

Plan Summary

Plan Summary

Spring Garden Township has developed this **Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan** to guide future decision-making regarding parks, recreation facilities, programs and services, facility management, and the allocation of financial resources. The **Plan** provides an assessment of current assets and operations and suggests strategies and recommendations for enhancing the quality of life for residents of Spring Garden Township.

Spring Garden Township Park & Recreation Vision & Mission

Spring Garden Township defined vision and mission statements for parks and recreation. The statements are a synthesis of findings from public outreach, research, and consultation with municipal representatives as part of this **Plan** and should be used to inform decisions and guide future direction for the park system.

Vision Statement

Spring Garden Township's parks and recreation system enriches the community by providing opportunities that support active, healthy lifestyles; parks and recreation facilities where residents can gather and spend quality time with families and friends in a variety of settings; and opportunities to participate in community activities and special events.

Mission Statement

To acquire, develop, operate, and maintain a parks and recreation system that enriches the quality of life for those who live, work, and visit here.



Goals

The Plan translates the vision for parks and recreation into seven goals and associated objectives. Specific recommendations for each goal are documented in Chapter 8.

Goal 1: Establish parks and recreation facilities as community destinations where residents can have fun, socialize, experience nature, and lead active healthy lifestyles.

Objective 1: Complete park planning to position the municipality to maximize the benefit of existing parks, address accessibility and safety requirements, and create a vision for undeveloped park acreage. Prioritize developing a master plan update for the Mt. Rose Avenue Property.

Objective 2: Maximize the recreation benefit of existing parks by incorporating improvements to enhance the safety, convenience, and overall enjoyment of using the facilities.

Objective 3: Target acquisition and development of parkland to meet current and future needs of the municipality. Develop the Mt. Rose Avenue Property based on the master plan update.

Objective 4: Provide opportunities for the enjoyment of natural areas and resources in Spring Garden Township.

Objective 5: Provide facilities for public uses that comply with accessibility and safety regulations and guidelines.

Objective 6: Create great public spaces.

Objective 7: Plan for the continued revitalization and improvement to Spring Garden Township parks through a comprehensive capital improvement program.

Goal 2: Connect Spring Garden Township through a system of trails.

Objective 1: Coordinate greenway and trail planning and development with regional partners and stakeholders.

Objective 2: Undertake initiatives that set the stage for the successful development of greenways and trails.

Objective 3: Develop a greenway and trail network that protects the green corridors and linear natural resources of Spring Garden Township and connects neighborhood, parks, schools, and community destinations.

Goal 3: Become recognized as a valuable community asset that works in partnership with groups and businesses in the Township to provide a well-rounded schedule of recreation programs and special events to residents.

Objective 1: Expand promotion of the Township park areas, recreation facilities, and recreation programs to increase public awareness of the Township's investment.

Objective 2: Promote the services of other community recreation providers.

Goal 4: Find the Township's best niches for community recreation programs, resulting in strong participation numbers and continued program growth.

Objective 1: Expand the number and types of Township sponsored recreation programs.

Objective 2: Pursue partnerships for all recreation programs and special events sponsored by the Township.

Objective 3: Put processes in place to improve customer service and program quality.

Goal 5: Operate the parks, recreation, greenways, and trail system effectively and efficiently through volunteer and staff leadership and community partnerships.

Objective 1: Reorganize the Recreation Commission as a Parks and Recreation Board.

Objective 2: Develop a working relationship with the Springettsbury Township Parks and Recreation Board and Department.

Goal 6: Secure adequate financing to maintain existing parks; develop additional park areas, trails, greenways, and recreation facilities; and offer recreation programs for citizens.

Objective 1: Secure adequate funding for park maintenance, park development, and recreation programming.

Objective 2: Hire staff or independent contractors to expand the recreation program schedule.

Goal 7: Ensure that park areas and recreation facilities are well-maintained, meet current safety standards, and provide an enjoyable environment for residents.

Objective 1: Develop a written maintenance plan that describes the annual routine work and preventative maintenance that is needed at the parks.

Objective 2: Develop a computerized daily maintenance tracking system.

Objective 3: Have a Township staff person obtain the Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) credential.

Strategies and Key Recommendations for Accomplishing the Goals

To accomplish these goals, the following strategies, summarize the key actions recommended in the Plan.

- 1. Adopt the Spring Garden Township Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan**
- 2. Organize for Implementation** – Build momentum for implementation by undertaking the following specific actions upon Plan adoption.
 - Reorganize the Recreation Commission as a Parks and Recreation Board.
 - Expand the Board and include representation from York Suburban School District.
 - Develop a plan of action for year one following Plan adoption to keep moving forward.
- 3. Take Care of Existing Facilities and Improve What We Have** – Improve the existing parks as recommended in the Plan to provide safe, accessible, and beautiful parks and recreation facilities. Prioritize park initiatives in the short term:

- Complete park improvements listed on the CIP summary as “low hanging fruit”. These are improvements that the Spring Garden Township Public Works Department can complete in-house with minimal investment and time.
 - Pursue a grant from Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for improvements to three parks: Windsor Park, Elmwood Park, and Grantley Park. Develop Site Development Drawings which illustrate improvements. Complete improvements to the three parks upon award of grant funding.
 - Complete a master plan update for the Mt. Rose Avenue Property based on the findings and recommendations of this Plan. Pursue grant funding for the first phase of development of the Mt. Rose Avenue Property.
4. **Develop the Mt. Rose Avenue Property** – The Mt. Rose Avenue Property provides the best opportunity to expand recreation opportunities for residents of Spring Garden Township. The property is owned by the municipality and has the diverse characteristics that support development of both active and passive recreation facilities. Following development of a master plan for the 60-acre property, developing the first phase of park improvements should be prioritized.
 5. **Expand Recreation Programs and Special Events** – Consider the next two years as transformational years in which the Recreation and Parks Department works towards building its customer base and identity. Expand recreation programs and special events to reflect the recreation needs and interest of Spring Garden Township residents and recreation trends. Pursue partnerships and enhance customer service.
 6. **Pursue Trail Opportunities** – Develop trails in existing parks and coordinate with others to expand trails and pedestrian and bicycle accommodations in Spring Garden Township. Work closely with adjacent municipalities and others to advance trail initiatives.
 7. **Streamline Maintenance Management** – Develop a written maintenance management plan that enhances planning, budgeting, and undertaking park and recreation maintenance in an efficient manner.

Ensuring Success

Implementation of this **Plan** will require the enthusiasm and dedication of the Recreation and Parks Department staff and other Township personnel, the investment of time and money, and the commitment of elected officials. Momentum will be rooted in small successes over time. Every accomplishment, no matter the size, will help to advance parks, recreation, and trails in Spring Garden Township.

As an adopted plan, this document serves as a guide to direct future actions. The recommendations are not carved in stone, but rather provide a road map that suggest strategies to achieve defined goals. It is important to seize opportunities, meet emerging needs, and respond to changing trends throughout the implementation process. The process of implementing the **Plan** is ongoing and recommendations should be updated annually. Successes should be celebrated and built upon to provide momentum for future actions. The **Plan** will enable Spring Garden Township to make sound decisions and create a parks and recreation system that will be a community treasure and a reason to live, work, and play here.