

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.