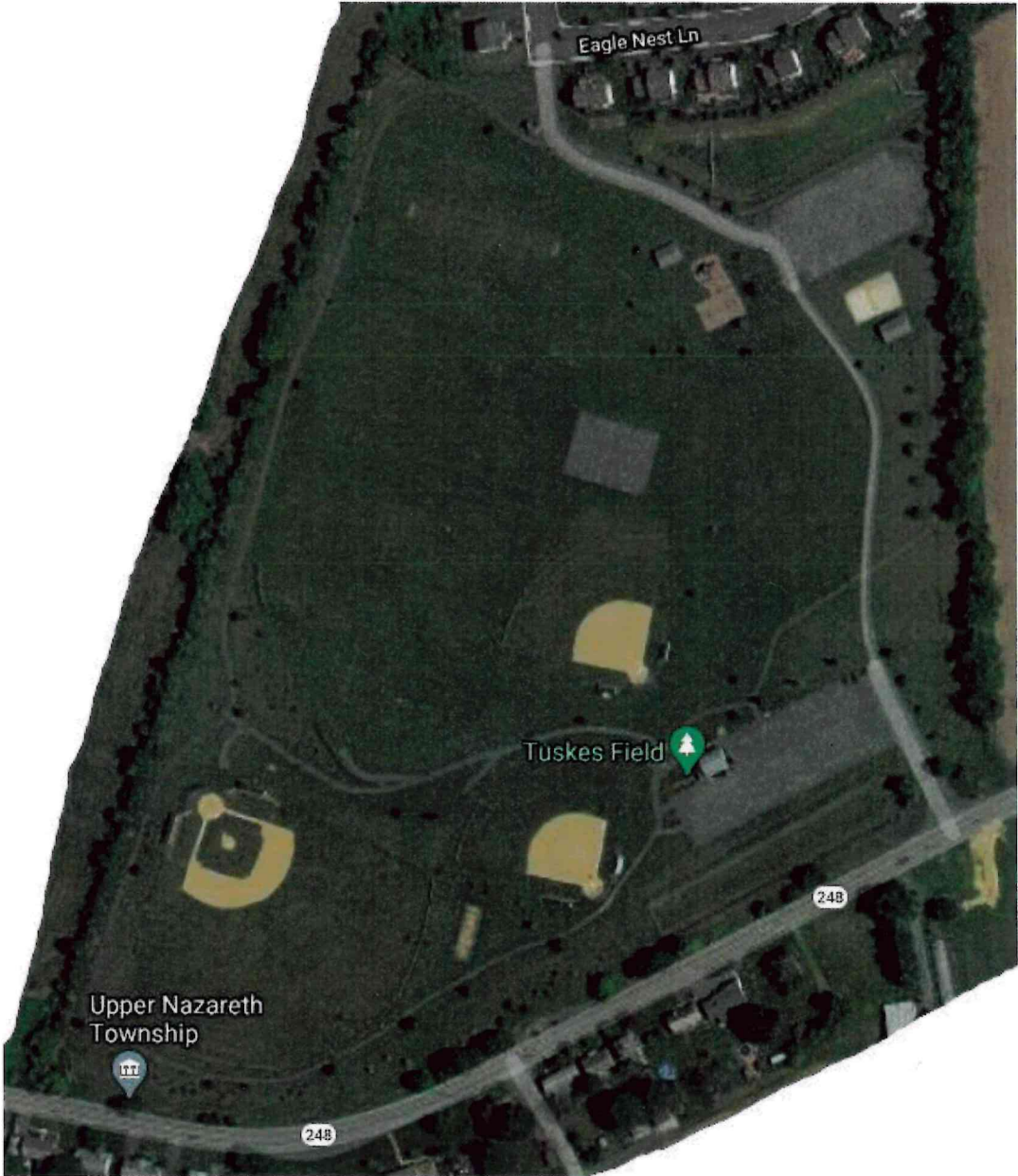


Upper Nazareth Township

Recreation, Parks & Open Space Master Plan



November 2020

Plan Acknowledgements

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Chapter 1 Plan Purpose and Goals & Objectives

Purpose

This Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Master Plan is intended to provide guidelines and recommendations for the development of parks, recreation facilities and the preservation of open space within Upper Nazareth for use by Township residents. The Plan concludes that the provision of recreation, both active and passive, and the preservation of open space, are major elements contributing to the high quality of life that Township residents expect and deserve.

A Project Study Committee (PSC) was established to review and revise the various chapters of the Recreation, Parks & Open Space Master Plan. The PSC was comprised of nine representatives of the following boards, commission departments, and staff: Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Recreation Board, Public Works Department, Township Manager, Zoning Officer as well as a resident volunteer. Besides monthly meeting attendance to review draft material, the PSC was instrumental in creating the Questionnaire sent out to Township residents to elicit opinions regarding parks, recreation open space, and pedestrian circulation.

Goals & Objectives

This section sets forth the goals and objectives for parks/recreation and open space in Upper Nazareth Township. The goals are general statements of what the Township desires to achieve in terms of parks/recreation and open space. Each goal is supported by objectives which are aimed at addressing the stated goal.

Primary Goals for Recreation

The Recreation Board of Upper Nazareth Township (Project Study Committee) recommends the following direction for the future of the Township as it continues to develop:

- Continue to offer parks and recreation programs for all residents under the administration of the Recreation Board.
- The development of a plan for park utilization and maintenance.
- The inclusion of open space for passive recreation, scenic trails, and preservation of stream/creek valleys in keeping with the County Open Space recommendations.
- The development and utilization of proposed land acquisitions.

Goal for Park and Recreation Program

Promote varied and diverse recreational programs within the Township.

Objectives

- Identify existing recreational programs available to Township residents ranging from organized sports to the arts.
- Identify programs to serve children, youth, adults, senior citizens, and handicapped individuals.
- Identify educational programs to foster an understanding and appreciation of recreation resources and promote their safe and proper use.
- Identify programs that promote access to and use of underutilized recreational resources.
- Continue to fund those recreational programs available to Township residents as appropriate.

Goal for Walkway/Trail System

Provide linkages between parks and open space sites within the Township.

Objectives

- Integrate active and passive areas to promote continuous varied experiences.
- Create a realistic means of interconnecting park and recreation sites.
- Evaluate walkway/trail linkages and crosswalks.

Goal for Land Utilization and Facilities

Provide sufficient parks and recreational facilities for Township residents.

Objectives

- Identify recreational land standards and criteria related to the various types of parks and recreation sites.

- Establish a development profile for parks and recreational facilities in response to current and potential demands.
- Evaluate locations for potential park and recreation sites that could encompass a wide range of recreational activities.
- Analyze the possibility of using vacant or underutilized sites and structures as well as utility and other rights-of-way for recreational use.
- Investigate the acquisition of additional lands to satisfy current and anticipated recreational needs.
- Communicate with Township resident via survey or questionnaire to obtain insights regarding preferences and priorities for recreational facilities and activities.
- Provide a wide variety of recreational facilities to serve all age groups an abilities of Township residents.
- Identify facilities that are needed at each park and recreation site to permit mixed and varied recreational activities that are complementary to one another.

Primary Goal for Open Space

Continue to preserve environmentally sensitive open space and natural resources such as areas noteworthy for physical, recreational, historic, cultural or scenic quality.

Goal for Preservation of Open Space

Develop standards and guidelines for the conservation of open space

Objectives

- Establish criteria for resources that should be considered for conservation, especially the Schoeneck Creek and East Branch of the Monocacy Creek corridors.
- Identify which lands would be appropriate for open space designation within subdivisions and land developments.
- Outline a strategy for setting priorities for open space areas within the Township.
- Outline ordinance provisions that establish a buffer between development and the environmentally sensitive floodplains and wetlands of the Township.
- Require a woodland management plan for subdivisions and land development as a means to protect their biological and wildlife habitat value.

Chapter 2 Recreation, Parks & Open Space Questionnaire

Questionnaire & Findings

The Project Study Committee prepared a Questionnaire that was sent out to Township residents in order to gather information, opinions, likes and dislikes regarding parks, recreation, open space within Upper Nazareth. The Township sent the Questionnaires to the 2,207 households within Upper Nazareth. The question is included within the Appendix. Initially a month deadline for return was set in order to receive and compile responses in a timely fashion, however the deadline was extended due to the Covid pandemic. As a result, the Township office was closed for two and half months, which delayed some of the processing of the questionnaire and also review of the Draft Plan. Only 178 of the 2,207 (8.1%) Questionnaires were received by the Township.

Highlights of those Questionnaires returned (included):

- An overwhelming response was received for walking trails and cycling lanes/trails.
- Facilities and activities for adults was prevalent in the responses.
- Restrooms at the various parks was a common comment.

A breakdown of the Questionnaire responses is as follows:

- 65.1% indicated recreation was important to very important;
- 78.1% stated that the Township Newsletter was the most effective means of park/recreation info;
- 63.5% indicated they use Township Parks, 60.2% use its open areas and 54.9% use playgrounds;
- 45.5% noted parks should be improved or expand facilities;
- 65.7% felt walking trails are needed, 44.4% said bike trails, 42.8% nature trails & 32.6% fitness trails;
- 51.1% would be interested in an indoor community center, 42.1% would not;
- 73.6% indicated that they do not participate in recreation organizations in the Township;
- 43.3% stated interest in outdoor educational programs, 41.1% in adult programs, 39.9% in arts/crafts;
- 77.0% indicated that the Township should partner with neighboring municipalities for recreation;
- 51.7% indicated that they would pay additional \$4-10 per year for parks/recreation programs.

The actual return results, both numeric and percent, are listed under each question below:

1. Please indicate where you reside based upon the following:

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
66	37.1%	NE: north of E. Lawn Rd (Rt 151), east of Nazareth
50	28.1%	NW: north of Bath Pike (Rt 248), west of Nazareth
36	20.2%	SE: south of E. Lawn Rd (Rt 151), east of Nazareth
19	10.7%	SW: south of Bath Pike (Rt 248), west of Nazareth
7	3.9%	No Answer

2. Please circle the number of people in your household in each age group.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Females</u>		<u>Males</u>	
	<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0-5	10	1.9%	13	2.5%
6-18	51	9.7%	63	11.9%
19-34	22	4.2%	33	6.3%
35-59	103	19.5%	97	18.4%
60+	77	14.6%	59	11.2%

3. Please check the box indicating the number of years you have lived in the Township.

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
43	24.2%	26+
35	19.7%	6-10
29	16.3%	11-15
25	14.0%	2-5
19	10.7%	16-20
13	7.3%	21-25
11	6.2%	0-1
3	1.7%	no answer

4. What method or methods do you feel are the most effective way to provide information regarding park facilities and recreation programs offered within the Township?

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
139	78.1%	Township Newsletter
78	43.8%	Township Website
64	36.0%	Email
49	27.5%	Facebook
11	6.2%	Quarterly Tax Bill
6	3.4%	Other, please specify <u>Key 3 Nazareth paper 2 Mail 1 Twitter 1</u>
1	0.6%	LinkedIn

5. How important is recreation to you and your family?

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
66	37.1%	Very important
51	28.1%	Important
42	23.6%	Somewhat important
15	8.4%	Not at all
4	2.2%	No Answer

6. Do you currently use the facilities at any of the Township Parks?

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
113	63.5%	Yes	64	36.0%	No	1	0.6%	No Answer

If YES, what do you use?

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
68	60.2%	Open areas
62	54.9%	Playgrounds
34	30.1%	Picnic pavilions
30	26.5%	Walking
25	22.1%	Soccer fields
21	18.6%	Basketball courts
18	15.9%	Baseball fields
2	1.8%	Lax field
2	1.8%	Tennis
1	0.9%	Fishing
1	0.9%	Volleyball

If you DO NOT utilize the Township Parks, please select why.

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
20	31.2%	Do not know what is there
16	25.0%	Do not know where they are
12	18.8%	No Answer
6	9.4%	Aging, not interested
5	7.8%	No interest
5	7.8%	Too far away
3	4.7%	Lack of facilities
2	3.1%	Use L. Nazareth facilities
2	3.1%	Not suited to recreation needs
2	3.1%	No time, too busy
2	3.1%	Do not have children anymore
1	1.6%	Lack of adequate restrooms
1	1.6%	Lack of water fountains/refreshments
1	1.6%	Lack of handicapped access
1	1.6%	Lack of forested areas, natural feeling
1	1.6%	No cycling trails
1	1.6%	Need walking trail
1	1.6%	Just moved in
1	1.6%	Have smaller children
1	1.6%	Everything for kids, nothing for adults
1	1.6%	Safety concerns
1	1.6%	Poor location
1	1.6%	Need basketball @ Newport
0		Do not like the facilities offered
0		Conditions of the facilities/equipment
0		Lack of open play areas
0		Lack of lighting
0		Lack of picnic facilities
0		Lack of parking
0		Overcrowding

7. Please check the statement that most accurately reflects your opinion:

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
53	29.8%	Currently have sufficient recreational facilities
47	26.4%	Township needs to expand park facilities
37	20.8%	Not familiar with present facilities
34	19.1%	Existing parks should be improved
5	2.8%	No Answer
2	1.1%	Would like to see more passive OS, meadow, forest
2	1.1%	Township has too many recreational facilities

8. If the Township were to develop additional facilities within the parks what facilities would satisfy the recreational needs of your family? (Check all that apply)

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
117	65.7%	Walking trails
85	47.8%	Nature trails
79	44.4%	Bike trails
70	39.3%	Restrooms
58	32.6%	Fitness trails
31	17.4%	Tennis courts
29	16.2%	Natural areas
27	15.2%	Ice skating
23	12.9%	Garden areas
22	12.4%	Amphitheater
21	11.8%	Open space
19	10.7%	Sledding area
18	10.1%	Picnic pavilions
18	10.1%	Playgrounds
15	8.4%	No Answer
14	7.9%	Basketball
13	7.3%	Bocce
13	7.3%	Horseshoes
11	6.2%	BMX/dirt bike trails
11	6.2%	Parking areas
9	5.1%	Concessions
7	3.9%	Soccer fields
6	3.4%	Lacrosse fields
5	2.8%	Baseball fields
5	2.8%	Skate park
5	2.8%	Volleyball
3	1.7%	Deck hockey
3	1.7%	Do not need anymore
3	1.7%	Football fields
3	1.7%	Rock climbing
2	1.1%	Public pool
2	1.1%	Softball fields
2	1.1%	Swimming
1	0.6%	Art sculpture garden
1	0.6%	Disc golf
1	0.6%	Green infrastructure
1	0.6%	Indoor basketball
1	0.6%	Indoor pool
1	0.6%	Indoor fitness
1	0.6%	Movies in the park
1	0.6%	Pickleball court
1	0.6%	Shade @Tuskes
1	0.6%	Shooting range

9. What age groups do you feel are not presently provided sufficient recreational activities by the Township?
 (If you have multiple selections, please indicate your first through last choice)

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
64	36.0%	No Answer
58	32.6%	Seniors (60+ years)
34	19.1%	Adults (26-59 years)
20	11.2%	Teens (13-15 years)
17	9.6%	Special Needs
16	9.0%	Teens (16-18 years)
14	7.9%	Preschool (2-5 years)
11	6.2%	Elementary School (6-12 years)
11	6.2%	Families
10	5.6%	Young Adults (19-25 years)
3	1.7%	Not Applicable
1	0.6%	Toddlers

10. Would you be interested in an indoor community center?

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
91	51.1%	Yes
75	42.1%	No
6	3.4%	Undecided
6	3.4%	No answer

If YES, please indicate where:

<u>Response</u>	
8	Tuskes Park
5	Anywhere
4	Central
4	Nazareth
3	Anywhere
3	Partner w/L. Nazareth
3	West End
2	Near Gracedale
2	Old racing track
2	U. Nazareth
1	Already have natatorium
1	Area near Giant
1	Around the field @ Caledra's
1	Depends on expense
1	East End
1	Front/rear Township building
1	Maybe
1	Near Eagle's Landing
1	Near schools
1	Northeast
1	Northwest of Rt 248
1	Southwest of Rt 248
1	Use the library
1	Used year-round

11. Do you participate in programs offered by recreation organizations in the Township or other municipality?

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
44	24.7%	Yes	131	73.6%	No	3	1.7%	no answer

If YES, which programs?

<u>Response</u>	
5	Soccer
4	Baseball
4	Clippers
3	Football
3	Basketball
3	Lacrosse
3	Library
2	Community Day
2	L. Nazareth
2	Nazareth
2	Rail Trail
2	Summer camp
2	Swimming
1	Appalachian Mtn Club
1	Bushkill Twp
1	DCNR
1	Easter egg hunt
1	Fall baseball
1	Farmers market
1	Hike-it-baby
1	Jacobsburg Park
1	Parades
1	Santa Run
1	Softball
1	Touch-a-truck
1	Wilderness Cons
1	Wrestling
1	YMCA

12. Please check all the programs that you or your family would be interested in:

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
77	43.3%	Outdoor educational programs
73	41.0%	Adult programs
71	39.9%	Arts/crafts
68	38.2%	Community Day
58	32.0%	Family-oriented programs
56	31.5%	Educational programs
55	30.9%	Senior programs
49	27.5%	Sports programs
39	21.9%	Cultural programs
34	19.1%	Teen programs
23	12.9%	No Answer
10	5.6%	Preschool programs
4	2.2%	Exercise programs
4	2.2%	None
2	1.1%	40+mens softball
1	0.6%	Bike trail
1	0.6%	Indoor track
1	0.6%	Live music
1	0.6%	Summer camp dances

- 1 0.6% Walking trail
- 1 0.6% Yoga class

13. Do you feel Upper Nazareth should partner with neighboring communities in the development of parks and recreation programs/facilities? (Neighboring communities include: Bath Borough, Bushkill Township, East Allen Township, Lower Nazareth Township, Moore Township, Nazareth Borough, Palmer Township, Plainfield Township, Stockertown Borough)

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
137	77.0%	Yes	34	19.1%	No	7	3.9%	No Answer

14. Upper Nazareth currently budgets \$14 annually per Township for parks and recreational programs. Do you feel the Township should consider increasing the budget for parks and recreation programs and if so, how much more would you be willing to spend?

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
58	32.6%	Pay an additional \$10 per year
43	24.2%	Need more information
36	20.2%	Not willing to pay any more
24	13.5%	Pay an additional \$4 per year
10	5.6%	Pay an additional \$8 per year
1	0.6%	\$20-25 per year
1	0.6%	\$100 per year
1	0.6%	No more increase
1	0.6%	Only if library fully funded
1	0.6%	Potentially more than \$10
1	0.6%	Unsure
1	0.6%	Would like to see proposal

(4 unhappy w/library cut)

Chapter 3 Township Profile

Understanding the setting and character of Upper Nazareth is important in developing a plan for recreation, parks, and open space that will successfully serve its residents while preserving the natural resources and open space of the Township. This Chapter examines Upper Nazareth's location, history, demographics, and findings of the public involvement process as elements defining the Township within this Plan.

Location and Configuration

Upper Nazareth Township is located in central Northampton County within the Lehigh Valley portion of Pennsylvania. The Township envelopes Nazareth Borough on three sides and is bordered by Bath Borough, East Allen Township, Bushkill Township, Plainfield Township, Stockertown Borough, Palmer Township, and Lower Nazareth Township. PA Routes 191 (E. Lawn Road) and 248 (Bath Pike) bisect the Township, running east-west, while PA Route 946 (Daniels Road) runs north-south through western third of the Township. Schoeneck Creek and the East Branch of Monocacy Creek traverse the Township in a north-south direction. Upper Nazareth is part of the Nazareth Area School District (NASD) along with neighboring Bushkill Township, Lower Nazareth Township, Nazareth Borough, Stockertown Borough, and Tatamy Borough.

History

The area of Upper Nazareth Township was originally a part of the Barony of Nazareth, which William Penn had created for his daughter Letitia. It was a parcel of land consisting of 25,000 acres pledged to his daughter in 1682. This land area was a part of Bucks County until 1752, when Northampton County was established. Upper Nazareth was a part of Bethlehem Township until 1788, when Nazareth separated from Bethlehem Township and was divided into Upper and Lower Nazareth Townships and became a municipality in 1807. The central area of Upper Nazareth Township separated via a petition of some of the residents and this area became the Borough of Nazareth on November 27, 1858. The boundaries of Upper Nazareth remained unchanged until December 3, 1948; on petition of a majority of freeholders, the Borough Council of Nazareth ordained the annexation of portions of Upper Nazareth Township chiefly in the western part of what is today the Borough of Nazareth.

Township Government

Upper Nazareth Township is a Township of the Second Class. Five elected officials serve the Township as the Board of Supervisors. The Boards, Commissions, Staff, Departments, and Consultants either appointed or hired by the Board Supervisors are as follows:

- 5-member Planning Commission;
- 7-member Recreation Board;
- Zoning Hearing Board (consisting of 3-voting members, an alternate, secretary & solicitor);
- Township Staff (consisting of Manager, Secretary, Treasurer & Zoning Officer);
- 8-person Public Works Department;
- 15-person Police Department; and
- Township Consultants (consisting of Solicitor, Engineer & Sewage Enforcement Officer).

Demographics

Upper Nazareth underwent a rapid rate of population growth over the past 20 years increasing from 3,413 persons in 1990, 4,426 persons in 2000 and to 6,231 in the 2010 census as shown in Table 3-1. The Township had a 2018 estimated population of 6,975. As noted above, the Township's population increased from 4,426 in 2000 to 6,231 in 2010, a 40.8% increase, while Pennsylvania increased by 3.4% from 2000 to 2010, and Northampton County increased by 11.5%, and the NASD increased 150%. Table 3-1 also depicts the 2018 estimates for the Township, NASD, Northampton County, and Pennsylvania; Upper Nazareth continued to demonstrate a greater percent increase than the other jurisdictions. Upper Nazareth Township's faster rate of growth is due to a large extent to the influx of residential development between 2000 and 2010; a factor that continues today. Most of the Upper Nazareth's population is centered in the part of the Township that lies northeast of Nazareth, an area and census designated place commonly referred to as East Lawn, or East Lawn Gardens.

**Table 3-1
Upper Nazareth Township, Northampton County & Pennsylvania - Population Changes 2000-2018**

Jurisdiction	2000 Population	2010 Population	Numeric Change	Percent Change	2018 Estimate	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Upper Nazareth Township	4,426	6,231	1,805	40.8	6,975	744	11.9
Nazareth Area School District	24,307	27,959	3,652	15.0	29,802	1,843	6.6
Northampton County	266,917	297,735	30,818	11.5	304,807	7,072	2.4
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	12,702,379	421,325	3.4	12,807,060	104,681	0.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Population Projections

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has developed population projections for the municipalities within Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Table 3-2 presents population projections for Upper Nazareth Township, the NASD, and Northampton County through 2040. The Township is projected to increase 11.6% by 2030 and another 8.1% by 2040 with the NASD increasing at a slightly higher rate, 16.2% by 2030 and another 10.0% by 2040, while the County's growth is projected at a **higher** rate with **12.0%** by 2030 and another 9.0% by 2040. The higher rate for the NASD in 2030 is due to LVPC projecting a 17.1% and 29.8% increase for Bushkill Township and Lower Nazareth Township respectively. Other townships within the County are projected at similarly high rates to account for the projected 12.0% increase in 2030.

**Table 3-2
Upper Nazareth Township, NASD, Northampton County - Population Projections through 2040**

Jurisdiction	2010 Population	2018 Estimate	Numeric Change	Percent Change	2030 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change	2040 Population	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Upper Nazareth Township	6,231	6,975	744	11.9	7,246	271	3.9	7,833	587	8.1
Nazareth Area School District	27,959	29,802	1,643	6.6	34,636	4,834	16.2	38,087	3,451	10.0
Northampton County	297,735	304,807	7,072	2.4	341,518	36,711	12.0	372,293	30,775	9.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Age

The 2017 U.S. Census, American Community Survey Estimates indicated the median age for Upper Nazareth Township to be 43.3, the NASD to be 42.8, and Northampton County to be 42.0; all were increases from 2010 (see Table 3-3). Between 2010 and 2017 the Under 5 population of the Township and NASD rose, while the County's declined slightly. This increase within the Township and NASD was partially due to the influx of families with young children and/or an increase of births for those already residing in both jurisdictions. The influx 'young family theory' appears contrary to the decrease in the child bearing age-groups of 20-34 and 35-49 highlighted below. Both Upper Nazareth's and the County's 5-19 age population declined slightly between 2010 and 2017, however the NASD rose by almost 2%. The age group 20-34 declined slightly in the Township, remained relatively static in NASD, but rose in the County over the same timeframe. Both Upper Nazareth's, NASD's, and the County's 35-49 age population **all** declined appreciably between 2010 and 2017, 2.8-5.7%. The age groups 50-64 and 65+ age group however, both rose slightly within the Upper Nazareth, NASD, and the County between 2010 and 2017.

**Table 3-3
Upper Nazareth Township and Northampton County - Age of Population 2010-2017**

Jurisdiction	Under 5		5-19		20-34		35-49		50-64		65+		Median Age	
	2010	2017	2010	2017	2010	2017	2010	2017	2010	2017	2010	2017	2010	2017
Upper Nazareth Township	4.7%	6.2%	21.7%	21.5%	12.5%	11.9%	24.4%	18.7%	20.2%	21.4%	19.8%	20.6%	42.2	43.3
Nazareth Area School District	5.2%	6.3%	17.8%	19.2%	14.3%	14.4%	23.4%	20.6%	21.6%	22.8%	15.0%	16.8%	41.8	42.8
Northampton County	5.5%	5.0%	19.7%	18.6%	17.4%	18.4%	21.1%	18.7%	20.8%	21.6%	15.7%	17.8%	40.9	42.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Other Demographic Highlights

- Upper Nazareth Township is 89.2% Caucasian. The Latino population comprises 7.9%, while African Americans and Asians make up 2.3% of the Township population.
- There are 90.4% of Township residents, age 25 and older, that have graduated high school and 33.2% have a bachelor's degree or greater.
- The median household income in Upper Nazareth Township is \$90,060, which is greater than the median household income of Northampton County at \$65,390.
- The median value of a house in Upper Nazareth Township in 2017 was \$258,140 and rent was at \$1,100 per month. The majority of housing stock in the Township is owner occupied at 82.5 percent.

Geography

According to the U. S. Census Bureau, the Township has a total area of 7.4 square miles, of which, 7.3 square miles of it is land and 0.1 square miles of it is water. The Township is in the Delaware River watershed and is drained by the Lehigh River tributary of the Monocacy Creek and by the Bushkill Creek, notably the East Branch of Monocacy Creek and Schoeneck Creek. Its villages include Christian Springs, Eastlawn Gardens, Georgetown (also in Lower Nazareth Township,) Penn Allen, and Schoeneck.

Chapter 4 Parks & Recreation Facilities

The evaluation of Upper Nazareth parks and recreation facilities weighs six factors (park types, number of parks, park locations, recreation facilities offered at parks, condition of parks and facilities, and park and facility trends) contributing to their value as Township assets and the ability of these existing facilities to adequately meet the recreation needs of its residents. All parks were visited several times throughout the evaluative process and input from the Task Force has provided additional ideas regarding the parks and facilities of the Township.

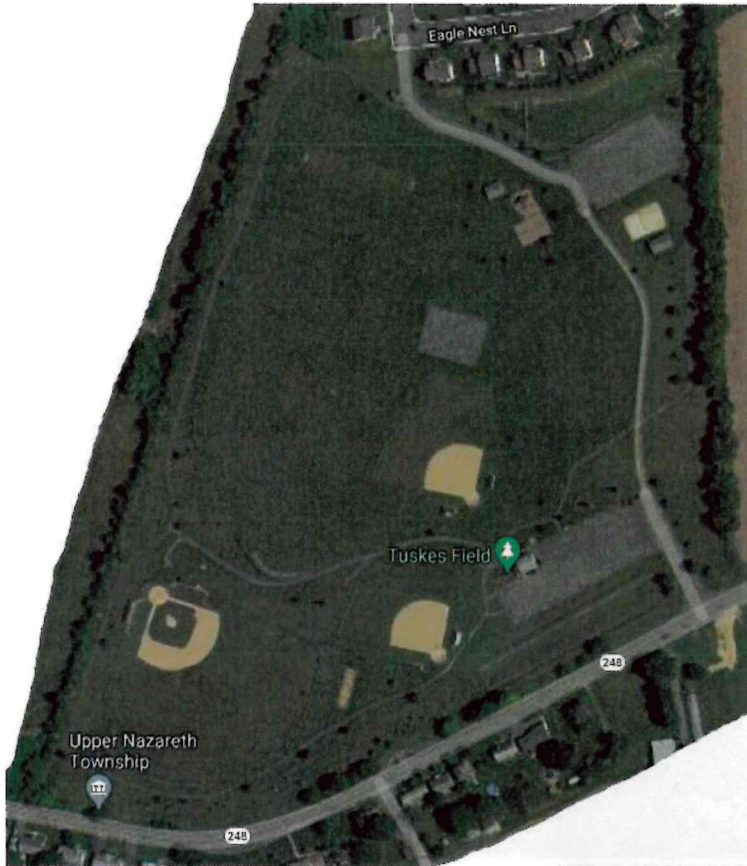
Types of Parks

In the past, residents of Upper Nazareth have regarded the Borough as provider of parks and recreation as Nazareth Borough Park served the Township over the years providing recreation facilities. Recently, however, Upper Nazareth developed Tuskes Community Park, providing a well-rounded facility within the Township. Table 4-1 provides an inventory of the parks, schools, and open space parcels in Upper Nazareth available to residents and the Existing Facilities & Conditions Map depicts the location of these parks, schools, and open space parcels within the Township.

Different types of parks within a municipality provide multiple recreation opportunities for visitors. Table 4-2 lists a classification system for Upper Nazareth Township parks, depicting the range of park types, their benefits, typical facilities, and the levels of maintenance appropriate for the park type and Township resources available. The existing Township parks are classified by the park types shown in Table 4-2, based on discussions with the Task Force and consideration of the park's use and function.

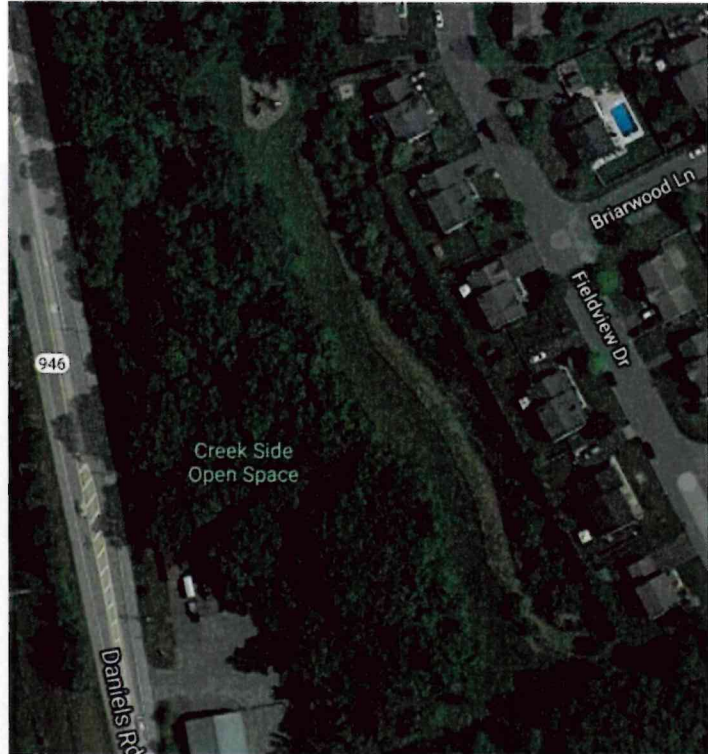
The following highlights are gleaned and summarized from the evaluation of the parks and recreation classification within Upper Nazareth Township:

- One park has the recommended acreage for a community park: Tuskes Community Park, located on Bath Pike and adjacent to the Eagle's Landing neighborhood, offers a traditional community park setting with facilities for both team sports as well as self-directed, active and passive recreation.
- One park has the recommended area for a neighborhood park: Creekside Playground is located adjacent to the Creekside neighborhood. The park not only serves these nearby residents who can walk to the park, but it also offers passive, nature-based recreation opportunities.
- Hillside Farms Playground is a small park located in the Hillside Farms neighborhood. The park is easily accessible and classified as a mini park, serving nearby residents who can walk to the park.
- Newport Avenue Playground is a small park located in the Newport Crossing neighborhood. The park is classified as a mini park and serves nearby residents who can easily walk to the park.
- Sycamore Street Playground is a small park located in the between Highland Terrace and St Elmo Street. The park is classified as a mini-park due its size but does offer a facility (court) beyond the other mini-parks and is within easy walking distance for nearby residents.
- Silvercrest Park contains a recreation (lacrosse) field primarily for athletic competition but is classified as a mini-park.
- Leibert Field is a multi-purpose field at the Township Building serving youth athletic organizations.



TUSKES COMMUNITY PARK

CREEKSIDE
PLAYGROUND/PARK

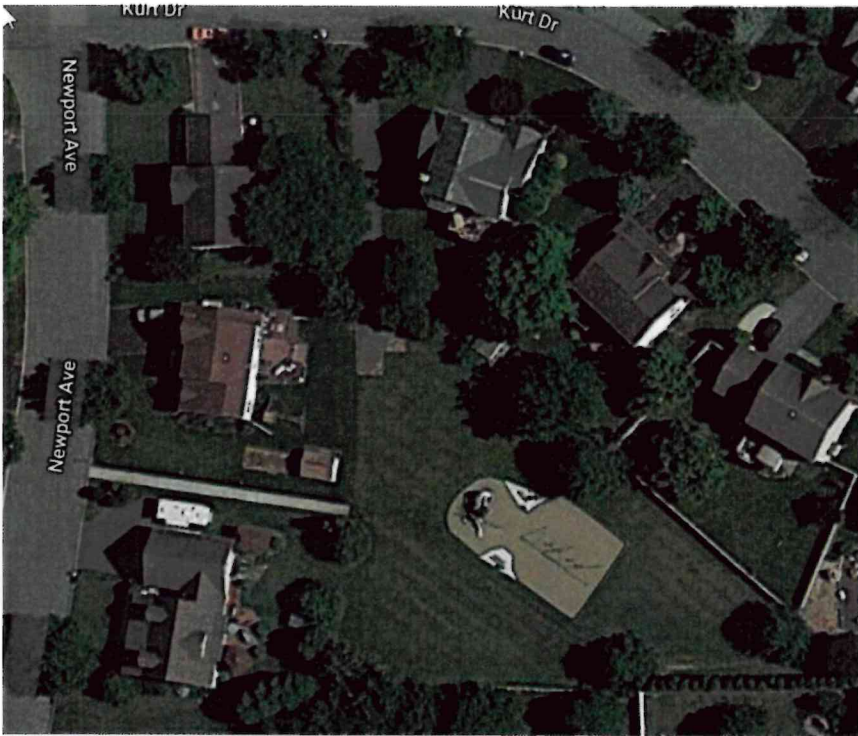




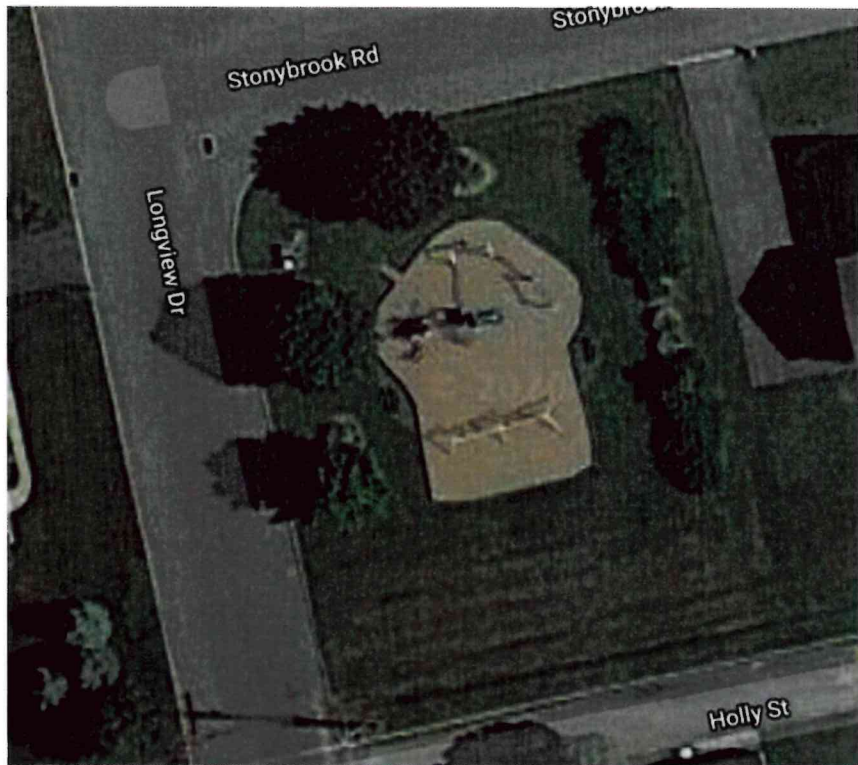
SILVERCREST PARK

SYCAMORE STREET PLAYGROUND/PARK





NEWPORT AVENUE
PLAYGROUND/PARK



HILLSIDE
PLAYGROUND/PARK

LEIBERT FIELD @ TOWNSHIP BUILDING



Table 4-1 Upper Nazareth Township Parks & Open Space Areas Inventory				
Township Parks/Lands	Acreage	Park Type	Characteristics/Facilities	Location
Tuskes Community Park	33.05	Community Park	1 baseball field 90' (lighted), 2 baseball/softball field (1 lighted), 3 soccer fields, 1 multi-purpose field, 2 basketball courts, playground w/4 benches, 2 pavilions (each w/10 picnic tables), ga-ga ball court w/2 benches, 0.89 mile trail/walkway, building (maintenance/concession/storage), 4 picnic tables, trash receptacles, 2 parking lots	Bath Pike
Creekside Playground/Park	11.10	Neighborhood Park	Playground w/ 2 benches, trash receptacles, informal trail/walkway, natural area	Daniels Road & Hillview Drive
Silvercrest Park	3.79	Athletic Field (Mini-Park)	Lacrosse field, equipment shed, trash receptacles, parking	Silver Crest Road
Hillside Farms Playground/Park	0.36	Mini-Park	Playground w/2 benches, trash receptacles	Holly Street & Stonybrook Road
Sycamore Street Playground/Park	0.94	Mini-Park	Basketball court, playground w/2 benches, trash receptacles	Sycamore Street
Newport Avenue Playground/Park	0.62	Mini-Park	Playground w/2 benches, trash receptacles	Newport Avenue & Kurt Drive
Leibert Field @ Township Building	3.07	Administrative	Softball field/multi-purpose field, administrative offices, police department, parking	Newport Avenue
W. Beil Avenue	1.92		Undeveloped open space	W. Beil Avenue
Park Total	54.85			
School Lands	Acreage	School Type	Characteristics/Facilities	Location/Planning District
Nazareth Area High School	24.15	High School	football field/stadium, 2 multi-purpose/practice fields	Center Street
Nazareth Area Middle School	39.04	Middle School	soccer field, track, 2 softball fields, multi-purpose/practice field	Friedenstahl Avenue
Nazareth Area Intermediate School	42.07	Intermediate School	1 softball field, 2 soccer fields, playground/fitness course	Tatamy Road
School Total	105.26			
Other Public/Quasi Public Protected Lands	Acreage	Ownership	Characteristics/Facilities	Location/Planning District
Gracedale	89.98	County		Gracedale Avenue
Conservation District	26.25	County		Penn Allen Road
	242.00	County		Penn Allen Road
Preserved Farmland	150.95	Henry Yeska, Jr		Blossom Hill Road
Preserved Farmland	42.81	Keller Family Trust		Gun Club Road & Newburg Road
Lower Nazareth Parcel	24.50	Lower Nazareth Township		Georgetown Road
Kim Donald Kromer Park	5.06	Nazareth Borough		Seip Street
Nazareth Borough Parcel	1.29	Nazareth Borough Municipal Authority		Bath Pike
Eagles Landing Open Space		Homeowners Association		Daniels Road & Eagles Landing Drive
Other Public/Quasi Public Protected Lands Total	582.84			

Table 4-2 Upper Nazareth Township Parks & Recreation Classification				
Type/Size Service Radius	Definition	Benefits	Typical Facilities/Amenities	Maintenance Level
Mini-Park 0-5 acres ¼-mile service radius	Smallest park type, addresses limited recreation need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides close to home recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground Benches, seating area 	High level of maintenance associated with well-developed park and playground and reasonably high visitation.
Neighborhood Park 5-10 acres minimum ½-mile service radius	Focus of neighborhood; in walking/biking distance of visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides access to basic recreation opportunities Contributes to neighborhood identity Establishes sense of community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playgrounds Ballfields Game Courts Picnic/Seating Pathways Community gardens 	High level of maintenance associated with well-developed park and reasonably high visitation.
Community Park 10-50 acres; preferably 50-80 acres 2-mile service radius	Large park for active and passive recreation; serves residents municipality-wide. Accommodates large groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variety of recreation opportunities for all ages and interests Space for organized, large scale, high participation events Family destination Fitness and wellness opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playgrounds Organized sports facilities Pavilions Permanent restrooms Lighting Amphitheaters Pools, Rinks Parking 	Moderate level of maintenance associated with moderate level of development, budget restrictions, inability to perform higher levels of maintenance. Potential for park "friends" or adopt-a-park partners.
School/Community Park Variable	Parkland adjoining a school used for both recreation and education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combines two public entities for year-round recreation Maximizes public resources Expands recreation opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth-oriented game courts and ballfields Playgrounds Seating Pathways Lighting Parking 	Moderate level of maintenance associated with moderate level of development, budget restrictions. Potential for cooperative agreement with school.
Sports Complex 30+ acres; preferably 50-80 acres	Consolidates sports fields and related facilities in a centralized location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economy of scale Improved management Municipal showcase Attracts visitors who stimulate local economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballfields Lighting Spectator areas Restrooms, Concessions Landscaping Parking 	State of the art maintenance applied to high quality facilities. Associated with high visitation; revenue generating facilities, tourism.
Special Use Facility Variable	Facility for a single purpose use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides special focus recreation opportunities Contributes to community identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depends on purpose 	High level of maintenance associated with well-developed park and reasonably high visitation
Greenways & Trails Variable	Tie park areas and community together to form a contiguous park environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect community Reduces auto dependency Improves air quality Contributes most desired recreation facility for people throughout their lifetime Attracts visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways – multi-purpose Trailheads Support facilities Signage 	Lowest level of maintenance. Focus on trailheads and trail safety.
Natural Resource Area/Preserve	Natural areas for the protection and management of natural environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protects resources Provides wildlife habitat Offers opportunities for environmental education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails Signage Support facilities 	Lower level of maintenance.

Number of Parks

The six parks owned by Upper Nazareth Township comprise 49.86 acres of land, with most of the acres developed and currently available for the public to enjoy. Determining the adequate number and amount of active public park land is usually performed by a population-based analysis. Active parks typically have facilities that are affected by increased population such as ball fields and playgrounds. The need for active parks increases as the Township's population increases in order to provide facilities to meet public demand. Nature preserves, passive parks, and greenways/trails are generally not evaluated using an acreage standard as these lands are usually sized based on the existing natural resource and the area necessary to protect the resource, allowing its availability for public enjoyment.

Accepted practice within the recreation and park profession in recent years of assessing park needs has been to adopt the uniform national land standards from the NRPA Park, Recreation, and Open Space Guidelines such as 11.0 acres per thousand-population. This typical minimum standard for active park acreage breaks down for analyzing park types as: community parks (8 acres/1,000), neighborhood parks (2.5 acres/1,000), and mini-parks (0.5 acre/1,000). As previously noted, the 2010 US Census Bureau reported 6,231 people in the Township and a 2018 US Census Bureau estimate indicated 6,975 residents. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission projects that Upper Nazareth Township's population will increase by 3.9% to 7,246 by 2030 and another 8.1% to 7,833 by 2040. The existing Township park acreage is compared to the 2018 population estimate and population projections for 2030-40 in Table 4-3 using the aforementioned standards.

Park Type	Existing Park Acreage	Recommended Acres/2018 Population Estimate	2018 Deficit (-) Excess (+)	Recommended Acres/2030 Population Projection	2040 Deficit (-) Excess (+)	Recommended Acres/2040 Population Projection	2040 Deficit (-) Excess (+)
Mini-Park @ 0.5 acres/1,000 population	5.71	3.49	+2.22	3.62	+2.09	3.92	+1.79
Neighborhood Park @ 2.5 acres/1,000 population	11.10	17.44	-6.34	18.12	-7.02	19.58	-8.48
Community Park @ 8 acres/1,000 population	33.05	55.80	-22.75	57.97	-24.92	62.66	-29.61
Total	49.86	76.73	-26.87	79.71	-29.85	86.16	-36.30
Upper Nazareth Population Estimates & Projections: 2018 - 6,975; 2030 - 7,246; 2040 - 7,833							

The analysis of active park acreage yields the following conclusions:

- Upper Nazareth Township currently has a deficit of active park land exceeding the standard when the acreage analysis standard is used. Based upon the 2018 US Census Estimate, Upper Nazareth Township needs 76.73 acres of active park land to meet the recreation needs of the 2018 population of 6,975 residents. The deficit is projected to grow to 79.71 acres by 2030 and 86.16 acres by 2040.
- The deficit of community parks is larger at 24.92 acres by 2030 and 29.61 by 2040 than the deficit of neighborhood parks at 7.02 acres by 2030 and 8.48 acres by 2040. Although the numbers indicate the need for additional neighborhood parks as well as a community park, active recreation efforts in the Township to date have been placed within Tuskes Community Park and several Mini-Parks.
- Analysis of the active park land acreage suggests that another community park is needed at this time and depending on size and population increase should satisfy demand until 2040.
- The deficit of active park land can be offset to some degree by the use of School District facilities and those at Nazareth Borough Park, however neither are Township-owned facilities and their continued use is not guaranteed.

Park Locations

The active park distribution analysis evaluates the location of parks relative to existing residential development and considers any physical barriers that limit easy access to the parks. Service radii, which define the geographic area generally served by a park, have been applied to each active park based on the Upper Nazareth Township classification system. To adequately evaluate the distribution of the Township parks, a one-quarter mile service radius has been applied to mini-parks, a one-half mile radius applied to the neighborhood park, and a two-mile service radius applied to Tuskes Community Park. Since community parks serve an entire municipality, access is typically not influenced by barriers such as highways and railroads. Residents usually drive to a community park unless trails or sidewalks exist to provide a safe pedestrian connection to the park. Neighborhood and mini-parks serve the immediate neighborhood in which they are located. Map 1 illustrates the service radii of the Upper Nazareth Township park system. The following conclusions can be drawn from analysis of park locations:

Three of Upper Nazareth's parks (specifically mini-parks) are located in the eastern half of the Township, particularly in the northeast portion. Historically the northeast portion of the Township experienced most of the early residential development, and with a few exceptions, is wherever it continues today.

The western portion of the Township contains Tuskes Community Park, Creekside Playground and Silvercrest Park.

Evaluation merely on service area indicates that the aforementioned eastern portion of the Township is not served by a community or neighborhood park. Also, the neighborhood in the southeast corner of the Township remains unserved.

Recreation Facilities

The Township park network should provide a range of recreation facilities to not only meet the demands of organized youth and adult leagues, but also those demands of individuals and community groups. A suitable number of facilities within the parks of the Township should be based on need as defined by current facility usage as well as local trends in recreation and leisure activities.

Analysis of facility and needs should consider both the context of the Township along with the trends and popularity of a particular sport or activity that a facility serves. A review of the facilities and trends in Upper Nazareth Township demonstrate a need for some additional recreation facilities as highlighted within the assessment below.

Facility Assessment

The facility assessment for Upper Nazareth Township by specific recreation activities is as follows:

Baseball – There are two baseball fields (1-90', 1-60') both located at Tuskes Community Park; the 90' field is lighted. The baseball program is sponsored by Connie Mack Baseball, which offers spring and fall seasons. Two fields (1-90' & 1-60') are located in Borough Park and a 60' field is located in Veterans Memorial Square, all in neighboring Nazareth Borough. Baseball fields should be provided in any new community park and developed with lights, as appropriate based on the location.

Softball – The softball field located in Tuskes Community Park is home to the Upper Nazareth Clippers Youth Softball Program. Girls ages 5-21 participate in various levels within the Eastern Lehigh Valley Softball League. A backup practice field is located at the Township Building on Newport Avenue. The field at Tuskes Community Park is lighted. Softball participation has been growing and one additional field is desired to accommodate the program and therefore recommended in any new community park.

Football / Cheerleading – There are no football fields per se located in Upper Nazareth, however an artificial turf field is located at the Nazareth Area High School as well as practice fields. The Middle School also has a football field. The Nazareth Clippers serve youth football and cheerleading for the municipalities of the School District with four levels of play depending upon age. The Clippers participate in the Mountain Valley Football League with practice and games played at the High School. The Fall of 2019 reported the following participation within five levels for football: Little gridgers (ages 4-5) - 15; Flags (K-1) - 20; Pee Wee (2-3) - 23; Junior varsity (4-5) - 20; and Varsity (6-7) - 21. Cheering participation in the Fall of 2019 was: Baby Bows (ages 4-5) - 12; Flags (K-1) - 25; Pee Wee (2-3) - 27; Junior varsity (4-5) - 17; and Varsity (6-7) - 15. Football play is not compatible with soccer on the same field due to turf wear and shared use is not recommended. Football fields are not currently recommended for parks in the study area.

Basketball – There are two basketball courts in Tuskes Community Park and one at the Sycamore Street Playground. In addition, two basketball courts are located at Shaffer Elementary School and two in neighboring Nazareth Borough Park. Youth basketball is organized through the CBL Youth Sports league. Where possible, courts should be located in banks of at least two courts near parking areas and separated from younger children and passive activity areas. Court lighting extends play time and lights are suggested in parks where they would be compatible with surrounding land use.

Soccer – There are three soccer fields located at Tuskes Community Park. The Nazareth Soccer Club organizes youth soccer. Soccer is popular in the area and the youth program continues to grow. Additional soccer fields are needed to accommodate the growing program and to provide opportunities for adult play. Field lights are suggested, where appropriate, to extend playing times and maximize the use of existing facilities.

Lacrosse – Both boys and girls lacrosse is currently played as a sport at the Nazareth Area High School and is part of the Nazareth Clippers Youth Association. The Clippers Youth program offers four levels for boys (grades PreK-K, 3-4, & 5-6) and girls (K-2, 3-4, 5-6 & 7-8). Currently the Clippers play on the field at Silvercrest Park on Silvercrest Road in the Township. Practice begins indoors February through March with practice held outdoors during the balance of the season. The interest in lacrosse and its growth at the youth level is expected to continue in the region. Multi-purpose fields should be provided in community parks for lacrosse and other sports such as field hockey. Multi-purpose fields should be sized to accommodate each of these sports.

Field Hockey – Girls field hockey plays at the fields within Tuskes Community Park as part of the Upper Nazareth Clippers Youth Association. The Clippers Youth program offers levels for girls grades 2-6 in the 2019 fall season.

Volleyball – No volleyball courts (sand or grass) are located in any of the Upper Nazareth parks. The two volleyball courts in Tuskes Community Park were recently replaced by a Ga-Ga Ball court. Volleyball courts are popular park facilities and are often used in conjunction with picnic outings and should be located close to picnic pavilions, where possible. Families and adults generally prefer lawn volleyball, while teens and young adults prefer sand volleyball.

Sand volleyball leagues are popular in the area. When new community parks are developed, the level of interest in league play should be evaluated. If interest emerges for competitive volleyball, courts in banks of two or more for league play should be developed. League play is typically in evenings and courts should be developed with lights.

Tennis – There are no tennis courts located in any of the Upper Nazareth parks. There are four tennis courts available at Shaffer Elementary School located in Nazareth Borough and two tennis courts in the Nazareth Borough Park. Tennis is a lifetime recreation activity that can be enjoyed by all ages. Although the popularity of the sport has waned over the last decade, it is important to provide tennis courts in municipal park systems for the lifetime recreation benefits. Tennis courts should be developed in banks of two or more and should be located in visually accessible areas, preferably near parking areas and park entrances. Court lighting is recommended where adjacent land use is compatible. Tennis courts should be developed in a future neighborhood or community park, for the reasons stated above and because the courts in at the Shaffer Elementary School are not owned by the Township and continual general public use is not guaranteed.

Swimming Pools – There are no public or membership-based swimming pools in the Township, however Nazareth Borough has a community pool which is available for use by Upper Nazareth residents. Swimming is a lifetime recreation activity, and there should be convenient access to swimming in Upper Nazareth Township. Partnerships should be renewed to continue offering use of the Borough swimming pool.

Playgrounds – Play equipment is located in each park with the exception of Leibert Park.

Playgrounds should be renovated or upgraded on a cyclic basis to conform to safety and accessibility standards. Playgrounds should be developed to stimulate imaginative play as well as physical activity. Playgrounds should be bright, interesting environments that engage children while providing convenience facilities for adults, such as benches and shaded seating areas. Locate playgrounds for safety. Provide adequate separation from parking areas, ball field foul ball and home run territory, and drives/roadways.

Trails/Pathways – Trails and pathways should be provided in every park not only for healthy recreation purposes, but to provide pedestrian routes that easily access facilities. ADA requires an accessible route from parking and drop-off areas to recreation facilities. Additionally, viewing areas for physically impaired spectators must be provided at sports fields and courts. In community parks, where space allows, developing trails with a minimum eight-foot width is recommended to accommodate multiple users. In more urban or developed settings, trails should be paved to provide multiple recreational opportunities, such as bike riding, inline skating, jogging, and walking. Stone dust aggregate trails may be preferred in parks with natural settings where slopes are gentle.

Walking is an activity widely enjoyed by all segments of the population. As previously noted, Tuskes Community Park has a 0.89 mile trail/walkway that extends to facilities, and there is an informal earthen trail within Creekside Playground. This trail along the eastern branch of the Monocacy Creek in the Township could be more formalized and stabilized to provide full accessibility to persons with disabilities assuming connections can be made to any existing or proposed pedestrian networks. Trails developed in any of the existing or new parks should link to nearby multi-use trails and sidewalks to promote non-motorized access to park sites.

Indoor Recreation – There are no Township owned or operated indoor recreation facilities in Upper Nazareth.

Picnic Area – Picnic pavilions are offered in Tuskes Community Park and picnic tables are located near the concession building adjacent to the 60’ field. Picnic areas can be configured as scattered picnic tables and grills within a shaded grove of trees or a picnic pavilion with complementary amenities such as horseshoe pits, volleyball court, playground, or softball field. In community parks, picnic areas serve families and groups. In sports complexes picnic pavilions are often located for team use and tournament orientation. Pavilions offer shaded sitting areas near playgrounds and are important amenities in new parks with limited vegetation for shade.

Table 4-4 Upper Nazareth Township Recreation Facility Standards & Needs - NRPA Standards Analysis

Type of Facility	Standard ¹	Existing 2019		2019		2030		2040	
		Township	School District	Needs ³	Deficit(-) Surplus(+) ⁴	Needs ³	Deficit(-) Surplus(+) ⁴	Needs ³	Deficit(-) Surplus(+) ⁴
Field Space									
Baseball/Softball	.5	4	3	4	-	4	-	4	-
Soccer/Lacrosse/Field Hockey/Football	.7	6	7	5	+1	6	-1	6	-1
Court Space									
Volleyball	.3	0	0	3	-3	3	-3	3	-3
Basketball	.4	3	0	3	-	3	-	4	-1
Tennis	.5	0	0	4	-4	4	-4	4	-4
Other Activities									
Track/Cross Country Course	.2	0	1	2	-1	2	-1	2	-1
Swimming Pool	.2	0	1	2	-2	2	-2	2	-2
Play Apparatus	.5 ²	5	1	4	+1	4	+1	4	+1
Picnic Area	.2 ²	24	0	2	+22	2	+22	2	+22
Trails	.5mi ²	0.89 mi	0	4 mi	-1.1 mi	4 mi	-1.1 mi	4 mi	-1.1 mi

- Notes:
- Standards derived from NRPA & DVRPC. These standards are expressed in fields, courts or activities per 1,000 persons.
 - Standards for play apparatus, picnic areas and trails derived from DVRPC Open Space Standards & Criteria.
 - The facility needs are based on applying the NRPA standards to the population forecasts for 2018 (estimate), 2030 & 2040 (projections).
 - The year 2019, 2030 & 2040 deficit/surplus figures also assume development of those facilities in () on new parks.

According to the NRPA standards analysis of those facilities existing based upon the 2019 population estimate of 6,975 persons, yields the following surplus or deficit:

Adequate/surplus - all fields, basketball, play apparatus, picnic areas
Deficit - volleyball, tennis courts, track, swimming pool

Analysis based upon the 2030 population estimate of 7,246 persons, yields the following surplus or deficit:

Adequate/surplus – baseball/softball fields, basketball, play apparatus, picnic areas
Deficit - all other fields, volleyball, tennis courts, track, swimming pool, trails

Analysis based upon the 2040 population estimate of 7,833 persons, yields the following surplus or deficit:

Adequate/surplus - baseball/softball fields, play apparatus, picnic areas
Deficit - all other fields, basketball, volleyball, tennis courts, track, swimming pool, trails

Maintenance

The maintenance activities and schedules common to each of the Township parks are set forth in Table 4-5. The maintenance activities outlined in Table 4-5 are the minimum effort for the applicable facility highlighted. Those parks without a particular facility may not need the stated maintenance activity. The Township’s current practice is to have all employees work, one park at a time, until each park is completed. This approach results in each park receiving attention (mowing, trash, etc.) each week during Spring, Summer and early Fall. Depending on the dryness or wetness of the season, all parks can be mowed within a week. Any special maintenance activities such as grass cutting at a specified depth or lining fields beyond routine maintenance practices and the Township is reimbursed by organizations requesting such special maintenance.

The Township's major maintenance equipment is in good condition and is routinely serviced. The Township has an equipment replacement program.

Table 4-5 General Park Maintenance	
Facilities	Maintenance Activity
Play Apparatus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check footing integrity each spring; - Tighten bolts; cover bolts/nuts to prevent injury; - Paint each spring as needed; check swing chains each Spring and periodically. - Check wooden equipment for splintering each spring; sand and soil as necessary; - Inspect synthetic material under apparatus as necessary. - Weed under apparatus/equipment and install mulch each Spring and as necessary.
Baseball Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weed infield and install diamond tex early Spring (league could assist); - Mow grass weekly/biweekly Spring through autumn; - Fertilize/lime each Autumn; top seed as necessary late Autumn.
Soccer Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mow grass weekly/biweekly Spring through autumn; - Fertilize/lime each Autumn; top seed as necessary late Autumn.
Basketball Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sweep to remove dirt/stones from court each Spring; - Periodic check and replacement of nets; patch and paint asphalt as needed.
Walkways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patch or replace asphalt/concrete as necessary; add wood mulch or gravel if necessary.
Grass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biweekly mowing from 4/1 to 10/15
Trees/Landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prune trees and shrubs late winter, each Spring; - Remove vines, etc. as needed Spring through Autumn
Streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install plantings and rocks to hold banks; - Remove fallen trees and those leaning; - Install gabion walls along streams if scouring continues.
Parking Lots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sweep to remove dirt/stones as necessary. - Restripe lines as necessary and replace wheel stops as needed. - Patch or replace asphalt as needed.
Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replacement of bulbs as needed and periodic maintenance.
Trash Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sponsor a park cleanup day for each facility early each Spring - Weekly emptying of trash receptacles and periodic policing of park grounds for litter.

Chapter 5 Open Space, Greenways & Walkways/Bikeways

Open Space

In the broadest terms, open space is that area that is not occupied by buildings. Open space enhances building clusters and neighborhoods, separating and connecting them in some relationship. The arrangement and character of this relationship defines the identity, mood, and character of the community and stimulates some kind of emotional response or experience.

The open space character is perceived primarily in a visual context. A variety of landscapes contribute to it, ranging from wooded stream valleys, to hedgerows, woodlots, open yard areas and existing recreational and institutional tracts. These open space areas offer aesthetic and psychological benefits even if physical access is not permitted.

Some open space areas serve important environmental functions. These include floodplains, wetlands, riparian buffers, steep slopes and woodlands. These areas are not only unsuitable for development due to potential hazards, they are also appropriately constrained from development to promote the retention of floodwaters and prevent erosion. Maintained in a natural state, they offer habitat for a variety of flora and fauna as well. Lands that are left open for environmental reasons often provide opportunities for passive recreational activity including hiking, fishing, and nature study.

Certain areas or sites are kept in open space to preserve their unique or special natural, historic, or cultural qualities. Other open space areas are specifically designated, designed or developed for recreational uses, including playfields, courts and picnic areas. Buildings or structures may be included to accommodate further recreational activity and programs.

Potential Open Space

The Upper Nazareth Planning Commission, at their December 2017 meeting, identified seven parcels as potential lands for designation as "Open Space". In addition, the Township Engineer provided aerial photos on which each parcel was plotted along with environmental features (contours, floodplain, and wetlands). An additional ten parcels are also shown on the Township's Official Map and Map 2 Potential Parks & Open Space Lands and numbered as follows:

1. 304 Sleepy Hollow Road, parcel #K6-5-1, 10.7 acres
2. 404 Fox Road, parcel #K6-5-2B, 18.9 acres
3. Penn Allen Road parcel #K6-7-2K, 44.0 acres
4. 3110 Penn Allen Road, parcel #K6-8-1A, 100.0 acres
5. Bath Pike, parcel #K6 10 1B, 207.0 acres (po)
6. Newburg Road, parcel #K6-19-7, 24.0 acres
7. 3320 Daniels Road, parcel #K7 7 2B, 59.0 acres
8. 3190 Daniels Road, parcel #K7-1-1A, 65.0 acres
9. 3281 Daniels Road, parcel #K7-2-1A, 11.0 acres
10. Gracedale Avenue, parcel #J7-14-5, 10.0 acres
11. 3260 Penn Allen Road, parcel #J7 13 14, 57.62 acres
12. 3310 Penn Allen Road, parcel #J7 13 9PKB, 242.0 acres (County)
13. High Street, parcel #J7 6 6, 26.5 acres
14. High Street, parcel #J7 13 1, 58.89 acres
15. 553 High Street, parcel #J7 10 1 45.87 acres
16. 635 East Lawn Avenue, parcel #J8-2-7, 49.8 acres
17. Lawn Road, parcel #J8 5, 5.1, 5B, 63.6 acres

Table 5-1, at the end of this chapter, provides a methodology for evaluating and ultimately prioritizing open space parcels for purchase or preservation through means discuss later in this Plan.

Greenways & Walkways/Bikeways Inventory

Greenways and walkways/bikeways are components of the Township's comprehensive open space, parks and recreation initiatives. Walkways/bikeways provide passive recreation opportunities and greenways protect natural resources and important habitat areas within designated open space areas. Easy access to walkways/bikeways not only facilitates exercise and fitness, but provides safe linkage to connected open space, parks and other

community centers/destinations. Connecting parks and community destinations in Upper Nazareth with walkways/bikeways and greenways enhances the livability and quality of life for Township residents.

Greenways

The benefits of greenways involve social, transportation, ecological, recreation, and economic opportunities as listed below:

Social Benefits:

- Provides access to historically and culturally significant features within and adjacent to the Township.
- Provides opportunities to reconnect with the natural environment and urban fabric of the Township.
- Helps to preserve the character and aesthetic appeal of a place or landscape.
- Provides significant new public places which can help to connect people and communities.
- Increases the quality of life.
- Improves the health and wellness of greenway and trail recreation users.
- Heightens sensitivity to the natural environment by providing for interaction between people and nature.

Transportation Benefits:

- Promotes non-motorized transportation if trail/bikeways are developed.
- Provides safe alternative routes for pedestrians/bicyclists that lessen the dependency on automobiles.
- Provides emergency access via trails to undeveloped areas.
- Reduces roadway congestion through redistribution of users to alternative transportation routes.

Ecological Benefits:

- Connects fragmented landscapes.
- Promotes plant and animal species diversity.
- Provides corridors for wildlife migration and movement.
- Preserves and protects vital wildlife, plant, and aquatic habitats.
- Improves air quality and reduces noise.
- Protects natural areas.
- Reduces stormwater damage and promotes flood mitigation within protected floodplains.
- Serves as a filtering zone; wetlands absorb pollutants and nutrients and slow surface run-off.
- Protects watersheds and groundwater retention areas.
- Stores and conveys floodwaters.
- Cleans up abandoned corridors.

Recreation Benefits:

- Provides areas to jog, walk, bike, ride horses, and canoe.
- Serves as sites for passive pursuits such as picnicking, fishing, and enjoying nature.
- Connects existing and planned trails/bikeways.
- Encourages ecotourism.
- Provides landscapes for environmental education.
- Provides connections between parks and other protected lands.

Economic Benefits:

- Increases nearby property values.
- Promotes new and expanded businesses related to greenway use, which provide employment opportunities and revenues.
- Creates tourist destinations which will generate expenditures on food, services, and lodging.
- Reduces damage and financial loss from flooding by providing buffer areas along stream corridors.

Greenways in Upper Nazareth Township

Streams provide the framework of the Upper Nazareth Township greenway system. The Township has identified three existing greenway corridors, the stream and adjacent floodplain of each can be viewed on its Official Map and are identified below:

- East Branch of Monocacy Creek is essentially three distinct corridors within Upper Nazareth: **west** (main East Branch) – flows south from the northwest corner of the Township to Lower Nazareth forming the eastern boundary of Silvercrest Park; **central** – flows south along Penn Allen Road across Bath Pike and joins the west (main East Branch) at the Lower Nazareth Township line; **east** – flows south from the Township line

along Daniel Road across Bath Pike, then along the north side of Georgetown Road to the Lower Nazareth line.

- Schoeneck Creek flows through Upper Nazareth southeast from the Bushkill Township through Nazareth Borough and the High School, then east to the railroad and Palmer Township.
- Bushkill Creek located in the northeast corner of Upper Nazareth flows south from the Bushkill Township-Plainfield Township-Stockertown Borough border before exiting the Township just north of East Lawn Road.

Northampton County Greenways & Trails

The Lehigh Valley Trails Map (LVPC 2013 Map 1) depicts one trail currently terminating just north of the northeast corner of Upper Nazareth Township. This trail is titled the Plainfield Township Recreation Trail. Map 1 also depicts the existing Bushkill Township PPL Trail located north of and connects to the trail network of the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center (JEEC). The Lehigh Valley Trails Map shows two conceptual trails that are to connect the trail network of the JEEC through Stockertown Borough to the Tatamy Rail Trail and ultimately the Palmer Township Bike Path. These trails are collectively referred to as Trail Gap #9 Tatamy Rail Trail to JEEC on Map 2, Lehigh Valley Trail Gaps. Individually the two trails are called: Stockertown to JEEC; and Stockertown Rail Trail. Implementing/constructing Trail Gap #9 would also provide a connection to the aforementioned Plainfield Township Recreation Trail and ultimately to the Appalachian Trail that extends along the north boundary of Northampton County.

Map 14 of the Lehigh Valley Greenways Plan indicates greenways both east and west of, but not within, Upper Nazareth Township. The greenway east of the Township is called the Bushkill Creek Corridor Greenway, a 31-mile conservation/proposed multi-use corridor within which Trail Gap 9 would be located. The Bushkill Creek Corridor Greenway establishes a connection between the Lehigh River in the south to the Kittatinny Ridge greenways in the north.

The greenway shown on the Lehigh Valley Greenways Plan west of Upper Nazareth Township is called the Monocacy Creek Greenway, an 18-mile multi-use and conservation greenway. Monocacy Creek, one of only 56 limestone streams in the state of Pennsylvania, is renowned for its ability to sustain naturally reproducing trout population within the urban environment of the City of Bethlehem.

Additional County open space and trail planning activity is included at the end of this chapter.

Greenway & Open Space Protection within Upper Nazareth Township Ordinances

The Upper Nazareth Township Zoning Ordinance establishes natural feature preservation through the environmental protection standards of Articles 2, 3, and 5 as highlighted below:

§201 Open Space, Preserved or Common. A parcel or parcels of land within a tract which meets all of the following standards and does not use any of the following areas to meet minimum preserved open space requirements: areas that are under water during normal weather conditions; and each square foot of preserved open space that is of 25% or greater slopes and each square foot within the 100-year floodplain shall only count as one-half square foot for the purposes of determining the amount of preserved open space.

§308 Wetlands and Lakes (also §503)

- A. Wetlands shall not count towards more than 50% of the required minimum lot area of any lot;
- B. Provide a wetland study; and
- C. A minimum setback of 20 feet shall be required between any new principal building for which a building permit is issued after the effective date of this Ordinance and any "wetland".

§310 Steep Slopes

- A. Regrading - Non-man-made slopes of over 25% shall not be re-graded prior to the submission of a site plan under this Zoning Ordinance in such a manner that attempts to reduce the slope of the land. This Section shall not regulate slopes that were clearly man-made prior to the adoption of this Ordinance.
- B. Slopes Over 25% - No portion of a new principal building or an off-street parking area for 4 or more motor vehicles shall be located on a slope greater than 25%.

§311 Open Space Development Option

- B. Applicability (percent of the total lot area of the tract prior to subdivision shall be preserved as Common Open Space)

AC District - Minimum 50%
 R-2 District - Minimum 50%
 R-3 District - Minimum 30%

§311.C.1 That the Open Space Development would clearly serve a valid public purpose such as:

- a. The permanent preservation of dense forests, steep slopes, wetlands, creek valleys, important wildlife corridors/habitats, highly scenic areas or other sensitive natural features.
- b. The permanent preservation of a substantial area of land in agricultural uses, in a tract of proper size and configuration that allows for efficient agricultural use and that properly considers the issue of compatibility between the agricultural uses and homes. In such case, new dwellings shall be concentrated adjacent to existing dwellings and residential zoning districts.
- c. The dedication of recreation land at a site deemed appropriate by the Board of Supervisors and that involves land that is clearly suitable for active and/or passive recreation.

§312 Conservation Along Streams

- A. No new building (except an accessory storage shed with a floor area of 150 square feet or less), new or expanded vehicle parking, or business outdoor storage shall be located within 75 feet from the center of a perennial creek. A perennial creek shall be defined as a waterway shown as a perennial creek on the U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle maps.
- B. Existing healthy natural vegetation adjacent to a creek should be preserved.
- C. Where the majority of the existing trees and/or shrubs are removed from areas within the setback distance provided by Section 312.A as part of, or in preparation to, a subdivision, land development or construction of a new building, then new trees and shrubs shall be planted and maintained that will have the same or better impact upon controlling erosion and filtering pollutants from runoff as the trees and/or shrubs that were removed.

§313 Optional Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) A. Purposes - encourage the permanent preservation of important farmland and environmentally sensitive areas; direct growth to locations where public water and sewerage services are available; and provide a voluntary method for landowners to be compensated by the free market to preserve their land.

§504 FP, Floodplain District (Flood-prone Areas) restricts uses within the floodway & 100-floodplain

The Upper Nazareth Township SALDO also establishes natural feature preservation as well as land or fee in lieu of land for open space and recreation as highlighted below:

§792 Natural Features Preservation
 §792.2 Tree Preservation and Planting
 §792.4 Stream Frontage Maintenance (echoes ZO)
 §794 Karst Hazards (and performance standards)

Mandatory Dedication

One of the more successful means of acquiring land for recreation purposes, including walkways/bikeways, is the mandatory dedication of land via the subdivision/land development process. The dedication of land for recreation is a method used by many municipalities to ensure residents of a development have sufficient park and recreation facilities by requiring developers to dedicate land for recreation within proposed developments. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), specifically Act. No. 170 of 1988, provides municipalities the authority to require the dedication of such public land for recreation purposes, however, in order to comply with this legislation, municipalities must meet the following requirements:

1. Adopt a recreation plan that establishes open space standards and park service areas, identifies areas in need of open space, and includes a capital improvement program.
2. Develop a mandatory dedication ordinance that contains standards for determining the portion of a development to be dedicated and the amount, if any, of fee to be paid in lieu of land.
3. Create a separate interest-bearing account for the placement of any collected fees.

Upper Nazareth Township has such a mandatory dedication within its SALDO (§793.13 & 14) that requires the developer of subdivisions of one or more new dwelling units to dedicate parkland for recreation purposes. The SALDO (§793.16) offers a fee-in-lieu of land as an alternative to dedication, when approved by the BOS. See SALDO excerpts that follow:

§793 Open Space and Recreation Areas

§793.13 Land dedication for single-family dwelling:

Dwelling Units	Dedicated Land
1 to 10	none, pay fee/unit
11 to 20	2 acres
21 to 40	3 acres
41 to 60	4 acres
61 to 100	6 acres
101 to 150	9 acres
151 to 200	12 acres
201 to 250	15 acres

§793.14 Land dedication for multi-family dwelling:

Dwelling Units	Dedicated Land
2	none, pay fee/unit
4 to 100	5000 sq ft + 2000 sq ft/unit
101 and up	5000 sq ft + 1000 sq ft/unit

§793.15 Developments designed within the Open Space Development Option per Zoning Ordinances Chapter 3, section 311 may be exempt from dedicated land pending approval by the BOS.

§793.16 The recreation fee in lieu of dedicated land shall be set yearly in the Fee Schedule.

Walkways/Bikeways in Upper Nazareth Township

The Township has identified several walkway/bikeway routes which can be viewed on its Official Map. Although not the official name of the routes, the following describes each and provides an approximate distance of each:

Proposed Initial/Primary Walkway/Bikeway Routes

1. East Lawn Road-Friendenstahl Avenue ~ 3.0 miles (Township line at Stockertown west along East Lawn to the "Friendenstahl Avenue Loop", from Holly Street south to Tatamy Road and east to the Township line).
2. N. Liberty Street-East Lawn Avenue-Friendenstahl Avenue "Loop"~2.4 miles.
3. E. Biel Avenue-Rose Inn Avenue-Sycamore Street ~ 2.30 miles (essentially north of St. Elmo St).
4. W. Biel Avenue-Penn Allen Road (east)-Creekside-Gracedale "Loop" ~4.4 miles
5. Penn Allen Road (west)-Eagle Farms-Tuskes Park-Gun Club Road-Railroad-Township Line Road ~4.2 miles

Proposed Alternate/Secondary Walkway/Bikeway Routes

1. W. Biel Avenue (Rose Inn Avenue to Schoeneck Creek tributary) ~1.5 mile
2. Gracedale Open Space (between #4 above and Nazareth Borough) ~1.1 mile
3. Bath Pike (Tuskes Park-Creekside-Gracedale-Nazareth Borough) ~1.7 mile
4. Sterner Road-Penn Dixie Road (Easter Terrace to Penn Allen Road) ~ 1.1 mile
5. Silvercrest Road-Newburg Road-Gun Club Road-Blossom Hill Road-Georgetown Road (to Nazareth Borough) ~3.4 miles

County Open Space Planning, Actions & Initiatives

Northampton County Open Space Initiative

Preservation of lands, both natural areas and farmland, has consistently been a priority for Northampton County. The Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative began in 2002 (with consistent funding source established in 2007), when the County Executive and County Council agreed to impose a ½ mill tax increase to support the program, but procedures and planning efforts date back to the 1960's. The Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative was created to provide administration and funding assistance for the preservation of natural areas/open space lands, farmland preservation and the acquisition, development and/or rehabilitation of municipal parks. Since the program's inception in 2002, a total of 8,950 acres of farmland were preserved, \$4.2 million awarded for the preservation of 1,503 acres of natural areas/open space lands and, \$5.94 million awarded for 56 municipal park projects. In 2015, the County has committed another \$1 million for municipal park acquisition, development and/or rehabilitation, \$750,000 farmland preservation and \$400,000 for the preservation of natural areas/open space lands.

Advancements & Accomplishments

Natural Areas/Open Space Program

The Natural Areas/Open Space Program has provided funding assistance to municipalities and non-profits for the fee simple acquisition or conservation easement of open space, natural areas and environmentally sensitive lands. The program has had several acquisition and conservation easements that have enhanced recreational opportunities and protection of our natural resources. These opportunities would not have been made available without the partnerships with the following non-profit land trusts: Conservation Fund, Heritage Conservancy, Natural Lands Trust, The Nature Conservancy and Wildlands Conservancy.

Municipal Park Program

The Municipal Park Program has been funded in two separate phases; Phase I funding was provided from 2006-2012 and Phase II will be from 2013-2017. This program allows local municipalities the ability to acquire, develop and rehabilitate parks and trails within their communities. Municipalities have funded projects from trail right-of-way acquisition and development to purchasing land for passive and active recreation. Phase I provided 27 municipal park acquisition, development, rehabilitation grant projects, totaling \$3.94 million of funding from Northampton County. Phase II started in 2013 as a \$5 million investment over 5-years with a \$1 million allocation annually. All thirty-eight municipalities were allocated a percentage of the \$5 million, based on the population of each municipality according to the 2010 U.S. Census. To date, the County has provided over \$3 million into more than 45 projects.

Farmland Preservation Program

The Farmland Preservation Program has been the most successful component of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative. In response to urban growth pressures in the 1980's, Northampton County began preserving farms in 1993. The program has identified innovative ways for funding and assistance while preserving an outstanding 13,782 acres since 1993; in 2008, the County preserved its 10,000th acre. To celebrate reaching this milestone, the County shared in and hosted the Commonwealth's 400,000 Acre Celebration at the Graver Farm in Moore Township.

In 2010, Northampton County created the first ever Township Partnership Program. This program allows local municipalities, with a designated Earned Income Tax, to dedicate funding to the County specifically for farmland preservation. Eight municipalities participate to date. The success is clearly evident in this program as the list for farmlands have been vacated for the past three years and the majority has been preserved (if they met the criteria of the state or county policies). In 2012, the program reached its 100th preserved farm and in 2015 it hopes to surpass 15,000 acres of preserved farmland.

Act 13 – Marcellus Shale Tax Funding

Each county within the Commonwealth receives Act 13-Marcellus Shale Tax funding for greenways, recreation and open space projects, Northampton County is focusing on funding projects on a county-wide or regional scale. Projects may include the closure of trail gaps within the County, pilot projects to show an impact on native plantings and restoration of streams within urban areas.

In 2013, the LVPC authored a report titled "Lehigh Valley Trails Inventory", identified ten priority gaps within the Lehigh Valley; six of those were identified in Northampton County. The County is working on design, engineering and permitting of projects to close four of the identified gaps, with possible construction of one section in 2015. The Marcellus Shale Tax funds allow the County to support these projects to move forward with no monetary assistance required at the local level. After completion of the design, engineering and permitting, the County will apply for additional grants and local in-kind services to construct the trails, while ownership and long-term maintenance responsibilities being held at the local level. To continue support, the County is actively seeking options to provide funding assistance for maintenance along regional trails as a partner in providing a safe and enjoyable trail system.

Lehigh Valley Greenways Plan: A Regional Greenways Plan for Northampton County, LVPC May 2007

Executive Summary

The Lehigh Valley Greenways Plan begins with the understanding that there are many valuable cultural and natural resources worthy of discovery and preservation throughout Northampton County. The two-county region can be seen as an intricate fabric of interconnected threads. Each thread represents a resource that is woven together to create the composite community fabric that surrounds us. The fabric of the Lehigh Valley is made up of rivers and streams and the industry they supported, wooded ridgelines and fertile agricultural valleys, a rich historic and cultural heritage, and a diverse population that is increasing with each passing year.

A greenway is defined as a corridor of open space, that may vary greatly in scale from narrow strips of green that run through urban, suburban and rural areas to wider corridors that incorporate diverse natural, cultural and scenic features. Greenways are a critical component of any landscape. They protect the environment, supply recreational opportunities and connect natural and cultural areas to one another providing a linear resource for a variety of users. Connectivity is the defining characteristic that distinguishes greenways from isolated paths and pockets of open space. While individual parks, preserved lands, undisturbed natural areas and waterways are valuable resources in and of themselves, their conservation and recreation value are compounded when they are linked together. Greenways come in a variety of forms and serve many functions. This plan identifies four types of greenways in the Lehigh Valley.

- 1) Cultural/recreational greenways, which support human activity
- 2) Conservation greenways, which support ecological purposes
- 3) Multi-use greenways, which support a combination of human and conservation activities
- 4) Scenic greenways, which provide a visual connection across the landscape

Using greenway function as a guide, the Lehigh Valley greenways network was identified using a Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping program. Many maps of the existing resources present in the Lehigh Valley were produced using GIS and analyzed to decide the location of the greenways network of hubs, nodes and corridors. Hubs are large centers of activity (e.g., parks, cities, boroughs) that serve to anchor the greenway network; nodes are natural, recreational, cultural or historic places of interest; and corridors are the linear connecting elements, linking hubs and nodes. The Lehigh Valley greenways network consists of 31 corridors, eight hubs and 63 nodes. Each corridor was evaluated using a priority ranking system that looked at location, connectivity, potential threats and stakeholders to identify nine Priority Greenways in the Lehigh Valley. Additionally, the plan identifies five Early Implementation Greenways (shown in bold text below) that offer the most opportunity for advancement of implementation projects as there has already been studies prepared and stakeholder groups mobilized currently purchasing and/or working with the municipalities to protect the resources identified. The Priority Greenways are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Blue Mountain/Kittatinny Ridge | 6) Lehigh River |
| 2) Bushkill Creek Corridor | 7) Little Lehigh Creek |
| 3) Delaware River | 8) Monocacy Creek |
| 4) Greater Minsi Lake Corridor | 9) Pennsylvania Highlands |
| 5) Jordan Creek | |

Northampton County Livable Landscapes November 2015 - Executive Summary

Purpose of the Livable Landscapes Plan

Many valuable open space resources worthy of discovery and preservation exist throughout Northampton County - scenic mountains and farmland views, river corridors and large forests, parks and historic sites. These features are an integral part of a high quality of life. Northampton County (County) residents have long been interested in open space resources as documented through public opinion surveys by the LVPC in 1974, 1988, 1999 and 2010. The 2010 survey revealed that nearly 73% of the respondents agreed that more parks, recreation facilities and open space are needed. Northampton County voters also have strongly supported state and County referendums to fund the creation of parks, protect important natural areas and preserve farmland. In a survey of active registered voters conducted specifically for this Plan, two of the key findings are: 1) Protecting lakes, rivers, streams, and preserving water quality were most frequently (71%) ranked the highest priority for the County, and 2) 95% of the respondents strongly agreed or agreed that protecting farmland in the County is important. Recent population growth and land use changes show the region is experiencing a strong development trend that puts pressure on open space resources and, if not managed properly, could impact much of what residents find appealing about the County.

The purpose of Livable Landscapes - An Open Space Plan for Northampton County is to guide the conservation, restoration and enhancement of the County's open space resources and create linkages between the County's vast natural resources; outdoor recreational facilities; greenways and blueways; farmland; and historic, cultural and scenic resources.

Accomplishments

Livable Landscapes - An Open Space Plan for Northampton County is an update to the current County parks plan: Northampton County Parks - 2010 published in November 2002 by the LVPC. Since the publication of that plan, many tasks have been accomplished and milestones reached that further the advancement of the open space network in the County.

These accomplishments prompted recognition from the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, which in May 2015, awarded Northampton County the 2015 Government Conservation Leadership Award for leadership in the conservation of particular landscapes and crucial natural resources. A few of the key accomplishments are:

Benefits of Open Space

Open space plays a vital role in many aspects of Northampton County's quality of life by:

- 1) protecting the environment,
- 2) providing community needs,
- 3) generating economic activity, and
- 4) providing health and wellness benefits.

To document the economic benefits of open space, the Lehigh Valley Return on Environment Study was completed in 2014. Results of the analysis found that open space adds significant value to the regional economy, with benefits accruing to businesses, governments and households. This Study estimated the value of open space in the Lehigh Valley by measuring impacts across four areas.

Natural System Services: Open space provides value in the form of water supply, water quality, flood control, pollination, biological control, habitat and soil formation/retention estimated at \$201.7 million or more each year in Northampton County.

Air Quality: The total annual avoided healthcare costs and damage to agriculture and buildings provided by Northampton County open space is estimated to be \$27.8 million.

Outdoor Recreation: An estimated \$351.2 million is spent on outdoor recreation each year in Northampton County. Recreational activity on open space in Northampton County creates an estimated 4,518 jobs both inside and outside the County. These jobs generate about \$27.1 million in state and local taxes.

Property Value: The average premium afforded each home within ¼ mile of protected open space is \$15,400 in Northampton County.

Lehigh Valley Trails Inventory - 2013 Northampton County

Introduction

In 2009, the LVPC completed a comprehensive update to the trails inventory for Northampton County. The update compiled data from municipal plans and studies across the two counties and produced the Lehigh Valley Trails Inventory - 2009. The goal was to assist local officials in planning for future trails in the Lehigh Valley. The 2013 update, in addition to incorporating updated trail information, includes two new components: identifying priority trail gaps and providing guidelines to designing safe road crossings for trails. These two new components are part of a statewide effort by the DCNR to help organizations and municipalities to implement trail initiatives.

Trail, Bikeway, Rail Trail, Path, Walkway, or Bike Path

Whatever label is used, trails are an integral part of outdoor recreation facilities offered across Pennsylvania and the nation. Public opinion survey respondents often select walking paths and trails as a highly valued recreational facility. According to the resident survey conducted for Pennsylvania's 2009-2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (DCNR, 2009), walking has the highest participation rate (84%) for outdoor recreation activities. The Lehigh Valley is no exception to this trend. The types of trails in the Lehigh Valley range from rugged hiking trails to neighborhood paved pathways to water trails, offering a wide range of opportunities for both novice and experienced users. Trails contribute to the quality of life in Northampton County by providing a variety of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, non-motorized transportation alternatives, and economic benefits through expenditures by trail users.

Trails are often associated with greenways, which are corridors of open space ranging from narrow strips in urban settings to wide forested ridges. In the Lehigh Valley Greenways Plan (LVPC, 2007), trails are recognized as a type of cultural/recreational greenway, connecting residential and commercial areas with natural, recreational, cultural, and historical amenities. The Lehigh Valley Greenways (LVG), which is one of seven Conservation Landscape Initiatives in Pennsylvania, is a collaborative state and local partnership that also recognizes the importance of greenways and trails. Part of the LVG's vision is to connect natural and cultural resources and to link urban areas to outdoor experiences through greenways and trails.

The importance of trails as part of park and recreation systems is evident at the state and local level. Goal 3 of Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation plan referenced above is to "develop a statewide land and water trail network to facilitate recreation, transportation, and healthy lifestyles." At the local level, trails are at various stages of development: proposed routing included in municipal plans, discussions with trail corridor landowners, design and engineering, under construction, and open for use.

The objectives of this project were to:

1. update LVPC's existing trail data

2. update the Lehigh Valley Trails map and associated table
3. identify priority trail gaps
4. provide information on safe road crossings
5. upload the updated trails data and trail gap information to the DCNR database

Natural Heritage Inventory of Northampton County, Pennsylvania - Update June 2013

Preface

The Natural Heritage Inventory of Lehigh and Northampton Counties, Pennsylvania – Update 2013 is a document compiled and written by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC). It builds on the original Natural Areas Inventory of Lehigh and Northampton Counties completed in 1999 by the Pennsylvania Science Office of The Nature Conservancy. The two counties of Lehigh and Northampton are collectively referred to as the Lehigh Valley throughout this document, and individually by each county name. This document contains information on the locations of rare, threatened, and endangered species and of the highest quality natural communities in the two counties; it is not an inventory of all open space. It is intended as a conservation tool and should in no way be treated or used as a field guide. Accompanying each site description are general management recommendations that would help to ensure the protection and continued existence of these natural communities, and species of concern. The recommendations are based on the biological needs of these elements (communities and species). The recommendations are strictly those of WPC and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the state or the policies of the counties or townships for which the report was prepared.

Implementation of the recommendations is up to the discretion of the landowners. However, cooperative efforts to protect the highest quality natural features through the development of site-specific management plans are greatly encouraged. Landowners working on the management of, or site plans for, specific areas described in this document are encouraged to contact the PNHP for further information.

The Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program is responsible for collecting, tracking, and interpreting the information regarding the Commonwealth's biological diversity. County Natural Heritage Inventories (CNHIs) are an important part of the work of PNHP. Since 1989, PNHP has conducted county inventories as a means to both gather new information about natural resources and to pass this information along to those responsible for making decisions about the resources in the counties. This County Natural Heritage Inventory focuses on the best examples of living ecological resources in the Lehigh Valley. The counties must address historic, cultural, educational, water supply, agricultural and scenic resources through other projects and programs.

LVPC Open Space Planning

An open space system consists of several components, including parks, trails, natural areas, greenways, and farmland. The land is publicly or privately owned and may or may not be protected. Open space enhances a community's aesthetic character and quality of life. The need for open space planning increases as the communities of the Lehigh Valley continue to grow.

Open Space Plans

Over the years, Northampton County has been diligent in its efforts to increase county owned park and open space acreages. Northampton County adopted the 21st Century Open Space Initiative as a funding programs to further this effort.

In response to recommendations made by the LVPC, Northampton County started major countywide park programs in the late 1960s. The County and the LVPC have been actively involved in park planning, acquisition and development ever since. In 1971, the LVPC completed the first Regional Recreation and Open Space Plan (updated in 1980). Subsequently in 2002 LVPC staff prepared the report Northampton County Parks - 2010. This report serves as the official park plan for the County. A comprehensive update of LVPC trails data was completed and a report was produced in 2009 and updated in 2013.

Greenways

A greenway is defined as a corridor of open space, that may vary greatly in scale from narrow strips of green that run through urban, suburban and rural areas to wider corridors that incorporate diverse natural, cultural and scenic features. Greenways are a critical component of any landscape. They protect the environment, provide alternate routes of transportation, supply recreational opportunities, and connect natural and cultural areas to one another providing a linear resource for a variety of users. Connectivity is the defining characteristic that distinguishes greenways from isolated paths and pockets of open space. While individual parks, preserved lands, undisturbed natural areas and waterways are valuable resources in and of themselves, their conservation and recreational value is compounded when they are linked together.

Trails Inventory

This 2013 update, in addition to incorporating updated trail information, includes two new components: identifying priority trail gaps and providing guidelines to designing safe road crossings for trails. These two new components are part of a statewide effort by the DCNR to help organizations and municipalities to implement trail initiatives. There is a lot of interest in trails in the Lehigh Valley, and hopefully this compilation of current trail efforts will provide municipalities, counties, and conservation partners a tool in advancing the development of the Lehigh Valley trail network.

As noted earlier in this Chapter Table 5-1, below, as well as the benefits of greenways listed on page 28, provide a methodology for evaluating and ultimately prioritizing open space parcels for purchase or preservation through means discuss later in this Plan. The entity charged with this evaluation and ultimately implementation is discussed in Chapter 10.

Table 5-1 Upper Nazareth Township Open Space Criteria							
Feature/Function	High Priority 5	Medium Priority 3	Low Priority 1	Not a Priority 0	Criteria Weight 1,2 or 3	Score	Comment
Contains significant and relatively undisturbed wildlife habitat, watershed or natural features.							
Contains continuous woodland canopy.							
Contains endangered, threatened or rare species.							
Protects agricultural land under existing or foreseeable threat from development trends.							
Contains or has the potential to contain natural features or unique geology of educational, scenic or scientific value.							
Buffers agricultural land, wetlands, wildlife habitat or other sensitive areas.							
Is contiguous to existing conservation easement, park, preserve or other protected land.							
Scenic views from public roads, waterways or recreation areas are protected.							
Provides suitable public access for education or recreation activities.							
Sets an important precedent for resource or open space protection in a targeted area							
Has historic or archaeological value, or is adjacent to and buffers such lands.							
Helps preserve the character of Upper Nazareth area and define community.							
Threatened by development; located within a high growth area.							
Parcel Size							
100+ acres							
50-99 acres							
25-49 acres							
10-24 acres							
1-9 acres							
Total							

Chapter 6 Parks & Facilities Development

Open Space, Greenways & Walkways/Bikeways Development

Parks & Recreation Summary of Inventory/Analysis

Strengths

The Township continues to work to meet the recreation needs of its residents and has almost 53 acres of parkland available for public use. The parks provide a variety of recreation opportunities from the traditional "neighborhood park" settings of Hillside Farms, Sycamore Street, and Newport Avenue Parks to the multi-purpose facilities of Tuskes Park.

Challenges

While Upper Nazareth has well developed parkland, there are other recreation facilities such as tennis courts, located on lands that are not owned by the Township (i.e., the NASD facilities). Securing continued, long-term use of these facilities as well as others is a priority and necessary to support the recreation programs that are popular in the Township. The analysis of parkland (Table 4-3) found that one additional neighborhood park (8-10 acres) and one additional community park (30-40 acres) are needed by 2040 to serve the future needs of Township residents.

The parks are well developed with the basic facilities, such as athletic fields, courts and play apparatus, but additional improvements that provide wanted facilities as well as enhance the park setting and convenience of visiting the park are needed. These additions include adding areas for gathering, shade, and site amenities. Accessible routes and handicap parking spaces, where applicable, are needed in each park to meet the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act.

Opportunities

The Township has partnered with the NASD to provide resident access to their facilities. Additional enhancements, such as addressing the accessibility requirements of the ADA, adding walkways/bikeways, and adding convenience amenities will create premier parks that target the recreation interests of the public.

Recommendations

Following are recommendations for parks and recreation facilities:

1. Enhance the use of existing parks to react to the increasing needs, interests, and desires of residents through the following actions:
 - Develop master plans for the existing parks to guide future improvements and investment as appropriate. Incorporate resident suggestions, as feasible, and assessments highlighted in this Plan. The master plans should include the plan for the park sites and a phased cost estimate that outlines the anticipated development costs. The public input received as a result of the questionnaire as part this Plan should also guide the master planning process.
 - Develop master plans for Hillside Farms, Sycamore Street, and Newport Avenue Playgrounds. Due to the small size of these parks and limited development potential, combine the planning, design, and engineering of the parks into a single initiative.
 - Develop a master plan for Silvercrest Park that maintains the existing athletic field while incorporating facilities desired by residents and preserving the natural area along the East Branch of the Monocacy Creek.
 - Develop a master plan that explores how the natural area of Creekside Playground/Park can be improved with trails and other features desired by residents.
 - Develop a master plan for Tuskes Park that includes not only the existing facilities, but also adds facilities, walkways, and amenities desired by residents.
2. Add upgrades and amenities to existing parks that will improve the convenience of using current facilities, enhance the visual image of each park, and introduce new recreation opportunities. Improvements suggested for the Township parks include the following initiatives:

Safety Enhancements -

- Provide adequate safety zones around sports facilities and play equipment. Extend the height of backstops and sideline fence and/or install safety netting as necessary.
- Continue to maintain and update the lighting at the baseball/softball fields in Tuskes Park emphasizing simple yet safety and access to parking versus over-lighting.

Convenience Facilities -

- Enhance the parks by adding benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, grills, bike racks, restrooms, and other convenience facilities as appropriate.
 - Continue to provide benches near playgrounds, in shaded locations, and at activity areas for caregivers to sit and watch park activities.
 - When walkways are developed in parks, add benches at convenient intervals and in shaded spots.
 - Add bike racks near park entrances/drop-offs if safe bicycle access is provided to the site.
 - If water is available, add drinking fountains near athletic facilities, at concession stands, at restrooms, at playgrounds, and at other convenient locations.
- Develop unisex or separate sex restrooms in any new community and neighborhood parks that are created.
- Consider the needs of the senior adult population. Make facilities pedestrian friendly, convenient to use, and provide sitting areas in the shade that are conveniently spaced along walkways and near activity areas. Provide pavilions near parking areas for easy access.
- Extend sidewalks to park sites and along park road frontage. Develop sidewalks on additional park street frontage to provide links to the parks from other streets.
- Develop park hubs near community and neighborhood park entrances and parking areas which have an information kiosk with site maps and park and recreation program information. Walkways should radiate from the hub to explore the park. Where space permits, develop a pedestrian drop-off area configured for safely entering the park that is separated from vehicular traffic.

Park Site Enhancements –

- Enhance park entrances, drop-off areas, and hub areas of concentrated activities with landscaping. Integrate large masses of colorful perennials and ornamental grasses to add interest and variety to each park setting. Unify the parks by creating and repeating an array of plants within each park. Add street trees along road frontages and park drives, where feasible. Consider planting street trees along both sides of the Bath Pike frontage of Tuskes Park to identify the park and slow traffic in the area of the park.
- Create an easily identifiable image of Upper Nazareth Township for its parks.
 - Create a uniform signage system that conveys the image of a premier public park system. Include the Township logo or seal or a new logo representing the park and recreation facilities of the Township on all park signs.
 - Establish park design standards through the master planning process with the goal of providing a consistent quality design and construction features in all facilities. This would include quality materials, harmonious colors, and prime consideration of the natural environment.
 - Provide street trees along park road frontage and park drives and colorful perennials and ornamental grasses at entry areas into park sites.
- Provide walkways and bikeways within parks and connecting to the parks. Walkways are enjoyed by all segments of the population and are highly desired recreation facilities. The ADA requires access to recreation facilities and activity areas via an accessible route. Where possible, develop multiple walkway loop layouts for diverse walking experiences.
- Continue to provide shade in parks near activity areas. Shade could be provided by planting additional deciduous trees and building pavilions. This will benefit all age groups from youth to adults to seniors.
- Continue to evaluate and incorporate field and court lighting to maximize the use of existing facilities, where lighting is compatible with the park setting and neighborhood.

New Recreation Opportunities –

- Develop a new playground at Silvercrest Park as suitable areas permits.
- Develop walking trails and stabilized stream access areas for potential fishing as appropriate or possible, along the East Branch of the Monocacy Creek riparian corridor of Creekside Playground/Park.
- Consider the creation of a small park, plaza, kiosk or public open space in the Township's commercial corridor that not only provides information of the Upper Nazareth park system, but establishes an opportunity for people to gather, meet, and potentially hold community celebrations. Creation of such can also be considered at the Township Building.

3. Pursue the acquisition of land and development of new parks to meet current and future needs of the Township.

- Use the Upper Nazareth Official Map as a tool to acquire land identified for park development within the Township. Annually review and update, if needed, the Official Map.
- Acquire additional parkland contiguous to an existing park and Township lands and along designated greenways through purchase, donation, dedication, or grants to meet the recreation needs of Upper Nazareth.
- Upper Nazareth should work to acquire one additional community park (30-40 acres) and one neighborhood park (8-10 acres) to meet the community recreation needs of the Township for the next decade. The potential community park site should contain natural areas for the leisure enjoyment of the outdoors and relatively level land for the development of active recreation facilities. A central location with convenient access is preferred by residents to be in close proximity to existing park sites.

4. Establish an excellent Township park network.

- Parks are the public spaces of Upper Nazareth and the care and dedication the Township commits to their design, development, operations, and ongoing maintenance expresses the level of effort the Township undertakes. Commit to great design and sensitive, thoughtful master planning of new and existing parks.
- Undertake improvements to the parks that are all-inclusive and not piecemeal in order to provide a sense of presence and accomplishment in the public view.
- Design with nature in a manner that is consistent with sustainable design principles.
 - Protect and enhance natural resources within the parks.
 - Provide buffer areas around sensitive natural resources that should have limited or no public access.
 - Protect water resources from erosion, pollution, and other negative impacts and promote infiltration of stormwater runoff. Enhance stream corridors by establishing or expanding riparian buffers within parks, planting buffer vegetation native to northeast Pennsylvania. For example, provide riparian enhancements to the East Branch of the Monocacy Creek and its tributary that flow through or are along the border of Creekside Playground and Silvercrest Park. Consider developing rain gardens where appropriate to control stormwater runoff and promote groundwater recharge.
 - Limit disturbance of natural areas and consider natural functions (i.e., drainage, slope, etc.) when incorporating site improvements.
 - Locate facilities with consideration of prevailing wind and solar orientation.
 - Develop parking, walkways/bikeways, and other pavements with pervious materials, as appropriate for the setting and use.
 - Use native plant material to enhance wildlife habitats and minimize watering and maintenance requirements.
 - Locate shade trees to reduce heat island effect in parking areas, cool buildings in summer, and allow solar access in winter.
 - Consider the site soil, underlying geology, and depth of ground water during the planning and development phase. Soil, geology and depth of ground water and bedrock directly affect facility construction, drainage, and long-term maintenance.
 - Incorporate wetlands, rock outcrops, hedgerows, and other natural features sensitively into park designs.
 - Develop park sites using Best Management Practices for erosion control and stormwater management.

- Consider life-cycle costs and use of post-consumption materials when designing improvements.
 - Consider development options that reduce energy consumption and use, such as ground source geothermal heating and cooling, connections to walkway/bikeway system to promote non-motorized transportation, solar powered amenities/features, and no-mow/low-mow areas.
- Continue to create and maintain complete playground areas that promote fun, interaction, learning, creativity, and healthy exercise. Design and construct playground areas that engage children and provide a safe, fun setting for play. Where conditions allow, playgrounds can be developed with themes that relate to the context of the park and its resources. Develop the playgrounds as a creative, fun space, not just play equipment placed in mulch. Continue to include benches for caregivers and where appropriate, small pavilions for storytelling, shaded play or crafts, and traditional picnics. Continue to provide shade, either with trees or pavilions as the space allows, augmenting areas where appropriate. Include macadam areas for pavement games, chalk drawings, and other activities.
 - Design with consideration of safety and security of the parks for users:
 - Provide visual access into parks from surrounding streets and sidewalks. Avoid designs that create "hidden" areas. Due to the long, narrow access strips, the facilities at Sycamore Street, Newport Avenue, and Creekside Playgrounds cannot be readily viewed from adjacent roads. Other than signage, which does exist at each street, solutions to providing visual access are limited due to adjacent residential lots.
 - Provide adequate safety zones around sports facilities and play equipment.
 - Provide physical barriers as appropriate between park activity areas and adjacent roadways, drives, parking areas, and adjacent residential properties.
 - Where possible, limit the extent of vehicle penetration into park sites and vehicular/pedestrian conflict areas.
 - Provide walkways of adequate width for the intended user groups. Multi-use walkways/bikeways should be developed at a minimum width of eight feet wide.
 - Continue to provide support and accessory facilities that create a quality recreation destination, such as, picnic areas designed as a unit with grills, picnic tables, horseshoe pits, shaded areas, and water where feasible; restrooms in new neighborhood and community parks; and benches convenient to courts for depositing equipment and viewing activities.
5. Provide facilities for public uses that comply with accessibility and safety regulations and guidelines.
- Address accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) within existing parks. The ADA is federal legislation that prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation. Municipal parks are public accommodations and must meet the requirements of the ADA. The list below identifies ADA issues within the Township park sites. The list is not an all-inclusive ADA audit of each park site, but highlights many of the ADA upgrades that should be incorporated as the parks are enhanced.
 - Accessibility – Only Tuskes Park has both handicapped parking spaces and an accessible route from these spaces to facilities. As previously noted, Creekside, Newport, and Sycamore Playgrounds all have "lanes" and/or walkways that do provide access from the adjacent street. Creekside, Newport Avenue, Sycamore Street, and Hillside Playgrounds are not easily handicapped accessible as walkways are lacking between the adjacent street or access lane and facilities. Additionally, there are no sidewalks along the adjacent streets (Fieldview Drive, Newport Avenue, Sycamore Street or Holly Street/Stonybrook Road). Walkway when developed should not exceed five-percent slope to be accessible. Additionally, PA DCNR requires that when benches are provided along a trail that a clear stabilized area for a wheelchair also be provided adjacent to benches.
 - Handicapped parking should be developed and appropriately designated for Silvercrest Park with pavement markings, handicap parking signs, and immediate access to an accessible route to any playground facility if such a ultimately added to the Park.
 - Playgrounds must offer play equipment that provides play options for the physically challenged. Playground manufacturers are aware of this requirement and work with communities as new playground equipment is specified to provide accessible play options.
 - Athletic fields and courts must be accessible and provided with accessible spectator viewing areas and player accommodations. PA DCNR interprets this requirement to include an accessible route to

- players' benches at ballfields and accessible viewing spaces adjacent to bleachers at athletic fields and courts. This accommodation has not been provided at any of the existing facilities.
- Fences surrounding game courts should have gates with clear opening widths that meet or exceed the ADA requirements to allow use by disabled athletes.
 - Picnic areas should offer accessible picnic tables. Every picnic table in a park need not provide this accommodation, but, as new tables are added, a percentage should be accessible models. There should be accessible picnic tables in each pavilion.
 - Drinking fountains should be accessible models.
- Ensure that equipment meets the safety criteria of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Guidelines for Public Playground Safety. Playground equipment at Sycamore Street Playground appears outdated and should be evaluated for replacement or rehabilitation. While the equipment at Tuskes Park, Creekside Playground, Newport Avenue Playground, and Hillside Playground is newer, it should be periodically evaluated for compliance with CPSC safety guidelines and an action plan defined for bringing any equipment into compliance. The CPSC guidelines state "In playgrounds intended to serve children of all ages the layout of pathways and the landscaping of the playground should show the distinct areas for the different age groups. The areas should be separated at least by a buffer zone, which could be an area with shrubs or benches." Signs should identify age appropriate use of equipment and these signs are available from playground manufacturers.
 - Playground safety inspections should occur on an ongoing basis and be conducted by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) or under the guidance of a CPSI.
 - It is important to identify and prioritize improvements needed to bring existing facilities into compliance with the ADA and CPSC. A phased implementation schedule should be developed and improvements should be included in the park/municipal capital improvement program budget.
6. Plan for the continued update of equipment and enhanced improvements to the Township parks through a comprehensive capital improvement program that outlines annual capital expenditures and recurring improvements to the parks. Update the capital improvement program annually.

Potential Park & Recreation Land

The parcels (or portions of such) listed in Chapter 5 can also be considered for parks and recreation depending upon evaluation of location, size, and suitability for both active and passive recreation.

Greenways & Walkway/Bikeway Summary of Inventory/Analysis

Strengths

There is substantial Township interest in the creation of walkways and bikeways. Local cycle enthusiasts currently use Upper Nazareth Township's rural roads and PA Routes 248 and 191. The Township includes several opportunities for developing walkways, besides the on-road biking opportunities. Upper Nazareth has demonstrated a noticeable appreciation for open space and conservation of natural resources base upon applicable sections of the Township's ordinances, as noted in the previous chapter. Monocacy Creek and the adjacent Bushkill Creek are potential greenway corridors that have been identified in other planning documents, also noted in the previous chapter.

Challenges

Access and ownership are the greatest challenges to walkway/bikeway development and greenway conservation in the Township. Upper Nazareth has the natural and manmade infrastructure for the development of walkways/bikeways, but much of the land associated with this infrastructure and resources are privately owned, whether large tracts or small residential lots along curbed streets. Also, while conservation is embraced both by the Township and County, conservation efforts are primarily dependent on the actions of landowners.

Opportunities

The public input process found (add) that there is broad public support for walkways/bikeways and there are numerous opportunities for such to be developed in Upper Nazareth. The parks provide a good location to begin both walkway and bikeway development and creating the impetus for an interconnecting network throughout the Township. The existing sidewalk system is limited, but is a start to linking park walkways with the sidewalk system

and creating close to home walking opportunities that become significant building blocks for a Township-wide walkway/bikeway and greenway system. As noted above, potential greenway corridors exist within the Township, providing the foundation for conservation efforts. Collaboration with the appropriate greenway partnerships/organizations will advance greenway conservation goals.

Recommendations

1. Coordinate greenway and walkway/bikeway planning and development with regional partners and stakeholders.
 - Coordinate with the LVPC regarding greenway and walkway/bikeway planning efforts and initiatives in Upper Nazareth Township.
 - Coordinate with LVPC and adjacent municipalities regarding greenway and walkway/bikeway initiatives that could extend regionally. Forward this Recreation, Parks and Open Space Master Plan to those entities responsible for regional and municipal plans in an effort to promote coordination and incorporation of initiatives into a regional implementation framework.
 - Coordinate with Bushkill Township, Plainfield Township, and Stockertown Borough regarding access to Trail Gap #9 and the Bushkill Creek Corridor Greenway; contact and coordinate with Bath Borough, East Allen Township, and Moore Township regarding access to the Monocacy Creek Greenway.
 - Coordinate with the Sewer Authority regarding the development of a bikeway/walkway within Creekside Park and the possible extension, south to Gracedale Avenue.
 - Coordinate with PennDOT regarding the feasibility of developing bike lanes on Bath Pike (PA Route 248), East Lawn Road (PA Route 191) particularly in conjunction with the widening project, and Penn Allen Road (SR 4004).
 - Work with Nazareth Area School District to explore pedestrian and bicycle linkages from school sites to planned bikeway/walkway corridors and sidewalks.
 - Coordinate PennDOT and the Township Public Works Department to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian friendly facilities and accommodations when public roads and bridges are upgraded or replaced.
 - Communicate with Northampton County Parks and Recreation Department about the desire to develop a potential trailhead on the County owned property in the Township to provide convenient access to an overall Upper Nazareth walkway/bikeway system.
2. Undertake initiatives that set the stage for the successful development of greenways and walkways/bikeways.
 - Work to raise public awareness about the benefits of greenways and bikeways/walkways within the Township through a targeted public awareness campaign. The Upper Nazareth Township Recreation Board should lead this effort.
 - Augment the walkway within Tuskes Park and develop sidewalks and bikeways/walkways within the other existing parks, as appropriate, to connect to the proposed Township bikeway/walkway system, providing opportunities to generate the impetus for bikeway/walkway initiatives and an understanding of their benefits.
 - Facilitate the convenience for bicycle use by providing bike racks within all parks and other public lands.
 - Use the Upper Nazareth Township Official Map as a tool to acquire and extend bikeways/walkways throughout the community. Annually review and update, if needed, the Official Map.
 - Expand the bikeway/walkway network through the land development process. Such actions could expand upon the mandatory dedication of open space provisions to permit the dedication of land for trails and seek rights-of-ways and conservation/access easements from developers when new residential subdivisions and land developments are proposed along designated greenway corridors and in areas designated for bikeways/walkways route or links.

3. Develop a greenway and walkway/bikeway network that protects the stream corridors and other linear natural resources of Upper Nazareth Township, connecting neighborhoods, parks, and schools where possible.
 - Create a greenway and bikeway/walkway system for Upper Nazareth Township composed of greenways, and multi-purpose walkway/bikeway links that connect with parks, schools, and centers. Appoint the Upper Nazareth Township Recreation Board to lead this effort.
 - Pursue conservation easements to protect and buffer natural resources along designate greenway corridors.
 - Complete a feasibility study that evaluates the options and the potential to create connections to the Plainfield Recreation Trail and Monocacy Creek conservation corridor. Coordinate this effort with the Lehigh Valley Trail Authority and seek funding for the study from the PA DCNR.
 - Complete a feasibility study that explores bikeway/walkway extensions through the Township from Nazareth Borough to Bath Borough.
 - Evaluate local roads in terms of bicycle and pedestrian compatibility, working with transportation engineers familiar with bicycle and pedestrian facility development and integration of bicycle facilities and accommodations into existing roadway networks.
 - Develop bikeways/walkways based on the recommendations and guidelines presented in the Statewide Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan and AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.

Chapter 7 Funding and Financing Parks, Recreation Facilities & Open Space

This chapter provides an overview of the Township recreation facilities, parks and open space funding that involves monies coming from three sources of revenue. In addition to Township sources, funding from the County and State for specific projects as noted below and elsewhere within this Master Plan.

Recreation Fund

The Township currently has \$265,551 within its Recreation Fund. The 2021 projected Profit & Loss Overview is as follows:

Ordinary Income/Expenses	January-December 2021
Income	
Interest Income	\$500.00
Recreation Fees	\$0.00
Total Income	\$500.00
Expense	
Recreation - Parks	
Fertilizer	\$6,000.00
Infield Mix	\$1,200.00
Mulch	\$1,500.00
Trees	\$500.00
Improvements	\$5,000.00
Total Recreation – Parks	\$14,200.00
Total Expense	\$14,200.00
Net Ordinary Income	-\$13,700.00
Net Income	-\$13,700.00

As noted above, the current Recreation Fund balance \$265,551, which will offset the projected park expense and ultimate deficit of \$13,700.00.

EIT Open Space Fund

The Board of Supervisors enacted an additional Earned Income Tax (EIT) of 0.25% on an annual basis to purchase land or interests in land for the preservation and conservation of open, undeveloped land in Upper Nazareth Township. To date, Upper Nazareth has collected \$262,481.13 within the EIT Open Space Fund and anticipates collecting \$550,000 in 2021. The Township will use the monies collected to do one or more of the following:

1. Finance the acquisition of open space. Upper Nazareth could purchase undeveloped land from landowners in the Township in order to protect sensitive natural areas such as woodlands, stream valleys or other unique natural resources or habitats such as those discussed in Chapters 6 and 8.
2. Acquire agricultural conservation easements. Upper Nazareth could purchase agricultural conservation easements, or participate in State or County land preservation programs that acquire agricultural conservation easements as the Township has done for properties on Blossom Hill Road and Gun Club Road (noted in Chapter 3). An agricultural conservation easement allows the landowner to retain his/her land and use it for farming and other agricultural purposes.

3. Acquire property development rights. Under this option, a landowner would sell the development rights of a property to the Township. The landowner would retain the property, but the property could not be developed.
4. Additional related expenses. Additional related expenses. The Township would be able to use funds as authorized by 32 P.S. 5007.1(a), as amended, to retire related indebtedness, pay transactional fees incidental to acquisition, pay for expenses necessary to prepare and amend the resource, recreation or land use plan, and to develop, improve, design, engineer, and maintain property acquired by the Act.
 - (1) to retire the indebtedness incurred in purchasing interests in real property or in making additional acquisitions of real property for the purpose of securing an open space benefit or benefits under the provisions of this act or the act of June 30, 1981 (P.L. 128, No. 43, known as the "Agricultural Area Security Law");
 - (2) for transactional fees that are incidental to acquisitions made in accordance with this act, including, but not limited to, costs of appraisals, legal services, title searches, document preparation, title insurance, closing fees and survey costs;
 - (3) for expenses necessary to prepare the resource, recreation or land use plan; or
 - (4) (i) annually, up to 25% of any accumulated balance of the fund from the levy authorized by referendum, to develop, improve, design, engineer and maintain property acquired pursuant to this act for an open space benefit or benefits; or
 - (ii) alternatively, for purposes of allocation, the local government unit may create a maintenance fund into which the local government unit may deposit in an amount up to 25% of the annual revenue from the levy authorized by referendum, to develop, improve, design, engineer and maintain property acquired pursuant to this act for an open space benefit or benefits.
 - (a.1) In no event, however, shall any revenue in a particular year be used to develop, improve, design, engineer and maintain the property acquired unless the annual debt service under subsection (a)(1) or acquisition fees under subsection (a)(2) will be satisfied. The acquisition fees shall be paid in their entirety at the time of acquisition.
 - (a.2) Nothing shall prevent a local government unit from using funds set aside for development, improvement, design, engineering and maintenance of real property for acquisition of real property to secure an open space benefit or benefits pursuant to subsection (a)(1).

Fee In-Lieu of Open Space

Upper Nazareth offers a fee in lieu of open space option via the subdivision and land development application and review process. The current fees are: residential \$3,080/unit; and commercial/industrial \$10,780/acre. The fees collected must be used for the purchase of land or development of facilities directly related to the project from which the fees were generated.

State and County Funding Options

In addition to the Township funding options discussed above, Pennsylvania and Northampton County offer grants for recreation, parks, and open space related projects as highlighted in Chapter 3. This Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Master Plan has been funded in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. Individual park master plans as well as facility improvements such as those recommended in Chapters 8 and 9 are also eligible for DCNR grants.

Chapter 8 Parks & Facilities, Open Space, Greenways & Walkways/Bikeways Implementation & Action Plan

Parks & Recreation Action Plan

Overview

The following Actions are the next step in implementing the recommendations within of Chapter 6 in terms of participants and projected costs where known.

Recommendations

Following are recommendations for parks and recreation facilities:

Overall

1. Establish a long-range, oversight advisory board committee to meet periodically regarding the evaluation and ultimate implementation of the recreation and open space recommendations contained herein. Chapter 10 to provide more detail on the committee composition and role.

Participants – Park & Rec, BOS, Manager, citizen representative

Projected Cost: no cost, monitor activity and meet periodically to pursue action on projects.

Actions

1. Enhance the use of existing parks to react to the increasing needs, interests, and desires of residents through the following actions:

- Develop master plans for the existing parks to guide future improvements and investment as appropriate. Incorporate resident suggestions, as feasible, and assessments highlighted in this Plan. The master plans should include the plan for the park sites and a phased cost estimate that outlines the anticipated development costs. The public input received as a result of the questionnaire as part this Plan should also guide the master planning process.

- Develop master plans for Hillside Farms, Sycamore Street, and Newport Avenue Playgrounds. Due to the small size of these parks and limited development potential, the planning, design, and engineering of the parks could be combined into a single initiative.

Participants – Park & Rec, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Costs: \$5,000-\$8,000 per park (see attached park facilities table).

- Develop a master plan for Silvercrest Park that maintains the existing athletic field while incorporating facilities desired by residents and preserving the natural area along the East Branch of the Monocacy Creek.

Participants – Park & Rec, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Cost: \$4,000-\$6,000.

- Develop a master plan that explores how the natural area of Creekside Playground/Park can be improved with trails and other features desired by residents.

Participants – Park & Rec, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Cost: \$3,500-\$5,000.

- Develop a master plan for Tuskes Park that includes not only the existing facilities, but also adds facilities, walkways, and amenities desired by residents.

Participants – Park & Rec, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Cost: \$8,000-\$12,000.

2. Add upgrades and amenities to existing parks that will improve the convenience of using current facilities, enhance the visual image of each park, and introduce new recreation opportunities. Improvements suggested for the Township parks include the following initiatives:

Safety Enhancements -

- Provide adequate safety zones around sports facilities and play equipment. Extend the height of backstops and sideline fence and/or install safety netting as necessary.

Participants – Park & Rec, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Cost: \$5,000-\$6,000/20'x10' 5' overhead backstop w/wings; \$3,500-\$4,000/4' outfield fence.

- Continue to maintain and update the lighting at the baseball/softball fields in Tuskes Park emphasizing simple yet safety and access to parking versus over-lighting.
Participants – Park & Rec, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant
Projected Costs: \$1,000-\$5,000 (depending on type and number).

Convenience Facilities -

- Enhance the parks by adding benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, grills, bike racks, restrooms, and other convenience facilities as appropriate.
 - Continue to provide benches near playgrounds, in shaded locations, and at activity areas for caregivers to sit and watch park activities.
 - When walkways are developed in parks, add benches at convenient intervals and in shaded spots.
 - Add bike racks near park entrances/drop-offs if safe bicycle access is provided to the site.
 - If water is available, add drinking fountains near athletic facilities, at concession stands, at restrooms, at playgrounds, and at other convenient locations.

Participants – Park & Rec, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant
Projected Costs: \$500/bench; \$300-\$500/bike rack; \$1,200-\$1900/tree; \$2,500-\$4,000/drinking fountain.

- (Below are examples and not endorsements of any manufacturers products.)



Everest Series 8-Ft. Park Bench with Back



Colonial Recycled Plastic Bench



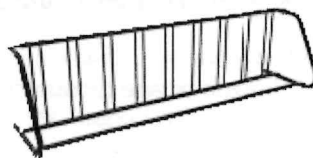
ADA Single Pedestal Drinking Fountain



Pedestal Water Bottle Filler Station



10-Bike Double-Sided Grid Bike Rack



9-Bike Single-Sided Grid Bike Rack

- Add another restroom (unisex or separate sex restrooms) to Tuskes Park. Develop unisex or separate sex restrooms in any new community and neighborhood parks that are created.

Participants – Park & Rec, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant
Projected Costs: \$5,000-\$7,500/typical restroom.

- Consider the needs of the senior adult population. Make facilities pedestrian friendly, convenient to use, and provide sitting areas in the shade that are conveniently spaced along walkways and near activity areas. Provide pavilions near parking areas for easy access.

Participants – Park & Rec, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant
Projected Costs: \$17/ft-6' wide asphalt walkway; \$1,200-\$1,900/tree; \$3,000-\$12,000/pavilion.

- Extend sidewalks to park sites and along park road frontage. Develop sidewalks on additional park street frontage to provide links to the parks from other streets.

Participants – Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Costs: \$17/ft-6' wide asphalt walkway or \$24/ft-5' wide concrete.

- Develop park hubs near community and neighborhood park entrances and parking areas which have an information kiosk with site maps and park and recreation program information. Walkways should radiate from the hub to explore the park. Where space permits, develop a pedestrian drop-off area configured for safely entering the park that is separated from vehicular traffic.

Participants – Park & Rec, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Costs: \$400-\$900 kiosk/message board at Township Building & Tuskes Park.

Park Site Enhancements –

- Enhance park entrances, drop-off areas, and hub areas of concentrated activities with landscaping. Integrate large masses of colorful perennials and ornamental grasses to add interest and variety to each park setting. Unify the parks by creating and repeating an array of plants within each park. Add street trees along road frontages and park drives, where feasible. Consider planting street trees along both sides of the Bath Pike frontage of Tuskes Park to identify the park and slow traffic in the area of the park.

Participants – Park & Rec, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Costs: \$1,200-\$1900/tree; \$100-\$300/perennials and grasses.

- Create an easily identifiable image of Upper Nazareth Township for its parks.
 - Create a uniform signage system that conveys the image of a premier public park system. Include the Township logo or seal or a new logo representing the park and recreation facilities of the Township on all park signs.
 - Establish park design standards through the master planning process with the goal of providing a consistent quality design and construction features in all facilities. This would include quality materials, harmonious colors, and prime consideration of the natural environment.

Participants – Park & Rec, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Costs: \$100-\$200 18-24" sign; \$200-\$800 24-48" sign; \$800-\$2,000 sign 48-96" sign.

- Provide walkways and bikeways within parks and connecting to the parks. Walkways are enjoyed by all segments of the population and are highly desired recreation facilities. The ADA requires access to recreation facilities and activity areas via an accessible route. Where possible, develop multiple walkway loop layouts for diverse walking experiences.

Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Cost: \$17/ft-6' wide asphalt; \$9/ft-5' granular; \$5/ft-5' woodchip; \$25/ft-5' concrete.

- Continue to provide shade in parks near activity areas. Shade could be provided by planting additional deciduous trees and building pavilions. This will benefit all age groups from youth to adults to seniors.

Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Cost: \$1,200-\$1,900/tree; \$3,000-\$12,000/pavilion.

- Continue to evaluate and incorporate field and court lighting to maximize the use of existing facilities, where lighting is compatible with the park setting and neighborhood.

Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Cost: \$1,000-\$5,000 (depending on type and number, if desired).

New Recreation Opportunities –

- Develop a new playground at Silvercrest Park as suitable areas permits per the aforementioned master plan.

Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Cost: \$8,000-10,000 playground; \$500/bench; \$500/trash can (see Silvercrest Park).

- **(Below are examples and not endorsements of any manufacturers products.)**



Executive Series 32 Gallon
Square Recycling

Executive Series 32 Gallon
Square Trash Receptacle -

- Develop walking trails and stabilized stream access areas for potential fishing as appropriate or possible, along the East Branch of the Monocacy Creek riparian corridor of Creekside Playground/Park per the aforementioned master plan and greenway/walkway plan highlighted below.
Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant
Projected Cost: \$17/ft-6' wide asphalt; \$9/ft-5' wide granular; \$5/ft-5' wide woodchip (see Creekside Plan).
 - Consider the creation of a small park, plaza, kiosk or public open space in the Township's commercial corridor that not only provides information of the Upper Nazareth park system, but establishes an opportunity for people to gather, meet, and potentially hold community celebrations. Creation of such can also be considered at the Township Building.
Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant
Projected Cost: \$1,000-\$4,000 (similar w/above for Township Building).
3. Pursue the acquisition of land and development of new parks to meet current and future needs of the Township.
- Use the Upper Nazareth Official Map as a tool to acquire land identified for park development within the Township. Annually review and update, if needed, the Official Map.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, solicitor
Projected Cost: \$2,000-\$5,000 (includes greenway and walkway/bikeway recommendations).
 - Acquire additional parkland contiguous to an existing park and Township lands and along designated greenways through purchase, donation, dedication, or grants to meet the recreation needs of Upper Nazareth.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, conservation organizations, County, DCNR, consultant
Projected Cost: \$50,000-\$75,000 (overall, could be broken down to those feasible parcels).
 - Upper Nazareth should work to acquire one additional community park (30-40 acres) and one neighborhood park (8-10 acres) to meet the community recreation needs of the Township for the next decade. The potential community park site should contain natural areas for the leisure enjoyment of the outdoors and relatively level land for the development of active recreation facilities. A central location with convenient access is preferred by residents to be in close proximity to existing park sites.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, conservation organizations, County, DCNR, consultant
Projected Cost: an estimate \$55,000 per ¼ acre for “developable/approved land”; a range of \$25,000 \$35,000 per acre is estimated for “raw land” depending upon the existing constraints.
4. Establish an excellent Township park network.
- Parks are the public spaces of Upper Nazareth and the care and dedication the Township commits to their design, development, operations, and ongoing maintenance expresses the level of effort the Township undertakes. Commit to great design and sensitive, thoughtful master planning of new and existing parks.
 - Undertake improvements to the parks that are all-inclusive and not piecemeal in order to provide a sense of presence and accomplishment in the public view.
 - Design with nature in a manner that is consistent with sustainable design principles.
 - Protect and enhance natural resources within the parks.

- Provide buffer areas around sensitive natural resources that should have limited or no public access.
- Protect water resources from erosion, pollution, and other negative impacts and promote infiltration of stormwater runoff. Enhance stream corridors by establishing or expanding riparian buffers within parks, planting buffer vegetation native to northeast Pennsylvania. For example, provide riparian enhancements to the East Branch of the Monocacy Creek and its tributary that flow through or are along the border of Creekside Playground and Silvercrest Park. Consider developing rain gardens where appropriate to control stormwater runoff and promote groundwater recharge.
- Limit disturbance of natural areas and consider natural functions (i.e., drainage, slope, etc.) when incorporating site improvements.
- Locate facilities with consideration of prevailing wind and solar orientation.
- Develop parking, walkways/bikeways, and other pavements with pervious materials, as appropriate for the setting and use.
- Use native plant material to enhance wildlife habitats and minimize watering and maintenance requirements.
- Locate shade trees to reduce heat island effect in parking areas, cool buildings in summer, and allow solar access in winter.
- Consider the site soil, underlying geology, and depth of ground water during the planning and development phase. Soil, geology and depth of ground water and bedrock directly affect facility construction, drainage, and long-term maintenance.
- Incorporate wetlands, rock outcrops, hedgerows, and other natural features sensitively into park designs.
- Develop park sites using Best Management Practices for erosion control and stormwater management.
- Consider life-cycle costs and use of post-consumption materials when designing improvements.
- Consider development options that reduce energy consumption and use, such as ground source geothermal heating and cooling, connections to walkway/bikeway system to promote non-motorized transportation, solar powered amenities/features, and no-mow/low-mow areas.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, conservation organizations, LCPC, DCNR, consultant

Projected Cost: continue current actions/ultimate costs (similar to previous recommendations).

- Continue to create and maintain complete playground areas that promote fun, interaction, learning, creativity, and healthy exercise. Design and construct playground areas that engage children and provide a safe, fun setting for play. Where conditions allow, playgrounds can be developed with themes that relate to the context of the park and its resources. Develop the playgrounds as a creative, fun space, not just play equipment placed in mulch. Continue to include benches for caregivers and where appropriate, small pavilions for storytelling, shaded play or crafts, and traditional picnics. Continue to provide shade, either with trees or pavilions as the space allows, augmenting areas where appropriate. Include macadam areas for pavement games, chalk drawings, and other activities.

Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, DCNR, consultant

Projected Cost: continue review and evaluation for updated costs (see master plans/improvements).

- Design with consideration of safety and security of the parks for users:
 - Provide visual access into parks from surrounding streets and sidewalks. Avoid designs that create "hidden" areas. Due to the long, narrow access strips, the facilities at Sycamore Street, Newport Avenue, and Creekside Playgrounds cannot be readily viewed from adjacent roads. Other than signage, which does exist at each street, solutions to providing visual access are limited due to adjacent residential lots.
 - Provide adequate safety zones around sports facilities and play equipment.
 - Provide physical barriers as appropriate between park activity areas and adjacent roadways, drives, parking areas, and adjacent residential properties.
 - Where possible, limit the extent of vehicle penetration into park sites and vehicular/pedestrian conflict areas.
 - Provide walkways of adequate width for the intended user groups. Multi-use walkways/bikeways should be developed at a minimum width of eight feet wide.

Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, DCNR, consultant

Projected Cost: \$21/ft - 8' wide asphalt lane.

- Continue to provide support and accessory facilities that create a quality recreation destination, such as, picnic areas designed as a unit with grills, picnic tables, horseshoe pits, shaded areas, and water where feasible; restrooms in new neighborhood and community parks; and benches convenient to courts for depositing equipment and viewing activities.

Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, DCNR

Projected Cost: \$1,200-\$1,900/tree; \$5,000-\$7,500/restroom;\$700(metal)\$400(wood)/picnictable;\$200-\$400/grill.

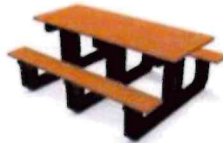
- (Below are examples and not endorsements of any manufacturers products.)



300 Sq. Rotating Cantilever
Park Grill



300 Sq. ADA Rotating
Cantilever Park Grill



6-Ft Recycled Plastic Picnic
Table



Everest Series 8-Ft Heavy
Duty ADA Picnic Table

5. Provide facilities for public uses that comply with accessibility and safety regulations and guidelines.

- Address accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) within existing parks. The ADA is federal legislation that prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation. Municipal parks are public accommodations and must meet the requirements of the ADA. The list below identifies ADA issues within the Township park sites. The list is not an all-inclusive ADA audit of each park site but highlights many of the ADA upgrades that should be incorporated as the parks are enhanced.
 - Accessibility – Only Tuskes Park has both handicapped parking spaces and an accessible route from these spaces to facilities. As previously noted, Creekside, Newport, and Sycamore Playgrounds all have “lanes” and/or walkways that do provide access from the adjacent street. Creekside, Newport Avenue, Sycamore Street, and Hillside Playgrounds are not easily handicapped accessible as walkways are lacking between the adjacent street or access lane and facilities. Additionally, there are no sidewalks along the adjacent streets (Fieldview Drive, Newport Avenue, Sycamore Street or Holly Street/Stonybrook Road). Walkway when developed should not exceed five-percent slope to be accessible. Additionally, PA DCNR requires that when benches are provided along a trail that a clear stabilized area for a wheelchair also be provided adjacent to benches.
 - Handicapped parking should be developed and appropriately designated for Silvercrest Park with pavement markings, handicap parking signs, and immediate access to an accessible route to any playground facility if such a ultimately added to the Park.
 - Playgrounds must offer play equipment that provides play options for the physically challenged. Playground manufacturers are aware of this requirement and work with communities as new playground equipment is specified to provide accessible play options.
 - Athletic fields and courts must be accessible and provided with accessible spectator viewing areas and player accommodations. PA DCNR interprets this requirement to include an accessible route to players’ benches at ballfields and accessible viewing spaces adjacent to bleachers at athletic fields and courts. This accommodation has not been provided at any of the existing facilities.
 - Fences surrounding game courts should have gates with clear opening widths that meet or exceed the ADA requirements to allow use by disabled athletes.
 - Picnic areas should offer accessible picnic tables. Every picnic table in a park need not provide this accommodation, but, as new tables are added, a percentage should be accessible models. There should be accessible picnic tables in each pavilion.
 - Drinking fountains should be accessible models.

Participants –Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, DCNR

Projected Cost: continue to review as needed (see master plan & facility/improvement costs).

- Ensure that equipment meets the safety criteria of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Guidelines for Public Playground Safety. Playground equipment at Sycamore Street Playground appears outdated and should be evaluated for replacement or rehabilitation. While the equipment at Tuskes Park, Creekside Playground, Newport Avenue Playground, and Hillside Playground is newer, it should be periodically evaluated for compliance with CPSC safety guidelines and an action plan defined for bringing any equipment into compliance. The CPSC guidelines state “In playgrounds intended to serve children of all ages the layout of pathways and the landscaping of the playground should show the distinct areas for the different age groups.

The areas should be separated at least by a buffer zone, which could be an area with shrubs or benches.” Signs should identify age appropriate use of equipment and these signs are available from playground manufacturers.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, County, DCNR, consultant

Projected Cost: continue to review as needed (see master plan & facility/improvement costs).

- Playground safety inspections should occur on an ongoing basis and be conducted by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) or under the guidance of a CPSI.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, County, DCNR, consultant

Projected Cost: \$1,000-\$2,000 (confirm costs).

- It is important to identify and prioritize improvements needed to bring existing facilities into compliance with the ADA and CPSC. A phased implementation schedule should be developed and improvements should be included in the park/municipal capital improvement program budget.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, County, DCNR, consultant

Projected Cost: update the capital improvement program annually.

6. Plan for the continued update of equipment and enhanced improvements to the Township parks through a comprehensive capital improvement program that outlines annual capital expenditures and recurring improvements to the parks.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, County, DCNR, consultant

Projected Cost: update the capital improvement program annually.

Greenways & Walkway/Bikeway Action Plan

Overview

Recommendations

7. Coordinate greenway and walkway/bikeway planning and development with regional partners and stakeholders.

- Coordinate with the LVPC regarding greenway and walkway/bikeway planning efforts and initiatives in Upper Nazareth Township.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, conservation organizations, consultant

Projected Cost: no cost; monitor activity.

- Coordinate with LVPC and adjacent municipalities regarding greenway and walkway/bikeway initiatives that could extend regionally. Forward this Recreation, Parks and Open Space Master Plan to those entities responsible for regional and municipal plans in an effort to promote coordination and incorporation of initiatives into a regional implementation framework.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, townships/boroughs

Projected Cost: no cost; renew/establish regional connections.

- Coordinate with Bushkill Township, Plainfield Township, and Stockertown Borough regarding access to Trail Gap #9 and the Bushkill Creek Corridor Greenway; contact and coordinate with Bath Borough, East Allen Township, and Moore Township regarding access to the Monocacy Creek Greenway.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, conservation organizations, LVPC, DCNR, townships/boroughs

Projected Cost: no cost; renew/establish regional connections.

- Coordinate with the Sewer Authority regarding the development of a bikeway/walkway within Creekside Park and the possible extension, south to Gracedale Avenue.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, SA, NC

Projected Cost: continue dialogue and prepare plan (part of/combine with previous recommendations).

- Coordinate with PennDOT regarding the feasibility of developing bike lanes on Bath Pike (PA Route 248), East Lawn Road (PA Route 191) particularly in conjunction with the widening project, and Penn Allen Road (SR 4004).

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, PADOT**Projected Cost: continue dialogue and prepare plan (\$17/ft - 6' wide asphalt lane).**

- Work with Nazareth Area School District to explore pedestrian and bicycle linkages from school sites to planned bikeway/walkway corridors and sidewalks.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, NASD
Projected Cost: continue dialogue, contribute, and participate/prepare plan.
 - Coordinate PennDOT and the Township Public Works Department to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian friendly facilities and accommodations when public roads and bridges are upgraded or replaced.
Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, PADOT, DCNR
Projected Cost: continue dialogue, contribute, and participate/prepare plan.
 - Communicate with Northampton County Parks and Recreation Department about the desire to develop a potential trailhead on the County owned property in the Township to provide convenient access to an overall Upper Nazareth walkway/bikeway system.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, LVCC, NCPRD, DCNR
Projected Cost: continue dialogue, contribute, and participate/prepare plan.
2. Undertake initiatives that set the stage for the successful development of greenways and walkways/bikeways.
- Work to raise public awareness about the benefits of greenways and bikeways/walkways within the Township through a targeted public awareness campaign. The Upper Nazareth Township Recreation Board should lead this effort.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, newsletter
Projected Cost: continue dialogue and newsletter articles.
 - Augment the walkway within Tuskes Park and develop sidewalks and bikeways/walkways within the other existing parks, as appropriate, to connect to the proposed Township bikeway/walkway system, providing opportunities to generate the impetus for bikeway/walkway initiatives and an understanding of their benefits.
Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, LVPC, DCNR
Projected Cost: \$17/ft-6' wide asphalt; \$9/ft-5' wide granular; \$5/ft-5' wide woodchip; \$25/ft-5' wide concrete.
 - Facilitate the convenience for bicycle use by providing bike racks within all parks and other public lands.
Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager
Projected Cost: \$3,000-\$5,000 (10 @ \$300-500/rack).
 - Use the Upper Nazareth Township Official Map as a tool to acquire and extend bikeways/walkways throughout the community. Annually review and update, if needed, the Official Map.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, solicitor
Projected Cost: see park and recreation recommendation.
 - Expand the bikeway/walkway network through the land development process. Such actions could expand upon the mandatory dedication of open space provisions to permit the dedication of land for trails and seek rights-of-ways and conservation/access easements from developers when new residential subdivisions and land developments are proposed along designated greenway corridors and in areas designated for bikeways/walkways route or links.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, LVPC, conservation organizations, consultant
Projected Cost: normal plan review with implementation of the recommendations herein.
3. Develop a greenway and walkway/bikeway network that protects the stream corridors and other linear natural resources of Upper Nazareth Township, connecting neighborhoods, parks, and schools where possible.
- Create a greenway and bikeway/walkway system for Upper Nazareth Township composed of greenways, and multi-purpose walkway/bikeway links that connect with parks, schools, and centers. Appoint the Upper Nazareth Township Recreation Board to lead this effort.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, conservation organizations, consultant
Projected Cost: Combined plan review process with donation/contribution both public and private.

- Pursue conservation easements to protect and buffer natural resources along designate greenway corridors.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, LVCP, DCNR, conservation organizations, consultant
Projected Cost: Combined plan review process with donation/contribution both public and private.
- Complete a feasibility study that evaluates the options and the potential to create connections to the Plainfield Recreation Trail and Monocacy Creek conservation corridor. Coordinate this effort with the Lehigh Valley Trail Authority and seek funding for the study from the PA DCNR.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, PADOT, LVTA, Plainfield, consultant
Projected Cost: \$5,000-\$10,000.
- Complete a feasibility study that explores bikeway/walkway extensions through the Township from Nazareth Borough to Bath Borough.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, PADOT, Nazareth, Bath, consultant
Projected Cost: \$7,500-\$12,000.
- Evaluate local roads in terms of bicycle and pedestrian compatibility, working with transportation engineers familiar with bicycle and pedestrian facility development and integration of bicycle facilities and accommodations into existing roadway networks.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, PADOT, consultant
Projected Cost: \$5,000-\$7,500.
- Develop bikeways/walkways based on the recommendations and guidelines presented in the Statewide Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan and AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, PADOT, consultant
Projected Cost: \$5,000-\$7,500 (same as previous recommendation although adhere to State guidelines).

Chapter 9 Parks & Facilities, Open Space, Greenways & Walkways/Bikeways Implementation Priorities

Park & Recreation Priorities

Overall

- Establish a long-range, oversight advisory board committee to meet periodically regarding the evaluation and ultimate implementation of the recreation and open space recommendations contained herein. Chapter 10 to provide more detail on the committee composition and role.

Participants – Park & Rec, BOS, Manager, citizen representative

Projected Cost: no cost, monitor activity and meet periodically to pursue action on projects.

Parks

- Develop master plans for the existing parks to guide future improvements and investment as appropriate. Incorporate resident suggestions, as feasible, and assessments highlighted in this Plan. The public input received as a result of the questionnaire as part this Plan should also guide the master planning process.

- Develop a master plan for Silvercrest Park that maintains the existing athletic field while incorporating facilities desired by residents and preserving the natural area along the East Branch of the Monocacy Creek.

Participants – Park & Rec, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Cost: \$4,000-\$6,000.

Convenience Facilities -

- Develop park hubs near community and neighborhood park entrances and parking areas which have an information kiosk with site maps and park and recreation program information.

Participants – Park & Rec, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Costs: \$400-\$900 kiosk/message board at Township Building & Tuskes Park.

- Add another restroom (unisex or separate sex restrooms) to Tuskes Park.

Participants – Park & Rec, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Costs: \$5,000-\$7,500/typical restroom.

Park Site Enhancements –

- Create an easily identifiable image of Upper Nazareth Township for its parks.

- Create a uniform signage system that conveys the image of a premier public park system. Include the Township logo or seal or a new logo representing the park and recreation facilities of the Township on all park signs.

Participants – Park & Rec, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Costs: \$100-\$200 18-24" sign; \$200-\$800 24-48" sign; \$800-\$2,000 sign 48-96" sign.

- Continue to provide shade in parks near activity areas. Shade could be provided by planting additional deciduous trees and building pavilions. This will benefit all age groups from youth to adults to seniors.

Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant

Projected Cost: \$1,200-\$1,900/tree; \$3,000-\$12,000/pavilion.

- Continue to provide support and accessory facilities that create a quality recreation destination, such as, picnic areas designed as a unit with grills, picnic tables, horseshoe pits, shaded areas, and water where feasible; restrooms in new neighborhood and community parks; and benches conveniently located.

Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, DCNR

Projected Cost: \$1,200-\$1,900/tree; \$5,000-\$7,500/restroom; \$700(metal)\$400(wood)/picnictable; \$200-\$400/grill.

New Recreation Opportunities –

- Develop a new playground at Silvercrest Park as suitable areas permits per the aforementioned master plan.

Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant**Projected Cost: \$8,000-10,000 playground; \$500/bench; \$500/trash can (see Silvercrest Plan).**

- Consider the creation of a small park, plaza, kiosk or public open space in the Township's commercial corridor that not only provides information of the Upper Nazareth park system, but establishes an opportunity for people to gather, meet, and potentially hold community celebrations. Creation of such can also be considered at the Township Building.

Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, consultant**Projected Cost: \$1,000-\$4,000 (similar w/above for Township Building).****Pursue the acquisition of land and development of new parks to meet current and future needs of the Township.**

- Use the Upper Nazareth Official Map as a tool to acquire land identified for park development within the Township. Annually review and update, if needed, the Official Map.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, solicitor**Projected Cost: \$2,000-\$5,000 (includes greenway and walkway/bikeway recommendations).**

- Acquire additional parkland contiguous to an existing park and Township lands and along designated greenways through purchase, donation, dedication, or grants to meet the recreation needs of Upper Nazareth.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, conservation organizations, County, DCNR, consultant**Projected Cost: \$50,000-\$75,000 (overall, could be broken down to those feasible parcels).**

- Upper Nazareth should work to acquire one additional community park (30-40 acres) and one neighborhood park (8-10 acres) to meet the community recreation needs of the Township for the next decade. The potential community park site should contain natural areas for the leisure enjoyment of the outdoors and relatively level land for the development of active recreation facilities. A central location with convenient access is preferred by residents to be in close proximity to existing park sites.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, conservation organizations, County, DCNR, consultant**Projected Cost: an estimate \$55,000 per ¼ acre for “developable/approved land”; a range of \$25,000-\$35,000 per acre is estimated for “raw land” depending upon the existing constraints.****Greenway & Walkway/Bikeway Priorities**

Coordinate greenway and walkway/bikeway planning and development with regional partners and stakeholders.

- Coordinate with the LVPC regarding greenway and walkway/bikeway planning efforts and initiatives in Upper Nazareth Township.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, conservation organizations, consultant**Projected Cost: no cost; monitor activity.**

- Coordinate with LVPC and adjacent municipalities regarding greenway and walkway/bikeway initiatives that could extend regionally.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, townships/boroughs**Projected Cost: no cost; renew/establish regional connections.**

- Coordinate with Bushkill Township, Plainfield Township, and Stockertown Borough regarding access to Trail Gap #9 and the Bushkill Creek Corridor Greenway; contact and coordinate with Bath Borough, East Allen Township, and Moore Township regarding access to the Monocacy Creek Greenway.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, conservation organizations, LVPC, DCNR, townships/boroughs**Projected Cost: no cost; renew/establish regional connections.**

- Coordinate with the Sewer Authority regarding the development of a bikeway/walkway within Creekside Park and the possible extension, south to Gracedale Avenue.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, SA, NC**Projected Cost: continue dialogue and prepare plan (part of/combine with previous recommendations).**

- Coordinate with PennDOT regarding the feasibility of developing bike lanes on Bath Pike (PA Route 248), East Lawn Road (PA Route 191) particularly in conjunction with the widening project, and Penn Allen Road (SR 4004).

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, PADOT

Projected Cost: continue dialogue and prepare plan (\$17/ft - 6' wide asphalt lane).

Undertake initiatives that set the stage for the successful development of greenways and walkways/bikeways.

- Work to raise public awareness about the benefits of greenways and bikeways/walkways within the Township through a targeted public awareness campaign. The Upper Nazareth Township Recreation Board should lead this effort.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, newsletter

Projected Cost: continue dialogue and newsletter articles.

- Augment the walkway within Tuskes Park and develop sidewalks and bikeways/walkways within any new parks, as appropriate, to connect to the proposed Township bikeway/walkway system.

Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager, LVPC, DCNR

Projected Cost: \$17/ft-6' wide asphalt; \$9/ft-5' wide granular; \$5/ft-5' wide woodchip; \$25/ft-5' wide concrete.

- Facilitate the convenience for bicycle use by providing bike racks within all parks and other public lands.

Participants – Rec Board, Public Works, BOS, Manager

Projected Cost: \$3,000-\$5,000 (10 @ \$300-500/rack).

- Use the Upper Nazareth Township Official Map as a tool to acquire and extend bikeways/walkways throughout the community. Annually review and update the Official Map as needed.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, solicitor

Projected Cost: see park and recreation recommendation.

- Expand the bikeway/walkway network through the land development process.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, LVPC, conservation organizations, consultant

Projected Cost: normal plan review with implementation of the recommendations herein.

Develop a greenway and walkway/bikeway network that protects the stream corridors and other linear natural resources of Upper Nazareth Township, connecting neighborhoods, parks, and schools where possible.

- Create a greenway and bikeway/walkway system for Upper Nazareth Township composed of greenways, and multi-purpose walkway/bikeway links that connect with parks, schools, and centers.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, conservation organizations, consultant

Projected Cost: Combined plan review process with donation/contribution both public and private.

- Pursue conservation easements to protect and buffer natural resources along designate greenway corridors.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, conservation organizations, consultant

Projected Cost: Combined plan review process with donation/contribution both public and private.

- Complete a feasibility study that evaluates the options and the potential to create connections to the Plainfield Recreation Trail and Monocacy Creek conservation corridor. Coordinate this effort with the Lehigh Valley Trail Authority and seek funding for the study from the PA DCNR.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, PADOT, LVTA, Plainfield, consultant

Projected Cost: \$5,000-\$10,000.

- Complete a feasibility study that explores bikeway/walkway extensions through the Township from Nazareth Borough to Bath Borough.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, PC, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, PADOT, Nazareth, Bath, consultant

Projected Cost: \$7,500-\$12,000.

- Evaluate local roads in terms of bicycle and pedestrian compatibility, working with transportation engineers familiar with bicycle and pedestrian facility development and integration of bicycle facilities and accommodations into existing roadway networks.

Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, PADOT, consultant
Projected Cost: \$5,000-\$7,500.

- Develop bikeways/walkways based on the recommendations and guidelines presented in the Statewide Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan and AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.
Participants – Rec Board, BOS, Manager, LVPC, DCNR, PADOT, consultant
Projected Cost: \$5,000-\$7,500 (same as previous recommendation although adhere to State guidelines).

Chapter 10 The Next Step

Chapter 1 highlighted the Plan's Purpose and composition of the PSC and Chapter 3 outlined the Township governmental structure and departments. This Chapter of the Plan recommends that the role of the Recreation Board be augmented by the creation of a Long-range Oversight Advisory Board/Committee its composition to be established by the Board of Supervisors. At the direction of the Township so that there is no question as their roles and ultimate actions, the Recreation Board and Long-Range Oversight Advisory Board/Committee would perform the following activities:

The Recreation Board, using the applicable plan implementation recommendations listed in Chapters 6, 8 and 9, perform the following tasks:

- Direct the Public Works Department on park maintenance using the general park maintenance guidelines listed in Table 4-5.
- Coordinate the scheduling of periodic replacement and/or refurbishment of existing park grounds and facilities.
- Review and ascertain the facility needs within each individual park.
- Review and evaluate any increase/decrease in demand particular park, recreation needs based upon population growth within the Township.
- Review and evaluate any increase/decrease in demand particular park, recreation needs based upon population growth within the Township.
- Use the funding sources from the general fund and any fee in lieu of development collected by the Township for the parks and their facilities as described within Chapter 7. These funding sources are earmarked for facilities within existing parks, which can be augmented by the volunteer work/efforts of the athletic organizations that use the park facilities.

Long-Range Oversight Advisory Board/Committee meeting periodically (every 4-6 months) with the goal/directive of performing an in-depth evaluation of the plan implementation recommendations listed in Chapters 6, 8 and 9, as following tasks:

- Evaluate the highlights of the Questionnaire outlined in Chapter 2, determining areas of emphasis on active or passive recreation facilities, programs, and conservation efforts.
- Evaluate the implementation priorities listed in Chapter 9 to determine immediate course of action or potentially replace with new or modified priority from Chapter 8.
- Tie the Plan implementation recommendations as well as those listed below to the purchasing/EIT fund noted in Chapter 7, as well as leveraging these funds with potential State and County grant monies noted in Chapter 5 and repeated below.
- Use Table 5-1 as a tool to evaluate and prioritize all or portions of properties, such as the 17 properties listed in Chapter 5, for open space purchase and preservation course of action for implementation.
- Once prioritized, target properties for acquisition for open space, seeking appraisal as needed.
- Evaluate and prioritize both the primary and secondary walkway/bikeway corridors/links listed in Chapter 5 using both the Lehigh Valley Trails Inventory and Lehigh Valley Greenways Plan highlighted in Chapter 5 as a guide to this prioritization.
- Once prioritized, target specific walkway/bikeway corridors through both the acquisition of rights-of-way, negotiation of easement rights whether through individual, private properties and/or the subdivision/land development process.
- Continue to use the Act 43 Farmland Preservation Program and the County's Township Partnership Program listed in Chapter 5, targeting agricultural lands to preserve.
- Seek funding from both the County through its Municipal Park Program and PA DCNR for the evaluation and acquisition for land for park development.
- Seek funding from both the County through its Natural Areas/Open Space Program and PA DCNR for the evaluation and acquisition for land for open space preservation.
- Partner with local non-profit land trusts such as the Conservation Fund, Heritage Conservancy, Natural Lands Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and Wildlands Conservancy, seeking appraisal as needed, for conservation easements on sensitive environmental land identified in the evaluation methodology of Table 5-1.

Appendix

Upper Nazareth Township

Recreation, Parks & Open Space Questionnaire

The Township needs your input to help in the preparation of the Recreation, Parks & Open Space Master Plan. Please provide your opinions to the following questions and please submit only one survey per person. Thank you for your participation.

- 1.
- NE: north of E. Lawn Rd (Rt 151), east of Nazareth
 - SE: south of E. Lawn Rd (Rt 151), east of Nazareth
 - SW: south of Bath Pike (Rt 248), west of Nazareth
 - NW: north of Bath Pike (Rt 248), west of Nazareth

2. Please indicate where you reside based upon the following:
Please circle the number of people in your household in each age group.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>
0-5	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
6-18	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
19-34	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
35-59	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
60+	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6

3. Please check the box indicating the number of years you have lived in the Township.
- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0-1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16-20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 21-25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11-15 | |

4. What method or methods do you feel are the most effective way to provide information regarding park facilities and recreation programs offered within the Township?

5. How important is recreation to you and your family?
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very important | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat important |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Important | <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all |

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Township Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Township Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly Tax Bill | <input type="checkbox"/> LinkedIn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify _____ | |

6. Do you currently use the facilities at any of the Township Parks? opinion:

__ Yes __ No

If YES, what do you use?

- __ Baseball fields __ Picnic pavilions
__ Soccer fields __ Open areas
__ Basketball courts __ Playgrounds
__ Other: _____

If you DO NOT utilize the Township Parks, please select why.

- __ Too far away
__ Do not know where they are
__ Do not know what is there
__ Do not like the facilities offered
__ Conditions of the facilities/equipment
__ Lack of adequate restrooms
__ Lack of open play areas
__ Lack of facilities
__ Lack of lighting
__ Lack of water fountains/refreshments
__ Lack of picnic facilities
__ Lack of handicapped access
__ Lack of parking
__ Safety concerns
__ Overcrowding
__ Poor location
__ Other: _____

9. What age groups do you feel are not presently provided sufficient recreational activities by the Township? (If you have multiple selections, please indicate your first through last choice)

- __ Preschool (2-5 years) __ Adults (26-59 years)
__ Elementary School (6-12 years) __ Seniors (60+ years)
__ Teens (13-15 years) __ Families
__ Teens (16-18 years) __ Special Needs
__ Young Adults (19-25 years)

11. Do you participate in programs offered by recreation organizations in the Township or other municipality?

__ Yes __ No

If YES, which programs?

13. Do you feel Upper Nazareth should partner with neighboring communities in the development of parks and recreation programs/facilities? (Neighboring communities include: Bath Borough, Bushkill Township, East Allen Township, Lower Nazareth Township, Moore Township, Nazareth Borough, Palmer Township, Plainfield Township, Stockertown Borough)

__ Yes __ No

7. Please check the statement that most accurately reflects your opinion:

- __ Township has too many recreational facilities
__ Currently have sufficient recreational facilities
__ Existing parks should be improved
__ Township needs to expand park facilities
__ Not familiar with present facilities

8. If the Township were to develop additional facilities within the parks what facilities would satisfy the recreational needs of your family? (Check all that apply)

- __ Tennis courts __ Baseball fields
__ Horseshoes __ Softball fields
__ Bocce __ Soccer fields
__ Deck hockey __ Football fields
__ Volleyball __ Lacrosse fields
__ Basketball __ Skate park
__ Walking trails __ Playgrounds
__ Fitness trails __ Sledding area
__ Bike trails __ Open space
__ BMX/dirt bike trails __ Natural areas
__ Nature trails __ Picnic pavilions
__ Amphitheater __ Concessions
__ Ice skating __ Parking areas
__ Restrooms __ Garden areas
__ Other: _____

10. Would you be interested in an indoor community center?

__ Yes __ No

If YES, please indicate where: _____

12. Please check all the programs that you or your family would be interested in:

- __ Arts/crafts __ Sports programs
__ Adult programs __ Cultural programs
__ Teen programs __ Community Day
__ Preschool programs __ Educational programs
__ Senior programs __ Outdoor educational programs
__ Family-oriented programs __ Other: _____

14. Upper Nazareth currently budgets \$14 annually per Township for parks and recreational programs. Do you feel the Township should consider increasing the budget for parks and recreation programs and if so, how much more would you be willing to spend?

- __ Pay an additional \$4 per year __ Not willing to pay any more
__ Pay an additional \$8 per year __ Need more information
__ Pay an additional \$10 per year __ Other: _____

Thank you again for your participation in completing this questionnaire. Your input is very valuable in guiding the future of parks, recreation, and open space opportunities within our Township.

**TOWNSHIP OF UPPER NAZARETH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ORDINANCE NO. 183

AN ORDINANCE

**IMPOSING AN ADDITIONAL 0.25% EARNED INCOME
TAX FOR OPEN SPACE FUNDING.**

WHEREAS, Upper Nazareth Township is a Second Class Township organized and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted Act 153 of 1996, as amended, known as the Open Space Acquisition and Preservation Law, which amended the Pennsylvania Conservation and Land Development Act, Title 32 P.S. Section 5007.1(A) which contains provisions for a referendum on the question of the imposition of a tax for purposes of preservation of open space pursuant to the local Tax Enabling Act; and

WHEREAS, in the General Election occurring on November 5, 2019, the registered electors of Upper Nazareth Township voted to approve a referendum imposing an additional earned income tax at the rate of 0.25% for the preservation of open space with 730 voting for and 585 voting against.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED and it is enacted and ordained by the Board of Supervisors of Upper Nazareth Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, as follows:

1. The Upper Nazareth Township Board of Supervisors hereby adopts a tax of 0.25% on wages, salaries, commissions, and other earned incomes of individuals residing in Upper Nazareth Township, in addition to the 0.50% earned

income tax previously imposed, effective January 1, 2020 pursuant to the Local Tax Enabling Act, Title 53 P.S. Section 6901 et seq.;

2. The additional tax of 0.25% shall be used solely for the financing of the acquisition of open space, for the purpose of acquiring agricultural conservation easements, for the purpose of acquiring property development rights, and for related fees and expenses as authorized by law under the provisions of the Open Space Acquisition and Preservation Law, Act 153 of 1996, as amended, Title 32 P.S. Section 5001 et seq.;

3. Revenue for the Tax Levy will be used in accordance with the procedures established by the Upper Nazareth Township Board of Supervisors in compliance with the Open Space Acquisition and Preservation Law, Title 32 P.S. Section 5001 et seq.;

4. The Tax Levy shall continue indefinitely until revoked by an Ordinance of the Upper Nazareth Township Board of Supervisors;

5. The Administration of the Tax Levy shall be governed by the Local Tax Enabling Act, Title 53 P.S. Section 6901 and all other applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;

6. The Tax Levy was authorized by the registered electors of Upper Nazareth Township in the General Election occurring on November 5, 2019, with 730 voting for and 585 voting against the following referendum question:

“Do you favor the imposition of an additional Earned Income Tax at the rate of 0.25% by Upper Nazareth Township to be used for financing the acquisition of open space, for the purpose of acquiring agricultural conservation easements, for the purpose of acquiring property development rights, and for related fees and expenses as authorized by law?”

7. The Township Secretary is hereby directed to forward a true and correct copy of the within Ordinance to the Northampton County Law Library, Northampton County Government Center, 669 Washington Street, Easton, PA 18042; Keystone Collections Group, 546 Wendel Road, Irwin, PA 15642; and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, c/o Dennis M. Davin, Secretary, Commonwealth Keystone Building, 400 North Street, 4th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Upper Nazareth Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, this 18 day of December, 2019.

TOWNSHIP OF UPPER NAZARETH

ATTEST:

BY: Michael Rinker
MICHAEL RINKER, Chairman

Kim Mutarelli
KIM MUTARELLI, Secretary

CERTIFICATION

THAT I, KIM MUTARELLI, Secretary of the Township of Upper Nazareth, hereby certify that this Ordinance was approved by the Board of Supervisors of Upper Nazareth Township on the 18 day of December, 2019.

Kim Mutarelli
KIM MUTARELLI, Secretary

