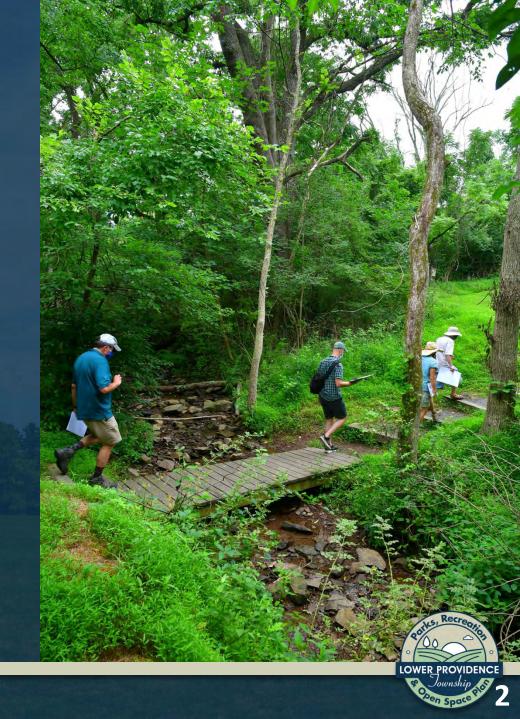


# Agenda

- Introductions
- Review Public Meeting 1 Discussion & Brainstorming
- Preliminary Survey & Wikimapping Results
- Community Benchmarking
- Park Service Areas / Gaps
- Potential Open Space & Rec Expansions
- Conceptual Trail Connections
- Maintenance & Programming
- Focus Group List Feedback
- Next Steps



### **Consultant Team**

### SIMONE COLLINS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE - 610.239.7601

- Peter Simone, RLA, FASLA, Principal psimone@simonecollins.com
- Pankaj Jobanputra, AICP, Project Manager pjobanputra@simonecollins.com
- Geoff Creary, Land. Arch., Trails & Connectivity Expert / Graphics gcreary@simonecollins.com
- Joseph Wallace, Staff Landscape Architect <u>jwallace@simonecollins.com</u>
- Michelle Armour, Staff Landscape Architect <u>marmour@simonecollins.com</u>

### **CERTIFIED PARK & RECREATIONAL PROFESSIONAL**

Patrick Stasio, CPRP

### **SPOTTS STEVENS & MCCOY**

Kent Morey, P.E., MS4 expert

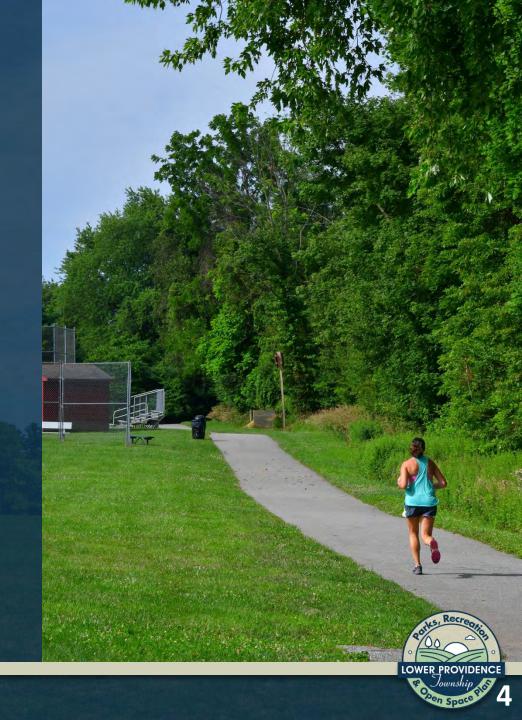


# **Open Space Committee**

- Colleen Eckman Supervisor
- Jean Akers Chair for Open Space Committee and member of Park Board Committee
- Susan LaPenta Township Planning Commission
- Bill Brooke Township Planning Commission
- Erin DiPaolo Township Park Board Committee
- Beth Ann Mazza Township Park Board Committee
- Katherine McGrath- Township Park Board Committee Student Representative
- Jane Delaney Parks and Recreation Director
- Donald Delamater- Township Manager

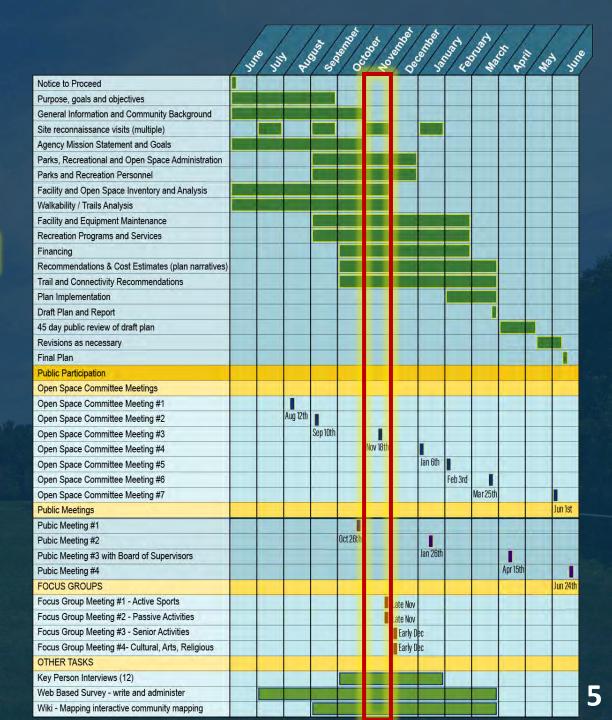






## **Project Schedule**

	Meeting Title	Meeting Date
2020	Open Space Committee Meeting #1	Wednesday, August 12th
	Open Space Committee Meeting #2	Thursday, Sept 10
	Public Meeting #1	Monday, October 26
	Open Space Committee Meeting #3	Wednesday, November 18
	Focus Group Meeting #1 - Active Sports	Late November
	Focus Group Meeting #2 - Passive Activities	Late November
	Focus Group Meeting #3 - Senior Activities	Early December
	Focus Group Meeting #4- Cultural, Arts, Religious	Early December
2021	Open Space Committee Meeting #4	Wednesday, January 6
	Public Meeting #2	Tuesday, January 26
	Open Space Committee Meeting #5	Wednesday, February 3
	Open Space Committee Meeting #6	Thursday, March 25
	Key Person Interviews (12)	Dates TBD
	Web Based Survey - write and administer	Oct 1 through April 1
	Wiki - Mapping interactive community mapping	Oct 1 through April 1
	Public Meeting #3 with Board of Supervisors	Thursday, April 15
	Open Space Committee Meeting #7	Tuesday June 1
	Public Meeting #4	Thursday, June 24











- Provide for all ages
- Preserve resources
- Improve safety for pedestrians and bicycle riders
- Use open space plan to stop overdevelopment
- Provide kids safer access to school by walking and biking
- Improved water access











- Many municipal parks
- Existing trails
- Existing Playgrounds
- Diverse range of user ages
- Many communities in region encourage kids to walk/bike to school
- When communities have safe trails and connections, kids can be encouraged to walk
- Funding available for trails, parks, greenways

- Methacton SD hesitant to have kids walk / bike due to unsafe connections
- Studies show trail and sidewalks increase property values
- Dog park in Oaks well used
- Camp Hideaway is private
- SD buses large number of students
- YMCAs short drive from Township
- Audubon School has several acres that can be green space











- Safe pedestrian connections to ARA fields
- Make connections to Valley Forge
- Consider 'no access' greenways
- Unusable open space for solar / wind
- Bike / ped connections between regional trails and neighborhoods
- Ped/bike bridges across Perkiomen Creek
- Community Center / YMCA
- Redevelop 'grey areas' to create cultural centers / 3<sup>rd</sup> places

- Connect to County trail system
- Connect to Circuit Trails
- Rebuild Yerkes bridge across Perkiomen as footbridge
- More connections to state park
- Look at Ridge Pike for redevelopment, open space, and trail options
- Look at St. Gabriel's for multi-purpose fields for various sports teams









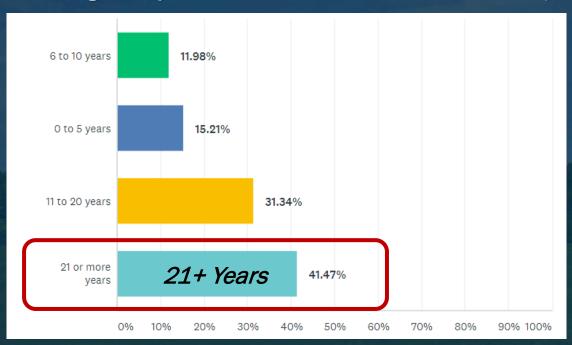


- William Penn Foundation
- DCNR
- Montgomery County
- Local Businesses

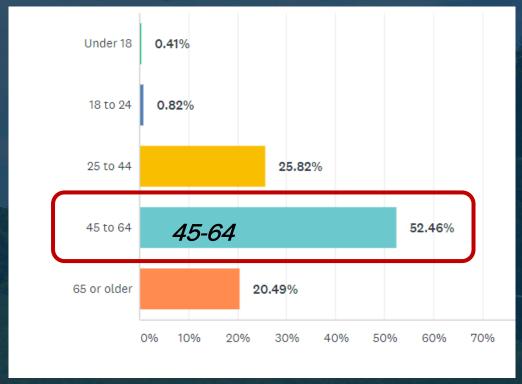


245 completed surveys as of November 18, 2020

### How long have you lived in Lower Providence Township?



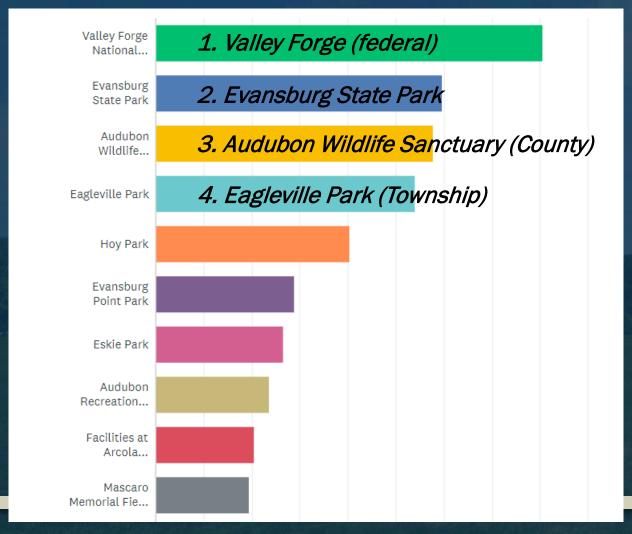
### What is your age?



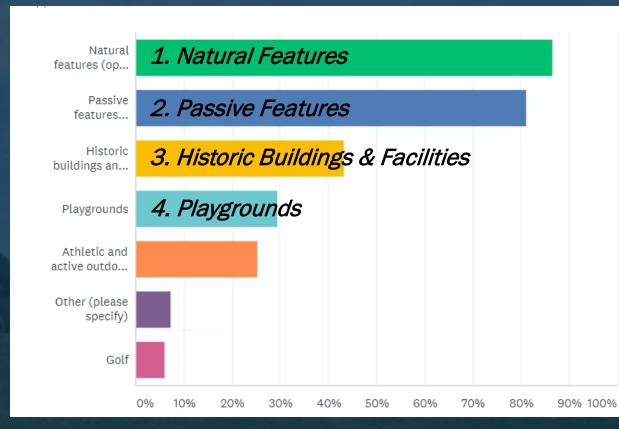
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LowerProvidenceParks



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

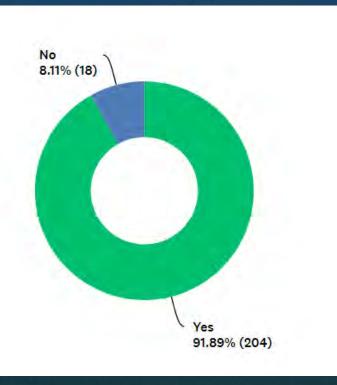


What are your favorite types of park features? (Please check all that apply)

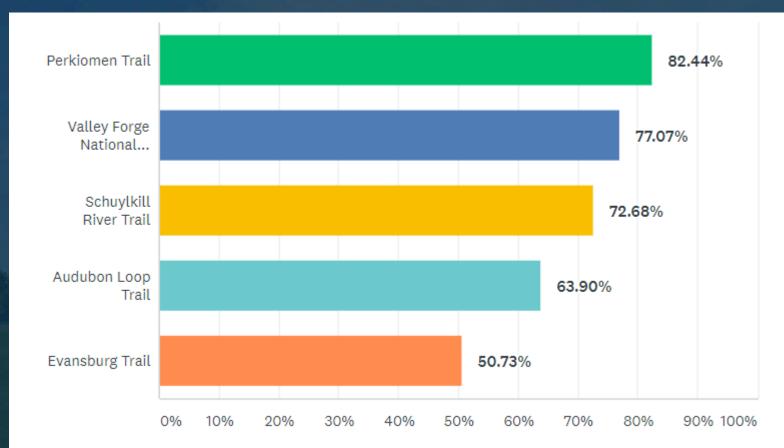




Do you walk, run or bike on area trails or roadways?



Which area trails do you use? (Please check all that apply)



How often do you bike or walk to work/school or to run errands?



How often do you bike or walk for recreational purposes?

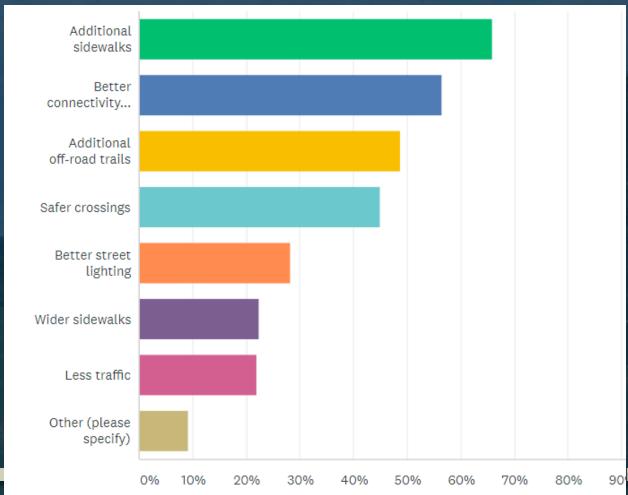




To what areas would you like improved pedestrian and bicycling access? (Please check all that apply)

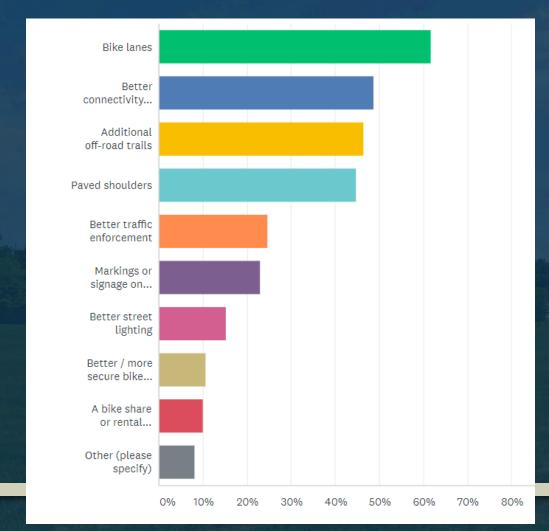


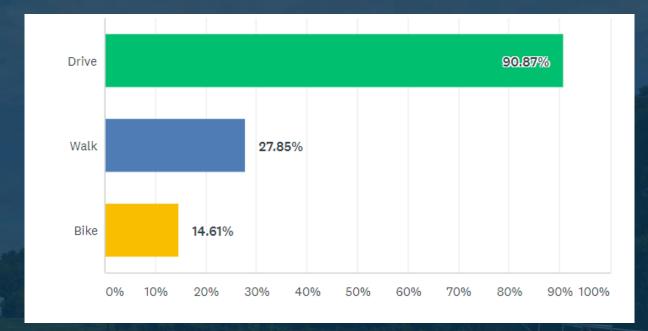
What would encourage you to walk more? (Please check all that apply)



What would encourage you to bike more? (Please check all that apply)

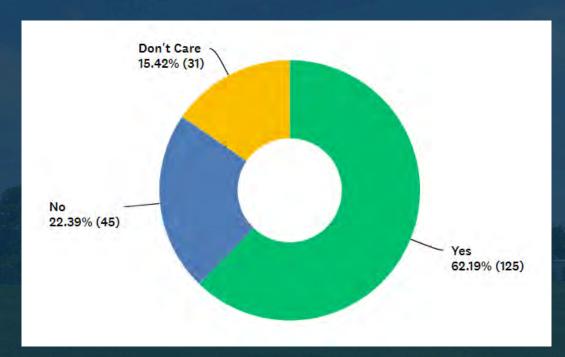
How do you travel to area parks? (Please check all that apply)



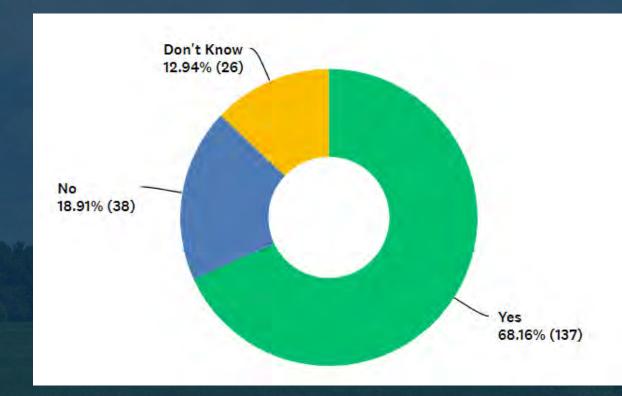




Should Lower Providence Township consider the development of a community center that provides facilities for indoor recreation, fitness and other sports, recreation and community activities?

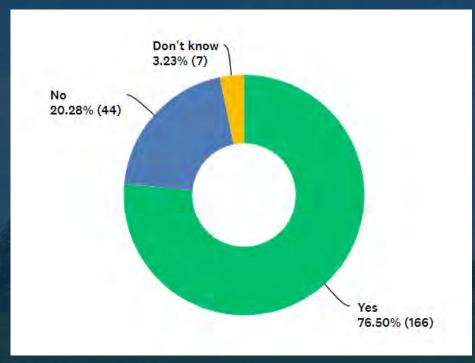


Do you think that more public parks, natural areas, and open spaces are needed in Lower Providence Township?

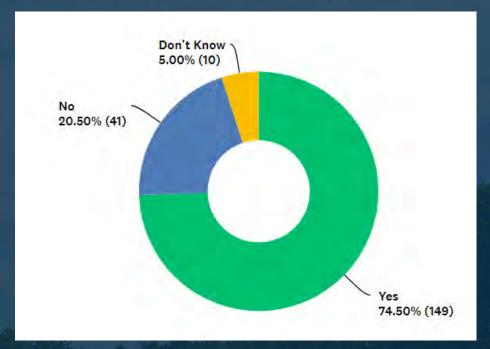




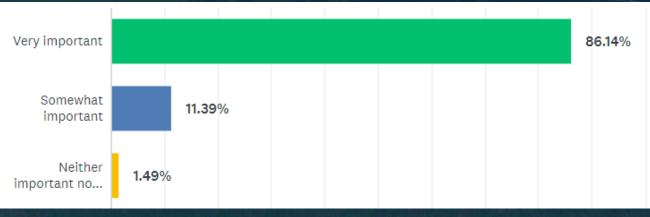
Do you feel that there are an adequate number of parks, natural areas, and trails available to you in or in close proximity to where you live?



Generally, are your household's recreational and open space needs being met in or around Lower Providence Township?

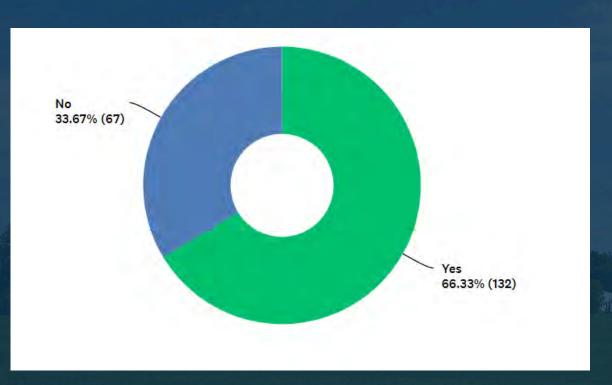


In general, how important is the conservation of natural open spaces such as wetlands and wooded areas in Lower Providence Township?

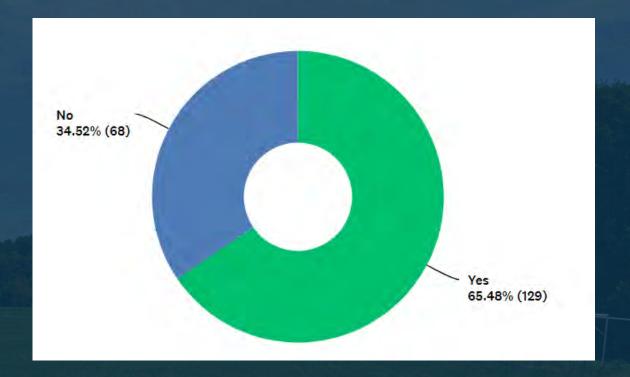




Do you support increasing taxes to pay for additional recreational and connectivity opportunities such as parks, trails and sidewalks?



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 Preliminary Results

### 56 WikiMap comments made as of November 18, 2020

Comment Breakdown / Locations Delineated: Barriers to Connectivity: 4

Sidewalk Gap: 4

Desired Park Location: 4

Challenging Pedestrian / Bike Area: 4

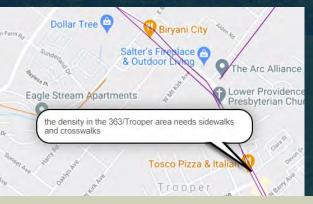
Desired Crosswalk: 2

Desired Bike Route: 8

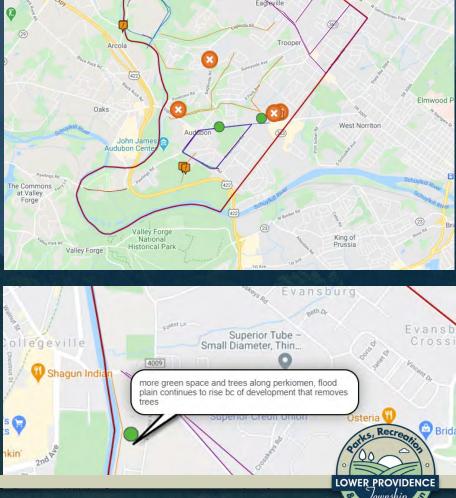
Desired Trail: 10 -

Desired Sidewalk: 20









4005

# NRPA Benchmarking

General definitions by National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines:

### <u>Community Parks –</u>

- Serve to meet the needs of several neighborhoods or large area of the community
- Allow for group activity
- Developed for both active and passive recreation
- Service area should be .5 to 3 mile radius
- Size is best determined by demographics, population, resource availability and recreation demands. Optimal size is 30-50 acres (Both Eagleville and Evansburg Point Parks are over 30 acres in size, at 64.92 and 35.6 acres respectively)
- Should preserve unique landscapes within the community and/or provide recreation opportunities not available within the area served

### <u>Connector Trails –</u>

 Multi purpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians and bicyclist to and from parks and throughout the community



# NRPA Benchmarking

NRPA understands that there is no single set of standards for parks and recreation to address the uniqueness of a community.

- 2020 NRPA Performance Review Park Facilities (typical for communities with populations between 20,000 49,999)
  - One park for every 1,963 residents.
     LPT would need an additional 0.6 parks to meet this metric.
  - 9.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. (Township parks only)
    LPT would need to add an additional 53.5 acres to meet this metric.
  - One playground for every 3,157 residents.
     LPT <u>exceeds</u> this metric by <u>2.6 playgrounds</u>.
  - One performance amphitheater for every 30,577 residents.
  - LPT exceeds this metric with one amphitheater for a population of 26,679.
  - One recreation center for every 25,716 residents, and one community center for every 26,280 residents.
    - LPT would <u>need one recreation or community center</u> to meet this metric.
  - One senior center for every 32,639 residents.
     LPT would need one senior center to meet this metric.



# **Community Benchmarking**

Lower Providence Township – <u>2019</u> Population: 26,873

### **Benchmarked Communities:**

- Upper Providence Township, Montgomery County *Population: 24,355*
- Upper Dublin Township, Montgomery County *Population: 26,553*
- McCandless Township, Allegheny County Population: 28,193
- Municipality of Monroeville, Allegheny County Population: 27,380
- Moon Township, Allegheny County Population: 25,437
- Spring Township, Berks County *Population: 27,659*



### Community Benchmarking - Existing Facilities

Community Bendaniarking Existing rudinities								
	Lower Providence Township	Average	Difference from Average	Difference from Maximum				
2019 Population (ACS)	26,873	26,636	237	-1,320				
Area (Sq. Miles)	15.6	18	-2	-8.6				
2019 Pop. Density per Sq. Mile	1,723	1,532	190	-289				
# of Parks	13	11	2	-10				
Park Area (Acres)	202.582	272	-70	-365.418				
Facility								
Baseball / Softball	14	13	1	-4				
Basketball	2	6	-4	-9				
Biking / Hiking Trail / Walking Track	6	5	1	-4				
Football	1	0	1	0				
Multipurpose Field	2	1	1	-1				
Pavilion / Rental Space	5	6	-1	-5				
Pool	0	0	0	-1				
Tennis	4	6	-2	-12				
Bocceball court	1	0	1	0				
Pickleball court	0	2	-2	-10				
Skate Park	0	0	0	-1				
Soccer	1	3	-2	-11				
Volleyball	0	3	-3	-10				
Playgrounds	7	8	-1	-4				
Disc Golf	0	0	0	-1				
Street Hockey / Ice Skating	0	1	-1	-2				
Dog Park	0	0	0	-1				
Amphitheater	1	1	0	0				
Community Garden	0	0	0	0				
Recreation Center	0	0	0	-1				



# **Community Benchmarking**

Lower Providence Township – <u>2040</u> Population Projection: 28,448
Benchmarked Communities:

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

Benchmarked communities' current populations were compared to Lower Providence future projected population.



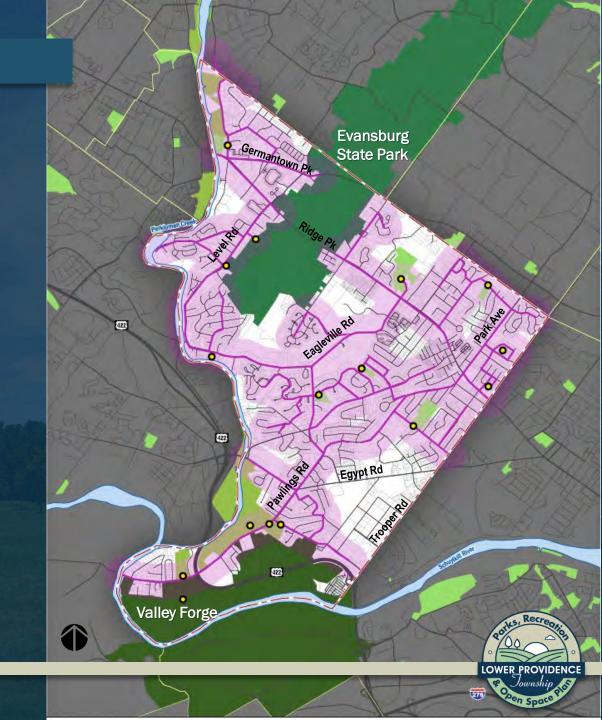
### Community Benchmarking - Existing Facilities

Community Benchmarking - Existing racinties							
	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			



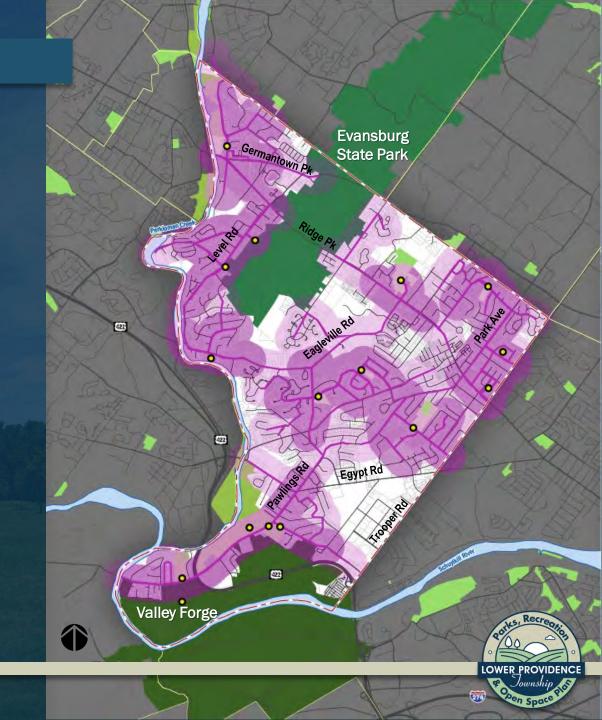
# Park Service Areas / Gaps

Areas that are within – <u>1 mile walking distance of</u>
 a Lower Providence Park & Recreation Area



# Park Service Areas / Gaps

 Areas that are within – <u>0.5 mile walking distance</u> of a Lower Providence Park & Recreation Area

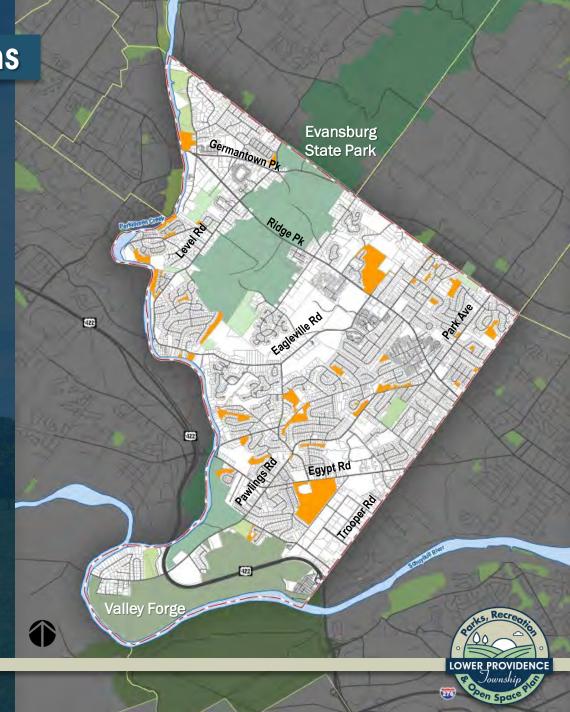


# Park Service Areas / Gaps

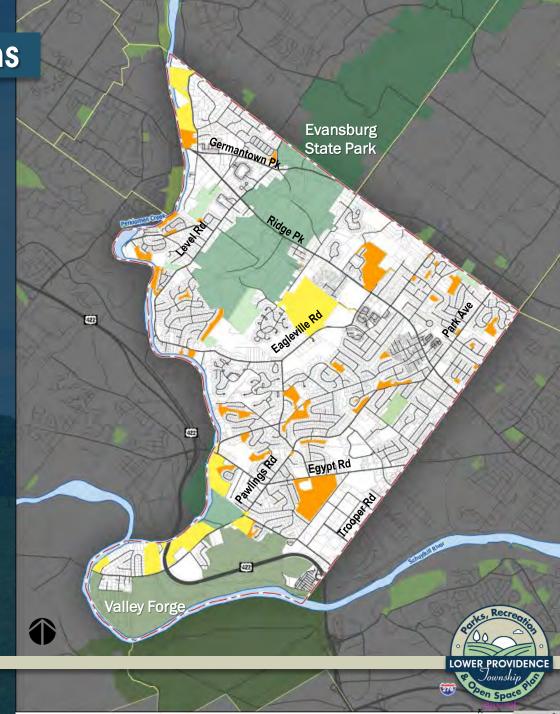
 Potential Service Gaps (0.5 miles to 1 mile) within Open Space & Recreation system



- Owner: Lower Providence Township
  - Mix of undeveloped, open space and recreation areas

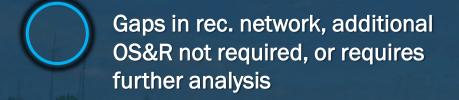


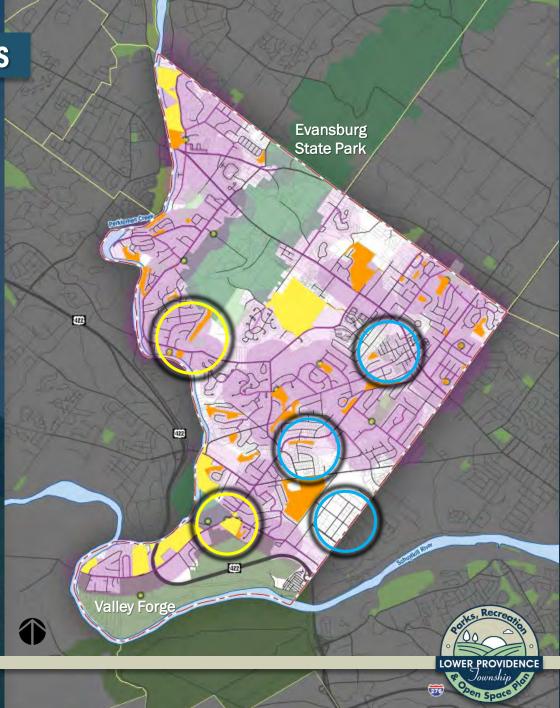
- Owner: Montgomery County
  - Mix of undeveloped, open space and recreation areas



 Park Service Mapping (.5- & 1mile walking radius)





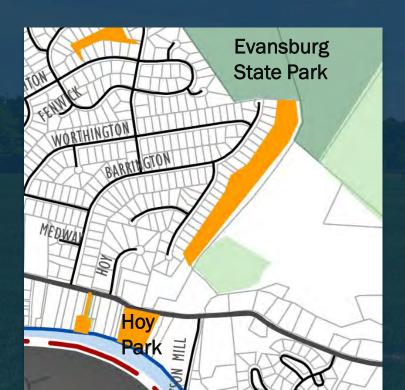


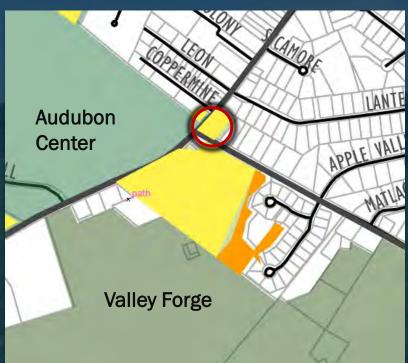
# A: Hoy Park / Evansburg Connection

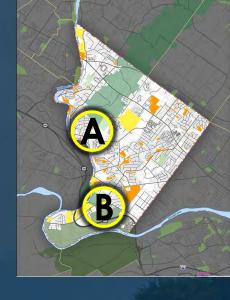
 Connect State Park to Hoy Park

### **B:** ARA Expansion

 Use County-Owned lands opposite
 Audubon Rd. for additional parking







# Potential Open Space & Rec Acquisition

Owner: KeyBank

• Size: 27 Acres

Characteristics:Agricultural fields





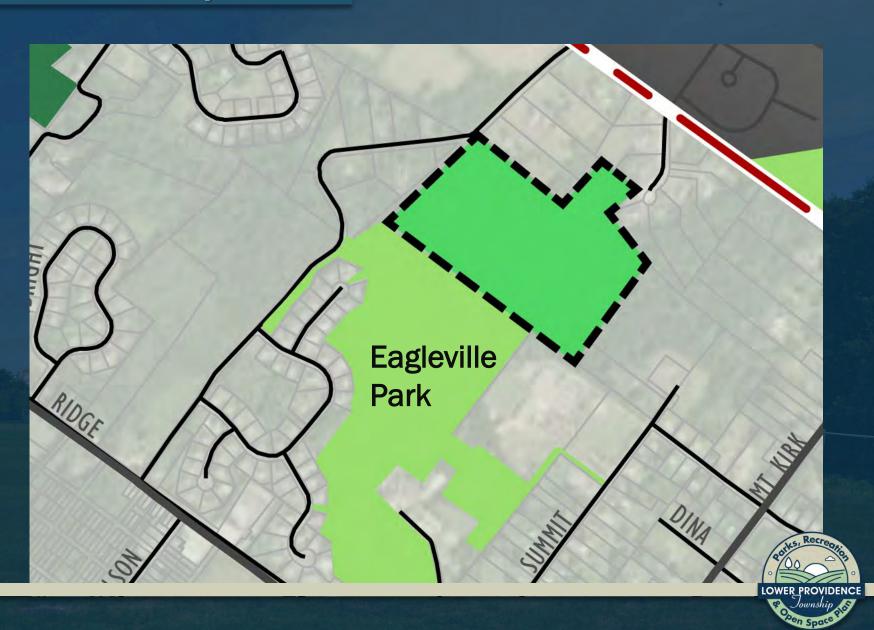
# Potential Open Space & Rec Acquisition

• Owner: J. Heyser

• Size: 36 Acres

Characteristics: Wooded / dense vegetation

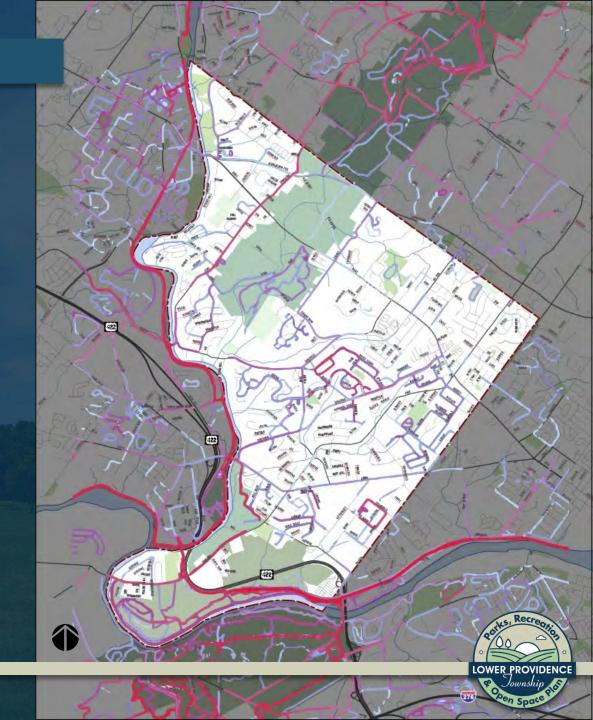




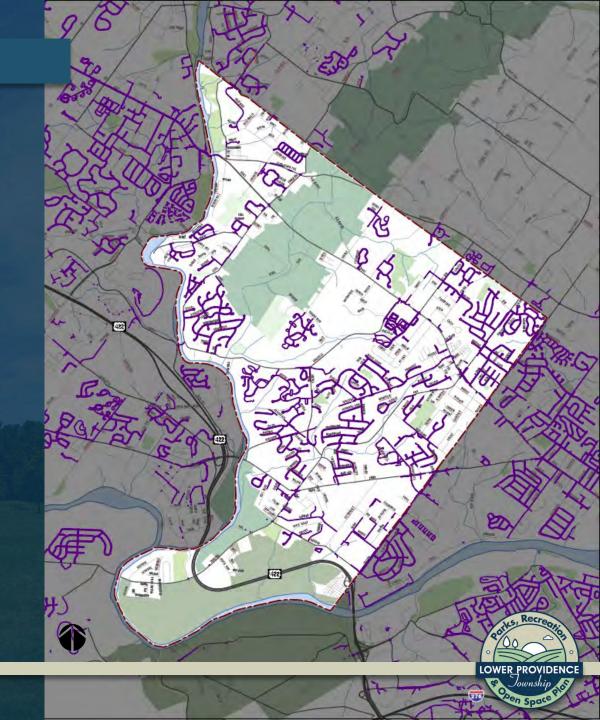
# Conceptual Trail Connections • Base

# **Conceptual Trail Connections**

• STRAVA Heat Map: Bike and Run Routes

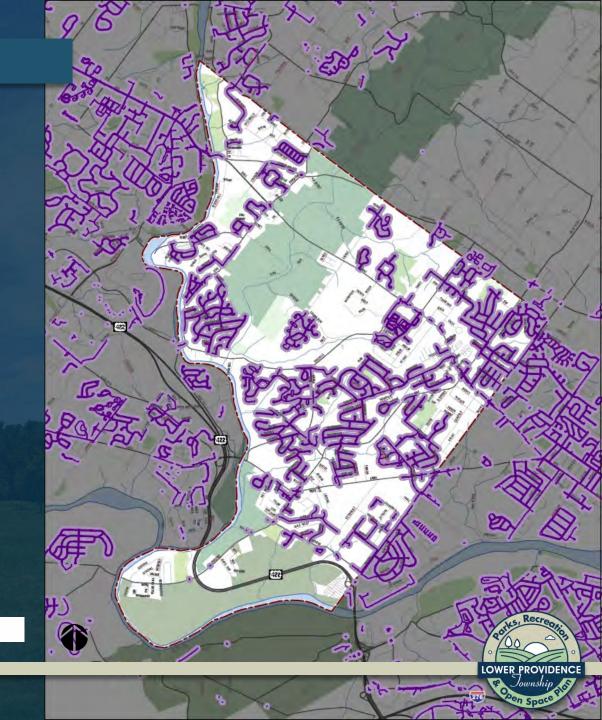


Existing Sidewalks



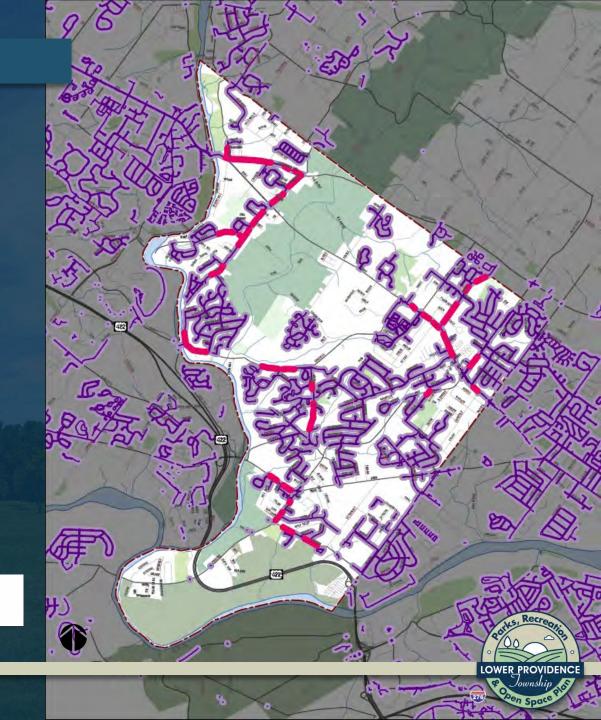
Existing Sidewalks

Existing Sidewalk



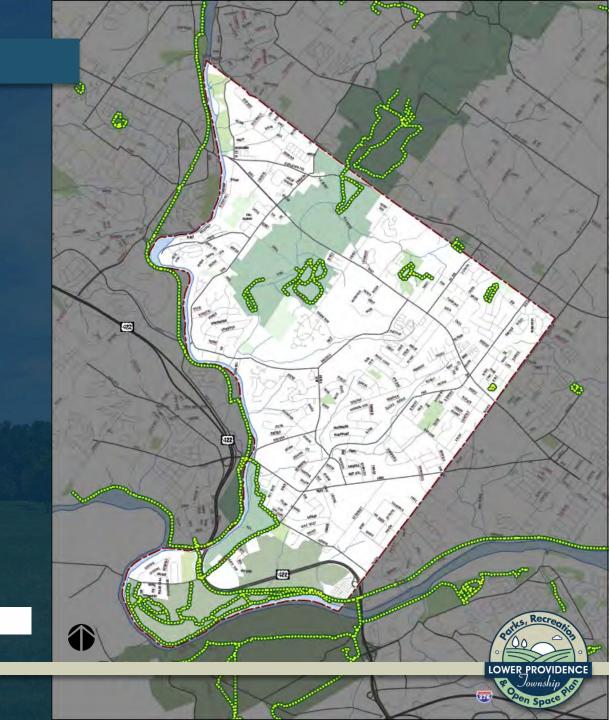
Existing Sidewalk Gaps





• Existing Trails - Public

**common** Existing Trails



### Bike Montco - 2018



**Bike Montco** 

The Bicycle Plan for Montgomery County



#### How Stressful Are Montgomery County's Roads?

DVRPC's analysis shows that a majority of Montgomery County's roads are fairly comfortable for bicyclists (either LTS 1 or LTS 2). These roadways are already safe enough for most riders with no additional improvements. However, they are mostly residential streets that do not connect to destinations outside of their immediate neighborhood. The larger and busier major roads, which connect different communities and are used for long-distance travel, tend to have higher LTS levels (3 and 4) that make them unattractive to all but the most confident bicyclists. These higher-stress roadways act as significant barriers to bicycle connectivity.

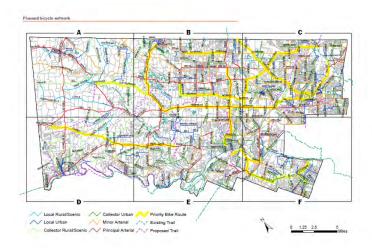
Level of Stress	Length (Miles)	LIS %
LTS1	2711.15	60%
LTS2	399.06	9%
LTS3	670.75	15%
LTS4	718.39	16%
	4499.36	100%

#### Step 3: Calculate the Level of Percentage of roads in Montgomery County by level of traffic stress





60 BIKE MONTCO



Planned Bicycle Network 65



### Bike Montco - 2018

The one thing *Bike Montco* cannot do is actually implement itself. That effort belongs to the Montgomery County government, its citizens, its institutions, and its outside allies. Only by working together as partners can *Bike Montco*'s vision become reality to further the goals of the county comprehensive plan and make Montgomery County an even better place to live, work, and visit.

The one thing Bike Montco cannot do is actually implement itself. That effort belongs to the Montgomery County government, its citizens, its institutions, and its outside allies. Only by working together as partners can Bike Montco vision become reality to further the goals of vision become reality for thrither the goals of the county comprehensive plan and make Montgomery County an even better place to live, work, and visit.

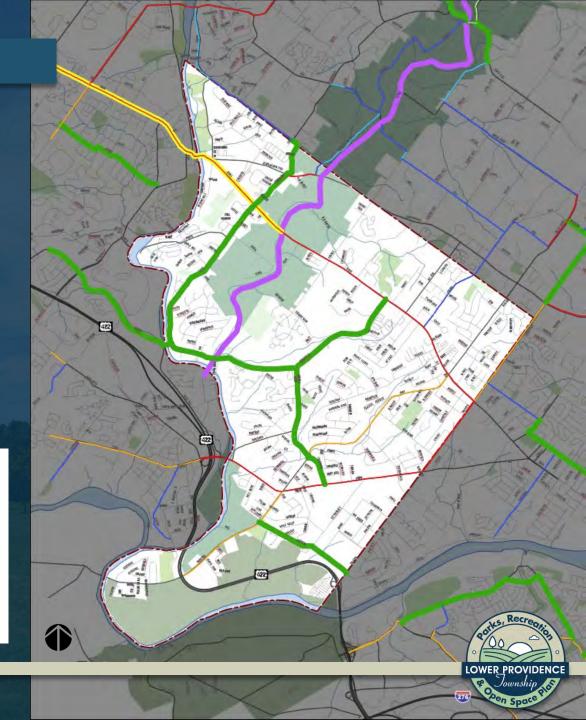


122 BIKE MONTCO



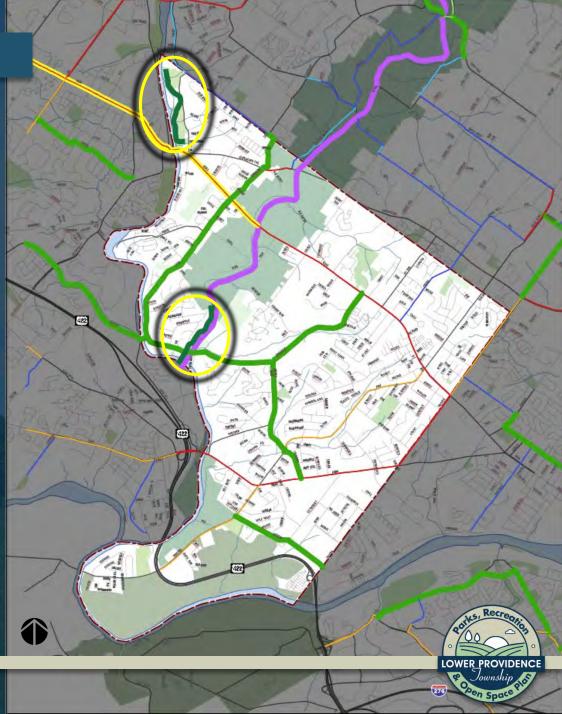
Bike Montco Routes

Local Rural/Scenic
Local Urban
Collector Rural/Scenic
Collector Urban
Minor Arterial
Principal Arterial
Priority Bike Route
Proposed Trail



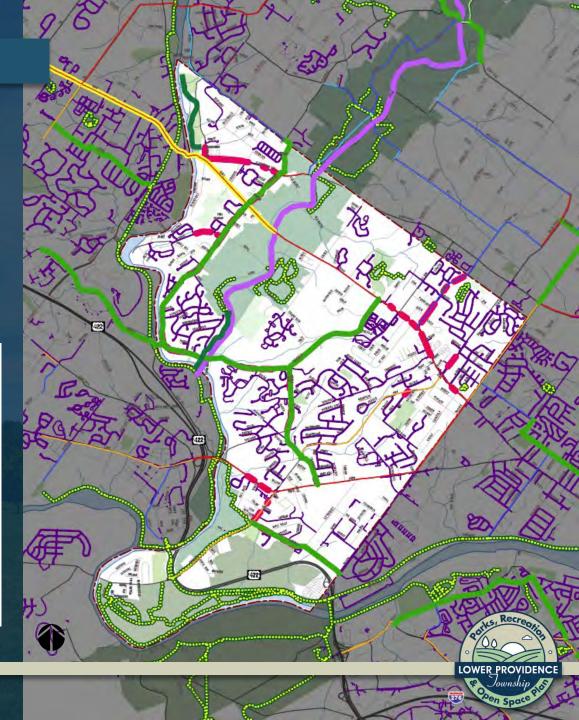
Proposed Trails





- Connectivity Network Work in progress, low stress route to be examined
- Input needed from Committee:
  - More possible trail alignments?
  - On road alignments, low stress preferable





### Maintenance & Programming

#### Parks and Recreation Administration

- Department organization full time (3 fulltime recreational Staff; 3 full time park maintenance report to PW Dept.)
- Seasonal staff part time (Scores of seasonal staff to provide program offerings)
- Township communication (website, social media)

#### Recreation Programs offerings

- Current programs offered (80+ in 2018; 70+ offered in 2019; 50+ in 2020 due to COVID)
- Expansion areas (late fall and winter opportunities)
- Partnerships (expand / create M.O.U. with school district and others for winter season uses)



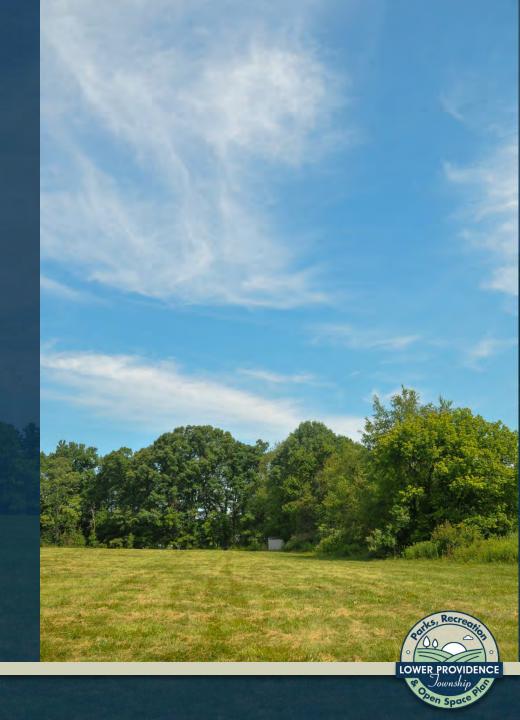
### Maintenance & Programming

#### Facilities

- Current system for task assignment and completion is a partnership between departments
- Township, school, county, federal, and others

#### Finance

- Overview of current recreation program 2020 budgeted expenditures \$556,957 for recreation programming
- Focus on summer camps and special events
- 2019 fees review of revenues generated from programs and contributions \$396,775
- Opportunities for additional revenue streams



### Focus Group List & Feedback

#### Active Recreation

- MARA- Methacton Audubon Recreation Association (Youth Baseball)
- Lower Providence Warriors Football (Evansburg Point Park)
- Methacton Warriors Football and Cheer (Eagleville Park)
- FC Montco (Redtail Park)
- Knights Cricket Club (Gabriel's Field)
- Lower Providence Mavericks (Connie Mack Baseball)
- Methacton Baseball Association
- Methacton Aquatic Club
- Gyms, Yoga Studios

#### Outdoor Recreation/Trails/Conservation

- Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy
- John James Audubon Center
- Local Boy Scout Troup
- Montgomery County Trail Planner
- Schuylkill River Trail Partners
- Firebirds Theatre Program
- Hideaway Day Camp



### Focus Group List & Feedback

- Social Groups &/or Service Organizations
  - Lower Providence Community Library
  - Optimist Club
  - Lower Providence Business Association
  - Audubon Oaks Lions Club
  - Providence Place (assisted living facility)

#### School Focus Group

- Methacton School District
- Arrowhead Elementary School
- Eagleville Elementary School
- Arcola Intermediate School/Skyview
   Upper Elementary School
- Woodland Elementary School
- Daycares and Preschools



### Focus Group List & Feedback

### Key Person Interviews

- NPS-Valley Forge National Historical Park
- DCNR-Evansburg State Park
- Input from Committee Please suggest additional individuals



### **Next Steps**

• Committee Meeting 4:

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Public Meeting 2:

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Public Opinion Survey** 

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LowerProvidenceParks

Wikimapping

wikimapping.com/Lower-Providence.html

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2021	Open Space Committee Meeting #4	Wednesday, January 6
	Public Meeting #2	Tuesday, January 26
	Open Space Committee Meeting #5	Wednesday, February 3
	Open Space Committee Meeting #6	Thursday, March 25
	Key Person Interviews (12)	Dates TBD
	Web Based Survey - write and administer	Oct 1 through April 1
	Wiki - Mapping interactive community mapping	Oct 1 through April 1
	Public Meeting #3 with Board of Supervisors	Thursday, April 15
	Open Space Committee Meeting #7	Tuesday June 1
	Public Meeting #4	Thursday, June 24

### **Next Steps**





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:

### 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 #1 will take place Monday September 28, 2020 at 7:00pm
   Join at: https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence1
- <u>Public Meeting</u> #2 will take place Tuesday January 26, 2021 at 7:00pm Join at: https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence2
- <u>Public Meeting #3</u> will take place Thursday April 15, 2021 at 7:00pm
   Join at: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence3">https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence3</a>
- <u>Public Meeting #4</u> will take place Thursday June 24, 2021 at 7:00pm
   Join at: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence4">https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence4</a>

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/lowerprovidenceparks

#### 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

#### Comment on WikiMapping &



wikimapping.com/Lower-Providence.html

**Public Involvement Poster** 

# Public Meeting 2 Link: https://tinyurl.com/lowerprovidence2

	Meeting Title	Meeting Date
2020	Open Space Committee Meeting #1	Wednesday, August 12th
	Open Space Committee Meeting #2	Thursday, Sept 10
	Public Meeting #1	Monday, October 26
	Open Space Committee Meeting #3	Wednesday, November 18
	Focus Group Meeting #1 - Active Sports	Late November
	Focus Group Meeting #2 - Passive Activities	Late November
	Focus Group Meeting #3 - Senior Activities	Early December
	Focus Group Meeting #4- Cultural, Arts, Religious	Early December
2021	Open Space Committee Meeting #4	Wednesday, January 6
	Public Meeting #2	Tuesday, January 26
	Open Space Committee Meeting #5	Wednesday, February 3
	Open Space Committee Meeting #6	Thursday, March 25
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	Public Meeting #4	Thursday, June 24

### **Thank You**

### **Contact Information:**

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