

# East Goshen Township Department of Parks & Recreation *East Goshen Township Park, Master Plan Update*

Adopted: March 2016; Status Update: February 2026

## Executive Summary

### Introduction

East Goshen Township developed this East Goshen Township Park Master Plan Update to best meet current and future recreational needs at our flagship active park. 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 for many generations to come. The Plan provides a road map to achieve the shared vision to be implemented through 2026, as resources become available.

### Dept. of Park and Recreation Mission Statement

To promote and encourage the use of the Township parks and open spaces by Township residents and visitors in a manner that will preserve the Township's natural and historic resources for the enjoyment of future generations; and to develop and provide educational and recreational activities, programs, partnerships and special events to further enhance the quality of life for Township residents, businesses, and visitors.

### Plan Purpose

The purpose of the Plan is to:

- Address current and future needs by updating the 1982 East Goshen Township Park Master Plan;
- Position East Goshen Township to be competitive for grant funding.
- Identify current community recreational interests and forecast for emerging interests and facility needs

### Realized Principal Actions:



**Kid-designed accessible destination playground**

**Marydell & Bow Tree  
Open Space Pond  
Rehabilitations**



**Empowering Programs  
& Initiatives**

**Increased Dept. Capacity  
and Efficiencies  
with new FT position**



## Methodology/Process

In 2015, East Goshen Township retained Thomas Comitta and Associates to update the 1982 East Goshen Township Park Master Plan. The team included a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional, a Registered Landscape Architect, a Certified Community Planner, and GIS specialists. They worked in collaboration with the Township to engage the public to determine recreation needs; evaluate the current parks, recreation and open space system; and develop practical and achievable recommendations to improve the community through parks, recreation, and open space. A major element of the planning process was public participation through the Park and Recreation Commission's leadership, focus groups, interviews, public meetings and an online public opinion questionnaire. The goal of this multifaceted community outreach was to provide residents with a variety of ways to provide their ideas for consideration in the plan.

## Overarching Considerations

The analysis and evaluation of needs for this Master Plan involved a number of overarching considerations, as outlined below.

In 2015, East Goshen Township Park.....

1. was heavily used
2. was loved for the rolling hills and scenic beauty, as described in the East Goshen Township Park Recreation and Open Space Plan
3. was loved by the Users, but Enhancements are needed
4. was identified as needing renovations specifically to the playground area.

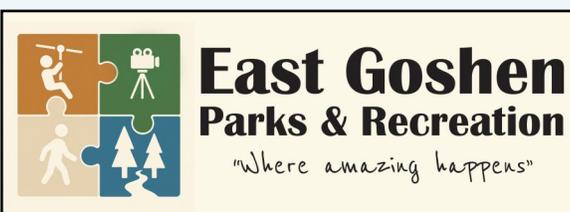


## Plan Objectives

Based upon public opinion and the findings of the planning process, East Goshen Township established one goal for this Plan: ***To continue to provide premier parks and recreation facilities and services while protecting the Township's scenic beauty, natural resources, and open space.***

To achieve this goal, East Goshen Township identified four key objectives:

- Obj. 1: Plan for construction of Destination Playground.
- Obj. 2: Incorporate park maintenance needs and revenues projects for all facilities and amenities.
- Obj. 3: Develop cohesive signage and branding campaign.
- Obj. 4: Assess current park facilities and amenities for ADA related improvements.



## Principal Actions, Recommendations and Action Items (Status Updates in bold/italics)

The blueprint for achieving these four objectives includes the following 6 principal improvement areas:

1. Playground ✓
  - A. ***Completed 2018; named BCI Burke 2018 national project of the year***
2. Area Surrounding Playground ✓
  - A. ***Completed 2018 with the exception of the whiffle ball field***
3. Amphitheater ✓
  - A. ***CIP Budget funding reallocated for permanent pickleball court construction in 2023***
4. Veteran's Pavilion ✓
  - A. ***All improvements completed; final being Eagle Scout bocce project, fall 2025.***
5. Picnic Grove
  - A. ***Decision made to reallocate funds to sports fields improvements.***
6. Park "Infrastructure" ***Study adopted 1/4/16*** ✓
  - A. ***As of February 2026, 14 of 16 improvements completed***



## Conclusions

East Goshen Township Parks and Recreation is unique, and challenged, by the fact that it has only one, primary active park to serve its 18,000 residents. This situation grew from a sincere love of open space that engulfed desires for active recreation needs. And so the Township has 455 acres of passive park/open space, double the national average, yet provides active recreational needs in one, "central" park. Since 2014 when a new Department Director took over, a balanced approach with a refocus on active recreation has benefited the community. This Master Plan sought to shape East Goshen Township Park's current and future life cycle with the understanding it had to serve many, many needs. We were emboldened by an outpouring of public input, specifically for the destination playground project with the public clearly stating what direction they saw for their park space. Since the Master Plan was approved in 2016, forty-nine of the plan's fifty-eight improvements (84%) have been implemented.