

**LOWER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE
RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

PUBLIC MEETING #1

NOVEMBER 19, 2012
6:30 PM

AGENDA

1. Introductions

2. Project Overview

1. Goals and progress to date

3. Public Participation, Interaction, and Discussion

1. Gather opinions about desired recreational activities and facilities
2. Discuss results of participation activities

4. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

5. Adjourn (8:00 PM)

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(November 19, 2012, 6:30 – 8:30 PM)

Meeting Minutes

Presenters:

*Adam Supplee, KMS Design Group (AS)
Tom McLane, McLane Associates (TM)*

Attendees:

See attached sign-in sheet

Meeting Notes:

- When attendees arrived, they were given eight colored stickers and one gold star. Attendees were requested to place their gold star on a large map on the wall to indicate where they live.
- The project team and steering committee then introduced themselves to the public.
- TM briefly introduced the project and provided an update of progress to date.
 - The project has four major components; public participation, community background, inventory and analysis of facilities, programs, and maintenance, and finally, the report recommendations.
 - The project team will inventory, examine and analyze the management, operation, maintenance and general condition of public and private recreation programs, facilities, parks, and open spaces in the Township. The team will also conduct multiple key person interviews, interview Township staff members, and gather public opinions through meetings and surveys. The team will then provide recommendations to the Township on ways to maximize operation and maintenance efficiency and ensure that adequate, varied, high-quality recreation opportunities are available to all residents.
 - Progress to date:
 - The project team has gathered most of the necessary background data.
 - The team has begun scheduling nine key person interviews and hopes to wrap up the interviews by the next steering committee meeting.
 - Several steering committee meetings have been held, with several more to follow.
 - An in-depth public opinion survey is currently active.
- AS then began the public participation component of the meeting.
 - Using their stickers, attendees were asked to indicate the following:
 - Their most and least favorite recreational activity/use
 - The recreational facilities which are most and least needed in the Township
 - Their two favorite parks and two least favorite parks.

- Once all attendees had cast their votes, AS and TM reviewed the findings of the poll.
 - The uses that people were most interested in seeing provided were trail use - hiking/walking and volunteer activities for adults and teens.
 - The uses that people were least interested in seeing provided were equestrian activities and Dog park/walking.
 - The facilities identified as most needed were Dog park and recreational bike tracks.
 - The facilities identified as least needed were hunting facilities, trails for motorized ATVs/dirt bikes, and shooting ranges.
- AS asked everyone to gather around the map to review the results.
 - The favorite park receiving the most votes was the Lower Macungie Township campus. Second most favorite was East Texas Park and tied for third most favorite were Kratzer Farm and Creamery Park.
 - The least favorite parks were mainly small pocket parks. Quarry Park and Church Lane Park were also noted as least favorite parks.
 - AS asked why people selected the parks that they did.
 - Lower Macungie Township campus was identified as a favorite because of the amount of programming available at the site.
 - East Texas Park was identified as a favorite because it is centrally located, close to many residents. It was noted that concerts are held there during the year.
 - Creamery Park was identified as a favorite because of the soccer fields.
 - Kratzer Farm was identified as a favorite because it is a large, centrally located site and there are opportunities for fishing.
 - AS asked if people thought that Kratzer Farm should be programmed further or left as is. The majority of attendees voiced that they did not think it should be programmed.
 - The small, pocket parks were largely identified as least favorites because they are often very hard to find, served a very small number of people and, are not likely to be used unless the park is located in the person's immediate neighborhood.
 - Quarry Park was identified as a least favorite because it is mainly geared towards baseball and lacrosse and the playground needs improvements.
 - Church Lane Park was identified as a least favorite because it is mostly used for baseball. It was noted that the parking lot furthest away from the baseball field is often empty while residents fill the parking lot near the baseball fields and overflow onto the grass and road.
 - AS asked if there were any other comments on the map.
 - An attendee noted that the map may show a skewed perspective because someone's favorite park may need repairs and was consequently not identified as a favorite.

- Additional maintenance, visibility, and accessibility concerns were voiced about Wescosville Park, Penn's Meadow, Country Downs, Danfield Run, Indian Creek Village and Watermill Park.
- Meeting attendees returned to their seats and AS asked for comments and public opinions about mowing practices, park signage, bicycle routes, dog parks, and any other facilities which should be considered for the Township.
 - Comments received included the following:
 - Mowing practices
 - Riparian areas could be increased along Spring Creek Road which would allow for decreased mowing.
 - Stormwater basins could be a good place to begin reducing mowing. Start with basins further from residents to illustrate the benefits while reducing the possibility of complaints.
 - Residents tend to complain about the possibility of pests in areas of decreased mowing.
 - Residents sometimes dump their yard waste in existing areas of infrequent mowing.
 - Township public works staff would not likely oppose decreased mowing.
 - If the mowing of a property is going to be decreased, the Township could mow the perimeter and possibly a pathway to the creek in applicable areas. This would illustrate that the parcel is still being maintained and that the areas of decreased mowing are purposely treated as such.
 - Use educational signage along areas of reduced mowing.
 - Park signage
 - All parks should have a sign with the name of the park. The mow line should also be marked with signage.
 - The Township is currently working on a new park signage program.
 - Green areas or low mow areas are already marked in some areas. There have not been many resident comments, either positive or negative, about the signs.
 - Bicycle routes
 - Off-road bicycle routes are mainly used by younger riders while adults and experienced riders typically ride in the road.
 - By reducing the width of vehicle lanes, on roads which allow it, a designated bicycle lane could be created. This in turn would help to slow down traffic. Sauerkraut Lane was discussed as a possible location for this treatment.
 - Residents are largely in favor of both on and off-road bicycle routes.
 - Dog parks
 - Clean up and maintenance need to be considered.
 - A resting area, to allow grass to grow, should be included.

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At Lower Macungie Township Building
3400 Brookside Rd, Macungie, PA

- There is a large contingency of residents who support a dog park. They are waiting for the Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan to recommend a location for the park. These residents do understand that they would need to help maintain the and monitor the park.
- Potential locations were discussed.
- John Hoover, of the project team, noted that the 1.5 acre dog park which was built in Cheltenham Township in 2006 is the most continuously used park in their Township. The Township's one issue is the lack of a resting area.
- Additional facilities that should be considered
 - A rollerblading and/or skateboarding area for teens. Besides organized sports, there are not many facilities or programs available for teens.
 - TM noted that coupling a skate park with a pump park is an excellent option.
 - Carl Kelemen, of KMS Design Group, noted that options for providing rollerblade and/or skateboard parks include "turnkey" operations. These are provided by vendors who construct, maintain and police facilities. They often set up "pro shops" with the parks to provide parts and repairs for equipment and sell safety gear. They also charge a fee for use and police safety regulations. The community can often get a fee for providing the land for these facilities which helps defray maintenance costs for other facilities.
 - Another activity for teens which is not an extreme sport. Some residents have requested facilities for teens but they do not know what the facilities should be.
- The next Steering Committee meeting will be held in January 2013. The exact date will be determined.
- The public opinion posters and Township map will remain posted at the Township Building. Sara Pandl has stickers for any residents interested in adding their opinions.
- Adjourn 8:30 pm

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