

Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment and SWOT

Lower Makefield Township March 8, 2022

About the Township Team

Board of Supervisors

- James McCartney, Chair
- Frederic Weiss, Vice-Chair
- Dan Grenier, Secretary
- Suzanne Blundi, Treasurer
- John Lewis, Supervisor

Park & Recreation Board

- Douglas Krauss, Chair
- Michael D. Brody, Vice Chair
- Kim Rock, Secretary
- Dennis Wysocki, Member
- David Malinowski, Member
- Robert G. LaBar, Member
- Michael Blundi, Member

Township Staff Kurt M. Ferguson, Township Manager Monica Tierney, CPRE, Director of Parks and Recreation Jim Majewski, Director of Community Development

About the Needs Assessment

Purpose

Process

Public Engagement



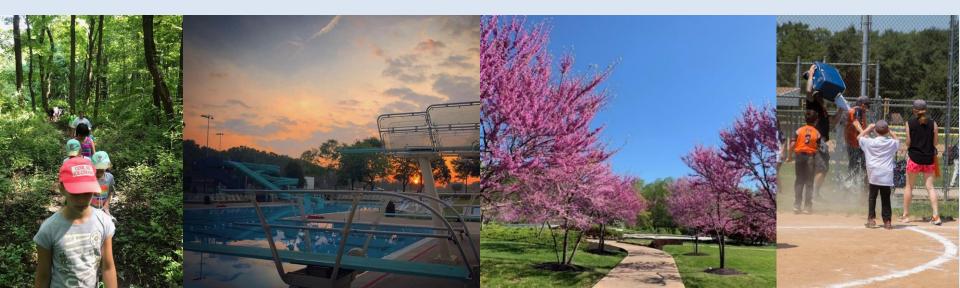
What We Heard from the Community

- More fields
- Preserve open space and protect natural resources
- More indoor recreation space
- Something from everyone!
- Concern about losing open space opportunities
- Concern about funding



What We Heard from the Community

...and we all want the same thing: A great community with great parks, recreation & trails



Strengths

- Parks, Recreation, & Trails: A Township Priority
- Public is involved
- Facilities: Clean and safe
- High satisfaction with programs
- Public and Private Support
- Investment in parks
- Industry leader: CAPRA



Challenges

- Balancing for the residents and all stakeholders
- Maintenance
- Macclesfield Park: overdeveloped, overused, policies
- Snipes
- Open space limited/development pressure
- Not enough outdoor and indoor space
- Trail system: major gaps
- Funding



Opportunities

- 1100 acres of open space remaining
- Potential partnerships
- Political will that supports parks, recreation, conservation and trails
- Support of community organizations, Pennsbury School
 District, neighboring municipalities
- Five Mile Woods
- Federal and state funding



Threats

- Lack of sufficient parkland
 and development pressure
 on remaining open space
- Insufficient funding for parks and recreation
- Without other land, we can't fix Macclesfield

- Two camps of citizens (preservation vs. ball fields)
- Trail gaps jeopardize connected system
- Can't grow programs with out additional staff and nowhere to house them



Strategic Solution: Play for All

- Decide if land acquisition is a possibility or not
- Assess Macclesfield: transportation & circulation engineer, landscape architect & sports field expert.
- Move ahead with Snipes: update master plan with "Play for All"
 Scenario. Do this now with a public engagement process. (Alternative A)
- Secure a site of at least 80 acres to develop a park with lighted ballfields, game courts, destination play ground, pavilions, pathways & sufficient parking.



Solutions continued...

- Develop a "Play for All" master plan for this site that zeroes in on other parks to re-locate and field and game courts. Develop plan to improve parks with field re-locations With a larger site, plan for the development of a 65,000 SF community center. Size is commensurate with cost recovery.
- Continue with programs and staffing as is until more space can be found
- Consider another voter referendum for investment/bond



Your Turn!

