

ARTICLE XXII
PARKS, RECREATION CENTERS AND FORESTS

Section 2201. Acquisition of Lands and Buildings.--The board of supervisors may designate lands or buildings owned, leased or controlled by the township for use as parks, playgrounds, playfields, gymnasiums, swimming pools, indoor recreation centers, public parks and other recreation areas and facilities and acquire lands or buildings by lease, gift, devise, purchase or by the exercise of the right of eminent domain for recreational purposes and construct and equip facilities for recreational purposes.

Section 2202. Recreation Facilities Employes.--The board of supervisors may employ persons to maintain the recreation facilities or supervise the use of the recreation facilities.

Section 2203. Regulation of Parks and Public Amusements.--

(a) The board of supervisors may by ordinance regulate the use and enjoyment by the public of any park or recreation grounds owned and operated by the township or charitable organizations for the use of the public.

(b) The board of supervisors may prescribe rules for the use by the public of parks and recreation grounds and the facilities and amusements connected therewith and post the rules at conspicuous places in the parks or recreation grounds. Any person who violates the rules commits a summary offense.

(c) The board of supervisors may by ordinance not inconsistent with State law and regulations regulate the time of opening and closing and the conduct of places of public entertainment, amusement and recreation.

(d) The board of supervisors may by ordinance or resolution appropriate funds for recreation programs not directly sponsored by the township.

Section 2204. Creation of Recreation Boards.--(a) The board of supervisors may by ordinance create a recreation board to supervise, regulate, equip and maintain township-funded recreation programs and facilities. The recreation board has only those powers specifically delegated to it by the board of supervisors.

(b) Recreation boards, when established, shall consist of five, seven or nine persons. The members shall be appointed by the board of supervisors and shall serve for terms of five years or until their successors are appointed, except that the members first appointed shall be appointed so that the terms of not more than two members expire annually. Members shall serve without pay but may be reimbursed by the township for all expenses incurred in performing their duties. All persons appointed shall serve their full terms unless voluntarily resigned or removed by the board of supervisors for dereliction or neglect of duty. Vacancies occurring other than by expiration of term shall be for the unexpired term and shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments.

(c) The members of a recreation board shall elect a chairman and secretary and select all other necessary officers to serve for a period of one year. The recreation board may adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of all business within its jurisdiction and exercise powers and functions concerning parks and recreation facilities as may be delegated to it by the board of supervisors. The recreation board shall submit an annual report to the board of supervisors, including an analysis of the adequacy and effectiveness of community recreation areas, facilities and leadership.

(2204 amended Nov. 19, 2004, P.L.843, No.106)

Section 2205. Joint Ownership and Maintenance.--The board of supervisors may join with any one or more municipal corporations, counties or school districts to acquire, create, equip, maintain and operate any park or recreation area to serve residents of the township under the act of July 12, 1972 (P.L.762, No.180), referred to as the Intergovernmental Cooperation Law.

Compiler's Note: The act of July 12, 1972 (P.L.762, No.180), referred to as the Intergovernmental Cooperation Law, was repealed by the act of December 19, 1996 (P.L.1158, No.177). The subject matter is now contained in 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 23 Subch. A (relating to intergovernmental cooperation).

Section 2206. Expenses for Maintenance.--All expenses incurred in the operation of parks, recreation areas and facilities are payable from the general township fund or from the treasury of the municipal corporations, counties or school districts under the agreement of the corporate authorities.

Section 2207. Forest Lands.--(a) Townships may acquire, by purchase, gift or lease, and hold tracts of land covered with forest or tree growth, or suitable for the growth of trees, and administer the tracts under the direction of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The tracts may be of any size suitable for the purpose and may be located inside or outside the township limits.

(b) When the board of supervisors intends to acquire any lands for forests, it shall so declare by an ordinance, setting forth all facts and conditions relating to the proposed action.

(c) Upon the acquisition of any forests or lands suitable for forests, the board of supervisors shall notify the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources which may make rules for the government and proper administration of the lands as may be necessary. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall publish the rules, declare the uses of the forest under the intent of this article and make provision for its administration, maintenance, protection and development as necessary. The rules governing the administration of the forests shall have for their main purpose the producing of a continuing township revenue by the sale of forest products.

(d) All revenue and emoluments arising from the forests shall be paid into the general township fund.

(e) Township forests may be used by the public as general outing or recreation grounds, subject to the rules of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources governing their administration and rules adopted by the board of supervisors not inconsistent with law and the rules of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

(f) When the board of supervisors decides to sell or lease any township forest, or part thereof, it shall so declare by an ordinance, setting forth all the facts and conditions relating to the proposed action. No ordinance shall be effective until it has been approved by a majority vote of the electorate at the next ensuing municipal or general election. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the board of supervisors, at its discretion, by resolution, from allowing the selective harvesting of forest products for the purpose of properly caring for and maintaining a township forest.

(g) The board of supervisors may, on behalf of the township, accept the title to lands which may be donated to the township for any of the purposes mentioned in this article.