

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-2

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTING A REVISED AND UPDATED COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Township of Ferguson adopted a comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan (RPOS) on October 5, 1998 by Resolution 1998-14 and


WHEREAS, the plan has provided guidance to the Township in identifying the needs for future recreation, parks and open space and has met the requirements set forth in the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Supervisors has appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to advise and consult with the Township Planning and Zoning Director to revise and update the RPOS Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors adopts the revised an updated Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan dated December 2009 and attached as Exhibit "A" as though more fully set forth herein.

RESOLVED the 4th day of January, 2010.

TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON



Richard J. Killian, Chairman

ATTEST:



Mark A. Kunkle, Secretary

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP
RECREATION PARK AND OPEN SPACE
PLAN UPDATE
2009**

PLAN PURPOSE AND GOALS

The Township's first Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan was adopted by the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors in 1998. This Plan identified the importance of providing updates on a regular basis. This update of the Plan, begun in 2006, is intended to:

1. Identify the status of existing parks and other recreation resources and to subsequently determine the need for additional recreation, parks and open space opportunities in the Township.
2. Provide a document, for use at the local level, which will assist in determining consistency with the goals and objectives of the Regional Comprehensive Plan as well as provide guidance on the acquisition, conservation and preservation of park and open space resources in the community.

In February 2004, an Ad Hoc Recreation, Parks and Open Space (RPOS) Planning Committee was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to provide an update of this plan (Section 3.0 provides a listing of committee members). The RPOS Planning Committee followed a process that:

1. Identified the existing recreation, parks and open space facilities and programs in the Township.
2. Established goals for the RPOS Planning Committee and for the update of the Plan.
3. Utilized the format of the existing Plan
4. Identified the needs of the Township with regard to the acquisition of future parks, open space and trail facilities.
5. Provided a set of recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for implementation of the Plan.

The RPOS Planning Committee established the following goals to serve as guidelines for the Plan Update.

Goal: Develop a strategy that allows the Township to provide recreation, park, and open space facilities to current and future populations.

Objective: Determine the availability of recreational opportunities-within one-half mile of each Township resident

Objective: Establish a method for protecting and preserving community facilities and resources to serve future populations.

Objective: Identify funding alternatives for the acquisition, maintenance and development of existing and proposed parks, recreation, and open space

Goal: Evaluate how the services at the local level are impacted by the recently obtained regional park opportunities.

Objective: Identify what services are provided more efficiently and economically

on a regional basis.

Objective: Ensure the accessibility of regional parkland

Objective: Assure that the acquisition, design, and funding for regional facilities remains a regional responsibility that includes regional input

Goal: Provide safe and convenient access to park / open space for all residents of the Township

Objective: Provide the opportunity for the development of safe pedestrian / bicycle connections between existing and proposed parks and open space and for commuting purposes both within the Township and regionally

Objective: Coordinate infrastructure improvements with the location of the Regional Growth Boundary and Capital Improvements Planning.

Objective: Coordinate Park/ recreation /open space planning with other land use planning efforts.

Goal: Provide a range of park, recreation, and open space opportunities which support both active and passive recreation needs and serve all ages and abilities.

Objective: Acquire open space that includes opportunities to enhance natural areas as well as to develop recreation/sports fields

Objective: Propose multi-purpose facilities which can also be converted to other uses with minimal cost and effort.

Goal: Ensure public awareness and involvement in the planning process

Objective: Obtain public input during the development of the Update to the Plan.

Objective: Utilize the survey and facilities inventory to determine where there are gaps in the current delivery of services.

Objective: Hold a public hearing to obtain public feedback on the Update to the Plan

NATURAL FEATURES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ferguson Township is characterized by a diversity of land uses. A portion of the Township(14%) is located within the Regional Growth Boundary for the Centre Region. This acreage is predominately developed and contains residential, commercial, and employment uses. The Centre Region, defined as the Townships of College, Patton, Harris, Halfmoon, Ferguson and the Borough of State College, recently amended this boundary and extended the associated sewer service area. One value of the RGB is the ability to better define the area in which growth will occur, as well as the extent of the provision of the services needed to support such growth. The portion of the Township outside of the boundary is primarily rural and agricultural and is currently zoned to provide for the continuation of this pattern of development.

Based on this growth management approach to future community development, the RPOS Planning Committee determined that the location and amount of future recreation, park and open space should be impacted by the following factors:

1. The presence of natural features in the Township that should be preserved and, where appropriate, coordinated with the provision of parkland and/or recreational opportunities
2. Demographic distribution of residents and accessibility of recreation, park and open space facilities.
3. The availability of both appropriate land and adequate funding to allow the Township to provide the necessary services.
4. Consistency with the goals and objectives of the adopted Regional Comprehensive Plan

NATURAL FEATURES

Location and Topography

Ferguson Township is comprised of 49.7 square miles and is situated in the southwest corner of Centre County. The Township is bordered on the northeast by College Township, State College Borough and Harris Township; on the northwest by Patton Township and Halfmoon Township; on the southeast by Jackson Township and Barree Township in Huntingdon County; and on the southwest by Franklin Township, Huntingdon County. The Township is relatively flat with the exception of the southeast section of the Township that extends onto Tussey Mountain. The majority of steep slopes within the Township are located along the southern section of the Township on the Tussey Ridge.

Streams / Floodplains / Wetlands

Ferguson Township's perennial streams include portions of Halfmoon Creek, Spruce Creek, Beaver Branch and Slab Cabin Run. Portions of these streams however, are

also intermittent streams which dry up during periods of dry weather. In general the floodplains in the Township follow Halfmoon Creek, Spruce Creek, Beaver Branch, Slab Cabin Run and the Big Hollow Drainageway. There are also many low lying areas throughout the Township that hold water during heavy storms. The eastern half of the Township drains to the Spring Creek drainage area and the western half drains to the Spruce Creek drainage area.

According to the PA Fish and Game Commission, none of the streams located in Ferguson Township are stocked for recreational fishing purposes. All of the stocked fishing areas in the region are located outside of the Township.

The National Wetland Inventory maps for Ferguson Township indicate that small areas of wetlands are scattered throughout the Township and are mostly located within the floodplain areas.

Woodlands

The major areas of woodlands within the Township are located along the south end of the Township in the Rothrock State Forest, along the south side of Tadpole Road throughout the State Game Lands and west through the Penn State Lands on the north end of the Township.

Agricultural Lands

Approximately 15,000 acres of the Township's total 30,448 acres (approximately 49% percent) are located in an agricultural security area. This land, containing prime agricultural soils, is a unique and non-renewable resource that requires protection from the impacts of unmanaged growth and incompatible development. The Township currently participates in two programs which seek to sustain the industry of agriculture within the community.

The Township has established an agricultural security area which provides the opportunity for a landowner, who expresses the intent to continue farming, to be relieved from compliance with the Township's nuisance laws (ordinances which are related to restrictions such as odor, noise, etc). This allows everyday farming practices to continue without constituting a violation of Township code. In addition, acreage within the Agricultural Security Area then becomes eligible for the County Agricultural Land Conservation Easement Program. As of August 2007, there are a total of twelve (12) farms comprised of 1,954.44 acres of land located in Ferguson Township that have been purchased as part of the Agricultural Land Conservation Easement Program. This program, which is run by the County, is designed to preserve farmland for farming purposes. The owners of properties in the program have been paid a fee in return for the development rights to their property. Thus, the land will be preserved for agricultural use in perpetuity.

Sensitive Lands

According to the Centre County Natural Heritage Inventory prepared by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in 1991, there are six areas within Ferguson Township that are unique or uncommon within Centre County. These areas include the Beaver Branch Gorge, eastern side of Overlook Heights, Chime and Miller Caves, Scotia Barrens, Gobbler Knob Vernal Pools, and Fairbrook Cemetery, as well as areas of managed lands identified as Rothrock State Forest and State Game Lands Number 176. These areas also encompass an Audubon Important Bird Area and Important Mammal Areas established through the State Wildlife Society. Identification of these areas is important because it allowed the RPOS Planning Committee to determine whether or not these areas should be included in this plan as areas of open space preservation, as parks or open space, and/or as areas to avoid because of their environmental significance.

The Beaver Branch Gorge is a natural community located along the western edge of the Township between Tadpole Road and the Centre County / Huntingdon County border. The Beaver Branch Gorge is an old railroad grade with the remnants of a calcareous glade and beaver wetland. Historically this general area was known for several rare species, but today a gas pipeline runs through the area and the limestone glade appears to be disrupted. The east side of the gorge contains approximately 50 acres of pure eastern hemlock and white pine. Although the tree stand is only about 100 years old, the white pines and eastern hemlock represent a type of forest that was once more prevalent than it is today. Natural Heritage sites in Centre County are ranked according to their significance as areas of importance to the biological diversity and ecological integrity of the county. This site has been identified as having low county significance yet, it will have increasing importance to the future quality of the County's overall environment and merits the attention of planners and conservationists to maintain the area's present condition.

The area identified as comprising the Beaver Branch Gorge is in private ownership and currently falls within two different zoning districts; the RA Rural Agricultural and the RR Rural Residential. These districts have distinctly divergent abilities to protect this resource from future development. The RA zone allows only one lot to be subdivided for every fifty (50) acres while the RR zone permits unlimited one acre lot development. Although the RR zone includes an opportunity to utilize a conservation development design, this practice is not required. Without the application of this design approach, there is no language in the current code which would provide protection for the existing natural features identified by the inventory.

Calcareous cliff communities within the Gorge are threatened by adjacent upslope development and its associated runoff. Other threats include habitat alteration and recreational overuse. Several cliff communities are threatened by invasive species such as Black swallow-wort, Canada bluegrass, Garlic mustard, and Tree of heaven. This acreage is currently enrolled in the Clean and Green program, which provides some restrictions on development opportunities. However, it is recommended that the Township consider rezoning this area or, providing some type of overlay in the RR zone to provide a more appropriate level of long-term protection for this resource.

The Overlook Heights area is located on the east side of the Overlook Heights development on Penn State University land and straddles the boundary of Ferguson and College Townships. The area probably once supported a unique calcareous community but is now limited to a few isolated spots in the middle of largely developed lands. A rare species (species not named due to sensitivity) has been able to adapt to the disturbance but is in such a heavily traveled area that it is danger of being harvested, trampled or removed. This area is also considered to be of low importance to the biological diversity and ecological integrity of the county. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy recommends mowing be discontinued in this area and the site should be managed by a qualified biologist to help restore some of the habitat to insure that the species remains viable. This area appears to be encompassed entirely by the Township's RA Rural Agricultural zoning district which limits the potential for development to compromise the integrity of the resource. In addition, this acreage appears to be owned in its entirety by the University which intends to carry out plans to create an arboretum on the site. It is recommended that the Township discuss the recommendations of the Conservancy with Penn State personnel in order to provide the most appropriate preservation measures for the area and that an overlay zoning district continue to be considered as an appropriate tool for the protection of the resource(s) found in this location.

The Miller Caves are located on Penn State's Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Farm on the southeast side of State Route 45 adjacent to the Rothrock State Forest. Both the northern long-eared bat and the even rarer eastern small-footed bat have been documented to hibernate in this cave during the winter. This site is ranked high as a natural heritage area in Centre County, indicating outstanding significance. It supports possibly the rarest animal species (species not named due to sensitivity) in Centre County. These caves also support three other special animals and two natural communities. Because of the high significance of the caves, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy recommends they be fully protected and established as an area of no disturbance. This area falls entirely within the Township's AR Agricultural Research zoning district and entirely on University owned land. The AR zone was established to permit the uses associated with the University's Ag Research Days to take place in an area otherwise protected from such intrusions. As a result, a relatively wide range of uses are permitted. There is currently no language that would provide for protection of this significant resource. As above, it is recommended that the Township discuss the recommendations of the Conservancy with Penn State personnel in order to provide the most appropriate preservation measures for the area. An overlay, or the inclusion of other protective language within the AR district, could serve to greatly limit the impact to this resource.

The greatest threat to the globally rare aquatic animals that occupy the aquifer connected to these caves is the degradation of water quality in the aquifer through pollutant runoff from the watershed above. Sediment pollution, nutrient enrichment, and chemical contamination could all be very damaging to these species (names unknown). The bat populations cannot tolerate disturbances in the caves during their hibernation period in the winter months. Additionally, any physical alterations to the cave entrance

or the rock surrounding the cave could render the cave unusable to bats by altering the patterns of air and water flow such that the microclimate conditions would no longer meet their requirements.

The Scotia Barrens is a 9,000 acre scrub oak-pitch pine community located in the north central section of the Township straddling the Township's border with Patton and Halfmoon Townships. It is currently considered one of Pennsylvania's Important Bird Areas (IBA's). A majority of the Scotia Barrens is located within and around State Game Lands Number 176. The Scotia Barrens is identified as high significance and is one of the highest priority sites in the County. In fact, three natural communities, three special plants and fourteen special animals have a habitat within this area. This unique habitat is one of the largest barrens left in Pennsylvania. It harbors large numbers of Neotropical migrants during spring and fall migration. Thirty-three species of warblers have been observed. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy recommends that because of the high county significance of the Scotia barrens it should be fully protected and established as an area of no disturbance. The land within this area that is controlled by the Commonwealth falls within the FG Forest and Gameland zoning district. This limits the development potential of this acreage and provides reasonable protection to the resources identified. However, land within the Barrens that falls outside of the State Game Lands is located in both the AR Agricultural Residential and RR Rural Residential zoning districts. If the limits of the Barrens can be defined, it would be appropriate to provide both some form of protection for the area itself, as well as some form of buffer on the adjacent lands to preserve the integrity of the resource. This is an area of heavy use by humans for foot travel, biking, and hunting. Attempts have been made, with little success, to provide buffer areas between the Gamelands and encroaching housing developments. It is again recommended that the Township consider amending the existing code to establish some form of overlay district that would provide the appropriate level of protection.

There are two publicly managed areas within the Township including Rothrock State Forest and the State Game Lands Number 176. The State Game Lands are located in the north central section of the Township and straddle the Township's boundary with Patton and Halfmoon Townships. The Rothrock State Forest is located on Tussey Mountain along the southern boundary of the Township adjacent to the Township's border with Huntingdon County. Both of these areas are considered to be of high County significance. As noted above, the zoning applicable to both these areas is FG Forest and Gameland. Acreage adjacent to Rothrock State Forest falls within the Township's RR Rural Residential zoning district which has been previously identified as providing limited protection. However, in the area of Tussey Mountain, the Township recently adopted Ridge Overlay zoning that aims to protect the fragile soils and steep slopes of the mountain side from inappropriate and indiscriminate development. This overlay acts as a form of buffer between the State Forest and the more intensely developed areas along Routes 45 & 26. To the west, acreage adjacent to the State lands is owned by the University and falls within the AR Agricultural Research zoning district. As mentioned previously, the Township should consider discussing future land uses with Penn State personnel in order to provide the most appropriate preservation

measures for the area. An overlay, or the inclusion of other protective language within the AR district, could serve to greatly limit potential impacts to this area which borders State Gameland and State Forest.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As noted above, the adopted Regional Growth Boundary establishes a basis for managing the amount and location of growth in the Township. According to the guidelines of the National Recreation and Parks Association, the means for determining the appropriateness of the acreage and distribution of parkland and the availability of recreational opportunities is directly related to the size and location of the population to be served. As a result, the following sections provide data on the past and present population as well as forecasts for future growth in the Township and comparisons to the Region, the County, and the State.

The demand for recreational services and, in some cases the type of recreational opportunities desired, is often the product of the socio-economic characteristics of the subject population. Therefore, census data, such as income, employment, and educational attributes is incorporated here in order to track trends and/or establish relationships in these areas over time.

Population Growth

Ferguson Township has been one of the fastest growing Townships in the Centre Region. Population tripled in the 30 years between 1960 and 1990. The 2000 Census data identified another significant rise in the number of Township residents. All projections seem to indicate that the Township will continue to grow; perhaps more slowly but, at a steady pace.

The following table shows the growth of Ferguson Township in relation to the Centre Region as a whole from 1960 through the 2000 census.

TABLE 2-4				
POPULATION				
AREA	1960¹	1980¹	1990¹	2000¹
Ferguson Township	3,832	8,105	9,349	14,063
Centre Region	34,147	62,015	71,633	79,406
¹ Data from the U.S. Census				

From 1980-1990, Ferguson Township's population grew approximately 34 percent while the Centre Region as a whole grew approximately 9 percent. Between 1990 and 2000,

Ferguson Township's population grew by more than 50 percent which is almost five times (5x) the rate of growth within the Centre Region as a whole.

General Demographics

Table 2-5 identifies the median age of the residents of the Township and the percentage of the population less than 18 years and over 65 years in 2000. Also noted is the percentage of older residents with some form of disability. Growth in this demographic may suggest the importance of providing recreational opportunities that are designed consistent with ADA regulations.

TABLE 2-5				
2000 GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS¹				
AREA	MEDIAN AGE	UNDER 18 YEARS	OVER 65 YEARS	OVER 65 WITH A DISABILITY
Ferguson Township	31.8 years	22%	10%	23%
Centre County	28.7 years	18%	10%	36%
State of Pennsylvania	38.0 years	24%	16%	39%

¹ U.S. Census, 2000

The median age of the Township in 2000 was higher than the County, but lower than the State. Assuming the distribution of the population has not changed drastically since 2000, more than a fifth of the Township's population is less than 18 years of age while less than 1500 residents are over 65. Over the next several years, it is expected that the median age of the population and the percentage over 65 years will increase as baby boomers reach retirement age and retirees continue to migrate to the area.

Future Population Growth

Table 2-6 identifies the estimated future populations for Ferguson Township and the Centre Region based on forecasts by the Centre Region Planning Agency.

TABLE 2-6			
ESTIMATED FUTURE POPULATION			
AREA	2010	2020	2030
Ferguson Township	16,027 ¹	19,359 ¹	21,513 ¹
Centre Region	85,689	91,972	98,255

¹ Estimated population based on housing units and average population per household.
² Data estimated from Centre Region Planning Population Projections.

Over the next twenty (20) years, it is estimated that the population of Ferguson Township could increase by approximately 5,500 people or about 36 percent if current growth trends continue. The Region's population is anticipated to increase approximately 15 percent during the same time period.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

Income

Table 2-7 details the per capita income, household median income and average family size in Ferguson Township compared to the Centre Region, Centre County and the State of Pennsylvania. Income is directly related to leisure services. Higher levels of affluence are associated with higher levels of participation, varied interests and a willingness to pay for services.

TABLE 2-7			
2000 INCOME AND FAMILY SIZE¹			
AREA	PER CAPITA INCOME	MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME	AVERAGE FAMILY SIZE
Ferguson Township	\$22,724	\$62,461	3.00
Centre Region	\$22,900	\$62,334	2.99
Centre County	\$18,020	\$50,557	2.95
State of Pennsylvania	\$20,880	\$49,184	3.04

¹ U.S. Census 2000 (figures not adjusted for inflation)

While family size is relatively consistent in the State, County, Region, and Township, the table reveals that median family income is distinctly different when comparing the Township and Region with the County and the State. This same disparity is identified by the figures which indicate per capita income.

Housing

Table 2-8 identifies housing data related to Ferguson Township as well as the Centre Region, Centre County, and the State of Pennsylvania. Home ownership is one indicator of affluence.

TABLE 2-8				
2000 HOUSING UNIT STATUS ¹				
AREA	PERCENT OF HOUSING UNITS OWNER OCCUPIED	MEDIAN VALUE OF OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING	UNITS THAT ARE SINGLE FAMILY DETACHED	UNITS BUILT SINCE 1990
Ferguson Township	59.6%	\$144,900	59%	36%
Centre Region	89%	\$129,367	44%	19%
Centre County	60.2%	\$114,900	57%	17%
State of Pennsylvania	71.3%	\$97,000	56%	10%
¹ U.S. Census 2000				

Ferguson Township's households include a wide variety of single family detached and attached homes, duplexes, quadraplexes, mobile homes, apartments and personal care homes. The Township is similar to both Centre **County** and the State of Pennsylvania in terms of the percentage of owner occupied housing units. However, Ferguson Township has the lowest percentage of owner occupied homes in the Centre **Region**, where the average is significantly higher than the remainder of the County. This may be due to the average value of housing in the Township or may be an indication of the family status of Township residents. This lower incidence of home ownership may also relate to the affordability of homes in the Township. Many families may simply be unable to afford their own home thus increasing the number of rental properties.

The Township's median value of owner occupied housing in 2000 is 12 percent more than the Centre Region, 26 percent more than Centre County and 49 percent more than the State of Pennsylvania. This tends to support the suggestion that home ownership rates are lower due to the high costs of homeownership in the Township

More than one-third of the Township's dwelling units were constructed in the last decade (1990-2000); nearly twice the amount of new units in the Region as a whole. This rate of growth impacts the Township's ability to provide the necessary infrastructure to support these new residents in a timely manner. Even land acquired as part of the development approval process cannot be immediately ready to serve as park and open space facilities to these new inhabitants. Although the Township should appropriately anticipate growth, it must rely on capital improvement planning to implement the expected park improvements. Thus, there may always be a discrepancy

between the demand for parkland and its availability for active recreation.

Employment

Table 2-9 shows the unemployment rate in 2000 of Ferguson Township, Centre County and the State of Pennsylvania.

TABLE 2-9	
EMPLOYMENT STATUS ¹	
AREA	2000 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT
Ferguson Township	1.6%
Centre County	3.3%
State of Pennsylvania	3.5%
¹ U.S. Census 2000	

In 2000 Ferguson Township had a significantly lower percentage of unemployment than Centre County and the State of Pennsylvania. The Centre Region continues to have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the State of Pennsylvania.

Education

Table 2-10 details the educational attainment level for Ferguson Township, the Centre Region, Centre County, and the State of Pennsylvania. Educational attainment is the strongest indicator of an individual's income potential, attitudes and spending habits.

TABLE 2-10			
2000 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT ¹			
AREA	OVER 25 YEARS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR HIGHER	OVER 25 YEARS BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER	OVER 25 YEARS GRADUATE DEGREE
Ferguson Township	95.0%	56.0%	29.0%
Centre Region	95.0%	59.0%	31.0%
Centre County	88.2%	36.3%	17.5%
State of Pennsylvania	81.9%	22.4%	8.4%
¹ U.S. Census 2000			

The Centre Region's over -25 population is more highly educated than that of the County or State. Ferguson Township residents are closely aligned with these regional

numbers. This is most likely due to the proximity of the University and the characteristics of the work force which supports the businesses located within the Township.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors solicited citizen input into the development of the Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan by:

1. Appointing Township residents to the Ad Hoc Recreation, Parks and Open Space (RPOS) Planning Committee.
2. Providing a resident survey of Parks, Recreation and Open Space.
3. Scheduling public meetings to review the RPOS Committee's recommendations.

RPOS Planning Committee

In 2004 Ferguson Township began the selection process for the Ad Hoc RPOS Planning Committee whose members would be responsible for development of the Recreation Parks and Open Space Plan for the Township. Township staff developed a list of knowledgeable residents who should be involved in the development of the Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan. These persons included:

1. One Representative from the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors
2. One Representative from the Ferguson Township Planning Commission
3. Ferguson Township Representative to the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Board
4. The Centre Region Director of Parks and Recreation
5. The Ferguson Township Director of Planning and Zoning

The range of recreation experience from the RPOS Planning Committee is broad. The following list identifies the membership in the RPOS Planning Committee:

1. George Pytel - Ferguson Township Supervisor
2. Bill Zeigler - Ferguson Township Planning Commission
3. Sue Mascolo - Ferguson Township Representative to the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Board
4. Dale Roth - Penn State Director of Recreation Services
5. Ronald Woodhead - Director of the Centre Region Parks & Rec. Agency
6. Trisha Lang - Ferguson Township Director of Planning and Zoning
7. Brad Ross – Biological Consultant
8. Donald Suit – Ferguson Township Planning Commission

PUBLIC INPUT AND REVIEW

Upon completion of the first draft of this plan copies were distributed for review to several different agencies. The Township solicited comment on the plan from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Centre Region Planning Agency, Centre Region Planning Commission, Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department, Ferguson Township Planning Commission and Ferguson Township Board

of Supervisors.

In order to obtain input from the public, the following were done:

1. An article was placed in the Township Newsletter which identified the goals of the Plan and provided a survey for input to the Plan.
2. The Planning Commission reviewed the Plan during public meetings on November 23, and December 8, 2009.
3. On February 16, 2009, the Board of Supervisors received a presentation of the Plan at a public meeting.
5. In May 2008, the Township held an Open House which was attended by approximately 300 residents. One of the displays was the Recreation Plan. In addition a representative was on hand to receive comment and answer any questions raised.
6. On December 14, 2009, the Board of Supervisors held a public hearing to receive comment on the Update to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

In general, although the public had opportunity to comment on the plan, there were no comments that significantly changed the content of the current Plan update.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SURVEY

In 2006, the Township distributed a Parks, Recreation and Open Space survey through the Township Newsletter to all households within Ferguson Township. This survey asked residents about their opinion of parks and open space, recreation programs, and the level of service and commitment to parks and recreation. Of the surveys that were sent out, 95 were returned; a 1.3% response rate. A sampling of the key survey results which have an impact on this Plan Update are identified below.¹ A copy of the entire survey is available at the Ferguson Township Office.

Based on the results of the survey, a broad set of assumptions influenced the development of the Ferguson Township Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan. These include:

1. The availability of parkland is very important to the majority of residents of Ferguson Township.
2. Convenient access to Township parkland is very important to the residents of Ferguson Township.
3. Preserved open space is very important to Ferguson Township residents.
4. Ferguson Township Parks were visited on average 1-2 times/week by nearly one-half of those responding to the survey.
5. The attributes which attract visitors to the Township parks include open space,

¹ Note: Not all questions were answered by each individual and some questions asked for more than one response, therefore totals may not be 100%.

- trails, woods, and convenience.
6. Factors which discourage residents from using Township parks include distance, not having the desired facilities, and a lack of interest.
 7. The most desired improvements to the existing park system include natural areas, flush toilets, off-leash dog areas, and picnic areas.
 8. Ferguson Township residents are satisfied with the Township's efforts to provide parkland and other recreational opportunities
 9. Ferguson Township residents believe that the quality of the programs currently offered is adequate and that the level of park maintenance is high.
 10. Ferguson Township residents agree that more parkland is needed in the Township.
 11. Ferguson Township residents are generally satisfied with the amount and location of parkland in the Township
 12. Ferguson Township residents strongly support linking local parks with a bikeway network.
 13. Ferguson Township residents strongly agree that more effort should be placed on protecting environmental features of the Township. These areas include woodlands, wildlife areas, meadows, wetlands, streams, etc.
 14. A majority of respondents agree that more effort should be placed on providing fields for active recreation such as football, soccer, softball, etc.
 15. The majority of respondents agree that the development of Township parks should follow a master planning process.
 16. Ferguson Township residents agree that a portion of municipal taxes should be dedicated to open space / parkland acquisition and support placing this issue on the ballot as a referendum

With regard to the then proposed purchase of regional parkland on Whitehall Road, the survey results reveal the following:

1. The most important features to provide at this facility would include fitness trails, restrooms, parking areas, public gardens, and picnic areas.
2. The majority of respondents would access the site by motor vehicle although many indicated the intent to walk or bike
3. Facilities in the park should not target a single age group. However, facilities specifically for pre-school and college age individuals were the least supported.
4. Most of the respondents felt that the availability of a community-wide facility would be just as important in meeting their recreational needs. However, a considerable percentage felt it would not be as important as the local park sites.

These assumptions will be used in to assist in establishing the ultimate recommendations of the Plan Update.

EXISTING FACILITY AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

TOWNSHIP OWNED

There is a wide variety of open space located in the Township that is available to residents. The following table lists municipal parkland, acreage, and a summary of existing facilities at each location:

FAIRBROOK PARK

Fairbrook Park is a twenty-nine acre park located on the south side of Whitehall Road between Tadpole Road and the Fairbrook Subdivision. The southeast end of the park borders on the Russell E. Larsen Agricultural Research Center.

The park provides a wide variety of equipment and facilities which can be used by all age groups. The baseball fields and soccer fields are used for league play. There are no formal pedestrian or bicycle access points in the park.

AUTUMNWOOD PARK

Autumnwood park contains nine and one-half (9.5) acres and is located at the southeast end of the proposed Foxpointe subdivision. Vehicular access to the park is from Autumnwood Drive. There are no formal pedestrian or bicycle access points to this park

GREENBRIAR/SAYBROOK PARK

The Greenbriar/Saybrook park is an eight and one-half (8.5) acre park located between the Greenbriar and Saybrook subdivisions on the south side of Sleepy Hollow Road. Vehicular access to the park is through North Foxpointe Drive on the Saybrook side and Apple Green Drive on the Greenbriar side. Dedicated pedestrian and bicycle access exists via the Tudek/Circleville bike path.

HAYMARKET PARK

Haymarket Park is a twelve (12) acre park which is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Blue Course Drive and Bristol Avenue. The southern edge of the property abuts the Stonebridge open space which is where the State College Area Little League baseball fields are located. Vehicular access to this park is via Blue Course Drive. Dedicated pedestrian and bicycle access is through the bike path which is located on the west side of Blue Course Drive.

HOMESTEAD PARK

Homestead Park is a ten (10) acre park located between Farmstead Lane, Berkshire Drive and Cambridge Drive in the Homestead Farms subdivision. Dedicated pedestrian access to the site is provided through three easements between the single-family home lots which surround the park. There are no bicycle paths which access the site although there is a walking/bicycle path which surrounds the perimeter of the park. Both bicycles and pedestrians can access the site from Yorkshire Drive.

MEADOWS PARK

Meadows Park is a four (4.0) acre park located on the east side of Timothy Lane in the Meadows subdivision. Vehicular access and on-street parking are from Timothy Lane. There is no dedicated pedestrian or bicycle access to this park.

OVERLOOK TOT LOT

The Overlook Tot Lot is located on a one(1) acre parcel at the eastern corner of Overlook Heights. This park is very small and is developed for small children only. The Clinton Avenue/McKee Street bike path connects the tot lot with Sunset Park in State

College Borough. Vehicles can only reach the site via East Clinton Avenue and, with the exception of the bike path, this is the only access for bicycles and pedestrians.

PARK HILLS PARK

Park Hills Park is a four (4.0) acre linear park located on the east side of Park Hills Avenue on the north side of Circleville Road. The only vehicular access is from Park Hills Avenue where parking is permitted along the street. There are three dedicated pedestrian easements which connect Glenwood Drive, Cherry Hill Road and Oxford Circle to Park Hills Park. There are no bicycle paths which connect with this park. The facilities at this park are geared toward younger children.

SUBURBAN PARK

Suburban Park is a ten (10) acre park located on the north end of Overlook Heights adjacent to Vairo Boulevard. Vehicle access is from Suburban Avenue.

TOM TUDEK MEMORIAL PARK

Tom Tudek Memorial Park is an eighty-seven (87) acre park located between Circleville Road, Martin Street, West Aaron Drive and Park Hills Avenue. Vehicular access to the site is currently via Herman Drive and Park Crest Lane. Access to the site for pedestrians and bicyclists is provided by the Tudek/Circleville Bike Path which extends through the site from Circleville Road to West Aaron Drive.

WESTFIELD PARK

Westfield Park is a 1.5 acre park located on the north side of Sunday Drive in the Westfield Subdivision. The park is situated so that the parkland dedication from future subdivisions can be added to this park to create a larger more community oriented park. Access to the park is from a future road to be built as additional land develops.

CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES NOT LOCATED IN FERGUSON TOWNSHIP

There are a wide variety of park and recreation facilities which are not located in Ferguson Township but are readily available for use by Township residents. The following list identifies the facilities, the acreage, and the recreation opportunities available at each location.

College Township – 180acres

Thompson Woods Playlot	1.8	
Harris Acres Parklet	2.0	
Mt. Nittany Terrace Parklet	2.7	
Oak Grove Parklet	2.92	
Nittany Orchard Park	6.3	Playground, tennis court, basketball court, youth ball field, gazebo
Moutainside Park	7.17	
Penn Hills Park	10.14	Youth ball field, play equipment
Slab Cabin Park	14.02	Picnic pavilion, playground, seasonal sledding slope, covered bridge
Dalevue Park	14.78	Playground, picnic pavilion, bike path, basketball, tennis court, volleyball, youth ball field
Fogleman Fields Park	15	Soccer fields, walking paths
Stoney Batter Natural Area	32.90	Hiking trail to Mt. Nittany overlooks
Spring Creek Park	33.99	Playground, horseshoes, picnic pavilions, sand volleyball, tennis courts, walking paths, adult softball field, adult baseball field, fitness unit, covered bridge, fishing, restrooms, maintenance building
Thompson Woods Preserve	36.6	Hiking trails, nature study

Shamrock Avenue Park	-----	Future development
Stearn's Crossing Park	-----	Future development

Harris Township – 64 acres

Country Place Park	4.1	Playground, half-court basketball
Blue Spring Park	8	Basketball, youth ball fields with seasonal soccer field, seasonal ice rink, playground, pavilion
Nittany View Park	9	Pavilion, playground, walking path, youth ball field, seasonal soccer field
Kaywood Park	10	Playground, pavilion, basketball court, youth ballfield
Stan Yoder Memorial Preserve	15	Walking paths, nature study
Eugene Fasick Park	18.3	Playground, bocce court, horseshoes, youth ball field, pavilion, basketball court, nature trails

Patton Township – 235 acres

Carnegie Drive Tot Lot	0.4	Play equipment, tot swings, spring riders, drinking fountain, benches, tables
Ridgemont Parklet	0.46	Basketball court, swing set, benches
Park Forest Tot Lot	0.85	Pavilion, playground
Graycairn Park	1.5	Intended to remain as open space
Ghaner Drive Parklet	2.21	Play equipment, swings, pavilion, drinking fountain, benches, tables
Cedar Cliff Park	2.48	Intended to remain as open space
Oakwood Park	4.33	Playground, pavilions, youth ball field, walking path, drinking fountain
Marjorie Mae Park	4.7	Play equipment, pavilion
Woodycrest Park	6.0	Playground, basketball court, youth ball field with seasonal soccer field, pavilion, drinking fountain
Ambleside Park	7.14	For Future Development
Graysdale Park	14.1	Playground, soccer field, youth ball field, basketball, pavilion, walking path
Green Hollow Park	15.64	Playground & tot lot, pavilion, tennis courts, basketball court, youth ball field
Circleville Park	37.69	Playground, dedicated soccer field, youth ball field, pavilion, disc-golf course, walking path, future development
Patton Wood's Natural Recreation Area	62.7	
Bernel Road Park	74.36	For Future Development

State College Borough – 115 acres

Central Parklet	0.5	Tot climbing apparatus, picnic tables, at-grade stage
Nittany Village Park	0.5	Playground, picnic tables
East Fairmount Park	1.5	Playground, picnic tables
South Hills Park	1.5	Playground, covered picnic table, basketball court
Smithfield Park	1.7	Playground, picnic pavilion, half-court basketball
Tusseyview Park	4.5	Playground, basketball, tennis courts, picnic pavilion
High Point Park	6.2	Playground, basketball, tennis court, youth ball field with seasonal soccer field, picnic tables
Thompson Woods Preserve	6.75	Hiking trails, nature study
Holmes-Foster Park	11	Picnic pavilions, playground areas, basketball court, horseshoes, bocce courts, restrooms
Orchard Park	19.4	Playgrounds, picnic pavilion, lawn volleyball court, tennis courts, adult softball field with seasonal soccer field, youth ball field, basketball court, bike path, walking path, amphitheater, restrooms
Walnut Springs Park	19.4	Hiking trails, nature study

Sunset Park	20	Playground, picnic pavilions, basketball court, exercise trail, horseshoes, youth ball field, hiking trail, restrooms
Lederer Park	21.8	Walking paths, arboretum, picnic pavilions

CENTRE REGION NON-MUNICIPAL RECREATION FACILITIES

Non-municipal recreation facilities located throughout the Centre Region include: The Pennsylvania State University Intramural Fields and athletic facilities such as Recreation Hall, White Building, Intramural Building, Bryce Jordan Center, Beaver Stadium, and various walking and bicycle paths located on PSU land. The Blue Golf course, located between the Teaberry Ridge PRD and West College Avenue on the east side of Corl Road, provides a public golf course for the Centre Region. Additionally, Toftrees Golf Course, PSU White Golf Course, Pebble Creek Miniature Golf Course, and various fitness facilities owned and operated as private business enterprises are available for residents.

Other non-profit, non-municipal facilities, acquired through the subdivision and land development ordinance provisions that require dedication of open space, are owned by various Homeowners Associations throughout the Township. This type of open space is private and intended to be for use only by the residents of the neighborhood development which it serves. Some of these are developed for active recreation and some accommodate passive recreation.

Centre Soccer Field	9.0	Young Scholars of Central Pennsylvania
Greenleaf Manor PRD Open Space	4.7	Greenleaf Manor Homeowners Association
Stonebridge PRD Open Space	9.75	Stonebridge Homeowners Association
Teaberry Ridge PRD Open Space	6.5	Teaberry Ridge Homeowners Association
Landings PRD Open Space	12.4	Landings Homeowners Association
Foxpointe PRD Open Space	13.9	Foxpointe Homeowners Association
Homestead Farms Open Space	5.7	Cato Associates & Ginther Family

Greenleaf Manor PRD Open Space

The Greenleaf Manor PRD Open Space consists of two (2) main lots. The first lot is 2.1 acres and is planned to be developed as private open space for the residents of the PRD with a basketball court, play equipment and benches.

The second open space area in the PRD is a 2.6 acre stormwater management facility which will be developed with a soccer field and parking area to be used as a regional facility.

Stonebridge PRD Open Space

The Stonebridge PRD Open Space is private open space located on two (2) separate lots. The first lot is located on the north side of Bristol Avenue, is 5.75 acres in size and contains two ball fields which are used exclusively by the State College Area Little League. The second open space area, located on the south side of Bristol Avenue, is 4.0 acres in size and contains a swimming pool, picnic pavilion, two tennis courts, volleyball court and picnic grove and is for the exclusive use of the Homeowners Association.

Foxpointe PRD Open Space

The Foxpointe PRD has 13.9 acres of open space of which 9.4 acres are dedicated to stormwater management

Landings PRD Open Space

The Landings PRD has three (3) open space areas which are for the residents of the

PRD only. The first area is a 7.4 acre parcel developed with a baseball field for use by the Teener League. This site is also proposed to be developed with a pavilion, grills, play equipment, and swings. The second area is a 4.2 acre stormwater management area to be developed with a soccer field, volleyball court, horseshoe pits and a playground. The third area is an 0.8 acre parcel which is proposed as a vacant passive recreation area that connects to Haymarket Park.

Teaberry Ridge PRD Open Space

The Teaberry Ridge PRD has two areas of open space. The first is the Tudek / Circleville Bikeway and a 6.5 acre natural area which extends along the eastern edge of the property. The second is another natural area and a walking path on the west side of Corl Road between Megan Drive and Sowards Place.

Homestead Farms Open Space

The Homestead Farms Open Space is 5.7 acres located between Valley Vista Drive and Berkshire Drive in the Homestead Farms III Subdivision. The land is partially wooded, partially meadow and does not have any improvements. At one time this land was offered for dedication to the Township, but was rejected due to the steep slopes. A small portion (0.9 acres) of the open space is privately owned and maintained by Ray and Jeannie Ginther, and the remaining section is owned by Cato Associates. Although the entire property is held in private ownership, it is available for public use.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Some recreational facilities, although located in one municipality, are available to all residents of the region. At some of these facilities, fees are charged to cover operating expenses. The table below identifies the name, address, and acreage of each such facility. As with the locally owned facilities, maintenance and programming of these are the responsibility of the Centre Region Parks and Rec Department.

Centre Region Senior Center	-----	131 S. Fraser Street #1 State College, PA
Houserville Elementary Ballfield	1.5	Houserville Elementary School State College, PA
Ferguson Elementary Ballfields	3	Ferguson Elementary School Pine Grove Mills ,PA
Wm. Welch Community Pool	3.15	670 Westerly Parkway State College, PA
Radio Park Elementary Ballfields	4	Radio Park Elementary School State College, PA
Park Forest Community Pool	4.4	2100 School Drive State College, PA
Millbrook Marsh Nature Center	62	614 Puddintown Road State College, PA
Oak Hall Parkland	68	102 Linden Hall Road State College, PA
Whitehall Road Parkland	75	Blue Course Drive State College, PA

EXISTING RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department coordinates recreation programs and services at Township Parks and other facilities throughout the Township and the Region. These programs and services are offered year round and serve all ages of people. The specific activities run by CRPR, Centre Soccer and various other

organizations that coordinate recreation programs that occur in Ferguson Township parks are identified in the following chart:

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES IN FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS	
Fairbrook Park	Softball, Soccer, Baseball, Neighborhood Park Program
Ferguson Elementary School	Neighborhood Park Program
Homestead Park	Softball, Soccer, Baseball, Neighborhood Park Program
Meadows Park	Neighborhood Park Program
Overlook Heights	No Programs or Activities
Park Hills Park	Neighborhood Park Program
Suburban Park	Softball, Tennis, Baseball, Neighborhood Park Program
Tudek Park	Softball, Soccer, Baseball

REGIONAL FACILITIES

The following list identifies regional park and recreational facilities located outside of the Centre Region. Most are located within a two hour drive, and all are open to the public. While many of these are State owned and operated, some are non-profit, and others are commercial business ventures.

Bald Eagle State Park - Located in Centre County off of State Route 150 - Facilities and activities include picnicking, ballfield, playground, beach, snack bar, fishing, boat rentals, boat mooring, boat launching, wheelchair accessible, bicycle rentals, ice fishing, ice skating, camping and showers.
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/baldeagle.

Black Moshannon State Park - Located in Centre County off of State Route 504 - Facilities and activities include picnicking, beach, snack bar, fishing, boat rentals, boat mooring, boat launching, wheelchair accessible, hiking, ice fishing, ice skating, camping and showers.
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/blackmoshannon

Greenwood Furnace State Park - Located in Huntingdon County off of State Route 305 - Facilities and activities include picnicking, ballfield, playground, beach, snack bar, fishing, wheelchair accessible, hiking, ice fishing, ice skating, camping and showers.
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/greenwoodfurnace

McCall Dam State Park - Located in Centre County off of State Route 192 - Facilities and activities include picnicking and fishing.
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/mccallsdam

Parker Dam State Park - Located in Clearfield County off of State Route 153 - Facilities and activities include picnicking, ballfield, playground, beach, snack bar, fishing, boat rentals, boat launching, wheelchair accessible, hiking, bicycle rentals, ice fishing, skating, camping and showers.
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/parkerdam

Penn Roosevelt State Park - Located in Centre County off of Interstate Route 322 - Facilities and activities include picnicking, fishing, wheelchair accessible, hiking, ice fishing, ice skating and camping.
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/pennroosevelt

Poe Paddy State Park - Located in Centre County off of Interstate Route 322 - Facilities and activities include picnicking, playground, fishing, wheelchair accessible, hiking and camping.

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/poepaddy

Poe Valley State Park - Located in Centre County off of Interstate Route 322 - facilities and activities include picnicking, playground, beach, snack bar, fishing, boat rentals, boat launching, boat mooring, hiking, ice fishing, ice skating and camping. www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/poevalley

Reeds Gap State Park - Located in Mifflin County off of Interstate Route 322 - Facilities and activities include picnicking, playground, pool, snack bar, fishing, hiking and camping.

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/reedsgap

S.B. Elliott State Park - Located in Clearfield County off of State Route 153 - Facilities and activities include picnicking, ballfield, playground, hiking and camping.

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/sbelliott

Shaver's Creek Environmental Center - Located in Huntingdon County off of State Route 26 next to the Stone Valley Recreation Center - Facilities and activities include nature exhibits and education programs, hiking, picnicking and a raptor center. www.shaverscreek.org

Stone Valley Recreational Facility - Located in Huntingdon County off of State Route 26 - Facilities and activities include picnicking, fishing, hiking, boating, ice skating, lodge and cabin rentals. www.psu.edu/Stone_Valley

Tussey Mountain Ski Area - Located in Centre County off of State Route 322 - Facilities include ski slopes, restaurant, driving range, par three golf course, summer concerts and go carts. www.tusseymountain.com

Whipple Dam State Park - Located in Huntingdon County off of State Route 26 - Facilities and activities include picnicking, beach, snack bar, fishing, boat mooring, boat launching, wheelchair accessible, hiking, ice fishing and ice skating. www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/whippedam

Sproul State Forest: The 278,000-acre Sproul State Forest is in western Clinton and northern Centre counties. The multiple-use management system provides forest-based recreational opportunities such as hiking, backpack camping, snowmobiling pleasure driving, and horseback, ATV, and mountain bike riding. All areas of Sproul State Forest are open to hunting and fishing. Camping permits are required before setting up camp on state forest lands. 570-923-6011

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/FORESTRY/stateforests/sproul

Alvin R. Bush Dam: This flood control dam is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and creates 4.5 miles of natural, scenic shoreline. This is one of four dams in the flood control plan for the West Branch Basin of the Susquehanna River watershed. 570-923-1800

www.nab.usace.army.mil/recreation/bush.htm

Kettle Creek State Park: Kettle Creek State Park consists of 1,793 acres along Kettle Creek in Western Clinton County. The park is in a valley surrounded by mountainous

terrain and wilderness. Many of the existing recreational facilities arose from a joint flood control project developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the former Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/kettlecreek

Kettle Creek Vista: Three miles west of the park, this vantage point provides a breathtaking view of the Kettle Creek Valley.

Pennsylvania Wilds is two million acres of public lands for hiking, biking, fishing, boating, hunting and exploration in northcentral Pennsylvania. Within the twelve-county region are; 27 state parks, eight state forest districts (1.3 million acres), 50 state game lands and Allegheny National Forest (500,000 acres). Highlights of the area are; elk watching, scenic Pennsylvania Route 6, Pine Creek Gorge (PA Grand Canyon), the darkest skies in the east at Cherry Springs State Park, and hundreds of miles of backpacking trails, bike paths and trout fishing streams. www.pawilds.com

Fort Roberdeau Historic Site and Natural Area is located near Altoona in Blair County, Pennsylvania. The rural **230-acre tract** features a reconstructed Revolutionary War stockade surrounding six log cabins. It also includes an 1858 barn containing exhibits and a museum shop, an education center in an 1860 farmhouse, three nature trails, picnic facilities, and White Oak Hall, a large multipurpose facility.

www.fortroberdeau.org

Canoe Creek State Park, 12 miles east of Altoona, is a modern day use facility developed during the Project 70 expansion era of state parks and was dedicated in 1979. The vast openness of this 958-acre park is exemplified with a panoramic view when cresting the hill on Canoe Creek Road. A 155-acre lake provides excellent year-round fishing, a popular swimming area and enjoyment for small pleasure boaters. Fields and woodlots are managed to provide diversified habitat for small game species and a variety of wildlife. Canoe Creek's proximity to nearby communities allows local residents to take a short pleasure drive and enjoy an evening of fishing, picnicking or walking. Within an hour's drive of the park are the world famous Horseshoe Curve, [Blue Knob Ski Area](#), State Game Land 166, and [Rothrock](#) and [Gallitzin](#) state forests.

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/canoecreek

Raystown Lake, an 8,300-acre flood control reservoir, is operated by the Corps of Engineers to provide flood control, fisheries enhancement, water quality, and recreational opportunities. Nestled between the ridges of Huntingdon County, adjacent to the southern portion of Rothrock State Forest, the visitor to this 29,300-acre Federal facility can participate in hiking, fishing, camping, recreational boating, hunting, picnicking, and many other outdoor activities. www.raystownlake.com

Rothrock State Forest <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/rothrock>

Gallitzin State Forest consists of 2 separate areas of State Forest land located in Northern Bedford, Cambria, Indiana, and Northern Somerset counties. The total area of

State Forest land is 15,336 acres.

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/gallitzin>

Prince Gallitzin State Park this 6,249-acre site is in the scenic Allegheny Plateau Region of Pennsylvania. Large portions of the park can be seen from several easily accessible vistas. The major attractions to the park are the 1,600-acre Glendale Lake and the large campground. www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/princegallitzin

R. B. Winter State Park covers 695 acres of the Ridge and Valley Province in central Pennsylvania. Located within Bald Eagle State Forest, the park lies in a shallow basin surrounded by rocky ridges covered with an oak and pine forest. The focal point of the park is Halfway Lake which is filled by spring-fed mountain streams and contained by a hand-laid, native sandstone dam. Open year-round, the park provides diverse opportunities for recreation.

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/rbwinter

The Tiadaghton State Forest is one of twenty forest districts created for the protection and management of Pennsylvania's forest lands. The Tiadaghton State Forest is comprised of approximately 215,500 acres of state forest land, most of which is in Lycoming County. Small portions extend into Tioga, Sullivan, Potter, Clinton, and Union counties. www.stateparks.com/tiadaghton.html

Ravensburg State Park is located in Clinton County on PA 880. Twenty-one non-reservable, tent-camping-only sites are available. Visitors can also enjoy hiking, picnicking and cold-water fishing. The park lies in a cozy, steep-walled gorge carved by Rauchtown Run through the side of Nippenose Mountain. A northern hardwood forest blankets the bottomland along this spring-fed stream.

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/ravensburg

Sand Bridge State Park located on PA 192 east of R.B. Winter, includes picnic tables, pavilions and restrooms. The park also offers stream fishing.

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/sandbridge

State Forest Picnic Areas - Located at various points in surrounding counties.

Mid State Trail The Mid State Trail System (MST) is a long distance hiking trail and its side trails in central Pennsylvania. The current northern end is at the West Rim Trail on Bohem Run north of Blackwell and the southern end is a junction with Green Ridge Hiking Trail in Maryland at the Mason-Dixon line. The MST is almost entirely on public land: state forests, game lands and parks.

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/FORESTRY/hiking/midstate

ADMINISTRATION AND THE PLANNING PROCESS

At this time, CRPR maintains eleven (11) parks within Ferguson Township and more than 40 parks throughout the Centre Region. The eleven (11) Township owned parks within Ferguson Township create a combined total of 258 acres of parkland. This includes: Fairbrook Park, Meadows Park, Suburban Park, Overlook Heights Tot Lot, Tom Tudek Memorial Park, Park Hills Park, Homestead Park, Haymarket Park, Autumnwood Park, Greenbriar / Saybrook Park, and Westfield Park as well as an eighty (80) acre preserve formerly owned by the Township Municipal Authority. In addition there are five (5) bikeways. These bikeways are the Tudek / Circleville, the Cato / Stonebridge Bikeway, the Mckee Street Bikeway, the Blue / White Bikeway and the Vairo/Suburban Bikeway.

The bikeways are provided and maintained solely by Ferguson Township.

THE MUNICIPALITIES PLANNING CODE (MPC)

Article III, Section 301 of the Municipalities Planning Code addresses the contents of a municipal comprehensive plan. According to the MPC, this document "...shall include but need not be limited to..." such basic elements as:

- (4) A plan for community facilities and utilities, which may include public and private education, recreation, municipal buildings, fire and police stations, libraries, hospitals, water supply and distribution, sewerage and waste treatment, solid waste management, storm drainage, and flood plain management, utility corridors and associated facilities, and other similar facilities or uses.
- (6) A plan for the protection of natural and historic resources to the extent not preempted by federal or state law. This clause includes but is not limited to, wetlands and aquifer recharge zones, woodlands, steep slopes, prime agricultural land, floodplains, unique natural areas and historic sites.

In addition:

- (d) The municipal, multi-municipal or county comprehensive plan may identify those areas where growth and development will occur so that a full range of public infrastructure services, including sewer, water, highways, police and fire protection, public schools, parks, open space and other services can be adequately planned and provided as needed to accommodate growth.

As noted below, the Centre Region Comprehensive Plan, a multi-municipal planning document, contains a chapter on Open Space Conservation and Preservation that qualifies as the required basic element identified by the MPC. However, adoption of this Township Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan Update, as an adjunct to these provisions in the Regional Comprehensive Plan, can provide more guidance at the local level, and result in the provision of facilities and services that are consistent with the needs and desires of the Township residents. Additionally, it is intended that this RPOS Plan Update may serve to identify how local efforts can begin to address the regional

goals highlighted by the Plan.

RELATIONSHIP TO CENTRE REGION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Centre Region Comprehensive Plan, adopted in June 2000, provides a framework for regional cooperation in all aspects of comprehensive planning and community decision making. The 2000 Plan maintains the intent and regional context of the 1990 plan, but with new emphasis on detail and implementation. To this end, the Plan includes Goals, Policies, Initiatives and specific Action steps to aid in achievement of the various objectives. Goals of the adopted Plan speak to the necessity of assessing the recreation, park, and open space needs of each municipality and providing the appropriate protection for community resources at the local level. These include:

- Balance community growth while protecting and enhancing the Centre Region's environmental, historic and cultural resources.
- Direct the majority of future growth to areas within the Regional Growth Boundary so that new development can be efficiently served by public utilities, services, and transit.
- Obtain additional parkland and open-space areas, and provide a broad range of recreational opportunities.

The Open Space Conservation and Preservation chapter of the Plan details several Policies and Initiatives that help guide the content of the Township's Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan. It is intended that this update to the Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan be consistent with these adopted policies and further, that it provide details on their implementation at the local level.

Policies:

Coordinate inter-connected open-space systems for the Centre Region based on existing permanent open space resources, sensitive natural features, and projected future development patterns.

Encourage the placement of conservation easements on significant regional natural or open space resources.

Develop, with the support of the Centre Region Municipalities, municipal park plans, fee-in-lieu regulations and local tax financing strategies to acquire land within the Centre Region for open-space and recreational activities.

Initiatives:

Use current survey data and/or a voter referendum to assess the public's attitude toward the public purchase of lands for preservation and recreational uses

Determine all sources of financing strategies applicable to the acquisition of lands for preservation and recreational uses

Require pedestrian and bikeway trail connections as part of the land development approval process when existing trails are adjacent or nearby a future land development site.

Identify open-space and natural resource areas that will provide the basis for future decisions in the land development review process regarding protection and acquisition of these areas.

Identify and provide information on potential sites that contain significant natural and open space features.

Coordinate activities with property owners, municipalities and environmental organizations in the acquisition of conservation easements.

Other chapters of the adopted Comprehensive Plan, including those on Community Design, Historic Preservation, Future Development Patterns, Transportation, and Environment & Natural Resources also provide relevant objectives that guide the Township in development of this RPOS Plan. These are:

Policies:

Preserve the Centre Region’s historic resources and maintain regional community identity, history, and culture.

Preserve and enhance the Region’s open-space areas

Preserve steep slopes and existing topographic features of the Centre Region during the planning and development process.

Protect floodplains, wetlands, and stream corridors within the Spring Creek and Spruce Creek Watersheds.

Protect the quality of the Region’s groundwater resources through efficient and effective land-use management

Limit land development activities in areas identified as habitats for threatened and endangered plant and animal species in the Centre County Natural Heritage Inventory.

Transportation projects and programs that provide support for a broad range of transportation options and that decrease the Region’s dependence on the private automobile are critical to meeting future travel needs.

Initiatives:

Develop a continuous, interconnected system of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, which can be implemented in phases, to meet the needs of existing developed areas and future growth needs.

Encourage municipal regulations to provide site design features such as pedestrian and transit amenities, parks, woodland protection, landscaping, and building construction consistent with the character of the site location.

Encourage and maintain interconnections between open-space areas.

Implement regulations to protect identified aquifers, floodplains, wetlands, waterways, future park locations, and valuable woodlands.

Encourage the continued use of the Official Map provisions to identify and preserve future open-space areas.

Implement riparian buffer regulations to filter run-off, reduce stream temperatures, provide open space and wildlife habitat and prevent the development of parking lots and structures within close proximity of a stream corridor,

Prohibit development activities within 100-year floodplain boundaries.

Identify the one-year zone of contribution for all public well sites in the Centre Region.

Develop and implement wellhead protection regulations in the Centre Region.

Direct intensive development activities away from groundwater recharge areas identified within the one-year zone of contribution.

Centre County and the Centre Region municipalities should develop an update to the 1991 Centre County Natural Heritage Inventory.

Encourage municipal land development and subdivision regulations that protect identified threatened and endangered species.

Although generally consistent with the stated goals of this Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan Update, many of these statements deserve candid consideration; as they have not been the focus of previous planning efforts in the Township. One goal of this Plan Update is to ensure that these fundamental tenets of the preservation and conservation of resources are adequately addressed by the Township.

In keeping with the provisions of the Municipalities Planning Code, chief among these concerns is the adequate protection of resources such as wetlands and aquifer recharge zones, woodlands, steep slopes, prime agricultural land, floodplains, and unique natural areas and historic sites within the Township. While existing regulations provide a level of protection for certain features such as floodplains, steep slopes, and agricultural land, there are many Township resources that are not provided with any protection at the local level. As a result, many of these features can be impaired or destroyed by development projects and/or construction practices, as well as through the actions of individual property owners who may not be aware of the presence or value of these resources.

LOCAL ORDINANCES

There are two existing Township ordinances which impact the preservation of parkland / open space during the subdivision / land development process. These Ordinances are the subdivision ordinance, Chapter 22, Section 513.2C, and the Zoning Ordinance which includes provisions for Planned Residential Developments (Chapter 27, Section 407) and Traditional Town Developments (Chapter 27, Section 701). The following sections describe how these regulations can affect the amount and location of park and open space provided in the Township.

Subdivision Ordinance

The following list highlights the current parkland requirements of the subdivision

ordinance which apply to both single and multi-family residential developments.

The total acreage required to be dedicated for each development is based on an acreage per person calculation as follows:

Total average number of people per dwelling unit (2.54 people per unit) x .024 acres per person x 65% (developable acreage)

For the Township to accept land for dedication, the park must have the following attributes:

- Access - Must be accessible to all residents. Minimum frontage should be 50 feet if adjacent to public street.
- Location - Located equally to serve all residents.
- Shape - Suitable to accommodate activities which meet needs of residents.
- SWM - May not be developed in stormwater management basin.
- Soils - Soil shall be suitable for the intended park uses. No parkland may be located on or within any drainageway, wetland area, steep slope area or stormwater detention basin, with the exception that up to 25 percent of the total parkland may be located within a floodplain with approval of the Board of Supervisors.
- Size - The minimum parcel size shall be no less than 4 acres.
- Slope - The majority of the park shall have a slope of no more than 4 percent, and the average slope of the park, as measured perpendicular to the contour lines, shall not exceed 8 percent.
- Unity - Fewer larger pieces rather than several smaller pieces.
- Utilities - Utilities shall not cross land above ground. May be underground.

Under certain conditions, the applicant may be permitted to contribute fee-in-lieu rather than acreage for parkland. This money is required to be used to enhance public recreation areas which will directly benefit future inhabitants of the development or subdivision for which the fee was provided.

The fee-in-lieu payment is determined using the following calculation:

$$D \times 2.54 \text{ person/d.u.} \times \text{Parkland Fee/person} = \text{Parkland Fee - in - Lieu}$$

D= Number of Dwelling Units

Parkland Fee /person = Fee established by Resolution of the Board

Zoning Ordinance

- A. The following list highlights the parkland requirements of the existing PRD regulations as outlined in the Township Zoning Ordinance.

The percent of acreage required to be dedicated for each PRD is based on the total number of dwelling units per acre as follows:

<u>Residential Dwelling Units Per Acre</u>	<u>Required Common Open Space Percentage</u>
1-4.9	15
5-9.9	18
10-14.9	20
15-19.9	25
>20	25

The requirements for the common open space dedicated as part of a PRD include:

- (1) The location, shape, size and character of the common open space shall be provided in a manner to meet the needs of the planned residential development and the criteria of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, §§22-513.2.D(1)-(6); 22-513.2.G.
- (2) Common open space shall be used for amenity or recreational purposes. The uses authorized for the common open space must be appropriate to the scale and character of the planned residential development, considering its size, density, expected population, topography and the number and type of dwellings to be provided.
- (3) Adequate access shall be provided to the open space from all dwelling units in the PRD. This includes providing connections to existing and proposed sidewalks and bikeway systems.
- (4) A minimum of 50% of the required open space shall be contiguous land.
- (5) A minimum of 50% of the required open space shall be suitable for recreation purposes (i.e., no floodplain, wetlands, steep slopes, sinkholes).
- (6) Common open space must be suitably improved for its intended use, but common open space containing natural features, existing trees and ground cover worthy of preservation may be left unimproved. The buildings, structures and improvements which are permitted in the common open space shall be appropriate to the uses which are authorized for the common open space having regard to its topography and unimproved condition.
- (7) The development schedule which is part of the development plan must coordinate the improvement of the common open space, the construction of buildings, structures, and improvements in the common open space, and the construction of residential dwellings in the planned residential development.
- (8) The use and improvement of the common open space shall be planned in relation to any existing or proposed public or semipublic open space which adjoins or which is within 1,500 feet of the perimeter of the planned residential development.

There are five PRDs in existence within the Township. However, three of these were approved prior to the adoption of the ordinance standards indicated above. As a result,

the total open space provided by these developments is somewhat less than is currently. As a result, it may be recommended that this method of obtaining and/or owning open space not be continued required. In addition, since the majority of this open space is in private ownership, it is not available to all residents in the Township and therefore does not contribute toward the inventory of parkland used to calculate the Township's ability to meet the needs of the majority of residents..

The provisions for Traditional Town Development, also found in the Zoning Chapter, require that the provision of open space within the development conform to the following standards:

1. A minimum of 50% of the site proposed for development is to be devoted to useable common open space. Through the use of incentives offered in subsection 4.F, the amount of required useable common open space may be significantly reduced. However, in no case is less than 25% of a site permitted to be devoted to the provision of usable common open space, including permitted percentages of public areas.
2. All common open space reserved is to be designed for one or more of the following uses:
 - Community green, square, or commons.
 - Community garden or park.
 - Streams, ponds and other natural or man-made bodies of water.
 - Playground or tot-lot.
 - Bikeway, greenway, trail or environmental corridor.
 - Active recreational facility.
 - Public space.
 - Conservation area/protected natural area which may include: woodlands, wildlife corridor(s), meadow, horticulture, or wetland that is incorporated into the design for stormwater management.
3. Stormwater management facilities such as detention basins and swales are only permitted to be included to the extent that the open space exceeds the 25% required minimum, or through the use of one or more design incentives.
4. In addition to responding to the unique conditions and environmental resources of the parcel(s), the open space provided on each site is to be responsive to the needs of the community as expressed in the Ferguson Township Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan and, to the extent feasible, is required to provide useable play or recreation areas, or equipment, that is conveniently accessible to residents throughout the community. Conformance with the provisions of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, §22- 513.2.G (1) - (4), and .H is expected as well.

The reservation of passive parkland which may include wooded sites, formal gardens, conservation areas, and open grass spaces may also be included. However, such facilities are not permitted to account for more than 40% of the

required common open space. Where the existence of adequate play or recreation areas within walking distance of a proposed TTD or associated Mixed Residential Area can be shown, the percentage of passive parkland permitted to be credited toward the total required common open space may be raised to as much as 55%.

5. Public space is required to serve as a focal point and may comprise up to 10% of the useable common open space provided. Such areas shall be subject to the same maintenance criteria as identified by §27- 702.4.C(4)(m).

6. All common open space is to be publicly accessible either from a public street or public area, and/or from a pedestrian/bicycle network that links various playgrounds, parks, commons and greens to each other as well as to the developed portions of the site. Land designated as common open space shall be suitable for the purpose specified.

7. Each Traditional Town Development or associated Mixed Residential Area site that includes 50 or more dwelling units is required to include at least one public square or green with a minimum size of 20,000 square feet. Other squares, greens, commons, or public areas of not less than 10,000 square feet in area shall be dispersed throughout the development. Each dwelling unit shall be situated so as to be located no more than 1,000 feet from a commons, square, green, or trail.

The addition of the TTD zoning district to the Zoning Ordinance created an opportunity for the Township to obtain a significant amount of parkland in an area where the previous Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan called for the provision of Community and/or Neighborhood Parkland. The TTD regulations contain language that seeks to preserve the unique features of a site, such as woodland, floodplain, and steep slopes, in addition to the traditional emphasis on providing land that will be available for active recreational pursuits. The text of the zoning district also calls for all open space within the future development to be linked through the provision of pedestrian greenways, bikeways, or other off-street corridors. This will facilitate the Township's ability to incorporate these areas into the existing park infrastructure while limiting the expenditure of taxpayer dollars to do so.

The addition of the TTD zoning district to the Township's Zoning map occurred through the rezoning of acreage previously zoned for Industrial development and adjacent acreage previously zoned RA or rural agricultural. Combined, this area constitutes approximately 350 acres that is located within the existing Regional Growth Boundary. If the development of this land adheres to the requirement to preserve 50% in open space, a total of 175 acres will be added to the Township's parkland inventory. Even at the minimum 25% reservation, more than 87 acres would be set aside for use as open space.

In 2008, an ordinance amendment was instituted to allow the collection of a fee for the

master planning of parkland. This fee of \$165.00 per dwelling unit will be collected when parkland is offered for dedication.

PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Ferguson Township acquires and owns parkland and completes the capital improvements at each park site. The Township generally acquires parkland through the ordinance provisions described above. Then, based on financing constraints and the adopted Capital Improvements Plan, the Township develops the land and purchases or constructs the equipment and facilities. Details of the current CIP, which budgets funds through 2012, can be obtained from the Township.

As a general policy, the Township considers a park master plan good for approximately 15 years. However, if grant funding requires a newer master plan, the Township will evaluate updating a master plan prior to the 15 year limit. Where the capital improvements will require a substantial time frame for implementation, the Township might consider a phased approach to Master Planning for parkland. This would allow new input at appropriate intervals – perhaps in five (5) year increments, consistent with the capital improvement budget.

The existence of a master plan helps the Township plan and budget for park development and improvements on a yearly basis. The Township may apply for a grant or use capital funds to develop either a portion of or the entire park. Decisions regarding the timing and amount of funds expended are a product of the Capital Improvements Planning process. However, this Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan Update should provide appropriate guidance for this decision-making so that residents can better understand how the Township's efforts to provide park and recreation opportunities on a community-wide basis relate to the available funding and its distribution for Township services.

CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

According to the National Recreation and Park Association publication Open Space Guidelines & Standards, the following are classifications for local and regional recreation open space:

Mini-Park: Specialized facilities of an acre or less that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. The service area is less than ¼ mile. They are generally located within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse developments, or housing for the elderly. NRPA recommends .25 to .5 acres/1,000 population. **2020 need: 4.75 -9.5 acres**

Neighborhood Park/Playground: Area(s) for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc. The service area is ¼ mile to ½ mile and the expected size is 15+

acres. These parks are suited for intense development and are easily accessible to the neighborhood population with safe walking and bike access. NRPA recommends 1.0 to 2.0 acres/1,000 population. **2020 need: 19-38 acres**

Community Park: Area(s) of diverse environmental quality. May include natural features such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development. The service area is a 1 to 2 mile radius and the expected size is 25+ acres. NRPA recommends 5.0 to 8.0 acres/1,000 population. **2020 need: 95-152 acres**

Regional/Metropolitan Park: Area(s) of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, and camping, contiguous to or encompassing natural resources. The service area is within a one hour drive and the anticipated size is 200+ acres. NRPA recommends 5.0 to 10.0 acres/1,000 population.

Recent research on the use of Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines by the NRPA suggests that few jurisdictions feel that nationally prescribed minimums by park type are feasible. The NRPA recommends that a community use the guidelines for guidance only, and determine their own mix of recreation needs. This can be accomplished by completing a Level of Service analysis. This is a detailed analysis that outlines the recreation activity menu, open space standards, present supply, expressed demand and minimum population service requirements for each park class and the entire park and recreation system.

Rather than attempt to conform to the NRPA established guidelines for recreation facilities or complete an in-depth level of service analysis, the RPOS Planning Committee recommends that the Township deal with future equipment/facility needs through the master plan process for each park, through general citizen input, special interest group input and through input from the CRPR Department and Recreation Board.

Assuming build-out within the regional growth boundary, the Township is anticipating the addition of 1312 dwelling units, or 3,332 new residents by the year 2020. Using NRPA guidelines, existing demographics, expected community parkland acquisition, and anticipated future development, the Township's current parkland resources appear sufficient to address this growth. An update to this plan, which would be scheduled for 2012, will provide an evaluation of this assessment

If needed in the future, the Township could undertake a detailed level of service analysis to determine facility needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The RPOS Planning Committee has defined through the development of this plan, a set of recommendations to be considered by the Township Board of Supervisors. The recommendations are divided into five categories: General, Parks and Recreation, Ordinance Revisions, Regional, and Financing and are listed below. Upon approval of this plan, Township staff should pursue implementation of the 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. This Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan should be updated again in five years to assure that the proposed changes are consistent with anticipated development.
3. The Board should establish an advisory committee to oversee implementation and updating of the Plan and to advise on 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 a park trail that connects to adjacent bikepaths.
 - e. 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.
 - f. The Township should provide CIP funding each year to develop portions of the parks.
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 should be posted at each park location.
 - h. 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 a master plan prior to the 15 year limit. In addition, if the implementation of the Master Plan improvements has not been undertaken within thi 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.
- Bikepath 2 (BP-2):** A bikepath independent of the roadway that extends from the end of the Tudek / Circleville bikeway at Teaberry Ridge to the multi-use trail that extends east across the PSU Golf Course to North Atherton Street.
- Bikepath 4 (BP-4):** An on-road bike lane that extends from the Tudek / Circleville bikepath north along Farmstead Lane to Homestead Park.
- Bikepath 7 (BP-7):** A bikepath aligned with the roadway that extends from Foxpointe Drive along Old Gatesburg Road west and then along the entire length of Nixon Road from Old Gatesburg Road to Sunday Drive in Pine Grove Mills.
- Bikepath 8 (BP-8):** An on-road bike lane along Nixon Road from Sunday Drive to Pine Grove Road (Route 45) and along Pine Grove Road from Meckley Drive west to Wyoming Avenue.
- Bikepath 11 (BP-11):** A bikepath independent from the roadway on the south side of Whitehall Road from the Township Boundary with the Borough of State College west to West College Avenue.
- Bikepath 13 (BP-13):** An on-road bike lane along Bristol Avenue from Pamela Court east to West College Avenue.
- Bikepath 14 (BP-14):** An on-road bike lane along Concord Drive from Bristol Avenue north to the bikepath through the Good Hope Farms II open space.
- Bikepath 15 (BP-15):** An on-road bikepath along Park Center Boulevard from Bristol Avenue to Qual Run Road.

- Bikepath 17 (BP-17):** A bikepath aligned with the roadway along Science Park Road from West College Avenue to Old Gatesburg Road.
- Bikepath 18 (BP-18):** A bikepath independent from the roadway from Vairo Boulevard to Curtin Road and south along the eastern edge of Overlook Heights to the Clinton Avenue / McKee Street bikepath.
- Bikepath 19 (BP-19):** A bikepath independent from the roadway that extends from the Ryder property along the Western Inner Loop, west along the old railroad bed to Foxpointe Drive.
- Bikepath 22 (BP-22):** The bikepath along Foxpointe Drive should be identified as a bikepath aligned with the roadway.
- Bikepath 23 (BP-23):** The bikepath along the Western Inner Loop and Blue Course Drive should be identified as a bikepath aligned with the roadway.
- Bikepath 24 (BP-24):** The bikepath along Old Gatesburg Road from Foxpointe Drive to the Western Inner Loop should be identified as a bikepath aligned with the roadway.
- Bikepath 25 (BP-25):** The bikepath along Science Park Road and Valley Vista Drive should be identified as a bikepath aligned with the roadway.
- Bikepath 26 (BP-26):** The bikepath from Foxpointe Drive to Sandy Drive should be identified as a bikepath independent from the roadway.
- Bikepath 27 (BP-27):** The bikepath along Bristol Avenue from Park Center Boulevard to Blue Course Drive should be identified as a bikepath aligned with the roadway.
- Bikepath 28 (BP-28):** The bikepath along Park Center Drive should be identified as an on-road bike lane.
- Bikepath 29 (BP-29):** The bikepath from Foxpointe Drive to Concord Drive should be identified as a bikepath independent from the roadway.
- Bikepath 30 (BP-30):** The bikepath along Enterprise Drive should be identified as an on-road bike lane.
- Bikepath 31 (BP-31):** The bikepath along Cato Avenue from Enterprise Drive to Research Drive should be identified as an on-road bike lane.
- Bikepath 32 (BP-32):** The bikepath from the Western Inner Loop east across the PSU Golf Course should be identified as a bikepath independent from the roadway.
- Bikepath 36 (BP-36):** The bikepath which extends from Toftrees to the Tudek/Circleville Bikepath through the Overlook Heights Tot Lot should be identified as a bikepath independent from the roadway.
- Bikepath 37 (BP-37):** The bikepath which extends from the end of the Tudek/Circleville Bikepath along West Aaron Drive, Park Lane, and Devonshire Drive through to the Township border should be shown as an on-road bike lane.

7. The Township's Official Map should be revised to add the recommended open space areas. The recommended open space areas are:

Open Space 1 (OS-1): Area adjacent to Overlook Heights (described in Section 2.1) which is owned by PSU and will be developed as an arboretum.

Open Space 2 (OS-2): The Miller Caves, Scotia Barrens, and Beaver Branch Gorge

8. The Township should continue to pursue the purchase of agricultural conservation easements in order to manage growth and to preserve the industry of farming. This will allow the cost effective provision 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 bikepaths 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 the residents of Ferguson Township. Some facilities, such as the Millbrook Marsh, 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 the services of CRPC to ensure that the plans of adjacent municipalities are compatible with this Plan Update.
3. The Township should continue to work with COG to support the regional funding of acquisition, development and operations 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 bikepaths 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 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 recreational facilities.
6. The Township and CRPR should continue to apply for available grants on a yearly basis.