

## Hampton Township Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan

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### Steering Committee Meeting Minutes #3

May 24, 2022, Hampton Twp Community Center, Adult Lounge 6:30-8:00 PM

#### In attendance:

Dr. Carolyn Johnson, Council President  
Dr. Joe Dougherty, Council, Project Liaison  
Melanie Martino, Department of Community Services  
Dr. Rebecca Cunningham, HTSD Assistant Superintendent  
Jim Venture  
Erika Chapman  
Paul Oliveira  
Liz Spence  
Merrit Des Lauriers  
Lissa Geiger Shulman  
Heather Cuyler, Pashek+MTR

#### Discussion Items

##### 1.1 Public Input

##### Questionnaire Summary:

The Committee reviewed the summary (attached with the minutes) and discussed the responses. The community received approximately 630 responses including a handful of paper surveys which have not been inputted prior to the meeting. The Committee did a great job promoting the questionnaire.

##### **Key topics included:**

- **Shade:** shade is desired in the pool areas as well as in the park. The pool area provides areas of shade, but they are not necessarily placed in the best locations. Additional shade is desired near the concession area. Cantilever umbrellas made be a good solution for certain areas. Over the years, many trees have been removed for a variety of reasons, replanting areas of trees to provide shade near play areas, picnic areas and along trails should be considered. If bleachers are to be installed, shade above these seating areas should be considered.
- **Funding:** Council is working with Trans Associates to design Phase 2 of the trail expansion. This phase is funded through DCNR. Additional grants and funding sources should be discussed in order to implement recommendations of this plan. ARF would also be an option for additional funding.
- **Basketball Courts:** The summary includes comments related to poor conditions of the basketball courts. Funding has been dedicated to replace the basketball flooring in the Community Center.
- **Library:** The Community Library is a valuable asset. Liz discussed past discussions related to the construction of a balcony of the Library to serve as an additional quiet space.

- Senior Programming: A desire for senior programs was indicated in the responses. However, there were not specifics identified. Dr. Cunningham shared past initiatives related to senior programming. There is a need to identify the types of programs desired. Hampton Fields, Senior Community, provides bus trips. The availability of instructors with necessary clearances has been a challenge in the past. Free Doughnuts in the community center was a popular event for Seniors in the past.
- Indoor Swimming Pool: The school district has an indoor pool which is heavily used by the swim team. Heather will reach out to the swim team and school officials to identify time availability for other community members and events. Lifeguards and staffing is currently a challenge.
- Summer Camps Melanie provided an update on the success of the Summer Camps. The participants utilize the pool each day, as well as the community center and other areas in the park as weather permits.
- Synthetic Turf: There is a desire for synthetic turfed fields. Discussion included the environmental impact of synthetic turf, cost, including replacement and possible revenue. The Associations should be contacted to better understand their needs and ability to provide funding towards this type of project. The “bubble” in North Park is heavily used.
- Parking: Current parking pressures are due to the construction at the school.
- Signage: Wayfinding and signage within the park and community should be addressed. Consistent and precise signage will eliminate confusion and provide additional safety measures.
- Community Pond: The pond is a gem to the community. Access and improvements should be outlined as part of this plan. Should there be a fountain to keep the water aerated? Perimeter trail?
- Irma Kost Natural Area: Accessibility to this area should be developed to allow additional trails and enjoyment of nature.
- Green spaces: The Township is built out, and there are very few areas which can be identified for new park land. A few parcels have been recently donated or sold with assistance from ALT which will be added to North Park.

1.2 **Public Meeting**: There will be an opportunity for the public to provide public comment on Wednesday June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Community Farmers Market. Heather will create social media information for the community to share. A booth will be set up and Heather will coordinate with the committee to man the tent. Another possible outreach opportunity would be on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at Community Day.

### **1.3 National Standards and Benching Marking:**

Heather shared with the committee National Recreation and Park Association Agency Performance Review for park facilities. Based on the recommended number of facilities, Hampton Township Park's existing facilities meet or exceed the national standards.

The Department of Community Economic Development's website provides municipal statistics which serves as a means to compare municipal expenses and revenues. This data provides information in regard to per capita spending. The 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review Key Findings: Mean operating expenditures per Capita for Parks and Recreation Agencies is \$93.01/year. Hampton's reported per capita was calculated at \$59/year which is below the national average. Please Note: Financial budgets are not always apples to apples. (Please note: the incorrect square miles were included in the DCED spreadsheet. The correct square mile in the Township is 16.2.

Information from The Trust for Public Land provides a map of priority area for new parks in the community and also indicates the walkability to these parks. According to this information, 26% of Hampton residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. An effort should be made in the future to enhance the walkability in the Township. Hampton Township is very fortunate to have 2 Allegheny County Parks which cross into the border of the Township.

**1.4 Review of the Implementable Comprehensive Plan Recommendations:** A brief discussion was had regarding the recommendations and strategies. Accessibility, plantings, pond improvements, and an areas for larger community events were among the recommendations. These improvements will be discussed in more detail at future meetings.

#### **Next Steps:**

- **June 15<sup>th</sup>: Public Meeting in conjunction with Farmers Market.**
- **Site Visit to identify sign placement, accessibility, connections, plantings and improvements to facilities, including the pond.**
- **July 3: Community Day. Outreach opportunity**
- **Next Committee Meeting: June 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM**