



EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

2014

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Brandywine Conservancy
Natural Lands Trust

iSpecial Thanks

Frank Vattilano, East Goshen Township's first Recreation Director from _____ to 2013
Urban Research and Design for developing the East Goshen Township Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan in 1993
East Goshen Township's citizens, community boards, and volunteers who help to make parks, recreation, and open space an integral part of .



East Goshen Township

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

Study Committee Meeting

Thursday February 20, 2014 7:00 P.M.
East Goshen Township Building

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Progress Report - images of facilities from other systems
3. Switching Gears – major shift to keep on target.
 - Open Space field work deferred due to weather.
 - Switch to drafting plan themes, conformance with Comprehensive Plan, and draft of the direction.
 - Preparation for March Comprehensive Plan Meeting on PROS
4. Draft – TOC to Chapter 3
 - Park Classification discussion
 - Determination of how we show the first year's action plan.

Meeting Preparation

If you have time, please review the draft. Review the draft in light of the big picture of where we are going with recommendations. No doubt, this draft contains some factual errors requiring correction, some poor grammar, and maybe even some funny typos. Those are easy fixes that we're not too concerned with now. We are concerned about the big picture right now:

- Is it on target?
- Since it needs to conform with the Comprehensive Plan, is it the right level of detail?
- Do you think that the themes work in conveying our goals and setting an organized approach for implementation?
- Is the tone on target? Particularly the first chapter...

Also, please check out the park and open space list and the map provided in our January meeting as we will be discussing the classification of parks and the level of service of parkland.

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Building Upon Success

East Goshen Township has developed this **Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update** to enhance the quality of life in our community through the conservation of our scenic beauty and natural resources, parks, and recreation. The plan will serve as a guide to help community leaders improve and sustain our parks and recreation system to benefit citizens of all ages and interests now and as a legacy for many generations yet to come.

East Goshen Township's parks, recreation, and open space are a major community asset. They are essential features of the township's scenic beauty and rural character. The Plan Update provides a coordinated action plan and set of recommendations to achieve the shared vision to benefit of all who live, work, operate a business, raise a family and retire here.

Plan Purpose

The purpose this plan is to:

- Articulate clear strategies to address current and future needs by updating the **1993 East Goshen Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan**;
- Serve as the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space element of the Township's **Comprehensive Plan**;
- Advance the Central Chester County Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation Plan with respect to safe walking and cycling in East Goshen Township (2013); and
- Position East Goshen Township to be competitive for grant funding.

The Plan Update serves as a guide and is not a law. In continuing to facilitate first-class parks and recreation and the conservation of our community's scenic beauty, East Goshen Township will continue to involve the public and work in collaboration with our partners in the public and private sectors in implementing the plan.

Planning Process

East Goshen Township retained Toole Recreation Planning, the Brandywine Conservancy and the Natural Lands Trust to develop the plan in collaboration with the community. Their team of parks, recreation and community planners, landscape architects and GIS specialists worked with the Township's management team and a Plan Advisory Committee in formulating the **Plan Update**. The planning process consisted of the assessment of all aspects of parks and recreation; synthesis of conclusions and options; identification of opportunities; development of implementation strategies; and formation of an action plan with a time frame for implementation. The planning process addressed six areas.

- Community recreation needs;
- Parks, recreation facilities and open space;
- Related Township plans and initiatives with implications for parks and recreation;
- Programs and services;
- Administration, management, and maintenance; and
- Financing.

Related Plans

East Goshen Township's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update is related to several other important planning efforts.

East Goshen Township Comprehensive Plan - A Comprehensive Plan is a written document formally adopted by the Board of Supervisors that contains goals, objectives, and strategies for the future development and conservation of the community. East Goshen Township is updating its 2005 Comprehensive Plan, which includes this Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update as a component.

Landscapes 2 – Chester County's Comprehensive Policy Plan, Landscapes 2, was adopted in 2009. It outlines how the Board of County Commissioners and the Chester County Planning Commission plan to address growth management and preservation strategies in collaboration with public, private and corporate citizens.

Central Chester County Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation Plan - The Central Chester County Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation Plan serves as a blueprint for transforming seven municipalities in the heart of Chester County into communities that support and encourage walking, bicycling, and public transportation.

Stewardship Report for Applebrook and East Goshen Township Parks – The Natural Lands Trust developed this report in 2010 with two main goals:

1. To maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for passive (Applebrook Park)

- and active (East Goshen Township Park) recreation; and
2. To protect and enhance native plant communities to support resident and migratory wildlife.

Accomplishments Since Adoption of 1993 Plan

In the last 20 years, East Goshen Township has:

- Acquired and developed Applebrook Park as a nature-based park through a public/private partnership and developed a stewardship plan for it;
- Worked with the Willistown Conservancy to acquire and create the Ashbridge Preserve;
- Supported Chester County's Planning Commission in the development of the **Central Chester County Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation Plan** including the designating Paoli Pike as a high priority bicycle path;
- Implemented major conservation endeavors including the collaboration with the Natural Lands Trust in the development of stewardship plans, increase of naturalized areas for resource conservation and habitat protection, invasive species removal, reforestation programs, and stream restoration;
- Established a state-of-the-art Public Works headquarters in the former Genuardi's grocery store building;
- Fostered the skill and expertise development of township maintenance staff via training resulting in the certification of three maintenance workers as Certified Playground Safety Inspectors; and
- Collaborated with a group of citizens in the establishment of the Friends of East Goshen, private non-profit organization with a mission of raising funds for the betterment of East Goshen Township and the community at large.

Benefits of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

- Preserves the scenic beauty of the community
- Protects the environment and natural resources
- Helps to create a sense of community
- Improves health and fitness
- Increases property values
- Deters crime and substance abuse
- Establishes strong family bonds, the foundation of our society
- Attracts and retains businesses and residents
- Connects the mind, body and spirit of people leading active lifestyles

Key Challenges and Opportunities

The assessment of the parks, recreation, and open space system indicates that East Goshen Township has a system of high quality parks and associated recreation programs carved into a setting with tremendous scenic beauty and important natural resources, some globally significant. To maintain this high quality system in the future, East Goshen Township will need to:

- Protect the remaining open space.
- Maintain and strengthen its current parks and recreation facilities.
- Respond to emerging trends and changing priorities including growing the recreation programs, events, and partnerships.
- Continue to focus on premier customer service and community engagement.
- Strengthen the stewardship of natural and cultural resources including the expansion of educational and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the benefits of effective natural resource management.
- Expand the greening of the park system.
- Adapt to changing demographic characteristics.
- Ensure operational sustainability through a revenue strategy that includes continued public investment and the generation of revenues from non-tax sources.

The Township's philosophy of providing exceptional public service rooted sound financial management serves as a strong foundation for this Plan Update.

Values, Vision, and Mission

The following values, vision, and mission were identified and developed through the public engagement process.

Values

As the qualities valued by the community of East Goshen Township, the core values are embodied in the mission, vision, and recommendations for parks, recreation, and open space. All policies and actions should be rooted in the core values.

Community Character and Scenic Beauty – Although it is a suburban community that is nearly fully developed, East Goshen Township's agrarian roots and scenic character are the essence of this community.

Stewardship – Forests, streams, wildlife, and clean water, and air must be conserved.

Quality of Life – The distinctive way of life here needs to be preserved and protected to ensure that it remains a tranquil community rooted in the principles of smart growth.

Sustainability – Making the best use of all resources in ways that steward the environment, respect human and financial capacity, and provide a legacy for future generations is vital.

Health and Fun – The health and wellness of citizens of all ages is paramount. Recreation fosters active healthy lifestyles through facilities, programs, and services that benefit individuals and the community. Having lots of things to do is a powerful economic driver that attracts businesses who want to provide a desirable quality of life for their workforces.

Thriving Economy - Parks, recreation and open space are an important asset to the Township and its Commerce Committee. Parks and recreation helps to attract and retain businesses, affluent retirees, and knowledge workers.

Vision

East Goshen Township's parks and recreation system enriches the community through the conservation of natural resources, the preservation of our scenic beauty, and recreation opportunities that foster health, fun, life-long learning, and a sense of community.

Mission

The mission of the East Goshen Township's Parks and Recreation is to enhance the quality of life in our community by delivering excellent customer service; maintaining high quality parks, trails and green spaces; and balancing the need for conservation with the demand for recreation through the provision of excellent and diverse experiences in public spaces.

Operating Framework

East Goshen Township operates in an environment with a can-do attitude. The management and staff strive through excellent public service through:

- Teamwork to get the job done, whatever it takes.
- Embracing change for growth and seizing opportunities.
- Imagination and ideas translated into new and improved programs, services and facilities.
- Objectivity in making difficult decisions via a positive approach.

- Excellence in all aspects of public service, operations and fiscal management.

Community Context

East Goshen Township is a 10.1 square mile community in central Chester County. About 20 miles from downtown Philadelphia, East Goshen is nearly fully developed having changed from a rural area to a suburban environment since the 1960's. After 1987, prosperous commercial and light industrial development emerged along the Route 3 corridor. The reminders of the agricultural roots, historic features, and natural areas are prominently scattered throughout the community. Among these are East Goshen Township's two major parks that straddle Paoli Pike: East Goshen Community Park and Applebrook Park. These parks serve as a major gateway to the community and establish the tone that East Goshen Township treasures its natural features.

Demographics

East Goshen had a population of 18,026 on the 2010 United States census. This was an increase of 7.1 percent since 2000 when the population was 16,824. Population projections from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission estimate a population of about 21,130 by 2030. For parks and recreation planning purposes the following demographic characteristics are important:

- Although the Township is nearly fully developed, the population is expected to increase by another 3,100 people. Planning for additional facilities and services for this increase of 17 percent is important.
- About 92.6 percent of the population is Caucasian indicating some diversification with nearly eight percent minority primarily African American and Asian, an increase of 1.4 percent since 2000.
- About 61 percent of East Goshen's 7,870 households are family households.
- Thirty-eight (38%) percent of the households have adults age 65 years and older while only 21 percent of the households have children under 18. Hershey's Mill, a gated residential age-restricted community for people age 55 and older, is a major contributor to the over 55 cohort in the township. It has 1,700 residential units.
- Median age in East Goshen is 47.3 years compared with 41.5 in 2000. It is 39.4 years in Chester County.
- Most of East Goshen Township's population lives south of _____.
- Residents are well educated with over 25 years of age being high school graduates including 26 percent with bachelor's degrees and 22 percent with graduate degrees.

- The median housing value of \$397,400 is higher than Chester County's median value of \$329,700 which is more than double that of Pennsylvania overall.
- While the median housing value is higher than that of Chester County, median and mean household incomes are lower. The median household income in East Goshen is \$76,400 and in Chester County, \$86,184. The mean household income in East Goshen is \$104,419 compared with that of Chester County at \$113,161. The per capita income of \$47,819 in East Goshen is higher than Chester County's.
- A perspective on comparisons with Chester County: Chester County is the most affluent of Pennsylvania's 67 counties and ranks in the top 40 counties nationwide in wealth.

Community Engagement

Citizen involvement is the hallmark of this plan. It will continue to play a vital role in the implementation of the recommendations. Elected and appointed officials came together with citizens in a public conversation about how to improve the community through parks, recreation, and open space. The process included a Plan Advisory Committee, an online public opinion questionnaire, focus groups, key person interviews, and public meetings.

Throughout the public participation process, it was evident that the residents have extraordinary community pride and that the parks, recreation, and open space have a lot to do with that. In fact, an oft-repeated message of many residents was that they moved to East Goshen Township because of the parks and recreation opportunities available. Residents expressed their vision for East Goshen that embraces a green and connected community, conservation of natural resources, year-round recreation, safe places to walk and bike, and recreation opportunities for people of all ages and interests. Residents want to take care of what we have, preserve the Township's scenic beauty, and do whatever possible to protect the remaining open space.

Plan Advisory Committee

The Plan Advisory Committee included key stakeholders representing community interests that included the Township Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Commission, Open Space Plan Task Force, Planning Commission, Conservancy Board, Historical Commission, Commerce Commission, senior adults, environmentalists, sports, township planning, parks and recreation advocates, and the general citizenry. The Committee expressed the desire to establish a balanced, pragmatic, and achievable plan that would enhance the quality of life in East Goshen Township.

Public Meetings

More than 35 people participated in the first of two public meetings about parks, recreation, and open space. In the first meeting, the consulting team presented information about the parks and recreation plan, findings from fieldwork in the Township, and the findings from the public participation process to date. The citizens' discussion focused to preserve the scenic rural, character; improving existing facilities, and trails.

The participants also completed an exercise to define important considerations to address in the parks, recreation, and open space plan. The top items named were

A second public meeting will be held in _____ 2014. The Board of Supervisors public meeting in _____ 2014 will include consideration of the plan for adoption as an agenda item.

Interviews

The planning team contacted more than _____ individuals regarding parks, recreation, trails, open space, conservation, trails and partnerships. These contacts included community organizations, citizens with identified interests, people who asked to be interviewed, schools, business people, private non-profit organizations, regional recreation, park and trail groups, township management, elected and appointed officials, and recreation based organizations. Findings of interviews were specific to individual interests and perspectives and mirrored the results of other segments of the public participation process.

Online Public Opinion Questionnaire

Underway and will be reported in future revised document.

Trends

Trends represent underlying forces, basic human needs, attitudes, and aspirations. They help people to understand what is happening and why, and prepare for what is yet to come. Trends identify emerging currents or forces gaining momentum in the community. Monitoring the pulse of culture as it shifts will enable East Goshen Township to ensure that municipal services and facilities are relevant to citizens now and in the future. Trends include the following:

- People are living longer as healthy, well-educated individuals who are engaged in a variety of active healthy living pursuits.
- A growing number of households with two wage earners working requiring child care and support services. Anecdotal information revealed that many households also have stay-at-home parents. Providing recreational services to serve these groups would be important.

- Opportunities for recreation that people can undertake at their own discretion are becoming more important. Examples include walking, bicycling, exercising, experiencing nature and socializing with family and friends.
- Trails are the most popular type of recreation facility. They receive the most use by broad segments of the population.
- Childhood obesity threatens the health of our young people now and their future potential.
- Currently, less than half of youths meet the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans* recommendation of at least 60 minutes of daily moderate-to-vigorous physical activity. This increases youths' health risks and can jeopardize their well-being throughout their lives. Physical activity is also critical to children's cognitive development and academic success.
- Studies of senior citizens find that more than a fifth of older people felt lonely and isolated all the time, and the feeling was often worsened at the weekend or night-time. Those who said they were lonely had a 14 per cent greater risk of dying. That figure is twice the risk associated with obesity among those surveyed.
- Recreation is widely recognized in public health as a key player in fostering active healthy living through close to home recreation facilities and services. This is vital in preventing disease.
- Conservation of open space and natural resources is a public priority.
- People desire a sense of community that they often find in parks, especially in a suburban community such as East Goshen with no town center.
- There is widespread recognition that local government cannot provide parks and recreation to the degree desired by the public completely on its own. Partnerships are essential to make the most use of limited resources as well as to generate the level of stewardship needed for the conservation of important natural and cultural resources.

Findings, Themes, and Prioritization

Overall, the people who live, work and play in East Goshen Township believe that parks, recreation, and open space are important to this community and that the Township does a fine job in providing a premiere system of facilities and recreation programs and services. The assessment of parks, recreation facilities, open space, programs and services, and operations and financing bears this out. Regarded as a premier parks and recreation system throughout the region, the community's scenic beauty and the high quality of township parks and recreation services is the direct result of the leadership, investment, and vision of community leaders, an involved citizenry, and judicious township management.

This **Plan Update** calls upon elected and appointed officials in partnership with community organizations, the citizenry, and private enterprise to continue shaping East Goshen Township's parks, recreation, and open space over the next ten years. Building upon the Township's great success in establishing a premiere parks and recreation system, the strategy of this Plan Update is to focus on six key themes that reflect public sentiment and opportunities for creating a legacy of parks and recreation to benefit citizens today and for many generations yet to come:

Theme 1: Taking care of and improving our premier parks and recreation system.

Theme 2: Protecting our township's scenic beauty, open space, and natural resources.

Theme 3: Strategically provide recreation opportunities, programs, and services to engage citizens in active healthy living, experiencing nature, and enjoying the community.

Theme 4: Continue to provide operational excellence and financial sustainability for the parks, recreation, and open space system through a mix of public and private support.

The following chapters provide the overview, vision and recommendations for each of the four themes. In accordance with the **East Goshen Township Comprehensive Plan**, the **Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan** will follow a three-tiered approach for recommendations prioritizing actions as follows:

- Tier 1 - Immediate Priority. These are actions of importance to the community and for which the Township is willing to devote staff time and resources to see them implemented within two years.
- Tier 2 – Moderate Priority. These are also actions of importance but that may not quite reach the level of importance as projects in Tier 1 or because they may lack the full resources or support required for successful implementation.
- Tier 3 – Long-Term Priority. These actions have support from the key stakeholders but are seen as more visionary or speculative in nature. Their priorities could change if funding or partners emerged or if circumstances enabled the Township to devote staff time to the effort.

While the Comprehensive Plan is more visionary, the parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update drills down further into specific actions identifying responsible parties, potential costs, and revenue sources.

Taking Care of and Improving Our Parks and Recreation System

Introduction to the Issue

The maintenance and improvement of East Goshen Township's parks and recreation facilities is a consistent theme of both citizens and municipal officials. Over the life time of a public park, about 75 percent of its costs are in operations and maintenance. While it is relatively easier to obtain capital improvement funds and the opening of new facilities is popular, it is ever more difficult to get the financial support for the ongoing maintenance of the parks and recreation facilities.

Taking care of parks and recreation facilities includes a wide range of tasks including maintenance, safety measures, sports turf maintenance, natural resource management, event preparation, security, programming, scheduling, monitoring trends and visitation, and revitalizing them to meet changing needs and emerging opportunities.

Validation of the Issue

The assessment of the East Goshen parks and recreation system addressed five factors: the amount of parkland, its configuration, location, recreation facility types and the quality of the parks and facilities.

Amount of Park Land - East Goshen Township has 22 parks and open spaces totaling 478.6 acres. East Goshen Township Park and Applebrook Park are the main parks of the Township and actually serve as regional facilities by attracting park visitors from other communities in Chester County. With East Goshen Township as a part owner and its location in the Township, the Ashbridge Reserve serves as a de facto township nature based park. Two parks, Milltown Park and Mill Creek Softball field provide recreational opportunities within these neighborhoods. The other 17 sites serve as nature parks that provide residents with opportunities to experience nature, walking, dog-walking, and de-stressing through relaxation outdoors.

The Township classifies the parks primarily based upon use according to the terms “active and passive recreation” rooted in the **1993 Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan**. This plan recommended a minimum standard of 10.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in accordance with the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) standards in place then. However, the NRPA has since changed these standards recommending instead that each community develop its own level of service for the amount and type of parkland that is necessary to meet community needs. Since the old standard was developed, a host of factors merged that invalidates its premises. This includes the emergence of soccer and lacrosse as major sports, the dramatic increase in participation in most sports by females and by players at older and younger ages, the emergence of walking and bicycling as a top recreational and fitness activities, and the recognition of the importance of engaging people of all ages in nature, environmental education and fitness in the great outdoors. While East Goshen Township can retain its preferred uses of specific parks for active and passive recreation according to the definitions shown in the box, the Township can also re-classify its parks and open spaces to recognize that all of these

What Is Active and Passive Recreation?

Active Recreation activities are those engaged in for the purpose of relaxation, health and wellbeing or enjoyment with the primary activity requiring physical exertion, and the primary focus on human activity.

Passive Recreation includes outdoor activities that create opportunities for independence, closeness to nature, and a high degree of interaction with the natural environment and which require no organization, rules of play, facilities, or the installation of equipment, other than those which may be necessary to protect the natural environment.

public lands serve community recreation needs despite different kinds of uses on different sites. As a whole, they comprise East Goshen Township’s parks, recreation, and open space system. Using this approach, East Goshen Township provides a level of service of 30 acres per thousand residents.

Location of Parks – Parks and recreation facilities are fairly well distributed in East Goshen Township. The exception is the area south of Strassburg Road to the Barley Road border of the Township.

Types of Recreation Facilities – The Township offers a wide variety of recreation facilities including game courts, ballfields, pavilions and gazebos, playgrounds, walking paths, special events spaces, an amphitheater, natural areas, and support facilities including restrooms and parking lots. Facilities not available include dedicated indoor recreation space, a skatepark, bicycle paths connecting community destinations, and a system-wide park signage system.

Quality of Parks and Recreation Facilities – East Goshen Township Park and Applebrook Park are updated and upgraded on an as needed basis. However, master plans should be prepared to provide a long-term vision for the two parks. Master plans would result in conceptual designs to act as a guide for final designs and construction documents. They would also assess the existing and potential future needs based on population data, age of the existing facilities, updated

regulations, trends, and other information. Master plans would also incorporate rounds of public input. Township wide public input would be very valuable to provide recommendations for the parks in general, while smaller groups would be sought out for input regarding each focal area of the parks, such as a playground or “tween hub”. Master planning would also include an ecological inventory of natural features on the sites, and in the context of larger ecological systems such as watersheds and woodlands. Master planning would address park system wide issues such as coordination and consistency of signage as well as site specific issues including landscaping and management of stormwater. Park visitors and citizens providing input to the planning process indicated that while East Goshen Township Park is wonderful, it is beginning to show its age, wear and tear. The assessment found that both East Goshen Township and Applebrook Parks are beloved community treasures; they still have the potential to become facilities that set the standard for excellence in public recreation through effective planning, creative design, and public involvement.

Vision for the Future

East Goshen Township envisions that its parks and recreation system will continue to set the standard of excellence in southeastern Pennsylvania. It will incorporate a balance of parks, recreation, and natural areas to provide both opportunities for the residents to experience nature close to home as well as to enjoy active recreational pursuits.

Implementation Strategy

The implementation strategy is to address East Goshen Township’s parks, recreation facilities and open space as a system rather than as individual sites by planning and improving the facilities holistically. Designating park planning as an official township function, connecting parks to township destinations via safe walking and bicycling paths, and developing a unified signage system will bring the whole system up to the prominence of East Goshen Township Park and Applebrook Park. Adopting a strategic approach to park planning will help the Township to anticipate trends, identify changing community needs and exemplary examples and models elsewhere to translate here in the community parks, and seize opportunities that could otherwise go untapped.

In the meantime, this plan presents the following series of recommended improvements for Applebrook Park, East Goshen Township Park, and (Placeholder pending the open space field work). East Goshen Township Park and Applebrook Park are almost “all right”. The implementation strategy is to plan improvements mainly to “tweak” the current facilities as well a few major improvements to deal with the wear and tear and community needs identified by park visitors.

Implementation Steps

In accordance with the East Goshen Township Comprehensive Plan, the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan will follow the three-tiered approach for actions and prioritization described in Chapter 1.

Policy: Maximize parks and recreation facilities as community destinations cost effectively and in a way that generates community pride and contributes to economic development.			
Tier/Time Frame	Strategy	Action Steps/Responsible Party	Resources/Costs
System-wide Actions			
1 - 2014/15	Revise parkland standards for the parks and recreation system.	Set standard as 30 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Use this standard in establishing a Mandatory dedication of parkland Ordinance. Who: Board of Supervisors. Retain consultant to prepare the ordinance. Review by Township Solicitor.	Ordinance preparation and review: \$5,000. Administrative time and Board of Supervisors action. Recoup investment by securing parkland or fees-in-; lieu of dedication.
1 - 2014/15	Develop a signage system that includes park name, directions, rules & regulations, interpretation, way finding, information, facility names and identifiers.	Issue an RFP to solicit signage development professionals. Implement the signage recommendations over time as improvements are made to parks. Who: Recreation Director.	\$10,000 - \$20,000.
1 - 2014/15	Establish park planning as an official township function.	Designate the Recreation Director as the person in charge of park planning. Who: Board of Supervisors adopt the policy and the Township Manager carries it out in personnel management duties.	Staff time.
2 - 2016 – 2018	Establish areas in parks for environmental education, interpretation, and stewardship.	Work with the Conservancy Board to undertake this effort. Who: Recreation Director.	Initial investment may be offset by reductions in maintenance costs.
3 - 2019 – 2023+	Incorporate public art in the parks.	Create a community advisory group to lead this effort. Consider contacting art institutions and colleges in the Philadelphia area to get started. Who: Recreation Director.	Fundraising, grants and donations. Director's time.
East Goshen Township Park			
Natural Resource Management and Stewardship			
1 - 2014/15	Create rain gardens in areas recommended in this plan.	Who: Public Works Director.	Staff time and \$_____ materials.
2 - 2016 - 2018	Undertake a stormwater management study in the parks.	Issue an RFP to solicit experts in the use of parks to address stormwater. Who: Public Works Director in collaboration with Recreation Director.	\$_____ - _____.
2 - 2016 –	Implement the stormwater management plan	Actions to be determined	TBD
			2 - 16

2018+	recommendations.	Who: Public Works Director in collaboration with Recreation Director.	
2 - 2016 - 2018	Undertake a stormwater management study in the parks.	Issue an RFP to solicit experts in the use of parks to address stormwater. Who: Public Works Director in collaboration with Recreation Director.	\$_____ - _____.
2 - 2016 - 2018+	Conduct a stewardship assessment for the Serpentine Outcrops, Tributaries, and Natural Areas.	Work with the Natural Lands Trust in developing this assessment as a follow up to their earlier stewardship work. Who: Public Works Director in collaboration with Recreation Director.	TBD
Playground Hub			
1 - 2014 - 2015	Establish a citizens advisory committee to undertake the development of a plan to revitalize the playground as a park hub.	Research outstanding play areas rooted in play theory and community input. Issue an RFP to professionals with expertise in alternative playground design. Develop a master plan for this hub including equipment, sand and water play, shade, natural play features, seating, restrooms and water lines. Who: Recreation Director is the lead. Public Works Director provides assistance.	\$30,000 - \$40,000
2 - 2016 - 2018+	Implement the master plan for the play area park hub.	Continue to involve the advisory group and the community in the development of the play area. Who: Recreation Director in collaboration with the Public Works Director.	\$250,000 – \$500,000
Tween/Teen Hub			
3 - 2019 – 2023+	Establish a tween/teen advisory committee to plan for a tween/teen hub in the park.	Determine the implementation strategy Who: Recreation Director.	TBD. Potential sources include grants, sponsorships and township support.
Ballfields			
1 - 2014/15	Repair the t-ball area.	Determine plan for fixing the drainage problem. Who: Public Works Director.	Staff time, equipment, and \$_____ materials.
1 - 2014/15	Upgrade park equipment to meet safety standards where needed.	Retrofit bleachers with guardrails to prevent falls. Who: Public Works Director.	TBD.
3 - 2019 – 2023+	Provide shade near ballfields.	Develop and implement a planting plan for increasing shade around the ballfields. Who: Recreation Director with support from Public Works Director.	TBD
Game Courts			
1 - 2014/15	Retrofit tennis courts with short courts to teach children the game and create future generations of tennis players.	Use USTA guidelines. Who: Public Works Director for the physical improvements. Recreation Director for pursuing grants and developing the program and promotion	\$_____ per court.
1 - 2014/15	Assess the key fob system to determine if it can be improved to facilitate more tennis play by residents.	Solicit input from community including tennis players. Who: Recreation Director as facilitator with Park & Recreation Commission	
2 - 17			

		advising Board of Supervisors to set policy.	
2 – 2016 - 2018	Add landscaped backdrop along end lines of the courts to increase ball visibility for the players.	Develop a planting plan and carry it out. Who: Recreation Director with support from Public Works Director.	\$ _____
2 – 2016 - 2018	Create seating area in the hillside by the basketball courts for spectators and players.	Retain a landscape architect to design the seating area. Do the work with township work force. Who: Recreation Director with assistance from Public Works Director	TBD
2 – 2016 - 2018	Assess the use of the sand volleyball area.	Determine the use frequency, reasons for lack of use, potential improvements or dismantling. Solicit public input. Who: Recreation Director on planning and design with support from Public Works Director on physical improvements.	TBD.
Farmers' Market			
1 - 2014/15	Determine how the Farmers' Market area could be improved to facilitate vendor parking and closure due to sudden storms.	Meet with the vendors to determine issues, opportunities and ideas for enhancing the market. Retain a landscape architect for a potential re-design of the area. Who: Recreation Director as lead.	TBD
Fitness Area			
2 – 2016 - 2018	Assess the use of the fitness area and consider upgrading it with more modern equipment used in Fitness Zones. Consider relocating it near the play area to facilitate family fitness.	Determine the use frequency, reasons for lack of use, and potential improvements. Solicit public input. Who: Recreation Director on planning and design with support from Public Works Director on physical improvements.	\$25,000 - \$50,000
Applebrook Park			
1 - 2014/15	Add toilet facilities. These can range from screened porta-potties to restrooms. Consider use of "green" facilities.	Who: Recreation Director in planning in collaboration with Public works Director.	Range from rental fees to \$80,000.
1 - 2014/15	Include Applebrook Park in the stewardship studies and the planning of the parks & recreation signage system.	Who: Recreation Director	Staff time and included in price of stewardship studies.
2 – 2016 - 2018	Provide parking off Hibbard Lane.	Consider asking the owners of the private lots near Hibbard Lane to share parking facilities for trail visitors. As an alternative develop a parking lot here. Who: Recreation Director in planning and outreach.	TBD
Community Connections			
1 - 2014/15	Implement the recommendations of the Central Chester County Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation Plan.	Hire a transportation planning engineer with experience in bicycle trail design, construction and funding to develop the master plan and construction documents. Establish a multi-use trail along Paoli Pike and bicycle boulevards along low	\$ _____ to develop the plan and construction documents. \$ _____ cost of trail development.
2 - 18			

		volume streets. Who: Zoning Officer	
1 - 2014/15	Strive to create a solution to the need to provide for the safe crossing of Paoli Pike by park visitors between these two parks.	Since the Township has explored alternatives in the past, consider retaining a transportation planning firm skilled and experienced in working with PennDOT. Consider this issue in the planning of the Paoli Pike Bicycle Trail design and construction documents. Who: Township Manager	TBD
1 - 2014/15	Work with the emerging Bow Tree Trail Group in the development of a trail north of Bow Tree.	Provide assistance to the group in the planning and development of the pathway. Who: Township Manager	Staff time. Costs of the pathway development TBD.
3 – 2019- 2023	Develop a township bicycle plan.	Work with Chester County in the development of a township-wide bicycle trail plan. Seek a grant to develop the plan. Who: Zoning Officer	\$_____ to develop the plan. \$_____ cost of trail development.

Protecting Our Township's Open Space, Scenic Beauty and Natural Resources

Introduction to the Issue

The public indicated throughout the planning process that the township's scenic beauty and open space were among the chief reasons that made them happy to live in East Goshen Township. The public engagement process found that preservation of open space is paramount to the residents. The rural scenic beauty and natural features are defining characteristics of East Goshen Township.

Validation of the Issue

East Goshen Township is nearly fully developed. Population projections indicate that another 3,104 could move into the Township by 2030. That translates into about 1,240 residential units. The number of large (more than 25 acres) undeveloped parcels in East Goshen Township is extremely limited. The Township has worked to avoid owning land by instituting land use planning measures that require Homeowner's Associations to own and maintain the open spaces associated with developments. Prior to adopting this strategy, the Township wound up owning nearly 400 acres of open space that the Public Works Department has to maintain, including retention basins that are in the open spaces. Consequently, while East Goshen Township would like to protect the remaining open space, they do not want to own or maintain any more open space. Given the desirability of East Goshen Township as a great place in which to live, it is anticipated that the Township only has a short window of opportunity left until the remaining open space is gone for development.

Vision for the Future

East Goshen Township envisions that it will retain its scenic beauty, natural features, and open space that characterize the way of life here that the residents value.

Implementation Strategy

The implementation strategy is protect the open space, natural resources and scenic beauty is a three pronged approach:

- Collaboration with land trusts and willing landowners to establish conservation easements on the remaining open space. In this way, landowners get to retain the right to their land and obtain remuneration for conserving their property.
- Education of key stakeholders, community organizations, and the general citizenry that natural resource management is crucial and that every property owner is a land steward.
- Effective stewardship of natural resources as a public private partnership.

Implementation Steps

In accordance with the **East Goshen Township Comprehensive Plan**, the **Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan** will follow the three-tiered approach for actions and prioritization described in Chapter 1.

Policy: Ensure that East Goshen Township retains its scenic beauty, protects its natural resources, and conserves the remaining open space through sound planning, collaboration, management, decision-making, and investment.

Tier/Time Frame	Strategy	Action Steps/Responsible Party	Resources/Costs
Open Space			
1 - 2014/15	Work with the Natural Lands Trust in developing a strategy to approach willing landowners about the potential to conserve their properties.	The Township will provide mapping and information necessary from NTL staff to develop a framework for conserving the remaining open space parcels. Who: Board of Supervisors regarding policy with support from the Township Manager and Zoning Officer on implementing the policy regarding open space conservation measures. . And. Retain consultant to prepare the ordinance. Review by Township Solicitor.	Volunteer services from NLT for strategy and outreach development. Potential fees for tasks such as appraisals and surveys if willing landowners step forward to conserve their land.
1 - 2014/15	Determine sources of funding for open space conservation.	Work with NLT, Chester County, DVRPC and PA DCNR and DCED in identifying funding sources. Determine the level of	TBD

DRAFT
EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE TASK FORCE COMMITTEE
January 28, 2014

Present

Dan Daley, Chairman and Committee members: Chris Reardon, Janet Emanuel, Ginnie Newlin, Joe Zulli and Don Zembruski were present. Also in attendance were Mark Gordon, Anne Toole, Jason Lang, and Rick Trailes from Natural Lands and Trust.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Dan Daley. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and there was a moment of silence for our military troops.

December 19, 2013 Minutes

Making a correction in the demographics section the minutes were approved.

Report on Parks and Open Space

Ann Toole gave a report on the Township Park and Open Space. She said after reviewing the questionnaires she received from our residents our parks and open space were graded as very good to excellent. Mr. Gordon said that there are about eight thousand households in East Goshen Township. Mr. Zulli asked if there were and deficiencies. Ms. Toole said that she received a few questionnaires asking that the bathrooms be maintained and to have new playground equipment on the tot lot. She said that Township residents wanted what was left of open space preserved.

Rick Trailes report on the Township Park

Mr. Trailes gave a presentation on the East Goshen Township Park. He said that the soccer fields and the football fields were in good shape. He said that the bleachers need backs on them. He had a question on the tennis keys. He was told that a yearly fee for a resident is \$30.00 and non-residents were \$50.00. The fees that were collected help maintained the courts and locks were put on the courts to give the courts protection from skate boards and other outdoor equipment. He said that the tennis courts were in good shape. The committee looked at pictures of the park and ideas that came up were:

- 1) Where would be a good place to put the exercise equipment
- 2) Should the tot lot playground equipment divided into age groups; 2-5 years of age and over 6 years of age.
- 3) The committee looked at the idea of keeping the t-ball fields near the tot lot or moving the closer to the ball fields.
- 4) The committee looked at the pictures and discussed the ideas of where the gazebos should be placed in the park. Mr. Daley said the small gazebo was at a very good location in the park and it provided shade for the people who had children playing on the ball fields.

Mr. Trailes reported that there were various signs at the park which were in different sizes and colors and he thought it should be uniform. He also showed pictures of drainage problems. He said that he was at the park on a cold day and the water had frozen in certain areas. He stated that he and Ann Toole will review the pictures with Mark Miller our Public Works Director.

Mr. Trailes presented the idea that planting trees and meadow grasses would reduce mowing at the park.

There will be an open house scheduled for Thursday, January 30, 2014 and it will be posted on our website with a questionnaire and it will also go out on constant contact. The next scheduled meeting will be held on February 20, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted

Joanne Morgan
Receptionist/Secretary