

UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN

SPRING 2016



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THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REGIONAL CONNECTIONS GRANT PROGRAM.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community Context

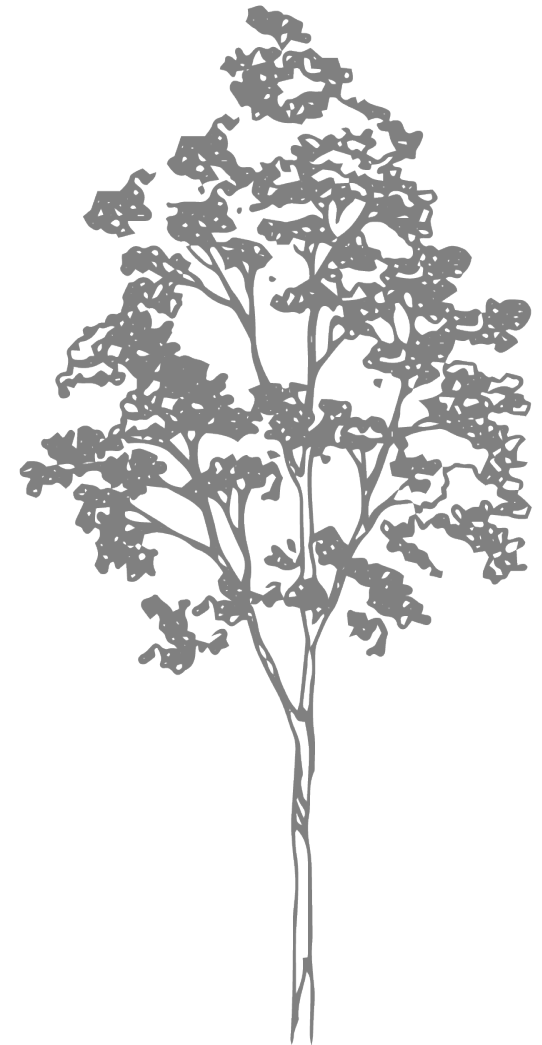
Upper Allen Township is a distinguished community located within Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Between the 1960's and 70's the Township experienced a rapid increase in population and since then the population has gradually continued to grow. Even in between 2000 and 2010, Upper Allen experienced one of the highest population growths in Cumberland County. Upper Allen is a community of families — just over 65% of the community is composed of family households, consistent with Cumberland County as a whole.

A Township of first-class, Upper Allen is largely made up of single-family homes as well as some multi-family homes. With very limited non-residential development in the community, the Township's tax base is largely dependent upon the residential properties.

The median age of the community is 37.9 and is slightly younger than the average age of the County. Illustrative of this younger population is the composition of Upper Allen — the two majority age cohorts being between the ages 20-24 (10.6%) and 15-19 (10.1%). Messiah College, a private college located in the southwestern area of the Township, has 2,789 students enrolled at the institute and thus is a pivotal factor in the total demographic composition.

Beyond Messiah College, Upper Allen has two elementary schools and one middle school within its municipal boundary. These schools are part of the Mechanicsburg Area School District, which comprises nine total schools within Mechanicsburg Borough, Shiremanstown Borough and Upper Allen Township. The Mechanicsburg Area School District provides a Trails and Trees Environmental Center, as well as school facilities which are used for different recreation programs.

The Township collaborates with the Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department to provide high-quality facilities, such as the Mechanicsburg Area Community Pool and a range of programming activities. The partnership allows for the community to take advantage of facilities and programs in the Mechanicsburg area at no additional cost to the residents.



Past Progress

As a Township that strives to provide its community with high quality parks, open spaces and programming, in 2002 the Township completed a Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan. This plan assessed the existing parks and recreation system and made recommendations based off analysis and outreach. Reviewing the past plan and considering which recommendations were prescribed compared to which ones were actually implemented shed insight upon which issues still have left to be addressed and what types of actions are actually viable for the Township to carry out. The following is a list of summarized recommendations themes and the status of each.

IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION SHOULD BE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY

Since the 2002 Plan the Township has acquired all of Winding Hills Park East. This includes the purchase of 25 acres in the early part of 2005 and the acquisition of an additional 12 acres in 2014. No additional greenway easements were acquired, instead the Township has begun the process of adding sidewalks to arterial roadways.

MAKE A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUING TO OPERATE WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF MARD (MECHANICSBURG AREA RECREATION DEPARTMENT).

The Township is currently contractually involved with the MARD.

WORK ON EXISTING PARKS FIRST. MAKE DECISIONS ON HOW THE PARKS WILL BE DESIGNED AND CONFIGURED OVER THE LONG TERM NOW.

Township maintenance personnel currently maintain municipal assets using current turf management standards. After the plan was released work was completed on Friendship and Simpson Park prior to improvements being made at the newer Winding Hills Park.

Considering the Past, Looking Towards the Future

When reviewing the 2002 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan, it was realized that though the strategies were thorough and logical, the extent of recommendations suggested by the plan were not possible. Still, the Township implemented the strategies that were decided most important, and during this formation of this plan, the 2002 recommendations and strategies were pivotal considerations. A key aspect of the past plan was to provide enough park acreage for residents to meet the NRPA Gold Medal Community Standard, which is 10 acres of parkland for every 10,000 residents. This recommended standard remains a requirement in the plan as well.

At the time of the 2002 Plan, the Township had a total population of about 15,000 residents. Since then, over 3,000 residents have joined the community. Though the Township has made strides in acquiring additional park land since the completion of the last plan, the increased population reiterated that there is a decreasing amount of undeveloped land left and the residents of this community need adequate park space. Upper Allen Township is not only considering its current population, but the build-out population in the future. In the case of this plan, the build-out population refers to the population if all remaining, developable land was developed with the same population density Upper Allen has experienced thus far in its history and the zoning districts remain as they are today.

Based on Tri-County Regional Planning Commission projections, by 2040 the Township will have reached 22,747. This projection may be somewhat modest, since in the last five years the Township has gained almost 2,000 residents, putting the population near 20,000 — we assume the population will grow more than 2,000 in the next 24 years. The Township conducted a population analysis for their Comprehensive Plan which projected the build-out population as 25,000. Considering current growth patterns, population density, the remaining land and the existing zoning districts, our estimation for the Township's build-out population is somewhere between 28,000 and 30,000 residents.

While the estimated build-out population may reach up to 30,000 residents, we based our park land allocation requirements off the Tr-County's 2040 projection. Even when the build-out population is reached, the amount of parkland provided to residents will be sufficient for providing residents with enough high-quality recreational spaces.

Public Outreach

A public survey was made available to residents or visitors of Upper Allen to give input and insight about how the general public felt about the parks and recreation system. The survey was available on-line and hard copies were available at the municipal building and at various community events. To disseminate awareness of this survey, an promotional article was ran in the community newsletter and e-mail alerts were sent out to residents. The survey was available from November 20th, 2015 to March 6th, 2016. A total of 819 survey responses were received by the Township.

Total Survey Responses: **819**

Total Township Households: **7,059**

Percentage of Township household response rate: **11.4%**

In conjunction with the Steering Committee's help with identifying problems and determining priorities, the results from the public survey greatly shaped this plan's recommendations, providing insight and revealing issues and needs of the community that became some of the most important and valuable analysis components.

Key Take-Aways:

- Out of all the possible park amenities, the most interest is in developing more trails, both paved and unpaved.
- Additional park amenities that received high responses of interest are designated canoeing/kayaking/tubing areas and increased water access points. More open fields for informal activities also yielded high responses of interest.
- Many people can walk to their local park (about 70% of respondents), but those that can't would like to be able to.
- Parks like Friendship Park, Fisher Community Park, and Winding Hills Park are well known and visited by the community, but several of the other municipal parks aren't even known to residents.

- The community recognizes the Township's effort in maintaining parks, and respondents relay that the parks they do visit are in excellent condition in terms of facility maintenance and cleanliness.
- In some parks, litter has become an issue, especially in parks which are located adjacent to Yellow Breeches Creek.
- In the parks that respondents visit, besides more walking paths and trails, they would like to see more benches, more shade structures and better lighting.
- Many residents are interested in a designated dog park. Additional comments were received about the concern of dogs being off-leash in parks that aren't reserved as dog parks.
- Residents have a general interest in an indoor recreation facility or a community center. There was also reported interest in additional sports courts, which could be satisfied by the development of such a facility or center.
- Over 50% of respondents reported that they have never attended programming offered by the Township/MARD, and only about 30% of residents attend programming on a regular basis. That being said, almost all residents that have attended programming have had positive experiences.
- Currently, most residents get their information about the parks, programs and special events through the Mechnaicsburg Recreational Programs Brochure, but also procure information through the internet and Township newsletters. In the future, respondents said they would prefer to have more information about parks, programming and special events be available through the internet, though the brochure and newsletter would still be used as modes of information.

Key Person Interviews

Significant insight about the existing parks and recreation programs were relayed through phone-call interviews with key persons. The roster of interviewees were Township Commissioners and residents of the community who were somehow involved in the parks and recreation system, whether it be through holding related positions or were actively passionate about the community's parks and recreation system. One of the most helpful aspects of the interviewing process was the diverse positions and viewpoints that were received by key persons. Despite the range of opinions expressed through the interviews, there were still several issues that many felt should be addressed by the Comprehensive Plan. The following is an overview of the similarities and contrasts of the interviews.

Interview Response Summary

The Township's park facilities focus on athletic activities for school-aged children. Many of the different community teams which use the athletic fields expect them to be state-of-the-art, but this creates a challenge because most athletic activities do not generate any revenue. This focus on athletic facilities creates an imbalance of active and passive recreational activities. Many feel that there needs to be more passive activities offered to residents, such as educational opportunities, trail walking, bird watching, etc. While some parks, like Simpson Park, provide opportunities for passive recreation, the amount of visitors is too high for the parks capacity. Issues that come about from visitors beyond the capacity of parks are parking issues and litter issues, both which impose upon the park. This demonstrates that it may be of interest to the Township that more park area should be dedicated to passive recreation to mitigate this issue.

Several interviewees recognize the value of being involved in the Joint Recreation Committee and the partnership with the Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department (MARD), like the range of programs and equitable access to the Mechanicsburg Pool. While this partnership is valuable, many feel that involvement can be reconfigured and the current system does not function as smoothly as it has potential to. Several interviewees felt that the Township itself should consider providing some of their own programs in conjunction with those provided by MARD and that expanding partnerships with other community stakeholders, such as Messiah College, may be beneficial to the Township.

Many interviewees feel that though there are ample programming opportunities for residents, there are improvements that can be made to the recreation programming system. Programming tends to be centered around athletics, which does serve a large portion of the community, but this athletically-focused system does not meet the needs of all Township community members. Several interviewees feel that more programming should be offered to accommodate seniors and young children, as well as school-aged children not interested in athletics. There is significant interest in educational opportunities, especially for natural amenities such as Yellow Breeches Creek. The stream itself is within the migration path of the Baltimore Heron and the monarch butterfly, and is rich with a variety of beautiful trees and plants, such as Sycamore trees along McCormick Park. Shifting focus on natural preservation and education in certain parks, rather than on active recreation, can balance the recreational opportunities provided by the Township.

Since Upper Allen Township has a rich heritage, many interviewees expressed support in connecting the Township's two most valuable assets – its history and natural amenities. The Yellow Breeches Historic District, which runs along McCormick Road, is in close proximity to McCormick road and presents the opportunity to connect these two community features. A suggestion as to bringing natural and historic features together is through wayfinding signs. This will increase awareness of the different parks and historic district, and in turn will stimulate the visitation of each.

Overall, the big take aways of the interviews were: The partnership with the Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department is valuable but can be improved, there needs to be more park facilities and programs which focus on passive recreation to accommodate its citizens and mitigate pressure put on parks which experience high volumes, and there needs to be a higher focus on preserving the Township's natural assets while connecting them to other community resources.

The Community's Commitment

Upper Allen Township is passionate about providing high-quality parks and open spaces to its citizens. Offering three premiere active recreation oriented parks, two popular passive recreation parks, and a handful of neighborhood green spaces, the Township understands not only that a variety of activities of amenities need to be provided through its park system, but also an adequate amount of park space for the Township's growing population. With these factors in mind, the Township realized the need to update its Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan to analyze the state of its parks, programming, maintenance practices and management system to ensure its satisfying the needs and desires of the community.

As a driving force, a mission statement and goals were formed early on to provide the philosophical foundation and direction for the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. These elements reflect the Township's aspiration of how its parks and recreation system should function and how the system should benefit its citizens.

Mission Statement

Upper Allen Township enhances the quality of life for its citizens by conserving its natural resources and providing first-rate open spaces and facilities accessible to all of its citizens.

Goals

- # 1 *Provide recreation opportunities that balance the protection of open space and natural resources with the need for active recreation facilities and space.*
- # 2 *Continue to maintain parks and open space to an unparalleled standard while enhancing maintenance practices for different park types that serve different functions.*
- # 3 *Expand relations and partnership opportunities that allow for programming to satisfy the desires of the Township's range of citizens.*
- # 4 *Develop a system for creating a capital improvements fund that allows for the Township to plan for large-scale facility investments in the future.*



Key Components

Keeping the Township's mission and goals in mind, this plan assesses the Township's existing park and recreation system and outlines a series of broad recommendations or actions that will help shape the focus and activities of the community's various recreation providers for the next decade. The Plan's recommendations and actions are focused around six key themes that emerged from research, analysis and throughout the public engagement process. These themes include:

LAND ALLOCATION

The way and extent to which acreage in the Township is dedicated to parks and open space in comparison to the standardized benchmarks it will need to acquire to accommodate its citizens. The baseline of this assessment extends from the findings and preferred direction identified in the Township's 2002 Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Essential recommendations for land allocation include:

- Adopt open space/recreation requirements to satisfy the current and projected populations
 - MINIMUM ACREAGE: 181 acres
 - MAXIMUM ACREAGE: 250 acres
 - %ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS: 75
 - %PASSIVE RECREATION AREAS: 25
- Adopt appropriate long-term amenity targets

PLAYGROUNDS: 12	OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS: 8
BASEBALL FIELDS: 12	INDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS: 12
SOFTBALL FIELDS: 6	TENNIS COURTS: 4
SOCCER FIELDS: 10	PICKLEBALL COURTS: 4
LACROSSE FIELDS: 5	
- Amend the Zoning Ordinance/SALDO to incentivize fee-in-lieu options rather than small-scale open space dedications.

FACILITIES

Individual parks and open spaces of the Township have been examined based on existing conditions; These observations, in conjunction with administrative and resident feedback, direct facility-specific recommendations.

Priority recommendations for facilities include:

- Continue to support planning efforts currently underway
- Provide universal accessibility in all public recreation areas
- Assess priority of additional recreational amenities to provide in existing parks
- Create a Yellow Breeches Creek Task Force and develop a management plan for its recreational use and environmental protection
- Designate and construct two (2) additional water access points along Yellow Breeches Creek
- Adopt Park Classification standards
- Implement a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette where applicable
- Conduct a feasibility study for an indoor recreation facility/community center

CONNECTIVITY

Upper Allen residents look at mobility through a multi-modal perspective. Opportunities for expanding upon initial work conducted as part of the Township's Comprehensive Plan is explored. Extending accessibility by foot and bike is an ever expanding initiative the Township seeks to explore.

Essential recommendations for connectivity include:

- Develop the Green Route trail system to connect parks, neighborhoods, and commercial areas
- Implement Zoning Ordinance/SALDO amendments to incentivize Green Route development
- Investigate the feasibility of forming a conservation easement program to support trail acquisition.



PROGRAMMING

Collaborative programming opportunities are provided by many. The way in which the Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department and others come together are continuing hallmarks of quality offered to Township residents.

Essential recommendations for programming include:

- Continue to support and participate in MARD
- Consider the rebranding and promotion of MARD
- Expand partnerships for programming
- Expand family, small child and senior programming

MAINTENANCE

From notably clean restrooms to meticulously mowed lawn/turf areas, insights into maintenance highlights the practices that keep the Township's facilities desirable and opportunities to enhance areas needing additional attention.

Essential recommendations for maintenance include:

- Maintain a Certified Playground Safety Inspector and Certified Public Pesticide Applicator certification/license for at least one staff member
- Develop and standardize maintenance practices for each typology within the Park Classification Standards and Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette
- Create a formal, written maintenance plan
- Adopt additional waste management standards/practices

MANAGEMENT & FINANCING

Management is a reflection of how parks and recreation are planned, administered, directed and evaluated in terms of meeting community goals and with respect to Township resources. Organizational structure, staffing, public involvement, partnerships, information management, maintenance, revenues and expenditures all come together. This assessment is aimed to provide a framework for ensuring that park and recreational services management within Upper Allen's parks and natural areas can continue to meet the demands of a growing community while protecting their many values.

Essential Recommendations for Management & Financing Include:

- Create a capital improvements/capital replacement sinking fund
- Consider increasing the allocation of budget resource to parks and recreation through the Board of Commissioners



PREFACE

Introduction

The 2016 Upper Allen Township Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan presents a more targeted focus for addressing the community's park and recreation services at a pivotal time in its history. Upper Allen has experienced steady population growth and land development with thousands of new residents and related tax revenue over the past 40 years. However, the increasing demands on public services, a dwindling supply of affordable and available land, a mounting list of resident desires for the park system and the heavy reliance on residential tax base to support new recreational development, poses a series of key questions that this Plan tries to answer:

- How much park and open space land is needed for future generations?
- What trade offs will be needed in order to balance the fiscal demands and needs of the Township's park and recreation system?
- How can the parks and recreation system continue to function as a major contributor to the quality of life in Upper Allen?

Purpose of the Plan

In the Spring of 2015, the Township launched the Plan update process. This Plan is the result of a critical assessment of the existing state of the parks and recreation system, which will lead to solutions that will keep needed services running efficiently. It builds on the previous Plan (2002), in some cases reinforcing recommendations that were made but not implemented, the work that Board of Commissioners, Township Administration and Park and Recreation Board has completed since 2002 as well as the analyses/assessments of new and emerging trends.

The park, recreation and open space system is an integral element of Upper Allen Township's long held values and support for athletics, leisure, nature, health and wellness. Today's system of parklets, trails, playgrounds, athletic fields, natural areas and its partnership with the Mechanicsburg Area School District and its neighboring communities is a major contributor to the Township's regional acclaim for high quality of life, strong community support and a commitment to investment.

This Plan presents the policy framework that will assist the Township's elected officials, administration and volunteer boards and organizations in the stewardship of our parks, recreational assets and programming efforts as well as to guide future decision making related to the acquisition or protection of open space areas for the enjoyment of future generations. A steering committee provided insight and direction throughout the 15-month long planning process. The steering committee was composed of representatives from the Township's Board of Commissioners, Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Board, the Township Administration, the Mechanicsburg Area School District and a variety of community-based organizations with a strong focus on trails, recreation and open space areas.

Key Components

In brief, the following Plan outlines a series of broad recommendations or actions that will help shape the focus and activities of the community's various recreation providers for the next decade. The Plan's recommendations and actions are focused around six key themes that emerged from research, analysis and throughout the public engagement process. These themes include:

- Land Allocation
- Facilities
- Connectivity
- Programming
- Maintenance
- Management & Financing

The Plan also outlines an action strategy that provides the basis for an on-going strategic planning process that will ensure the implementation of the Plan. Additionally, the action strategy creates a structure through which the Plan's recommendations or actions are reviewed on a periodic basis, and that its priorities or focus areas are adjusted accordingly. It is through the implementation of a 'living plan' that the community will see that the Township has made a) a long-term commitment to recreation and leisure; b) is result-driven; and c) is collaborative in nature.

Benefits

Four key benefits emerged from the overall planning process. These benefits simply reinforce the role of parks, recreation and open space in Upper Allen Township and signify their importance to the community's high quality of life. Accommodating the upcoming decade's demands and needs for recreation will challenge the community when trying to balance its use of its limited resources. This Plan has been developed to provide policy-makers with the information necessary, such as the following benefits, to make effective and informed decisions and to keep parks, recreation and open space areas an essential element in the community.

Benefit #1: Resident Wellness

Parks and recreation facilities and programs provide for a well-balanced and healthy community. In the public survey, respondents repeatedly pointed to trails as a 'top' recreational amenity. Walking and cycling via trails provides a resident with a renewed sense of self-worth and transcends the barriers created by scattered development, infrastructure corridors and topography.

Benefit #2: Community Building

Park, recreation and open space systems are one of the most effective tools for building a sense of community and further enhancing a community's quality of life index. Parks and trails channel positive community participation by getting diverse people to work together toward a shared vision. Upper Allen Township has a strong history in collaborative efforts – its on-going partnership with the Mechanicsburg Area School District and the public access to Messiah College trails are just two examples. Volunteer participation, whether through a baseball association, a local watershed council or a 'Silver Sneakers' walking group is an important part of community-building through its park, recreation and open space system.

Benefit #3: Economic Enhancement

Parks and open space areas improve property values, attract people to live and work in the community, and persuade retirees to stay in an area. Economic investment in residential neighborhoods and the revitalization of commercial corridors is enhanced by financial commitments to parks that in turn attract additional private investment capital and increased property values. Upper Allen Township's park and recreation facilities are not only enjoyed by its residents but can also attract visitors from neighboring communities and can contribute to the local economy and tourism trade.

Benefit #4: Environmental Stewardship

The Township's natural areas retain and filter storm water, serve as buffers between incompatible land uses, create definition and character for neighborhoods, provide green links between residential areas, parks, and schools, and protect wildlife and habitat areas while providing passive recreation opportunities close to home. The Township has numerous examples of natural areas, such as Center Square Park, Simpson Park and McCormick Park, whose ecologic health and sustainability are integral to their surrounding neighborhoods.

THE PLAN

How is this Plan organized?

This plan is broken down into two main sections, **Discovery** and **Direction**.

Discovery is organized into three components, Introduction, Insight and Assessment.

Introduction - enumerates the purpose or role that this plan plays for the Township – Administration, Board of Commissioners, Park and Recreation Board and residents. This section also highlights the key objectives and points of focus that this plan has been built around.

Insight - outlines and analyzes the issues, influences and trends impacting and shaping the Township's park, recreation and open space needs, demands and resource availability. Insight examines the demographic trends and development patterns that have evolved since the Township's previous Comprehensive, Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan was published (2002). Moreover, Insight summarizes the key highlights and inputs gleaned from the residents who participated in the Township-wide park, recreation and open space survey.

Assessment - examines the current parks, recreation and open space system – including six topical areas:

1. Land Allocation
2. Facilities
3. Connectivity
4. Programming
5. Maintenance; and
6. Management & Financing

Statistics, maps, comparison tables, photographs are used to illustrate the key issues and evaluate their significance. Subsequently, a series of recommendations have been formulated to address the major issues facing the Township's ability to effectively develop, manage and/or deliver park and recreation services or programs. Additional information related to the Assessment section has been incorporated into the plan's Appendix.

Direction lays out the action strategy for implementing the overall plan and its various recommendations. Direction describes the how, the when and the who of making the plan a reality. In this section, the plan's various recommendations, which then drive the actions, are divided into two categories:



Essentials – consists of the plan actions that ‘drive’ the implementation of some of the plan’s recommendations. The ‘drivers’ are not necessarily the plan’s most time sensitive or resource intense recommendations but they do represent the actions that impact, shape or direct the implementation of other recommendations. Consequently, the term ‘driver.’ If implementation of the Essentials languishes – implementation of the overall plan can become inert.



Auxiliaries – represents important actions that the community needs to implement but are largely independent of other recommendations or actions. Many of the Auxiliaries can be implemented directly by the Township Administration or the Board of Commissioners and have fewer stakeholders involved. The implementation time frames of the Auxiliaries vary from short-term to long-term and vary in resource needs from little to intense.

Park Specifics - organizes actions by park and open space, delineating the recommendation using the hierarchy of *Essential* or *Auxiliary*. While each park recommendation and their corresponding actions may specifically address an issue that the park faces, all recommendations fit into a general recommendations outlined as either *Essential* or *Auxiliary*.

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DISCOVERY



INSIGHT

FOUNDATION

Community History

Cumberland County was created in 1750, emerging from the western portion of Lancaster County. The County was divided into East Pennsborough and West Pennsborough Townships. In 1757, the voters of Cumberland County selected a patrician from Philadelphia named William Allen as their representative in the General Assembly. Serving as Mayor of Philadelphia and Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, William Allen influenced central Pennsylvania significantly. Cumberland County created Allen Township in honor of their Assemblyman about one year later (Christ, 1993).

Allen Township initially comprised what we know today as Lower Allen, Upper Allen and Monroe Townships, the Boroughs of New Cumberland and Shiremanstown, and portions of the Boroughs of Lemoyne and Mechanicsburg (Christ, 1993). In 1825, during the last year of James Monroe's presidency, Monroe Township established itself from the western portion of Allen Township, reducing Allen Township's size (Keefer, 1976). In 1831, Allen Township was reduced in size again, this time in the east, by the establishment of the Borough of New Cumberland. In 1849 the County Court received a petition, instigated by citizens of the lower portion of Allen Township, stating that the Township was "long and inconvenient for Township purposes for those living in the extreme ends." Allen Township divided into Upper Allen and Lower Allen Townships in January, 1850. The hastily drawn boundary line between the two Townships created what is now the Village of Lisburn in Lower Allen Township. In 1857, Upper Allen residents of the Village of Lisburn petitioned to change the boundary because they were closer to the Lower Allen School than to the Upper Allen School. The Court sided with the petitioners and the boundary line was redrawn to include the Village of Lisburn within Lower Allen Township (Christ, 1993).

Early settlers of current day Cumberland County and Upper Allen Township were of Scottish-Irish descent. The settlement pattern was for the first arrivals to buy land at the power sites along the Yellow Breeches Creek. Later, several other mills were constructed along the stream. By the 1760s, the settlement patterns of the township and county were changing. Following the French and Indian War (1765), land offices were opened to receive warrants for land in Bedford, Somerset, and Westmoreland Counties. Most of the Scotch-Irish moved from this area to the newly opened western tracts. Local landholdings were readily sold to migrating Germans moving in from Lancaster County (Upper Allen Heritage Committee, 1976).

Community Character

Upper Allen Township, along with Mechanicsburg Borough and Shiremanstown Borough, is within the Mechanicsburg Area School District. The School District is made up of nine schools, Upper Allen being home to the Upper Allen Elementary School, Shepherdstown Elementary School and Mechanicsburg Middle School. Additionally, Messiah College is located within the Township, with a total enrollment of 2,789. The educational facilities of the Township provide the community with spaces for programming and education. The Mechanicsburg Area School District provides a Trails and Trees Environmental Center, as well as school facilities which are used for different recreational programs.

A Township of first-class, Upper Allen is largely made up of single-family homes, as well as some multi-family homes. With very limited non-residential development in the community, the Township's tax base is largely dependent upon the residential properties.

The community's history is valued by the Township. Several Historic districts are located within and around the Township. Historic districts include the Yellow Breeches Historic District, Rosegaden Mill Historic District, Shepherdstown Historic District, and Trout Run Historic District. Several of these historic districts abut the Yellow Breeches Creek, and in combination these two valuable assets give a glimpse into the community's past.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike, Interstate 76, traverses the northern part of the township from east to west, while the U.S. Route 15 freeway runs through the township from northeast to southwest. The township is accessible from U.S. Route 15 from three highway interchanges, while Exit 236 provides access from the Pennsylvania Turnpike.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Population Analysis

The demographic analysis of the Township was conducted through use of the 2010 National Census. Upper Allen Township has a total population of 18,059 and a total number of households of 7,059. The median age of the community is 37.9 years, and the largest age cohort is between the ages of 20-24, the second largest cohort between 15-19. Compared to Cumberland County as a whole, citizens of these age ranges are significantly more present than in the rest of the county.

Upper Allen Township is a community for families. Family households account for 65.8% of the community's total households, and 26.8% of the total households have children under 18 years of age. The composition of community households was a significant factor of consideration during the creation of the Plan.

Over the past forty years, the Township's population has steadily increased. Between the 1960's and 70's, the Township experienced its most dramatic influx of residents, where the population tripled. Since then it has continued to increase, but at a more modest, metered pace. Between 2000 and 2010, the population increased by 2,721 residents, an increase of 17.7%.

FIGURE 1: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

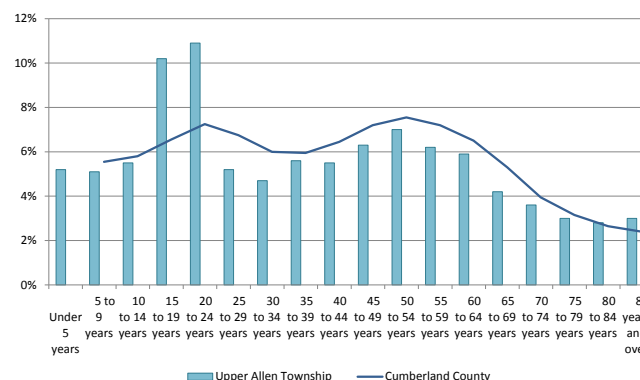
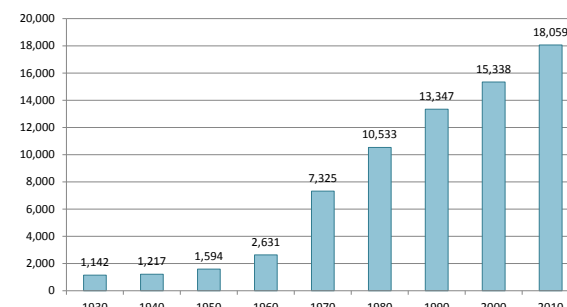


FIGURE 2: POPULATION CHANGE



Income & Education

The median household income of Upper Allen is \$68,151, and the median family income is \$87,466 (a family consists of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption residing in the same housing unit. A household consists of all people who occupy a housing unit regardless of relationship, as defined by the United States Census Bureau). These median incomes are similar to other municipalities within Cumberland County and York County, such as Monaghan Township of York County. Overall, the median incomes for Upper Allen Township are higher than those of Cumberland County and York County.

Upper Allen Township is a community that values education. 96.4% of the population above the age of 25 has a high school diploma, and 64.3% of the population above the age of 25 has some form of higher education.

Population Projections

Based off Population Projections provided by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, the Township’s population will have risen to 22,747 residents in 2040. This is a change of 26% compared to the 2010 census population, and a significant increase of residents. Cumberland County as a whole is projected to increase in population as well, growing from 235,406 to 280,505. This increase in population will be a positive change of 19.2%, significant though not as dramatic as Upper Allen’s.

TABLE 1: EXISTING POPULATION AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Municipality	2000 Census	2010 Census	Population Projections			
			2020	2030	2040	% Change 2010-2040
Upper Allen Township	15,338	18,059	19,738	21,429	22,747	26.00%
Cumberland County	213,674	235,406	251,836	268,063	280,505	19.20%

2002 COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN

The Plan in Review

In 2002, Upper Allen Township completed a Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan which assessed the existing parks and recreation system and made viable recommendations based off analysis and outreach. The following is a list of summarized recommendations themes and a review of the status of each.

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION SHOULD BE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY

Since the 2002 Plan the Township has acquired all of Winding Hills Park East. This includes the purchase of 25 acres in the early part of 2005 and the acquisition of an additional 12 acres in 2014. No additional greenway easements were acquired, instead the Township has begun the process of adding sidewalks to arterial roadways.

CONSIDER RETAINING A FINANCIAL PLANNING CONSULTANT TO GUIDE THE TOWNSHIP'S INVESTMENTS IN PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE OVER THE NEXT FIVE, TEN, AND TWENTY YEARS

No Progress

WORK ON EXISTING PARKS FIRST. MAKE DECISIONS ON HOW THE PARKS WILL BE DESIGNED AND CONFIGURED OVER THE LONG TERM NOW.

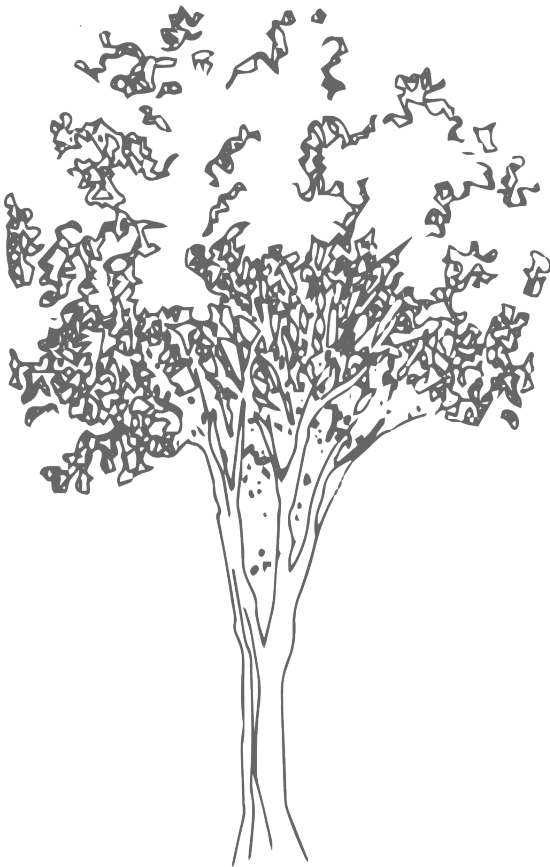
Township maintenance personnel currently maintain municipal assets using current turf management standards. After the plan was released work was completed on Friendship and Simpson Park prior to improvements being made at the newer Winding Hills Park.

DEVELOP A PLAN FOR A COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

Recommendation and suggestion abandoned due to overall cost and priority.

DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR A SELECTED GREENWAY, PREFERABLY WITH A TRAIL, AS A PILOT PROJECT

No progress due to funding.



MAKE A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUING TO OPERATE WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF MARD (THE MECHANICSBURG AREA RECREATION DEPARTMENT).

The Township is currently contractually involved with the MARD.

FOCUS ON YOUTH AGES 11-13, SENIOR ADULTS, AND FAMILIES

No progress

ESTABLISH A PLAN FOR WORKING TOWARDS INVESTING EQUAL TO AT LEAST THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA FOR PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

No progress

CONTINUE TO INVOLVE CITIZENS IN A STRATEGIC FASHION IN PARKS, RECREATION, GREENWAY, AND OPEN SPACE EFFORTS

No progress

ESTABLISH AN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS, PROMOTE EFFORTS TO CONSERVE OPEN SPACE, ASSIST ADMINISTRATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND MONITOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ISSUES.

No progress

PUBLIC SURVEY SUMMARY

Overview

A public survey was made available to residents or visitors of Upper Allen to give input and insight about how the general public felt about the parks and recreation system. The survey was available on-line and hard copies were available at the municipal building and at various community events. To disseminate awareness of this survey, an promotional article was ran in the community newsletter and e-mail alerts were sent out to residents. The survey was available from November 20th, 2015 to March 6th, 2016. A total of 819 survey responses were submitted.

In conjunction with the Steering Committee's help with identifying problems and determining priorities, the results from the public survey greatly shaped this plan's recommendations, providing insight and revealing issues and needs of the community that became some of the most important and valuable analysis components.

Key Take-Aways:

- Out of all the possible park amenities, the most interest is in developing more trails, both paved and unpaved.
- Many people can walk to their local park, but those that can't would like to be able to.
- Parks like Friendship Park, Fisher Community Park, and Winding Hills Park are well known and visited by the community, but several of the other municipal parks aren't even known to residents.
- The community recognizes the Township's effort in maintaining parks.
- In some parks, litter has become an issue, especially in parks which are located adjacent to Yellow Breeches Creek.
- Many residents are interested in a designate dog park.
- Almost all residents that have attended programming have had positive experiences.

QUESTION 1

If you are a resident of Upper Allen Township, where in the Township do you live?

Total Response Count: **808**

Total Township Households: **7,059**

Percentage of Township household response rate: **11.4%**

Total Township Population: **18,059**

Census Tract 116.01 Population: **7,486**

Census Tract 116.02 Population: **3,932**

Census Tract 116.05 Population: **4,414**

Census Tract 9816.06 Population: **2,227**

The total amount of responses are representative of 11.4% of the total amount of Township households, which is considered a good response rate.

From the chart above, we can see that a majority of respondents of the survey live in Section 6, which is also the Section where Winding Hills Park is located. When analyzing the Sections in comparison to the Township's census tracts, census tract 116.01 is the most populated, so it makes sense that the most responses would be from Section 6.

TABLE 2: UPPER ALLEN RESIDENCE DISTRIBUTION

	Response Percent	Response Count
Section 1	20.4%	165
Section 2	13.6%	110
Section 3	7.4%	60
Section 4	4.1%	33
Section 5	16.7%	135
Section 6	35.6%	288
I don't live in Upper Allen Township	2.1%	17

FIGURE 3: UPPER ALLEN RESIDENCE DISTRIBUTION

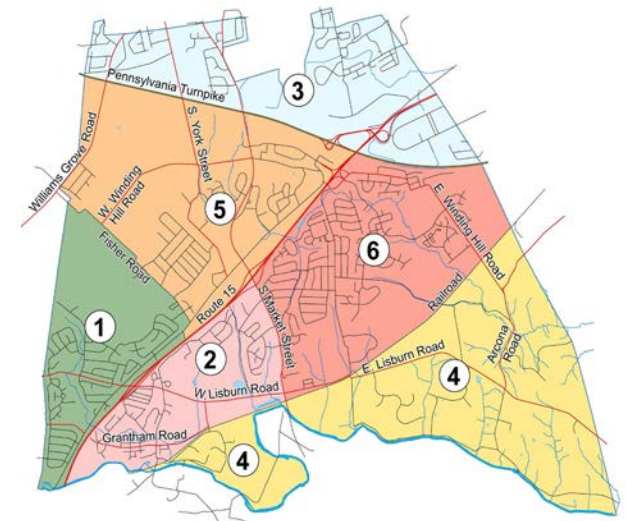
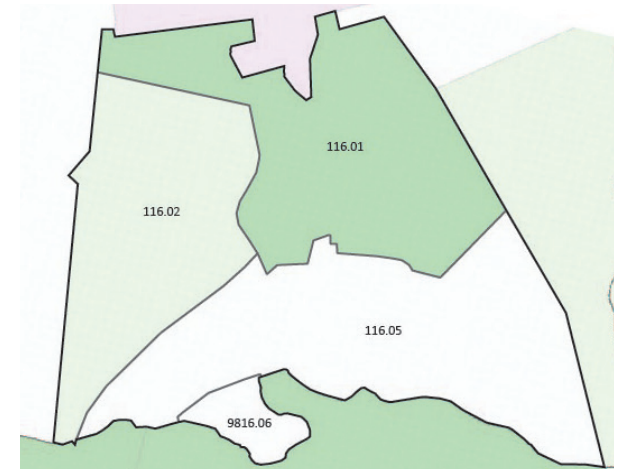


FIGURE 4: UPPER ALLEN CENSUS TRACTS



QUESTION 2

Please indicate the age for yourself and all other members of your household. If there are multiple member in same ages, please tally.

From the results above, we can see that most of the respondents have two adults and children residing the household, indicating that many respondents are in family households.

TABLE 3: NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS PER AGE RANGE

	Number of Household Members Per Age Range											
	NONE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL
0-10 years	42	125	123	31	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	286
11-20 years	28	118	83	15	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	226
21-30 years	42	80	28	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	112
31-40	33	65	152	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	217
41-50	27	99	147	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	249
51-60	32	96	117	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	215
61+ years	30	88	145	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	236

QUESTION 3

How often do you or members of your household use parks and recreation facilities? Choose one response for each facility that you frequent.

From the results above, we can see that the most visited parks are Fisher Community Park and Friendship Park, both of them being ranked highest for occasionally visited, weekly visited, and almost daily visited. Winding Hill Park was listed second in the category as visited daily, and this may be due to the high responses received by residents that live near the park.

Rosegarden Park, Mt. Allen Park, and Country Estates Park are the parks which the most amount of respondents never visit, and we can see that many of the respondents have not heard of several of the smaller parks.

TABLE 4: PARK AND OPEN SPACE VISITATION FREQUENCY

	Visit	Visit Daily	Visit Weekly	Visit Occasionally	Never Visit	Never Heard of It
Aspen Park	1	4	1	25	167	371
Center Square Park	3	2	2	59	225	282
Fisher Community Park	52	44	148	371	87	24
Country Estates Park	2	3	6	34	229	284
Friendship Park	46	21	145	379	101	29
Grantham Park	11	3	16	146	271	143
McCormick Park	26	6	34	205	196	152
Millers Crest Park	0	1	4	20	186	348
Mt Allen Park	7	6	16	135	256	161
Rosegarden Park	14	9	18	58	302	172
Simpson Park	25	5	29	220	215	128
Spring Run Park	5	7	15	60	218	272
Winding Hill Park	25	35	113	172	183	113

QUESTION 4

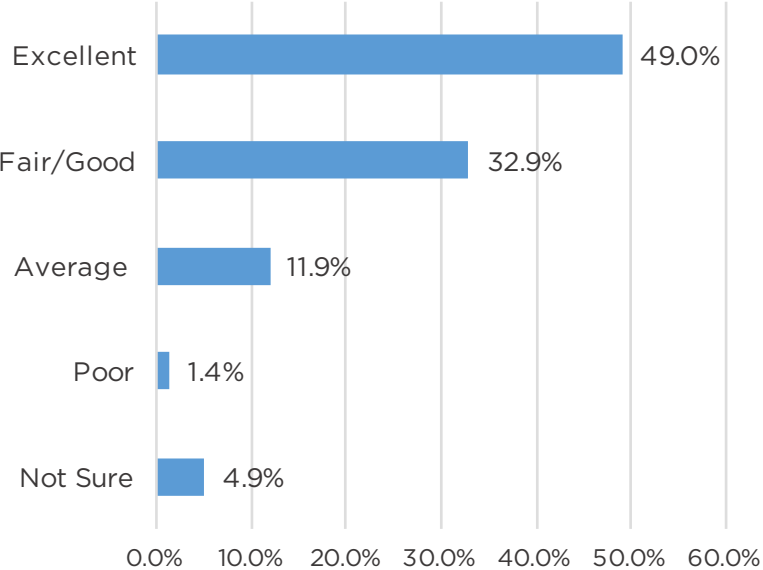
Out of the parks that you visit, how would you rate the Township’s park facilities maintenance and cleanliness?

There is an overwhelming response from participants that they are satisfied with the Township park facilities’ maintenance and cleanliness — about half of participants said that the facilities were excellent in maintenance and cleanliness, and another thirty percent said it was in fair/good condition. This response is indicative that the Township is successfully keeping their parks maintained and the residents notice that.

TABLE 5: PARK MAINTENANCE RATING

	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	49.0%	392
Fair/Good	32.9%	263
Average	11.9%	95
Poor	1.4%	11
Not Sure	4.9%	39

FIGURE 5: PARK MAINTENANCE RATING



QUESTION 5

From your house, can you walk or bike safely to your local park?

About 70% of respondents reported that they are able to walk or bike safely from their homes to their local park. 30% of the respondents indicated they were unable to do so.

It was hypothesized that the high amount of responses received from households in Section 6 (the section in which Winding Hill Park is located) may have skewed these results, but after removing Section 6 answers, 66% of respondents still reported being able to access parks safely by bike or foot from their homes.

*Responses Count: yes: 564, no: 246

QUESTION 6

If you can't walk or bike safely, would you like to be able to use sidewalks or paths separated from road?

Though in the previous question, 70% of respondents indicated they were able to safely walk or bike to their local park from their homes, there are still residents unable to reach their local park safely by these modes of transport.

When prompted whether they would like to be able to reach their local park safely by foot or bike, 72% of respondents answered yes.

*Responses Count: yes: 445, no: 171

FIGURE 6: PARK WALKABILITY

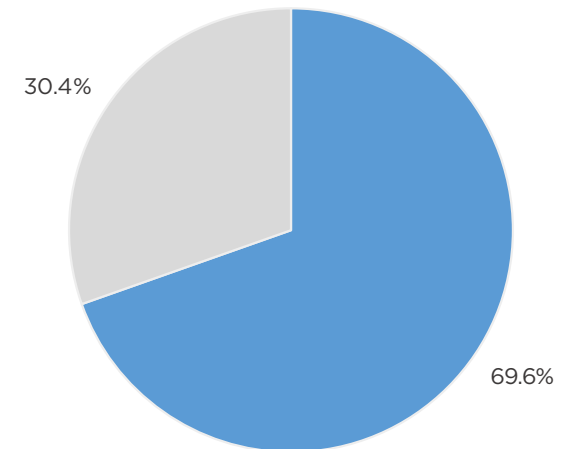


FIGURE 7: PARK WALKABILITY DESIRABILITY

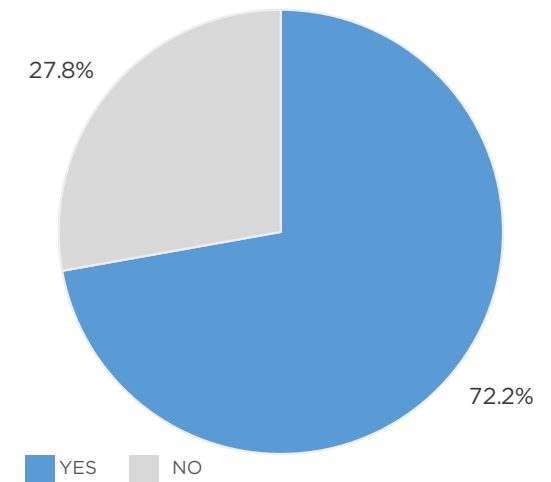


TABLE 6: RATING OF PROGRAMMING

	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	20.0%	158
Good	18.6%	147
Average	6.6%	52
Poor	1.5%	12
Never	53.4%	422

QUESTION 7

As you may know, Upper Allen is a partner in the Joint Recreation Committee, which facilitates parks and recreation programming within the Mechanicsburg Area School District. If you have attended any of the programs, how would you generally rate the quality of them?

TABLE 7: PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	31.3%	253
No	68.7%	555

QUESTION 8

Do you attend any of the existing programs?

Over half of respondents indicate that they have never been to any programming facilitated by the Mechanicsburg Area School District. However, the majority of those who have attended programming consider it excellent or good. Less than 10% feel that programming is average or below average, indicating that those who are attending the programming find it satisfactory and enjoy it.

TABLE 8: PROGRAM ATTENDANCE FREQUENCY

	Response Percent	Response Count
Daily	0.9%	6
Weekly	11.8%	81
Occasionally	25.4%	174
N/A	61.9%	424

QUESTION 9

If so, how often?

Respondents relay that almost 70% of them do not attend any existing programs, and those that do mostly attend them occasionally. Since the rates of satisfaction are high in regards to programming, this suggests that lower attendance rates aren't due to program quality, but perhaps because of other factors such as awareness.

QUESTION 10

If you have ideas for programs that are not currently offered, please list or describe them below:

“Walking trails to connect the nearby parks would be nice”

“Dog Park. It would be great to have a place to allow my dog to run off-leash”

“Splash pad for kids!!”

“Since trash cans have been removed, litter is becoming a real problem”

“Plant trees near baseball fields for shade. Very hot for spectators during spring and summer”

“More Mommy & Me activities”

“Annual activities that start a tradition...like a 4th of July 5k”

“Bus trips to different places... like trips to NYC to see Broadway shows”

“Activities for seniors like Bocce ball and pickleball”

“More classes for children and young adults like art classes or foreign languages”

“Adult sports leagues”

Question 11 Response Summary

Highest Response for Very Interested:

1. Paved Trails (e.g. Bicycling, Walking)
2. Unpaved/Bare Earth Trail Activities (e.g. Hiking, Mountain Biking)
3. Canoe/Kayaking/Tubing Area
4. Water Access
5. Outdoor Sport Fields (Baseball, Softball, Soccer, etc.)
6. Indoor Athletic Facility (Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, etc.)
7. Outdoor Sports Courts (Tennis, Basketball, Volleyball)
8. Playgrounds for Older Kids

Highest Response for Somewhat Interested:

1. Open Fields for Informal Activities (Frisbee, Pick-Up Soccer, etc.)
2. Upper Allen Historical Sites
3. Indoor Community Center (Meeting Space, Teen/Senior Center)
4. Outdoor Sports Courts (Tennis, Basketball, Volleyball)
5. Outdoor Exercise Equipment for Adults
6. Water Access

Cumulative Response for Very Interested & Somewhat Interested:

1. Paved Trails (e.g. Bicycling, Walking)
2. Canoe/Kayaking/Tubing Area
3. Open Fields for Informal Activities (Frisbee, Pick-Up Soccer, etc.)
4. Unpaved/Bare Earth Trail Activities (e.g. Hiking, Mountain Biking)
5. Outdoor Sports Courts (Tennis, Basketball, Volleyball)
6. Water Access

QUESTION 11

Below is a list of common recreation activities and facilities provided in communities. So that we may attempt to meet our community's needs, please indicate your level of interest in each one:

We can see from the survey responses that there is an explicit desire for more trails, both paved and unpaved, within the Township. There is also prominent interest in water access and water-related activity areas for canoeing and kayaking.

There also seems to be great interest from respondents in an Indoor Athletic Facility and an Indoor Community Center. Additionally, there seems to be a need for more sports courts. These three issues could be addressed through one solution — a multi-use indoor center which serves as a community center and an athletic facility, providing spaces for children and teens and also providing indoor courts and/or fields. To consider this facility more closely, a feasibility study can be conducted to assess the possibility of such a facility.

Recreational Activities and Facilities that yielded the least amount of interest were those that are less common recreational activities/facilities like Skate Park/BMX tracks, Geo-caching areas, Cemetery park walking paths, Obstacle Course/Parkour Areas, outdoor camping and large climbing walls.

QUESTION 11 continued

Below is a Chart indicating your level of interest in each of the common recreation activities and facilities provided in communities.

TABLE 9: RECREATION ACTIVITY INTEREST

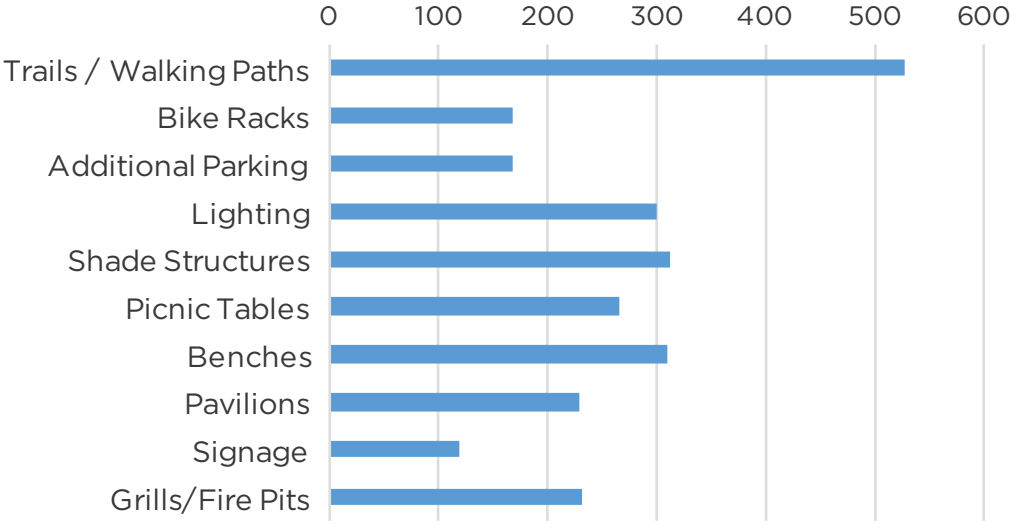
	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not Interested
Birdlife/Wildlife Watching Areas	171	284	274
Dog Park	215	192	350
Indoor Athletic Facility (basketball, volleyball, soccer,	293	226	219
Indoor Community Center (meeting space, teen/senior	195	294	244
Ice Sports (e.g. hockey, skating, cross country skiing,	195	220	314
Skate Park/BMX Track/Pump Track (Mountain Biking)	76	142	499
Open fields for informal activities (Frisbee, pick-up	261	336	150
Large Climbing Wall	147	203	378
Obstacle Course/Parkour Area	144	200	381
Canoe/Kayaking/Tubing Area	330	272	150
Playgrounds for Small Children	268	247	221
Playgrounds for Older Kids	283	247	205
Outdoor Court Sports (tennis, basketball, volleyball)	291	289	163
Outdoor Field Sports (e.g. baseball, softball, soccer,	294	234	210
Outdoor Camping	160	189	378
Outdoor Splash Pad Park	218	203	308
Outdoor Exercise Equipment for Adults	249	286	204
Water Access	310	270	153
Paved Trails (e.g. Bicycling, Walking)	513	189	61
Unpaved/Bare Earth Trail Activities (e.g.	364	218	165
Cemetery Park Walking Paths	104	202	410
Upper Allen Township Historical Sites	194	310	233
Geo-Caching Areas	78	203	433

QUESTION 12

What additional recreation amenities would you like to see in the parks you visit in the Township?

Based on the responses above, we can see that participants are extremely interested in trails and walking paths. Other recreational amenities that spark interest are shade structures, benches, lighting, and picnic tables.

FIGURE 8: ADDITIONAL RECREATION AMENITIES DESIRED



QUESTION 13

Where do you commonly get information about parks facilities, recreation programming, special events, park location, etc.?

We can see from participant responses that the most common way to procure information about facilities, programming, and special events is through the Mechanicsburg Recreation Programs Brochure. Other common modes of obtaining information is through the web, newsletters, and word of mouth.

QUESTION 14

How do you prefer to get information about parks, facilities, recreation programming, special events, park location, etc.?

From the responses received, most participants would prefer to find out information about facilities, programming, and events through the web. Many would continue to receive information through the brochure and newsletters. Several respondents conveyed their desire to receive information through their e-mail, which may ensure that any programs or events aren't missed.

TABLE 10: INFORMATIONAL MEDIA

Answer Options	Response Count
Web	405
Newsletter	333
Newspaper	67
Mechanicsburg Recreational Programs Brochure	482
Mechanicsburg Recreational Programs Facebook	83
Phone App	17
Word of Mouth	306
Mailings	149
E-Mail	146

TABLE 11: INFORMATIONAL MEDIA PREFERENCE

Answer Options	Response Count
Web	401
Newsletter	346
Newspaper	43
Mechanicsburg Recreational Programs Brochure	367
Mechanicsburg Recreational Programs Facebook	114
Phone App	80
Word of Mouth	66
Mailings	176
E-Mail	329

QUESTION 15

We would appreciate any additional comments below that you would offer related to Recreation, Parks and Greenways in Upper Allen Township.

"Since trash cans have been removed, litter in parks have become a real problem... We need trash cans in McCormick Park."

"We would absolutely use an indoor facility."

"You do a great job, we love it here!"

"I think a Splash Pad and/or swimming pool at Friendship or Fisher would be well-used!"

"I coach cross country/track & field at Messiah College. It would be great to have gravel or grass trails that connect the township parks."

"I enjoy the beauty of McCormick but it doesn't feel like a safe place to run with cars and turns. A sidewalk would make that feel safer to run/walk."

"The area most lacking in this township is a winter sport athletic facility and community center. Travel teams sponsored by the Mechanicsburg Rec. Department have to look for space to practice let alone play a home game. The 4th, 5th and 6th grade programs have to travel away most of the time to places like Gettysburg."

"Please address creek access and enforcement of current laws. Providing access is reasonable but it has gotten out of control in the last 10 years with overcrowding and littering."

"It would be nice to have a restroom at Rosegarden Park."

"I had no idea we had so many parks, I've been visiting ones in other communities because of visual location and signs."

KEY PERSON INTERVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

Overview

Significant insight about the existing parks and recreation programs were relayed through phone-call interview with key persons. The roster of interviewees were Township Commissioners and residents of the community who were somehow involved in the parks and recreation system, whether it be through holding related positions or were actively passionate about the community's parks and recreation system. One of the most helpful aspects of the interviewing process was the diverse positions and viewpoints that were received by key persons. Despite the range of opinions expressed through the interviews, there were still several issues that many felt should be addressed by the Comprehensive Plan. The following is an overview of the similarities and contrasts of the interviews.

Interview Response Summary

The Township's park facilities focus on athletic activities for school-aged children. Many of the different community teams which use the athletic fields expect them to be state-of-the-art, but this creates a challenge because most athletic activities do not generate any revenue. This focus on athletic facilities creates an imbalance of active and passive recreational activities. Many feel that there needs to be more passive activities offered to residents, such as educational opportunities, trail walking, bird watching, etc. While some parks, like Simpson Park, provide opportunities for passive recreation, the amount of visitors is too high for the parks capacity. Issues that come about from visitors beyond the capacity of parks are parking issues and litter issues, both which impose upon the park. This demonstrates that it may be of interest to the Township that more park area should be dedicated to passive recreation to mitigate this issue.

Several interviewees recognize the value of being involved in the Joint Recreation Committee and the partnership with the Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department (MARD), like the range of programs and equitable access to the Mechanicsburg Pool. While this partnership is valuable, many feel that involvement can be reconfigured and the current system does not function as smoothly as it has potential to. Several interviewees felt that the Township itself should consider providing some of their own programs in conjunction with those provided by MARD and that expanding partnerships with other community stakeholders, such as Messiah College, may be beneficial to the Township.

Interview Response Summary *continued*

Many interviewees feel that though there are ample programming opportunities for residents, there are improvements that can be made to the recreation programming system. Programming tends to be centered around athletics, which does serve a large portion of the community, but this athletically-focused system does not meet the needs of all Township community members. Several interviewees feel that more programming should be offered to accommodate seniors and young children, as well as school-aged children not interested in athletics. There is significant interest in educational opportunities, especially for natural amenities such as Yellow Breeches Creek. The stream itself is within the migration path of the Baltimore Heron and the monarch butterfly, and is rich with a variety of beautiful trees and plants, such as Sycamore trees along McCormick Park. Shifting focus on natural preservation and education in certain parks, rather than on active recreation, can balance the recreational opportunities provided by the Township.

Since Upper Allen Township has a rich heritage, many interviewees expressed support in connecting the Township's two most valuable assets – its history and natural amenities. The Yellow Breeches Historic District, which runs along McCormick Road, is in close proximity to McCormick road and presents the opportunity to connect these two community features. A suggestion as to bringing natural and historic features together is through wayfinding signs. This will increase awareness of the different parks and historic district, and in turn will stimulate the visitation of each.

Overall, the big take aways of the interviews were: The partnership with the Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department is valuable but can be improved, there needs to be more park facilities and programs which focus on passive recreation to accommodate its citizens and mitigate pressure put on parks which experience high volumes, and there needs to be a higher focus on preserving the Township's natural assets while connecting them to other community resources.

MISSION & GOALS

Overview

This plan's mission statement and goals provide the philosophical foundation and direction for the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. These elements reflect the Township's aspiration of how its parks and recreation system should function and how the system should benefit its citizens. All recommendations in this report were formed considering the Township's mission and goals.

This mission statement is intended to reflect where the Township wants to be in the next ten to twenty years. Moreover, the statement introduces more general and topically-oriented parameters and themes that will allow the municipality to achieve its vision. Goals are specific statements intended to accomplish short and long-term efforts.

Mission Statement

Upper Allen Township enhances the quality of life for its citizens by conserving its natural resources and providing first-rate open spaces and facilities accessible to all of its citizens.

Goals

- # 1 Provide recreation opportunities that balance the protection of open space and natural resources with the need for active recreation facilities and space.
- # 2 Continue to maintain parks and open space to an unparalleled standard while enhancing maintenance standards for different park types that serve different functions.
- # 3 Expand relations and partnership opportunities that allow for programming to satisfy the desires of the Township's range of citizens.
- # 4 Develop a system for creating a capital improvements fund that allows for the Township to plan for large-scale facility investments in the future.

ASSESSMENT

SYMBOLOLOGY REMINDER



Essentials – consists of the plan actions that ‘drive’ the implementation of some of the plan’s recommendations. The ‘drivers’ are not necessarily the plan’s most time sensitive or resource intense recommendations but they do represent the actions that impact, shape or direct the implementation of other recommendations. Consequently, the term ‘driver.’ If implementation of the Essentials languishes – implementation of the overall plan can become retarded.



Auxiliaries – represents important actions that the community needs to implement but they are largely independent of other recommendations or actions. Many of the Auxiliaries can be implemented directly by the Township Administration or the Board of Commissioners and have fewer stakeholders involved. The implementation time frames of the Auxiliaries vary from short-term to long-term and vary in resource needs from little to intense.

Overview

The following pages are an assessment of the Township’s existing parks and recreation system and the elements that comprises this system. Through field analysis, population projections, national standards and department examination, the Township park and recreation system’s existing conditions have been analyzed, and recommendations have been made based on the following categories:

LAND ALLOCATION

The way and extent to which acreage in the Township is dedicated to parks and open space in comparison to the standardized benchmarks it will need to acquire to accommodate its citizens. The baseline of this assessment extends from the findings and preferred direction identified in the Township’s 2002 Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan.

FACILITIES

Individual parks and open spaces of the Township have been examined based on existing conditions; These observations, in conjunction with administrative and resident feedback, direct facility-specific recommendations.

CONNECTIVITY

Mobility within the Township is multi-modal. Opportunities for expanding upon initial work conducted as part of the Township’s Comprehensive Plan is explored. Extending accessibility by foot and bike is an ever expanding initiative the Township seeks to explore.

PROGRAMMING

Collaborative programming opportunities are provided by many. The way in which the Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department and others come together are continuing hallmarks of quality offered to Township residents.

MAINTENANCE

From notably clean restrooms to meticulously mowed lawn/turf areas, insights into maintenance highlights the practices that keep the Township’s facilities desirable and opportunities to enhance areas needing additional attention.

MANAGEMENT & FINANCING

Management is a reflection of how parks and recreation are planned, administered, directed and evaluated in terms of meeting community goals and with respect to Township resources. Organizational structure, staffing, public involvement, partnerships, information management, maintenance, revenues and expenditures all come together. This assessment is aimed to provide a framework for ensuring that park and recreational services management within Upper Allen’s parks and natural areas can continue to meet the demands of a growing community while protecting their many values.

LAND ALLOCATION

Since the 1960's, the Township has experienced a steady increase in population and has consumed over a thousand acres of land for development all the while, the Township strives to make sure its residents have enough open space to enjoy recreational activities. In the 2002 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, the Township proposed a goal to adopt the National Recreation and Parks Association's standard of open space per resident. While the Township has been working towards this standard goal, it has not yet been reached to satisfy its existing population. By setting acreage standards for land acquisition, the Township has a benchmark goal to strive towards in order to provide sufficient park and recreation space for its citizens.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

As the available land within the Township is decreasing, the value of remaining land is increasing. While it is becoming more difficult for the Township to procure large tracts of acreage for park development or open space preservation, it still strives to increase its park acreage in order to provide its citizens with ample parks and green spaces. Based on future population projections created by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and the Township as part of its Comprehensive Plan update effort, the Township's acreage goals were calculated as per the below analysis:

TABLE 12: EXISTING AND FUTURE ACREAGE TO POPULATION ANALYSIS

	TODAY 1						FUTURE					
	Total Population (2010)	Total Land Area (acres)	Total Park Area (acres)	Number of parkland acres required to have 10 acres/1000 citizens (2010 population)	Shortfall of Park Acres 2 (2010 Population)	Park Area per 1,000 Residents (acres)	Total Population (2040) 3	Number of parkland acres required to have 10 acres/1000 citizens (2040 Population) 3	Shortfall of Park Acres 2 (2040 Population)	Total Build-out Population 4	Number of parkland acres required to have 10 acres/1000 citizens (Build-out Population 4)	Shortfall of Park Acres 2 (Build-out Population 4)
Municipality												
Upper Allen	18,059	8,512	132	181	49	7.3	22,747	227	95	25,000	250	118

1 Information provided by Department of Community and Economic Development, 2013

2 10 Acres/1000 residents is goal from 2002 Comp Park & Rec Plan, also is the NRPA Standard

3 Projection provided by Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

4 Built-Out Population based off 2013 Comprehensive Plan Analysis

The Township's park and open space acreage per resident goal, which was first set forth by the 2002 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan is borne from long-standing National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Gold Medal Community standard. Looking at today's reserved acreage (which is 132) and its current population needs, the Township is below their goal by 49 acres. When considering the Township's Comprehensive Plan build-out projection (a population of 25,000 persons), the Township will need 250 acres of parks and open spaces to meet their goal. This means from 2016 to the indefinite final build-out date, the Township would need to acquire an additional 118 acres. This additional acreage and an assumption of a build-out population of 25,000 would provide 10 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents.

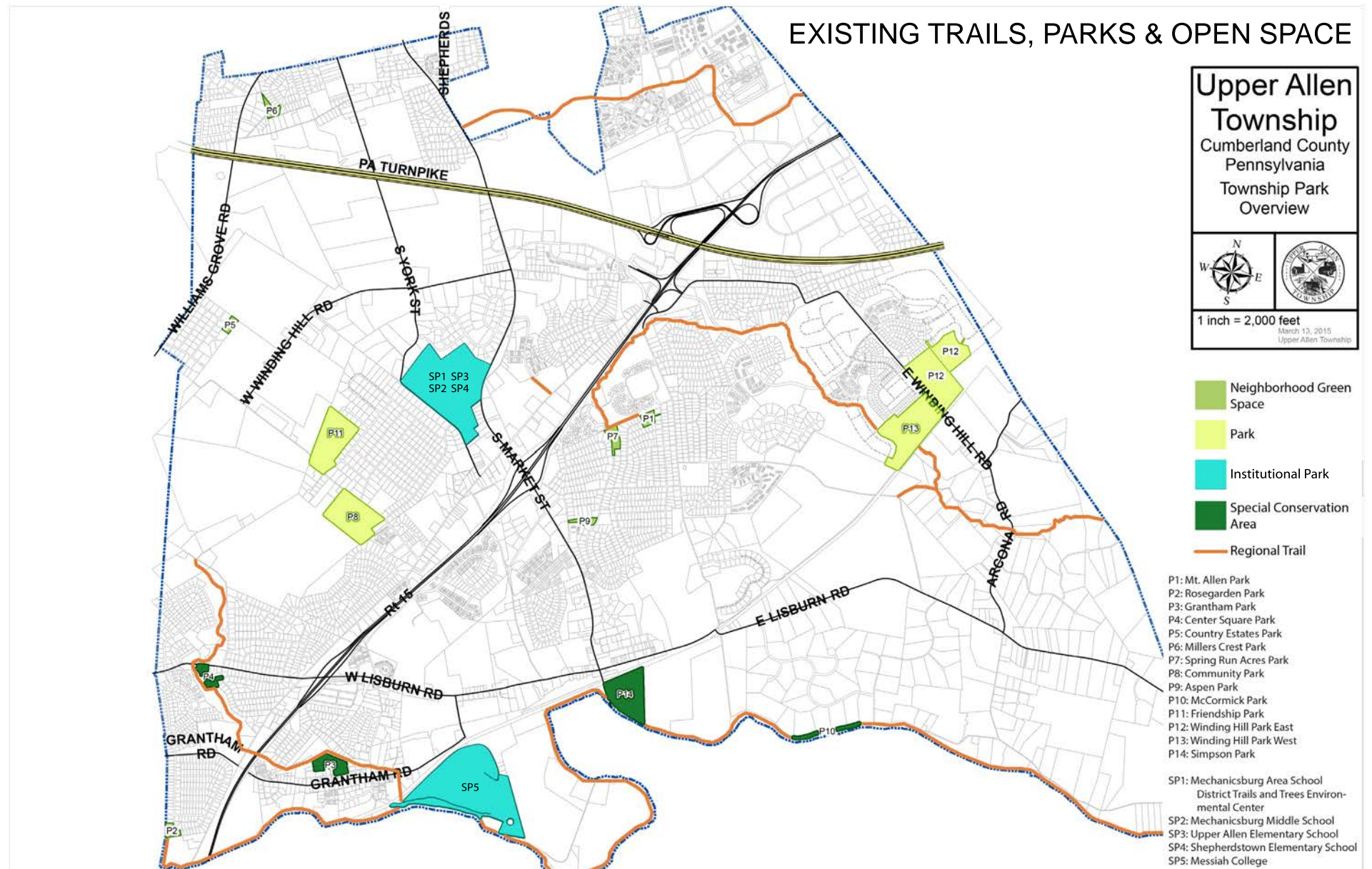
If the Township never acquires additional acreage beyond which it currently possesses or controls, the community will be providing 7.2 acres per 1,000 residents. This figure, while far below the Gold Medal Community standard, remains higher than most communities in the Capital Region.

DETERMINING POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Determining population projections for park and recreation planning is essential for ensuring adequate park space is reserved for the community. Due to its importance, the approach to defining the build-out population and formulating long-term parkland needs was viewed from multiple angles:

- #1 Tri-County Regional Planning Commission projections, which are computed through complex formulas, estimated that by 2040 the Township will reach a population of 22,747 persons. The Township appears to be currently outpacing this projection; its population was already approaching 20,000 in 2015. Considering this growth, it is safe to assume the Township population will grow more than 3,000 persons in the next 24 years.
- #2 The Township conducted a population analysis as part of its 2013 Comprehensive Plan update. The analysis determined the Township's build-out population to be near 25,000 residents. This is independent of any particular timeframe because it is build-out.
- #3 The final angle to view population projections was the "straight-line" approach where future growth potential reflects the growth patterns and statistical trends of the past 20 years. The Township's build-out population computed using this approach is somewhere between 28,000 and 30,000 residents.

FIGURE 9: EXISTING TRAILS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE



RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering population projections and standardized benchmarks that remain goals for land allocation, the following recommendations are suggested for the Township to consider and adopt as part of the acquisition of total park and recreation acreage.



E1: Open Space and Land Allocation Standards

Following the Township's build-out projections, as well as consideration of the Tri-County Planning Commission's 2015 population projection and taking into account the NRPA Gold Medal Community Standard, which recommends providing 10 acres of park land per every 1,000 residents, the Steering Committee suggests adopting the following acreage standards as benchmarks for land allocation for the next decade:

Minimum Acreage (based on 2010 population): 181

This is the amount of acreage necessary to provide the 2010 population with sufficient parkland acreage to meet the NRPA standard.

Acreage Shortfall based on current acreage: 49

When considering the current acreage of park and, this is the amount of additional acreage needed to meet the NRPA standard.

Maximum Acreage: 250

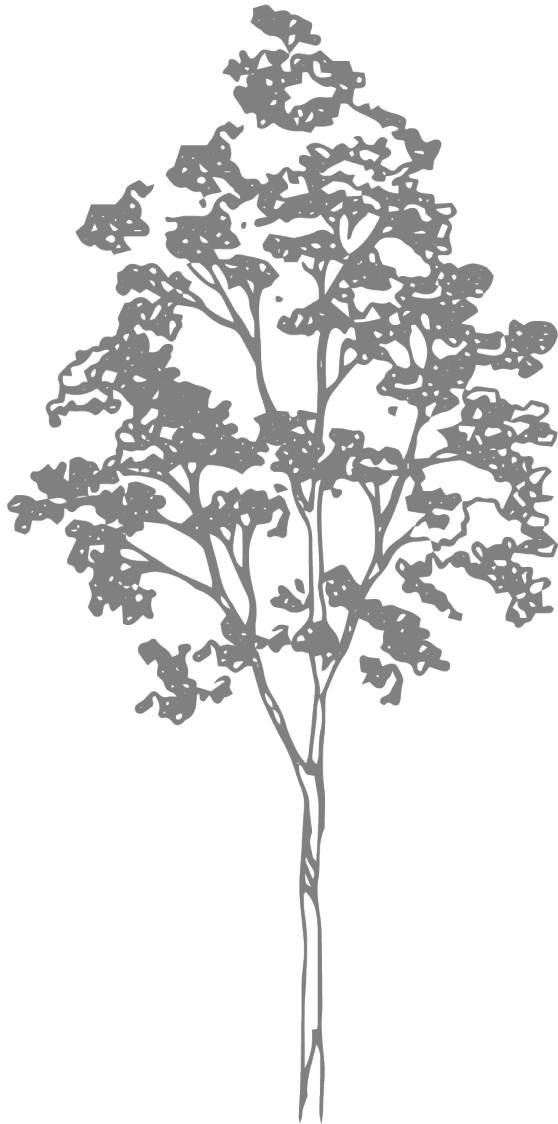
This is the target amount of acreage that should be dedicated to parkland in order to provide existing and projected residents with sufficient parkland acreage while still preserving the Township's character as a low density but non-rural community.

% Active Recreation Areas: 75

% Passive Recreation Areas: 25

This is the agreed upon balance of active and passive recreation areas in the parks system to satisfy the needs and desires of the residents while also striving to preserve the Township's natural amenities.

When considering the expansion and acquisition of parkland in the future, the Township should consider providing more park acreage in the under served areas of the community, specifically the neighborhoods located above the Pennsylvania Turnpike and also the southwestern portion of the Township.



E2: Overall Recreation Amenity Requirements

In collaboration with Steering Committee members and reserved for active recreation parks and open spaces as determined by the proposed park classifications (see E9), the following open space and recreation long-term goals are recommended to be pursued as **total** benchmarks within the overall park system. The figures have been calculated in context of per capita standards for the Township's projected straight-line build-out population (28,000-30,000). The build-out population refers to the maximum population if all remaining developable land within a community is developed. In the case of this plan's build-out analysis, it was assumed that zoning district classifications remain as they are today and developed at the same density patterns which the Township currently experiences. While the Township's and Tri-County Planning Commission's population projections are lower, the build-out population also considers current population density and recent growth patterns.

Playgrounds: **12***
Baseball Fields: **12***
Softball Fields: **6***
Soccer Fields: **10***
Lacrosse Fields: **5***

Outdoor Basketball Courts: **8***
Indoor Basketball Courts: **12***
Tennis Courts: **4***
Pickleball Courts: **4***

In order to achieve and implement this recommendation, the following potential partners, stakeholders, and initiatives should be considered: National Recreation and Parks Association, Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, the Cumberland County Open Space Plan, the Township Planning Commission, the Township Board of Commissioners, the Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department, the Joint Recreation Committee, and local athletic organizations.

**For the existing parks and open space amenities, please refer to Table 13: Park & Open Space Amenity Inventory on page 51.*



E3: Amend the existing Zoning Ordinance/SALDO to update the open space requirements and incentivize fee-in-lieu contribution rather than small-scale land dedications (in combination with E13)

Currently, the Township requires that for every residential subdivision or land development containing more than fifty dwelling units provide open space based on the number of units (the minimum required open space being 2 acres for 50-75 residential units). Developers are able to meet this acreage requirement by dedicating land that meets the Township's defined factors. The current factors do not directly address the presence of several critical development influences or considerations such as the availability of utilities/infrastructure or soil types resulting in open spaces that may end up being less than desirable or unusable for recreational activities. Further, the current fee-in-lieu contribution per household is \$2,300, and this high rate may actually deter developers from using the option of a fee-in-lieu.

By adjusting minimum criteria of what types of land may be dedicated to open space, the Township has the potential to incentivize its fee-in-lieu option. Specifically, the Township can more severely restrict (or even prohibit so long as the prohibition is in the same perspective as protecting public health, safety and welfare) the conjunct use of dedicated open space and utility easements so as to avoid the dedication of park spaces which may consequently go unused. Further, The Township can not allow dedicated open space which consists of land with steep slopes or that is prone to water accumulation, to avoid future open spaces that are difficult to maintain or that consequently go unused.

Additionally, the Township can decide to lower the fee-in-lieu contribution so that more developers actually use this option. The accumulated funds of these contributions can then be used to purchase and develop land into park space in the under served parts of the community, specifically the neighborhoods located above the Pennsylvania Turnpike and also the southwestern portion of the Township.

CASE STUDY

NORTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP COMMON OPEN SPACE PROVISIONS

North Strabane Township is a municipality in Washington County that has strategically implemented common open space provisions in the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to refine the parameters of common open spaces developers are allowed to dedicate. If the developer cannot meet these restraints, the Township has the power to decline the dedicated open space and the developer shall be responsible to pay a fee-in-lieu. Regulations for North Strabane's common open space dedications include:

SIZE AND SHAPE

The common open space must provide at least 2,000 square feet of green space per single family dwelling. The recreation open space must have a minimum frontage of 100 feet on an existing or proposed street or shall adjoin an existing park or common open space that is accessible from a street (to avoid irregularly shaped open spaces). The open space must be contiguous, compact area and be able to accommodate proposed recreational amenities. The space may not serve as a bufferyard within the development.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS

At least 50% of the common open space must be ground level, as in not exceed a natural gradient of more than 10% and if a man-made gradient, more than 5%. The space cannot be a wetland.

ACCESSIBILITY

The developer must provide proper pedestrian access to the open space within the development, which may include sidewalks and trails.

FACILITIES

Parks are the public face of a community. Upper Allen Township provides its residents with a range of different parks and open spaces, which support both passive and active recreational activities. Many of these outdoor facilities contain premiere features and amenities, setting a high standard for the rest of Cumberland County. This section presents the series of observations and recommendations associated with the Township's physical park sites where residents and visitors alike enjoy camaraderie, reflection and recreation.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Upper Allen Township comprises thirteen parks, with a total acreage of park space 132. These parks vary in size and amenities, but maintenance practices are ubiquitous throughout the parks. The Township designs their parks to be all inclusive, as in providing amenities in all parks which are intended to attract not just one demographic, but any Township resident.

In multiple parks, new, high quality amenities are present. The diversity of climbing/play facilities - not just slides and swings, can appeal to a wide range of interests and skill levels (e.g. rock climbing walls, gymnast bars). All facility grass is meticulously manicured signifying the significant dedication and time that the Township devotes to this task. Pavilions show little wear, with the placement and scale of several of them creating dynamic spaces that can be used for activities beyond typical necessities of sitting and eating.

Currently, all the different parks within the Township are treated the same. Though some more popular parks feature premiere recreational amenities, the Township tries to provide recreational infrastructure within all its public green spaces. While some parks possess a valuable natural heritage, such as ponds or access to the Yellow Breeches Creek, the Township ensures that different types of playground equipment or athletic amenities. Though this uniformity reflects a recreational theme, the different parks and green spaces possess different intrinsic qualities. Fisher Community Park yields possibly the most residents of any Township park, being the go-to location for athletic events and active recreational activities. Simpson Park brings about Boy Scouts troops, trail walkers, and those who want to explore the Yellow Breeches Creek. Though tucked away, Grantham Park appeals to the Township citizen who wants to sit by the placid pond and reflect on the natural beauty of central Pennsylvania. This distinction between the parks' intrinsic characters, the users who frequent them, and the patterns of recreation which occur in them greatly shape the recommendations for the park system as well as detail recommendations for each individual park.

While Upper Allen Township offers its citizens high-quality amenities, the following is a summary of issues and challenges that are present throughout many of the Township's lesser-known parks and have steered reoccurring recommendations for several parks:

Quality of Amenities & Equipment

Many of the smaller parks, and even some of their premiere parks, do not support universal accessibility by having paved access paths to amenities such as benches, pavilions, and playgrounds. While Fisher Community Park, Winding Hills Park and Friendship Park offer high quality ball and play fields, many of the smaller parks contain the same amenities that are poorly maintained and thus unusable by citizens, such as volley ball courts or ball fields. Several of the lesser-known park's playground equipment and worn safety surface pose safety hazards to the children that use them.

Park Boundaries & Entrances

Several of the lesser known parks are hidden throughout the various neighborhoods of the Township, making it difficult for citizens to find the parks and even more so be aware of their existence. Entrances many times are not intuitive, nor do they always reflect the perception of the community that the Township would like to project. Additionally, many small park boundaries are not defined, making the barrier between public and private space ambiguous.

Park Function

While Upper Allen tries to provide its citizens with parks and open spaces that can serve all users, this results in park amenities which do not properly fit the proper function of the park. By differentiating the park purposes and embracing the distinct functions based on park classification, the Township can be one which offers its citizens diverse recreation opportunities.

TABLE 13: PARK & OPEN SPACE AMENITY INVENTORY

Park	Popularity*	Acreage	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Ball Fields	Soccer Fields	Play Fields	Playground Equipment	Walking/Bike Trails (miles)	Pavilions	Picnic Tables	Other
Aspen Park		2										
Center Square Park		3.1		1/2			1	x		x	x	
Country Estates Park		2						x		x	x	
Fisher Community Park		21	2	1	5			x	0.64	x	x	
Friendship Park		19.6				3	4	x	0.74	x	x	
Grantham Park		5.2										Grantham Pond
McCormick Park		2										Water Access
Miller's Crest Park		2.5		1/2				x		x	x	
Mt. Allen Park		2.3			1			x		x	x	
Rosegarden Park		2.2		1				x		x	x	
Simpson Park		18							0.7	x	x	Volleyball Court, Water Access, Horseshoe Pit, Climbing Structure
Spring Run Acres Park		3.3		1				x				
Winding Hills Park		48.8			4	3		x		x	x	
TOTAL		132	2	4	10	6	5		2.08			

*As indicated by participants of the Parks & Recreation Public Survey



RECOMMENDATIONS



E4: Continue to Support Pending/Developing Planning/Capital Improvement Efforts

Upper Allen Township is continually seeking to improve and expand their parks and recreation system so that it can meet resident needs. Recently, the Township completed its master plan for Winding Hills Park and have initiated implementation. Throughout the planning process for the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, the Township has been outlining initial efforts for Winding Hills Park so that additional park space and high quality recreation facilities can be available to Township residents. Potential partners, stakeholders and initiatives should consider cooperation among the Joint Recreation Committee, the Winding Hills Park Master Plan Committee, the Township Board of Commissioners, the Township Planning Commission, the Mechanicsburg area Recreation Department and local athletic organizations.

Concurrent to the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan effort, a community-wide initiative has been working evolving to coordinate the potential for the designation and construction of an off-leash exercise area. These types of facilities are a growing element of recreation, and support for off-leash exercise areas was expressed within the survey conducted as part of this planning process. As of Spring 2016, discussions among community stakeholders are occurring to secure a 3rd party-managed (non-Township) land lease for such a space.



E5: Universal Accessibility

Access to recreational opportunities by all citizens, regardless of ability, is a basic right of all Americans under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Upper Allen, with an extensive network of facilities and partners, has the capabilities to accommodate all citizens. Currently, many of the park systems are not ADA accessible.

Currently, no one on the park maintenance staff is a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI). As part of the certification process, inspectors are required to understand ADA accessibility standards such as ADA accessible equipment and ADA accessible surfacing/routes. Having someone on the maintenance staff that knows these standards would prevent future park facilities and amenities from being limited in access to users.

Upper Allen Township is already beginning efforts in creating more ADA accessible recreation spaces for their residents. They are currently in the process of creating a universally accessible playground, and the Township is reaching out to the children of the community to help design a playground that is not only fun, but fun for everyone. A step in the right direction, this initiative should become common practice when considering park design and development in the future. As facilities in existing parks are updated, particular attention should be made towards making the new facilities ADA accessible.





A1: Define Public vs. Private space

Several of the parks are situated in close proximity to nearby homes, allowing convenience and accessibility for neighbors. Though convenient, challenges also arise from homes being located so close to park facilities.

Several parks do not set the boundary between private and public space, and this infringes on the privacy of residents and debases the park experience for visitors. For example, in Friendship Park, several of the soccer fields abut the backyards of adjacent home, which create discomfort for visitors and residents alike while also creating liability issues. In Miller's Crest Park, the boundary between residential yards and the park space can only be defined by differentiations in grass length. In Spring Run Acres Park, though a small creek bisects backyards and the public space on one side of the park, since there is no visual barrier, visitors of the park can see neighbors hung laundry.

By separating public and private space through barriers, perhaps through fencing or landscaping, residents will feel more secure with a sense of privacy and park visitors will feel more comfortable in knowing what spaces in the park they may use.



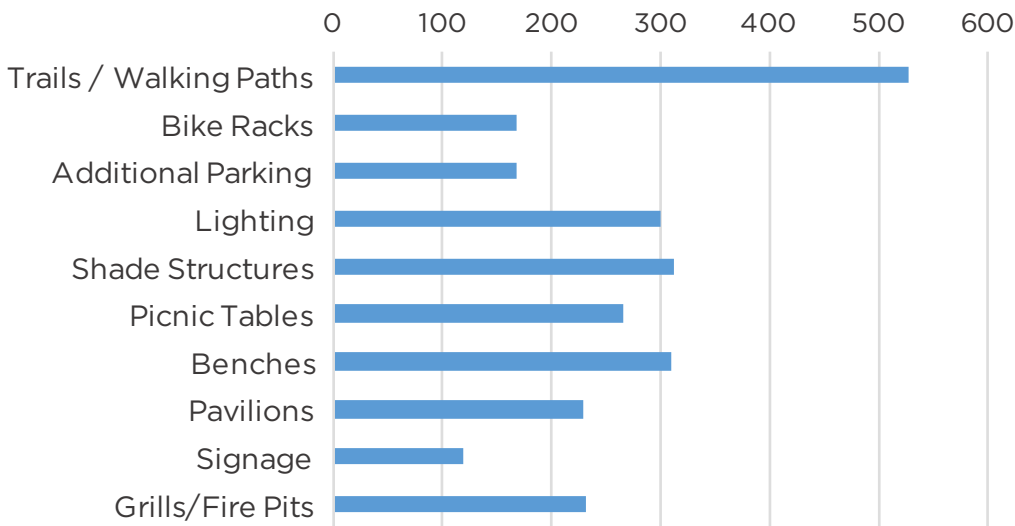


E6: Assess Hierarchy of Future Recreational Amenities

Based on the public survey, several additional recreational amenities were desired in the park facilities. Part of the process of improving parks is providing recreational amenities which are needed and wanted in the community, and assessing the hierarchy of future recreational amenities can direct facility improvements.

Below is the survey results relaying which recreational amenities are most desired by residents. In future planning efforts, the results from this survey should be considered when investing in new and additional amenities.

FIGURE 8: ADDITIONAL RECREATION AMENITIES DESIRED





CASE STUDY

UPPER DELAWARE SCENIC & RECREATIONAL RIVER

The Upper Delaware River is a portion of the Delaware River that dedicates just over seventy miles of the waterway to recreational use and scenic preservation. The Upper Delaware River has brought over 250,000 visitors per year to the region since its establishment by the National Park Service in 1978. While the popular waterway is visited for its cultural value and recreational activities, the Upper Delaware River excels at ensuring that each visitor's experience of the river's natural beauty is similar to the experiences of generations before, and that this experience is not obstructed by an over saturation of guests. The river's recreation and scenic corridor provides twenty-four water access points, each no more than twelve miles in distance from one another and evenly distributed to ensure that the most scenic portions of the river aren't suffocated by the concentration of tourists.

There is an experiential difference between Yellow Breeches Creek and the Upper Delaware River, the Yellow Breeches Creek being smaller and more developed. However, like the Upper Delaware case study, Upper Allen recognizes that there is an over-saturation of stream visitors at Simpson Park and that additional access is necessary. The Yellow Breeches Creek stretches approximately seven miles across the Township. Considering the Upper Delaware River's length and access points, Upper Allen should designate no more than two additional access points. Any more than three total access points within the Township may take away from the experience of the stream.



E7: Yellow Breeches Creek Task Force & Management

One of the most valuable resources that Upper Allen Township has access to is the Yellow Breeches Creek. The nationally-known waterway sparks the interest of residents, visitors and conservationists alike, is home to fish like the wild brown trout and brook trout, and is within the migration route of several species of birds like the Baltimore Heron. While the stream is able to attract both visitors and wildlife, there is still untapped potential and purpose for the stream and many issues and opportunities that have yet to be addressed.

Additionally, overwhelming concern with waste management by the stream was received through the public survey. Litter issues have arisen with increased use of the stream, and this not only threatens other visitors' experience, but threatens the stream as a natural amenity and habitat. To address these issues, it is recommended that a multiple stakeholder task force and a management plan be created to deal with the management of and access to Yellow Breeches Creek.

Envisioned stakeholders of this task force include the Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, the Audubon Society, Messiah College, various Pennsylvania departments and commissions (such as Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, etc), local municipalities, and others interested parties. Key issues for the various stakeholders should include access points, recreational environment and user experience, educational opportunities, appropriate waste management practices, conservation and natural resources issues and respect for private property.

Additionally, in collaboration with Township staff and other stakeholders, this task force should help develop the Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette which outlines and directs stormwater drainage improvements, riparian buffer standards, plant palettes, and appropriate passive recreation amenities. This palette should be implemented on all municipal parks and open spaces that are identified to be within the Yellow Breeches Creek Watershed. These would include: Mt. Allen Park, Rosegarden Park, Grantham Park, Center Square Park, Spring Run Acres Park, Community Park, Aspen Park, McCormick Park, Simpson Park, Fisher Park, and portions of Winding Hills Park.

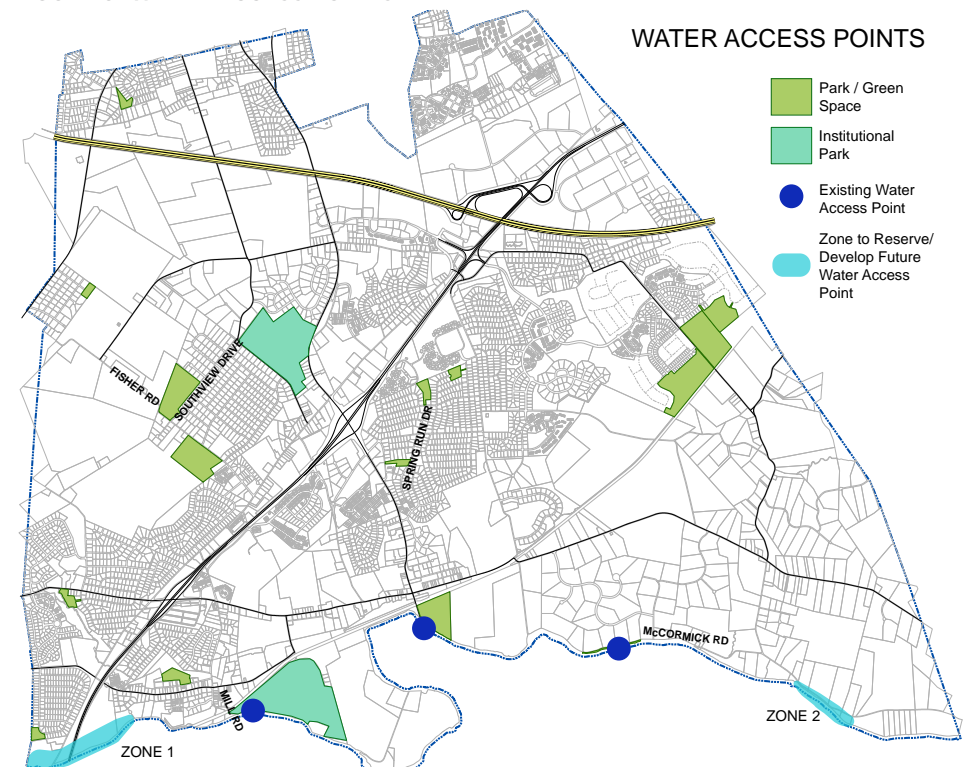
When forming the Yellow Breeches Creek Task Force, example management plans to consider as guides are the Upper Delaware River (New York), Black River (Michigan), Manistee River (Michigan), Lamprey River (New Hampshire). Extensive management plans are available at www.rivers.gov.



E8: Designate/Manage Additional Water Access Points

The public survey proved significant interest from residents in increased water access to the stream for recreation activities such as canoing, kayaking, and tubing. While this is an obvious way to utilize the natural amenity, such an effort must be approached delicately. Increased water access in one park may lead to over saturation and as a result, may create more problems rather than resolve access issues. There is no textbook answer as how many access points are necessary for a waterway. When considering both user demand and practicality in conjunction with the length of the stream within the Township, an adequate and logical amount of additional designated access points along Yellow Breeches Creek would be two. Specific locations of these access points, along with all management strategies and design standards should be decided by the Yellow Breeches Task Force while considering the Yellow Breeches Development Palette (a map of suggested access points can be found in the Appendix). While there is currently designated water access at Simpson Park and Messiah College, additional water access can be designated in areas which already yield visitors trying to gain entry to the stream, such as at McCormick Park. The distribution of access points may also avoid congestion along parts of the stream.

FIGURE 9: WATER ACCESS POINTS





E9: Park & Open Space Classifications

Upper Allen Township has a diverse range of parks and open space which serve different functions and encourage different recreational activities. Simpson and McCormick parks, for example, promote passive recreation that allows residents and visitors to explore and appreciate the Yellow Breeches Creek, its ecological functions, and the wildlife that call the watershed home. Friendship and Community park provide active recreation opportunities through its athletic fields and playground facilities. Despite the contrasting functions of these polarized open spaces, they are in many ways treated and maintained the same. Upper Allen Township strives to make sure all parks and open spaces can be used by all its residents, but in the process may have inadvertently forgotten that parks do not have to be serve-all spaces.

By designating appropriate park classifications, the Township's parks and open spaces can better serve their intrinsic functions. Different park classifications will result in different recreational uses and maintenance methods. In turn, this park classification system will also make it easier for the Township to understand what type of open space and/or facilities are satisfying the community, what types can be expanded, and promote a diversified recreation system.

The following are park classifications that are recommended to be adopted by the Township:

Neighborhood Green Spaces

Parks

Institutional Parks

Special Conservation Areas

Other Open Spaces

Regional Trails

Park & Open Space Classification: Neighborhood Green Spaces

Function: Small, locally-oriented Green Spaces provide nearby community residents with walkable access to limited open space and recreation amenities. These Neighborhood Green Spaces primarily serve residents within walking distance of the space, rather than bringing in residents from other Upper Allen neighborhoods.

Size: Under 5 acres

General Character: Active and/or Passive Recreation

Typical/Appropriate Uses: Basketball courts, pickleball, playgrounds, t-ball, sitting space, pavilions, etc.

Neighborhood Green Space Classifications: Aspen Park, Millers Crest Park, Country Estates Park, Spring Run Acres Park, Mt. Allen Park, Rosegarden Park.



Park & Open Space Classification: Parks

Function: Larger in size and often visited by car, these community-oriented parks provide residents with access to the outdoors and recreational activities. These parks strive to serve the interest of its users and are visited by residents from all over Upper Allen and consist predominantly of active recreational facilities.

Size: 5 to 100 acres

General Character: Mainly intended for active recreation with secondary passive elements.

Typical/Appropriate Uses: Playgrounds, athletic fields and courts, pavilions, concessions, aquatics, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, spontaneous play areas, internal trails, etc.

Park Classifications: Winding Hills Park, Fisher Community Park, Friendship Park.





Park & Open Space Classification: Institutional Park

Function: These parks and green spaces are owned and maintained by educational institutions in Upper Allen. Primarily intended for use by students, the public has limited use of these parks and their amenities.

Size: Dependent upon use capacity and amenities.

General Character: Located upon or adjacent to the educational facility, these areas are diverse in recreational activity and amenities.

Typical/Appropriate Uses: Educational conservation areas, athletic fields, playgrounds, recreation centers, passive open spaces, etc.

Institutional Park Classifications: Mechanicsburg Area School District Trails and Trees Environmental Center, Mechanicsburg Middle School, Upper Allen Elementary School, Shepherdstown Elementary School, Messiah College.



Park & Open Space Classification: Special Conservation Area

Function: Landscapes set aside for the conservation of unique or sensitive open spaces that are defined by adjoining natural amenities. These sites are limited by their carrying capacity to support recreational development or activity.

Size: Dependent upon resource availability and opportunity.

General Character: Environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife habitats.

Typical/Appropriate Uses: Passive recreation areas and/or environmental protection areas. May provide physical and visual access, or just visual access. Opportunity for educational site if possible. This classification would include a heritage farm or lands enrolled in farmland protection programs.

Special Conservation Area Classifications: Center Square Park, Grantham Park, McCormick Park, Simpson Park.

Park & Open Space Classification: Other Spaces

Function: These privately held open spaces provide landscape heritage and serve ecological functions.

Size: Variable.

General Character: Wooded, forested, farmland, rivers/stream sheds, open fields.
Typical/Appropriate Uses: Self-maintained landscape, future preservation areas, scenic vistas.

Park & Open Space Classification: Regional Trail

Function: Linear transportation or park-like civic spaces that connect other publicly accessible lands or provide opportunities for passive recreational activities such as walking, hiking, biking, etc. This classification pertains to the trails outside of parks.

Size: Dependent upon resource availability and opportunity.

General Character: Environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife habitats.

Typical/Appropriate Uses: Multi-purpose distance trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-vehicular travelers to and from parks and around the community. The focus can be as much on transportation as it is on recreation and wellness.

Park Classifications: Regional Trails and trail opportunities as identified on the Green Route plan.





E10: Implement a Yellow Breeches Development Palette in applicable parks

Yellow Breeches Creek is one of Upper Allen's most valuable assets. The stream itself traverses through the southern parts of the Township, and several municipal parks are identified to be within the Yellow Breeches Creek Watershed. In combination with the adoption of different parks and open space classifications should be the implementation of a palette which differentiates the type of landscaping, development, and maintenance practices that should be applied in order to preserve the vitality of the stream. This palette includes a set of common building construction and landscaping materials as well as signage, lighting and stormwater management best practices based on the capacity of the park and open space, as well as specific standardized maintenance practices in order to best care for these materials in order to promote the prosperity of the stream.

Ultimately, the palette of landscaping materials and maintenance practices should be developed through collaboration between Township Staff, the Park & Recreation Board, the Upper Allen Police Department, the proposed Yellow Breeches Task Force, the Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, and the Audubon Society.

While this collaboration will define specific development details, the building construction and landscaping materials and maintenance practices should vary by level depending on parks' proximity to sensitive areas within the watershed. It should outline/direct stormwater drainage improvements, riparian buffer standards, plant palettes, and appropriate passive recreation amenities. These standards should be implemented on all municipal parks and open spaces that are identified to be within the Yellow Breeches Creek Watershed. These would include: Mt. Allen Park, Rosegarden Park, Grantham Park, Center Square Park, Spring Run Acres Park, Community Park, Aspen Park, McCormick Park, Simpson Park, Fisher Park, and portions of Winding Hills Park.

The recommended Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette levels are as follows:

- Level 1:** Parks and Open Spaces immediately adjacent to Yellow Breeches Creek or areas with high-value for conservation/water resources management.
- Level 2:** Parks and Open Spaces mid-stream of the watershed or areas of medium-value for conservation/water resources management.
- Level 3:** Parks and Open Spaces that are in the headwaters of the watershed or areas with lower-value for conservation/water resources management.





E11: Indoor Recreation Facility/Community Center Feasibility Study

A Township Community Center has been an interest of Upper Allen since even before the 2002 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Due to funding challenges, the viability of such a facility was not possible. Through public input and administrative insight, it is clear that some type of Community Center or indoor recreation facility is highly desired by the community.

Such a facility would serve the community by providing more amenities that are currently unavailable. Since residents are no longer permitted to have basketball hoops in their driveways, any basketball recreation is limited to those provided in Township Parks. Currently, there are a total of 4 basketball courts in the Township— three full courts and two half courts. Several of these outdoor courts are older and worn, and are only available in smaller, lesser known parks, making their use very limited.

An indoor recreation facility or community center, which can act as a multi-use space for indoor athletics, a teen center, and event space for special activities, this can make year-round sporting events possible and mitigate any strain that is currently experienced by schools that supply these spaces. This will also allow for a range of ages to use the spaces, rather than just school-aged children.

In conducting a feasibility study, a spatial and amenity analysis as well as a suitable location assessment should be conducted. A spatial and amenity analysis would include assessing what kinds of spaces, courts, or indoor fields are most appropriate and in what quantity. A suitable location assessment would be deciding where in the Township would an indoor recreation facility be the most conveniently located while also considering other Comprehensive Plan recommendations like making parks, open spaces and facilities highly accessible by foot and bike.



A2: Inspect existing park facilities, amenities and playground equipment to assess hierarchy of repairs and renovations

While several of the more visited parks have new amenities or amenities in good condition, several of the lesser known and visited parks have outdated, worn amenities and amenities that need to be replaced and repaired. Several of the playgrounds in lesser known parks do not meet playground safety standards, and other amenities such as ballfields or basketball courts are in need of repair. For example, Spring Run Acres Park and Mt. Allen Park both have several worn amenities that make using the park difficult. The playgrounds are not safe for young children to use, and their athletic amenities are both worn and in need of renovation. Additionally, some park amenities which go unused can also easily be converted into park amenities that are currently desired, such as the conversion of unused tennis courts into pickleball courts. Updating these park features will be an ongoing process and the order and priority in which certain parks receive updates should be determined by staff and Township officials as to guide said repair/renovation schedule.



A3: Erect proper signage to enhance safety and education

In order to improve safety measures, support wildlife education and to convey instructions and information, the erection of proper signage within various parks is essential. Such signage would include safety signs for Simpson Park and McCormick Park in regards to water safety and road crossing. The first steps to address parking issues in Simpson Park would be through proper signage indicating designate/permitted parking areas. To implement a carry-in/carry-out policy in any park, several signs would be necessary in order to prevent waste management issues.

Several of the Township parks and open spaces, especially those that are to be classified as Special Conservation Areas, have the opportunity to educate the Township citizens and park visitors of the natural heritage that the Township possesses with the Yellow Breeches Creek. Signage about migration paths, species habitats, and other interesting features can elevate the applicable parks and open spaces from just recreational spaces to educational facilities.

ASPEN PARK

CENTER SQUARE PARK

COUNTRY ESTATES PARK

FISHER COMMUNITY PARK

FRIENDSHIP PARK

GRANTHAM PARK

MCCORMICK PARK

MILLERS CREST PARK

MT. ALLEN PARK

ROSEGARDEN PARK

SIMPSON PARK

SPRING RUN ACRES PARK

WINDING HILLS PARK

RECOMMENDATION BY PARK AND OPEN SPACE

While the previous pages of this section outlined general Essential and Auxiliary recommendations for Township facilities, the following pages are an analysis of each specific park and open space of Upper Allen Township. The analysis includes existing conditions and existing challenges for each park and also specific opportunities and recommendations. Organized to convey cause-and-effect, the listing the challenges alongside the recommendations helps to show the reasoning behind park-specific recommendations.

While each recommendation is specific to the corresponding park or open space, all specific recommendation is part of either a general Essential recommendation or Auxiliary recommendation. While reading the following park and open space recommendations, each recommendation number will be related to a general recommendation.

In the Direction section, action plans for the general Essential recommendations and Auxiliary recommendations will have their own sections, as will park specific action plans based on the following recommendations.

ASPEN PARK

Located off of Spring Run Drive, Aspen Park is a large field located between lines of trees and homes that is just over two acres. Since this green space is situated under power-lines and cannot be developed for residential dwellings, the adjacent residential development reserved Aspen Park as an open space, in accordance with the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. This park was a primary example of underutilized green space that helped shape the recommendation to increase the amount of acreage required or provide alternatives to reserved open space, such as a fee-in-lieu option. Due to how narrow the park is, it is limited in which facilities can be located here. The size cannot support amenities such as ball fields, but can support amenities such as a basketball court or open gardens. Due to its close proximity to adjacent residential dwellings but small size, the proposed park classification for Aspen Park is a Neighborhood Green Space. Lacking a parking area or any recreational amenities, one may not realize the space is a municipal park if not for the park sign. Due to its low capacity use, Aspen Park has the potential to re-purpose its function as a preserved open space.



E9: Classify the space as a Neighborhood Green Space.



E10: Implement a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 2).



CENTER SQUARE PARK

Center Square Park, which is just under three acres, is another park which was probably reserved in accordance with open space requirements of the Township's SALDO. The park provides its neighborhood with several recreational amenities but holds untapped potential. The park contains a playground, slide and spinning wheel which are worn and need replaced, a small climbing wall, swings, and a pavilion in good condition, and a one-hoop basketball court. A gravel parking lot is provided for visitors. Due to its more valuable natural amenities and its location within floodplain area, the park has the opportunity to develop a more prominent purpose as a Special Conservation Area. By expanding this park area, the Township has the opportunity to increase its park acreage and acreage dedicated to passive recreation. On a higher note, this space can then be focused on the celebration and preservation of the Township's greatest natural amenity.



E9: Classify the space as a Special Conservation Area.



E1: Expand Center Square Park into the adjacent Township-owned floodplain area, further developing the park for passive recreation and education opportunities in the floodplain area.



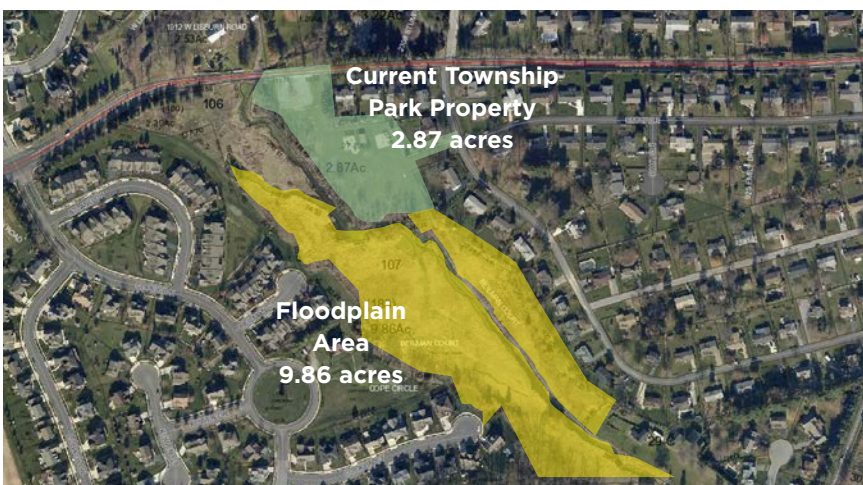
E10: Prepare a Park Master Plan to implement a floodplain amenity and park scheme and a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 1).



A2: Repair and replace worn, aging amenities in conjunction with other park upgrades.



E5: Provide an ADA parking area and universally accessible paths and amenities.



COUNTRY ESTATES PARK

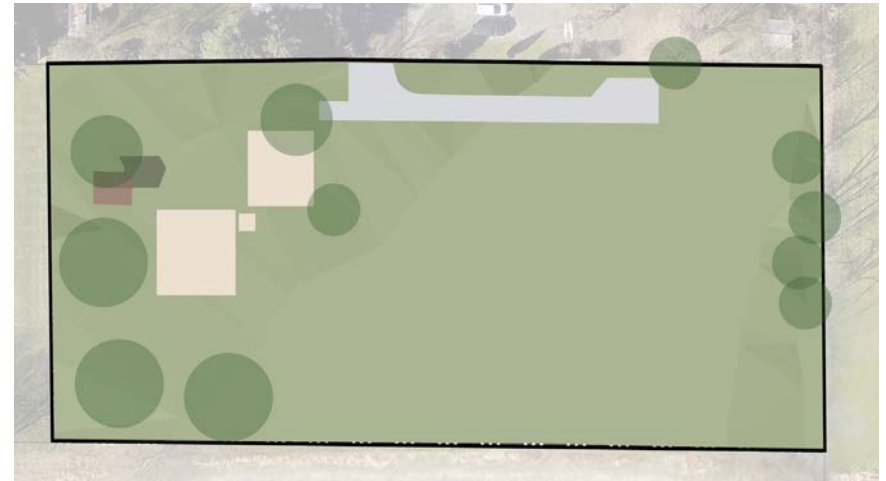
County Estates Park, just under two acres, is a park which provides local residents with playground equipment, a climbing wall, swings, and a sandbox for young children and open space for pick-up play activities. Country Estates Park is not visited often, and as expressed through the public survey, is not well known to a majority of the Township residents. The Township has concentrated all of the park's amenities in one corner of the park, resulting in a large green space that takes up most of the park. While there is no structured programming or use for this space, this may have the potential to provide additional amenities to residents which are currently lacking in other parks.



E9: Classify the space as a Neighborhood Green Space.



A9: Consider potential uses for the existing unprogrammed space or determine whether a neighborhood group would be willing to “adopt” the park.



FISHER COMMUNITY PARK

Fisher Community Park, which is located within the Yellow Breeches Watershed and is just over twenty acres, is reported as the most frequently visited and well known of the Township parks, and understandably so. Fisher Community Park provides the Township with a plethora of recreational facilities, like tennis courts, basketball courts and ball fields. With high-quality, well maintained pavilions and playground equipment, this multi-use space is visited by a range of demographics. The park itself has the third most extensive internal trail system, but these trails do not connect to its neighboring park, Friendship Park.



E9: Classify the space as a Park.



E10: Implement a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 3) in portions of the park where appropriate.



A10: Continue to uphold high maintenance levels and standards.



E12: As a park that is highly visited by residents and has existing trails, expand the trail system to connect to nearby parks and nearby residential developments.



FRIENDSHIP PARK

The sister of Fisher Community Park is Friendship Park. Slightly smaller than Fisher Community Park but also within the Yellow Breeches Watershed, Friendship Park is higher in elevation and provides Township residents with soccer fields and play fields. Though these large fields are well maintained, they do not offer ADA accessibility. The park contains a variety of playgrounds that provide residents with gymnast and classic playground equipment. Though this park has the most extensive trail system of the Township Parks, it does not connect to adjacent park trails.



E9: Classify the space as a Park.



E10: Utilize a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 3) in portions of the park where appropriate.



A1: Delineate public park space versus private residential space more prominently. Currently, the boundaries of either are blurred.



E6: Cluster trees to provide shaded areas for visitors.



E12: As a park that is highly visited by residents and has existing trails, expand the trail system to connect to adjacent parks and nearby residential developments.



E5: Make all benches by athletic fields ADA accessible.



A10: Continue to uphold high maintenance levels and standards.



GRANTHAM PARK

Grantham Park is a small hidden gem of Upper Allen Township situated behind the backyards of neighbors. Just over five acres, the park's most notable feature is its pond, which yields fishermen when possible, but more often visitors that sit and appreciate its natural beauty. The park also contains an open field area and playground equipment. Neither the pond nor playground equipment are universally accessible. Maintained the same way as other Township parks, grass cutting within the park has resulted in issues. Harmful vegetation like poison ivy is cut short around the pond and play area, and consequently users of the park inadvertently come in contact with the plant. Mostly known to conversationalists for the pond rather than for the everyday resident looking for a playground for children, Grantham Park holds a unique opportunity to provide its visitors.



E9: Classify the space as a Special Conservation Area.



E10: Utilize a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 1).



E9: Develop primary focus of Special Conservation Area to be the pond. Form an educational opportunity and promote passive recreation for this natural amenity.



E21: Develop specialized maintenance standards for this area, specifically for the pond.



A1: Delineate public park space vs. private residential space.



E5: Provide universally accessible paths and amenities.

McCORMICK PARK

A park which utilizes the Township's most valuable natural amenity is McCormick Park. Situated along the Yellow Breeches Creek, this park is a landing spot for the birds like the Baltimore Heron during their migration route and home trees like the Sycamore along McCormick Road. Arguably the most scenic park of the Township, fishermen and families alike are drawn to its natural beauty and water access, though the waterway cannot always support the quantity of visitors nor is safe for some activities which take place there, such as swimming. Complications arise with the high capacity of visitors and lack of parking. Cars park on the side of the road or even on the grass of the park itself, infringing on the natural habitat. Lacking proper signage and speed limits, cars speed down McCormick Road, making it dangerous for its visitors, especially children. Limited seating and no amenities such as picnic benches further complicate visits, resulting in people running back and forth between their cars. Despite these challenges, McCormick Park is a beloved park with extensive opportunities.



E9: Classify the park as a Special Conservation Area.



E10: Implement a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 1).



E9: Develop primary focus of conservation area to be the Yellow Breeches Creek, specifically developing education opportunity for this natural amenity and its wildlife prominence.



A3, A5: Erect proper informational signs, like "drive cautiously" and "no swimming" along road and water edge, respectfully.



E7, E8: Designate launch site, adjust water access, sitting/observation area and implement proper maintenance practices based on the Yellow Breeches Creek Task Force and Management Plan.



A5: Reduce speed limits and implement speed humps along McCormick road to mitigate incident risk.



MILLERS CREST PARK

Hidden in a Township neighborhood but accessible from multiple entrances, Miller's Crest Park is almost two and a half acres and is unique in shape. On one side of the park there is a small, worn playground facility and pavilion, and on the other side is a half basketball court, neither ADA accessible. Between the amenities is a large open field, which has the potential to be used for a range of different activities. The boundary between the backyards of neighboring homes and the park is blurred, with the only noticeable delineation formed from the different mowing patterns of the park and the residents. Reported as not well known or visited by participants of the public survey, this park most likely only serves though who are in close proximity to the space.



E9: Classify the space as a Neighborhood Green Space.



E10: Define public park space versus private residential space.



A2: Conduct playground safety inspection for all playground amenities to ensure safe use and ADA accessibility.



A9: Explore function for large space between basketball court and playground.

MT. ALLEN PARK

Situated at the end of a cul-du-sac, Mt. Allen Park provides the community with a quaint baseball field, pavilion, and playground facility. While the grass of the park is well maintained and manicured, the baseball field itself has been worn down from flooding issues, making it challenging to use for recreational use. In similar character, the playground and safety surface are worn and in need of replacement. Benches and bleachers are provided for the baseball field, but are not ADA accessible. The park provides visitors with a porta-potty, and though this amenity is convenient, it is unpleasantly located at the entrance of the park.



E9: Classify the space as a Neighborhood Green Space.



E10: Implement a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 3) where appropriate.



E12: Develop connecting trail system between park and Spring Run Acres Park where possible.



A2: Conduct playground inspection for all playground amenities to ensure safe use and ADA accessibility.



A2: Replace sand on softball fields that has experienced damage due to flooding.



A2: Repair and replace pavilion related amenities as necessary.



E5: Make bleachers adjacent to ball field ADA accessible.



A2: Consider constructing a permanent restroom facility or relocate existing temporary restrooms so it isn't located at park entrance.



ROSEGARDEN PARK

Enveloped almost completely by fences, Rosegarden park is a green space located within the Yellow Breeches Watershed and serves its nearby residents by providing a three-hoop basketball court, a pavilion and modest playground equipment. The playground equipment has experienced wear and is not ADA accessible. Public utilities are also located on the site, which are fenced off and secured by barbed wire in order to prevent safety hazards. While fences do define most of the park boundary, backyards of adjacent homes are reiterated by landscaping and trees. Due to its location within the watershed, the park has the potential to shift function in the future, evolving into a Special Conservation Area focused on ecological preservation and educational opportunities.



E9: Classify the space as a Neighborhood Green Space.



E10: Implement the Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 1) where appropriate.



E5, A2: In short term, conduct playground inspection for all playground amenities to ensure safe use and ADA accessibility.



E9: In long term, consider relocating the active recreation amenities to another park or green space, reclassifying the space as a Special Conservation Area.



E5: Provide an ADA accessible parking area and universally accessible paths.



SIMPSON PARK

Possibly the most popular non-active recreationally focused parks of the Township, Simpson Park provides visitors access to Yellow Breeches Creek as well as walking paths and high grasses. The park also provides a new pavilion and amphitheater, as well as a worn one alongside an unmaintained volleyball court. The popularity of the park results in a high volume of visitors which exceeds the parking capacities and infringes upon the undeveloped, limited access points to the stream. The park is located next to an undeveloped lot, which may offer an opportunity for park expansion.



E9: Classify the space as a Special Conservation Area.



E10: Implement the Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 1) where appropriate.



E9: Develop primary focus of conservation area to be the Yellow Breeches Creek, specifically developing education opportunity and preservation for this natural amenity.



E6: Redevelop parking area to limit visitor capacity and clearly define parking boundaries so that parking does not occur on grass surfaces and infringe upon the Special Conservation Area.



A2: Remove or replace and maintain the volleyball court.



E8: Designate and design “natural”-looking launch site (consider Lower Allen Park’s launch site as precedent), adjust and limit water access activities and implement proper maintenance and waste management practices based on the Yellow Breeches Creek Task Force and Management Plan.



E1: Consider expanding Simpson Park by acquiring adjacent, undeveloped lot. This may allow for the development of a second launch site while still supporting access management.



SPRING RUN ACRES PARK

Hidden off Nittany Drive, Spring Run Acres is a park within the watershed that can only be discovered by noticing its sign and small parking area. By following the stream's path in between backyards, the park opens up to reveal a playground area, a basketball court, and a picnic area. Beside the park is what looks like a trail that had begun development but was not completed. With no delineation of backyards and park area, the boundaries are blurred between the two, this ambiguity amplified by neighbors' clothes lines and outdoor furniture. Several amenities have experienced wear, the existing sandbox is unusable, the playground turf is in need of replacement and the basketball court is bisected by a fissure. None of these amenities are ADA accessible.



E9: Classify the space as a Neighborhood Green Space.



E10: Implement the Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 2).



E12: Develop connecting trail system between park and Mt. Allen Park where possible.



E6: Redevelop parking area and entrance to park to make park access more attractive and intuitive.



A1: Define public park space versus private residential space.



E5, A2: In short term, conduct playground inspection for all playground amenities to ensure safe use and ADA accessibility.



A2: In short term, replace damaged/cracking basketball court which has been damaged due to flooding issues.



E9: In long term, consider relocating the active recreation amenities and reclassifying the space as a Special Conservation Area.



WINDING HILLS PARK

Upper Allen Township's newest and largest recreational facility is Winding Hills Park. With parts located within the watershed, the two portions of the park provide sixty-four acres of park space for residents. One portion of the park provides ballfields and pavilions for visitors, while the other portion provides open fields, pavilions and playground facilities. Though consisting of new amenities, not all are ADA accessible. Trails/walking paths meander through portions of the parks, connecting to each other and to adjacent residential developments. From analysis of the public survey, the Winding Hills Park is very popular amongst residents, but not as popular as Friendship Park or Fisher Community Park. The master plan for the park, which was completed in August of 2015, provides vision for the undeveloped areas of the park.



E9: Classify the space as a Park.



E10: Implement the Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 3) where appropriate.



E5: Provide ADA accessible paths and amenities.



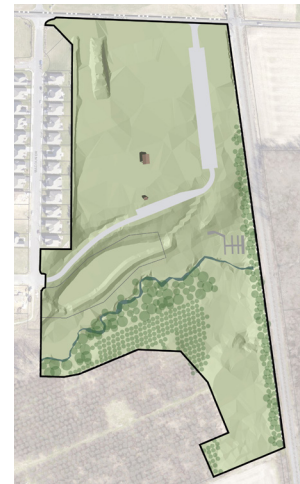
E12: As a park that is highly visited by residents and has existing trails, expand the trail system to connect to the two portions of the park to nearby residential developments by multiple access points. Provide sidewalks along Winding Hills Road so that trail system expands farther than just within park and to immediately adjacent residential developments.



E6: Cluster trees in order to provide shaded areas for visitors throughout the park.



E4: Continue to support the implementation of the Winding Hills Master Plan.



CONNECTIVITY

Connectivity within a community allows for increased mobility, less dependency on motor vehicles, economic development and can lead to a higher quality of life. Upper Allen Township has already begun creating a connectivity system, incorporating walking paths and trails within some parks and providing sidewalks in neighborhoods.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Upper Allen Township has started establishing a system of trails and walking paths within some of their premiere parks and open spaces. Winding Hills Park, Fisher Community Park and Friendship Park all incorporate paved walking paths within their recreation spaces, and Winding Hills Park actually connects to the adjacent residential developments as well. Simpson Park provides visitors with unpaved trails, making the park ideal for those who want to walk along a natural landscape.

While internal trail systems help promote the recreational activity itself, a lack of connectivity between facilities causes challenges and issues. Most parks and open spaces do not provide a sidewalk or trail system that allows visitors to safely access that facility by any means other than by car. This results in unsafe means of park access, reliance on cars, or not visiting the parks at all.

A “Walk Score” is a walkability index which measures the walkable system of a community and assesses the mobility of citizens without the use of car. The database was originally designed by real estate professionals as a way to analyze real estate values in relation to walkability. The walkability index is a score from 0 to 100, 0 being very/completely unwalkable and 100 being extremely/completely walkable. After applying the walkability index system for the most visited parks in the Township, the parks received the following scores:

Friendship Park/Fisher Community Park: **15**

Winding Hills Park: **3**

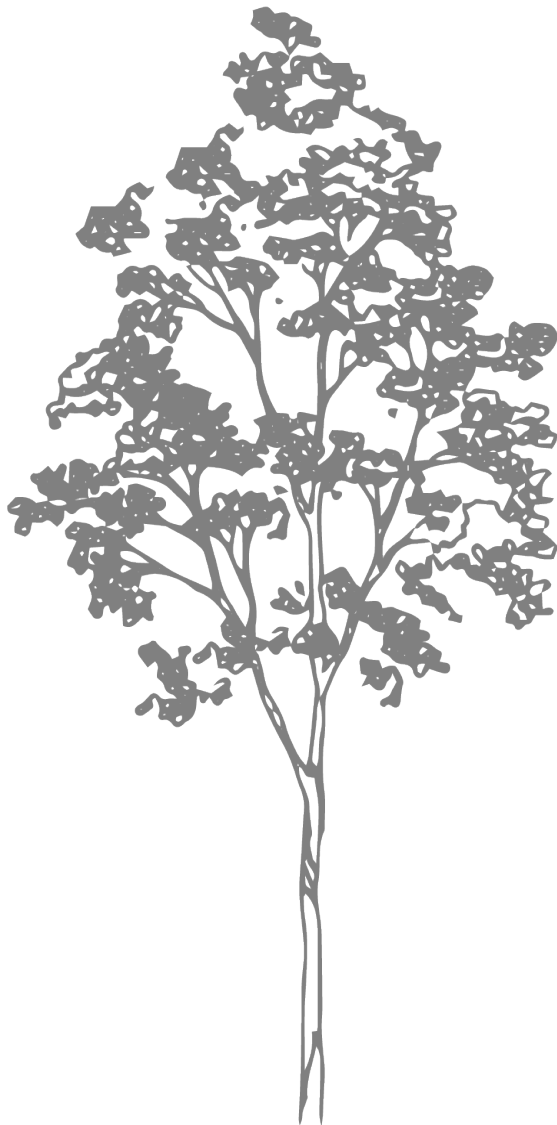
McCormick Park: **0**

Simpson Park: **1**

As found by the Walk Score of these parks, the most visited parks overall are very or completely unwalkable. Though the parks may have internal trail systems, they do not support a system that connects them to neighborhoods or other parks.

Left: A young girl walking along Winding Hills Road in Upper Allen Township to visit Winding Hills Park. While there is a trail that connects to the adjacent residential development, the lack of sidewalks creates challenges for those trying to access parks that do not live as close in proximity.





RESIDENT INTEREST

As reported by the public survey (question 11, see below), there is a desire by residents to be able to access their nearby parks safely by bike or foot, and even more so the desire of an expanded trail system. When asked which recreation amenity they would most like to see more of in their community, the highest answer was paved trails for bicycling and walking. The second highest response was unpaved and bare trails for activities like hiking. The fact that the two highest interests for amenities were trails indicates that this is an amenity that is necessary to expand in the future.

TABLE 9: RECREATION ACTIVITY INTEREST

	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested		Not Interested
Birdlife/Wildlife Watching Areas	171	284	455	274
Dog Park	215	192	407	350
Indoor Athletic Facility (basketball, volleyball, soccer,	293	226	519	219
Indoor Community Center (meeting space, teen/senior	195	294	489	244
Ice Sports (e.g. hockey, skating, cross country skiing,	195	220	415	314
Skate Park/BMX Track/Pump Track (Mountain Biking)	76	142	218	499
Open fields for informal activities (Frisbee, pick-up soccer,	261	336	597	150
Large Climbing Wall	147	203	350	378
Obstacle Course/Parkour Area	144	200	344	381
Canoe/Kayaking/Tubing Area	330	272	602	150
Playgrounds for Small Children	268	247	515	221
Playgrounds for Older Kids	283	247	530	205
Outdoor Court Sports (tennis, basketball, volleyball)	291	289	580	163
Outdoor Field Sports (e.g. baseball, softball, soccer,	294	234	528	210
Outdoor Camping	160	189	349	378
Outdoor Splash Pad Park	218	203	421	308
Outdoor Exercise Equipment for Adults	249	286	535	204
Water Access	310	270	580	153
Paved Trails (e.g. Bicycling, Walking)	513	189	702	61
Unpaved/Bare Earth Trail Activities (e.g. Hiking/Mountain	364	218	582	165
Cemetery Park Walking Paths	104	202	306	410
Upper Allen Township Historical Sites	194	310	504	233
Geo-Caching Areas	78	203	281	433

RECOMMENDATIONS

Upper Allen Township has several opportunities to expand its connectivity system. An unused railroad cuts across the lower portion of the Township and several natural greenways intertwine through the community. Additionally, existing roads and infrastructure support the possibility of on-road biking trails and the incorporation of a walking trail system on the sides of the roads. In order to make this “Green Route” a possibility, the following recommendations have been formed collaboratively through public input, administrative insight, and planning expertise.



E12: Connect parks to neighborhoods and other parks through a system of bicycle/pedestrian trails

On the following page is the proposed connectivity system, termed the “Green Route.” Taking advantage of the Township’s skeleton, this Green Route meanders through different sections of the Township to connect parks to each other and parks to different neighborhoods. By creating a Green Route that connects and passes through almost all the parks, this will increase awareness of the parks that are not as well known by residents. If desired, the Township can even incorporate “Health Trail” features along portions of the route, such as near Trout Run. The Township can reach out to nearby healthcare providers as potential sponsors for such development.



E13: Implement Zoning Ordinance/SALDO amendments to incentivize the Development of the Green Route (in combination with E3)

Currently, the Township’s Zoning Ordinance/SALDO provisions require that for any residential development of more than fifty units, designated open space must be provided for that development. This requirement results in underutilized, unknown park space which must then be maintained by the Township. To prevent such issues from occurring, the Township can amend this provision and allow three options for future developments— the developer can provide an open space requirement much large in acreage, develop a certain amount of sidewalks/paved trails that connects the development to other areas of the Township, or develop off-site trails. The Township can then designate the permitted placement of the trails to catalyze the expansion of the Green Route. Not only will this result in an expanded trail network, but will reduce the amount of underutilized open space that the Township will have to maintain.

TRAIL DESIGN GUIDELINES

To help standardize future trail design, the following guidelines for widths are recommended based on the capacity and purpose of trails:

TRAILS WITHIN PARK

Trails located within a park itself usually can accommodate the user capacity by being between 6 to 8 feet in width. For instance, paved trails within Friendship park should be within 6 to 8 feet in width.

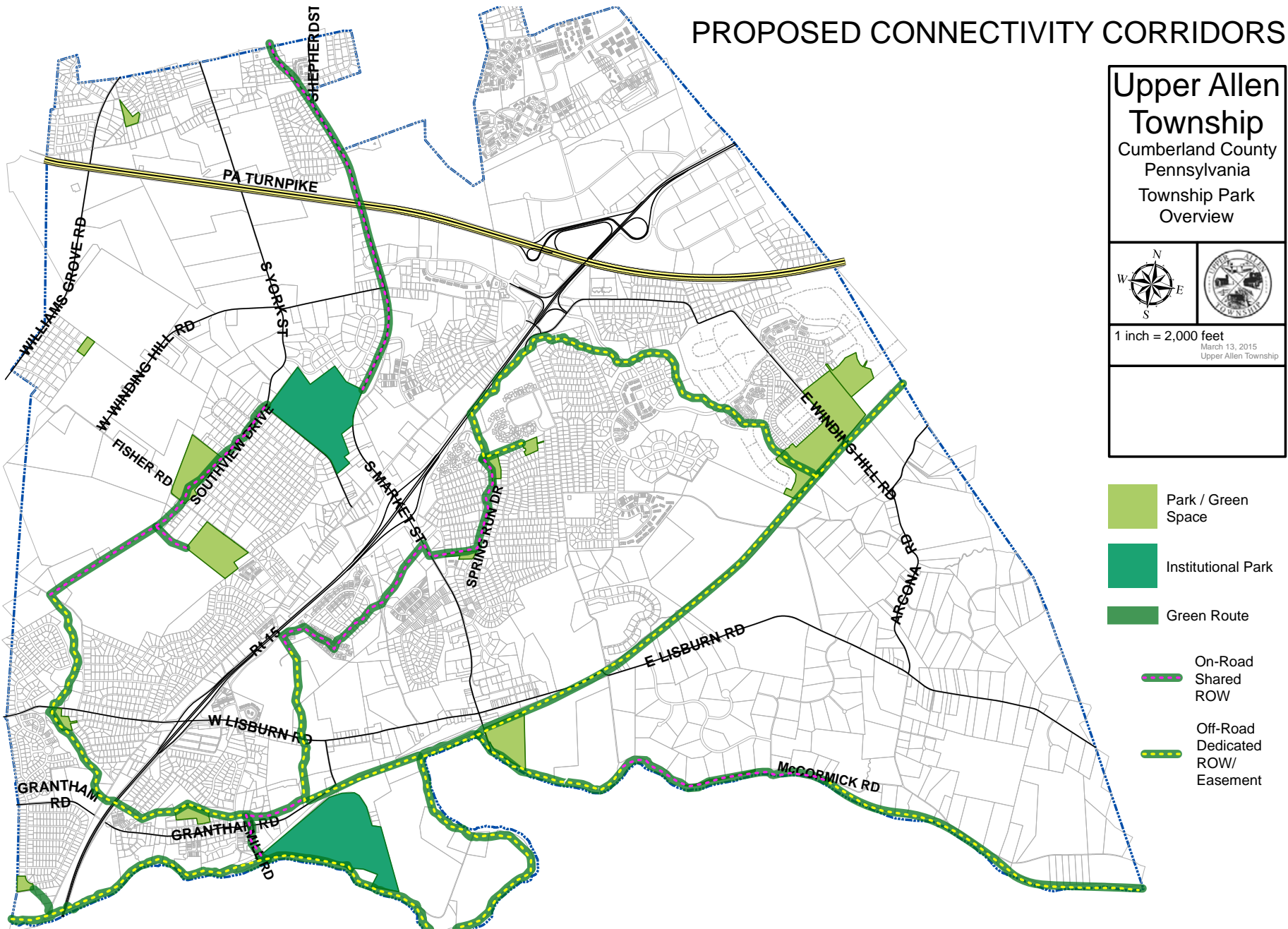
CONNECTING TRAIL

Trails which connect a residential subdivision to a nearby park or which connect the subdivision to the larger trail network can accommodate their usually low volume of bicyclists and pedestrians by being between 10 and 12 feet in width. For instance, a future trail to connect Orchard Glen to the Green Route should be between 10 and 12 feet in width.

MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL

Primary trails within the trail network which support a large volume of users and are intended for not only recreational purposes but also for commuter transportation can typically accommodate their users when 12 to 15 feet in width. For example, the trails along the recommended Green Route should be between 12 to 15 feet in length.

FIGURE 10: PROPOSED CONNECTIVITY CORRIDORS





E14: Investigate feasibility of forming a conservation easement to facilitate means of greenway and trail acquisition

Forming a conservation easement that reserves certain areas and spaces for greenway and trail development can be a strategic way of making sure no other development takes place that is not related to trail development. Through means of Zoning, the Township can also ensure that designated boundaries only allow for trail development in the future.



A4: Create a unified signage system to identify the Township's Green Route

Once Green Route development is underway, the Township can begin to implement wayfinding signs that direct riders and walkers to the Green Route. Since portions of the proposed Green Route are on-road trails, directional signs can help ensure that users do not lose their way and that they are able to continue upon the intended route. These wayfinding signs can also incorporate park names so that users not only know the direction of the route, but the direction of Township parks and open spaces.



A5: Reduce speed limits and implement traffic calming strategies around parks

Several municipal parks are located just off the roads throughout the various Township neighborhoods, and though safety risks aren't issues at most parks, McCormick Park has had several safety issues due to the close proximity to McCormick Road. Lacking a highly noticeable park sign, drivers speed down McCormick Road and pose a threat to park visitors, especially children. During a Key Person Interview, the interviewee who lives on McCormick Road explained that children are running back and forth from the stream to their families' cars since there are no picnic tables to store belongings, and are put in danger by speeding traffic along the road. By reducing speed limits and implementing traffic calming devices like speed humps on McCormick Road along the park, park use will be much more safer for visitors.



Photos of an Upper Allen resident development almost connecting their sidewalk system to Winding Hills Park trail. Expansion of a connecting trail network proves desired by the community.

PROGRAMMING

Connectivity within a community allows for increased mobility, less dependency on motor vehicles, stimulate economic development and can lead to a higher quality of life. Upper Allen Township has already begun creating a connectivity system, incorporating walking paths and trails within some parks and providing sidewalks in neighborhoods.



INTRODUCTION

The Upper Allen Township municipal government's purpose is to provide, on a broad scale, those services that help to meet the significant needs of citizens but can't be performed as efficiently or economically by individual citizens acting for themselves. This includes providing public parks and offering public recreation programs. The goal is to ensure that the members of every segment of the population – regardless of age, physical or mental condition, or economic or social standing – have opportunities to enjoy broad, satisfying recreation experiences.

Providing park land and recreation facilities are important municipal functions. Equally as important are the recreation experiences residents have through involvement in recreation programs. Recreation programming is the process of creating opportunities for people to engage in recreation experiences – both organized and self-directed activities.

Upper Allen Township provides its citizens with public recreation programming, in cooperation with the Mechanicsburg Area School District and Shiremanstown and Mechanicsburg Boroughs, through the Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department*. The Recreation Department is not the sole provider of recreation programs in the Township, however. It is one among inter-related public, non-profit, private, commercial and other agencies that contribute to the recreation program opportunities available to Upper Allen Township residents. This chapter addresses the variety of organizations that help to meet the recreation program needs of Upper Allen Township residents.

Recreation programs build community by providing positive activities that encourage a sense of unity, pride and appreciation for community traditions and heritage. Through recreation programs, citizens improve their health and fitness, enhance their creativity, build relationships, reduce stress and become happier and more involved in community life. Children develop self-confidence, stay physically active and make friends.

*The Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department refers to itself as 'Mechanicsburg Area Parks and Recreation' or 'Mechanicsburg Parks and Recreation' on printed promotional materials. For this document it is referred to as Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department to avoid confusion.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department

The Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department offers special events, trips, sports programs and learning opportunities for all ages. It was formed by a Joint Recreation Committee Agreement approved between the Mechanicsburg Area School District, Upper Allen Township Board of Commissioners, Mechanicsburg Borough Council, and Shiremanstown Recreation Board. The current intergovernmental agreement term is until June 30, 2016.

The Joint Recreation Committee is composed of six members – one representative from each municipal recreation board, two representatives from the school district, and the recreation director. It meets once each year, on the second Thursday of March, and may meet at other times at the call of the chair. Its functions are to advise the four governmental entities on recreation matters, establish objectives to give direction to community recreation activities, assist in the evaluation of current programs and planning for future programs, and advise and give consent to the hiring of the recreation director by the school district.

The Recreation Department uses school facilities, area parks and playgrounds, and the Trails and Trees Environmental Center for its programs. Its office is located at the school district-owned Trails and Trees Environmental Center in Upper Allen Township. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and follows the school calendar for closings. In summer months, the office is closed on Fridays.

Use of school facilities for recreation programs is at no cost, except for very large events where increased custodial help or police presence is necessary.

In addition to providing a wide variety of recreation programs, the Recreation Department manages and coordinates the sale of pool passes for the Mechanicsburg Area Community Swimming Pool; sponsors the Central PA Honor Bus program, which is dedicated to taking World War II and Korean War veterans to visit their memorials in Washington, DC; sponsors the Mechanicsburg Ski Club, which is open to all ages; and coordinates picnic pavilion rentals for Mechanicsburg Borough parks.

The Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department offers an extensive, balanced schedule of recreation programs for all ages year-round. The Recreation Department has four full-time staff positions – recreation director, assistant recreation director, recreation specialist and administrative assistant. All four positions are staff members of the Mechanicsburg Area School District. The recreation director reports to the chief fiscal officer of the School District; the other three staff members report to the recreation director.

The cost of the full-time staff salaries and benefits for the 2015-16 fiscal year (\$267,219) is shared as follows: School District 75 percent (\$200,414), municipalities (Mechanicsburg and Shiremanstown Boroughs, Upper Allen Township) 25 percent (\$66,805). The municipal 25 percent share is divided by population: Mechanicsburg Borough 34 percent, Shiremanstown Borough 7 percent, Upper Allen Township 59 percent. Upper Allen Township also reimburses the Recreation Department for the cost of its summer playground programs at Community Park. Upper Allen Township's share of the full-time employee salary costs for 2016 is approximately \$39,500; its summer playground costs are approximately \$12,500.

The Recreation Department has budgeted its operational expenses for the 2015-16 fiscal year at \$267,360. With the full-time staff salaries and benefits added, the total Recreation Department expense budget is \$534,579. It has budgeted to generate \$509,400 in program revenue in 2015-16. A very significant savings is the in-kind, no cost use of school buildings and grounds. If the Recreation Department were to pay rental fees for use of schools, its budget would be considerably higher.

The Recreation Department has approximately 90 part-time staff who work throughout the year; an additional 37 staff are employed in the summer at the adventure day camp and playground programs. Approximately 95-100 volunteers assist with programs, with the majority serving as youth basketball coaches.

ACRONYMS & TERMS

The following acronyms are used throughout Table 14: Programming Inventory:

MASH

Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School

MECH

Mechanicsburg

MECH SD

Mechanicsburg Area School District

ES

Elementary School

MS

Middle School

TRAILS AND TREES E CENTER

Trails and Trees Environmental Center

The process of registering for a recreation program is user friendly, as residents may register on-line, call and pay with a credit card, mail in their registration form and payment, or walk it into the Recreation Department office. Programs are reasonably priced. Non-resident fees are charged for recreation programs and park pavilion rental.

The Recreation Department, in cooperation with Operation Wildcat and the Wildcat Foundation, has a recreation scholarship program in place to support school district student participation in recreation activities so that no child is excluded because of financial limitations. Approximately \$8,200 in scholarships were given out to 52 students within the past year.

Program participants are asked to evaluate programs at the conclusion of each program via survey forms sent through the program registration software system. Getting feedback from participants helps to improve and enhance the recreation programs.

The School District provides availability, inquiry and facility rental requests on-line, with notification via email when permits have been approved. The facilities include the Trails and Trees Environmental Center, the high school indoor swimming pool, the Mechanicsburg outdoor swimming pool, and the pavilions at the Borough's Memorial and Koser Parks.

Table 14 on the following pages is a compilation of all the recreation programs that are facilitated through MARD, though the programs may be taught through private entities themselves. Program Location refers to the specific location (facility, institute, private business, etc) at which the program takes place.

TABLE 14: PROGRAMMING INVENTORY

Program Type	Program Name	Program Location
Family Special Events (2)	Camping Under the Stars	Trails and Trees E Center
	Father/Daughter Dance	MASH Cafeteria
Preschool Programs (13)	Beginning Pony Riding	Total Equine Learning Center
	Dinosaur Adventures	Trails and Trees E Center
	The Joy of Movement	Studio '91
	Prince/Princess Camp	Studio '91
	Field Hockey Little Sticks	Memorial Park Turf Field
	Animal and Nature Preschool Dance	Studio '91
	Gymnastics for Preschoolers	Northside ES
	Fitness and Sports	Trails and Trees E Center
	Soccer Shots	Elmwood ES Field
	Story Times	Trails and Trees E Center
	Winter Princess	Trails and Trees E Center
	Kindermusik Village	Trails and Trees E Center
	Kindermusik Our Time	Trails and Trees E Center
Youth Programs (43)	Beginning Pony Riding	Total Equine Learning Center
	Boogie Woogie Blues	Studio '91
	Cartooning	Mech MS/Elmwood ES Art Rooms
	Cooking up Some Yum	Mech MS Classroom
	Creative Art	Elmwood ES Art Room
	Lego Camp	Elmwood ES Music Room
	Hip Hop	Studio '91
	Horseback Riding Camp and Clinic	Total Equine Learning Center
	Frozen Camp	Studio '91
	Far Out Space Academy	Elmwood ES Art Room
	Hands on Art	Trails and Trees E Center
	Drawing Genius	Elmwood ES Art Room
	Intro to Kung Fu	Mechanicsburg Kung Fu Center
	Mix it Up	Trails and Trees E Center
	Gymnastics for Youth	Northside ES Gym
	Science and Crafts = Fun	Mech MS Art Room
	Mixed Media Art Exploration	Mech MS Art Room
	Lego Movie Creator	Elmwood ES Music Room
	Point, Tap and Roll	Studio '91
	Holiday Craft Club	Trails and Trees E Center
	Fairy Garden Workshop	Trails and Trees E Center
	Beginner's Junior Judo	Mech MS Auxiliary Gym
	Yoga for Kids	Elmwood ES Auxiliary Gym
	Scrapbooking for Kids	Mech MS Art Room
	Beginner Rock/Jazz Camp	Trez Music Education Center
	Friday Frenzy	MASH Pool and Gym

TABLE 14: PROGRAMMING INVENTORY *continued*

Program Type	Program Name	Program Location
Youth Programs (43)	Summer Playground Program	Community Park (Fisher Road)
		Koser Park
	Healthy Hands Cooking	Mech MS Classroom
	Fitness and Sports	Trails and Trees E Center
	Abracadabra	Trails and Trees E Center
	Fun with Food	Elmwood, Broad St., Upper Allen, Northside ES Art Rooms
	Arts and Crafts Club	
	Wild about Weather	
	Explosive Art	
	Winter Fun in 3D Art	Mech MS Classroom
	Keepsake Santa Ornament	Mech MS Classroom
	Pen Art	Mech MS Classroom
	Winter Scene Painters	Elmwood ES Art Room
	That's Dough Fun	Elmwood ES Art Room
	Tie-Dye Mania	Elmwood ES Auditorium
	Theatre Camp	Elmwood ES Music Room
	Wizards in Training	Memorial Park
	Summer Adventure Camp	
Adult Programs (18)	Dog Obedience	Trails and Trees E Center
	Pine Wreath Workshop	Trails and Trees E Center
	Intro to Essential Oils	Mech MS Classroom
	Medicare Basics	Mech MS Library
	To Cruise or Not to Cruise	Mech MS Library
	Disney Trip Planning	Mech MS Library
	Cove Paranormal	Trails and Trees E Center
	Communicating with Loved Ones	Trails and Trees E Center
	Mixed Media Art Exploration	Mech MS Classroom
	Mechanicsburg Dinner Club	Area Restaurants
	Intermediate Ballroom Dance	Northside ES
	Living Herb Wreath	Trails and Trees E Center
	Cooking with Herbs	Trails and Trees E Center
	Square Dancing	Upper Allen ES Gym
	Sweetheart Social Dance	Northside ES
	Adult Horsemanship	Total Equine Learning Center
	Beginner Ballroom Dance	Northside ES
	Boxwood Tree Workshop	Trails and Trees E Center
Adult Fitness (21)	Cardio Kickboxing	Upper Allen ES Gym
	Cardio Lite	Upper Allen ES Gym
	Muscle Pump Gold	Upper Allen ES Gym
	Pilates	First Church of God Com. Center
	Pilates Gold	First Church of God Com. Center
	Hatha Yoga	Trail and Trees E Center

TABLE 14: PROGRAMMING INVENTORY *continued*

Program Type	Program Name	Program Location
Adult Fitness (21)	Boot Camp	Elmwood ES Auxiliary Gym
	PiYo	Upper Allen ES Gym
	Senior Cardio	First Church of God Com. Center
	Yoga Gold	First Church of God Com. Center
	Zumba	Elmwood ES Auxiliary Gym
	Zumba Toning	Elmwood ES Auxiliary Gym
	Top Shelf Fitness	Mech MS Auxiliary Gym
	Intro to Tai Chi	Mechanicsburg Kung Fu Center
	Booty Barre	Elmwood ES Auxiliary Gym
	Insanity	Mech MS Auxiliary Gym
	Pound	Elmwood ES Auxiliary Gym
	Vinyasa Flow Yoga	Trails and Trees E Center
	Gentle Mindful Yoga	Elmwood ES Auxiliary Gym
	Intro to Meditation	Red Head Yoga Studio
	Conditioning Circuit for Athletes	Studio '91
Adult Athletics (12)	Pickup Basketball Men's 18 and Over	Elmwood ES Gym
	Pickup Basketball Men's Over 35	MASH Gym
	Pickup Basketball Men's Over 40	Mech MS Gym
	Volleyball Open Gym	Mech MS Auxiliary Gym
	Pickle Ball	Elmwood ES Gym
	Men's Open Lacrosse	Memorial Park Stadium
	Women's, Coed, Women's Quads, Gender Blind Quads Grass	Mech MS
	Coed Dodgeball Tournament	
	Triples Grass Volleyball Tournament	
		MASH Gym
Youth Athletics (29)		Mech MS
	Tri4Kids	Memorial Park
	Boys Baseball Camp and Clinic	Memorial Park Baseball Field
	Boys Basketball Camp	MASH Gym
	Boys Football Camp	Memorial Park Turf Field
	Boys Wrestling Camp	MASH Gym
	Girls Basketball Camp	Mech MS Gym
	Girls Volleyball Camp	Mech MS Gym
	Field Hockey with League Play	Mech MS Field Hockey Fied
	Tennis Lessons	MASH Tennis Courts
	Little Warriors Floor Hockey	Elmwood ES Gym
	Strictly Skills Basketball	Mech MS Gym
	Elementary Coed Soccer	Elmwood ES Field
	Soccer Camp	Mech MS Soccer Field
	Volley Kidz	Mech MS Gym
	Tennis Camp	MASH Tennis Courts
	Coed Flag Football League	Mech MS Football Practice Field

TABLE 14: PROGRAMMING INVENTORY *continued*

Program Type	Program Name	Program Location
Youth Athletics (29)	Competitive Swim, Stroke and Turn Clinic	Mechanicsburg Outdoor Pool
	Cross Country and Track Camp	MASH Track
	Elementary Volleyball Camp	Mech MS Gym
	Junior Golf Camp	Range End Golf Club
	Little Cats Basketball Camp	Mech MS Gym
	Field Hockey Camp	Memorial Park Turf Field
	Field Hockey Mini Sticks and Stick Skills	Memorial Park Turf Field
	K-2 Grade Recreation Basketball	Broad Street ES Gym
	3-6 Grade Boys and Girls Basketball Leagues	Mech SD Gyms
	Travel Boys and Girls Basketball Leagues	
	Basketball Open Gyms	
Teen Programs (23)	Behind-the-Wheel Driver Education	Area Roads
	SAT Prep	Mech MS Library
	Glimpse at the PSAT	MASH Classroom
	Algebra I Boot Camp	Mech MS Classroom
	Teenage Fitness Center	MASH Fitness Center
	Tennis Training	MASH Tennis Courts
	Middle School Volleyball Camp	Mech MS Gym
	Tennis Camp	MASH Tennis Courts
	Field Hockey High School Academy	Memorial Park Turf Field
	Field Hockey Clinics	Memorial Park Turf Field
	Beginner's Italian	Trails and Trees E Center
	Hip Hop	Studio '91
	Horseback Riding Camp	Total Equine Learning Center
	Musical Theatre 101	Studio '91
	Girls Volleyball	Mech MS Gym
	Yoga for Teens	Mech MS Classroom
	Track Club	MASH Track
	Jazz Camp	Trez Music Education Center
	Rock Camp	Trez Music Education Center
	Vocal Arts Camp	Trez Music Education Center
	Student Coed Dodgeball Tournament	MASH Gym
Environmental Education Programs (14)	Safe Sitter Babysitter Training	Trails and Trees E Center
	Private Music Instruction	MASH Band Room
	Helping Hands	Trails and Trees E Center
	PA Hunter-Trapper Education	Trails and Trees E Center
	Birds of a Feather	Trails and Trees E Center
	Night Hike	Trails and Trees E Center
	Stewardship Days	Trails and Trees E Center
	Solar Night	Trails and Trees E Center
	Brownie Hour	Trails and Trees E Center
	Green Living	Trails and Trees E Center

TABLE 14: PROGRAMMING INVENTORY *continued*

Program Type	Program Name	Program Location
Environmental Education Programs (14)	Weather Bug	Trails and Trees E Center
	Art through Nature	Trails and Trees E Center
	Animal Adaptations	Trails and Trees E Center
	Birds for Beginners	Trails and Trees E Center
	Mech Area Adult Environmental Club	Trails and Trees E Center
	Elementary Green Team Env Club	Trails and Trees E Center
	Tree Huggers	MASH
Aquatics (8)	Aqua Action Family and Adult Swim	MASH Pool
	Semi-Private Swim Lessons	MASH Pool
	Adult Water Aerobics	MASH Pool
	Aqua Cats Swim Lessons	Mechanicsburg Outdoor Pool
	Lifeguard Course	MASH Pool
	Water Cats Swim Lessons	MASH Pool
	Itty Bitty Water Kitty	MASH Pool
Trips and Tours (30)	Scuba	MASH Pool
	Atlantic City, NJ	
	New York City (5)	
	Philadelphia Flower Show	
	Killington, VT Skiing	
	Broadway Trips (4)	
	Funny Girl at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre	
	Penn's Peak Theatre	
	Hudson Valley	
	Two Castles and a Cathedral	
	Discover Pittsburgh	
	Finger Lakes Wine Festival	
	Baltimore Zoo	
	Ocean City, MD	
	Virginia and Maryland Brew Trail	
	Virginia Wineries Tour	
	All Things Amish	
	Steam Train and Flight 93 Memorial	
	Philadelphia Ghost Walk	
	Maryland Casino and Shopping	
	Radio City Christmas Show	
	A Christmas Story	
	A Biltmore Christmas	
	Roman Jubilee	
() = Number of programs		Total number of programs = 213

Below are the individual number of total Mechanicsburg area residents and the individual number of total Upper Allen Township residents that participated in Recreation Department activities within the last year, by program category.

TABLE 15: MECHANICSBURG AREA RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROGRAMMING REGISTRATION

Program Category	Summer 2015		Winter/Spring 2015		Fall 2014	
	Total #	Total # Upper Allen	Total #	Total # Upper Allen	Total #	Total # Upper Allen
Adults	323	64 (20%)	377	158 (42%)	422	149 (35%)
Aquatics	256	128 (50%)	132	58 (44%)	27	13 (48%)
Community	29	14 (48%)	57	35 (61%)	130	73 (56%)
Family	0	0	325	203 (63%)	23	13 (56%)
Trips	20	0 (0%)	112	38 (34%)	210	81 (39%)
Preschool/Youth/Teen	1,162	641 (55%)	364	210 (58%)	732	434 (59%)
Totals	1,790	847 (47%)	1,367	702 (51%)	1,544	763 (49%)
(% of total individuals registered who live in Upper Allen Township)						

PROGRAM PROVIDERS

Youth Sports Organizations

A variety of youth sports organizations serve Upper Allen Township residents. The youth sports programs offered are organized by separate volunteer groups; there is no umbrella athletic association. Groups include: Mechanicsburg Lacrosse Club (ages 8 to 15); Mechanicsburg Little League (ages 5 to 12); Mechanicsburg Soccer Club (ages 5 to 14); Mechanicsburg Girls Fast Pitch Softball Association (ages 5 to 12); Mechanicsburg Swim Club (ages 5 to 18); Mechanicsburg Midget Football (and Cheerleading) Association (ages 5 to 13); Mechanicsburg Wrestling Booster Club Elementary Wrestling (ages 8 to 13); Upper Allen Baseball Association (ages 5 to 12); and Mechanicsburg Area Teener Baseball (ages 13 to 16).

Mechanicsburg Area School District

The Mechanicsburg Area School District offers after school activities and clubs at its middle school and high school. Community attendance at sporting events, music concerts and school plays is high. School district parent-teacher organizations sponsor recreation programs such as dances, family fun nights, roller skating parties, and festivals for each school as well as district-wide events.

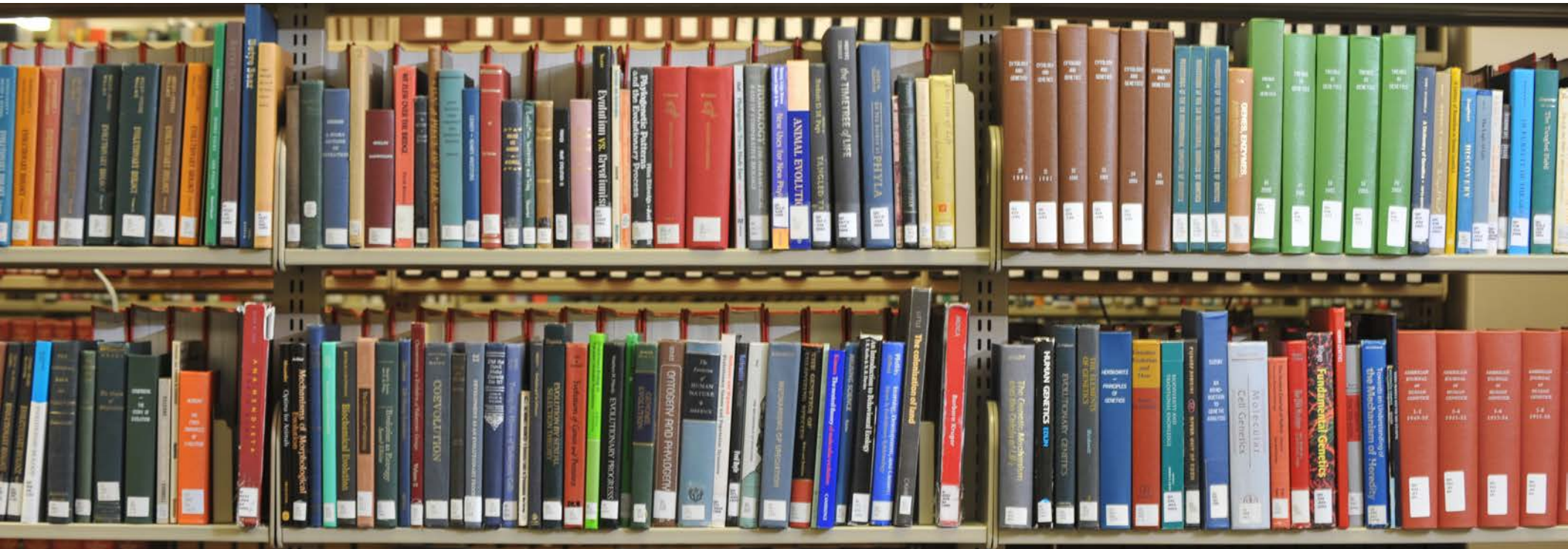
Mechanicsburg Place Senior Community Center

Mechanicsburg Place Senior Community Center is a program of Messiah Lifeways and is supported in part by a grant from the Cumberland County Office of Aging and Community Services; it is a multi-service facility for adults ages 55 and older. The Senior Center serves a free daily lunch for members. Programs include bus trips, health screenings and wellness workshops, book club, chorus, computer classes, holiday parties and special events, and exercise classes. The Center is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Joseph T. Simpson Public Library

The Simpson Library, part of the Cumberland County Library System, is the nearest regional library to Upper Allen Township. Located in Mechanicsburg Borough, it is dedicated to providing area residents with library and information services. The library maintains a selection of materials for all ages. In particular, its children's library and children's programming are designed to foster and maintain a love of books and reading in children. It also has access to thousands of other reference sources through county and state interlibrary loan services, the Internet, and on-line databases. Programs include weekly story times for children, summer reading program, teen movie nights, activities club for tweens, adult book club, home school book discussion club, and special events such as stuffed animal sleepovers and fashion shows.



PROGRAM & FACILITY PARTNERS

The Mechanicsburg Area School District plays an active role in recreation and is Upper Allen Township's largest partner for recreation services. The School District's involvement allows the no-cost use of the elementary schools, middle school and high school buildings and grounds for community recreation programs throughout the year. It also provides the office for the Recreation Department.

The Recreation Department partners with a number of area businesses to sponsor community recreation programs at their locations, including Studio '91, Mechanicsburg Kung Fu Center, Trez Music Education Center, and Total Equine Learning Center. Other partners provide programs for the Recreation Department in school locations, including Science Explorers, Healthy Kids Running Series and Strictly Skills Basketball. A number of Recreation Department adult fitness classes are held at the First Church of God Community Center. Area businesses are recruited to financially sponsor the elementary basketball program, with 15 businesses sponsoring the program in 2014.

Upper Allen Township partners with a number of area youth sports organizations to provide athletic fields for practices and games.

NEARBY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Beyond facilities provided by the School District or parks and open spaces provided by the Township, the following pages compare the different recreational facilities, such as commercial recreation businesses, gyms, yoga studios, which are found within the Township and within close proximity of the Township.

TABLE 16: NEARBY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

[illegible]

TABLE 16: NEARBY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES *continued*

Municipality	Facility Name	Cheerleading Facility	Gym/Fitness Club	Yoga/Meditation	Dance Studio	Pilates Studio	Library	Golf Course	Mini-Golf Course	Rock Climbing Wall	Gymnastics Facility	Ice Skating/Hockey	Indoor Aquatic Facility	Outdoor Aquatic Facility	Martial Arts Studio	Equestrian Facility	Library	Country Club	Tennis Facility	Batting Cage Center	Indoor Trampoline Facility	Paintball Facility	Shooting Range	Indoor Playground Facility	Indoor Athletic Fields	Bowling Alley
Camp Hill	Body IQ Life					•																				
	Om My Yoga			•																						
	Be-Fit Body & Mind Yoga			•																						
	Just Plain Yoga Studio			•																						
	Transcendental Meditation			•																						
	Personal Fitness		•																							
	LA Fitness		•										•													
	Monkey Joe's												•											•		
	YMCA		•										•													
	Most High Sports Complex		•																							
	WSY Swimming												•													
	West Shore Academy of Martial Arts													•												
	Min's Karate Academy													•												
	Wevodau Dance Center				•																					
	Cleve J. Fredericksen Library																•									
	West Shore County Club							•										•								
	Camp Hill Tennis Club																		•							
New Cumberland	Kundalini Yoga Space			•																						
	Fountainblu Skating Arena											•														
	Tiger Rock Martial Arts														•											
	Central Pennsylvania Martial Arts Academy														•											
	New Cumberland School of Ballet				•																					
	Yellow Breeches Sports Center																									
	Friends of New Cumberland																•									
Lemoyne	Art in Motion, LLC.		•																							
	Sharks AAU Gym		•																							
	Crossfit 717		•																							
	Miami Beach Boot Camp		•																							
	American Karate Academy														•											
	Harrisburg Brazilian Jiu Jitsu														•											
	Ballroom Dance Shoes					•																				

TABLE 16: NEARBY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES *continued*

Municipality	Facility Name	Cheerleading Facility	Gym/Fitness Club	Yoga/Meditation	Dance Studio	Pilates Studio	Library	Golf Course	Mini-Golf Course	Rock Climbing Wall	Gymnastics Facility	Ice Skating/Hockey	Indoor Aquatic Facility	Outdoor Aquatic Facility	Martial Arts Studio	Equestrian Facility	Library	Country Club	Tennis Facility	Batting Cage Center	Indoor Trampoline Facility	Paintball Facility	Shooting Range	Indoor Playground Facility	Indoor Athletic Fields	Bowling Alley
Harrisburg	Planet Fitness		•																							
	Meditation Science			•																						
	YMCA		•										•													
	Next Step Performance		•										•													
	Fitness U		•																							
	Jewish Community Center		•										•													
	Capital Area Extreme Gym		•																							
	Central Penn Fitness Center		•																							
	Harrisburg Gymnastics School										•															
	Twin Ponds East Ice Rink											•														
Water Golf on City Island							•																			
Lower Allen	Bikram Yoga			•																						
	Curves		•																							
	Unrivaled Athletics														•											
	GoWags Baseball/Softball Training Center																			•						
	ABC Lanes																								•	
	Harrisburg Jiu Jitsu														•											
Silver Spring	Absolute Pilates					•																				
	Climbnasium									•																
	Rich Valley Gymnastics										•															
	Elite Athletic Performance and Cumberland		•										•													
Lewisberry	West Shore Sportsmen Association																					•				
Hampden	West Shore Dance and Fitness		•		•																					
	Curves		•																							
	My Gym Children's Fitness Center		•																							
	Hampden Township Pool												•													
Dillsberry	YMCA		•																							
	Anytime Fitness		•																							
	Heritage Acres, Inc.															•										
	Heavenwood Farm															•										
	Wanna-Play Paintball																					•				

Other Recreation Providers

Gymnastics – Central PA Academy of Gymnastics offers boys’, girls’ and preschool gymnastics classes, cheerleading tumbling and trampoline, and parent-tot classes.

Dance – Studio ‘91 offers creative movement, stretching, tumbling, baton, ballet, tap, jazz, and hip hop dance classes for preschoolers through teens.

Environmental Science – The Oakes Museum of Natural History offers Curator Club for grades 3-5 and CC2 for grades 6-8 on Saturdays. Programs offered include wetlands, solar power, wildlife art, gardening, and stream discovery.

School Age Child Care – Mechanicsburg Learning Center provides before and after school and summer care for Broad Street, Elmwood, Northside, Shepherdstown and Upper Allen Elementary Schools.

Martial Arts – Fear Knot Martial Arts and Mechanicsburg Kung Fu Center offer martial arts classes for all ages, including taekwondo.

Tennis – The West Shore Tennis Club offers indoor tennis play for all ages, including lessons, clinics and leagues.

Youth Groups – Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and church youth groups are very active in the Township.

Fitness Centers – Area adult fitness and gym providers include Power Train, Barefoot Yoga and Wellness Studio, H2L Pilates Studio, and Planet Fitness.

Bowling – Trindle Bowl offers bowling leagues and lessons on Saturday mornings for children, a variety of bowling leagues for adults, and public open bowling hours.

Golfing – Liberty Forge Golf Course is an 18-hole public course that features a driving range, miniature golf course, and a golf instruction facility.

Indoor Sports – Twin Ponds West houses one NHL regulation ice surface with locker rooms and spectator seating. The complex also includes three rubber in-fill turf fields used for soccer, lacrosse, field hockey and baseball. Figure skating lessons and public skating sessions are held year-round. The GoWags Baseball/Softball Training Center provides indoor play, lessons, and clinics. Sky Zone Trampoline Park offers open jump, a SkySlam court, SkyRobics fitness classes, and ultimate dodgeball leagues. Yellow Breeches Sports Center hosts leagues and clinics for youth and adults in baseball, flag football, soccer, inline hockey, lacrosse and field hockey. Climbnasium Indoor Rock Climbing Center offers a climbing team and summer camp for youth, and memberships for youth and adults. Monkey Joe's is home to bouncing, sliding, and jumping fun for children ages 12 and younger; the facility features an obstacle course, inflatable slides, and bounce houses. The Coliseum Megaplex is a 35,000 square foot entertainment complex located in Camp Hill; it includes a 12-lane bowling alley, billiards room, arcade and games.

Visual Arts – The Art Center School and Galleries in Mechanicsburg offers a comprehensive program of art instruction in painting, drawing, photography, pottery, glassblowing, and sculpture; workshops, lectures, exhibits and other visual arts-related activities for youth, teens and adults.

PROMOTION & PUBLIC AWARENESS

The Upper Allen Township Newsletter is published four times each year and mailed to all Township residents and businesses. Recreation Department programs are promoted in the newsletter; special events and activities of the Upper Allen Woman's Club, Fire Department, Mechanicsburg Museum Association, Operation Wildcat and the Simpson Library are also promoted. There is no map or listing of the Township parks and their amenities in the newsletter.

Directions and a listing of the facilities at each Township park are on the Township website along with photos of park facilities. Pavilion rental information is also included. There is no link on the Township website to the Recreation Department website.

The Recreation Department publishes a program brochure three times a year that is mailed to 11,000 homes. A monthly program newsletter is distributed through the schools to all students in Kindergarten through 8th grade as well. Program season dates are approximately: winter/spring (January 1 to April 30), summer (June 1 to July 31) and fall (September 1 to December 31). The program brochure includes paid business advertisements to help offset the cost of printing and mailing.

The program brochure does not include information about the partnership which formed and supports the Recreation Department; it also does not include information about the municipal parks.

The Recreation Department has an active Facebook page, a Twitter account (@mrec4u) and its own phone app to promote its programs. Links to all youth sports organization websites are included on the Department website; it does not include links to the municipality websites.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Because of the variety of recreation program and facility providers in place throughout the greater Mechanicsburg area, Upper Allen Township residents have many recreational opportunities close to home.



E15: Continue to support and participate in MARD

The School District's role in the funding and operation of the Recreation Department, along with the three municipalities, provides Upper Allen Township residents with a full-service recreation department at significantly less cost than the Township could provide on its own. The Recreation Department program schedule is extensive. Its use of school facilities is also impressive. The open access to the schools for community recreation maximizes the use of these tax-supported facilities for all ages – not just school-age children.



E16: Consider renaming and rebranding MARD, which includes the website and promotion

The name of the Recreation Department is very confusing. It is listed as 'Mechanicsburg Parks and Recreation' and sometimes as 'Mechanicsburg Area Parks and Recreation' on written materials, but it does not have any parks responsibilities. It is clearly a Recreation Department and its name should reflect that. The Joint Recreation Committee should make this change at its annual meeting. The word 'Area' should also be a part of this agency's name, as it serves Upper Allen Township and Shiremanstown Borough as well as Mechanicsburg Borough.

A re-branding of the Department is needed, with a new logo and a tag line to use in conjunction with the logo. The current logo is very busy and does not reproduce well. The Recreation Department programs give people of all ages an opportunity to be more active – physically, mentally and socially. A tag line that promotes this should be considered.

The Recreation Department website should be more user friendly; it also needs an updated, fun and active look. The design of the program brochure and monthly newsletter is outdated as well.

The current mission statement for the Recreation Department is also misleading. It is: 'Mechanicsburg Area Parks and Recreation strives to provide a wide variety of programs in recreation and leisure for individuals of all ages and abilities. The department contributes to the community by developing and maintaining parks and other recreational facilities that beautify and serve the Mechanicsburg area.' Since the Department has no parks responsibilities, this mission statement should be revised.

The program refund policy is not customer friendly. Currently, refunds are not granted if the request is made after the second class session of a program. A 100 percent satisfaction guaranteed policy for recreation programs is the industry standard. This shows a commitment to quality programming and to customer satisfaction. After a program begins, refunds should be pro-rated and provided regardless of the reason.

The Township does not promote the services of the Recreation Department on its website. At the very least, a link, preceded by a paragraph about the partnership, should be added to take visitors to the Recreation website. In turn, the Recreation Department should be promoting more self-directed use of the Township park areas by residents. A link to the Township's website pages for parks should be prominently featured on the Recreation Department website homepage. One page of the Recreation Department's program brochure should be devoted to promoting the park areas and recreation facilities of the municipalities. The program brochure should also prominently feature a description of the school-municipal partnership which sustains the Recreation Department – and why it makes sense to work together to provide community recreation programming.



A6: Prepare annual reports of programs

A detailed annual report showcasing Recreation Department programs is not prepared. This should be done each year, in time for the Joint Recreation Committee meeting in March.



E17: Expand Partnerships

While the Recreation Department has a number of program partners, more partners should be sought. Doing so will help with program locations, staffing, and promotion, and may help to reduce program costs.



E18: Expand Family Programming

Family programming is a significant service provided by a public recreation department. Few family programs are offered by the Recreation Department. With the success of the Father/Daughter Dance, the Department should consider adding new events in partnership with others. Building a stronger base of volunteers will be important if the special event schedule is expanded. One or two special events could be added each year, such as Summer Concerts, Outdoor Movie Nights, Family Old-Fashioned Game Day, Scavenger Hunt, Fishing Rodeo or Candy Cane Hunt. Family events where children have fun with their parents, rather than parents simply watching their children have fun, will be the best events to add.



A7: Expand Preschool Programming

Preschool programs to consider include introduction to sports programs, preschool summer playground, holiday-themed parties, and a summer program to prepare kids to enter Kindergarten ready to learn. Partners to consider for preschool programs include the Simpson Library, the Upper Allen Woman's Club, and school district parent-teacher organizations.



E19: Expand Senior Programming

Senior programs to consider include outdoor pickle ball open and league play, bridge lessons, card parties, walking club, gardening classes or bocce league. The current schedule of leisure-learning classes could be expanded as well.



A8: Explore alternative uses or potential programming for large, underutilized spaces located within neighborhood green spaces

Several parks and green spaces within the Township having unique sizes and shapes, and many times results in large spaces that serve no structured function. These park areas offer an opportunity for the Township to utilize them for special programs or events that currently lack spaces, and as a result this will also increase awareness of the location of these parks. These parks and their amenities can be featured in conjunction with the promotion of the event or programming.



A9: Expand and Promote Park Programming

From citizen feedback, it is clear that many residents are not aware of how many municipal parks there are nor fully aware of the programs offered by the Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department. Some programs that many residents would probably be interested in are not even (MARD) advertised. For example, Upper Allen contributes \$11,500 to MARD to offer the summer playground program free for children in the community. Only 122 attended this program in 2015— at face value this seems to be a modest return for the investment. This rate of \$94.25/week, paid for by the Township is actually substantially lower in cost per child than other summer programs offered, such as Adventure Camp (\$169/week, paid for by the individual families). However, it should be noted that these two summer activities offer different types of programming and thus determining which may be a better program to offer free to residents is a discussion that should be reserved for the Township and MARD. Regardless, the Township and MARD can both find better ways to advertise programs which could greatly assist many Township families looking for summer programming for their children. In general, by changing the timing and frequency of program publications MARD and the Township can raise awareness of offered programs.

Additionally, the Township can promote lesser known parks through a “Featured Park” abstract series which can be featured through different media such as newsletter, brochures, and the municipal website. This abstract can include the park’s location, size, amenities, and notable qualities such as historical or cultural significance. The only Recreation Department program held at an Upper Allen Township park is the summer playground program. The Department is attempting to get an adult coed softball league off the ground to play at Community Park. A priority should be placed on the Recreation Department sponsoring a few community family special events, preschool or senior programs at Upper Allen Township parks. No Township-sponsored programs are held at the Township parks. In the past, a small schedule of special events was sponsored, such as an Easter Egg Hunt and other holiday-themed events. Activities like these help to build community pride. They also bring residents out to the parks to enjoy them in ways other than athletic programs. Providing a few Township-sponsored programs, with the Park and Recreation Board taking the lead, should be considered.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance is typically the single largest recurring expenditure in parks and recreation operations. Over the lifetime of a park, about 75% of its cost can be attributed to its maintenance needs while the remaining 25% can be associated to the cost of acquisition, development, design and construction of the facility itself.



INTRODUCTION

The Upper Allen Township Public Works Department is responsible for operating and maintaining the public parks, ball fields, and recreation areas and facilities owned by the Township.

Good maintenance practices are important for Upper Allen Township public park areas and recreation facilities for five reasons:

Increased Safety for Visitors – Public safety is an essential concern; proper maintenance of park areas and recreation facilities helps the municipality manage risk by avoiding unnecessary injuries. The Township is less likely to be sued for negligence if staff routinely checks for unsafe conditions and then promptly corrects hazardous situations.

More Facility Use By the Public – Well-maintained facilities are frequented more often. Residents are only able to enjoy their park visits if facilities and equipment are maintained in useful condition.

Less Vandalism – Well-maintained facilities are usually less vandalized. Vandalism should be corrected as soon as possible, and proper maintenance procedures allow that to happen.

Citizen Support for Additional Recreation and Park Facilities – As citizens see the Township properly maintain park areas and recreation facilities, they are more inclined to support expansion of these areas and facilities.

A More Attractive Municipality – Well-maintained public park areas and recreation facilities help to develop a positive image for the Township, making it a place people want to live and work.

Maintenance is typically the single largest recurring expenditure in parks and recreation operations. Over the lifetime of a park, about 75% of its cost can be attributed to maintenance while the remaining 25% is the cost of acquisition, development, design and construction.

The focus of Upper Allen Township's park maintenance program is to provide safe, clean, usable and attractive park areas and recreation facilities to the public with an emphasis on serving residents as efficiently and effectively as resources permit.

The park system consists of approximately 132 acres of developed and undeveloped land at 14 locations which range in size from the 1.2 acre McCormick Park to Winding Hill Park East at 36.5 acres. These parks contain a variety of facilities including 2.5 miles of trails, 13 pavilions, 13 playgrounds, and 17 athletic fields together with all of the infrastructure that supports the system.

The Township's General Fund is the source of all monies needed to support the expense of maintaining the park areas and recreation facilities.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Park Maintenance Staffing

Upper Allen Township has a talented and dedicated park maintenance staff working in the Public Works Department as evidenced by the condition of the parks and the pride for the system expressed by the Assistant Public Works Director/Parks.

Most routine park maintenance and minor construction projects are performed by three full-time employees who are permanently assigned to this responsibility. The staff includes the Assistant Public Works Director/Parks, who reports to the Public Works Director, and two maintenance laborers. The full-time maintenance laborers are members of the AFSCME Union and the terms and conditions of their employment are covered by a collective bargaining agreement (CBA). There is a good relationship between the Union and the Township. The CBA does not impose any restrictions on the Township about how to maintain the parks.

The park maintenance staff receives help in the summer months with the addition of up to six college-age employees who begin work when school is finished in May or June and then leave in August. The full-time staff is shorthanded when the seasonal workers are not available because the park maintenance workload increases significantly in late March to mid-April and regular mowing continues into the fall. To help during these busy times of year, another seasonal staff is added who is able to work from March until November.

Due to the size of the Township's park system and the limited number of staff, most of the work performed is of a regular, recurring nature leaving little time for special projects. Many times such projects must be contracted out or deferred.

When the park maintenance staff has a project that requires added manpower the Public Works Director will assign some of the department's employees to help depending on staff availability. Likewise the park maintenance staff will assist the public works staff when possible. The park maintenance staff assists public works with snow and ice removal.

Some of the Township’s sports organizations provide limited help with athletic field maintenance (mainly field dragging and/or lining). They do not provide assistance to alleviate the routine maintenance tasks associated with field maintenance or in the parks.

The Township bids mowing service for the nine small neighborhood parks because of the limited staff size and also the time required to drive between locations, load and unload equipment.

The Township has no on-site park staff available to provide customer assistance, minor maintenance or security during late afternoons, evenings or on weekends.

Communication between the Assistant Public Works Director/Parks and the Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department staff is very good whenever needed, which is not often.

The Assistant Public Works Director/Parks prepares the park operating and capital improvement requests annually that are submitted to the Assistant Township Manager for the budget process.



Staff Certifications & Licenses

No one on the park maintenance staff is a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI). The National Recreation and Park Association offers this nationally-recognized certification program in playground safety, that provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date training on playground safety issues including hazard identification, equipment specifications, surfacing requirements and risk management methods. The CPSI must be updated every three years.

Without a CPSI on staff, this function should either be annually contracted, or, for the most cost-effective and efficient way to inspect Township play areas, a Township staff person should obtain CPSI certification. In addition to an inspection of all playground equipment, training should be provided to the park maintenance staff in an effort to enhance their ability to recognize hazards during routine inspections throughout the year.

No one on the park maintenance staff holds a Certified Public Pesticide Applicator license. Certification as a Public Pesticide Applicator is very important for park maintenance because it is required if pesticides are being applied to the parks, playgrounds and athletic fields. This certification must also be updated every three years.

The Assistant Public Works Director/Parks plans to get his Public Pesticide Applicator license in 2016.

Park Maintenance Scheduling

The amount and frequency of maintenance needed at each park location is largely dependent on the age of facilities, intensity of use, the activities held at the park, vandalism and community expectations. The Assistant Public Works Director/Parks is responsible for a wide variety of maintenance, service, repair, and minor construction functions. He determines how and what tasks need to be performed on a daily, weekly and monthly basis using his experience and requests for service from park users, members of the Park and Recreation Board, and others.

The Assistant Public Works Director/Parks prioritizes work and meets with staff daily to assign the day’s work, which typically begins with restroom cleaning and trash removal at the parks.

Like most other municipalities, there currently is no written maintenance plan that describes the Township’s expectations for maintenance. The Assistant Public Works Director/Parks has developed a written schedule for athletic field maintenance and is working on a year-round calendar of tasks which is the beginning of a plan.

Maintenance Equipment & Vehicles

Park maintenance staff have sufficient equipment to perform the daily routine such as trucks, trailers, mowers, a tractor, two utility vehicles and turf maintenance equipment including a seeder, aerator and water reels. Other equipment can be borrowed from the public works department based on availability. The only piece of equipment that is at times difficult to obtain is a backhoe because of the needs of public works.

A two-bay garage is used to store much of the equipment; the storage space is not sufficient.

The Township has a capital equipment replacement plan in place and the Township routinely replaces equipment when planned. This equipment replacement plan is reviewed at least annually to determine whether the plan needs to be amended because of the change in condition of any piece of equipment.



Park Safety & Security

Park areas and recreation facilities need a variety of safety and security measures to protect park visitors and the resources themselves.

The entire inventory of playground equipment is estimated to be less than 12 years of age. The play equipment is routinely replaced based on condition and age. Informal inspections and raking the mulch surfacing is performed by the maintenance staff when they are in the park for other tasks. No written inspection reports are prepared.

The Assistant Public Works Director/Parks and a playground equipment representative are currently reviewing the condition of each piece of equipment that will be followed by preparation of replacement plan for all play equipment.

Vandalism in the parks is characterized as minor such as driving in turf areas.

Security measures include lighting on all park buildings and security cameras in four of the larger parks. None of the parks are gated and there are no alarm systems in any park. Rules and regulations are posted at all sites.

The Township's police force routinely patrols the parks and notifies the Assistant Public Works Director/Parks if there are problems or items that need to be addressed.

There are no formal park site inspections performed with documentation of all findings and a corrective action plan when needed. Members of the Park and Recreation Board have accepted the responsibility to inspect the parks at least monthly and then report any issues at the next Board meeting. Both the Assistant Township Manager and the Assistant Public Works Director/Parks attend these meetings.

The Assistant Public Works Director/Parks is a member of the Township's Safety Committee. The Safety Committee periodically inspects Township buildings and facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS



E20: Maintain a Certified Playground Safety Inspector and Certified Public Pesticide Applicator certification/license for at least one staff member

No one on the park maintenance staff is a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI). The National Recreation and Park Association offers this nationally-recognized certification program in playground safety, that provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date training on playground safety issues including hazard identification, equipment specifications, surfacing requirements and risk management methods.

No one on the park maintenance staff holds a Certified Public Pesticide Applicator license. Certification as a Public Pesticide Applicator is very important for park maintenance because it is required if pesticides are being applied to the parks, playgrounds and athletic fields.

The Assistant Public Works Director/Parks plans to get his Public Pesticide Applicator license in 2016.



E21: Establish standardized maintenance practices based off Park Classifications

Because the Township possesses a diverse range of municipal parks and open spaces, which function differently and serve different purposes, maintenance practices should also be different depending on the classification and function. Parks and Neighborhood Green Spaces should continued to be maintained as they are, but Special Conservation Areas should implement “no-mow areas” in order to preserve the natural ecological qualities of the space. This will also help recognize particular vegetation that may currently be mowed that inadvertently causes risks to park visitors. Some maintenance practices may mow over plants such as poison ivy or oak, and since the plants are then the same length and appearance as grass, caution will not taken to avoid the areas. Other maintenance practices to standardized based off park classification would be the application of pesticides, pruning, etc.



E22: Create a formal, written Maintenance Plan which allows for the tracking of maintenance activities and directs future maintenance planning

A maintenance plan should contain an inventory of each site; what time of year and the frequency with which maintenance tasks should occur; and the acceptable standard of care in each park and facility that describes what they should look like when maintenance is completed. This level of care could be different for each location depending on the type of facilities, the frequency and type of use, and the amount of manpower and budget resources available. Such a plan will benefit the Township with work scheduling; making sure that everyone's expectations for maintenance are on the same page; and assisting with planning and transitions that will occur with staff. A maintenance plan would provide additional benefits and information about the park system that may become more important as resources are stretched and/or facilities increase.

Park maintenance tasks are focused on the duties needed to pro-actively and reactively care for the parks including a variety of recreation facilities and amenities. The percentage of time spent for scheduled tasks versus reacting to unforeseen needs cannot be easily determined because there is no maintenance tracking system. A simple tracking system would capture where each employee worked that day, the tasks performed, and the amount of time performing each task. A tracking system would help with future maintenance planning and decision-making.



A10: Continue to uphold high maintenance levels and standards

While this recommendation is not secondary, it is categorized as Auxiliary simply because it goes without saying— the Township's maintenance practices are highly valued and should be maintained. Based off resident feedback, it is clear the members of the community notice the effort that the Township puts into maintaining their parks, and they appreciate how well landscaped the parks are. While landscaping strategies should be adjusted based off the park classifications, existing maintenance practices should still be implemented where applicable, especially in parks which feature high-quality athletic amenities, such as Fisher Community Park and Friendship Park.



E23: Address litter issues and implement waste management strategies.

While residents recognize the high level of effort put into maintaining the municipal parks, certain parks experience waste management issues due to littering by visitors. Litter not only decreases the aesthetic value of a park, but can be a threat to the ecological system and wildlife that inhabits the space. Feedback from the public survey conveyed that Simpson Park has particular issues with litter around the water access point. By erecting waste information signage, visitors can read the repercussions of littering in the park, and also find out where they can dispose of their litter. Providing a sufficient amount of waste receptacles within the park in spaces that are most commonly used can also reduce the amount of litter that is not disposed properly.



A11: Implement a carry-in/carry-out policy for appropriate Township parks.

A way to significantly reduce maintenance costs and redirect maintenance efforts to other high priority practices is through a carry-in/carry-out policy for certain parks. Parks and open spaces that are classified as Special Conservation Areas are ideal candidates for this policy. By relying on visitors to take responsibility for their own waste, this ameliorates on waste receptacles that infringe upon the natural environment. Special Conservation Areas tend to attract more wildlife and insects than commercial parks than more developed parks, and removing waste receptacles can reduce any danger imposed by bees or rodents that may concern visitors.

Though idealistic in theory, in order for this policy to be properly implemented, proper signage must be displayed at entrances and within the parks so as not to result in waste management problems. Special Conservations Areas which are already experiencing waste management challenges, such as Simpson Park, are inappropriate spaces to implement this policy.

MANAGEMENT & FINANCING

In order for any Parks and Recreation system to sustain itself, budget management and finance planning are critical issues that should be assessed and revisited often. By continuously reviewing expenditures and comparing budget allocations, the financing and management system can recognize what it's doing right, what it's doing wrong, and what programs and partnerships are valuable to it's viability.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Overview

The Upper Allen Township Public Works Department is responsible for operating and maintaining the public parks, ball fields, and recreation areas and facilities owned by the Township.

Recreation programs and services for Township residents are provided by the Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department through an intergovernmental agreement between the Mechanicsburg Area School District.

Advisory Board Structure

The Upper Allen Township Park and Recreation Board consists of seven residents who are appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Each board member serves a term of five years. The terms of no more than three members may expire in any given year. The board meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Township building. Each board member is assigned specific parks that they are to report on at the board meetings. The Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department Recreation Director attends the monthly Upper Allen Township Park and Recreation Board meetings, as well as the recreation board meetings of the other two municipalities, and provides a written report each month. The Assistant Public Works Director/Parks and the Assistant Township Manager attend each board meeting as well.

One member of the Park and Recreation Board serves on the Joint Recreation Committee along with two representatives from the Mechanicsburg Area School District, one representative from both Mechanicsburg Borough Council and Shiremanstown Recreation Board, and the Recreation Director.

The Joint Recreation Committee meets once each year, on the second Thursday of March, and may meet at other times at the call of the chair. Its functions are to advise the four governmental entities on recreation matters, establish objectives to give direction to community recreation activities, assist in the evaluation of current programs and planning for future programs, and advise and give consent to the hiring of the Recreation Director by the school district.

Financing Parks and Recreation

In each Pennsylvania municipality, finding the financial resources needed to meet required mandates and provide all public services including parks and recreation at the level residents have come to expect, while balancing the tax burden on residents and businesses, is an annual challenge. Like other municipalities, Upper Allen Township operates within a climate of fiscal conservatism and increasing demands.

Upper Allen Township funds the expense for recreation services and parks maintenance from local tax revenues which is the largest source of Township income annually.

This financial inventory and analysis provides a historic review of Upper Allen Township's annual expenditures for parks and recreation and the revenue generated by park rentals and other funding sources. Comparisons with other "similar" municipalities will also be presented to provide additional context to the analysis. It must be pointed out that identifying truly similar municipalities with Upper Allen Township is not possible because of the many differences in Pennsylvania communities that makes each unique. The similar communities presented here may compare in one or more areas such as total population, total General Fund expenditures, and/or commitment to providing parks and recreation areas, facilities, programs and services, to name a few.

The Township adopts its budget annually in December for the coming calendar year according to the process and time lines established in the First Class Township Code. Upper Allen Township, like most Pennsylvania municipalities, takes a conservative approach to budgeting. Revenues are estimated to insure that not only will the projection be met but that it may likely be exceeded. Expenditures are budgeted with the expectation that the full amount will not be expended unless there are unanticipated circumstances that occur during the year.

For example, the 2014 General Fund budget for Recreation and Parks Maintenance was \$312,473. The year-end actual expenditures were \$298,522, resulting in \$13,951 in savings from the adopted budget. Unused budget funds remaining at the end of the year are no longer available to the Department but become part of the cash reserves available for allocation by the Board of Commissioners in the next year's budget.

TABLE 17: UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR PARKS & RECREATION

	2013	2014	2015
Revenue			
Pavilion and Athletic Field Reservations			
<i>Budgeted Total Revenue</i>	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
<i>Actual Total Revenue</i>	\$1,375	\$1,750	-----
Recreation Expense			
Recreation Supplies	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,500
Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Contribution	\$44,700	\$48,831	\$48,873
Neighborhood Transportation	\$660	\$660	
Parks Maintenance Expense			
Salary & Wages	\$84,474	\$93,495	\$122,298
Employee Benefits	\$49,102	\$58,287	\$63,783
Utilities	\$14,000	\$15,500	\$19,800
Computer Expense	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$3,655
Liability & Property Insurance	\$6,600	\$6,600	\$8,425
Maintenance Supplies	\$3,000	\$5,100	\$5,350
Maintenance & Repairs	\$43,000	\$55,500	\$54,250
Portable Toilet Rentals	\$4,300	\$1,500	\$1,500
Contracted Park Mowing	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$9,000
Minor Equipment	\$2,450	\$2,500	\$3,000
Budgeted Total Expense	\$260,186	\$295,373	\$341,434
Actual Total Expense	\$235,783	\$298,522	-----

Joint Recreation Committee & MARD Partnership

The Joint Recreation Committee agreement assesses each of the participants a portion of the cost for Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department operations. The cost of participating in this intergovernmental agreement is significantly less than the Township providing these services by adding another Township department. The low cost combined with the diversity of programs provided by Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department makes this an excellent value for the Township.

TABLE 18: TOWNSHIP CONTRIBUTION TO MARD FOR 2011 TO 2015.

Budget Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	\$30,815	\$44,700	\$44,700	\$48,831	\$48,873

Fees and Charges

Charging fees for recreation activities and park facility reservations that benefits individuals or groups of individuals rather than the community as a whole is used by municipalities as a method to supplement tax support. Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department charges program fees to recover some of its expenses. Upper Allen Township has decided not to focus on generating income from park facility reservations; its focus is on having the organized groups using their athletic facilities primarily made up of residents. Knowing that these large user groups including baseball, soccer and softball are primarily residents, the Township works on providing quality park areas and facilities at the lowest or no cost. The limited amount of fees collected each year are generated from park pavilion reservations and athletic field and concession stand use for tournaments. These facilities can be reserved online. Non-residents are charged a higher per day fee than residents.

Capital Reserve Fund

The purpose of this fund is for land acquisition for municipal use including recreation, capital construction, and replacement of equipment and vehicles. Transfers from the General Fund are the most significant source of monies in this fund. The 2015 Capital Budget for parks and recreation includes \$102,900 for vehicle and related equipment replacement, \$60,000 for the recreation and open space plan, and \$50,000 for the Mechanicsburg Area Pool.

Mandatory Dedication

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) provides local municipalities with a financial tool to assist with the capital expense of creating park areas and recreation facilities that will serve the future residents of new residential developments. Upper Allen Township has enacted regulations requiring the dedication of land or the contribution of a fee in-lieu of dedication as part of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance described in the Township Code section 220-28.

The Township Code requires that all residential subdivisions or residential land developments reserve a minimum amount of land for park or recreational use based on the number of proposed new dwelling units or the developer may pay a fee-in-lieu of dedication in the amount of \$2,300 per dwelling unit. In the event that the Township elects to accept the dedication of land, the Township Code establishes the standards for the type of land characteristics that must be present to meet the dedication requirements. This protects the Township from receiving unusable or severely restricted land with limited value.

In addition to requirements for new residential development, the Township has also enacted requirements in the same code chapter for new commercial and industrial development.

All funds received under the terms of these Subdivision and Land Development requirements are deposited into the Recreation Land Acquisition fund, a separate restricted account that is only used to receive funds from developers for the future development of parks, recreation facilities and land acquisition. At the end of 2014 the balance in this account was -\$13,983 because \$38,057 is owed to the Capital Fund to repay park expenses that were paid from that fund.

Monies received into this account have slowed considerably since the economic downturn. Because there are less funds available, the monies are routinely expended as soon as they come in to address small capital improvements that have been deferred because of the lack of capital monies available. Large capital park improvements are considered only if grant funding is received to match a portion of the Township's capital investment.

Trust Funds

In addition to the special Recreation Land Acquisition account, the Township also has had the foresight to establish a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. This restricted account is designed to receive gifts and bequests for the purpose of developing parks, recreation lands and facilities and for equipping, operating and maintaining park and recreational areas. The 2014 year-end balance was \$5,246 in this account.

Municipal Comparisons

Local municipal spending on parks and recreation and all other functions is extremely diverse and therefore challenging to capture and compare. Listed below in Table 19 is data for similarly-sized municipalities that do not have large fee-generating facilities such as golf courses or recreation centers. The parks and recreation fees and charges revenue is shown as a percentage of the cost recovered. The per capita expense for each municipality is calculated using the net parks and recreation expenses of the municipality and the 2010 census figures.

TABLE 19: MUNICIPAL SPENDING COMPARISON FOR PARKS & RECREATION

Municipality	County	2010 Census Population	2013 Total Expenses	2013 Parks/Rec Expenses	2013 Parks/Rec Earnings	2013 Net Parks/Rec Expenses	% Cost Recovery	Tax Supported Per Capita Parks/Rec Spending	Parks/Rec as a Percent of Total Expenses
Silver Spring Township	Cumberland	13,657	\$7,445,648	\$588,711	\$116,824	\$471,887	19.80%	\$43.11	7.90%
Loyalsock Township	Lycoming	11,026	\$4,591,779	\$433,329	\$123,379	\$309,950	28.50%	\$28.11	9.40%
Lower Saucon Township	Northampton	10,772	\$8,068,316	\$494,411	\$6,305	\$488,106	1.30%	\$45.31	6.10%
Manchester Township	York	18,161	\$9,766,859	\$374,394	\$40,843	\$333,551	10.90%	\$18.37	3.80%
Spring Garden Township	York	12,578	\$10,991,764	\$393,053	\$60,591	\$332,462	15.40%	\$26.43	3.60%
East Pennsboro Township	Cumberland	18,254	\$16,264,355	\$646,289	\$183,341	\$462,948	28.40%	\$25.36	3.90%
Lower Allen Township	Cumberland	17,437	\$15,954,925	\$717,482	\$0	\$717,482	0%	\$41.16	4.50%
Upper Allen Township	Cumberland	15,338	\$14,567,852	\$661,866	\$19,075	\$642,791	2.90%	\$41.77	4.50%

** PA Department of Community and Economic Development Municipal Statistics (all municipal expenses were combined with general fund expenses for municipalities, including Upper Allen Township)*

Statewide Municipal Spending for Parks and Recreation

Based on data from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, from 2008-2012, municipalities spent about \$457 million on recreation, or \$36 annually per capita. Municipalities spent an average of three percent of their total expenditures on recreation; however, this is skewed because two-thirds of Pennsylvania municipalities either had no recreation expenditures or spent less than \$25,000. Municipal recreation spending is closely correlated to population; the larger the municipal population, the higher the spending.

Upper Allen Township has budgeted to spend \$341,434 on parks maintenance and recreation or 4.53 percent of its total 2015 operating budget of \$7,535,674 on parks and recreation, which amounts to about \$18.90 per capita.

Realizing Future System Improvements

In recent years, Upper Allen Township has been dedicating approximately \$600,000 to the Parks Department. Of that total, approximately \$500,000 has been put toward park operations and \$100,000 to park capital projects. Based on available Township records and information gleaned as part of the planning process, a majority of allocated park operations' dollars is devoted to mowing expenses. In addition to municipal tax income within the Township's general fund, the Township prepares and receives grant funding and, as applicable, will put forth a municipal bond to realize improvements. In typical park, recreation and open space terms, improvements are often categorized into the following six areas:

- Park Expansion refers to securing or purchasing land, easements, etc. to create or protect new open space areas for future generations. Funding may go towards the purchase of real estate, conservation easements, or paying for donation expenses.
- Park Maintenance refers to dedicating funds towards general park maintenance practices like mowing park grass, field and playground upkeep, litter pick-up, etc.
- Park Development refers to expanding the facility offerings in existing parks, developing new facilities in existing parks, developing trails/pathways within existing parks.
- Recreation Development refers to developing recreational facilities that would be located outside of existing parks, such as an Indoor Recreation Facility, a Community Center, an Aquatic Facility, etc.
- Trail and Greenway Development refers to improving the connectivity by expanding the trail system outside of the parks themselves. This system connects parks to other parks, parks to neighborhoods, neighborhoods to neighborhoods, parks to historic districts, etc.
- Parks, Trail and Open Space Sinking Fund refers to contributing annually to a savings account which will typically be used within 5-10 years for capital improvements/replacements such as an existing pavilion, playground equipment, etc.

In context of a selection of communities with comparable park types, park quantity and park sizes, Upper Allen Township is spending approximately 50-75% of what other communities dedicate to their parks and recreation system in context of their respective overall municipal budgets.

As part of the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, Township residents and the Plan's Steering Committee provided a variety of feedback about desirable improvements. In considering the public's comments and the potential financial commitments that some desired improvements could entail, the Steering Committee suggests the Township primarily focus time and resources on Park Development - expanding existing facilities, developing new facilities/trails in existing parks, etc. A viable type of project of this nature is implementing the master plan for Winding Hills East. As a second tier of considerations, the Steering Committee suggests the community invest in Park Expansion, Parks/Trail/Open Space Sinking Fund, Park Maintenance and Trail/Greenway Development. Of the 6 areas of potential improvements, the Steering Committee considered Recreation Development should be a lesser area of financial focus in the near-term. The Steering Committee recommends, over the coming decade, the Township consider a significant budget increase (e.g. 40%+) to the overall Upper Allen parks and recreation system. This suggestion is a result of the Steering Committee weighing the:

- Cumulative impacts of enhancing and maintaining existing facilities;
- Potential administrative and maintenance commitments to an indoor recreation center facility, if one were determined to be feasible and constructed; and
- Effectiveness of delivering parks and recreation in comparable communities.

A detailed spending hours-to-task analysis completed as part of this effort could reveal what focus areas are most applicable to the wide range of administrative and maintenance activities that would be applicable to commitments of an enhanced parks and recreation system. Working with an advisor of parks and recreation finances, the Township can determine its logical allocation of future budgeting to the 6 areas of park and recreation improvements and then pursue its strategies extending beyond its annual operations budget with an applicable combination of grant pursuits, bonds, cooperative partnerships and the like.

PARK DEVELOPMENT

PARK MAINTENANCE

TRAIL & GREENWAY DEVELOPMENT

PARK EXPANSION

SINKING FUND

RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS



A12: Continue to support and participate in MARD

The School District's role in the funding and operation of the Recreation Department, along with the three municipalities, provides Upper Allen Township residents with a full-service recreation department at significantly less cost than the Township could provide on its own. The partnership with MARD allows residents of Upper Allen to use recreational facilities that they otherwise would not be able to use, or have to pay much higher prices to use. Many of these facilities that are currently available to Upper Allen residents would not be possible for the Township to provide to residents themselves.



E24: Create a sinking fund in order to support long-term capital investments

Currently, the Township does not have a sinking fund incorporated into their budget which is intended for high-expense, long-term capital investments such as an indoor recreation facility. To fund a project such as this, the Township's current approach would be to seek grants that will finance the project. While grants are a strategic, low to no cost way to fund projects, it is not a sustainable method for planning recreation investments far into the future. By reserving a portion of the budget for a sinking fund, the Township can accumulate funding for facility development without having to rely solely on grants.



E25: The Board of Commissioners should consider increasing the allocation of budget resource to parks and recreation

A detailed spending hours-to-task analysis completed as part of this effort could reveal what focus areas are most applicable to the wide range of administrative and maintenance activities that would be applicable to commitments of an enhanced parks and recreation system. Working with an advisor of parks and recreation finances, the Township can determine its logical allocation of future budgeting to the 6 areas of park and recreation improvements and then pursue its strategies extending beyond its annual operations budget with an applicable combination of grant pursuits, bonds, cooperative partnerships and the like.



A13: Update the Park & Recreation Ordinance

While the existing Parks & Recreation Ordinance does a thorough job outlining basic rules and regulations for the parks and playground facilities to follow in order to protect Township citizens, the Ordinance does not properly explain what exactly the Park & Recreation Board's powers and responsibilities, and the role of the Board in relation to other Township officials and agencies, such as the Board of Commissioners. In general, the Parks & Recreation Board makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners pertaining to recreation programs and the purchase, development, maintenance, proposed uses, supervision and regulation of public park and recreation areas and facilities within the Township. The following are the specific duties and responsibilities of the Parks & Recreation Board as outlined by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources that the Board of Commissioners may consider to be included if the Ordinance is updated in the future:

- Recommend policies related to parks and recreation to the Board of Commissioners.
- Define the objectives of parks and recreation services in with approval by the Board of Commissioners.
- Make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding a comprehensive system of recreation and park areas, facilities and programs to meet the needs of the citizens.
- Review and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners concerning the problems of recreation areas, programs and improved recreation services.
- Make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on rules, regulations and practices regarding the use and the schedule of fees for programs and facilities.
- Provide to the Board of Commissioners and annual report that shall include but not be limited to a budget.
- Hold public meetings for citizen input.
- Review and make recommendations regarding proposed parks and recreation areas.
- Review and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners in regards to all proposed open spaces as dedicated by subdivision developments.

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DIRECTION



ACTION PLAN

Introduction

The park, recreation and open space system is an integral element of Upper Allen Township's long held values and support for athletics, leisure, nature, health and wellness. The 2016 Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan provides a strategy of meeting recreation needs up to the year 2026. The following section outlines a strategic effort to implement, fund and monitor the various recommendations that are recommended in the Plan.

Types of Actions

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan recommends the implementation of a wide variety of actions related to recommendations for Upper Allen Township. Because resources available for completing this Plan are limited, a phased strategy for carrying out this Plan is suggested. Naturally, this phased strategy needs priorities assigned to its various components based on a variety of factors such as implementation logistics, construction operations, bid packaging, and cost/pricing efficiencies.

The Steering Committee and its planning consultant identified a battery of recommendations and a series of detailed actions to implement the recommendations. In addition to the recommendations, a host of 'implementation champions' were outlined and anticipated time frames were established. However, the Steering Committee recognized that not all recommendations are equal in importance. Rather, the implementation of some recommendations was essential to the implementation of other recommendations.



Essentials

The first group of recommendations, known as the Essentials, consists of the plan recommendations that ‘drive’ the implementation of some of the plan’s recommendations. The ‘drivers’ are not necessarily the plan’s most time sensitive or resource intense recommendations but they do represent the actions that impact, shape or direct the implementation of other recommendations. Note that the Essentials are not listed in any priority order onto themselves and that the implementation of them is only shaped by their individual interconnections.



Auxiliaries

The second group of recommendations, the Auxiliaries, represents important recommendations or actions that the community needs to implement but they are largely independent of other recommendations or actions. Many of the Auxiliaries can be implemented directly by the Township Administration or the Board of Commissioners and have fewer stakeholders involved. The implementation time frames of the Auxiliaries vary from short-term to long-term and vary in resource needs from little to intense.

Park Specifics

Actions related to recommendations are listed in their own section, but their specific recommendations are categorized by the general recommendations under which each falls. Each park specific action indicates its corresponding general recommendation/ action, either Essential (E) or Auxiliary (A).

ACRONYMS & TERMS

The following acronyms are used throughout the action plan:

UAT PC

Upper Allen Planning Commission

UAT BOC

Upper Allen Board of Commissioners

UAT PRB

Upper Allen Parks & Recreation Board

MARD

Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department

HOA

Homeowners Association

DCNR

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

TCRPC

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

PennDOT

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation



ESSENTIAL ACTIONS

TABLE 20: ESSENTIAL ACTIONS

		RECOMMENDATION	TIMEFRAME	PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS
LAND ALLOCATION	E1	Adopt following open space/recreation requirements for the Township: Minimum acreage: 181 Maximum acreage: 250	On-going	National Recreation and Parks Association, PA Recreation and Park Society, Cumberland County Open Space Plan, Local Athletic Organizations, UAT PC, UAT BOC, UAT PRB, TCRPC
	E1	Adopt the following open space/recreation requirements for the Township: % Active recreation areas: 75 % Passive recreation areas: 25	On-going	National Recreation and Parks Association, PA Recreation and Park Society, Cumberland County Open Space Plan, UAT PC, UAT BOC, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, MARD, UAT PRB
	E2	Adopt the following open space/recreation long-term targets for the Township: Playgrounds: 12 Baseball Fields: 12 Softball Fields: 6 Soccer Fields: 10 Lacrosse Fields: 5 Outdoor Basketball Courts: 8 Indoor Basketball Courts: 12 Tennis Courts: 4 Pickleball Courts: 4	On-going	National Recreation and Parks Association, PA Recreation and Park Society, Cumberland County Open Space Plan, UAT PC, UAT BOC, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, MARD, UAT PRB
	E3	Amend the existing Zoning Ordinance/SALDO to update the open space requirements and incentivize fee-in-lieu contributions rather than small-scale land dedications.	Short-term	UAT PC, UAT BOC, Cumberland County, Township Soliciter, TCRPC.

TABLE 20: ESSENTIAL ACTIONS *continued*

		RECOMMENDATION	TIMEFRAME	PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS
FACILITIES	E4	Continue to support the planning/capital improvement efforts currently underway (dog park, Winding Hills Master Plan, etc)	On-going	Local Athletic Organizations, Joint Recreation Committee, MARD, UAT PC, UAT BOC, UAT PRB.
	E5	Focus on providing universal accessibility in all public recreation areas.	Long Term	State agencies, County Planning, BOC, Staff, MARD, UAT PRB.
	E6	Assess hierarchy of additional recreational amenities to provide in existing parks and develop amenities based upon said hierarchy. Examples of additional amenities needed are those like shade structures, benches, and lighting.	On-going	UAT PC, UAT BOC, Joint Recreation Committee, MARD, UAT PRB.
	E7	Create a task force and management plan to deal with the management of/access to Yellow Breeches Creek with multiple stakeholders.	On-going	Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Messiah College, Lower Allen, Audubon Society, Cumberland County, Monroe, Monaghan, Fairview, UAT PRB.
	E8	Designate no more than 2 additional water access points to increase opportunities for kayaking/canoeing/water activities while avoiding oversaturation at one park.	Short-term	Joint Recreation Committee, MARD, UAT PC, UAT BOC, Township Staff, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Audubon Society, UAT PRB.
	E9	Adopt the Park Classification criteria.	Short-term	UAT PC, UAT BOC, Joint Recreation Committee, MARD, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Audubon Society, UAT PRB.
	E10	Implement a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette to parks and open spaces which are identified within the Yellow Breeches Creek Watershed. Apply levels 1, 2 or 3 as appropriate.	On-going	Joint Recreation Committee, MARD, UAT PC, UAT BOC, Township Staff, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Audubon Society, UAT PRB.
	E11	Conduct a feasibility study to assess the financial and physical viability of a potential indoor recreation facility/community Center, its most ideal spatial and amenity program and suitable locations.	Short-term	Local Athletic Organizations, Joint Recreation Committee, MARD, UAT PC, UAT BOC, UAT PRB.
CONNECTIVITY	E12	Connect parks to neighborhoods and to other parks through system of bicycle/pedestrian trails (Green Route)	Long-term	Township Staff, Township Soliciter, UAT PRB, PennDOT.
	E13	Implement Zoning Ordinance/SALDO amendments to incentivize the development of the Green Route.	Short-term	UAT PC, UAT BOC, Township Staff, Township Soliciter, Cumberland County, UAT PRB, PennDOT, TCRPC.
	E14	Investigate the feasibility of forming a conservation easement program and working with a local land trust to facilitate alternative means of park, greenway, and bicycle/pedestrian trail acquisition.	Long-term	UAT PC, UAT BOC, Township Staff, Township Soliciter, Cumberland County, UAT PRB, PennDOT.

TABLE 20: ESSENTIAL ACTIONS *continued*

		RECOMMENDATION	TIMEFRAME	PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS
PROGRAMMING & ADMINISTRATION	E1 5	Continue to support and participate in MARD.	Short-term	Township Staff, UAT BOC, Joint Recreation Committee, UAT PRB.
	E1 6	Consider the renaming and rebranding of MARD, which includes website management and promotion.	Short-term	Township Staff, UAT BOC, Joint Recreation Committee, UAT PRB.
	E1 7	Expand Partnerships for recreation programs to increase program locations, staffing, promotion, and reduce program costs.	On-going	MARD, Joint Recreation Committee, UAT PC, UAT BOC, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E1 8	Expand Family Programming to include recreational activities for families, especially those with small children. Such programs could include more "Mommy & Me" activities, and special events for families that occur on a more regular basis.	Short-term	MARD, Joint Recreation Committee, Woman's Club, UAT PRB.
	E1 9	Expand Senior programs to include outdoor pickle ball open and league play, bridge lessons, card parties, walking club, gardening classes or bocce league.	Short-term	MARD, Joint Recreation Committee, Mechanicsburg Senior Center, Woman's Club, UAT PRB.
MAINTENANCE	E2 0	Maintain a Certified Playground Safety Inspector and Certified Public Pesticide Applicator certification/license for at least one staff member.	Short-term	Joint Recreation Committee, MARD, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E2 1	Develop and standardize maintenance practices for each typology within the Park Classification Standards and Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (for example, frequency of mowing, establishing "no-mow" areas, application of pesticides, etc.)	On-going	Joint Recreation Committee, MARD, UAT PC, UAT BOC, Township Staff, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Audubon Society, UAT PRB.
	E2 2	Create a formal, written Maintenance Plan which will allow for the tracking of maintenance activities and help with future maintenance planning and decision-making.	Short-term	Township Staff, all athletic associations, neighborhood groups, UAT PRB.
	E2 3	Adopt additional waste management standards/practices in the parks which are experiencing litter issues.	On-going	Local Athletic Organizations, Joint Recreation Committee, MARD, UAT PC, UAT BOC, Township Staff, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
MANAGEMENT & FINANCING	E2 4	Create a capital improvements/capital replacement sinking fund to budget money annually for near-term projects.	Short-term	UAT BOC, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E2 5	The Board of Commissioners should consider increasing the allocation of budget resource to parks and recreation.	Short-term	UAT BOC, Township Staff, UAT PRB.



AUXILIARY ACTIONS

TABLE 21: AUXILIARY ACTIONS

		RECOMMENDATION	TIMEFRAME	PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS
FACILITIES	A1	Better define public vs. private space in parks and open spaces which experience boundary ambiguity.	On-going	UAT BOC, UAT PC, UAT PRB, Township Staff.
	A2	Inspect existing park facilities, amenities and playground equipment to assess hierarchy of repairs and renovations.	On-going	UAT BOC, UAT PC, UAT PRB, Township Staff.
	A3	Erect proper signage at various parks to accommodate various needs, such as safety signs or educational signs.	Short- term	Township Staff, UAT BOC, Neighbors, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
CONNECTIVITY	A4	Create a unified signage system to identify the Township's Parks and Green Route.	Long- term	UAT BOC, UAT PC, UAT PRB, Township Staff, Joint Recreation Committee.
	A5	Reduce speed limits, implement traffic calming strategies like speed humps and provide additional park signage to alert drivers to drive cautiously throughout the nearby area.	Short- term	UAT Police, Township Staff, Township Engineer UAT BOC, Neighbors, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
PROGRAMMING	A6	Prepare an annual report showcasing MARD programs. This should be done each year, in time for the Joint Recreation Committee meeting in March.	Short- term	UAT BOC, UAT PC, UAT PRB, Township Staff, Joint Recreation Committee.
	A7	Expand preschool programming which utilizes the already existing partnerships while preparing the children to enter kindergarten.	Medium- term	PTO's, Simpson Library, Womans Club, MARD, UAT PRB.
	A8	Explore alternative uses or potential programming for large, underutilized spaces located within neighborhood green spaces.	On-going	MARD, UAT PRB, Township Staff.
	A9	Expand park programming through small community/ neighborhood events at the seven (7) lesser known parks/open spaces at least once a year as a means to increase resident awareness.	On-going	MARD, Joint Recreation Committee, UAT PC, UAT BOC, Township Staff, Athletic Organizations, UAT PRB.
	A9	Enhance resident awareness regarding the availability of recreation programs by changing the timing of program publication as well as the frequency and mode of communication/distribution.	Short-term	MARD, Joint Recreation Committee, UAT PC, UAT BOC, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	A9	Develop a "Featured Park" quarterly abstract series that can be published in newsletters, brochures or posted on the Township website. The features should be formatted as short abstracts that describe the park/open space's location, size, amenities, most notable qualities and where applicable - historical and/or cultural significance.	Short-term	MARD, Joint Recreation Committee, UAT PC, UAT BOC, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.

TABLE 21: AUXILIARY ACTIONS *continued*

		RECOMMENDATION	TIMEFRAME	PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS
MAINTENANCE	A10	Continue to uphold high maintenance levels and standards.	On-going	UAT PRB, Township Staff.
	A11	Start a carry in/carry out policy for certain selected Township parks such as McCormick Park to reduce maintenance costs.	Short- term	UAT Police, Township Staff, UAT BOC, Neighbors, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
MANAGEMENT & FINANCING	A12	Continue to Support and Participate in MARD due to the savings cost to residents associated to the partnership.	Short- term	UAT BOC, UAT PC, UAT PRB, Township Staff, Joint Recreation Committee.
	A13	Update the Park & Recreation Ordinance	Short- term	UAT BOC, UAT PC, UAT PRB, Township Staff, Joint Recreation Committee.

PARK SPECIFIC ACTIONS

TABLE 22: PARK SPECIFIC ACTIONS

		RECOMMENDATION	TIMEFRAME	PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS
MT. ALLEN PARK	E9	Classify as a Neighborhood Green Space.	Short-term	Township Staff, Baseball, Softball, Messiah Village, Neighbors, and MARD, UAT PRB.
	E10	Implement a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 3) where appropriate.	Medium-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
	E12	Develop connecting trail system between park and Spring Run Acres Park where possible.	Long-term	Township Staff, Baseball, Softball, Messiah Village, Neighbors, MARD, UAT PRB.
	A2	Conduct playground inspection for all playground amenities to ensure safe use.	On-going	Township Staff, MARD, UAT PRB.
	A2	Replace sand on softball fields that has been damaged by flooding.	Short-term	Softball and Baseball organizations, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E5	Provide universally accessible paths and amenities.	Long-term	Township Staff, State and County agencies, UAT PRB.
	A2	Repair and replace pavilion related amenities.	Long-term	Township Staff, Neighbors, Baseball and Softball organizations, UAT PRB.
	A2	Consider constructing permanent restroom facility or relocate existing temporary restrooms so that they are not located at the entrance of the park.	Short-term	Township Staff, UAT BOC, Township Engineer, Neighbors, UAT PRB.
ROSEGARDEN PARK	E9	Classify the space as a Neighborhood Green Space.	Short-term	Township Staff, HOA, UAT BOC, UAT PRB.
	E10	Implement the Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 1) where appropriate.	Medium-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
	E9	In the longer term, consider relocating the active recreation amenities, reclassifying the space as a Special Conservation Area and converting the space entirely to a Yellow Breeches plant palette.	Long-term	Township Staff, Audobon Society, HOA, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
	A2	Conduct playground inspection for all playground amenities to ensure safe use.	On-going	Township Staff, MARD, UAT PRB.
	E5	Provide an ADA parking area and universally accessible paths and amenities.	Long-term	Township Staff, State and County agencies, UAT PRB.

TABLE 22: PARK SPECIFIC ACTIONS *continued*

		RECOMMENDATION	TIMEFRAME	PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS
GRANTHAM PARK	E9	Classify the space as a Special Conservation Area	Long-term	Neighbors, Boy Scouts, Township Staff, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Township Engineer, Audubon Society, UAT PRB.
	E10	Implement a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 1).	Medium-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
	E9	Develop primary focus of conservation area to be the pond, form educational opportunity and passive recreation from this natural amenity.	Long-term	Neighbors, Boy Scouts, Township Staff, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Township Engineer, Audubon Society, UAT PRB.
	E21	Develop specialized maintenance standards for this area, specifically for the pond.	On-going	Joint Recreation Committee, MARD, UAT PC, UAT BOC, Township Staff, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Audubon Society, UAT PRB.
	A1	Delineate public park space vs. private residential areas.	Medium-term	Township Staff, neighbors, Township Engineer, UAT PRB.
	E5	Provide an ADA parking area and universally accessible paths and amenities.	Long-term	Township Staff, State and County agencies, UAT PRB.
CENTER SQUARE PARK	E9	Classify the space as a Special Conservation Area.	Short-term	Neighbors, UAT BOC, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E10	Prepare a Park Master Plan to implement a floodplain amenity/park scheme and a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 1).	Long-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
	A2	Repair and replace amenities in conjunction with other park upgrades.	Medium-term	Neighbors, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E5	Provide an ADA parking area and universally accessible paths and amenities.	Long-term	Township Staff, State and County agencies, UAT PRB.
	E1	Expand Center Square Park into the adjacent Township-owned floodplain area, further developing the park for passive recreation and education opportunities in the floodplain area.	Medium-term	UAT BOC, Township Staff, Neighbors, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Audubon Society, HOA, DCNR, County, UAT PRB.
COUNTRY ESTATES PARK	E9	Classify the space as a Neighborhood Green Space.	Short-term	Neighbors, UAT BOC, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	A9	Consider potential uses for the existing unprogrammed space or determine whether a neighborhood group would be willing to 'adopt' the park.	Long-term	Township Staff, MARD, UAT PRB.

TABLE 22: PARK SPECIFIC ACTIONS *continued*

		RECOMMENDATION	TIMEFRAME	PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS
MILLERS CREST PARK	E9	Classify the space as Neighborhood Green Space.	Short-term	Neighbors, UAT BOC, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E10	Define public park space vs. private residential space.	Medium-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, UAT PRB.
	A2	Conduct playground inspection for all playground amenities to ensure safe use.	On-going	MARD, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	A9	Explore use for large space between basketball court and playground.	Short-term	Township Staff, Neighbors, UAT PRB.
SPRING RUN ACRES PARK	E9	Classify the space as a Neighborhood Green Space.	Short-term	Neighbors, UAT BOC, UAT Staff, Messiah Village, UAT PRB.
	E10	Implement the Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 2).	Short-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
	E12	Work to create trail connection to Mt. Allen Park.	Long-term	Neighbors, UAT BOC, Township Staff, Messiah Village, UAT PRB.
	E6	Redevelop parking area and entrance to park to make park access more attractive and intuitive.	Short-term	Township Engineer, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E5	Provide an ADA parking area and universally accessible paths and amenities.	Medium-term	Township Staff, State and County agencies, UAT PRB.
	A1	Define public park space vs. private residential space.	Medium-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, Neighbors, UAT PRB.
	A2	Perform playground inspection to ensure that all playground facilities are safe for use.	On-going	MARD, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	A2	Replace damaged/cracking basketball court (fissure due to flooding issues).	Long-term	Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E9	In long term, consider relocating the active recreation amenities and reclassifying the space as a Special Conservation Area.	Long-term	UAT BOC, Township Staff, Neighbors, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, DCNR, County, UAT PRB.
FISHER COMMUNITY PARK	E9	Classify the space as Park.	Short-term	Neighbors, UAT BOC, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E10	Implement a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 3) where appropriate.	Short-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
	A10	Continue to uphold high maintenance levels and standards.	On-going	Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E12	Expand Existing trail system to connect to nearby parks and residential developments.	Medium-term	UAT BOC, Township Staff, Township Engineer, UAT PRB.

TABLE 22: PARK SPECIFIC ACTIONS *continued*

		RECOMMENDATION	TIMEFRAME	PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS
ASPEN PARK	E9	Classify the space as a Neighborhood Green Space.	Short-term	Neighbors, UAT BOC, Township Staff.
	E10	Implement a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 2).	Medium-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
MCCORMICK PARK	E9	Classify the space as a Special Conservation Area	Short-term	UAT BOC, Township Staff, Neighbors, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Audubon Society, Lower Allen, Fairview, DCNR, County, UAT PRB.
	E10	Implement a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 1) where appropriate.	Medium-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
	E9	Develop primary focus of conservation area to be Yellow Breeches Creek, form educational opportunity from this natural amenity, as well as upon the natural habitat/immigration route for several species of birds.	Long-term	UAT BOC, Township Staff, Neighbors, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Audubon Society, Lower Allen, Fairview, DCNR, County, Environment Center, UAT PRB.
	A5	Provide larger park sign to alert drivers to drive cautiously.	Short-term	Township Staff, Neighbors, Township Police, UAT PRB.
	A3	Post 'No Swimming' signs along the water edge.	Short-term	Township Staff, Neighbors, Township Police, UAT PRB.
	E8	Identify a specific launch area and construct a launch facility. Restrict all water access activities to the launch area.	Long-term	Township Engineer, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Audubon Society, Lower Allen, Neighbors, Susquehanna Canoe & Kayak Club, UAT PRB.
	E7	Adjust access based on the Yellow Breeches Creek Management Plan.	Medium-term	Township Engineer, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Audubon Society, Lower Allen, Neighbors, Susquehanna Canoe & Kayak Club, UAT PRB.
	A5	Reduce speed limits and implement speed humps along road adjacent to Creek, as road is extremely close to creek and many young children visit the park.	Short-term	Public Works, Township Police, UAT PRB.

TABLE 22: PARK SPECIFIC ACTIONS *continued*

		RECOMMENDATION	TIMEFRAME	PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS
FRIENDSHIP PARK	E9	Classify the space as Park.	Short-term	UAT BOC, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E10	Implement a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 3) where appropriate.	Medium-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
	A1	Delineate public park space vs. private residential areas.	Medium-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, Neighbors, UAT PRB.
	E6	Cluster trees to provide shaded areas for visitors.	Long-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, UAT PRB.
	E12	Expand Existing trail system to connect to nearby parks and residential developments.	Long-term	UAT BOC, Township Staff, Township Engineer, UAT PRB.
	E5	Make all benches by athletic fields ADA accessible.	Long-term	UAT BOC, Township Staff, Township Engineer, State and County agencies, UAT PRB.
	A10	Continue to uphold high maintenance levels and standards.	On-going	UAT BOC, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
WINDING HILLS PARK	E9	Classify the space as Park.	Short-term	UAT BOC, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E10	Implement a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 3) where appropriate.	Medium-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
	E5	Provide an ADA accessible paths and amenities.	Long-term	UAT BOC, Township Staff, Township Engineer, UAT PRB.
	E12	Expand Existing trail system to connect to nearby sidewalks and residential developments.	Long-term	UAT BOC, Township Staff, Township Engineer, UAT PRB.
	E6	Cluster trees in order to provide shaded areas throughout the park.	Long-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, UAT PRB.
	E4	Continue to support planning initiatives intended for the park by developing the park based on the recently completed master plan.	Long-term	UAT BOC, Township Staff, Township Engineer, UAT PRB.

TABLE 22: PARK SPECIFIC ACTIONS *continued*

		RECOMMENDATION	TIMEFRAME	PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS
SIMPSON PARK	E9	Classify the space as a Special Conservation Area.	Short-term	UAT BOC, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Audubon Society, Boy Scouts, Environment Center, UAT PRB.
	E10	Implement a Yellow Breeches Park Development Palette (level 1) where appropriate.	Medium-term	Township Staff, Township Engineer, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, UAT PRB.
	E9	Develop primary focus of conservation area to be Yellow Breeches Creek, form educational opportunity from this natural amenity.	Medium-term	UAT BOC, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Audubon Society, UAT PRB.
	E6	Define parking boundaries so that parking does not occur on grass surfaces.	Short-term	Township Engineer, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E6	Redevelop parking area to limit park capacity.	Short-term	Township Engineer, Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	A2	Remove or replace and maintain volleyball court.	Medium-term	Township Staff, UAT PRB.
	E8	Develop safer river access incorporating natural landscaping, consider Lower Allen Park as precedent example.	Short-term	Yellow Breeches, Audubon, DCNR, Corps of Engineers, Township Engineer, Township Staff, UAT BOC, UAT PRB.
	E1	Consider expanding Simpson park by acquiring adjacent undeveloped lot	Long-term	UAT BOC, DCNR, Cumberland County Planning, Audubon Society, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Township Staff, UAT PRB.

APPENDIX

