF-197' Base -60' Southwest Orientation - outfield used as multi-purpose field
Pony Baseball Field #2	Good	Y	Y	RF-308' LF-315' Base-90' Northeast Orientation - outfield used as multi-purpose field
Batting cages (2)	Good	N	Y	
Softball Field #3	Good	Y	Y	RF-300' LF-300' Base -80'
Little League Field #4	Good	Y	Y	RF-200' LF 200' Base -80'
Multi-purpose Field	Good	N		175'x 360' Northeast to Southwest Northeast Orientation
Multi-purpose Field #2	New	N	N	natural turf
Playground	Good	N	Y	
Restroom	Good	Y	Y	
Pickleball Courts	New	N	Y	future lights
Small Pavilion	Good	Y	Y	
Exercise Equipment	Good	N	Y	
Concession Stand	Good	Y	Y	Additional storage needed
Storage	Fair	Y	Y	
Parking	Good	N	Y	126 lower + 33 upper
ADA Parking	Good	N	Y	12
Wayfinding/Signage	Good			wayfinding and facility signage should be considered
Walking track	Good	N	Y	10' wide
Connection to Cedar Creek Park				future initiatives
Picnic Shelter	Good	Y	Y	21 tables, water, 22, x 65'

DiVirgilio Sports Complex Parking Assessment	
Facility	**Recommended Spaces**
Baseball Field #1	30
Baseball Field #2	30
Baseball Field #3	30
Baseball Field #4	30
Soccer Field	30
Soccer Field - practice	30 (install lighting)
Walking Track	5 (10' wide)
Playground	5

Note: *Currently there are a total of 180 available parking spots, 12 of which are accessible spaces.*

The minimum recommended parking spaces based on the existing facilities is 190. This does not take into consideration overlapping parking needs during games start and end times.

Comments:

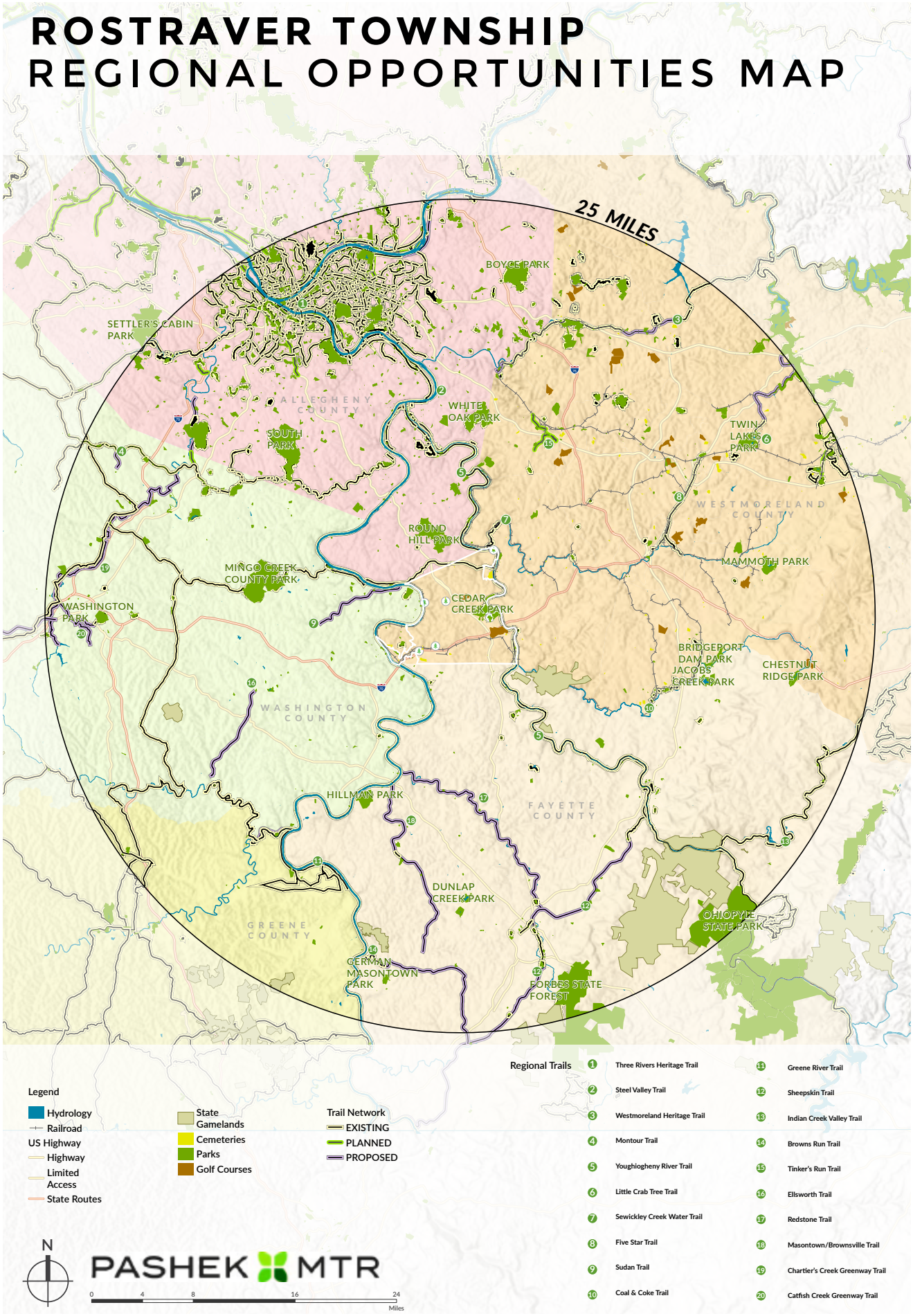
- Well maintained facility
- High demand for use of all facilities
- Parking can be at a premium during high use times
- Two of the fields are oriented in the southwest direction which does not be safety standards
- Two natural turf multi-purpose fields were developed in the Fall of 2024
- The park is built out: resources should be considered to acquire additional land to expand their programming

Future Use:

- Development of a pond to provide passive recreation
- Advance the trail system by developing connections to Cedar Creek County Park and local residential development
- Acquire adjacent property as it becomes available
- Continue to maintain this park as a high quality park
- Should more land be required, consider moving mutli-purpose fields and making DiVirgilio a "Baseball/Softball" Complex
- Potentially, the Township would like to see all the fields converted to synthetic turf

Detailed concept drawings and cost estimates can be found in Chapter 4.

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES MAP



Cedar Creek Park - Westmoreland County

Located on Evergreen Drive on the east side of Rostraver, Cedar Creek is a 464-acre Westmoreland County Park and a favorite place for both residents and visitors. It is the home of 20 pavilions, both large and small, which can be rented for events. There are four fenced-in dog parks, an amphitheater, a great playground, and an activity center for year-round rentals. The Mon-Valley R/C Club operates from the model radio-controlled airfield. If you like winter sports, there are three sledding and tubing runs. The Manderino Riverfront offers a boat launch, fishing, hiking and picnic areas. The Gorge is a beautiful location to visit, and portions of the park are open for hunting. It also has access to the Greater Allegheny Passage (GAP) with ample parking for bikers, hikers, cross country skiers, and equestrians.

Cedar Creek Park hosts many events throughout the year, including the very popular summer concert series, the August Fun Fest, and summer programs and camps.

The existing facilities at Cedar Creek include:

- 20 pavilions
- 5 ball fields
- 1 basketball court
- 1 winter sports complex (tubing and sledding hill)
- Great Allegheny Passage Trail
- Trekker Campground (for through riders of the GAP and Yough River)
- Group Camping Areas
- 1 Dog Park
- 1 Amphitheater
- 1 Boat Launch
- Remote Control Air Field
- Cedar Creek Gorge Hiking Trail
- 1 Activity Center (indoor space for rentals)
- 12 Comfort Stations
- Multiple Playgrounds and play equipment
- Horseshoe courts
- Bean Bag Toss courts
- Volleyball Courts

The Township and various sports associations use the ballfields at Cedar Creek throughout their season, renting the fields for $10 a day. These rentals include:

- Belle Vernon Area Youth Soccer Club - Field 2
- Rostraver Township Recreation – Ballfields 4, 5, 6, Football Field (Timm's Lane)
- Gospel Alliance Church - Field 3
- PA Firecrackers 14U softball – Field 3
- Steel City Athletics – Fields 4, 5, 6 occasionally
- Mon Valley RC Air Club –agreement for airfield space
- Belle Vernon Area High School - Cross Country practices/meets
- American Federation of Musicians – Summer concert series at Amphitheater
- Rostraver Sportsmen Club – lease agreement for shooting range and clubhouse

The Township and County have been in discussion regarding the transfer of Fields 3, 4 & 5 back into the Township owned facilities. There has been discussion related to transitioning the existing diamond ballfields into a multi-use sports complex with the possibility of synthetic turf dependent of funding opportunities.

Cedarbrook Golf Course

Rated 4.5 in *Golf Digest,* this beautiful golf course is the home of two18-hole championship courses, a full practice range, and multiple practice putting and chipping greens. It is open to the public for a round of golf, group tournaments and special outings. It offers golf lessons for men, women, seniors and juniors as well as a junior golf camp in the summer.

Greenways and Connectivity

Rostraver is a suburban community of neighborhoods. Like many Pennsylvania communities, the rolling and forested landscape gives beauty but makes connectivity difficult.

The Great Allegheny Passage

Starting in Cumberland, MD and ending in downtown Pittsburgh, the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) is an amazing 150-mile non-motorized path that passes through valleys, snakes around mountains, and follows rivers on a nearly-level, crushed-limestone surface. It passes through dozens of welcoming "trail towns" where overnight accommodations range from B&Bs to campgrounds, restaurants can be enjoyed, and festivals are celebrated. Tour guides, shuttle services, and outfitters make the trip easy for the millions of people who visit all or portions of the trail yearly. Several miles of the GAP run along the Yough River through Rostraver. Parking and restrooms to accommodate trail visitors can be found in Cedar Creek Park. A trailhead can be found in West Newton.

Trails

Providing connectivity in a community that is hilly and heavily forested is difficult, but the Greater Allegheny Passage (GAP) provides a good starting point for creating trails and connections.

As Rostraver considers trails within its community that could connect to the GAP, it is important to consider various types of trails. This is especially important when considering the users of the GAP and how to bring them into the community.



Map of local portion of GAP with destinations

Trail Classifications		
Classifications	**General Description**	**Location Criteria**
Park Trail	Multi-purpose trails located within greenways, parks, and natural areas; focus is on recreational value and harmony with the natural environment	**Type I:** Separate/single purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, and in-line skaters **Type II:** Multi-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, and in-line skaters **Type III:** Nature trails for pedestrians; may be hard- or soft-surfaced
Connector Trails	Multi-purpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community; focus is as much on transportation as it is on recreation	**Type I:** Separate/single purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, and in-line skaters located in independent right-of-way **Type II:** Separate/single purpose hard-surfaced trail for pedestrians, bicyclists, or in-line skaters; typically located within road right-of-way
On-Street Bikeways	Paved segments of roadway that serve as means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic	**Bike Route:** Designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists **Bike Lane:** Shared portions of the roadway that provide separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders
All-Terrain Bike Trail	Off-road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes	Single purpose use trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas
Cross-country Ski Trail	Trails developed for traditional or skate-style cross-country skiing	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas
Equestrian Trail	Trails developed for horseback riding	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas



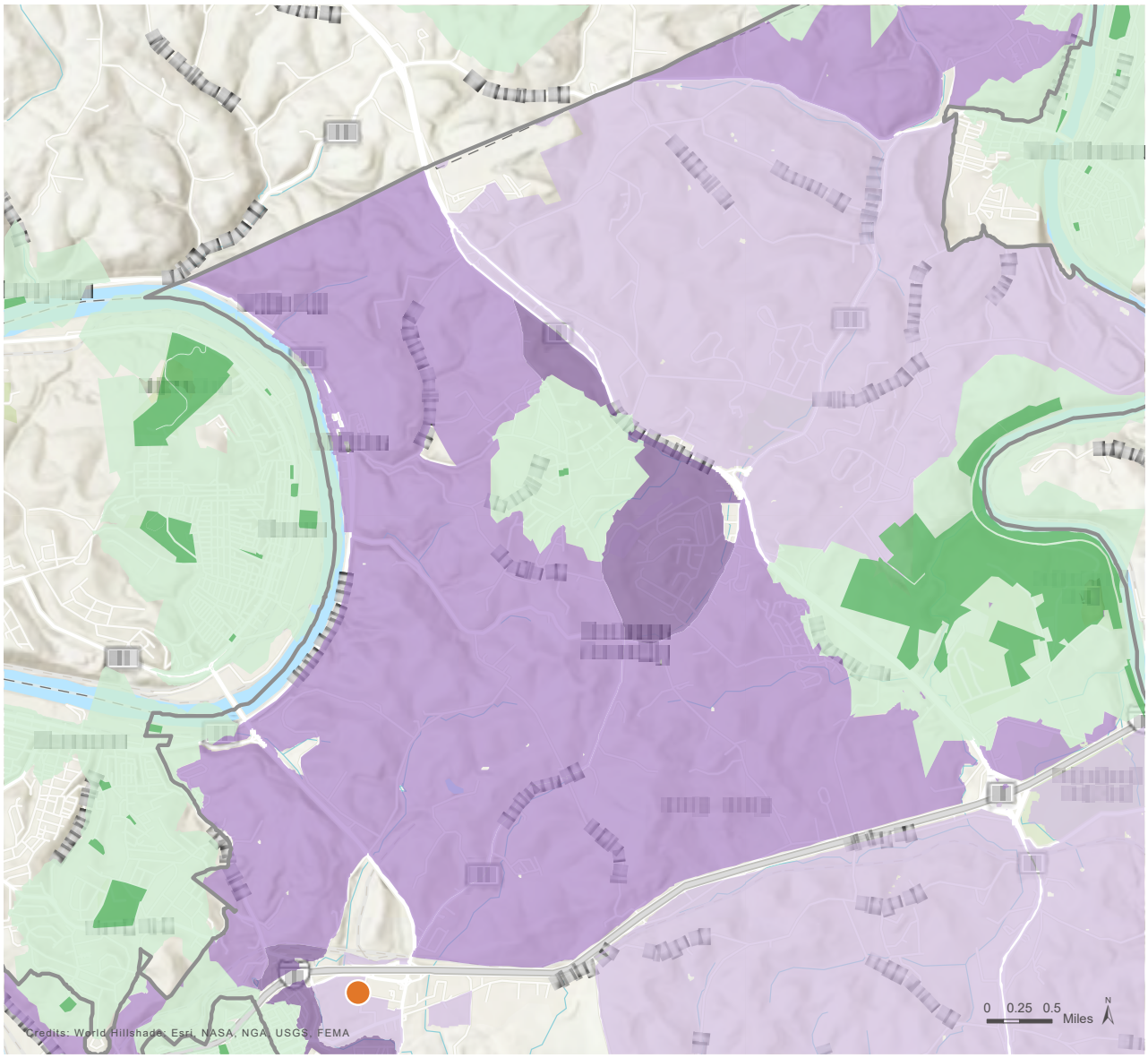
Strava Maps

The Strava heat map on the following page highlights cycling, running, and walking activity across Rostraver Township and nearby communities, including West Newton, North Belle Vernon, and Monessen. The glowing paths indicate the most frequently used routes, showcasing key transportation corridors like Route 51 and areas of regional connectivity along Finley Road and the Youghiogheny River. High activity levels are evident in residential neighborhoods, parks, and riverfront areas, emphasizing their role as popular recreational hotspots.

This data provides valuable insights into local mobility trends and recreation patterns, which can help guide future transportation planning, trail expansions, and efforts to enhance active recreation opportunities, promoting connectivity, health, and wellness for residents and visitors. This Strava map helped inform the locations for proposed connections on the Open Space and Connectivity Map in Chapter 4, emphasizing routes near Rostraver Elementary and Belle Vernon High School, John DiVirgilio Sports Complex and Cedar Creek Park, and the Lynnwood-Pricedale neighborhood.

ParkServe Map Export

ParkServe®



- ParkServe Place
- Park with public access
- 10-minute walk service area

Priority areas for new parks (place)

- Very high priority
- High priority
- Moderate priority

World Hillshade

October 31, 2024. Copyright © Trust for Public Land. Trust for Public Land and Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only. www.tpl.org

TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND™

ParkServe Map

The Trust for Public Lands (TPL) works with partners to prioritize park equity. Launched in 2017, they are an award winning national effort to improve safe and easy access to parks and green spaces. Their mission is "Everyone in U.S. Cities should have access to a quality park within a 10-minute walk of their home. We call on mayors to accelerate the creation of parks that drive equitable, healthy, and thriving communities."

The TPL report on the following page provides useful information when identifying the connectivity needs in the community. According to the report, 17% of the residents in Rostraver have a 10-minute walk to an existing park. It is not a surprise that the most walkable area of the community is centered around Cedar Creek Park, the GAP, and DiVirgilio Sports Complex. The other walkable area of the community is focused around the Fellsburg area. The majority of the very high and high priorities identified by TPL are located in the central and southwest parts of the Township. Although difficult due to the disconnect of the community due to Route 51 and Route 70, the Township should initiate connections in this area when opportunities arise.

Outdoor Recreation Access in Rostraver

Served	Total	Percentage
Total Population	1,950	17%
Kids	312	16%
Adults	332	17%
Seniors	351	18%
Low Income Households	371	19%
Medium Income Households	371	19%
High Income Households	332	17%
Minorities	351	18%

Comparison of PA vs. Rostraver

Served	PA	Rostraver
Total Population	53%	17%
Kids	54%	16%
Adults	60%	17%
Minorities	75%	18%

This map highlights a significant disparity in park and green space access within the community, with only 17% of residents—approximately 1,950 out of more than 11,000—are able to reach one of the park areas within a 10-minute walk from their homes. The 10-minute walk metric, approximately half a mile for many individuals, is a widely recognized standard representing the typical distance people are willing to walk to reach a destination. It offers a meaningful framework for evaluating the availability of nearby opportunities and resources.

Providing all residents access to a park within a 10-minute walk is a cornerstone of creating an equitable park system. This includes increasing access and ensuring that park spaces are safe and of high quality. The purple-shaded areas on the map represent high-priority zones for addressing gaps in access, with darker purple areas—particularly in the central part of Rostraver—indicating the greatest need for new parks or improved connectivity.

Improving park access fosters physical activity, enhances mental well-being, strengthens social connections, and delivers environmental benefits like urban cooling and better air quality. This map serves as a strategic guide for investments in equitable park development, helping ensure that all residents have access to the numerous benefits of nearby green spaces.

Vacant Parcels

Township-owned vacant parcels present a valuable opportunity to create connections, preserve greenspace, and offer residents both active and passive recreational opportunities. However, many of these parcels are small, unconnected, and, in some cases, located in neighborhoods where residential homes once stood. The Township should continue to monitor these parcels for potential connections or opportunities to expand parkland, ensuring that these spaces can be utilized to their full potential for the benefit of the community. Maps of these vacant lots can be found in the Appendix.

Comparison of Rostraver's Parks & Open Space to NRPA Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is a national, non-profit service organization dedicated to advancing parks, recreation, and environmental efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people and impact their health and wellness. NRPA works closely with national, state and local recreation and park agencies, corporations and citizens' groups in carrying out its objectives. The NRPA has created a hierarchy of park types, as well as a set of acreage standards for different park types.

The findings from the 2024 National Recreation and Park Association Agency Performance Review uses data from Park Metrics, NRPA's park and recreation agency performance benchmarking tool. This research indicates there is typically one park for every 2,386 residents in the United States. In 2024 the estimated population of Rostraver is 11,417. Utilizing this metric, Rostraver's population indicates five parks would serve the community well. The Township owns a total of six parks.

The NRPA data for communities with populations under 20,000 also indicates for every 1,000 residents there should be approximately 13 acres of overall parkland. With a population of 11,417 the Township should consider providing approximately 148 acres of parkland for their residents, according to NRPA metrics.

Rostraver Vacant Parcels

Tax Map Number	Location Details	Acres
56-06-14-0-012	Stormwater Kimberly Court	2.02
56-06-16-0-114	Stormwater Country Drive	
56-08-00-0-073	Webster Ballfield	3.5
56-08-03-0-039	Vacant Rankin Road	
56-08-04-0-116	Vacant Fellsburg Road	
56-08-08-0-006	Vacant Fellsburg	1.28
56-08-08-0-035	Stormwater Shawnee Point	
56-08-08-0-089	Stormwater Shawnee Point	
56-08-08-0-125	Stormwater Shawnee Point	
56-09-01-0-006	Fellsburg Courts	1.1
56-09-01-0-007	Fellsburg Ballfield	
56-09-01-0-012	Historical Society Building	
56-09-01-0-115	Fellsburg Batting Cage	
56-09-05-0-012	Vacant off Elmhurst	
56-09-06-0-160	End of Atwood Street	
56-09-10-0-073	Vacant Sweeney Circle Drive	
56-09-10-0-074	Vacant Sweeney Circle Drive	
56-09-10-0-075	Vacant Sweeney Circle Drive	
56-10-00-0-041	DiVirgilio Sports Complex	37.02
56-12-00-0-008	Vacant Martin Road	1
56-12-15-0-053	Clair Manor Ballfield	
56-12-15-0-059	Vacant Clair Manor	
56-13-00-0-140	Road Department Concord Lane	1.9
56-13-00-0-148	Annex Office Building	1.75
56-13-00-0-249	Annex Building and Acreage	9
56-14-00-0-225	Municipal Complex	11.5
56-16-00-0-091	Quarry Lane Pump Station	6
56-16-02-0-086	Vacant Carson Street Pricedale	
56-16-02-0-108	Vacant Zundel Street Pricedale	
56-16-02-0-117	Vacant Main Street Pricedale	
56-16-2-0-119	Vacant Main Street Pricedale	
56-16-02-0-120	Vacant Main Street Pricedale	
56-16-02-0-124	Original Betty Ambler Park	
56-16-02-0-127	New Betty Ambler Park	
56-16-02-0-128	New Betty Ambler Park	
56-16-02-0-130	End of Zundel Street	
56-16-06-0-175	Vacant Elks Place	
56-16-06-0-176	Vacant Elks Place	
56-16-06-0-177	Vacant Elks Place	
56-16-06-0-178	Vacant Elks Place	
56-16-06-0-179	Vacant Elks Place	
56-16-06-0-180	Vacant Elks Place	
56-16-06-0-182	Vacant Elks Place	
56-18-00-0-141	Vacant Van Meter Road	
56-18-08-0-029	Vacant Van Meter	

2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review - Park Facilities				
Park Facility	**Median # of Residents per Facility (under 20,000 range)**	**Existing**	**Recommended**	**Adequate/ Deficient**
Playgrounds	2,014	7	7	adequate
Basketball Courts	3,729	3*	4	- 1
Pickleball Courts	3,252	5	5	adequate
Tennis Courts (outdoors)	2,805	1 (unusable)*	6	- 6
Diamond Fields	3,114	8	5	adequate
Rectangular Fields: Soccer, Football, Lacrosse	3,600	2	4	- 2
Dog Park	11,100	0	1	- 1
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	9,745	0	1	- 1
Skate Park	10,726	0	1	- 1
Multi-purpose Synthetic Field	9,518	0	1	- 1
Aquatics Center	11,650	0	1	- 1
Nature Center	10,633	0	1	- 1
Community Center	8,829	0	1	- 1
13 Acres/ 1,000 Residents = 148 Acres				
John DiVirgilio Sports Complex - 36.67 acres				
Betty Ambler Park - 0.25 acres				
Elks Place - 0.7 acres				
Collinsburg Park - 6.4 acres (not owned by Township)				
Webster Park - 3.58 acres				
Fellsburg Park - 1.7 acres				
Clair Manor Park - 0.8 acres				
Total Township Owned Acreage - 50.1 acres			***98 acres below the national average***	
Cedar Creek Park - Westmoreland County - 464 acres				
Additional Open Acreage - 464 acres				

* Redevelopment of the basketball court and tennis court is recommended in the Fellsburg Park concept plan as recommended in Chapter 4.

Rostraver Township owns one large sports complex, five smaller park areas/spaces, and an empty parcel for a total of 50.1 acres, which falls under the national average. However, with the inclusion of Cedar Creek Park and other recreational areas owned by other groups the total acres of parkland in Rostraver increases by 464 acres for a total of 514.1 acres which is over four times the national average.

To meet NRPA averages, the Township would need to acquire almost 100 acres of additional park land. As sports such as baseball, softball and soccer are the primary recreational activities in Rostraver; land that could be readily converted to fields would be the most desired. It would also be beneficial if the land was acquired in large tracks, either 100 total acres or areas of 30+ acres each. This would allow for several fields in one location.

Parks are the keystone of a community's recreational functions and feature athletic fields and courts, playgrounds, open play areas, picnic pavilions, and other related amenities. Determining the appropriate acreage, type, and number of recreation facilities for a community is a function of analyzing a variety of data. As with all communities, Rostraver has unique possibilities that have been considered in creating this Plan.

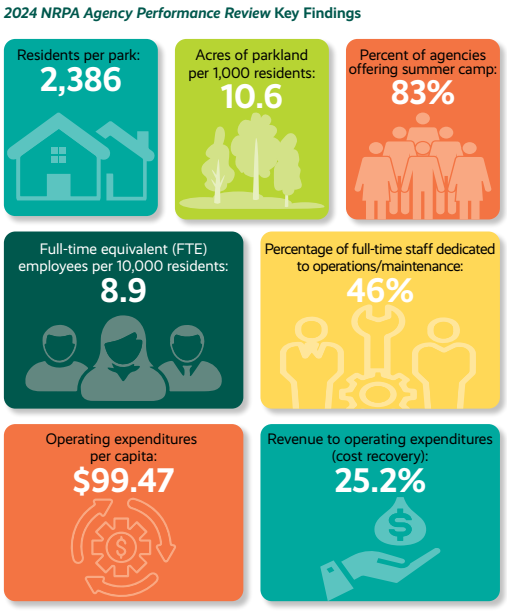
Each community has specific needs based on their individual necessities, demographics, and the various demands of their residents. If a community has young families, playgrounds are important. As these families age, sports become vital and fields to accommodate those sports are necessary. As adults age, locations for low-impact recreation and gathering spots become important. What is important today should be re-evaluated in ten years to see how those desires have changed. The unique parks and recreation needs of any one community can change and should be considered when comparing national metrics.

Staffing levels including programming, operations, and maintenance need to be sufficient to assure proper maintenance. Proper staffing levels related to existing facilities should be addressed to provide quality parks and programs.

For the purposes of this study, we have taken the level of service approach a step further to determine the needs in the community including:

- Interviewed representatives of various sports organizations; inventoried available fields and analyzed their specific usage; and projected future growth potential in youth sports.
- Listened to residents as they expressed their desires at public meetings.
- Inventoried all recreational facilities in the Township and evaluated their condition.
- Stakeholders provided ideas and concepts on the strength and weaknesses of the Township's parks and recreational opportunities.

INFOGRAPHIC



Township Recreational Programs and Events

Rostraver is a community where sports bring people together. The DiVirgilio Sports Complex is the place to be, not only for residents with kids playing sports but also the visiting teams and their families. It is the focus of Rostraver's recreational programming with very few events outside of sports.

Determining the optimal use for sports spaces and other open park spaces, as well as the necessary upgrades and maintenance, has been guided by public input, committee engagement, and best practices. Throughout the public input process, we gathered the following feedback:

If the Township expands facilities at existing parks, how important would the following amenities be?

1. Restrooms
2. Indoor recreation facilities
3. Multi-use sports fields

Top Activities families are interested in:

1. Outdoor recreation
2. League sports
3. Special events

Where should the Township focus its future parks and recreation efforts?

1. Develop indoor recreation facilities.
2. Expand recreation programs and activities.
3. Protect open space and natural resources.

When asked about the importance of water recreation:

- 40% of people said it is somewhat important.

When asked about the importance of trail connections:

- 35% of people said they are extremely important.

How do you typically find out about the Township's recreation programs, sports leagues, and special events?

- 80% of respondents said "word of mouth."

How important is it that the Township acquires properties with quality recreation potential or natural diversity for future development or connectivity corridors?

- 70% of respondents said it is extremely or very important.

How important is it that the Township continues to invest tax dollars in public parks, trails, and open spaces?

- 80% of respondents said it is extremely or very important.

Wishlist Items mentioned during conversations:

- An indoor recreation space with a turf field
- Little parks in all the housing plans
- Think big: huge slide with potato sacks to slide down, zip line
- Pool or splash pad
- Good basketball courts
- Tennis and/or pickleball courts
- More programming: evening activities, homeschool initiatives, STEM/STEAM programs, senior activities, non-English speaking programs, walking club
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Picnic areas, shelters - more open spaces
- More/better access to the Yough
- A track facility
- WiFi
- Collaboration with Belle Vernon Area School District and Rostraver Public Library

Facility Rentals

While the Township does have a few pavilions, its publicly posted rental form and fees relate solely to the use of its sports fields. These fields include basketball courts, baseball/softball fields, batting cages, soccer field, concession stands, broadcasting booth, and electrical scoreboard at DiVirgilio Sports Complex. This form and related fees can be found at the Township's website to be downloaded and mailed, brought, or emailed to the Township's Municipal Building.

Other Events

Rostraver Township does not offer many recreation programs or events, but there are a couple of seasonal events such as a Halloween Hike and Easter Egg at DiVirgilio, and Christmas or summer events.

Indoor Programming

The Township does not offer indoor programming due to limited space and staffing. In discussions during this Plan, the Township stated it would like to examine the possibilities of indoor sports programming which will be further discussed in Chapter 4.

Rostraver Area Programming (Non-Sport)			
Sponsoring Group	**Program Name**	**Target Age**	**Program Fee**
Rostraver Library	Adult Craft Night	Adult	n/a
Rostraver Library	Adult Chair Yoga	Adult/Senior	$15
Rostraver Library	Knitters Club	All	n/a
Rostraver Library	Book Club	Adult/Senior	n/a
Rostraver Library	Overeaters Anonymous	Adult	n/a
Rostraver Library	Writers Group	Adult	n/a
Rostraver Library	Tiny Tykes Tadpoles	Toddlers	n/a
Rostraver Library	Pre-School Storytime	Youth	n/a
Rostraver Library	Tiny Tykes Ducklings	Toddlers	n/a
Rostraver Library	Ballet Storytime	Youth	n/a
Rostraver Library	Lego Club	All	n/a
Rostraver Library	Holiday Events	All	n/a
Rostraver Library	Ghost Hunting Basics	Adult/Teen	n/a
Rostaver Library	Dance the Story	Family	n/a
Rostraver Library	Art Adventures Art Show	All	n/a
Rostraver Library	Harry Potter Day	All	n/a
Monessen & Mt. Pleasant Senior Centers	Wii Bowling & Wii Fit	Seniors	n/a
Monessen Senior Center	Krazy Karaoke	Seniors	n/a
Monessen Senior Center	Chair Yoga	Seniors	n/a
Monessen Senior Center	Healthy Steps in Motion	Seniors	n/a
Monessen Senior Center	CPR classes	Seniors	n/a
Monessen Senior Center	Live Music	Seniors	n/a
Monessen Senior Center	Ping Pong	Seniors	n/a
Monessen, Herminie, McKenna & West Newton Senior Centers	Drumming (AllStar, Cardio)	Seniors	n/a
Monessen, McKenna & West Newton Senior Centers	Bible Study	Seniors	n/a
Monessen, Herminie, McKenna & West Newton Senior Centers	Tai Chi	Seniors	n/a
Monessen, Mt. Pleasant & McKenna Senior Centers	Sail Fitness	Seniors	n/a
Monessen, Mt. Pleasant, Herminie, McKenna, & West Newton Senior Centers	Bingo	Seniors	n/a
Monessen, Mt. Pleasant, Herminie, McKenna & West Newton Senior Centers	Lunches	Seniors	$2 - $5
Monessen, West Newton , McKenna & Mt. Pleasant Senior Center	Crafts (Card Making, Ceramics)	Seniors	n/a
Mt. Pleasant Senior Center	Nutrition Classes	Seniors	n/a
Mt. Pleasant & Herminie Senior Centers	Bean Bag Toss/Cornhole	Seniors	n/a
Mt. Pleasant Senior Center	Aqua Aerobics	Seniors	n/a
Mt. Pleasant, Herminie & West Newton Senior Centers	Puzzles and Games	Seniors	n/a
Mt. Pleasant Senior Center	Billiards	Seniors	n/a
Herminie & McKenna Senior Centers	Scat	Seniors	n/a
Herminie Senior Center	Po-Ke-No	Seniors	n/a
McKenna Senior Center	Mahjong	Seniors	n/a
McKenna Senior Center	Silver Sneakers	Seniors	n/a
McKenna Senior Center	Piano Lessons	Seniors	n/a
McKenna Senior Center	Health Classes	Seniors	n/a
McKenna Senior Center	Zumba Line Dance	Seniors	n/a
West Newton Senior Centers	Bingocize	Seniors	n/a

Note: Senior Centers mentioned are within a 20-mile radius of Rostraver

Rostraver Public Library

Located on Plaza Drive, the library offers events for people of all ages. Their programs run throughout the year with indoor events during the winter and outdoor activities in the summer. They also offer meeting rooms to rent and encourage local businesses and individuals to sponsor events.

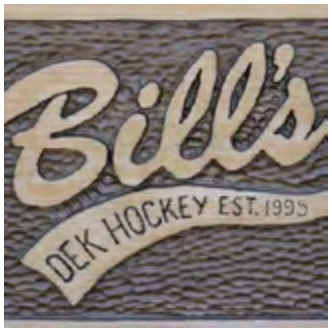


Other Area Recreational Opportunities

While the Township lacks recreational programming outside of sports, it offers many recreational opportunities and hundreds of visitors walk, bike, kayak, or canoe through Rostraver every year.

Cedar Creek Park Events

Cedar Creek Park holds many events throughout the year that are attended by residents of Rostraver as well as surrounding communities. August Fun Fest is one of the biggest outdoor events of the summer with carnival rides, a petting zoo, car cruise, arts and crafts, concerts, and food! Throughout the summer concerts are held at the Amphitheater. The Mon Valley R/C Club sponsors public events, and the Cedar Creek Park Foundation sponsors events such as First Hike Day, Spring Clean-up Day, the Fall Festival, and holiday celebrations for Independence Day, Halloween Trick-or-Treating, and the Christmas Lights Celebration.



Youghiogheny River Water Trail - North

The Youghiogheny River Water Trail is a 75 mile river "trail" that runs from the Dam in Confluence to the mouth of the "Yough" when it reaches the Monongahela in McKeesport. It is separated into four main sections. Sections C and D are considered the "North" parts of the trail and follow the Yough along Rostraver's eastern border. Cedar Creek Park offers kayaker and canoers who enjoy the trail a place to camp or load and unload their boats.



Smithton Beach and boat launch

This beach, located at 417 PA-981 in Smithton along the Youghiogheny River is utilized by many kayakers and canoers. The beach is approximately 200 feet and is know for its soft white sand.There is a small parking lot, but parking is limited. The water is sampled and tested weekly from May 1st to September 30th by the Youghiogheny Riverkeeper/ Mountain Watershed Association. Water samples have passed 60-95% of the time. Providing easy access to this lcoation would be a good connection for the Township.

Monongahela River

The Monongahela River is a 130 mile river is formed in Fairmont, West Virginia and make its way north into Pittsburgh where it merges with the Allegheny River to form the Ohio River. A portion of this river forms the northwestern "curve" that forms of the border of Rostraver and Donora. It again touches Rostraver's southwestern edge between Charleroi and Belle Vernon.

Unlike the Youghiogheny, the Monongahela is not officially a Pennsylvania "blueway". However, it is used for kayaking, canoing, fishing, and boating. It is not as easily accessible as the Yough on account of the railway that runs along it's eastern border. Should the Township desire to make the Monongahela accessible for recreation purposes, the W&LE Railroad company would need to be approached.

MV HealthPlex

Part of Penn Highlands Healthcare, this complex located in Rostraver offers fitness classes, aquatic classes and personal training as well as medical resources and technologies. It's 40,000 square feet includes a strength and cardio training area, two group fitness studios, a rubberized indoor walking/running track, a 4-lane 75-foot lap pool and aquatic therapy pool as well as saunas, lounges, message therapy, and babysitting services. It offers memberships to individuals, couples, and families.

Bill's Dek Hockey/Mini Golf/Driving Range

Located at Bill's Golfland, which has served the community and surrounding area since 1947, the Dek Hockey rink was built in 1995 and serves as a location for both adult and youth leagues.

Belle Vernon Area School District

The Belle Vernon Area School District has several athletic facilities among its four schools:

- Belle Vernon Area High School, Crest Avenue
  - James Weir Football Stadium (also used by youth sports associations)
  - Multi-use natural turf practice field (soccer)
  - Multi-use natural turf practice field (football)
  - Indoor pool
  - Multi-plex Building (weight room, indoor softball, wrestling)
  - Leopard Hall
- Belle Vernon Area Middle School, Perry Avenue
  - Multi-use natural turf practice field (soccer)
- Rostraver Elementary School, Crest Avenue
  - Playground
  - Single basketball hoop court
  - GaGa Pit
- Marion Elementary School, Perry Avenue
  - Playground
  - GaGa Pit

Senior Centers

While Rostraver does not have a senior center, many of Westmoreland County's is the home of 13 active senior centers. The ones within a 20-mile radius of Rostraver are:

- Monessen Center (6 miles)
- Mt. Pleasant Center (17 miles)
- Herminie Center (12 miles)
- McKenna Center (Greensburg) (20 miles)
- West Newton Center (5 miles)

Rostraver Area Sports Associations						
Association	**Location(s) Used**	**Fields Needed?**	**Type of Organization**	**Approx. Participation**	**Approx. Fees**	**Season**
Belle Vernon Swim Club	BVASD High School *	No	Other	40	$300	Year Round
Rostraver Youth Baseball Association	DiVirgilio Sports Complex Cedar Creek Park *	Yes	Township	195	$75 - $100	April - June
Rostraver Township Cheer Association	DiVirgilio Sports Complex Cedar Creek Park * James Weir Stadium *	Yes	BVASD (residents only Recreation Association)	160	$90 - $110	July - November
Belle Vernon Area Youth Soccer Club	DiVirgilio Sports Complex (soccer fields, baseball/ softball outfields) Cedar Creek Park * NBV Turf Fields * Municipal Fields	Yes	Township	200 - 400	$45 - $65	September - October April - June
Rostraver Midget Football	Cedar Creek Park (fields 4, 5, 6) * James Weir Stadium * BVASD High School "Practice Field"*	Yes	Township	130	$40 - $60	July - October
Rostraver Township Girls Softball League	DiVirgilio Sports Complex (softball & baseball fields) Fellsburg Park Clair Manor St. Anne's * Collinsburg Park * (travel team)	Yes	Township	60	$75 - $145	March - July August - October
Belle Vernon Wrestling	BVASD Multiplex *	No	BVASD	100	$75	October - February
Boy Scout Troop #1543 Cub Scouts #1590	unavailable	No	Other	20 - 40	$85 - $150	Year Round

* Not owned or maintained by Rostraver Township

Sports Associations

Rostraver Township offers its sport programs through several local youth sports associations:

- Belle Vernon Swim Club
- Rostraver Youth Baseball Association
- Rostraver Township Cheer Association
- Belle Vernon Area Youth Soccer Club
- Rostraver Midget Football
- Rostraver Township Girls Softball League
- Belle Vernon Wrestling
- Boy Scout Troop #1543
- Cub Scouts #1590

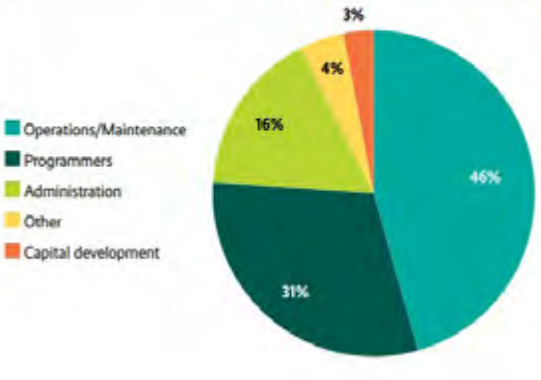
Parks & Recreation Administration and Personnel

According to the NRPA metrics, the average number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees for parks and recreation agencies is 8.9 FTE per 10,000 residents. Given this benchmark, it may be beneficial for the Township to consider increasing its staffing levels to ensure the effective operation and maintenance of its Township-owned parks. This would help align the Township's staffing levels with industry standards and potentially improve the quality of park services.

NRPA also provides a breakdown of percentage of responsibilities of Park & Recreation Workers for a population of under 20,000. As seen on the chart, the breakdown is:

- 46% Operations and Maintenance
- 31% Programming
- 16% Administration
- 3% Capital Development

FIGURE 13: RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARK AND RECREATION STAFF
(AVERAGE PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF AGENCY FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) EMPLOYEES)



The Township's Park and Recreation staffing and administration are currently shared with the Public Works Department. However, the Rostraver 2020 Comprehensive Plan highlighted a key recommendation that has been recognized and elevated: the need for a dedicated Park and Recreation Director. This position would play a crucial role in supporting the growth of programming tailored to diverse demographics, including the senior population and young families. Additionally, it would provide a central point of contact for the Park Maintenance staff, helping to streamline communication and enhance operational efficiency.

This emphasizes the value of creating a specialized position for improved programming and management.

This position would oversee the operations and administration of programming and maintenance of existing and future initiatives including:

- Scheduling sports fields usage and maintenance
- Partnership and agreement development with associations, regional providers, and the Belle Vernon Area School District
- Annual budget development
- Program and special event planning, execution, and coordination.
- Marketing and promotions of department programs and events

More information on this is included in Chapter 4.

Care and Maintenance of Facilities

On average, 46% of the responsibilities of Park and Recreation Staff fall under "Operations and Management". Day-to-day management and operations of Rostraver's acreage of parkland is a full time job. To sustain high quality parks, Rostraver should employ 9 full time staff. If 46% of the responsibilities are maintenance related, 5 of those members should be dedicated solely to the operations and maintenance of the Township's recreation amenities and park. The Department of Public Works, at this time, has no dedicated parks maintenance staff. However, two to three Township Road Department employees are dedicated to working in the parks - typically from April to October.

The spreadsheets on the following pages are benchmark estimates of the continual maintenance each park needs to maintain excellent condition.

Please note: *The estimated total annual labor hours are based on standard benchmarking estimates. Estimated total hours is 5,822. If an FTE works 40 hours for 28 weeks (April through October) in the parks that would be equivalent to 1,120 hours. Based on this calculation, at a minimum, five (5) FTEs should be employed to properly maintain the Township facilities. Volunteer hours provided through the sports association volunteers would reduce the total staff hours. The maintenance and operations spreadsheets located on the previous pages are estimates to gain a better understanding of maintenance and operation needs.*

JOHN DIVIRGILIO SPORTS COMPLEX					APRIL-OCTOBER (28 WEEKS)			
	Qty.	Unit	Hrs. per Unit	Times per week	Weeks per season	Total Hours		
Mowing, 60" riding mower	15	AC	0.8	1	28	336		
Trim mowing	1	EA	4	1	28	112		
Restroom cleaning	2	EA	0.5	2	28	56		
Litter-general	1	ALL	0.5	2	28	28		
Trash/recycling collection	20	EA	0.2	2	28	224		
Facility check/cleaning/maintenance	5	EA	0.5	2	28	140		
Trail/sidewalk maintenance	1	MI	1	0.25	28	7		
General landscaping	1	EA	3	1	15	45		
Spray w/truck sprayer	1	HR	8	1	3	24		
Fertilize with tractor	1	HR	3.5	1	2	7		
Aerify ground	5	AC	1	1	1	5		
Trim trees	10	EA	0.5	1	1	5		
Miscellaneous maintenance	1	EA	2	1	52	104		
Diamond fields	4	EA	1	4	28	448		
Multi-purpose fields	3	EA	1	4	28	336		
Pickleball court (1,469 SY); blow courts/install nets	5	EA	0.5	1	28	70		
Pavilion maintenance	1	EA	1	4	28	112		
Parking lot	3	EA	1	1	52	156		
Clean catch basins	5	EA	1	1	1	5		
Clean gutters	1	EA	1	1	4	4		
Snow Removal	1	EA	1	1	13	13		
Playground Inspections	2	EA	1	1	40	80		
Stormwater Maintenance	1	EA	1	1	16	16		
Total Annual Labor costs using Maintenance Staff						**2333**	**$35.00**	**$81,655**
50% of staff time by FT Maintenance Staff						1167	$35.00	$40,828
50% of staff time by PT seasonal						1167	$15.00	$17,498
Total Labor Costs with 50/50 FT/PT split								**$58,325**

COLLINSBURG PARK					APRIL-OCTOBER (28 WEEKS)			
	Qty.	Unit	Hrs. per Unit	Times per week	Weeks per season	Total Hours		
Mowing, 60" riding mower	4	AC	0.8	1	28	90		
Trim mowing	1	EA	4	1	28	112		
Litter-general	1	ALL	0.5	2	28	28		
Trash/recycling collection	15	EA	0.2	2	28	168		
Facility check/cleaning/maintenance	3	EA	0.5	2	28	84		
Trail maintenance	0.5	MI	1	0.25	28	4		
General landscaping	1	EA	3	1	15	45		
Spray w/truck sprayer	1	HR	8	1	3	24		
Fertilize with tractor	1	HR	3.5	1	2	7		
Aerify ground	5	AC	1	1	1	5		
Trim trees	20	EA	0.5	1	1	10		
Miscellaneous maintenance	1	EA	2	1	52	104		
Basketball court (10,000 SF): blow courts & install nets	2	EA	0.5	1	28	28		
Diamond field	4	EA	1	3	28	336		
Pavilion maintenance	1	EA	1	4	28	112		
Parking lot	4	EA	0.2	2	28	45		
Clean catch basins	5	EA	1	1	1	5		
Clean gutters	1	EA	1	1	4	4		
Snow Removal	1	EA	1	1	13	13		
Playground Inspections	2	EA	0.5	1	28	28		
Stormwater Maintenance	1	EA	0.5	1	28	14		
Total Annual Labor costs using Maintenance Staff						**1265**	**$35.00**	**$44,272**
50% of staff time by FT Maintenance Staff						632	$35.00	$22,136
50% of staff time by PT seasonal						632	$15.00	$9,487
Total Labor Costs with 50/50 FT/PT split								**$31,623**

BETTY AMBLER PARK					APRIL-OCTOBER (28 WEEKS)			
	Qty.	Unit	Hrs. per Unit	Times per week	Weeks per season	Total Hours		
Push mower	0.125	AC	0.8	1	28	3		
Trim mowing	1	EA	1	1	28	28		
Litter-general	1	ALL	0.5	2	28	28		
Trash / recycling collection	1	EA	0.2	2	28	11		
Facility check / cleaning/maintenance	5	EA	0.5	2	28	140		
General landscaping	1	EA	3	1	15	45		
Miscellaneous maintenance	1	EA	2	1	52	104		
Snow Removal	1	EA	1	1	13	13		
Playground Inspections	2	EA	1	1	40	80		
Stormwater Maintenance	1	EA	1	1	16	16		
Total Annual Labor costs using Maintenance Staff						**468**	**$35.00**	**$16,380**
50% of staff time by FT Maintenance Staff						234	$35.00	$8,190
50% of staff time by PT seasonal						234	$15.00	$3,510
Total Labor Costs with 50/50 FT/PT split								**$11,700**

WEBSTER PARK				APRIL-OCTOBER (28 WEEKS)				
	Qty.	Unit	Hrs. per Unit	Times per week	Weeks per season	Total Hours		
Mowing, 60" riding mower	2	AC	0.8	1	28	45		
Trim mowing	1	EA	4	1	28	112		
Litter-general	1	ALL	0.5	2	28	28		
Trash / recycling collection	4	EA	0.2	2	28	45		
General landscaping	1	EA	3	1	15	45		
Fertilize with tractor	1	HR	3.5	1	2	7		
Aerify ground	5	AC	1	1	1	5		
Trim trees	10	EA	0.5	1	1	5		
Miscellaneous maintenance	1	EA	2	1	52	104		
Basketball court (10,000 SF): blow courts & install nets	1	EA	0.5	1	28	14		
Diamond Field	1	EA	1	3	28	84		
Parking Lot	1	EA	0.2	2	28	11		
Clean Catch Basins	2	EA	1	1	1	2		
Snow Removal	1	EA	1	1	13	13		
Stormwater Maintenance	1	EA	0.5	1	28	14		
Total Annual Labor costs using Maintenance Staff						**534**	**$35.00**	**$18,683**
50% of staff time by FT Maintenance Staff						267	$35.00	$9,342
50% of staff time by PT seasonal						267	$15.00	$4,004
Total Labor Costs with 50/50 FT/PT split								**$13,345**

CLAIR MANOR PARK				APRIL-OCTOBER (28 WEEKS)				
	Qty.	Unit	Hrs. per Unit	Times per week	Weeks per season	Total Hours		
Push mower	0.125	AC	0.8	1	28	3		
Trim mowing	1	EA	1	1	28	28		
Litter-general	1	ALL	0.5	2	28	28		
Trash / recycling collection	1	EA	0.2	2	28	11		
Facility check / cleaning/maintenance	5	EA	0.5	2	28	140		
General landscaping	1	EA	3	1	15	45		
Miscellaneous maintenance	1	EA	2	1	52	104		
Diamond Field	1	EA	1	3	28	84		
Basketball Hoop	1	EA	0.1	1	28	3		
Snow Removal (future)	1	EA	1	1	13	13		
Playground Inspections (future)	2	EA	1	1	40	80		
Stormwater Maintenance	1	EA	1	1	16	16		
Total Annual Labor costs using Maintenance Staff						**555**	**$35.00**	**$19,418**
50% of staff time by FT Maintenance Staff						277	$35.00	$9,709
50% of staff time by PT seasonal						277	$15.00	$4,161
Total Labor Costs with 50/50 FT/PT split								**$13,870**

FELLSBURG PARK			APRIL-OCTOBER (28 WEEKS)					
	Qty.	Unit	Hrs. per Unit	Times per week	Weeks per season	Total Hours		
Mowing, 60" riding mower	1	AC	0.8	1	28	22.4		
Trim mowing	1	EA	4	1	28	112		
Litter-general	1	ALL	0.5	2	28	28		
Trash/recycling collection	4	EA	0.2	2	28	45		
Trail maintenance	5	MI	1	0.25	28	35		
General landscaping	1	EA	3	1	15	45		
Fertilize with tractor	1	HR	3.5	1	2	7		
Aerify ground	5	AC	1	1	1	5		
Trim trees	10	EA	0.5	1	1	5		
Miscellaneous maintenance	1	EA	2	1	52	104		
Basketball court (10,000 SF): blow courts & install nets	2	EA	0.5	1	28	28		
Tennis courts (18,000 SF)	3	EA	0.5	1	28	28		
Diamond field	1	EA	1	3	28	84		
Parking lot	4	EA	0.2	2	28	45		
Clean catch basins	5	EA	1	1	1	5		
Playground Inspections	2	EA	0.5	1	28	28		
Stormwater Maintenance	1	EA	0.5	1	28	14		
Total Annual Labor costs using Maintenance Staff						**667**	**$35.00**	**$23,345**
50% of staff time by FT Maintenance Staff						334	$35.00	$11,673
50% of staff time by PT seasonal						334	$15.00	$5,003
Total Labor Costs with 50/50 FT/PT split								**$16,675**

Staffing Summary

Assuming an average of two and one-half full time Township Road Department employees which are currently dedicated to the parks, we project a deficient and corresponding need for an additional 2.5 full-time employees to adequately maintain the parks.

Park & Rec Comparison of Municipal Budgets
(based upon data provided by the PA DCED, 2023)

Municipality	County	2024 Population	Square Miles	Expenditure	Library	Revenue	Per Capita
Hampton Township	Allegheny	18,479	25.48	$1.5 million	$120,000	$365,000	$59
Pine Township	Allegheny	14,691	16.98	$2.4 million	$280,000	$400,000	$135
Cranberry Township	Butler	33,096	22.8	$6 million	$449,000	$2.9 million	$94
Richland Township	Allegheny	11,942	14.63	$922,000	$228,000	$6,400	$77
Peters Township	Washington	22,946	19.6	$2.5 million	$885,000	$432,000	$88
Upper St. Clair	Allegheny	19,737	9.6	$7.3 million	$867,000	$2.2 million	$259
North Strabane	Washington	15,700	27.4	$580,000	$62,500	$221,000	$23
Rostraver	Westmoreland	11,417	36	$432,000	$31,200	$26,000	$35

The 2024 NRPA Performance Metrics indicate the average operating park and recreation expenditures per Capita for a population of less than 20,000 is $99.47. At $35 per capita, Rostraver Township is operating below the national mean per capita expenditures for parks and recreation in Rostraver Township.

Review of the Township's Finances

Parks and Recreation, like all municipal services, is supported mainly through tax dollars and capital improvement funds. Many communities add funds through program fees, facility rental fees and partnerships or sponsorships with local businesses, non-profits, and athletic associations. Rostraver's park and recreation budget consists mainly of facility rentals and athletic association partnerships. With the desire to enlarge the parks and recreational opportunities within the community, consideration should be given on how revenue can be increased to support the growth. Suggestions are considered further in Chapter 4.

Rostraver Township Parks & Recreation Budget

Line Item	2024	2025
Recreation Contributions	$40,000	$40,000
Administrative Expenses	$2,500	$ -
Miscellaneous Expenses	$5,000	$5,000
Maintenance, Repair and Grass Cutting	$100,000	$105,000
Equipment Rental	$7,500	$8,000
Capital Purchases: Equipment	$35,000	$25,000
Cleaning Services: Rec	$2,500	$2,500
Complex/Field Upgrades	$62,500	$50,000
Total	**$255,000**	**$235,500**

Rostraver Field Rental Fees
(last updated 2022)

Activity	Fee
Weekday (4 pm to dark)	$250.00
Weekday (all day)	$500.00
Weekend (all day, per day)	$500.00
Lights (hourly)	$100.00
Concession stand (daily)	$100.00
Maintenance fee (refundable if cleaned)	$250.00

Based on the benchmarking operations and maintenance projected herein, the total projected cost to maintain the existing facilities is approximately $475,000. The 2025 Township Parks and Recreation Budget is $235,500, not including an additional $150,000 or so that is allocated to the parks the Township Road Department budget as they provide labor within the parks. This addition brings the total budgeted operation and maintenance costs for parks in the Township to $385,500, leaving a projected deficit of $89,500 from the current 2025 budget. Therefore we recommend the Township consider increasing the annual operations and maintenance budget to provide the necessary funding to maintain their parks.

Recommended Annual Operating and Maintenance Budget

Item	Cost
Recommended Parks and Recreation Director	$80,000
Recommended Additional Dedicated FT/PT Maintenance Staff	$150,000
Existing Labor Expenses Allocated to Road Department Budget	$150,000
Administrative Expenses	$2.500
Miscellaneous Expenses	$5,000
Equipment Rental	$10,000
Capital Improvements - Equipment	$25,000
Cleaning Services	$2,500
Complex/Field Upgrades	$50,000
Total Projected Annual Operation and Maintenance Costs	**$475,000**





3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Public Involvement is a key component of the development of a Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan. After all, it is the public that uses the parks, recreation programs, trails, and facilities. What do they think of the parks and facilities? Do they participate in the recreation programs? What improvements would they like to see in the parks? How can the programs be improved? And, most important of all, what do they see as the future of the recreation, parks and open space?

We utilized four methods to gather input from Rostraver's leaders and residents:

1 Study Committee

This committee of 8 people met with the planning consultant 6 times. Their role was to guide the planning process, discuss the issues, create strategies, and respond to the information gathered from the community.

2 Survey

Both a paper survey and an on-line questionnaire were created to get as many opinions and perspectives on various parks and recreation topics as possible. Approximately 130 people responded.

3 Public Meetings

With the assistance of the Township staff, a booth was displayed at the Rostraver Leopard's home game in August 2024. The planning consultant interviewed community members on their desires for parks and recreation.

4 Key Person Interviews

The Township determined various community leaders, business owners, and residents for interviews on specific park and rec topics. One-on-one discussions were conducted with 15 people to gain their insights.

The information received through each method of public engagement was reviewed and discussed among the Study Committee and consultant. This information provided a better understanding of the needs, desires, concerns, strengths, and weaknesses of the parks and recreational opportunities in Rostraver. Combined with the inventory and analysis, the Study Committee took the information from the community into consideration when creating goals and strategies to achieve the mission of the immediate and future of parks and recreation in Rostraver.

Study Committee

The project's Study Committee met six times between November 2023 and November 2024. The Committee's responsibilities included assistance with:

- Sharing knowledge with the community.
- Defining the vision, goals, and objectives for the Township's Parks and Recreation for the next ten years.
- Engaging other community members by
  - > Creating an online/paper survey.
  - > Identifying a group of diverse key persons for one-on-one interviews with the consultant.
  - > Providing a couple of community events to serve as opportunities for input from the public.
- Serving as a sounding board to vet recommendations and implementation strategies.
- Reviewing and commenting on draft content of the Plan.

Study Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	# in Attendance
November 29, 2023	6 PM	Municipal Building	10
February 13, 2024	6 PM	Municipal Building	9
May 14, 2024	6 PM	Municipal Building	8
July 9, 2024	6 PM	Municipal Building	8
August 20, 2024	6 PM	Municipal Building	9
October 17, 2024	6 PM	Municipal Building	7

The Members of the Committee included:

- Devin DeRienzo, Vice President/Vice Chairman of Board of Commissioners
- Tom Godzak, Member of Recreation Commission and Township Road Foreman
- William Hugland, Member of Recreation Commission
- Thomas Indof, Member of Recreation Commission
- Justin Kosanko, Commissioner
- Donald Lynn, Treasurer of Recreation Commission
- Tamira Spedaliere, Township Planner
- Alison Tucker, Vice Chairman of Recreation Commission

The Committee identified the following issues that should be addressed:

- Agreements between Sports Organizations and the Township
- Additional multi-purpose fields
- Connections between facilities
- Desire for a Park and Recreation Department
- Strategies to be identified as a Trail Town
- Partnerships with the County, Public Library and School District
- Development of community programs

Where do you think the Township should focus its park and recreation efforts in the future?			
Focus	**High Priority**	**Low Priority**	**Not Necessary**
Develop indoor recreation	**63%**	**10%**	**1%**
Expand programming & activities	45%	10%	2%
Protect open space and natural resources	31%	22%	7%
Develop connectivity through walking/biking trails	28%	33%	9%
Improve playgrounds	23%	29%	4%
Improve amenities in existing parks	22%	19%	1%
Enhance accessibility & inclusivity	16%	31%	10%

Survey

The Study Committee worked with the consultant to create a 26-question survey that allowed residents to express their thoughts and concerns regarding the parks, facilities, trails, recreational events, and programs of Rostraver. It also allowed the opportunity for residents to make comments or share their thoughts. Over 130 people responded to the questionnaire, most via digital format. A copy of the survey and detailed responses can be found in the Appendix.

Questions in the survey covered the general satisfaction and detailed impressions of the Township's parks in their current conditions as well as thoughts on where the Township's focus should be in considering the future of the parks. Residents were asked about what types of recreation, activities, and programs the community would like to see in the future.

The highest ranking programs included outdoor recreation, concerts/movies, exercise and fitness activities, and more special events.

The highest ranking future recreation amenity was the development of an indoor recreation facility.

Responses the survey indicate future efforts should focus on developing indoor recreation facilities, expanding recreation programs and activities, and protect open space and natural resources. As well as expanding facilities to include restrooms, indoor recreation facilities, and multi-use sports fields.

If available, what recreational activities would your family participate in?	
Activity	**Response**
Outdoor Recreation (biking, hiking, fishing, etc.)	87%
League Sports (baseball, soccer, etc.)	75%
Special Events (holiday, fairs, etc.)	68%
Exercise & Fitness Activities	62%
River Access (kayaking, fishing, etc.)	56%
Concerts/Movies	56%
Social Recreation (parties, picnic, dances, etc.)	56%
Summer Day Camps	47%
Non-League Sports (tennis, golf, etc.)	43%
Adult Only Programs	36%
Nature Watching	35%
Arts & Crafts	28%
Education Classes	23%
Clubs (chess, cards, hobbies, etc.)	18%
Volleyball	17%
Bus Trips	14%
Senior Programs	12%
Special Needs Events	8%
Cultural Diverse Programs	7%

Public Meetings

Public meetings are great opportunities to engage the community at large. The Study Committee chose the Rostraver's Leopards home game as an ideal event for public engagement.

Rostraver Leopards Home Game - August 25, 2024

The consultant set up a booth with character images of possible parks and recreational ideas outside Weir Stadium. Using colorful dot stickers, attendees were encouraged to tag ideas of park facilities, events or opportunities they would like to see in their community. Discussing ideas with the people who stopped by the booth was a great way to gain insight on how individuals and visitors of the community use the parks and what they would like to see in their parks. The "Top Five" desires mentioned during these conversations were:

1. Splash Pad
2. Movies in the Park
3. Indoor Recreation Facility
4. Skatepark
5. Basketball Courts





Key Person Interviews

The Study Committee identified twelve business owners, park users, residents, and sport associations. Each individual was asked six questions to give insight on the strengths and opportunities regarding Rostraver's recreation and green space:

1. What are the strengths to build on regarding Rostraver's parks and facilities?
2. What are concerns of weaknesses regarding Rostraver's parks and facilities?
3. Is there something you've seen in another park you've visited that you think Rostraver should have?
4. If you had to pick a "wish list" item, what would it be?
5. If you had to pick one or two specific things that would be different in 5-10 years, what would they be?
6. Is there anything else I should know that would be helpful to this plan?



People we interviewed were:

- Jeff Johnson, Chairman, Board of Commissioners
- Scott Bryer, Resident & Educator
- Mike Burgoyne, Resident & Coach
- Stacey Livengood, Resident & School Board Member
- Eric Mitchell, Resident & Business Owner
- Janis Niemiec, Resident & School Board Member
- Stephanie Quinn, Resident & Business Owner
- Kathy Slebodnik, Resident
- Scott Sokol, Police Chief
- Adam Spitznagle, President, Midget Football
- Bob Stanger, Resident & Volunteer
- John Stawovy, Golf Courses
- Kelly Yoskosky, Resident & Librarian
- Gary Litvany, Director of Collinsburg Community Organization
- Kayla Pollacci, Youth Wrestling and Youth Football

Sport Fields Deficiences

Rostraver values athletic sports: its current fields are well used and booked to capacity. It was mentioned during interviews more fields are needed: football should not have to practice in the outfields of baseball fields, more multi purpose fields would allow for soccer and football to use them, more baseball fields are needed for growth. As sports

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TAKEAWAYS

Strengths

- **Location**
  - DiVirgilio is perfectly located
  - Cedar Creek is an amazing park
  - Yough River and its trail is great
  - Various locations are good
- **Recreation facilities:**
  - Continual development
  - Clean, user friendly and accessible
  - Great ballfields at DiVirgilio - top notch
  - Dog park is great
  - Playground at DiVirgilio
  - Open spaces
  - Maintenance upkeep is great
  - Everyone uses the parks!
  - Keep the momentum of improvements going
  - Walking trail
- **Programs**
  - Nature programs in the park
  - Programs thru the library in the park
  - Diversity in programming

Opportunities

- **Facilities & Programs**
  - Less concession stands - there are more than necessary
  - Partnerships with the school that benefits everyone
  - More programs, especially for kids and seniors
  - Plan for sports to grow
  - ESL programs
  - More non-sport programs
  - Collaboration with the School District and Library
- **Maintenance**
  - Face lift on existing facilities
- **Connections**
  - Parks closer to everyone that are easy to get to
- **Facility Improvements**
  - Synthetic turf
  - Fields should be multi-use (football/soccer/lacrosse)
  - Better utilization of parks
  - More and better parking
  - Better lighting on the ballfields
  - Wi-fi at the facilities
  - Update the other parks to make them as good as DiVirgilio
- **Additional Facilities**
  - More sports fields so time is not so limited
  - A fun, large playground
  - Preservation of open spaces
  - A walking trail

Wish List Items

- More basketball courts, pickleball courts and tennis courts
- More football facilities
- A running/walking track
- Splash pad
- Multi-use indoor recreation facilities for sports
- Zip line
- Big spaces to ride bikes
- Indoor facility
- Summer Recreation in evenings or all day
- Basketball Tournaments during the summer
- Camping and survival skills
- Organized walks with teens or dogs
- Place for teens and high school students to go
- Engage Scout groups
- Movies in the Park
- Skatepark
- Miracle Field

are highly regarded, these are considerations that should take priority.

Comparison of Public Input with Existing Facilities and Programs

The analysis and comparison of public engagement with existing facilities offers valuable insights into potential improvements for enhancing the quality of parks and recreation. There are opportunities through capital projects to meet identified deficiences and improve existing offering, such as, multi-purpose fields (considering synthetic turf), indoor recreation spaces, basketball courts, pickleball courts, tennis courts, additional parking, a skate park, upgraded field lighting, walking/running tracks, splash pads, zip lines, and bike-friendly areas. The Concept Plans for the Township's parks, detailed in Chapter 4, reflect the desires identified during the public engagement process.

Public engagement also highlights programs currently not provided by the Township or regional providers. These suggestions should be considered, as recommended in Chapter 4, as the Township expands its offerings, including: Summer Recreation programs, basketball tournaments, camping and survival skills, outdoor movies, organized walks with teens or dogs, programming for youth and seniors, ESL (English as a second language) classes, non-sports activities, diverse program offerings, and nature-focused programs. Future programming may involve collaborations with the Library, non-profits, volunteers, and contracted instructors.





4 IMPLEMENTATION & STRATEGIES

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Implementation of this Plan is based on the process of fulfilling Rostraver Township's Vision for its recreation, park open space and greenways system. This plan and its resulting recommendations establish specific goals and implementation strategies to achieve each goal. This plan will move the Township towards meeting its overarching goal of offering great recreation experiences for residents of all ages and abilities, becoming an even better place to gather and spend time.

Going into this planning process, the Township Recreation Commission developed a mission statement. This statement was created during the formation of the Commission and describes its purpose. It was revisited and updated to represent Park Recreation, Trails and Green Space for Rostraver Township.

Mission

Rostraver strives to preserve the history and character of our community while dedicating itself to providing quality programs, activities and facilities to ensure positive experiences for the residents and those who visit.

Vision

Rostraver Township seeks to create diverse programming and recreation, enhance the natural space and water resources, and provide the best possible recreation opportunities for residents and visitors of the Township.

GOALS

The goals on the following page have been adopted to guide the Township through this plan. These goals have been elaborated into action steps which will give the Township practical ways to accomplish each of the five goals.

THE GOALS

1

Quality & Diversity in Parks & Facilities

Provide a park system that is safe, usable, attractive, sustainable, and fun.

2

Corridors of Connections & Open Space

Develop a system of multi-use, interconnecting trails and greenways that provide opportunities for exercise, alternative transportation, and recreation.

3

Recreation Programming

Ensure that a wide variety of Recreation Programming is available to meet the needs of residents.

4

Branding and Marketing

Develop an identity for Rostraver's Parks and Recreation.

5

Sustainable Funding

Establish and secure funding.

ACTION STEPS AND STRATEGIES

The action steps are intended to accomplish each individual goal. The implementation strategies are organized into tables. The information provided in each table includes:

- Action Steps
- Strategies: ideas to complete each Action Step
- Responsible Party: who in the Township would see this Action Step implemented
- Priority: how important this Action Step is to furthering the Township's goals (high = 1 to 3 years, mid = 4 to 7 years, and low = 8+ years)
- Notes: further ideas on how to complete the Action Step

The following tables are designed as a checklist to easily track accomplishments and next steps.

Potential funding sources to implement the recommendations are indicated, where appropriate. The funding opportunities identified do not constitute an exhaustive list; and all possible resources should be continually sought. It will be important for the Township to stay current on potential funding sources. An extensive list of potential funding sources can be found it the Appendix. These sources can vary and change from year-to-year. It should also be noted that the cost estimates provided in this Chapter are wide-ranging and should only serve as a starting point for project evaluation.

The responsible party to oversee specific action steps and strategies are indicated per the chart below:

Implementation Chart Key

Board of Commissioners	BOC
Township Manager	M
Planning Department	P
Recreation Commission	RC
Department of Public Works	DPW
Youth Athletic Associations	YAA



Quality & Diversity in Parks & Facilities

Provide a park system that is safe, usable, attractive, sustainable, and fun.

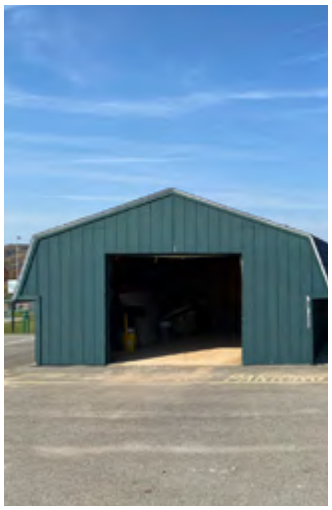
Recreation for All

Health and Wellness

Sustainable Systems

Action Steps	Strategies	Responsible Party	Priority	Notes/Status
Upgrade the Township Parks which are not ADA compliant, including parking, pavilions, playgrounds, sports fields and amenities as recommended in the Capital Improvements Plan	Develop 5-year Plan to become compliant with the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all parks.	P, DPW	Ongoing	Become a member of the U.S. Access Board website to keep current on accessibility by attending webinars and trainings. New and renovated facilities must be designed according to the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design. Standards are available at the United States Department of Justice website at: https://www.ada.gov/law-and-regs/design-standards/2010-stds/
Update recreation areas to minimize impacts on the environment or conflicts among user groups	Establish a planting and maintenance plan to include native plantings, shade tree planting, and memorial benches.	P, DPW, RC	Ongoing	Utilize a variety of native plantings which will provide shade, habitat and stormwater management.
Increase Park Recreation Staff Capacity/Develop Parks and Recreation Department	Develop Park Maintenance Management Plan, and training opportunities through PRPS, DCNR and NRPA for Public Works and Park Staff.	BOC, P, DPW, M	High	Increase maintenance staff in parks to assure management plan is implemented. Become a member of the PRPS Park Maintenance Institute. www.prps.org. Conduct annual playground audits, inspections, and maintenance, and provide risk management equipment including lighting and security cameras as deemed necessary.
Develop Work Order System	Develop a work order system utilizing through a software system in partnership with the Public Works staff.	DPW, P	High	Develop reasonable time line for completion based on risk factor and associated costs. A work order sample and link to a system is provided in the Appendix.
Develop updated agreements for use of all parks, including establishing user fees	Update an agreement with Belle Vernon Youth Soccer Club and other associations to outline maintenance and operations of sports fields.	YAA, RC, BOC, M	High	Agreement should outline maintenance and financial responsibilities. User fee research and sample agreement is included in the Appendix.
Determine the feasibility of an Indoor Recreation Center through an operations, maintenance, and design study	Complete and develop funding strategies, programming needs and staffing needs.	BOC, P	Low	Support programming efforts provided by other regional recreation providers increases opportunities for economic benefits.

Rostraver Township Park System



Parks and recreation opportunities for the future and current residents will first be taken into consideration regarding outdated facilities and accessibility for all in each park. Maintenance and management training should be offered to Public Works staff and other volunteers interested in assisting with the enhancement of programs and facilities. These opportunities are available through a variety of sources including PRPS, NRPA, DCNR and PPFF (PA Parks and Forest Foundation).

1. **Playground Safety Audits**

   Audits should be conducted on an annual basis by a Certified Park Safety Inspector (CPSI). The Audits should be conducted utilizing the most current standards of care published by the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use.



2. **Playground Safety Inspections and Maintenance**

   Public Works Staff should be trained to recognize and post unsafe conditions, prevent the use of unsafe equipment and facilities, and report safety hazards (in writing) so they can be remedied in a timely manner. Regularly scheduled safety inspections should be conducted by trained staff at every facility available for public use. A work order system should be in place. *(An example of a work order is provided in the Appendix of this report.)*

   Adequate liability insurance must be kept up-to-date. As new programs and facilities are developed, liability insurance coverage should be reviewed and revised to reflect new conditions.



3. **Lighting and Security Cameras**

   Parks and trails should be safe places for all. Providing security cameras in strategic locations helps ensure the safety of those using the parks. Adequate lighting should be in place at courts, fields, playgrounds, trails, and wherever the public gathers.

Maintenance Development

Youth and Athletic Association Agreements and Fees

Youth Athletic Associations, Belle Vernon Area School District, Westmoreland County and the Township work together to provide youth sports programs for the community. Agreements between the Associations and the Township are outdated. Updated agreements should be developed and approved by Board of Commissioners.

Developing park and facility user agreements is an important part in ensuring that public parks and recreational facilities are used responsibly, safely, and equitably. These agreements set expectations for both the users (individuals, organizations, or groups) and the facility owners (the municipality, recreation department, etc.).

The agreements should be revisited, at a minimum, every 5 years. The basis of an agreement and associated fees should consider:

- Assessment of the cost of operating the facilities, including staff wages
- Evaluation of the type and size of the athletic event/league
- Establishment of a fee structure. This can be sent on an hourly rental fee, or seasonal. (It is recommended that a seasonal rate be set due to the relationship already established with the local sports associations.)

- Inclusion of the following:
  - Season (e.g.: spring would be March thru June, fall would be July thru October)
  - Number of fields used per season
  - Number of days/evenings each field is utilized
  - Resident/non-resident rates
  - Tournament rates (different than seasonal)
  - Upgrades to the facilities funding by Associations

Further information can be found in the Appendix along with sample agreements.

Establishment of a Park Maintenance System

To properly address current maintenance concerns identified in the parks analysis portion of this plan, draft operation and maintenance spreadsheets were developed as a guide to better understand the costs associated with maintenance of the Township assets and included in Chapter 2. Priorities should be established based on recommendations of this report ranging from extreme need to safety deficiencies. The spreadsheets were developed using maintenance standards developed by other organizations. The maintenance plan for Rostraver Township should be customized to the Township parks and establish maintenance standards that ensure all parks will be maintained to a high level of quality and safety. It should be considered to retain a Park Maintenance Manager who is trained in methods of caring for parks and facilities. The Manager would designated a percentage of their time to that role while spending their remaining time performing other public work tasks. An example of a Maintenance Plan can be found here: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.lmt.org/media/3345/maintenance-and-operations-manual.pdf

The creation of a structured maintenance calendar with tasks broken down by frequency (daily, weekly, etc.) is vital to the upkeep and maintenance of parks. Staff should be assigned to particular tasks and report back to the supervisor with any concerns or needs to complete the task.

Key elements to include are:

- Daily Maintenance Tasks:
  - Trash collection
  - Restroom cleaning and stocking (e.g., toilet paper, soap)
  - Basic landscaping (e.g., lawn mowing, weeding)
  - Inspecting playground equipment and removing hazards
  - Sweeping pathways and removing debris
  - Checking for damage or safety concerns (e.g., broken glass, vandalism)
- Weekly Maintenance Tasks:
  - Lawn mowing and irrigation checks
  - Inspecting sports fields, courts, and play structures
  - Trimming bushes and trees
  - Replenishing wood chips or sand in playground areas
- Monthly and Seasonal Maintenance:
  - Deep cleaning of restrooms and shelters
  - Inspection and maintenance of park furniture (benches, picnic tables, etc.)
  - Maintenance of park signage, painting or repairs

- Seasonal tasks like leaf clearing, snow removal, or preparing the park for a particular season
- Checking lighting fixtures and replacing bulbs

- Annual Maintenance Tasks:
  - Equipment inspection and repairs (e.g., play equipment, picnic tables, grills)
  - Detailed landscaping (e.g., replanting, fertilizing)
  - Infrastructure evaluations (e.g., reviewing paths, roads, drainage systems)
  - Budgeting for major repairs or upgrades (e.g., resurfacing tennis courts, replacing playground equipment)

Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Management

Stormwater management and shade go hand and hand. With the declining tree cover due to growth and tree disease, it is important to have the resources in place to insure continued community tree cover. Many municipalities, such as Rostraver, have recognized the importance of planning for and providing trees and parks to foster a sense of place. Trees can be used to make tranquil havens from underutilized spaces, announce entry to a community gateway, or transform dull roadways into memorable drives. Success of tree planting is dependent on proper location, planting techniques, and maintenance. A tree planting and maintenance plan should be developed.

A Green Infrastructure Framework will provide enormous benefits in the Township including environmental benefits, health benefits, social benefits and economic benefits. Resources to evaluate green infrastructure in the Township are available through the National Recreation and Park Association's Green Infrastructure Evaluation Framework.

Stormwater management is the effort to reduce runoff of rainwater or melted snow in streets, lawns and other sites and the improvement of water quality. It is vital to the care and maintenance of Rostraver Township's streets, greenspaces, park and residents.

Tree Planting and Maintenance Plan

When a Tree Planting & Maintenance Plan is developed, the Township staff should take into consideration tree species, height and maintenance requirements.



Due to the rate of climate change, the gradual natural selection of genetic traits that allow species to adapt and reproduce over time may not be enough to preserve the abundance of tree species in Pennsylvania. Some Northern species like mountain maple, American beech, paper birch and quaking aspen are especially at risk. Climate change-resilient trees for Pennsylvania should be southern tree species that tolerate or prefer wetter soil such as:

- Sycamore
- Hackberry
- Boxelder
- Eastern redbud

Other adaptable species likely to be climate change-resilient include:

- Slippery elm
- Black gum
- Shortleaf pine
- Eastern hop-hornbeam

The DCNR Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation has more information about climate change predictions for tree species.

ADA Compliance

Public facilities should comply with the 2010 American with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design. As the Township moves forward with redevelopment or new facilities, it is imperative that they are developed using the Standards for Accessible Design which are available at the United States Department of Justice website: https://www.ada.gov/law-and-regs/design-standards/

Each existing park should be brought into compliance. Each of the concept plans included in this report identifies areas that should be addressed, including parking, pathways, restrooms and new amenities, as well as the costs associated with bringing them into compliance.

Training Opportunities

Parks and recreation are continually growing and evolving. Offering further education and training for the staff and volunteers is vital to the continual growth of the Township's parks and recreation programming.

The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society and the National Recreation and Park Association Training Opportunities

The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) is the primary organization promoting quality recreation and park opportunities for all Pennsylvania citizens. They are a tremendous support for local municipalities and parks and recreation agencies. PRPS provides education, training, technical assistance, and other support to local, county, state, and federal recreation and park providers. The Society can be of tremendous value to the Township and the Recreation Commission.

PRPS has recently developed the Pennsylvania Park Maintenance Institute. The institute is a statewide resource to help community parks and recreation agencies with the latest tools, techniques and strategies for efficient park maintenance. More information is available at www.prps.org

The National Recreation and Park Association provides educational opportunities related to playground and park maintenance. Annually, NRPA offers the Park and Recreation Maintenance Management School. This program is a comprehensive two-year professional development program designed to teach park and recreation professionals how to develop and manage a variety of maintenance programs. Also, a one-day Playground Maintenance Course is offered in various locations nationwide. Information on that course can be found at www.nrpa.org.

Additional training and support materials can also be found at www.dcnr.pa.gov and https://weconservepa.org/. These resources can provide the Township with information and training on greenspaces, conservation, trails, and other outdoor recreational opportunities.

Furthering Recreation Opportunities

When considering upgrades or new recreational facilities, the Township should keep in mind how these facilities and amenties will be used. Efforts should be made to increase programs that meet community needs for existing residents and that enhance the community's desirability for prospective residents. Adding inclusive community programs, events and activities that draw people together- creating equitable opportunities and the chance to reduce social isolation and meet your neighbors. The Township's demographics show two growing groups: seniors and very young children. Targeting seniors may include programmed picnics, dances, health resources, or game times. Very young children indicates young families who may enjoy nature programs, play groups, or storytimes in the park. Park facilities need to be upgraded and new amenties included based upon the desired programs. Very young children and seniors are unlikely to use a basketball court. A walking trail or natural play area may be a better use of that space.

This Plan is the first step in the continual journey of furthering recreation opportunities in Rostraver. This includes further development of the existing parks; an understanding of open space that could be used for parks, greenways or trails; and seeking more opportunities for recreation and programming year-round.

Community Center/Indoor Sports Complex

A Community Center is often a valuable asset for communities where outdoor activities are limited during the colder months of the year. They allow communities to offer both residents and visitors a place to play, meet, exercise, and enjoy various activities. However, they also require maintenance, staffing, and utility fees communities must take into account when making the decision on how viable building a community center is for their town.

When considering a community center, the need to meet desired programming is important while retaining the flexibility to adapt to future needs without significant alterations to the facilities. The design should consider the building footprint, location and orientation, traffic flow for all sorts of vehicles as well as bicycles and pedestrians, exterior lighting, safety and security, and compatibility with surrounding land uses.

The design of the inside space should reflect the desired use of the building. Spaces can include an entrance lobby, staff offices, meeting rooms, kitchens, event space, storage, restrooms and locker rooms, custodial areas, a gymnasium, weight rooms, and multi-purpose rooms for programming. As well as interior design, the operations of the facility should also be considered. These positions might include a recreation director, maintenance staff, administration staff, part-time program staff, and volunteers.

Community Centers come in all sizes and shapes and are not a one-size-fits-all. A feasibility study conducted by a firm with rec/community center experience will be the best first step to determine what goals the Township has for a Community Center and what size, type, and amenities would best reach those goals.

We recommend the Township complete a Community Center Feasibility Study to determine whether the Township can support such an endeavor. Typically a Community Center requires a service area population of approximately 50,000 residents to sustain such a center. Further, the study should project the capital costs associated with constructing such a facility (which can typically range from $15 million to $25 million or more) as well as the on-going management, programming, operations, and maintenance costs.

If deemed feasible, the Township should be proactive in acquiring parcel(s) that

would be centrally located within the Township for possible development of an Indoor Recreation Facility. For a basic indoor recreation sports facility, you would likely need a parcel of land between 1 and 3 acres. For larger, more complex facilities, the parcel could need to be 5 acres or more, depending on the number of courts/fields and other amenities. Things to keep in mind as a location is considered are:

1. Type of Facility and Sports:
   - Single Sport Facility (e.g., basketball, volleyball, or indoor soccer):
     - Basketball Court (NBA standard): 28.7 meters x 15.2 meters (94 feet x 50 feet).
     - Indoor Volleyball Court: 18 meters x 9 meters (59 feet x 29.5 feet).
     - Indoor Multi-Use Facility: 25 meters x 16 meters (82 feet x 52 feet).
     - Wrestling Area: 120' x 120'
   - Multi-sport Facility (for various courts or fields):
     - A multi-sport indoor facility might require multiple courts or fields, plus additional space for spectator seating, locker rooms, restrooms, and other amenities.

2. Additional Space Requirements:
   - Circulation Space: Hallways, aisles, and spectator areas add to the overall footprint. Around 30%-50% extra space is often allocated for circulation.
   - Seating for Spectators: Depending on whether you plan to host events, you might need significant seating. For example, 1,000-2,000 seats might require several thousand square feet for seating alone.
   - Locker Rooms & Restrooms: These facilities can take up anywhere from 1,000 to 5,000 square feet or more, depending on the number of athletes and spectators.
   - Storage and Equipment Rooms: These spaces might be 500-2,000 square feet depending on the size and complexity of the facility.

3. General Estimates for Facility Sizes:
   - A single-court indoor sports facility might require around 20,000 to 40,000 square feet (approximately 0.5 to 1 acre), including the playing area, seating, and circulation.
   - A multi-court facility (e.g., 4-6 basketball courts or multiple volleyball courts) could need anywhere from 50,000 to 100,000 square feet (1 to 2.5 acres).
   - A full indoor sports complex with multiple types of courts, a gym, spectator areas, and other amenities might need 100,000 to 200,000 square feet (2.5 to 5 acres).

4. Zoning and Local Regulations:
   - These regulations might require setbacks from property boundaries, parking space allocations, and adherence to maximum building coverage ratios (the ratio of the building's footprint to the total parcel area).

Regional Indoor Recreation Opportunities

Rostraver should also keep in mind the MV HealthPlex located on Plaza Drive in Rostraver. It offers both strength and cardio areas, a pool, an indoor track, and many other amenities most community centers would have. It also offers classes to both members and non-members. Should the Township build a community center of its own, would it compliment or would it "compete" with the HealthPlex? What purposes would it

serve vs. what the HealthPlex already offers?

Hempfield Township is home of the Hempfield Rec Center which offers a wide variety of indoor classes, sports, and fitness amenities. It offers a variety of memberships from a general membership to various select features (fitness, aquatic, racquet) memberships that focus upon a person's fitness/sports desires. It also offers individual, couple, family, senior and kid passes as well as day, week and monthly passes. Non-residents pay an extra $2 a month on any resident membership fee. Amenities include a 3,800 square foot fitness center, a gymnasium, a 25-meter indoor pool with swimming lanes, six indoor tennis courts (with two accommodating pickleball) and outdoor facilities that include a pool and ten more tennis courts. It offers fitness classes, kids sports, community events, and nutrition and personal training opportunities. Part of its success is the support of not only the Township, but also the School District and many business sponsors.



In discussions with the Township, it appeared leadership leaned more towards an indoor sports field complex with one or two additional rooms. Southpointe Fieldhouse in Canonsburg, PA is an indoor regulation size high school soccer field that allows soccer, lacrosse and even football. With large curtains, the field can be divided into thirds for practices or games for younger aged children.





Increasing Outdoor Park Space

As mentioned by several key people in interviews, the Steering Committee, and Township leadership; acquiring more land to be converted into park space is a top priority. Sports - especially baseball, soccer, football and softball - are Rostraver's top recretional activity. The fields necessary to not only accommodate current usage but also growth are crucial.

As seen in Chapter 2, Rostraver is about 100 acres short of NRPA's national averages for a community of its size. Acquiring this amount of land would allow more than sufficient space for not only ballfields and multi-purpose fields but also the parking lots and other amenities (concessions, restrooms, etc.) sports complexes require.

The Township has discussed many options to increasing its park space for sports fields, including acquiring the ballfields at Cedar Creek Park or even the entirety of Cedar Creek Park. However, it should be noted that whether the Township acquires this space or additional spaces elsewhere; funding to first acquire the land and then continual funding to maintain it (e.g.: maintenance staff and equipment, administration staff) are essential. Converting space into ballfields will also require design, construction documentation, and construction itself.

Park Improvements: Building upon Exceptional Resources

The spreadsheets on the following pages gives cost estimates for the recommended park improvements in Rostraver Township. These were developed based upon public input, suggestions from key person interviews, and discussions with this Plan's Steering Committee. The improvements should be discussed and prioritized according to need. For large desires (synthetic turf fields, indoor recreation facility) feasibility or design services should be sought in order to obtain more accurate estimates on cost. Funding should be sought for particular projects through grants, sponsorships, or capital improvement funds.

Concept plans for Rostraver Township's parks were developed as part of this Plan and can be found on the following pages. These Plans will assist the Township in prioritizing the needed improvements for each park and can be shared with potential donors or sponsors as well as included in grant requests.


ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
FELLSBURG PARK
1.7 ACRES, 405 ELMHURST DRIVE, ROSTRAVER, PA
Concept A
LARSON BOULEVARD
Accessible Bleachers
Park Signage
Accessible Parking
Basketball Court
FELL AVENUE
Accessible Bleachers
ELMHURST DRIVE
Skate Park
Crosswalk
LINGREL STREET
Walking Path with Benches
Nature Play
NAYLOR DRIVE
FELLS CHURCH RD
Legend
Rostraver Township Boundary
Park Boundaries
10' Contours
Water Bodies
Rivers
Streams
N
PASHEK MTR


ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
FELLSBURG PARK
1.7 ACRES, 405 ELMHURST DRIVE, ROSTRAVER, PA
Concept B
LARSON BOULEVARD
Accessible Bleachers
Park Signage
Accessible Parking
Tennis Court
FELL AVENUE
Accessible Bleachers
ELMHURST DRIVE
Basketball Court
LINGREL STREET
Walking Path with Benches
Crosswalk
Nature Play
NAYLOR DRIVE
FELLS CHURCH RD
Legend
Rostraver Township Boundary
Park Boundaries
10' Contours
Water Bodies
Rivers
Streams
N
PASHEK MTR

Opinions of Probable Construction Costs on the following pages are made based on the experience and qualifications of Pashek + MTR, Ltd. and represent reasonable judgment based on familiarity with the industry. Pashek + MTR, Ltd. has no control over the cost, or availability of labor, materials or equipment, or other market conditions or the provider's method of pricing. Pashek + MTR, Ltd. cannot and does not guarantee that the opinion of probable costs provided the Owner will not vary from the actual cost experienced by the Owner.

FELLSBURG PARK					
Item Description	**Notes**	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Price**	**Total Item Cost**
Crosswalk, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon and Speed Hump		1	EACH	$35,000	$35,000
Accessible Basketball Court		470	SY	$65	$30,550
Accessible Spectator Shaded Seating		3	EACH	$2,000	$6,000
Ballfield upgrades and field grading		1	EACH	$60,000	$60,000
Parking Expansion	21 spaces	706	SY	$85	$60,010
Nature Play Space		1	EACH	$302,960	$302,960
Walking Trail	6ft wide	666	SY	$60	$39,960
Dog Waste Station		1	EACH	$300	$300
Benches & Bench Swings		4	EACH	$1,800	$7,200
Native Shade Trees		10	EACH	$550	$5,500
Entrance Sign		1	EACH	$800	$800
ADA parking and entrance	2 spaces	24	SY	$85	$2,040
Stormwater					$10,000
Subtotal					**$560,320**
15% Site Design					$84,048
20% Contingency					$112,064
Probable Cost Estimate					**$756,432**

OTHER OPTIONS					
Item Description	**Notes**	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Price**	**Total Item Cost**
Accessible Skatepark (Concept A)		1	EACH	$250,000	$250,000
Accessible Tennis Courts (Concept B)		2	EACH	$40,000	$80,000

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
WEBSTER PARK
3.5 ACRES; ROUTE 906, ROSTRAVER, PA, 15033

Concept A



PASHEK MTR


ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
WEBSTER PARK
3.5 ACRES; ROUTE 906, ROSTRAVER, PA, 15033
Concept B
PLEASANT ALLEY
WEBSTER RD
Accessible spectator sesating with shade
Accessible Parking
New Public Sidewalk
Accessible Sidewalk
4'-0" Perimeter Fence
Softball Field (225' outfield)
8'-0" perimeter fence
Tree Buffer
Batting Cage
Accessible route to batting cage
Accessible route to restrooms
Accessible Restrooms
Playground
Pavilion (20'x30')
Accessible Parking
Park Signage
Legend
Rostraver Township Boundary
Park Boundaries
10' Contours
Water Bodies
Rivers
Streams
N
PASHEK MTR

WEBSTER PARK					
Item Description	**Notes**	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Price**	**Total Item Cost**
Parking Expansion including ADA spaces		2,722	SY	$85	$231,370
Crosswalk, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon and Speed Hump		1	EACH	$35,000	$35,000
Park Signage		1	EACH	$800	$800
Field Upgrades and field grading		1	EACH	$50,000	$50,000
Accessible Batting Cage		1	EACH	$6,000	$6,000
Accessible Spectator Seating with Shade		2	EACH	$15,000	$30,000
Accessible Basketball Court		470	SY	$65	$30,550
Inclusive Playground (2-5 & 5-12)		1	EACH	$250,000	$250,000
Accessible Restroom Facility/Compost		1	EACH	$200,000	$200,000
Accessible Pavilion		1	EACH	$75,000	$75,000
Railroad and perimeter fencing		1200	LF	$100	$120,000
Native buffer trees		20	EACH	$150	$3,000
Accessible Sidewalk -Concrete		35	SY	$175	$6,125
Accessible Walking Trail -Crushed limestone		813	SY	$65	$52,845
Stormwater Management					$1,000
Subtotal					**$1,091,690**
15% Site Design					$163,753.50
20% Contingency					$218,338
Probable Cost Estimate					**$1,473,781.50**

OTHER OPTIONS					
Item Description	**Notes**	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Price**	**Total Item Cost**
Accessible Multi-Purpose Practice Field/Removal of Diamond Field (Concept A)		1	EACH	$75,000	$75,000


ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
COLINSBURG COMMUNITY PARK
10.8 ACRES, 556 COLLINSBURG ROAD, ROSTRAVER, PA
ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP PA
ROBERTSON RD
YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER WATER TRAIL
Youghiogheny River
Accessible Trail with Overlook
Benches
Food Truck Area
Accessible Parking
Accessible Restrooms
Accessible pathway to pavillion
Park Signage
Crosswalk
Accessible Bleachers
WOOD STREET
OAK LANE
COLLINSBURG ROAD
GREAT ALLEGHENY PASSAGE
STRAWBERRY LANE
Legend
Rostraver Township Boundary
Park Boundaries
10' Contours
Area Trails
Great Allegheny Passage
Youghiogheny River Water Trail
Streams
Rivers
Water Bodies
CHESTNUT STREET
GERMAN STREET
POPLAR STREET
N
PASHEK MTR

COLLINSBURG PARK					
Item Description	**Notes**	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Price**	**Total Item Cost**
Acquisition of Property					TBD
Native Shade Trees		8	EACH	$550	$4,400
Security System		1	EACH	$10,000	$10,000
Accessible Benches		4	EACH	$1,400	$5,600
Bike Rack		2	EACH	$800	$1,600
Accessible Spectator Seating/ Bleachers		2	EACH	$2,500	$5,000
Ballfield upgrades and field grading		1	EACH	$50,000	$50,000
Accessible River Access: Kayak and Overlook-Bituminous Paving -6'x 3511'		2340	SY	$65	$152,100
Accessible Restroom Facility		1	EACH	$200,000	$200,000
Parking Expansion (Food Truck Area)	39 spaces	178	SY	$85	$15,130
Crosswalk with Signage		1	EACH	$3,400	$3,400
Removable Bollards at entrances to trail		2	EACH	$2,600	$5,200
Park Signage		1	EACH	$800	$800
Signage & Wayfinding		4	EACH	$1,000	$4,000
Stormwater					$10,000
Subtotal					**$467,230**
15% Site Design					$70,084.50
20% Contingency					$93,446
Probable Cost Estimate					**$630,760.50**

Note: This park is not owned by the Township. The first step would be to purchase this location from the Collinsburg Home Owner's Association.

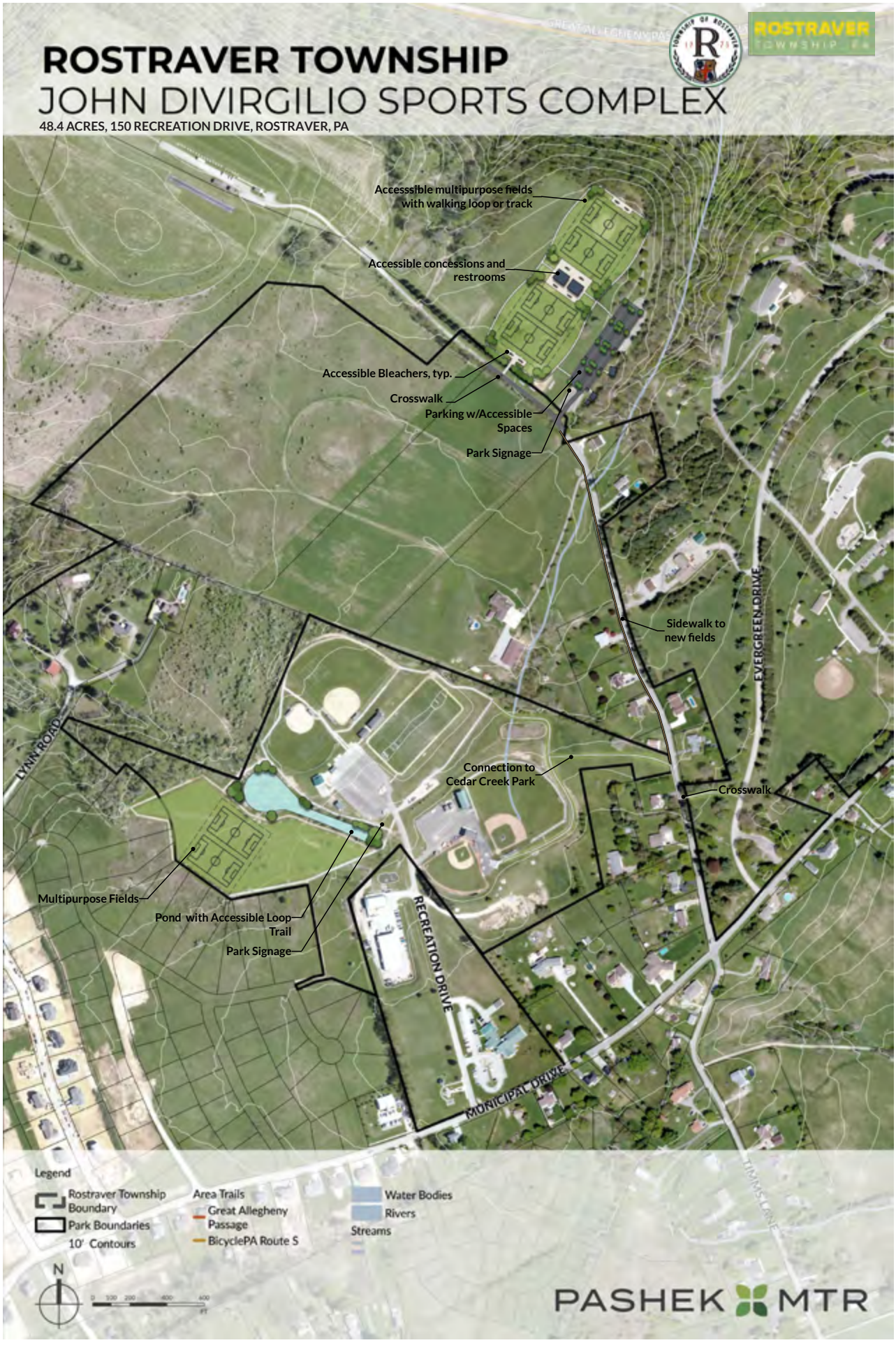

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
ELKS PLACE
0.7 ACRES, 111 ELK PLACE, ROSTRAVER, PA
BROAD AVENUE EXT
ELKS PLACE
Riparian Buffer
Accessible Swing Bench, typ.
Accessible Bocce Court with benches
Park Signage`
Accessible Picnic Area
Parking
Accessible Parking
Accessible Sand Volleyball Court
Accessible Picnic Tables
Accessible Basketball Court
Accessible Walking Path with Benches
Legend
Rostraver Township Boundary
Park Boundaries
10' Contours
Water Bodies
Rivers
Streams
N
PASHEK MTR

ELK'S PLACE					
Item Description	**Notes**	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Price**	**Total Item Cost**
Riparian Buffer Planting					$285,502
Shade Tree Planting		21	EACH	$550	$11,550
Accessible Bocce Court with Benches		1	EACH	$5,000	$5,000
Accessible Picnic Area with ADA Tables (6)		6	EACH	$7,000	$42,000
Accessible Sand Volleyball Court with Benches(4)		1	EACH	$20,000	$20,000
Accessible Basketball Court with Benches (4)		1	EACH	$75,000	$75,000
Accessible Walking Path with Benches (2): 1200' L x 6' W- Asphalt		800	SY	$65	$52,000
Parking (4) with ADA Spaces (1)		118	SY	$85	$10,030
Accessible Swing Benches (2)		2	EACH	$1,500	$3,000
Stormwater					$10,000
Signage					TBD
Subtotal					**$514,082**
15% Site Design					$77,112
20% Contingency					$102,816
Probable Cost Estimate					**$694,010**


ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
CLAIR MANOR BALLFIELD
1.2 ACRES, BONNIE STREET, ROSTRAVER, PA
ROSTRAVER
TOWNSHIP, PA
Accessible Bench
Accessible Half Court Basketball
Accessible Sidewalk
Accessible Bench
Park Signage
Inclusive Playground
Accessible Sidewalk
Accessible Bleachers
Accessible Bleachers
Accessible pathway to parking
Parking
Accessible Parking
RUTH PLACE
BONNIE STREET
Legend
Rostraver Township Boundary
Park Boundaries
10' Contours
Water Bodies
Rivers
Streams
N
PASHEK MTR

CLAIR MANOR BALLFIELD					
Item Description	**Notes**	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Price**	**Total Item Cost**
ADA parking and accessible paths	21 spaces	706	SY	$85	$60,010
Half Court Basketball Court		1	EACH	$35,000	$35,000
Entrance Signage (at entrance to development)		1	EACH	$800	$800
Park Signage		1	EACH	$500	$800
Inclusive Playground		1	EACH	$150,000	$150,000
Accessible Spectator Seating		1	EACH	$5,000	$5,000
Stormwater Management					$10,000
Subtotal					**$351,610**
15% Site Design					$52,741.50
20% Contingency					$70,322
Probable Cost Estimate					**$474,673.50**

OTHER OPTIONS (NOT INCLUDED ON CONCEPT PLAN)					
Item Description	**Notes**	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Price**	**Total Item Cost**
Pavillion		1	EACH	$75,000	$75,000


ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
JOHN DIVIRGILIO SPORTS COMPLEX
48.4 ACRES, 150 RECREATION DRIVE, ROSTRAVER, PA
Accesssible multipurpose fields with walking loop or track
Accessible concessions and restrooms
Accessible Bleachers, typ.
Crosswalk
Parking w/Accessible Spaces
Park Signage
Sidewalk to new fields
EVERGREEN DRIVE
LYNN ROAD
Connection to Cedar Creek Park
Crosswalk
Multipurpose Fields
Pond with Accessible Loop Trail
Park Signage
RECREATION DRIVE
MUNICIPAL DRIVE
Legend
Rostraver Township Boundary
Park Boundaries
10' Contours
Area Trails
Great Allegheny Passage
BicyclePA Route S
Water Bodies
Rivers
Streams
N
PASHEK MTR

JOHN DIVIRGILIO SPORTS COMPLEX					
Item Description	**Notes**	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Price**	**Total Item Cost**
Reseeding of newly developed multi-purpose fields (2) 265' x 155'		82000	SF	$0.20	$16,400
Field and pickleball lighting				$500,000	$500,000
Construction of pond with accessible loop trail, permitting, excavation, aeration system, plantings					TBD
Accessible Bleachers		4	EACH	$15,000	$60,000
DiVirgilio Sports Complex connection to Cedar Creek Park: to include trail from existing trail to Timms Lane, connection to Cedar Creek Park, sidewalk to new sports complex		2538.5	SY	$104	$264,004
Multipurpose Synthetic Fields 265' x 155'(41,075 SF x 4) *		4	EACH	$2,000,000	$8,000,000
Parking Expansion and ADA spaces-153 spaces + 7 ADA spaces		698	SY	$85	$59,330
Accessible Concession and Restrooms		1	EACH	$300,000	$300,000
Loop trail or track -Asphalt 6' Ft 2200		1470	SY	$65	$95,550
Site Amenities (Garbage Cans, Benches)					$10,000
Crosswalk, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon and Speed Hump		1	EACH	$35,000	$35,000
Subtotal					**$9,240,925**
15% Site Design					$1,386,138.75
20% Contingency					$1,848,185
Probable Cost Estimate					**$12,475,248.75**

OTHER OPTIONS (NOT INCLUDED ON CONCEPT PLAN)					
Item Description	**Notes**	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Price**	**Total Item Cost**
Baseball Field - Synthetic Turf *		1	EACH	$500,000 to $1.2 million	$500,000 to $1.2 million
Miracle Field		1	EACH	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

* synthetic tuf fields have a wide range of costs based upon field sizes, necessary preparation, drainage, stormwater management, hardscaping, landscaping, and lighting

Proposed Pond at the John DiVirgilio Sports Complex

Location:	headwaters of an unnamed tributary to Cedar Creek
PA DEP Chapter 93 Watershed Classification:	Trout Stocked Fishery
Contributing Acreage:	approximately 25 acres
USGS Soil Type:	Weinbach Silt Loam, predominately non-hydric, poorly drained

Ponds can be regulated as dams. A dam is defined as any artificial barrier, such as an earthen embankment or concrete structure, built for the purpose of impounding or storing water.

A Dam Permit is required from the PA DEP before any person may construct, operate, maintain, modify, enlarge or abandon a dam that meets any one of the following criteria.

1. The dam is located across a watercourse and the contributory drainage area to the dam exceeds 100 acres.
2. The dam is located across a watercourse and the maximum depth of water, measured from the upstream toe of the dam to the top of the dam at maximum storage elevation, is greater than 15 feet.
3. The dam is located across a watercourse and the impounding capacity (storage volume) at maximum storage elevation is greater than 50 acre-feet.
4. The dam stores water, is not located on a watercourse, and has no contributory drainage, but the maximum depth exceeds 15 feet and the maximum storage volume exceeds 50 acre-feet.
5. The dam is used for storage of fluids or semi-fluids other than water, the escape of which may result in air, water, or land pollution or in danger to persons or property.

If the proposed dam does not require a Dam Permit, but is located in, along or projecting into a wetland or Exceptional Value Waters, or requires 401 Water Quality Certification, Department approval of an Environmental Assessment is required. An Environmental Assessment form will be provided by the Department with the notification of our jurisdictional determination or upon request. County Conservation District Offices also have copies of this form. Any excavation of wetlands within the impoundment area would require a Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit from the Department. Excavation in the impoundment area, not in wetlands but within the floodway of a watercourse, may also require a Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit. This determination will be made by the Department upon receipt of the information discussed above.

Because the area of the proposed pond is in a wet and poorly drained areas there may be regulated wetlands in the area. The area should be reviewed for the presence of wetlands by a qualified consultant or PA DEP. If the proposed pond will impact wetlands, a Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit from DEP will be required. In addition, this permit may also be needed if the pond encroaches into the floodway of a stream.

Any project involving earth disturbance requires an implemented plan to stop accelerated erosion and sedimentation. If the earth disturbance exceeds 5,000 square feet, a written and implemented plan is required. If the total disturbance (which includes impervious improvements including paving roads, trails, pathways and parking areas), exceeds 1 acre, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is required for your project. This permit needs engineering approval and would be reviewed by the Westmoreland County Conservation District Staff.

Because the proposed pond is in the Cedar Creek watershed, a Trout Stock Fishery, no in-stream construction will be authorized by PA DEP and the PA Fish and Boat Commission between February 15 and June 1st.

Occasionally, it becomes necessary to drain a pond. When draining a pond, be aware that a draw-down permit is required by the PA Fish & Boat Commission. It is also necessary to minimize erosion and sedimentation when draining a large volume of water.

To begin the process of planning, design, permitting and construction of the proposed pond Rostraver Township should contact the Westmoreland Conservation District at (724) 837-5271 and request a pre-application meeting to discuss and determine the applicable requirements.


ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
BETTY AMBLER PARK
ROSS STREET
ZUNDEL STREET
SR 0070 SH
SOMERS STREET
Phase II (Complete)
Inclusive Playground
Owned by Rostraver Township
Owned by Rostraver Township
Owned by Rostraver Township
Owned by Rostraver Township
Phase III (Future)
Pavilion, Parking, &
Stormwater
Management
ZUNDEL STREET
CARSON STREET
MAIN ST
OHIO STREET
Legend
Rostraver Township Boundary
Park Boundaries
10' Contours
Area Trails
Great Allegheny Passage
BicyclePA Route S
Three Rivers Water Trail
Youghiogheny River Water Trail
Streams
Rivers
Water Bodies
N
PASHEK MTR

BETTY AMBLER PARK					
Updated playground signage					$2,000
Phase 3: work will include installation of a pavilion, parking, and stormwater management.					$72,130
Probable Cost Estimate					**$74,130**

Betty Ambler Park Upgrades

Phase 1:

Scope of work included tearing down foundations of former homes, leveling the lot, removing old park equipment and installing new fencing, swing sets and a merry-go-round. Cost: $35,000

Phase 2:

Scope of work included installation of an ADA playground equipment and picnic tables. Cost: $59,707

2

Corridors of Connections & Open Space

Develop a system of multi-use, interconnecting trails and greenways that provide opportunities for exercise, alternative transportation, and recreation.

Recreation for All

Health and Wellness

Sustainable Systems

Action Steps	Strategies	Responsible Party	Priority	Notes/Status
Connect to Great Allegheny Passage (GAP)	Create connection from John DiVirgilio Sports Complex to Cedar Creek Park , and additional connections as they become available.	DPW	High	Develop connections in partnership with Westmoreland County and GAP.
Create connections between parks, schools, neighborhoods, and commercial areas of the Township.	Using the Connectivity Map and suggested scopes, implement connections within the Township.	BOC, DPW	High	Build connections within the Township to allow for safer non-vehicular connectivity.
Create a Share the Road Signage and Road Program	Work with PennDOT & Township Planning to integrate trail and sidewalk development as part of planned road improvements. The Township should integrate trails and alternative transportation options into all aspects of planing and design.	BOC, P, M	Mid	Annually evaluate road projects and possible opportunities to implement alternative transportation.
Partner with Neighboring Trail Groups	Communicate and collaborate with neighboring municipalities, Westmoreland County, and GAP on the benefits of regional planning and connectivity.	P	Mid	Promote regional trail opportunities. Attend regional meetings to identify connections and priority gaps.
Promote the Township as a "Trail Town"	Work with GAP to develop this identity and advertise it through branding, on-line media, etc.	BOC, P, RC	Mid	Work with GAP and other "Trail Towns" to create this identity.
Increase connections from neighborhoods to Township parks by acquiring land and trail easements.	Private landowner cooperation will be necessary for the expansion of the trails and greenways system.	BOC, P, M	Mid	Communication and collaboration with neighboring landowners on the benefits to the community.
Promote the Health and Wellness of Trails	Develop additional trail walks at Township Parks; Partner with DCNR and the Walk with a Doc Program.	RC	Low	Explore ways to promote and develop local and regional trails.

Greenways Strategies

Pennsylvania's Greenway Vision, established by PA DCNR

Pennsylvania and its many partners will develop an outstanding network of greenways across the Commonwealth, creating an asset highly valued by Pennsylvanians and enhancing the quality of life for all. This network of greenways will connect Pennsylvania's open space; natural landscape features; scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational sites; and urban and rural communities. Greenways will become one of the Commonwealth's most powerful tools to achieve sustainable growth and livable communities.

What is a greenway?

1. A linear open space established either along a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley, or ridge line; or overland along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreation use, a canal, a scenic road, or other route
2. Any natural or landscaped course for pedestrian or bicycle passage
3. An open space connector linking park nature reserves, cultural features, or historic sites with each other and with populated areas
4. Locally, certain strip or linear parks designated as a parkway or greenbelt



A greenways system is a multi-year effort. As Rostraver moves forward with the implementation of a greenways system, the strategies and priorities should be reviewed and adjusted based on the location and established need. Potential alignments should evaluate the opportunity to expand recreational development, provide opportunities for an under served population, provide space for additional facilities needed now and as the community grows.

Properties identified as potential greenway expansions should be evaluated for their ability to:

- Be included in a larger Greenway system
- Meet additional park facility development needs
- Close identified trail gaps
- Provide additional trail opportunities
- Preserve plant and wildlife habitat
- Protect steep slopes, 15% to 25% or greater
- Expand existing parks
- Connect or enhance Township assets or hubs
- Provide alternative transportation

New Horizons: A County-Wide Greenways and Blueways Network

New Horizons: A County-Wide Greenways and Blueways Network was completed in 2018. The plan is a companion document to Westmoreland's comprehensive land use, parks, recreation and open space planning efforts. It's purpose is to build upon the trails, greenways and blueways already located within the County by adding further trails, opening more green corridors, and creating easy connections to the blueways (e.g., Youghiogheny, Allegheny, Monongahela).

The Goals of the Plan included:

- Establishing the Plan's Purposes and Projects
- Enhancing Partnerships
- Sharing the Greenways Message

Topics under these goals included developing work plans, verifying ownership of the current and prospective greenways, pursuing grant opportunities, enhancing bike and pedestrian connections, signage, and convening coalitions to discuss furthering greenways and connections.

Working with the County and neighboring communities on how Rostraver can support regional trail enhancements is an opportunity for the Township to grow its own connections to the GAP and other regional trails.

Greenways within Rostraver

The Township does not have any designated greenways within its borders. It does, however, contain a Natural Heritage Area. This area is located within Cedar Creek Park and includes a large corridor of floodplain and steep slopes along the Yough as well as a significant portion of the Cedar Creek Valley in the northern part of the Park. A Natural Heritage Area protects rare plants or animals, native species, and exemplary ecological communities. It is part of the county's responsibility to see that this area continues in its natural state.

Rostraver's zoning and ordinances do include the topics of steep slopes and floodplains, especially in relation to stormwater management. There are areas within the Township (e.g.: parcel 56-06-14-0-012 at Kimberly Court) used for stormwater management or floodplains. These are not "greenways", but they are protected open spaces within the Township.

Trails and Connections

The first step to creating great trails is already located in Rostraver's "backyard": the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP). This 150-mile trail from Cumberland, MD to downtown Pittsburgh follows the Yough River along Rostraver's western border. Nearby trailheads are located in West Newton and Smithton. Parking and restrooms are also located in Cedar Creek Park.

The Township has a desire to link its own parks to the Trail. The best location to do this would be in Collinsburg Park, as noted on its Concept Plan on page 76. However, as this property is not owned by the Township the first step would be to acquire this property from the Collinsburg HOA.

The GAP is a hugely popular destination trail with hikers and bikers, numbering millions of visit to various parts of the trail in a year. Communities all along the trail have developed further trails that will bring these visitors into their communities: trails to campgrounds, downtown areas, restaurants, and parks. Known as "Trail Towns", the communities welcome GAP travelers to have a "taste" of their town and offer safe places to stay for those making it a multi-day trip.

Trail Towns

Trail Town Program is a non-profit organization that helps communities grow their economy through outdoor tourism and small businesses along the GAP and many other trails in Pennsylvania. They do this by helping trail communities establish partnerships, asses and research "how tos", connect to the trail, develop small businesses, and market

themselves. Some communities they have helped is South Side, McKeesport, Boston and West Newton.

Promoting your town as a "Trail Town" in Pennsylvania involves positioning it as a hub for outdoor recreation, particularly trail activities such as hiking, biking, and water sports. Pennsylvania has a rich network of trails and natural landscapes, making it an ideal location for this kind of promotion. A guide can be found in the Appendix.

The Recreation Commission should consider starting a "Trail Committee" among themselves and other volunteers to research how Rostraver can utilize the GAP to bring growth both economically and recreationally.







Trail Groups

Another way to improve trails and connections within Rostraver is to partner with trail groups. The Westmoreland Yough Trail Chapter is a group of volunteers dedicated to maintaining and improving the 10.5 mile Westmoreland County section of GAP. It is a chapter Regional Trail Corporation and located in Rostraver's neighboring community of West Newton. A partnership with this group could offer ways for Rostraver to improve connections to the GAP as well as internal parks and other amenities.

Connecting to the Monongahela or Youghiogheny

With the Monongahela River on the west and the Youghiogheny River on the east, connecting to these waterways for recreational purposes is worth consideration. Both rivers are heavily used by kayakers or canoers.

Along the Monongahela is the Webster Boat Launch and the Herman Mihalic Boat Launch, which is owned by the City of Monessen. The Webster Launch is in the process of being extended to accommodate the lower water levels. Giving this ramp a more cohesive connection with Webster Park would allow for more usage.

The Youghiogheny is very readily accessible and Smithton Beach is a popular location for launching boats, although parking is very limited. Vacant lots along the Youghiogheny could be purchased by the Township and used to create boat launching areas or locations for small events. The cost to acquire, develop and maintain these lots would be considerable. Working with a regional trail group to expand this area could make this expansion more feasible.

Easements

Often connectivity requires easements. The process for acquiring needed easements for trails is flexible and may be based on the Township's comfort level with opening conversations with property owners. Naturally, the community may wish to consult with its solicitor, as legal advice may be needed.

The nature of an initial conversation about an easement could depend on the location of the property, the importance of an easement to the success of a project, and any understanding of the property owner's point of view about a project. The community may consider it advantageous to approach an owner through official channels or could arrange for a member of the Receation Commission to take the first step on neighbor-to-neighbor basis.

Pennsylvania-specific information on easement acquisition, easement agreements, sidewalk design, implementation, and strategies may be found at conservationtools.org. This site also provides model easement agreement documents, both simple and detailed versions.

Active Transportation

Creating an active transportation plan is a great first step in understanding in detail a community's existing connections, increasing and maintaining those connections, and how to create new connections. The PA Department of Health and Pennsylvania Downtown Center in Harrisburg work closely together on the program PA Walk Works which is bolstering communities around Pennsylvania to become more walkable, bikeable, and safely connected. PA Walk Works provides information, resources and funding to communities in order to create active transportation plans. More information on funding and how the program works can be found in the Appendix.

Connections

Continue to utilize the Trust for Public Lands (TPL)10-minute Walk data to prioritize connections to existing and future parks. Reach out to potential partners for inclusive pedestrian, cycling, and trail connections to serve very high and high priority areas of the Township. It is recommended the Township prioritize the future projects in the very high and high priority areas identified by the TPL 10-Minute Walk data located in Chapter 2. Also using the Vacant Parcels Map in the Appendix can help the Township determine lots that could be used as valuable connectors. The most important links are listed on the Connectivity map on the following page and their cost estimates can be found following the map:

A. Sidewalk on north side of Crest Avenue to connect schools and Rostraver Shopping Center.
B. Expand shoulder to connect Willowbrook Plaza.
C. Trail from John DiVirgilio into Cedar Creek.
D. Expand shoulder to connect Clair Manor to shopping center.
E. Connect Lynnwood-Pricedale neighborhood to shopping center.

Creating connections has many steps. It will take funding, planning, and implementation on many levels. It will include acquiring land and easements. A few starting places are seeking funding, finding partners, talking to residents who live along desired connections, and creating an active transportation plan that can be used as a guide. Funding resources can be found in the Appendix.

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP

CONNECTIVITY AND OPEN SPACE

1. Rostraver Public Library
2. Willowbrook Plaza
3. Monessen High School
4. Rostraver Elementary + James Weir Stadium
5. Belle Vernon Area High School
6. Rostraver Airport
7. Rostraver Shopping Center
8. Walmart
9. Rostraver Township Municipal Bldg
- Post Office
- Fire Station
- Police Station

LEGEND

- Proposed Connection
- Township-Owned Vacant Parcel
- Existing Trail
- Existing Park
- Cemetery
- Hydrology
- State Road

A - Sidewalk on north side of Crest Ave to connect schools and Rostraver Shopping Center

B - Expand shoulder to connect Willowbrook Plaza

C - Trail from John DiVirgilio into Cedar Creek

D - Expand shoulder to connect Clair Manor to shopping center

E - Connect Lynnwood-Pricedale neighborhood to shopping center



Note: The cost estimates on the following pages should all be considered a "High Priority" for the Township. They are included in the Capital Improvement and Facilities Plan on page 86.

Concept A *Sidewalk on north side of Crest Avenue to connect schools and Rostraver Shopping Center.*				
Item Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost
Removals and Site Preparation				
Erosion and sedimentation controls	1	LS	$15,000	$15,000
Clearing and grubbing	0.30	AC	$6,000	$1,800
Maintenance and protection of traffic during construction	1	LS	$8,000	$8,000
Construction Surveying	1	LS	$3,500	$3,500
Earthwork	975	CY	$16	$15,600
Removals and Site Preparation				**$43,900**
Hardscape				
Concrete sidewalk - 5' wide	1,131	SY	$150	$169,650
Crosswalk striping	1	LS	$500	$500
Hardscape				$170,150
Construction Cost				**$214,050**
General Conditions			8%	$17,124
GC Overhead & Profit			10%	$23,117
Contingency			15%	$38,144
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS				**$292,435**

Concept B *Expand shoulder to connect Willowbrook Plaza.*				
Item Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost
Removals and Site Preparation				
Erosion and sedimentation controls	1	LS	$15,000	$15,000
Clearing and grubbing	0.50	AC	$6,000	$3,000
Maintenance and protection of traffic during construction	1	LS	$8,000	$8,000
Construction Surveying	1	LS	$3,500	$3,500
Earthwork	260	CY	$16	$4,160
Removals and Site Preparation				**$33,660**
Hardscape				
Bituminous Pavement	2,332	SY	$65	$151,580
6" White Hot Thermoplastic Pavement Markings	4,500	LF	$3	$13,500
Crosswalk striping	4	LS	$500	$2,000
Hardscape				$167,080
Construction Cost				**$200,740**
General Conditions			8%	$16,059
GC Overhead & Profit			10%	$21,680
Contingency			15%	$35,772
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS				**$274,251**

Concept C *Trail from John DiVirgilio into Cedar Creek.*				
Item Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost
Removals and Site Preparation				
Erosion and sedimentation controls	1	LS	$15,000	$15,000
Clearing and grubbing	0.46	AC	$6,000	$2,760
Earthwork	780	CY	$16	$12,480
Removals and Site Preparation				**$30,240**
Hardscape				
Bituminous Pavement - 10' trail	2,500	SY	$65	$162,500
Crosswalk striping	1	LS	$500	$500
Hardscape				$163,000
Construction Cost				**$193,240**
General Conditions			8%	$15,459
GC Overhead & Profit			10%	$20,870
Contingency			15%	$34,435
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS				**$264,004**

Concept D

Expand shoulder to connect Clair Manor to shopping center.

Item Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost
Removals and Site Preparation				
Erosion and sedimentation controls	1	LS	$15,000	$15,000
Striping removal	1	LS	$6,000	$6,000
Maintenance and protection of traffic during construction	1	LS	$8,000	$8,000
Construction Surveying	1	LS	$3,500	$3,500
Earthwork	3,000	CY	$16	$48,000
Removals and Site Preparation				**$65,500**
Hardscape				
Bituminous Pavement - 5' wide bike lane	1,200	SY	$65	$78,000
6" White Hot Thermoplastic Pavement Markings	2,000	LF	$3	$6,000
4" Yellow Hot Thermoplastic Pavement Markings	2,000	LF	$2	$3,000
Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon	2	EA	$30,000	$60,000
White thermoplastic legend, shared lane marking	6	EA	$300	$1,800
Hardscape				$148,800
Construction Cost				**$214,300**
General Conditions			8%	$17,144
GC Overhead & Profit			10%	$23,144
Contingency			15%	$38,188
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS				**$292,777**

Concept E

Connect Lynnwood-Pricedale neighborhood to shopping center.

Item Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost
Removals and Site Preparation				
Maintenance and protection of traffic during construction	1	LS	$8,000	$8,000
Construction Surveying	1	LS	$3,500	$3,500
Guardrail Removal	600	LF	$10	$6,000
Earthwork	900	CY	$16	$14,400
Removals and Site Preparation				**$31,900**
Hardscape				
Bituminous Pavement - 5' wide	2,500	SY	$65	$162,500
Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon	2	EA	$30,000	$60,000
6" White Hot Thermoplastic Pavement Markings	4,500	LF	$3	$13,500
Hardscape				$237,000
Construction Cost				**$268,900**
General Conditions			8%	$21,512
GC Overhead & Profit			10%	$29,041
Contingency			15%	$47,918
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS				**$367,371**

3

Recreation Programming

Ensure that a wide variety of Recreation Programming is available to meet the needs of residents.

Recreation for All

Health and Wellness

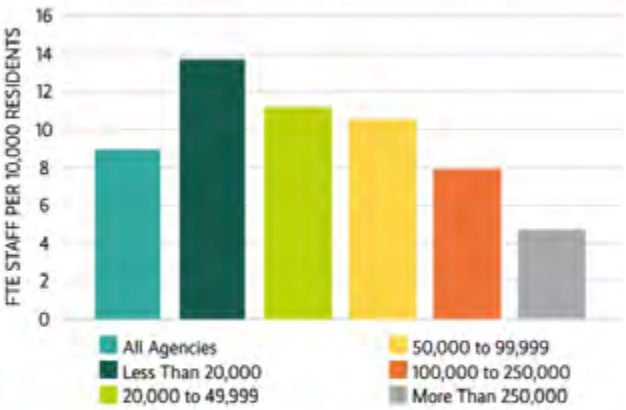
Action Steps	Strategies	Responsible Party	Priority	Notes/Status
Develop Inclusive and Diverse Programs	Develop new recreation programming that meet community needs for existing residents and enhance community's desirability for prospective residents.	RC	High	Enhance and increase recreation opportunities for underserved groups, such as seniors, teens and residents with limited transportation and special needs.
Establish Cost Recovery Pricing Policy - Sustainable Programs	Develop a financial policy to establish financial expectations of certain program types: special events, youth, adult, and sports activities.	BOC, M	Mid	Review information and adopt an adaptable policy that can be updated as the programming grows.
Secure Commercial or Non-Profit Sponsors for Programs	Create sponsorship opportunities associated with parks, and programs. Promote the economic benefits of Parks and Recreation in regards to deterring crime, positive development of youth, healthy family bonds, and a sense of community.	M	Mid	Continue to build on the existing sponsorship program.
Seek Opportunities for Cooperative Programming with Surrounding Communities and join the Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation Alliance	Recreation Commission identifies potential partners and collaborative programs. (Senior Centers, Private and Public Schools, Library, etc.)	M, RC	Mid	Jointly advertise programs provided in Rostraver Township and surrounding communities.

Recreation and Parks Administrative Plan

Currently Rostraver's parks and recreation is supported by the Recreation Commission in conjunction with the Board of Commissioners, the Township Manager, and the Department of Public Works. Given the increase in development and growing demand for community services within the Township, it would be wise to develop a Director of Parks and Recreation position to oversee the parks recreational programs, and related services. For a Township the size of Rostraver, the NRPA suggests the following:

- **Median Full-Time Employees:** 8.9 full-time employees (FTEs) per 10,000 residents, which would suggest Rostraver should have approximately 9 FTEs. This includes employees focused on both operations and maintenance and programming. Additionally, two or three Township Road Department employees should be dedicated to the parks between April and October.
- **Operations and Maintenance:** approximately 46% of a Park and Rec Department's time is spent upon operations and maintenance. This includes tasks such as maintaining park facilities, managing grounds, ensuring safety, overseeing equipment, and general upkeep. Given the growth in development, ensuring that parks and recreational spaces are well-maintained and safe will be a critical aspect of this position.
- **Programming:** approximately 31% of a Park and Rec Department's time is spent on programming. This involves creating, organizing, and running recreational programs and events for residents of all ages. The Director would be responsible for ensuring that the township offers diverse, high-quality programming to meet the needs of the expanding population, including youth sports leagues, fitness classes, community events, and more.

FIGURE 12: PARK AND RECREATION AGENCY STAFFING: FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) EMPLOYEES PER 10,000 RESIDENTS (BY JURISDICTION POPULATION)



	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	More Than 250,000
Median	8.9	13.7	11.2	10.5	7.9	4.7
Lower Quartile	4.9	6.9	5.8	6.5	3.8	2.1
Upper Quartile	16.6	25.3	20.3	17.1	12.2	7.8

As the population grows due to increased development, this number will likely increase, requiring a larger team to keep up with demand. The Director of Parks and Recreation would oversee this growing team, helping to ensure that services are effectively managed.

Recommended Roles and Responsibilities

Rostraver Board of Commissioners

- Adopt this plan as a basis for maintaining a strong, safe and fun parks and recreation program within the Township.

Public Works Department (Park Maintenance)

- Reports to the Commissioners over Roads, Streets and Equipment.
- Maintains Township park trails, open space and greenways as determined by the Board of Commissioners, in partnership with the established full-time, seasonal and contracted park staff.
- Establishes a reasonable budget for operations and maintenance including staffing needs, equipment and general maintenance.

- Establishes an agreed upon system for documentation, and completion of work orders.
- Meets regularly (weekly) with the Township Manager to establish weekly, monthly and seasonal maintenance needs

Director of Parks and Recreation: The Future

The Director of Parks and Recreation would play a crucial role in managing the township's recreational assets and meeting the growing demand for services. Here's how the role would align with the NRPA's metrics:

1. **Operations and Maintenance:**
   - Staff Management: Oversee maintenance staff who are responsible for the day-to-day operations of parks, sports fields, trails, and other recreational spaces.
   - Facility Upkeep: Ensure that facilities are properly maintained, including regular inspections, repairs, landscaping, and ensuring compliance with safety regulations.
   - Budgeting for Maintenance: Manage budgets related to maintenance and operations, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively for facility upkeep.
2. **Programming:**
   - Develop Programs: Lead the development of recreational programs that cater to diverse age groups and interests, such as after-school programs, summer camps, fitness classes, and adult sports leagues.
   - Community Engagement: Work closely with residents and community groups to identify and respond to the needs and desires of the community.
   - Partnerships and Sponsorships: Explore opportunities for partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, and other organizations to enhance programming and expand offerings.
3. **Strategic Planning:**
   - Long-Term Planning: With development increasing, the Director should be involved in planning for future park expansions, land acquisitions, and programmatic growth to ensure that the township's parks and recreation services evolve to meet future needs.
   - Grants and Funding: Seek out state and federal funding opportunities, grants, and sponsorships to support both capital projects and programming.
4. **Community Outreach:**
   - Resident Engagement: Foster a sense of community by creating opportunities for residents to get involved in park and recreation activities.
   - Feedback Systems: Establish methods for collecting resident feedback, such as surveys or town hall meetings, to ensure that services align with the evolving needs of the population.

The creation of a Director of Parks and Recreation position is a forward-thinking move for Rostraver Township, especially in light of increased development and demand for community services. By having a dedicated professional in this role, the township can ensure that its parks and recreational programs are well-managed, well-funded, and responsive to the needs of the community, thus improving the quality of life for residents.

Establishing Recreation Program Pricing (for the Future)

Creating pricing that fits the program is not an exact science. Programs, events, rental fees and other income comes in various sizes and shapes. Many factors play into creating pricing, but general guidelines to apply.

Setting a cost recovery percentage for recreation programs is a way to establish prices which will recover the indirect administrative overhead cost. To achieve this, the total direct program cost are multiplied by a cost recovery percentage. This percentage is determined individually by each municipality for each category of programs it offers. For instance, if direct expenses for an adult class are $100, this amount may be multiplied by a cost recovery percentage of 80%. This means that making $180 in gross revenue for this program will recover both the direct and indirect costs. If the minimum number of participants is 10, the price per person would be $18.







Setting Pricing or Cost Recovery Policy

Establishing a reasonable fee must take into consideration important factors such as demand, quality, and recovery of direct and indirect costs, including supplies and instructor fees. One basic formula for this is:

$$P = \frac{I+O+RF+CS}{S}$$

P= Price charged for program I= Instructor fee O= Overhead

RF= Rental Fee CS= Consumable supplies S= Students in a program

Another option for cost recovery pricing would for the Township to set a percentage for each program or category of programs. For example: adult programs may have a cost recovery of 80%, whereas the youth sports programs may have a cost recovery of 50%. The important thing is to stay flexible and provide quality programs while recouping some of the associated expenses.

Innovative Programming

The National Wildlife Federation provides innovative ways to connect children with nature. Today the amount of time kids spend outside is alarmingly low while screen time is at an all-time high. Connecting children and nature has important health benefits. Children who spend time outside are active, imaginative, have longer attention spans, and are less likely to be aggressive. In addition, children who spend time in nature regularly appreciate the world around them and want to learn more about the environment.

There are many apps and websites available to encourage children to participate in outdoor activities. A sampling includes:

- www.naturefind.com - NatureFind is a great hub for local nature-based organizations and nature enthusiasts to share favorite places, upcoming events, interests, photos and more.
- www.kidweatherapp.com - A true weather app for kids designed by a six-year-old boy (and his meteorologist dad).
- https://starwalk.space/en Star Walk is the most beautiful stargazing app. It will become your interactive guide to the night sky.
- https://www.inaturalist.org/ - iNaturalists is a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society. Record your encounters, learn about nature, create useful data, become a citizen scientist, or run a Bioblitz.

The Township should also encourage self directed recreation opportunities. These opportunities could include walking, bicycling, dog walking, pick-up games, fshing and family oriented events. The activities should be promoted through the schools and other

public notice opportunities. The Recreation Commission should annually evaluate the existing programs and provide ideas for new programs to the Board of Commissioners for discussion.

Programming Gaps and Deficiencies

Developing innovative programming based on the needs assessment of a community involves several strategic steps that ensure the program is relevant, effective, and sustainable. The initial step is to identify who would be the first contact for registration, instructor contacts and agreements, location, partnerships with local organizations, government agencies and businesses; promotion; addressing any transportation, cost, language barriers; and measuring successes, challenges and outcomes. The first step in creating programming for Rostraver would be do hire a Park and Rec Director.

Outside of sports associations and events hosted by Westmoreland County's Cedar Creek Park, Rostraver does not provide recreational programming for its community. During public engagement, residents identified programming they would like to see in the Township:

- Inclusive programs: adaptive sports, fitness classes, dances, healthy habitats, crafts
- Cultural events: theatre, arts, storytelling, ethnic food events
- Senior programs: digital literacy classes, storytelling projects with youth, chair yoga and tai chi, mindfulness and meditation workshops, health and wellness programs, lunches and speaker programs, arts and crafts
- Community Events: Festivals, campouts, food truck events, movies in the park
- Nature programs
- Self-guided programming: walking and biking clubs

Programming Trends

Over the past five years, recreation programming for youth and seniors has evolved to meet changing societal needs and preferences. Looking ahead, several key trends are expected to shape these programs in the next five years:

1. Integration of Technology
   - Youth Programs: The incorporation of technology into recreational activities is anticipated to grow. This includes the use of interactive apps, virtual reality experiences, and online platforms that facilitate remote participation and learning. Such integration aims to engage digitally native youth and provide flexible participation options.
   - Senior Programs: For seniors, technology will play a crucial role in enhancing engagement and accessibility. Programs are expected to offer digital literacy workshops, virtual fitness classes, and online social platforms to combat isolation and promote continuous learning.
2. Emphasis on Health and Wellness
   - Youth Programs: There is a growing focus on holistic health, integrating physical activity with mental and emotional well-being. Programs are likely to include mindfulness practices, stress management workshops, and nutrition education alongside traditional sports and recreation.
   - Senior Programs: Senior recreation is expected to prioritize wellness, offering activities such as tai chi, water aerobics, and cognitive stimulation exercises. These programs aim to enhance physical health, mental acuity, and social interaction among older adults.

3. Inclusivity and Accessibility
   - Youth Programs: Recreation programs are anticipated to become more inclusive, catering to diverse abilities and backgrounds. This includes adaptive sports, multilingual offerings, and culturally relevant activities to ensure all youth have access to recreational opportunities.
   - Senior Programs: For seniors, there will be an emphasis on creating accessible environments, such as wheelchair-friendly facilities and programs designed for varying mobility levels. This approach ensures that all seniors can participate and benefit from recreational activities.
4. Multi-Generational Programming

   There is an increasing trend toward multi-generational activities that encourage interaction between different age groups. Examples include 'grandparent and me' swim lessons and senior water fitness programs, fostering community bonds and mutual learning.

5. Sustainability and Environmental Awareness

   Both youth and senior programs are expected to incorporate environmental education and sustainable practices. Activities may include nature walks, gardening, and conservation projects, promoting environmental stewardship and connecting participants with the natural world.

These trends reflect a broader societal shift toward inclusivity, health, and environmental consciousness, aiming to provide enriching and accessible recreational experiences for both youth and seniors in the coming years.

Rostraver Township should collaborate with community partners such as the Youth Sports Organizations, School District, Senior Centers, Public Library and private organizations to develop and grow their recreation program opportunities.

Partnerships to Bridge Programming Gaps

Creating partnerships with other groups, centers, or community programs is a great way to increase parks and recreational programming. These can be as simple as working with the Rostraver Public Library to create Storytime in the Park or a nearby Senior Center to sponsor a picnic at a park pavilion. They can also be larger endeavors such as co-sponsoring a Touch-a-Truck or Memorial Day event with games, booths, and music.

Rostraver Public Library

Reaching out to the Rostraver Public Library would be an easy first step to a potentially great partnership. The library already offers programs such as Adult and Senior Chair Yoga each Monday, storytimes for multiple age groups throughout the week, and craft nights or seasonal events such as Garden Days and Trick-or-Treat Story Trail. Offering an outdoor location for these events in one of the local parks would be easy. If the event was successful it could lead into implementing more events and programs.

Senior Centers in Westmoreland County

The Westmoreland County Area Agency on Aging offers a list of "Centers for Active Adults" which includes senior centers and satellite centers around the county. Activities at these centers include exercise classes, crafts, games, and classes in technology, nutrition, tax assistance, Medicare, and various hobbies. Connecting with these centers, especially the ones in Herminie, West Newton, and Monessen could bring senior programs to Rostraver and help the growing senior population find social and active connections.

Westmoreland County Parks & Recreation Alliance

Part of the Westmoreland County Parks Department, the Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation Alliance (WCPRA) supports area professionals and promotes parks and recreation services within Westmoreland County through cooperation, networking, joint programming, and regional development. Rostraver should consider joining this Alliance in order to build relationships with other municipalities, park and recreation professionals, and the PA DCNR. This connection will give insight into what other communities of the County are doing and could open doors for joint programming and other opportunities.

Setting Program Fees

Below is a table with suggested costs of programming fees. Recreational programming encompasses a very large spectrum. For kids it could mean sports clinics, art in the park, or summer camp. Teens also enjoy sports theme events or geocaching. Adults may enjoy more family-related events, exercise programs, or classes in pickleball or tennis. Seniors could enjoy walking clubs or yoga. Some programs require instructors or counselors. Others may require special materials or equipment. The length of the program is yet another variable to take into consideration. There is no one cost that will cover every recreational program.

The first thing to consider in all programming is the ratio of revenue to expense. Does the revenue need to simply cover the expense of the program or does it need to exceed the cost of the program so that the profit may be used to both maintain and improve park facilities? This is something that should be considered whenever a program is being created.

As programs are created it is advisable to look to other communities who have vibrant recreational programming. Look at their fees and talk to them about how those fees were established. This information will take the guess work out of establishing fees associated with successful recreation programming.

Programming and Recreation Estimated Costs

Item Description	Notes	Annual Cost
Parks and Recreation Director	$90,000	$90,000
Programming	this needs to include instructor fees, materials, background checks, and clearances	$50,000
Contracted Programming Instructors	based upon a 70/30 split - this figure depends upon how many programs, the length of time the program runs, and how often the program is conducted	$10,000
Marketing and Branding		$86,110
	Total	**$236,110**

Example of Summer Recreation Program Budgeting Breakdown

8 week program held in Community Park with children ages 5 to 12 to enjoy playgrounds, crafts, organized games, free play, sports, and special programs

Ages 4 - 5 with a ratio of 1 counselor for every 6 campers

Ages 6 - 9 with a ratio of 1 counselor for every 8 campers

Half Day (9 - 11:30 or 12:30 - 3)		$20/day
Full Day (9 - 3)		$40/day
Counselors		$10/hour
Material and Equipment		$300

Note: Summer camp revenue should exceed expenses so costs per camper should be set in order to achieve this goal.

4 Branding and Marketing

Develop an identity for Rostraver's Parks and Recreation.

Recreation for All

Technology

Action Steps	Strategies	Responsible Party	Priority	Notes/Status
Market as Outdoor Recreation and Trail Town	Build upon the GAP and Youghiogheny River initiatives and opportunities.	RC	High	Support efforts provided by other regional recreation providers increases opportunities for economic benefits.
Develop Consistent Wayfinding and Signage	Develop signage which incorporates the Township Parks and Recreation Logo on park and wayfinding signage throughout the Township.	RC, P, BOC, M	High	Develop sign standards for park, trail and connectivity throughout the Township. Incorporate QR codes and information regarding apps, trailheads, and local businesses to boost the local economy.
Promote Health, Wellness, and Outdoor Recreation Opportunities	Include health and wellness programs and seek partnerships with health care providers including local hospitals. Promote Pennsylvania's iConservePA & Get Outdoors PA programs to encourage outdoor recreation activity with in the Township.	RC	Mid	Promote the benefits of the outdoors through marketing the opportunities available in the region. The PA office of Outdoor Recreation (PA OOR) has launched the "Elevate" initiative which seeks to engage outdoor recreation businesses across the Commonwealth to identify barriers to growth, develop workforce solutions, and highlight PA as a premier destination for outdoor recreation. https://getoutdoorspa.org/

Consistent Wayfinding and Signage

Branding for a community is a promise a place makes to people to reinforce the core values and identify the community parks, recreation assets, and programming.

The Township can strategically use communications to reinforce an identity and image for Rostraver Parks and Recreation. Visually, all messaging and communications should incorporate at least some elements of the determined color palette and logo. This includes digital and print.

Developing signage which incorporates the Parks and Recreation Department's logo and is consistent throughout the City provides a visual connection for both residents and visitors. Incorporating QR codes with information about the park an opportunity for comments, or directions to other parks or local businesses helps to boost the local economy.

Wayfinding & Signage - Cost Estimates				
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Price**	**Extension**
Park Identification Sign	12	EA	$860	$10,320
Facility Signs: Ballfields, Courts, Restrooms	50	EA	$275	$13,750
Large Directional Sign	2	EA	$2,150	$4,300
Medium Directional Sign	5	EA	$1,300	$6,500
Trail Kiosk	2	EA	$4,810	$9,620
Trail Directional Sign	5	EA	$220	$1,100
Trail Marker	10	EA	$160	$1,600
Hazard or Boundary Sign	4	EA	$160	$640
Pavilion Name Sign	4	EA	$270	$1,080
Interpretive Sign	6	EA	$800	$4,800
Native Entrance Planting	12	EA	$2,700	$32,400
Subtotal				**$86,110**

ROSTRAVER BRANDING IDEAS







5 Sustainable Funding

Establish and secure funding.

Funding & Economic Development

Action Steps	Strategies	Responsible Party	Priority	Notes/Status
Adopt the Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan	Utilize the recommendations, cost estimates, and recommended Capital Improvements Plan contained herein to prepare formal annual budget requests.	BOC, P, DPW, M	Ongoing	Nearly all development projects will require a financial commitment from the Township. The Board will need to identify sources for their local commitment. The sources could include the Township's general fund, revenue for a land dedication or Fee-In-Lieu-Of-Ordinance; a bond issue; local contributions; or other sources.
Establish Annual Budget	Develop a financial policy to establish financial expectations of certain program types and criteria for programs. Develop Annual Budget for each park including capital improvements, general maintenance and staffing needs.	RC, BOC, M	Ongoing	Commissioners should ensure this is included as they create yearly budgets.
Leverage Funds through Grants	Continue to submit grant applications as they become available through a variety of funding opportunities.	P, M	High	A variety of funding sources are included in the Appendix of this plan.
Adopt updated Mandatory Dedication Ordinance	Review Mandatory Dedication/ Fee In Lieu Ordinance with Planning Department.	BOC, P, M	High	More information and examples can be found on the WeConservePA website.
Increase Sponsorship Opportunities	Continue to develop new sponsorships for naming rights on park facilities, programs and amenities opportunities annually.	RC	Mid	Evaluate financial support opportunities annually. Develop scholarship opportunities to provide inclusive programs for all residents including seniors.

Capital and Facilities Improvement Plan

By definition, capital improvement funds are used to pay for long-term investments that improve or enhance a property, building, or infrastructure. To implement all of the proposed park improvements recommended herein, the project costs (in 2025 dollars) are approximately $14.2 to $14.5 million.

Information for other park and recreational enhancements (programming, marketing, etc.) are found under Goal 3 earlier in this report.

	Project	* Strategies	Estimated Cost
HIGH PRIORITY	Fellsburg Park	Upgrade the park to meet the 2010 ADA Standards for accessible design, including parking, spectator seating and parking expansion.	$68,050
		Ballfield upgrades, field grading and stormwater management.	$60,000
		Crosswalk, rectangular rapid flashing beacon and speed hump to alert drivers of the park.	$35,000
		Park signage.	$800
	John DiVirgilio Sports Complex	Connection to Cedar Creek Park: to include trail from existing trail to Timms Lane and sidewalk to sports fields.	$264,004
		Crosswalk, rectangular rapid flashing beacon and speed hump.	$35,000
		Development of multi-purpose synthetic fields.	$8,000,000
		Reseeding of newly developed multipurpose fields (2).	$16,400
	Collinsburg Park	Acquire park property and adjacent property.	TBD
	Elk's Place	Riparian buffer plantings and stormwater management. *(Note: no cost to Township - grant funded.)*	$295,502
	Betty Ambler Park	Complete Phase 3: work will include installation of a pavilion, parking and stormwater management. *(Note: estimated cost includes 85% grant funding and 15% Township cost.)*	$72,130
	Develop Connections	Sidewalk on north side of Crest Ave to connect schools and Rostraver Shopping Center.	$292,435
		Expand shoulder to connect Willowbrook Plaza.	$274,251
		Expand shoulder to connect Clair Manor to shopping Center.	$292,777
		Expand Lynnwood-Pricedale neighborhood to shopping center.	$367,371
	High (1 - 3 years) Priority Estimate of Probable Costs		$10,063,720

MID PRIORITY	Project	* Strategies	Estimated Cost
	Fellsburg Park	Redevelop accessible basketball court, skatepark or tennis courts.	$110,550 - 280,550
	John DiVirgilio Sports Complex	Construction of pond with accessible loop trail, permitting, excavation, aeration system, and plantings.	TBD
		Field and pickleball lighting.	$500,000
	Collinsburg Park	Park signage.	$800
		Ballfield Upgrades and Field Grading.	$50,000
		Accessible Spectator Seating.	$5,000
		Parking expansion (Food Truck Area) & stormwater management.	$25,130
	Elk's Place	Construct accessible basketball court with benches.	$75,000
		Parking (4) with (1) ADA space.	$10,030
		Park Signage.	$800
		Shade Tree Planting.	$11,550
	Clair Manor Park	ADA parking and accessible paths & stormwater management.	$70,010
		Entrance & Park Signage.	$1,600
		Accessible Spectator Seating.	$5,000
	Betty Ambler Park	Acquire Additional Parcels.	TBD
	Webster Park	Railroad and perimeter fencing.	$120,000
		Native buffer trees.	$3,000
		Park Signage.	$800
	Mid (4 - 6 years) Priority Estimate of Probable Costs		$989,230 - $1,159,270

LOW PRIORITY	Project	* Strategies	Estimated Cost
	Fellsburg Park	Construct Nature Play Space, walking trail, planting of native trees.	$302,960
	John DiVirgilio Sports Complex	Accessible bleachers, parking expansion, accessible concession and restrooms, loop trail or track, site amenities.	$524,880
	Collinsburg Park	Native shade trees, security system, accessible benches, bike rack, accessible river access, crosswalk with signage, removable bollards, signage and wayfinding.	$386,300
	Elk's Place	Accessible Bocce Court, Benches, Picnic Area, Sand Volleyball Court, Walking Path, Bench Swings.	$122,000
	Clair Manor Park	Redevelop half court basketball court.	$35,000
		Inclusive playground.	$150,000
		Optional pavillion.	$75,000
	Webster Park	Parking expansion including ADA, crosswalk, field upgrades, accessible batting cage, spectator seating, basketball court, inclusive playground, restroom, pavilion, sidewalk, walking trail, stormwater management.	$1,473,782 - $1,548,782
	Low (8 - 10 years) Priority Estimate of Probable Costs		$3,069,922 - $3,144,922

Potential Funding Options

Funding is a vital part of parks and recreation. Income from recreational programs or field rental fees more often cover general improvements, day-to-day maintenance, and staff salaries. However, large projects such as new playgrounds, ballfields, or the replacement of maintenance vehicles is typically outside the incoming revenue. For these items other sources of funding such as sponsorships or grants are necessary.

Grants

Finding and applying for grants can seem arduous and is certainly time consuming. Fortunately once valuable grants are found, the same information can often be used in applying for all of them. This is something internal Township staff will need to gather and accomplish, but information on various grants along with links for further instructions can be found in this Grant Funding resource.

Grant Strategies

Grants can be very competitive. Often funding agencies receive requests that amount to as much as ten times more than the money available. It is, therefore, very important that you are well prepared in submitting your application. The following outlines several steps that can significantly improve your chances of receiving a grant.

1. **Be well prepared**
    - > Know the funding agency - contact persons, addresses, and phone numbers.
    - > Be sure you are an eligible applicant for the agency and program through which you intend to apply.
    - > Investigate each grant opportunity to be sure that what you are applying for meets the funding criteria.
    - > Be complete and accurate in your application. Do not assume that you will have an opportunity to correct mistakes, update data, etc.
    - > Submit your application several days prior to the deadline; this assures it is in on time and shows that you are well prepared.
2. **Have a Vision, a Plan and a project that is ready to go.**
    - > A vision shows the funding agency that you have looked to the future. It shows where your application fits into the bigger picture in your community and/or department. A vision can come from your Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan or be a part of a broader community effort.
    - > A plan shows that you have looked at the details of what you want to do. Be more specific in your plan than in your vision.
    - > Describe where your matching funds will come from. Show that you can leverage funding from a variety of sources - local taxes, private contributions, other grants, etc.
    - > Describe in detail how you will address maintenance of any facilities. Maintenance is a key factor if an agency is to invest large dollars in your project.
    - > Show previous successes you have had. Show existing parks that have previously been funded. Indicate how your successes in other projects will impact the project you are applying for.

3. Contact the Funding Agencies

> Make a personal contact with the funding agency as early in the process as you can. Keep them informed. Show them your vision and how this specific project fits into it.

Other Funding Strategies

It is wise to consider more than one grant source for multi-faceted projects. Different agencies may be willing to provide funding for different portions of your project. For example, if a project includes construction of trails and development of a neighborhood park, there are agencies that will fund trails and others who will fund parks. Applying to both types of agencies for funding that meets their specific criteria enhances the likelihood of receiving a grant.

> **Surrounding Municipalities** - In some cases, surrounding municipalities have a specific interest in park facilities located within the Township. In these cases, there may be interest in making a financial contribution toward the project.

> **Local Organizations** - Often, local recreation organizations are willing to raise funds to be used for upgrades to their facilities. These funds should be considered as part of the local match for grant funding. For example, if a soccer organization is already investing annually to upgrade facilities, they may be willing to utilize several years' worth of that investment toward a major renovation of the soccer facility. This could provide funds to be used as matching funds for a grant.

> **Funds Already Planned for Use** - It is also helpful to consider funds that may already be allocated for use in or near a park that may be used as a source of matching funds. For instance, if a water or sewer line is being planned to run through a park, tapping into that line could make the money spent for its installation an eligible match for a park project. The same could be true of parking areas, roads, trails, trailheads, and other projects.

> **Creativity -** Creativity is key to finding and leveraging funding sources with one another. The intent is to reduce the local share as low as possible while accomplishing the goals of the project. Consider as many options as you can identify. Then contact the funding agencies to determine whether your plan meets their requirements.

Trail easements, programs, model ordinances

The process for acquiring needed easements for trails and additional parkland is flexible and may be based on the Township's comfort level with opening conversations with property owners. Naturally, the community may wish to consult with its solicitor, as legal advice may be needed.

The nature of an initial conversation about an easement could depend on the location of the property, the importance of an easement to the success of a project, and any understanding of the property owner's point of view about a project.

Pennsylvania-specific information on easement acquisition, easement agreements, sidewalk design and implementation, and strategic use of a township's official map may be found at conservationtools.org. This site also provides model easement agreement documents, both simple and detailed versions.

Mandatory Dedication or Fees-In-Lieu of Ordinance

A "Mandatory Dedication/Fee-in-Lieu Ordinance" is a valuable tool for enhancing and expanding park systems in a community, particularly in growing areas where land development is occurring. This ordinance requires developers to either dedicate a portion of land for park use or pay a fee in lieu of dedicating land, which is then used to fund park development or improvements.

These ordinances are very valuable to parks and community recreation. They:

- Ensure sufficient parkland for a growing population
- Promote accessibility and equity
- Address the financial burden of park development
- Preserve open space and environmental benefits
- Support long-term planning and sustainability
- Foster community health and well-being
- Incentive developer investment
- Improve the community's quality of life
- Give flexibility in fee-in-lieu provisions
- Allow legal and policy support of park planning

As part of this Plan, a review of Township Resolution No-2005-4, Fee-In-Lieu for Dedication of Open Space, was completed. The fee of $700 is currently designated as the per unit payment to the Township fee-in-lieu-of dedicating open space for residential development pursuant to the Township Ordinance No 303. This was amended on July 2, 2008, by the Rostraver Township Board of Commissioners.

The current fee generates approximately $50,000 annually which is then put into capital improvements within the Township Parks.

Generally, a fee-in-lieu follows a basic formula:

(Required Land Area in Acres) X (Fair Market Value per Acre) = Fee-in-Lieu Amount

For example, if a developer is building a subdivision with 100 houses and the local regulations require 1 acre of parkland per 50 dwelling units, this would mean 2 acres should be devoted to parkland. If the current fair market value of the land is the area is $50,000 per acre then the fee-in-lieu amount owed to the Township by the developer would be $100,000.

The document Public Dedication of Land and Fees-in-Lieu for Parks and Recreation prepared by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources provides the following option to determine the appropriate fees associated with development:

Assumptions:

- The municipality intends to provide for local parkland at a rate of 13 acres per 1,000. (National Standard provided through NRPA Metrics). This would equate to 148 acres to accommodate the 11,417 residents.
- Currently, the Township provides approximately 50 acres.
- The average household size is 2.63.

Calculation #1:

- Dividing the targeted 13 acres by 1,000 persons is equivalent to .013 acres per person.
- Multiplying that number by 2.63 persons per households equals .034 acres per household.

This calculation provides metrics for raw land, but local parks are more than raw land, they require infrastructure, improvements, and recreation equipment.

To account for the necessary upkeep and facilities doubling the preceding acreage figure would derive a public dedication that would effectively meet expected demand for developed parks of .056.

The Rostraver total taxable land assessments are $152,925,970 and the number of taxable parcels is 6,754. Divide the land assessments value by the taxable parcels provides an estimate of the Fair Market Value (FMV) at $22,6412.

Now divide the FMV by desired acreage: $22,642 x .056= $1,268

Calculation #2:

Another way to calculate a fee-in-lieu would include looking at the last 10 sales of land and the total acreage involved in the sales to estimate the FMV, or to have an appraisal of those properties.

This exercise would provide a recently calculated FMV on which to estimate an equivalent fee-in-lieu.

Other Municipalities Fee-in-Lieu

Municipality	Fee-in-Lieu
Cranberry Township	$1,022
Marshall Township	$1,200
Honey Brook Township	$1,200
Richland Township	$700
Borough of Franklin Park	$3,640
Chippewa Borough	$847
South Fayette	$1,100
Peters Township	N/A
Cecil Township	N/A
South Strabane	N/A

The Board should consider updating the current ordinance by increasing the fee from $700/per dwelling unit to $1,268. The Township may increase the fee incrementally over the next few years. The Township Solicitor should participate in the preparation of this update to the ordinance. Such as increase will generate an additional $30,000 or so each year.

More information on fee-in-lieu of dedication ordinances can be found in the Appendix.

Sponsorships

Sponsorship opportunities are an elective way to provide secure funding for special events and facilities.

Sponsorship could include:

- Logo on all event correspondence including print and digital promotional materials.
- Banner, posters and/or yard signs are displayed at the event.
- Social media recognition and tagging.
- Online presence including website logo with hyperlink and direct email blast hyperlink recognition.
- Attendance at an event on-site with a booth.
- Naming opportunities.
- Athletic field and amenities naming rights.

The associated cost of sponsorships would need to be determined by the program, event, or necessary facility upgrades determined by the Recreation Commission.

SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

The successful implementation of Rostraver Township's Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan depends on a variety of factors, including but not limited to, the following:

1. **Public Support and Education** - Rostraver's residents' support of future efforts to develop recreation opportunities and preserve open space is critical to the future of a successful system. Immediately following the approval of this planning document, efforts should be made to publicize its findings and recommendations.
2. **Involvement of Elected Officials** - As the primary decision-makers of the Township, elected officials should be updated on a regular basis regarding the recommendations of this plan, the status of implementation, public support, and related issues as they arise.
3. **Financial Support -** The Township continues to show a commitment to a quality recreation and open space system. Commitment to funding recreation, open space and greenways projects will greatly influence the success with which the recommendations of this plan are implemented. Alternative funding sources should be continually explored to supplement the contributions of local governments and local organizations.
4. **Volunteer and Partnership Efforts -** A strong volunteer base including partnerships with organizations such as the library and Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation Alliance.


PASHEK MTR