



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

- 1 100 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!

