

Washington Township

Franklin County, Pennsylvania

Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan

2003

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INTRODUCTION

Background

It has been universally acknowledged that the appropriate provision of parks, recreation and open space is critical to providing a quality of life that is acceptable to the residents of the contemporary community. The 2002 Franklin County Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan refers to a 1995 poll by the Regional Planning Association and the Quinnipiac College Polling Institute regarding quality of life. The results of this survey indicated that “access to greenery and open space” ranked highly along with safe streets and low crime. In a community, such as Washington Township, where the population is expected to experience significant growth, it becomes important to plan for such quality of life facilities in the context of the growing population pressing on a limited resource base. Hence, the goal of a growing suburban municipality providing a satisfying and stimulating living environment becomes a task demanding thoughtful consideration.

There are essentially three functions where open space and recreation benefits the inhabitants of a community;

- 1) open space and recreation facilities can meet the human needs “both physically and psychologically” through recreation amenities
- 2) the provision of open space and recreation facilities can enhance and protect an existing resource base in the form of physical conditions relative to plant and animal life
- 3) recreation and open space can provide benefits in the realms of tourism, development patterns, employment and real estate values.

Washington Township has been a municipal leader in the realm of providing community open space and recreation facilities for the benefit of residents. As is documented elsewhere in this plan a number of unique and well conceived facilities are already owned and operated by the municipality. This plan is aimed at increasing that already well developed asset base, and providing a format for dealing with an expected influx of population in the coming years.

PLAN AND PROCESS

As Washington Township progresses into the 21st century the Township leadership has become aware that the community will be experiencing population growth, and that these new residents, along with the old residents, view appropriate recreation, park and open space facilities as integral to an expected lifestyle.

This study will provide an analysis of the existing facilities in Washington Township along with a projection of future needs as the population expands. Several major issues render Washington Township a unique community with regard to the provision of recreation and open space facilities. Firstly, within the Township boundaries is over 2,024 acres of Pennsylvania State Forest which stretches along the South Mountain range through Cumberland, Franklin and Adams Counties. Throughout this State Forest are located: campsites, hiking trails, hunting areas, fishing areas and snowmobile trails. Secondly, the Township is largely rural in character

with vast areas of visual open space allocated for active and productive farming practices. It has been the Township's plan, goal and intention to maintain as much quality agricultural land as possible, while planning to support the inevitable population growth which is projected to occur. Thirdly, Washington Township has been pro-active in providing recreational facilities, and these existing facilities are an excellent basis from which to expand for future growth.

The approach for this Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan is to serve as a tool for addressing the existing and future needs of Washington Township residents, and to provide a framework for decisions that must be made in order to provide for the future. This plan is by design, broad in scope and encompasses a variety of issues pertinent to recreation, parks and open space. In the end, this plan will be the basis for continuing success with the existing program of providing appropriate facilities for Township residents.

The Township Board of Supervisors, in recognizing the need to address the future, have commissioned the preparation of this Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan to be completed in the Fall of 2003. The consulting firm, Martin and Martin, Inc. was retained to assist the Township in developing this plan. The consultants are working closely with the Board of Supervisors, the Township Planning Commission and the Township staff throughout the process. The Township staff has engaged in communication with Township residents regarding recreational needs for several years and has a detailed knowledge of the community.

The approach used was to prepare an inventory of existing facilities and perceived needs and recommendations for the future of recreation, parks and open space in Washington Township. Following the inventory, a set of Township goals and objectives were established. Finally, based on the inventory, and in the context of the established goals and objectives, this Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan was conceived. It is intended to serve as a tool for addressing the current and future recreational needs of Washington Township residents, and to establish a framework for decisions that must be made in order to provide adequate future recreational opportunities. The plan is broad in scope and encompasses a variety of issues pertinent to recreation, parks and open spaces. It not only lays the groundwork for continued success in Washington Township's recreation and open space program, but suggests certain ordinance revisions to the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance which would require future developments to be a participant in the provision of services in order to meet the recreational and open space demand generated by their respective developments.

Use of This Plan

The Washington Township Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan can be a useful tool in the Township's effort to build upon its existing recreation and open space system and respond to the expected future growth of the Township population. This Plan and future updates of this Plan can serve as a valuable resource in the following ways:

1. an information source – the inventory aspect of this Plan resulted in a documentation and analysis of a variety of recreational and open space attributes in Washington Township. Therefore, this document will be a valuable resource, containing supporting information as the future implementation strategies are completed.
2. guidelines for the future – the recommendations resulting from this document serve to offer direction for future recreation, park, and open space initiatives, and in some cases

implementation strategies are outlined which will help in fulfilling the Plan's recommendations. The recommendations themselves should assist in setting the appropriate allocations of resources for recreation, park, and open space purposes.

3. quality of life – residents in any community have a continuing interest in the growth of a high quality, useful, system of recreation, parks, and open space. This Plan offers convenient, practical information and plans which can be a basis for continued public input and support in an ongoing Parks, Open Space, and Recreation program.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PERSPECTIVE

History and Culture

The first settlements in Washington Township began as early as 1735, when this area was the Western frontier of the new American Colonies. The Township is traversed in an East West direction by Route 16 or the Buchanan Trail, which in earlier times was an important shipping route between the frontier and Baltimore Harbor. The Borough of Waynesboro, which the Township surrounds, experienced significant growth at the end of the 19th century as did the southeast corner of the Township, which was a significant resort area. This area attracted excursion trains and featured Pen-Mar Park. Large summer hotels were built and many of the celebrities of the era were attracted to this mountain resort. During World War II a large portion of this area was taken over by the U.S. Army and a decline in the resort area activity began. The last of the great hotels burned to the ground in 1967.

Washington Township remains, to a great extent, an agricultural community, which is gradually transitioning, with suburban growth, into a bedroom community.

Geography and Physical Features

The central and western portion of Washington Township lies in an area known as the Cumberland Valley. This valley runs northeast to southwest. The eastern portion of the Township extends into the South Mountains. This is a relatively steep mountainous topography varying some eleven hundred feet from the lowest to highest point. The central and western portions of the Township includes gently sloping areas with prime agricultural soil. The central and western portions of the Township are still largely in agricultural usage and is underlain by Hagerstown Duffield Soils Association. This is a limestone-based soil, which exhibits strong agricultural characteristics. The Township Comprehensive Plan, updated in 1999, goes to significant lengths to, not only document the existence of these high quality agricultural soils, but to set a strategy for the preservation of these agricultural areas in the central and western portions of the Township for as long as possible. This strategy is also exhibited in the Township's Zoning Ordinance, which is designed to help preserve these areas of agricultural soils. Any Open Space and Recreation Planning should take into consideration the open quality that will prevail in these western portions of the Township for the foreseeable future.

In the eastern portion of the Township is the mountainous area which historically was the recreation area utilized in the past by the east coast elite. This area still has many attractive recreational attributes and is largely undeveloped due to the existence of the Michaux State Forest. The presence of the State Forest allows for the protection of watersheds and offers a whole wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities.

Population Characteristics

The population trends in Washington Township are well documented in the 1999 updated Washington Township Comprehensive Plan. The Township has grown from a population of six thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine (6,889) in 1960 to a population of eleven thousand one hundred nineteen (11,559) in 2000. The Township's projection show a continuing increase in population through the coming decades, and in fact, recent deterrents to development, which

have occurred in Maryland to the south of the Township, have increased the speed of population growth in Washington Township. Recent census data would indicate an increase in the 25-44 year age group while the 16-24 year age group is abnormally small. This may indicate a statistical trend in the Township toward a larger group of residents beginning to reach retirement age in the coming decades.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE, RECREATIONAL, AND PARK ASSETS

Washington Township Owned and Operated Facilities

Red Run Park

Red Run Park, the oldest park owned by Washington Township, is a 22 acre park that was presented to the Borough of Waynesboro in 1938 and subsequently in 1969 was conveyed to the Washington Township Supervisors as the property of Washington Township. The park consists of a man-made lake, picnic area, playground equipment, public restrooms, concession stand, and miniature train. The lake closed for swimming in the 1970's and has been used for fishing and ice skating since that time and is a very popular spot year round.

A revitalization effort was effected at Red Run Park during the 1980's. Monthly entertainment was initiated at the park during the summer months, more equipment was provided, and a footbridge was added across the creek to invite further expansion into a new area of the park. A 1985 survey of Township residents provided the Township with a guide for future development of the park and long range planning is being utilized to develop Red Run Park in the best interest of the residents of Washington Township.

Continued development of Red Run Park resulted in three major community events occurring at the park annually, construction of more picnic pavilions, special needs fishing pier and ramp to the pier, installation of a miniature train, tunnel and station. This train was previously operated at Cold Springs Park from the late 1920's to 1970's, and was installed at Red Run Park as part of an effort to save a unique portion of local history. The train and buildings were purchased and constructed by public contributions and are operated free of charge by volunteers. The 11 usable acres in this 22 acre park are essentially completely utilized at this time and the park has become a very popular site due to the quality of the facilities, management and upkeep of this park by the Township. (See Exhibit "A" for more information on Red Run Park and Pine Hill Regional Recreation Area.)

Pine Hill Regional Recreation Area

In view of the growing popularity of Red Run Park, and the limitations imposed by the lack of space to enlarge the park, the Township Supervisors in 1992 purchased a 150 acre tract of property which encompasses the mountain above Red Run Park. Although the parks are technically connected, the area of the connection is extremely steep and does not make movement from one park to the other readily feasible. Therefore, the decision was made to develop the Pine Hill Regional Recreation Area separately from Red Run Park and utilize it as more of a regional park. Work progressed slowly on the new Recreational Area as funds and time became available, and as volunteers donated time and effort. In 1997 the Township opened Pine Hill for use. The Waynesboro Teenage League completed the pony league field and started league play. The little league softball field was completed by the Township and is available to the area leagues on a rotating basis. Approximately three miles of hiking/walking/bicycling trails are available including one and one half miles of handicapped accessible trails, providing a beautiful view of the Cumberland Valley. A small mountain bike trail is being constructed. Except for the athletic fields, and family, youth and picnic areas, this Recreation Area is wooded and has never been developed prior to becoming a recreation site. Public water and sewer have been extended to the area and a public restroom facility was completed in 2001. In 1997, the

Township, with the assistance of a State grant, retained the services of Rettew Associates to complete a master plan for the future development of this park. In 2002, the Township acquired an adjoining 24 acres to make the total area of Pine Hill 174 acres.

Washington Township purchased this property to provide for the recreational needs of the Township and area residents for the next half century. Based on present growth, this seems a reasonable expectation. (See Exhibit "B" for more information on Pine Hill Regional Recreation Area.)

Neighborhood Play Areas

At present, Washington Township owns two neighborhood play areas of ½ acre each, donated by developers. In Millwood Village there are 0.335 acres housing a basketball court and a tot lot. In Sheffield Manor there are 0.43 acres designated for active play, with two swing sets, sliding board, benches and spring animals. (See Exhibit "D" for more information on the two Neighborhood Play Areas.) These play areas provide a location for the gathering of local youth, as well as parents, and have been well received by the residents near these play areas. As the Township develops, more play areas such as these are anticipated.

Happel's Meadow Wetland

Happel's Meadow Wetland was a gift to the people of Washington Township from Charles S. and Amelia Grandner, and Letitia G. Gandimen, in memory of Charles S. and Elizabeth C. Grandner and Dr. and Mrs. Harvey C. Bridgers. Happel's Meadow is recognized as a significant wetland because of its size and its upland location.

Happel's Meadow is a scrub and shrub wetland site consisting of 72.67 acres forming a flattened bowl surrounded by higher hill tops. (See Exhibit "C" for a more detailed description of Happel's Meadow.)

Non-Township Recreation, Park, and Open Space Facilities

Michaux State Forest

The Township has within its boundaries over 2,024 acres of Pennsylvania State Forest Lands including the Appalachian Trail. This acreage is part of the Michaux State Forest which stretches along the South Mountain range through several counties. Located throughout this facility are camp sites, hiking trails, hunting areas, fishing areas and snowmobile trails.

The Appalachian Trail a federally funded walking/hiking trail from Maine to Georgia traverses Washington Township north to south. Deer Lick Run stopover is at Washington/Quincy Township border to the north. This section of the Appalachian Trail is very popular and heavily used year round.

Waynesboro Country Club

The Waynesboro Country Club has an excellent 18 hole golf course and pro shop, a large clubhouse/restaurant with meeting rooms available for rent; and a swimming pool outdoors. The club also has a riding club for members that put on shows several times a year. An active, members only country club.

Waynesboro School District Playgrounds

Hooverville School – owned by Waynesboro School District; this school has a playground, softball field, basketball and rollerblading in parking lot.

Soccer Complex

Waynesboro Soccer Association – 9 soccer fields on Country Club Road. Fields were constructed over the last two years and are being used for the first time in the fall of 2003. Parking areas and a restroom/concession stand are also on this site.

Pen Mar Youth League Fields

Little league and peewee ball, lighted fields is on Route 16 in Blue Ridge Summit adjacent to Happels' Meadow Wetland.

Monterey Country Club

Golf course, swimming pool, tennis courts. Golf course is 9 hole and open to the public.

Blue Ridge Summit Lions Club Park

Picnic pavilion, restrooms, wooded picnic area by a stream. The pavilion is available by reservation during summer months. A nice quiet park just off Buchanan Trail East, and appropriate for family gatherings.

Rouzerville Ruritan Club

Social building (available for rent by public and bingo twice a week), 3 little league fields, some lighted.

Rouzerville Fish and Game Club

A small club that raises fish for Red Run Lake and has a small firing range. Members and guests.

Waynesboro Fish and Game Club

Partially in Washington and Quincy Townships. Clubhouse, lake, fishing, swimming, firing range, skeet shooting. Members and guests.

Wayne Heights Civic Association

Playground, pavilion, small instructional league ball field, non-regulation basketball court. Area is maintained by Rouzerville Lions Club.

Zullinger Community Center

Community building rented out for public use; playground with equipment provided by Township. Historic school being renovated adjacent to Community Center.

Grace Baptist Church

Picnic pavilion, playground, softball field (non-regulation). Picnic pavilion is available for rent.

Moose Club

Recreation area with picnic pavilion and restrooms. This large area is used primarily by the Moose Club for their outdoor barbeques and events.

Owls Club

Recreation area with pavilion, restrooms, fishing stream. The fishing and parking area is available to the public. The pavilion is used primarily by the Owls Club for their own events, but is available for use by public through reservations.

Cultural and Historical Facilities

Renfrew Museum and Park

Within Washington Township, Renfrew Museum and Park located on 107 acres contains picnic pavilions, picnic tables, grills, historic sites, museum, which holds the largest collection of John Bell pottery in the world, and restrooms.

The Nicodemus collection of American decorative arts is on display at the museum – furniture, silver, pottery, ceramics, Pennsylvania folk art, quilts and coverlets exhibited in a stone farmhouse built by Daniel Royer in 1815. Visitors are able to fish in historic Antietam Creek and hike the trails.

Monterey Historical District

Located in the Blue Ridge Summit area, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 22, 1976. The district is a fine example of a 19th Century summer resort community. The properties and lanes were laid out in 1890 and the area still retains much of its Victorian character.

Shank's Mill

Located along Red Run was placed on the National Register of Historical Places on September 18, 1975. This listing includes not only the mill building, erected in 1857 by Christian Stouffer, but the dam, headrace and tailrace and six acres of surrounding property. Originally named Springdale Mills, the mill is still operational.

Welty's Mill Bridge

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. This twin stone arch bridge was constructed of local limestone in 1856 by David Snively Stoner and had been used as part of a State road until 1988.

Physical Features as Recreational and Open Space Assets

Streams

Several streams and their associated tributaries float through portions of Washington Township. Obviously, these streams are an important part of the Township's drainage system. However, they also provide recreation opportunities for residents in addition to being an essential element to the area's natural systems.

Floodplains

The land which is adjacent to many waterways and is often prone to flooding. These areas can be located on the Township's FEMA mapping. As development occurs in the Township, careful consideration should be given to the developing of recreational facilities within these areas.

Riparian Zones

The vegetative areas along streams are important because they; reduce floodwaters, filter run-off, provide cooling canopy for stream habitat, offer habitat for birds and small mammals, and provide great opportunities for recreational activities such as fishing, hiking, bird watching, wildlife observation, picnicking, and camping.

Wetlands

Wetlands located in Washington Township have been identified by the U.S. Department of Interior. In all instances field analysis was and is required to verify the existence and specific extent of wetlands. It is widely agreed that these wetlands are a valuable resource; they provide opportunities for education and recreation, as well as habitat for a variety of plants and animals, in addition to supporting hunting, fishing, birdwatching and other recreational activities.

Soils

Several soil types exist within Washington Township. A detailed analysis of the soil characteristics is contained in the 1999 updated Township Comprehensive Plan. As indicated earlier, an abundance of prime agricultural soils are found in the central and western portions of the Township. Generally, these soils are low sloping, deep and well drained, and result in a high level of crop production.

Washington Township through its 1999 Comprehensive Plan advocates the preservation of prime agricultural lands. Further, through the implementation of the Washington Township Zoning Ordinance the Township attempts to guide development away from prime agricultural areas and into areas, which either do not possess prime agricultural soils or have been partially sterilized through the advent of development or the existence of development supporting utilities.

Hierarchy of Parks

Both the Franklin County Comprehensive, Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan, and the updated 1999 Washington Township Comprehensive Plan contain discussions of the National Recreation and Park's Association (NRPA) Hierarchy of Parks. This classification of types of parks essentially takes into consideration the different ways in which people use recreation facilities. The function of a park is related to its size, location, and available facilities. Under this theory the NRPA classifies parks into five general categories. They include;

- ◆ **Regional Reserves** – these are the facilities designed more for the conservation of natural resources than recreational development. This type of park typically accommodates outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, nature study, fishing, etc. Regional Reserves are usually large areas and have up to a fifty mile service area radius. Michaux State Forest located in Washington Township is one such facility.
- ◆ **Regional/Metropolitan Facilities** – this type of facility generally serves communities within a one hour driving time. Such parks often have many types of outdoor activities and can often support activities which require large amounts of land or special facilities.
- ◆ **Community Parks** – this type of park serves a large percentage of the local population. Although, often people may be able to walk to a Community Park, most users arrive by automobile or bicycle. Because attendance at a Community Park consumes travel time it becomes a special destination and its features and facilities often reflect this characteristic. These parks accommodate a variety of activities and usually encompass significant acreage in order to contain such things as swimming pools or ball fields.
- ◆ **Neighborhood Park** – these parks serve a specific portion of the community. Users can often walk to a Neighborhood Park. Because of their convenience, their uses tend to be more casual and spontaneous. These parks are only large enough to accommodate a few activities and are aimed at providing recreation to the immediate neighborhood.

Typically, equipment facilities are geared toward children, especially young children, because in these parks young children compose the majority of the users.

- ◆ **Special Use Facilities** – these facilities are usually geared toward one type of use and are often keyed to individual sports fields or complexes. As such, this type of facility serves as unique destination.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Public input has been a key component in the development of Washington Township's Recreation, Park and Open Space strategy. Over the years the Township has gathered information from residents, recreation facility users, and key individuals. Additionally, the Township via multiple public meetings during the update of the Township's Comprehensive Plan in 1999 gathered public input regarding recreational needs. During the preparation for the Master Plan for the Pine Hill Regional Recreational Area, recreational and open space goals were discussed and the desires of the community were documented. (See Appendix B)

In 1998, a public participation process, along with a study committee made up of residents, reviewed citizen input in order to develop a Master Plan for the Pine Hill Project. The resulting data outlines the perceived needs of the Township. This brainstorming session was translated into specific goals and objectives as follows:

Goal - provide a place for the area's youth and teenagers to call their own

Objectives

- a. create spaces and areas for teens to congregate and socialize
- b. provide a variety of traditional and alternative recreational facilities that encourage the use of Township facilities by teens of all ages, interests and abilities

Goal - provide facilities that enhance and supplement existing facilities

Objectives

- a. provide pedestrian links, where possible, between existing and proposed facilities
- b. achieve economic efficiencies by utilizing to the maximum extent the existing facilities

Goal - provide facilities that meet the recreational needs of all the residents of Washington Township

Objectives

- a. provide a balance of active facilities while taking advantage of existing natural site features
- b. provide resource based passive recreation opportunities
- c. provide a variety of recreational facilities that encourage the usage by citizens of all ages, interests and abilities
- d. create year round facilities that allow for winter sports in addition to popular spring through autumn sports

Goal - based on recently perceived changes in growth patterns prepare township for expected "bubble" of development which will occur over the next decade

Objectives

- a. a revision to the Township development control ordinances to require new developments to contribute "proportionately" to the provision of Open Space and Recreational services
- b. develop a plan for optimizing the use of existing Township Parks and Recreation Facilities
- c. monitor needs for the purpose of forecasting future requirements
- d. promote cooperation with other public, private, and non-profit agencies to provide recreational opportunities

Goal - coordinate with Franklin County and its long range planning and goals.

Objectives

- a. maintain a line of communication with Franklin County relative to Open Space and Recreation

Goal – establish greenways and open space, particularly along streams. Coordinate with Franklin County in possibilities of connecting greenways or open space to a countywide system. Protect the watershed and streams and buffer them from development.

Objectives

- a. expand greenway system shown on present state greenway map for Washington Township to provide additional open space and stream protection.
- b. work with Franklin County, Soil Conservation Service and the Antietam Watershed Committee to protect watershed and streams, and make these areas accessible for walking/biking trails.
- c. ensure any development near streams or watershed areas provide a significant buffer, with public access, to protect the beauty, water and environment of the area.
- d. acquire easements, property, or rights-of-way as needed to connect the Pine Hill Regional Recreation Area with Renfrew Park by greenway, sidewalks, and/or walking paths, and open space.
- e. acquire easements, rights-of-way, greenways, or property to extend pedestrian/bicycle pathways/trails north and west from the central section of the Township near Renfrew to connect with future trails as part of the County Trails System.

Goal – provide an educational and bird watching site in the Happel's Meadow Wetlands.

Objectives

- a. to acquire property adjacent to the wetlands suitable for an interpretive/environmental center, and possibly including a community area and/or library. This site would provide parking for visitors to the wetlands.
- b. construct a boardwalk into the wetlands, with areas for bird watching as well as observing the various sections of the wetlands.
- c. provide an educational program, working with the School District, that would include student visits to the wetlands.

Goal - involve the citizens of Washington Township in all future recreational planning

Objectives

- a. invite the public to participate in periodic recreational study committee meetings where their input will be sought regarding planning for the future
- b. continue to conduct key person interviews with members of the community who will have specific insight in the communities needs and desires for recreational and open space facilities

PLAN AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Washington Township has been proactive over the years in attempting to meet the recreational and open space needs of an increasing population. As recently as 1992 the Township acquired an additional 150 acre tract known as the Pine Hill Recreation Area from Lebanon Valley College. In 1997 the Township initiated planning for that real estate in an effort to create a Community Park which would meet the needs of the Township. In the process of developing the Master Plan for the Pine Hill Regional Recreation Area the Township considered the potential park users and the desires of the residents of the community.

A public participation process was put into place which was to gain input from the residents regarding appropriate park facilities. The participation included working with a study committee, completing key person interviews, and holding public meetings. This planning process targeted the collected citizen input in order to develop relevant goals and objectives that would meet the existing and future recreational needs of the Township.

Washington Township continues to be a largely rural/agricultural community. The agricultural environment in the western point of the Township, combined with the vast Michaux State Forest holdings on the eastern edge of the Township results in an environment rich in open space.

The Township has experienced growth in the last several decades, and has recently become aware of development constraints to the south and east which will push a more rapid suburbanization into the Township's jurisdiction. It has been noted that persons between 25 and 44 years old are the fastest growing age group in the Township. Persons 65 and older are the second largest age group in the Township. It is expected that these characteristics will hold true even through the expected population growth spurt projected for the next decade. This population mix would suggest the need for recreation facilities geared toward families and seniors.

In comparison with other similar municipalities Washington Township has been a leader in the development of community parks. These facilities provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for the Township residents and their recently revised Washington Township Comprehensive Plan notes that the Township has "sufficient undeveloped recreational lands available to meet the future population growth."

Administrative Plan

Washington Township should plan to continue to provide fiscally responsible management and effective utilization of the recreational resources that it currently has in place.

Recommendations

1. The Township should provide facilities and services from the basis of a realistic operating budget.
2. Operate the parks and recreation system based on nationally recommended standards.
3. Provide open lines of communication to Township residents.

Program Plan

The Township should provide a continually updated plan for balanced facilities and programming which anticipates future requirements.

Recommendations

1. Provide the fullest compliment of programs and facilities that is fiscally achievable.
2. Continually survey the community in order to meet its needs, requirements and expectations.
3. Monitor trends for the purpose of forecasting future needs.

Facilities Plan

The Township will continue to expand and upgrade the existing Recreation, Park and Open Space facilities it owns and operates. It will also encourage the development and expansion of other recreational opportunities to be owned and operated by non-Township entities.

Recommendations

1. Update park and recreation standards on a regular and continual basis.
2. Provide a balance of active/passive and conservation facilities.
3. Establish a strategy by which the developers of future residential areas in the Township participate in the provision of land for recreational uses or funds for development of existing community park facilities.
4. Work with school officials to determine exactly which facilities are available to the public, what hours they are available, and work toward utilizing them.
5. Coordinate with Franklin County in the development of pedestrian/bicycle greenway where opportunities of such facilities present themselves.