

Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan



Spring Garden Township
York County, Pennsylvania

May 2016

Spring Garden Township Comprehensive Recreation, Parks & Open Space Plan

Prepared for:

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York County, Pennsylvania

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Table of Contents

Plan Summary

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Vision & Mission.....	1
Goals	1
Strategies and Key Recommendations for Accomplishing the Goas	3
Ensuring Success.....	4

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Plan Purpose and Goals.....	1-1
Planning Process.....	1-1
The Plan as a Guide	1-2
The Benefits of Parks & Recreation	1-2

Chapter 2 – Community Profile

Location and Configuration.....	2-1
History	2-2
Municipal Government	2-2
Demographics.....	2-2
Public Participation.....	2-4
Community Analysis.....	2-8

Chapter 3 – Parkland & Recreation

Configuration of Parkland	3-1
Amount of Parkland	3-4
Location of Parks	3-5
Recreation Facilities	3-6
Conditions of Parkland and Facilities	3-14
Mandatory Dedication	3-23
Parkland & Recreation Analysis	3-27

Chapter 4 – Greenways & Trails

Greenways & Trails	4-1
State and Local Greenway and Trail Initiatives	4-4
Organizing Elements of the Greenways and Trail Network	4-6
Greenways in Spring Garden Township	4-8
Greenways and Open Space Protection.....	4-9
Existing and Potential Trails in Spring Garden Township.....	4-9
Expanding the Trail System	4-11
Complete Streets & Walkable Communities.....	4-14
Greenways & Trails Analysis.....	4-15

Chapter 5 – Recreation Programs

Inventory of Recreation Programs and Providers	5-1
Program and Facility Partners	5-5
Program Promotion and Public Awareness	5-5
Recreation Programming Analysis	5-6

Chapter 6 – Administration & Financing

Advisory Board Structure.....	6-1
Recreation Department Structure and Authority	6-1
Financing	6-3
Administration and Finance Analysis	6-6

Chapter 7 – Park Maintenance

Park Maintenance Staffing	7-2
Staff Certifications and Licenses	7-3
Park Maintenance Scheduling.....	7-3
Maintenance Equipment and Vehicles	7-3
Safety and Security Efforts.....	7-4
Park Maintenance Analysis.....	7-4

Chapter 8 – Vision, Mission, Goals & Action Plan

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Vision & Mission	8-1
Goals	8-1
Strategies and Key Recommendations for Accomplishing the Goals.....	8-14
Action Plan	8-15

Appendix A – Capital Improvement Program

Appendix B – Online Public Comment

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.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Plan Purpose and Goals

The **Spring Garden Township Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan** provides strategic direction for the municipality to expand and enhance its recreation offerings and position the Parks and Recreation Department as a vital component of municipal government. The purpose of this planning effort was to develop a document that will guide future activities to improve parks and recreation facilities, programs and services, and assess the need for the development of the Mount Rose Avenue Property as a recreation asset. Parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open space add to the quality of life offered in a community; helps to attract and retain residents and businesses; and can spur economic activity. Recreation programs and services offer opportunities for residents to gather together as a community and lead a healthful lifestyle.

The **Plan** is an advisory document that serves as a long range planning tool for Spring Garden Township. The **Plan** defines future actions for providing recreation facilities, parkland, trails, and recreation services into the next decade. The Plan builds upon the existing framework of parks and services in the community. Recommendations target enhancements and initiatives desired by citizens and needed in the community, while considering the implications of today's lifestyles and trends in leisure activities.

The **Plan** provides a focus and prioritization for recommended initiatives, recognizing that not everything can be accomplished at once. The parks, recreation, trails, and open space proposals will require the investment of time, energy, and money, as well as, the commitment of elected officials, advisory boards, municipal staff, and volunteers.

Planning Process

Spring Garden Township began this planning process in early 2015. The Spring Garden Township Recreation Commission served as the Study Committee to work with the consultant team of a landscape architect and recreation planners to create this plan. Public input was gathered throughout the year-long planning project. Citizens were invited to public meetings to share their ideas and views on parks and recreation; interviews were held with key stakeholders to gather input and insights from recreation program providers, township staff, and others; and the municipal website hosted an on-line survey, which asked residents about their



priorities for improving parks and recreation in the Township. The public participation process and assessment of current conditions provided the foundation for the plan and defined key issues and opportunities for consideration to enhance parks and recreation services in Spring Garden Township.

The Plan as a Guide

The **Spring Garden Township Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan** will help to guide municipal decision-making regarding parks, recreation facilities, trails, recreation programs and services, and their financing. The recommendations reflect the direction in which the community desires to move in enhancing the quality of life for its citizens. The **Plan** reflects citizen's opinions and priorities and sets forth a clear vision of the future of parks and recreation in Spring Garden Township. The **Plan** positions the community to undertake the actions recommended and seek the financial support of its residents and from various grant programs.

The **Plan** functions in both a legal and an advisory capacity. It may help the municipality to acquire future funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, federal grant programs, as well as, from local businesses and foundations.

Legal

Once adopted, the **Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan** can serve a legal function. The MPC (Pennsylvania Municipalities Code) provides planning requirements that can be adopted by municipalities. Municipalities must provide a defensible basis for sound decision-making regarding land use. The **Plan** provides a sound foundation on which Spring Garden Township can base local planning decisions. The **Plan** provides the background, assessment, and rationale required to incorporate mandatory dedication of parkland and fee-in-lieu of dedication provisions into municipal ordinances.

Advisory

This **Plan** serves as a reference document for overall municipal planning and management and collaboration with regional partners and the private sector. The recommendations are based upon an investigative and educational process to identify initiatives and opportunities that are important to Spring Garden Township. The plan is intended to be a living document that will play a role in the decisions the municipality makes about parks, recreation services, trails, financing, management, open space preservation, and related planning efforts.

The **Plan** should be reviewed annually, prior to budget season. Through this review, accomplishments, needs, and emerging opportunities should be reviewed and considered. Actions should be adapted to changing circumstances in the municipality and region. Budgets should be based on the action plan, as modified to respond to existing circumstances, for the upcoming fiscal year. This proves to be a sound way of targeting resources to community needs and emerging opportunities.

The Benefits of Parks & Recreation

Parks and recreation play a critical role in providing a high quality of life that attracts and retains residents and businesses in a community. Pennsylvania municipalities that invest in park areas and recreation programs are creating opportunities to enhance citizens' well-being, improve the local economy, conserve

the natural environment, and strengthen the community. Our lives would not be complete without recreation and parks. Recreation brings us purpose, pleasure, and balance. Most of our best memories were made during our recreation time. The benefits of parks and recreation go way beyond fun and games. Consider the following benefits:

Personal Benefits

- Reduce stress
- Increase life expectancy
- Create balance between work and play
- Reduce obesity
- Promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles
- Reduce alienation and loneliness
- Encourage life-long learning and self-discovery
- Provide diversion from routine
- Meet people's needs for adventure, relaxation, belonging, competition, achievement, and excitement



Community Benefits

- Promote community pride and identity
- Reduce crime, delinquency, and self-destructive behavior
- Keep children involved in positive activities and out of trouble
- Encourage appreciation for community traditions and heritage
- Help people stay connected with others
- Promote cultural understanding and harmony
- Provide opportunities for neighbors to meet and form friendships
- Provide involvement opportunities that build leadership skills



Environmental Benefits

- Reduce pollution
- Protect ecosystems and natural resources
- Enhance air, water, and soil quality
- Protect wildlife and habitat areas
- Provide access to places to enjoy nature



Economic Benefits



- Enhance land and property values
- Assist in business retention
- Increase tourism
- Generate revenue
- Generate income for local businesses
- Reduce vandalism and crime
- Reduce health care costs

What Do Children Learn when Participating in Recreation Activities?

Recreation programs teach children skills they need to be successful in school and in life:

- How to budget time, set goals, communicate effectively with others, make decisions, follow rules, use their imaginations, and resolve problems.
- Sportsmanship and fairness, giving total effort, hard work pays off, the importance of exercise and physical fitness, and being a team player.
- Planning, strategy, leadership, patience, resourcefulness, and social skills.
- How to accept, understand, and value differences.

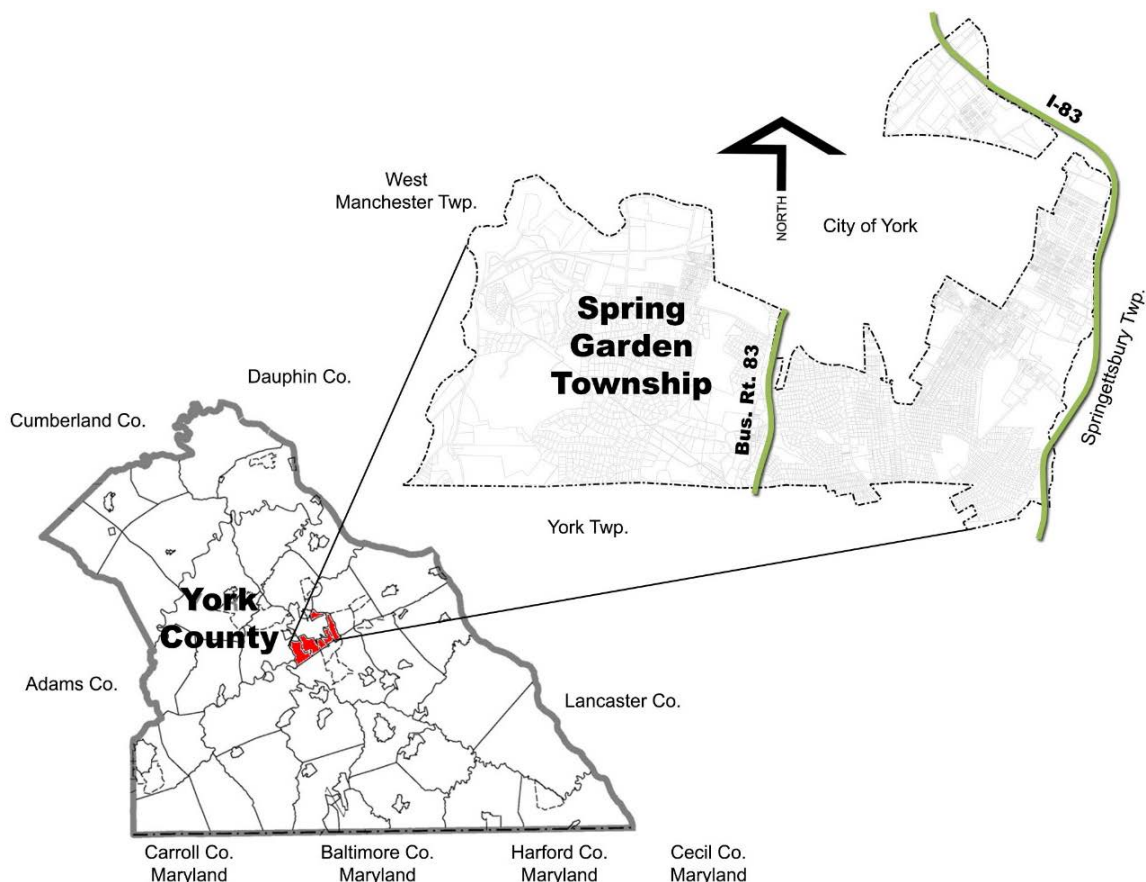
Chapter 2 - Community Profile

Chapter 2 - Community Profile

Understanding the context and character of Spring Garden Township is vital to creating a plan for parks and recreation that will be successful in serving citizens. The community profile explores the community's locations, history, demographics, and findings of the public involvement process for this Plan.

Location and Configuration

Spring Garden Township is located in central York County, Pennsylvania, and is a first-ring municipality outside of the City of York. Spring Garden Township encircles York City spanning from the Codorus Creek south of the City to Codorus Creek, north of the City. The adjoining municipalities are West Manchester and North Codorus Townships to the west, York Township to the south, Springettsbury Township to the east and north, and North York Borough and Manchester Township to the west. The Township is made up of neighborhoods to include Brockie, Wyndham Hills, Grantley, Farquhar Estates, Tri Hill, Violet Hill, Hillcroft, Mount Rose, Elmwood, Windsor Park, and others. The Windsor Park neighborhood is separated from the remainder of the municipality by a small segment of the City of York. U.S. Route 83 is somewhat parallel to the north and east boundary of the Township and Business Route 83 bisects the municipality south of the City.



History

Spring Garden Township was part of Hellam Township from 1739 to 1822 when it was split off and named after the suburban area north of Philadelphia. The area of what is now Springettsbury Township was part of Spring Garden Township from 1822 to 1891. In 1891 the courts acted on results of an election poll that decided to separate the western suburban area of Spring Garden Township from the agricultural interest of Springettsbury to the east.

Municipal Government

Spring Garden Township is a First Class Township. Five elected officials serve the Township as the Board of Commissioners, representing the five wards of the municipality. In accordance with the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code, the Spring Garden Township Board of Commissioners is charged with the general governance of the Township; the execution of legislative, executive, and administrative powers in order to ensure the sound fiscal management of the Township; and securing the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the community.

The Board of Commissioners fulfills its duty by adopting resolutions and ordinances, hiring staff to provide services, establishing fees and charges, adopting a budget, establishing tax rates, and appointing advisory and special purpose boards and commissions to help oversee legislative activities and certain operational functions.

Demographics

Spring Garden Township is a suburban community with a 2010 population of 12,578. Between 2000 and 2010 Pennsylvania grew by 3.4 percent and York County grew by 13.9 percent. Spring Garden Township's population grew at 5.0 percent, slightly more than the state as a whole but slower than York County. Spring Garden Township is an established community with relatively less open land available for development than the County.

Table 3-1 Pennsylvania, York County, Spring Garden Township Population Changes 2000-2010				
Area	2000 Population	2010 Population	Numeric Change 2000-2010	% Change
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	12,702,379	421,325	3.4%
York County	381,751	434,972	53,221	13.9%
Spring Garden Township	11,974	12,578	604	5.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

What Change is Significant?

The U.S. Bureau of the Census considers a change of 2.5 percent to be significant.

Population Projections

The York County Planning Commission has developed population projections for the municipalities. Table 3-2 presents population projections for York County and Spring Garden Township through 2030. The Township is projected to increase by 2.6. This is much lower than York County's projected growth of 16.1 percent.

Table 3-2
**York County and Spring Garden Township
Population Projections through 2030**

Area	2010 Population	2020 Population	2030 Population	# Change 2010-2030	% Change 2010 - 2030
York County	434,972	464,424	504,958	69,986	16.1%
Spring Garden Township	12,578	12,651	12,904	326	2.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, York County Planning Commission

Age

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the median age for York County is 40.1, while Spring Garden Township is slightly younger with a median age of 38.8.

Since 2000, Spring Garden Township's population of citizens' ages 44 years and under has declined slightly. The Township's biggest gain in population by age group was the 55 to 64 age group. Planning for services for young families and active seniors is important in Spring Garden Township to address these population shifts.

Table 3-3
**York County and Spring Garden Township
Age of Population 2000-2010**

Age Group	York County		Spring Garden Township	
	2000	2010	2000	2010
Under 5 yrs.	6.1%	6.1%	4.7%	4.3%
5 – 24 yrs	26.1	25.6	31.6	32.9
25 – 44 yrs.	30.3	25.5	22.9	20.1
45 – 54 yrs.	14.6	16.0	13.1	13.3
55 – 64 yrs.	9.4	12.8	9.2	12.7
65 – 74 yrs.	7.1	7.5	7.9	7.9
75 – 84 yrs.	4.8	4.6	7.6	5.9
85 yrs +	1.6	1.9	3.0	2.9
Median Age	37.8 yrs.	40.1 yrs.	38.3 yrs.	38.8 yrs.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Race

Spring Garden Township was less diverse than York County as a whole in 2010 with 91.8 percent white, compared to 88.5 percent white in the County. African Americans made up 3.3 percent and Hispanic or Latino made up 3.5 percent of the Township population. The Asian population was 1.7 percent.

Education

The 2000 U. S. Census indicated that 22.9 percent of Spring Garden Township residents, 25 years and older, had a Bachelor's degree. An additional 12.6 percent had a graduate or professional degree. Residents of Spring Garden Township are more educated than the County as a whole where 12.5 percent held bachelor's degrees and 5.8 percent held graduate or professional degrees. Education data is not available for 2010.

Income

The median income for persons over 16 years old based on 2014 inflation adjusted dollars for Spring Garden Township is \$74,238 based on the 2010-2014 American Communities Survey, while the same statistic for York County is \$55,550. Spring Garden Township is more affluent than other communities in the County.

Housing

The median value of a house in Spring Garden Township according to the 2010 U.S. Census was \$168,900 and median rent was at \$1,078 per month. In the County, the median house value was \$170,900 and median rent was \$838 per month. The 2010 U.S. Census found that 87.9 percent of the Township's housing stock was owner occupied in 2010, while 75.5 percent of the County's housing stock is owner occupied.

Public Participation

This planning project included a four-part public participation process: a Study Committee, interviews, public meetings, and an on-line public comment survey.

Study Committee

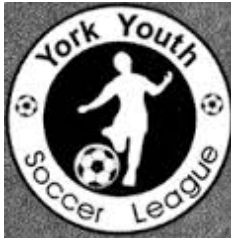
The Study Committee was established to guide the planning process and provide feedback regarding project findings. The six member Study Committee was comprised of representatives of the Spring Garden Township Recreation Commission and the Recreation Director. The Study Committee met several times throughout the plan development to discuss project findings and planning considerations and to review the draft report. The Study Committee provided guidance and direction on the plan, identified key stakeholders for interviews, and shared feedback and ideas for consideration.



Key Person Interviews

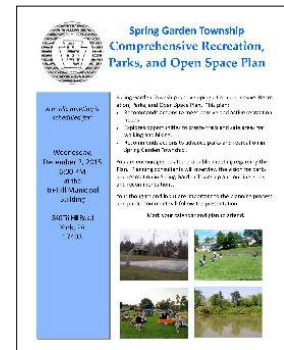
The planning process included interviews with key stakeholders in the community and region. The purpose of the interviews was to obtain information, ideas, concerns, and suggestions from individuals and organizations regarding parks, trails, recreation facilities, and recreation programs.

Interviews took place throughout the planning process and included members of the Recreation Department, adjacent and nearby municipalities, York County Rail Trail Authority, York Suburban School District, youth sports providers, and others.



Public Meetings

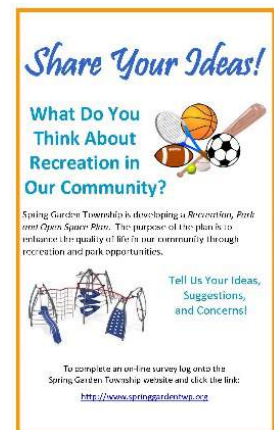
Two public meetings were held to obtain input from citizens regarding their leisure interests, park and recreation opportunities, and existing park use. The first public meeting was held early in the planning process. A second public meeting was held to share the mission, vision, goals, and recommendations of this **Plan**. Both meetings were held at the municipal building and attended by citizens and the Study Committee.



Online Public Comment

Spring Garden Township offered citizens the opportunity to comment on parks and recreation via an online questionnaire posted on Spring Garden Township's website. A total of 252 responses were received, which indicated the following:

- **The number one reason respondents visit parks is to Experience Nature (77.83%), followed closely by Fitness and Wellness (75.22%).** The next highest response is to Socialize with Friends (55.22%). Self-directed recreation in the outdoor setting is why residents visit parks.
- **Respondents indicate that Spring Garden Township should prioritize Maintaining Parks and Recreation Facilities (70.18%) over the next ten years.** When high priority and medium priority are combined, maintaining parks and recreation facilities is the highest priority at 97.7%. The second highest priority is Improving Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities (50.45%), and 93.18% when high and medium priorities are combined. The third priority of respondents for high and medium priority combined is Expanding Recreation Programs and Services (80.65%) followed closely by Developing the Mt. Rose Avenue Property (76.24%). Respondents are indicating that they want Spring Garden Township to invest in existing parks and facilities and to take care of what they have. This response does not jive well with the reasons respondents visit parks because:
 - The setting of the parks is suburban and do not include opportunities to experience nature.
 - The parks are too small to introduce trails and other facilities that promote fitness and wellness.



- The parks do not have the features that draw diverse users and are not designed to promote socializing with friends.
- **The majority of respondents never visit Spring Garden Township parks.** Relatively significant number of respondents do not know about the majority of the municipal parks – with Tri-Hill Park being the most recognized park site and Custis Field being the least recognized. Respondents do indicate that they visit other parks in the region (% = daily, weekly, monthly, and seasonally combined) to include Heritage Rail Trail County Park (86.08%), William Kain/Nixon County Parks (83.35%), Parks in Other Municipalities (74.69%), and York Water Co. Land on Country Club/Grantley Roads (61.08%). The most popular park in Spring Garden Township, Tri-Hill Park, received a combined visit total of 53.26%. The visits at Tri-Hill Park appear to be driven by the special events held there, as the majority of the visits are seasonal (30.98%). Additionally, more respondents may be aware of Tri-Hill Park because it is the home of the police department, recreation department, and public meeting rooms. Residents do not know about Custis Field because it is a single-use park for youth baseball. The Other category garnered 40 responses for Springettsbury Township and 29 responses for York Township
- **Respondents rated the parks and recreation facilities in Spring Garden Township at below average for every metric listed.** On a weighted score the overall average was 3.07 out of 10, with ten as excellent and zero as poor.
- **Preferred activities** (Very Important score of >50%) **to provide in the Mt. Rose Avenue Property include:**
 - Restrooms – 83.59%
 - Running/jogging/walking paths – 79.49%
 - Enjoying nature – 69.27%
 - Children’s play equipment/area – 66.67%
 - Sitting and relaxing – 66.49%
 - Picnicking – 58.95%
 - Exercise/fitness – 54.12%

The ranking stays the same if the scores for Very Important and Somewhat Important are combined. Respondents preferred self-directed, outdoor activities, over programmed activities. Preferences relate directly to the responses to the first question – what are you looking for when visiting parks.

- **Responses to Availability of Recreation Programs in Spring Garden Township was “Don’t Know” across all demographics.** This indicates that recreation programs are not widely utilized in the Township.
- **Adult respondents (>80%) indicated interests in the following Recreation Programs: Exercise and Fitness, Concerts, Self-Improvement and Education Classes.** Highest interest for Pre-School Children (35.94%) and School Age Youth (71.88%) was Summer Day Camps. Highest interest for Teens was League Sports (42.86%) and Seniors was Trips (42.42%). The surveys were complete primarily by adults.

Findings of the Public Participation Process, Research, and Review of Current Conditions

Each method of obtaining public input found a consistent message from the citizens of Spring Garden Township. The following summarizes the input from the public meetings, on-line survey, key stakeholders, and observations from field work and assessment of current condition.

Parks – The six municipal parks offer similar recreation facilities (playgrounds, basketball courts, pavilions), are small with little or no room for expansion or introduction of additional facilities desired by residents. With the exception of three youth baseball fields, the parks do not offer athletic fields to accommodate youth programs. The parks require investment in accessibility accommodations, updated playgrounds, and visitor amenities. The lack of diverse recreation offerings focuses park use to residents in the immediate neighborhood. Primary park visitors are mothers and young children using the playgrounds and teens and young adults playing basketball.

Schools – York Suburban School District schools within the Township have similar challenges as the parks, with maximized sites and minimal room for expansion. The school district opens their fields, courts, and gymnasiums to community use.

Community Sports – Various organizations, including the Spring Garden Township Recreation Department, provide youth sports programming for Spring Garden Township residents. The programs use the three municipal youth baseball fields but must travel to parks in other municipalities or use York Suburban School District facilities for older youth baseball, lacrosse, softball, soccer, football, and basketball. Youth participation in lacrosse and soccer is growing, baseball is steady, and softball is growing throughout York County, but is declining in Spring Garden Township. Indoor recreation venues are needed and programs rely on the use of school gymnasiums.

Trails – Respondents to the internet survey ranked using running/jogging/walking paths and enjoying nature as the highest preferred activities to accommodate in the Mt. Rose Avenue Property. There was an extensive discussion at the first public meeting regarding trail opportunities and the desire to have safe places to walk and bicycle in Spring Garden Township. Trails will also provide opportunities for park visitors to experience nature and participate in fitness and wellness activities, listed as the top two experiences residents are looking for when visiting parks.

Programs and Services – The Spring Garden Township Recreation Department provides important public recreation services which include sports leagues coordination, the summer park programs, and special events like the Fall Fest and Easter Egg Hunt. The current program offerings focus on children and should be expanded to include adults, senior adults, teens, and families. Program revenue goals should be initiated. Program registration and policies should be more user friendly.

Maintenance – Maintenance activities should be formalized in a written maintenance management plan to improve work scheduling, tracking, and budgeting. Playgrounds should be routinely inspected by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector.

Mt. Rose Avenue Property – There is extensive interest and anticipation regarding the development of the Mt. Rose Avenue Property as a community park. The site offers a setting

that can accommodate the recreation facilities and opportunities preferred by residents. The size of the property will accommodate the development of athletic fields and courts which cannot be accommodated within existing parks, providing a home base for Spring Garden Township youth sports organizations.

Community Analysis

Strengths

Spring Garden Township is a first ring community outside the City of York and is densely developed with minimal open, undeveloped areas. The Township has a relatively stable population that is anticipated to grow minimally over the next several decades. Spring Garden Township residents are more educated and have a higher income than the County as a whole.

Challenges

The developed nature of the community provides minimal opportunity to expand recreation facility offerings. Recreation programs and facilities should align with changing trends and interests. Citizens' interest in natural areas and trails do not align with the existing parks site opportunities and acquisition of additional land and rights-of-ways for trails will be a challenge.

Opportunities

This **Plan** provides an assessment of recreation opportunities that are based on a foundation of community input, assessment of current conditions, and consideration of local and regional interests and trends. This assessment provides information for elected official as they consider the future of parks and recreation in Spring Garden Township.

Chapter 3 - Parkland & Recreation

Chapter 3 - Parkland & Recreation

The assessment of Spring Garden Township recreation facilities and parkland evaluates six factors that contribute to their value as community assets and the ability of the facilities to meet the recreation needs of residents. The six factors include:

1. Configuration of parkland
2. Amount of parkland
3. Locations of parks
4. Recreation facilities
5. Conditions of parkland and facilities
6. Park and facility trends

Configuration of Parkland

Spring Garden Township has six parks, plus undeveloped parkland at the Mt. Rose Avenue Property. Table 3-1 inventories public parkland, schools, and other recreation sites in Spring Garden Township.

Park / Trail	Acreage	Park Type	Characteristics /Facilities	Planning District / Ownership
Elmwood Park	1.6	Mini Park	Softball/baseball field (60' baseline), playground, pavilion, basketball court	Ward 2
Mt. Rose Park	0.25	Mini Park	Playground, basketball standard	Ward 5
Grantley Park	0.94	Mini Park	Playground, pavilion, basketball court	Ward 4
Tri-Hill Park	3.0	Mini Park	Baseball field (75' baseline), pavilion, playground, basketball court	Ward 3
Windsor Park	0.5	Mini Park	Playground, pavilion, basketball court	Ward 2
Custis Field	1.218	Special Use	Baseball field (60' baseline)	Ward 2
Mt. Rose Avenue Property	60.755		Undeveloped, not available for use	Ward 2 & 5
Heritage Rail Trail County Park	-	Trail	East of Grantley Road on south side of Kings Mill Road, parallel to Indian Road Dam Road	Ward 4
Park / Trail Total	7.508 – developed and available (68.263)			

Schools	School Type	Characteristics /Facilities	Planning District
Valley View Elementary School	Elementary	Playground equipment, pavement games, open space	Ward 5
Indian Rock Elementary School	Elementary	Playground equipment, pavement games, 2 basketball courts, walking trail, ball field	Ward 4
Phineas Davis Elementary School (York City School District)	Elementary	Playground, multipurpose field, informal ball field	Ward 2
York Suburban Senior High School	High	Turf multipurpose field,	Ward 5
York Country Day School	Pre-school - High	Field hockey field, 3 soccer fields, baseball field, 3 tennis courts, basketball courts, playground	Ward 4
York College of Pennsylvania	College	Baseball field, softball field, track,	Ward 3 & 4
Penn State University – York Campus	University	6 tennis courts	Ward 1
School Total			
Other Public, Quasi-Public, Protected Lands/Parks	Ownership	Characteristics /Facilities	Planning District
York Water Company Open Space – Reservoir Park	Privately owned – open for public use	Wooded area, lawn area	Ward 3
Country Club of York	Private membership-based club	18-Hole golf course, swimming pool, tennis courts	Ward 4
Other Public, Quasi-Public, Protected Lands/Parks Total			

Different types of parks provide different opportunities for visitors. Table 3-2 presents a typical Park Classification System. It shows the range of park types, their benefits, typical facilities, and the maintenance levels appropriate for the park type. The Spring Garden Township Parks all fall into the Mini Park classification with the exception of Custis Field which is a special use facility, specifically developed as a baseball field.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the analysis of Park and Recreation Classifications as they relate to the Spring Garden Township park system:

- While the mini parks have additional facilities beyond the typical playground, their small size limits the extent and diversity of recreation facilities that can be provided.
- The mini parks are fully developed with little opportunity to expand and introduce new facilities.
- There are no nature preserves or natural resource areas available for passive recreation pursuits.
- The lack of neighborhood parks, community parks, and a sports complex results in few athletic facilities and minimal opportunity for community special events.

Table 3-2
**Spring Garden Township
Park and Recreation Classification System**

Type/Size/ Service Radius	Definition	Benefits	Appropriate Amenities	Maintenance Level
Mini Park <i>0-5 acres ¼-mile service radius</i>	Smallest park type, addresses limited recreation need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides close to home recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground Benches, seating area 	High level of maintenance associated with well-developed park and playground and reasonably high visitation.
Neighborhood Park <i>5-10 acres minimum ½-mile service radius</i>	Focus of neighborhood; in walking/biking distance of visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides access to basic recreation opportunities Contributes to neighborhood identity Establishes sense of community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play areas Ballfields Game Courts Picnic/Seating Pathways Community gardens 	High level of maintenance associated with well-developed park and reasonably high visitation.
Community Park <i>10-50 acres, preferably 50-80 acres 2-mile service radius</i>	Large park for active & passive recreation; serves residents municipality-wide. Accommodates large groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variety of recreation opportunities for all ages and interests Space for organized, large scale, high participation events Family destination Fitness and wellness opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play areas Organized sports facilities Pavilions Permanent restrooms Lighting Amphitheaters Pools, Rinks Parking 	Moderate level of maintenance associated with moderate level of development, budget restrictions, inability to perform higher levels of maintenance. Potential for park “friends” or adopt-a-park partners.
School/ Community Park <i>Variable</i>	Parkland adjoining a school used for both recreation and education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combines two public entities for expanded year round recreation. Maximizes public resources Expands recreation opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth-oriented game courts and ball fields Play areas Seating Pathways Lighting Parking 	Moderate level of maintenance associated with moderate level of development, budget restrictions. Potential for cooperative agreement with school.
Sports Complex <i>30+ acres; preferably 50-80 acres</i>	Consolidates sports fields and related facilities in a centralized location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economy of scale Improved management Municipal showcase Attracts visitors who stimulate local economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ball fields Lighting Spectator areas Restrooms, Concessions Landscaping Parking 	State of the art maintenance applied to high quality facilities. Associated with high visitation; revenue generating facilities, tourism.
Special Use Facility <i>Variable</i>	Facility for a single purpose use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides special focus recreation opportunities Contributes to community identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depends on purpose 	High level of maintenance associated with well-developed park and reasonably high visitation.
Greenways and Trails <i>Variable</i>	Tie park areas and community together to form a contiguous park environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connects community Reduces auto dependency Improves air quality Contributes most desired recreation facility for people throughout their lifetime Attracts visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways – multipurpose Trailheads Support facilities Signage 	Lowest level of maintenance. Focus on trailheads and trail safety.
Natural Resource Area/ Preserve	Natural areas for the protection and management of natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protects resources Provides wildlife habitat Offers opportunities for environmental education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails Signage Support facilities 	Lower level of maintenance.

Amount of Parkland

Spring Garden Township has 7.508 acres of parkland in six parks. A population-based analysis is typically used to evaluate active public parkland. Passive parks, greenways and trails, and nature preserves are not evaluated using an acreage standard because the size of this parkland is typically based on the site resources and the area necessary to protect the resources and make them available for public enjoyment. Active parks contain facilities which are affected by population growth such as ball fields and playgrounds. As a community's population increases, the need for active parkland increases to provide facilities to meet public need.

Over the past 30 years, it has been the accepted practice within the recreation and park profession to adopt a uniform national land standard such as 10.5 acres per thousand.

NRPA Park, Recreation, and Open Space Guidelines 1995

The prevailing minimum standard for active parkland acreage is 10.5 acres per one-thousand-population. For assessment purposes, the 10.5 acres is divided between community parks (8 acres) and neighborhood parks (2.5 acres). The mini parks in Spring Garden Township have been included in the Neighborhood Park category. Table 3-3 compares the population and population forecast for the Township with the existing active parkland acreage. The undeveloped acreage of Mt. Rose Avenue Property is excluded from this analysis.

Table 3-3
Spring Garden Township
Parkland Acreage/NRPA Standards Analysis

Park Type	Existing Active Parkland Acreage	Recommended Acres/2020 Forecast Population – 12,651	2020 Deficit (-) Excess (+)	Recommended Acres/2030 Forecast Population – 12,904	2030 Deficit (-) Excess (+)
Community Parks @ 8 Acres/1,000 Population – Total acreage	0	101.208	- 101.208	103.232	- 103.232
Neighborhood Parks @ 2.5 Acres/1,000 Population	7.508	31.628	- 24.12	32.26	- 24.752
Totals (Total community park + neighborhood park)	7.508	132.836	- 125.328	135.492	- 127.984

Source: York County Planning Commission Population Projections

The 2010 U.S. Census indicated a population of 12,578 in Spring Garden Township. The York County Planning Commission population projects indicate that 12,651 people will reside in Spring Garden Township in 2020. The municipality is projected to grow modestly to 12,904 by 2030.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the assessment of parkland acreage:

- Spring Garden Township has a deficit of parkland. Based on the 2020 population projections, Spring Garden Township needs over 125 acres of parkland to meet the recreation needs of anticipated population in 2020.
- The Mt. Rose Avenue Property, when developed, will reduce the amount of parkland needed in the community. The ultimate amount of the site devoted to park facilities and activity areas

has not yet been defined, but it is anticipated that municipal administration and police will occupy a portion of the site, resulting in parkland at the Mt. Rose Avenue property of less than the total 60 acres.

- The parkland acreage analysis indicates that at least one community park is needed in addition to the recreation development of a portion of the Mt. Rose Avenue Property.



Recreation and parks are essential to Quality of Life.

Recreation is a:

- Factor in personal health
- Key to balanced human development
- Significant economic generation
- Component of balanced human development

Recreation:

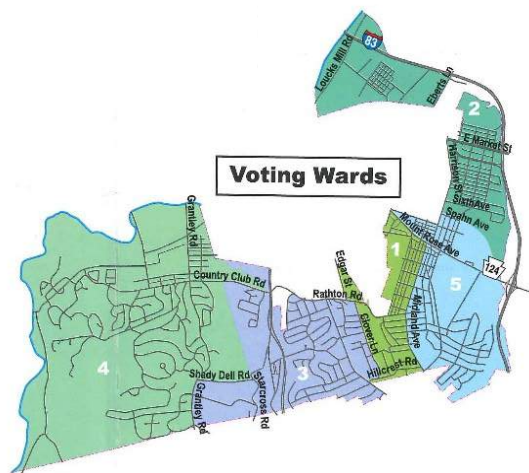
- Reduces self-destructive and anti-social behavior
- Builds strong families and healthy communities
- Reduces health care, social services and police/justice costs

Location of Parks

The parkland distribution analysis evaluates the location of parks relative to existing residential development and considers physical barriers that limit easy access to park sites. Service radiiuses, which define the geographic area generally served by a park, have been applied to each park, with the exception of Custis Field, based on the Spring Garden Township park classification system. Refer to the Existing Facilities Map on page 3-29.

Spring Garden Township is divided into five voting wards. Parkland is not distributed evenly through the municipality or wards.

- Voting Ward 1 – 0 parks
- Voting Ward 2 – 3 parks totaling 3.318 acres



- Voting Ward 3 – 1 park at 3.0 acres
- Voting Ward 4 – 1 park at 0.94 acres
- Voting Ward 5 – 1 park at 0.25 acres

The Existing Facilities Map illustrates the locations of parks, schools, and other recreation and open space parcels in Spring Garden Township. The following conclusions can be drawn from analysis of park locations:

- Mini parks have 1/4-mile service radius resulting in parks that serve only residents in close proximity to the park sites. The majority of the municipality does not have convenient access to a municipal park.
- There are no municipal parks in the western portion of the municipality (Voting Ward 1).
- There are no municipal parks located in the neighborhoods surrounding York Suburban High School.
- The internet survey asked residents “how do you rate parks and recreation facilities in Spring Garden Township?” on several factors, including location. 35.64% rated the park locations as good, 33.51% ranked them as very good, while 16.15% ranked them as fair, 8.51% as excellent, and 3.19% as poor.

Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities should be provided within a community to meet the demands of individuals, community groups, and organized adult and youth leagues. The appropriate number of park facilities in a community should be based on need as defined by current and projected facility usage and local trends in recreation and leisure activities.

An analysis of facilities must consider the context of the municipality and the trends and popularity of the sport or activity that the facility serves. Facility trends and observations in Spring Garden Township illustrate the need for additional recreation facilities. Consider the following findings from the key person interviews, internet survey, and public meetings:



Table 3-4
Recreation Facility Inventory

Park Name	Baseball Field 60/75' BL	Baseball Field 90'BL	Softball Field	Multi-Purpose Field	Playground	Pavilion	Basketball Court	Tennis Courts	Football Field
Spring Garden Township Recreation Facilities									
Elmwood Park	1* (60')	-	1*	1	1	1	1	-	-
Mt. Rose Park	-	-	-	-	1		1**	-	-
Grantley Park	-	-	-	-	1	1	2**	-	-
Tri-Hill Park	1 (75')	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Windsor Park	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Custis Field	1 (60')	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	0	1	1	5	4	4	0	0
York Suburban School District Recreation Facilities									
Valley View Elementary School	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Indian Rock Elementary School	1 (60')	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
York Suburban Sr. High School	-	1	-	1	-	1		5	1
Totals	1	1	0	1	2	1	2	5	1

* One field used for both baseball and softball

** Single basketball goal

Local, Regional & National Youth Athletic Trends and Research

- Dual seasons, year-round sports, and elite teams are affecting participation numbers in youth sports. Players are choosing a single sport earlier and not playing multiple sports.
- Emerging and growing sports are putting additional pressure on both municipal and school district fields in Spring Garden Township.
- Lacrosse is growing locally, regionally, and nationally. Nationally, lacrosse participation grew 11.8% for youth (15 and under) from 2010 – 2013. PIAA first sanctioned high school competitive lacrosse for boys and girls in 2009 and is now played competitively in the majority of school districts in York County, including York Suburban School District. Locally, lacrosse is taking players from soccer, baseball, and softball.
- The availability of volunteers and coaches are limiting factors for most leagues. Lacrosse has the additional limiting factor of availability of referees.
- Soccer participation continues to increase locally.
- Softball is growing in York County, but not in Spring Garden Township.
- Lack of indoor venues limits winter programs and training and conditioning activities.

- The York Suburban School District (YSSD) athletic facilities are heavily used by community youth organizations. All YSSD facilities are available for use, with school use prioritized over community use. There is no charge for YSSD athletic facilities unless custodial service is required.
- SFIA (Sports and Fitness Industry Association) for U.S. participants ages 6+ years, provides sports participation data, 5-year participation trends (2007-2012) for the core (regular/frequent) players:
 - Baseball: - 4.7%
 - Basketball: - 1.9%
 - Field Hockey: + 2.8%
 - Football (Tackle): - 2.9%
 - Lacrosse: + 3.6%
 - Soccer (Outdoor): - 0.5%
 - Softball (Fast-pitch): + 1.1%
- The 2014-2019 SCORP (State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) Resident Survey found that residents in the Southeast Region (including York County) report that a household member participated in the following activities in the last 12 months:
 - Baseball/Softball: 22.9%
 - Basketball (Outdoors): 19.4%
 - Lacrosse/Soccer/Football: 13.7%
- There are no multi-purpose athletic fields available for youth sports organization use in municipal parks. Soccer and lacrosse both indicate a need for additional fields.
- There are three municipal youth baseball fields but no adult (90' baseline) baseball fields in Township parks. York Suburban School District indicated that the one adult baseball field on their campus is a short field and a second field is desired for games and practices to accommodate both the varsity and junior-varsity teams.
- Support facilities, such as restrooms, adequate and off-street parking, shaded sitting and gathering areas, and landscaping are important features in parks and add to the function and quality of facilities.
- Seniors are more active and are requesting facilities for recreation and fitness and wellness activities.

- State-wide, walking is ranked as the activity with the highest participation and trails are typically the highest desired park facility. Trails can be used by most segments of the population and are popular for walking, jogging and participating in fitness and wellness activities.
- Walking is not accommodated in any of the parks and trails were cited in the on-line survey as the most desired park facility after restrooms.

Facility Assessment

Following is the facility assessment for Spring Garden Township by activity:

Softball – There is one softball field in Spring Garden Township at Elmwood Park. This municipal field is also used for youth baseball. The field is short and should only be used by younger players. York Suburban School District’s softball field is located at the Middle School, in Springettsbury Township. Spring Garden Township residents play recreation softball as part of the South Central PA Softball League. Softball should be provided in community parks.



- Softball is growing in York County. The umbrella organization, SCPAS (South Central PA Softball) serves 29 clubs and in 2015 there were 165 teams. In 2005 the organization had 117 teams and 2008, 126 teams. From 2013-2015 the number of teams has been steady.
- Locally, Spring Garden Township has had fewer teams each year in SCPAS. In 2015 there was only one team in the 12 year old age group.
- York Little League offers a recreation softball option for Spring Garden Township residents. York Little League does not use Spring Garden Township fields.

Baseball – There are three youth baseball fields in the municipality. The Tri-Hill Park field has a 75’ baseline and the Custis Field and Elmwood Park fields have 60’ baselines. There is one adult baseball field (90’ baseline) located at York Suburban Senior High School. Baseball fields should be provided in community parks and developed with lights, as appropriate based on the location.

- York Little League organizes the baseball program, which serves T-ball (age 5-7) through age 18. Spring Garden Township joined the league in 2014. There are spring and fall seasons for baseball.
- Baseball participation is steady. In 2015 Suburban York Legion will have a fall team for the first time in three years.

- Suburban York Legion uses the school field, which has a short outfield (305') with no outfield pocket.
- York Suburban School District needs another 90' baseline baseball field. With one field the Varsity and Junior Varsity teams can't practice at the same time and must split games with one team playing at home and one team playing away.
- York Suburban School District also noted the need for a 60' baseline field to serve the younger players.

Football / Cheerleading – There are no football fields located in Spring Garden Township parks. York Suburban Senior High School has a turf football field but there is no community use of this field for youth football. Football play is not compatible with soccer on the same field due to turf wear and shared use is not recommended. Football fields are not currently recommended for parks in the study area.

- EYC offers football to Spring Garden Township youth but does not use Township parks or York Suburban School District fields.

Basketball – There are five basketball courts located in neighborhood parks. Tri-Hill Park, Windsor Park, and Elmwood Park have traditional courts. Grantley Park and Mt. Rose Park have single basketball goals for shooting baskets. Youth basketball is organized by the Spring Garden Township Recreation Department and is played in the York Suburban School District elementary schools and middle school. Several of the gymnasiums are inadequate due to being undersized or lacking run-out space around the court. Outdoor basketball courts are



recommended in new neighborhood and community parks. Where possible, courts should be located in banks of at least two courts, near parking areas and separated from younger children and passive activity areas. Court lighting extends play time and lights are suggested in parks where they would be compatible with surrounding land use.

- Basketball is considered important or somewhat important by over 70% of the respondents to the on-line survey for development in the Mt. Rose Avenue Property.
- EYC Basketball is growing. During the 2013-2014 season there were 169 participants and 2014-2015, 178 participants.
- Suburban Youth Basketball Club (SYBC) participation is steady.
- In past years gymnasium time was needed for practices. For the current year, 2015-2016, scheduling gymnasium time for the SYBC program with the School District was difficult and

teams are playing later in the evening due to gymnasiums being unavailable in earlier time slots.

Soccer – There are no soccer fields in Spring Garden Township parks and the two youth soccer leagues that serve the municipality use fields at the schools and in other municipalities. Additional soccer fields are needed to accommodate the youth programs and to provide opportunities for adult play. Field lights are suggested, where appropriate, to extend playing times and maximize the use of existing facilities.

- The 2015 Trojan Soccer League had 120 participants in their Recreation Division and 150 participants in their Travel Division. Participation for girls has recently decreased but the boy's program remains steady.
- York Youth Soccer League serves youth in the York area, including residents of Spring Garden Township. In spring 2015 York Youth Soccer League had approximately 500 participants.
- Soccer is popular in the area. The York Youth Soccer League continues to grow while the Trojan Soccer League has stable participation.
- Lacrosse and elite teams are pulling youth from local recreation and travel soccer teams.
- Both leagues have a fall and spring season, for both girls and boys. There is also indoor soccer in the winter with York Youth Soccer.
- The availability of coaches is a limiting factor for both leagues.
- Teams play in York and Manchester Township parks and use the York Suburban School District fields.

Lacrosse – Lacrosse is a growing sport in the municipality and region. There is no use of Spring Garden Township parks for lacrosse. The interest in lacrosse and its growth at the youth level is expected to continue in the region. Multi-purpose fields should be provided in community parks for lacrosse, soccer, and other emerging sports such as field hockey. Multi-purpose fields should be sized to accommodate each of these sports.

- Trojan Lacrosse has five teams with over 100 participants. Trojan Lacrosse is part of the York County Lacrosse Association which is an umbrella organization of 16 club teams throughout the County. Trojan Lacrosse anticipates growing by another team next year and indicates younger age groups are seeing the most growth, an indication of the popularity of the sport and continual growth.
- Trojan Lacrosse continually searches for fields and plays on the York Suburban Middle School field, which is in poor condition. The club would prefer to play on turf fields.
- Limiting factors to youth program growth are availability of referees, coaches, and fields. The youth interest is outstripping the adult knowledge of the sport.
- Lacrosse is played "festival/tournament style" with all teams/age brackets playing the same date at the same location.

Volleyball – There are no volleyball courts in municipal parks. Volleyball courts are popular park facilities and are often used in conjunction with picnic outings and should be located close to picnic pavilions, where possible. Families and adults generally prefer lawn volleyball while teens and young adults prefer sand volleyball courts. When new community parks are developed, the level of interest in league play should be evaluated. If interest emerges for competitive volleyball, courts in banks of two or more for league play should be developed. League play is typically in evenings and courts should be developed with lights.

- The on-line survey indicates relatively low interest in volleyball courts.
- Sand volleyball league play is popular in the City of York.

Tennis – There are no tennis courts in the municipal parks and five tennis courts are located at York Suburban Senior High School. Tennis is a lifetime recreation activity that can be enjoyed by all ages. Although the popularity of the sport has waned over the last decade, it is important to provide tennis courts in municipal park systems for the lifetime recreation benefits. Tennis courts should be developed in banks of two or more and should be located in visually accessible areas, preferably near parking areas and park entrances. Court lighting is recommended where adjacent land use is compatible. Tennis courts should be developed in future community parks.

- The on-line survey found moderate interest in developing tennis courts at the Mt. Rose Avenue Property with 57.46% listing tennis courts as Very Important or Somewhat Important.

Swimming Pools – There are no public swimming pools in the project area. The York Country Club and the Jewish Community Center have swimming pools for their members. The York Suburban High School has an indoor swimming pool. Swimming is a lifetime recreation activity, and there should be convenient access to swimming in Spring Garden Township. If further interest in a community swimming pool emerges, a feasibility study should be completed to determine the need for and configuration of a swimming pool to serve Spring Garden Township residents. A feasibility study should also evaluate capital and operational costs and potential partners prior to consideration of development.

Playgrounds – Play equipment is located in each park with the exception of Custis Field. None of the playgrounds meet the latest safety and accessibility requirements. When developing and renovating playground areas, the following general guidelines should be incorporated into the design:

- The playground layout, equipment, and safety zone should comply with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Guidelines for Playground Safety.



- Playgrounds must meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which requires that an accessible route be provided from walkways/parking areas to the playground equipment and that a portion of the equipment offer activities that can be utilized by physically challenged children.
- Playgrounds should be age-segregated to accommodate children of different ages and abilities and meet the CPSC safety guidelines.
- Important American Society for Testing and Materials references for public playground safety:
 - F1487 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use.
 - F2373 Standard Consumer Safety Performance specification for Public Use Play Equipment for Children 6 Months through 23 Months.
 - F1292 Standard Specification for Impact Attenuation of Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment.

Playgrounds should be developed to stimulate imaginative play as well as physical activity. Playgrounds should be bright, interesting environments that engage children while providing convenient facilities for adults, such as benches and shaded seating areas. Locate playgrounds for safety. Provide adequate separation from parking areas, ball field foul ball and home run territory, and drives/roadways.

Playgrounds should be renovated or upgraded on a cyclic basis to conform to the latest safety and accessibility standards. A playground safety and accessibility audit should be completed for all parks and playground equipment removed that cannot be rehabilitated to fully comply with the latest standards. Playground renovation and replacement should be identified in the municipality's Capital Improvement Program, starting with the playground that is in most urgent need of replacement. Playgrounds should be incorporated into new community and neighborhood parks.

Internet Survey –Experiences looked for when visiting parks

77.8% survey respondents indicated that experiencing nature was what they were looking for when visiting parks, followed closely by 75.2% who cite fitness and wellness activities.

Trails/Pathways – Trails and pathways should be provided in every park for recreation purposes and to meet the requirements of the ADA. ADA requires an accessible route from parking areas and drop-off areas to recreation facilities. Accessible routes must extend to players areas. Additionally, viewing areas for physically impaired spectators must be provided at sports fields and courts. In neighborhood and community parks, where space allows, developing trails with a minimum eight-foot width is recommended to accommodate multiple users. In more urban or developed settings, trails should be paved to provide multiple recreational opportunities, such as bike riding, inline skating, jogging, and walking. Stonedust aggregate trails may be preferred in parks with natural settings where slopes are gentle. Trails in parks should link to nearby multi-use trails and sidewalks to promote non-motorized access to parks.

Residents of Spring Garden Township have convenient access to the Heritage Rail Trail County Park, a long-distance multi-use trail.

- Walking is an activity widely enjoyed by all segments of the population. Respondents to the internet survey ranked trails highest in facility importance, following restrooms.

Indoor Recreation – There are no municipal indoor recreation facilities in Spring Garden Township. The youth basketball and cheerleading programs use elementary and middle school gymnasiums and a church. The York Suburban School District has seven gymnasiums, including three that are combined gymnasiums/cafeterias.

- The youth sports program coordinators indicated an interest in and need for additional indoor recreation venues. Indoor gymnasiums would serve the existing basketball and cheerleading programs and would provide opportunities for indoor soccer and winter and inclement weather training and practices.
- A municipal facility for indoor recreation would accommodate a variety of recreation programs in addition to the youth sports programs.
- The internet survey found moderate interest in developing an Indoor Field House with game fields and courts at the Mt. Rose Avenue Property, with 48.1% of respondents indicating that an indoor facility is Very Important or Somewhat Important.
- The York County communities of Manchester Township and Lower Windsor Township have indoor recreation facilities that support their local recreation programs. Both communities have a full size gymnasium and separate kitchen and indicate that the facilities are fully utilized between October and March. Use includes basketball, soccer, cheerleading, sports training, fitness classes, party rentals, indoor movies, dances, etc.

Picnic Area – Picnic pavilions are offered in every park except Custis Field. Picnic areas can be configured as scattered picnic tables and grills within a shaded grove of trees or a picnic pavilion with complementary amenities such as horseshoe pits, volleyball court, playground, and softball field. In community parks, picnic areas serve families and groups. In sports complexes picnic pavilions are often located for team use and tournament functions. Pavilions offer shaded sitting areas for caregivers near playgrounds and are important amenities in new parks with limited vegetation for shade.

- The internet survey found high interest in developing picnic opportunities at the Mt. Rose Avenue Property, with 91.6% of respondents indicating that picnic opportunities were Very Important or Somewhat Important.

Conditions of Parkland and Facilities

Multiple field visits were made to the Township parks. Generally, the parks are small and maximized in terms of development. Each park, with the exception of Custis Field, is developed with similar facilities. This formula-based design limits diversity of leisure and play opportunities.

Common issues in the parks relate to the requirement to meet the public access provisions of the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA), the need for age-segregated playgrounds, and the suggestion

for gathering area near activity areas. Specific findings of site observations and recreation opportunities for each park and the Mt. Rose Avenue Property are outlined below.

Elmwood Park

Park Description – A 1.6 acre site located in the Elmwood neighborhood, across Third Avenue from Memorial Hospital, and bounded by Route 83 to the east.

Active Recreation Facilities – 1 Softball/youth baseball field, playground, and basketball court.

Passive Recreation Facilities – Pavilion.

Support Facilities – On-street parking, bleachers, players' benches, restrooms, storage shed.

General Site Observations – The park is located within a neighborhood and there are no dedicated off-street parking spaces to accommodate competitive use of the ball field. The ball field has a short outfield at approximately 170' to the property line and basketball court. The ball field should only be used for younger players. The adjacent Route 83 road noise permeates the site. Mill Creek flows along the eastern side of the park. An accessible route is not provided to each facility to meet the ADA. There is open space and the outfield of the softball field for self-directed play. The playground is not age segregated and safety mulch is not contained within edging.



Opportunities –

- Plant additional native vegetation along Mill Creek to enhance the riparian buffer and further buffer noise from Route 83.
- Develop a trail along Mill Creek that extends north and south from the park.
- Develop a trail that connects to existing sidewalks and encircles the park site, connecting facilities to provide an accessible route. Make provisions to link the park trail to the proposed trail along Mill Creek.



- Replace the playground equipment with age-segregated equipment that is installed within edging that defines the safety mulch area.
- Develop a gathering area at the playground for care-givers to watch playground activities.
- Provide additional benches or low bleachers at the basketball court for spectators.

Mt. Rose Park

Park Description – This mini park is 0.25 acres, located along Mt. Rose Avenue.

Active Recreation Facilities – The park includes a small playground and a basketball goal.

Passive Recreation Facilities – None.

Support Facilities – Picnic table and benches.

General Site Observations – This park is very small and maximized with facilities. The basketball goal is located at the edge of the park lawn area and the key is painted on the parking lot of the adjacent property. The park is located along a busy street and separated from the adjacent sidewalk and roadway by steps and a chain link fence. Vehicular access to the park is via an alley and the park abuts a parking lot of a former school building, under separate ownership. The parking lot provides parking for park users and is used for pavement activities such as bike riding. The playground is outdated and mono-chromatic, providing little interest and play value. A walkway leads from the steps to the parking lot but does not provide accessible connections to facilities. Benches and picnic tables are provided within the small lawn area.



Opportunities –

- Replace the play equipment with dynamic equipment, separated into age-segregated areas.
- Extend sidewalk to the playground and sitting areas. Relocate the benches under the mature evergreen tree to avoid the tripping hazard of the exposed roots.



- Coordinate with the adjacent landowner of the parking lot to gain permission to dedicate parking area to basketball activities.
- Define the park's southern boundary with straight pavement edge or painted line to differentiate between the parking lot and the park.

Grantley Park

Park Description – This 0.94 acre park is the only park located on the western portion of the municipality. The small park is located in a residential neighborhood and is in close proximity to York College.

Active Recreation Facilities – Playground and two paved areas with single basketball goals.

Passive Recreation Facilities – Pavilion.

Support Facilities – Benches, picnic tables, restrooms.

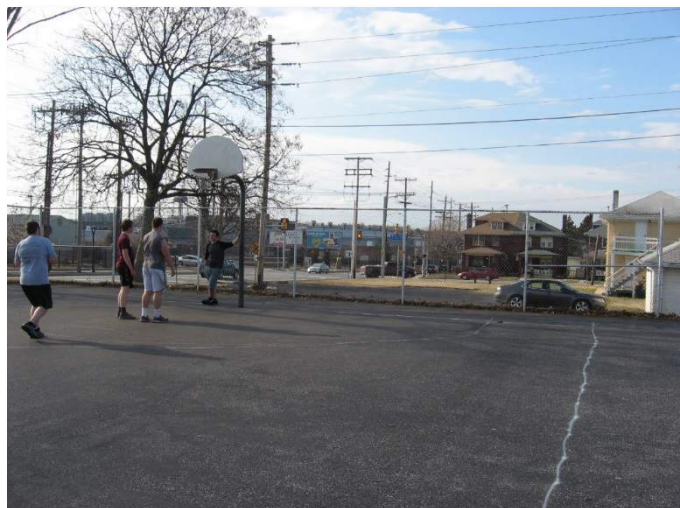
General Site Observations – The park is maximized with facilities. The playground is located in a shaded portion of the park, separated from the basketball court activities. The playground is separated into age-appropriate sections but not age segregated with a physical separation, as suggested by the Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines. The playground safety surface mulch is deteriorated and is not provided at sufficient depth.



Competitive basketball play is limited by the removal of one basketball goal on the larger court area. There is open lawn for informal use but the area is not large enough for organized sports activities. There are no accessible routes connecting the playground to the other facilities or sidewalk.

Opportunities –

- Develop an accessible trail that extends from the existing pavement at the basketball courts and picnic pavilion to the playground area. Consider developing a loop trail that encircles the open lawn area. This configuration would serve younger children as a “trike track” for riding tricycles and scooters.



- Upgrade the playground to provide a physical separation between the tot and youth playground equipment.
- Install concrete or other edging material to define the edge of the safety surfacing areas around the playground equipment and ensure placement of sufficient depth of material.
- Develop a gathering area at the playground with benches for care givers to watch playground activities.
- Re-install the basketball goal so that competitive play on the large court can resume. Paint the lines on the court.
- Paint a basketball court key on the pavement at the small court.

Tri-Hill Park

Park Description – This 3.0-acre park is the largest municipal park in Spring Garden Township. The former school building on the site houses the Spring Garden Township Parks and Recreation Department and Police Department.

Active Recreation Facilities – One 75' baseline baseball field, 1 basketball court, and playground.

Passive Recreation Facilities – Pavilion.

Support Facilities – Parking, benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, porta-jon, storage buildings, drinking fountain, players benches, batting cage, and bleachers.

General Site Observations – The recreation facilities are developed in a “hub” area with the baseball field, basketball court, picnic pavilion, and playground in close proximity to each other. The grading for the baseball field and the outfield fence prohibits organized athletic use of the outfield and remaining open space. This playground is the newest in the municipal park system and located in a shaded areas with mature trees. The off-street parking serves the building functions as well as the park, but is insufficient to accommodate vehicles when the baseball field is used competitively.

Opportunities –

- Add a convenient sitting area near the playground.



- The basketball court is popular and informal seating developed on the embankment between the court and picnic pavilion would accommodate both spectators and players.
- If the building is removed at some time in the future, consider the following improvement:
 - Reconfigure and expand the parking area.
 - Explore the possibility of adding a second full-court or half-court basketball court to complement the existing court.
 - Explore developing a restroom/storage building with full public utility connections.
- Extend a trail along the southern property line that connects to the sidewalks, on the north and south side of the park.
- Extend trail connections to the playground and both sides of the baseball field for players and spectators.
- Add tot play equipment to develop an age-segregated playground.

Windsor Park

Park Description – This 0.5-acre site is located in the northern portion of the municipality.

Active Recreation Facilities – Basketball court, playground.

Passive Recreation Facilities – Pavilion.

Support Facilities – Benches, picnic tables, restrooms, ADA parking space on-street.



General Site Observations – The park site is small with little room for additional facilities. The playground is not age segregated and appears to be outdated. There is no edging on the playground to retain and define the area of safety surfacing mulch. There is an embankment separating the picnic pavilion from the lower basketball court which creates a natural spectator area for court activities. An accessible route to facilities is not provided to meet the ADA.

Opportunities/Suggested Improvements –

- Develop an accessible walkway that extends from the sidewalk or existing pathway to the pavilion, playground, and basketball court.
- Plant vegetation at the fence on the southern property line to screen the adjacent industrial use.

- Replace the playground with new age-segregated equipment. Install the playground equipment within an area of safety mulch that has permanent edging.
- Develop informal seating in the embankment for spectators viewing play on the basketball court.



Howard Custis Ball Field

Park Description – This 1.218-acre special use park is located in the northern portion of Spring Garden Township.

Active Recreation Facilities – Youth baseball field.

Passive Recreation Facilities – None.

Support Facilities – Players benches, picnic table, porta-jon, parking, storage building.



General Site Observations – This park is a single-use park with a youth baseball field. There is a small area of mature trees behind the ballfield backstop but no other space is available for facility development. The baseball field is developed with minimal improvements to include wooden player's benches, a small backstop, player's fence only along the third base side, and no outfield fence.

Opportunities –

- Upgrade the baseball field. Provide sideline fencing, players benches, and backstop.
- Provide several picnic tables for spectators to relax before and after games in the shaded area.
- Provide an accessible route to the baseball field and spectator areas.

Mt. Rose Avenue Property

The 60.755 acre Mt. Rose Avenue Property is currently undeveloped open space owned by Spring Garden Township. The majority of the parcel (56.294 acres) is located in Spring Garden Township

while 4.461 acres is located in Springettsbury Township. The Springettsbury Township portion of the parcel is east of Mill Creek. This planning project considered the potential of the Mt. Rose Avenue Property to provide recreation opportunities to residents if developed as a municipal park.



Property Location/Access – The property is located on the eastern side of the municipality with primary access from Mt. Rose Avenue and secondary access from Prospect Street and the extension of Weaton Street across lands of the Victory Fire Company.

Water Resources –

- Mill Creek flows from south to north along the eastern boundary line of the property. There is a significant area of floodplain associated with the stream.
- There is a pond located on the southeast portion of the property. The pond has a concrete outlet structure which directs overflow via a swale to Mill Creek.
- There is a second stream on the property which is an unnamed tributary to Mill Creek. This stream flows from the southwest corner of the property to near the northeast portion of the property.
- There are pockets of wetlands located in the general area of the two streams, the pond, and the Mill Creek floodplain.

Land Resources –

- The topography of the site varies with steep slopes (>20%) on the south and west sides of the pond. Moderately steep slopes (5-10%) are located throughout the uplands areas of the site with shallower slopes associated with the floodplain and top of slopes.
- The vegetative cover is diverse with mature trees, successional vegetation, scrub growth, invasive species, and overgrown meadow.

Man-made Resources –

- There are three rights-of-ways/easements associated with overhead electric lines that traverse the tract. A 60-foot electric right-of-way crosses the property in a north-south direction, just west of the floodplain area. A second 60-foot right-of-way is located along the southern property line, south of the pond. A 25-foot easement extends along a portion of the eastern property line and angles to the northwest.

- There is a 30-foot railroad right-of-way associated with the former Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad.



- A sanitary easement extends along a portion of the eastern property line and a second sanitary easement extends from the western portion of the property through the center of the property to meet the easement along the eastern property line.
- Numerous informal drives and trail traverse the property.
- The property was a former industrial site and foundations associated with past use were primarily located in the lower floodplain area. The uplands of the site was formerly agricultural fields.

General Site Observation – The property offers a diverse setting with varying topography, vegetative cover, and water resources. The eastern third of the property is extensively encumbered with both natural and man-made features that will limit, to a degree, recreation development. The stream, pond, and wetlands are natural amenities that can be explored and enjoyed as part of the park setting. There are fewer man-made encumbrances on the western two-thirds of the parcel, but the moderate to steep topography will necessitate site grading to develop recreation facilities and meet the requirements of the ADA.

A master plan should be developed for the property that builds upon previous planning efforts and illustrates the vision for the municipal campus and park areas. Improvements should include trailhead amenities to complement the future trails that extend south (MA & PA Community Greenway) and north (Mill Creek Trail) from the site.



Mandatory Dedication

A typical means of acquiring land for recreation purposes, including trails is the mandatory dedication process. In 1989, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), Act. No. 170 of 1988 went into effect. This legislation provides municipalities with the authority to require the dedication of public land for recreation purposes. To comply with this legislation, municipalities must meet the following requirements:

1. Adopt a recreation plan that establishes parkland standards and park service areas, identifies areas in need of parkland, and includes a capital improvement program.
2. Have a municipal subdivision and land development ordinance (SALDO).
3. Develop a mandatory dedication ordinance within the SALDO that contains standards for determining the portion of a development to be dedicated and the amount, if any, of fee to be paid in lieu of land.
4. Create a separate interest bearing account for the placement of any collected fees.

The dedication of parkland is a mechanism that many municipalities use to ensure that future residents have adequate park and recreation opportunities by requiring developers to dedicate public open space within proposed developments. Spring Garden Township has a mandatory dedication ordinances that requires the developer of subdivisions to dedicate parkland for recreation purposes. The ordinance provides for fees-in-lieu of land as an alternative to land dedication, when approved by the municipality.

2014 Changes to the Law

In 2014, the Pennsylvania General Assembly clarified and modified the public dedication rules, addressing three major matters:

- Use of land and fees
- Accounting
- Removal of time limits.

Use of Land and Fees – The rules originally required the dedicated land or fees “to be used only for the purpose of providing park or recreational facilities accessible to the development.”

This changed in 2014 to state that:

The land or fees, or combination thereof, are to be used only for the purpose of providing, **acquiring, operating or maintaining** park or recreational facilities **reasonably** accessible to the development.

Under the new rules, municipalities are clearly authorized to use fees not only for acquisition and development of facilities but also for operations and maintenance.

Accounting – The original rules required municipalities to deposit the fees in an interest bearing account:

“clearly identifying the specific recreation facilities for which the fee was received.... Funds from such accounts shall be expended only in properly allocable portions of the cost incurred to construct the specific recreation facilities for which the funds were collected.”

The 2014 rules only require that the fees be placed in an interest bearing account:

“clearly identified as reserved for providing, acquiring, operating or maintaining park or recreational facilities.”

This change provides municipalities flexibility in banking and accounting for fees while still requiring that any particular fee be used to support the development that generated it.

Removing Time Limit – The rules previously required municipalities to refund any fees that they failed to use for an allowed purpose within three years of receipt. The 2014 revision now require that:

Upon request of any person who paid any fee under this subsection, the municipality shall refund such fee, plus interest accumulated thereon from the date of payment, if the municipality had used the fee paid, for a purpose other than the purposes set forth in this section.

There is no time limit for expending collected fees.

Land Dedication Formula

Current Land Dedication Formula – The Spring Garden Township SALDO defines the required parkland acreage to be dedicated as follows:

A maximum of 0.02 acres of parkland shall be dedicated for each 20,000 square feet in such lot or 0.02 acres per lot or dwelling unit shown on the final plan – whichever is greater.

Alternative Land Dedication Formula – One popular method to determine how much open space should be required in a subdivision is through a dwelling unit calculation using the nationally accepted standard of providing 10.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. To derive a per unit calculation using this methodology, the 1,000 population figure is divided by the municipality’s 2010 U.S. Census average household size. The following calculation results:

Spring Garden Township 2010 Average Household Size: 2.45

$1,000 / 2.45 \text{ persons per dwelling unit} = 408 \text{ dwellings}$

Dividing this number by the desired 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents’ yields this amount of land:

$10.5 \text{ acres} / 408 \text{ dwellings} = 0.026 \text{ acres/dwelling}$

Example: For a subdivision of 50 homes, this 0.026 acre requirement would net 1.3 acres of parkland:

$$0.026 \text{ acres/dwelling} \times 50 \text{ dwellings} = 1.3 \text{ acres}$$

Spring Garden Township's current formula:

$$0.02 \text{ acres/dwelling} \times 50 \text{ dwellings} = 1.0 \text{ acres}$$

This alternative land dedication formula relates to the Parkland Acreage Standard adopted by this recreation plan and is based on the latest U.S. Census data for average household size. The alternative formula yields parkland dedication acreage that exceeds the current ordinance provisions.

Fee-in-Lieu

Current Fee-in-Lieu Requirements – Fee-in-lieu of dedicating parkland or open space is defined by the ordinance as follows:

The fee is \$200 for each 20,000 square feet of each lot or dwelling unit or \$200 per lot or dwelling unit – whichever amount is greater.

Alternative Fee-in-Lieu Calculation – When fee-in-lieu is preferred over land dedication the municipalities should require that the fee relate to the fair market value of the land to be dedicated.

Using the 1.3 acres of land dedication for a 50-unit subdivision, the developer should provide the Township with an appraisal of the required 1.3-acre parcel. Therefore, if the land were appraised at \$50,000 per acre, the Township would accept a \$65,000 fee-in-lieu of the land dedication. By contrast, the current requirement is \$200 per dwelling unit results in \$10,000 for the same 50 unit subdivision.

By tying the mandatory dedication fee-in-lieu to the fair market value of an acre of land and the average household size, the dedication of lands or fee will align with the changing real estate market. If the Township prefers a dwelling unit calculation, the calculation should relate to the fair market value and should be review and adjusted on an annual basis. The following calculation is based on \$50,000 per acre land appraisals:

Using the previous example of appraised land value of \$50,000 per acre translates as follows:

$$0.026 \text{ acres} \times \$50,000/\text{acre} = \$1,300/\text{dwelling unit fee-in-lieu amount.}$$

This method of calculating fee-in-lieu yields 6.5-times the amount defined by the current ordinance. Additionally, the \$50,000 per acre cost is most likely undervalued for an acre of land in Spring Garden Township and a higher assessment of fair market value for an acre of land would translate to a higher fee-in-lieu amount.

Land Type and Characteristic for Dedication Requirements

The characteristics of land suitable for dedication for recreation purposes should be defined by the

ordinances. Spring Garden Township has a single sentence that describes lands to be dedicated:

The land to be dedicated must be of suitable size, dimensions, topography, access and general character for the proposed use.

This description is subjective and does not protect the municipality from receiving lands that do not provide recreation benefit.

Mandatory Dedication ordinances should provide concise criteria for land to be dedicated for parkland or open space. Following are suggested criteria for land to be dedicated for parkland and trails.

- The land is a minimum of five acres in size, contiguous in shape and has soil conditions suitable for developing recreational facilities. The five acres relates to the size of a neighborhood park as defined by this Spring Garden Township Park and Recreation Classification System. The municipality should require a fee-in-lieu for land areas less than five acres unless the land to be dedicated is contiguous to an existing park site or protected open space.
- The land is configured to include natural features worthy of preservation and protection.
- The land is easily and safely accessible from all areas of the subdivision with direct access to a public street and the minimum required lot width at the public street frontage. Sidewalk connections are provided where feasible. No roadways traverse the site.
- A maximum of 15% of the total site to be dedicated can consist of floodplain, wetlands, steep slopes (in excess of 8%), utility easements or right-of-ways, or other limiting features that render the lot un-developable.
- The land should be accessible to utilities such as sewer, water, and power. The municipality should require that the developer extend utilities to the tract.
- The land should not contain stormwater facilities designed to detain, retain, or infiltrate stormwater.
- The land should, where possible, be located adjacent to existing parkland, protected open space, undeveloped tracts, or other dedicated lands to create a single, larger tract.

The land to be dedicated may be incorporated into the trail system of the municipality, by means of a grant of right-of-way or easement to the municipality, shall be consistent in location, design, dimension, topography and route with an approved *Trail System Map* or recommended by the Township Commissioners. Lands to be dedicated for trails should be suitable for the development of a trail without extensive engineering and structures. Grant of rights-of-way or easements, intended to be incorporated in the trail system shall be not less than 20 feet wide and not more than 30 feet wide at any point along the length of said trail and shall include an additional 20-foot-wide parallel construction easement along the length of said trail which shall automatically terminate upon the completion of construction of the same.

Mandatory Dedication for Non-Residential Development¹

Some municipalities have significant park and recreation demands generated by non-residents (e.g., commercial/industrial athletic league programs). However, the MPC is silent on whether public dedication may be imposed on *non-residential* developments. The MPC refers to public dedication as serving “in-habitants of the development or subdivision,” and it is unclear if this term encompasses *employees* (see §503(11)(v)).

Nevertheless, a number of municipalities do impose public dedication requirements on commercial and industrial development. Newtown Township (Bucks County), for example, imposes a dedication standard of 750 sq. feet of parkland per 1,000 sq. feet of building area or requests a fee-in-lieu payment of \$1,291 per 1,000 sq. feet of non-residential building area.

An alternative approach ties the non-residential land dedication standard to the number of parking spaces used by employees in a development.

To continue the previous example, in Spring Garden Township, .026 acres of land is required for every 2.45 residents (average household size) in a development. Similarly, this non-residential approach could require 0.026 acres for every 2.45 parking spaces of employees who are not municipal residents and who use local park and recreation facilities.

There is disagreement in the planning field about whether or not public dedication should be applied to commercial or industrial uses, and it does not appear that this disagreement will be settled anytime soon. Therefore, to improve the odds that its public dedication ordinance will stand the test of time, a municipality that decides to require public dedication for commercial and industrial land uses should specifically document the recreational needs of commercial and industrial users who are not residents within the municipality and devise a methodology to determine their level of demand. Then it should create a standard that exacts the amount of parkland needed to serve future employees and make sure that such parks are readily accessible to the employees.

Parkland & Recreation Analysis

Strengths

Spring Garden Township has five small parks that provide close-to-home playgrounds for residents and a special use park with a youth baseball field. The parks include pavilions and restrooms which are important for the summer playground program run by the municipality. The Township acquired the 60-acre Mt. Rose Avenue Property for development of a new municipal campus to accommodate administration, police, fire, public works, and recreation functions. The portions of the property not dedicated to campus buildings and support infrastructure is to be developed as a community park.

York Suburban School District makes fields, courts, and gymnasiums available for community use.

¹ Public Dedication of Land and Fees-in-Lieu for Parks and Recreation, A Tool for Meeting Recreational Demands in Pennsylvania Municipalities. <http://conservationtools.org/guides/17-public-dedication-of-land-and-fees-in-lieu-for-parks-and-recreation>. October 1, 2015.

Challenges

Spring Garden Township is a developed community with limited open space and undeveloped land available for acquisition as parkland. A population-based analysis of existing parkland reveals a need for over 125 acres of parkland by 2020. This acreage deficit will be offset by the Mt. Rose Avenue property, when developed and available for public use, but significant additional acreage will still be needed to serve residents.

Spring Garden Township parks are small and together encompass only 7.5 acres. The parks are maximized with recreation facilities, with no room to expand or add additional facilities desired or needed by residents. Each park is developed with similar facilities which provide recreation opportunities for youth (playground) and teens and young adults (basketball court), but provide no opportunities for adults, adult seniors, persons with disabilities, and those that prefer other recreation opportunities. The parks lack accessibility accommodations (ADA) and in most locations include outdated play equipment.

Citizens would like the opportunity to enjoy nature and participate in fitness and wellness activities. With the exception of three youth ball fields, sports organization must use school district facilities and parks in other municipalities for competitive sport activities.

Opportunities

The Mt. Rose Avenue property presents a significant opportunity to expand the amount of public parkland available to Spring Garden Township residents and introduce recreation facilities desired by residents. Small enhancements in the existing parks will achieve compliance with the requirements of the ADA. Investment in the existing parks can provide facilities that provide quality recreation experiences.

Continued cooperation and partnership with York Suburban School District and other entities will help to maximize recreation opportunities for residents.

Spring Garden Township

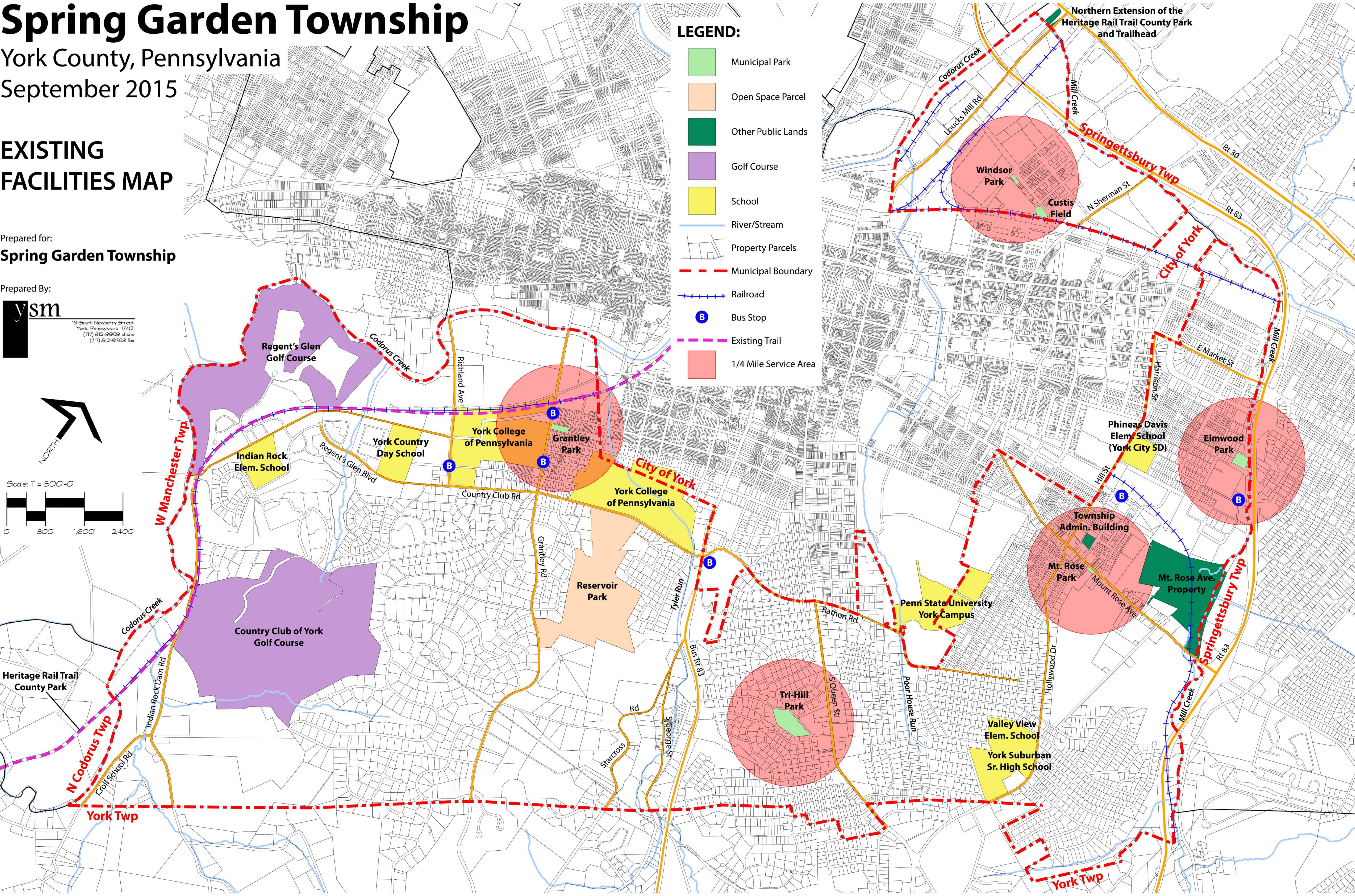
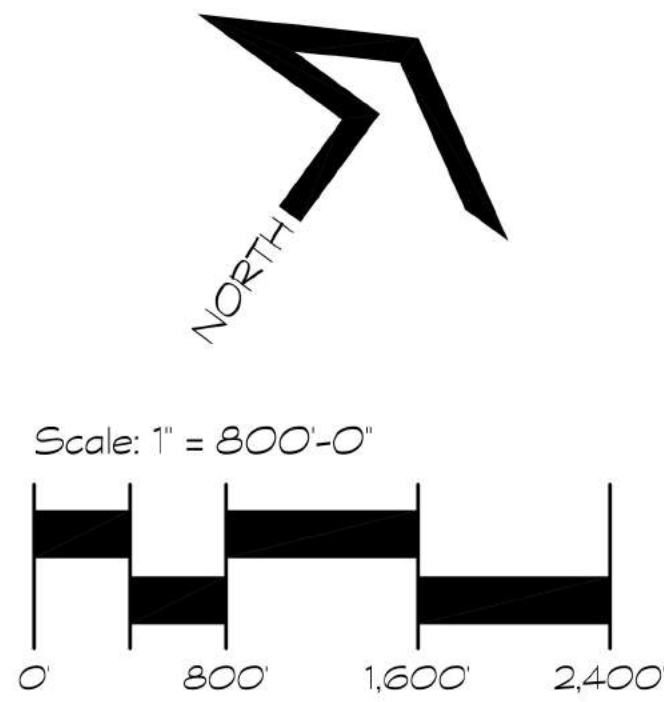
York County, Pennsylvania

September 2015

EXISTING FACILITIES MAP

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Chapter 4 - Greenways & Trails

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Open space, greenways, and trails are components of a community's comprehensive parks and recreation plan. Trails provide passive recreation opportunities and open space and green corridors protect natural resources and important habitat areas. Easy access to trails facilitates exercise and fitness. Connecting parks and community destinations with trails and greenways adds to the livability and quality of life of a community. This chapter explores opportunities for greenways and trails in Spring Garden Township.

Greenways & Trails

Greenways

A greenway is a corridor of open space. Greenways vary greatly in scale, from narrow ribbons of green that run through urban, suburban, and rural areas to wider corridors that incorporate diverse natural, cultural, and scenic features. They can incorporate both public and private property, and can be land- or water-based. They may follow old railways, canals, or ridge tops, or they may follow stream corridors, shorelines, or wetlands, and include water trails for non-motorized craft. Some greenways are recreational corridors or scenic byways that may accommodate motorized and non-motorized vehicles. Others function almost exclusively for environmental protection and are not designed for human passage.

Greenways differ in their location and function, but overall, a greenway will protect natural, cultural, and scenic resources, provide recreational benefits, enhance natural beauty and quality of life in neighborhoods and communities, and stimulate economic development.

Benefits of Greenways and Trails

Social Benefits –

- Provide access to historically and culturally significant features in our communities.
- Provide opportunities to reconnect with the natural environment and urban fabric of our communities.
- Increase quality of life.



- Help to preserve the character and aesthetic appeal of a place or landscape.
- Provide significant new public places which can help to connect people and communities.
- Improve health and wellness of greenway and trail recreation users.
- Heighten sensitivity to the natural environment by providing for interaction between people and nature.

Transportation Benefits –

- Promote non-motorized transportation.
- Provide safe alternative transportation routes for pedestrians and bicyclists which will lessen dependency on automobiles.
- Provide emergency access via trails to undeveloped areas.
- Reduce roadway congestion through redistribution of users to alternative transportation routes.



Ecological Benefits –

- Connect fragmented landscapes.
- Promote plant and animal species diversity.
- Provide corridors for wildlife migration and movement.
- Preserve and protect vital wildlife, plant, and aquatic habitats.
- Improve air quality and reduce noise.
- Protect natural areas.
- Reduce stormwater damage and promote flood mitigation within protected floodplains.



- Serve as a filtering zone; wetlands absorb pollutants and nutrients and slow surface run-off.
- Protects watersheds and groundwater retention areas.
- Store and convey floodwaters.
- Clean up abandoned corridors.

Recreation Benefits –

- Provide areas to jog, walk, bike, ride horses, and canoe.
- Serve as sites for passive pursuits such as picnicking, fishing, and enjoying nature.
- Connect existing and planned trails.
- Encourage ecotourism.
- Provide landscapes for environmental education.
- Provide connections between parks and other protected lands.



Economic Benefits –

- Increase nearby property values.
- Precipitate new and expanded businesses related to greenway and trail use. New businesses will provide employment opportunities and revenues.
- Create tourist destinations which will generate expenditures on food, services, and lodging.
- Reduce damage and financial loss from flooding by providing buffer areas along stream and river corridors.



State and Local Greenway and Trail Initiatives

Pennsylvania

In 1991, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge enacted Executive Order 1998-3, charging DCNR, DEP, and PENNDOT, assisted by the Pennsylvania Greenways Partnership Commission, to develop an action plan for advancing a Pennsylvania Greenways Partnership Program. In June 2001, *Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections* was completed. The plan sets forth a series of goals and action items in a coordinated and strategic approach aimed at developing a statewide system of connected greenways.

Pennsylvania Greenways Vision

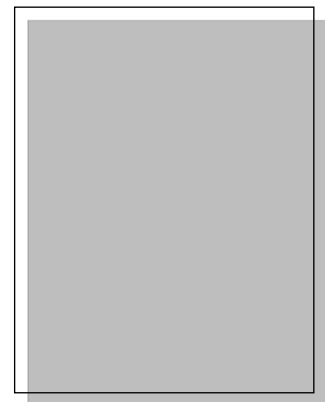
Pennsylvania and its many partners will develop an outstanding network of greenways across the Commonwealth, creating an asset highly valued by Pennsylvanians and enhancing the quality of life for all. This network of greenways will connect Pennsylvanian's open space, natural landscape features, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites, and urban and rural communities. Greenways will become one of the Commonwealth's most powerful tools to achieve sustainable growth and livable communities.

It is envisioned that Pennsylvania's greenways network will consist of individual greenways and regional networks of greenways of all kinds. While every greenway is important and adds value to Pennsylvania's landscapes and communities, a statewide greenways network achieves broad connections that are fundamental to sustainable environments in rural, suburban, and urban settings. The landscape connections throughout Pennsylvania create a "green infrastructure" of open space vital to the health of Pennsylvania's ecological systems and manmade communities. The statewide greenways network also provides a new connectivity within and among Pennsylvania's communities, promotes healthier lifestyles with more abundant recreational opportunities and transportation alternatives, and provides stronger connections to cultural and historic places. This connectivity can be represented by the metaphor of the "hubs" and "spokes" of a wheel.

York County Trail Plan

York County completed a comprehensive assessment of trail and greenway opportunities throughout the County in 2011. Trail and greenway opportunities identified in the Spring Garden Township area include:

- Heritage Rail Trail County Park
- Northern Extension of the Heritage Rail Trail County Park
- Codorus Navigation Trail
- Ma & Pa Greenway Trail

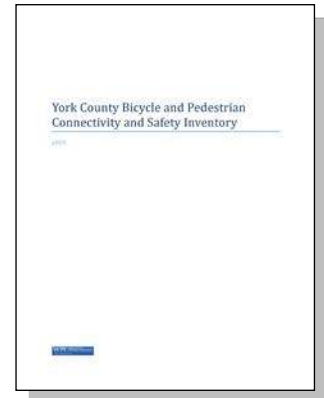


The Heritage Rail Trail County Park traverses the western portion of Spring Garden Township and the Northern Extension of the Heritage Rail Trail County Park is in close proximity to Spring Garden Township.

York County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

The York County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan evaluates the opportunities to improve the connectivity of Rabbit Transit's (the York Adams Transportation Authority) fixed route service in York County to bicycle and pedestrian networks. The Plan identifies existing bicycle infrastructure and makes recommendations of areas for improvements. Areas for improvement within or near Spring Garden Township include:

- York Hospital, Rathton Road, Country Club Road
- York City
- Queensgate Shopping Center, South York Value Center, South Queen Street



Greenway and Trail Initiatives of Adjacent Municipalities

Spring Garden Township is contiguous to seven municipalities. Adjacent municipalities were contacted to discuss greenway and trail initiatives. The following existing and potential trail connections exist between Spring Garden Township and the municipalities that surround the Township.

Springettsbury Township – Springettsbury Township developed a Greenways and Trails Map as part of their 2006 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The map documents trail and greenway opportunities but no initiatives have been undertaken to develop trails or protect green corridors. The Plan documents three potential linkages between the communities:

- Northern Extension of the York County Heritage Rail Trail – This trail is on the east side of the Codorus Creek, just north of Spring Garden Township. Planning is underway to extend the trail from the southern end of the current portion of the trail, south into York City to join with the Heritage Rail Trail County Park.
- Codorus Creek Greenway
- Mill Creek Greenway

York Township – York Township's Comprehensive Recreation & Open Space Plan identifies two potential trail extensions.

- Ma & Pa Community Greenway – This former railroad corridor extends along the western side of York Township, generally following the alignment of Mill Creek. A 0.23-mile trail, known as Mill Creek Preserve, is develop in York Township with the northern terminus at Chestnut Hill Road.

- Trolley Trail – This potential trail corridor follows the alignment of the former York and Windsor Electric Railroad. The trolley is long gone but the corridor remains intact and is occupied by Met-Ed electric lines. York Township is pursuing a grant to develop the Trolley Trail between York Township Community Park and the York Township Municipal Complex.

West Manchester Township – West Manchester Township has no trail initiatives that interface with Spring Garden Township.

North Codorus Township – The Heritage Rail Trail County Park passes through North Codorus Township and crosses the Codorus Creek into Spring Garden Township in the area of Indian Rock Dam Road.

Manchester Township – Manchester Township has a very small boundary with Spring Garden Township. The Northern Extension of the Heritage Rail Trail County Park is located, in Springettsbury Township, in close proximity to the Manchester Township and Spring Garden Township boundary.

North York Borough – North York Borough has not identified any greenway or trails. Lloyd Kauffman Park on East 5th Avenue will connect directly to the extension of the Heritage Rail Trail County Park when the final segment along the Codorus Creek connects the main trail with the Northern Extension.

City of York – The City of York has a Bicycle Access Study which was prepared in 1998 to promote the integration of bicycle facilities into the city infrastructure. The Heritage Rail Trail County Park connects Spring Garden Township to the City of York.

Organizing Elements of the Greenways and Trail Network

The 2001 Pennsylvania Greenways – An Action Plan for Creating Connections proposes that “... the Commonwealth should have a distinguishable greenway network, similar to the Interstate Highway System ...”. This greenway network will ultimately take the form of "hubs and spokes." The "hubs" of this network are the destination and the "spokes" are the greenways and trail corridors connecting these destinations with the places where we live, work, and play. The following hubs and spokes have been identified in Spring Garden Township:

Hubs

Transportation –

- Rabbit Transit Route 7S, Stop 2 Grantley at Dupont, Spot 3 Richland at Colonial, and Stop 4 Jackson at Grantley
- Rabbit Transit Route 8S, Stop 3; Route 9S, Stop 3; and Route 32, Stop 1 York Hospital
- Rabbit Transit Route 4E, Stop – 3 Memorial Hospital
- Rabbit Transit Route 5E, Stop – Spahn at Ogontz

Schools –

- York Suburban High School
- Valley View Elementary School
- Indian Rock Elementary School
- York Country Day
- York College
- Phineas Davis Elementary School (York City School District)
- The Pennsylvania State University – York Campus

Recreation –

- Municipal Parks
- York College recreation facilities
- York Country Club
- Regents Glen Golf Club
- York County Heritage Rail Trail
- York Water Company

Commercial – Employment –

- Randolph Park
- Queen Street corridor
- Colonial Shopping Center
- Richland Avenue industrial area
- Mt. Rose commercial area
- York Hospital
- Memorial Hospital

Other Destinations –

- Restaurants
- Churches
- Municipal buildings

Spokes

- Trails
- Stream corridors
- Sanitary sewer easements
- Utility rights-of-way
- Railroad and trolley corridors
- Road rights-of-ways
- Sidewalks

Barriers

There are several barriers to greenway and trail development in the study area. The very resources that promote greenway potential, also influenced land use and development patterns, resulting in barriers to connectivity. The developed urban/suburban fabric of the community presents the most

significant obstacle to creating greenways and trails. The major roadways also present significant barriers to connectivity both within the community, and linking beyond to other municipalities. Route 83 and Business Route 83 form barriers and to a lesser degree, Market Street (Route 462), Mt. Rose Avenue (Route 124), South Queen Street (Route 74), and South George Street present physical impediments to continuous flow of greenways and trails.

Alternative routes or engineering solutions such as bridges, underpasses, and controlled crossings must be incorporated to provide a connected network across these barriers. To create a comprehensive greenway system that provides the maximum benefit to the community it is important to find linkages across these barriers. It is important to work with PennDOT to incorporate pedestrian and bicycle friendly linkage solutions when highways, bridges, and underpasses are upgraded. It will be necessary to evaluate existing sidewalks and road rights-of-ways as part of a comprehensive system of greenways, trails, and trail links. Controlled crossings with pedestrian activated lights and crosswalks will promote safe use of existing sidewalks and future trails.

Greenway in Spring Garden Township

Streams provide the spokes for the Spring Garden Township greenway system. One major greenway corridor has been identified with several minor greenways that connects to the major greenway. The greenways are illustrated on the Greenway and Trail Map on page 4-17.

Major Greenways

Codorus Creek Greenway – The Codorus Greenway connects regionally, tying Spring Garden Township and the City of York to the Susquehanna River. Codorus Creek forms the western boundary of the municipality. The Heritage Rail Trail County Park generally follows the creek corridor along the western and northern portion of the municipality south of York City. The Northern Extension of the Heritage Rail Trail County Park extends along a portion of this corridor, between Loucks Mill Road, just north of Spring Garden Township, and John Rudy County Park. The trail follows an existing sewer corridor.

Minor Greenways

Mill Creek Greenway – Mill Creek Greenway extends along Mill Creek, which forms a portion of the eastern boundary of Spring Garden Township. Mill Creek is designated as a Warm Water Fishes by PA Department of Environmental Protection, water quality standards. This designation is for streams that maintain and propagate fish species indigenous to a warm water habitat. Mill Creek flows through open space within an urban and industrial setting along the Route 83 corridor and joins the Codorus Creek near the Loucks Mill and Route 30 intersection.

Poor House Run Greenway – Poor House Run Greenway is tributary to Codorus Creek and is located in Veterans Memorial Park and PSU York Campus area of York City. The stream originates south of these destinations in Spring Garden Township. The Poor House Run Greenway connects to the Broad Street Greenway in the City of York.

Tyler Run Greenway – Tyler Run is tributary to Codorus Creek, flowing from York Township in the area of Powder Mill Road, north along the South George Street/Business Route 83 corridor,

through York College main and north campuses to join the Codorus Creek on the northwest side of the Township.

Greenways and Open Space Protection

The greenways in Spring Garden Township function primarily to protect natural area and resources. Preservation and protection of these greenway corridors is a goal of other regional and local planning initiatives. The greenways primarily traverse private lands. While public ownership is one way to protect the greenways and their underlying resources, few municipalities have the financial resources or the opportunity to acquire all of the land along a natural corridor. Working with willing landowners to protect land through stream stabilization, riparian buffer plantings, and natural flood mitigation strategies, as well as, conservation easements are popular approaches to conservation, while the land remains in private ownership.

It will take the cooperative efforts and long-term commitment of landowners, municipalities, the county, and land conservation organizations to fully protect the four greenways identified. The existing public lands and park sites are the building blocks of a continuous network of protected green corridors. Protecting contiguous lands along the major greenway corridors is recommended as the highest priority for conservation. The rationale for starting with contiguous lands is based on the conservation principles stated by the *International Union for Conservation of Nature – 1980 World Conservation Strategy* which suggests that connected natural systems are ecologically more sustainable and important than unconnected systems. “If all else is equal, large reserves are better than small reserves; a single large reserve is better than several small ones of equivalent total area; reserves close together are better than reserves that are far apart; rounded reserves are better than long, thin ones; reserves clustered compactly are better than reserves in a line; and reserves that are connected by corridors are better than unconnected reserves.”¹

Existing and Potential Trails in Spring Garden Township

There is one regional trail in Spring Garden Township and two important opportunities to create trails in the municipality. The trails are illustrated on the Greenway & Trail Map on page 4-17.

Existing and Planned Trails and Bicycle Routes

Heritage Rail Trail County Park – The Heritage Rail Trail County Park is a recreation trail that extends more than twenty-one miles through scenic areas of southern York County. The trail is a 10-foot wide compacted stone surface designed for hiking, bicycling, running, horseback riding, as well as winter sports. In Spring Garden Township the trail is located on the western and northern areas of the municipality, south of York City. The closest trailheads are Brillhart Station, near the intersection of Brillhart Station Road and Days Mill Road in York Township and at the York City Colonial Complex. Residents of Spring Garden can also readily access the trail in the area of the York College West Campus. The trail connects to the



¹ Mark A. Benedict and Edward T. McMahon, *Green Infrastructure, Linking Landscapes and Communities* (Washington: Island Press, 2006), p.110.

Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail, a 20-mile recreation trail that continues to the south on the former Northern Central Railway corridor from the Mason Dixon Line to its southern terminus in Cockeysville, Maryland.

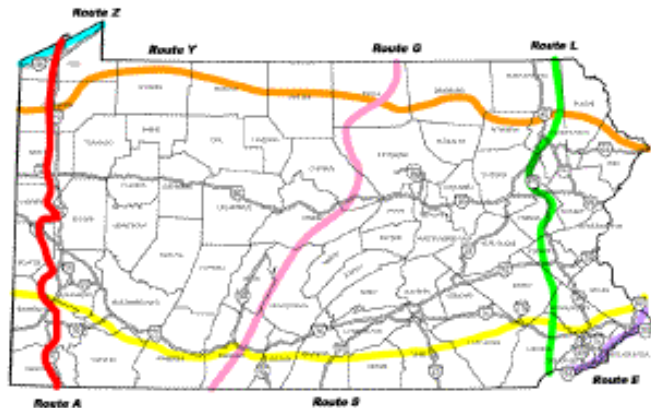
Northern Extension of the Heritage Rail Trail County Park – The Northern Extension of the Heritage Rail Trail County Park is located north of York City with the northern terminus at John Rudy County Park. Ultimately this trail will connect to the Heritage Rail Trail at the York City Colonial Complex, creating a 27

mile recreation trail. The trail alignment of this final link between the two trails will be in North York Borough on the east side of the Codorus Creek. A new trailhead for this trail is located just north of Spring Garden Township, at the intersection of Loucks Mill Road and Route 30.



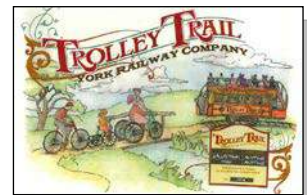
BicyclePA Route S – Designated bicycle routes traverse the Commonwealth as on-road routes for experienced riders. BicyclePA Route S is the longest route traversing the southern portion of the State. Route S extends 435 miles from the Washington County at the West Virginia border to the New Jersey border near Washington Crossing, Bucks County. In the study area, Route S is on Route 462/Market Street on the east side of the municipality.

Bicycle PA Route J – North-south Bicycle Route J (not shown on map) utilizes the shoulders of PA State Routes 262, 181 and other roadways. Between York City and the Maryland State Line. The Heritage Rail Trail County Park is designated as Bicycle Route J.



Potential Trails and Bicycle Routes

Trolley Trail – The former York and Windsor Electric Railroad was a trolley line that entered the municipality near the Powder Mill Road/South George Street intersection and connected the Boroughs of Red Lion and Dallastown to the City of York. The former trolley corridor is abandoned, but the right-of-way remains intact and is owned by Met Ed. Met Ed has electric lines in the corridor.



There is a local private initiative of community leaders (The Suburban Trolley Trail Committee) exploring the possibility of developing the corridor as a biking and walking trail. The Trolley Trail in Spring Garden Township would extend from York Township, north to York College, where it would link with the Heritage Rail Trail County Park. The Spring Garden Township portion of the trail is some

of the most difficult to develop as a recreation trail, due to the physical constraints of the area between Tyler Run Road and Country Club Road.

Mill Creek Trail – Currently there is an informal trail along Mill Creek between Elmwood Park and the Mt. Rose Avenue Property. The Mill Creek corridor holds potential for recreation trail development as the corridor aligns, to a large degree, with Route 83 right-of-way, is undeveloped floodplain, or is within undeveloped industrial lands. PennDOT has indicated that Route 83 will be widened in the future and incorporating a pedestrian/bicycle component may be possible.

Ma & Pa Community Greenway – The Ma & Pa Community Greenway is a 12.4-mile rail-to-trail conversion project. The corridor was part of the former Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad, a 77.2-mile narrow gauge line connecting York, Pennsylvania and Baltimore, Maryland. The potential of the 12.4-mile recreation trail was explored in a 2010 feasibility study. Seven communities are traversed in the 12.4-mile length and Spring Garden Township is the northernmost municipality with the corridor ending at Mt. Rose Avenue, opposite the municipal property. The study found that while there were typical physical and long-term operational challenges to developing the trail, the most significant obstacle was the approximately 290 individual property owners of the former corridor. The former railroad corridor had reverted to the contiguous property owners and there was strong opposition to trail development from many of these property owners. An additional significant obstacle to extending the trail to Spring Garden Township is the pending removal of the tunnel that carried the railroad under Route 83 at the southeast corner of Spring Garden Township. The tunnel is slated for removal as part of the PennDOT improvements to the Route 83 Mt. Rose interchange.



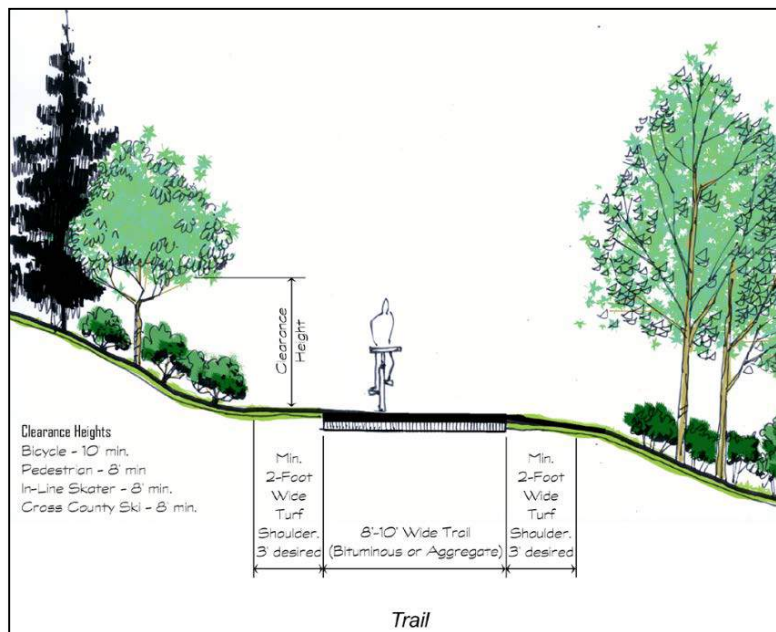
Expanding the Trail System

The developed setting of Spring Garden Township with urban neighborhoods, suburban residential areas, and commercial and industrial land use will require a varied approach to create a comprehensive network of trails. Trail opportunities are limited and where the potential for trail development exists, the physical obstacles will be challenging. Pedestrian and bicycle friendly communities includes sidewalks, bike lanes, and shared roadways to round out trail systems. Following are facilities that should be considered to enhance community mobility.

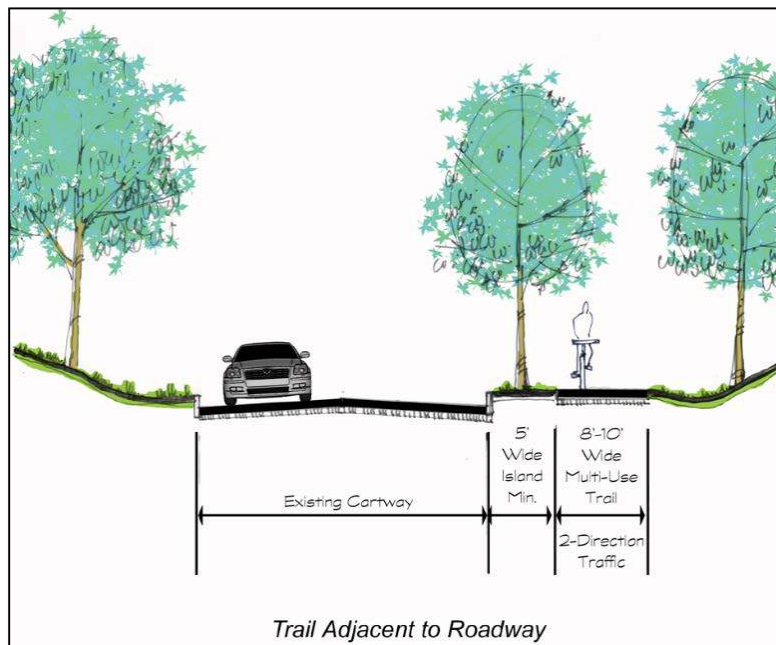
Sidewalks – Sidewalks present one level of solution for enhancing mobility, but only accommodate pedestrians. To truly enhance mobility in a community, trails of sufficient width to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists are needed. Spring Garden Township includes neighborhoods with and without sidewalks.



Trails – Typically, the preferred configuration for a trail is a separate corridor that extends from point A to point B. Safety is enhanced when trails are separated from roadways and road crossings are minimized. Community trails should be multipurpose for both pedestrians and bicycles. Recommended width for a shared use trail with two-directional traffic is 8-12-feet. Trails may follow a stream corridor or a utility right-of-way, or run cross-country following no physical feature at all. Because trails are typically outside of public rights-of-ways, access easement will be required where trails are not on public land.



Trails Adjacent to Roadways – Trails adjacent to roadways are typically located within the road right-of-way. A grass strip of at least 5-feet wide should separate the trail from the roadway where possible. Trails adjacent to roadways are suggested along roads that do not have adjoining sidewalks and the physical area to develop a separate trail is available.



Bike Lanes without Parking –

There are relatively few areas within Spring Garden Township with sufficient physical space to develop a trail. An alternative may be development of bike lanes on wide roadways with adequate right-of-way width. Bike lanes should be developed on both sides of a two-way street, separated from the vehicular cartway by a 6" white stripe. Bike lanes carry bike traffic, on the road cartway, in the same direction as the adjacent vehicular traffic. The recommended minimum width of a bike lane is 4' on streets without curb or gutter and 5' from the face of a curb. The *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* should be referenced when designing on-road bicycle facilities. Bike lanes provide a travel route for bicycles but do not provide accommodations for

pedestrians. In areas where sidewalks exist, bike lanes can expand the network by providing a dedicated location for bicyclists. Where sidewalks are not provided, a separate multi-use trail is preferred to accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists. Bike lanes effectively narrow a street and provide a traffic calming effect as motorists typically drive slower on narrower cartways.

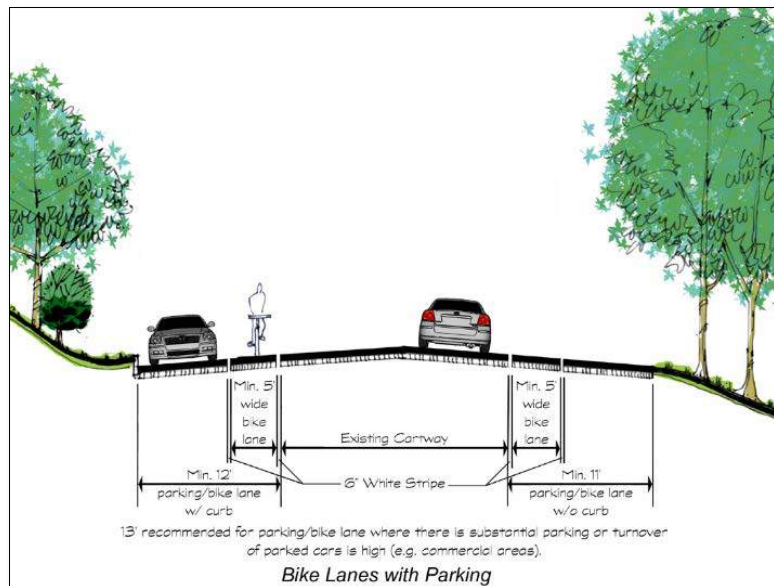
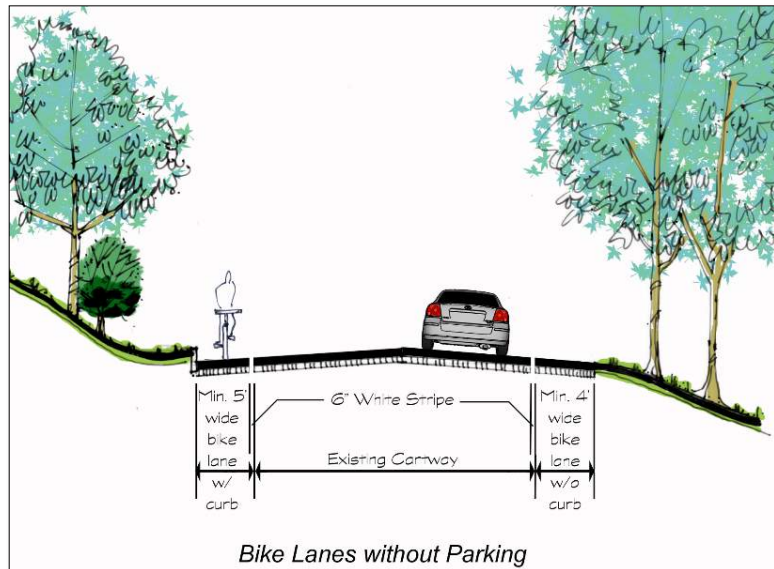
Bike Lanes with Parking –

Parking is permitted on many of the residential streets in the Township. To expand the connectivity of the trail network for cyclists, bike lanes are often developed between the parking aisle and the vehicle cartway on streets with parking where certain spatial parameters exist. The adjacent sketch shows the dimensions provided in the AASHTO guidelines for bike lanes on streets with on-street parking.

There is an inherent danger associated with bike travel in the “door zone” of parked cars and the topic of bike lanes on streets that allow on-street parking is controversial, with diverse views that relate to safety. Car doors opening into bike lanes present a significant safety concern for cyclists. When cyclists encounter a door opening in their path of travel they must either stop short or swerve into the vehicle travel lane to avoid the open door. Cyclists have been injured and killed trying to avoid an open car door or hitting an open door. The possibility of a door zone related crash is highest in locations with high parking turnover, such as a main street or in commercial districts.

Various techniques have been experimented with in communities to reduce door zone accidents such as wider bike lanes, pavement markings and warning signs, and in some communities shared lane pavement marking are used.

Signed Shared Roadways – The roadways in Spring Garden Township have not been designed with bicyclists in mind. In Pennsylvania, a bicycle is considered a vehicle and must conform to the rules



and regulations that apply to all vehicles as well as specific requirements for bicycles. There are accommodations that can make a roadway more compatible with bicycle travel. Signing or marking a road for shared use is a common design feature that enhances bicycle use. The AASHTO guidelines note the following reasons for developing a signed bike route:

- The route provides continuity to other bicycle facilities such as bike lanes and shared use paths.
- The road is a common route for bicyclists through a high demand corridor.
- In rural areas, the route is preferred for bicycling due to low motor vehicle traffic volume or paved shoulder availability.
- The route extends along local neighborhood streets and collectors that lead to an internal neighborhood destination such as a park, school, or commercial district.

The two signs at the right are used in Pennsylvania to designate a shared road roadway. In 2012 Pennsylvania enacted a new law to enhance bicycle safety, requiring drivers to provide a 4-foot comfort zone when passing on the left of bicyclists.



Another method of signing a roadway that emerged in recent years and is becoming more popular is the installation of “sharrow” markings on roadway pavement. A sharrow is a shared lane marking that is often installed on roadways that are popular with bicyclists but too narrow or inappropriate for bike lanes. The sharrow indicates where bicyclists should ride to avoid traveling in the door zone of parked cars and alerts motorists of bicycle traffic. Sharrows are typically installed 11-feet from the curb, which provides approximately 4-feet clearance from parked cars. Sharrow markings are intended to improve the position of the bicyclists and motorists on roads without bike lanes, alert motorists, deter aggressive motorist behavior, promote correct bicycle travel location, and encourage bicycle use.



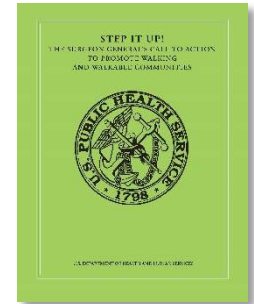
Other roadway improvements that enhance shared road bicycle travel include bicycle-safe drainage grates, paved shoulders, flush bridge expansion joints, improved railroad crossings, controlled intersections with lights, and wide curb lanes.

Complete Streets & Walkable Communities

Complete Street are streets for everyone. They are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.²

² National Complete Streets Coalition, 10/28/15. <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets/complete-streets-fundamentals/complete-streets-faq>

Complete streets provide travel choices, encourage walking and bicycling, enhance safety, and are good for air quality. Complete streets help create livable communities where walking and bicycling are a viable choice of transportation. Complete streets can have positive environmental impacts due to reduced pavement widths, use of pervious pavement, and introduction of landscaping.



In 2015 the US Department of Health and Human Services released “*Step It Up! The Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Promote Walking and Walkable Communities*”. The Call to Action addresses several key principles for improving the nation’s health and defines five goals to support walking and walkability in the United States.

Goal 1 – Make Walking a National Priority.

Goal 2 – Design Communities that Make It Safe and Easy to Walk for People of All Ages and Abilities.

Goal 3 – Promote Programs and Policies to Support Walking Where People Live, Learn, Work, and Play.

Goal 4 – Provide Information to Encourage Walking and Improve Walkability.

Goal 5 – Fill Surveillance, Research, and Evaluation Gaps Related to Walking and Walkability.

Walking is an easy way to start and maintain a physically active lifestyle that will provide substantial health benefits. Among adults who reported any physical activity in 2011, 52% of men and 74% of women reported walking as one of the top two activities in which they participate.³ Walking can be multipurpose and, in a community like Spring Garden Township, can be transportation to go to school, go shopping, walk the dog, or gather with friends at a nearby park to socialize. Walking benefits communities by making them safer, reducing air pollution and benefiting local economies.

Spring Garden Township is positioned to embrace this call to action with the close proximity of the Heritage Rail Trail County Park, the many neighborhoods with sidewalks, access to a transit system, diverse land use to include employment centers and shopping areas, and the potential to develop trails in parks and along natural and infrastructure linear resources. Recreation programs could be design to promote walking and make it easy to walk.

Greenways & Trails Analysis

Strengths

There is significant community interest in the development of trails for fitness and wellness. Respondents to the on-line survey ranked running/jogging/walking paths as the highest recreation

³ Watson KB, Frederick GM, Harris CD, Carlson SA, Fulton JE. U.S. adults’ partition in specific activities, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System – 2001. *J Phys Act Health*, 2015;12(suppl 1):S3-S10.

facility for development at the Mt. Rose Avenue Property. Spring Garden Township is fortunate that a portion of the York County Heritage Rail Trail traverses the western boundary of the municipality.

While open space and natural resources are limited in Spring Garden Township, there are stream and utility corridors that present trail development opportunities and sidewalks in many neighborhoods that could be the building blocks of a connected trail system.

Challenges

The densely developed suburban fabric of the municipality is the biggest challenge to developing greenways and trails in Spring Garden Township. While several stream corridors have been identified, housing and commercial and industrial development limits the open space associated with these corridors. Additionally, access and private ownership are significant challenges to trail development and greenway conservation.

Opportunities

The public input process found that there is broad public support for trails and there are several opportunities for trail development in Spring Garden Township. The Mt. Rose Avenue Property is a good location to begin trail development and create momentum for community trail initiatives.

Regional trail initiatives link to Spring Garden Township and have the potential to ultimately connect, via the Township, to the Heritage Rail Trail County Park, providing close to home opportunities for residents to easily access a significant regional trail.

Spring Garden Township

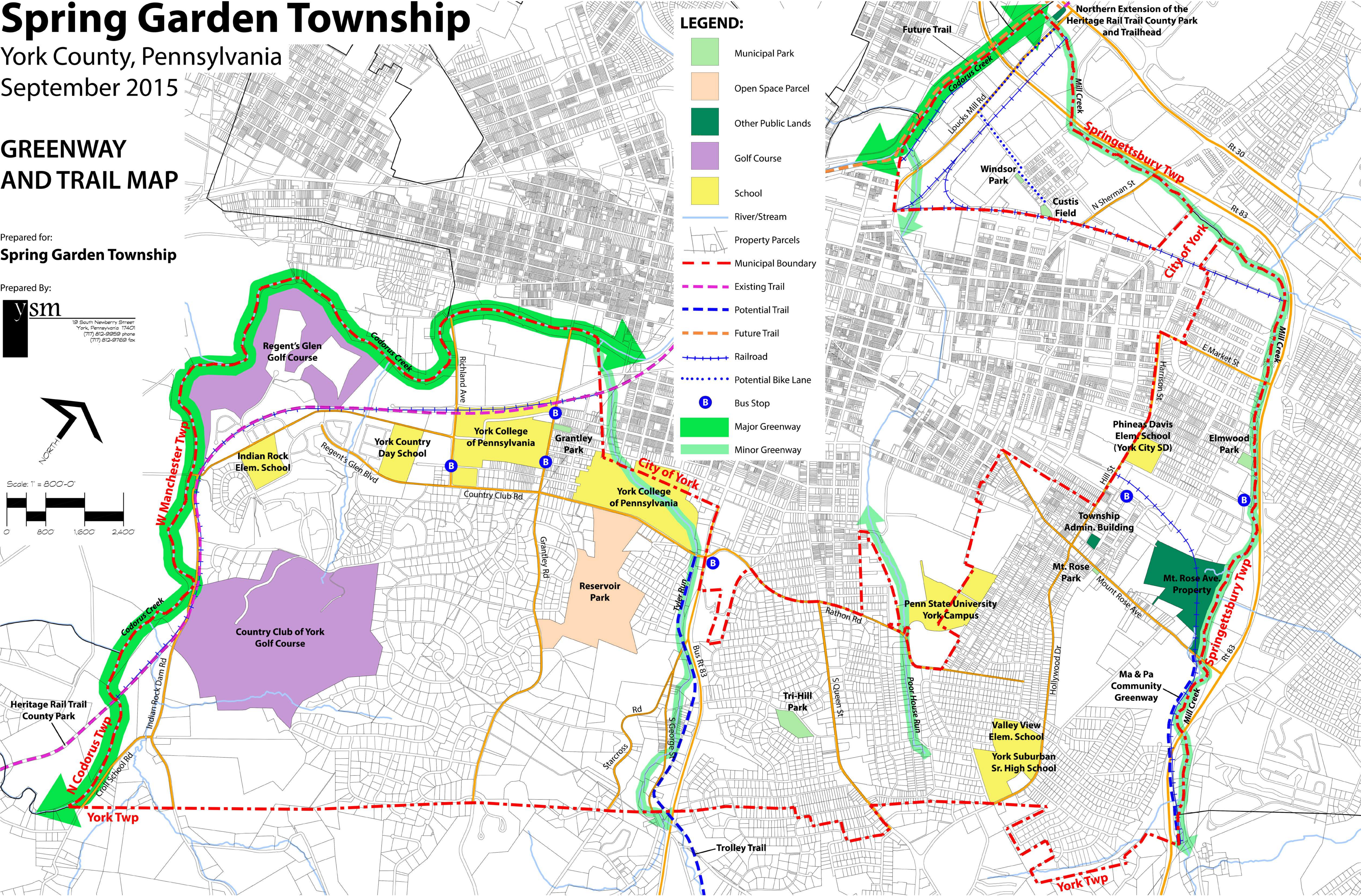
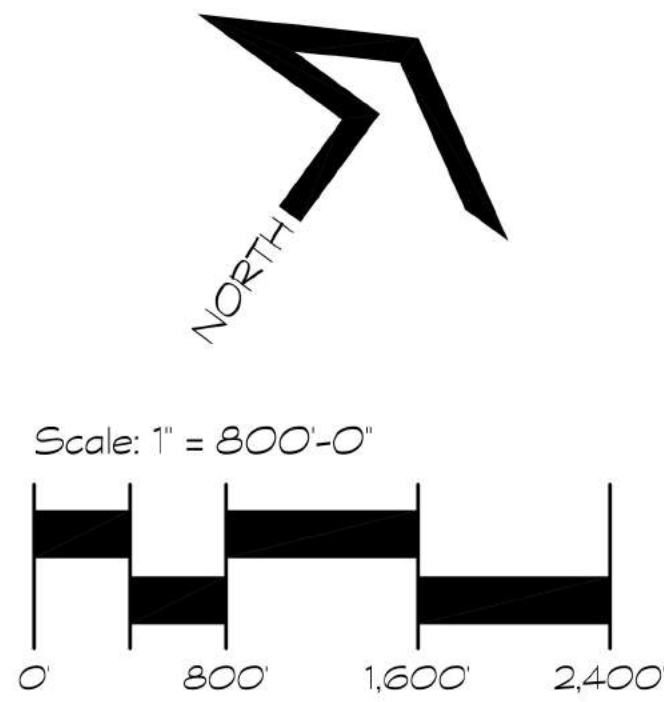
York County, Pennsylvania

September 2015

GREENWAY AND TRAIL MAP

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Chapter 5 - Recreation Programming

Chapter 5 – Recreation Programming

Providing services to the public is the basic function and responsibility of municipal government. Government's purpose is to provide, on a broad scale, those services that help to meet the significant needs of citizens but can't be performed as efficiently or economically by individual citizens acting for themselves. This includes providing public parks and offering public recreation programs. The goal is to ensure that the members of every segment of the population – regardless of age, physical or mental condition, or economic or social standing – have opportunities to enjoy broad, satisfying recreation experiences.

Providing park land and recreation facilities are important municipal functions. Equally as important are the recreation experiences residents have through involvement in recreation programs. Recreation programming is the process of creating opportunities for people to engage in recreation experiences – both organized and self-directed activities.

Recreation programs build community by providing positive activities that encourage a sense of unity, pride, and appreciation for community traditions and heritage. Through recreation programs, citizens improve their health and fitness, enhance their creativity, build relationships, reduce stress, and become happier and more involved in community life. Children develop self-confidence, stay physically active, and make friends.

Spring Garden Township provides its citizens with public recreation programming through its Recreation Department. The Township is not the sole provider of recreation services in the community, however, it is one among inter-related public, non-profit, private, commercial, and other agencies that contribute to the recreation facility and program resources available to Spring Garden Township residents. This chapter addresses the variety of organizations that help to meet the recreation program needs of Spring Garden Township citizens.

Inventory of Recreation Programs and Providers

Spring Garden Township Recreation Department

The Spring Garden Township Recreation Department offers special events, sports programs and learning opportunities for all ages.



Table 5-1 details the programs offered by the Township in 2014 and 2015.



Table 5-1
Spring Garden Township
Recreation Department 2014 - 2015 Programs

Program Type	Program Name	Program Location
Family Special Events (5)	Screen Free Week Community Yard Sale Breakfast with Santa Fall Fest National Night Out	Tri Hill Municipal Building Tri Hill Park Valley View Elementary Tri Hill Park Penn State York
Preschool Programs (8)	Little Hands Cooking* Preschool Arts and Crafts Princess and Pirate Party Super Hero Camp Preschool Tea Party Indoor Pee-Wee Soccer* Dr. Seuss Day Luncheon* Summer Tot Park	York Township Office Tri Hill Municipal Building Tri Hill Park Tri Hill Park Tri Hill Municipal Building York Township Park Building York Township Office Tri Hill Park
Youth Programs (9)	Getting to Know the Kitchen* Snack and Small Meals* Parent and Child Culinary Challenge* Cooking Rocks* Beginner Bakers* Easter Egg Hunt Flashlight Egg Hunt Summer Tween Park Summer Parks Program	York Township Park Building York Township Park Building York Township Park Building York Township Park Building York Township Park Building Tri Hill Park Tri Hill Park Grantley Park Tri Hill Park, Elmwood Park
Adult Programs (7)	Boating Safety Course* Safe Driver's Course* Master Gardener Classes* My Painting Tonight* The Vegan Kitchen* Cooking Hearty Winter Foods* Apple iPad/iPhone Class	York Township Park Building York Township Office York Township Park Building York Township Park Building York Township Park Building York Township Park Building Tri Hill Municipal Building
Adult Fitness (3)	Zumba* Senior Strides* Interval Step with Pilates*	York Township Park Building York Township Park Building York Township Park Building
Adult Athletics (2)	Bocce League* Indoor Shuffleboard*	York Township Park York Township Park Building
Youth Athletics (6)	Cheer Camp Track and Field Meet Punt, Pass and Kick Contest EYC Basketball Basketball Cheerleading York Little League Baseball and Softball	Tri-Hill Park York Technical Institute Elmwood Park York Suburban High School and Middle School, East York, Yorkshire, Indian Rock and Valley View Elementary Schools Tri Hill Park, Custis Field, Elmwood Park
Trips and Tours (7)	Resorts Casino* New York City Shopping* Radio City Christmas Show* Brandywine Tour and Longwood Gardens* Orlando, FL* Branson, MO*	N/A

() = Number of programs Total number of programs = 47

*Sponsored by York Township Recreation Department. Spring Garden Township residents may register at York Township resident rate, but must register directly with York Township.

Youth Sports – A variety of youth sports organizations serve Spring Garden Township residents. Nearly all of the sports programs offered are organized by separate volunteer groups; there is no umbrella athletic association. Groups include: Trojan Wrestling Club (grades 1 to 6); Trojan Track Club (ages 5 to 15); York Suburban Lacrosse Club (ages 8 to 15); Trojan Soccer Club (ages 5 to 18); CK8 Sports Flag Football (ages 5 to 17); Trojan Aquatic Club (ages 5 to 18); and Eastern York County Football and Cheerleading (ages 6 to 12). Tennis for Kids, a free five-week summer tennis program for ages 7 to 16, runs at York Suburban High School and Penn State York. Spring Garden Township boys ages 13 and up play in the York County Baseball League.

York Suburban School District – The York Suburban School District offers after-school intramural activities and clubs at its middle school. These include intramurals in basketball, cross country, field hockey, and volleyball; and club activities such as chess, color guard, walking, weight training, ping pong, sign language, and skiing/snowboarding. A variety of club programs are available at the high school. They include community service, student fitness, table tennis, traditional games, ultimate Frisbee, ski and board, book and green clubs. School district parent-teacher organizations sponsor recreation programs such as dances, family fun nights, roller skating parties, and festivals for each school as well as district-wide events. Until recently, the School District sponsored an extensive schedule of adult education programs and instructional swimming lessons. It is currently reviewing its adult education programming and is not offering classes in the spring of 2015. The York JCC has taken over the instructional swimming lessons at York Suburban High School. The Trojan Aquatic Club uses the high school swimming pool as well for its competitive swim team. The School District's Community Education Department offers Summer Enrichment camps for school-aged students. Sports camps include girls' lacrosse, girls' soccer, fundamental volleyball, power volleyball, field hockey, snorkeling, scuba diving and bowling. Other camps include creative writing, art, cooking, science, and preparation for Kindergarten.

York Jewish Community Center – The York JCC is a non-profit membership-based community center located in York Township, in close proximity to Spring Garden Township. The York JCC is open to everyone regardless of religion, financial, or ethnic background. Included in membership is the use of the fitness center, over 75 group and water fitness classes each week, lap and family swims, open gym use, swim lessons, family art, gym activities, and discounts on sports, dance, wellness, and enrichment classes, camps and programs. All activities are available to non-members at a higher price. Preschool day care, before and after school care, and summer day camps are also offered.

Heritage Hills Resort and Athletic Club – The Heritage Hills Athletic Club is a membership-based fitness center in York Township that offers a full schedule of group fitness classes such as cycle, kickboxing, and yoga. Team sports indoor leagues are offered for adults in flag football, men's and women's soccer, and men's basketball; and for youth in boys' and girls' soccer, girls' field hockey, and boys' lacrosse. The club's Ballyhoo Sports Academy offers youth club sports for boys' basketball, girls' basketball, girls' field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, and volleyball. A full-day summer day camp is held during the summer months. The Heritage Hills Resort offers snow tubing, ice skating, miniature golf, and laser tag. The resort has two 18-hole golf courses, Heritage Hills and Springwood. Both are open to the public for daily play; season memberships are available as well. Heritage Hills Golf Course also features a driving range. The resort sponsors golf clinics, private lessons, tournaments, adult leagues, junior golf camps, and instructional leagues.

White Rose Senior Center – The White Rose Senior Center is located in York City. The Senior Center is part of the York County Area Agency on Aging; it is a multi-service facility for adults ages 60 and

older. Its programs are designed to overcome loneliness, enhance self-esteem, encourage personal growth, and facilitate independence through involvement. It serves a free daily lunch Monday-Friday for members and participates in the Meals on Wheels program. Programs include bus trips, health and wellness workshops, craft classes, holiday parties and special events, exercise classes, and bingo. The Center is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Martin Memorial Library – The Martin Memorial Library, part of the York County Library System, is the nearest regional library to Spring Garden Township. Located in York City, it is dedicated to providing area residents with library and information services. The Library maintains a selection of classic and current materials for all ages. In particular, its children’s library and children’s programming are designed to foster and maintain a love of books and reading in children. It also has access to thousands of other reference sources through county and state interlibrary loan services, the internet, and online databases. Programs include baby, toddler and preschool story times; writer’s workshops, teen art club, Lego club, and special events such as a Princess Book Party.

WellSpan Health – WellSpan Health offers year-round community health and wellness programs. These include fitness programs such as T’ai Chi and Yoga, cooking classes, first aid and CPR, baby sign language classes, Safe Sitter Babysitter courses, nutrition classes, and health-related educational programs.

Outdoor Recreation – A section of the York County Heritage Rail Trail County Park traverses the Township along its western edge, from the Codorus Creek to the York City boundary. The 21-mile-long trail runs north from the Mason-Dixon Line just south of the Borough of New Freedom to the Colonial Courthouse in the City of York. The trail connects to Maryland’s 20-mile long Torrey C. Brown Trail. The most popular activities on the trail are hiking, jogging, bicycle riding, and horseback riding. The Indian Rock Campground is located adjacent to the rail-trail. Open year-round, it features 40 campsites with electric, water and sewer hook-ups as well as a separate tent camping area.

Other Recreation Providers –

- **Gymnastics** – Gymnastics of York offers boys’, girls’ and preschool gymnastics classes, cheerleading tumbling, and parent-tot classes, plus competitive gymnastic team training. Tiny Tumblers provides introductory gymnastics and fitness classes for children ages 15 months to 8 years at its location in the South York Plaza.
- **Dance** – The Performing Arts Academy of York offers lyrical, ballet, tap, jazz, and hip hop dance classes for preschoolers through teens.
- **Karate** – Kim’s Karate is located on Mount Rose Avenue in the Township and offers karate classes for all ages.
- **Swimming** – The Wisehaven Swimming Pool is a family-owned private outdoor swimming pool in York Township. Tennis courts are also on the property. Wisehaven offers season memberships for individuals and families. With no outdoor pools located in Spring Garden Township, many residents join the Wisehaven Swimming Pool.
- **Youth Groups** – Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and church youth groups are very active in the Township.

- Fitness Centers – Area adult fitness and gym providers include Evolution Power Yoga, Renaissance Yoga Studio, Curves, Anytime Fitness, Planet Fitness, and Gold’s Gym.
- Bowling – Suburban Bowlerama is located in Spring Garden Township and provides after school bowling programs for York Suburban elementary and intermediate school students, with bus transportation provided. The bowling alley offers bowling leagues and lessons on Saturday mornings for children, a variety of bowling leagues for adults, and public open bowling hours.
- Roller Skating – Roll ‘R’ Way Family Skating Center in York City offers public roller skating sessions for all ages, plus special events and private parties.
- Ice Skating – The York Ice Arena is located in York City’s Memorial Park. It houses two NHL regulation ice surfaces with locker rooms and spectator seating. The second level of the complex houses a fitness center and large community event space available for rental. The York Ice Arena is home to the York Ice Hockey Club and White Rose Figure Skating Club. Skating lessons and public skating sessions are held year-round.

Program and Facility Partners

The York Suburban School District plays an active role in recreation. It allows public use of its facilities for youth sports programs and offers swimming programs at its indoor pool. In the past, the school district sponsored adult education programs. The Township uses the district’s four elementary schools, middle school, and high school for programs throughout the year. The Township pays an hourly rate to use indoor school facilities Monday through Friday. A separate custodial fee of \$55/hour is charged for weekend indoor facility use. The Township is not charged a fee when it uses the district’s baseball field.

The Recreation Department supports the Tennis for Kids program financially, with an \$800 annual contribution. This enables Township children to participate in this program, held at York Suburban High School and Penn State York, at no cost.

The Recreation Department is partnering with the York Little League to sponsor baseball and softball programs for Township boys and girls. Another major program partner is the York Township Recreation Department, which allows Spring Garden Township residents to register for many of its programs at the resident rate.

Program Promotion and Public Awareness

The Spring Garden Township Newsletter is published two times each year and mailed to all Township residents and businesses. The Township’s organized, scheduled recreation programs are promoted in this newsletter and through the Township’s website. A separate flyer is prepared and mailed in the beginning of May to promote summer recreation programs. Program flyers are distributed through the schools as well.

Facebook social media is used to promote programs. The Recreation Department also has a Summer Parks blog on weebly.com that is used to communicate important information to parents.

Recreation Programming Analysis

Strengths

Because of the variety of recreation program and facility providers in place throughout the greater York area, Spring Garden Township residents have many recreational opportunities. The Township offers a small, balanced recreation program schedule with activities for all age groups. In particular, the summer parks program for children and the youth baseball and basketball programs are very popular. The Township has two full-time staff positions devoted primarily to recreation programming and a small number of program partners. The Recreation Department is willing and able to partner with businesses, community groups, youth sports organizations, other recreation providers, etc. Programs are reasonably priced. Non-resident fees are charged for recreation programs and park facility rental.



Challenges

The program schedule is limited, with only 22 recreation programs offered by the Township. No programs are offered for adults or older adults in the Township, and few family or teen programs are offered. The Recreation Department has no dedicated space for indoor programs. Lack of a dedicated indoor facility limits the quantity and types of recreation programs the Township can offer on its own. Township-sponsored programs are not held at every Township park or at locations throughout the Township.

More than half of the programs offered for Spring Garden Township residents are provided by York Township Recreation Department. This may not address programs that Spring Garden Township residents desire, since the programs are planned by another Township for its citizens. The York Township partnership expands the number of program offerings, but makes registration confusing as it directs residents to another website and away from Township park areas. It also does not contribute to strengthening the sense of community for Spring Garden Township, which is an important role of a recreation department.



The process of registering for a Spring Garden Township recreation program is not user friendly, as residents must visit the Township website, print a registration form, fill it out, and mail or walk it into the Recreation Department office. There is no program registration form in the Township Newsletter. In addition, on-line registration and payment for recreation programs is not available; on-line permitting and payment is not available for park pavilions, building, or recreation facility rentals. Credit cards are accepted for program and facility payments, but this must be done in person and a service fee is charged. Program registration software is not used; Excel spreadsheets are used to keep track of program enrollment.

The program refund policy is outdated and not customer friendly. Currently refunds are not granted after a program begins unless there is an illness or injury, and written documentation is required by a physician.

Program participants are not asked to evaluate programs. An annual report detailing Recreation Department programs and park facility use is not prepared. Program participation statistics are not kept.

There is no written inclusion statement in the Township Newsletter or on its website that promotes and values the involvement of all persons – including those with disabilities – in recreation program offerings.



There is no standard percentage used to set non-resident fees; non-resident program fees are sometimes \$5, \$10, or \$100 more than resident fees or even double the resident fee. Pavilion rentals are \$20 for residents and \$50 for non-residents with a refundable deposit required for restroom keys. No goal is set for the amount of revenue to be raised each year.

If residents are looking for financial help for their child to participate in Township recreation programs, they must submit a written request and include proof that their child qualifies for free or reduced-price school lunch. These requests are approved or denied by the Recreation Commission.

Many Township residents have never visited some of the parks and may even be unaware that they exist. Directions and a brief listing of the facilities at each Township park are not on the Township website. The self-directed recreation opportunities available at the Township parks, such as picnic pavilions and playground equipment, are not promoted with photos. Facility rental information is also not included. The Township does not actively promote the services of its other community recreation providers.

Opportunities

Joint sponsorship of recreation programs, including shared use of facilities, is a significant opportunity. The number of recreation programs provided to Township residents, and the number of program locations, can easily expand with partnerships.

Partnerships of all types will help with staffing, promoting, sharing facilities, and keeping costs down for recreation programs and special events.

The Township's six park areas are significant Township-owned and financially-supported assets that can be more actively promoted for resident use.

As it is not the sole provider of recreation services, part of the Recreation Department's role is to make Township residents aware of all of the opportunities available to them, whether the programs are sponsored by youth sports groups, the library, the senior center, or other groups.

The focus of the Spring Garden Township Recreation Department should be to strengthen the community's recreation and parks system through Township-operated programs and facilities. Filling in the gaps in recreation programming and minimizing duplication of services by collaborating and cooperating with other recreation providers and community groups is the key.

Chapter 6 - Administration & Financing

Chapter 6 - Administration & Financing

The Spring Garden Township Recreation Department is responsible for operating and supervising the public parks, play fields, and all outdoor and indoor recreation areas and facilities owned and controlled by the Township, as well as sponsoring recreation programs for all ages. Park maintenance is performed by the Township Public Works staff.

Advisory Board Structure

The Recreation Department works closely with the Spring Garden Township Recreation Commission, a seven-member advisory board created by Township ordinance in 1974. Five members, one resident from each of the Township's five wards, are appointed by the Board of Commissioners. These Commission members serve for terms of five years. One member of the Board of Commissioners serves as a non-voting member and is appointed by the Board of Commissioners each year for a one-year term. One member, who must be a Spring Garden Township resident, is to be appointed by the York Suburban School Board for a term determined by the School Board. At the present time there is no School Board representative. The Recreation Commission's only officer is the Chairman. The Recreation Director serves as the Secretary and takes meeting minutes. The Recreation Commission meets on the fourth Monday of the month (except for January, July and December) at the Tri Hill Municipal Building.

Recreation Department Structure and Authority

The Spring Garden Township Recreation Department has two full-time staff. The Recreation Director reports to the Township Manager and is the staff liaison to the Recreation Commission; the Program Coordinator reports to the Recreation Director. The Recreation Director is responsible for planning, promoting, organizing, and administering parks and recreation services for the Township. The Program Coordinator is responsible for creating, implementing, and scheduling recreation programs, sports leagues, and special events for all ages. Job descriptions exist for both positions. Performance evaluations are not conducted for the full-time staff. Seasonal part-time staff receive performance evaluations each year.

Summer parks counselors are the only part-time staff; they report to the Program Coordinator. On average, 16 summer parks counselors are hired each year. The Recreation Department rarely uses independent contractors as program instructors. When it has hired independent contractors, a verbal agreement is used. Part-time staff may be hired by either the Program Coordinator or Recreation Director; termination of part-time staff is only done by the Recreation Director.

The Township has few to no part-time or contracted program instructors. Any contractors now working for the Recreation Department are doing so on a 'handshake' basis.

The Public Works Department is responsible for park maintenance. The Recreation Director works closely with the Public Works Supervisor on the maintenance and improvement of park areas and

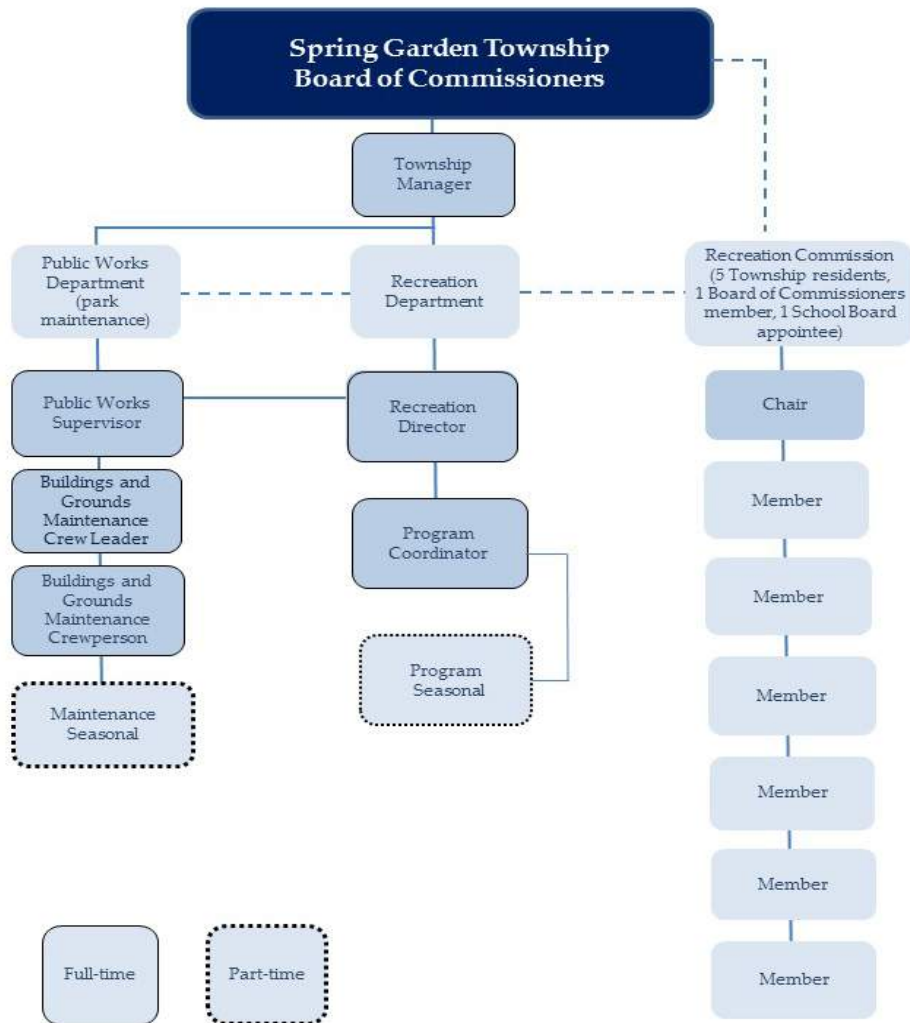
recreation facilities. The Public Works Supervisor delegates park maintenance work to the Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Crew Leader.

The Recreation Department uses its summer part-time staff as volunteers for special events. It also offers a counselor-in-training program, where 14- and 15-year-olds serve as volunteers for the summer parks program.

The Recreation Department office is located at the Tri Hill Municipal Building.

Figure 6-1 details the organizational structure of the Recreation Department.

Figure 6-1
Spring Garden Township
Organizational Structure - Recreation



Financing

In each Pennsylvania municipality, finding the financial resources needed to meet required mandates and provide all public services including parks and recreation, while balancing the tax burden on residents and businesses, is an annual challenge. Like other municipalities, Spring Garden Township operates within a climate of fiscal conservatism and increasing demands.

This financial inventory and analysis provides a five-year review of Spring Garden Township parks and recreation revenues and expenditures. Trends and comparisons for items such as expenditures per capita and cost recovery are presented to provide a better understanding of current conditions that, when viewed together with other portions of this Plan, will help to develop financial recommendations for the future.

Spring Garden Township adopts its annual budget no later than December 31 for the next calendar year according to the process and timelines established in the First Class Township Code. The Township takes a conservative approach to budgeting. Revenues are estimated to insure that projections will be met and likely exceeded. Expenditures are budgeted with the expectation that the full amount will not be expended unless there are unanticipated circumstances that occur during the year. For example, the 2014 General Fund Budget for the Recreation Department was \$437,662. The 2014 year-end projection for Recreation Department spending was \$413,589 leaving an estimated \$24,073 of the budget unused. Unused budget funds remaining at the end of the year are no longer available to the Department. They become part of the cash reserves available for allocation by the Board of Commissioners in the next year's budget.

Table 6-1 contains a summary of the Recreation Department's actual year-end General Fund revenue and expense budget figures for 2011 to 2013, the projected year-end totals for 2014 and the 2015 budget.

In 2013, 43 percent of the Recreation Department budget was spent on park maintenance; 41.3 percent on administration; and 15.7 percent on recreation programs.

Table 6-1
Spring Garden Township
Recreation Department - General Fund Budget

	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Projected	2015 Budget
Revenues					
Park & Field Rentals	\$330	\$935	\$1,878	\$716	\$1,200
Booster Fundraising	\$1,606	\$3,937	\$4,854	\$5,000	\$5,000
Recreation Program Fees	\$25,851	\$28,011	\$23,544	\$22,003	\$21,600
Summer Parks	\$17,941	\$17,320	\$20,657	\$17,460	\$20,000
Discount Tickets	\$103	\$332	\$297	\$500	\$400
Trips	\$8,167	\$14,019	\$9,229	\$3,737	\$4,500
Total Revenue	\$53,998	\$64,554	\$60,460	\$49,416	\$51,700
Expenses					
Administration	\$152,814	\$155,637	\$160,272	\$170,992	\$176,510
Recreation Programs	\$52,520	\$57,981	\$60,704	\$60,047	\$66,600
Parks Maintenance	\$139,357	\$161,146	\$166,655	\$182,550	\$183,401
Total Expenses	\$344,691	\$374,764	\$387,631	\$413,589	\$426,511

Funding Parks and Recreation

Spring Garden Township finances the largest portion of the cost for recreation programs and park maintenance through local tax revenues. In 2013, 15.6 percent of the Recreation Department budget was financed by fees and charges. These fees and charges are largely generated by the Summer Parks program and other recreation programs. The receipts from these recreation programs represent 80% of all revenues projected for 2015 in the Recreation Department budget.

A capital improvement plan is not in place for replacement and repair of park facilities. Typically municipalities set aside funds each year in a capital fund to cover the costs of items such as pavilion roof or playground equipment replacement.

Spring Garden Township has embraced the practice of charging user fees to offset the direct cost of providing recreation programs. Charging fees for recreation programming that benefits individuals or groups of individuals rather than the community as a whole is routinely used by municipalities as one method to supplement tax support. Financing trends show that municipal parks and recreation is moving towards a market-based economy in which the users pay for services or facilities from which they directly benefit. The Recreation Department strives to recover the direct costs to offer recreation programs. The Township charges non-residents higher fees than its residents to enroll in recreation programs.

Like many small Recreation Departments, no formal revenue policy has been adopted. Such a policy would help to establish realistic targets for different types of recreation programs, including those that deserve tax-funded support and are offered at low or no cost; those that should recover their direct costs; and those where an additional percentage should be added to direct costs to help defray the administrative overhead costs.

Funds raised by the youth sports programs are not currently in a restricted account. As a result, any remaining funds at the end of the year roll into the general fund and are lost to the program which raised the funds.

Rental fees are charged for the reservation and use of park pavilions. In 2013, 3.1 percent of the Recreation Department revenues came from pavilion rentals. Residents pay \$20 to rent a picnic pavilion for one day; non-residents pay \$50. The Department averages 15 to 20 pavilion rentals each year.

Business signs are placed on the outfield fence at the Tri Hill Park ball field. Businesses pay the Township each year; approximately six businesses advertise on the fence.

Municipal Comparisons

Local municipal spending on parks and recreation in Pennsylvania is extremely diverse and therefore challenging to capture and compare. Listed below in Table 6-2 is data for similarly-sized municipalities that do not have large fee-generating facilities such as golf courses or recreation centers. Each municipality's Recreation Department revenue is shown as a percentage of the cost recovered. The per capita expense for each municipality is calculated using the net parks and recreation expenses of the municipality and the 2010 census figures.

	County	2010 Census Pop	2013 Total General Fund Expenses	2013 Rec Expenses	2013 Rec Revenue	2013 Net Rec Expenses	% Cost Recovery	Per Capita Rec Spending	Rec as a Percent of Total Expenses
Spring Garden Township	York	12,578	\$7,564,847	\$387,631	\$60,460	\$327,697	15.6%	\$26.05	5.1%
Silver Spring Township	Cumberland	13,657	\$7,445,648	\$588,711	\$116,824	\$471,887	19.8%	\$43.11	7.9%
Loyalsock Township	Lycoming	11,026	\$4,591,779	\$433,329	\$123,379	\$309,950	28.5%	\$28.11	9.4%
Lower Saucon Township	Northampton	10,772	\$8,068,316	\$494,411	\$6,305	\$488,106	1.3%	\$45.31	6.1%
Manchester Township	York	18,161	\$9,766,859	\$374,394	\$40,843	\$333,551	10.9%	\$18.37	3.8%
Lancaster Township	Lancaster	16,149	\$6,429,210	\$187,050	\$45,000	\$142,050	24%	\$8.80	2.2%
North Lebanon Township	Lebanon	11,429	\$3,451,653	\$276,553	\$800	\$275,753	.3%	\$24.13	7.9%

Statewide Municipal Spending for Parks and Recreation

Based on the data from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, from 2008-2012, municipalities spent about \$457 million in operating budget funds on recreation, or \$36 annually per capita. Municipalities spent an average of three percent of their total expenditures on recreation. It's important to note, however, that two-thirds of Pennsylvania municipalities either had no recreation expenditures or spent less than \$25,000. Pennsylvania municipal recreation spending is closely correlated to population; the larger the municipal population, the higher the spending. The national average per capita operating budget spending by municipalities on parks and recreation is \$45.

Spring Garden Township spent approximately 5.1 percent of its total 2013 operating budget on parks and recreation which amounted to about \$26.05 per capita.

Mandatory Dedication

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code provides local municipalities with a financial tool to assist with the capital expense of creating park areas and recreation facilities that will serve the future residents of new residential developments. The Spring Garden Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, Sections 514 and 515, provides the requirements for dedication of recreation land and payment of fees-in-lieu of land dedication. Refer to Chapter 3 of this Plan for additional discussion of mandatory dedication.

Currently, the Township's recreation escrow fund is at \$294,517.28. There is no plan in place for the use of the funds.

Administration and Finance Analysis

Strengths

The Township supports parks and recreation with annual budget allocations for programming and park maintenance. It has a sufficient number of staff to plan, coordinate, and conduct recreation programs. The same is true for park maintenance.

The Recreation Commission meets monthly to advise the Township on the recreational needs of residents.

Challenges

The Recreation Director and Program Coordinator, at times, perform tasks that could be performed by volunteers or part-time staff.

Special events are difficult to conduct with the current staff and volunteer support.

The Department is referred to at times as a Recreation Department and at other times as a Parks and Recreation Department.

The name of the Recreation Commission is misleading. A Recreation Commission is typically a governing body with recreation programming responsibilities (no park responsibilities). The Township Recreation Commission is an advisory board, not a governing board.

The Recreation Commission is not always able to field a quorum for its meetings. Members are not actively involved in assisting the Recreation Department.

Opportunities

The Township has a solid base of funding in place to maintain parks and offer recreation programs. It can be used as a base on which to build.

The Recreation Department has the ability to greatly increase its recreation programs and special event schedule by finding new partners, new program locations, new program instructors, and new volunteers.

The Recreation Commission members' expertise and contacts can be better leveraged to help grow the recreation programs.

Chapter 7 - Park Maintenance

Chapter 7 - Park Maintenance

The Spring Garden Township Recreation Department is responsible for operating and supervising the public parks, play fields, and all outdoor and indoor recreation areas and facilities owned and controlled by the Township, as well as sponsoring recreation programs for all ages. Park maintenance is performed by the Township Public Works staff.

Good maintenance practices are important for Spring Garden Township public park areas and recreation facilities for five reasons:

1. **Increased Safety for Visitors** – Public safety is an essential concern; proper maintenance of park areas and recreation facilities helps the municipality manage risk by avoiding unnecessary injuries. The Township is less likely to be sued for negligence if staff routinely checks for unsafe conditions and then promptly corrects hazardous situations.
2. **More Facility Use By the Public** – Well-maintained facilities are frequented more often. Residents are only able to enjoy their park visits if facilities and equipment are maintained in useful condition.
3. **Less Vandalism** – Well-maintained facilities are usually less vandalized. Vandalism should be corrected as soon as possible, and proper maintenance procedures allow that to happen.
4. **Citizen Support for Additional Recreation and Park Facilities** – As citizens see the Township properly maintain park areas and recreation facilities, they are more inclined to support expansion of these areas and facilities.
5. **A More Attractive Municipality** – Well-maintained public park areas and recreation facilities help to develop a positive image for the Township, making it a place people want to live and work.

The Public Works Department provides the maintenance needed to provide safe, clean, useable and attractive park and recreation facilities to the public in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

Maintenance is typically the single largest recurring expenditure in parks and recreation operations. Over the lifetime of a park, about 75% of its cost can be attributed to maintenance while the remaining 25% is the cost of acquisition, development, design, and construction.

Spring Garden Township owns and maintains six park sites totaling 7.5 acres that are designed to meet the needs of the surrounding neighborhood residents. Because the Township currently lacks any large community parks, the neighborhood parks are utilized in part to serve the community with ball diamonds. The park sites are developed in a similar manner containing a pavilion with restrooms, basketball court, and play equipment.

The Township General Fund is the source of all monies needed to maintain the park areas and recreation facilities. The Recreation Director and the Public Works staff work cooperatively to prepare the annual parks operating and capital improvement requests for the budget process.

Park Maintenance Staffing

Routine park maintenance and minor construction projects are performed by two full-time employees in the Public Works Department who are permanently assigned to this responsibility, a Building and Grounds Maintenance Crew Leader (Parks Foreman) and a Building and Grounds Maintenance Crewperson (Laborer). The Parks Foreman reports directly to the Public Works Supervisor.

While the Public Works Department is directly responsible for park operations and maintenance, the Recreation Director works closely with the Public Works Supervisor and the Parks Foreman on park maintenance issues that arise from recreation programs and park visitor use. From discussions with the Parks Foreman and the Public Works Supervisor, it is evident that they are very experienced individuals who take great pride in their work.

Due to the regular communication and shared concern for the community, schedules are adjusted as needed to provide an excellent experience for park users or program participants. An example of this collaboration is that the Recreation Department doesn't schedule baseball practice on a Friday evening when fields will be used for weekend games. With this minor change the parks maintenance staff can prepare the fields for weekend games without the need for costly overtime on Saturday morning, because of Friday evening practice.

The 12 Public Works Department employees are represented by Teamsters Local No.776. The current contract, which expires at the end of 2017, establishes the terms and conditions of work without adversely affecting the Township's right to manage the work in an effective manner.

In addition to park maintenance, the two full-time parks staff maintain other municipal properties and buildings and prepare School District ball fields for youth ball games. The parks staff receives assistance from other Public Works staff on an as-needed basis. The parks staff routinely provides help for the Township's leaf collection and snow and ice removal. Little routine work is contracted out. Exceptions include the need for specialty trades such as HVAC and electrical or vehicle repairs that cannot be completed by the in-house mechanic. Occasionally work is contracted out if the staff cannot complete tasks on a strict timeline.

There have been no seasonal part-time employees hired in recent years since the Township dedicated a second full-time employee to perform parks maintenance.

Occasionally minor maintenance assistance is provided by Boy Scouts working on Eagle Scout projects, individuals performing community service, and youth volunteers from an area church. The York Little League baseball program lines the ball fields for its use.

The Township has no on-site park staff available to provide customer assistance, minor maintenance or security during late afternoons, evenings, or on weekends.

Staff Certifications and Licenses

The Parks Foreman maintains a Class A Commercial Driver's License. The Parks Foreman is also a Certified Public Pesticide Applicator, which provides the Township with the ability to utilize a variety of chemicals to maintain ball diamonds and general park turf areas, general Township property, and roadsides. Certification as a Public Pesticide Applicator is very important for park maintenance because it is required if pesticides are being applied to the parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields. This certification must be updated every three years.

Park Maintenance Scheduling

The amount and frequency of maintenance needed at each park location is largely dependent on the age of facilities, type of construction, intensity of use, the kind of activities, vandalism, and community expectations.

The Parks Foreman is responsible for a wide variety of maintenance, service, repair, and minor construction functions. Park maintenance tasks are focused on the duties needed to proactively and reactively care for the parks including a variety of recreation facilities and amenities. The Parks Foreman determines how and what tasks need to be performed on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis using his experience, input from his supervisor, and requests for service from park users and residents. Meetings are held by the Public Works Supervisor for all maintenance staff each morning to review the work assignments for the day. Due to the varied skills and resources in Public Works, the park maintenance program is performed by Department employees with only large capital projects being contracted out.

The Parks Foreman, using his extensive knowledge with the help of his years' worth of maintenance records, prepares weekly work schedules year round. These schedules are modified as needed to accommodate requests for service received by the administration office and the needs of the recreation programs.

The Public Works Department daily work sheets provide basic information about where each employee has worked that day, the tasks performed, and amount of time worked.

The Mt. Rose Avenue Property is used as a yard waste recycling area. Yard waste that is dumped by residents or collected by the Public Works Department is periodically chipped up with the Township's tub grinder and then made available to residents who load and haul the material themselves.

Maintenance Equipment and Vehicles

All equipment and vehicles needed to maintain the park areas and recreation facilities belong to and are maintained by the Public Works Department. A five-year capital equipment replacement plan is in place that is adjusted as the need arises. This plan is reviewed annually when it is time to formally request vehicle and equipment replacement purchases for the new budget year. The Township has demonstrated the commitment to maintain its vehicles and equipment to provide the level of service needed.

The responsibility and expense to purchase and maintain equipment rests solely with the Public Works Department. There is no expenditure charged to the Recreation Department budget for this purpose.

Safety and Security Efforts

Park areas and recreation facilities need a variety of safety and security measures to protect park visitors and the resources themselves.

The park playground equipment is not annually inspected by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI). No Recreation Department or Public Works Department staff hold CPSI certification.

Currently the Parks Foreman and Laborer perform informal inspections of park areas when they visit a site to perform maintenance. The Township's Safety Committee annually performs park site inspections and provides its comments and recommendations to the Public Works Department. The Recreation Director is a member of the Safety Committee.

The Spring Garden Township Police Department provides patrol service for the community, responds to calls and follows up on reported incidents of vandalism at park sites. Vandalism in the parks is characterized by the parks staff as being cyclical and minor in nature, including such issues as damage to equipment and graffiti. The incidents are reported to the Township Police Department who investigates. An estimated or actual cost of repairs is supplied to the Police by the Parks Foreman for their records.

Dusk-to-dawn lighting is typically provided under pavilions and on the outside wall of ball field sheds. None of the parks are gated and there are no security cameras or alarm systems permanently in place at any park location. The Police Department have placed temporary cameras in locations that were experiencing vandalism; these temporary installations have not resulted in any apprehensions.

Rules and regulations for park areas have been adopted by Township ordinance and are posted at all sites.

Park Maintenance Analysis

Strengths

Park maintenance is performed by two full-time employees in the Public Works Department who are permanently assigned to this responsibility. With only six park sites, totaling 7.5 acres, the workload is not overwhelming.

The Public Works Supervisor, Parks Foreman and Recreation Director enjoy an excellent working relationship.

Challenges

The percentage of time spent for scheduled park maintenance tasks versus reacting to unforeseen needs cannot be easily determined because there is no maintenance tracking system. Because the

daily work sheet information is not computerized, easily manually compiled, or specific enough, it currently provides little help with future maintenance planning or decision-making.

The Public Works staff provide a limited amount of maintenance at the 60-acre Mt. Rose Avenue Property which now consists of mowing near adjacent properties and keeping access areas through the site passible. The future projected development of this site will have large maintenance and budget implications driven by the types and size of facilities developed on the site.

Currently there is no written maintenance plan that describes the Township's expectations and timing for maintenance.

There is no a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) on the staff, which means that the playground equipment is not inspected on a regular basis to ensure it meets Consumer Product Safety Commission safety standards for public playgrounds.

The grass is cut and trash is picked up, but overall, the condition of the parks is below average. Items such as basketball court striping, landscaping around park signs, even the park signs themselves, give the appearance of below average maintenance and lack of care for the park system.

Opportunities

While the current park maintenance scheduling system is working, a formal maintenance plan would provide a variety of additional benefits and information about the park system that become more important as resources are stretched, facilities increase, or staff transitions occur.

A written maintenance plan will benefit the Township with work scheduling; making sure that everyone's expectations for maintenance are on the same page; and assisting with planning and future staff changes that will occur.

For the most cost-effective and efficient way to inspect Township play areas, a Township staff person should obtain CPSI certification. The National Recreation and Park Association offers this nationally-recognized certification program in playground safety, that provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date training on playground safety issues including hazard identification, equipment specifications, surfacing requirements, and risk management methods. The CPSI certification must be updated every three years.

Chapter 8 - Goals, Recommendations & Action Plan

Chapter 8 - Goals, Recommendations & Action Plan

Spring Garden Township Park & Recreation Vision & Mission

Spring Garden Township defined vision and mission statements for parks and recreation. The vision and mission statements serve as the foundation for planning and park and recreation initiatives, decision-making, and the allocation of resources.

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 goals are based upon the community vision, mission, and themes that emerged in the planning process.

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.

- Develop Site Development Drawings for Windsor Park, Elmwood Park, and Grantley Park and submit a grant application to PA DCNR to fund improvements.
- Develop a master plan update for the Mt. Rose Avenue Property that builds upon the previous planning efforts and considers the findings and recommendations of this Plan.

- Develop a Site Development Drawing for Tri-Hill Park enhancements following the municipal campus location decision.

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

Safety Enhancements

- Provide adequate safety zones around athletic fields and playground equipment.
- Incorporate CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles into park designs.
- Program the ball field at Elmwood Park with younger players due to the short outfield.

Convenient Enhancements

- Add convenience amenities to parks (benches, spectator seating, bike racks, etc.).
- Add benches near playgrounds, in shaded locations, and at activity areas for caregivers to gather, sit, and watch park activities.
- When trails are developed in parks, add benches at convenient intervals and in shaded locations.
- Add bike racks near park entrances if safe bicycle access is provided to the park site.
- Design park improvements to address the needs of senior adults. Make facilities pedestrian friendly, convenient to use, and provide sitting areas in the shade that are conveniently spaced along trails and near activity areas. Provide pavilions near parking areas for easy access.
- Extend sidewalks to park sites and along park road frontage.
- Develop park hubs near park entrances and parking which have information kiosk with site maps and park and recreation program information. Trails should radiate from the hub to explore the park site.

New Recreation Opportunities

- Re-establish the basketball court at Grantley Park and add additional practice goals.
- Develop loop trails in Tri-Hill Park, Grantley Park, and Elmwood Park.
- Develop a new playground at Mt. Rose Park.
- Upgrade the baseball field at Custis Field and add site improvements.

Park Site Enhancements

- Enhance parks with colorful landscaping and street trees.
- Enhance park identity with entry signs with Parks and Recreation Department logo.
- Develop trails within and connecting to park sites. Trails are enjoyed by all segments of the population and are highly desired recreation facilities. The ADA requires access to recreation facilities and activity areas via an accessible route. Where possible, develop trail layouts with multiple connecting loops for diverse walking experiences.
- Complete site improvements identified in this Plan.
- Create great public spaces that promote fun, socializing, and public use.
- Plant street trees along park road frontage and colorful perennials and ornamental grasses at entry areas into the park sites.

Objective 3: Target acquisition and development of parkland to meet current and future needs of the municipality.

- Revise the mandatory dedication of parkland ordinance to relate to the fair market value of land in Spring Garden Township. Adopt criteria that outlines the characteristics of land acceptable for dedication to the Township.
- Develop the Mt. Rose Avenue Property parkland based upon the master plan update.
- Expand Tri-Hill Park, upon the removal of the building, based upon the Site Development Drawing for the park.
- Acquire parkland contiguous to the Mt. Rose Avenue Property to maximize the property for municipal uses, if contiguous land becomes available.
- Seek additional parkland acreage to address the parkland acreage deficit.

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

- Develop the Mt. Rose Avenue Property and prioritize the development of facilities that support passive recreation and public access to and enjoyment of natural areas.
- Implement progressive conservation strategies through ordinance provisions.
- Enact ordinance provisions that protect riparian buffer corridors.
- Use park sites to promote environmental awareness through demonstration projects and interpretative signage.
- Explore the feasibility of developing a trail along Mill Creek.

- Partner with the York Water Company to retain the public use of the reservoir open space off of Country Club Road and Grantley Road and enhance the site with accessibility and public use facilities.

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

- Address accessibility requirements of the ADA.
 - Accessible route - Develop walkways to provide an accessible route from handicap parking spaces and sidewalks to and between recreation facilities. This requirement is lacking at each park site. Walkway should be developed to maximum five-percent slope to be accessible. Additionally, PA DCNR requires that a clear stabilized area for a wheelchair is provided adjacent to benches along a trail.
 - Provide stabilized handicapped parking space in each parking area with pavement markings, handicap parking signs, and immediate access to an accessible route.
 - Provide play options for physically challenged children at all playgrounds. Playground manufacturers are aware of this requirement and work with communities as new playground equipment is specified to provide accessible play options.
 - Provide accessible spectator viewing areas and player accommodations at athletic fields and courts. PA DCNR interprets this requirement to include an accessible route to players' benches at ballfields and accessible viewing spaces adjacent to bleachers at athletic fields and courts. This accommodation has not been provided at any of the existing facilities.
 - Provide gates with clear opening widths that meet or exceed the ADA requirements to allow use by disabled athletes at game courts.
 - Provide accessible picnic tables at picnic areas. Every picnic table in a park need not provide this accommodation, but, as new tables are added, a percentage should be accessible models. There should be accessible picnic tables in each pavilion.
 - Drinking fountains should be accessible models.
- Provide playground areas and play equipment that meets the safety criteria of the Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines for Public Playground Safety.
- A Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) should conduct playground safety inspections on an ongoing basis.
- It is important to identify and prioritize improvements needed to bring existing facilities into compliance with the ADA and CPSC. A phased implementation schedule

should be developed and improvements should be included in the park/municipal capital improvement program budget.

Objective 6: Create great public spaces.

- Strive to undertake improvements to the parks that are holistic and not piecemeal in order to provide a sense of presence and accomplishment in the public view.
- Design with nature in a manner that is consistent with sustainable design principles.
 - Protect and enhance natural resources of the park sites.
 - Provide buffer areas around sensitive natural resources that should have limited or no public access.
 - Protect water resources from erosion, pollution, and other negative impacts and promote infiltration of stormwater runoff. Enhance streams and creeks by establishing or expanding riparian buffers within park sites. Plant buffer vegetation native to southcentral Pennsylvania. Develop rain gardens to control stormwater runoff and promote groundwater recharge.
 - Limit disturbance of natural areas and consider natural functions when incorporating site improvements.
 - Locate facilities with consideration of prevailing wind and solar orientation.
 - Develop parking, trails, and other pavements with pervious materials, as appropriate for the setting and use.
 - Use native plant material to enhance wildlife habitats and minimize watering and maintenance requirements.
 - Locate shade trees to reduce heat island effect in parking areas, cool buildings in summer, and allow solar access in winter.
 - Consider the site soil, underlying geology, and depth of ground water during the planning and development phase. Soil, geology and depth of ground water and bedrock directly affect facility constructability, drainage, and long-term maintenance.
 - Incorporate wetlands, rock outcrops, hedgerows, and other natural features sensitively into park designs.
 - Develop park sites using Best Management Practices for erosion control and stormwater management.
 - Consider life-cycle costs and use of post-consumption materials when designing improvements.

- Consider development options that reduce energy consumption and use such as ground source geothermal heating and cooling, connections to trail system to promote non-motorized transportation, solar powered amenities/features, and no-mow/low-mow areas.
- Create great playground areas that promote fun, socialization, learning, creativity, and healthy exercise. Create playground areas that engage children and provide a safe, fun setting for play. Where appropriate, playgrounds should be developed with themes that relate to the context of the site and its resources. Develop the playgrounds as a space, not just equipment placed in mulch. Include benches for caregivers and small pavilions for story-telling, shaded play or crafts, and traditional picnics. Include shade with shade trees, pavilions, or shade sails. Include pavement areas for pavement games, chalk drawings, and other activities.
- Design with consideration of safety and security of the parks for users:
 - Provide visual access into parks from surrounding streets and sidewalks. Avoid designs that create “hidden” areas. Provide visual access into these areas as possible by minimizing landscaping that cuts off long views into park activity areas, limbing tree branches up to seven feet, and locating structures and equipment to retain clear sight lines into the parks.
 - Provide adequate safety zones around sports facilities and play equipment.
 - Provide physical barriers, as appropriate, between park activity areas and adjacent roadways, drives, and parking areas.
 - Where possible, limit the extent of vehicle penetration into park sites and vehicular/pedestrian conflict areas.
 - Provide trails of adequate width for the intended user groups. Multi-use trails should be developed at a minimum width of five feet wide to meet the requirements of the ADA.
- Provide support and accessory facilities that create a premier recreation destination, such as, dugouts for baseball fields; picnic areas designed as a unit with grills, picnic tables, horseshoe pits, shaded areas and water; restrooms in each park; and benches convenient to courts for depositing equipment and viewing activities.

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

- Develop a capital improvement program that outlines annual capital expenditures and cyclic improvements to the parks. Update the capital improvement program annually.

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.

- Coordinate with the York County Planning Commission, York County Department of Parks and Recreation, the York County Rail Trail Authority, Rabbit Transit, York Water Company, and the Trolley Trail local leaders regarding greenway and trail planning efforts and initiatives in Spring Garden Township.
- Coordinate with York County, adjacent municipalities, and York Suburban School District regarding greenway and trail initiatives that could extend regionally and link parks, schools, and community destinations. Forward this Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan to entities responsible for regional and municipal plans to promote coordination and incorporation of initiatives into regional implementation efforts.
- Coordinate with Springettsbury Township regarding the development of a trail, along Mill Creek and Route 83, between the Mt. Rose Avenue Property and the Loucks Mill Road Heritage Rail Trail County Park trailhead.
- Coordinate with York Township regarding the development of the Ma & Pa Community Greenway with a northern trailhead at the Mt. Rose Avenue Property. The trail is planned to extend south following the former MA & PA Railroad corridor.
- Coordinate with York Township regarding the development of the Trolley Trail along the former York and Windsor Electric Railroad corridor, connecting to York College of Pennsylvania.
- Coordinate with Met-Ed regarding the development of the Trolley Trail along the former York and Windsor Electric Railroad corridor, currently owned by Met Ed.
- Coordinate with PennDOT regarding the feasibility of developing a multi-use trail along the Mill Creek/Route 83 corridor when Route 83 widening/ improvement activities occur.
- Work with PennDOT and the Spring Garden Township public works departments to provide bicycle and pedestrian friendly facilities and accommodations when public roads and bridges are upgraded or replaced.
- Coordinate with the City of York to facilitate bicycle and pedestrian connections.

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

- Work to raise public awareness about the benefits of greenways and trails throughout the community through a targeted public awareness campaign. The Spring Garden Township Recreation Commission should lead this effort.
- Develop trails within Tri-Hill Park, Elmwood Park, and the Mt. Rose Avenue Property to expand the municipal trail system and provide trail opportunities as a means to create momentum for trail initiatives and a broader understanding of trail benefits. Prioritize trail development in Elmwood Park and Tri-Hill Park.

- Undertake improvements to make parks convenient for bicycle access by providing bike racks.
- Develop a Spring Garden Township Official Map as a tool to acquire and extend trails throughout the community. Review and update the Official Map annually.
- Expand the trail network through the municipal planning process.
- Amend the mandatory dedication of open space provisions to permit the dedication of land for trails.
- Seek rights-of-ways and access easements from developers when new residential subdivisions and land developments are proposed in areas designated for trails or trail links.
- Require the construction of sidewalks along street frontage as part of subdivision and land development projects.
- Adopt ordinance provisions that align with the concept of “Complete Streets”.

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.

- Explore creation of a greenway and trail system for Spring Garden Township composed of greenways, bike lanes, multi-purpose trails, trail links, and sidewalks that connect with hubs. Appoint the Spring Garden Township Recreation Commission to champion this effort.
- Develop ordinance provisions and seek conservation easements to protect and buffer natural resources along designated greenway corridors.
- Complete a feasibility study that explores the potential to develop the Mill Creek Trail. Coordinate this effort with the York County Rail Trail Authority, Springettsbury Township, and PennDOT. Seek funding for the study from the PA DCNR.
- Complete a feasibility study that explores the potential of extending bike lane in the City of York into Spring Garden Township. Target connections to designated bus stops.
- Evaluate local roads in terms of bicycle and pedestrian compatibility, working with transportation engineers familiar with bicycle and pedestrian facility development and integration of bicycle facilities and accommodations into existing roadway networks.
- Develop trails based on the recommendations and guidelines presented in the Statewide Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan and AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.

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.

- Embrace the critical link between being active and becoming healthier when promoting programs and encouraging visits to the parks.
- Develop a greater social media presence to promote recreation programs, special events and park use.
- Place directions and a listing of the facilities at each Township park on the Township website and in the Township newsletter. Promote the self-directed recreation opportunities available at the Township parks, such as picnic pavilions and playground equipment, with photos and facility rental information. Include a map showing the park locations. Include a program registration form in the Township newsletter.
- Brand the Recreation Department with a professionally-designed logo and tag line.
- Develop an e-newsletter using a service such as Mail Chimp to promote recreation programs and park use on a monthly basis.
- Prepare an annual report detailing Recreation Department program participation statistics, program partners, and park facility use.

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

- Promote the services of other community recreation providers in the Township newsletter to make Township residents aware of the recreation opportunities available to them, whether the programs or facilities are sponsored by youth sports groups, Martin Memorial Library, White Rose Senior Center, York County Parks and Recreation Department, or other groups.
- Include links to community recreation provider websites on the Township website.

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.

- Do a comprehensive search for indoor space for recreation programs to expand the quantity and types of programs the Township can offer. The goal is to satisfy the need for indoor recreation programming space in the short term, by maximizing the use of

existing community locations through partnerships (i.e. York College, churches, York Suburban School District facilities, etc.).

- Potential programs to offer include:
 - Preschool introduction to sports programs (such as little sticks field hockey, pee wee soccer, pep squad cheering, little hoopers basketball)
 - Adult classes (such as art, dance, and cooking classes)
 - Senior events (such as bus trips, card parties, holiday banquets, bridge lessons, and gardening classes)
 - Family special events (such as a daddy-daughter dance, Halloween costume swap, outdoor movie nights, family old-fashioned game day, and park scavenger hunt)
 - Community sports contests (such as pitch, hit and run; punt, pass and kick; foul shooting; elementary cross country run; and soccer shoot-outs)
 - Summer day camps
 - Teen clubs
- Meet with the York Suburban School District to discuss taking over sponsorship of its former adult education programs. These programs would add to the programs already sponsored by the Township, and will give the Recreation Department an identity and important service niche.
- Focus on improving the current special events and expanding the number of special events.

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

- Begin discussions between the Spring Garden Township Recreation Commission and the Springettsbury Township Parks and Recreation Board to investigate joint recreation programming possibilities. Over one-half of the programs currently offered are York Township Recreation Department programs. A natural municipal programming partner would be Springettsbury Township Parks and Recreation Department, due to its being within the York Suburban School District, which also serves Spring Garden Township.
- Identify who the key strategic partners should be for the Recreation Department – such as WellSpan Health and York Suburban School District – and begin to forge stronger relationships.
- Plan programs and special events in partnership with School District groups, so that access to indoor and outdoor facilities is simplified and more cost effective.

- Pursue an agreement with the School District to allow the Township priority use of school facilities for recreation programs and a special rate schedule.
- Develop working relationships with all youth sports groups that serve the Township.
- Seek creative programming partnerships with a wide variety of entities – karate and dance studios, parent-teacher organizations, senior center, girl and boy scouts, library, flower shops, bowling alley, cooking schools, performing arts centers, county parks and recreation department, child care centers, gymnastics academy, non-profit agencies, church groups, etc.
- Build a stronger base of volunteers to assist with recreation programs and special events by forming partnerships with area businesses, colleges, schools, and service clubs.

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

- Streamline the process of registering for recreation programs by purchasing program registration software that allows on-line registration and payment.
- Allow on-line reservation and payment for park pavilion rentals.
- Accept credit cards for recreation program and pavilion rental payments online, in person, by telephone or by mail, without a service fee.
- Adopt a 100 percent satisfaction guaranteed policy for recreation programs and give refunds regardless of the reason, to show a commitment to quality programming and customer satisfaction. After a program begins, pro-rate the refund.
- Develop a simplified system to allow children to participate in Township recreation programs regardless of ability to pay that does not require Recreation Commission approval.
- Develop a written inclusion statement to be placed in the Township Newsletter and on its website that promotes and values the involvement of all persons, including those with disabilities, in recreation program offerings.
- Survey all program participants after recreation programs end and utilize the feedback to improve the programs.

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.

- Re-define its roles, responsibilities, and expectations for service; provide training and adopt job descriptions.

- Increase the size of the board to gain more expertise and contacts. Look for residents who bring needed skill sets, have the ability to strengthen existing and establish new partnerships, and provide access to potential resources.
- Identify board member expertise, influence, and connections and how board members can help to increase funding, resources, promotion, volunteers, and program locations.
- Work with the York Suburban School Board to get its representative appointed. A School District employee or School Board member who can report directly to and from the School Board would be the best representative.
- Change the name of the department to Parks and Recreation Department.

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

- Set up a meeting of the two volunteer boards to begin discussions. As the other municipality in the York Suburban School District, working together, particularly for recreation programming, makes sense.

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.

- Conduct an annual walk-through of the parks with the Recreation Director and Public Works parks staff prior to budget preparation to identify projects for funding.
- Place funds raised by the youth sports programs throughout the year into a restricted account, to make any funds remaining at the end of the year available to the programs for the following year.
- Prepare a multi-year capital improvement plan for replacement and repair of park facilities.
- Amend the Township's mandatory dedication ordinance, including increasing the fee-in-lieu amount, adding criteria for the acceptance of land, and adding criteria to include commercial and industrial development.
- Adopt a formal revenue policy to establish realistic targets for different types of recreation programs including those that deserve tax-funded support and are offered at low or no cost; those that should recover their direct costs; and those where an additional percentage should be added to direct costs to help defray the administrative overhead costs.

- Strengthen business financial support of Township programs by expanding the number of business program sponsorships.
- Generate more revenue through program fees to offset the cost of providing recreation programs. Currently 15.6 percent of the Recreation Department budget is financed by program fees; work to double that percentage.
- Set non-resident program fees at a standard percentage higher than resident fees.
- Determine the potential cost to maintain the Mt. Rose Avenue Property as decisions are made about its future development, and budget funds accordingly.
- Increase the amount of Recreation Department funding incrementally each year. The current funding is 5.1 percent of total Township spending. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recommends that up to 10 percent of municipal funds be allocated to parks and recreation.

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

- Hire part-time staff and recruit volunteers to offer recreation programs and to perform routine tasks that do not require administrative expertise.
- Develop a written contract for any program instructors who are not placed on payroll.

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.

- Include an inventory of the facilities at each site, what time of year and the frequency with which maintenance tasks should occur, and the acceptable standard of care in each park and facility that describes what they should look like when maintenance is completed.
- The acceptable standard of care should be different for each location depending on the facilities, the frequency and type of use, the amount of manpower and budget resources available.

Objective 2: Develop a computerized daily maintenance tracking system.

- Track where each employee works each day, the tasks performed and amount of time worked, to help with maintenance planning and decision making.
- Use the computerized daily maintenance system to project future maintenance costs for the Mount Rose Avenue Property as part of the park master planning process.

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

- Annually inspect the park playground equipment and keep written records in the Public Works Department of all CPSI inspections.
- Keep written records of all periodic park inspections performed throughout the year.
- Correct all identified safety issues promptly.
- Provide training to the park maintenance staff to enhance their ability to recognize hazards and identify unsafe conditions during routine park inspections throughout the year.

Strategies and Key Recommendations for Accomplishing the Goals

Implementing the **Spring Garden Township Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan** will require the enthusiasm and dedication of the Recreation 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. Key recommendations for accomplishing the **Plan** goals include:

1. **Adopt the Spring Garden Township Comprehensive Recreation, Parks & Open Space Plan.**
2. **Organize for Implementation** – Build momentum for implementation by undertaking specific actions upon Plan adoption. Reorganize the Recreation Commission as a Parks and Recreation Board and 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 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 PA DCNR for the improvement to three existing 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 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.
7. **Streamline Maintenance Management** – Develop a written maintenance management plan that enhances planning, budgeting, and undertaking park and recreation maintenance in an efficient manner.

Action Plan

The Action Plan sets forth the time frame for the actions that Spring Garden Township will undertake over the short, medium, and long term through 2025 to address the recommendations of this Plan. The Action Plan is organized around the seven goals of the plan.

Goal 1					
Establish parks and recreation facilities as community destinations where residents can have fun, socialize, experience nature, and lead active healthy lifestyles.					
Project Key	Cost/Source/Responsibilities	2016-2018	2019-2021	2022-2025+	
√ Start Project → Continue Implementation					
Complete park planning					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Site Development Drawings for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windsor Park Elmwood Park Grantley Park Tri-Hill Park 	\$1,000 \$1,000 \$1,000 \$1,500	√ √ √	√		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a master plan for Mount Rose Avenue Property. 	\$50,000 - \$60,000 (park master planning only, excluding architecture)	√			
Maximize the recreation benefits of existing parks.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade parks with consideration of safety and security, convenience, and overall enjoyment of using the facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program the Elmwood Park softball field for younger players. Incorporate CPTED principles to park designs. Add convenience amenities (benches, bike racks, etc.). Create gathering areas with benches at playgrounds and activity areas. Add amenities and facilities preferred by senior adults. Extend sidewalks along park frontage. Develop park hubs with information kiosk and trails. Add colorful landscaping and street trees. Add park entry signs. Develop trails within and connecting to park sites. 	To be determined. Volunteer and staff time.	√ √ √ √ √ √ √ → √ √	→	→	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Mount Rose Avenue Property as defined by the park master plan. 	To be determined, based on master plan cost analysis. Source: Grants, municipal funds.	√			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance existing park sites to target citizen interests. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grantley Park – re-establish the basketball court Tri-Hill, Grantley, and Elmwood Parks – develop loop trails Mt. Rose Park – install and new playground Custis Field – new baseball field upgrades 	To be determined. Reference CIP. Source: Grants, municipal funds.	√ √ √	√		

Goal 1, continued

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

Project Key √ Start Project → Continue Implementation	Cost/Source/ Responsibilities	2016- 2018	2019- 2021	2022- 2025+
Acquire parkland.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek acreage for a second community park (50+ acres). Expand Tri-Hill Park via removal of building. Revise mandatory dedication ordinance to reflect fair market value. Acquire parkland contiguous to Mount Rose Avenue Property. 	To be determined. Source: Grants, municipal funds, mandatory dedication of parkland ordinance.	√ → √	 √ →	 →
Provide opportunities to enjoy natural areas				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement progressive conservation strategies through ordinance provisions. Enact riparian buffer protection ordinances. Promote environmental awareness through demonstration projects in parks. Partner with York Water Company to retain and enhance public use of the reservoir open space. Prioritize development of passive nature-based recreation opportunities at the Mount Rose Avenue Property. 	Staff time. Staff time. Staff time. Staff time. Staff time.	√ √ √ √ √		
Comply with accessibility and safety regulations and guidelines.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovate parks with accommodations to meet the requirements of the ADA and safety guidelines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide accessible routes to facilities. Provide paved, signed HC parking in all parks. Provide accessible viewing areas at athletic fields and courts. Provide accommodations to enable use of recreation facilities by persons with disabilities. Renovate playgrounds to offer accessible play options. Provide site amenities to accommodate persons with disabilities. Develop playgrounds with safety zones and age segregated equipment. Complete playground safety inspections. Develop a written strategy plan for the phased implementation of safety and accessibility improvements. 	To be determined. Source: Grants, municipal funds, mandatory dedication of parkland ordinance.	√ √ → √	→ →	→ →

Goal 2					
Connect our community through a system of trails.					
Project Key	Cost/Source	2016-2018	2019-2021	2022-2025+	
√ Start Project → Continue Implementation					
Coordinate greenway and trail initiatives with local and regional entities.					
■ Coordinate with the York County Planning Commission, York County Rail Trail Authority, York Water Co., Trolley Trail local leaders and other entities regarding greenway and trail initiatives.	Staff time.	→	→	→	
■ Coordinate greenway and trail initiatives with adjacent municipalities, York County, and York Suburban School District.	Staff time.	→	→	→	
■ Coordinate with York Township regarding the MA & PA Community Greenway and Trolley Trail.	Staff time.	→	→	→	
■ Coordinate with Met-Ed regarding the Trolley Trail.	Staff time.	→	→	→	
■ Coordinate with PennDOT regarding a multi-use trail along Mill Creek/Route 83.	Staff time.	→	→	→	
■ Work with PennDOT and Spring Garden Township to provide bicycle and pedestrian friendly facilities	Staff time.	→	→	→	
■ Coordinate bicycle and pedestrian accommodations with the City of York.	Staff time.	→	→	→	
Set the stage for successful greenway and trail development.					
■ Raise awareness of the benefits of greenways and trails.	Staff time.	→	→	→	
■ Develop trail in municipal parks.	Staff time.	√	→	→	
■ Add park amenities to make bicycle use convenient.	Staff time.	√	→	→	
■ Expand the trail network through the municipal planning process and mandatory dedication of land.	Staff time.	→	→	→	
Develop a greenway and trail network that protects green corridors and linear natural resources and connects neighborhoods, parks, schools and community destinations.					
■ Appoint the Recreation Commission as champion of creating a greenway and trail system.	Staff time.	→			
■ Protect natural corridors through conservation easements and ordinance provisions.	Staff time.	→	→	→	
■ Complete a feasibility study for the Mill Creek Trail.	To be determined. Source: DCNR grant, municipal funds.	√			
■ Complete a feasibility study that explores extending bike lanes into Spring Garden Township.	To be determined. Source: Grant, municipal funds.		√		
■ Evaluate local roads for compatibility with bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.	To be determined. Source: Grant, municipal funds.		√		

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.

Project Key √ Start Project → Continue Implementation	Cost/Source	2016-2018	2019-2021	2022-2025+
Expand promotion of the Township park areas, recreation facilities, and recreation programs to increase public awareness of the Township's investment.				
■ Embrace the critical link between being active and becoming healthier when promoting programs and encouraging visits to the parks	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
■ Develop a greater social media presence to promote recreation programs, special events and park use.	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
■ Place directions and a listing of the facilities at each Township park on the Township website and in the Township newsletter. Promote the self-directed recreation opportunities available at the Township parks, such as picnic pavilions and playground equipment, with photos and facility rental information. Include a map showing the park locations. Include a program registration form in the Township newsletter.	Staff time.	√	→	→
■ Brand the Recreation Department with a professionally-designed logo and tag line.	\$5,000/Township Budget	√	→	→
■ Develop an e-newsletter using a service such as Mail Chimp to promote recreation programs and park use on a monthly basis.	Staff time.	√	→	→
■ Prepare an annual report detailing Recreation Department program participation statistics, program partners, and park facility use.	Staff time.	√	→	→
Promote the services of other community recreation providers.				
■ Promote the services of other community recreation providers in the Township newsletter to make Township residents aware of the recreation opportunities available to them, whether the programs or facilities are sponsored by youth sports groups, Martin Memorial Library, White Rose Senior Center, York County Parks and Recreation Department or other groups.	Staff time.	√	→	→
■ Include links to community recreation provider websites on the Township website.	Staff time.	√	→	→
■ Pursue partnerships for all recreation programs and special events sponsored by the Township.				
■ Begin discussions between the Spring Garden Township Recreation Commission and the Springettsbury Township Parks and Recreation Board to investigate joint recreation programming possibilities. A natural municipal programming partner would be Springettsbury Township Parks and Recreation, due to its being within the York Suburban School District, which also serves Spring Garden Township.	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→

Goal 3, continued

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.

Project Key √ Start Project → Continue Implementation	Cost/Source	2016- 2018	2019- 2021	2022- 2025+
Identify who the key strategic partners should be for the Recreation Department – such as WellSpan Health and York Suburban School District – and begin to forge stronger relationships.	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
Plan programs and special events in partnership with School District groups, so that access to indoor and outdoor facilities is simplified and more cost effective.	Staff time.	√	→	→
Pursue an agreement with the School District to allow the Township priority use of school facilities for recreation programs and a special rate schedule.	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
Develop working relationships with all youth sports groups that serve the Township.	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
Seek creative programming partnerships with a wide variety of entities – karate and dance studios, parent-teacher organizations, girl and boy scouts, library, flower shops, bowling alley, cooking schools, child care centers, non-profit agencies, church groups, etc.	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
Build a stronger base of volunteers to assist with recreation programs and special events by forming partnerships with area businesses, colleges, schools, and service clubs.	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
Put processes in place to improve customer service and program quality.				
Streamline the process of registering for recreation programs by purchasing registration software that allows on-line registration and payment for programs and facility rentals.	\$30,000/Township Budget	√	→	→
Accept credit cards for recreation program and pavilion rental payments online, in person, by telephone or by mail without a service fee.	Staff time.	√	→	→
Adopt a 100 percent satisfaction guaranteed policy for recreation programs and give refunds regardless of the reason. After a program begins, pro-rate the refund.	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
Develop a simplified system to allow children to participate in Township recreation programs regardless of ability to pay.	Staff time.	√	→	→
Develop a written inclusion statement to be placed in the Township Newsletter and on its website that promotes and values the involvement of all persons, including those with disabilities, in recreation program offerings.	Staff time.	√	→	→
Survey all program participants after recreation programs end and utilize the feedback to improve the programs.	Staff time.	√	→	→

Goal 4				
Find the Township's best niches for community recreation programs, resulting in strong participation numbers and continued program growth.				
Project Key	Cost/Source	2016-2018	2019-2021	2022-2025+
√ Start Project → Continue Implementation				
Expand the number and types of Township-sponsored recreation programs.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do a comprehensive search for indoor space for recreation programs to expand the quantity and types of programs the Township can offer. The goal is to satisfy the need for indoor recreation programming space in the short term by maximizing the use of existing community locations through partnerships (i.e. York College, churches, York Suburban School District facilities, etc.). 	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential programs to offer include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preschool introduction to sports programs (such as little sticks field hockey, pee wee soccer, pep squad cheering, little hoopers basketball) Adult classes (such as art, dance and cooking classes) Senior events (such as bus trips, card parties, holiday banquets, bridge lessons, and gardening classes) Family special events (such as a daddy-daughter dance, Halloween costume swap, outdoor movie nights, family old-fashioned game day, and park scavenger hunt) Community sports contests (such as pitch, hit and run; punt, pass and kick; foul shooting; elementary cross country run; and soccer shoot-outs) Summer day camps Teen clubs 	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with the York Suburban School District to discuss taking over sponsorship of its former adult education programs. These programs would add to the programs already sponsored by the Township, and will give the Recreation Department an identity and important service niche. 	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on improving the current special events and expanding the number of special events. 	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→

Goal 5					
Operate the parks, recreation, greenways and trail system effectively and efficiently through volunteer and staff leadership and community partnerships.					
Project Key √ Start Project → Continue Implementation		Cost/Source	2016-2018	2019-2021	2022-2025+
Reorganize the Recreation Commission as a Parks and Recreation Board.					
■ Re-define its roles, responsibilities, and expectations for service; provide training, and adopt job descriptions.		Elected officials, volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
■ Increase the size of the board to gain more expertise and contacts. Look for residents who bring needed skill sets, have the ability to strengthen existing and establish new partnerships, and provide access to potential resources.		Elected officials, volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
■ Identify board member expertise, influence and connections and how board members can help to increase funding, resources, promotion, volunteers and program locations.		Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
■ Work with the York Suburban School Board to get its representative appointed. A School District employee or School Board member who can report directly to and from the School Board would be the best representative.		Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
■ Change the name of the department to Parks and Recreation Department.		Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
Develop a working relationship with the Springettsbury Township Parks and Recreation Board and Department.					
■ Set up a meeting of the two volunteer boards to begin discussions. As the other municipality in the York Suburban School District, working together, particularly for recreation programming, makes sense.		Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
■ Hire staff or independent contractors to expand the recreation program schedule.					
■ Hire part-time staff and recruit volunteers to offer recreation programs and to perform routine tasks that do not require administrative expertise.		Staff time.	√	→	→
■ Develop a written contract for any program instructors who are not placed on payroll.		Staff time.	√	→	→

Goal 6					
Secure adequate financing to maintain existing parks; develop additional park areas, trails, greenways, and recreation facilities; and offer recreation programs for citizens.					
Project Key		Cost/Source	2016-2018	2019-2021	2022-2025+
√ Start Project → Continue Implementation					
Secure adequate funding for park maintenance, park development, and recreation programming.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct an annual walk-through of the parks with the Recreation Director and Public Works parks staff prior to budget preparation to identify projects for funding. 		Staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place funds raised by the youth sports programs throughout the year into a restricted account, to make any funds remaining at the end of the year available to the programs for the following year. 		Staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a multi-year capital improvement plan for replacement and repair of park facilities. 		Staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend the Township's mandatory dedication ordinance, including increasing the fee-in-lieu amount, adding criteria for the acceptance of land, and adding criteria to include commercial and industrial development. 		Elected officials, volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt a formal revenue policy to establish realistic targets for different types of recreation programs including those that deserve tax-funded support and are offered at low or no cost; those that should recover their direct costs; and those where an additional percentage should be added to direct costs to help defray the administrative overhead costs. 		Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen business financial support of Township programs by expanding the number of business program sponsorships. 		Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate more revenue through program fees to offset the cost of providing recreation programs. Currently 15.6 percent of the Recreation Department budget is financed by program fees; work to double that percentage. 		Staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set non-resident program fees at a standard percentage higher than resident fees. 		Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the potential cost to maintain the Mt. Rose Avenue property as decisions are made about its future development, and budget funds accordingly. 		Staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the amount of Recreation Department funding incrementally each year. The current funding is 5.1 percent of total Township spending. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recommends that up to 10 percent of municipal funds be allocated to parks and recreation. 		Elected officials, volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→

Goal 7					
Ensure that park areas and recreation facilities are well-maintained, meet current safety standards, and provide an enjoyable environment for residents.					
Project Key		Cost/Source	2016-2018	2019-2021	2022-2025+
√ Start Project	→ Continue Implementation				
Develop a written maintenance plan that describes the annual routine work and preventative maintenance that is needed at the parks.					
■ Include an inventory of the facilities at each site, what time of year and the frequency with which maintenance tasks should occur, and the acceptable standard of care in each park and facility that describes what they should look like when maintenance is completed.		Staff time.	√	→	→
■ The acceptable standard of care should be different for each location depending on the facilities, the frequency and type of use, the amount of manpower and budget resources available.		Staff time.	√	→	→
Develop a computerized daily maintenance tracking system.					
■ Track where each employee works each day, the tasks performed and amount of time worked, to help with maintenance planning and decision making, in advance of the development of the Mt. Rose Avenue property.		Staff time.	√	→	→
Have a Township staff person obtain the Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) credential.					
■ Annually inspect the park playground equipment and keep written records in the Public Works Department of all CPSI inspections.		Staff time.	√	→	→
■ Keep written records of all periodic park inspections performed throughout the year.		Staff time.	√	→	→
■ Correct all identified safety issues promptly.		Staff time.	√	→	→
■ Provide training to the park maintenance staff to enhance their ability to recognize hazards and identify unsafe conditions during routine park inspections throughout the year.		Staff time.	√	→	→

Appendix A - Capital Improvement Program

Appendix A - Capital Improvement Program

The recommendations of this **Plan** will require Spring Garden Township to make both capital and operating expenditures. Determining capital costs can be somewhat nebulous. Many communities use their own work forces and are able to save considerable costs. Others are very resourceful and able to secure alternative sources of funding through business contributions, grants, individual donations, or other means. The following table provides costs estimates for proposed capital improvements identified in this plan. These are generalized opinions based on the best available information and are subject to change when each project is further evaluated based on accurate survey information and design and engineering documents. Master Plans and Site Development Plans are recommended for several parks and cost estimates should be provided as part of the planning process.

Projected costs are based on 2015 construction costs and do not consider any particular source of revenue. Design, survey, engineering, contractor bond, insurance, and contingency costs have been included based on typical percentage of the projected development costs. These costs should be re-defined after an approach and scope are determined for each project.

Spring Garden Township - CIP Summary		
Park	CIP Estimate	Priority
Elmwood Park	\$195,000	1 st - \$520,000
Grantley Park	\$177,450	
Windsor Park	\$147,550	
Mt. Rose Park	\$92,200	2 nd
Custis Field	\$86,800	3 rd
Tri-Hill Park	\$714,600	4 th
TOTAL	\$1,413,600	

The Spring Garden Township Public Works Department has the personnel and skills to undertake small park improvement projects. Projects that could be readily undertaken by the Public Works Department and incorporated into their work schedule are identified as Low-Hanging Fruit Park Enhancements in the following table.

2015 Low-Hanging Fruit Park Enhancements		
Park(s)	Project	Cost Estimate
Windsor, Elmwood & Tri-Hill Parks	Replenish safety surfacing mulch	
Windsor, Elmwood & Grantley Parks	Removal of playground equipment prior to replacement	\$3,000
Custis Field	Add street trees	\$1,200
Custis Field	Add HC parking sign and markings	\$450
Elmwood Park	Add trail	\$45,000
Elmwood & Windsor Parks	Add vegetative buffer	\$5,000 + \$3,600 = \$8,600
Grantley Park	Add basketball goals, paint lines	\$13,500

Spring Garden Township Parks and Recreation Facilities Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Park Improvement	Quantity	Cost Opinion	2016-2018	2019-2021	2022-2025+
Elmwood Park					
Improvements should upgrade existing facilities and provide a trail and trail connections. Suggested improvements include:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upgrade the playground with new age-segregated equipment. ▪ Develop a gathering area at the playground. ▪ Develop a trail that extends to park facilities, sidewalks, and extends along Mill Creek. ▪ Install benches. ▪ Install landscaping to provide enhance the riparian buffer of Mill Creek and buffer Route 83 road noise. 					
Site Preparation, Earthwork, Erosion Control					
Site preparation (by SGT)	LS	\$0			
Earthwork	LS	\$800			
Erosion control & SWM	LS	\$7,500			
Sub-Total		\$8,300			
Trail					
Paved 6' wide bituminous trail	LS	\$11,960			
Sub-Total		\$11,960			
Playground					
Tot equipment	LS	\$36,400			
Youth equipment	LS	\$44,800			
Edging	LS	\$12,420			
Safety Surfacing	LS	\$6,668			
Stone base, filter fabric, underdrain	LS	\$7,828			
Concrete pavement gathering area	LS	\$4,125			
Sub-Total		\$112,241			
Amenities					
Benches (3)	LS	\$3,600			
Acknowledgement sign	LS	\$250			
Amenities installation	LS	\$1,540			
Sub-Total		\$5,390			
Landscaping					
Buffer planting	LS	\$2,200			
Seeding along trail and at improvements	LS	\$1,230			
Sub-Total		\$3,430			
General Project Costs					
Contingency (10%)	LS	\$15,828			
Bond, mobilization, and layout (12%)	LS	\$16,958			
Design, engineering, and permitting (12%)	LS	\$20,894			
Sub-Total		\$53,680			
TOTAL Elmwood Park		\$195,000	√		

Spring Garden Township Parks and Recreation Facilities Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Park Improvement	Quantity	Cost Opinion	2016-2018	2019-2021	2022-2025+
Mt. Rose Park					
Improvements should upgrade outdated facilities and enhance the experience of using the park. Suggested improvements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Remove existing play equipment and develop a new age-segregated playground.Extend walkways to facilities and gathering areas.Enhance site aesthetics: mulch trees.					
Site Preparation, Earthwork, Erosion Control					
Site preparation and demolition	LS	\$1,000			
Sub-Total		\$1,000			
Walkway / Gathering Area					
Concrete pavement	LS	\$6,800			
Sub-Total		\$6,800			
Amenities					
Benches (5)	LS	\$7,000			
Sub-Total		\$7,000			
Playground					
Tot equipment	LS	\$14,000			
Youth equipment	LS	\$22,400			
Edging	LS	\$5,800			
Safety Surfacing	LS	\$2,500			
Stone base, filter fabric, underdrain	LS	\$1,950			
Sub-Total		\$46,650			
Landscaping					
Mulch ex. Trees	LS	\$250			
Seeding at improvements	LS	\$500			
Sub-Total		\$750			
General Project Costs					
Contingency (15%)	LS	\$9,350			
Bond, mobilization, and layout (12%)	LS	\$8,600			
Design, engineering, and permitting (15%)	LS	\$12,050			
Sub-Total		\$30,000			
TOTAL Mt. Rose Park		\$92,200	√		

Spring Garden Township Parks and Recreation Facilities Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Park Improvement	Quantity	Cost Opinion	2016-2018	2019-2021	2022-2025+
Grantley Park					
The following improvements are proposed:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop an accessible trail that extends from the basketball court to the playground and creates a loop walk. ▪ Install basketball goals (3) and paint court lines. ▪ Add tot and youth play equipment. ▪ Add benches in gathering areas. ▪ Plant mature trees and shrubs to separate use areas. 					
Site Preparation, Earthwork, Erosion Control					
Site preparation (by SGT)	LS	\$0			
Earthwork	LS	\$540			
Erosion control & SWM	LS	\$2,675			
Sub-Total		\$3,215			
Trail					
Paved 5' wide bituminous trail	860 LF	\$6,648			
Sub-Total		\$6,648			
Playground					
Tot equipment	LS	\$33,600			
Youth equipment	LS	\$35,000			
Edging	LS	\$11,880			
Safety Surfacing	LS	\$4,988			
Stone base, filter fabric, underdrain	LS	\$5,760			
Concrete pavement gathering area	LS	\$4,688			
Sub-Total		\$95,916			
Amenities					
Benches (8)	LS	\$9,600			
Acknowledgement sign	LS	\$250			
Amenities installation	LS	\$580			
Sub-Total		\$10,430			
Pavement / Basketball Goal					
Add basketball goals (3)		\$7,500			
Paint lines	LS	\$2,250			
Sub-Total		\$9,750			
Landscaping					
Deciduous tree planting	LS	\$1,300			
Seeding	LS	\$1,344			
Sub-Total		\$2,644			
General Project Costs					
Contingency (10%)	LS	\$14,403			
Bond, mobilization, and layout (12%)	LS	\$15,432			
Design, engineering, and permitting (12%)	LS	\$19,012			
Sub-Total		\$48,847			
TOTAL Grantley Park		\$177,450	√		

Spring Garden Township Parks and Recreation Facilities Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Park Improvement	Quantity	Cost Opinion	2016-2018	2019-2021	2022-2025+
Tri-Hill Park					
The following improvements are proposed:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove the existing building and parking pavement (Not included in cost estimate) ▪ Develop an accessible trail that connects to the sidewalk and park amenities and encircles the park. ▪ Add tot playground equipment and area for care givers. ▪ Add street trees and park landscaping. ▪ Develop two basketball courts and seating for spectators. ▪ Add a restroom/storage building. 					
Site Preparation, Earthwork, Erosion Control					
Site preparation and demolition	LS	\$3,000			
Earthwork and stormwater	LS	\$36,700			
Erosion control	LS	\$8,000			
Sub-Total		\$47,700			
Trail					
Paved 5' wide bituminous trail	1,640 LF	\$23,400			
Sub-Total		\$23,400			
Parking					
Parking pavement	LS	\$55,300			
HC signs, pavement markings	LS	\$1,350			
Sub-Total		\$56,650			
Amenities					
Benches (5)	LS	\$7,000			
Pre-engineered concrete wall system seating	LS	\$18,900			
Sub-Total		\$25,900			
Playground					
Tot equipment	LS	\$21,000			
Edging	LS	\$11,200			
Safety Surfacing	LS	\$10,200			
Stone base, filter fabric, underdrain	LS	\$7,850			
Concrete pavement gathering area	LS	\$1,600			
Sub-Total		\$51,850			
Basketball Courts					
Pave basketball courts (2)	LS	\$38,500			
Basketball goals (4)	LS	\$14,000			
Color coat, paint lines	LS	\$12,000			
Chain link fence (2 sides)	LS	\$10,200			
Sub-Total		\$74,800			
Restroom / Storage Building					
Restroom / Storage Building	LS	\$185,000			
Sub-Total		\$185,000			
Landscaping					
Street trees	LS	\$5,600			
Park planting	LS	\$1,850			
Seeding along trail and at improvements	LS	\$9,600			
Sub-Total		\$17,100			

General Project Costs				
Contingency (15%)	LS	\$72,400		
Bond, mobilization, and layout (12%)	LS	\$66,600		
Design, engineering, and permitting (15%)	LS	\$93,200		
Sub-Total		\$232,200		
TOTAL Tri-Hill Park		\$714,600		√

Spring Garden Township Parks and Recreation Facilities Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Park Improvement	Quantity	Cost Opinion	2016-2018	2019-2021	2022-2025+
Windsor Park					
The following improvements are proposed:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develop an accessible trail that extends from the sidewalk/existing path to the playground and basketball court.▪ Remove the existing playground and replace it with a new age-segregated playground equipment.▪ Plant the southern property line with a vegetative screen.▪ Develop embankment seating for basketball court spectators.					
Site Preparation, Earthwork, Erosion Control					
Site preparation (by SGT)	LS	\$0			
Earthwork	LS	\$240			
Erosion control & SWM	LS	\$2,425			
Sub-Total		\$2,665			
Trail					
Paved 5’ wide bituminous trail	240 LF	\$1,040			
Sub-Total		\$1,040			
Playground					
Tot equipment	LS	\$28,000			
Youth equipment	LS	\$30,800			
Edging	LS	\$13,680			
Safety Surfacing	LS	\$6,120			
Stone base, filter fabric, underdrain	LS	\$6,838			
Concrete pavement gathering area	LS	\$4,125			
Sub-Total		\$89,563			
Amenities					
Benches (5)	LS	\$6,000			
Pre-engineered concrete wall system seating	LS	\$3,300			
Acknowledgement sign	LS	\$250			
Amenities installation	LS	\$580			
Sub-Total		\$10,130			
Landscaping					
Buffer planting	LS	\$2,200			
Seeding	LS	\$1,321			
Sub-Total		\$3,521			
General Project Costs					
Contingency (10%)	LS	\$11,975			
Bond, mobilization, and layout (12%)	LS	\$12,830			
Design, engineering, and permitting (12%)	LS	\$15,826			
Sub-Total		\$40,631			
TOTAL Windsor Park		\$147,550	√		

Spring Garden Township Parks and Recreation Facilities Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Park Improvement	Quantity	Cost Opinion	2016-2018	2019-2021	2022-2025+
Custis Field					
The following improvements are proposed:					
<div><div>▪ Develop an accessible trail that extends from a new HC Parking spaces to the players benches and spectator areas and informal picnic area.</div><div>▪ Renovate the baseball field with sideline fence, new backstop, player’s benches, infield mix, plate/bases.</div></div>					
Site Preparation, Earthwork, Erosion Control					
Site preparation and demolition	LS	\$1,500			
Sub-Total		\$1,500			
Trail					
Paved 5’ wide bituminous trail	255 LF	\$3,700			
Sub-Total		\$3,700			
Baseball Field					
Baseball field (fencing, backstop, infield mix, player’s benches, etc.)	LS	\$30,000			
Dugouts	LS	\$18,000			
Sub-Total		\$48,000			
Amenities					
Picnic tables (2)	LS	\$2,800			
HC Parking sign, pvmt. markings	LS	\$450			
Sub-Total		\$3,250			
Landscaping					
Street trees at parking	LS	\$1,200			
Seeding along trail and at improvements	LS	\$900			
Sub-Total		\$2,100			
General Project Costs					
Contingency (15%)	LS	\$8,800			
Bond, mobilization, and layout (12%)	LS	\$8,100			
Design, engineering, and permitting (15%)	LS	\$11,350			
Sub-Total		\$28,250			
TOTAL Custis Field		\$86,800		√	

Appendix B - Online Public Comment

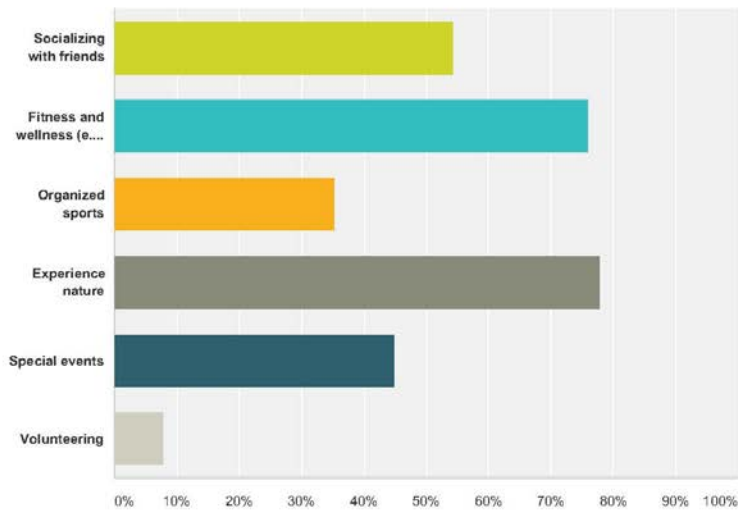
Appendix B – Online Public Comment

The online public comment instrument and results are provided on the following pages. A total of 260 responses were received from residents over an eight-month period. The survey internet link was posted on the Spring Garden Township website.

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

Q1 What experiences are you looking for when visiting parks or recreation areas? Select all that apply.

Answered: 249 Skipped: 11



Answer Choices	Responses
Socializing with friends	54.22% 135
Fitness and wellness (e.g. exercise, running)	75.90% 189
Organized sports	35.34% 88
Experience nature	77.91% 194
Special events	44.98% 112
Volunteering	8.03% 20
Total Respondents: 249	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Dog park would be awesome!!	2/28/2016 11:27 AM
2	Walking and hiking trails	1/25/2016 8:54 AM
3	Dog Park? Maybe with individual 'lots' to let your dogs run.	10/29/2015 9:32 AM
4	None	9/29/2015 8:13 PM
5	Bike trails, benches, outside tables & chairs, creative gardens	9/27/2015 9:35 PM
6	Opportunities for a relaxed sports teams for elementaryschool aged kids	9/6/2015 9:10 PM
7	Cycling	9/5/2015 8:46 PM

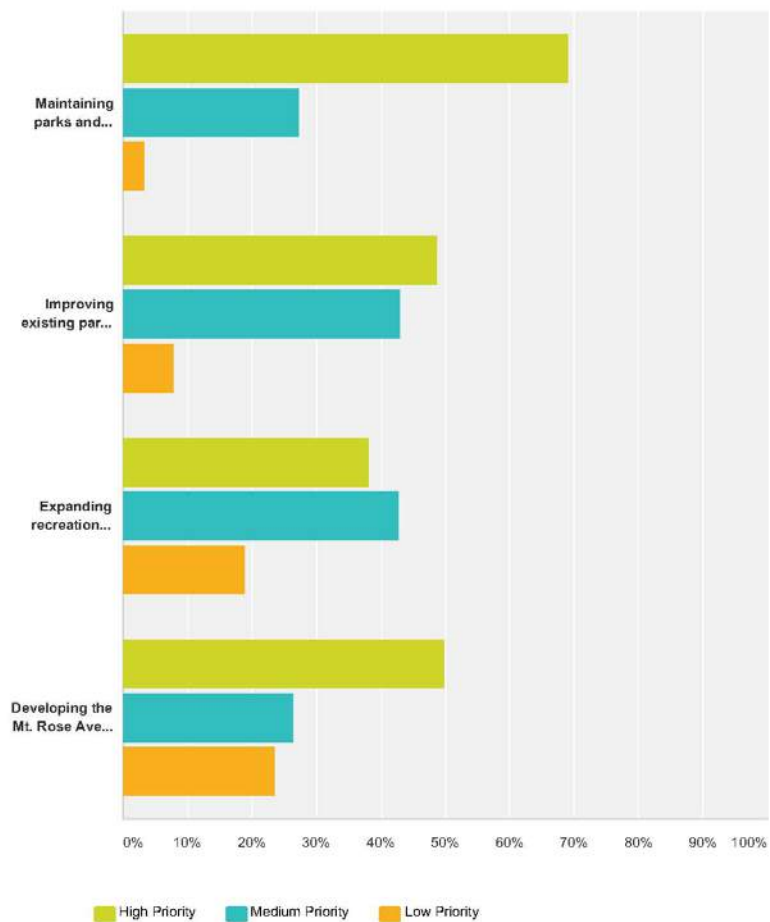
Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

8	dog walking/park	9/2/2015 3:19 PM
9	Play structures for kids, bicycling trails	7/16/2015 3:22 PM
10	I would love concerts in the park.	7/12/2015 5:32 PM
11	Children's activities	7/12/2015 10:55 AM
12	water elements	7/10/2015 8:20 AM
13	Play with grandchildren, summer programs.	7/9/2015 4:34 PM
14	providing exercise for my dog	7/9/2015 9:57 AM
15	Walking dog	7/9/2015 7:34 AM
16	hiking and mountainbiking	7/8/2015 5:44 PM
17	not looking for a recreation area that means more taxes	7/8/2015 5:25 PM
18	Playground	7/8/2015 9:48 AM
19	Inspiration for my poems and photography. Also a nice place to walk dogs.	7/8/2015 8:23 AM
20	None.	7/8/2015 12:44 AM
21	None	7/7/2015 9:30 PM
22	walking my dog	7/7/2015 7:30 PM
23	Tennis courts;geocaching;bike path;outdoor pool	7/7/2015 4:44 PM
24	walking & biking trails	7/7/2015 3:35 PM
25	outdoor concerts	7/7/2015 3:08 PM
26	Not interested in parks or recreation areas. Unneeded burden on taxpayer.	7/7/2015 3:00 PM
27	Specifically looking for basketball courts	7/7/2015 2:59 PM
28	dog walking WITH leash law enforced	7/7/2015 2:56 PM
29	Be able to walk my dog there.	7/7/2015 2:47 PM
30	Dog park!	7/7/2015 2:47 PM
31	playground for kids	7/7/2015 2:43 PM
32	biking	7/6/2015 4:54 PM
33	activities for children	6/17/2015 10:04 AM
34	Playing with my kids	6/16/2015 3:35 PM

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

Q2 What do you think should be the priority for parks and recreation in Spring Garden Township over the next ten years? Choose one response for each.

Answered: 248 Skipped: 12



	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Total
Maintaining parks and recreation facilities	69.20% 164	27.43% 65	3.38% 8	237
Improving existing parks and recreation facilities	48.95% 117	43.10% 103	7.95% 19	239
Expanding recreation programs and services	38.14% 90	42.80% 101	19.07% 45	236

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

Developing the Mt. Rose Avenue property (Old Dye Works property next to York Water Co.)		49.79% 120	26.56% 64	23.65% 57	241
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#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Outside movie nights	9/27/2015 9:37 PM
2	Make it a natural area for hiking and exploring!	9/3/2015 7:43 AM
3	We do not need additional facilities.	9/1/2015 6:46 PM
4	construction of pedestrian trails along streams and other features	8/11/2015 3:08 PM
5	Need facilities at parks. Don't need to spend money the Township doesn't have.	7/9/2015 4:36 PM
6	Including a full service complex at the Dye Works	7/8/2015 9:31 PM
7	No new taxes. If there is a need the private sector will meet it.	7/8/2015 5:48 PM
8	don't want any of it. no more taxes	7/8/2015 5:26 PM
9	Don't waste hard earned tax dollars on expanding recreation.	7/8/2015 12:45 AM
10	My rose too far away	7/7/2015 9:31 PM
11	why can't you leave the Dye works as a wildlife area instead of developing it for recreation. there isn't enough space for animals as it is!!!!	7/7/2015 7:32 PM
12	if you have 50 acres of undeveloped land, it should be used as a park	7/7/2015 3:36 PM
13	Accessability is nil at DYE WORKS. Not good location	7/7/2015 3:28 PM
14	need to have a better place for games to be played other than the elmwood park since people are very ignorant and take all the parking for the people who live here. This park does not have appropriate parking and the tax payers are the ones who are inconvenienced. If there was ever a fire the fire trucks would not be able to get to me and that would entail a lawsuit for Spring Garden twp.	7/7/2015 3:12 PM
15	Development of new property at Mt. Rose should not even be considered in light of current economic conditions and tax burden caused by school taxes.	7/7/2015 3:02 PM
16	Until the Dye Works site is cleared for building and is no longer an environmental problem then develop, until then, do not build there. I will come to every meeting about it to raise a sink Think about the families that could be affected by carcinogens.	7/7/2015 2:50 PM
17	I'm not familiar with parks & rec options for the Mt. Rose property, but I'd like to learn more.	7/7/2015 2:47 PM
18	Within reasonable fiscal constraints	6/16/2015 2:23 PM

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

Q3 If we could do one thing to improve parks and recreation in Spring Garden Township, what would you want that to be? Provide your ideas below:

Answered: 170 Skipped: 90

#	Responses	Date
1	Place to experience nature and pet friendly..	2/28/2016 11:28 AM
2	We could really use more parks, maybe a connection to the rail trail.	2/12/2016 8:51 AM
3	Easy access trails for biking and walking that connect to a larger trail already in existence	1/25/2016 8:55 AM
4	staffing	1/16/2016 10:53 AM
5	Add a dog park	1/4/2016 11:13 PM
6	Trails	1/3/2016 1:43 PM
7	Parks are most enjoyable when they are peaceful. When they are filled with teenagers screaming obscenities... it makes me want to move to a different township. Parks should not be offensive, but the park on Grantley is filled with nothing but trash and degenerates. It is a nuisance more than anything that a park should be. It is not calm or peaceful or tranquil. It is nothing more than an expensive stress to the residents who live adjacent. Just because it is green and is mowed, does not make it a park. It is a disgrace. And a shame. That park needs monitoring at night because the drug use that goes on there is blatant. How many summary offensive have been issued there? It is surrounded by 3 dark alleys... and half of the park is paved, not really the ideal image for a park.	11/29/2015 9:18 PM
8	More quiet nature trails	11/24/2015 5:54 PM
9	More quality multi purpose fields for local kids teams such as soccer, baseball, lacrosse, football.	11/2/2015 9:30 PM
10	Add more activities, equipment, events for the youth to use that they will find interest in	11/1/2015 9:16 AM
11	Improve children's playgrounds	10/31/2015 4:15 PM
12	I think we should develop the property next to the water company and become more up to date with other areas that have creative playgrounds, water parks, and dog parks.	10/29/2015 12:04 PM
13	Maybe an annual community softball game - where you could sign up with neighbors and get to meet people in the area.	10/29/2015 9:33 AM
14	Provide more space	10/22/2015 4:25 PM
15	We need parks that have nature trails and other amenities that many neighboring Townships offer their residents	10/10/2015 6:50 AM
16	Nothing, taxes too high	9/29/2015 8:13 PM
17	First improve the existing parks we have based on input from residents.	9/27/2015 9:38 PM
18	Outdoor activities to be focus at Mt Rose property. Roofed pavilion would provide a place for different groups.	9/7/2015 2:25 PM
19	Have more of them	9/6/2015 6:36 AM
20	Take ideas from springettesbury park. That park has so much and is versatile. Also more adult sports leagues and events. Seems like everything is for kids. Maybe an indoor rec center similar to the jcc. Residents could get a membership at a discounted rate while non residents are charged more. I know a recreational pool is in high demand as well. I'm from the Chicago area and many of the park districts had pools for adults and Older kids with splash pads for littler kids.	9/5/2015 8:52 PM
21	Add a park that has more natural topography, we have too many parks in many counties with flat, dull, unused green areas. With a park to hike at and explore, you save money with few development plans, and you offer an experience to find something new for many people who wouldn't normally go hiking.	9/3/2015 7:45 AM
22	Dog park	9/2/2015 3:20 PM
23	The parks are fine as they are. I enjoy and appreciate running trails and places to walk outdoors.	9/1/2015 6:47 PM
24	Add a park	8/20/2015 8:00 PM

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

25	Provide more trails, walkways and bikeways	8/20/2015 2:38 PM
26	A common area, rather than traveling all over.	8/20/2015 6:53 AM
27	The parks are kind of just there. Other parks have really fun jungle gyms or great paths for walking while kids practice or a water feature for kids to play. My kids don't ask to go to our parks. Nothing special there. Maybe just exist to check a box that we have some w/o much thought for what people use.	8/20/2015 6:47 AM
28	More green space and recreation areas.	8/20/2015 4:19 AM
29	Create something similar to Springettsbury.	8/20/2015 12:37 AM
30	More bike trails- And fine horseback riders that don't clean up the poop!!	8/20/2015 12:09 AM
31	Expand	8/20/2015 12:02 AM
32	More youth oriented nature programming b	8/19/2015 9:45 PM
33	.	8/19/2015 9:00 PM
34	More natural open space.	8/19/2015 8:32 PM
35	Provide public restrooms that are always open during park hours (not just special events).	8/15/2015 12:09 PM
36	Pool	8/13/2015 4:53 PM
37	provide more recreation trails that run along natural features such as streams or utilize existing out of commission rail beds, bridges and historical features along these rail beds can really add to the experience for the user.	8/11/2015 3:10 PM
38	More events such as bands, things for families to attend	8/4/2015 8:29 PM
39	Park & Rec summer camp to be more structured. Kids got bored within the first two weeks of program	8/4/2015 1:48 PM
40	More park equipment for children. swings , slides, climbing walls, ect	8/3/2015 7:08 PM
41	keep the summer rec program alive. we are extremely happy w/ it. I've recently been wondering if there is a place where kids near tri-hill could go and kick a soccer ball into a netted goal. that would be nice	8/3/2015 10:36 AM
42	More kid friendly facilities and playgrounds	8/2/2015 4:59 PM
43	Walking Trails	8/2/2015 4:26 PM
44	The existing twp park at tri hill is inadequate, but improvements such as extending the paved path all the way around the park would be nice for walkers/inline skaters/bikes. A gaga ball pit and more age appropriate climbing walls, towers or "webs" would not take up much space, but provide for older kids.	7/24/2015 7:12 AM
45	safe access for children to play and get children off the streets	7/23/2015 8:19 AM
46	Pickleball!	7/22/2015 3:32 PM
47	update the playground equipment.	7/21/2015 10:35 PM
48	whatever happened to the activities at Mt. Rose ave	7/21/2015 9:10 PM
49	Splash park	7/18/2015 12:48 AM
50	more equipment	7/17/2015 10:34 PM
51	Provide ongoing maintenance/beautification.	7/16/2015 3:24 PM
52	More adult fitness programs offered by the recreation dept.	7/15/2015 3:15 PM
53	habitat preservation	7/14/2015 10:30 AM
54	Availability after dark	7/14/2015 9:06 AM
55	I am not sure for I have not used any of the parks in this township.	7/13/2015 8:30 PM
56	offer more activities	7/12/2015 11:30 PM
57	More community events for all ages.	7/12/2015 5:32 PM
58	Special events, programs, festivals, park with really nice walking trail (stroller friendly) like couster park	7/12/2015 10:57 AM
59	An outdoor water play area, whether it is big or something small. A natural play area as well.	7/10/2015 8:21 AM
60	Provide a few Pickleball courts	7/10/2015 12:39 AM
61	Utilize existing areas on school properties.	7/9/2015 4:37 PM

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

62	Do not increase expenses... As a SG Township resident, I feel fine about the current park situation but am uneasy with the Summer Day Program, the increase in cost/budget, and an increase in parks and recreation's budget, potentially increasing my taxes.	7/9/2015 2:26 PM
63	Fitness areas/trails	7/9/2015 11:59 AM
64	more trash and recycling cans	7/9/2015 9:59 AM
65	Make them more dog/pet friendly, period.	7/9/2015 7:41 AM
66	amateur musical performances	7/9/2015 2:46 AM
67	Establish a 3-4 mile "rail trail" or create a link to the York Rail Trail	7/8/2015 11:35 PM
68	Develop the Dye Works area into a nature walk and athletic field center.	7/8/2015 11:10 PM
69	Community education on maintaining household gardens with minimum toxic chemicals, composting.	7/8/2015 8:33 PM
70	More walking/jogging trails	7/8/2015 6:55 PM
71	Be good stewards of our tax money. No new taxes.	7/8/2015 5:49 PM
72	stop doing it	7/8/2015 5:26 PM
73	Offer more recreational leagues/classes for adults.	7/8/2015 4:24 PM
74	Keep up the good maintenance.	7/8/2015 3:51 PM
75	Expand offerings for teen boys between 13-17.	7/8/2015 3:26 PM
76	walking/biking trails	7/8/2015 2:48 PM
77	Maybe better joint programming with local school district(s)? We're pretty satisfied with our parks!	7/8/2015 12:00 PM
78	I do NOT think we should mimic the Springettsbury Park. We do not need baseball and football fields, etc. It should remain mostly in a natural state, like Nixon Park. If we develop picnic areas, access trails, parking, some open fields, the lake, it would be wonderful.	7/8/2015 9:51 AM
79	Add water features.	7/8/2015 8:26 AM
80	Mirror Springettsbury Township's parks and rec programs. They have great parks and programs that appeal to all ages.	7/8/2015 6:44 AM
81	add more sports fields	7/8/2015 6:17 AM
82	The current parks are fine. Don't waste tax dollars.	7/8/2015 12:46 AM
83	Keep the existing parks clean and free of garbage.	7/7/2015 10:52 PM
84	Provide a larger park area.	7/7/2015 10:47 PM
85	something like a exercise trail like farque park in york	7/7/2015 10:24 PM
86	maintain what we have now.	7/7/2015 10:20 PM
87	Programs for all age groups	7/7/2015 9:04 PM
88	Nature trails, dog walking parks	7/7/2015 8:29 PM
89	Wooded walking trails	7/7/2015 8:03 PM
90	concert/band shell entertainment events	7/7/2015 8:01 PM
91	Better use of playground areas we already have i.e schools playgrounds for year round events,	7/7/2015 7:35 PM
92	Somehow make them a safer place and not an older kid hangout..	7/7/2015 7:33 PM
93	Possibly an amphetheatre	7/7/2015 7:09 PM
94	Unsure	7/7/2015 6:20 PM
95	Landscape to make them look more natural using native plants. Master gardeners and the Penn State extension are great resources.	7/7/2015 6:19 PM
96	More benches for sitting	7/7/2015 6:02 PM
97	Provide more activities for Seniors	7/7/2015 5:52 PM
98	Keep providing services to help our youngsters.	7/7/2015 5:00 PM

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

99	More options for Tweens and teens, classes and camps for this age group throughout the year and expanded free play options.	7/7/2015 4:48 PM
100	Riding and running trails	7/7/2015 4:44 PM
101	A project like the Springettsbury playground	7/7/2015 4:38 PM
102	Community swimming pool	7/7/2015 4:34 PM
103	Ensure that residents know the availability of the existing parks in Spring Garden Township. Increase accessibility to residents.	7/7/2015 4:20 PM
104	Have a nature trail and swimming pool at Mt Rose (dye works)	7/7/2015 4:16 PM
105	I would want to see those using and living near the parks to volunteer their time if they do not already to maintain the parks.	7/7/2015 4:04 PM
106	More open space and a community center.	7/7/2015 4:04 PM
107	No idea.	7/7/2015 3:59 PM
108	Charge a fee for use - especially from non-residents.	7/7/2015 3:49 PM
109	Advertise them, let us know where they are, and what they offer. Publicity will promote use.	7/7/2015 3:43 PM
110	Existing parks, especially the ones at the schools are fine. Talk up the existing ones. Publicize the activities there and utilize the parks. Aren't they under used? Can citizens have events there?	7/7/2015 3:40 PM
111	Minimum clearing, just cut nice walking/biking trails. We don't need baseball fields. Keep it green and natural.	7/7/2015 3:37 PM
112	Arrange to hold concerts during the summer months	7/7/2015 3:37 PM
113	I think that instead of investing a lot of money into a NEW park, that money could be used to improve the current parks - pavilions, etc...	7/7/2015 3:27 PM
114	Our current parks lack open space and fields. It would be great if our township clubs and teams could practice on land within SGT. We also lack an area that allows township residents to go as a destination for running, biking, and communing with nature. I would love to see the Dye properly thoughtfully developed with a priority of maintaining the natural state as much as possible.	7/7/2015 3:25 PM
115	Have games where there is appropriate parking instead of inconveniencing the people of this town! I would never park in front of peoples homes that do not have more than one parking spot in there driveway! However I have encountered the rudest and laziest people who will park on both sides of my driveway. I have called the PD and do to officers children playing or officers knowing people who are there the people are then tipped off and the cars are moved for the moment! I would not expect any behavior I would not do myself!	7/7/2015 3:12 PM
116	centralize parks and recreation into a larger comprehensive park that has broader appeal to more people and more activities	7/7/2015 3:12 PM
117	I think it would be great to have a park something like John Rudy. There are great walking trails, pavilions and enclosed dog parks.	7/7/2015 3:06 PM
118	More development of public exercise areas like walking trails, bike trails, etc for people not playing organized sports. Also, areas for families or groups to picnics, e tc.	7/7/2015 3:05 PM
119	Improve the basketball courts.	7/7/2015 3:04 PM
120	Maintain existing network.	7/7/2015 3:02 PM
121	fitness stations	7/7/2015 3:00 PM
122	No improvements needed	7/7/2015 2:58 PM
123	BASEBALL FIELDS, LACROSSE FIELD, & HOCKEY RINK.	7/7/2015 2:58 PM
124	enforce leash law at the York Water Company	7/7/2015 2:57 PM
125	Offer organized sport leagues for adults to participate in.	7/7/2015 2:53 PM
126	Provide a large dog park like that at John Rudy park. I like the Wednesday night concerts in the Springettsbury park which I think would be nice to do in our township.	7/7/2015 2:51 PM
127	make the parks more than a playground - benches, picnic tables, places to go and enjoy nature and friends - monitor current use by older teens who intimidate smaller children	7/7/2015 2:51 PM

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

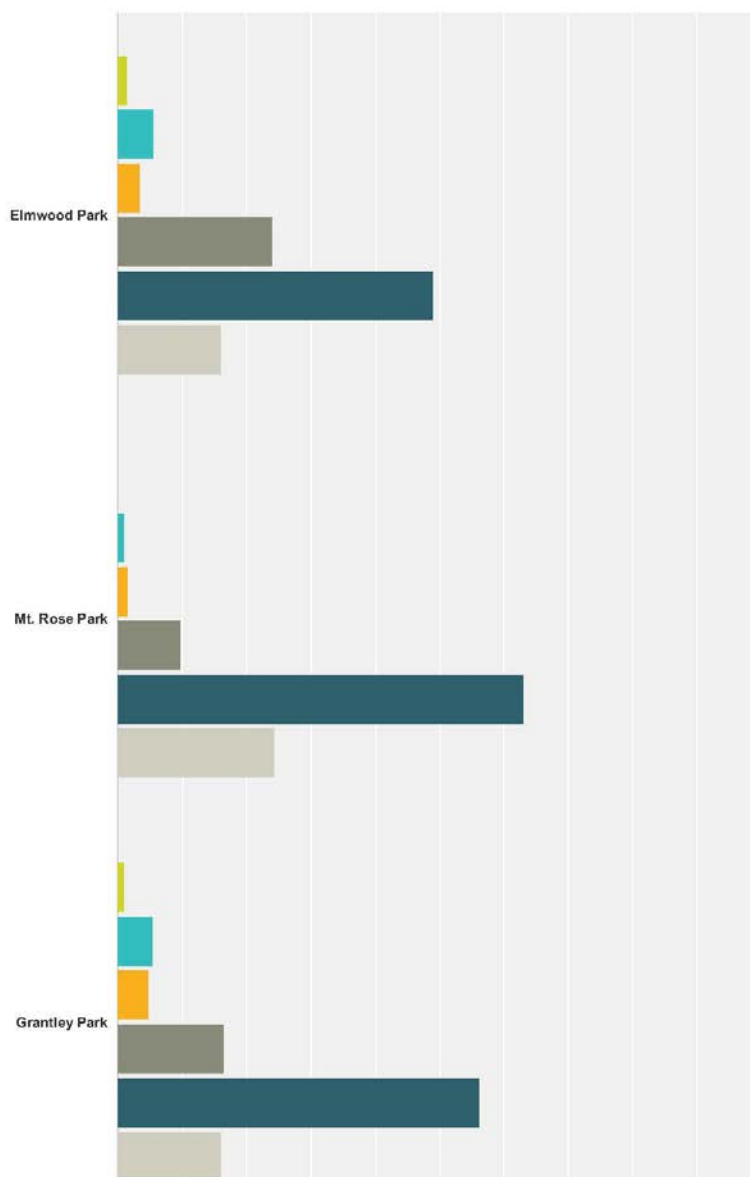
128	Develop the Mt. Rose Ave property, but only after carefully determining what environmental remediation needs to be done. I suspect that the old dye works left quite the environmental time bomb.	7/7/2015 2:51 PM
129	to create an area like in York Township where you have a creek, restroom facilities, picnic tables, bike trails, etc.	7/7/2015 2:50 PM
130	Add more playgrounds for babies and toddlers	7/7/2015 2:50 PM
131	I'm satisfied. There's not a great quantity and variety of parks within SGT, but there are plenty of options across York County.	7/7/2015 2:49 PM
132	Make a park like they have at Springettsbury.	7/7/2015 2:49 PM
133	Not sure. I've lived in this twps for over thirty years and can't recall ever going to a local park. Since retirement I would be interested in park and recreation activities for seniors.	7/7/2015 2:48 PM
134	More activities to encourage more people to use the parks.	7/7/2015 2:48 PM
135	Longer running paths.	7/7/2015 2:48 PM
136	Create adult fields for baseball, soccer, volleyball. Build an indoor recreation facility to expand adult and youth programs. The facility could be shared with YSSD, also.	7/7/2015 2:47 PM
137	Spring Garden Township needs a big park!	7/7/2015 2:44 PM
138	Community pool	7/7/2015 2:44 PM
139	Work on improving and offering more organized and publicized programs at the existing parks available in our community.	7/7/2015 2:44 PM
140	Your recreation program is great. If you decide to expand the dye works property, please do not destroy the nature that exists there. Develop only using native plants. Please do not make it commercialized with grass and fields	7/7/2015 2:43 PM
141	Develop the unused land.	7/7/2015 2:43 PM
142	Quit "talking" about Dye Works and start moving on it.	7/7/2015 2:42 PM
143	Have access to a gym	7/7/2015 7:50 AM
144	Add a biking trail, lightly paved, that families can ride on without interference from traffic.	7/6/2015 4:55 PM
145	A place we're all ages can enjoy.	6/25/2015 10:29 PM
146	Develop the old dye works property with a gym.	6/25/2015 10:27 PM
147	Provide a full size baseball field at the Mt. Rose Avenue property to complement both the township and high school baseball programs	6/23/2015 4:40 PM
148	Provide more open space	6/17/2015 1:05 PM
149	A bigger park, one with more room for kids to bike, rollerblade, play soccer/lacrosse, a trail similar to York Township.	6/17/2015 10:06 AM
150	Create a sports complex	6/17/2015 8:21 AM
151	Create more green space	6/16/2015 11:00 PM
152	Provide a park with a running trail	6/16/2015 9:03 PM
153	Repair broken equipment at local playgrounds. More bike and running trails	6/16/2015 8:22 PM
154	Develop the old dye works property	6/16/2015 8:01 PM
155	Good level soccer fields	6/16/2015 7:41 PM
156	develop the Mount Rose property	6/16/2015 7:27 PM
157	Provide a facility to expand the wants, needs, physical welfare that our youth, township residents, and visitors can enjoy!	6/16/2015 7:23 PM
158	Soccer fields and indoor gymnasium all-purpose areas that can be rented out.	6/16/2015 7:07 PM
159	More trails/walking paths	6/16/2015 6:47 PM
160	Develop the vacant land along Mt Rose into a community park with playing fields.	6/16/2015 4:19 PM
161	Provide the facilities needed for current programs so that we do not need to rent other facilities or team up with other areas. Add facilities that will aid in adding programs.	6/16/2015 3:37 PM
162	Parks need to be more varied in recreation to service ALL ages from tots to elderly. Include pets also	6/16/2015 2:40 PM

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

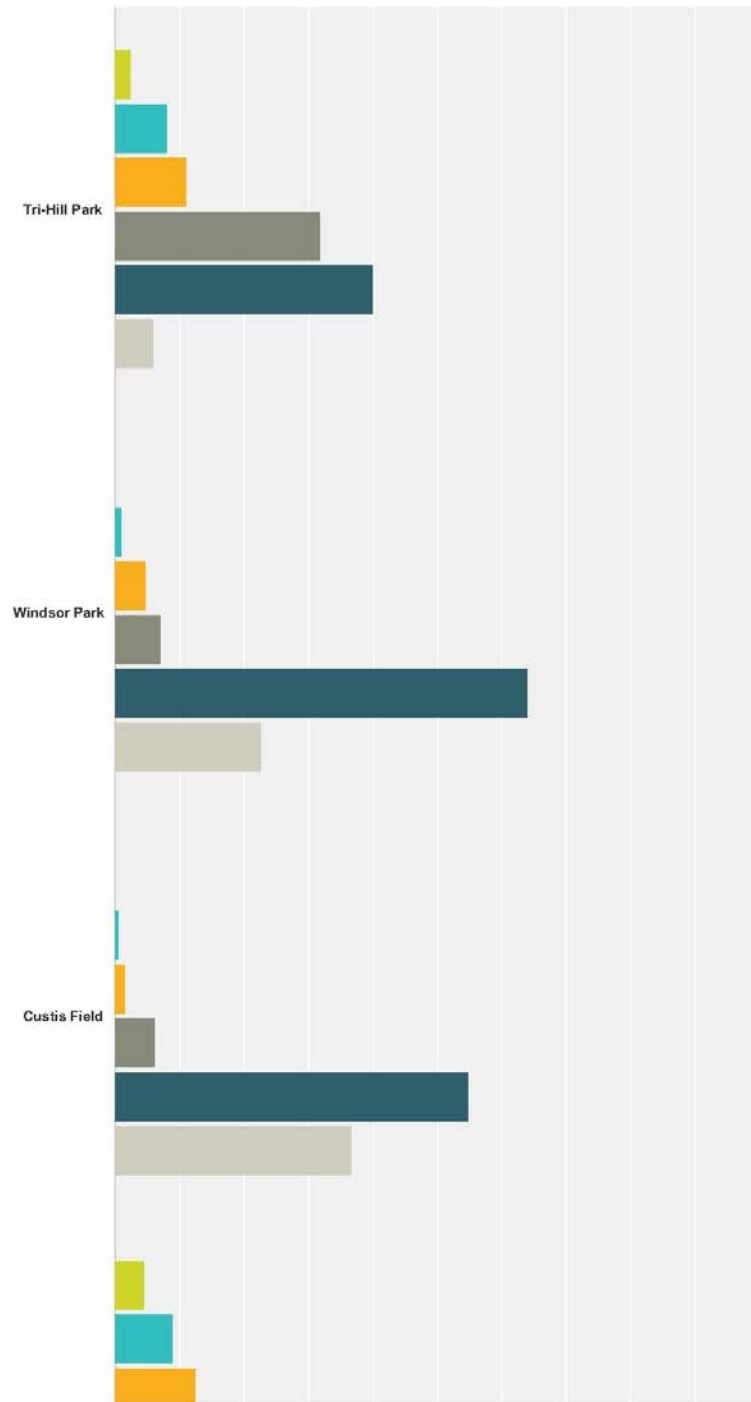
163	Need more open space to walk and just hang out.	6/16/2015 2:32 PM
164	develop a detailed survey that all Township residents would receive in mail that could submit with their input.	6/16/2015 2:25 PM
165	More daytime summer activities geared towards teenagers (14-17)	6/16/2015 2:22 PM
166	more multi-use fields, walking trails and pavilions to enjoy nature.	6/16/2015 2:22 PM
167	A larger facility not connected to the police department. More parking at tri hill.	6/16/2015 2:11 PM
168	Extend summer park hours. (before 9 and after 3)	6/16/2015 2:10 PM
169	Ensure all park facilities are well maintained for daily public use.	6/16/2015 2:04 PM
170	More sports fields	6/16/2015 1:58 PM

Q4 How often do you or your family visit the following parks and recreation facilities? Choose one response for each.

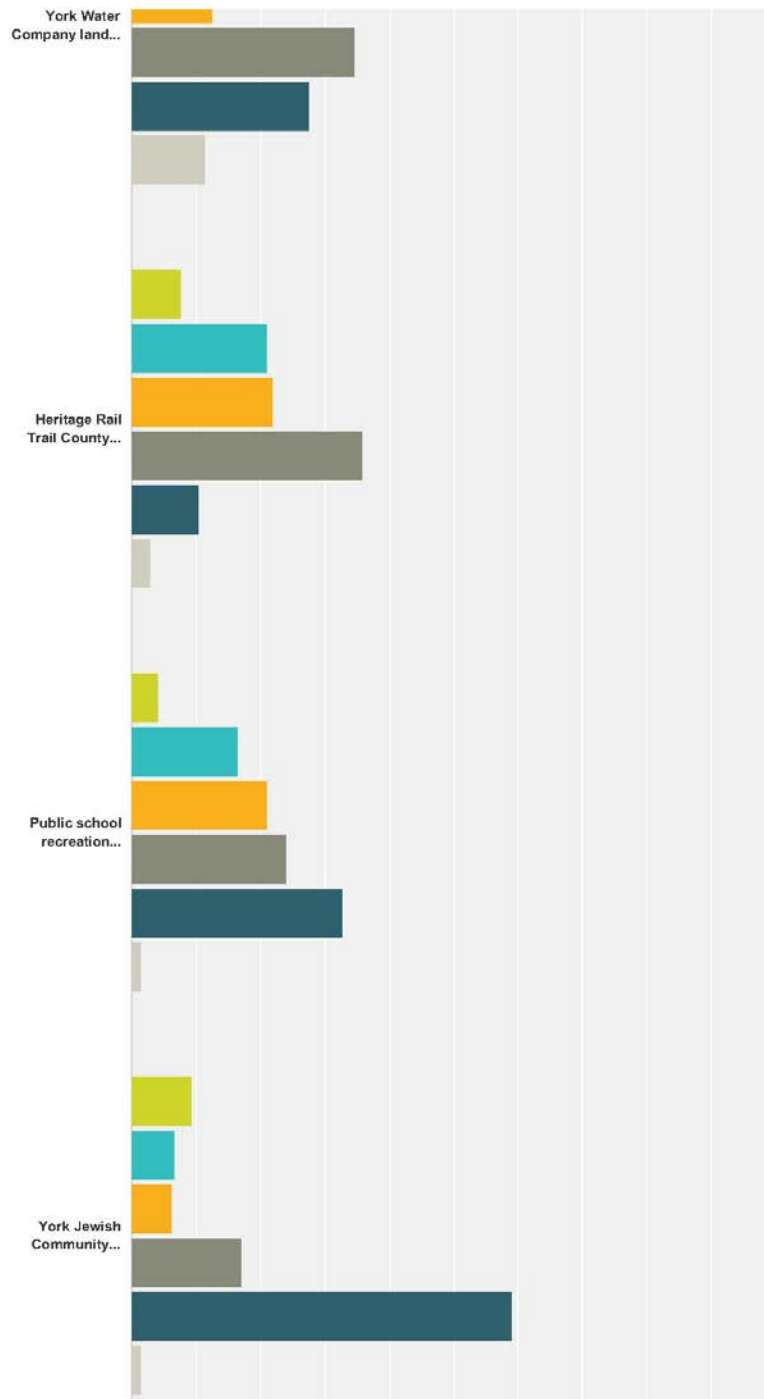
Answered: 223 Skipped: 37



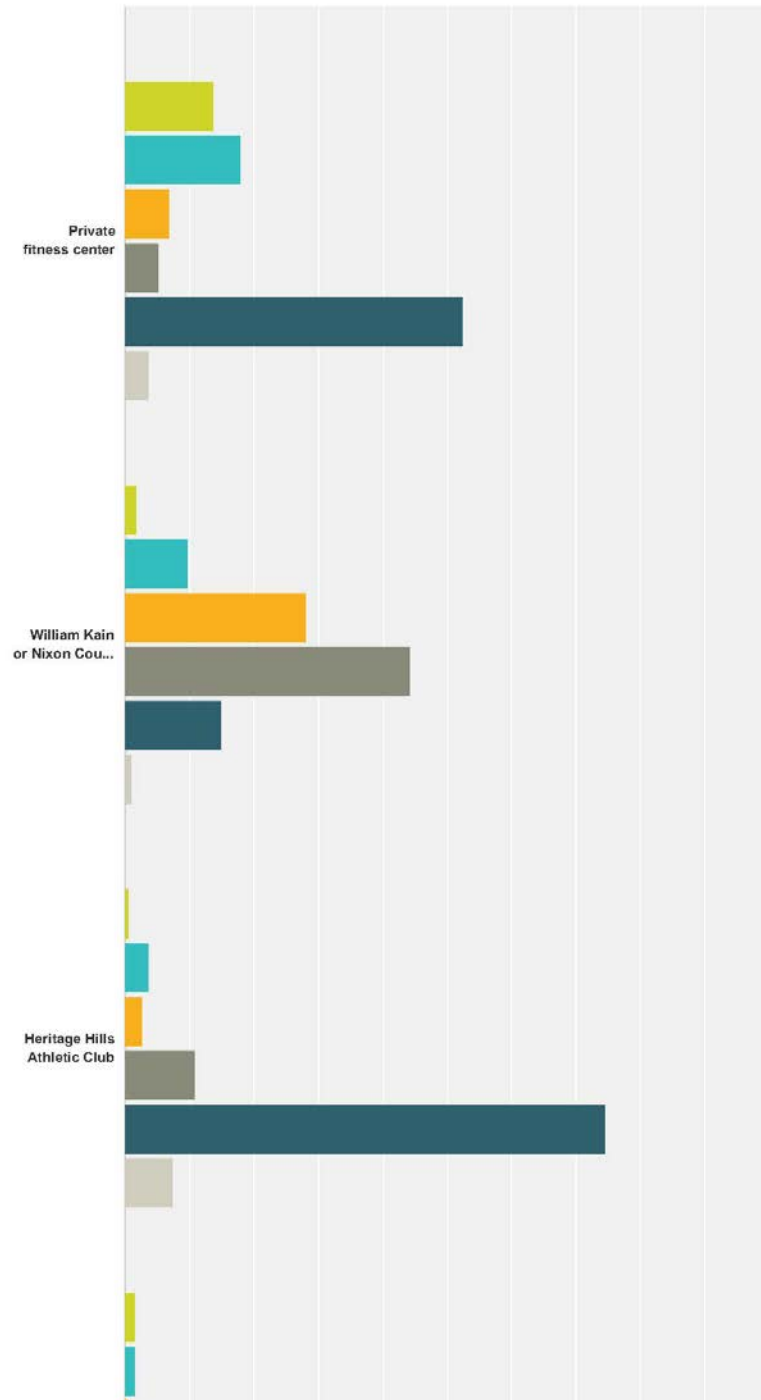
Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey



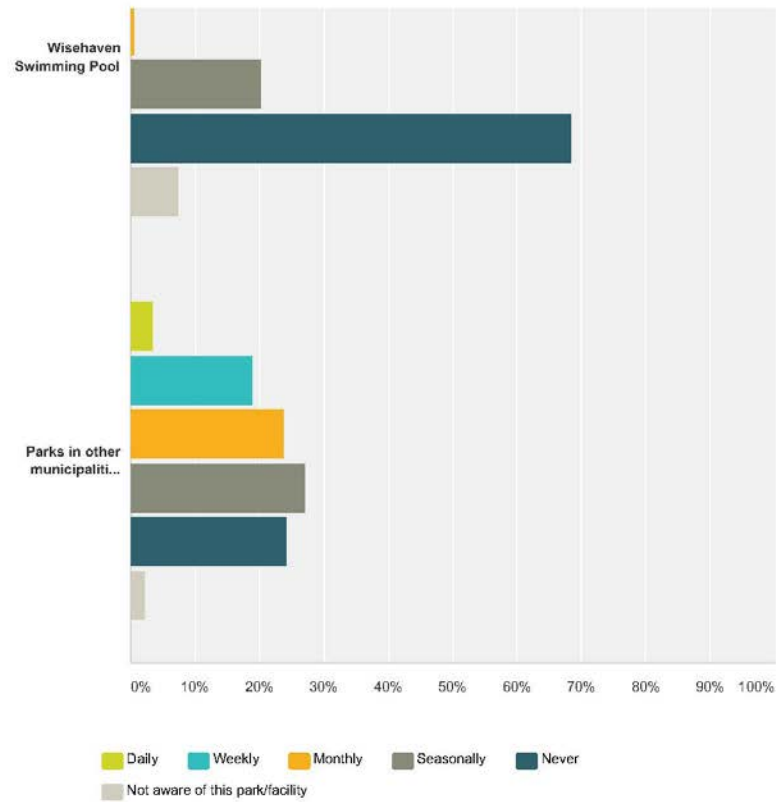
Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey



Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey



Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey



	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Seasonally	Never	Not aware of this park/facility	Total
Elmwood Park	1.56% 3	5.73% 11	3.65% 7	23.96% 46	48.96% 94	16.15% 31	192
Mt. Rose Park	0.00% 0	1.09% 2	1.63% 3	9.78% 18	63.04% 116	24.46% 45	184
Grantley Park	1.07% 2	5.35% 10	4.81% 9	16.58% 31	56.15% 105	16.04% 30	187
Tri-Hill Park	2.54% 5	8.12% 16	11.17% 22	31.98% 63	40.10% 79	6.09% 12	197
Windsor Park	0.00% 0	1.09% 2	4.89% 9	7.07% 13	64.13% 118	22.83% 42	184
Custis Field	0.00% 0	0.56% 1	1.69% 3	6.21% 11	54.80% 97	36.72% 65	177
York Water Company land on Country Club Road and Grantley Road	4.52% 9	9.05% 18	12.55% 25	34.67% 69	27.64% 55	11.56% 23	199
Heritage Rail Trail County Park	7.66% 16	21.05% 44	22.01% 46	35.89% 75	10.53% 22	2.87% 6	209

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

Public school recreation facilities	4.10% 8	16.41% 32	21.03% 41	24.10% 47	32.82% 64	1.54% 3	195
York Jewish Community Center	9.33% 18	6.74% 13	6.22% 12	17.10% 33	59.07% 114	1.55% 3	193
Private fitness center	13.76% 26	17.99% 34	6.88% 13	5.29% 10	52.38% 99	3.70% 7	189
William Kain or Nixon County Parks	1.94% 4	9.71% 20	28.16% 58	44.17% 91	15.05% 31	0.97% 2	206
Heritage Hills Athletic Club	0.54% 1	3.78% 7	2.70% 5	10.81% 20	74.59% 138	7.57% 14	185
Wisehaven Swimming Pool	1.60% 3	1.60% 3	0.53% 1	20.32% 38	68.45% 128	7.49% 14	187
Parks in other municipalities (please list below in Other)	3.47% 6	19.08% 33	23.70% 41	27.17% 47	24.28% 42	2.31% 4	173

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Lake Redman	10/31/2015 4:17 PM
2	Dallastown Community park (3 times a week), Rudy park (2 times a month)	10/29/2015 12:06 PM
3	springettsbury	10/22/2015 4:27 PM
4	Cousler Park, Springettesbury Park	10/10/2015 6:51 AM
5	Springettsbury	9/27/2015 9:40 PM
6	Camp security and fields of other parks	9/6/2015 9:16 PM
7	Springettesbury,	9/5/2015 8:54 PM
8	Hanover trolley trail	8/20/2015 2:40 PM
9	York township	8/20/2015 6:55 AM
10	York township park, red lion water pstk	8/20/2015 6:50 AM
11	During sports seasons consistently at other parks for practices and games	8/20/2015 6:28 AM
12	Springettsbury	8/20/2015 12:39 AM
13	Cousler, York Township Community	8/19/2015 10:22 PM
14	York Township park,	8/19/2015 9:13 PM
15	Rocky Ridge	8/19/2015 9:11 PM
16	Rocky Ridge	8/19/2015 9:02 PM
17	York township, springettsbury, nixon, rocky ridge	8/19/2015 8:36 PM
18	York township park/playground, springettsbury creative playground	8/19/2015 11:50 AM
19	Springettsbury Park, John Rudy Park, Memorial Park	8/15/2015 12:21 PM
20	Dog park next to rudy wish there was one on the south end of York	8/13/2015 4:55 PM
21	we typically go to york township park to utilize the trail. Its a great place to walk around especially with kids or dogs.	8/11/2015 3:12 PM
22	Springettsbury Park	8/4/2015 8:31 PM
23	Springettsbury	8/3/2015 7:11 PM
24	Leader heights elementary. Springettsbury. Cousler.	8/2/2015 5:01 PM
25	Codorus, Rocky Ridge, Sam Lewis	8/2/2015 4:27 PM
26	Foustown park-West manchester twp, York twp park	7/24/2015 7:12 AM
27	York Township Park	7/22/2015 3:33 PM

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

28	Springettsbury	7/21/2015 9:13 PM
29	Red lion splash park	7/18/2015 12:49 AM
30	springettsbury park, york township park	7/17/2015 10:36 PM
31	York Township Municipal Park, John Rudy Park	7/16/2015 3:41 PM
32	springettsbury park	7/15/2015 3:39 PM
33	Cousler Park, Springettsbury Park	7/12/2015 11:00 AM
34	Springettsbury and also	7/10/2015 8:24 AM
35	Springettesbury near Galleria Mall for Monday evening Pickleball. And Long Level at the River.	7/10/2015 12:45 AM
36	Took away park at Valley View	7/9/2015 4:42 PM
37	Codorus	7/9/2015 2:28 PM
38	York Township Park & Springettsbury Park	7/9/2015 12:02 PM
39	Springettsbury Park	7/8/2015 11:37 PM
40	Rocky Ridge	7/8/2015 11:11 PM
41	York Township Park, Springettsbury Park	7/8/2015 9:47 PM
42	Concerts in Springettsbury Township	7/8/2015 9:33 PM
43	stop please	7/8/2015 5:26 PM
44	Veterans Memorial Park and the dog park at John Rudy County Park	7/8/2015 4:26 PM
45	Boardwalk at Lake Redman; Lake Marburg nature trails	7/8/2015 3:52 PM
46	Stump park, cousetor park, york township	7/8/2015 3:28 PM
47	springettsbury park, counsler park	7/8/2015 2:51 PM
48	Lake Redman (seasonal), Lewis/Kain/Codorus (1-2x/yr)	7/8/2015 12:06 PM
49	Cousler Park	7/8/2015 10:59 AM
50	Springettsbury	7/8/2015 9:53 AM
51	Too many to list mostly parks along the Susquehanna River and State Parks	7/8/2015 8:32 AM
52	Springettsbury Park	7/8/2015 8:28 AM
53	Cousler and Faulker	7/8/2015 8:19 AM
54	Springettsbury	7/8/2015 6:46 AM
55	Springettsbury	7/7/2015 10:50 PM
56	Cousler Park; Springettsbury Park	7/7/2015 9:07 PM
57	York Township Park	7/7/2015 9:00 PM
58	Rudy Park	7/7/2015 7:38 PM
59	Springettsbury Park	7/7/2015 5:53 PM
60	Rudy Park	7/7/2015 5:02 PM
61	Springettsbury; John Rudy; Sam Lewis; Nixon Park	7/7/2015 4:51 PM
62	York Twp	7/7/2015 3:51 PM
63	Farquhar Park, Memorial Park	7/7/2015 3:48 PM
64	Wisehaven Tennis Club	7/7/2015 3:46 PM
65	Rocky Ridge	7/7/2015 3:39 PM
66	Rudypark	7/7/2015 3:38 PM
67	John Rudy	7/7/2015 3:32 PM

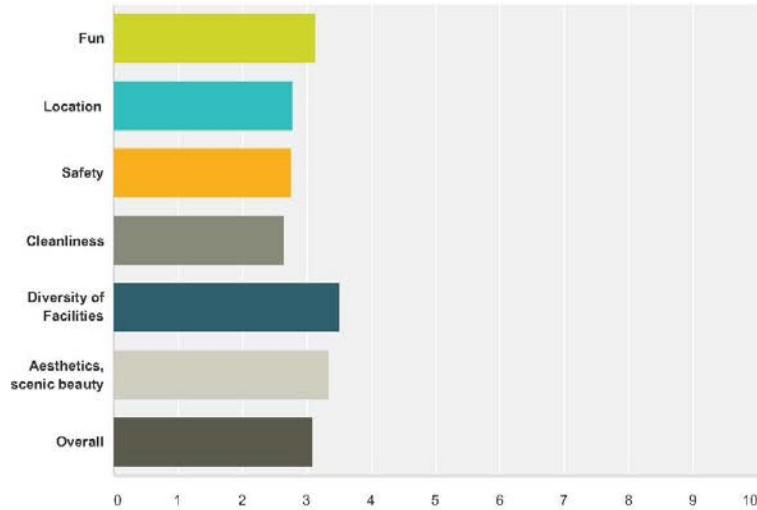
Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

68	York Township Park, Springettsbury Park, Rocky Ridge, Lake Redman, Pinchot Park. All of the parks I marked "never" (excluding JCC, HH, and Weishaven), should really be marked "occasionally."	7/7/2015 3:25 PM
69	Have not used Spring Garden parks since my son played sports with the township and that was in the early 80's. No facilities that parks have for my wife and i to use.	7/7/2015 3:17 PM
70	Springettsbury Township park behind the police building	7/7/2015 3:06 PM
71	Rocky Ridge, Rudy Park, 4 Seasons Golf	7/7/2015 3:01 PM
72	ROCKY RIDGE, SPRINGETTSBURY	7/7/2015 3:00 PM
73	York Township Park	7/7/2015 2:58 PM
74	Springettsbury Park, Cousler Park	7/7/2015 2:55 PM
75	York Township Park and Cousler Park	7/7/2015 2:55 PM
76	John Rudy Park	7/7/2015 2:53 PM
77	springettsbury park	7/7/2015 2:53 PM
78	York Township Park	7/7/2015 2:52 PM
79	Many county and state parks (Sam Lewis, Pine Grove Furnace, Cousler, YCD athletic fields)	7/7/2015 2:51 PM
80	Cousler	7/7/2015 2:51 PM
81	Springettsbury Park	7/7/2015 2:50 PM
82	Springettsbury Park	7/7/2015 2:50 PM
83	York Township Park	7/7/2015 2:49 PM
84	York Township complex	7/7/2015 2:48 PM
85	Springettsbury Park and York Township Park	7/7/2015 2:46 PM
86	York Township, Cousler, Springettsbury, Rocky Ridge	7/7/2015 2:46 PM
87	Manchester Township Parks program	7/6/2015 4:56 PM
88	Cousler park	6/25/2015 10:32 PM
89	York Township park	6/23/2015 4:42 PM
90	County Parks	6/17/2015 1:07 PM
91	Spring Valley Park, York Township Park, Fuller Lake	6/17/2015 10:07 AM
92	Cousler	6/17/2015 8:23 AM
93	York Township Park	6/16/2015 11:02 PM
94	York twp, Springettsbury	6/16/2015 9:22 PM
95	York Township Park	6/16/2015 9:05 PM
96	York township	6/16/2015 7:42 PM
97	Springettsbury, and York township	6/16/2015 7:29 PM
98	Springettsbury	6/16/2015 7:10 PM
99	Lake Redman, pinchot, holtwood preserve, many other wooded parks	6/16/2015 6:52 PM
100	Cousler Park	6/16/2015 3:51 PM
101	Cousler Park	6/16/2015 3:38 PM
102	Glitch on this survey checks get unchecked!!!	6/16/2015 2:27 PM
103	York townshil	6/16/2015 2:13 PM
104	I could not answer the questions, could only select 1 answer per column.	6/16/2015 2:06 PM
105	Springettsbury,	6/16/2015 2:00 PM

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

Q5 How do you rate parks and recreation facilities in Spring Garden Township? Choose one response for each.

Answered: 206 Skipped: 54

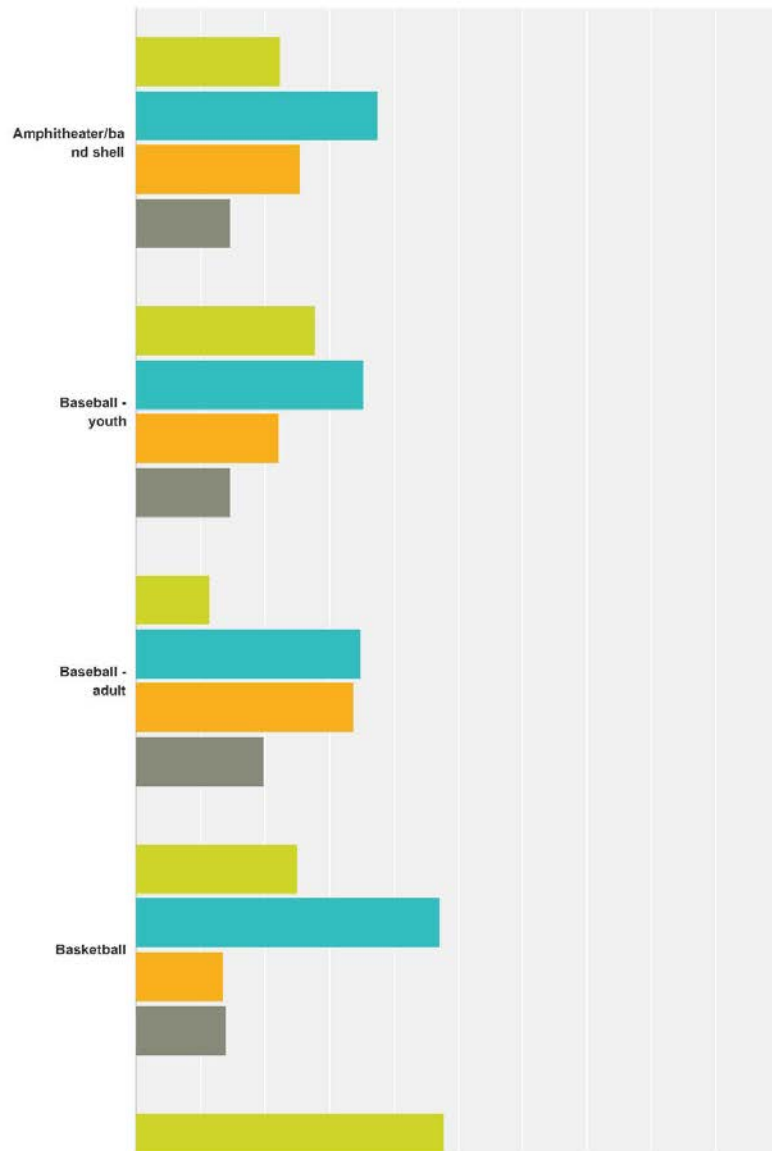


	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Total	Weighted Average
Fun	5.94% 12	16.34% 33	42.57% 86	29.21% 59	5.94% 12	202	3.13
Location	8.37% 17	32.02% 65	36.95% 75	18.72% 38	3.94% 8	203	2.78
Safety	7.92% 16	32.18% 65	39.11% 79	17.82% 36	2.97% 6	202	2.76
Cleanliness	12.38% 25	30.20% 61	39.11% 79	16.83% 34	1.49% 3	202	2.65
Diversity of Facilities	4.48% 9	8.96% 18	35.32% 71	34.83% 70	16.42% 33	201	3.50
Aesthetics, scenic beauty	5.42% 11	13.30% 27	33.99% 69	37.44% 76	9.85% 20	203	3.33
Overall	3.92% 8	17.65% 36	48.04% 98	26.47% 54	3.92% 8	204	3.09

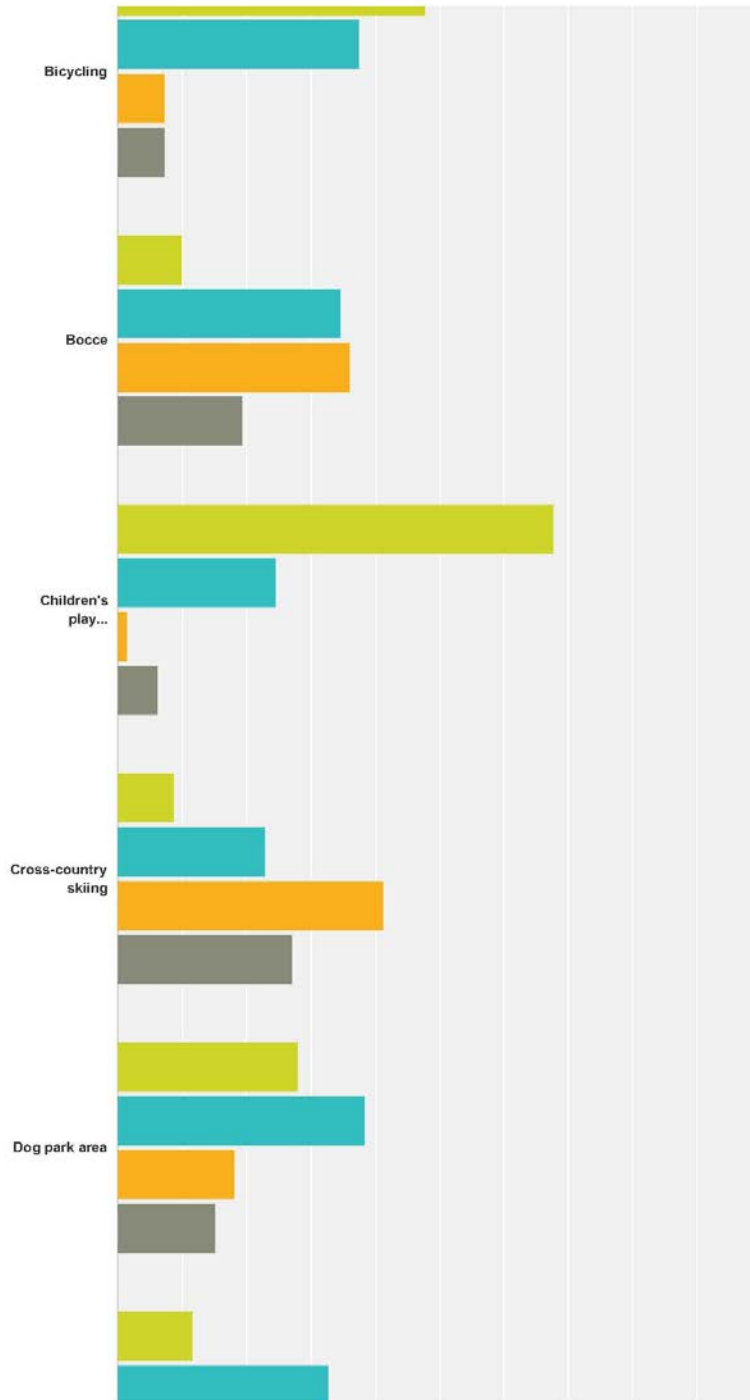
Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

Q6 If the Township proceeds with development of the 56 acre Mount Rose Avenue property, how important is it to provide the following activities in the park? Choose one response for each.

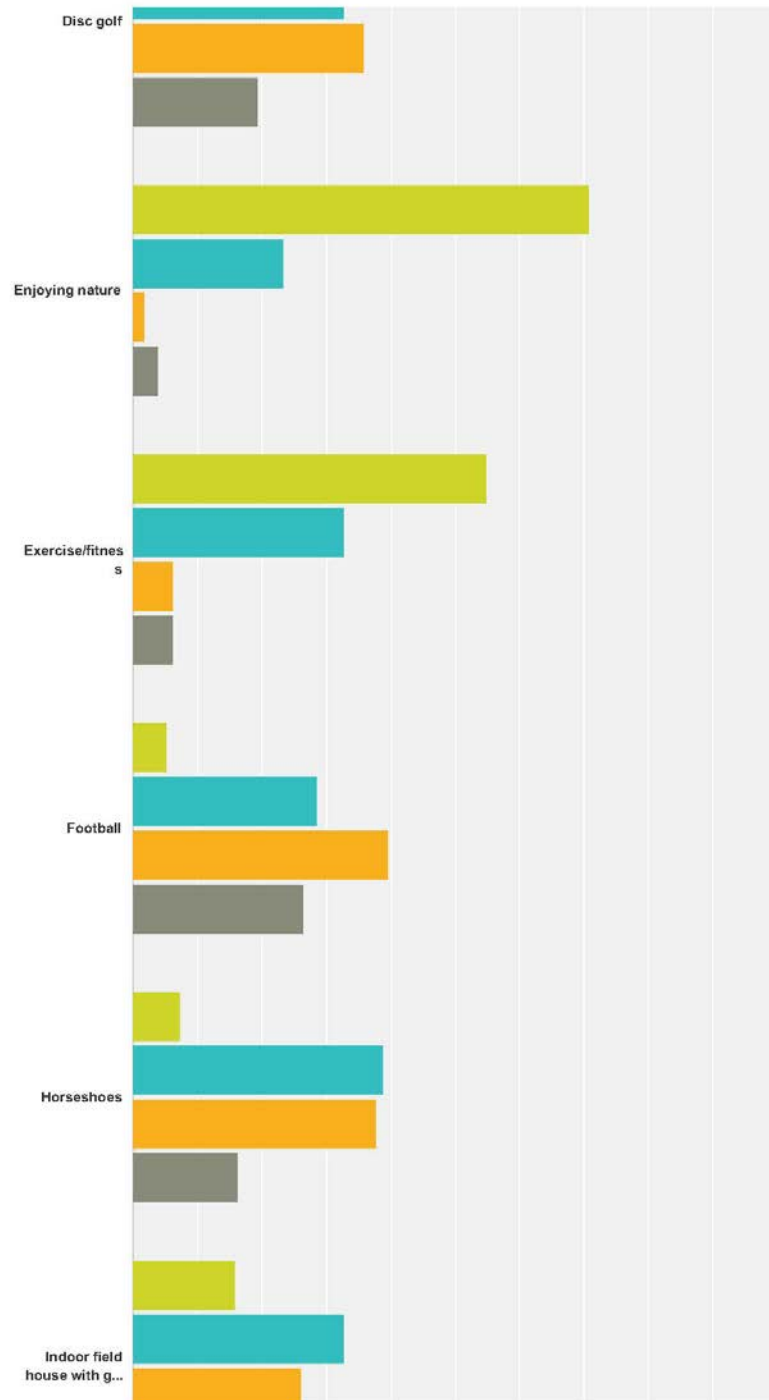
Answered: 215 Skipped: 45



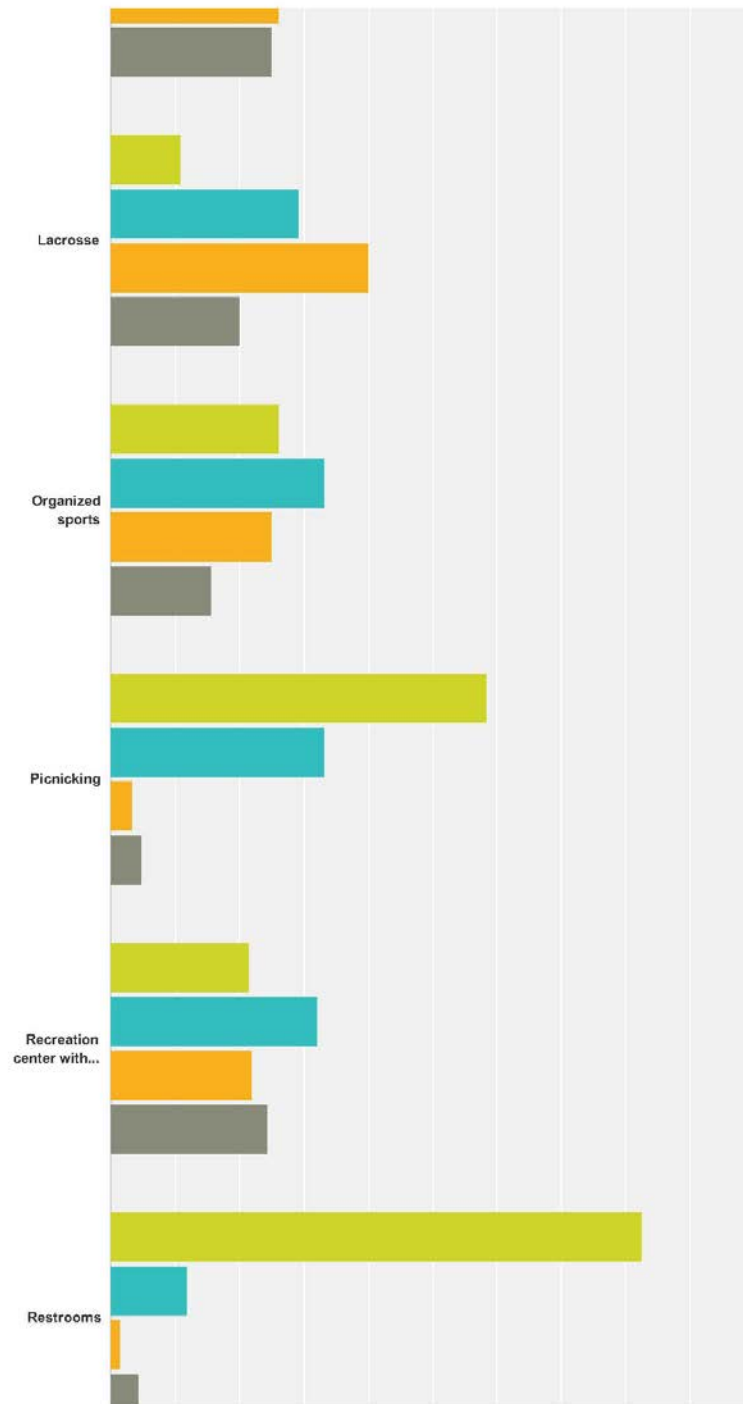
Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey



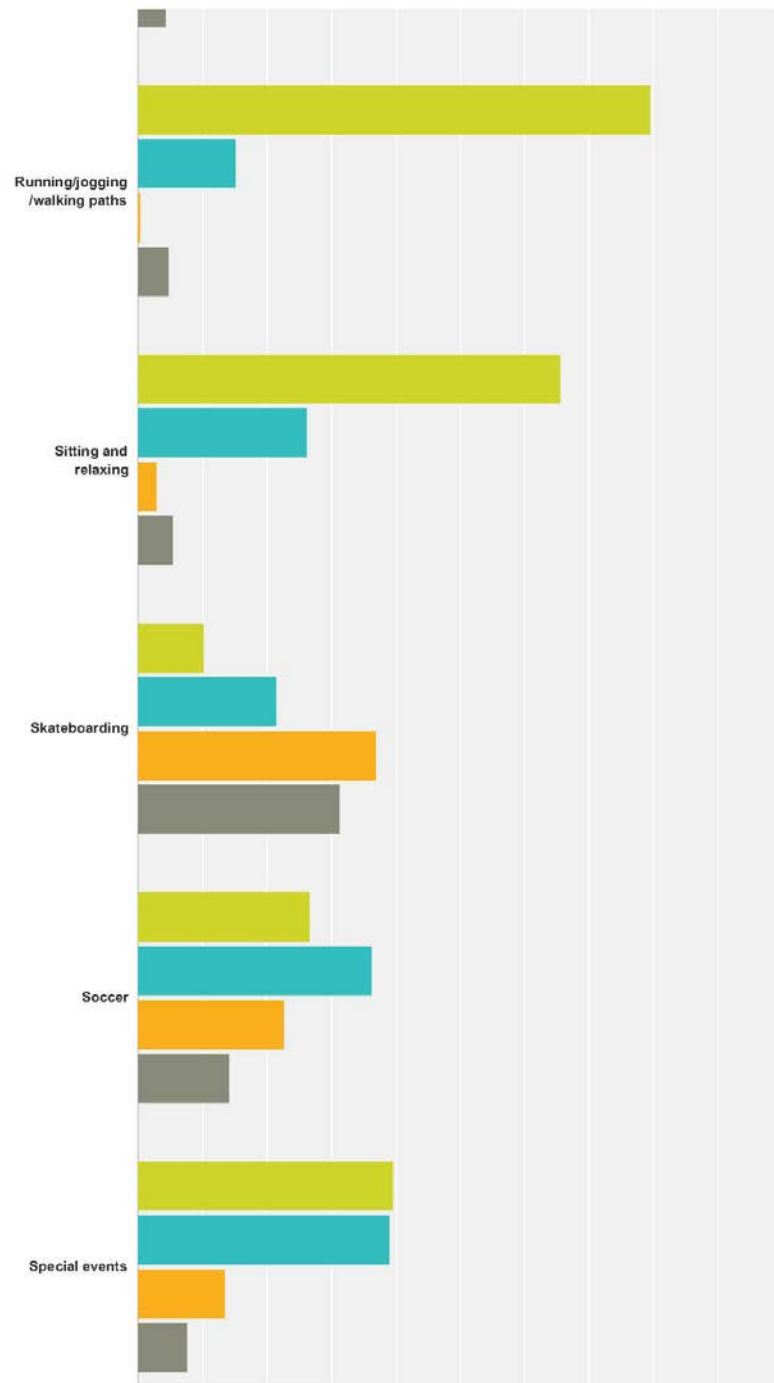
Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey



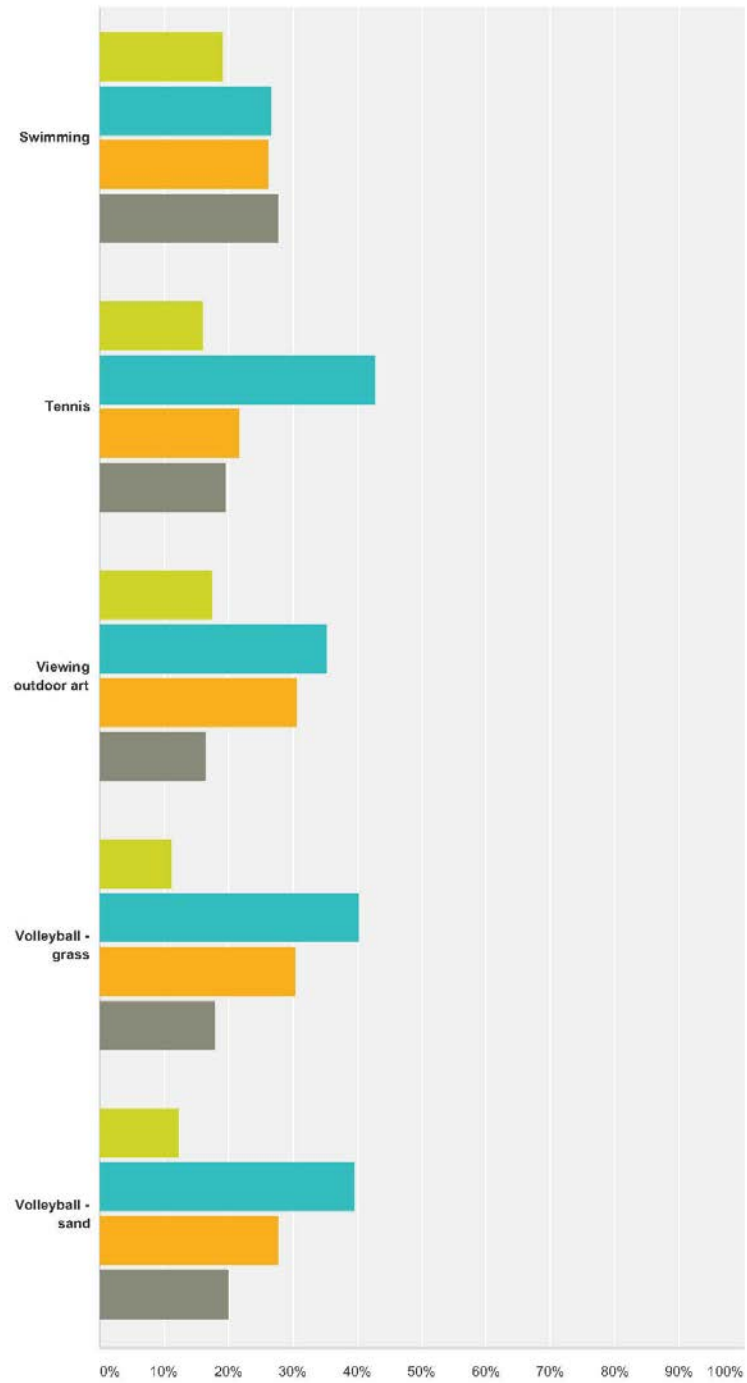
Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey



Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey



Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey



Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

■ Very Important
 ■ Somewhat Important
 ■ Not Important
 ■ Not Needed

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Not Needed	Total
Amphitheater/band shell	22.44% 46	37.56% 77	25.37% 52	14.63% 30	205
Baseball - youth	27.78% 55	35.35% 70	22.22% 44	14.65% 29	198
Baseball - adult	11.46% 22	34.90% 67	33.85% 65	19.79% 38	192
Basketball	25.13% 50	47.24% 94	13.57% 27	14.07% 28	199
Bicycling	47.83% 99	37.68% 78	7.25% 15	7.25% 15	207
Bocce	9.95% 19	34.55% 66	36.13% 69	19.37% 37	191
Children's play equipment/areas	67.63% 140	24.64% 51	1.45% 3	6.28% 13	207
Cross-country skiing	8.67% 17	22.96% 45	41.33% 81	27.04% 53	196
Dog park area	28.08% 57	38.42% 78	18.23% 37	15.27% 31	203
Disc golf	11.79% 23	32.82% 64	35.90% 70	19.49% 38	195
Enjoying nature	70.87% 146	23.30% 48	1.94% 4	3.88% 8	206
Exercise/fitness	54.81% 114	32.69% 68	6.25% 13	6.25% 13	208
Football	5.29% 10	28.57% 54	39.68% 75	26.46% 50	189
Horseshoes	7.33% 14	38.74% 74	37.70% 72	16.23% 31	191
Indoor field house with game fields and courts	15.90% 31	32.82% 64	26.15% 51	25.13% 49	195
Lacrosse	10.77% 21	29.23% 57	40.00% 78	20.00% 39	195
Organized sports	26.13% 52	33.17% 66	25.13% 50	15.58% 31	199
Picnicking	58.54% 120	33.17% 68	3.41% 7	4.88% 10	205
Recreation center with gymnasium, class rooms	21.43% 42	32.14% 63	21.94% 43	24.49% 48	196
Restrooms	82.38% 173	11.90% 25	1.43% 3	4.29% 9	210
Running/jogging/walking paths	79.52% 167	15.24% 32	0.48% 1	4.76% 10	210
Sitting and relaxing	65.53% 135	26.21% 54	2.91% 6	5.34% 11	206

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

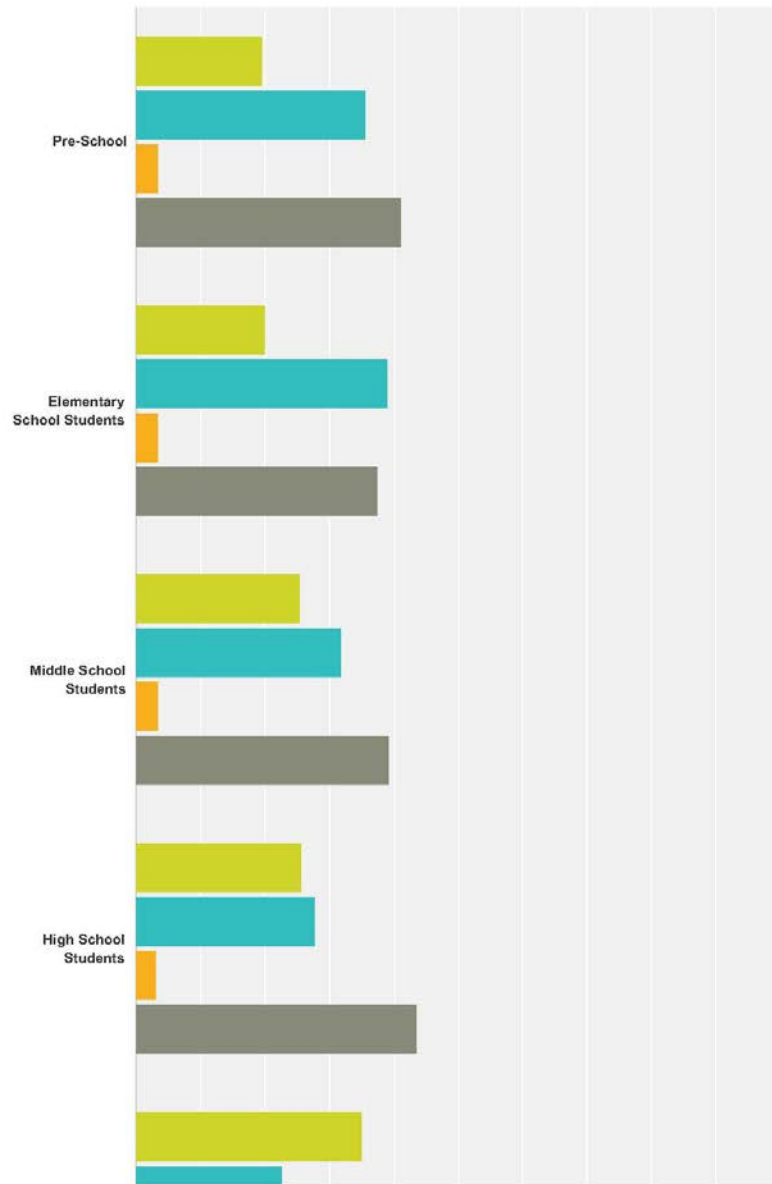
Skateboarding	10.26% 20	21.54% 42	36.92% 72	31.28% 61	195
Soccer	26.77% 53	36.36% 72	22.73% 45	14.14% 28	198
Special events	39.58% 76	39.06% 75	13.54% 26	7.81% 15	192
Swimming	19.19% 38	26.77% 53	26.26% 52	27.78% 55	198
Tennis	15.98% 31	42.78% 83	21.65% 42	19.59% 38	194
Viewing outdoor art	17.44% 34	35.38% 69	30.77% 60	16.41% 32	195
Volleyball - grass	11.34% 22	40.21% 78	30.41% 59	18.04% 35	194
Volleyball - sand	12.37% 24	39.69% 77	27.84% 54	20.10% 39	194

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	It would be a great idea to have a township pool that township residents could join. Allowing for a splash park area like Red Lion has for the little kids! Promoting sports is a great idea too but I think there are plenty of places in York where you can play football or out door basketball and tennis, etc. It would be nice if we could offer something new and different to the county parks rather than the same stuff all the time. A dog park would be great. Dallastown has a small acre area fenced off which is perfect. Doesn't have to be a big huge area. It would be great if some sort of artistic things were incorporated too. Fundraisers could be held to help accomplish a lot of this!	10/29/2015 12:14 PM
2	A creative playground	9/27/2015 9:44 PM
3	Let it grow and have the natural beauty thrive!	9/3/2015 7:48 AM
4	additional facilities are not needed and, I believe, would get minimal use. There are so many other options already,	9/1/2015 6:50 PM
5	Climbing gym	8/19/2015 9:17 PM
6	Use of stream and ponds to experience nature.	8/19/2015 8:40 PM
7	Obstacle course, swing set	8/15/2015 12:38 PM
8	a real pool would be awesome and Dog park but you would have to keep them away from each other. Contamination would be a problem.	8/13/2015 5:00 PM
9	Township building (See Springfield or West Manchester as models)	7/16/2015 3:47 PM
10	Pickleball courts	7/10/2015 12:48 AM
11	best to start out simple and let it evolve	7/8/2015 8:38 PM
12	not needed. people can join and pay for activities they like	7/8/2015 5:27 PM
13	Birdwatching area for both winter and summer	7/7/2015 6:32 PM
14	Air rifle/air pistol/archery; community gardening;	7/7/2015 5:04 PM
15	Tennis! Badminton court	7/7/2015 3:43 PM
16	It's important not to duplicate services offered at other parks (i.e. dog park, amphitheater, skateboarding, swimming), especially those which are expensive to maintain.	7/7/2015 3:27 PM
17	chipping and putting golf area	7/7/2015 3:05 PM
18	OUTDOOR HOCKEY RINK	7/7/2015 3:03 PM
19	There are quite a number of sports facilities elsewhere in the nearby area. I would rather see the development of more casual areas.	7/7/2015 2:55 PM
20	Outdoor Pool and Indoor Tennis would be amazing	7/7/2015 2:51 PM
21	A place for indoor and outdoor sports tournaments or community walk fundraiser	6/17/2015 8:27 AM

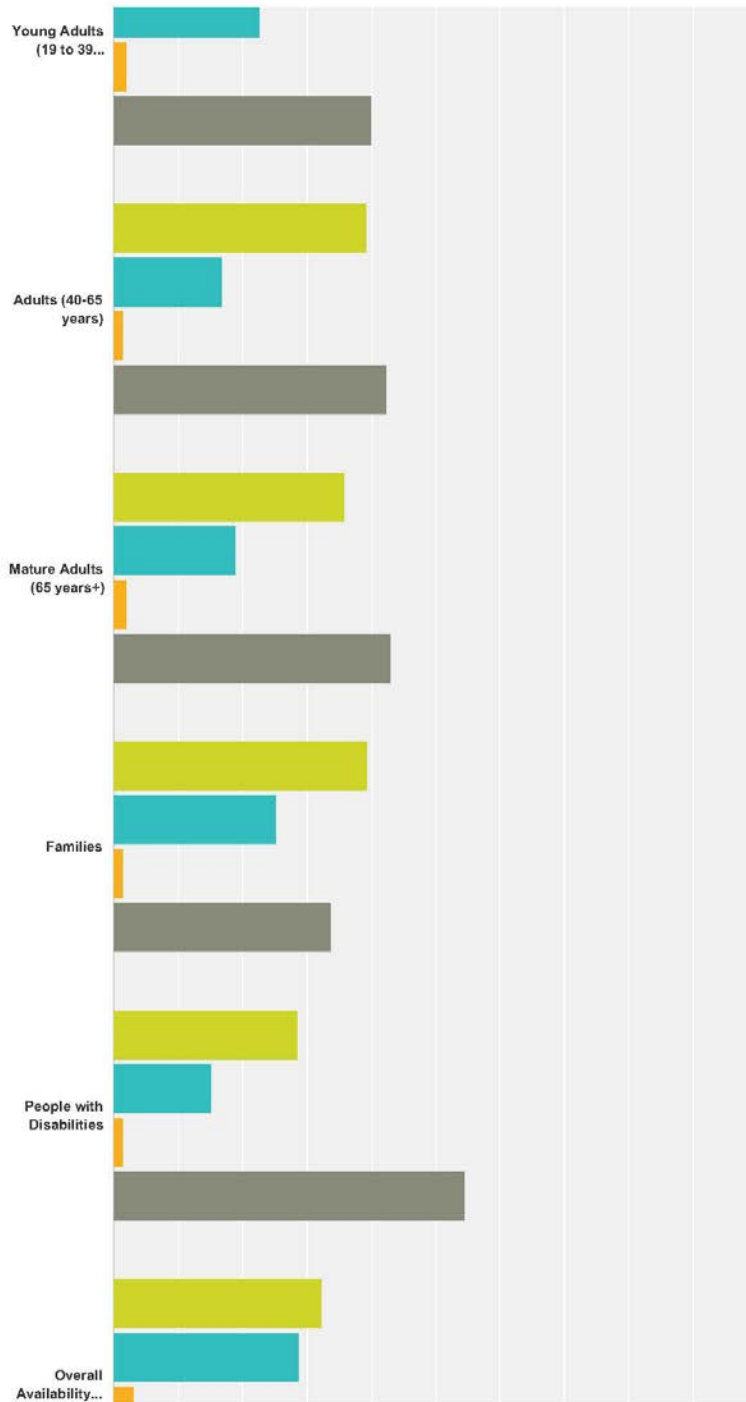
Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

Q7 How would you rate the availability of recreation programs in Spring Garden Township for the listed groups? Choose one response for each.

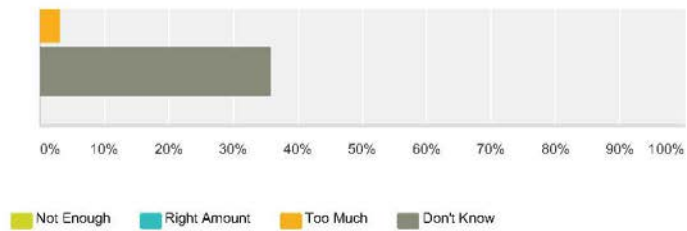
Answered: 206 Skipped: 54



Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey



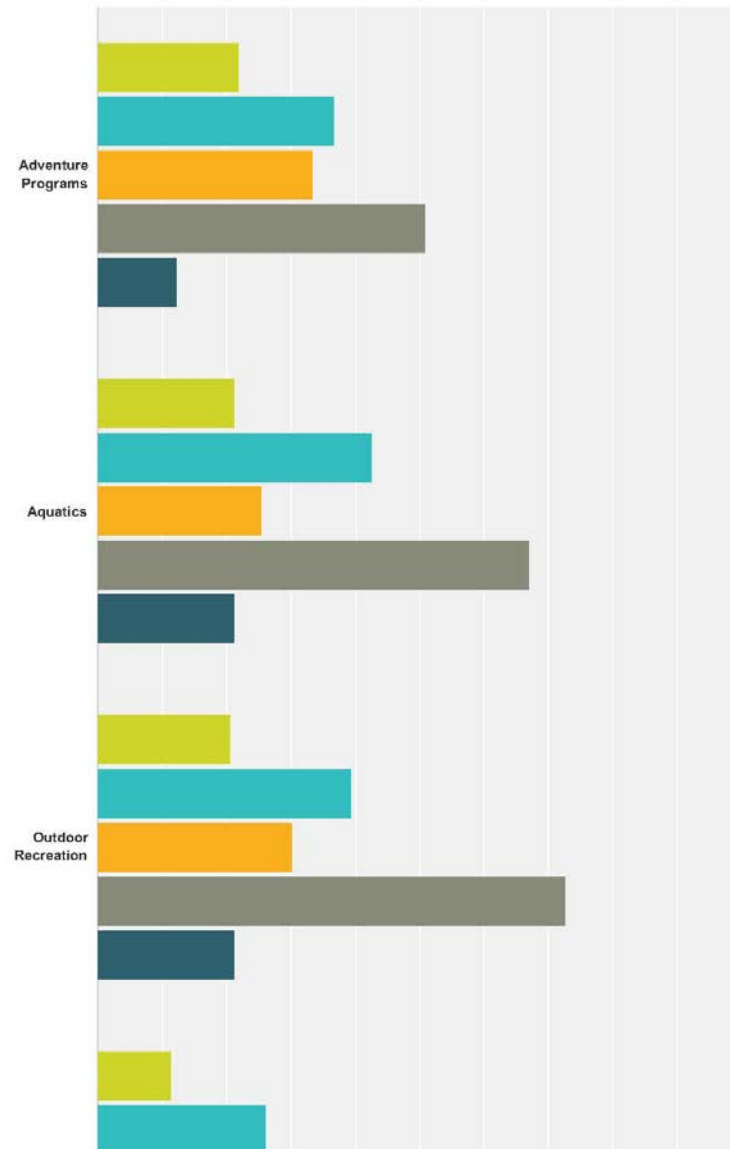
Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey



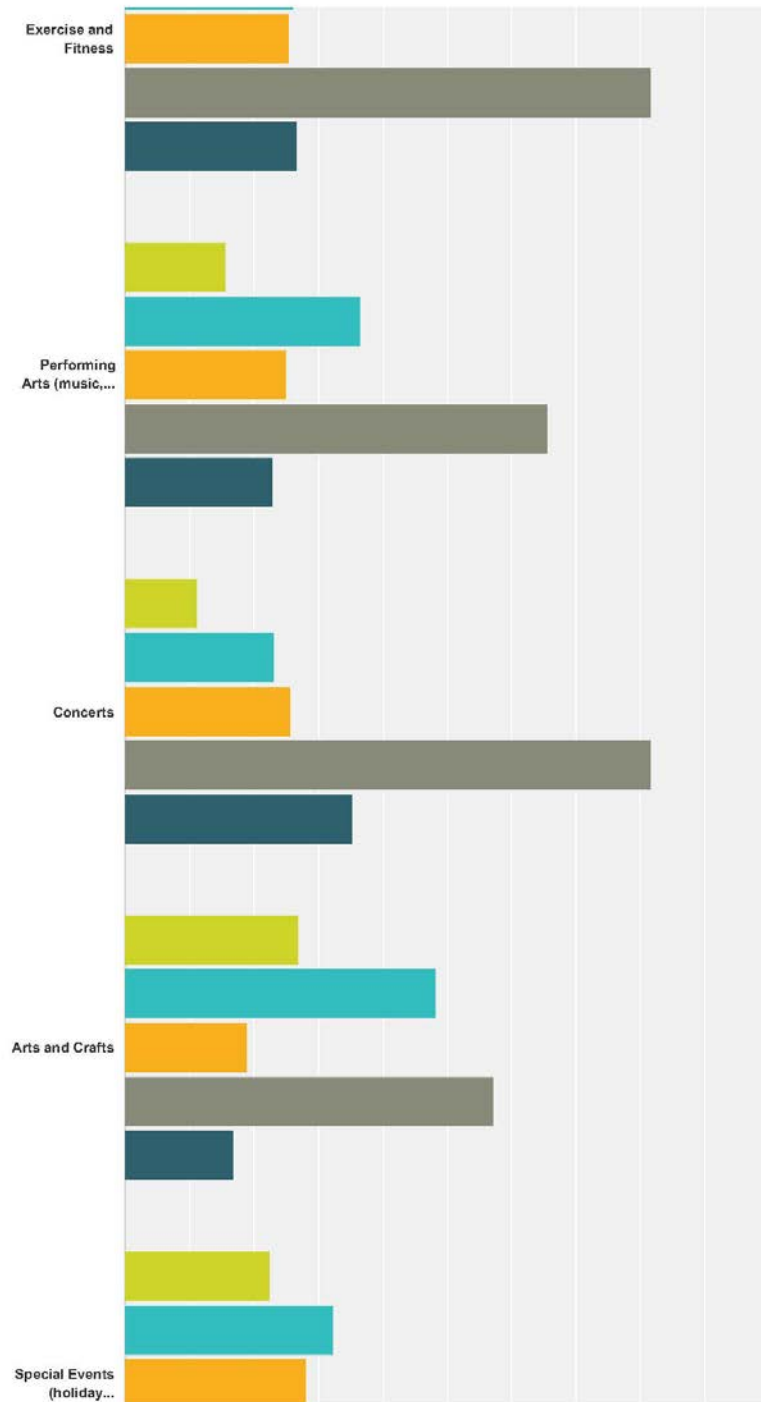
	Not Enough	Right Amount	Too Much	Don't Know	Total
Pre-School	19.60% 39	35.68% 71	3.52% 7	41.21% 82	199
Elementary School Students	20.00% 40	39.00% 78	3.50% 7	37.50% 75	200
Middle School Students	25.37% 51	31.84% 64	3.48% 7	39.30% 79	201
High School Students	25.64% 50	27.69% 54	3.08% 6	43.59% 85	195
Young Adults (19 to 39 years)	35.03% 69	22.84% 45	2.03% 4	40.10% 79	197
Adults (40-65 years)	39.30% 79	16.92% 34	1.49% 3	42.29% 85	201
Mature Adults (65 years+)	36.00% 72	19.00% 38	2.00% 4	43.00% 86	200
Families	39.39% 78	25.25% 50	1.52% 3	33.84% 67	198
People with Disabilities	28.57% 56	15.31% 30	1.53% 3	54.59% 107	196
Overall Availability of Programs	32.32% 64	28.79% 57	3.03% 6	35.86% 71	198

Q8 The following is a list of recreation activity categories. Check for each category by age group if members of your household would like to participate in the listed activity.

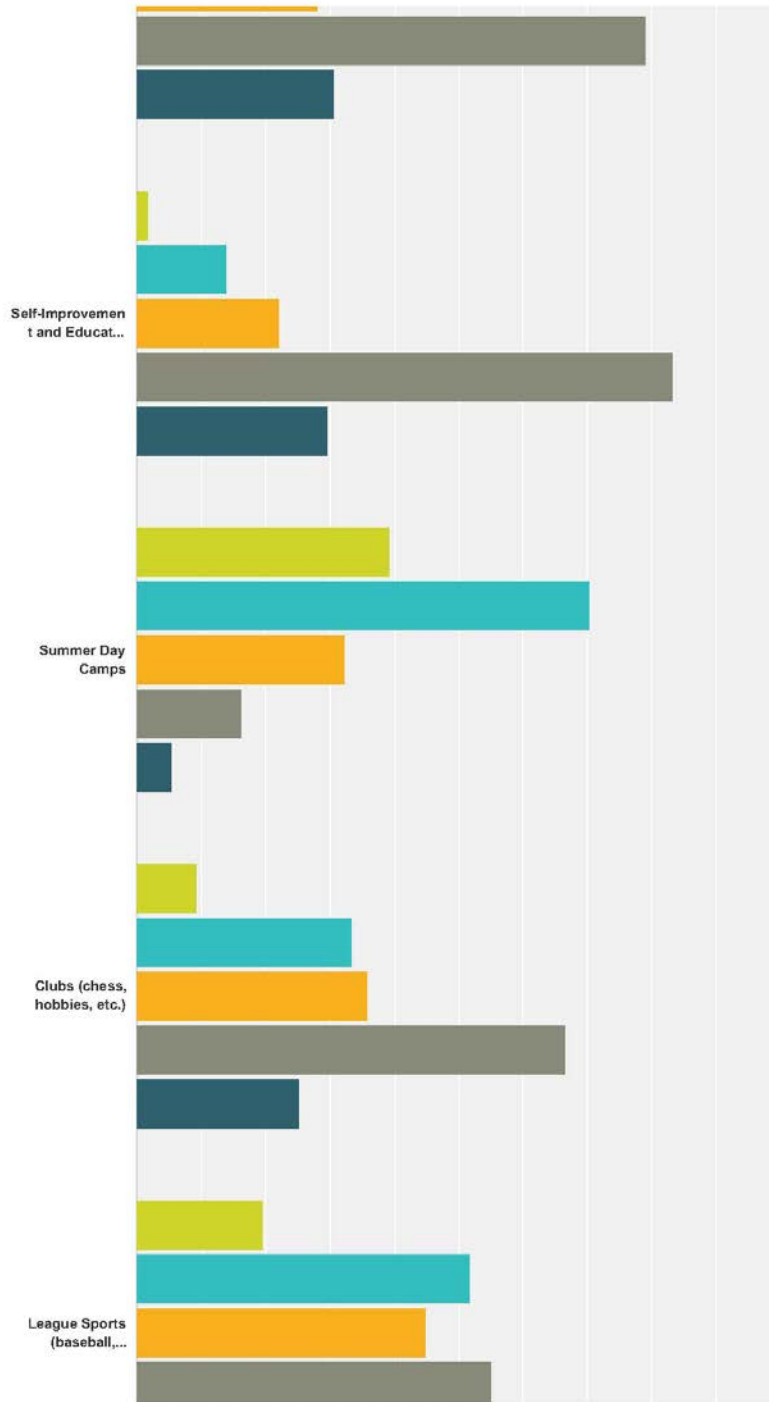
Answered: 187 Skipped: 73



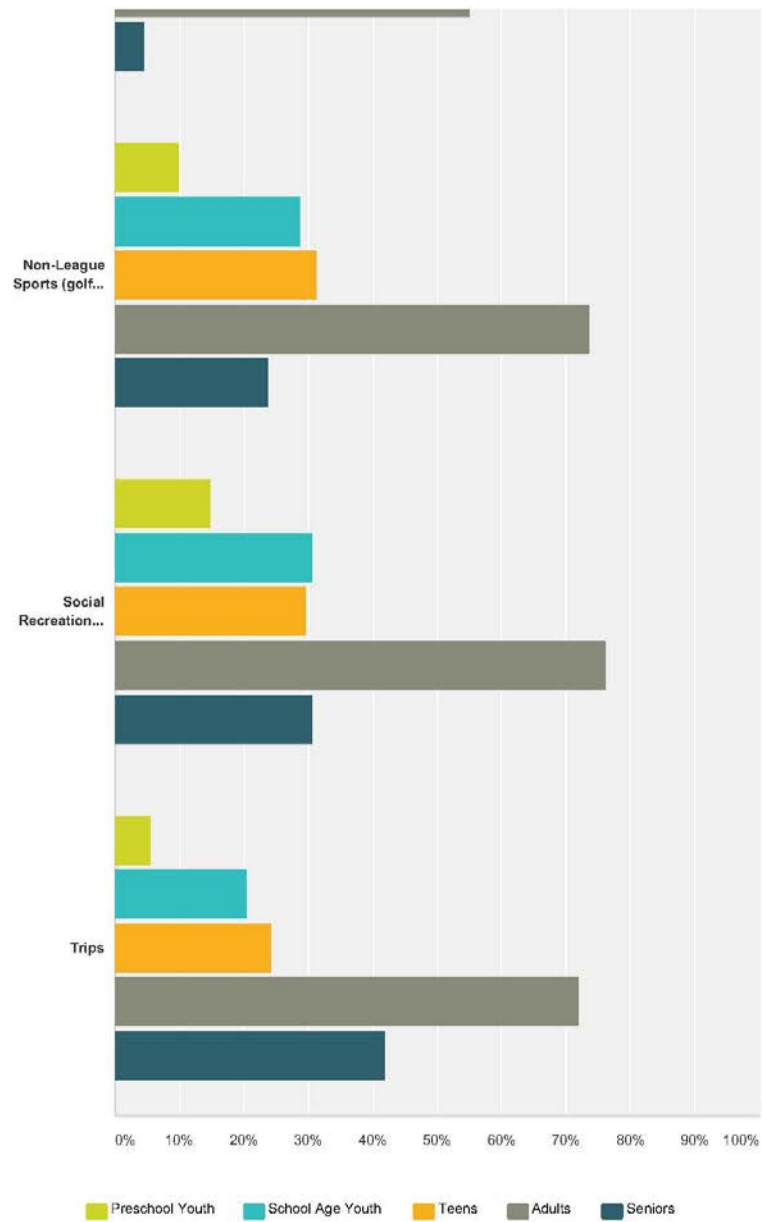
Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey



Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey



Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey



	Preschool Youth	School Age Youth	Teens	Adults	Seniors	Total Respondents
Adventure Programs	21.93% 25	36.84% 42	33.33% 38	50.88% 58	12.28% 14	114

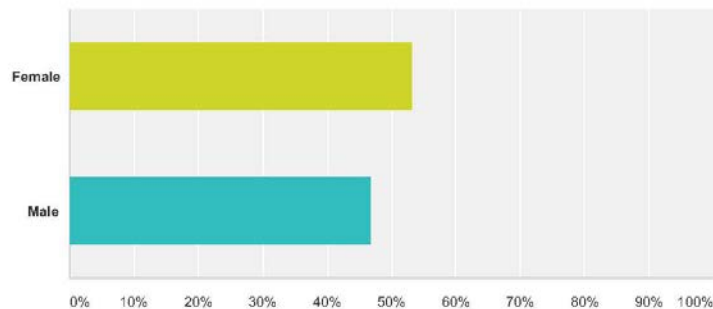
Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

Aquatics	21.28%	42.55%	25.53%	67.02%	21.28%	94
	20	40	24	63	20	
Outdoor Recreation	20.61%	39.39%	30.30%	72.73%	21.21%	165
	34	65	50	120	35	
Exercise and Fitness	11.46%	26.11%	25.48%	81.53%	26.75%	157
	18	41	40	128	42	
Performing Arts (music, dance, drama)	15.63%	36.46%	25.00%	65.63%	22.92%	96
	15	35	24	63	22	
Concerts	11.20%	23.20%	25.60%	81.60%	35.20%	125
	14	29	32	102	44	
Arts and Crafts	26.97%	48.31%	19.10%	57.30%	16.85%	89
	24	43	17	51	15	
Special Events (holiday events, fairs, contests, etc.)	22.58%	32.26%	28.23%	79.03%	30.65%	124
	28	40	35	98	38	
Self-Improvement and Education Classes	1.85%	13.89%	22.22%	83.33%	29.63%	108
	2	15	24	90	32	
Summer Day Camps	39.19%	70.27%	32.43%	16.22%	5.41%	74
	29	52	24	12	4	
Clubs (chess, hobbies, etc.)	9.33%	33.33%	36.00%	66.67%	25.33%	75
	7	25	27	50	19	
League Sports (baseball, basketball, soccer, etc.)	19.54%	51.72%	44.83%	55.17%	4.60%	87
	17	45	39	48	4	
Non-League Sports (golf, tennis, etc.)	10.00%	28.75%	31.25%	73.75%	23.75%	80
	8	23	25	59	19	
Social Recreation (cards, parties, picnics, dances, etc.)	14.77%	30.68%	29.55%	76.14%	30.68%	88
	13	27	26	67	27	
Trips	5.61%	20.56%	24.30%	71.96%	42.06%	107
	6	22	26	77	45	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Many of the program's you are suggesting are covered by many org. in community.	7/9/2015 4:51 PM
2	triathlon club	7/9/2015 10:07 AM
3	I love all kinds of activities. I feel we have plenty available already.	7/8/2015 5:55 PM
4	please stop	7/8/2015 5:27 PM
5	community garden	7/8/2015 12:31 PM
6	More bus trips to see Broadway shows, etc	6/16/2015 7:18 PM

Q9 What is your gender?

Answered: 207 Skipped: 53

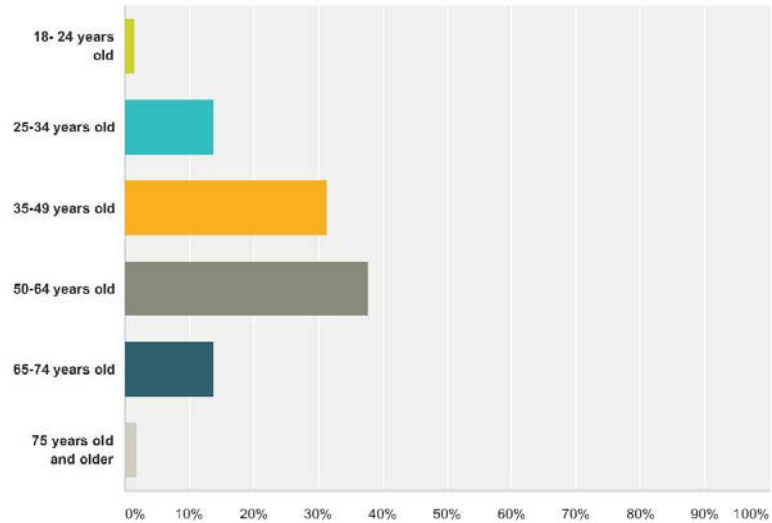


Answer Choices	Responses
Female	53.14% 110
Male	46.86% 97
Total	207

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

Q10 What is your age group?

Answered: 204 Skipped: 56

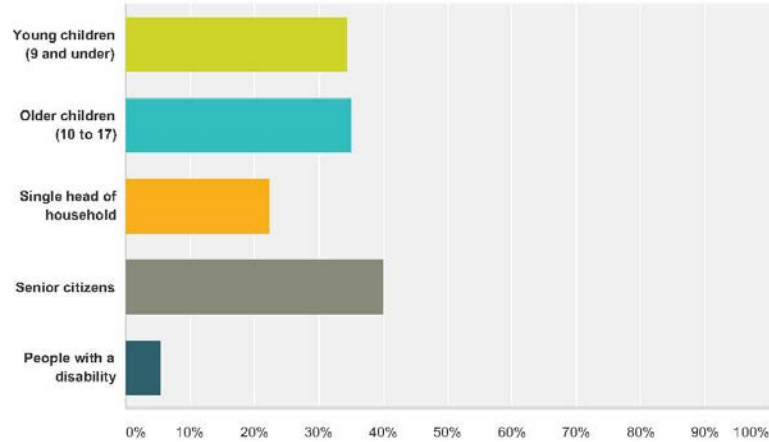


Answer Choices	Responses
18- 24 years old	1.47% 3
25-34 years old	13.73% 28
35-49 years old	31.37% 64
50-64 years old	37.75% 77
65-74 years old	13.73% 28
75 years old and older	1.96% 4
Total	204

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

Q11 Are any of the following represented in your household? Select all that apply.

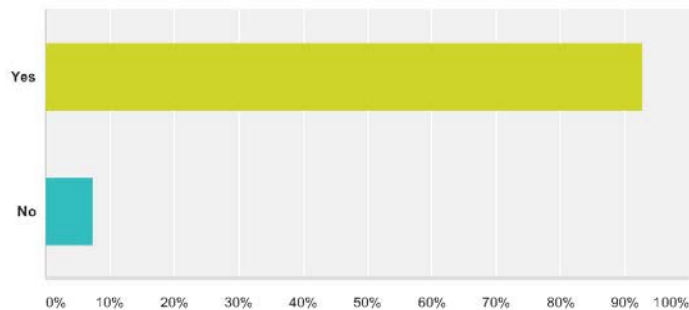
Answered: 165 Skipped: 95



Answer Choices	Responses
Young children (9 and under)	34.55% 57
Older children (10 to 17)	35.15% 58
Single head of household	22.42% 37
Senior citizens	40.00% 66
People with a disability	5.45% 9
Total Respondents: 165	

Q12 Do you live in Spring Garden Township?

Answered: 203 Skipped: 57



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	92.61% 188
No	7.39% 15
Total	203

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

Q13 Additional comments.

Answered: 59 Skipped: 201

#	Responses	Date
1	Quit wasting our tax money on park programs that don't benefit our township needs. Quit squandering money to develop new park programs when the parks we already do have are nothing but a nuisance. People who live here have private yards that they enjoy and where they feel safe. Nobody wants to go to a crummy park here where they have to stress about having their bike/ball stolen, or worse	11/29/2015 9:36 PM
2	Wow, you guys have a pretty cool project ahead! I liked some of the ideas suggested and think you could make a cool destination area to offer additional services not available at Springettsbury's parks. Good luck, I'm excited to see what is created.	10/29/2015 9:39 AM
3	Many of the facilities are antiquated and need modernization	10/10/2015 6:55 AM
4	I support the park develop spanning many years so tax burden is not huge.	9/27/2015 9:49 PM
5	There are many programs available in area and these would be duplicated if monies were allocated for more physical facilities on Mount Rose land. Location itself appears to have limitations as to accessibility via bicycle /walking. Heavy traffic is considerable now.	9/7/2015 2:39 PM
6	Make this township beautiful	9/6/2015 7:29 AM
7	Please bring up the fact that although we have state parks dedicated to hiking trails, we could have a township park that is closer, less environmentally challenging for people with disabilities or senior citizens, and also provides plants and animals a safe home from what previously had been their luxury homes, but since been destroyed by construction.	9/3/2015 7:52 AM
8	.	8/19/2015 9:57 PM
9	The Mt. Rose property has the potential to be a great outdoor asset. Rather than turning it into a typical team sports facility, we should embrace nature and open space for recreation. The property has water with the creek and ponds. There is only so much waterfront property in this world. A properly planned park could set Spring Garden township apart from our surroundings.	8/19/2015 8:49 PM
10	On one of the questions I answered not to develop the land. I didn't realize you meant for the park, I thought you meant for housing. I'm all for making it a park!	8/19/2015 11:59 AM
11	Bulletin boards for groups to post dates for events that aren't necessarily "organized" or sanctioned by the township. E.g. groups that meet at the park once a week/month to play/do basketball/frisbee/bicycling/running/whatever and are seeking participants.	8/15/2015 12:51 PM
12	I did not fill this in before so here goes. If you build a gym. Please please do not have a concrete floor for playing sports. Volleyball players jump and dive. Concrete is murder!!!! Also Volleyball is a out of bounds sport meaning you need roooooom between courts and around courts. Bad example is the downtown YMCA. Good example is Dallastown Gym. Thanks	8/13/2015 5:08 PM
13	Thank you	8/13/2015 5:02 PM
14	We just moved here in March 2015.	8/4/2015 1:52 PM
15	thanks again for your summer program	8/3/2015 10:42 AM
16	Multi purpose building is the most important	7/23/2015 8:24 AM
17	this township can't afford to build a complex like Springettsbury without taxing us to death.This will turn into a monumental burden when you uncover the environmental contamination the dye works unloaded there over the years and you will spend a fortune on consulting and cleanup fees. I would like to see you put your efforts into doing something about all the homes that are being bought up by "cash 4 houses" and being turned into rentals and driving down the values of properties. Too many areas are starting to look like city properties	7/21/2015 9:31 PM
18	Other than the water company property, and York College, we have to drive to available parks from Farquhar Estates.	7/16/2015 3:54 PM
19	I do work here and have a business in the township.	7/10/2015 8:29 AM
20	Has the Township worked with the surrounding Municipality's to share parks and facilities.	7/9/2015 4:55 PM

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

21	Taxes in this township are already way too high. Many of us are unable to retire because of the high taxes. We don't need more programs. We need lower taxes	7/9/2015 2:59 PM
22	As residents, it is important to keep our local taxes where they are. I would support this initiative if the township was working with local businesses for creative partnerships in advertising, funding, sponsorships, etc. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem that the township has pursued this and any increase in taxes to support additional recreational programs, parks and recreation infrastructure, etc. is unacceptable in our household. As parents, we feel it is our personal responsibility to enjoy these activities as a family. Please contact me if I can further assist. Rob Teague 717-854-4321	7/9/2015 2:39 PM
23	Thanks for asking!	7/9/2015 12:13 PM
24	Parks need to be more pet friendly	7/9/2015 7:55 AM
25	Develop the complex as a comprehensive facility, not for recreation exclusively.	7/8/2015 9:41 PM
26	I think to give this survey credibility a code on a bill should be submitted so that you know that each survey is coming from a specific household. You could get 100 replies by a land development company. It would keep the survey honest. Just my thoughts. It would be nice to have activities for teenagers and young adults; York County is severely lacking in such.	7/8/2015 8:44 PM
27	If rec facilities are truly needed, the private sector will see the need and make it happen. No one wants higher taxes to pay for this.	7/8/2015 5:57 PM
28	We are constantly fighting the government to stop taking our hard-earned money. The twp should be providing services like maintenance of infrastructure not recreation	7/8/2015 5:29 PM
29	I'd love to see a concert series and community fun day like Springettsbury Township offers. I'd also love to see some inexpensive programs for adults -- a volleyball league, a science/technology class, etc.	7/8/2015 4:31 PM
30	Spring Garden should continue to provide park and recreation facilities, but should not provide programming or run sports leagues.	7/8/2015 3:57 PM
31	community pool would be nice but my concern with the dye property is traffic in the area	7/8/2015 2:57 PM
32	Thank you for soliciting feedback, and please don't forget about any impact on Mt. Rose traffic!	7/8/2015 12:16 PM
33	It would be nice to have access to the park as it is now. Why do we have to sneak in?	7/8/2015 10:00 AM
34	The Columbia River Park has some nice ideas. Here is a link to my facebook photo album of the place. https://www.facebook.com/cgibsonsmith/media_set?set=a.1127011617325304.1073741853.100000494303322&type=3	7/8/2015 8:53 AM
35	Don't waste tax dollars on expanding recreation	7/8/2015 12:50 AM
36	Thank you for the survey. We thought the Mt. Rose New Era Dye land idea was abandoned.	7/7/2015 11:04 PM
37	Don't feel that township should be involved with a sports complex. Facilities would sit idle a great amount of the time. Competes with private business. Will add to our tax base (construction, maintenance, added personnel) with no visible benefits. No believable response about polluted site. Traffic congestion in area would increase. Economy not at a good point to do this. Undesirable location relative to township residents. Belief that facility would be "taken over" by non-township residents.	7/7/2015 10:45 PM
38	Overall, I commend the township on the cleanliness in the parks that I have seen. Just went past Windsor Park recently and was impressed with the good looking park there.	7/7/2015 5:12 PM
39	Are your existing parks filled to overflowing that they would not accommodate some of the activities that have been proposed? Do you really need to be turned down again for trying to move the Township Home to the DYE Land?	7/7/2015 4:38 PM
40	more camping sites	7/7/2015 4:25 PM
41	The township should not compete with local businesses or school districts. The best use of the 56-acre tract would be to sell it for commercial development to expand our tax base rather than create another assault on local taxpayers, the vast majority of whom never use these facilities.	7/7/2015 3:56 PM
42	Been here for 20 years and only know of the ball field by Elmwood mansion. if we had 56 acres to bike and walk and play tennis, that'd be grand.	7/7/2015 3:47 PM
43	While I think it important to develop this property for residents, it is also important to not overdevelop the land. As a township, what we lack most is open space. This land is such a gift to the township residents. Please allow us access but please also preserve it as much as possible.	7/7/2015 3:33 PM
44	Only concerns with "developing" Dye property are adding additional traffic congestion to an existing problem. Interstate 83 is just that, an interstate. You can expect more potential problems vs a local road park.	7/7/2015 3:12 PM

Spring Garden Township Parks & Recreation Survey

45	The township taxpayer is already over-burdened with school taxes and other tax liabilities. Retired people on fixed income cannot afford additional tax burdens. If the township continues to pursue the folly of a new rec center seniors should be exempt from the associated tax burden and be responsible on a "pay as you go basis".	7/7/2015 3:10 PM
46	Thank you for all you do.	7/7/2015 3:06 PM
47	Our taxes are already too high and more facilities should not be developed.	7/7/2015 3:04 PM
48	Thanks for seeking input. I'm glad to be involved in future discussions and planning. Mike Brandt: 840 Clearmount Road (717) 747-1303 mbrandt24@gmail.com	7/7/2015 2:58 PM
49	Again, please do commercialize this property by making grass fields, etc. that require a lot of maintenance. Please develop natural spaces with native plants.	7/7/2015 2:56 PM
50	Indoor tennis would be fantastic! There is NOWHERE for that except Wisehaven and they charge a \$\$\$\$ for courts. Outdoor pool that township runs would be phenomenal too! Again, you either have to join a country club or go to Wisehaven. In Pittsburgh area, so many townships have their own pools!	7/7/2015 2:54 PM
51	Would love an incredible park in this township. Would add to the property value of homes within the township	7/7/2015 2:53 PM
52	The development of Mt. Rose complex is long overdue. To see what is in surrounding townships for the youth facilities and adult outdoor facilities, Spring Garden is way behind.	7/7/2015 2:53 PM
53	Overall excellent recreation program.	7/6/2015 4:59 PM
54	Would love to see a park with a larger play equipment area for kids. I don't have a handicap child but trying to think of others who do. I love love to see a park with a ramp that a handicap child could be pushed on or the handicap swings. My example of a park like this would be Cousler Park.	6/27/2015 7:58 AM
55	In our area, having the college nearby, as well as the rail trail, really fills a lot of the gaps that would otherwise exist for activities such as tennis, bike riding, rollerblading, etc. I feel lucky to have access to these areas.	6/17/2015 10:12 AM
56	I personally think the council should look at other youth sports complexes and look at how they not only provide a safe environment for our youth but how revenue increases in the area and how youth job availability increases.	6/17/2015 8:38 AM
57	I would like to see the township provide more recreation to it's residents	6/16/2015 8:09 PM
58	I feel Spring Garden Township's facilities are sadly lagging behind other townships/cities. facilities.	6/16/2015 7:34 PM
59	Though we don't use all the parks and facilities we like what we have access to and participate with.	6/16/2015 4:26 PM

Spring Garden Township

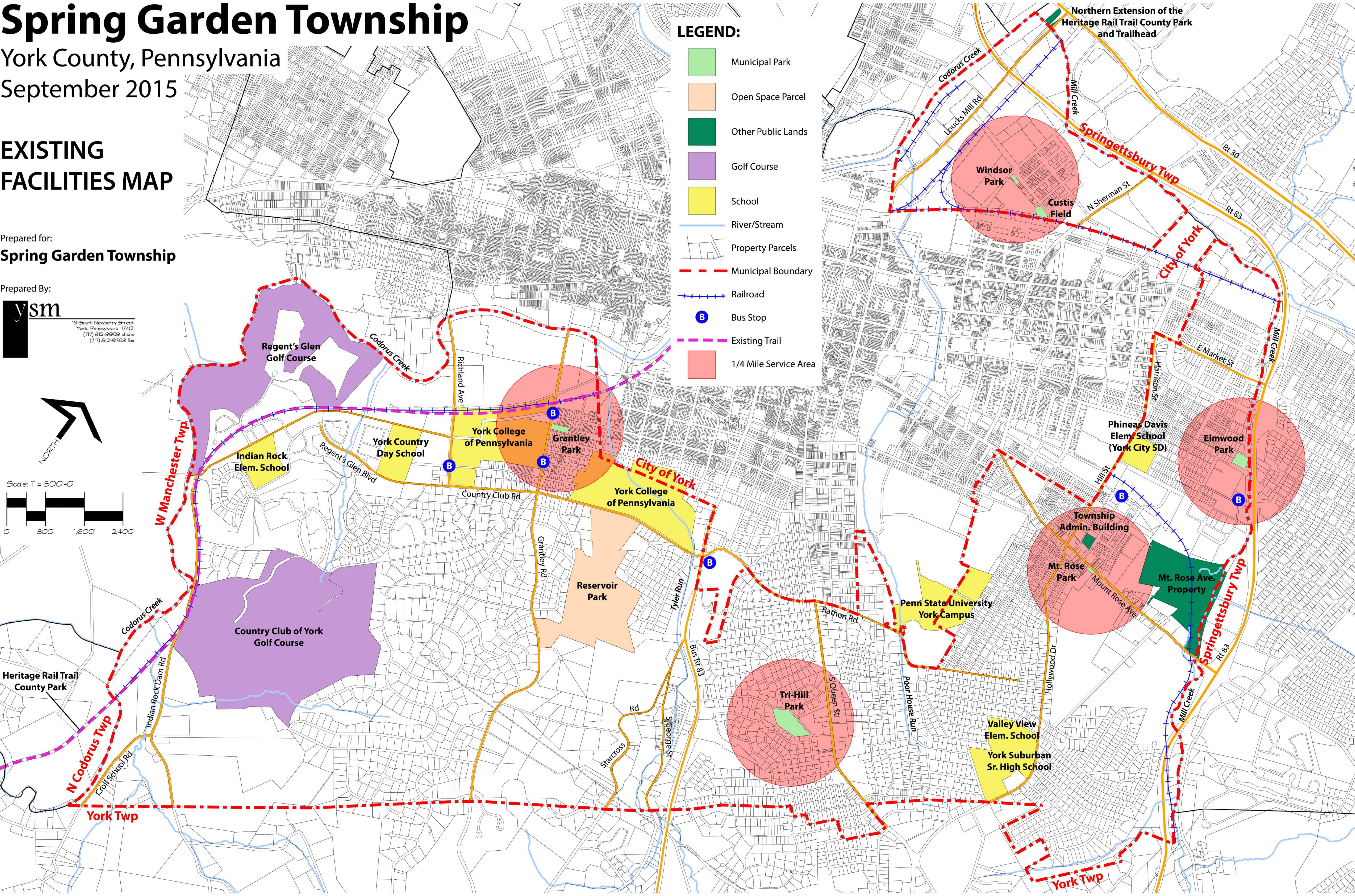
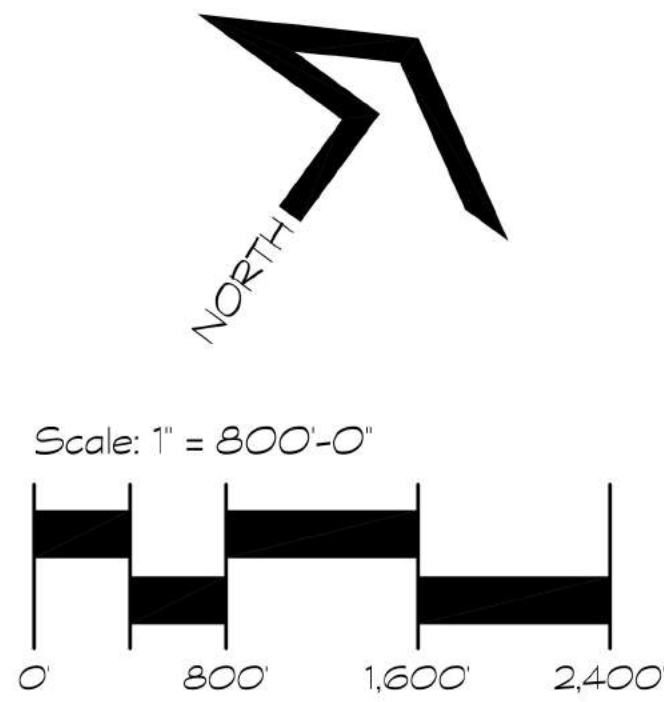
York County, Pennsylvania

September 2015

EXISTING FACILITIES MAP

Prepared for:
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Spring Garden Township

York County, Pennsylvania

September 2015

GREENWAY AND TRAIL MAP

Prepared for:
Spring Garden Township

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