

Park Commission
Agenda
Thursday, March 4, 2021
7:00 PM

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Ask if anyone is recording the meeting
- D. Approval of Minutes from the February 4, 2021 meeting.
- E. Chairman's Report

- F. New Business
 - 1. Consider – "OktoberFEST" Food Truck Festival
 - 2. Consider - Volunteer of the Year program
 - 3. Discussion – COVID-19 & our Parks – survey results

- G. Old Business
 - 1. Discussion – Township Egg Hunt logistics
 - 2. Update – Eagle Scout Project, bocce court

- H. Recreation Director Report
 - 1. Upcoming events
 - a. Park updates - 2021 Programming
 - b. Feb 9 – East HS Environmental Club zoom with EGT kids
 - c. Township Egg Hunt, Saturday April 3
 - d. Yard Sale, May 8
 - 2. Park Maintenance Report

- I. Liaison reports
- J. Any Other Matter
- K. Public Opinion
- L. Adjournment

DRAFT
EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
Park & Recreation Commission Meeting
February 4, 2021

The regular meeting of the East Goshen Township Park and Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, February 4, 2021. Because of the restrictions due to COVID-19, the meeting was held via Zoom virtual conferencing. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Deborah Snyder at 7:00 pm. Dan will join later. Commission members present are highlighted:

Daniel Leicht, Chairman
Deborah Snyder, Vice Chairman
Karen Battavio – new member
Jessica Bottaro – new member
Ann Marie Fletcher-Moore
Peter Knupp
Doug Staffelbach – new member
Kishor Thakarar
Eric Tobin
Joseph Zulli

Others present were:

Jason Lang, Director of Recreation
John Hertzog, Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deb led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deb asked for a moment of silence to remember our military and veterans, police and first responders.

Deb asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. There was no response

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of the January 7, 2021 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. Deb mentioned that she spoke with Christine Taraborelli and her son has been selected for trial studies at U of Penn.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Volunteer of the Year Program - Jason wants to formalize a Volunteer of the Year Program with standards. Anyone interested in helping with the standards please let him know. About 4 or 5 years ago Deb started a card club for senior citizens. It went from once a month to several days a week. He presented her with a certificate of appreciation for all she did with this program. He wants to recognize people who volunteer at events and select one as the volunteer of the year. Karen asked how many are involved. Jason commented that the formal volunteers that help with the summer camp is about 15. For events about 50-60. For the summer camp staff he does a CIT (Counselor in Training), staff rookie and camp staff MVP. Eric suggested making some announcements at the events. Jason will email a list of ideas.

2. Carnival of Ruin – This is being presented by the Theater group from West Chester University. It is a public education project about sustainability. All of the materials are recyclable. He is partnering with the WCU Statistics Department. Attendees will do a survey when they arrive and one after the show to see what they got from it. This is scheduled for May 29.

3. Egg Hunt – This is planned for April 3rd, the Saturday before Easter. There are usually 1,000+ people. They will still have to mask, social distance, etc. He will move it to the baseball fields. The bunny will be on a fire truck where the kids can say hi but can't sit on his lap. There will be 4 age groups. He will allocate 30 minutes for each group to get their eggs and 30 minutes between each group to set up. There will only be 100 kids per time slot. He will let the public know about the time slots and they will have to register. He will not market this on social media.

4. AAD Sun Safety Program – Jason is on the PA State Health Committee. One thing they are concerned about is putting more shade for the kids in the playgrounds. Jason wants to start the AAD Sun Safety Program. After one

year in the program we would qualify for a shade sail worth \$8,000. The one we have from Friends of East Goshen cost \$8,000. We need a local dermatologist to sponsor. Jason did reach out to a few. Several members made suggestions. Dan made a motion to start the AAD Sun Safety Program. Deb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ABC Annual Planning Meeting – Jason reported that he and Dan attended this kick-off meeting and gave a report on the parks and how COVID impacted them. All of the Board of Supervisors and members of the ABCs were very appreciative of all that the Park and Recreation Commission does.

2. 2021 Community Day – Jason made the presentation to the BOS and they agreed to have it the end of August. Under new restrictions we can have 2,500 people. He contacted the fireworks company. For the Food Truck Festival, the PRC will not make a decision until April to possibly have this event in June. He will speak to the food truck vendors who understand the restrictions on an event like this. Joe mentioned that Philadelphia has pushed back several big events until the fall. It was suggested to move it to the Pumpkin Festival. However, Jason feels it will be difficult to keep it at 2500 people. Maybe have the Pumpkin Festival in early morning and Food Truck Festival later in the evening.

3. 2021 Programming – Jason reviewed the spreadsheet he provided of programs for 2021. The Chester Co. Art Assoc. will bring artists out along the Paoli Pike Trail. No date yet. Bike safety event will include helmets, bike demonstrations with the latest bikes. Summer Camp – he is waiting to see if they can use Glen Acres Elementary School. He will have ½ day in the park (if no school) and full day in the school. He opened registration on Monday and all 70 spots were gone in 2 days. It is a high quality camp, the staff is fantastic and some of them came to the camp as kids. Parents know that because we did a program last year, we can deliver a safe camp.

4. Eagle Scout Project, Bocce Court – This court will be installed by the Veterans Pavilion. The scout did a presentation last year and started working on the design. Because of COVID he had to wait. He has a full design and has raised the money for the project. Jason and Mark Miller will meet with him. He wants to do it in the spring.

PARK MAINTENANCE

1. Jason reported that they are busy with snow removal right now. Around March 1st they start to get the fields ready. The fields usually open on March 15th.

ANY OTHER MATTER

Karen Battavio commented that as a new member she is glad to be a part of the Commission. She wasn't aware of how much you all do.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Deb moved to adjourn the meeting. Kishor seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday March 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary

Memo

To: Park and Recreation Commission
From: Jason Lang
Re: OktoberFEST
Date: February 26, 2021

Overview:

Each year, the Township hosts a Food Truck Festival. Due to COVID-19, we initially considered moving the event to June. Following an initial discussion at our February meeting, I recommend moving the food truck festival to October and rebranding it as an OktoberFEST on Oct 16, 2021.

The rationale is:

- Gives us an additional four months to be further along in public vaccinations
- Marketing – OktoberFEST events are very popular and it's a 1:1 programmatic transfer from our traditional festival.
- EGT historical tie-in: Locust Lane Brewery (LLB) (2 miles from park) has agreed to do a limited print run of an EGT labeled beer for the event. They have done this for the last few years for Sugartown and I think it would be really well received by the public. We had a meeting with LLB and the Historical Commission and the HC is very interested in making this happen. It would be a neat way to promote and publicize EGT's unique history. The actual label will be decided upon at a later date, but could be the Blacksmith Shop or one of the



Motion: I recommend moving the food truck festival to October as an OktoberFEST event on Oct 16, 2021.

Memo

To: Park and Recreation Commission
From: Jason Lang
Re: Parks and Recreation Volunteer of the Year program
Date: February 26, 2021

Overview:

Each year, the department of parks and recreation relies on volunteers to increase program offerings, support staff at summer camp and assist at our big special events. In order to celebrate our wonderful volunteers, we propose creating a formal volunteer program that includes:

1. A formal award program including:
 - a. Three-tiers of recognition
 - i. Silver: 3 events or 15 hours
 - ii. Gold: 4 events or 20 hours
 - iii. Platinum: 5 events or 25 hours
 - b. A Volunteer of the Year award
 - i. The volunteer of the year is a service award presented to an individual in the township who has consistently demonstrated the qualities of:
 1. Cooperation
 2. Reliability
 3. Flexibility
 4. Dependability
 5. Leadership
 6. This person has willing gone above and beyond his or her volunteer duties to create a positive impact in the township.
2. Recognition event
 - a. This would be an opportunity to bring recognized volunteers together to receive their certificates, celebrate the spirit of volunteering in EGT and to name the Volunteer of the Year. We would invite other Township staff and elected officials.
3. Permanent celebration at the Township Building
 - a. The Volunteer of the Year winner will be inscribed on a perpetual plaque to be hung at the Township Building. Style would be in keeping with the current Keep Egt Beautiful plaque and incoming Township service appreciation plaque.

Volunteer of the Year program benefits

- Applaud and recognize those helping EGTPR to carry out our Parks and Rec mission
- Provide young leaders with avenues to demonstrate leadership and improve their resume/college applications
- Increase the quantity of volunteers at our events and their frequency of participation.

Next steps

1. Create marketing materials and distribute among schools, community groups etc.
2. Add to Township newsletter and social media posts
3. Create database for logging volunteer information (hours/events etc.)
4. Order perpetual plaque
5. Select date/event for recognition event

Motion: I recommend moving forward with a formal Volunteer of the Year program.

COVID-19 & our Parks: Survey Overview

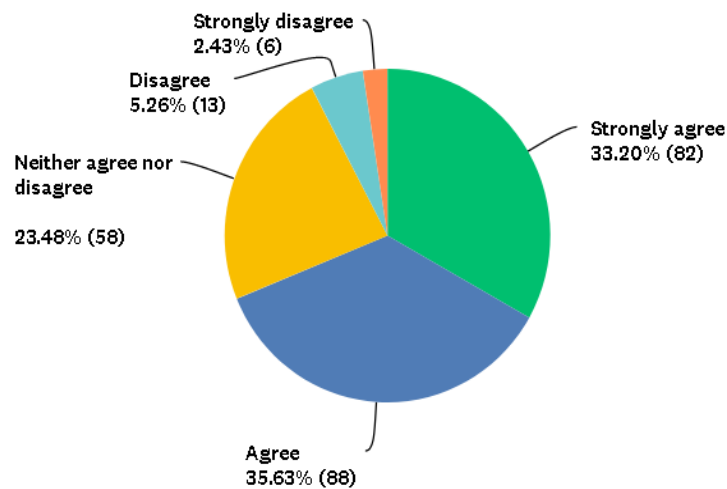
Township staff surveyed Township residents to identify how the parks supported their everyday lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was distributed via email and social media and included quantitative, qualitative and open ended questions.

Survey Dates: February 11—21, 2021

Results: 247 surveys returned

During the pandemic, the parks have been an essential part of my lifestyle

Answered: 247 Skipped: 0

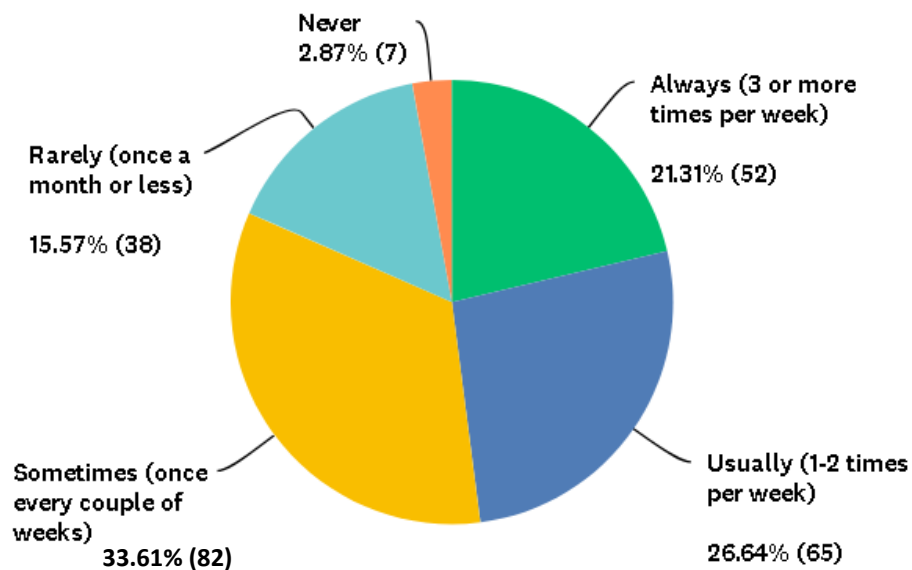


Takeaways:

- This is the question Township staff was most interested in having answered. The chief takeaway is the Township can be confident that our parks played a vital role in the every day life of our residents during the pandemic, with 68% agreeing to that statement.
- The 68% in agreement includes the 53% of residents who came to the park at least 1-2 times per week during 2020, which makes sense. But it is interesting that the other 15% is likely made up of residents coming once every couple of weeks or less (see pg 3). What we can conclude is that even for folks that may not have utilized the park as much during the pandemic as in normal years, they still saw their necessity. This is commonly known as the “national parks” theory. Most US citizens will never get to travel and visit most of our national parks, but most citizens agree having public land, open and accessible for communal use is important.

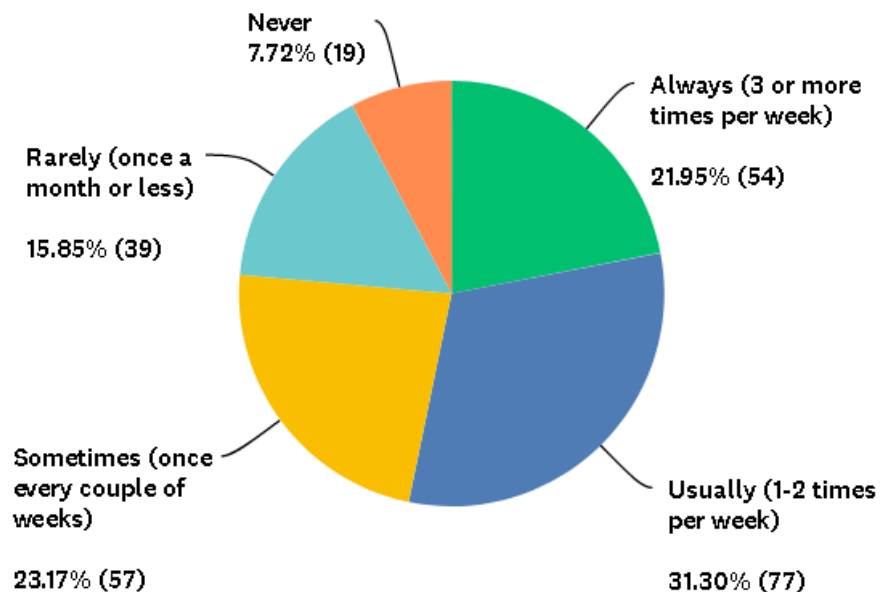
Before the pandemic started (March 2020), I visited the parks:

Answered: 244 Skipped: 3



After the pandemic started (March 2020), I visited the parks:

Answered: 246 Skipped: 1

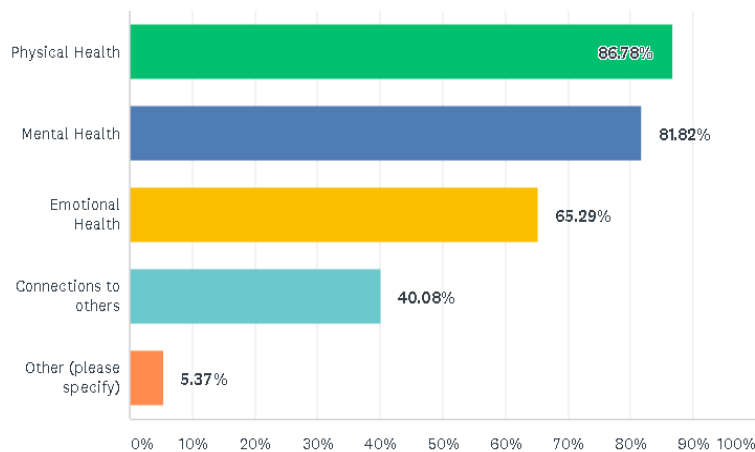


Takeaways:

- Residents who “always” came to the park continued doing so during the pandemic
- “Sometimes” park users dropped 10%; equally divided between increasing use “usually” or reducing park use “never”

Visits to the park have improved my (check all the apply):

Answered: 242 Skipped: 5

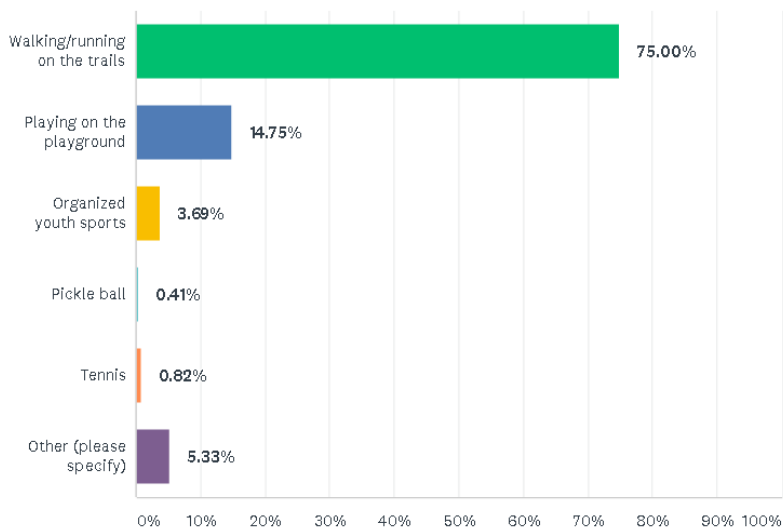


Takeaways:

- Township staff was pleasantly surprised to see the residential awareness that the parks played an important role in not only physical health, but mental and emotional health.
- Consistent park use has been shown to reduce stress, improve mood and mental functioning and promote positive interpersonal relationships. The above survey results corroborate these outcomes.

What activity did you use the parks for the most?

Answered: 244 Skipped: 3

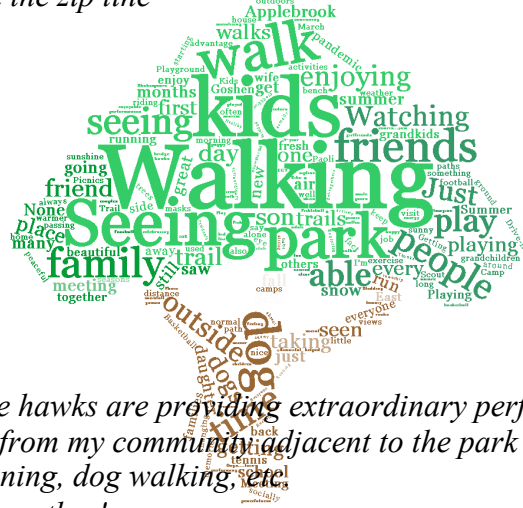


Takeaways:

- Given the closed status of many park amenities during 2020, its unsurprising that trail use was our resident's preferred activity in 2020. This is especially notable, given that walking/running are lifestyle activities and can be done across one's life spectrum.

My favorite park memory during the pandemic is...

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- 5

Any other thoughts or comments???

We love East Goshen Park!

We haven't used the bike trail yet but we are looking forward to it!!

Thanks Jason and Mark for keeping our parks beautiful ☐

THANKS !! to the EG folks who make our lives better by opening up the pathways. You are very popular in our house!

The park has been a lifesaver during the pandemic.

Keep up the amazing work. I know that it takes a lot to keep everything running and looking great. I am so proud of our East Goshen Park.

You try VERY hard.

Cant wait for spring!

East Goshen park is one of the best if not the best in the county. Thanks to Jason and other staff members.

So grateful to the works department for keeping the trails cleared. It is a gift

Thanks for your energy and enthusiasm!

People are always commenting on this play ground and coming from a good distances.

LOVE all the parks and DEFINITELY need them to keep happy:)

Our park is awesome; our parks and rec leadership is awesome. I feel so lucky! I also am glad for the chance to Thank you for plowing the park paths this winter. I don't think this was ever done before; my dog and I are truly grateful! We NEED this outlet!

Thanks for keeping the park open for us during the pandemic!



You have done an outstanding job of clearing the trails! Thank-you so much. These parks have been a life changer for me. We live in the Preserve at Applebrook and I am SO grateful for the park and trails. Thank-you!

A million thanks for the yeoman efforts in keeping trails cleared. ☺

Love East Goshen and our parks! We can walk from our neighborhood (Hunt Country). Such a blessing!

The EG Park is one of if not the best part of this community.

Thank you for all you and the team do to make our park absolutely wonderful!!

Keep up the good work Jason and Parks and Rec Commission.

Thanks for keeping such a nice park in great condition

Great job on the trails !

Love the new path from my neighborhood to the park. Can't wait for the next section to be complete so I can walk to the school and YMCA

We would love if the trail went down reservoir road

Thanks Jason:) The community appreciates all you do for us.

Going to the park was a natural way to stay connected with people safely - family, friends, and even just seeing other people outside - during an unnaturally isolating time.