



TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

3147 Research Drive • State College, Pennsylvania 16801
Telephone: 814-238-4651 • Fax: 814-954-7642
www.twp.ferguson.pa.us

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS and Parks and Recreation Committee

Joint Monthly Work Session Agenda

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

2:00 p.m.

MEETING PARTICIPANT OPTIONS

VIRTUAL:

Join Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88010397783>

MEETING ID: 880 1039 7783

[Zoom Access Instructions](#)

IN-PERSON:

Ferguson Township Municipal Building
Main Meeting Room

3147 Research Drive
State College, PA 16801

-
- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - II. CITIZEN'S INPUT
 - III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 1. **DISCUSSION ON RECREATION, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE DRAFT AND GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MISSION STATEMENT**
Centrice Martin, Township Manager

Narrative

The Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan provides the Township with a 10-year outlook and vision of Township parks, recreational facilities, and open space. The last RPOS Plan update occurred in 2009. Currently, consultant Herbert, Rowland, & Grubic is in the process of updating the Township RPOS Plan.

The intention of the joint Board of Supervisors and Parks and Recreation Committee work session is to review and update key goals and recommendations from the previous plan, develop a short Mission Statement for this RPOS Plan Update, and have attendees participate in a few activities that will help better define future park amenities, funding and implementation priorities, and other key plan elements. The results will be incorporated into the draft RPOS Plan report for review. Provided below is a link to the 2009 RPOS Plan.

[2009 Ferguson Township Recreation and Park and Open Space Plan Update](#)

Staff Recommendation

That the Board of Supervisors receive the status update on the strategic plan.

- IV. CALENDAR ITEMS – July
- V. ADJOURNMENT



Ferguson Township

RPOS Plan Update - Board of Supervisors & Parks Committee Joint Workshop

Date:	July 12, 2022
Purpose:	RPOS Plan Updates Activities & Exercises
Objectives:	Get direct input from Board of Supervisors and Parks Committee members on key aspects, goals and outcomes for the RPOS Plan and Parks Master Site Plans
Team Members:	Tracy Strickland (tstrickland@hrg-inc.com) Josh Clark (jyetterclark@hrg-inc.com)

Agenda Items:

- Welcome & Introduction
- Exercise #1 – Mission Statement
 - What do you hope to achieve with the RPOS Plan Update?
 - Review examples of Mission Statements and select/create one for Ferguson Township
- Exercise #2 – RPOS Plan Purpose & Goals
 - What are the Plan's main Goals for the next 10-15 years?
 - Review 2009 RPOS Goals & Objectives, compare with other recent examples, and develop a fresh list for Ferguson Township
- 3 pm – Break
- Exercise #3 – Park Identity and Active vs. Passive Recreation
 - Do all parks need a base definition and identical amenities, or can they differ, and how?
 - Do all parks need a balance (or better balance) of Active vs. Passive Recreation options?
- Exercise #4 – Master Site Plan discussions for Fairbrook Park and Greenbriar-Saybrook Park
 - S.W.O.T. Analysis of both parks followed by discussion of key design options and opportunities
- If Time Permits - RPOS Plan Recommendations review
 - Discuss 2009 RPOS Plan recommendations and identify:
 - Which ones were accomplished?
 - Which ones were not accomplished and why not?
 - Any new recommendations emerging from Survey results, Committee input, etc.?

MISSION STATEMENT

A mission statement is one of the most important statements an organization can develop to help define and direct the success of a project or plan. A mission statement is a clear, succinct description of an ideal future and provides a vision of what success would look like. It is essential in helping employees, volunteers and others understand how their work supports the larger purpose of the agency. Therefore, a good mission statement should state what the plan is all about, what its reason is for being, and what its purpose is. An organization can develop a mission statement by answering the following questions:

- Who are we?
- Whom do we serve?
- What is our purpose?
- What are the essential elements of our parks, open spaces, and recreational amenities?

EXERCISE #1 - INSTRUCTIONS:

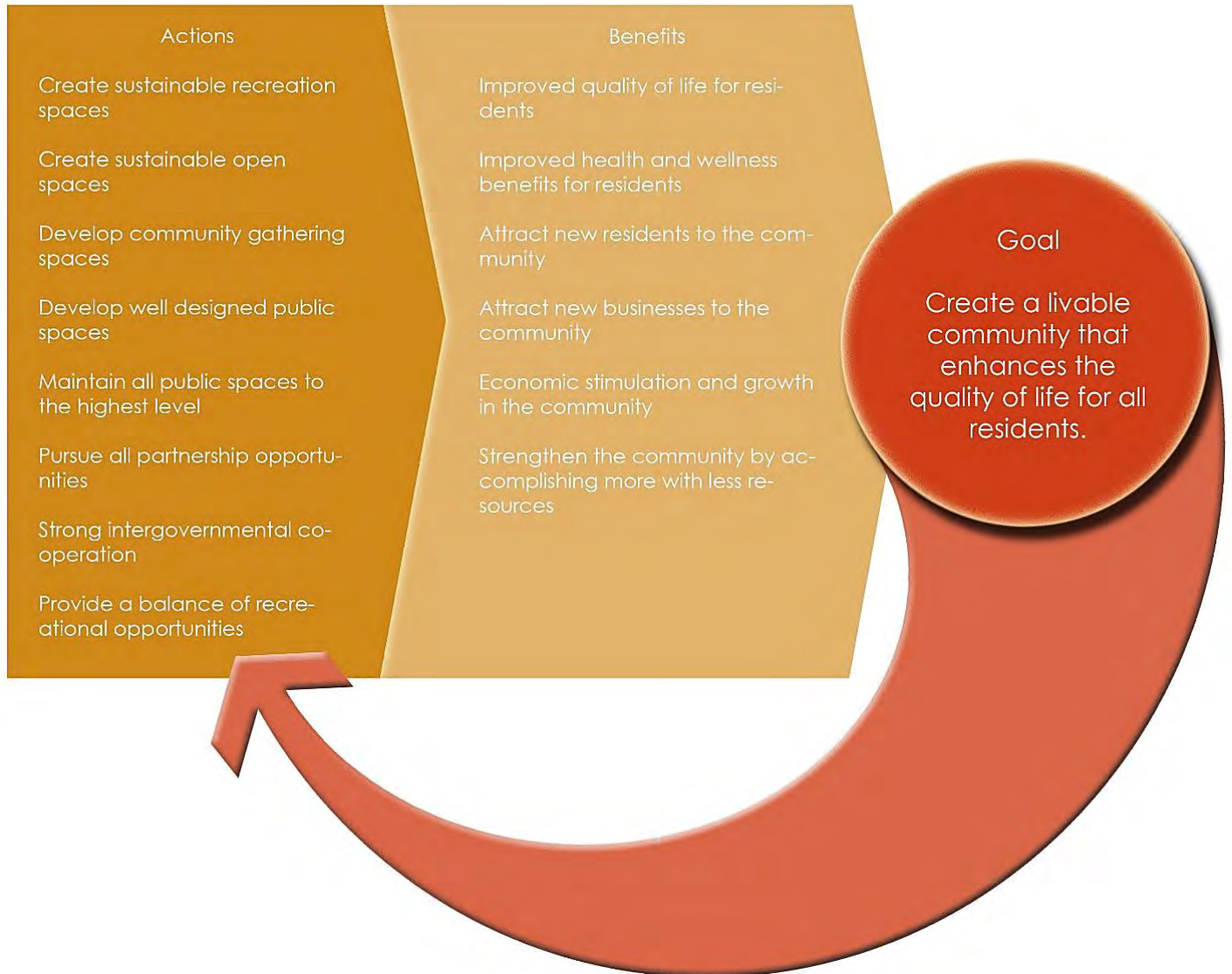
- A. Please read the examples of Mission Statements on the following pages and **RANK THEM** in order from **1-4**.

1 = Least Favorite and 4 = Most Favorite

- B. You may also highlight portions of each Mission Statement that you particularly like, to craft into a whole new Mission Statement that you can add on the final page.

..... SEE EXAMPLES NEXT PAGE.....

EXAMPLE #1 - BUTLER AREA



EXAMPLE #2 - WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP

The Whitpain Township Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Update 2021 -2030 is our blueprint for **CONSERVING** our open space and natural resources, **ENHANCING** our parks and recreation facilities along with their maintenance, and **CONNECTING** our community through trails, programs, and partnerships.

EXAMPLE #3 - JACKSON TOWNSHIP

This Implementable Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan was initiated to increase high-quality recreation opportunities in the region to meet the needs of existing residents as well as the rapidly growing population of Jackson Township. The Townships strive to sustain quality recreation for existing and new park users and provide excellent recreation facilities and programs to its population.

EXAMPLE #4 - LOWER SWATARA TOWNSHIP

To improve the quality of life by providing recreational, leisure and aesthetic opportunities for all citizens, and by conserving and enhancing the environment. We will accomplish this mission by providing quality programming, making the best use of existing resources, development supportive constituency, pursuing effective collaboration and partnerships, and consider acquiring additional park lands, as well as preserving natural features.

RESULTS:

RPOS Plan Mission Statement				
	Most Favorite	2ND CHOICE	3RD CHOICE	Least Favorite
BUTLER AREA PLAN				
WHITPAIN TWP PLAN				
JACKSON TWP PLAN				
LOWER SWATARA TWP PLAN				

Or Add Your Own Variation Below:

EXERCISE #2 – PROS PLAN GOALS

STEP ONE:

Please read the **2009 RPOS Plan Update Goals** below and **select which goals still apply** to the 2022 RPOS Plan Update.

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP 2009 RPOS PLAN UPDATE - GOALS

The Township's first RPOS Plan was adopted by the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors in 1998. The Plan identified the importance of providing updates on a regular basis and to that end, the Plan was updated in 2009. In the 2009 Plan Update, the RPOS Planning Committee established the following goals to serve as guidelines for the Plan Update:

- **Goal #1:** Develop a strategy that allows the Township to provide recreation, park, and open space facilities to current and future populations.
- **Goal #2:** Evaluate how the services at the local level are impacted by the recently obtained regional park opportunities.
- **Goal #3:** Provide safe and convenient access to park / open space for all residents of the Township
- **Goal #4:** Provide a range of park, recreation, and open space opportunities which support both active and passive recreation needs and serve all ages and abilities.
- **Goal #5:** Ensure public awareness and involvement in the planning process Plan.

STEP TWO:

To develop a more comprehensive list of Plan Goals, please review the examples of Goals from peer RPOS Plans and **select the Top 3 Goals from each example** that you like the most.

BUTLER AREA RPOS PLAN - GOALS

1. Develop a comprehensive network of safe bicycle and pedestrian access routes in the greater Butler area.
2. Develop a unified and cohesive method to publicize existing recreation facilities, recreation programs and general recreational opportunities in the greater Butler area.
3. Develop partnerships among municipalities, local organizations, and recreation providers to foster a culture of open communication and collaboration.
4. Maintain all municipal recreation facilities to the highest level of acceptable standards to ensure clean, safe, and aesthetically pleasing facilities.
5. Develop a plan to ensure the long-term financial sustainability for the operation, maintenance and development of parks, recreational facilities, and programs.

6. Preserve open space areas that contain features of natural and/or cultural significance.
7. Develop and maintain clean, safe, and well-appointed facilities that meet the needs of all users in the community.
8. Maintain the staff necessary to support the development, implementation and maintenance of all facilities and programs.
9. Build a culture of sustainability within the parks and recreation organization to promote green building practices and the use of alternative methods for park development and maintenance.
10. Develop a well-rounded offering of programs for all age and user groups within the community.

WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP RPOS PLAN - GOALS

1. Moving forward with a strategy that recognizes parks, recreation, open space, and trails as part of the Township's overall infrastructure serving environmental, economic, health, and social needs is essential.
2. Enhancing the quality of life and the Township's resiliency and sustainability through parks and recreation in accordance with Best Management Practices and the expressed opinion of the public is the foundation of this plan.
3. The Plan Update's implementation will protect our natural resources and open space
4. It will shape the beauty and character of our landscape
5. It will expand access for all
6. It will improve health
7. It will increase revenues
8. It will mitigate the effects of severe weather and climate change
9. It will help build a strong sense of community
10. It will provide opportunities for our residents to create memories that will last a lifetime

JACKSON TOWNSHIP RPOS PLAN - GOALS

1. Initiate cooperative efforts between Jackson Township, Zelenople and Harmony
2. Boroughs to efficiently provide the best quality recreation for all residents of the region
3. Prepare for the development of Jackson Township's first recreation facilities
4. Sustain the quality of existing recreation resources, and plan for increased level of use
5. Plan local and regional trail networks
6. Preserve open space
7. Prepare to fund new recreation infrastructure
8. Develop local partnerships to provide robust recreation facilities and programs

LOWER SWATARA TOWNSHIP RPOS PLAN - GOALS

Programming:

1. Maintain support of MARA1 to continue long range planning and management of programs and services.
2. Establish performance measures and policies to facilitate effective park programming.
3. Expand, update, and formalize partnership agreements.
4. Recognize the value and importance of partnerships and volunteers that donate each year.

Facilities:

- 5. Realign the Neighborhood Parks to be the primary interface with citizens and a priority component of the park system.
- 6. Maintain and establish regional sports complexes to serve club sport’s needs.
- 7. Update recreation ordinance requirements to bridge the gap between project population and municipally owned facilities.
- 8. Establish additional signature parks that create a sense of community pride and livability.

Connectivity:

- 9. Prioritize connections within existing park facilities to enhance users to access amenities.
- 10. Prioritize gaps in sidewalks that connect neighborhoods to parks in various areas of the Township.
- 11. Work to enhance the Swatara Creek Water Trail Access.

Administration and Implementation:

- 12. Assign staff and funding necessary to implement key elements of the Plan.
- 13. Annually review the recreation maintenance budgets to assure there is adequate funding to maintain and repair existing amenities.
- 14. Establish and update all recreation policies and procedures.
- 15. Develop a communication and marketing plan to promote recreation services, facilities, and parks to enhance for Community use.

STEP 3 - RESULTS:

Please list your selections for 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice from each example below.

** In the case of Ferguson Township, you may elect to choose all the previous Goals from the 2009 RPOS Plan to continue to include in the 2022 Plan Update.

RPOS Plan Goals			
	1 ST CHOICE	2 ND CHOICE	3 RD CHOICE
FERGUSON TWP 2009 PLAN **			
BUTLER AREA PLAN			
WHITPAIN TWP PLAN			
JACKSON TWP PLAN			
LOWER SWATARA TWP PLAN			

EXERCISE #3 – PARK AMENITIES & FUTURE MASTER PLANS

In the 2009 Plan Update, the RPOS Planning Committee established the following Recommendations to serve as guidelines for Township Parkland Development:

- **Parkland Recommendation #1:** The Township should ensure that there is an appropriate mix of active and passive recreation areas in each park to meet the needs of the park users.
- **Parkland Recommendation #2:** The minimum facilities within each park should include a playground, picnic area, active recreation area and a park trail that connects to adjacent bike paths.
- **Parkland Recommendation #3:** The facilities planned in each park should be flexible in use (ie. Dual soccer and ballfield) and should be able to be converted to meet changing needs.

In the 2022 RPOS Plan Update, the design team would like the Township to consider the following questions:

1. Do the Township’s parks still need to provide a mix of active and passive recreation areas?
2. Do all parks need to have identical amenities and facilities, or can they differ, and how?
3. Do all park facilities need to be flexible in design, or can some be dedicated to a particular use?

STEP ONE – PARK AMENITIES:

Please review the Recommendations above and **select KEEP, REMOVE or REVISE** to indicate whether the Parkland Development recommendation should carry into the 2022 RPOS Plan Update, be removed from it, or be revised based on Committee and Citizen Survey input.

Plan Recommendations			
	KEEP	REMOVE	REVISE
Recommendation #1			
Recommendation #2			
Recommendation #3			

STEP TWO – FUTURE MASTER PLANS:

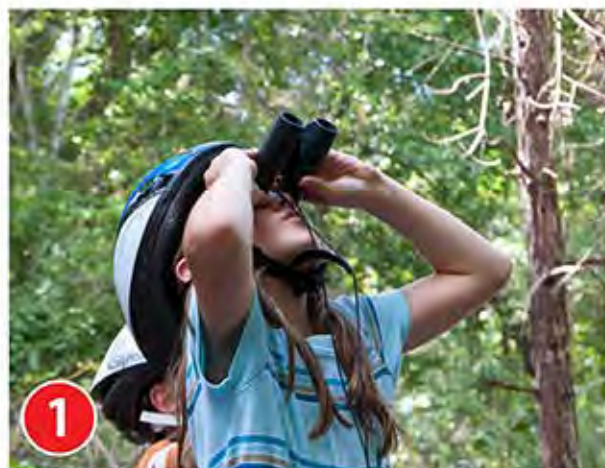
Please review the following Character Preference Image pages and **select your TOP 3** preferred options for Active Recreation, Passive Recreation and Accessible Play amenities to consider for inclusion in future park master plans.

Future Park Master Plans			
	1 ST CHOICE	2 ND CHOICE	3 RD CHOICE
ACTIVE RECREATION			
PASSIVE RECREATION			
ACCESSIBLE PLAY AMENITIES			

ACTIVE RECREATION



PASSIVE RECREATION



ACCESSIBLE PLAY



EXERCISE #4 – PARK MASTER PLANS

In the 2022 RPOS Plan Update, the design team is responsible for developing park master plans for:

1. **Fairbrook Park**
2. **Greenbriar-Saybrook Park**

Based on the discussion and results from Exercise #3, the design team would like workshop participants to provide their input on the following:

1. Which of the parks’ existing features and facilities do you think are positive and should remain as-is or receive minor enhancements?
2. Which of the parks’ existing features and facilities should be considered for removal or replacement to meet the Goals and Recommendations of the RPOS Plan?

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Please review the attached maps for Fairbrook Park and Greenbriar-Saybrook Park.
- **Place a Checkmark** over features to remain as-is or enhance in the park master plans.
- **Place an X** over features to **Remove or Replace** in the park master plans.
- **OR – Fill in the chart below for each park.**

Fairbrook Park				
	KEEP	ENHANCE	REMOVE	REPLACE
Baseball Field #2				
Playground #1				
Baseball Field #1				
Basketball Court				
Pavilion				
Playground #2				
Multi-Use Field				
No Mow Zone				
Parking Lot & Internal Roads				
Paved Paths				
Gravel Paths				
Other:				

Greenbriar-Saybrook Park				
	KEEP	ENHANCE	REMOVE	REPLACE
Pavilion #1				
Basketball Court				
Horseshoe Pit				
Playground				
Pavilion #2				
Memorial Garden				
Parking Lot				
Paved Paths				
Other:				

**Fairbrook Park
Inventory Map**
Ferguson Township
Centre County, Pennsylvania

-  Park Boundary
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Local Roads
-  Multi-Use Field
-  No Mow Zone
-  Parking/Roads
-  Paved Paths
-  Gravel Paths

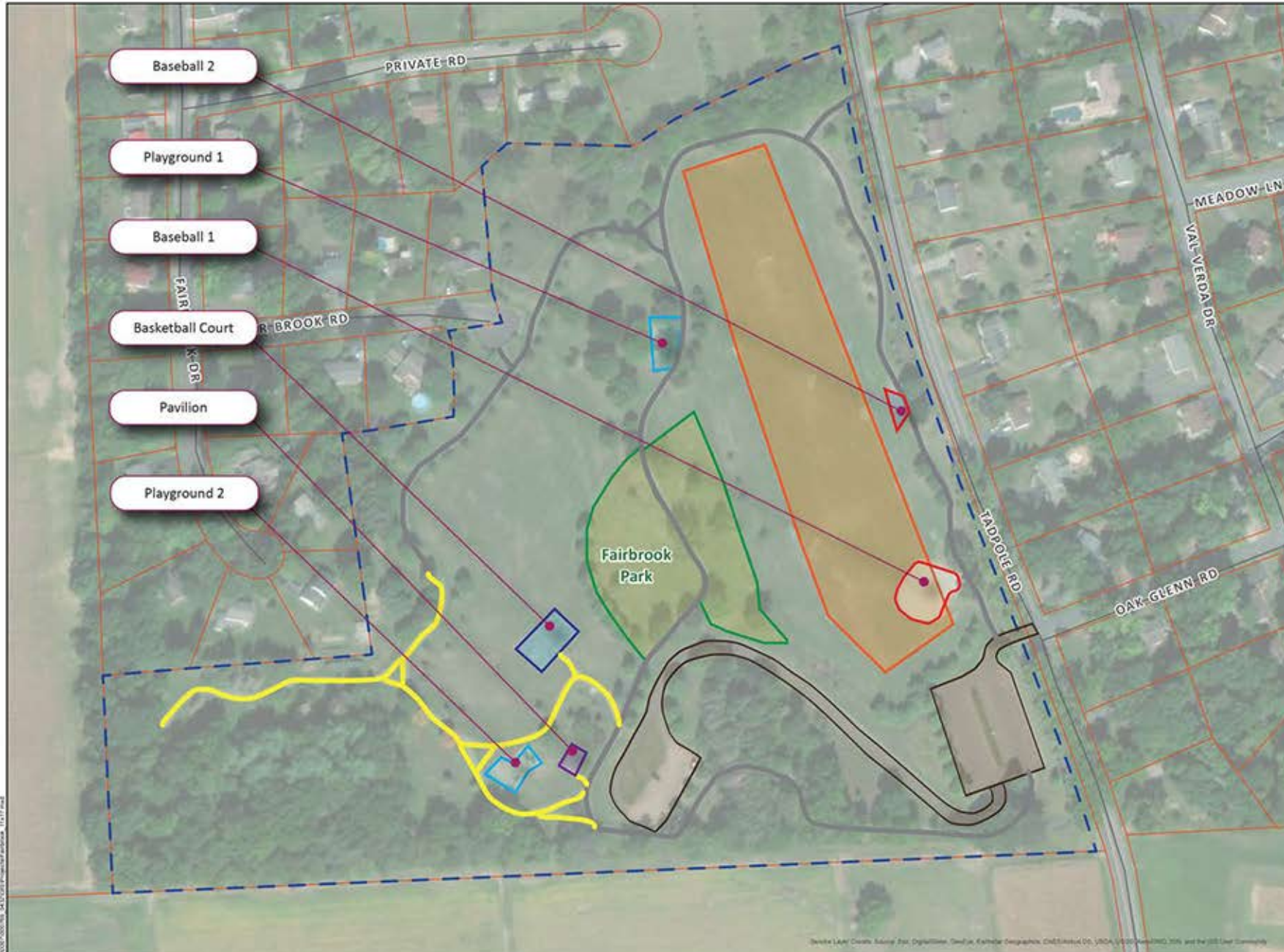


Mapping derived from data provided by TRK, PennDOT, Centre County, and USGS.

10/21/2021 RA: MM GIS: ACV QA: TS R000769-0432

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- Baseball 2
- Playground 1
- Baseball 1
- Basketball Court
- Pavilion
- Playground 2

Fairbrook Park

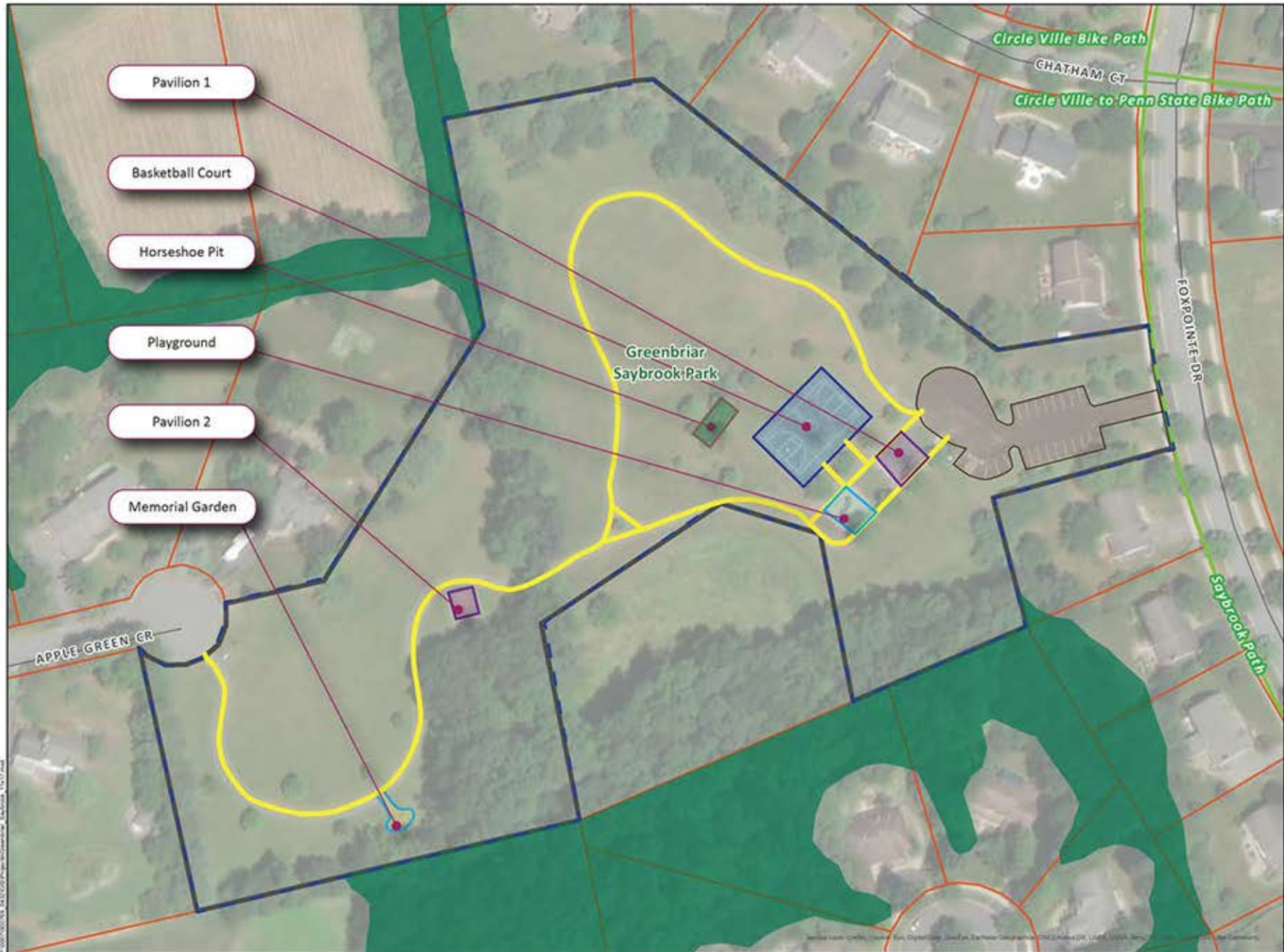
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Greenbriar Saybrook Park Inventory Map

Ferguson Township
Centre County, Pennsylvania

-  Park Boundary
-  Trails
-  Wooded Areas
-  Parcel boundary
-  Local Roads
-  Parking/Roads
-  Gravel Paths



Pavilion 1

Basketball Court

Horseshoe Pit

Playground

Pavilion 2

Memorial Garden

Greenbriar Saybrook Park

Circle Ville Bike Path

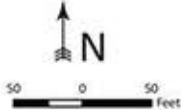
CHATHAM CT

Circle Ville to Penn State Bike Path

FOXPOINTE DR

Saybrook Path

APPLE GREEN CR



Mapping derived from data provided by FPA, ForestGIS, Centre County, and UNIS.
10/21/2021 PM: MM GIS: ALV QA: TL 800769 0432

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EXERCISE #5 – 2009 RPOS PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEW

In the 2022 RPOS Plan Update, the design team is responsible for updating the Plan Recommendations for the Township to utilize in parks, recreation, and open space planning, funding, and maintenance decisions for the next decade.

To begin that process, the design team would like the Township to provide their input on the Recommendations that were approved in the 2009 Plan Update.

Here are some questions to guide the review process:

- Which recommendations are still relevant?
- Which recommendations do you feel need to be changed/are no longer relevant? Why?
- Which recommendations have been implemented?
- Which recommendations have not been implemented? Why not?
- What are you hearing from your local recreation/sports associations and organizations? Is that input reflected in existing recommendations?

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Please review the 2009 RPOS Plan Recommendations on the following pages.
- **CIRCLE** recommendations that are still relevant.
- **Place an R** over recommendations that need to be **are no longer Relevant** or need to be **Revised**.
 - Please provide a brief explanation why.
- **CHECKMARK** the recommendations that have been implemented.
- **Place an X** over recommendations that have **NOT** been implemented.
 - Please provide a brief explanation why.

2009 RPOS Plan Recommendations

GENERAL

1. The Township should adopt this update to the Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan to be used as a guide for future park, recreation, and open space development and to continue the Township's compliance with the PA Municipalities Planning Code.
2. The Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan should be updated again in five years to assure that the proposed changes consistent with anticipated development.
3. The Board should establish an advisory committee to oversee implementation of updating of the plan and to advise priorities.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

1. The Township should adopt a minimum set of standards for parkland development. The recommendations for minimum development of parkland are:
 - a. Each park which has been only partially developed should be fully developed to meet the master plan recommendations.
 - b. Each park which has not been developed should have a master plan completed and development started in incremental stages.
 - c. During the master planning process the Township should ensure that there is an appropriate mix of active and passive recreation areas in each park to meet the needs of the park users. In addition, the public should be actively involved in determining the facilities that are constructed within the park.
 - d. The minimum facilities within each park should include a playground, picnic area, active recreation area and park trail that connects to adjacent bike paths.
 - e. The facilities planned in each park should be flexible in use (i.e. soccer and ballfield) and should be converted to meet changing needs.
 - f. The Township should provide CIP funding each year to develop portions of the park.
2. The Township has established and should continue to utilize a standard master planning process as outlined below:
 - a. A park planning consultant is retained to prepare the master plan.
 - b. A public meeting is held to obtain input from the public prior to the development of alternatives.
 - c. The consultant prepares several alternative conceptual plans based on citizen input.
 - d. A second public meeting is held to obtain input on the individual concepts and to determine which alternate or combination of alternatives is preferable.
 - e. The consultant prepares a final master plan alternative based on input from the public which is reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.
 - f. A public hearing is held by the Board of Supervisors Prior to adoption of the master plan.
 - g. The Township may apply for a grant or use capital funds to develop either a portion of or the entire park.
 - h. The Master Plan design shall be posted at each park location.

- i. As a general policy, the Township considers a park master plan good for approximately 15 years. If grant funding requires a newer master plan, the Township will evaluate updating the master plan prior to the 15-year limit. In addition, if the implementation of the Mater Plan improvements has not been undertaken within the 15- year time frame, the Township will consider redoing the Master Plan.
3. The Township should complete development of partially developed parks. The partially developed parks are:
 - a. Homestead Park
 - b. Fairbrook Park
 - c. Meadows Park
 - d. Suburban Park
 - e. Tudek Park
 - f. Haymarket Park
 - g. Greenbriar / Saybrook Park
 - h. Autumnwood Park
4. The Township should continue to utilize the Official Map to designate future parkland locations.
5. The Township should continue to utilize a regional master planning process for the development of community parkland.
6. The Township should determine the status of the following bike paths and, if appropriate, depict on the Official Map.
 - a. See list on page 38 of the plan.
7. The Township's Official Map should be revised to add the recommended open space areas. The recommended open space areas are:
 - a. Open Space 1 – adjacent to Overlook Heights which is owned by PSU and will be developed as an arboretum.
 - b. Open Space 2 – The Miller Caves, Scotia Barrens and Beaver Branch Gorge.
8. The Township should continue to pursue the purchase of agricultural conservation easements to manage growth and to preserve the industry of farming. This will allow the cost-effective provisions of services to residents located within the growth boundary.
9. The Township should limit the rezoning of RA land outside of the growth boundary as a strategy for the preservation and provision of adequate open space.
10. The Township should pursue additional forms of open space preservation such as greenways and linear parks.
11. The Township should coordinate the timing, funding, location, and maintenance of bike paths with adjacent municipalities where connections are feasible.
12. The Township should continue to pursue the opportunity to purchase open space adjacent to existing park facilities to expand recreational opportunities.

ORDINANCE REVISIONS

1. The Township Subdivision Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance should be updated regularly to ensure consistency with the goals and objectives of this Plan.
2. The zoning ordinance should be reviewed regularly to determine whether there is a need to revise the requirements to assure the protection of environmentally significant areas of the Township.

REGIONAL / COMMUNITY

1. The Township should actively support the acquisition and continued operation of other parks and recreation facilities in the Centre Region. Many facilities, although located in adjacent municipalities serve residents of Ferguson Township. Some facilities, such as the Millbrook Mash, Welsh and Park Forest Pools and the Senior Center are designed to serve the region. The recently acquired Oak Hall and Whitehall Road parkland parcels are also examples of facilities with a regional focus. These community facilities contribute to the level of service enjoyed by residents throughout the region.
2. The Township should utilize services of the CRPC to ensure that the plans of adjacent municipalities are compatible with this Plan Update.
3. The Township should continue to work with the COG to support the regional funding acquisition, development and operation for parks, trails and open space.

FINANCING

1. The RPOS Planning Committee Recommends that increasing taxes for the purpose of developing, maintaining and operating recreation and park facilities should be avoided.
2. The Township should pursue creative funding alternatives to develop the parks and bike paths and preserve open space.
3. The Township should continue to set aside a portion of each year's budget for parkland purchase or development.
4. The Township and the CRPR should continue, and look for opportunities to expand, the program for accepting financial contributions to acquire, develop and maintain parkland.
5. The Township and CRPR should continue, and look for opportunities to expand, the Park Partners program to maintain parks and recreation facilities.
6. The Township and CRPR should continue to apply for available grants on a yearly basis.