

LOWER PROVIDENCE

Township

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INTRODUCTION

Study Purpose

The Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan will serve as a blueprint for parks, open space and natural resource protection and preservation for the next 10 to 20 years.

The Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and, Open Space Plan: examines greenways, trails and sidewalks and recommends enhancements to this connectivity infrastructure; recommends a methodology for open space preservation and acquisition; makes suggestions for improved park facilities, operations, maintenance, and staffing; and suggests options for potential new recreational programs and activities. This plan also provides an implementation and funding strategy.

Park and trail usage has expanded greatly after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic as people sought an escape in outdoor recreation and open space while being quarantined at their homes. Parks act as outlets to connect with nature and reduce mental stress. Moreover, they improve physical wellness and promote healthy lifestyles; reduce time off from work due to health reasons; and can help lower health care costs for individuals. In addition to individual benefits, these facilities provide a variety of community benefits as well. Parks, trails and open space promote a sense of community through events and park usage. They also act as high priority items when families decide in which community to purchase a home as a municipality's park and recreation system is often the physical face, or identity, of the community. They also provide small children and teenagers opportunities to engage in after-school activities and organizations.

Along with these individual and community benefits, parks, trail and open space provide environmental and economic benefits. These benefits can also be quantified to show the value they provide to communities. The report, Return on Environment: The Economic Value of Protected Open Space in Southeastern Pennsylvania, released in 2011 and prepared for the GreenSpace Alliance and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, estimated the economic value created by the open space in Greater Philadelphia. The report found that protected open space in the 5-county Philadelphia region (Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties) reduces costs by avoiding \$133 million in expenditures for water supply, water quality, flood mitigation, wildlife habitat protection, air pollution removal and the capture of carbon by trees. In addition, the report found that the activity that occurs in parks and open space results in \$795 million in avoided annual medical expenses as people who are active enjoy a range of physical and mental health benefits.

The report also found that \$566 million is spent annually due to protected open space. This spending includes expenses for the management and maintenance of open space, spending for goods produced on preserved farms and tourism-related spending. Recreational activity on open space in the area also creates an estimated 6,900 jobs which generate about \$30 million in state and local taxes each year. In terms of residential property value, the report found that the total real estate premium credited to living within one mile of protected open space is \$16.3 billion.



Plan Vision

Enhance the quality, connectivity, and accessibility of the Township's abundant recreational and open space facilities and resources to meet current and future demands for infrastructure and programming and to benefit the health and welfare of the entire community.

Plan Goals

Create a sustainable plan for parks, recreation, and open space;

Provide equitable access and opportunities to all residents;

Preserve cherished Township characteristics and valued natural resources; and

Plan for safe multi-modal connections between various Township park, recreation, and open space resources.

Plan Objectives

Survey area residents to determine current perceptions and needs regarding park, recreation, and open space facilities and programs in the Township;

Conduct public meetings to gather information, comments, and suggestions from residents, local organizations, and other stakeholders;

Inventory existing parks, recreational facilities, preserved open space, trails, schools, private sector recreation providers and other important recreation destinations within the Township;

Compare the existing inventory of park facilities with other similarly sized communities;

Analyze current active and passive recreational facility use;

Suggest ways to enhance existing and planned trails with additional connections to area recreational, employment, residential, shopping, and other destinations;

Develop a phased implementation and funding strategy to make the plan a reality; and

Create a diverse list of recommendations that promote social, economic and environmental sustainability.



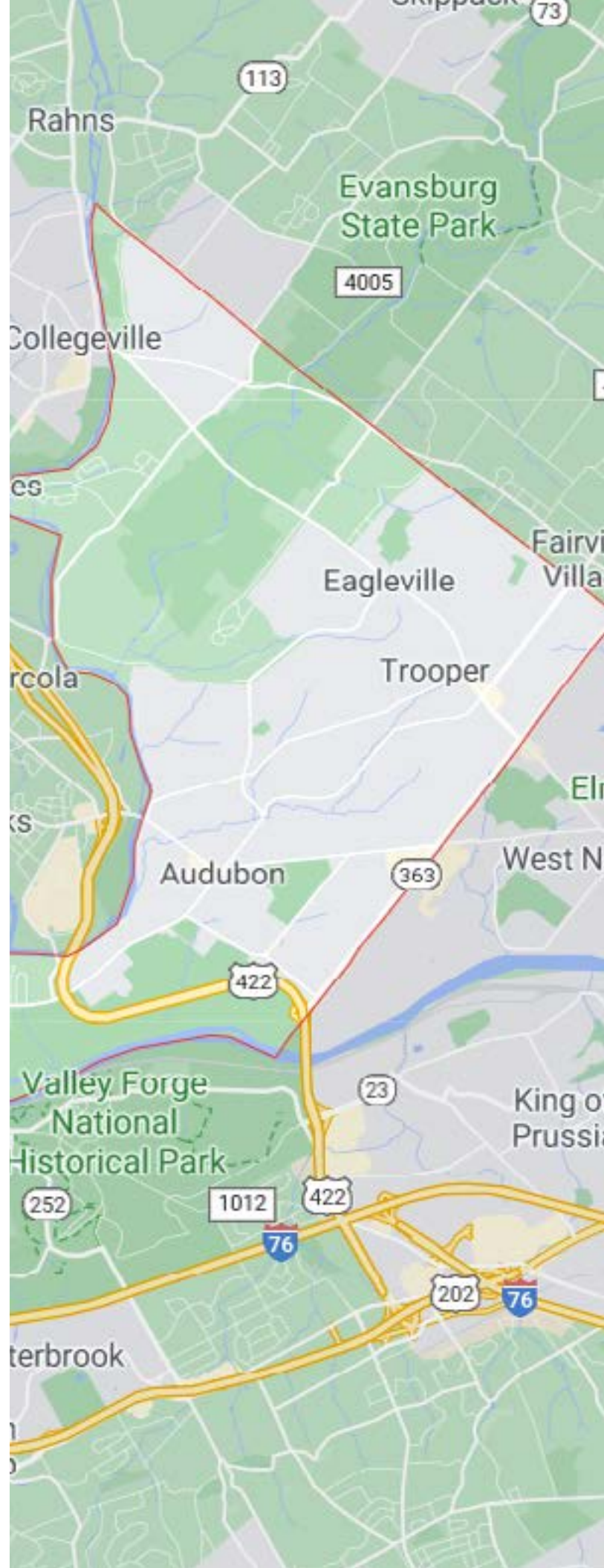
Township Profile

Lower Providence Township is in south-central Montgomery County, at the western border with Chester County. The Township is located approximately 17 miles west/northwest of Philadelphia, and includes areas of Audubon, Collegeville, Eagleville, Evansburg, Trooper, and Yerkes, encompassing 14.77 square miles. Present-day Lower Providence was established on land originally inhabited by the Lenni-Lenape tribe. It then became part of the original lands granted to William Penn and in 1729, the Township of Providence, which included Upper Providence, Lower Providence and the Boroughs of Collegeville and Trappe, was established. Providence Township was split into Upper Providence and Lower Providence in 1805. Today, Lower Providence Township is a growing suburb close to many economic centers and the regional highway network.

Lower Providence is served by the award winning Methacton School District. Schools within Lower Providence Township include Arrowhead Elementary, Eagleville Elementary, Woodland Elementary, and Arcola Middle School.

Lower Providence is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors. Members are elected at large for six-year staggered terms; positions include Chairman/woman, Vice Chairman/woman, three Supervisors, and one Student Representative. The Board is responsible for appointing the Township Manager, as well as all advisory and regulatory boards.

Residents of Lower Providence Township enjoy a great number of outdoor recreational facilities which include Township parks such as Eagleville Park, Dell Angelo Park, and Francesco A. Mascaro Memorial Field and Community Park; County parks such as the Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary and the Central Perkiomen Valley Park, as well as Evansburg State Park and Valley Forge National Historical Park. Two of Pennsylvania's most significant trails, the Schuylkill River Trail and the Perkiomen Trail, converge in the southwest corner of the Township.

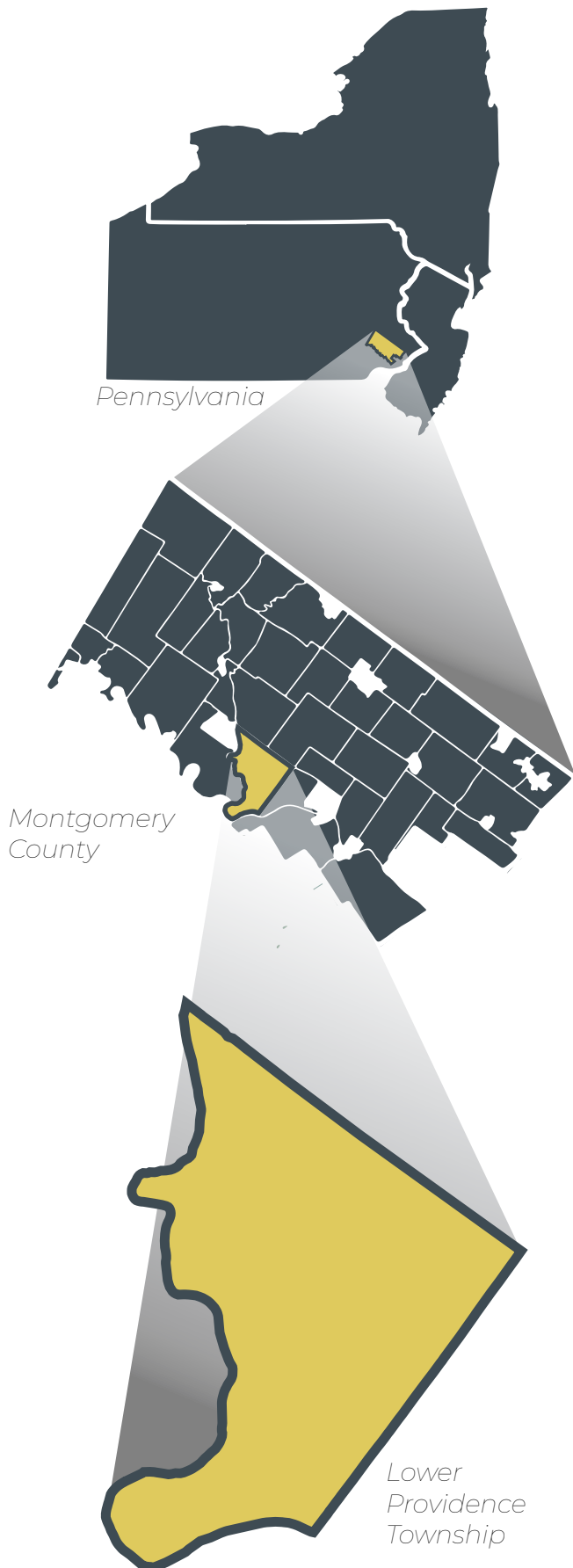


Regional Context

The regional context map shows the relationship between Lower Providence Township, Montgomery County, and the State of Pennsylvania. The Township is bordered by Collegeville Borough, Perkiomen and Skippack Townships to the north; Worcester and East Norriton Townships to the east; West Norriton and Upper Merion Townships to the South; and Schuylkill Township (Chester County) and Upper Providence Township to the west.

Route 422 runs through the southern portion and immediately to the west of the Township, I-76 runs south of the Township, SR-202 south and west of the Township, and I-476 runs west of the Township.

Lower Providence is in the Schuylkill River Watershed. The Schuylkill River runs along the southern border, and the Perkiomen Creek runs along the western border; the two intersect in the southwest corner of the Township. Skippack Creek runs through the northern portion on the Township, with Eagleville Run and Rock Run serving as tributaries, and outlets into the Perkiomen Creek. Mine Run, another tributary of the Perkiomen, runs through the south-central portion of the Township. A small portion of Stony Creek, which feeds into the Schuylkill River approximately four miles downstream from the Lower Providence, is in the eastern corner of the Township.





Lower Providence Township Demographics

The following information focuses on demographics and population information in Lower Providence Township and surrounding municipalities. Demographic and Census data were gathered from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) and U.S. Census Bureau.

<https://dvrpc.org/webmaps/PopForecast/>

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>

Population and Projections

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates, Lower Providence Township had a population of 26,187 in 2015, which was an increase of 17.0% from the 2000 Census count. The population in 2020, as projected by DVRPC, is 26,679, which is an increase of 1.9% over the 2015 population estimate. In comparison, Montgomery County experienced a population increase of 9.2% from 2000 to 2015 and is projected to have increased by 2.6% between 2015 and 2020.

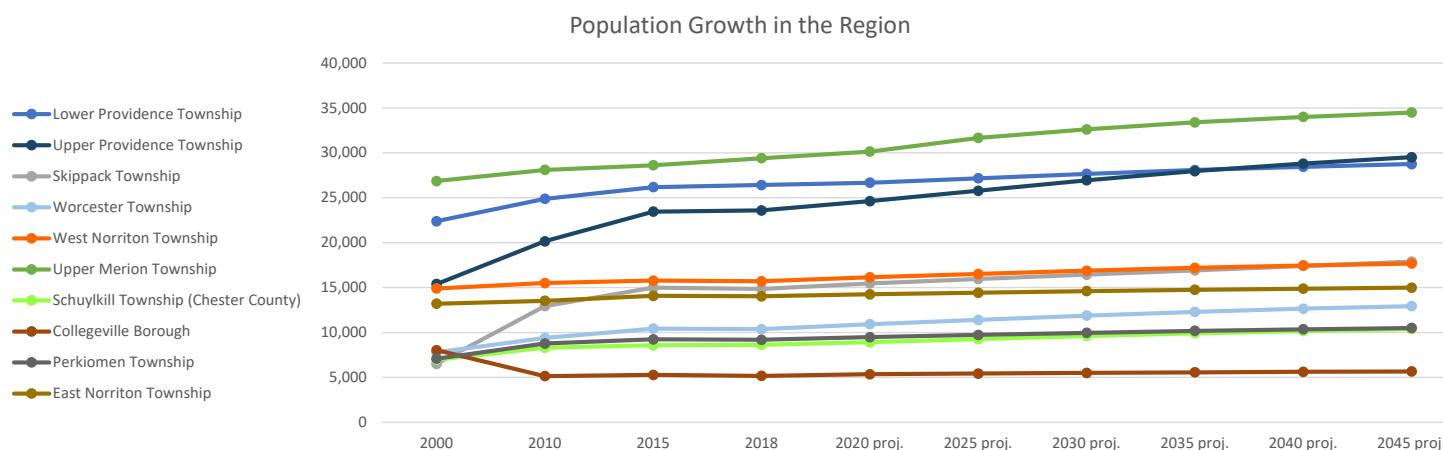
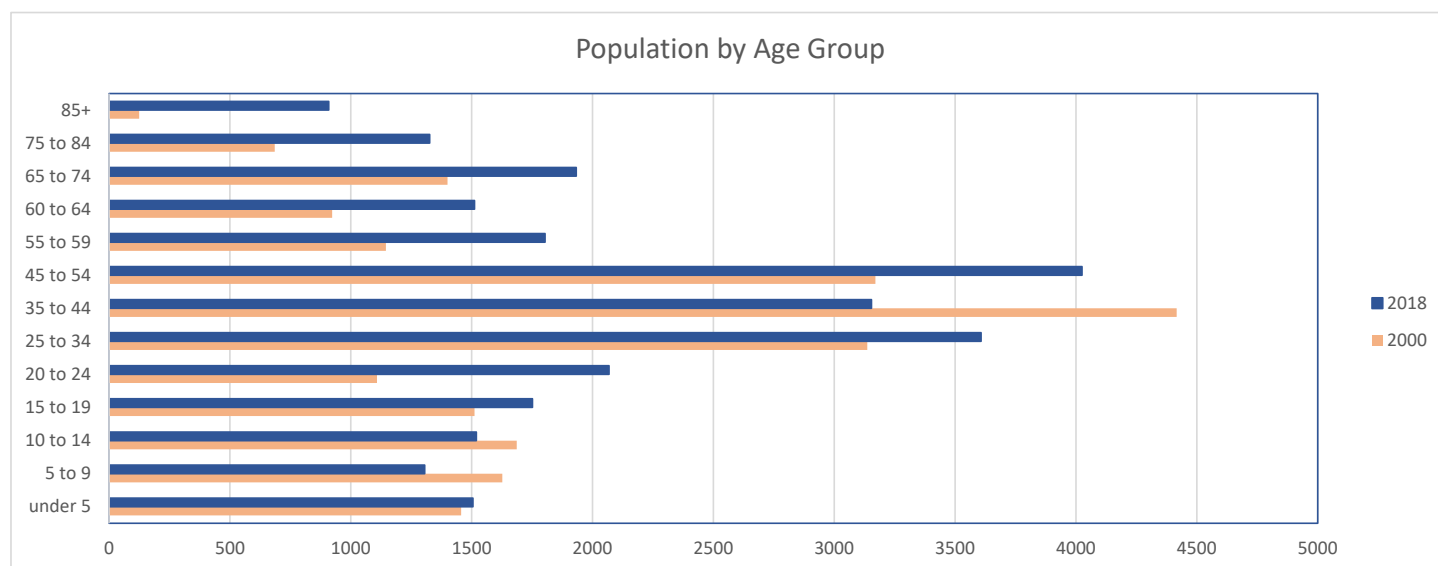
Using the 2018 population estimate of 26,418, and with 14.77 total square miles in the Township, Lower Providence has a population density of 1,789 people per square mile.

The population of Lower Providence is projected by DVRPC to reach 28,448 by 2040. This reflects a 7.7% increase from the 2018 population. In comparison, Montgomery County's population is projected to grow by 11.9 % to 918,918, with the largest numerical increases in population to occur in Lower Merion, Upper Providence, Horsham, Upper Merion, New Hanover, and Limerick Townships.

Age

The largest age group in the Township is 45-54 year-olds, followed by the 25-34 age cohort. The largest increase of population by age from 2000 to 2018 was in people who are 85 and older, which increased by a notable 632%, most likely due to the development of the continuing care retirement community at Shannondell. Every age cohort from age 45 to 84 increased between 27 and 94%. The population of people aged 35 to 44 decreased by 29%, 25 to 34 increased by 15%, 20 to 24 increased by 87%, 15 to 19 increased by 16%, 10 to 14 decreased by 10%, 5 to 9 decreased by 20%, and under 5 increased by 3%. In 2018, the median age was 39.7, which is lower than the County's median age of 41.3. This demographic information suggests that the population is aging and that this plan needs to account for recreational needs of both older and younger residents.

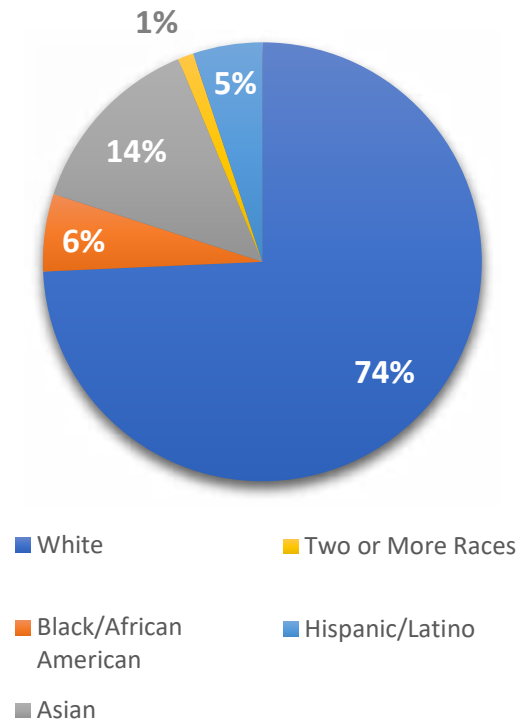
	2000	2018	% of Change
under 5	1456	1505	3%
5 to 9	1627	1306	-20%
10 to 14	1686	1519	-10%
15 to 19	1512	1751	16%
20 to 24	1108	2068	87%
25 to 34	3137	3608	15%
35 to 44	4417	3154	-29%
45 to 54	3170	4025	27%
55 to 59	1145	1803	57%
60 to 64	923	1512	64%
65 to 74	1400	1933	38%
75 to 84	685	1326	94%
85+	124	908	632%
Total Pop.	22390	26418	18%



Race

Both Lower Providence Township and Montgomery County are predominantly White. Within Lower Providence Township, 74.12% of the population identifies as White. 13.7% identifies as Asian, 5.7% as Black or African American, 5.1% as Hispanic or Latino, and less than 0.1% as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. 0.1% identifies as Some Other Race, and 1.2% of the population identifies as “Two or More Races.”

In Montgomery County, 76.1% identify as White, 8.9% as Black or African American, 7.4% as Asian, 5.0 % as Hispanic or Latino, 0.1% as American Indian or Alaska Native, less than 0.1% as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 0.2% as Some other Race, and 2.2% as Two or More Races.



Race & Ethnicity				
	Lower Providence Township		Montgomery County	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total	26,418	100.0%	821,301	100.0%
White	19,602	74.2%	625,341	76.1%
Black/African American	1506	5.7%	72,945	8.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0.0%	695	0.1%
Asian	3626	13.7%	61,174	7.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	9	0.0%	188	0.0%
Some Other Race	23	0.1%	1,589	0.2%
Two or More Races	305	1.2%	18,207	2.2%
Hispanic/Latino	1,347	5.1%	41,162	5.0%

Lower Providence Racial/Ethnic makeup					
	2010		2018		% change
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	
Total	24,883		26,418		6.2%
White	20,020	80.5%	19,602	74.2%	-6.3%
Black/African American	1373	5.5%	1506	5.7%	0.2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	40	0.2%	0	0.0%	-0.2%
Asian	2705	10.9%	3626	13.7%	2.9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	9	0.0%	0.0%
Some Other Race	60	0.2%	23	0.1%	-0.2%
Two or More Races	160	0.6%	305	1.2%	0.5%
Hispanic/Latino	525	2.1%	1,347	5.1%	3.0%

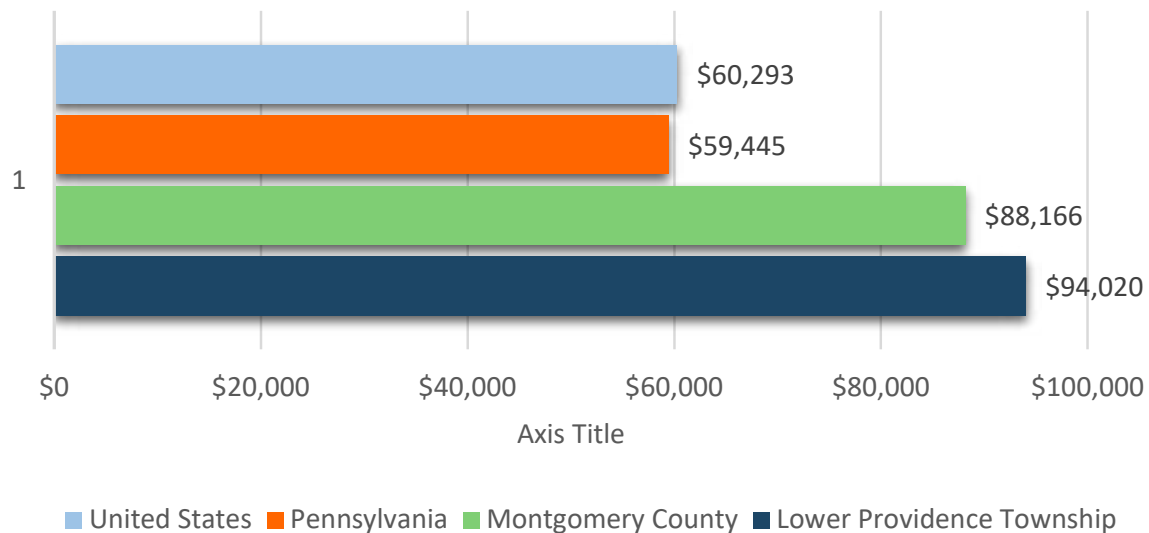
Income

The median household income in Lower Providence was \$94,020 in 2018. This is roughly 6.6% more than the Montgomery County median household income of \$88,166. Montgomery County's median household income is considerably higher than the state average of \$59,445 and national average of \$60,293.

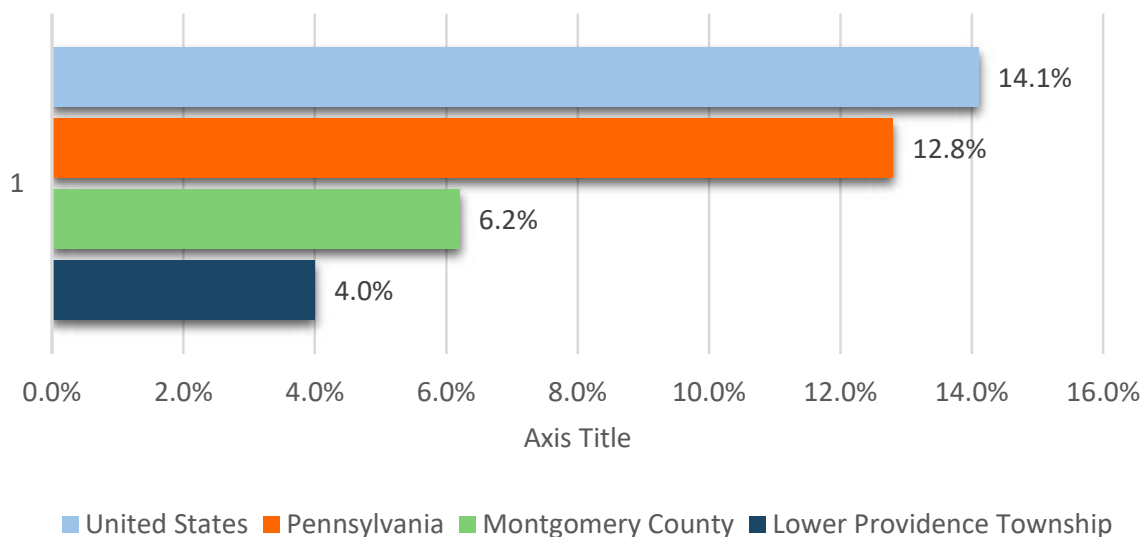
4.0 % of the population in Lower Providence lives below the poverty rate, which is defined as lacking enough income or material possessions to meet one's needs. This is below the percentage in Montgomery County (6.2%) and less than one third of Pennsylvania as a whole (12.8%).

The income demographic information suggests that Township residents are likely to have disposable incomes for recreational purposes and related purchases.

Median Household Income 2018



Poverty Rates 2018

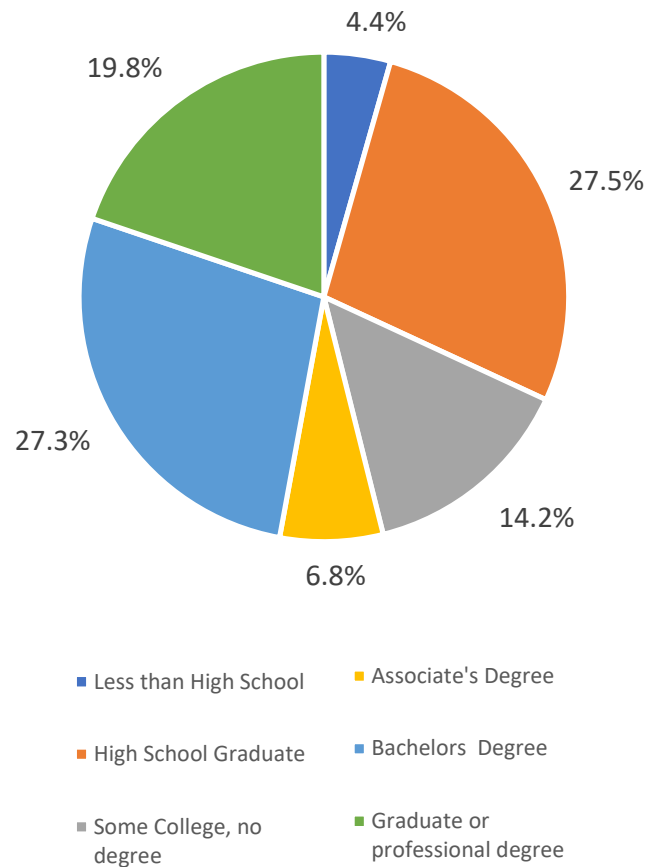


Education & School Enrollment

The majority of the population within Lower Providence has received some college education, at 68.1%, with 47.1% of the population obtaining a bachelor's degree or higher; these are on with educational attainment rates in surrounding areas. In Montgomery County, 70.4% of the population has had some college education, and 48.8% obtained a bachelor's degree or higher; in Pennsylvania as a whole, 55.0% has had some college education and 30.7% has obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

In 2018, of the 25,440 residents age 3 or older, 6,093 were enrolled in school. Of those enrolled in school, 9.0% were in nursery or preschool; 3.6% were in kindergarten; 17.3% were grades 1-4; 19.8% were in grades 5-8; 28.1% were in high school; and 14.3% were in college, undergraduate; and 7.8% were in graduate or professional school. According to the PA Department of Education, the Methacton School District is projected to go from 4,764 students in 2018-2019 to 4,242 students by 2028-2029; this is an 11% drop.

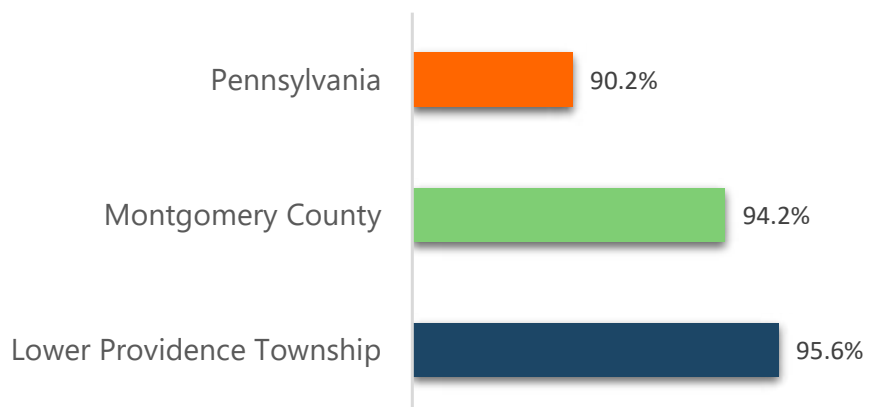
(p. 841 <https://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/Data%20and%20Statistics/Enrollment/Enrollment%20Projections/School%20District%20Enrollment%20Projections.pdf>)



Educational Attainment of Persons Age 25 & Over						
	Less than High School	High School Graduate	Some College, no degree	Associate's Degree	Bachelors Degree	Graduate or professional degree
Lower Providence Township	4.4%	27.5%	14.2%	6.8%	27.3%	19.8%
Montgomery County	5.8%	23.8%	14.6%	7.0%	27.4%	21.4%
Pennsylvania	9.8%	35.1%	16.0%	8.3%	18.6%	12.1%

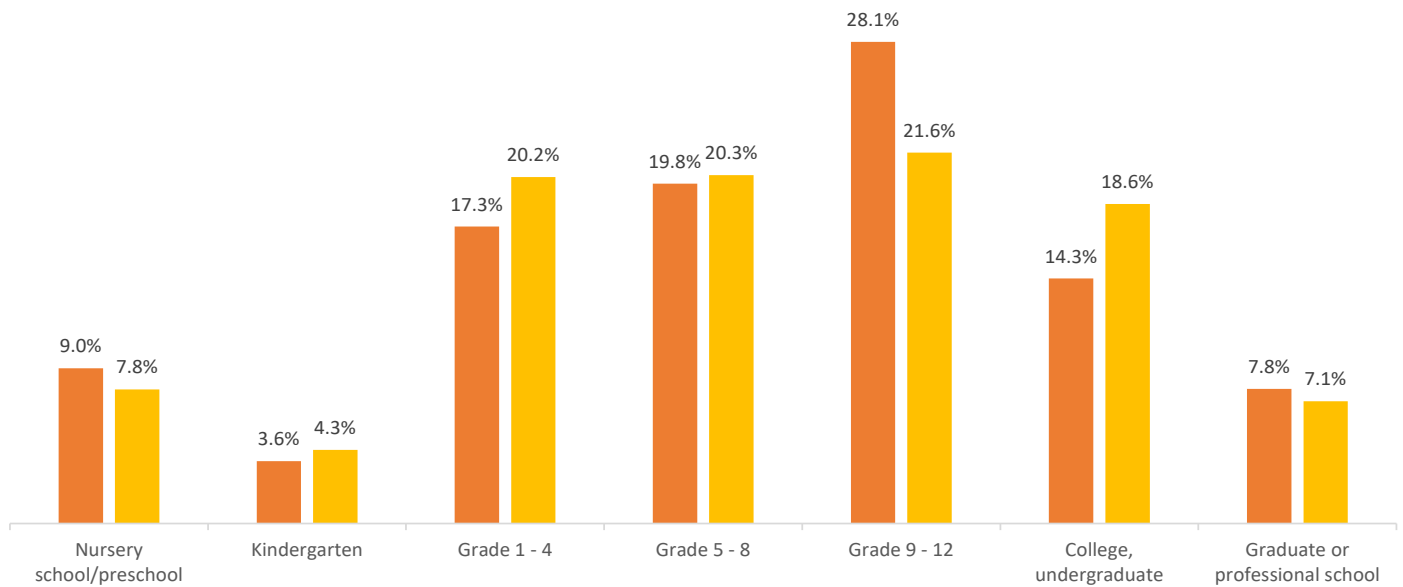
High School Graduate or Higher

■ Lower Providence Township ■ Montgomery County ■ Pennsylvania



School Enrollment Population 3 Years and Older				
	Lower Providence Township		Montgomery County	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total (3 years and older)	25,440		794,910	
Enrolled in a school	6,093	100.0%	201,938	100.0%
Nursery school/preschool	551	9.0%	15,788	7.8%
Kindergarten	221	3.6%	8,681	4.3%
Grade 1 - 4	1055	17.3%	40,790	20.2%
Grade 5 - 8	1207	19.8%	41,022	20.3%
Grade 9 - 12	1711	28.1%	43,655	21.6%
College, undergraduate	870	14.3%	37,613	18.6%
Graduate or professional school	478	7.8%	14,389	7.1%
Not enrolled in school	19,347	317.5%	592,972	293.6%

- School Enrollment Population 3 Years and Older Lower Providence Township Percent
- School Enrollment Population 3 Years and Older Montgomery County Percent







INVENTORY & ANALYSIS



Data Collection & Methodology

In 2020, Lower Providence Township selected the team of Simone Collins Landscape Architecture (SC); Certified Park and Recreational Professional, Patrick Stasio; and engineering, environmental, and surveying firm Spotts, Stevens & McCoy (SSM) as the consultants to guide the planning process. The project team also included a Project Committee, comprised of residents, professionals, stakeholders, and Township staff and one (1) member from the Board of Supervisors.

Data found within this report was compiled using the best available information. This included Geographic Information System (GIS) data from Lower Providence Township, Montgomery County, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) and Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA), which was used to prepare field maps and planning documents consisting of the base aerial photography, municipal boundaries, roadways, parcels, contour lines, and other identifying land features. Other information included previous planning studies, field reconnaissance data, steering committee and public meetings, key person interviews, focus groups, WikiMapping, and an online public opinion survey.

Site Reconnaissance

The consultants performed an initial field reconnaissance in July 2020 to inventory, analyze, and document existing conditions of parks, trails, and open space. Additional field reconnaissance was completed as needed to gather further insight for the plan. Field data was recorded by the consultants onto the field maps and photographs were taken for use in the Plan. This information was then used in evaluating planning alternatives in the development of the Plan.

Public Participation

The project was guided by a project study committee that provided critical insight and direction to the consultants in the development of the Plan. The consultants worked with the project committee to review the public participation process, gain clarification of data gathered, and guide the planning process before presenting to the public.

Community input is a critical component of a successful comprehensive plan, so it was important for the project team to hear citizens' observations, needs, and visions, and to incorporate what was learned into the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The Township placed meeting dates, information from prior meetings, and other relevant information and links on their website and Facebook page.

The public participation process included four public meetings, six committee meetings, four focus group meetings, ten key person interviews, and an online public opinion survey accompanied by WikiMapping, an online interactive mapping tool. Meeting notes and attendance sheets for each meeting, as well as survey results, can be found in the Appendix of this report.



Lower Providence Township is working on a Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan and would like to know where you want to see open space and recreation improvements.

3 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

1 Attend a Meeting

Let your voice be heard. At public meetings we'll discuss the Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan, review progress, and get your feedback. Meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise noted.

• Public Meeting #2 will take place **Tuesday January 26, 2021** at 7:00pm
Join at: <https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence2>

• Public Meeting #3 will take place **Thursday April 15, 2021** at 7:00pm
Join at: <https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence3>

• Public Meeting #4 will take place **Thursday June 24, 2021** at 7:00pm
Join at: <https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence4>

After joining on the Teams app or website and signing in, you will enter the meeting. For information on accessing the meeting, go to <https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidencedocs>

For more information on the project, please visit the Lower Providence Township Parks & Recreation Department project webpage: www.lowerprovidence.org/parks-and-recreation/pages/open-space-plan-update

2 Take the Survey

Obtaining feedback from the community is vital to the planning process. We want to know your opinions on how to improve open space & recreation in Lower Providence. The survey can be completed at the web address below. Hard copies of the survey may be picked up and returned completed to the Lower Providence Administration Building, 100 Parklane Dr, Eagleville, PA 19403

surveymonkey.com/r/LowerProvidenceParks

3 Comment on WikiMapping

Place comments directly on the easy to use digital map of Lower Providence. Let us know existing & favorite trails, challenging intersections & roadways, important destinations, and desired park and open space improvements.

wikimapping.com/Lower-Providence.html

Public Engagement Poster Used During Study

Lower Providence Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan				
Public Meeting 1 - Brainstorming Exercise				
GOALS	FACTS	CONCEPTS		PARTNERS
Provide For All Ages	Many Municipal Parks	Dog Park - form friendships, others in community, users may maintain parks.	greenways can make great connections to communities and spaces in town	DCNR
Preserve Resources	Existing Trails	Safe Pedestrian Connections to ARA Fields	priority-connect LP across Perkiomen to county trail system, especially near Collegeville	Montgomery County
Improve Safety for Pedestrians & Bicycles	Existing Playgrounds	taking Valley Forge into consideration - make connections	strong open space plan - great way to stop overdevelopment	Local Businesses
	range of ages for users, diverse many communities in region encourage kids to bike/walk to school	consider "no access" greenways unusable open space for solar/wind generation	great to provide access for kids to safely walk to schools	
	communities that have safe trails and connections, you can encourage kids to walk	*check park service areas and times	greater access to waterways - rental equipment for water sports on the creek	
			connect with William Penn Fdn on the Circuit project	

Brainstorming Exercise - Public Meeting 1, 10.26.2020

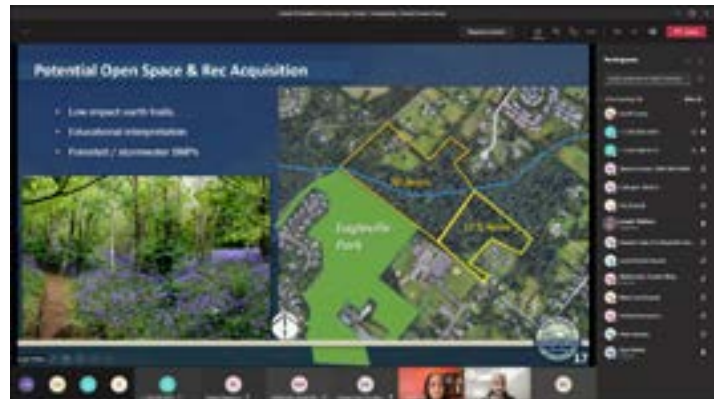
Public meeting 1 – Monday, October 26, 2020

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, this meeting was held through a virtual format. The consultants began the meeting by introducing the project team and committee. They noted their experience and reviewed the importance of having a plan. The consultants discussed the project schedule, scope, and purpose. The consultants explained that the online survey and WikiMapping would be available after the public meeting and that public involvement is extremely crucial in the planning process to ensure the plan reflects the needs of the community. The attendees were led through an interactive discussion. The meeting was recorded and placed on the Township's web site.



Public Meeting 2 – Tuesday, January 26, 2021

This meeting was held through a virtual format. The consultants began the meeting by providing survey results and discussing existing information that will be used for the plan. The consultant team then reviewed up to date analysis and introduced concepts for the plan. The meeting was recorded and placed on the Township's website.



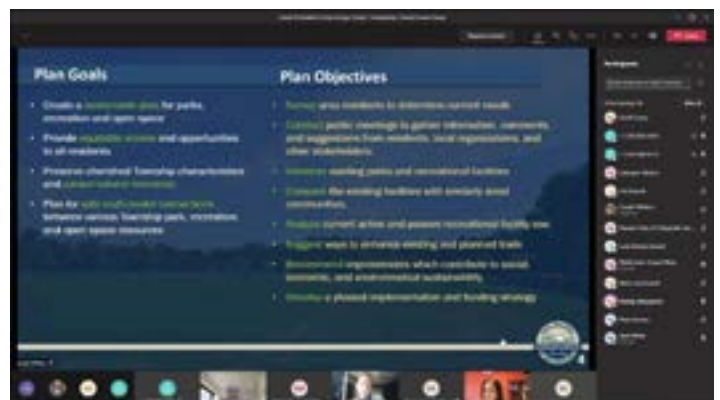
Public Meeting 3 – Thursday, April 15, 2021

This meeting was held during a regularly scheduled meeting of the Township Board of Supervisors through a hybrid in-person/virtual format. The consultants reviewed and explained the recommendations of the draft plan. They presented draft plans for the greenways, trails, and proposed open space acquisition. They also discussed recommendations for programming and recreation enhancements to the existing facilities. The plan then was posted on the Township's website for a 30-day public review period.



Public Meeting 4 – Thursday, June 24, 2021

The final plans were presented to the public at the final public meeting.



Screenshots from virtual committee, public, and focus group meetings

Key Person Interviews

The consultants interviewed ten people to discuss the plan and ideas moving forward. The interviews provided some detailed information reflected in the plan. Key takeaways from the interviews are noted below:

Lower Providence Board of Supervisors (x5)- Key Takeaway(s):

- Support for Evansburg connection / Perkiomen Crossing.
- Consider future DCNR/ Evansburg partnership for additional ballfields.
- Consider open space acquisition connecting Dell Angelo Park to Ridge Pike.
- Consider open space acquisition of open area across from Eagleville Park.
- Safe on-road bicycle connections to parks are essential.
- Important to engage all diverse members of the Lower Providence community.
- Skippack Creek Watershed Alliance is an important organization. Lower Providence is one of 7 participating municipalities reducing sediment loading into Skippack.

Valley Forge / National Park Service - Key Takeaway(s):

- Open to further discussion of potential future trail development in Valley Forge parcel north of Route 422.
- There is need for additional river access, potentially at Pawlings Road parking area.

Montgomery County - Key Takeaway(s):

- County-owned open space to remain passive. Not in favor of active recreation on County-owned land.
- County supportive of Evansburg connection / Perkiomen crossing.

Perkiomen Valley Watershed - Key Takeaway(s):

- Supportive of the following trail: conceptual Central Perkiomen trail, Evansburg connection / Perkiomen crossing, Valley Forge connector.

John James Audubon Center -Key Takeaway(s):

- Meadows & birding habitat should be a Township priority in areas that can be converted from mown lawn.
- Consider ADA accessible bird viewing locations.

Evansburg State Park - Key Takeaway(s):

- Open to further discussion of potential future trails through Evansburg.

Focus Groups

Four focus groups were created to allow persons to discuss the plan through interest groups. The groups were divided into active recreation, passive recreation, schools and social, religious and senior organizations. These groups discussions were beneficial to the consultants and ensured that the plan was taking into consideration various user groups within the Township. Key takeaways from the focus groups are noted below:

Active Recreation Focus Group (4 attendees) Key Takeaways:

- Improve existing Lower Providence facilities (i.e. fields) before building or adding new facilities.
- Consider converting Eagleville / Evansburg Point Park ballfields to turf.
- Help reduce organization costs and help generate revenue.
- Sports organizations should have quarterly collaborative meetings.

Passive Recreation, Nature, Trails Focus Group (9 attendees) Key Takeaways:

- Evansburg / Hoy Park Perkiomen multi-modal crossing preferred to Yerkes Road bridge crossing.
- Trails should serve recreation and commuter populations.
- County-owned open space to remain passive.
- Consider sidewalks along Arcola Road from Hoy Park to Perkiomen bridge crossing.

Schools Focus Group (4 attendees) Key Takeaways:

- There are no crossing guards in MSD. (Perceived safety concerns)
- Every school student is assigned a designated bus stop.
- Redtail Park is used by student population. Restroom in this location would be beneficial.
- MSD School Board is discussing the future of the Audubon Elementary School property and building.

Social, Community, Seniors Focus Group (9 attendees) Key Takeaways:

- There is limited indoor recreation space, more needed for senior population programming.
- St. Gabriel's should be a priority for partial open space acquisition.
- ADA access at all parks is essential.
- Important to get more kids walking to recreation facilities and school.

Online Public Opinion Survey

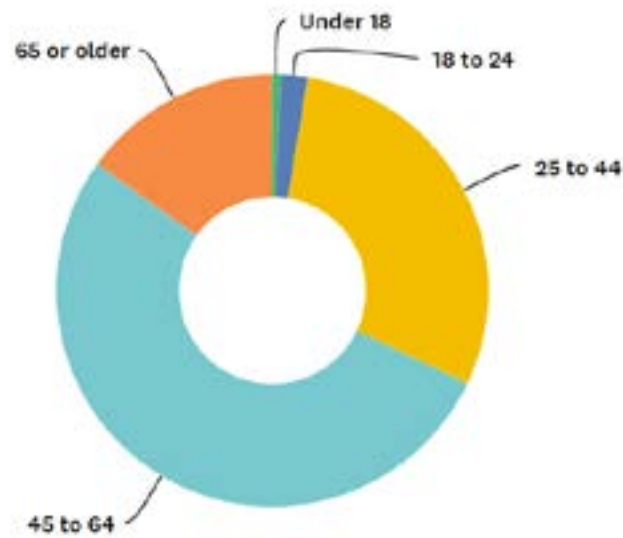
A 66-question public opinion survey was created by the consultant team with Project Committee and Township input to gather important user information related to Lower Providence Township parks, recreation, open space, and trails.

This survey solicited background data from respondents, including:

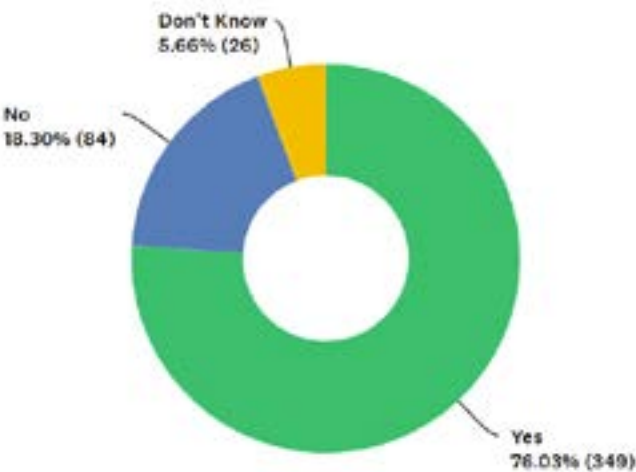
- Age, location, and length of respondent residency
- Desired park improvements
- Priorities for open space

A total of 648 responses were received during the planning process. A sample of survey results are presented in this chapter. Complete survey results can be found in the report Appendix.

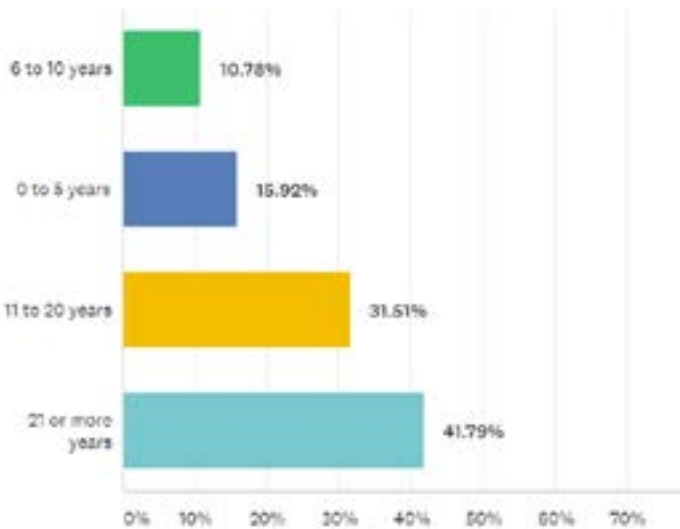
What is your age?



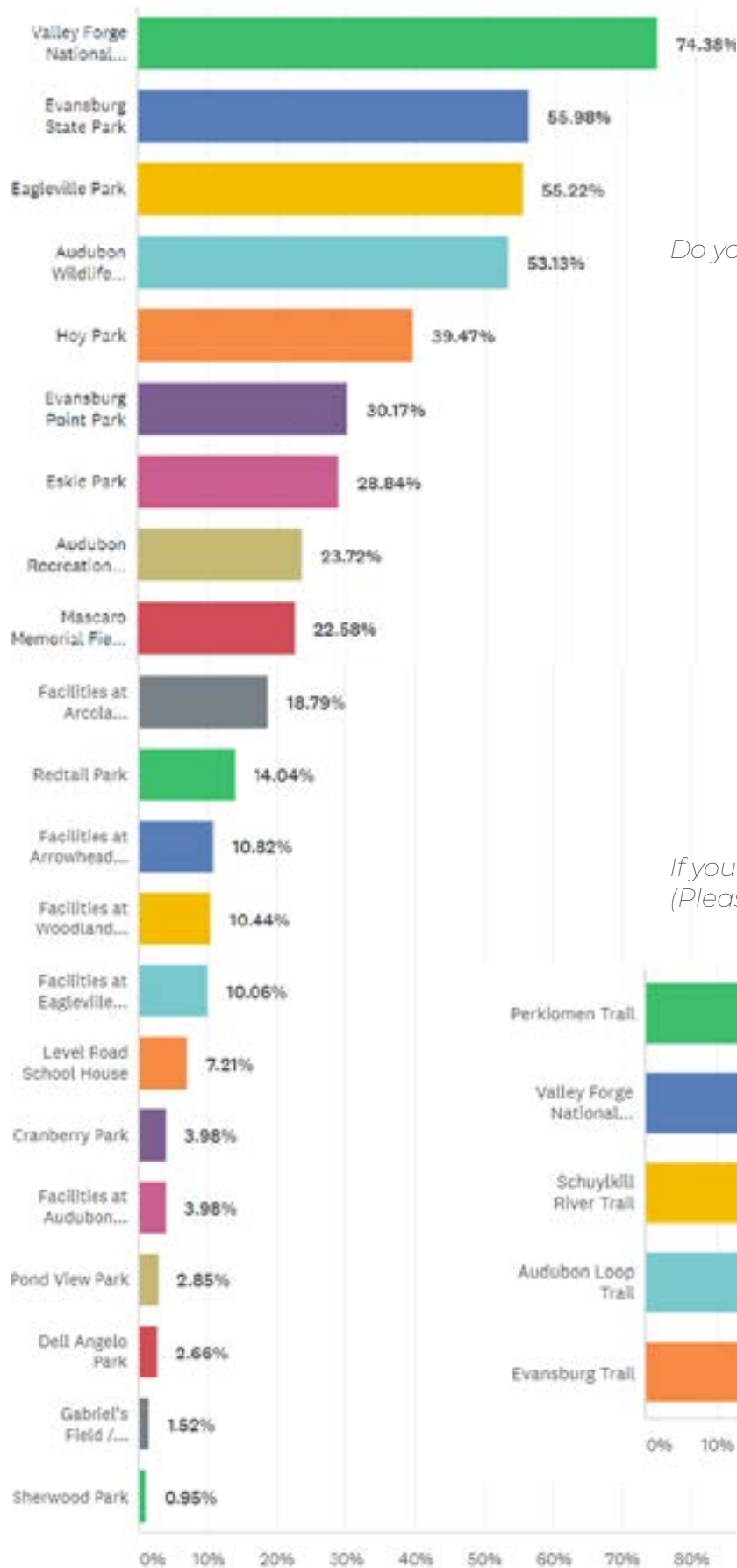
Are your household's recreation and open space needs being met in or around Lower Providence?



If you live in Lower Providence, how long have you lived in the Township?



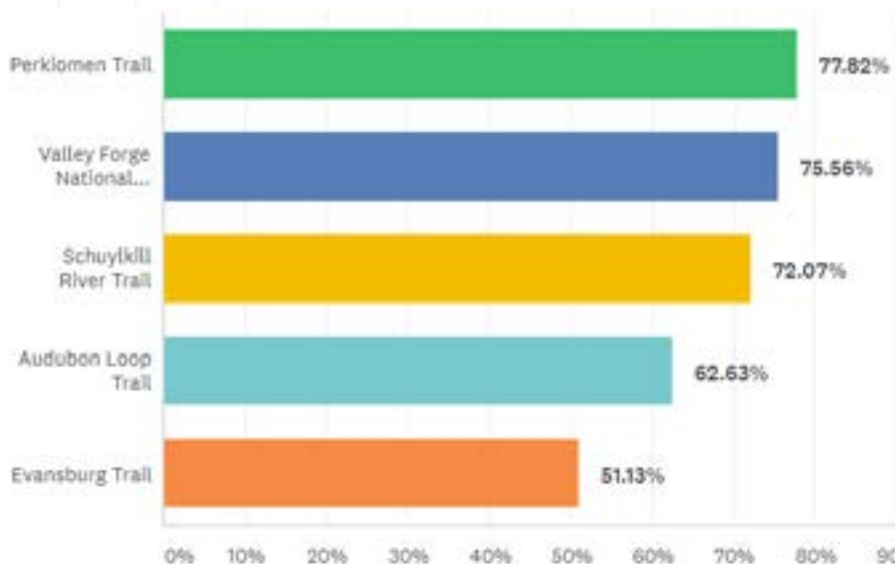
Which parks, natural areas, trails, or facilities do you visit for recreation purposes? (Please check all that apply)



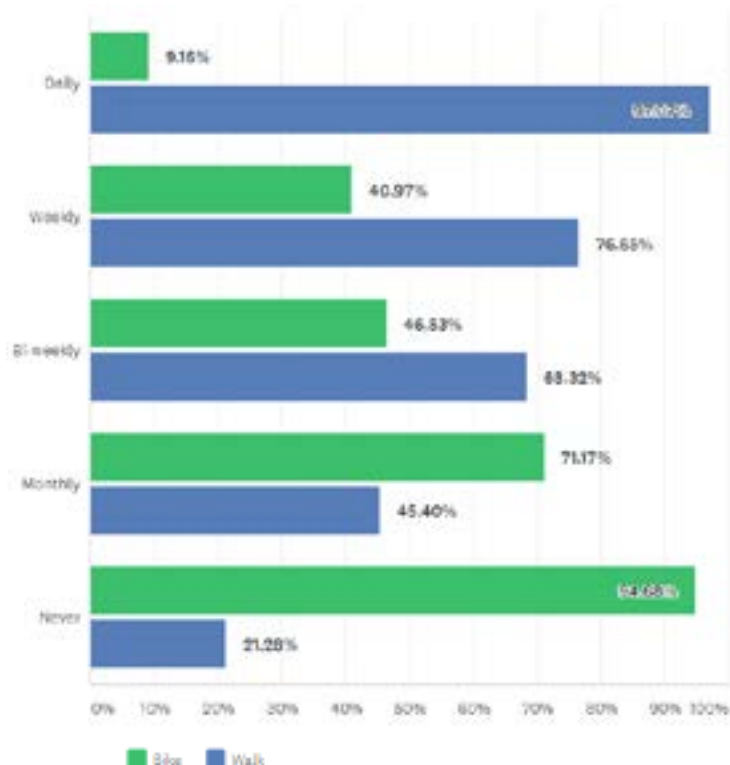
Do you walk, run or bike on area trails or roadways?



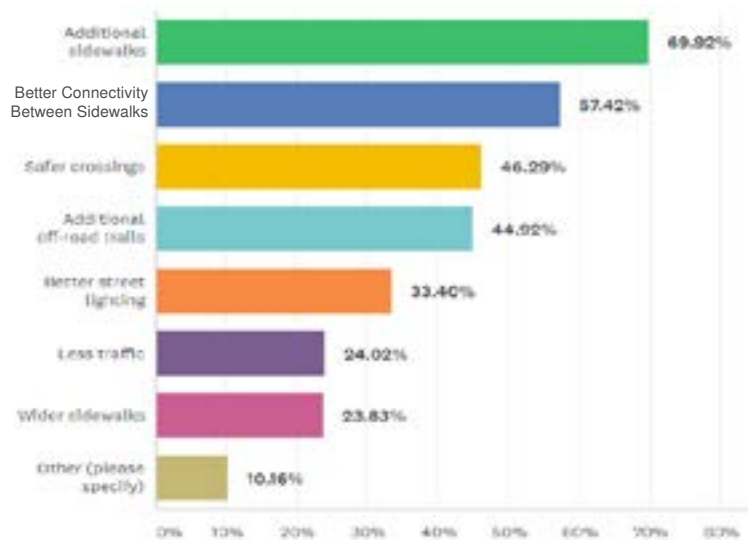
If you do use area trails, which ones do you use? (Please check all that apply)



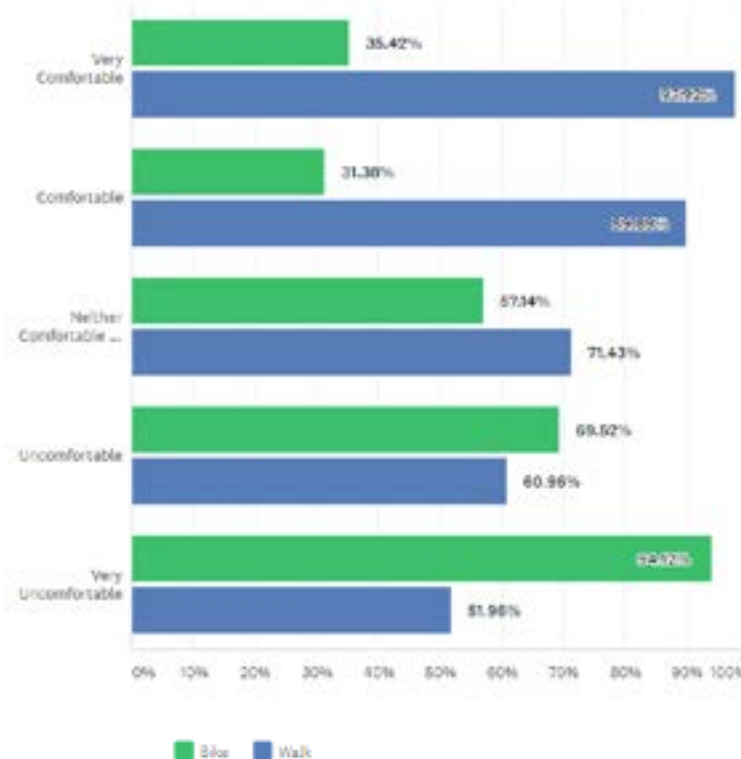
How often do you bike or walk for recreational purposes?



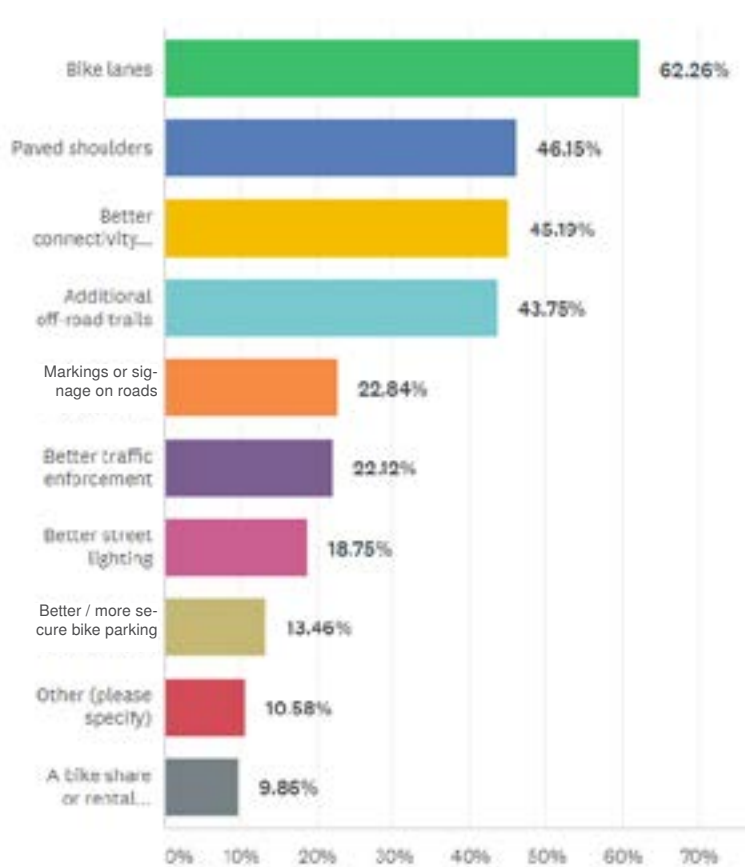
What would encourage you to walk more?



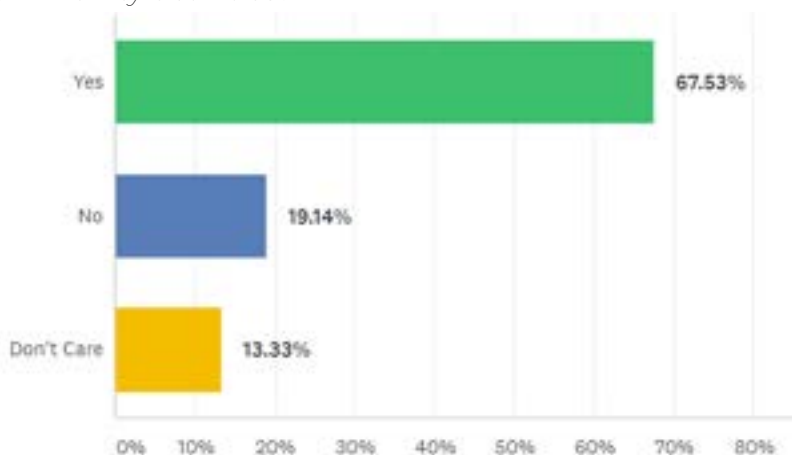
From a traffic safety perspective, how comfortable do you feel biking or walking in Lower Providence?



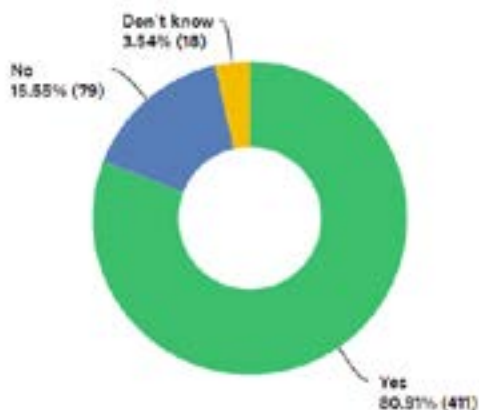
What would encourage you to bike more?



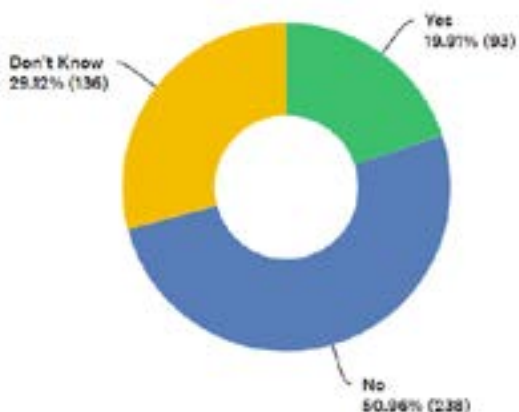
Should Lower Providence Township consider the development of a community center that provides facilities for indoor recreation, fitness and other sports, recreation and community activities?



Do you feel that there are an adequate number of parks, natural areas, and trails available to you in or in close proximity to where you live?



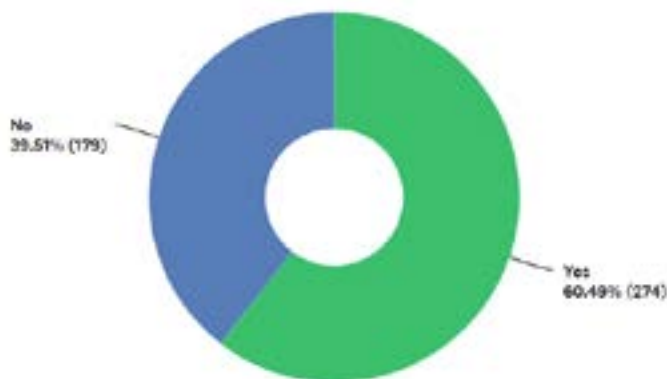
Do you think Lower Providence Township needs more sports fields (soccer, baseball, football, etc.)?

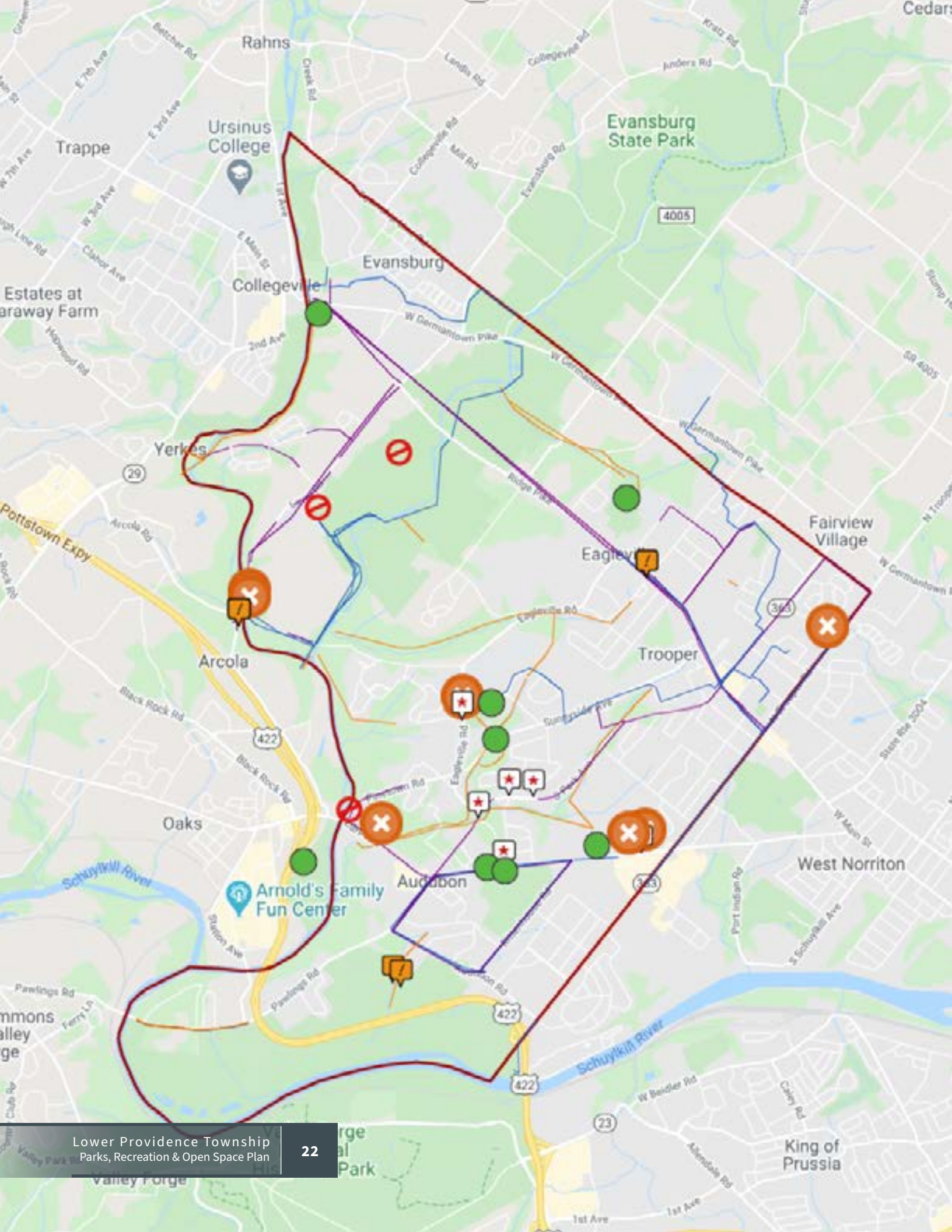


Do you support increasing taxes to pay for additional recreational and connectivity opportunities such as parks, trails and sidewalks?



Would you support a referendum in the near future to allow the Earned Income Tax to be increased to finance the acquisition of property to preserve as open space?



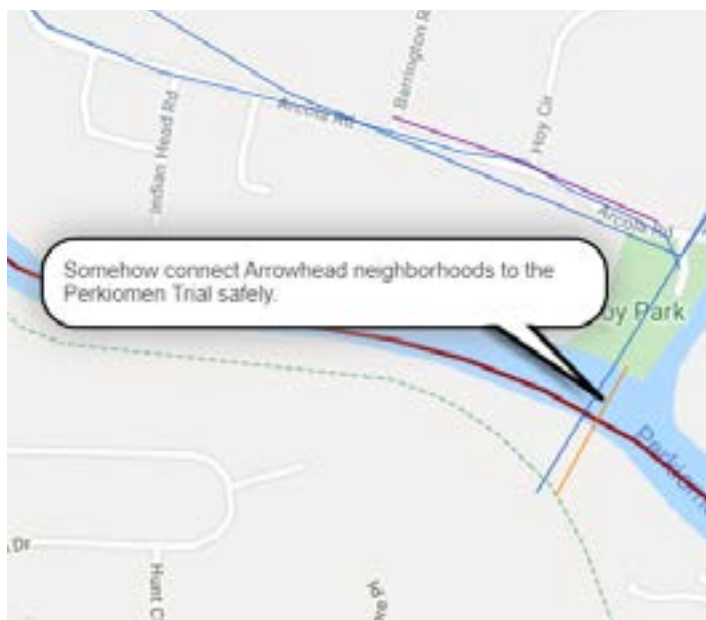
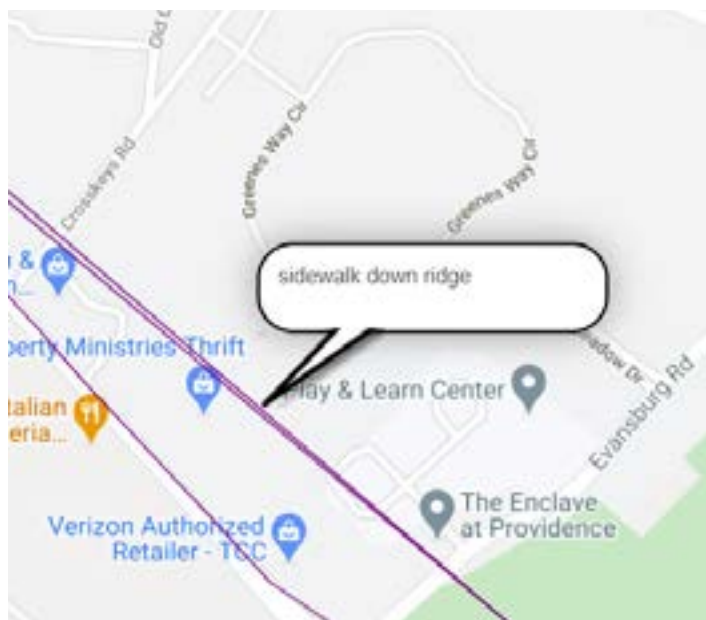
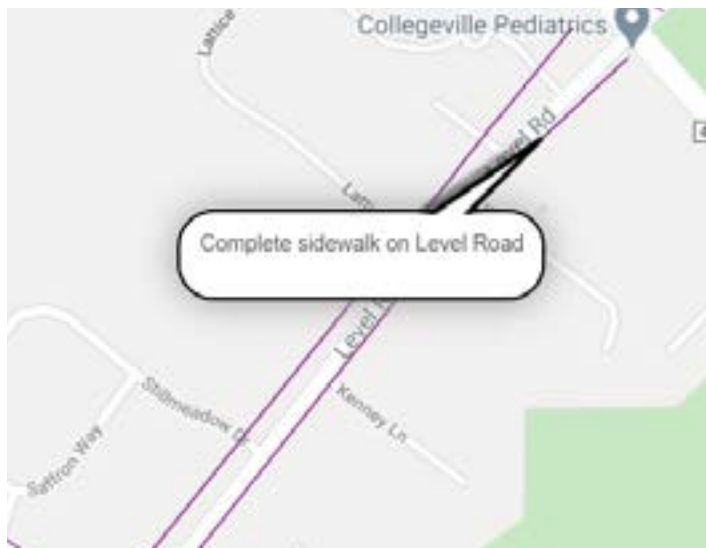


WikiMapping

The consultant team established an online mapping platform in which residents were able to identify important existing conditions (such as destinations, existing trails, sidewalk gaps, etc.) as well as desired improvements (park improvements, trails, etc.) A total of 102 map comments were received during the project process.

The WikiMapping showed that residents were generally interested in new trail and sidewalk connections and bike routes. Few pointed to having new parks.

- 7 Locations for Potential Parks Identified
- 20 Desired Locations for Trails Identified
- 30 Desired Locations for Sidewalks Identified
- 17 Desired Locations for On-Road Bicycle Routes Identified
- 5 Locations for new crosswalks identified



Relevant Planning Documents

Lower Providence Township Comprehensive Plan, 2002

Relevant Objectives:

Promote the retention and character of the historic villages in the township through the establishment of clear boundaries and zoning that enforces their distinct characteristics while allowing for appropriate new development.

Establish a dialogue with neighboring municipalities regarding land use, zoning, and development issues.

Establish a dialogue with governmental bodies and institutional uses that own large landholdings in the township to discuss the future planning of these sites.

Ensure the preservation of open space parcels in designated areas of the township by using innovative zoning techniques.

Land Use

- Goal: To promote an orderly pattern of land use that balances the need to utilize land for development with the need to preserve it for recreational and environmental needs.

Transportation

- Goal: To promote solutions to existing road and traffic problems and to encourage transportation alternatives to the automobile.

Natural Features and Cultural Resources

- Goal: To promote the preservation and enhancement of significant natural features and cultural resources that defines and distinguishes the township's unique environment and history.

Objectives

- Enact a riparian buffer ordinance for stream corridor and wetland preservation.
- Adopt stormwater best management practices to promote stream water quality and groundwater recharge.
- Require open space preservation for developments using the Alternative Development Plan in the R-2 District.

Parkland & Recreation

- Goal: To maintain livability in the township, parkland suitable for active and passive recreation should be obtained.

Objectives:

- Implement policies of the 2000 update of the township's recreation plan.
- Work with the county on the establishment of the Schuylkill River Trail.
- Revise the existing (OSRD) Open Space Residential District to require that a percentage of the designated open space be designed for active recreation.

Selective Update of the Lower Providence Recreation Plan, 2002

A selective update of the Township's 1993 Lower Providence Recreation Plan, this plan updated parkland inventory and needs, and it amended the original recommendations, where appropriate. The five Park Zones of the Township (A through E) are described, and park, recreation, and open space resources are inventoried in each Zone. Parkland deficiencies at buildout are listed for each, according to NRPA recommendations which were, at the time, 10.5 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. This Plan discusses neighborhood vs. community parks, recommending that 76% of be neighborhood parkland and 24% community parkland. Eagleville Park was the Township's sole community park at the time that this plan was published.

The update concludes with a series of recommendations designed to alleviate parkland deficiencies. It also includes recommended policy decisions designed to increase township recreational opportunities, preserve open space and natural amenities, and ensure that future land developments contribute to township park and recreation needs. Also, where appropriate, recommendations from the 1993 Open Space Plan are included, among which is the recommendation that an Official Township Map be created.

Lower Providence Township Open Space Preservation Plan, 2005

This document was an update to the Open Space Preservation Plan, 1995, and followed the Green Fields/Green Towns Open Space Task Force program established in 2003. The purposes of this plan included:

- Providing recreation opportunities including trails.
- Conserving natural features.
- Preserving historic or cultural landscapes.
- Maintaining scenic quality.
- Protecting water resources.
- Stimulating the revitalization of developed communities with green infrastructure.
- Shaping the form of land use and development.
- Preserving agricultural land.

Goals and Objectives:

Active Recreation – Provide public parks for a variety of active recreational uses, within reasonable travel time for every Township resident and worker.

- Create a hierarchy of parks: neighborhood greens (small neighborhood parks with tot-lots and fields, walking distance) to community-wide parks (larger parks serving the entire Township with fields and courts, accessible by car)
- Provide active recreation based on park type and facility needs of area to be served; provision of park sites through either outright purchase or development process.
- Preserve open space/natural amenities based on criteria specific to each part of the Township: preserve remaining open tracts in heavily developed areas (ie. Trooper and Audobon) for open space and active recreation; and preserve tracts in less developed areas (ie. Along Skippack and Perkiomen Creeks and Schuylkill River) for environmental preservation and passive recreation.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility – Improve pedestrian and bicycle mobility access for all residents from residential areas to parks, open space, commercial and employment centers.

- Connect parks using multi-purpose trails: walking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, personal mobility; provision through purchase of fee simple titles/easements or development process.
- Connect residential areas, commercial and employment centers with pedestrian/bicycle facilities and recreational trails. Pedestrian/bicycle facilities to be provided along roads as sidewalks or wide, paved shoulders. A comprehensive sidewalk/trail system is a critical component of the Open Space Plan.
- Establish a system of bike routes and bike lanes on roadways.

Natural Features – Promote the preservation and enhancement of significant natural features and cultural resources that define and distinguish the Township's unique environment and history.

- Enact a riparian buffer ordinance for stream corridor/wetland preservation.
- Adopt stormwater best management practices (BMPs) to promote stream water quality and groundwater recharge.

Parkland and Recreation – Parkland suitable for active and passive recreation should be obtained to maintain Township livability.

- Revise the existing OSR Open Space Residential District to require that a percentage of designated open space be designed for active recreation.
- If Methacton School District should dispose of school sites, the Township should be granted first right to acquire park and recreation assets for permanent preservation.

Agriculture – Preserve agriculture as part of the heritage and rural charm of Lower Providence, and as a valuable resource that be forever lost to development.

Montco 2040: A Shared Vision

The Comprehensive Plan for Montgomery County, 2015

This Comprehensive Plan lays out visions for the County that include management of the County's built and natural environment. It is structured around three interrelated themes and their associated goals, as follows:

Connected Communities – Help people connect to a broader community beyond local municipal boundaries.

- Collaboration among stakeholders
- Improved transportation choices
- Trails and greenways connecting multiple places
- Vibrant downtowns and destinations accessible by everyone

Sustainable Places – Effectively enhance and sustain neighborhoods and communities long term.

- Modernized infrastructure network
- Improved stormwater management
- Protected natural resources
- Opportunities for healthy lifestyles
- Diverse housing choices
- Enhanced community character

Land Use Vision

- Attractive, prosperous, and accessible residential neighborhoods designed for neighborly interaction
- Traditional rural landscapes with preserved farms, wooded valleys, and country homes
- Modern, walkable, green, connected and mixed use commercial and community cores
- Vibrant downtowns and village centers
- Interconnected greenways, trails, and parks

Transportation Vision:

- Improved public transit access, service, and frequency
- An extensive county trail system that connects with local municipal trails and regional trails
- Improved bikeability of roads and bicycle facilities
- An expanded sidewalk and pedestrian network designed to make walking easy, comfortable, and safe

The following areas or parcels were identified as significant in Lower Providence Township. Those properties greater than ten (10) acres are areas that are recommended to be overlaid with OSR Open Space Residential cluster zoning to ensure that if they are developed that a significant percentage of the site would be preserved as open space:

- St. Gabriel's Protectorate. [recommendation still relevant]
- Heyser Property. [recommendation still relevant]
- Eagleville Hospital Open Space [recommendation still relevant]
- IBEW / Pechins Mill Road Area. [recommendation still relevant]
- Camp Hideaway. [recommendation still relevant]
- Lower Providence Rod and Gun Club. [recommendation still relevant]
- Park Avenue, between Woodland Avenue and Shannondell. [recommendation still relevant]
- Cicchiello Agricultural Property [recommendation still relevant]
- KeyBank Agricultural Property [recommendation still relevant]

Additional 2005 Plan Recommendations:

Indoor Recreation Facility. Notwithstanding the ability to use school facilities, the Township should conduct a feasibility study to see if such a center is warranted or if the school buildings will fulfill the need. [recommendation still relevant]

Official Map. A useful planning tool that delineates on a map land that the Township wishes to purchase for public purposes. [recommendation still relevant]

School District Agreement. The Township should negotiate an agreement with the Methacton School District to secure permanent public access to the District's indoor and outdoor facilities. [recommendation still relevant]

Natural Areas Inventory Update, Montgomery County PA, 2008

This report inventories important areas of open space and core habitats within them that should be conserved to sustain habitat biodiversity and reduce stress upon threatened species that require more sensitive environments. The report makes recommendations regarding the management of these conservation landscapes and natural areas. Three conservation landscapes relevant to Lower Providence Township are identified: Middle Schuylkill River Conservation Landscape, Pawling Ponds, Skippack Creek Conservation Landscape, and Middle Perkiomen Creek Corridor. The 1995 NAI named Eagleville Woods a high priority site of local significance.

Identification of these core habitat areas, as they exist within or adjacent to Lower Providence Township, provides insight into areas needing special or enhanced protections.

Connections 2045, DVRPC, 2017

This plan's vision for the Greater Philadelphia Region is a prosperous, innovative, equitable, resilient, and sustainable region that increases mobility choices by investing in a safe and modern transportation system; that protects and preserves our natural resources while creating healthy communities; and that fosters greater opportunities for all. The mission is to achieve this vision by convening the widest array of partners to inform and facilitate data-driven decision-making. DVRPC is engaged across the region, and strives to a leader and innovator, exploring new ideas and creating best practices.

The Plan was developed around five integrated core principles:

1. Sustain the Environment
2. Develop Livable Communities
3. Expand the Economy
4. Advance Equity and Foster Diversity
5. Create an Integrated, Multimodal Transportation Network

Bike Montco, 2018

The Vision: "In Montgomery County, bicycling will be a fundamental part of daily life where all bicyclists can enjoy a safe, convenient ride every time they put their foot on a pedal." It imagines a Montgomery County where every citizen has the freedom to choose bicycling without fear of danger or difficulty

and where bicycling is equal to any other transportation or recreational choice. It is intentionally ambitious and inclusive. Bike Montco is designed around six themes: Connected Communities, Equity, Safety, Education and Enforcement, Health and Environmental Sustainability, and Vibrant Economy. These themes provide a framework for the recommendations contained within the plan and, like the vision, were identified through public outreach, extensive research, and input from a volunteer steering committee.

Municipal Facilities Study, 2018

At the outset of this study, KCBA Architects and their team were tasked with evaluating the existing township building to support the goals of improving township services; identifying and addressing safety, security, technological, and special needs; modernization and replacement of aging and inefficient building systems; and improving layout and overall functionality.

The township building is centrally located on an active campus that also houses a public library and recreational amenities. Hence, it was noted early in the study process that any proposed improvements must address not only the building's interior operations but also consider impact to overall campus circulation and the day-to-day experience of all community users.

This report culminates with a series of illustrations that demonstrate the evolution of the proposed master plan. This entailed the identification and vetting of several potential alternatives, ultimately leading to the recommended scenario to renovate the existing administration building and construct a new stand-alone police facility.

Neighboring Townships' Plans

The consultants reviewed Open Space and/or Comprehensive Plans of the following neighboring areas: Collegeville Township, East Norriton Township, Perkiomen Township, Skippack Township, Upper Providence Township, West Norriton Township, and Worcester Township. These plans give valuable insight as to how open space in Lower Providence Township connects with open space in its neighboring municipalities and creates connections for residents across municipal lines. These plans helped identify common goals and objectives across the municipalities within the region.

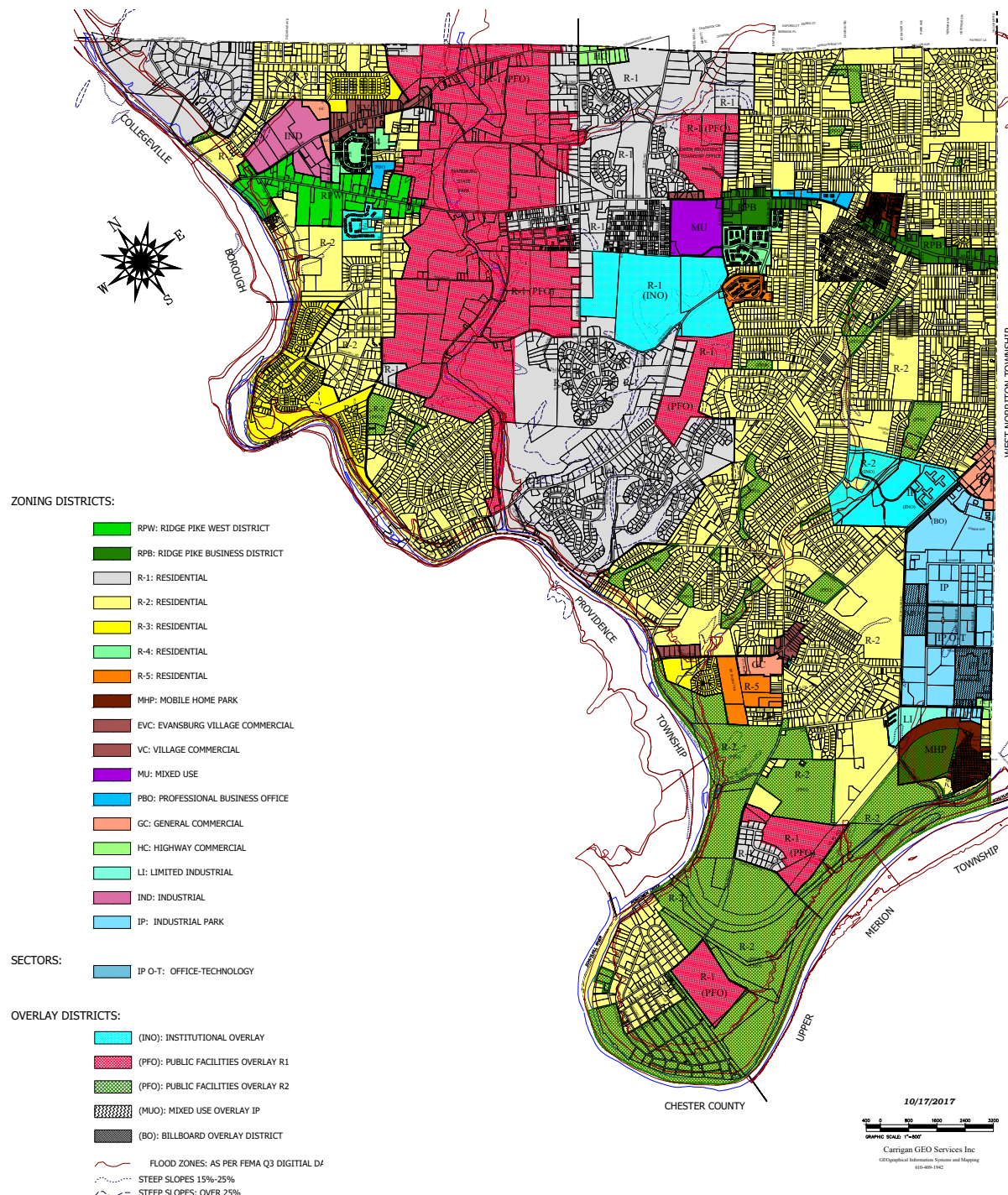
Zoning and SALDO Summary

What is Zoning & SALDO?

In Pennsylvania, a zoning ordinance is a law that may permit, prohibit, regulate, restrict and determine land use, size & height of buildings, density and intensity of land use and protection of natural & historic resources.

SALDO is an acronym that stands for Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. The SALDO contains the design standards, procedures and other requirements for Subdivision Plans and Land Development Plans within Lower Providence Township

The following is a review of relevant sections of existing Township ordinances that relate to parks, recreation, open space, multimodal connections, and natural resource protection.



Zoning Definitions

BUFFER — An area designed to separate the uses of land which abut it and which functions to ease the transition between them. Unless otherwise specified, buffers may be included as part of the required setbacks and yard areas. Buffers may be comprised of natural and/or man-made materials, depending upon the purpose they are intended to serve.

BUFFER AREA — A strip of land which is planted and maintained in shrubs, bushes, trees, grass or other ground cover material and within which no structure or building is permitted except a wall or fence which meets Township requirements.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT — A legal agreement granted by a property owner that strictly limits the types and amounts of development that may take place on such property. Such easement shall restrict the original and all subsequent property owners, lessees and all other users of the land in a manner approved by the Township Solicitor and Board of Supervisors and shall run in perpetuity.

EASEMENT — A permanent right, including a right-of-way, granted by a property owner for the limited use of his/her private land for public, quasi-public or private purposes. It can be a utility, drainage or public access easement or for other purposes. The owner of the property shall have the right to make any other use of the land which is not inconsistent with the rights of the grantee.

EROSION — The removal of surface materials by the action of natural elements.

BASE FLOOD ELEVATION — The one-hundred-year-flood elevation. Within the approximated floodplain, alluvial soils floodplain or other similarly documented areas, the one-hundred-year-flood elevation shall be established nearest to the construction site in question.

FLOOD — A temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT — The application of a program or activities which may consist of both corrective and preventive measures for reducing flood damages.

ONE-HUNDRED-YEAR FLOOD — A flood that has one chance in 100 or a one-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any one year.

IMPERVIOUS COVERAGE — That percentage of the total lot area which is covered by impervious surfaces, including buildings as well as all paved areas.

IMPERVIOUS SURFACES — Those surfaces which do not absorb water. All buildings, parking areas, driveways, roads, sidewalks and any areas in concrete and asphalt shall be considered impervious surfaces within this definition.

OPEN SPACE — That portion of a tract that is set aside for the use and enjoyment of residents and the protection of sensitive natural features, farmland, scenic views and other unique features. Open space may be accessible to the residents of the development and/or Township or it may contain areas of farmland which are not accessible to the public.

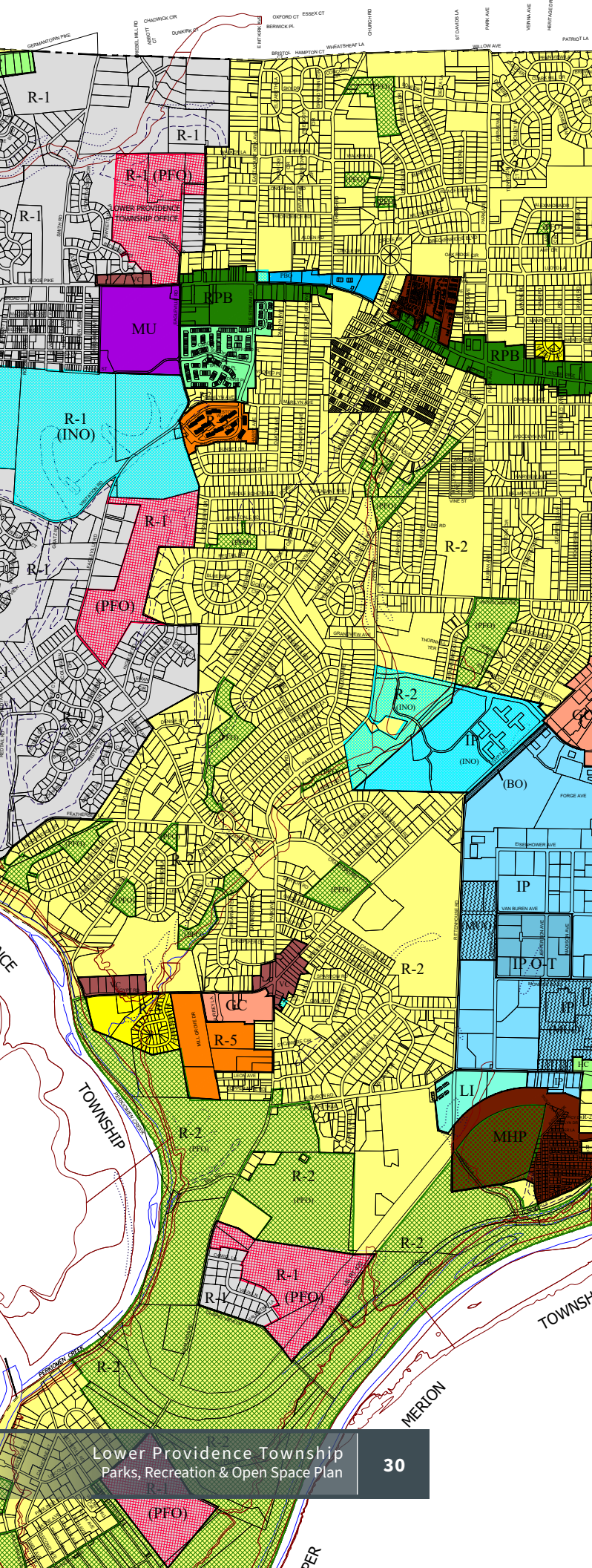
RIPARIAN BUFFER AREAS — Land immediately adjoining and upgradient from any type of natural watercourse, wetland, fen, river or stream that is vegetated with a combination of trees, shrubs and other herbaceous plants. Riparian buffer areas can include floodplain and wetland areas.

STEEP SLOPE — A grade of 15% or greater as determined by the soil survey or accurate contour mapping.

SWALE — A low-lying stretch of land which gathers or carries surface water runoff.

TOPSOIL — Surface soils and subsurface soils which presumably are fertile soils and soil material, ordinarily rich in organic matter or humus debris. Topsoil is usually found in the uppermost soil layer called the “A-Horizon.”

WATERCOURSE — Any natural or artificial swale, stream, channel, drain or culvert in which waters flow continuously or intermittently.



Relevant Zoning Regulations

ARTICLE XXVI: Public Facilities and Open Space
Overlay District

(p. 301) § 143-196. Legislative intent. It is the intent of the Public Facilities and Open Space Overlay District to provide appropriate areas for public and private parks, open space and recreational, municipal and educational uses. Specifically, it is the intent of the district to provide:

Suitable areas within the Township to accommodate publicly owned and operated buildings and facilities.

Suitable areas within the Township to accommodate public and private educational facilities.

Suitable areas within the Township to accommodate public parks, recreation areas and open space in order to meet the open space and recreation needs of the Township.

Regulatory standards which will ensure the compatibility of adjacent uses and which will preserve and protect environmentally sensitive open space and recreation areas from incompatible development.

Design and regulatory standards for educational facilities which will ensure the compatibility of adjacent uses.

Public lands held for conservation and open space preservation, including open space dedicated to Lower Providence Township or Montgomery County subject to the following additional requirements:

Open space activities are limited to uses of a primarily passive or non-intensive nature, including hiking, bicycling, forest preserve, watershed protection area, bridle trails, fishing, picnicking and similar uses.

Municipal, county, state and federal parks, including, but not limited to, Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, Evansburg State Park and Valley Forge National Historical Park, subject to the following additional requirements: Parks are limited to uses of a nonintensive nature, including picnic areas, playing fields, hiking, bicycling, fishing, ice skating, overnight camping, wildlife sanctuary, boating, playgrounds and tennis.

§ 143-202. Development standards. Any use in the Public Facilities and Open Space District shall comply with the development standards below:

A. Traffic and access. The applicant shall demonstrate to the Township Engineer and the Board of Supervisors that satisfactory provisions are made to prevent traffic congestion and hazards to the surrounding area. Provisions shall be made for safe and efficient ingress and egress to and from the development. The Board of Supervisors may require a traffic impact study for any use in this district when they determine, after consulting with the Township Engineer, that such a study is necessary to demonstrate the adequacy of the access points and streets for accommodating the traffic generated by the proposed use. Existing residential areas shall not be infringed upon by the significant volumes of traffic from the proposed use.

B. Sewer and water. On-lot sanitary systems shall only be permitted for uses under 5,000 square feet of gross floor area if approved by the Board of Supervisors. If the Board of Supervisors approves an on-site system, the sanitary system must also be approved by the Township Sewer Enforcement Office (SEO), the Montgomery County Health Department and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). If public water is not available and if the demand is in excess of 500 gallons per day, the applicant shall demonstrate to the Board of Supervisors that a well on the site will not adversely affect existing water supply systems in the area.

C. Neighborhood impact. The impact of the proposed use on the surrounding properties and neighborhood shall be considered. The use shall not adversely affect the general welfare or orderly development of the general neighborhood in which it is proposed. The scale, form, and appearance of structures and open space should be compatible with the general character of the residential area. The applicant is encouraged to present evidence on the need for the proposed use, including data on the location of other similar uses in the Township and surrounding areas.

§ 143-204. Landscaping. All uses within the Public Facilities and Open Space Overlay District shall be landscaped in accordance with the following standards:

A. Internal landscaping of all parking areas shall be provided in compliance with the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.²⁹

B. Perimeter landscaping shall be provided along all road rights-of-way and property boundaries, in compliance with the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. Existing landscape material may be used to meet these requirements when possible.

ARTICLE XXIX: Steep Slope Conservation District.

§ 143-235. Legislative intent. In expansion of the statement of community development objectives in § 143-4 of this chapter, the specific intent of the SS Steep Slope Conservation District shall be to conserve and protect those areas having steep slopes, as defined herein, from inappropriate development and excessive grading, as well as to permit and encourage the use of said areas for open space purposes so as to constitute a harmonious aspect of the continuing physical development of Lower Providence Township.

§ 143-236. District boundaries. The SS Steep Slope Conservation District is defined and established as follows: those areas having slopes of 25% or greater as defined by a field-generated topographic survey using two-foot-interval contours and which have an elevation difference of at least six feet.

§ 143-238. Uses permitted. Some of the uses permitted in the Steep Slope Conservation District without the submission of an erosion and sediment control plan include:

Wildlife sanctuaries, woodland preserves, arboretums and passive recreation areas, including parks but excluding enclosed structures.

Game farms or hunting preserves for the protection and propagation of wildlife, but excluding enclosed structures.

Recreational uses such as parks with such activities as hiking, bicycle and bridle trails, camps and picnic areas, but excluding enclosed structures.

ARTICLE XXXIV: Riparian Buffer Overlay Zone.

§ 143-267. Relationship to other zoning regulations. The RBOZ is an overlay to the existing zoning districts within the Township. The provisions of the underlying district shall remain in full force, except where the provisions of the RBOZ differ from the provisions of the underlying district, in which case the provision which is more restrictive and less permissive shall apply. The RBOZ will work with the provisions of the underlying district, as well as other natural resource protection standards, to regulate land use and the siting and engineering of all development within the Township to ensure natural resources are preserved and protected.

§ 143-268. Establishment.

The RBOZ shall include and cover the following watercourses and other bodies of water:

- Schuylkill River and tributaries.
- Perkiomen Creek and tributaries.
- Skippack Creek and tributaries.
- Stony Creek and tributaries.
- Indian Creek and tributaries.
- Eagleville Run and tributaries.
- French Run and tributaries.
- Miller Run and tributaries.
- Mine Run and tributaries.
- Rock Run and tributaries.
- Schatz Run and tributaries.
- All other perennial and intermittent streams.
- Lakes and ponds.
- Wetlands.

Any other body of water identified by resolution of the Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisors as being included within the RBOZ.

B. The width of the RBOZ shall be and is hereby established as follows:

(1) Zone One. This zone will begin at each edge of a stream channel/waterline/wetland edge (whichever is applicable) and occupy a minimum width of 30 feet measured horizontally on a line perpendicular to the top of the bank/edge of waterline or wetland.

Where the land within 30 feet of the defined edge of a stream channel has an upland slope greater than 10%, Zone One shall include the land from the stream channel edge and the upland slope and shall further extend outward 30 feet from the edge or top of such upland slope; and

(2) Zone Two. This zone will begin at the outer edge of Zone One and occupy a minimum width of 60 feet in addition to Zone One, unless modified herein. Where the one-hundred-year floodplain extends greater than 90 feet from the waterway, Zone

One shall remain a minimum of 30 feet, and Zone Two shall extend from the outer edge of Zone One to the outer edge of the one-hundred-year floodplain.

§ 143-271. Restoration and revegetation of riparian buffers. The requirements of this section shall apply to all those uses in the RBOZ, whether permitted by right or by conditional use, and in cases where a subdivision or land development is proposed. Native vegetation approved by the Township must be used in replanting efforts. Three layers of vegetation are required when replanting the riparian corridor. These three layers include herbaceous plants that serve as ground cover, understory shrubs, and trees that form an overhead canopy. The revegetation plan shall be prepared by a qualified licensed professional, such as a landscape architect or engineer; shall comply with the following minimum requirements; and shall be subject to the approval of the Township Engineer:

A. Ground cover. Ground cover consisting of a native seed mix extending a minimum of 30 feet in width from the edge of the stream bank or waterline, whichever is wider, must be provided along the portion(s) of the RBOZ where little or no riparian vegetation exists or where such vegetation has been removed. Appropriate ground cover includes native herbs and forbs, exclusive of noxious weeds as defined by the Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture. This thirty-foot-wide planted area shall be designated on the plan as a “no mow zone” and shall be left as natural cover except in accordance with the maintenance instructions stated on a Township-approved maintenance plan

ARTICLE XXV: Floodplain Conservation District.

143-178. Declaration of legislative intent. The specific intent of the regulations of the Floodplain Conservation District is to protect areas of floodplain subject to and necessary for the containment of floodwaters, in order to promote the public health, safety and welfare.

§ 143-179. Definition and establishment of District. The Floodplain Conservation District is defined as those areas of the Township subject to flooding as defined in Subsections A and B of this section. Where the Flood Insurance Study does not extend along a waterway, the regulations of Subsection A shall apply.

A. Those areas subject to inundation by the waters of the one-hundred year flood as delineated in the Flood Insurance Study for the Township of Lower Providence, as prepared by the Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), effective December 19, 1996, or the most recent revisions thereof.

B. Alluvial soils (AS). The low area adjoining and including any water or drainage course or body of water subject to periodic flooding or overflow and delineated as alluvial soils or local alluvium by the Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, in the Soil Survey of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania 2008. The boundary for this floodplain must be verified using hydrologic and hydraulic engineering studies.

Relevant SALDO Regulations

ARTICLE IV: Design Standards.

§ 123-33. Sidewalks. [Amended 1-21-2016 by Ord. No. 630] Sidewalks shall be installed along all existing or proposed public or private streets and common parking areas except when this requirement is waived at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors, upon recommendation of the Township Planning Commission and Engineer.

§ 123-50. Landscaping. For development in all multifamily, commercial and industrial districts, the applicant shall, at a minimum, provide landscaping in accordance with the following two categories as required in §§ 143-28B and 143-66 of Chapter 143, Zoning.

A. Internal landscaping. Internal landscaping shall be required for buffering and/or screening purposes. Plants in this category shall include shade trees; shrubs; ground covers, including lawn areas, earthen mounding; and/or other features in compliance with this subsection.

B. Perimeter landscaping. Each multifamily or nonresidential development shall be screened as a necessary safeguard to the character of an adjacent area. Such screening shall be permanently maintained to present an attractive appearance. Screen planting requirements shall be applicable along areas fronting on roads, areas adjacent to other properties, areas along parking lot facilities and areas along mobile home developments. Perimeter landscaping shall consist of the same types of plants and other landscape features as internal landscaping in compliance with this subsection.

C. Screen buffer design. The primary component of a screening buffer shall be a double row of evergreen trees spaced 15 feet apart on center, with the trees in one row offset 7 1/2 feet from the trees in the other row, and the rows shall be at least five

feet apart. These trees shall be not less than six feet in height at the time of planting and shall be of such species that the expected height at maturity shall be not less than 20 feet.

§ 123-51. Natural features; critical impact areas.

A. All subdivisions and land developments shall be designed to preserve and protect the natural features of the land. Natural features include existing grades and contours, bodies of water and watercourses, woodlands or large trees, street shade trees, scenic or historic points, pedestrian walks and bridle trails that have been in public use and other community assets.

B. In addition to the above, plans should be designed to minimize the disturbance of critical impact areas. Critical impact areas are environmentally sensitive features or conditions, including but not limited to stream corridors, streams, wetlands, estuaries, slopes greater than 15%, highly acidic or highly erodible soils, areas of high water table, mature stands of native vegetation and aquifer recharge and required discharge areas.

§ 123-52. Shade trees. Shade trees shall be planted along both sides of all new or existing streets at intervals of no less than 40 feet and no more than 50 feet, except where tree masses have been preserved where shade trees would otherwise be located. Trees shall be placed back of the right-of-way line of street, so as not to interfere with the installation and maintenance of sidewalks, drainage facilities and/or utilities and shall be of two-inch caliper, balled and burlapped, and guaranteed for 18 months after planting. Species selection shall be at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors or as recommended by the Planning Commission. The types of shade trees shall be such that when grown to full maturity the trees shall not impede the utilization of solar energy by neighboring structures.

ARTICLE XVII: Open Space Residential Design Standards (OSR).

§ 123-97. Open space design standards.

A. All lots shall be grouped into areas consisting of a minimum of five lots, but no more than 25 lots.

B. The maximum or minimum number of lots may be increased or decreased, with the approval of the governing body. However, the applicant must demonstrate that such an alternative plan is more appropriate for the tract in question and will meet both the general intent and design standards of this article rather than being intended solely for economic savings.

C. Housing units shall abut common open space to the greatest extent possible or provide direct access to open space for lots and privacy to individual yard areas.

D. A meandering, circuitous eight-foot wide paved macadam walking trail shall be designed and installed within the fifty-foot open space tract boundary buffer. The paved walking trail shall surround the entire development in order to provide an active recreation feature solely for the residents of the development. This walking trail is not intended for use by other residents throughout the Township.

E. Views of neighborhoods from exterior roads shall be minimized by the use of changes in topography, existing vegetation that is preserved and/or additional landscaping, including reforestation.

F. No building envelope shall contain wetlands, floodplains or slopes over 25% and all building envelopes shall be set back at least 20 feet from these sensitive areas unless a greater distance is required elsewhere in the Township's Zoning Code.

G. Active recreation areas, including, but not limited to, golf courses, playing fields, playgrounds and courts. Such active recreation areas shall be set back from the tract boundary a minimum of 100 feet. At a minimum, 15%, or one acre, whichever is greater, of the required common open space must be usable for active recreation. Any areas designed for active recreation must be generally level (finished grade not to exceed 3%), safely accessible to all of the residential lots in the OSR development and shall be designed in conformance with the regulations of § 123-140G of the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. Active recreation areas must have frontage or direct access from a road within the proposed development. This requirement for active recreation land may be used to satisfy the prime recreation land requirements of § 123-140 of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, provided that the applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board of Supervisors that the active recreation land requirements contained above superseded the regulations of § 123-140.

ARTICLE XIX: Recreation Land and Fees.

§ 123-108. Purpose; applicability; limitations; dedication; fees.

A. Purposes: to provide adequate open spaces, recreational lands and recreational facilities to serve residents and occupants/employees of new developments, for both active and passive

recreation; to recognize and work to carry out the Recreation Plan, Open Space Preservation Plan and Comprehensive Plan for Lower Providence Township.

B. Applicability. This article shall apply to any subdivision or land development for which a preliminary plan or a combined preliminary/final plan is submitted after the enactment date of this amendment. This article shall apply to any subdivision or land development that will eventually result in one or more new dwelling units or new principal commercial, office or industrial building floor area.

D. Land dedication. An owner or developer of any subdivision or land development regulated under this section shall be required to dedicate the specified amount of recreation land, unless there is agreement between the Board of Supervisors and the applicant that recreation fees shall be required in lieu of dedicated land. The land and fee requirements of this section shall be based upon the number of new dwelling units or maximum building floor area that would be allowed on the lots of a subdivision or land development after approval.

E. Fees. If the Board of Supervisors determines that a proposed subdivision or land development is required to pay fees in lieu of dedicating recreation land, this fee shall be as established by Township resolution (\$1,160/dwelling unit as of April 2021).

ARTICLE XXIII: Natural Resources Protection.

§ 123-114. Tree preservation, protection and replacement.

A. Natural resources plan: legislative intent. It is the intent of the natural resources plan to provide protection and preservation to the existing urban forestry canopy as a vital environmental natural resource of Lower Providence Township.

B. Tree protection and preservation. Preplanning conference. Prior to the preparation of formal land development and subdivision plans, the applicant/developer is encouraged to attend a preplanning conference to review the natural resources plan prepared pursuant to this subsection with Township staff.

Every tree determined by the Township Landscape Architect to be living and healthy, with a DBH of eight inches or greater and which is designated to be removed or which is destroyed, shall be replaced with one or more new shade trees of a type approved by the Township and have a trunk diameter of not less than 2.5 inches in caliper.

No heritage tree is to be removed for any reason without approval of the Board of Supervisors and after recommendation of the Township Landscape Architect. Any heritage tree removed without approval by the Board of Supervisors must be replaced with trees of equivalent value calculated by using the Truck Formula Method provided by the International Society of Arboriculture using the most recent issue.

Additional Regulations

ARTICLE III: Stormwater Management.

§ 129-13. General requirements.

A. All applicants proposing regulated activities in the Township that do not fall under the exemption criteria shown in § 129-6B and C of this chapter shall submit a stormwater management site plan, consistent with this chapter, to the Township for review. All applicants proposing regulated activities that fall under the exemption criteria identified in § 129-6C shall submit a simplified stormwater management site plan, consistent with this chapter, to the Township for review. These criteria shall apply to the total proposed development even if development is to take place in stages. Impervious surface shall include, but not be limited to, any roof, parking or driveway areas and any new streets and sidewalks. Any areas designed to be gravel or crushed stone shall be assumed to be impervious unless designed as a BMP (e.g., pervious paver blocks, reinforced turf, gravel-filled grids, etc.).

D. For all regulated earth disturbance activities, erosion and sediment (E&S) control best management practices (BMPs) shall be designed, implemented, operated, and maintained during the regulated earth disturbance activities (e.g., during construction) to meet the purposes and requirements of this chapter and to meet all requirements under Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Code and the Clean Streams Law. Various BMPs and their design standards are listed in the Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Program Manual (March 2012), as amended and updated.

N. Where a development site is traversed by watercourses, drainage easements shall be provided conforming to the line of such watercourses. The width of the easement shall be adequate to provide for the unimpeded flow of stormwater runoff from the one-hundred-year storm event. Terms of the easement shall prohibit excavation, the placing of fill or structures, and any alterations that may adversely affect the flow of stormwater within any portion of the easement. Periodic maintenance of the easement shall be required by the landowner to ensure proper runoff conveyance, as defined by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

P. Any stormwater management facilities regulated by this chapter that will be located in or adjacent to waters of the commonwealth or wetlands shall be subject to approval by PADEP through the Chapter 105 permit process, or, where deemed appropriate by PADEP, the general permit process. When there is a question as to whether wetlands may be involved, it is the responsibility of the applicant to show that the land in question cannot be classified as wetlands; otherwise, approval to work in the area must be obtained from PADEP.



Inventory & Analysis Mapping

Geology

Bedrock geology is rarely visible and its influence on natural features may often be overlooked. Bedrock geology is the foundation of an area and along with local hydrology, is responsible for the changes in elevation, steep slopes and location of waterways.

Bedrock geology also influences plant communities and soils. Bedrock or parent material has a great influence on the type of soil formed. Igneous bedrock leads to soils with a high stone and boulder content. Montgomery County is located in the Triassic Lowland and Piedmont Upland section of the Piedmont Physiographic Province. The Triassic Lowlands are primarily red shales and sandstones, with intrusions of diabase. Four formations, Stockton Sandstone/Conglomerate/Shale, Lockatong Argillite/Shale, Brunswick Shale/Sandstone, and diabase, make up the Triassic Lowlands. The Piedmont Upland is comprised of metamorphic and igneous rock (granite and schist), although there is a band of carbonate rock which stretches east from Chester County to Abington Township. Wissahickon Schist/ Granite Gneiss/Hornblende Gneiss, Chickies Quartzite, and Leger/Dolomite/ Elbrook/Conestoga Lime-stone, are the formation found in the Piedmont Upland.

Geologic Formations

Brunswick Formation

- Reddish-brown mudstone, siltstone, and shale, containing a few green and brown shale interbeds; red and dark-gray, interbedded argillites near base.

Lockatong Formation

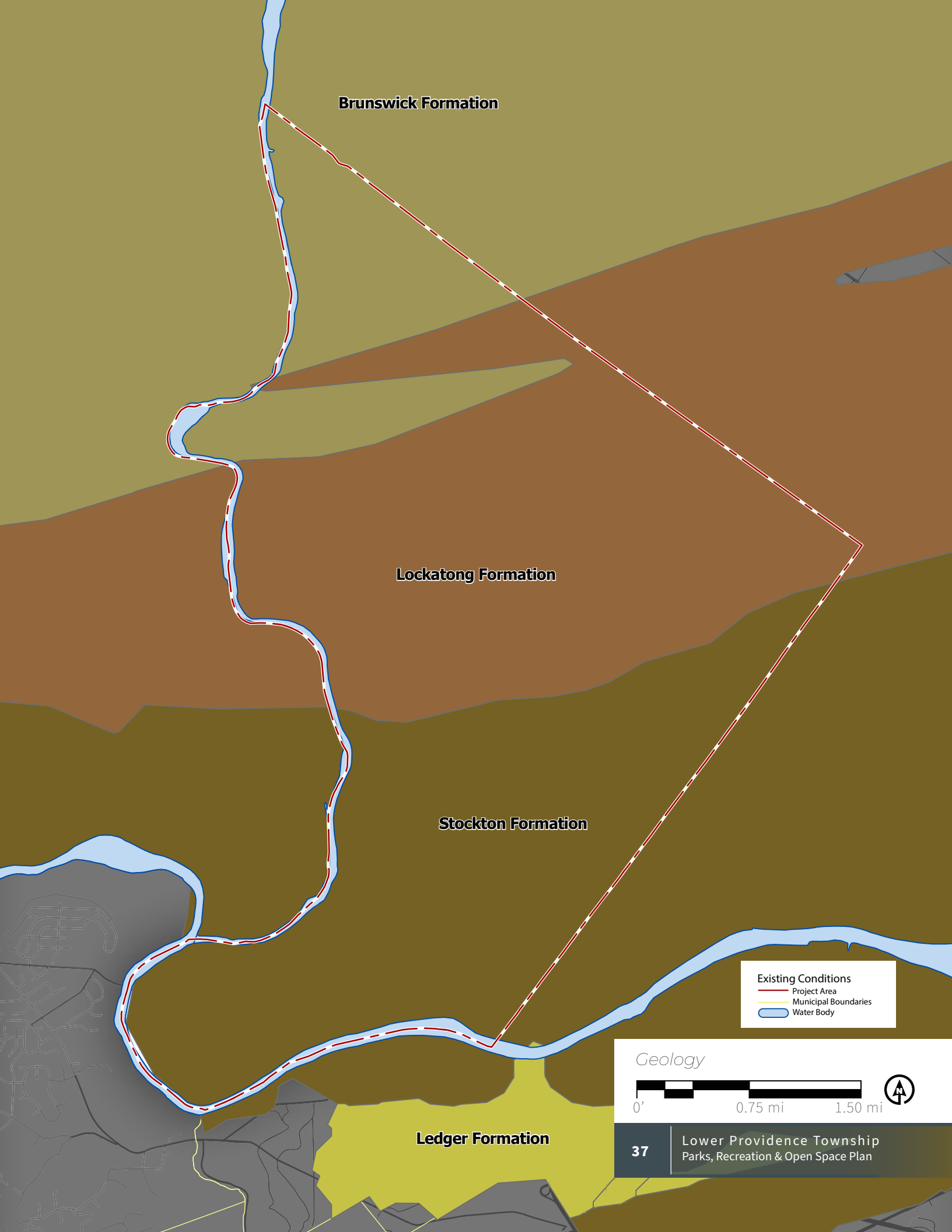
- Dark-gray to black, thick-bedded argillite containing a few zones of thin-bedded black shale; locally has thin layers of impure limestone and calcareous shale.

Stockton Formation

- Light-gray to buff, coarse-grained, arkosic sandstone; includes reddish-brown to grayish-purple sandstone, siltstone, and mudstone.

Ledger Formation

- Light-gray, locally mottled, massive, pure, coarsely crystalline dolomite.



Brunswick Formation

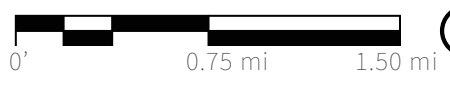
Lockatong Formation

Stockton Formation

Ledger Formation

- Existing Conditions**
- Project Area
 - Municipal Boundaries
 - Water Body

Geology





Topography & Steep Slopes

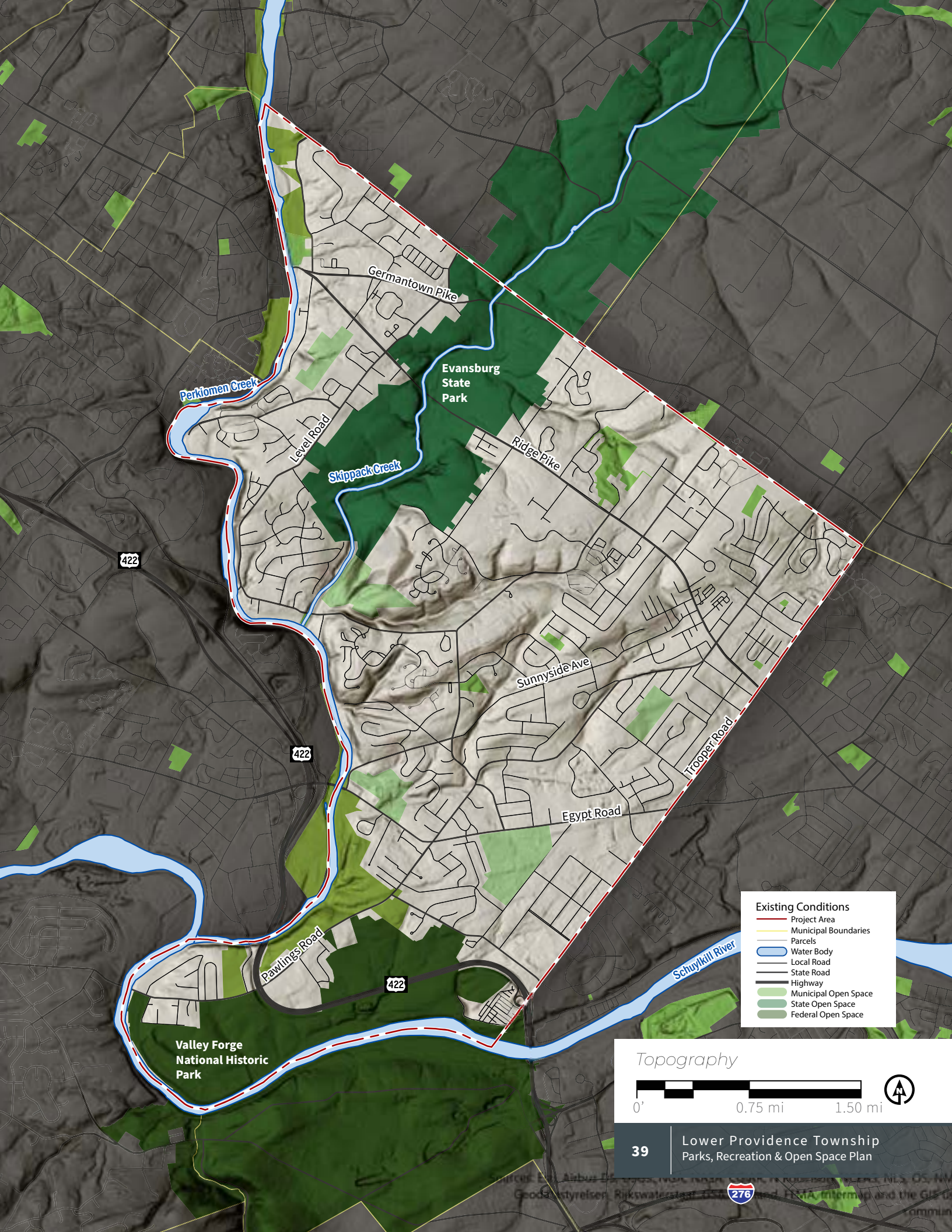
Topography and steep slopes are naturally occurring, and are results of geology, hydrology, as well as manmade development. Topography limits development and steep slopes (slopes over 15%) are classified as environmentally sensitive.

The Soil Conservation Service's Soil Survey for Montgomery County has four classifications for slopes:

- 0 to 3 percent,
- 3 to 8 percent,
- 8 to 15 percent,
- 15 to 35 percent.

As slope increases, the depth of topsoil and the ability of the soil to support structures decreases. Steep slopes have a combination of vegetation, climate, soil and underlying geology which will differs from the surrounding area. Environmental sensitivity of the steep slope is different from lowland areas, especially If vegetation is removed from steep slope areas, sediment erosion is a likely result which will lead to increased stormwater runoff.

Lower Providence Township has several steep slope area. Steep slopes are located in all parts of the Township, but are more specifically located along several water bodies: Skippack Creek, Mine Run, Perkiomen Creek, and the Schuylkill River, and tributaries.



Perkiomen Creek

Germantown Pike

Evansburg State Park

Level Road

Skipack Creek

Ridge Pike

Sunnyside Ave

Egypt Road

Trooper Road

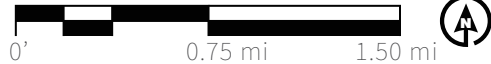
Pawlings Road

Schuylkill River

Valley Forge National Historic Park

- Existing Conditions**
- Project Area
 - Municipal Boundaries
 - Parcels
 - Water Body
 - Local Road
 - State Road
 - Highway
 - Municipal Open Space
 - State Open Space
 - Federal Open Space

Topography



SOILS

Prime and Important Agricultural Soils

Agricultural soils are measured based on fertility, depth to bedrock and groundwater, texture, erodibility, and slope. Based on these characteristics' soils are classified as farmland of statewide importance. Prime farmland includes deep, well-drained, and moderately sloped soils that can support high yields of crops with little management. Lower Providence Township has soils considered to be prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance. One area of prime farmland is the southern part of the Township, south of Sunnyside Avenue and Ridge Pike all the way to the Schuylkill River. Another is the far northwestern part of the Township, between the Perkiomen and Skippack Creeks. Most of the remainder of the Township has soils considered to be farmland of statewide significance.

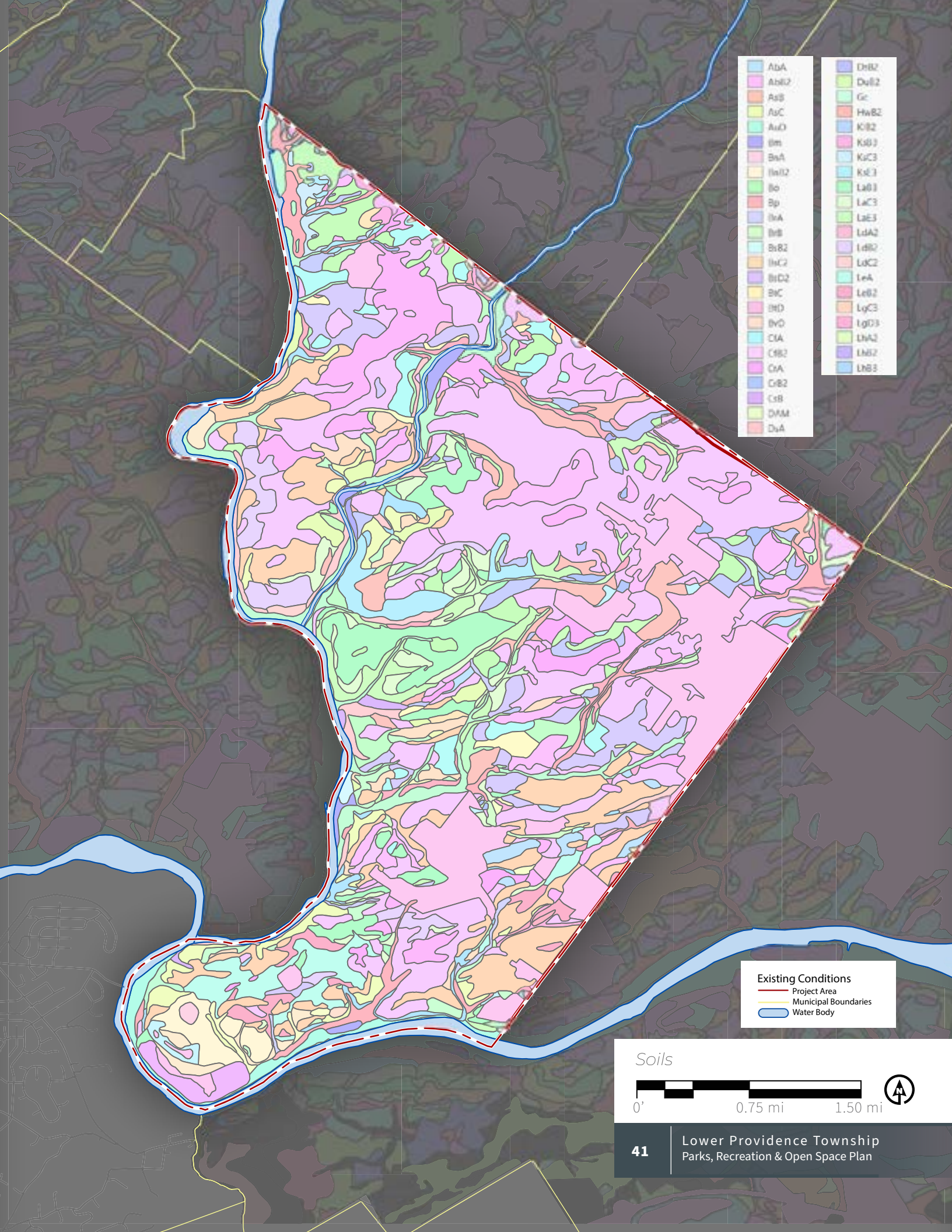
Hydric Soils

Hydric soils are periodically wet soils in an undrained condition that often support the growth of wetland vegetation. Some hydric soils are found in drained conditions; these will not exhibit wetland vegetation. Hydric soils that have been drained for agricultural use are one example of this situation. Soils with major hydric components are a conservative indicator of wetlands. Other soils have hydric components in limited settings, such as depressions, bottom lands, swales, drainage ways, and alluvial soils. These soils have a high water table and frequently pond.

Lower Providence Township has several areas of hydric soils. For the most part, they correspond to the water bodies in the Township: Schuylkill River, Eagleville Run, some parts of the Mine Run, Schatz Run, Miller Run, French Run, Rock Run, and the West Branch of the Stony Creek. Interestingly, most of the land along the Skippack Creek is not hydric soils. There is one large area of hydric soil not associated with a creek. It is on the northwest side of Sunnyside Avenue, from Farmhouse Drive nearly to Highley Road.

Alluvial Soils

Related to hydric soils, alluvial soils are frequently, but not always, located within a floodplain. These soils have been deposited by flowing water and are not stable as a result of their texture and composition. The presence of alluvial soils is only one indicator of a floodplain. Changes in the tributary drainage area or slope of the adjacent stream may create a floodplain that is either larger or smaller than the area of alluvial soils. Also, alluvial soils do not indicate the probability of recurrence of a flood (for example, a 100-year flood). An important aspect of alluvial soils is that they often form aquifer recharge



AbA	DsB2
AbB2	DuB2
AsB	Gc
AuC	HwB2
AuD	KsB2
Bm	KsC3
BsA	KsC3
BsB2	LaB3
Bo	LaC3
Bp	LaE3
BsA	LdA2
BsB	LdB2
BsC2	LdC2
BsC2	LeA
BsC	LeB2
BsD	LyC3
BvD	LgD3
CIA	LhA2
CsB2	LmB2
CsA	LmB2
CsB	LmB2
DAM	LmB2
DuA	LmB2

Existing Conditions

- Project Area
- Municipal Boundaries
- Water Body

Soils

0' 0.75 mi 1.50 mi

North Arrow



Watersheds

A watershed is an area that drains all rainfall to a common outlet, stream or conveyance channel. Surface water moves across Lower Providence Township via the following watersheds:

Flows to Schuylkill River

- Trout Creek Watershed
- Crow Creek Watershed
- Indian Creek Watershed
- Schuylkill River Watershed

Flows to Perkiomen Creek

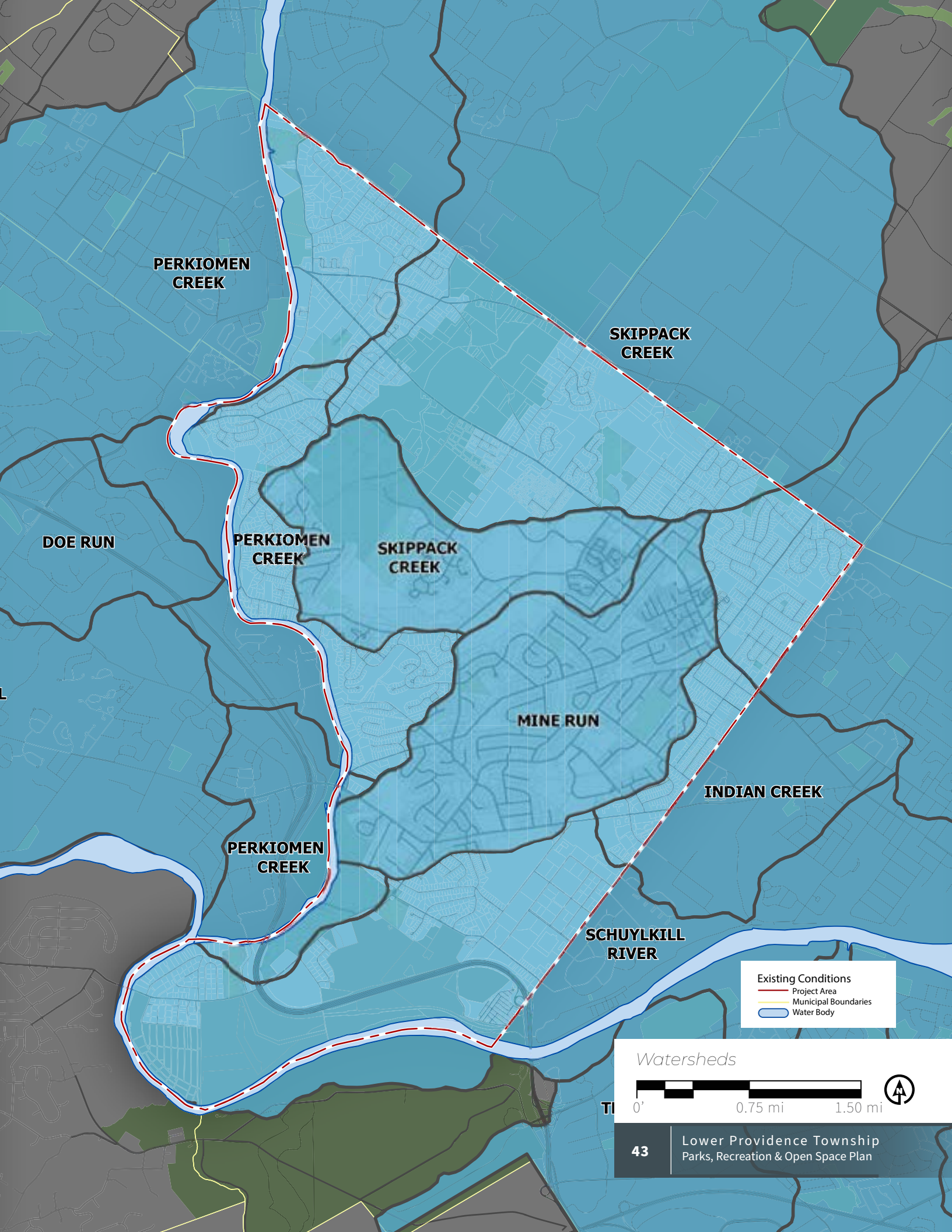
- Doe Run Watershed
- Mine Run Watershed
- Perkiomen Creek Watershed

Flows to Skippack Creek

- Skippack Creek Watershed

Stormwater may run onto and off of impervious surfaces such as parking lots, roads, buildings, and other structures during periods of heavy rain and snowfall. Impervious surfaces are paved surfaces through which water cannot infiltrate ie: sidewalks, driveways, roadways, parking lots, buildings/rooftops, etc. These surfaces usually convey rainwater into storm drains, but can also discharge overland across lands that may be classified as pervious - that can infiltrate water.

Lower Providence Township is within the Schuylkill River watershed. Within the Perkiomen Watershed are several smaller subwatersheds. The largest is the Skippack Creek (runs through the Evansburg State Park). Mine Run drains much of the south-central part of the township, between Egypt Road and Sunnyside Avenue. Smaller creeks drain directly to the Perkiomen Creek, including Schatz Run, Miller Run and French Run. The West Branch of the Stony Creek drains the northeastern corner of the Township. The Stony Creek drains directly into the Schuylkill River at Norristown. Indian Creek drains directly into the Schuylkill River at Port Indian in West Norriton Township.



PERKIOMEN
CREEK

SKIPPACK
CREEK

DOE RUN

PERKIOMEN
CREEK

SKIPPACK
CREEK

MINE RUN

INDIAN CREEK

PERKIOMEN
CREEK

SCHUYLKILL
RIVER

Existing Conditions
Project Area
Municipal Boundaries
Water Body

Watersheds

0' 0.75 mi 1.50 mi



Hydrology

Streams - Streams, rivers, and waterways play important historic, recreational, and environmental roles for people who live in the region. The following waterways run through or adjacent to Lower Providence Township:

- Schuylkill River and tributaries.
- Perkiomen Creek and tributaries.
- Skippack Creek and tributaries.
- Stony Creek and tributaries.
- Indian Creek and tributaries.
- Eagleville Run and tributaries.
- French Run and tributaries.
- Miller Run and tributaries.
- Mine Run and tributaries.
- Rock Run and tributaries.
- Schatz Run and tributaries.

Floodplains - Floodplains are low lying areas next to streams, rivers, or waterways that are subject to periodical complete or partial flooding during rain events. Floodplains are meant to flood as part of the hydrologic cycle. The boundaries of floodplains are typically irregularly shaped and often meander through communities, unseen. Flooding under normal circumstances is not dangerous, but when development approaches these areas, risk of damages and possible loss of life increases. When these areas are naturally vegetated, it can help trap and reduce the amount of suspended sediment from upland runoff that would otherwise reduce water quality and impair aquatic habitat. Having a healthy floodplain will also create better downstream conditions while storing large amounts of water that helps replenish aquifers. Regulations protect these important areas and help to protect people from property damage and loss of life.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) produces flood zone maps to identify floodways, 100-year flood zones, and 500-year flood zones. These areas are identified on the Hydrology Map. “100-year flood” does not mean that a rain event will cause flooding that will only happen every 100 years, but

rather that there is a one percent chance that a certain amount of rain will fall in a particular location over a set amount of time in a given year. A 500-year flood has a .2% chance of happening within any given year.

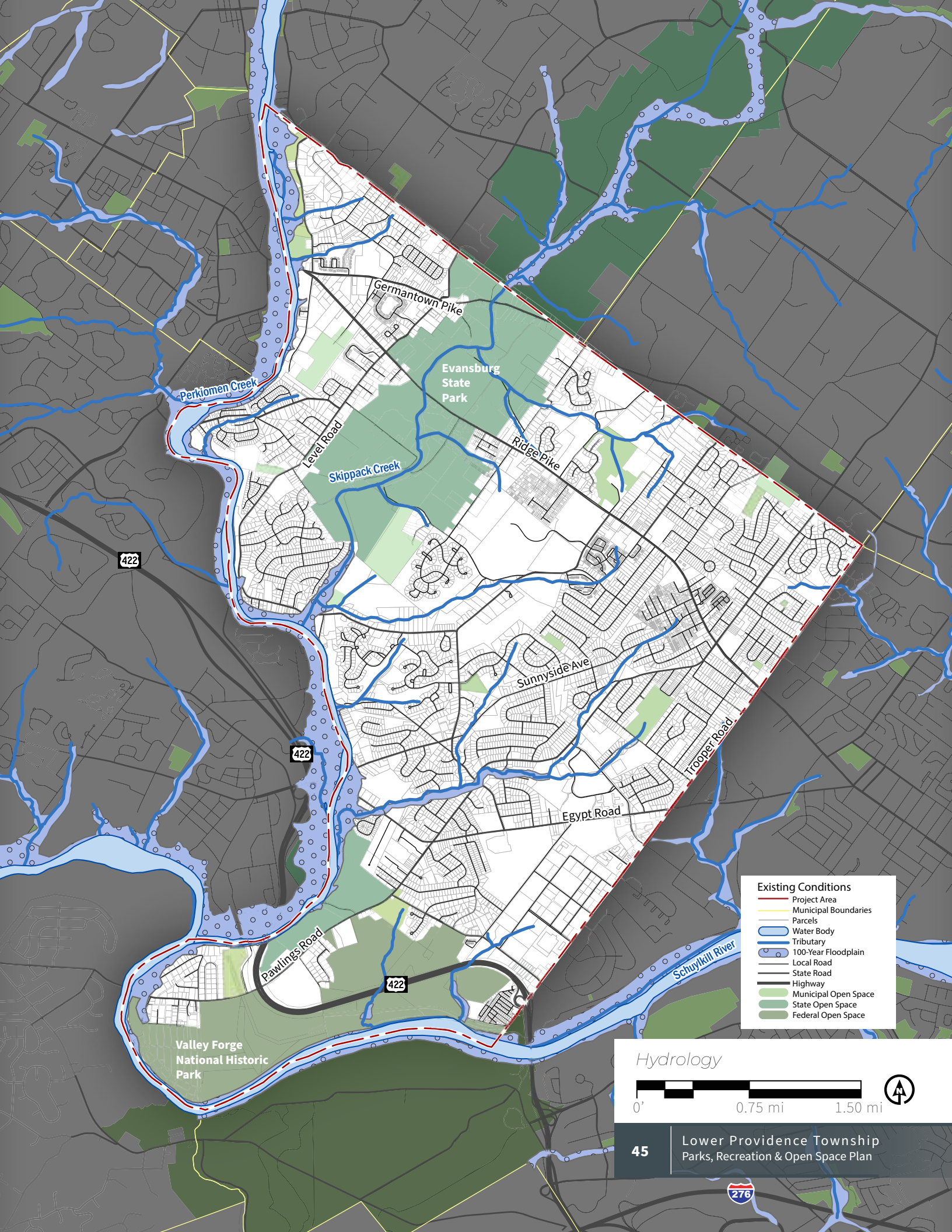
The Federal Clean Water Act requires Pennsylvania to establish water quality standards for all streams and other water bodies in the state. The standards establish criteria that need to be met to protect designated water uses. That means that the streams are evaluated periodically to ensure that the water quality standards that are associated with the uses are met. The higher the standards, the higher the waterway’s value for protection and propagation of aquatic life and hence the higher the stream quality.

Below is the federal government’s list as it is used in Montgomery County, including a summary of what the water quality criteria are based on. The list is prioritized from the lowest designation (WWF) to the highest (EV).

- WWF Warm Water Fishes — Maintenance and propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna that are indigenous to a warm water habitat.
- CWF Cold Water Fishes — Maintenance and/or propagation of fish species including the family Salmonidae and additional flora and fauna that are indigenous to a cold water habitat.
- TSF Trout Stocking Fishes — Maintenance of stocked trout from February 15 to July 31 and maintenance and propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna that are indigenous to a warm water habitat.
- EV Exceptional Value Water — A stream or watershed that constitutes an outstanding national, state, regional, or local resource, such as waters of national, state, or county park or forests, or water that is used as a source of unfiltered potable water supply, or waters of wildlife refuges or state game lands, or water that has been characterized by the Fish Commission as “Wilderness Trout Streams,” and other waters of substantial recreation or ecological significance.

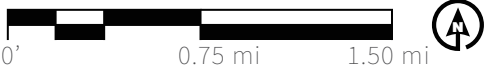
In Lower Providence, the following waterways have been designated:

- •Perkiomen Creek TSF
- •Schuylkill River WWF
- •Skippack Creek TSF
- •Stony Creek WWF
- •Mine Run TSF
- •Unnamed tributary of Schuylkill WWF
- •Unnamed tributary of Perkiomen TSF



- Existing Conditions**
- Project Area
 - Municipal Boundaries
 - Parcels
 - Water Body
 - Tributary
 - 100-Year Floodplain
 - Local Road
 - State Road
 - Highway
 - Municipal Open Space
 - State Open Space
 - Federal Open Space

Hydrology





Land Use

Residential uses are the largest land use in Lower Providence. Housing types include:

- Single-family detached dwelling (most common housing type) and Single-Family Attached (Commonly known as townhouses)
- Mobile Homes (there are three mobile home parks in the Township—Trooper, Sunnyside, and Valley Forge Crossing)
- Multifamily (Apartments) includes Audubon Court, Colony Arms, Eagle Stream, and Mill Grove.
- Continuing Care Residential includes the community of Shannondell and Providence Place Senior Living.

Commercial land uses are concentrated along major roadways (i.e. Ridge Pike) and are categorized by:

- Retail. Consists of strip commercial development, primarily located along Ridge Pike, or in the Audubon area along Egypt Road.
- Office. Located throughout the Township, high concentration of offices are located in the Valley Forge Corporate Center.
- Mixed Use. Typically these units (residential above, commercial below) are in converted older dwellings in or near the villages.

Industrial land use is most visible at Superior Tube in Evansburg. There are additional industrial uses in the Valley Forge Corporate Center.

Institutional land uses include religious facilities, the County Prison at Eagleville, Township institutions and Eagleville Hospital.

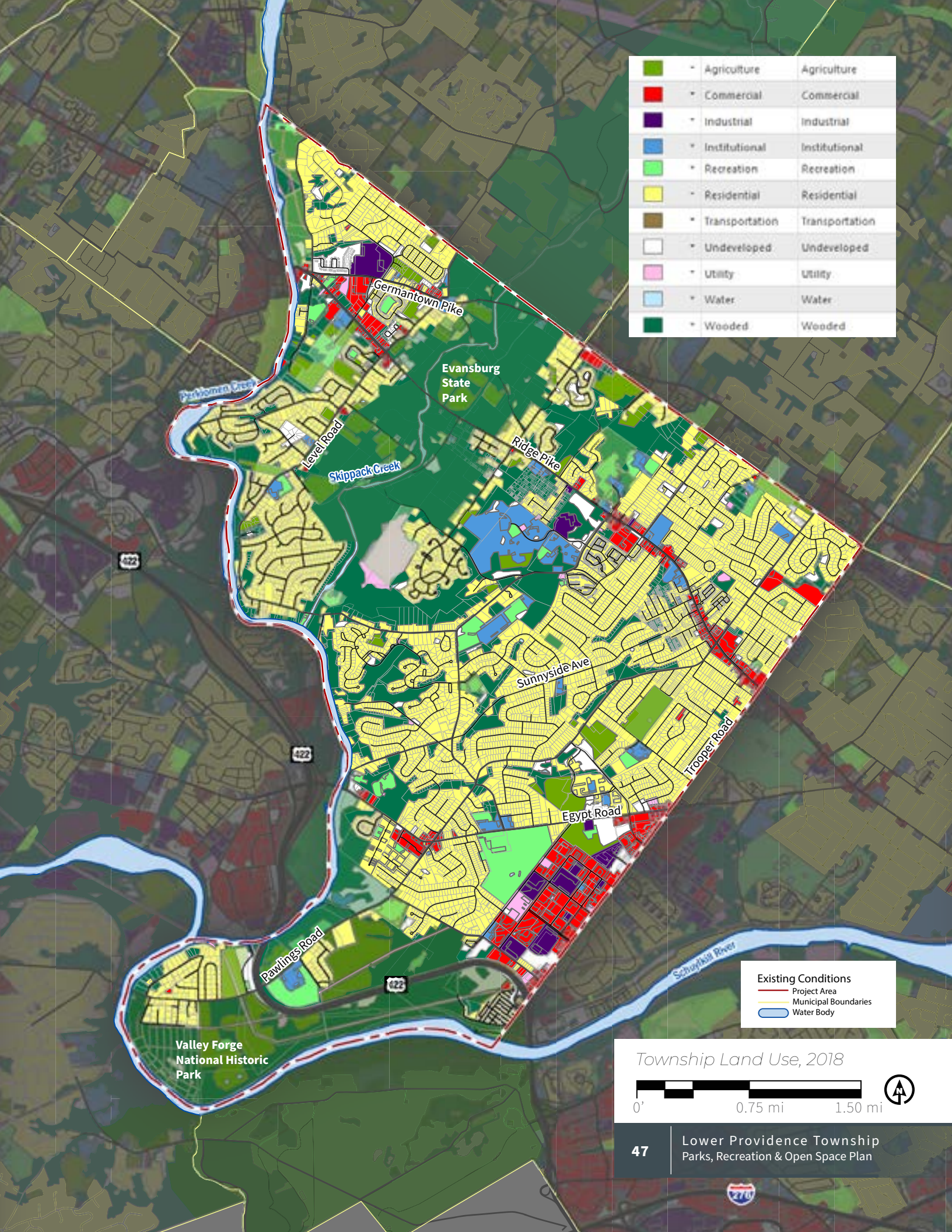
Utility land uses are public water and sewer pumping stations and the natural gas line, which runs through the southern portion of the Township.

Open Space land uses are divided into two categories—public and private.




- Public: This includes all public parkland located in the Township. Besides the federal-owned Valley Forge National Historical Park and the state-owned Evansburg State Park, it includes the county owned Mill Grove and the Township's park system.
- Private. This land is the private open space owned by homeowners associations.

Agriculture land uses were once the dominant land use in Lower Providence, and now constitutes less than 1 percent of the Township's total acreage.

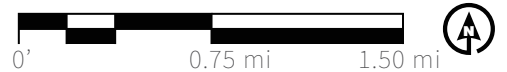
	* Agriculture	Agriculture
	* Commercial	Commercial
	* Industrial	Industrial
	* Institutional	Institutional
	* Recreation	Recreation
	* Residential	Residential
	* Transportation	Transportation
	* Undeveloped	Undeveloped
	* Utility	Utility
	* Water	Water
	* Wooded	Wooded



Existing Conditions

-  Project Area
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  Water Body

Township Land Use, 2018





Woodlands & Greenways

Woodlands

Before modern times 99% of Montgomery County was once a dense forest of hardwoods: Oaks were the dominant species, but Chestnut, Tulip Poplar, Hickory, Ash, Red Maple, and Dogwoods were also present. Several hundred years of clearing and cultivation, and in more recent times the rapid development of houses and commercial facilities, have drastically reduced all woodlands. Primary remaining woodland types are:

- Red Oak - Northern Red Oak is predominant, but Black, Scarlet and Chestnut Oak are also abundant.
- Eastern Red Cedar - Includes this species and associated species: Gray Birch, Red Maple, Sweet Birch, and Aspen.
- Sugar Maple/Beech/Yellow Birch - Associated species include Red Maple, Hemlock, Northern Red Oak, and Tulip Poplar.

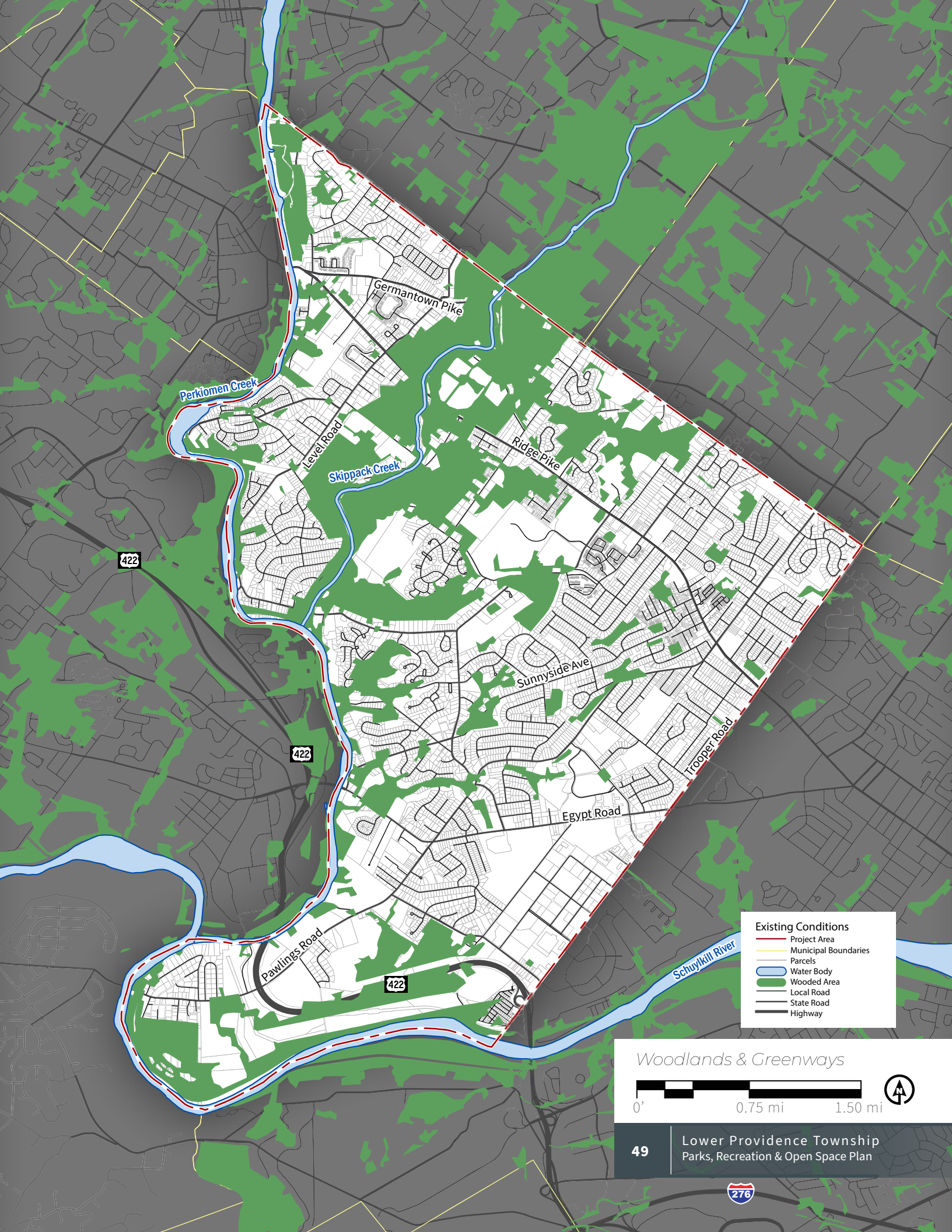
Woodlands and hedgerows serve many purposes - Woodlands prevent erosion, provide habitat for wildlife, provide buffers for creeks, and offer recreational opportunities for residents. Hedgerows and wooded corridors also prevent erosion, and provide cover for wildlife movement, shelter, and migration. Different species of trees attract different types of wildlife. In general, more diversity in vegetation, the more species of animals it can support.

The map on the opposite page shows the wooded areas in Lower Providence Township based on information collected from DVRPC land use data. Portions of Township lands are wooded, especially Evansburg State Park. In addition to land along the Perkiomen Creek and Schuylkill River.

Greenways

Greenways are corridors of land that generally parallel creeks and streams. They often have conservation, ecological, cultural, historic and recreational value. The primary purpose to designate a “Greenway” is to foster the preservation and protection of critical habitats and protect and enhance water quality. Greenways may or may not contain a trail or allow access through them.

In Lower Providence Township they are protected under ARTICLE XXXIV (Riparian Buffer Overlay Zone) This ordinance regulates land use to ensure natural resources are preserved and protected and is described earlier in the chapter.



Perkiomen Creek

Skipack Creek

Germantown Pike

Level Road

Ridge Pike

Sunnyside Ave

Egypt Road

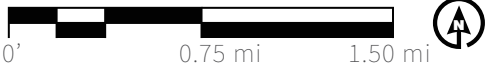
Trooper Road

Pawlings Road

Schuylkill River

- Existing Conditions**
- Project Area
 - Municipal Boundaries
 - Parcels
 - Water Body
 - Wooded Area
 - Local Road
 - State Road
 - Highway

Woodlands & Greenways





Cultural Inventory

The historic and cultural resources in Lower Providence Township are important to the community's sense of place and should be protected, preserved, and maintained for present and future generations.

Listed on the National Historic Register

- Perkiomen Bridge
- Evansburg Historic District
- Skippack Bridge

Eligible for the National Historic Register

- Tyson Mill Complex
- Gambone House
- Heardgrove Property
- Valley Hi-West Farm
- Farmhouse Group A
- Audubon Sunday School
- Crawford farm
- Union Church
- Wallace Property
- Wisler Farm

National Historic Landmark (NHL)

- Audubon Complex at Mill Grove
- Valley Forge National Historic Park



**Evansburg
Historic Distr.**

**Perkiomen
Bridge**

Skippack Bridge

**Evansburg
State
Park**

**Heardgrove Property
Gambone House**

Valley Hi-West Farm

Tyson Mill Complex

Farmhouse Group A

Sunnyside Ave

Crawford Farm

Audubon Sunday School

Egypt Road

Union Church

Wallace Property

Wisler Farm

Mill Grove

Pawlings Road

**Valley Forge
National Historic
Park**

**Valley Forge
National Historic Park**

- Existing Conditions**
- Project Area
 - Municipal Boundaries
 - Parcels
 - Water Body
 - Local Road
 - State Road
 - Highway
 - Municipal Open Space
 - State Open Space
 - Federal Open Space

Cultural Inventory

0 mi 0.75 mi 1.50 mi





Schools

There are five schools in Lower Providence Township that are part of the Methacton School District:

A. Arrowhead Elementary School

Recreation Facilities: 2 baseball fields, playground, 1 basket court

B. Skyview Upper Elementary School & C. Arcola Intermediate School

Shared Recreation Facilities: 6 multi-use fields, 2 baseball fields, 7 tennis courts,

D. Eagleville Elementary School

Recreation Facilities: 1 multi-use field, 2 baseball fields, playground

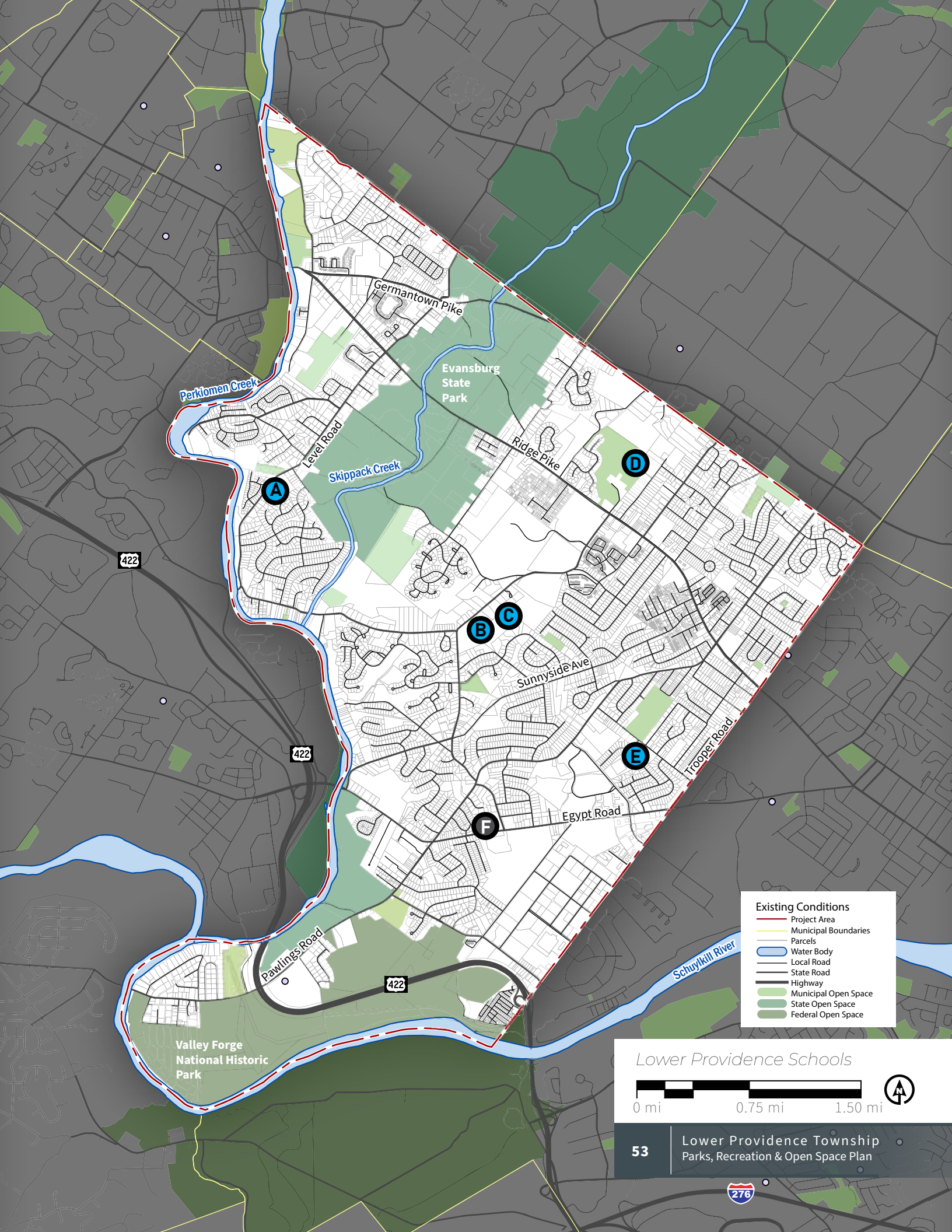
E. Woodland Elementary School

Recreation Facilities: 2 baseball fields, playground



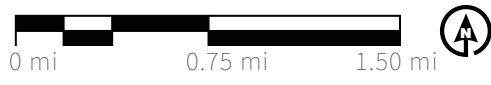
While buses are provided for all MSD students, it is important to consider safe walkable connections to school facility and bus stops within Lower Providence.

In 2017 Methacton School District (MSD) closed the Audubon Elementary School (F) located on Egypt Road. While the school facility is aged and requires upgrades such as air conditioning, there may be opportunity to work with MSD to consider Township indoor recreation use of this location. This is discussed further in chapter 3, recommendations.



- Existing Conditions**
- Project Area
 - Municipal Boundaries
 - Parcels
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 - Local Road
 - State Road
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 - Municipal Open Space
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 - Federal Open Space

Lower Providence Schools





Roadways

Lower Providence Township has a complex system of roads organized by the following roadway hierarchy:

Expressway

- Route 422: PennDOT

Principal Arterial

- Egypt Road: PennDOT
- Trooper Road (south of Ridge Pike): PennDOT
- Ridge Pike:
- Park Avenue (north of Ridge Pike): PennDOT
- Germantown Pike: County

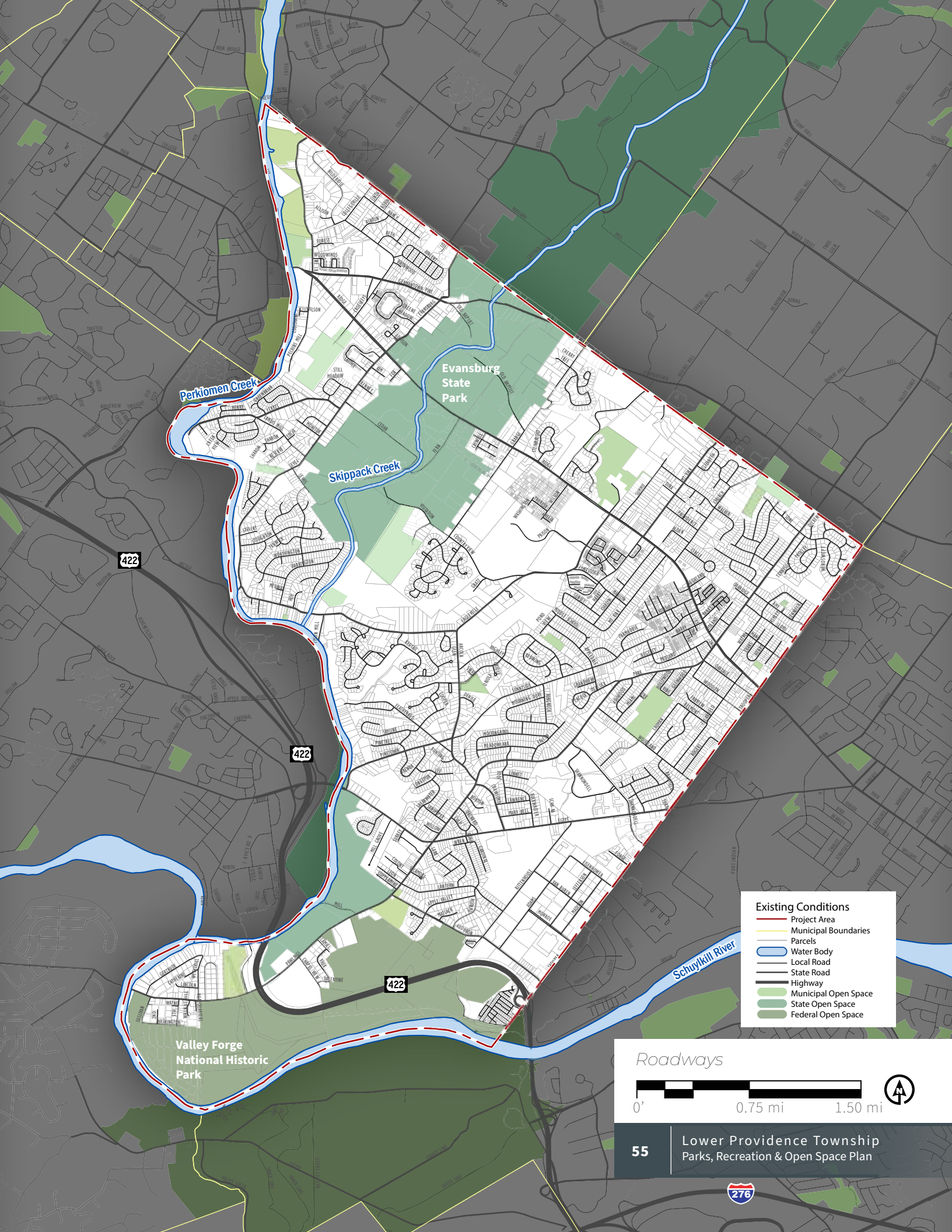
Minor Arterial

- Park Avenue (south of Ridge Pike): PennDOT
- Pawlings Road: PennDOT
- Trooper Road (north of Ridge Pike): PennDOT

Urban/Rural Major Collector,

- Evansburg Road: PennDOT
- Level Road: PennDOT
- Arcola Road: PennDOT
- Eagleville Road: PennDOT
- Audubon Road: PennDOT
- Pinetown Road: Township

All other roads are classified as local roads and are under the township's jurisdiction. Roadway classification and ownership is important as different reviews are required for multi-modal improvements along PennDOT roadways as compared to Township-owned roads.



Perkiamen Creek

Evansburg State Park

Skippack Creek

422

422

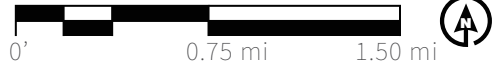
422

Valley Forge National Historic Park

Schuylkill River

- Existing Conditions**
- Project Area
 - Municipal Boundaries
 - Parcels
 - Water Body
 - Local Road
 - State Road
 - Highway
 - Municipal Open Space
 - State Open Space
 - Federal Open Space

Roadways





Public Transportation

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) operates public transit bus service in Lower Providence Township.

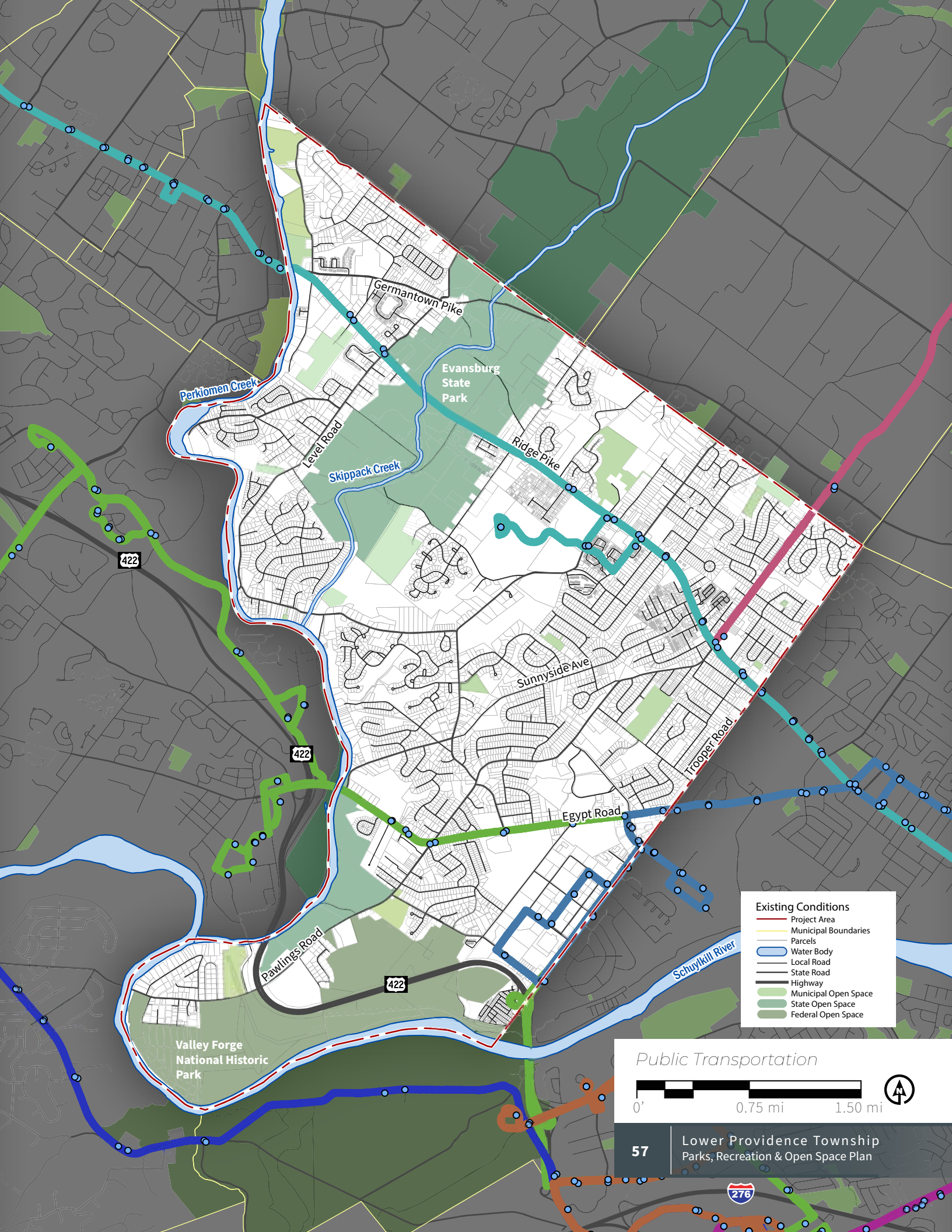
SEPTA operates four bus lines which primarily run on the township's major arterials and provide the following services:

- Route 91 – This bus operates on Ridge Pike and provides service between the Norristown Transportation Center and Graterford in Perkiomen Township.
- Route 93 – This bus also operates on Ridge Pike and provides service between Norristown and Pottstown.
- Route 99 – This bus operates between Norristown and Pottstown, via Route 422, with a stop in Oaks. It runs on Egypt Road in the township.
- Route 131 – This bus provides service to Valley Forge Corporate Center from the Norristown Transportation Center.

It is important that SEPTA bus stops are connected to Township destinations (parks, recreation, businesses, etc.) via the municipal sidewalk network. This systems provides residents the option to travel without use of a car in Lower Providence.

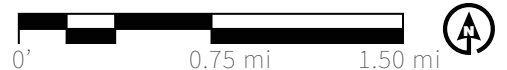
SEPTA Bus Routes

- Pottstown to Norristown Transportation Center
- Phoenixville to Norristown Transportation Center
- Graterford to Norristown Transportation Center
- Audubon to Norristown Transportation Center
- Limerick to King of Prussia (Outside Lower Providence Township)
- Valley Forge to 13th-Market (Outside Lower Providence Township)
- Bus Stop



- Existing Conditions**
- Project Area
 - Municipal Boundaries
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Public Transportation





Sidewalks & Trails

Sidewalks

Sidewalks are the backbone of a walkable community. Sidewalks are largely concentrated in the residential developments of Lower Providence Township. High-volume roadways and lack of pedestrian facilities often prevent residents or visitors from walking to the trails, parks, and open space of the Township. Chapter 3 - Recommendations include improvements to fill critical sidewalk gaps.

Trails

Lower Providence Township contains several trails and is a hub for two important regional trails: the Perkiomen Trail and the Schuylkill River Trail. Township residents have nearby access to the trails within the Valley Forge National Historical Park, The John James Audubon Center, and others.

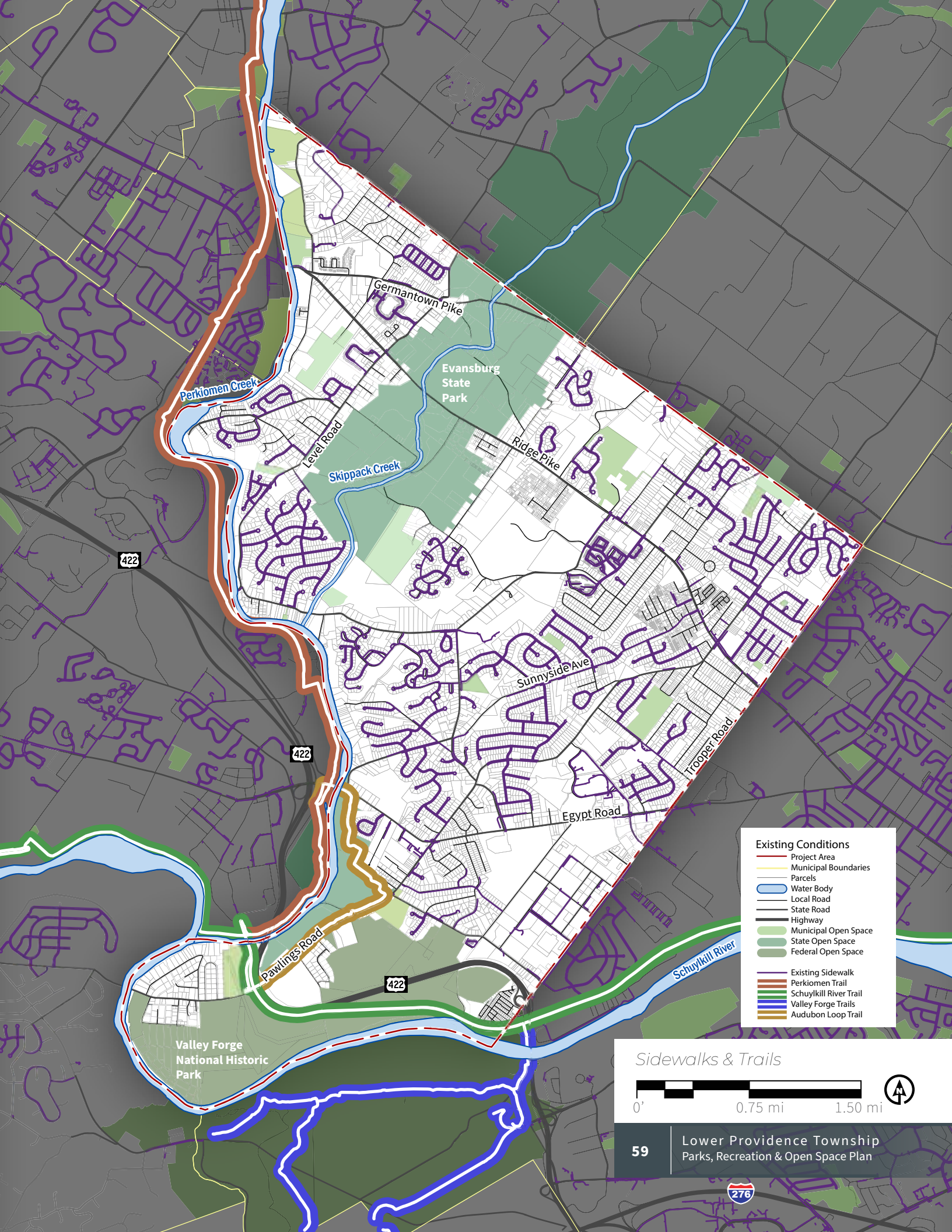
Perkiomen Trail

The Perkiomen Trail is a 19-mile-long multi-use rail trail along the Perkiomen Creek. It begins at the junction with the Schuylkill River Trail near the mouth of the Perkiomen and Valley Forge National Historical Park and ends in Green Lane Park. One of most important trails in the region, there are limited access points to this trail for Lower Providence residents.

Schuylkill River Trail

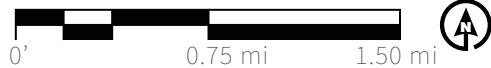
The Schuylkill River Trail is a multi-use trail along the Schuylkill River. There are currently about 75 completed miles of the Schuylkill River Trail in sections, including 30-plus miles between Philadelphia and Parker Ford in East Coventry Township, Chester County, and the trail is ultimately planned to run about 140 miles from the river's headwaters in Schuylkill County to Fort Mifflin in Philadelphia

While used extensively for active recreation, these trail systems are increasingly used as an alternative commuter route. Advances in electronic bicycle batteries will continue to present multi-use trails as viable alternatives to automobile commuting.



- Existing Conditions**
- Project Area
 - Municipal Boundaries
 - Parcels
 - Water Body
 - Local Road
 - State Road
 - Highway
 - Municipal Open Space
 - State Open Space
 - Federal Open Space
 - Existing Sidewalk
 - Perkiomen Trail
 - Schuylkill River Trail
 - Valley Forge Trails
 - Audubon Loop Trail

Sidewalks & Trails



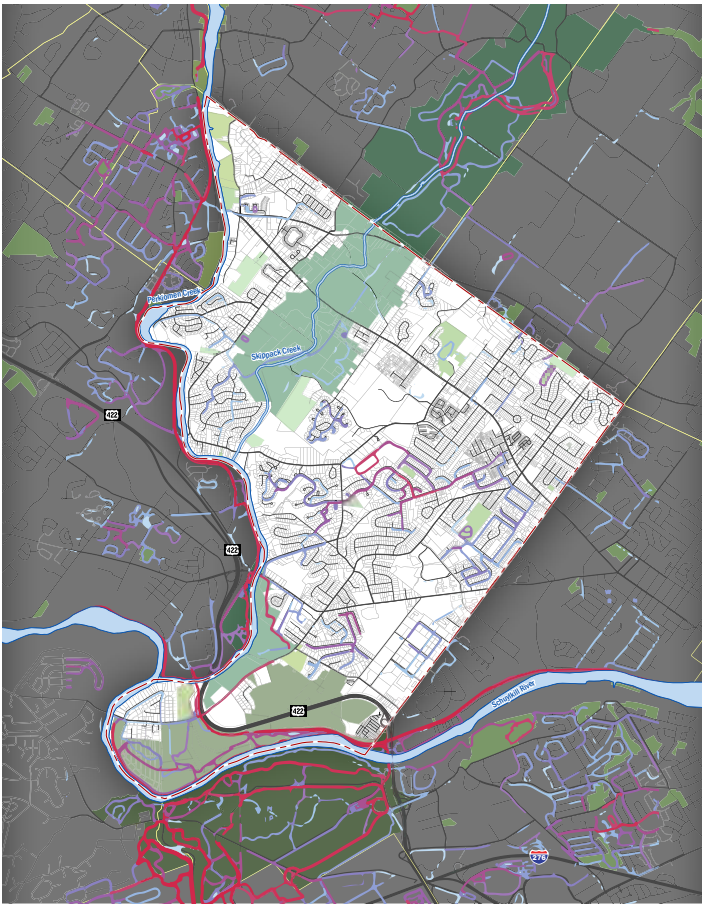


STRAVA Bicycle & Running Data

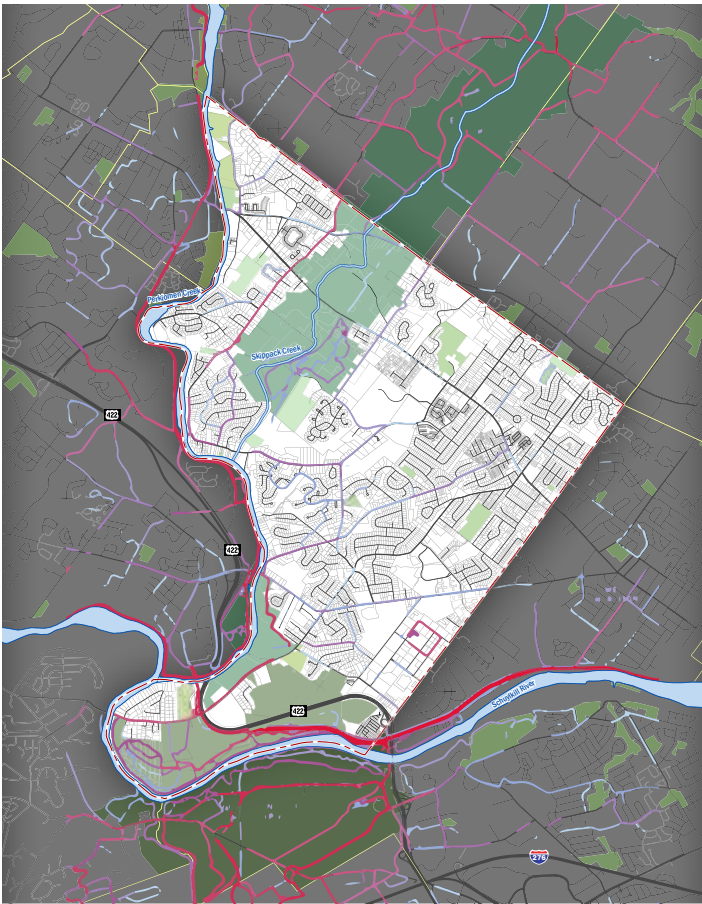
STRAVA is a popular application which utilizes GPS tracking to record routes by walkers, runners, and cyclists. STRAVA heat-mapping was used to locate popular routes within and around Lower Providence Township. This mapping delineates the highest used routes within the Township. STRAVA data provides insight into the most well-traveled and potentially safest routes for future pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

There is limited running data within the interior of the Township, and it is primarily concentrated within neighborhoods. Most runners use the regional trails along the perimeter of Lower Providence. There is little to no run or bicycle usage in the center of the Township along or near Ridge Pike.

Due to limited bicycle infrastructure, there is limited bicycle data in the interior of the Township, while the most popular cycling routes are located on the edge of the Township on the regional trails.



Strava Running Data



Strava Bicycle Data



Stormwater Management & MS4

WHAT IS MS4?

The MS4 program is mandated under the Clean Water Act and administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The goal of this program is to reduce the amount of pollution discharged into waterbodies from separate storm sewer systems (MS4s).

An MS4 is a collection of structures, like a retention basin, roadside inlet, or underground pipe, and they are designed to collect and transport stormwater and discharge it, untreated, into local waterways. MS4s are owned or operated by a city, town or other public entity and are not connected to the sanitary sewer system or wastewater treatment plant.

Through this program, local municipalities must obtain a permit to legally discharge stormwater into local streams and creeks. To meet the terms of this permit, they need to create a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) that is designed to reduce the amount of pollution entering local waterbodies.

Every SWMP must address 6 focus area, also called Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) that are considered essential for successfully reducing stormwater pollution:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Participation and Involvement
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Runoff Control
- Post-Construction Runoff Control
- Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations” *

*Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy

Skipack Creek Watershed Alliance

The Skipack Creek watershed area within Montgomery County is within the larger Perkiomen Creek watershed. The Skipack Creek watershed covers an area of 55.8 square miles, and spans Montgomery and Bucks Counties.

Watershed Area (In County):

- 35,645.00 acres

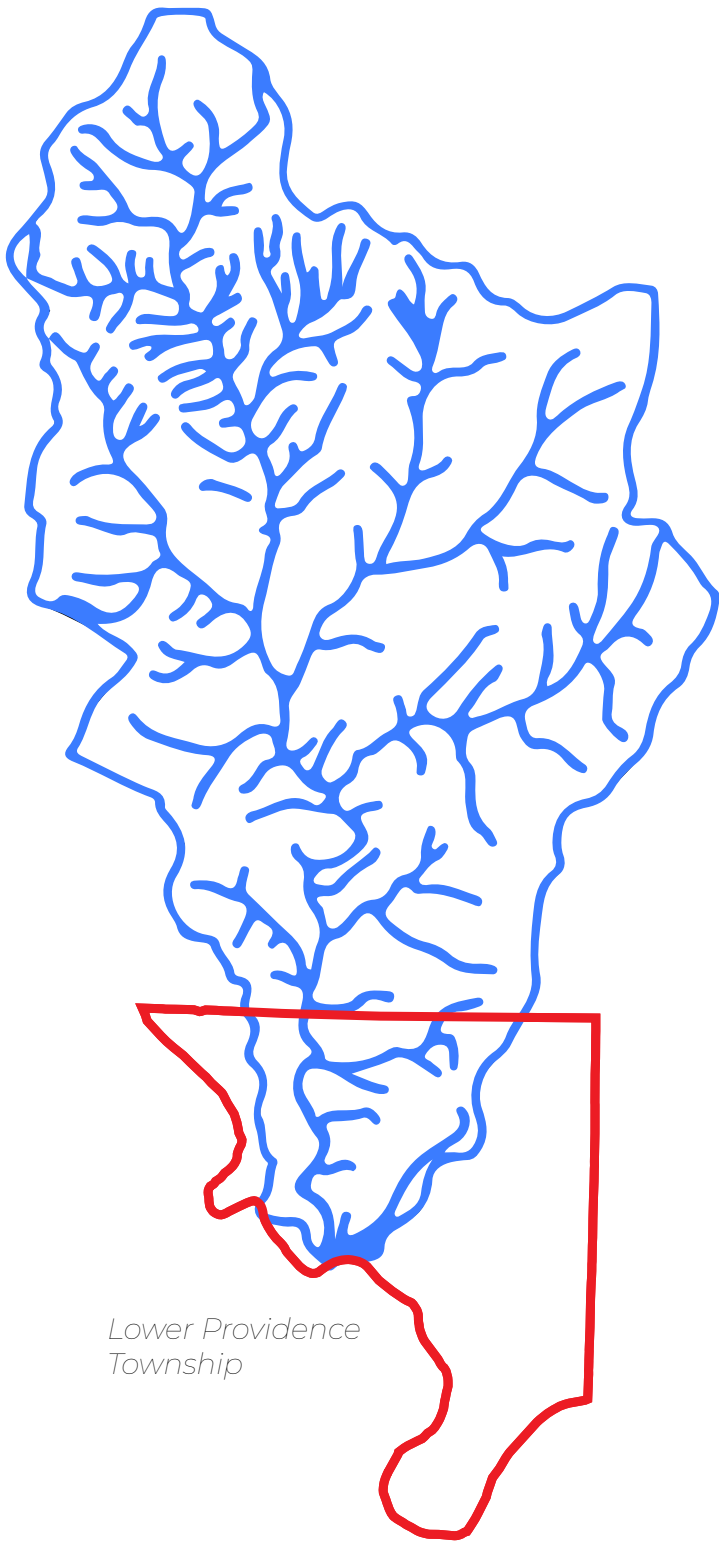
Stream Length (In County):

- 123.00 miles

Lower Providence Township has joined 7 other municipalities within the Skipack Creek watershed to jointly work together to reduce sediment loading to the Skipack Creek.

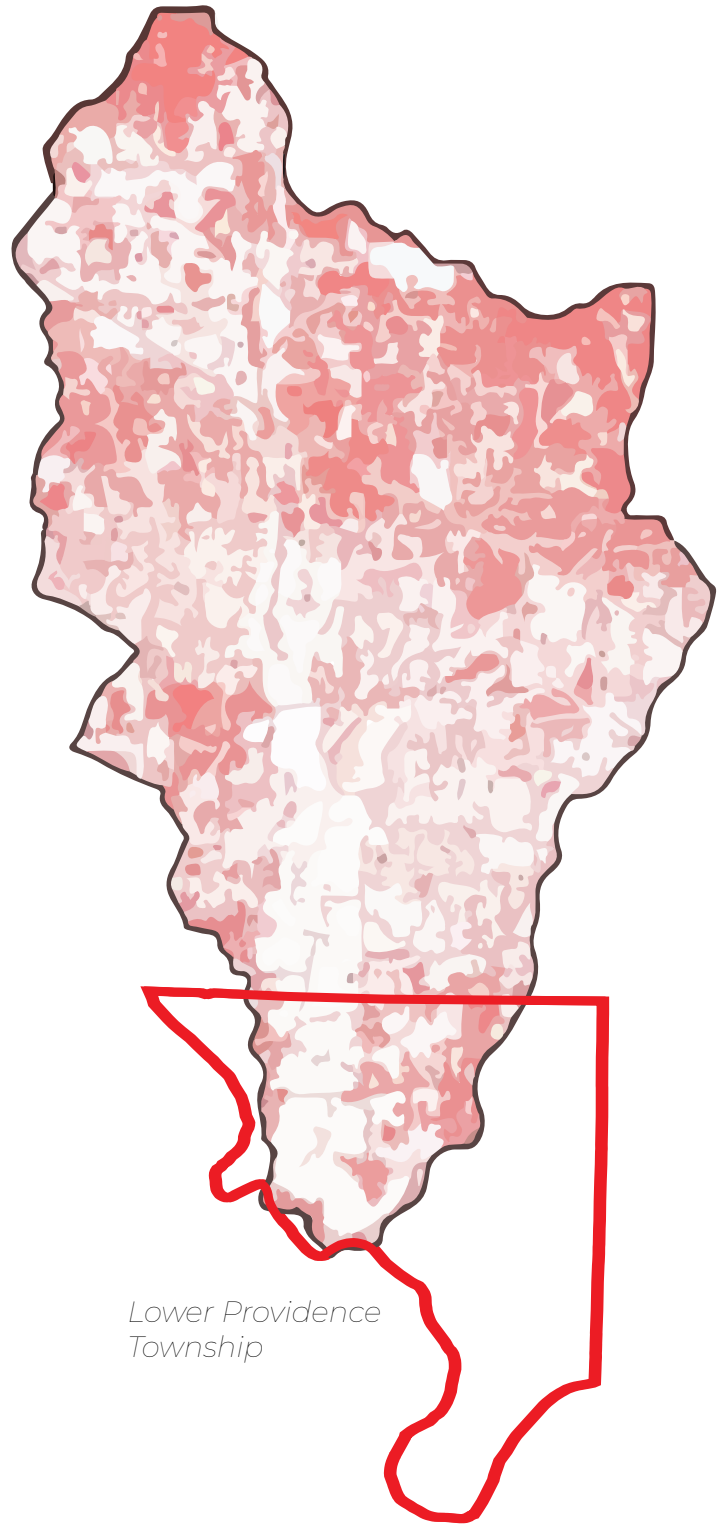
Pollution Reduction Plan

Lower Providence Township has submitted a Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP) to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PennDEP) and awaiting approval of that plan. The PRP includes the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for storm water management as part of their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit compliance. The PRP already has earmarked some of the projects proposed within the Park and Rec Plan in the Townships Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP). Any funding that can be obtained as part of the Parks, Rec & Open Space Plan that can be used for BMPs will help offset MS4 costs. The Township PRP is not yet approved, and the Eskie Park and MARA Fields (Audubon) basins have previously gone through naturalization. The PRP is trying to take credit for them. Woodrow and Associates prepared the PRP and therefore they should be informed of all of the projects proposed as part of the Parks and Rec Plan.



*Lower Providence
Township*

Tributaries of the Skippack Creek Watershed



*Lower Providence
Township*

*Impervious Surfaces with the Skippack Creek
Watershed*



Parks, Recreation & Open Space Ownership Map

There is a complex network of park, recreation, and open space facilities in Lower Providence Township. Residents and visitors have access to a variety of Federal, State, County, Municipal, and private recreation areas, which include:

Federal

- Valley Forge National Historic Park

State

- Evansburg State Park

County

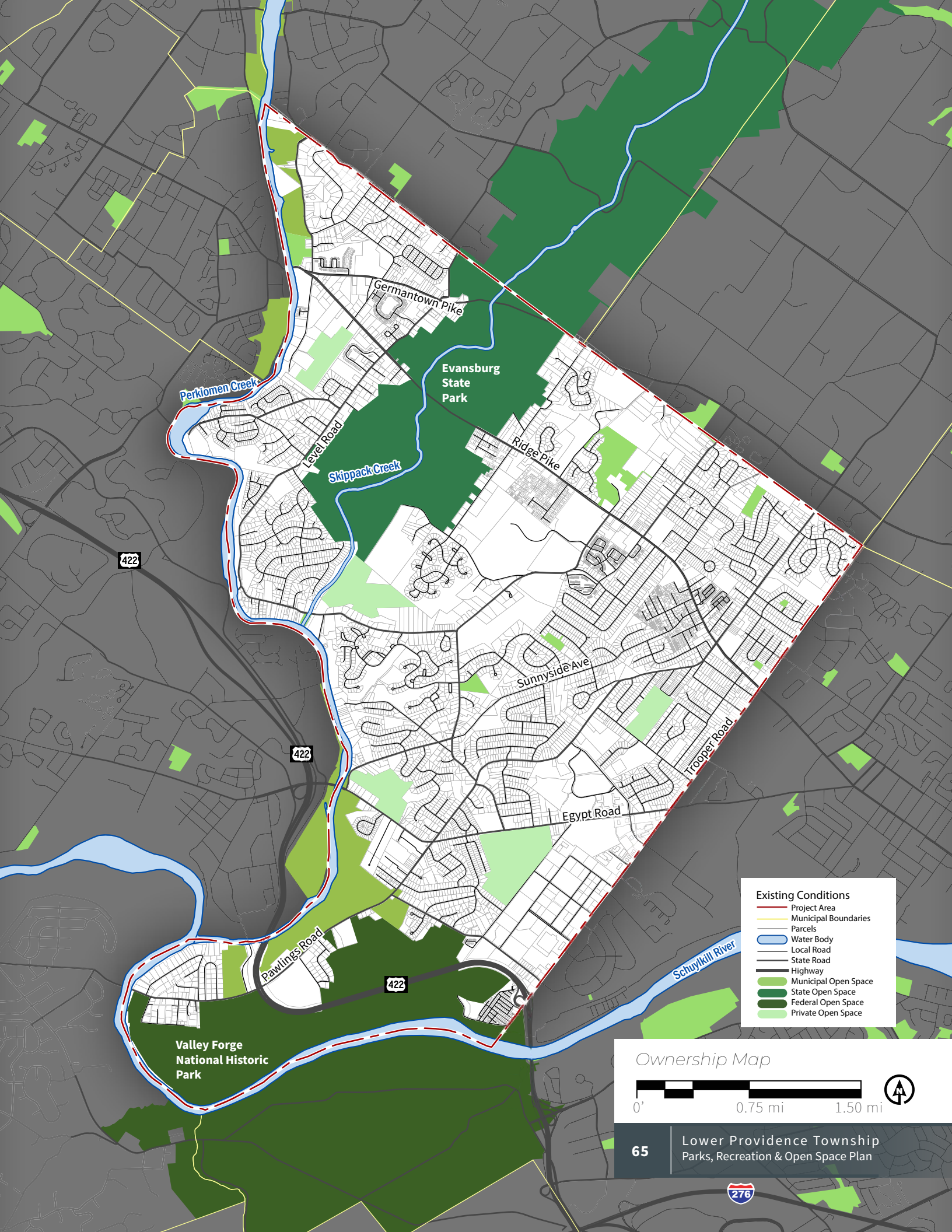
- Central Perkiomen Valley Park
- Gabriel's Field / Knight's Cricket Field
- MARA Baseball/Softball Fields
- John James Audubon Center

Municipal

- Eagleville Park
- Eskie Park
- Redtail Park
- Pond View Park
- Hoy Park
- Evansburg Point Park (Warrior Field)
- Level Road School House
- Cranberry Park
- Sherwood Park
- Dell Angelo Park

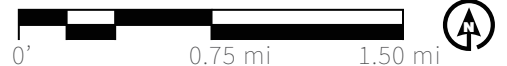
Private

- Mascaro Memorial Field and Community Park
- IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) Local 98 North Park
- Hideaway Day Camp
- Lower Providence Rod & Gun Club
- Club At Shannondell



- Existing Conditions**
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 - Private Open Space

Ownership Map



Valley Forge National Historic Park: (Approximately 900 acres within Lower Providence Township)

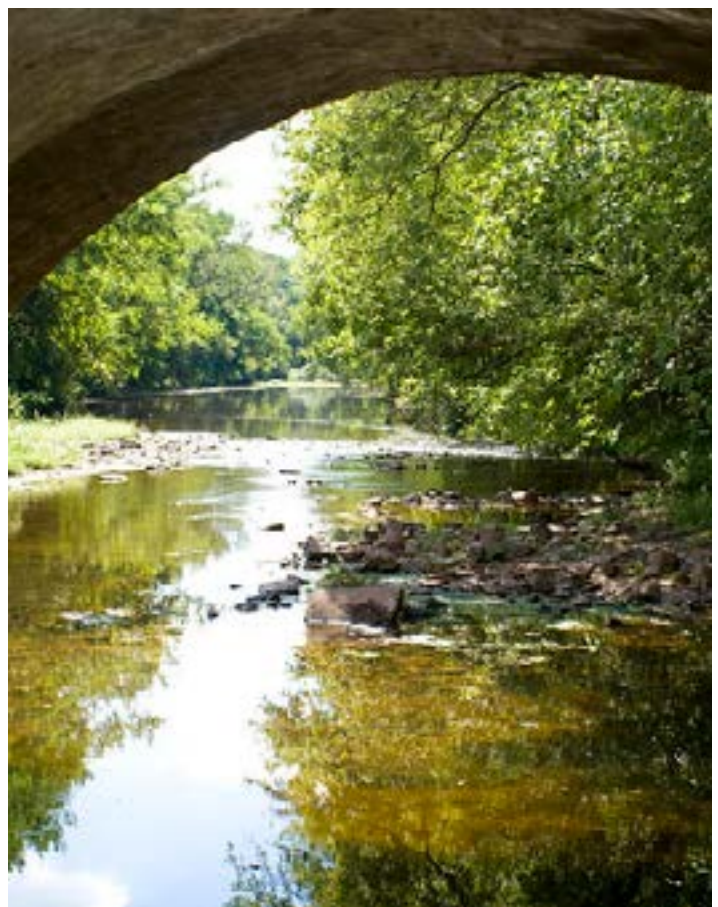
- Valley Forge National Historical Park is the site of the third winter encampment of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. The National Park Service is the site and interprets the history of the Valley Forge encampment. The park contains historical buildings, recreated encampment structures, memorials, museums, and recreation facilities.
- The park is 3,500 acres in total and is visited by over 1.2 million people each year. The park also provides 26 miles (42 km) of hiking and biking trails, which are connected to a robust regional trails system. Wildlife watching, fishing, and boating on the nearby Schuylkill River also are popular.
- The approximately 230 acres of park north of Route 422 in the Township have relatively few connections or trails.



Valley Forge National Historic Park



Valley Forge National Historic Park



Evansburg State Park. Photo Credit: dcnr.gov

Evansburg State Park (Approximately 1,060 acres within Lower Providence Township)

- Evansburg State Park is a 3,349-acre Pennsylvania state park operated by DCNR and host municipalities include Lower Providence, Lower Salford, Skippack, Towamencin, and Worcester Townships. The park has a variety of habitats including forests, meadows, old fields, and farmland. Recreational opportunities include picnicking, golf, ball fields, biking, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and fishing.
- Evansburg State Park has 26 miles of trails that are open to hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking. There are minimal trail connections between the trails of host municipalities / regional trails and Evansburg State Park.

Central Perkiomen Valley Park (Approximately 55 acres in Lower Providence Township)

- Central Perkiomen Valley Park is situated along the Perkiomen Creek. This 800-acre park extends over 10 municipalities, with 55 acres in Lower Providence. The Lower Providence section north of Ridge Pike along River Road is largely undeveloped lowland floodplain area.

Gabriel's Field / Knight's Cricket Field (31 acres)

- Gabriel's Field / Knight's Cricket Field is an open multi-purpose field area with access to the Pawlings Road trailhead.

John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove (175 acres)

- Built in 1762 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Mill Grove was the first American home of renowned artist, author, and naturalist John James Audubon.
- The 175-acre estate serves as an educational center of the National Audubon Society. A haven for birds and wildlife, the property includes more than seven miles of trails.

MARA Baseball/Softball Fields (18 acres)

- This County-owned facility is used extensively for local ballgames by the Audubon Recreation Association who, in Fall 2020, merged with the Methacton Baseball Association to become the Methacton Audubon Recreation Association (MARA).

Facilities include:

- 7 baseball fields
- Playground apparatus
- Picnic tables
- Pavilion
- Snack stand



MARA Fields



MARA Fields



Gabriel's Field

Municipal

Cranberry Park (19.08 acres)

- Cranberry Park is adjacent to the Central Perkiomen Valley Park. It contains one small parking area and the rest of the park is open space.

Dell Angelo Park (2.50 Acres)

- Located north of Ridge Pike, Dell Angelo Park is a well-used community park. Accessible by sidewalk via neighborhoods to the north and east, this park includes ample seating areas and a playground. Dell Angelo's established tree canopy is among the nicest of the Township park facilities and should be viewed as the standard for other facilities.



Dell Angelo Park

Facilities Include:

- Walking path
- Picnic tables
- Playground apparatus

Eagleville Park (63.60 acres)

The largest municipal park in Lower Providence Township, Eagleville Park provides several facilities which are used by a wide array of Township residents. The park shares space with the Township administration building and library and a walking trail leads to adjacent Eagleville Elementary School.



Eagleville Park

Facilities include:

- 1 90-foot baseball field (Gaugler Field)
- 1 football field
- 1 basketball court
- 4 tennis courts
- 2 shuffleboard courts
- Community lawn area
- Bathrooms
- Playground apparatus
- Pavilion with tables and grills
- Walking path
- Amphitheater
- Nature trail
- 2 bocce courts



Eagleville Park



Eskie Park

Eskie Park (10.80 acres)

Located between the Township public works facility and forested areas to the west, agriculture fields to the north, residences to the east, Eskie Park is an important component of the municipal park system.

Facilities Include:

- 2 baseball fields
- 1 basketball court
- ½ mile walking path
- Bathrooms
- Playground apparatus
- Pavilion with tables and grills

Evansburg Point Park / Warrior Field (35.60 acres)

Located within Evansburg State Park, Lower Providence Township has an agreement with Evansburg State Park and DCNR to use this area for active recreation. Used extensively by local sports organizations for football and cheerleading practices and games, Evansburg Point Park is a vital component of the Township's active recreation park system.

Facilities Include:

- 2 baseball fields
- 1 basketball court
- ½ mile walking path
- Bathrooms
- Playground apparatus
- Pavilion with tables and grills

Hoy Park (3.76 acres)

Located at the convergence of the Skippack and Perkiomen Creeks, Hoy Park has parking, a short trail, and water boat access. Facilities Include:

Facilities Include:

- Handicap accessible fishing pier
- Benches
- Nature area



Evansburg Point Park



Hoy Park

Level Road Schoolhouse (.67 acres)

The Level Road Schoolhouse is a small indoor facility.

Facilities Include:

- Large multi-purpose meeting room
- Restroom facilities

Pond View Park (5.32 acres)

Pond View Park is a small , largely wooded neighborhood park. It includes one small mown area and the majority is forested. This park should have little to no development (other than earthen trails) and re-main a quiet, peaceful location for neighbors to enjoy nature.

Redtail Park (8.83 acres)

Redtail park is used by local soccer organizations as well as local Methacton School District students.

Facilities Include:

- 1 baseball field (lighted)
- 1 soccer field

Sherwood Park (1.01 acres)

Sherwood Park is a small neighborhood park which serves the nearby community. Development of this park should focus on improved shade and ADA play facilities.

Facilities Include:

- Playground apparatus



Redtail Park



Redtail Park



Sherwood Park

Private Recreation

Mascaro Memorial Field and Community Park

Privately-owned by J.P. Mascaro & Sons, this is a high-quality facility which includes new baseball and playground facilities. Mascaro works with the Township and private recreation groups to facilitate use of this facility. Lower Providence should continue to work with this important community organization to potentially implement improvements.

Facilities Include:

- Baseball, softball fields - one lighted field
- Bleachers, concession stand, press box
- Pavilion
- Playground apparatus
- Walking path

Club At Shannondell (97 acres)

Facilities Include:

- Public Golf course
- Seasonal Swim Center

Hideaway Day Camp (72 acres)

Facilities Include:

- Pool
- Ropes courses
- Rock wall
- Zip line
- 18-hole miniature golf course
- Gaga courts
- Volleyball
- Basketball

IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) Local 98 North Park (45 acres)

Facilities Include:

- Playground
- Baseball field
- Pavilions

Lower Providence Rod & Gun Club (47 acres)

This facility is a private recreational club which includes shooting sports, hunting, archery and fishing.

Community Benchmarking

Community benchmarking was completed to evaluate the park system of Lower Providence Township with similarly sized communities that have populations similar to Lower Providence's projected 2040 population of 28,448 to determine future recreational needs. A comparison analyzed both the amount of recreational space and amenities provided and used National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Metrics as a guide. Recreational facilities from six municipalities were used to determine the extent of either deficit or surplus of amenities:

- Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, PA – 2019 Population: 33,027
- Lower Makefield Township, Bucks County, PA – 2019 Population: 32,802
- Radnor Township, Delaware County, PA – 2019 Population: 31,875
- Cranberry Township, Butler County, PA – 2019 Population: 31,632
- Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, PA – 2019 Population: 29,396
- York Township, York County, PA – 2019 Population: 28,776

2020 NRPA Park Metrics

The National Recreation and Park Association compiles park and recreation agency information from across the country. NRPA understands that there is no single set of standards for parks and recreation to address the uniqueness of a community. The organization creates averages for total acres of parkland, total number of parks, facility type totals and average operating expenses to assist planners with addressing parks and recreation needs within a community. According to these metrics, for agencies serving jurisdictions of 20,000 – 49,999 residents:

There are typically 9.6 acres of parkland per 1000 residents (NRPA).

Lower Providence has 202.6 acres of Township-owned parkland. Using this number:

Based on the 2018 population estimate of 26,418 residents, Lower Providence has 7.6 acres of parkland per 1000 residents and would need an additional 51 total acres to meet this metric.

Based on the projected 2040 population of 28,448 residents, Lower Providence would need to add an additional 70.5 total acres to meet this metric.

Combining all Federal, State, County, and Township parkland, there are 2471.4 acres within the boundaries of Lower Providence. Using this number:

Based on the 2018 population estimate of 26,418 residents, Lower Providence exceeds this metric by 2,217.8 acres.

Based on the projected 2040 population, Lower Providence exceeds this metric by 2,198.3 acres.

There is typically one playground for every 3,157 residents (NRPA).

Based on the current population, Lower Providence exceeds this metric by 2-3 playgrounds.

Based on the projected 2040 population, Lower Providence exceeds this metric by 2 playgrounds.

There is typically one community center for every 26,280 residents.

The population threshold generally used as a baseline to consider the development of a community center is 15,000 residents. Lower Providence meets this threshold.

The Township currently has one community center at the Level Road Schoolhouse. At the 2018 population of 26,418, there are 138 more residents per community center than the NRPA metric. Based on the 2020 projection, there will be 399 more residents per community center; and based on the 2040 projection, there will be 2,168 more residents per community center than the NRPA metric. A second community center is recommended.

There is typically one recreation center for every 25,716 residents (NRPA).

There is typically one performance amphitheater for every 30,577 residents.

Based on the 2018 estimate and 2020/2040 projections, Lower Providence meets this metric with the Township's one existing amphitheater.

However, in consideration of current and foreseeable future social distancing measures, it would be wise to consider the addition of at least one outdoor performance space to accommodate an increased demand for outdoor family and community events.

Community Benchmarking - Existing Facilities				
	Lower Providence Township	Average	Difference from Average	Difference from Maximum
2040 Population Projection (ACS)	28,448	30,851	-2,403	-4,579
Area (Sq. Miles)	15.6	19	-3	-1.6
2040 Pop. Density per Sq. Mile	1,824	1,695	128	684
# of Parks	13	17	-4	-22
Park Area (Acres)	202.582	340	-138	-457.418
Facility				
Baseball / Softball	14	11	3	-1
Basketball	2	6	-4	-9
Biking / Hiking Trail / Walking Track	6	6	0	-10
Football	1	1	0	-2
Multipurpose Field	2	5	-3	-8
Pavilion / Rental Space	5	4	1	-2
Pool	0	1	-1	-5
Tennis	4	7	-3	-12
Bocceball Court	1	1	0	-1
Pickleball Court	0	1	-1	-5
Skate Park	0	0	0	-1
Soccer	1	4	-3	-10
Volleyball	0	3	-3	-10
Playgrounds	7	9	-2	-8
Disc Golf	0	0	0	0
Street Hockey / Ice Skating	0	1	-1	-1
Dog Park	0	1	-1	-1
Amphitheater	1	1	0	0
Community Garden	0	0	0	-1
Recreation Center	0	0	0	-1

Overall, when comparing Lower Providence to the benchmarked municipalities, the following projected deficiencies will occur if no open space or recreational improvements are made:

- 4 basketball courts
- 3 multi-purpose fields
- 1 pool
- 3 tennis courts
- 1 pickleball court
- 3 soccer fields
- 3 volleyball courts
- 2 playgrounds
- 1 street hockey / ice skating facility
- 1 dog park

Maintenance

Township Maintenance and Responsibilities

Lower Providence utilizes the Public Works Department which has three staff dedicated to parks maintenance. The Township performs most park maintenance and the Department organizes the work schedules, in partnership with the Director of Parks and Recreation to accomplish maintenance within the Township. Maintenance efforts include full time, part time, and contracted workers to fulfill maintenance needs.

The maintenance department functions at a high level. Equipment care, vehicle maintenance, record keeping, and community response to needs all function well within the Township. Workers perform many of the tasks required for success. Contracted services assist to provide high level maintenance for all Township property. The maintenance staff performs several maintenance tasks that other communities outsource such as aerating, over seeding, fertilization, tree care, etc. Some typical examples of contracted services include: basin care, large tree removal, concrete work, and other tasks that cannot be performed in-house due to resources, work-hours, equipment needs, or technical skill.

A thorough review of the local parks in Lower Providence was conducted over weekdays and weekends during the summer, fall and spring seasons 2020/21. The review evaluated current conditions, maintenance practices, possible future uses, recreational program opportunities, and a risk analysis of each location. All comments for maintenance and accessibility are derived from information provided by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Guidelines for playground safety and from the American with Disabilities Act handbooks. The CPSC guidelines are guideline and not laws; however, courts have held that failure to comply with the guidelines usually results in a judgment for the plaintiff. The ADA regulations are law and must be followed.





In every visit, parks and other Township property maintenance has been excellent. Trash, safety surfaces, downed branches, lawn care - all received passing evaluations. Staff takes pride in their efforts to provide safe, usable, and visually pleasing parks. Informative signage, sightlines, field playing conditions, hardcourt surfaces all meet the guidelines and requirements and received passing evaluations.

A review of the tasks performed and the work-hours necessary to complete the assignments reveals additional seasonal employees, dedicated to park maintenance and directly reporting to the Parks and Recreation Director, would increase the work output and provide some direct control over daily maintenance to the Parks and Recreation Director. Adding seasonal employees would increase the maintenance output while not presenting a financial hardship to the Township. Park maintenance operations perform the necessary work to provide safe and clean parks. However, the extra care necessary to meet the needs of the community, as reflected through surveys and interviews would help to upgrade current sports fields and open space areas.

Lower Providence offers continued learning opportunities for staff members. Training seminars, workshops, and conferences afford staff the opportunity to learn, observe, and share knowledge with other professionals and industry leaders; and, in turn, those who attend the training sessions share information learned with other staff members and the public. Seminars provide new information concerning storm water management and other environmental issues. Additionally, workshops offer employees to be well informed on current best management practices facing the community. Opportunities also provided information related to human resource materials, anti harassment efforts, and safe work environment concerns.

Lower Providence encourages and provides the opportunity for staff to attend a variety of professional seminars, workshops, and knowledge-based programs in a continued effort to support the workforce and to provide them with tools necessary to be successful.



Equipment

The care and maintenance of all equipment is a high priority for the community. The high level of service to equipment extends the life of the equipment and helps keep budgetary concerns lower. The maintenance department and the Parks and Recreation Director routinely inspect playgrounds for dangerous conditions and prepares work orders to alleviate any dangerous issues and other park related work.

Risk Management

Written policies exist for equipment and Township policies are available and reviewed to assist staff. An in-house safety committee meets regularly to review issues and to discuss new trends for the safety of workers and the community. Proper park signage is installed to make all patrons aware of proper playground use and other park rules and regulations.

Adequacy of Maintenance

Current maintenance practices are performed at a high level. The concern will be moving forward as new parks and open space facilities or additional facilities within the current park system are brought on-line. All staff are currently utilized to their full ability that maximizes staff efficiency. As new parks are developed or additions are made to current parks, staff will have substantial time constraints to maintain current high levels of maintenance. A review of staffing levels should be undertaken if, and when, new parks and park amenities are developed. The National Park and Recreation Association has level of service standards which outline benchmarks for number of parks, park acreage and staffing levels.

Recreation Programming Analysis

The Township provides scores of recreational programs for residents and non-residents alike. Passive opportunities for spontaneous recreation pursuits abound within the Township. Limited opportunities for organized recreation programs exist, due to a lack of indoor facilities. The addition of indoor facilities or new and expanded partnerships for indoor facility use offer Lower providence opportunities to provide year round recreational programming. The current staff has the capacity and is capable to provide additional year round programs. With the abilities of the current staff, increasing to year round

programming will not increase staff costs to provide such services. Increased costs will be realized in possible partnership agreements, equipment, instructor payments, all of which are recovered through program registration fees. The residents are being underserved during the late fall, winter, and early spring seasons when it relates to recreation programs offered by the Township.

Opportunities are plentiful for Lower Providence to provide some simple programs which will serve residents. The programs may take the form of employee instructors, third party providers, and partnerships with private organizations.

The Township regularly interacts with the residents concerning programs wanted, program evaluations, and to glean other information. This is accomplished through program participation, surveys, and social media opportunities. At present, the results from the recently completed survey and remarks provided from public meetings indicate that the residents of the Township do feel recreational programs are important and are desired in the Township. The recent public survey will provide information for the immediate future; however, additional and ongoing information needs to be obtained from the public to address the changing needs of the community.

The Township must evaluate the needs and wants of the community as compared to the budgetary constraints. The Township may wish to review the DCNR model, financing municipal recreation and parks, as a guide for determining program fees and sponsorships.

Administration Analysis

Administrative Analysis of Providers and Relationships

The Parks and Recreation administrative offices serve as the central contact point for the residents, sport groups, community events, and other community groups of Lower Providence. The Administration accepts facility reservations, provides programming administration, partners with the Public Works Department to provide park work orders, handles the daily activities of the Township, and responds to requests from community members.



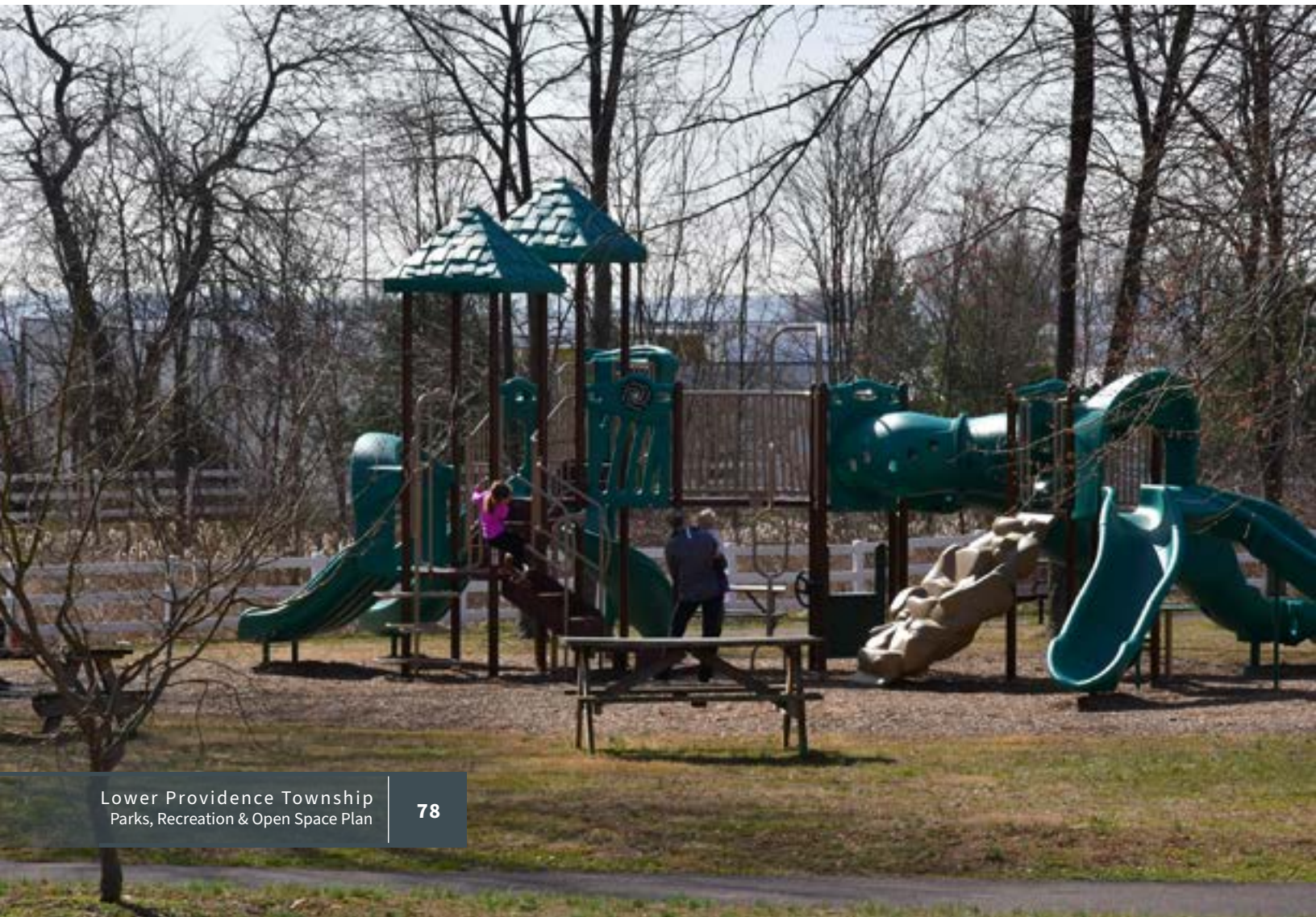
While reviewing the current formal partnerships related to recreational opportunities, we found few partnerships. Limited partnerships have shown success; however, few recreational programs are offered by the Township or community groups during the cooler or colder months due to a lack of indoor facilities. The creation of written procedures would outline who is responsible for what and how future programs would be advertised, held, and evaluated. Lower Providence Township has a wonderful partnership with the school district for summer programs and that partnership should be revisited to determine if the Township can gain access during the cooler months of the year to provide additional organized recreational opportunities.

Some cooperative verbal partnerships exist to assist the Township; youth sport organizations, and civic organizations. Partnerships are essential to the success of the Lower Providence Township. Enhanced written partnerships with the school district and other recreational providers will benefit the community and allow the Township to offer several new programs to meet community requests. Additionally, the partnership will outline each parties responsibility and any fees associated with the partnership.

Marketing Efforts

The current level of public relations and marketing efforts the Township performs to promote services is adequate. The Township utilizes their website, Facebook, flyers, brochures, newsletters, newspapers, posters and signage, and other means to promote the Township recreational facilities and programs. These public relation efforts are placed throughout Township owned facilities, in some local businesses, posted on signs, promoted via social media, and are available at other community outlets.

A goal of this plan and the department is to increase program participation in two ways: encourage participation from those not currently enrolled in programs; and, to increase participation from those already enrolled. This is difficult since the Township provides programming primarily during the warmer weather months. By providing for additional indoor facilities, an increase in both of these goals can be realized. This will also increase the program revenue stream which helps offset the costs of providing a recreation department.





Policies for Parks and Recreation Operation

The Township does provide program information and policies and procedure for reservations of park amenities to the community, as well as other community events. Policies and available information include pavilion rentals, ballfield reservations, and other park amenities within Lower Providence, as well as all the program offerings, including special events. The procedures and policies that govern the use of those facilities are readily available for residents and outline the procedure for registration, rentals, and other park use. The policies should be reviewed and updated as to the process for reservations and fees for rentals and programs.

Other policies should be reviewed to determine if the fees being charged are appropriate for program participation, field uses, and pavilion reservations. Additionally, some of the policies do not provide for facility use priorities. For instance, perhaps fields are provided to resident youth sports first, then resident teen activities, then resident adults use, followed by non-resident groups (if permitted). These written policies will assist administrative offices in making decisions when multiple requests are made for a particular field and will provide a standard to follow in explaining why a group received a field or not.

Record Keeping

The current practice of record keeping for park maintenance, when issues are called in from residents, is adequate and is easily tracked. Work orders are prepared and forwarded to the Public Works Director for action. Once completed, the maintenance records and executed work order is retained by the Township. After the completion of the work task, the Township does reply to the person logging the comment to ensure the requested work was performed adequately.

Since not all work tasks are prepared via a work order, daily park maintenance is not recorded in an easily retrievable manner. Improvements can be made to the daily tracking of park maintenance activities. The current practice appears to be informal. The Public Works Director or Parks and Recreation Director keeps the daily activity sheets of work performed, with little technology tracking assistance. The tracking of work performed may improve work scheduling, task assignments, and daily results.



Financing and Funding

All recreation and park maintenance activities, including payroll, are funded through the Townships General Fund Budget. Revenues which are received are derived from program participation, special event sponsorships, and facility rentals or facility use fees (such as pavilion and field rentals). Other revenue streams can be created with the addition of recreational programs for people of all ages and abilities.

Some recommendations in the report will not generate revenues associated with the various recommendations and each will need to be evaluated to determine if the existing general budget can accommodate the recommendations. Other recommendations may require capital investments to provide for the recommended improvements. And, additional recommendations will general a small revenue stream which may help to offset the recommendation.

Various funding sources are available to fund capital improvement recommendations and are outlined within the report (chapter 4). Recent capital funding for park improvements has been successful and continued support of the capital improvement fund is necessary to maintain the high level of service currently provided. Opportunities to utilize capital improvement funds as leverage for matching grants can provide for 50% to 80% of the capital cost of the improvements to be made using grant funding. However, applicable grants are competitive and the grant must be well prepared in order to achieve funding approval. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is one funding source which provides recreation funding for open space, park improvements, and other recreational opportunities. While each capital improvement recommendation will benefit the Township in general, singular improvements are not generally favorably received by DCNR for recreational improvements. DCNR would rather see a holistic approach to recreation when determining which projects to fund. In this case, it may be best to review all recreational opportunities at a location in order to leverage the best possible opportunity for funding. As an example, DCNR is not likely to fund sport field irrigation. The Township may take a position that the irrigation will be part of an overall improvement for a specific park which may include, handicap accessibility, stormwater management issues, a play area, among other improvements. While the improvements will still present a cost to the Township, the Township would be in a position to leverage their capital funds for additional improvements by receiving matching grant funding.







RECOMMENDATIONS

Park Facility Recommendations

Township-Wide Park Facility Recommendations

Lower Providence Park System

As noted in the previous chapter, Lower Providence has a robust park system that provides many recreational opportunities for its residents. Parks are one of the main settings for residents of Lower Providence to interact with the community. Parks are areas where residents of all ages, ethnicities, economic statuses, and abilities will interact and create community-building experiences that are a tangible reflection of the quality of life within the community. Beyond the many benefits parks provide as open space, they are also noted as important indicators of community livability and they create a sense of pride within the community. This has become more evident during the COVID-19 Pandemic where parks and trails became essential for support of both physical and mental health of the residents as was reflected in the dramatic increase of park and open space use.

A successful park system:

Will be a catalyst for community revitalization, economic development, promote public health, create community engagement opportunities, and provide green infrastructure,

Will have diverse inventory of assets and sufficient staffing, equipment and, management to maintain safe, functional, and attractive parks, and

Will be well used, which is a sign that parks are attractive, meet user needs, and are safe.

Park Furnishings & Materials

Lower Providence Township Parks and Recreation should develop a set of standards for park furnishings. These park furnishing standards then should be used to start replacing existing park furnishings that do not meet these standards. Using standard elements will also facilitate common spare parts and maintenance consistency.

Choices in site materials can have the potential to affect the health of a park's environment and its life cycle. Park material and design standards should include priorities for sustainability. These can include using local sustainable products that are selected for longevity, durability, and ease of maintenance. The standards should also consider consistency in materials, colors, and aesthetics to create a sense of identity or "branding" for the park system.

Landscaping

Township parks should provide green infrastructure using native plant materials. Plantings can serve many purposes, including but not limited to shade, absorption of stormwater run-off, habitat, and beauty. The Township has been successful in securing several parcels along riparian zones in Lower Providence which should be planted with a mix of diverse native plant material.

In all Lower Providence park facilities, additional shade trees should be planted for their numerous benefits, including:

- Shade for park users and spectators
- Improving the overall air quality
- Providing habitats for wildlife
- Increased property values
- Carbon dioxide reduction
- Stormwater runoff reduction

The Township should assist residents with setting up "Friends of" groups (either system-wide or for specific parks) that can provide volunteers that can assist in management of the planted areas of the parks. "Friends of" groups can also assist in other park maintenance needs.

ADA Access / Safety requirements

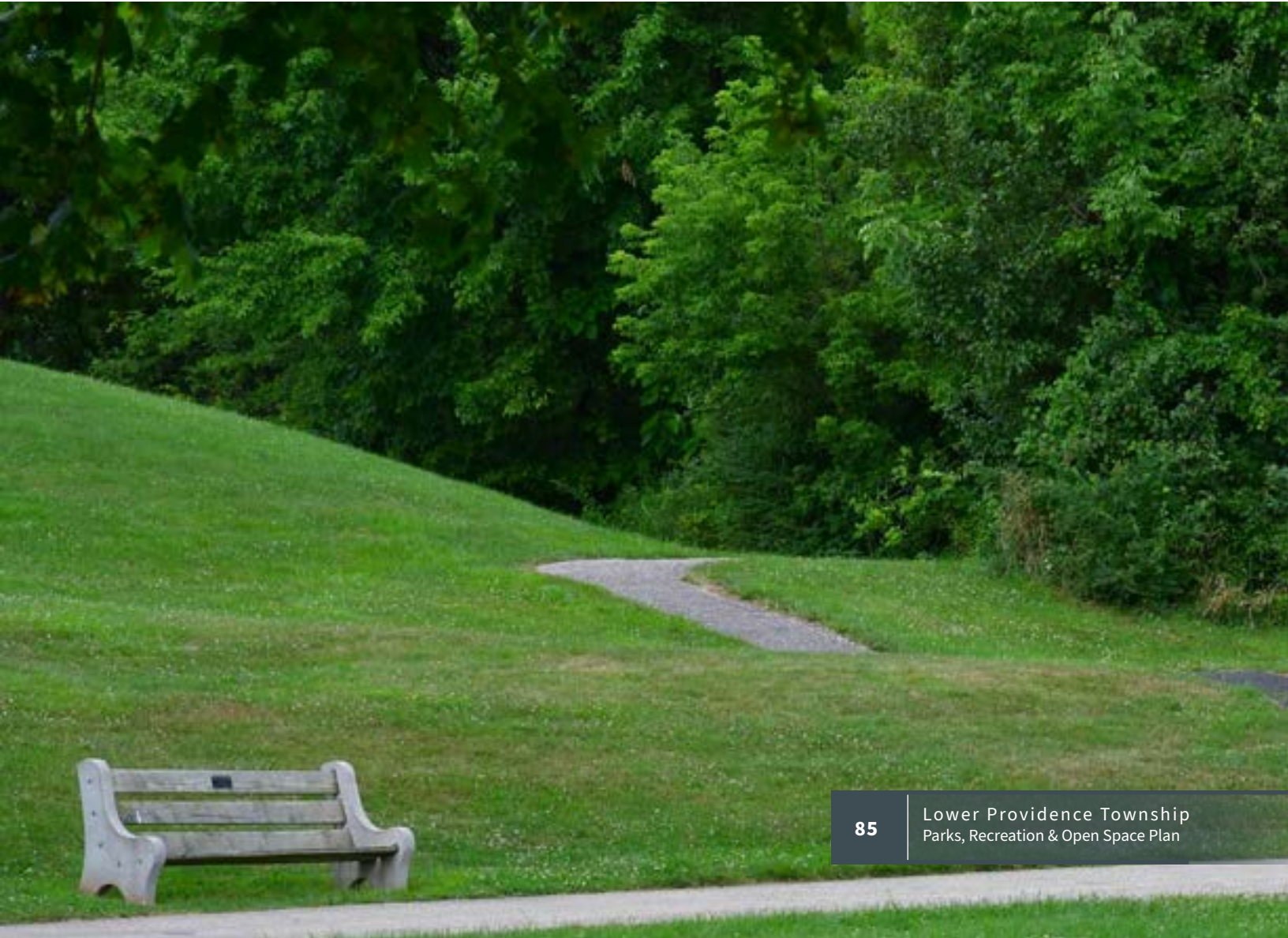
ADA Access to the parks has already been recognized by the Township as a priority improvement to the park system. ADA access includes providing paths to park amenities, bench placement, parking spaces, site furnishings, and inclusive play equipment. Some basic provisions for providing an ADA play area are:

- Providing access to one of each type of ground-level equipment,
- Providing ramps or transfer system to some elevated structures, and
- Surfacing that accommodates people using wheelchairs.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines for public parks were established to reduce serious injury to users of play equipment. The guidelines are recommendations that address hazards that can result in playground related injuries and include:

- Potential falls from play equipment,
- Protective surfacing under and around play equipment,
- Scale of equipment related to users age,
- Playground layout, and
- Installation and maintenance.

It is recommended that the Township perform an annual playground audit using a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) to identify potential hazards on playground equipment, provide information for equipment specifications and safety surfaces, and provide risk management methods. The Township should invest in playground surface edging to keep safety surfacing material in the playground fall zones. Other individual park recommendations are provided later in this chapter.





Facility-Specific Improvements

Dell Angelo Park

Located north of Ridge Pike, Dell Angelo Park is a well-used community park. Accessible by sidewalk via neighborhoods to the north and east, this park includes ample seating areas and a playground. Dell Angelo's established tree canopy is among the nicest of the Township park facilities and should be viewed as the standard for other facilities.

Recommended improvements Include:

- A** ADA Access Path to Playground (concrete)
- B** Swingset (Four Seats / Two Bays)
- C** Swingset Safety Surface Area
- D** Ridge Pike Sidewalk Connection
- E** Park Signage Along Ridge Pike



Dell Angelo Park

0' 75' 150' 300'



Evans Road

A

B

C

D

E



Eagleville Park

The largest municipal park in Lower Providence Township, Eagleville Park provides a wide array of facilities which are used by a wide array of Township residents.

Recommended improvements Include:

- A** ADA Access Path to Bocce Courts
- B** Pave and Formalize Parking Area
- C** Field Option A: Aerate and Seed
- D** Field Option B: Convert to Turf Field
- E** ADA Access to Restroom - Remove Partition
- F** Expand Swingset Safety Surface Area
- G** New Amphitheater at Upper Lawn
- H** ADA Picnic Tables
- I** ADA Access to Tennis Courts
- J** Convert Current Amphitheater to Pavilion



Eagleville Park

0' 150' 300' 600'



Potential
Relocated Police
Facility



Eskie Park

Located between the Township public works facility and forested areas to the west, agriculture fields to the north, residences to the east, Eskie Park is an important component of the municipal park system.

Recommended improvements Include:

- A** Expand Swingset & Playground Safety Surface Area
- B** Shade Trees
- C** Re-grade for Multi-Use Field
- D** ADA Picnic Tables
- E** ADA Benches
- F** BMP Plantings
- G** Additional Parking - 25 Spaces



Church Road

I

H

F

B

D

E

G

C

B

A

Deerfield Drive

Eskie Park

0' 75' 150' 300'





Evansburg Point Park

Located within Evansburg State Park, Lower Providence Township has an agreement with Evansburg and DCNR to use this area for active recreation. Used extensively by local sports organizations for football and cheerleading practices and games, Evansburg Point Park is a vital component of the Township's active recreation park system.

Recommended improvements Include:

- A** Sidewalk Connection to Level Road
- B** Shade Trees
- C** Upgrade Snack Shack Facility
- D** ADA Access for Pavilion
- E** ADA Picnic Tables
- F** Convert to Turf Field
- G** Native Meadow Plantings
- H** Stormwater Basin



Evansburg Point Park

0' 50' 100' 200'



Level Road

F

C

B

D

E

G

B

A

G

H

Existing Trail Connection to Evansburg State Park

Existing Trail Connection to Evansburg State Park



Pond View Park

Pond View Park is a small , largely wooded neighborhood park. It includes one small mown area and the majority is forested. This park should remain a quiet, peaceful location for neighbors to enjoy nature.

Recommended improvements Include:

- A** Songbird & Habitat Meadow
- B** 3-5' Wide Earthen Trail



Pond View Park



Pondview Drive

Appledale Road

A

B

REDTAIL



Redtail Park

Redtail park is used by local soccer organizations as well as local Methacton School District students. This facility is lacking shade for spectators watching soccer games. Also, trails and connections to existing sidewalks are essential to consider.

Recommended improvements Include:

- A** Sidewalk Connection to Eagleville Rd
- B** Shade Trees
- C** Perimeter Trail (stone dust)
- D** Remove Debris & Amend Soil
- E** Shade Trees
- F** Improve Existing Stormwater Basin
- G** Restroom Facility - on Concrete Pad, w Electrical & Water Service



Redtail Park



Eagleville Road

Redtail Road

Baseball Field

Soccer Field

A

B

C

G

D

E

F



Sherwood Park

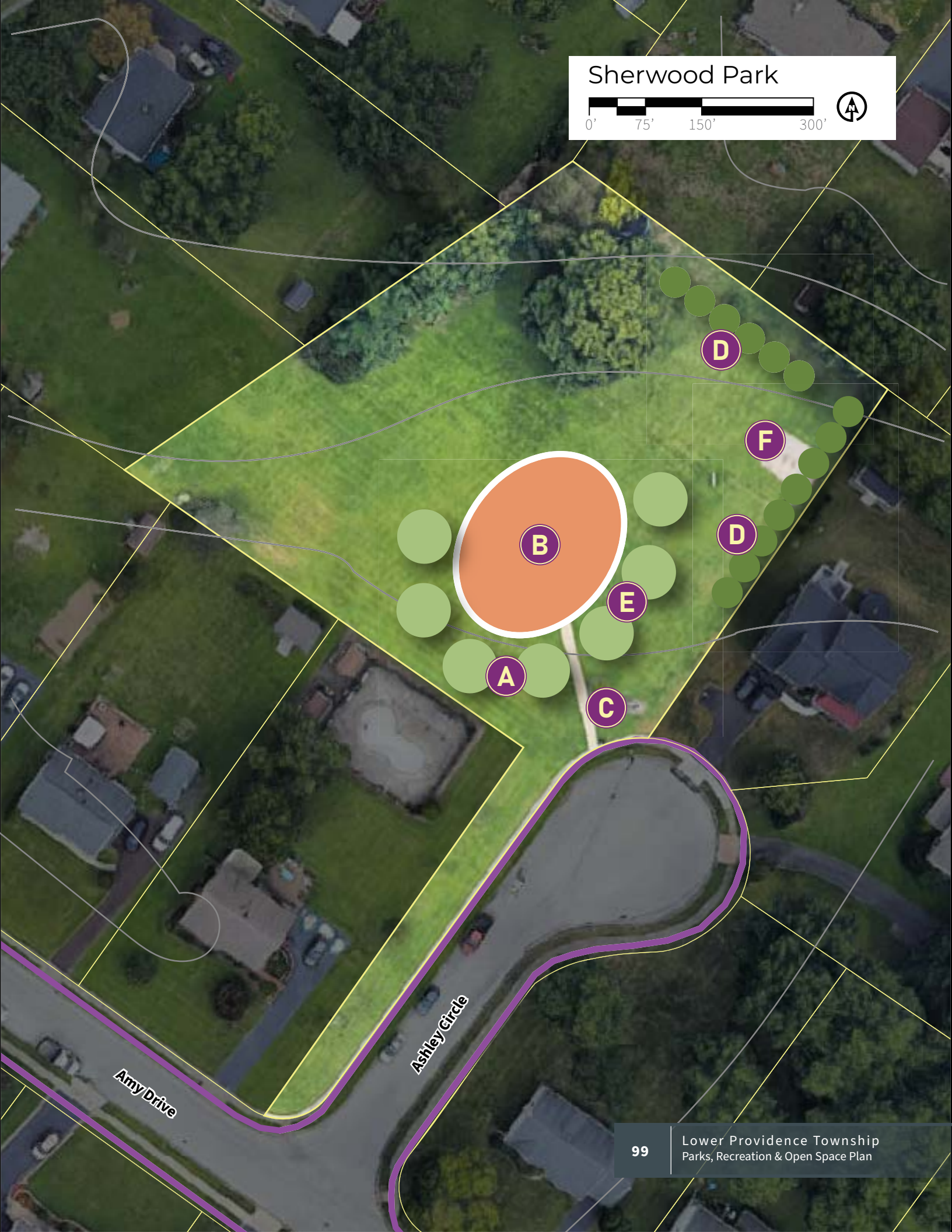
Sherwood Park is a small neighborhood park which serves the nearby community. Development of this park should focus on improved shade and ADA play facilities.

Recommended improvements Include:

- A** Shade Trees
- B** Play Area Safety Surface
- C** Improved ADA Walkway 4' Wide
- D** Evergreen Buffer - 4' Eastern Red Cedar
- E** ADA Benches
- F** New Swingset



Sherwood Park





Francesco A. Mascaro Memorial Park

Privately-owned by J.P. Mascaro & Sons, this is a high-quality facility which includes new baseball and playground facilities. Mascaro works with the Township and private recreation groups to facilitate use of this impressive facility. Lower Providence should continue to work with this important community organization to potentially implement the following improvements.

Recommended improvements Include:

- A** Native Meadow Plantings
- B** Plan for Future Baseball Facilities



Mascaro Field



Miami Ave

Woodland Ave

A

A

B



Methacton Audubon Recreation Association Fields (MARA)

Recommended improvements Include:

- A** Shade Trees in Parking Area
- B** Naturalize & Improve Stormwater Basin
- C** Thin Tree Buffer for Security & Visibility
- D** Pavilion, 24' x 44'
- E** ADA Pathway Between Ballfields (stone dust)
- F** Expand Swingset Safety Surface Area
- G** Expand Playground Safety Surface Area
- H** Native Meadow Plantings
- I** Sidewalk Connection Along Audubon Road
- J** Shade Trees Along Audubon Road
- K** Pedestrian Intersection Improvements
- L** 30 car parking area, coordinate with Montgomery County



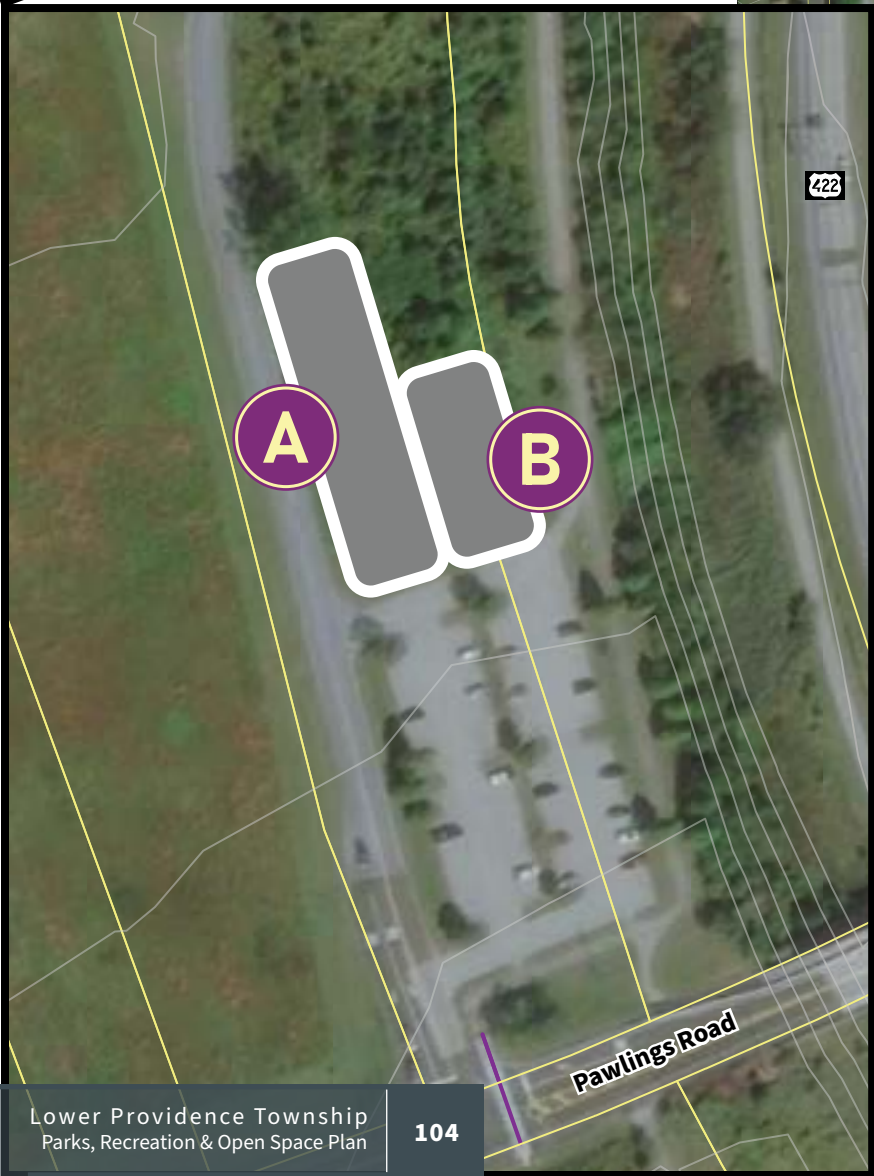
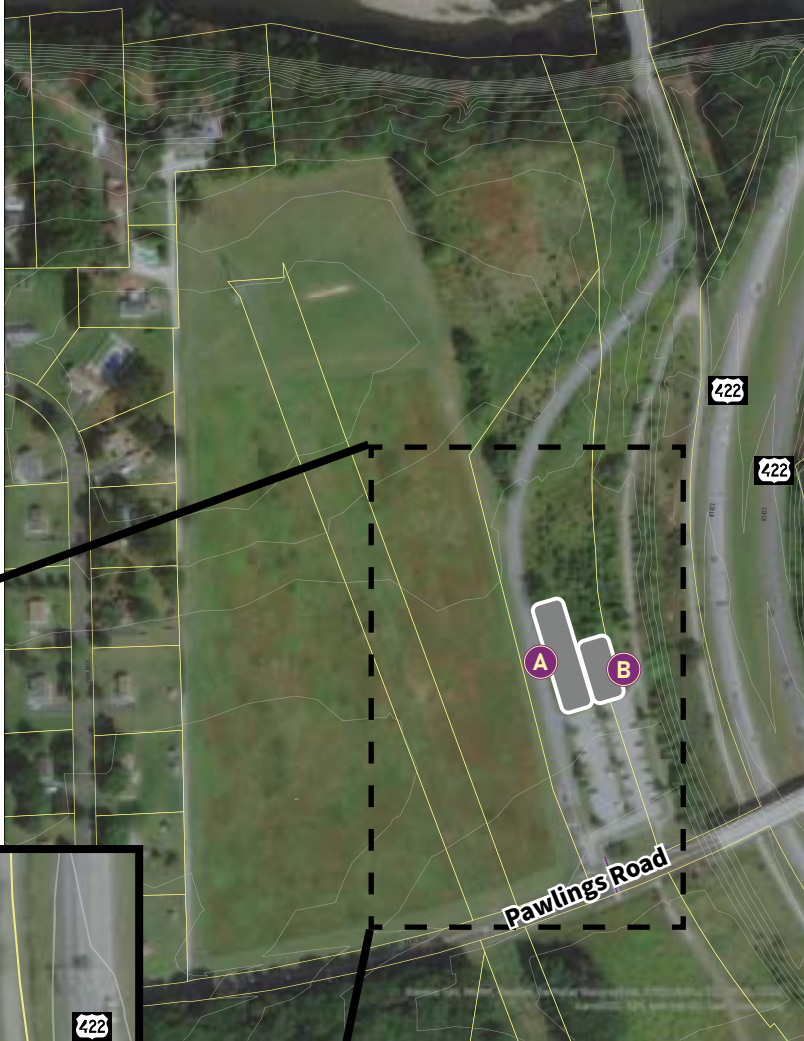
MARA Fields



Knights Cricket Field & Pawlings Road Trailhead

Recommended improvements Include:

- A** Pawlings Road Trailhead Parking Expansion
- B** Restroom Facility - on Concrete Pad, w Electrical & Water Service



State & Federal Partnerships

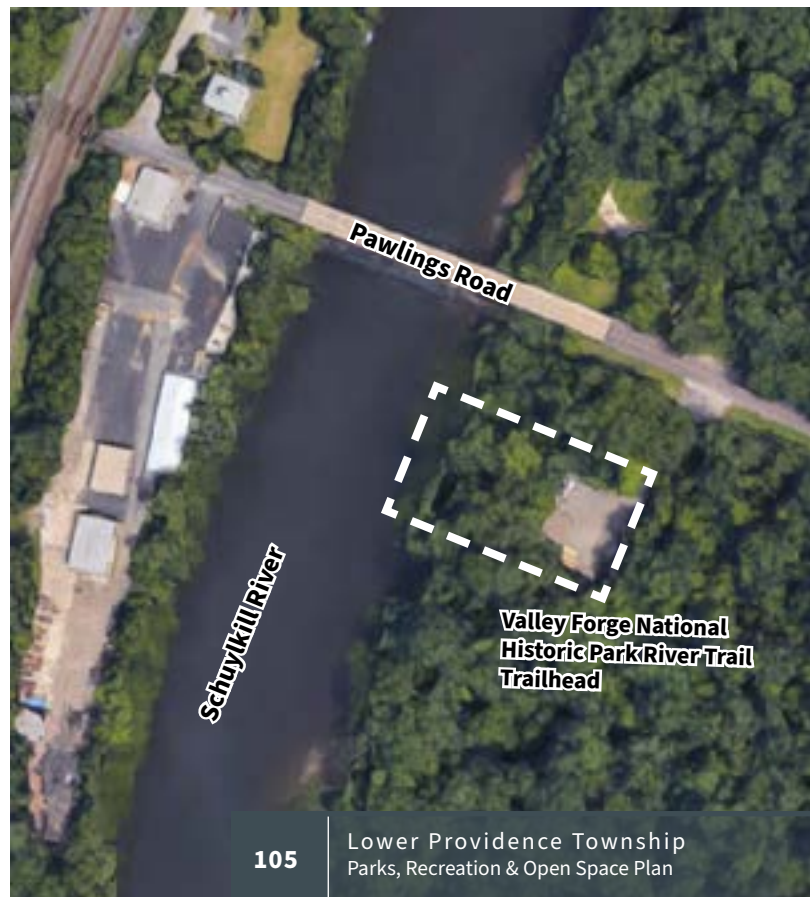
Evansburg State Park – Future Recreation Fields

If locations for future active recreation fields are required, Lower Providence Township should consider approaching DCNR and Evansburg State Park for use of fields north of Ridge Pike. This partnership for active recreation fields on DCNR property could follow a lease model like that used for Evansburg Point Park.



National Park Service – Valley Forge Water Access

With growing demand for boating water access to the Schuylkill River, usage, and parking downstream from Lower Providence at Betzwood Park has increased dramatically over recent years and more precipitously during the Covid-19 pandemic. Additional water access with parking is needed along the waters of Lower Providence. Lower Providence should advance a collaborative effort with the National Park Service to establish water access at the Pawlings Road Valley Forge National Historic Park River Trail Trailhead.



Open Space Preservation Recommendations

Parcels were considered for preservation by the following criteria:

- Parcels which provide a vital link to complete a trail connection or serve as a necessary link in a future trail connection for pedestrian and bicycle mobility.
- Parcels which contain rare old growth forests, areas considered to be the most important natural habitats in a region, places of large specimens of valued vegetation. Places where rare and valued animals live and birds roost are also considered vital priorities, especially a high-quality wildlife refuge.
- Parcels which maintain scenic qualities, especially if identified in Township documents including the Comprehensive Plan or Open Spaces Plan as preserving a scenic viewscape.
- Parcels that protect natural features, including water resources, especially floodplain areas, riparian buffers, streams, creeks, and waterways.
- Parcels that preserve significant agricultural land that is threatened by development.
- Parcels that are contiguous to existing private or public open space and are significant for both active and passive recreation.

Preservation Strategy: Acquisition

Key Bank Parcels (Parcel 1: 15 acres & Parcel 2: 12 acres)

Character: Agriculture

Option A: Preserve Agriculture Fields

Lower Providence Township has minimal preserved agricultural lands, in this option the Township should pursue the acquisition of these parcels to permanently preserve this agriculture area.

If the northern 12-acre parcel is desired for permanent open space Lower Providence should work with Worcester Township in a coordinated effort to acquire this open space. A coordinated multi-municipal effort may be more attractive to funding agencies when pursuing grant funding.

Option B: Develop for active recreation facilities.

These parcels can be used to accommodate future Township recreational facility needs and expand upon and connect to existing Eskie Park facilities.

In either option A or B, a .65-mile loop trail should be considered around the perimeter of these parcels. This concept is discussed in the multi-modal trail recommendations section.



Cicchiello Parcel (37 Acres)

Character: Agriculture

As one of only a handful agricultural parcels remaining in Lower Providence, the Township should consider acquisition or work with local conservation organizations such as Natural Lands to permanently preserve the Cicchiello parcel for agriculture.





Heyser Parcel (36 acres) & BooBoo Realty Parcel (10 acres)

Character: Wooded

Both parcels are north of Eagleville Park and are densely forested. If acquired, these parcels should become part of Eagleville Park and remain wooded. They contain a tributary to the Skippack Creek – acquisition of these parcels could ensure long term stormwater management for this hydrologic resource.

Conceptual park elements within these parcels could include:

- Low-impact earth hiking trails (3-5’ width)
- Educational interpretation signage
- Forested / stormwater best management practices (BMPs)

Philadelphia Protectory For Boys / St. Gabriel's (Parcel 9.61 acres)

Lower Providence Township should work with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and consider acquisition / suggest Montgomery County to acquire the St. Gabriel’s 9.61-acre parcel north of Pawlings Road.

Montgomery County could merge this 9.61-acre parcel with Mill Grove lands which could add value to existing County facilities. This parcel could potentially include areas for: recreational programming & sports courts, community gardens, watershed native plant production or small-scale farming.

Philadelphia Protectory For Boys / St. Gabriel's (Parcel: 46.69 acres)

Lower Providence Township should work with the Archdiocese and consider partial acquisition of, or easement on the former St. Gabriel’s property (south of Pawlings Road). The Valley Forge Connector Trail detailed later in this chapter has a conceptual alignment which runs north of Route 422 along this property.



While it is not financially feasible or prudent for Lower Providence Township to pursue acquisition for all of the parcels noted for preservation – each parcel noted is worthy of long-term conservation. The parcels below should be maintained / improved as open space, and the Township may consider acquisition, work with local conservation organizations, or future owners to ensure long term open space preservation.

Parcels Identified for Conservation (evaluated by previously-noted criteria)*

*Refer to Parcel Preservation Matrix on page 108 on for full description and future action of each parcel identified for acquisition and conservation.

- IBEW Local 98 North Property (57 acres)
- Mascaro Property (26 acres)
- ValleyCrest Property (20 acres)
- SLI Enterprises Property (2.75 acres)
- Sunnyside Ave Property (4.3 acres)
- Shannondell Property (17 acres)
- Lower Providence Rod & Gun Club Property (47 acres)
- St. Gabriel’s Property A (10 acres)
- St. Gabriel’s Property B (46 acres)
- Eagleville Hospital Property (26 acres)
- Ridgetop Associates Property (Total parcel 53 acres, open space 20 acres)

Preservation Strategy: Official Map

What is an official map?

As permitted by the PA Municipal Planning Code, the Official Map is a combined map and ordinance designed to implement the goals and community vision set forth in the Comprehensive Plan.

The Official Map shows the locations of planned future public lands and facilities such as transportation, recreational parks and trails, and open space.

The Official Map expresses a municipality’s interest in acquiring these lands for public purposes at some future time. The Official Map process does not mandate any action by the Township. However, if a

parcel designated as future open space is planned for development or subdivision of a land development or subdivision application, it gives the Township an opportunity to discuss preserving at least part of the parcel as open space, in addition to whatever provisions may exist in the zoning ordinance for open space preservation or providing residents with public trails.

An official map may include but need not be limited to:

- Existing and proposed public streets, watercourses, and public grounds, including widenings, narrowings, extensions, reductions, openings or closing of same.
- Existing and proposed public parks, playgrounds, and open space reservations.
- Existing and proposed pedestrian ways (trails) and easements.
- Flood control areas, floodways and floodplains, stormwater management areas and drainage easements.

Benefits of an official map

Adoption of an official map was a recommendation in the 2005 Lower Providence Open Space Plan and this plan builds on that recommendation. Benefits of an official map are:

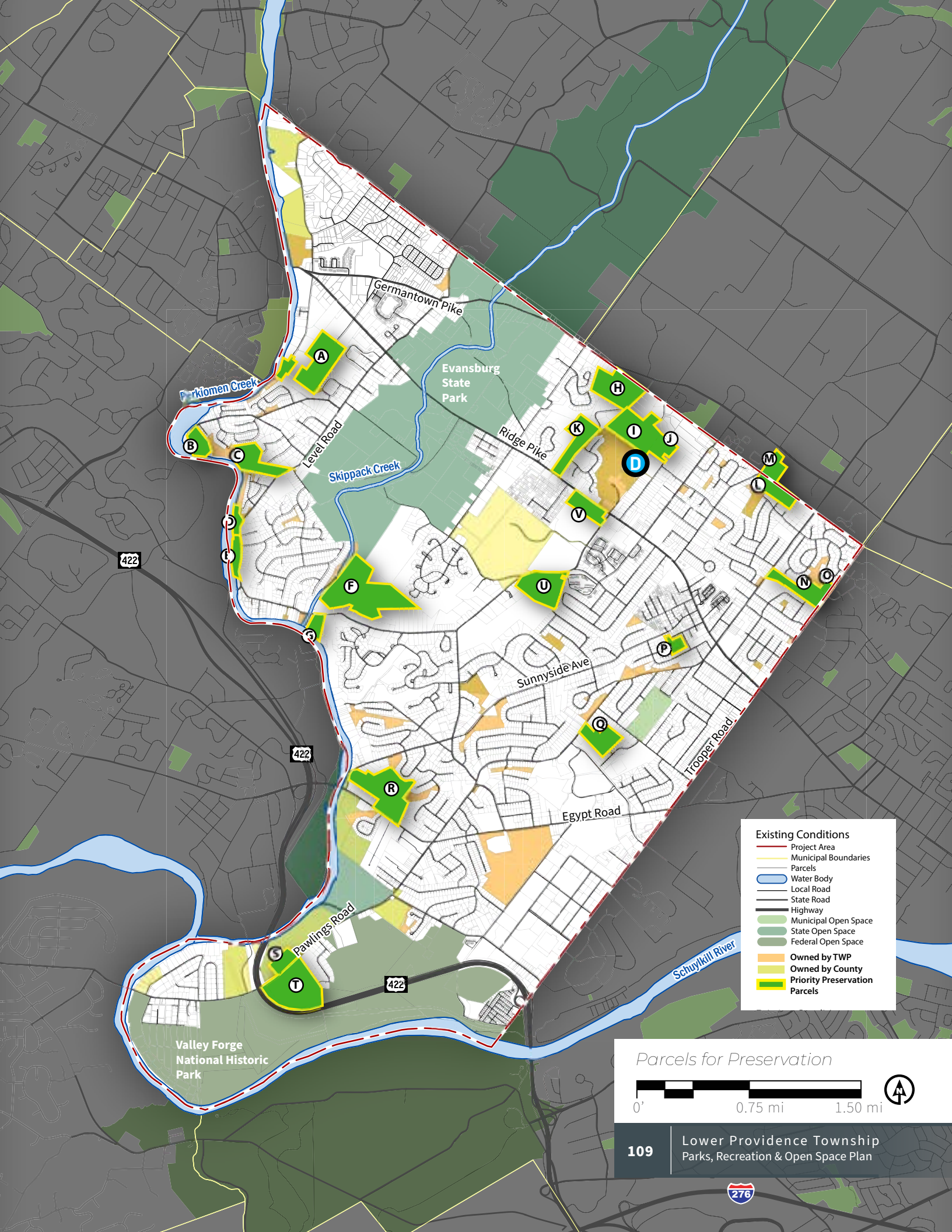
- Helps to focus limited financial resources on projects that meet and advance community goals.
- Helps to make improvements such as the street network improvements, intersection improvements, protecting natural areas, providing more green space, recreation facilities, trails, and sidewalks.
- Saves time and money by informing property owners and developers of municipal goals and intentions in advance of land development plans.
- Effective negotiation tool for municipalities, helping to ensure development is compatible with and supportive of public goals.
- Gives municipalities advantage in securing grants.

Lower Providence should place select parcels on the official map as ‘open space’ to ensure they remain open space in the future. Such actions can also be the first step towards Township acquisition.

More information can be found in the PennDOT guidebook, The Official Map: A Handbook for Preserving and Providing Public Lands and Facilities, available at <https://www.dot.state.pa.us/public/PubsForms/Publications/PUB%20703.pdf>.

Lower Providence Township Parcel Preservation Matrix

Key	Parcel	Notes	Size	Acres	Character	Conceptual Future Use	Action	Priority
A	IBEW	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). Four properties between Level Road and Perkiomen Creek. Large central recreation fields/picnic area with natural area steep slopes along west and south edge = 39 acres; Level Road property = 9.2 acres; Property adjacent to driveway - 5.5 acres ; Natural area along Perkiomen Creek = 3.4 acres;	57	Acres	Park & Open Space	Park Facilities & Open Space	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	Medium
B	Gorski	Gorski property, largely floodplain with frontage along Perkiomen Creek at Yerkes section of Township	12	Acres	Wooded	Remain Wooded, Greenway, Water Access	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	High
C	Kunda	Kunda Airfield property. Airfield currently in use. Take action if airfield closes.	30	Acres	Open Space	Remain Wooded, Greenway	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	Low
D	Parris	Parris property along Perkiomen Creek.	7	Acres	Wooded, Steep Slopes	Remain Wooded, Greenway	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	Low
E	McKay	McKay property along Perliomen Creek	12	Acres	Wooded, Steep Slopes	Remain Wooded, Greenway	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	Low
F	Hideaway	Camp Hideaway property, wooded, adjacent to Skippack Creek	67	Acres	Wooded	Remain Wooded, Greenway	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	Medium
G	Webster	Webster property, at terminus of Skippack Creek where meets the Perkiomen Creek.	7	Acres	Wooded, Steep Slopes	Remain Wooded, Greenway, Access	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	Medium
H	Cicchello	Cicchello property, 41.5 acres situate Smith Road, adjacent to Worcester Township.	37	Acres	Agriculture	Preserved Agriculture	Township Acquisition	High
I	Heyser	Heyser property, Smith Road, traversed by tributary of Skippack Creek. Contains stream valley riparian corridor.	36	Acres	Wooded	Expand Eagleville Park, Remain Wooded	Township Acquisition	High
J	BooBoo	BooBoo Realty property, east of Heyser parcel. Wooded	10	Acres	Wooded	Expand Eagleville Park, Remain Wooded	Township Acquisition	High
K	Mascaro	Mascaro property Largely wooded, strategically located near Eagleville Park and other open space	26	Acres	Wooded	Remain Wooded, Greenway	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	Medium
L	KeyBank	KeyBank property, 15.0 acres - adjacent to Eskie Memorial Park. Gentle slopes 1-3%, generally open with hedgerows along boundaries; suitable for active and passive recreation.	15	Acres	Agriculture	Preserved Agriculture	Township Acquisition	High
M	KeyBank	KeyBank property in Worcester Township, adjacent to Item M (above)	12	Acres	Agriculture	Preserved Agriculture	Township Acquisition	High
N	ValleyCrest	Valley Crest Landscaping (portion of) - situate between Park Avenue and Trooper Road	20	Acres	Wooded	Remain Wooded, Greenway	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	Low
O	SLI Enterprises	SLI enterprises property heavily wooded, join with above. Older farmhouse residence adjacent to Trooper Road.	2.75	Acres	Wooded	Remain Wooded, Greenway	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	Low
P	Sunnyside Ave	East of Sunnyside Avenue. Heavy wood - low area. (Movie lots.) Largely land locked. Consists of low natural wooded area surrounded by single family lots.	4.3	Acres	Wooded	Remain Wooded, Greenway	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	Low
Q	Shannondell	Shannondell property. 17 acres between Heatherwood Hill and Park Avenue. Includes some floodplain and wooded areas.	17	Acres	Wooded	Remain Wooded, Greenway	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	Medium
R	RG Club	Lower Providence Rod & Gun Club; frontage along Egypt Road; includes floodplain.	47	Acres	Wooded	Remain Wooded, Greenway	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	Low
S	St. Gabriel's A	St. Gabriel's Protectorate - North of Pawlings Road. Encourage Montgomery County to acquire and merge with adjacent County parcels.	10	Acres	Open Space	Park Facilities & Open Space	Montgomery Co. Acquisition	High
T	St. Gabriel's B	St. Gabriel's Protectorate - South of Pawlings Road.	46	Acres	Open Space	Park Facilities & Open Space	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	High
U	Hospital	Eagleville Hospital Open Space -South of Eagleville Road.	26	Acres	Wooded	Remain Wooded, Greenway	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	Medium
V	Ridgetop	Ridgetop Associates property, south of Ridge Pike. Part of Streamlight, Inc. parcel.	20	Acres	Open Space	Open Space	Maintain / improve as open space, pursue acquisition if possible	Medium
Total Acres			521.05					



- Existing Conditions**
- Project Area
 - Municipal Boundaries
 - Parcels
 - Water Body
 - Local Road
 - State Road
 - Highway
 - Municipal Open Space
 - State Open Space
 - Federal Open Space
 - Owned by TWP
 - Owned by County
 - Priority Preservation Parcels

Parcels for Preservation

0' 0.75 mi 1.50 mi

North Arrow



Greenways

The primary purpose to designate a “Greenway” is to:

- Foster the preservation and protection of critical habitats; and
- Protect and enhance the water quality.

Greenways may or may not contain a trail or allow access through them.

Additional Greenways should be considered along hydrologic resources and extend from existing Township-owned parcels.

In Lower Providence Township greenways are protected under ARTICLE XXXIV (Riparian Buffer Overlay Zone – Zones 1 & 2) This ordinance regulates land use to ensure natural resources are preserved and protected. The extent of the riparian buffer is described below:

(1) Zone One. This zone will begin at each edge of a stream channel/waterline/wetland edge (whichever is applicable) and occupy a minimum width of 30 feet measured horizontally on a line perpendicular to the top of the bank/edge of waterline or wetland.

Where the land within 30 feet of the defined edge of a stream channel has an upland slope greater than 10%, Zone One shall include the land from the stream channel edge and the upland slope and shall further extend outward 30 feet from the edge or top of such upland slope; and

(2) Zone Two. This zone will begin at the outer edge of Zone One and occupy a minimum width of 60 feet in addition to Zone One, unless modified herein. Where the one-hundred-year floodplain extends greater than 90 feet from the waterway, Zone One shall remain a minimum of 30 feet, and Zone Two shall extend from the outer edge of Zone One to the outer edge of the one-hundred-year floodplain.

Lower Providence Township has done well to acquire parcels along important riparian and greenway corridors. Gaps in existing greenways should be filled starting from existing Township-owned parcels.

The following parcels can become part of the Lower Providence greenway network through acquisition, protection through placement on the official map and conservation easements:

- Gorski Property (12 acres)
- Kunda Property (30 acres)
- Parris Property (7 acres)
- McKay Property (12 acres)
- Camp Hideaway Property (67 acres)
- Webster Property (7 acres)

Successful greenway expansion & improved water quality will require action by local government and private citizens. The Township has done a great job of acquiring key greenway parcels, and will need the help of private citizens, as the Township is largely built-out.

Article XXXIV (Riparian Buffer Overlay Zone) of the Zoning Ordinance includes provisions for the restoration and revegetation of riparian buffers. The Township should institute a program to revegetate any greenway cover gaps in order to provide for continuous ribbons of land that protect natural habitats and enhance the water quality of the Townships creeks, streams and tributaries. Any program should follow the established regulations in Article XXXIV that call for the installation of three layers of vegetation consisting of native material when replanting the riparian buffer: a ground cover, understory shrubs and trees that form an overhead canopy.

In addition, the Township can work with existing private landowners to institute retroactive improvements to greenways on their land. Article XXXIV outlines the improvements that can be installed in the different zones of the riparian buffer subject to specific requirements. In both zones, they include unpaved hiking, biking or bridle trails, fishing areas, and natural resource preserves. Additional improvements are permitted in Zone Two by conditional use when authorized by the Board of Supervisors and include paved trails, sports and ball fields and courts, parklands, camps, picnic areas, golf courses and playgrounds. The Township can set a vision for greenways improvements, such as recognizing these spaces on an official map, and partner with landowners to implement these improvements. Such an arrangement can benefit both sides as landowners can be encouraged to build trails and other improvements through measures like tax incentives, and new recreational amenities that benefit Township residents can be introduced before any land development applications that may trigger the requirement of such improvements are filed. Installation of improvements that also preserve natural resources and protect water quality may also help to address the Township’s MS4 requirements.

Stormwater Management

Projects with over 1 acre of disturbance require a Pennsylvania Chapter 102 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. These projects are required to implement BMPs. It is also recommended that BMPs be implemented for any project that requires them in accordance with the Township's stormwater ordinance. However, the standards for the MS4 program exceed those for the NPDES permit by at least 10%. Therefore it is recommended to plan ahead by over designing new projects to meet MS4 requirements and not just NPDES requirements. An example of this would be the Eskie Park proposed parking lot. By exceeding the NPDES permit requirements, the Township will avoid adding to their MS4 stream loading.

Tree plantings only provide a small amount of credit for pollution reduction. However, it should be done as much as possible and the Township should take credit for it wherever they can. It's simple to keep track of. Lineal BMPs such as bio-swales, infiltration trenches and even lineal rain gardens should be considered along trails. It is important to coordinate with Township engineer, Woodrow and Associates, so that they are located within the Township sewersheds. Maintaining records of when BMPs are installed and records of routine maintenance is crucial to the Township's MS4 program. Keeping track of maintenance of BMPs not only provides records for authorities such as PA Department of Environmental Protection (PennDEP) and the EPA but also extends the life of the BMP through regularly scheduled maintenance.

Lower Providence Township participates in the Skippack Creek Watershed Alliance, a group of municipalities that has committed to work together to address the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) set by PennDEP for the Skippack Creek. By implementing BMPs, the Alliance will collectively meet its requirements to reduce sediments and nutrients within the watershed. It is recommended that the Township continue to pursue BMPs as noted above within the Skippack Creek and coordinate those efforts with the Alliance.

Additional Recommendations

School District Agreement.

The Township should negotiate an agreement with the Methacton School District to secure permanent public access to the District's indoor and outdoor facilities. While reasonable restrictions on access are to be expected, such an agreement could address the need for indoor recreation facilities. School District properties contain valuable outdoor recreation facilities for organized sports and youth programs at numerous locations throughout the Township. These facilities should not be disposed of.

Indoor Recreation Facility.

The public opinion survey delineated a desire and need for indoor recreation opportunities. Currently in the Township, the only municipal indoor facility is the small Level Road Schoolhouse.

Lower Providence Township should conduct a feasibility study to determine if an indoor recreation facility is warranted or if the school buildings (such as a lease agreement with MSD at the closed Audubon Elementary) will fulfill the need adequately.

Recreation and Program Recommendations

Recommendations and comments below were formulated through discussions at public meetings, discussions with staff, survey results, and other communications. All comments were evaluated and researched to determine what may be possible for Lower Providence when considering budget constraints, staffing levels, resident expectations, and future opportunities.

Currently, Lower Providence offers scores of recreational programs for people of all ages and abilities. Programs are well received by the community. Most programs are offered during the late spring, summer, and early fall. The opportunity to augment programming is available for the fall, winter, and early spring seasons. Adding programs during these seasons will require indoor facilities to house the program.

Adding year round indoor programming can be accomplished through a variety of options. Firstly, through a capital improvement the Township can construct an indoor facility to permit indoor programming. This option will require a large capital investment and ongoing maintenance and staff investments for the Township. If this option is considered, it

is recommended that the Township perform a feasibility study to determine if an indoor facility is a viable option. Secondly, expanded agreements with the school district to permit year round access into the school buildings should be evaluated. This option is a no cost, or low cost option that provides the Township indoor facilities to offer year round programs. And, thirdly, year round programming could be offered through public / private partnerships with various facilities within Lower Providence Township. Pending the agreement, this is a low cost option as well. This option requires programs to be offered at private facilities. Options two and three provide for indoor space at no or low costs to the Township.

Year round or seasonal organized recreation programs instructors may include in-house instructors (current staff), seasonal Township employees, hired contracted instructors, or third-party recreation agencies. Current programs include summer camps, short term (4-8 week) educational offerings, health and wellness opportunities, sport camps, special events, to name a few. Expanding current programs, and offering new programs into the cooler months, provides additional revenues for the Township. Current staff is able to offer these additional programs; therefore, no additional full-time staff is required. Additionally, year round programming and one-day special





events, if offered, help promote a sense of community. Special events may include pop-up events such as farmers markets, community flea markets, brew pub events, holiday events, to name a few.

Additional programs will increase the budgetary expense; however, all programs should provide a positive revenue for the Township. All program expenses are recovered through registration fees and provide for a modest net profit. It should be noted, new programs offered may require a season or two before the program is established. Programs are often provided at a net loss for the first offering in order to allow the program to gain momentum. The Parks and Recreation Department has qualified staff to make determinations as to which programs should continue and which should be discontinued.

Successful departments have firm policies and procedure in place to assist the department. Such documentation provides support to the department, or director, and are necessary for decision making. Necessary policies include registration and refund policies, fees scheduling, rental procedures and policies, hiring practices, and others. These policies and procedures provide

detailed documentation for the director, the administration, participants, and community groups. Lower Providence Parks and Recreation has such policies and documents, all of which are well publicized. It is recommended that the Township charge the Parks and Recreation Board to review all current policies, fees structures for programs and rentals, and sponsorship fees to determine if the charges and fees are appropriate for Lower Providence as compared to neighboring communities. For example, resident versus non-resident program rate. It is not uncommon for a community to charge 30-50% more for non-residents to participate in a program offered.

Develop a mechanism to recruit and retain program instructors and third-party recreation providers. Instructors and third-party providers will play a large role in the success of the Department to offer year-round or seasonal programs. New Child Protective Services laws exist, adherence to these laws is mandatory. Develop a procedure to identify which instructors or third-party providers need clearances, and most importantly, develop a system to ensure all clearances are provided as outlined in the law.

Enlist the Parks and Recreation Board to review all current policies used for field reservations, pavilion rentals, and other current policies. The review should address facility rental procedures, fees structures, rules and policy, maintenance issues or concerns, and who is eligible to use the facility. The Board should also develop a fee structure philosophy regarding program costs. For example, a resident rate verses a non-resident rate for programs and facility rentals. A typical fee philosophy may be non-residents are charged 30% more than residents. However, the philosophy must provide an opportunity for programs offered to run. If non-residents are charged additional fees they may not register for a particular program, hence the program may be cancelled. A well-defined set of policies provides the Director with the tools necessary to provide information to the community with the support of the Parks and Recreation Board and the Board of Supervisors.

Recreation and Program Recommendations

- Increase programs offered by expanding current programs and providing an indoor facility for year round programming through new construction or partnerships.
- Develop or enhance written agreements with the school district or private facilities to permit sustainable indoor use for programs.
- Develop a mechanism to recruit instructors to teach a variety of year round classes, camps, or other programs. This includes contracted service providers and third-party organization providers.
- Provide a policy for background checks for all participant recreation providers who offer recreational programs in the Township.
- Develop a policy for attracting recreational providers, advertising recreational programs, and program evaluation.

Maintenance Recommendations

Maintenance personnel should be augmented to include two to three dedicated seasonal parks maintenance workers to assist the Public Works Department's three full time staff dedicated to park maintenance. Dedicated workers (mid-March – October) will provide additional staff-hours required to perform the many tasks associated with park work. In 2021, the Township will be performing all grass cutting in-house and not outsourcing that service. Grass cutting requires additional staff hours. One seasonal Maintenance worker, working 40 hours per week for 25 week equals 1,000 hours. This cost could exceed \$13,000 per worker per seasonal maintenance worker; however, the cost is offset by increased in-house work performed, better maintenance practices, an enhance experienced for park patrons, and increased safety of the park facility. All of which enhance risk management measures.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) guidelines for park and playgrounds should be reviewed during daily maintenance to ensure no risk management issues. A Certified Parks Safety Inspector, through the Delaware Valley Insurance Trust, does perform an annual audit to reduce risk exposure for the Township. That playground report is used to make modifications to maintenance practices or to remove or replace play equipment pieces or structures that no longer conform to CPSC guidelines.

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) outlines laws that govern access for all persons. Adherence to these laws is required and should be reviewed at each park location to ensure the laws are being met. This may include small items such as a bench location in proximity to a walking path or access to play equipment. Additionally, ADA requires a certain percentage of play equipment be available for persons with disabilities.

Best Management Practices should be incorporated to a greater level. While much of the maintenance work is more than adequate, there are areas for improvement. Continue to offer maintenance staff the opportunity to attend best management practices seminars and environmental workshops. Additional worthwhile workshops include playground certification and ballfield maintenance seminars. These seminars and workshops are minimal in cost and provide a wealth of knowledge on the investment.

- Consider adding two seasonal maintenance workers dedicated to park maintenance (the Township is scheduled up to three seasonal maintenance workers in 2021).

- Develop a program and / or brochure that provides information concerning best management practices for environmental concerns, land stewardship, and sustainability that is distributed to residents.
- Supplement seminar and workshop training for all maintenance staff.

Administrative / Operational Recommendations

The Lower Providence administrative offices serve as the central contact point for residents, businesses, and community groups of Lower Providence. Administration services are well received by the community and function at a high-level providing services, responsiveness, and communication with the residents.

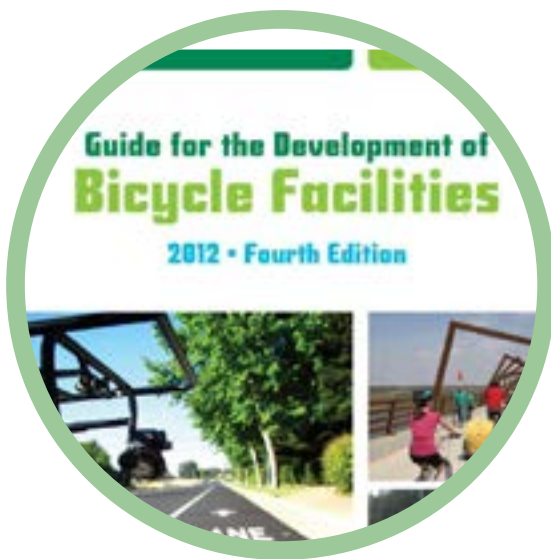
- Charge the Parks and Recreation Board to develop or review current policies for facility uses which can be enacted by the Board of Supervisors.
- Charge the Parks and Recreation Board to develop a policy for program resident and non-resident fees, which can be enacted by the Board of Supervisors. Several models of various fees structures exist through the PA Recreation and Park Society or the National Recreation and Park Association. Policies will assist the administration when determining fees for future programs and will also provide written documentation should questions arise.
- Continue to utilize the Parks and Recreation Board to provide outreach and as serve as the eyes and ears for the Township and recreational needs.



Multimodal Recommendations

Design Guidelines

Various national and locally recognized organizations have developed bicycle and pedestrian design standards. The following guides were referenced extensively throughout the design process.



AASHTO - Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities

AASHTO provides federally accepted standards for the development of bicycle facilities including information on: Bicycle Planning, Bicycle Operation and Safety, Design of On-Road Facilities, Design of Shared Use Paths, Bicycle Parking Facilities, and Maintenance and Operations. All improvements should adhere to these standards.



MUTCD - Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices provides standards for the design and implementation of traffic control devices that provide for safe and efficient transportation. Part 9 of the manual includes traffic control for bicycle facilities. The section includes signs, pavement markings and highway traffic signals for both on-road and off-road trail facilities. All guidance in this document should be adhered to when implementing the alignment alternatives.

NACTO - Urban Bikeway Design Guide

The NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide provides cities with state-of-the-practice solutions that can help create complete streets that are safe and enjoyable for bicyclists. Bike Lanes, intersection treatments, bicycle signals, bikeway signage & marking, and the practice of designing for all ages & abilities are all covered within this guide.



NACTO - Urban Street Design Guide

The NACTO Urban Street Design Guide provides innovative solutions to design for and around the special characteristics of the urban environment. Street Design Elements, Interim Design Strategies, Intersections Improvements & Design Elements and Design Controls are all discussed in detail



FHWA - Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks

The FHWA - Small town and Rural Multimodal Networks provides design guidance for pedestrian and bicycle safety in areas of smaller scale. This document focuses on establishing safe multi-modal connections within and automobile-dominated landscape. Illustrations, technical diagrams, and photographs detail proposed improvements to roadways, sidewalks, intersections, and more.





Bike Lanes

Connectivity Improvements

Bicycle Lanes

Bicyclists operate within a designated portion of the roadway that is separate from motor vehicle traffic:

Bike lanes should be provided on both sides of two-way streets.

Bike Lane Widths without Parking: 4' minimum (not adjacent to curb) and 5' minimum (adjacent to curb or another obstacle)

Bike Lane Widths with Parallel Parking: 5' minimum to 7' (wider bike lanes are recommended adjacent to parking areas to reduce conflict with opening vehicle doors) Bike lanes should be placed between the parking lane and travel lane (this applies to diagonal and parallel parking)

Storm Drains and Utility Covers: Bike lanes should be wide enough to accommodate bicyclists swerving to avoid obstructions.

Bike Lane Striping: 4" to 6" solid white line (dotted lines are optional at major driveways and intersections, solid lines should be continued at all minor driveways)

Pavement Marking: Bike Lane Symbols (MUTCD 9C - 3)

Bike Lane Signage: Bike Lane (R3-17) placed at periodic intervals with either Ahead (R3-17aP) or Ends (R3-17bP) where appropriate.



Shared Use Paths

Shared Use Paths

Shared use paths are bikeways that are physically separated from the vehicular cartway by a physical barrier or open space. Shared use paths also include side paths. Design of these facilities should comply with current ADA requirements. Path users include:

- Bicyclists of all types
- Inline & roller skaters, and skateboarders
- Kick scooter users
- Pedestrians

Design Requirements

Trail width: 10' minimum to 14' (8' is permitted under rare circumstances) Trail Shoulder width: 2' minimum shoulder free of vertical obstructions (fence, sign, wall, etc.), 3' to 5' is preferred.

Trail Shoulder slope: 1 vertical to 6 horizontal (1:6) maximum

Adjacent to a body of water or slope: 1 vertical to 3 horizontal (1:3) or greater vertical distance between the trail and nuisance should be minimum 5' (physical barrier or rail is recommended and may be placed at a minimum 1' from the edge of trail)

Vertical Clearance: 8' minimum, 10' preferred.

Separation between Trail and roadway: 5' minimum from edge of pavement (if less than 5' a physical barrier is needed)

Trail cross slope: Not to exceed 2%, 1% is recommended.

Trail grade slope: Maximum grade should be 5% or match that of the adjacent roadway. For an off-road trail grade may go up to 8% for not more than 200 lineal feet.

Connectivity Improvements

Signage - Signage can be provided along the road with no cartway (pavement) improvements. Signage informs motorists to watch out for bicyclists on the roadway.

MUTCD standards: Share the Road (W11- and W16-1P) signs and Bicyclist May Use Full Lane (R4-11) signs; Place signs at the beginning of the bike route, roadway intersections, and throughout the segment where deemed required, and at the end of the bike route.



Marked Shared Lanes - Bicyclists operate on the roadways with motor vehicles (Not to be used on roads with posted speed limits in excess of 25 mph):

Shared-Lane Striping: (MUTCD 9C - 9) placed at intersections and at intervals not greater than 250'

Striping position on cartway with Parallel Parking: Place center of sharrow 11' from face of curb or edge of travel way

Striping position on cartway with no Parking: 4' from face of curb or edge of travel way

Signage (noted previously) is still required



Image from: Flickr

Paved Shoulders - Bicyclists operate on the shoulders of roadways, typically on rural roadways:

Paved Shoulders should be located on both sides of the road

Shoulder width with no vertical obstruction: 4' shoulder width minimum

Shoulder width with vertical obstruction (curb, guide rail, etc.): 5' shoulder width minimum



Image from: PedBikeImages

Trail Surface Types

Asphalt Surfaces

Asphalt surfaces provide for the widest variety of trail users including bicyclist, walkers, joggers, wheelchair users, and in-line skaters. Initial installation costs are relatively high (lower than Portland cement concrete however) compared to other trail surface types. However, long term maintenance costs will remain lower than others if properly installed and maintained. Asphalt trails are preferred in flood prone areas. Porous asphalt can also be used in situations where stormwater infiltration or a pervious surface is required. Porous asphalt should not be used in flood prone areas where silt will clog the voids in the pavement.



Image from: Pexels

Concrete Surfaces

Portland cement concrete pavement is the most durable material for trail surfaces but is the costliest. Concrete trails are commonly used in urban environments. Advantages of concrete include longer service life, reduced susceptibility to cracking and deformation from roots and weeds, and a more consistent riding surface after years of use and exposure to the elements. The joints in concrete trail treads can degrade the experience of using the path for some wheeled users. In addition, users can see pavement markings more easily on asphalt than on concrete, particularly at night. Concrete's light color on a trail reflects the sunlight.





Image from: WikimediaCommons

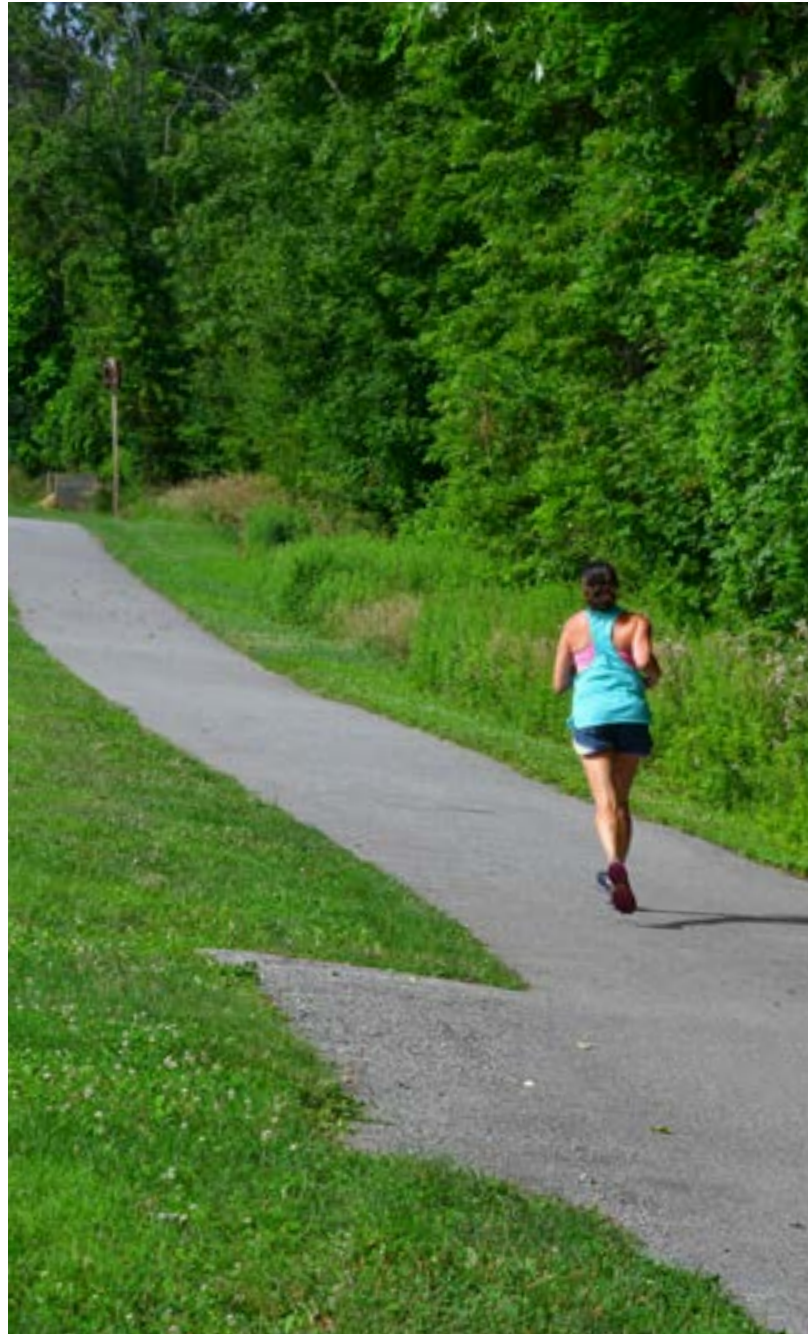
Compacted Aggregate Surfaces

Compacted aggregate surfaces, or stone dust trails, can accommodate all trail user types except for in-line skaters. Initial installation costs for this trail surface are relatively low, however long-term maintenance costs increase due to this surface's higher susceptibility to erosion, especially if not properly installed with swales and cross drains. Crushed limestone or sandstone or "Trail Surface Aggregate (TSA) Mix" are typical aggregates used in this situation. A compacted aggregate surface can also serve as base material for an asphalt surface if trail use increases or funds become available for a surfacing upgrade. Compacted aggregate surfaces should be avoided in flood prone areas or on slopes over 3%.



Pavers

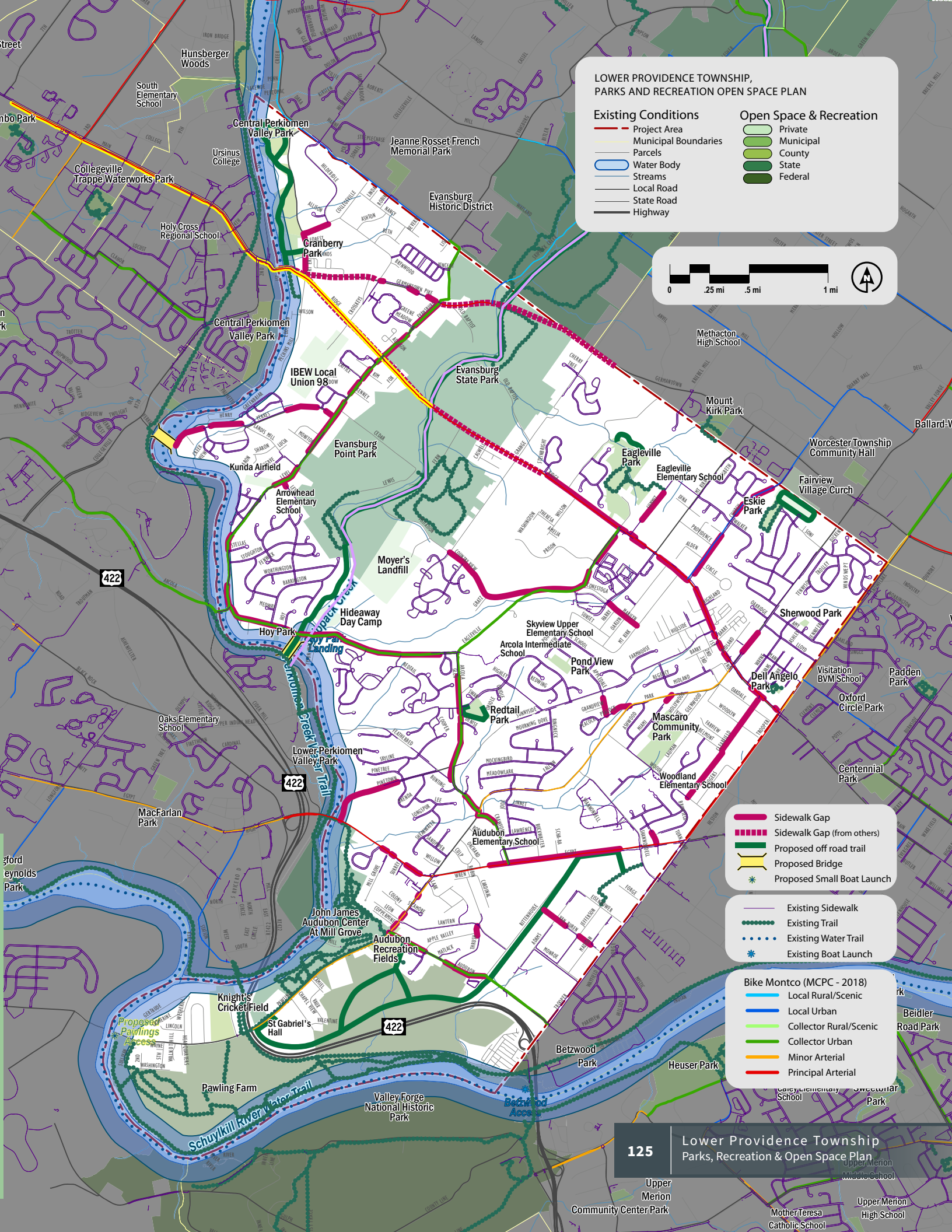
Pavers, composed of clay or concrete, may be a suitable pavement material where the context, such as in Bloomsburg, is of a historic nature. As evidenced by the many brick sidewalks in the town. This material is highly aesthetically pleasing and durable. However, this material is the most expensive type of trail or sidewalk surface and is typically used only in areas of high visibility or in areas of historic significance.



Proposed Improvements Plan

The proposed improvements plan on the opposite page note's approximate locations of pedestrian and bicycle improvements in Lower Providence Township. Based upon site analysis, field reconnaissance, and information gathered at committee meetings, several guiding principles were established.

- Connect to parks and open space of Lower Providence and the surrounding area.
- Connect to local and regional trails via on-road infrastructure and multi-use trails.
- Establish safe connections across barriers such as high-volume roadways.
- Connect to the amenities and services of Lower Providence as well as adjacent municipalities.
- Establish cross-Township connections (north/south & east/west) on low-stress or low-traffic volume routes.



LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP,
PARKS AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE PLAN

Existing Conditions

- Project Area
- Municipal Boundaries
- Parcels
- Water Body
- Streams
- Local Road
- State Road
- Highway

Open Space & Recreation

- Private
- Municipal
- County
- State
- Federal



- Sidewalk Gap
- Sidewalk Gap (from others)
- Proposed off road trail
- Proposed Bridge
- Proposed Small Boat Launch

- Existing Sidewalk
- Existing Trail
- Existing Water Trail
- Existing Boat Launch

Bike Montco (MCPC - 2018)

- Local Rural/Scenic
- Local Urban
- Collector Rural/Scenic
- Collector Urban
- Minor Arterial
- Principal Arterial



Sidewalk Gaps

Sidewalks are basic transportation infrastructure in any village or town. Sidewalks allow pedestrians to safely move between destinations, from home to work, to places of worship and to parks, to trails and civic spaces. Sidewalks are clustered in residential developments and are lacking connectivity to local destinations within Lower Providence Township.

While not financially feasible to propose sidewalks in all gaps, this plan takes a critical look at filling priority sidewalk gaps. Priority sidewalk gaps were determined by the following criteria:

- Can the sidewalk gap provide:
- Connection to existing sidewalk infrastructure
- Connection to MSD school facility
- Connection to Township park and recreation facilities
- Connection to local commercial and civic destinations

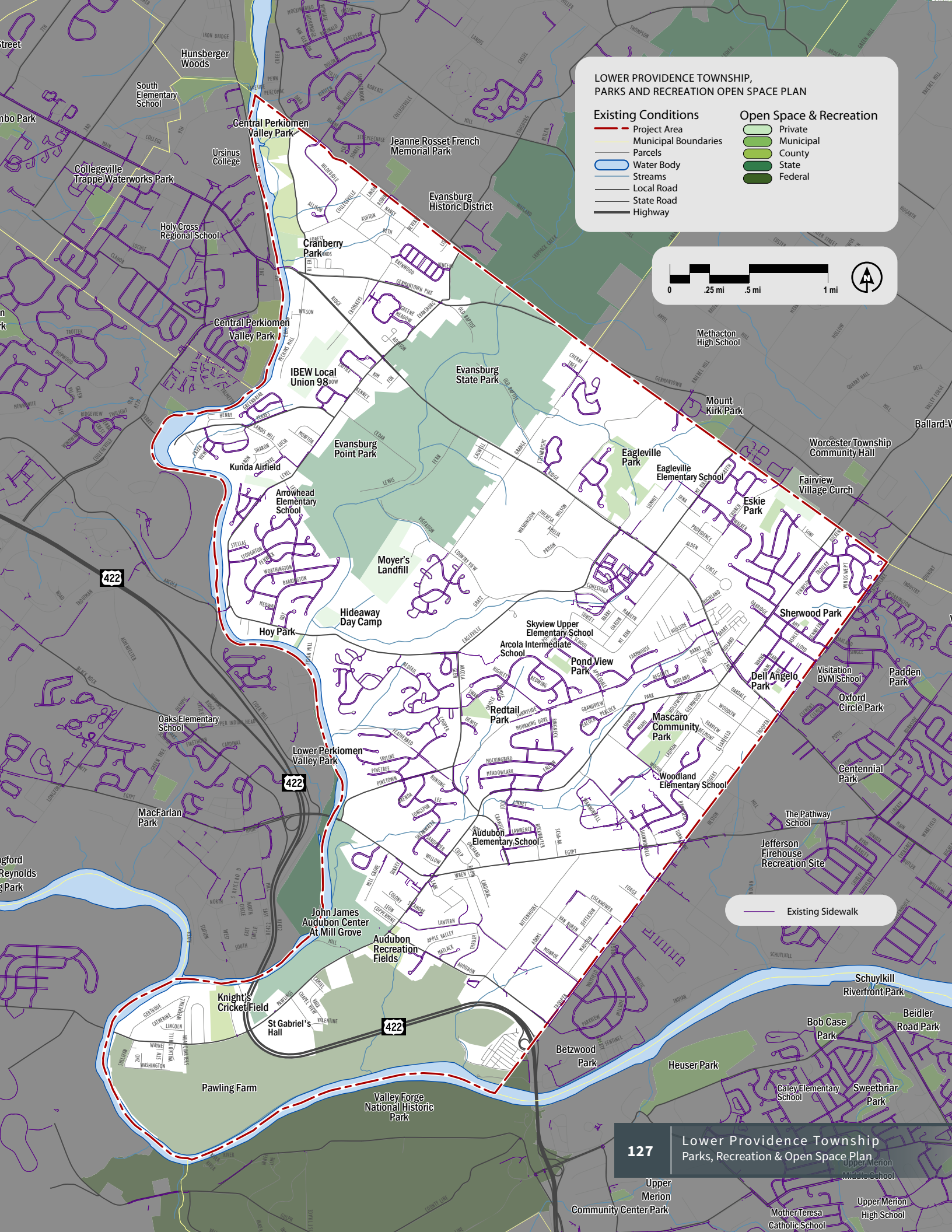
**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP,
PARKS AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE PLAN**

Existing Conditions

- Project Area
- Municipal Boundaries
- Parcels
- Water Body
- Streams
- Local Road
- State Road
- Highway

Open Space & Recreation

- Private
- Municipal
- County
- State
- Federal



Existing Sidewalk



Proposed Sidewalks

Sidewalks are proposed along routes that will serve the largest number of Township residents and improve accessibility to Town destinations such as parks, trails, open space, and commercial areas. Approximate locations of new sidewalks are based on site reconnaissance, a Township sidewalk inventory completed by DVRPC, and input from Township staff and the steering committee.

The backbone of the sidewalk recommendations plan contains 59,000 linear feet (LF) of sidewalks in priority gap locations.

Priority sidewalks are delineated on the map on the opposite page and include the following:

Audubon Road	3,050 LF
Pawlings Road (Between Audubon Rd & Egypt Rd)	985 LF
Thrush Lane	400 LF
Egypt Road	5,735 LF
Wedgewood Way	400 LF
Crawford Road	5,100 LF
Pinetown Road	1,900 LF
Arcola Road	7,000 LF
Level Road	5,730 LF
Ridge Pike	7,180 LF
Eagleville Road	2,300 LF
Visitation Road	3,300 LF
Marilyn Avenue	900 LF
Clearfield Avenue	4,100 LF
Appledale Road	1,400 LF
Miami Avenue	300 LF
N Park Avenue	860 LF
Church Road	2,700 LF
Summit Avenue	1,200 LF
Evansburg Road	2,500 LF
Germantown Pike	910 LF
River Road	600 LF
Collegeville Road	1,150 LF

Additional sidewalk gaps to be assessed for new sidewalk have been proposed by Montgomery County in previous planning studies along Ridge Pike and Germantown Pike:

Additional Ridge Pike (Per Montco Comp Plan)	11,300 LF
Additional Germantown Pike (Per Montco Comp Plan)	8,600 LF

LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP, PARKS AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE PLAN

Existing Conditions

- Project Area
- Municipal Boundaries
- Parcels
- Water Body
- Streams
- Local Road
- State Road
- Highway

Open Space & Recreation

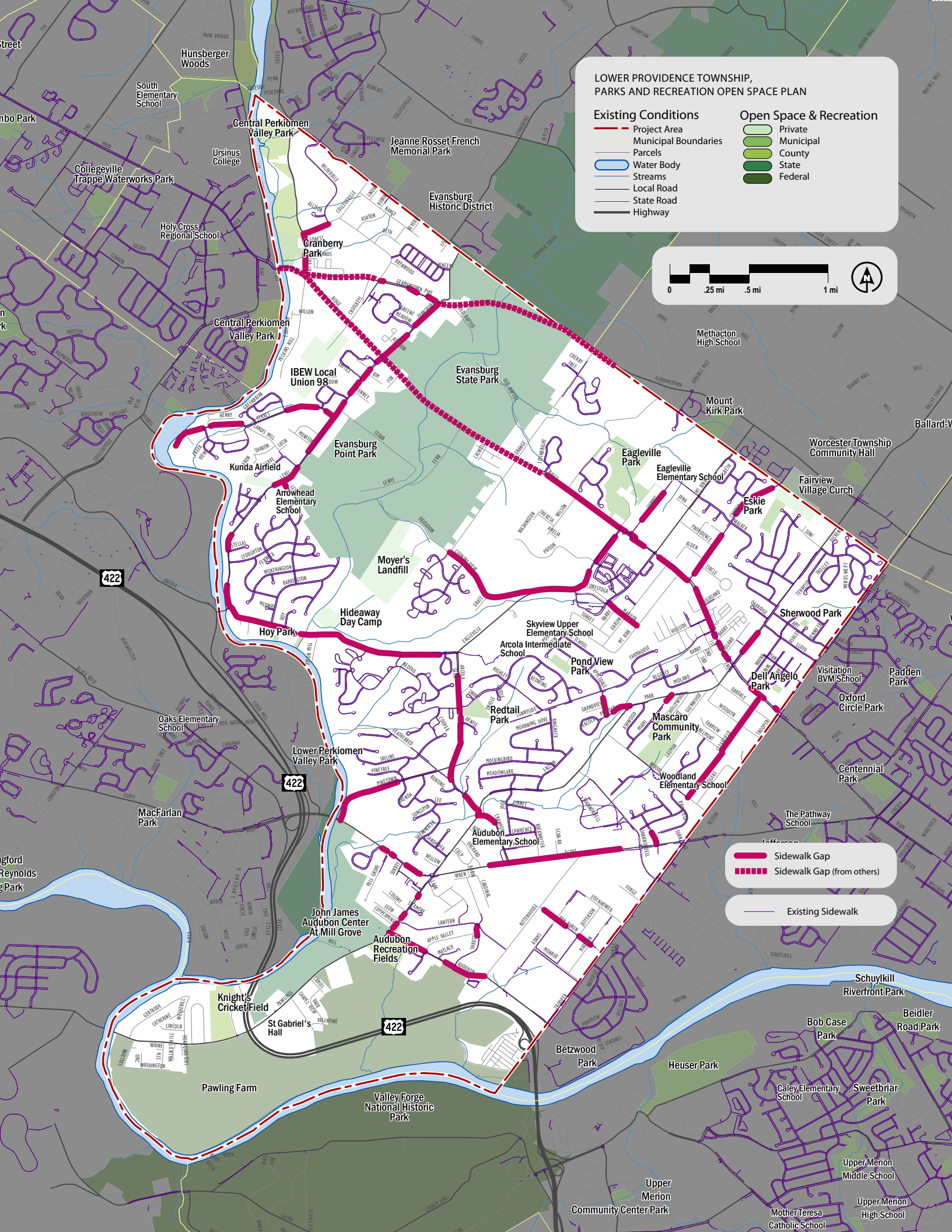
- Private
- Municipal
- County
- State
- Federal



Sidewalk Gap

Sidewalk Gap (from others)

Existing Sidewalk





Multi-Use Trails

Multi-Use Trails are generally a minimum of 10 feet in width and may be designed at widths of up to 14 feet for high-volume trails. In rare instances where space is limited, trails may be installed at an 8-foot width. Such trails can be paved with asphalt or stone dust / stone screenings. Users include cyclists, roller-bladers, skateboarders, runners, joggers, and pedestrians. Motorized wheelchairs for handicapped users are also permitted.

Where possible, trails have been proposed to connect to existing trails in order to close any trail gaps and create a uniform local multi-modal network.

Multi-use trails provide a convenient means for different user types to enjoy a common amenity and shared infrastructure. The width of these trails allows walkers, joggers, cyclists and other users the ability to recreate safely from one another. Multi-use trails also allow these different user groups a chance to interact with each and foster a sense of community in a space they share and may want to help maintain. Multi-use trails also require less resources and expenses than single use trails as they require fewer signs and less staff to maintain.

LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP, PARKS AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE PLAN

Existing Conditions

- Project Area
- Municipal Boundaries
- Parcels
- Water Body
- Streams
- Local Road
- State Road
- Highway

Open Space & Recreation

- Private
- Municipal
- County
- State
- Federal

0 .25 mi .5 mi 1 mi

North Arrow

- 11 Cranberry Park Trail
- 12 Eskie Park Loop Trail Extension
- 13 Evansburg State Park Connector
- 14 Yerkes Road Pedestrian Bridge
- 15 Valley Forge National Park Connector
- 16 Park Pointe Sidepath
- 17 Proposed Bridge

..... Existing Trail

The map displays the geographical layout of Lower Providence Township, highlighting its parks and recreational open spaces. Key features include:

- Parks and Recreation:** Numerous parks are shown, including Central Perkomen Valley Park, Cranberry Park, Jeanne Rosset French Memorial Park, Evansburg State Park, Evansburg Point Park, Kunda Airfield, Arrowhead Elementary School, Hoy Park, Lower Perkomen Valley Park, John James Audubon Center At Mill Grove, Audubon Recreation Fields, Knights Cricket Field, Rawling Farm, Valley Forge National Historic Park, Betzwood Park, Heuser Park, Bob Case Park, Beidler Road Park, Caley Elementary School, Sweetbriar Park, Upper Merion Middle School, Upper Merion High School, Mother Teresa Catholic School, Community Center Park, Mascaro Community Park, Woodland Elementary School, Dell Angelo Park, Visitation BVM School, Oxford Circle Park, Centennial Park, The Pathway School, Padden Park, Fairview Village Church, Worcester Township Community Hall, Mount Kirk Park, Methacton High School, Eagleville Park, Eagleville Elementary School, Eske Park, Sherwood Park, Pond View Park, Arcola Intermediate School, Skyview Upper Elementary School, Redtail Park, Moyer's Landfill, Hideaway Day Camp, and Hunsberger Woods.
- Trails:** Six numbered trails are highlighted in green: Cranberry Park Trail (11), Eskie Park Loop Trail Extension (12), Evansburg State Park Connector (13), Yerkes Road Pedestrian Bridge (14), Valley Forge National Park Connector (15), and Park Pointe Sidepath (16). A yellow line indicates a proposed bridge (17).
- Infrastructure:** Major roads like Route 422 and various local roads are shown. Water bodies and streams are depicted in blue.
- Boundaries:** Municipal boundaries are shown as dashed red lines, and parcels are outlined in thin black lines.



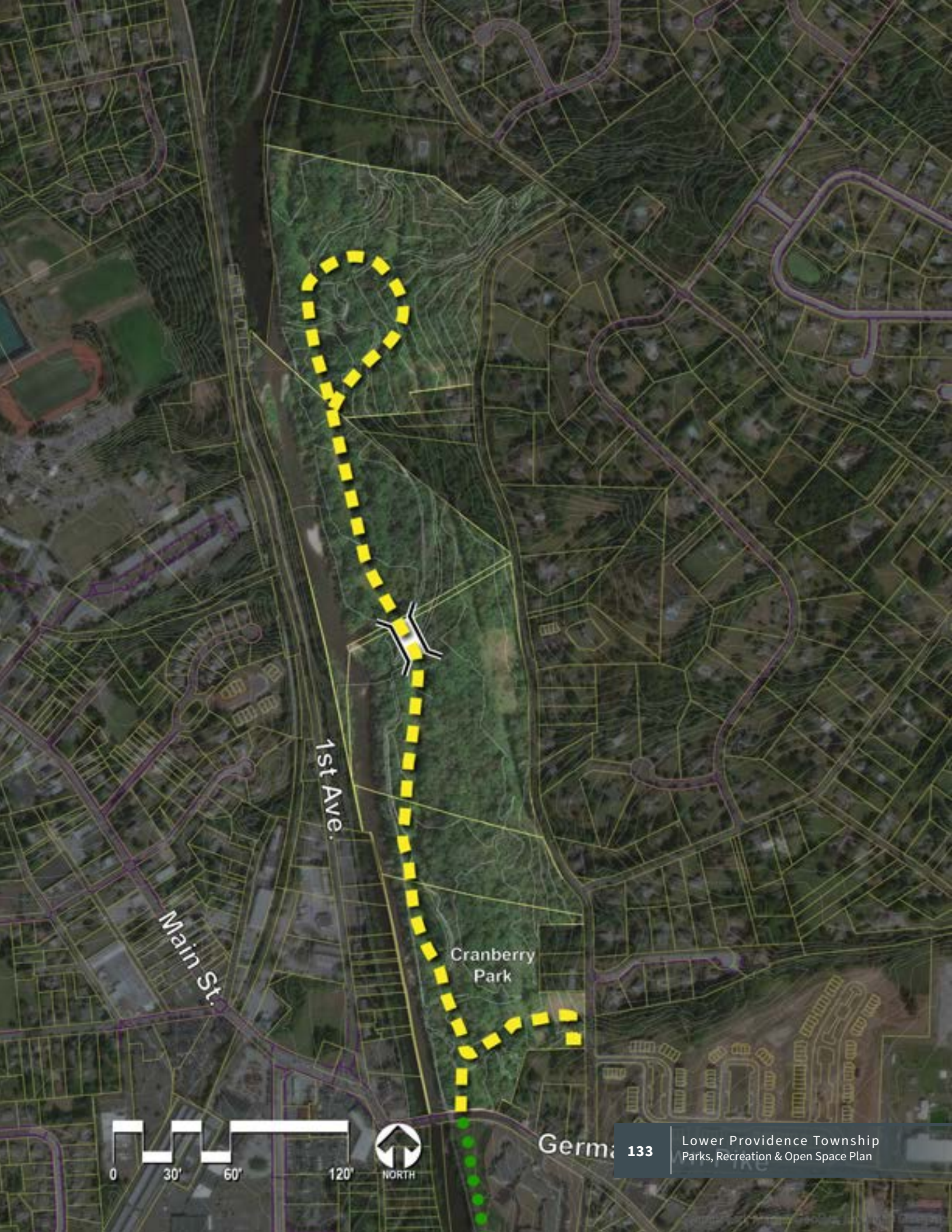
Cranberry Park / Central Perkiomen Park Trail

Cranberry Park and the Central Perkiomen Park are both located within the 100-year floodplain in lowland areas at times inundated by floodwaters if the Perkiomen Creek.

Due to this context, it is recommended that the proposed 1.30-mile trail at this location be an earthen and mown trail to drastically reduce maintenance that would result from flooding damage.

A trail in this location can provide views of and access to the unique lowland habitats along the Perkiomen Creek. This trail can also connect to the new multi-use trail south of Ridge Pike which runs along Perkiomen Creek and connects to Providence Place Senior Living.





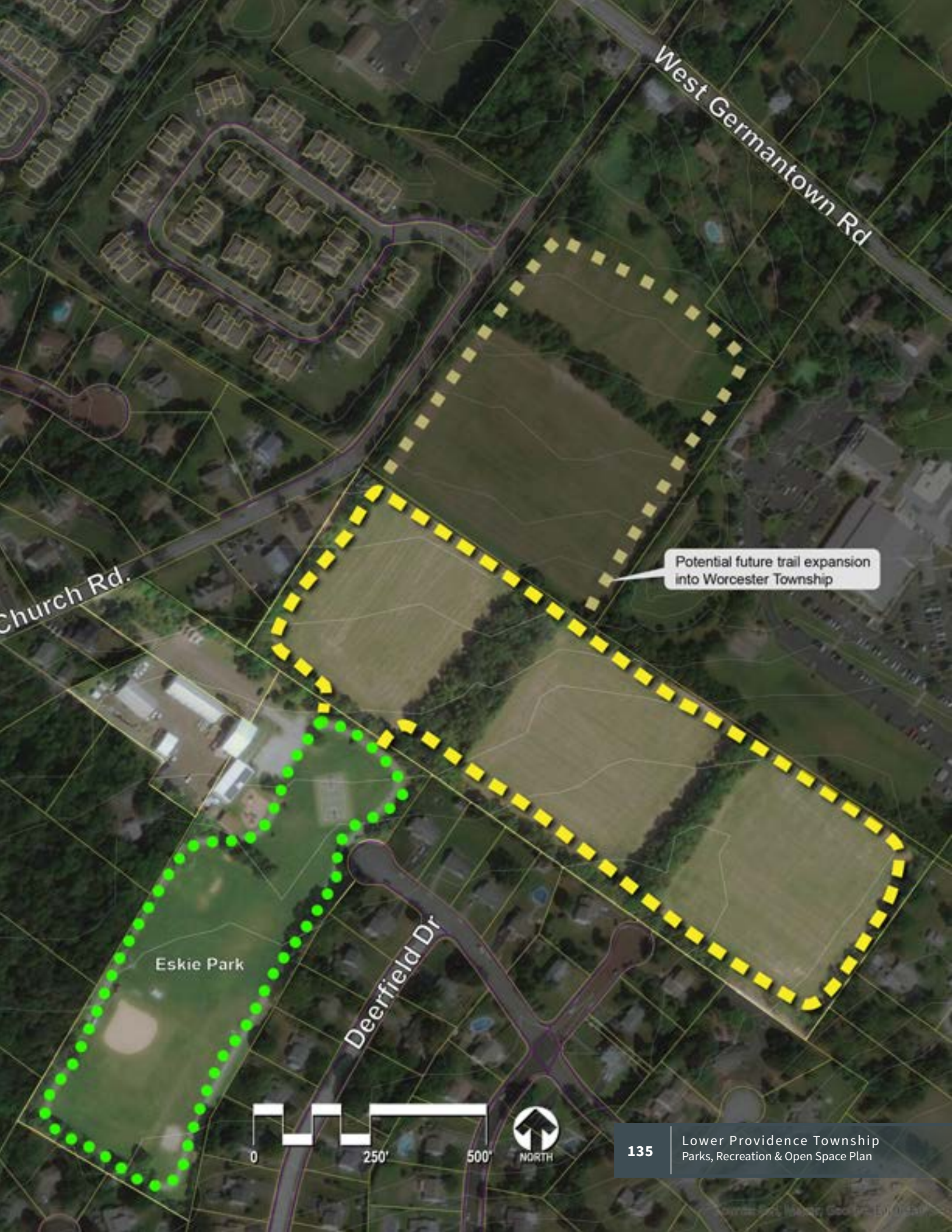


Eskie Park Loop Trail Extension

Eskie Park is a well-used community park which includes a loop trail, ballfield, basketball court, and playground area. As described in previous sections, the Township should consider whether to acquire the agricultural parcel(s) north of Eskie Park currently owned by KeyBank.

If the 15-acre parcel north of Eskie Park is acquired, regardless of its future use (Option A: Agriculture, Option B: Develop for Active Recreation) a 0.65-miles asphalt loop trail should be implemented around the perimeter of the parcel. This would connect to the existing Eskie Park trail loop to create a trail with a new total distance of 1.15 miles.





West Germantown Rd

Church Rd.

Potential future trail expansion
into Worcester Township

Eskie Park

Deerfield Dr





Evansburg State Park Connector

As previously noted in the description and facility inventory of Evansburg State Park, while this facility contains interior trails, there are limited multi-modal connections between the park's host municipalities and these interior trails.

As proposed within previously planning studies such as Bike Montco (2018), this plan recommends a multi-use trail that extends from the terminus of the Skippack Creek at Hoy Park (and subsequent pedestrian bridge crossing of the Perkiomen), northeast through Evansburg State Park. Such a trail could also provide needed multimodal access between the Perkiomen Trail and Evansburg State Park.

For this plan, a 0.66-mile multi-use trail is proposed from the southwest corner of Evansburg State Park to Hoy Park. A port of this proposed trail area is already owned by Lower Providence Township. As part of the Township's commitment to the Skippack Creek Watershed Alliance, any future trail improvements should also be combined with stormwater BMP areas. This combination of trail uses could allow the Township to pursue additional grant opportunities.

Perkiomen Pedestrian Bridge

The conceptual Perkiomen pedestrian bridge could provide a pedestrian and bicycle connection between Lower Providence Township, Evansburg State Park and the Perkiomen Trail. As previously noted, there are few access points for Township residents to reach the Perkiomen Trail on foot or safely by bike.

The Township should consider a stand-alone feasibility study for this bridge alternative. The Township should pursue this bridge concept OR the Yerkes Road pedestrian bridge.



Worthington Rd.

To Evansburg State Park

Arcola Rd.

Hoy Park

Proposed Bridge

men Trail





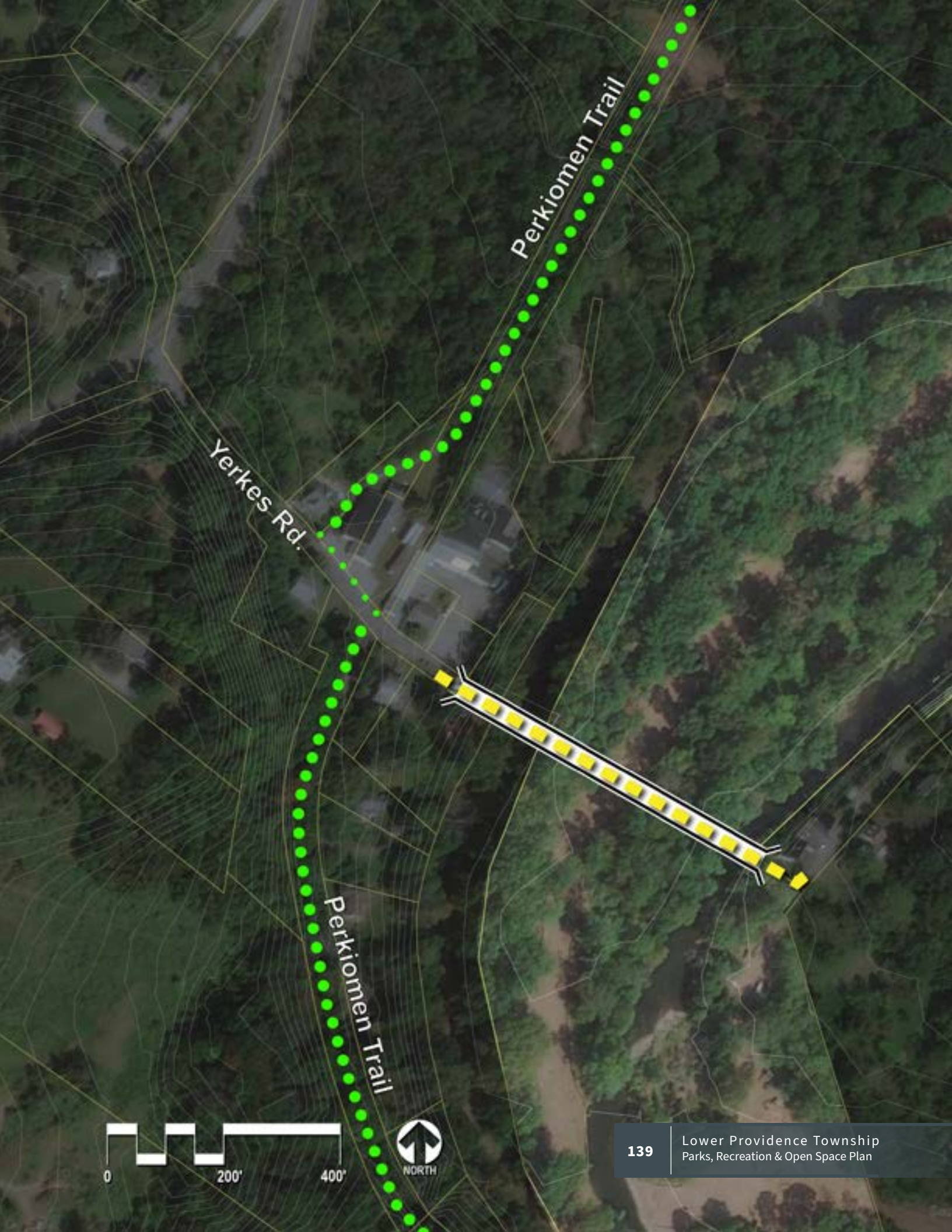
Yerkes Road Pedestrian Bridge

Conceptually located at the terminus of Yerkes Road, this pedestrian bridge would be located in the location of the previous Yerkes Road bridge. This pedestrian bridge could provide multi-modal access to the Perkiomen Trail for Township residents.

The Township should consider a stand-alone feasibility study for this bridge alternative. The Township should pursue this bridge concept OR the Perkiomen pedestrian bridge noted above.

Bike Montco 2018 - On-Road Bicycle Routes & Classification







Valley Forge National Park Connector

This 2.7 mile conceptual trail establishes a pedestrian and bicycle trail that would connect the Audubon Loop Trail on Pawlings Road to the underutilized area of Valley Forge National Historical Park north of Route 422 and the MARA Baseball/ Softball Fields along Pawlings and Audubon Roads. It would also merge with the Park Pointe Sidepath (described below) which connects to residential neighborhoods off Rittenhouse Road, the Club at Shannondell and the businesses off Rittenhouse Road and Egypt Road.

This trail depends on accessing the western portion of the St. Gabriel's Hall site either through acquisition or easement. This involves only the portion of the site which would contain the conceptual trail from the Audubon Loop Trail to Valley Forge and would not affect the building or the rest of the campus. The conceptual trail would also depend on a multi-level partnership between the Township, federal government (Valley Forge) and Montgomery County (MARA fields).

In addition to providing access to the Schuylkill River Trail and Perkiomen Trail, the development of this trail would allow users to enjoy the vistas and views from the hills of the St. Gabriel's site and Valley Forge.





John James Audubon Center

MARA Fields

Pawlings Rd

Perkiomen Trail

Perkiomen River Trail

Audubon Loop Trail

422

Valley Forge National Historic Park

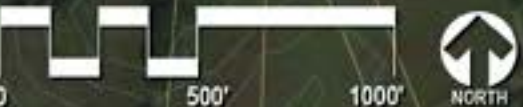
Connection to Park Pointe

Utilize existing mid-block crossing with new safety measures

Former site of Saint Gabriel's School

Schuylkill River Trail (SRT)

SRT





Egypt Rd

Existing Sidepath

Lantern Ln

Rittenhouse Rd

Adams Ave

Audubon Rd

To Valley Forge
National Historic Park

Park Pointe Sidepath

A sidepath is a bidirectional shared use path located immediately adjacent and parallel to a roadway. Sidepaths can offer a high-quality experience for users of all ages and abilities as compared to on-roadway facilities in heavy traffic environments, allow for reduced roadway crossing distances, and maintain rural and small-town community character.

Sidepaths are typically 5'-8' in width and constructed with asphalt. A side path can encourage bicycling and walking in areas where high-volume traffic and/or high-speed traffic might otherwise discourage such activity.

A 1.40-mile sidepath is proposed along Rittenhouse Road and would connect to the proposed Valley Forge connector to the southwest. This sidepath could provide multi-modal access to the corporate and business centers along Rittenhouse Road. Additionally, this path would run along the currently undeveloped parcel at the intersection of Rittenhouse and Egypt Roads.





- Goal #5: Promote bicycling as a healthy and environmentally sustainable way to travel.
- Goal #6: Create and nurture a county bicycling industry.

This plan delineated several key on-road bicycle routes which were organized by the following hierarchy:

- Local Rural Scenic
- Local Urban Route
- Collector Urban
- Minor Arterial
- Principal Arterial

This 2020 plan recommends the Township pursue and advance these priority on-road bicycle connections delineated in this 2018 ‘Bike Montco’ plan. Further study will be required to determine which type of on-road infrastructure is physically and financially feasible for each location:

- Sharrows (Share the road markings)
- Bike Lanes (no buffer)
- Bike Lanes (with protected 2’ buffer)

On-Road Bicycle Infrastructure

Under existing conditions there is minimal safe bicycle infrastructure in the center of Lower Providence Township. While the municipality is bordered by two of the regions most robust trails (Perkiomen Trail & Schuylkill River Trail) – there are limited options for residents to bike to these transportation networks.

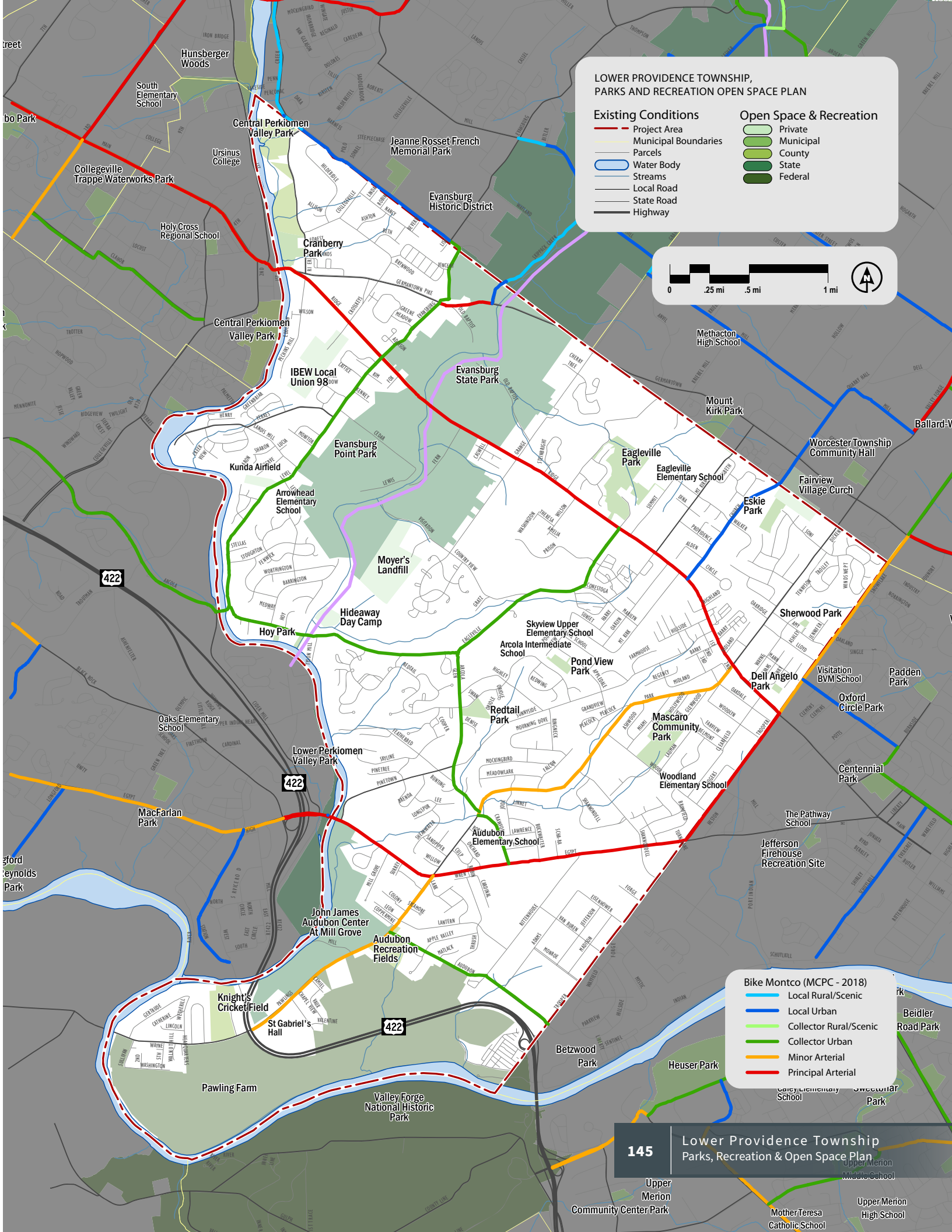
In the public opinion survey, when asked “From a traffic safety perspective, how comfortable do you feel biking or walking in Lower Providence Township?” – 96 % of respondents answered they feel Very Uncomfortable biking in the Township.

On-road bicycle routes can be substantially less expensive than dedicated off-road trails, and can provide Township residents the opportunity to reach local parks, trails, businesses and Township destinations by bike.

In 2018 the Montgomery County Planning Commission completed “Bike Montco, The Bicycle Plan for Montgomery County”. This plan identified the following important cycling goals for the County:

- Goal #1: Connect communities with a robust network that supports bicycling as a daily transportation option.
- Goal #2: Expand bicycling opportunities for everyone.
- Goal #3: Ensure that bicycling is safe for all.
- Goal #4: Support education and enforcement efforts that increase awareness of bicycling.

Local Rural Scenic	570 LF
<i>Creek Road</i>	570 LF
Local Urban Route	11,725 LF
<i>Skipack Creek Road</i>	875 LF
<i>Township Line Road</i>	6,230 LF
<i>Church Road</i>	4,620 LF
Collector Urban	44,483 LF
<i>Evansburg Road (Ridge Pike to Germanotwn Pike)</i>	2,610 LF
<i>Evansburg Road (Germanotwn Pike to Township Line)</i>	2,515 LF
<i>Arcola Road</i>	7,920 LF
<i>Eagleville Road (Arcola Road to Ridge Pike)</i>	7,235 LF
<i>Eagleville Road (Sunnyside Ave to Arcola Road)</i>	5,700 LF
<i>Level Road</i>	10,243 LF
<i>Audubon Road</i>	6,175 LF
<i>Crawford Road</i>	2,085 LF
Minor Arterial	25,030 LF
<i>Pawlings Road</i>	8,185 LF
<i>S Park Avenue</i>	10,560 LF
<i>N Trooper Road</i>	6,285 LF
Principal Arterial	42,230 LF
<i>Egypt Road</i>	12,305 LF
<i>S Trooper Road</i>	5,255 LF
<i>Ridge Pike</i>	22,810 LF
<i>Germantown Pike</i>	1,860 LF





Water Trails

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has created a 'water trails' classification for waterbodies which serve as recreational corridors across the Commonwealth. Water trails provide safe access to Pennsylvania's waterways and connections to:

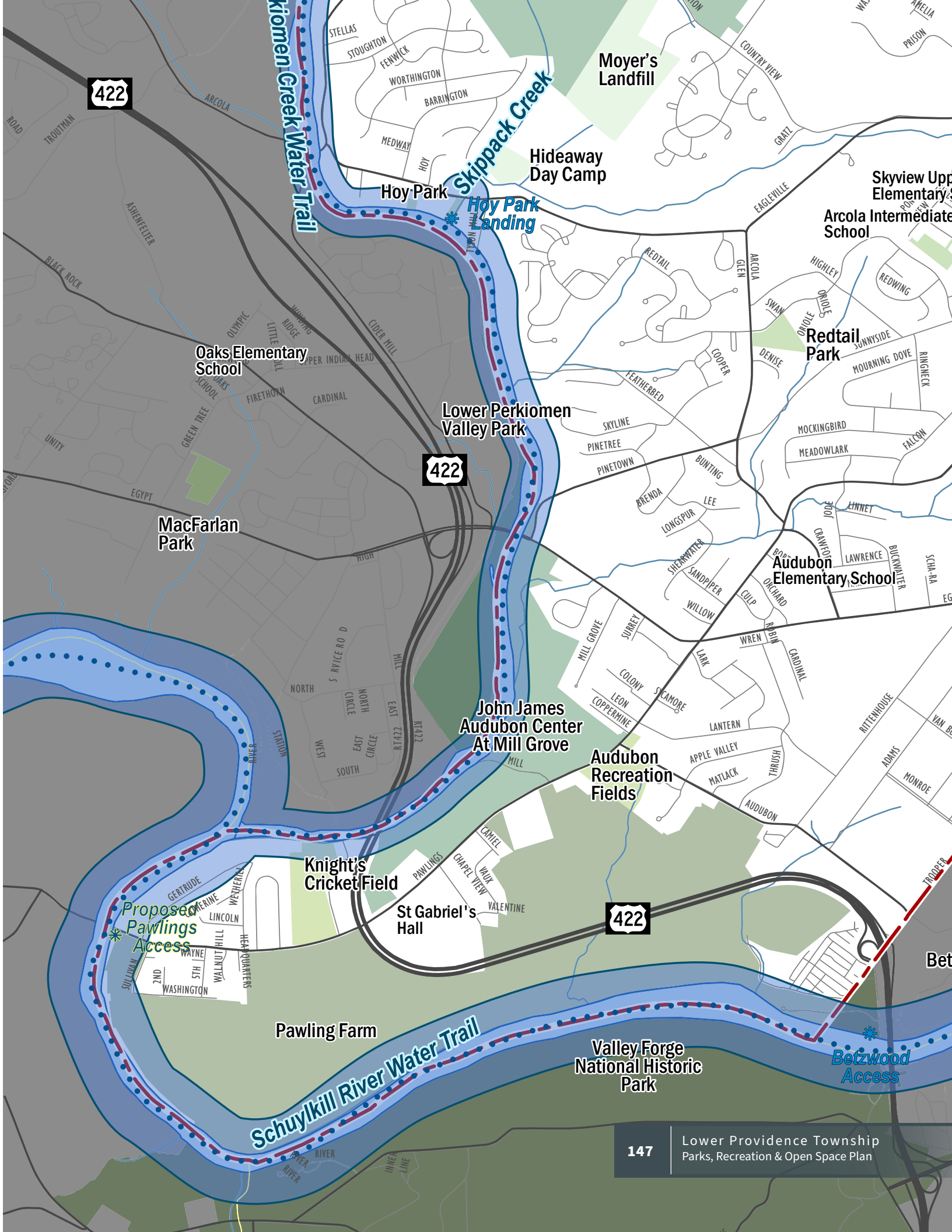
- Local history
- Ecology
- Geology
- Heritage
- Wildlife

Water trails offer additional benefits to local communities like Lower Providence. These trails:

- Encourage tourism and providing economic benefits
- Increase easy access to waterways
- Encourage restoration and conservation

The Schuylkill River Water Trail which runs along the western border of Lower Providence Township is a Pennsylvania DCNR water trail and is also designated as National Recreation Trail. Through this designation, locally or regionally significant trails are part of America's national system of trails and are a testament to the high quality of water recreation opportunities in Pennsylvania.

The Perkiomen Creek Water Trail is 18 miles in length green from Green Lane Park to its confluence at the Schuylkill River. Although shallower than the Schuylkill River Water Trail, the Perkiomen Creek Water Trail provides year-round activities with an existing landing at Hoy Park located at the confluence of Skippack Creek.



422

422

422





IMPLEMENTATION

Recommended Implementation Schedule

Implementation of all plan recommendations will require at least a decade or more. Plan recommendations are categorized by timeline priorities of immediate (1-3 years), mid-term (1-5 years), and long-term (6+ years) with relative estimated costs, potential partners, and funding sources. Costs to implement recommendations are divided into three categories:

- Low = less than \$100K,
- Medium = less than \$500K, and
- High = greater than \$500K.

This plan will need to be revisited and updated periodically, at least every decade, to address new recreational trends and other changes that may occur within the Township.

Action	Partnerships	Funding Sources	Costs
Costs : <\$100K = low, <\$500K = medium, >\$500K = high			
Park Facility Improvements			
Short-term (1-3 years)			
Address ADA park access improvements (refer to cost estimate for detailed ADA improvements at the following parks): Dell Angelo, Eagleville, Eskie, Evansburg Point, Sherwood, MARA	Parks and Recreation, consulting firm, Public Works	General funds	Medium
Address safety issues of park equipment	Parks and Recreation, consulting firm, Public Works	General funds	Medium / High
Start to implement recommendations of additional park improvements	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	DCNR, DCED, Penn Vest, general funds	Medium / High
Annual Park Audit	Certified Playground Safety Inspector	General funds	Low
Mid-term (4-7 years)			
Continue to replace park furnishings	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	DCNR, DCED, Penn Vest, general funds	Low / Medium
Continue to implement recommendations of park improvements	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	DCNR, DCED, PennDOT, Penn Vest, Montgomery County, general funds	Medium / High
Long-term (8+ years)			
Continue implementation of recommendations of park improvements	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	DCNR, DCED, PennDOT, Penn Vest, Montgomery County, general funds	Medium / High

Open Space Acquisition			
Short-term (1-3)			
Prepare an Official Map to identify approved parcels and the trails plan	County Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors	General Funds	Low
Land acquisition for open space preservation: Heyser, BooBoo, Gorski	County Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, Property owners	DCNR, Penn Vest, DCED, General Funds	High
Land acquisition for agricultural preservation: KeyBank, Cicchiello	County Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, Property owners	DCNR, Penn Vest, DCED, General Funds	High
Encourage Montgomery County to acquire St. Gabriel's 10ac parcel & merge with other County lands.	County Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, Property owners	DCNR, Penn Vest, DCED, General Funds	High
Long-term & Ongoing (8+) <i>**Refer to Parcel Preservation Matrix for More Detail</i>			
Maintain / improve parcels as open space, pursue acquisition if possible**: IBEW, Kunda, Parris, McKay, Hideaway, Webster, Mascaro, ValleyCrest, SLI, Sunnyside Ave, Shannondell, RG Club, St. Gabriel's B, Hospital, Ridgetop	Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, Property owners	DCNR, DCED, Penn Vest, Montgomery County	High
Multimodal Improvements			
Short-term (1-3 years)			
Cranberry Park / Central Perkiomen Park Trail	Montgomery County, Collegeville Borough,	DCED MTF, DCED GTRP, DCED, DCNR C2P2	Low
Mid-term (4-7 years)			
Park Pointe Sidepath	DCNR Evansburg State Park, Skippack Creek Watershed Alliance	PennDOT TA Set-Aside, PennDOT MTF, PennDOT SRTS, DCED MTF, DCED GTRP, DCNR C2P2	High
Evansburg State Park Connector	DCNR Evansburg State Park, Skippack Creek Watershed Alliance	PennDOT TA Set-Aside, PennDOT MTF, DCED MTF, DCED GTRP, , DCNR C2P2	High
Eskie Park Loop Trail Extension	Worcester Township, Montgomery County	PennDOT TA Set-Aside, PennDOT MTF, DCED MTF, DCED GTRP, , DCNR C2P2	High
Long-term (8+ years)			
Valley Forge National Park Connector	National Park Service, Montgomery County	DCED MTF, DCED GTRP, DCED, DCNR C2P2, FHWA FLAP	High
Ongoing			
Sidewalks - fill gaps when opportunity & grant funding arises	National Park Service, Montgomery County	PennDOT TA Set-Aside, PennDOT MTF, PennDOT SRTS, DCED MTF, DCED GTRP, DCNR C2P2	High
On-Road Bicycle Facilities - Coordinate with Township, County, and PennDOT road improvements.	National Park Service, Montgomery County	PennDOT TA Set-Aside, PennDOT MTF, PennDOT SRTS, DCED MTF, DCED GTRP, DCNR C2P2	High

Recreation, Program, and Maintenance Recommendations			
Year 1			
Increase Park Maintenance by adding three season staff maintenance workers for 1,000 hours each per year (mid-March – mid-October). \$13.50 x 1000 hours x 3 staff	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	General funds, Program Revenue	Low (\$40,500)
Provide additional learning opportunities for maintenance and administrative staff	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	General funds, Program Revenue	Low (\$800)
Investigate partnerships opportunities to provide year-round programming	Methacton School District, Private Facilities	N/A	No Cost
Charge the Director of Parks and Recreation, with input from the Park Board, to review current policies, rental fees, and program fees for residents' verses non-residents.	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	N/A	No Cost
Year 2			
Continue the seasonal maintenance workers 1,000 hours each at 3.5% increase	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	General funds, Program Revenue	Low (\$41,920)
Provide for one full time staff member to become a Certified Playground Safety Inspector	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	General funds, Program Revenue	Low (\$1,000)
Develop an environmental best management practices brochure for distribution to residents	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	General funds, Program Revenue	Low (\$1,250)
Year 3			
Continue the seasonal maintenance workers 1,000 hours 3.5% increase	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	General funds, Program Revenue	Low (\$43,390)
Purchase a zero-turn mower for park grass cutting maintenance	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	General funds, Program Revenue	Low (\$13,500)
Year 4			
Continue the seasonal maintenance workers 1,000 hours 3.5% increase	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	General funds, Program Revenue	Low (\$44,910)
Consider a feasibility study for a Township owned indoor recreation facility	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	DCNR C2P2, General funds, Program Revenue	Low (\$50,000)
Year 5			
Continue the seasonal maintenance workers 1,000 hours 3.5% increase	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	General funds, Program Revenue	Low (\$46,481)
Purchase a zero turn mower for park grass cutting maintenance	Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	General funds, Program Revenue	Low (\$14,200)

Estimated Costs of Development

These cost estimates are for implementation of all proposed improvements within the facility-specific recommendations in this plan. As final design and engineering is prepared for specific improvements, more finely detailed cost estimates should be developed.

Please note that all projects will not be completed at the same time, and would be approached individually and strategically depending on available grants and other funding sources.

Estimated Park Facility Improvement Costs:

Total Proposed Facility Improvements	\$ 3,936,005
Mobilization (2%)	\$ 78,720
Construction Surveying (1%)	\$ 39,360
Erosion and Sedimentation Control (1.5%)	\$ 59,040
Storm Water Management (5%)	\$ 196,800
Construction Contingency (10%)	\$ 393,601
Design and Engineering (10%)	\$ 393,601
Total Estimated Project Costs	\$ 5,097,126

	Work Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost	Total Cost
Municipal Facilities					
1. Dell Angelo Park Improvements		SF	Sub Total		\$ 47,840
1.A	ADA Access Path to Playground (concrete)	60 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 1,680	
1.B	Swingset (Four Seats / Two Bays)	1 LS	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400	
1.C	Swingset Safety Surface Area	1,200 SF	\$ 25.00	\$ 30,000	
1.D	Ridge Pike Sidewalk Connection (concrete)	420 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 11,760	
1.E	Park Signage Along Ridge Pike	1 EA	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000	
2. Eagleville Park Improvements		SF	Sub Total		\$ 1,567,475
2.A	ADA Access Path to Bocce Courts	75 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 2,100	
2.B	Pave and Formalize Parking Area (Aphalt)	5,555 SY	\$ 45.00	\$ 249,975	
2.C	Field Option A: Aerate and Seed	57,000 SF	\$ 2.50	\$ 142,500	
2.C	Field Option B: Convert to Turf Field	1 LS	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000	
2.D	ADA Access to Restroom - Remove Partition	1 LS	\$ 200.00	\$ 200	
2.E	Expand Swingset Safety Surface Area	500 SF	\$ 25.00	\$ 12,500	
2.F	New Amphitheater at Upper Lawn	1 LS	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000	
2.G	ADA Picnic Tables	6 EA	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 6,000	
2.H	ADA Access to Tennis Courts	150 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 4,200	
2.I	Convert Current Amphitheater to Pavilion	1 LS	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000	
3. Eskie Park Improvements		SF	Sub Total		\$ 113,195
3.A	Expand Swingset & Playground Safety Surface Area	1,000 SF	\$ 25.00	\$ 25,000	
3.B	Shade Trees	12 EA	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,000	
3.C	Re-grade for Multi-Use Field	500 CY	\$ 20.00	\$ 10,000	
3.D	ADA Picnic Tables	6 EA	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 6,000	
3.E	ADA Benches	6 EA	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 8,700	
3.F	BMP Plantings	1,000 SF	\$ 7.50	\$ 7,500	
3.G	Additional Parking - 25 Spaces	1,111 SY	\$ 45.00	\$ 49,995	
4. Evansburg Point Park Improvements		SF	Sub Total		\$ 1,131,300
4.A	Sidewalk Connection to Level Road (concrete)	200 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 5,600	
4.B	Shade Trees	15 EA	\$ 500.00	\$ 7,500	
4.C	Upgrade Snack Shack Facility	1 LS	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000	
4.D	ADA Access for Pavilion	1 LS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000	
4.E	ADA Picnic Tables	6 EA	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 6,000	
4.F	Convert to Turf Field	1 LS	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000	
4.G	Native Meadow Plantings	0.20 AC	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,200	
4.H	Stormwater Basin	1,000 SF	\$ 10.00	\$ 10,000	

	Work Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost	Total Cost
	5. Pond View Park Improvements	SF	Sub Total		\$ 7,500
5.A	Songbird Meadow	0.20 AC	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,200	
5.B	3-5' Wide Earthen Trail	1,400 LF	\$ 4.50	\$ 6,300	
	6. Redtail Park Improvements	SF	Sub Total		\$ 261,240
6.A	Sidewalk Connection to Eagleville Rd (concrete)	280 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 7,840	
6.B	Shade Trees	12 EA	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,000	
6.C	Perimeter Trail (stone dust)	1,800 LF	\$ 18.00	\$ 32,400	
6.D	Clear Debris - Amend Soil	6,000 CY	\$ 2.50	\$ 15,000	
6.E	Shade Trees	15 EA	\$ 500.00	\$ 7,500	
6.F	Improve Existing Stormwater Basin	13,000 SF	\$ 2.50	\$ 32,500	
6.G	Restroom Facility - on Concrete Pad, w Electrical & Water Service	1 LS	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 160,000	
	7. Sherwood Park Improvements	SF	Sub Total		\$ 116,130
7.A	Shade Trees	7 EA	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,500	
7.B	Play Area Safety Surface	3,600 SF	\$ 25.00	\$ 90,000	
7.C	Improved ADA Walkway 4' Wide (concrete)	60 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 1,680	
7.D	Evergreen Buffer - 4' Eastern Red Cedar	30 EA	\$ 75.00	\$ 2,250	
7.E	ADA Benches	6 EA	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 8,700	
7.F	New Swingset	1 LS	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000	
	Privately-Owned Facilities				
	8. Mascaro Field Improvements	SF	Sub Total		\$ 18,000
8.A	Native Meadow Plantings	3 AC	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 18,000	
	Montgomery County Facilities				
	9. MARA Baseball/Softball Fields Improvements	SF	Sub Total		\$ 343,360
9.A	Shade Trees in Parking Area	12 EA	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,000	
9.B	Naturalize & Improve Stormwater Basin	3,000 SF	\$ 10.00	\$ 30,000	
9.C	Thin Tree Buffer for Security & Visibility	1 LS	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000	
9.D	Pavilion, 24' x 44'	1 LS	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000	
9.E	ADA Pathway Between Ballfields (stone dust)	1,800 LF	\$ 18.00	\$ 32,400	
9.F	Expand Swingset Safety Surface Area	1,000 SF	\$ 25.00	\$ 25,000	
9.G	Expand Playground Safety Surface Area	1,000 SF	\$ 25.00	\$ 25,000	
9.H	Native Meadow Plantings	0.16 AC	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 960	
9.I	Sidewalk Connection Along Audubon Road (concrete)	800 LF	\$ 80.00	\$ 64,000	
9.J	Shade Trees Along Audubon Road	10 EA	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,000	
9.K	Pedestrian Intersection Improvements (ADA curb cuts, detectable warning surfaces)	1 LS	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000	
9.L	30 car parking area, coordinate with Montgomery County (County-owned parcel).	1,200 SY	\$ 45.00	\$ 54,000	
	10. Knights Cricket Field Improvements	SF	Sub Total		\$ 329,965
10.A	Pawlings Road Trailhead Parking Expansion (100 spaces)	3,777 SY	\$ 45.00	\$ 169,965	
10.B	Restroom Facility - on Concrete Pad, w Electrical & Water Service	1 LS	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 160,000	

Estimated Multimodal Improvement Costs:

Total Proposed Facility Improvements	\$ 8,739,375
Mobilization (2%)	\$ 174,788
Construction Surveying (1%)	\$ 87,394
Erosion and Sedimentation Control (1.5%)	\$ 131,091
Storm Water Management (5%)	\$ 436,969
Construction Contingency (10%)	\$ 873,938
Design and Engineering (10%)	\$ 873,938
Total Estimated Project Costs	\$ 11,317,491

Work Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost	Total Cost
Multi-use Trails				
Cranberry Park / Central Perkiomen Park Trail		Sub Total		\$ 30,195
Earthen Trail	1.27 MI	\$ 4.50	\$ 30,195	\$ 30,195
Evansburg State Park Connector		Sub Total		\$ 660,000
Asphalt Trail (10' Wide)	0.66 MI	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 660,000	
Eskie Park Loop Trail Extension		Sub Total		\$ 650,000
Asphalt Trail (10' Wide)	0.65 MI	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 650,000	
Valley Forge National Park Connector		Sub Total		\$ 2,530,000
10' W Asphalt Trail	2.53 MI	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 2,530,000	
Park Pointe Sidewalk		Sub Total		\$ 1,400,000
Asphalt Trail (5-8' Wide)	1.40 MI	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,400,000	

Multimodal Bridge Crossing

As noted in chapter three, there are two Perkiomen Creek crossings identified in this report.

- Yerkes Road Pedestrian Bridge
- Perkiomen Pedestrian Bridge from Evansburg State Park Connector (at Hoy Park)

The Township, in coordination with other partners such as Montgomery County, and Upper Providence Township, Lower Providence should conduct standalone feasibility studies to pursue one of the above bridge alternatives

Due to the size and span of each conceptual crossing and numerous engineering variables, a feasibility study is required for cost estimates of these alternatives.

Bicycle Infrastructure Alternative: Sharrows

For each of the priority bicycle routes identified on the next page, additional study is required to determine the best infrastructure for each route. This cost estimate includes assumed costs for bike lanes (\$10 per linear foot, 5' minimum width on road separated from traffic with or without a buffer). The reality is that not all roads can accommodate bicycle lanes, and in some instances sharrows will be used. The alternative costs for sharrows can be substituted where appropriate and are not included in the total estimated project costs above.

Sidewalks					
		59,700 LF	Sub Total		\$ 1,671,600
	Audubon Road	3,050 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 85,400	
	Pawlings Road (Between Audubon Rd & Egypt Rd)	985 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 27,580	
	Thrush Lane	400 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 11,200	
	Egypt Road	5,735 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 160,580	
	Wedgewood Way	400 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 11,200	
	Crawford Road	5,100 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 142,800	
	Pinetown Road	1,900 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 53,200	
	Arcola Road	7,000 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 196,000	
	Level Road	5,730 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 160,440	
	Ridge Pike	7,180 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 201,040	
	Eagleville Road	2,300 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 64,400	
	Visitation Road	3,300 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 92,400	
	Marilyn Avenue	900 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 25,200	
	Clearfield Avenue	4,100 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 114,800	
	Appledale Road	1,400 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 39,200	
	Miami Avenue	300 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 8,400	
	N Park Avenue	860 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 24,080	
	Church Road	2,700 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 75,600	
	Summit Avenue	1,200 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 33,600	
	Evansburg Road	2,500 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 70,000	
	Germantown Pike	910 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 25,480	
	River Road	600 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 16,800	
	Collegeville Road	1,150 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 32,200	
	Subtotal (Additional Ridge Pike & Germantown Pike)	19,900			\$ 557,200
	Additional Ridge Pike (Per Montco Comp Plan)	11,300 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 316,400	
	Additional Germantown Pike (Per Montco Comp Plan)	8,600 LF	\$ 28.00	\$ 240,800	

Work Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost	Total Cost
On-Road Bicycle Infrastructure				
Bike Lanes	124,038 LF	Sub Total		\$ 1,240,380
Local Rural Scenic	570 LF		5,700	
Creek Road	570 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 5,700	
Local Urban Route	11,725 LF		117,250	
Skippack Creek Road	875 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 8,750	
Township Line Road	6,230 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 62,300	
Church Road	4,620 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 46,200	
Collector Urban	44,483 LF		444,830	
Evansburg Road (Ridge Pike to Germanotwn Pike)	2,610 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 26,100	
Evansburg Road (Germanotwn Pike to Township Line)	2,515 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 25,150	
Arcola Road	7,920 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 79,200	
Eagleville Road (Arcola Road to Ridge Pike)	7,235 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 72,350	
Eagleville Road (Sunnyside Ave to Arcola Road)	5,700 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 57,000	
Level Road	10,243 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 102,430	
Audubon Road	6,175 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 61,750	
Crawford Road	2,085 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 20,850	
Minor Arterial	25,030 LF		250,300	
Pawlings Road	8,185 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 81,850	
S Park Avenueue	10,560 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 105,600	
N Trooper Road	6,285 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 62,850	
Principal Arterial	42,230 LF		422,300	
Egypt Road	12,305 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 123,050	
S Trooper Road	5,255 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 52,550	
Ridge Pike	22,810 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 228,100	
Germantown Pike	1,860 LF	\$ 10.00	\$ 18,600	

Work Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost	Total Cost
Bike Route OPTION B: Sharrows	124,038 LF	Sub Total		\$ 337,619
Sharrows Markings at 250' Intervals				
Local Rural Scenic	570 LF		1,925	
Creek Road	570 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	570 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 1,425	
"Share the Road" Signage	2 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 500	
Local Urban Route	11,725 LF		31,313	
Skippack Creek Road	875 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	875 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 2,188	
"Share the Road" Signage	2 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 500	
Township Line Road	6,230 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	6,230 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 15,575	
"Share the Road" Signage	2 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 500	
Church Road	4,620 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	4,620 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 11,550	
"Share the Road" Signage	4 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000	
Collector Urban	44,483 LF		120,232	
Evansburg Road (Ridge Pike to Germanotwn Pike)	2,610 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	2,610 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 6,525	
"Share the Road" Signage	2 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 500	
Evansburg Road (Germanotwn Pike to Township Line)	2,515 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	2,515 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 6,288	
"Share the Road" Signage	2 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 500	
Arcola Road	7,920 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	7,920 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 19,800	
"Share the Road" Signage	8 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,000	
Eagleville Road (Arcola Road to Ridge Pike)	7,235 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	7,235 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 18,088	
"Share the Road" Signage	4 EA	\$ 6.00	\$ 24	
Eagleville Road (Sunnyside Ave to Arcola Road)	5,700 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	5,700 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 14,250	
"Share the Road" Signage	4 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000	
Level Road	10,243 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	10,243 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 25,608	
"Share the Road" Signage	10 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,500	
Audubon Road	6,175 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	6,175 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 15,438	
"Share the Road" Signage	6 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,500	
Crawford Road	2,085 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	2,085 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 5,213	
"Share the Road" Signage	4 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000	
Work Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost	Total Cost
Minor Arterial	25,030 LF		68,575	
Pawlings Road	8,185 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	8,185 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 20,463	
"Share the Road" Signage	8 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,000	
S Park Avenueue	10,560 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	10,560 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 26,400	
"Share the Road" Signage	10 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,500	
N Trooper Road	6,285 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	6,285 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 15,713	
"Share the Road" Signage	6 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,500	
Principal Arterial: Protected Bicycle Lane	42,230 LF		115,575	
Egypt Road	12,305 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	12,305 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 30,763	
"Share the Road" Signage	12 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 3,000	
S Trooper Road	5,255 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	5,255 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 13,138	
"Share the Road" Signage	4 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000	
Ridge Pike	22,810 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	22,810 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 57,025	
"Share the Road" Signage	20 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 5,000	
Germantown Pike	1,860 LF			
Sharrows, at 250' LF interval	1,860 LF	\$ 2.50	\$ 4,650	
"Share the Road" Signage	4 EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000	

*Alternative to Bike Lanes - Swap In sharrows cost where appropriate.
Sharrows Not Included in Total Multimodal Improvement Cost



Maintenance and Programming Costs

The recommendations provided below outline what may be necessary to provide recreation programming, maintenance practices, maintenance equipment needs, and administrative functions for Lower Providence over a five-year period.

Recreational programming was identified through survey results, key person interviews, staff discussions, and focus group interviews and reflect the desire for organized recreational opportunities year round for Lower Providence. In reviewing the opportunity for programming, the current Administrative staff performs their job functions at a high level and have the capabilities to add programming options for year round services. No additional full-time staff would be required to meet this need. However, indoor facilities are required to provide year round programs. Such facilities are not currently available to the Parks and Recreation Department. Partnerships for such additions will provide increased opportunities for year round programs. Partners may include the school district, firehouses, churches, or public / private partnerships.

Maintenance services are well provided for all parks and park visitations. Several areas were noted in this report for enhanced service and maintenance opportunities. Enhancements can be provided in maintenance staff training opportunities, minor equipment additions, seasonal park maintenance staff additions, access for persons with disabilities, and to create a brochure to provide residents educational information concerning environmental stewardship practices.

Administrative operations should review current policies and fee structures for recreation program fees, facility reservations and rentals, and other policies to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. It is recommended to charge the Park Board with a review of these policies and current practices.

Year one recommendation notes:

Seasonal Maintenance Workers – should be a qualified individual in park maintenance practices. In 2021, the Township has decided to provide grass cutting services in-house and not contract out those services as in past years. This will be accomplished with Township staff. The Township has three full time maintenance workers dedicated to park maintenance; however, the addition on grass cutting creates more demand for staff hours to complete current assignments and now the added grass cutting duties. The addition of three seasonal maintenance workers allows the full time staff to continue their assignments in order to maintain the parks to their current standards, while permitting seasonal workers the ability to perform grass cutting and other minor park services.

Increase training opportunities for administrative and maintenance staff. These opportunities may include environmental concerns, best practices, playground safety training, sport field maintenance, among other opportunities.

Also recommended for year one and have no costs associated with the recommendation:

Written agreements with community organizations (schools, firehouses, churches, and private providers) will provide opportunities for programs for youngsters through adults year-round. While some programs will occur out of doors, others require an indoor facility to hold the event. Certainly, during the fall, winter, and spring indoor locations are required.

Charge the Parks and Recreation Director, with assistance from the Parks Board, to review current policies for facility uses and rental fees which can be enacted by the Board of Supervisors.

Charge the Parks and Recreation Director, with assistance from the Parks Board, to develop a policy for program resident and non-resident fees, which can be enacted by the Board of Supervisors. Several models of various fees structures exist through the PA Recreation and Park Society or the National Recreation and Park Association. Policies will assist the administration when determining fees for future programs and will also provide written documentation should questions arise.

Year two recommendation notes:

The Delaware Valley Insurance Trust performs an annual review of all parks and playground areas. The information provided in the report details safety concerns and ranks those concerns in priority order which provides the Township an opportunity to reduce risk exposure. Training a staff person to recognize areas of exposure throughout the year provides a best management practice for the safety of all residents and other park visitors.

A best management brochure will assist residents and should be posted on the web-site and distributed through the Township in parks and other areas. Such a brochure assists the Township to meet the MS4 community educational requirements.

It is assumed that seminars and training workshops will be included in the annual operations budget; and, as training opportunities become available, staff will consider attendance and participation in those activities.

Year three recommendation notes:

The Township has decided to perform grass cutting services in-house and not utilize contracted service providers for this service. Air cooled riding mowers have a life expectancy of approximately 3,000 hours, pending maintenance provided for the equipment. A new air cooled zero turn riding mower may be required at this time.

Year four recommendation notes:

As noted in this report, indoor facilities are required for additional year round recreation programs. Also noted were discussions concerning an indoor facility owned and operated by the Township. Pending how new agreements are reached and the success of year round programming and other community needs, the Township may wish to consider a feasibility study to determine if an indoor facility is warranted.

Potential Future Partners

Partnerships at the local, county, regional, and state levels will need to be established and maintained to help the Township meet the goals of this plan. Partners can assist in many ways including being advocates of the completion of plan projects by implementing some recommendations themselves, providing volunteering opportunities, and by assisting in securing funds through grants or other means.

Local Partners:

- Methacton School District
- Methacton Audubon Recreation Association
- Connie Mack Baseball
- Lower Providence & Methacton Warriors
- FC Montco
- Methacton Aquatic Club
- J.P. Mascaro & Sons
- Lower Providence Community Library
- Audubon Oaks Lions Club
- Optimist Club
- Lower Providence Business Association
- Collegeville Area Kiwanis Club
- The Arc Alliance
- Indian Watershed at Hoy Park
- Audubon Valley Forge
- Appalachian Mountain Club - DelVal Chapter
- Private recreation providers
- Social and Religious Organizations
- Conservation Organizations
- Historical Organizations
- Local Scout Troops

County and Regional Partners:

- Montgomery County
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
- Perkiomen Watershed Association
- John James Audubon Center
- Schuylkill River Greenways
- Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia

State Partners:

- Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) & Evansburg State Park
- Pennsylvania Infrastructure Reinvestment Authority (PennVEST)
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC)

Federal Partners:

- The National Park Service (NPS) -Valley Forge National Historic Park
- U.S. Forest Service (UFS)
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)

The School District, private recreation providers, sports leagues, and social and religious groups can all provide valuable insight to the Township as to recreational needs of their students and members. Partnering with the Township would ensure that recreational facilities and programs are in place and meeting the needs of the organizations and the Township. These groups can also provide volunteering opportunities to assist with management or maintenance of recreational facilities.

County, regional, and state partners can provide funding and assistance with recreation and conservation plans. DVRPC is a regional planner and offers opportunities for communities to be part of the larger regional planning network including greenways, trails, and transportation needs. State partners can provide important information to assist a municipality in successfully receiving funding for improvement projects.

Funding Sources

The following is a summary of grants, programs, funds, and other potential partnerships/sources that can assist with the funding of Lower Providence Township parks, recreation, open space, and multimodal improvements. Various sources can be pursued during Preserve improvement phases, based on availability of funds aligning goals of partner agencies, and County priorities for each year.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (PA DCNR)

Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2)

The Community Recreation and Conservation Program through the PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) provides funding to municipalities and authorized nonprofit organizations for recreation, park, trail, and conservation projects. These include planning for feasibility studies, trail studies, conservation plans, master site development plans, and comprehensive recreation park and open space and greenway plans. In addition to planning efforts, the program provides funding for land acquisition for active or passive parks, trails and conservation purposes, and construction and rehabilitation of parks, trails, and recreation facilities. Most of these projects require a 50% match, which can include a combination of cash and/or non-cash values. Following completion of a park master plan, an implementation or construction grant is the next stage grant from DCNR. Grant applications for the C2P2 program are accepted annually—usually in April.

More information can be found at: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/grantpolicies/index.html>

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Program, established in 1965, is a federal source of funding distributed to all states by the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service.

The program provides matching grants for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. DCNR administers the LWCF Program for Pennsylvania. More info at: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/Pages/default.aspx>



Wild Resources Conservation Program

Each year, these funds support the survey, research, management, and conservation of wild resources through DCNR's Wild Resource Conservation Program (WRCP).

WRCP identifies research and conservation needs on the Commonwealth's native flora and non-game wildlife. The program provides grants and facilitates the flow of information between researchers, conservationists, and educators.

More info at: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Biodiversity/WildResourceConservationProgram/Pages/default.aspx#:~:text=Wild%20Resources%20Conservation%20Program%20The%20Wild%20Resources%20Conservation,conservation%20of%20the%20commonwealth%E2%80%99s%20flora%20and%20non-game%20fauna.>

DCNR Forest Buffer Program

The Riparian Forest Buffer Program through PA DCNR provides funding for organizations implementing a variety of forest buffers including conventional riparian forest buffers and multi-functional buffers. Pennsylvania has a goal of planting 95,000 acres of riparian buffers by 2025 to improve state waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. There is no match required to be eligible for this grant. Grant applications are usually accepted October to late December.

DCNR has provided funding to County Conservation Offices. Grants awards are made by the local conservation office for the planting of multi-functional buffers.

More information is available on the PA DCNR website: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/RiparianBuffers/Pages/default.aspx>





Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED)

Commonwealth Financing Agency (CFA) - Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP)

The Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) provides funding for: public park and recreation area projects, greenway and trail projects, and river or creek conservation projects. The program requires a 15% local cash match of the total project cost and DCED share must not exceed \$250,000. Applications are typically due in June.

More information can be found at: <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/greenways-trails-and-recreation-program-gtrp/>

Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF)

The Multimodal Transportation Fund provides grants to encourage economic development and ensure that a safe and reliable system of transportation is available to the residents of the Commonwealth. Funds may be used for the development, rehabilitation and enhancement of transportation assets to existing communities, streetscape, lighting, bike lanes, sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets and transit-oriented development. Grants are available for projects with a total cost of \$100,000 or more and grants shall not exceed \$3,000,000 for any project. For more information please visit <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/multimodal-transportation-fund>.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

DEP Growing Greener Watershed Protection Program

Funded through the state Growing Greener Environment Stewardship Funds, applications should be targeted toward clean-up of non-point source pollution. The grant will fund local watershed-based conservation projects with the average award totaling \$150,000 and requires a 15% match from a non-DEP fund source. Applications are typically due in January.

More information on this program can be found at the DEP website: <http://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/GrantsLoansRebates/Growing-Greener/Pages/default.aspx>



DEP Non-Point Source Implementation Programs Grant

Provides funding assistance for projects aimed at implementing Pennsylvania's Non-point Source Management Program. Targeted projects include control of urban runoff, and natural channel design/stream bank stabilization projects. The grant will fund local projects with the average award being \$200,000. Applications are typically due in July.

More information on this program can be found at the DEP website: <http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/PlanningConservation/NonpointSource/Pages/default.aspx>

PennDOT

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TA Set-Aside)

The Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TA Set-Aside) is a Federal highway and transit funds set-aside under the Surface Transportation Program (STP) for community-based "non-traditional" projects designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the nation's intermodal transportation system. The program seeks to provide funding for projects such as construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation. Non-motorized forms of transportation include sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Recently, these grants have been available every two years.

For more information on the PA Transportation Alternatives Set- Aside Program, visit: <https://www.penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Pages/Transportation%20Alternatives%20Set-Aside%20-%20Surface%20Trans.%20Block%20Grant%20Program.aspx>

Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)

Administered through TA Set-Aside, SRTS is a national and international movement to create safe, convenient and healthy opportunities for children to walk and bicycle to school. The program encourages children to walk and bicycle to school, helping to reverse an alarming decrease in students' physical activity and an associated increase in childhood obesity. By getting more children to walk and bicycle to school, communities are also reducing fuel consumption, alleviating traffic congestion, and improving air quality. SRTS programs are built on collaborative partnerships among many stakeholders, including educators, parents, students, elected officials, engineers, city planners, business and community leaders, health officials, and bicycle and pedestrian advocates.

Eligible activities include new or reconstructed sidewalks or walkways, pedestrian and bicycle signs or signals, transportation projects that achieve ADA compliance, such as curb ramps, bike parking facilities or bus bike racks, shared use paths, side paths, trails that serve a transportation purpose, crossing improvements, and traffic realignments, road diets, or intersection changes. For more information on the PA SRTS program, please visit <https://www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/SchoolResourcesAndPrograms/SafeRoutesToSchool/Pages/default.aspx>

Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF)

PennDOT's Multimodal Transportation Fund provides grants to ensure that a safe and reliable system of transportation is available to the residents of this Commonwealth. The program is intended to provide financial assistance to municipalities, councils of governments, businesses, economic development organizations, public transportation agencies, rail freight, passenger rail, and ports in order to improve transportation assets that enhance communities, pedestrian safety, and transit revitalization. PennDOT will administer activities directly initiated or undertaken by it related to grants for eligible multimodal programs in accordance with these guidelines. More information can be found at <http://www.penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/MultimodalProgram/Pages/default.aspx>.



PennVEST (Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority)

PennVEST offers both grants and low interest loans for projects that help to manage stormwater and improve water quality. Several recommendations for Lower Providence may attract PennVEST funds, since they include stormwater BMPs.

More information can be found at: <https://www.pennvest.pa.gov/Information/Funding-Programs/Pages/default.aspx>

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

The PENNVEST Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) provides affordable financing for wastewater and certain other projects throughout Pennsylvania for the construction, improvement, extension, expansion, repair or rehabilitation of wastewater collection, treatment or disposal facilities, storm water management, nonpoint source pollution controls including but not limited to agricultural best management practices and watershed and estuary management.

The program offers low interest loans with flexible terms and principal forgiveness funds where applicable and available.

PENNVEST performs similarly to a bank for the CWSRF program in Pennsylvania and manages the financial aspects of the fund, while the Department of Environmental Protection is the technical arm for the program. The seed money for the CWSRF has been distributed to states annually under Congressional authorization pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1987. The funds and the program are administered nationally by United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

More info at: <https://www.pennvest.pa.gov/Information/Funding-Programs/Pages/Clean-Water-State-Revolving-Fund.aspx>



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC)

State Wildlife Grants Program (SWGP)

Created in 2000 by Congress, SWG has enabled the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and Pennsylvania Game Commission to direct conservation efforts toward species in decline or vulnerable to decline, with the goal of preventing endangered species listings. State Wildlife Grant funding to Pennsylvania has ranged from \$1.5 to \$2.5 million per year, shared equally between the Fish & Boat Commission and Game Commission.

The State Wildlife Grants program (SWG) is the nation's core program for preventing species from becoming endangered. This program provides needed funds to states to develop and implement conservation actions identified in their State Wildlife Action Plan. These funds benefit wildlife and their habitat, including species not hunted or fished.

Since 2001, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission has supported more than 60 fish, amphibian, reptile, and freshwater invertebrate conservation projects through State Wildlife Grant funding, including research, species surveys, habitat improvement, and other efforts.

More info at <https://www.fishandboat.com/Resource/StateWildlifeGrantProgram/Pages/default.aspx>

Montgomery County

Montco 2040: Implementation Grant Program

This grant program was put in place to assist municipalities in making physical improvements that achieve progress toward the goals of the Montco 2040: A Shared Vision Plan. One of the main focus categories of 2021 is Adaption and Resiliency and includes floodplain mitigation, streambank restoration, adding BMPs to municipal or School District property, Green Streets, Community Gardens, and Open Space Preservation. Open Space Preservation projects require a minimum 50% local match that can come from any combination of municipal or outside funding sources. The maximum grant award is \$200K, but the average award is closer to \$100K. More information at: <https://www.montcopa.org/2453/Montco-2040-Implementation-Grant-Program>.

Schuylkill River

Schuylkill River Restoration Fund

This program offers administrative assistance grants for land transaction and open space preservation projects. Matching funds of up to \$4,000 per project are available to protect lands within the Schuylkill River Watershed. More information can be found at <https://schuylkillriver.org/conservation/the-restoration-fund/>

U.S. Forest Service

National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) is a Congressionally designated advisory council to the Secretary of Agriculture on urban forestry and related issues. The 1990 Farm Bill created NUCFAC to bring together the wide variety of voices raised about a common concern: the present health and future preservation of America's urban forests. NUCFAC was founded to synthesize the full spectrum of views into a consistent vision, as a foundation for practical policy on urban forestry and related natural resources.

NUCFAC evaluates innovative grant proposals that help to implement the Ten-Year Action Plan and recommends them for funding to the Secretary of Agriculture.'

More info at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf/nucfac>

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

NFWF supports conservation efforts in all 50 states and U.S. territories. More than 18,600 projects have been supported since founding – are rigorously evaluated and awarded to some of the nation’s largest environmental organizations. Financial commitments since the organization’s founding total \$6.1 billion.

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program focuses on the stewardship and restoration of coastal, wetland and riparian ecosystems across the country. Its goal is to meet the conservation needs of important species and habitats, providing measurable and meaningful conservation and educational outcomes. The program requires the establishment and/or enhancement of diverse partnerships and an education/outreach component that will help shape and sustain behavior to achieve conservation goals.

To date, the Foundation has funded over 800 projects in 50 states, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, through this program. More than \$18 million in grants has leveraged more than \$67 million in other funds or donated services.

More info at: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program>

Legislative Funding

State and federal elected officials can sometimes include items into legislation for worthy projects in their districts. A conversation between county and municipal officials and legislators is the way to begin this process. This type of funding should be targeted toward capital improvement projects.



Private Foundations

There may be regional corporations and foundations that support public works such as park development. Competition for these funds is usually brisk, but opportunities should be researched. Funding is often to non-profit organizations. Foundations and institutions represent another potential source of funding for education-related site improvements and programming. Grants are available to support student field trips, provide teacher training in science, and provide other educational opportunities. Education tied to research can increase the pool of potential funds. The science community and research institutions are the logical starting points for solicitation foundation funds.

Schools and Local Organizations

Local schools and local organizations may also be of assistance in several ways. Local scout groups and mountain bike community are two such examples. These groups might get involved with club, fundraising events, and park cleanup days. While the amount of funds raised may be relatively small, this process builds constituents and support for the parks and recreation system.

Friends Groups & Park Nonprofits

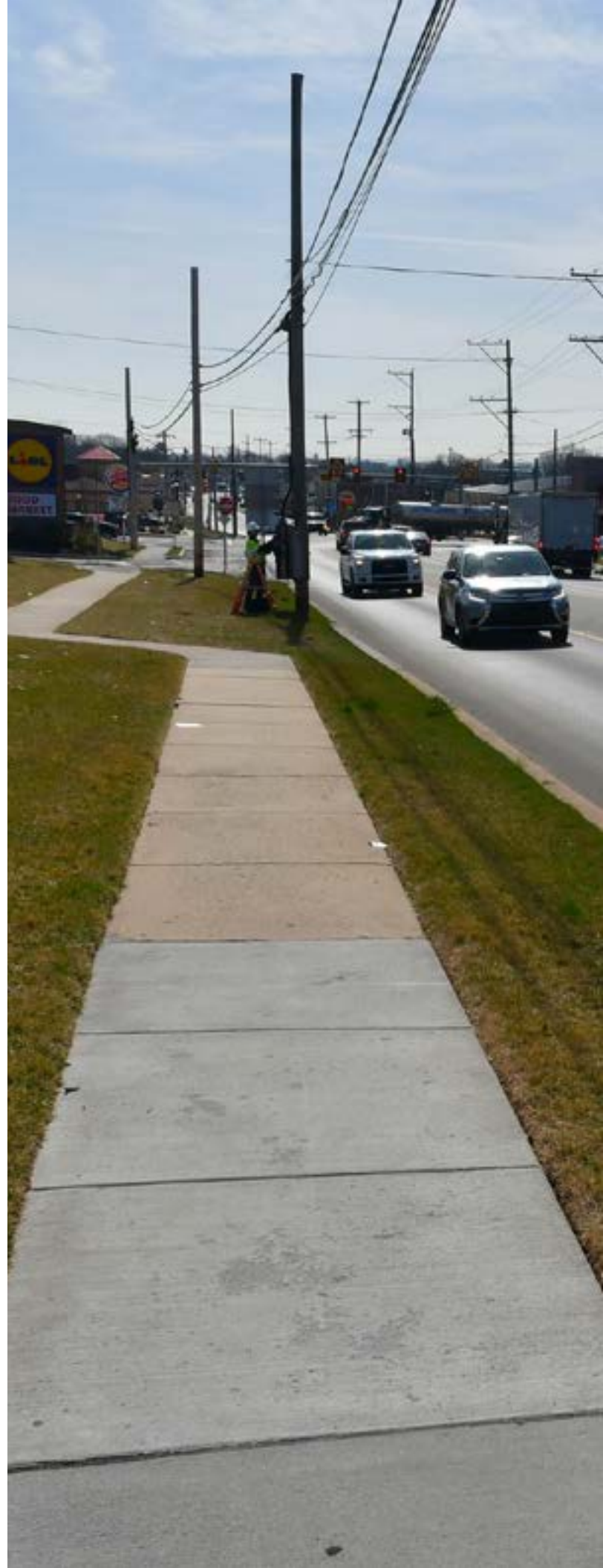
Similar to participation by school groups, the establishment of a non-profit (501(C)3) Friends-of-the-Park groups can help raise grass roots funding for the individual parks and be a conduit for tax-deductible donations and foundation funding. The Friends can serve as additional eyes and ears for the parks, providing necessary feedback to the administration and maintenance staff.

A Friends group can be an important vehicle for park stewardship, organizing volunteers, providing environmental education.

For more detailed guidelines for establishing a (501(C)3) non-profit charitable organization in Pennsylvania: <https://pano.org/starting-a-nonprofit-organization-in-pennsylvania/>

Donation Opportunities

It is recommended that the County create a list, with prices, of physical donation opportunities for the parks consistent with the plan. Rather than having physical markers in parks noting the donation (which can become cumbersome over time) a list of donors might be prominently displayed on the Township Parks website or a funders' donation wall at a central location.







APPENDIX

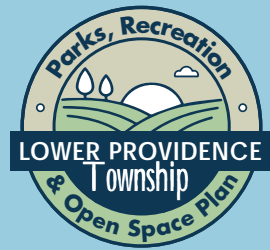
Committee Meeting Notes

Public Meeting Notes

Focus Group Notes

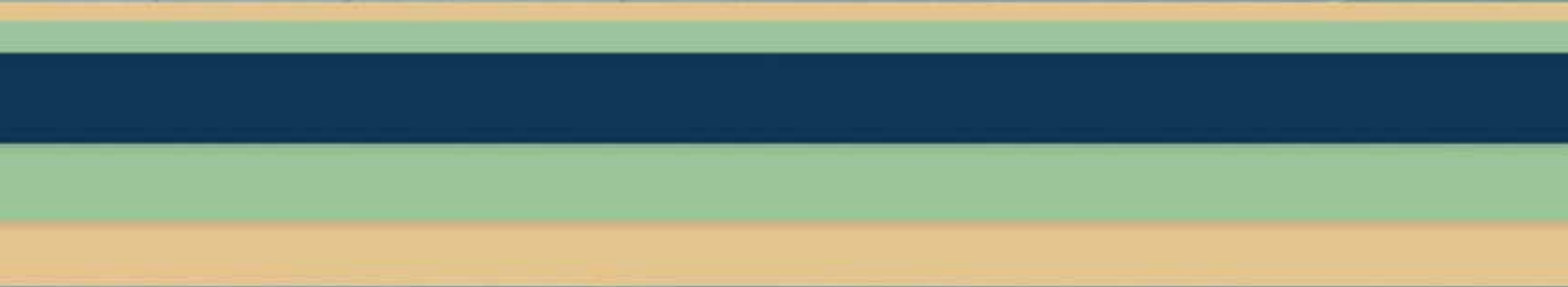
Key Person Interview Notes

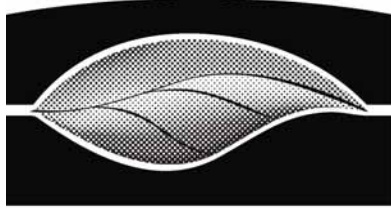
Full Public Opinion Survey Results



APPENDIX

Committee Meeting Notes





SIMONE COLLINS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
119 EAST LAFAYETTE STREET NORRISTOWN, PA 19401
PHONE: 610.239.7601 FAX: 610.239.7606
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MEETING NOTES

Project: Lower Providence Open
Space & Recreation Plan

Project
No.: 20028.10

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Meeting
Date/
Time: 8/12/2020
7:00pm

Re: Committee
Meeting #1

Issue
Date: 08.25.2020

ATTENDEES:

Colleen Eckman - Supervisor
Don Delamater – Township Manager
Jane Delaney – Parks and Recreation
Director
Jean Akers – Chair for Open Space
Committee and member of Township
Park Board (TPB)
Bill Brooke – Township Planning
Commission (TPC)
Erin Di Paolo – TPB
Susan LaPenta - TPC
Beth Ann Mazza - TPB

Kate McGrath – TPB Student
Representative
Peter Simone, RLA, FASLA – Simone
Collins Landscape Architecture (SC)
Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ), AICP – SC
Geoff Creary, Project LA – SC
Joseph Wallace, Staff LA – SC
Michelle Armour, Staff LA – SC
Pat Stasio – Certified Park and
Recreation Professional
Kent Morey – P.E., MS4 Specialist –
Spotts, Stevens and McCoy

GENERAL NOTES:

INTRODUCTION

1. At 7:00 pm, Peter Simone started the meeting with introductions. Peter discussed examples of other current SC projects.
2. Pankaj Jobanputra explained the importance of planning, the project schedule, the public participation process, and the project scope.
3. Joseph Wallace gave overviews and led discussion of the individual parks and open spaces of Lower Providence and their amenities:

a. Eagleville Park

- i. Joseph mentioned that the possibility of a new location for the amphitheater has been brought up in conversation.
- ii. Jean Akers asked Jane Delaney to restate the events that this park supports, issues considering realignment and supporting infrastructure, and events that she would like to have here.
- iii. Jane responded:
 - Easter egg hunt, July 4th, Fall Fest, tree lighting, concerts in the park, trunk or treat, fireworks.
 - It is hard to get the elderly down to the amphitheater; it's great for shade, but a bit of a walk/hill.
 - Sports fields
 - Could use more parking and trees
- iv. Don Delamater stated that electricity has been run for the possibility of relocating the amphitheater behind the municipal building. There is a big hill there for a great view.
- v. Jean said that the recon group noted that it may be valuable to provide additional paved pathways, especially on the long hill, for more universal access. The area below the tennis courts could have a paved path. A general goal for **most** parks: make sure trails provided give good loop experience and if not, create realignments and new pieces of trail for loops and ADA experience.
- vi. Susan LaPenta asked if the trails lead into surrounding neighborhoods. Bill Brooke answered that, yes, there are two in his development, Wooded Glen. Beth Ann Mazza also noted that there is one from Eagleville Elementary.
- vii. Beth Ann stated that she has "amphitheater envy" for other areas, and that there could be better outdoor programming if there were better amphitheaters in the Township. She would like to see nicer spaces for outdoor performance and activities for families. Especially considering the COVID situation, much of what people will want to do may need to happen outdoors.
- viii. Colleen Eckman said that there has been discussion of someday expanding the Township building or relocating the Police Department, as they are crunched for space. Analysis was done (conceptual) of what to do with existing building. No 3rd floor addition (expense). They looked at a different connection that didn't work with the complex (conflicts). A conclusion was that the police could be their own single entity in a building near Ridge Pike, in the open green field above the football field; the sewer authority building could be removed and that department relocated into the Township building. The police department was the main drive of that analysis, because there is not enough physical space in the building. Also, the parking lot for police cars is abutting the most used park area– this is a bit of a conflict with families coming to play, police checking equipment – two uses don't mesh. The area around the building might change. Peter asked if the police leaving the current two-story building would give enough room for the Township, to which Colleen replied yes, plenty for administration. Colleen agreed to share the study with SC

- ix. Wilson Farm Park was cited as a park that has been able to host outdoor concerts, which has to do with the way it is set up; approachable from many angles through trails, there is parking on the outskirts of the park. Eagleville Park has limited parking only located towards upper end of park – one-ended. The park is landlocked because of the creek.
- b. Eskie Park
 - i. Jane stated that the park is used for organizations for softball. It has a nice walking trail with trees on one side, but overall is very open/lacking trees. There are some large areas to utilize in the future, and there are restrooms. There is a lack of parking, making events like the Easter egg hunt difficult to accommodate.
 - ii. Joseph mentioned walking access – in light of coming residential development and the question of sidewalks, this group should advocate strongly for sidewalks. Peter added that this group's role is as champion for sidewalks. People will appreciate a walking connection and it is remarkable that some governing bodies do not put in sidewalks.
 - iii. Jean brought up the side entries, which present a wayfinding challenge – being able to ID where you are when coming in from side entry with a sign that reads "this is provided by local government, this is where you are, etc." This is something to add the **general list**.
 - iv. Peter brought up possible addition of a parking lot off of an adjacent cul-de-sac.
- c. Audubon Recreation Fields
 - i. Jean stated that on a park tour 2 years ago, the Parks Board identified the need for master plan (update). The fields provide much value for ARA/little league; but for other users, it is very disjointed – needs better connections within and to neighboring areas. "Where are you and whose park is it?" There is also a parking issue – it might be wise to see if the opposite side of Audubon Rd is usable for overflow parking (municipal parcel?). Parking capacity and redesign could be a good opportunity to create bubble diagrams to connect things and make the space more functional.
 - ii. Joseph mentioned the idea of having restrooms open all season.
 - iii. Peter pointed out that not all the fields have the correct solar orientation; DCNR will want this. He noted that we may want an aerial image on this slide for public meeting.
 - iv. Beth Ann said that it is difficult for anyone with disabilities to get around the park – accessibility. Also, across the street on Pawlings Rd side, there is no distinct safe crossing on this highly traveled road.
 - v. Peter brought up the smash and grab issues in the parking lots, and suggested better visibility by limbing up trees and leaving no hidden areas. Jean said both lots – even the visible one – have the problem, so visibility is not the only issue. Peter said this could be a candidate for security cameras. Beth Ann stated that smash and grab has been prevalent in all parks (has been a victim in Perkiomen park) because the proximity to 422 makes for an easy getaway.
- d. Gabriel's/Knight cricket field

- i. Jane said the cricket club uses it. They want to make it more playable – upgraded. Only a small part of the field is currently used.
 - ii. Jean said there is room for future design ideas.
 - iii. Peter said it would be easy to do a quick layout: “how many fields can we put here”. This area could be used as more of a sports complex – DCNR money. It needs infrastructure.
 - iv. Jean pointed out that Pawlings Rd trailhead for the Schuylkill River Trail is often packed and has no amenities (such as restrooms and water); maybe collaborate with the County to see what infrastructure could be put there.
 - v. Colleen went over ownership: this is County-owned land (along with ARA Fields). The Township has a dollar lease agreement or something of the like, and has had it for about 12 years – they maintain mowing and use as they see fit. Like ARA, they need County approval for improvements. Parks and Recreation Committee looked at possible uses: ballfields, dog park. One complication – Station Ave divides this with the land that the County owns; crossing this road would be problematic as traffic is heavy.
 - vi. Beth Ann stated that she likes the idea of amenities. (The Parks Board) laid out initial plans for a baseball field and 2 multipurpose fields, play structure, and comfort area. The Township was short on sports fields at the time – a lot has changed in 12 years. Trails are also more used now than before. Joe said that it would be great to have access to that plan – Beth told Jane that a rough drawing should be in records.
- e. Valley Forge
 - i. Geoff Creary explained that the Pawlings Farm section has great access but is a hidden gem. He listed the limekiln, mountain bike trails, running trails, and the SRT. On the north side of 422 there is another portion of park that is very hard to get to; he asked if we will be able to get access. Right now it is an old nursery with lots of green space that is sitting unused, which is not necessarily bad if we want to keep it a naturalized area.
 - ii. Colleen said that NPS has ideas/a master plan for land use on this side of the river. Local municipalities and federal government may have different ideas for land use; the fed supersedes us. Colleen also pointed out that, in the lower part of the farm, on the other side of 422, there are often wanderers; people using the National Park who wander into the neighborhood and knock on doors asking for a bathroom or glass of water. We need to be mindful of that interaction.
- f. Audubon Elementary
 - i. Joseph stated that this is a potential area for expansion; it was recently looked at as potential space for COVID additional bed locations, for example. He asked how we can use this space creatively.
 - ii. Jane – great add on to use for indoor facilities for programs. Large area of land in the back, off of the street. It could be a community center, host boys/girls scouts, basketball clinics, classes, etc.

- iii. Peter asked if anyone has contacted the School District and said that SC can initiate this conversation. Don replied that the Township is already in discussion with the School District about this site and are seeing what can be done here. Pete stated that SC would appreciate whatever information can be shared, if not confidential; "Keep us in the loop, as long as you can."
 - iv. Beth Ann stated that they have been searching for a home for indoor programming for a long time, and that it would be great if something could be done to move forward.
 - v. Peter cited a nearby model, Upper Merion Senior Center, a renovated building used for many purposes.
- g. Redtail Park
 - i. Joe mentioned that shade trees are generally recommended across the board, including here, to accommodate activities such as picnicking.
 - ii. Jane said that the Methacton baseball organization uses the baseball field. The soccer organization uses the field. She agreed that this park needs shade.
 - iii. Beth Ann added that it needs not only shade, but comfort station as well (restrooms); this was on the five year plan.
 - iv. Kent Morey asked if this parking lot gets full, to which Beth answered that, in the past, if there was baseball and soccer at same time it has come close, but she is not sure if it has ever overflowed.
- h. Pond View Park
 - i. Joseph posed the question: could this park use infrastructure, play equipment?
 - ii. Beth said that play structures may get push back from the neighbors. A nice wooded area with soft nature trail and nature education could be good here.
- i. Hoy Park
 - i. Beth Ann stated that this is one of her favorites because she loves water. The biggest problem is that there is not enough parking. With the boating access and fishing area, there is a problem if there are over 6-8 cars.
 - ii. Jane said that this has been brought up, and lines were added to keep people from parking each other in. This helped a little but there is still a lot of parking and it gets chaotic.
 - iii. Jean pointed out that the Perkiomen Water Conservancy Sojourn (50-100 kayakers) uses this park as a landing point – they leave cars here and are shuttled up to Schwenksville for this one day event. There is potential for more than what the local conservancy does. At the property across Skippack creek, Indianhead Dam Association holds a fishing derby in the dam impoundment area. There is also a sewer extension on the other side of the creek.
 - iv. Colleen said that everyone has found this park this year; it used to be a hidden gem. The Township owns a slightly wooded lot one lot west of Skippack Creek; may be able to do pull off gravel parking there. Colleen pointed out that there have been people swimming in the creek; this makes her nervous because there are young people who may be unfamiliar with the depth of water near the dam and that water can get bad after a storm. She suggested signage to caution swimming activity.

- v. Peter proposed a handicap accessible ADA kayak launch.
- j. Evansburg Point Park
 - i. Jane said this park is used for the football organization and lacrosse uses it as well (one practice and one playing field). There are bathrooms, concessions, a play area, and pavilion. The park is heavily used starting in August. There is a good amount of parking, but we could add a play area or trail.
 - ii. Joseph asked if there are connections to surrounding neighborhoods, to which Beth Ann answered that, other than crossing the street, there is no real connectivity. Neighbors gave push-back on the trail through the woods. This is a State park as well, so everything goes through DCNR which takes extra time. In the main practice field, there is a drainage issue; a large patch of dirt on the aerial identifies the location.
 - iii. Peter suggested that this might be good opportunity for stormwater management for MS4.
 - iv. Beth pointed out a stormwater drainage area at bottom of the football field.
- k. Evansburg State Park
 - i. Beth Ann said this is a hidden gem. It takes up a huge part of Collegeville. Until recently it was not very used. There are great trails that could be better defined or cleaned up.
 - ii. Peter said that it seems there is no relationship between the park and municipalities and asked if the new director is better in this regard. The park seems to keep to themselves, and there are not many trails that connect to it. There could be a much bigger benefit to communities, and this is a missed opportunity. This is the time to strike with DCNR. Peter asked what the relationship is like and if it could be improved.
 - iii. Beth Ann answered that it could be improved. Jane said that there is no relationship with the director. Colleen said she thinks there is a new director, and that the last director was "anti-everything" ; it seemed there was no money for maintenance.
 - iv. Peter suggested that SC initiate the conversation with them. For example, in another community we have a PHMC site, Daniel Boone Homestead. We helped them to get funding for entire facility, so hopefully PHMC can go after money that the park does not typically get. Partnerships should be explored, because the mission for the state park is to have a state park within 20 min of every resident of the commonwealth, and this needs to be remembered.
 - v. Jane said that she can reach out to the park, and Peter suggested that this be done together.
 - vi. Susan pointed out that the pedestrian bridge in the park has some damage from the storm last week. Also, the structure further north – a bridge constructed in the last 10 years – at Anders road(?) – one pedestrian bridge crosses Skippack Creek.
 - vii. Jean said that it is good to be reminded of the desire to create more connectivity for the community – this huge blob of green does not have much connectivity. At some points, people are on the road up against the shoulder

with no guard rail. Let's make this more porous, more accommodating. We will get more people into the park if it connects safely to the neighborhoods. Let's get a conversation going.

- viii. Susan said the park used to connect to a fishing pier near the football fields, opposite Landis Mill Rd down to Skippack creek(?)
- ix. Erin Di Paolo said that several years ago, in the last open space plan, they talked about connecting Eagleville into Evansburg through a trail system.
- x. Kent asked if it makes sense to reach out to Audubon? Jean responded that Audubon has an agreement with the County for the use of Mill Grove Sanctuary. The State park and Audubon have common goals – looking to preserve areas. Audubon is County land – part of the County system of parks and historic sites; this is as much a conversation to have with Montgomery County Parks as with the Audubon center. This is a good point – we should be talking with the County to conserve open space. Peter agreed, and said we should be making connections into those lands.
- xi. Colleen said that Jean brought up an idea that she has been thinking about: we have a huge green space with Evansburg, Valley Forge, and in the middle is County park land. The distance in between would love to see connection and preservation along the Perkiomen Creek corridor. There are steep slopes, and there is Hideaway Day Camp; maybe they can get a land preservation agreement, opening it up (but not to public use). Could bring it down to Arcola Rd and open that up, and make connections along the riparian border.
- I. Arrowhead Elementary School
 - i. Jane said that the Township uses School District properties for summer camps; this is one, as well as Eagleville Elementary and Woodland Elementary.
- m. Level Road Schoolhouse
 - i. Indoor rec area
 - ii. Jane said this is used for smaller programs – bathroom renovations, nice facility. Used for senior yoga and Zumba, and they rent it out for functions for residents. It is used very often.
 - iii. Joe pointed out that there is a lot clustered in this area, giving much potential for connectivity.
- n. IBEW Rec Fields
 - i. Joseph said that maybe we can think proactively, working with existing facilities. Peter asked if there is a relationship with the brotherhood, to which Jane answered that there is none.
 - ii. Colleen pointed out that this is a huge piece of property, maybe good for preservation. PennDOT has plans for a connector road with a 2nd bridge over Perkiomen; it might be valuable.
 - iii. Peter asked if there is an official Township map and mentioned that we have done this other townships. It can be helpful in looking at sites like this and the camp to facilitate preservation in the future.
- o. Cranberry Park and Central Perkiomen Valley Park
 - i. Joe stated there is potential to connect to the neighborhood across the street.

- ii. Jean said that when the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy does their sojourn, and maybe cleanup activities, this is a stopping point preferred lunch spot for them. There is a lot of flood plain, and many tree plantings by the Conservancy.
 - iii. Beth Ann said this is great opportunity to connect to waterways and connect watercraft, like Hoy Park. There is very little parking, and the floodplain could be an issue. People kayak and this is a good lunch spot; it could be good as an access area to the water.
 - iv. Jean – 2 years ago when the Conservancy did a water trail plan, they looked at Cranberry park to improve access to the water, but recently they've been working with Collegeville (when they were expanding their sewer). There are other locations with former homes that had improvements that went into the water/floodway; PWC is working to make this the primary launch site in this area.
- p. Sherwood Park
 - i. Joseph pointed out that there is not a lot of shade over the play structure.
 - ii. Jane stated that people can access this park through walking – the walkability is good, but is hot because there are no trees.
- q. Dell Angelo Park
 - i. Joe stated that this is great example of what a park can be, and we can use this as a model for a successful, shaded park with many connections to residential areas.
 - ii. Peter said that if there is pushback, we can point out that this park is well integrated into the community.
 - iii. Jane said that they are hoping to add a gazebo or picnic shelter, and that this park provides of lots of access to residents.
- r. Woodland Elementary
- s. Mascaro Mem Field
 - i. Joseph pointed out the “stellar” ball fields and play area.
 - ii. Jane explained that the Township maintains the play apparatus, and that Methacton runs baseball out of here.
- 4. Geoff spoke about existing data for Lower Providence: Township, Montgomery County, State, NPS – it is rare to work on a project and have all of these datasets. He discussed incorporating the two sidewalk inventories. Geoff shared the Strava maps showing running and biking patterns, which revealed corridors to investigate further. Geoff also discussed greenways. Peter noted that we will look at the Township's riparian ordinances.
- 5. Pankaj discussed the Public Engagement process, including the Public Opinion Survey, which he asked the Committee to read over and give suggestions. He also discussed WikiMapping.
- 6. The discussion turned to Next Steps:
 - a. Jean recommended setting a deadline to return comments on the survey. Peter proposed September 4th.
 - b. Bill brought up the selective update of the Lower Providence Open Space Plan from 2002, and asked if we had seen it. Peter said we will review it and see what goals were set and if they were met. Joseph confirmed that we do have a copy.

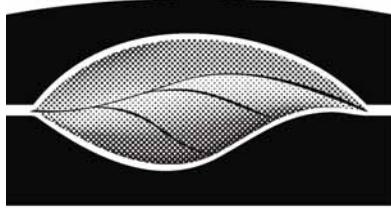
- c. Peter said that we will send a synopsis of an official map; we think it is a useful tool. We did a greenway plan, and as a result several trails were built with no taxpayer cost because they were on an official map.
- d. Kent pointed out that, as part of MS4, as you create impervious area you need to compensate for it. From a stormwater perspective, consideration should be given to what materials are being used. Runoff needs to be treated, but can be worked around. If parking is not being used entirely, maybe remove to put in landscape islands and create rain gardens.
- e. Pat Stasio stated that he had no comments.

This report represents the Professional's summation of the proceedings and is not a transcript. Unless written notice of any correction or clarification is received by the Professional within ten days of issue, the report shall be considered factually correct and shall become part of the official project record.

Sincerely,
SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JP Wallace III', is written over a faint, circular official stamp. The stamp contains the text 'Professional Seal' and 'Professional No. 12345'.

Joseph P. Wallace III
Staff Landscape Architect



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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	9/10/2020 7:00pm
Re:	Committee Meeting #2	Issue Date:	09.20.2020

ATTENDEES:

Colleen Eckman - Supervisor	Beth Ann Mazza - TPB
Don Delamater – Township Manager	Katherine McGrath – TPB Student Representative
Jane Delaney – Parks and Recreation Director	Peter Simone, RLA, FASLA – Simone Collins Landscape Architecture (SC)
Jean Akers – Chair for Open Space Committee and member of Township Park Board (TPB)	Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ), AICP – SC
Bill Brooke – Township Planning Commission (TPC)	Geoff Creary, Project LA – SC
Erin Di Paolo – TPB	Michelle Armour, Staff LA – SC
Susan LaPenta - TPC	Pat Stasio – Certified Park and Recreation Professional

GENERAL NOTES:

Presentation

1. Peter Simone:
 - a. Briefly went over Agenda, Committee/Team Introductions, and Project Schedule.
 - b. Discussed the draft Mission Statement, inviting the Committee to help revise/refine it.
 - c. Plan Goals and Objectives
 - d. Key Committee comments and takeaways from Committee Meeting 1
2. Pankaj Jobanputra:
 - a. Demographics trends: population, age, race, income, education.

- b. Key points of relevant planning documents:
 - i. *Selective Update of the Lower Providence Recreation Plan*, 2002
 - ii. *Lower Providence Township Comprehensive Plan*, 2002
 - iii. *Lower Providence Township Open Space Preservation Plan*, 2005 Update
 - iv. *Natural Areas Inventory Update*, Montgomery County PA, 2008
 - v. *Montco 2040: A Shared Vision – The Comprehensive Plan for Montgomery County*, 2015
 - vi. Jean Akers:
 - Asked if the Team has the GVFTMA Lower Providence Bike Pedestrian Plan from 2008
 - She and Don Delamater will try to get the Team a copy
 - c. Zoning and SALDO
 - i. Open Space Residential Development
 - ii. Riparian Buffer Overlay Zone
 - iii. Existing Ordinances: Steep slopes, Trees, Sidewalks, Landscaping
 - iv. Park and Recreation Land: public dedication, fee in lieu
 - v. Zoning and Overlay Districts
 3. Geoff Creary:
 - a. "Connectivity 101"
 - i. Connectivity/design guidelines reference documents
 - ii. User types
 - iii. Connectivity elements: sidewalks, bike lanes and routes, sidepaths and trails, low-stress routes, destinations
 - b. "Greenways 101"
 - i. Definitions, value, purpose
 - ii. Lower Providence protections under Article XXXIV (Riparian Overlay Zone)
 4. Michelle Armour:
 - a. Inventory and Analysis Mapping
 - i. Geology
 - ii. Watersheds: Schuylkill River, Perkiomen and Skippack Creek, tributaries
 - iii. Hydrology
 - iv. Land use
 - v. Wooded areas and greenways
 - vi. Historic resources: National Historic Register and National Historic Landmark
 - vii. Public transportation
 - viii. Educational facilities
 - ix. Sidewalks and trails
 - x. STRAVA bicycle and running data
 - xi. Ownership map: Federal, State, County, Municipal, and School District land
 - Jean: pointed out that ownership of Audubon is County (mis-colored on map)
 - Colleen Eckman: suggested/asked if Team is considering small parcels of open space, and if the Team has that information.

- Geoff: stated that we do have information through up-to-date GIS, ownership listing can be off, but help confirming that we have the most up to date data would be great.
 - Pete: asked what she would like to be considered for these spaces – pocket parks?
 - Colleen: responded yes, maybe, or open space/trail connections to existing parks and trails.
5. Geoff:
- a. Analysis next steps:
 - i. Preliminary trail connections:
 - Identify routes and connections to existing trails
 - Identify routes which connect open space and recreation elements near residential neighborhoods: Level Road, Eagleville Road, Park Avenue, Pawlings Road, Ridge Pike
 - Determine appropriate connectivity elements
 - ii. Walking radius mapping
 - Identify 15-min/1-mile walking radius for all open space/recreation resources
 - Identify connectivity gaps
6. Pankaj:
- a. Public opinion survey
 - i. Committee to review questions and provide feedback
 - ii. Goes live prior to Public Meeting #1
 - iii. Link - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LowerProvidenceParks>
 - b. WikiMapping
 - i. Goes live prior to Public Meeting #1
 - ii. Link – www.wikimapping.com/Lower-Providence-Parks-and-Recreation.html
 - c. Next Steps
 - i. Public Meeting 1: Monday, September 28, 2020 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
 - Link - <https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence1>
 - ii. Committee Meeting 3: Thursday, October 22, 2020 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
 - iii. Public involvement poster

Q&A

1. Peter: Went over the live event process for public meetings. SC will go over the study and then facilitate brainstorming - present each park and let people comment on the parks during the presentation. That way we have a list of feedback on parks. Also, comments can be shared with everyone. He asked the Committee for thoughts on this.
2. Jean: Suggested considering questions from the survey that elicit, from people in the meeting, their top priority for recreation (things that they are currently doing, want to do, or that are missing). We can go park to park to get feedback on facilities, but if someone doesn't use the parks, or drives to another township because they can't get to them, they may not have feedback. Try to get non-facility specific laundry list items. Maybe display something similar to

Geoff's slides on cycling, walking, etc. – give them images of activities (ex. there is no parkour, pump track, etc.) to get them going. "If we're missing something let us know."

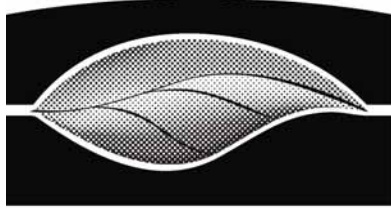
- a. Peter: maybe our facility review will be just that – go through quickly, refer people to the survey, and then focus on big-picture ideas.
3. Beth Ann Mazza: Two questions
 - a. Capability to override everyone's mute in live event?
 - i. Geoff: Yes, explained Microsoft 'live event'.
 - b. What is expected from the Committee at the Public Meeting besides attendance?
 - i. Peter: Listen. We want to stimulate the public to make suggestions. SC will stimulate discussion and listen, and the Committee's job is also to listen.
4. Bill Brooke: The Township did a survey in 2004/05, maybe SC can go over it to address ideas that haven't been addressed
 - a. Pete: Good idea. There are probably unaddressed ideas from other plans as well. We can look for similar ideas. Good ideas last a long time, and lasting ideas that come up again and again may identify priorities for the Township. History is important. The Board has many things to deal with, and role as advocates is important, but how do you get to the top of the list?
5. Beth Ann: How will you promote the meeting to get public participation?
 - a. Pete: Township newsletter?
 - b. Don: Already going out to print
 - c. Peter: Do you have contacts for social organizations – homeowners, fraternal, churches, etc.?
 - d. Don: Email list, Facebook, Constant Contact with businesses, website.
 - e. Pete: school district?
 - f. Susan: Good to contact the SD, they are connected to organizations and have a lot of rec facilities that groups use.
 - g. Don: Should have contacts
 - h. Pete: Patch?
 - i. Jean: There is a Perkiomen patch.
 - j. Don: May be a Lower Providence patch - not sure how much traction it has.
 - k. Bill: Montgomery County's radio alert?
 - l. Don: Used for emergency alerts, not for notices for meetings, etc.
 - m. Pete: Put something on the cover page of the website?
 - n. Don: Can put it right on the main page – first panel.
 - o. Jane: Parks and Recreation email blast.
 - p. Pete: Ongoing list?
 - q. Jane: Yes, whoever registers for a program, through My Rec program
 - r. Beth Ann: Does this include campers?
 - s. Jane: Yes
 - t. Beth: We can share it ourselves, organically.
 - u. Jean: Can share with homeowners' association. Asked for an email with good content.
 - v. Pete: Does the Township have list of HOA's?
 - w. Jean: I have the list for my HOA
 - x. Pete: Stores?

- y. Don: Phone/email contact list for businesses.
 - z. Pete: Email is ideal.
 - aa. Pete: Main thing will be the poster. SC will send tomorrow. Asked the Committee to send it back with suggestions.
 - bb. Jean: Sending notice out to Michael Oscar at John James Audubon center; Ryan Beltz - Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy. Can get contact info to SC.
 - 6. Jean: We need the logo for Lower Providence, which the Township agonizingly made and paid for, to be front and center (SC can update the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy logo if looking to do logos). Use the logo with the leaf.
 - a. Geoff: Can we incorporate a tagline into the logo to brand the Plan?
 - b. Don: Yes.
 - 7. Pete: We will coordinate on email lists with Jane and Bill Roth; survey; mapping
 - 8. PJ: We will send tonight's presentation and the Public Meeting poster for review.
 - 9. Peter: Will send the mission statement as a word document for the Committee to edit, and SC will continue to refine as well.
- Committee homework: distribute the poster.

This report represents the Professional's summation of the proceedings and is not a transcript. Unless written notice of any correction or clarification is received by the Professional within ten days of issue, the report shall be considered factually correct and shall become part of the official project record.

Sincerely,
SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Michelle Armour
Staff Landscape Architect



SIMONE COLLINS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
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MEETING NOTES

Project: Lower Providence Open
Space & Recreation Plan

Project
No.: 20028.10

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Meeting
Date/
Time: 11/18/2020
7:00pm

Re: Committee
Meeting #3

Issue
Date: 12.03.2020

ATTENDEES:

Colleen Eckman - Supervisor

Beth Ann Mazza - TPB

Don Delamater – Township Manager

Peter Simone, RLA, FASLA – Simone
Collins Landscape Architecture (SC)

Jane Delaney – Parks and Recreation
Director

Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ), AICP – SC

Jean Akers – Chair for Open Space
Committee and member of Township
Park Board (TPB)

Geoff Creary, Project LA – SC

Joseph Wallace, Staff LA – SC

Erin Di Paolo – TPB

Michelle Armour, Staff LA – SC

Susan LaPenta - TPC

Pat Stasio – Certified Park and
Recreation Professional

GENERAL NOTES:

Presentation

1. Peter Simone:
 - a. Briefly went over Agenda and Committee/Team Introductions.
2. Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ):
 - a. Went over the project schedule.
 - b. Discussed takeaways from Public Meeting 1 brainstorming: goals, facts, concepts, and partners.
 - c. Went over Public Survey and Wikimapping preliminary results

- d. Explained the role of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), some NRPA definitions, and NRPA Benchmarking; discussed where Lower Providence stands compared to 2020 NRPA Performance Review Park Facilities metrics.
 - e. Went over Community Benchmarking of parks and recreation facilities for 2019 and 2040 projected population.
 - f. Jean Akers asked if **disc golf** was included in benchmarking and expressed interest in its inclusion if facilities exist. She shared that, in her experience as a planner in the Pacific Northwest, she witnessed disc golf's growth in popularity, as well as pickleball's growth into a tournament sport.
 - g. Colleen Eckman noted that **bocce courts** were not listed in the benchmarking and asked that they be.
3. Joseph Wallace:
- a. Went over inventory and analysis, including:
 - i. Park service areas/gaps
 - Jean noted that, in the service gaps analysis of walking distance to parks and rec facilities, streets seemed to be examined more so than actual sidewalks, stating that she would not walk many of the routes. She also pointed out that this did not modify for barriers, such as lack of crosswalks.
 - ii. Potential open space and rec expansions
 - Colleen provided some background on the former landfill site, owned by Carmela Farms. It is an EPA Superfund site that was cleaned up with a cap. The site was recently purchased off the tax rolls – it was delinquent – by a neighbor who does not intend to use it except to make sure that he has open space behind his home. There is so much history – EPA Superfund to today – and she would not consider the Township buying the property, as it is a liability. They have met with the EPA and DEP, went to Washington, explored all avenues. They would like to pursue it further.
 - iii. Potential open space and rec acquisition
4. Geoff Creary:
- a. Presented conceptual trail connections, discussing the relevance to Montgomery County's 2018 bicycle plan, *Bike Montco*.
 - i. Jean stated that **this issue (connectivity and trail/sidewalk connections) is the highest priority – it is what drove the need for this plan to be completed before the Comprehensive Plan**, which will follow. One caution she has is about putting too much into sidewalks, as this will also be the responsibility of the transportation element in the comp plan. She expressed being torn between “yes we need this” and “no we don't want all of the energy to go into the transportation”. However, this leads us to building priority for a regional trail that connects from Evansburg all the way down into Worcester Township and the Perkiomen Trail – so if this justifies connecting into the regional system, that is a good thing, because not everyone in Lower Providence is connected to it.

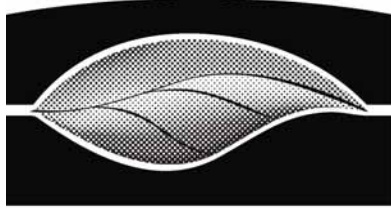
- ii. Peter stated that, hopefully, this will inform the comp plan. He would rather this plan be aspirational and push the comp plan toward more pedestrian connections. We can cut back later, but he thinks that, going into the study, it was clear that connectivity is important. Where is the line between transportation and recreation? There is a lot of overlap.
- 5. Pat Stasio:
 - a. Discussed existing and potential maintenance and programming, including:
 - i. Parks and rec administration
 - ii. Recreation programs offerings
 - iii. Facilities
 - iv. Finance
- 6. Jean pointed out that St. Gabriel's Hall has closed the facility for the boys' program and does not know what they plan to do with it. She suggested that it would be nice to obtain some of that land.
 - a. PJ recalled that someone at a meeting had previously suggested creating multi-use fields.
 - b. Don Delamater stated that it is zoned R-2 residential with a public facilities overlay.
- 7. PJ:
 - a. Went over the Focus Group Lists, which include:
 - i. Active recreation
 - ii. Outdoor recreation/trails/conservation
 - iii. Social groups and/or service organizations
 - iv. Schools
 - b. Presented the list of Key Person Interviews Lists to-date, asking the Committee for assistance identifying additional interviewees.
 - c. **Potential interviewees identified:**
 - i. Director of Montco parks and historic sites (controls Mill Grove – potentially a good future resource)
 - ii. Parks Dept., Montco
 - iii. Shift the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy director from Focus Groups to KPI (good partnership possibility)
 - iv. Carrie Barron – Director of the Audubon Visitor Center
 - d. Discussed **next steps:**
 - i. Committee Meeting 4: Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
 - ii. Public Meeting 2: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
<https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence2>
 - iii. Provided links to the public survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LowerProvidenceParks>
 and Wikimapping: www.wikimapping.com/Lower-Providence.html
- 8. Peter stated that, for Committee Meetings in Jan-March, SC will come back with more initial recommendations - we are nearing the end of the analysis phase.
Committee homework: We need help getting contacts for Key Person Interviews and Focus Groups (by sometime between Thanksgiving and early-mid December). SC will be in touch primarily with Jane, and hopefully she will refer us to others in the community as well.

9. Jean asked Jane Delaney and Don if the **Powerpoint presentation of this meeting can be published to the website** for the sake of transparency and an open public process.
Don replied that it is easy to do, just the presentations over and they will post.
Peter noted that the **recommendation for the superfund site will be deleted**.
Jean recommended **removing St Gabriel's Hall from Focus Groups** because of its closing.
Jane confirmed that the first public meeting has already been added to the website.
10. Don asked if the school district should be included in the conversation.
PJ replied that, yes, one of the focus groups is with all schools.
Peter noted that we will probably need to be flexible, as the teacher are likely burnt out on remote learning/Zoom meetings.

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Sincerely,
SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Michelle Armour
Staff Landscape Architect



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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	1/6/2021 7:00pm
Re:	Committee Meeting #4	Issue Date:	1.20.2021

ATTENDEES:

Colleen Eckman - Supervisor
Don Delamater – Township Manager
Jane Delaney – Parks and Recreation Director
Jean Akers – Chair for Open Space Committee and member of Township Park Board (TPB)
Erin Di Paolo – TPB
Susan LaPenta - TPC
Beth Ann Mazza - TPB

Bill Brooke – Township Planning Commission (TPC)
Peter Simone, RLA, FASLA – Simone Collins Landscape Architecture (SC)
Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ), AICP – SC
Geoff Creary, Project LA – SC
Joseph Wallace, Staff LA – SC
Michelle Armour, Staff LA – SC
Pat Stasio – Certified Park and Recreation Professional

GENERAL NOTES:

Presentation

1. Peter Simone:
 - a. Welcomed the Committee.
2. Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ):
 - a. Reviewed the agenda, project schedule, updated public survey and WikiMapping results.
 - b. Discussed the purpose of an Official Map, which includes, and the benefits of having one.
 - Jean A. asked if the Township has considered an Official Map. Don D. noted that the Township is in the process of of a Comprehensive Plan update, so maybe an

Official Map could be completed in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan. The plan is for the Open Space and Recreation Plan to be included in the Comprehensive Plan. Peter S. gave examples of municipalities that have adopted Official Maps and encouraged discussion of this because of the potential to propose parks and trails. Peter also noted that the Township would have a year to act on acquisitions and is not obligated to take action – it is a flexible document.

3. Joseph Wallace:

- a. Discussed stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), greenways and stormwater management,
- b. Presented projected facility needs – community benchmarking, and spatial layouts for possible facilities to meet these needs:
 - Knights Cricket Field
 - Agriculture fields north of Eskie Park
 - Open space north of Mascaro Field
 - St. Gabriels Property
 - Two large parcels northeast of Eagleville Park
- c. Facilities analysis (with Redtail Park example)

4. Geoff Creary:

- a. Presented Sidewalk gaps, conceptual trail connections (Central Perkiomen Valley Park, Evansburg State Park Connector, Eskie Park Loop Trail Extension, and Valley Forge National Park Connector)
 - Don D. noted that, near the proposed CPV Park Trail, the assisted living facility has created a connection that goes under that bridge. Starting on river road, go left, under the bridge, and one can connect to the trails at living facility along Perkiomen. They are shown on their land development plans. There is an opening under the bridge, and they built flood walls to accommodate the trail here. They have the intention of connecting into the public trails.
 - Jean A. pointed out that parts of the Perkiomen Trail are under water after rains, lots of maintenance (scraping mud, draining trail) 5-6x year, and about half a dozen times that trails need to be closed.
 - Yerkes Road Crossing:
 - Don D. stated that, at the end of Yerkes Rd, people who live near that road have brought up the possibility of a crossing there. There used to be a crossing – Yerkes Rd used to go up into Upper Providence. There has been thought of creating a pedestrian crossing there that would connect to County trail on other side.
 - Susan L. pointed out that Yerkes Rd connects to Route 29, and before that the Perkiomen Rail crosses the road. She has heard that the bridge was taken out of commission during hurricane Agnes. She believes it is still all PennDOT right of way across at Yerkes rd.
 - Geoff pointed out that one advantage of the proposed Evansburg State Park Connector bridge is that the other side is land owned by the

Lower Perkiomont Valley Sewer Authority, so it is not privately held land.

- Either side of Yerkes road is residential on the Lower and Upper Providence sides, and there are pieces of sidewalk.
- Peter S. noted that, since it is residential, people who live there may either welcome a new connection here or may be resistant to having it. He asked the Committee if this was an important concept to explore.
- Jean A expressed that, considering long-range view, reconnecting a road that is no longer connected is definitely worth exploring. She acknowledged that this could change the traffic pattern for people who live there, but it could be to their benefit. Susan L has heard that the people objected to a bridge being replaced because it will change traffic patterns along Yerkes Rd. Jean noted that a pedestrian bridge **only** would be a different situation.
- BethAnn stated that she has heard over and over from people in that area, in the "arrowhead", that they have no safe way to connect directly to any of the trails. This old former bridge comes up a lot because if they had that one point of connection they could connect into the trail.
- Regarding the Valley Forge Park Connector:
 - Jean noted that she lives in one of those cul-de-sacs there. The challenge here is the people in the Apple Valley Ln neighborhood cannot walk safely to the Audubon Loop Trail. If a safe crossing were made at Audubon Rd and Pawlings Rd, and then sidewalks installed along the ARA side of Audubon Rd from the Audubon Loop Trail all the way down to Rittenhouse, that would make a great connection. This would also avoid needing to work with NPS or repurposing St. Gabriels. She does not want a proposal like this to take away from the need for sidewalk connections. Also, Jean noted that walking along 422 is not ideal – it is noisy.
 - Geoff agreed that sidewalks need to be added here. However, sometimes an off-road route is better – Valley Forge Park and the farmstead are beautiful
 - Peter S. surmised that the sidewalk project would take priority, and hopefully the trail project would not be too far in the future. Jean agreed.
- Susan L. noted that, up by River Rd and Germantown Pk, where there is a new townhouse development, a trail is being put in along Germantown Pk. There is a portion that goes down to cross River Rd. Also, there is a crossing from that same townhouse development from their internal sidewalks to go over to Cranberry Park. Don noted that this is new, within the past year.
- Don pointed out that in the western end of the town, PennDOT is in the process of reconfiguring the road network: a connector road, a circle, Germantown Pk will turn into river road, no more "Y" intersection. They will be putting sidewalks

in along Ridge Pk, the connector road, and Germantown Pk. He just got preliminary plans today and can send over.

- Geoff encouraged the committee to let SC know if there are any other trails that they would like to see.

5. Pat Stasio:

- a. Discussed programming, finance, and maintenance

6. PJ

- a. Discussed **next steps**:

- Scheduling key person interviews and focus groups – end of January, early February. The Committee was encouraged to look over the focus group list and fill in any gaps if anyone is missing. Also, there are two additional spaces for key person interviews.
- Draft letter to National Park Service (Valley Forge Park) and DCNR (Evansburg State Park)
- Committee Meeting 4: Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
- Public Meeting 2: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
<https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence2>
 - Format – ‘live event’ or ‘meeting’?
 - Don felt the live event worked because you can control the questions and address them in depth one-by-one, and people are not talking over each other.
 - Jean suggested that the simplified link should only involve one click to make it easier for a diverse group of people to participate.
- Provided links to the public survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LowerProvidenceParks>
and Wikimapping: www.wikimapping.com/Lower-Providence.html

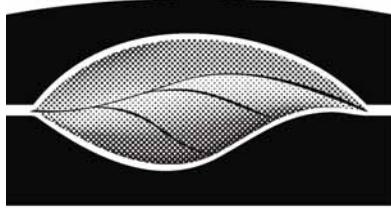
7. Additional Comments:

- a. Jean A suggested looking at ARA site and consider a loop trail on ARA field, which would add ½ mile and connect to the path by the Apple Valley neighborhood. It connects to ARA and gets people to Audobon Rd and Pawlings Rd intersection. The open space behind the two cul-de-sacs is partially owned by the township – the HOA only owns the stormwater basin.
- b. Peter S proposed that, after SC has put together the park improvements, they will be submitted to the committee before getting into the draft plan. Jean recommending also sharing with the Park Board, with their specialized knowledge.
- c. Erin D asked how long Shannondell, a township-owned property, is being leased. Don answered that it is a long-term lease (approx. another 10-15 years). Erin asked if this property should be part of this discussion, to which Peter S replied ‘yes’. Don confirmed that the property was purchased by the Township through a County open space grant, so it must remain open space.

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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	3.25.2021 7:00pm
Re:	Committee Meeting #5	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

GENERAL NOTES:

Presentation

1. Peter Simone:
 - a. Welcomed the committee and thanked all in attendance for their participation.
2. Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ):
 - a. Reviewed the agenda, project schedule, updated public survey and Wikimapping results.
 - b. Discussed the purpose of an Official Map, which includes, and the benefits of having one.
3. Joseph Wallace:
 - a. Presented projected facility, open space recommendations.
4. Geoff Creary:
 - a. Presented Sidewalk gaps, conceptual trail connections (Central Perkiomen Valley Park, Evansburg State Park Connector, Eskie Park Loop Trail Extension, and Valley Forge National Park Connector)
5. Peter Simone:
 - a. Discussed programming, finance, and maintenance.

Discussion and Q&A

- Jean A. noted that on the St. Gabe's Field Slide 9 – the area / parcel for St. Gabe's (10 acre north of Ridge Pike or 49 acres south of Ridge Pike) should be clearly noted.
- Jane D. talked to Michelle at County about Knight's Field– they do not want cricket using parking at trailhead.
- Colleen E. noted that anywhere recommendations are proposed on County owned land, there should be a note that improvements will need to be approved by the County.
- Jean A. noted that for the Eagleville presentation slides, it would be helpful to zoom into improvement areas.

- Pete S. noted that committee needs to think about priorities, and it would be helpful if committee directed us on priorities, everyone picks 3-5 priorities.
- Jean A. noted that on Sides 43 – where A is, when you add shade trees, should also naturalize basin.
- Jean A. noted that the Pechins Mill area is high value parcels and noted the realignment for Ridge Pike.
- Bill B. noted that the ideal pedestrian crossing should utilize the existing Arcola Bridge.
- Jean A. noted that the design team should look at rt 29 bridge in Collegeville, could this be a good model for Arcola.
- Pete S. noted that the Perkiomen Creek Trail had a champion, and a bridge like this would need one as well.
- Pete S. noted that every community up and down Evansburg State Park wants a trail, the Skippack Creek Watershed Association can work to get trail built through state park which also acts as MS4.
- Pete S. noted that the Perkiomen bridge does not have to be a solely Township project – it would require many partners and be a long-term project.
- Colleen E. noted that perhaps-maybe suggestion is acquire more lots adjacent to Hoy Park to accommodate extra parking.
- Pete S. noted that the committee should please provide priorities in 3 categories: land acquisition, facility improvements and trail connections.
- Colleen E. noted that in Eagleville Park the police building may move to a new location just off Ridge Pike.

Next Steps

- Public Meeting 3 will take place: Thursday April 15, 2021
 - Public Meeting 3 Link: <https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence3>
- Next steps for the Simone Collins Team:
 - Continue Facilities Analysis
 - Work on Draft Plan
- Reach out the Simone Collins Team with questions comments (copy all to ensure prompt response)

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Peter Simone, RLA, FASLA, Principal

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Geoff Creary, Land. Arch., Connectivity Expert / Graphics

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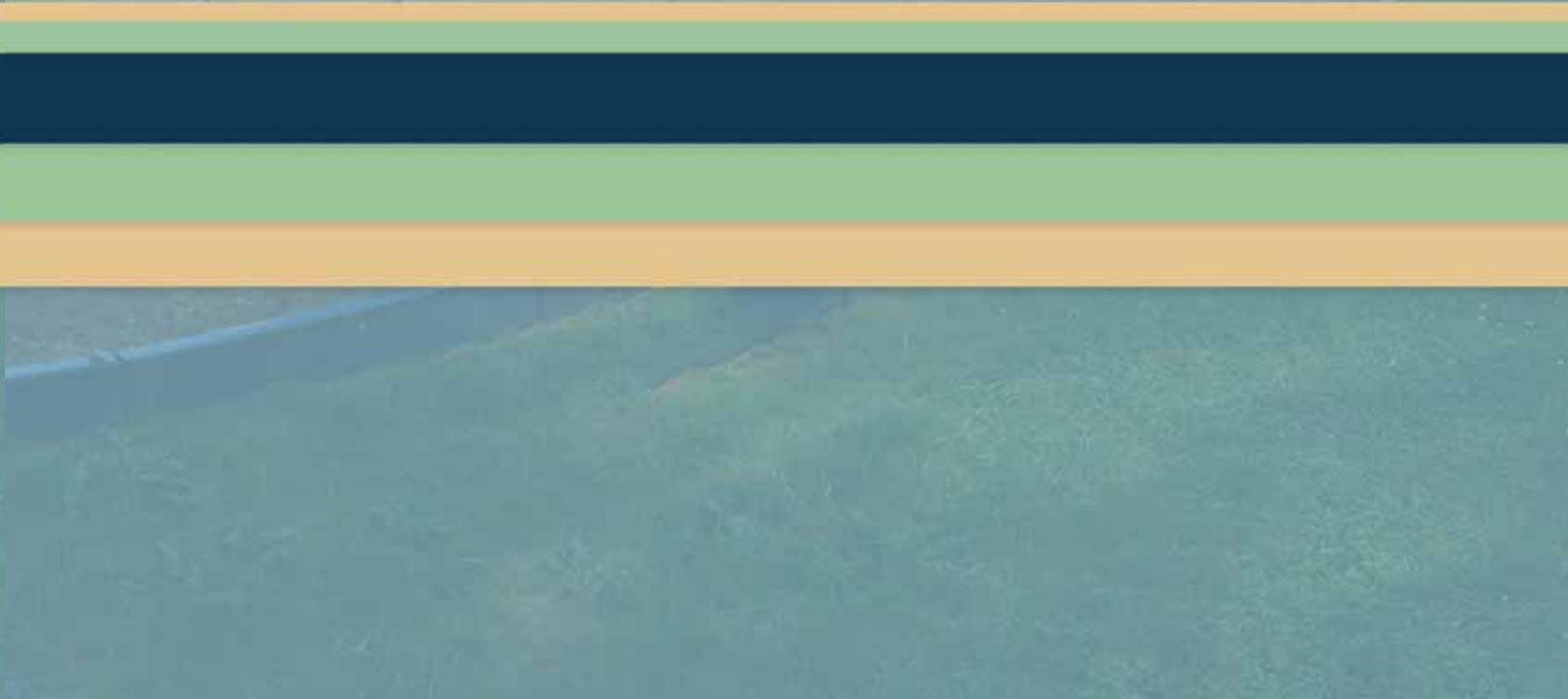
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JP Wallace III', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

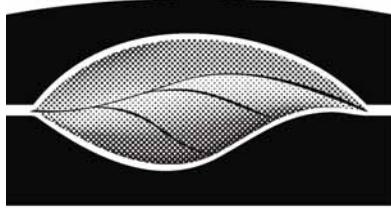
Joseph P. Wallace III
Staff Landscape Architect



APPENDIX

Public Meeting Notes





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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	10/26/2020 7:00pm
Re:	Public Meeting #1	Issue Date:	11.12.2020

ATTENDEES:

Peter Simone, RLA, FASLA – Simone Collins Landscape Architecture (SC)
Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ), AICP – SC
Geoff Creary, Project LA – SC
Joseph Wallace, Project LA – SC
Michelle Armour, Project LA – SC
Jean Akers – Chair for Open Space Committee and member of Township Park Board (TPB)
Colleen Eckman – Supervisor

Cara Coless
Jane Delaney – Parks and Recreation Director
Erin Di Paolo – TPB
Joe Ferraro
Susan LaPenta – TPC
Laura Winslow
Julia

GENERAL NOTES:

Presentation

- Peter Simone:
 - Went over the Meeting Agenda, Committee/Team Introductions, Project Schedule, Review of Committee Meetings 1 and 2, the Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives.
- Pankaj Jobanputra:
 - Demographics trends: population, age, race, income, education.
 - Key points of relevant planning documents:
 - *Selective Update of the Lower Providence Recreation Plan, 2002*
 - *Lower Providence Township Comprehensive Plan, 2002*
 - *Lower Providence Township Open Space Preservation Plan, 2005 Update*
 - *Natural Areas Inventory Update, Montgomery County PA, 2008*

- *Montco 2040: A Shared Vision – The Comprehensive Plan for Montgomery County, 2015*
 - Zoning and SALDO
 - Floodplain Conservation District
 - Public Facilities and Open Space Overlay District
 - Steep Slope Conservation District
 - Open Space Residential Development
 - Riparian Buffer Overlay Zone
 - Existing Ordinances: Steep slopes, Trees, Sidewalks, Landscaping
 - Park and Recreation Land: public dedication, fee in lieu
 - Zoning and Overlay Districts
- Geoff Creary:
 - “Connectivity 101”
 - Connectivity/design guidelines reference documents
 - Lower Providence Township *Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Improvement Study, 2009*
 - User types
 - Connectivity elements: sidewalks, bike lanes and routes, sidepaths and trails, low-stress routes, destinations
 - “Greenways 101”
 - Definitions, value, purpose
 - Lower Providence protections under Article XXXIV (Riparian Overlay Zone)
- Joseph Wallace:
 - Inventory and Analysis Mapping
 - Township Park and Recreation System
 - Geology
 - Watersheds: Schuylkill River, Perkiomen and Skippack Creek, tributaries
 - Hydrology
 - Land use
 - Wooded areas and greenways
 - Historic resources: National Historic Register and National Historic Landmark
 - Public transportation
 - Educational facilities
 - Ownership map: Federal, State, County, Municipal, and School District land
 - Sidewalks and trails
 - STRAVA bicycle and running data
 -
- Geoff:
 - Analysis next steps:
 - Preliminary trail connections:
 - Identify routes and connections to existing trails
 - Identify routes which connect open space and recreation elements near residential neighborhoods: Level Road, Eagleville Road, Park Avenue, Pawlings Road, Ridge Pike

- Determine appropriate connectivity elements
 - Walking radius mapping
 - Identify 15-min/1-mile walking radius for all open space/recreation resources
 - Identify connectivity gaps
- Pankaj:
 - Public opinion survey
 - Link - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LowerProvidenceParks>
 - WikiMapping
 - Link – www.wikimapping.com/Lower-Providence-Parks-and-Recreation.html

BRAINSTORMING/Q&A

Peter explained the “Card Technique” brainstorming and discussion process as a way for participants to contribute ideas for Plan goals, facts, concepts, and partners. The meeting then opened up for questions and comments:

- Anonymous: Are you taking into consideration in your inventory the proximity of Valley Forge National Park and all the trails within minutes of our townships?
 Peter: Yes. There are various important trails in this area, but chances are that you need to use a car to get to them, so one of the things we want to do is connect you to those great resources that are very close by.
- What are the projections of population growth based on?
 Peter: They're based on several things – assembled by Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission DVRPC (the municipal planning organization for the region). The planners at DVRPC take existing population data and create models in tested programs, and the projections are based on proven formulas. They'll never be exact, but they are pretty close. One of the trends in the Township is an increase in multi-family housing, like Shannondell, and you've also had an influx of senior population, which contributed significantly to Township growth. That is how these population projections are put together.
- Joe Ferraro: Can the links for the maps being used be posted online?
 Peter: Yes and no. We are just starting to develop these maps, but we have a fun tool called WikiMapping, so if you have a specific suggestion for trail/sidewalk connection, you can go online and draw it on the map with a note. As we develop these maps further they will be posted as part of these presentations online. We encourage everyone to contact us by email or phone if you have any questions.
- Anonymous: Do all these "users" live in LP? Doubtful
 Peter: Lower Providence is a sophisticated community with a good diversity of ethnic groups and age variation. We think a lot of the user groups do exist there, for the most part. If you look at any data from municipalities, counties, and the state, park and trail use has gone up amidst the COVID crisis. We think you have a good cross section of trails and trail users.
- Anonymous: Children walking to school? Do you live in this century?
 Peter: Good question/comment. There are many communities that are trying to go in the direction of encouraging children to walk or bike to school. The reason many of our children do not is because there are no safe routes to take. Ex. Virtual school busses, where an adult will walk with a group of children to school. One of the great problems in this country is childhood

obesity, and one reason for this is that children don't get out and exercise enough. Data has shown that in communities with safe trails and connections, you can encourage kids to walk or ride a bike in good weather. If you are not aspirational with these things, they won't happen.

- Anonymous: Will these slides be available after this presentation?

Peter: Yes, you can see the recording by using the same link to attend this meeting, and a PDF of the slide presentation will be provided on the Township website.

- Anonymous: This is BS. Who rides a bike to the grocery store?

Peter: Again, no one will if you can't ride there, and not to shop for the week, but maybe for short trips to a Wawa or smaller grocery store. If safe facilities exist, people can not only ride for recreation, but for commuting. There is a small percentage of the community who do commute by bike if the distance allows and there are safe routes. Again, biking has gone way up in the last six months.

- Anonymous: Now you're talking! Preserve green space!

- Anonymous: No trails in green ways!!!

Peter: There are some greenways that do not have any trails – “no access greenways”. When there are sensitive environmental resources you may not want to have a trail, or maybe not a biking trail but just a single width, earthen walking trail. There are other instances where is perfectly fine to have a trail – examples are the Schuylkill River Trail or the Perkiomen Trail. There is no one correct way to approach this, but you can certainly have greenways with trails and greenways without.

- Anonymous: Are we going to ride our bike or walk in the winter months?

- Anonymous: If you are not a biker, who cares about this?

Peter: Well, you might care if you're a motorist – if we can get a percentage of people out of their cars and onto bikes, it might have a slight effect on traffic. It might affect people's health. We recognize that not everyone is a biker, but there is a revolution happening in this county, and it is not political – it's about exercise, people appreciating green space, and there is a growing community of people who want to walk and people who want to bike. It's not just LP looking at this. Over the past 25 years, we have worked on well over 100 trail projects across PA; multiply that by 100 other firms doing the same type of work; PennDOT is talking about trails and connectivity.

- Anonymous: So the taxpayers of LP have to pay for a small segment of our residents who want bike paths to connect to the big trails?????

- Peter: There are a couple of ways that trails can be paid for. First of all, PA is a good environment for funding for trails, parks, and greenways. This study was partially paid for by a grant from DCNR. Every year, DCNR has somewhere between \$30-40 million that's paid for by the real estate transfer tax, that is dedicated to projects like this. The state, through Democrat and Republican administrations, has consistently done this because surveys that the state conducts show that people care about parks and recreation. If Lower Providence doesn't go after this money, it will go to another community. So, if this is important to you, it is important to make that known to your elected officials; if it is not, I encourage you to do the same thing. This is how things get done or don't get done for parks and recreation.

- Anonymous: I don't want a water park paid with tax dollars!

Peter: We understand that comment, but there may be some of your fellow residents who would want that. Please understand that, when we referenced a spray pad, we are not talking

about a water park; it is something that may be 15 feet across that has some water coming out of a couple of jets.

- Anonymous: Dog park? Most people who have dogs have backyard.
Peter: Absolutely, but there are many people who don't. Also, another function of dogs parks is that, when you go to there, you meet other members of their community, you form friendships. We've seen that dog park users are some of the most vested people in communities in terms of parks and recreation. They contribute time and energy and become very valuable constituent groups for those parks.
- Joe Ferraro: Can we look at unusable open space as potential for renewable (solar or wind) energy generation?
Peter: Very interesting idea. We have seen park systems where they use photovoltaic solar cells to power things like security cameras. Maybe there will be applications for solar and wind here, moving forward.
- Anonymous: People in Shannondell won't be using the trails!
Peter: Well, I don't know if that's true. Maybe for most people there, but, as someone who is approaching 70, I like to get out and walk. I'm sure there are people at Shannondell who like to get out and walk. There are all levels of senior citizens there - we'll see.
- Cara Coless: Dog Parks are a great way to bring members of the community together who love dogs and like Dog people.
Peter: That has been our experience.
- Jean Akers: Your 1 mile in 15 minutes is a bit optimistic. Few trail users walk that fast. If 1 mile walking distance is for park service area, I think it's too far. My 2 cents.
Peter: We will check those distances and times. Thank you for that comment.
- Laura Winslow: What is the Tyson Mill Complex?
Peter:
- Jean: Concept = bike & pedestrian connections to regional trails & regional parks.
Peter: I take that to mean that one of the concepts of this study is to connect neighborhoods safely to regional trails so that people can get away from needing a car to get to these trails.
- Anonymous: So we are going to build trails to get bikers to big trails....small amount of residents benefitting from a huge cost.
Peter: Our job, as consultants, is to give the Township, the community, you (as residents) and the governing body the information needed to make these decisions. Whether recommendations in this plan are implemented or not will depend on the feedback that the Board of Supervisors gets from you, the community.
- Anonymous: I was told Methacton doesn't want kids coming to school via bikes and walking.
Peter: I'm sure that's true, and this is probably because of a lack of safe routes.
- Jean Akers: Pedestrian/bicycle bridges across Perkiomen Creek.
Peter: The creek can be looked at as a barrier across which we can try to make connection.
- Anonymous: Who is paying for the planned projects? What is the hike in taxes for us in LP?
Peter: As far as I know, there are no tax hikes planned. Like said before, there is grant money out there for these projects.
- Cara: Greenways can actually make great connections to the communities and spaces in town.
Peter: Our charge is to do this in a safe and sustainable fashion. Some of the suggested ideas

can happen quickly, but the bigger ideas will take many years and successive Boards of Supervisors to happen.

- Julia: This is more of a comment. Even if kids aren't necessarily walking to school, families may walk to the school after school hours to use the playground or ball fields.
Geoff: This is definitely true – we've seen connections and shortcuts that people are using to get to schools and facilities.
- Susan LaPenta: I believe Methacton buses a large percentage of students. I know that the neighborhood across from Arrowhead on Level Road were bused. Behind Arrowhead walked.
- Cara: Don't trails and sidewalks increase property values?
Geoff: Yes, they do. There are studies that show this. Radnor Trail is a perfect example – property values adjacent to the trail did go up.
- Anonymous: Is there a priority to connect Lower Providence across the Perkiomen to the county trail system - especially in the upper portion of the township, the Collegeville area?
Geoff: I agree with the idea of making that a priority. We haven't set any priorities yet, but would like to. It is a challenge – there is a lot of elevation change and very few bridges available. We are looking at this and, if there is desire to make this a priority, we will push it to the top.
- Anonymous: There is a dog park in Oaks.
Geoff: Yes, a great dog park - it is extremely popular. It's supposed to be a trailhead, but it is starting to fill in with dogs. It has a large, regional draw.
- Joe F: This is a great way to stop over development - with a strong open space plan. we don't need more traffic as we are built out. Good job guys!!
Geoff: We agree, we are losing open space. The need for housing has increased and developers are developing a lot of properties closer to Philadelphia. It is a balance that we need to figure out as we proceed.
- Anonymous: It would be great to provide access for kids to safely walk to school. There is a movement towards getting kids outdoors and we should set ourselves up to provide this for our students.
Peter: There is a great movement called, something like, The Outdoor Child Movement, inspired by Richard Louv's *The Last Child in the Woods*. It talks about getting children away from screens and into the outdoors. This is important for Kids and adults. You already have a really good park system, and our job is to make it better.
- Anonymous: Greater access to water ways, rental equipment for water sports on the creek (kayaks, paddleboards etc).
Peter: Hoy park is a great park with access on the Perkiomen Creek – there may be other places to get access to the water. Water trails are very important.
- Anonymous: Glad to hear about the grant money! Thank you!
Peter: A good example: Radnor Township in Delaware County. Even though they are very affluent, we were able to get them \$2.25 million to build a five-mile trail system. Viability and strength of the project is looked at more than how affluent your community is.
- Anonymous: Are we connecting with William Penn Foundation on the circuit trails project. The circuit trails are moving rapidly and there is currently funding out there to make connections, some of which are within LP.
Peter: This circuit is the "superhighway" of trails for our region, which includes the Schuylkill

River Trail and the Perkiomen Trail. Lower Providence is in a good position to make connections to the circuit, which will help to have an application prioritized.

- Laura: How do you count private land versus public? Camp Hideaway is a large open space but is private.

Peter: One of things we do is look at public, as well as private, recreation providers. Our inventory will include fitness clubs, YMCAs, gyms, and places like Camp Hideaway. We will try to understand how it is being used now and what future uses could be for it.

- Joe F: Rebuild the Yerkes bridge across the Perk as a footbridge to connect?

Peter: Good suggestion.

- Anonymous: As you are planning for trails and greenways, also make sure to consider appropriate usage levels. I.e. overused parks are also a challenge.

Peter: Yes, they are. As a community that is nearly fully built out, there is not a lot of vacant land. Also, we will meet with people at Evansburg State Park to try to create better connections to and utilization of the State Park.

- Anonymous: Like to see if there is an opportunity to bring to the twp. a YMCA facility- would benefit all ages. Currently have to leave the township for the experience.

Peter: One of the suggestions for the closed school, Arrowhead, was to see if it could become a community center.

- Susan: Camp Hideaway is off of Arcola Road., by the Skippack Creek.

- Anonymous: There are already YMCAs within a short drive. Would prefer to see investments in high quality greenways and trails.

Peter: Thank you. We appreciate you bringing these things up. We depend on your input.

- Joe F: Audubon School WAS a community center that housed the Y back in the day...

- Julia: It's disappointing that the new bridge on Eagleville Rd does not accommodate walkers/bikers very well :-(

Peter: I don't know if there is potential reuse there, but we will look at that. Maybe there are options there for improvement.

- Anonymous: Are there also places along ridge pike that can be redeveloped, rather than take up more open space?

Peter: I'm not quite sure I understand the question, but we will be looking at Ridge Pike. Are you suggesting developing parks or redevelopment of old, already developed parcels? We can look at adaptive reuse of land that was already developed for a use that has since closed. Due to COVID, the whole retail environment is changing dramatically – COVID has accelerated the loss of retail by maybe a number of years. Many things are changing and we won't know how the patterns work out for a number of years – it's a dynamic environment right now. But, I have never seen a park that had too many parks and open spaces, so this is something that we can be aspirational about.

- Anonymous: Yes, talking about adaptive reuse. There is a lot of opportunity on Ridge. At the same time, Audubon school is several acres that could be more easily converted to green space.

Peter: Thank you for that comment. One concept that can happen is to take a developed, asphalt space, and deconstruct it. It might be an expensive undertaking, but maybe one of the commercial parcels on Ridge Pike that is no longer viable could be converted into a green space, or, in an under-utilized shopping center, a civic space or plaza could be created with green space and trees. This could help retail operations. Think creatively about how we can take a "grey

field" and turn it into a green field. Dell Angelo park is one of your most beautiful, successful parks – it has great trees, surrounded by housing, commercial nearby. We could suggest some new "Dell Angelo Parks" along some of your more developed area. You can work with the private sector in heavily developed areas. A lot of the newer shopping districts incorporate civic and green space to encourage people to spend more time there.

- Cara: I love the idea of reclaiming green space.
- Anonymous: Like to see St. Gabriel's park reviewed for potential multi-purpose fields for various sports teams.

Pete: We saw this as a tremendous opportunity. It's large, accessible, close to the Perkiomen Trail. It has potential for multi-purpose fields.

- Anonymous: Would love to redevelop "grey areas" to a cultural center with places to eat, drink, walk around etc. Love.

Peter: Again, one of the things the Township could do, and we'd love to help with, is to work with your private sector businesses to help develop green areas.

- Susan: St. Gabes is closing for students.

NEXT STEPS

- Pankaj
 - SC will continue analysis, information gathering, community/NRPA benchmarking
 - Pat Stasio will gather info and make recommendations on programming, maintenance, administration
 - Kent Morey will look at stormwater management opportunities in the parks
 - Public Meeting 2: Tuesday, January 26, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
 - Link - <https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence2>
 - SC will continue analysis, information gathering, community/NRPA benchmarking
 - Public Opinion Survey www.surveymonkey.com/r/LowerProvidenceParks
 - WikiMapping www.wikimapping.com/Lower-Providence.html
- Peter
 - Presented contact information and encouraged participants to reach out with information, questions, and concerns:
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 - Peter Simone, RLA, FASLA, Principal
psimone@simonecollins.com
 - Pankaj Jobanputra, AICP, Project Manager
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 - Geoff Creary, Land. Arch., Connectivity Expert / Graphics
gcreary@simonecollins.com
 - Joseph Wallace, Staff Landscape Architect
jwallace@simonecollins.com
 - Michelle Armour, Staff Landscape Architect
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BRAINSTORMING CARDS

- FACTS
 - Many Municipal Parks

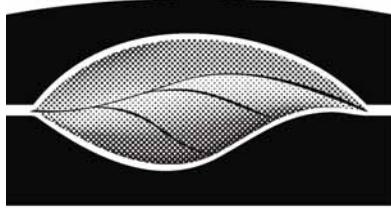
- Existing Trails
- Existing Playgrounds
- range of ages for users, diverse
- many communities in region encourage kids to bike/walk to school
- communities that have safe trails and connections, you can encourage kids to walk
- funding available for trails, parks, greenways
- Methacton SD hesitant with kids walking/biking-perhaps due to unsafe connections
- studies show trail and sidewalks increase property values
- Dog park in Oaks - trailhead for bicyclists; dog park is packed
- Camp Hidaway is private - large open space-off Arcola Rd.
- Methacton buses a large number of students-neighborhood across from Arrowhead was bused
- YMCAs within short drive
- Audubon was community center once that housed Y
- new bridge on Eagleville Rd may not accommodate walkers/bikers very well
- Audubon School has several acres that could be converted to green space
- St. Gabe's closed for students
- CONCEPTS
 - Dog Park - form friendships, others in community, users may maintain parks
 - greenways can make great connections to communities and spaces in town
 - Safe Pedestrian Connections to ARA Fields
 - priority-connect LP across Perkiomen to county trail system, especially near Collegeville
 - taking Valley Forge into consideration - make connections
 - strong open space plan - great way to stop overdevelopment
 - consider "no access" greenways
 - great to provide access for kids to safely walk to schools
 - unusable open space for solar/wind generation
 - greater access to waterways - rental equipment for water sports on the creek
 - *check park service areas and times
 - connect with William Penn Foundation on the Circuit project
 - bike and ped connections from neighborhoods to regional trails and parks
 - families may walk to schools with kids to use facilities
 - ped/bike bridges across Perkiomen Creek
 - rebuild Yerkes bridge across Perkiomen as footbridge
 - consider appropriate usage levels for trails
 - better utilization of state park
 - opportunity for YMCA/community center
 - look at Ridge Pike for redevelopment options
 - new Dell Angelo parks in other places in LP-might be in heavier developed areas
 - look at St. Gabriel's for multi-purpose fields for various sports teams
 - redevelop "grey areas" to a cultural center with places to eat, drink, etc.
- PARTNERS
 - DCNR
 - Montgomery County

- Local Businesses
- William Penn Foundation
- Methacton School District

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Sincerely,
SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Michelle Armour
Staff Landscape Architect



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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	1.26.2021 7:00pm
Re:	Public Meeting #2	Issue Date:	2.12.2021

ATTENDEES:

See Microsoft Teams Attendance List

GENERAL NOTES:

Presentation

1. Peter Simone:
 - a. Welcomed the public and thanked all in attendance for their participation.
2. Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ):
 - a. Reviewed the agenda, project schedule, updated public survey and Wikimapping results.
 - b. Discussed the purpose of an Official Map, which includes, and the benefits of having one.
3. Joseph Wallace:
 - a. Presented projected facility needs – community benchmarking, and spatial layouts for possible facilities to meet these needs:
 - Knights Cricket Field
 - Agriculture fields north of Eskie Park
 - Open space north of Mascaro Field
 - St. Gabriel's Property
 - Two large parcels northeast of Eagleville Park
 - b. Facilities analysis (with Redtail Park example)
 - c. Discussed stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), greenways and stormwater management,
4. Geoff Creary:
 - a. Presented Sidewalk gaps, conceptual trail connections (Central Perkiomen Valley Park, Evansburg State Park Connector, Eskie Park Loop Trail Extension, and Valley Forge National Park Connector)
5. Peter Simone:

- a. Discussed programming, finance, and maintenance.
- b. Discussed Official Map and its components.

Discussion and Q&A

- A member of the public asked if the final plan will address open space, and not just recreation elements?
 - Pete S. noted that yes open space will be addressed as well as connections to Valley Forge National Historic Park and Evansburg State Park.
- A member of the public asked if the cricket field within Knights Field would be removed in future recommendations?
 - Pete S. noted that the cricket field can be a part of the any future recreation configurations for this site.
- A member of the public expressed that approval for the stormwater best management practices and meadows discussed during the presentation.
- A member of the public asked if a community garden can be part of Eskie agriculture fields?
 - Pete S. noted that a community garden can certainly be in this location.
- A member of the public noted that a boat ramp at cranberry park would be great.
 - Pete S. thanked for the comment.
- A member of the public noted that there is a very large open space between Audubon Road and 422, with abandoned houses for over 30 years, is this an open space that Lower Providence can utilize.
 - The SC team will review this area for ownership and potential open space / recreation.
- A member of the public expressed support for a community garden and noted that an indoor space could include an aquaponic garden that was community based would be accessible for seniors. It could be nice to provide gardening opportunities for those in wheelchairs and with immune deficiencies.
 - Pete S. noted this is a great idea, and perhaps an old building can be adaptively reused for indoor gardening / indoor food production.
- A member of the public asked could the old Audubon school be used for indoor activities?
 - Pere S. explained that the SC team has looked at this school and we are evaluating this. We do not have a lot of detail yet, and we will talk with Methacton School District. Can this potential be a senior /community center?
- A member of the public asked, how does what you presented make the final map?
 - Pete S. noted that the final plan is a booklet that describes process, analysis, recommendations, implementation, and project priorities. SC work with the steering committee to work out priorities. Regardless all recommendations will take a long time to implement and will take funding and dedication to keep issues in front of governing body.
- A member of the public asked if the current agricultural open space adjacent to Eskie Park (owned by Key Bank) is separate from planned housing development along Church Road?
 - Pete S. noted these are likely separate and SC will confirm.
- A member of the public asked if the SC team will email a reminder for the next public meeting?
 - Pete S. noted that if you send us your email, we can send a reminder.

- A member of the public asked can the St. Gabriel's tract be purchased by Lower Providence for open space and parkland?
 - Pete S. noted that if St. Gabriel's is going to sell, can the building be something unique like a boutique hotel? Not likely that the Township can buy the whole parcel but maybe partial purchase or easement for a trail or open space.
- A member of the public asked how to use Wiki to identify sidewalk gaps?
 - Joe W. conducted a walkthrough of the Wikimapping platform to demonstrate the ease of delineating existing conditions and desired future improvements.
- A member of the public asked if there will be an opportunity for members of the public to take charge of a project such as a community vegetable garden, and to reach out with additional details or ideas for the plan?
 - Pete S. noted that it is great and essential for members of the community to take the lead and get involved in many of this recreation programs. Additional thoughts and ideas always welcome.
- A member of the public asked if a "splash pad" could be included in recommendations?
 - Pete S. noted this is a great suggestion. Will be considered.
- A member of the public asked if a business plan part of this plan to determine partners for programming?
 - Pete S. noted that this is a great comment, and while the SC team will not produce a business plan, our Recreation Professional, Pat Stasio works closely with the Township for proposed programming.
- A member of the public asked if a community recreation center not a viable option currently?
 - Pete S. noted that a recreation center is a potential possibility. There are specific grant funding options for the feasibility of a community center.
- A member of the public asked, outside focus groups and key person interviews, what opportunities will the public have for future input?
 - Pete S. noted that anyone from the public can or email the SC team to discuss input on the plan.
- A member of the public asked if possible, to add nature playscapes / nature-based play areas to recreation areas in the Township?
 - Pete S. noted that nature based play a great idea, SC will consider as part of recommendations.
- A member of the public noted that it would be great to have a path from Township Building complex to Hoy Park.
 - Pete S. noted that the SC will look at this.
- A member of the public asked who they should call with questions and comments?
 - Pete S. noted that the public can call the SC office (610.239.7601) and can ask for anyone working on the Lower Providence project.
- A member of the public thanked the team for the presentation and noted support for the Township advancing this plan as opposed to unrestrained development.

Next Steps

- Public Meeting 3 will take place: Thursday April 15, 2021
 - Public Meeting 3 Link: <https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence3>
- Next steps for the Simone Collins Team:
 - Conduct Key Person Interviews
 - Conduct Focus Groups
 - Conduct Committee Meetings
 - Continue Facilities Analysis
- Reach out the Simone Collins Team with questions comments (copy all to ensure prompt response)

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Joseph Wallace, Staff Landscape Architect

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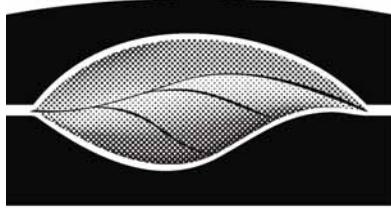
marmour@simonecollins.com

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Sincerely,
SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JP Wallace III".

Joseph P. Wallace III
Staff Landscape Architect



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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	4.15.2021 7:00pm
Re:	Public Meeting #3 – Presentation to BOS	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

GENERAL NOTES:

Presentation

1. The Simone Collins Team briefly presented:
 - a. Project Scope, Schedule
 - b. Project Goals & Objectives
 - c. Wikimapping and Survey Results
 - d. Priority facility improvements
 - e. Priority open space acquisitions
 - f. Priority multimodal improvements
 - g. Draft plan & project priorities

Discussion and Q&A

- Cara C. asked if the SC team will provide funding guidance for priority projects?
 - Pete S. noted that this information will be included in the Implementation chapter of the draft plan.
- Cara C. asked if priority sidewalks will be noted in the plan?
 - Pete S. explained these would be delineated in the draft plan.
- The Lower Providence Board of Supervisors thanked the Simone Collins team and Jean Akers for their hard work and dedication to the process.
- Jean A. noted that she would be closely reviewing and providing feedback on the SC team's draft plan.
- Colleen E. noted that the SC team has done a tremendous and thorough job thus far. After so much planning it is good to see this document nearing completion.

Next Steps

- The draft plan will be available for public review on the Township website 4.22.2021

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Michelle Armour, Staff Landscape Architect

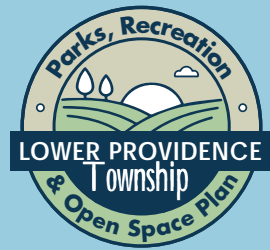
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Sincerely,
SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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Joseph P. Wallace III
Staff Landscape Architect

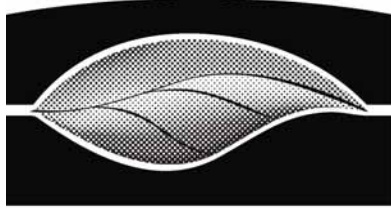


APPENDIX

Focus Group Notes

*Key Person Interview
Notes*





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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	2.23.2021
Re:	Active Recreation Focus Group	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

ATTENDEES:

Bob McClelland (BM) – LP Warriors
Nick Page (NP) – Methacton Warriors
Gary Nolan (GN) - MARA

Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ) – Simone Collins
Geoff Creary (GC) - Simone Collins
Joseph Wallace (JW) – Simone Collins

GENERAL NOTES:

- BM: football programs are limited due to limited fields. Open field next to parking lot (EPP) used for practicing. Open to having more fields.
- BM: Snack bar revenue is critical.
- NP: Football and cheerleading both use one field. More space to practice and play would be important. Wear and tear on fields is difficult.
- PS: what if one field becomes artificial turf? Instead of developing a new set of facilities would it be better to develop turf in existing fields to extend life? BM, NP, GN all agree this is preferred.
- PS: are current facilities adequate?
- NP: artificial field would be ideal for rain. Additional space would be great.
- BM: artificial fields would be welcome. Upper Dublin has turf fields side by side and the twp exclusively gives time slots for sports groups to use.
- GN: Liked the SC team presentation. Overall, new facilities across Township great – However it is better to look at existing facilities first and fix them up before building anything new.
- PS: encourage all on call to send SC team areas of chronic safety concerns (compaction, drainage) tell us what can be improved.
- PJ: what about parking?
- GN: MARA fields host a lot of tournaments (36+ teams over one weekend in particular) Parking can get troublesome. Need additional. Is fine overall but tournaments present a parking challenge.
- NP: Expand Eagleville parking to have 3 rows of parking.
- BM: parking ok overall. Tournaments can be tough for parking.

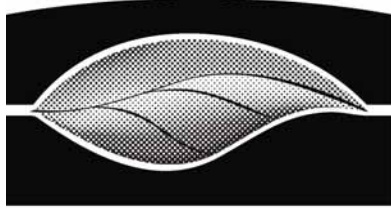
- PS: Are there lights for baseball / softball?
 - GN: There are lights at Redtail Park.
- GN: at Mascaro – would like another ballfield behind existing ballfields up and to the right. 60/90 field with lights here.
- PJ: how is scheduling with Township?
 - MB; NP: good relationship. Easy to schedule time slots and games.
- GN: indoor basketball space is at a premium. MSD paid to use indoor basketball courts.
 - PS: how many gyms do you use? GN: every middle school gym in MSD (4 or 5)
- GN: Focus on existing facilities and programs as preference over building new facilities. Lights, turf.
- BM: help reduce organization costs and help generate revenue.
- NP: concentrate of existing programs. New fields, who is going to manage and build them? Hard to get these programs going.
- BM: Would be good to have more collaborative meetings between sports organizations– its not a competition for resources, it is for the kids. (quarterly or otherwise) joint marketing or adverts on Twp websites. Talk covid best practices.

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Sincerely,
 SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Joseph P. Wallace



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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	2.23.2021
Re:	Social & Community Focus Group	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

ATTENDEES:

Erin McCool: Environmental Educator, Resident, on EAC (EM)

Lorin Richter: Optimist Club, Resident (LR)

Kiwanis Club of Collegeville (KC)

Barbara Loewengart – Lower Providence Community Library (BL)

Tejal Mehta – Resident, LP Library (TM)

Alicia & Sean Cadogan- Residents (AC)

Florence Maldonado- Resident (FM)

Peter Simone (PS) – Simone Collins

Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ) – Simone Collins

Geoff Creary (GC) - Simone Collins

Joseph Wallace (JW) – Simone Collins

GENERAL NOTES:

- BL: Audubon Elementary would be wonderful place for senior center.
- PS: Districts move slowly, SC thinks adaptive reuse of building is a good idea.
- TM: Glad to hear there is strong interest in developing trails, especially connecting to Evansburg so people do not have to use cars to get there.
- BL: How do you think by these enhancements you can work with library? We have active participation from community, we draw on Collegeville and Norristown, we serve a lot of people.
- TM: Looking at the library's strategic plan, in 2013 – library averaged 15,000 individual visits per month and that has increased since then.
- FM: Audubon school, in past it was built as library, limited space that library currently has and how current space could complement each other.
- EM: Important to reinforce trail connections and preserve open space. Would love adaptive reuse at Audubon school.
- PS: If Kiwanis want to be involved in tree planting, tree plantings can help engage the community in stewardship.

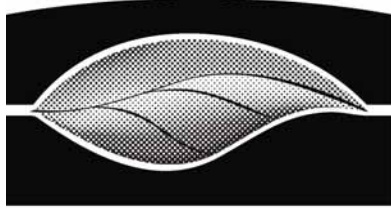
- EM: St Gabriel's: If there is anything we can do to prevent this from being completely paved over and keep as open space would be ideal.
- TM: Earlier discussion about pool, would be good to consider one for the Township.
- PS: Most municipalities are not getting into pool business because of operating costs and maintenance.
- EM: A pool is an interesting concept to explore, very expensive, having access for kids to be able to develop skill to swim, valid concern to explore.
- FM: Important to have ADA access at all parks and trails. Also consider space for a community garden.
- AC: Regarding a pool in Lower Providence - when my children were younger, would sit on bus for 45 minutes each way to get to pool, if we continue to offer summer camp might be nice to offer pool. Also important to offer wintertime activities for children (sledding)
- EM: Any opportunity for kids to walk to open space would be challenging currently, but it is important to get safe walking infrastructure for children.
- LR: Optimist Club has 20 members, and schedules activities for children - maybe we can partner with Kiwanis club for tree planting, we'd be thrilled to work together.
- AC: Used to coach basketball at ARA, always hard to find basketball courts – indoor sports facilities should be explored in Lower Providence Township.

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Sincerely,
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Joseph P. Wallace



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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	2.23.2021
Re:	Passive Rec, Trails, Nature Focus Group	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

ATTENDEES:

Bob Menefee – Resident (BM)	Miriam Seeger – Resident (MS)
Lou Savastini -Philly Bicycle Coalition (LS)	Laura Winslow – Indian Watershed at Hoy Park (LW)
Michelle Harris – Montgomery County (MH)	Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ) – Simone Collins
Tim Fenchel – Schuylkill River Greenways (TF)	Geoff Creary (GC) - Simone Collins
Deanne Morris – Resident (DM)	Joseph Wallace (JW) – Simone Collins
Madge Monser – Resident (MM)	

GENERAL NOTES:

- Important to keep sledding hill in redbait park (think 4 seasons)
- DM: Are bike routes different from PADOT state bike routes?
 - GC yes, the routes identified in this plan are different from the state bike routes.
- BM: There are many grade issues with the Hoy Park Perkiomen bridge crossing. Arcola bridge has pedestrian sidewalk. There could be sidewalks along Arcola road. Yerkes road is low stress compared to Level road.
- LW: will there be an updated trail map in the final plan? GC: Yes
- MH: Central Perkiomen park – regional manager (Joe Seltzer) should be a part of this discussion. County does not think of trails as commuter trails (no ice removed). Area around lease area (ARA fields) archaeology sensitive. Important to consider this.
- MH: Knights Field & Palwings Road trailhead – passive recreation is the goal in this area. Pawling lot trailhead is major trailhead. New development in Knight's Field parcel would overwhelm parking. Would be better suited for bird areas and would fit in with natural resources of JJ Audubon Center.

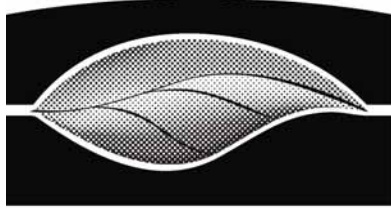
- PS: What if there were expanding parking for the trail at this trailhead? MH: A great addition and worthwhile to look at. In need of more parking at this location.
- LS: In Lower Merion Twp. Had similar issues with heritage trail -had to work to get people to not drive to recreation, but bike to facilities safely.
- LS: Commuting routes: makes a lot of sense that connects to SRT. Bike Coalition to push County to pursue ice clearing and maintenance as SRT becomes.
- LS: Parks and trails are not just as destinations, but bicycle conduits (Norristown farm park serves as a cyclist conduit) Eskie park as well. Dell Angelo park is good too.
- BM: Important to consider parking in all concepts.
- PS: your thoughts on bridge across Perkiomen?
 - TF: Evansburg is disjointed and disconnected from community. Would like to see Evansburg have bike camping for those along local regional trails.
- PS: noted that Lower Providence and the Skippack Creek Watershed Alliance could be an important partner in unique funding strategies to work with DCNR to build Evansburg trail.

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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	2.21.2021
Re:	Schools Focus Group	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

ATTENDEES:

Melissa Gorla MSD (MG)

Tim Bricker MSD (TB)

Robert Jones MSD (RJ)

Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ) – Simone Collins

Geoff Creary (GC) - Simone Collins

Joseph Wallace (JW) – Simone Collins

GENERAL NOTES:

- GC: Does Methacton School District (MSD) promote walking to school?
- TB: MSD policy is to provide a bus stop.
- MG: MSD do not promote walkers. No crossing guards provided. MSD not likely to change on this.
- RJ: discourage outside use of MSD properties during school hours.
 - GC: after hours? RJ: MSD works with community groups for soccer and other activities. They must schedule and pay fee.
- PJ: Does MSD have any plans for the closed Audubon Elementary?
 - TB: board is discussing future of property and building. No decision made.
- RG: Stormwaters BMPs in Mascaro Field needed. Flooding happens from Mine Run and goes to the school across the street. Prior to this, storm drainage has been put in. Anything to remediate this would be welcome.
- GC: mown lawn areas. Open to changing some to stormwater BMPs?
 - RG: This topic would need to be taken to the school board.
- TB: Perkiomen trail connection is important. Heebner park is used for cross country events. GC: Heebner park designed by SC – SC should look at LPT connections.
- RG: When considering playgrounds, also think about adding more bathrooms and consider maintenance that goes with this. Upper Providence has nice restroom facilities. Would like to see sidewalks – even for students walking to bus stops.
- RG: We can get the SC team the top 20 roads that could use sidewalks (from complaints when students trying to reach bus stops)
- PJ: how do you see MSD recreation needs changing over time?

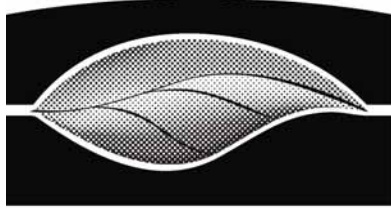
- TB: would be nice to have both baseball and softball from an equity standpoint.
- Redtail used by some MSD students for ballgames.

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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	3.10.2021
Re:	Twp. BOS – Cara Coless	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

ATTENDEES:

Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisor Cara Coless (CC)
Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ) – Simone Collins

Geoff Creary (GC) - Simone Collins
Joseph Wallace (JW) – Simone Collins

GENERAL NOTES:

- CC: Very pleased with the approach of the plan. Question is how do you prioritize what goes where.
- CC: Regarding the Park Pointe Path and the parcel at Egypt Road and Rittenhouse Road, there potentially could be apartments here. These could be affordable units. Half of it could also become a park with multi-use fields.
- CC: It's important to get people to the Schuylkill River Trail (SRT) and Perkiomen Trail (PT). What about other trails? How do they happen?
- GC: You have to have public support for them, there is also grant funding available. You also have to work with the property owner of the area where the trail is proposed. Many people are expressing interest about more trails.
- CC: Can we look at trails along the creek system? This was on an older map.
- CC: I like the idea of the Evansburg connector.
- JW: You can also look at trails to address MS4 requirements.
- CC: We can use waterways as an economic driver, like kayak rentals.
 - GC: There are also water trails connections on the SRT and PT.
 - CC: That's another opportunity.
- CC: A new bridge over the Perkiomen could bring new development along Ridge Pike.
- CC: We need more active / adult recreation. There are less and less people with kids. We need to bring more people together.
- CC: Maybe consider a dog park at Eskie Park.
- CC: Also, maybe look at the parcel in front of Dell Angelo for acquisition. Maybe it could be a bus stop. Can you get acquisition grants?
- PJ: This would require further review.

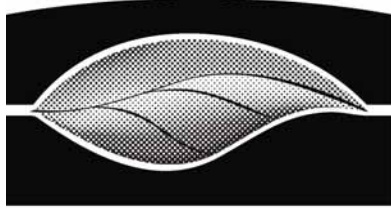
- CC: Regarding the Yerkes Road bridge, it would be expensive but worth looking into.
- CC: Doesn't seem like it would be a benefit for a lot of people. Hoy Park seems to be a better connector.
- GC: Hoy Park is a better connection for most people. How would a 9 year old have the best experience. This route connects the PT with Evansburg.
- CC: With sidewalks, how do you incentivize putting them in?
- PJ: You can revise the SALDO, there is also money for these improvements, like PennDOT's Safe Routes to School program.
- CC: Can we look at the open parcel opposite Eagleville Park next to Streamlight? 3,000 people work between Eagleville, Streamlight and the correctional facility.
- CC: Future outreach efforts should also involve reaching out to the diverse communities of the Township.

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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	3.10.2021
Re:	Twp. BOS – Colleen Eckman	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

ATTENDEES:

Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisor Colleen Eckman (CE)
Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ) – Simone Collins

Geoff Creary (GC) - Simone Collins
Joseph Wallace (JW) – Simone Collins

GENERAL NOTES:

- PJ: Talks with active recreation and sports groups have shown us their desire to improve what they already have, request to look at turfing ballfields.
- GC: NPS wants to utilize Valley Forge land north of 422, they were thinking of a mown or eathen low key trail.
 - CE: After talking with Jean Akers, priority for trail hierarchy would be to connect people to existing trails rather than putting in additional trail.
- CE: There are always an issues with parking overflow fields at ARA fields - area gets muddy.
- JW: County would be open to talking about possible parking near ARA across street from Audubon Road and ARA.
- CE: Redtail park is used mostly for games, recommendations and improvements to allow neighbors to use on daily basis would be good.
- CE: What is a ballpark estimate on pedestrian bridge at Hoy Park to cross the Perkiomen?
 - GC-tough to say, many different engineering factors. Cost estimate will require separate feasibility study.
- CE: Evansburg connector should absolutely happen.
 - JW: DCNR and Beth Hare seemed amenable to future discussion of connector trial through Evansburg State Park.
- CE: Sidewalks on Arcola Rd - certain areas on this road are tight, sidewalk may not be best alternative here.
- CE: Sidepath on Rittenhouse Road is important for pedestrian and bike access.
- CE: Currently there is limited outdoor 4 -season recreation programming. Little to no adult rec. programming.

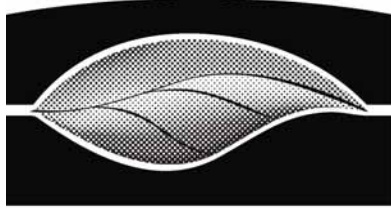
- CE: Important for the consultant team to make funding and grant recommendations as well as potential future partners and partnerships.

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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	2.16.2021
Re:	Key Person Interview – Peter MacFarland	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

ATTENDEES:

Peter MacFarland (PM) – Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisor

Peter Simone – Simone Collins

Pankaj Jobanputra – Simone Collins

Geoff Creary- Simone Collins

Joseph Wallace – Simone Collins

GENERAL NOTES:

Presentation

- PM noted that grant funding will be important for pursuing larger projects.
- PS noted that one of the important parts of plan is connectivity piece. Lower Providence has a good system, with 2 of best regional trails in the area. Important to make connections to these trails and to Evansburg State Park.
- PS noted that the Township should consider adopting an Official Map.
- PM noted that one of the things we lack is proper athletic fields in various locations, we need to have that as part of the open space plan.
- PM noted that trails should also include environmental education components for children.
- PM noted that for demographics there is one thing to add, that the Township is aging, as each year goes by, enrollment in schools goes down, particularly difficult revenue indicator, people who are retiring. There are a lot of seniors, so we want to make sure we have accommodation for seniors.
- PM noted that we have some opportunities to use County and State land that is available to us. Consider new partnership with DCNR for fields in Evansburg if necessary.
- PM noted that Skippack Creek is under MS4 order regarding sediment reduction. Township is part of the Skippack Creek Watershed Alliance – along with 7 municipalities total. Grant monies could be pursued for BMPs and stormwater management along with trail funding. Perhaps there is State money since the Skippack goes through Evansburg – could help DCNR build trail through the State Park.
- PM noted that SC should look at Streamlight property across from Eagleville Park.

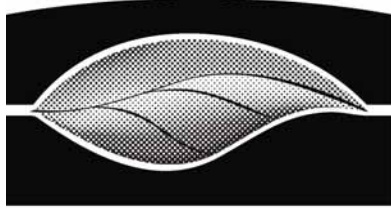
- PM noted that for a crossing over the Perkiomen (multimodal) on Arcola bridge there could be bike facilities.
- PS noted that St. Gabe's is of tremendous interest, and is the last of large properties up for residential development. Important for the Township to figure out what it wants and start this discussion – Twp can set agenda, people may love to see buildings adaptively reused. Would be good to see the exterior preserved.
- PS noted that maintenance funding is also important, not many grants that fund it, and usually the biggest long term cost, option is increases to EIT to apply to properties acquired through EIT (earned income tax).

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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	2.8.2021
Re:	DCNR – Evansburg State Park – Beth Hare	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

ATTENDEES:

Evansburg Manager – Beth Hare (BH)
Peter Simone (PS) – Simone Collins
Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ) – Simone Collins

Geoff Creary (GC) - Simone Collins
Joseph Wallace (JW) – Simone Collins

GENERAL NOTES:

- PJ: When asked, “which parks, natural areas, trails, or facilities do you visit for recreation purposes?” On a list of 21 park and recreation facilities in Lower Providence, Evansburg State Park ranked #2 behind Valley Forge National Historic Park
- GC: explained concept of Evansburg connector to Perkiomen Trail. Ideally, or crushed stone. Details thought through later. Does Evansburg have any plans to expand trails?
 - BH: Several bridges out of service. Does not think anything in the works other than trail maintenance. Heavy trail use, and this is tough on trails. Big picture long term would be good to have trail crews improve some of most well-worn trails. No current plans to expand trails.
- GC: is the Evansburg trail connector ok to include on plans going forward? BH: yes, ok
- PJ: How do you see the implementation of this conceptual trail fitting into Evansburg State Park’s goals and plans? What plans does the Park have for accommodating the increased biking demand (as a result of Covid-19)?
 - BH: people have found the park during Covid and usage will remain high. Expanding trail usage and connections and lengths (beyond 5 mile use) connection to Perkiomen would be good. Needs to be looked at further by DCNR.
- PJ: Are there plans for new educational, trail signage, kiosks? Trails for any trail education signage?
 - BH: should review what we currently have. Haven’t gotten onto the trails yet. Should be reviewed for sufficiency. Currently, with exception of mt. brike trails. Bikes not allowed on other trails (allowed on roadways)

- PJ: What are your thoughts on long term hunting in Evansburg? Is there an annual count / survey of total numbers hunters in the park?
 - Evansburg is open to hunting, fishing, and trapping in the appropriate seasons. Further restrictions on what they can use (in southeast / greater density) Shotgun only. BH: don't foresee hunting changing. One of the few hunting / trapping in the area.

- PJ: What are Evansburg State Park's short and long term goals and planned infrastructure / facility improvements?
 - BH: longterm embarking on a cultural resource plan to determine the historical status of the buildings within the park. Have 40 +/- buildings in the park that area leased out to residents. Others vacant or in disrepair. The park is embarking on plan to evaluate these places and figure out longterm what to do with them (working with PHMC) Will be concentrated with Park Limits
 - Rehab of parks visitor center. Interpretive / resource programming in the parks. Used to be parks educator (no longer) Historic building used to be visitor center. Long term plan to get fixed up and be used by the public (use for programs).

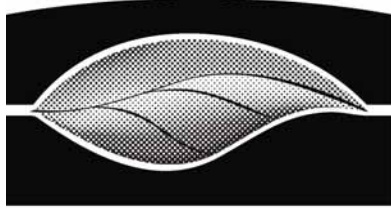
- PJ: How do you envision long term relationships / multi-municipal partnerships between Evansburg and host municipalities?
 - BH: On the to-do list to contact each of the host municipalities. Hope to work hand in hand with hosts and communicate goals and initiatives.

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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	2.18.2021
Re:	Montgomery County – David Clifford	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

ATTENDEES:

Montgomery County Parks
Administrator– David Clifford (DC)
Peter Simone (PS) – Simone Collins

Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ) – Simone Collins
Geoff Creary (GC) - Simone Collins
Joseph Wallace (JW) – Simone Collins

GENERAL NOTES:

- DC: Evansburg trail is part of regional plan, not high on County priority list and would support this potential connection, County's goal is connect points of interest, this seems like it aligns with the County comp plan.
- PS- plan recommendations can inform County and municipal comp planning.
- PS- In reference to potential Perkiomen Creek crossings: Yerkes Rd and Hoy Park crossing – the draft plan will include both options.
- DC: County may be interested in St. Gabriel's parcel (10ac) north of Ridge Pike
- DC: Overall the County wants to preserve its owned parcels for passive / nature systems and experiences – active recreation fields would not work.
- PS: Across street from ARA fields are County property with one historic building, rest is green, could part of this site be used for parking for ARA fields?
 - DC: further discussion needed with County. Would be important not to disturb existing historic structure.
- DC: important to keep the area around Knight's Cricket Field and St. Gabe's as natural and passive as possible.
- GC- as a result of Covid pandemic the SRT being water trail is being used more and there is high demand for parking, NPS says if you cant part at Betzwood, park at Pawlings, Betzwood is filling up quickly with people using water trail, especially with kayakers, they were saying water trail. NPS mentioned the County could look at water access on County-owned land at Pawlings and Gertrude.
- DC: County has no current plans for these parcels which are in the floodplain. NPS could consider water access south of Pawlings Road.

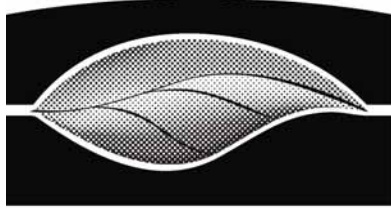
- DC: Central Perkiomen Valley park – we stopped mowing one of these areas, few people like to utilize this area, never envisioned larger trail here.
- GC-we know this is bottom land, prone to flooding, the proposed trails would be mown or earthen for concern about maintenance costs.
- DC: This plan is important to integrate and connect fragmented open space.

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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	2.11.2021
Re:	NPS – Amy Ruhe	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

ATTENDEES:

National Park Service , Valley Forge
National Historic Park – Amy Ruhe (AR)
Peter Simone (PS) – Simone Collins

Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ) – Simone Collins
Geoff Creary (GC) - Simone Collins
Joseph Wallace (JW) – Simone Collins

GENERAL NOTES:

- PJ: Has Valley Forge seen an increase in visitors during Covid-19?
 - AR: Yes, all trails have seen an influx in all user types during the pandemic (hikers, runners, bikers). Trails and trail connections are vital for public health at all times, and especially during this Covid-19 pandemic.
- GC: Would NPS be open to the Valley Forge Connector?
 - AR: further discussion and evaluation would be needed. But from a preliminary standpoint NPS would be open to some sort of trail development here. Trails would need to be natural and low impact (earthen, mown)
 - AR: NPS has been thinking about how to expand access to the Valley Forge parcel north of 422. Under current conditions not many people know that this is even NPS property. Future decisions would be a collaborative effort (Township, County, NPS).
- AR: Water trail access and parking at Betzwood is largely full these days due to high demand and trail use due to Covid-19. The SC team should look for additional water access along the Schuylkill River. Montgomery County has land along the river north of Pawlings Road – this could be an opportunity to gain more water access.

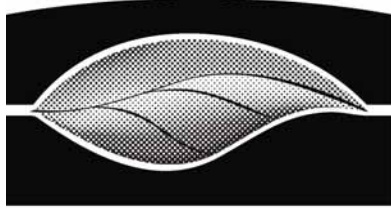
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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	2.18.2021
Re:	Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Ryan Beltz	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

ATTENDEES:

Ryan Beltz, Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy (RB)
Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ) – Simone Collins

Geoff Creary (GC) - Simone Collins
Joseph Wallace (JW) – Simone Collins

GENERAL NOTES:

- RB: Conservancy founded in 1964 with today approximately 5,000 members, subscribers, volunteers.
- RB: Skippack Creek Watershed Alliance is important (several host municipalities working on MS4 and reducing sediment loading into Skippack Watershed and Creek). Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy has been involved in this process, helped identify areas along creek to do remediation, other goals – look to get PA creek water designation.
- RB: Consultant / rec. plan concept for Central Perk Valley trail is a great idea, appreciated that this trail will not be paved.
- RB: Conservancy looking for more 'pedal & paddle' opportunities along local waterways.
- RB: Conservancy would like to see more connections between the Perkiomen Trail and Schuylkill River Trail.
- RB: Central Perkiomen Valley Park is good spot, already has mown trail – would be nice to have picnic tables and benches at this area outside of the floodplain.
- RB: Partners- 54 municipalities Perkiomen in watershed, 32 of those buy into municipal program, Lower Providence being one. In a typical year, Conservancy has 400-500 community organizations they work with, from preschools to corporations.

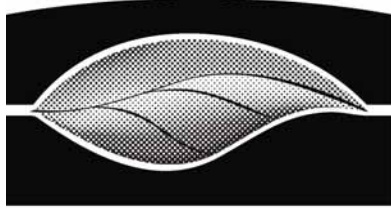
This report represents the Professional's summation of the proceedings and is not a transcript. Unless written notice of any correction or clarification is received by the Professional within ten days of issue, the report shall be considered factually correct and shall become part of the official project record.

Sincerely,

SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JP Wallace', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Joseph P. Wallace



SIMONE COLLINS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
119 EAST LAFAYETTE STREET NORRISTOWN, PA 19401
PHONE: 610.239.7601 FAX: 610.239.7606
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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	3.10.2021
Re:	Twp. BOS – Gary Neights	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

ATTENDEES:

Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisor Gary Neights (GN)
Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ) – Simone Collins

Geoff Creary (GC) - Simone Collins
Joseph Wallace (JW) – Simone Collins

GENERAL NOTES:

- GN: The Evansburg connector is strategic for that connection to the state park.
- GN: The VF connector trail is consistent with my thinking.
- GN: The intersection of Pawlings and Crawford is a choke point.
- GN: You could have a trail or sidewalk along Eagleville Park, where the Township building is. You can connect the whole development here, go down to the Skippack Creek and you can connect to this trail also.
- GN: I put my bike on the car to get onto the trail system. I can go down to Arcola Road, but that's not a good road to bike on.
- GN: How much would the Yerkes Road bridge get used. On the Lower Providence side, you'd have a select number of people who would use it since it's pretty steep. For the Hoy Park bridge, the problem is being at the bottom of the hill, but you could go up Skippack. For Yerkes, you'd have to go up a significant hill. Hoy Park makes sense.
- GN: What about an internal connecting strategy, a connecting mechanism where every park had connections to other parks, you would have a linkage system.
- GN: I would love to see an overlay that takes municipal greenspace and shows how to get from one location to another.
- GN: What about sidewalks along Ridge Pike.
 - PJ/JW: We will look at the county comprehensive plan for sidewalks.
- GN: You can also look at a loop around Shannondell golf course, you can intersect with it from the other side of Egypt Road.

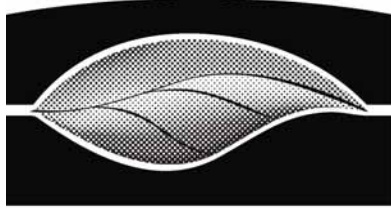
- GN: Right now, you cannot safely get from Trooper Road to the trail system where the road intersects with Route 422.
- GN: The new bridge will cross the Perkiomen near where Classic Coachwork is. The approach to the bridge would go near here, cross Ridge Pike and turn 45 degrees towards the Creek. With the completion of the bridge, Ridge Pike could be an area for new development. Maybe the Perkiomen Bridge becomes a pedestrian promenade.

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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Lower Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan	Project No.:	20028.10
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	Meeting Date/Time:	3.10.2021
Re:	Audubon Center at Mill Grove – Carrie Barron	Issue Date:	4.21.2021

ATTENDEES:

John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove Director Carrie Barron (CB)
Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ) – Simone Collins

Geoff Creary (GC) - Simone Collins
Joseph Wallace (JW) – Simone Collins

GENERAL NOTES:

- CB: Our facility is 225 acres and is owned by Montgomery County. We operate with the County and have a 50 year lease with them. We have 5 miles of internal trails and 5 miles of paved trails.
- CB: We run canoes and kayaks on the Perkiomen Creek.
- CB: We have an 18,000 sf museum and we combine outdoor education and history.
- CB: For our canoe program, we go up to the Egypt Road bridge and then turn around. We don't go downstream past the dam.
- CB: We do not utilize Hoy Park. We've partnered with Take It Outdoors. We always launch our canoes from the same spot.
- CB: Thinking about Knights Field, I would like to see a managed habitat for birds. Meadow habitat is essential. The concern is that property owners of meadows mow them when it's most convenient.
- CB: Parking is congested at the ARA fields.
- CB: Eskie would be a good place for a birding trail.
- CB: It would be good to connect to the NPS trails, we do not currently have good connections.
- CB: We have an online trail map, not great, but gives a basic idea.
- CB: We also have a meadow plan.
- CB: I like the idea of the Hoy Park / Evansburg connector.

- CB: Currently, there are security concerns at the old mine shaft entrance near the old mine run, if something like this is being considered for reuse or open space.
- CB: In terms of accessibility, we have a mobility program for folks in wheelchairs, we worked with ArtReach on this. There's also a new program, a southeast birding mobility club.
- CB: We're thinking about ADA spaces, and accessibility as a whole and accessibility for birding in general.

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Sincerely,
SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

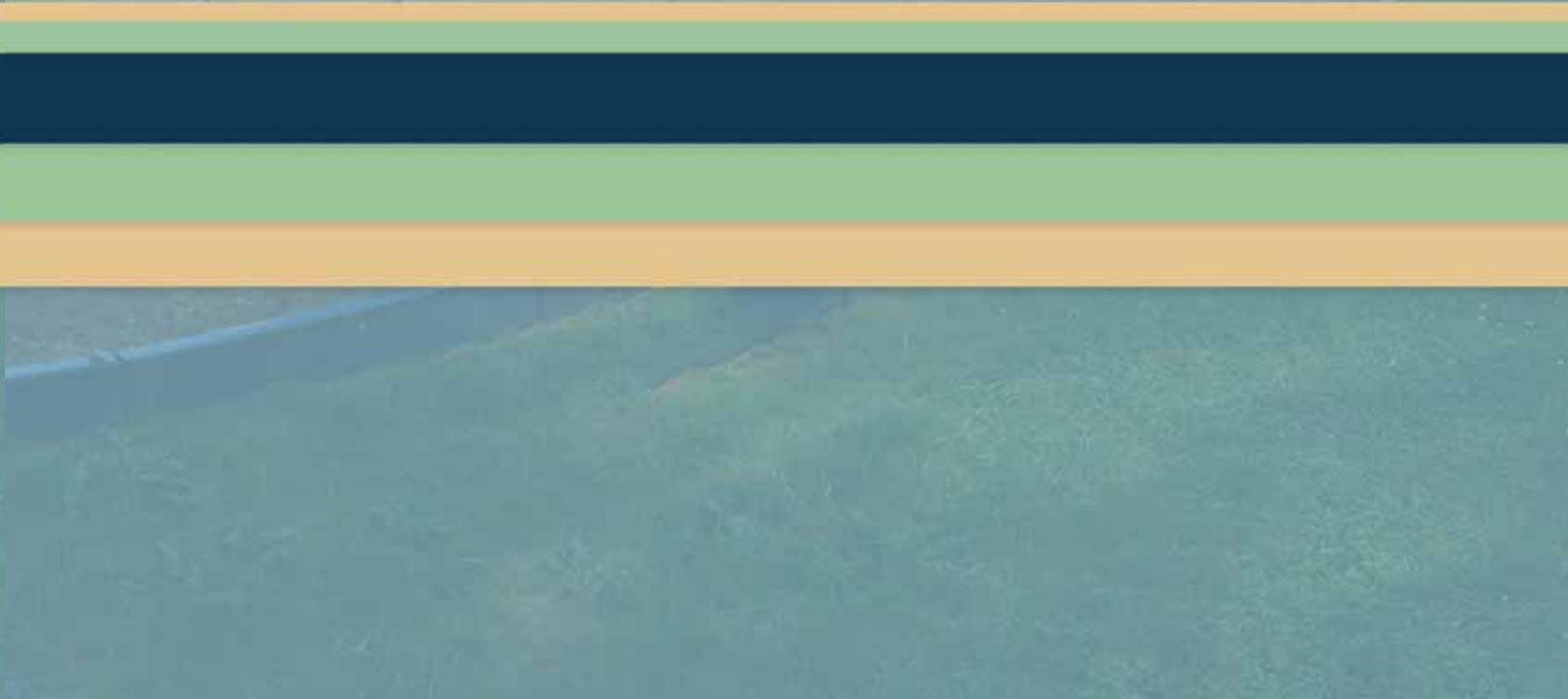
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Joseph P. Wallace



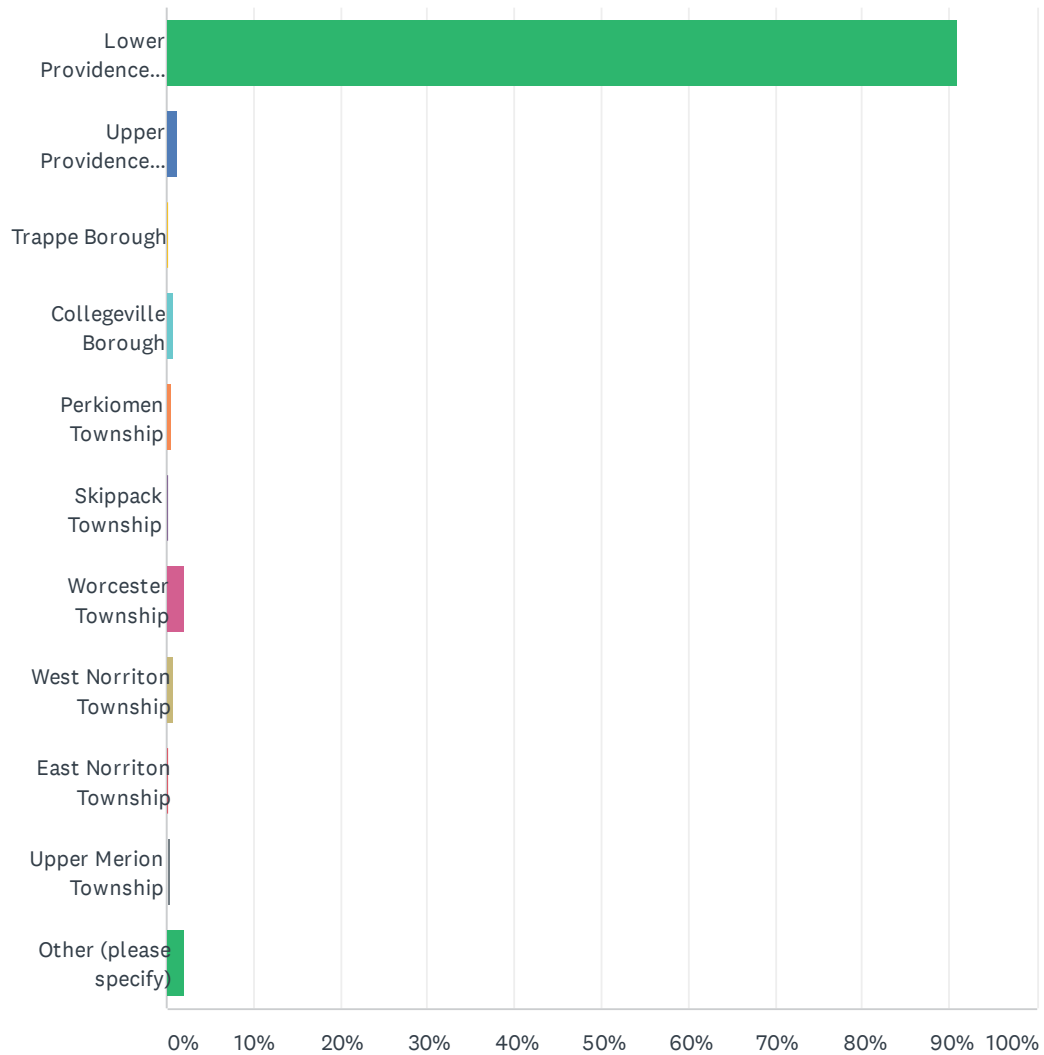
APPENDIX

Full Public Opinion Survey Results



Q1 What is the name of the municipality you live in?

Answered: 646 Skipped: 2



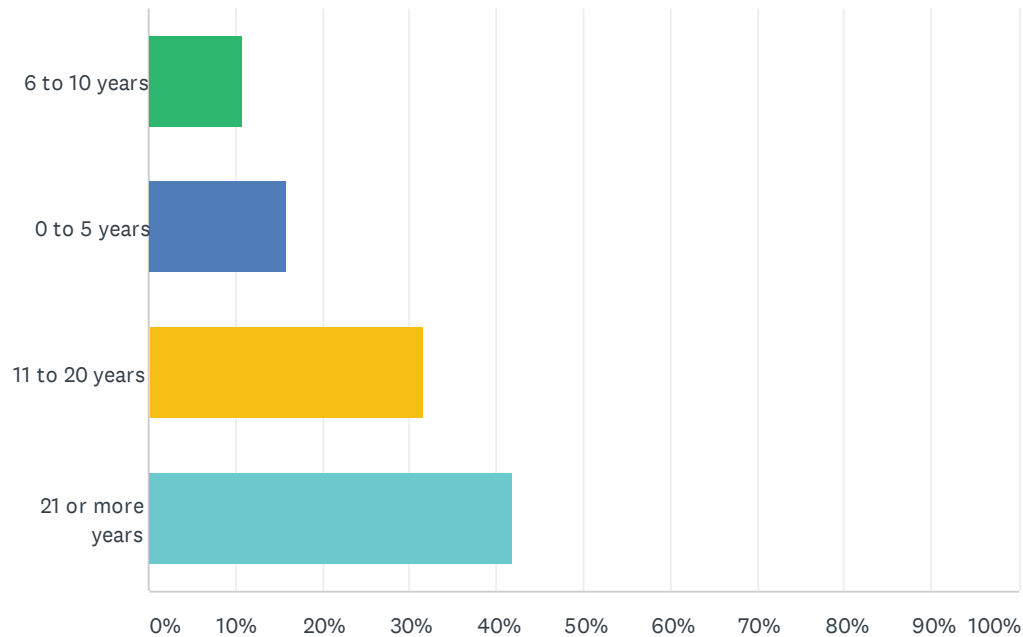
Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Lower Providence Township	91.02%	588
Upper Providence Township	1.24%	8
Trappe Borough	0.31%	2
Collegeville Borough	0.77%	5
Perkiomen Township	0.62%	4
Skippack Township	0.31%	2
Worcester Township	2.01%	13
West Norriton Township	0.93%	6
East Norriton Township	0.31%	2
Upper Merion Township	0.46%	3
Other (please specify)	2.01%	13
TOTAL		646

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Lower Salford	10/29/2020 10:32 PM
2	Schuylkill Township	10/26/2020 10:35 PM
3	Limerick	10/26/2020 8:18 PM
4	East Brandywine	10/26/2020 11:20 AM
5	None	10/1/2020 6:36 PM
6	Tredyffrin Township	9/25/2020 10:26 AM
7	Upper Frederick Township	9/24/2020 9:57 AM
8	Schuylkill Township	9/22/2020 9:59 PM
9	Schuylkill	9/22/2020 7:04 PM
10	Lower Merion	9/22/2020 6:44 PM
11	Worcester	9/22/2020 6:07 PM
12	East Pikeland	9/22/2020 5:41 PM
13	Plymouth	9/16/2020 10:37 AM

Q2 If you live in Lower Providence, how long have you lived in the Township?

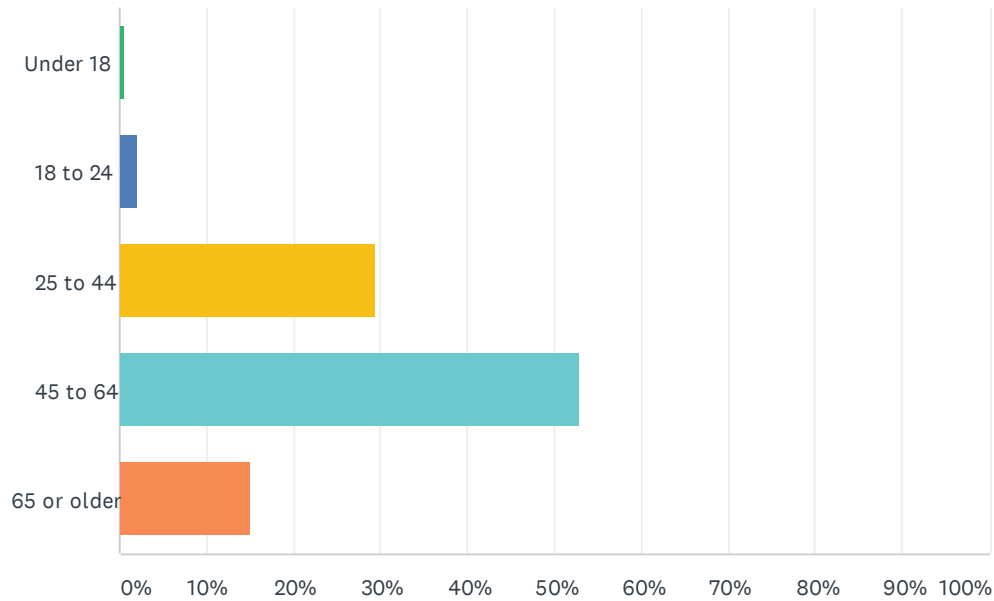
Answered: 603 Skipped: 45



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
6 to 10 years	10.78%	65
0 to 5 years	15.92%	96
11 to 20 years	31.51%	190
21 or more years	41.79%	252
TOTAL		603

Q3 What is your age?

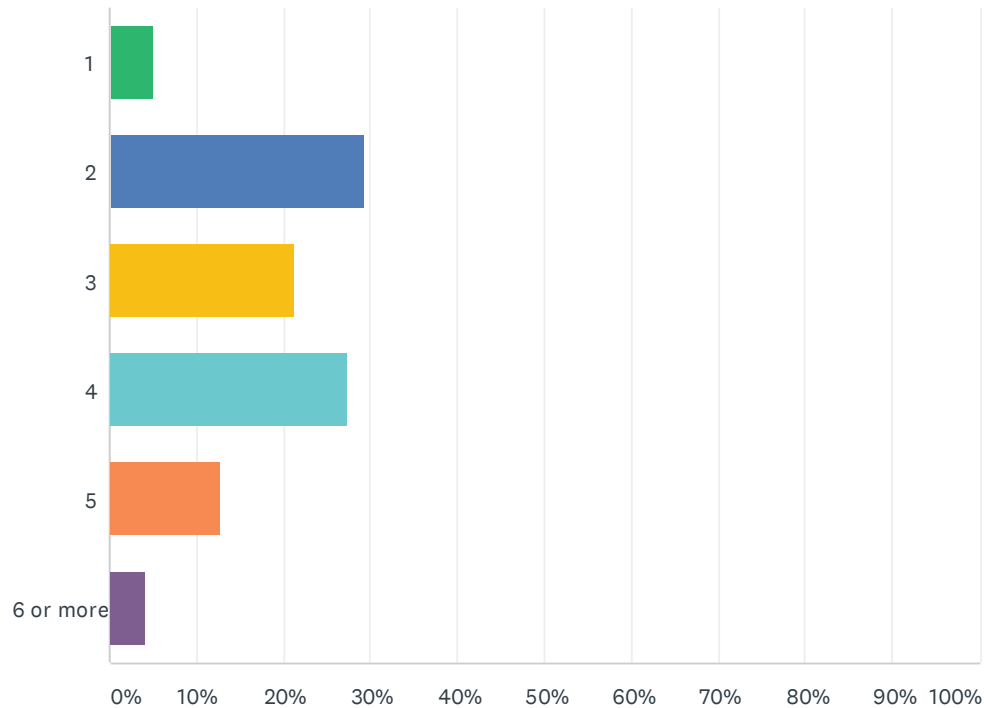
Answered: 645 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.62%	4
18 to 24	2.02%	13
25 to 44	29.46%	190
45 to 64	52.87%	341
65 or older	15.04%	97
TOTAL		645

Q4 How many people currently live in your household?

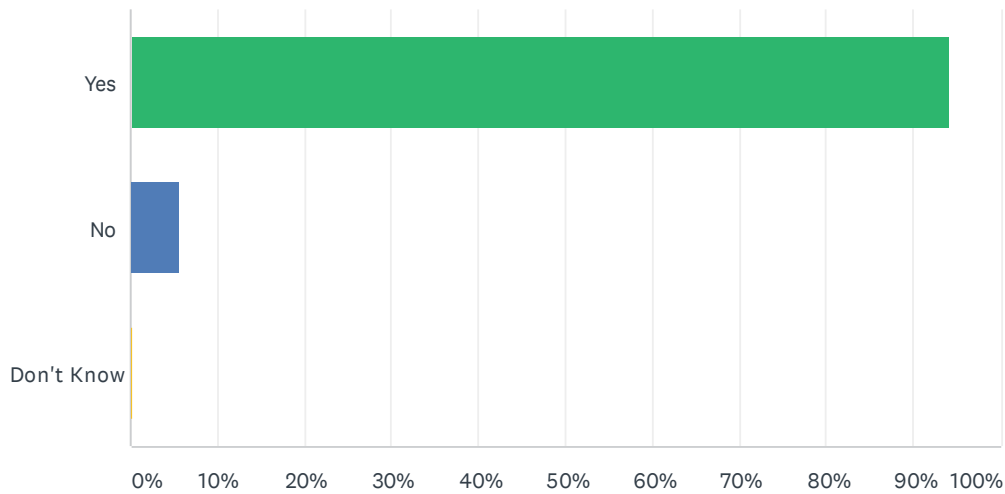
Answered: 647 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	4.95%	32
2	29.37%	190
3	21.33%	138
4	27.36%	177
5	12.83%	83
6 or more	4.17%	27
TOTAL		647

Q5 In the past 12 months, has any member of your household participated in any activities in parks, natural areas, or open spaces in or around Lower Providence Township? This would include any recreational activity, such as walking, biking, participating in team sports, swimming, bird watching, boating, etc.

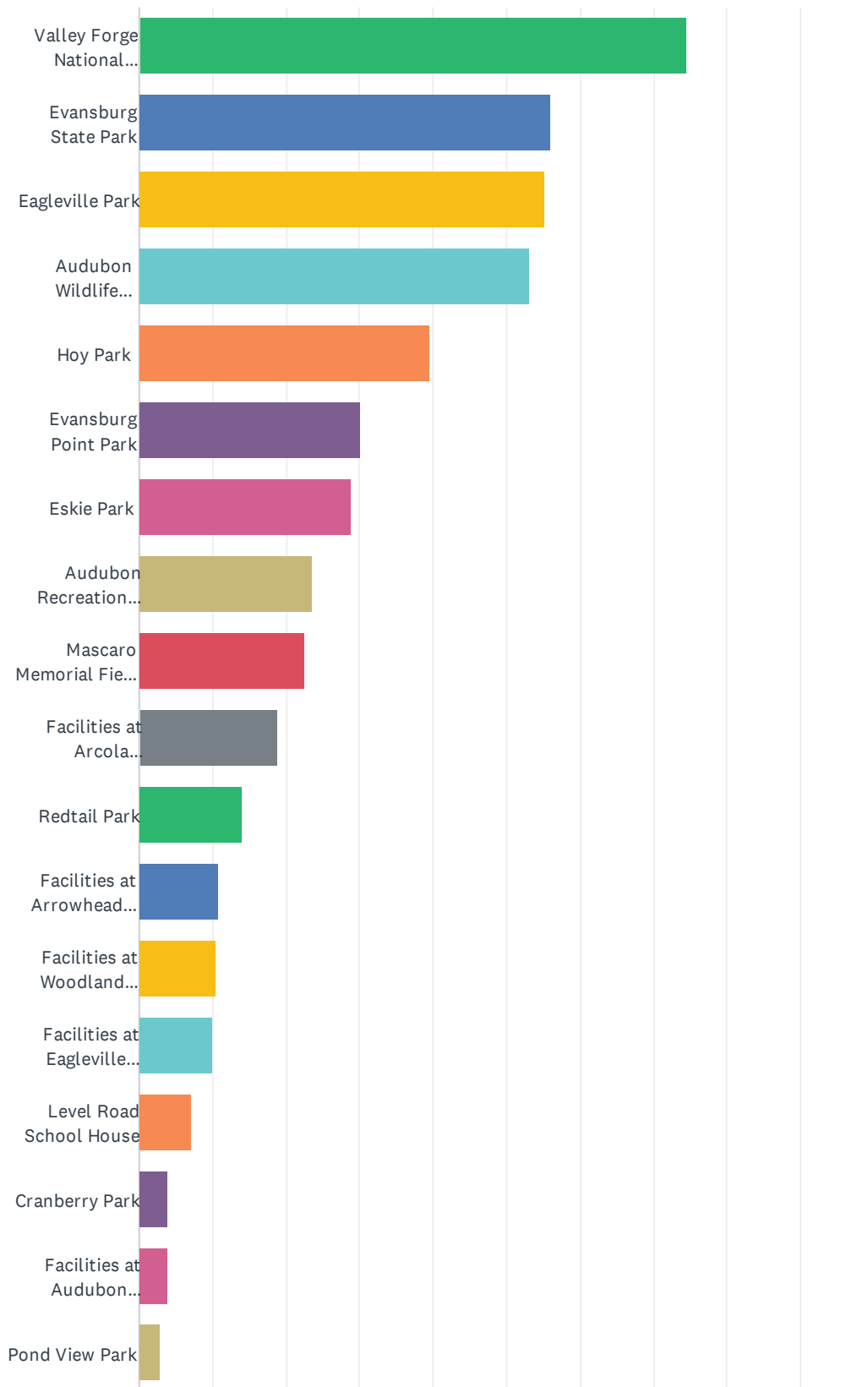
Answered: 545 Skipped: 103



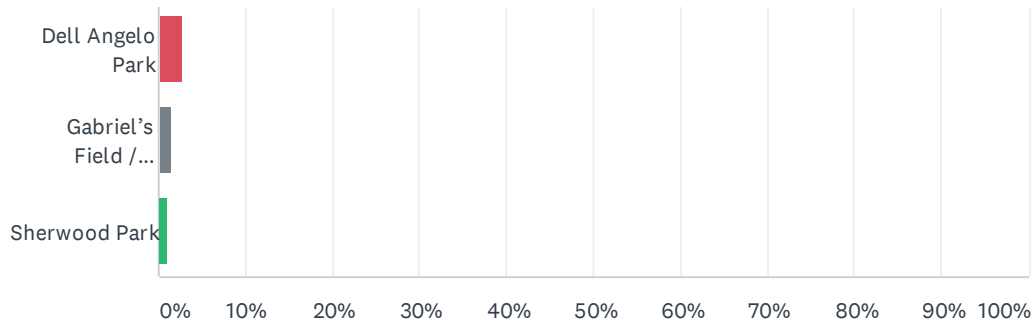
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.13%	513
No	5.69%	31
Don't Know	0.18%	1
TOTAL		545

Q6 Which parks, natural areas, trails, or facilities do you visit for recreation purposes? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 527 Skipped: 121



Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Valley Forge National Historic Park	74.38%	392
Evansburg State Park	55.98%	295
Eagleville Park	55.22%	291
Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary	53.13%	280
Hoy Park	39.47%	208
Evansburg Point Park	30.17%	159
Eskie Park	28.84%	152
Audubon Recreation Association Fields (ARA)	23.72%	125
Mascaro Memorial Field and Community Park	22.58%	119
Facilities at Arcola Intermediate School	18.79%	99
Redtail Park	14.04%	74
Facilities at Arrowhead Elementary School	10.82%	57
Facilities at Woodland Elementary School	10.44%	55
Facilities at Eagleville Elementary School	10.06%	53
Level Road School House	7.21%	38
Cranberry Park	3.98%	21
Facilities at Audubon Elementary School	3.98%	21
Pond View Park	2.85%	15
Dell Angelo Park	2.66%	14
Gabriel's Field / Knight's Cricket Field	1.52%	8
Sherwood Park	0.95%	5
Total Respondents: 527		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Audubon Loop Trail, Perkiomen Trail, Schuylkill River Trail	3/22/2021 9:38 PM
2	The schools had guards chasing walkers off.	3/17/2021 3:58 PM
3	Norgwn Park and Pool	3/16/2021 9:49 PM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

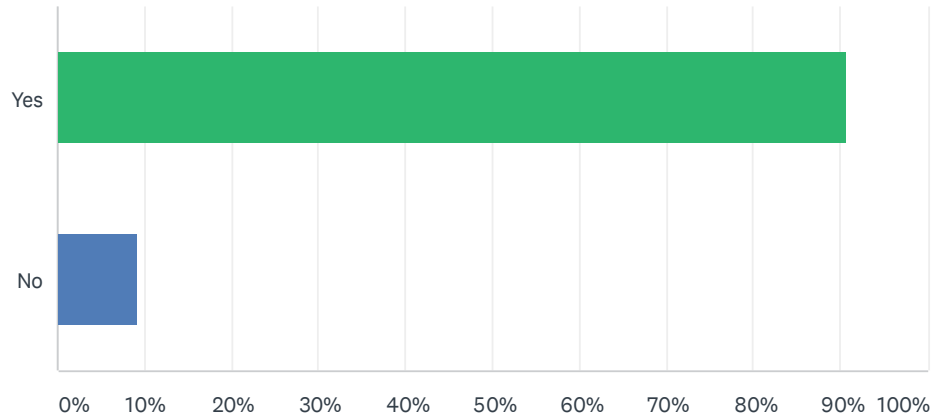
4	Audubon Loop	3/16/2021 5:48 PM
5	Audubon Loop; Perkiomen Trail	3/15/2021 8:07 PM
6	Green Lane Reservoir Park	2/16/2021 2:28 PM
7	Heebner	2/11/2021 8:41 PM
8	John James Audubon Center	2/11/2021 10:42 AM
9	Perkiomen trail	2/11/2021 7:20 AM
10	Worcester elementary school facilities	2/10/2021 10:00 PM
11	County's Perkiomen and Schuylkill River Trails	2/10/2021 9:36 PM
12	Perkiomen Trail	2/10/2021 7:46 PM
13	Heebner	2/10/2021 7:30 PM
14	Hebner Park	2/10/2021 6:45 PM
15	Eagleville Park	2/7/2021 6:09 PM
16	Perkiomen Trail	1/28/2021 10:31 AM
17	Lower Perkiomen Valley Park	1/26/2021 8:10 PM
18	Lower Perkiomen Valley Trail	1/24/2021 12:48 PM
19	The grass should be better maintained	1/22/2021 10:39 PM
20	Perkiomen Park	1/20/2021 4:07 PM
21	Hebener Park	1/19/2021 4:49 PM
22	Perkiomen park in Oaks, the canal in Mount Clare, Schuylkill valley trail, Norristown trail	1/15/2021 6:30 PM
23	Bike trail	1/15/2021 3:46 PM
24	Heebner Park, Palmer Park	1/9/2021 8:17 PM
25	Shoemaker House music lessons	1/8/2021 6:38 AM
26	Heebner Park	1/8/2021 5:07 AM
27	Lose perkiomen park	1/7/2021 11:53 PM
28	Trails	11/23/2020 12:54 PM
29	Betzwood	10/26/2020 11:55 AM
30	YMCA-Phoenixville	10/21/2020 9:54 AM
31	perkiomen and schuylkill trails	10/14/2020 9:02 AM
32	Heebner, Audubon loop, Zacharias creek trail	10/11/2020 8:32 PM
33	perkiomen and schuylkill trails	10/9/2020 9:51 PM
34	Warrior Field	10/9/2020 7:40 PM
35	Betzwood Park	10/6/2020 2:13 PM
36	Perkiomen Trail	10/3/2020 5:22 PM
37	Mill Grove	9/24/2020 9:07 PM
38	Heebner Park, Zachariah Creek Trail	9/24/2020 3:09 PM
39	Sidewalks for morning walks.	9/24/2020 10:04 AM
40	Betzwood Park	9/22/2020 6:53 PM
41	No trails listed. Perkiomen, Schuylkill	9/22/2020 4:50 PM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

42	Lower Providence Park & Mount Kirk Park	9/19/2020 12:23 PM
43	Lower Perkiomen valley park. French creek state park. Norristown Farm Park Warwick county park	9/18/2020 4:31 PM
44	Fairview Village Church parking lot and around my neighborhood	9/18/2020 1:31 PM
45	Mt Kirk Park, Heebner Park, Fischer's Park	9/17/2020 1:40 PM
46	Walking Arcola road over bridge to trails	9/17/2020 6:47 AM
47	Heebner Park	9/16/2020 9:19 AM
48	Schuylkill River Trail	9/16/2020 8:28 AM
49	Audubon Loop	9/15/2020 8:50 PM

Q7 Do you walk, run or bike on area trails or roadways? (NOTE: As part of the public participation for this project, you will be able to propose trail routes, connections and improvements on the project Wikimap: www.wikimapping.com/Lower-Providence.html)

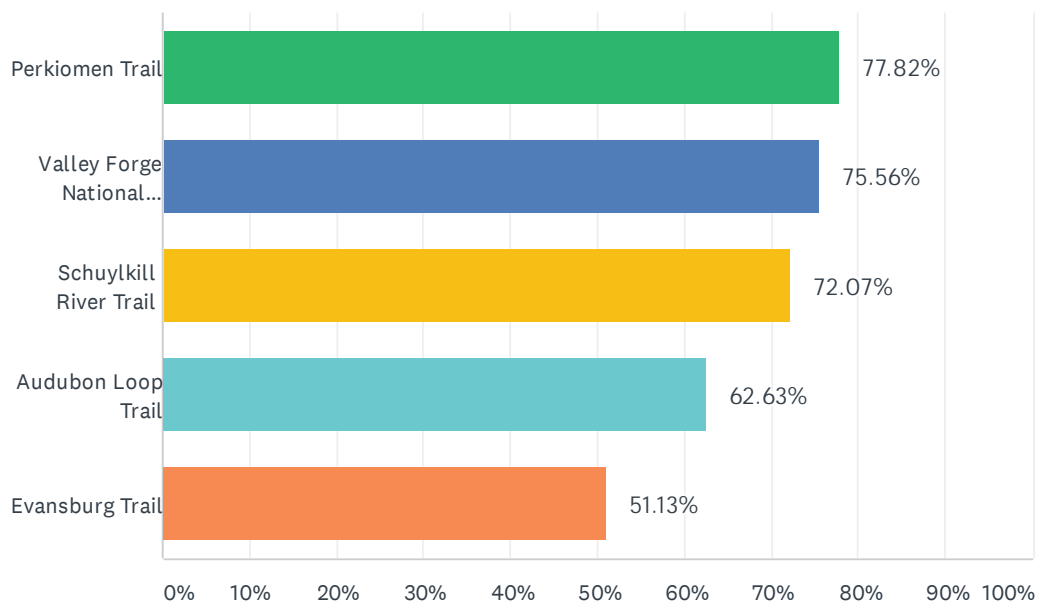
Answered: 543 Skipped: 105



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.79%	493
No	9.21%	50
TOTAL		543

Q8 If you do use area trails, which ones do you use? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 487 Skipped: 161



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Perkiomen Trail	77.82% 379
Valley Forge National Historic Park	75.56% 368
Schuylkill River Trail	72.07% 351
Audubon Loop Trail	62.63% 305
Evansburg Trail	51.13% 249
Total Respondents: 487	

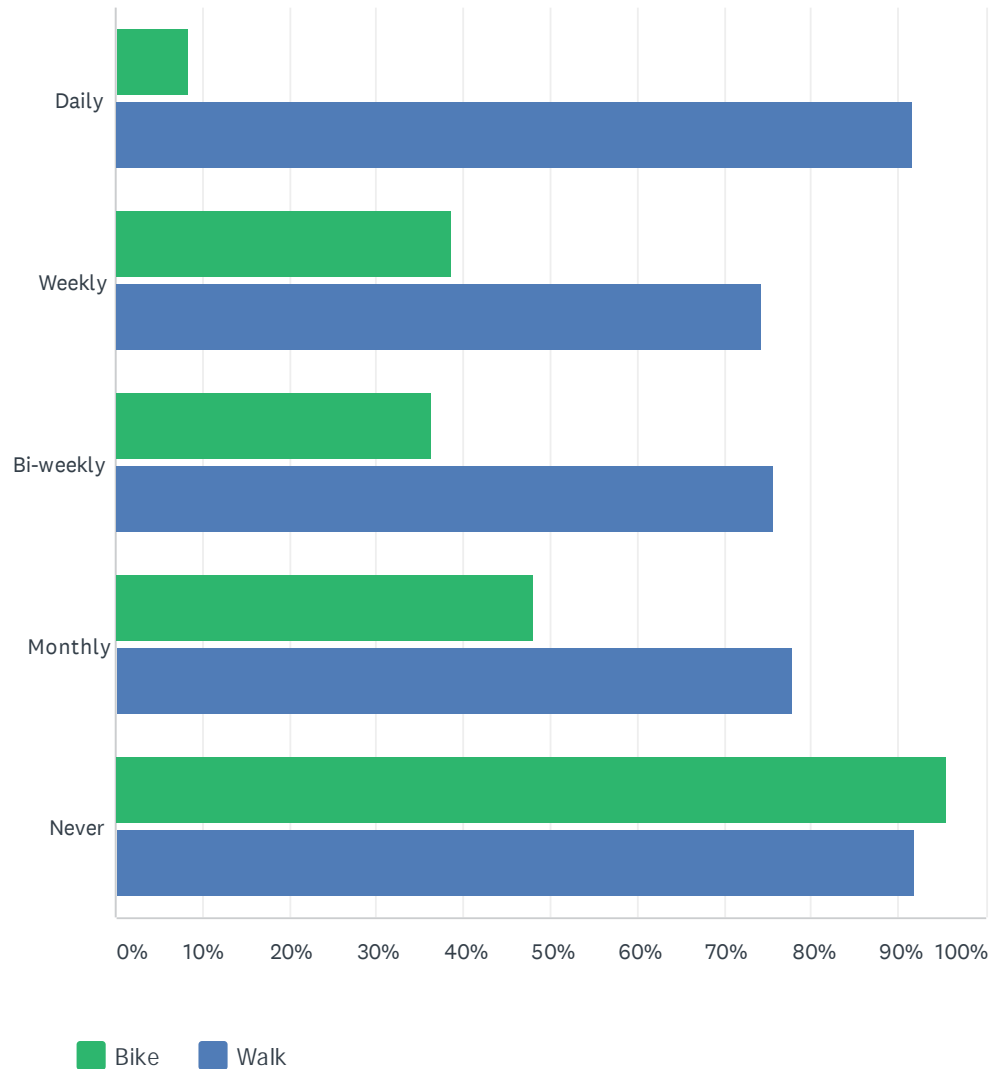
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Skippack Trail	3/17/2021 10:45 AM
2	Green Lane Reservoir Park	2/16/2021 2:28 PM
3	Black Rock road skate park	2/10/2021 11:02 PM
4	heebner	1/20/2021 4:09 PM
5	Farm park	1/15/2021 2:32 PM
6	Heebner park trails	1/9/2021 9:53 AM
7	Lower Perkiomen Valley Park	1/8/2021 12:57 PM
8	Skippack Trail	1/8/2021 12:46 PM
9	Heebner	1/8/2021 5:07 AM
10	Mostly just walk in neighborhoods	11/15/2020 8:49 PM
11	betzwood	10/26/2020 11:55 AM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

12	Skippack Trail system	10/3/2020 5:22 PM
13	Zachariah Creek Trail	9/24/2020 3:09 PM
14	Other trails at John James Audubon Center	9/22/2020 6:53 PM
15	French creek trail, French creek state park trails.	9/18/2020 4:31 PM
16	Eagleville Park paved trail and dirt trails	9/18/2020 10:42 AM
17	upper perkiomen park	9/17/2020 9:38 AM

Q9 How often do you bike or walk to work/school or to run errands?

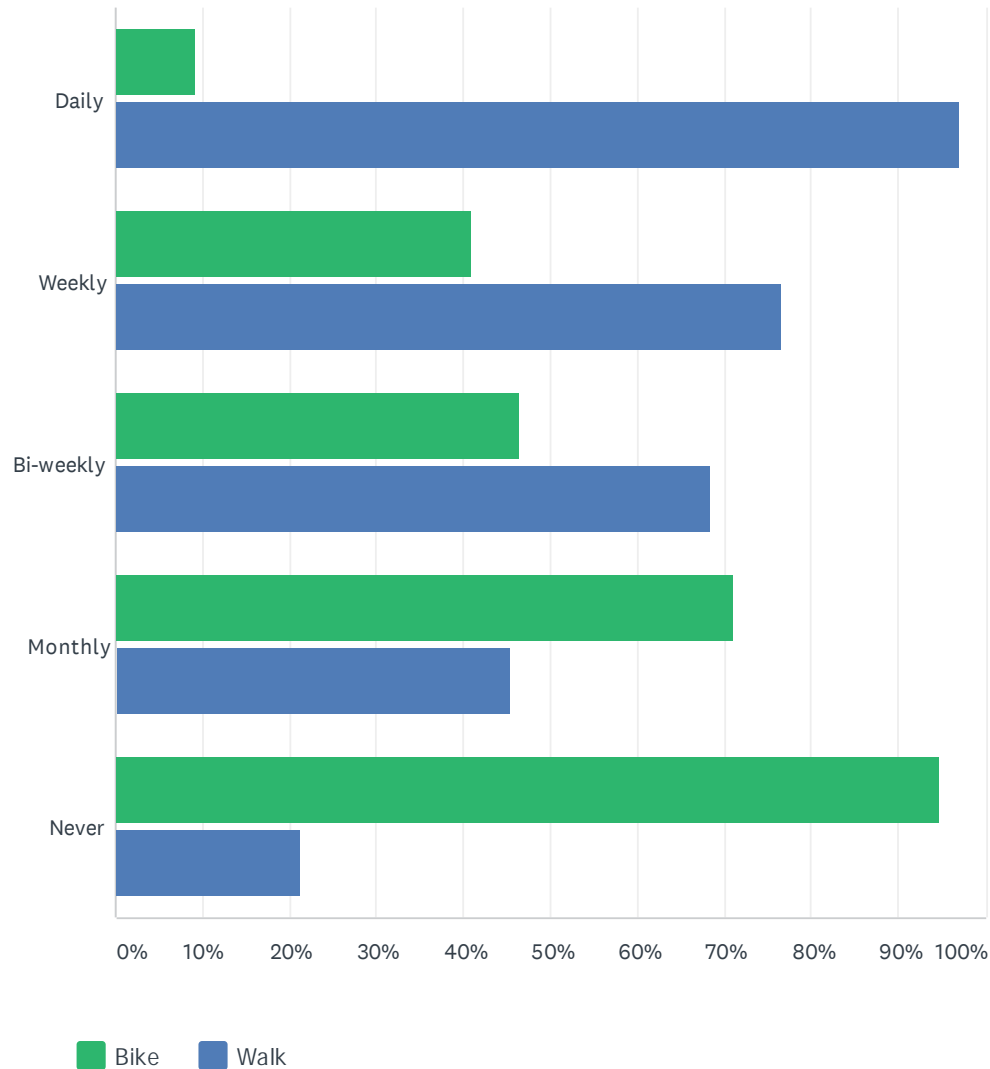
Answered: 476 Skipped: 172



	BIKE	WALK	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Daily	8.33% 4	91.67% 44	48
Weekly	38.71% 24	74.19% 46	62
Bi-weekly	36.36% 12	75.76% 25	33
Monthly	48.05% 37	77.92% 60	77
Never	95.65% 330	91.88% 317	345

Q10 How often do you bike or walk for recreational purposes?

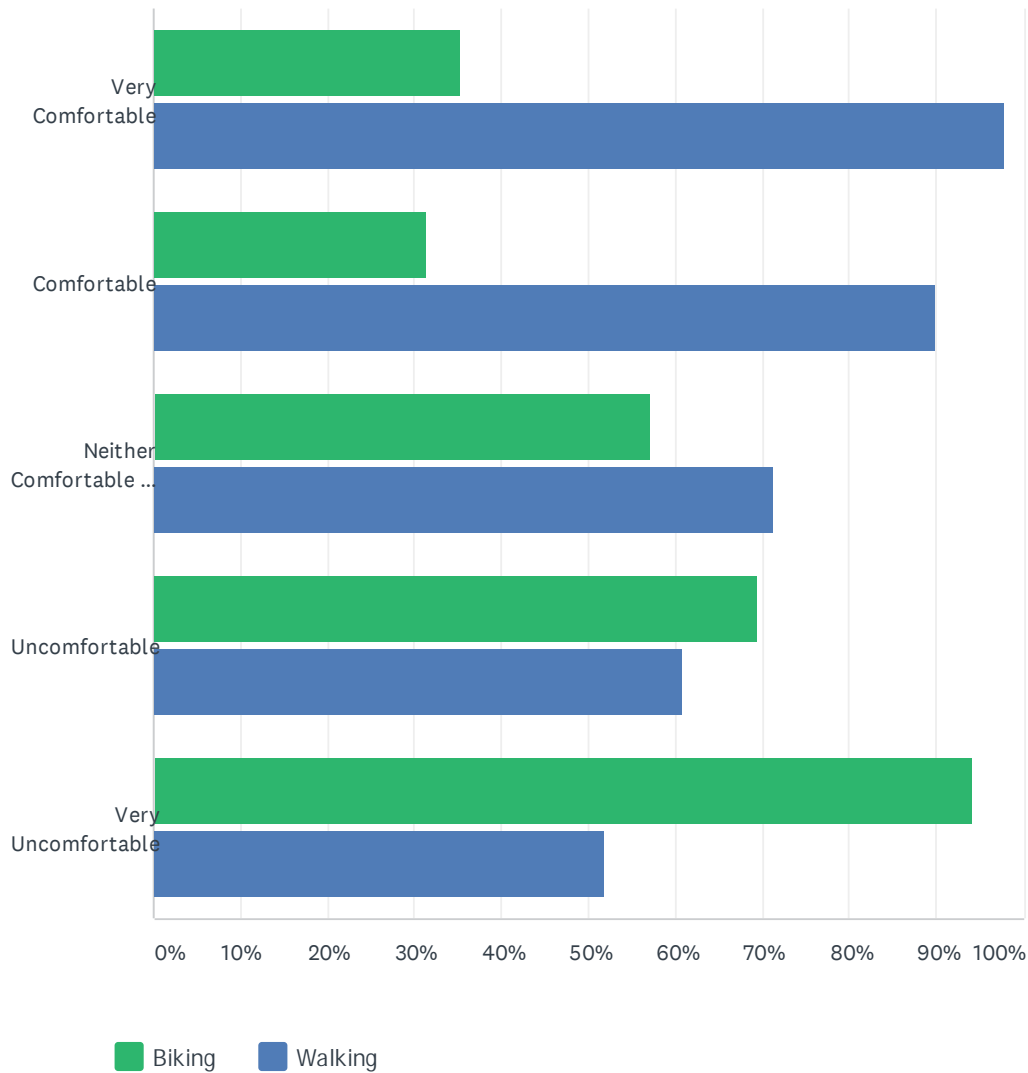
Answered: 532 Skipped: 116



	BIKE	WALK	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Daily	9.16% 25	97.07% 265	273
Weekly	40.97% 93	76.65% 174	227
Bi-weekly	46.53% 47	68.32% 69	101
Monthly	71.17% 116	45.40% 74	163
Never	94.68% 89	21.28% 20	94

Q11 From a traffic safety perspective, how comfortable do you feel biking or walking in Lower Providence Township?

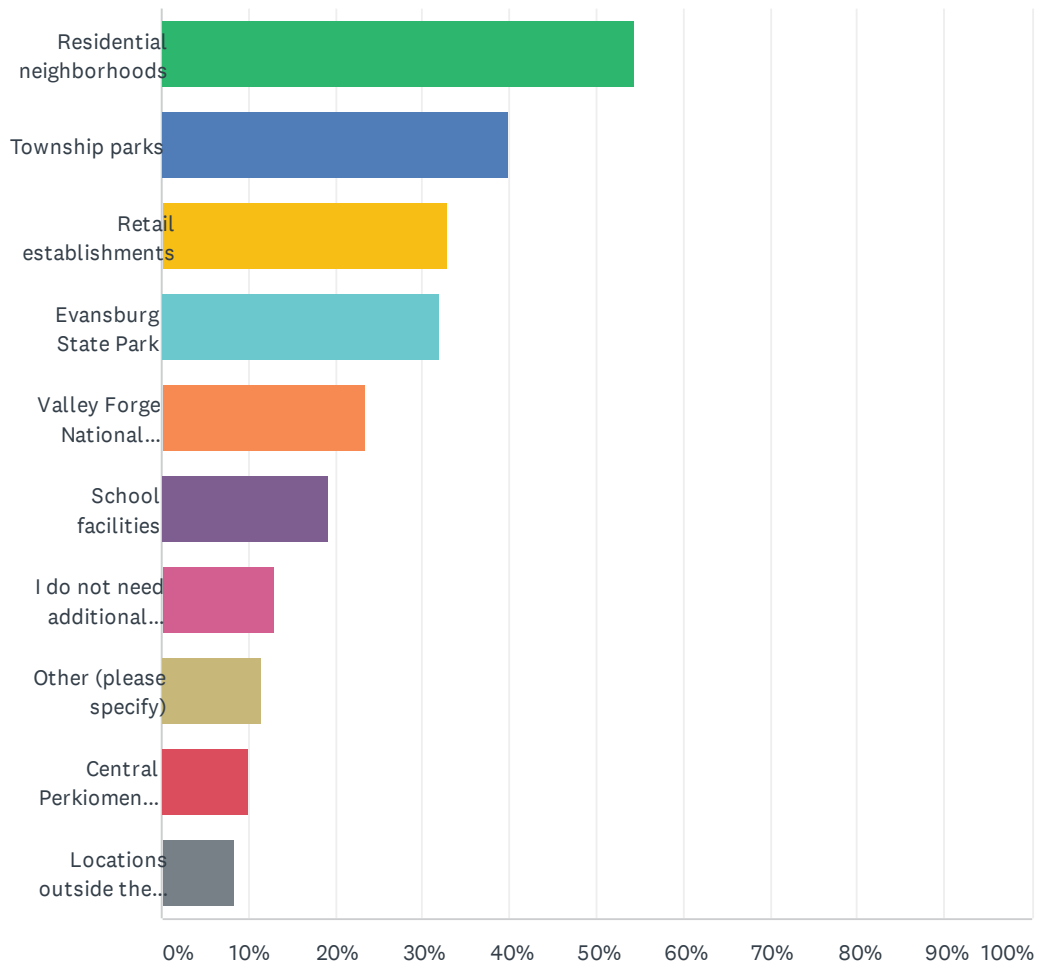
Answered: 536 Skipped: 112



	BIKING	WALKING	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Very Comfortable	35.42% 34	97.92% 94	96
Comfortable	31.38% 59	89.89% 169	188
Neither Comfortable or Uncomfortable	57.14% 84	71.43% 105	147
Uncomfortable	69.52% 130	60.96% 114	187
Very Uncomfortable	94.12% 96	51.96% 53	102

Q12 To what areas would you like improved pedestrian and bicycling access? (Please check all that apply.)

Answered: 508 Skipped: 140



Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Residential neighborhoods	54.33%	276
Township parks	39.96%	203
Retail establishments	32.87%	167
Evansburg State Park	32.09%	163
Valley Forge National Historic Park	23.43%	119
School facilities	19.29%	98
I do not need additional pedestrian or bicycling access	12.99%	66
Other (please specify)	11.42%	58
Central Perkiomen Valley Park	10.04%	51
Locations outside the Township	8.46%	43
Total Respondents: 508		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Lower perkiomen valley park	3/26/2021 5:06 PM
2	I like on Lantern Lane. Need path from Rittenhouse to corporate park, so that I can walk to Bald Birds! And Valerio. Or jog to the corporate park and around it. Also need sidewalk Lantern down pawlings to Audubon sanctuary. Been going since the work from home thing, but could use a frigging sidewalk! Would raise prop values.	3/26/2021 4:51 PM
3	Sidewalks to get to township parks	3/21/2021 1:35 AM
4	Egypt Rd	3/19/2021 5:50 PM
5	Arcola Rd - Hoy Park To Perkiomen Trail	3/16/2021 5:05 PM
6	Perkiomen Trail; getting to the trail and to parks could be safer/better	3/15/2021 8:07 PM
7	Main roadways	2/11/2021 12:35 PM
8	Non neighborhood roads	2/11/2021 4:31 AM
9	We need a skate park and a walking path for parents next to it	2/10/2021 11:02 PM
10	Connection roadways - Ridge Pk, Level Rd	1/28/2021 10:31 AM
11	Corner of Miami ave and park. Sidewalks to make travel to mascaro field possible for kids	1/25/2021 5:12 PM
12	audubon loop on Egypt RD	1/25/2021 5:02 PM
13	North Park Avenue	1/23/2021 3:01 PM
14	We need safe walkways to the trail across the Arcola bridge....please.	1/21/2021 1:37 PM
15	bike and walking access on major rds (park ave, audubon rd, trooper rd, rittenhouse rd, egypt rd)	1/21/2021 11:59 AM
16	There needs to be a more concerted effort to connect isolated islands of residential homes via sidewalks or bike lanes with the greater community. I live in one such isolated island that could be so easily connected without a huge effort.	1/20/2021 4:36 PM
17	Seitz Rd, Maple Ave	1/19/2021 9:13 PM
18	Main roads like Ridge Pike...Shoulders are littered and narrow at points. Eagleville road is extremely dangerous.	1/15/2021 3:46 PM
19	Access to Perkiomen trail off Yerkes rd	1/11/2021 12:55 PM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

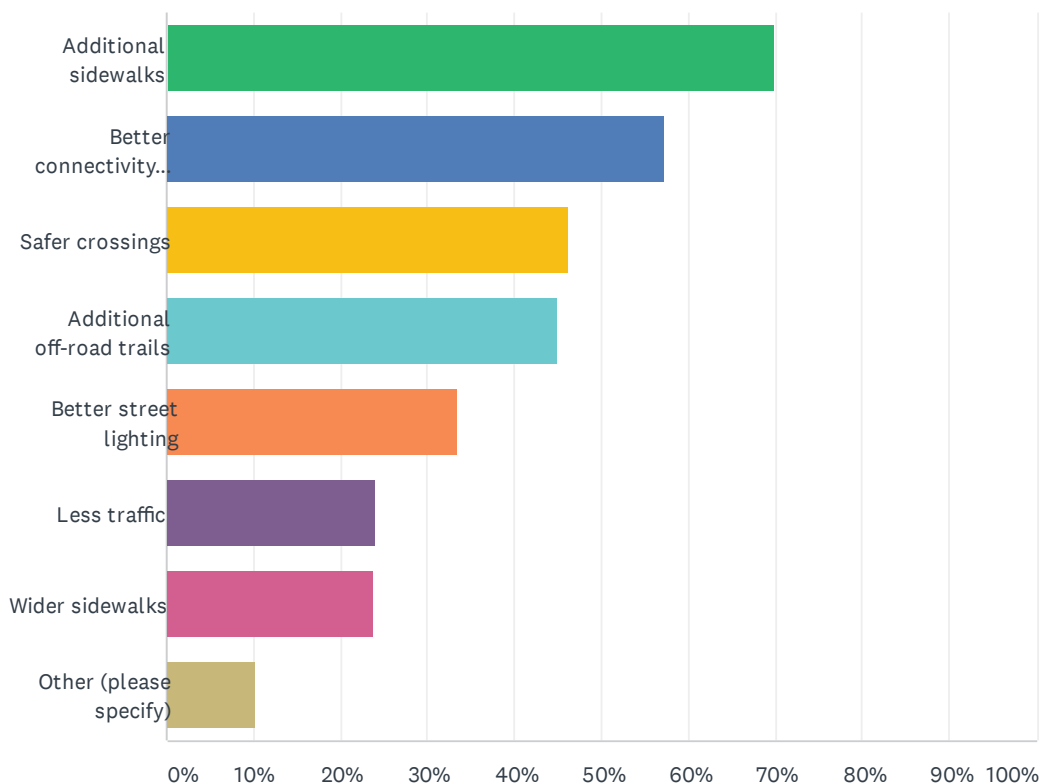
20	Need a sidewalk on River Road	1/9/2021 8:17 PM
21	Streets in and around the trails	1/9/2021 9:53 AM
22	Audubon Loop needs better access	1/9/2021 8:48 AM
23	Access from Evansburg Trail to the Perkiomen/Collegeville trail	1/8/2021 6:01 PM
24	For #11 I feel comfortable generally to walk or bike ON TRAILS. But I do not feel comfortable to bike or walk outside of parks/trails bc there is insufficient connectivity, making it necessary to travel on the road, often where there is little to no shoulder or sidewalk, at some point in the journey	1/8/2021 4:56 PM
25	River Road for Cranberry Park - even getting back with canoe to the water source is not adequate - risky slope to get into water after cutting through woods	1/8/2021 1:30 PM
26	River Road, specifically in the area around Cranberry Park. The access to Collegeville is far from ideal, yet people walk River Road daily, while cars speed by. We've seen a few near-miss pedestrian incidents.	1/8/2021 1:12 PM
27	Connection to the Perkiomen and other trails. I ride my bike on the road to the trails and it is scary.	1/8/2021 12:46 PM
28	It's not that these areas need improvement, its the connection between those areas. For example, I feel comfortable running around my little neighborhood but I can't get to any of the other neighborhoods safely to put together a longer run or to walk to meet up with friends.	1/8/2021 6:38 AM
29	Neighborhoods	1/8/2021 12:36 AM
30	Sidewalk or bike lane on Arcola Rd as it approaches the bridge at Level and Arcola Rds to provide access to trail on the other side of the creek.	1/8/2021 12:01 AM
31	All Township Parks should be interconnected	12/31/2020 12:59 PM
32	Would like to see the sidewalk extended on Germantown from Cross Keys down to the new townhome development. Right now it stops at Superior and walkers are forced on the street or on the often-muddy and riddled-with-holes grass.	10/26/2020 10:21 AM
33	Connecting neighborhoods, schools, and retail	10/26/2020 8:13 AM
34	All roads that do not have sidewalks-Mt. Kirk, Rudge Pike	10/7/2020 4:59 PM
35	Additional trails or sidewalks to connect. Sidewalks should be installed along Ridge Pike.	10/6/2020 10:01 AM
36	Access to perkiomen trail from Arcola road bridge	10/4/2020 8:23 AM
37	A culvert footbridge at site of the old Yerkes Road bridge.	10/3/2020 5:22 PM
38	Sidewalks along Ridge Pike	9/29/2020 11:35 AM
39	Perkiomen trail access	9/24/2020 10:04 AM
40	I do not walk at high pedestrian/biking times	9/23/2020 5:22 PM
41	Betzwood Park	9/22/2020 6:53 PM
42	Trails. Perkiomen, Schuylkill	9/22/2020 4:50 PM
43	I drive to upper providence to bike in lower because pinetown road is dangerous and no crossing at egypt - the bridge crossing on egypt as part of audubon loop is dangerous - the residential connections to the trails are non-existent	9/21/2020 10:21 AM
44	Bike lane or sidewalks on arcola road to the bridge going to cinder mill to gain access to trail	9/20/2020 8:57 PM
45	Perkiomen trail	9/20/2020 8:40 PM
46	Would love to be able to walk along Egypt or Park to get to the CVS and Redners area	9/20/2020 12:20 PM
47	Make Audubon one of the best small towns to live!	9/18/2020 5:10 PM
48	I walk along Ridge Pike and Germantown Pike to get to residential areas to walk. It would be nice to have more side walks along theses roads so that we are not so close to traffic.	9/18/2020 1:31 PM

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49	Access to Perkiomen Trail from Yerkes Road (Lower Providence side across the creek)	9/18/2020 11:00 AM
50	1) Would like to see a trail connecting Eagleville Park or neighborhood on the north to Evansburg State Park. 2) Would like to see a side walk on Church Road between Walker Lane and Eskie Park entrance for safety reasons.	9/18/2020 10:42 AM
51	Connector paths to existing trails, i.e. Apple Valley Ln to Audubon Loop	9/17/2020 12:22 PM
52	Hoy park from arcola rd and Hoy to perk. Bike trail	9/17/2020 8:19 AM
53	access to parks through high traffic areas	9/16/2020 11:34 PM
54	GW	9/16/2020 4:19 PM
55	Lower Perkiomen Valley Park	9/16/2020 10:45 AM
56	Id like to be able to get to Collegeville and Skippack	9/16/2020 12:14 AM
57	Access to the Schuylkill River Trail	9/15/2020 9:44 PM
58	Audubon Loop on Egypt Road	9/15/2020 8:50 PM

Q13 What would encourage you to walk more? (Please check all that apply.)

Answered: 512 Skipped: 136



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Additional sidewalks	69.92%	358
Better connectivity between sidewalks	57.42%	294
Safer crossings	46.29%	237
Additional off-road trails	44.92%	230
Better street lighting	33.40%	171
Less traffic	24.02%	123
Wider sidewalks	23.83%	122
Other (please specify)	10.16%	52
Total Respondents: 512		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Also, put one down Audubon road. I mean really, it would get people to move more. Plus, nice to walk a "loop" around neighborhood. Get this going now!	3/26/2021 4:51 PM
2	make homeowners/township cut bushes or trees back that are obstructing the sidewalk	3/25/2021 2:42 PM
3	asphalt pavement so I do not have to run/walk on concrete	3/23/2021 8:10 PM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

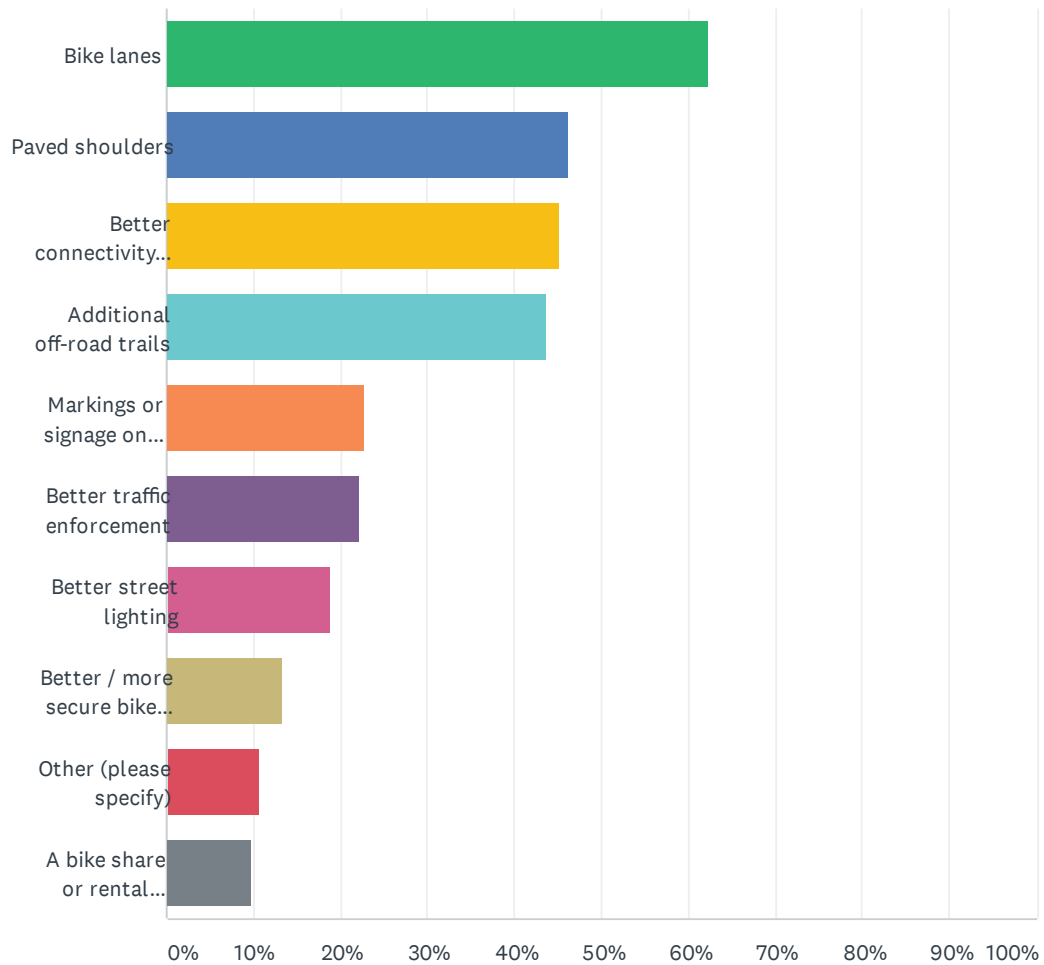
4	asphalt development sidewalk for running, walking. cement sidewalks are not too healthful	3/23/2021 6:09 PM
5	Dog park	3/17/2021 3:58 PM
6	Scenery	3/16/2021 9:49 PM
7	Flashing stop signs would help	3/16/2021 11:54 AM
8	Much more cleaning and surfaces of walking area	2/16/2021 2:28 PM
9	Need a finished sidewalk to hoy park from Barrington. The sidewalk just ends there and doesn't connect to hoy park.	2/12/2021 9:27 PM
10	Parking near walking areas	2/11/2021 4:13 PM
11	Better weather	2/11/2021 2:23 PM
12	More courteous drivers who actually stop at lights and stop signs	2/11/2021 10:42 AM
13	Time off	2/10/2021 11:26 PM
14	A place to walk where my kids are playing like a skate park	2/10/2021 11:02 PM
15	Warm weather. ☺	2/10/2021 10:37 PM
16	We've been walking in the new neighborhood at Markley Farms. It's so pretty with the estuary and the houses.	2/10/2021 10:00 PM
17	Better eye sight	2/10/2021 8:00 PM
18	Better maintained sidewalks	2/10/2021 7:44 PM
19	More stop signs. Like on the Church Road Raceway.	2/10/2021 6:48 PM
20	Access to the trails from my neighborhood is non existent unless I go down passings rd from Egypt or down trooped	1/25/2021 5:12 PM
21	Nothings	1/20/2021 7:17 PM
22	Shared bike and walking trails make me feel unsafe and especially during the pandemic	1/20/2021 7:07 PM
23	We love walking around here! But you can't walk safely on many roads	1/15/2021 3:04 PM
24	Curbing	1/15/2021 2:58 PM
25	No street lights in our neighborhood.	1/10/2021 7:20 AM
26	n/a	1/9/2021 10:51 PM
27	Sidewalk on River Road to safely walk to neighboring townhouses	1/9/2021 8:17 PM
28	SIDEWALKS	1/8/2021 4:56 PM
29	The roads the cars drive on need more help	1/8/2021 7:29 AM
30	Better street lighting may be appropriate in some areas but not others. My neighborhood has no lighting and I actually think that helps wildlife and we are adjacent to open areas and habitat. In that situation I don't think it would be beneficial to add street lights.	1/8/2021 6:38 AM
31	Sidewalks are sporadic	12/29/2020 12:57 PM
32	Separate Walking and Biking Trails	12/16/2020 3:23 PM
33	Better advertising of available trails. I didn't know there was an Evansburg Trail.	11/23/2020 12:54 PM
34	People obeying speed limits and being mindful of pedestrians, pets and wildlife	11/15/2020 8:49 PM
35	No hunting	10/26/2020 3:41 PM
36	better health	10/26/2020 2:13 PM
37	No hunting in Evansburg	10/26/2020 11:47 AM
38	No hunting	10/26/2020 11:45 AM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

39	PLEASE consider disallowing hunting at Evansburg State Park. Please. There are many trail hikers all over the loop and it's now becoming unsafe to walk out there with the number of hunters. A person was just shot at Nox State Park by a hunter, I do not want to see that here. We are in Evansburg 3-4 times/week for jogging and hiking, and take the kids and high schoolers over there for training.	10/26/2020 10:21 AM
40	Less Corona	10/26/2020 8:49 AM
41	Path/trails to connect audubon village and golf course to audubon loop	10/8/2020 1:28 PM
42	The walk way on the Audubon loop that puts you on Egypt Rd is dangerous.	10/7/2020 10:20 PM
43	Bike lanes or availability for Bike lanes	10/6/2020 2:13 PM
44	None	10/5/2020 2:15 AM
45	A culvert footbridge at site of the old Yerkes Road bridge.	10/3/2020 5:22 PM
46	Not having to work	9/30/2020 9:46 PM
47	bike lanes to trails	9/20/2020 8:57 PM
48	Put a line on the mixed use trails, bikes one side, pedestrians the other.	9/18/2020 4:31 PM
49	More dog friendly parks	9/18/2020 9:05 AM
50	Walking path from Hoy Park to Arcola Road Bridge is needed!	9/17/2020 9:05 PM
51	Within neighborhoods sidewalks seen great but neighborhoods are very isolated from eachother/ no sidewalks connecting	9/16/2020 10:36 PM
52	Cars stopping at stop signs	9/16/2020 6:26 PM

Q14 What would encourage you to bike more? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 416 Skipped: 232



Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bike lanes	62.26%	259
Paved shoulders	46.15%	192
Better connectivity between bike facilities	45.19%	188
Additional off-road trails	43.75%	182
Markings or signage on roads	22.84%	95
Better traffic enforcement	22.12%	92
Better street lighting	18.75%	78
Better / more secure bike parking	13.46%	56
Other (please specify)	10.58%	44
A bike share or rental program	9.86%	41
Total Respondents: 416		

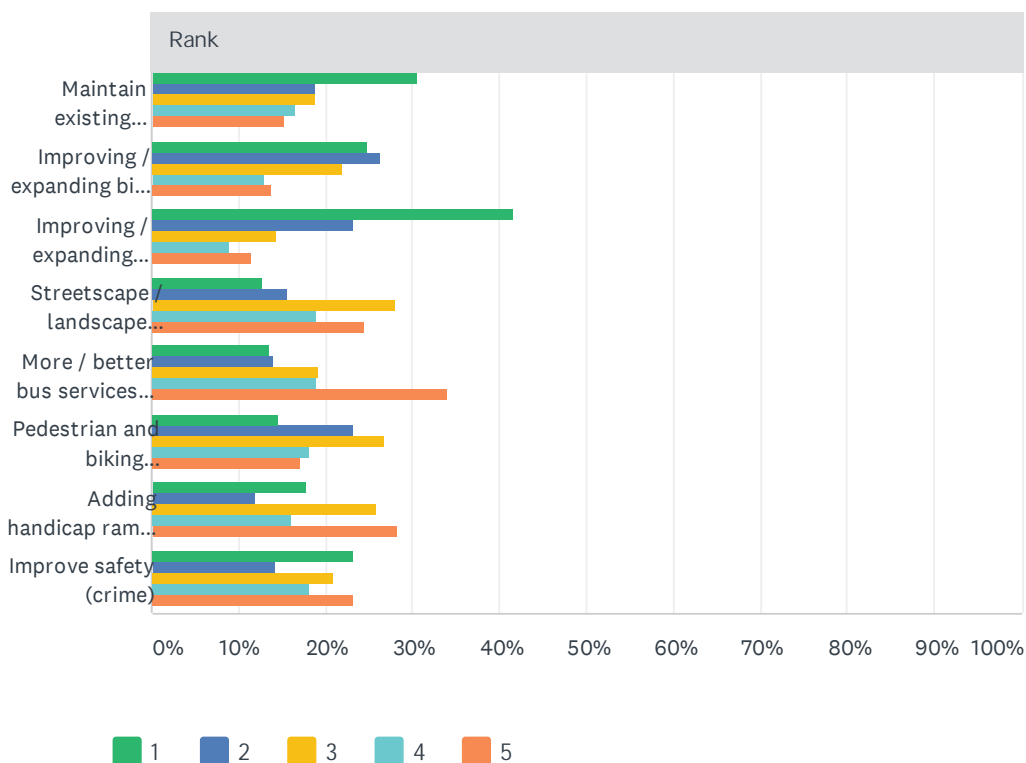
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	N/A	3/29/2021 2:20 PM
2	we don't bike at home, only on vacation	3/25/2021 2:42 PM
3	Nothing	3/24/2021 10:13 PM
4	N/A	3/24/2021 8:28 PM
5	the new lights/crossings in Collegeville don't help pedestrians	3/17/2021 10:45 AM
6	Not applicable, interested on running & walking	2/16/2021 2:28 PM
7	Buying a bike	2/11/2021 9:49 PM
8	Better parking	2/11/2021 4:13 PM
9	I have to buy a bike first.	2/11/2021 10:42 AM
10	A trail from my home to the current trails so i do not need to drive to bike	2/11/2021 9:50 AM
11	Time off and a bike	2/10/2021 11:26 PM
12	Multi-language signage for trail manners	2/10/2021 9:36 PM
13	None	2/10/2021 9:13 PM
14	More bike trails	2/10/2021 8:28 PM
15	Do not bike	2/10/2021 8:00 PM
16	Less traffic	2/10/2021 7:23 PM
17	Wider lanes	2/7/2021 1:31 PM
18	connectivity to the trails	1/28/2021 10:31 AM
19	,	1/26/2021 8:55 AM
20	Do not own a bike.	1/22/2021 1:09 PM
21	Nothing	1/20/2021 7:17 PM
22	I don't bike	1/20/2021 7:07 PM
23	me	1/20/2021 5:28 PM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

24	Clean shoulders...Too much debris and brush that hang into the shoulders	1/15/2021 3:46 PM
25	No additional resource required for biking	1/10/2021 7:20 AM
26	A dog basket on my bike!	1/9/2021 10:51 PM
27	Better roads without pot holes	1/8/2021 7:29 AM
28	Bike rental on the trail would be a great little business and a benefit. More secure parking and bike racks are really important but won't get used unless you also increase connectivity to the point that people can get around for work, errands, etc.	1/8/2021 6:38 AM
29	:	1/8/2021 1:58 AM
30	Nothing	1/7/2021 11:48 PM
31	new knees	10/26/2020 7:46 PM
32	No hunting	10/26/2020 3:41 PM
33	Not interested- bikes should not be on roads	10/7/2020 4:59 PM
34	More vehicle parking near trails	10/7/2020 2:13 PM
35	None	10/5/2020 2:15 AM
36	A culvert footbridge at site of the old Yerkes Road bridge.	10/3/2020 5:22 PM
37	Not having to work	9/30/2020 9:46 PM
38	keep the existing shoulders clear. It is hard to bike sometimes on Ridge Pike because there is so much debris on the shoulders	9/23/2020 2:49 PM
39	Having somewhere to keep a bike, I live on the third floor in an apartment. Maybe build single bike storage lockers to rent at the trail heads.	9/18/2020 4:31 PM
40	Signage about 4-foot law	9/18/2020 11:00 AM
41	we don't bike	9/17/2020 7:08 AM
42	Sidewalks to Arcola bridge down Arcola and level roads KOP	9/17/2020 6:47 AM
43	Bike parking at shops	9/16/2020 7:49 PM
44	I live off of Arcoka road - biking is terrifying, which is unfortunate because it would be the natural connector to wonderful bike trails	9/16/2020 10:01 AM

Q15 Rank the five (5) most important issues that could create better connectivity in Lower Providence Township. (1=High Priority, 5=Low Priority)

Answered: 509 Skipped: 139



Rank	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
Maintain existing infrastructure (sidewalks, roadways, etc.)	30.52% 141	18.83% 87	18.83% 87	16.45% 76	15.37% 71	462
Improving / expanding bike paths and routes	24.83% 111	26.40% 118	21.92% 98	12.98% 58	13.87% 62	447
Improving / expanding sidewalks and pedestrian paths	41.74% 202	23.14% 112	14.46% 70	9.09% 44	11.57% 56	484
Streetscape / landscape projects to improve corridor aesthetics	12.85% 50	15.68% 61	28.02% 109	19.02% 74	24.42% 95	389
More / better bus services and routes	13.64% 36	14.02% 37	19.32% 51	18.94% 50	34.09% 90	264
Pedestrian and biking improvements in commercial corridors	14.59% 62	23.29% 99	26.82% 114	18.12% 77	17.18% 73	425
Adding handicap ramps / accessibility	17.83% 51	11.89% 34	25.87% 74	16.08% 46	28.32% 81	286
Improve safety (crime)	23.26% 70	14.29% 43	20.93% 63	18.27% 55	23.26% 70	301

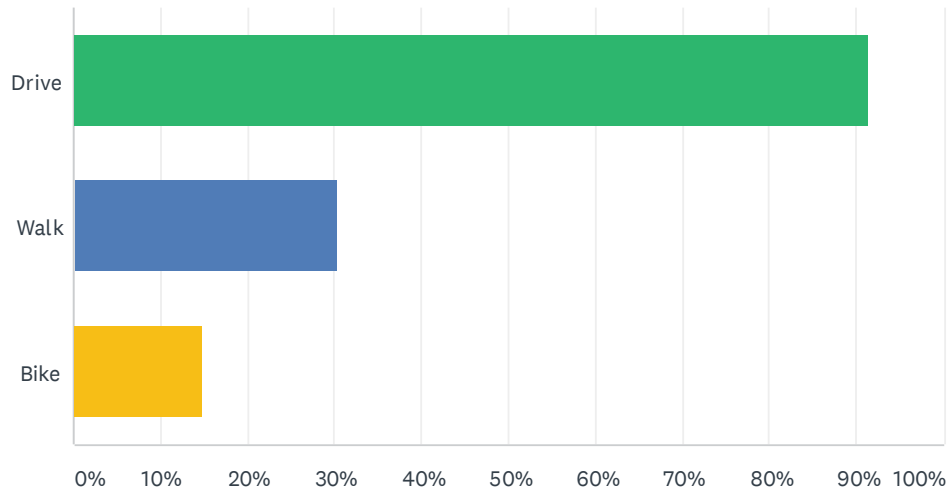
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
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Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

1	Start something---side walk to Bald Birds, side walk to Audubon Sanctuary, Connect a couple of sidewalks.	3/26/2021 4:51 PM
2	less new building/home construction and more open space	3/25/2021 2:42 PM
3	Bus stops getting a pad to stand on while waiting	3/17/2021 3:58 PM
4	Street lights and sidewalks in neighborhoods near Eagleville School	3/16/2021 3:15 PM
5	While this is a low crime township, the drivers are horrible.	2/11/2021 10:42 AM
6	These topics seem very loaded and not diverse	2/10/2021 11:26 PM
7	We need a skate park that is local.for our kids	2/10/2021 11:02 PM
8	Clean the waterways and streets.	2/10/2021 10:37 PM
9	preserve more open space, reduce traffic, curb residential and commercial building	2/3/2021 8:59 AM
10	Adding sidewalks to amazing trails in our area, especially off of Arcola bridge.	1/21/2021 1:37 PM
11	Nothing	1/20/2021 7:17 PM
12	Connecting audubon shopping center to aducbon bird sanctuary by side walks. There are some in place but they don't connect	1/9/2021 10:44 AM
13	Adding sidewalks to link to existing ones	1/9/2021 6:43 AM
14	Making more trails for biking/walking in Evansburg SP	10/26/2020 2:24 PM
15	Hunting within Evansburg park only on certain days	10/26/2020 12:39 PM
16	No hunting in evansburg	10/26/2020 11:47 AM
17	First priority: Preserving existing natural areas and expanding to larger spaces. Capturing water runoff to keep it out of our waterways and preserve our resources. Educating residents on the impact they can make on their own property.	10/7/2020 9:20 PM
18	A culvert footbridge at site of the old Yerkes Road bridge.	10/3/2020 5:22 PM
19	Make it routine design like upper p does	9/24/2020 10:04 AM
20	Improve access to waterways for boating	9/24/2020 10:02 AM
21	bike lanes on roads	9/20/2020 8:57 PM
22	Connecting main parks (eg Eagleville to Evansburg) with trails or safe passage	9/18/2020 10:42 AM
23	More dog friendly places	9/18/2020 9:05 AM
24	bike lanes linking trails to retail shopping	9/17/2020 12:22 PM
25	better accessibility to parks via walking	9/17/2020 9:38 AM

Q16 How do you usually travel to area parks? (Please check all that apply)

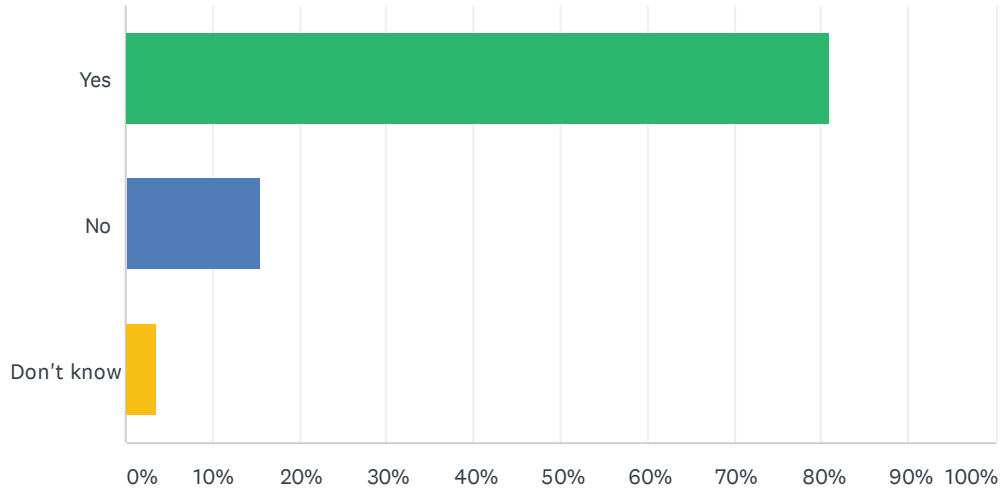
Answered: 513 Skipped: 135



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Drive	91.42%	469
Walk	30.41%	156
Bike	14.81%	76
Total Respondents: 513		

Q17 Do you feel that there are an adequate number of parks, natural areas, and trails available to you in or in close proximity to where you live?

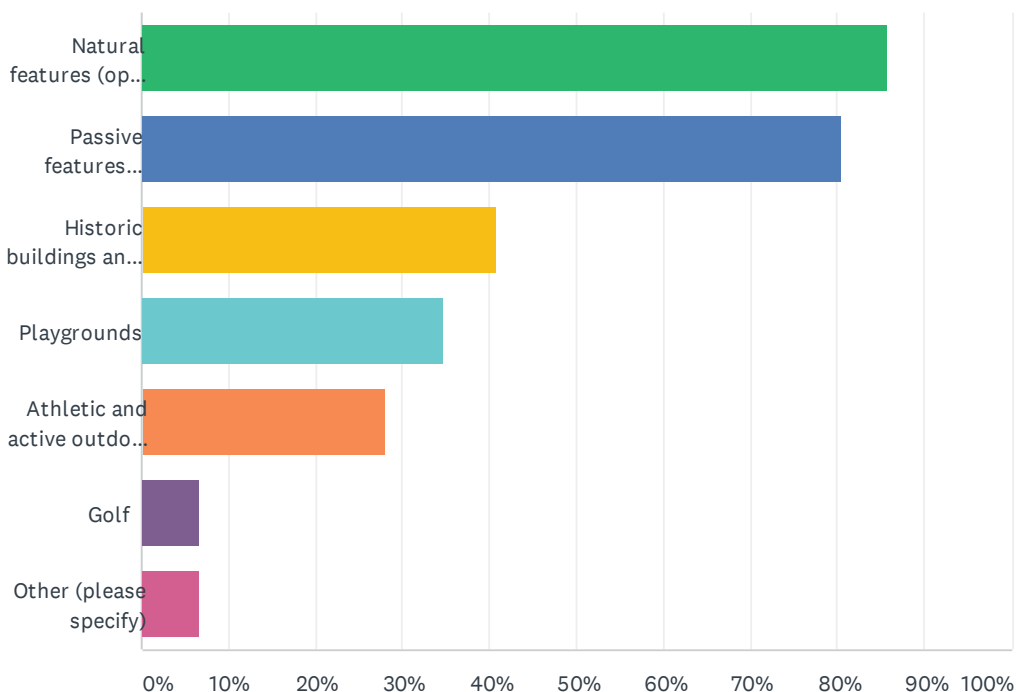
Answered: 508 Skipped: 140



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		80.91%	411
No		15.55%	79
Don't know		3.54%	18
TOTAL			508

Q18 What are your favorite types of park features? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 511 Skipped: 137



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Natural features (open space, wildlife habitat, outdoor education, etc.)	85.71%	438
Passive features (trails, benches, picnic facilities, etc.)	80.63%	412
Historic buildings and facilities	40.70%	208
Playgrounds	34.64%	177
Athletic and active outdoor activities (fields, courts, pools, fitness equipment, etc.)	27.98%	143
Golf	6.65%	34
Other (please specify)	6.65%	34
Total Respondents: 511		

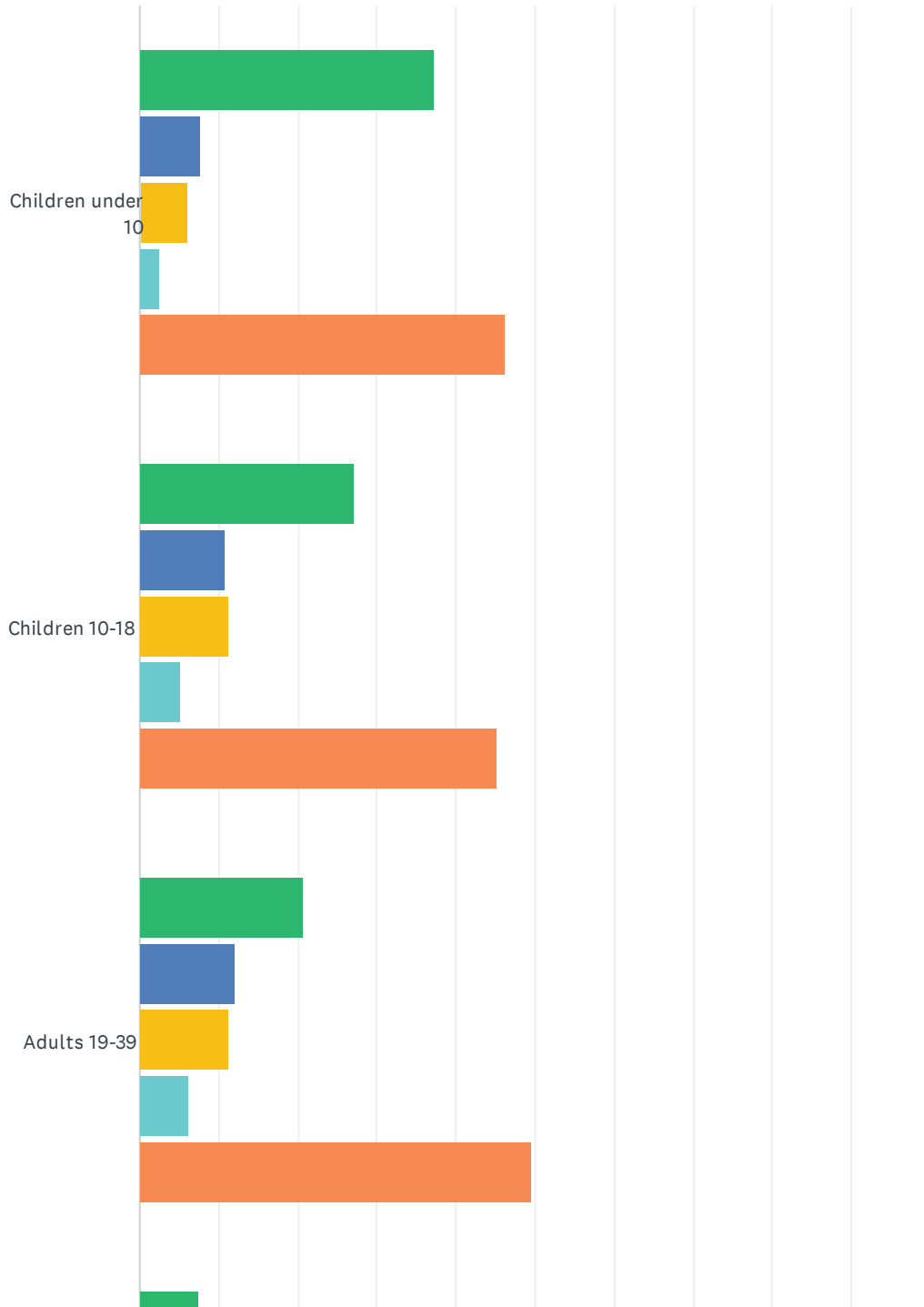
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	No	3/25/2021 6:23 PM
2	Wish we had a splash park at Eagleville	3/17/2021 4:03 PM
3	any chance for more pickleball playing?	3/17/2021 10:48 AM
4	Activities	3/16/2021 8:52 PM
5	adequate parking spaces; easy access from roads	3/16/2021 5:38 PM
6	Green space, community gardens, pollinator gardens. Less pavement, more nature	3/16/2021 3:18 PM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

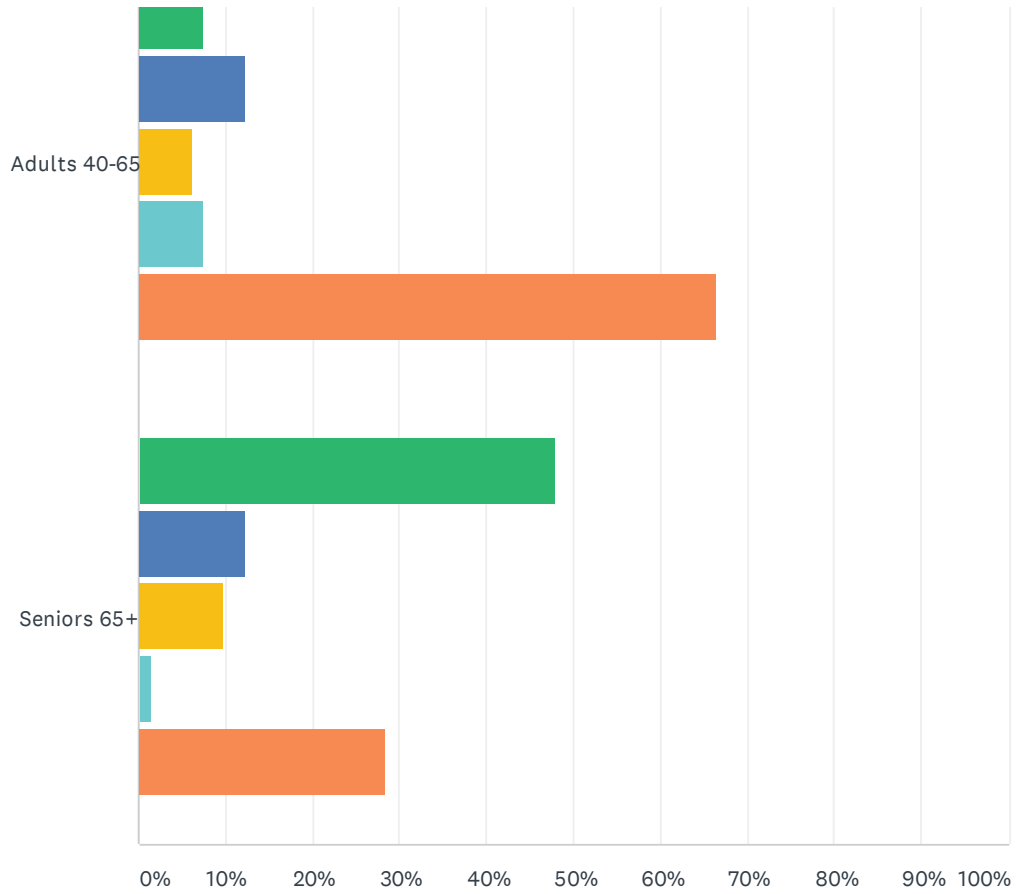
7	Adult Softball fields	3/16/2021 10:03 AM
8	We need a Frisbee golf course in lower providence	2/12/2021 9:32 PM
9	More and more available places to refill water bottles would be nice and more trash and recyclable cans.	2/11/2021 10:46 AM
10	Trash cans	2/10/2021 9:40 PM
11	None	2/10/2021 9:15 PM
12	Well maintained trails with diverse scenery and options to keep it from getting boring.	2/10/2021 9:04 PM
13	Dog park!	1/26/2021 6:15 PM
14	Dedicated trail or path to explore	1/25/2021 5:15 PM
15	Walking paths	1/21/2021 1:41 PM
16	Area for dogs	1/21/2021 11:25 AM
17	Need to create habitat attracting Nature centers that do not have bikers or roaming pets. Attracting birds and mammals to observe would be great. Bird blinds and water habitat features	1/20/2021 7:13 PM
18	Dog friendly	1/8/2021 12:16 PM
19	Any place where wildlife killing is not allowed	11/15/2020 8:52 PM
20	Mountain bike accessible trails.	10/26/2020 10:42 PM
21	mountain biking trails	10/26/2020 11:20 AM
22	proper open restrooms	10/9/2020 7:43 PM
23	All of it	10/6/2020 2:15 PM
24	I would LOVE to see a nature playscape or splash pad, especially at Eskie park where the large grassy areas consistently have little to no use.	9/29/2020 10:09 PM
25	Wish there was a splash park for children	9/24/2020 10:10 AM
26	Skate park	9/20/2020 3:16 PM
27	We need a tennis club, perhaps where Audubon Elementary was? Buds bar and the bank were epic fails.... Now the chiropractors office is for rent..... that corner needs vast improvements. Why not a park?	9/18/2020 5:16 PM
28	Fishing access	9/18/2020 4:31 PM
29	Dog friendly	9/18/2020 9:07 AM
30	paved walking paths	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
31	We have lived in area for over a year now and see many trails but there are very few trailheads with parking and no sidewalk connections stil access seems very difficult though trails seem abundant	9/16/2020 10:44 PM
32	Need more public tennis courts	9/16/2020 9:17 PM
33	Safe walking areas; many times branches, depressing make walking uneven	9/16/2020 9:24 AM
34	Creeks and streams	9/16/2020 12:18 AM

Q19 Thinking about members of your household who are in the age groups listed below, how many trips in total have the members of your household made to parks, trails, natural areas and open spaces in the past 12 months? For example, a family of 4 visiting a park equals 4 separate trips in the appropriate age groups below. (If certain age groups are not applicable, leave boxes blank.)

Answered: 508 Skipped: 140



Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

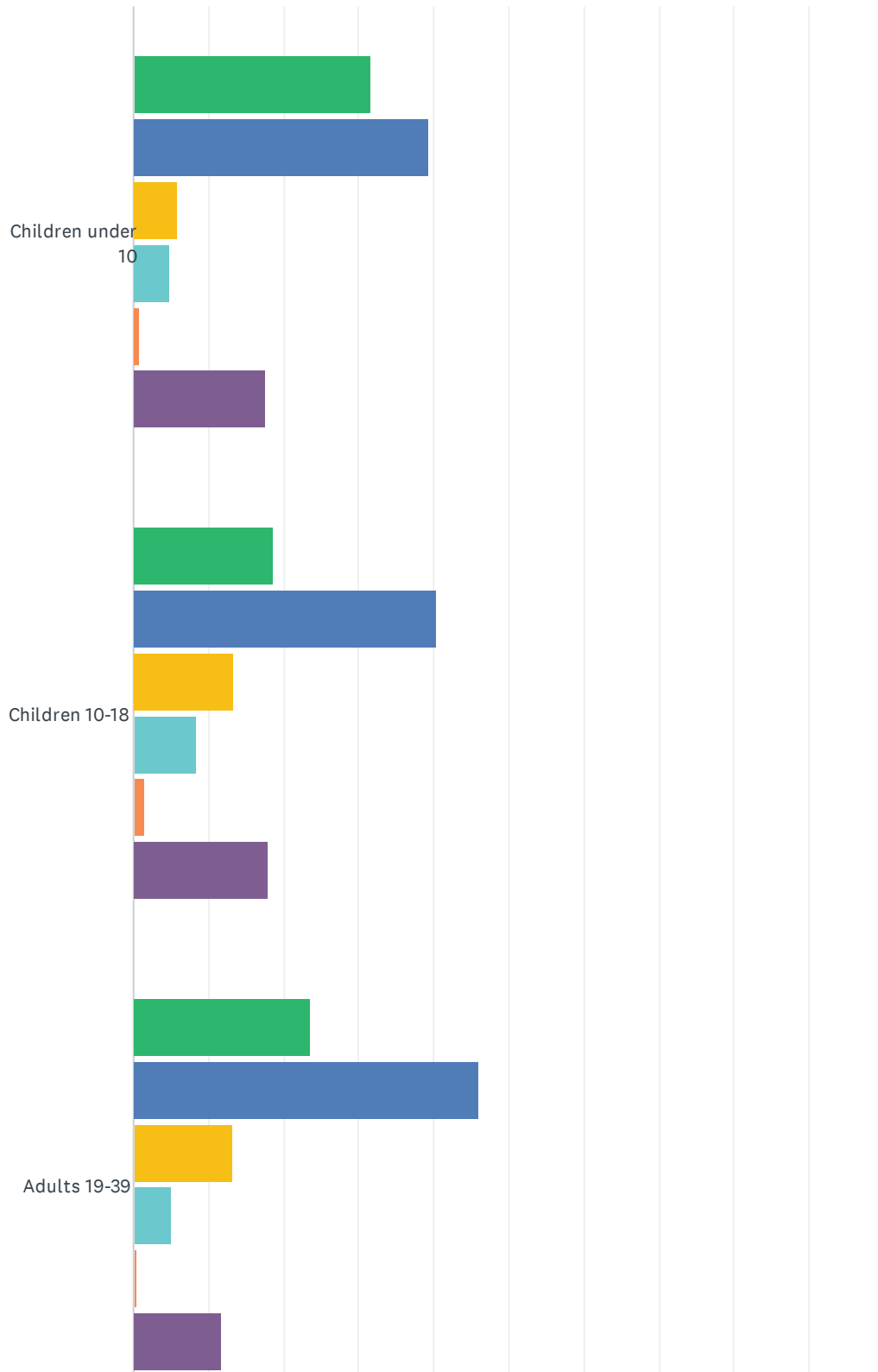


None 1-3 4-6 7-9 10 or more

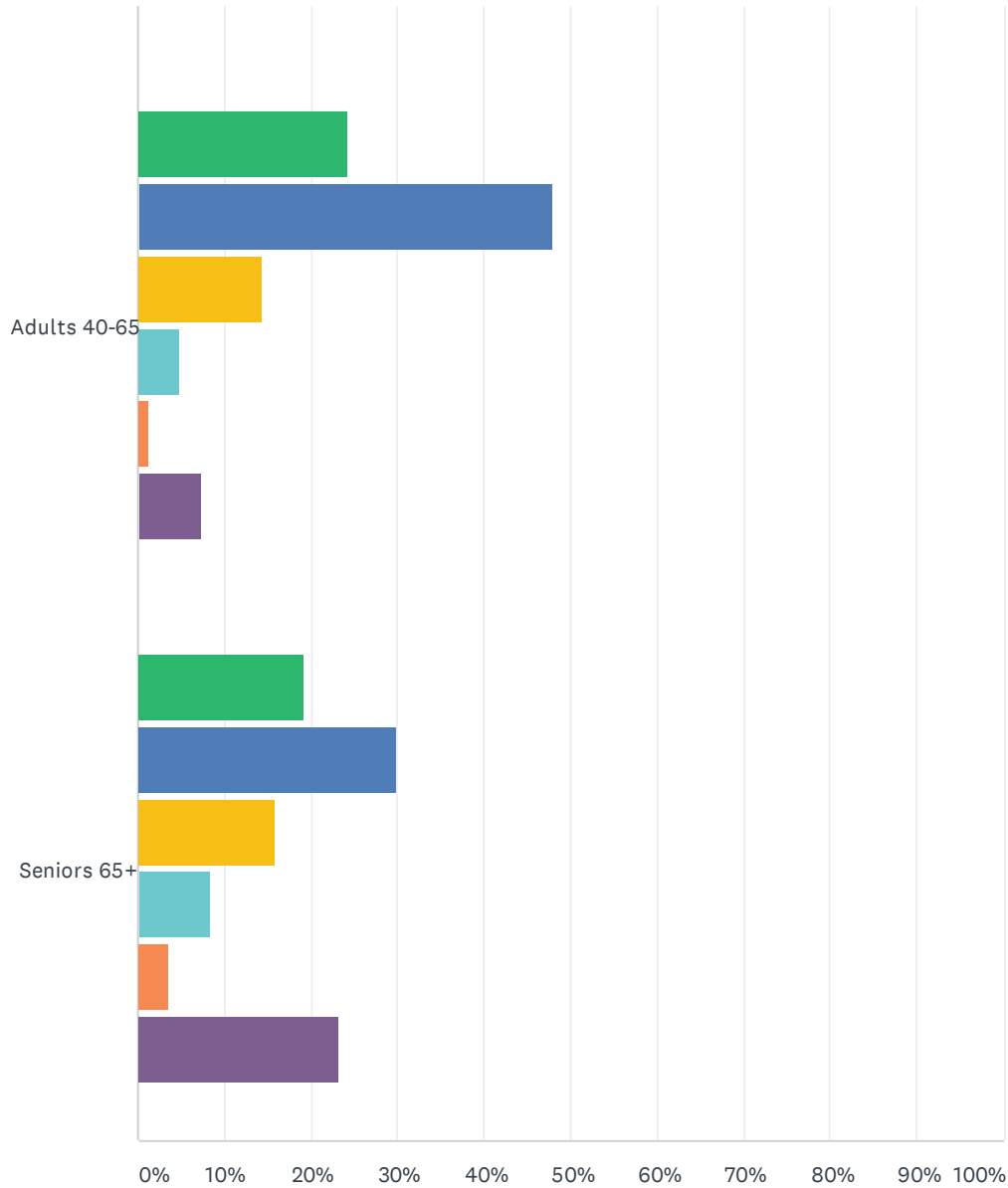
	NONE	1-3	4-6	7-9	10 OR MORE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Children under 10	37.30% 91	7.79% 19	6.15% 15	2.46% 6	46.31% 113	244	3.13
Children 10-18	27.24% 67	10.98% 27	11.38% 28	5.28% 13	45.12% 111	246	3.30
Adults 19-39	20.80% 57	12.04% 33	11.31% 31	6.20% 17	49.64% 136	274	3.52
Adults 40-65	7.44% 30	12.41% 50	6.20% 25	7.44% 30	66.50% 268	403	4.13
Seniors 65+	47.94% 93	12.37% 24	9.79% 19	1.55% 3	28.35% 55	194	2.50

Q20 In general, how well do you think the age groups listed below are served by parks, recreation, and open space in or near Lower Providence Township?

Answered: 504 Skipped: 144



Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

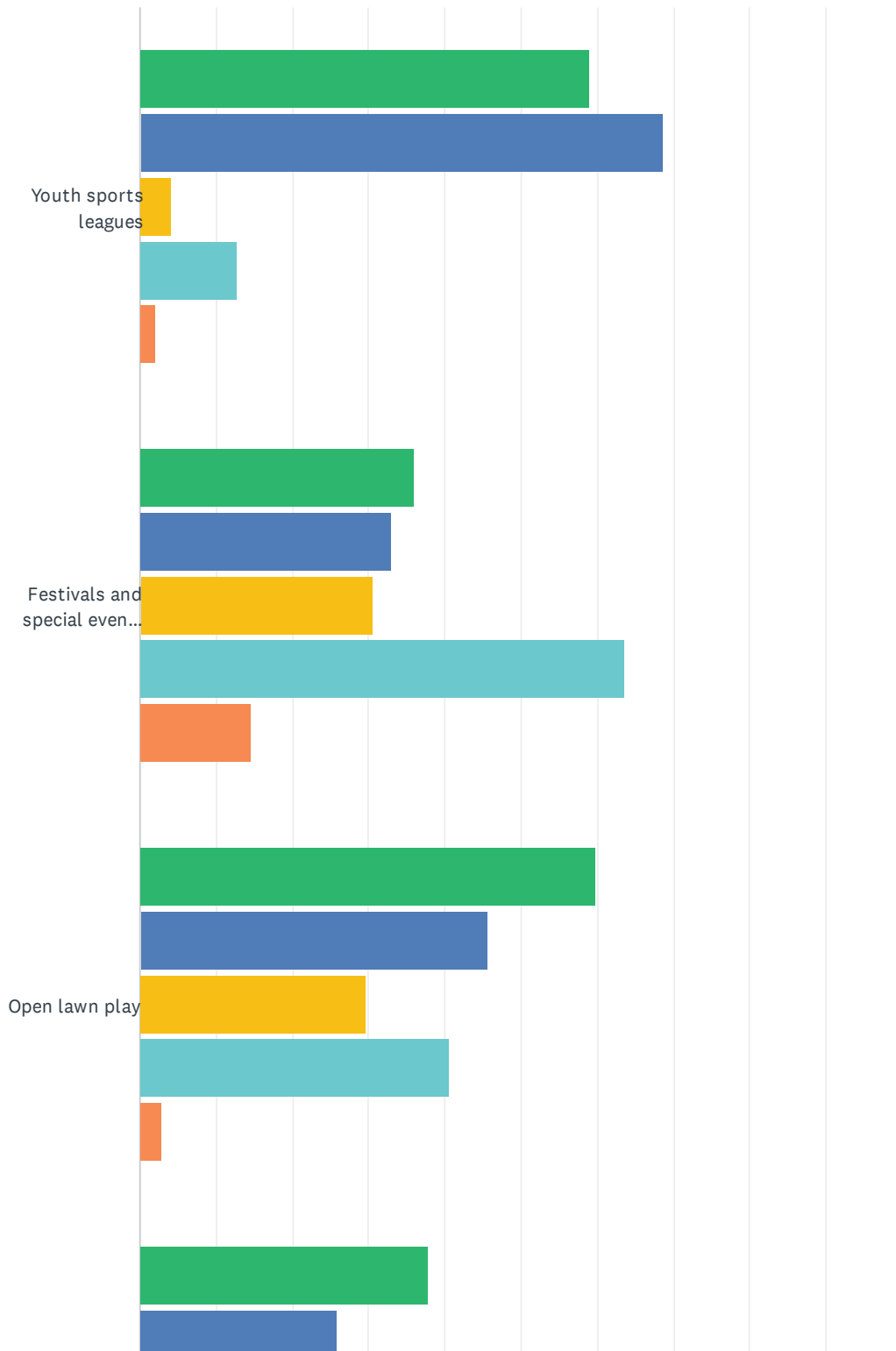


■ Very Well
 ■ Somewhat Well
 ■ Neither Well nor Poorly
 ■ Somewhat Poorly
 ■ Very Poorly
 ■ Don't know

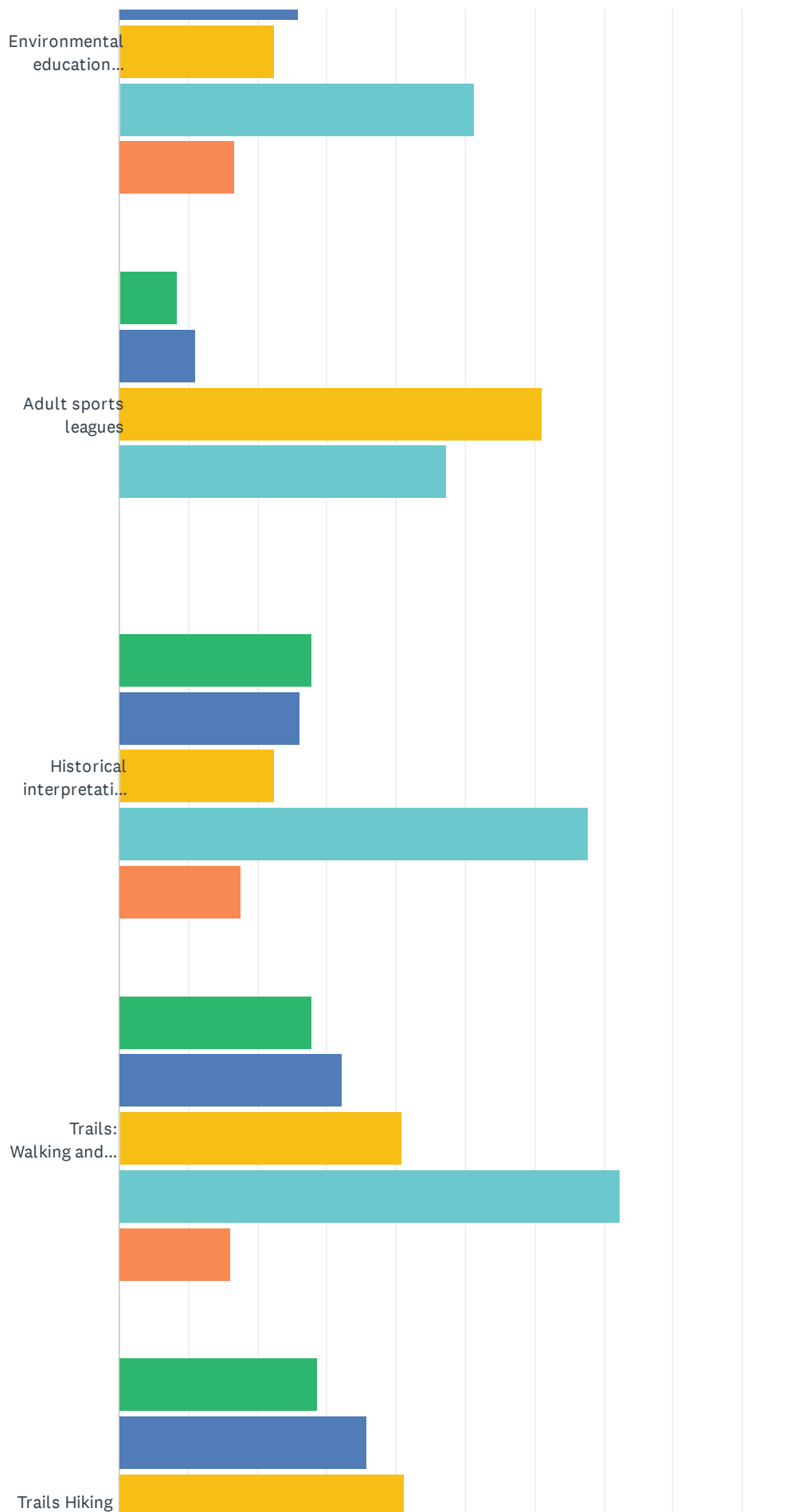
	VERY WELL	SOMEWHAT WELL	NEITHER WELL NOR POORLY	SOMEWHAT POORLY	VERY POORLY	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Children under 10	31.53% 140	39.41% 175	5.86% 26	4.73% 21	0.90% 4	17.57% 78	444
Children 10-18	18.62% 81	40.46% 176	13.33% 58	8.28% 36	1.38% 6	17.93% 78	435
Adults 19-39	23.56% 102	45.96% 199	13.16% 57	5.08% 22	0.46% 2	11.78% 51	433
Adults 40-65	24.18% 110	47.91% 218	14.51% 66	4.84% 22	1.32% 6	7.25% 33	455
Seniors 65+	19.26% 78	29.88% 121	15.80% 64	8.40% 34	3.46% 14	23.21% 94	405

Q21 The following is a list of outdoor activities often found in parks, natural areas, open spaces or recreation facilities. What activities did each age group in your household participate in and around Lower Providence Township? (Please check all that apply)

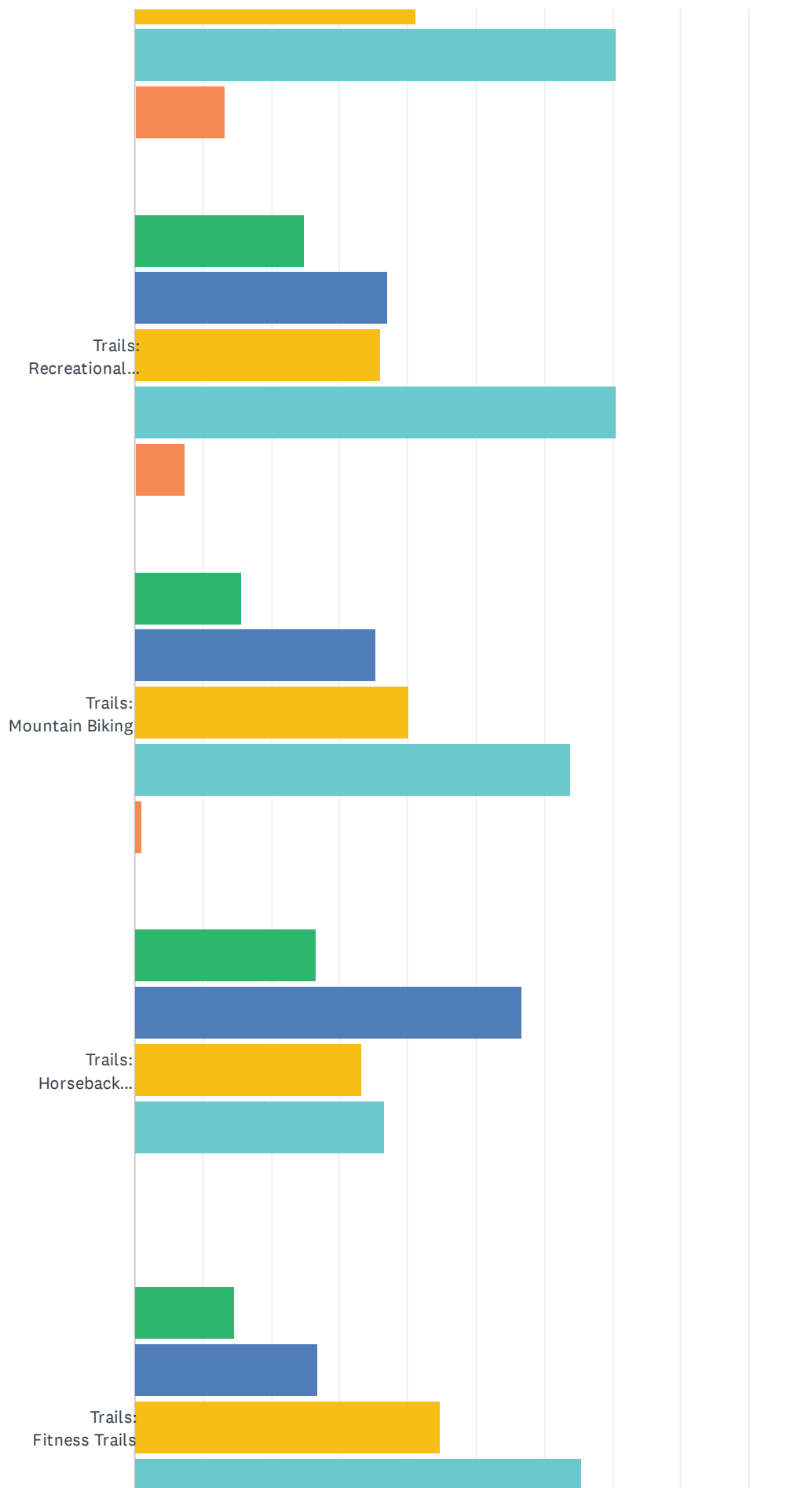
Answered: 498 Skipped: 150



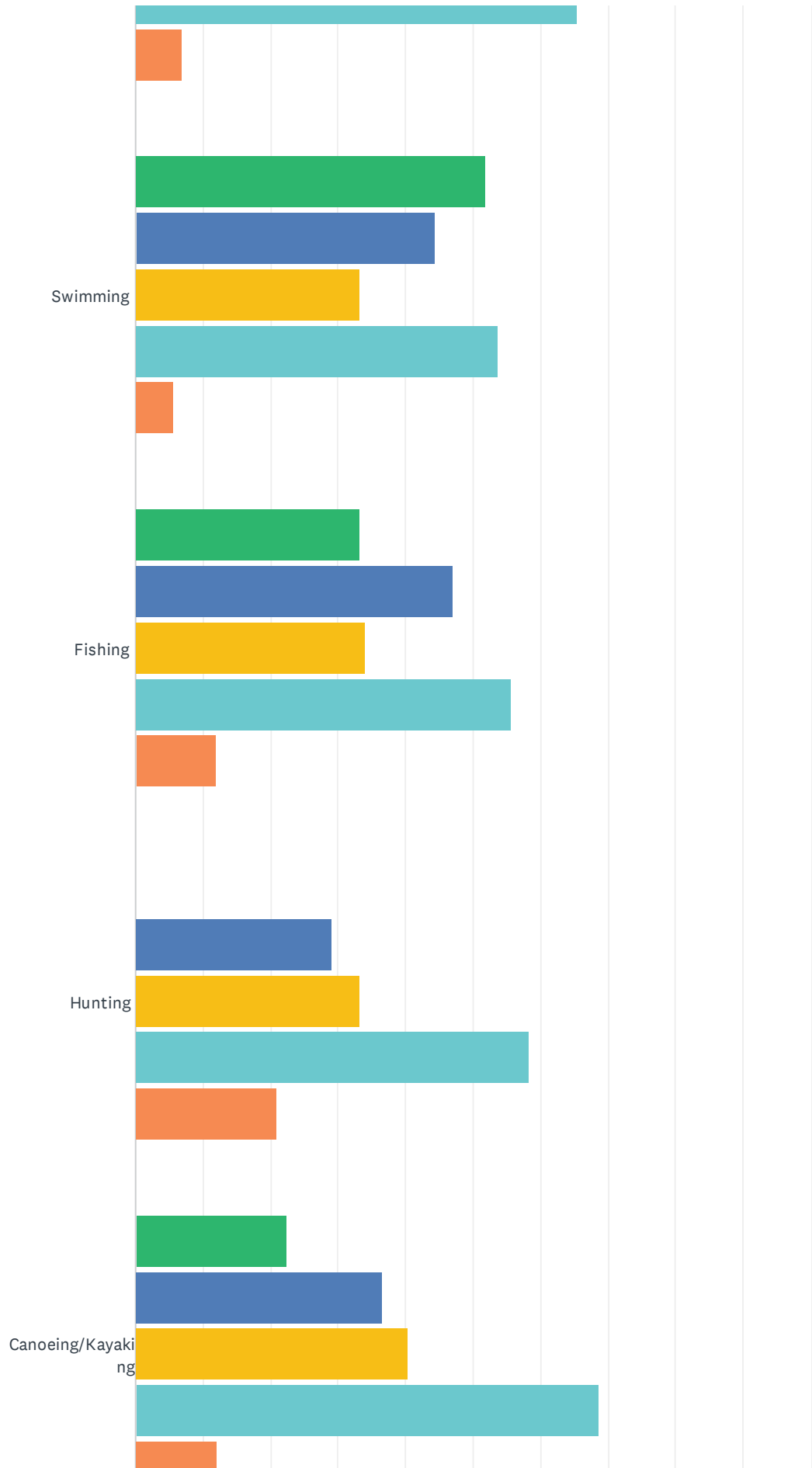
Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan



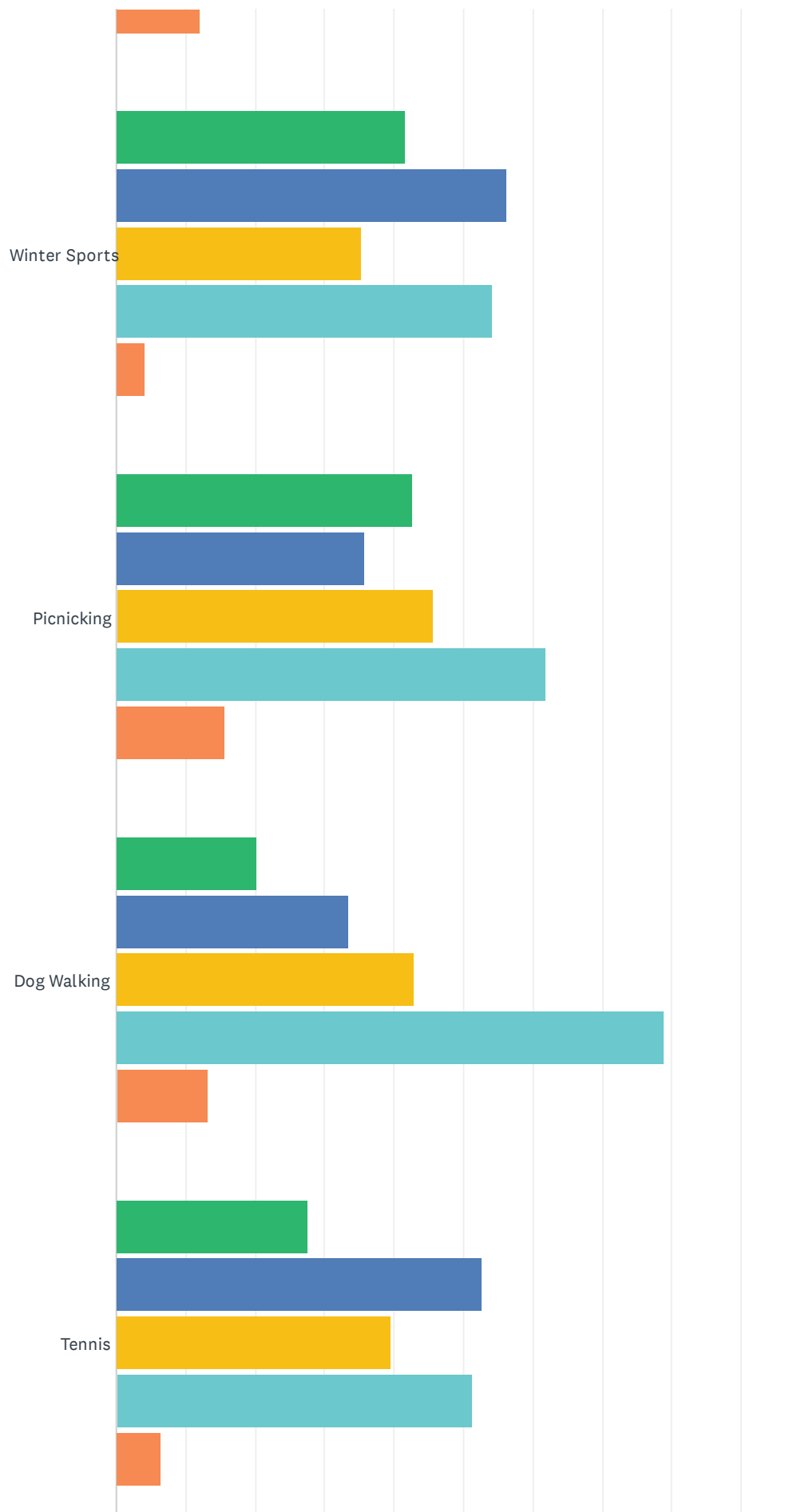
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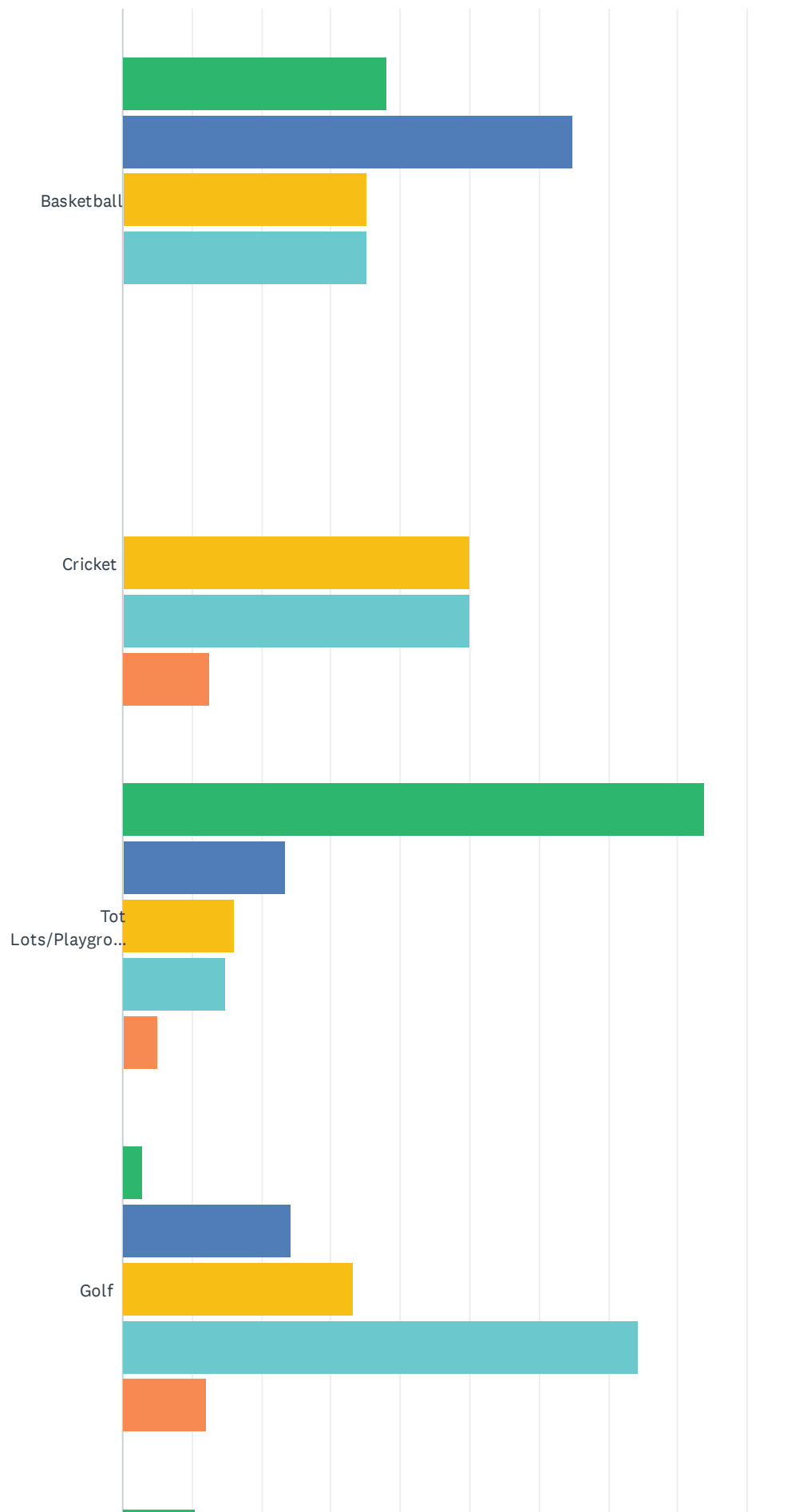
Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan



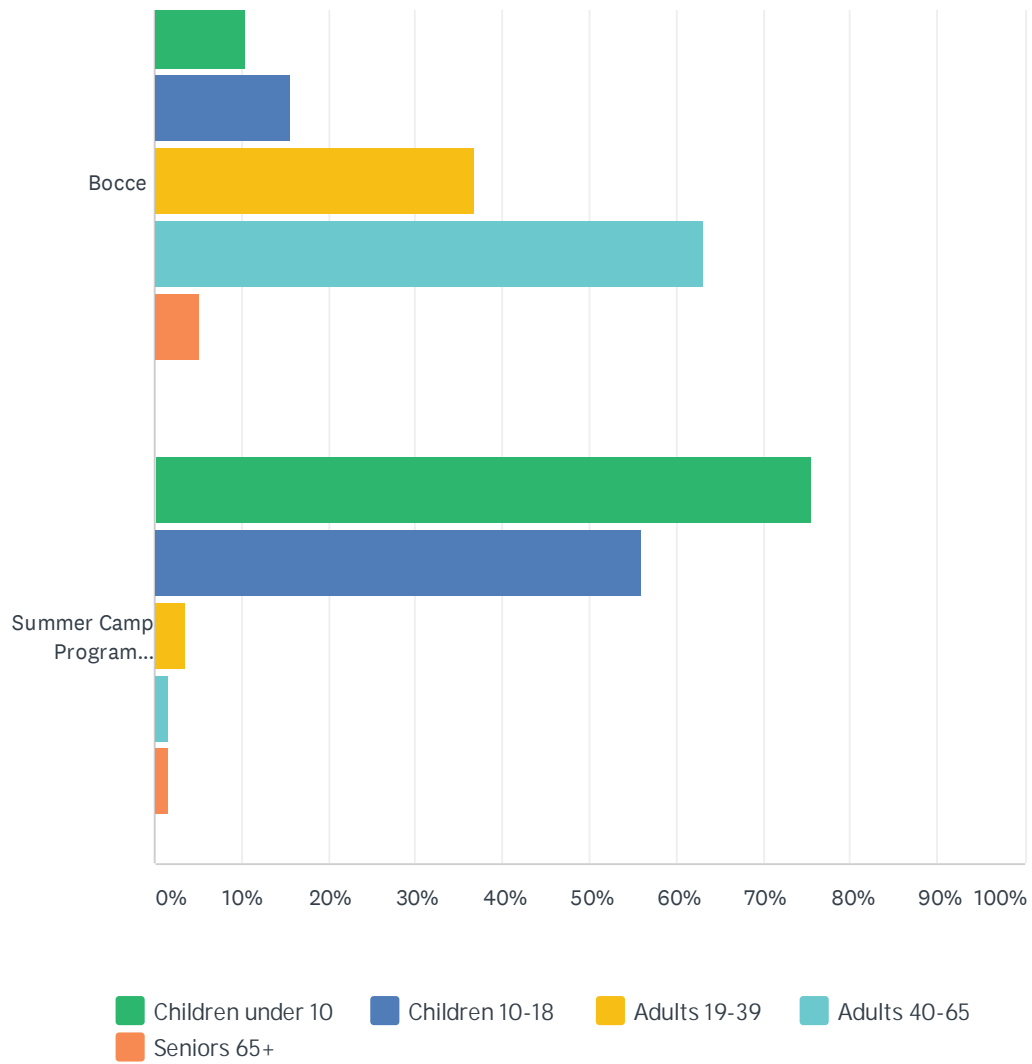
Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan



Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan



Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan



Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

	CHILDREN UNDER 10	CHILDREN 10-18	ADULTS 19-39	ADULTS 40-65	SENIORS 65+	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Youth sports leagues	59.04% 111	68.62% 129	4.26% 8	12.77% 24	2.13% 4	188
Festivals and special events (e.g., concerts, theater)	35.92% 88	33.06% 81	30.61% 75	63.67% 156	14.69% 36	245
Open lawn play	59.90% 121	45.54% 92	29.70% 60	40.59% 82	2.97% 6	202
Environmental education (e.g., nature studying, bird watching)	37.80% 79	25.84% 54	22.49% 47	51.20% 107	16.75% 35	209
Adult sports leagues	8.33% 3	11.11% 4	61.11% 22	47.22% 17	0.00% 0	36
Historical interpretation (e.g., farmsteads, mills)	27.88% 46	26.06% 43	22.42% 37	67.88% 112	17.58% 29	165
Trails: Walking and jogging	27.84% 130	32.12% 150	40.90% 191	72.38% 338	16.06% 75	467
Trails Hiking	28.76% 111	35.75% 138	41.19% 159	70.47% 272	13.21% 51	386
Trails: Recreational Cycling	25.00% 68	37.13% 101	36.03% 98	70.59% 192	7.35% 20	272
Trails: Mountain Biking	15.69% 16	35.29% 36	40.20% 41	63.73% 65	0.98% 1	102
Trails: Horseback Riding	26.67% 8	56.67% 17	33.33% 10	36.67% 11	0.00% 0	30
Trails: Fitness Trails	14.66% 17	26.72% 31	44.83% 52	65.52% 76	6.90% 8	116
Swimming	51.85% 28	44.44% 24	33.33% 18	53.70% 29	5.56% 3	54
Fishing	33.33% 39	47.01% 55	34.19% 40	55.56% 65	11.97% 14	117
Hunting	0.00% 0	29.17% 7	33.33% 8	58.33% 14	20.83% 5	24
Canoeing/Kayaking	22.44% 35	36.54% 57	40.38% 63	68.59% 107	12.18% 19	156
Winter Sports	41.67% 20	56.25% 27	35.42% 17	54.17% 26	4.17% 2	48
Picnicking	42.69% 73	35.67% 61	45.61% 78	61.99% 106	15.79% 27	171
Dog Walking	20.34% 48	33.47% 79	42.80% 101	78.81% 186	13.14% 31	236
Tennis	27.63% 21	52.63% 40	39.47% 30	51.32% 39	6.58% 5	76
Basketball	38.14% 37	64.95% 63	35.05% 34	35.05% 34	0.00% 0	97
Cricket	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 4	50.00% 4	12.50% 1	8
Tot Lots/Playgrounds	83.95% 136	23.46% 38	16.05% 26	14.81% 24	4.94% 8	162

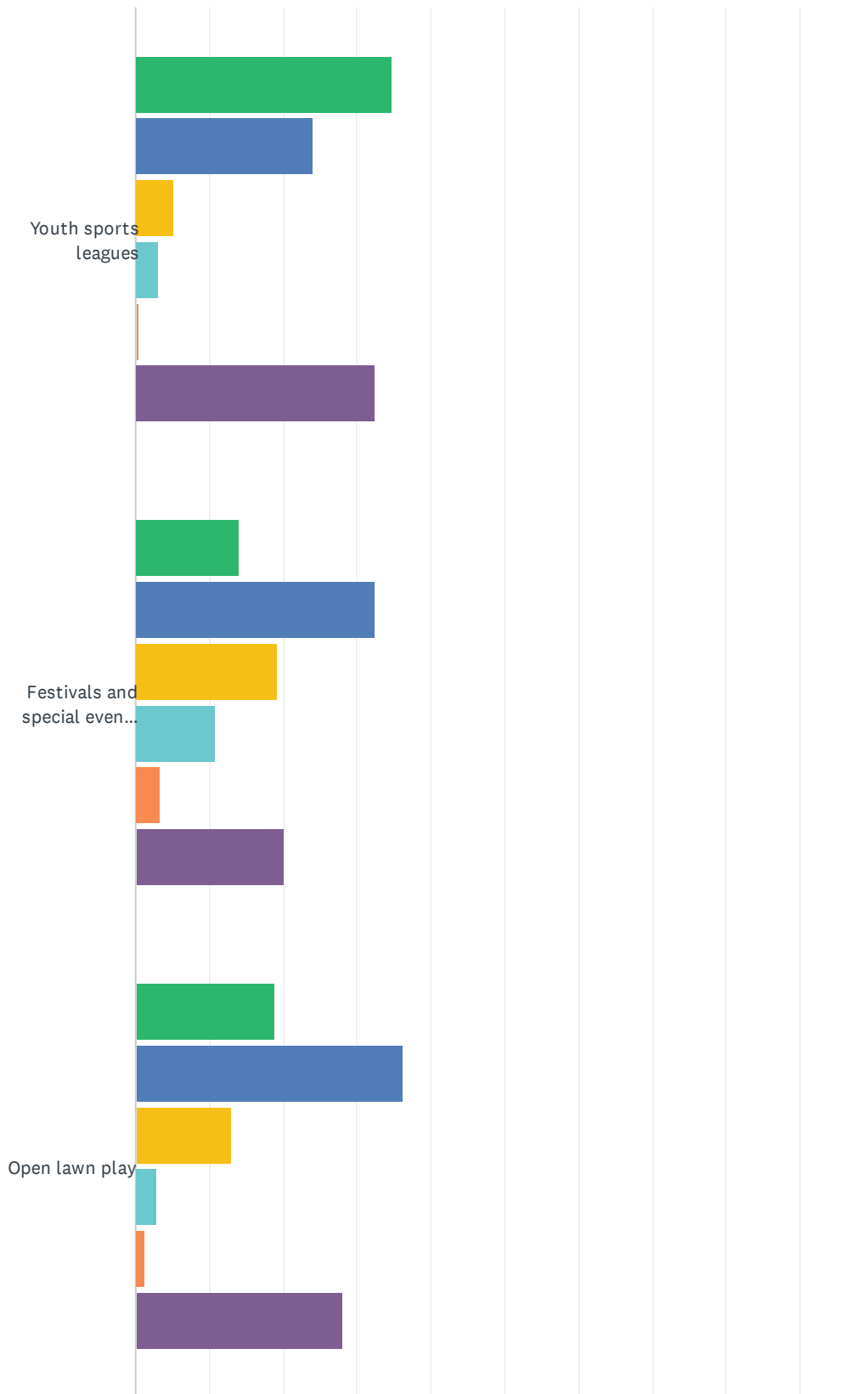
Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

Golf	3.03% 2	24.24% 16	33.33% 22	74.24% 49	12.12% 8	66
Bocce	10.53% 2	15.79% 3	36.84% 7	63.16% 12	5.26% 1	19
Summer Camp Program (Eagleville Park)	75.44% 43	56.14% 32	3.51% 2	1.75% 1	1.75% 1	57

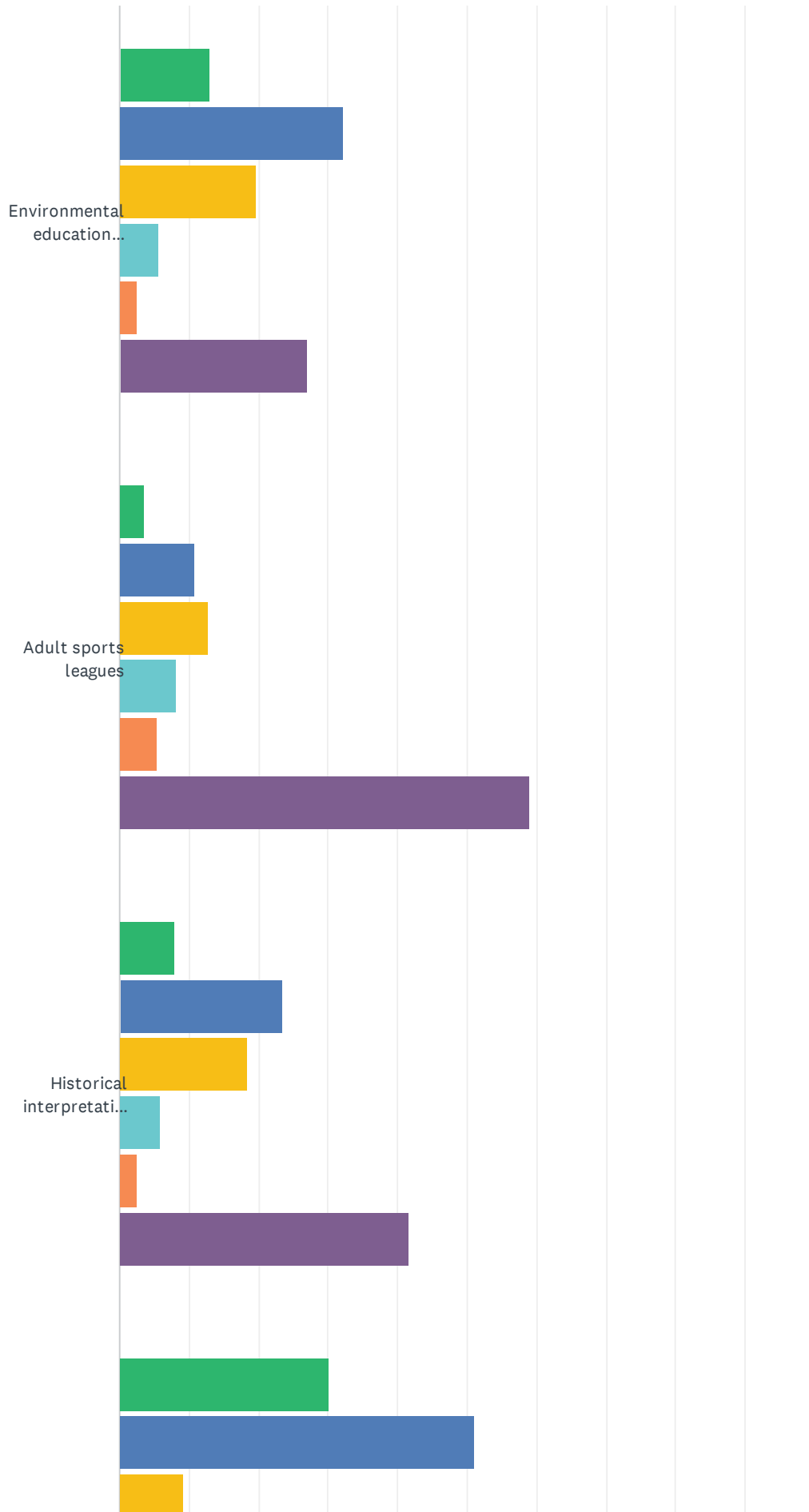
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Geocaching including pokemon go	3/17/2021 4:03 PM
2	golf?	2/12/2021 1:21 PM
3	GEO Caching	2/11/2021 9:53 AM
4	Baseball	2/11/2021 4:35 AM
5	Dog park	1/26/2021 6:15 PM
6	This is very long... please know we love the parks and all you do!	1/15/2021 3:05 PM
7	We would have had two kids in summer camp had COVID not hit.	1/8/2021 5:03 PM
8	Ugh take fishing and hunting off of here. They completely discourage us from using the parks more often.	11/15/2020 8:52 PM
9	Dog park with accesses to the water for swimming and play. Larger Dog park in shaded tree areas	10/26/2020 10:42 PM
10	Please add a sand volleyball court somewhere! :)	10/11/2020 9:07 AM
11	Bird Watching	9/22/2020 5:48 PM
12	Birding	9/15/2020 8:08 PM

Q22 How well is each activity provided for in or around Lower Providence Township? (Please check below)

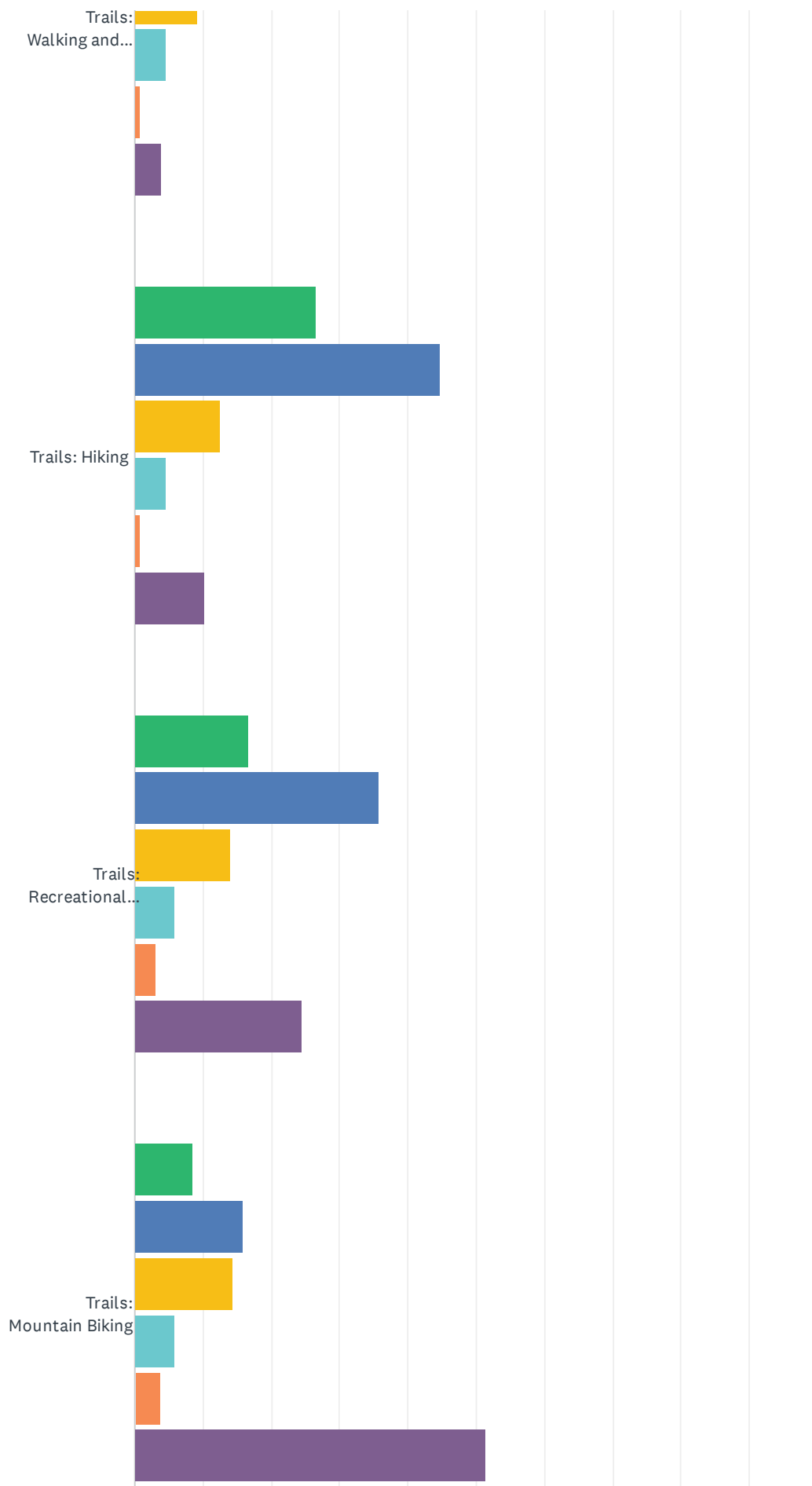
Answered: 457 Skipped: 191



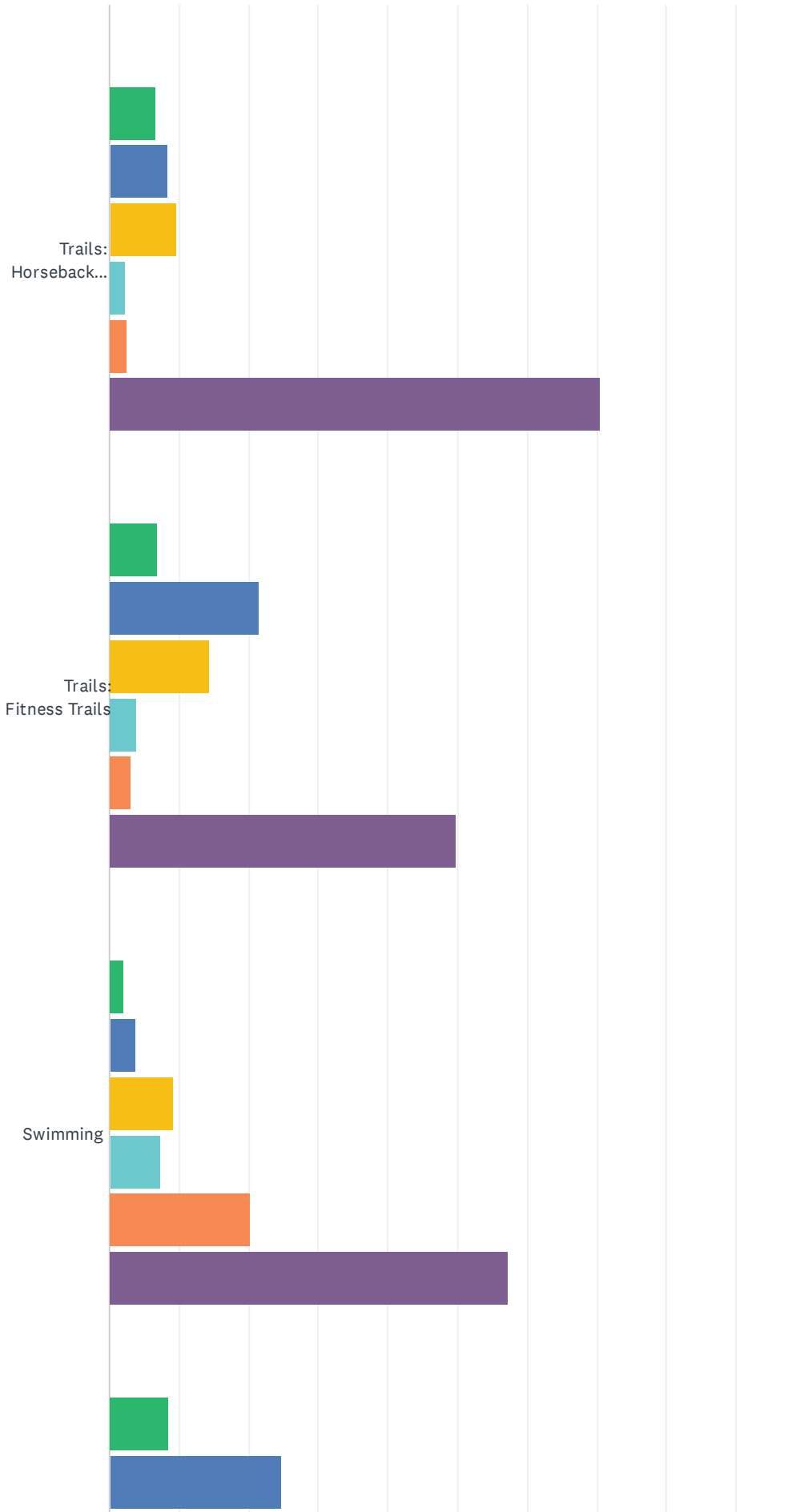
Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan



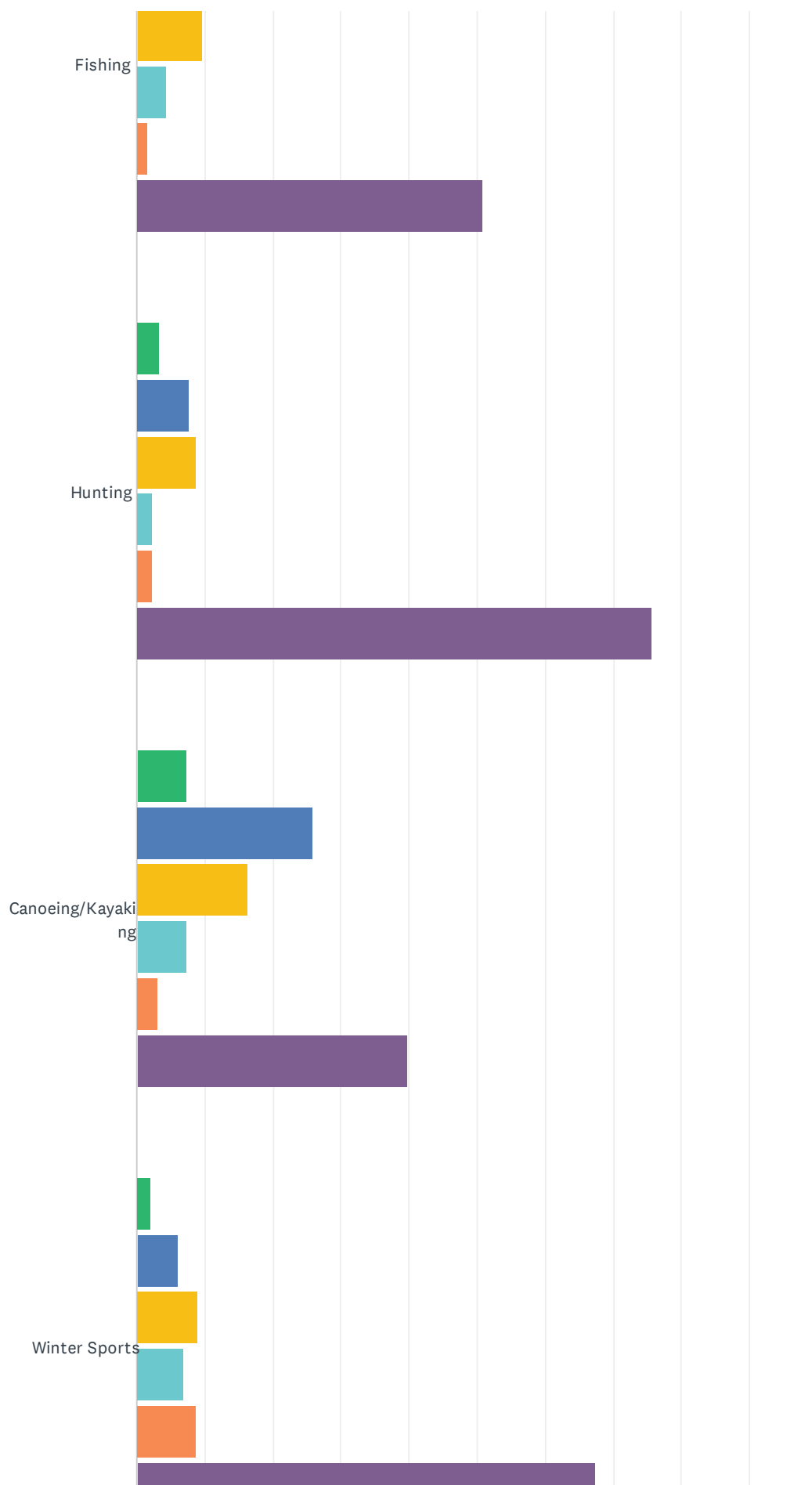
Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan



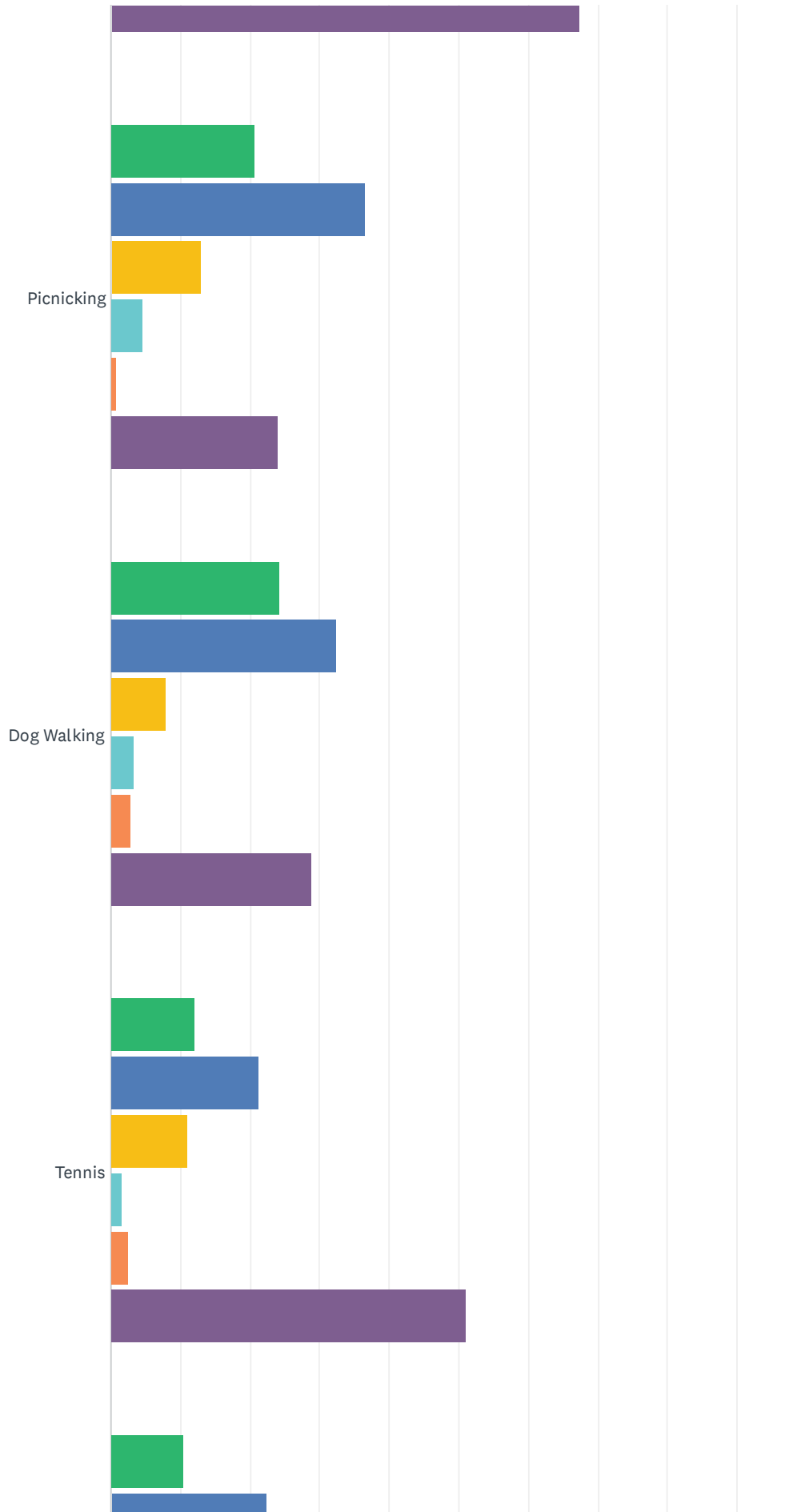
Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan



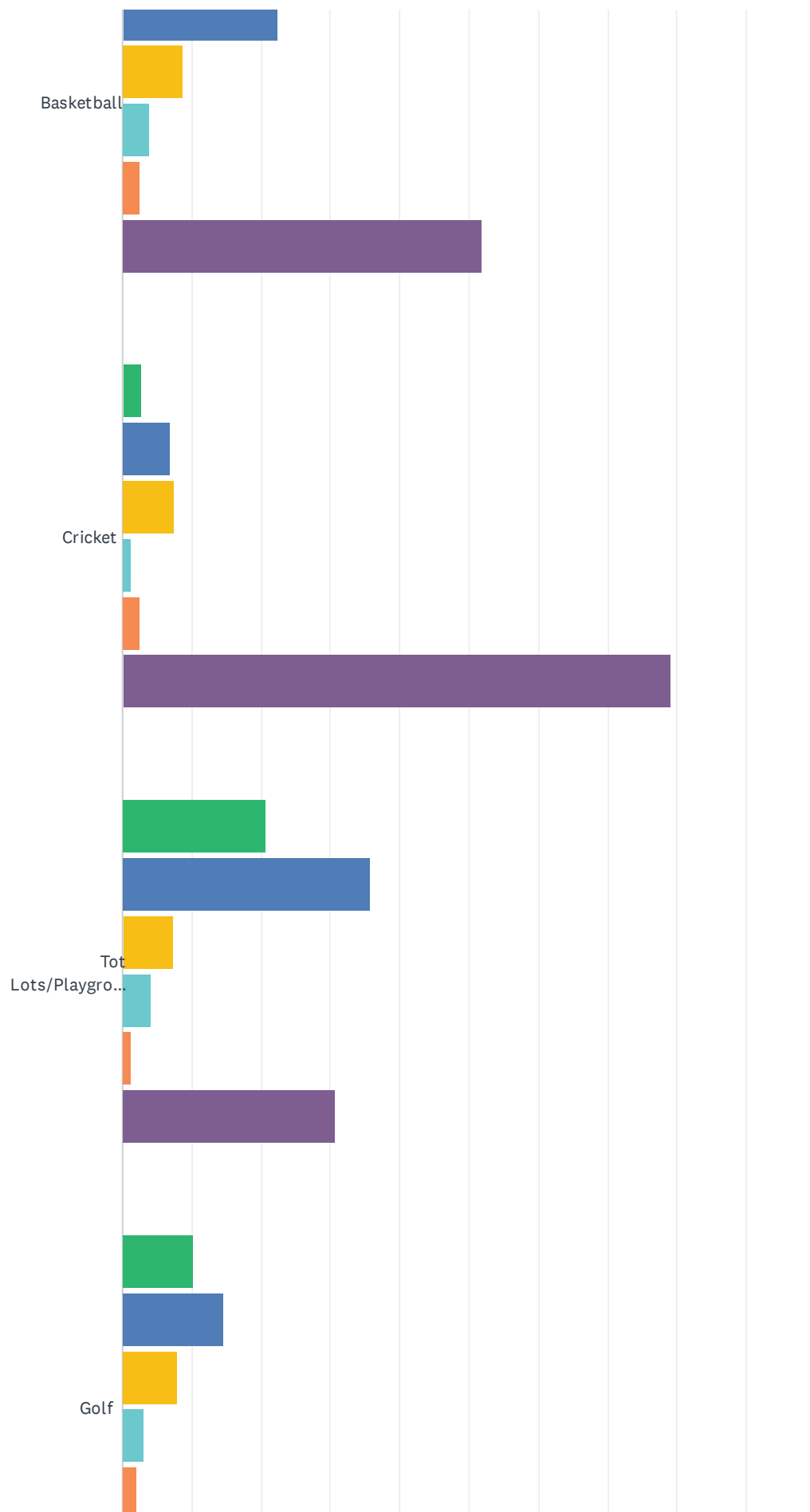
Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan



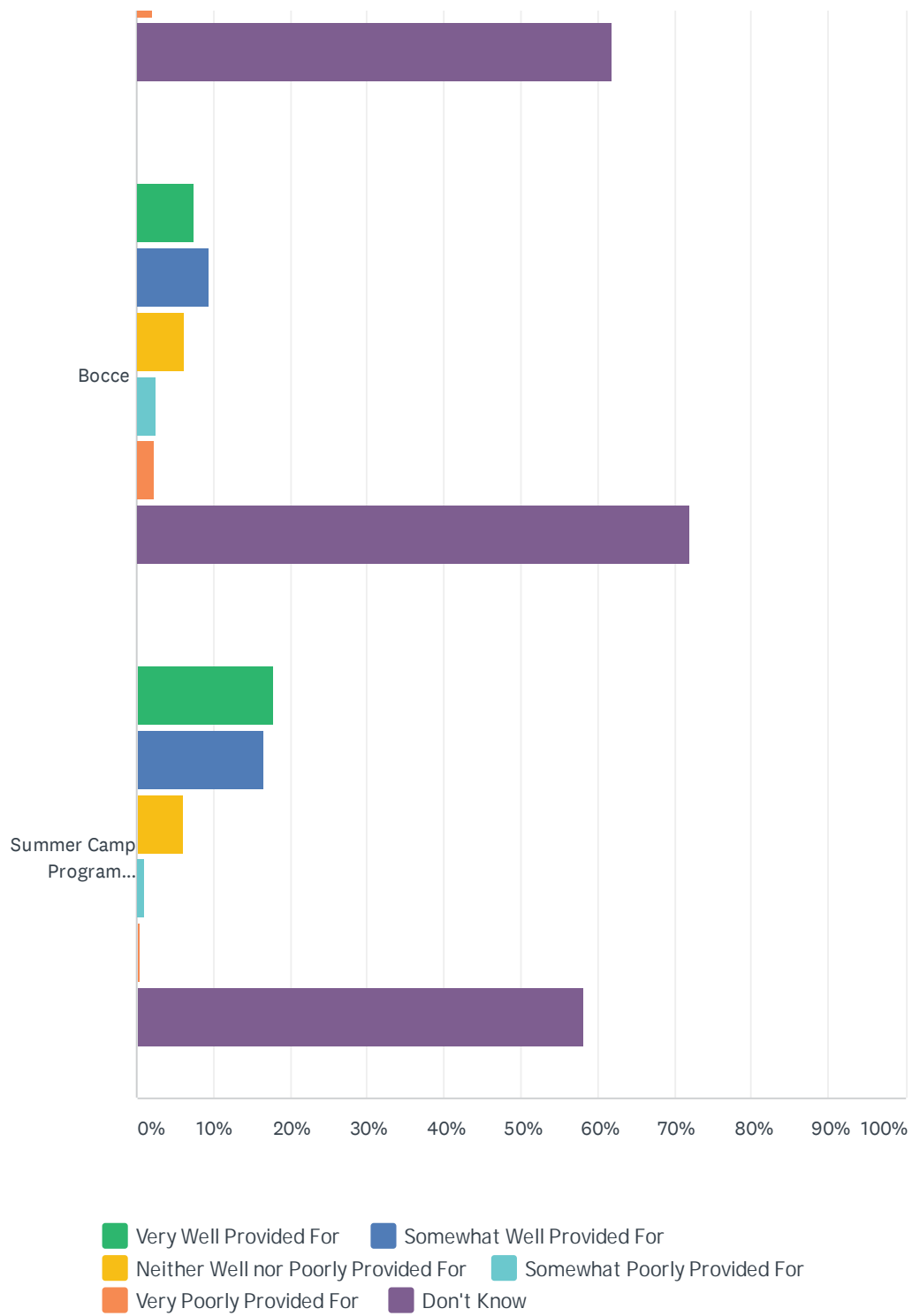
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Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan



Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan



Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

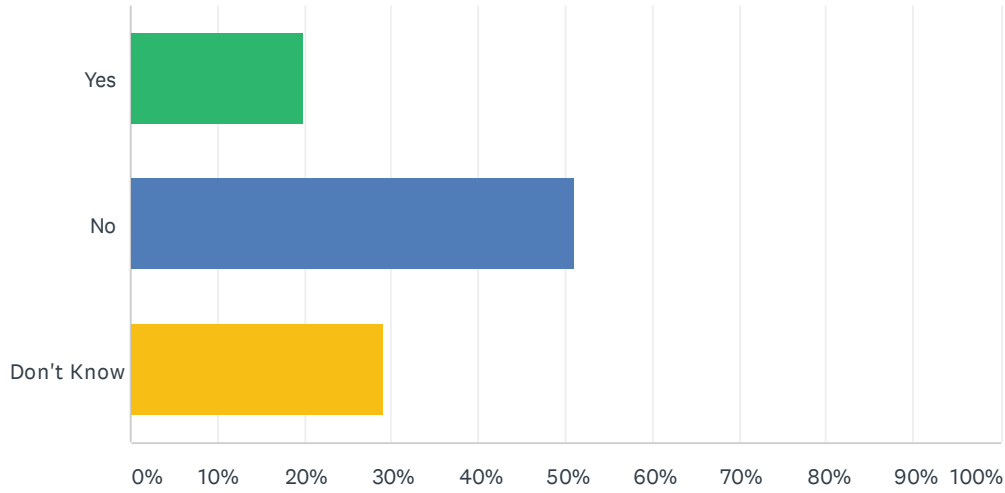
	VERY WELL PROVIDED FOR	SOMEWHAT WELL PROVIDED FOR	NEITHER WELL NOR POORLY PROVIDED FOR	SOMEWHAT POORLY PROVIDED FOR	VERY POORLY PROVIDED FOR	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Youth sports leagues	34.81% 149	24.07% 103	5.14% 22	3.04% 13	0.47% 2	32.48% 139	428
Festivals and special events (e.g., concerts, theater)	14.08% 60	32.39% 138	19.25% 82	10.80% 46	3.29% 14	20.19% 86	426
Open lawn play	18.90% 79	36.12% 151	12.92% 54	2.87% 12	1.20% 5	27.99% 117	418
Environmental education (e.g., nature studying, bird watching)	12.97% 55	32.31% 137	19.58% 83	5.66% 24	2.59% 11	26.89% 114	424
Adult sports leagues	3.64% 15	10.92% 45	12.86% 53	8.25% 34	5.34% 22	58.98% 243	412
Historical interpretation (e.g., farmsteads, mills)	8.04% 34	23.40% 99	18.44% 78	5.91% 25	2.60% 11	41.61% 176	423
Trails: Walking and jogging	30.09% 133	51.13% 226	9.28% 41	4.52% 20	0.90% 4	4.07% 18	442
Trails: Hiking	26.67% 116	44.83% 195	12.64% 55	4.60% 20	0.92% 4	10.34% 45	435
Trails: Recreational Cycling	16.67% 70	35.71% 150	14.05% 59	5.95% 25	3.10% 13	24.52% 103	420
Trails: Mountain Biking	8.58% 35	15.93% 65	14.46% 59	5.88% 24	3.68% 15	51.47% 210	408
Trails: Horseback Riding	6.72% 27	8.46% 34	9.70% 39	2.24% 9	2.49% 10	70.40% 283	402
Trails: Fitness Trails	6.95% 28	21.59% 87	14.39% 58	3.97% 16	3.23% 13	49.88% 201	403
Swimming	2.01% 8	3.77% 15	9.30% 37	7.29% 29	20.35% 81	57.29% 228	398
Fishing	8.64% 35	24.69% 100	9.63% 39	4.44% 18	1.73% 7	50.86% 206	405
Hunting	3.32% 13	7.67% 30	8.70% 34	2.30% 9	2.30% 9	75.70% 296	391
Canoeing/Kayaking	7.33% 30	25.92% 106	16.38% 67	7.33% 30	3.18% 13	39.85% 163	409
Winter Sports	1.99% 8	5.97% 24	8.96% 36	6.97% 28	8.71% 35	67.41% 271	402
Picnicking	20.69% 84	36.70% 149	13.05% 53	4.68% 19	0.74% 3	24.14% 98	406
Dog Walking	24.33% 100	32.36% 133	8.03% 33	3.41% 14	2.92% 12	28.95% 119	411
Tennis	12.16% 49	21.34% 86	11.17% 45	1.74% 7	2.48% 10	51.12% 206	403
Basketball	10.37% 42	22.47% 91	8.89% 36	3.95% 16	2.47% 10	51.85% 210	405
Cricket	2.78%	6.84%	7.59%	1.27%	2.53%	78.99%	

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

	11	27	30	5	10	312	395
Tot Lots/Playgrounds	20.64% 84	35.87% 146	7.37% 30	4.18% 17	1.23% 5	30.71% 125	407
Golf	10.22% 41	14.71% 59	7.98% 32	3.24% 13	2.00% 8	61.85% 248	401
Bocce	7.58% 30	9.34% 37	6.31% 25	2.53% 10	2.27% 9	71.97% 285	396
Summer Camp Program (Eagleville Park)	17.75% 71	16.50% 66	6.00% 24	1.00% 4	0.50% 2	58.25% 233	400

Q23 Do you think Lower Providence Township needs more sports fields (soccer, baseball, football, etc.)?

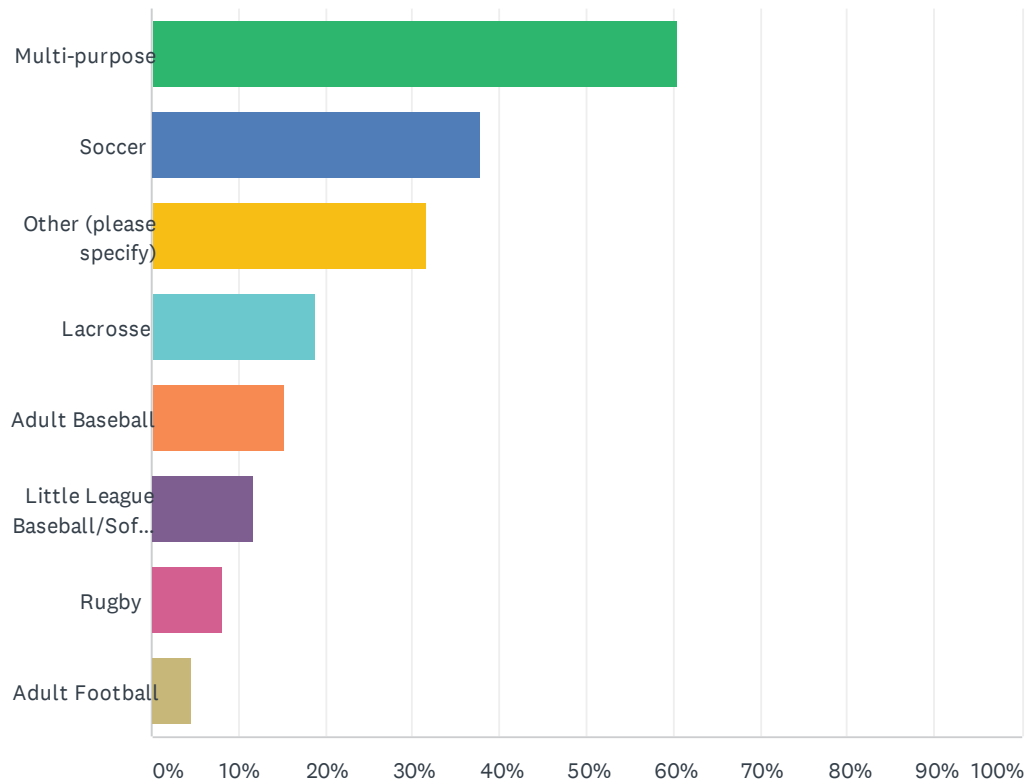
Answered: 467 Skipped: 181



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	19.91%	93
No	50.96%	238
Don't Know	29.12%	136
TOTAL		467

Q24 If you answered yes on the previous question, which sports do you feel are in need of fields? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 111 Skipped: 537



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Multi-purpose	60.36%	67
Soccer	37.84%	42
Other (please specify)	31.53%	35
Lacrosse	18.92%	21
Adult Baseball	15.32%	17
Little League Baseball/Softball	11.71%	13
Rugby	8.11%	9
Adult Football	4.50%	5
Total Respondents: 111		

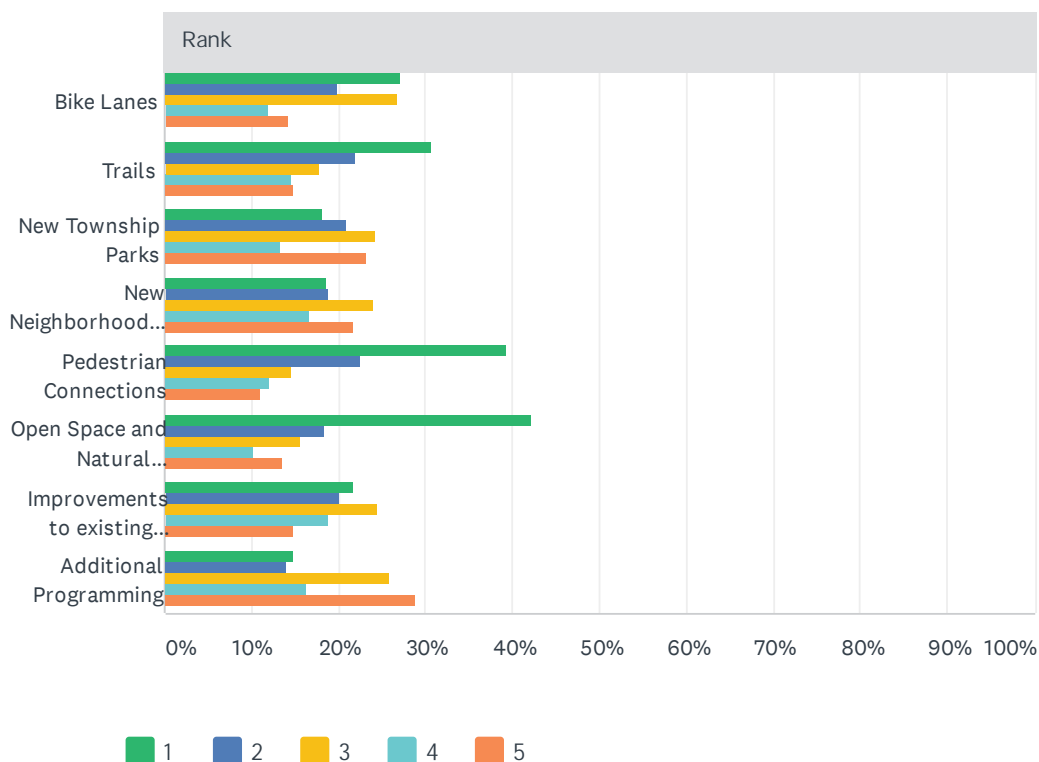
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	N/A	3/29/2021 2:25 PM
2	Pickle ball	3/27/2021 7:34 PM
3	Disc Golf would be good. Perhaps softball fields for adult leagues. Maybe even adult football.	3/26/2021 5:01 PM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

4	Tennis courts	3/17/2021 4:07 PM
5	Field hockey	3/16/2021 12:02 PM
6	Adult Softball	3/16/2021 10:06 AM
7	turf for field hockey and lacrosse	3/16/2021 9:41 AM
8	Basketball	3/16/2021 8:42 AM
9	Sand VolleyBall	2/11/2021 9:58 AM
10	Pickleball!!!	2/10/2021 6:51 PM
11	Skate park, dog park	1/25/2021 9:56 PM
12	Volleyball	1/20/2021 9:15 PM
13	outdoor turf w/lights- pay to play	1/20/2021 4:41 PM
14	Multi purpose fields- baseball fields serve one sport only	1/15/2021 12:19 PM
15	NA	1/8/2021 5:09 PM
16	T	1/8/2021 6:46 AM
17	Dec Hockey / Multi sport - Field Hockey/Lacrosse/Rugby	12/16/2020 3:29 PM
18	Pickleball	10/26/2020 9:03 AM
19	sand volleyball!	10/11/2020 2:08 PM
20	Pickle Ball	10/7/2020 7:20 PM
21	Should consider a multi-purpose turf field	10/5/2020 9:19 AM
22	Tennis/roller hockey	9/24/2020 10:15 AM
23	I see many unused fields. We need exercise courses	9/22/2020 4:55 PM
24	more 90ft baseball fields. And more open space in certain residential areas (ie AUDUBON between Park and Sunnyside)	9/20/2020 11:22 PM
25	Skate park, BMX bike track	9/20/2020 3:21 PM
26	Tennis!!!!!!	9/18/2020 5:20 PM
27	Fitness Center	9/18/2020 10:50 AM
28	Dog park!	9/18/2020 9:10 AM
29	Dont know	9/16/2020 10:50 PM
30	tennis courts	9/16/2020 9:22 PM
31	pickleball courts	9/16/2020 7:58 PM
32	Basketball	9/16/2020 5:24 PM
33	BASKETBALL	9/16/2020 3:42 PM
34	more facilities with lights to extend usage	9/16/2020 9:01 AM
35	Adult Soccer	9/16/2020 12:21 AM

Q25 Please rank the top 5 priorities that you feel Lower Providence Township should focus on in this plan. (1 = High Priority, 5 = Low Priority)

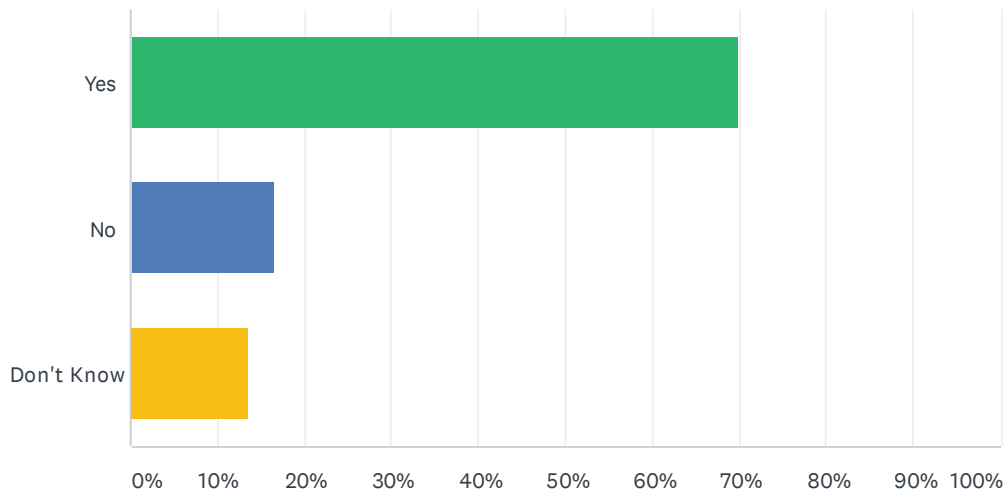
Answered: 453 Skipped: 195



Rank						
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
Bike Lanes	27.30% 92	19.88% 67	26.71% 90	11.87% 40	14.24% 48	337
Trails	30.81% 118	21.93% 84	17.75% 68	14.62% 56	14.88% 57	383
New Township Parks	18.25% 48	20.91% 55	24.33% 64	13.31% 35	23.19% 61	263
New Neighborhood Parks	18.55% 51	18.91% 52	24.00% 66	16.73% 46	21.82% 60	275
Pedestrian Connections	39.36% 148	22.61% 85	14.63% 55	12.23% 46	11.17% 42	376
Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation	42.20% 165	18.41% 72	15.60% 61	10.23% 40	13.55% 53	391
Improvements to existing facilities	21.77% 81	20.16% 75	24.46% 91	18.82% 70	14.78% 55	372
Additional Programming	14.91% 34	14.04% 32	25.88% 59	16.23% 37	28.95% 66	228

Q26 Open spaces are areas of land or water designated for use as active or passive recreation or for natural resource protection. Please note that these are not vacant, undeveloped lands. Do you think that more public parks, natural areas, and open spaces are needed in Lower Providence Township?

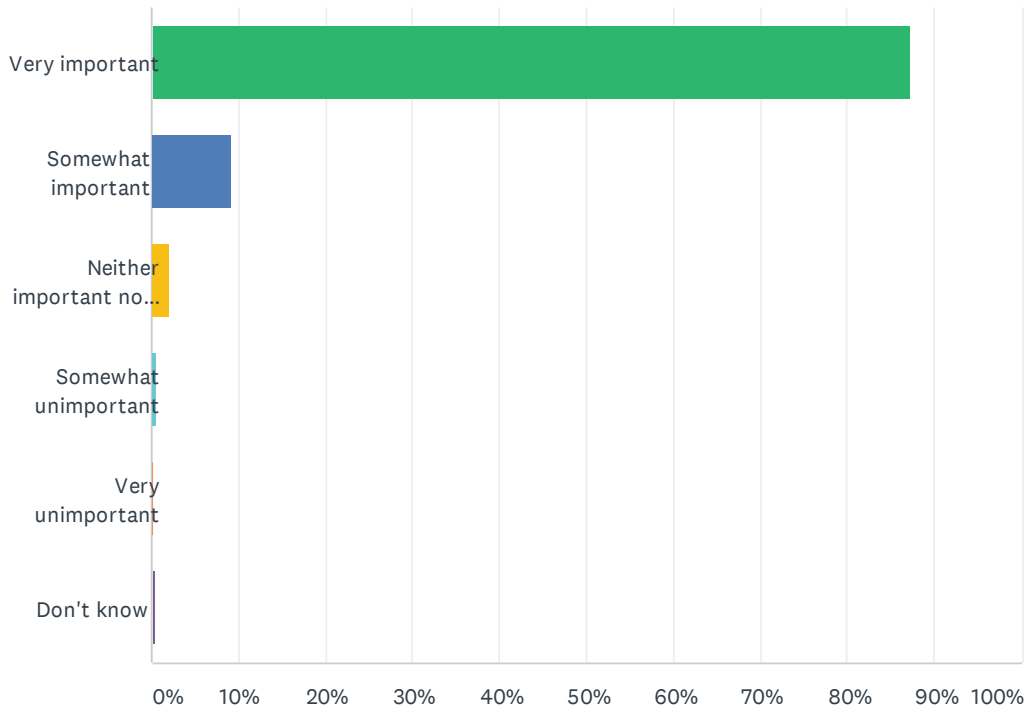
Answered: 459 Skipped: 189



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	69.93%	321
No	16.56%	76
Don't Know	13.51%	62
TOTAL		459

Q27 In general, how important do you feel public parks, trails, natural areas and open spaces are to the well-being and quality of life in Lower Providence Township?

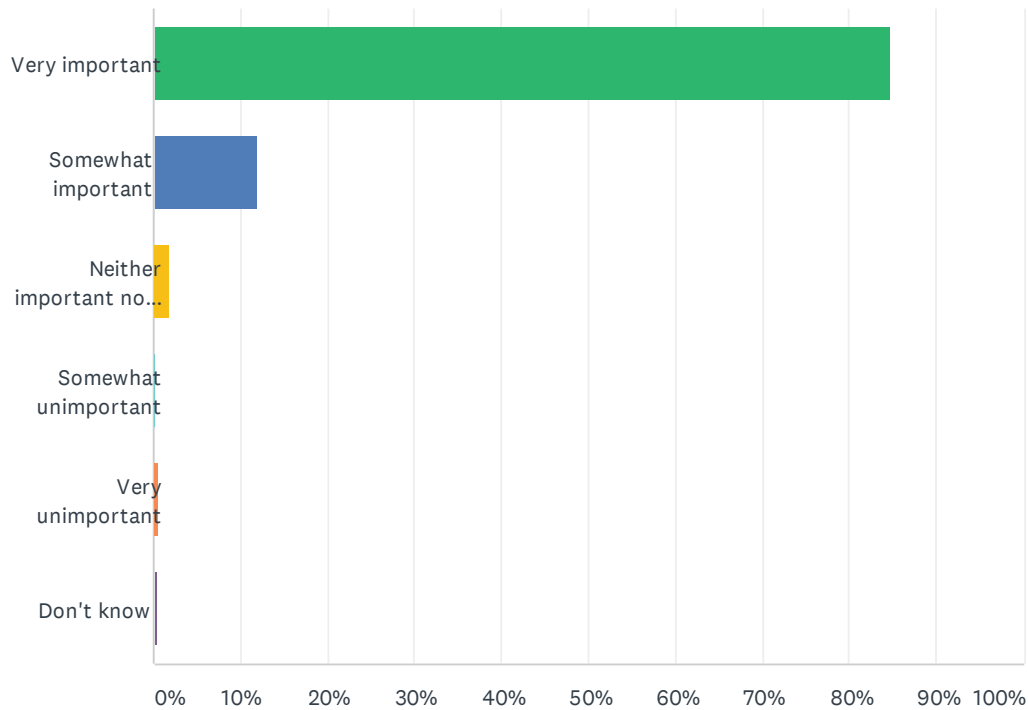
Answered: 463 Skipped: 185



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very important	87.26%	404
Somewhat important	9.29%	43
Neither important nor unimportant	2.16%	10
Somewhat unimportant	0.65%	3
Very unimportant	0.22%	1
Don't know	0.43%	2
TOTAL		463

Q28 In general, how important is the conservation of natural open spaces such as wetlands and wooded areas in Lower Providence Township?

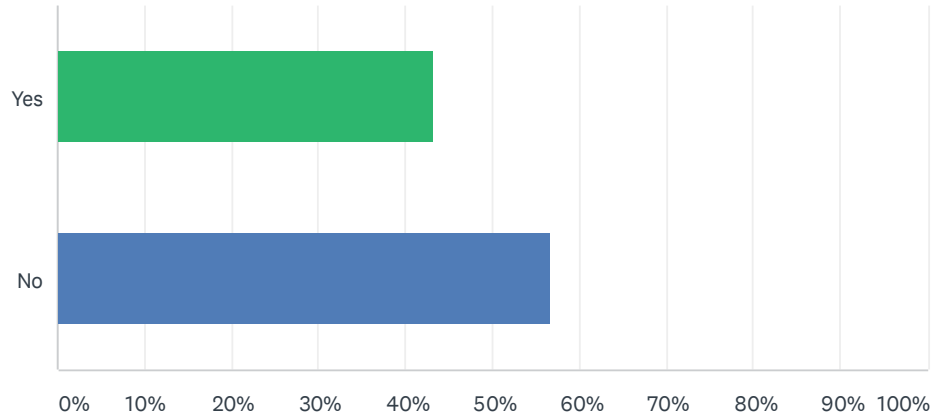
Answered: 467 Skipped: 181



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very important	84.80%	396
Somewhat important	11.99%	56
Neither important nor unimportant	1.93%	9
Somewhat unimportant	0.21%	1
Very unimportant	0.64%	3
Don't know	0.43%	2
TOTAL		467

Q29 Do you visit gymnasiums or workout centers for fitness or recreational purposes?

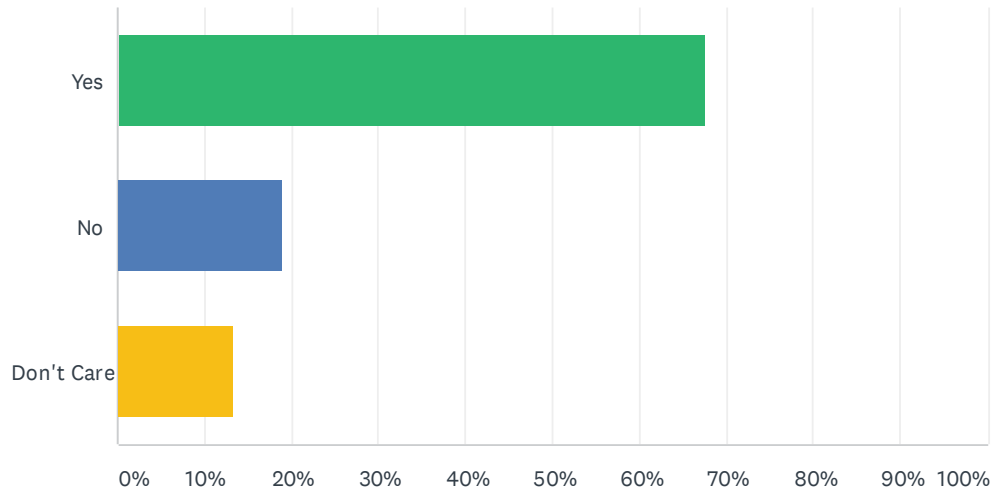
Answered: 467 Skipped: 181



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	43.25%	202
No	56.75%	265
TOTAL		467

Q30 Should Lower Providence Township consider the development of a community center that provides facilities for indoor recreation, fitness and other sports, recreation and community activities?

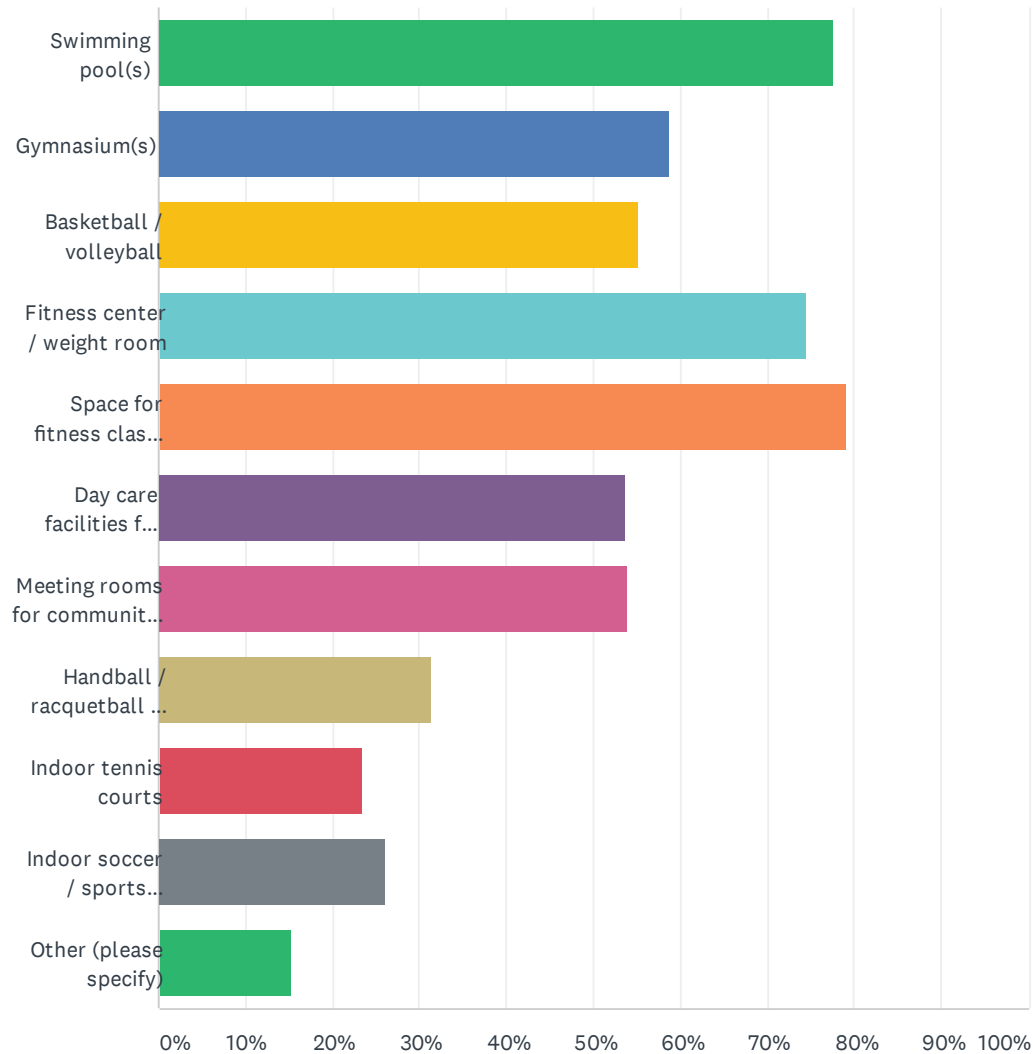
Answered: 465 Skipped: 183



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		67.53%	314
No		19.14%	89
Don't Care		13.33%	62
TOTAL			465

Q31 If Lower Providence Township was to plan for a community center, which facilities should be included in this building (check all that you feel are needed)?

Answered: 402 Skipped: 246



Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Swimming pool(s)	77.61%	312
Gymnasium(s)	58.71%	236
Basketball / volleyball	55.22%	222
Fitness center / weight room	74.38%	299
Space for fitness classes (spin classes / yoga / dance, etc.)	79.10%	318
Day care facilities for parents while exercising	53.73%	216
Meeting rooms for community groups	53.98%	217
Handball / racquetball / squash	31.34%	126
Indoor tennis courts	23.38%	94
Indoor soccer / sports practice fields	26.12%	105
Other (please specify)	15.17%	61
Total Respondents: 402		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Pickle Ball.	3/26/2021 5:02 PM
2	summer outdoor swim club	3/23/2021 8:16 PM
3	Our taxes are high enough. Please use any funding for a community center to pay our police and emergency services instead.	3/18/2021 5:22 PM
4	Public WiFi and computer use.	3/17/2021 4:08 PM
5	Indoor walking	3/16/2021 10:02 PM
6	I don't think a township should run a recreation center.	3/16/2021 9:34 PM
7	somewhere for teens to hang out safely	3/16/2021 4:30 PM
8	Field hockey and outdoor tennis	3/16/2021 12:04 PM
9	Adult Softball	3/16/2021 10:07 AM
10	Not sure Ctr is needed since the building of the I Roy gym . Way to big	2/11/2021 8:50 PM
11	Should be affordable to all.	2/11/2021 7:38 PM
12	Welcome the YMCA into the twp	2/11/2021 2:28 PM
13	Pickleball	2/11/2021 1:51 PM
14	Yoga studio.	2/11/2021 10:53 AM
15	Volleyball	2/11/2021 10:03 AM
16	Pickle Ball	2/11/2021 5:15 AM
17	Indoor track	2/11/2021 4:38 AM
18	we must better utilize what we have not add more	2/10/2021 8:31 PM
19	Arts Performance Spaces	2/10/2021 8:06 PM
20	I	2/10/2021 6:56 PM
21	Pickleball!!!	2/10/2021 6:51 PM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

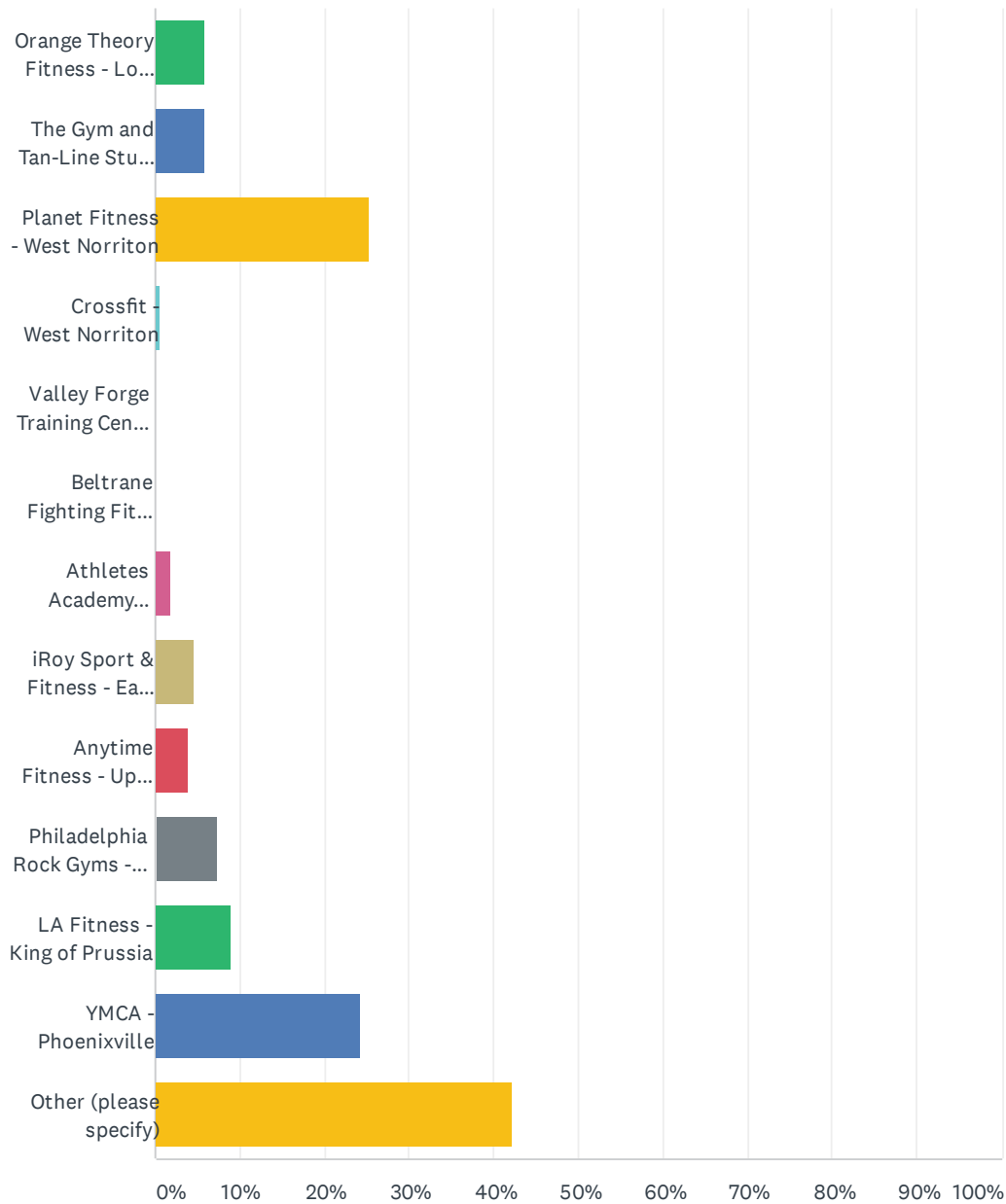
22	Indoor Xtreme Sports Training like Woodward	2/9/2021 7:36 PM
23	Some of the organized or group sports require too much of any available space	1/28/2021 10:46 AM
24	Indoor skate park	1/25/2021 10:00 PM
25	Activities for kids to join in	1/25/2021 5:21 PM
26	Pickleball	1/23/2021 3:07 PM
27	Football	1/22/2021 10:45 PM
28	Not needed	1/20/2021 7:22 PM
29	Homeschool classes	1/15/2021 3:00 PM
30	Golf	1/8/2021 5:13 PM
31	As many as possible	1/8/2021 7:34 AM
32	If you were to put in a center, I would like to see it run and managed by a professional like the YMCA. A small center that does not get maintained and is not used broadly across the township is useless.	1/8/2021 6:49 AM
33	I was looking forward to having a facility like this but the township supervisors didn't want the YMCA at the Washington golf course. Such a shame for our community to loose that opportunity.	1/8/2021 12:00 AM
34	There are plenty of commercial gyms. We had the opportunity for a Y and this was shot down. Community centers tend to not cover their costs and there are plenty of commercial alternatives as shown in question 32.	12/31/2020 1:06 PM
35	Walking trails around the building	12/16/2020 3:33 PM
36	Only if you use existing space, and don't knock down more trees	11/15/2020 8:57 PM
37	Indoor skatepark	10/29/2020 10:50 PM
38	go outside	10/26/2020 8:27 PM
39	We have community centers nearby. Open space and quality natural areas are more of a long term asset for communities.	10/26/2020 7:54 PM
40	Pickleball	10/26/2020 9:05 AM
41	Senior center, physical therapy	10/21/2020 10:31 AM
42	None-we have what we need	10/7/2020 5:09 PM
43	Ability to rent large room for parties	10/7/2020 2:19 PM
44	None - waste of money - private sector has this figured out pretty well	10/5/2020 2:17 AM
45	outdoor skateboard park/plaza	10/3/2020 5:33 PM
46	both outdoor and indoor pools	9/29/2020 10:12 PM
47	get a good ymca built, similar to phoenixv, or spring hse	9/28/2020 8:32 AM
48	A large flexible space	9/24/2020 10:17 AM
49	Pickleball	9/22/2020 6:16 PM
50	Do not build a public fitness center - let private business like ymca etcprovide	9/21/2020 10:30 AM
51	A swim club with Pool, open fields, bball courts, etc. Like Whitpain Greenes but modern. Shannondell too small	9/20/2020 11:24 PM
52	Skate park	9/20/2020 3:22 PM
53	Indoor walking trails & Sauna	9/18/2020 5:22 PM
54	Dog park	9/18/2020 9:11 AM
55	Rock climbing wall	9/17/2020 1:44 PM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

56	Pickle ball courts. Indoor & outdoor	9/16/2020 9:18 PM
57	pickleball courts	9/16/2020 7:59 PM
58	Senior center	9/16/2020 6:35 PM
59	Gyms and exercise facilities are already plentiful in the township. No need to spend tax dollars on a community rec. center.	9/16/2020 4:48 PM
60	All of the above	9/16/2020 4:30 AM
61	Dog Park	9/16/2020 12:24 AM

Q32 Which private recreational providers do you or members of your household belong to and / or utilize? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 277 Skipped: 371



Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Orange Theory Fitness - Lower Providence	5.78%	16
The Gym and Tan-Line Studio - Lower Providence	5.78%	16
Planet Fitness - West Norriton	25.27%	70
Crossfit - West Norriton	0.72%	2
Valley Forge Training Center - East Norriton	0.00%	0
Beltrane Fighting Fit - East Norriton	0.00%	0
Athletes Academy Training Facility - East Norriton	1.81%	5
iRoy Sport & Fitness - East Norriton	4.69%	13
Anytime Fitness - Upper Providence	3.97%	11
Philadelphia Rock Gyms - Upper Providence	7.22%	20
LA Fitness - King of Prussia	9.03%	25
YMCA - Phoenixville	24.19%	67
Other (please specify)	42.24%	117
Total Respondents: 277		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Yoga One	3/29/2021 4:48 PM
2	Soulbeat	3/29/2021 4:31 PM
3	N/A	3/29/2021 2:25 PM
4	None now. But would have loved to have a local YMCA.	3/26/2021 5:02 PM
5	Soul Beat Studio	3/25/2021 6:29 PM
6	umly	3/25/2021 8:35 AM
7	Spring Valley YMCA until COVID.	3/17/2021 3:08 PM
8	Methacton High School	3/16/2021 5:22 PM
9	Spring Valley YMCA and IMX Pilates Blue Bell	3/16/2021 5:18 PM
10	LA Fitness Collegeville	3/16/2021 5:14 PM
11	Spring valley ymca, aerobic rhythmic classes, fitness classes at LP Fire Dept	3/16/2021 2:30 PM
12	Soul beat	3/16/2021 12:04 PM
13	Kinetix in Fairview Village	3/16/2021 9:31 AM
14	Lower Providence Rod and Gun Club	3/16/2021 8:44 AM
15	Peloton at home due to covid	2/19/2021 12:22 AM
16	none during pandemic	2/12/2021 1:23 PM
17	La Collegeville	2/11/2021 8:50 PM
18	LA Fitness- Collegeville	2/11/2021 1:51 PM
19	Most have been closed or had hours reduced due to the pandemic, and I would not rejoin either iRoy or LA Fitness in Collegeville until the pandemic is over.	2/11/2021 10:53 AM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

20	KINETIX	2/11/2021 10:03 AM
21	SoulBeat	2/11/2021 9:02 AM
22	Kinetix	2/11/2021 5:15 AM
23	Kinetix and LifeTime in KOP - but we stopped going during the pandemic and have been walking, biking and using our Peloton	2/10/2021 10:23 PM
24	Algeo MMA & Kickboxing - King of Prussia	2/10/2021 9:41 PM
25	Lifetime	2/10/2021 9:18 PM
26	Ymca spring valley	2/10/2021 8:51 PM
27	None	2/10/2021 8:43 PM
28	Kinetix	2/10/2021 7:36 PM
29	Kinetix	2/10/2021 6:53 PM
30	Aim High - Owner Aimee is an awesome contributor to our community.	2/7/2021 1:40 PM
31	Spring valley YMCA	1/26/2021 6:17 PM
32	None currently Bc of covid. Everything we did got put to a halt	1/25/2021 5:21 PM
33	Aim High Fitness, SoulBeat	1/24/2021 11:07 AM
34	LAFitness collegeville	1/21/2021 1:46 PM
35	Synergy in kop,	1/20/2021 9:16 PM
36	None of them	1/20/2021 7:22 PM
37	kinetix	1/20/2021 4:57 PM
38	YMCA - Spring Valley, Aim High Worcester	1/20/2021 4:47 PM
39	kinetics	1/20/2021 4:43 PM
40	Rascals Upper Providence	1/20/2021 4:28 PM
41	Life Time	1/20/2021 4:13 PM
42	Cycle zone collegeville	1/17/2021 7:13 PM
43	plymouth township recreation center	1/17/2021 5:10 PM
44	kinetics	1/17/2021 3:09 PM
45	Shannondell	1/15/2021 6:35 PM
46	YMCA - Spring Valley	1/15/2021 6:29 PM
47	kietics	1/15/2021 3:45 PM
48	YMCA collegeville	1/15/2021 12:20 PM
49	None	1/10/2021 7:39 AM
50	YMCA Spring Valley	1/9/2021 8:25 PM
51	Employee fitness center at work	1/9/2021 10:37 AM
52	Rascals collegeville	1/9/2021 9:59 AM
53	La fitness collegeville	1/9/2021 7:59 AM
54	Lifetime king of Prussia	1/9/2021 5:46 AM
55	Aim High Studio	1/8/2021 6:23 PM
56	Ymca Spring Valley	1/8/2021 6:07 PM
57	Aim High, TOMA	1/8/2021 5:13 PM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

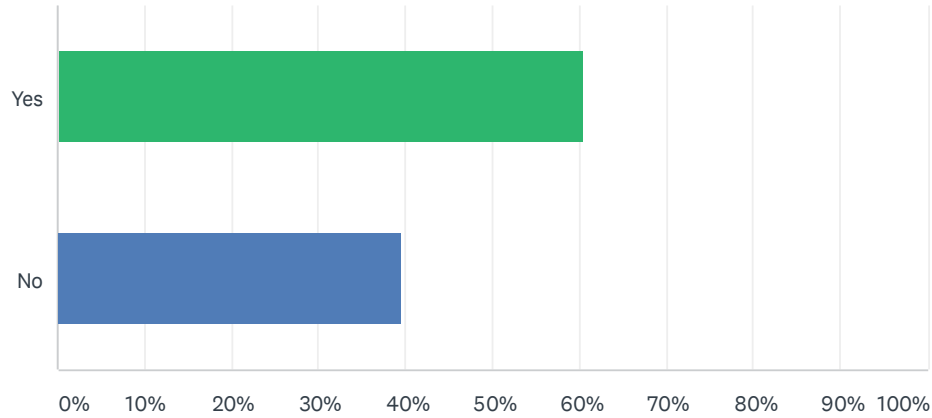
58	La fitness Collegeville	1/8/2021 3:33 PM
59	LA Fitness- Collgeville	1/8/2021 1:44 PM
60	Aim High	1/8/2021 1:16 PM
61	None	1/8/2021 9:20 AM
62	Soulbeat	1/8/2021 5:17 AM
63	Gym at work and home gym	1/8/2021 12:05 AM
64	Aim high, yoga one	1/8/2021 12:00 AM
65	Gym at work. Rascals (though since they didn't enforce COVID precautions we cancelled).	12/31/2020 1:06 PM
66	Kinetix - Brother plays basketball with friends in winter	12/16/2020 3:33 PM
67	LA Fitness Collegeville	11/15/2020 8:57 PM
68	all can enjoy. just get along	10/26/2020 8:27 PM
69	shannondell facilities	10/26/2020 2:27 PM
70	Rascals	10/26/2020 1:33 PM
71	Fit Results skippack	10/26/2020 12:51 PM
72	Rascals	10/26/2020 11:29 AM
73	Lifetime - KOP	10/26/2020 11:24 AM
74	Rascals	10/26/2020 10:28 AM
75	Community Center in Plymouth Meeting	10/20/2020 12:43 PM
76	Kinetix	10/14/2020 12:10 PM
77	none	10/12/2020 12:47 PM
78	Spring-Valley YMCA	10/8/2020 2:00 PM
79	None	10/8/2020 1:33 PM
80	LA Fitness Collegeville	10/7/2020 10:27 PM
81	LA Fitness- Collegeville	10/7/2020 9:29 PM
82	YMCA - Spring Valley	10/7/2020 7:21 PM
83	Rascals, Collegeville, Upper Providence Recreation Center	10/7/2020 4:46 PM
84	Kinetix	10/7/2020 3:06 PM
85	sports programs through Methacton school district	10/7/2020 3:04 PM
86	Township fitness classes at schools	10/7/2020 7:04 AM
87	YogaOne- Trooper	10/5/2020 8:33 PM
88	SoulBeat; SolYoga	10/5/2020 4:37 PM
89	YMCA Spring Valley	9/29/2020 10:12 PM
90	Yoga One Studio	9/25/2020 10:46 PM
91	I am not a member but shannondell isn't listed	9/24/2020 10:17 AM
92	Spring Valley YMCA	9/23/2020 2:54 PM
93	UM Community Center pre-pandemic	9/23/2020 6:40 AM
94	LA Fitness in Collegeville and Planet Fitness	9/22/2020 6:24 PM
95	LA Fitness East Norriton	9/22/2020 6:16 PM

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96	Gym at CrossPoint in KOP	9/22/2020 4:56 PM
97	YogaOne	9/20/2020 12:55 PM
98	Soulbeat Studios	9/20/2020 7:49 AM
99	YMCA - Spring Valley	9/19/2020 12:31 PM
100	The Club at Shannondell	9/18/2020 5:22 PM
101	Planet Fitness Limerick, not since Covid.	9/18/2020 4:31 PM
102	Crunch (East Norriton) pre Covid	9/18/2020 10:51 AM
103	LA fitness collegeville	9/17/2020 4:15 PM
104	La fitness Collegeville	9/17/2020 7:01 AM
105	YMCA - Spring Valley	9/16/2020 10:52 PM
106	YMCA Royersford	9/16/2020 9:24 PM
107	Spring- valley	9/16/2020 6:37 PM
108	Reality Pilates Royersford	9/16/2020 6:35 PM
109	aim high	9/16/2020 5:07 PM
110	Life Time	9/16/2020 4:57 PM
111	none	9/16/2020 4:48 PM
112	YMCA- Spring Valley	9/16/2020 10:12 AM
113	rascals	9/16/2020 9:52 AM
114	Home gym	9/16/2020 9:28 AM
115	YMCA - Spring Valley	9/16/2020 9:28 AM
116	Aaaaaa	9/16/2020 5:54 AM
117	YMCA - Audubon until it closed.	9/15/2020 9:44 PM

Q33 Would you support a referendum in the near future to allow the Earned Income Tax to be increased to finance the acquisition of property to preserve as open space?

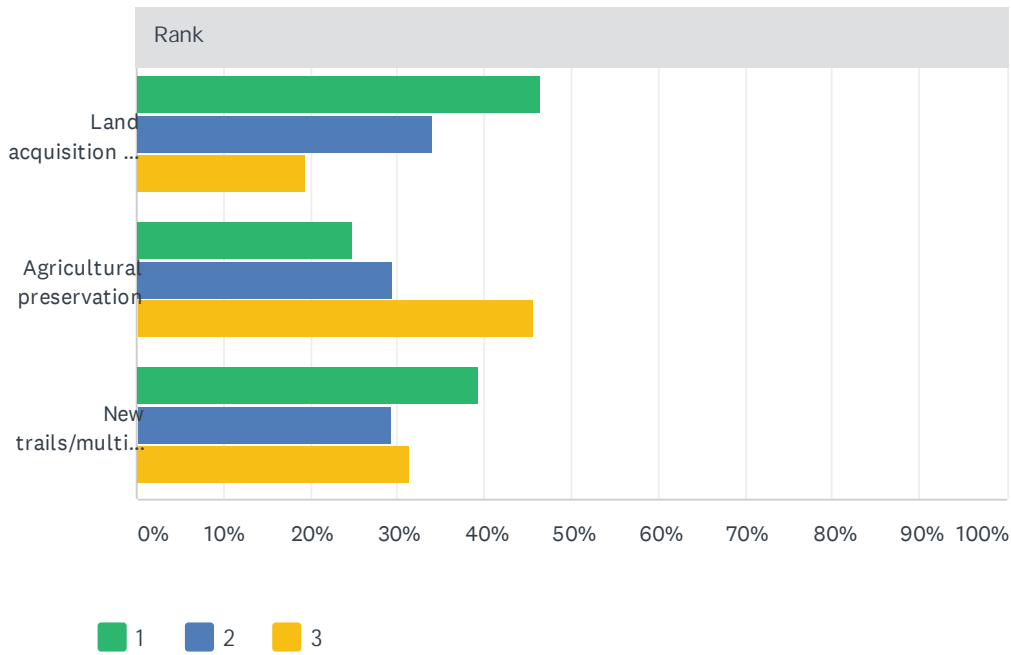
Answered: 453 Skipped: 195



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.49%	274
No	39.51%	179
TOTAL		453

Q34 The information below identifies how such funds might be allocated.
Please rank the order of importance to you 1 to 3 (1 being the most important).

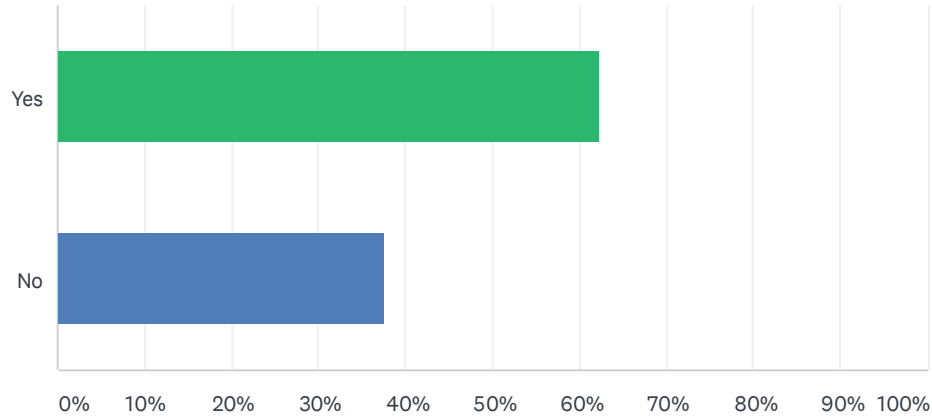
Answered: 430 Skipped: 218



Rank				
	1	2	3	TOTAL
Land acquisition for parks / open space	46.52% 194	34.05% 142	19.42% 81	417
Agricultural preservation	24.94% 104	29.50% 123	45.56% 190	417
New trails/multi-purpose trails	39.43% 166	29.22% 123	31.35% 132	421

Q35 Do you support increasing taxes to pay for additional recreational and connectivity opportunities such as parks, trails and sidewalks?

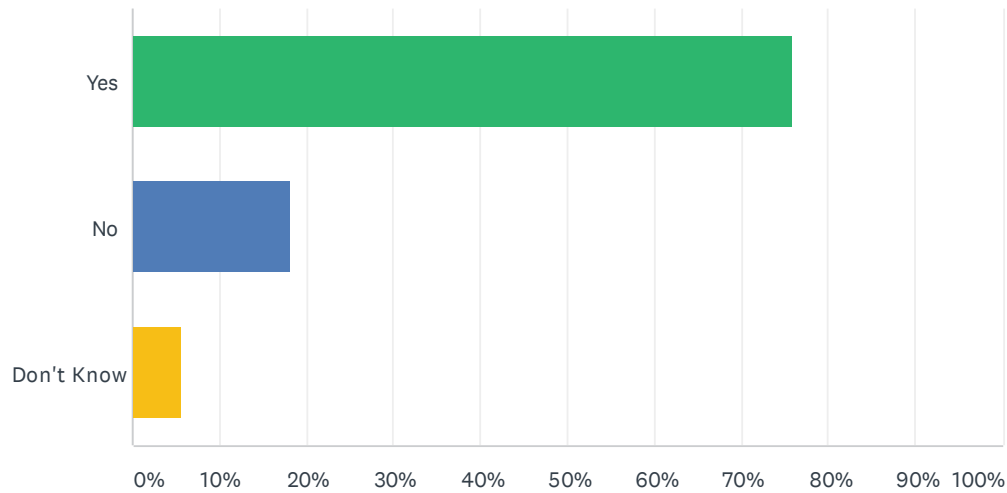
Answered: 456 Skipped: 192



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	62.28%	284
No	37.72%	172
TOTAL		456

Q36 Generally, are your household's recreational and open space needs being met in or around Lower Providence Township?

Answered: 459 Skipped: 189



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		76.03%	349
No		18.30%	84
Don't Know		5.66%	26
TOTAL			459

Q37 If you have any additional comments or ideas. Please provide them below.

Answered: 189 Skipped: 459

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Please preserve open spaces	3/29/2021 4:32 PM
2	Pond View Park is NOT a park. It is considered wetlands and should be preserved as is - not increased traffic through the area. The name should be changed to reflect actual purpose. The red foxes have returned and it's wonderful.	3/29/2021 2:29 PM
3	Extending the sidewalk down Pinetown, or at least improving the shoulder is needed improve bike and pedestrian to access the Audubon loop and SRT. The road is currently narrow and dangerous as there is no way for a pedestrian or biker to safely access lower perkiomen valley park.	3/26/2021 5:19 PM
4	Thanks for asking. Would love sidewalks to connect to rec. areas (Audubon Bird Sanctuary). Or as noted here, places like Valerio and Bald Birds. Then, locally, connect some sidewalks so that we can walk a loop safely near our homes. Or jog. I run around the neighborhood, and its odd how choppy the sidewalks are. Seems like we have been talking about this stuff for 20 years. I do appreciate the Audubon loop, and just think, that did not exist when I moved to this area. Now, please find a way for me to safely get to it from Lantern lane!!! May 100 feet of sidewalk.	3/26/2021 5:08 PM
5	I think better street lighting and a ymca in the Audubon/Eagleville area would be great	3/26/2021 4:03 AM
6	Pond View park should be preserved as a natural area/wetland and not classified as a park. This is Based on the location and also the animal habitats and wetland type area. Thank you for your consideration. I would also love to see the addition of a member only township dog park. This could have great value for the community. Thank you for considering!	3/25/2021 6:33 PM
7	Pond View Park should be a protected wildlife sanctuary and/or have a protected environmental designation and should never be developed. None of our current parks/open areas should be developed.	3/25/2021 2:54 PM
8	Pondview park should be designated as a environmentally protected wetlands area rather than a park.	3/24/2021 10:21 PM
9	rename those parks that are really wildlife refuge areas as wildlife sanctuaries instead of parks.	3/23/2021 8:19 PM
10	Would like to see truly protected wildlife sanctuaries where wildlife is protected	3/23/2021 6:27 PM
11	Formally Certify Pond View Park (a.k.a., Mountain View Natural Area) as a Nature Preserve.	3/23/2021 10:59 AM
12	survey was too long	3/21/2021 8:45 PM
13	Raising taxes to fund community centers while recovering from a pandemic is a terrible idea.	3/18/2021 5:25 PM
14	We need more trail access and sidewalks. Please, would love access to the Schuylkill trail from Evansburg Park.	3/18/2021 10:39 AM
15	Township should be trying for more grants.	3/17/2021 4:09 PM
16	The township in general needs to be more walkable, sidewalks, etc. to allow for safe access to shopping, etc. We are in the local parks often and constantly have to avoid dog poop. Evansburg Point Park is one of the worst examples of this. I know it's hard to monitor and we like dogs and dog walkers but they need to be cleaned up after.	3/17/2021 3:13 PM
17	I am in favor of less development, more open space to protect the environment, to support agriculture and outdoor activity.	3/17/2021 10:56 AM
18	LP needs to establish a community center. A place we residents can do the following: 1) send there kids to camp 2)Community Pool 3) Gym These items are important to younger and	3/16/2021 10:02 PM

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senior residents. We need to attract people to live in Lower Providence to generate business for small business owners and have amenities that attract people to live in LP. For example, in a town close by they have an amazing playground and community swimming pool. This is something homeowners would deserve within the community.

19	I think there is a disservice to meeting the need for adolescent activities in our community. My children are HS junior and senior but we went thru a time where kids age out of sports at 13/14. Other activities are up to 4th grade. Middle schoolers have trouble getting jobs even at 16 so between 14-17 these kids have nothing and more chance to get in trouble just from boredom. Please do more for the kids in between. They need something desperately.	3/16/2021 9:08 PM
20	Being a new parent, I have found that trying to sign up for recreational sports in our area for our 5 year old to be quite difficult and lack of information through the township site. I had to use word of mouth rather than rely on the township. The website seems dated and needs improvement.	3/16/2021 9:03 PM
21	please save st gabes	3/16/2021 5:56 PM
22	We have enough open space, we have increased our taxes making it undesirable to live here, we are one of the highest tax base behind Norristown, my taxes went up from 3,000 to 8,600 in 25 yrs.	3/16/2021 5:18 PM
23	NO MORE DEVELOPMENT	3/16/2021 4:31 PM
24	Sidewalks that connect residential areas to our many local parks is the most important topic for me in this survey. I would love to be able to walk to some of the parks, but there are many roads that are unsafe to walk along due to the amount of traffic and lack of sidewalks (i.e. Park, Eagleville, Egypt).	3/16/2021 2:43 PM
25	Add a dog park. Often travel to the Oaks dog park.	3/16/2021 2:36 PM
26	I wish we could walk to a center shopping area like Phoniexville & Skippack has. There are no really sidewalks to connect us to a town center. The township is not walkable.	3/16/2021 12:58 PM
27	We need to keep lower providence clean and safe . More lighted areas at night . Skippack is such a nice area ,lower providence needs to look more like that area or like the mainline. we don't want to look like the next Norristown borough. The area behind Ollie is going downhill . That's needs to be spruced up .	3/16/2021 12:11 PM
28	An outdoor township pool for the summer would be very beneficial. Any other pools nearby are expensive and affordable options are far.	3/16/2021 10:17 AM
29	We need an adult softball league. I used to run a 32 team coed league on fields in East Norriton, West Norriton, Plymouth, Norristown and Bridgeport. I would be willing to run a league in Lower Providence. George Gibson (610) 539-1573 ggibson360@gmail.com	3/16/2021 10:10 AM
30	a community center would be wonderful and we need more walking areas for restaurants and retail	3/16/2021 9:42 AM
31	When I was a child, the township I was raised in made it easy and safe for children to get to local parks on their own by bikes or walking so they didn't need their parents to constantly drive them to the park to meet friends to play basketball, tennis, soccer or baseball, or to just hang out talking at picnic tables. My children have never had this opportunity in Lower Providence Township, they are totally land-locked within our development unless we drive them to meet friends at the park because there are no sidewalks on any main roads in the township that lead to the parks, and even the shoulders on the main roads are narrow or nonexistent. I think it's a great thing to provide tweens and teenagers some independence before they get a driver's license, and that's not feasible in this township because they can't safely walk or bike anywhere outside of their own neighborhood. I get very nervous when I'm driving on Ridge Pk and need to pass young kids who are biking to Eagleville park on the shoulder of the road because the shoulder is so narrow, I worry that a car may hit them.	3/16/2021 9:41 AM
32	A community gym for parents with a supervised kids room and/or babysitting staff would be so immensely popular, charge fees and it would be a cash cow. The people demand it and would much much rather pay the township than some corporate gym. Thank you	3/16/2021 9:16 AM
33	There are a lot of great resources. I would be very happy if there was a better, safer way to connect to the Perkiomen Trail. The route to it from Level Rd / Arcola Rd is a little dicey.	3/15/2021 8:15 PM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

34	Connect Walker lane and Village Green lane.	2/21/2021 12:39 PM
35	Need to mention one item. PA state parks that are located in my township are responsible to meet some standards and they don't ? Example is the Evansburg park off of Ridge park, building they bought and left it?	2/16/2021 2:46 PM
36	Need a finished sidewalk to hoy park from Barrington. The sidewalk just ends there and doesn't connect to hoy park. We also urgently need a Frisbee golf course in a nearby park.	2/12/2021 9:38 PM
37	Not sure I support raising taxes for this purpose without knowing what the intention & the plan is	2/11/2021 8:53 PM
38	More representation in playground areas for younger toddlers would be helpful. I would also love to see some thing in our township that is similar to the "castle park" in upper Gwynedd Township.	2/11/2021 7:56 PM
39	I want sidewalk connectivity on Arcola road, I would like to see a public pool in lowpro. I would like to see pond view park further developed, walking oval track, picnic benches, etc...	2/11/2021 7:42 PM
40	Existing facilities should be improved via comfort facilities & security cameras to protect twp assets & people using facilities	2/11/2021 2:31 PM
41	I answered 36 as "Don't know" because I think the current facilities can be improved and that we need more accessible outdoor space and facilities to improve our fitness.	2/11/2021 10:55 AM
42	If we are talking raising taxes, LP should cover trash collection in taxes then they can contract anyone they want	2/11/2021 10:04 AM
43	Pickle ball courts would be nice	2/11/2021 5:18 AM
44	This survey is entirely too long. The questions and the total survey need to be substantially truncated to be effective.	2/10/2021 11:51 PM
45	Taxes in lower providence are to high as they are. We are missing the bot not having a community center	2/10/2021 11:49 PM
46	Would love a YMCA or community center local to LoPro rather than traveling to Phoenixville or Spring Valley.	2/10/2021 11:06 PM
47	We need to clean our creeks and waterways. Streets. Right-of-way areas. Enforce cleaning of parking lots. West Norriton should do the same w Wawa and the Walmart lot (Tornetta).	2/10/2021 10:53 PM
48	We would love to see Main Street become more pedestrian friendly and more visually appealing. It would be such an improvement for our community and build up local businesses as well.	2/10/2021 10:26 PM
49	When the township would not let the ymca come into the area, they missed a great opportunity. Inst3ad as always, we deal with the traffic through the yownship but get no revenue since we chase the business away.	2/10/2021 9:22 PM
50	We have great parks. Would love to see sidewalks up Church Rd. to Eskie Park, or E. Mont Kirk to Walker, making it safer to walk to the parks without having to walk in the roadway. Love the paved trails but it would be nice if there were well maintained paths that went through the woods too (like at Heyser Park in Worcester.	2/10/2021 9:17 PM
51	The biggest need I feel we need is affordable access to a swimming pool in the area.	2/10/2021 8:50 PM
52	I only support increase of taxes.to improve and maintain as a last resort. In general taxation is theft ;)	2/10/2021 8:44 PM
53	we need to sell the General Washington course and use that money to fund additional improvements - we do not need more facilities (like the Audubon Elementary School) - it should be sold and use that money to improve current facilities and in addition to the tax revenue a new owner would pay for the school	2/10/2021 8:35 PM
54	Please use more native plants in the township parks and include educational materials/sign to encourage residents to plant more native flowers, bushes, and trees that support local wildlife including pollinators. Please reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides which are harmful to local wildlife, especially pollinators likes bees and butterflies.	2/10/2021 8:26 PM
55	Make sure the trails are cleared for walks and appropriately graded so that water doesn't pond	2/10/2021 8:22 PM

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so that the trails don't get muddy or icy.

56	A percentage of LP residents do not bother to clear snow from sidewalks. Perhaps better education and enforcement on that issue could encourage more walking (especially by parents who feel compelled to drive their children to the school bus stop because its not safe to walk).	2/10/2021 8:06 PM
57	I am particularly concerned with new development taking away open space and creating more traffic. The roads don't seem to be able to be widened (I live off of Egypt and park ave). I support raising taxes to prevent developers coming in building homes and leaving more traffic and less open space. This will have a negative affect on the quality of life my family has here in lower providence	2/7/2021 6:34 PM
58	We pay plenty in tax money both to township and school district therefore, our expectation is high that this would be included without any further increase. What are we paying for now?	2/7/2021 1:42 PM
59	If St. Gabriels Hall, Fatlands and properties become available they should be open space/park/community recreational space. There should be no residential and or commercial development in this area (Pawlings Road by Mill Grove and Valley Forge Park). This area has too much traffic that over the years has increased and continues to overwhelm the area roads and highways. Best would be if St. Gabriels Hall and Fatlands become part of Valley Forge Park that currently borders these properties.	2/3/2021 9:15 AM
60	need connectivity to the parks and trails	1/28/2021 10:48 AM
61	We need a dog park!	1/26/2021 6:18 PM
62	Dog park please. Skate park. Improved walking and biking trails.	1/25/2021 10:06 PM
63	Do not raise taxes!!!!!!!!!!	1/25/2021 6:20 PM
64	I'm all for a community center of sorts, and I am Open to a tax increase as minimal as can be, if it is explained and voted on before it comes to pass	1/25/2021 5:23 PM
65	I advocate for sidewalks in our neighborhoods and along busy streets for safe walking.	1/25/2021 1:49 PM
66	I am opposed to the installation and use of stadium/night lights at recreational fields that adjoin a residential community like those at Redtail Park. They are blinding and obnoxious.	1/24/2021 1:09 PM
67	We are excited about the possibility of new trails to connect existing trails. And we would also really love a community center with a swimming pool!	1/24/2021 11:09 AM
68	As long as I have lived in LP, I believed that if we just had walkwaysconnectors....to the amazing trails within steps of our township.... A beautiful Arcola bridge with a walking path but no way to safely get to the bridge. Hoy Park is wonderful yet no way to safely get there without a car. Thank you for all you are trying to accomplish. Definitely would be a draw to this township.	1/21/2021 1:51 PM
69	We need a dedicated, secured, dog park like Upper Providence has. Let people register with a credential yearly to gain access.	1/21/2021 11:30 AM
70	It takes very little resources to not cut trees down in riparian areas or the township. Creating natural habitat for Birding and passive hiking trails are best. Our major thoroughfares thru this township are an ugly eye sore. These new cheapvugly steel building in Germantown pike are a disgrace to this beautiful land. Please have some decent architectural standards along the commercial corridors.	1/20/2021 7:30 PM
71	I enjoy horses as much as I enjoy riding mountain bikes. Unfortunately, horses do a tremendous amount of damage to the trails and make it difficult to run/hike on especially after it rains/snows and freezes up. Why are mountain bikes limited to only the Fern Ave side of the park? I realize this is a state park but an alternative to ride mountain bikes for advanced and beginner levels within the township would be beneficial!	1/20/2021 4:49 PM
72	We need a quality indoor pool. Township kept the Y from expanding here and it was a big mistake.	1/20/2021 4:48 PM
73	We have plenty of open space, trails, and parks. The biggest issue is that our community is not well inter-connected through any means other than driving in a car. Work to create sidewalks and cross walks for pedestrians and lanes for bikes would be the best use of money to make our community a more enjoyably livable community rather than having so many parts be isolated automobile required areas. This includes the ability to safely travel between	1/20/2021 4:48 PM

Lower Providence Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

commercial areas and residential areas by means other than cars. This means finding ways to interconnect residential neighborhoods with other residential neighborhoods when doing so safely today is not possible due to lack of sidewalks and bike lanes and being walled off by major roads such as Park Avenue and Ridge Pike that have no safe way to cross.

74	Being home for so many facilities that we already have and a 5000 acre state park I see no need to acquire more open space in Lower Providence. Certainly not to raise taxes to accomplish it. We are already paying taxes towards open space through other venues there's no need to burden the local taxpayers on the local level to acquire more open space that would be nice to have but is not really needed.	1/20/2021 4:32 PM
75	We need a community center for youth and adults like GPCC need an indoor pool and walking area	1/20/2021 4:26 PM
76	Community Center would be fantastic. We live next to the landscaping company were a YMCA was considered. Sad it did not go through. A Community center there would be awesome.	1/19/2021 4:58 PM
77	can not support tax increases because our income will not be increasing to do so	1/17/2021 3:09 PM
78	WOODED AND OPEN AREAS CONTINUE TO BE DEVELOPED IN LOWER PROVIDENCE WHICH IS VERY DISAPPOINTING	1/15/2021 5:47 PM
79	I am an active cyclist and former racer and cycle to Collegeville/Green Lane as well as Royersford and South as well as to Philadelphia. The MAIN roads in Lower Providence generally are ok, but the back roads leading to the Perk trail need revision as the guard rails are up against the road and the corners are blind with no shoulders at all. I want to teach my son to be able to ride on the road, but I know the drivers in the area are very distracted and would cause an accident if the cyclist would lose focus even for a moment. The same goes for motorcyclist as I was one for a time.	1/15/2021 4:01 PM
80	Too much development still happening. Every open piece of land gets a new cul-de-sac of homes jammed into it. If we didn't have Evansburg State Park there would be minimal open space. Worcester Twp is the model but it would be too little too late.	1/15/2021 3:08 PM
81	Support either. I think we have enough to satisfy but as a mom of youngsters and teens more could always be good.	1/15/2021 2:38 PM
82	Linking trails and providing safe sidewalk connections should be explored further. I live in the Evansburg section of the township and there is no sidewalk access to walk/ run to township facilities or parks. I believe there is also an opportunity to link and develop trails along the perk creek with trailheads at Cranberry park and following the river. Also it seems the township youth sports are baseball/ football heavy- It does not appear alternatives such as soccer, lacrosse, rugby, hockey, basketball, etc. are given much attention. There are to many baseball/ softball fields.	1/15/2021 12:25 PM
83	Connection from Yerkes Rd to the Perkiomen trail would allow access for us to Collegeville and Providence Town Center all the way to Phila and Green Lane all without a car and the pollution that comes with it. There is currently no access to trails via bike lanes and limited shoulders on Level Rd to Arcola Rd. There is no safe access to Evansburg without the use of a car. We live walking distance to Arrowhead yet rely on bus s to get to school because there is no safe path for bikes or pedestrians.	1/11/2021 1:08 PM
84	Please plan for more children playgrounds.	1/10/2021 11:13 AM
85	Need more streetlights for safety. Parks are overwhelmed and could use additional neighborhood parks. For the most part, we are satisfied.	1/10/2021 7:41 AM
86	We are in Evansburg state park several days a week as we live next to the park. We are very worried about continued hunting in the park, please consider prohibiting hunting for the majority of the year! Perhaps have just a few dedicated hunting days a year. But for 6 days a week, we have too many people hiking the Evansburg loop and other trails, it is incredibly concerning to see so many hunters out there. With the hunting death at Nox state park a few months ago, we do not want to see something like that happen here. This park is surrounded by home, and provides the only real source of looped trails in our area, with many families there each day. Please ban hunting for the safety of all our community!	1/9/2021 10:03 AM
87	LP has wonderful parks/trails etc., however we shouldn't have to always drive to them. Improve the connectivity to access these trails. A sidewalk along Egypt Rd from the Redners	1/9/2021 6:56 AM

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shopping center to the Audubon loop with allow so many people safely utilize the trails and improve the walk ability in our area.

88	I love the existing park and trails and they have been a blessing through the Covid lockdowns. I would LOVE better connectivity to retail and residential areas. Fir instance, connecting the Audubon Loop to Audubon Village would be so valuable for businesses like Ebru and Brusters. The distance is short from the trail, but it is certainly not welcoming or safe to walk/bike along Egypt Rd or Pawlings Rd, let alone with children.	1/9/2021 5:49 AM
89	I would really like to see a reasonably priced community pool.	1/8/2021 7:11 PM
90	Taxes -- I do support a reaasonable tax increase but would want to know how much of an increase before saying yes.	1/8/2021 5:15 PM
91	It's the lack of sidewalks to get around and to the actual parks and trailheads. It's very dangerous to get down River Road and Germantown Townpike corridors to Collegeville trail heads or Evansburg trails.	1/8/2021 1:59 PM
92	My top concern is the need for more sidewalks and street lightening throughout the residential neighborhoods in Lower Providence and bike lanes. Pre-COVID my family if 4 visited the local parks and recreational areas and I think overall the township does a beautiful job maintaining the. My two young children love the playgrounds at Eagleville and Mascaro parks.	1/8/2021 1:48 PM
93	Part of why we chose to live in LP is because of the number of parks. We do not like the lack of sidewalks. We live a short distance from commercial areas and the library, but cannot safely walk there because there are no sidewalks or a shoulder along Eagleville Rd. We moved from Conshohocken where we walked everywhere and really miss that.	1/8/2021 10:22 AM
94	More trails, better sidewalks, and preservation of natural resources are at the top of my list.	1/8/2021 9:54 AM
95	Community center needed, particularly for teens/teens. Additional meeting spaces for community groups such as scouts.	1/8/2021 7:53 AM
96	No taxes we already pay a ton why not get community persons together to volunteer....	1/8/2021 7:35 AM
97	We are an active outdoor family so we go out of our way to find the resources we need. There is a lot of untapped potential in terms of outdoor recreation in the township and I would like to see us be great in this area and make it something that Lower Providence is known for. We have playgrounds and facilities but I rarely see them being used which leads me to believe there could be improvement. We look for playgrounds where there are kids playing and I rarely see that in township facilities which is a bummer, what can we do to make it easy for families to get to the playgrounds and use them. We routinely use the school because we can walk but if we could walk to other parks and meet up with friends that would be amazing.	1/8/2021 6:54 AM
98	LP needs safer roads and sidewalks and bike lanes for walking/biking and connectivity.	1/8/2021 12:03 AM
99	Lo Pro is right next to a great network of trails but you have to drive to get to them. We need inter-connectivity. Also, we should not repeat mistakes like were done with 422 and Arcola Road Bridge where a multi-million \$ road projects were done with poor pedestrian connectivity. At 422 you there is no sidewalk or good way to get from Audubon Road to the Trailer Community and Valley Forge Park. You cannot even legally or safely cross the street from the gas station to the Taco Bell. At Arcola Road bridge, the pedestrian crossing is too narrow and there is not good pedestrian signage / lining. Yet it is a major connector between Lo Pro and Perk Trail.	12/31/2020 1:12 PM
100	Not sure who is responsible for maintaining park roads to trail heads but a lot are in poor shape. The lot off Old Baptist rd and even the road to the main Evansburg park entrance is really bad. Also the roads to the fishing spots are bad too	12/29/2020 1:05 PM
101	Having been almost hit by cars on more than one occasion while running, I would like to see sidewalks installed in neighborhoods. I also wish parks like Mascaro would have a field for older kids/teenagers with a multi purpose field. Not everyone plays baseball and a turf field for kids to access would be amazing.	12/16/2020 3:37 PM
102	Sidewalks need to be installed on Summit Lane to access Eagleville Elementary School and on East Mt. Kirk to access the Ridge Pike shopping center.	12/2/2020 12:53 PM
103	Love Walking Trails. Advertise where they are located within the township please.	11/23/2020 1:01 PM
104	We are uncomfortable in a lot of the areas due to hearing shots from the gun club, or	11/15/2020 9:00 PM

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encountering poorly monitored individuals who discard wildlife bodies and body parts after killing them. We support a much better preservation of habitats, and activities that in,cue respect for life and nature in general.

105	You guys are doing well but this twp needs a face lift on the main road.	11/12/2020 12:20 PM
106	Me, being a mountain biker tend to run into many hikers/walkers, etc. walking the wrong way up an obvious mountain biking trail. Maybe adding specific mountain biking/hiking markers on trails to keep everyone from running into each other	11/2/2020 9:13 PM
107	If there's an opportunity to create more mountain bike trails, then you will grow your volunteer base to help maintain those trails. Mountain bikers are eager to help maintain trails as they are more likely to spend an abundance of time on them. Mountain Bikers love the outdoors and love to help care for the trails they are allowed to use. There's a huge community ready to tell! Including youth mountain bike programs/teams associated with PICL and NICA. I'm spot to discuss further, Heather Hpasq@hotmail.com	10/26/2020 10:51 PM
108	Look at unusable open space as potential for passive or renewable energy generation. Add a municipal authority to maintain and distribute power to residents.	10/26/2020 7:52 PM
109	These are comments of a 91 year shannondell resident. Since this is probably not a significant portion of the population this might affect your conclusions	10/26/2020 2:32 PM
110	The idea that there are hunting is going on at the same time as recreational activities in Evansburg State Park is concerning. I would like to see designated days or weeks for hunting with lots of signage informing those using the park for recreation.	10/26/2020 12:58 PM
111	In the 35 years that i have been using Evansburg park, i have seen very little up keep. In fact most maint has been done by volunteers.	10/26/2020 12:14 PM
112	Please get rid of hunting in Evansburg. It us too close to the road/housing developments and I fear for a shot that goes astray.	10/26/2020 11:52 AM
113	I live 1 mile from both the Perkiomen trail and Evansburg park trails, but the roads to get to both trails have no sidewalks and 35-45 mph speed limits. More sidewalks would be ideal.	10/26/2020 11:31 AM
114	Please consider increasing mileage of mountain bike trails within the township. The sport is growing in popularity year over year, and the amount of mtb trail mileage is not increasing to meet the increased number of users. Also, please consider dedicated MTB trails and hiking trails with no hunting permitted to ensure user group safety during hunting season.	10/26/2020 11:26 AM
115	Please work with the state to stop hunting in Evansburg Park. With so many active hikers I pass each day, it is becoming a very scary place to hike and walk due to the number of hunters we come across. We've encountered hunters around the loop, and with covid pushing the number of folks outside for fresh air (with many other activities cancelled), this year is especially important to curtail hunting. A youth was just shot at Nox State Park, we do NOT want to see that here at home. Please stop allowing the hunters, or greatly reduce to just a few days a season!	10/26/2020 10:31 AM
116	Generally our needs are being met but we would love some thoughtful improvements! For example if we want to walk or bike to Rita's, there is a challenging street crossing and gaps in sidewalks but we finally found a good route where we can enter through the back parking lot. Our biggest wish is for continuity in the sidewalk to Woodland Elementary from our street. There is a piece of Woodland near Trooper that is missing sidewalks and is pretty high traffic. We walk it a lot but seem to annoy the cars (and cause my mother worry and I'm sure prevent other people from walking and biking there).	10/26/2020 8:28 AM
117	More activities are around and not in the twp, YMCA, athletic teams-practice & events, historic maintained parks, etc.	10/21/2020 10:51 AM
118	Need better collaboration cross townships to have increased integration of recreational connectivity/activity. Should look into purchasing land adjacent to Mill Grove connecting to the river trail as St Gabe is closing.	10/20/2020 12:47 PM
119	Fix traffic issues and speeding on Ridge pike cut thru streets. I have to drive somewhere to walk my dogs safely. I would pay a tax for speed bumps or one way streets.	10/14/2020 9:09 AM
120	We are currently using Evansburg State Park, Valley Forge National Historic Park, Lower Perkiomen Valley Park, and the Schuylkill River Trail on a daily basis. Love our outdoor	10/12/2020 12:51 PM

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	spaces!!	
121	Some of these questions were difficult to answer given the current pandemic. More outdoor spaces are needed...indoor spaces are challenging right now. Also, there is way too much new "home" construction being allowed...especially given the traffic issues already experienced in the area.	10/12/2020 9:22 AM
122	Walking trails need better signage. They are hard to read and hard to find parking at some.	10/11/2020 8:40 PM
123	Seen many surveys like this. Ignored not followed.	10/9/2020 10:03 PM
124	The tax base already in existence needs to be managed/allocated better by virtue of the previous questions wherein a referendum on earned income and general tax (i assume a property tax on the value of the structure) to pay for items that would make this area more desirable to live is a little backward---- ie: property values would go up and therefore revenue as well. Also - any new developement of residential units (homes /apts) should be subject to net zero energy usage and the highest standards of low impact land use and run-off, passive and active solar heating and electric, these standards should also apply, to some extent, on commercial developement.... this type of building and developement, although a little more expensive at the building and planning end and, given that the premium paid above the actual building costs in this area are high... and could go higher with open space and sustainable township infrastructure. a rise in actual construction costs will only serve to ding the margin of the developer.... who, as you know, could not give a damn beyond his profit margin at the expense of the community value and reduced services needed by the township - for instance, reduced police and fire activity due to fire protected buildings with positive community activity and open space to name just one of many other reasons to put taxes on the land value and not upon that which is built upon it . To tax someone more for improving and putting to better use his property and taxing someone less for an ill-built, polluting, and potentially hazerdous structure, seems to me to be putting the cart before the horse!!!	10/8/2020 2:00 PM
125	Open spaces are important to preserve our nature's diversity and also to plan for water management, which is an increasing problem that needs to be better planned for. With the Increased development expanding impervious surfaces and creating more runoff, and the increased rainfall in our storm events, this is a consideration for our natural resources and residents' property.	10/7/2020 9:34 PM
126	I think that Pickle Ball courts would be highly utilized. It is a game that people of all ages can enjoy.	10/7/2020 7:23 PM
127	Allow mountain bikes to utilize the same trails as horses	10/7/2020 3:08 PM
128	Please please please build a community pool!!	10/7/2020 2:54 PM
129	Would love to see bike trails connecting local parks or parks in neighborhoods and definitely a community center would be very beneficial to this Township	10/7/2020 2:37 PM
130	I think this is upper providence, not lower, but where the new sewer line is going under Arcola road bridge, move the trail there so you don't have to cross Arcola road twice when using that trail	10/7/2020 2:30 PM
131	Township should purchase the Audubon School property and make it a community center.	10/6/2020 6:15 PM
132	None.	10/6/2020 2:19 PM
133	In the future, would like to see more programs in the parks to engage the community, promote wellness and generate revenue to maintain/improve parks rather than raising taxes. However preserving open space is important to us as township residents for environmental reasons and we feel it should be a priority.	10/5/2020 8:40 PM
134	More sidewalks are needed between neighborhoods and commercial areas to allow residents to take advantage of walking to stores and restaurants.	10/5/2020 4:39 PM
135	More open space, no fluff is needed though!	10/5/2020 2:18 AM
136	Side walks to connect hoy park to perkiomen trail via Arcola road bridge	10/4/2020 8:33 AM
137	Yes. The township should build a culvert footbridge at site of the old Yerkes Road bridge.	10/3/2020 5:35 PM
138	I live close enough to walk/bike to multiple parks, but am unable to due to unsafe traffic conditions.	9/30/2020 3:28 PM

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139	I would really love to see improved playgrounds. I think one or more splash pads, "nature play spaces", or better playgrounds would be a phenomenal addition to the park system. I would like to see playgrounds that have more of a "wow" factor - a giant castle, water fountains, something new or unique, that makes it stand out.	9/29/2020 10:18 PM
140	All the playgrounds need more shade!!!	9/29/2020 10:03 PM
141	We love, love, love all our parks! We loved it when you had concerts in Eagleville Park in the summer.	9/29/2020 11:43 AM
142	also get a dog walk area in LP, utilize some of the MANY vacant shopping areas. Also why can't recreation areas be built off the very large space, off between Audubon Road and 422 that was slated for 422 building option. A huge piece of land doing nothing for community	9/28/2020 8:35 AM
143	Open space in our township is being over-developed and should be purchased to keep as open natural space thru local or state grants.	9/26/2020 10:38 AM
144	In general, preserving green space and making parks and spaces more accessible by foot (including access for wheelchairs/other mobility devices and strollers) are the most important aspects of this survey.	9/25/2020 10:48 PM
145	I am not a resident so any of my answers must be considered from that perspective. I do know that in the last 50 years the U.S. has lost 30% of its birds. The primary reason for this is the loss of habitat. We must change our use of land to allow for native plants and wild areas to maintain biodiversity and a sustainable ecosystem for humans.	9/25/2020 10:39 AM
146	Stop building houses and keep more open space!	9/24/2020 11:15 PM
147	Lower Providence Twp should purchase the Fatland Ford estate along Pawlings Road (across from Mill Grove) and preserve it as an historical site. It ties in well with the John James Audubon history of Mill Grove and would augment nicely the undeveloped land of the area.	9/24/2020 9:16 PM
148	Lower Providence is blessed to have access to so much county, state and federal open space in the surrounding area. We should not take this access for granted and should plan for own open spaces. Is there any thought or plans for partnering with the YMCA and for them to build in the township?	9/24/2020 1:35 PM
149	Builders should be providing sidewalks and trail access, not taxes. More should be done jointly with surrounding townships.	9/24/2020 10:19 AM
150	It is difficult to walk and bike on the roads in our township. There are few sidewalks and bike lanes and the cars drive very fast. I would love it if our Township was more walkable, particularly the Ridge Pike corridor.	9/23/2020 2:57 PM
151	In and around our township there are lot of beautiful trails and forest. But recently I see lot of new constructions, though I am not against that but not at the cost of cutting down nature. I see people are cutting down creeks or dumping waste on creeks which on a long run will result in flooding and damaging the eco system. Humble request, please take care. Once gone, will be gone forever.	9/23/2020 11:50 AM
152	The survey is great, however, this has been an extremely unusual year with COVID lockdowns in place for the spring and summer. These have prevented myself and many others from doing the outside activities with the regularity that I normally do, affecting my answers. Hopefully you'll take this into consideration for planning purposes.	9/22/2020 7:10 PM
153	Connect LP to existing surrounding trails. Be able to walk / bike safely from every LP park to every other park, school, government building, Valley Forge, and Mill Grove. This idea was in plans from 2005 - why are we still planning? Why was nothing done? Why was no safe bike / walking connection put in place with the Trooper / 422 work? Why can't we safely bike to Mill Grove?	9/22/2020 5:01 PM
154	Too many sports fields, not enough open space!	9/22/2020 4:54 PM
155	I would love to see a pedestrian bridge at Yerkes road to be able to get to the Perkiomen Trail.	9/21/2020 7:04 PM
156	I think the parks are great. The areas is missing a summer swim club with open space for sports/activities. Shannondell is not ideal. Also...need to convert some space in residential ares to open fields. More space like Redtail would be great...can just be an open field as many developments are overcrowded with small yards so not enough space for children to play	9/20/2020 11:26 PM

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sports/etc. And very tough to bike to those a mile away due to busy roads. Ban Tractor Trailers on Park Ave would be a start...lots of problems there...should petition to the state.

157	I cannot stress enough the importance of sidewalks or bike lanes to connect to the Arcola road bridge to the Perkiomen trail. It is unsafe that residents travel on a narrow road of Level road or Arcola Road to access the bridge. Residents in Upper Providence have bike lanes. Lower Providence does not. Bike lanes need to run all the way up to ridge pike on both. It is very dangerous.	9/20/2020 9:12 PM
158	The more of a priority that is placed on fixing the broken sidewalk and bike connection it will help to ease congestion and pollution on the roadways as reliance on cars will be reduced.	9/20/2020 8:56 PM
159	Before raising taxes, should look at where spending is currently being done.	9/20/2020 12:58 PM
160	We would love to see the land and space of Audubon Elementary School used in a positive way such as a community center or park. Very concerned about this vacant space.	9/20/2020 12:26 PM
161	Show me a plan and I'll support referendums. Don't just raise taxes indefinitely.	9/18/2020 5:24 PM
162	Have all new development include recreation areas for kids walking trails and paths to local stores and public transport.	9/18/2020 4:33 PM
163	1) Connect Eagleville park to Evansburg (even if using a combination of trails and neighborhood sidewalk routing but avoiding walking on Ridge/Germantown Pike. 2) Add sidewalk to connect from Walker Lane to Eskie Park entrance on Church. 3) Add concerts at Eagleville Park state.	9/18/2020 10:55 AM
164	A safe walking path from Hoy Park to Arcola Bridge and trails beyond is needed	9/17/2020 9:15 PM
165	no new taxes- reel in spending if revenue needed	9/17/2020 3:23 PM
166	I live near Mill Grove and the Audubon loop and cycle to the Schuylkill river trail 3-4 times per week. The Betzwood ped bridge is such an asset to this area. This type of access is a major reason I live in Lower Providence. I view connection trails as the most important improvement.	9/17/2020 12:44 PM
167	We need a Lower Providence Clean Up Day. I pick up around my development, but it would be nice to have the twp run the event. I would be willing to help organize.	9/17/2020 11:44 AM
168	Biggest issue is isolated neighborhoods on islands forcing people to drive because getting to close by areas is too dangerous. As an example, I live in Audubon Hunt on Peacock Dr. in Lower Providence. There are no continuous sidewalks that connect this community of 30+ homes with the neighboring communities since Appledale has no sidewalks. They would be easy to add for the short distance needed. Also, no continuous sidewalks along Park Ave connecting us to the close and easily walk-able or bike-able Ridge Pike businesses sector. Forcing people to drive the mile or 2 to be safe.	9/17/2020 10:48 AM
169	create more riparian buffers and stop developing along the creeks	9/17/2020 9:52 AM
170	I don't want to see any more development in the township. I understand that you want the tax money but too many new homes are going in that can't be supported by the infrastructure.	9/17/2020 7:19 AM
171	We have fabulous trails in the area but no safe way to walk to these trails. A beautiful Arcola bridge with a walking path but pedestrians cannot get to this safely. Love adding anything that improves walking access but LP taxes are extremely high and a deterrent from moving to this township.	9/17/2020 7:07 AM
172	As a family of avid hikers who loves the outdoors ther number one issue weve had is finding trails and especially lack of accessibility (ie: parking/more trailheads and/or more sidewalk connectivity)	9/16/2020 10:56 PM
173	Please have less grass and more meadows in parks. Plant proper trees along roads that will not interfere with overhead wires, provide shade and improve air quality and aesthetics.	9/16/2020 9:47 PM
174	Don't raise taxes!!! Plenty of parks and recreation facilities nearby!!	9/16/2020 9:21 PM
175	Two of the most hazardous Perkiomen Trail road crossings are located adjacent to the Arcola Bridge. When the sewer line replacement project is completed the trail should be routed under the Arcola Bridge to eliminate these two risky trail crossings.	9/16/2020 7:57 PM
176	Would like to be able to bike from residential areas to trails	9/16/2020 6:52 PM

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177	I would love to see additional sidewalks and street lining throughout lower Providence! A way to connect our town.	9/16/2020 6:40 PM
178	Need activities/center for seniors.	9/16/2020 6:36 PM
179	The township really missed the mark when they turned away the YMCA. Funny that now this survey hints to the need not being met.	9/16/2020 5:17 PM
180	Focus on making existing roads pedestrian & bicycle friendly & connected	9/16/2020 4:58 PM
181	What land would the township be purchasing that is zoned for a recreational facility? How much money would it cost the tax payers to acquire and maintain such a property? It's not a need, it's a want....just like Skyview Upper Elementary was and that didn't work out so well for the residents of this township. Now is not the time to be building any new facilities in this township. It's already been overdeveloped.	9/16/2020 4:51 PM
182	why isnt the GW Golf club included in the survey? Why are we subsidizing this property for the benefit of 1 company at a loss to taxpayers? We should sell it. We should also not consider acquiring the Audubon School from the MSD at any cost. The MSD should sell it - it has been unused for more than 4 years, is falling into disrepair and will soon be an eyesore like Buds and other properties on Egypt between Park and Trooper - we can and should be doing better	9/16/2020 4:28 PM
183	I do not use the recreational services in this area because I just don't feel comfortable/welcome.	9/16/2020 4:26 PM
184	I don't support the township building a recreation center. Leave that to the experts. I'd support the township partnering with the YMCA in building a local facility. Phoenixville and Royersford are just a little too far.	9/16/2020 9:31 AM
185	Connecting to the parks from home is the biggest issue. Cycling/walking down Egypt Road, Park Ave, Audubon Road, and Trooper Road is dangerous...but we do it if we just want to enjoy a trip without loading up the car to go 1 mile to park it again. Wouldn't it be nice if Audubon could uproot Buds Bar and expand that intersection to be more walkable? Pedestrian access to the Audubon center from nearby neighborhoods can open up a world of opportunity for outdoor activities. Connecting to it is a nightmare now, but once you're there, you can get to Valley Forge park, bike to Philly, head up to Green Lane, or just play in the fields in Oaks.	9/16/2020 6:50 AM
186	Seniors new to township. Need taxes to remain steady. No increases	9/16/2020 5:33 AM
187	Before spending money to acquire parks. I'd like to see the investment in existing open space. Create trail connections along the creeks as was proposed 20 years ago. Invest in sidewalks in the community Create a way for kayakers to drop into Cranberry Park, Enforce sidewalk ordinances, Invest in sports parks rather than hold non-profit youth sports organizations hostage for improvements.	9/16/2020 12:32 AM
188	We believe a community center would be a great idea--highly appealing to a young family with no YMCA close by. Farmer's Market also appeals.	9/15/2020 9:46 PM
189	Lower Providence needs to acquire undeveloped land before there isn't any left in the township to acquire...especially bordering Collegeville.	9/15/2020 8:38 PM

