

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

The Park and Recreation Board

CHARGE: To monitor and review the recreational needs of the Township and shall advise the Supervisors as to possible location, siting and development of park lands within the Township and assist in the planning of parks and recreation, including locating and coordinating financing for potential park sites and recreational programs.

GOAL: Provide recreational opportunities and preserve valued open spaces for everyone in the Township.

Objectives:

1. Establish recreational facilities in locations within walking distance of every Township resident located in the delineated growth areas.
2. Continue to promote and develop the provision of neighborhood parks in existing and proposed developments.
3. Connect parks and other recreational areas via sidewalks, trails and greenways.
4. Complete the development of the West Lampeter Township Community Park and Recreation Center in the Village of Lampeter including the provision of a swimming pool.
5. Maintain active participation in the Lampeter-Strasburg Recreation Commission.
6. Seek to provide a community based library or library extension in the Township.
7. Provide a method to obtain the land(s) necessary to implement park and recreation improvements via the Official Map.

Strategies:

1. Establish an integrated network of trails and sidewalks for non-motorized traffic connecting residential, commercial, mixed use and recreational areas.
2. Assist the Village Renewal Committees in developing a Traditional village District master plan insofar as village greens, parks and recreational opportunities are concerned.
3. Establish a well-defined greenbelt around the Village of Lampeter in order to prevent it's merging with existing developed areas.
4. Develop a series of neighborhood parks in the Lyndon Area of the Township to eliminate a shortfall in the coverage of Township parkland. Coordinate parkland location to provide the largest area of contiguous parkland possible.
5. Review dedication provisions of the Township Ordinances to ensure that the dedication standard, at a minimum, provides one (1) to (2) acres of land for every 1,000 projected residents.
6. Ensure that the regional and local greenways and trails, as shown on the Park and Recreation and other mapping of this plan are contained on the Township's proposed Official Map.
7. Develop a prioritized capital improvements plan for park, greenway and trail improvements.
8. Ensure that all available parks and recreation sites, with appropriate descriptions, are shown on the Township's web site.
9. Work with regional organizations such as LIMC and the to implement regional trails and greenways.
10. Have the Park and Recreation Board begin a landowner outreach and education program for those landowners that will need to provide land opportunities for successful greenway and trail implementation.

11. Mandate that developers construct their proportionate share of the greenways and trails shown on the Official Map, if contained within their proposed development.
12. Solicit, on a neighborhood basis, input into what amenities the residents would prefer to see installed on lands already dedicated for parks.
13. Focus on providing amenities in those park areas that have already been dedicated
14. Develop and institute a maintenance plan and schedule of existing and future parkland located in the Township.
15. Continue to build on the relationship with the Lampeter-Strasburg Recreation Commission and other adjacent municipalities in an attempt to develop a regional system of parks, greenways and trails linking the regional municipalities.
16. Coordinate with the Lampeter-Strasburg school district to identify current and future opportunities for use of school district recreational facilities by the residents of the Township.
17. In the future encourage developers to actually install tot-lots and park amenities in addition to merely dedicating ground. Work toward a goal of providing tot-lots, accessible to children by foot, in every Township neighborhood.
18. Complete the development of the West Lampeter Community Park and Recreation Center, including the provision of a swimming pool.
19. Seek to provide a community based library or library extension in the Township.
20. As part of the Lampeter and Willow Street village renewal processes, work with the village renewal committees to examine the feasibility of an outdoor stage or amphitheater for amateur performances.
21. Initiate the Act 153 process for providing an increased local income tax, with the increase dedicated to open space preservation.

22. Place information articles in the Township newsletter and on the website touting the benefits of providing parks, trails and greenways, the location of developed and developing facilities in the Township, and tax benefits that can accrue from landowner donation of recreational lands.
23. Have a person or persons dedicated to becoming an expert in funding opportunities for parks and recreational facilities.
24. When possible apply for funding in conjunction with adjacent municipalities in order to demonstrate a regional benefit of the project.
25. Continue to implement applicable portions of the Lampeter-Strasburg Regional Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Overall Vision of the Comprehensive Plan:

At the completion of the 2020 plan year, both residents and observers will describe West Lampeter Township as a community of neighbors. The rural character of the community is preserved through measures that protect the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources that have contributed to the Township's rich history. The impact of new growth is minimized through the careful attention that is paid to providing open space, the provision of adequate transportation and utility services, and the provision of recreational opportunities for all residents. The Township government and staff proactively engage residents in order to obtain their input, and educate and inform residents through both personal interaction and communications media. Residents walk and bike on trails that connect residential neighborhoods, parks, and revitalized village centers. The Township has promoted high-tech, office/technology/research businesses in order to diversify the tax base of the Township. Residents continue to take pride in the excellence of the school district, and police, ambulance and fire services. West Lampeter Township is recognized throughout the county for its high quality of life.