

Haverford Township
Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan

AGENDA
COMMITTEE MEETING #1
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

Attendees: Committee & Project Team Lead

Introductions

- > Tim Staub, AICP – Project Manager
- > Kaitlin Mills – Community Planner
- > Overview of the Project Team
- > Introductions of Committee Members

Introduction to the Project

- > Project Overview
- > Project Schedule

Expectations of the Committee

Today's Activity

- > Goals of the Project
- > SWOT Analysis

Important Dates

- > October 1, 2022 – Haverford Township Day
- > October 26, 2022 – Steering Committee Meeting #2
- > November 9, 2022 – Public Meeting #1

Haverford Township
Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan (PROS Plan)

MEETING NOTES
PUBLIC MEETING #1
NOVEMBER 9, 2022

Activity 1 – Parks, Recreation Facilities & Open Space

GOAL

Help identify what Township parks or amenities you enjoy, utilize most, dislike or think could use improvement

TASK

Using the sticky note please provide feedback to the following question:

- > What parks or amenities do you use most?
- > What amenities or parks do you like? And why?
- > What parks or amenities needs improvement?

Note: please be as detailed as possible and identify the specific park on your sticky notes

RESPONSES: WHAT PARKS OR AMENITIES DO YOU USE MOST?

- > Trails (6)
 - Pennsy Trail (4)
 - Darby Creek Trail (3)
- > CREC / Haverford Reserve (5)
 - Trails (4)
 - indoor track (2)
 - fitness center (2)
 - Pickleball
 - Basketball
 - Dog Park
 - Sport Field
 - Playground
- > Paddock (4)
 - Pickleball
- > Elwell (4)
 - baseball fields
 - walking
 - Tennis Courts
- > Grange (3)
 - Fields
- > Merry Place (3)

- trails (2)
- skate park (2)
- Open Space
- Sand Volleyball
- > Merwood (2)
- > Preston Field (2)
- > Polo Field (2)
- > Westgate Park
 - Pickleball Court
- > Grasslyn
- > Chatham
- > Normandy Park
 - t-ball field
- > Karakung
 - Upper and lower baseball fields
- > Lynnewood
 - ball field
- > Veterans Park
- > Karakung Drive

RESPONSES: WHAT AMENITIES OR PARKS DO YOU LIKE? AND WHY?

- > Merwood (3)
 - Summer Concerts
 - Creek for playing
 - Pavilion
 - courts / fields
 - big trees
- > Grange
 - 4th of July Activities
 - spend time walking around and sitting on the swing and watching the hawks
- > Westgate
 - bathrooms are always clean
- > CREC (2)
 - Full of native flora and fauna,
 - a LEED built building
 - can walk in the woods
 - playground is great for parents as there is only one way in and out which helps with watching kids. Also, a lot of seating for parents
- > Polo Field (2)
 - Walks

- baseball
- Basketball
- > Elwell Park (2)
 - Baseball fields for practice
 - wood playground
 - tennis courts
- > Haverford College
 - Nature Trail (Real Nature)
- > Karakung
 - Trails for walking & biking
 - baseball fields
- > Amenities Only
 - Playground equipment
 - Open field space for free play
 - Nature areas for kids to simply play with dirt /sticks
 - Any with restrooms
 - Trails
 - Green space
 - Calm
 - Love the use of Karakung Drive when it is closed

RESPONSES: WHAT PARKS OR AMENITIES NEED IMPROVEMENT?

- > Merry Place
 - Trail is overgrown, invasive plants; feels isolated.
 - Consider cameras on the emergency box
 - paint refresh on the sign and update playground
 - The skatepark
 - o Is in a poor location – far corner of the township
 - o Not accessible by sidewalk (kids can't drive)
 - o Is just poorly designed
- > Westgate Park
 - Remove concrete drinking fountain that is no longer used
- > Elwell Field:
 - Maintain vegetation boundaries
 - Ensure areas where vegetation and trees exist are kept safe
 - Keep out criminals and vanguards (theft, smoking, drinks, etc..)
 - Cut grass
 - Home plate area floods /under water (small field)
 - Tennis Court lights
- > Normandy Park Tball Field:

- Needs to be smoothed out
- Needs grass
- Improve the base paths
- > Karakung Field
 - Lights on upper field
 - Upper and Lower fields – Water Irrigation system
- > Oakmont
 - Update equipment
- > Grasslyn
 - Update equipment
 - need to upgrade playground equipment please
- > Polo Field
 - Monitor use of Polo Fields by groups
- > Grange
 - Update equipment
 - Senior friendly parking spaces
- > Pennsy Trail
 - its nice to have but its ugly – vegetation hacked down, lots of invasive plants
 - bikers come up behind us without us knowing – speeding to pass pedestrians
- > CREC
 - Turn off sports lights after play especially at Haverford Reserve
 - would like to see arrows to avoid getting lost CREC Trails
- > Paddock Park
 - Monitor the number of activities on the same day and coordinate to prevent congestion
 - softball fields and basketball courts could use an upgrade
 - needs many more trees around the fields for shade for spectators
 - Restore Hockey Court
 - o New Asphalt
 - o Cyclone fence to reduce noise
 - o Multi-use surface
 - Keep children’s equipment in working order. Currently Paddock Park equipment needs attention.
 - Tennis Court lights
 - Pickleball needs some limitations
 - Pickleball noise is unbearable. Many of the players if not all are out of our Township. I feel property value is suffering over traffic and parking is out of control.
 - Remove Tennis Wall and Pickleball
 - Only Township resident use off the Pickleball courts

- Limit the time of pickleball play – none on Sundays
- Remove Pickleball courts from Paddock Park to:
 - o Eliminate nuisance noise from the ball and paddle
 - o Return the park to a Township Park; many Pickleball players are from non-Haverford locations
 - o Help with parking on streets due to 30+ cars from the Pickleball players
- > Merry Place
 - Paint refresh on the sign and update playground
 - The skate park
 - o Is in a poor location – far corner of the township
 - o Not accessible by sidewalk (kids can't drive)
 - o Is just poorly designed
- > General Comments
 - More trees and shrubs (2)
 - Better tree maintenance
 - More shade trees instead of grass – better for the environment
 - Shade – even on warm days (not heat advisory days) many parks are too exposed to the sun for kids to play
 - Park Upgrades – less mulch and more rubber grounds ay playgrounds
 - Park Maintenance – weeding, trash pick up and removal
 - Trail etiquette signs
 - Loop trails and paths
 - More benches on the trails
 - No lights
 - Too many artificial surfaces / materials that retain heat causing them to be too hot for activity (rubber surfaces, turf, etc.)

Activity 2 – Connectivity

GOAL

As part of the plan, we aim to propose ways that the Township can increase bike and pedestrian connectivity to get you to your favorite places.

TASK

Use the key to help highlight gaps, barriers and propose new pedestrian network facilities. Additionally, please use the cards to identify where you would like to walk or bike.

RESPONSES

- > Karakung
 - Bridge to connect Karakung Dr. to Powder Mill Park
 - Footbridge over Cobbs Creek between Karakung Drive and Powder Mill Park
 - A crossover to Karakung Field along the creek; improve the trail

- Bridge over the Creek at Karakung to Powder Mill Drive
- Karakung from North – safely
- Huge steppingstones to cross over the Creek to Karakung Drive to Powder Mill Park and or a trail alongside the Creek on the Powder Mill Side (2)
- Connect Karakung to Cobbs Creek for bikers
- Footbridge over the Creek (2)
- > Trails
 - Connect Darby Creek Trail to other trails
 - Trail connections between Cadwallader Tract and Beachwood and Pennfield Stations
 - Communicate with neighboring townships to encourage them to develop primary trails
 - From the east side of Haverford Reserve to Darby Creek and Grace Trails
 - Trail connection from Glendale or Geuthert Field to Darby Creek Trail
 - Connect Pennsy Trail to Paddock Park and Linwood School
 - Would like to walk from Pennsy to Darby Creek Trails
 - Continue to extend Darby and Pennsy Primary Trails and connections to them
 - Make Haverford College Nature Trails connect to the intersection (at College Ave)
- > Bike / Walk
 - Bike safely on Darby
 - Bike safely across West Chester Pike & Manoa Road
 - Bike and Walk to Brookline
 - Bike and walk to Manoa
 - Bike and walk to Ardmore
 - Bike Traffic – physically protected from motor vehicle traffic
 - Is a bike lane viable alongside the train tracks or Haverford Road
 - Pedestrian / Bike marked crossing by new Brookline Park across Earlington to connect to the 7th and 9th wards (similar to one by the Middle School) (2)
 - Eagle Road Narrows – share road sign
 - Safely walk to Preston Field
 - From Haverford Road to the CREC
 - Walk from Chatham Park area to Haverford Reserve without dealing with traffic and busy roads
 - Gold House – trail across from 17356 Burmount Road (Merry Place)
 - Create a safe sidewalk by Eagle and Darby by Vacant Lot
 - Square off intersection by Chatham Elementary and Manoa to make walking across the street viable
 - Sidewalk by Cooperstown Elementary School so children can walk to school
- > Everywhere

- > Skate park
- > The entire Lynnewood Neighborhood is cut off from the YMCA and Eagle Commercial District because crossing Eagle / Commerce is so dangerous, significant pedestrian improvements required
- > Cars parked in Driveways block sidewalks on Allston between Strathmore and Kathmere
- > Bus road through Haverford Road (safety)

Activity 3 – Programming

GOAL

Help us understand what recreational programming you and or your family participates in, as well as programming you would like to see offered.

TASK

Use the sticky notes to list the programs you or your family attends, (noting age and host organization) and programming you would like to see in the future.

RESPONSES – PROGRAMMING YOU CURRENTLY ATTEND

- > Baseball fields at: Karakung Field, Elwell Field, Normandy Park
- > Volunteer trail work and invasive plant removal – great way to be involved in the township
- > Summer Park program – great fun for kids
- > Fitness center and the track
- > Darby creek trail concerts at the Grange
- > Polo Field for Soccer
- > Currently use the CREC 5 days a week including the fitness center and the trail
- > CREC fitness center, track, classes and the CREC trails. Love it here! Love that is a LEED built building
- > Baseball fields: Karakung, Elwell, Merwood
- > Youth Sports- 3-year-old and 5-year-old
- > Trail and Nature Walk
- > The CREC safe babysitter training, self-defense class and gardening / composting were all great.

RESPONSES – PROGRAMMING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE

- > Nature walks for Families
- > Photo walks in Havertown
- > Bird watching and education walks
- > More nature activities for seniors'
- > Nature walks for seniors
- > Safe biking

- > Leave – no – trace programs
- > Educate Haverford Township community on importance of more native plantings and a lot less grass
- > Nature camps for kids
- > Expand trail walks with general or specific focus
- > Nature walks
- > CREC open hours for working people
- > Facilitate programs for kids to do volunteer work in the community
- > Nature Day Camps for kids
- > Outdoor education

Activity 4 – 2030 Vision, Smart Goals, & Wishes

GOAL

This plan will help to develop a vision, goals, and implementable recommendations for all things park, recreation, open space and trails in the Township. So, we want to hear your 2023 Vision!

TASK

This activity has four steps. Please use the sticky note to respond to each of the following prompts to help us develop a vision for the future of parks, recreation, open space and trails in the Township:

1. In a word, phrase or sentence describe the Township’s parks, recreation facilities, open spaces and trails.
2. In a phrase or sentence please describe your 2030 vision for the Township’s park, recreation facilities, open spaces and trails.
3. Please write down any specific, measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely goals you may have for Township’s parks, recreation Facilities, open spaces and trails. You can think of short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals.
4. Please note any wishes related to the Township’s parks, recreation facilities, open spaces and trails on the “**I Have a Wish**” board.

RESPONSES - IN A WORD, PHRASE OR SENTENCE DESCRIBE THE TOWNSHIP’S PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES, OPEN SPACES AND TRAILS

- > CREC Area – well developed, strong concept
- > Parks & Recreation Areas – well developed
- > Trails – need work
- > Nice but not enough trees
- > Some not accessible to communities
- > Adequate, much better than others, but lots of room to improve
- > Easy to walk or bike to my neighborhood park

- > Well-spaced out – a park isn't far from most
- > Parks are not being maintained properly – cut grass and maintain equipment
- > Adequate, but needs improvement
- > Adequate in terms of spaces dedicated to parks, recs and trails
- > Not enough
- > Needs green space and trees

RESPONSES - IN A PHRASE OR SENTENCE PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR 2030 VISION FOR THE TOWNSHIP'S PARK, RECREATION FACILITIES, OPEN SPACES AND TRAILS

- > Connected, safe, tranquil, lots of nature surround
- > Well maintained parks and trails, removed invasive species; safe parks with multi use functionality, picnic areas; Emergency boxes
- > Connect all trails to each other
- > Would like to see memorial tree planting like Veterans Park in Broomall and/or memorial benches in parks and along trails
- > All parks accessible and connected by trail or safe street walk and bike ways
- > Alternative sports – skate, scooter, cycling
- > Green spaces that support the environment and people's health.
- > Money to acquire more green spaces
- > Bicycle infrastructure
- > Loop trails
- > Education for residents on trails and types of trails
- > Preserve multi-use trails
- > All circuit /primary trails are connected
- > Lots of native trees
- > Adequate maintenance for all parks and facilities
- > Focus on making the existing spaces safe, accessible, enhance / maintain amenities

RESPONSES – SMART GOALS

- > Plan to organize groups to clean out invasive in area that will fall under the comprehensive plan
- > Paddock Park:
 - Restore hockey court
 - New asphalt
 - Cyclone fence
 - Hockey Goals
 - Multi-use surface
- > Increase the tree canopy

- > Increase the open space
- > More trees, natural green space
- > Interconnections between neighborhoods, parks, trails that are pedestrian and bike friendly
- > 10x the number of trees in the parks by 2030
- > More staff to maintain playgrounds and fields
- > Due to the increasing summer temperatures, ensure all child play spaces are shaded and designed to be used (aka not too hot) any day where there is not a heat advisory
- > Plan for more trees / shade areas at playgrounds and fields
- > Roller hockey court at paddock
- > Preserve multi-use fields
- > Educate residents on trails and bike lanes
- > Children's playgrounds:
 - Seating options for parks and grandparents
 - Shade at all parks
 - Safety at all parks

RESPONSES – I HAVE A WISH

- > Need more sports fields for youth sports. Ideally turf fields where possible with lights
- > A better skate park that can be used by bikes, boards, blades and scooters, or a paved pump track
- > Make walkable sidewalks along Eagle Road between the Y and Darby. Trees and greenway too please
- > Kids and adults can walk safely on sidewalks to school/ recreation / shops
- > I'd like to see a bridge over the creek on Karakung Drive
- > Bridge over Karakung Drive halfway between Manoa and Lakeside (?)
- > Golf – 9 hole chip and put course
- > Hear people inside and outside of our community to be talking about how wonderful our trails, parks, ect. Are
- > Plant shade trees on the shoulder / side of Haverford Reserve playground
- > Normandy Park – improve the T-ball field
- > A through inventory on cost and responsible party for the maintenance of all township parks and recreation facilities
- > Trail etiquette signage
- > More open green spaces for walking
- > A tree canopy that is full
- > Karakung field
 - Roof for dugouts at lower field

- Lights for upper field
 - Irrigation system at both upper and lower fields
- > I can bike safely from home to the Haverford Reserve
- > Safe bike lanes and trails to all the most used parks (physically protected from vehicle traffic)
- > I could get across Haverford Road safely
- > Darby Creek as a Water Trail – Look at book – Keystone Canoeing by Ed Certler for info
- > Save and enhance as much of our legacy trees, existing natural surroundings as much as possible
- > Safe, recognizable bike lanes and infrastructure throughout town
- > Paddock Park:
 - Restore hockey court
 - New asphalt
 - Cyclone fence
 - Hockey Goals
 - Multi-use surface
- > Roller hockey court at Paddock Park
- > More trees planted around Haverford to enhance the beauty