

HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP

PARK, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN

February 2024



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Haverford Township thanks stakeholders, community members and staff that participated in the planning process and for their commitment to a future guided by the goals and recommendations outlined within this plan.

Thank You to the Open Space Plan Steering Committee

A special thanks to the Steering Committee Members that spent many hours helping to prepare this plan.

- Michelle Alvare
- Jamie Jilozian
- Peter Puglionesi
- Rich Kerr
- Gail Farally-Semerad
- Ben Vaughan
- Paul Davit
- David Chanin
- Gerry Hart
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Additional Thank You's to the Following:

Haverford Township Board of Commissioners

Thank you to the Board of Commissioners who unanimously approved this Plan at their meeting on February 12, 2024.

- Brian Gondek
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- Appendix D - Maintenance Supplemental Material
- Appendix E - Implementation Supplemental Information





INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS A PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN?

- It evaluates existing conditions and community needs, considers trends, analyzes growth projections, and develops recommendations for park needs, improvements, maintenance, connectivity, open space management and potential acquisition.
- It develops a Township-wide vision specifically for Township-owned parks, recreation facilities, open space, trails, and connections.
- It offers goals, objectives and recommendations that provide a basis for local decision making and support grant applications for funding which will help implement the plan.

THIS PLAN HAS FIVE FOCUS AREAS, WHICH INCLUDE:

Parks and Recreation Amenities and Facilities

This chapter focuses on the existing parks and recreation amenities and facilities, while looking at standards, trends, and community feedback to guide the future of Township-owned active and passive parks and recreation amenities and facilities.

Open Space & Natural Resources

This chapter looks at the Township-owned open spaces that do not include passive or active recreational amenities, and provides recommendations on how to enhance how public and private open space and natural resources are protected and managed.

Trails & Connectivity

This chapter focuses on the pedestrian and bicycle network within the Township, by assessing existing and planned infrastructure, trails, and identifying 15 key projects to help increase connectivity to parks, as well as developing trails that will offer safe places for residents to recreate.

Maintenance

This chapter looks at current practices for park and recreation maintenance in the Township, and provides recommendations related to budget, staffing, recreation amenity replacements, and maintenance plans.

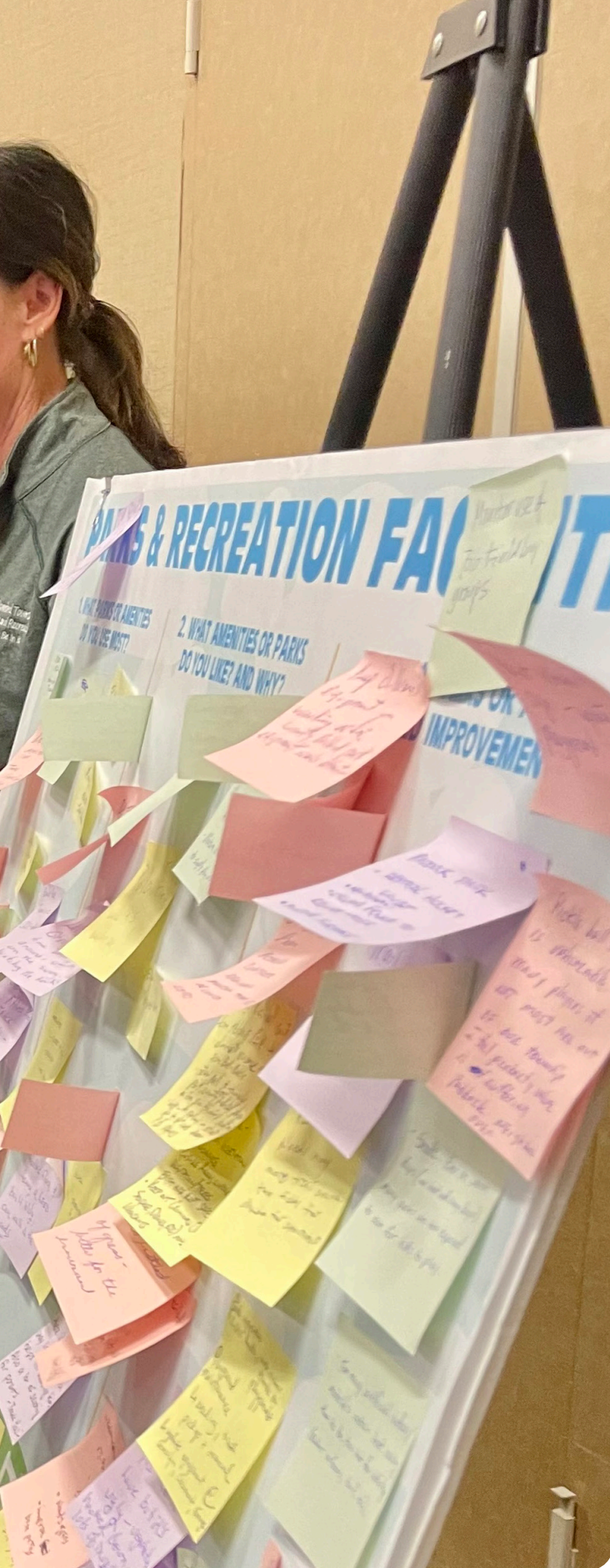
Programming

This chapter looks at the active and passive recreation programs that are offered by the Township, and other organizations to determine if there is sufficient programming opportunities for current and future residents.

Driving Forces for Implementation

The two driving forces of this plan will be the Goals and Objectives (Chapter 2) and Implementation Recommendations (Chapter 10). Both elements will help guide the Township to reach its vision for the future of their parks, recreation, open space, trails, connectivity, programming and maintenance.





GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Throughout the planning process goals and objectives were formed that will help guide the Township and the future of all things parks and recreation. These goals and objectives were developed with community input and guidance to assure this plan is deeply rooted in the community's priorities and desires.

The following are the goals and objectives for this plan by topic area. Within each chapter of this plan, we will further discuss the background and insight that helped not only form these goals and objectives but also informed the recommendations and implementation steps that are included at the end of this plan.



PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

1. Update and enhance the Townships existing facilities.

- Integrate into existing and construct new features and amenities that promote visitor connections and meet the needs of the community as it changes over time.
- Diversify the variety of amenities by looking to integrate nature play, water play, adventure play, thematic play and destination play into the Township's parks.
- Ensure that parks are easily navigable and have comprehensive signage.
- Provide more space for informal play, and gatherings.
- Provide amenities within parks that provide spaces for more programmed events.
- Regularly survey the community to identify their desires and or needs within the Township owned parks.

2. Incorporate nature into the existing parks.

- Create space, places and trails that allow people to connect with and experience nature.
- Use educational signage to inform the community about the importance of natural and environmental features located within the parks.
- Increase native plantings within parks, while working to remove non-native and invasive species.
- Increase shade trees within parks.

3. Create welcoming spaces and places for social interactions.

- Provide comfortable and safe places that enable formal and informal social interactions and experiences.

- Seek to update ADA amenities to offer a like experience for park visitors of all abilities while aiming to utilize universal and inclusive design.
- Determine the feasibility of extending the hours of operation at the CREC.



OPEN SPACE & NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Protect and enhance open space lands and stream corridors.

- Restore and enhance stream corridors and open spaces utilizing native vegetation, while working to remove invasive species.
- Seek acquisition, conservation easements, and access easements to connect open spaces and stream corridors.
- Implement ordinance recommendations to protect stream corridors.

2. Provide opportunities to connect with nature.

- Develop educational signage within open spaces and along trails to provide environmental education opportunities.
- Increase community access to open spaces and stream corridors.

3. Increase, preserve, manage, and protect the Township's tree canopy.

- When heritage trees are removed, and replaced, provide additional permanent or temporary shade alternatives where needed, as well as provide for mitigation of stormwater runoff.

4. Develop a plan to enhance, grow and maintain the Township's tree canopy, open spaces and natural resources.

- Hire or contract an ISA Certified Arborist and Integrated Pest Management Specialist to establish a tree maintenance and management program. Prior to undertaking this endeavor the Township should evaluate if current staff in the Township could fill these roles.
- Collaborate with the Shade Tree Commission, Tree Tenders and Penn State Master Watershed Steward to organize the Tree Planting and Invasive Species Management in Natural Areas Pilot Program.
- Establish relationship and partnership with Delaware County Penn State Extension Office to recruit volunteers from the Master Watershed Stewards and Master Gardeners programs.



**TRAILS
& CONNECTIVITY**

1. Expand and enhance the trail and greenway network, including Circuit Trails, regional trails and local trails, to provide a safe place for recreation, increased community connectivity, and access to community amenities.

- Regularly coordinate with trail, greenway, and transportation organizations in the region to ensure opportunities to connect are prioritized.
- Coordinate regularly with adjacent municipalities and have Township representation at multi-municipal, trail, greenway, and park meetings.
- Develop a legal Official Map for Haverford Township that includes trails, connectivity and open space components.

2. Improve and enhance trail related resources and amenities within the Township.

- Install directional and interpretive signage throughout the trail and park network.
- Provide pocket parks and benches throughout the trail network, that serve as social hubs and enhance the trail user experience.

3. Form a Trails and Connectivity citizen-led group focused on increased opportunities for active transportation improvements within the Township.

- Work with the Township and Community to develop temporary installations focused on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements to transportation corridors that are not conducive to walking and bicycling.
- Host an annual community event focused on trails and connectivity.

4. Develop a walking and biking network to provide a safe place for recreation, non-motorized travel, increased community connectivity, and access to community amenities.

- Develop a walking and biking network of pedestrian sidewalks, on-road and off-road bicycle facilities, trails, greenways, and intersection improvements.
- Continuously build upon the network of active transportation infrastructure in the Township.
- Prepare a list of missing connections. Update annually.
- Routinely survey the community to identify needs and desires regarding the active transportation network in the Township.

5. Provide safe, sustainable, multimodal recreation and transportation options for people of all abilities.

- Prioritize Township projects that provide safe, accessible access for all.
- Provide bicycling and public transportation education for people of all ages.



PROGRAMMING

1. Continue to evaluate, update, and improve programming options and the facilities that aid in these programming opportunities.

- Remain up to date on programming trends and changes within the community to adapt programming types accordingly.
- Ensure facilities meet the demands of programming by the Township and the Township approved organizations that provide supplemental programming options.
- Consider improvements to facilities or new facilities that will increase availability of the most sought-after amenities, where and when feasible.

2. Expand passive recreation programming opportunities.

- Develop guide for self-guided passive recreation programming opportunities.
- Increase mindfulness, meditation, and nutrition programming.
- Increase environmental programming offerings or availability.

3. Develop an Art in the Park program to engage local artists.

- Engage local artists to continue and expand programming in the parks through musical concerts, art walks, or theatric shows.
- Establish a system of commissioning local artists and a method of displaying art exhibits in public spaces.

4. Celebrate neighborhoods.

- Continue to work with the various civic groups in the Township to provide facilities for their events.
- Look to provide programming opportunities in neighborhoods that may not have any or have minimal programming options.

5. Improve the reservation system for scheduling field usage.

- Use a scheduling software that allows organizations and residents to see what facilities are available to aid in the scheduling process.
- Allow field permit information and field usage to be viewed to help make people aware of when fields are permitted.



MAINTENANCE

1. Mitigate litter and vandalism.

- Provide trash receptacles at each facility and routinely monitor and remove full receptacles.
- Immediately remove graffiti and address vandalism.
- Provide a hotline to report damaged/broken equipment, that includes a response and follow up procedure.

2. Prioritize maintenance throughout all Township Parks.

- Develop maintenance standards.
- Evaluate the conditions of each park and prioritize under maintained areas to bring them up to standards.

3. Provide low maintenance amenity alternatives.

- Select amenities and materials that are not maintenance intensive.
- Develop low maintenance landscapes by evaluating current landscapes and transform low use, high maintenance areas to low maintenance, natural areas, such as lawn areas to meadow.

4. Maintain trails in a safe and sustainable condition.

- Assure trails are free of trash and debris, hazardous roots and limbs.
- Maintain stormwater management along trails in the Township. Assure that trails are free of water and culverts and other drainage structures are free of debris and free flowing.
- Maintain an appropriate vertical clearance along trails.
- Evaluate dedicating one crew to trail maintenance.
- Purchase a work utility vehicle (UTV) and outfit with tools for trail maintenance.

5. Work to develop a more efficient and effective Park Maintenance Department.

- The Township should look to hire three additional full-time Park Maintenance Staff personnel. These hires should be phased over the next three years to determine if there is enough work to continue sustaining the staff through winter, with an increased number of personnel.

- Hire small engine mechanic to establish an equipment maintenance schedule focused on preventative maintenance.
- The Park Maintenance Supervisor and the Parks and Recreation Director should utilize the work logs to determine how many hours are needed to provide the current level of care in the Township.
- Determine if it is appropriate to contact out specific time-consuming maintenance tasks.
- Enact, enhance or update policy and procedures to help meet the level of service the community desires.
- Determine if it would be beneficial for a satellite maintenance shed or office to be located on the east side of the Township to decrease travel times.

TERAKI STEAKS

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LISCIO'S BAKERY

HAVERTON HEALTH & FITNESS

Capital
MICRO

LISCIO'S BAKERY 25⁺
LISCIO'S BAKERY 25⁺
LISCIO'S BAKERY 25⁺
LISCIO'S BAKERY 25⁺

Walking on sidewalk in white outfit

COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

Haverford Township is a suburb community of Philadelphia, in Delaware County. The Township is just under 10 square miles and is where over 50,000 people call home. The Township has various creeks and tributaries, most notably Cobbs Creek flows through the Township while the western edge of the Township is bordered by Darby Creek. The Township has over 158 miles of roadways which is comprised of nearly 124 miles of Township-owned roadways and 35 miles of State-owned roads. With 124 miles of Township local roadways, it can require a large amount of maintenance and associated budget. The Township is also serviced by SEPTA rail and bus.

HISTORY

Haverford Township was originally land of the Lenape people who lived there until settlers from Europe came and settled on the land, pushing the Lenape people to leave by about 1750 when they were told the land was no longer theirs. In 1682 England established a colony and appointed William Penn as its Proprietor. Haverford Township was largely agricultural, with small, self-sustaining farms. Due to the Darby Creek and Cobbs Creek, it provided the perfect site for mills.

Today the Township is a thriving community, that is primarily residential, with retail and service businesses, restaurants, and shopping centers. The Township is considered fully developed and is the second most densely populated municipality in Delaware County. The Township also is home to Haverford College. The Township has many notable historic sites including The Grange Estate, Nitre Hall, Pont Reading House, 1797 Federal School and the Lawrence Cabin.

A notable recreation location within the Township that brings recognition to the community is the Merion Golf Club. The golf club has two courses within the Township and has hosted six men's Major Championships (U.S. Open). Additionally, it has hosted eleven men's and women's US Amateur Championships. The Golf Club is slated to host the Men's U.S. Open again in 2030 and 2050, and the U.S. Women's Open in 2034 and 2046.

LAND USE

The Township has a mix of land uses, which have been grouped into the following categories in the forthcoming Comprehensive Plan (2023), Commercial, Golf Course, Homeowners Association, Institutional, Rail Stations & Parking, Recreation, Residential and Utility. The bulk of the Townships land is currently residential, at near 68%. The second highest land use is recreational, which is just over 10%, with Andy Lewis Community Park being largest Township recreation facility. From there the next highest category is Golf Courses which make up about 408 acres, or 7.7% of the Township's total land. Institutional is about 6.7%, and about 4.5% is Commercial. The remaining groups are less than 2% each; Homeowners Association 1.7%, Rail Stations and Parking 0.05%, and Utility 0.3%.

Table 1 : Land Use

Land Use	Acres	Percent
Commercial	240.3	4.5%
Golf Course	408.2	7.7%
Homeowners Assoc.	91.1	1.7%
Institutional	357.4	6.7%
Rail Station & Parking	2.7	>.1 %
Recreation	553.8	10.4%
Residential	3,659.2	68.7%
Utility	14.6	0.3%
Total	5,327.3	

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Haverford Township is located in Delaware County and is part of the Philadelphia metro area. The Township shares its borders with six municipalities: Lower Merion Township, Upper Darby Township, Springfield Township, Marple Township, Radnor Township, and the City of Philadelphia. Given its placement in the northeast section of Delaware County it also borders Montgomery County and Philadelphia County. There are two major Creeks within the Township, Cobbs Creek and Darby Creek, with other tributaries including Naylor's Run and Meadowbrook Run.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Haverford Township reported a population of 50,432 in 2020, which has increased from 48,491 in 2010. From 2000 to 2020 the Township saw steady population growth of about 4% each decade. However, when the County had completed its most recent population projections it estimated that in 2030 the population would be 49,724 and 50,078 in 2040, however the Township has already surpassed these projections. This growth happening earlier than it was initially projected can be contributed to the large development at the Haverford Reserve increasing the number of dwelling units within the Township, as well as an aging population that is beginning to sell. As residents age and look to move they are selling to younger people who often have children, contributing to an increase in the population.

Table 2 : Population

	Total Population			Estimated Change	
	2000	2010	2020	Number	Percent
Haverford Township	48,498	48,491	50,432	1,941	4%
Delaware County	55,864	558,979	576,830	17,851	3%
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	12,702,379	13,002,700	300,321	2%

Table 3 : Population Projections

	Population Forecast		
	2020	2030	2040
Haverford Township	50,432	49,724	50,078

The aging population of Haverford can be seen through the age breakdown of the community. In 2020 about 27% of the Township's residents were under the age of 18, and about 18% were over the age of 65. Residents from age 35 to 44 made up about 15% of the population, with 44 to 54 making up about 12% of the population. The median age of the Township is 40.5 years. When considering parks and recreation amenities it is important to understand the age breakdown of the community in order to provide facilities that are inclusive to those at all ages.

Table 4 : Age

Age	Number	Percent
Under 18 years	13,607	27%
18 to 24 years	4,232	8%
25 to 34 years	4,013	8%
35 to 44 years	7,685	15%
45 to 54 years	5,837	12%
55 to 64 years	5,561	11%

The Township's residents are predominantly white, with about 86% of residents identifying as white. About 5% of the population identifies as Asian, and 5% identify as two or more races. About 3% of the population identifies as African American (alone) and 1% identifies as a race not identified on the census. It should be noted that there are residents that identify as minority races that make up less than one percent of the population. This includes residents that identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. About 2.7% of the Township's residents identify as Hispanic or Latino.

Table 5 : Race

Race	Number	Percent
Population of one race:	47,846	95%
White alone	43,100	86%
Black or African American alone	1,754	3%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	35	0%
Asian alone	2,535	5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	11	0%
Some Other Race alone	411	1%
Population of two or more races:	2,585	5%

It is important to understand the connection between income and access to park and recreational facilities and programming. The Township has a median household income of \$120,127, with the largest number of households making \$200,000 or more per year. Below is a table of the number of households and the percentage of households within each income bracket.

Table 6 : Household Income

Income	Households	%
Less than \$20,000	871	4.9%
\$20,000 to \$39,999	1,662	9.3%
\$40,000 to \$59,999	1,621	9.0%
\$60,000 to \$99,999	2,714	15.1%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	4,424	24.7%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2,174	12.1%
\$200,000 or more	4,453	24.9%

As the community changes, the Township's parks and recreation facilities and programming opportunities will need to adapt and change to meet the needs of the community. With an aging population, and changes in popular recreational activities and amenities, adapting the Township's amenities will be vital to the success of their parks and recreation. The past and current demographics as well as the future projections will help to inform the recommendations in this plan.

Note: All demographic data is American Community Survey from the Census Bureau. Additional Background and Demographic Information is within Appendix D and Appendix E of the Proposed Haverford Township Comprehensive Plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is vital to the success of any plan, and assures that the goals, objectives and recommendations are those of the community. Throughout the development of this plan there were various ways that the community was engaged in the planning process. The following summary highlights the public engagement that occurred as part of the planning process.



August 2022
Project Kickoff Meeting



March 2023
Steering Committee Meeting #4



September 2022
Steering Committee Meeting #1



April 2023
Steering Committee Meeting #5
Online Survey #2 - Opened



October 2022
Steering Committee Meeting #2
Online Survey #1 - Opened



May 2023
Public Meeting #3
Online Survey #2



November 2022
Public Meeting #1
Online Survey #1



June 2023
Steering Committee Meeting #6
Online Survey #2 - Closed



December 2022
Online Survey #1
Key Person Interviews



July 2023-November 2023
Draft Plan Preparation
Draft Plan Issued (November)



January 2023
Public Meeting #2
Key Person Interviews
Online Survey #1 - Closed



December 2023
Steering Committee Meeting #7



February 2023
Steering Committee Meeting #3
Key Person Interviews



February 2024
Presentation of the Plan
at the Board of Commissioners
Meeting

COMMUNITY SURVEYS

Two community surveys were conducted as part of the planning process. The first survey was launched in the fall of 2022. The survey was nine questions and looked to gather qualitative data on what parks and amenities residents enjoy and utilize. The second survey was launched in Winter 2023 and included 13 questions that focused on collecting additional data to expand on the information gathered from the first survey.

2,835 responses to the 1st online survey

1,010 responses to the 2nd online survey

58% of respondents completed the both surveys

Top Visited Parks



#1
CREC & Andy Lewis Park



#2
Paddock Park



#3
Merry Place



#4
Grange Field

24% of respondents identified a trail as their most visited park or recreation location

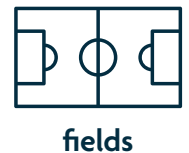
How did respondents get to Haverfords Parks?



Favorite Activities



Best Features & Most Used Amenities



Park Maintenance Rated 3.7 Stars



88% rated park maintenance 3 stars or higher

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public Meeting #1

The first public meeting was in the form of an Open House held on November 9, 2022, and there were 46 residents in attendance. The Open House included a brief presentation that outlined the purpose of a Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, project schedule, initial survey findings, and an explanation of the breakout station activities. There were four different breakout stations that had participants to provide their thoughts on; park, recreation facilities and open space, connectivity, programming, and 2030 vision and SMART goals. The feedback at this meeting was largely qualitative, as over 250 comments were received. A brief description of each breakout station follows.

Parks, Recreation Facilities & Open Space

Residents were asked to help identify what Township parks or amenities they enjoy, utilize most, dislike or think could use improvement. Using the sticky note residents were asked to provide feedback to the following questions:

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

Trails & Connectivity

Residents were asked to use a key to help highlight gaps, barriers and propose new pedestrian network facilities. Index cards were provided for residents to identify where they would like to walk or bike.

Programming

Residents were asked to use sticky notes to list the programs they or their family attends, (noting age and host organization) and programming you would like to see in the future.

2030 Vision, SMART Goals & Vision

This activity had four steps. Residents were asked 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:

- In a word, phrase or sentence describe the Township's parks, recreation facilities, open spaces and trails.
- In a phrase or sentence please describe your 2030 vision for the Township's park, recreation facilities, open spaces and trails.

- They were asked to identify any specific, measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely goals they may have for Township's parks, recreation Facilities, open spaces and trails. They could can think of short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals.
- They were asked to note any wishes related to the Township's parks, recreation facilities, open spaces and trails on the "I Have a Wish" board.

Highlights from the Breakout Stations at Public Meeting #1

Common 2030 Visions & Goals were:

- Focus on making the existing spaces, safe and accessible while enhancing and maintaining amenities.
- Create a larger trail network with connections to community amenities.
- Create connection between neighborhoods, parks and trails that are pedestrian and bike friendly.
- Green spaces that support the environment and people's health
- Increase bicycle infrastructure.
- Increase the open space and tree canopy in the Township.
- Increase staff and funding to maintain and improve amenities.

Most Used Parks or Amenities were:

- Trails – Darby Creek Trail & Pennsy Trail
- The CREC / Andy Lewis Community Park

Most Liked Parks or Amenities were:

- Merwood Park
- CREC / Andy Lewis Community Park

Many people noted that they enjoyed the existing open / natural spaces, but it was also noted that they would like to see more of these spaces including shade.

Many people noted that they enjoyed the existing trails but would like to see more of them, including creating trail connections along the Creek(s), and across them.

Public Meeting #2

The second public meeting was also in the form of an Open House held on January 11, 2023. The Open House included a brief presentation that outlined the purpose of a Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, project schedule, feedback thus far, where we are at in the process, and an explanation of the breakout station activities. There were four different breakout stations that had participants to provide their thoughts on; park, recreation facilities and open space amenities, trails and connectivity, vision and priorities. These activities were set up to build upon all the feedback that has been gathered since the first public meeting to refine objectives and recommendations.

At this meeting 54 residents signed in with over 60 comments noted. The following feedback was provided from the breakout stations.

The Connectivity breakout station was the same activity that was conducted at the first Public Meeting, where residents were asked to use a key to help highlight gaps, barriers and propose new pedestrian network facilities. Index cards were provided for residents to identify where they would like to walk or bike.

At the Parks and Recreation Facilities and Amenities breakout station, we asked participants to use tickets to identify which amenities they would like to see or see more of within the Township's parks. Each resident received a total of 3 tickets. The top 5 amenities or improvements that were identified by community members were:

- Restrooms – 13.4%
- Shade, Trees and Native Plantings – 13.4%
- Second Turf Field – 12.9%
- Walking Paths – 12.9%
- Field Maintenance – 10.3%

At the Vision and Priorities station residents used a total of 5 stickers to identify which of the following they felt were priorities. Below is a summary of the results from this activity. The number in the parenthesis reflects the amount of times the vision was identified by participants.

Trails & Connectivity

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

Parks & Recreation Facilities

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

Open Space

- Explore ways to protect remaining open space lands (17)
- Provide opportunities to connect with nature (10)
- Provide opportunities to improve water quality (6)

Programming

- Provide more passive recreation programming (14)
- Use local arts to inspire and engage (11)
- Celebrate neighborhoods (6)
- Have more Township-wide events (2)
- Provide more of the same programming due to availability

Maintenance

- Mitigate litter and vandalism (15)
- Prioritize and maintain what matters (9)
- Provide low maintenance amenity alternatives (3)

Public Meeting #3

Public Meeting #3 was held on May 9, 2023, and was attended by 24 residents. An open house format was utilized that included a brief presentation that outlined what a PROS Plan is, next steps, project status, feedback received thus far, and an explanation of the breakout station activities. For this public meeting there were only two breakout stations, as the goal of the activities were to prioritize the feedback we heard throughout the process.

One station had the goals and objectives for each focus area of the plan, where community members could identify which goals they feel should be prioritized. Residents received a handout of the draft goals and objectives, and five stickers to identify which goals they felt should be prioritized.

The top goals that were identified included:

- Continue to evaluate, update, and improve programming options and the facilities that aid in these programming opportunities (21)
- Update and enhance the Townships existing facilities (10)
- Develop a walking and biking network to provide a safe place for recreation, non-motorized travel, increased community connectivity, and access to community amenities (9)
- Improve the reservation system for scheduling field usage (8)
- Improve and enhance trails-related resources and amenities within the Township (7)

For the **trails and connectivity activity**, there were 15 projects or improvements related trails and pedestrian infrastructure identified on the map. There was an accompanying sheet that described each of the “Top 15”. Once the attendees reviewed the map and descriptions, and asked any questions they used 3 tickets to identify which of the “Top 15” should be prioritized attendees were allowed to place multiple tickets in the same jar if they felt that project or improvement should be more of a priority. The following are some of the top projects or improvements that were identified as a priority by residents.

Note: Additional information about the “Top 15” is included in the Trails & Connectivity Chapter of this plan.

Project #3 - Planning and Design of the Newtown Square Branch Trail

The Pennsy Trail in Haverford Township currently exists between Manoa Road and Ralston Avenue, just south of Eagle Road on the former Newtown Square Branch Railroad Corridor. Haverford Township should work to complete the Newtown Square Branch Trail through the Township. like the Darby Creek Trail. Portions of this corridor have already been planned for, while other portions still require a detailed feasibility study.

Project #8 - Sidewalk Along County Line Road Between Haverford Road and Old Lancaster Ave.

On the northeastern end of the Township, there is a gap in the sidewalk on County Line Road, between Haverford Road and Old Lancaster Avenue. This corridor is a key connector between the Paoli-Thorndale Regional Rail Line and the Norristown High Speed Line. This connection is adjacent to Bryn Mawr Hospital, one of the largest employers in the area, and provides direct access to the Polo Field and Acme Market.

Project #1 - Planning, Design, and Construction of Darby Creek Trail Corridor

The Darby Creek Trail in Haverford Township currently exists between Merry Place on Glendale Road and Township-owned property on Hilltop Road, just south of Old West Chester Pike. A continuous corridor through Haverford Township along the extent of Darby Creek should be pursued. A feasibility study of trail extensions has been done, but further detailed studies are still required.

Project #7 - Install Bike Route signage / Bike Lanes between Karakung Drive and Eagle Road

Mill Road not only provides access to the Beachwood Brookline station at Karakung Drive but will ultimately connect to the VF-HR Trail. This east-west connector also connects to the Haverford Middle and High School and the existing bike lanes on Darby Road. Sidewalks already exist along this route, but by improving this corridor with bike route signage and possibly some bike lanes community connectivity would be improved. Additionally, providing a pedestrian/bicycle crossing of Darby Road at Mill Road and Yale Road, would enable a continued east-west route along Yale Road, Manor Road, and Princeton Road, to connect to the Pennsy Trail and Lincoln Avenue to Eagle Road.

KEY PERSON INTERVIEWS

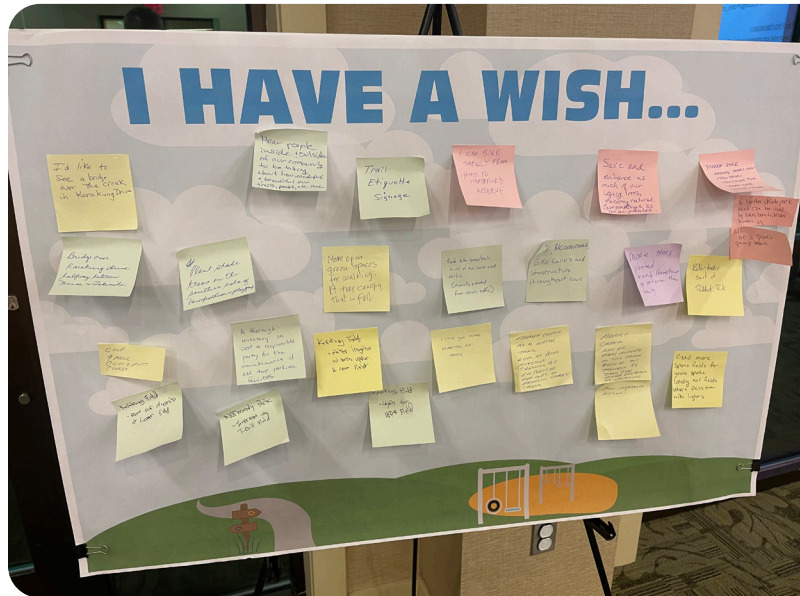
During the planning process 10 stakeholder groups provided feedback related to topic areas of this plan that are relevant to their mission or responsibility. Interviews were conducted using online video conferencing platform for group discussions. The stakeholder groups that were interviewed as part of this planning process included:

- Park Maintenance Staff
- Friends of Haverford Trails
- Youth Sports Organizations
- Tree Tenders & Shade Tree Commission
- Civic Groups
- Senior Groups
- Darby Creek Valley Association
- Parks and Rec Board
- Trail Users
- Adult Sports Groups

These conversations not only provided background information, experience with the Townships Park and Recreation department and facilities but also allowed information on the unique perspective the stakeholders had, which were often related to a specific focus area within this plan. All of these conversations helped further root this plan in the community and informed the goals, objectives and recommendations included within this plan.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

During the duration of the planning process a steering committee of 10 members, including the Director of Parks and Recreation, and the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation met a total of seven times. The meetings would focus on specific topic areas of the plan which allowed for further refinement of existing conditions, goals, objectives and recommendations. This process provided continuity of focused input while also serving to cultivate champions to support implementation of this plan.





Merwood Park

PARK & RECREATION FACILITIES

Haverford Township has a total of 34 Township-owned parks developed for active and passive recreation opportunities. The Township's parks host a range of amenities and facilities that include athletic fields and courts, playgrounds, picnic groves, walking trails, and an indoor recreation facility. The parks also vary in size with the largest, Andy Lewis Community Park at 178 acres, and the smallest at under a half-acre in size, Carroll Park. The Community Recreation and Environmental Center (CREC) is an indoor recreation facility that is located in Andy Lewis Community Park that includes both recreation amenities such as an indoor walking track, courts and a gym, as well as educational spaces and classrooms. Although the parks may range in size and amenities, they all serve different purposes in the community.



What is active recreation?

Active recreation refers to a structured or unstructured individual or group activity that requires the use of special facilities, courses, fields or equipment. Active recreation activities include playground use, baseball, soccer, pickleball, tennis and basketball.



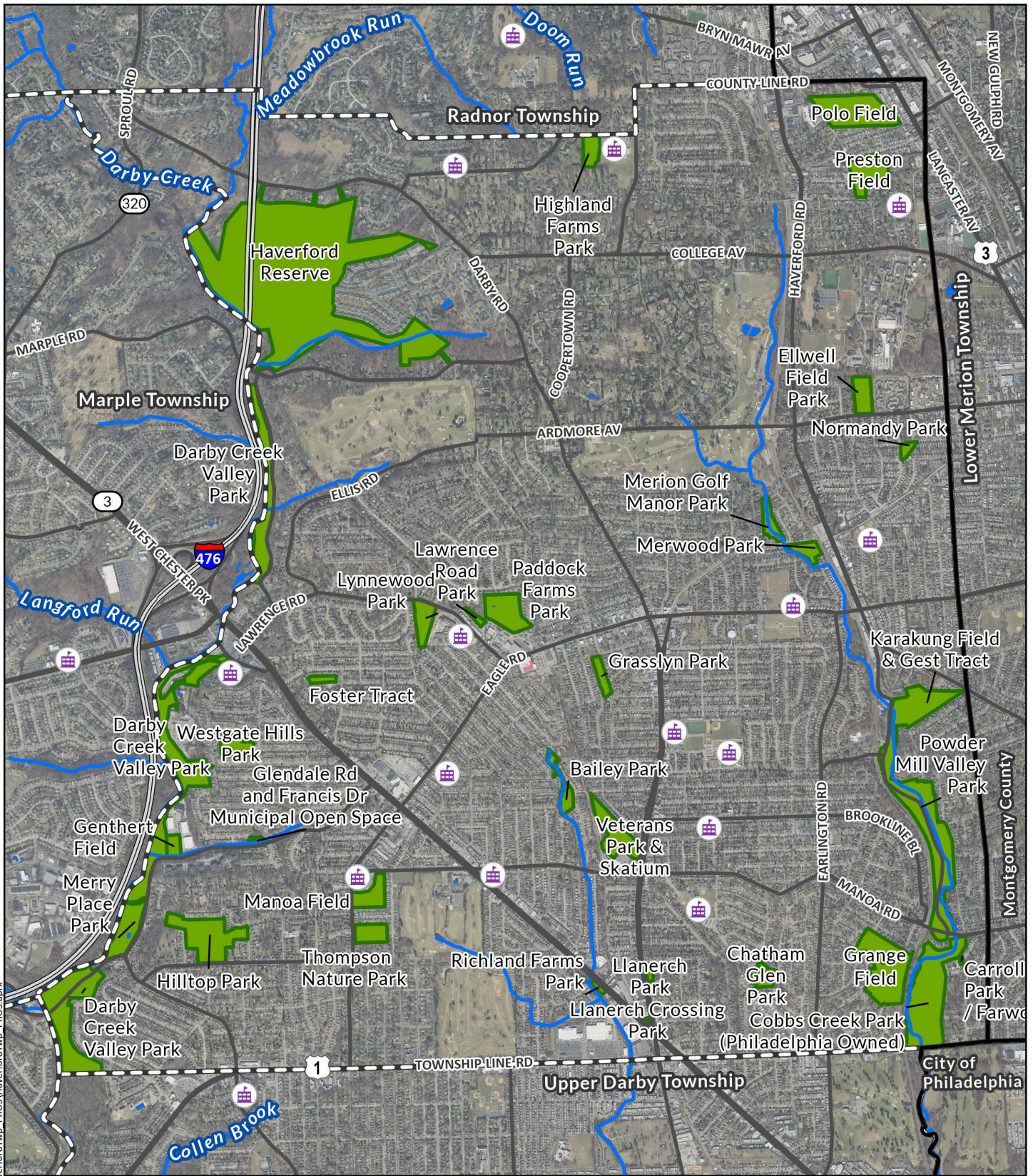
What is passive recreation?

Passive recreation refers to recreational activities that do not require prepared facilities like a playground or sports field. Passive recreational activities place minimal stress on a site's resources; as a result, they can provide ecosystem service benefits and are highly compatible with natural resource protection. Passive recreation activities include walking, hiking, running, biking, and bird watching.

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

The following is a list and map of the Township-owned parks that include active and passive recreation amenities and/or facilities.

- Andy Lewis Community Park (Haverford Reserve)
- Bailey Park
- Beechwood Park (Connects to Powder Mill Park)
- Cadwalader Tract
- Carroll Park
- Chatham Glen Park
- Darby Creek Valley Park
- Elwell Field
- Foster Tract
- Genthert Field
- Gest Tract
- Grange Field
- Grasslyn Park
- Highland Farms Park
- Hilltop Park (Includes Hillside Park)
- Jack McDonald Memorial Field
- Karakung Field
- Lawrence Road Park
- Llanerch Crossing
- Llanerch Park
- Lynnewood Park
- Merion Golf Manor Park
- Merry Place
- Merwood Park
- Normandy Park
- Paddock Farms Park
- Polo Field
- Powder Mill Valley Park (Includes Powder Park)
- Preston Field
- Richland Farms Park
- Thompson Tract
- Veterans Park
- Westgate Hills Park








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0 1,250 2,500 Feet

Mapping derived from data provided by ESRI, PennDOT, and USGS.

12/13/2023 PM: KM GIS: ALV QA: KM R009472.0427

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 www.hrg-inc.com

-  Schools
-  County Boundary
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  Waterbody
-  Parks

Parks Map
 Haverford Township
 Delaware County, Pennsylvania

In addition to the Township-owned parks and recreation facilities, there are other publicly and privately owned recreation facilities in the Township, which include private golf courses, private gyms and fitness centers, ice skating rink (Township-owned), and school district play structures, athletic fields, sport courts, gyms and an indoor pool.

Two additional parks that are heavily utilized but are not under the Township's Parks and Recreation Department include Cobbs Creek Park and the Grange Estate. Cobbs Creek Park is owned by the City of Philadelphia and is part of the Fairmount Park system. The Grange Estate is Township-owned but is not managed by the Parks and Recreation Department, as it has its own operational budget and staff.

The School District of Haverford Township facilities are used by the community, the Township's recreation program, community youth sports organizations and other groups. The School District athletic fields and facilities contribute to the recreation amenities in the Township, which help meet the demands of the various recreation programs in the Township. The School District's recreational areas add active recreational space (sports fields, courts, playgrounds, etc.) to the Township; however, they are not permanently protected to remain as such. In short, if the School District is in need of the lands for school development in the future, these facilities would be in jeopardy and would have an impact on recreation in the Township.

PARK TYPES

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has categorized parks based on size, service area and the kinds of facilities generally located within each park type.

Mini-Park

Generally, under an acre in size and serves the neighborhood within walking distance, usually less than a .025-mile walk.

Size: Under an acre

Service Area: Mini-Parks generally serve residents within a 0.25 mile radius.

Facilities: Mini-Parks are normally programmed for more passive recreation opportunities but could include a play structure and/or sport court.

Neighborhood Park

Basic unit of the park system in meeting the active and/or passive needs of the neighborhood. Creates a sense of place for a wide variety of ages.

Size: 1 to 15 acres

Service Area: Neighborhood Parks generally serve residents within a 0.25 to 0.5 mile radius

Facilities: Neighborhood Parks can be for active or passive recreation or a combination of both. Facilities can include ball fields and sport courts, picnic and sitting areas, play structures, trails and passive areas with natural features.

Community Park

Meets the broader recreational needs of several neighborhoods. Provides both active and passive recreation and preservation of unique landscapes. Allows for group activities neither desirable nor feasible in neighborhood parks.

Size: 15 to 50 acres

Service Area: Community Parks generally serve a user area of 1 to 2+ miles in radius.

Facilities: Designed for both active and passive uses, facilities can include: large play structures, sport courts, ball fields, ice skating, swimming pools, picnic areas, pavilions, open space, unique landscape features, nature study and ornamental gardens with parking lots and lighting as appropriate.

Athletic Complex

Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities in fewer sites to allow for economy of scale, improved management, greater control over impacts to neighborhood and community parks such as over-use, traffic congestion, parking and domination of facilities by those outside the neighborhood.

Size: Depends upon intended use. Consideration should be given to acquiring 25% more land than intended for use to hedge against unforeseen circumstances.

Service Area: Strategically located community-wide facilities within reasonable driving times; near non-residential uses if possible.

Facilities: Development should be based upon the specific types of fields and/or courts.



Freedom Playground at Andy Lewis Park

Natural Resource Area

Facilities that are oriented towards the preservation of significant natural features, open space and special landscapes or areas of buffering and/or visual aesthetics.

Size: Dependent upon quality and extent of the resources and opportunity for preservation.

Service Area: By preserving as much of the area's natural features as possible, enhance the livability and character of the community

Facilities: Natural Resource Areas can provide limited passive recreational opportunities such as trails and nature study areas. They can also function as greenways.

Special Purpose Facilities

Facilities that are oriented toward a single purpose use such as historic landscapes, social sites, cultural features, indoor recreation facilities, environmental centers, sports facilities such as a golf course or any other single purpose facility.

Size: Facility requirements determine the size required, e.g., a golf course or a community center needs particular acreage.

Service Area: Strategically located facilities versus those serving well-defined neighborhoods or areas of the community.

Facilities: Unique to the special purpose or program.

Greenways

Linear trail corridors that tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment and allow for safe, uninterrupted pedestrian movement between the parks and around the community. Greenways provide people with desired outdoor recreation opportunities. Greenways encourage use to a greater extent than do natural resource areas.

Size: 25' minimum width in a subdivision; 50' acceptable and 200'+ desirable.

Service Area: Most desirable location is in conjunction with trail system planning.

Facilities: Developed for a particular transportation mode, most commonly for biking, hiking and in-line skating. Greenways can also be developed for use by canoes and cars.

The following table categorizes each of the Township's parks per the NRPA criteria set forth in this chapter.

Park Name	Acres	Park Type
Andy Lewis Community Park (Haverford Reserve)	178	Community Park / Special Purpose Facility
Bailey Park	4	Neighborhood Park
Cadwalader Tract	3	Open Space / Natural Resource Area
Carroll Park	0.2	Mini Park
Chatham Glen Park	3	Neighborhood Park
Cobbs Creek (Part of Fairmount Park) - Owned by City Of Philadelphia	30	Community Park / Natural Resource Area
Darby Creek Valley Park	108	Community Park / Natural Resource Area
Elwell Field	5	Neighborhood Park
Foster Tract	1	Neighborhood Park
Genthert Field	3	Neighborhood Park
Gest Tract	9	Neighborhood Park
Grange Estate (Not Managed by P&R)	10	Special Purpose Facility
Grange Field	7	Neighborhood Park
Grasslyn Park	3	Neighborhood Park
Highland Farms Park	4	Neighborhood Park
Hilltop Park (Includes Hillside Park)	18	Community Park
Jack McDonald Memorial Field	6	Neighborhood Park
Karakung Field	4	Neighborhood Park
Lawrence Road Park	1	Neighborhood Park
Llanerch Crossing	0.3	Mini-Park
Llanerch Park	0.5	Mini-Park
Lynnewood Park	6	Neighborhood Park
Merion Golf Manor Park	4	Open Space / Natural Resource Area
Merry Place	10	Neighborhood Park
Merwood Park	4	Neighborhood Park
Normandy Park	1	Neighborhood Park
Paddock Farms Park	10	Neighborhood Park
Polo Field	18	Community Park
Powder Mill Valley Park (Includes Powder Valley Park and Beechwood Park)	36	Neighborhood Park
Preston Field	9	Neighborhood Park
Richland Farms Park	1	Neighborhood Park
Thompson Tract	5	Open Space / Natural Resource Area
Veterans Park	10	Neighborhood Park
Westgate Hills Park	5	Neighborhood Park

PARKLAND STANDARDS

Every year NRPA publishes an agency performance review, which looks at municipalities across the country to develop standards based on population. Since the Township has just over 50,000 residents, the following discussion compares the Township to municipalities across the United States that serve 50,000 to 99,999 residents. Many of the standards developed are per 1,000 residents so the comparison is specific to the current population of the Township.

Parkland Standards & Needs

The Township has nearly 466 acres of Township-owned active and passive recreation parks, with an additional 12 acres of Township-owned open space, totaling at 478 acres. The 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review identified that municipalities serving 50,000 to 99,999 residents have a median of 11.2 acres per 1,000 residents. The lower quartile is 5 acres per 1,000 residents and the upper quartile is 17.3 acres per 1,000 residents.

Based on the Township having 478 acres of Township-owned active and passive recreation parks and open spaces, the Township has about 87 acres less than the median compared to communities of a similar size.

Parkland Standards for Municipalities Serving 50,000 to 99,999 Residents (Only Township-owned)

	Municipalities Serving 50,000 to 99,999	Standard Acres	Comparison to Township Acres
Median	11.2	565	-87
Lower Quartile	5	252	226
Upper Quartile	17.3	872	-394

However, with the inclusion of Cobbs Creek Park (30 acres within the Township), and the Grange Estate (10 acres), there is 518 acres of active and passive recreation space and open spaces within the Townships borders. At 518 acres, the Township would align closer to the median compared to a community of a similar size.

Parkland Standards for Agencies Serving Of 50,000 to 99,999 Residents (Within Township's Boundaries)

	Municipalities Serving 50,000 to 99,999	Standard Acres	Comparison to Township Acres
Median	11.2	565	-47
Lower Quartile	5	252	264
Upper Quartile	17.3	872	-354

Haverford, as well as the surrounding municipalities, often rank below the median of parkland acres of municipalities of a similar size due to the historically dense fabric of the community which was developed as a 'third ring' or 'streetcar suburb' to Philadelphia, a large metropolitan city. In addition, the Township ranks among the top 10 in parkland acres in Delaware County, and within the top 3 for parkland and protected land in the County.

10 Minute Walk

When looking at the parkland acres within the Township, it is generally spread throughout the Township, which helps provide equitable access to Township-owned parks. Almost 91% of the Township's residents are within a 10 minute walk to one of the Township-owned parks, leaving just under 5,000 residents without access to a park within a 10 minute walk. The Trust for Public Lands has developed a map that identifies areas with and without access to public parks. It should be noted that some of these areas do have access to a public school, which may provide some recreation amenities to residents within a 10 minute walk, however these spaces are only available when school is not in session.

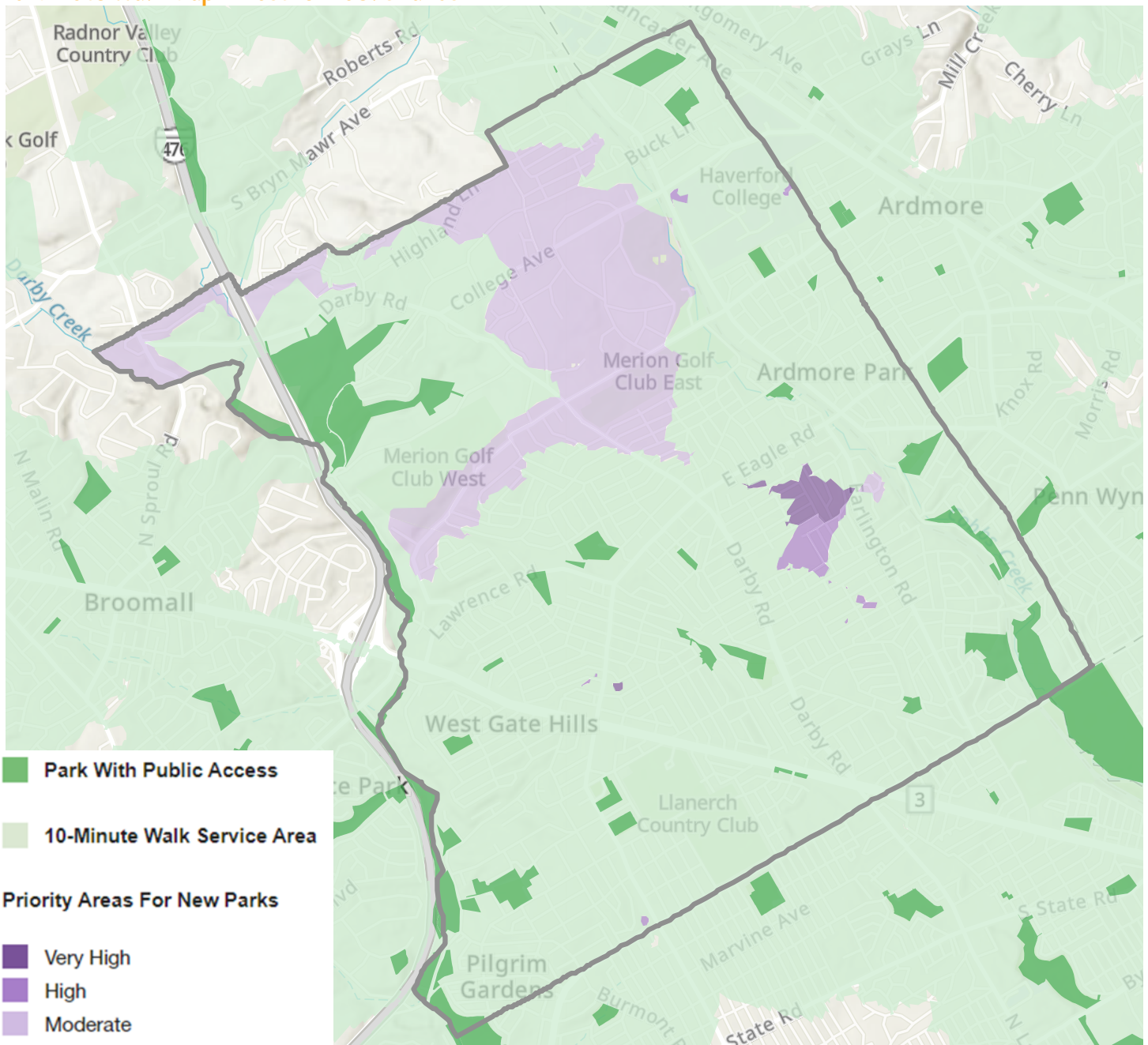
The Township has plans to develop a new approximately 2-acre park at the site of the former Brookline School, located between Kenmore and Sagamore Roads on Earlington Road. With the development of 'Brookline Park' set for 2025, the very-high priority areas for new parks identified near Earlington Road in the 10-Minute

Walk Map will increase access and thus increase the percentage of Township residents within a 10 minute walk. The development of 'Brookline Park' will directly meet this need in a targeted area of the Township.

Alternately, there are other ways that the Township could approach increasing access to parks to residents. One way would be acquiring new parkland within the priority areas for new parks identified in this plan.

However, the cost of acquiring new land not only requires the up-front cost for acquisition, but also the instillation of amenities, as well as maintenance costs. Another option would be to increase pedestrian access to parks in targeted areas with underutilized recreation amenities, even if they are further than a 10 minute walk. If safe access could be provided, it could increase access to recreation for residents Township-wide.

10 Minute Walk Map - Trust for Public Lands



A full-size version of this Map is included in Appendix A.

PARK AMENITIES

Over the years the Township has made various improvements to their existing parks including adding new or updating existing play structures and pickleball courts. These improvements have helped increase the variety of amenities and, in some cases, replaced amenities that were unsafe and needed to be replaced.

Note: This table only includes Township-owned active and passive parks and recreation spaces that are under the purview of the

Existing Park Amenities by Park Location	Baseball Field (40')	Baseball Field (60') / Softball Field	Baseball Field (90')	Basketball Court	Batting Cages	Benches	Dog Park	Hockey Court	Multipurpose Field	Natural / Wood-ed Area	Paved Trail	Pavilion	Pickleball	Picnic Tables	Playground	Rest Rooms	Skate Park	Swings	Swings - Toddler	T-Ball Field	Tennis Court	Tot Lot	Water Fountain	Volleyball Court
Andy Lewis Community Park (Haverford Reserve)		1	1			6	1		3	1	1	1		8	1	2						1	2	
Bailey Park				2		7					1			2	1			1	1			1	1	
Carroll Park						2									1			1						
Chatham Glen Park				1		2					1				1			1	1					
Darby Creek Valley Park										1	1													
Elwell Field		1	1	2		5								2	1			1	1		2		1	
Foster Tract						1				1				1	1			1	1					
Genthert Field		1			1	2										1								
Gest Tract				1		2									1			1	1				1	
Grange Field		1	1	1		6			1	1	1	1	6	6	1	1		1	1		2		1	
Grasslyn Park	1			1		5			1		1				1			2	2	1	2		1	
Highland Farms Park		2		2		2					1	1		3				1			1			
Hillside Park						1				1					1	1		2	1		1	1		
Hilltop Park		2	1	1	2	5		1	1	1	1	2		4	1	2		4	2			1	1	
Jack McDonald Memorial Field		2							1	1														
Karakung Field		2			1					1						1							1	
Lawrence Road Park															1			1	1			1		
Llanerch Crossing						8																		
Llanerch Park						4								2	1			1	1					
Lynnewood Park	1	1							1		1													
Merry Place						8					1			4	1	1	1	1	1		1		1	2
Merwood Park		2		1		5					1	1		6	1	1		1	1			1	1	
Normandy Park						4								5	1						1			
Paddock Farms Park		1	1	1		7					1	1	8	8	1	1		1	1	1	6		1	
Polo Field		1	1	1		6			2					1	1			1	1				1	
Powder Mill Valley Park				1		5					1			1	1			1					1	
Preston Field		2		2		15			1		1			8	1			2	2		1	1		
Richland Farms Park						3					1				1			1	1					
Thompson Tract										1														
Veterans Park		3		1	3				1	1		1			1	1		1	1					
Westgate Hills Park		2		1				1	1		1	1			1	1		1	1		4		1	
Totals	2	24	6	19	7	111	1	2	13	10	16	9	14	61	23	13	1	28	22	3	20	7	15	2

Township's Parks & Recreation Department.

Park Amenity Standards

Park amenity standards have changed and developed over the years. NRPA has begun to examine and compare parks and recreation agencies that serve similar populations to try to better understand the needs of different communities. Although every agency and community are different, standards can help guide amenity considerations. The following is a table that compares the Township's existing amenities to agencies and communities of a similar size (50,000 to 99,999).

Park Amenity Standards for Municipalities Serving 50,000 to 99,999 Residents

Amenity Type	2023 % of All Agencies with Amenity	1 per # of Residents	# Based on Median	# of Amenity in Township Parks
Playgrounds	95%	3,779	13	23
Basketball Courts	86%	8,790	6	19
Baseball Fields (Youth)	79%	7,237	7	24*
Tennis Courts	78%	5,577	9	20
Multi-Purpose Fields	69%	13,244	4	10**
Dog Parks	68%	54,119	1	1
Softball Fields (Adult)	63%	17,078	3	24*
Softball Fields (Youth)	62%	12,716	4	24*
Baseball Fields (Adult)	55%	27,556	2	6
Community Gardens	52%	52,906	1	0
Swimming Pools	51%	43,100	1	0
Soccer Fields (Youth)	50%	7,207	7	10**
Tot Lots	48%	11,641	4	7
Soccer Field (Adult)	42%	17,741	3	10**
Skate Parks	41%	62,927	1	1
Football Fields	35%	29,374	2	1
Pickleball Courts	31%	11,150	5	14
Multi-Purpose Turf Fields	25%	34,814	1	1

Notes: * - 60' Baseball Fields / Softball Fields (combined as they can be converted if needed).

** - There are 10 multi-purpose fields which are largely used for soccer. These areas can be configured differently to accommodate different soccer field sizes. These spaces could accommodate different programming types such as football, lacrosse, or field hockey.



Bailey Park

NRPA had previously developed PRORAGIS Standards that were also used to help inform park development. The PRORAGIS Standards below are intended to provide some guidance, but it does not mean that these amenity types and quantities are required, as every community is different with different needs and park land that is available.

PRORAGIS Park Amenity Standards

Amenity Name	1 per / # of Residents	Standard	Actual
Playground	3,706	14	24
Basketball Court	7,375	7	19
Tennis	4,803	11	20
Baseball Field	6,608	8	30*
Softball Field	11,160	5	24*
Multi-Purpose Field	7,878	6	10**
Dog Park	44,330	1	1
Soccer Field	6,883	7	10**
Community Garden	29,750	2	0
Football Fields	26,783	2	1

Notes: * - 60' Baseball Fields / Softball Fields (combined as they can be converted if needed).

** - there are 10 multi-purpose fields which are largely used for soccer. These areas can be configured differently to accommodate different soccer field sizes. These spaces could accommodate different programming types such as football, lacrosse, or field hockey.

It should be noted that the tables above do not include School District facilities and amenities, Cobbs Creek Park, and the Grange Estate, which are utilized by the community and sports organizations.

In many amenities types the Township exceeds NRPA Standards. This means that the Township should continue to regularly survey the community, park goers, and sports organizations to understand the desires, wants and needs of the community. Since the Township exceeds the standards they should understand if there is a need for quantity or quality of amenities.

During site visits for this project and the community engagement efforts it was noted that there are a number of facilities that could be improved, which that Township has been continuing to plan and prioritize improvements. However, with a large number of facilities and amenities, this cannot be completed overnight and requires the prioritization of improvements and replacements. The Township should consider continuing to invest and improve their existing facilities and amenities rather than developing new facilities and amenities. Although it is great to meet or exceed the standards, providing quality over quantity is more beneficial to the community than quantity over quality.

A Note on Standards

The most important thing to keep in mind when using standards is the Township and its residents. Standards are not a one size fits all which is why Kevin Ashner, a notable planner, suggests that the true measure of good standards is “level of customer satisfaction”, and suggests the following standard criteria:

- **Relevance** – Standards should reflect the needs and lifestyles of today’s residents.
- **People Orientation** – Parks and their amenities should reflect the unique needs of the people in the area being served.
- **Performance Standards** – The municipality should provide a basis for measuring achievement of the community objectives and should measure the quality of recreation service rather than the quantity.
- **Feasibility** – Parks and their amenities should be attainable within a reasonable period and with available funding sources.
- **Practicality** – Standards should be simple to understand and apply, while based on sound planning principals and information. They should also be flexible to handle unanticipated situations and rapidly changing needs.

PARK & RECREATION AMENITY LIFECYCLE & REPLACEMENT

Park and Recreation amenities not only require regular maintenance, but also will require replacement. The lifecycle of amenities could be longer depending on several different things, such as weather conditions, usage, material, if it is in direct sunlight and more. However, on average most park amenities have a lifecycle of about 8 to 10 years. With the Township having 34 parks, and over 375 amenities within their park network, not including fields, courts or pavilions, the cost to replace existing amenities is over \$3,000,000 not including installation.

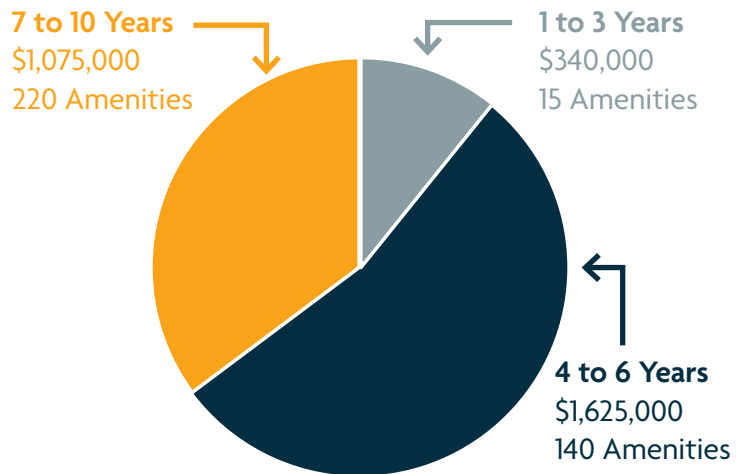
Based on recent inspections many of the Township's amenities are in good condition, followed by fair, and about 15 items considered to be in poor condition. It is important to note that these rankings are based on inspections, and although an item may rank as fair because it is still safe and usable, residents and park goers may feel it is outdated and is in need to be replaced. This is important because although something may be outdated or not on pace with current trendy amenities, the amenities are largely safe and usable.

Currently, the Township has about 15 amenities that are noted in poor condition, and these amenities should be replaced within the next 1 to 3 years. Some may require immediate attention and should be prioritized over amenities that are in poor condition. To replace these amenities just in equipment, not including install is roughly \$340,000. These amenities are spread between 12 different parks, and range from picnic tables, to play structures.

Next, there are about 140 different amenities within the Township's park network that are considered to be in fair condition. These amenities are spread throughout 21 different parks and have a cost estimate of about \$1,625,000. It is anticipated that these amenities should look to be replaced in 4 to 6 years. However, these amenities should be monitored, and may need to be replaced or removed sooner.

Lastly, there are about 220 amenities in good condition, and are in 24 different Township parks. These amenities are anticipated potential replacement in the next 7 to 10 years, with a rough cost estimate of \$1,075,000. Again, these amenities may last longer than the anticipated lifecycle, so routine inspection and condition tracking will be necessary.

Amenity Replacement Cost Breakdown



In total Haverford Township should consider budgeting approximately \$3,050,000 in the next 10 years (adjusted for inflation and increased costs would be \$3,785,000). However, this is largely dependent on several factors.

Cost Estimating Process

To develop the cost estimates, current amenity and condition logs provided by the Township were utilized. The logs include the type and number of amenities at each park and note the condition. Using this log replacement costs were developed by utilizing an average cost for each amenity type. However, when selecting an amenity there can be a range of prices based on several factors such as size, and style. Therefore, there are some assumptions on what replacement costs would be so this is to serve as a guide but not a detailed cost estimate. It should also be noted that the costs provided in the amenity replacement sheets are for the equipment and do not include installation. Often there are discounts when purchasing multiple pieces of equipment from the same retailer or manufacturer.

Limitations and Assumptions

When completing the cost estimates there were some limitations and some assumptions that were made, which include:

- The current inventory does not include the installation year for all of the amenities. Therefore, assumptions on year ranges on which the equipment may need to be replaced were made based on current condition and the average lifecycle of park and recreation amenities, which is 8 to 10 years. This means that it is assumed that based on current conditions and the average lifecycle amenities may need to be replaced in the timeframes described in the following section of this chapter, but lifecycles may change based on a wide variety of factors.
- The costs to replace amenities were for replacement with like amenities. However, there are various factors that can impact the cost to replace an amenity. One example of this is a play structure, an average cost of each size play structure was utilized but these prices vary largely based on style, size and features the play structure includes. Therefore, the costs provided for each amenity type are based on a like replacement, however these costs can be impacted based on several factors.

Factors that Could Impact Amenity Replacement Costs

Factors that could impact the rough cost estimate to replace amenities in the next 10 years. The following explains several of the factors that could impact this total.



Condition

The condition of amenities may surpass the average life expectancy, while others may require replacement sooner than anticipated. The Township will have to continue to utilize the amenity tracking and park inspections to help determine the condition and remaining life on amenities.



Amenity Replacement

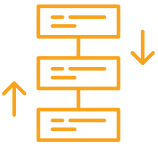
The rough estimate that was given above was for the replacement of all park amenities with similar amenities aside from courts, fields, fencing, batting cages, pavilions and other block structures within the Township's park network. One factor that may impact the cost is if existing amenities are not replaced, or not replaced with similar amenities. Not replacing amenities with similar ones could happen due to several different factors:

- The amenity may not need to be replaced as there is little or no demand to warrant the replacement.
- There may be duplicate amenities within the park, and there may not be the demand to warrant replacement. This was seen at some locations where there were multiple play structures with one in better condition or newer than the other.
- The Township may look to consolidate amenities where they may have been more scattered in the past to help reduce maintenance costs and hours. This is largely seen with some play structures at specific parks where they are scattered, and not in one mulched area. By not replacing amenities with similar ones or at all this could allow the township to solidify one play area and may allow for a larger amenity / replacement in the future with different fall material to allow for decreased maintenance demand.
- Another reason an amenity may not be replaced is because the Township may look to adjust the amenities that are offered, such as installing a larger themed play structure versus installing individual play structure amenities.



Potential Park Master Site Plans

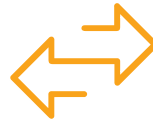
As infrastructure and amenities begin to age the Township may look at developing a Park Master Site Plan for specific parks. This could help develop a cohesive vision for a park and may not replace amenities with similar ones. Although this may require more of an upfront cost, having a cohesive and well thought out park may increase park usage, and allow neighborhood parks be geared toward the desires of the neighborhood.



Prioritization & Planning for Capital Improvements

Although this estimate provides a rough guide of the amount of capital investment that may be needed over the next 10 years, the Township will need to continue to prioritize and plan for capital improvements because things may change based on the factors previously discussed. For the Township to best prioritize and plan for capital improvements they should:

- Continue to conduct regular park inspections.
- Assure that the Amenities Log is regularly updated based on inspections and assure that years of install are noted.
- Assure that capital purchases are looked at in the context of the entire park.
- Identify and pursue grants for larger projects, installs or for Master Site Plans to be developed.
- Continue to reassess priority replacements on an annual basis in conjunction with the Parks Maintenance Department.
- Survey the community to understand the desires of the community, especially when considering larger amenity installs or changes to the amenities that may be offered at a park.



Change in Park Type

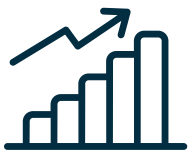
Parks can be programmed toward active, passive, or even nature-based amenities. There is potential that a park may become more programmed differently than it currently is, which may require new amenities, a change in amenities or the removal without replacement of amenities.



PARK & RECREATION TRENDS

Parks and recreation trends should also be considered during the decision-making process for park development and amenity changes or additions. NRPA publishes a list each year of the top trends in parks and recreation. Trends in parks and recreation are dynamic and can be grouped into the following categories:

- **Demographics** – Characteristics of the people using the parks and services.
- **Design** – the design and development of parks and public spaces.
- **Recreation** – the ways parks are activated and programmed.
- **Operation & Services** – the administration, funding and other services associated with the operation of parks and recreation facilities and programming.



Demographics Trends

A Decline in Youth Sport Participation

Many studies have found a decline in youth sports participation over the years. Prior to COVID-19 restrictions, a study by the Aspen Institute found a decline in youth sport participation from 45% in 2008 to 39% in 2018. Since the pandemic, studies have found that most children ages 6 to 12 quit youth sports by the age of 11 and that 3 in 10 children who played in youth sports prior to the pandemic are no longer interested. It will be important for the Township to monitor local trends in youth sports participation to assure that recreation amenities continue to meet the needs and desires of the community.

Recommendation

- Assure that low impact, passive and educational programs are provided to residents.

Cultural Relevancy and Responsiveness

Discussions about diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) are commonplace now, and should be included within parks and recreation. NRPA and others have published research and information about the importance of providing services and amenities in a manner that is fair and welcoming to all residents and visitors.

Recommendations

- Provide culturally responsive programs, park designs and outreach.
- Hire a more diverse staff.

Greater Work-Life Balance

2020 had a shift on how the world is moving, and how people are working. Remote and hybrid culture appears that it will continue for years into the future. Park and recreation departments can in fact support the work-life balance. Throughout the nation there have been some commonly planned feature amenities in parks, and program offerings that reflect the demand of work-life balance, keeping fitness and wellness in mind.

Recommendations

- Provide a variety of outdoor workspaces and eating areas.
- Increase lunch time programming and pop-up events.



Recreation Trends

Variety of Play Types and Amenities for All Ages

As things have changed over the years, so have the different types of amenities, play areas and structures. Municipalities should look to have diverse play areas and structures throughout their park network that provide unique experiences to all ages of residents.

Recommendation

- Increase the variety of amenities, types of play areas and structures that could include nature play, water play, adventure play, thematic play, and destination play.

Trail-Based Activities

Trails increased in popularity over the last decade. With the increased use of trails, residents and trail users are looking for amenities that help increase areas that can serve as social hubs, serve as spaces for programming, or enhance the trail.

Recommendation

- Provide social hubs and spaces for yoga, nature education, and mountain bike parks along trails.

Connecting to Nature & Outdoor Lifestyle

There is an increased demand and desire to be in nature. Although traditionally many parks are activated for active recreation activities and playgrounds, more residents are looking to be in and learn about nature. Increasing natural landscapes, native plantings and other efforts not only provide residents with access to natural spaces but have a positive benefit on the environment and ecosystem as they have a multitude of benefits.

Recommendations

- Increase the connection to local natural amenities and spaces that provide outdoor rooms that highlight visual appeal and quiet open areas.
- Naturehood parks: pollinator patches, native plantings, community gardens and low-quality nature spaces for kids to dig holes, find bugs, get muddy, throw rocks and explore.
- Increase wildlife habitat, riparian corridor protection and enhancements to park ecological functions.

Public Health and Wellness

One of the most important trends identified in 2021 was the increased focus on health and health equity in communities. The movement toward health and wellbeing was magnified by COVID-19 and has continued beyond the pandemic. Health and health equity have become intertwined with a greater focus on meeting the social needs of communities.

Recommendation

- Provide programming that is passive and focused on health and wellness such as gardening, healthy eating, healthy cooking and similar programs.

Park Activation

Throughout the pandemic, communities saw an increase in use of and demand for outdoor parks and recreation spaces and public places in general. This demand has continued within communities post-pandemic. With this lasting community demand and desire, municipalities should be looking to assure that all residents have access to a park space that is focused on being a social hub for both planned and impromptu gatherings.

Recommendation

- Assure that parks provide spaces for activities and serve social hubs for planned or impromptu events.

Events In and Around Parks

With the increased demand for outdoor spaces and parks, many communities tried to increase outdoor spaces throughout the community that may not include park spaces, while also looking to activate these spaces with increased programming and events.

Recommendations

- Increase outdoor spaces for residents through street closures.
- Increase events in and around parks such as art walks, food trucks, and blood drives.



Haverford Township Day



Design Trends

Universal and Inclusive Parks and Programs

Increase access to parks for everyone is a priority for many organizations and should be considered within every park. Developing parks to meet or exceed the requirements of universal or include parks will not only provide opportunities for those with disabilities but also help provide an increase experience for all residents and park users.

Recommendation

- Assure that parks and the built environment that exceed ADA and utilizes universal and inclusive design.

Placemaking

Placemaking is an important trend and is touched on or within many of the trends included within this section. As parks are improved considerations should be made to use to assure that the spaces and places created by and within parks are focused on the community it serves.

Recommendation

- Utilize “people-focused” design.

Public Art

It has been found that arts have the remarkable ability to create a sense of togetherness, belonging and community, while helping decrease stress, loneliness and anxiety. The arts can provide opportunities to reflect, process experiences and feelings, imagine what our future might look like, and connect us. These are all things that are echoed in parks and recreation networks. By increasing access to the arts within parks, it only enhances the experience within a parks but can also create a unique opportunity to create a bridge of access to arts and culture for the community by making it attainable.

Recommendations

- Increase art in the parks in various ways such as functional art for seating arrangements, a way to express history, and interpretive signage.

- Install temporary installation elements or increase music in the parks.
- Install art that provides opportunities for residents to use, touch, climb on, or take selfies with.



Operations & Service Trends

Technology

As technology advances, there is technology that can be implemented into parks and recreation in a variety of ways. Many parks and recreation departments are implementing new technologies such as automatic mowing equipment, self-maintained toilets, robotic cleaning systems, and semi-autonomous drones for various tasks. Below are some of the ways that technology can help support Haverford Townships Park and Recreation Department, Public Works and Park Users and Residents.

Recommendations

- Install Wi-Fi in the parks.
- Utilize mass communication, apps, interactive web sites, user surveys.
- Increase tech-aided recreation-apps and kiosks to provide interpretive information.
- Utilize on-line registration that tracks participation data.
- Utilize online tracking to increase efficiencies, improve data reporting (lighting, irrigation, mowing) for parks and recreation maintenance and operations.

Partnerships and Resource-Sharing

Over the years it has been noted that many organizations provide similar programming opportunities, have the same mission, or strive to meet similar goals. Through partnerships and coordination of efforts communities can look to be more efficient, and effective.

Recommendation

- Increase the coordination among various organizations to be more efficient and effective related to facilities, services and programs.

Park standards and park trends should be used as a tool, among many others, when making park amenity decisions, however planning recreation amenities should depend heavily on the community demographics, desires and interests.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

From the planning process the following goals and recommendations were developed for parks and recreation facilities.

1. Update and enhance the Townships existing facilities.

- Integrate into existing and construct new features and amenities that promote visitor connections and meet the needs of the community as it changes over time.
- Diversify the variety of amenities by looking to integrate nature play, water play, adventure play, thematic play and destination play into the Township's parks.
- Ensure that parks are easily navigable and have comprehensive signage.
- Provide more space for informal play, and gatherings.
- Provide amenities within parks that provide spaces for more programmed events.
- Regularly survey the community to identify their desires and or needs within the Township owned parks.

2. Incorporate nature into the existing parks.

- Create space, places and trails that allow people to connect with and experience nature.
- Use educational signage to inform the community about the importance of natural and environmental features located within the parks.
- Increase native plantings within parks, while working to remove non-native and invasive species.
- Increase shade trees within parks.

3. Create welcoming spaces and places for social interactions.

- Provide comfortable and safe places that enable formal and informal social interactions and experiences.
- Seek to update ADA amenities to offer a like experience for park visitors of all abilities while aiming to utilize universal and inclusive design.
- Determine the feasibility of extending the hours of operation at the CREC.





Trails and Open Space at Andy Lewis Park



OPEN SPACE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Haverford Township is almost a completely developed community, except for areas that are preserved open space, have conservation easements, or are one of the golf courses located within the Township. The largest land use type is residential (68%), with about 10 percent of the Township's land being parks and open spaces, and about 8 percent of the Township's land being privately owned golf courses. Within a community that is largely developed, it is vital for the community to conserve, protect, enhance and connect their existing parks and open spaces, and natural resource areas.

Open space can be defined in multiple ways, but for this plan, open spaces will be defined as:

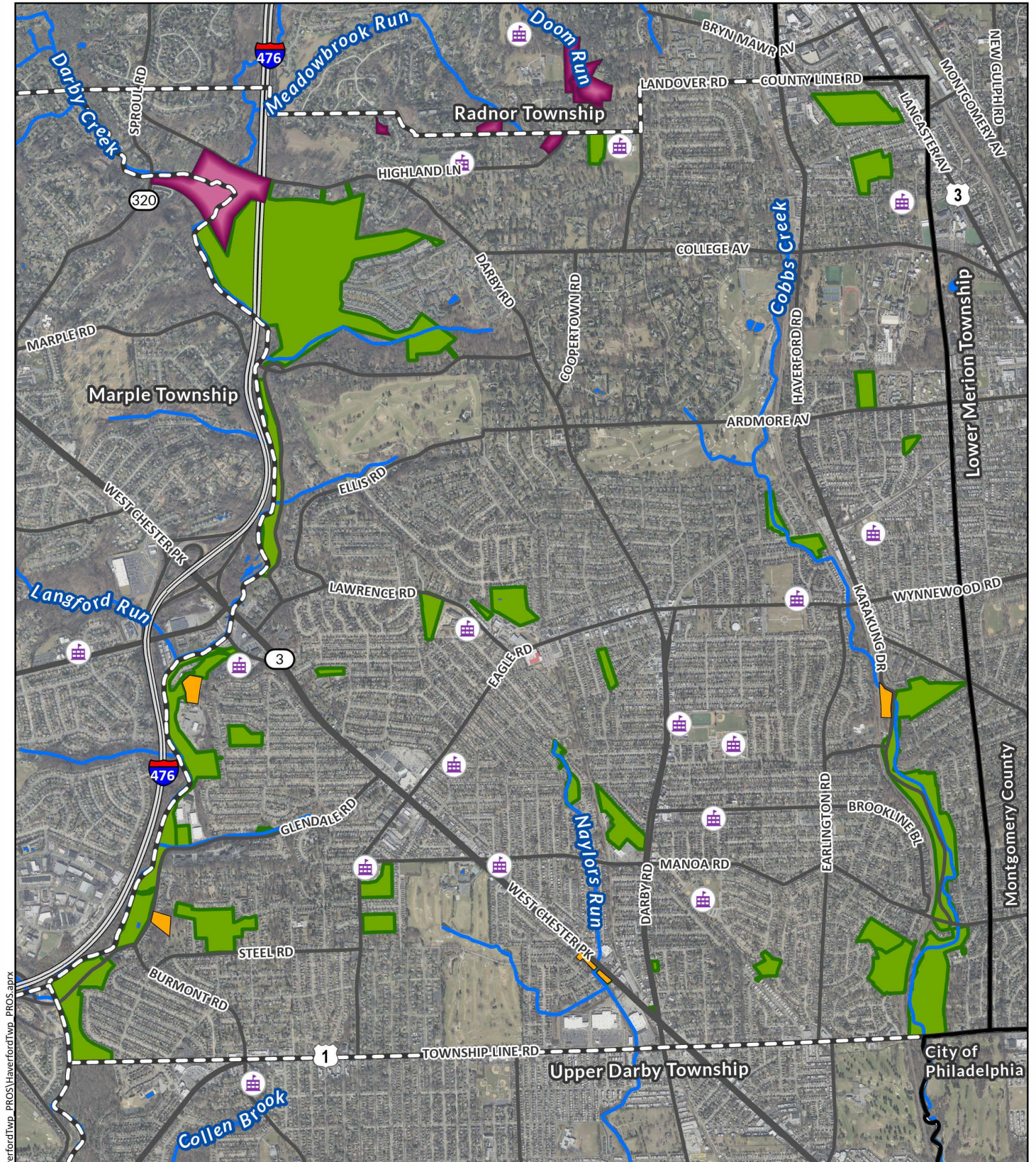
Land and water features that have not been developed for intensive human uses (residential neighborhoods, commercial uses), but include both active and passive recreation spaces. Open space may also include publicly owned open spaces, or privately owned open space which is land that is privately owned, undeveloped and not publicly accessible. It can also include protected lands that include land owned by a land trust or conservation organization, or land that is under a permanent easement or deed restriction (Delaware County's Open Space, Recreation and Greenways Plan 2015).

Open spaces are vital to a community, especially open spaces that are not programmed for active recreation opportunities. It has become more important than ever for communities to work to preserve, protect and enhance open spaces and natural resources. Conserving, enhancing and connecting open spaces are identified as the three main goals of Delaware County's Open Space Plan. The plans goals are:

- **Conserve** – the natural and cultural resources of the county.
- **Enhance** – increase and enhance the environmental and / or recreational value of developed and undeveloped lands.
- **Connect** – develop a greenway network that connects natural features and people to the community and regional destinations.

Open space within the Township includes (their) parks, municipal owned open space, County owned parks and a few private conservation easements. There are three conservation easement in the Township, one is located west of Andy Lewis Park, which is just over 40 acres (Natural Land Trust) and located within both Haverford Township and Marple Township. The others are smaller in size, one is 2.5 acres and owned by the Lower Merion Conservancy and the other is 1.2 acres (North American Land Trust). Although these properties are not publicly accessible, they are not able to be developed.

The Township owns numerous parcels along the Darby Creek corridor, which could be enhanced to help mitigate stormwater runoff, improve the habitat, and look to potentially connect the Darby Creek Trail to Andy Lewis Community Park and Haverford Township Community Recreation and Environmental Center (CREC). The Township also owns parks and open spaces along the Cobbs Creek corridor. However, about 0.85 miles of the Cobbs Creek stream corridor flows through Merion Golf Club, so increasing access along that section of the corridor is limited.



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0 1,250 2,500 Feet

Mapping derived from data provided by ESRI, PennDOT, and USGS.

12/18/2023 | PM: KM | GIS: ALV | QA: KM | R009472.0427

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-  Schools
-  County Boundary
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  Local Conserved Lands
-  Conservation Easements
-  Waterbody
-  Parks

Parks & Open Space Map

Haverford Township
 Delaware County, Pennsylvania

In addition to the Township's open spaces, its natural resources are important to enhance and protect. Haverford Township has two main creeks, Cobbs Creek and Darby Creek, along with other smaller tributaries including Ithan Creek and Naylor's Run. Both the Darby Creek watershed and the Cobbs Creek watershed flow into the Delaware River.

All the creeks and tributaries in Haverford Township are classified by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection as "Impaired". Many are impaired due to urban runoff and unmitigated stormwater runoff which causes siltation, and water or flow variability. Another impairment type along the Darby Creek is habitat modification. In 2011, the Natural Areas Inventory of Delaware County identified areas along the creeks as important habitats for rare, threatened and endangered species.

It should be noted that many of the Township's steep slopes are concentrated along Darby Creek and its tributaries and along the southern section of Cobbs Creek. Due to the steep slopes located along stream corridors it is important to minimize the alteration of the steep slopes, restore and enhance native riparian plantings and maintaining thick native vegetation and trees. The alteration of steep slopes can lead to an increase in erosion and sedimentation within the Township's waterways.

Open space and stream corridor protection, enhancement and rehabilitation has been included within numerous Township plans. In the 1988 Comprehensive Plan, the development of greenbelts along both Cobbs Creek and Darby Creek were recommended. The development of a greenbelt along both creeks would have included the acquisition of land or an easement, which would aid in protecting the land along the creek corridors and allow for the development of a trail along the corridors. Parks and Recreation have received and planted several riparian grants along these creek corridors and plans to continue to expand this work into the future.

Today, many of the same sentiments are shared. It was noted that many residents would like to see increased access to the creek corridors, for numerous reasons, including connecting with nature, fishing, walking, preservation and protection. The Proposed Comprehensive Plan (2023) reemphasizes this, by

recommending improving the creeks as scenic and potential recreation assets. The plan also recommends establishing setbacks and increasing buffers that include trees and thick vegetation to help filter runoff and minimize sedimentation and erosion, which will help to maintain aquatic habitats.

Additional recommendations from the 2023 Comprehensive Plan include an emphasis on tree plantings and tree conservation. This is echoed by the Township's Climate Action Plan, which also recommends expanding the tree planting program to help mitigate flooding among various other benefits such as shade and improved air quality.

The tree canopy in the Township is aging, and requires planned tree management and replacement, as it can take decades for a tree to grow large enough to replace a heritage tree. It will also be important for the Township to continuously enhance, protect and expand the tree canopy. While the trees will need time to mature providing shade this may pose a challenge, and the Township should consider permanent or semi-permanent alternatives to provide shade. This could include pavilions and shade sails.

OPEN SPACE & NATURAL RESOURCES GROUPS

Within the Township there are various organizations that support open space and natural resource related initiatives, including the Shade Tree Commission, Environmental Advisory Committee, Tree Tenders, Lower Merion Nature Conservancy, the Darby Creek Valley Association and Friends of Haverford Trails.

Environmental Advisory Committee

The duties of the EAC are to work with the Township Manager and the Board of Commissioners and act as their advisory body on environmental affairs. Where possible integrate programs to improve ecological balance and air pollution standards of Haverford Township. Make itself available to provide guidance and information on ecology and pollution problems for residents of the Township and perform such functions as they relate to environmental concerns as may be requested by the Township Manager and/or the Board of Commissioners.

Shade Tree Commission

The Shade Tree Commission was formed to help advise the Board of Commissioners and the Township Manager with respect to the preservation, maintenance and planting of shade trees in the Township, and to study the problems and determine the needs of the Township in connection with its tree planting program.

Tree Tenders

Haverford Tree Tenders is associated with the PA Horticultural Society's Tree Tender Program. The chapter was established in 2009 has helped plant over 2,000 trees in parks, public places, and residential streets.

Darby Creek Valley Association

Founded in 1984, DCVA is a nonprofit watershed organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in and around the Darby Creek watershed by restoring and protecting its natural, historical, and cultural resources. One of their main goals is the immediate prevention of all forms of pollution in the Darby Creek and its tributaries.

Friends of Haverford Trails

The Friends of Haverford Trails was formed in 2011 and subsequently formalized itself as an on-going Task Force of the non-profit Haverford Township Civic Council. Friends of Haverford Trails (FHT) supports the trails and provides helpful information and maps for walkers, hikers, and cyclist using the trails in the Township and beyond. The group established an informative public website, www.havtrail.com, to make trail, biking and walking information, including many interactive maps, readily available in one place for the public. FHT along with the Haverford Township Historical Society developed the Haverford Heritage Trail. The 14 mile loop guides community members and visitors through the Township while highlighting many of the Township's historic sites. In addition, FHT and the Haverford Township Parks and Recreation Department have co-sponsored the area's popular annual "Trail Summit" public meeting since 2013, and this event has grown to be countywide

Lower Merion Nature Conservancy

The mission of the Lower Merion Conservancy is to protect and enhance our community's character and quality of life, by recognizing that the sustainable

management of our environmental and historic resources is inextricably intertwined with both conservation and change. The Conservancy advocates for policies, programs, and projects that support its vision for the community and builds an informed constituency that can actively support this vision.

Another great asset to the community is the Haverford Township Civic Council as well as the numerous Civic Associations throughout the Township. The Civic Council's mission is to build community and enhance the quality of life in Haverford Township for residents by keeping the public informed of issues, fostering an effective civic infrastructure of new and existing groups and organizations, and advocating in the public interest. Through increased coordination with the Civic Council, the Township could enhance the impacts, goals and missions of all organizations and groups involved.

All the organizations help support open space and natural resource initiatives in the Township, which can be enhanced through collaboration, coordination, and reducing duplicated efforts. Additionally, some efforts by the Township could be enhanced with the support from these organizations.

One way to help with the coordination of efforts is for the Township, Tree Tenders and the Shade Tree Commission to identify areas within the Township that are in need of additional trees and develop a plan for prioritization of tree plantings. This would allow tree planting efforts to be proactively planned and prioritized. Including DVCA in this effort could also help benefit their initiatives and goals along the Darby Creek corridor. DVCA has already noted that due to the efforts of tree plantings within the Township, they generally host their tree planting in communities that do not have existing efforts in place. The coordination of efforts will allow multiple goals to be met without duplicating efforts.

Volunteerism had seen a decrease during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Township has seen an increase in the number of volunteers in recent events. The Township is also looking to increase volunteer efforts within the community through the potential implementation of an Adopt a Park and Adopt a Trail Program in the coming years.

In the Implementation chapter there will be further discussion on how various groups, and organizations can help forge a path for implementation of this plan with the guidance, help and support from the Township and the Parks and Recreation Department.

CLIMATE ACTION PLANS

The EAC has developed and updated a Climate Action Plan for the Township. This plan should be evaluated to determine ways in which the efforts of the Townships parks, recreation, open spaces and trails, can help meet the goals and recommendations within the Climate Action Plan. Some of the goals within the Climate Action Plan that are relevant to this plan not only include the tree planting recommendation noted previously as well as:

- Establish a sustainable park policy that reduces the frequency of mowing on parts of the parks that are not used for active recreation.
- Investing in additional green infrastructure improvements (these could be incorporated into parks and open spaces).
- Increase the number of bike lanes and consider the development of a Strategic Bike Plan.
- Study areas where sidewalks do not exist and prioritize where new sidewalk construction should be considered.
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and convenience. This includes emphasizing pedestrian and bicycle improvements, including safer crossings on Eagle and Darby Roads.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Throughout the planning process many residents discussed their vision for the Townships open spaces and stream corridors.

Through the public engagement process stakeholders and residents noted:

- The importance of open space but noted the limitations of remaining available open spaces.
- Wanting additional opportunities and ways to connect with nature.
- The aging of heritage trees, and how this impacts the tree canopy and shade.
- The importance and desire to enhance and restore the stream corridors, while increasing accessibility.

Considering the input from public engagement, conversations with the township and stakeholders, previous planning efforts in the Township and the information about the goals below were developed.

1. Protect and enhance open space lands and stream corridors.

- Restore and enhance stream corridors and open spaces utilizing native vegetation, while working to remove invasive species.
- Seek acquisition, conservation easements, and access easements to connect open spaces and stream corridors.
- Implement ordinance recommendations to protect stream corridors.

2. Provide opportunities to connect with nature.

- Develop educational signage within open spaces and along trails to provide environmental education opportunities.
- Increase community access to open spaces and stream corridors.

3. Increase, preserve, manage, and protect the Township's tree canopy.

- When heritage trees are removed, and replaced, provide additional permanent or temporary shade alternatives where needed, as well as provide for mitigation of stormwater runoff.

4. Develop a plan to enhance, grow and maintain the Township's tree canopy, open spaces and natural resources.

- Hire or contract an ISA Certified Arborist and Integrated Pest Management Specialist to establish a tree maintenance and management program. Prior to undertaking this endeavor the Township should evaluate if current staff in the Township could fill these roles.
- Collaborate with the Shade Tree Commission, Tree Tenders and Penn State Master Watershed Steward to organize the Tree Planting and Invasive Species Management in Natural Areas Pilot Program.
- Establish relationship and partnership with Delaware County Penn State Extension Office to recruit volunteers from the Master Watershed Stewards and Master Gardeners programs.



Darby Creek Trail

TRAILS & CONNECTIVITY

INTRODUCTION

Haverford Township residents regard Parks, Recreation, and Open Space as a critically important component of the community. With more than 30 parks containing 450 acres and more than 15 miles of trails, Haverford Township must now plan for the management, improvements, and further connections of these resources.

Parks and open space add to the livability, quality of life, and property values experienced by a community's residents. Trails and bicycle/pedestrian facilities are a key component of the Township's open space network and help to join these parks and open spaces with each other and with the neighborhoods, amenities, and people that they serve. Such connections or linkages are very difficult to add in a municipality that is largely developed, and one that did not incorporate such corridors into the community's land use plan when significant growth began.

The challenge now is one of continuing to add linkages to a partial network of existing trails and sidewalks and retrofitting many developed areas of the Township to create a more complete the pedestrian and bicycle network. A second element of this plan is to connect the pedestrian and bicycle network to surrounding municipalities to help broaden the regional system. Such a network will add further to our residents' and neighbors' quality of life and will provide new opportunities for healthy recreation and exploration of the region as well as active transportation.

The intent is to have one continuous regional system of municipal, county, state, and private trails, focused on corridors that are internal and external to Haverford Township. This plan explores the potential for each and has benefited from ongoing communication during the Plan's preparation with each of the Township's six adjacent municipalities.

EXISTING & PLANNED REGIONAL TRAILS

We often hear people say: “I’ve heard about all the trails being planned in Haverford Township, but where can I go walking and bicycling today, free of motor vehicles?” Here’s a list of what is available today:

The Circuit Trails

The Valley Forge - Heinz Refuge Trail will eventually stretch from the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge to Valley Forge National Historical Park. The trail will pass through the length of the Township, following the general Cobbs Creek / SEPTA Norristown High Speed Line corridor. A preliminary walking section of the Heinz-Refuge Trail in the Township extends through Carroll and Powder Mill Valley Parks, with a spur connecting to The Grange.

Circuit Trail Map - DVRPC



A map of the Circuit Trails is included in Appendix C. An interactive map can be accessed here: <https://www.dvrpc.org/webmaps/thecircuit/>

The Newtown Square Branch Rail Trail is a rail-trail following the former Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) Newtown Square Branch from Lansdowne to Newtown Square. The developed portion in the Township is called the “Penny Trail” which extends along the former rail line from West Eagle Road to just north of Manoa Road, however segments still need to be developed to form a contiguous trail. A southern extension is presently being constructed through Llanerch.

The Darby Creek Trail will eventually follow the Darby Creek Valley in Chester and Delaware Counties from the headwaters to the confluence with the Delaware River. There are several segments of the Darby Creek Trail developed across the Township and elsewhere, with various efforts under way to close the gaps.

Explanation of Circuit Trail Progress Types from DVRPC

Existing - These trails are open for use so get out there and explore them!

In Progress: These trails are currently being designed or built.

Pipeline: local governments, DVRPC, and non-profit organizations are actively working to move these trails forward by conducting studies, acquiring rights-of-way, engaging local communities, and laying the groundwork to obtain funding for future design and construction.

Planned: These trails are documented in local, county or regional plans. They represent excellent opportunities for regional-scale, multi-use trails. Studies or plans may have been prepared for these trails, but a sponsor is not actively working to move them forward.

Other Public Trails of Length & Clusters of Trails

The Haverford College Nature Trail is a 2.2 mile trail that traverses the entire perimeter of the Haverford College campus in both Haverford and Lower Merion Townships.



The Meetinghouse Walk from Buck Lane to the Haverford College campus is an attractive stone-surface walking path with a bridge over East Railroad Avenue giving access to the campus.

Andy Lewis Community Park has a large network of trails within the park which include several connecting to the adjacent community.



SEPTA Red Arrow Busway. In the late 1960's much of the former "Red Arrow" Ardmore trolley line was converted to a busway from Eagle Road to County Line Rd. Although a private SEPTA right-of-way, bus service is very infrequent, and the community uses it as a multi-use trail.

Other Selected On-Road Routes

Haverford Heritage Trail Loop and Alternative Alignments. Although not entirely off-road, this system of routes guides people to multiple points of interest in the Township.

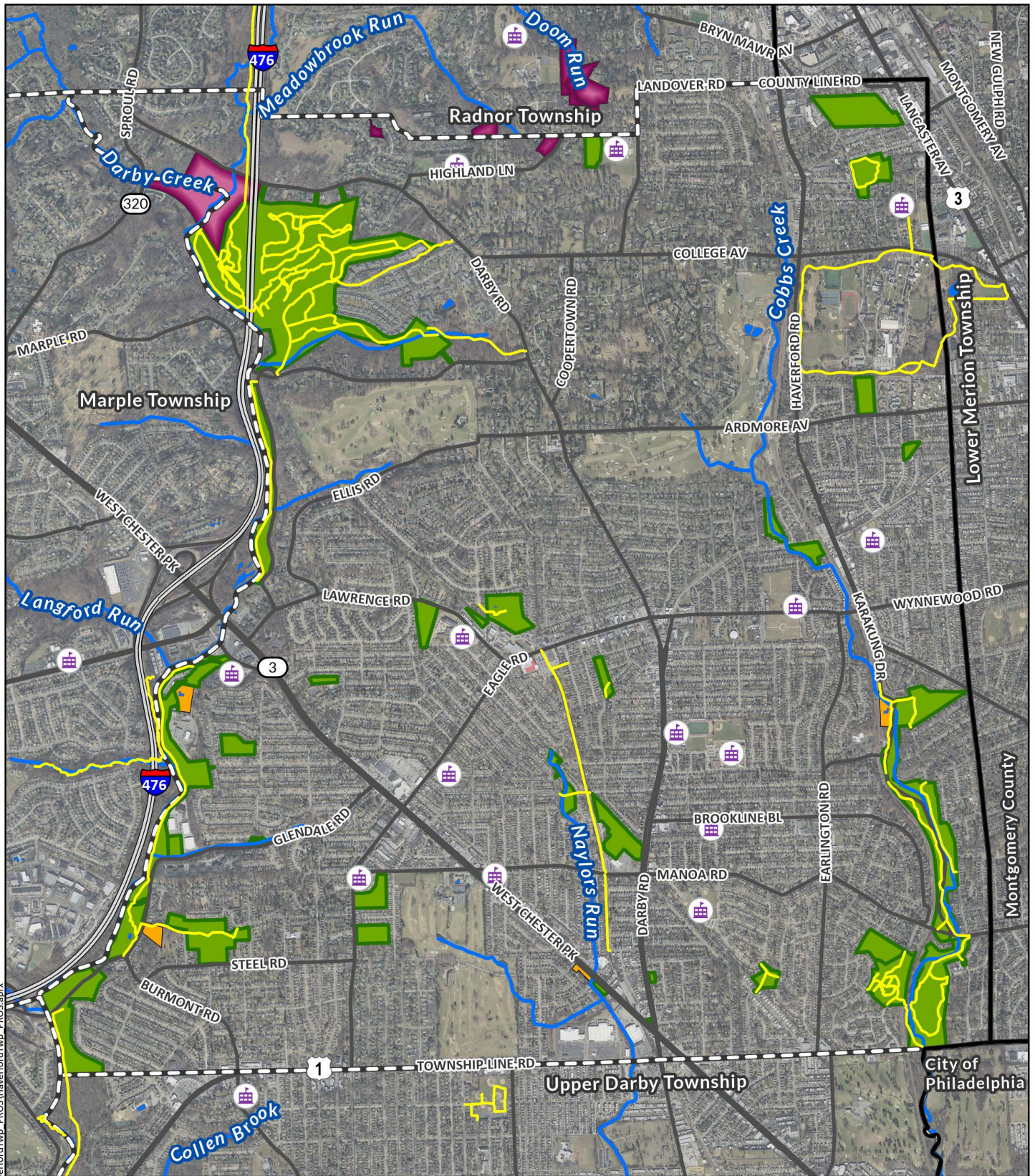
RELATED TRAIL & CONNECTIVITY PLANS & INITIATIVES

In preparing the Haverford Township Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, several other related studies, plans, maps, and resources related to trails and connectivity were identified and analyzed to help guide the recommendations presented in this plan. These documents included the following:

- Haverford Township Parks Inventory
- Haverford Township Map of Recreation Areas, Trails & Public Schools
- Existing trails identified on the trail map (on following page) include:
 - Darby Creek Valley Park Trails
 - Grange Estate Trails
 - Powder Mill Valley Park Trails
 - Haverford Reserve Trails
 - Pennys Greenway Trail
- The Delaware County 2035 Open Space, Recreation, and Greenway Plan (2015)
- The Delaware Countywide Primary Trail Network Map (2015)
- DVRPC - The Circuit Regional Trail Network Map

Within Haverford Township, there are three trails identified on both the Countywide Primary Trail Network Map and The Circuit Regional Trail Map. These include:

- Darby Creek Trail
- Newtown Square Branch Rail Trail
- Forge to Refuge Trail



0 1,250 2,500 Feet

Mapping derived from data provided by ESRI, PennDOT, and USGS.

12/18/2023 PM: KM GIS: ALV QA: KM R009472.0427

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- Schools
- Trails
- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Waterbody
- Parks
- Local Conserved Lands
- Conservation Easements

Parks & Trails Map

Haverford Township
 Delaware County, Pennsylvania

A full-size version of this Map is included in Appendix C.

KEY CONNECTION CORRIDORS

In developing a vision for multimodal connectivity for Haverford Township, a map of Essential Corridors for Key Connectivity was developed. This map identifies the primary connector routes and their destinations both within and beyond the Township boundary. The opportunities to connect to trails, parks and open space, and community amenities and resources are significant. In preparing recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian improvements within the community, it is important to recognize the destinations and transit connections beyond the Township. As you will see, the key connection corridors are often vehicular corridors. They often transect the Township and reach

into adjacent communities and destinations. Because of their nature, vehicular traffic has traditionally been prioritized along these corridors with often limited space or facilities for cyclists and pedestrians.

In-between the essential corridors, largely residential “island-like” communities have been identified. Within these island communities lower vehicular traffic volume and speed is common with generally increased sidewalk connections and in some cases space for bicycling. This creates an area that is generally accommodating to walking and cycling. However, to cross between two or more of these areas becomes a challenge due to the barriers formed by major vehicular traffic corridors.

Key Corridor Map



A full-size version of this Map is included in Appendix C.

Developing complete streets that are accommodating to all modes of transportation is not an easy feat, but in time bicycle and pedestrian improvements along these corridors should be considered, particularly as part of the planning and construction roadway repaving and reconstruction projects.

POTENTIAL PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS

The Haverford Township pedestrian and bicycle network is to be a combination of existing and proposed trails, paths, sidewalks, and shared roadways that interconnect and are intended to serve all users. Various on and off-road pedestrian and bicycle treatments can be utilized to develop a pedestrian and bicycle network in Haverford Township. Prior to developing recommendations for a pedestrian and bicycle network, it is important to first understand the variety of facilities that are available and recognize that different conditions and circumstances call for different facility recommendations to be made.

On-road and off-road treatments for bicycle and pedestrians can include the following:

1. Sidewalks / Full Sidewalks

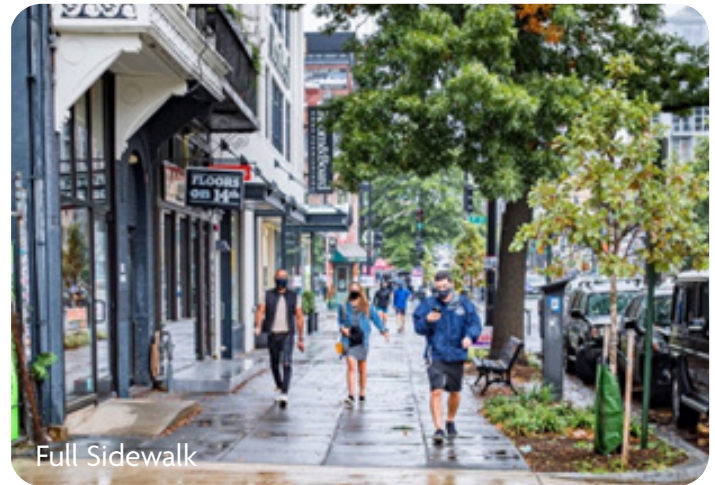
A sidewalk is the portion of a street, intended for the use of pedestrians, between the roadway and adjacent property lines. This common pedestrian facility is seen throughout many walkable communities and provides a safe, often grade-separated, pedestrian facility, but is not typically wide enough for cyclists. Full sidewalks are typically wider than a standard 4-5ft sidewalk and accommodate both pedestrian and bicycle traffic, along with a range of street furnishings and fixtures. The area of the sidewalk closest to the curb, where light poles, tree pits and other vegetation, signs, fire hydrants, and street furniture are typically located, is referred to as the “furnishing zone.”

2. Curb Extension & Bump Outs

An expansion of the curb line into the lane of the roadway adjacent to the curb (typically a parking lane) for a portion of a block either at a corner or mid-block. Curb extensions or bump outs increase safety and reduce the crossing distance for pedestrians crossing the street. Curb extensions and bump outs can also provide space for pedestrian amenities such as seating, plantings, bike share stations, and furniture.

3. Pedestrian Safety Islands

A pedestrian safety island is a raised area located at a crosswalk that serves as a pedestrian refuge area between traffic lanes. Often used on wide roadways, where the number of vehicles or crossing distance pose a challenge to pedestrians crossing. Pedestrian safety islands enable two or more partial crossings to help pedestrians safely traverse the street.





Sharrow

4. Sharrows

Shared Lane Markings or “Sharrows” are pavement marking symbols that indicate appropriate bicycle positioning in a shared vehicle and bicycle lane. Although sharrows do not provide a separated space for bicycles, they can be ideal for use on connector areas with narrow conditions. Sharrows are often paired with “share the road” signage. Sharrows can also be color backed to visually define a section of road that is open to bicycles and vehicles.



Bike Lane

5. Bike Lane

Bike lanes are typically 5-6 feet in width but can be narrower if the roadway is constrained. Bike Lanes provide a marked space along the length of the roadway and are designated by pavement markings and/or signs for the preferential or exclusive use by bicyclists traveling in a single direction. Although physical separation is not used, bike lanes can be color backed to visually define a separation between the bicycle lane and the roadway.



Protected Bike Lane

6. Protected Bike Lane

A protected bike lane is similar to a bike lane, but it includes physical separation from vehicle traffic by a buffer space, parking spaces, or barrier (ex. Bollards). Protected bike lanes are typically used on high-volume or high-speed roads, or roadways with high parking turnover. Similar to cycle tracks (described below), the protective buffer can come in the form of parking protection, reflective bollards, or pavement markings.



Grade-Separated Bike Lane

7. Grade-Separated Bike Lanes

A grade-separated bike lane, are bike lanes that are raised above the roadway to sidewalk grade, or in between sidewalk and roadway grade provides a safe space for bicycles. Grade-separated bike lanes are often accompanied by a sidewalk.



Two-Way Bike Lane / Cycle Track

8. Two-Way Bike Lane / Cycle Track

A two-way bike lane or cycle track accommodates cyclists traveling in both directions that is typically separated from the roadway by a buffer of 2-3ft or barrier. This buffer can come in the form of parking protection, reflective bollards, or pavement markings. Cycle Tracks are ideally 10-12 feet in width to enable bicycles to easily pass each other.

9. Multi-Use Trail or Sidepath

Multi-Use Trails or Sidepaths are one of the safest pedestrian and bicycle facilities. They allow for complete separation from vehicular traffic. Due to limitations in the availability of public right-of-way, multi-use trails are less common in urban environments, but can be suitable facilities in parks and along highways and waterways. Multi-use trails are typically 10-12 feet in width and come in a variety of surfaces, including crushed or ground stone, or asphalt.



Multi-Use Trail

10. Shared Street

Also known as a “pedestrian-priority” street, a shared street is a roadway designed for slow speeds by all users where pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists all share the right of way. Typically employed on low vehicle volume and/or high pedestrian volume streets and walkable commercial districts, vehicles are advised to drive 5 mph, and the roadway may be flush from building line to building line, separated by bollards or pedestrian amenities rather than the typical curb line grade separation.



Shared Street

11. Bicycle Signalization & Signage

Intersections are known to be the most dangerous locations for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians. Bicycle signalization and signage can be utilized to help define both the appropriate location and timing for crossing movements for all modes. Like pedestrian crossing signalization, bicycle crossing signalization can be incorporated into the cycle of a traffic signal.



Bicycle Signal

12. Bicycle Boxes

Bicycle Boxes provide an additional safety measure that can help a cyclist transition across vehicle lanes, through an intersection, or between various types of bicycle facilities. A green zone between the stop bar and crosswalk allows bicycles to pull in front of motor vehicles at a signal to accommodate and improve visibility of bicycles at the intersection.



Bicycle Boxes

“TOP 15” BICYCLE, PEDESTIAN & TRAIL CONNECTIONS OR PROJECTS

To help create a more connected Haverford, the following trail, pedestrian and bicycle connection priority projects were developed with public and stakeholder input. In addition to pedestrian and bicycle corridor improvements, key intersection improvements are suggested. These projects were shared with and reviewed by the community at the second public meeting, the steering committee and Township Staff. A map identifying the “Top 15” is included on page 58, and included in Appendix C.

Bicycle, Pedestrian & Trail Corridor Improvements:

1. Planning, Design, and Construction of Darby Creek Trail Corridor

The Darby Creek Trail in Haverford Township currently exists on Township park property between Glendale Road and Hilltop Road, just south of Old West Chester Pike. A continuous corridor through Haverford Township along the full extent of the Darby Creek Valley Park should be pursued. Some portions of this corridor have already been planned for, while other portions still require additional study and design.

2. Planning, Design, and Construction of the Valley Forge to Heinz Refuge (VF-HR) Trail Corridor

The VF-HR Trail is a proposed trail corridor on the eastern side of the Township that will ultimately connect the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Philadelphia to Valley Forge National Historical Park. A trail feasibility study was completed in 2015 for the corridor segment between the Cobbs Creek Trail at 63rd and Market Streets in Philadelphia and Karakung Drive at Mill Road in Haverford Township. The corridor north to the Radnor Trail and then to Valley Forge is still to be studied in detail. A continuous corridor through Haverford Township should be pursued.

3. Planning and Design of the Newtown Square Branch Trail Corridor

The Pennsy Trail in Haverford Township currently exists between Manoa Road and Ralston Avenue, just south of Eagle Road on the former Newtown Square Branch railroad corridor. Haverford Township should work to complete this trail through the Township. Like the Darby Creek Trail, portions of this corridor have already been planned for, while other portions still require a more detailed study.

4. Formalize the connection to surrounding communities at Haverford College Internal Trail Loop

The existing Haverford College Trail is largely an internal trail loop around the campus. There is an existing pedestrian bridge over Railroad Avenue on the north, but there are no formal connections to Haverford Road at College Avenue or Haverford Road at Overhill Road, as well as through Elwell Field to Ardmore Avenue. Formalizing and improving these connections as a community pedestrian corridor would improve connectivity.

5. Design and Construct a Bridge over Cobbs Creek at the Grange Estate, adjacent to the underpass under the Norristown High Speed Line, to tie into Carroll Park and the Valley Forge to Heinz Refuge Trail

As part of the 2015 Valley Forge to Heinz Refuge (VF-HR) Trail Feasibility Study, a trail bridge over Cobbs Creek was recommended. This would not only serve as a bridge on the VF-HR Trail alignment, but it would connect the Grange Estate with the existing trails in Carroll Park. There is an existing access driveway under the Norristown High Speed Line in this location.

6. Create a trail connection through the Quadrangle property between Parkview Drive Sidepath and Marple Road

The Quadrangle retirement community is located between Marple Road and Parkview Drive. The property currently has a very low-volume internal loop road. By connecting the internal loop with added trail portions, pedestrians and cyclists could benefit from a safe alternative to Darby Road between Parkview Drive and Marple Road with better connections to the Parkview Drive Sidepath and Southbrook Trail.

7. Install Bike Route signage / Bike Lanes between Karakung Drive and Eagle Road

Mill Road not only provides access to the Beachwood - Brookline station at Karakung Drive, but will ultimately connect to the VF-HR Trail. This east-west connector also connects to the Haverford Middle and High School and the existing bikeable shoulders on Darby Road. Sidewalks already exist along this route, but by improving this corridor with bike route signage and possibly some bike lanes community connectivity would be improved. Additionally, providing a pedestrian/bicycle crossing of Darby Road at Mill Road and Yale Road, would enable

a continued east-west route along Yale Road, Manor Road, and Princeton Road, to connect to the Pennsy Trail and Lincoln Avenue to Eagle Road.

8. Sidewalk along County Line Road between Haverford Road and Old Lancaster Road

On the northeastern end of the Township, there is a gap in the sidewalk on County Line Road, between Haverford Road and Old Lancaster Avenue. This corridor is a key connector between the Paoli-Thorndale Regional Rail Line and the Norristown High Speed Line. This connection is adjacent to Bryn Mawr Hospital, one of the largest employers in the area, and provides direct access to the Polo Field and Acme Market.

9. Continuous sidewalk on Haverford Road from County Line Road to Karakung Drive, with sidewalk improvements on Karakung Drive to connect to the Karakung Trail and Karakung Field

Haverford Road is one of the primary north-south transportation routes in the Township and serves a mix of residential, institutional, commercial, industrial, and transportation resources, with existing sidewalk along several portions of the corridor. However, there is no continuous walking corridor, with several areas of existing sidewalk in need of upgrade and repair. Continuing similar improvements along Karakung Drive would enable a safe walking connection through much of the Township. Bicycle improvements may also be suggested if a more comprehensive study of this road is completed.

10. New bridge or steppingstones connecting Powder Mill Park over Cobbs Creek to Karakung Drive

Two of the Township's best recreational resources include Powder Mill Park and the Karakung Trail, but although they are adjacent to one another, a connection between them is missing. A bridge or stepping-stones would help to connect these two recreational resources and better connect the adjacent residential communities.

11. Improved neighborhood walking connections to Karakung Field and Karakung Swim Club

Karakung Field and the Karakung Swim Club are located near large residential populations. Although there is a pedestrian connection to Pelham Avenue to the south, residents to the north must access the park and swim

club using an automobile. Improving pedestrian and bicycle access to these resources would help remediate parking concerns and improve access for residents.

Improvements at Key Intersections:

12. Darby Road at Parkview Drive

This intersection poses a challenge for walkers and cyclists connecting from the Parkview Trail to the signed bike route on Williams Road, Meadows Lane, and Buck Lane. Enhancing the intersection at Darby Road would greatly improve pedestrian and bicycle safety.

13. Burmont Road at Glendale Road

This intersection serves as an important access connection to the Darby Creek Trail corridor, but sight lines and the lack of a pedestrian crossing pose a challenge for walkers and cyclists connecting from the residential community along Burmont Road to the trail. Enhancing the intersection with a push-button crossing at Glendale Road in addition to a trail spur connection to the Darby Creek Trail would greatly improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. As an alternative a flashing-beacon at the crossing would also improve safety for all modes. This intersection is slated for design and construction by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

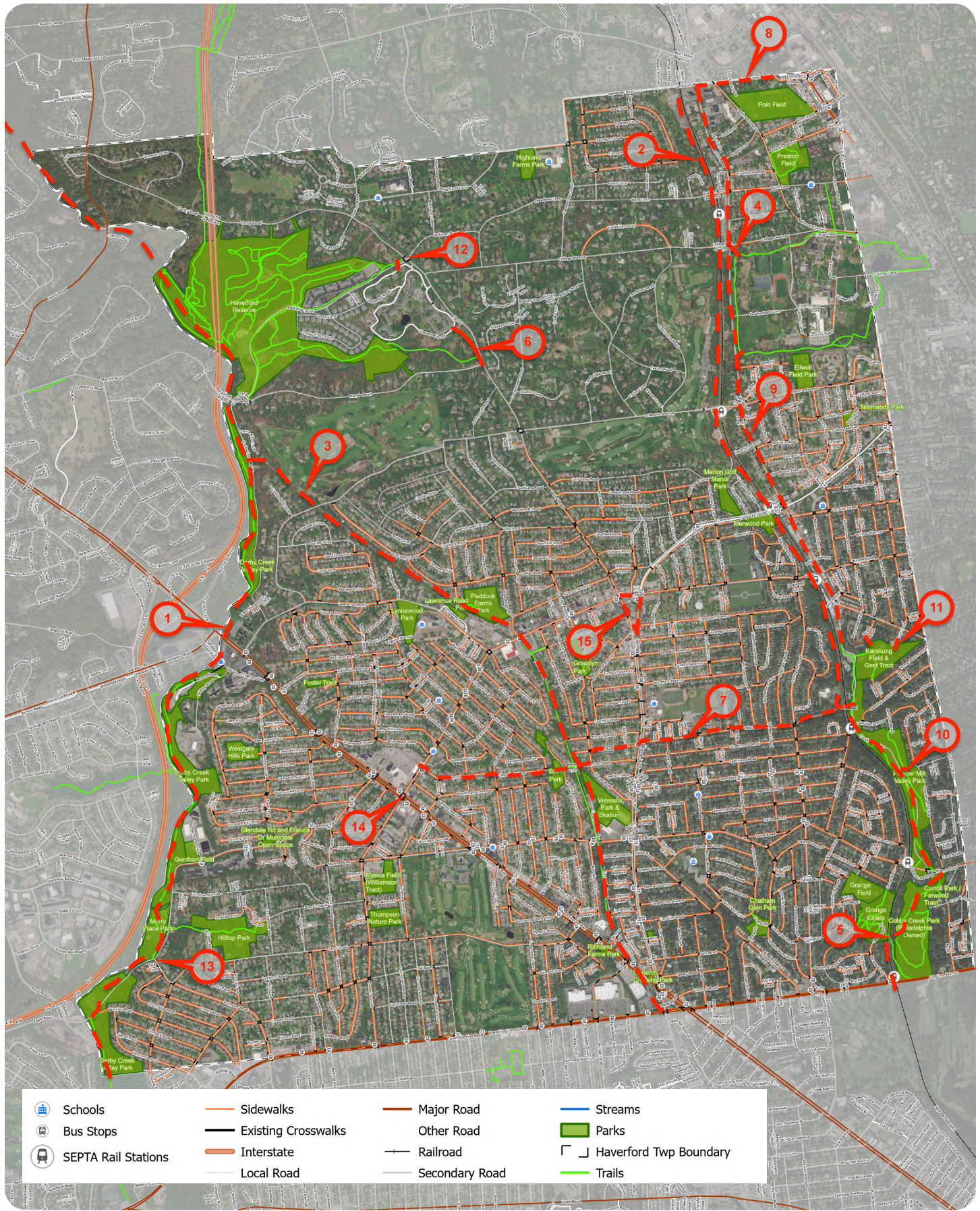
14. Eagle Road at West Chester Pike

This is an intersection of two major transportation routes and poses a challenge to all modes of transportation (vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle). A study to improve multimodal transportation through this intersection is recommended in coordination with active transportation improvements to both transportation corridors.

15. Intersections at the triangle formed by Darby Road, West Chester Pike, and Township Line Road

Much like the intersection of Eagle Road and West Chester Pike, this series of intersections pose a challenge to all modes of transportation (vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle). A study to improve multimodal transportation through these intersections is recommended in coordination with active transportation improvements of all three transportation corridors. This area also serves as a commercial node for the community that could be greatly enhanced as part of a large study.

“Top 15” Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trail Connections or Projects Map



A full-size version of this Map is included in Appendix C.

ADDITIONAL AMENITIES & FACILITIES RELATED TO THE BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN & TRAIL NETWORK

As Haverford continues to develop trails and expand its bicycle and pedestrian network, amenities will be essential. These supplementary features will provide the necessary resources to support the active transportation network and its users.

Ancillary Bicycle Facilities and Needs

Facilities Haverford Township should consider including as part of this network include:

Bike Parking & Storage

Ample bicycle parking at key transportation stops, key destinations and facilities, parks, institutions, and community buildings helps to encourage bicycle use. On-street parking may be needed at higher density areas, whereas indoor parking facilities can be a welcomed amenity at end-of-trip destinations such as apartment buildings and office complexes.

A Bike Share Program

Although this transportation service is largely found in urban city centers, bike shares can be implemented in a more suburban setting. Bike share programs can be subscription based or provided as a free service through the municipality with bicycles available for use at key destinations and transportation hubs.

Trail & Park Amenities

At key locations along trails and in public parks, additional bicycle and pedestrian furnishings are encouraged. This can include benches, tables, and trash receptacles; bicycle racks or shelters, drinking fountains, signage kiosks, and restroom facilities.

Signage

In addition to traffic safety signage required by PennDOT and Haverford Township, directional/wayfinding signage and informational/interpretive signage should be considered:

Directional & Wayfinding Signage

A trail marking and orientation system benefits both users and the Township. Directional signs should be erected along all major trail, bike lane and bike route facilities and at all cross streets and highways, identifying the name of the cross street for both travel and safety purposes. Directional signage should also identify links to town centers and public transit. This should include town centers, commercial areas, transportation connections, parks, trail connections, and other important features throughout the Township.

Bicycle Infrastructure Signage

On-road or share-the-road signage will also be required for bike routes or on-road facilities. Similarly, Township/County names should be posted where the trail enters/exits the municipality. This system helps trail managers to coordinate maintenance activities. The trail marking system could also help with emergency response and save lives if emergency services are ever required along a primary trail corridor.

Informational & Interpretive Signage

In addition to directional signage, informational/interpretive signs can be incorporated along trail and bicycle facility corridors to provide information on historical and educational resources, businesses and amenities, parks, and such.

GOALS, & OBJECTIVES

Considering the input from public engagement, conversations with the Township and stakeholders, previous planning efforts in the Township and other information, the following overall goals and objectives were developed.

1. Expand and enhance the trail and greenway network, including Circuit Trails, regional trails and local trails, to provide a safe place for recreation, increased community connectivity, and access to community amenities.

- Regularly coordinate with trail, greenway, and transportation organizations in the region to ensure opportunities to connect are prioritized.
- Coordinate regularly with adjacent municipalities and have township representation at multi-municipal, trail, greenway, and park meetings.
- Develop a legal Official Map for Haverford Township that includes trails, connectivity and open spaces included.

2. Improve and enhance trail related resources and amenities within the Township.

- Install directional and interpretive signage throughout the trail and park network.
- Provide pocket parks and benches throughout the trail network, that serve as social hubs and enhance the trail user experience.

3. Form a Trails and Connectivity citizen-led group focused on increased opportunities for active transportation improvements within the Township.

- Work with the Township and Community to develop temporary installations focused on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements to transportation corridors that are not conducive to walking and bicycling.
- Host an annual community event focused on trails and connectivity.

4. Develop a walking and biking network to provide a safe place for recreation, non-motorized travel, increased community connectivity, and access to community amenities.

- Develop a walking and biking network of pedestrian sidewalks, on-road and off-road bicycle facilities, trails, greenways, and intersection improvements.
- Continuously build upon the network of active transportation infrastructure in the Township.
- Prepare a list of missing connections. Update annually.
- Routinely survey the community to identify needs and desires regarding the active transportation network in the Township.

5. Provide safe, sustainable, multimodal recreation and transportation options for people of all abilities.

- Prioritize Township projects that provide safe, accessible access for all.
- Provide bicycling and public transportation education for people of all ages.

PROGRAMMING

Haverford Township's Park and Recreation Department provides various programming opportunities to Township residents. These opportunities range from preschool programming, fitness and sports to enrichment and environmental programming. The Township's programming efforts are supplemented through various youth and adult sports organizations that provide additional recreational opportunities to Township residents. Together they provide robust programming opportunities to the community.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROGRAMMING

Haverford's Park and Recreation Department hosts about 45 different programming options throughout the year for both youth and adults. These programming options can be categorized into the following groups:

- Preschool
- Fitness
- Sports
- Enrichment
- Summer Camps
- Environmental

Having diverse program types is vital to a community, as it provides various options for community members that help to fit interests and ability levels. Below is a breakdown of current programming options offered by the Township's Park and Recreation Department.

Preschool

- Little Explorers
- Tot Lot
- Tots on the move
- Small fry soccer
- Hoop stars
- Tadpoles

Summer Camps

- Full day camp (ECP)
- Playground camps
- Sports camps
- Adventure camps
- Nature camps

Enrichment Programs (Adult)

- Cooking
- Financial literacy
- Health lectures
- Blood pressure screening

Youth Sports

- Soccer
- Basketball Clinic
- Havertown Hoops
- Girls Lacrosse
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Softball
- Golf

Fitness Classes (Adult)

- Yoga
- Spin
- Dancing divas
- Ballet
- Balance and Agility
- Silver sneakers

Environmental Programs

- Gardening
- Bird watching
- Trail walks
- Composting
- Recycling
- Solar and EV

Youth Enrichment Programs

- Cooking
- Chess
- Legos
- Theatre

Adult Sports

- Pickup Basketball
- Basketball Leagues
- Volleyball
- Tennis
- Pickle Ball
- Golf
- Softball

The most popular programs are the summer playground camps and their summer camps. Other popular programs include pickleball, basketball and the fitness classes. Some programs have been noted to fill up quickly. The consideration of expanding the number of children that can register or additional locations would require additional staff, which has been noted as increasingly difficult. The childcare workforce is the only occupation in the job market that has not rebounded since the pandemic according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Childcare workers include park and recreation programming staff as well as lifeguards.

During the planning process, community members noted their desire for additional passive recreation programming that is more environmentally focused such as nature walks and bird walks. Increased interest in passive recreational opportunities is a trend that has also been seen across the country, post pandemic. These passive recreation opportunities could be self-guided if environmental educational signage was installed, or a guide was developed and made available online or available at the CREC.

Township programming is offered at several locations throughout the Township including: the CREC, Paddock, Elwell, Grasslyn, Westgate, Hilltop, Grange, among various others. Locations for programming are spread out geographically to ensure equal access to residents. Locations for programming are also determined based on the amenities needed to host certain programming activities. For example, the current enrichment programming is offered at the CREC, which is appropriate given the programming type and amenities at this facility. Another example is the summer playground camps. Summer playground camp locations require parks to be equipped with a playground, restrooms and a pavilion at a minimum, which limits where this programming can be hosted.

The CREC is one of the most utilized locations for programming. This is because their preschool programs are held in the classroom, as well as all enrichment programming, adult fitness classes and most of the environmental programming. The Haverford Reserve is the second most utilized site, but it is also the largest park in the Township, with diverse amenities which include restrooms and a pavilion. Other programs

are held at specific sites due to field, court, pavilion, and playground availability, as noted in the Park and Recreation Facilities Chapter.

Below is a breakdown of the number of programs at each location.

Location	Number of Programs
CREC	34
Andy Lewis Community Park	7
Merry Place	5
Paddock Park	4
Grasslyn Park	3
Manoa Elementary	2
Elwell Park	2
Paxon Hollow GC	2
Westgate Park	2
Coopertown Park	2
Coopertown Elementary	1
Chestnutwold Elementary	1
Grange Field	1
Hilltop Park	1
Veterans Park	1
Merwood Park	1
Polo Field	1
Preston Park	1

Although installing additional amenities to park locations would allow additional programming, it is not always feasible or possible. The Township should look to make sure that programming continues to be distributed around the Township equitably, within the constraints of amenities available. The Township should continue to routinely further this goal and by assuring that needed park amenities are maintained, replaced, or added accordingly.

The cost of programming provided by the Township varies by the type, however, prices are fair. To assure that all residents can afford programming the Parks and Recreation Department will work with the School District and Township residents to assure that fees are not a hurdle.

STAFFING

The Parks and Recreation Department provides many programming opportunities, as well as operations of the CREC. Depending on the season the Parks and Recreation Department employs as many as 170 people and additional contracted staff. This includes 9 full-time staff, 30 part-time staff, and up to 130 summer camp staff.

NRPA found that communities of a similar size have a median of 11.1 Full-Time employee Equivalents (FTE) per 10,000 residents. Based on the 2020 population of 50,432 people, this would mean that based on the median, a community of Haverford's size would have 56 full-time employee equivalents. However, this number of full-time employees would include operations & maintenance, programmers, administration, capital development and other staff. Programmers and Administrative staff equal a total of 47% of the FTE's, which would be 26.3 FTEs that are programmers and Administrative Staff. While this is the median for communities of a similar size, there are several factors that increase or decrease the number of staff within a Parks and Recreation Department.

Some of the largest factors that impact the size of a Parks and Recreation department include:

- Number of Parks, and Park Acreage (mainly related to maintenance staffing)
- Operational Budget
- Population Served
- The organizations that provide programming opportunities to Township residents

Currently, staffing is within the range for communities of a comparable size. However, as the Township grows, the Township should look to assure that the staffing levels are able to meet the needs of the Township. This will include administrative staff, programmers, seasonal or program specific staff. One example of the potential need to expand staff or staffing hours would be if the CREC was open on Sundays, or if their hours were extended to provide greater opportunities for residents to use the facilities. These adjustments to staffing may require additional funds in the Parks and Recreation Departments Budget, or other funding means such as grants.

YOUTH & ADULT SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

In addition to the programming offered by the Township's Park and Recreation Department there are both youth and adult sports organizations that offer sports programming.

The current organizations provide the following sports programs:

- Youth Baseball
- Youth Softball
- Youth Soccer
- Youth Cheerleading
- Adult Soccer (30+)
- Youth Lacrosse
- Youth Gaelic Football, Hurling & Camogie
- The Police Department / Fire Department also have a softball team

These offerings supplement the programming that is provided by the Township, as many of these leagues start once children age out of sport programming offered by the Township's Park and Recreation Department. Nearly all the youth sports organizations are for Township residents only except for some club or select teams within the organization. However, even the club or select teams are majority Township residents.

The youth sports groups also use various facilities across the Township which include:

- Brookline Baseball- Veterans, Genthert, Paddock
- Hilltop Baseball-Hilltop, Glendale, Lynnewood, Paddock
- Karakung Baseball-Karakung, Elwell, Normandy
- Haverford Township Baseball League - Grange, Haverford Reserve, Polo Field
- Haverford Township Softball League- Haverford Reserve
- Heat- Polo, Elwell
- Haverford Soccer Club- Preston, Polo, Lynnewood, Coopertown, Haverford Reserve
- Blaze Lacrosse- Haverford Reserve
- Delco Gaels- Haverford Reserve, Polo Field

Between the amount of programming the Township provides and the additional youth and adult sports groups, field demand is quite high. Many of the organizations are understanding of the limited availability, however many note that they could use additional field time, especially lighted fields. The turf field at the Haverford Reserve is the most sought-after location for many of the youth sports groups, aside from baseball. Many organizations noted that more availability on the turf would be great, but know it is not possible given the current demand. However, it was noted that if grass fields were improved (grass / sod quality and water drainage), and if lights were added, that this could reduce the demand for turf. But nearly every sports organization, both youth and adult agreed that another turf field would be an ideal added amenity for the Township.

Nearly all the organizations provide some facility maintenance support; however, it varies based on the organization and the facility. For example, Haverford Township Baseball League helps to maintain the Karakung Field. The Haverford Soccer Club does pay for outside maintenance on Preston Field. Many of the organizations provide equipment, such as the goals and nets, as well as portable lights. Organizations mentioned that some of the equipment does get damaged from non-organizational use but is replaced by the organizations, which can be costly depending on the damage. Organizations discussed they would be willing to assist more with maintenance of the facilities, however they are unsure if they would be able to get volunteers to assist, as it has become increasingly difficult for organizations to get volunteer help and assistance.

SCHEDULING

The scheduling process for the fields from outside organizations received generally positive feedback. Some organizations felt it is quite difficult to book fields or know when fields are available. It would be recommended that the Township investigate a scheduling software program that allows organizations to view availability and when fields are permitted for organizations use. This would be beneficial for several reasons. One is that when people are looking to schedule, they could confirm time prior to calling or emailing for availability to make the scheduling

processes smoother. Second, it would allow coaches and organizations the ability to see who has field time and help enforce permits.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING TRENDS

Trends that have been seen by the youth sports organizations, include the rebounding of registration post pandemic. Some organizations see numbers even higher than in 2019. Another trend impacting programming is a decrease in volunteerism. Many of the organizations noted having to increase the number of paid coaches, referees, and other support personnel. Some noted that this has been a recent shift, while others noted the gradual progression over the past 5 years or so. With the increased number of paid personnel, leagues may continue to have to increase their prices. This could have an impact on program affordability, and in turn effect registration numbers. However, price increases thus far have not been noted to have an impact on registration.

Another trend is that many youth sports are now running year-round or almost year-round. With sports running year-round, there is now field and facility competition where there may not have been before. This demand is now expedited in the winter months when grass fields cannot be utilized (as often), and turf demand is even higher. There is also an increased demand for lighted facilities during the times of the year when days are shorter, and lights are required to be able to continue programming into the evening hours. Some organizations have helped provide temporary lights at certain locations to help extend programmable hours.

A program type that has increase in popularity is mindfulness, nutrition, and stress reduction programming. This can include yoga, guided meditation classes, and nature walks, and could also include nutrition workshops. There is an increase in the number of people who are concerned about getting and staying healthy, with many people taking up these initiatives during the pandemic and looking to continue them post pandemic. Across the country many organizations have seen these programming types double in recent years. As the Township grows and evolves, interests of the community will also evolve, so keeping programming updated with trends and community needs will be important.

Esports have been another type of programming that has seen growth nationwide. eGaming describes amusement or recreation using a standalone video game, desktop computer, or internet with one or more player. Esports are organized multiplayer gaming events played in a competitive environment. A key reason Esports have become a trend is that nearly every park and recreation agency struggles with teen engagement. About 70% of kids stop playing sports by the age of 13, while 90% of kids ages 12 to 17 play video games. By incorporating eSports programs, parks and recreation agencies could attract an audience that may be hard to capture otherwise.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Throughout the planning process many residents discussed their vision for the Township' programming. Through the public engagement process stakeholders and residents noted:

- Would like to see an increase in the number of passive recreation opportunities, even if self-guided using educational signage or a guide.
- Would like to see increased availability of fields for adult programming and sports organizations
- Would like to see additional or upgraded facilities that allow for increased programming such as better maintained fields, turf, or lighted facilities.
- Would like there to be more information about field usage and permits to help with not only being able to enforce permits, but help with scheduling.

Considering the input from public engagement, conversations with the Township and stakeholders, previous planning efforts in the Township and the information about the goals and recommendations below were developed.

1. Continue to evaluate, update, and improve programming options and the facilities that aid in these programming opportunities.

- Remain up to date on programming trends and changes within the community to adapt programming types accordingly.

- Ensure facilities meet the demands of programming by the Township and the Township approved organizations that provide supplemental programming options.
- Consider improvements to facilities or new facilities that will increase availability of the most sought-after amenities, where and when feasible.

2. Expand passive recreation programming opportunities.

- Develop guide for self-guided passive recreation programming opportunities.
- Increase mindfulness, meditation, and nutrition programming.
- Increase environmental programming offerings or availability.

3. Develop an Art in the Park program to engage local artists.

- Engage local artists to continue and expand programming in the parks through musical concerts, art walks, or theatric shows.
- Establish a system of commissioning local artists and a method of displaying art exhibits in public spaces.

4. Celebrate neighborhoods.

- Continue to work with the various civic groups in the Township to provide facilities for their events.
- Look to provide programming opportunities in neighborhoods that may not have any or have minimal programming options.

5. Improve the reservation system for scheduling field usage.

- Use a scheduling software that allows organizations and residents to see what facilities are available to aid in the scheduling process.
- Allow field permit information and field usage to be viewed to help make people aware of when fields are permitted.

PARK MAINTENANCE

Haverford Township’s parks and trails maintenance is handled by their Park Maintenance Department. In addition to park maintenance, the Park Maintenance Department is also responsible for maintaining public properties which includes road medians, paper streets, parking lots, historic sites, and sidewalks. The Park Maintenance Department is under the responsibility of the Director of Parks and Recreation, but the Park Maintenance Department has a Park Maintenance Supervisor who oversees the daily operations of the department. This chapter provides an overview of the Park Maintenance Department and offers goals, objectives, and recommendations to build upon the strides that the Park Department has already taken.

STAFFING

The Park Maintenance Department has a Park Maintenance Supervisor, 8 full-time staff and 5 part-time staff. The Township also hires 5 to 7 seasonal employees in the summer, which are a mixture of part-time and full-time depending on availability. In 2023, two new full-time positions were approved, and salaries were increased for seasonal and part-time employees.

Full-time employees work 40 hours a week, with nearly all their time dedicated to Park Maintenance tasks. Part-time employees work 29 hours a week with 100% of their time dedicated to Park Maintenance tasks. Seasonal employees work 40 hours a week, up to 16 weeks (about 4 months). While the seasonal employees are working for the Park Maintenance Department, all their time is dedicated to Park Maintenance tasks. This means that during peak Park Maintenance seasons, the Township has about 17.6 full-time equivalent (FTE’s), and about 12.6 FTE’s when there are no seasonal staff on board.

Generally, based on national standards, for a municipality Haverford’s size, they should have about 20.7 FTEs. During the summer months when the Park Maintenance has seasonal employees, the Township is about 3.1 FTEs below the national median. When there are no seasonal employees employed by the Park Maintenance Department, the Department has about 8.1 FTEs less than the national median.

Maintenance FTEs – Including Seasonal Maintenance Staff

	Median	Lower	Upper	Actual FTE	Comparison to Median
Haverford	20.7	11.1	36.0	17.6	-3.1

Maintenance FTEs – No Seasonal Maintenance Staff

	Median	Lower	Upper	Actual FTE	Comparison to Median
Haverford	20.7	11.1	36.0	12.6	-8.1

Maintenance Full-Time Equivalents calculated using NRPA findings for FTE per 10,000 residents, with NRPA’s findings that about 46% of Parks & Recreation Staff are Maintenance Staff.

Another way to understand the level of maintenance staff that may be needed to maintain the Township’s current parkland acreage is by determining the FTE to parkland acre ratio. Haverford has about 26 parkland acres per FTE when seasonal staff is on board, and about 37 acres of parkland per FTE without seasonal staff. The International City County Manager’s Association found that data indicated a 1 FTE per 18 to 20 acres of maintained parkland as a general standard. However, IMCA found that the best practice was 1 FTE per 12 parkland acres. NRPA found that municipalities nationwide had a median of 1 FTE per 9 parkland acres. The following table identifies how Haverford would compare to these findings based on their current parkland acres and staffing.

Maintenance FTEs based on Parkland Acres – Including Seasonal Maintenance Staff

	Median	Actual FTE	Comparison to Median
1 FTE per 9 Acres	51.8	17.6	-34.2
1 FTE per 12 Acres	38.8	17.6	-21.2
1 FTE per 18 Acres	25.9	17.6	-8.3
1 FTE per 20 Acres	23.3	17.6	-5.7

Maintenance FTEs based on Parkland Acres – No Seasonal Maintenance Staff

	Median	Actual FTE	Comparison to Median
1 FTE per 9 Acres	51.8	12.6	-39.2
1 FTE per 12 Acres	38.8	12.6	-26.2
1 FTE per 18 Acres	25.9	12.6	-13.3
1 FTE per 20 Acres	23.3	12.6	-10.7

Based on the standards and measures above, neighboring municipalities of Haverford Township have a similar park maintenance staffing levels. Neighboring municipalities also have varying levels of FTE deficits based on NRPA standards. In addition, neighboring municipalities have similar staffing to parkland acres ratios to Haverford Township. Some municipalities have larger parkland acres per FTE with more than 20 acres per FTE, while some have a lower ratio with about 10 acres less per FTE. These comparisons consider the population, number of parks, parkland acres, but do not consider types of facilities, and level of service.

Maintenance FTEs Comparison to Surrounding Municipalities – Including Seasonal Maintenance Staff

	Median	Lower	Upper	Actual FTE	Comparison to Median
Haverford	20.7	11.1	36.0	17.6	-3.1
Lower Merion	26.3	14.2	45.7	21	-5.3
Upper Darby	34.7	18.7	60.5	36*	1.3
Radnor	13.7	7.4	23.9	12	-1.7

**Includes up to 20 seasonal employees.*

Maintenance FTEs Comparison to Surrounding Municipalities – No Seasonal Maintenance Staff

	Median	Lower	Upper	Actual FTE	Comparison to Median
Haverford	20.7	11.1	36.0	12.6	-8.1
Lower Merion	26.3	14.2	45.7	18	-8.3
Upper Darby	34.7	18.7	60.5	16	-18.7
Radnor	13.7	7.4	23.9	12	-1.7

Maintenance staffing is very dependent on the level of service and maintenance that is required. For example, if a municipality has many acres that do not require mowing, they may require less staff, due to the number of manhours mowing requires. Lower maintenance related recommendations will be discussed later within this chapter.

Staffing has been a challenge for the Township, as it has become increasingly harder to hire staff, especially seasonal staff. The number of laborers in maintenance has been decreasing over the years, which has caused hiring maintenance staff to become increasingly difficult. This is only anticipated to become increasingly difficult as salary and wage expectations increase. To help combat these challenges the Director of Parks and Recreation, and the Park Maintenance Supervisor should work together to establish standards of work to support increased maintenance staff wages. If this approach does not help retain additional maintenance staff, the Department may need to consider identifying different approaches to overcome staffing shortages. This could include supplementing with additional part-time or seasonal employees, contracting out certain Park Maintenance tasks such as grass mowing.

ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE SUPPORT

In addition to the Park Maintenance Department there are some volunteer groups within the Township that help to maintain, care for, or improve the quality of the Township's parks and recreation facilities.

Some of these boards and groups include:

- **Parks & Recreation Board** which helps advise the Parks Department and the Board of Supervisors on Park operations, maintenance, and programming. The Board also assists with events and provides input on capital investment projects.
- **Ice Rink Advisory Board** focuses on the Skatium which has a budget and staff that is separate from the Parks and Recreation Department. Parks and Recreation and Parks Maintenance are not involved in any operational or maintenance activities for this facility. However, it is noted as the Skatium is an indoor ice rink facility that is owned by the Township.

- **The Grange Estate** is a Township owned historical property with a separate budget and staff. Park Maintenance does mow the property however no other recreation or maintenance activities are performed at this facility by the Park Maintenance Department.



The Grange Estate

- **The Environmental Advisory Council** advises the Township on various items, which sometimes coincide with parks and recreation initiatives or could be incorporated in Township owned parks and opens spaces.
- **The Sr. Citizens Advisory Council** can help inform the Township of the desires of the senior residents in the community. They can provide insight of programs and amenities in which are desired.
- **The Shade Tree Commission** helps maintain the tree canopy in the Township. They host plantings and advise the community on locations that would benefit from plantings.

Utilizing the above groups and working to integrate them through volunteer efforts could benefit the Parks Maintenance staff and vice versa. Continuing to develop partnerships not only with those listed above but other organizations that could help enhance the Townships parks is important and could serve as mutually beneficial partnerships.

DUTIES OF PARKS & RECREATION MAINTENANCE

The Park Maintenance Department and the Parks and Recreation Department has established priority parks and non-priority parks based on the amount of programming that occurs at the park site. Both priority and non-priority parks are maintained, with the priority parks being visited more frequently due to them being sites that are more heavily programmed and utilized by Township residents.

There are nine priority parks, which include:

- Andy Lewis Community Park (Haverford Reserve)
- Merry Place
- Grange Park
- Hilltop Park (Includes Hillside Park)
- Westgate Park
- Veterans Memorial Park
- Paddock Park
- Merwood Park
- Polo Field

These sites are visited at least on a weekly basis and includes trash pickup, mowing and weed whacking (as needed), clean up in pavilions, clean restrooms, and complete other maintenance tasks that may be specific to each park. While staff is on site, they take a visual inspection of the facility to identify any public safety hazards. In addition to these maintenance activities, department staff will respond to any resident concerns that are received via phone call or email.

Non-priority parks are visited at least once a month as they are less utilized by residents than the priority parks. When these sites are visited, the same tasks as the priority parks are conducted. However, these locations generally do not have restrooms or pavilions as these items require increased levels of maintenance. These sites are visited prior to their monthly scheduled routine maintenance if the Department is contacted by residents with a concern. These sites may be visited more often depending on the amount of mowing that is required. If the grass is not growing as quickly, the maintenance staff is able to complete their rotations in a shorter timeframe.

Athletic field maintenance is another task that is regularly completed by the Department when they are in season. Such tasks include mowing the fields, including the infields and outfields of the softball and

baseball fields, and lining the fields. The Department also maintains the support amenities to the fields such as fencing, bleachers, dugouts, and batting cages. The organizations that utilize the baseball fields are asked to drag the fields after each practice and game, and all organizations that utilize athletic fields are asked to assure that trashed is picked up. Some organizations assist in maintaining the fields maintenance above and beyond what is asked of them and what is currently offered by the Department.

In addition to routine maintenance, the Park Maintenance Department conducts bi-annual play structure inspections, utilizing City Reporter. If any defects are found repairs are scheduled by the Director of Parks and Recreation and Maintenance Supervisor. Immediate action is taken if the inspection notes that the play structure is unsafe. In the off-season, staff assists in the installation of play structures or other recreation amenities and complete any repairs that may have been deferred to late fall or winter. Field rehabilitation also occurs in the early spring as weather conditions allow.

The most time-consuming tasks for the Department include grass cutting, weed whacking, trash collection and playground mulching. Grass cutting takes the most time due to the amount of grass turf there is within the parks, and within other Township owned properties the Park Maintenance Department are responsible for maintaining. Another time-consuming task is maintaining the mulch, as it continuously needs to be replaced, turned, and refreshed throughout the year.

Trail Maintenance

The Township currently owns and maintains around 6 miles of trail, which include both natural and paved trails. As of now there are an additional 2 miles of trails planned to be developed in the next five years. The Parks Maintenance staff inspects the trails twice a week, Monday and Friday, while in season. This task is completed by two of the Parks Maintenance staff, and takes 4 hours to inspect the trails, as inspections are completed by foot. The Darby Creek and Pennsy Trails are mowed, and brush cut monthly from June through September, and vegetation is cut back occurs in the early summer. Invasive removal is completed on an as needed basis. Additional maintenance tasks on the trails may be completed based on inspections.



PennyTrail

Although trail maintenance may seem less time consuming than maintaining parks, it can take up a considerable amount of time. Within a month, trail maintenance accounts for about 120 hours, depending on the level of maintenance that is required. This is the equivalent of 4 employees, spending one week a month on trail maintenance. As additional trails are developed, the time to maintain the trails in the Township would increase and could require the need for additional maintenance staff to be hired.

Off-Season Maintenance

During the off-season Park Maintenance staff is utilized for the installation of planned playground and recreation amenities. Staff also completes maintenance items that may have been deferred from the busy season, such as non-safety related equipment repairs on play equipment, benches, pavilions or other recreation amenities. This may include prepping amenities for installs such as building benches and making signage. Staff also completes tree maintenance as capable during the off-season.

During the off-season the Park Maintenance Department staff works to winterize equipment and prepare for the winter weather. The Department staff is also utilized for plowing and salting during winter weather and help to clean up from storms.

OPERATIONS

The Park Maintenance Supervisor works to develop a schedule for maintenance tasks, inspection, and improvements. They work hand in hand with the Director of Parks and Recreation to develop a budget. During peak seasons the Maintenance Supervisor spends about 60% of their time in the field working with crew members.

About 4 to 5 full-time staff members are trained and assigned to be Crew Leaders. Crew Leaders are licensed to run equipment, drive vehicles and may be certified to spray pesticides and perform facility inspections. Crew Leaders oversee a team of about 8 to 10 staff that visit assigned parks each day while in season. While at each site the team will check for any safety or other concerns throughout the park. The Crew Leader logs the tasks performed and the time in which it took to complete the tasks into the logbook. The data collected by the logbooks includes personnel, tasks, time spent completing each task, equipment used to perform each

task, and the location. This data helps in developing schedules and understanding the time per task, as well as preparing the equipment that will be needed to complete a similar task in the future. Largely this data is used to establish the amount of time needed to complete each task while establishing a level of care.

A large challenge for the operations and maintenance of the Township's parks is that there is no Park Maintenance Management Plan that identifies the tasks and level of care needed for all parks, trails and public property maintained by the Department.

CONTRACTED WORK

Beyond Township paid staff, some work is contracted out. Contracted work often includes tasks or projects that are unable to be completed in house, such as concrete, carpentry, and fencing. In the recent past, median mowing was contracted out, but the level of service required was not being met and the tasks were taken back over by the Park Maintenance Department. When the median mowing was contracted it cost about \$1,000 a week, for about 30 weeks, for a total of approximately \$30,000. The Township may want to consider contracting median mowing maintenance services again, as this takes up a number of hours from the Departments staff which could be used on maintaining the parks and allowing more frequent maintenance to all park properties.

A large reason the department has limited contracted services is due to the training investment that is made into the departments staff.

TRAINING

Beyond on the job training, the Park Maintenance Department Staff is provided training opportunities. The staff is trained to install park facilities and structures, such as playground equipment, benches, and pavilions, as well as other trainings. Training offerings for full time staff include, Certified Pesticide Applicator, Certified Playground Safety Inspector, Parks Maintenance Specialist (PRPS Program), CDL license, Natural Landscapes Maintenance, and Organic Athletic Field Maintenance Training. Although this training may require an upfront cost, it provides cost savings to the Township over time, as installs are completed by staff and not contracted out.

It is a strength that the Park Maintenance Department is separate from the Public Works Department as it allows there to be a singular focus for staff, allowing them to limit competing priorities. Additionally, this allows the staff to become skilled in specific park maintenance tasks. The Park Maintenance Supervisor stays up to date on the latest park maintenance initiatives including but not limited to native plantings, organic lawn care, and sustainable facility upgrades and installations.

BUDGET

In 2023, the Park Maintenance Department budget was \$1,745,022. Wages accounted for 46% percent of the budget, and benefits accounted for an additional 25%, meaning that 71% of the Park Maintenance Department budget was for wages and benefits. An additional 21% was budgeted for items related to park utilities, equipment related expenses and operation related expenses. 8% of the budget was for specific maintenance related items at park facilities, with an additional 1% for open space maintenance.

The National Parks & Recreation Association compared the budget for Parks & Recreation Departments across the nation. They found that on average municipalities spend about 55% of their budget on Personnel Services, 38% on Operating Expenses, 5% on Capital Expenses not in the Capital Improvements Plan, and 2% on other items. Looking at Parks & Recreation Department Budget for both the Parks & Recreation and Park Maintenance, about 67% of the budget is allocated to Personnel Services, about 28% is for Operations, 5% is allocated to Capital Expenses, and under 1% is allocated to other items. This means that compared to the national average the Township spends about 12% more on their Personnel Services, and about 10% less on their operations.

Expenses	Amount	%	National %	% Difference
Capital Funds	\$203,000	5%	5%	0%
Operating Expenditures	\$1,145,153	28%	38%	-10%
Other	\$8,800	0%	2%	-2%
Personnel Services	\$2,770,167	67%	55%	12%

Another way to compare the budget and operating expenses of the Parks and Recreation department is by looking at the operating expenditures per parkland acre. The national median operating expense for one parkland acre for municipalities across the nation is \$7,388. For municipalities of 50,000 to 99,999 the median operating expense increases to \$9,108 per parkland acre. The Township budgets about \$8,856 per parkland acre. This is higher than the national median, it is lower than the median of municipalities of a similar size. The Township budgets about \$252 dollars less per parkland acre than municipalities of a similar size. Although this may not seem like a large difference, with 466 acres of parkland and open space, this would be a \$112,392 difference in the operating budget compared to the national median for municipalities of a similar size. It is also important to note that the Park Maintenance Department does maintain additional acreage that is not within the Township-owned parks and open spaces, such as medians.

	All Municipality Comparison			Municipalities of 50,000 to 99,999 Comparison		
	All Municipalities	Haverford Township	Comparison	50,000 to 99,999	Haverford Township	Comparison
Median	\$ 7,388	\$ 8,856	\$ 1,468	\$ 9,108	\$ 8,856	\$ (252)
Lower Quartile	\$ 3,521	\$ 8,856	\$ 5,335	\$ 5,434	\$ 8,856	\$ 3,422
Upper Quartile	\$ 17,668	\$ 8,856	\$ (8,812)	\$ 20,564	\$ 8,856	\$ (11,708)

A final comparison of the operating budget for the Parks and Recreation Department is the operating expenditures per capita. The national median is about \$95 per capita, and the median for municipalities of a comparable size is about \$121 per capita. When comparing the Townships 2023 operational budget per capita, \$82, to the median operating expense per capita for municipalities of a comparable size, there is a \$39 dollar difference per capita. This would total a budget that is about \$1,967,979 more than what the Township budgeted for 2023.

	All Municipality Comparison			Municipalities of 50,000 to 99,999 Comparison		
	All Municipalities	Haverford Township	Comparison	50,000 to 99,999	Haverford Township	Comparison
Median	\$ 95	\$ 82	\$ (13)	\$ 121	\$ 82	\$ (39)
Lower Quartile	\$ 53	\$ 82	\$ 29	\$ 74	\$ 82	\$ 8
Upper Quartile	\$ 173	\$ 82	\$ (91)	\$ 197	\$ 82	\$ (115)

PARK & STREET TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The development of a park and street tree management plan is an important tool in managing our community and urban forests and should be the first step in the process of caring for your community's trees. A management plan establishes a clear set of priorities and objectives which can be utilized as a guideline for creating and maintaining a healthy resource for everyone to enjoy. Tree maintenance is one of the most important things for a tree canopy and is worth the planning and investment. Regular maintenance of trees helps to ensure that they will continue to grow and thrive for many years.

The benefits of tree maintenance include:

- Enhances Tree Quality and Aesthetic
- Improves Safety
- Keeps Pests Away
- Boosts the Growth of Your Trees
- Improves Fruit Production
- Enhances Tree Stability
- Helps with Disease Prevention

Key components of a tree management plan include:

- Completing an Inventory
- Compiling Results
- Understanding Species Distribution
- Condition Assessment
- Identifying Maintenance Needs
- Pruning
- Planting

The plan involves working with a Certified Arborist, City Forester, or Urban Forester, to complete an inventory and analysis of the trees growing in your community parks and streetscapes. Inventories can range from very detailed field work to sample surveys that use statistical analysis to project the size, condition, and management needs of the community's trees. At minimum, the following information should be obtained: tree species, tree size in DBH (diameter breast height), tree location (each tree can be given a code for future inventory and assessments), tree condition, planting condition (sidewalk planting pit, park planting bed, lawn areas, etc.), specific pruning needs, and general comments.

Compile the results of the inventory and compare them to your management goals and objectives, paying particular attention to public safety issues, maintenance needs, and the value of the urban forest. Identify hazardous trees that pose a threat to people and property, trees that need to be trimmed away from traffic signs, street lighting, utility lines, and other potential problem spots. Also determine which trees need preventive maintenance such as ongoing watering (for young trees still being established), select spraying for insect/disease control, or removal of support stakes and guy wires.

Analyzing the species distribution within the total tree inventory can help your community plan to provide a balanced range of tree species so that no more than ten percent (10%) of any particular species of tree is growing along streets or in parks. New planting plans and plant schedules should address the need to provide balanced species distribution to avoid monocultures, thereby reducing the impact of severe insect or disease outbreaks that might target a specific tree population. By choosing appropriate species and distribution of trees to be planted in the community, the likelihood of severe insect or disease outbreak is reduced, and the maintenance of the trees can be more evenly distributed over time.

The overall health and condition of a community's trees must be fully assessed to develop an effective strategic management plan for their care and maintenance. It is important that a consistent and accurate assessment method be followed to determine the condition of trees. In most cases, a ranking system based on the following condition classes is used:

- **Good** – No apparent signs of physical damage, decay, disease or insect damage, or dead wood in the crown, limbs, or trunk.
- **Fair** – Minor signs of limited insect and disease infestation, structural faults and minor dead wood in the crown, limbs, or trunk.
- **Poor** – Tree is in general state of decline, exhibiting major disease or insect damage, physical defects, major dead wood in the crown or other serious defects.
- **Dead** – Greater than 90% of the crown contains dead wood.
- **Hazard** – Tree that poses an immediate threat to public safety.

The management plan should include an assessment of the maintenance needs of the trees, a strategy for the removal of hazard conditions, and the development of an operational maintenance program. An operational maintenance program can include pruning, irrigation, fertilization, cabling, and other programs on an "as need" basis.

In terms of public trees, public safety is the most important issue. Hazard trees can produce a considerable threat to the safety of people, animals, and property. Dead, split, and broken branches should be eliminated before they cause damage to people and property. Low-hanging, live branches should be removed so that they do not interfere with pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Branches that obscure clear vision of warning signs, traffic signals, or other traffic must also be removed.

Additionally, other maintenance needs of the trees may be examined, including stump removal, utility trimming, and complete tree removal. The management plan should develop a timetable and strategy for the completion of all maintenance tasks over a period of time determined by budget, personnel and equipment capabilities. Disposal of the tree debris, including recycling operations, should always be considered in the maintenance plan for your community. Also,

the utilities who service your community should be contacted as a potential source of assistance in the maintenance of trees growing along the Township roadways.

Pruning is a very important management measure that is often overlooked in urban forest management because of its cost. But it has been proven that proper pruning can greatly extend the health, safety, and life of trees. A cycle of pruning maintenance for individual trees can help create a balanced community forest management program.

Pruning helps assure that trees remain structurally sound, while appearing more aesthetic. However, improper pruning can result in costly or irreversible damage to trees, which is why it is important that the Township work with a Certified Arborist to perform the pruning work. There are three basic types of pruning that can be used to address most situations.

These types include:

Crown Cleaning: includes the removal of dead, diseased, obstructing, split, and/or broken branches that are 2 inches in diameter or greater. Limbs that are susceptible to failure from dense or heavy foliar masses should be thinned.

Crown Raising: includes the removal of lower tree branches to allow for safe movement of vehicles and pedestrian under the canopy of the tree. Limbs above the sidewalk shall be no lower than 8 feet. Limbs above the road shall be no lower than 18 feet.

Crown Reduction: includes reducing the overall mass by thinning out the top and sides or just removing individual limbs of the tree. Reduction pruning is commonly associated with pruning away from buildings, structures, or overhead utility wires.

The basis of these recommendations come from the ANSI Standard A300.

A key objective to be addressed in a management plan is the identification of planting locations. Planting locations should be identified during a separate visual survey or a complete inventory. There are many benefits to planting trees and sustaining a community's urban forest. Trees help tie a community together and raise the quality of life for its residents.

In many cases urban forests are aging and consequently declining therefore the planting of new trees must become a priority. Before tree planting, a thoughtful plan must be developed and take several issues into consideration. What is the function of this planting? What are the limiting factors at this site (overhead wires, confined root zone, soil conditions, climate conditions, etc.)? How will these new plantings be maintained? Who will be involved in this planting? These are just some of the questions that should be addressed before planting.

The development of a tree planting plan should not only address these issues, but it should also specify the exact planting requirements. It is best to work with a knowledgeable professional on the planting specifications to include the species to be planted, the size, the spacing, the size of the root ball, and the hole that it is to be planted in, as well as other unique factors.

In addition to a tree maintenance plan and routine maintenance, the Township should work with the Tree Tenders and Shade Tree Commission to help enhance the Township's Tree Canopy . This could include the coordination of efforts to identify tree planting areas, education to the community, and utilization of a recommended tree species list.

RECOMMENDED TREE SPECIES LIST

As part of the planning process, the recommended tree list developed by the Shade Tree Commission was used as a base to develop a recommended tree list for the Townships parks. This list is included in Appendix D of this plan.

NAME	GROWTH RATE	LIGHT	SOIL	FALL COLOR	NATIVE	WILDLIFE BENEFIT	SUGGESTED USE
Amelanchier canadensis (Shadbush)	Medium 9-10 over 8-8 years	Shade - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Fruits, Twigs and Leaves	C P
Cornus florida (Dogwood)	Medium to Fast	Shade - Partial Shade	Moist	No	Yes	Food Source - Fruits	C P
Prunella virginiana (Black Cherry)	Medium	Full Sun - Light Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	No	Food Source - Fruits	C P
Amelanchier canadensis (Shadbush)	Medium 9-10 over 8-8 years	Shade - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Fruits, Twigs and Leaves	C P
Prunella virginiana (Black Cherry)	Medium	Full Sun - Light Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	No	Food Source - Fruits	C P
Amelanchier canadensis (Shadbush)	Medium 9-10 over 8-8 years	Shade - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Fruits, Twigs and Leaves	C P
Prunella virginiana (Black Cherry)	Medium	Full Sun - Light Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	No	Food Source - Fruits	C P
Amelanchier canadensis (Shadbush)	Medium 9-10 over 8-8 years	Shade - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Fruits, Twigs and Leaves	C P
Prunella virginiana (Black Cherry)	Medium	Full Sun - Light Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	No	Food Source - Fruits	C P
Amelanchier canadensis (Shadbush)	Medium 9-10 over 8-8 years	Shade - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Fruits, Twigs and Leaves	C P
Prunella virginiana (Black Cherry)	Medium	Full Sun - Light Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	No	Food Source - Fruits	C P
Amelanchier canadensis (Shadbush)	Medium 9-10 over 8-8 years	Shade - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Fruits, Twigs and Leaves	C P
Prunella virginiana (Black Cherry)	Medium	Full Sun - Light Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	No	Food Source - Fruits	C P

LOW MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPE ALTERNATIVES

There are several strategies that can help reduce the number of maintenance hours that are used to keep parks and other Township properties healthy, functioning well, and looking their best. Two key strategies are utilizing No Mow lawn mixes and native plant species plantings.

No Mow Lawn Mixes

These are a specially designed blend of six slow-growing fine fescue grasses. These cool season grasses are recommended for planting in northern climates of the United States and Canada (above approximately 37 degrees North Latitude).

The blend of fine fescue grasses in No Mow combines the characteristics of each variety to create a turf that:

- Grows to form a dense sod
- Thrives in full sun to partial shade
- Does not require fertilization
- Needs minimal watering (only during extended dry periods)
- Resists most turf grasses diseases
- Biologically reduces weed growth
- Reduces lawn maintenance dramatically
- Serves as an ecological alternative to traditional high maintenance lawns

No Mow thrives in full sun to partial shade on any reasonably well-drained soil, and is particularly well suited to growing on dry, sandy or rocky soils with low Nitrogen levels. Nitrogen fertilizer stimulates leafy growth, which only increases the need for mowing. The application of excessive nitrogen fertilizer can actually damage fine fescue grasses, so minimal or no fertilization is usually best. No Mow is not recommended for damp soils, or heavy clay soils with less than four inches of rich loamy topsoil.

An established No Mow lawn requires no additional watering, except during extended dry periods in summer. Occasional, deep watering once a week or so provides moisture to the lower roots, and is far superior to frequent, shallow watering. Water before the grass begins to turn brown.

Fertilizers are not recommended for use on No Mow. The use of lawn fertilizers that contain phosphorus are not allowed in many communities and near lakes

and streams, due to the negative effects on water quality and algae blooms. Do not apply fertilizers that are high in nitrogen. Fine fescue grasses require only a bare minimum of nitrogen. Application of nitrogen can damage fine fescue turf and is strongly discouraged.

No Mow lawns may require occasional mowing during the first two years of establishment to control weeds, especially with lawns that are seeded in spring. Most annual weeds can be controlled by mowing at a height of four inches in the first growing season.

Once a No Mow Lawn is Established, there are Several Mowing Options:

No Mowing: This results in a turf with leaves six to eight inches in high, that will drape over one another to create a low-growing meadow effect. Seedheads, two feet tall, will appear in early to mid-June. The seed stalks will typically fall to the ground by late summer, and the lawn will revert to its normal height of six to eight inches.

Late Spring Mowing: Many people mow their No Mow lawn once a year in June when the seedheads appear. Mowing the grass to a height of four inches removes the seedheads and the turf will re-grow to its normal six-to-eight-inch height. IE NURSERY

Fall Mowing: This is a good option for No Mow Lawns under trees or in open woodlands. The fescue grasses usually, will not form seedheads when grown in the shade, so June mowing is often not needed. However, leaves from deciduous trees must either be raked up and removed or chopped up with a mulching mower in order to prevent smothering of the turf over winter. To encourage denser turf growth, No Mow lawns should be mowed to a height of one to two inches in late fall, usually around Thanksgiving. This removes dense leaf growth to expose the soil, thus encouraging higher stem density and a thicker turf the next year.

Regular Mowing: For a manicured, traditional lawn look, regular mowing can be done once a month, or anytime the grass reaches a height of five to six inches.

Fine fescues should not be mowed any lower than 3.5 - 4 inches.

Late Spring, plus Fall Mowing: Mowing twice a year is a very popular maintenance strategy.

Many communities found that they preferred to mow them once in the late spring, and once in the fall. Low mow grasses are best in areas that are not indented to be played on such as sport fields, and it is always best to keep a mown lawn edge between No Mow zones and any walkways and/or adjacent properties.

Native Plant Species Plantings

Another way to reduce frequent landscape maintenance is through mass plantings of native shrub, grass, and perennial species in locations of parks, open spaces, and passive recreation areas that are not used for active recreation programs or activities. Like No Mow lawns, these are best used in more natural park settings and should have a mown lawn area separating these plantings from trails, walkways, and adjacent properties. Note that these planting areas benefit from seasonal maintenance and site inspection to ensure that invasive plant species that may emerge are identified and removed quickly.

Both native plantings and low mow grasses will require an up-front capital investment for seeding, planting, staff training, and initial maintenance and watering during plant establishment but over time these requirements will reduce significantly and cut down the long-term maintenance costs and hours compared to traditional high maintenance turf grass areas.

FEEDBACK RECEIVED

During the public engagement component of this planning process, there were various opportunities for the community to provide feedback and input on park maintenance at Township-owned parks. From the feedback it was noted that many feel that the Township does an adequate job maintaining the parks and their amenities but noted that there are some repairs and replacements, or additional maintenance they would like to see. Overall, residents gave the Townships Park Maintenance 3.7 stars out of 5. This meant many residents felt the maintenance was adequate, but that there is room for improvement. Some of the most common items that were brought up related to maintenance was field condition and maintenance as well as equipment and amenities at parks needing repair or replacement.

As part of the second community survey residents were able to provide feedback on why they may not visit a specific park. Some noted that it was security related, parking, while others noted repairs or maintenance concerns. This feedback will help the Township and the Department work in improving their parks, and better understand the level of service that residents are expecting. However, it should be noted that there are limitations on what the Department can achieve with current staffing and budget levels. If the level of service needs to improve, then staffing and budget will need to be increased to meet desired expectations.

MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are maintenance related recommendations that are based on the feedback, community engagement, conversations with the Parks and Recreation Department and Park Maintenance Staff, and comparisons to standards and communities of a similar size.



Staffing

1. The Township should look to hire three additional full-time Park Maintenance Staff personnel. These hires should be phased over the next three years to determine if there is enough work to continue sustaining the staff through winter, with an increased number of personnel. The Director of Parks and Recreation and Park Maintenance Supervisor should meet annually to understand staffing and utilize their logs to help support the hiring of additional staff, if appropriate.
2. The Park Maintenance Supervisor and the Director of Parks and Recreation should utilize the work logs to determine how many hours are needed to provide the current level of care in the Township. This data should then be used to determine the future needs for additional staff in the Department to provide a higher level of care that is expected from the Township and its residents.

3. Hire an ISA Certified Arborist and Integrated Pest Management Specialist to establish a tree maintenance and management program. Multi-year contract to establish program and then work with maintenance crew and volunteers to identify maintenance items, determine tree replacement and plantings, develop an integrated pest management plan for bug and disease infestations and prevention, organize tree plantings and maintenance events with volunteers and staff. As an alternative to hiring an ISA Certified Arborist, the Township could contract an ISA Certified Arborist and Integrated Pest Management Specialist.
4. Hire small engine mechanic to establish an equipment maintenance schedule focused on preventative maintenance.
5. Dedicate one crew to trail maintenance.



Partnerships

1. Establish relationship with Delaware County Penn State Extension Office to recruit volunteers from the Master Watershed Stewards and Master Gardeners programs. These programs train volunteers in horticulture and environmental stewardship in return for service to their community.
 - The Penn State Master Gardener Program was established to assist Cooperative Extension provide horticultural knowledge and skills to local communities and the gardening public.
 - The Penn State Master Watershed Steward program was established to strengthen local capacity for management and protection of watersheds, streams, and rivers, by educating and empowering volunteers across the commonwealth.
2. Arborist should collaborate with the Shade Tree Commission, Tree Tenders and Penn State Master Watershed Steward to organize the Tree Planting and Invasive Species Management in Natural Areas Pilot Program.



Policies & Procedures

1. Continue to develop a maintenance schedule based on the maintenance log books. Annually check the logs to prepare the upcoming season schedule.
2. Develop and implement a tree maintenance and health program with an ISA Certified Arborist.
3. Develop a Level of Care Policy that is both desired and achievable by the Department. Review this Policy with the Parks and Recreation Board, Township Manager, and Commissioners. Discuss how the changes to the Level of Care impact the budget and staffing. Establish consent on policy changes.
4. Establish an incentive program that rewards staff for leadership skills.



Park Maintenance Operations

1. Purchase a work utility vehicle (UTV) and outfit with tools for trail maintenance.
2. Install storage sheds at priority parks that are located the furthest from the Maintenance building, such as the CREC. These shed(s) should be used to store small maintenance equipment and UTV where appropriate.
3. Acquire land for satellite maintenance shed and office on opposite side of Township or determine a site at an existing park or Township Owned land that this could be located at.



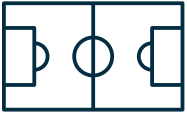
Contracts

1. Contract median mowing. Stipulate schedule and terms contractor must abide by.



Training

1. Encourage staff to participate in training programs that correlate directly with their work. Identify teams to specialize in different topics. Seek courses from Penn State Extension, botanical gardens, LTAP, etc.



Recreation Facilities

1. As play equipment ages out and is replaced, install poured-in-place safety surface. Train staff to install to reduce installation costs.
2. Upgrade one (1) natural turf field to artificial turf. When selecting the most appropriate location for an artificial turf field support amenities should be considered such as parking, restrooms, etc.
3. To improve health of natural fields, implement a closing rotation to allow each field to “rest” several times per year. Work with the sport organizations to determine the number of fields needed each season to plan field rests and provide them information on why this is important to the overall health and quality of the fields.
4. In an effort to add unique features and create a sense of place for each park, establish a theme for each park and order distinct equipment for each theme. Place order for multiple items from one vendor to receive bulk discounts and incentives.
5. When facilities and amenities are upgraded, make sure the upgrades meet current ADA standards. This includes parking, walkways, ramps, seating areas, equipment, and amenities with inclusive options, etc. Walkways should be wide enough to accommodate two wheelchairs / strollers passing.
6. When changing programming within a park, maintain the original intent of the park.



Revenue

1. Determine an appropriate rental fee for sports teams to maintain the facilities they use. These facilities may not seem hard to maintain, but to appropriately maintain these facilities an additional fee, or increased fee may need to be charged to sports organizations. The Township should have a two-tiered fee, with a lesser fee for Township organizations and rentals.
2. Establish two tier pavilion rental fee with resident and non-resident rates.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Throughout the planning process many residents discussed their vision for the Township’s Park Maintenance and level of care desires. Considering the input from public engagement, conversations with the Township and stakeholders, previous planning efforts in the Township and the information about the goals and recommendations below were developed.

1. Mitigate litter and vandalism.

- Provide trash receptacles at each facility and routinely monitor and remove full receptacles.
- Immediately remove graffiti and address vandalism.
- Provide a hotline to report damaged/broken equipment, that includes a response and follow up procedure.

2. Prioritize maintenance throughout all Township Parks.

- Develop maintenance standards.
- Evaluate the conditions of each park and prioritize under maintained areas to bring them up to standards.

3. Provide low maintenance amenity alternatives.

- Select amenities and materials that are not maintenance intensive.
- Develop low maintenance landscapes by evaluating current landscapes and transform low use, high maintenance areas to low maintenance, natural areas, such as lawn areas to meadow.

4. Maintain trails in a safe and sustainable condition.

- Assure trails are free of trash and debris, hazardous roots and limbs.
- Maintain stormwater management along trails in the Township. Assure that trails are free of water and culverts and other drainage structures are free of debris and free flowing.
- Maintain an appropriate vertical clearance along trails.
- Evaluate dedicating one crew to trail maintenance.
- Purchase a work utility vehicle (UTV) and outfit with tools for trail maintenance.

5. Work to develop a more efficient and effective Park Maintenance Department.

- The Township should look to hire three additional full-time Park Maintenance Staff personnel. These hires should be phased over the next three years to determine if there is enough work to continue sustaining the staff through winter, with an increased number of personnel.
- Hire small engine mechanic to establish an equipment maintenance schedule focused on preventative maintenance.
- The Park Maintenance Supervisor and the Parks and Recreation Director should utilize the work logs to determine how many hours are needed to provide the current level of care in the Township.
- Determine if it is appropriate to contact out specific time-consuming maintenance tasks.
- Enact, enhance or update policy and procedures to help meet the level of service the community desires.
- Determine if it would be beneficial for a satellite maintenance shed or office to be located on the east side of the Township to decrease travel times.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Board of Commissioners' approval of this plan was the first step towards implementation of the outlined goals, objectives, and recommendations. The implementation of this plan will happen over the next 10 to 20 years, with some goals, objectives and recommendations being achieved in a shorter timeframe. Many of the goals, objectives, and recommendations will require time, funds, public support, and partners to be implemented. This section of the plan is intended to help guide the Township through the implementation process, while providing implementation tables that prioritize the goals, objectives, and recommendations in this plan.

IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations below have been developed to guide the Township through the implementation of the goals and objectives outlined in this plan.

1. The Park and Recreation Board along with the Parks and Recreation Director and Assistant Director should be the driving force of the implementation of this plan. The Board, Director and Assistant Director may need to utilize additional Township Staff and technical professionals to assist on the implementation and prioritization of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan's goal, objectives, and recommendations.

To assist the implementation of this plan, there will need to be continuous public support beyond Department Staff and the Board. It is recommended that the Board, Director, and Assistant Director take the lead while enlisting additional Township Staff and technical as needed. The Board, Director and Assistant Director may determine there is a need for a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Committee that focuses on the implementation of this Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Either the Board, or the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Committee, at the direction of the Director and the Assistant Director will help prioritize the goals, objectives and recommendations from this plan, and aid with the other recommendations outlined below.

2. Collaborate with various Township entities (groups, organizations, businesses, individuals, others) to implement the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Nearly all plans need coordination and support from various Township entities to aid in implementation. There are groups and organizations within the Township that could assist in meeting the goals and objectives outlined in this plan, and these efforts should be coordinated. Utilizing and partnering with these organizations will allow implementation to happen at a faster pace, while also limiting the duplication of efforts and rooting the plan deeper into the community. Some of those groups and organizations have been identified while others have yet to be identified. Identifying these groups and organization can be supported by the Board.

3. Pursue grants and other funding sources on an annual basis to support the implementation of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and propose potential matching commitments as part of the annual budget. If necessary, the Township should retain technical professionals to support grant applications and management.

Financing could be a continuing challenge towards implementation and the Township should utilize a combination of Township staff and technical professionals to seek, prepare and manage grants. Preparing grant applications and grant administration can be a time-consuming process. To ensure that the Township pursues all possible grants and staff is not overwhelmed with grant management, the Township should either dedicated a staff member for this effort or seek and retain a technical professional to support these efforts as needed.

4. Provide regular reports at Board of Commissioners meetings on the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan implementation, that are also shared with the community.

Keeping elected officials, Township Staff and the public updated on the progress toward the implementation of the plan is important. Regular engagement through the form of reports in a public forum is one method to maintain an open line of communication between the Board of Commissioners and those working on plan implementation. Township Staff or a representative from the committee should provide regular updates on the progress towards the implementation of the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

5. Assess community values, opinions and priorities related to Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan goals, objectives and/or projects over the lifetime of the document (~20 years) by regularly utilizing feedback and engagement methods.

This Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan sets a vision, goals, objectives, and recommendations for the next 10 to 20 years, however these are based on the current community and projected future of the community. Knowing that communities change over time not only from a demographic perspective, but so will their desires, needs and wants. Public engagement and feedback will allow the Committee to prioritize the implementation of the goals, objectives, and recommendations. The Committee and Township Staff should work to determine the best way to gather feedback to help assure the prioritization of the goals and objectives as the community changes over time.

IMPLEMENTATION TABLES

The following are implementation tables that identify and prioritize the goals, objectives, and recommendations included within this plan. Utilizing the implementation recommendations as well as these tables should help serve the Township as guide for at least the next 10 years. Some of these items are short-term, some are long-term, and some will be on-going.

Included within each table are the following:

Goals

These were the goals that were developed as part of the planning process.

Objectives

These are under the goals and are actions or tasks that will help meet the desired outcomes of the goals. As a note some objectives may have sub-objectives underneath them.

Priority

This is the level in which this objective should be a priority when determining what to tackle first, along with the timeline. As mentioned, priorities can change overtime, so it is important that these tables get updated and reviewed regularly.

Timeline

This is the recommended timeline to implement the recommendation. Some will be short-term which is anticipated to be 1-3 years, mid term 4-6 years and long-term 7-10 years. Some of these are also listed as on-going and this means that once implemented it should continue to be implemented.

Lead / Support

This helps to identify who should be taking the lead on accomplishing the objective, or organizing the stakeholders needed to accomplish the objective.

Funding Source

This column identifies potential funding sources for the objective; however, these could change over time. For example, a new grant program could be introduced that would help fund the implementation of one of the objectives.

Cost

This column provides a general cost that would be associated with implementing the objective.

- \$ - New estimated cost up to \$50,000
- \$\$ - New estimated cost \$50,000 to \$100,000
- \$\$\$ - New estimated cost of \$100,000 or more
- N/A is noted where there is not an anticipated new cost

Implementation Table : Park & Recreation Facilities

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Lead / Support	Funding Source	Cost	
1. Update and enhance the Townships existing facilities.						
1.1	Integrate into existing and construct new features and amenities that promote visitor connections and meet the needs of the community as it changes over time.	Medium	Short Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget, Capital Improvements, DCNR	\$-\$\$\$
1.2	Diversify the variety of amenities by looking to integrate nature play, water play, adventure play, thematic play and destination play into the Township's parks.	Medium	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget, Capital Improvements, DCNR	\$-\$\$\$
1.3	Ensure that parks are easily navigable and have comprehensive signage.	Medium	Short Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Park Maintenance	Township Budget, DCNR	\$
1.4	Provide more space for informal play, and gatherings.	Medium	Short Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Department	Township Budget	\$
1.5	Provide amenities within parks that provide spaces for more programmed events.	Medium	Long Term	Parks & Recreation Department	Township Budget, Grants	\$-\$\$\$
1.6	Regularly survey the community to identify their desires and or needs within the Township owned parks.	Medium	Mid-Term & On-Going	Park & Recreation Department	Township Budget	\$
2. Incorporate nature into the existing parks.						
2.1	Continue to create spaces, places and trails that allow people to connect with and experience nature.	Medium	Mid-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Organizations	Township Budget, Grants	\$-\$\$\$
2.2	Continue to use and expand educational signage throughout the Township to inform the community about the importance of natural and environmental features located within the parks.	High	Mid-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Organizations	Township Budget, Grants, Sponsorships	\$
2.3	Continue to increase native plantings within parks, while working to remove non-native and invasive species.	High	Short Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Park Maintenance	Township Budget	\$-\$\$
2.4	Increase shade trees within parks.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Park Maintenance, Shade Tree & Tree Tenders	Township Budget, Grants, Tree Donations	\$-\$\$

Implementation Table : Park & Recreation Facilities (Continued)

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Lead/Support	Funding Source	Cost	
3. Create welcoming spaces and places for social interactions.						
3.1	Provide comfortable and safe places that enable formal and informal social interactions and experiences.	Medium	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget, Grants	\$-\$\$
3.2	Seek to update ADA amenities to offer a like experience for park visitors of all abilities while aiming to utilize universal and inclusive design.	High	Short Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget, Grants	\$-\$\$\$
3.3	Determine the feasibility of extending the hours of operation at the CREC.	Low	Short Term	Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget	\$-\$\$
Additional Recommendations						
1	To improve health of natural fields, implement a closing rotation to allow each field to “rest” several times per year. Work with the sports organizations to determine the number of fields needed each season to plan field rests and provide them information on why this is important to the overall health and quality of the fields.	Medium	Short Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director	N/A	N/A
2	Consider the feasibility of upgrading one (1) natural turf field to artificial turf.	Low	Mid to Long Term	Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget, Grants	\$\$\$
3	Partner with organizations in the Township to help with the implementation of initiatives.	High	Short Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Civic Associations, Organizations	Township Budget, Grants	\$

Implementation Table : Open Space & Natural Resources

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Lead/Support	Funding Source	Cost	
1. Protect and enhance open space lands and stream corridors.						
1.1	Restore and enhance stream corridors and open spaces utilizing native vegetation, while working to remove invasive species.	High	Long-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance, Volunteers & Partnerships	Grants, Donation, Township Budget	\$-\$\$
1.2	Seek acquisition, conservation easements, and access easements to connect open spaces and stream corridors.	Low	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Planning & Zoning Department	Grants, Donation, Township Budget	\$-\$\$\$
1.3	Implement ordinance recommendations to protect stream corridors.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Planning & Zoning Department, Parks & Recreation Director, Special Project Coordinator	Township Budget	\$
2. Provide opportunities to connect with nature.						
2.1	Develop educational signage within open spaces and along trails to provide environmental education opportunities.	High	Short Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Partnerships	Sponsorships, Township Budget, Grants	\$
2.2	Increase community access to open spaces and stream corridors.	Medium	Long-Term	Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget, Grants	\$-\$\$\$
3. Increase, preserve, manage, and protect the Township's tree canopy.						
3.1	When heritage trees are removed, and replaced, provide additional permanent or temporary shade alternatives where needed, as well as provide for mitigation of stormwater runoff.	Medium	Long-Term	Parks & Recreation Director, Shade Tree, Tree Tenders	Township Budget, Grants, Tree Donations	\$

Implementation Table : Open Space & Natural Resources (Continued)

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Lead/Support	Funding Source	Cost	
<p>4. Develop a plan to enhance, grow and maintain the Township's tree canopy, open spaces and natural resources.</p>						
4.1	Hire or contract an ISA Certified Arborist and Integrated Pest Management Specialist to establish a tree maintenance and management program. Prior to undertaking this endeavor the Township should evaluate if current staff in the Township could fill these roles.	High	Mid-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Tree Crew	Township Budget	\$\$
4.2	Continue and enhance collaboration with the Shade Tree Commission, Tree Tenders and Penn State Master Watershed Steward to organize the Tree Planting and Invasive Species Management in Natural Areas Pilot Program.	Medium	Mid-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Special Project Coordinator	Township Budget, Grants	\$

Implementation Table : Trails & Connectivity

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Lead/Support	Funding Source	Cost	
1. Expand and enhance the trail and greenway network, including Circuit Trails, regional trails and local trails, to provide a safe place for recreation, increased community connectivity, and access to community amenities.						
1.1	Regularly coordinate with trail, greenway, and transportation organizations in the region to ensure opportunities to connect are prioritized.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Township Staff, Public Works, PennDOT, Trail Organizations, DVRPC, Delaware County Planning, Etc.	Township Budget	\$
1.2	Coordinate regularly with adjacent municipalities and have Township representation at multi-municipal trail, greenway, and park meetings.	Medium	Short-Term & On-Going	Township Staff, Parks & Recreation Director, Adjacent Municipalities	Township Budget	\$
1.3	Develop a legal Official Map for Haverford Township that includes trails, connectivity and open spaces components.	Medium	Short-Term & On-Going	Township Staff, Delaware County Planning	Township Budget	\$
2. Improve and enhance trail related resources and amenities within the Township.						
2.1	Install directional and interpretive signage throughout the trail and park network.	Low	Short Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Park Maintenance	Grants, Township Budget, Special Project Coordinator	\$
2.2	Provide rest areas and benches throughout the trail network, that serve as social hubs and enhance the trail user experience.	Low	Long-Term	Parks & Recreation Director, Trail Organizations	Grants, Township Budget, Partnerships	\$-\$\$\$
3. Form a Trails and Connectivity citizen-led group focused on increased opportunities for active transportation improvements within the Township.						
3.1	Work with the Township and Community to develop temporary installations focused on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements to transportation corridors that are not conducive to walking and bicycling.	Low	Short Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Trail Organizations	Grants, Township Budget, Project Coordination	\$-\$\$
3.2	Continue to host an annual community event focused on trails and connectivity.	Medium	Short Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Trail Organizations	Grants, Township Budget, Partnerships	\$

Implementation Table : Trails & Connectivity (Continued)

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Lead/Support	Funding Source	Cost	
4. Develop a walking and biking network to provide a safe place for recreation, non-motorized travel, increased community connectivity, and access to community amenities.						
4.1	Develop a walking and biking network of pedestrian sidewalks, on-road and off-road bicycle facilities, trails, greenways, and intersection improvements.	High	Long-Term & On-Going	Township Staff	Grants, Township Budget, Project Coordination	\$-\$\$\$
4.2	Continuously build upon the network of active transportation infrastructure in the Township.	High	Long-Term & On-Going	Township Staff	Grants, Township Budget, Project Coordination	\$-\$\$\$
4.3	Prepare a list of missing connections. Update annually.	Medium	Short Term & On-Going	Township Staff	Township Budget	\$
4.4	Routinely survey the community to identify needs and desires regarding the active transportation network in the Township.	Medium	Short Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget	\$
5. Provide safe, sustainable, multimodal recreation and transportation options for people of all abilities.						
5.1	Prioritize Township projects that provide safe, accessible access for all.	High	Short Term & On-Going	Township Staff	Grants, Township Budget, Project Coordination	\$-\$\$\$
5.2	Provide bicycling and public transportation education for people of all ages.	Low	Short Term & On-Going	Township Staff	Grants, Township Budget, Project Coordination	\$-\$\$\$

Implementation Table : Programming

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Lead/Support	Funding Source	Cost	
1. Continue to evaluate, update, and improve programming options and the facilities that aid in these programming opportunities.						
1.1	Remain up to date on programming trends and changes within the community to adapt programming types accordingly.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Department - Programmers	Township Budget	\$
1.1.1	Provide culturally responsive programs, park designs and outreach.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Department - Programmers	Township Budget	\$
1.1.2	Look to assure staff is diverse and presentative of the community served.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Department	Township Budget	\$
1.1.3	Assure that low impact, passive and educational programs are being provided to residents.	Medium	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Department - Programmers	Township Budget	\$
1.1.4	Increase lunch time programming and pop-up events.	Low	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Department - Programmers	Township Budget	\$
1.1.5	Utilize on-line registration and participation data to assure that programming continues to meet the desires of the community within the means of the Department.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Department - Programmers	Township Budget	\$
1.2	Ensure facilities meet the demands of programming by the Township and the Township approved organizations that provide supplemental programming options.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Parks & Recreation Department - Programmers	Township Budget, Grants	\$-\$\$\$
1.2.1	Meet regularly with various organizations that offer programming opportunities to become more efficient and effective when providing programming to Township residents.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Parks & Recreation Department - Programmers	Township Budget	\$-\$\$\$
1.3	Consider improvements to facilities or new facilities that will increase availability of the most sought-after amenities, where and when feasible.	Medium	Long-Term	Parks & Recreation Director, Parks & Recreation Department - Programmers	Township Budget, Grants	\$-\$\$\$

Implementation Table : Programming (Continued)

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Lead/Support	Funding	Cost	
2. Expand passive recreation programming opportunities.						
2.1	Develop guide for self-guided passive recreation programming opportunities.	Medium	Mid-Term	Parks & Recreation Department - Programmers	Township Budget, Grants, Sponsorships	\$
2.2	Increase mindfulness, meditation, and nutrition programming.	Medium	Mid-Term	Parks & Recreation Department - Programmers	Township Budget	\$
2.3	Increase environmental programming offerings or availability.	Medium	Mid-Term	Parks & Recreation Department - Programmers	Township Budget	\$
3. Develop an Art in the Park program to engage local artists.						
3.1	Engage local artists to continue and expand programming in the parks through musical concerts, art walks, or theatric shows.	Medium	Mid-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget	\$-\$\$
3.2	Establish a system of commissioning local artists and a method displaying art exhibits in public spaces.	Low	Mid-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget	\$-\$\$
4. Celebrate neighborhoods.						
4.1	Continue to work with the various civic groups in the Township to provide facilities for their events.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Civic Groups	Township Budget	\$
4.2	Look to provide programming opportunities in neighborhoods that may not have any or have minimal programming options.	High	Mid-Term	Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget	\$

Implementation Table : Maintenance

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Lead / Support	Funding Source	Cost	
1. Mitigate litter and vandalism.						
1.1	Provide trash receptacles at each facility and routinely monitor and remove full receptacles.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance	N/A	N/A
1.2	Immediately remove graffiti and address vandalism.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance	N/A	N/A
1.3	Provide a hotline to report damaged/broken equipment, that includes a response and follow up procedure.	Medium	Short-Term	Park Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget	\$
2. Prioritize maintenance throughout all Township Parks.						
2.1	Develop maintenance standards.	High	Short-Term	Parks & Recreation Director, Park Maintenance Supervisor	Township Budget	\$
2.2	Evaluate the conditions of each park and prioritize under maintained areas to bring them up to standards.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Park Maintenance Supervisor	Township Budget	\$
3. Provide low maintenance amenity alternatives.						
3.1	Select amenities and materials that are not maintenance intensive.	Medium	Short-Term & On-Going	Parks & Recreation Director, Park Maintenance Supervisor	Township Budget, Grants	\$-\$\$
3.2	Develop low maintenance landscapes by evaluating current landscapes and transform low use, high maintenance areas to low maintenance, natural areas, such as lawn areas to meadow.	Medium	Short -Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance Supervisor	Township Budget, Grants	\$-\$\$
4. Maintain trails in a safe and sustainable condition.						
4.1	Assure trails are of trash and debris, hazardous roots and limbs.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance	Township Budget	\$
4.2	Maintain stormwater management along trails in the Township. Assure that trails are free of water and culverts and other drainage structures are free of debris and free flowing.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance	Township Budget	\$
4.3	Maintain an appropriate vertical clearance along trails.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance	Township Budget	\$

Implementation Table : Maintenance (Continued)

Action		Priority	Timeframe	Lead/Support	Funding Source	Cost
4.4	Evaluate the feasibility of dedicating one crew to trail maintenance.	Low	Long Term	Park Maintenance	Township Budget	\$-\$\$
4.5	Purchase an additional work utility vehicle (UTV) and outfit with tools for trail maintenance throughout the Township.	Medium	Short-Term	Park Maintenance	Township Budget	\$-\$\$
5. Work to develop a more efficient and effective Park Maintenance Department						
5.1	The Township should look to hire three additional full-time Park Maintenance Staff personnel. These hires should be phased over the next three years to determine if there is enough work to continue sustaining the staff through winter, with an increased number of personnel.	Medium	Short Term	Park Maintenance	Township Budget	\$\$
5.2	Continue training staff to establish an equipment maintenance schedule focused on preventative maintenance.	Low	Long Term	Park Maintenance	Township Budget	\$
5.3	The Park Maintenance Supervisor and the Parks and Recreation Director should utilize the work logs to determine how many hours are needed to provide the current level of care in the Township.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance & P&R Director	N/A	N/A
5.3.1	The Parks and Recreation Director and Park Maintenance Supervisor should meet annually to understand staffing and utilize their logs to help support the hiring of additional staff, if appropriate.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Director	N/A	N/A
5.4	Determine if it is appropriate to contract out specific time consuming maintenance tasks.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget	\$\$
5.4.1	Contract restroom cleaning services and management.	Low	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget	\$\$
5.4.2	Contract median mowing. Stipulate schedule and terms contractor must abide by.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget	\$\$

Implementation Table : Maintenance (Continued)

Action		Priority	Timeframe	Lead/Support	Funding Source	Cost
5.6	Enact, enhance or update policy and procedures to help meet the level of service the community desires.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Director	N/A	N/A
5.6.1	Develop a Level of Care Policy that is both desired and achievable by the Department. Review this Policy on an annual basis and discuss how the changes to the Level of Care impact the budget and staffing.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Director, Park & Rec Board	N/A	N/A
5.6.2	Continue to develop a maintenance schedule based on the maintenance log books. Annually check the logs to prepare the upcoming season schedule.	High	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Director	N/A	N/A
5.7	Determine if it would be beneficial for a satellite maintenance shed or office to be located on the east side of the Township to decrease travel times.	Low	Mid-Term to Long Term	Park Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Director	N/A	N/A
Additional Recommendations						
1	Encourage staff to participate in training programs that correlate directly with their work. Identify teams to specialize in different topics. Seek courses from Penn State Extension, botanical gardens, LTAP, etc.	Medium	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget	\$
2	Establish an incentive program that rewards staff for leadership skills.	Medium	Short-Term & On-Going	Park Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Director	Township Budget	\$
3	Determine an appropriate rental fee for sports teams to maintain the facilities they use.	High	Short-Term	Park Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Director	N/A	N/A
4	Utilize low mow / no mow plantings in medians to reduce mowing.	High	Mid-Term	Park Maintenance	Township Budget	\$-\$

FUNDING SOURCES

Funding has a substantial impact on the implementation of a plan. Implementation of this plan not only requires adequate funds from the Township to be budgeted annually but will also require securing funds from other sources such as grants. The following are brief descriptions of some of the ways to fund the implementation of this Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Property Tax or Income Tax

Property Taxes are levied on properties based on their property value and income taxes are levied on individuals and businesses based on their taxable income. Local governments may impose a property tax or income tax to generate revenue for planning purposes. If the tax is passed as an Open Space tax, and defined accordingly, all funds generated from the tax could be utilized for the implementation of this Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Impact Fee

Impact fees are charges imposed on new developments to mitigate the impact on infrastructure and services resulting from the increased population or demand. These fees can be used to fund planning projects that support infrastructure.

Special Assessments

Special assessments are charges levied on properties within a specific district or area to finance improvements or services that directly benefit those properties. This can include funding for planning projects that enhance the local community or neighborhood.

Grants

Townships and counties can seek grants and funding from federal, state and/or regional agencies to support projects. These grants may be specifically allocated to support planning initiatives, infrastructure development or community revitalization. A list of specific grant programs is included within Appendix E.

Voter-Approved Debt / Bond Issuance

Issuing bonds allows local government to borrow money for capital projects, including planning initiatives. The borrowed funds are repaid over time using dedicated revenue sources, such as other taxes and fees. Bonds are approved by voters through a referendum process.

Development Agreements and Impact Mitigation

In some cases, townships and counties negotiate development agreements with private developers that require the developer to contribute funds for projects or build the project as part of the development process. This can help offset the impacts of development on the community.

Private Donation

Private donations are tax-deductible and can help support the efforts of a township or update, replace or build an amenity.

Sponsorship

Sponsorships are similar to private donations, but the investment, cash or in-kind, creates access to exploitable business potential associated with an event or publicized entity.

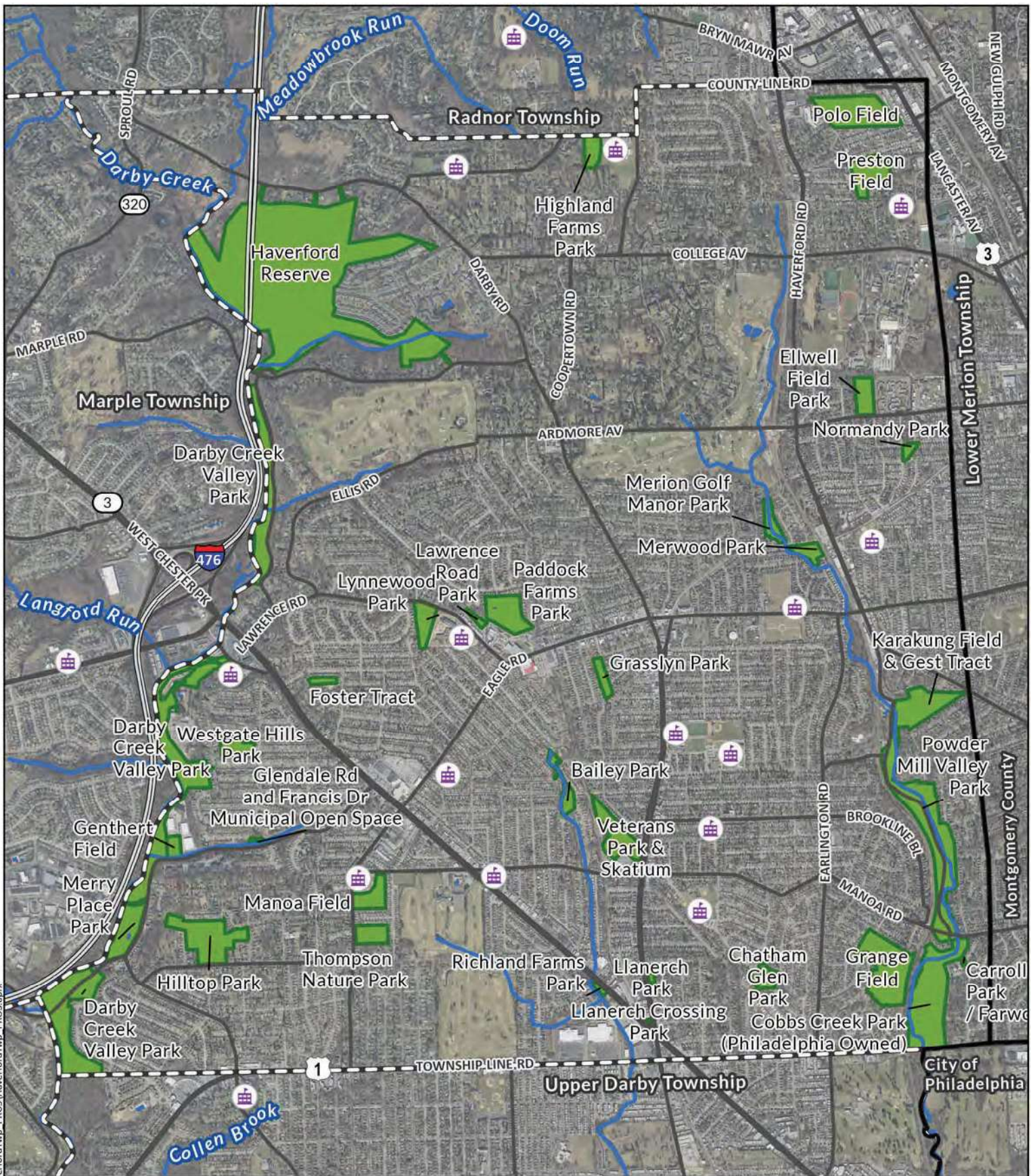
OFF TO 2040

With this planning process being rooted in community engagement and feedback, it offers the priorities and the vision of the community. With this plan and components of this plan intended to be updated and adapted to how the community and its priorities change over the years, this plan should serve the Township as a guide for the next 10 to 20 years. The keys to implementing this plan over the next 10 to 20 years will be to focus on implementing the priority items while being consistent, and transparent on the progress being made.



APPENDIX A

PARK & RECREATION FACILITIES SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL



0 1,250 2,500 Feet

Mapping derived from data provided by ESRI, PennDOT, and USGS.

12/13/2023 PM: KM GIS: ALV QA: KM R009472.0427

HRG

501 Allendale Road
Suite 203
King of Prussia, PA 19406
484.460.7050 [phone]
www.hrg-inc.com

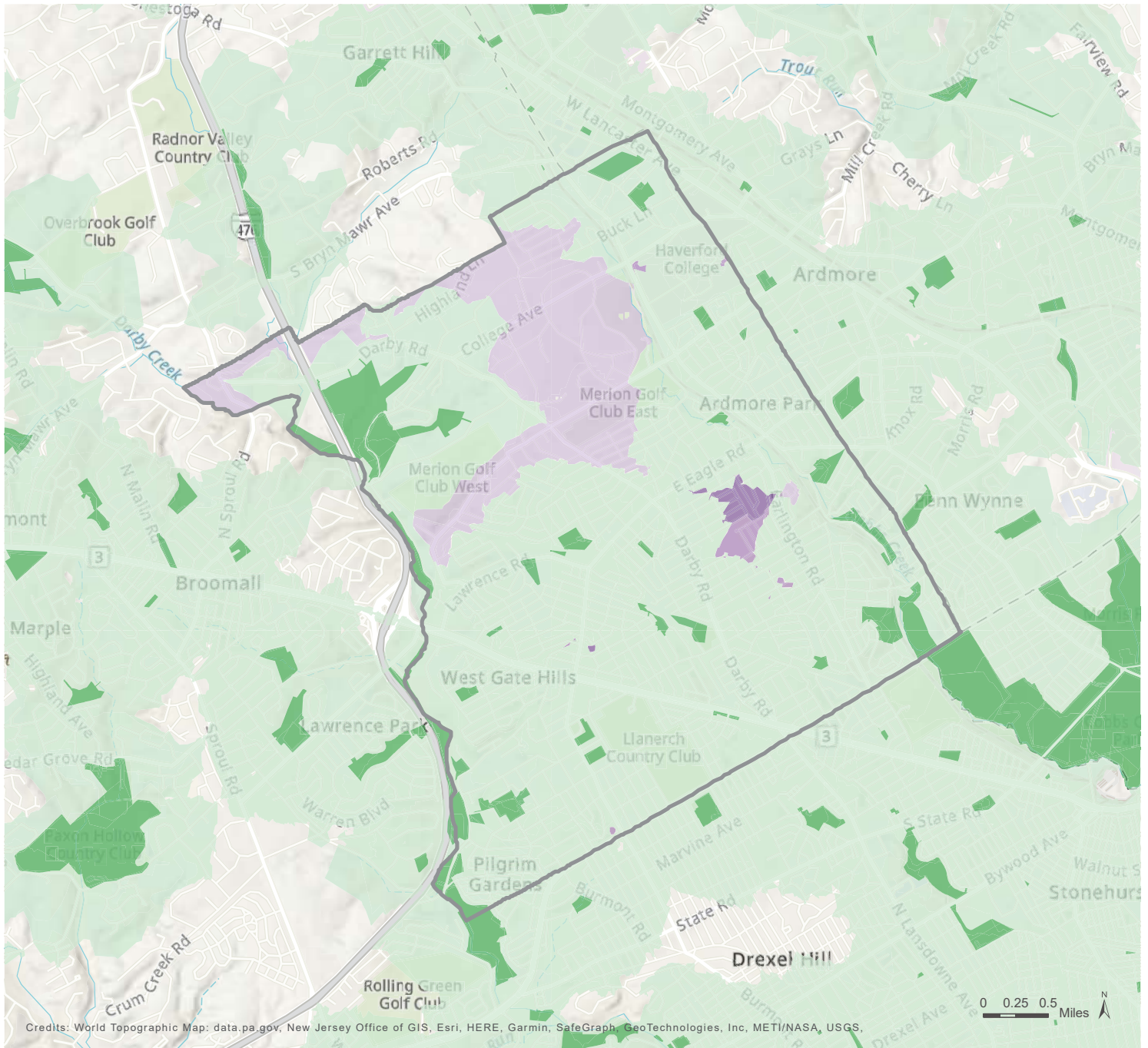
- Schools
- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Waterbody
- Parks

Parks Map

Haverford Township
Delaware County, Pennsylvania

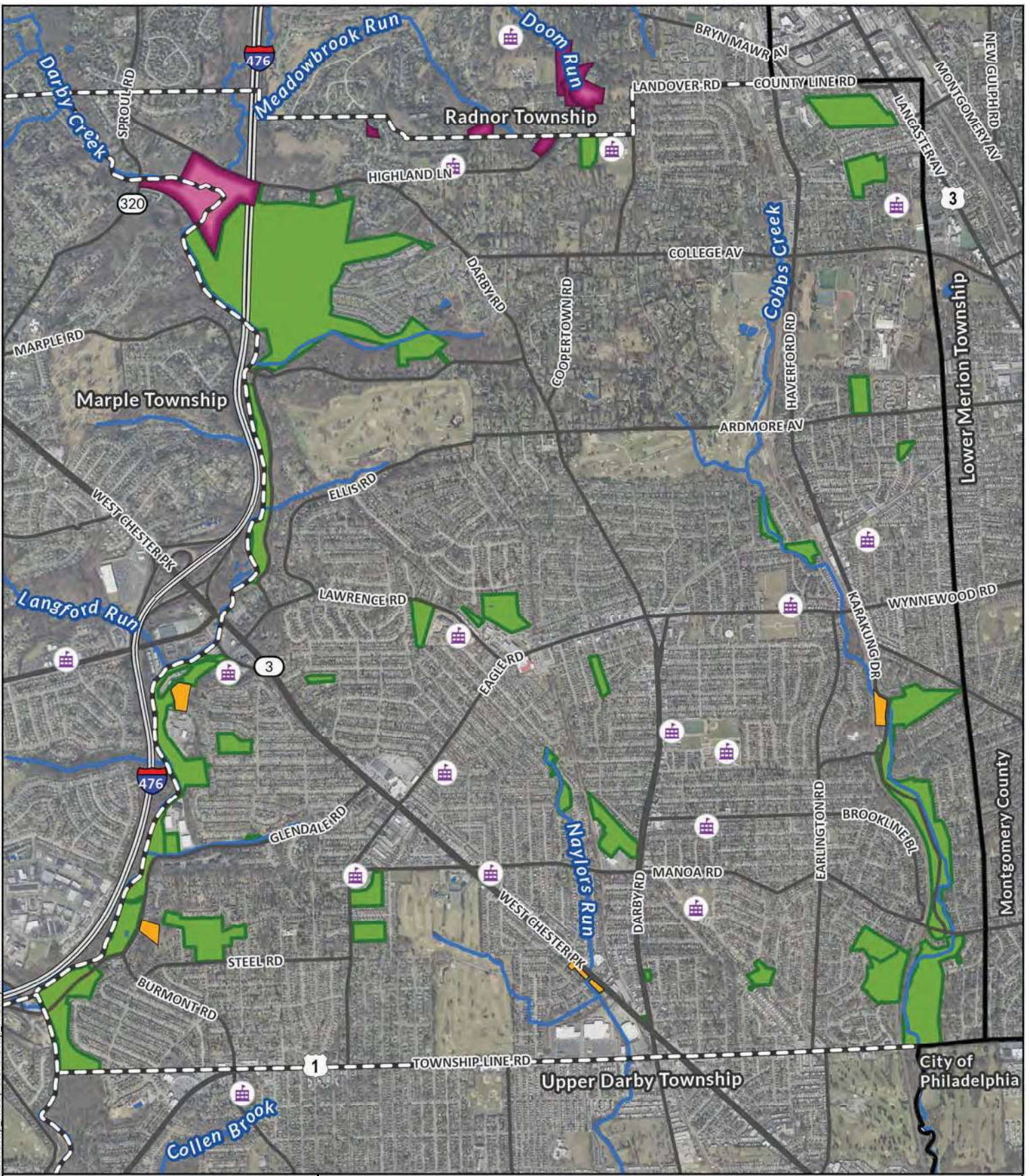
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ParkServe Map Export



- ParkServe Place
- Park with public access
- 10-minute walk service area
- High priority
- Moderate priority
- World Hillshade
- Priority areas for new parks (place)**
- Very high priority





0 1,250 2,500 Feet

Mapping derived from data provided by ESRI, PennDOT, and USGS.

12/18/2023 PM: KM GIS: ALV QA: KM R009472.0427

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- Schools
- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Local Conserved Lands
- Conservation Easements
- Waterbody
- Parks

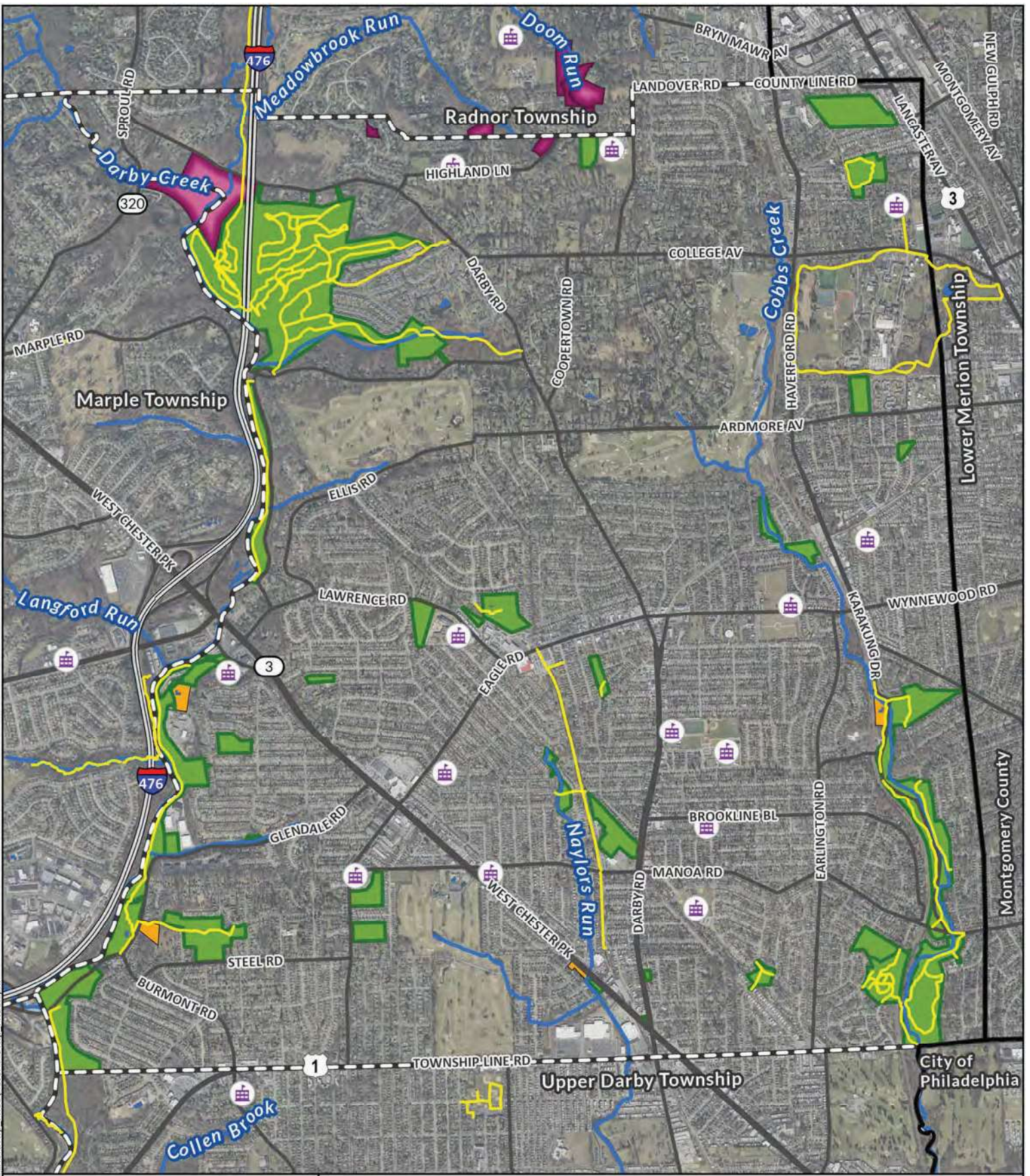
Parks & Open Space Map

Haverford Township
 Delaware County, Pennsylvania

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APPENDIX C

**TRAILS & CONNECTIVITY
SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL**



0 1,250 2,500 Feet

Mapping derived from data provided by ESRI, PennDOT, and USGS.

12/18/2023 PM: KM GIS: ALV QA: KM R009472.0427

HRG

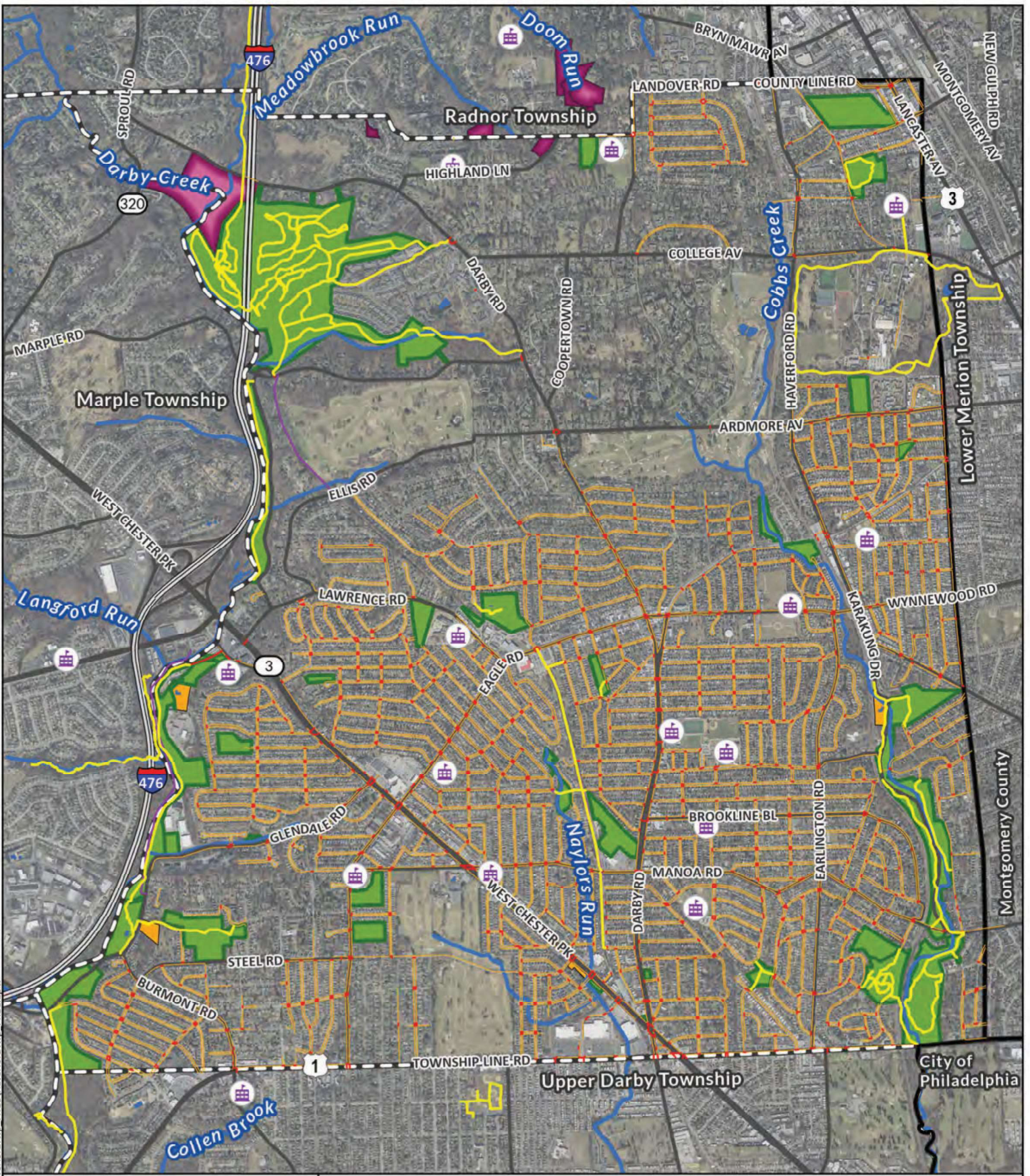
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Suite 203
King of Prussia, PA 19406
484.460.7050 [phone]
www.hrg-inc.com

- Schools
- Trails
- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Local Conserved Lands
- Conservation Easements
- Waterbody
- Parks

Parks & Trails Map

Haverford Township
Delaware County, Pennsylvania

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0 1,250 2,500 Feet

Mapping derived from data provided by ESRI, PennDOT, and USGS.

12/18/2023 PM: KM GIS: ALV QA: KM R009472.0427

HRG
 501 Allendale Road
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 King of Prussia, PA 19406
 484.460.7050 [phone]
 www.hrg-inc.com

- Schools
- Trails
- Bike Facilities
- Off-road Trail/Path
- Crosswalks
- Sidewalks
- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Local Conserved Lands
- Conservation Easements
- Waterbody
- Parks

Trails & Connectivity Map

Haverford Township
 Delaware County, Pennsylvania

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THE CIRCUIT TRAILS

100s OF MILES OF HAPPY

Did you know that one of America's largest trail networks is in your backyard?

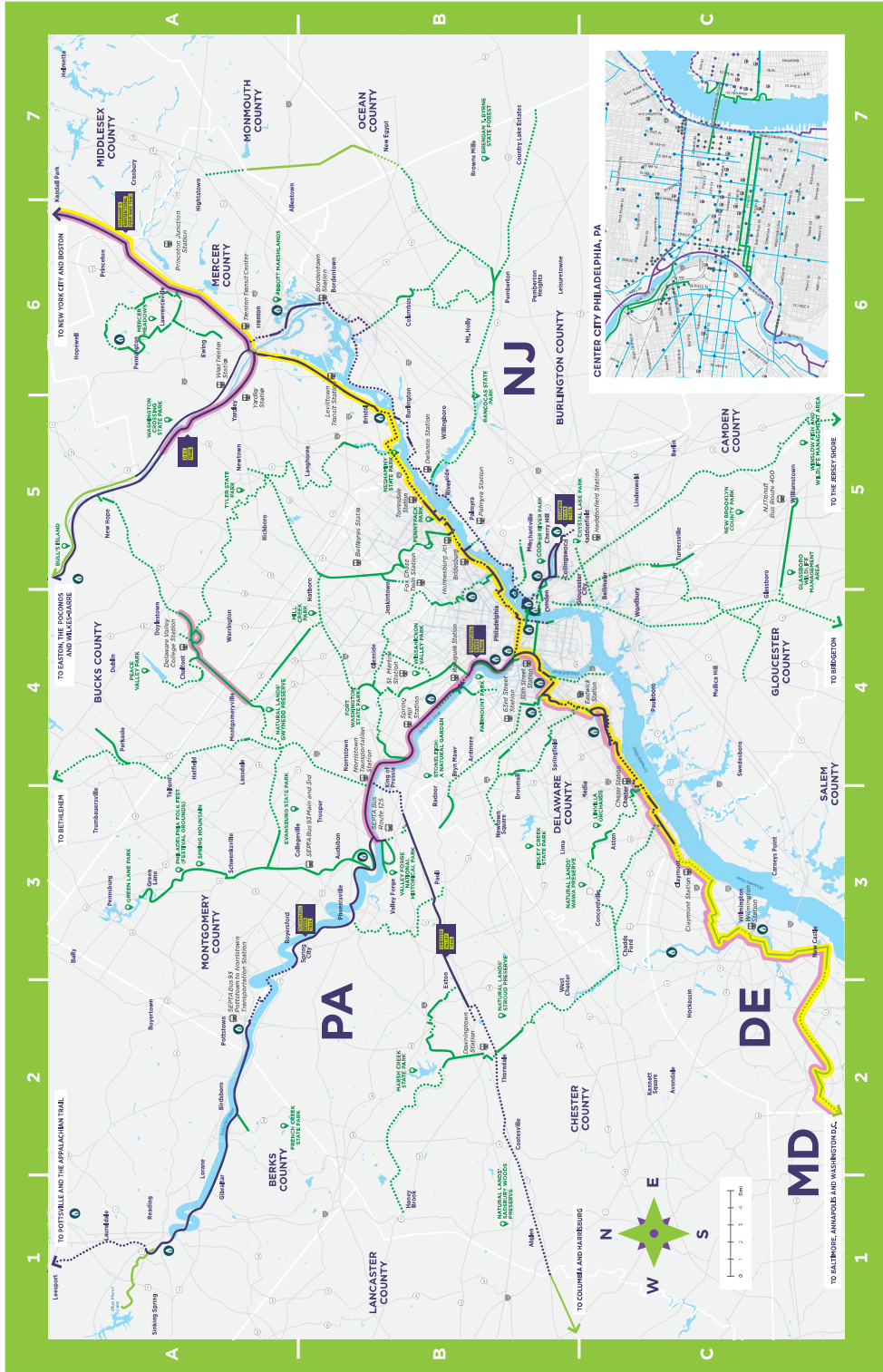
Pennsylvania and New Jersey are the proud home of the Circuit Trails, a vast regional network of hundreds of miles of multiuse trails that is growing in size each year. The Circuit connects our local communities, providing endless opportunities for recreating and commuting. What's more, it connects to countless destinations throughout the region, including the Alliance for Watershed Education Centers—a program committed to the health of the Delaware River watershed and inspiring people and communities to sustain this interconnected, natural system.

Explore all that the Circuit Trails have to offer: the trails that comprise the network and Alliance for Watershed Education Centers are listed to the right so that you can find them easily on the map. As you get out there, remember, whether you bike it or run it, the point is—just enjoy it.

Learn more about the Circuit Trails, get involved in our advocacy efforts, or find a trail near you—at circuittrails.org.



circuittrails | #OnTheCircuit



CIRCUIT TRAILS

202 Parkway Trail	A-4	East Branch Parkmenom	B-5
Audubon Loop Trail	B-3	Trail	A-4
Blue Franklin Bridge	B-4	East Coast Greenway	B-5
Brandywine Trail	B-2	Gloucester Township Health and Fitness Trail	C-8
Chester Valley Trail	C-3	Johnson Trubly Line	A-6
Cooper's Point Trail	B-4	Kalons Trail	A-4
Cross County Trail	B-5	Lancaster Woodwell Trail	A-4
Cromby Heritage Trail	B-4	Neopark Bridge Trail	B-4
D&L Trail	A-5	Rehobothville Trail	B-5
DuBois Creek Trail	A-5	Patuxent Township Bike	C-9
Delaware & Brandywine Canal	A-6	Neshaminy Creek	B-2
State Park Trail	A-6	Greenway	B-5
Delaware River Trail	B-5	Neotown Square	B-4
		Branch Trail	B-4

OTHER REGIONAL TRAILS

202 Parkway Trail	A-4	East Branch Parkmenom	B-5
Audubon Loop Trail	B-3	Trail	A-4
Blue Franklin Bridge	B-4	East Coast Greenway	B-5
Brandywine Trail	B-2	Gloucester Township Health and Fitness Trail	C-8
Chester Valley Trail	C-3	Johnson Trubly Line	A-6
Cooper's Point Trail	B-4	Kalons Trail	A-4
Cross County Trail	B-5	Lancaster Woodwell Trail	A-4
Cromby Heritage Trail	B-4	Neopark Bridge Trail	B-4
D&L Trail	A-5	Rehobothville Trail	B-5
DuBois Creek Trail	A-5	Patuxent Township Bike	C-9
Delaware & Brandywine Canal	A-6	Neshaminy Creek	B-2
State Park Trail	A-6	Greenway	B-5
Delaware River Trail	B-5	Neotown Square	B-4
		Branch Trail	B-4

ALLIANCE FOR WATERSHED EDUCATION CENTERS

Audubon Pennsylvania Discovery Center	B-4
Berk's Nature's Garden	B-4
Camden County Environmental Center	B-4
Center for Aquatic Sciences at Adventure Aquarium	B-4
Cobbler Creek Community Environmental Education Center	B-4
Delaware River Education Center	B-4
First State National Historical Park	C-3
Independence Seaport Museum	B-5
John James Audubon Center at Hill Grove	B-3
L-Phila Gas Nature Center	A-1, North
New Jersey Conservation Foundation at Gateway Park	B-5
Peconic Environmental Education Center	A-1, North
Schubert Center for Environmental Education	B-4
Schubert River Greenways National Heritage Area	A-2
Towson Creek Park	B-4
The Watershed Institute	A-4

MAP LEGEND

- Passenger Rail Stations
- Bus Stations
- Watershed Education Centers
- Parks
- East Coast Greenway (ECO)
- 9/11 National Memorial Trail
- Existing Trails
- Trail Network Spines
- Trails in Progress
- Other Regional Trail



INSET LEGEND

- Bicycle Lanes
- Indego Bike Share Station
- Bus Stops Less Than 1 Mile From Trail

The Circuit Trails is a TrailNation® Project. Rail-to-Grass Conservancy's national trail-network-building initiative designed to prove what's possible when we connect people and places by trail. This map was made possible with generous support from REI Co-op and the William Penn Foundation.





0 0.15 0.3 Miles

Haverford Township
 502 Allendale Road
 Suite 300
 King of Prussia, PA 19380
 480.462.7700 (phone)
 www.hrg.com

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Schools | Sidewalks | Major Road | Streams |
| Bus Stops | Existing Crosswalks | Other Road | Parks |
| SEPTA Rail Stations | Interstate | Railroad | Haverford Twp Boundary |
| | Local Road | Secondary Road | Trails |

Haverford Township PROS Plan Map

Haverford Township
Delaware County, PA

APPENDIX D

MAINTENANCE SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Shade / Large Trees
Haverford Township PROS Plan

NAME	SIZE	GROWTH RATE	LIGHT	SOIL	FALL COLOR	NATIVE	WILDLIFE BENEFIT	SUGGESTED USE		
								C	P	S
Red Maple	40-60H x 40-60W	Medium to Fast 10-12' in 5-7 years	Sun - Part Shade	Moist	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Fruits and Young Shoots	C	P	
Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)	60-75H x 40-50W	Slow	Sun - Part Shade	Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Seeds and Twigs		P	
Burr Oak (Quercus macrocarpa)	70-80H x 70-80W	Slow 15-20' over 20 years	Full Sun	Wet/Dry		Yes	Food Source - Acorns and Twigs		P	
Chestnut Oak (Quercus prinus)	60-70H x 60-70W	Medium to Fast 12-15' over 7-10 years	Sun - Partial Shade	Well Drained Drought	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Acorns and Twigs		P	
Swamp White Oak (Quercus bicolor)	50-60H x 50-60W	Slow to Medium 12-15' over 10-12	Sun - Partial Shade	Drought Tolerant	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Acorns and Twigs	C	P	S
Willow Oak (Quercus phellos)	40-60H x 30-40W	Medium 1-2' per year	Full Sun	Wet-Dry		Yes	Food Source - Acorns and Twigs	C	P	S
American Linden (Tilia americana)	60-80H x 40-60W	Medium 20-30' over 30 years	Sun - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained		Yes	Food Source - Twigs, Seeds and Nectar		P	S
Silver Linden (Tilia tomentosa)	50-70H x 30-50W	Medium 10-15' over 5-10 years	Full Sun	Moist, Well Drained		No	Food Source - Twigs, Seeds and Nectar		P	S
American Beech (Fagus grandifolia)	75-100H x 75-100W	Slow 9-12' over 10 years	Shade Tolerant	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Nuts		P	
Sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua - Rotundiloba)	60-75H x 40-59W	Medium to Fast 20' over 20 years	Full Sun	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Seeds	C	P	
Cucumber Magnolia (Magnolia acuminata)	50-80H x 50-80W	Medium to Fast 10-15' over 6 years	Full Sun - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained		Yes	Food Source - Seeds		P	
American Elm Hybrids (Ulmus americana)	60-80H x 30-50W	Medium to Fast 10-12' over 5 years	Sun	Moist - Dry	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Seeds and Twigs		P	S
Sycamore (Platanus occidentalis, Platanus x acerifolia)	75-100H x 75-100W	Medium to Fast 2' per year	Full Sun - Light Shade	Moist		Yes	Food Source - Fruits	C	P	
Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum)	50-70H x 20-30W	Medium 50-70' over 30-50	Full Sun	Wet-Dry	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Seeds and Twigs	C	P	
Dawn Redwood (Metasequoia glyptostroboides)	70-100H x 25W	Fast 50' over 15-20 years	Full Sun	Wet-Dry	Yes	No			P	
Hackberry (Celtis occidentalis)	40-60H x 40-60W	Medium to Fast 20-30' over 10-15 years	Sun	Wet-Dry		Yes	Food Source - Fruits and Twigs; Shelter and Nesting Sites		P	
Black Gum (Nyssa sylvatica)	30-50H x 20-30W	Slow to Medium 12-15' over 10-12	Full Sun - Partial Shade	Moist	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Fruits	C	P	S
Northern Red Oak (Quercus rubra)	50-75H x 40-60W	Medium to Fast 20-30' over 10-15	Sun	Medium to Dry	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Nuts		P	S
Tulip Tree (Liriodendron tulipifera)	40-60H x 40-60W	Medium to Fast 20-30' over 10-15	Sun	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Seeds		P	
Black Cherry (Prunus serotina)	50-80H x 30-60W	Medium 50-70' over 30-50	Full Sun - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Fruits	C	P	

C = CREEK / STREAM BANK TREE

P = PARK TREE

S = STREET TREE

Species with a strike through them denote selections not recommended due to documented invasive tendencies.

Medium Trees

Haverford Township PROS Plan

NAME	SIZE	GROWTH RATE	LIGHT	SOIL	FALL COLOR	NATIVE	WILDLIFE BENEFIT	SUGGESTED USE		
Sassafras (<i>Sassafras albidum</i>)	30-60H x	Medium to Fast 10-12' over 5-8 years	Full Sun - Light Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Twigs and Fruit		P	
River Birch (<i>Betula nigra</i>)	40-70H x	Medium to Fast 30-40' over 20 years	Sun	Moist	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Buds, Seeds, Leaves and Twigs	C	P	S
American Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>)	20-30H x 20-30W	Slow 8-10' over 10 years	Sun - Shade	Wet-Dry	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Buds, Seeds, Leaves and Twigs	C	P	S
European Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betula</i>)	40-60H x 30-40W	Slow to Medium 10' over 10 years	Sun - Light Shade	Well Drained		No	Food Source - Catkins, Buds,	C	P	S
American Hophornbeam, Ironwood (<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>)	25-40H x 20-30W	Slow 10'-15' over 15 years	Full Sun - Shade	Well Drained Dry		Yes	Food Source - Buds, Catkins and Seeds		P	
Hedge Maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>)	25-45H x	Slow 10-14' over 10-15 years	Full Sun - Light Shade	Wet-Dry	Variable	No			P	S
Trident Maple (<i>Acer buergerianum</i>)	20-25H x	Slow to Medium	Full Sun	Drought Tolerant	Yes	No			P	
Paperbark Maple (<i>Acer griseum</i>)	20-30H x	Slow 6-12" over 10-15 years	Full Sun	Moist, Well Drained	Variable	No			P	
American Yellowwood (<i>Cladrastis kentuckea</i>)	30-50H x	Medium to Fast 30-40' over 20 years	Full Sun	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes			P	S
Sourwood (<i>Oxydendron arboreum</i>)	20-50H x	Slow 6-12" over 10-15 years	Sun - Light Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Flowers attract bees		P	

C = CREEK / STREAM BANK TREE

P = PARK TREE

S = STREET TREE

Species with a strike through them denote selections not recommended due to documented invasive tendencies.

Flowering Trees
Haverford Township PROS Plan

NAME	GROWTH RATE	LIGHT	SOIL	FALL COLOR	NATIVE	WILDLIFE BENEFIT	SUGGESTED USE		
							C	P	S
Serviceberry, Shadbush (Amelanchier canadensis/ laevis, arborea)	Medium 9-10 over 5-8 years	Sun - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Fruits, Twigs and Leaves	C	P	
Sweetbay Magnolia (Magnolia virginiana)	Medium to Fast	Sun - Partial Shade	Moist	No	Yes	Food Source - Fruit	C	P	
Cockspur Hawthorn (Crataegus crusgalli)	Slow to Medium 10-14' over 6-10 years	Sun	Well Drained	Yes	No			P	
Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis)	Medium 7-10 over 5-6 years	Full Sun - Light Shade	Moist, Well Drained - Adaptable	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Seeds, Foliage and Flower Pollen for Honeybees	C	P	S
Pagoda Dogwood (Cornus alternifolia)	Slow after planting, Medium when established	Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Fruit		P	
Cornelian Cherry Dogwood (Cornus mas)	Medium	Sun - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained/Dry	Yes	No	Food Source - Fruit		P	
Korean Dogwood (Cornus kousa)	Slow	Sun	Moist, Well Drained/Dry	Yes	No	Food Source - Fruit		P	
Flowering Crabapple (Malus Numerous Cultivars)	Slow	Sun	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	No; must use cultivars that to protect from introduced diseases	Food Source - Fruit		P	S
Japanese Stewartia (Stewartia pseudocamila)	Slow	Sun	Moist	Yes	No			P	
Japanese Snowbell (Styrax japonica)	Medium 9-10' over 7-10 years	Full Sun - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	No			P	
Tree Lilac (Syringa reticulata)	Medium 9-12' over 6-8 years	Full Sun	Well Drained	Yes	No			P	S
Yoshino Cherry (Prunus x yedoensis)	Medium 9-12' over 6-8 years	Sun - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	No	Food Source - Fruit		P	S
Autumn Flowering Cherry (Prunus subhirtella 'Autumnalis')	Medium 9-12' over 6-8 years	Sun - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	No	Food Source - Fruit		P	S
Winter King Hawthorn (Crataegus x viridis 'Winter King')	Medium 9-12' over 6-8 years	Sun	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Fruit		P	S
Fringetree (Chionanthus virginicus)	Medium 9-12' over 6-8 years	Full Sun - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Yes	Food Source - Fruit	C	P	S

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Evergreen Trees

Haverford Township PROS Plan

NAME	SIZE	GROWTH RATE	LIGHT	SOIL	NATIVE	WILDLIFE BENEFIT	SUGGESTED USE		
Eastern Redcedar (Juniperus virginiana)	40-50H x 8-20W	Medium	Sun	Well Drained - Tolerant of Adverse Conditions	Yes	Food Source - Fruit		P	
Fraser Fir (Abies fraseri)	30-40H x 20-25W	Slow	Sun - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Food Source - Seeds		P	
Japanese Cryptomeria (Cryptomeria japonica)	50-60H x 20-30W	Medium 50-60' over 30-40 years	Full Sun	Moist, Well Drained	No			P	
American Holly (Ilex opaca)	40-50H x 18-40W	Slow	Full Sun - Partial Shade	Well Drained	Yes	Food Source - Fruit		P	
Foster's Hybrid Hollies (Ilex x attenuata 'Fosteri')	20-30H x 10-15W	Slow - Medium	Full Sun - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	No	Food Source - Fruit		P	
Swiss Stone Pine (Pinus cembra)	30-40H x 15-25W	Medium	Full Sun	Well Drained	No	Food Source - Seeds		P	
Lacebark Pine (Pinus bungeana)	30-50H x 20-35W	Slow	Sun	Well Drained	No	Food Source - Seeds		P	
Eastern White Pine (Pinus strobus)	50-80H x 20-40W	Fast	Full Sun - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Food Source - Seeds		P	
Limber Pine (Pinus flexilis)	40-60H x 20-40W	Fast	Full Sun	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Food Source - Seeds		P	
White Spruce (Picea glauca)	40-60H x 10-20W	Medium	Full Sun	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Food Source - Seeds		P	
American Arborvitae (Thuja occidentalis)	20-40H x 10-15W	Fast	Full Sun - Partial Shade	Moist, Well Drained	Yes	Food Source - Seeds		P	

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S = STREET TREE

Species with a strike through them denote selections not recommended due to documented invasive tendencies.

APPENDIX E

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

POTENTIAL GRANT FUNDING PROGRAMS

Federal Grant Opportunities

USDA Forest Service - Urban & Community Forestry Program

The USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program is the only dedicated urban forest program in the federal government. It is a technical, financial, and educational assistance program, that helps deliver nature-based solutions for climate and environmental justice, and green jobs.

- Grant Deadline: June
- Grant Request Amounts: \$100,000 to \$50,000,000
- Match Requirement: 50% Match Requirement. Match-waivers are available for proposals that deliver 100% of the funding/program benefits to disadvantaged communities.

State Grant Opportunities

Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) - Greenways, Trails and Recreation

The Commonwealth Financing Authority (the "Authority") Program provides funds for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects using the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP). Projects could include development, rehabilitation and improvements to public parks, recreation areas, greenways, trails, and river conservation.

- Submission Deadline: Spring (May)
- Grant Award Amount: Maximum of \$250,000
- Match Requirement: 15% Match Required

Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) - Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2)

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Recreation and Conservation assists local governments and recreation and conservation organizations with funding for projects related to Parks, Recreation, and Conservation. Projects could include planning, acquisition, and development of public parks, recreation areas, trails, river conservation, and access / conservation of open space.

- Submission Deadline: Spring Submission (April)
- Grant Award Amount: Depends on the Specific Grant Type
- Match Requirement: 50% Match Required

Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) - Local Share Account (LSA) – Statewide

The Local Share Account – Statewide Program funds projects in the public interest that improve the quality of life of citizens in the community. Projects could include support economic development projects, community improvement projects, and projects in the public interest, including parks and

recreation. Eligible projects must be owned and maintained by an eligible applicant or a nonprofit organization.

- Submission Deadline: Spring Submission (March)
- Grant Award Amount: \$25,000 to \$1,000,000
- Match Requirement: No Match Required

PennDOT - Safe Routes to School Program

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national and international movement to create safe, convenient, and healthy opportunities for students to walk and bicycle to school. The program encourages students to walk, bike, and roll to school, helping to reverse an alarming decrease in students' physical activity and an associated increase in obesity and other health conditions. Applicants must apply for Safe Routes to School project funding through PennDOT's Transportation Alternatives Set- Aside (TASA) Program. SRTS projects, which can be infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects, and must be within two (2) miles of a public or private primary, middle, or high school (kindergarten through twelfth grade) to qualify for funding.

- Submission Deadline: The deadline to submit the mandatory Draft Application is in the Summer. Applicants will discuss the draft application with their local PennDOT District and MPO/RPO before submitting the final application, which is due in the early fall. The SRTS Program is currently only offered on a bi-annual basis, with 2023 being an application year.
- Grant Request Amount: \$50,000 to \$1,500,000 (higher awards can be justified on a case-by-case basis for "exceptional" projects. There is no minimum for non-infrastructure projects.)
- Match Requirement: No Match Requirement

County & Local Grant Opportunities

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) - Regional Trails Program

DVRPC's Regional Trails Program provides planning assistance and financial support to trail developers, counties, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations to complete the Circuit, Greater Philadelphia's 800-plus-mile network of multi-use trails. Projects could include trail planning and feasibility studies, design and engineering, and construction. Limited funding for right-of-way acquisition is also available, though these projects will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

- Submission Deadline: Fall
- Grant Award Amount: Maximum of \$500,000
- Match Requirement: Planning and Feasibility Studies - 20% Match Required; Design and Engineering - No Match Required, but those that provide a match are prioritized; Construction - 20% Match Required

Non-Profit & Foundation Grant Opportunities

Major League Baseball - Youth Development Foundation Grant Program

MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation (YDF) is a joint initiative by MLB and MLBPA to support efforts that focus on improving the caliber, effectiveness and availability of amateur baseball and softball programs. The program funds capital projects for field renovations, baseball/softball programs and education initiatives.

- Submission Deadline: Rolling
- Grant Award Amount: The Foundation does not set a funding range for grant requests. The Foundation recommends projects have secured funding from other sources prior to applying. Your organization should ensure the submitted budget includes full details of all program/project expenses as outlined in the budget template.
- Match Requirement: No Match Required

Social Good Fund - PA Parks Fund

All parks located within Pennsylvania qualify for a grant, and funds can be used for any project within the park system.

- Submission Deadline: January
- Grant Award Amount: Maximum of \$30,000 for 2023, but varies year to year
- Match Requirement: No Match Required

PeopleForBikes - People for Bikes Community Grant Program

The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride. PeopleForBikes focuses most grant funds on bicycle infrastructure projects, such as bike paths, lanes, trails and bridges, mountain bike facilities, bike parks and pump tracks, BMX facilities, end-of-trip facilities such as bike racks, bike parking, bike repair stations and bike storage.

- Submission Deadline: Fall
- Grant Award Amount: Maximum of \$10,000
- Match Requirement: 50% Match Requirement

Natural Lands - PECO Green Region Open Space Program

This grant program is administered by Natural Lands, the PECO Green Region program has awarded 246 grants totaling \$1.9 million in support of open space and environmental projects throughout its service area since 2004. Projects can include a wide variety of planning and direct expenses associated with developing and implementing open space programs.

- Submission Deadline: Fall
- Grant Award Amount: Maximum of \$10,000
- Match Requirement: 50% Match Requirement

Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) - REI Cooperative Action Fund

REI Co-op founded the REI Cooperative Action Fund, a community-supported nonprofit that partners with and provides financial support for organizations building a new outdoor culture and improving the health and well-being for all people. The grant program has three different focus areas: Connecting People Outside, Creating Spaces Outside, and Centering Health Outside.

Note: This program does not include a traditional grant application, but potential grantees can submit for consideration by using their “recommend a potential grantee” to be considered to receive funding.

- Submission Deadline: “Recommend a potential grantee” forms can be submitted anytime, with funds being awarded in the Spring and Fall
- Grant Request Amount: No request amount requirements
- Match Requirement: No Match Required

American Academy of Dermatology - Shade Structure Grant Program

The American Academy of Dermatology's (AAD) Shade Structure Program awards funds to schools, daycares, parks, and other non-profit organizations for installing permanent shade structures where children learn and play. In addition to the grant, the AAD also provides a permanent sign to be placed near the shade structure featuring sun-safety tips.

- Submission Deadline: Rolling Submission
- Grant Request Amount: Maximum of \$8,000
- Match Requirement: No Match Requirement. AAD notes that \$8,000 will cover most shade sails of 10' X 10', however many shade projects require additional resources, therefore, applicants should assure they have additional funding necessary for the project to be installed by calendar year end.

Note: The above grant opportunities list is current, and there could be some changes to the match and the time of submission noted under each program. Additionally, there could be new programs and others not included on this list that could be used to help fund the implementation of this plan.