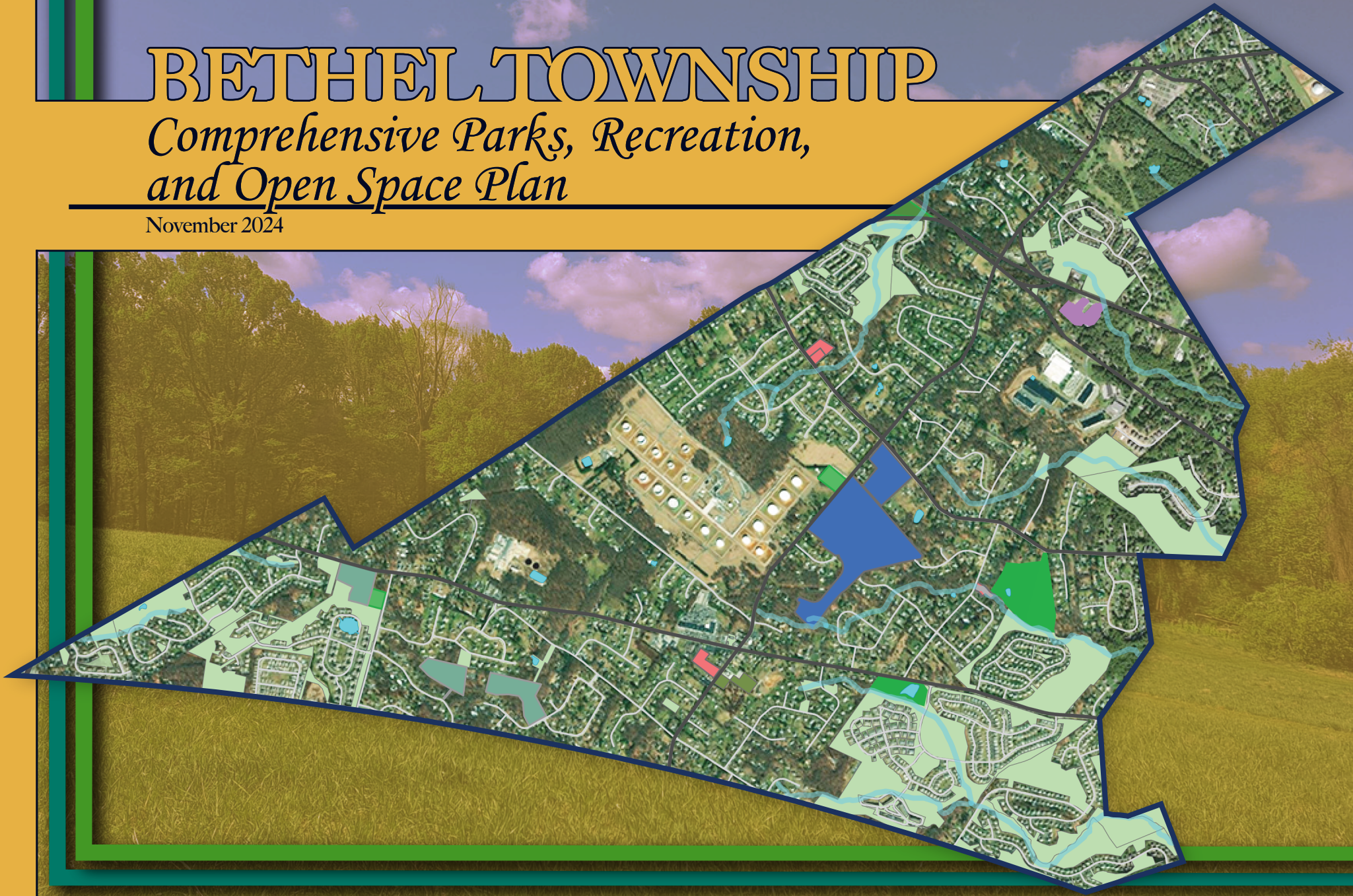


# BETHEL TOWNSHIP

## *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan*

November 2024





**BETHEL**  
**TOWNSHIP**  
*Delaware County, PA*

## **BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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## **PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE**

**WILLIAM ADDISON**                                      **CHUCK DENNIE**  
*Township Manager*    *Township Supervisor, Parks & Recreation Board Member*

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*Planning Commission Member*    *Former Board of Supervisors Vice Chair*

## **PROJECT TEAM**

**SIMONE COLLINS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**  
**ALBERT FEDERICO CONSULTING, LLC.**



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# INTRODUCTION

1





## STUDY PURPOSE

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan will serve as a blueprint for parks, open space and natural resource protection and preservation for the next 10 to 20 years.

The Parks, Recreation and, Open Space Plan: examines greenways, trails and sidewalks and recommends enhancements to this connectivity infrastructure; recommends a methodology for open space preservation and acquisition; makes suggestions for improved park facilities, operations, maintenance, and staffing; and suggests options for potential new recreational programs and activities. This plan also provides an implementation and funding strategy.

Nationwide, park and trail usage has expanded greatly after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic as people sought an escape in outdoor recreation and open space while being quarantined at their homes. Parks act as outlets to connect with nature and reduce mental stress. Moreover, they improve physical wellness and promote healthy lifestyles; reduce time off from work due to health reasons and can help lower health care costs for individuals.

In addition to individual benefits, these facilities provide a variety of community benefits as well. Parks, trails and open space promote a sense of community through events and park usage. They also act as high priority items when families decide in which community to purchase a home as a municipality's park and recreation system is often the physical face, or identity, of the community. They also provide small children and teenagers opportunities to engage in after-school activities and organizations.

Along with these individual and community benefits, parks, trail and open space provide environmental and economic benefits. These benefits can also be quantified to show the value they provide to communities. The report, Return on Environment: The Economic Impact of Protected Open Space in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, released in 2022 and prepared for the Delaware County Planning Department, estimated the economic value created by the open space in Delaware County. The report found that protected open space in the County

reduces costs by avoiding \$14.1 million in expenditures for water supply, water quality, flood mitigation, wildlife habitat protection, air pollution removal and the capture of carbon by trees. In addition, the report found that the activity that occurs in parks and open space results in \$153.4 million in avoided annual medical expenses as people who are active enjoy a range of physical and mental health benefits.

The report also found that \$52 million is spent annually due to protected open space. This spending includes expenses for the management and maintenance of open space, spending for goods produced on preserved farms and tourism-related spending. Recreational activity on open space in the area also creates an estimated 590 jobs which generate about \$20 million in salaries each year. In terms of residential property value, the report found that the total real estate premium credited to living within a half mile of protected open space is \$689 million.

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan was completed in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan Update and Shaffer Plan Design.



# PLAN MISSION STATEMENT

**“ENHANCE THE QUALITY, CONNECTIVITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE TOWNSHIP’S VALUABLE RECREATIONAL AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE DEMANDS FOR RECREATION AND PROGRAMMING AND BENEFIT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.”**



## GOALS

- Engage in an open and transparent exchange of ideas where all ideas are considered and where everyone’s voice can be heard throughout the design process.
- Provide for the recreational needs of all age groups.
- Provide for the recreation needs of residents who are physically or developmentally challenged.
- Protect and enhance the Township’s Park and Open Space.
- Consider new lands for protection.
- Create a sustainable plan for parks, recreation and open space.
- Provide equitable access and opportunities to all residents.
- Preserve cherished Township characteristics and valued natural resources.
- Plan for safe multi-modal connections between various Township park, recreation, and open space resources.

## OBJECTIVES

- Survey area residents to determine current perceptions and needs regarding park, recreation, and open space facilities and programs in the Township;
- Conduct public meetings to gather information, comments, and suggestions from residents, local organizations, and other stakeholders;
- Inventory existing parks, recreational facilities, preserved open space, trails, schools, private sector recreation providers and other important recreation destinations within the Township;
- Compare the existing inventory of park facilities with other similarly sized communities;
- Analyze current active and passive recreational facility use;
- Suggest ways to enhance existing and planned trails with additional connections to area recreational, employment, residential, shopping, and other destinations;
- Develop a phased implementation and funding strategy to make the plan a reality; and
- Ensure that all recommendations are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

## TOWNSHIP PROFILE

Bethel Township is located in southern Delaware County and encompasses 5.4 square miles.

Originally home to Lenni-Lenape Native Americans, Bethel Township was settled by European Quakers in 1683 and was the smallest of the original townships of Chester County. In 1789, the Township was incorporated into Delaware County with a population of approximately 222 as of the 1790 census and grew modestly throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. The Township attracted industry in 1879 in the form of garnet mines, the genesis of the Garnet Valley region namesake. The Township grew steadily beginning in the early 1900s and would experience its greatest growth between 1990 and 2000, when the population nearly doubled. An 1819 relic of the Township's agrarian past, Booth Farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

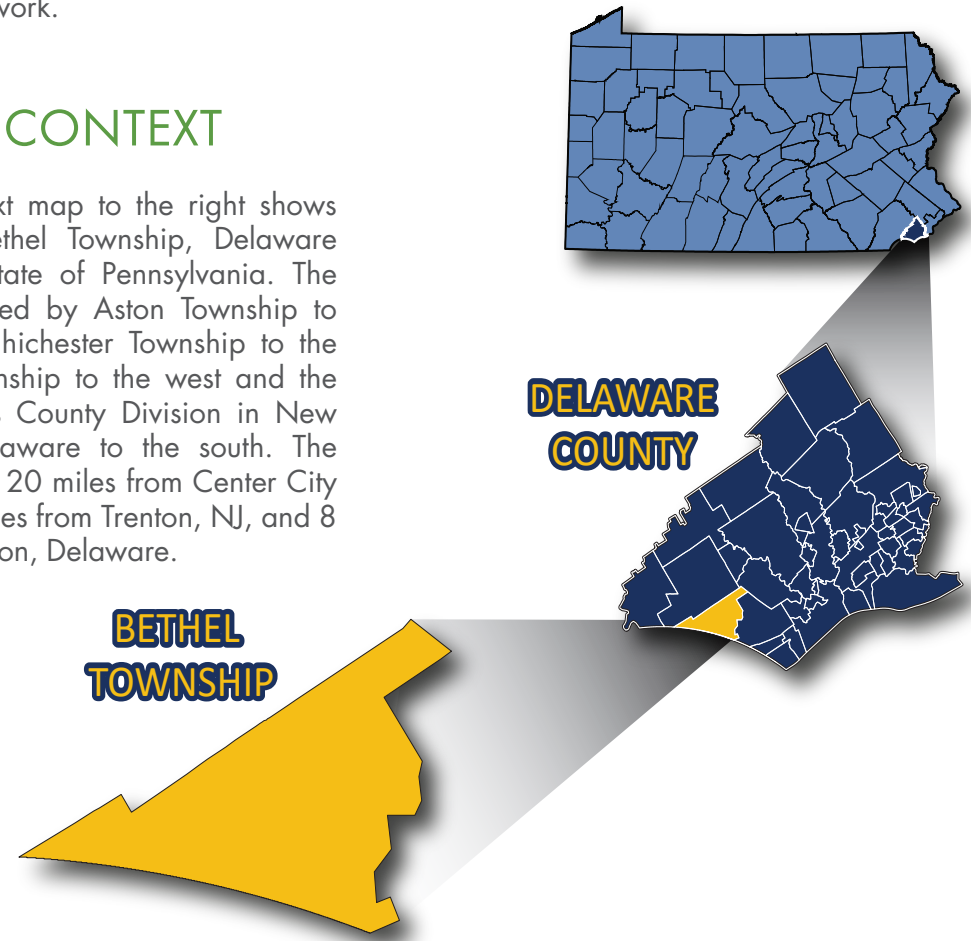
Bethel Township is served by the Garnet Valley School District, with Bethel Springs Elementary School located within the Township.

Bethel is a township of the second class, governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors. Members are elected at large for six-year terms; positions include a Chair, Vice Chair and three Supervisors. The Board is responsible for appointing the Township Manager and the general governance of the Township.

Residents of the Township enjoy the facilities at the three existing parks: Bethel Community Park, Jack King Park and John Adkinson Park. Public trails within the Township are located at Jack King and John Adkinson Parks, with a nature trail located on the Bethel Springs site. Private trails are located within residential developments. The recently acquired Shaffer Preserve is planned for passive features, including a trail network.

## REGIONAL CONTEXT

The regional context map to the right shows the relationship Bethel Township, Delaware County, and the State of Pennsylvania. The Township is bordered by Aston Township to the north, Upper Chichester Township to the east, Concord Township to the west and the Brandywine Census County Division in New Castle County, Delaware to the south. The Township is roughly 20 miles from Center City Philadelphia, 52 miles from Trenton, NJ, and 8 miles from Wilmington, Delaware.





## MAJOR ROUTES

Major routes within the Township are U.S. Route 322 (Conchester Highway), PA Route 261 (Foulk Road) and PA Route 491 (Naamans Creek Road). Route 322 runs in an east-west direction, bisecting the northern portion of the Township. It runs eastward to I-95 in the City of Chester and westward past Downingtown, Chester County, Lancaster County and Lebanon County toward Harrisburg. Route 261 runs in a north-south direction through the middle of the Township and Route 491 runs east-west in the southern section of the Township and connects to points in Delaware.

U.S. Route 1 is located north of the Township and is accessed via Route 322. I-95 is located east of the Township and is also accessed via Route 322. Both Route 1 and I-95 provide access to Philadelphia, which is northeast of the Township.

## WATERWAYS

The West Branch of Naamans Creek flows through the southeastern portion of the Township. It enters the Township from Upper Chichester, passes by the Rock Creek development and terminates just past Marsh Road. The West Branch converges with the main branch of Naamans Creek approximately 1.5 east of the Township border in Lower Chichester. Tributaries of the East Branch of Naamans Creek, including Spring Run, flow through the eastern portion of the Township. One tributary passes by the southern edge of Shaffer Preserve and terminates before Foulk Road.

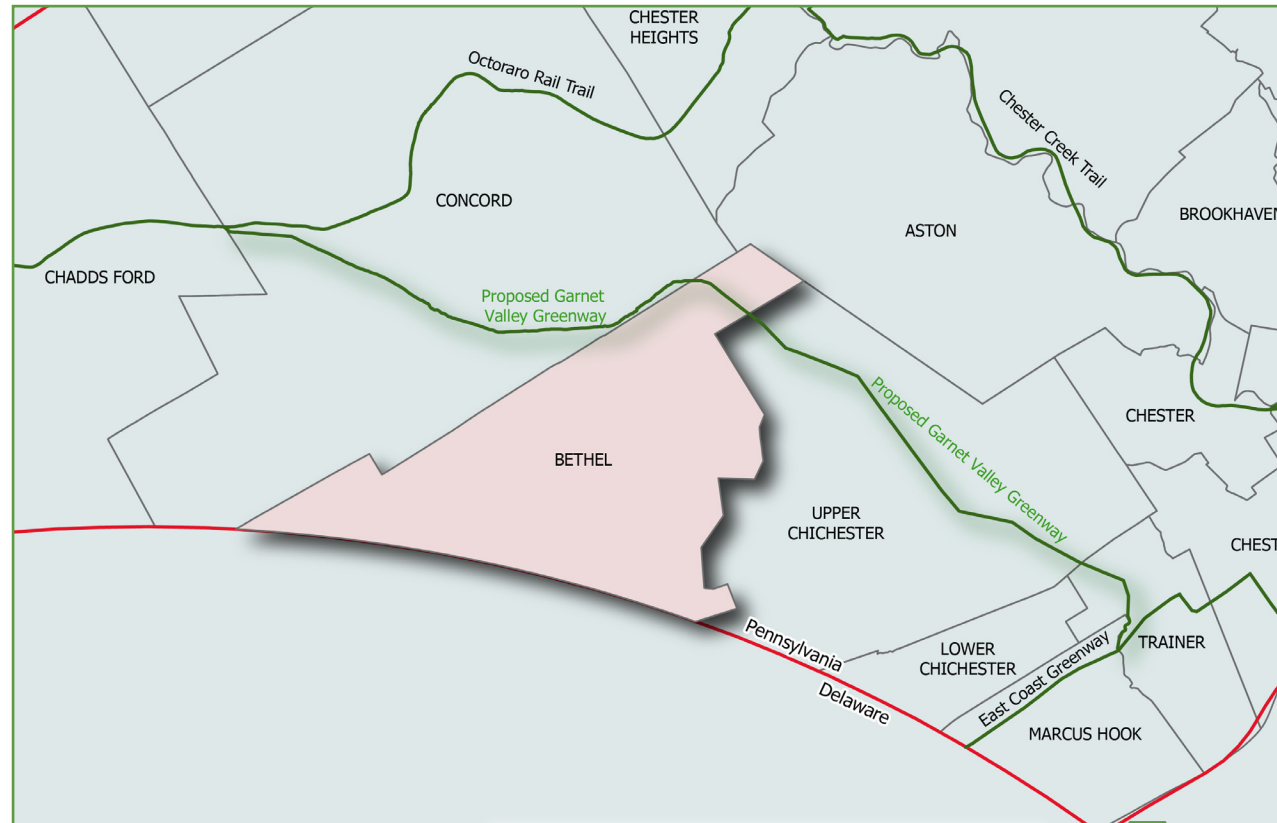
A small portion of the Southern Branch of Naamans Creek enters the Township from Delaware and terminates right before Zebley Road.

Green Creek flows through the northern portion of the Township, entering from Concord Township and flowing past Route 322 and Bethel Road before terminating within the Buckeye Pipeline site. Green Creek converges with the West Branch of Chester Creek approximately 1 mile north of the Township border.

## REGIONAL TRAILS

### The Garnet Valley Greenway

The Garnet Valley Greenway is planned for the north of the Township along the PECO right-of-way that passes just south of the SiteOne Landscape Company. The eastern terminus of the Greenway will be in Trainer Borough where it will connect to the East Coast Greenway and the western terminus will be in Concord Township where it will connect with the planned Octoraro Trail. The Garnet Valley Greenway will traverse through Concord Township, Bethel Township, Upper Chichester Township and Trainer Borough.



# DEMOGRAPHICS

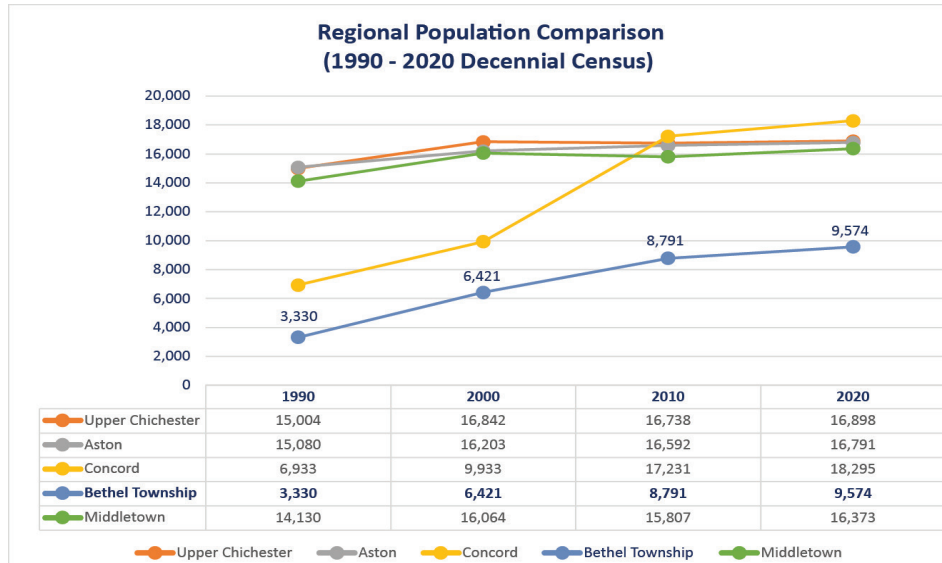
The demographic data below is presented to help residents, officials and planners understand population trends and projections so that any recommendations for park and recreation improvements are tailored to changing demographic needs.

# POPULATION AND PROJECTIONS

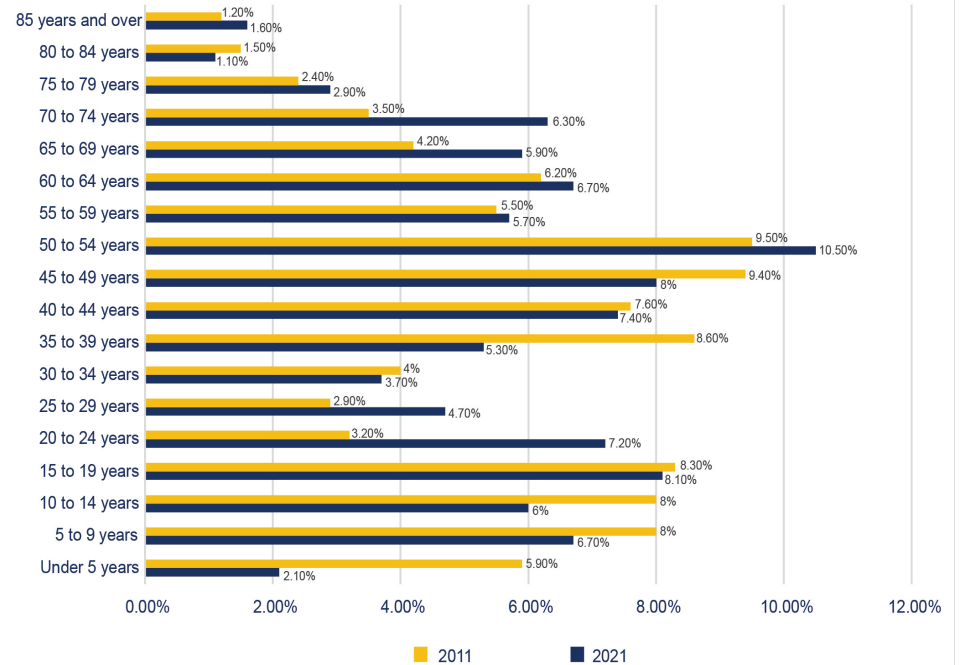
As of the 2020 Decennial Census, the total population in Bethel Township was 9,574, which is roughly half the size of neighboring municipalities. Population forecasts published by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) project ~2% population growth by 2050, to 9,750 people.

# AGE

Bethel Township population measured by age reveals significant aging of the population, as the 60+ year old cohort grew by 700 people between 2011 and 2021, a 30% increase. This aging is further shown by a rise in the median age, from 40.7 to 44.2.



Population By Age  
Bethel Township 2011 vs. 2021





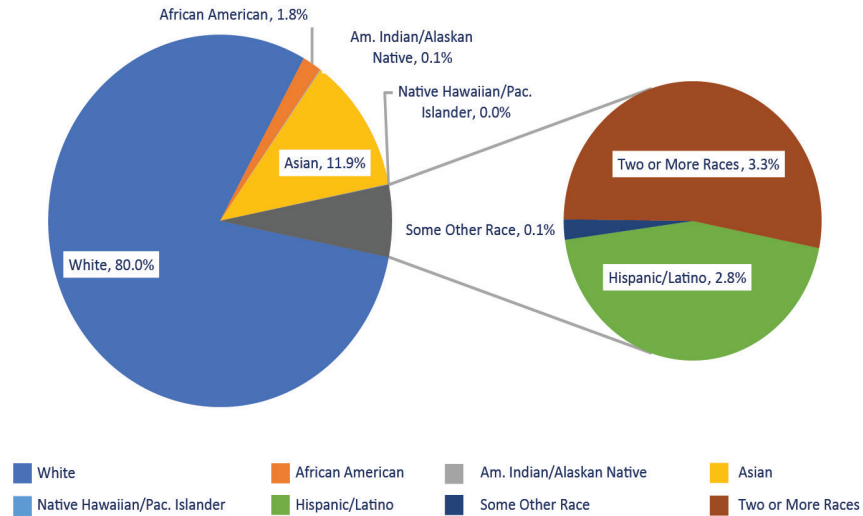
## RACE

There were some large shifts in racial composition of the Township between 2010 and 2020, most notably an 8.6% drop in the White population, Asian population nearly doubling from 6.1% to 11.9%, and those identifying as Two or More Races rising from 1% to 3.3%.

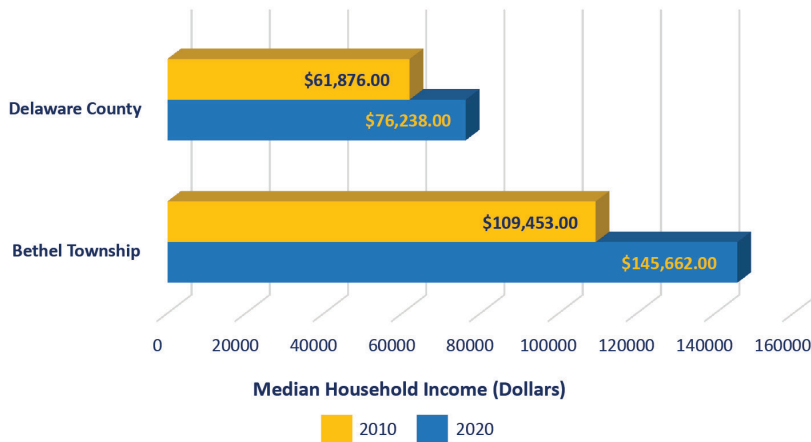
## INCOME

Bethel Township residents have enjoyed significant gains in median household income, as the value grew from \$109,453 in 2010 to \$145,662 in 2020, outpacing the growth experienced by Delaware County. Despite this prosperity, the percentage of the population living below the poverty level grew marginally from 2% in 2012 to 2.1% in 2021.

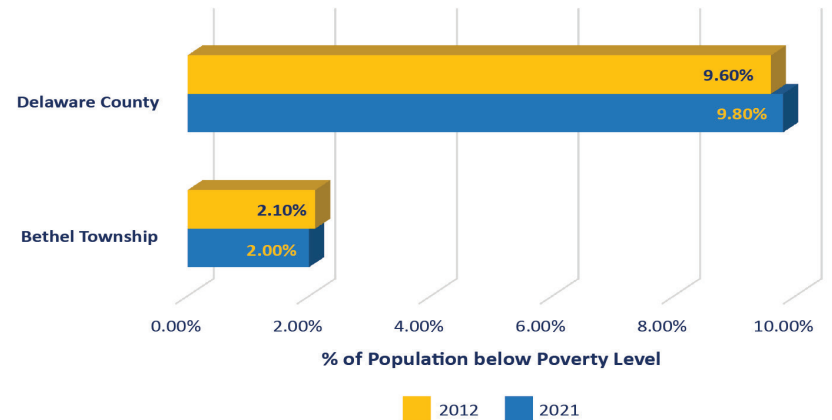
Bethel Township Racial Composition 2020



Median Household Income  
2010 - 2020



Poverty Rate  
2012 - 2021



## EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY

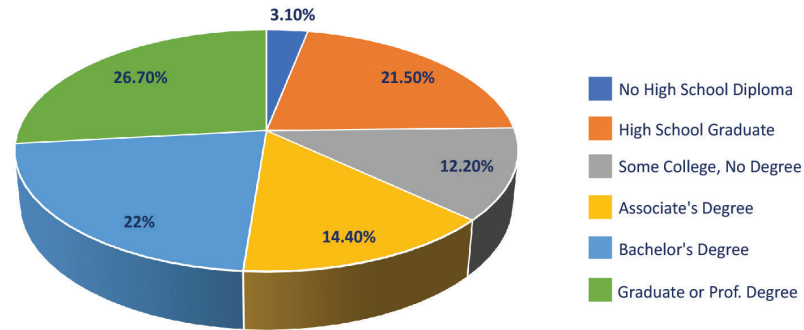
Bethel residents are highly educated. Of all residents over 25 years old, 96.9% have at least a high school diploma, 48.7% have at least a bachelor's degree and 26.7% have a graduate degree or higher.

As of 2021, the civilian employed population aged 16+ totaled 5,195 people across a diverse range of industries. In 2021, the top 3 industry categories within Bethel Township were Education/Health Care/Social Work (25% of workforce), Professional/Scientific/Management/Admin/Waste Management (14% of workforce), and Finance/Insurance/Real Estate (13.3% of workforce).

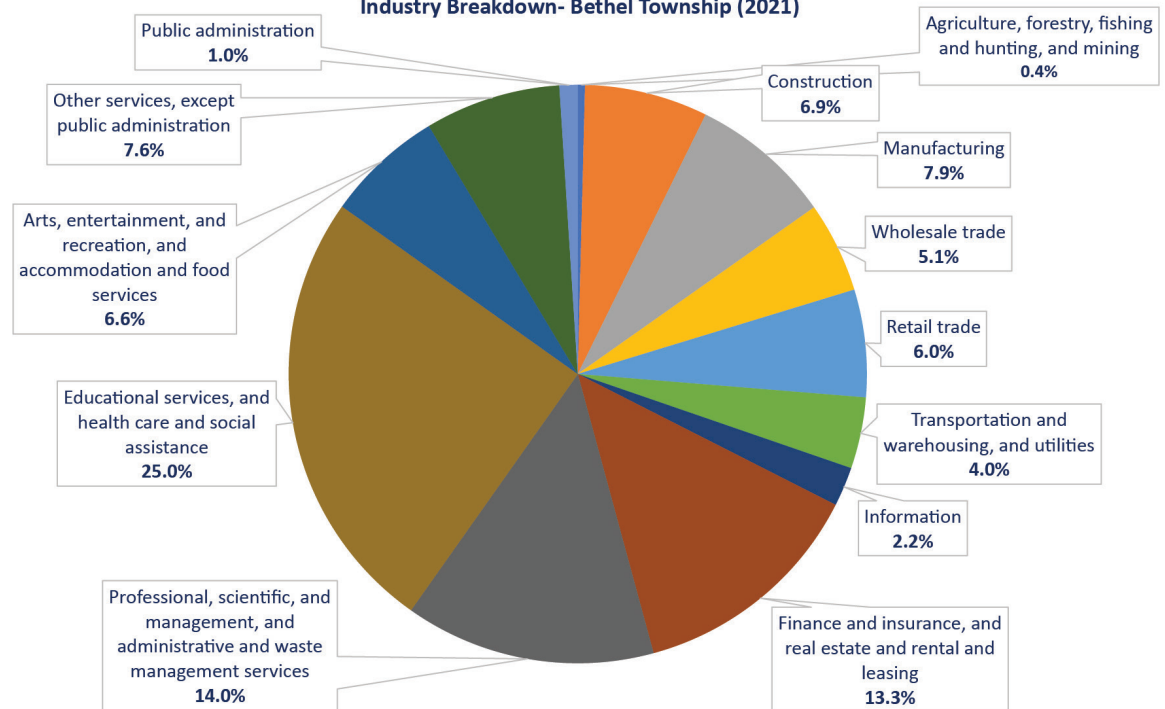
Across all industries, 58% of occupations are categorized as management/business/science/art, 23.6% are sales and office, 7.4% are service, 7.1% are production or transportation, and 3.9% are natural resource, construction, and maintenance occupations.

This demographic, age distribution, income and educational information indicate that Bethel is a highly educated affluent community that like similar communities, values parks, opens space and connectivity, a fact also verified by this study's public opinion survey.

**Educational Attainment (Residents over 25 years old)  
Bethel Township 2021**



**Industry Breakdown- Bethel Township (2021)**



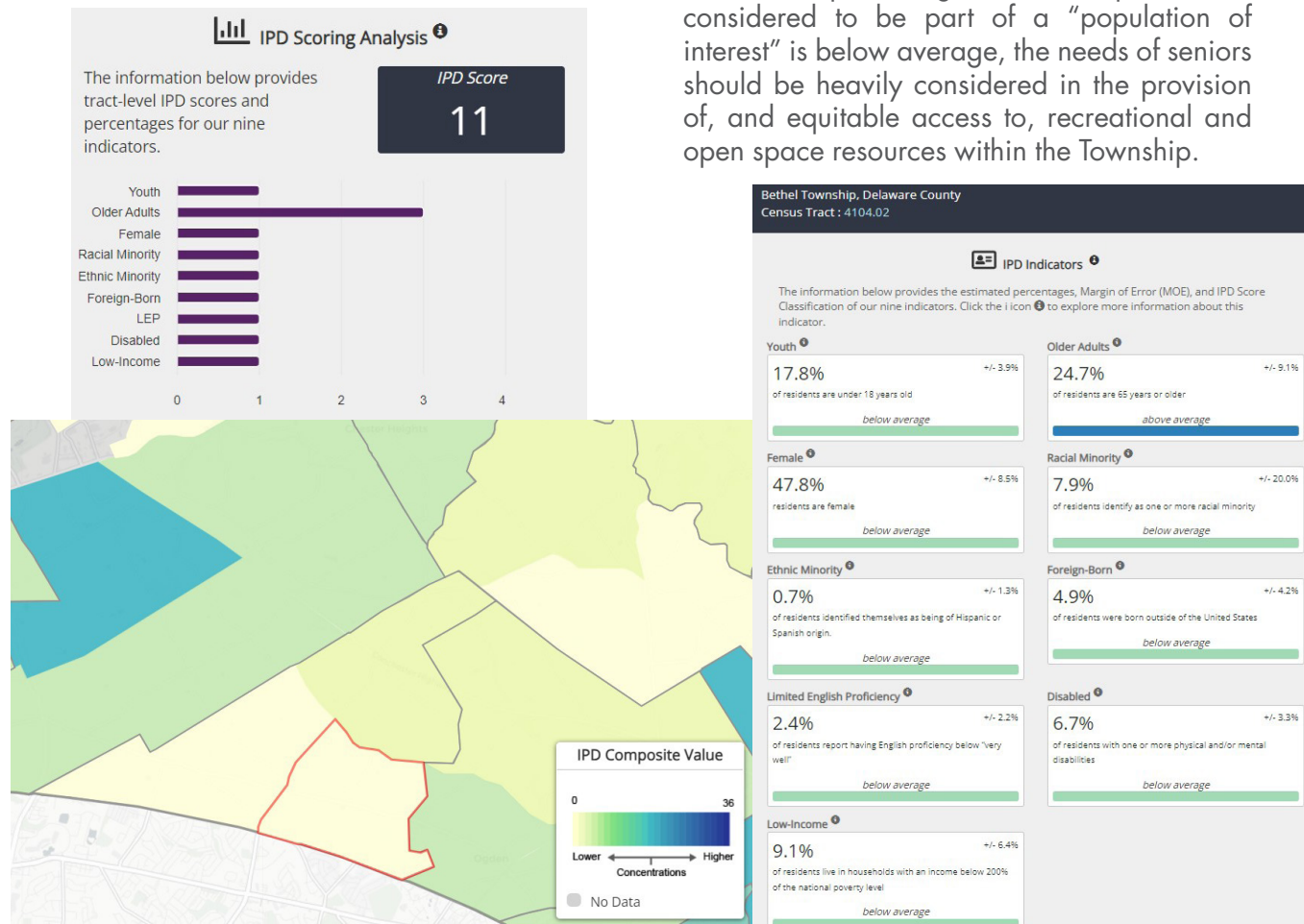


## INDICATORS OF POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGE (IPD), DVRPC

From the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC):

Under Title IV of the Civil Rights Act and the Executive Order on Environmental Justice (#12898), MPOs are directed to create a method for ensuring that equity issues are investigated and evaluated in transportation decision-making. In response, DVRPC has created the Indicators of Potential Disadvantage (IPD) analysis tool that can be used to identify equity issues. The IPD analysis tool identifies populations of interest under Title IV and Environmental Justice using U.S. Census American Community Survey 2015-2019 five-year estimates data and maps these populations in each of the Census tracts in the region via GIS. Each population group is an indicator in the analysis and includes the following: Youth, Older Adults, Female, Racial Minority, Ethnic Minority, Foreign-Born, Limited English Proficiency, Disabled, and Low-Income. Each census tract receives an "IPD Score", which is calculated by standard deviations relative to an indicator's regional average. This score is generated by allocating a ranking (0 to 4) to each of the 9 indicators, resulting in a final summary score between (0-36). The score categories range from 0 (well below average) to 4 (well above average).

The IPD Analysis Tool is intended to be used as the first step in equity analyses. The methodology is designed to identify populations of interest using demographic data. Once identified, informed decisions regarding possible discrimination against these groups can be made. Using the 0 to 36 scale, regions with IPD scores at the higher end of the spectrum have a higher concentration of these populations of interest and have a higher potential for inequity.



## OUTDOOR RECREATION ACCESS, DCNR

From the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR):

*Every Pennsylvanian deserves quality outdoor recreation access close to home. Time outdoors lowers stress, improves immune function, and can help fight heart disease, depression, and dementia. For children, time outside leads to lower obesity, improves attention spans, and boosts creativity and problem-solving. There is no doubt. Parks, trails, and nature preserves make our communities better places to live, work, and play.*

*Recognizing this value, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) partnered with the Trust for Public Land and WeConservePA to answer two questions:*

1. Who in Pennsylvania has access to outdoor recreation within 10 minutes of their home?
2. More importantly, who doesn't?

*We created 10-minute service areas for Pennsylvania's parks, trails, public lands, and water access points. Then we overlaid them with US Census data. The result? Detailed snapshots of outdoor recreation access at the county and municipal level.*

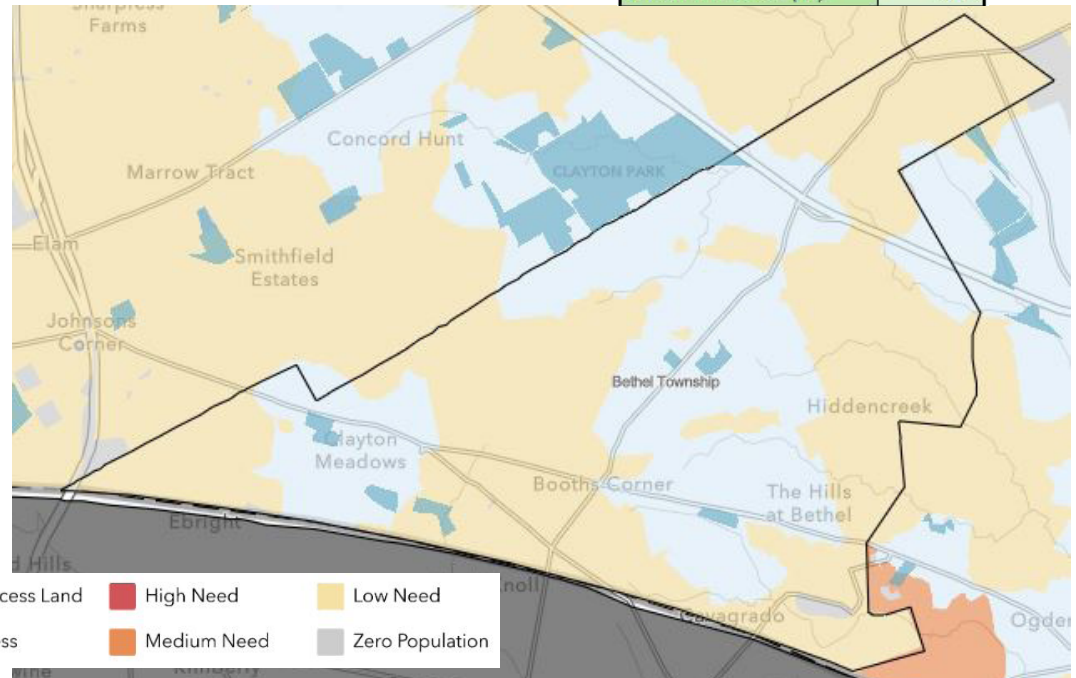
*Level of need is based on population density, youth population density, and low-income population density within each county.*

*This generalized data is a starting point for evaluating the need for access to parks and trails.*

### 10-Minute Walk Access to Parks, Trails, and Open Space

The level of need for 10-minute-walking access to parks, trails, and open space is "low" for a majority of the Township as these areas are in proximity to the Township's parks or parks in neighboring municipalities. Areas which are immediately adjacent to the Township's parks are considered to have access currently. This information suggests that parks, trails, and open space improvements should be largely focused on the north, northeastern and western portions of the Township to provide close-to-home, walkable access to outdoor recreation resources.

Total Population Served	3,790
Population Served (%)	41%
Kids Served	1,033
Kids Served (%)	43%
Adults Served	2,163
Adults Served (%)	41%
Seniors Served	594
Seniors Served (%)	38%
Low Income Households Served	148
Low-Income Households Served (%)	36%
Medium Income Households Served	265
Medium-Income Households Served (%)	40%
High Income Households Served	848
High-Income Households Served (%)	41%
Whites Served	3,262
Whites Served (%)	41%
Minorities Served	528
Minorities Served (%)	42%













# INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

# 2





## DATA COLLECTION AND METHODOLOGY

In 2023, Bethel Township selected the team of Simone Collins Landscape Architecture (SC) and traffic engineer, Albert Federico, as the consultants to guide the planning process. The project team also included a project steering committee, comprised of residents, professionals, Township staff and members from the Parks and Recreation Board.

Data found within this report was compiled using the best available information. This included Geographic Information System (GIS) data from Bethel Township; Delaware County; New Castle County, DE; Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC); and Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA), which was used to prepare field maps and planning documents consisting of the base aerial photography, municipal boundaries, roadways, parcels, contour lines, and other identifying land features. Other information included previous planning studies, field reconnaissance data, steering committee and public meetings, key person interviews, and an online public opinion survey.

## SITE RECONNAISSANCE

The consultants performed an initial field reconnaissance in January 2023 to inventory, analyze, and document existing conditions of parks, trails, and open space. Additional field reconnaissance was completed as needed to gather further insight for the plan. Field data was recorded by the consultants onto the field maps and photographs were taken for use in the Plan. This information was then used in evaluating planning alternatives in the development of the Plan.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The project was guided by a project study committee that provided critical insight and direction to the consultants in the development of the Plan. The consultants worked with the project committee to review the public participation process, gain clarification of data gathered, and guide the planning process before presenting to the public.

Community input is a critical component of a successful plan, so it was important for the project team to hear citizens' observations, needs, and visions, and to incorporate what was learned into the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The Township placed meeting dates, and links on their website and Facebook page.

The public participation process included two public meetings, four steering committee meetings, two Board of Supervisors meetings, twenty key person interviews (combined with the Comprehensive Plan Update), and an online public opinion survey.



**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**PUBLIC MEETING #2**  
**Parks & Open Space Plan**

**March 21, 7 - 9 pm**  
*Hybrid Meeting: In-Person and Virtual*

.....

All attendees will be able to ask questions and hear about future park improvements and open space preservation in Bethel Township.

**Participate in-person at John L. Myers Building**  
1082 Bethel Road, Garnet Valley, PA 19060

**Participate virtually** by scanning the QR Code, or go to the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/BethelRec-PublicMeeting2>

**SCAN HERE**  
to attend virtually



**BETHEL TOWNSHIP**  
*Delaware County, PA*

**For more information, please contact:**  
Pankaj Jobanputra  
pjobanputra@simonecollins.com  
(610) 239-7601



## Bethel Township - Parks & Open Space Plan

Project	Meeting Type	Purpose	Date	Time
	<i>Web Based Survey</i>		<i>3/1/23 through 2/1/24</i>	
Parks & Open Space Plan	Committee Meeting #1	Planning & Design Process Overview Brainstorming	Thursday, March 16	7 – 9 PM
	<i>Key Person Interviews (10)</i>		<i>Dates TBD</i>	
Parks & Open Space Plan	Public Meeting #1	Programming & Brainstorming	Thursday, April 27, 2023	7 – 9 PM
Parks & Open Space Plan	Committee Meeting #2	Work in Progress Reviews	Thursday, June 8, 2023	7 – 9 PM
Parks & Open Space Plan	Committee Meeting #3	Initial Concepts Preview	Tuesday, November 28, 2023	7 – 9 PM
Parks & Open Space Plan	Committee Meeting #4	Draft Plan Preview	Thursday, February 8, 2024	7 – 9 PM
Parks & Open Space Plan	Public Meeting #2	Draft Plan Review	Thursday, March 21, 2024	7 – 9 PM
Parks & Open Space Plan	Board of Supervisors Meeting #1	Draft Plan Review	Tuesday, May 14, 2024	6:30 – 8:30 PM
Parks & Open Space Plan	Board of Supervisors Meeting #2	Final Plan Review	Tuesday, December 10, 2024	6:30 – 8:30 PM

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

The project schedule began in March 2023 and ended in December 2024, and is represented above.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public meetings were held between April 2023 and March 2024. All public meetings were held in a hybrid online / in-person format and were recorded and posted to the Township website. Full meeting notes can be found in the appendix of this report. A summary of the two public meetings is provided below.

### Public Meeting #1 – Programming & Brainstorming Thursday, April 27, 2023

The consultants began the meeting by introducing the project team and committee. They noted their experience and reviewed the importance of having a plan. The consultants discussed the project schedule, scope, and purpose. The consultants explained that the public survey is available online and that public involvement is extremely crucial in the planning process to ensure the plan reflects the needs of the community.

The attendees were led through an interactive, brainstorming discussion that helped identify goals, facts, concepts, and partners they would like to see reflected in the plan. The meeting was recorded and placed on the Township's web site.

### Public Meeting #2 – Draft Plan Thursday, March 21, 2024

The consultants began the meeting by presenting the draft mission statement, goals, and objectives of the Plan. The consultants then updated the attendees on the final online survey results. An analysis of the Township's projected parks and recreational needs, concepts for existing parks and a draft plan of parcels for potential open space and recreation expansion / acquisition and concepts for these sites were presented.

The consultants then presented a draft plan for trail connections within and around the Township. A programming, budget and maintenance analysis and accompanying recommendations were presented to attendees. Potential sources of funding were noted for the implementation of plan recommendations. Attendees provided feedback during a Q&A / open discussion.

The consultants encouraged attendees to provide comments and feedback on the Draft Report for the Bethel Township Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (to be posted to the Township website). The meeting presentation and notes were posted to the Township website.

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Steering committee members were appointed by the Township and comprised of residents and members of the Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Board. Steering committee meetings were held between March 2023 and February 2024. All steering committee meetings were held in-person at the township building. Full meeting notes can be found in the appendix of this report.

- Steering Committee Meeting #1  
Planning & Design Process Overview and Brainstorming
- Steering Committee Meeting #2 Work in Progress Reviews
- Steering Committee Meeting #3 Initial Concepts Preview
- Steering Committee Meeting #4 Draft Plan Preview



## KEY PERSON INTERVIEWS

The consultants interviewed representatives from four (4) agencies / groups to discuss the plan ideas. The interviews provided detailed information reflected in the plan. Key takeaways from the interviews are noted below:

### Birding Club of Delaware County August 30, 2023

- There was an uptick in the number of people joining the birding community after the Covid pandemic, especially from diverse backgrounds.
- With regards to enhancements at Shaffer Preserve, we would like to see as many native plantings as possible, and if a pollinator meadow could be installed, that would be great.
- Also for Shaffer, consider wayfinding and interpretive signage and also consider trail safety, meaning no dark corners or bad sight lines.

### Garnet Valley School District September 26, 2023

- There are currently no plans for the Francis Harvey Green field. This site is used by the cross-country team and there is a small Little League field that is used by the youth club in the spring. The space is also used for the yearly carnival.
- We are a full access school community; we have a symbiotic relationship with the community.
- Space at the middle school is tight, but we do have opportunities where we could expand; we are not at capacity at any school.
- Kindergarten class was brought back to Bethel Springs after being located in Concord Township for a number of years.

### Delaware County Planning Department September 27, 2023

- Trails are allowed along power line corridors, but you have to go through a process.
- The proposed Garnet Valley Greenway will go across the Township's panhandle. Concord Township is working on a master plan for the dog park location. We would like to see a trail crossing Clayton Park and the dog park.
- We did a sidewalk map a few years ago where we analyzed where bike routes were in relation to sidewalks and if trails could be introduced into the system. If you have right-of-way, it's not hard to do.

### Garnet Valley School Board October 13, 2023

- Partner with area hospitals to install fitness or exercise stations around trails at parks.
- We are working on the Pennington project now, where we will house transportation services, e sports, administration and servers.
- Part of this project will be to increase connections within the campus and to the surrounding communities.
- It would be good to have a range of different types of sports fields to accommodate groups from all backgrounds.



Outdoor seating space at Bethel Springs Elementary

## ONLINE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

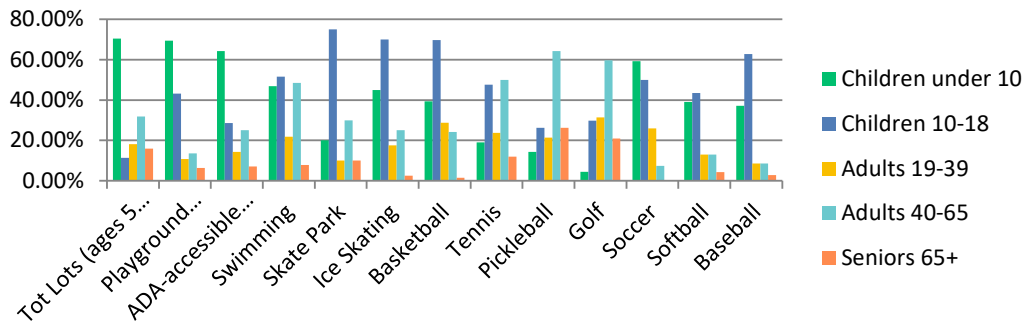
A 54-question public opinion survey was created by the consultant team with Project Steering Committee and Township input to gather important user information related to Bethel Township parks, recreation, open space, and trails. The survey also included four questions specific to improvements at the new Shaffer Preserve site.

A total of 314 responses were received during the planning process. A sample of survey results are presented in this chapter. Respondents were kept confidential, and responses were compiled together and analyzed. Complete survey results can be found in the report Appendix.

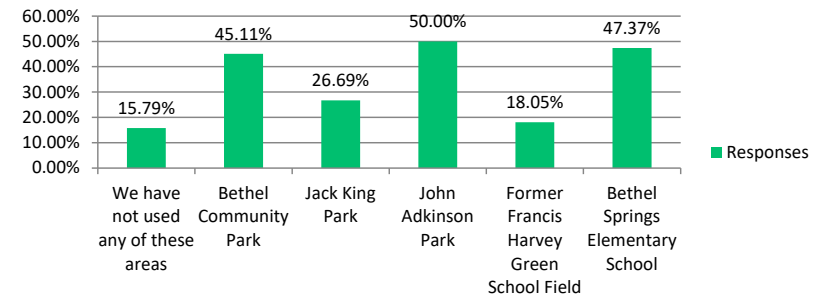
98% of respondents live in Bethel Township; of these respondents, 18% have lived in the Township for 0-5 years, 16% for 6-10 years, 28% for 11-20 years and 39% for 21+ years. 99% of respondents own their home. When asked why they chose to move to Bethel, most respondents answered "location" (71%), followed by "schools" (67%) and environment (30%). "Other" responses (8%) were largely regarding the presence of senior communities and respondents having grown up in the Township.

The respondents who did not live in the Township were asked why they visit. The top three responses were "Township recreation, parks and open space" (33%), "Shopping, dining and/or retail services" (33%) and "Events" (8%). Of all respondents, 47% were between the ages of 45-64, 27% were 25-44 and 25% were 65 or older.

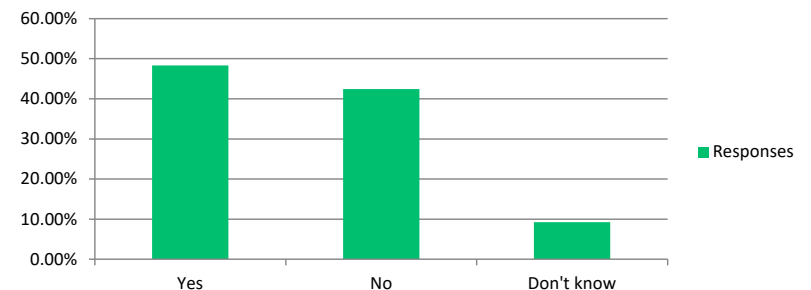
The following is a list of active recreation activities offered in or around Bethel Township. Check each activity your family members participated in by household age group.



In the past 12 months, which parks, natural areas, trails, or facilities have you visited for recreation purposes in Bethel Township? (Please check all that apply)



Do you feel that there are an adequate number of parks, natural areas, trails, and recreational facilities available to you in or in close proximity to where you live?





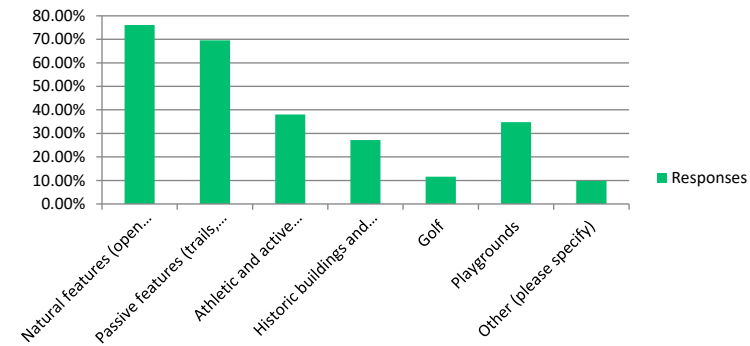
Most (239 of 306 total respondents) lived in a household with at least one adult between the ages of 19-64, and of these, 60% had two. 107 respondents lived in a household with at least one adult over the age of 65, and of these, 57% had two. 71 respondents each lived in a household with at least one child aged 6-12 and one child aged 13-18. 44 respondents lived in a household with at least one child under the age of 5, and of these, 52% had one.

Most respondents felt that public parks, trails, natural areas, and open spaces are "very important" to well-being and quality of life (72%); and most felt that conservation of natural open spaces such as waterways and wooded areas in Bethel was also "very important" (81%).

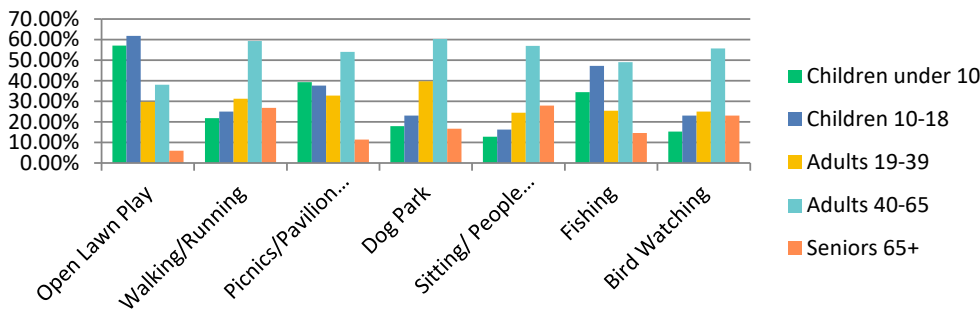
When asked how well their recreational and open space needs were being met in and around Bethel, respondents gave an average rating of just above three (out of five). When asked if there was an adequate number of parks, natural areas, trails, and recreational facilities available to or within close proximity of respondents, 48% responded "yes", 42% responded "no", and 9% responded "don't know". 83% of respondents, or their household members, had participated in activities in parks, natural areas, or open spaces in and around Bethel within the last year.

Respondents were asked about their favorite types of park features. The top response was "Natural features (open space, wildlife habitat, outdoor education, etc.)" (76%), followed by "Passive features (trails, benches, picnic facilities, etc.)" (70%) and "Athletic and active outdoor activities (fields, courts, pools, fitness equipment, etc.)" (38%).

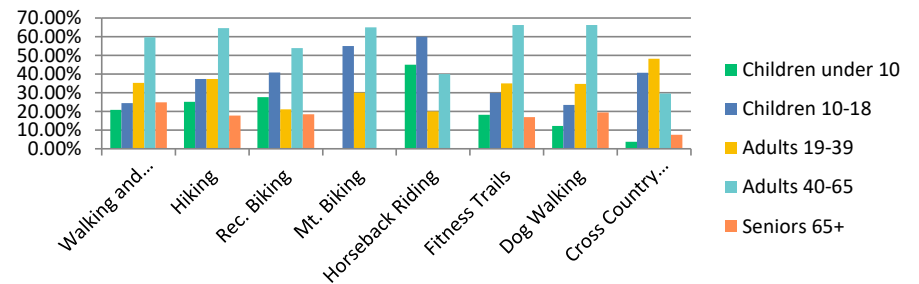
What are your favorite types of park features? (Please check all that apply)



The following is a list of passive recreation or unstructured activities offered in or around Bethel Township. Check each activity your family members participated in by household age group.



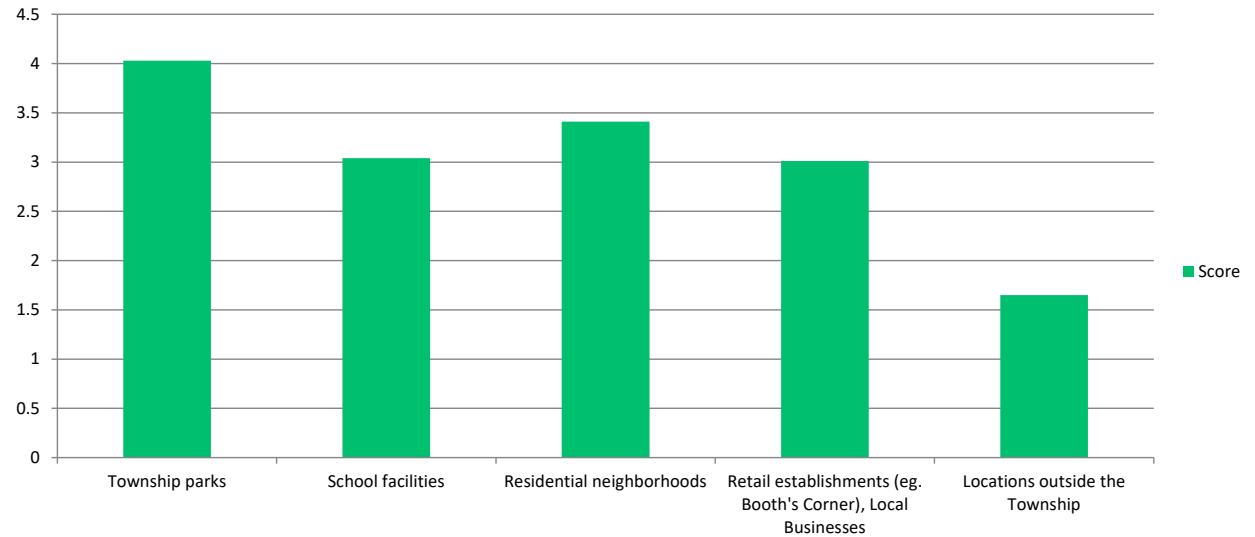
The following is a list of trail activities associated with parks. What activities did each age group in your household participate in and around Bethel Township? (Please check all that apply)



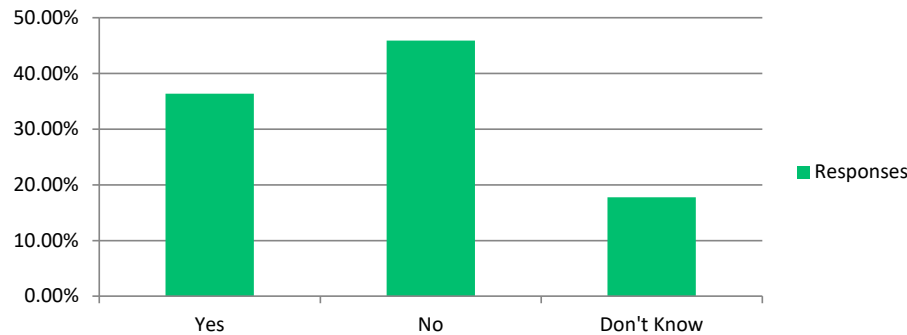
91% of respondents indicated that they usually drive to area parks, while 28% walk, and 6% bike.

Respondents were asked what would encourage them to walk more. The top response was "additional sidewalks" (72%), followed by "better connectivity to sidewalks" (56%), "safer street crossings" (47%) and "less traffic" (38%). Respondents were also asked what would encourage them to bike more. The top response was "availability of bike paths or trails" (55%), followed by "connectivity to existing neighborhoods / bike paths or trails" (51%) and "street facilities (shared lanes, dedicated bike lanes, etc.)" (31%). 30% noted they do not bike.

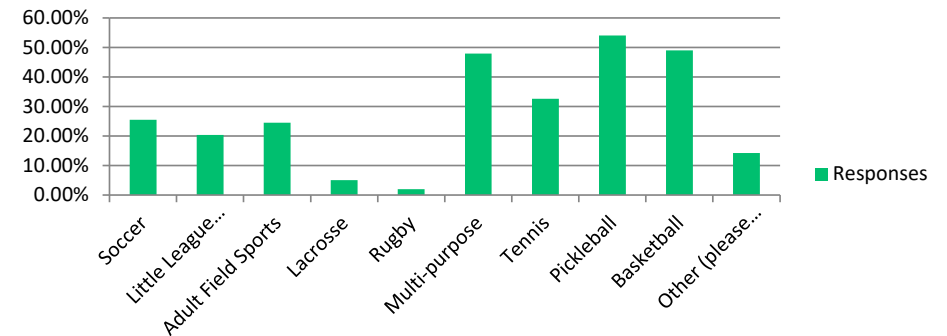
Rank the types of destinations you would like improved pedestrian and bicycling access to. Please rank the destinations from 1 to 5. (1 = High Priority, 5 = Low Priority).



Do you think Bethel Township needs more sports fields or courts (soccer, baseball, football, tennis, basketball, etc.)?



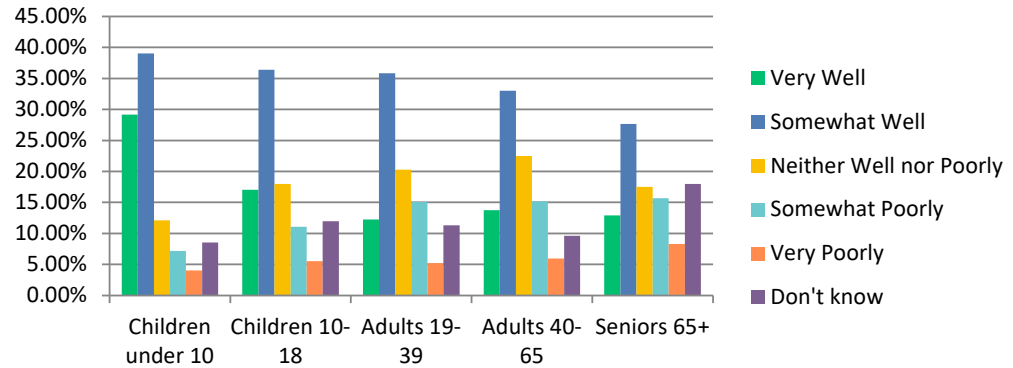
If you answered yes on the previous question, which sports do you feel are in need of fields or courts? (Please check all that apply)



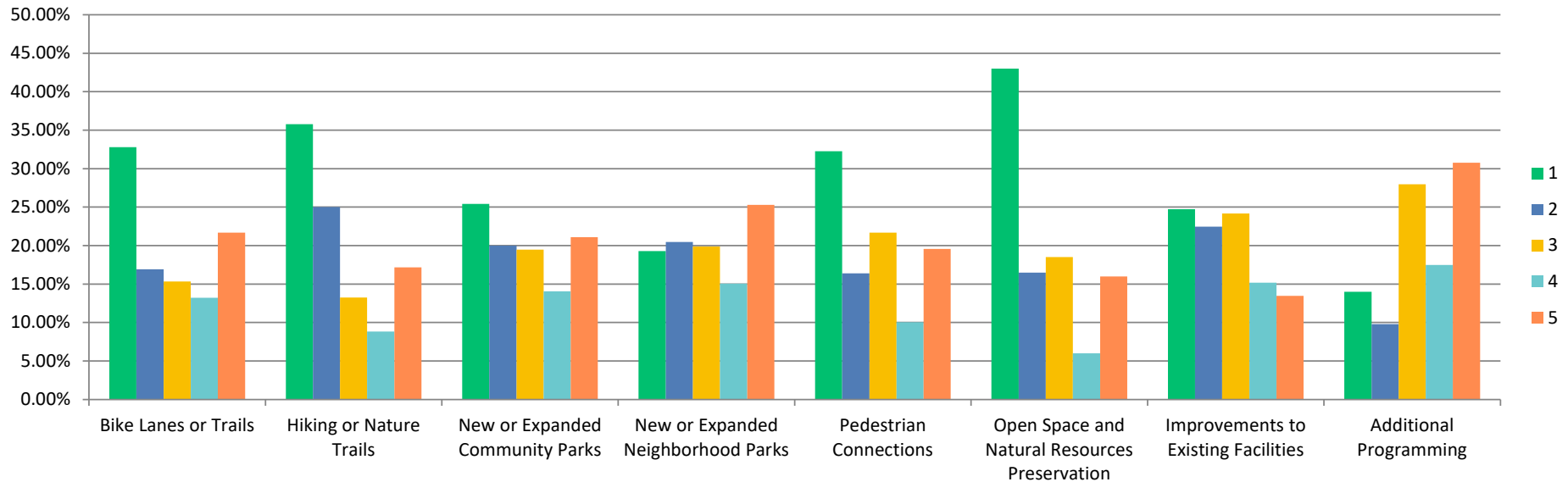


The results from the survey mirror what was heard at the public and committee meetings. They reflect the need to provide activities and facilities for all ages and abilities, preserve open space, and provide safe connections to these spaces, while also taking into consideration residents' concerns regarding the addition of facilities and their impacts.

### In general, how well do you think the age groups listed below are served by parks, recreation, and open space in or near Bethel Township?



### Please rank the top 5 priorities that you feel Bethel Township should focus on in the parks and open space plan. (1 = High Priority, 5 = Low Priority)



# RELEVANT PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Multiple planning documents were used to influence and help shape the Plan. Below is a summary of each planning document that was used in the process.

## Bethel Comprehensive Plan

The update to Bethel Township comprehensive plan was completed simultaneously with this Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan provided analysis and recommendations for land use, housing, transportation, historic preservation, economic development, community facilities and services, energy conservation, natural resource preservation, and compatibility with adjacent municipalities. The plan integrated the parks, recreation, and open space recommendations made by this Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

## Delaware County Open Space, Recreation, and Greenway Plan

This document is a component plan of Delaware County 2035 and, as such, follows the framework and builds off the land use policies established in the plan. The intent of the Open Space Component Plan is to serve as a guide and resource for county-wide, multi-municipal, and municipal open space planning efforts. It examines the policies and trends identified in the Delaware County 2035 Land Use Framework Plan with specific regard to open space, recreation, and greenway needs and opportunities specific to the County.

The plan is comprised of four separate volumes:

- Open Space and Recreation Plan
- County-wide Greenway Plan
- County Parks and Recreation Plan
- Public Participation

The overarching goals of the entire Open Space Plan that guide each volume are as follows:

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



The Open Space and Recreation Plan contains an inventory of existing open spaces and natural resources and identifies open space and recreational needs and opportunities, which were considered during the development of this Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

The County-wide Greenway Plan identifies a county-wide trail network with a primary goal of using trails to connect recreation and cultural hubs. The plan was reviewed to evaluate possible connections to the planned trail network.

The County Parks and Recreation Plan was reviewed to ensure that proposed Township parks and recreation recommendations were congruent with County goals.



### DVRPC Connections 2050

This plan's vision for the Greater Philadelphia Region is a prosperous, innovative, equitable, resilient, and sustainable region that increases mobility choices by investing in a safe and modern transportation system that protects and preserves our natural resources while creating healthy communities, and that fosters greater opportunities for all. The mission is to achieve this vision by convening the widest array of partners to inform and facilitate data-driven decision-making. DVRPC is engaged across the region, and strives to be a leader and innovator, exploring new ideas and creating best practices.

The Plan was developed around five integrated core principles:

1. Sustain the Environment
2. Develop Livable Communities
3. Expand the Economy
4. Advance Equity and Foster Diversity
5. Create an Integrated, Multimodal Transportation Network

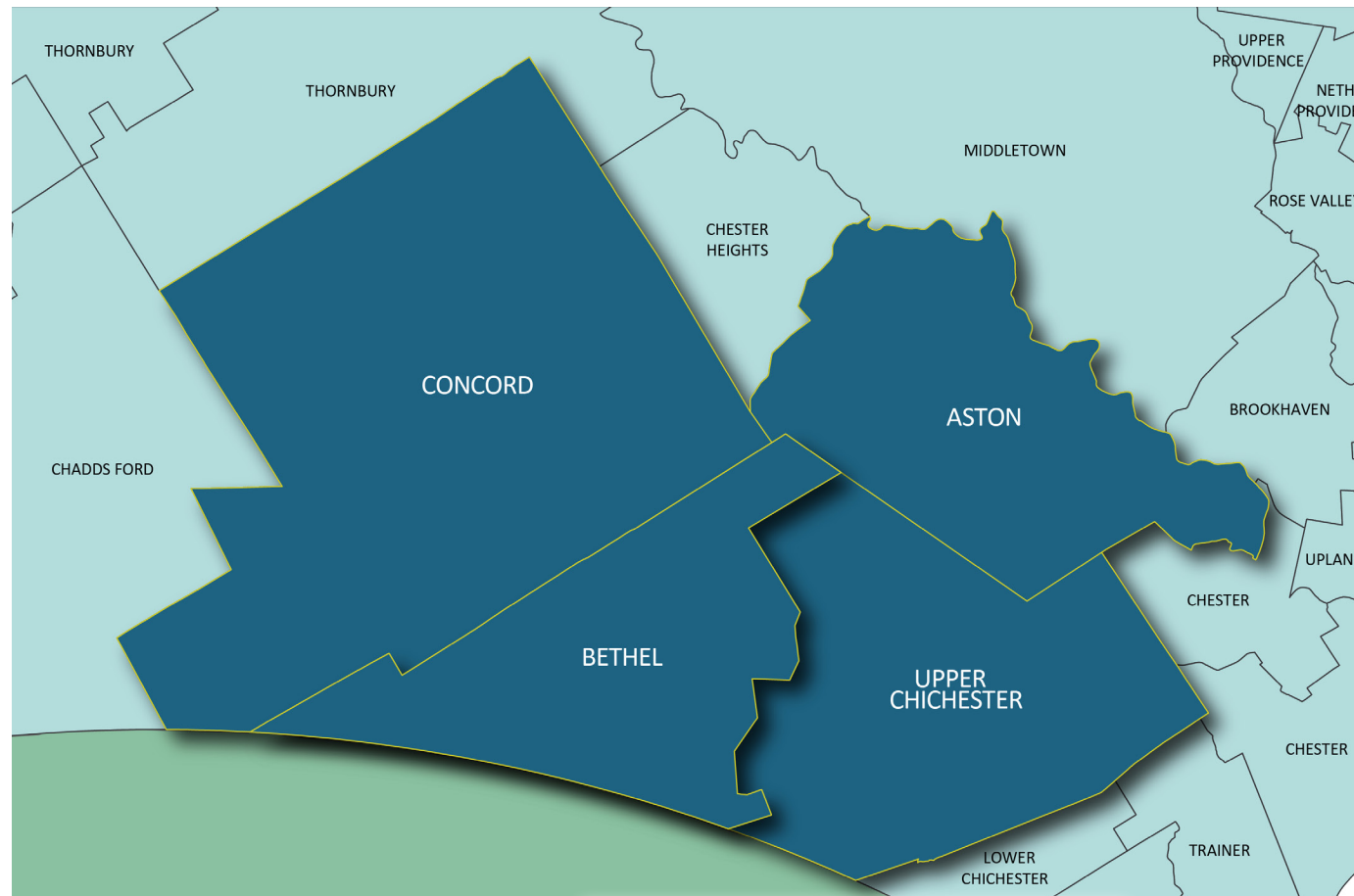
### Delaware County Return on Environment Study

This document provided the consultant team with valuable information regarding the economic benefits of open space preservation in Delaware County, as well as benefits resulting from environmental services and direct use.

### Neighboring Municipal Plans

The consultants reviewed Open Space and/or Comprehensive Plans of the following neighboring areas: Concord Township, Aston Township, and Upper Chichester Township. These plans give valuable insight as to how open space in Bethel Township connects with open space in its neighboring municipalities and creates connections for residents across municipal lines.

These plans helped identify common goals and objectives across the municipalities within the region: conserve open space, agricultural, natural, and waterways resources; preserve, reuse, and adapt historic and cultural resources; facilitate and encourage multi-modal transportation with improvements to bicycle and pedestrian connections between neighborhoods, public transit facilities, and destinations both within communities and in neighboring municipalities; and create sustainable development that will not interfere with the quality of life that residents enjoy and wish to maintain.



# ZONING AND SALDO

In Pennsylvania, a zoning ordinance is a law that may permit, prohibit, regulate, restrict and determine land use, size & height of buildings, density and intensity of land use and protection of natural & historic resources.

SALDO is an acronym that stands for Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. The SALDO contains the design standards, procedures and other requirements for Subdivision Plans and Land Development Plans within Lower Providence Township.

The following is a review of relevant sections of existing Township ordinance that relate to parks, recreation, open space, multimodal connection, and natural resource protection.

## RELEVANT ZONING REGULATIONS

### R-1 Residential District

This district includes the following provisions for agricultural uses:

*Section 601* - Agricultural use including the keeping of livestock, animal and/or poultry, customarily incidental to such use or nursery; provided, however, that the following specialized uses will be permitted only when authorized as a special exception: animal farms, riding academy, mushroom house, commercial greenhouse, permanent roadside stand for sale of farm products, and provided any such use is in compliance with state statutes and Township ordinances, and provided, further, that no piggery shall be permitted. The minimum lot area for agricultural use is

10 acres. A veterinary office is permitted by special exception.

### R-3 Planned Residential Development Districts

This residential district makes several provisions for open space.

*Section 800* - To encourage a pattern of development, which preserves open space, trees, natural topography, prevent soil erosion and provide for parks, playgrounds and recreational areas.

*Section 804* - At least fifty (50) percent of the total tract under consideration shall be set aside and devoted to open space. Said open space shall be planned in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Ordinance, subject to the approval of the Board of Supervisors.

The plan for use of open space shall take into consideration the physical characteristics of the natural land, preservation of aesthetic beauty, necessity of recreational areas and facilities in the community, accessibility from the dwelling units in the tract and the effect on surrounding areas of the township.

*Section 806* - Areas set aside for open space under this Ordinance shall be consistent with the comprehensive plan of the Township for future land use. Any such areas shall not contain any structure other than one related to a recreational use as provided by Section 803, (2), within the Planned Residential Development (PRD), Common Open Space shall be set aside for the use and benefit of the residents in the Planned Residential Development (PRD).

The deed or deeds to any land set aside as open space must contain a restriction, in a form acceptable to the Board of Supervisors, to be duly recorded in the Office for Recording of Deeds, in and for Delaware County, eliminating the possibility of further subdivision of said open space in the future. All persons or corporations with an interest in said tract must agree in writing to said restrictions, including all mortgages.

### R-4 Residence Districts

This residential district encourages a variety of housing types and includes special regulations for open space and recreation.

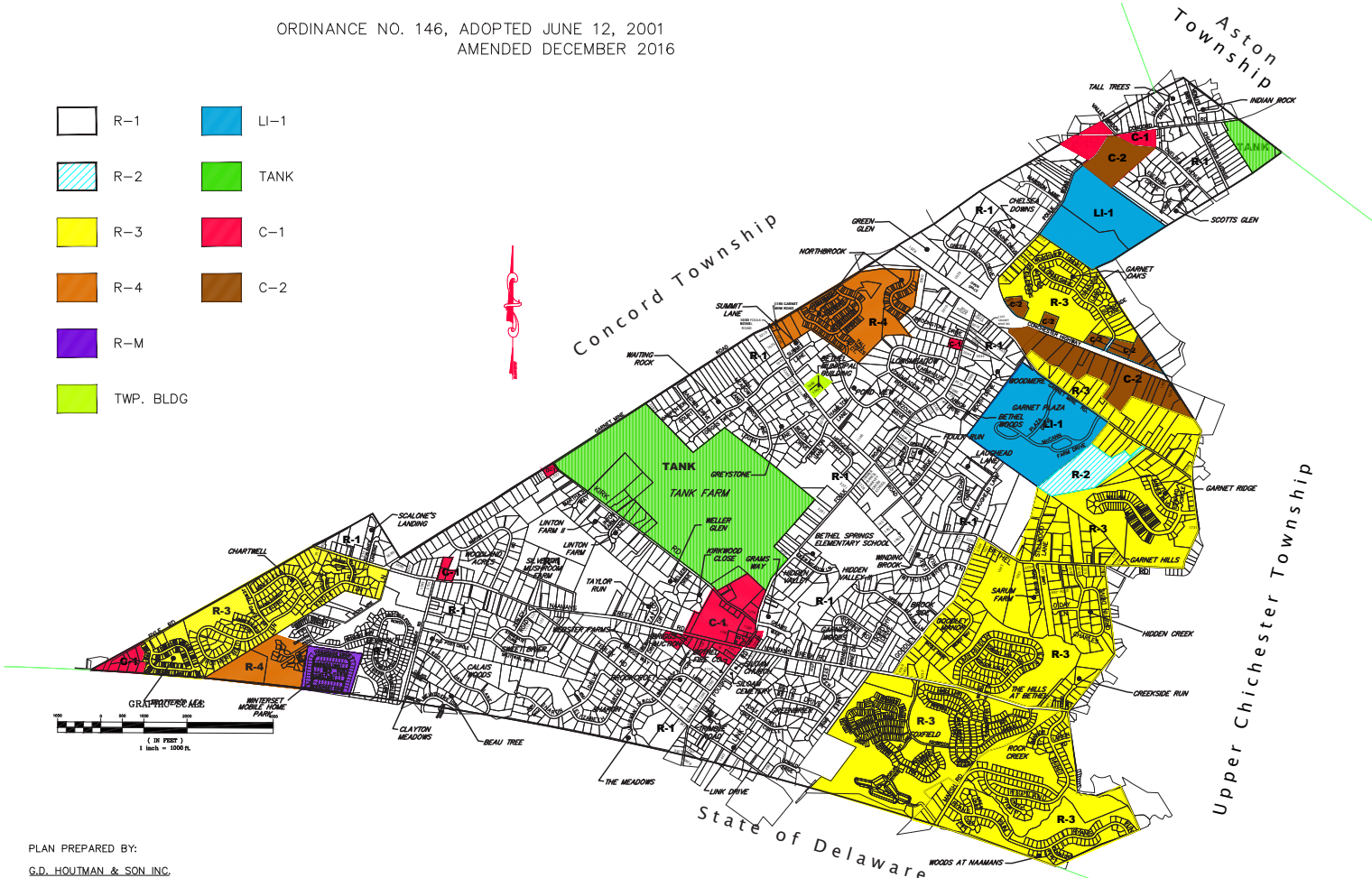
*Section 903* - No less than 20 percent of a total tract shall be used for permanent open space. Buffer yards may be used in computing open space but no individual lot area, private or public street right-of-way, or parking area shall be used for permanent open space.

Community facilities shall be provided in accordance with Section 413 of the Township Subdivision and Land Development Regulations except that for every 30 dwelling units of fraction thereof, there shall be a lot of 20,000 sq. ft. set aside for recreational purposes with facilities to be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Steep slopes (exceeding 15%), wooded areas, and flood plains may make up as much as 50 percent of the required common open space land. A minimum of 50 percent of the open space land must be relatively flat, dry ground, not exceeding the average percent of slope of the development and shall be suitable for the intended purpose. Whenever storm



# BETHEL TOWNSHIP ZONING MAP

ORDINANCE NO. 146, ADOPTED JUNE 12, 2001  
 AMENDED DECEMBER 2016



PLAN PREPARED BY:  
 G.D. HOUTMAN & SON, INC.  
 139 E. BALTIMORE PIKE  
 MEDIA, PA 19063

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
 MICHAEL DAVEY, CHAIRPERSON  
 JEAN STOYER, VICE CHAIRMAN  
 STACY LANGIN, MEMBER  
 MARK KOEHLER, MEMBER  
 ALEX GIRIBALDI, MEMBER

G.D. HOUTMAN & SON, INC.  
 CIVIL ENGINEERS—LAND SURVEYORS  
 LAND PLANNERS  
 139 E. BALTIMORE PIKE MEDIA, PA 19063  
 (610)565-6363

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water management facilities or retention basins are utilized as a portion of recreation open space, it is recommended that the basic design be such as to provide for appropriate dual use as recreation.

### R-M Mobile Home District

This mobile home zoning district requires open space provision.

*Section 1014* - A minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of the total site shall be used for open space. Up to one-half (1/2) of this requirement (12.5) percent of the total site, may be met in areas of flood plans, steep slopes, required setbacks and buffer areas or other undevelopable areas. The remaining one-half (1/2) (12.5 percent of the total site) must be developed on usable open space exclusive of required buffers, and may include swimming facilities, community buildings, tot lots, and other recreational uses as needed. All open space shall be free of traffic hazards and located so as to be easily accessible to most residents of the park. It shall be maintained without extra charge by the park management.

Where no existing trees are retained along street right-of-way; trees shall be planted at intervals of not less than fifty (50) feet, depending on species; and preferably in a mixture of types rather than in a pure stand of one type.

### T Tank Farm District

Intended to allow for the storage of liquid hydrocarbons, this zoning district includes relevant landscaping and buffering regulations.

*Section 1500 Landscape Screening* - At the time of application to the Township for a Building Permit for the erection and construction of a tank or tanks, the applicant shall file a landscape screening plan, which shall set forth existing and proposed trees and plantings screening the proposed tank or tanks from adjacent properties and/or public rights-of-way or streets. Screening shall consist of a minimum of a group of trees on 20 foot centers, the total length of said groupings to be not less than the diameter of the proposed tank or tanks nearest the property or street line. Existing vegetation shall be preserved to the maximum extent possible.

### AACOD Active Adult Community Overlay District

This residential overlay district is intended to expand the availability of housing types, especially targeted towards the elderly population. Several provisions for open space and environmental resource conservation are included.

*Section 1600* - Purposes include:

- To encourage innovative residential community site design that meets the demand for varying dwelling unit types and provides for the recreational and open space needs of the community's residents.
- To encourage more flexible site design standards that will provide for the protection of the Township's environmental resources and the preservation of its character.

*Section 1605* - A minimum of 50% of the tract, exclusive of public rights of way, shall be set aside as common open space. No land area less than 20 feet in width may be included in the calculation of open space.

*Section 1608 Design Standards* - Landscaping shall be considered an essential feature of all Active Adult Community development. Continuously planted visual barrier, or landscape screen shall be provided in the required buffer yard. Where appropriate the use of non-invasive existing vegetation, landscaped berms and solid walls and fences shall be utilized. The interior of the site, including all storage and parking areas shall also be landscaped and shall consist of deciduous trees, including fruit varieties, evergreen trees, shrubs and ground-cover and shall be planted according to an overall landscape plan.

The required landscape plan shall consider the integration of the structures on the site with the surrounding lands and open space in a manner that creates a total environment.

Natural features on the tract such as streams and other water bodies, floodplains, woodlands, wetlands, steep slopes and wildlife habitat shall be preserved to the maximum extent possible and incorporated into the landscape plan. The applicant shall also demonstrate how the natural features will be protected during construction.



*Section 1609 Open Space* - The common open space shall be designed as a predominantly contiguous area, to preserve the natural features of the tract and to be readily accessible to the residents of an Active Adult Community.

A minimum of 25% of the open space shall be unconstrained developable land that is not wetland, floodplain nor steep slopes.

Structures in open space areas shall be limited to only those related to recreational or open space uses and, when necessary, utility and storm water management facilities. Recreational and open space structures may include picnic pavilions, paved court game surfaces and facilities, facilities associated with golf courses, swimming pools, hot tubs and associated facilities, restrooms and similar kinds of recreational and open space facilities.



Francis Harvey Green School Site

## RELEVANT SALDO REGULATIONS

### § 395-1 Purposes

This chapter is enacted:

- For the purpose of assuring sites suitable for building purposes and human habitation;
- To provide for the harmonious development of Bethel Township;
- For the coordination of existing streets with proposed streets;
- For adequate open space for traffic, recreation, light and air;
- For proper distribution of population;
- To create conditions favorable to the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the citizens of Bethel Township; and
- To further promote preservation of trees, groves, waterways, scenic points, historical spots, and other community assets and landmarks

### § 395-39 Easements

Where a subdivision is traversed by a watercourse, drainage way, channel or stream, there shall be provided a stormwater easement or drainage right-of-way conforming substantially with the lines of such watercourse, and such further width or construction, or both, as will be adequate for the purpose.

### § 395-42 Storm Drainage

Drainage facilities shall be provided to permit unimpeded flow of natural watercourses, to ensure unimpeded flow of natural points along the line of streets, and to intercept stormwater runoff along streets at intervals reasonably related to the extent and grade of the area drained.

### § 395-43 Community Facilities

The following standards shall apply to the provision of recreation space:

- Areas set aside for recreational purposes shall be reasonably compact parcels, placed to serve all parts of the subdivision, accessible from a public street and not excessively irregular in terrain.
- Playgrounds for active sports shall be not less than 2.75 acres.
- In subdivisions which provide or are intended to provide housing facilities for more than 50 families, suitable open areas may be required for recreation. Standards to be used by the Board of Township Supervisors in testing the adequacy of space provided shall be as follows: Fifty to 300 families: 2 1/2 acres per hundred families; Over 300 families: six acres plus one acre per hundred families over 300.

### § 395-43.1 Park or recreational land or facilities

In reviewing a sketch plan, preliminary plan or preliminary/final plan for a proposed subdivision or land development, other than a two-lot residential subdivision or a plan developed pursuant to the Township's R-3 Planned Residential Development zoning, the Township Planning Commission shall consider the needs of the prospective residents for recreational lands and/or facilities, whether on-site or off-site, as well as the impact of the proposed development on existing Township recreational facilities, and shall discuss its findings in relation to the requirements of this section.

The Board of Supervisors, after recommendation by the Planning Commission, shall determine whether to accept public dedication of land for park or recreational purposes as intended by the applicant. In making that determination, the Board shall determine whether the proposed dedication of land is suitable to meet the increased demands the proposed development places on Township park and recreational facilities. Alternatively, upon agreement with the applicant or developer, the Board of Supervisors may impose the construction of recreational facilities, the payment of fees in lieu of setting aside such land, the private reservation of the land, or a combination thereof, for park or recreation purposes as a condition precedent to final plan approval.

In designing lands for recreational purposes within the subdivision or land development plan, the following criteria and standards shall be adhered to by the applicant. Areas shall be:

- Consistent with the Township's Comprehensive Plan and the Township's Open Space Plan.
- Suitable for recreational uses, unless deemed acceptable by the Board for other purposes, and in any case without interfering with adjacent dwelling units, parking, driveways, and roads or any buffer areas.
- Comprised of open land which contains none of the following features: aboveground stormwater management facilities, floodplains, woodlands, slopes exceeding 15%, wetlands, and surface waters.
- Interconnected with an existing trail network, parkland or open space areas on abutting parcels wherever possible.
- Comprised of areas not less than 100 feet in width and not less than 15,000 square feet of contiguous area, except that the minimum width may be reduced to not less than 10 feet where that portion of the open space is being used solely as a trail corridor.
- Provided with sufficient perimeter parking when necessary, and with safe and convenient access by adjoining street frontage or other rights-of-way or easements capable of accommodating pedestrian, bicycle, maintenance equipment, and other vehicular traffic, and containing appropriate access improvements.

- Undivided by any public or private streets, except where necessary for proper traffic circulation, and then only upon recommendation of the Township Engineer and Township Planning Commission.
- Free of all structures, except those related to outdoor recreational use.
- Suitably landscaped, whether by retaining existing natural cover and/or by a landscaping plan, for enhancing open space areas through plantings which are consistent with the purposes of this section and which minimize maintenance costs.
- Where the land is not dedicated to the Township, the land shall be made subject to the terms of a conservation easement for the purpose of preserving the open space land for the purposes intended.

### § 395-44 Land subject to flooding

Land subject to flooding or other hazards to life, health or property and land deemed to be topographically unsuitable shall not be platted for residential occupancy or for such other uses as may increase danger to health, life or property or aggravate erosion or flood hazard until all such hazards have been eliminated or unless adequate safeguards against such hazards are provided by the subdivision plans.



### § 395-45 Preservation of resources

Wherever possible, the subdivider shall preserve trees, groves, waterways, scenic points, historic spots, and other community assets and landmarks.

Subdivisions shall be laid out as to avoid the necessity for excessive cut or fill.

Topsoil shall not be stripped, covered or removed from the subdivision site.

### § 395-57 Street trees

Wherever the site is not naturally wooded, the subdivider may be required to plant street trees of not less than 2 1/2 inches caliper as measured six inches above the ground within the right-of-way and at not more than 50 feet apart as measured along each side of the street. For the purpose of these regulations, street trees are limited to the following: Moraine Honey Locust, Little Leaf European Linden, Pin Oak, Scarlet Oak, London Plane Tree, Red Oak, Columnar-type Maples, Sugar Maple, Norway Maple and Sweet Gum.

## ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

### Chapter 222 Floodplain Management

§ 222-2 The intent of this chapter is to:

- Promote the general health, welfare, and safety of the community.
- Encourage the utilization of appropriate construction practices in order to prevent or minimize flood damage in the future.
- Minimize danger to public health by protecting water supply and natural drainage.

- Reduce financial burdens imposed on the community, its governmental units, and its residents by preventing excessive development in areas subject to flooding.
- Comply with federal and state floodplain management requirements

### Chapter 239 Historic Preservation

§ 239-1 It is hereby declared, as a matter of public policy, that the preservation and protection of buildings and structures of historic, architectural, cultural, educational and aesthetic merit are public necessities and are in the interest of the health, prosperity and welfare of all the citizens of Bethel Township.

### Chapter 254 Land Disturbance Activities

§ 254-2 The primary goal of this chapter is to regulate all land disturbance activities in such a way to prevent accelerated erosion and resulting sedimentation in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Township and the general public. To accomplish this, all persons engaged in land disturbance activities shall design, implement and maintain erosion, sedimentation, and stormwater control measures which effectively prevent accelerated erosion, sedimentation and increased stormwater runoff. This chapter is also intended to implement Title 25, Rules and Regulations, Part 1, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection, Subpart C, Protection of Natural Resources, Article II, Water Resources, Chapter 102, Erosion Control, as may be amended and supplemented.

### Chapter 297 Parks and Playgrounds

§ 297-2 This article is created to cover the use, operation and conduct of persons using the public parks and playgrounds of the Township.

### Chapter 359 Soil Removal

§ 359-1 No person shall excavate or otherwise remove any earth, soil, sand, gravel, clay, rock or any other similar earth materials (herein referred to as "soil") for sale or for use other than on the premises from which the soil shall be taken, without first having procured permission therefor from the Board of Supervisors. This chapter shall not apply to the removal or sale of 500 cubic yards or less of soil incidental to the construction or alteration of such building is secured.

*Shaffer Preserve*



## Chapter 384 Stormwater Management

§ 384-3 The purpose of this chapter is to promote the public health, safety, and welfare within the Township by maintaining the natural hydrologic regime and minimizing the impacts described in § 384-2 of this chapter through provisions designed to:

- Promote alternative project designs and layouts that minimize the impacts on surface water and groundwater.
- Promote nonstructural best management practices (BMPs).
- Minimize increases in runoff stormwater volume.
- Minimize impervious surfaces.
- Manage accelerated stormwater runoff and erosion and sedimentation problems and stormwater runoff impacts at their source by regulating activities that cause these problems.
- Provide review procedures and performance standards for stormwater planning and management.
- Utilize and preserve existing natural drainage systems as much as possible.
- Manage stormwater impacts close to the runoff source, requiring a minimum of structures and relying on natural processes.
- Focus on infiltration of stormwater to maintain base flow, to prevent degradation of surface water and groundwater quality, and to otherwise protect water resources.
- Protect base flows and quality of streams and watercourses, where possible.

- Meet legal water quality requirements under state law, including regulations at 25 Pa. Code Chapter 93.4.a, requiring protection and maintenance of “existing uses” and maintenance of the level of water quality to support those uses in all streams, and the protection and maintenance of water quality in special-protection streams.
- Address the quality and quantity of stormwater discharges from the development site.
- Provide standards to meet certain NPDES MS4 permit requirements.
- Implement an illicit discharge detection and elimination program that addresses non-stormwater discharges into the Township’s separate storm sewer system (MS4).
- Preserve the flood-carrying capacity of streams.
- Prevent accelerated scour, erosion and sedimentation of stream channels.
- Provide performance standards and design criteria based on watershed-wide stormwater management planning.
- Provide proper operation and maintenance of all permanent stormwater management facilities and BMPs that are implemented within the Township.

## Chapter 469 Article 2 Water Conservation

§ 467-17 No water shall be provided for internal or external use to any residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, governmental, or public building or structure of any kind which is constructed or remodeled and in which plumbing, water piping or water fixtures are to be installed, extended or altered in any way, and for which construction a permit is required to be obtained from Bethel Township (or would be required but for an exemption from a permit requirement for public or governmental agencies) unless the new, extended or altered plumbing, water piping and other water using fixtures therein conform to the requirements and standards of § 469-18 of this article. The provisions of this article shall apply to any such building or structure for which such a building permit is issued, or would otherwise be required to be issued but for such an exemption, on or after.

## Chapter 390 Streets and Sidewalks

§ 390-7 All sidewalks, curbs, areas between the curb and sidewalk, and private driveways within the area of the public right-of-way, shall be maintained in good repair, safe condition, and reasonably even and free from all hazardous depressions, irregularities, and projections by the owner of the abutting property. Any block or section of curb or sidewalk or driveway that is cracked or disintegrated so as to present an unreasonable hazard must be repaired or replaced by the owner of the abutting property. All new construction and repairs must conform to the specifications and other provisions of this article.



# INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS MAPPING

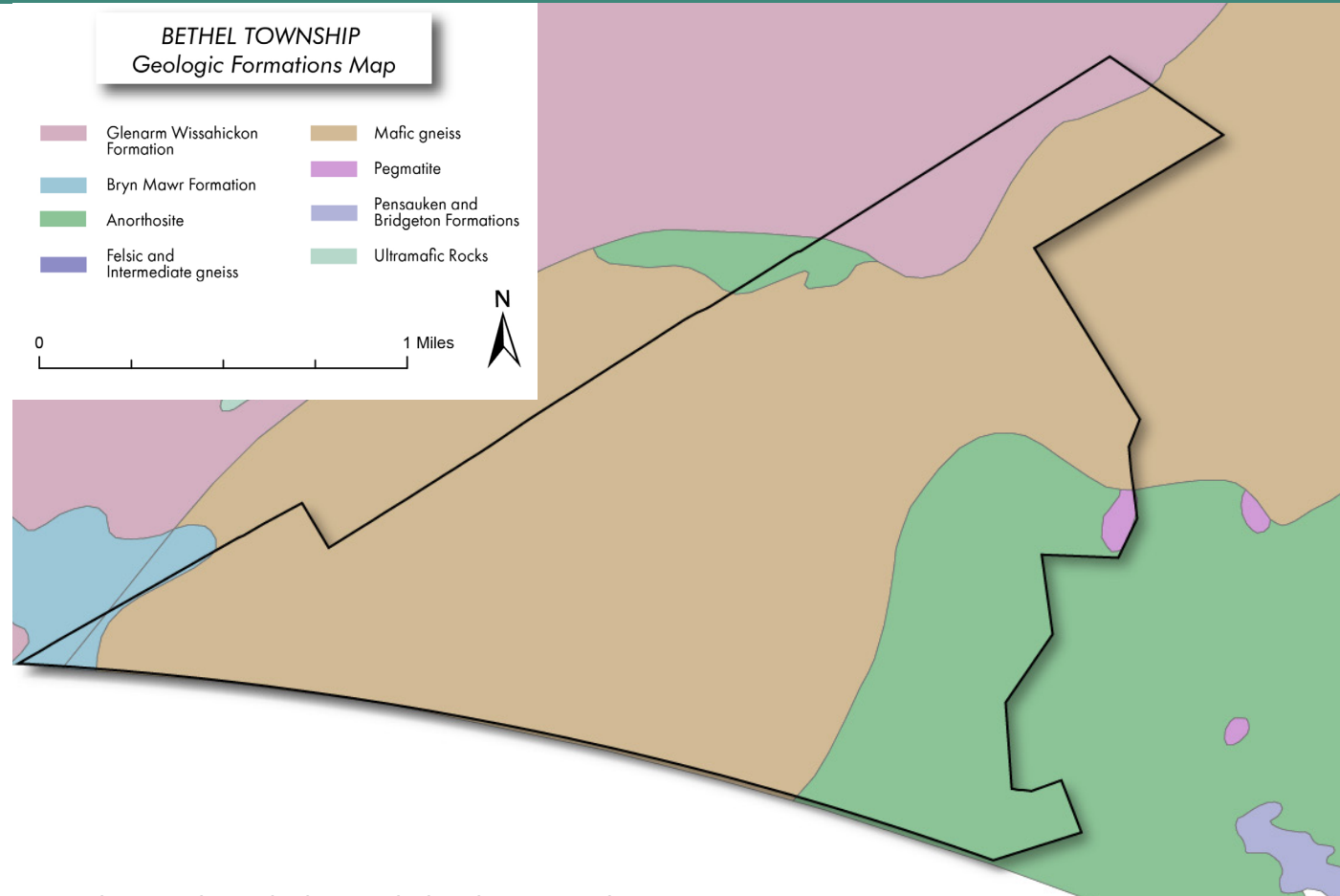
## GEOLOGY

Bedrock geology is rarely visible and its influence on natural features may often be overlooked. Bedrock geology is the foundation of an area and along with local hydrology, is responsible for the changes in elevation, steep slopes and location of waterways. Geology and soils are relevant and importance factors as they can impact stormwater management, infiltration rates, and vegetation that will grow in certain areas.

Bedrock geology also influences plant communities and soils. Igneous bedrock leads to soils with a high stone and boulder content. Based on the Physiographic Provinces of Pennsylvania, Delaware County is in the Lowland and Intermediate Upland section of the Atlantic Coastal Plain Province and the Piedmont Upland section of the Piedmont Province.

The Piedmont Uplands consists of complexly folded and faulted metamorphic and igneous rocks of Precambrian and Cambrian age. Rock types include marble, schist, gneiss, quartzite, granite, and serpentinite. The varied geology of the county is revealed in boulders and rock outcrops exposed along these creeks.

The Coastal Plain has a gently undulating topography that is more subdued than that of the Piedmont Uplands. Unconsolidated to poorly consolidated layers of Quaternary-age



sand, gravel, and clay underlie the Coastal Plain and dip gently to the east. Delaware County's thin sliver of Coastal Plain along the Delaware River has been heavily developed for industrial and residential use.

### Glenarm Wissahickon Formation

The "Glenarm Wissahickon" Formation is a schist metamorphosed to greenschist facies. Major constituents are quartz, albite, muscovite, and chlorite. It also includes gneiss, hornblende gneiss, and lenticular amphibolite bodies having ocean-floor basalt chemistry.

### Bryn Mawr Formation

The Bryn Mawr Formation consists of white, yellow, and brown, moderately bedded gravelly sand in high-level terrace deposits. It is reddish brown locally and contains some silt.

## SOILS

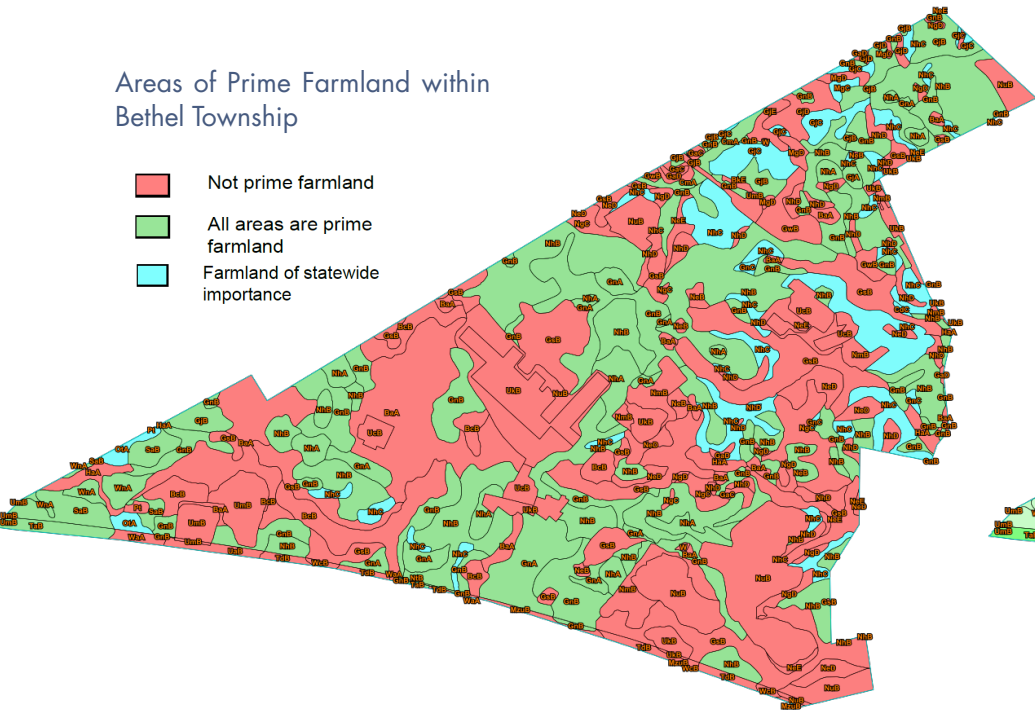
### Prime and Important Agricultural Soils

Agricultural soils are measured by fertility, depth to bedrock and groundwater, texture, erodibility, and slope. Prime farmland includes deep, well-drained, and moderately sloped soils that can support high yields of crops with little management.

The map below generated using the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture’s Web Soil Survey shows areas of prime farmland within Bethel Township. The green represents prime farmland, blue represents prime farmland of statewide importance, and the red is not prime farmland.

Areas of Prime Farmland within Bethel Township

- Not prime farmland
- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance



### Hydric Soils

Hydric soils are periodically wet soils in an undrained condition that often support the growth of wetland vegetation. Some hydric soils are found in drained conditions and will not exhibit wetland vegetation, such as those that have been drained for agricultural use. Soils with major hydric components are a conservative indicator of wetlands. Other soils have hydric components in limited settings, such as depressions, bottom lands, swales, drainage ways, and alluvial soils. These soils have a high water table and frequently pond.

The map below shows the distribution of soils with hydric components. Soils with a higher percentage of hydric components are shown in red, orange, and yellow, while those with lower percentages are shown in green. Bethel

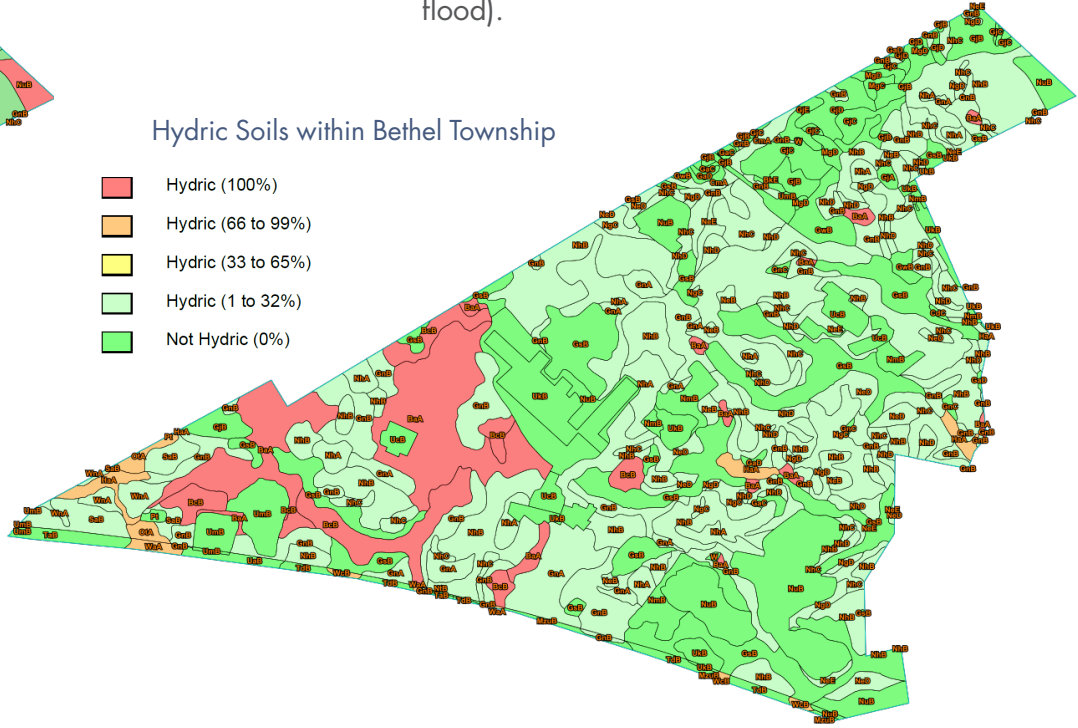
Township has several areas of hydric soils. For the most part, they correspond to the water bodies in the Township: Spring Run, Naamans Creek, West Branch Naamans Creek, South Branch Naamans Creek, and Green Creek.

### Alluvial Soils

Related to hydric soils, alluvial soils are frequently, but not always, located within a floodplain. These soils have been deposited by flowing water and are not stable due to their texture and composition. Alluvial soils can be an indicator of a floodplain, and can often form aquifer recharge. Changes in the tributary drainage area or slope of the adjacent stream may create a floodplain that is either larger or smaller than the area of alluvial soils. Also, alluvial soils do not indicate the probability of recurrence of a flood (for example, a 100-year flood).

Hydric Soils within Bethel Township

- Hydric (100%)
- Hydric (66 to 99%)
- Hydric (33 to 65%)
- Hydric (1 to 32%)
- Not Hydric (0%)





## TOPOGRAPHY & STEEP SLOPES

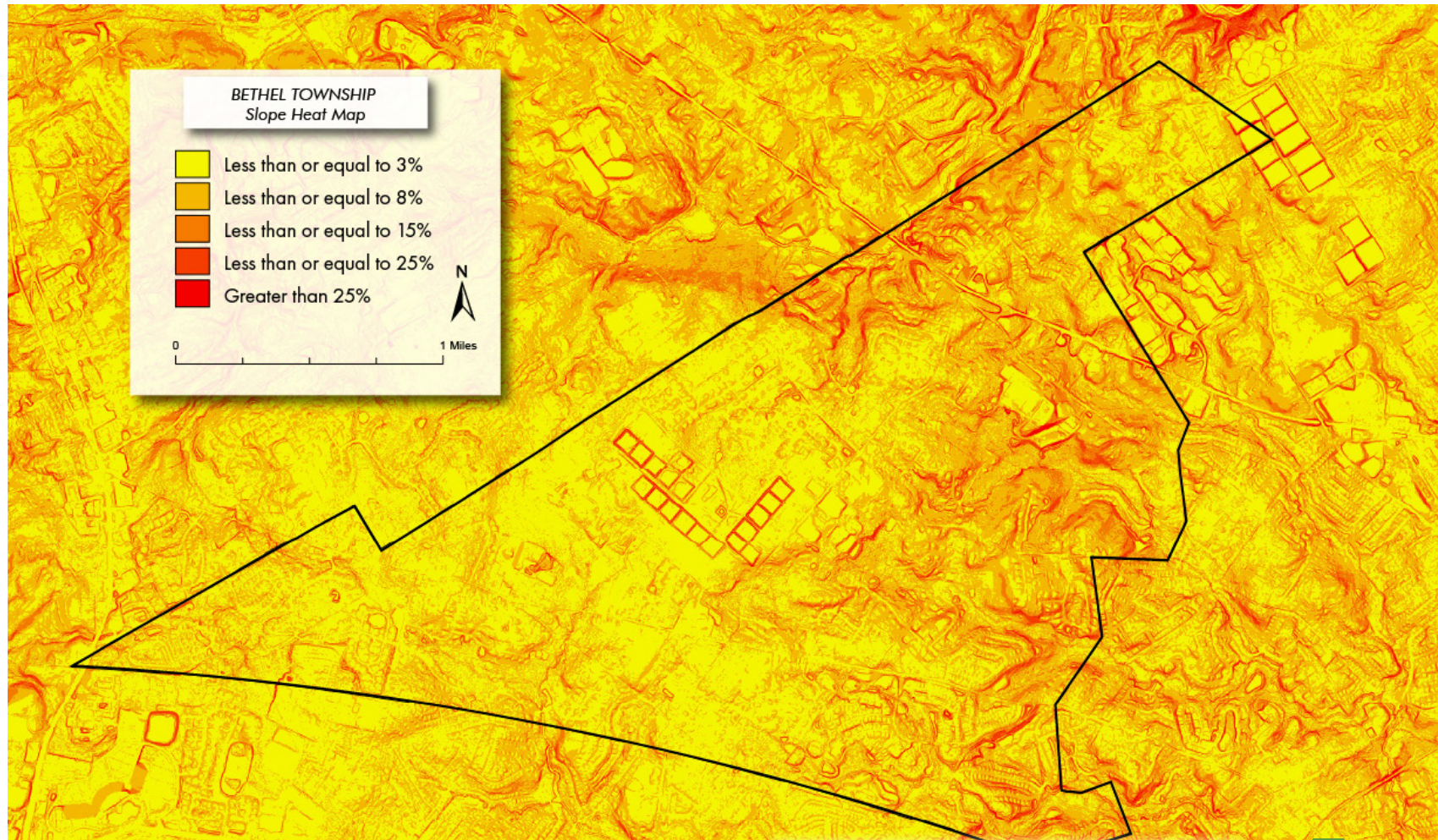
Topography and steep slopes are naturally occurring, and are results of geology, hydrology, as well as man-made development. Topography limits development and steep slopes (over 15%) are classified as environmentally sensitive.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service's Web Soil Survey for Bethel Township has four classifications for slopes:

- 0 to 3 percent,
- 3 to 8 percent,
- 8 to 15 percent,
- 15 to 35 percent.

As slope increases, the depth of topsoil and the ability of the soil to support structures decreases. Steep slopes have a combination of vegetation, climate, soil and underlying geology which will differ from the surrounding area. Environmental sensitivity of the steep slope is different from lowland areas. Especially if vegetation is removed from steep slope areas, sediment erosion is a likely result, which will lead to increased stormwater runoff.

Bethel Township has several steep slope areas. Steep slopes are located in all parts of the Township, but are more specifically located along several water bodies: Skippack Creek, Mine Run, Perkiomen Creek, and the Schuylkill River, and tributaries.





## HYDROLOGY

### Watersheds

A watershed is an area that drains all rainfall to a common outlet, stream, or conveyance channel. Surface water moves across Bethel Township, eventually making its way to the Delaware River via the following watersheds and sub watersheds:

- Middle Brandywine Creek Watershed
- West Branch Chester Creek Watershed
- Oldmans Creek-Naamans Creek Watershed
- Repaupo Creek-Marcus Hook Watershed

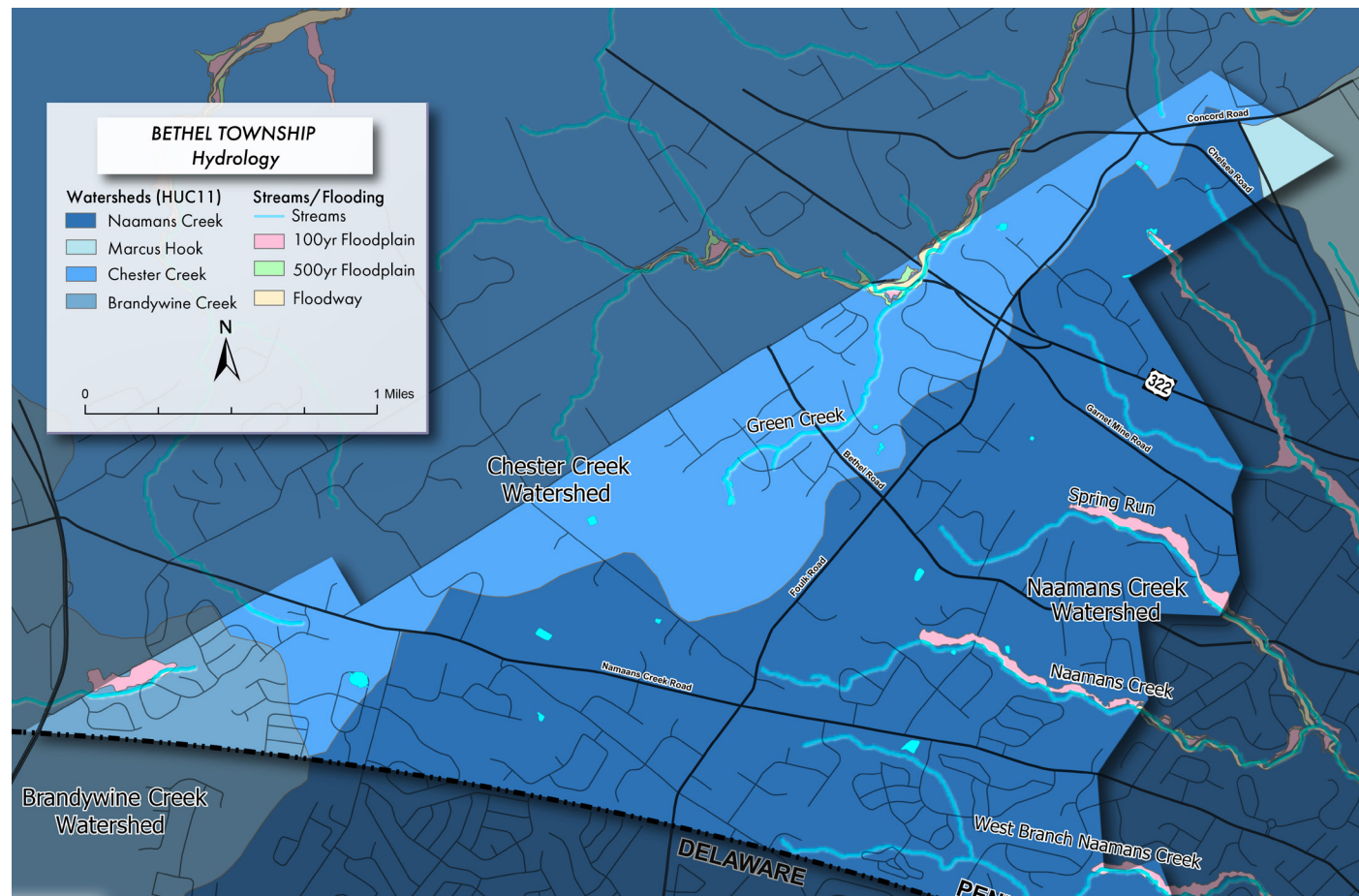
Stormwater may run across impervious surfaces during periods of heavy rain and snowfall. Impervious surfaces are paved surfaces and structures through which water cannot infiltrate, i.e.: sidewalks, driveways, roadways, parking lots, buildings/rooftops, etc. These surfaces usually convey rainwater into storm drains but can also discharge overland into lands that may be classified as pervious (or able to infiltrate water).

Branches and tributaries of Naamans Creek drain most of the central and eastern portions of the Township while Green Creek drains much of the eastern and northern portions of the Township into the West Branch Chester Creek Watershed. A small portion of the Middle Brandywine Creek Watershed is within the Township's southern boundary and a small portion of the Repaupo Creek Watershed is within the Township's northern boundary.

### Streams

Streams, rivers, and waterways play important historic, recreational, and environmental roles for people who live in the region. The following waterways (and their tributaries) run through or adjacent to Bethel Township:

- West Branch Naamans Creek
- East Branch Naamans Creek
- South Branch Naamans Creek
- Green Creek





## Floodplains

Floodplains are low lying areas next to streams, rivers, or waterways that are subject to periodical complete or partial flooding during rain events. Floodplains are meant to flood as part of the hydrologic cycle. The boundaries of floodplains are typically irregularly shaped and often meander through communities, unseen. Flooding under normal circumstances is not dangerous, but when development approaches these areas, the risk of damage and possible loss of life increases. When these areas are naturally vegetated, it can help trap and reduce the amount of suspended sediment from upland runoff that would otherwise reduce water quality and impair aquatic habitat. Having a healthy floodplain will also create better downstream conditions while storing large amounts of water which help replenish aquifers. Regulations protect these important areas and help to protect people from property damage and loss of life.

Floodplains in the Township are identified on the Hydrology Map.

## Water Quality

The Federal Clean Water Act requires Pennsylvania to establish water quality standards for all streams and other water bodies in the state. The standards establish criteria that need to be met to protect designated water uses. This means that the streams are evaluated periodically to ensure that the water quality standards that are associated with the uses are met. The higher the standards, the higher the waterway's value for protection and propagation of aquatic life and, hence, the higher the stream quality.

Below is the federal government's list as it is used in Delaware County, including a summary of what the water quality criteria are based on. The list is prioritized from the lowest designation (WWF) to the highest (EV).

- WWF Warm Water Fishes — Maintenance and propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna that are indigenous to a warm water habitat.
- CWF Cold Water Fishes — Maintenance and/or propagation of fish species, including the family Salmonidae, and additional flora and fauna that are indigenous to a cold water habitat.
- TSF Trout Stocking Fishes — Maintenance of stocked trout from February 15 to July 31 and maintenance and propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna that are indigenous to a warm water habitat.

- MF Migratory Fishes - Passage, maintenance and propagation of anadromous and catadromous fishes and other fishes which move to or from flowing waters to complete their life cycle in other waters.
- EV Exceptional Value Water — A stream or watershed that constitutes an outstanding national, state, regional, or local resource, such as waters of national, state, or county park or forests, or water that is used as a source of unfiltered potable water supply, or waters of wildlife refuges or state game lands, or water that has been characterized by the Fish Commission as "Wilderness Trout Streams," and other waters of substantial recreation or ecological significance.

Waterways in Bethel have been designated:

- Green Creek: CWF, MF
- Naamans Creek: WWF, MF



## WOODLANDS

Delaware County is primarily considered part of the Mixed Oak Forest Region, which extends from northern Georgia to southern New England. Before modern times, this region was known as the Oak-Chestnut region. However, the chestnut blight was introduced to the area in 1904; it obliterated the American chestnut, which was a dominant species of this forest type. Today, little to none of the original forest cover exists in the County, due to clearing for agriculture and development, and even remaining forests have been logged at least once for fuel and lumber.

Today, tulip poplars, which were once a minor portion of the forest makeup, have become co-dominant with oak species of the region along south-facing slopes, while north-facing forested slopes are prevalent with beech trees. The forest understory has become more heavily dominated by native spicebush, viburnums and witch hazel. The Atlantic coastal plain, which extends 5 miles along the lower 50 miles of the Delaware River in Pennsylvania, supported tree species that were common in the south due to the sandy soils and the warmer air coming in from the bay. Today, smaller areas of this forest remain and consist of the sweet gum-oak coastal plain forest type.

Woodlands and hedgerows serve many purposes; woodlands prevent erosion, provide habitat for wildlife, provide buffers for creeks, and offer recreational opportunities for residents. Hedgerows and wooded corridors also prevent erosion and provide cover for wildlife movement, shelter, and migration. Different species of trees attract different types of wildlife. In general, the more diversity of vegetation in an environment, the more species of animals it can support.

The map below shows the wooded areas in Bethel Township based on information collected from Delaware County data. Most of the wooded areas are located around the Township's waterways.





## PRESERVED/PROTECTED LAND

Preserved and protected lands in the Township are shown on the map on the following page and described below.

### Township-Owned Parks

#### *Bethel Community Park*

Community Park is located on Foulk Road, across from Bethel Springs Elementary School, and is approximately 2.7 acres in size. The Park contains two baseball fields, benches, 58 regular parking spaces and two ADA spaces.

#### *John T. Adkinson Park*

Adkinson Park is located on Naamans Creek Road, north of Foxfield at Naamans Creek, and is approximately 6.3 acres in size. The Park contains a pavilion, picnic tables, benches, an approximately one-acre pond, a walking path along the southern perimeter and pond, 25 regular parking spaces and two ADA spaces.

#### *Jack King Park / Thompson Swamp*

Jack King Park, along with Thompson Swamp, is located on Naamans Creek Road off Ebright Road and is approximately 8.6 acres in size. The Park contains a playground, picnic tables, benches, a walking path that traverses the Park's wooded areas, 27 regular parking spaces and two ADA spaces.

### Township-Owned Open Space

#### *Shaffer Preserve*

Shaffer Preserve is located along Bethel Road near Sarum Farm Lane. It is approximately 28 acres in size. The Preserve contains a pond and is planned for passive recreational features, including: a 10' wide ADA-accessible walkway with benches; a 6' wide asphalt (or mown) walkway; boardwalk to Goodley Road; primary and secondary lawns; plaza; formalized seating / lawn area; tree allée; vehicular lighting; preserve gate; privacy fence and 17 parking spaces with space for overflow parking.

#### *Calais Woods and Sharon Development Open Space*

These areas of municipal open space, approximately 16.8 acres in size, are located between Sharon Drive, Red Oak Drive and Split Rail Drive. They are adjacent to residential developments and contain a tributary of the South Branch Naamans Creek.

### School Property

#### *Bethel Springs Elementary School*

Bethel Springs is located along Foulk Road, opposite Community Park. The site is approximately 22.9 acres in size and contains a baseball field, softball field, two soccer fields, a basketball court and two playgrounds. The site also contains a nature trail, which provides an outdoor educational experience for students to learn about environmental resources and protection. The parking lot has 380 regular parking spaces and 14 ADA spaces. The school building itself houses kindergarten to 5th grade classes and has an enrollment of 534 students.

#### *Francis Harvey Green School Site*

This site, located at the corner of Foulk and Bethel Roads, was the home of the former Francis Harvey Green School. It is approximately 7.4 acres in size and contains a baseball field with bleachers. The parking lot has 20 regular parking spaces. The school building was demolished in 2010.

Bethel Township Parks + Open Space	Acres	% of Township Land
<b>Bethel Township</b>	<b>3456.0</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Township-Owned Active Parks</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
Bethel Community Park	2.7	0.1%
John T. Adkinson Park	6.3	0.2%
Jack King Park/Thompson Swamp	8.6	0.2%
<b>Township-Owned Unused Open Space</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
Shaffer Preserve	28.1	0.8%
Sharon Development Open Space	9.7	0.3%
Calais Woods	7.1	0.2%
<b>Total Township-Owned Parks &amp; Open Space</b>	<b>62.4</b>	<b>1.8%</b>

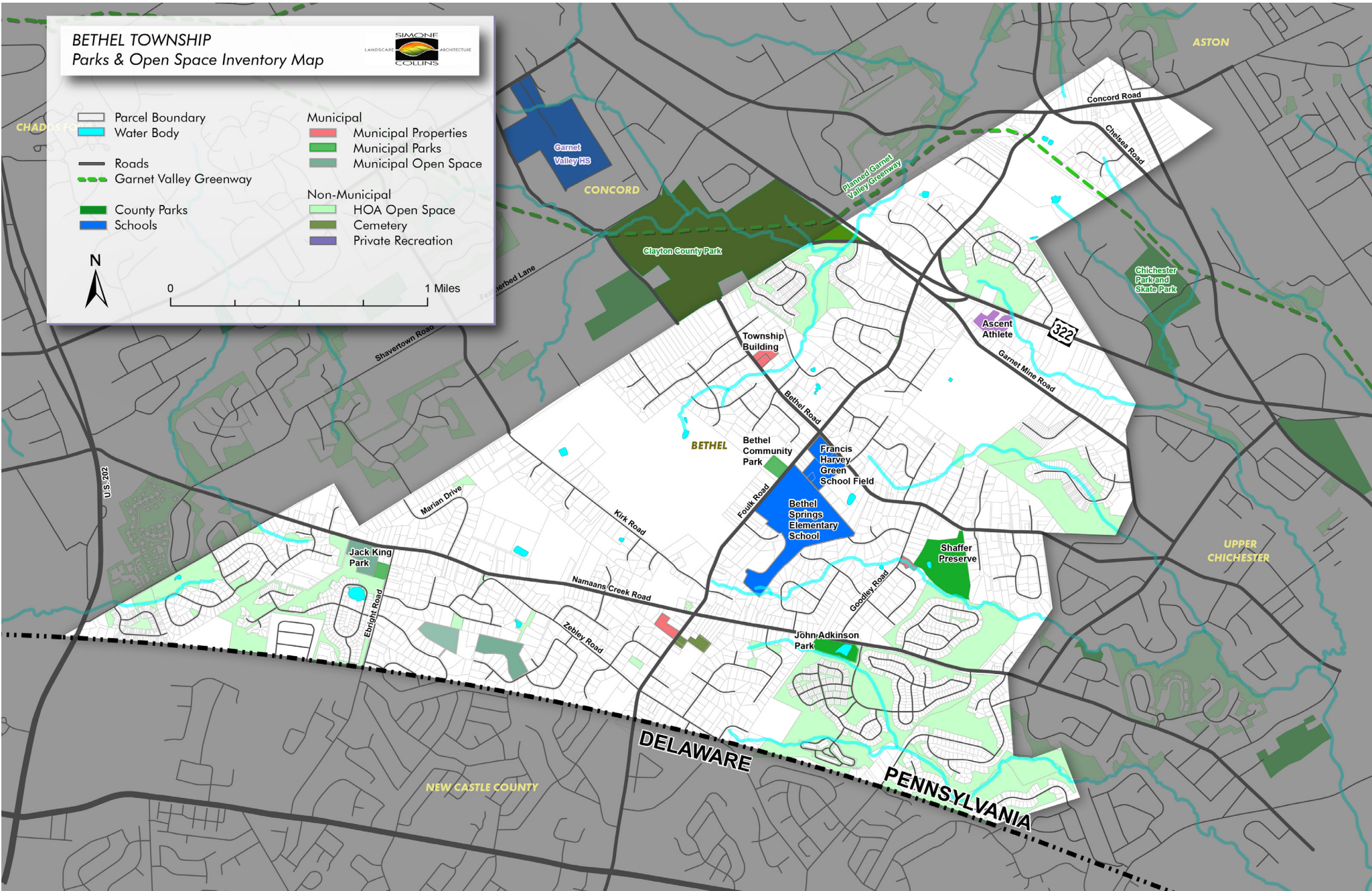
**BETHEL TOWNSHIP**  
Parks & Open Space Inventory Map



- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Parcel Boundary        | Municipal Properties |
| Water Body             | Municipal Parks      |
| Roads                  | Municipal Open Space |
| Garnet Valley Greenway | County Parks         |
| County Parks           | HOA Open Space       |
| Schools                | Cemetery             |
|                        | Private Recreation   |



0 1 Miles





Bethel Township Parks + Open Space		Acres	% of Township	Type			Paths/Trails		Parking		Facilities									
Bethel Township		3456.0	100%	Active Rec.	Public Open Space	Private Open Space	Walk	Nature Trail	Regular	ADA	Baseball	Softball	Soccer	Basketball	Playground	Pavilion	Picnic Tables	Benches	Bleachers	Pond
<b>Township-Owned Parks</b>		<b>17.6</b>	<b>0.5%</b>																	
Bethel Community Park	2.7	0.1%	X						58	2	2							X		
John T. Adkinson Park	6.3	0.2%	X				X		25	2					X	X	X	X		1
Jack King Park/Thompson Swamp	8.6	0.2%	X	X			X		27	2					X	X	X	X		
<b>Township-Owned Open Space</b>		<b>44.8</b>	<b>1.3%</b>																	
Shaffer Park	28.1	0.8%		X					0	0										1
Sharon Park	9.7	0.3%		X					0	0										
Calais Woods	7.1	0.2%		X					0	0										
<b>Total acreage for ex. Township-owned parks and open space</b>		<b>62.4</b>	<b>1.8%</b>																	
<b>County-Owned Open Space</b>		<b>4.1</b>	<b>0.1%</b>																	
Clayton Park	4.1	0.1%		X																
<b>HOA Open Space</b>		<b>379.8</b>	<b>11.0%</b>																	
Garnet Oaks	30.7	0.9%			X															
Green Glen Drive and Foulk Road Open Space	3.3	0.1%																		
Northbrook	33.1	1.0%			X															
Garnet Reserve	17.0	0.5%			X															
Garnet Hills	40.4	1.2%			X															
The Hills at Bethel	34.6	1.0%			X															
The Woods at Naaman's	34.4	1.0%			X															
Rock Creek	20.1	0.6%			X															
Foxfield	82.7	2.4%			X															
Greenbriar	2.9	0.1%																		
Bookcroft	1.0	0.03%																		
Marian Drive Open Space	1.4	0.04%																		
Sweet Briar	3.4	0.1%																		
Beau Tree	1.9	0.1%																		
Belmont + Senior Community	42.4	1.2%																		
Chartwell	22.1	0.6%			X															
Pyle Road Area Open Space	1.4	0.0%																		
Trotters Lea	7.1	0.2%			X															
<b>School District Lands</b>		<b>30.3</b>	<b>0.9%</b>																	
Francis Harvey Green School	7.4	0.2%	X	X					20	0	1									X
Bethel Springs Elementary School	22.9	0.7%	X	X			X		380	14	1	1	2	1	2					
<b>Private Outdoor Recreational Facility</b>		<b>47.2</b>	<b>1.4%</b>																	
Penn-Del Archers	47.2	1.4%																		
<b>Cemetery</b>		<b>3.5</b>	<b>0.1%</b>																	
Siloam Church and Cemetary	3.5	0.1%	X	X					20	0	1									X
<b>Total acreage for ex. parks and open space in Twp</b>		<b>527.4</b>	<b>15.3%</b>																	

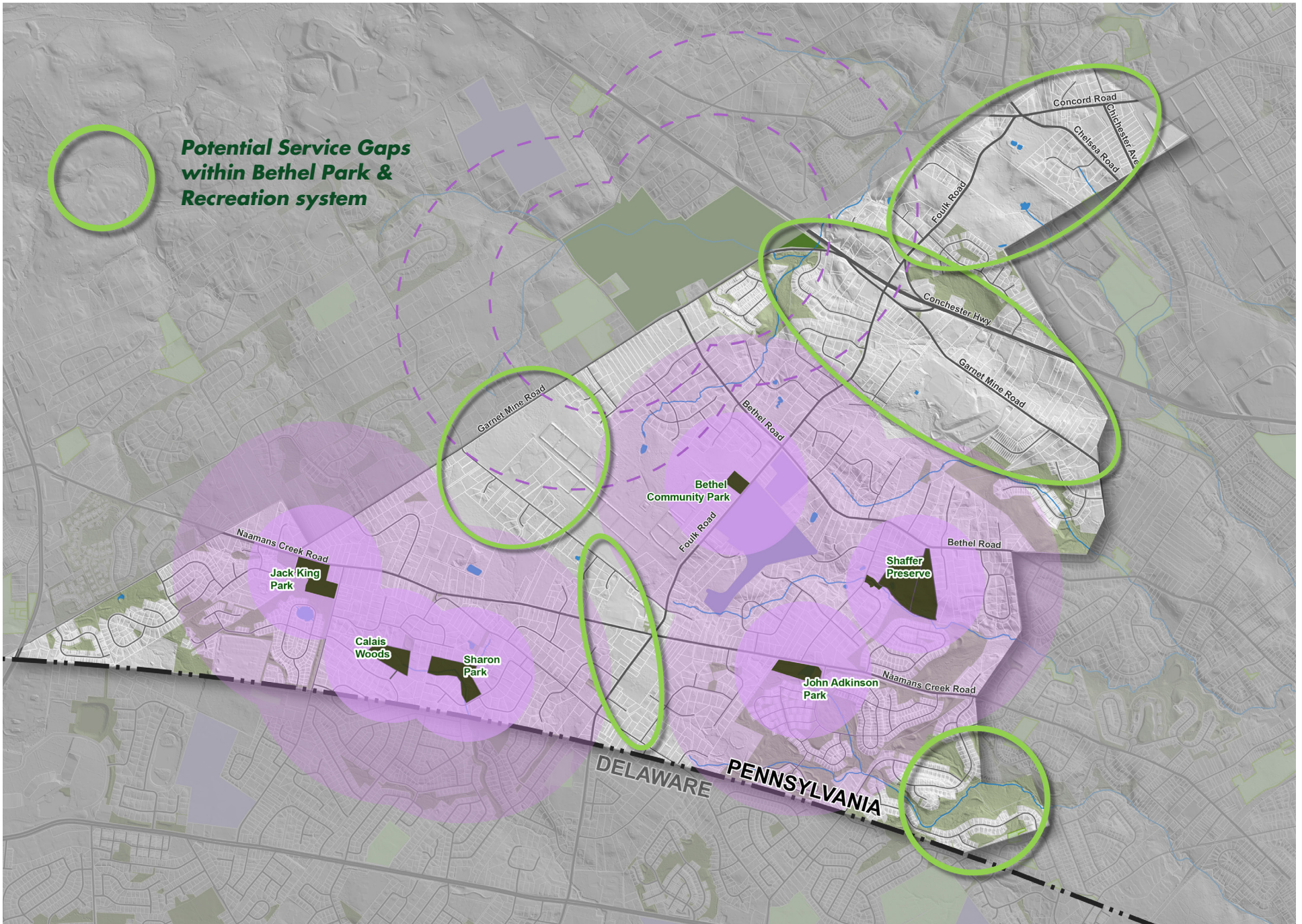
# RECREATION FACILITIES & OPEN SPACE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

## SERVICE AREA MAP

The Service Area Map indicates a quarter mile and half mile radius areas from each park and Township-owned parcel, as well as other local and neighborhood parks located a half mile and mile from the Township. This map demonstrates both areas which may be well-served by these lands (within the service area radii) as well as areas that may not be served, due to the greater distance from these lands/facilities (located in the “service gaps” outside of the service area radii).







**Potential Service Gaps within Bethel Park & Recreation system**

## COMMUNITY BENCHMARKING

Community benchmarking was completed to evaluate the park system of Bethel Township against communities which are similar to the Township in size and population. Bethel's 2020 population and projected 2045 population were used to determine both current and future recreational needs.

A comparison analyzed the amount of recreational space and number of amenities provided, using National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Metrics as a guide. Recreational facilities from five municipalities were used to determine the extent of either deficit or surplus of amenities in the Township. See charts in the Appendix of this report.

### Community Benchmarking for Current Needs

In 2020, the population of Bethel Township was 9,359. Municipalities used for benchmarking were:

- East Fallowfield Township, Chester County, PA – 2020 Population: 7,626
- Upper Milford Township, Lehigh County, PA – 2020 Population: 7,777
- London Grove Township, Chester County, PA – 2020 Population: 8,797
- North Coventry Township, Chester County, PA – 2020 Population: 8,441
- Upper Providence Township, Delaware County, PA – 2020 Population: 10,963

When comparing Bethel's recreational facilities to the average of these benchmark municipalities, the Township lands either at the average or below average. Noted below are the additional facilities that would be needed to meet the average:

- 1 park
- 247.54 acres of parkland
- 1 basketball court
- 4 biking/hiking trails or walking tracks
- 1 multipurpose field
- 2 pavilions / rental spaces
- 1 tennis court
- 1 soccer field
- 2 volleyball courts
- 1 playground

### Community Benchmarking for Future Needs

In 2045, the population of Bethel Township is projected to be 10,170. Municipalities used for benchmarking were:

- East Bradford Township, Chester County, PA – 2020 Population: 10,339
- Willistown Township, Chester County, PA – 2020 Population: 11,273
- Worcester Township, Montgomery County, PA – 2020 Population: 10,317
- Chesterfield Township, Burlington County, NJ – 2020 Population: 9,422
- Upper Providence Township, Delaware County, PA – 2020 Population: 10,963

When comparing Bethel's recreational facilities to the average of these benchmark municipalities, the Township lands either at the average or below average. Noted below are the additional facilities that would be needed to meet the average:

- 6 parks
- 438.76 acres of parkland
- 5 baseball / softball fields
- 1 basketball court
- 6 biking/hiking trails or walking tracks
- 1 multipurpose field
- 2 tennis courts
- 1 soccer field
- 1 volleyball court
- 1 playground
- 1 dog park
- 1 fishing area
- 1 community garden



### Community Benchmarking - Existing Facilities (2020 Bethel Township Population)

	Bethel Township, Delaware County (2020)	Benchmark Municipalities Average (2020)	Difference from Average	Difference from Maximum
Population	9,359	8,721	638	-1,604
Area (Sq. Miles)	5.44	14.06	-8.62	-12.57
2020 Pop. Density per Sq. Mile	1,720	788	933	-170
# of Parks	3	4	-1	-6
Park Area (Acres)	17.58	265.12	-247.54	-712.89
Median Income (2021)	\$150,877	\$111,108	\$39,769	\$35,393
<b>Facility</b>				
Baseball / Softball / T-Ball	3	3	0	-5
Basketball	0	1	-1	-2
Biking / Hiking Trail / Walking Track	0	4	-4	-10
Football	0	0	0	0
Multipurpose Field	0	1	-1	-3
Pavilion / Rental Space	1	3	-2	-3
Pool	0	0	0	0
Tennis	0	1	-1	-3
Pickleball court	0	0	0	0
Tennis/Pickleball combo court	0	0	0	0
Skate Park	0	0	0	-1
Soccer	0	1	-1	-5
Volleyball	0	2	-2	-5
Playgrounds	1	2	-1	-3
Disc Golf	0	0	0	-1
Street Hockey / Ice Skating	0	0	0	-1
Dog Park	0	0	0	-1
Fishing	0	0	0	-2
Amphitheater	0	0	0	-1
Community Center	0	0	0	-1
Recreation Center	0	0	0	0
Boat/Raft Launch	0	0	0	-1
Gaga Ball	0	0	0	0
Community Garden	0	0	0	-1

NRPA Benchmarking 2023					
	NRPA metrics	Bethel Township 2020	Bethel Township 2045 Projection	Additional needed to meet metric 2020	Additional needed to meet metric 2045
<b>Population of Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Less Than 20,000</b>	<b>9,359</b>	<b>10,170</b>		
Number of Residents per Park (median)	1225.00	3119.67	3390.00	-	-
Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents (median)	13.00	1.88	1.73	-	-
Number of Parks	-	-	-	4.64	5.30
Township-owned (acres)	-	-	-	104.09	114.63
<b>Outdoor Facilities</b>					
Playgrounds	2014.00			3.6	4.0
Basketball courts	3729.00			2.5	2.7
Diamond Fields: baseball field - youth	3114.00			3.0	3.3
Tennis courts (outdoor)	2805.00			3.3	3.6
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose	3859.00			1.4	1.6
Diamond Fields: softball field - adult	5800.00			1.6	1.8
Diamond Fields: softball field - youth	5079.00			1.8	2.0
Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult	6955.00			1.3	1.5
Multiuse courts - basketball, volleyball	5093.00			1.8	2.0
Totlots	5816.00			1.6	1.7
Rectangular fields: football field	8637.00			1.1	1.2
Pickleball (outdoor)	3252.00			2.9	3.1
Regulation 18-hole course	9587.00			1.0	1.1
Multiuse courts - tennis, pickleball (outdoor)	4868.00			1.9	2.1
Multipurpose synthetic field	9518.00			1.0	1.1
<b>Indoor Facilities</b>					
Recreation Centers (incl. gyms)	9745.00			1.0	1.0
Community Centers	8829.00			1.1	1.2
Senior Centers	14000.00			0.7	0.7
Performance amphitheaters	11100.00			0.8	0.9
Nature Centers	10633.00			0.9	1.0
Aquatics Centers	11650.00			0.8	0.9
Stadiums	9250.00			1.0	1.1
Teen centers	14593.00			0.6	0.7
Indoor ice rinks	8000.00			1.2	1.3
Arenas	5531.00			1.7	1.8



### Benchmarking with 2023 NRPA Metrics

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) compiles park and recreation agency information from across the country. NRPA understands that there is no single set of standards for parks and recreation to address the uniqueness of a community. The organization creates averages for total acres of parkland, total number of parks, facility type totals, and average operating expenses to assist planners with addressing parks and recreation needs within a community.

Below is a comparison of some of the NRPA metrics (for agencies serving jurisdictions of less than 20,000 residents) and the numbers in Bethel (based upon 2020 population of 9,359 residents and 2045 projected population of 10,170):

### **NRPA METRIC: THERE ARE TYPICALLY 1,225 RESIDENTS PER PARK.**

Bethel has 3 parks, which means that there are currently 3,120 residents per park. The Township would need an additional 4-5 parks to meet this metric currently and an additional 5-6 parks to meet this metric in 2045.

### **NRPA METRIC: THERE ARE TYPICALLY 13 ACRES OF PARKLAND PER 1000 RESIDENTS (NRPA).**

Bethel has 17.6 acres of Township-owned active parkland. Based on the 2020 population of 9,359 residents, Bethel currently has 1.88 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which is a deficit of about 104 acres. To meet this metric in 2045, the Township will need an additional 114.63 acres for a total of 132 acres of parkland.

### **NRPA METRIC: THERE IS TYPICALLY ONE (1) PLAYGROUND FOR EVERY 2,014 RESIDENTS.**

Bethel has one (1) playground. The Township would need an additional four (4) playgrounds to meet this metric per the 2020 and 2045 population counts.

### **NRPA METRIC: THERE IS TYPICALLY ONE (1) BASKETBALL COURT FOR EVERY 3,729 RESIDENTS.**

There are currently no basketball courts in Bethel. The Township needs three (3) courts to meet this metric per the 2020 and 2045 population counts.

### **NRPA METRIC: THERE IS TYPICALLY ONE (1) YOUTH BASEBALL FIELD FOR EVERY 3,114 RESIDENTS.**

There are currently three (3) baseball / softball fields in Bethel. To meet this metric, the Township needs an additional three (3) fields per the 2020 and 2045 population counts.

### **NRPA METRIC: THERE IS TYPICALLY ONE (1) MULTIPURPOSE FIELD FOR EVERY 3,859 RESIDENTS.**

This is currently no multipurpose field in Bethel. The Township needs two (2) fields to meet this metric per the 2020 and 2045 population counts.

### **NRPA METRIC: THERE IS TYPICALLY ONE (1) ADULT SOCCER FIELD FOR EVERY 6,955 RESIDENTS.**

There are currently no soccer fields in Bethel. To meet this metric, the Township needs one to two (1-2) fields per the 2020 and 2045 population counts.

### **NRPA METRIC: THERE IS TYPICALLY ONE (1) TENNIS / PICKLEBALL COURT FOR EVERY 4,868 RESIDENTS.**

There are currently no tennis / pickleball courts in Bethel. To meet this metric, the Township needs two (2) courts per the 2020 and 2045 population counts.



Playground at Jack King Park



## WALKABILITY AND TRAILS

### Sidewalks/Trails/Sidewalk Gaps (DVRPC)

Sidewalks within the Township are limited to areas within residential developments, resulting in what is essentially a network of isolated patches that exist in the southeast and southwest sections of the Township and a few neighborhoods in the north.

## Destinations within Bethel Township

- Bethel Community Park
- Jack King Park
- John Adkinson Park
- Shaffer Preserve
- Bethel Springs Elementary School
- Bethel Township Building
- Booth's Corner
- Siloam United Methodist Church

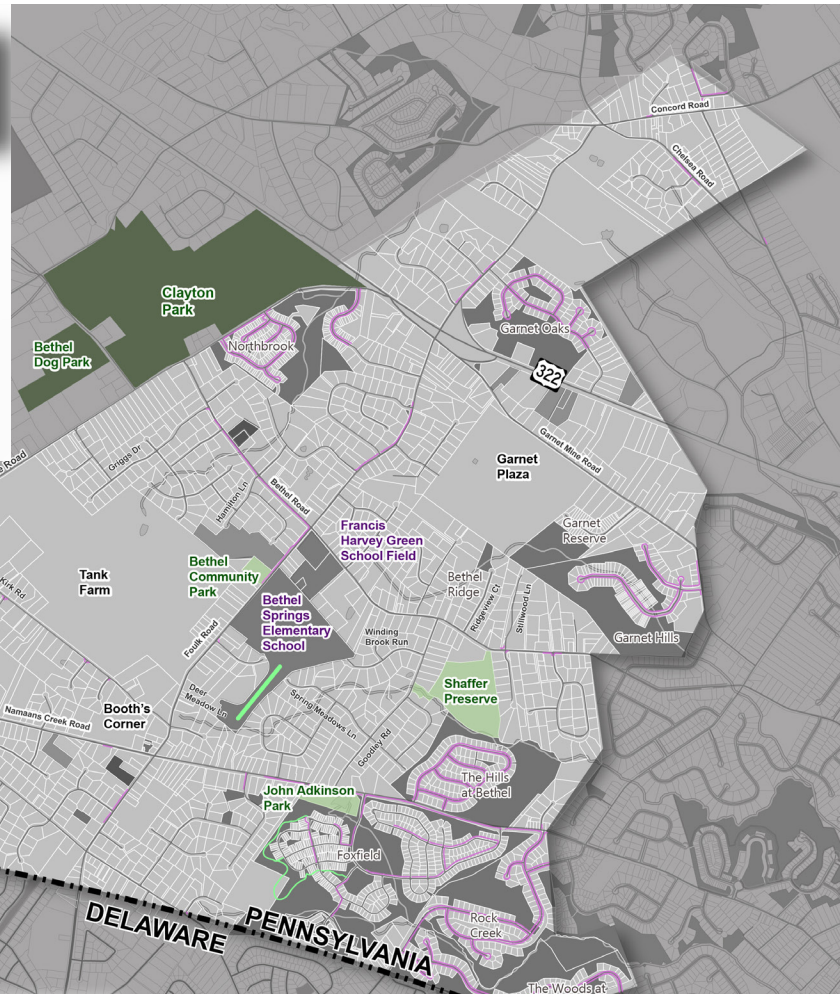
### BETHEL TOWNSHIP Parks & Open Space Existing Conditions Map



- |  |                           |  |                    |
|--|---------------------------|--|--------------------|
|  | Parcel Boundary           |  | Roads              |
|  | Municipal Park            |  | Existing Sidewalks |
|  | Municipal Open Space      |  |                    |
|  | Park Outside Municipality |  |                    |
|  | Existing Trail            |  |                    |



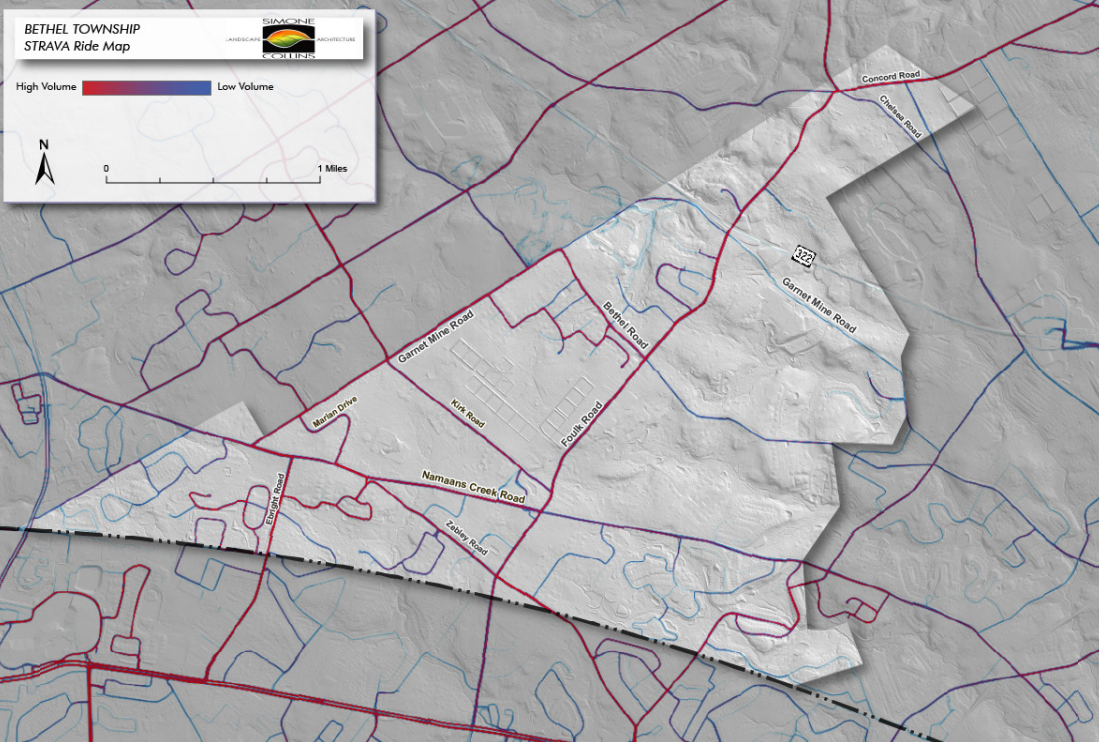
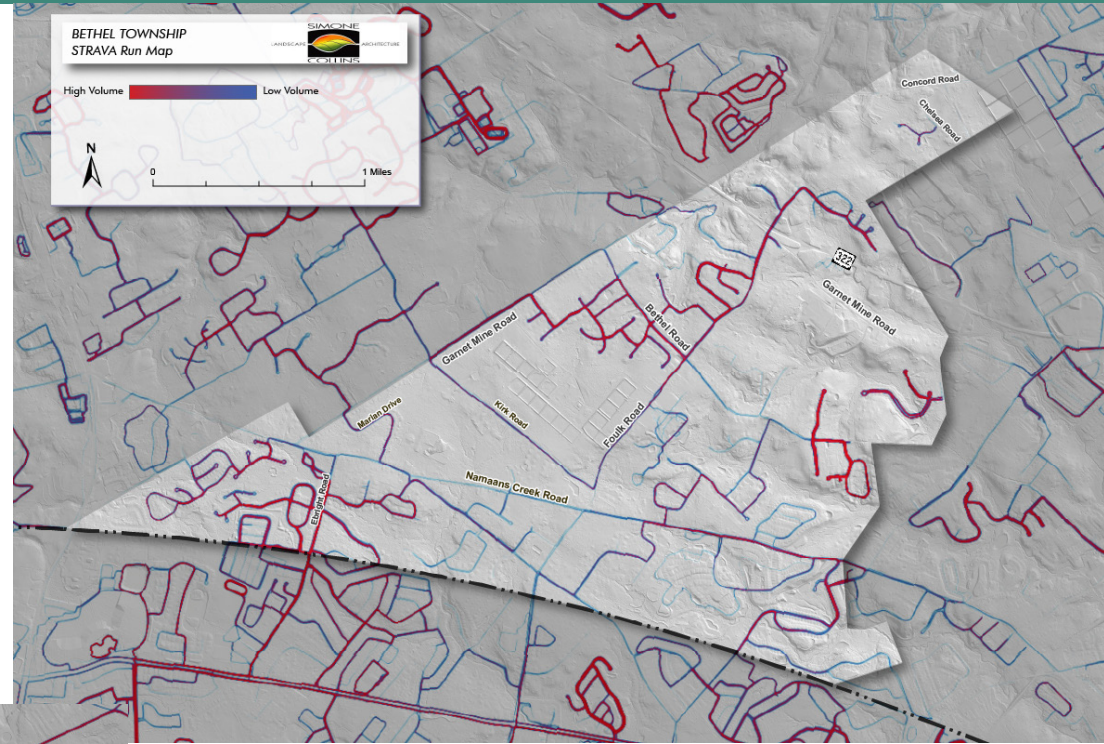
0 1 Miles





## STRAVA HEAT MAPS

STRAVA is an app used by bicyclists and runners to track their routes. This information is aggregated by STRAVA to create “Heat Maps”; the hotter and bolder the route, the more heavily it is used. STRAVA is a social network for athletes to track exercise. The heat map shows ‘heat’ made by aggregated, public activities over the last year. The heat map is updated monthly. Activity that athletes mark as private is not visible.





## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT & MS4

### What is MS4?

The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program is mandated under the Clean Water Act and administered by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The goal of this program is to reduce the amount of pollution discharged into waterbodies from separate storm sewer systems (MS4s).

An MS4 is a system of conveyances, like a retention basin, roadside inlet, or underground pipe, and they are designed to collect and transport stormwater and discharge it, untreated, into local waterways. MS4s are owned or operated by a city, town or other public entity and are not connected to the sanitary sewer system or wastewater treatment plant.

Through this program, local municipalities must obtain a permit to legally discharge stormwater into local streams and creeks. To meet the terms of this permit, they need to create a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) that is designed to reduce the amount of pollution entering local waterbodies.

Every SWMP must address 6 focus area, also called Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) that are considered essential for successfully reducing stormwater pollution:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Participation and Involvement
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Runoff Control
- Post-Construction Runoff Control
- Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal

Bethel Township maintains a Stormwater Management section on its Township website and it is a useful resource for public education and involvement. It includes information on

reducing pollution at home, creating rain gardens and a list of local and state resources for further information on pollution prevention and stormwater management.

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, Bethel lies within the Naamans Creek, West Branch Chester Creek and Brandywine Creek watersheds. As part of its MS4 requirements, the Township has developed a pollution reduction plan (PRP) to address pollutants. It recommends the installation of Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the form of converting dry basins to extended dry basins with some sediment filtering and stream bank stabilization. This includes a retrofit of a basin in the Township-owned land in the Sharon development.





## ORGANIZED SPORTS PROGRAMS ANALYSIS

### Brandywine Youth Club

The Brandywine Youth Club (BYC) provides organized sports programs to kids in Bethel Township, Chester Heights, Concord Township, Chadds Ford Township and Thornbury Township. In Bethel Township, the BYC uses the following facilities:

#### Bethel Community Park

- Field 1: Baseball / Softball
- Field 2: Baseball / Softball
- Field 3: Baseball / Softball

#### Bethel Spring Elementary School

- Field 11: Baseball-Teeners (13-15 years) and Soccer (Grades 2-8)
- Field 12: Lacrosse / Softball / Soccer
- School Gym

#### Francis Harvey Green Field

- Baseball and Soccer / Lacrosse Practice



### Brandywine Booters / Bethel Bombers

The Brandywine Booters provide organized soccer for children aged 3.5 to 9. A second league in the program has organized soccer for children aged 6 to 9.5. This is a non-competitive league for participants who want to continue to benefit from the group's program. All children living within the Garnet Valley School District are eligible to participate. Within Bethel Township, the Booters utilize the open area around the baseball infield at Community Park to set up five fields of varying sizes for play. They also utilize the open field at Francis Harvey Green. Parents park at either the parking lot at Community Park, the Francis Harvey Green lot or the Bethel Springs lot.

The Bethel Bombers provides organized t-ball for children aged 4-6 and they use Community Park for their program.



### Garnet Valley School District

The School District has a symbiotic relationship with the Township and is a full access school community as residents and groups are able to utilize the District's tracks and courts. BYC uses the fields at Bethel Springs for soccer in the fall and lacrosse and baseball in the spring with occasional soccer usage. Some local groups will also reach out for scheduling use of the fields. The field at the Francis Harvey Green site is used by the cross-country team. The open space itself is used by residents and is utilized by the Bethel Fire Company for events, such as the annual carnival. The District does not have any formal plans for the future of the field. The District also partners with Ascent Athlete, a private recreation provider located along Route 322 that specializes in baseball and softball player development, to use their training facility.



## RECREATION PROGRAMMING ANALYSIS

The Township provides a number of community / special events. Some of the special events include: an Easter egg hunt, movie night, July 4th fireworks, corn boil and a Christmas event. The events are heavily promoted on the Township's social media sites. Events are coordinated through the Park Board in partnership with Township administration, and a volunteer group of dedicated residents. The events are well received and well attended by Township residents; nonresidents are welcome to attend as well.

Bethel does not offer other organized recreational programs for residents. Recreational activities are provided by private organizations. Residents may participate in unorganized spontaneous recreational pursuits through a variety of venues within the Township. The Township's park system and School District facilities provide ample opportunity for individuals and families to recreate at their own pace. Walking trails, open lawn areas, ballfields, play equipment, wildlife observation, and other opportunities are available at the parks and facilities for resident enjoyment.

Opportunities are plentiful for Bethel to provide some simple programs which provides opportunities for residents. The programs may take the form of employee instructors, third party providers, and partnerships with private organizations.

**EVENTS SCHEDULE** **PARKS AND REC 2024**

- MAR 23RD** **EASTER EGG HUNT**  
Clayton Park  
Saturday, March 23, 2024
- JUNE 14TH** **MOVIE NIGHT**  
Bethel Springs Elementary School  
Friday, June 14, 2024
- JULY 3RD** **FIREWORKS**  
Bethel Springs Elementary School  
Wednesday, July 3, 2024
- AUG 18TH** **CORN BOIL**  
Bethel Springs Elementary School  
Sunday, August 18, 2024
- DEC 7TH** **SANTA EVENT**  
Bethel Springs Elementary School  
Saturday, December 7, 2024

**MORE INFO:** [HTTP://WWW.TWP.BETHEL.PA.US/24/PARKS-RECREATION](http://www.twp.bethel.pa.us/24/parks-recreation)



## MAINTENANCE ANALYSIS

Bethel has staff dedicated to perform park maintenance and public works services. The Township performs most park maintenance and organizes the work schedules to accomplish maintenance within the Township. Summer maintenance tasks include grass cutting on Mondays from April to November and additional maintenance that is performed as needed such as cleaning drains, filling potholes and removing trees. Fall and winter maintenance tasks include tree trimming, leaf cleaning, maintaining trails and removing snow from parking lots, trails, streets and Township roads. Staff takes pride in their efforts to provide safe, usable, and a visually pleasing park. Present budgets show funding for maintenance is consistent year over year.

The care and maintenance of all equipment is a high priority for the maintenance department. The level of service to equipment extends the life of the equipment and helps keep budgetary concerns lower.

Current equipment includes:

- Six (6) dump trucks
- Tractor with mower and backhoe
- Several mowers
- Trailers









# RECOMMENDATIONS

3





# GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## BETHEL TOWNSHIP PARK SYSTEM

Bethel Community Park is the Township's only recreational facility with both active and passive amenities. Parks are one of the main settings for residents of Bethel to interact with the community. Parks are areas where residents of all ages, ethnicities, economic statuses, and abilities will interact and create community-building experiences that are a tangible reflection of the quality of life within the community.

Beyond the many benefits parks provide as open space, they are also noted as important indicators of community livability and they create a sense of pride within the community. This has become more evident during the COVID-19 Pandemic where parks and trails became essential for support of both physical and mental health of the residents as was reflected in the dramatic increase of park and open space use.

The community and NRPA benchmarking analysis, as described in the previous chapter, notes the recreational deficiencies the Township currently experiences and will experience as the population grows, and a way to address these deficiencies is to develop new recreational features on Township-owned land and to explore additional places in the Township that may be suitable for open space preservation in order to fully meet the recreational needs of the Township's future residents.

With the addition of new facilities on Township-owned land, Bethel can begin to create a Township-wide park system that closes recreational gaps and provides close-to-home recreational opportunities.

### A SUCCESSFUL PARK SYSTEM:

- Will be a catalyst for community revitalization, economic development, promote public health, create community engagement opportunities, and provide green infrastructure,
- Will have diverse inventory of assets and sufficient staffing, equipment and, management to maintain safe, functional, and attractive parks, and
- Will be well used, which is a sign that parks are attractive, meet user needs, and are safe.

## PARK FURNISHINGS & MATERIALS

As Bethel brings new parks online, Township Parks and Recreation should develop a set of standards for park furnishings. These park furnishing standards should then be used to start replacing existing park furnishings that do not meet these standards. Using standard elements will also facilitate common spare parts and maintenance consistency.

Choices in site materials can have the potential to affect the health of a park's environment and its life cycle. Park material and design standards should include priorities for sustainability. These can include using local sustainable products that are selected for longevity, durability, and ease of maintenance. The standards should also consider consistency in materials, colors, and aesthetics to create a sense of identity or "branding" for the park system.





## LANDSCAPING

Township parks should provide green infrastructure using primarily native plant materials. Plantings can serve many purposes, including but not limited to shade, absorption of stormwater run-off, habitat, and beauty. Riparian zones in the Township should be planted with a mix of diverse native plant material.

In Community Park and future park facilities, shade trees should be planted for their numerous benefits, including:

- Shade for park users and spectators
- Improving the overall air quality
- Providing habitats for wildlife
- Increased property values
- Carbon dioxide reduction
- Stormwater runoff reduction

The Township can assist residents with setting up “Friends of” groups (either system-wide or for specific parks) that can provide volunteers for the management of the planted areas of the parks. “Friends of” groups can also support other park maintenance needs.

## ADA ACCESS / SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

ADA Access to and within recreational facilities should be a priority for a new park system. ADA access includes providing paths to park amenities, bench placement, parking spaces, site furnishings, and inclusive play equipment. Some basic provisions for providing ADA access are:

- Providing access to one of each type of ground-level equipment,
- Providing ramps or transfer system to some elevated structures,
- Surfacing that accommodates people using wheelchairs, and
- Equipment and bathrooms that meet ADA compliance.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines for public parks were established to reduce serious injury to users of play equipment. The guidelines are recommendations that address hazards that can result in playground related injuries and include:

- Potential falls from play equipment,
- Protective surfacing under and around play equipment,
- Scale of equipment related to users age,
- Playground layout, and
- Installation and maintenance.

Inclusive playgrounds can also help to ensure children of all abilities can enjoy park play spaces. Inclusive playgrounds are designed to provide children of different abilities the opportunity to play in a sensory-sensitive environment and to interact with each other.

It is recommended that the Township perform an annual playground audit using a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) to identify potential hazards on playground equipment, provide information for equipment specifications and safety surfaces, and provide risk management methods.





# FACILITY-SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS

## BETHEL COMMUNITY PARK

Suggested improvements at Bethel Community Park include:

- Shade tree plantings along the north/south boundaries of the park
- If future acquisitions result in the purchase of the Booth property, establish a pedestrian connection from the park to the Booth Property

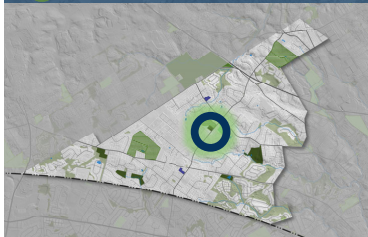
- Pavilion in the northwest corner of the park
- Pedestrian crossing on Foulk Road from the Bethel Springs Elementary School fields
- Improved pedestrian crossing at the Bethel Road and Foulk Road intersection for better access to the Francis Harvey Green Fields
- Access to the proposed Tank Farm Loop Trail



### Bethel Community Park

*Not a design, layout is for spatial purposes*

- Pavilion
- ↔ Connection to Booth Property
- ↔ Connection to School Field
- ↔ Tank Farm Loop Trail
- Shade Tree





# JACK KING PARK

Suggested improvements at Jack King Park include:

- Nature-based playground next to the existing parking lot
- Drainage improvements at both the existing parking lot and proposed playground
- Improved pedestrian crosswalk on Ebright Road from the existing sidewalk in to the park
- Stormwater BMP south of the proposed playground

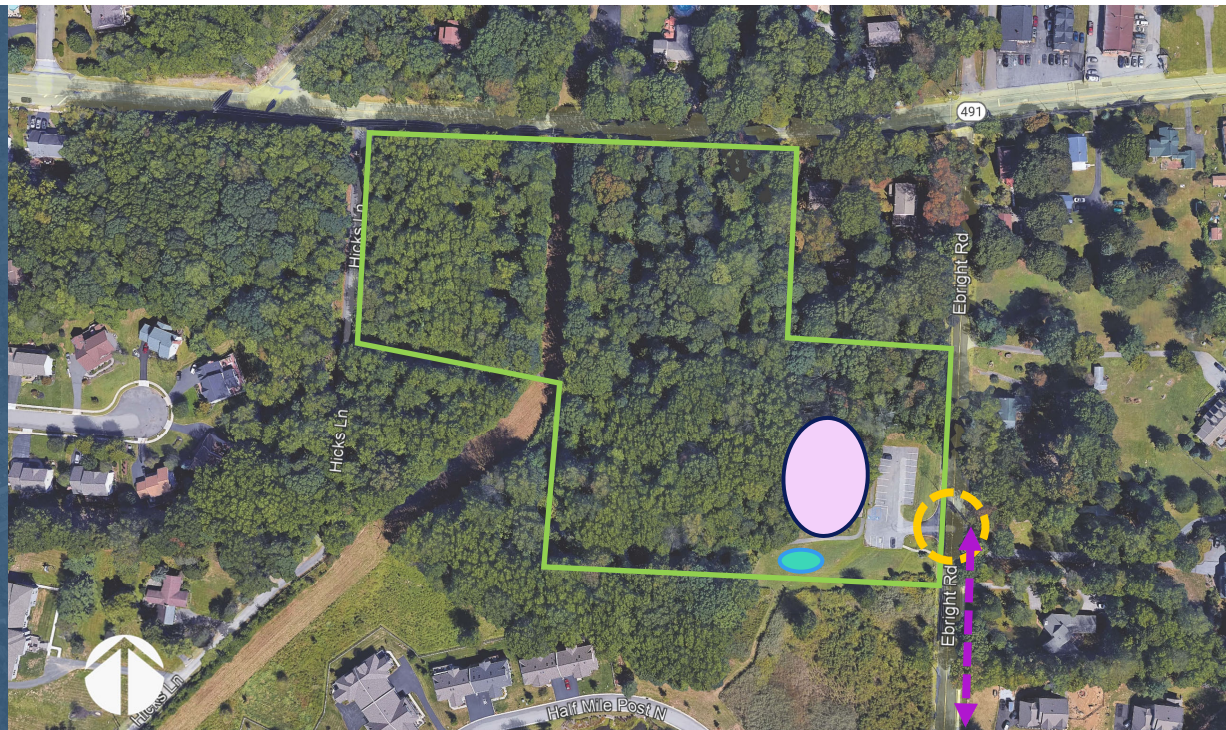
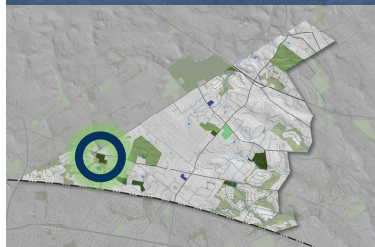


An example of a nature-based playground

## Jack King Park

*Not a design, layout is for spatial purposes*

- Nature-Based Playground and Drainage Improvements
- Improved Access to Existing Sidewalk
- ↔ Existing Sidewalk
- Stormwater BMP





## JOHN ADKINSON PARK

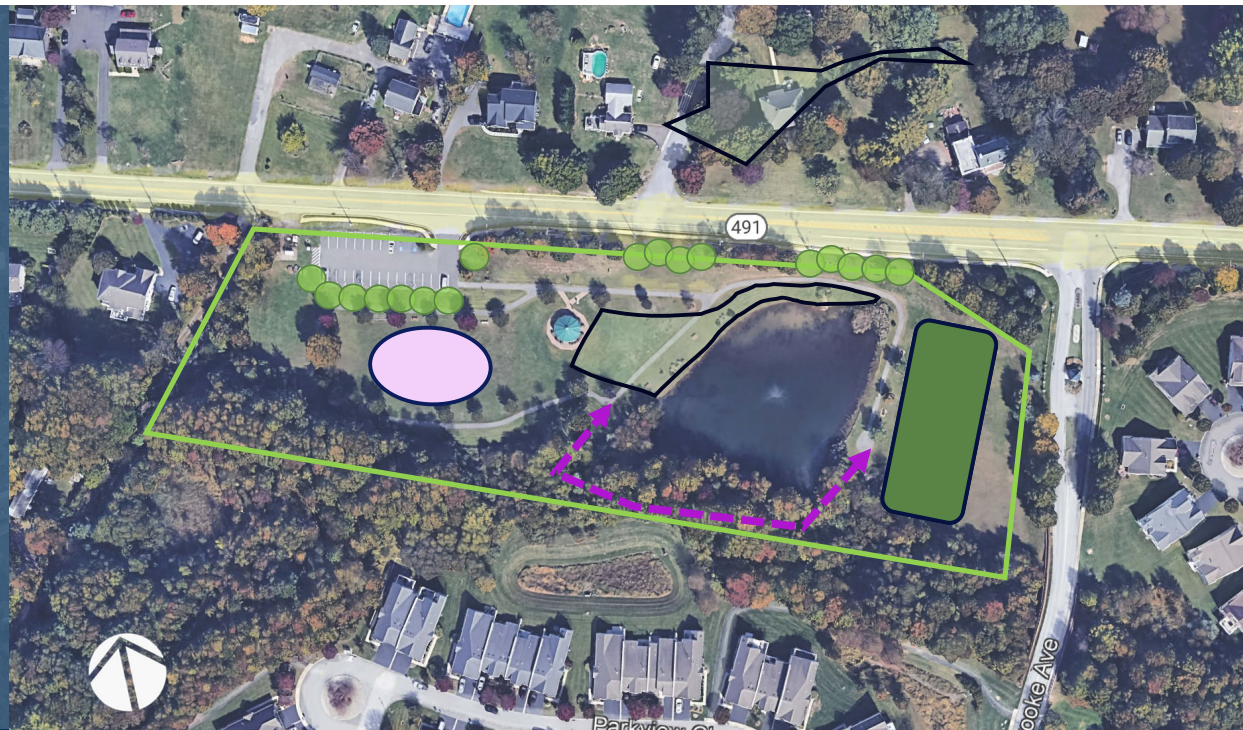
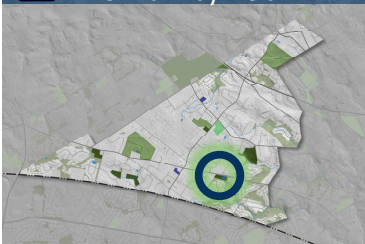
Suggested improvements at John Adkinson Park include:

- Extend the existing walking trail around the pond, forming a loop trail
- Large inclusive playground in the open space south of the parking lot
- Shade trees lining the parking lot and filling the gaps along Naamans Creek Road
- Naturalize a section of the open space around the pond into meadows
- Informal play field in the eastern section of the park

### John Adkinson Park

*Not a design, layout is for spatial purposes*

- ↔ Trail Loop
- Large Inclusive Playground
- Shade Tree
- Meadow
- Informal Play Field





## CALAIS WOODS & SHARON OPEN SPACE

Suggested improvements at the Calais Woods and Sharon open space parcels include:

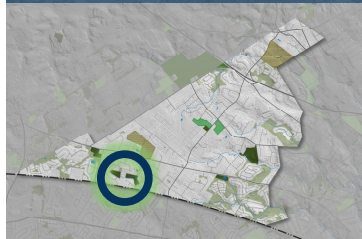
- Nature trails with considerations for small trail bridges
- Explore opportunities for property easements to create neighborhood connections

### Calais Woods & Sharon Dev. Open Space

*Not a design, layout is for spatial purposes*

↔ Trails (bridges to be considered)

↔ Easements for connections

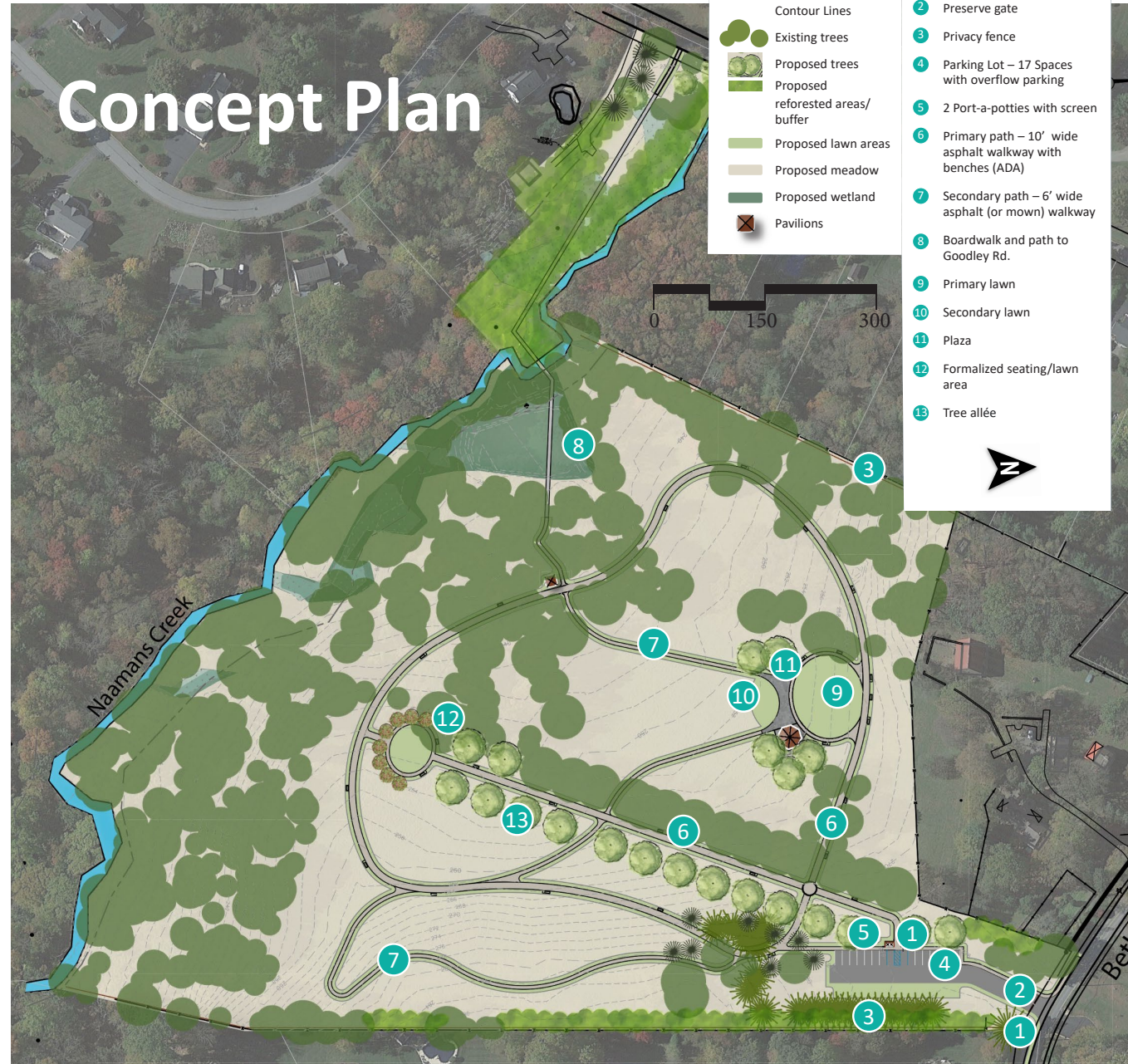




## SHAFFER PRESERVE

There was an extensive public design process conducted concurrent with this plan for Shaffer Preserve. The concept below illustrates proposed improvements which include:

- Shade trees and various naturalized areas including reforested, meadows, and wetlands
- Lawn areas with formalized seating
- Privacy fence along eastern and western boundary
- Parking lot with 17 spaces and space for overflow parking
- 2 screened port-a-potties
- 10' wide asphalt multi-use trail
- 6' wide secondary trail that is either asphalt or a mown walkway
- Boardwalk path through wetlands area to Goodley Road
- Plaza
- Pavilion





## OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

The primary purpose of the Comprehensive Open Space Plan is the consideration to add to the Township's inventory of existing open space. Five parcels were evaluated using criteria that included parcel size and water, land, and community resources. These evaluations serve as a starting point for the Township Board of Supervisors to prioritize which parcels might be considered for future preservation or acquisition. These five parcels are shown on the map on the following page.

The parcels noted for consideration as future open space were selected by the consultant in close coordination with Township staff regarding a number of factors including but not limited to: development activity in a particular neighborhood; the site's natural resources; community resources; and access to the site.

Even though new facilities are proposed at Community Park and other Township-owned sites as described in the preceding section, the opportunities for land acquisition or preservation for additional open space and active and passive recreation will help to address the recreational deficiencies in the Township.

The total number of parcels that were evaluated does not mean that this report recommends preservation of all the parcels evaluated. Conversely, it is assumed that most of these parcels will not and cannot be acquired or preserved, simply because of the magnitude of costs. By working closely with property owners and negotiating the possible use of any or all of a site's lands will hopefully ensure that the Township has a good inventory of open space in the future.

It is recommended that all the evaluated parcels be placed on a new Township Official Map as potential open space. The Official Map is described in detail in the next section.

In relation to parks and open space, Active Recreation is most associated with organized sports such as little league and soccer.

Passive recreation most often includes self-directed activities such as hiking, kite flying, bird watching and similar activities.


Potential Parcels for Acquisition or Protection

1. Maguire Property (Horse Farm) - *active and passive*
2. Booth Property - *active*
3. Penn-Del Archers - *active*
4. Silvestri Property (Mushroom Farm) - *active*

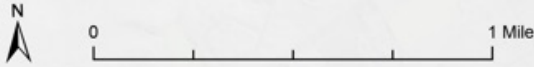
Potential Parcels for Athletic Facilities

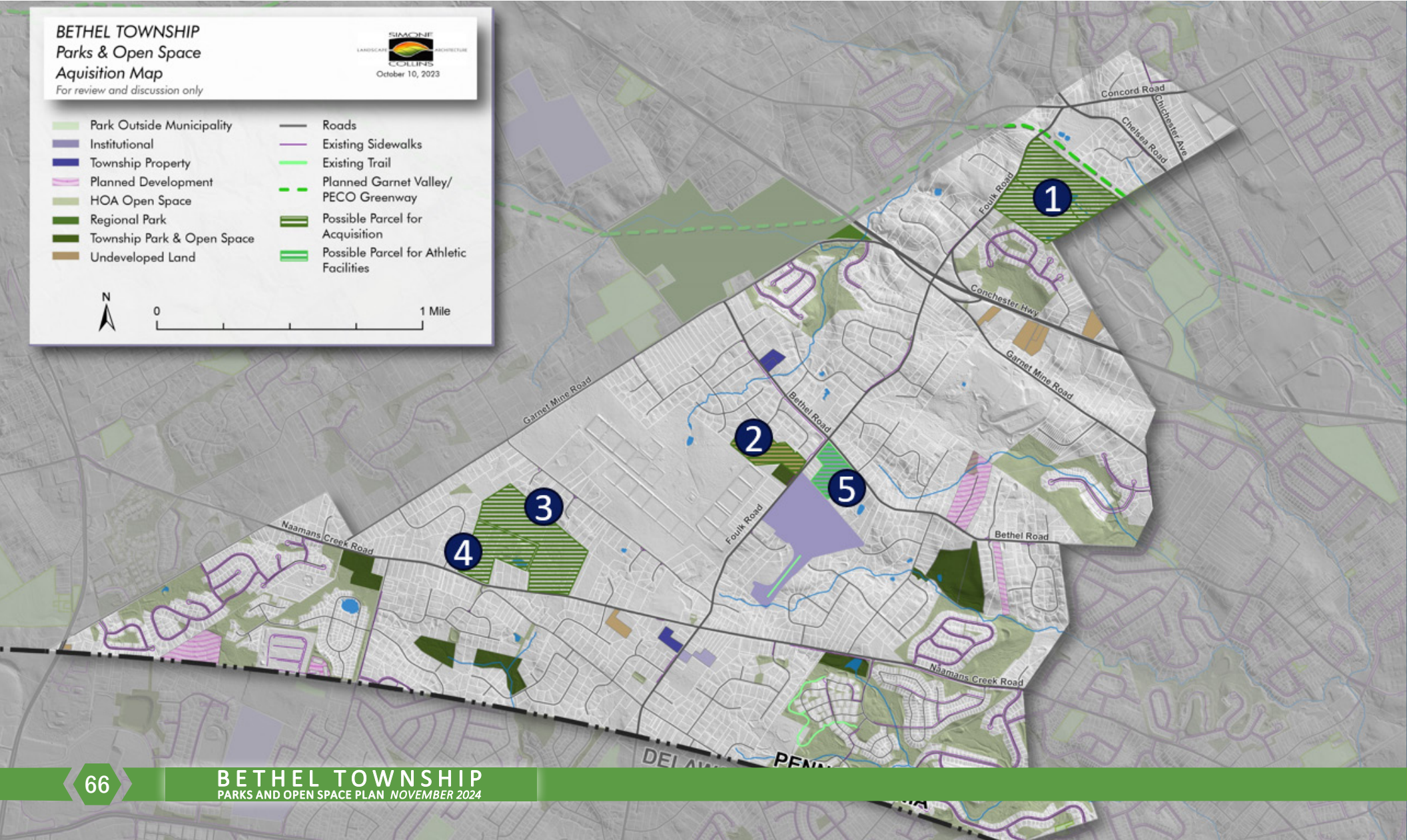
5. Francis Harvey Green School - *active*

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP**  
Parks & Open Space  
Acquisition Map  
*For review and discussion only*

  
 October 10, 2023

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Park Outside Municipality</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4cccc; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Institutional</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #e6b0aa; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Township Property</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4cccc; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Planned Development</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> HOA Open Space</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #cfe2f3; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Regional Park</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Township Park &amp; Open Space</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4cccc; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Undeveloped Land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Roads</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px dashed purple; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Existing Sidewalks</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px dashed green; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Existing Trail</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px dashed green; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Planned Garnet Valley/ PECO Greenway</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid #ccc; border-style: dashed; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Possible Parcel for Acquisition</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid #ccc; border-style: dashed; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Possible Parcel for Athletic Facilities</li> </ul>
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### Preservation Strategy: Official Map

As permitted by the PA Municipal Planning Code, the Official Map is a combined map and ordinance designed to implement the goals and community vision set forth in the municipality's Comprehensive Plan.

The Official Map shows the locations of planned future public lands and facilities such as transportation, recreational parks and trails, and open space.

The Official Map expresses a municipality's interest in acquiring these lands for public purposes at some future time. The Official Map process does not mandate any action by the Township. However, if a parcel designated as future open space is planned for development or subdivision of a land development or subdivision application, it gives the Township an opportunity to discuss preserving at least part of the parcel as open space, in addition to whatever provisions may exist in the zoning ordinance for open space preservation or providing residents with public trails.

An official map may include but need not be limited to:

- Existing and proposed public streets, watercourses, and public grounds, including widenings, narrowings, extensions, reductions, openings or closing of same.
- Existing and proposed public parks, playgrounds, and open space preservations.

- Existing and proposed pedestrian ways (trails) and easements.
- Flood control areas, floodways and floodplains, stormwater management areas and drainage easements.

- It is an effective negotiation tool for municipalities, helping to ensure development is compatible with and supportive of public goals.
- It gives municipalities an advantage in securing grants.

Benefits of an Official Map are:

- It helps to focus limited financial resources on projects that meet and advance community goals.
- It helps to make improvements such as the street network improvements, intersection improvements, protecting natural areas, providing more green space, recreation facilities, trails, and sidewalks.
- It saves time and money by informing property owners and developers of municipal goals and intentions in advance of land development plans.





## POTENTIAL PARCELS FOR TOWNSHIP PRESERVATION OR ACQUISITION

Several parcels within Bethel Township could serve as attractive locations for additional park, recreation, or open space facilities. The following conceptual diagrams are for spatial purposes and meant to demonstrate possible facilities that could be accommodated on the parcels, they are not to be interpreted as final designs.

This section does not represent any official intent on the part of the Township to acquire these parcels. Such decisions are reserved for the Board and the respective property owners.

Should the Township proceed with the adoption of an Official Map, these parcels could be identified as potential future sites for public park, recreation, or open space.



### Maguire Property Horse Farm - Private

If acquired, a master plan would be required for the park.

#### Characteristics:

- Size: 61.33 acres
- Current facility for horses
- Right-of-Way easement crossings
- Adjacent to the planned Powerline Trail
- Agricultural pond
- Stream
- Floodplain

#### Possible Uses:

- Pavilion
- Trails
- Baseball Field
- Dog Park
- Restroom
- Connection to Planned Trail

*Concept diagrams are for spatial purposes to demonstrate possible facilities and are not meant to represent designs for these sites.*





### Booth Residence - Private

If acquired, a master plan would be required for the park.

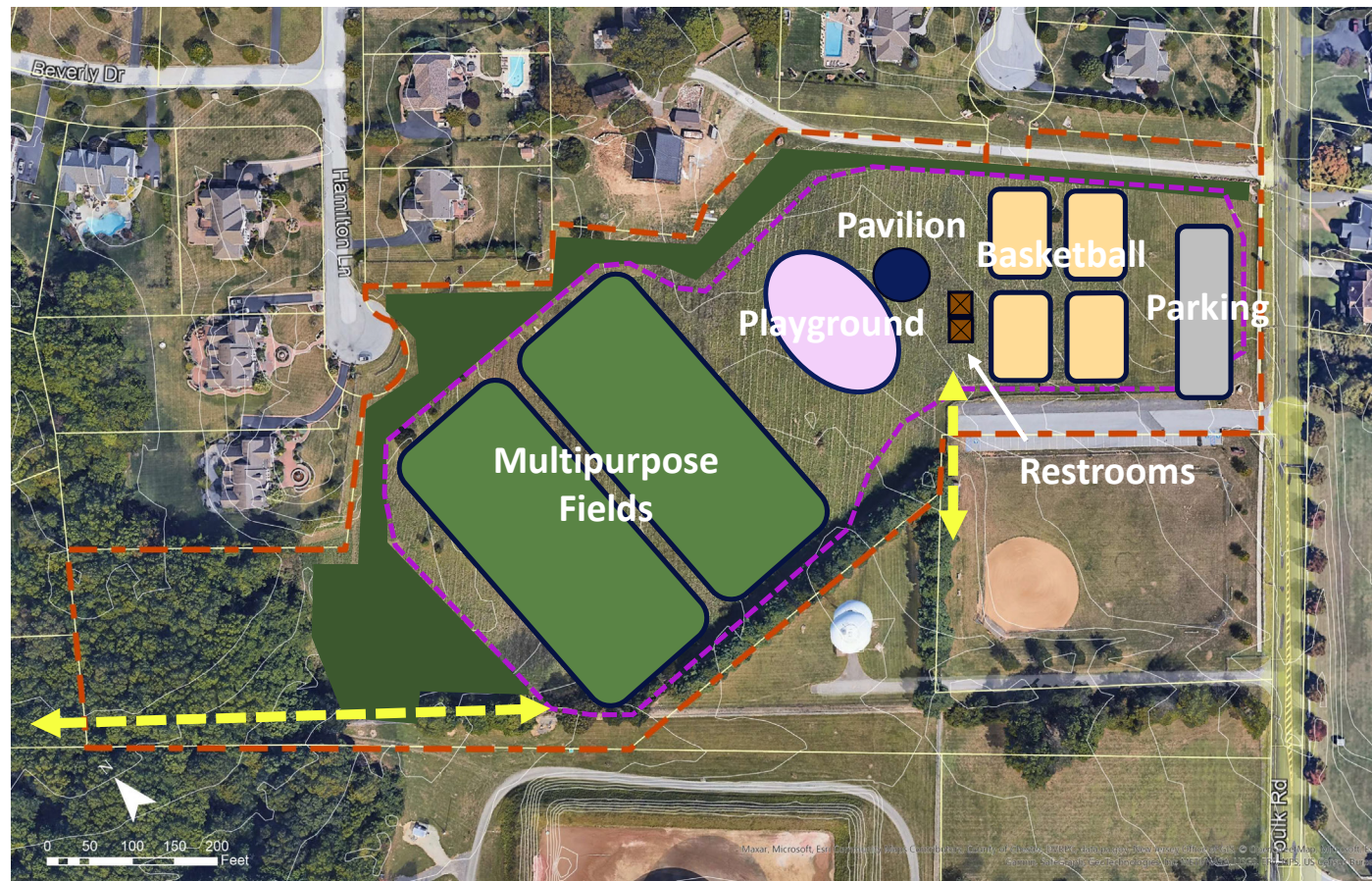
#### Characteristics

- Size: 13.32 acres
- Legacy agricultural field that has contamination issues to be remediated following PA DEP standards
- Directly adjacent to Bethel Community Park

#### Possible Uses:

- 2 Multipurpose Fields
- 4 Basketball Courts
- Large Inclusive Playground
- Woodland Buffers
- Pavilion
- Restrooms
- Off-road Connection to Bethel Community Park

*Concept diagrams are for spatial purposes to demonstrate possible facilities and are not meant to represent designs for these sites.*





### Penn-Del Archers - Private

If acquired, a master plan would be required for the park.

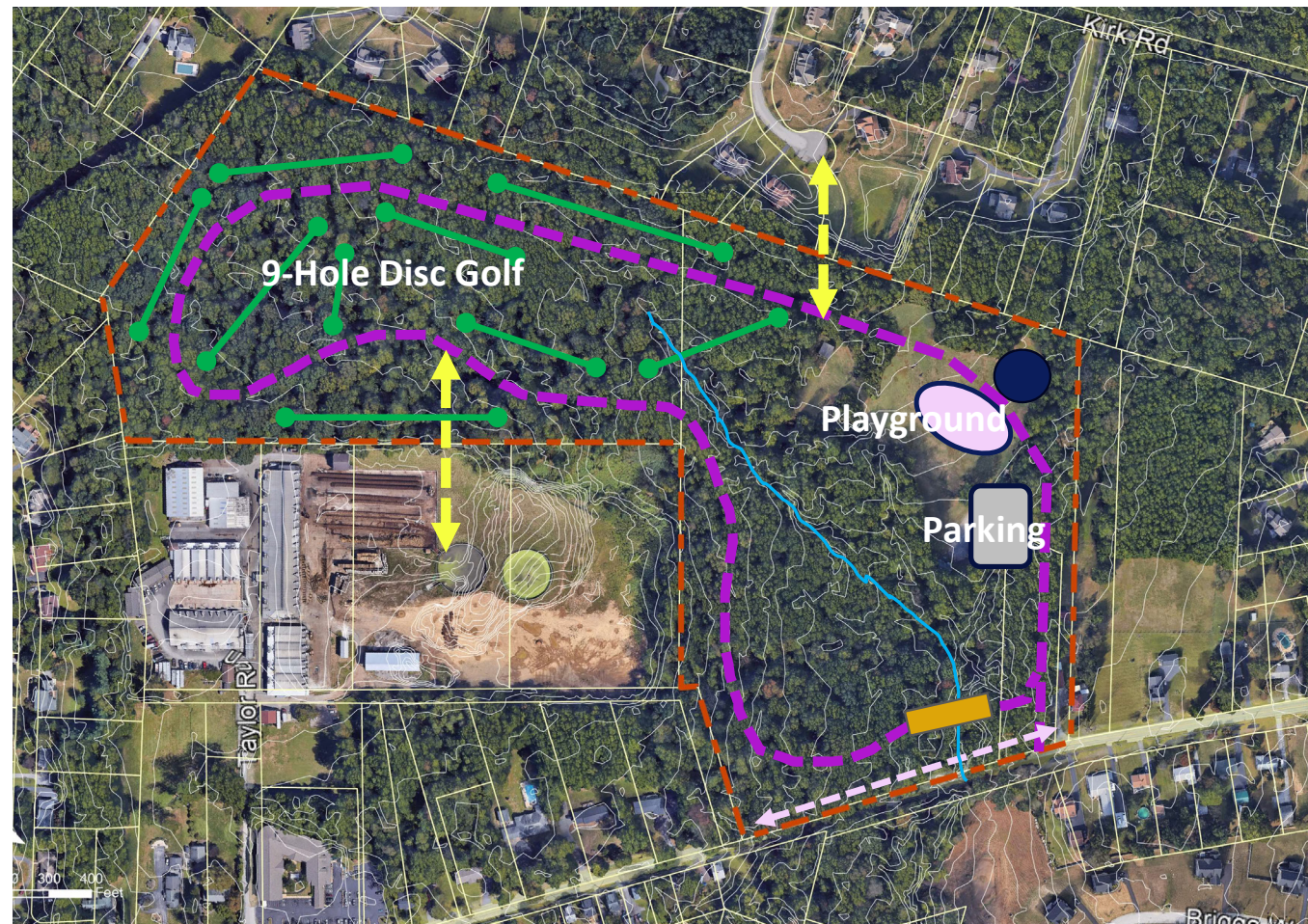
#### Characteristics:

- Size: 47.23 acres
- Former archery grounds
- Stream

#### Potential Uses:

- 9-Hole Disc Golf Course
- Nature Trails (may require a bridge)
- Pavilion
- Nature-based Playground
- Off-road Connection to Silvestri Property and Adjacent Neighborhood

*Concept diagrams are for spatial purposes to demonstrate possible facilities and are not meant to represent designs for these sites.*





**Silvestri Property Mushroom Farm - Private**  
 If acquired, a master plan would be required for the park.

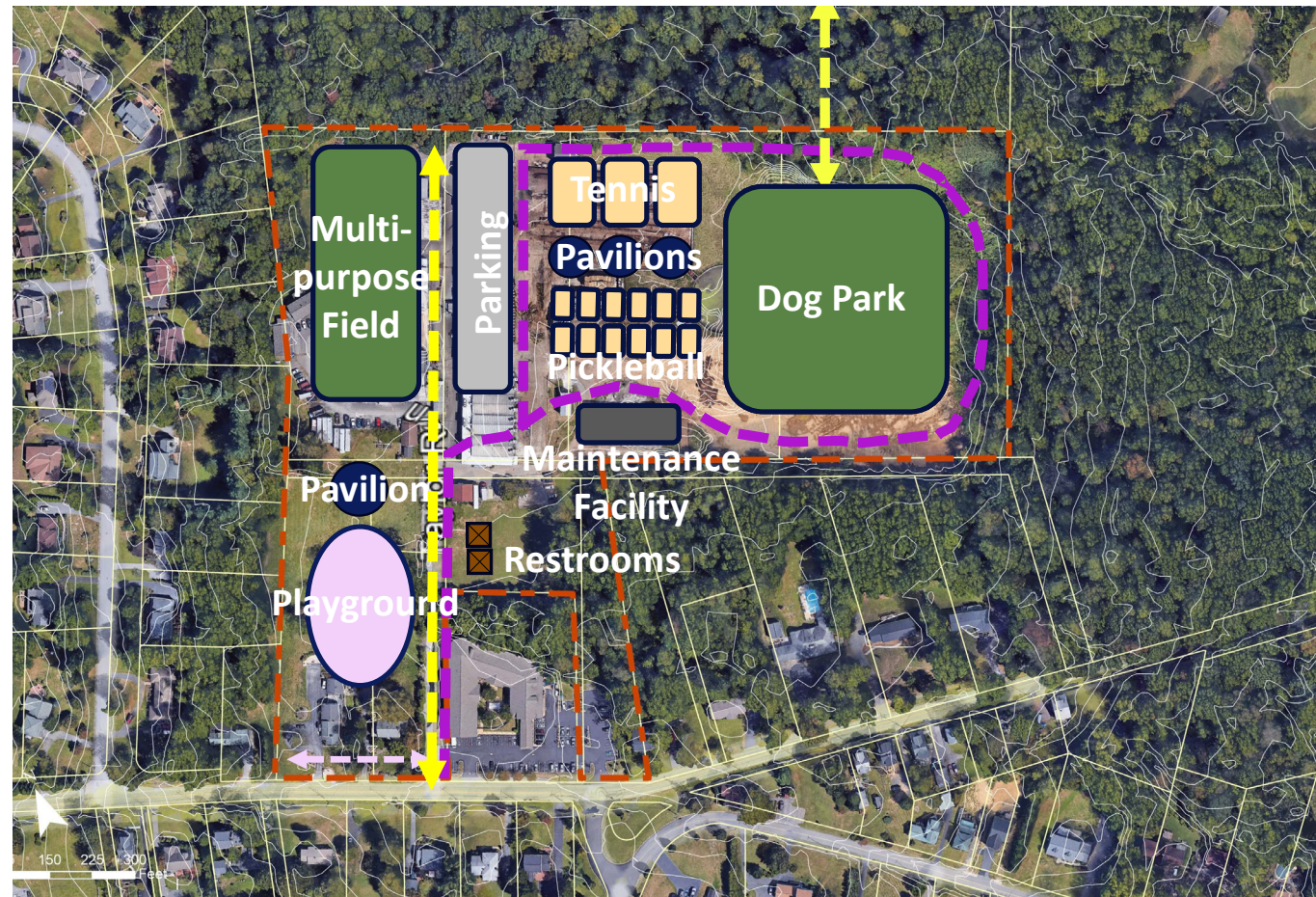
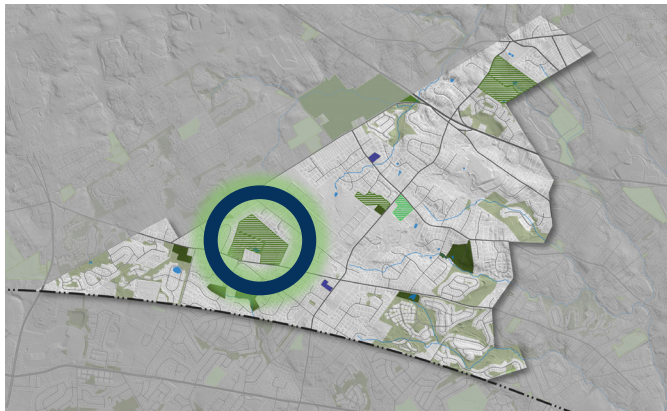
**Characteristics:**

- Size: 22.78 acres
- Former mushroom farm with existing minor contamination issues that can be remediated

**Potential Uses:**

- Maintenance Facility with Storage
- Trails
- Pavilions
- Restrooms
- 3 Tennis Courts
- 12 Pickleball Courts
- Connection to Penn-Del Archers Property

*Concept diagrams are for spatial purposes to demonstrate possible facilities and are not meant to represent designs for these sites.*



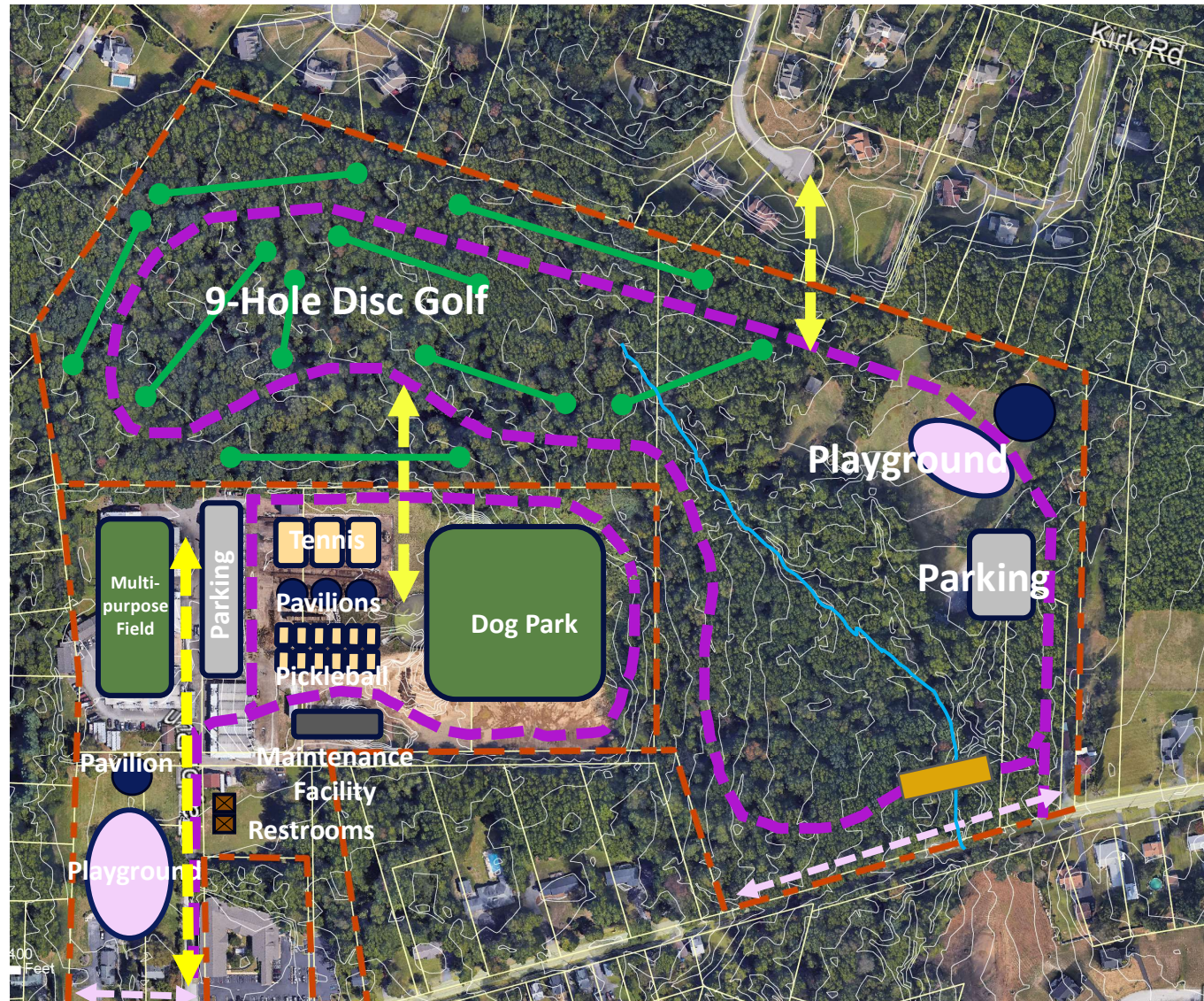


**Penn-Del Archers and Silvestri Mushroom Farm - Private**

In the event that both properties are acquired, an opportunity to develop a local recreation hub is presented. The combination of the two properties could bring much needed recreation access to Township residents.

The two parcels together represent 70 acres of land and would require a master plan if acquired for a park.

*Concept diagrams are for spatial purposes to demonstrate possible facilities and are not meant to represent designs for these sites.*





## Francis Harvey Green School Fields - School District

If acquired, a master plan would be required for the park.

### Characteristics:

- Size: 7.43 acres
- Former school site currently owned by Garnet Valley School District
- Overgrown ball field
- Open field

### Possible Uses:

- 2 135' x 195' Soccer Fields
- 1 240' x 360' Soccer Field
- Pavilion
- Trails
- Stormwater BMPs
- Off-road Connection to Bethel Springs Elementary School
- Connection to Bethel Community Park

*Concept diagrams are for spatial purposes to demonstrate possible facilities and are not meant to represent designs for these sites.*





## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

For new projects with over one (1) acre of land disturbance a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is required. This permit is administered by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) through the Delaware County Conservation District. Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) are typically included as a part of the NPDES permit in order to meet its requirements. These BMPs take the form of rain gardens, bioswales and other devices designed to infiltrate stormwater into the soil and underlying aquifer and prevent or minimize pollutants (mostly soil sediments) from flowing into streams. Township stormwater ordinances also contain requirement for BMP installation. The MS4 standards often exceed the requirements of those required by the NPDES permit by 10% or more.

Each five (5) years the Township must submit an MS4 permit application and then over the next 5 years take measures to meet the requirements outlined in the permit. It is often possible to meet at least some of the MS4 requirements in the municipality's park system. As design and engineering plans are formulated for park plans, as recommended in this report, the Township may be able to include designs

to meet the MS4 requirements in the Township, using parks funding – with hopefully much of it from grant programs – to offset the costs of complying with MS4 mandates.

It is recommended that the Township prioritize stormwater management improvements within existing parks and new parks as they come online. This report makes note of improvements which can improve water quality and reduce amounts of sediment entering the waterways. BMPs such as rain gardens, vegetated swales, detention basins, and porous pavement can help with flood water control and can add

beauty and environmental benefits to the Township. The Township can also provide incentives for residents to apply stormwater management, such as rain gardens and rain barrels, within their own properties.

Maintaining records of when BMPs are installed, and records of routine maintenance is crucial to the Township's MS4 program. Keeping track of maintenance of BMPs not only provides records for authorities such as PADEP and the EPA but also extends the life of the BMP through regularly scheduled maintenance.





## RECREATION AND PROGRAMMING

The following recommendations are intended to enhance the Township's recreation programming.

- Develop a preliminary programming plan that can serve as a blueprint for future recreation programs. The plan would assess needs, identify alternatives, provide guidance for program design and implementation (including staff, equipment, and budgets), and procedures for measuring results
- Pursue a partnership with Garnet Valley School District or a private facility such as Ascent to explore the sharing of resources
- Increase coordination with the Parks and Recreation Board
- Evaluate the introduction of a resident vs. non-resident rate for programming

## MAINTENANCE

Good maintenance practices already exist within the Township, leading maintenance recommendations to be focused on providing increased capacity for the maintenance crew to perform their duties.

- Explore existing or new sites for a maintenance storage facility, such as one of the potential parcels for acquisition listed in this plan
- Review the Consumer Product Safety Commission's guidelines for parks and playgrounds and ensure compliance
- Continued adherence to ADA guidelines



# MULTIMODAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

The trail recommendations in this study adhere to trail design standards and safety best practices established by nationally and locally recognized organizations, including:

- The American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)
- Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
- PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

AASHTO standards are federally recognized, and all on-road and multi-purpose trail improvements must comply with AASHTO and MUTCD standards.

### AASHTO - Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities

AASHTO provides guidelines for the development of bicycle travel in a variety of riding environments. It provides information on the physical infrastructure required to support bicycling on all types of roadways.

### NACTO Urban Street Guide

The NACTO Urban Street Guide compiles complete streets design best practices to make city streets safer, more livable, and more economically vibrant.

### MUTCD - Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices provides standards for the design and implementation of traffic control devices that allow for safe and efficient transportation. Part 9 of the manual includes traffic control for bicycle facilities. The section includes signs, pavement markings and highway traffic signals for both on-road and off-road trail facilities.

### PA DCNR - Pennsylvania Trail Design & Development Principles

DCNR's Pennsylvania Trail Design & Development Principles is a compilation of best practices and guidelines for the planning, design, construction and management of trails. It also presents techniques that utilize sustainable design elements and construction practices for developing trails that create desirable and enjoyable experiences for trail users.

### FHWA - Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks

This Federal Highway Administration resource is intended to help small towns and rural communities support safe and accessible multimodal transportation improvements. The guidebook provides recommendations for bicycle planning, accessibility, facility design, and traffic calming, among other relevant topics that are contextually appropriate for small towns and rural communities.





# CONNECTIVITY IMPROVEMENTS

## OFF-ROAD FACILITIES

### Shared Use Paths

Multi-Use Trails are generally a minimum of 10 feet in width and may be designed at widths of up to 14 feet for high-volume trails. In rare instances where space is limited, trails may be installed at an 8-foot width. Such trails can be paved with asphalt or stone dust / stone screenings. Users include cyclists, rollerbladers, skateboarders, runners, joggers, and pedestrians. Motorized wheelchairs for handicapped users are also permitted.

Multi-use trails provide a convenient means for different user types to enjoy a common amenity and shared infrastructure. The width of these trails allows walkers, joggers, cyclists and other users the ability to recreate safely from one another. Multi-use trails also allow these different user groups a chance to interact with each other and foster a sense of community in a space they share and may want to help maintain. Multi-use trails also require less resources and expenses than single use trails as they require fewer signs and less staff to maintain.

### Earthen Path

Trails with a natural earth surface are less accessible but have a low environmental impact. Maintenance costs are generally inexpensive and are limited to removing vegetation, fixing drainage issues, and addressing eroded areas.

### Side Paths

A side path is a multi-use trail located immediately adjacent and parallel to a roadway. These trails require a 5' setback from the cartway if no curb or barrier is present. Side paths vary from 5' to 8' in width and are often constructed from asphalt. A side path can encourage bicycling and walking in areas where high-volume traffic and/or high-speed traffic might otherwise discourage such activity.



### Sidewalks

Typically, sidewalks are a minimum of five feet wide, constructed of concrete, and located parallel and adjacent to a roadway.

Sidewalks allow pedestrians to safely move and access home, work, school, transit stops, parks, places of worship, and any other desired destinations. Sidewalks within Bethel are limited and clustered in residential developments and are lacking connectivity to local destinations within the Township.

Proposed locations of new sidewalks are based on site reconnaissance, sidewalk inventory completed by the consultants, and input from committee and public meetings.





## TRAIL SURFACE TYPES

### ASPHALT

Asphalt surfaces provide for the widest variety of trail users including bicyclists, walkers, joggers, wheelchair users, and in-line skaters. Initial installation costs are high (lower than Portland cement concrete however) compared to other trail surface types. However, long-term maintenance costs will remain lower than others if properly installed and maintained. Asphalt trails are preferred in flood prone areas. Porous asphalt can also be used in situations where stormwater infiltration or a pervious surface is required. Porous asphalt should not be used in flood prone areas where silt will clog the voids in the pavement.

### CONCRETE

Portland cement concrete pavement is the most durable material for trail surfaces but is the most expensive. Advantages of concrete include longer service life, reduced susceptibility to cracking and deformation from roots and weeds, and a more consistent riding surface after years of use and exposure to the elements. The joints in concrete trail treads can degrade the experience of using the path for some wheeled users. In addition, users can see pavement markings more easily on asphalt than on concrete, particularly at night. Concrete's light color on a trail reflects the sunlight. Concrete is generally recommended for the sidewalks recommended by this plan.

### COMPACTED AGGREGATE

Compacted aggregate surfaces, or stone dust trails, can accommodate all trail user types with the exception of in-line skaters. Initial installation costs are low, but long-term maintenance costs increase due to this surface's higher susceptibility to erosion, especially if not properly installed with swales and cross drains. Crushed limestone or sandstone or "Trail Surface Aggregate (TSA) Mix" are the typical aggregate types. A compacted aggregate surface can also serve as base material for an asphalt surface if trail use increases or funds become available for a surfacing upgrade. Compacted aggregate surfaces should be avoided in flood prone areas or for trails with slopes over 3%.







Trails at John Adkinson Park (left) and Jack King Park (right)



**BETHEL TOWNSHIP**  
Parks & Open Space  
Proposed Connectivity Map



- Parcel Boundary
- Municipal Park
- Park Outside Municipality
- Planned Garnet Valley Greenway (PECO Trail)
- Existing Sidewalks
- Proposed Sidewalks
- Roads
- Proposed Off Road Trail/Side Path



0 1 Miles





## PROPOSED CONNECTIVITY IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed connectivity map shows multimodal improvements at several key locations throughout Bethel with several goals in mind:

- Create a multimodal network that links important local destinations
- Improve connectivity to regional destinations including Clayton Park and the planned Garnet Valley Greenway
- Provide safe pedestrian infrastructure on key transportation arterials including Foulk Road and Naamans Creek Road

### Multi-use Trails

Off-road multi-use trails are proposed in the following locations:

- Perimeter of the tank farm property
- Perimeter of the Francis Harvey Green School Fields and Bethel Springs Elementary School
- Shaffer Preserve connecting Bethel Road and Goodley Road
- Along Green Creek from connecting Bethel Road to the wooded area south of Garnet Mine Road
- Penn Del Archers property connecting Naamans Creek Road to Linton Farm Lane

### Sidewalks

Sidewalks are proposed in the following locations. Side paths are encouraged in areas where there is enough space using the existing right-of-way.

- Naamans Creek Road from the intersection with Goodley Road to the intersection with Zebley Road
- Foulk Road from Deer Meadow Lane to the Bethel Township Hose Company
- Kirk Road from Weller Drive to access road just past Linton Farm Lane
- Bethel Road from Greystone Drive to Garnet Mine Road and Woods Edge Drive
- Foulk Road from the planned Garnet Valley Greenway to Colonial Drive

### Crosswalks

Crosswalks are proposed in the following locations:

- Across Ebright Road from the opposite lane sidewalk to Jack King Park
- Across Foulk Road from Bethel Springs Elementary School to Bethel Community Park
- Across Garnet Mine Road from Woods Edge Drive to Clayton Park

Achieving this long-term vision of connectivity in Bethel Township will require multiple projects with diverse funding strategies and multi-year commitments. In some cases, it will be necessary to negotiate easement agreements with property owners.







# IMPLEMENTATION

4





## MAKING IMPROVEMENTS IN PHASES, WITH PARTNERS

Almost all public projects are funded and built in phases, and usually with multiple partners. For example, the collection of improvements identified by Bethel residents for the Township's parks alone will require multiple phases to achieve. Trail improvements are types of projects that are almost always funded and built through partnerships.

It is essential for Bethel Township to build multiple strategic partnerships that match specific types of projects with those mission-aligned funding partners. More than one project may be advanced simultaneously – depending on project types, funding sources available during specific periods, and the sources of matching funds that the Township can raise internally or by leveraging partners.

## PARTNERS

Partnerships at the local, county, regional, state, and federal levels will need to be established and maintained to help the Township meet the goals of this plan. Partners can assist in many ways including being advocates for the completion of plan projects by implementing some recommendations themselves, providing volunteering opportunities, and by assisting in securing funds through grants or other means. In some cases, Bethel Township may be able to “match” funds from one partner to meet the requirements of another – a strategy that, when possible, helps stretch finite local dollars further. A list of potential partners, with overview narratives about their funding programs, is included in this section.

Local partners – such as the Garnet Valley School District, private recreation providers, sports leagues, social and religious groups, and other for-profit and non-profit businesses – can all provide valuable insight to the Township as to recreational needs of their students and members. Partnering with the Township would ensure that recreational facilities and programs are in place to meet the needs of both the organizations and the Township. These groups can also provide volunteering opportunities to assist with management or maintenance of facilities.

County, regional, state, and federal partners can provide funding and assistance with recreation and conservation plans. Delaware County Planning Commission is a regional planner and offers opportunities for communities to be part of the larger regional planning network, including trails and transportation needs. State partners can provide important information to assist a municipality in successfully receiving funding for improvement projects.

Forming a clear understanding of which “type” of project is to be advanced will help greatly toward defining which funding formula options are realistic to develop into matching partnership applications that are capable of advancing a clearly achievable phase of a very specific priority project.

A close review of the potential partner funding programs that are described in this chapter will identify which partners will fund what types of projects – as well as what “phases” of projects they will fund, such as planning, design/engineering, and/or construction.



## LOCAL PARTNERS

- Garnet Valley School District
- Brandywine Youth Club
- Brandywine Booters
- Bethel Bombers
- Businesses at Booth's Corner
- Private recreation providers
- Religious and social organizations
- Conservation organizations
- Historical organizations
- Local Scout troops

## COUNTY AND REGIONAL PARTNERS

- Delaware County
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
- Birding Club of Delaware County
- Naamans Creek Watershed Association

## STATE PARTNERS

- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
- Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)
- Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- PennDOT
- PA Infrastructure Investment Authority (PennVEST)
- PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC)

## FEDERAL PARTNERS

- US Department of Transportation (DOT)
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)



## PRIORITIZING PROJECTS

As the Township moved toward implementation of plan recommendations, questions about how to prioritize which projects to pursue and when to apply for funding assistance may arise. These decisions are ultimately the responsibility of the Board of Supervisors; however, there are several criteria listed below that can help inform that decision-making process.

### **WHAT TYPE OF PROJECT IS IT?**

#### **WHAT PHASE OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT IS NEEDED?**

- Planning
- Technical studies
- Design
- Construction

#### **WHAT PARTNER FUNDING SOURCES WILL HAVE APPLICATIONS OPEN DURING THE PREFERRED PROJECT PERIOD?**

#### **WHAT PARTNER MATCHES ARE CAPABLE OF LEVERAGING OTHERS DURING THAT PREFERRED PERIOD?**

#### **WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM TOTAL FUNDING REALISTICALLY POSSIBLE FROM ALL SOURCES?**

#### **HOW MUCH CAN THAT TOTAL BUDGET BUY?**

- As one single phase or
- Perhaps a multi-phased project

#### **WHICH PROJECTS MAY ADVANCE APPLICATIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY AND NOT COMPETE FOR THE SAME FUNDS?**

Applying these basic criteria can help decision-makers logically winnow application options based on clear limits of available funding. Where two of the same “type” of project may have apparently equal priorities, multiple other rational criteria may be applied, such as simple assessments of BCA (benefit-cost analyses), which can be very helpful.



## FUNDING SOURCES

The following is a summary of potential partner programs that can likely assist with funding various portions of planning, design, and construction of multiple types of recreation-related projects in Bethel Township. Various sources can be pursued during preservation/improvement phases, based on availability of funds aligning goals of partner agencies, and County priorities for each year.

### FEDERAL SOURCES

**US Department of Transportation (DOT)**  
**(Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)**  
*Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP)*

Starting in 2022, \$1 billion in planning and capital construction grants are available, over five years, to fund projects that restore community connectivity by retrofitting, removing, or mitigating barriers imposed by transportation infrastructure, including roads, highways, and rail lines, among others. Applications from economically disadvantaged communities are given priority, and state DOTs must provide them with technical assistance through the Reconnecting Communities Institute.

For more information, visit: <https://www.transportation.gov/reconnecting>

### *Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)*

Starting in 2022, \$5 billion in funding is available, over five years, for planning and implementation of projects that improve roadway safety by preventing deaths and serious injuries. SS4A grants do not “require” municipalities to have completed an Action Plan if the metropolitan planning organization (DVRPC) or a (Delaware) county has completed or is in the process of completing an Action Plan. However, it is recommended that municipalities consider completing their own Action Plans to ensure that the Action Plan features detailed, community-specific data, which otherwise may not be addressed in larger county or region-wide plans that cover much broader areas and are more general in nature. Eligible activities include roadway safety treatments, development of multimodal improvements, and installation of pedestrian safety enhancements, among many others.

For more information, visit: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>

### *Healthy Streets Program*

\$500 million in funding (with a 20% match) over five years, to reduce flooding, improve air quality, and mitigate the urban heat island effect in disadvantaged communities. The program will fund porous/cool sidewalk pavement and street trees. There is no official website yet as the program has been authorized but not yet funded as of April, 2024.

For more information, visit: <https://www.montcopa.org/4340/Transportation-IJAPrograms>

### *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program*

\$1 billion over five years to fund planning, design, and construction of safe and connected active transportation projects. Eligible projects include trails, sidewalks, and protected bike lanes. The matching share is set at 20%, except for areas with poverty rates over 40% (set at 0% match).

For more information, visit: <https://www.transportation.gov/rural/grant-toolkit/active-transportation-infrastructure-investment-program-atiip>



**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)**  
NFWF supports conservation efforts in all 50 states and U.S. territories. More than 18,600 projects have been supported since founding and are rigorously evaluated and awarded to some of the nation's largest environmental organizations. Financial commitments since the organization's founding total \$6.1 billion.

#### *The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program*

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program focuses on the stewardship and restoration of coastal, wetland and riparian ecosystems across the country. Its goal is to meet the conservation needs of important species and habitats, providing measurable and meaningful conservation and educational outcomes. The program requires the establishment and/or enhancement of diverse partnerships and an education/outreach component that will help shape and sustain behavior to achieve conservation goals. To date, the Foundation has funded over 800 projects in 50 states, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, through this program. More than \$18 million in grants has leveraged more than \$67 million in other funds or donated services.

More info at: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program>

#### *Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund (DWCF)*

The Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund was launched in 2018 to conserve and restore natural areas, corridors and waterways on public and private lands that support native fish, wildlife and plants, and to contribute to the vitality of the communities in the Delaware River watershed. Priority strategies for on-the-ground implementation include sustaining and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat; improving and maintaining water quality for fish, wildlife, and people; sustaining and enhancing water management to benefit fish and wildlife; and improving outdoor recreational opportunities within the Delaware River watershed.

For more information, visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/delaware-river-program>

#### *Delaware River Restoration Fund*

The Fund was launched in late 2013 to help community-based nonprofits and government agencies work together to restore polluted waters and improve habitat for target species, including eastern brook trout and river herring. The Fund awards at least \$2 million per year in competitive grants, geographically focused on three priority strategies: (1) stewardship of working lands; (2) restoration of wetlands, floodplains and stream corridors; and (3) promoting the adoption of green infrastructure in urban/suburban landscapes. Since 2014, the Delaware River Restoration Fund has awarded 90 grants totaling roughly \$14.7 million. These investments leveraged more than

\$23.36 million in grantee matching funds to fund agriculture conservation, green stormwater infrastructure and innovative projects to improve the water quality of the Delaware River. To date, the fund has implemented more than 23,500 acres of best management practices to improve water quality, and restored more than 190 acres of wetlands and 60 miles of riparian habitat. The Delaware River Restoration Fund is administered by NFWF in cooperation with the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, with major funding from the William Penn Foundation.

For more information, visit: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/delaware-river-program>

#### *The Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI)*

Launched in 2014 by The William Penn Foundation to address four primary threats to clean water in the river basin: stormwater, runoff from agricultural fields, forest loss, and groundwater depletion. The DRWI coordinates and aligns the work of over 50 organizations funded by the William Penn Foundation, with a goal of creating a critical mass of land preservation and restoration work in targeted sub-watersheds where they can demonstrate significant, durable water quality improvements. Through a combination of high-level coordination and on-the-ground work, the DRWI mitigates threats to water quality through strategic, science-informed land protection and restoration.

For more information, visit: <https://4states1source.org/>



## STATE SOURCES

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (PA DCNR)

*Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2)*

The Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) provides funding to municipalities and authorized nonprofit organizations for recreation, park, trail, and conservation projects. Eligible projects include feasibility planning studies; trail studies; conservation plans; master site development plans; comprehensive recreation, park, open space, and greenway plans; land acquisition for active or passive parks, trails, and conservation purposes; and new development and rehabilitation of parks, trails, riparian forest buffers, and recreation facilities.

Most C2P2-funded projects require a 50% match, which can include a combination of cash and/or non-cash values. Funding from DCNR for “sidewalk” connections is not usually granted unless these facilities are eligible as multi-use trails.

For more information, visit: <https://brcgrants.dcnr.pa.gov/>

*Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)*

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Program, established in 1965, is a federal source of funding distributed to all states by the U.S. Department of the Interior’s National Park Service. The program provides matching grants for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. DCNR administers the LWCF Program for Pennsylvania.

For more information, visit: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/Pages/default.aspx>

*Wild Resources Conservation Program*

Each year, these funds support the survey, research, management, and conservation of wild resources through DCNR’s Wild Resource Conservation Program (WRCP). WRCP identifies research and conservation needs on the Commonwealth’s native flora and non-game wildlife. The program provides grants and facilitates the flow of information between researchers, conservationists, and educators.

For more information, visit: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Biodiversity/WildResourceConservationProgram/Pages/default.aspx>

*DCNR Forest Buffer Program*

The PA DCNR Riparian Forest Buffer Program provides funding for organizations to implement a variety of forest buffers including conventional riparian forest buffers and multi-functional buffers. Pennsylvania has a goal of planting 95,000 acres of riparian buffers by 2025 to improve state waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. No match is required to be eligible for this grant. Grant applications are usually accepted October to late December. DCNR has provided funding to County Conservation Offices. Grants awards are made by the local conservation office for the planting of multi-functional buffers.

For more information, visit: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/RiparianBuffers/Pages/default.aspx>



Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), Commonwealth Financing Agency (CFA)  
*Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP)*

The Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) is administered through DCED, and provides funding for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks, and beautification projects. The program awards up to \$250,000 per project to eligible applicants and requires a local match of 15% of the total project cost. GTRP funding for “sidewalk” connections will likely need to be eligible as “multi-use trails.”

More information can be found at: <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/greenways-trails-and-recreation-program-grp/>

*Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF)*

The DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) is administered through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and provides grants to encourage economic development by ensuring that a safe and reliable multimodal transportation system is available to the residents of the Commonwealth. Funds may be used for preliminary engineering tasks, as well as development, rehabilitation, and enhancement of transportation assets within existing communities – such as: streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets

and transit-oriented development. MTF grants are available for projects with a total cost of \$100,000 or more, and grants shall not exceed \$3,000,000 for any project. The CFA will consider grant requests over \$3,000,000 for projects that will significantly impact the CFA’s goal to leverage private investment and create jobs in the Commonwealth. Financial assistance under the Multimodal Transportation Fund shall be matched by local funding in an amount not less than 30% of the non-federal share of the project costs.

For more information, visit: <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/multimodal-transportation-fund/>

*Keystone Communities Program (KCP)*

The Keystone Communities (KC) program is designed to encourage the creation of partnerships between the public and private sectors that jointly support local initiatives such as the growth and stability of neighborhoods and communities; social and economic diversity; and a strong and secure quality of life. The program allows communities to tailor the assistance to meet the needs of its specific revitalization effort. Communities may wish to consider designation through the KC program as a Keystone Main Street, Keystone Elm Street, Keystone Enterprise Zone, or Keystone Community. Designation is an opportunity for targeted investment and development including the identification of specific needs for investment and/ or development and the design and implementation of a strategy to address those needs.

For more information, visit: <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/keystone-communities-program-kcp/>



## Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

### DEP Growing Greener Watershed Protection Program

DEP funds local projects through the state Growing Greener Environment Stewardship Funds Program. Applications should be targeted toward clean-up of non-point source pollution. The grant will fund local watershed-based conservation projects with average awards totaling \$150,000, and requires a 15% match from a non-DEP fund source. Applications are typically due in January.

For more information, visit: <http://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/GrantsLoansRebates/Growing-Greener/Pages/default.aspx>

### DEP Non-Point Source Implementation Programs Grant

Provides funding assistance for projects aimed at implementing Pennsylvania's Non-point Source Management Program. Targeted projects include control of urban runoff and natural channel design/stream bank stabilization projects. The grant will fund local projects with the average award being \$200,000. Applications are typically due in June.

More information on this program can be found at the DEP website: <http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/PlanningConservation/NonpointSource/Pages/default.aspx>

## PennDOT

### Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TASA)

PennDOT administers the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TASA) under the Surface Transportation Program (STP) for community-based "non-traditional" projects that are designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the nation's intermodal transportation system. The program seeks to provide funding for construction of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. Non-motorized forms of transportation include sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting, and other safety-related infrastructure; and transportation projects are required to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. There is a minimum award of \$50,000 for construction projects and a maximum award of \$1,000,000, although higher awards can be justified for "exceptional" projects. No applicant match is required, but all engineering and environmental clearances must be completed with non-FHWA funds to enable the TASA funds to be used for construction and construction inspections.

For more information, visit: <https://www.penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Pages/Transportation%20Alternatives%20Set-Aside%20-%20Surface%20Trans.%20Block%20Grant%20Program.aspx>

## Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)

The Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) program is administered by PennDOT through the Federal TASA program. SRTS is a national and international movement to create safe, convenient, and healthy opportunities for children to walk and bicycle to school. By getting more children to walk and bicycle to school, communities are helping children be healthier, they are reducing fuel consumption, alleviating traffic congestion, and improving air quality. SRTS programs are built on collaborative partnerships among many stakeholders, including educators, parents, students, elected officials, engineers, city planners, business and community leaders, health officials, and bicycle and pedestrian advocates. Eligible activities include new or reconstructed sidewalks or walkways, pedestrian and bicycle signs or signals, transportation projects that achieve ADA compliance, such as curb ramps, bike parking facilities or bus bike racks, shared use paths, side paths, trails that serve a transportation purpose, crossing improvements, and traffic realignments, road diets, or intersection changes.

For more information, visit: <https://www.penndot.pa.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Pages/safe-routes-to-school.aspx>

### *Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF)*

PennDOT administers Federal Highway Administration funds as a state Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) program to provide grants that ensure that a safe and reliable system of transportation is available directly to the communities and residents of the Commonwealth. The program is intended to provide financial assistance to municipalities, councils of governments, businesses, economic development organizations, public transportation agencies, rail freight, passenger rail, and ports to improve transportation assets that enhance communities, pedestrian safety, and transit revitalization. Grants are available for projects with a total cost of \$100,000 or more. Grants shall normally not exceed \$3,000,000 for any project. The PennDOT Office of Multimodal Transportation will consider grant requests over \$3,000,000 for projects that will significantly impact PennDOT's goal to leverage private investment and create jobs in the Commonwealth. Financial assistance under the MTF shall be matched by local funding in an amount not less than 30% of the amount awarded. These federal funds cannot be matched by other federal funding.

For more information, visit: <https://www.pennDOT.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/MultimodalProgram/pages/default.aspx>

### **PennVEST (Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority)**

PennVEST offers both grants and low interest loans for projects that help to manage stormwater and improve water quality. Several recommendations for Lower Providence may attract PennVEST funds, since they include stormwater BMPs.

For more information, visit: <https://www.pennvest.pa.gov/Information/Funding-Programs/Pages/default.aspx>

### *Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)*

The PENNVEST Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) provides affordable financing for wastewater and certain other projects throughout Pennsylvania for the construction, improvement, extension, expansion, repair or rehabilitation of wastewater collection, treatment or disposal facilities, storm water management, nonpoint source pollution controls including but not limited to agricultural best management practices and watershed and estuary management.

The program offers low interest loans with flexible terms and principal forgiveness funds where applicable and available. PENNVEST performs similarly to a bank for the CWSRF program in Pennsylvania and manages the financial aspects of the fund, while the Department of Environmental Protection is the technical arm for the program.

The seed money for the CWSRF has been distributed to states annually under Congressional authorization pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1987. The funds and the program are administered nationally by United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

For more information, visit: <https://www.pennvest.pa.gov/Information/Funding-Programs/Pages/Clean-Water-State-Revolving-Fund.aspx>



**Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC)**  
*State Wildlife Grants Program (SWGP)*

Created in 2000 by Congress, SWG has enabled the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and Pennsylvania Game Commission to direct conservation efforts toward species in decline or vulnerable to decline, with the goal of preventing endangered species listings. State Wildlife Grant funding to Pennsylvania has ranged from \$1.5 to \$2.5 million per year, shared equally between the Fish & Boat Commission and Game Commission.

The State Wildlife Grants program (SWG) is the nation's core program for preventing species from becoming endangered. This program provides needed funds to states to develop and implement conservation actions identified in their State Wildlife Action Plan. These funds benefit wildlife and their habitat, including species not hunted or fished. Since 2001, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission has supported more than 60 fish, amphibian, reptile, and freshwater invertebrate conservation projects through State Wildlife Grant funding, including research, species surveys, habitat improvement, and other efforts.

More info at <https://www.fishandboat.com/About-Us/Grants/StateWildlifeGrantProgram/Pages/default.aspx>

**REGIONAL / COUNTY SOURCES**

**Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)**  
*Regional Trails Program (RTP)*

The Regional Trails Program provides trail developers – including counties, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations – with technical assistance and funding opportunities to plan and implement trails that will contribute to The Circuit, the greater Philadelphia 800+ mile trail network.

For more information, visit: <https://www.dvrpc.org/trails/regionaltrailsprogram/>

**Delaware County**  
*Greenways Grant Program*

This Program's objective is to advance the County's goals as outlined in Delaware County's Delaware County 2035: Open Space, Recreation, and Greenway Plan. It funds four types of projects: Conserve Projects, Enhance Projects, Connect Projects and Planning & Design Projects. For Conserve Projects, the County may contribute up to \$500,000 for the protection of undeveloped land in perpetuity and for fee simple acquisition, conservation or trail easements on private land. For Enhance Projects, the County may contribute up to \$250,000 for capital improvements to park and / or recreational facilities. For Connect Projects, the County may contribute up to \$500,000 for the development of multi-use trails included on the countywide Primary Trail Network (PTN) or up to \$250,000 for trails that are not part of the PTN. For Planning &

Design Projects, the County may contribute up to \$100,000 for park, recreation and open space plans, trail network plans, feasibility studies, master plans and other planning studies.

For more information, visit: <https://www.delcopa.gov/planning/greenspace/GreenSpaceGWGP.html>

## OTHER SOURCES

### AARP Community Challenge

The AARP Community Challenge provides small grants to fund quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages. Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofits, government entities, and other types of organizations on a case-by-case basis. Project types include permanent physical improvements in the community; temporary demonstrations that lead to long-term change; and new, innovative programming pilots or services. In 2024, the AARP Community Challenge accepted applications for three different grant opportunities, each described below:

- **Flagship Grants** - In AARP's flagship Community Challenge grant program, grants have ranged from several hundred dollars for smaller, short-term activities to tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects. Projects that benefit residents aged 50 and older are prioritized, and include the following categories: public places, transportation and mobility.

- **Capacity-Building Microgrants** - Combining \$2,500 grants with additional resources — such as webinars, cohort learning opportunities, up to two hours of one-on-one coaching with leading national organizations and AARP publications — this grant opportunity will accept applications for projects that benefit residents (especially those age 50 and older). Two included categories are bike audits to enhance safety and bikeability and walk audits to enhance safety and walkability.
- **Demonstration Grants** - This grant opportunity supports projects that encourage the replication of promising efforts that benefit residents (especially those age 50 and older). While there is not a defined budget range for this category, similar projects have tended to fall between \$10,000 and \$20,000 and will not exceed \$50,000. One included category is facilitating equitable engagement to reconnect communities that have been divided by infrastructure.

For more information, visit: <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/>

### Legislative Funding

State and federal elected officials can sometimes include items into legislation for worthy projects in their districts. A conversation between county and municipal officials and legislators is the way to begin this process. This type of funding should be targeted toward capital improvement projects.

### Private Foundations

There may be regional corporations and foundations that support public works such as park development. Competition for these funds is usually brisk, but opportunities should be researched. Funding is often to non-profit organizations. Foundations and institutions represent another potential source of funding for education-related site improvements and programming. Grants are available to support student field trips, provide teacher training in science, and provide other educational opportunities. Education tied to research can increase the pool of potential funds. The science community and research institutions are the logical starting points for solicitation foundation funds.



### Schools and Local Organizations

Local schools and local organizations may also be of assistance in several ways. Local scout groups and mountain bike community are two such examples. These groups might get involved with club, fundraising events, and park cleanup days. While the amount of funds raised may be relatively small, this process builds constituents and support for the parks and recreation system.

### Friends Groups & Park Nonprofits

Similar to participation by school groups, the establishment of a non-profit (501(C)3) Friends-of-the-Park groups can help raise grass roots funding for the individual parks and be a conduit for tax-deductible donations and foundation funding. The Friends can serve as additional eyes and ears for the parks, providing necessary feedback to the administration and maintenance staff.

A Friends group can be an important vehicle for park stewardship, organizing volunteers, providing environmental education.

For more detailed guidelines for establishing a (501(C)3) non-profit charitable organization in Pennsylvania: <https://pano.org/starting-a-nonprofit-organization-in-pennsylvania/>

### Donation Opportunities

It is recommended that the Township create a list, with prices, of physical donation opportunities for the parks consistent with the plan. Rather than having physical markers in parks noting the donation (which can become cumbersome over time) a list of donors might be prominently displayed on the Township Parks website or a funders' donation wall at a central location.

### General Township Fund / Fee-in-Lieu

#### *Fee-in-Lieu of Park Dedication*

To ensure residents have enough park and open space to meet their recreational needs, municipalities may require developers to dedicate land as part of their development to the municipality to be used for open space or park purposes. As an alternative, municipalities may offer the option for the developer to pay a fee to the municipality instead of dedicating land as open space. This fee-in-lieu of dedication of land for parks and recreation can then only be used for providing, acquiring, maintaining or operating park facilities.

Bethel Township has provisions in place for a fee-in-lieu, which are described in Section 395-43.1 of the SALDO. The current fee-in-lieu is \$100,000 per acre of land that the applicant would otherwise be required to designate as recreational land area, prorated for any portion of an acre.

# ESTIMATED COSTS FOR MULTIMODAL IMPROVEMENTS

Estimated costs to implement multimodal recommendations are shown below. This plan will need to be revisited and updated periodically – at least every decade - to address new recreational trends and other changes that may occur within the Township.

Multimodal Improvements Cost Estimates						
Section	Item Description	Quantity		Unit Cost	Total Item Cost	Total Cost
1	<b>Off-Road Multi-use Trail/Sidepath - 8' wide Asphalt</b>					<b>\$ 536,585</b>
	Tank Farm Loop	8,229	LF	\$ 41.40	\$ 340,681	
	Bethel Springs Elementary School Loop	3,163	LF	\$ 41.40	\$ 130,948	
	Penn Del Archers	858	LF	\$ 41.40	\$ 35,521	
	Green Creek off Bethel Road	614	LF	\$ 41.40	\$ 25,420	
	Deer Meadow Lane Connector	97	LF	\$ 41.40	\$ 4,016	
2	<b>Sidewalk - 5' wide Concrete</b>					<b>\$ 348,518</b>
	Various Locations	13,561	LF	\$ 25.70	\$ 348,518	
3	<b>Crosswalks - Striped</b>					<b>\$ 2,310</b>
	Various Locations	3	EA	\$ 770.00	\$ 2,310.00	
4	<b>Shaffer Preserve*</b>					<b>\$ 393,353</b>
	Main asphalt pathways - 9'wide	3,022	LF	\$ 25.90	\$ 78,269.80	
	Secondary pathways - 5'wide	1,884	LF	\$ 7.17	\$ 13,508.28	
	Concrete Pavers - patio	1,572	sq/ft	\$ 25.00	\$ 39,300.00	
	Concrete Pavers - path with compass rose	315	sq/ft	\$ 25.00	\$ 7,875.00	
	Boardwalk with railing - 5' wide	40	LF	\$ 600.00	\$ 24,000.00	
	Boardwalk with toe kick - 5' wide	512	LF	\$ 450.00	\$ 230,400.00	
<i>*Cost estimates from completed Shaffer Preserve Construction Documents</i>						

<b>Total Proposed Site Improvements (Section 1 - 4)</b>	<b>\$ 1,280,766</b>
Mobilization (3%)	\$ 38,423
Erosion and Sedimentation Control (2%)	\$ 25,615
Stormwater BMPs (2%)	\$ 25,615
Construction Contingency (10%)	\$ 128,077
Design & Engineering (15%)	\$ 192,115
<b>Total Estimated Project Costs</b>	<b>\$ 1,690,611</b>



# RECOMMENDED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Implementation of all plan recommendations will require at least a decade or more. Plan recommendations are categorized by timeline priorities of immediate (1-3 years), mid-term (4-7 years), and long-term (8+ years) with relative estimated costs, potential partners, and funding sources. Costs to implement recommendations are divided into three categories:

- Low = less than \$100K,
- Medium = less than \$500K, and
- High = greater than \$500K.

This plan will need to be revisited and updated periodically, at least every decade, to address new recreational trends and other changes that may occur within the Township.

The following chart identifies the recommendations for Bethel Township with the anticipated timelines.

Recommended Implementation Schedule		
Timeframe	Partnerships	Funding Sources
Costs : <\$100K = low, <\$500K = medium, >\$500K = high		
<b>Park and Trail Improvements</b>		
<b>Immediate (1-3)</b>		
Start to implement recommendations of park improvements	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Board, Highway Department	DCNR, DCED, PennVest, General Funds
Annual Park Audit	Certified Playground Safety Inspector	General Funds
Bethel Springs Elementary School Loop Trail	Board of Supervisors, Garney Valley School District	School District General Funds
Shaffer Preserve Trail	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Board, Highway Department	DCNR, DCED, General Funds
Start to construct sidewalk/crosswalk improvements	Board of Supervisors, Highway Department	DCNR, DCED, PennDOT, General Funds
<b>Mid-term (4-7)</b>		
Continue to implement recommendations of park improvements	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Board, Highway Department	DCNR, DCED, PennVest, General Funds
Tank Farm Loop Trail	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Board, Highway Department, Site owner	DCNR, DCED, General Funds
Trail along Green Creek off from Bethel Road	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Board, Highway Department	DCNR, DCED, General Funds
Deer Meadow Lane Connector	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Board, Highway Department	DCNR, DCED, General Funds
Continue sidewalk/crosswalk improvements	Board of Supervisors, Highway Department	DCNR, DCED, PennDOT, General Funds
<b>Long-term (8+)</b>		
Continue implementation of recommendations of park improvements	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Board, Highway Department	DCNR, DCED, PennVest, General Funds
Continue sidewalk/crosswalk improvements	Board of Supervisors, Highway Department	DCNR, DCED, PennDOT, General Funds
Penn Del Archers Trail (if site is protected as open space)	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Board, Highway Department	DCNR, DCED, General Funds

Open Space Acquisition / Preservation		
<b>Immediate (1-3)</b>		
Prepare an Official Map to identify approved parcels and the trails plan	Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors	General Funds
Work with landowners for open space acquisition or preservation	Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, Property owners	DCNR, PennVest, DCED, General Funds
<b>Mid-term (4-7)</b>		
Continue to work with landowners for open space acquisition or preservation	Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, Property owners	DCNR, PennVest, DCED, General Funds
<b>Long-term (8+)</b>		
Continue to work with landowners for open space acquisition or preservation	Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, Property owners	DCNR, DCED, PennVest, General Funds



Administration, Operations & Maintenance		
Immediate (1-3) and Mid-term (4-7)		
Develop preliminary programming plan	Parks and Recreation Board, Board of Supervisors	General funds, revenue from programs
Partnership with school district or facility (such as Ascent) for building usage	Parks and Recreation Board, Board of Supervisors, Garney Valley School District, Private Recreation Providers	General Funds
Explore existing or new sites for maintenance storage facility (possibly at one of the potential parcels for acquisition such as the mushroom farm)	Parks and Recreation Board, Board of Supervisors, Highway Department	General funds
Review of Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines for park and playgrounds	Parks and Recreation Board, Highway Department	General Funds
Continued adherence to ADA guidelines (bench close to a path or trail, play equipment for persons with disabilities, etc.)	Parks and Recreation Board, Highway Department	General funds







# APPENDIX

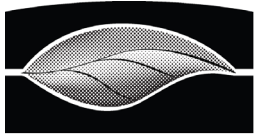
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PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTES





**SIMONE COLLINS**  
**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**  
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**MEETING NOTES**

Project:	<b>Bethel Township Parks &amp; Open Space Plan &amp; Shaffer Park Master Plan</b>	Project No.:	<b>22068.10</b>
Location:	<b>Bethel Township Building</b>	Meeting Date/Time:	<b>3.16.23 7:00 – 9:00pm</b>
Re:	<b>Committee Meeting 1</b>	Issue Date:	<b>3.28.2023</b>

**ATTENDEE LIST:**

**Committee:** Giovanna Iacono, Michael Schneider, Jason Fletcher, Kristina Lamia, Chuck Dennie, Stephanie DerOhannessian, Michael Dunn, George Lincoln

**Simone Collins:** Pete Simone, Emma Haley, Liz Krohn

**INFORMATION TO SEND:**

**Simone Collins to Bethel Township + Committee Members:**

- DCED and PA Conserve Guidebook for the official map

**Bethel Township + Committee Members to Simone Collins:**

- Chuck – township connectivity suggestions he mapped
- Chuck – a pavilion example for Shaffer Park
- Giovanna – shared driveway easement possibility for Shaffer
- Giovanna – Final Shaffer survey

**MEETING SUMMARY:**

**Presentation**

- Pete Simone, Emma Haley, and Liz Krohn of Simone Collins led the group through a brief presentation which included the following elements:
  - Introductions
  - Project Team and Experience
  - Project Schedule
  - Parks and Open Space Plan
    - Project Scope
    - Planning Process
    - Existing Data
    - Site Photo Tour
    - Brainstorming & Discussion
  - Shaffer Park Design
    - Project Scope
    - Planning Process
    - Existing Data
    - Site Photo Tour
    - Brainstorming & Discussion
  - Next Steps

**PARKS & OPEN SPACE PLAN:**

**Brainstorming Cards**

Goals

- Comprehensive Rec Plan
- Serve all ages

Facts

- John Adkinson Park is loved by the community
- Township has 3 nice small parks
- Pickleball is noisy
- Pushback by residents for ball fields at Francis Harvey Green School Field
- Garnet Valley Greenway
- Clayton Park is a great community asset
- Chadds Ford Bike Routes
- Development of mushroom farm is underway
- No open space shown on mushroom farm land sketch
- Parking agreement with Bethel Springs Elementary

### Concepts

- Develop activities in the parks
- Add play equipment at John Adkinson Park
- Work with adjacent residents
- Connectivity between parks and residents
- Controlled crossings
- Connect outside of township
- Inclusive play
- Dog Parks
- Pavilions (rentable)
- Opportunities for land acquisition
- Booth property acquisition
- Better wayfinding at John King Park
- Link all parks together
- Park signage
- Delineated bike routes
- Possible ROW acquisition for connectivity
- Walking and cycling trails at Shaffer Park
- More parking at John Adkinson Park
- Get info out about parks
- Concert series
- Archery property – for open space?
- Wetlands/ buildable land on archery land
- Establish an official map
- Preserve land
- “Wi-Fi Hot Spots”
- Bollard lighting
- Lighting for community events
- Digital signage
- QR codes for interpretive signage
- Bathrooms
- Water fountains

### Comments During the Brainstorming and Discussion Session

#### Park System

- Lack of Knowledge about Township Parks
  - Giovanna:
    - Township needs to expand knowledge of the parks and highlight the amenities that exist
    - Township has thought about doing ‘park spotlights’ to get info out
    - Pete: suggested a newsletter
  - George:
    - Visibility is part of the problem – only John Adkinson Park is visible from the road
- Facilities
  - George:
    - Current parks do not have facilities that draw people into the park
  - Chuck:
    - Residents leave the township for better park amenities
      - Pete: SC will benchmark communities of similar size
    - Suggested dog parks and outdoor meeting spaces, like pavilions. Currently the township only has the gazebo.
    - Suggested parks with digital signage and other forms of technology

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- Pete: suggested QR codes on signs, which would allow the township to change content and not litter parks with lots of signs; parks could also have Wi-Fi hot spots
- Need for lighting in parks
  - Pete: agreed – lighting makes people feel safe within parks, especially in winter and with daylight savings time; could even just have bollard lighting
- Kristina:
  - Township needs an ADA playground – Giovanna agreed
    - Pete: suggested inclusive playground that includes all ages and abilities
- Jason:
  - Referred to Willistown Township’s inclusive playground, which has a pavilion with a restroom that the township rents
  - Currently no restrooms in parks – they rent port-a-potties for events
    - Pete: restrooms in parks are controversial because they are expensive, require lots of maintenance, and are often vandalized, but suggested the township advocate for it because it is a quality of life need
- Parking – Limits Programming
  - Jason:
    - Township has considered a concert series and other programming, but the parks do not have enough parking
      - The issue is the land available for parks. There are options to land acquisition, but it can be expensive. If the township finds it is a priority for the community they will have to acquire more land. (How Schaffer Park was acquired)
  - Michael Schneider:
    - Township hosts events at Bethel Springs Elementary School because it has enough parking.
- Connectivity
  - Michael Schneider (agreed upon by Jason):
    - Lack of connectivity - all township parks need better connections; they have researched and there is not an easy solution
      - Pete: a little connection can bring a lot of people to a space; someone will always be upset about sidewalks, bike lanes, etc., but ultimately the township needs to plan for what is best for community as a whole
    - It is challenging for pedestrians to cross roads
      - Pete: suggested traffic control devices that alert drivers with a flashing beacon when pedestrians approach crosswalks
    - Connectivity to regional trail systems
      - Referred to Concord Township’s success with the Concord Valley Greenway and the Garden Valley Greenway, which will connect to Octorara Trail
        - Crossing Rt. 202 will be the challenge, but it will be safer for trail users once they reach Chadds Ford

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- Suggested creating a connection within Bethel Township to these greenways – then it would be possible for trail users to get to the Brandywine River Museum from Bethel Township
- Michael Dunn:
  - There is not a good place within the township to ride a bike – it is too dangerous on the streets – residents have to drive somewhere else to ride a bike
    - Pete: difficult for communities with narrow roads, but provided options:
      - Expand / acquire ROW – expensive
      - Or utilize shoulders on roads where they exist

Booth Parcel Next to Bethel Community Park

- Michael Schneider:
  - Township has inquired about obtaining the property, but there is hesitancy from residents due to the contamination
    - Pete: a cap can be placed on the property and it could be a park; however, the owner of the property would still be liable for the safety/health of park visitors. Noted that the site will never be determined ‘safe’ by the EPA; they best designation that could be achieved would be ‘acceptable level of risk’

Francis Harvey Green School Field

- Michael Schneider:
  - Garnet Valley School District was going to put ball fields there, but the neighbors were opposed – suggested SC get a hold of those plans from SD

Jack King Park

- George and Giovanna:
  - Residents do not know about Jack King Park; especially the trail in the back of the park
- Michael Schneider:
  - People do not use the trail at Jack King Park because people have to drive there – Pete – may be “easy” to create sidewalk connection.

John Adkinson Park

- George:
  - John Adkinson is the most visited because it is visible, but there is nothing special there to draw people in
- Jason:
  - If there were sports fields, basketball or pickleball people may come to the park, but residents at Fox Field may be opposed to improvements
    - Pete: Pickleball is nosy – need to be good neighbors when deciding where to place pickleball courts
  - Not enough parking to host events
- Giovanna:
  - Township has applied twice for a grant exercise equipment – they will probably get it

Conservation

- Michael Schneider:
  - Wants to look at preserving land and limiting development. Some possible locations:
    - Booth property –
      - Archery property – prime for conservation because of the flooding; however, developers will find land in the back to develop on.
      - Pete: Recommends the township consider adopting an official map. Described it as both a map and an ordinance to designate areas for public improvement that would contribute to the public good. Would give the township opportunities to negotiate with developers when the developers wish to develop properties. Township would have one year to act –. SC has created an official map for many townships.
      - Giovanna: thinks it is worth it; mentioned the mushroom farm is under contract now.
      - Pete: would work well, but the township needs to know what it wants before the conservation easement is written

## SHAFFER PARK MASTER PLAN:

### Brainstorming Cards

#### Goals

- Shaffer Park Plan

#### Facts

- Beautiful
- 300 people come out for the Easter Egg Hunt (occur here?)
- Ash trees (being sprayed to protect)
- Existing fence
- Creek overflow at Goodley Road
- Wet soil areas leading down to pond

#### Concepts

- Stabilized turf
- Overflow parking
- Maintenance building
- Stream restoration
- Larger lawn area
- Pavilions
- Preserve wildlife
- Stormwater management
- Replace allée (for future)
- Geogrid
- Paths wide enough for emergency vehicles
- Wide paths at Goodley Road entrance
- Open lawn space for events
- Hills of Bethel connection
- Take down fence at creek
- Connection to HOA?
- Morris Arboretum "Tree House"
- BBQ Grills
- Maximize usable space
- Increase habitat value
- Modify maintenance program
- Concerts in the park
- Expand temporary parking for events
- Goodley entrance could connect to Bethel Springs Elementary
- Keep fence along residential properties

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## Comments During the Brainstorming and Discussion Session

### Conservation Easement

- Michael Schneider:
  - Hoping we could add up the square footage of protected areas in the conservation easement and move them
    - Giovanna: NALT may be opposed to swapping the protected areas, but will make a decision based on the design concepts for the park
  - Mentioned there is a shared residential/ park use driveway possibility
    - Pete: sees this as a potential future issue
    - Giovanna: will send driveway easement to SC
- Pete:
  - Limited grading possibilities within the easement, so no active recreation features like a ball field

### Access

- Pete:
  - Sightlines are poor
  - Suggested a sensor coming out of driveway that would trigger a beacon up the road to let drivers know drivers or pedestrians are exiting the park. Will check with Al Federico
- Giovanna:
  - Wondered about getting emergency services to the far end of the site from Bethel Road
    - Pete: ADA path in park could be 8 to 10 feet wide; recommends asphalt because stone dust, which is also ADA compliant, erodes over 3% slope.
- George: suggested expanding access from Goodley Road
  - Giovanna: Township is having a survey done of the area so it can be a future connection to the park
- Stephanie:
  - There could be another connection to the park from the Hills at Bethel; however, it is steep there and they would have to talk to the HOA
- Kristina:
  - There is a nature trail from Bethel Springs that the neighbors made; could expand it to Goodley as another park connection
    - George: takes this trail to Spring Meadow and John Adkinson Park
    - Giovanna: mentioned it is a long distance for people to walk if they parked at Bethel Springs for an event at Shaffer Park

### Stormwater Management (SWM)

- Jason:
  - Wondered if the pond could be used for detention
    - Pete: no, because of the berm around it, but removing the pond and restoring it to wetland will help with SWM for the site
  - Suggested subterranean stormwater management under lawn areas

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- Pete: bioswales / infiltration areas throughout the site would be more economical and equally (or more) effective
- Pete:
  - Meadow is better for SWM than lawn
    - Questioned how much lawn is needed – mentioned lawn the size of a football field is enough for events
      - Giovanna: provided an indicator - 300 people show up for Easter Egg Hunt
- Giovanna:
  - Streambank restoration is a part of the PRP (Pollutant Reduction Plan), as a part of the MS4 for the site
  - Heard from Mr. Shaffer that the open lawn area to the west, north of the pond, is very wet
- Michael Dunn (his property abuts Shaffer property to the west):
  - Mentioned that during a substantial rain event, the creek overflows and Goodley Road gets blocked off from flooding
    - Pete: Flooding will not be exacerbated since storm water management of park runoff will be better than exists now

Facilities/ Programming/ Natural Features

- Stephanie, Michael Dunn and Jason:
  - Would like to see an outside loop that is runnable with different grades
- Giovanna:
  - Questioned what to do with existing fence
    - Pete: remove one at creek; keep on adjacent to residential properties to the west
  - Concerts in the park – said people could sit on the slopes to watch
    - Pete: electric connection will be needed
- Michael Dunn:
  - Suggested a cycling path
  - Wondered about lighting in the park
    - Pete: suggested a light in the parking lot and near the street that goes out at a certain time; would not recommend any more lighting than that because Shaffer is a passive park
    - Giovanna: confirmed all Township parks are dusk to dawn parks – Shaffer Park would be the same due to proximity to neighbors
  - Mentioned wildlife present and is concerned about preserving the land for the existing wildlife
    - Pete responded:
      - The property is a cultural landscape, not a wildlife preserve
      - The existing pond has limited wildlife value – restoring it to a wetland would enhance wildlife value
      - pond is a liability with the high berms surrounding it – would be difficult for a person to get out if they fall in

- May need to do Phase 1 Bog Turtle Assessment
          - SC has completed PNDI – there are no signs of Bog Turtles within the site.
- Called out the need for trees to be removed; many have been treated for ash borer for many years
  - Pete: suggested considering tree replacement program for when trees, especially those a part of the allée, die
- Kristina:
  - Concerned about parking on site
    - Pete: Parking should be near entrance where it is flat and where there is space for overflow parking (could install stabilized turf). For larger events, a shuttle could be provided.
- Pete:
  - Meadow area is better for birds – SC will consolidate meadows and reforestation areas on plans for increased habitat value
  - SC will show simplified path system
  - For stream – could have boardwalk, educational signage with QR codes
  - Suggested gating the park to prevent people driving ATVs through the site
- Chuck:
  - Wondered if a maintenance building is a possibility
    - Pete: said easement allows it; pavilions are also allowed, under 1,000 SF total
  - Interested in having a large enough lawn space to throw a frisbee
  - Would like to see grill stations and tree houses like Morris Arboretum
  - Mentioned he wants the whole park used and accessible; many people stop at tree line and do not venture into woodlands – he wants the park woodlands to have activities that draw people in
  - Questioned park maintenance
    - Giovanna: currently Township staff is mowing and removing fallen tree limbs; they will modify their habitats and acquire necessary maintenance equipment within reason
  - Restrooms within the park
    - Pete: advocate for restrooms
    - Giovanna: Township will at least provide port-a-potties

NEXT STEPS:

- Web-based Opinion Survey – open on April 27, 2023
- Public Meeting #1 – April 27, 2023
  - Flyers will be distributed by the Township
- Next Committee Meeting – June 8, 2023
  - Parks and Open Space Plan: review analysis and preliminary recommendations
  - Shaffer Park Design: review Draft Plan

This report represents the Professional’s summation of the proceedings and is not a transcript. Unless written notice of any correction or clarification is received by the Professional within ten days of issue, the report shall be considered factually correct and shall become part of the official project record.

Sincerely,  
SIMONE COLLINS, INC.  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Elizabeth Krohn



**SIMONE COLLINS**  
**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**  
119 EAST LAFAYETTE STREET NORRISTOWN, PA 19401  
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MEETING NOTES

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Project:	<b>Bethel Township Parks &amp; Open Space Plan &amp; Shaffer Park Master Plan</b>	Project No.:	<b>22068.10</b>
Location:	<b>Bethel Springs Elementary Gym</b>	Meeting Date/Time:	<b>04.27.23 7:00 – 9:00pm</b>
Re:	<b>Public Meeting 1</b>	Issue Date:	<b>05.15.2023</b>

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ATTENDEE LIST:

**Simone Collins:** Pete Simone, Emma Haley, Liz Krohn

**Bethel Township:** Giovanna Iacono

**Community:** See attendance lists (attached) for in-person and virtual.

PARKS & OPEN SPACE PLAN MEETING SUMMARY:

PRESENTATION

Pete Simone (PS), Emma Haley, and Liz Krohn of Simone Collins (SC) led the group through a brief presentation which included the following elements:

- Introductions of Project Team and Experience
- Project Schedule
- Components of a Parks and Open Space Plan, which includes:
  - Evaluation of existing parks, with recommendations for improvements
  - Evaluation of other lands for parks or preserved open space
  - Recommendations for non-motorized trails / sidewalks to and from these facilities
- Project Scope
- Planning Process
  - PS explained the planning process which includes:
    - Collect site data, township analysis, develop township program, preliminary recommendations, draft plan, 60-day review period, and approved plan.
    - PS noted that after the completion of the plan, funding must be secured before moving towards implementation of any part of the plan.



- Existing Data
- Site Photo Tour

**BRAINSTORMING & DISCUSSION**

PS led the attendees through interactive brainstorming and discussion. Through this process the public identified several areas as they relate to the Township’s Parks and Open Space: Goals, Facts, Concepts, and Partners. Below are the responses gathered from the public during this exercise.

**GOALS:**

- Link parks through sidewalks and trails
- Education about why parks and open spaces are important
- Places for community gathering

**FACTS:**

- Lack of access to parks on foot
- There is activity in surrounding parks (outside of township)
- High percentage of special needs in area
- Naamans Creek Road is unsafe. The speed limit is 35 mph but the average speed is closer to 50 mph.
- Not a lot of amenities in John T. Adkinson Park
- Scouts made the nature walking path at Bethel Springs Elementary School
- Greenway to Concord to State Park
- John T. Adkinson Park is worn out and in need of new exercise equipment
- None of the Township parks have permanent bathroom facilities
- PennDOT roads throughout Township

**CONCEPTS:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walkability</li> <li>• Sidewalk connections</li> <li>• ADA accessible parks</li> <li>• Sensory garden</li> <li>• Inclusive play</li> <li>• Tree tags</li> <li>• Maintenance Plan</li> <li>• Acquire Right-of-way for trails</li> <li>• Safe crossing @ Bethel Springs to Bethel Community Park</li> <li>• Tennis courts</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History</li> <li>• QR codes for educational signage</li> <li>• Community garden</li> <li>• More volunteer projects</li> <li>• Traffic calming devices</li> <li>• Use Francis Harvey Green School site</li> <li>• Fishing Derby by John T. Adkinson Park</li> <li>• Bike Trails between the Parks</li> <li>• Bathrooms</li> <li>• Safety in Parks is important</li> <li>• Lighting</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

**PARTNERS:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scout organizations</li> <li>• DELCO</li> <li>• Preservation Society</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interact Club at H.S.</li> <li>• Honors Society at H.S.</li> <li>• BYC</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

**Questions/ Comments generated during the discussion:**

- General call for increased connectivity/ walkability within the Township
  - Comment: There is no way to safely get to the Township parks without a car.
  - Suggestion: Build a sidewalk on Foulk Road and a crosswalk to connect Bethel Springs Elementary School to Bethel Community Park.
    - PS said this is a great idea and that it may require a rapid flashing beacon.
      - A resident wanted to know who would pay for a rapid flashing beacon.
        - PS said probably the township, though there is a PennDOT program that may pay for it .
- One resident asked what connectivity within the Township would look like.
  - PS explained different trail types, including, but not limited to:
    - Off road trails – these are separate from road and will require acquiring right-of-way - obtaining easements from property owners
    - Bike lanes – usually 4 to 5 feet wide and sometimes can be incorporated by improving existing roadway shoulders
    - Sidewalks
- Interest to use the Francis Harvey Green School Field was expressed by several residents.
  - PS mentioned that it is SC’s understanding that some residents did not want soccer fields that were proposed there in the past. He continued to say that there is always opposition to proposed plans within communities, but he reminded the group that this is a process.
- Comments were made that the Township’s parks overall need better maintenance.
  - The primary example was that the library box and fitness stations at John T. Adkinson Park are dilapidated.
  - It was also mentioned that littering is a problem in all the parks.
- PS told the group that residents need to tell the Township Supervisors that park maintenance is important to them. He then reminded them that nicer parks require more maintenance, which requires more money.
- PS also said that no township can handle park maintenance on their own, and he encouraged the community to pick up trash when they see it, since everyone can be a steward of our community parks.
- A resident wanted to know what can be done for safety measures in parks.
  - PS said the best safety is to have people in the parks by making them desirable places to be. He also mentioned the Township could invest in camera systems.
- A resident asked if there will be an analysis of adjacent township parks.

- PS said neighboring parks and their facilities will be analyzed, but the Parks & Open Space Plan is about increasing and enhancing the parks, facilities, and connections within Bethel Township.
- The same resident made a comment that since there are currently nearby parks in adjacent townships that have facilities for the whole family to enjoy, Bethel residents have park options other than Bethel Township parks. General agreement with this comment.

**Suggestions for future parks/ future park facilities**

- Inclusive/ handicap accessible playground
- Sensory garden
- Education components – for ecology and township history
- Playground/ garden for adults
- More tennis courts
- Bathrooms
  - PS said bathrooms are a need for parks, but that they are expensive to build and maintain. He noted that modern bathrooms can have timed locking systems for maintenance and safety. He said bathrooms in the township parks are something they should consider as a community.
- One resident called for more community-oriented programming and events.
  - PS spoke to how parks have the ability to create community.
- One resident would like the pond at John T. Adkinson Park stocked with fish so the Township can host fishing derbies for adults and children.
- A resident wants the Township to save the remaining open space instead of allowing for more development, especially as a means to help with stormwater runoff.

**SHAFFER PARK MASTER PLAN MEETING SUMMARY:**

**PRESENTATION**

Pete Simone (PS), Emma Haley, and Liz Krohn of Simone Collins led the group through a brief presentation which included the following elements:

- Project Schedule
- Project Scope
- Plan Process
  - PS explained the master plan process which includes:
    - Collect site data, site analysis, develop site program, preliminary concepts, pre-permit plan, and approved plan.
    - PS noted that after the completion of the plan, funding must be secured before moving towards construction. Projects of this size are typically built in phases.
- Existing Data
- Site Photo Tour
- Precedent Photos – facilities that could be at Shaffer Park
- Concept Review
- Brainstorming & Discussion
- Next Steps

**BRAINSTORMING & DISCUSSION**

PS led the public through an interactive slip chart technique and discussion. Through this process the public identified several areas as they relate to the Shaffer Park Master Plan during this exercise.

**FACTS:**

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| • Flooding issues along creek | • Pump house on Goodley Rd property has bees |
| • Sewer easements             | • Pond was built to water livestock          |
| • Bethel Road is unsafe       | • Deer present                               |
| • Trash on site               |  |

**CONCEPTS:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Provide parking                             | • Move parking from non-conserved area on site |
| • No parking                                  | • Accessibility                                |
| • Security                                    | • Lighting                                     |
| • Preserve                                    | • Information about trash/ littering           |
| • Fence around perimeter                      | • Trees/ reforestation                         |
| • Open views for neighbor                     | • More meadow/ pollinator meadow               |
| • Save yew/ berry bush by entrance            | • No Goodley entrance                          |
| • Streetside Parking                          | • ADA paths                                    |
| • Wetland walkways                            | • Pervious pavements                           |
| • Easement swap                               | • “Natural”                                    |
| • Buffer walkways from surrounding residences | • Spray park                                   |



## Questions/ Comments generated during the discussion:

### Concerns

In summary, as stated by one of the residents present, residents that border the park want to be assured that their quality of life will not change.

- Stormwater management
  - Residents said the existing pond was essential to prevent flooding of the properties adjacent to Naamans Creek; these residents had significant flooding during Hurricane Ida and other heavy rainfalls.
    - PS responded that the pond does not mitigate stormwater from the site and that the plans for the park will provide for enhanced stormwater management through meadow, reforestation and BMPs (best management practices). He assured the group that the stormwater flows must be designed by an engineer and would be equal to or less than the current flows.
  - A resident was concerned about what will be done to the sewer laterals on site.
    - PS assured the group that removal of the pond will not disturb sewer laterals.
- Proposed boardwalk and bridge
  - A resident wondered if building a boardwalk and bridge would be permitted.
    - PS said state permits will have to be acquired for construction. Anyone who wants to know when the permitting will be done will have to get in touch with the Township.
- Accessing the park by car
  - The access point to the park on Bethel Road is less than ideal and there are limited sightlines from the entrance to the property, especially east bound on Bethel Road.
    - PS said the entrance to the park on Bethel Road might benefit with a rapid flashing beacon that alerts east bound drivers of people exiting the park. SC will work with the project traffic engineer on viable solutions to make this access point acceptable.
- An attendee suggested that parking will allow for increased crime.
  - A resident wants Shaffer Park to be a neighborhood park that does not have parking on site. The resident said that a parking lot would require police presence because the park would be more accessible for people to commit crime there. He noted that he had called the police in the past to report “trespassers” on the Shaffer property. Some attendees agreed and commented on the need for safety. Some imagined potential crimes that could be committed at the park including drug use, littering, loitering, sexual activity, etc.
    - PS said without a parking lot people would park along Bethel Road, which is not wide enough and would present a danger. He recommended a gate at the entrance to keep people from driving into the park after hours. He also said people would still be able to walk to the park at any time.
    - PS reiterated that the best safety is to have people in the parks by making them desirable places to be.

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- Proposed parking lot location
  - The resident who bought Doc Shaffer’s property would prefer if the proposed parking lot were in the original location called out in the easement. Constructing a parking lot where SC proposed it would require the removal of a tree planted for Doc Shaffer.
    - PS responded that the proposed parking lot location is not ideal but that it can be screened from his property. The resident responded that he would prefer no screening from his property at all – that he prefers the views from all directions.
  - An attendee suggested that Bethel Township does not need another park, that there are enough parks in the surrounding area that the Shaffer property does not need to be a public park. He continued to say that the neighbors bordering Shaffer like it as it is – a secluded green space that is undeveloped. (Editor’s note: this site IS technically a park)
- Trash in the park
  - One resident regularly cleans up trash along his property and Naamans Creek, and in his opinion, having a park would only increase the trash.
    - PS responded that trash is a problem in all parks and that only the community can be stewards of their park.
  - Another resident wonders where the trash cans will go.
    - Locations to be determined.
  - A resident was concerned that removing the fence along Naamans Creek would allow even more trespassers and trash on his property.
    - PS acknowledged the concern and said the fence was in poor shape and an eyesore. He said a new fence could be installed, but that it is not ideal for a natural area. Instead of a fence there could be signs telling people where private property is located.
- Goodley Road Access
  - The resident whose property is on Wendy Way and abuts the Goodley Road parcel (Township-owned) has several concerns, including:
    - Buffering from the proposed park entrance – she would like 50 feet between her property line and the proposed park path
    - In her opinion, part of the Goodley Road parcel driveway is on her property
    - Littering and crime at the Goodley Road parcel and at the stormwater detention area adjacent to her house
    - The pump house on the Goodley Road parcel is full of bees and should be torn down
  - A resident suggested that people could park along Goodley Road and access the park via a boardwalk through the middle of the Goodley Road parcel.
  - Another resident suggested that the Goodley Road parcel could not be considered as another access point to the park.
- Habitat destruction
  - A resident expressed that trails destroy habitat and that trees should not be removed. She brought with her a petition with 74 signatures to protect trees and undeveloped land within the township.

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**MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET**

Project: Parks & Open Space Plan & Shaffer Park Design Project No.: 22068.10  
 Location: Bethel Springs Elementary Gym Date: 04.27.2023  
 3280 Foulk Rd, Garnet Valley, PA 19060  
 Topic: Public Meeting #1 Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

	NAME	EMAIL
1.	MEGA SHAFER	
2.	FRANK MILES	
3.	Carl & Stacy Smith	
4.	Betsy McCarrick	
5.	Ladell McClelland	
6.	John Nevy	
7.	Kristina Nevy	
8.	DONNA VANCE	
9.	Scott VANCE	
10.	CHUCK DEWIE	
11.	Erica Brignac	
12.	MICHAEL DUNN	

	NAME	EMAIL
13.	DEB DESANDRO	
14.	DiAnne Smith	
15.	Dennis Smith	
16.	Kristine Camie	
17.	AMY MOERS	
18.	Tina Picciotti	
19.	Donald Major	
20.	Janet Major	
21.	Stephanie Dorchhannessian	
22.	Laura Pickrelle	
23.	Cathy Spaw	
24.	WALISSA MICE	
25.	JEFF WALTERS	
26.	JOE PLATT	
27.		
28.		
29.		

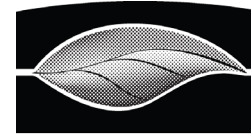
VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE:

- Laurence Smith
- Omkar Prabhu P Myers
- Roger
- Mark Breymeier
- Michael DeLio
- Rosanna Yeung
- JP
- Fely MacMain
- James Yang
- planning.commission@betheltwp.com
- Maria Hensinger
- Brian
- Joseph Anderson
- Kate
- Lou Torrieri
- Sarah Dennie
- Mark Breymeier

BRAINSTORMING & DISCUSSION:

Questions/ Comments generated during the discussion:

- Sarah Dennie: The audio is hard to follow. My name is Sarah. I live on Farmhouse Lane. I'd suggest looking at a safe crosswalk from bethel springs elementary school to the township park. Across Foulk Road. Drive by during a Booters soccer event or other township events and families are forced to cross at unsafe areas. And park in unsafe areas. Sidewalks on Foulk would be wonderful.
- Michael DeLio: Leave the pond!! It adds to outdoor recreation and preserves the aesthetics of the farm land!!



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MEETING NOTES

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Project:	<b>Bethel Township Parks &amp; Open Space Plan &amp; Shaffer Park Master Plan</b>	Project No.:	<b>22068.10</b>
Location:	<b>Bethel Township Building</b>	Meeting Date/Time:	<b>7.13.23 7:00 – 9:00pm</b>
Re:	<b>Committee Meeting 2</b>	Issue Date:	<b>7.25.2023</b>

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ATTENDEE LIST:

**Committee:** Giovanna Iacono, Kristina Lamia, Chuck Dennie, Stephanie DerOhannessian, George Lincoln

**Simone Collins:** Emma Haley, Liz Krohn

FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING:

**Simone Collins goals for Preliminary Connectivity Map:**

- SC was directed to show no trails/ paths through HOAs or residential backyards.
- Suggested to better graphically distinguish between road/ sharrow and what is an off-road trail or sidewalk.
- SC should recommend what parcels the Township should consider in the future as possible open space.
- Recommended to have the Connectivity Map on a board for people to mark up, just like at the Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting.
  - SC recommends that the board presented to the public should have the proposed routes mapped out (as discussed with the committee) in order to generate more feedback and keep the project timeline on track. SC will provide precedent images of all the proposed route types (sharrows, sidewalks, and off-road trails) on the board next with the map.

**Simone Collins goals for Shaffer Park Master Plan:**

SC was directed to make the following revisions to the plan:



- Provide boardwalk only for access to Goodley Road entrance, not as an education loop
- Flip parking orientation and provide overflow parking between the parking area and the former Shaffer property homestead
- Remove restrooms and designate a port-a-potties location
- Provide a water fountain/ water filling station
- Remove the community garden
- Show conceptual stormwater management areas on the plan

## MEETING SUMMARY:

### Presentation

Emma Haley and Liz Krohn of Simone Collins (SC) led the group through a brief presentation which included the following elements:

- Introductions
- Project Schedule
- **Parks and Open Space Plan**
  - Planning Process Update
  - Review Public Input
  - Trails 101
  - Draft Connectivity Plan
  - Discussion
- **Shaffer Park Design**
  - Planning Process Update
  - Review Public Input
  - Concept Plan
  - Precedents
  - Discussion
- Next Steps

### PARKS & OPEN SPACE PLAN:

The following are comments made by the committee regarding progress in the Parks & Open Space Plan, including the Preliminary Connectivity Plan (generated for discussion purposes only):

#### Additional Potential Partners

- Penn State students
  - In 2011 students conducted an analysis of the water temperature of the pond at John Adkinson Park. They found the water temperature is not suitable for trout, but may be acceptable for other types of fish, opening up the possibility of a fishing derby at the park. There is interest in this.
- Chester Ridley Crum (CRC) Watersheds Association
  - This non-profit has done tree plantings within the Township in the past.

### Preliminary Connectivity Plan

- A committee member commented, and the rest of the committee agreed, that there are no primary roads in the Township that are wide enough to accommodate a bike lane and recommended to SC to remove the precedent photograph of the buffered bike lane in the presentation.
- Committee members wanted to know how the possible sharrow routes would be indicated, specifically if the standard sharrow symbol would have to be painted on the roads, or if the sharrow routes could be indicated by signs.
  - SC has noted that a “share the road” signs must be accompanied with a painted sharrow symbol on the pavement.
  - The committee followed up that there seems to be too many sharrow routes. Would rather see more proposed sidewalks and a wayfinding system.
  - SC responded that some road rights-of-way are not wide enough for sidewalks, and sharrow routes would be the best option. SC will explore adding more sidewalks where feasible.
- Committee members agreed that the HOAs would most likely not be agreeable to public trails, and that no one in the Township would want a trail adjacent to their backyard for security reasons. SC was directed not to show these as possible trails. Therefore, the committee suggested that generally, all proposed connectivity improvements should be at the front of people’s properties.
  - SC noted that the tank farm will be a key person interview (KPI) to open the conversation for possible trail use.
  - Giovanna added the Township should be included in the KPI since they have already been in contact.
- Committee members also mentioned that a lot of the HOA land has a lot of rock and topography and might not be conducive to propose a trail.
- The committee agreed that the most important improvement would be sidewalks along Naamans Creek Road and Foulk Road. They also mentioned that along Naamans Creek Road there needs to be several designated road crossings, particularly between John Adkinson Park and the Hills at Bethel.
- The committee mentioned that one of the primary questions the public will have is: who will be responsible for maintaining any trails and sidewalks that are built. They will not want to maintain a sidewalk on their property.
  - SC notes that the homeowner would have to maintain the sidewalk on their property. SC will emphasize in the upcoming public meeting the importance of pedestrian and bike connectivity throughout their community and beyond.
- Committee comments regarding the map graphics:
  - Eliminate the white underlay from the proposed lines in order to see the road lines.
  - Check the Penn Del Archers parcel.
  - Change the terminology from proposed to “possible”.
  - The Garnet Oaks development has a private tot lot park that the map should represent.

## SHAFFER PARK MASTER PLAN:

The following are comments made by the committee regarding progress in the Shaffer Park Master Plan:

### Parking

- A committee member recommended switching the orientation of car headlights to face within Shaffer Park as opposed to the Sarum Farm Lane properties.
- The committee requested as much overflow parking be provided as possible and for that to be shown on the plan.

### Materials

- A committee member asked about pathway materials. SC replied that the proposed paths would be asphalt and the boardwalk could be wood or metal.
  - The committee agreed the boardwalk material should be more durable than wood since the boardwalk at Jack King Park is failing after 15 years. SC replied that it could be a composite decking system or a metal boardwalk and provided an example later in the presentation.
  - A committee member wondered if the forest paths could be stamped soil and if the meadow paths could just be mowed. SC replied that would limit what is considered ADA and could affect funding.
- Based on the survey feedback about having lighting within the park, a committee member clarified that Shaffer Park would be a dawn to dusk park and directed that lighting would not be needed.

### At Naaman's Creek

- A committee member believes the environmental educational/ boardwalk loop closer to the Wendy Lane properties should be pushed back or eliminated for the sake of the residents.
  - Other committee members agreed and proposed eliminating the leg of the boardwalk closest to the creek, bringing the asphalt path closer to the wetland, keeping the leg of boardwalk that leads to Goodley Road, and possibly putting an environmental education loop closer to the remaining boardwalk.
- A committee member believes the chain link fence should remain because he believes it is in good condition and provides a buffer for the residents.
  - Another committee member agreed that there should be some buffer for residents for security purposes, whether it is the current chain link fence or a replacement fence that the township pays for.
- A committee member wanted to know what restoration plans would look like near Naaman's Creek. SC replied that it would involve regrading near the creek and the introduction of shade tolerant wetland plantings that would enhance the ecosystem.

### Goodley Road Access

- The committee agreed that access at Goodley Road will be a significant asset to the surrounding communities. They also agreed that it is better just to have trail/boardwalk access on the parcel as opposed to additional parking, which was shown in an earlier iteration of the concept plan.
- A committee member wondered about pedestrian traffic through the Goodley Road entrance. SC suggested moving the park sign further in from the road and allowing the Goodley Road access to primarily be a neighborhood asset.

### Restrooms

- The committee agreed that Shaffer Park does not need a permanent restroom facility, in part because it would require additional maintenance on the part of the township that it might not be able to take on. Instead, the township will provide port-a-potties for the summers, which is what they do for the other township parks. SC responded that SC will designate an appropriate location for the port-a-potties.

### Community Garden

- The committee agreed that they believed no one would use the community garden because most people within the township have enough land to have their own garden if they wanted.
  - SC said SC can replace the proposed community garden space with more overflow parking space, as requested by the committee.

### Pavilions

- A few 15'x15' pavilions were shown on the concept plan, but a committee member mentioned that she would like to see at least one larger pavilion, similar to the one at John Adkinson Park.
- Another committee member mentioned that she liked the idea of a few smaller pavilions to allow for smaller, private gatherings.

### Additional notes

- A committee member suggested changing the language of "pre-permit plan" to "preliminary concept" or "concept" for the public meeting.
- A committee member would like the park to have a water fountain or water filling stations.
- A committee member wanted to know if cyclists will come to the park. SC replied that SC did not believe so, as the park is small and the loops are not that long. However, she mentioned it could be an ideal location for children to ride their bikes.
- The committee liked the proposed programming as represented in the precedent photos in the presentation.



NEXT STEPS:

- Shaffer Park Public Meeting #2 – Thursday, August 24, 2023
- Next Committee Meeting – Thursday, November 9, 2023

This report represents the Professional's summation of the proceedings and is not a transcript. Unless written notice of any correction or clarification is received by the Professional within ten days of issue, the report shall be considered factually correct and shall become part of the official project record.

Sincerely,  
SIMONE COLLINS, INC.  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Emma Haley



**SIMONE COLLINS**  
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**MEETING NOTES**

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Project:	<b>Bethel Township Parks &amp; Open Space Plan</b>	Project No.:	<b>22068.10</b>
Location:	<b>Bethel Township Building</b>	Meeting Date/Time:	<b>11.28.23 7:00 – 9:00pm</b>
Re:	<b>Committee Meeting 3</b>	Issue Date:	<b>6.7.2024</b>

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ATTENDEE LIST:

**Committee:** Giovanna Iacono, Kristina Lamia, Chuck Dennie, Stephanie DerOhannessian, Michael Dunn, George Lincoln

**Simone Collins:** Pete Simone, Pankaj Jobanputra

MEETING SUMMARY:

**Presentation**

1. Pete Simone and Pankaj Jobanputra led the group through a brief presentation which included the following elements:
  - a. Introductions
  - b. Project Schedule
  - c. Planning Process Update
  - d. Mission Statement, Goals & Objectives
  - e. NRPA Standards & Community Benchmarking
  - f. Park Service Areas
  - g. Potential Park & Open Space Acquisitions
  - h. Conceptual Trail Connections
  - i. Discussion & Next Steps

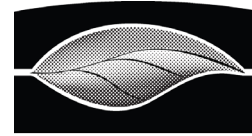
**Comments During the Brainstorming and Discussion Session**

2. *John Adkinson Park*

- a. Committee Member noted that the HOA adjacent to the park is not an advocate of a loop trail.
  - b. The committee discussed the area around the pond, and that there is a self-made trail on the southern edge that is close to the property line. There is pushback from residents of the adjacent development who do not want people walking close to their property.
  - c. PS stated that the purpose of this plan is to have ideas that can be pursued in the future. Despite the swampy nature of the area, suggestions like volleyball or basketball courts can still be made.
  - d. Committee Member noted that courts located on the right side of the park would be close to adjacent houses.
3. *Calais and Sharon Open Space Parcels*
- a. Committee Member stated that the Sharon Parcel is tagged for MS4 requirements.
4. *Areas for Acquisition*
- a. PS clarified that the intention with this discussion is to identify parcels to include in the plan, not to immediately buy them.
  - b. Committee Member asked whether the Maguire property extends into another Township.
    - i. PS stated that SC does not think so but will confirm.
  - c. Committee Member stated that they had approached the owner of the horse farm to inquire about establishing it as a park but the owner was not interested.
    - i. PS stated that the conversation about this property during the comprehensive plan process was whether the Township would prefer if it were developed into townhomes, a park, or left as is.
  - d. Committee Member stated that there are not many undeveloped parcels in the Township, especially along Conchester Highway.
5. *Greene Parcel*
- a. Committee Member stated that there are issues with stormwater management.
  - b. Committee Member stated that they had heard that someone had made a donation for improvements on the property and that Concord is acquiring many open space parcels.
6. *Booth Parcel*
- a. PS stated that SC will double check whether residential uses are allowed under existing zoning designation.
7. *Penn Del Archery*
- a. PS stated that discussions with the comprehensive planning committee indicated that the archery complex could be primed for redevelopment. PS mentioned that housing at this site could be expensive, and that SC will need to see if the area floods.
8. *Official Map*

- a. PS stated that showing desired parcels on an Official Map is a good option for inquiring about possible acquisition.
  - b. PS clarified that owner permission is not mandatory for adding a parcel to the Official Map, and that value or marketability of the property is not affected.
  - c. PS stated that inclusion of parcels on an Official Map can support grant applications and increase attractiveness to funders.
  - d. Committee Member stated that residents may become fearful that the Township may raise taxes to fund acquisitions.
  - e. PS stated that negotiating conservation easements may serve as a better option since there is benefit for owners who desire permanent protection at no cost to the Township.
9. *Trail Connectivity*
- a. PS emphasized that there are many economic benefits that come with preserving open space and building trails.
  - b. Committee Member asked whether the PECO greenway trail is still going to happen.
    - i. PS responded that according to the County, it is still going to happen and will go through Clayton Park.
  - c. PS stated that the trail plan is modest but is a good place to start.
  - d. PS stated that the Francis Harvey Green property and the Booth property make a lot of sense and should be priorities.
  - e. Committee Member asked whether the Township would have to acquire the 5 homes in between Bethel Springs and the Greene field.
    - i. PS responded that those homes are not critical to how the open space would function and is not necessary.
10. *Next Steps and Further Comments*
- a. Committee Member requested that the trail plan include recommendations for priority sidewalk locations.
  - b. Committee Member asked whether it would be possible to have a discussion with the Penn Del Archery owner about getting a trail easement on the property.
    - i. PS stated that the Township should have that conversation.
  - c. PS stated that the Shaffer Plan will be completed before the end of the year.





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**NEXT STEPS:**

- Next Committee Meeting – February 8, 2024
  - Parks and Open Space Plan: review analysis and preliminary recommendations

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**MEETING NOTES**

Project:	<b>Bethel Township Parks &amp; Open Space Plan</b>	Project No.:	<b>22068.10</b>
Location:	<b>Bethel Township Building</b>	Meeting Date/Time:	<b>2.8.24 7:00 – 9:00pm</b>
Re:	<b>Committee Meeting 4</b>	Issue Date:	<b>6.7.2024</b>

**ATTENDEE LIST:**

**Committee:** Giovanna Iacono, Chuck Dennie, Michael Dunn, George Lincoln

**Simone Collins:** Pete Simone, Pankaj Jobanputra

**MEETING SUMMARY:**

**Presentation**

1. Pete Simone and Pankaj Jobanputra led the group through a brief presentation which included the following elements:
  - a. Introductions
  - b. Project Schedule
  - c. Public Opinion Survey Review
  - d. Mission Statement, Goals & Objectives
  - e. Projected Parks and Open Space Needs
  - f. Potential Park & Open Space Acquisition / Preservation
  - g. Draft Trail Plan
  - h. Organized Sports, Programming and Maintenance
  - i. Shaffer Preserve Plan
  - j. Funding
  - k. Next Steps

**Comments During the Brainstorming and Discussion Session**

2. *John Adkinson Park*
  - a. The field on the right is a prime spot for a formalized field.

- b. A playground could also go in this spot.
  - c. A meadow could be introduced along the pond to prevent geese from gathering.
  - d. There are algae and mosquitoes at the pond.
  - e. Bring in an arborist to examine the trees.
3. *Jack King Park*
- a. Hicks Lane is a private driveway, take out any improvements here.
  - b. The playground needs drainage improvements.
4. *Community Park*
- a. Add an additional crossing at the north end of the Park.
  - b. Open up the fence across the street at the School so people can get through.
5. *Maguire Farm*
- a. Introduce a smaller dog park here.
  - b. Maybe introduce ballfields here.
6. *Green Parcel*
- a. Still has drainage issues.
  - b. Is the pavilion too large?
7. *Booth Parcel*
- a. Have additional parking here.
8. *Silvestri Farm*
- a. There is remediation occurring.
9. *Additional notes*
- a. Consider restrooms at larger parks.
  - b. Are there issues with water fountains?
  - c. In the Shaffer drawing, add a hatch for the grass.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Next Public Meeting – March 21, 2024
  - Continue to prepare Draft Plan

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**MEETING NOTES**

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<b>Project:</b>	<b>Bethel Township Comprehensive Parks, Recreation &amp; Open Space Plan</b>	<b>Project No.:</b>	<b>22068.10</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Bethel Township Building</b>	<b>Meeting Date/ Time:</b>	<b>3.21.24 7:00 – 9:00pm</b>
<b>Re:</b>	<b>Public Meeting 2</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>6.7.24</b>

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**ATTENDEE LIST:**

**See attached sign-in sheet.**

**Simone Collins:** Peter Simone (PS), Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ)

**MEETING SUMMARY:**

**Presentation**

1. Peter Simone and Pankaj Jobanputra of Simone Collins led the group through a presentation which included the following elements:
  - a. Introduction
  - b. Mission Statement, Goals & Objectives
  - c. Return on Environment
  - d. Public Participation Review
  - e. NRPA & Community Benchmarking
  - f. Projected Parks and Open Space Needs
  - g. Park Service Areas & Gaps
  - h. Potential Parks or Open Space Acquisition/Preservation
  - i. Draft Trail Plan
  - j. Organized Sports, Programming and Maintenance
  - k. Funding
  - l. Next Steps

**Discussion**

2. An attendee asked whether the report will include priorities.



- a. PS responded that the report will make prioritized recommendations.
- 3. PS reviewed the purpose of an Official Map with meeting attendees.
  - a. An attendee stated that it seems as if the Official Map is an advantage to the municipality but a disadvantage to the property owner.
  - b. PS stated that there is no cost to the owner and there is no change to zoning. PS stated that there is a common misconception that being listed on an Official Map will lead to condemnation, which is not the case.
- 4. An attendee asked whether acreage was a criteria for identifying potential open space acquisitions.
  - a. PS stated that it has been known for years that Penn Del Archers and the mushroom farm could be available, and that the horse farm has had ideas for development.
- 5. PS responded to an attendee that the Francis Harvey Green field may be a good opportunity and cited cost to develop and proximity to children, who would be a priority user.
- 6. An attendee stated that they like the idea of improving existing parks first before new acquisitions. They asked what the grant landscape is like for smaller parcels.
  - a. PS responded that there are DCNR, DCED, and County funds available for improvements, including stormwater.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Board of Supervisors Meeting #2 – April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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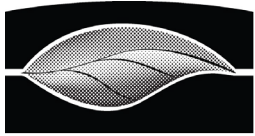
Sincerely,  
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**MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET**

**Project:** Parks & Open Space Plan  
**Location:** Bethel Township Building  
 1092 Bethel Rd., Garnet Valley, PA 19060  
**Topic:** Public Meeting #2

**Project No.:** 22068.10  
**Date:** 03.21.2024  
**Time:** 7:00-9:00 PM

	NAME	EMAIL
1.	DAWN SAUNDERS	[REDACTED]
2.	GEORGE LINCOLN	[REDACTED]
3.	Dianne Smith	[REDACTED]
4.	Scott Vance	[REDACTED]
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		



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**MEETING NOTES**

Project:	<b>Bethel Township Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan</b>	Project No.:	<b>22068.10</b>
Location:	<b>Bethel Township Building 1092 Bethel Road, Garnet Valley, PA 19060</b>	Meeting Date/ Time:	<b>5/14/2024 7:00-9:00 PM</b>
Re:	<b>Board of Supervisors #1</b>	Issue Date:	<b>6.7.2024</b>

**ATTENDEES:**

Pankaj Jobanputra, SC

**PRESENTATION**

Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ) of Simone Collins (SC) led the group through a presentation which reviewed recommendations and included the following elements:

- Projected Parks and Open Space Needs
- Potential Parks or Open Space Acquisition/Preservation
- Official Map
- Draft Trail Plan
- Organized Sports, Programming and Maintenance
- Funding and Next Steps

**NOTES:**

General Comments/Questions

- The team and members of the public discussed the preliminary recommendations.

**Next Steps:**

- Simone Collins
  - Finalize Draft plan and submit by May 31st

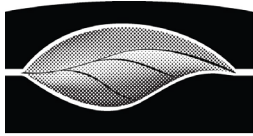
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Sincerely,

Pankaj Jobanputra  
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## KEY PERSON INTERVIEWS



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**KEY AGENCY INTERVIEW NOTES**

Project: **Bethel Township Parks & Open Space Plan & Shaffer Park Master Plan** Project No.: **22068.10**

Location: **Virtual Teams Meeting** Meeting Date: **8.30.2023** Time: **1:00 pm – 1:30 pm**

Re: **Key Agency Interview – Delaware County Birding Club**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Simone Collins (SC)**

Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ), Emma Haley (EH)

**Delaware County Birding Club**

Debbie Beer (DB), President

**NOTES:**

1. DB stated the following about DCBC:
  - a. The club has 9 board members and 220 contacts.
  - b. The club hosts many field trips; typically, there is 1 trip per month, but the average is going up. The trips are always free and open to the public.
  - c. The club hosts monthly programs from September to June. These programs have been hosted on Zoom since 2020; however they are transitioning to in-person programs in January.
2. DB stated that some members might live in Bethel, and suggested reaching out to Brian Quinlin, an elementary school teacher within the Township.
3. DB stated that there has been an uptick in the birding community after the pandemic; especially from a more diverse crowd.
4. EH asked how she would like to see the birding community use the Shaffer Park space?
  - a. DB mentioned she appreciated the mix of habitat because it yields more birds and makes it more exciting to walk around. She stated that having loop trail is important. She stated that DCBC is in support of as much natural area as possible, in addition to safe trails and safe parking.

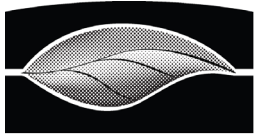
5. EH stated that the number of parking spaces has been a hot topic, and is always hard to gauge.
  - a. DB stated that Bryn Cohen Preserve has 55 spaces and serves 500 acres, and Cheslen Preserve has 5 lots, with the largest having 50 spaces, and serves 1300 acres.
6. DB stated that one thing the club likes to advocate for is no dogs or leashed-only.
7. DB asked if it was a passive park.
  - a. EH responded that the park is under a conservation easement, so everything proposed within it must be passive recreation.
8. DB stated that they would like to see native plantings and no invasives. She added that a pollinator meadow would be much desired.
  - a. EH responded that coordination with the Township maintenance department will be imperative to ensure that meadows are properly maintained.
9. DB mentioned that at Stoneleigh has a lot of lawn and staff was able to reduce the cost of mowing by only maintaining 5-10 foot buffers along walking paths and letting meadow grow. The meadow area is mowed once per year to keep invasives in check.
10. DB suggested interpretive signage and wayfinding throughout the site.
11. DB suggested concentrating on the safety of people walking around in terms of trail design, and listed no dark corners, no bad sight lines, and softer corners. She added that the loop trail is a good thing to have, and any trail marker would be helpful.
12. DB noted that birders like to start early. She recommended that the gate be opened around 6am, when birders sometimes go out.

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Sincerely,  
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Emma Haley





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**MEETING NOTES**

Project:	<b>Bethel Township Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan</b>	Project No.:	<b>22068.10</b>
Location:	<b>Virtual</b>	Meeting Date/ Time:	<b>09/26/2023 2:00-3:00 PM</b>
Re:	<b>Key Person Interview – Garnet Valley School District</b>	Issue Date:	<b>6.7.2024</b>

**ATTENDEES:**

Marc Bertrando, Superintendent  
 Robert Sanderson, Director of Operations  
 Tara Allen, Bethel Springs Elementary Principal  
 Seth Brunner, Athletic Director GVHS  
 Peter Simone (PS), Simone Collins Landscape Architecture (SC)  
 Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ), SC

**MEETING SUMMARY:**

1. MB stated that the School District (SD) has approximately 4500 students, which has declined by around 300 students over the last 5 to 6 years, but that enrollment has stabilized in the last 2 to 3 years and will likely rise due to new housing developments. The SD is currently evaluating a major renovation to the high school building, transforming it into a transportation and tech hub. Other improvements include 2 turf fields. Smithbridge, Temple, and Kirk Road will see transportation upgrades including turning lanes, sidewalks, and a traffic circle. The SD wants these projects to represent a commitment to a strategic plan that will improve the lives of community members and increase access to schools, libraries, and parks.

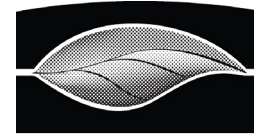
2. TA discussed enrollment projections for Bethel Springs, which was currently 550 students. Kindergarten has been brought back to Bethel Springs after being housed in Concord for several years.
3. MB discussed some factors that have impacted school enrollment, including declining birth rate and an aging population.
4. MB stated that there are no other expansions currently being considered.
5. MB stated that there are no current plans for Francis Harvey Green Field. It is currently used by the cross-country team, little league baseball, BYC, and the carnival. The open space is used by residents for walking. There are some topographic issues due to massive rocks under the surface, which was a struggle in the past.
  - a. BS added that there is also a runoff issue.
6. MB stated that the SD is a full access school community that encourages a symbiotic relationship with the community. The SD accommodates the Brandywine Youth Club who use the fields at Bethel Springs for various sports and does its best to accommodate senior citizens whenever possible. Other local groups like the Garnet Valley Valleysmen or Ascent sometimes reach out to schedule field usage.
7. SB stated that there is a cross-country course on Green that connects to Bethel Springs via a nature trail. Home meets have moved to Central Rose Tree Park but if the league were to decide to do local meets, Bethel Springs would be the location. The Bethel Bombers and Bethel Booters use Bethel Community Park.
8. MB stated that it was encouraging to hear that the plan will provide trail connection recommendations, as they can bring major safety enhancements for students, as the roads are not safe.
9. MB mentioned that there is a church near the high school campus whose neighbor has acquired land. There have been discussions that a trail connection from the high school down to Featherbed, to the middle school, and then to Bethel Springs would be greatly beneficial.
10. MB voiced support for environmental education opportunities.
11. MB stated that the SD concern is with bringing kindergarten to Bethel. It is close to maxed out on space, and any influx in students may be overcapacity.
12. TA stated that 590-600 students is likely the maximum. The high school is tight but not overflowing. The middle school is tighter but there are opportunities there to add space without much hassle. The SD is not at capacity at any school.

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Sincerely,



Pankaj Jobanputra, AICP  
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## MEETING NOTES

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Project:	<b>Bethel Township Parks &amp; Open Space Plan</b>	Project No.:	<b>22068.10</b>
Location:	<b>Virtual</b>	Meeting Date/Time:	<b>09/27/2023 1:00-1:30 PM</b>
Re:	<b>Key Person Interview – Delaware County Planning</b>	Issue Date:	<b>6.7.2024</b>

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### ATTENDEES:

Steven Beckley, Open Space and Trails Planner, DCPD  
Peter Simone (PS), Simone Collins Landscape Architecture (SC)  
Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ), SC

### MEETING SUMMARY:

1. SB stated that trails are allowed on power lines but that there is a process involving paperwork and outreach.
  - a. PS asked whether power line trails are still viable.
  - b. SB responded affirmatively that the power line trail is still feasible across the northern panhandle of the Township through Northbrook. SB stated that Concord Township is working on a master plan for a dog park location and mentioned that DCPD would like to see a trail crossing through Clayton Park.
2. PS stated that preliminary trail concepts include sidewalk connections on Foulk Road to Booths Corner and to Penn Del Archers and the mushroom farm site.
3. SB stated that Upper Chichester is working on a plan right now and recommended speaking to their township manager.
4. SB stated that the Right-of-Way of the PECO powerline is wide and a greenway trail could be accommodated without abutting adjacent houses.



- 5. PS stated that there are not many opportunities for on-road trails as there is no room for dedicated bike lanes. PS stated that a few routes will be identified that experienced cyclists might use and sign them with minimal shoulder improvements. There are more opportunities for off-road pedestrian improvements.
- 6. SB stated that the County did a sidewalk map several years ago which identified sidewalk gaps and analyzed where bike routes are in relation to sidewalks. SB stated that Concord Township has done some planning work for pedestrian paths along Smithbridge Road. SB stated that if ROW can be obtained, there are few obstacles to getting trails built.

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## MEETING NOTES

Project:	<b>Bethel Township Parks &amp; Open Space Plan</b>	Project No.:	<b>22068.10</b>
Location:	<b>Virtual</b>	Meeting Date/Time:	<b>10/13/2023 1:00-1:30 PM</b>
Re:	<b>Key Person Interview – Garnet Valley School District School Board</b>	Issue Date:	<b>6.7.2024</b>

### ATTENDEES:

Vinit Dhurva, School Board Member  
Peter Simone (PS), Simone Collins Landscape Architecture (SC)  
Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ), SC

### MEETING SUMMARY:

1. VD stated the School District (SD) is working on the Pennington project near the high school and is working on turf fields.
2. VD mentioned that a hospital could be a good local partner for a trail project by putting outdoor exercise equipment at trail markers.
3. VD discussed the Pennington project, which is an old school building. The plan is to move transportation, e-sports, administration, and servers to Pennington school. VD stated that Bethel Springs used to provide after-care service but has now been moved to the middle school.
4. VD stated that the school district is concerned about teacher availability. It is difficult to employ teachers

and there seems to be stabilization of student population levels. VD mentioned that there has been high turnover in teacher population.

5. VD stated that the SD is the recipient of major SD taxes. The SD knows what it needs when calculations are made. GVSD has been one of the lowest in terms of increasing assessment.
6. VD stated that walkability is a major factor during Pennington projects. The SD is working on trying to connect in to Bethel and is working with PennDOT to achieve more connectivity. Sidewalks will help circulate students between schools and open spaces.
7. VD stated that there are liability concerns with unlimited use of FHG fields.
8. VD stated that there is always a need for facilities or improvements, and they don't always need to be big projects like new courts. Concord built a gaga pit that has been popular.

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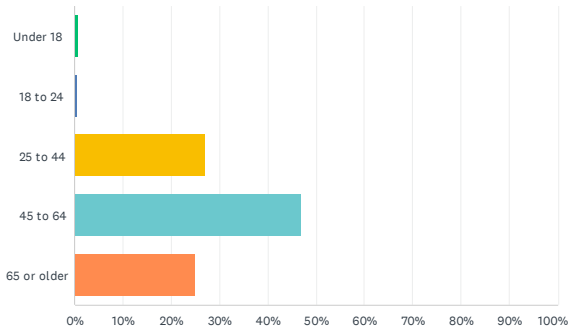
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## PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

### Q1 What is your age?

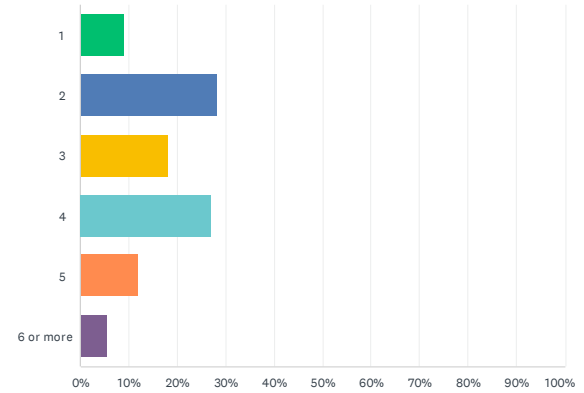
Answered: 309 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.65%	2
18 to 24	0.32%	1
25 to 44	27.18%	84
45 to 64	46.93%	145
65 or older	24.92%	77
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>309</b>

### Q2 How many people currently live in your household?

Answered: 309 Skipped: 5

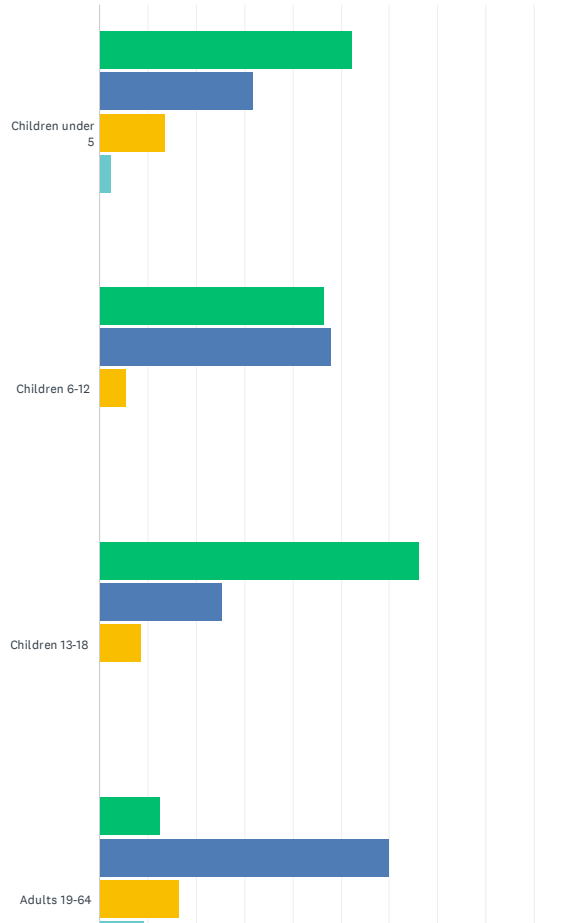


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	9.06%	28
2	28.16%	87
3	18.12%	56
4	27.18%	84
5	11.97%	37
6 or more	5.50%	17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>309</b>

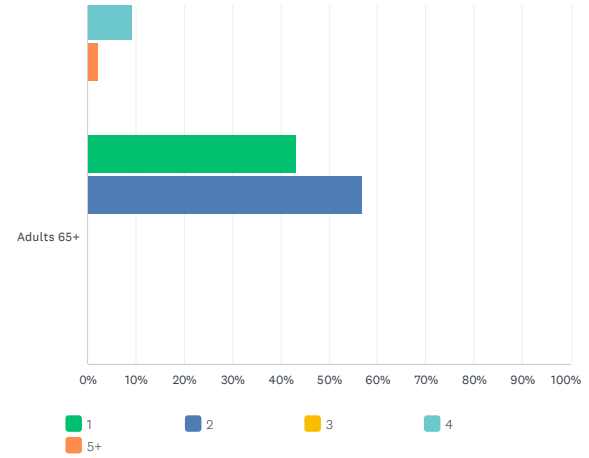


Q3 Please indicate how many people of each age group currently live in your household

Answered: 306 Skipped: 8



3 / 183

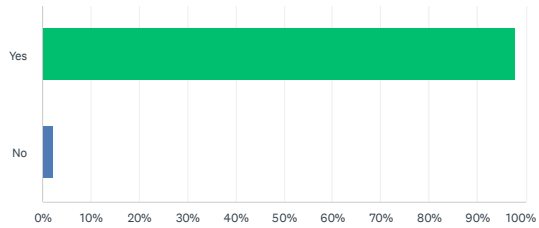


	1	2	3	4	5+	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Children under 5	52.27% 23	31.82% 14	13.64% 6	2.27% 1	0.00% 0	44	1.66
Children 6-12	46.48% 33	47.89% 34	5.63% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	71	1.59
Children 13-18	66.20% 47	25.35% 18	8.45% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	71	1.42
Adults 19-64	12.55% 30	59.83% 143	16.32% 39	9.21% 22	2.09% 5	239	2.28
Adults 65+	42.99% 46	57.01% 61	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	107	1.57

4 / 183

Q4 Are you a resident of Bethel Township?

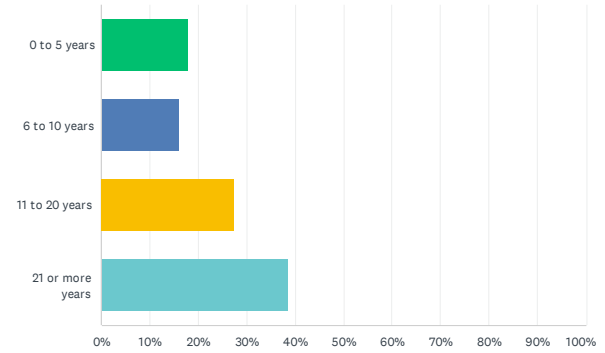
Answered: 314 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	97.77%	307
No	2.23%	7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>314</b>

Q5 If you live in Bethel, how long have you lived in the Township?

Answered: 301 Skipped: 13

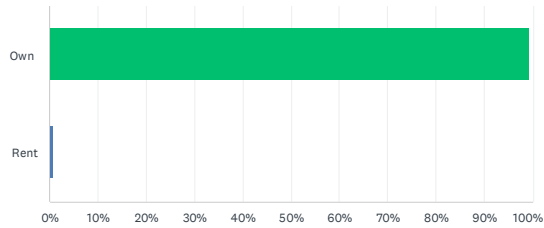


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0 to 5 years	17.94%	54
6 to 10 years	15.95%	48
11 to 20 years	27.57%	83
21 or more years	38.54%	116
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>301</b>



Q6 Do you own or rent your place of residence?

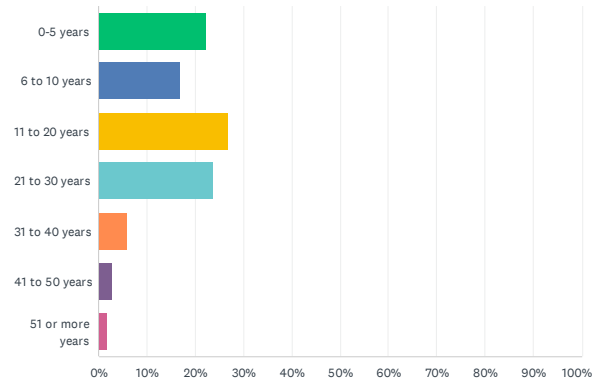
Answered: 297 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Own	99.33%	295
Rent	0.67%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>297</b>

Q7 How long have you lived at your place of residence?

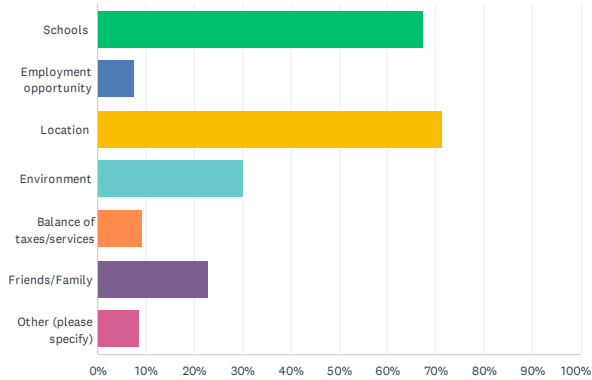
Answered: 297 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-5 years	22.22%	66
6 to 10 years	16.84%	50
11 to 20 years	26.94%	80
21 to 30 years	23.57%	70
31 to 40 years	6.06%	18
41 to 50 years	2.69%	8
51 or more years	1.68%	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>297</b>

Q8 If you are a resident of Bethel Township, why did you choose to move here? (Please check all that apply.)

Answered: 295 Skipped: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Schools	67.46% 199
Employment opportunity	7.46% 22
Location	71.19% 210
Environment	30.17% 89
Balance of taxes/services	9.15% 27
Friends/Family	22.71% 67
Other (please specify)	8.47% 25
Total Respondents: 295	

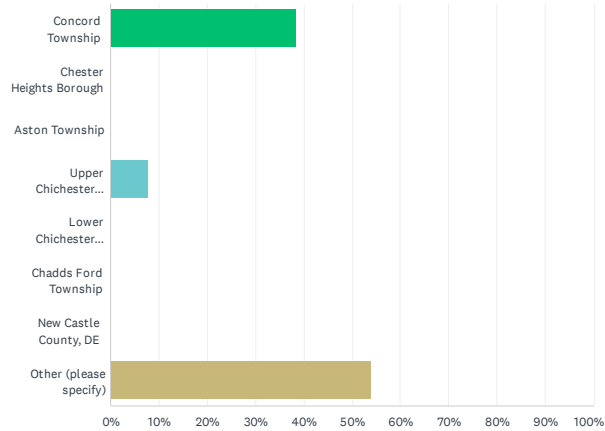
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Retirement	2/1/2024 1:35 PM
2	I grew up in Bethel and wanted to move back	1/31/2024 11:44 AM
3	Green spaces	1/21/2024 11:18 AM
4	Retirement	12/15/2023 7:19 PM
5	Grew up here.	11/29/2023 12:47 AM
6	Larger private home lots	11/27/2023 6:21 AM

7	No	11/8/2023 5:25 PM
8	Less congested	11/7/2023 12:11 PM
9	Lived in Concord Township but got a larger home that ended up being Bethel	9/7/2023 12:44 PM
10	1 acre residential zoning	8/20/2023 9:08 PM
11	Were in another home for schools, not in 55 plus	8/15/2023 2:15 PM
12	Foxfield	6/14/2023 8:35 AM
13	55+ community	6/5/2023 4:37 PM
14	Open space, country environment, away from cities, plenty of our own ground so our children can be safe in our backyard, not a park as in municipalities that have no backyards	6/5/2023 1:45 PM
15	Active and attractive 55 and over community, Foxfield!	6/3/2023 9:17 AM
16	Residence	6/3/2023 8:53 AM
17	Retired	6/3/2023 6:53 AM
18	55 plus active community	6/2/2023 9:08 PM
19	55+ Community	5/22/2023 4:03 PM
20	to have a farm	5/20/2023 10:53 PM
21	Senior community	5/17/2023 6:22 PM
22	Already retired and to downsize.	5/6/2023 8:59 AM
23	Lived here all my life. Love the area.	5/5/2023 12:09 PM
24	Housing market	4/29/2023 2:43 PM
25	Rolling hills and trees not sidewalks and strip malls	4/28/2023 7:34 AM



### Q9 If you are not a resident of Bethel Township, what is the name of the municipality you live in?

Answered: 13 Skipped: 301

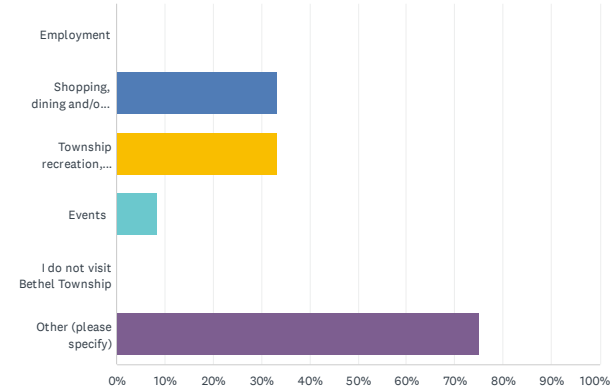


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Concord Township	38.46% 5
Chester Heights Borough	0.00% 0
Aston Township	0.00% 0
Upper Chichester Township	7.69% 1
Lower Chichester Township	0.00% 0
Chadds Ford Township	0.00% 0
New Castle County, DE	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	53.85% 7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Trainer borough	1/8/2024 2:19 PM
2	I own a home that my niece and nephew rent from me, but I am very interested in the community.	8/17/2023 9:59 AM
3	I am a resident of Bethel T	6/5/2023 10:15 AM
4	N/A	6/3/2023 9:18 AM
5	Resident	5/10/2023 8:30 PM
6	Bethel	5/7/2023 2:19 PM
7	Bethel	5/5/2023 2:21 PM

### Q10 If you are not a resident of Bethel Township, what are the primary reasons you visit? (Please check all that apply.)

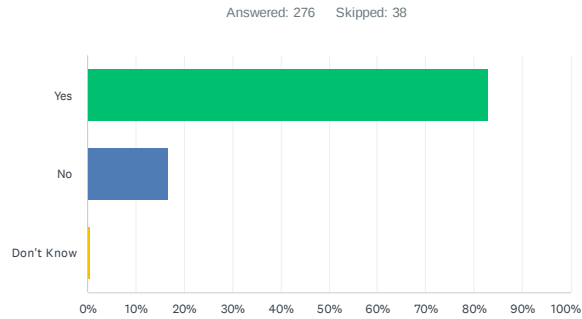
Answered: 12 Skipped: 302



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Employment	0.00% 0
Shopping, dining and/or retail services	33.33% 4
Township recreation, parks and open space	33.33% 4
Events	8.33% 1
I do not visit Bethel Township	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	75.00% 9
<b>Total Respondents: 12</b>	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	My family were long time residents some still are! We are the Cheyney family	1/8/2024 2:19 PM
2	Used to live in Bethel. Still go for friends and BSES nature trail	9/5/2023 7:39 PM
3	Birding	8/28/2023 4:51 PM
4	my family lives in Bethel township	8/17/2023 9:59 AM
5	I am a resident of Bethel T	6/5/2023 10:15 AM
6	N/A	6/3/2023 9:18 AM
7	Resident	5/10/2023 8:30 PM
8	Does not apply	5/6/2023 10:47 AM
9	Bethel	5/5/2023 2:21 PM

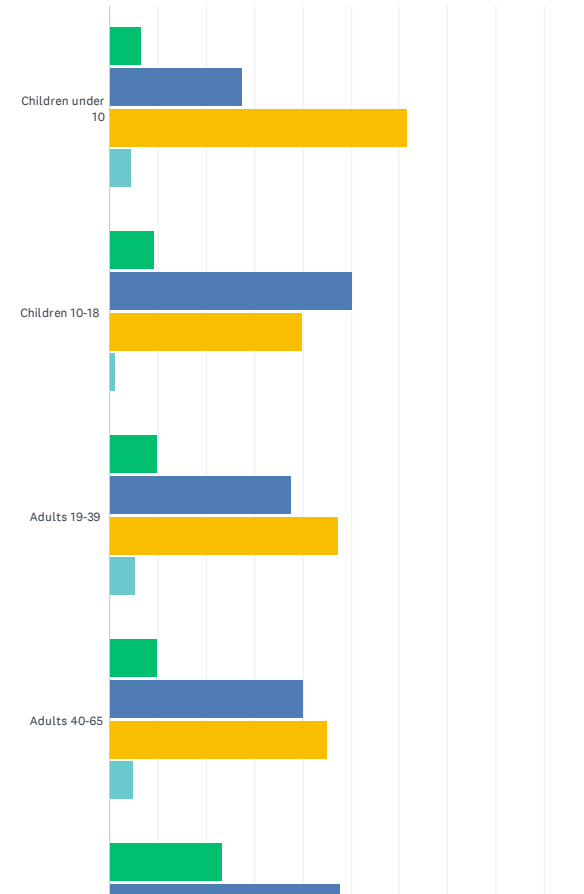
Q11 In the past 12 months, has any member of your household participated in any activities in parks, natural areas, or open spaces in or around Bethel Township? This would include any recreational activity, such as walking, biking, participating in team sports, swimming, bird watching, etc.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	82.97%	229
No	16.67%	46
Don't Know	0.36%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>276</b>

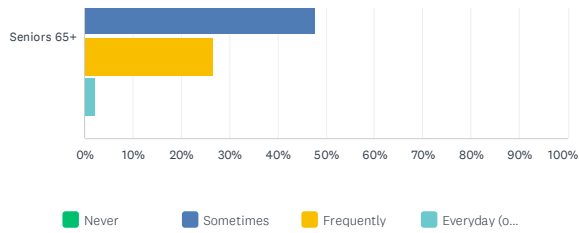
Q12 By age group, how often have the members of your household gone to parks, trails, natural areas and open spaces in the past 12 months? (If certain age groups are not applicable, leave boxes blank.)

Answered: 273 Skipped: 41





Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

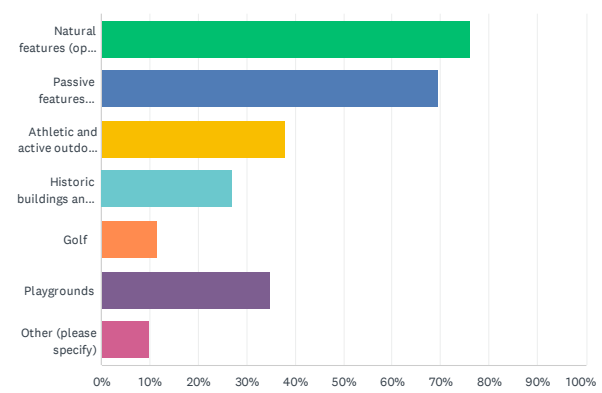


	NEVER	SOMETIMES	FREQUENTLY	EVERYDAY (OR ALMOST)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Children under 10	6.59% 6	27.47% 25	61.54% 56	4.40% 4	91	2.64
Children 10-18	9.18% 9	50.00% 49	39.80% 39	1.02% 1	98	2.33
Adults 19-39	9.82% 11	37.50% 42	47.32% 53	5.36% 6	112	2.48
Adults 40-65	9.88% 16	40.12% 65	45.06% 73	4.94% 8	162	2.45
Seniors 65+	23.33% 21	47.78% 43	26.67% 24	2.22% 2	90	2.08

Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

Q13 What are your favorite types of park features? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 276 Skipped: 38



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Natural features (open space, wildlife habitat, outdoor education, etc.)	76.09% 210
Passive features (trails, benches, picnic facilities, etc.)	69.57% 192
Athletic and active outdoor activities (fields, courts, pools, fitness equip, etc.)	38.04% 105
Historic buildings and facilities	27.17% 75
Golf	11.59% 32
Playgrounds	34.78% 96
Other (please specify)	9.78% 27
Total Respondents: 276	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	WATER PLAY!! Splash pad aquatic center something!	1/26/2024 9:09 PM
2	Dog parks	1/8/2024 11:39 AM
3	Big old trees with shade and benches and real bathrooms	12/22/2023 8:26 AM
4	Dog Park	12/1/2023 10:13 AM
5	Slides, swings	11/12/2023 6:36 AM
6	Fishing	11/8/2023 10:24 PM

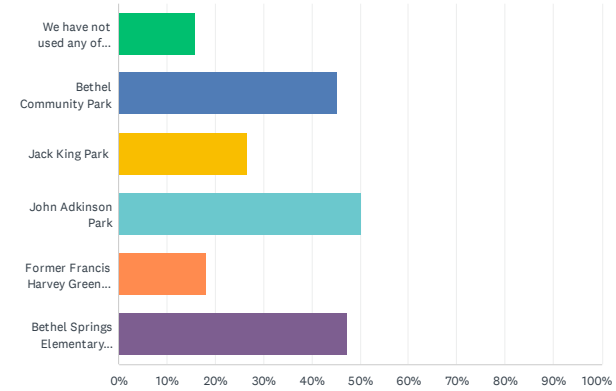
Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

7	fitness trails	10/2/2023 10:59 AM
8	Bike trails	9/9/2023 5:49 PM
9	Biking	9/8/2023 11:11 AM
10	Running or biking	9/7/2023 2:15 PM
11	Fishing	9/7/2023 11:57 AM
12	Long walking trails. Walking around smith bridge park in a small loop gets old	9/5/2023 5:21 PM
13	paved nature trails are our favorite with young children (strollers)	8/22/2023 10:20 AM
14	Things to do	8/15/2023 2:19 PM
15	Communal usages. Bbqs, tables, ampitheatre for music and events.	8/8/2023 12:09 AM
16	Sidewalks to be able to walk to the parks	8/1/2023 3:13 PM
17	Fishing	6/28/2023 9:07 AM
18	Leave it Natural -- don't change or develop	6/16/2023 11:17 AM
19	Wooded Trails	6/7/2023 5:15 PM
20	Dog friendly trails!	6/3/2023 9:42 AM
21	Would LOVE paved bike trails	5/30/2023 11:02 AM
22	Fishing	5/22/2023 9:56 AM
23	horse accessible	5/20/2023 10:57 PM
24	Dog park!!	5/16/2023 5:53 PM
25	Bike Trails	5/16/2023 4:15 PM
26	Formal Gardens	5/15/2023 8:11 AM
27	Ponds with turtles frogs dragon flies	5/6/2023 9:35 PM

Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

Q14 In the past 12 months, which parks, natural areas, trails, or facilities have you visited for recreation purposes in Bethel Township? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 266 Skipped: 48



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
We have not used any of these areas	15.79% 42
Bethel Community Park	45.11% 120
Jack King Park	26.69% 71
John Adkinson Park	50.00% 133
Former Francis Harvey Green School Field	18.05% 48
Bethel Springs Elementary School	47.37% 126
Total Respondents: 266	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	There are no real trails, there is not enough open space to go on hikes in the woods.	1/9/2024 4:14 PM
2	Clayton Park (county run)	1/8/2024 4:12 PM
3	Clayton park	12/22/2023 8:26 AM
4	Most parks n Bethel township don't have kid slides or swings so we went to Concord township parks	11/12/2023 6:36 AM
5	Biking Jack A Markel at Wilmington waterfront, hiking and biking Brandywine Creek trails,	9/8/2023 11:11 AM



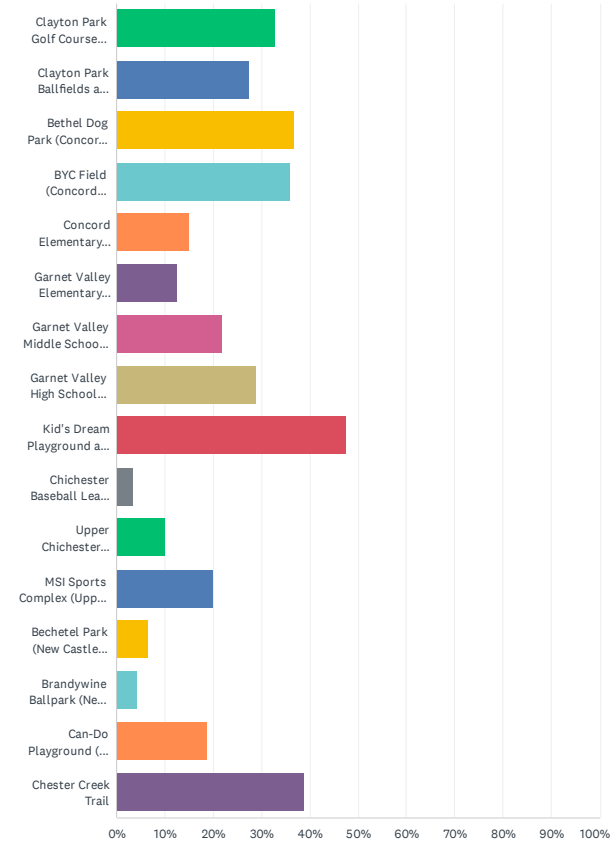
Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

	walking Chester Creek trail, walking Alapocas trails.	
6	first state national park, newlin grist mill, concord twp parks	9/6/2023 7:27 AM
7	Concord twp Park	8/1/2023 7:20 PM
8	Concord Twp Park	8/1/2023 3:13 PM
9	We tend to go to Concord The parks are better	8/1/2023 2:46 PM
10	We have nature in our very own backyard	6/16/2023 11:17 AM
11	Just moved to Bethel a few weeks ago!	6/8/2023 1:47 PM
12	Foxfield Community trails	6/3/2023 9:42 AM
13	Walking Concord Twp Park near the middle school & Brandywine Creek State Park, Also, trails in Aston, PA	5/18/2023 10:38 AM
14	Shaffer Park	5/16/2023 3:10 PM
15	New lands grist mill	5/6/2023 9:11 AM
16	Rachel Kohl	5/5/2023 6:59 PM

Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

Q15 Within a 30-minute drive, which parks, natural areas, trails, or recreational facilities do you visit for recreation purposes? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 229 Skipped: 85



Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Clayton Park Golf Course (Concord Township)	32.75%	75
Clayton Park Ballfields and Nature Trails (Concord Township)	27.51%	63
Bethel Dog Park (Concord Township)	36.68%	84
BYC Field (Concord Township)	35.81%	82
Concord Elementary School (Concord Township)	14.85%	34
Garnet Valley Elementary School (Concord Township)	12.66%	29
Garnet Valley Middle School (Concord Township)	21.83%	50
Garnet Valley High School (Concord Township)	28.82%	66
Kid's Dream Playground and Walking Trail (Concord Township)	47.60%	109
Chichester Baseball League Fields (Upper Chichester Township)	3.49%	8
Upper Chichester Municipal Building Fields and Skate Park (Upper Chichester Township)	10.04%	23
MSI Sports Complex (Upper Chichester Township)	20.09%	46
Bechetel Park (New Castle County, DE)	6.55%	15
Brandywine Ballpark (New Castle County, DE)	4.37%	10
Can-Do Playground (New Castle County, DE)	18.78%	43
Chester Creek Trail	38.86%	89
Total Respondents: 229		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	None	2/1/2024 11:04 AM
2	Golf in Wilmington	1/31/2024 6:12 PM
3	Delaware State Parks	1/31/2024 12:39 PM
4	Ridley creek state park	1/29/2024 12:04 PM
5	Bellevue State Park, Alapocas Run State Park	1/27/2024 2:59 PM
6	Brandywine river museum , Ridley park, wawa preserve	1/26/2024 4:50 PM
7	Wawa preserve	1/26/2024 12:20 PM
8	Ramsey Farm, Ridley Creek st park .	1/21/2024 11:24 AM
9	Wilmington waterfront	1/18/2024 6:10 PM
10	Squire Cheyney park	1/15/2024 8:14 AM
11	None	1/9/2024 10:01 PM
12	Ridley Creek State Park	1/9/2024 4:28 PM
13	Brandywine Creek State Park, Alapocas State Park	1/8/2024 4:12 PM
14	Concord & thornnton community	11/12/2023 6:36 AM
15	Pickleball	11/7/2023 12:14 PM
16	None	11/2/2023 10:06 AM

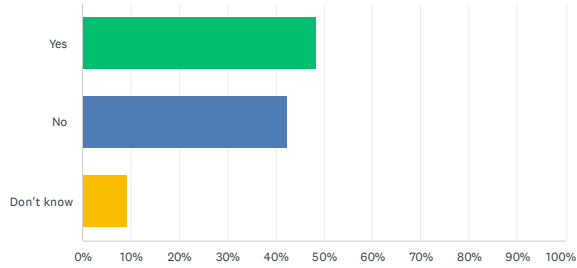
Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

17	Smedley Park, Chester Valley Trail, Brandywine Creek State Park	10/14/2023 4:45 PM
18	Concord Township Park	10/2/2023 10:59 AM
19	Aston Playground by Community Building, Bellevue State Park	9/9/2023 2:30 PM
20	See list above.	9/8/2023 11:11 AM
21	Ridley Creek State Park, Smedley Park	9/7/2023 10:53 AM
22	Mount Cuba, Longwood gardens	8/24/2023 9:35 PM
23	Bellevue State Park in Delaware, Brandywine State Park, Tyler Arboretum	8/22/2023 10:20 AM
24	Have used all of the above	8/15/2023 2:19 PM
25	None	8/9/2023 10:46 AM
26	Ridley Creek State Park in Media PA	8/1/2023 7:20 PM
27	Concord Twp Park	8/1/2023 3:13 PM
28	Rose tree	8/1/2023 2:46 PM
29	Brandywine Trails off Beaver Valley Rd	7/30/2023 6:07 AM
30	Newlin grist	6/28/2023 9:07 AM
31	None of these	6/14/2023 8:41 AM
32	Unsure, haven't explored enough yet.	6/8/2023 1:47 PM
33	Brandywine Delaware State Park	6/3/2023 9:42 AM
34	Alapocas State Park in Delaware; Bellevue State Park in DE	5/30/2023 2:33 PM
35	Ridley Creek State Park, First State National Historical Park, Bonner Park (Thornbury)	5/22/2023 9:24 AM
36	Beaver valley - horse trails	5/20/2023 10:57 PM
37	Concord Township open space trails	5/20/2023 10:43 AM
38	Brandywine Creek State Park	5/16/2023 8:01 AM
39	First state national park, brandywine state park, bonsall park, Talley day park , valley garden park, thornbury park, Bellevue state park	5/7/2023 11:00 PM
40	Some state parks in Delaware	5/6/2023 9:35 PM
41	Longwood Gardens	5/6/2023 12:19 PM
42	Brandywine Creek State Park	5/5/2023 12:12 PM
43	The one near the Rachel Kohl library, not sure of the name but it's probably above.	4/29/2023 2:49 PM
44	Upper Chichester Pond (Furey Rd) next to playground	4/28/2023 7:44 AM



Q16 Do you feel that there are an adequate number of parks, natural areas, trails, and recreational facilities available to you in or in close proximity to where you live?

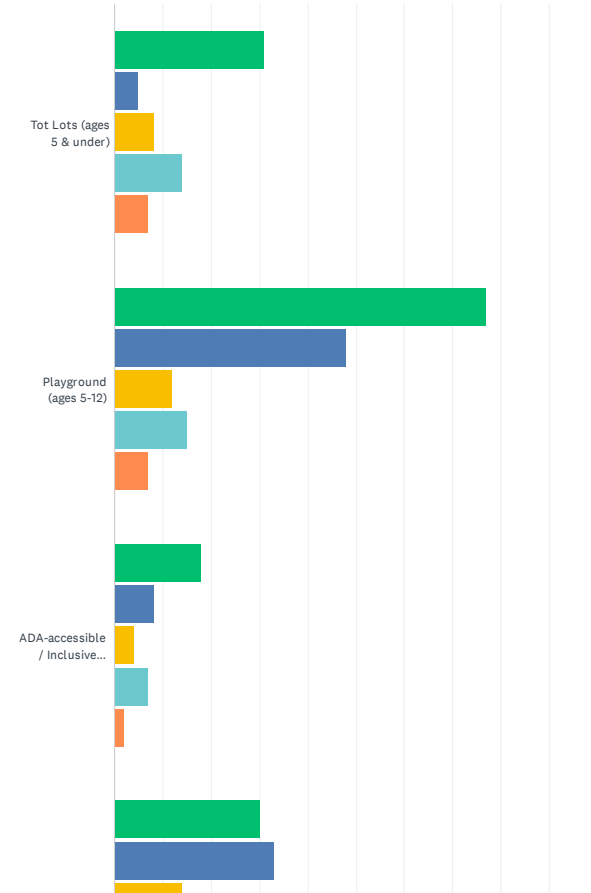
Answered: 271 Skipped: 43



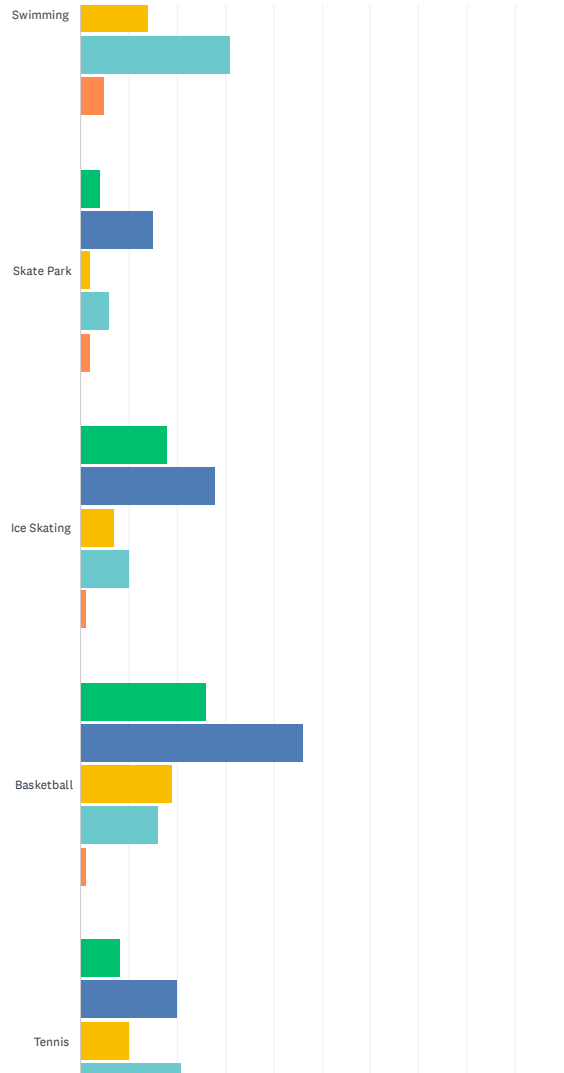
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	48.34%	131
No	42.44%	115
Don't know	9.23%	25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>271</b>

Q17 The following is a list of active recreation activities offered in or around Bethel Township. Check each activity your family members participated in by household age group.

Answered: 191 Skipped: 123

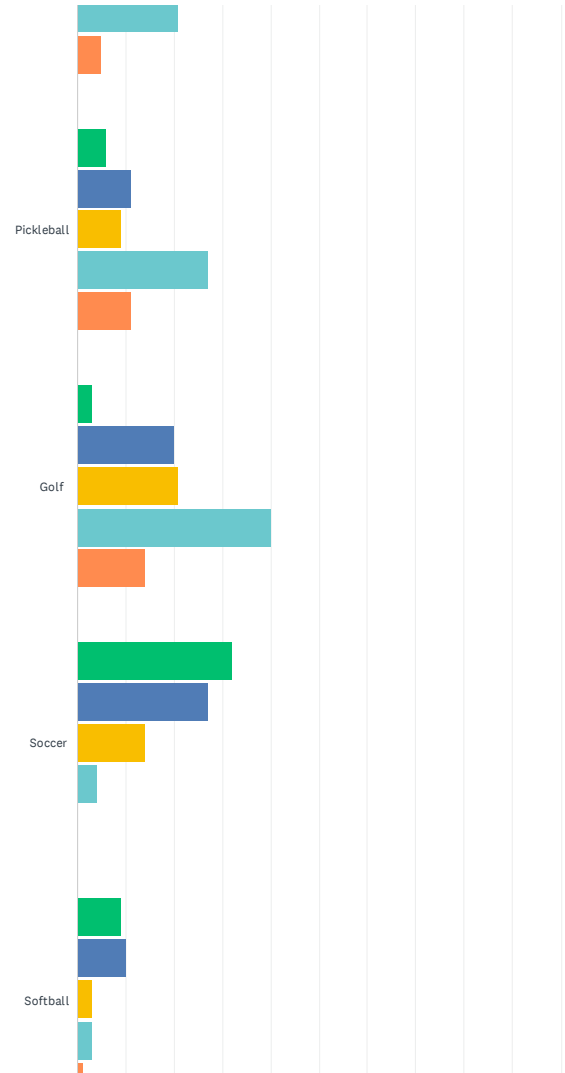


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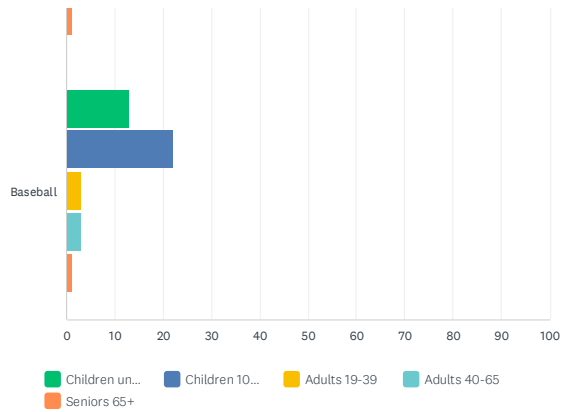
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Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design



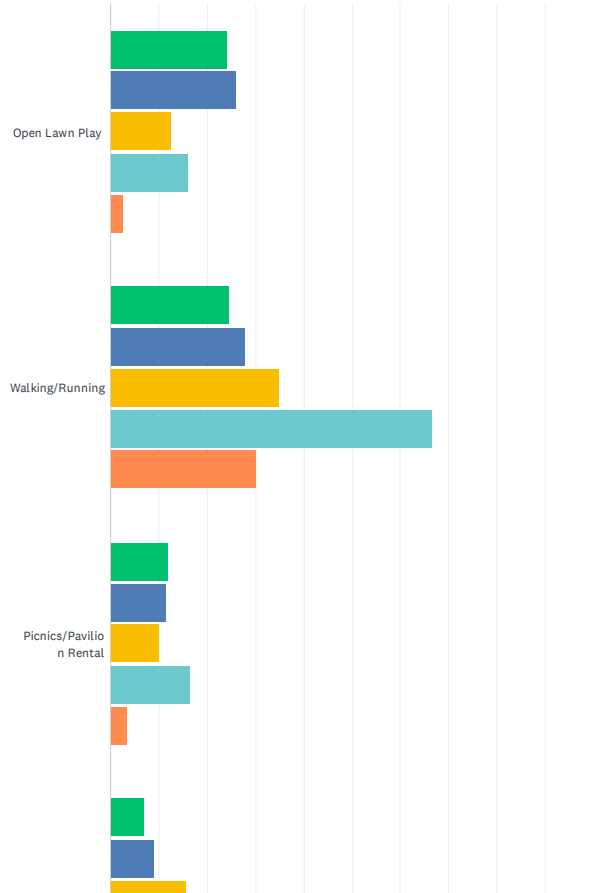
	CHILDREN UNDER 10	CHILDREN 10-18	ADULTS 19-39	ADULTS 40-65	SENIORS 65+	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Tot Lots (ages 5 & under)	70.45% 31	11.36% 5	18.18% 8	31.82% 14	15.91% 7	44
Playground (ages 5-12)	69.37% 77	43.24% 48	10.81% 12	13.51% 15	6.31% 7	111
ADA-accessible / Inclusive Playgrounds	64.29% 18	28.57% 8	14.29% 4	25.00% 7	7.14% 2	28
Swimming	46.88% 30	51.56% 33	21.88% 14	48.44% 31	7.81% 5	64
Skate Park	20.00% 4	75.00% 15	10.00% 2	30.00% 6	10.00% 2	20
Ice Skating	45.00% 18	70.00% 28	17.50% 7	25.00% 10	2.50% 1	40
Basketball	39.39% 26	69.70% 46	28.79% 19	24.24% 16	1.52% 1	66
Tennis	19.05% 8	47.62% 20	23.81% 10	50.00% 21	11.90% 5	42
Pickleball	14.29% 6	26.19% 11	21.43% 9	64.29% 27	26.19% 11	42
Golf	4.48% 3	29.85% 20	31.34% 21	59.70% 40	20.90% 14	67
Soccer	59.26% 32	50.00% 27	25.93% 14	7.41% 4	0.00% 0	54
Softball	39.13% 9	43.48% 10	13.04% 3	13.04% 3	4.35% 1	23
Baseball	37.14% 13	62.86% 22	8.57% 3	8.57% 3	2.86% 1	35

Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

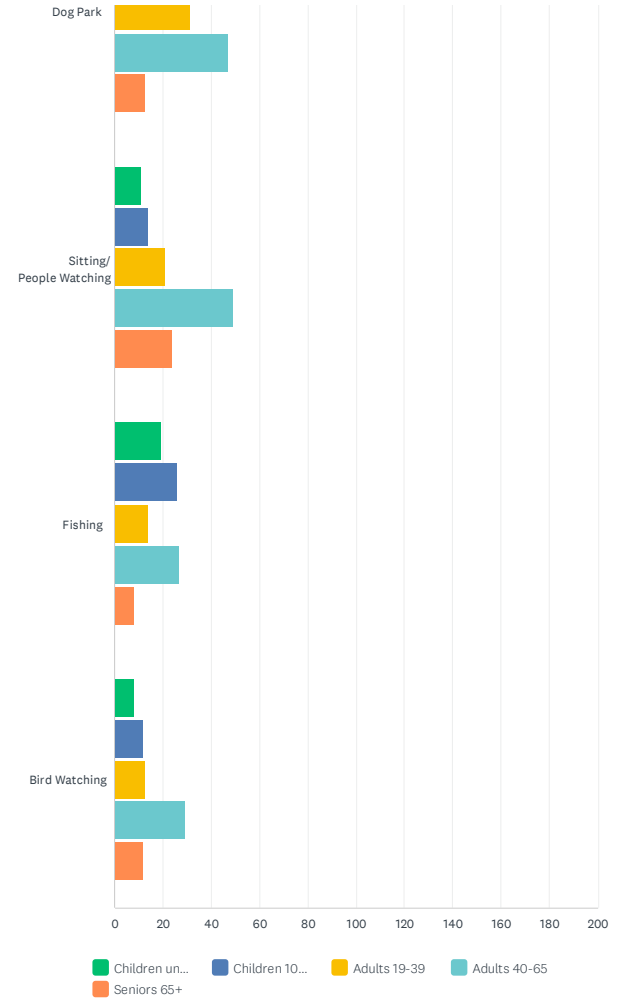
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	None	2/1/2024 11:04 AM
2	Walking trails	1/27/2024 7:51 PM
3	Ultimate Frisbee at Bethel Springs, Horseback Riding at Cloverleaf	1/27/2024 12:44 AM
4	Hiking	1/26/2024 2:14 PM
5	field hockey	1/16/2024 3:43 PM
6	None	1/9/2024 10:01 PM
7	Our kids used BYC for sports activities	1/9/2024 4:28 PM
8	Volleyball	1/8/2024 10:55 AM
9	Dog park	12/1/2023 10:13 AM
10	Volleyball	10/7/2023 11:12 AM
11	volleyball - outdoor sand	9/9/2023 2:30 PM
12	Lacrosse, football, swim team	9/7/2023 12:51 PM
13	Fishing	9/7/2023 11:57 AM
14	Flag Football and Lacrosse	8/22/2023 10:20 AM
15	Biking	8/20/2023 9:15 PM
16	Ultimate Frisbee and Frisbee Golf	8/15/2023 2:19 PM
17	None	8/9/2023 10:46 AM
18	Fishing	6/28/2023 9:07 AM
19	Enjoy our backyard	6/16/2023 11:17 AM
20	Hiking	6/7/2023 5:15 PM
21	Pickleball	6/3/2023 8:19 PM
22	Take grands and great grands + dogs to play!	6/3/2023 9:42 AM
23	track - running	5/30/2023 11:02 AM
24	sand volleyball	5/18/2023 12:17 PM
25	Was involved with my children playing Baseball in Delaware	5/18/2023 10:38 AM
26	lacrosse	5/9/2023 10:26 AM
27	Volleyball	4/27/2023 7:28 PM

Q18 The following is a list of passive recreation or unstructured activities offered in or around Bethel Township. Check each activity your family members participated in by household age group.

Answered: 237 Skipped: 77



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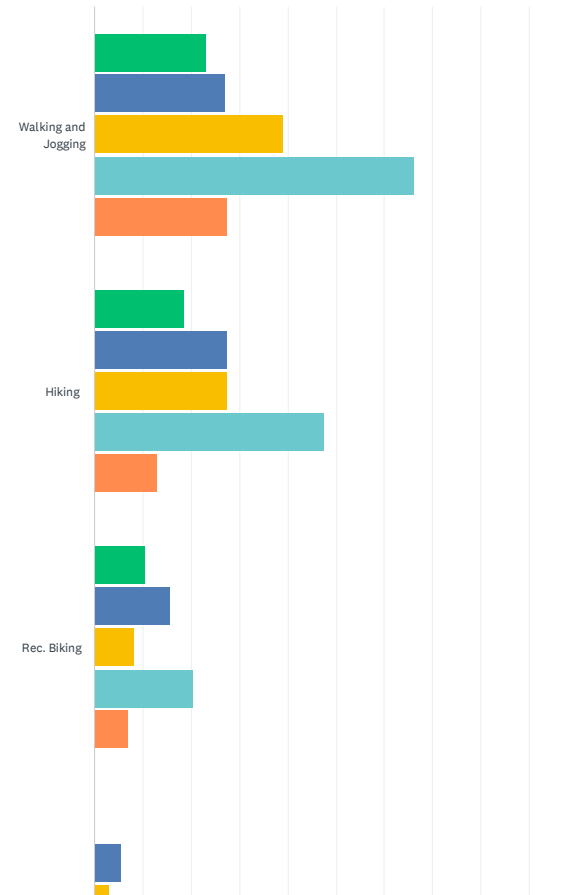
Open Lawn Play	57.14% 48	61.90% 52	29.76% 25	38.10% 32	5.95% 5	84
Walking/Running	21.88% 49	25.00% 56	31.25% 70	59.38% 133	26.79% 60	224
Picnics/Pavilion Rental	39.34% 24	37.70% 23	32.79% 20	54.10% 33	11.48% 7	61
Dog Park	17.95% 14	23.08% 18	39.74% 31	60.26% 47	16.67% 13	78
Sitting/ People Watching	12.79% 11	16.28% 14	24.42% 21	56.98% 49	27.91% 24	86
Fishing	34.55% 19	47.27% 26	25.45% 14	49.09% 27	14.55% 8	55
Bird Watching	15.38% 8	23.08% 12	25.00% 13	55.77% 29	23.08% 12	52

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	None	2/1/2024 11:04 AM
2	Walk around our Neighborhood for exercise and walk the dogs	8/9/2023 10:46 AM
3	Enjoy our backyard	6/16/2023 11:17 AM
4	Intent to participate in these activities in the near future	6/8/2023 1:47 PM
5	Hiking in wooded areas	6/7/2023 5:15 PM
6	Walking around my own neighborhood in Bethel Twp.	5/18/2023 10:38 AM
7	Biking	5/16/2023 4:15 PM
8	Ultimate Frisbee and frisbee golf	5/6/2023 9:35 PM

Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

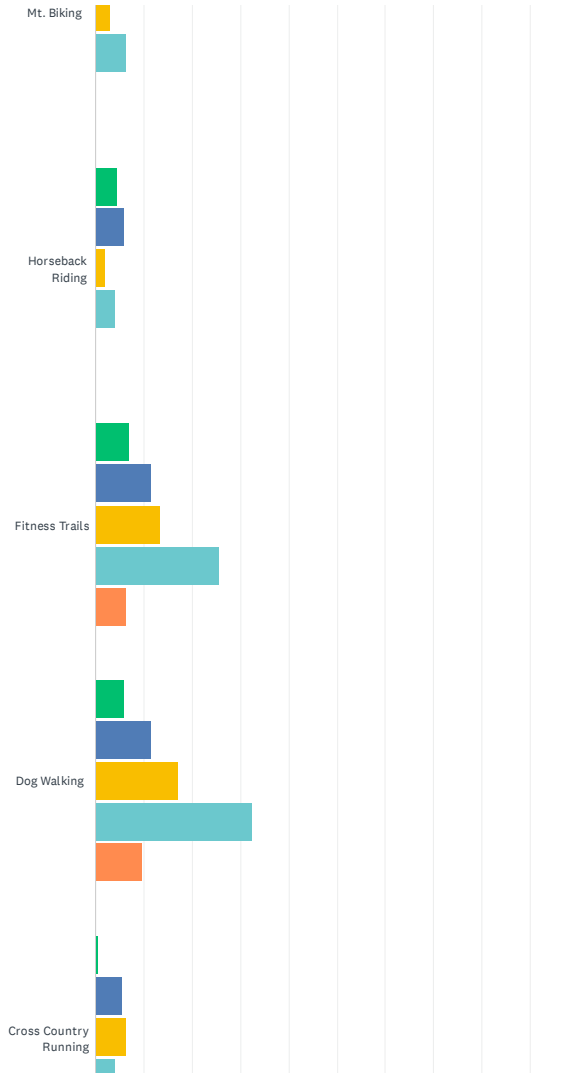
Q19 The following is a list of trail activities associated with parks. What activities did each age group in your household participate in and around Bethel Township? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 235 Skipped: 79

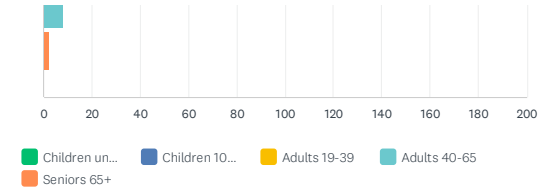


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Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design



Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design



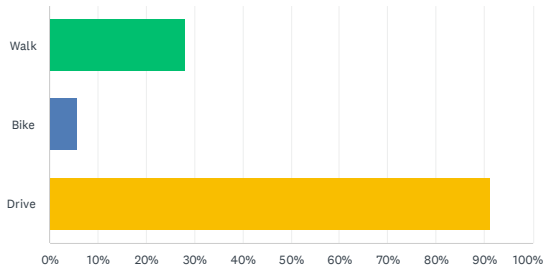
	CHILDREN UNDER 10	CHILDREN 10-18	ADULTS 19-39	ADULTS 40-65	SENIORS 65+	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Walking and Jogging	20.81% 46	24.43% 54	35.29% 78	59.73% 132	24.89% 55	221
Hiking	25.17% 37	37.41% 55	37.41% 55	64.63% 95	17.69% 26	147
Rec. Biking	27.63% 21	40.79% 31	21.05% 16	53.95% 41	18.42% 14	76
Mt. Biking	0.00% 0	55.00% 11	30.00% 6	65.00% 13	0.00% 0	20
Horseback Riding	45.00% 9	60.00% 12	20.00% 4	40.00% 8	0.00% 0	20
Fitness Trails	18.18% 14	29.87% 23	35.06% 27	66.23% 51	16.88% 13	77
Dog Walking	12.24% 12	23.47% 23	34.69% 34	66.33% 65	19.39% 19	98
Cross Country Running	3.70% 1	40.74% 11	48.15% 13	29.63% 8	7.41% 2	27

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	None	2/1/2024 11:04 AM
2	None	1/9/2024 10:01 PM
3	Walk around my neighborhood	8/21/2023 3:43 PM
4	Ultimate Frisbee and Frisbee Golf	8/15/2023 2:19 PM
5	None of these. Walk around neighborhood	8/9/2023 10:46 AM
6	Enjoy our backyard	6/16/2023 11:17 AM
7	Intent to participate in these activities in the near future	6/8/2023 1:47 PM
8	Dog Walking around my own Bethel Neighborhood & in my own fenced in yard	5/18/2023 10:38 AM
9	Ultimate Frisbee	5/6/2023 9:35 PM
10	Watching wildlife deer, fox, squirrels and turtles....	4/28/2023 7:44 AM



Q20 How do you usually travel to area parks? (Please check all that apply)

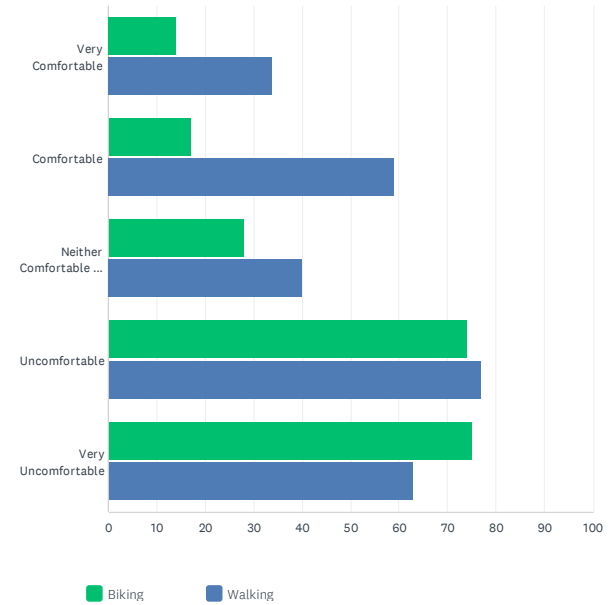
Answered: 260 Skipped: 54



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walk	28.08%	73
Bike	5.77%	15
Drive	91.15%	237
Total Respondents: 260		

Q21 From a traffic safety perspective, how comfortable do you feel biking or walking in Bethel Township?

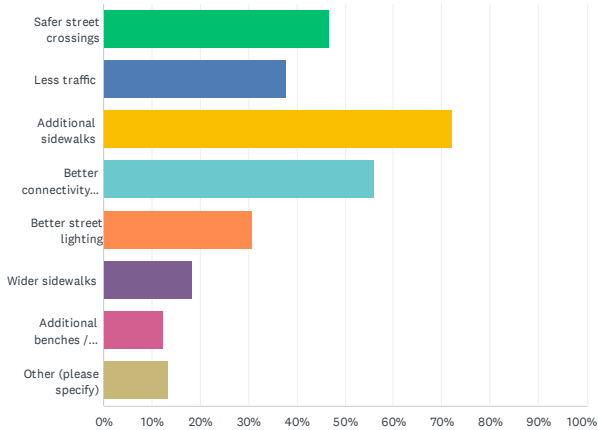
Answered: 257 Skipped: 57



	BIKING	WALKING	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Very Comfortable	41.18% 14	100.00% 34	34
Comfortable	26.15% 17	90.77% 59	65
Neither Comfortable or Uncomfortable	53.85% 28	76.92% 40	52
Uncomfortable	74.75% 74	77.78% 77	99
Very Uncomfortable	91.46% 75	76.83% 63	82

Q22 What would encourage you to walk more? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 244 Skipped: 70



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Safer street crossings	46.72% 114
Less traffic	37.70% 92
Additional sidewalks	72.13% 176
Better connectivity to sidewalks	56.15% 137
Better street lighting	30.74% 75
Wider sidewalks	18.44% 45
Additional benches / places to rest	12.30% 30
Other (please specify)	13.52% 33
Total Respondents: 244	

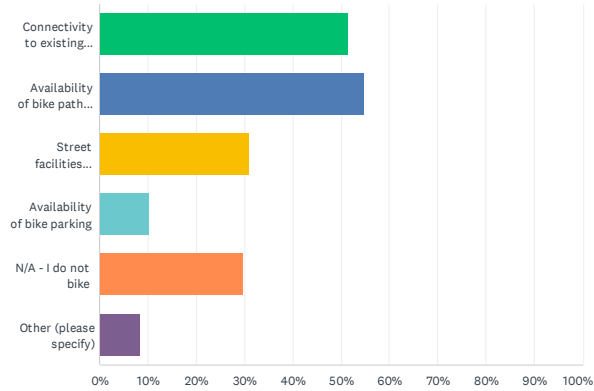
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Wider shoulders, more lighting	2/21/2024 8:48 AM
2	Natural lands. Woods, fields	1/26/2024 4:51 PM
3	Please don't put sidewalks in Bethel!	1/22/2024 9:34 PM
4	Current lighting in community discourages night time walking as it is too bright and glaring.	1/21/2024 11:27 AM

	Most lighting around Bethel township have too short of hoods which leads to glare from the bulbs.	
5	nothing new please	1/10/2024 7:51 PM
6	None	1/9/2024 10:03 PM
7	Sidewalk on Bethel Road between Larkin and Foulk	1/9/2024 4:46 PM
8	Speed control on the roads! It's dangerous just to get your mail from the street mailbox.	12/22/2023 8:29 AM
9	N/A prefer walking in neighborhood and designated parks	12/10/2023 8:50 PM
10	off street trails	11/27/2023 6:25 AM
11	Not sure	11/2/2023 10:09 AM
12	sidewalks sidewalks sidewalks!	10/2/2023 11:01 AM
13	wider road shoulders/not more sidewalks	9/12/2023 1:22 PM
14	Sidewalks please	9/7/2023 1:06 PM
15	Trails	9/5/2023 5:22 PM
16	Most neighborhoods in bethel do not have sidewalks. With two toddlers it is difficult to walk from one area. If sidewalks were available we could walk to bethel springs to use the playground.	9/5/2023 4:41 PM
17	nothing	8/21/2023 3:47 PM
18	More interesting places to walk	8/15/2023 2:22 PM
19	No help is needed	8/9/2023 10:49 AM
20	Put a crosswalk between Booths and the auction house	8/8/2023 12:10 AM
21	There are no sidewalks.	7/2/2023 9:33 PM
22	Change nothing	6/16/2023 11:20 AM
23	My community has ample walking trails	6/3/2023 7:02 AM
24	MORE SIDEWALKS	6/2/2023 9:41 PM
25	Connected trails	5/29/2023 4:19 PM
26	we need less parks and more farms	5/20/2023 11:01 PM
27	None of the above. I walk where I feel comfortable walking. Don't think neighborhoods need to change to accommodate my walking	5/20/2023 10:31 AM
28	none of the above	5/18/2023 12:19 PM
29	Already walking do not need to be encouraged to walk more.	5/18/2023 10:43 AM
30	A pet peeve. Bethel is a dangerous place for pedestrians and bike riders. Cars don't slow down or move over. Last year a pedestrian was killed in front of Shaffer's farm, I was a first responder. It's a dangerous area. I walk and bike a lot. Bethel Road is scary. I'll walk on Foulk but will not bike, the road isn't wide enough. Forget Naamans Creek. Something needs to be done to allow cars and pedestrians and bikers can all safely share the road. down the cars. Make them	5/16/2023 9:46 AM
31	Sidewalks on main roads (naamans creek, foulk, bethel)	5/7/2023 11:01 PM
32	Additional walking paths	5/6/2023 9:37 PM
33	Traffic yield areas for crossings	4/27/2023 7:21 PM



Q23 What would encourage you to bike more? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 243 Skipped: 71



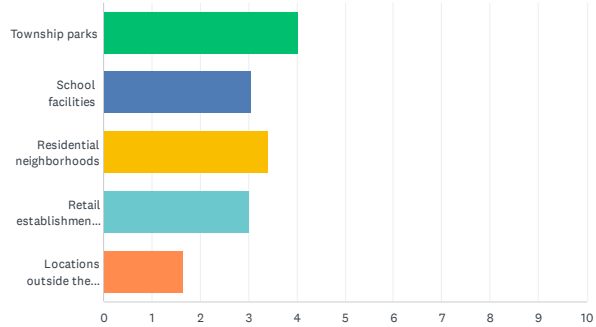
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Connectivity to existing neighborhoods / bike paths or trails	51.44% 125
Availability of bike paths or trails	54.73% 133
Street facilities (shared lanes, dedicated bike lanes, etc.)	30.86% 75
Availability of bike parking	10.29% 25
N/A - I do not bike	29.63% 72
Other (please specify)	8.23% 20
Total Respondents: 243	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I have the balance of a lollipop	1/26/2024 9:11 PM
2	Trails	1/26/2024 4:51 PM
3	nothing new please	1/10/2024 7:51 PM
4	None	1/9/2024 10:03 PM
5	Dedicated street bike lanes for safety reasons	1/9/2024 4:46 PM
6	Too dangerous on roads even if made wider. Speed is not checked!	12/22/2023 8:29 AM
7	Do not want bike lanes - too dangerous	11/27/2023 6:25 AM
8	I have the balance of a lollipop	8/25/2023 4:38 AM

9	less hills	8/21/2023 3:47 PM
10	No hills	8/20/2023 9:20 PM
11	No Help is needed from the township	8/9/2023 10:49 AM
12	Don't really bike much	7/11/2023 6:09 PM
13	Have no problem biking where we are --- for now it is quiet	6/16/2023 11:20 AM
14	Bikers must pay for road improvements first	6/7/2023 5:17 PM
15	Flat roads, Bethel isn't the place to bike	6/5/2023 1:57 PM
16	we need less parks and more farms	5/20/2023 11:01 PM
17	I do bike neighborhoods are fine	5/19/2023 11:04 PM
18	none of the above	5/18/2023 12:19 PM
19	Don't need bike paths through neighborhoods. Bikes are a nuisance, when on walking paths w/your pets.	5/18/2023 10:43 AM
20	Very few bike trails available and no convenient parking at trails	5/16/2023 4:19 PM

Q24 Rank the types of destinations you would like improved pedestrian and bicycling access to. Please rank the destinations from 1 to 5. (1 = High Priority, 5 = Low Priority).

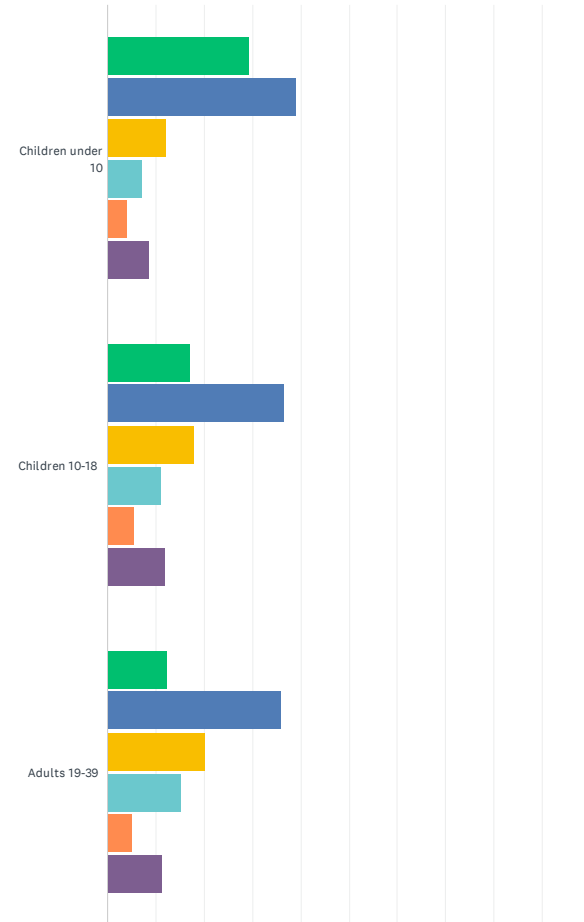
Answered: 252 Skipped: 62



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Township parks	52.59% 122	20.26% 47	11.64% 27	8.62% 20	6.90% 16	232	4.03
School facilities	12.33% 27	26.94% 59	25.57% 56	22.83% 50	12.33% 27	219	3.04
Residential neighborhoods	21.61% 51	26.27% 62	28.81% 68	17.80% 42	5.51% 13	236	3.41
Retail establishments (eg. Booth's Corner), Local Businesses	12.72% 29	22.81% 52	23.68% 54	34.65% 79	6.14% 14	228	3.01
Locations outside the Township	6.19% 14	3.10% 7	10.18% 23	11.06% 25	69.47% 157	226	1.65

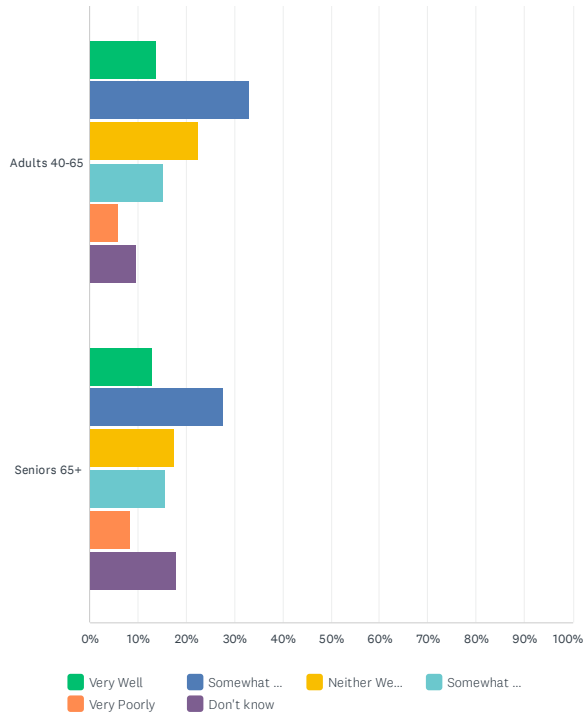
Q25 In general, how well do you think the age groups listed below are served by parks, recreation, and open space in or near Bethel Township?

Answered: 243 Skipped: 71





Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design



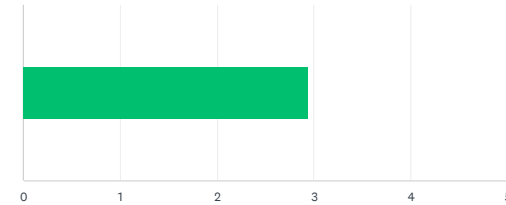
	VERY WELL	SOMEWHAT WELL	NEITHER WELL NOR POORLY	SOMEWHAT POORLY	VERY POORLY	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Children under 10	29.15% 65	39.01% 87	12.11% 27	7.17% 16	4.04% 9	8.52% 19	223
Children 10-18	17.05% 37	36.41% 79	17.97% 39	11.06% 24	5.53% 12	11.98% 26	217
Adults 19-39	12.26% 26	35.85% 76	20.28% 43	15.09% 32	5.19% 11	11.32% 24	212
Adults 40-65	13.76% 30	33.03% 72	22.48% 49	15.14% 33	5.96% 13	9.63% 21	218
Seniors 65+	12.90% 28	27.65% 60	17.51% 38	15.67% 34	8.29% 18	17.97% 39	217

Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

For the next 7 questions, please rank on a scale of 1 to 5 how well each activity is provided for in or around Bethel Township.

Q26 Open Space / Natural Areas

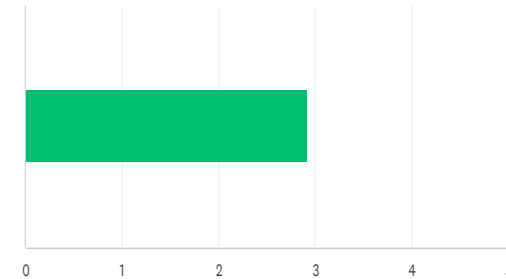
Answered: 239 Skipped: 75



Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

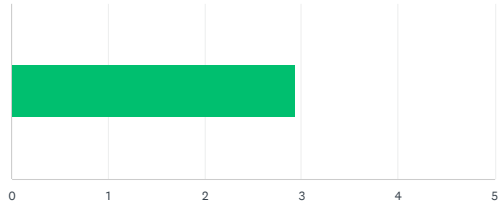
Q27 Passive Recreation (trails, benches, picnic facilities, open lawns, etc.)

Answered: 241 Skipped: 73



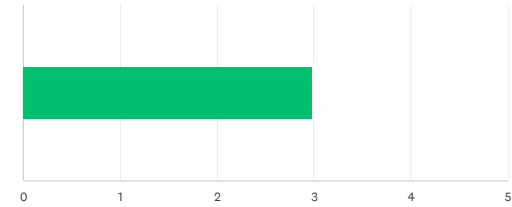
### Q28 Active Recreation (athletic fields, courts, pools, fitness equipment, etc.)

Answered: 232 Skipped: 82



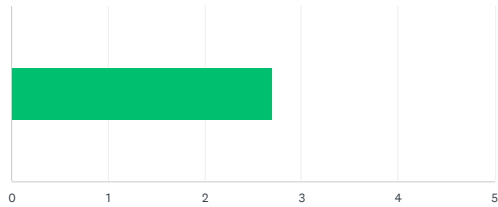
### Q30 Community Event Space

Answered: 231 Skipped: 83



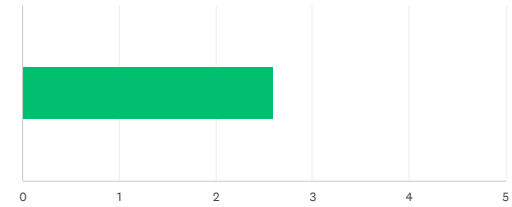
### Q29 Cultural, Educational, Historic Interpretation Opportunities

Answered: 226 Skipped: 88



### Q31 Recreational Programming and Continuing Education Classes

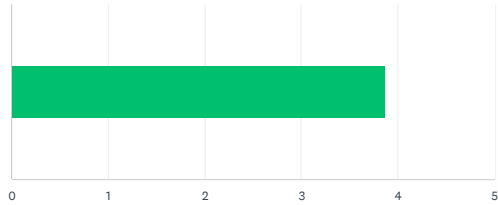
Answered: 223 Skipped: 91





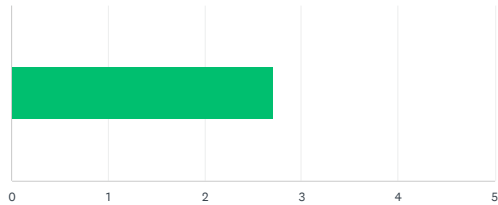
### Q32 Youth Sport League Opportunities

Answered: 223 Skipped: 91



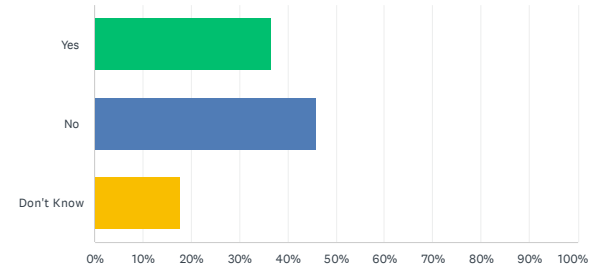
### Q33 Indoor Sports Facilities, Gymnasiums and Fitness Centers

Answered: 220 Skipped: 94



### Q34 Do you think Bethel Township needs more sports fields or courts (soccer, baseball, football, tennis, basketball, etc.)?

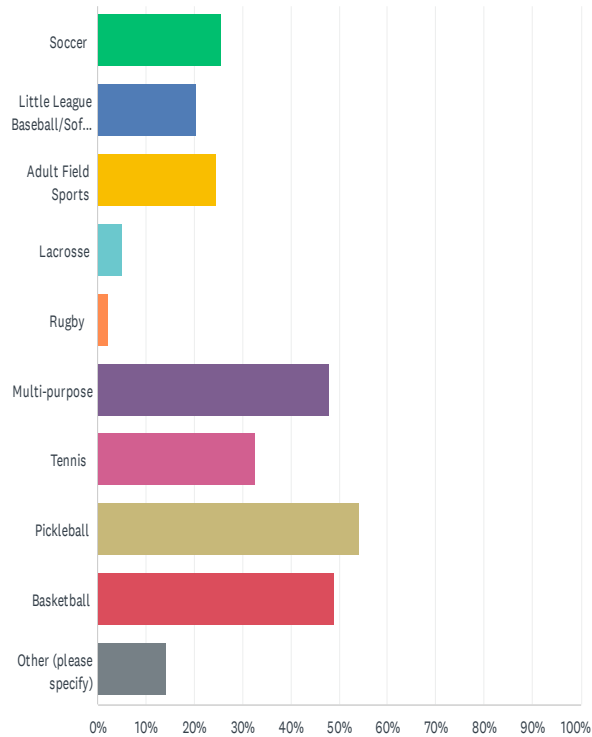
Answered: 242 Skipped: 72



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	36.36% 88
No	45.87% 111
Don't Know	17.77% 43
TOTAL	242

Q35 If you answered yes on the previous question, which sports do you feel are in need of fields or courts? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 98 Skipped: 216



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Soccer	25.51% 25
Little League Baseball/Softball	20.41% 20
Adult Field Sports	24.49% 24
Lacrosse	5.10% 5
Rugby	2.04% 2
Multi-purpose	47.96% 47
Tennis	32.65% 32
Pickleball	54.08% 53
Basketball	48.98% 48
Other (please specify)	14.29% 14
Total Respondents: 98	

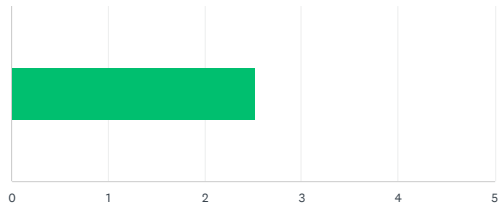
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Use the ones that exist now.	2/1/2024 11:18 AM
2	Flag football indoor facilities	1/10/2024 7:57 AM
3	Volleyball	1/8/2024 10:59 AM
4	Pool indoor/outdoor	11/29/2023 12:55 AM
5	Pickleball is rising sports, east to play for young & old folks , so nice to have a pickle ball court	11/12/2023 6:41 AM
6	I believe the township should contribute to the community youth sports BYC to repair their parking lot and fields currently being used.	9/13/2023 8:27 AM
7	volleyball	9/9/2023 2:34 PM
8	Frisbee Golf and Ultimate Frisbee	8/15/2023 2:25 PM
9	None	8/9/2023 10:52 AM
10	Adult courts, volleyball	6/28/2023 9:11 AM
11	All of the above	5/31/2023 10:26 PM
12	sand volleyball	5/18/2023 12:22 PM
13	We have to go into DE to find basketball courts	5/7/2023 11:03 PM
14	Frisbee golf and ultimate frisbee	5/6/2023 9:40 PM



The next 6 questions reflect new recreational trends/facilities that currently do not exist in Bethel Township. On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate each if you feel these recreational amenities are needed.

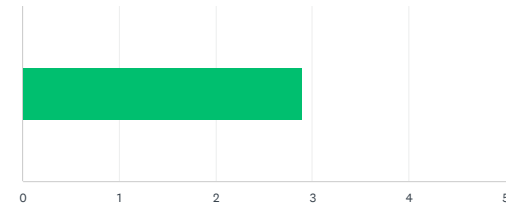
### Q36 Zero Depth Water Play / Splash Pad

Answered: 209 Skipped: 105



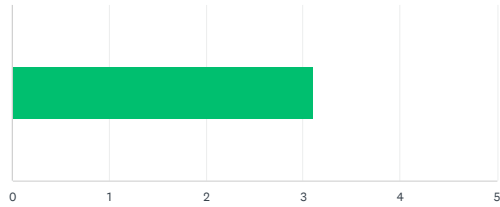
### Q38 Pickleball Courts

Answered: 211 Skipped: 103



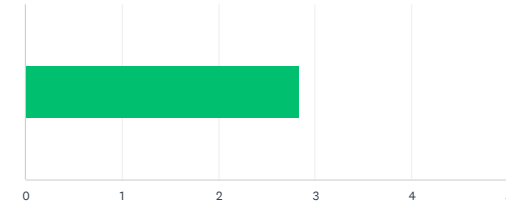
### Q37 Inclusive-Play / ADA-Accessible Playground

Answered: 216 Skipped: 98



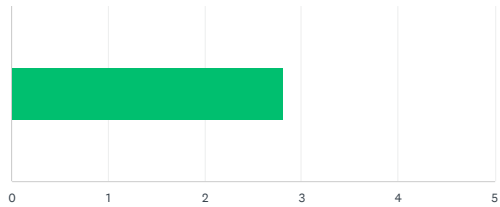
### Q39 Destination Playground

Answered: 212 Skipped: 102



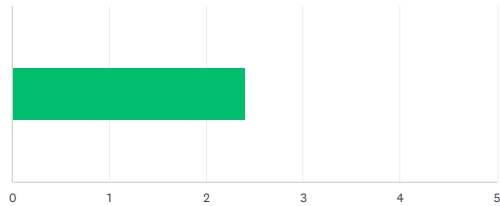
### Q40 Yard Games (Bocce, Cornhole, Volleyball, etc.)

Answered: 215 Skipped: 99



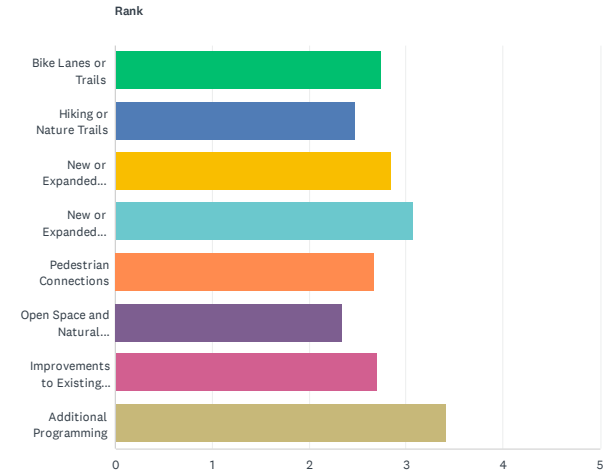
### Q41 Disc Golf Course (9 to 18 holes)

Answered: 202 Skipped: 112



### Q42 Please rank the top 5 priorities that you feel Bethel Township should focus on in the parks and open space plan. (1 = High Priority, 5 = Low Priority)

Answered: 231 Skipped: 83





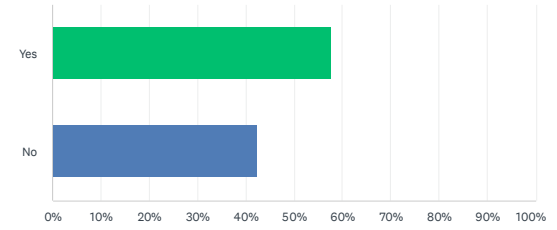
Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

Rank	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
Bike Lanes or Trails	32.80% 62	16.93% 32	15.34% 29	13.23% 25	21.69% 41	189
Hiking or Nature Trails	35.78% 73	25.00% 51	13.24% 27	8.82% 18	17.16% 35	204
New or Expanded Community Parks	25.41% 47	20.00% 37	19.46% 36	14.05% 26	21.08% 39	185
New or Expanded Neighborhood Parks	19.28% 32	20.48% 34	19.88% 33	15.06% 25	25.30% 42	166
Pedestrian Connections	32.28% 61	16.40% 31	21.69% 41	10.05% 19	19.58% 37	189
Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation	43.00% 86	16.50% 33	18.50% 37	6.00% 12	16.00% 32	200
Improvements to Existing Facilities	24.72% 44	22.47% 40	24.16% 43	15.17% 27	13.48% 24	178
Additional Programming	13.99% 20	9.79% 14	27.97% 40	17.48% 25	30.77% 44	143

Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

Q43 Do you visit private gyms or workout centers for fitness or recreational purposes?

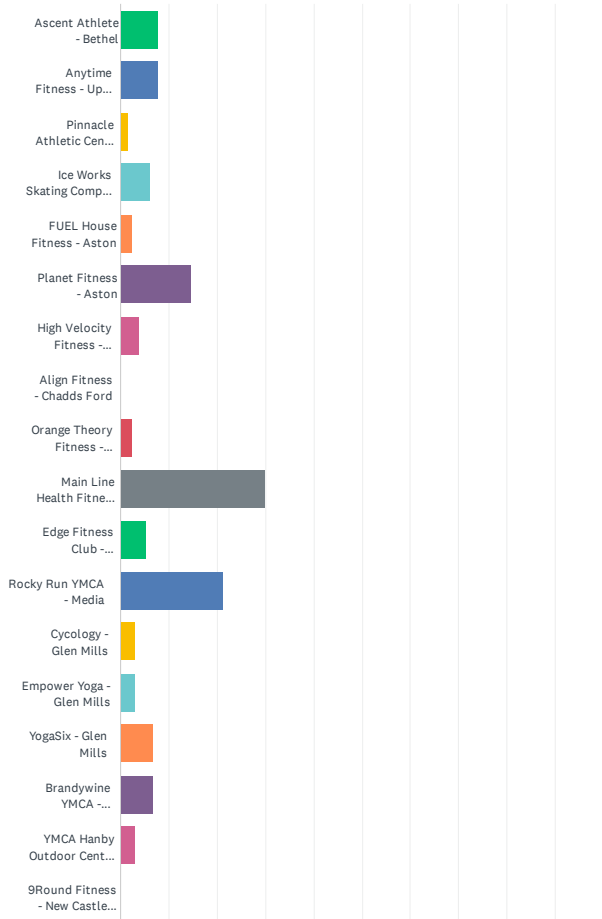
Answered: 247 Skipped: 67



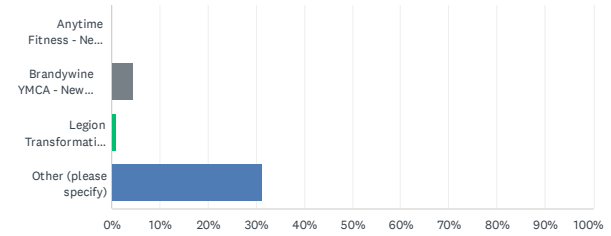
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	57.49%	142
No	42.51%	105
TOTAL		247

Q44 Which private recreational providers do you or members of your household belong to and / or utilize? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 131 Skipped: 183



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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Ascent Athlete - Bethel	7.63% 10
Anytime Fitness - Upper Chichester	7.63% 10
Pinnacle Athletic Center - Aston	1.53% 2
Ice Works Skating Complex - Aston	6.11% 8
FUEL House Fitness - Aston	2.29% 3
Planet Fitness - Aston	14.50% 19
High Velocity Fitness - Chadds Ford	3.82% 5
Align Fitness - Chadds Ford	0.00% 0
Orange Theory Fitness - Concord	2.29% 3
Main Line Health Fitness & Wellness Center - Concord	29.77% 39
Edge Fitness Club - Middletown	5.34% 7
Rocky Run YMCA - Media	21.37% 28
Cycology - Glen Mills	3.05% 4
Empower Yoga - Glen Mills	3.05% 4
YogaSix - Glen Mills	6.87% 9
Brandywine YMCA - Wilmington	6.87% 9
YMCA Hanby Outdoor Center - New Castle County, DE	3.05% 4
9Round Fitness - New Castle County, DE	0.00% 0
Anytime Fitness - New Castle County, DE	0.00% 0
Brandywine YMCA - New Castle County, DE	4.58% 6
Legion Transformation Center Talleyville - New Castle County, DE	0.76% 1
Other (please specify)	31.30% 41
Total Respondents: 131	

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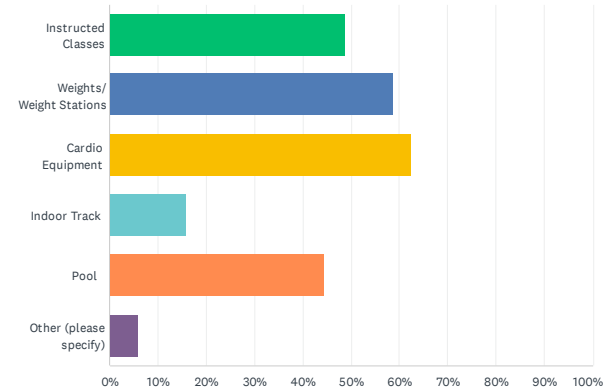
Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	foxfield	2/1/2024 10:59 AM
2	Q Fitness	1/30/2024 1:34 PM
3	Work gyms	1/28/2024 11:05 AM
4	Employer	1/26/2024 4:53 PM
5	Planet Fitness in Delaware	1/25/2024 1:08 PM
6	Prior member to Main Line Gym before Covid	1/9/2024 4:58 PM
7	Former members at Main Line. Now using home equipment	1/9/2024 4:39 PM
8	Akers Strength and Fitness	1/8/2024 5:44 PM
9	Company gym	1/8/2024 4:30 PM
10	Club Pilates, JCC	1/8/2024 11:02 AM
11	Ashbourne Swim Club in Wilmington, DE (outdoor pool)	11/29/2023 12:58 AM
12	Planet fitness concord pike	11/22/2023 3:37 PM
13	Dupont country club	11/22/2023 11:07 AM
14	Ymca Kennett square	11/12/2023 6:45 AM
15	Planet fitness Downingtown	11/8/2023 8:15 PM
16	Planet Fitness in Talleyville, DE	9/12/2023 1:29 PM
17	Club Pilates	9/5/2023 8:01 PM
18	Planet Fitness in DE	8/17/2023 10:11 AM
19	Our community has a small facility	8/15/2023 2:28 PM
20	Planet Fitness Wilmington	8/4/2023 11:54 AM
21	High Point Pool, Pilates studio	8/1/2023 7:25 PM
22	Private	6/8/2023 10:41 AM
23	Foxfield gym	6/5/2023 4:47 PM
24	Foxfield clubhouse	6/3/2023 1:19 PM
25	Foxfield Community Center	6/3/2023 11:40 AM
26	Retirement community	6/3/2023 7:09 AM
27	Foxfield community facility	6/2/2023 9:18 PM
28	Hockessin	5/30/2023 8:37 PM
29	JCC Summer membership	5/30/2023 11:11 AM
30	.	5/29/2023 4:25 PM
31	Jabz - Aston	5/22/2023 10:15 AM
32	Advanced Yoga classes	5/18/2023 10:53 AM
33	Senior Community fitness center	5/17/2023 6:35 PM
34	Siegel JCC	5/16/2023 6:00 PM
35	Planet Fitness Wilmington	5/16/2023 9:50 AM
36	Yoga in Aston, LA fitness	5/9/2023 10:38 AM
37	JCC	5/7/2023 2:24 PM
38	DuPont country club	5/5/2023 2:22 PM
39	JCC	5/5/2023 12:35 PM
40	Y springfield, pa	5/5/2023 12:20 PM
41	Siegel JCC	4/29/2023 2:57 PM

Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

Q45 What do you primarily take advantage of at private recreational providers?

Answered: 133 Skipped: 181

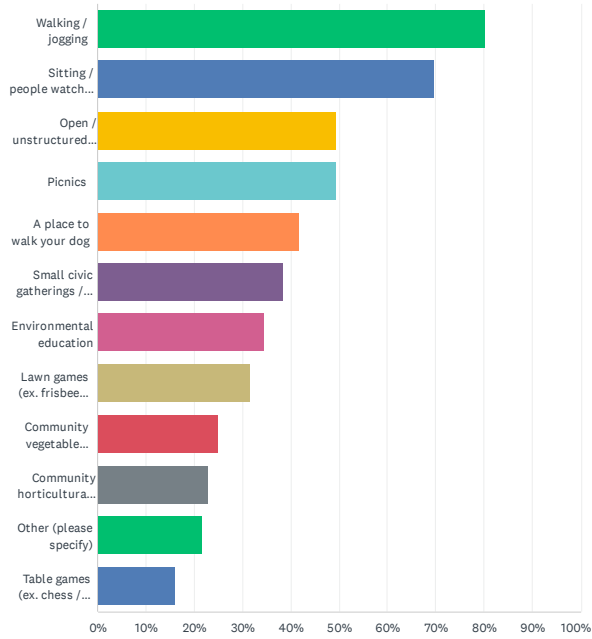


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Instructed Classes	48.87% 65
Weights/ Weight Stations	58.65% 78
Cardio Equipment	62.41% 83
Indoor Track	15.79% 21
Pool	44.36% 59
Other (please specify)	6.02% 8
Total Respondents: 133	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Pilates	1/30/2024 1:34 PM
2	Events	1/27/2024 7:59 PM
3	Pilates	9/5/2023 8:01 PM
4	Pickleball	8/15/2023 2:28 PM
5	Walking trails	6/3/2023 7:09 AM
6	Treadmill	5/16/2023 6:14 PM
7	Playgroynd	5/7/2023 2:24 PM
8	Outdoor track and fitness equipment, Pickleball, pool	4/29/2023 2:57 PM

**Q46 What activities should be accommodated at the new Shaffer Park?  
(Please check all that apply)**

Answered: 232 Skipped: 82



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Walking / jogging	80.17% 186
Sitting / people watching / enjoying views	69.83% 162
Open / unstructured play on lawns	49.57% 115
Picnics	49.57% 115
A place to walk your dog	41.81% 97
Small civic gatherings / events	38.36% 89
Environmental education	34.48% 80
Lawn games (ex. frisbee / cornhole)	31.47% 73
Community vegetable garden	25.00% 58
Community horticultural garden	22.84% 53
Other (please specify)	21.55% 50
Table games (ex. chess / checkers)	15.95% 37
Total Respondents: 232	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Handicap accessible trails. Walking path for strollers.	2/1/2024 7:20 AM
2	leaving it the way it is	1/28/2024 10:49 PM
3	Calisthenic Park for adults	1/27/2024 8:24 PM
4	Please - no more dog parks!	1/22/2024 9:38 PM
5	Part of a trail system along the creek	1/21/2024 11:35 AM
6	Leave as open undisturbed space	1/15/2024 8:03 PM
7	Preservation Open Space	1/9/2024 10:13 PM
8	Total average for Wildlife Preserve	1/9/2024 5:05 PM
9	Pool	1/8/2024 5:45 PM
10	Water play	1/8/2024 11:51 AM
11	Please don't cut down the big trees. Benches in the shade and proper ADA bathrooms.	12/22/2023 8:42 AM
12	Please add kids slides, swings, small pickle ball court ( not many Bethel parks have it for tax paying young kid family ) . Whereas trails, hiking spots are available in other Bethel town parks	11/12/2023 6:52 AM
13	Pickleball	11/7/2023 12:27 PM
14	Untouched wooded space	9/13/2023 7:55 PM
15	Bird Watching/Nature Watching	9/12/2023 1:34 PM
16	Bird watching and instruction on IDing birds and calls	9/9/2023 6:00 PM
17	History boards explaining what was here before	9/9/2023 2:38 PM
18	Fishing	9/7/2023 12:03 PM
19	Playground	9/5/2023 4:48 PM
20	Birding	8/28/2023 5:00 PM



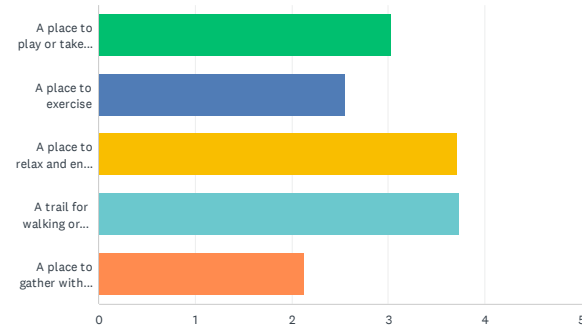
Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

21	SPLASH PAD OR ANYTHING BUT MORE HOMES OR BUSINESSES	8/25/2023 4:42 AM
22	No dogs we have a dog park. No picnics make lots of trash. Should be to relax in nature. Go to mount cuba and see their's beautiful.	8/24/2023 9:49 PM
23	Preservation	8/21/2023 3:53 PM
24	Leave it as it is, Open Space	8/20/2023 9:42 PM
25	Pickleball for families , basketball courts for young adults, Ultimate and Frisbee golf for young adults	8/15/2023 2:31 PM
26	Place to observe nature.	8/9/2023 11:03 AM
27	Playground	8/1/2023 2:53 PM
28	NOOOO DOG PARK!!!	7/15/2023 7:56 PM
29	Water playground	6/21/2023 10:24 AM
30	Leave it the way it is!!!!	6/16/2023 11:31 AM
31	Leave as is and allow residents access to make trails	6/7/2023 5:26 PM
32	Dog park	6/5/2023 4:49 PM
33	pickleball	6/5/2023 8:04 AM
34	If dog walking allowed would need Pêt waste stations	6/3/2023 9:43 AM
35	Pickle ball and tennis and swim club	5/31/2023 10:33 PM
36	Community theatre	5/30/2023 8:38 PM
37	Please no more dog parks! We need places to run safely without dogs!	5/30/2023 11:15 AM
38	Leave as open space	5/22/2023 4:44 PM
39	Fishing	5/22/2023 10:20 AM
40	We do not need more parks. We need more farms	5/20/2023 11:10 PM
41	Quality Exercise Stations/Equipment purchased and installed not homemade.	5/20/2023 1:00 PM
42	Leave it as is	5/19/2023 11:11 PM
43	If a residential neighborhood with an 1 acre or more is included in Shaffer Park, none of the above items are needed.	5/18/2023 10:58 AM
44	Biking	5/16/2023 4:26 PM
45	Leave it be open space	5/9/2023 8:08 PM
46	Playground q	5/7/2023 2:26 PM
47	A playground for younger than 5. The playgrounds in bethel are horrible.	5/6/2023 11:00 AM
48	Nature Playground	5/5/2023 12:42 PM
49	Playground	5/5/2023 11:28 AM
50	Fishing, enjoying undeveloped land!	4/28/2023 8:10 AM

Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

Q47 Rank, 1 through 5, the recreational experience you want from Shaffer Park in order of preference, 1 being your most preferred quality:

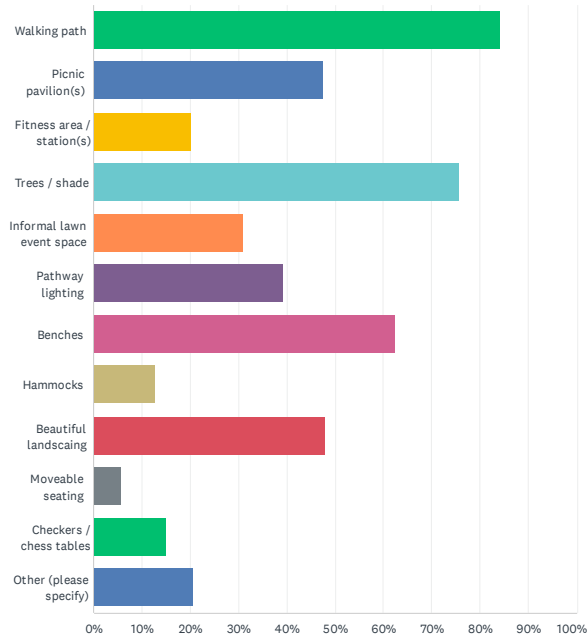
Answered: 229 Skipped: 85



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
A place to play or take children to play	24.75% 50	16.34% 33	17.33% 35	20.79% 42	20.79% 42	202	3.03
A place to exercise	8.96% 19	13.68% 29	27.36% 58	23.58% 50	26.42% 56	212	2.55
A place to relax and enjoy the outdoors and nature	31.75% 67	29.38% 62	22.27% 47	11.37% 24	5.21% 11	211	3.71
A trail for walking or jogging	33.94% 74	31.19% 68	16.51% 36	10.55% 23	7.80% 17	218	3.73
A place to gather with neighbors, friends and/or family	5.58% 12	8.37% 18	18.14% 39	29.30% 63	38.60% 83	215	2.13

### Q48 What new facilities do you think should be considered for Shaffer Park? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 227 Skipped: 87



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking path	84.14%	191
Picnic pavilion(s)	47.58%	108
Fitness area / station(s)	20.26%	46
Trees / shade	75.77%	172
Informal lawn event space	30.84%	70
Pathway lighting	39.21%	89
Benches	62.56%	142
Hammocks	12.78%	29
Beautiful landscaping	48.02%	109
Moveable seating	5.73%	13
Checkers / chess tables	14.98%	34
Other (please specify)	20.70%	47
Total Respondents: 227		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Calisthenic equipment	1/27/2024 8:24 PM
2	Playground	1/22/2024 9:38 PM
3	Please keep lighting to a minimum, we have enough light pollution's	1/21/2024 11:35 AM
4	Leave as open undisturbed space	1/15/2024 8:03 PM
5	nothing please	1/10/2024 7:57 PM
6	Landscaping should be native plants.	1/9/2024 10:13 PM
7	Pool	1/8/2024 5:45 PM
8	Community garden	1/8/2024 11:22 AM
9	Real ADA approved bathrooms.	12/22/2023 8:42 AM
10	Swings, slides , pickle ball court	11/12/2023 6:52 AM
11	Pickleball	11/7/2023 12:27 PM
12	None. It is supposed to be open wooded space	9/13/2023 7:55 PM
13	Nature information-trees, plants and animals in the park area	9/12/2023 1:34 PM
14	volleyball sand pit	9/9/2023 2:38 PM
15	Pickleball	9/5/2023 5:57 PM
16	Anything but more homes and businesses	8/25/2023 4:42 AM
17	Should just be for walking and enjoying nature at it's best.. quiet. No games . Kids have a places to play. People need to respect nature.	8/24/2023 9:49 PM
18	none	8/21/2023 3:53 PM
19	None, it has its own natural beauty	8/20/2023 9:42 PM
20	Pickleball courts, basketball, Frisbee golf	8/15/2023 2:31 PM

Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

21	Animals Need open space too.	8/9/2023 11:03 AM
22	Playground	8/1/2023 2:53 PM
23	Native plants landscaping	7/15/2023 7:56 PM
24	Bocce	7/4/2023 9:05 AM
25	We would like to keep the preserve as it is. Natural and untouched.	7/2/2023 9:42 PM
26	Water play	6/21/2023 10:24 AM
27	Leave it the way it is!!!!	6/16/2023 11:31 AM
28	Environmental education, e.g. rain gardens (if needed) with relevant information.	6/8/2023 1:57 PM
29	Woode Hiking Trails	6/7/2023 5:26 PM
30	pickleball courts	6/5/2023 8:04 AM
31	Pickle ball. Tennis. Swimming	5/31/2023 10:33 PM
32	Community theatre	5/30/2023 8:38 PM
33	Natural Habitat	5/23/2023 2:10 PM
34	Nothing	5/22/2023 4:44 PM
35	Pool	5/21/2023 12:15 AM
36	None, we need more farms.	5/20/2023 11:10 PM
37	Leave it as is	5/19/2023 11:11 PM
38	If there are residential homes, none of the above is needed. There are enough walking trails in the area.	5/18/2023 10:58 AM
39	Bike Trails	5/16/2023 4:26 PM
40	none	5/9/2023 8:08 PM
41	keep it as natural as possible - let nature be the star	5/9/2023 12:11 PM
42	Frisbee golf and ultimate frisbee, sand volley ball.	5/6/2023 9:48 PM
43	Water feature	5/6/2023 12:29 PM
44	Large playground	5/6/2023 7:38 AM
45	Nature playground	5/5/2023 12:42 PM
46	Playground	5/5/2023 11:28 AM
47	Small gravel parking area and maybe some livestock.	4/28/2023 8:10 AM

Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

### Q49 What concerns might you have about the development of Shaffer Park?

Answered: 128 Skipped: 186

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	You will be throwing us a bone for this open space only too develop other open spaces in future.	2/21/2024 9:01 AM
2	Traffic, safety	2/1/2024 4:11 PM
3	None. Excited!	2/1/2024 7:20 AM
4	Need better access by walking so a car is not needed to enter the park.	1/31/2024 12:46 PM
5	Using it for developing more homes	1/31/2024 11:55 AM
6	Traffic/parking	1/30/2024 8:01 PM
7	Need to make sure that it doesn't become a hangout for illicit activities	1/30/2024 1:38 PM
8	Over development	1/29/2024 12:12 PM
9	Traffic issues are a big concern. Safety issues and fear of increased crime in the area.	1/28/2024 10:49 PM
10	Keep it natural	1/28/2024 2:38 AM
11	Development specifically for children or pets. If these are added they should be cordoned off from the rest of the park much like has happened in Concord Township.	1/27/2024 3:06 PM
12	Not right for the people who have lived in this area for so long to have more congestion throughout their streets and living area. It is already too congestion and overwhelming	1/27/2024 9:54 AM
13	WE NEED TREES STOP CUTTING THEM! Also don't know if we could do maybe a natural water play. Kind of like sister cities park in the city but we are garnet valley and could make that slap. You could race boats or rubber ducks (future fundraising idea) and have a mud kitchen!	1/26/2024 9:18 PM
14	Overcrowdedness and lack of nature and trees	1/26/2024 4:55 PM
15	The proposed plans to include parking on goodley road and opening this to others on bethel road for parking casing traffic accidents.	1/26/2024 10:29 AM
16	I think we should have the ability to re-analyze the decisions made in 5 years- if adjustments need to be made then everyone will know a review will be conducted in 5 years and changes can be made- could be add more benches or trails etc..	1/25/2024 1:13 PM
17	Making it another dog park.	1/22/2024 9:38 PM
18	It would be nice if there was a sidewalk on Bethel Rd. to access the park from nearby neighborhoods.	1/21/2024 9:11 PM
19	Traffic, attraction of outsiders into community/safety	1/18/2024 3:52 PM
20	Safety. Traffic. Access. Disturbing the neighbors.	1/15/2024 8:03 PM
21	Too much development of the park will make it less assessable to residents through rentals. Would like a historic component included in the plans.	1/15/2024 8:20 AM
22	keep it in its natural state. traffic safety turning into a parking lot off of bethel road. safety concerns and crime	1/10/2024 7:57 PM
23	More vehicle traffic in the neighborhood surrounding	1/10/2024 8:01 AM
24	Does not comply with Shaffers intent as per conservation easement. Should be for environmental education and not encroach on wildlife.	1/9/2024 10:13 PM



Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

25	Development, keep Shaffer Park a Wildlife /Educational preserve for present and future generations	1/9/2024 5:05 PM
26	High traffic/accident area on Bethel Road. I do not think it should be a big attraction, but more a natural walking trail.	1/9/2024 4:44 PM
27	Possible destruction of trees and the environment due to use of pesticides and lawn chemicals	1/9/2024 4:26 PM
28	Over developed sports dedication.	1/8/2024 8:47 PM
29	That the two dozen home owners that surround the property will have outsized importance vs the rest of the taxpayers in Bethel.	1/8/2024 12:20 PM
30	Large gatherings and parties that can easily get out of hand. Out of township visitors using the park and leaving garbage all over the place.	1/8/2024 12:05 PM
31	We have enough homes in Bethel, no need for any new developments	1/8/2024 11:22 AM
32	Over development And traffic	12/29/2023 8:18 AM
33	The removal of old trees and it being just open hot/cold exposed not relaxing fields. No ADA approved bathrooms. Not safe to visit. Too much blacktop. When you go to Clayton park it feels like a park not a barren field with a parking lot. Plenty of benches. Not just one or two.	12/22/2023 8:42 AM
34	Over use by humans, destroying current animal habitat, destruction of native trees and plants, safety and security.	12/10/2023 9:08 PM
35	Traffic	11/22/2023 11:09 AM
36	That it is developed mainly for use of children, without any consideration of adults.	11/22/2023 10:42 AM
37	No concerns.	11/12/2023 6:52 AM
38	Adequate parking is needed	11/8/2023 10:34 PM
39	Tax increases	11/7/2023 12:27 PM
40	Not sure	11/2/2023 10:20 AM
41	Preserving the beauty and not making it into another big park.	10/15/2023 11:00 AM
42	It being over-developed and disruptive to those who live next door to it.	10/14/2023 5:36 PM
43	None	10/7/2023 11:20 AM
44	Limited parking	10/7/2023 10:01 AM
45	My property abuts Shaffer Park; I don't want noise, a lot of people, or a parking lot near my home. I'm also concerned for the animals that have already been displaced by new housing.	10/2/2023 11:19 AM
46	Safety and security. Harming the neighbors of the park	9/13/2023 7:55 PM
47	Maintenance, vandalism, police patrol	9/13/2023 8:35 AM
48	Respect Dr. Mede Schaeffer's wishes on development.	9/12/2023 8:23 PM
49	Parking. The Access onto Bethel Rd can be somewhat dangerous.	9/12/2023 1:34 PM
50	None as it is desperately needed for our township	9/9/2023 6:00 PM
51	Access getting in and out	9/9/2023 2:38 PM
52	Traveling to and from the park. Ideally we would walk or bike to the park. Also, water fountain availability.	9/7/2023 11:01 AM
53	safe and available parking. I would like to see walking trails with meadow areas	9/6/2023 7:38 AM
54	Distance to walk	9/5/2023 5:57 PM
55	I'd like for sidewalks to connect the nearby neighborhoods to Shaffer park so that we can walk to the park as opposed to driving a block or two	9/5/2023 4:48 PM
56	Can Garnet mine Rd get to it and more homes will be added	8/25/2023 4:42 AM

Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

57	Don't need access to Goodley. Don't need that path.	8/24/2023 9:49 PM
58	Excited to have a nature loop through a beautiful historical property where our children can come and explore and enjoy. Would love to see a paved path for strollers. Would love to have a safe way to enter/exit as Bethel Road can be dangerous with blind turns. Would like to see a bike and walking path created from surrounding neighborhoods to safely enter/exit the park so kids and families do not attempt to walk on Bethel Road.	8/22/2023 10:35 AM
59	Safety, crime, cost to taxpayers	8/21/2023 3:53 PM
60	We can't take care of the parks we now have. Safety. Taking Away the landscape that has been here for decades. We have developed enough of our land. We moved here for the country open space not parks that you have in congested cities.	8/20/2023 9:42 PM
61	That it will not have enough for young adults	8/15/2023 2:31 PM
62	Taking away the natural beauty of the Shaffer Park. The inability to patrol the area unless on foot. Increased traffic in the area. Overall safety	8/10/2023 9:54 PM
63	Unsupervised/No visibility from the Bethel or Goodley road.	8/9/2023 11:03 AM
64	Entertainment! Events. I would rent the pavillion and put on community events id it was possible. I used to be an eventa promoter.	8/8/2023 12:13 AM
65	I'm opposed to taking HOA land from Hills at Bethel to create a connectivity path between Shaffer Park and Adkinson Park	8/4/2023 11:56 AM
66	Access without driving	8/4/2023 9:53 AM
67	None. Concord offers many more outdoor facilities. Many Bethel residence go to Concord to enjoy their open space. We have the community playground which is unheard of in a large growing community such as ours.	8/1/2023 2:53 PM
68	gathering of non-residents not accessible to fire responders	7/18/2023 4:29 PM
69	Being over run with dog walkers not cleaning up after dogs. Out of town people using it.	7/15/2023 7:56 PM
70	Just make it a valued addition to Bethel township for its citizens. We need more open space and less houses being built.	7/12/2023 6:17 PM
71	Do NOT cut paths into the wooded area. Leave the wooded area for the wildlife to live. They have limited resources and they are members of the community. They need to pond as a watering hole and the woods as a home. Mowed paths for human walking in already existing open area is acceptable.	7/10/2023 7:14 PM
72	Crime/safety	7/4/2023 9:05 AM
73	Traffic pattern, safety and security of the houses connected to the park. Loss of habitat for the bees and birds if there is construction of picnic pavillions and parking spaces. Loss of meadows beneficial for the bees.	7/2/2023 9:42 PM
74	None, the more parks the better. Funding for public use space should be top priority	6/28/2023 9:14 AM
75	Losing the privacy in our backyard. Extra foot traffic in my backyard Noise in my backyard Litter in my backyard Losing the view of trees and animals	6/16/2023 11:31 AM
76	Would like to see a good mix of using the open space for parks and recreation but also conserving open space.	6/15/2023 11:19 AM
77	Over-development of a lovely piece of nature.	6/8/2023 1:57 PM
78	Dog park	6/8/2023 10:43 AM
79	Fear of the land being cleared for Sport activities	6/7/2023 5:26 PM
80	I am concerned about rumors that his property will be partially used for low-income housing. This property should be open for plants and wildlife.	6/6/2023 9:15 PM
81	Taxes being raised, not being maintained as all the other Twp parks, being used by everyone other than Twp residents.	6/5/2023 2:10 PM
82	Safety	6/3/2023 4:49 PM

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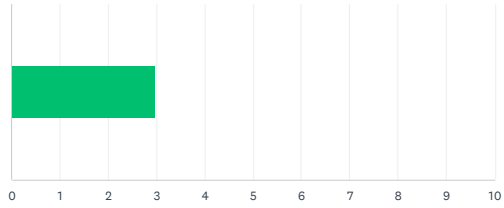
83	The need to keep balance between developed activity area and natural beauty areas.	6/3/2023 10:07 AM
84	Would need increased police presence.	6/3/2023 9:43 AM
85	Parking crowded or skate boarding activities	6/3/2023 7:12 AM
86	Leave all the trees you cant!	6/2/2023 10:19 PM
87	Overall expansion decreasing natural environmental conditions	6/2/2023 9:23 PM
88	It won't be developed practically or efficiently	5/31/2023 10:33 PM
89	Parking	5/30/2023 8:38 PM
90	I'm concerned it will be used to accommodate dog owners. We need more outdoor safe places to exercise, run, bike, etc.	5/30/2023 11:15 AM
91	That the township will continue to do the bare minimum.	5/29/2023 4:30 PM
92	I would hate to see the property over-maintained. There is beauty in the nature of the site, and we don't have too many places like that anymore. I would hate to see the whole thing perfectly manicured and mowed. It should be a natural space that residents can interact with the landscape.	5/23/2023 2:10 PM
93	Park surrounded by homes To much traffic Keep as open space	5/22/2023 4:44 PM
94	Non-residents causing trouble	5/22/2023 10:20 AM
95	Road. Traffic. Fast speed from people getting to the park.	5/21/2023 12:15 AM
96	We need more farms and less development for parks. Stop wasting money on parks and housing developments and support more farms.	5/20/2023 11:10 PM
97	Attracting additional traffic and out-of-town visitors.	5/20/2023 10:48 AM
98	To much unsafe traffic Both foot and cars	5/19/2023 11:11 PM
99	none	5/18/2023 12:28 PM
100	Higher Taxes!	5/18/2023 10:58 AM
101	Maintenance	5/17/2023 6:37 PM
102	Need to see the plan options BEFORE any final decisions are made and contracts signed.	5/16/2023 5:36 PM
103	Cost	5/16/2023 4:25 PM
104	Beautiful site. Parking is limited, but with the gate open, it does have decent parking.	5/16/2023 3:51 PM
105	Keep natural open space and woods. I walk this property regularly and it is full of foxes and deer.	5/16/2023 9:52 AM
106	Incorporate the plans to include the surrounding open space areas. (Hills of Bethel, Naamans Creek, Bethel sewer right of way)	5/15/2023 8:21 AM
107	If it's developed into picnic or hangout areas it would attract people from outside our neighborhood and create extra traffic	5/10/2023 8:51 PM
108	Not needed and would attract more traffic to area	5/10/2023 8:36 PM
109	Concerned that the dire need for this park to be properly developed will be overshadowed by those that dwell on the negative possibilities (crime, pollution) and their own personal agendas (not in my back yard!).	5/10/2023 9:20 AM
110	It is not a good place for a public park behind people's homes!	5/9/2023 8:08 PM
111	do not like the idea of picnic tables and grills - it invites people from out of the area, plus you would need to add a porta potty and between the smell and appearance, you need to worry about kids tipping them over. also tables will entice teenagers to gather at night for drinking, etc... also concerned if there is a vehicle entrance at Bethel rd - that is tough place to get in and out of - accident waiting to happen. Dr. Shaffer wanted this as open space so people could enjoy NATURE and I would hate to see it turned into something that was not what he intended. Keep it as trails with maybe a couple of benches - minimal maintenance. I would hate to see	5/9/2023 12:11 PM

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	the pond filled in - there is wildlife that uses that pond including several turtles. I know it is an insurance issue, but you could put a nice fence around the pond.	
112	I live off Bethel road. With all the new houses i have concern for traffic.	5/9/2023 12:10 PM
113	No grills or porta potties that would bring outsiders and rubbish. Entrance should also be discrete for the same reason.	5/9/2023 10:51 AM
114	Development should be sensitive to the natural environment	5/9/2023 9:51 AM
115	Too much focus on pavilion spaces when that is available at parks nearby. Need something fun for teens and young at heart.	5/6/2023 9:48 PM
116	Parking, safety, lighting.	5/6/2023 12:29 PM
117	? Keeping the space clean. Enough trash disposals/recycle containers	5/6/2023 9:22 AM
118	Traffic on Bethel Road, parking.	5/6/2023 9:17 AM
119	Destroying more land, we barely have any left. Animals are going to be over crowded.	5/6/2023 8:13 AM
120	Bethel households already have all manner of recreation in their own yards and neighborhoods. Open space is good.	5/5/2023 8:37 PM
121	Traffic	5/5/2023 8:23 PM
122	Trash, dogs not on leashes (I am a dog owner)	5/5/2023 12:22 PM
123	Attracts too many outsiders for safety and invasion of wrong crowd	5/5/2023 11:45 AM
124	enough parking spots	4/29/2023 3:45 PM
125	Environmentally conscious	4/29/2023 3:00 PM
126	It's basically the last undeveloped parcel in the township not every park needs blacktop modernization just leave it alone and the community can enjoy a natural meadow as Dr. Shaffer intended!! Mow a walking path and be done. Also it's cheaper for tax payers left in a natural state.	4/28/2023 8:10 AM
127	Would be driving, leaving park safely on to Rd	4/28/2023 7:01 AM
128	Parking, entrance access, maintenance/upkeep, security	4/27/2023 7:32 PM

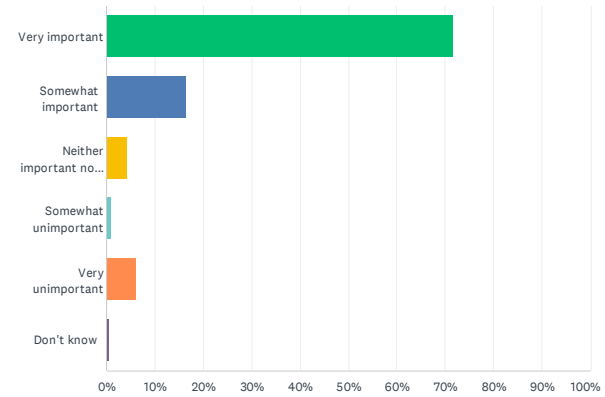
Q50 Please rate how your general household's recreational and open space needs are being met in or around Bethel Township.

1 - Not Well 3 - Average 5 - Very Well Answered: 227 Skipped: 87



Q51 In general, how important do you feel public parks, trails, natural areas and open spaces are to the well-being and quality of life in Bethel Township?

Answered: 230 Skipped: 84

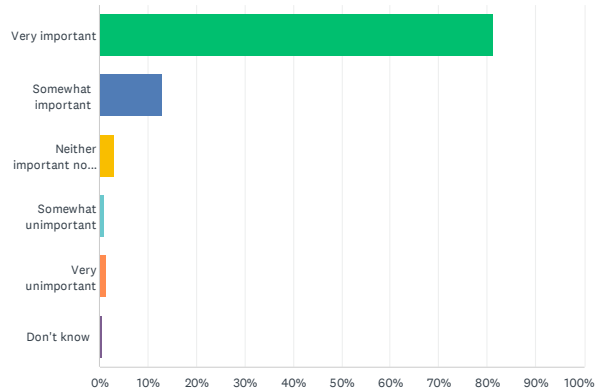


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very important	71.74%	165
Somewhat important	16.52%	38
Neither important nor unimportant	4.35%	10
Somewhat unimportant	0.87%	2
Very unimportant	6.09%	14
Don't know	0.43%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>230</b>



### Q52 In general, how important is the conservation of natural open spaces such as waterways and wooded areas in Bethel Township?

Answered: 230 Skipped: 84



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very important	81.30%	187
Somewhat important	13.04%	30
Neither important nor unimportant	3.04%	7
Somewhat unimportant	0.87%	2
Very unimportant	1.30%	3
Don't know	0.43%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>230</b>

### Q53 If you have any additional comments or ideas, please provide them below.

Answered: 58 Skipped: 256

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	We don't need to develop every bit of open space!	1/30/2024 1:39 PM
2	I would like the park to remain as it is now.	1/28/2024 10:50 PM
3	We need more spaces for community gardening and composting with better access to our preserved land that includes paved trails.	1/27/2024 3:07 PM
4	I believe we can find a balance of preserving our natural spaces while improving our neighborhood to provide education why it is so important!	1/26/2024 9:20 PM
5	We need something similar to what Concord Twp has on Smithbridge. It is often overcrowded.	1/22/2024 9:39 PM
6	Access from Hills of Bethel neighborhood to John T Adkinson park	1/18/2024 3:10 PM
7	There are a huge number of existing park options. Adding another park to a park system that is already poorly maintained is not advisable.	1/15/2024 8:04 PM
8	Any recommendations Should be in accordance with Conservation easement which is preservation and should not encroach on wildlife	1/9/2024 10:16 PM
9	Keep 20 acres Schaffer Park a Wildlife Preserve, with walking trails and education purposes	1/9/2024 5:09 PM
10	Bethel Twp is weak in conserving land compared to Concord Twp. Too much new construction has affected traffic patterns and the ambiance of the area.	1/9/2024 4:52 PM
11	No pickleball in Adkinson Park	1/8/2024 4:03 PM
12	Keep taxes low!	12/29/2023 8:19 AM
13	Please don't cut down the big old trees. Keep the shade. ADA bathrooms and plenty of benches. Set up volunteer squads you might be surprised as to how many people would like to be involved. This township has nothing substantial for seniors	12/22/2023 8:45 AM
14	I appreciate everyone efforts in making the park. Thanks for considering residents opinion while designing park to consider kids swings, slides & rising popular sport pickleball. Some communities have local compost facility for residents. It would be nice to add it to benefit nature & community	11/12/2023 6:56 AM
15	None	10/7/2023 11:21 AM
16	Stop sign at Sarum Farm/Stillwood. Sidewalks on the busier streets, please, especially Bethel Road. It is not safe.	10/2/2023 11:23 AM
17	Open space does not mean a park, but means open, untouched spaces	9/13/2023 7:55 PM
18	Opening page paragraph 3, anyone that knows or lives in Bethel Twp. knows it is Bethel Road not Bethel "Avenue". Follow Dr Shaffer's wishes...	9/12/2023 8:28 PM
19	Would like to be able to use Shaffer Park for community events in the future such as Founder's Day which is currently being held at 1645 Bethel Rd.	9/9/2023 2:40 PM
20	Something like the Chester creek trail- that is highly used for many purposes- walking, running, biking	9/7/2023 2:21 PM
21	I'm happy to get in touch with regards to programming. I work for PSU Extension, Delaware County 4-H and have contacts with the Master Gardener team.	9/7/2023 11:03 AM
22	Adamantly need places for teens to do too stay out of trouble. Basketball courts near the police station with lights would be a fantastic improvement.	9/5/2023 8:05 PM

Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

23	Contact the Birding Club of Delaware County to provide occasional bird walks for all levels of birders.	8/28/2023 5:02 PM
24	NO MORE HOMES!!! NO MORE BUSINESSES!! NO MORE TRAFFIC!!!	8/25/2023 4:43 AM
25	Would love to see more bike paths and sidewalks across the township. Some roads are really unsafe for pedestrians but lots of people run/walk on them anyway. Badly need a crosswalk at BSES on Foulk Road to the township baseball field. Would LOVE more protected open spaces where my family can go to relax and unwind. Walk under the old trees and enjoy the birds in our area. We all need more quiet and fresh air!	8/22/2023 10:39 AM
26	We just came out of a pandemic, just had a reassessment, we don't need additional taxes. Seniors have been hit hard being on a fixed income, our \$ doesn't go far with the inflation we now have.	8/20/2023 9:52 PM
27	Pickleball Court, area for Frisbee Golf (9 hole) and Basketball. Perhaps an area for mini golf.	8/15/2023 2:32 PM
28	You are creating open space that was once last habitats for our wildlife, there needs to be a balance. Due to the boardwalks invade our wetlands. If this is taking away habitat for wildlife, I am not in favor of it.	8/9/2023 11:08 AM
29	I'm opposed to taking HOA land from Hills at Bethel to create a pedestrian walk way right behind private residences	8/4/2023 11:58 AM
30	Please create bike sharing lines on existing roads and sidewalks that connect/ lead to somewhere	8/1/2023 7:29 PM
31	Please construct sidewalks to connect neighborhoods, parks and shopping centers. Walkability is so limited in the area. Kids and people that do not drive are isolated to their own neighborhoods.	8/1/2023 3:20 PM
32	I think it is vital to connect some communities so that our children can ride bikes and walk on such a roads as foulk, Kirk, Garnet Mine and Bethel. As more parents are working children and teens are walking these roads to connect with friends and my fear is that someone will be hurt. Please act now before tragedy strikes.	8/1/2023 2:56 PM
33	No more housing! No more traffic and angry drivers. No more traffic lights and stop signs. This township is built out with housing. Improve the quality of life for the township citizens. Don't detract from it.	7/12/2023 6:20 PM
34	Conservation of natural land is imperative for out wellbeing. Leave the wooded area for the wildlife to live. Trails through the woods will displace them even further and it is an unacceptable option. The township has plenty of trails through the woods at other parks. Leave this space for the animals. Plus, it puts the neighbors that boarder the property in jeopardy. Leave Shaffer's property as he has kept it. There is value in how it is.	7/10/2023 7:17 PM
35	Please keep the Shaffer park a preserve land as it is.	7/2/2023 9:43 PM
36	Please leave Shaffer Park alone!!!	6/16/2023 11:32 AM
37	Preserve our community as it is.	6/7/2023 5:28 PM
38	Maintain the parks we already have before you start another project. Dr Shaffer wanted the nature of the grounds to be as they always have been, untouched by modern technology.	6/5/2023 2:14 PM
39	As my responses indicate, it would be great to have a few public pickleball courts in the township.	6/5/2023 8:06 AM
40	We don't need anymore housing or parks be built keep open spaces	6/3/2023 7:14 AM
41	Leave the trees	6/2/2023 10:19 PM
42	More sidewalks	6/2/2023 9:44 PM
43	Thank you for the survey. It would be wonderful if we could bike and run outside safely around Bethel Township.	5/30/2023 11:19 AM
44	Please keep it natural. The last thing this town needs is another perfectly manicured lawn. In keeping the land with naturalized meadows and open spaces, it will not only provide historical context, but it will also maintain the bucolic feel that so many original Bethel Residents moved	5/23/2023 2:12 PM

Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan / Shaffer Park Design

	here for. We don't need to be Concord with all of its parks, we need to preserve what makes Bethel, Bethel.	
45	Stop wasting money on housing developments and parks and support farms.	5/20/2023 11:12 PM
46	Must look to add pickleball courts quickly. Can put several in the old Francis Harvey Green site. Next to Bethel Springs Elementary.	5/20/2023 1:05 PM
47	Purchase the entire piece of land in Chelsea currently zoned L1 and make it a park/ open space. Once it's gone it's gone.	5/19/2023 7:27 PM
48	Bethel Twp needs to keep the "country feel" with keeping the trees & wildlife to continue to flourish. There is enough walking trails & activities around the township to be happy with, without adding extra taxes to existing residence of Bethel Twp. Gamet Valley Schools are the draw to our area.	5/18/2023 11:08 AM
49	Other than bike/hiking trails, no paving.	5/16/2023 5:39 PM
50	CONGRATULATIONS to the Board of Supervisors and those assisting in the planning of Shaffer Park. You have developed an outstanding plan so far. Please keep up the great work! We live directly across the street from the proposed entrance and are in FULL SUPPORT!	5/10/2023 9:24 AM
51	Keep it as natural as possible. There has been so much development in that area between Garnet Pointe and the reserve at Saurm farm, we need to keep as much wildlife space as we can.	5/9/2023 12:15 PM
52	Please consider 21st century ideas. Would love a place to add compost and garden. Please only gravel parking. Please consider dusk golf and places for ultimate frisbee (the free space where it is level). Sand volleyball. Perhaps one charging station.	5/6/2023 9:53 PM
53	Limit new developments and create more opportunity for conservation of open spaces	5/6/2023 9:19 AM
54	START SAVING MORE LAND	5/6/2023 8:14 AM
55	Another playground would be nice. The Ebright one is pretty subpar	5/5/2023 9:21 PM
56	Ensure walkability from surrounding neighborhoods - connect o'day lane and Sarum farm to park	5/5/2023 12:43 PM
57	Please don't allow developers to pay their way out of having open space in the Township! Once the onetime payment is spent the open space is gone forever! Please leave Shaffers property as natural as possible. Also I would like to thank our parks and rec department for their efforts!!	4/28/2023 8:15 AM
58	Bethel Township purchased this property and it should move forward to making it one for its residents Surrounding property owners concern's should be addressed but the needs of other tax paying residents who don't have this idyllic spot should matter more. I also would like to have an indoor facility for pickle ball. I already have access to outdoor courts. When weather is rainy or during colder months it would be great to have this. This could be a long range goal	4/28/2023 7:13 AM

DRAFT PLAN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND  
PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENTS WITH  
SIMONE COLLINS RESPONSES





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CHAIRWOMAN

Michael J. Davey, Esq.  
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SUPERVISOR

Chuck Dennis, PE  
SUPERVISOR

Stephanie DerOhannessian, MB  
SUPERVISOR

October 1, 2024

To: Peter Simone

RE: Bethel Township Parks and Open Space Plan – Comments

Peter,

The Board of Supervisors as well as the Planning Commission have reviewed the draft Parks and Open Space plan and request the following corrections/edits to the document. **Simone Collins' responses are in Bold.**

#### Technical Corrections

- Orientation of plan should be portrait not landscape. **Landscape orientation was previously shown to both committees. The Township maps "fit" better in landscape orientation. This can only be done as an additional service. Not recommended.**
- Color Scheme is difficult to read (green, yellow). Photos on the footers of the documents make the footer hard to read. Consider changing color scheme. **Will review. Will clean up footers. Page numbers are "muddy".**
- Images of open space locations should be labeled to identify the name and location in the Township. **OK**
- **Page 20:** The included image is a photo of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, not the Parks and Open Space Committee. **Will correct.**
- **Page 21:** The justified spacing in the third column makes the text difficult to read. There are several instances of this throughout the document. **Will justify left.**
- **Page 35:** The legend of the map is difficult to read. **Will review and make larger.**
- **Page 43:** Penn-Del Archers should be identified as private open space. **Already listed in table as private.**
- **Page 46:** The tables on this page are too small; it could be improved by giving each table its own page. **Agreed, will enlarge.**
- **Page 49:** The legend of the map is difficult to read. Please include larger titles for each figure. **Agreed, will enlarge.**
- **Page 58:** Change "Fould Road" to "Foul Road." **OK**
- **Pages 58-61 – These should not be identified as "proposed improvements".** They can be identified as "possible improvements" or "suggested improvements" **OK.**
- **Page 63:** It is very difficult to read any of the text included on the map. **Will remove graphic, not necessary,**
- **Page 69 –** Including a sample map seems unnecessary. Remove. **OK**
- **Page 68:** Change "accommodated" to "accommodated." **OK**

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- **Page 80:** The legend of the map is difficult to read, and it is also difficult to discern the location of the existing sidewalks versus the existing trails because of the color choices and thickness of the lines. **Will review and revise as necessary.**
- **Page 81 –** This photo is useless as it largely contains a person blocking view. The photo also blocks out the text at the bottom of the page. Replace with a new photo. **Removed**
- **Pages 102-103** are blank. Remove the blank pages. **Removed**

#### General Comments

Study Purpose (Page 6): The statement that park and trail usage has expanded seems slightly unfounded. Is this nationwide or just in Bethel? We don't have any proof of that. Remove the first sentence in the third paragraph on this page. **Trail and Park usage has increased nationwide (as documented by park agency user counts and observations including overflowing parking lots at these locations) and interest in these green amenities has never been higher. The opinion survey for Bethel expressed a robust desire for these facilities.**

Regional Trails, The Garnet Valley Greenway (Page 9): The description of the Garnet Valley Greenway would benefit from the addition of a graphic showing the location and tie points into other neighboring municipalities. **OK**

Demographic Information (Pages 10-12): This seems out of context with no description of its relevance or relation to the plan. If retained, its significance in relation to the plan should be explained. **OK**

Project Schedule (Page 19): Project schedule is inaccurate saying task ended in August. State basic schedule, remove ending date and focus on public and committee meetings. It might be helpful to indicate that the committee was comprised of residents as well as members of the Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Boards. **Will correct and add.**

Zoning and Saldo, Inventory and Analysis Mapping (Pages 28-40): There is not much context relating this information to the plan or detailing why it is important. It identifies a lot of our ordinance but doesn't suggest any room for improvement to these provisions. The committee and Board understood that you would be reviewing ordinances and providing suggestions for improvements. This plan proposes no suggestions to any open space, recreation area or landscaping improvements to ordinances. **Provisions in these existing ordinances list sections that are most relevant to open space and the preservation of natural resources. These existing provisions were judged to be adequate, given the conservative approach the committee and Township have taken in relation to new ordinance provisions that might require additional measures for protection. If there are specific areas of protection that the Township or the committee would like us to examine, please advise as no such guidance was given or suggested during the planning process. Major report recommendations focus on acquiring new park and open space lands, which we consider the most important and relevant plan recommendations.**

Bethel Township Zoning Map (Page 29): Does it make sense to reflect on any suggested changes to zoning/land use from the comp plan in this section with regards to open space? **Please note that zoning and land use are two separate things. The Comp. Recreation Plan is a component of the overall Comprehensive Plan. Suggested changes for additional recreational lands or trails do not affect the zoning map.**

Destinations in Adjacent Municipalities (Page 48): The destinations to adjacent municipalities should be revised. There really is no need for our residents to walk to Chichester High School or Hilltop Elementary School. It is also unlikely that

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there is a need to walk to Neumann University. This list seems to focus more on schools rather than destinations.

**We will remove the destinations noted above.**

Bethel Community Park (Page 58): Remove “Establish a pedestrian connection from the park to the Booth Property”. Indicate that if future acquisitions result in the purchase of the Booth property, a pedestrian connection from the park to the Booth Property could be established. **Will revise wording.**

Jack King Park (Page 59): There is a playground in the location of the suggested “Nature Based Playground.” Is the plan suggesting the complete replacement of the current playground? If so, please provide a description of what is included in a nature-based playground. **Yes and will do.**

John Adkinson Park (Page 60)

- Many park-goers access the pond by walking from the parking lot to the pond. The creation of a meadow in the space between the parking lot and the west side of the pond will limit easy access to the pond, especially for the people who enjoy fishing in this space adjacent to the pond.
- Include potential solutions for concerns about geese and their waste in this park.

**People can walk through a meadow just like they walk over grass. Also, this is a general concept and does not preclude a mown path or walkway through the meadow. It is not a literal recommendation exclusive or circulation needs. A meadow is a solution to limit the number of geese in the park since they do not like meadows since they cannot see potential predators.**

Shaffer Preserve (Page 62)

- There is no compass on the map, so it is difficult to discern the directions. The design map text states privacy fence on the South side, but this doesn't seem accurate. The map depicts the privacy fencing on the East and West sides of the preserve. **Will revise and correct.**
- Please change “Possible Concept 1” to “Concept Plan”. Context should be added that this plan was the result of discussions with the committee and after public meetings. **OK**

Parcels for Acquisition or Protection (Page 65): Add “Potential” before Parcels in the title. Why not include the Setting Property on State line road? Should add as a potential open space options. Need definition of “active” and “passive” on the parcel definitions. Legend is not readable. **OK, add “potential”. Add Active and Passive definition. Is this the first time that the Setting Property has been suggested?**

Potential Parcels for Township Preservation or Acquisition (Page 68-73): “Several parcels within Bethel Township could serve as attractive locations for additional park, recreation, or open space facilities. The following conceptual diagrams are for spatial purposes and meant to demonstrate possible facilities that could be accommodated on the parcels, they are not to be interpreted as final designs. This section does not represent any official intent on the part of the Township to acquire these parcels. Such decisions are reserved for the Board and the respective property owners.”

**OK**

- It should be noted on each of these pages that these properties are currently privately owned (or in the case of Francis Harvey Green School District Owned). It also needs to be clearly noted on each map that these layouts are conceptual. **OK – we thought already noted but will add if not.**
- Is it possible to reiterate a condensed version of this clarification on the conceptual diagram for each parcel (ie- the Maguire Farm, Booth Residence, Penn-Del Archers, Silvestri Farm, Penn-Del Archers/Silvestri Farm, and Francis Harvey Green School)? We want to avoid confusion about what is being presented in these designs. **OK, same as above.**

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Stormwater Management (Page 74): Mentions that the report makes note of improvements which can improve water quality and reduce sediment. The report barely scratches the surface on that. Rephrase to say the Township can implement BMPs such as rain gardens, etc. **This is already stated in the text.**

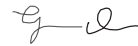
Multimodal Recommendations (Page 76): Does it make sense to include NACTO Urban Street Guide in this plan for our suburban town? **All of the trail design guidelines include multiple standards meant to cover the breadth of existing conditions that could be encountered in any community. Including NACTO does not mean we are introducing “urban” solutions in a suburban setting. Final engineering will have discretion and judgement.**

Proposed Connectivity Improvements (Page 81): Please include information about the addition of crosswalks to improve connectivity. Possible proposed sites include the following:

- Across Naamans Creek Road from Goodley Road to John Adkinson Park **During the planning process a sidewalk along Goodley Road from Shaffer Park to connect to Atkinson Park was discussed. This was also discussed during the Shaffer Park Planning. A sidewalk on Goodley would likely require ROW acquisition. This was not favored by neighbors and those at the meetings. We agree with the sentiment to cross Naamans Creek Road at Goodley, however, there are no sidewalks on Goodley to connect to. Also, since there are no traffic control devices on Naamans Creek Rd, it is likely that a Rapid Flashing beacon on Naamans would be needed. However, before a crossing can be safely considered there needs to be sidewalks on Goodley.**
- Across Ebright Road from the opposite lane sidewalk to Jack King Park. **Agreed. This is on the map but not clearly marked. A rapid flashing beacon may be needed here.**
- Across Foulk Road from Bethel Springs Elementary School to Bethel Community Park. **Agreed. This was intent, will be listed on page 81**
- Across Garnet Mine Road from Woods Edge Drive to Clayton Park **Agreed. Connectivity map show “arrow” across Garrett Mine, will be called out as crosswalk on list page 81.**

We would like to have the public hearing at our November meeting. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Giovanna Iacono, PE, MBA  
Chairwoman  
Bethel Township Board of Supervisors

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DRAFT PLAN COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC  
WITH SIMONE COLLINS RESPONSES



## Draft Bethel Township Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Collected Comments

SC responses / comments are noted in **bold**.

*Public Comments Submitted Online (May 31-August 30, 2024)*

- I always wondered why something was never anything dedicated for my Father Art Cheyney? He was very involved in Bethel! He was a Bethel police officer, commissioner, Building inspector, helped with New police Station also worked on highway among other things in the township. He was born and raised in Bethel! **SC: No Comment**
- I was wondering if you could share the percentages of each age group that completed the survey? I love all the additional recreational opportunities presented! Thanks for this detailed study! **SC: This data is in the full survey.**
- Why is there no parking off of Goodley Rd? Maybe a few spaces perpendicular to Goodley before wetlands begin? Also, what are the rules for dog walkers? **SC: Neighbors objected to parking in this area. Dog rules, please refer to Township ordinances.**
- We do not like the John Atkinson Park suggested changes. That park backs up to a 55 year and over property, Foxfield, and we do not need and large inclusive playground AND a playing field in that space. We moved to this community for the peace and quiet. Also, the park has a HUGE goose population and there would be goose dropping ALL OVER your suggested playground and "playing field". Thank you for your consideration. **SC: These recommendations did receive support at meetings. We agree that measures to control geese, such as taller meadow grasses near the pond should be considered.**
- I am in favor of the proposal to enhance John Atkinson Park. **SC: No comment.**
- Trying to fit a square peg into a round hole. Butts on to a 55 plus community whose residents enjoy their peace and quiet. Also very concerned with additional traffic near the main entrance into Foxfield. **SC: No comment.**
- I live in Foxfield. There is some concern about too many persons being at Atkinson park at once. Please do not consider any sort of playing field at this park. There is insufficient space and parking. Should there be a playground, it should only be a tot lot. It needs to be low key. Also the Gazebo needs to be moved, raised, and widened there are multiple prom photo ops there... again, insufficient parking as well. **SC: These recommendations did receive support at meetings.**
- Please do not put a playground in John Atkinson Park. It would disturb the peace of nearby residents, and the numerous goose droppings would be a sanitary issue. **SC: We agree that measures to control geese, such as taller meadow grasses near the pond should be considered.**
- It will become a hang out, endangering seniors at Foxfield. Leave it as it is **SC: No comment.**
- I like the explanation that recommendations are categorized as immediate with a time frame of 1-3 years. I've yet to go to Schaefer Preserve, but approve of plan to address those items in the next 3 years using funds from grants. I'm impressed committee looked into preserving other open space locations. I didn't know they existed. As I understand it changes to John Atkinson Park may be addressed much later. I couldn't find proposed plan but told there may be playground equipment. I have no problem with this as many families come to the park and it may be a nice addition. **SC: No comment.**
- Before the township puts children's health at risk from the mountains of goose droppings at Bethel Park, especially where the proposed area is located, please consider seasonal use of swans to deter geese from gathering. This will limit the amount of feces the kids will encounter while playing in the area you propose for play. Also, please address the dilapidated condition of the existing exercise structures, waterlogged trenches, trees and walkways before using Park funds to create even more areas that will not be maintained. **SC: We agree that measures to control geese, such as taller meadow grasses near the pond should be considered. Biological controls are innovative ways to control geese. Some companies rent dogs to scare geese away.**
- I am opposed to adding a playing field and recreation area to Atkinson Park. I live in Foxfield, and adding these areas would be a threat to the quiet and solitude of our neighborhood. **SC: No comment.**
- I am a resident of Foxfields and I am not in favor of this proposal. We already deal with fireworks being set off in Adison Park, loud music and party noise. It seems that Bethel is not being supportive of our community by asking us to bear the burden of added "enhancements" . We pay high taxes and yet we are getting little support in Bethel. More information should be distributed to Foxfield before plans move forward. **SC: These recommendations did receive support at meetings.**



