

Haverford Township
 Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan (PROS Plan)
MEETING NOTES
PUBLIC MEETING #2
JANUARY 11, 2023

The second Public Meeting for Haverford Townships PROS Plan was held at the CREC in Haverford Township, at 7:00PM on January 11, 2023. There were about 53 people in attendance (scanned copy located in the box folder). When people signed in, we asked that they place a sticker where they live on a Township Map (scanned copy located in the box folder). The meeting included a brief presentation about the PROS plan, project progress, highlights from public engagement thus far, and a description of the 3 Activities that the attendees would be participating in.

Below are the results and comments from the three engagement activities.

Activity #1 – Parks, Recreation Facilities & Open Space Amenities

ACTIVITY TASK

Place your 5 Park Amenity Tickets in the jars of the different park amenities that you would like to see or see more of within the Township. If there is a specific park that you would like to see the amenity at, please write the park name on the back of the ticket before you place it in the amenity jar.

If there are any amenities that you would like to see but do not have a jar, please use an index card to write them down, and place the index card in the other amenities box.

JAR VOTES

Number of votes that were within each jar:

AMENITY	COUNT	PERCENTAGE
Rest Rooms	30	13.4%
Shade, Trees and Native Plantings	30	13.4%
Second Turf Field	29	12.9%
Walking Paths	29	12.9%
Field Maintenance	23	10.3%
Repair Existing Amenities	21	9.4%
Update Playgrounds	20	8.9%
Skate Park	13	5.8%
Environmental Learning Opportunities	10	4.5%
Accessible Amenities	10	4.5%
Water Fountains	8	3.6%
Skate / Roller Hockey	1	0.4%

NOTES ON EACH AMENITY

Restrooms

- > Highland Park (5)
- > Gest Tract
- > Elwell Park
- > Normandy Park
- > Brookline School
- > Paddock Park (2)
- > Coopertown Park

Shade, Trees and Native Plantings

- > Elwell
- > Sig Gross
- > Paddock Park (2)
- > Thompson Nature Park
- > Gest Tract
- > Street Trees

Update Playgrounds

- > Paddock Park (5)
- > Highland Park
- > Castle Park (Reserve)
- > Steel Field
- > Foster Tract (3)
- > Gest Tract
- > Elwell Park (2)

Field Maintenance

- > Karakung (2)
- > Paddock Park (3)
- > Merwood Park
- > Elwell Park (3)
- > Richland Farms
- > CREC
- > All Fields
- > Normandy Park

Second Turf Field

- > No Comments

Walking Paths

- > Thompson Nature Park (2)
- > Paddock Park
- > Gest Tract
- > Bailey Park

Water Fountains

- > For water bottles and pets

Skate Park

- > Next to Boyle Entry
- > Pennsy Trail
- > Veterans Field
- > National Destination Skate Park

- > ADA friendly and inclusive all wheels park
- > bigger and better skate park with vert bowl
- > build skate park with pump track integrated
- > expand existing skate park at Merry Place

Environmental Learning Opportunities

- > Paddock Park
- > Educational signage
- > Labels on trees
- > History

Repair Existing Amenities

- > Elwell Park (2)
- > Paddock Park (5)
- > Foster Tract (2)
- > Karakung
- > No Pickleball Close to Homes
- > Bailey Park - Ground has eroded away from base of playground
- > Paddock pickleball causes too much noise and congestion
- > Baseball Fencing at Merwood and Paddock Park

Roller Hockey

- > No Comments

Accessible Amenities

- > Bailey Park - Benches are difficult for people with mobility issues
- > Gest Tract
- > Paddock Park (2)
- > Merry Place

Activity #2 – Parks, Recreation Facilities & Open Space Amenities

ACTIVITY TASK

Use the key below to help highlight gaps, barriers and propose new pedestrian network facilities with the corresponding-colored highlighters. Use the sticky notes to add additional detail.

- ORANGE - EXISTING SIDEWALK
- YELLOW - NEW SIDEWALK CONNECTION
- GREEN - TRAIL CONNECTION
- BLUE - BIKE LANE CONNECTION
- PURPLE – BARRIER

Please use the index cards to identify locations you would like to be able to walk or bike to and place them in the Connections box.

COMMENTS

- > Need better trail connections to Township Trails
- > Safe crossing needed at Chestnut Ave & Haverford Road
- > Need link from Haverford Road to Karakung Field
- > Sidewalk to connect to Gest tract
- > Bridge needed to connect tails over the Creek
- > Crossing from Chatham Village to Karakung are dangerous. Raised crossing and narrow lanes.

Identification of existing sidewalks, new sidewalk connections, new trail connections, bike lane connections and barriers were identified on maps. Scans of these maps are located here:

<https://hrg3.box.com/s/f15ogknhibads1gda9y5y4cebhy18an>

Activity #3 – Vision & Priorities

ACTIVITY TASK

You have a First Priority, Second Priority and Third Priority chip that we would like you to place in the jars of the top three goals you think should be a priority. If you think there are additional priorities this plan should address that are not identified, please use an index card to write them down. When finished place into the box.

TRAILS & CONNECTIVITY

1. Promote walking and bicycling options within the Township (30)
2. Connect to the regional trail system (15)
3. Connect our neighborhoods to our parks (12)
4. Improve trail signage (5)
5. Provide safer connections to SEPTA (4)
6. Improve trailheads (2)

68 Votes in Category

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

1. Update and enhance the Townships existing facilities (22)
2. Provide more space for informal play (16)
3. Incorporate nature into the existing parks (9)
4. Create welcoming spaces and places for social interactions (6)
5. Provide space for more programmed events (4)
6. Make navigation within the parks more intuitive (0)

57 Votes in Category

OPEN SPACE

1. Explore ways to protect remaining open space lands (17)

2. Provide opportunities to connect with nature (10)
 3. Provide opportunities to improve water quality (6)
- 33 Votes in Category*

PROGRAMMING

1. Provide more passive recreation programming (14)
 2. Use local arts to inspire and engage (11)
 3. Celebrate neighborhoods (6)
 4. Have more Township-wide events (2)
 5. Provide more of the same programming due to availability (0)
- 33 Votes in Category*

MAINTENANCE

1. Mitigate litter and vandalism (15)
 2. Prioritize and maintain what matters (9)
 3. Provide low maintenance amenity alternatives (3)
- 27 Votes in Category*

Index Card Comments

MAINTENANCE

- > Maintenance of the current fields and parks is important. Cut grass, remove debris and trash, repair damaged areas (ball fields, courts, play equipment).
- > CREC Trails – need more trail maintenance. I'd be happy to help but volunteer days are during the weekdays when I'm working. More trail maintenance days on weekends would be helpful.
- > Bailey Park's cement walk is far too narrow for strollers or people to pass each other. Needs to be widened. Sidewalks and street friendly walking to parks
- > Better trail maintenance at the CREC
- > Cadwallader Tract is a very lovely, wooded area – but some fallen trees / debris needs to be cleaned up to make it an accessible natural open space.

CONNECTIVITY & TRAILS

- > Access to trail from Grange Estate is obstructed by Cobbs Creek – need bridge to unlock this great trail.
- > Need to have a sidewalk and bike lane connecting intersection of Haverford Rd and Wynnewood Road south to Karakung Drive.
- > Please expand and connect bike lanes with other communities
- > We need sidewalks along County Line Road and Old Lancaster between Haverford Road and Lancaster Ave.

- > Bus route crossing Haverford Road needs dedicated light for bikes and SEPTA.
- > Mill Road outside high school should forego parking entirely and use bike lanes to protect kids.
- > Brookline should have parking protected bike lane at least on one side and do bi-directional lanes.
- > Haverford Road between Lorraine Street and Wynnewood Road and south on Karakung to Karakung Drive all needs a sidewalk.
- > Connecting the neighborhood of South Ardmore to the baseball fields, Karakung pool, the creek and Karakung Drive is essential. Currently, kids have to be driven there or they have to walk or bike on the road.
- > Footbridge and or large secure stepping stones across Karakung Creek to Powder Mill Park and connect trails on both sides of the creek.
- > Crossing from Chatham Village to Karakung are dangerous. Raised crosswalks and narrow lanes
- > Please broaden and groom the foot trails on both sides of Karakung Creek. Paths are very narrow.

PARKS & FACILITIES

- > We are restricted by permit only access to the turf field and only get last openings after youth organizations. Adults want field access too
- > Improvements with the existing sports fields
 - General maintenance, better grass cutting
 - Brush and tree pruning
 - Maintaining parking lots
 - Water for all fields
 - Proper lighting
- > Polo field – more trees; better drainage at east end along Railroad Ave; stop cutting trees and shrubs along the railroad. Otherwise leave open space open and natural. No lights no new trails. Better brush, shrub barriers on south side of the field near houses on Preston Road. No new parking lots. Maintain play area and picnic tables near Dayton.
- > Normandy Park – remove the building and replace with a pavilion and bathroom.
- > Elwell Field – Small baseball field – improve – use the type that are at the t-ball field at Normandy.
- > Turf Glendale Field with Lights
- > Turf the sod field at CREC
- > More lights at youth sports fields
- > Better funding at Hilltop. The grass and dirt needs to be better.
- > The dirt softball field along Steel Road needs a permanent fence.
- > We need bathrooms at youth sports fields. Unconscionable that our girls have nowhere to urinate during games.

- > The landscaping (turf quality) is worse on our youth sports fields than any other township of similar revenue that I've seen. Simple mowing is not nearly enough. We need better grass and dirt.
- > Change upper field at the CREC to tuft in order to support tournament play. Should be multi use for soccer, baseball, softball, lacrosse. Tournaments = \$.
- > Spend money on better playing fields and it will come back to you in ten-fold.
- > Field lighting at Steel Field
- > Polo Field – pollution, parking lot pass and enforce ordinance requiring that vehicles engines be turned off. Too many cars park and keep engine running for heat in the winter and air conditioning in the summer for hours.
- > Polo field – remind dog walkers to leash dogs in field.
- > Spray Park areas at various parks and playgrounds.
- > Darby & Eagle Road vacant lot - create a pocket park with trees, benches, fountain, etc. Possible food truck area – picnic area as an anchor to end of commercial corridor.
- > Karakung Field – cut back overgrown trees and brush (lower and upper field). Add water irrigation system on upper and lower field and add lights to upper field.
- > Normandy Park – t-ball field, improve base paths, remove weeds and plant grass. What is the function of the building on the property?
- > Elwell Field – small baseball field home plate area floods and needs to be fixed. Playground equipment at the park needs to be repaired and woodchips should be replaced with work matting.
- > Gest Tract – add plants that bring pollinators and other insects that help eat mosquitos.
- > Another all-weather track other than HHS for community and club use.
- > Highland Park needs restrooms. Please consider the nice trailer type porta-potties which could mitigate the eyesore complaints by neighbors.
- > Dimmable lights and ceiling fans (wish list- in pavilion at Highland Park).
- > More electrical outlets at Highland Park.
- > We would absolutely love to see upgraded playground equipment at Foster Tract in the Lynnewood neighborhood. It is the only playground we can easily walk to and there are so many kids in our neighborhood (compared to 5 years ago) who would benefit from having safe and updated playground equipment. If the swings, 4 animal bouncers and play structure could be replaced we would be thrilled. Thank you for the kiosk and new bench – much appreciated (Randi Miller, Rose Glen Road).
- > We have 3,500 players in our club, most township – the grass (sod) field at the Reserve does not drain. Groups would use and need turf fields! It is great but there are so many places outside the township for turf usage. HSC pay \$ outside the township. We are a non-profit so we spent money for fields.
- > Add pickleball to Merry Place
- > Build adaptive ADA friendly, inclusive all-wheels skatepark.

- > Build a bigger, better skate park with vert bowl
- > Expand existing skate park at Merry Place
- > Build Skate Park with Pump Track integrated
- > Build bigger world class national destination skate park – Olympic athletes

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- > Hosting large youth sports tournaments will yield significant recurring revenue. I have seen many in PA / NJ / MD / VA. Our playing girls are not nearly high-quality enough to support this. I see townships with much less money than us having much nicer (dirt, grass, scoreboards, bathrooms, etc.) than us.
- > Strongly want something done with the Pickleball Courts. The constant noise is unbearable. Many of the people playing aren't even in our township. Some people play every day. This is a nightmare for us. It has negatively affected our home value. I'm afraid 72 years old and 69 years old in Havertown. Please take this seriously. (Dave Ogg 215 Colfax).
- > Need adult access to a lighted tuft field. We get the last time slots so a 2nd turf field would be AMAZING!
- > Please consider home owners when doing park projects (specified at Paddock Park).

Box Folder

Box Folder Link: <https://hrg3.box.com/s/f15ogknhilbads1gda9y5y4cebhy18an>

Box Folder Contents:

- > Sign In Sheet Scans
- > Activity #2 – Trails & Connectivity Map Scans
- > Sign In Sheet Map – Where residents live