East Goshen Township

Department of Parks and Recreation

# 2025 Park Usage Report

December 14th, 2025

**Report Overview:**

When it comes to understanding parks – some long standing questions have always been:

*Exactly how many people are using it? What are they doing?*

*What park facilities get the most usage? How about the least?*

This report serves to begin to answer these questions utilizing the SOPARC (System for Observing Play and Recreation in Communities) program. See the 2017 Park Usage Report for a full SOPARC methodology.

Example:

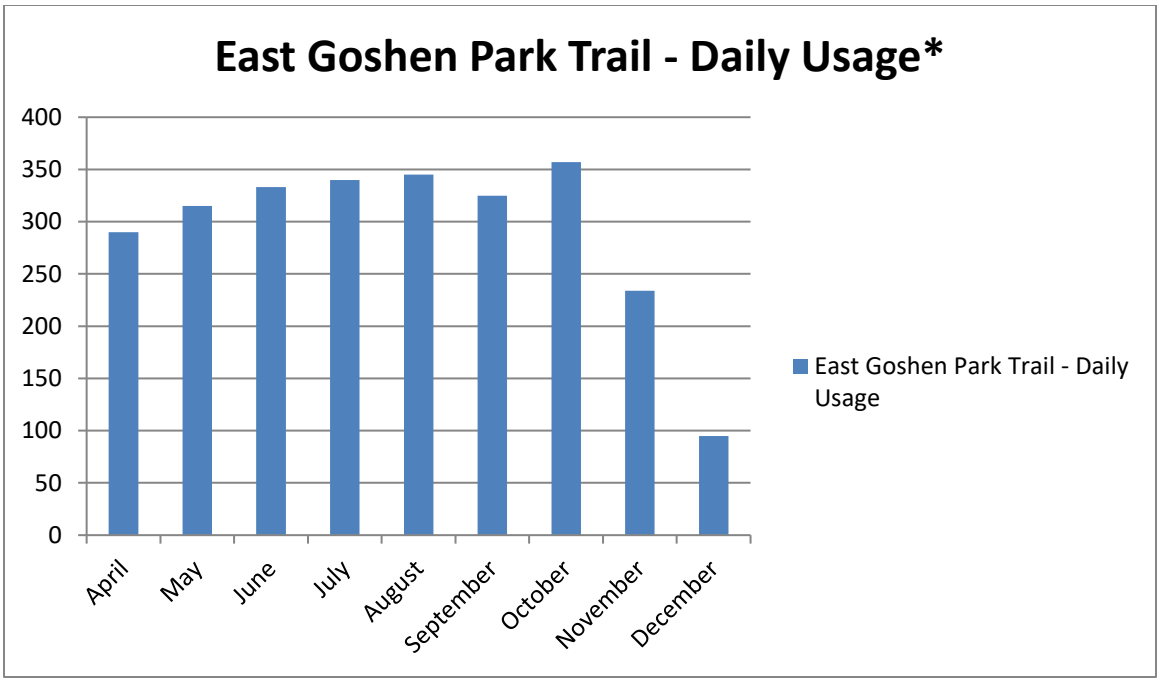
| Location: | Monday | Wednesday | Thursday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Playground | 8:30am | 8:30am | 8:30am | 8:30am |
| | 11am | 11am | 11am | 11am |
| Dates: | 2pm | 2pm | 2pm | 2pm |
| Week of April 13th | 6:30pm | 6:30pm | 6:30pm | 6:30pm |

Exact locations were identified in East Goshen and Applebrook Parks for assessment and utilized for each counting period. In 2025, these locations were:

- East Goshen Park trail
- Playground
- Pickleball Courts

Intended Outcomes:

- Understand usage and impacts of pickleball courts in their third year of operation.
- Quantify park use by facility and participant demographics for use in operational and strategic planning.
- Utilize MET equivalent to understand the relationship between park use and associated decrease in health car savings. The first reference listed below contains the equation to convert cumulative MET into anticipated health care savings.



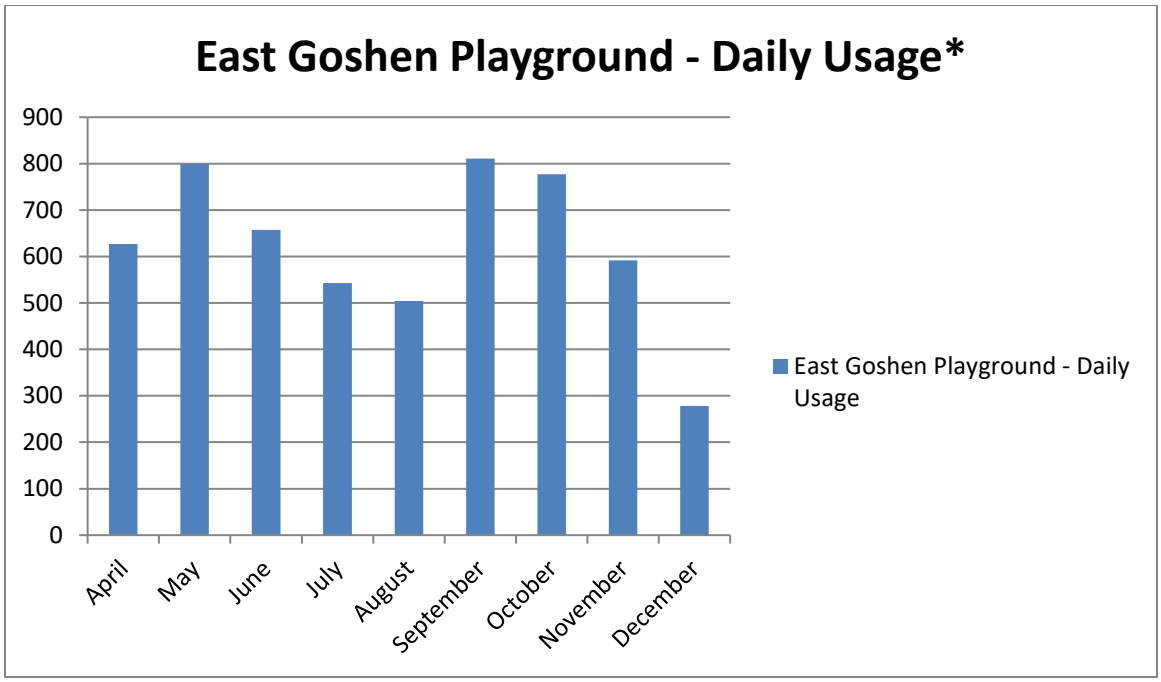

* Daily usage for the year can be estimated at 122,000 participants on the EGP trail.

* Male = 45% /Female = 55%

* Sedentary/Sitting at bench = 19%; Walking = 67%; Vigorous/Running = 14%

* (MET Cumulative Value) = Sedentary/Sitting at bench = (23,180); Walking = (245,220); Vigorous/Running = (102,480) = 370,880 METs among 120,000 park uses.

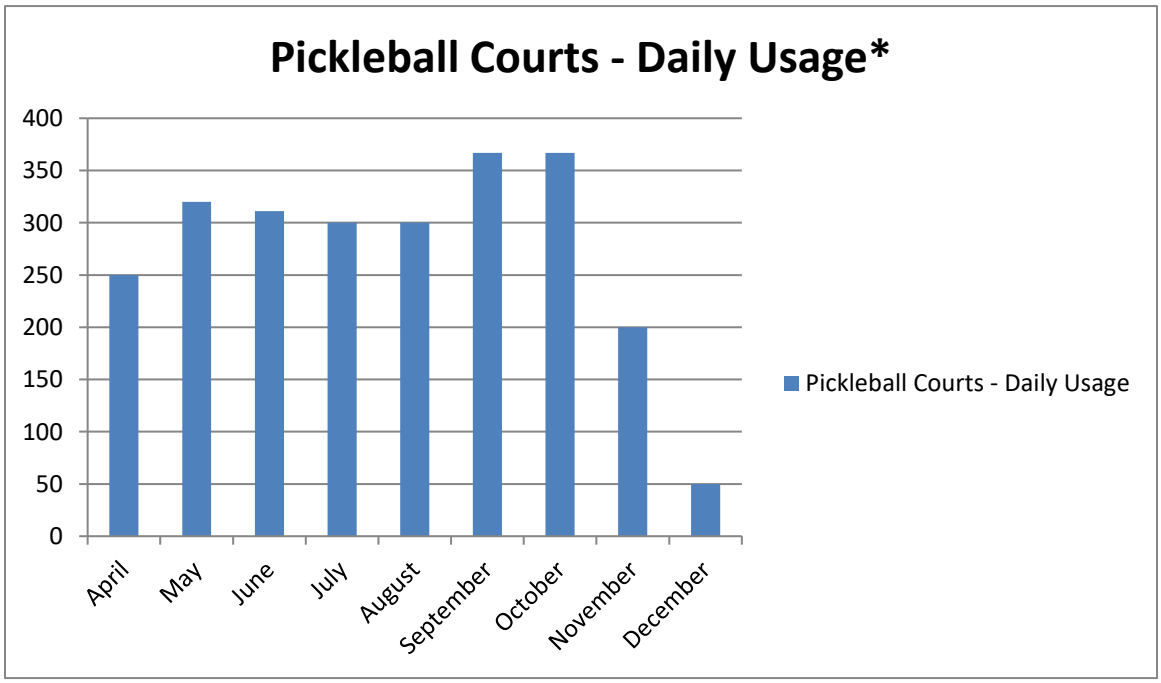
* Deferred Health Care Savings = 2.7M




* Daily usage for the year can be estimated at 188,000 participants at the EGT Park playground.

* Male/Female ratios

* Sedentary = 25%; Walking = 6%; Vigorous/Running = 69%



* Daily usage for the year can be estimated at 124,000 participants on the pickleball courts.

* Male = 49% /Female = 51%

* Sedentary/Sitting at bench = 16%; Walking = 1%; Vigorous/Running = 83%

* (MET Cumulative Value) = Sedentary/Sitting at bench = (29,760); Walking = (3,720); Vigorous/Running = (617,520) = 651,000 METs among 120,000 park uses.

* Deferred Health Care Savings = 7.8M

**Findings and Conclusions:**

The pickleball courts have shown the same levels of play consistently since opening in 2023. They are typically full with a 15 person waitlist from 9a-11a and 5p-closing on all days, and mostly full throughout weekend days. Pockets of limited use were weekdays from 1p-3p during the school year.

Playground usage dipped by 2-3% over the last two years and 6% over the last four years. This number is not alarming; it's still the heaviest used playground in the greater West Chester area. Other nearby playgrounds have undergone renovations and added similar play pieces, like the zip line, and families are naturally exploring newer playgrounds. The poured in place surface is scheduled for replacement in 2028/9. In late 2026 the Park Commission will begin discussions of whether to include targeted play piece changes as well.

**Future reporting/uses for SOPARC**

SOPARC reporting will become more applicable to Township planning as we build a more robust collection of data showing park usage trends. Some future applications include:

Use in capital project grant applications

Support for/against future park development projects

Evidence that park projects are increasing park usage/residential quality of life

Potential synthesis with future updates to Township planning documents

Increase Township's ability to quantify and communicate its role in health and wellness to the public, elected officials and other governing bodies

**Notes:**

The Department of Parks and Recreation would like to thank WCUPA intern Natalia Moscaro for helping with this project! She did this project as a part of her Statistics Master's Degree Program.

**References:**

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