



TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

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Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Agenda Thursday, May 21, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81710779501?status=success>

Dial In: 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 817 1077 9501 Password: 135293

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CITIZEN'S INPUT
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- IV. PARKS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

Narrative

Township Public Works Director Dave Modricker and Township Manager Dave Pribulka met with the Assistant to the Manager Centrice Martin to review standard operational plans for mowing parks and discussed a proposed process for integrating green infrastructure into park areas. Centrice met with Township Arborist Lance King and Township Engineer Ron Seybert to collaborate on sections of the drafted Park Green Infrastructure Policy. The drafted policy is near complete and ready for Parks and Recreation Committee to review and offer comment.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee **discuss** the drafted policy and offer feedback to staff.

V. FERGUSON TOWNSHIP CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PARKS TOUR

Narrative

Staff is soon ready to begin preparing the DRAFT 2021 – 2025 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a rolling five-year guiding document the Township uses to plan for large expenditures, which are typically defined as items costing \$2,500 or more with a life expectancy of more than one year. Park improvements are included in this document. Attached to this Agenda is the current 2020 – 2022 CIP for Parks and Recreation. This Committee has typically conducted a Parks Tour prior to providing park improvement comments for staff to consider as they prepare the CIP. The Committee shall discuss how best to facilitate the Parks Tour and adhere to the current safety requirements and social restrictions established for citizens within the commonwealth.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee **discuss** to determine a plan for the Parks Tour.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VII. FUTURE REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

VIII. REPORTS

1. Staff Report
2. Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority Report – Mr. Bill Keough

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020
4:00 P.M.

I. ATTENDANCE

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its regular meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2020, at the Ferguson Township building. In attendance were:

Committee:

Norris Muth- Chairperson
Tessa Antolick- Vice Chair
Dr. Shawna Doerksen-Secretary
Connie Puckett-Absent
Robert Demayo
Bill Keough
Jerry Learn
Rick Tetzlaff

Staff:

David Pribulka, Township Manager
Centrice Martin, Assistant to the Manager

Others in attendance were: Summer Krape, Recording Secretary; Ruth Cooper, Ferguson Township Resident; Pamela & Bryan Rodgers, Ferguson Township Residents; Laura Dininni, Ferguson Township Resident/Board Member; Phil Kolb, Ferguson Township Resident; Tom Ambrosa, Ferguson Township Resident; and Doug Lovisky, Ferguson Township Resident.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Norris Muth called the Thursday, April 16, 2020 Park and Recreation meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

III. CITIZEN'S INPUT

Mr. Muth welcomed everyone back after our long break and welcomed our new Committee members; Mr. Jerry Learn and Mr. Rick Tetzlaff.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Muth called for a motion to approve the February 16, 2020 minutes. Dr. Shawna Doerksen made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Robert DeMayo seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Ruth Cooper had a question on the minutes, she stated that Mr. Pribulka's statement that in the past the fields were mowed every 2 weeks/2 years ago it was mowed twice a year is incorrect. Ms. Cooper stated that the questionnaire that was sent to the neighbors of Cecil Irvin Park had the correct information that prior to 2019 the Township mowed 4-5 times a year prior to Memorial Day

The Committee discussed if this change needed to be corrected due to being on record. Mr. David Pribulka stated that minutes are to reflect the record.

V. CECIL IRVIN PARK QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Mr. Muth stated that the eleven residents that about the undeveloped area of Cecil Irvin Park received a questionnaire regarding the mowing issue. The Committee is asked to discuss the results/comments of the questionnaire and make a decision. Mrs. Tessa Antolick stated that all comments received were unanimous in terms of preferred the option of mowing the undeveloped area the same the developed. Mr. Tom Ambrosa, Sunday Drive Resident stated that he does not see his name on the sheet but the unanimous decision is correct. Mr. Pribulka stated that if the recommendation from the Parks Committee is to move forward with mowing it regularly like in previous years it won't necessarily be mowed the same time as the developed areas. Centre Region Parks and Recreation mow the

developed parkland more frequently. Typically the Township's mowing crew will mow the undeveloped park areas roughly every two weeks. Mr. Pribulka noted that the Township will be restore the area it to the condition it previously in.

Mr. Doug Lovsicky a Ferguson Township resident that lives at 121 Sunday Drive thanked the members of the Parks Committee for their work. Mr. Lovsicky gave the Committee some back around on the undeveloped area and stated that this undeveloped area of the park was never intended to be a part of the park it was part of the subdivision, and the subdivision states that no lot should have grass higher than six inches. Mr. Lovsicky asked if the Township will keep the grass under six inches. Mr. Pribulka stated that it is the Township's intent to keep it under 6 inches. Ms. Cooper asked for her own personal clarification on where the undeveloped area is located. Ms. Cooper stated that for her own record is the Parks Committee referring to the area that is located at the end of the Sunday Drive resident's property all the way over to the field that is rented for crop production. Mr. Pribulka stated that that is the area and the Committee knows where it's located.

Mr. Jerry Learn asked for some history of the mowing issue at Cecil Irvin Park. Mr. Muth summarized the history and issues. Mr. Pribulka also commented on this and gave background on the Fairbrook Park no mow area. Mr. Ambrosa called into regard how close the no mow area at Cecil Irvin is to the residential homes and how it is different from Fairbrook Park. Mr. Ambrosa stated that a major concern for him are the varmints that come from the fields. Mrs. Laura Dininni stated that the Cecil Irvin Park no mow area did not go through a strategic and formal policy and did not go through public comment period like the Fairbrook no mow area did. The other difference is there is not close abutting residential properties at Fairbrook Park. Mrs. Dininni stated that an SOP would be a helpful map for areas like these. Mr. Muth entertained a motion to maintain the undeveloped are of Cecil Irvin Park as it has been previously maintained. Dr. Doerksen made a motion to maintain the undeveloped area of Cecil Irvin as it has been previously maintained as the Township is able. Mr. Rick Tetzlaff seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. DRAFTED STANDARD OPERATING POLICY (SOP)

Mr. Muth stated that Mr. David Modricker the Ferguson Township Public Works Director drafted a standard operating policy for mowing parks and the Committee is asked to review and make comments. Mr. Pribulka stated that the Township would like to put this in front of the Board and have it general enough to implement will all of the Township's parks. Mrs. Dininni stated that she would like to see some expertise from the Parks Committee on when to mow, such as when the pollinators are in bloom, bugs etc. Mr. Pribulka suggested that the Committee table this to the next meeting so the Committee members have more time to review the draft. The Committee can reconvene in May and possibly have Mr. Modricker and Mr. Lance King present to answer any questions members may have. Mr. Muth stated that he would like to revisit this with Mr. Modricker present. Mr. Bill Keough stated that all of the Township's parks should have a mowing plan. He also asked if the Township's GIS could take a park like Fairbrook Park and do a layout so the Committee could look at this.

VII. REPORTS

1. STAFF REPORT

- i. Ms. Centrice Martin wanted to share that the Township is moving forward with DCNR grant for Suburban Park Phase 1 and that will be submitted on Tuesday. Mr. Pribulka stated that the Tom Tudek Trust is working with Centre Gives campaign this year and it will still be held as scheduled May 12-13th. Mr. Muth noted that he sent a letter on behalf of himself to support the DCNR grant for Suburban Park.

2. CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY REPORT – MR. BILL KEOUGH

Mr. Keough stated that CRPRA is operating in a slow motion right now. The comprehensive plan has been completed and has been approved by both CRPA and Centre Region and is in the process of being distributed. The CRPRA meeting that was scheduled today was cancelled due to COVID and lack of agenda items.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Muth noted that his student Hannah Hock is still working on iNaturalist.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Shawna Doerksen made a motion to adjourn the Thursday, April 16, 2020 Parks and Recreation meeting at 6:00 pm. Mr. Rick Letzlaff seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

SHAWNA DOERKSEN, SECRETARY
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Drafted Park Green Infrastructure Policy

I. Purpose

- a. Ferguson Township recognizes the importance of maintaining the condition, accessibility and safety of its naturalized environments to serve as a green feature or green stormwater sustainable infrastructure within developed and undeveloped parks. The focus of this policy is to classify its park system and establish a framework that defines the different types of natural areas for green features or green stormwater infrastructure and identifies levels of maintenance standards for service to be associated within the park system.

II. Definitions

a. Park Classifications

- i. **Mini Parks** – Smallest park type, addresses limited recreation need. Provides close to home recreation. Requires high level of maintenance associated with well-developed park and playground and high visitation.
 - ii. **Neighborhood Parks** – Focus of neighborhood; in walking/biking distance of visitors. Provides access to basic recreation opportunities. Contributes to neighborhood identity. Establishes sense of community. Requires high level of maintenance associated with well-developed park and reasonably high visitation.
 - iii. **Regional/Community Parks** – Large park for active and passive recreation; serves residents municipality-wide. Accommodates large groups. Variety of recreation opportunities for all ages and interests. Space for organized, large scale, high participation events, family destination with fitness and wellness opportunities. Requires moderate level of maintenance associated with moderate level of development, budget restrictions, inability to perform higher levels of maintenance. Potential for park “friends” or adopt a-park-partner.
 - iv. **Natural Preserve** – An area of land that is managed to conserve wildlife or plant habitat or other natural features. Protects resources. Provides opportunities for environmental education. Requires lower level of maintenance.
- b. **Natural Areas** – Also referred to as “Natural Environments” are designated areas for naturalizing a park area to serve as a green feature or a green stormwater sustainable infrastructure. Different types of Natural Areas include the following:
 - i. ***Low-mow planted meadow*** – designated area purposefully planted with native grass, forbe, and wildflower seed to provide food sources and

habitat for wildlife and pollinators. Low-mow planted meadow may serve as an effective strategy to help improve stormwater management in appropriate settings. Typically mowed once per year in the Fall after the first frost. Requires labor and monetary resources.

- ii. **Low-mow meadow** - designated area where existing site vegetation (turf grass) remains in place to provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators. Typically mowed twice per year, once prior to April 1st and again in the Fall after the first frost.
- iii. **No-mow planted meadow** – designated area purposefully planted with native grass, forbe, and wildflower seed to provide food sources and habitat for wildlife and pollinators. No-mow planted meadows may serve as an effective strategy to help improve stormwater management in appropriate settings. Typically mowed once every 3-4 years to control woody vegetation.
- iv. **No-mow meadow** – designated area where existing site vegetation (turf grass) is left in place to provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators. Typically mowed once every 3-4 years to control woody vegetation.
- v. **Grow Zone** – refers to all types of meadows, with native seed mix plantings or natural vegetation growth,
- vi. **Pollinator gardens** - designated area that is planted with specific plant types beneficial to pollinators in a designed garden. Used for demonstration and educational purposes. Typically requires ongoing maintenance including weeding, mulching, trimming, plant care.
- vii. **Pollinator plots** - designated area planted with wildflower seed to provide food sources and habitat specifically for pollinators. Typically mowed once per year in the Fall after the first frost.
- viii. **Rain garden** - an excavated shallow surface depression planted with specifically selected native vegetation to treat and capture stormwater runoff. Requires ongoing maintenance including weeding, trimming, mulching, and sediment removal as defined in the approved plan. If constructed as a stormwater feature related to a stormwater management site plan, it cannot be modified from design without revising the approved plan.

- ix. ***Vegetative buffers*** - may naturally form or through a comprehensive landscape design, proper plant selection and arrangement is determined for a designated area. Typically located near a property line or waterways consisting of trees, shrubs, and other woody vegetation. Healthy vegetated buffers are used as a screen between adjacent properties to control line of sight and mitigate sound and wind. Provides wildlife habitat and may serve as an effective strategy to improve stormwater management in the appropriate setting. Typically, little to no maintenance needed once established.
 - x. **Infiltration basin** - a shallow impoundment that stores and infiltrates stormwater runoff over a level, uncompacted, (preferably undisturbed area) with relatively permeable soils. Designed with low maintenance vegetation that gets maintained as defined in the approved plan. If constructed as a stormwater feature related to a stormwater management site plan, it cannot be modified from design without revising the approved plan.
 - xi. **Detention basin** - an earthen structure constructed either by impoundment of a natural depression or excavation of existing soil that provides temporary storage of stormwater runoff to attenuate stormwater runoff peak rates. Designed with various vegetative cover that get maintained as defined in the approved plan. If constructed as a stormwater feature related to a stormwater management site plan, it cannot be modified from design without revising the approved plan.
 - xii. **Tree canopy preservation** – an area of existing trees in close proximity to impervious areas that are preserved for the purpose of managing stormwater. Maintenance of the trees is to be in accordance with the approved plan. If preserved as a stormwater feature related to a stormwater management site plan, the preservation area cannot be modified without revising the approved plan.
 - xiii. **Natural filter/buffer** – a wide natural downstream drainageway that is protected from disturbance by development for the purpose of filtering and recharging stormwater runoff. Designed with various vegetative cover that get maintained as defined in the approved plan. If preserved as a stormwater feature related to a stormwater management site plan, it cannot be modified from design without revising the approved plan.
- c. **Undeveloped area** – an area within the park that is not for active use.

- d. **Future phase of development** – a designated area within the park planned to be develop in a future phase of development.

III. Pre-Planning and Assessment for Integrating Natural Areas

- a. Ferguson Township parks are frequently evaluated to determine if naturalizing a park area would benefit the park setting, expand or enhance habitat areas, and/or provide a sustainable landscape.
- b. Various site conditions have an impact on determining the most appropriate natural area practices available, or how a specific practice must be adapted to meet the physical constraints of the site. Examples include location, soil conditions, space availability or size and shape of existing parkland or land slated for park redevelopment, the need to integrate green stormwater infrastructure practices into existing landscape features and existing site features such as utilities, structures, mature trees, or other existing natural resources and rights-of-way.
- c. **Funding**
- d. **Community Involvement**

IV. Process for Integrating Natural Areas into Appropriate Park Areas

- a. To identify and/or determine facilities, improvements, and appropriate park areas that shall be considered suitable for conversion to a natural environment, an established multidisciplinary team approach is required as part of the park planning process. Integrating natural environments for green sustainable infrastructure into existing parks, expanded parks and new park sites is accomplished through a park assessment and planning process or through the development of a Park Master Plan.
- b. The park assessment and planning process may be initiated following a citizen request, staff recommendation, Parks and Recreation Committee recommendation or is directed by the Township Manager or Board of Supervisors. The park assessment and planning process reviews Township Parks and considers the needs and interests of visitors, appropriateness of facilities, potential need for green stormwater facilities, and opportunities to integrate naturalized areas and functional improvements and consideration is given to any issues that need addressed.
- c. All requests and recommendations shall be submitted for review by completing the online Ferguson Township Parks and Recreation (FTPR) Request Form for Green Infrastructure. The form is received by the Manager and Assistant to the

- Township.
 1. If the scope of the work is not within the Township, the Manager will dismiss the request or deny it.
 2. If the scope of work is within the purview of the Township, the Manager will require the formal process for integrating natural areas into appropriate land use planning and initiate the process for review.
- ii. Ferguson Township Manager or Assistant to the Manager or Geographic Information System (GIS) Technician or CRPR Parks Maintenance Supervisor to attend the meeting to discuss and list the opportunities to naturalize natural areas based on request or recommendation;
- iii. Parks and Recreation Committee reviews and discusses the request/recommendation and the list of opportunities to generate conceptual idea(s) to be mapped and included in drawing;
- iv. FT GIS Technician will prepare a site development plan for the natural area location within the park to be reviewed by the requestor for changes until accepted, by the Parks and Recreation Committee;
- v. Parks and Recreation Committee provides a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to accept and approve for implementation.

- iv. FT GIS Tech
natural area l
request for cl
Committee;
- v. Parks and Re
Board of Sup

3. Five months after the site feature has been developed in the park setting, the Board of Supervisors will opinion survey results and staff input to take action at a regular meeting to conclude the six months observational period.
- vi. At a Regular Meeting, the Board of Supervisors will take action to 1) authorize advertisement of a resolution to approve a map with the natural area as a new site feature on the park plan, or 2) propose an amendment, direct staff to update the map and advertise a resolution at a future meeting after repeating steps 4(d)iii to 4(d)vi.; or 3) deny the request.

V. Work Plan Based on Maintenance Standards

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP							
2020 – 2024 CIP CAPITAL EQUIPMENT DETAIL-CASH BASIS							
PARKS & RECREATION							
30,400,452.750							
Description	Loan/Grant Amount	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023	TOTAL
Cecil Irvin Park Phase II	320,000			320,000			320,000
Compost Toilet in Parks				25,000			25,000
Drinking Fountain Replacements		10,000		10,000			20,000
Fairbrook Park Master Plan Update			25,000				25,000
Fairbrook Park Native Landscape Areas				6,000			6,000
Greenbriar/Saybrook Master plan						25,000	25,000
Haymarket Restroom Facilities						235,000	235,000
Homestead Park Play Equipment			100,000				100,000
Pave wash out areas for various pathways		20,000					20,000
Playground Safety & Updates		37,500		37,000	37,000	37,000	148,500
Solar Array @ Whitehall Regional Park			45,000				45,000
Songbird Sanctuary Passive Recreation		75,000					75,000
Suburban Park FEMA/CLOMR/LOMR & PADEP Permits		70,000					70,000
Suburban Park Phase A	325,000		325,200				325,200
Tudek Farmhouse Roof Replacement (\$25,000)							-
Tudek Park Phase IIIA	177,500				355,000		355,000
Tudek Park Native Landscape plantings		5,000					5,000
Total	822,500	217,500	495,200	398,000	392,000	297,000	1,799,700

2020	
Playground Safety & Update Program	\$37,500
This item is to provide for equipment upgrades and replacements to meet playground safety standards.	
Drinking Fountain Replacements	\$10,000
At the recommendation of the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department, the Township began upgrading drinking fountains in parks in 2016. This item includes the equipment and installation of one drinking fountain. If Public Works staff is available to install the fountain, two fountains can be replaced with this appropriation	
Songbird Sanctuary – Passive Recreation	\$75,000
The Township acquired 9 acres of the property identified as Natural Area Conservation on the 2008 Ferguson Township Official Map. In 2019, Staff, along with the Ferguson Township Parks and Recreation Committee, completed a Master Plan for the park in-house. The Master Plan recommends passive recreational amenities such as walking and dirt bike trails, educational kiosk, nesting boxes, educational signage and benches for an enjoyable wooded area to recreate in an otherwise urbanized environment	
Tudek Farmhouse Roof Replacement	\$25,000
The farmhouse needs a new roof. It is anticipated that the Tudek Trust Fund will fund this project.	
Tudek Park Natural Landscape Areas	\$5,000
The Board of Supervisors approved designated native landscape areas at Tudek Park. This appropriation will support the removal of the existing brush, purchasing seed mix, and signage.	
Suburban Park FEMA CLOMR/LOMR and PADEP Permit	\$70,000

The Suburban Park Master Plan Update was approved by the BOS May 2018. Staff is recommending the Township perform a hydraulics and hydrology analysis to design the floodway channel through Suburban Park to fulfill the requirements before constructing the Master Plan and future design of Suburban Park.	
Pave Washout Areas	\$40,000
Staff recommends that funds be appropriated to pave four sections of the Tudek Park path.	
2021	
Homestead Park Play Equipment	\$100,000
The Parks and Recreation Department is recommending updating and adding age-appropriate play equipment and installation by a certified installer.	
Fairbrook Park Master Plan Update	\$25,000
Fairbrook Park is a 23-acre public facility with playing fields, play areas, picnic facilities, perimeter walking path, hard court, and parking facilities. The park offers an opportunity to convert some of the highly maintained turf areas to low maintenance as no-mow or pollinator areas. A revised master plan would evaluate the areas of the park for conversion as well as consider improving amenities. The revised master plan is anticipated to be updated in 2022 to identify specific park improvements and a probable construction cost opinion to serve as a more accurate planning tool.	
Solar Array at Whitehall Road Regional Park Fund 31	\$45,000
In October 2018, the Board authorized the appropriation of \$45,000 toward the acquisition and installation of solar photovoltaics on the rooftop of the pavilion to be constructed at Whitehall Road Regional Park. The Board directed that funding for this commitment be drawn from the Regional Capital Recreation Projects Fund.	
Suburban Park Phase 1A	\$325,200
The Suburban Park Master Plan Update was approved by the BOS May 2019. Staff recommends the Township initiate park improvements by budgeting for Phase A1 to allow for the drainage improvements which will create a free-flowing drainage channel through the park. Also, part of this phase will include stormwater BMP's associated with the channel and the bridge/boardwalk crossings.	
2022	
Drinking Fountain Replacements	\$10,000
At the recommendation of the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department, the Township began upgrading drinking fountains in parks in 2016. This item includes the equipment and installation of one drinking fountain. If Public Works staff is available to install the fountain, two fountains can be replaced with this appropriation.	
Fairbrook Park Natural Landscape Areas	\$6,000
The Board of Supervisors approved a Grow Zone and two designated native landscape areas at Fairbrook Park. This appropriation will support the removal of the existing brush, purchasing seed mix, and signage.	
Compost Toilet Installation in Township Park	\$25,000

In December 2018, the Board referred a request to the Parks and Recreation Committee to review and recommend a location for the installation of a compost toilet in a Township park. The staff has obtained specifications on a Clivus Multrum Model M54 Compost Toilet and has budgeted an appropriation adequate for one installation at a location to be determined

Cecil Irvin Park Phase II	\$320,000
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The Township plans to submit a grant application to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Community Conservation Partnerships Program in 2020 to continue the development of Cecil Irvin Park. Planned improvements include a pervious pavement parking area off of Nixon Road, a pavilion, and a connecting shared use path to the existing developed area of the park. The amount budgeted reflects the total cost of the project, but a 50% grant match will be requested

Playground Safety & Update Program	\$37,000
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This item provides funding for equipment upgrades and replacements to meet playground safety standards.

2023

Tom Tudek Memorial Park Phase IIIA	\$355,000
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Completion of Tudek Park Phase 3a includes the construction of two basketball courts, completion of remaining sidewalk connections, paving the remainder of the parking lot, and associated landscaping and stormwater improvements. Phase IIIA is located on land owned by the Tom Tudek Memorial Trust and is adjacent to the park entrance on Herman Drive.

Playground Safety & Update Program	\$37,000
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This item provides funding for equipment upgrades and replacements to meet playground safety standards.

2024

Saybrook/Greenbriar Master Plan	\$25,000
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Saybrook/Greenbriar Park is an 8.39-acre public facility that offers a basketball court, play areas, pavilion, walking path, and parking facilities. The Township Playground Inspector recommends that total replacement of playground equipment will soon be needed. The park offers the opportunity to convert some of the highly maintained turf areas to low maintenance as no-mow or pollinator areas. A revised master plan would evaluate the areas of the park for conversion as well as consider improving amenities.

Playground Safety & Update Program	\$37,000
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This item provides funding for equipment upgrades and replacements to meet playground safety standards.

Haymarket Park Restroom Facilities	\$235,000
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The master plan for Haymarket Park includes the construction of restroom facilities. This park is a highly-used, centralized park. Currently, the only township park where permanent restroom facilities are constructed is at Tom Tudek Memorial Park.



**Staff Report
May 21, 2020**

1. On April 22, 2020 staff submitted for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) grant for a 50 percent match to construct Suburban Park – Phase 1.
2. The Manager was notified on April 23, 3030 by DCNR that as the owner of Suburban Park, Ferguson Township is a past DCNR grant recipient for the recreation and conservation project which means we are eligible for future Land and Water Conservation Fund which is a federal program.
3. Centre Region Parks and Recreation released a press release on May 4, 2020 to provide an update on local and regional park facilities.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, May 4, 2020

CONTACT: Pamela J. Salokangas@crcog.net, 814-231-3071

AGENCY UPDATE: COVID-19 YELLOW STATUS

State College, PA: Centre Region Parks and Recreation (CRPR) staff have been closely following Governor Wolf's COVID-19 Red/Yellow/Green plan regarding re-openings as the coronavirus continues to affect our local community. At this time, Centre County will reach yellow status on Friday, May 8, which changes some of the operations within the local and regional parks. The Agency has actively worked with the local municipalities and our parent organization, Centre Region Council of Governments (COG), to create a plan to best serve our customers, our employees, and the community as a whole.

Despite the yellow status, none of the Agency's programming, events, or leagues will be operating. Our programming, events, camps and other activities remain canceled through June 30. We are continually watching for additional information from the Governor, the PA Department of Health, and the CDC as we await information on how green status will be achieved. Until then, none of our programming will re-start.

Below is an update on our local and regional facilities and what will be open or what will remain closed during the County's yellow status:

Parks with Restrooms

All restroom buildings will open Monday, May 11. Porta-johns have been delivered already to other local parks that do not have restroom facilities. Restrooms at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center will re-open on this date as well. A porta-john is also on-site already at this facility.

Parks with Water Fountains

For the safety of our residents, water fountains in all parks will remain closed until we reach green status. Water fountains will not be active and will be bagged and signed as "closed." Families visiting the parks should bring their own water, and if using plastic water bottles, families should be sure to recycle those bottles!

Sport Courts and Fields

Sports fields and courts will open on Monday, May 11 for drop-in use; however, while in yellow status, groups of 25 or less are welcome for drop-in use. **No organized youth or adult sports groups, large events, tournaments, or leagues** will be allowed onto the sports fields or courts. Please be cognizant of field conditions when visiting the parks; after heavy rains, field use is not permitted until the fields are dry.

EXCEPTION: *The basketball courts at all State College Borough parks will remain closed while in yellow status. Please contact Borough Police if residents see anyone using these courts.*

Parks with Pavilions

Starting Monday, May 11, park pavilions will be available for drop-in use only during yellow status. Families or small groups of 25 or less can **drop-in** to the pavilions for small, informal gatherings. Use of pavilions cannot be guaranteed because reservations are not available at this time, only drop-in use. While visiting a pavilion, masks are recommended and patrons should sit apart from each other, using the social distancing guidelines.

Playgrounds

During yellow status, ALL playgrounds in Centre Region parks and on State College Area School District facilities remain closed for the safety of our patrons. Playgrounds will not open until Centre County reaches green status.

Park Trails

Park trails remain open during yellow status. Trail users should continue to spread out using social distancing guidelines, and everyone should wear protective masks.

If you are visiting a park and see groups with more than 25 people using facilities, please notify your local Police Department via their non-emergency number to report the incident. Please be sure to report the time of day and the name of the park. Patton Township residents should contact Patton Township Police. Ferguson Township residents should contact Ferguson Township Police. College Township, Harris Township, and Borough residents should contact State College Borough Police. Centre Region Parks and Recreation does not handle enforcement; only your local police officers can address these issues.

Centre Region Parks and Recreation along with municipal officials remind everyone to keep practicing social distancing and good hygiene during this time. Besides bringing water with you to the parks, please bring hand sanitizer or non-toxic wipes for small children for before or after play, or plan to utilize the restrooms for hand-washing needs. All porta-johns in the parks without restroom facilities have hand-sanitizer units in them. Please dispose of any used masks, gloves, or wipes in proper containers.

The Active Adult Center at Nittany Mall will remain closed until the County reaches green status. The boardwalk and trails at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center remain open between dawn and dusk. The Park Forest and Welch Community Pools will not open until Centre County reaches green status, and the pools will only open if they can be operated with all COVID-19 safety protocols in place while being financially solvent.

We will continue to work with staff, the COG, and the municipalities to assess the situation, evaluate facility needs, and consider the health and safety of our community members. If Centre County reverts to red status, we will notify the public of any facility closures as soon as possible.

For participants who have been affected by program cancellations, the Agency has instituted a Flexible Refund Policy which is currently in place through August 30, 2020. Residents can read more about this information at this link: <https://www.crpr.org/news-updates>

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at 814-231-3071 or crpr@crcog.net. Staff are checking email frequently and returning phone calls at least every other day. Thank you.

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