# Riegelsville Borough
# Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan










January, 2013

# Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Prepared for: Riegelsville Borough
615 Easton Road
P.O. Box 551
Riegelsville, PA 18077

January, 2013

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# Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## Borough of Riegelsville

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# 1.0 Purpose of the Plan

The Borough of Riegelsville seeks to improve the quality of life within the municipality, by expanding, enhancing, and increasing the available parks and recreation facilities, open space and opportunities within the Borough while preserving its rural characteristics.

Riegelsville Borough understands the importance of providing open space and recreation opportunities to its residents. An important factor in having a quality lifestyle is the opportunity for leisure activities.

Parks, recreational facilities and open space are widely recognized as essential to better serve, retain, and attract a diverse and growing population. A primary component of open space planning is to identify open space and its functions. Open space preservation performs many valuable functions, including provisions of active and passive recreation, protection of natural and scenic views and vistas, and protection of species habitat and sensitive environmental resources. Parks, recreation programs and open space areas can improve the quality of life within a municipality by preserving these natural and cultural features for the enjoyment of future generations and by providing opportunities for citizens to improve their mental, physical and social skills. Leisure activities and the facilities needed to support these activities are therefore important components of a healthy community.

## 1.1 Goals:

The plan needs to be a "living document" that is referenced often and officially reviewed in its entirety every 10 years. Major changes to the community (demographics, residential or commercial development, and natural disasters) may require a plan review and update more frequently.

The Steering Committee developed high, medium and low priority goals and recommendations which can be divided into two categories:

**Administrative/Management Goals** – those tasks that involve policies, guidelines, funding sources and facility management

**Facility Development Goals** – those tasks that involve the acquisition and development of park land and recreational facilities

These goals are discussed in detail in Section 6.7 Implementation Plan which identifies them on a time line. The following is a brief outline of the goals based on their appropriate category:

The Borough has established ambitious goals for facility development, and realizes that attainment of those goals is dependent upon supplementing the existing resources of the Borough. Crucial to doing this is accomplishing administrative/management goals, including developing a strategy for enhancing revenues , establishing a strategy for increasing community involvement, developing a park maintenance and inspection plan and reaching out to experienced park and recreation professionals in maintaining, developing and administering recreation facilities and programs.

Professional experience can be tapped through the PADCNR Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance Program, the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) Recreation and Parks Technical Assistance Program, Keystone Athletic Field Maintenance Organization, recreation professionals from Bucks County municipalities, and Bucks County staff.

As noted in Section 10.1 of this Plan, if further development of recreation facilities occur, it is unlikely that maintenance of those facilities will be able to be completed solely by volunteers. Prior to further development of facilities, the Borough should act on the Maintenance Action Plan set forth in Section 10.1.

Additional Borough goals, such as investigating the use of recreation impact fees and investigating the potential for increasing local taxes, recognize the need to address revenue issues. Additional revenue resources are discussed in Section 6.7, 6.9 and 10.7. Means of providing recreational programs without large financial investments are discussed in Section 5.5. Local and regional partners in program development and facility sharing should be identified.

Community involvement could be enhanced by expanding membership of the Recreation Board to enlist people who would be dedicated, but not have numerous other responsibilities in the Borough. The Borough Council and Recreation Board can organize community days at the Borough parks, which would provide an opportunity for more widespread participation in park maintenance.

**Administrative/Management Goals**

- Develop a strategy for enhancing revenue available for facility development and maintenance
- Develop a strategy for increasing community involvement in recreation administration and facility maintenance
- Develop a set of "by-laws" for Recreation Board
- Develop park maintenance and inspection plan
- Reach out to experienced park and recreation professionals for assistance in developing and administering recreation facilities and programs
- Investigate implementation of recreation impact fees
- Investigate expansion of Borough sponsored recreation programs
- Outreach to local civic and athletic organizations
- Investigate potential for increasing local taxes

**Facility Development Goals**

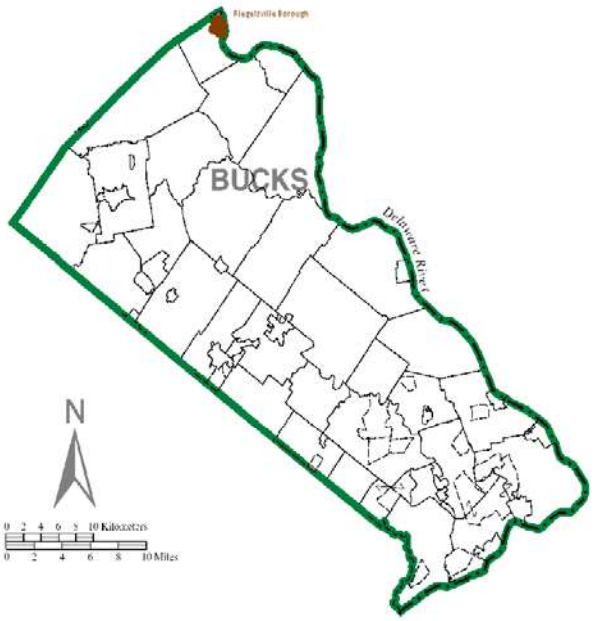
- Construction of pedestrian trail
- Investigate potential of connecting downtown with the Borough and Delaware Canal Towpath
- Investigate potential pedestrian bridge from the Borough Park to the Delaware Canal Towpath
- Pursue renovation of existing Borough Park per 2012 Master Plan
- Pursue development of 10 acre undeveloped Delaware Road Recreation Property per 2012 Master Site Plan
- Investigate potential for land acquisition and/or easements along canal and Delaware River
- Investigate addition of restroom facilities to Borough Park

These goals should be reviewed and evaluated on an annual basis to determine if they are still applicable based on completion of particular goals, current community conditions and available resources. New priorities may arise and should be implemented as deemed appropriate by the community.

The Riegelsville community is fully aware of the challenges it faces with regards to further development of the Borough Park since almost all of it is located within the 100-year floodplain. The consultants for this plan, the plan committee and the Borough Council have discussed the on-going maintenance issues as well as the difficulty the Borough may face in securing funding sources for pursuing renovation of the park.

## 2.0 Community Background

Riegelsville Borough is a small riverfront and historic mill town in Bucks County. The Borough is situated along the Delaware River at the northeast corner of Bucks County with Durham Township bordering the Borough to the west and south. Williams Township, Northampton County provides the northern border and the Delaware River makes up the eastern border.




Riegelsville Borough is a close knit town that thrives because of the community spirit of its residents. Their success is based on the volunteer efforts of elected officials, community leaders, and residents. They have demonstrated their commitment to their community time and time again. Whether it is a community project or a natural disaster, the residents of Riegelsville Borough have come together to support each other and their town. This community sprit will be vital to the continued success of the parks and recreation system.

Although small and rural in atmosphere, the Borough is approximately 15 miles east of the Allentown/Bethlehem area and 40 miles north of Philadelphia. The Borough consists of approximately 1.0 square mile or 629 acres, almost entirely made up of land area with very little water.

The Borough is regionally unique for its size, historic architecture, economy, and water resources. Incorporated in 1916, Riegelsville Borough is located on land formerly situated in Durham Township. Founded by Benjamin Riegel and named after the Riegel family, it has a rich economic history rooted in farming, manufacturing, and transportation. The Riegel family was millers that established paper mills across the Delaware River in New Jersey.

In 1832, the Delaware Canal was completed and industrial development began to flourish along the banks of the Delaware River. Coal, stone, iron, crops, and mill goods were transported along the Delaware River. From the 18$^{th}$ to the early 20$^{th}$ century, the town functioned as a key crossing point across the Delaware River and as a center for paper milling. During the early days a ferry provided transport across

the river, but in 1837 a bridge was opened and the ferry abandoned. The flood of 1903 damaged the bridge and in its place was a wire suspension bridge that still is in use today. In 1931, the canal closed and was replaced by railroad transport.

### 2.0.A Regional Resources

Riegelsville Borough is located at the northern tip of Bucks County, just south of Northampton County. Currently the Borough is located in both the Easton Area, Northampton County (developed eastern portion of Borough) and Palisades, Bucks County (western portion of Borough) school districts. In 2013, the entire Borough will be located in the Palisades School District. Palisades schools are located in the Kintersville area in Nockamixon Township, which is south of Durham Township. Palisades High School, Palisades Middle School and Durham Nockamixon Elementary School are located off Route 412 near Church Hill Road near the village of Ferndale.

Durham Township, located immediately south and west of the Borough, contains portions of the Delaware Canal State Park, including the Riegelsville Shore Fishing Access Area and Durham Furnace Lock Number 21. The Durham Mill and Durham Furnace are historic sites south of Riegelsville. Durham and Durham Furnace are historic villages. The Durham Township Ballfield is located at Dogwood Green. Important natural areas in Durham Township, in addition to the Delaware River, are agricultural land, the Cooks Creek Watershed, Durham Mine and Mine Hill, Rattlesnake Hill, and the Gallows Run watershed.

Veterans Memorial Park in Nockamixon Township contains a ball field and picnicking facilities.

Further south of Riegelsville Borough and Durham and Nockamixon Townships in Bucks County are Nockamixon State Park (5,283 acres) in Bedminster and Haycock Townships, Ralph Stover State Park (45 acres) in Tinicum and Plumstead Townships, and Lake Towhee County Park (549 acres) in Haycock Township.

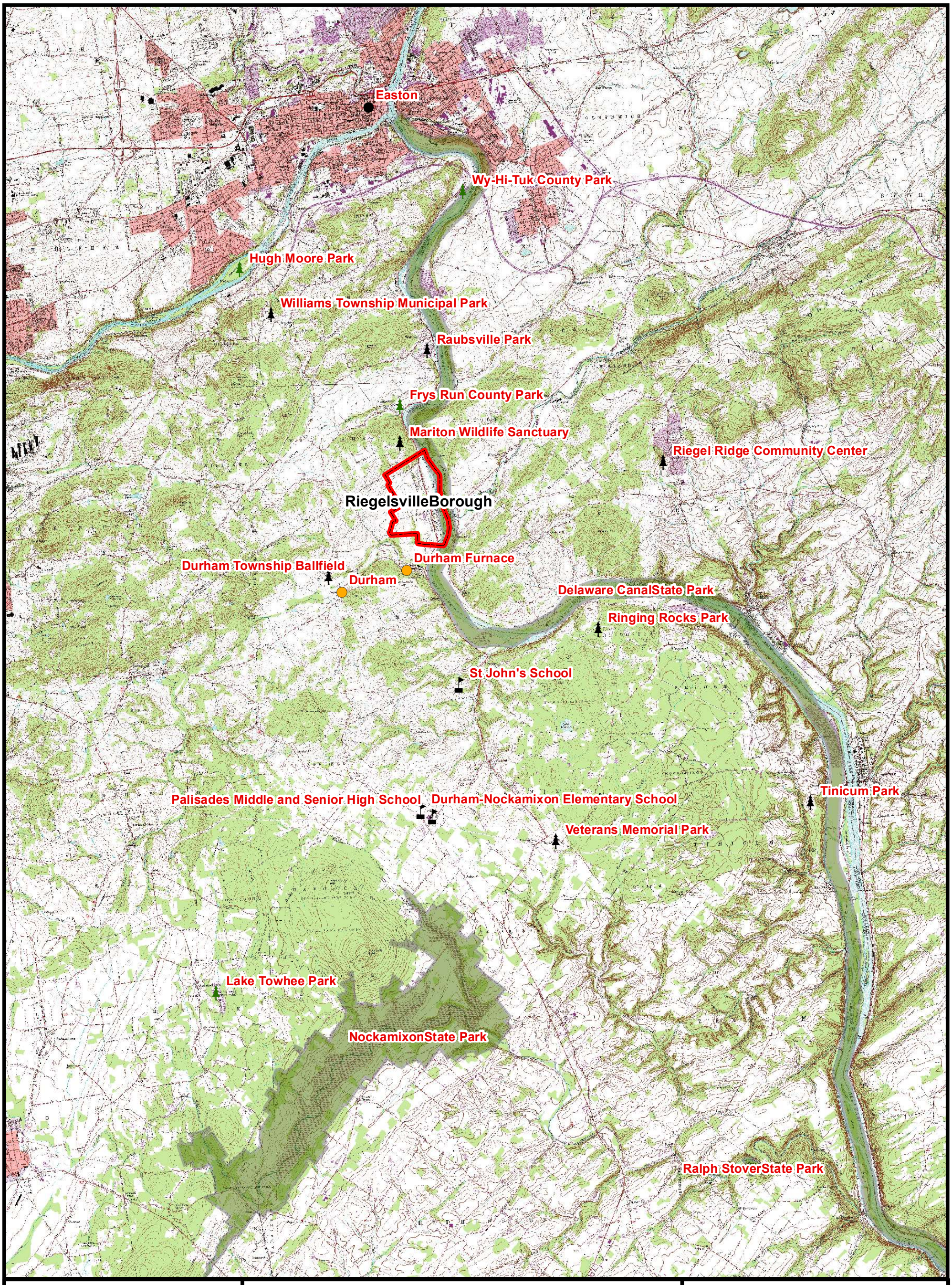
Ringing Rocks Park is located at Upper Black Eddy in Bridgeton Township. The park contains picnicking and hiking facilities. Tinicum County Park in Tinicum Township contains a playground, picnicking and hiking facilities, ball fields, boating, fishing and camping.

The Riegel Ridge Community Center in Holland Township, New Jersey has a fitness center and is used for classes.

Williams Township, Northampton County lies to the north of Riegelsville. Williams Township also includes portions of the Delaware Canal State Park, and towpath access is available just north of the Borough. The privately-owned Coffeetown Grist Mill is located in the village of Coffeetown. Two County parks, Wy-Hi-Tuk and Frys Run, are located near the Delaware River. Williams Township has its Community Park in the northern portion of the Township, which contains a walking trail, pavilion, ball field, tennis courts and playground. Important natural areas are agricultural areas in the southern portion of the Township, Hexenkopf Slope, Hexenkopf Wetlands, Mariton Uplands and Mariton Slope in the Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary, and Whippoorwill, Old Sow and Raubs Islands. Raubsville Park contains a pavilion, ball field, tennis court and playground.

Easton is located north of Williams Township. Easton contains shopping and business areas, Lafayette College, the Easton and College Hill Residential Historic Districts, and The Crayola Factory and The National Canal Museum at Two Rivers Landing. Hugh Moore Park is located along the Lehigh Canal and Lehigh River. Canal boat rides are available, as are passive recreation, trails and historical features.

Figure 1 shows the location of regional resources. Table 1 contains a listing of the regional resources including municipal entity, travel time from Borough Hall and amenities/program offerings.




READING
1047 North Park Road
PO Box 6307
Reading, PA 19610-0307
610.621.2000
F. 610.621.2001

LEHIGH VALLEY
City Line Plaza, Suite 300
2005 City Line Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017-7701
Tel: 610-849-9700
Fax: 610-849-9701

SSM
SPOTTS | STEVENS | McCOY
Engineers and Consultants
ssmgroup.com

01/03/13

g:/projects/w100000/w108308/w0014/11x17state_parks.mxd

Data source:

2007 parcel data from Bucks County

**Legend**

- Riegelsville
- City
- Community Park
- County Park
- Historic Village
- School
- State Park

N

0 5,000 10,000 20,000

Scale in Feet

***Figure 1***

***Riegelsville Borough Regional Resources***

***Bucks County, Pennsylvania***

**Table #1: Regional Recources**

| Municipal Entity | Name of Facility | Travel Time from Borough Hall | Amenities/Program Offerings |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bucks County Area Agency on Aging | Eastern Upper Bucks Senior Center | Less than 15 minutes | Educational & Recreational Programs, Trips, Services, Events |
| Bucks County Department of Parks & Recreation | Lake Towhee Park | 20 minutes | Playground, Athletic Fields, Picnicking Boating, Fishing, Camping, Hiking, Natural Areas, Recreational Programs |
| Bucks County Department of Parks & Recreation | Ringing Rocks Park | Less than 20 minutes | Picnicking, Hiking, Natural Area, Geological Feature |
| Bucks County Department of Parks & Recreation | Tinicum Park | Less than 20 minutes | Playground, Picnicking, Hiking, Athletic Fields, Boating, Fishing, Camping Historic Features, Recreational Programs and Events |
| Bucks County Public Library | Riegelsville Library | Less than 1 minute | Story Time, Adult Book Club, Recreational Programs, Events |
| City of Easton | Hugh Moore Park | 20 minutes | Passive Recreation, Trails, Canal Boat Ride, Historical Features |
| Durham Township | Durham Township Ball Field | Less than 5 minutes | Athletic Fields |
| Natural Lands Trust | Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary | Less than 5 minutes | Trails, Nature Center, Wildlife Viewing Areas |
| Northampton County Department of Parks & Recreation | Fry's Run Park | Less than 5 minutes | Picnic Area, Rest Stop |
| Northampton County Department of Parks & Recreation | Wy-Hi Tuk Park | 10 minutes | Playground, Picnicking, Group Camping, Hiking, Trails |
| PA DCNR | Delaware Canal State Park | Less than 5 minutes | Hiking, Biking, Picnicking, Canoeing, Fishing, Hunting, Cross Country Skiing, Recreational & Educational Programs |
| PA DCNR | Nockamixon State Park | Less than 20 minutes | Hiking, Biking, Picnicking, Fishing, Hunting, Cross Country Skiing, Recreational & Educational Programs, Horseback Riding, Swimming, Disc Golf, Boating, Windsurfing, Sledding, Ice Fishing, Ice Skating, Cabins |
| PA DCNR | Ralph Stove State Park | Less than 30 minutes | Hiking, Picnicking, Fishing, Rock Climbing, Whitewater Boating |
| Palisades School District | Palisades High School | Less than 15 minutes | Fitness Center, Exercise Classes, Educational and Recreational Programs |
| Holland Township Parks & Recreation Department, New Jersey | Riegel Ridge Community Center | Less than 15 minutes | Fitness Center, Community Pool, Exercise Classes, Facility Rentals, Recreation Programs |
| Williams Township | Williams Township Municipal Park | Less than 15 minutes | Playground, Picnicking, Athletic Facilities, Trail |
| Williams Township | Raubsville Park | Less than 10 minutes | Playground, Picnicking, Athletic Facility |
| Nockamixon Township | Veterans Memorial Park | Less than 20 minutes | Picnicking, Athletic Facility |

## 2.1 Population Growth:

Riegelsville Borough had a declining population from 1970 thru the end of the 20th Century. From 2000 to 2010 the Borough experienced a modest population increase. Table #2 shows the population movement over the past 40 years. The Delaware Valley Planning Commission has forecast that the Borough's population will continue to grow.

**Table #2: Riegelsville Borough Population 1970-2020**

| U.S. Census Year | Total Population | Change | Percent Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1970 | 1050 persons | - | - |
| 1980 | 993 persons | -57 persons | -5.4 |
| 1990 | 912 persons | -81 persons | -8.2 |
| 2000 | 863 persons | -49 persons | -5.4 |
| 2010 | 868 persons | 5 persons | 0.6 |
| Projected for 2020 | 935 persons | 67 persons | 7.7 |

Source: Delaware Valley Planning Commission and US Census Bureau

## 2.2 Ethnic Background and Gender:

The 2010 U.S. Census results show that 2 (0.23 percent) of the Borough residents were African-American, 17 (1.96 percent) were of Hispanic or Latino origin, 3 (0.35 percent) were American Indian or Alaska Native and 2 (0.23 percent) were of Asian descent. There are 442 males and 426 females living in the Borough.

## 2.3 Age Distribution:

Recreation needs can vary depending upon the age of the citizens within the municipality. The U.S. Census statistics shown in Table #3 document the age distribution for the Borough of Riegelsville, as of 2010. Although the number of people within all but one age group has decreased since 2000, each age group represents a different percentage of the total Borough population. Despite the population increase from 2000 to 2010 the age distribution percentages have remained relatively stable. The median age for the Borough is 40 years. The number of males versus females is approximately equal for all age groups.

**Table #3: Age Distribution In Riegelsville Borough**

| Age Group | 2000 # of Persons | 2000 % of Total | | 2010 # of Persons | 2010 % of Total | | %Change 2000-2010 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 19 years | 201 | 23% | 23% | 180 | 21% | 21% | -10.4% |
| 20 to 24 years | 28 | 3% | 19% | 46 | 5% | 18% | 64.3% |
| 25 to 34 years | 135 | 16% | | 112 | 13% | | -17.0% |
| 35 to 49 years | 217 | 25% | 42% | 191 | 22% | 47% | -12.0% |
| 50 to 64 years | 148 | 17% | | 218 | 25% | | 47.3% |
| 65 years & Over | 134 | 16% | 16% | 121 | 14% | 14% | -9.7% |
| Total | 863 | 100% | 100% | 868 | 100% | 100% | 0.6% |

Source: U.S. Census

## 2.4 Population Density:

Riegelsville Borough is 629 acres or 1 square mile in size. Using the 2010 U.S. Census population of 868 persons, the Borough has a population density of 868 persons per square mile. In comparison, the City of Easton has a population density of 6,165 persons per square mile.

## 2.5 Population Distribution/Neighborhoods:

The households within the Riegelsville Borough community are in one of two distinct neighborhoods. These neighborhoods can be defined as those regions of the Borough in which residents live in close proximity and regularly share common resources. For example, people within a given neighborhood often go to the same church, patronize the same local businesses, go to the same school, etc. In Riegelsville Borough, these neighborhoods are clustered around two intersections. The northern neighborhood is centered around the Ash Lane/Easton Road intersection. The southern neighborhood is centered around the Delaware Road/Easton Road intersection.

## 2.6 Existing Land Use and Land Use Trends:

Agriculture and vacant land has and continues to be the predominant land use in Riegelsville Borough, comprising 54.67% of all lands, as of 2010. Residential land uses account for 30.77% of the Borough and includes mostly single-family residence. Park and recreation areas account for 5.41%. Each of the remaining land uses make up only a small percentage of the Borough, as shown in Table #4.

**Table #4: Comparison Of Land Uses In Riegelsville Borough**

| Land Use | 2010 | | 2000 | | Change: 1992-2004 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Acres | % | Acres | % | Acres | % |
| Residential | 193.50 | 30.77% | 193.50 | 30.77% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Commercial | 10.20 | 1.62% | 10.20 | 1.62% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Agriculture | 249.10 | 39.61% | 259.10 | 41.20% | -10.00 | -3.9% |
| Transportation & Utilities | 0.10 | 0.02% | 0.10 | 0.02% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Government & Institutional | 28.40 | 4.52% | 28.40 | 4.52% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Parks and Recreation | 34.00 | 5.41% | 24.00 | 3.82% | 10.00 | 41.7% |
| Vacant Lands | 113.60 | 18.06% | 113.60 | 18.06% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Total Acres | 628.90 | 100.00% | 628.90 | 100.00% | | |

Source: Board of Assessment
* Transportation/Utility land use is not inclusive of municipal roadways

## 2.7 The Impact of Land Use Trends:

The conversion of land to residential uses results in an increase in both the number of housing units and the total population. Statistics from the U.S. Census shown in Table #5, illustrate housing development trends within the Borough. Since 1990, Riegelsville Borough has gained an average of 1 new dwelling unit each year. Based upon the 2010 U.S. Census Statistics, Riegelsville Borough has an average of 2.11 persons per household (868 persons divided by 412 households).

**Table #5: Changes In The # Of Housing Units In Riegelsville Borough**

| Year | # of Housing Units | Difference | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1970 | 353 | - | - |
| 1980 | 393 | 40 | 11.3% |
| 1990 | 404 | 11 | 2.8% |
| 2000 | 403 | -1 | -0.2% |
| 2010 | 412 | 9 | 2.2% |

U.S. Census statistics.

There are no current subdivisions or land developments before the Council. There are currently six lots that are available for building houses. Continued population growth will place an increased demand on existing recreational facilities and leisure services within the Borough.

## 2.8 Population Growth Areas:

The Riegelsville Borough Zoning Ordinance, updated in 2012, delineates those areas of the Borough in which the various types of land uses can occur on the Zoning Map. Residential land uses are permitted in a number of zoning districts. However, the majority of properties located in zoning districts which allow dense residential development have been developed except for approximately 240 acres of existing farmland which is currently residentially zoned. If this land is developed in accordance with current zoning and subdivision and land development regulations, approximately 100 new single-family housing units could be constructed. Using the 2010 persons per household figure for Riegelsville (2.11), this could result in a population increase of 211 persons (a gain of 24 percent). The potential development of this land should be taken into consideration when planning for the Borough's future park, recreation and open space needs.

## 2.9 Summary:

Statistics show that the Riegelsville Borough population is relatively stable. Opportunities for leisure activities will become even more valuable than they are today as the Borough continues to evolve as a community. The challenge lies in providing park, recreation and open space areas that conveniently serve the residents of all of each of the Recreation Planning Districts, meet the needs of all demographic groups, and protect important natural resources.

# 3.0 Analysis of Natural Resources and Cultural Features

Recreational activities are often associated with and can be enhanced by the natural and cultural features of a community. Some leisure activities (such as boating, hunting, bird watching, and fishing) are directly dependent upon our natural resources, while the recreational activities associated with tourism are often linked to historical resources. Riegelsville Borough contains many natural and cultural resources that add to its quality of life and sense of place. An analysis of the natural and cultural features in Riegelsville Borough is therefore an integral part of the development of a comprehensive recreation plan. This chapter identifies and describes natural, historic, and cultural resources that are vulnerable to development pressures and impacts. The results of this study can ultimately be used to identify unique natural and cultural features that should be preserved as park or open space land and to determine how these features can support recreational activities in Riegelsville Borough.

## 3.1 Natural Features:

Riegelsville Borough is located on the lower portion of the Reading Prong Section of the New England Province just north of the Triassic Lowlands Section. The Reading Prong Section (a physiographic classification) traverses southwest across New Jersey to Reading, Pennsylvania. Composed of metamorphic, igneous, and sedimentary rocks, the Reading Prong Section has the landscape of a moderately sloping river valley that merges into the surrounding steeply sloping hills and bluffs. Figure 2, Environmental Resources, shows floodplains, wetlands, woodlands and 5 feet contour elevations within the Borough.

**Geology and Topography:**

Riegelsville Borough sits in a valley between steeply sloping hills on its northern border and rolling hills to its south and west. Rocky bluffs extend along the western side of Easton Road and effectively split the southern portion of the Borough in two. Moving northward, these bluffs diminish in both height and steepness until they flatten out as they reach Spring Hill Road. Below the bluffs to the east sits the flat, alluvial river valley, forming what is known as a valley terrace. Valley terraces are remnants of valley fill deposits derived from melt-water outwash of glacial ice. The outwash deposits cover the underlying geologic formations with a thick blanket of mostly sand and gravel, forming terraces along the Delaware River. The eastern half of Riegelsville is actually located on top of one of these terraces, which slopes down to the Delaware River at the shoreline.

N

Spring Hill Road

Ash Lane

Easton Road

Route 611

Delaware Canal Towpath

Delaware River

Church Road

Delaware Road

Fairmont Road

Durham Road

Sherers Hill Road

0 300 600 1,200

Scale in Feet


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g:/projects/w100000/w108308/w0014/11x17environ_resources.mxd

Data source:
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Bucks County FIRM map, 2002
2007 parcel data from Bucks County

## Legend

- Floodway
- 100-Year Flood Plain Zone
- 500-Year Flood Plain Zone
- Riegelsville Park Property
- State Owned Developed Property
- Borough Owned Undeveloped Property
- Borough Owned Undeveloped Trail
- Parcel Boundary
- Woodlands
- Wetlands
- 5' Contour Elevation

***Figure 2***

***Riegelsville Borough Environmental Resources***

***Bucks County, Pennsylvania***

To the west of the bluffs, rolling hills composed of glacial deposits and dolomite continue out into Durham Township. Although these deposits have made excellent soil for farming, the underlying carbonate geology will potentially cause sinkhole and groundwater pollution problems for future residential development.

Steep slopes of 15 to 25 percent can produce heavy erosion and sediment loading when disturbed. Development of steep slope areas can lead to problems such as building foundation instability and accelerated erosion and runoff. Riegelsville has steep slopes along its northern border (the woodland area) and along the bluffs that run north-south in the south part of the Borough.

**Floodplains:**

Floodplain areas in Riegelsville are limited to areas along the Delaware River. According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the 100-year floodplain is defined as the area adjoining a stream or river that accommodates floodwater produced by the 100-year storm (or base flood event), which has a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in a given year. In the northern and central sections of the Borough the 100-year floodplain extends from the river to anywhere from 100 to 200 feet east of Easton Road. Moving southward, the 100-year floodplain meets Easton Road at Maplewood Road and slowly progresses west until Fern Road, where it then moves roughly 500 feet west and continues into Durham Township.

**Wetland:**

Wetlands are dynamic ecosystems that encompass areas inundated with water for all or part of the year. They provide many beneficial functions to the environment, including habitat for wildlife, water quality protection and improvement, and flood and storm water management. The National Wetlands Inventory Map indicates the presence of wetland areas larger than two acres in area in the northwest corner of the Borough, which is the Riegelsville reservoir, and along the Delaware Canal, which is the area known as Widewaters. The reservoir and the springs that feed it formerly served as a water supply for the Borough. The Widewaters area extends for about 1,800 feet along the canal. Wetland areas are also indicated along the Delaware River from Widewaters down to the end of the Borough. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the PA Department of Environmental Protection regulate construction activities within wetlands, encouraging land owners to avoid disturbing wetlands or requiring land owners to mitigate the impact of any disturbance of a wetland.

**Drainage Areas:**

Riegelsville is drained by the Delaware River North watershed and a small portion of the Cook's Creek watershed, but there are no named creeks or streams running through the Borough. An unnamed stream, however, does run from the northwest corner of the Borough down toward the east side of the Ceader property, where it empties out into a low-lying area. The drainage area of this unnamed stream has a variety of natural vegetation and may contain significant species habitat. The areas surrounding the stream as well as other drainage areas on the property are often characterized by wet conditions.

**Water Resources:**

The Delaware River and the Delaware Canal are the primary water resources in Riegelsville. The Delaware River, which runs from Delaware County, New York, and empties out into the Delaware Bay between the states of Delaware and New Jersey, runs just along the Borough's east border and is probably the most significant resource in the community. But because the Delaware Canal sits between the river and the town, the river remains inaccessible to most of the population. The canal runs parallel to the river and is a significant historical and recreational resource. As mentioned above, the reservoir no longer serves as a water supply for the Borough. Drinking water for Riegelsville Borough is obtained from community wells located near the reservoir in Williams Township, Northampton County, and from a community well at Riegelsville Park. Included among the above water resources is the unnamed stream that runs through the Ceader property.

A small pond is located on private property in the southwest corner of Riegelsville. The pond forms in a depressional area during swollen river conditions. This phenomenon is known as a ghost lake, and demonstrates the limestone geology of the area. Ghost lakes appear after storm events and result from slowly permeable soils, rises in the groundwater table, or from the creation of a natural liner in the depression.

Act 167 Stormwater Management Plans for the Delaware River have been adopted by Riegelsville Borough to control the amount of runoff from new developments and minimize drainage problems within these watersheds.

**Soil Resources:**

Riegelsville Borough has a variety of soil types. Along the Delaware River, soils consist of Pope loam. To the north, soils become sloped and rocky and are composed of Chester silt loam, Chester extremely stony loam, and Manor extremely stony loam. Atop the bluffs, soils consist of Alton gravelly loam.

Toward the west, soils are made up of Chester silt loam, Urbana silt loam, Clarksburg silt loam, Duffield and Washington soils, and Washington gravelly silt loam.

Pope loam is a deep, well-drained soil in floodplain areas and is subject to flooding during heavy rains. Chester loam is a stony soil that has a slope that varies from 8 to 50 percent. It is deep, well-drained, and is usually found on the sides and tops of ridges. Manor and Chester extremely stony loam is a mix of two soil types and is found on ridges and side slopes adjacent to creek floodplains. Their extremely stony surface and steep slopes limit the uses of these soils; most are kept as woodlands. Alton gravelly loam is found on outwash terraces and is derived from shale, sandstone, quartzite, and limestone. It is deep, well-drained with a slow to medium runoff rate. Urbana is formed at the base of slopes and in depressional areas and is deep, moderately well-drained to somewhat poorly drained. Runoff is slow to medium and this soil exhibits slow permeability and wetness due to its seasonable high water table. Clarksburg is a deep, moderately well-drained soil that forms on uplands at the base of slopes from weathered limestone. It displays slow permeability and wetness. Duffield and Washington soil is a mix of two soil types. The mix is a fine, sandy loam mantle that is used mostly for crops as its slopes (20 percent) limit other uses. Washington gravelly silt loam is a deep, well-drained soil on gently sloping to sloping uplands, side slopes, and hilltops. It has a medium runoff rate and moderate permeability.

The Bucks County Conservation District assists both farmers and land developers in preparing erosion and sedimentation control plans to conserve the precious soil in the Borough.

**Flora and Fauna:**

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection maintains the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory, a listing of the species of special concern as identified by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Wild Resources Conservation Act and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Code. Property owners who propose to develop land must protect any of these species found on their property.

## 3.2 Cultural and Historic Resources:

Riegelsville Borough has a number of institutions that are culturally significant. The town boasts three churches, including Saint Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Saint John United Church of Christ, and Saint Lawrence Roman Catholic Church. The three churches surround another community resource, the Riegelsville Union Cemetery, which not only is historically significant, but also functions as meaningful open space. The cemetery is about eight (8) acres in size and occupies a central location in the community.

Other cultural resources include the American Legion Post on Ash Lane, the Riegelsville Fire Company on Delaware Road, the Riegelsville Library and Borough Hall on Church Road, the Masonic Lodge on Easton Road, and the post office on Delaware Road. All of these places serve important community functions and are significant gathering places for the public.

One of the most significant historic resources in the Borough is the Delaware Canal. Opened in 1832, the Delaware Canal served as a major transportation route between Easton and Bristol for a hundred years and was one of the main factors in the growth and development of Riegelsville Borough. The Delaware and Lehigh Canal National Heritage Corridor and State Heritage Park (henceforth referred to as the D&L Corridor) have been created by the United States Congress and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in recognition of the rich culture and history of Eastern Pennsylvania. The Corridor is over 150 miles long, stretching from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol, and includes five counties and approximately 100 municipalities. Riegelsville Borough falls within the D&L Corridor and is immediately adjacent to the Delaware River, as previously discussed.

The Delaware Canal is one of two historic resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The other is the Benjamin Riegel home, which is located along the Delaware River near the Riegelsville Bridge. In addition, the Borough Hall and library (formerly Riegelsville Academy) is eligible for the National Register. This building dates to 1884 and was originally used as a school by Saint John's Church.

Riegelsville has historic resources listed on the Bucks County Register of Historic Places. These include the Benjamin Riegel Tenant Houses, the Riegel Mercantile, the Riegelsville borough hall and library, and the Riegelsville Hotel.

There are many historic structures in Riegelsville that are not on either of these lists. The Riegelsville Bridge is a steel wire suspension bridge and connects the Borough to New Jersey. It was built in 1904 by the John A. Roebling's Sons Company. John Roebling is most well known for constructing the Brooklyn Bridge. Along Easton Road are a number of large 19th century stone buildings, including Saint John's United Church of Christ and the Boyer Mansion. In addition, a variety of other 19th century structures line both sides of this road and are used as either homes or businesses. Behind Easton Road, along Church Road, historic sites and buildings consist of Saint Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Riegelsville Union Cemetery. The church and the cemetery date to the mid-1800s.

Two limekilns dating from the 19th century remain on private property in the western portion of the Borough. These kilns were used to reduce locally mined limestone to lime. Lime was used extensively during this period for agricultural uses and as a mortar for bricklaying and masonry. One limekiln is adjacent to the north side of Delaware Road. The other is a few hundred feet south. Both appear to be crumbling from age and weathering.

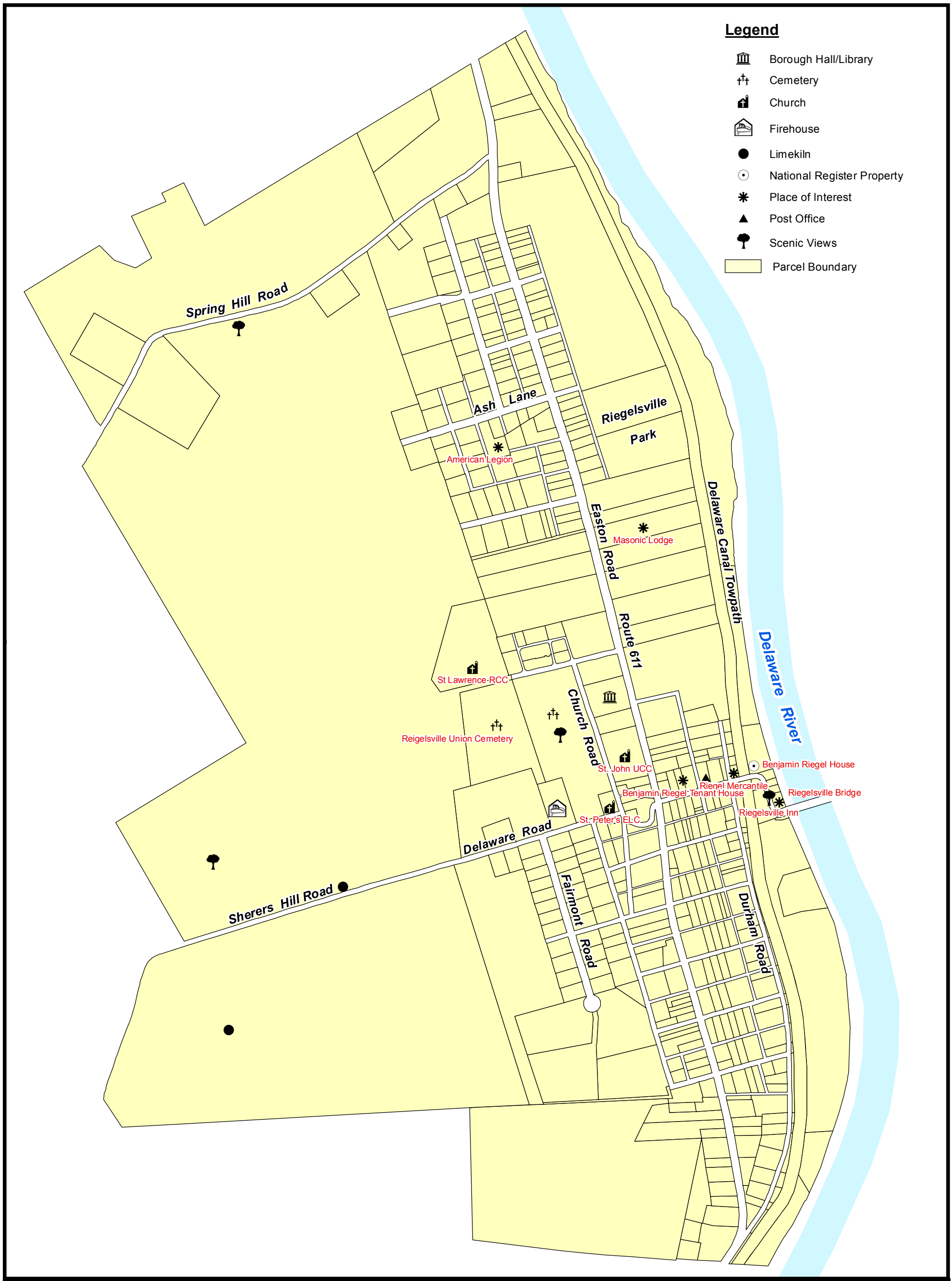
Cultural and Historic Resources are shown on Figure 3.

The PA Historical and Museum Commission also helps to protect archaeological and historic resources in Riegelsville Borough by requiring land owners to minimize or mitigate the impact of proposed development on these resources and by providing grant funds to support preservation projects.

### 3.3 **Summary:**

Each of the above resources is vulnerable to the impacts of future development. Steep slope development can cause increased erosion. Housing development on farmland will result in the loss of prime agricultural soils as well as the loss of a food production source. Development of floodplains and wetlands can cause increased flooding and loss of species habitat. The clearing of wooded areas can lead to decreased water quality and increased erosion. And development in areas with cultural, scenic, and historic resources can diminish the overall quality of these resources.

The Natural and Cultural Features Map shows the location of the streams, floodplains, steep slopes, woodlands and historic structures in the Borough. Clearly, the natural and cultural features of Riegelsville Borough are valuable recreational resources.




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Data source:

2007 parcel data from Bucks County

# *Figure 3*

## *Riegelsville Borough Cultural and Historic Resources*

## *Bucks County, Pennsylvania*

# 4.0 Inventory of Existing Open Space, Park Facilities and Recreation Programs

An analysis of the number and types of recreational opportunities can help determine whether the recreation needs of the community are being met. Since both the public and private sectors typically play a part in providing recreational opportunities, the analysis should investigate the recreational role of each sector.

In this chapter, the existing leisure opportunities in Riegelsville Borough will be investigated and compared with recognized standards set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association. The results of this evaluation will be used to develop a comprehensive plan for implementing recreational improvements in the future.

## 4.1 The Public Sector:

**Borough-Owned Park and Open Space Lands:**

Riegelsville Borough owns three tracts of land that are intended to be preserved as open space or used for recreational purposes. Located between S.R. 611 and the Delaware Canal is an existing 7-acre park with multi-purpose baseball/softball/soccer fields, basketball courts, a pavilion, refreshment stand, and a playground. Since the adoption of the 2001 Open Space Plan the Borough has acquired additional open space properties, and 10 acre parcel for a future park and a 50 foot wide linear parcel for a future pedestrian/bicycle trail through the center of the Borough.

The Borough Subdivision and Land Development Ordnance (SALDO) does require a recreation impact for new development. However, no study was conducted to set a fee. The Borough does not require developers to dedicate land or pay a fee in lieu of land for the purposes of developing recreational facilities to serve the community.

**Borough Administration:**

Riegelsville is a Borough that was incorporated in 1916. The Borough is governed by a five person Borough Council since August 1994 when the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas granted the Borough's request to decrease the number of councilpersons from seven to five. In addition to the Borough Council, the Borough has several Boards and Commissions include the Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, and the Recreation Board, which are appointed by Council. The day-to-day operations are administered by a Borough Secretary.

The oversight, maintenance, and programming of the Borough's recreational facilities are overseen by the Recreation Board. The Recreation Board consists of 5 members who are appointed by the Borough Council. The duties of the Recreation Board include the overseeing of recreation facility maintenance, scheduling of recreation facilities, assisting Council with the organization and oversight of community events, and making recommendation to Council regarding the planning of new facilities and implementation of new programming.

The Recreation Board has an annual operating budget of approximately $11,000. Riegelsville Borough Council annually donates $4,100 to support the Recreation Board. Through facility rentals, fund raising activities, donations, concession stand and registration fees the Recreation Board generates an additional $7,400 of annual income.

**Recreation Programming:**

The Riegelsville Recreation Board sponsors girls softball teams which compete in the Upper Bucks Softball League. The season lasts from April to June. With sufficient participation, there is a girls A team for 11 to 15 year olds and a girls B team for 8 to 10 year olds. Sometimes Riegelsville residents may participate on teams from Durham or Williams Townships. In the past, there has been participation of girls from nearby New Jersey on the Riegelsville teams. The Recreation Board also sponsors a youth T-ball team, with a season lasting from May to July. Participation is about 9 to 12 youths each year.

Boys can go to Durham Township to participate in the Penn Jersey League sanctioned Little League. The Williams Township Athletic Association sponsors youth football and youth basketball.

Adults from Riegelsville participate in the Lehigh Valley Men's Baseball League, a tavern league for men 35 and older.

There are two Boy Scout troops in the Borough, one sponsored by St. Peter's Lutheran Church and one sponsored by St. John The Baptist Church, at the Masonic Lodge. Girls wishing to participate in scouting would travel to the Easton area.

Currently, Riegelsville is split between the Eason Area and Palisades School Districts. The developed portion of the Borough is in the Easton Area District. In 2013, all of Riegelsville will be in the Palisades District. Within the Palisades School District there are a number of youth athletic opportunities in the Community League or the Colonial League, including the Palisades Youth Basketball Association (Boys

7-15 and Girls 7-15), Palisades Youth Football Association (Boys 5-13 and cheerleading), Palisades Youth Soccer Association, Palisades Youth Wrestling (K-6), Palisades Connie Mack, and Palisades over 18.

**Educational Institutions:**

Riegelsville Borough is served by two (2) school districts, Easton Area School District and Palisades School District. Neither school district has facilities located within the Borough limits. In 2013, all of Riegelsville will be in the Palisades District.

**County and State Lands:**

Riegelsville Borough contains one park owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Delaware Canal State Park, part of the D&L Heritage Corridor. The Delaware Canal State Park runs north-south along the Delaware River and is about 8.3 acres in size. It consists of the canal and towpath, which run continuously from Easton to Bristol, Pennsylvania (with a small portion paved over in Tullytown Borough). The towpath supports walking, running, biking, and horseback riding. Access points to the towpath are located near the Riegelsville Bridge and south of the Borough at the Riegelsville Shore Fishing Access Area and Durham Furnace Lock Number 21. There is also access to the towpath at a site just north of the Borough in Williams Township behind Mueller's Country Store and Mueller's Too Restaurant. There is a footbridge that spans the canal in the southern portion of the Borough.

Riegelsville Borough is also located along the Highlands Trail network. Currently the Highlands Trail extends 150 miles from Storm King Mountain on the Hudson River in New York south through New Jersey and terminates at the Riegelsville Delaware River Bridge. Multiple organizations, lead by the Appalachian Mountain Club, are working together to extend the Highlands Trail from Riegelsville, through the Pennsylvania Highlands Region, to the South Mountain and Appalachian Trail on the Pennsylvania/Maryland border.

Act 319 Land; The Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act of 1974, also known as Act 319 or the Clean and Green Act, is open to taxpayers under the following categories: agricultural use, agricultural reserve, and forest preserve. Under this Act and to encourage the maintenance of land as open space, Bucks County has entered into voluntary covenants with owners of farm, forest, water supply and open space land. The county agrees to assess the property at actual land use value (fair market value). Otherwise, the land is assessed at its value for its highest and best use. The preferential assessment serves as an incentive to preserve the land. Once enrolled the property remains in the program

as long as the land meets the eligibility requirements. If the landowner breaches the covenant, a penalty in the form of back taxes and interest is assessed. Riegelsville Borough has approximately 32 acres of Act 319 land on three parcels within the Borough. There is an additional 200 acres that forms the western side of the Borough and is currently part of a trust owned by the St. Lawrence Catholic Church.

**Location and Features of Existing Parks and Open Space Areas:**

A field survey was conducted to document all parks, open space areas and recreational facilities located within Riegelsville Borough. There are 4 different recreational sites in the Borough as shown on Figure 4, Existing Park, Recreation and Open Space Map. Of the 4 recreational sites only 2 are developed and used for recreational purposes. The activities offered at these facilities include baseball, softball, playground, basketball, picnicking, walling/jogging/hiking, and biking.

## 4.2 Private Sector:

There are two commercial enterprises that provide recreational opportunities within the Borough. The Shanti Yoga Center, located at 112 Delaware Road, offers beginning yoga up through advanced yoga where students can deepen their awareness of the self, learn valuable and inspiring practices to enhance their lives and share transformative experience. Classes are offered seven (7) days a week, typically with a morning, afternoon and sometimes an evening session. The Precision Training Group provides a fitness studio and physical rehabilitation services. They are located at 801 Durham Road. Sessions are offered by appointment only.

## 4.3 Summary:

The Borough is fortunate to have an existing park and open space areas along the river. However, the demand for recreational opportunities can only be satisfied if the following conditions are met:

- There is an adequate amount of park and open space land.
- The parks and open space areas are strategically located and easily accessible.
- A variety of active and passive recreational opportunities is provided for both genders and all age groups.
- The facilities provided at the parks are properly designed to support the recreational programs conducted at these sites.
- The parks and open space areas are in good condition and are well-maintained.
- The recreational programs are properly planned, organized and implemented.
- The administrative structure responsible for providing recreational opportunities responds appropriately to the needs of Borough residents.




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Data source:

2007 parcel data from Bucks County

N

0 300 600 1,200

Scale in Feet

***Figure 4***

***Riegelsville Borough Existing Parks, Recreation and Open Space***

***Bucks County, Pennsylvania***

An analysis of the need for additional park land, open space, recreational facilities and activities will be reviewed in the following chapters to determine the adequacy of the existing leisure opportunities. The results of this investigation will become the basis for Riegelsville Borough's future recreational goals and objectives.

# 5.0 Recreation Needs Park Land And Open Space

The first step in analyzing the existing recreational opportunities in Riegelsville Borough is to determine if a sufficient amount of land has been set aside for parks and open space areas. A lack of land area can limit the quantity and variety of open spaces and recreational facilities that can be provided by the Borough.

## 5.1 Park, Recreation and Open Space Standards:

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has prepared a classification scheme for use by municipalities in creating and evaluating a park and open space system. It is intended to serve as a planning guide and can be modified to address the recreational needs unique to each municipality. The NPRA classification scheme is divided into two categories: (1) park and open space areas that are considered to be "local" or "close-to-home" due to their smaller size and close proximity (Table #6) and (2) park and open space areas that are considered "regional" due to their larger size and broader service area (Table #7). Within each category, there are various types of parks and open space areas that can be identified according to their specific characteristics, as described in Tables #6 and #7. Overall, the NRPA recommends that municipalities have between 6.25 and 10.5 acres of park land and open space per 1,000 residents. This land, considered the "core" of a municipal park and open space system, should be suitable for intense development and used primarily for active recreational purposes. In addition, municipalities should also provide between 15 and 20 acres per 1,000 residents of "regional" park and open space areas that can be used as open space, active or passive recreational areas.

In this chapter, the NRPA standards will be used to assess whether there is an adequate amount of park, recreation and open space land in Riegelsville Borough. As part of this analysis, each of the existing recreation sites within the Borough were classified using the NRPA scheme, as shown on the Inventory of Parks and Open Space Areas Chart. Tax map records, field measurements, recorded subdivision plans and property survey maps have been used to ascertain the acreage of each recreation site. In addition, the amount of park, recreation and open space that Riegelsville Borough should have based upon NRPA standards has been calculated.

The amount of park land recommended by the NRPA guidelines has been compared with the total acreage of existing park, recreation and open space areas in order to properly evaluate the need for additional park, recreation and open space land in the Borough. In making the comparison, a distinction has been made between those recreation sites that are freely accessible to the public at all times and those that place

restrictions on public access. The analysis also recognizes which sites have been acquired for recreational purposes but have not been developed. Until recreational facilities are constructed on these sites, they do not yet qualify as park lands. In addition, the analysis differentiates between parks used for open space preservation, active and passive recreational activities.

**Table #6: NRPA Park, Recreation And Open Space Classification Scheme Local/Close-To-Home Space = Total Of 6.25 To 10.5 Acres Of Developed Open Space Per 1,000 Persons**

| Type of Park | Service Area | Desirable Site Size | Acres/1,000 Persons |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Mini-Park**<br>Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. | Less than 1/4-mile radius | 1 acre or less | 0.25 to 0.5 acres |
| **Neighborhood Park/Playground**<br>Area for intense recreational activities such as field sports, court games, crafts, playground activities, skating, picnicking, swimming, etc. | 1/4 to 1/2-mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 persons (a neighborhood). | 15+ acres | 1.0 to 2.0 acres |
| **Community Park**<br>Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and/or large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon the site suitability and community needs. | Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2-mile radius. | 25+ acres | 5.0 to 8.0 acres |

Source: National Recreation and Park Association - Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines

**Table #7: Continued NRPA Park, Recreation and Open Space Classification Scheme Regional Space = Total Of 15.0 To 20.0 Acres Per 1,000 Persons**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Regional/Metropolitan Park**<br><br>Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation (such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses) which may include play areas. | Several communities. 1-hour driving time. | 200+ acres | 5.0 to 10.0 acres |
| **Regional Park Preserve**<br><br>Area of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation (such as viewing/studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping and trail uses) which may include active play areas. Generally, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% used for recreation development. | Several communities. 1-hour driving time. | 1,000+ acres or sufficient area to encompass the resource to be preserved and managed. | Variable |

Source: National Recreation and Park Association - Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines

**Table #8: Continued NRPA Park, Recreation and Open Space Classification Scheme Space That May Be Local Or Regional Depending Upon The Unique Features Of The Community**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Linear Park**<br><br>Area developed for one or more varying modes of travel (such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving) which may include active play areas. | No applicable standard. | Sufficient size to protect the resource and provide maximum use. | Variable |
| **Special Use**<br><br>Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities (such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, ski areas) or areas that maintain and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archaeological significance. | No applicable standard. | Variable depending on desired size. | Variable |
| **Conservancy**<br><br>Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreational use as a secondary objective. | No applicable standard. | Sufficient to protect the resource. | Variable |

Source: National Recreation and Park Association - Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines

## 5.2 Park Land and Open Space Calculations:

As shown in Table #9, Riegelsville Borough will need between 6.25 and 10.5 acres of "local" park land and open space by the year 2020 according to the NRPA recommended standards. The Borough will also need between 15 and 20 acres of "regional" park land and open space by the year 2020. Using the 2005 estimated population of the Borough of 935, Riegelsville Borough should provide between 6.25 – 10.5 acres of Developed Core Recreational Space.

**Table #9: NRPA Recommended Amount of Park, Recreation and Open Space Per Person In Riegelsville Borough**

| Year | Total Population | NRPA Recommended Local, Close-to-Home or Core Space 6.25 to 10.5 Acres of Developed Open Space Per 1,000 Persons | NRPA Recommended Regional Space 15 to 20 Acres of Open Space Per 1,000 Persons |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 863* | 6.25 to 10.5 acres | 15 to 20 acres |
| 2010 | 868* | 6.25 to 10.5 acres | 15 to 20 acres |
| 2020 | 935** | 6.25 to 10.5 acres | 15 to 20 acres |

* U.S. Census Statistics ** Delaware Valley Planning Commission Projections

## 5.3 Analysis of Local Close-to-Home Park, Recreation and Open Space:

Table #10 shows that Riegelsville Borough owns 27.1 acres of park, recreation and open space land. At first glance, it appears that the combined acreage of these sites meets the total lands recommended by the NRPA standards for "local, close-to-home" space. Upon further examination, it becomes apparent that this is not the case. In Riegelsville, 5.0 acres of Borough owned park land has been developed for intense, active recreational purposes, an additional 1.25 acres needs to be develop to satisfy the NRPA recommendations for developed open space per person.

**Table #10: Existing Local/Close-To-Home Park, Recreation and Open Space Borough-Owned Sites**

| Name of Site | Proposed Purpose | Developed Core Acreage | Undeveloped Core Acreage | Open Space |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Riegelsville Park 2 (owned but not developed) | Active Recreation | - | 10.6 | - |
| Riegelsville Park (existing) | Active Recreation | 8.3 | | - |
| Proposed Riegelsville Trail | Passive Recreation/Open Space | | | 8.2 |
| Total = 27.1 Acres (including 8.3 "core" acres) | | 8.3 | 10.6 | 8.2 |

**Table #11: Existing Local/Close-To-Home Park, Recreation and Open Space State Lands**

| Name of Site | Proposed Purpose | Developed Linear Acreage | Temporary Linear Acreage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Delaware Canal Towpath | Passive Recreation | 4.80 | - |

**Table #12: Distribution Of Local, Close-To-Home Park Land Within The Recreation Planning Areas**

| Planning Area | Name of Park | Developed Acreage | Undeveloped Acreage |
|---|---|---|---|
| North | Riegelsville Park | 8.3 | - |
| Total = 8.3 "Core" Acres | | 8.3 | - |

| Planning Area | Name of Park | Developed Core Acreage | Undeveloped Core Acreage |
|---|---|---|---|
| South | Riegelsville Park 2 | - | 10.6 |
| Total = 0 "Core" Acres | | - | 10.6 |

**Table #13: Distribution Of Local, Close-To-Home Park Land Within The Recreation Planning Areas - Continued**

| Planning Area | Name of Park | Developed Core Acreage | Undeveloped Core Acreage |
|---|---|---|---|
| North/South | Proposed Riegelsville Trail | | 8.2 |
| | Delaware Canal Towpath | 4.8 | - |
| Total = 4.8 "Core" Acres | | 4.8 | 8.2 |

## 5.4 Analysis of Regional Park, Recreation and Open Space:

The Borough of Riegelsville does not own land that can be classified as regional park, recreation and open space.

## 5.5 Recreation Needs Facilities and Programs:

Knowledge of the total amount of park, recreation and open space needed by a municipality is a key part of developing a comprehensive recreation plan. Equally important is an understanding of the types of recreation activities desired by the residents in the community, since this information can then be used to determine how the park, recreation and open space should be developed to support these recreation activities.

Some residents migrate towards Williams Township and the City of Easton for recreational opportunities such as organized athletics. Some however do travel to Hellertown for fitness activities. It makes sense that people are drawn to the areas where their children attend school. Beginning in the fall of 2013, all of Riegelsville will be part of the Palisades School District. This will naturally begin to draw residents south into Bucks County for their normal recreational and even commercial shopping experiences.

The Borough cannot begin to provide all of the diverse recreational needs of its residents and with the multitude of programs and facilities available within a 20 minute drive, they don't have to. If the Borough chooses to begin sponsoring recreational programs, it is recommended that they use a third party, contracted vendor to start with such as sports camps. In this scenario, the Borough would only be responsible for providing a facility (in this case, an athletic field) and accepting registrations. The vendor provides the instructors and the equipment. This format allows the Borough to start small and offer a few programs without a large financial investment.

Short term (4 hrs. or less) special events are also a good way for the Borough to start offering recreational opportunities. The ability to obtain sponsorships and donations will directly affect the Borough's ability to do this. Depending on the type of event, tickets could be sold for attendance and the event would be a fund-raiser for the Borough.

Since there are various entities in the vicinity (state, county, municipal and school district) that offer a myriad of recreational programs, the Borough could serve as an information source for residents. The Borough's website and quarterly flyers could be used to update residents on current programs in the area. A brochure could be developed that would outline local recreation providers, their contact information and a general idea of the types of programs they offer. This brochure could be updated on an annual basis.

The Borough should consider a PRPS RecTAP (Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Recreation and Parks Technical Assistance Program) to assist with the details of starting to offer recreational programs on its own.

## 5.6 **Survey Results:**

As part of the 2001 Open Space Plan a questionnaire was sent to each of the 480 residential households in Riegelsville Borough in order to determine resident's views on public park and recreation opportunities and to identify the need for additional recreation activities within the community. 123 responses were received, a return rate of 26%. 284 people resided in the households returning the survey. 174 residents, 61%, were over the age of 30.

The questions asked in the survey and the tabulation of responses follow.

1. How many people reside at home in each age group?

| Age Group | Number of Persons |
|---|---|
| Under 5 | 32 |
| 5-12 | 20 |
| 12-17 | 22 |
| 18-21 | 10 |
| 22-30 | 26 |
| 31-50 | 103 |
| 51-70 | 51 |
| Over 70 | 20 |
| **Total** | **284** |

2. The borough should work on preserving open space so that land will remain undeveloped.

| Response | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Agree | 105 | 85% |
| Disagree | 6 | 5% |
| Neutral/Unsure | 12 | 10% |
| **Total** | **123** | **100%** |

3. The borough should not spend any time or effort on open space preservation, but should try to attract development.

| Response | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Agree | 6 | 5% |
| Disagree | 102 | 83% |
| Neutral/Unsure | 15 | 12% |
| **Total** | **123** | **100%** |

4. It is high priority to preserve farmland.

| Response | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Agree | 110 | 89% |
| Disagree | 2 | 2% |
| Neutral/Unsure | 11 | 9% |
| **Total** | **123** | **100%** |

5. The borough should give a high priority to park enlargement and upgrades.

| Response | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Agree | 87 | 71% |
| Disagree | 11 | 9% |
| Neutral/Unsure | 25 | 20% |
| **Total** | **123** | **100%** |

6. Flooding is a major problem and should be taken into account in preserving open space.

| Response | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Agree | 63 | 52% |
| Disagree | 16 | 13% |
| Neutral/Unsure | 43 | 35% |
| **Total** | **122** | **100%** |

7. The borough should give high priority to providing for nature trails, walking paths, bicycle paths, and passive open space that can be used and enjoyed by all age groups.

| Response | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Agree | 106 | 86% |
| Disagree | 10 | 8% |
| Neutral/Unsure | 7 | 6% |
| **Total** | **123** | **100%** |

8. Please rank the following items by assigning 1 to your highest priority for preservation, 2 to your second highest, and so forth.

| | Number of Tallies per Rank | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rank | Farmland | Historic Areas | Scenic Areas | Woodlands | Wildlife Habitat | Parks & Recreation | Canal & River Areas |
| 1 | 31 | 9 | 0 | 6 | 12 | 11 | 26 |
| 2 | 9 | 16 | 9 | 19 | 10 | 12 | 20 |
| 3 | 8 | 11 | 15 | 14 | 22 | 11 | 14 |
| 4 | 16 | 11 | 9 | 22 | 17 | 8 | 12 |
| 5 | 13 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 12 | 6 |
| 6 | 7 | 17 | 24 | 11 | 13 | 17 | 6 |
| 7 | 11 | 15 | 21 | 8 | 5 | 24 | 11 |

Note: There was some confusion as to how to correctly fill this portion of the survey out. Surveys that were returned with this section incomplete or incorrectly filled out are not included in these results.

9. Activities your family currently participates in and would like the borough to provide facilities for.

| Activity | Number Participating in Activity | Number Desiring Facilities for Activities |
|---|---|---|
| Hiking or Walking | 69 | 37 |
| Playgrounds | 22 | 34 |
| Nature Walks, Nature Study | 35 | 32 |
| Bicycling | 26 | 31 |
| Teen Activities | 5 | 28 |
| Concerts | 19 | 27 |
| Aerobic Exercise Class | 12 | 25 |
| Ice Skating | 16 | 24 |
| Tennis | 12 | 23 |
| Miniature Golf or Driving Range | 21 | 21 |
| Swimming | 34 | 19 |
| Canoeing | 20 | 17 |
| Volleyball | 9 | 16 |
| Senior Citizen Programs | 8 | 16 |
| Rollerblading | 21 | 15 |
| Community Clubs/Groups | 16 | 15 |
| Picnicking | 26 | 14 |
| Gardening, Community | 21 | 14 |
| Baseball | 19 | 14 |
| Basketball | 13 | 14 |
| Boating | 13 | 14 |
| Jogging or Running | 27 | 13 |
| Softball | 15 | 13 |
| Camping | 29 | 12 |
| Soccer | 4 | 11 |
| Fishing | 24 | 10 |
| Skateboarding | 6 | 10 |
| Golf | 17 | 9 |
| Hockey, Street | 4 | 4 |
| Football | 9 | 3 |
| Hockey, Field | 0 | 3 |
| Other | 9 | 8 |

An overwhelming majority of Riegelsville residents felt that open space preservation was an important goal for the community (85 percent). Only 5 percent of the respondents felt the Borough should concentrate its efforts on attracting development and not open space preservation. In addition, 89 percent felt that farmland preservation should be a high priority and 71 percent agreed that park enlargements and upgrades should be given high priority. However, only a slight majority agreed that flooding is a major problem and should be taken into account in preserving open space (52 percent). This might have been due to the fact that half of the Borough is outside of flood-prone areas and there may not have been a significant flood in a number of years. Again, an overwhelming majority felt that high priority should be given to providing nature trails, walking paths, bicycle paths, and passive open space (86 percent).

Residents were also asked to rank types of open space that they felt deserved the highest priority for preservation. These types consisted of farmland, historic areas, scenic areas, woodlands, wildlife habitat, parks and recreation, and canal and river areas. Respondents assigned a rank of 1 through 7 to each type, with 1 being the highest rank and 7 being the lowest. An overall weighted score was determined for each of these space types. (See note on previous page for an explanation of how the weighted score was determined). The open space type receiving the highest overall ranking was canal and river areas (3.15), followed by farmland (3.38), wildlife habitat (3.78), woodlands (3.91), historic areas (4.26), parks and recreation (4.53), and scenic areas (5.00).

Finally, residents were asked to indicate activities that they currently participate in and activities that they would like to see the Borough provide facilities for. Hiking and walking top the list of activities that Riegelsville families participated in with 69 responses, followed by nature walks, swimming, camping, jogging or running, bicycling, picnicking, and fishing. Hiking and walking also topped the list of activities for which residents would like the Borough to provide facilities. They were followed by playgrounds, nature walks, bicycling, teen activities, concerts, aerobic exercise classes, and ice-skating.

## Analysis

Through the resident survey, it is possible to more accurately evaluate potential open space resources. The responses to questions 2 through 7 indicate that open space preservation is important and farmland, park enlargements, and trails should be given high priority. Question 8 indicates that residents want more access to the canal and river area; farmland preservation was a close second in their rankings. Residents also placed an emphasis on natural areas such as woodlands and wildlife habitat, but were less enthusiastic about historic areas, new park and recreation areas, and scenic areas. When asked to name the activity most participated in and most desired in the community, hiking and walking came out on top

for both lists. Nature walks or nature study came in second for participation and third for desired in the community. Beyond these activities there seemed to be a desire for more focused, participatory activities, such as teen activities, aerobic exercise classes, and ice-skating.

The emphasis placed on biking, walking and bicycling is reflected in this Plan's high priority goals and recommendations to construct the Borough pedestrian trail, investigate the potential for east/west pedestrian ways to connect "downtown" with the future Borough trail and the D&L and Highlands Trails and investigate a potential pedestrian bridge connection between the existing Borough Park and the Delaware Canal Towpath.

There was interest in having more focused, participatory activities available for residents. This has been reflected in the medium priority goals and recommendations to investigate the expansion of Borough-sponsored recreation programs, outreach to local civic and athletic organizations to investigate the potential of partnering on the development of recreation programs and investigate the potential of increasing local taxes to generate additional revenue for recreation facility and program expansion and facility maintenance.

Survey respondents were in favor of giving emphasis to upgrading the existing park, and this is reflected in the high priority recommendation to develop a plan for park maintenance, upkeep and inspection and the medium priority recommendation to pursue renovation of the existing Borough Park. Development of the Delaware Park was given a lower priority.

Support for preservation of canal and river areas is reflected in the recommendation to investigate the potential for land acquisition and/or easements along the canal and Delaware River to provide additional public access and preserve the waterfront from potential future development.

## 5.7 **Key Person Interviews:**

During the course of this plan, 16 people were interviewed. People to be interviewed were identified by the Study Committee. Interviewees included the youth softball league organizer; a Planning Commission member and assistant youth softball league organizer; three former recreation board members; the Durham Township manager; an AMC Mid-Atlantic recreation planner; a representative of the Boy Scouts; the Borough Mayor, two local business owners; two Borough residents; the Borough treasurer; the Borough librarian; and a local church member. The following is a summary of the key person interviews:

BOROUGH OF RIEGELSVILLE
Summary of Key Person Interviews

**1). How many people reside in your household?**
5, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 2, 4, 9, 3, 4

**2). What are the age groups of your family?**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Under age 5 | 7 | 6-15 | 7 | 16-19 | 2 | 20-25 | 2 26-29 |
| 6 | 30-39 | 11 | 40-49 | 4 | 50-59 | 1 | 60-65 | 1 Over 65 |

**3). Do you use the existing recreation facilities located in the Borough? If so which?**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Park | 8 | Canal Path | 3 |
| Basketball courts | 1 | Playground/swings | 5 |
| Baseball fields | 7 | pavillion | 1 |
| Towpath | 7 | | |

**4). What do you like/dislike about the recreation, parks or open space in the Borough**

| Like | | Dislike | |
|---|---|---|---|
| well maintained/convenient | 2 | Old Tennis Courts | 1 |
| Suitable for events | 1 | hard to get from canal to park | 1 |
| some river access | 1 | Needs to resurface basketball courts | 1 |
| places to eat around Boro | 1 | tennis courts are handicap prkg | 2 |
| open space | 1 | Condition of baseball fields | 2 |
| Proximity | 2 | More equipment | 1 |
| physical beauty/nature | 1 | Lack of shade for playground equip | 1 |
| | | ballfields floods | 1 |
| | | bare min equip | 1 |

**5). What can the Borough do to improve existing facilities to increase usage?**

| | |
|---|---|
| Fix tennis court | 6 |
| Have better handicapped parking | 1 |
| Flushable toilets | 3 |
| (pavillion may get used more) | 1 |
| Complete soccer field | 1 |
| Finish walking path - make loop | 2 |
| Benches along path | 1 |
| Bingo/Senior events | 1 |
| Joint Ball club with TWP | 1 |
| Better access to canal and river | 1 |
| Signage on trail for bathrooms, restaurants | 1 |
| Resurface basketball courts | 1 |
| Std. size baseball field | 3 |
| Punt, pass, Kick field | 1 |
| running water | 1 |
| have equip in shade | 1 |
| More events | 1 |
| Improve quality and qnty of equip | 1 |
| Another trail - trail gets crowded | 1 |
| Add a dog park | 1 |
| Add a trail from park to towpath | 1 |
| Implement sports programs/organized activities | 1 |

No comment 1

6). **What type of recreation facilities would you like to see the Borough develop?**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pool | 2 | Nature education | 1 |
| Tennis courts | 6 | soccer field | 1 |
| walking path | 4 | None | 1 |
| Athletic fields | 2 | better ball fields | 4 |
| Access to park (mariton santuary) | 1 | Punt, pass, kick | 1 |
| basket ball courts | 2 | ice skating | 1 |
| Open space | 1 | exercise stations | 1 |
| Connect bike path | 3 | dog park | 1 |
| footbridge over canal | 1 | | |

7). **Would you be interested in participating in recreational programs sponsored by the Borough? If so what type? (Examples would be playground group, walking club, basketball league, etc.)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Walking club | 3 | t-ball/baseball | 2 |
| PC | 1 | plant identification | 1 |
| No | 3 | Adult baseball | 2 |
| Tennis league | 2 | Low impact | 1 |
| bird watching | 1 | | |

*would be interesting in giving tennis lessons

8).

**Would you support a tax increase to develop and better maintain the recreational facilities within the Borough? A 1 mil tax increase would result in an average $20 increase per year per household.**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 11 | *if used properly | 2 |
| No | 3 | *if earmarked for rec | |

9).

**Are there any additional comments or considerations that you would like the Committee to be aware of?**

i. If we have to spend money for the sake of spending money would rather have it for something worthwhile like a local policeman.
Believes walking path precipitated this and is against the walking path. It's a waste of taxpayers money. There are more than adequate opportunities for walking in safe areas around the Borough without being in the street.

ii. No problem. ATV Motorized vehicle path or area.

iii. As a social group – She is part of the Appalachian Mountain club – Delaware Valley Chapter. They have volunteers that partner and maintain trails.
Consider signage for trail users
Restrooms – even a port-a-potty would be nice
Signage for parking

iv. If the Borough owned the land to the river, they would have river access. A bridge over the canal would be nice to give walking access to the river or access to the towpath across the canal.

v. Rec board is doing a commendable job

vi. The school district decision has to be included in the decision for ball fields. Do kids want to play for a team that is floundering? Can they even field a team?

vii. It would be nice if the walking trail was something other than a paved surface. Something nice to walk on. Also, it could be good to include wildlife information at the stations – telling what type of wildlife is there an what it looks like (could be bird species, etc).

viii. There should be better playground equipment. 10 years ago there were some changes made from some very old equipment but they are mostly geared towards toddlers or young kids.

ix. Concerns with the Delaware flooding every year on the ballfield and park.

x. Improve maintain what you have, like the ballfields. Do something positive, get more organized/active community involvement. The school districts become a problem because the school system is so bad and it jumps over other areas and is split between 2 districts so kids go to different sports in different areas.

xi. Additional open space/natural areas with the trails

xii. No. But considering how small the town is – the recreation is halfway decent. The Rec board has done a

**10). Additional questions for Social Clubs/Groups/Business Owners**

o Is there a potential for partnering with the Borough in developing and/or maintaining existing or future recreational facilities?

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 2 |
| No | 1 |

Years ago (like 25) the Eagle Scouts helped to fix up and paint the bleachers. It was as part of their Eagle Scout social projects.

o Does your business (or group) benefit economically from the current recreational facilities found within the Borough? If so, how? If not, is there the potential for economically benefitting from future

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 3 |
| Walk - place for kids to go, better health | |
| MD - people getting hurts benefits his business - (kind of) | |
| Somewhat. Without ball fields - it limits things. | |
| The community should get more car shows, carnivals, activities | |
| Tow path traffic | |

Park facilities and walking facilities are used by the respondents. Concerns are conditions of the tennis court and baseball fields, providing flushable toilets and looping the walking path. Priorities in facilities include the tennis courts, walking and biking facilities, and improved ball fields.

These responses are reflected in the plan for the Borough Park renovation, which includes renovating the existing baseball field, providing a connection to the Delaware Canal Towpath, refurbishing tennis and basketball courts and constructing a short loop walking trail.

## 5.8 **Public Meetings:**

Two public meetings have been held on the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. The first was held March 30, 2011 and attended by 16 residents. At that meeting the 2001 Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan was discussed and the process and objectives of this plan presented. The findings of the key person interviews and the 2001 survey were reviewed, as well as NRPA recommendations based on population and service area. The recommendations of this plan were presented along with plans for Riegelsville Park renovation and development of the Delaware Road Park.

The second public meeting was held on May 16, 2012 and attended by 7 residents. The recommendations of this plan and the plans for the Riegelsville Park renovation and plan for the Delaware Road Park development were presented. The process to complete the planning process was outlined.

Issues which were discussed with the public at the public meetings included what provisions would be made for parking, allowing for some flexibility in the use of parks, whether a regulation baseball field could be provided for an adult league, whether the baseball field infield should be skinned or grassed, the level of maintenance which would be needed, the need for organization of activities at the parks, and whether Borough open space could be used for municipal stockpiles (not allowed by deed restrictions).

# 6.0 Goals and Objectives

Riegelsville Borough is one of many municipalities in the Delaware Valley in the process of looking toward the future. Riegelsville Borough is taking a highly active role in addressing park, recreation and open space needs. The manner in which the Borough meets this challenge should be well-conceived and should respect the administrative and financial capabilities of the community. Therefore, the Borough has developed a number of goals and objectives to systematically improve the variety and quality of recreational opportunities for its residents. These goals and objectives set forth both general principles and specific recommendations as outlined below:

## 6.1 Overall Park, Recreation and Open Space Philosophy:

The creation and management of an effective park, recreation and open space system requires a substantial commitment of human and financial resources on the part of Riegelsville Borough.

The Borough has focused on providing one larger park within each of the two previous neighborhood districts so that each park can provide a better variety of leisure activities and so that administrative, operations and maintenance task can be streamlined. In 2001, Riegelsville Borough developed and adopted an Open Space Plan. Since the plan's adoption the Borough has been working on implementing the recommendations initially outlined with varying degrees of success. In 2008, due to the acquisition of additional recreation properties, recent flood events, and age of the initial Open Space Plan, Borough council determined it time to review and update the Open Space Plan and at the same time develop master plans for the Borough's park properties.

## 6.2 General Guidelines for the Acquisition and Development of Neighborhood Parks:

The results of the Recreation Survey as well as the comments generated by the Steering Committee, Key person interviews and the Borough Council during the Comprehensive Planning Process, reveal that the residents of Riegelsville Borough do have a mental picture of their "ideal" neighborhood park. Such a park should provide an aesthetically pleasing and well-maintained environment that would support activities for all age groups and would, at a minimum, have the following attributes:

- playground facilities for young children;
- athletic fields for baseball, softball and soccer activities;
- courts for basketball, and tennis;
- picnic facilities;

- a pathway system outside the park that residents can use to safely walk or bike from their house to the park;
- a pathway network inside the park that residents can use to easily access the various park facilities and that can also be used for exercise purposes, and;
- a parking area that the residents can use should they choose to drive to the park.

Approximately 10 to 20 acres of land are required to develop a park with these characteristics. Even more land may be required if the proposed park site includes steep slopes, wetlands or other natural or man-made features that should be preserved as open space instead of being developed for active recreation. Preferably, the park should consist of a single tract of land, rather than several smaller parcels, to allow families to enjoy any number of park facilities during one visit. In addition, the park should be strategically located within a neighborhood for easy access.

Although the "ideal" park characteristics listed above are symbolic of the minimum "level of service" that residents expect from a Borough park, these criteria should not be used to justify building the same, identical park in each of the two neighborhoods. Successful parks are the result of good planning. The Recreation Board in cooperation with the Borough Council and the Steering Committee should prepare a master plan for each of its parks in order to properly evaluate and maximize the potential use of each site. Early on in this design process, the Borough should first refer to this Comprehensive Plan to determine the types of recreational activities needed by the community and then design the park facilities to support these activities. The Borough's cooperative relationship with the local athletic association makes it imperative that the master planning process identify ways in which the Borough parks can complement rather than compete with the recreational opportunities provided by this agency. The park amenities should be arranged in such a way that the natural features of the site are enhanced and the facilities are not crowded together. The dimensions of athletic fields and courts should be regulation size, and all of the park facilities should be designed in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and current safety standards. The variety and quantity of recreational facilities should be determined using the "Level of Service" methodology recommended by the National Recreation and Park Society as a guide.

## 6.3 Recommendations - South Recreation Planning Area:

The South Recreation Planning Area is the area of the Borough west of the Delaware River to the southern boundary of the Borough and includes a half mile radius of the proposed new park along Delaware Road. As previously discussed, this planning area has half the area of park, recreation and open space, the open space is owned by the Borough. Figure 5 shows the south and north service areas. Figure 6 shows a 0.5 mile radius from the future park property and the existing Borough park.




READING
1047 North Park Road
PO Box 6307
Reading, PA 19610-0307
610.621.2000
F. 610.621.2001

LEHIGH VALLEY
City Line Plaza, Suite 300
2005 City Line Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017-7701
Tel: 610-849-9700
Fax: 610-849-9701

SSM
SPOTTS | STEVENS | McCOY
Engineers and Consultants
ssmgroup.com

01/14/13

g:/projects/w100000/w108308/w0014/11x17rec_service_areas.mxd

Data source:

2007 parcel data from Bucks County

N

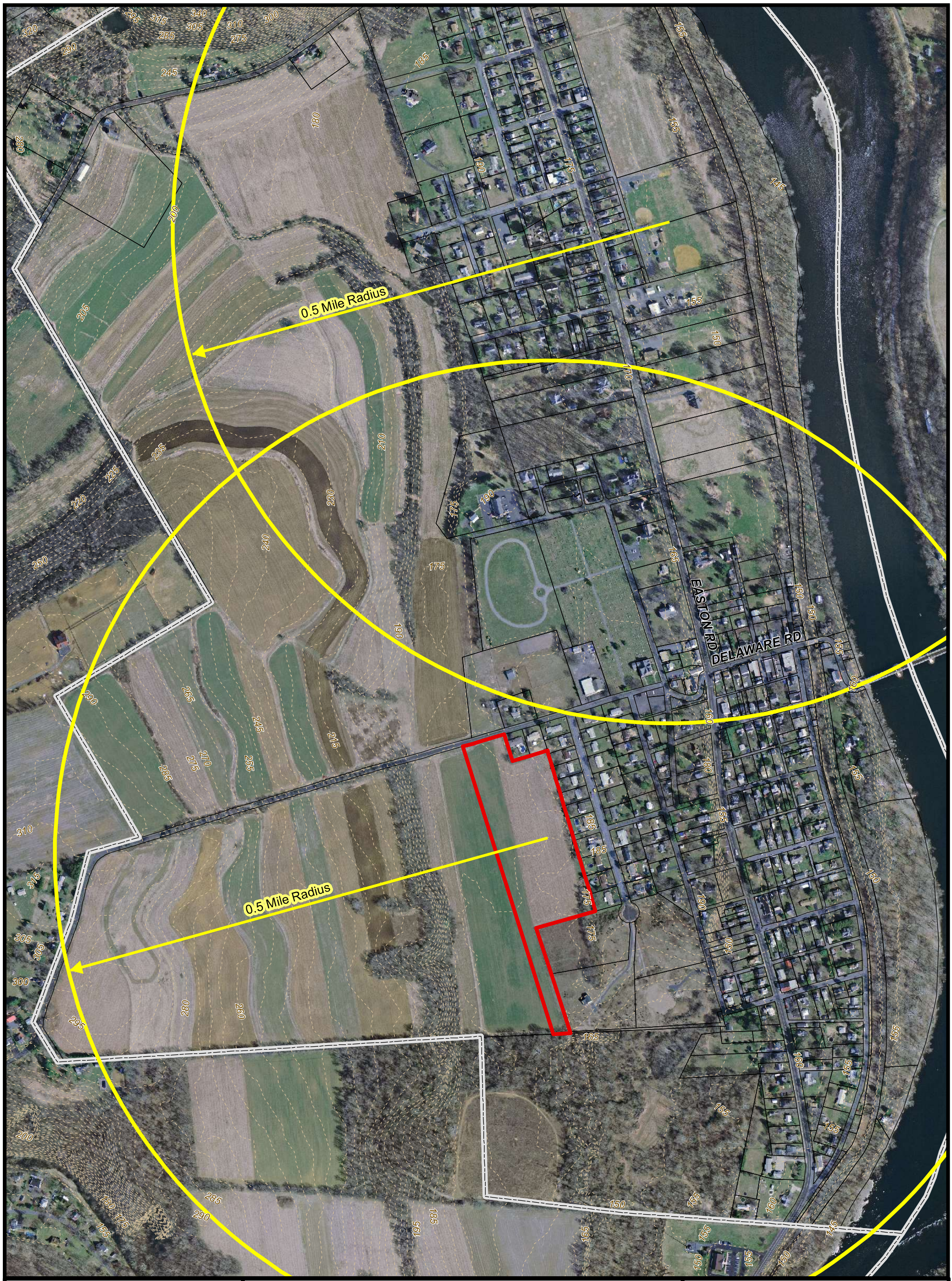
0 300 600 1,200

Scale in Feet

***Figure 5***

***Riegelsville Borough North and South Service Areas***

***Bucks County, Pennsylvania***




READING
1047 North Park Road
PO Box 6307
Reading, PA 19610-0307
610.621.2000
F. 610.621.2001

LEHIGH VALLEY
City Line Plaza, Suite 300
2005 City Line Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017-7701
Tel: 610-849-9700
Fax: 610-849-9701

SSM
SPOTTS | STEVENS | McCOY
Engineers and Consultants
ssmgroup.com

01/14/13

g:/projects/w100000/w108308/w0014/11x17doq.mxd

Data source:
2005 aerial photography from DVRPC
2007 parcel data from Bucks County

**Legend**

- Future Park Property
- Service Area = 0.5 mile
- **Municipal Boundary**
- **Parcel Boundary**
- **5' Contour Elevation**

N

0 250 500 1,000
Scale in Feet

***Figure 6***

***Riegelsville Borough***
***Park Service Radius***

***Bucks County, Pennsylvania***

## 6.4 Recommendations - North Recreation Planning Area:

The North Recreation Planning Area is the area of the Borough north of Delaware Road to the northern boundary of the Borough. The North Recreation Planning Area includes the existing 7 acre Riegelsville Borough Park and portions of the Delaware Canal Towpath and future Borough Trail.

The Delaware Canal Towpath is located in this planning area. However, there is no direct connection to the towpath. The Borough should work to construct a trail and bridge to connect Riegelsville Park to the Canal Towpath. The Borough should seek assistance from Bucks County, the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and other potential partners in linking these sites.

The Borough should continue to donate funds to the Athletic Association for capital improvements. However, the donations should be used towards park improvements that will complement, not duplicate, the recreational facilities provided at the Park.

## 6.5 General Administration, Operations and Maintenance Guidelines:

The Recreation Board has historically provided the forum for the discussion of park, recreation and open space issues and should continue to do so. New by-laws for the Recreation Board will set forth a framework within which the Recreation Board members can effectively advise the Borough Council on such matters. Recreation Board members should regularly attend the Borough Council monthly meetings and a member of the Borough Council should attend the monthly Recreation Board meetings to keep the lines of communication open between these two groups.

The Recreation Board should continue to sponsor leisure activities for local residents. A schedule of recreational programs should be prepared each year along with a budget itemizing the costs associated with the Borough sponsoring these activities. This schedule should be used not only as a tool to properly plan, implement and improve upon existing programs, but also as a means of brainstorming ideas for the development of new programs.

Day-to-day operations and maintenance of the Borough park land is currently handled by the Borough Council and the Borough staff and should remain under their jurisdiction at the present time. Contractors, recreation board members and volunteers maintain ball fields and park, along with one full-time Borough employee. The Recreation board raises money for field maintenance and cleans up trash.

The Borough should consider joining or maintaining memberships in professional associations, such as the PA Recreation and Park Society and the Keystone Athletic Field Maintenance Organization, to keep up-to-date on administrative, planning, design, programming and maintenance issues and to network with other municipalities that are facing the same challenges as Riegelsville Borough.

The Borough should also reach out to municipalities in the area who have recreational professionals on staff for free advice and ideas. Several counties, including Bucks County, have recreation professional groups that meet occasionally for networking lunches and who even cooperate on sponsoring special events. The PRPS (PA Recreation and Park Society) can connect the Borough to this group.

With regard to maintenance activities, the Borough should begin to document the annual maintenance tasks and expenses associated with the existing parks and open space areas owned by the Borough, so that this information can be used to project the yearly maintenance responsibilities and costs for the new park that the Borough plans to develop. The book, Park Maintenance Standards published by the National Recreation and Park Society, is a good reference to use in getting started on a deliberate maintenance program.

The Borough should continue to support and cooperate with the athletic association that provides recreational opportunities for Borough residents. Representatives of this group should be encouraged to regularly attend the Recreation Board meetings.

The Recreation Board and Borough Council should work together on two important tasks: the review of subdivision/land development plans and the design and implementation of a pathway network throughout the Borough. Land development and subdivision plans often propose the dedication of land to the Borough for park, recreation and open space purposes. The Borough Council should obtain input from the Recreation Board regarding whether the land to be dedicated is in keeping with the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance should be revised to require that the Recreation Board review all plan submissions and provide written recommendations to the Borough Council regarding recreation planning issues.

Conversely, the Borough Council has considerable experience in tackling Borough-wide planning problems and the Recreation Board would benefit from the insight that the Borough Council members have to offer with regard to the development of a pathway network. Therefore, the Recreation Board and Borough Council should work together over the next three years to develop a proposed Borough-wide

pathway system. In some cases, the Recreation Board and the Borough Council may prefer to have a developer make improvements to the proposed Borough pathway network rather than dedicate park land or an open space area. The Borough should assume, for budgeting purposes, which the proposed pathway will be a minimum of 8 feet in width and cost approximately $25 per linear foot to construct, not including design fees or any right-of-way acquisition. The construction of a one-mile long segment of the pathway network would cost $132,000 accordingly. It is unlikely that the Borough can afford to construct the entire pathway network at one time. A more reasonable approach would be to construct the trail in segments approximately 0.5 miles in length.

The most important task for the Recreation Board is the completion of an annual report that summarizes the accomplishments made during the year, and sets future goals based upon the Borough's progress in implementing the recommendations outlined in this Chapter. Every ten years, the Recreation Board should work with the Borough Council to update this Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

## 6.6 **Summary:**

The proposed recommendations outlined in this Chapter are intended to address the need for a minimum of 10.6 acres of new park, recreation and open space by the year 2021 as well as the need for new recreational facilities and programs at the existing Borough-owned park land. Clearly, there has been much progress and is still much work to be done to accomplish these goals so that Riegelsville Borough residents can enjoy a first-class park, recreation and open space system.

## 6.7 **Implementation Plan:**

All of the recommendations outlined in the previous chapter cannot be achieved simultaneously. Instead, a plan for the methodical and systematic implementation of these goals and objectives is required. This plan should set realistic targets for completion of the proposed park, recreation and open space improvements base on the recreational needs of the Borough.

The Steering Committee Developed high medium and low priority goals and recommendations for future recreational development within the Borough, which are listed below.

Prior to implementing recommendations for facilities it will be necessary for the Borough to develop an overall strategy for enhancing revenue available for facility development and maintenance, reach out to experienced park and recreation professionals for assistance, develop a strategy for increasing community

involvement in recreation administration and maintenance and seek local and regional partners for expanding recreation programs and facilities available to Borough residents.

**High Priority Goals and Recommendations:**

The high priority goals and recommendations are items that should be completed within the next 3 years. And they include:

- Construction of the Borough pedestrian trail.
- Investigate potential east/west pedestrian ways to connect "downtown" with future Borough trail and future Borough Trail with Delaware Canal Towpath and Highlands Trail.
- Investigate potential pedestrian bridge connection between existing Borough Park and Delaware Canal Towpath.
- Develop a set of "bylaws" outlining the responsibly and authority of the Recreation Board for future generations to follow.
- Develop a park strategic maintenance, upkeep, and inspection plan and determine what efforts can be provided in-house, what needs to be subcontracted, and how often various items need to be completed.
- Investigate the implementation of assessing recreation impact fees for future land development in accordance with the Municipal Planning Code Section 503.11.

With respect to the assessment of recreation impact fees the Borough will need to develop Recreation Districts, or areas for the assessed impact fees to be used. This plan proposed 2 recreation districts, a north and a south district. The north district would extend from the Boroughs northern boundary south to Delaware Road. The south district would extend for the Borough's southern boundary north to northern extent of the R-2 zoning district. Any assessed fees within the overlap area can be used in either the north or south recreation districts.

**Medium Priority Goals and Recommendations:**

The medium priority recommendations or those items which should be completed within the next 5 to 6 years are:

- Investigate the expansion of Borough sponsored recreation programs to promote personal well-being, promote sense of community, and potentially generate funds/capital.
- Outreach to local civic and athletic organizations to investigate the potential of partnering on the development of recreation programs.
- Pursue the renovation of the existing Borough Park per the 2012 Master Site Plan.
- Investigate the potential of increasing local taxes to generate additional revenues for recreation facility and program expansion and facility maintenance.

**Low Priority Goals and Recommendations:**

The low priority recommendations or those items which should be completed within the next 10 years are:

- Pursue the development of the 10 acre undeveloped Delaware Road Recreation Property per the 2012 Master Site Plan.
- Investigate the potential for land acquisitions and/or easements along the canal and Delaware River to provide additional public access to these waterways for recreational purposes while preserving the waterfront from potential future development.
- Investigate the addition of water and restroom facilities to the Borough Park.

**Dedication of Land & Recreation Impact Fees:**

The PA Municipalities Planning Code allows cities, boroughs and townships to require as part of the subdivision and land development process the public dedication or private reservation of land for parks and open space, the construction of recreational facilities and the payment of impact fee in lieu thereof. The Riegelsville Borough Subdivision Ordinance includes provisions for the dedication of land or the payment of a fee in lieu of dedicating land. The Borough may decide to pass, by separate resolution, a fee in-lieu of provision for developers who elect not to provide park and recreation opportunities/facilities on their subdivision and land development plans when submitted. This money can be used to acquire land, improve existing facilities, or create new facilities in the park planning area in which the fee was collected.

The Borough should update the recreation impact fee from time to time as the amount is derived from three separate variables. The first variable is the amount of land recommended that should be provided for active and passive recreation by the NRPA. Currently, the NRPA guidelines recommend between 21.25 and 30.5 acres per 1,000 people. On average, the Borough should provide approximately 25.875 acres per 1,000 people or 0.026 acres per new resident. The second variable is the average household size. Currently, the average household size in the Borough is 2.11 individuals per household. The amount of land that should be provided for each new dwelling unit can be determined by combining the first two variables as follows: 0.026 acres per resident multiplied by the average household size of 2.11 yields a recommended 0.05 acres per dwelling unit. The final variable is the cost to acquire and develop park and open space areas. Land values in Bucks County vary tremendously; however, various market studies suggest that undeveloped residential land in the area sells for $30,000 per acre. Development costs for active recreation can add an additional $30,000 per acre (Developed recreation land would total $60,000 per acre). Since the NRPA recommendations provide a roughly 50/50 split between developed recreation areas and more passive open spaces, a prorated cost of $45,000 per acre is appropriate to reflect

a mixture of developed and undeveloped recreation areas in the Borough. At $45,000 per acre and 0.05 acres per dwelling unit, a fee of $2,250 per dwelling unit could be supported.

**Leases and Easements:**

Riegelsville Borough does not always have to acquire land in order to provide park and open space acres. Instead, the Borough can obtain a long-term lease or an easement from a property owner. Easements are especially useful in conserving open space areas and in obtaining pedestrian or vehicular access. The advantage of a lease or easement is that the Borough does not have to incur the cost of acquiring the land.

**User Fees:**

As recreational facilities are constructed, the Borough should consider the pros and cons of charging user fees as a method of recouping capital improvement, maintenance and operational costs. User fees should be comparable to those charged by surrounding municipalities and should not discourage use of a Borough facility.

## 6.8 Summary:

The Implementation Plan is a planning tool for gradually achieving the proposed recommendations in this Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. As opportunities arise, the Borough may wish to adjust the order in which the proposed improvements are completed within the framework of the Borough's overall goals and objectives. Utilization of all of the available financing options will help insure that the proposed projects are ultimately achieved.

## 6.9 Implementation Responsibilities:

Ultimate responsibility for implementation of this plan lies with the governing body, Riegelsville Borough Council. The Borough Council has been, and will continue to be, assisted by the Borough's Recreation Board. The Borough Council will continue to budget funds for recreation facilities, maintenance, programs and hiring consultants as needed. Borough Council and Borough staff will continue to see that Borough park facilities are maintained. The Recreation Board will continue to advise Council on recreation matters, sponsor the Borough's recreation programs, coordinate with youth associations in the region and interface with Borough residents. Cooperation should be maintained with Palisades Youth Associations.

As the Borough implements this plan, additional resources of people and finances will be required. The Riegelsville Enhancement Committee should be asked to participate as appropriate, particularly in

encouraging volunteers among residents. The Enhancement Committee's role is to "maintain and promote Riegelsville's historic charm, cultural allure, and strong sense of community" through fundraisers, volunteerism, and community projects.

Riegelsville has limited financial resources. The budgeted 2012 revenue is $258,760.00. Per capita, earned income and real estate taxes generate about $198,000 in revenue. Borough Council budgeted $4,100 for Recreation Board contribution in 2012. To fund planned trail and park improvements and fund additional recreation programs, additional revenues will be needed. Council, Borough staff and the Recreation Board, with consultant assistance as necessary, should be active in securing grants for recreation facilities. The PADCNR Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance program can also be used to improve Borough park and recreation services through contacts with experienced park and recreation professionals.

Some percentage of a match is typically required to secure a grant. Borough Council will have to determine to what extent it can budget additional money for recreation and grant matches. Local citizens and businesses can be approached for donations of money or services and materials. Fundraisers can be held. Volunteers can be recruited for maintenance and enhancement work. Sometimes grants can be used as a match for other grants. The Borough Council and Solicitor should revise the subdivision and land development ordinance to establish a recreation fee to fund park and trail improvements. Developers can also be asked to include trail facilities within their developments pursuant to this plan. Such development plans would be reviewed by the Council and Recreation Board. Securing developer-financed improvements can be facilitated by directing the Borough Engineer to prepare an Official Map showing proposed recreation facilities.

A number of grant sources should be pursued. PADCNR has a wide range of land acquisition, park rehabilitation and development and trail programs under its Community Conservation Partnership Program ($C_2P_2$). PADCED has grants for community development. PennDOT should be consulted regarding programs for trail development under the newly passed MHP-21 Transportation Alternatives program. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission should be contacted regarding enhancing access to the Delaware River, as should the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

Bucks County should also be considered a potential partner through its Municipal Open Space and Delaware Riverfront programs. Contact should be made with the Bucks County Commissioners, Open

Space Board and Parks and Recreation Board. The County Planning Commission may be able to offer some technical guidance.

Another potential source of assistance is foundations, such as the William Penn Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The following table shows the major recommendations of this plan, the priority of the recommendation, responsible local agencies and potential partners and funding sources.

**Table #14: Major Plan Recommendations**

| Recommendation | Priority | Responsible Agencies | Partners/Funding Sources |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Construct Borough pedestrian trail | High | Borough Council, Recreation Board, developers and landowners | PADCNR, PADCED, PennDOT, Bucks County |
| | | | |
| 2. Investigate connecting downtown, Delaware Canal Towpath and Highlands Trail with future Borough trail | High | Borough Council, Recreation Board, developers and landowners | PADCNR, PADCED, PennDOT, Bucks County, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor |
| | | | |
| 3. Investigate pedestrian bridge connection between Borough Park and Delaware Canal Towpath | High | Borough Council, Recreation Board | PADCNR, PADCED, PennDOT, Bucks County, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor |
| | | | |
| 4. Develop By-laws for Recreation Board | High | Borough Council, Recreation Board, Borough Solicitor | PRPS |
| | | | |
| 5. Develop a maintenance and inspection plan for Borough parks | High | Borough Council, Recreation Board | PADCNR, PRPS |
| | | | |
| 6. Investigate utilizing recreation impact fees | High | Borough Council, Recreation Board, Borough Solicitor | PADCNR, Bucks County Planning Commission |
| | | | |
| 7. Investigate expansion of Borough sponsored recreation programs | Medium | Borough Council, Recreation Board | PADCNR, PRPS |
| | | | |
| 8. Investigate the potential for partnering on the development of recreation programs | Medium | Borough Council, Recreation Board | Palisades youth associations, Borough businesses, churches, civic and social organizations, PRPS |
| | | | |
| 9. Pursue renovation of existing Borough Park | Medium | Borough Council, Recreation Board | PADCNR, PADCED, Bucks County, Enhancement Committee, Boy Scouts |
| | | | |
| 10. Investigate increasing taxes to generate | Medium | Borough Council, Recreation Board, citizens | |

| Recommendation | Priority | Responsible Agencies | Partners/Funding Sources |
|---|---|---|---|
| additional revenue for recreation needs | | | |
| | | | |
| 11. Develop Delaware Road Park | Low | Borough Council, Recreation Board | PADCNR, PADCED, Bucks County |
| | | | |
| 12. Investigate land acquisition and/or easements along the Canal and Delaware River | Low | Borough Council, Recreation Board, landowners | PADCNR, PADCED, Bucks County, PADEP, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor |
| 13. Investigate the addition of water and restroom facilities to the Borough Park | Low | Borough Council, Recreation Board | PADCNR, PADCED, Bucks County |

# 7.0 Master Plan Development

Riegelsville Borough decided to expand the evaluation and recommendation aspects of the park, recreation, and open space planning process to include the master plan preparation for the park properties owned by the Borough. Through the evaluation of existing facilities and programs, study committee discussions, public survey, key person interviews, and the public meeting the Borough was able to assemble a register of activities and facilities needed to meet the recreation demands of the community. The master plans prepared for each Borough park property were derived to support the goals, objectives, and recommendations determined during the park, recreation, and open space planning process.

## 7.1 Site Analysis:

Riegelsville Borough owns 2 properties within the Borough dedicated for recreational use. The first is the existing 7 acre Riegelsville Park, the second is an undeveloped 10 acre tract of land referred to as Riegelsville Park 2. Figure 7 is an aerial photo of the Borough with the future park property outlined.

The first step in this process was analyzing each of the park properties to identify the pros and cons of each site. During this process we look at:

- Existing facilities and note their conditions.
- Potentials for connectivity to adjoining facilities.
- Access and views into, out of and within the site.
- What natural features exist and their importance to the site.
- Do any hazards exist.
- Conflict Areas.
- Wetlands.
- Adjoining Property.

## 7.2 Concept Development:

The design for the Riegelsville Borough Park developed uses the programming information gathered through the site analysis, steering committee and public meetings, key person interviews, existing recreational facility analysis, and community history and character. During the design process two conceptual plans, and a final site master plan were developed; all of which are discussed and illustrated in the following pages.




READING
1047 North Park Road
PO Box 6307
Reading, PA 19610-0307
610.621.2000
F. 610.621.2001

LEHIGH VALLEY
City Line Plaza, Suite 300
2005 City Line Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017-7701
Tel: 610-849-9700
Fax: 610-849-9701

SSM
SPOTTS | STEVENS | McCOY
Engineers and Consultants
ssmgroup.com

01/14/13

g:/projects/w100000/w108308/w0014/11x17doq2.mxd

Data source:
2005 aerial photography from DVRPC
2007 parcel data from Bucks County

**Legend**

- Future Park Property
- **Municipal Boundary**
- **Parcel Boundary**
- **5' Contour Elevation**

N

0 250 500 1,000

Scale in Feet

***Figure 7***

***Riegelsville Borough***
***Aerial Photo***

***Bucks County, Pennsylvania***

**Existing Park Renovations:**

7.2.1.1. Concept 2B:

Pros:

- Lower maintenance.
- Keep recently upgraded baseball field not affected by flood waters.
- Expand parking capacity.
- Minimal disturbance to remainder of park.
- Access to Delaware Canal Towpath.

Cons:

- Water crossing.
- Ecological impacts.
- Minimal parking capacity.
- Limited vehicular accessibility.

7.2.1.2. Concept 2C:

Pros:

- Maintains existing facilities.
- Centrally located parking and drop-off/pick-up area.
- Regulation size baseball field.
- Access to Delaware and Lehigh Trail.
- Recreation lawn for unstructured activities.
- Construction is easily phased.

Cons:

- Water crossing, ecological impacts.
- Significant impact of natural area.
- Minimal parking capacity.
- Baseball field located within 100 year floodplain.
- Limited vehicular accessibility.
- High construction costs and permitting requirements

**Proposed New Park (Delaware Road):**

7.2.1.3. Concept 1B:

Pros:

- Borough wide trail system linkage.
- Combination of passive and active recreation.
- Potential multiple access points.
- Construction is easily phased.
- Vehicular access to all park features.
- Segmented recreation area.

Cons:

- High construction costs.
- Time consuming maintenance.
- Limited overall active recreation.
- Separate pedestrian crossing and driveway locations.
- Segmented recreation area.

7.2.1.4. Concept 1C:

Pros:

- Borough wide trail system linkage.
- Combination of passive and active recreation.
- Single vehicular/trail crossing access points.
- Limited impervious area.
- Buffers adjoining resident from park.
- Continuous recreation area.

Cons:

- High construction costs.
- Time consuming maintenance.
- One vehicular access point.
- Single vehicular/trail crossing access point.
- Continuous recreation area.

## 7.3 Conceptual Master Plans:

After review and discussion of the two conceptual site designs with the steering committee and the public, a conceptual master plan was developed incorporating the preferred elements from each concept.

## 7.4 Final Master Plans:

After review of the conceptual master plan by the steering committee and public the Master Plans were developed. The design preserves the region's connection with nature while providing the balance between active and passive recreation desired by the residents of the community.

**Existing Park Renovations:**

- Renovation of existing field to regulation youth baseball.
- Establish recreation lawn.
- Create additional picnic facilities
- Provide a connection to the Delaware Canal Towpath via a bridge over the canal.
- Refurbish the tennis and basketball courts.
- Construction of a short loop walking trail.
- Build parking lot for approximately 41 vehicles and drop-off area.

**New Delaware Road Park Development:**

- Amphitheater and Memorial Gardens.
- Multi-use athletic field area.
- Picnic facilities.
- Recreation lawns.
- Connection to the Borough trail.
- Parking for approximately 75 vehicles
- Eco-Friendly Storm water Control Facilities.

## 7.5 Recommendations:

- Construct Borough trail and investigate connection with downtown and Delaware Canal Towpath.
- Investigate potential pedestrian bridge connection between Borough Park and Delaware Canal Towpath.
- Develop a set of "bylaws" outlining the responsibility and authority of the Recreation Board.
- Develop a strategic maintenance, upkeep and inspection plan.
- Investigate the implementation of assessing recreation impact fees for future land development.

½ Mile to Downtown and Highlands Trail Connection

D & L TRAIL

D & L TRAIL

DELAWARE CANAL

WARE CANAL

Potential Canal Crossing to Connect Park to Trail

N/F Commonwealth of Pennsylvania DBV 692 P 496

150

150

150

150

Potential Trail Connection Through Existing Clearing in Vegetation

Intermittent Wet Area

Existing Vegetation to Remain

Existing Fence Provides Defined Edge Between Natural Area and Rec. Facilities

EX. 4' HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCE

200'

GRASS

Existing Baseball Field Located in Floodplain Occasionally Damaged by Flood Waters

250'

Potential Extension of Tree Row to Provide an Aesthetic Barrier Between Park and Industrial/Commercial Property

BASEBALL FIELD

GRASS

200'

N/F Richard L. Weiss and Rita A. Weiss DBV 2594 P 817

Potential Sanitary Drainfield Location Should Remain Undisturbed

BASEBALL FIELD

250'

100 Year Floodplain

EX. STONE DRIVEWAY

GRASS

EX. FLAGPOLE

EX. PAVILION

EX. BLEACHER

EX. BENCHES (TYP.)

155

N/F Heating Oil Partners, LP DBV 1596 P 956

EX. TREES (TYP.)

175'

Existing Pump House Could be Screened as Potential Enhancement

REFRESHMENT BUILDING

EX. PLAYGROUND

EX. SHED

EX. PLAYGROUND

EX. PAVED PATH

EX. POLE

EX. BENCH (TYP.)

EX. POLE W/LIGHT

EX. POLE W/LIGHT

EX. CURB INLET

EX. PUMP HOUSE

BASEBALL FIELD

EX. PAVED HC PARKING AREA

EX. PAVED PARKING/TENNIS COURT

EX. BASKETBALL COURT

EX. 4' HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCE

175'

EX. PARK SIGN

EX. BENCHES (TYP.)

EX. UTILITY POLE (TYP.)

EX. BENCH

EX. BLEACHER

GRASS

EX. POLE

EX. POLE

160

160

EX. PAVED ROADWAY

EX. STONE ROADWAY

Old Tow in Cana

and Parking
xpanded to
pacity

Access
hanced

Existing Vegetation
Should be Maintained and
Enhanced if Possible

Central Open Space -
Gently Sloping, Very Well
Suited for Sports Fields,
Courts, Walkways and
Parking Areas

Site Low Point;
Potential Stormwater
Collection Area

Existing Vegetation
Should be Maintained and
Enhanced if Possible

S80°06'27"W

350.12'

*N/F Walter M. Vohan*
*and Barbara A. Vonah*
*DBV 5313 P 1761*

Existing Meadow;
Potential Future
Residential Lot

S09°56'00"E

Greenways Trail Connection

1658.40'

N09°56'00"W

Currently Farmed Agriculture

*N/F Joseph D. Ceader*
*Family Memorial Fund*
*DBV 5235 P 1888*

NOTES :

1. Due to location and lack of ta
on properties to the northwest,
the site is exposed to prevailing
Future landscaping may be nec
increase the comfortability of th

2. Access to a stormwater syste
natural drainage way is limited
represent a potential stormwate
during the future development

D & L TRAIL

150

150

DELAWARE CANAL

Woodlands Loop Trail

GRASS

Soccer Field

165'

330'

Recreation Lawn

Relocate Existing Bleacher to Accomodate Soccer Field

Plantings to Buffer Industrial/Commercial Property

155

Walking Trail

100 Year Floodplain

175'

EX. FLAGPOLE

EX. PAVILION

EX. BLEACHER

EX. TR (TYP

155

REFRESHMENT BUILDING

EX. PLAYGROUND

EX.SHED

EX. PLAYGROUND

EX. POLE

N LINK FENCE

Relocate

YOUTH SOFTBALL

# CONCEPT 2B

D & L TRAIL

150

150

DELAWARE CANAL

150

ng Trail

355'

300'

GRASS

Plantings to Buffer
Industrial/Commercial
Property

155

Pavilion

100 Year Floodplain

EX. FLAGPOLE

EX. PAVILION

EX. BLEACHER

Drop-off

ng Area

ces

Pick-up

155

EX. TREE
(TYP.)

REFRESHMENT
BUILDING

EX. PLAYGROUND

EX.SHED

EX. PLAYGROUND

EX. POLE

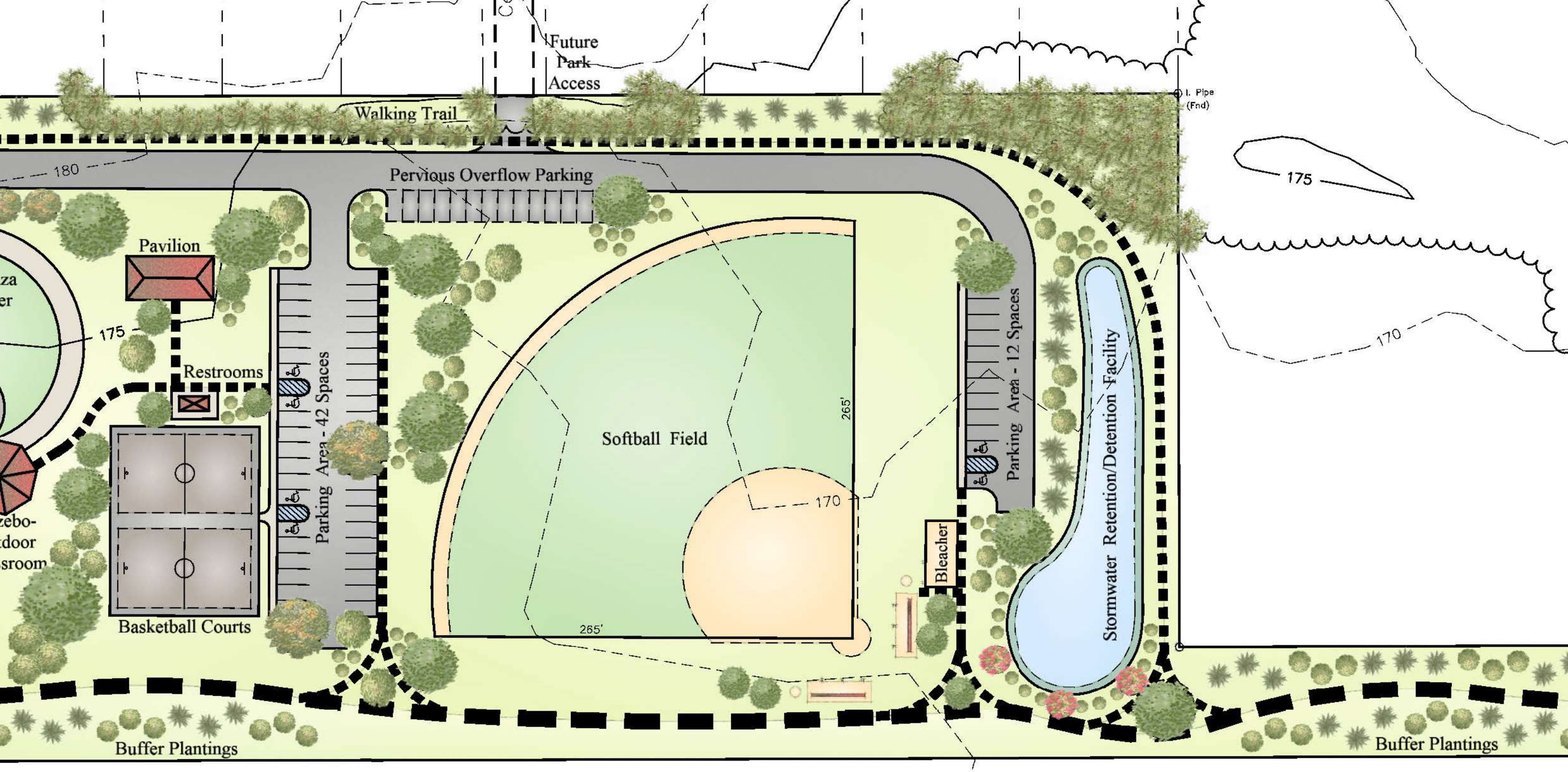
EX. PAVED PATH

N LINK FENCE

## CONCEPT 2C

Pros:

- Maintains existing facilities




## CONCEPT 1B

Pros:

- Boro wide trail sy
- Combination of pa
- Potential multiple
- Construction is ea
- Vehicular access t
- Segmented recrea

Cons:

- High construction

Walking Trail

Soccer / Multi Purpose Athletic Field

Picnic Area

Tennis Courts

Softball Field

Stormwater Retention/Detention Facility

Basketball Court

180

175

170

I. Pipe (Fnd)

## CONCEPT 1C

Pros:

- Boro wide trail syst
- Combination of pas
- Single vehicular/tra
- Limited impervious
- Buffers adjoining re
- Continuous recreati

Cons:

- High construction c

D & L TRAIL

150

150

Canal Crossing
Pedestrian Bridge

N/F Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
DBV 692 P 496

DELAWARE CANAL

Walking Trail

150

Property Line

150

Pavilion

TRASH

Drop-off

BENCH

Pick-up

TRASH

Pavilion

BENCH

355'

300'

GRASS

Baseball
Field

Paved Parking Area - 41 Spaces

BENCH

Recreation
Lawn

GRASS

Plantings to Buffer
Industrial/Commercial
Property

155

N/F Heating Oil Partners, LP
DBV 1596 P 956

100 Year Floodplain

BENCH

EX. FLAGPOLE

EX. PAVILION

Sanitary
Drain Field

EX. BLEACHER

EX. TREE
(TYP.)

155

REFRESHMENT
BUILDING

EX. PLAYGROUND

EX.SHED

EX. PLAYGROUND

Screen Plantings
around
Pump House

PRACTICE

EX. PAVED PATH

EX. POLE

IN LINK FENCE

Emergency Access

Buffer Plantings

Walking Trail

BENCH

I. Pipe (Fnd)

180

175

330'

165'

Soccer / Multi - Purpose Athletic Field

275'

BENCH

Parking Area - 37 Spaces

BioRetention Bed

Rain Garden

Parking Area - 37 Spaces

BENCH

BENCH

BENCH

Potential Septic Drain Field

TRASH

Concession Stand/ Restrooms

170

Softball Field

Bleacher

TRASH

Picnic Pavilion

TRASH

BIKE

Picnic Pavilion

Bleacher

TRASH

Borough Loop Trail

BENCH

BENCH

BENCH

Stormwater Retention/Detention Facility

Buffer Plantings

175

170

N/F Walter M. Vohan and Barbara A. Vonah DBV 5313 P 1761

Buffer Planting

N/F Joseph D. Ceader Family Memorial Fund DBV 5235 P 1888

170

# 8.0 Phasing Plans

The anticipated development cost for the park is likely to be over two million dollars. For this reason a phasing strategy is needed. There are two basic phasing strategies that can be followed. The first and more preferable of these strategies is the geographical strategy. With this strategy the park will be developed working from one side to the other, preventing the re-disturbance of previously constructed portions of the park. The other is the financial strategy. Following this strategy one would develop each phase based on the finances available. The danger with this strategy is that it may result in the disturbance of already existing facilities. Despite the strategy used, it is vital to provide a good variety of recreational opportunities in the first phase to maximize the utilization of the Park.

## 8.1 Existing Park:

(See the Enclosed Plan)

**Phase One (Gold)**

- Entrance driveway to main parking lot
- Parking lot area
- Drop off/Pick-up area
- Sidewalks
- Plantings

**Phase Two (Green)**

- Baseball Fields
- Dug-outs
- Tennis Courts
- Plantings

**Phase Three (Blue)**

- Elevated Boardwalk
- Observation Deck
- Canal Crossing Pedestrian Bridge
- Pavilions
- Walking Trail

## 8.2 Delaware Road Park:

(See the Enclosed Plan)

**Phase One (Gold)**

- Entrance Drive
- Parking Area
- Bio Retention Bed
- Borough Loop Trail
- Storm water Detention Facility

**Phase Two (Green)**

- Memorial Plaza
- Terraced Amphitheater
- Gazebo and Stage Area
- Raised Planter with Statue
- Recreation Lawn
- Walking Path

**Phase Three (Blue)**

- Softball field
- Soccer/Multi-Purpose Field
- Bleacher and Dugouts
- Walking Path

**Phase Four (Purple)**

- Concession Stand
- Restrooms
- Picnic Pavilions

# 9.0 Cost Opinion

A Cost opinion was developed for each of the two parks, based upon the Master Plan.

## 9.1 Existing Park Renovations:

It would be too ambitions to try to complete all of the proposed improvements at once. Therefore, the work has been divided into three phases.

| Phase | Total Site Work Cost |
|---|---|
| 1 | $155,760.19 |
| 2 | $241,493.23 |
| 3 | $200,012.94 |
| Total | $597,266.36 |

## 9.2 Proposed Recreation Parcel:

This new park is located along Delaware Road. The improvements have been dived into four phases.

| Phase | Total Site Work Cost |
|---|---|
| 1 | $537,401.93 |
| 2 | $234,498.67 |
| 3 | $269,238.41 |
| 4 | $254,772.79 |
| Total | $1,295,911.80 |

See Full Cost Opinions in the Appendices.

# 10.0 Operations, Management & Financing

## 10.1 Maintenance Practices:

Recreation Committee personnel currently perform park maintenance duties with the exception of mowing. There is a contract in place for the mowing of the turf areas in the existing park. Athletic teams that use the fields are asked to fill in any holes they create. Other than the mowing contract, there are no other formalized maintenance agreements.

Based on the proposed development plans for the current Borough Park and the Recreation Parcel, it is unlikely that maintenance of these facilities will be able to be completed solely by volunteers. Prior to the further development of either of these parcels, the Borough should develop a formalized maintenance management plan so the full extent of the maintenance costs can be evaluated.

### Maintenance Action Plan

| Immediate | 3 – 5 Year Period | 10 + Years |
|---|---|---|
| Review current mowing contract – develop RFP for maintenance services for 2 year period – distribute requests, receive proposals and award contract | Review Conceptual Plans for Recreation Parcel with park maintenance as a primary focus – alter plan as deemed necessary | Monitor and evaluate Maintenance Management Plan for Borough Park – update as deemed necessary |
| Develop field lease agreement with maintenance stipulation; require deposit for facility use | Apply for PRPS RecTAP - development of Maintenance Management Plan for Recreation Parcel PRIOR to construction | Monitor and evaluate Maintenance Management Plan for Recreation Parcel – update as deemed necessary |
| Apply for PRPS RecTAP - development of Maintenance Management Plan for Riegelsville Borough Park | Evaluate Maintenance Management Plan for Borough Park – update as deemed necessary | |
| Review Conceptual Plans for Borough Park with park maintenance as a primary focus – alter plan as deemed necessary prior to development | Develop a "Donation – Sponsorship Policy" – for facilities and amenities | |
| Have a 3rd party recreation professional visit the park and provide "first impressions", comments and suggestions for more efficient park operations | | |
| Track maintenance hours – including volunteers for one full calendar year to establish actual hours needed – note special events, natural occurrences, etc. | | |

## 10.2 **Budgeting:**

These projections are based on the consultant's park maintenance experience with other municipal agencies and the information provided by the client. These estimates should be considered starting points for a formalized maintenance management plan. Equipment costs are not included in these estimates. Labor costs are based on an average hourly wage of $22.00 ($15.00 per hour plus 48% benefit cost.) The "park season" is considered April 1st to November 1st – a 30 week season.

| | |
|---|---|
| Baseball Field | |
| Weekly in season mowing of the outfield and the turf surrounding the field | |
| 4 hrs/mowing x 30 cuts/year x $22/hour | $2,640.00 |
| Softball Field | |
| Weekly in season mowing of the outfield and the turf surrounding the field | |
| 2 hrs/mowing x 30 cuts/year x $22/hr | $1,320.00 |
| Infield Grooming | |
| Weekly grooming and preparation of the two ball fields | |
| 4 hrs/session x 30 sessions/week x $22/hr | $2,640.00 |
| Soccer Fields | |
| Weekly in season mowing of the overlapping soccer field | |
| 4 hrs/mowing x 30 cuts/year x $22/hr | $2,640.00 |
| Basketball Court | |
| Weekly in season cleaning of the courts, repairs to nets & backboards | |
| 1 hr/session x 30 sessions/year x $22/hr | $ 660.00 |
| Tennis Court | |
| Weekly in season cleaning of the courts, repairs to nets & backboards | |
| 1 hr/session x 30 sessions/year x $22/hr | $ 660.00 |
| Recreation Lawn | |
| Weekly in-season mowing of the turf area | |
| 3 hrs/session x 30 sessions/year x $22/hr | $ 1,980.00 |

Community Lawn

Weekly in-season mowing of the turf area

1.5 hrs/session x 30 sessions/year x $22/hr $ 990.00

Detention Pond

Seasonal mowing of the turf area of the pond-includes cleaning up storm debris

4 hrs/session x 2 sessions/year x $22/hr $ 176.00

Natural Storm Water Mitigation Area

Monthly clean up of debris and storm damage

2 hrs/session x 10 sessions/year x $22/hr $ 440.00

Trail Side Meadow

Monthly mowing of the trail sides starting after June 1st

8 hrs/session x 4 sessions/year x $22/hr $ 704.00

Pedestrian/Bike Trail

Monthly in-season grooming of the trail surface, two winter clean-ups

8 hrs/session x 9 sessions/year x $22/hr $1,584.00

Play Equipment

Weekly in-season inspection and repair sessions

1 hrs/session x 30 sessions/year x $22/hr $ 660.00

Monthly off-season inspection and repair sessions

1 hrs/session x 5 sessions/year x $22/hr $ 110.00

Pavilions (includes all pavilions)

Weekly clean – up after rentals (trash removal, empty grills)

4 hrs/session x 30 sessions/year x $22/hr $2,640.00

Amphitheatre

Weekly mowing of turf area, cleaning up any debris

2 hrs/session x 30 sessions/year x $22/hr $1320.00

| | |
|---|---|
| Forested Area | |
| Inspection of forest edge for hazards, removal of hazardous trees | |
| 10 hrs/year x $22/hr | $ 220.00 |
| | |
| Landscaped Areas | |
| Pruning of trees/shrubs, maintenance of mulching material, weeding, planting flowers | |
| 8 hrs/session x 7 sessions/year x $22/hr | $1,232.00 |
| | |
| Restroom/Concessions Facilities (includes both buildings) | |
| Twice weekly in-season cleaning, seasonal maintenance | |
| 2 hrs/session x 60 sessions/year x $22/hr | $2,640.00 |
| | |
| Litter Collection/Trash Removal | |
| Weekly in-season collection and disposal of trash | |
| 2 hrs/session x 30 sessions/year x $22/hr | $1,320.00 |
| Bi-weekly out-of-season collection and disposal of trash | |
| 2 hrs/session x 10 sessions/year x $22/hr | $ 440.00 |
| | |
| Trimming Lawn Areas | |
| Weekly in-season trimming around amenities | |
| 4 hrs/session x 30 sessions/year x $22/hr | $2,640.00 |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Contractual Turf Maintenance |
| Fertilization, aeration and topdressing of athletic fields | $2,500.00 |
| | |
| **TOTAL** | **1,348 hours** |
| | **$32,156.00** |

It should be noted that these costs do not reflect equipment acquisition or maintenance costs.

**Equipment Assumptions:**

The maintenance estimates are based on the following equipment assumptions:

- Turf areas will be maintained using a zero turning radius mower capable of mowing approximately one open level acre of turf in one hour
- The Trail Side Meadow areas will be maintained with a pull behind bush cutting mower.
- Appropriate powered hand tools will be available and used (i.e. leaf blower, weed trimmer, edger)
- All equipment necessary to maintain the park will be taken to the facility at the beginning of the day thus preventing return trips to the shop for additional equipment

## 10.3 Recreational Budgeting Needs:

**Operating Budget:**

Operating costs for the Borough Parks include the following categories:

Administration – $2,500.00

This function will include scheduling use of the facilities, budgeting for improvements, repairs and maintenance, coordinating programs and partnerships, promoting the rental facilities and supervising the development of the park.

Park Maintenance Labor – $32,156.00

Since one park will be a new facility and the other will be significantly renovated, the maintenance will be an addition to the current workload.

Utilities - $ 1,500.00

Include electricity, sewer, water and garbage removal.

Equipment - $ 2,000.00

Replacement parts, picnic tables, park benches, tennis and basketball nets, rakes, shovels, infield drags

Supplies - $ 1,500.00

Paint, garbage bags, grass seed, playground safety surfacing material, concession/restroom supplies, light bulbs, sand, infield mix, screenings, etc.

**Operating Budget Total $39,656.00**

**Capital Budget:**

A capital reserve fund should be established to cover capital repairs and improvements. The Borough is making large investments to develop the proposed parks and they should plan ahead to be able to maintain those investments. 2 – 4 % of the development costs should be deposited into this fund annually. A five year capital budget should be developed for both parks. Sample items that would be covered by the capital reserve fund would be:

- Parking lot sealing and re-striping
- Athletic court resurfacing
- Trail resurfacing
- Play equipment replacement
- Re-roofing of pavilions and concession/restroom buildings

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Capital Budget Total | (3%) | $56,795.34 |
| **Total Maintenance Budget** (Capital & Operating) | | **$96,451.34** |

## 10.4 Safety:

Park safety is always a primary concern for both municipal governments and community residents. For this reason, it is important to keep local police and rescue officials involved in park design and management procedures. It is also important to follow "industry standards" when installing new amenities, such as walking trails and athletic fields. It is also recommended that CPSC Guidelines be followed during the design and construction phases of the tot-lots and playgrounds. Following these standards not only makes a park safer, but they also make the park more accessible for people of all ages, genders and abilities.

During the Master Planning stages for the parks several issues were reviewed to ensure improved safety. One of the biggest issues when it comes to park safety is interaction between pedestrians and vehicles. By limiting the interaction between pedestrians and vehicles, safety is improved. For this reason the vehicular access was limited and kept to the edges of the park. As a result, there are only a few instances where a trail crosses an access road and these crosswalks will be identified by signage and a change in paving material.

Another design strategy used to improve public safety was access. The access drives are designed to accommodate emergency vehicle circulation within the site, which facilitates police patrols and quicker response times in emergency situations. The drives all terminate with adequate turn around areas in the form of either loop roads or parking lots. This allows emergency vehicles to easily drive through the park, helping to improving overall site security.

Other design measures taken to improve public safety were the orientations of courts and recreational fields. Having a north-south orientation will minimize injuries related to sun glare.

## 10.5 Maintenance Goals and Needs for New Parks:

The goal of any park maintenance program is to provide a safe, accessible, clean and attractive park setting. Since the Borough will be expanding its recreation facilities, now is the most appropriate time to set the groundwork for good park maintenance practices. The following goals should be formalized and adopted into practice to ensure the proper maintenance techniques are followed:

1) Park facilities and amenities will be developed, maintained and upgraded to ensure their compliance with current ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) and CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) guidelines.

2) Park maintenance will be scheduled on an equitable basis with other Borough facilities and services such as streets and emergency services.

3) Preventive maintenance techniques and equipment inspections will be used on a continual basis.

4) Maintenance tasks will be performed using methods that provide a safe environment for employees and the public while protecting and preserving natural resources and private property.

5) All equipment and materials will be used in a manner that will ensure the safety of the operator, protection of the environment and a long and efficient life for the equipment.

The following is a breakdown of the various components proposed for Borough park facilities and their respective maintenance requirements:

**Athletic Facilities:**

Athletic Turf

These areas include the outfield of the baseball field, softball field, as well as the soccer fields. The turf areas will require mowing approximately every five days during the growing season (approximately April 15th to November 1st). Mowing should be done while observing the 1/3 rule (no more than 1/3 of the height of the blades of grass is cut in one mowing). Mowing directions should be alternated (North/South; East/West) with each mowing session to enhance turf growth and prevent rutting of the areas from continual tractor travel in one direction. Depending on the soil, weather conditions and facility usage, fertilization, aeration, top dressing, over seeding and irrigation may be required to establish and maintain a stable, consistent turf.

Baseball Field

Depending on the level and frequency of play that is scheduled for this field and the weather conditions, the infield will need to be groomed at least on a weekly basis. The proper equipment and staff that are trained in proper infield maintenance techniques are critical to the success of the ball field maintenance program. Teams should be responsible for daily maintenance tasks such as filling in the holes at the batter's box and pitcher's mound and hand dragging the field. Infield mix should be added annually as needed.

Softball Field

Depending on the level and amount of play that is scheduled for this field, the infield will need to be groomed at least on a weekly basis. The proper equipment and staff that are trained in proper infield maintenance techniques are critical to the success of the ball field maintenance program. Teams should be responsible for daily maintenance tasks such as filling in holes and hand dragging the field.

Soccer Field

Having different soccer goal locations for practices and games will help extend the lives of the fields. Even this practice however, will not prevent the turf destruction that occurs at the mouth of a soccer goal. Constant re-seeding throughout the entire growing season will help with this issue. Aggressive, end of

the year turf therapy that includes soil preparation, amendment, re-seeding and irrigation will help the turf get a quick start in the spring.

Basketball Court

The court should be swept on a regular schedule based on actual usage and the season of the year. During the autumn season, daily clean up may be required due to the close proximity of the forested area. Net replacement will be as needed. Goals and backboards should be checked for signs of stress from over-usage and be replaced accordingly. The courts will need to be re-stripped every 2 to 3 years and resurfacing and/or color coating replaced every 7 to 10 years.

Tennis Court

The court should be swept on a regular schedule based on actual usage and the season of the year. During the autumn season, daily clean up may be required due to the close proximity of the forested area. Net replacement will be as needed. Net life can be extended by removing them during the winter months. The courts will need to be re-stripped every 2 to 3 years and resurfacing and/or color coating replaced every 7 to 10 years.

**Turf and Meadow Areas:**

Recreation Lawn and Community Lawn Area

Since it is unknown at this time exactly what type of activities will be held on these areas, it is best to plan for heavy use and plant grasses that will withstand drought conditions and excessive foot traffic. A seed mixture that contains quick establishing seed and hard-wearing grasses is best for this type of area.

Soil tests should be performed and soil samples sent to Penn State University for analysis. The test results will include recommendations for seeding, fertilization and soil amendment requirements. Management of turf areas within a park setting needs to be approached as a commercial enterprise. It is more than just mowing your own backyard.

The turf areas will require mowing approximately every five days during the growing season (approximately April 15$^{th}$ to November 1$^{st}$). Mowing should be done while observing the 1/3 rule (no more than 1/3 of the height of the blades of grass is cut in one mowing). Mowing directions should be alternated (North/South; East/West) with each mowing session to enhance turf growth and prevent rutting of the areas from continual tractor travel in one direction. Depending on the soil, weather conditions and

facility usage, fertilization, aeration, top dressing, over seeding and irrigation may be required to establish and maintain a stable, consistent turf.

Trail-Side Meadows

The Trail-Side Meadow provides a visual buffer between the trail and the forested areas. High meadow grasses provide valuable habitat for small wildlife and should not be mowed early in the spring as it would disrupt the mating and nesting cycle. These animals are part of a larger ecosystem in the park and their presence will provide the opportunity for park visitors to observe wildlife they may not otherwise ever see.

These areas should be allowed to grow in their natural state or planted with native species of meadow grasses or hay. Sections of wildflowers could also be incorporated into these areas to provide visual beauty and attract butterflies, birds and other "good pests". Mowing frequency will depend on growth patterns but should not be done more frequently than once per month. The Trail-Side Meadows should be maintained at a minimum height of 36".

Storm Water Detention Area

It is assumed that this area will be maintained as meadow and that this is a "dry pond" except during times of precipitation. This area should be planted with slow growing grasses that germinate quickly and establish a strong root base. This area should be maintained with seasonal mowing schedule depending on weather conditions and the equipment available to mow the area.

Natural Storm Water Mitigation Area

This area should be planted with aquatic plants that will help purify the water that runs through the area. This wetland area requires very little maintenance since the aquatic plants are left in place to complete their entire life cycle. Removal of debris and sediment build up will be done on an "as needed" basis.

**Trails:**

Pedestrian/Bike Trail

This 8' wide trail will have a surface composed of compacted stone fines. The trail will need to be groomed on a monthly basis during the season (April to November) depending on the amount of usage it receives. Wash out areas will need to be tracked and filled after each rain event. If heavy use of this trail is expected and space allows, expanding the trail width to 10 or even 12 feet would allow safer passage for trail users, especially when pedestrians and bicyclists meet on the trial.

**Passive Recreation Facilities:**

Play Equipment

These structures need to be inspected on a monthly basis during the off-season and on a weekly basis during the open season. The equipment manufacturer should supply the Borough with inspection sheets. The Borough's insurance agents can also provide safety information and check sheets. Records should be kept of the inspections, findings and any actions taken (replacement of broken equipment, installation of safety surfacing).

Pavilions

These areas should be cleaned weekly or after each use, whichever occurs more frequently. Patrons renting these facilities should be charged a security deposit which can be kept if the pavilion is not left in the order in which they found it or if these is property damage done. Cleaning the pavilions consists mainly of emptying the trash, cleaning out the grills and sweeping/cleaning the floors. The floors should be concrete for easier maintenance.

Amphitheatre

The amphitheatre structure should be cleaned on a weekly basis or after each use, whichever occurs more frequently. Actual maintenance tasks will depend on the design of the structure. The seating area could be as simple as a mowed hillside where patrons sit directly on the ground or it could have tiered steppes cut into the hillside. An empty hillside would be less time consuming to maintain.

Forested Areas

These areas should be allowed to follow their natural progression. The edges of the Forested Areas must be checked for dead or dying trees, hanging branches or other hazards. Any dead trees or branches should be removed promptly to prevent the chance that they would fall on someone. The Forested Areas provide vital habitat to many natural creatures. Although these creatures are a wonderful aspect for the park, some could also be hazards. Care should be taken while working in these areas and the public should be forewarned through the use of precautionary signage. The State Forester should be consulted on best management practices for this area.

Landscaped Areas

Newly planted trees and shrubs will require proper staking, pruning and watering during their early growing years. By selecting native trees from a nursery certified by the American Nurserymen

Association, the Borough can be relatively assured that they are acquiring healthy trees that will be planted following established guidelines.

Trees and shrubs should be pruned every two to three years to maintain a good shape and a healthy tree. Dead branches should be removed as soon as they are identified. If trees show signs of pest or biological damage, the County Extension Agent can be contacted to assist in the identification of the source and possible solutions.

Landscape beds and parking lot islands should be designed using low maintenance plants and materials. Using decorative stone instead of bark mulch, although more costly originally, saves maintenance time and dollars over the years because it does not decay and require additional material each year.

**Amenities:**

Driveways and Parking Lots

The driveways and parking lots should be paved with asphalt. These areas should be swept on a regular schedule based on actual use and observed need. The areas will need to be re-stripped every 2 to 3 years. The parking lot spaces should be wide enough to accommodate the wider doors of sport utility vehicles and crew cab trucks.

Restroom/Concessions Facilities

During the season when the restrooms are open, they should be cleaned on a daily basis. During special events or high use times, they may require more frequent cleaning and stocking of supplies. On weekends, if the pavilions are rented, the restrooms will need to be cleaned on Saturday and Sunday mornings to accommodate those users.

## 10.6 Management Recommendations:

The following recommendations can be used as a basis on which the Borough can build a financially feasible park operation plan for the Borough's recreation facilities. These recommendations should be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary to meet the current and future needs of the park.

1. Choose a management approach for the maintenance of Borough recreation facilities. This will provide the Borough with a structure from which to build.
2. Establish a rental/use policy for the pavilions, amphitheatre and fields. Lease/rental agreements should be created, reviewed by the Borough's legal advisor and adopted by the Borough.

3. Develop and adopt a formal maintenance management plan to ensure the parks are maintained at a level acceptable to both the Borough and the residents. Actual maintenance requirements of the parks should be documented for use in the development of the maintenance management plan and future budgets.
4. Investigate the development of revenue producing programs utilizing the facilities that are proposed for Borough's park facilities. Seek activities that involve the entire family, will help create a community feeling and yet do not require excessive hours of staff time to produce.
5. Develop a park memorial program that will encourage residents to donate park benches, picnic tables, maybe even pavilions in honor or memory of someone. Seek community groups such as women's clubs, garden clubs and adult service groups for initial donors.
6. Explore the development of partnerships with user groups to provide volunteer labor for trail maintenance duties.
7. Annually establish goals and objectives for program expansion and development projects. Submit recommendations for operations and special projects to Council prior to budget discussions.

## 10.7 **Revenue Resources:**

**Public Dedication Ordinances:**

"More and more municipalities in Pennsylvania are adopting public dedication ordinances, particularly in high-growth counties. Public dedication is based on the concept of impact fees. The theory is that development creates increased demand for municipal services or facilities. Requiring developers to provide amenities or funding for expanded or enhanced public amenities would seem to be an efficient and equitable way to offset some of the impacts of the new development.

In order to legally adopt a public dedication ordinance and impose a park and recreation exaction on a developer, the municipality, or several adjoining municipalities operating on a regional basis (see Ch. 30, MPC), need to do several things:

- Adopt a recreation plan
- Adopt a subdivision and land development ordinance ("SALDO"); and
- Include in the SALDO a section providing for public dedication."

(Text excerpt from Draft copy of *Public Dedication of Land, Fees-in-Lieu, Construction of Facilities, and Private Reservation of Land for Park or Recreation Purposes,* March 7, 2008, prepared by the

Pennsylvania Land Trust Association in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources)

Riegelsville Borough does not currently have a public dedication ordinance on record. As stated earlier, it is recommended that Riegelsville Borough pass a Public Dedication Ordinance as a method of generating funds to offset cost for facility enhancement to accommodate population increases resulting from residential development.

**"Friends" Groups:**

"Friends" groups can be a valuable asset to a park by providing routine maintenance tasks, serving as the first level of enforcement and providing political support for the park. Local garden clubs or service groups are often willing to adopt flowerbeds and landscaped areas to maintain throughout the year. With the extensive trail system proposed for Riegelsville, developing trail groups would be very beneficial. The users will know first-hand where the problems are tend to be protective of facilities they enjoy. The Delaware – Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission has a very successful "Trail Tenders" program that could be used as a model for a new program in the Borough.

**Fundraising:**

A fundraising campaign for a municipality is a major undertaking and needs to be professionally organized. Careful consideration should be given to the staff's availability to carry out the project as well as the target market. Hiring a professional fund-raising consultant is an option that should be considered as well.

**Gifts:**

A memorial program can provide the park with trees, park benches and other necessary amenities while also providing local families and service groups an opportunity to honor their loved ones in perpetuity and show their community support.

**Grants:**

Grants are available for the development of park and recreational facilities from various state agencies as well as private foundations. Funding for specific facilities is available from their respective national associations such as soccer and tennis. Grants for handicap accessible playgrounds may be available from service agencies such as the United Way and the Easter Seals Program. Funding for forest management activities and training may be available through the DCNR State Forest program.

**User Fees:**

The facilities proposed for the Borough that provide opportunities for revenue generation include the pavilions, ball fields, amphitheatre, and athletic courts. Pavilions should be rented for family reunions, company picnics, graduation parties and other group outings. Admission fees could be charged for events held in the amphitheatre. The ball fields can be rented on a daily or seasonal basis. When developing the rental fees all costs associated with maintaining the field should be included such as the cost of infield mix, bases, the labor to mow the grass and prepare the infield and the depreciation on the equipment.

Recreational programs and special events are common avenues of revenue generation for municipalities. Offering recreational programs through contracted vendors such as U.K. Elite Soccer and the USTA (United States Tennis Association) can also be sources of revenue. Groups such as these, charge the sponsoring organization a specified amount to offer a camp or program. The vendor provides the instructors and any necessary equipment and supplies. The sponsoring organization provides the facility and administers registration. Basketball and tennis leagues sponsored by the municipalities are also revenue producing programs that could be held in the Borough.

**Sponsors:**

The use of sponsors can help defer the cost of sponsoring programs and events. Sponsorships can be donated prizes, actual monetary contributions or the provision of volunteers. Sponsors need to be recognized before, during and after an event through the printed flyers, posters and ads, by announcements during the event and with written thank you letters immediately following an event.

# Appendices

# Cost Opinions Existing Borough Park Renovations

**SSM Group, INC.**

**CONSTRUCTION COST OPINION**

DATE PREPARED 10/15/10
R- 11/15/12

PROJECT: Existing Park Renovations **Phase 1**
CLIENT: Riegelsville Borough
WORK ORDER: 108308.0014
P.M.: LME
P.I.C.: MS
ESTIMATOR: MMS
CHECKED BY: JMN
DRAWING NO.(S): G.1-02P

BASIS FOR ESTIMATE
- ☐ NO DESIGN COMPLETED
- ■ MASTER PLAN
- ☐ PRELIMINARY DESIGN
- ☐ FINAL DESIGN

| ITEM DESCRIPTION | | QUANTITY NO. UNITS | QUANTITY UNIT MEAS. | UNIT OR TOTAL COST PER UNIT | UNIT OR TOTAL COST TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1. Administration** | | | | | |
| a. | Bonds and Insurance. | 1 | L.S. | $2,492.66 | $2,492.66 |
| b. | Mobilization and Demobilization. | 1 | L.S. | $6,231.65 | $6,231.65 |
| c. | Record Plan | 1 | L.S. | $1,500.00 | $1,500.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$10,224.31** |
| **2. Erosion and Sediment Control, Furnish and Install Complete (Materials & Quantities are Approximated)** | | | | | |
| a. | Rock Construction Entrance | 1 | Each | $1,100.00 | $1,100.00 |
| e. | Erosion Control Blanket (S150BN) | 150 | SY | $3.00 | $450.00 |
| f. | 18" Filtrexx SiltSoxx | 275 | LF | $7.00 | $1,925.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$3,475.00** |
| **3. Site Work and Storm Sewer, Furnish and Install Complete (Materials & Quantities are Approximated)** | | | | | |
| a. | Clear & grub - Tree, brush/stump removal | 1 | L.S. | $3,500.00 | $3,500.00 |
| b. | Strip and stockpile topsoil | 750 | CY | $2.50 | $1,875.00 |
| c. | Rough Grading | 1,500 | CY | $3.50 | $5,250.00 |
| j. | BioRetention Bed | 170 | SY | $25.00 | $4,250.00 |
| k. | BioRetention Bed Geotextile | 200 | SY | $3.00 | $600.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$15,475.00** |
| **4. Driveway and Parking Lot, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | 6" AASHTO #2A aggregate sub base (compacted) | 2696 | SY | $7.00 | $18,872.00 |
| b. | 2-1/2" Depth of 19mm Superpave binder Course (paving) | 2696 | SY | $15.00 | $40,440.00 |
| c. | 1-1/2" Depth of 9.5mm Superpave wearing Course (paving) | 2696 | SY | $11.00 | $29,656.00 |
| e. | Stop Sign | 1 | Each | $225.00 | $225.00 |
| f. | Handicap Parking Sign | 2 | Each | $150.00 | $300.00 |
| g. | Pavement Markings | 1 | L.S. | $750.00 | $750.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$90,243.00** |
| **5. Walkways and Site Furniture, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | 6" Stone Walkways | 363 | SY | $10.00 | $3,630.00 |
| b. | Bench and stone fine pad | 4 | Each | $1,200.00 | $4,800.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$8,430.00** |
| **6. Site Landscaping and Seeding Furnish and Install Complete (Materials & Quantities are Approximated)** | | | | | |
| a. | Fine & Topsoil with Amendments | 500 | CY | $4.00 | $2,000.00 |
| b. | Permanent Seeding | 19 | MSF | $90.00 | $1,710.00 |
| d. | Deciduous Tree-large | 8 | Each | $300.00 | $2,400.00 |
| g. | Shrub | 15 | Each | $60.00 | $900.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$7,010.00** |
| **7. Engineering** | | | | | |
| a. | Site Survey | 1 | Lump Sum | $1,348.57 | $1,348.57 |
| b. | Design/Permitting | 1 | Lump Sum | $8,091.44 | $8,091.44 |
| c. | Bidding/Construction | 1 | Lump Sum | $4,045.72 | $4,045.72 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$13,485.73** |
| Sub-Total | | | | | **$148,343.04** |
| 5% Contingency | | | | | **$7,417.15** |
| Total Site Work Cost | | | | | **$155,760.19** |

Owner acknowledges that Spotts, Stevens and McCoy, Inc. (SSM) is not a construction cost estimator or contractor. Accordingly, the opinions regarding probable construction costs rendered by SSM shall not be considered equivalent in nature or extent to the estimates of a construction costs estimator or contractor. To provide an opinion regarding probable construction costs requires SSM to make certain assumptions as to actual conditions that may be encountered, including decisions of other design professionals, the means and methods of construction employed by the contractor, the cost and extent of labor, equipment and materials the contractor will employ, and over which SSM has no control. Because the opinion rendered by SSM is based upon assumptions and its experience with construction, SSM cannot guarantee the accuracy of its opinions regarding probable costs. Owner hereby agrees to waive any claim against SSM relative to the accuracy of the opinions rendered.

**SSM Group, Inc.**

**CONSTRUCTION COST OPINION**

DATE PREPARED 10-15-10
R- 11-15-12

PROJECT: Existing Park Improvements **Phase 2**
CLIENT: Riegelsville Borough
WORK ORDER: 108308.0014
P.M.: LME
P.I.C.: MS
ESTIMATOR: MMS
CHECKED BY: JMN
DRAWING NO.(S): G.1-02P

BASIS FOR ESTIMATE
- ☐ NO DESIGN COMPLETED
- ■ MASTER PLAN
- ☐ PRELIMINARY DESIGN
- ☐ FINAL DESIGN

| ITEM DESCRIPTION | | QUANTITY NO. UNITS | QUANTITY UNIT MEAS. | UNIT OR TOTAL COST PER UNIT | UNIT OR TOTAL COST TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1. Administration** | | | | | |
| a. | Bonds and Insurance. | 1 | L.S. | $3,808.90 | $3,808.90 |
| b. | Mobilization and Demobilization. | 1 | L.S. | $13,331.15 | $13,331.15 |
| c. | Record Plan | 1 | L.S. | $1,500.00 | $1,500.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$18,640.05** |
| **2. Erosion and Sediment Control, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | Rock Construction Entrance | 1 | Each | $1,100.00 | $1,100.00 |
| b. | 18" Filtrexx SiltSoxx | 500 | LF | $7.00 | $3,500.00 |
| c. | Erosion Control Blanket | 250 | SY | $3.00 | $750.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$5,350.00** |
| **3. Site Work and Preparation, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | Clear & grub - Tree, brush/stump removal | 1 | L.S. | $8,000.00 | $8,000.00 |
| b. | Strip and stockpile topsoil | 1,750 | CY | $2.50 | $4,375.00 |
| c. | Rough Grading | 4,500 | CY | $3.50 | $15,750.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$28,125.00** |
| **4. Baseball Field, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | Dugouts | 2 | Each | $22,500.00 | $45,000.00 |
| b. | Backstop | 55 | LF | $45.00 | $2,475.00 |
| c. | Infield Mix | 1970 | SY | $14.00 | $27,580.00 |
| d. | Player Benches | 4 | Each | $800.00 | $3,200.00 |
| e. | Dugout Fence (6' high) | 90 | LF | $30.00 | $2,700.00 |
| f. | Outfield Fence (4' high) | 550 | LF | $25.00 | $13,750.00 |
| g. | Warning Track | 600 | SY | $14.00 | $8,400.00 |
| h. | Home Plate | 1 | Each | $250.00 | $250.00 |
| i. | Bases (set of 3) | 1 | Each | $500.00 | $500.00 |
| j. | Pitcher's Rubber | 1 | Each | $200.00 | $200.00 |
| k. | Foul Poles with Footings | 2 | Each | $2,750.00 | $5,500.00 |
| l. | Paved Walkways | 75 | SY | $15.00 | $1,125.00 |
| m. | Trash Receptacle and stone fine pad | 2 | Each | $900.00 | $1,800.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$112,480.00** |
| **5. Tennis Court, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | Net poles with footings | 2 | Each | $1,500.00 | $3,000.00 |
| b. | 10' high Chain Link Fence with Gate | 350 | LF | $38.00 | $13,300.00 |
| c. | Resurface court | 820 | SY | $15.00 | $12,300.00 |
| d. | Line painting | 1 | Each | $300.00 | $300.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$28,900.00** |
| **6. Site Landscaping and Seeding Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | Fine & Topsoil with Amendments | 1,500 | CY | $3.00 | $4,500.00 |
| b. | Athletic Seeding | 82 | MSF | $95.00 | $7,790.00 |
| c. | Permanent Seeding | 10 | MSF | $90.00 | $900.00 |
| d. | Deciduous Tree-large | 4 | Each | $300.00 | $1,200.00 |
| e. | Evergreen Tree | 6 | Each | $200.00 | $1,200.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$15,590.00** |
| **7. Engineering** | | | | | |
| a. | Site Design/Permitting | 1 | Lump Sum | $14,635.95 | $14,635.95 |
| b. | Bidding/Construction Services | 1 | Lump Sum | $6,272.55 | $6,272.55 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$20,908.51** |
| Sub-Total | | | | | **$229,993.56** |
| 5% | | | | | **$11,499.68** |
| Total | | | | | **$241,493.23** |

Owner acknowledges that Spotts, Stevens and McCoy, Inc. (SSM) is not a construction cost estimator or contractor. Accordingly, the opinions regarding probable construction costs rendered by SSM shall not be considered equivalent in nature or extent to the estimates of a construction costs estimator or contractor. To provide an opinion regarding probable construction costs requires SSM to make certain assumptions as to actual conditions that may be encountered, including decisions of other design professionals, the means and methods of construction employed by the contractor, the cost and extent of labor, equipment and materials the contractor will employ, and over which SSM has no control. Because the opinion rendered by SSM is based upon assumptions and its experience with construction, SSM cannot guarantee the accuracy of its opinions regarding probable costs. Owner hereby agrees to waive any claim against SSM relative to the accuracy of the opinions rendered.

**SSM Group, Inc.**

**CONSTRUCTION COST OPINION**

DATE PREPARED 10-15-10
R- 11-15-12

PROJECT: Existing Park Improvements **Phase 3**
CLIENT: Riegelsville Borough
WORK ORDER: 108308.0014
P.M.: LME
P.I.C.: MS

BASIS FOR ESTIMATE
- ☐ NO DESIGN COMPLETED
- ■ MASTER PLAN
- ☐ PRELIMINARY DESIGN
- ☐ FINAL DESIGN

DRAWING NO.(S): G.1-02P
ESTIMATOR: MMS
CHECKED BY: JMN

| ITEM DESCRIPTION | | QUANTITY NO. UNITS | QUANTITY UNIT MEAS. | UNIT OR TOTAL COST PER UNIT | UNIT OR TOTAL COST TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1. Administration** | | | | | |
| a. | Bonds and Insurance. | 1 | L.S. | $3,179.65 | $3,179.65 |
| b. | Mobilization and Demobilization. | 1 | L.S. | $7,949.13 | $7,949.13 |
| c. | Record Plan | 1 | L.S. | $1,500.00 | $1,500.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$12,628.78** |
| **2. Erosion and Sediment Control, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | Rock Construction Entrance | 1 | Each | $1,100.00 | $1,100.00 |
| b. | 18" Filtrexx SiltSoxx | 250 | LF | $7.00 | $1,750.00 |
| c. | Erosion Control Blanket | 150 | SY | $3.00 | $450.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$3,300.00** |
| **3. Site Work and Preparation, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | Clear & grub - Tree, brush/stump removal | 1 | L.S. | $4,500.00 | $4,500.00 |
| b. | Strip and stockpile topsoil | 825 | CY | $2.50 | $2,062.50 |
| c. | Rough Grading | 1,200 | CY | $3.50 | $4,200.00 |
| | Pavilion (20'x36') | 2 | Each | $30,000.00 | $60,000.00 |
| | Boardwalk/Observation Deck | 1300 | SF | $25.00 | $32,500.00 |
| | Pedestrian Bridge (52'x 6') with Conc. Footings | 1 | L.S. | $40,000.00 | $40,000.00 |
| c. | 6" Stone Walkways | 725 | SY | $10.00 | $7,250.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$150,512.50** |
| **6. Site Landscaping and Seeding Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | Fine & Topsoil with Amendments | 750 | CY | $3.00 | $2,250.00 |
| b. | Riparian Seeding | 2 | MSF | $95.00 | $190.00 |
| c. | Permanent Seeding | 7 | MSF | $90.00 | $630.00 |
| d. | Deciduous Tree-large | 3 | Each | $300.00 | $900.00 |
| e. | Evergreen Tree | 6 | Each | $200.00 | $1,200.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$5,170.00** |
| **7. Engineering** | | | | | |
| a. | Site Design/Permitting | 1 | Lump Sum | $13,728.90 | $13,728.90 |
| b. | Bidding/Construction Services | 1 | Lump Sum | $5,148.34 | $5,148.34 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$18,877.24** |
| Sub-Total | | | | | **$190,488.52** |
| 5% | | | | | **$9,524.43** |
| Total | | | | | **$200,012.94** |

Owner acknowledges that Spotts, Stevens and McCoy, Inc. (SSM) is not a construction cost estimator or contractor. Accordingly, the opinions regarding probable construction costs rendered by SSM shall not be considered equivalent in nature or extent to the estimates of a construction costs estimator or contractor. To provide an opinion regarding probable construction costs requires SSM to make certain assumptions as to actual conditions that may be encountered, including decisions of other design professionals, the means and methods of construction employed by the contractor, the cost and extent of labor, equipment and materials the contractor will employ, and over which SSM has no control. Because the opinion rendered by SSM is based upon assumptions and its experience with construction, SSM cannot guarantee the accuracy of its opinions regarding probable costs. Owner hereby agrees to waive any claim against SSM relative to the accuracy of the opinions rendered.

# Cost Opinions New Delaware Road Park

**SSM Group, INC.**

**CONSTRUCTION COST OPINION**

DATE PREPARED 10/15/10
R- 11-15-12

PROJECT: Proposed Recreation Parcel **Phase 1**
CLIENT: Riegelsville Borough
WORK ORDER: 108308.0014
P.M.: LME
P.I.C.: MS

BASIS FOR ESTIMATE
- ☐ NO DESIGN COMPLETED
- ■ MASTER PLAN
- ☐ PRELIMINARY DESIGN
- ☐ FINAL DESIGN

DRAWING NO.(S): G.1-01P
ESTIMATOR: MMS
CHECKED BY: JMN

| | ITEM DESCRIPTION | QUANTITY NO. UNITS | QUANTITY UNIT MEAS. | UNIT OR TOTAL COST PER UNIT | UNIT OR TOTAL COST TOTAL $ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1. Administration** | | | | | |
| a. | Bonds and Insurance. | 1 | L.S. | $8,748.63 | $8,748.63 |
| b. | Mobilization and Demobilization. | 1 | L.S. | $21,871.58 | $21,871.58 |
| c. | Record Plan | 1 | L.S. | $1,500.00 | $1,500.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$32,120.21** |
| **2. Erosion and Sediment Control, Furnish and Install Complete (Materials & Quantities are Approximated)** | | | | | |
| a. | Rock Construction Entrance | 1 | Each | $1,100.00 | $1,100.00 |
| b. | Mulch Control Netting | 2400 | SY | $1.75 | $4,200.00 |
| c. | R-5 Riprap Aprons w/ Geotextile Lining | 75 | SY | $60.00 | $4,500.00 |
| d. | Sediment Basin temporary skimmer and trash rack on permanent outlet structure (convert to perm. basin) | 1 | LS | $7,500.00 | $7,500.00 |
| e. | Erosion Control Blanket (S150BN) | 900 | SY | $3.00 | $2,700.00 |
| f. | 18" Filtrexx SiltSoxx | 750 | LF | $7.00 | $5,250.00 |
| g. | Inlet Protection | 4 | Each | $100.00 | $400.00 |
| h. | Anti-seep collar | 1 | Each | $450.00 | $450.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$26,100.00** |
| **3. Site Work and Storm Sewer, Furnish and Install Complete (Materials & Quantities are Approximated)** | | | | | |
| a. | Clear & grub - Tree, brush/stump removal | 1 | L.S. | $2,500.00 | $2,500.00 |
| b. | Strip and stockpile topsoil | 4,400 | CY | $2.50 | $11,000.00 |
| c. | Rough Grading | 20,000 | CY | $3.50 | $70,000.00 |
| d. | M-Inlet | 3 | Each | $2,000.00 | $6,000.00 |
| e. | M-Inlet with Snout Separator | 1 | Each | $3,000.00 | $3,000.00 |
| f. | Permanent Outlet Structure - Modified M-Inlet | 1 | Each | $4,000.00 | $4,000.00 |
| g. | 18" HDPE Pipe | 583 | LF | $33.00 | $19,239.00 |
| h. | 6" Infiltration Pipe (BioRetention Bed) | 150 | LF | $20.00 | $3,000.00 |
| i. | DW Endwall | 2 | Each | $1,200.00 | $2,400.00 |
| j. | BioRetention Bed | 1100 | SY | $25.00 | $27,500.00 |
| k. | BioRetention Bed Geotextile | 3000 | SY | $3.00 | $9,000.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$157,639.00** |
| **4. Driveway and Parking Lot, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | 6" AASHTO #2A aggregate sub base (compacted) | 5105 | SY | $7.00 | $35,735.00 |
| b. | 2-1/2" Depth of 19mm Superpave binder Course (paving) | 5105 | SY | $15.00 | $76,575.00 |
| c. | 1-1/2" Depth of 9.5mm Superpave wearing Course (paving) | 5105 | SY | $11.00 | $56,155.00 |
| d. | Concrete Curbing (18" depth) | 200 | LF | $25.00 | $5,000.00 |
| e. | Stop Sign | 1 | Each | $225.00 | $225.00 |
| f. | Handicap Parking Sign | 6 | Each | $150.00 | $900.00 |
| g. | Pavement Markings | 1 | L.S. | $1,500.00 | $1,500.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$176,090.00** |
| **5. Walkways and Site Furniture, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | 6" Stone Walkways | 2380 | SY | $10.00 | $23,800.00 |
| b. | Bench and stone fine pad | 6 | Each | $1,200.00 | $7,200.00 |
| c. | Bike Rack and stone fine pad | 1 | Each | $900.00 | $900.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$31,900.00** |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **6. Site Landscaping and Seeding Furnish and Install Complete (Materials & Quantities are Approximated)** | | | | | |
| a. | Fine & Topsoil with Amendments | 5,200 | CY | $3.00 | $15,600.00 |
| b. | Permanent Seeding | 152 | MSF | $90.00 | $13,680.00 |
| c. | Detention Basin Seeding | 17 | MSF | $95.00 | $1,567.50 |
| d. | Deciduous Tree-large | 10 | Each | $300.00 | $3,000.00 |
| e. | Deciduous Tree-small | 17 | Each | $175.00 | $2,975.00 |
| f. | Evergreen Tree | 24 | Each | $200.00 | $4,800.00 |
| g. | Shrub | 68 | Each | $60.00 | $4,080.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$45,702.50** |
| **7. Engineering** | | | | | |
| a. | Site Survey | 1 | Lump Sum | $4,695.52 | $4,695.52 |
| b. | Design/Permitting | 1 | Lump Sum | $28,173.10 | $28,173.10 |
| c. | Bidding/Construction | 1 | Lump Sum | $14,086.55 | $14,086.55 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$42,259.65** |
| | | | | | |
| Sub-Total | | | | | **$511,811.36** |
| 5% Contingency | | | | | **$25,590.57** |
| Total Site Work Cost | | | | | **$537,401.93** |

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**SSM Group, INC.**

**CONSTRUCTION COST OPINION**

DATE PREPARED 10/15/2010
R- 11-15-12

PROJECT: Proposed Recreation Parcel **Phase 2**
CLIENT: Riegelsville Borough
WORK ORDER: 108308.0014
P.M.: LME
P.I.C.: MS

BASIS FOR ESTIMATE
- ☐ NO DESIGN COMPLETED
- ■ MASTER PLAN
- ☐ PRELIMINARY DESIGN
- ☐ FINAL DESIGN

DRAWING NO.(S): G.1-01M
ESTIMATOR: MMS
CHECKED BY: JMN

| ITEM DESCRIPTION | | QUANTITY NO. UNITS | QUANTITY UNIT MEAS. | UNIT OR TOTAL COST PER UNIT | UNIT OR TOTAL COST TOTAL $ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1. Administration** | | | | | |
| a. | Bonds and Insurance. | 1 | L.S. | $3,766.90 | $3,766.90 |
| b. | Mobilization and Demobilization. | 1 | L.S. | $9,417.25 | $9,417.25 |
| c. | Record Plan | 1 | L.S. | $1,500.00 | $1,500.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$14,684.15** |
| **2. Erosion and Sediment Control, Furnish and Install Complete (Materials & Quantities are Approximated)** | | | | | |
| a. | Rock Construction Entrance | 1 | Each | $1,500.00 | $1,500.00 |
| b. | Mulch Control Netting | 1200 | SY | $1.75 | $2,100.00 |
| c. | Erosion Control Blanket (S150BN) | 250 | SY | $3.00 | $750.00 |
| d. | 18" Filtrexx SiltSoxx | 500 | LF | $7.00 | $3,500.00 |
| e. | Inlet Protection | 2 | Each | $100.00 | $200.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$8,050.00** |
| **3. Site Work and Storm Sewer, Furnish and Install Complete (Materials & Quantities are Approximated)** | | | | | |
| a. | Strip and stockpile topsoil | 1,350 | CY | $2.50 | $3,375.00 |
| b. | Rough Grading | 8,150 | CY | $3.50 | $28,525.00 |
| c. | M-Inlet | 1 | Each | $2,000.00 | $2,000.00 |
| d. | M-Inlet with Snout Separator | 1 | Each | $3,000.00 | $3,000.00 |
| e. | 18" HDPE Pipe | 350 | LF | $33.00 | $11,550.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$48,450.00** |
| **4. Walkways and Site Furniture, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | 6" Stone Walkways | 475 | SY | $10.00 | $4,750.00 |
| b. | Bench and stone fine pad | 3 | Each | $1,200.00 | $3,600.00 |
| c. | Trash Receptacle and stone fine pad | 1 | Each | $900.00 | $900.00 |
| d. | Gazebo | 1 | Each | $16,000.00 | $16,000.00 |
| e. | Amphitheater stage/plaza brick pavers | 710 | SF | $18.00 | $12,780.00 |
| f. | Memorial Plaza raised planter w/ statue & flag poles | 95 | SFF | $40.00 | $3,800.00 |
| g. | Memorial Plaza planter landscaping statue & flag poles | 1 | Lump Sum | $15,000.00 | $15,000.00 |
| h. | Plaza benches | 8 | Each | $900.00 | $7,200.00 |
| i. | Memorial Plaza brick pavers | 2500 | SF | $18.00 | $45,000.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$109,030.00** |
| **5. Site Landscaping and Seeding Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | Fine & Topsoil with Amendments | 1,500 | CY | $3.00 | $4,500.00 |
| b. | Permanent Seeding | 65 | MSF | $90.00 | $5,850.00 |
| c. | Deciduous Tree-large | 18 | Each | $300.00 | $5,400.00 |
| d. | Deciduous Tree-small | 7 | Each | $175.00 | $1,225.00 |
| e. | Evergreen Tree | 19 | Each | $200.00 | $3,800.00 |
| f. | Shrub | 34 | Each | $60.00 | $2,040.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$22,815.00** |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **6. Engineering** | | | | | |
| a. | Site Design/Permitting | 1 | Lump Sum | $14,212.04 | $14,212.04 |
| b. | Bidding/Construction | 1 | Lump Sum | $6,090.87 | $6,090.87 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$20,302.92** |
| | | | | | |
| Sub-Total | | | | | **$223,332.07** |
| 5% Contingency | | | | | **$11,166.60** |
| Total Site Work Cost | | | | | **$234,498.67** |

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**SSM Group, INC.**

**CONSTRUCTION COST OPINION**

DATE PREPARED 10/15/10
R- 11-15-12

PROJECT: Proposed Recreation Parcel **Phase 3**
CLIENT: Riegelsville Borough
WORK ORDER: 108308.0014
P.M.: LME
P.I.C.: MS

BASIS FOR ESTIMATE
- ☐ NO DESIGN COMPLETED
- ■ MASTER PLAN
- ☐ PRELIMINARY DESIGN
- ☐ FINAL DESIGN

DRAWING NO.(S): G.1-01P
ESTIMATOR: MMS
CHECKED BY: JMN

| | ITEM DESCRIPTION | QUANTITY NO. UNITS | QUANTITY UNIT MEAS. | UNIT OR TOTAL COST PER UNIT | UNIT OR TOTAL COST TOTAL $ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| **1. Administration** | | | | | |
| a. | Bonds and Insurance. | 1 | L.S. | $4,329.10 | $4,329.10 |
| b. | Mobilization and Demobilization. | 1 | L.S. | $10,822.75 | $10,822.75 |
| c. | Record Plan | 1 | L.S. | $1,500.00 | $1,500.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$16,651.85** |
| **2. Erosion and Sediment Control, Furnish and Install Complete (Materials & Quantities are Approximated)** | | | | | |
| a. | Rock Construction Entrance | 1 | Each | $1,100.00 | $1,100.00 |
| b. | Erosion Control Blanket (S150BN) | 250 | SY | $3.00 | $750.00 |
| c. | 18" Filtrexx SiltSoxx | 500 | LF | $7.00 | $3,500.00 |
| d. | Inlet Protection | 4 | Each | $100.00 | $400.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$5,750.00** |
| **3. Site Work and Storm Sewer, Furnish and Install Complete (Materials & Quantities are Approximated)** | | | | | |
| a. | Strip and stockpile topsoil | 8,500 | CY | $2.50 | $21,250.00 |
| b. | Rough Grading | 11,350 | CY | $3.50 | $39,725.00 |
| c. | M-Inlet with Snout Separator | 1 | Each | $3,000.00 | $3,000.00 |
| d. | 18" HDPE Pipe | 75 | LF | $33.00 | $2,475.00 |
| e. | DW Endwall | 1 | Each | $1,200.00 | $1,200.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$67,650.00** |
| **4. Walkways and Site Furniture, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | 6" Stone Walkways | 490 | SY | $10.00 | $4,900.00 |
| b. | Bench and stone fine pad | 3 | Each | $1,300.00 | $3,900.00 |
| c. | Trash Receptacle and stone fine pad | 2 | Each | $900.00 | $1,800.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$10,600.00** |
| **5. Softball Field, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | Dugouts w/ concrete pads | 2 | Each | $22,500.00 | $45,000.00 |
| b. | Backstop | 50 | LF | $45.00 | $2,250.00 |
| c. | Infield Mix | 1225 | SY | $14.00 | $17,150.00 |
| d. | Player Benches | 4 | Each | $800.00 | $3,200.00 |
| e. | Dugout Fence (6' high) | 200 | LF | $30.00 | $6,000.00 |
| f. | Home Plate | 1 | Each | $250.00 | $250.00 |
| g. | Bases (set of 3) | 1 | Each | $500.00 | $500.00 |
| h. | Pitcher's Rubber | 1 | Each | $200.00 | $200.00 |
| i. | 3 Row Bleachers w/ concrete pads | 2 | Each | $7,500.00 | $15,000.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$89,550.00** |
| **6. Site Landscaping and Seeding Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | Fine & Topsoil with Amendments | 8,250 | CY | $3.00 | $24,750.00 |
| b. | Athletic Seeding | 88 | MSF | $95.00 | $8,360.00 |
| c. | Permanent Seeding | 54 | MSF | $90.00 | $4,860.00 |
| d. | Deciduous Tree-large | 3 | Each | $300.00 | $900.00 |
| e. | Deciduous Tree-small | 1 | Each | $175.00 | $175.00 |
| f. | Evergreen Tree | 13 | Each | $200.00 | $2,600.00 |
| g. | Shrub | 21 | Each | $60.00 | $1,260.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$42,905.00** |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **7. Engineering** | | | | | |
| a. | Site Design/Permitting | 1 | Lump Sum | $16,317.48 | $16,317.48 |
| b. | Bidding/Construction | 1 | Lump Sum | $6,993.21 | $6,993.21 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$23,310.69** |
| | | | | | |
| Sub-Total | | | | | **$256,417.54** |
| 5% Contingency | | | | | **$12,820.88** |
| Total Site Work Cost | | | | | **$269,238.41** |

Owner acknowledges that Spotts, Stevens and McCoy, Inc. (SSM) is not a construction cost estimator or contractor. Accordingly, the opinions regarding probable construction costs rendered by SSM shall not be considered equivalent in nature or extent to the estimates of a construction costs estimator or contractor. To provide an opinion regarding probable construction costs requires SSM to make certain assumptions as to actual conditions that may be encountered, including decisions of other design professionals, the means and methods of construction employed by the contractor, the cost and extent of labor, equipment and materials the contractor will employ, and over which SSM has no control. Because the opinion rendered by SSM is based upon assumptions and its experience with construction, SSM cannot guarantee the accuracy of its opinions regarding probable costs. Owner hereby agrees to waive any claim against SSM relative to the accuracy of the opinions rendered.

**SSM Group, INC.**

**CONSTRUCTION COST OPINION**

DATE PREPARED 10/15/10
R- 11-15-12

PROJECT: Proposed Recreation Parcel Phase 4
CLIENT: Riegelsville Borough
WORK ORDER: 108308.0014
P.M.: LME
P.I.C.: MS

BASIS FOR ESTIMATE
- ☐ NO DESIGN COMPLETED
- ■ MASTER PLAN
- ☐ PRELIMINARY DESIGN
- ☐ FINAL DESIGN

DRAWING NO.(S): G.1-01M
ESTIMATOR: MMS
CHECKED BY: JMN

| ITEM DESCRIPTION | | QUANTITY NO. UNITS | QUANTITY UNIT MEAS. | UNIT OR TOTAL COST PER UNIT | UNIT OR TOTAL COST TOTAL $ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| **1. Administration** | | | | | |
| a. | Bonds and Insurance. | 1 | L.S. | $4,095.00 | $4,095.00 |
| b. | Mobilization and Demobilization. | 1 | L.S. | $10,237.50 | $10,237.50 |
| c. | Record Plan | 1 | L.S. | $1,500.00 | $1,500.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$15,832.50** |
| **2. Erosion and Sediment Control, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | Rock Construction Entrance | 2 | Each | $1,100.00 | $2,200.00 |
| b. | 18" Filtrexx SiltSoxx | 250 | LF | $7.00 | $1,750.00 |
| c. | Inlet Protection | 2 | Each | $100.00 | $200.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$4,150.00** |
| **3. Site Work and Storm Sewer, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | Strip and stockpile topsoil | 1 | Lump Sum | $1,500.00 | $1,500.00 |
| b. | Rough Grading | 1 | Lump Sum | $3,500.00 | $3,500.00 |
| c. | Fine Grading and Permanent Seeding | 1 | Lump Sum | $2,000.00 | $2,000.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$7,000.00** |
| **4. Walkways and Site Furniture, Furnish and Install Complete** | | | | | |
| a. | 6" AASHTO #10 Stone Walkways | 30 | SY | $10.00 | $300.00 |
| b. | Concrete sidewalk w/ stone base | 80 | SY | $70.00 | $5,600.00 |
| c. | Trash Receptacle and stone fine pad | 3 | Each | $900.00 | $2,700.00 |
| d. | Pavilion (25'x50') w/ concrete pad | 2 | Each | $45,000.00 | $90,000.00 |
| e. | Concession Stand with Restrooms | 1 | Each | $95,000.00 | $95,000.00 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$193,600.00** |
| **5. Engineering** | | | | | |
| a. | Design/Permitting | 1 | Lump Sum | $15,440.78 | $15,440.78 |
| b. | Bidding/Construction | 1 | Lump Sum | $6,617.48 | $6,617.48 |
| | | | **SUB TOTAL** | | **$22,058.25** |
| | | | | | |
| Sub-Total | | | | | **$242,640.75** |
| 5% Contingency | | | | | **$12,132.04** |
| Total Site Work Cost | | | | | **$254,772.79** |

Owner acknowledges that Spotts, Stevens and McCoy, Inc. (SSM) is not a construction cost estimator or contractor. Accordingly, the opinions regarding probable construction costs rendered by SSM shall not be considered equivalent in nature or extent to the estimates of a construction costs estimator or contractor. To provide an opinion regarding probable construction costs requires SSM to make certain assumptions as to actual conditions that may be encountered, including decisions of other design professionals, the means and methods of construction employed by the contractor, the cost and extent of labor, equipment and materials the contractor will employ, and over which SSM has no control. Because the opinion rendered by SSM is based upon assumptions and its experience with construction, SSM cannot guarantee the accuracy of its opinions regarding probable costs. Owner hereby agrees to waive any claim against SSM relative to the accuracy of the opinions rendered.

# Riegelsville Open Space Survey Comments

# RIEGELSVILLE OPEN SPACE SURVEY COMMENTS

The following comments are from the open space survey that was sent out in August 2000.

1. I just feel that I have to express to you just how I feel about this questionnaire, if you take a very serious look at the big picture one of our big problems is that we do need to downsize our schools. It seems in this day and age people feel that their children should go to a big fancy Taj-ma-hal school which in fact costs a lot of tax dollars. This call for extra tax dollars causes farmers to have to sell their lands and open fields to recoup money for their tax burden. In a quote from our pastor it's what is inside is what counts.

   Secondly, in reference to the canal and river areas may I suggest that a formal request be given to the Army Corps of engineers to do a dredging of the Delaware River so that it is capable of carrying a larger volume of water. This is important since there has been an increase of home construction, also the installation of thousands of tons of blacktop that have been installed in the surrounding areas have created an umbrella effect which does not allow the normal absorption of the rain water, it has only been in the last five years or so that contractors have been made to install retention devices to stop the soil runoff into the streams and eventually into the river thus decreasing the volume capacity that it once was capable of. The only thing that I hope for is that you will give this letter some serious thought and it will do some good and not fall on deaf ears, as they say.

2. I believe PA is losing more land per year than most other states, somehow it should be stopped. Riegelsville is blessed to be located on the River, which along with it, is the canal, also the wildlife which is unique because of them. This borough is fortunate to have all of the above, also with a park. The borough should be responsible and wise enough to keep them in tact and also comfortably connected, along with smartly overseeing what building may take place. This area is a God given beauty and should be handled with care.

3. The canal used to be a major source of recreation for our kids winter and summer. Unfortunately the boroughs no control of this and the canal is usually a mess.

4. Rent the farmland to farmers and let the public hunt it in the fall.

5. I think all of the above are a high priority for preservation, really, and once they're gone it isn't easy to get them back. Preserving them is a must. If rumors of a golf course being made are true that might be a way to keep some open space while at the same time bringing some money into the area.

6. Providing areas to utilize the land as a family is great. But as for housing they should be less due to us living in the country and soon we would look like a city.

7. All activity ideas are great ideas. Please work toward implementing as many as possible. The area needs things to keep those of all ages busy.

8. Each property should be evaluated on its own merits and then the most vulnerable assets preserved first. Other towns use a point system based on a list of criteria.

9. It would be nice to see a place for children close to home to do things like sports; skateboard, roller blade, riding bikes.

10. Don't forget we are part of the Easton Area School District. We have the right to use fields in the district just like the other four municipalities. I also believe we should use flood plain area to increase play area if buildings are not necessary.

11. We could start by fixing up the playground and putting in tennis courts. A place to rent boats or canoes along the river or canal would be great.

12. Why did we annex additional land to the Boro if we didn't want it to grow? I was led to believe that we wanted to grow. What changed?

13. Area teens need a place for recreation. There is a park, but it is not designed for teens. There should be some place there (or somewhere safe) that they can skate board and ride bikes. They are ruining the canal area with bike ramps, etc. (litter too).

14. We dislike to see the open farmland planned for housing projects. Leave the open farmland as it is.

15. Our side of the canal has great potential. It was great to ski on last winter. Had there been water in it, it would have been great skating. Please try to do something to improve our main street. It's dumpy.

16. Via Internet and other sources I'm sure you could find other towns that have found how to preserve and develop their town. I've seen examples of it via television programs. Farmlands are part of history as well as being scenic. We need to learn to appreciate them more. They are not just a place to grow food for humans or animals. How much use is being given to what we already have? We do have more families with young children, but many have come and gone. That's why I thought (park) improvement would be a better choice.

17. We need sidewalk restoration through all of Riegelsville.

18. The canal/river are a natural resource and a magnet for wildlife, tourism and money. We should capitalize on this so that we can afford to preserve our historic sites and maintain the borough image. They are moving up from New Hope and Lambertville, now Stockton and Frenchtown are magnets. Milford is just beginning. We're next. We should be ready.

19. I think every house in town should have sidewalks in the front of their properties. I can't believe that some people don't have to comply. Why is this?

20. Residential development is definitely on the bottom of my list. Development in a business (mfg.) area would prosper local existing businesses and help with local jobs. Paper mills are slowly folding up. City sewer would be very nice, especially in flood zone areas.

21. In developing the canal and river areas for recreation, monitoring the traffic along Durham Road should be considered. There are many speeding cars competing with recreational bicyclists and baby strollers.

22. Other than the Weiss Tract (flood plain) and a little bit of the Ceadar Tract, what open space do we have? Not much. We have the towpath. We don't need more.

23. Preserve surrounding farmland.

24. It is difficult to complete question 8 as all of the issues are important. All the listed choices overlap such as canal and river areas and historic areas both of which are wildlife habitats all are important.

25. We think Riegelsville would benefit greatly from increased development. It would bring increased revenue to the town and better services (i.e., city sewer, etc.) to the families residing here.

26. Thank you for informing us of work in progress, keep up the good work. I sincerely hope you attract the interest and support that you will need to succeed. I'm sure you know how to find those of us that are willing to help.

27. Maintain canal path in better condition such as the path from Tinicum Park to New Hope.

28. I also think something should be done on Durham Road to detect speeders and people who use it for a short cut to 611. Speed bumps would be ideal. There are a lot of young families with small children and animals moving in and speeding is a major problem on this road.

29. Is it implied a community center building would be constructed and where?

30. I personally feel the open-space committee could work with the recreation board on a lot of these issues.

31. Riegelsville is a lovely, quiet town surrounded by beautiful open land (farmland, woods) and the scenic Delaware River. My whole family is for preserving this at all costs.

32. Thanks for inviting community input on these matters. Please keep everyone apprised of possible or pending projects, particularly if they involve community money and/or taxes. As noted on reverse, we would like to see some community monies devoted to recreation area of some sort for local youth.

# RECTAP Pamphlet

# RecTAP
# CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Recruiting, screening, and interviewing staff
- Getting Started-How to begin providing recreation and park services
- Mission and vision statements
- Board training
- Budget and fiscal management
- Advantages of intergovernmental cooperation
- Partnership development
- Cultural and diversity issues
- Greenways and trails
- ADA compliance
- Swimming pool management
- Building public awareness
- Community center management
- Skate park facilities
- Program guide formats
- Organizational image
- Computer applications
- Volunteer management
- Marketing and public relations
- Recreation programming
- Citizen surveys
- Customer service audits
- Revenue sources
- Contracts and specifications
- Park and facility maintenance
- Playground safety
- Benefits of parks and recreation



## RecTAP Evaluations

- "My consultant addressed every one of our concerns; brought to light several issues we were unaware of; and offered advice and suggestions to address each item."
  ***- Youngsville Borough***

- "The final report was well organized and helped to define and clarify a variety of program issues. We have already begun to implement some recommendations and will continue to do so."
  ***- Murrysville Recreation Department***

- "Our consultant completed a thorough business plan for the museum society."
  ***- Appalachian Trail Museum Society***

- "I think RecTAP is a wonderful program and is efficiently operated!"
  ***- Eastern York Area Recreation Commission***

- "My consultant was very helpful and provided good insight into establishing a new Park and Recreation Department."
  ***- Limerick Township***

- "The process was quick and streamlined!"
  ***- Cumberland County Planning Department***

- "Our consultant took the time to sit down and really get to know the organization; she was very accessible and open to the continual changes throughout the project."
  ***- Manheim Central Recreation Commission***

# RECreation and Parks Technical Assistance Program

A service of the
**Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society**
*"Partners Advancing Recreation and Parks"*



Supported by a grant from the
**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**

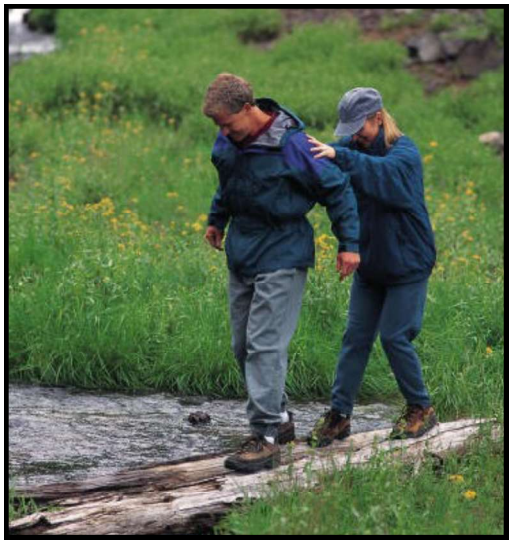
# HELP ?



Do you need to:

*Develop recreation programs?*
*Build public awareness?*
*Revamp your pool's regulations?*

The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) can lend a hand! PRPS administers an innovative program, the **Recreation** and Parks **Technical Assistance Program**, **RecTAP**, which matches people who want to know with people in the know. It advances recreation and park organizations by offering grants that provide professional assistance on an extensive number of issues. Grantees are specifically matched with experts based on their needs. Our professionals not only have widespread park and recreation knowledge, but also experience at all levels of government.



## WHO CAN APPLY ?

Organizations providing community recreation and park services are eligible to apply for a RecTAP grant. They are ideal for those who do not have the in-house expertise, time, and/or funding to resolve specific questions or problems. Only one grant may be received in a calendar year. Organizations with a PRPS group membership or who have a staff member with a PRPS membership are not required to pay a match. However, non-member organizations are required to pay a $75 match upon approval of the grant.

## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT ?



PRPS will pair your organization with a "peer consultant." Your peer consultant can spend up to three days working with you, which includes an in-person visit. In addition to verbal recommendations, you are provided with a brief written report. After the grant contracts are signed, your project should be completed within 3-6 months. RecTAP grants are available until the pool of funds is depleted each calendar year. The earlier your application is received, the better the chance it has of being funded. Projects must be of reasonable scope to complete on a short-term basis. The grants have a maximum value of $2,500. PRPS pays the RecTAP peer consultant directly, so funds are never sent to the awarding agency.



## HOW DO YOU APPLY ?

Organizations may apply by completing a simple application that can be downloaded from the PRPS website, **www.prps.org**. The applications are evaluated every 3-4 months by a peer review panel. There is no deadline date for submission of applications. Upon approval, you are mailed an agreement to sign that outlines the terms and conditions of the grant.

Discussing the program's guidelines with the RecTAP Coordinator before submitting your application is recommended.

To discuss a potential application, contact:

**Emily Gates**
**RecTAP Coordinator**
**Phone: (814) 234-4272**
**Email: egates@prps.org**



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