



Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan

HELLAM TOWNSHIP & HALLAM BOROUGH
YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
2014

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2014

Prepared for:

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough, York County

Hellam Township Board of Supervisors

Michael Martin, Chairman
Martin Reed
Larry Busino
Galen Weibley
Stephen Wolf

Hellam Township Manager

Corina Mann

Hallam Borough Council

Edward Wible, President
Mark Henise
Michael Dupler
Cindy Knox
Jeff Kyle
Raymond Moose
Edwin Shupp

Hallam Borough Mayor

Paul McCleary

Hallam Borough Secretary

Deborah Dupler

Project Study Committee

Heather Bitner	Kristie Peters
Robson Dunwoody	Mark Potosky
June Evans	Marty Reed
Mark Henise	Harry Smith
Elizabeth Logan	Anne Walko
Corina Mann	

Prepared by:

Yost Strodoski Mears
Toole Recreation Planning
Natural Lands Trust

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Bureau of Recreation and Conservation*

Table of Contents

Reader's Guide to the Plan

Executive Summary

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Plan Purpose and Goals	1-1
Planning Process	1-1
The Plan as a Guide	1-2

Chapter 2 - Organization, Management & Financing

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Organizational Structure	2-1
Park and Recreation Organization and Management.....	2-3
Funding.....	2-5
Organization, Management, and Financing Analysis.....	2-8

Chapter 3 - Community Profile

Location and Configuration	3-1
History	3-2
Municipal Government.....	3-2
Demographics	3-2
Public Participation	3-5
Community Analysis.....	3-8

Chapter 4 - Open Space

Existing Protections.....	4-1
Open Space Priority Areas	4-3
Open Space Conservation Strategies.....	4-5
Open Space Criteria	4-9
Open Space Analysis	4-11
Recommendations.....	4-12

Chapter 5 - Parkland & Recreation

Configuration of Parkland.....	5-1
Amount of Parkland.....	5-5
Location of Parks.....	5-6
Recreation Facilities	5-7
Conditions of Parkland and Facilities.....	5-14
Park and Facility Trends	5-19
Parkland & Recreation Analysis	5-20
Recommendations.....	5-21

Chapter 6 - Greenways & Trails

Greenways	6-1
State and Local Greenway and Trail Initiatives	6-3
Organizing Elements of the Greenways and Trail Network	6-5
Greenways in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough	6-7
Greenways and Open Space Protection	6-8
Existing and Potential Trails in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough	6-12
Expanding the Trail System	6-15
Greenways & Trails Analysis	6-18
Recommendations	6-19

Chapter 7 - Programs & Services

Trends & Influences	7-1
Recreation Needs and Interests in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough	7-4
Community Recreation Services in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough	7-5
Recreation Program and Service Analysis	7-7

Chapter 8 - The Plan

What Works Well	8-1
Challenges	8-2
A Model to Consider	8-2
A Framework for Decision-Making	8-3
Core Values, Vision, Mission and Goals	8-3
Goal 1 – Protect our open space, natural resources, and scenic rural character	8-5
Goal 2 – Establish parks and recreation facilities as community destinations where residents can have fun, experience nature, socialize, and lead active healthy lifestyles	8-6
Goal 3 – Connect our community through a system of trails	8-9
Goal 4 – Facilitate recreation opportunities to help the citizens engage in active healthy living	8-11
Goal 5 – Provide operational excellence and financial sustainability through a continued partnership of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough that will garner widespread public support for parks and recreation	8-14

Chapter 9 - Action Plan

Goal 1 – Protect our open space, natural resources and scenic rural character	9-2
Goal 2 – Establish parks and recreation facilities as community destinations where residents can have fun, experience nature, socialize, and lead active healthy lifestyles	9-3
Goal 3 – Connect our community through a system of trails	9-5
Goal 4 – Facilitate recreation opportunities to help the citizens engage in active healthy living	9-6
Goal 5 – Provide operational excellence and financial sustainability through a continued partnership of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough that will garner widespread public support for parks and recreation	9-8

Appendix A - Capital Improvement Program

Reader's Guide to the Plan

The **Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan** is a comprehensive planning document. It represents broad research of parks, recreation, and open space resources in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough. Most importantly, it crafts a vision for a protected system of parks, open space, greenways, and trails that sustains the area's natural and scenic resources and addresses the recreation needs of citizens.

The planning process was based on the needs and desires of the public, expressed through an engaged study committee, interviews, forums, public meetings, and an internet opinion survey. The Plan's strategies and recommendations were developed with the assistance of the study committee and presented at a public meeting.

The **Executive Summary** condenses the plan, public opinion, research, goals, and recommendations into a few pages. It offers the readers a concise version of the entire document.

Chapters 1-7 are the foundation for the plan and provide detailed information about parks and recreation facilities; greenways and trails; recreation programs and services; and management, operations, and financing parks and recreation.

Chapter 8, The Plan sets forth the core values, vision, mission, and goals and defines recommendations.

Chapter 9, the Action Plan, lists all of the recommended actions for the next ten years for recreation, parks, greenways, trails, and open space with a time frame, responsibility, and resources needed.

The plan is not law or a regulatory document. It recommends an approach to achieve a parks, recreation, and open space system that conserves the natural and scenic resources of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough and serves citizens throughout their lifetime with recreation opportunities that enhance their quality of life. The plan will serve as a reference document for elected officials, advisory boards, and community organizations. It is a guide for future actions and decisions. Recommendations will require further discussion, public involvement, and approval for the actions to be undertaken.

HELLAM TOWNSHIP & HALLAM BOROUGH

Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan



Nestled alongside the Susquehanna River, Hellam Township and Hallam Borough feature the pastoral beauty of the countryside surrounding a traditional small town. Hellam Township offers abundant open space and scenic landscapes and Hallam Borough offers small town amenities. Hellam Township and Hallam Borough have collaborated for many years on issues and opportunities of mutual interest. By joining forces and working with community volunteers, the Township and Borough have found ways of providing recreation opportunities, programs, and services through partnerships and a combination of municipal and private funding. This **Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan** is one more way in which elected and appointed officials and citizens joined forces to adopt a strategy to further conserve the community's scenic beauty and rural character, while providing opportunities for active healthy living.

A Framework for Decision Making

This **Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan** is not a law or regulatory document. It recommends an approach to providing citizens with diverse year-round recreation opportunities throughout their lifetime. The plan outlines strategies to achieve a system of parks, facilities, and open space that are convenient, safe, and beautiful; policies and initiatives to protect natural resources and open space; and action steps to provide high quality recreation facilities and services. The Plan will serve as a reference for Township and Borough officials, management and advisory boards, and community organizations. It is a guide for future actions and decisions.

Foundation of Public Input

This plan explored citizens' interests and ideas about parks and facilities, open space and natural resource protection, trails and greenways, and recreation services through a broad based public planning process. Input was gathered through interaction with a Study Committee and municipal staff; key stakeholder interviews; forums with environmental groups, seniors, and teens; online public commenting; and public meetings. The findings from this outreach provided the foundation for the Plan's goals and recommendations.

Citizens of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough support the parks, recreation, and open space and through public outreach have indicated that:

- They want to use community parks to walk, hike, experience nature, and get to the river.
- They think that it is important or very important for the Township and Borough to offer a variety of recreation facilities and opportunities in the community.
- The highest priorities for parks, recreation, and open space over the next ten years should be trails, open space conservation, access to natural areas, and improvements to existing facilities.
- Organized sports are very important to children and families and the Hellam Recreation Commission plays an integral role in providing community sports and special events.
- The majority of respondents to the online commenting opportunity indicated that they are willing to pay more to support parks and recreation.

The five core values expressed by citizens provide the foundation for the Plan's vision, mission, and goals.

- **Community Character and Scenic Beauty** – Hellam Township's agrarian roots and scenic rural character are the essence of this community. Hallam Borough is an important town center that serves as the "front porch" for the area. Together, the town center and surrounding countryside have their own special flavor that relates to and nurtures the quality of life distinct to the Hellam/Hallam area.
- **Natural Resource Conservation** – Forests, the Susquehanna River, streams, wildlife, and clean water and air must be conserved.
- **Sustainability** – Making the best use of all resources in ways that demonstrate stewardship of the environment, respect human and financial capacity, and providing a legacy for future generations is vital.
- **Health** – The health and wellness of citizens of all ages is paramount. Recreation fosters active, healthy lifestyles through facilities, programs, and services that benefit individuals and the community.
- **Collaboration** – Continuing the township/borough partnership in parks and recreation has widespread support.

Vision, Mission, and Goals

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough defined vision and mission statements for parks, recreation, and open space. The statements are a synthesis of results from the public outreach and should be used to make informed decision and guide future direction for the park and open space system.

Vision Statement

The parks, recreation, and open space system of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough enriches the community through the conservation of natural resources, recreation opportunities that support active, healthy lifestyles, and the preservation of our rural scenic character.

Mission Statement

To acquire, develop, operate, and maintain a park, recreation, and open space system that enriches the quality of life for those who live, work, and visit here.

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Recreation, Park and Open Space Goals

- Goal 1:** Protect our open space, natural resources, and scenic rural character.
- Goal 2:** Establish parks and recreation facilities as community destinations where residents can have fun, experience nature, socialize, and lead active, healthy lifestyles.
- Goal 3:** Connect our community through a system of trails.
- Goal 4:** Facilitate recreation opportunities to help citizens engage in active, healthy living.
- Goal 5:** Provide operational excellence and financial sustainability through a continued partnership of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough that will garner widespread public support for parks and recreation.

Strategy for Accomplishing the Goals

As small municipalities with limited staff and budgets, the challenges in implementing the plan will require time, varied support mechanisms, and momentum rooted in small successes over time. Every accomplishment no matter its size will help to advance parks, recreation, and open space in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough. While some projects would be expensive, others are not, and just require the continued efforts of community volunteers and the support of the municipalities. Things to focus on include:

- **Organizing for Implementation** – Build momentum for implementation by undertaking specific actions upon plan adoption. Establish a multi-municipal parks, recreation, and open space board as the means to oversee plan implementation. Develop a plan of action for year one following plan adoption to keep moving forward.

- **Brand the Woodlands** – Establishing a “brand” for the community’s woodlands to help the citizens identify with the importance of protecting the significant natural resources and scenic character of the community. Zero in on a specific goal for the percentage of the undeveloped land to preserve. Setting a goal like this will help citizens to understand and rally them around working toward accomplishing it.
- **Consider a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Referendum** – Make a decision about going before the voters regarding securing a bond or loan for parks, recreation, and open space. Plan and run a campaign to generate voter turnout and support for the initiative. Secure the technical assistance of a conservation organization such as the Natural Lands Trust in planning an open space referendum.
- **Take Care of Existing Facilities and Improve What We Have** – Safe, clean, beautiful parks and recreation facilities are a community treasure. Effective maintenance is in the long run the least expensive way to care for public facilities. Ensuring that adequate support for park maintenance is crucial. Prioritize development of Hellam Regional Park, secure long-term public recreation use of Beaver Street Ball Fields – East and West, and enhance existing parks to address issues and expand recreation value.
- **Explore Trail Opportunities** – Work to raise public awareness about the benefits of greenways and trails. Explore the feasibility of developing the York-Wrightsville Rail-Trail/Kreutz Creek Trail.
- **Securing Grants** – For capital improvements, land acquisition, and open space conservation tracking funding sources and applying for grants will be essential as municipal resources alone would never be enough.

Implementation

The **Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan** is a ten-year plan. The action plan establishes priority projects and implementation timeframes. Not everything can be achieved at once and the communities should be prepared to seize opportunities and deal with emerging issues. Flexibility, patience, and adaptability will be essential as the Plan is implemented. Building upon the community’s tradition of parks and recreation programs, open space preservation, and collaboration to implement the goals and strategies of this Plan will create a recreation, park and open space system that is crucial to the quality of life offered by Hellam Township and Hallam Borough.

Timeline and Costs

The **Plan** will be implemented over the next ten years and beyond. As opportunities, partners, and funding emerge, the Township and the Borough will continue the planning, development, and operation of the parks, recreation, and open space system. The cost for each project will be determined through planning that includes a public participation process. While not everything can be accomplished at once, every small step will help to advance community recreation, park, and open space goals.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Plan Purpose and Goals

The **Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan** provides strategic direction for the two municipalities to enhance their recreation offerings and conservation of open space and natural resources. The purpose of this planning effort was to develop a document that will guide future activities to improve park and recreation facilities and services and expand open space conservation initiatives in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough. Parks, recreation facilities, and open space add to the quality of life offered in a municipality and help to attract residents, businesses, and economic activity to a community. Recreation programs and services offer opportunities for residents to gather together as a community and lead a healthful lifestyle.



The **Plan** is an advisory document that serves as a long range planning tool for Hellam Township and Hallam Borough. The **Plan** defines future actions for providing recreation facilities, parkland, and recreation services into the next decade and builds upon the existing framework of parks and services in the communities. Recommendations target enhancements and initiatives desired by citizens, while considering the implications of today's lifestyles and trends in leisure time activities. Conservation recommendations build upon municipal ordinances and strive to further protect the unique natural settings that contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by residents. The **Plan** provides a focus and prioritization for recommended initiatives, recognizing that not everything can be accomplished at once. The parks, recreation, and open space proposals will require the investment of time, energy, and money, as well as, the commitment of elected officials, advisory boards, municipal staff, and volunteers.

Planning Process

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough began this planning process in 2009 with the formation of the Recreation and Open Space Committee. This committee defined objectives for the planning process and applied to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) for grant funding for the project. The PA DCNR grant was awarded in 2011 and following a solicitation for proposals and consultant selection, the project began in 2012.

The municipalities formed a Study Committee to work with the consultant team of landscape architects, a recreation planner, and land conservancy planners to create this plan. Public input was gathered

throughout the planning process through public meetings, outreach to key stakeholders, targeted forums, and an internet survey. The public participation process and assessment of current conditions provided the foundation for the plan and defined key issues and opportunities for consideration, including the following:

1. Protecting open space and natural resources.
2. Providing sufficient recreation facilities for citizens to enjoy throughout their lifetime.
3. Developing trails and bikeways to create a connected community.
4. Building a community identity for parks and recreation as a key asset of the municipality.
5. Targeting recreation programs and services that address resident needs and respond to changing lifestyles.
6. Enhancing existing parks and recreation facilities through introduction of convenience improvements, accessible accommodations, and aesthetic enhancements.
7. Enhancing park management and maintenance.



The Plan as a Guide

The **Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan** will help to guide municipal decision-making regarding parks, recreation facilities, recreation programs and services, open space preservation, and their financing. The recommendations reflect the direction in which the communities desire to move in enhancing the quality of life for its citizens. By adopting a plan that reflects public participation and sets forth a clear vision of the future, Hellam Township and Hallam Borough will be able to undertake the actions recommended and seek the financial support of its residents and from various grant programs.

The **Plan** functions in both a legal and an advisory capacity. It may help the municipalities to acquire future funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, federal grant programs, as well as, from local businesses and foundations.

Legal

Once adopted, the **Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan** can serve a legal function. The MPC (Pennsylvania Municipalities Code) provides planning requirements that can be adopted by municipalities. Municipalities must provide a defensible basis for sound decision-making regarding land use. The Plan can help the municipalities by providing a sound-foundation on which they can base local

planning decisions. This affects tools such as the mandatory dedication of parkland and fee-in-lieu of dedication.

Advisory

This plan serves as a reference document for overall municipal planning and management, collaboration between the two communities and regional partners, and with the private sector. The recommendations are based upon an investigative and educational process to identify initiatives and opportunities that are important to Hellam Township and Hallam Borough. The plan is intended to be a living document that will play a role in the decisions the municipalities make about parks, recreation services, financing, management, open space preservation, and related planning efforts.

The plan should be reviewed annually, prior to budget season. Through this review, accomplishments, needs, and emerging opportunities should be reviewed and considered. Actions should be adapted to changing circumstances in the municipalities and region. Budgets should be based on the action plan, as modified to respond to existing circumstances, for the upcoming fiscal year. This proves to be a sound way of targeting resources to community needs and emerging opportunities.

Chapter 2 – Organization, Management & Financing

According to the Pennsylvania municipal codes, the duty of elected officials is to secure the health, safety, and welfare of citizens. Parks and recreation help the Board of Supervisors to fulfill that duty by providing services and facilities to the community that improve the health of the citizens, protect the environment and water, and enhance the quality of life in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough’s intergovernmental collaboration in parks and recreation has been a key to success in the complex world of municipal government. By looking to their neighbors, the Township and the Borough have been able to provide public recreation services, in an efficient and effective manner. This chapter describes the nature of this collaborative relationship, and the management, maintenance, and financing of parks, recreation, and open space with an eye toward continuing this model arrangement in the future.

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Organizational Structure

As a Township of the Second Class, Hellam Township has a five member Board of Supervisors who serve as the Township’s chief elected officials. Hallam Borough’s seven-member Borough Council serves as the Borough’s elected body. As the elected officials, they are responsible for setting policy. The Borough Secretary and the Township Manager, appointed by their elected body, are responsible for implementing the policy set forth by their respective board of elected officials and managing the operation of municipal services.

Enabling Legislation for Parks and Recreation and Intergovernmental Cooperation

The organization and management of parks and recreation in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough function within the framework of the enabling legislation for townships of the second class and boroughs set forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Municipal Code provides for the establishment of parks, recreation centers, shade trees and forests system¹ in Townships of the Second Class and Boroughs². This legislation enables Hellam Township and Hallam Borough to acquire land, construct, improve, maintain, care for, regulate, and govern the public parks and recreation system. Any township or borough may join with one or more political subdivisions to acquire, create, equip, improve, regulate, maintain, and operate any recreation place in accordance with the Commonwealth’s statutes on intergovernmental cooperation. The law authorizing intergovernmental cooperation, is codified in Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Sections 2301-2315. Title 53 authorizes two or more “local governments” to “jointly cooperate in the exercise or in the performance of their respective governmental functions, powers or responsibilities.”³

¹ Second Class Township Code. Act of May 1, 1933 (P.L. 103, No. 69). Reenacted and amended November 9, 1995 (P.L. 350, No. 60). As Amended Harrisburg, PA. Article XX. Sections 2201 – 2207. Parks, Recreation Centers, and Forests.

² The Borough Code, as re-enacted and amended May 17, 2012, P.L. 262, No. 43. Section XXVII.

Pennsylvania Municipal Code Regarding Recreation Boards

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provides enabling legislation for public parks and recreation for townships and boroughs. Commonwealth codes for townships and boroughs provide for the establishment of the parks, recreation centers, and forests system³ enabling municipalities to:

- Acquire land and buildings for parks, playgrounds, playfields, gymnasiums, indoor recreation centers, and other facilities for public recreation,
- Supervise, maintain, and regulate parks,
- Equip, operate, and maintain the parks, recreation areas and facilities,
- Acquire and maintain forest areas,
- Create a Recreation Board,
- Work in agreement with other municipalities, the county, and the school district on joint ownership and operation of park and recreation areas,
- Employ play leaders, recreation directors, supervisors, superintendents, or other officers or employees, and
- Pay the expenses of operating parks and recreation.

Parks and Recreation Boards

A Board of Supervisors or a Borough Council may, by ordinance, create a recreation board for their respective municipality to supervise, regulate, equip, and maintain municipally funded recreation programs and facilities. The recreation board has only those powers and duties that the board of elected officials delegates to it.

Composition, Organization and Duties – Parks and Recreation Boards shall consist of five, seven, or nine members appointed by their elected officials. Members serve a five-year term. The members elect their own chairperson, secretary, and all other officers for a one-year term. Members serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for all expenses incurred in performing their duties. The recreation board may adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of all business within its jurisdiction and exercise powers and functions concerning parks and recreation facilities as may be delegated to it by the Board of Supervisors or Borough Council. The recreation board is to submit an annual report to the municipality, including an analysis of the adequacy and effectiveness of community recreation areas, facilities, and leadership.

³ Second Class Township Code. (1933 amended in 1991). Harrisburg, PA. Article XXII. Parks, Recreation Centers, and Forests.

Parks and Recreation Organization and Management

As small rural communities, neither Hellam Township nor Hallam Borough have a parks and recreation department. The functions of parks, recreation, and open space are split among several township employees and volunteers in the community.

Policy

The Hellam Township Board of Supervisors and the Hallam Borough Council set forth policy regarding all public parks and recreation functions, including parks, land, recreation facilities, rules and regulations, fees and charges, planning, goal setting, and administration.

Administration

In Hellam Township, the Township Manager implements parks and recreation policy established by the Board of Supervisors, oversees daily parks and recreation operations, such as park maintenance, coordinates volunteer efforts, provides financial management, and offers advice to the Board of Supervisors regarding parks and recreation. In the Borough, a council committee oversees parks and recreation operations.

Park Maintenance

The Hellam Township and Hallam Borough road crews perform park maintenance functions. The crews perform routine maintenance as well as emergency repairs, such as the repair of trail washouts. When needed, the crews can also help with parks and recreation capital improvements.

Recreation Commission

The Recreation Commission is an intergovernmental organization serving Hellam Township and Hallam Borough. Hellam Recreation, as it is known, is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to promoting athletics, good sportsmanship, exercise, and healthy lifestyles for children and adults. Hellam Recreation offers soccer, baseball, softball, horseshoes, and other sports. The Commission also plans and carries out the annual Hellam Recreation Carnival. The Hellam Recreation Board meets on the first Wednesday of every month. The Township and the Borough provide funding of about \$28,000 annually to support the Commission's operations.



Ongoing Use of Advisory Boards: Effective Method of Community Involvement

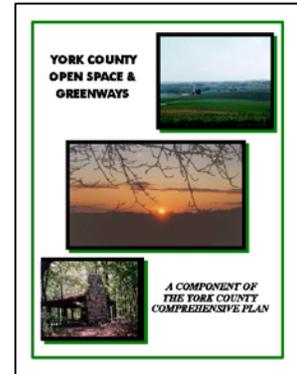
The Township and the Borough establish advisory committees to involve citizens in community planning and projects. With a focus on open space, Hellam Township organized an Open Space Committee to undertake planning for the conservation of open space. The Township also has a Park Committee and an Environmental Advisory Council and the Borough has a Park Committee. The Council serves in an advisory capacity on environmental issues and opportunities and also serves to provide environmental education to the public. The Township and the Borough set up an intergovernmental committee to plan the development of a joint Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

Plan. When this planning process launched, the municipalities formed an intergovernmental advisory board for the project. York County Planning Commission provided staff to serve on the advisory board in order to coordinate municipal and county-planning efforts related to parks, recreation, open space, and trails.

Related Organizations

A number of organizations in York County provide support and coordination for parks, recreation, and open space.

York County – York County provides related parks, recreation, open space, and trail support. The planning process for this project found that the county parks are popular destinations for township and borough residents. The York County Planning Commission developed an open space and greenway plan and a countywide trail plan.



Eastern York School District – Eastern York School District serves the rural communities located in eastern York County. With a general population of approximately 17,000, the District’s five schools house a total of 2,850 students. The District includes six municipalities: East Prospect Borough, Hallam Borough, Hellam Township, Lower Windsor Township, Yorkana Borough, and Wrightsville Borough. The mission of the School District is to educate, prepare, and motivate each student to dream, to learn, and to achieve throughout life.

Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area – The Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization connecting people to the Susquehanna River and its history as it flows through Lancaster and York Counties in Central Pennsylvania. The organization’s mission is to enhance the region’s quality of life and economic vitality by promoting the preservation, conservation, and interpretation of the Susquehanna River’s cultural and natural heritage.



The Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area advances their mission by building public awareness and understanding of the Susquehanna River’s value to the region, state, and nation and preserving and enhancing the river’s assets for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. The organization is based at The John & Kathryn Zimmerman Center for Heritage, a historic home on the riverfront, south of Wrightsville. The Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area is part of Heritage PA, Pennsylvania’s statewide network of designated Heritage Areas, and is working towards recognition by Congress as a National Heritage Area.

Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education – The Horn Farm Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to showcasing the past, present, and future of York County agriculture. By bringing people together to directly experience sustainable agriculture, the Center promotes the rich agricultural heritage of the County and the fundamental importance of local agriculture to the health and wellbeing of the local community, its economy, and the environment. The Center’s Incubator Farms Project ‘grows’ new farmers by providing infrastructure and support for these farmers; the Community Gardens Project provides over 100 plots for county residents to grow their own

chemical-free vegetables, flowers, and herbs; and the many agriculture-related educational events are open to the public. The Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education offers many opportunities to participate in and experience hands-on aspects of the Center’s educational operations.

Community Sports Organizations – Hellam Recreation plans and manages the community sports leagues for adults and youth through volunteer services, fees, and fundraising. The Township, the Borough, Eastern York School District, other municipalities, and the private sector provide facilities and support services, such as facility maintenance and public awareness for the leagues.

Benefits of Youth Sports

Youth sports can have positive effects in the lives of the participants. The skills children develop while participating in sports translate to their other activities and commitments, including school performance and family relationships. These include:

- Self-discipline
- Self-confidence
- Strong relationships with peers and adults
- Fitness and health
- Deterrence to substance abuse
- Family bonds
- Life-long healthy lifestyles



Funding

Both Hellam Township and Hallam Borough support parks and recreation financially as shown in their budget and staffing for park maintenance and planning. As small rural communities with limited budgets and staff, the municipalities have adopted creative and collaborative ways to support parks, recreation, and open space.

Parks, recreation, and open space are also rooted in volunteerism. Notable examples of creative and determined pursuit of support for public recreation abound here from community sports to the Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education. People in this community are willing to pitch in to help with everything from environmental education and youth sports to staging Hellam Recreation Carnival. The municipal governments support projects and maintenance by providing labor and equipment through their roads departments. The Township and the Borough regularly work together and share some maintenance functions. They joined forces in regional parks and recreation through the Hellam Recreation Commission, a private non-profit organization. Their collaboration on multi-municipal parks, recreation, and open space efforts is exemplary.

Funding for parks and recreation falls into two major categories: capital funding and operational funding. Capital funding is generally regarded as expenditures more than \$10,000 for improvements that last more than five to seven years. Operational funding is for the day-to-day maintenance and operation of the public parks and recreation system. This includes park maintenance, programs and services, advertising, staffing, utilities, equipment, supplies, and materials.

Capital Funding

Capital improvements for the parks are undertaken on an annual basis. While no long range capital improvement program is in place, one of the main goals for this parks, recreation, and open space plan is to determine capital improvement needs as well as to establish the basis for future funding actions, such as a bond issue or loan for open space, park, recreation, and trail improvements. In 2012, Hallam Borough transferred \$15,000 to the Capital Reserve fund for parks and recreation. The Borough spent about \$25,400 repairing Emig Park due to flood damage.

Operating Funds

Table 2-1 presents the operating budgets for Hellam Township and Hallam Borough for 2012. It does not include expenses for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan or capital funding as the intent is to show the regular ongoing operating costs for parks and recreation.

Table 2-1 Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Parks and Recreation Budget		
Line Item	Amount	Comment
Hellam Township		
Wages	\$19,700	Five crew members for Barshinger Fields and Liberty Park
Fuel	1,125	Fuel for mower for Borough fields and Barshinger
Supplies	1,475	Grass seed, mower parts, stones
Contracted Services	1,800	Dumpsters at Barshinger and Liberty Park
Hellam Recreation	12,000	Contribution
Horn Farm	3,750	Contribution
Wrightsville Community Center	750	Contribution
Eastern York Senior Center	750	Contribution
Total	\$41,350	
Hallam Borough		
Park Equipment/Improvements/Maintenance	\$4,000	Maintenance is performed by the Road Crew.
Park Electric	2,200	
Park Water	300	
Recreation Commission Donation	\$16,000	
Park Mowing	8,000	
Park Wages	6,500	
Security Camera Maintenance	850	
Park Caretaker	3,700	
Park Cleaning Supplies	550	
Park Sewer	420	
Total	\$42,870	
TOTAL	\$84,220	

Recreation Commission Budget

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough contribute to the support of the Hellam Recreation Commission. Table 2-2 presents the Commission’s revenue sources for 2008-2012. As the table shows, for every \$1 that the Township and the Borough contribute to the Recreation Commission, the Commission raises another \$1.09 in funds, as well as, thousands of hours of volunteer time. The value of a volunteer hour in Pennsylvania is \$21.25. The table also shows that the Commission earns a small amount more than the expenditures require. The Commission uses those funds to improve the facilities.

Revenues	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Donations	\$11,550	\$11,771	\$7,065	\$1,802	\$6,729
Fundraisers	320	0	0	0	1,923
Registration Fees	43,131	46,777	50,792	45,176	46,110
Township Contributions	16,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Borough Contributions	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
Carnival Proceeds	11,574	7,757	8,648	6,871	7,991
Interest	0	192	27	24	114
TOTAL	\$98,575	\$94,497	\$94,532	\$81,873	\$90,867
Expenditures					
Baseball	\$5,153	\$7,288	\$6,082	\$5,082	\$5,665
Basketball	8,477	8,922	10,352	8,754	3,149
Fall Soccer	21,194	15,488	19,741	20,658	10,334
Spring Soccer	11,509	10,805	8,230	9,972	9,284
Women’s Soccer	0	0	455	250	557
Softball	5,177	4,151	5,753	6,679	6,980
Tennis	0	0	500	0	830
Maintenance & Operations	95,394	83,150	75,431	81,873	80,867
Carnival Expense	6,982	9,514	7,119	3,988	9,502
TOTAL	\$102,376	\$92,665	\$82,550	\$85,861	\$90,369

Budgeting for parks and recreation is a major consideration. The following methods suggest ways of thinking about budgeting for parks and recreation in order to gain perspective for the long-term operation and development of the parks and recreation system that will be envisioned through this process.

1. Use the municipal budget as a benchmark. Use the township’s operating budget as a guideline. Typically, municipalities allocate two to three percent of their operating budget for parks and recreation.
2. Use state comparisons regarding municipal funding for parks and recreation. The statewide average municipal investment for parks and recreation is about \$28 per capita. Hellam Township has 6,043 people. Hallam Borough has 2,673. Combined the area has a population of 8,716. The average per capita municipal investment for operating parks and recreation is:
 - Hellam Township: \$6.84

- Hallam Borough: \$16.08
 - Combined Per Capita: \$9.66
3. Management Impact Statement. Figure 1 shown on page 8-16 presents how to use the Management Impact Statement as a tool for planning, decision-making and resource allocation. This method would provide the most accurate budgeting figures that would be attached to specific goals and objectives.

Mix of Public and Private Resources Is Essential

Since municipal government cannot afford to provide all of the facilities and services they would like to offer the public, a mix of public and private funding is required. The Hellam Community already has a good start on this with the extensive volunteerism that provides critical public recreation services that government could not afford to provide. The mix of public and private resources will become the foundation for the **Plan's** recommendations and action plan.

Organization, Management, and Financing Analysis

In this time of economic crisis and increasing accountability from all levels of government, decision-makers, staff, and citizens alike expect efficient and effective operating systems. The following analysis includes the strengths, challenges, and opportunities regarding parks and recreation organization, management, and financing.

Organization, Management, and Financing Strengths

Accomplishments – Hellam Township and Hallam Borough have a long and successful track record of working together. This has served the community well and should continue in parks, recreation, and open space.

Intergovernmental Recreation Commission – Hellam Township and Hallam Borough jointly fund the Recreation Commission. The budget analysis shows that the Recreation Commission leverages each municipal tax dollar with additional revenues to support league play, special events, maintenance, and park improvements. This is a wise investment.

Municipal Organizational Capacity – The Township and the Borough operate within a framework of trying to create maximum organizational effectiveness working together in parks, recreation, and open space as well as using staff as a team to deliver excellent public service within a climate of fiscal austerity and accountability.

Community Support – The Township is fortunate in having a strong cadre of volunteers in important areas of overall parks and recreation, including open space conservation, active, healthy living, and community building through special events.

Funding Sources – The Township and the Borough have been creative in pooling their money and expertise in securing outside sources of funding, including grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Recreation Commission raises funds through a mix of fees and charges, grant, gifts, and donations.

Investment in Conservation – Hellam Township has been working toward the conservation of open space and natural resources for many years, mainly through volunteer efforts.

Organization, Management, and Financing Challenges

While there is no parks and recreation department, the Township and the Borough are not of sufficient size with nearly 9,000 residents to have a full-time director. The Township and the Borough can consider part-time staff for recreation and parks, or designating an existing staff person to have formalized recreation and parks responsibilities with a specified time allotment for this function, or perhaps, working with another municipality, such as Wrightsville, in a regional parks and recreation consortium with shared parks and recreation staff.

The Recreation Commission serves the community well in the arena of sports and special events, but it could use some operational improvements. The services of the Commission are essential, and the partnership should continue over the long term. Continue along with the addition of management practices to ensure that the Commission's work and operation are sustainable over time. The Commission should produce an annual report documenting its vision, mission, goals, and accomplishments to be widely distributed.

There is no advisory board for parks, recreation, and open space. Creating a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Board will provide a vehicle for citizen involvement in an organized manner for overseeing the parks, recreation, and open space system holistically. The difference between Hellam Recreation Commission and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board is that the Board would be set up under the Pennsylvania State Operating Codes for Municipalities and officially appointed. The two boards would work collaboratively, and the committees should cross-pollinate the membership with committee representatives serving on both boards as liaisons.

There is no workload cost-tracking system for park maintenance. Without information about park costs in terms of staffing, it is very difficult to make informed decisions about park planning, resource allocation, and fees and charges policy. In relatively small communities with relatively small park systems in which park maintenance falls under public works, it would not be unusual that workload by park and task is not tracked. It would be very helpful as the system evolves to establish workload cost tracking as a practice.

Park Planning is undertaken informally and in reaction to pressing needs. Undertaking park planning in an organized manner with public involvement and professional expertise will ensure successful parks and recreation facilities that will be sustainable over time.

Organization, Management, and Financing Opportunities

Making the Case for Parks and Recreation – The planning process for this project found that there are varying levels of understanding about the importance of parks, recreation, open space, and trails. One of the most valuable things that the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Board and related organizations would be to join forces in a strategic effort to document why parks and recreation are vital to the quality of life this community and then to promote this information. Working with the Recreation Commission and other related organizations, could help to generate significant information about the value of parks and recreation in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough.

Limited Time Left to Conserve Open Space – While the community has been very successful in conserving important open space and natural features, there is plenty left to do. And there is a relatively short time frame left in which to do this before the economy turns around and land development comes back with force. The current lull in the economy provides a fine opportunity to preserve open space. To that end, consideration should be given to securing a bond or loan for open space, parks, greenways, and trails. Typically, municipalities undertake a voter referendum on pursuing a bond for open space and parks. If a voter referendum appears to be viable, then a community organization usually plans and executes a public awareness and educational campaign to ensure passage by the voters.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Implementation – Having an adopted parks and recreation plan in place will foster efficient and effective ways of operating, since a common mission, goals, and recommendations will be in place. Capitalize on the adoption of this plan by implementing the action plan through the designation of roles and responsibilities for actions that include a mix of township and borough resources and partnerships with organizations in the public and private sectors.

Park Planning Strategy – Develop a strategy for park planning that is holistic, prioritized, has broad public support, includes public involvement, professional park planning services, and the development of a capital improvement program.

Maintenance Management System Formalization – A formalized park maintenance management system should be developed and implemented. Long term the system would be easier to manage if it were computerized. Four distinct areas of maintenance could be addressed in the maintenance management system: parks, recreation facilities, natural resources, and trails. By organizing maintenance into these areas, decision-making regarding staffing, financing, training, setting priorities, and partnerships could be enhanced.

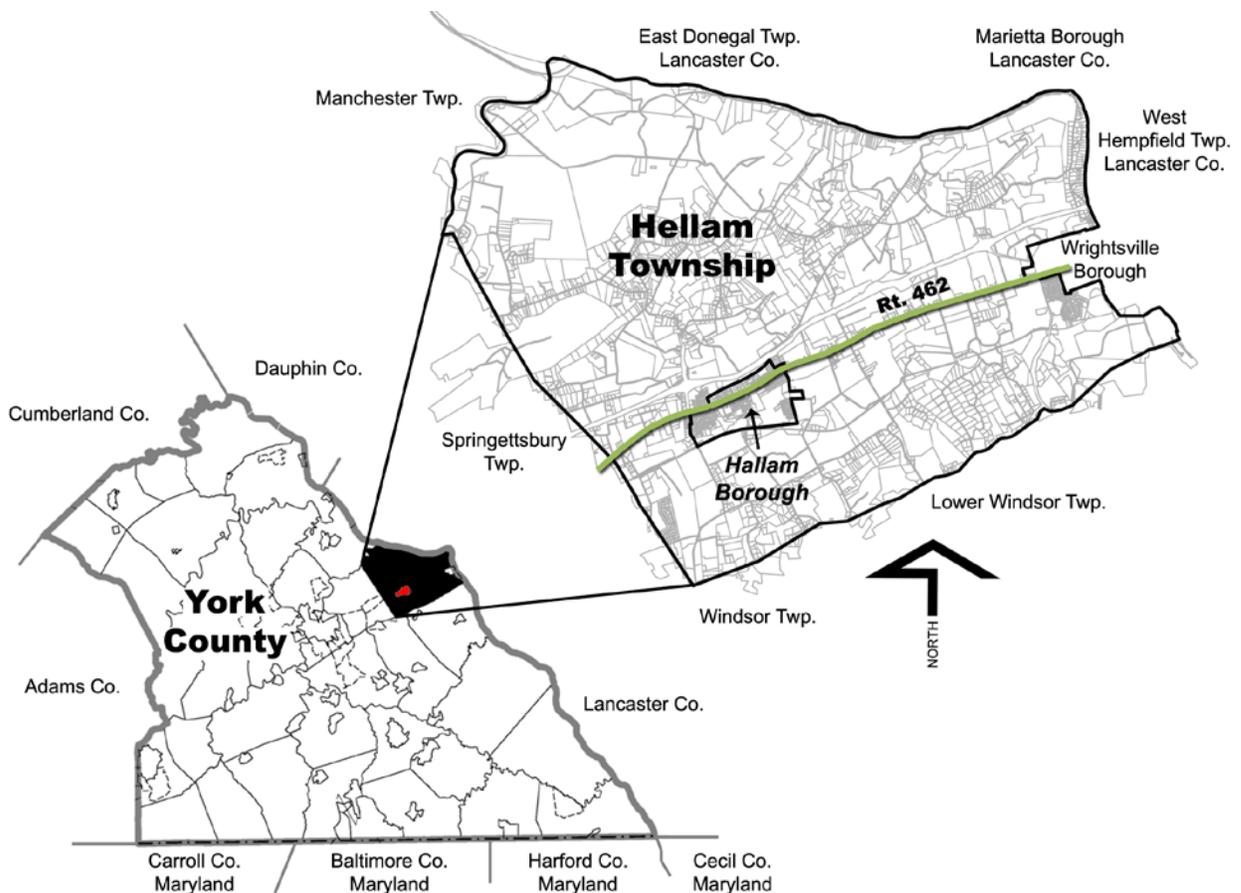
Natural Resources Management – As a function of maintenance and park and recreation planning, continue to integrate natural resource management with overall community planning. Provide training to workers involved with park maintenance. Working with a local land trust or conservancy or the Conservation District could help in establishing a plan to manage natural resources.

Chapter 3 – Community Profile

Understanding the context and character of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough is vital to creating a plan for parks, recreation, and open space that will be successful to serve citizens and protect the natural resources and open space of the communities. The community profile explores the community's locations, history, demographics, and findings of the public involvement process for this Plan.

Location and Configuration

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough are located in eastern York County, Pennsylvania. Hallam Borough is surrounded by Hellam Township and is the commercial center for the two municipalities. Hellam Township extends to the Susquehanna River to the east and is surrounded by Lower Windsor, Windsor, Springettsbury, and Manchester Townships and Wrightsville Borough. Pennsylvania Route 462, the Lincoln Highway and old Route 30, bisects the communities, running east-west.



History

Hellam Township

The Hellam area was first settled in 1736 as colonists crossed the Susquehanna River in the westward migration of the nation. Prior to that time, Iroquois and Susquehannock Indians inhabited the land west of the Susquehanna River. Initial settlements were established in the Kreutz Creek valley. Hellam Township was carved out of Lancaster County's Hempfield Township in 1739 and initially encompassed an area roughly the size of York County today. York County, the first county west of the Susquehanna River, was established in 1741. The growth of York and the expansion of Wrightsville impacted Hellam Township as transportation west, from the river, flowed through the Township. In 1908 Hallam Borough was carved out of Hellam Township as a separate municipality.



Early influences on the community was the trade and traffic through the valley, the discovery of iron ore in the Township, and the fertile land for farming.

Borough of Hallam

The Borough of Hallam was established in 1908 from lands of Hellam Township. The Borough was located in the southwest portion of Hellam Township where numerous commercial and agricultural support businesses were located. The Borough is bisected by the Lincoln Highway, the first trans-continental highway in the United States.

Municipal Government

Hellam Township is a Township of the Second Class. Five elected officials serve the Township as the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors appoints a Planning Commission, Environmental Advisory Council, and Parks Committee. Hallam Borough is a Borough governed by a seven member Borough Council and a Mayor. The Borough Planning Commission reviews plans and reports to the Council.

Demographics

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough are small rural communities with a combined 2010 population of 8,716. While Pennsylvania grew by 3.4 percent from 2000 to 2010, York County grew by 13.9%. Hallam Borough experienced a 74 percent increase in population due to the Buttonwood development. Hellam Township's slower rate of growth is due to a large extent from the Township's strategic conservation of open space with ordinances and land use planning designed to support land conservation.

Table 3-1
**Pennsylvania, York County, Hellam Township
 and Hallam Borough
 Population Changes 2000-2010**

Area	2000 Population	2010 Population	Numeric Change 2000-2010	% Change
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	12,702,379	421,325	3.4%
York County	381,751	434,972	53,221	13.9%
Hellam Township	5,930	6,043	113	1.9%
Hallam Borough	1,532	2,673	1,141	74.5%
Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Combined	7,462	8,716	1,254	16.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

What Change is Significant?
 The U.S. Bureau of the Census considers a change of
 2.5 percent to be significant.

Population Projections

The York County Planning Commission has developed population projections for the municipalities. Table 3-2 presents population projections for York County, Hellam Township, and Hallam Borough through 2030. The Township is projected to increase by 6.4 percent while the Borough’s growth is projected at only 1.5 percent. This is much lower than York County’s projected growth of 16.1 percent.

Table 3-2
**York County, Hellam Township, and Hallam Borough
 Population Projections through 2030**

Area	2010 Population	2020 Population	2030 Population	Numeric Change 2010-2030	% Change 2010 - 2030
York County	434,972	464,424	504,958	69,986	16.1%
Hellam Township	6,043	6,244	6,431	388	6.4%
Hallam Borough	2,673	2,686	2,713	40	1.5%
Hellam Township/ Hallam Borough Combined	8,716	8,930	9,144	428	4.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, York County Planning Commission

Age

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the median age for York County is 40.1. Hellam Township is 45.4 and Hallam Borough is 34.7. Through the Buttonwood development, the Borough bucked the national trend of increasing median age, realizing a decrease of nearly three years. Since 2000,

Hellam Township’s population of citizens’ ages 44 years and under has declined by approximately ten percent while the population age of 45 years and older increased. Hellam Township and Hallam Borough had reverse patterns in the composition of the population by age group. Hellam Township experienced a decrease in younger age groups and an increase in older age groups while Hallam Borough saw an increase in the younger age group and a decrease in the older one. The biggest gain for the Borough was in the age cohort of 25 to 44, which is more than one-third of the population. Planning for services for families is important here.

Table 3-3
**York County, Hellam Township, and Hallam Borough
 Age of Population 2000-2010**

Age Group	Hellam Township		Hallam Borough	
	2000	2010	2000	2010
Under 5 yrs.	5.2%	4.7%	6.3%	6.5%
5 – 24 yrs	23.0	22.7	23.9	24.3
25 – 44 yrs.	31.4	22.0	30.8	34.9
45 – 54 yrs.	17.7	19.5	12.9	11.6
55 – 64 yrs.	10.8	16.4	11.2	10.0
65 – 74 yrs.	7.5	8.9	8.4	7.0
75 – 84 yrs.	3.6	4.7	5.1	4.6
85 yrs +	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.3
Median Age	40.2 yrs.	45.4 yrs.	37.4 yrs.	34.7 yrs.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Race

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough are a nearly homogenous community of over 94 percent Caucasian. African Americans make up about five percent of the Borough population and two percent of the Township population. The Asian and Latino populations are less than five percent.

Education

About 21 percent of the residents, 25 years and older, in the Borough have a Bachelor’s degree. Another seven percent has a graduate or professional degree. About 15 percent of Township residents, age 25 and older, have a bachelor’s degree while about six percent have an advanced or professional degree.

Income

The median household income in Hellam Township is \$62,907 and \$58,419 in the Borough. These are higher than the median household income of York County at \$55,780

Housing

The median value of a house in Hallam Borough in 2011 was \$141,153 and rent was at \$934 per month. In the Township, the median house value was \$149,200 and rent was at \$809 per month. Over 80 percent of Township housing stock is owner occupied, while only 54.1 percent of the Borough’s is owner occupied.

Public Participation

This planning project included a five part public participation process: a Study Committee, interviews, focus groups, public meetings, and a public opinion survey.

Study Committee

The Study Committee was established to guide the planning process and provide feed back regarding project findings. The 11 member Study Committee was comprised of representatives of both municipalities and included elected officials, members of the Hellam Township Environmental Advisory Committee, citizen representatives, Hellam Township Recreation and Open Space Committee representative, Hellam Recreation Commission representative, Hallam Borough Planning Commission representative, Hellam Township staff, and York County Planning Commission representative. The Study Committee met monthly through the plan development to discuss project findings and planning considerations and to review the draft report. The Study Committee provided guidance and direction on the plan, identified key stakeholders for interviews, and shared feedback and ideas for consideration.

Key Person Interviews

The planning process included interviews with key stakeholders in the communities. The purpose of the interviews was to obtain information, ideas, concerns and suggestions from individuals and organizations regarding parks, recreation facilities, and open space conservation.

Interviews took place throughout the planning process and included members of the Recreation Commission, York County Parks Department, York County Planning Commission, park visitors, Lancaster County Conservancy, adjacent municipalities, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Mason-Dixon Trail System, York County Rail Trail Authority, kayak enthusiasts, Hellam VFW Post 7045, Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area, Kreutz Creek Valley Preservation Society, the Conservation Society of York County, Eastern York County Sewer Authority, and others.



Public Meetings

A public meeting was held early in the planning process to obtain input from citizens of the communities regarding their leisure interests, existing park and recreation opportunities, and open space concerns. A second public meeting was held to review the Mission, Vision, Goals, and Recommendations of this **Plan**. Both meetings were well attended and citizens shared their ideas and interests.

Forums

Three topical forums were held to gather input from targeted groups: conservation organizations, seniors, and teens. Ten conservation organizations attended a forum hosted at the Hellam Township building to discuss current conservation initiatives, natural resource/conservation areas of concerns, and conservation priorities. The consultants



met with local seniors at the Eastern Area Senior Center in Wrightsville to discuss their recreation and leisure time interests and needs. Several teens met with the consultants during the summer school break to discuss their interest and ideas for parks in the two communities.

Online Public Comment

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough offered citizens the opportunity to comment on parks, recreation, and open space via an online questionnaire posted on Hellam Township's website. A total of 158 responses were received, which indicated the following:

- Walking, experiencing nature, and hiking are the most preferred experiences that the residents seek when using parks and recreation areas.
- While the respondents rated the scenic beauty, cleanliness, location, and safety of the local parks as very good to excellent, they rated the types of facilities as only average. This is most likely because the parks are lacking trails and natural features at present.
- The types of recreation opportunities that the respondents felt are most important for the municipalities to provide include: nature-based recreation, places to walk, hiking trails, restrooms, and places to sit and relax.
- The highest priority for parks, recreation, and open space over the next 10 years should be trails, open space conservation of natural areas for passive recreation, and improvements to existing facilities.
- Nearly three out of five respondents were willing to pay more in local taxes for parks and recreation. The amount they were willing to pay was about evenly split among \$5, \$10, and \$15.
- Most respondents cited the municipal newsletters as their most preferred source of information about parks and recreation.



Findings of the Public Participation Process

Each method of obtaining public input found a consistent message from the citizens of Hallam Borough and Hellam Township: protect natural areas and open space, provide areas in parks to enjoy nature, and develop trails for walking, biking, and fitness. The conservation of the scenic beauty and peaceful setting of Hellam Township is important to citizens overall.

Open Space Conservation – Open space conservation and the protection of natural area for passive recreation ranked as a high priority for community action over the next ten years by respondents of the internet survey. The continuous wooded canopy, stream and river corridors, and valley farmlands are viewed as unique and important community assets that should be protected and conserved.

Trails – Respondents to the internet survey ranked trails the highest when asked what the community's highest park and recreation priority should be over the next ten years. The survey

assessment of how important specific activities were in the community ranked walking the highest followed by enjoying nature. There was an extensive discussion at the first public meeting regarding trail opportunities and the desire to have safe places to walk and bicycle in the communities. Route 462 through the two communities is a popular corridor for on-road cycling as are several of the rural roads in Hellam Township.

Parks – Citizens enjoy and appreciate the existing parks. Emig Park is viewed as the essential park for leisure outing whereas, Barshinger Fields and the two Beaver Street Ball Field parcels are viewed as sports related parks. There is interest in obtaining riverfront parkland that would provide public access to the river for paddling and fishing.

Community Sports – Hellam Recreation Commission provides youth sports programming for the Hellam Township and Hallam Borough area. The programs and volunteer efforts are appreciated by the public and the programs have high participation, serving over 900 youth annually. The programs use municipal facilities as well as school district fields in the Borough and Beaver Street Ball Fields East and West in the Borough. Additional multi-purpose fields are needed to support the youth soccer program. While the baseball and softball fields meet the current need, these facilities are located on parcels that are not owned by the municipalities, making them vulnerable and unsecured to meet future needs. The Recreation Commission uses Eastern York School District gymnasiums, but several initiatives have explored opportunities to develop an indoor recreation venue that would include a swimming pool.

Park and Recreation Priorities – The priorities for future focus should be on conservation of natural resources and open space, integrating trails into existing parks, and developing safe places to walk and bicycle throughout the communities. Providing access to the river and natural areas for the passive enjoyment of nature was also cited as priority initiatives.

Programs and Services – The Hellam Recreation Commission provides important public recreation services which include sports leagues and the annual Hellam Recreation Carnival, the hallmark community festival. Citizens are primarily interested in self-directed recreation opportunities that enable them to experience nature, enjoy the outdoors and provide river access, and spend time with family and friends. Other organizations also offer recreation opportunities including the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area, the Horn Farm Center for Agriculture Education, and York County Parks Department.

Level of Support – Overall, Hellam Township and Hallam Borough residents support parks, recreation, and open space. They highly support efforts to preserve the scenic rural character of the area. Parks and recreation improvements and programs need to be planned in harmony with the preservation of the scenic beauty and natural features of the area. In the online public comment, the majority (57%) of the respondents indicated that they would be willing to pay more in taxes annually for parks and recreation.

Community Analysis

Strengths

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough residents have a strong sense of pride and appreciation for their community. The scenic beauty, natural resources, and rural character of the area are viewed as valuable assets that add to the quality of life of the communities. Hellam Township has been proactive in protecting the resources and special aspects of its community through strong ordinance provisions and the appointment of an Environmental Advisory Council.

The communities work together and cooperate on park and recreation initiatives such as this **Plan** and the 2005 Regional Park Master Plan. The Hellam Recreation Commission serves both communities, providing high quality programs for youth and adults.

Challenges

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough are small communities with limited resources. The recent economic downturn has slowed development in both communities and, while the Borough had a significant population increase in the previous decade and anticipates slower growth in the future, Hellam Township's growth in the future could be more significant. A major challenge is to grow the park and recreation programs, services, and facilities to meet the changing population and trends in parks and recreation while addressing citizens' interest in open space preservation and trails.

Opportunities

This **Plan** and the timing advantage resulting from the current economic downturn helps to position Hellam Township and Hallam Borough for conservation, smart growth, and recreation. Continuing to support multi-municipal planning and partnerships to advance community goals in conservation and recreation is already underway and should continue.

Chapter 4 – Open Space

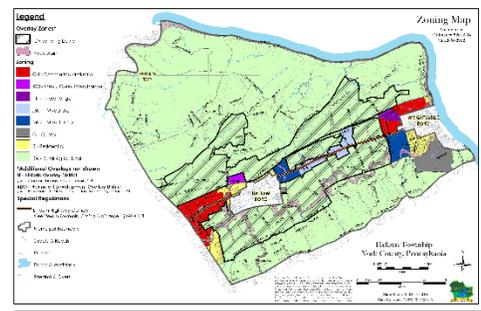
Due to their location along the Susquehanna River, coupled with smart planning, Hellam Township and Hallam Borough have a wide variety of open space conservation opportunities. The landscape is diverse and beautiful, featuring a riverfront, steep gorges and bare rock faces, wooded streams, and a vast agriculturally productive valley. The Township has implemented layers of ordinances which have protected much of the landscape from development. The Borough features dense neighborhoods intermingled with parks, with a few remaining undeveloped natural areas. But to conserve open space into the future, the Township and Borough will need to implement preservation strategies, which will likely depend on four key components: Ordinances, Funding, Branding, and People. By implementing strategies for open space conservation, Hellam Township and Hallam Borough can preserve their wildlife habitats, natural features, recreation areas, and community character well into the future.



Existing Protections

Ordinances

Hellam Township’s Zoning Ordinance features many layers of protection to natural features and the rural, agricultural areas of the township. Large lot agricultural zoning, coupled with Transferable Development Rights (TDR), is the most effective combination of tools in the ordinance. The agricultural zoning requirements discourage developers from building homes within the agricultural areas of the Rural Agricultural District. The TDR requirements encourage those units to be built in denser areas, extensions of Hallam and Wrightsville Boroughs. Additionally, the RA zone’s agricultural zoning standards also protect much of the Township’s 3,000 + acres of woodlands.



The Township protects properties through the development process when TDR is used. The development rights are removed from properties in the sending zone, making them undevelopable. Further, protective covenants are placed on the sending parcels, which further protect them from future development. The Township has already preserved numerous private properties in this manner.

When development occurs in the Township, the RDO Restricted Development Overlay Zone comes into effect to protect steep slopes, woodlands, floodplains, streams, riparian buffers, and unique geological features. The standards in this section of the ordinance are consistent with those of other Pennsylvania communities and function well to protect small areas of resources, such as tributaries, which may not appear on township-wide maps. This combination of ordinances protects the natural resources of the Township at both large and small scales.

The Township's ordinances currently discourage development, thereby protecting the agricultural areas and the natural resources. However, zoning should not be considered a long term protection measure. Zoning can be changed at any time. It often occurs in conjunction with a political shift in the township leadership. Long term, legally enforceable protection measures should be added to the most important parcels in the area.

Easements

Some protected lands already exist within Hellam Township. The Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County holds easements on a handful of properties within the Township, totaling over 500 acres. Most are in the agricultural areas, but one, on a property known as Roundtop, exists within the wooded hills above the river. Additionally, Hellam Township has preserved three farms, totaling approximately 282 acres through the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Another two farms are currently in the process of being preserved through the program, totaling approximately 165 acres.

Government Owned Land

Rocky Ridge Park, a York County Park, straddles the boundary line between Hellam Township and Springettsbury Township. Over 300 acres of this wooded, sloped park exist within Hellam Township. This natural area is well loved by mountain bikers, who use the multi-use trails on a regular basis. Hikers and equestrians use the trails as well. Rocky Ridge Park is the only property within the township owned by another government agency. This large park can be a building block of a Township wide greenway or open space system.

Agricultural Security Areas

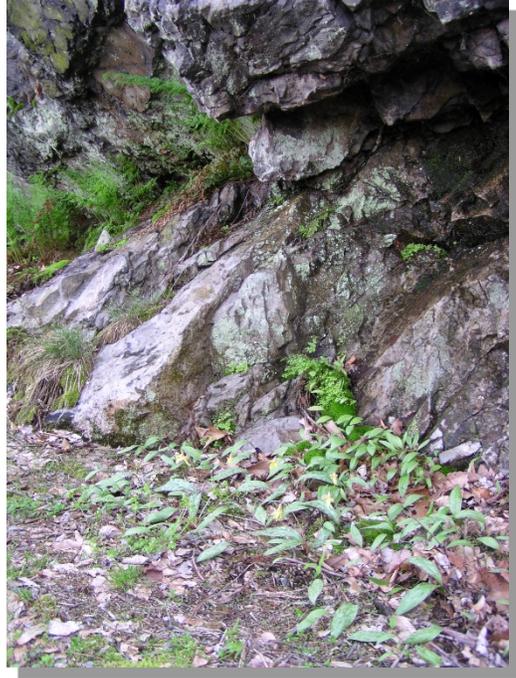
An Agricultural Security Area (ASA) lends additional protections to the Township's farmers. While the ASA does not permanently preserve land, it does exempt farmers from the requirements of certain township ordinance provisions and protects them from complaints from neighbors. Currently, 117 parcels are enrolled in the program, containing over 5,700 acres. The ASA encourages farmers to stay in Hellam, which preserves the area's historic agricultural character and beauty.



Open Space Priority Areas

Previously Identified Significant Features

Previous studies conducted by York County, including the York County Open Space Plan, have identified important focus areas and significant features which include Schull's Rock and the Wildcat Run area. These could be priorities for preservation. The Township's location along the river puts it within the state designated Susquehanna Greenway. York County Planning Commission has also identified the York City – Susquehanna River Connector Greenway as an important local greenway. The Hellam Township Official Map additionally identifies the Continuous Canopy Woodland Corridor Reservation Area, as well as Roundtop and Hellam Point as important natural areas.



The York County Natural Areas Inventory Map identifies five Areas of Statewide Significance within Hellam Township. A class 1 resource is considered most important and class 5 is least important. The Accomac River Bank is the only Class 1 feature within the Township. The Wildcat Run Cliffs and Gorge, along with Chimney Rock, are all designated as class 4 features. The Wrightsville North Rivershore is designated a Class 5 resource. The York County Open Space Plan also designates Chimney Rock, Wildcat Run Cliffs, Gorge and Falls, along with Schull's Rock, as significant features.



Vulnerability Study

While much of the township is difficult to develop due to the existing ordinances, LIDAR and GIS data were used to determine which parcels would be most vulnerable to development should the ordinances be repealed or amended. Maps on pages 4-13 to 4-15 illustrate the results of this study. The following results were collected from the analysis:

- Approximately 13% of the Township has been developed, while 87% remains undeveloped;
- Approximately 56% of all land in the Township contains features which constrain development, such as wetlands, woodlands, or steep slopes;

- Approximately 6,582 acres (36%) of the Township are both undeveloped and unconstrained. Dozens of properties greater than 50 acres in size are unconstrained and undeveloped. These properties would be considered vulnerable, should zoning requirements change.

Priority Landscapes

In many communities it is easy to identify areas which should be prioritized for preservation. As farms begin to be replaced by homes, there is usually community outcry to save agricultural land. When forests are being cleared every day, neighbors demand action. Open space plans are often reactionary to a boom in development. But in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough, there is no such outcry or development spike. The Township's ordinances protect agriculture and natural resources. The vulnerability study reveals no properties which are truly vulnerable right now. In Hallam Borough, only a few parcels remain to be developed.

But there has been a push to protect the forest on the north side of the Township, as it is a place that people love. It is also an important resource, as woodlands occupy 35% of the Township's total area. The northern woodlands rest on a ridge that runs along the Susquehanna River. They help hold the soil together, preventing erosion and providing riparian buffers for the Susquehanna River and many of its tributaries. By helping to infiltrate stormwater in place, the woodlands contribute to recharging the area's groundwater supply.



Hellam Township and Hallam Borough have a need for passive recreation areas – places for people to walk casually, go bird watching, or simply enjoy nature. The woodlands provide an opportunity for the creation of miles of nature trails which could accommodate all of these uses and many more. Conservation easements could include requirements for public access. The Township could work with the landowners to acquire conservation easements over entire properties, while also acquiring trail easements over portions to create trail corridors. This would allow these privately-owned properties to be not only preserved in perpetuity, but also enjoyed by all local residents.

The Susquehanna Riverfront is possibly the most intriguing landscape within Hellam Township. The river's natural beauty and opportunities for water-based recreation are obvious to anyone who visits the area. However, River Road, littered with signs warning against trespassing and notifying everyone that it is a private road, is not particularly inviting to the public. This beautiful landscape, which should be an asset shared by all area residents, is hidden away and held by private landowners.

Many small lots already exist along the river. Due to their small size, the agricultural zoning required by the RA District has no effect. Each small lot is permitted one dwelling unit, so single family homes line the riverfront. Every one of them is within the floodplain of the Susquehanna River. Based on the requirements of the RDO Restricted Development Ordinance, each one is an existing nonconformity.

Hellam Township should consider the Susquehanna riverfront as a priority landscape for the purchase of open space. Large lots could be purchased for the creation of riverside nature preserves, where the delicate riverine ecosystems can be protected. Smaller lots could be purchased in order to provide enhanced access to the river, through the creation of small parks featuring boat launches or picnic areas. Should the Township acquire parcels here, River Road itself could be converted to a limited access road, functioning more as a trail for cyclists and pedestrians. Aside from the great open space benefits, every parcel purchased means one fewer household existing dangerously within the floodplain of a major river.



Open Space Conservation Strategies

Open space preservation doesn't seem like it should be difficult. Land transactions happen every day. Why can't a municipality just purchase land and let the citizens enjoy it? Of course, the process is much more difficult. Municipalities should ask themselves many questions. Can we preserve open space without purchasing land or easements? How do we raise funds to buy land? How do we build public support? And who is going to do all of this work?! When transactions are finalized, ribbon cuttings and handshakes make the news, but the amount of work to get to that point often goes unpublicized. Hellam Township and Hallam Borough should be prepared to undertake the following actions while attempting to build a strong open space network.

Ordinances

No municipality can afford to purchase all of the land they wish to preserve, so it is important to employ other strategies for preservation. We recommend that Hellam Township and Hallam Borough follow the conservation adage, "Buy the best, zone the rest." Hellam and Hallam should pursue fee simple purchase or establishment of easements over the most important properties. These would be the parcels envisioned as building blocks to an open space network. But the second tier of properties, the properties which should be preserved, but aren't absolutely vital, could be protected through zoning ordinances.

Hellam Township's ordinances function very well to discourage development. The ordinance provides layers of protection, using low permitted densities and steep rates of required protection of natural resources. No major changes should be made to the basic structure of the Township zoning ordinance. However, zoning is not a permanent measure of protection and should always be considered as a counterpart to acquisition and establishment of easements.

Hallam Borough is an older community and is almost built out, typical of most boroughs in the state. However, approximately 100 acres of land remains undeveloped or primed for redevelopment. This land follows the stream corridor which runs across the southern portion of the Borough. Most of the

land is wooded, on slopes and within the floodplain, which would protect some of it, were it in most communities. However, Hallam Borough's zoning ordinance does not address protection of natural resources. As these 100 acres are the last remaining natural areas within the Borough, aside from Emig Park, the Borough should act to protect some of these resources.



- Short Term: Amend the Zoning Ordinance to enact a Riparian Buffer Ordinance;
- Long Term: Consider use of Conservation by Design Ordinances or other zoning strategies which preserve open space through the development process.

Funding

Paying for the creation of an open space network can seem daunting. Paying large sums for properties that the public already views as open space can be difficult to defend. Additional fees charged by consultants, attorneys, surveyors, and appraisers also add up. Municipal staff has to dedicate time to the process. Fortunately, municipalities don't have to go it alone. Funding is available through government agencies and programs such as the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Program. Currently, grant funding generated from gas drilling revenues is also available, widely referred to as Act 13 money.

However, grant funding can dry up when the economy slows down. Municipalities are forced to compete against each other for funding. When municipalities have multiple grant applications, they may even find that they are competing against themselves. In the case of Act 13, a municipality may need to have a strong connection to their state politicians. While grant funding should be considered a major source of open space funding, all of these factors can make it a tenuous source.

The most dependable source of funding is one that the municipality controls. More and more municipalities are turning to public fundraising through open space referenda, a ballot question which asks voters to approve funding the acquisition of open space. Typically, this funding comes in the form of an earned income tax (EIT) or through borrowing money to purchase bonds.

Funding from the taxpayers gives a municipality a seat at the table. When a landowner considers selling a property, if the municipality has cash in hand, they can move quickly to prepare an offer. If a municipality relies totally on grant funding, a process which can take months if not years, the landowner may lose patience and sell to a developer. A municipality that has funding has put itself in a much better position to purchase open space than a municipality that has not.

Open space funds raised through an EIT or bond purchase can be leveraged to acquire grant funding, thereby earning the township additional funds. Many sources of grant funding require the applicant to show that they will provide some matching funds, often as high as 50% of the project cost. A

municipality with no open space funding would need to find additional grants or other funding sources to provide that match. However, a municipality with its own open space funding will have that cash on-hand which can be used as a match. In this way, a township can make their money go much further with the acquisition of grant funding.

Putting open space funding on a ballot justifies the expenditure on open space. The ballot question must pass, and that can only happen if a majority of residents are in favor. This provides municipal leadership with a mandate to spend funds on open space preservation. By relying solely on grants and other outside funding, open space opponents can always make the argument that the people aren't truly in favor of conservation.

A referendum must be run as a political campaign, because that is exactly what it is. While there are no names on the ballot, it is essentially the open space candidate vs. the development candidate. However, the race is far more important to the open space candidate. In municipalities where a referendum fails, it is rare for one to pass on a second try. It is extremely important that a referendum pass the first time.

Timing is a key to passing a ballot question. Like any campaign, the municipality must determine when the time is right to put the ballot question forward. Simply determining when, requires collection of data through exit polls or polls of supervisors. Most municipalities engage a consultant to help build a case for open space preservation and then run their political campaign.

Branding

It is difficult to rally support for an idea if the public doesn't understand it. At a recent public meeting, the question was asked, "What do you call the woodlands up on the hills?" The attendees all looked around at each other before offering a few different answers, none of which seemed to garner any consensus. This question was asked after a lengthy discussion about how important the woodlands are, yet no one even had a common name for them.

For Hellam and Hallam to rally support around preservation of the existing landscapes, some marketing and outreach will need to occur around these landscapes. Common language must be established in order to give these important places an identity. The public must be able to hear a name of a place and understand that it represents an important landscape, whether it is based on natural features and habitats or recreational opportunities, or ideally, both.

One example of the power of local branding is Coventry Woods. North Coventry Township is a rural, suburban community in Chester County. The westernmost portion of the Township is covered in woodlands, which connect to French Creek State Park and are part of a regional woodland called The Hopewell Big Woods. North Coventry Township wished to do their part in conserving their portion of the Hopewell Big Woods. But their citizens saw the Hopewell Big Woods as a much larger, regional landscape, and may not have understood their place in it. So North Coventry started referring to their small portion as Coventry Woods. This name identifies their wooded landscape as a real place, with boundaries. Citizens could see the woodlands and understand that they were in Coventry Woods. From there, the Township went on to tout the importance of this local landscape.



North Coventry has brought their residents into the landscape through the establishment of public trails, community events, and communication with the public and outreach to engage them. An event held by the Township called the Coventry Woods Festival, is a celebration of the woodland. It features hikes, music, and educational programs about the history of the area and its natural resources, as well as programming for children including goat races. Events like this can bring the public into the landscape for a fun and educational day. In Hellam and Hallam, events could be held at the Rocky Ridge County Park or at preserved, privately owned properties within the wooded landscape.

North Coventry Township continues to keep in touch with its residents about the importance of the Coventry Woods through regular communication and engagement. Their website features a wildlife blog, and shares photos and information about the importance of Coventry Woods as a habitat. Hellam and Hallam could similarly tout the importance of their own resources and landscapes.

Hellam and Hallam could engage residents through stream naming contests. Many tributaries to the Susquehanna flow through the Borough and Township. However, many of them are unnamed. It is difficult for people to understand the importance of the area's waterways if they don't have real names. It is also difficult to understand how each waterway relates to one another. Most residents understand that Codorus Creek is an important waterway for recreation. But they probably don't realize that the small waterway in their backyards, which they may even consider as "just a drainage ditch," affects the condition of the Codorus. By naming the streams and involving the public, Hellam and Hallam have an opportunity to engage citizens, inform them about the importance of stream health and the role of open space preservation in protection of their drinking water and recreational opportunities.



Another step for the Borough and Township to take in order to demonstrate the importance of protecting natural resources would be to make improvements on their own properties. Showing the public that the municipalities are willing to spend some of their own money on natural resources can go a long way towards encouraging the public to do the same. For instance, if Hellam and Hallam are to tell the public that it is important to preserve open space, to save the woodlands which provide important riparian buffers for the streams, then the municipalities must show that they actually buy into the idea themselves. The municipalities can demonstrate this by undertaking projects on their own properties. In Hallam Borough, understory could be reestablished within the woodlands along Kreutz Creek, in order to strengthen the riparian buffer. In Hellam Township, additional riparian buffer plantings could be established along the tributary to Kreutz Creek at Barshinger Fields. The recent creation of a rain garden in Barshinger Fields provides an example of a natural resource protection strategy that landowners can implement on their property.

Steps like these have worked well in North Coventry Township. They've preserved over 650 acres within Coventry Woods, creating a situation where private landowners and trail users share a respect

for the land. Hellam Township and Hallam Borough have the opportunity to follow a similar path, through branding, publicity, and outreach.

People

Preparing for open space preservation takes a lot of work. Success will depend on political support and the work of volunteer citizens. Municipal staff will also have a role to play. Hellam and Hallam need to identify the right people for the job.

The work involved with pursuing open space preservation is too much to add to the workload of a municipal staff. It is important that municipal staff be involved, possibly through a single point person. But the majority of open space preservation work should fall on the shoulders of a volunteer committee. In some municipalities, the Environmental Advisory Council handles open space preservation. In other cases, municipalities establish a dedicated Open Space Committee. Like an EAC or Planning Commission, the open space committee is an advisory board.

The open space committee would be charged with making recommendations to the elected officials regarding open space. This could include recommendations to update an open space plan, hold a referendum, or acquire land or easements. As all final decisions come down to a vote by the elected officials, it is important to have their support and involvement in the process early on. Elected leadership should hold liaison positions on task forces.

It is important that the open space committee include residents who believe in the cause of open space preservation, but also, that are willing to put in many hours. Most importantly, the committee must include at least a few members who have a wide variety of community contacts. These well-connected members are the best people to open conversations about conservation with private landowners. Cold calls and unexpected visits just don't work. Ideally, residents who have already preserved their land should be involved, as they can show that they've backed up their support for open space with action. They can share their experiences and approach their friends and neighbors about preservation and look for landowner contacts through their own social network. Living room meetings with a familiar face are the best way to make landowners feel comfortable. Committee members must also have patience and persistence, as the road to preservation can be long and winding.

Open Space Criteria

Once Hellam and Hallam establish priorities, line up funding and establish an organizational framework, decisions will then need to be made about preserving individual properties. Criteria help ensure that Hellam Township and Hellam Borough use their limited resources most efficiently and effectively. Well-thought-out criteria, soundly applied, also help ensure that the Township and the Borough have a rational, defensible program of conservation that benefits the public. Criteria might cover the type and significance of the public benefit provided by the open space, accessibility, visibility, relation to other open spaces, immediacy of threats to the open space, property size, or other type of criteria depending upon what we value here in Hellam Township and Hellam Borough. The criteria can be used to prioritize properties for conservation as well as screen out properties with excessive problems or insufficient public benefit. They provide an objective basis for saying "no" to an inappropriate property. The criteria could include the following factors as shown in the following table. The Open Space categories as well as the criteria can be weighted in order to help establish priorities. Add a weight of 1, 2, or 3 to each criterion and then multiple the weight times the score to get the value of the factor.

Table 4-1
Open Space Criteria

Factor	High Priority 5	Medium Priority 3	Low Priority 1	Not a Priority 0	Criteria Weight 1,2, or 3	Score
<i>EXAMPLE</i> Contains significant and relatively undisturbed wildlife habitat, watershed, or natural features.		3			X2	6
Contains significant and relatively undisturbed wildlife habitat, watershed, or natural features.						
Contains continuous woodland canopy.						
Contains endangered, threatened, or rare species.						
Protects agricultural land under existing or foreseeable threat from development trends.						
Contains or has potential to contain natural features or unique geology of educational, scenic, or scientific value.						
Buffers agricultural land, wetlands, wildlife habitat, or other sensitive areas.						
Is contiguous to existing conservation easement, park, preserve, or other protected land.						
Scenic views from public roadways, waterways, or recreation areas are protected.						
Provides for appropriate public access for education or recreation activities.						
Sets an important precedent for resource or open space protection in a targeted area.						

Table 4-1 - Continued
Open Space Criteria

Factor	High Priority 5	Medium Priority 3	Low Priority 1	Not a Priority	Criteria Weight 1,2, or 3	Score
Has historic or archaeological value, or is adjacent to and buffers such lands.						
Helps preserve the character of Hellam Township/Hallam Borough area and define community.						
Threatened by development. Located in high growth area.						
Parcel Size						
100+ acres						
50 – 99 acres						
25 – 49 acres						
10 – 24 acres						
1-9 acres						
TOTAL:						

Open Space Analysis

Strengths

The existing Hellam Township zoning ordinance provides many layers of protection to agricultural lands and natural resources. The combination of agricultural zoning, Transfer of Development Rights, and the Restricted Development Overlay Zone protect expanses of agricultural land, as well as, the smallest streams. The existing ordinances govern development of the land in a manner which adequately protects the most valuable resources.

Challenges

The layers of ordinances should be viewed as temporary protections, which can be repealed on the whim of new leadership. In order to achieve true, long term conservation, the Township and Borough need to pursue establishment of easements, which will require time, hard work, and money. Without a dedicated source of township funding, long term preservation will be particularly difficult.

Opportunities

Rocky Ridge Park and the eased properties provide building blocks for an open space system. The park is open to the public and can be used as a center for events and educational opportunities. The eased properties demonstrate willingness of landowners to preserve their property. These preserved lands can be used to show other property owners the benefits of conservation. Additionally, 87% of the township remains undeveloped, and much of this 87% is unpreserved. The combination of the existing building blocks, plus the expanses of land waiting to be preserved provides Hellam Township and Hallam Borough with the opportunity to create a vast and varied open space network.

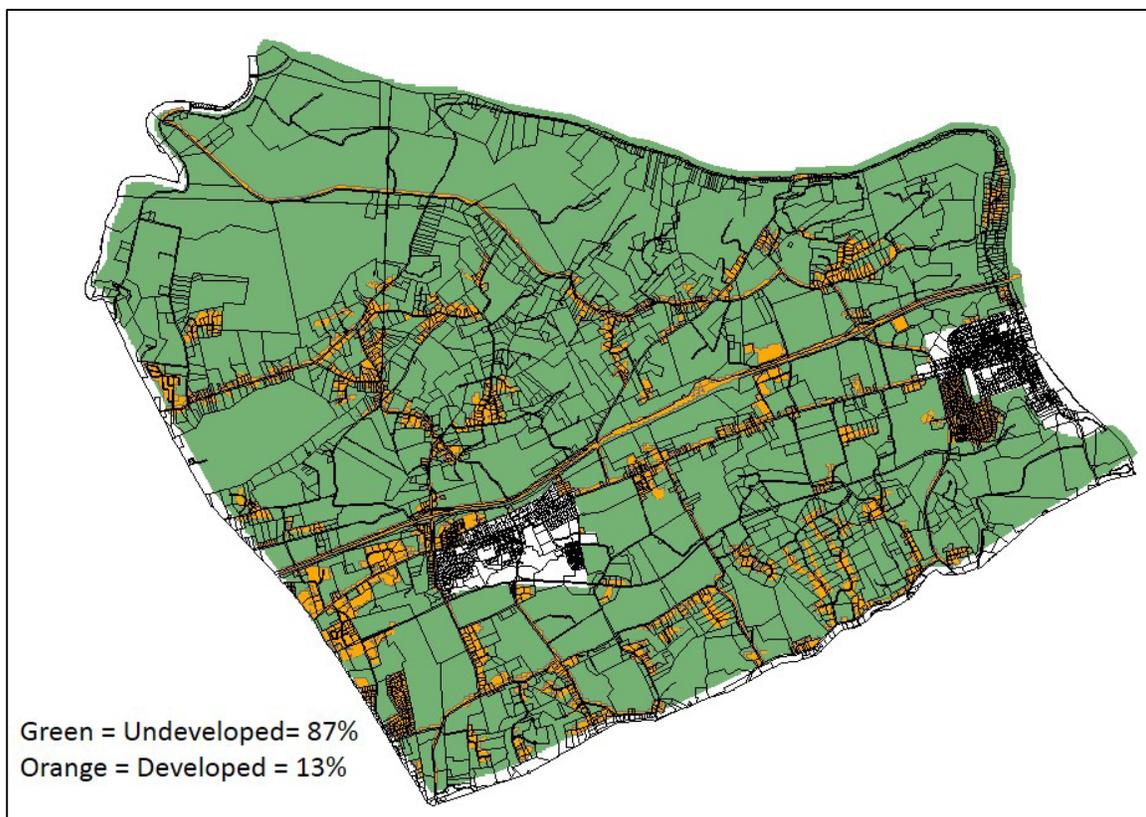
Recommendations

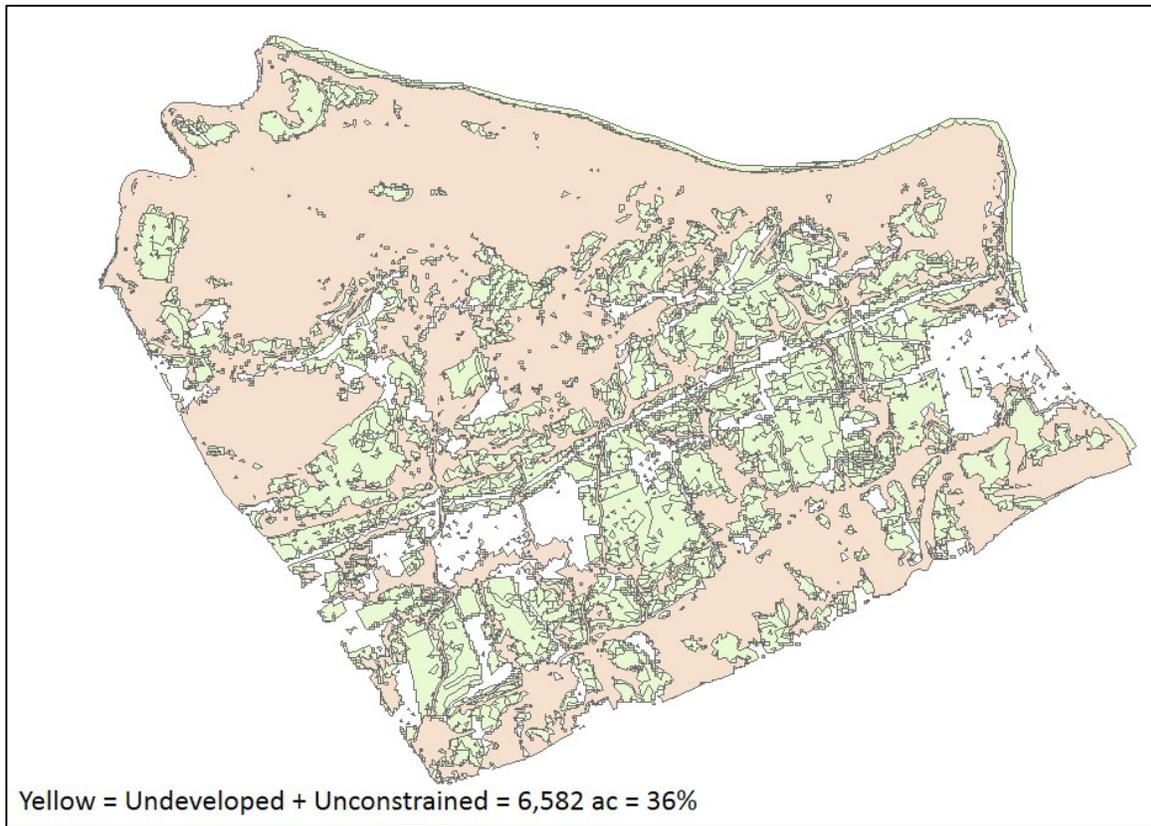
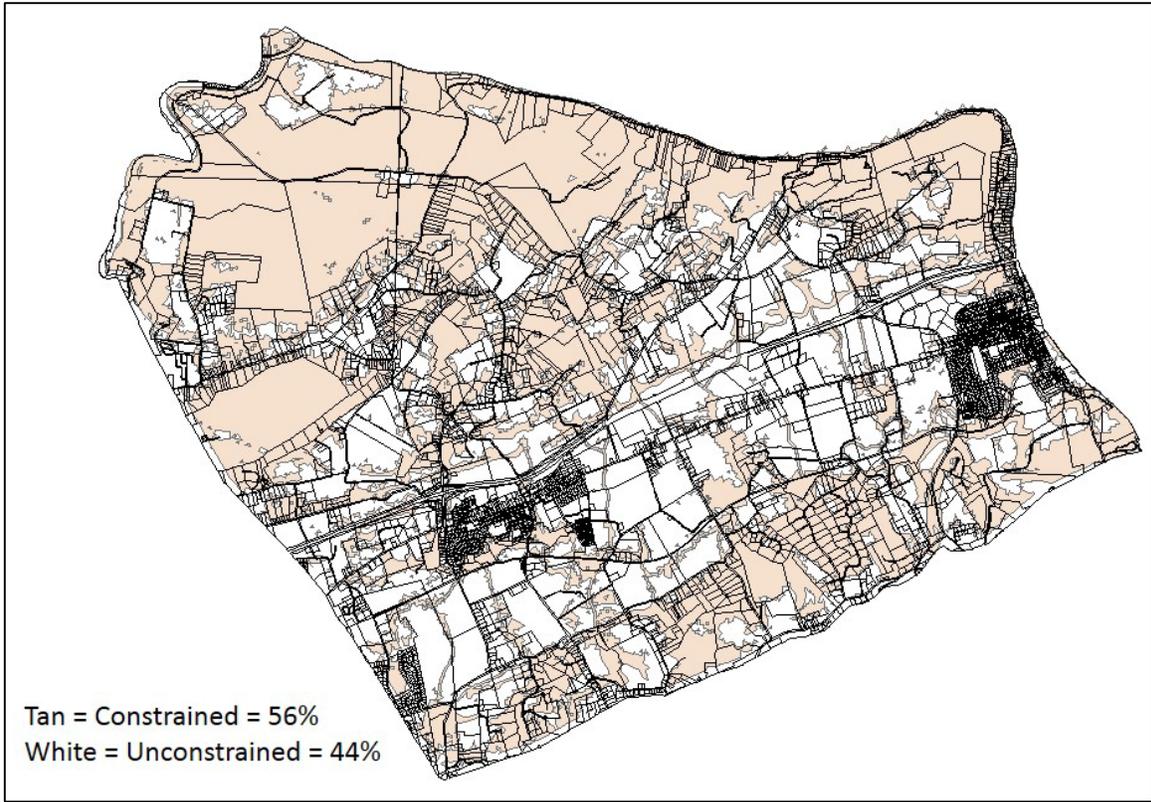
1. Conserve natural resource lands through various protection and acquisition techniques.

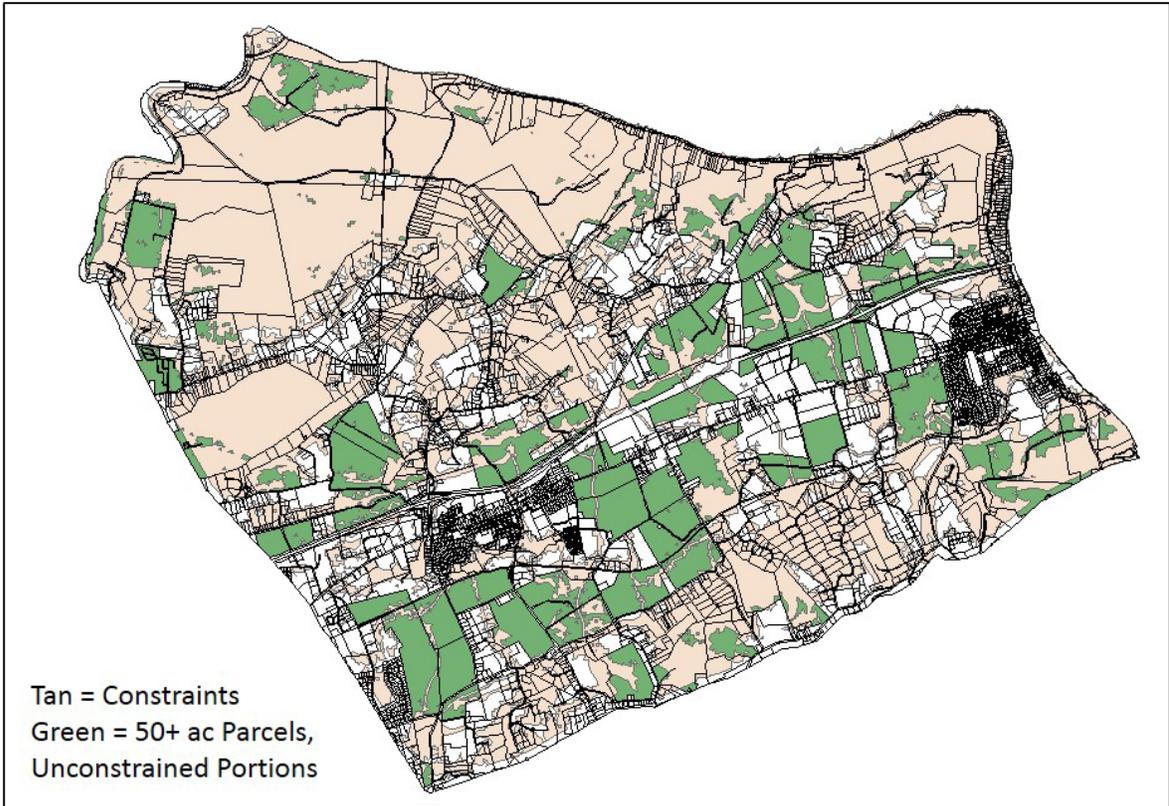
- Prioritize acquisition of lands along the Susquehanna River riverfront to provide public access to the river, protect the riparian ecosystem, and better manage the floodplain.
- Hellam Township should continue to develop progressive conservation strategies through ordinance provisions.
- Hallam Borough should amend the zoning ordinance to enact a Riparian Buffer Ordinance and utilize Conservation by Design Ordinances or other zoning strategies which preserve open space through the development process.
- Consider funding options for open space acquisition. Consult with a land trust or other land conservation organization to explore the feasibility of a ballot question through an open space referenda to ask voters to approved funding for the acquisition of open space. Funding options include raising the earned income tax or borrowing money to purchase bonds.
- Support the land conservation efforts of York County, Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County, Lancaster County Conservancy, and others. Partner with these entities as appropriate to advance conservation goals.
- Refine the Open Space Criteria to align with the conservation goals of the communities and use the criteria to prioritize properties for conservation.

2. Promote expanded public appreciation and involvement in the conservation of natural resources in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough.

- Develop a strategic plan for public outreach and landowner education regarding opportunities and benefits of environmental conservation and resource protection and what landowners can do to promote conservation goals.
- Use the park sites to promote environmental awareness through demonstration projects and interpretative signage.
 - Enhance the riparian corridors in Emig Park and Regional Park/Barshinger Fields.
 - Plant native meadow vegetation in Regional Park.
 - Introduce landscaping and shade trees into the parks that are native to Pennsylvania.
 - Create rain gardens to control stormwater runoff.
- Develop a branding initiative for the continuous woodland. Choose an identifiable name for the continuous woodland and promote the conservation of this unique landscape.
- Involve residents in open space conservation initiatives who believe in the cause and are willing and able to commit time and energy toward reaching conservation goals.







Tan = Constraints
Green = 50+ ac Parcels,
Unconstrained Portions

Chapter 5 – Parkland & Recreation

The assessment of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough recreation facilities and parkland evaluates six factors that contribute to their value as community assets and the ability of the facilities to meet the recreation needs of residents. Each park site was visited several times throughout the planning process and input from the public participation process provided additional insights into the facilities and parkland.

The six factors include:

1. Configuration of parkland
2. Amount of parkland
3. Locations of parks
4. Recreation facilities
5. Conditions of parkland and facilities
6. Park and facility trends



Configuration of Parkland

Residents of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough have long looked to the Borough for recreation facilities and parkland. Emig Park and the Beaver Street Ball Fields – East have served the communities for many years providing traditional recreation amenities. More recently, Hellam Township has developed athletic fields at Barshinger Fields and additional park facilities are planned at the Hellam Township/Hallam Borough Regional Park. Table 5-1 inventories public parkland in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough. The Parkland Map on page 5-30 locates the parks, schools and open space parcels in the municipalities.

Table 5-1
**Hellam Township and Hallam Borough
Park/Recreation Land Inventory**

Park / Trail	Acreage	Park Type	Characteristics /Facilities	Planning District / Ownership
Barshinger Fields	17.5	Athletic Complex	4 soccer fields. Field #1 – U6 and #2 – U10 (west side) Field #3 & #4 – U11 & U19 (east side-same field), playground, maintenance /pavilion/ concession building	Southwest / Hellam Township
Hellam Township/Hallam Borough Regional Park	19.5 10.78-Twp. 8.72-Boro.	Community Park	Undeveloped open space	Southwest / Hellam Township/ Hallam Borough

Park / Trail	Acreage	Park Type	Characteristics /Facilities	Planning District / Ownership
Emig Park	21.58	Community Park	Pavilions, playground equipment, basketball court, sand volleyball court, trail.	Southwest / Hallam Borough
Beaver Street Ball Fields - East (between Franklin St. and Emig St.)	7.4	Community Park	2 60' baseball fields, 1 90' baseball field, 2 tennis courts, 2 basketball courts, playground equipment, horseshoe pits	Southwest / Eastern York School District
Beaver Street Ball Fields - West (between Emig St. and Clair Ave.)	3.504	Community Park	2 softball fields	Southwest / St. James Lutheran Church
Liberty Park	0.452	Mini Park	Playground, benches	Southeast / Hellam Township
Rocky Ridge County Park	300+/- (746.51 total)	Regional Park	Trails (hiking, mountain biking), fitness trail, picnic pavilions, playground, sand volleyball court, softball field, natural areas	Northwest / York County
Sam Lewis State Park	85	Regional Park	Pavilions, trails, ball field, playground, open meadows for kite flying	* Southeast / Commonwealth of PA
Wilton Meadows Nature Preserve	40	Nature Preserve	Undeveloped wooded natural area, traversed by the Mason-Dixon Trail	Southeast / Lancaster County Conservancy
Mason-Dixon Trail	-	Trail	North Front St. at Wrightsville Borough boundary, north to East River Dr. to River Dr. to Codorus Furnace Rd., to River Farm Rd. to Codorus Furnace Rd. to bridge to cross Codorus Creek to East Manchester Township. Small informal parking at Codorus Furnace.	Northwest and Northeast / on road R-O-W
Park / Trail Total	494.936			
Schools	Acreage	School Type	Characteristics /Facilities	Planning District
Kreutz Creek Elementary School	10.87	Elementary	Playground equipment, 2 basketball courts, court games	Southwest
Eastern Middle/High School	-	Middle/High		* Southeast
School Total	10.87			
Other Public, Quasi-Public, Protected Lands/Parks	Acreage	Ownership	Characteristics /Facilities	Planning District
Cool Creek Golf Club	139.5	Privately owned – open to the public	18-hole golf course, 2 putting greens, driving range, lounge	Southeast
Codorus Furnace	1.2	Conservation Society of York County	Historic site with remnant of an iron furnace.	Northwest
York Rifleman's Club	59	Private membership-based club	Indoor and outdoor shooting ranges and clubhouse	Northwest

Other Public, Quasi-Public, Protected Lands/Parks	Acreage	Ownership	Characteristics /Facilities	Planning District
Susquehanna Fish & Game Club	19.79	Private membership-based club	Outdoor shooting range and clubhouse	Northeast
YMCA of York – Eastern Branch	-	YMCA of York	Indoor programs at Children’s Home of York	Southwest
Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education	187	York County	Farm stand, incubator farm plots, community gardens	Northwest
Wizard Ranch	300+/-	Boy Scouts of America	Natural area, woodlands, open meadow, camp facilities.	Northeast
Other Public, Quasi-Public, Protected Lands/Parks Total	706+/-			

* Located outside of the municipal boundaries.

Different types of parks provide different opportunities for visitors. Table 5-2 presents the Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Park Classification System. It shows the range of park types, their benefits, typical facilities, and the maintenance levels appropriate for the park type and resources available. The existing parks are classified by park types in Table 5-1, based on discussions with the Study Committee and consideration of the park use and function. The following conclusions can be drawn from the analysis of the Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Park and Recreation Classification System:

- Three parks have the recommended acreage for a community park: Barshinger Fields, Hellam Township/Hallam Borough Regional Park, and Emig Park.
- Barshinger Fields is developed as an athletic complex. When Hellam Township/Hallam Borough Regional Park is developed, including the contiguous Barshinger Fields, the combined park site will total 37 acres and function as a traditional community park with both active and passive recreation opportunities.
- Liberty Park is a small park located in the Cool Creek Manor neighborhood. The park is classified as a mini park and serves nearby residents who can walk to the park site.
- Rocky Ridge County Park and nearby Sam Lewis State Park offer passive, nature-based recreation opportunities in close proximity to Hellam Township and Hallam Borough residents.
- There are no parks in the Township that provide access to the Susquehanna River.
- The Mason-Dixon Trail, a long-distance regional foot trail that traverses Hellam Township on-road along the river corridor, is the only formal trail in the communities.
- Emig Park offers a traditional community park setting with facilities for self-directed, active and passive recreation.
- Beaver Street Ball Fields - East and West offer recreation facilities primarily for athletic competition.

Table 5-2

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Park and Recreation Classification System

Type/Size/ Service Radius	Definition	Benefits	Appropriate Amenities	Maintenance Level
Mini Park <i>0-5 acres</i> <i>¼-mile service radius</i>	Smallest park type, addresses limited recreation need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides close to home recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Playground ▪ Benches, seating area 	High level of maintenance associated with well developed park and playground and reasonably high visitation
Neighborhood Park <i>5-10 acres</i> <i>minimum</i> <i>½-mile service radius</i>	Focus of neighborhood; in walking/biking distance of visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides access to basic recreation opportunities ▪ Contributes to neighborhood identity ▪ Establishes sense of community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play areas ▪ Ballfields ▪ Game Courts ▪ Picnic/Seating ▪ Pathways ▪ Community gardens 	High level of maintenance associated with well-developed park and reasonably high visitation.
Community Park <i>10-50 acres,</i> <i>preferably</i> <i>50-80 acres</i> <i>2-mile service radius</i>	Large park for active & passive recreation; serves residents municipality-wide. Accommodates large groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Variety of recreation opportunities for all ages and interests ▪ Space for organized, large scale, high participation events ▪ Family destination ▪ Fitness and wellness opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play areas ▪ Organized sports facilities ▪ Pavilions ▪ Permanent restrooms ▪ Lighting ▪ Amphitheaters ▪ Pools, Rinks ▪ Parking 	Moderate level of maintenance associated with moderate level of development, budget restrictions, inability to perform higher levels of maintenance. Potential for park “friends” or adopt-a-park partners.
School/ Community Park <i>Variable</i>	Parkland adjoining a school used for both recreation and education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Combines two public entities for expanded year round recreation. ▪ Maximizes public resources ▪ Expands recreation opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth-oriented game courts and ball fields ▪ Play areas ▪ Seating ▪ Pathways ▪ Lighting ▪ Parking 	Moderate level of maintenance associated with moderate level of development, budget restrictions. Potential for cooperative agreement with school.
Sports Complex <i>30+ acres;</i> <i>preferably</i> <i>50-80 acres</i>	Consolidates sports fields and related facilities in a centralized location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economy of scale ▪ Improved management ▪ Municipal showcase ▪ Attracts visitors who stimulate local economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ball fields ▪ Lighting ▪ Spectator areas ▪ Restrooms, Concessions ▪ Landscaping ▪ Parking 	State of the art maintenance applied to high quality facilities. Associated with high visitation; revenue generating facilities, tourism.
Special Use Facility <i>Variable</i>	Facility for a single purpose use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides special focus recreation opportunities ▪ Contributes to community identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Depends on purpose 	High level of maintenance associated with well-developed park and reasonably high visitation.
Greenways and Trails <i>Variable</i>	Tie park areas and community together to form a contiguous park environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Connects community ▪ Reduces auto dependency ▪ Improves air quality ▪ Contributes most desired recreation facility for people throughout their lifetime ▪ Attracts visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pathways – multipurpose ▪ Trailheads ▪ Support facilities ▪ Signage 	Lowest level of maintenance. Focus on trailheads and trail safety.
Natural Resource Area/ Preserve	Natural areas for the protection and management of natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protects resources ▪ Provides wildlife habitat ▪ Offers opportunities for environmental education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trails ▪ Signage ▪ Support facilities 	Lower level of maintenance.

Amount of Parkland

Hellam Township has 28.73 acres of parkland in three parks, with 18 acres developed and currently available for public use. Hallam Borough has 21.58 acres of public parkland at Emig Park plus an additional 8.72 acres in Hellam Regional Park, which is currently undeveloped. A population-based analysis is typically used to evaluate active public parkland. Passive parks, greenways and trails, and nature preserves are not evaluated using an acreage standard because they are typically sized based on the resources and the area necessary to protect the resource and make it available for public enjoyment. Active parks contain facilities which are affected by population growth such as ball fields and playgrounds. As a community's population increases the need for active parkland increases to provide facilities to meet public need.

Over the past 30 years, it has been the accepted practice within the recreation and park profession to adopt a uniform national land standard such as 10.5 acres per thousand.
NRPA Park, Recreation, and Open Space Guidelines 1995

The prevailing minimum standard for active parkland acreage is 10.5 acres per thousand-population. For assessment purposes the 10.5 acres is divided between community parks (8 acres) and neighborhood parks (2.5 acres). Table 5-3 compares the population and population forecast for the Township and Borough with the existing active parkland acreage. Non-active parkland excluded from this analysis includes Rocky Ridge County Park, Sam Lewis State Park, and Wilton Meadows Nature Preserve. Also excluded are the two Beaver Street Ball Field parcels as these properties are not owned or controlled by long term leases by the Borough, which would secure the acreage for recreation use into the future.

Park Type	Existing Active Parkland Acreage	Recommended Acres/2010 Population	2010 Deficit (-) Excess (+)	Recommended Acres/2030 Forecast Population	2030 Deficit (-) Excess (+)
Hellam Township (Population: 2010 – 6,043, 2030 – 6,431)					
Community Parks @ 8 Acres/1,000 Population – Total acreage	28.28	48.34	-20.06	51.45	-23.17
Neighborhood Parks @ 2.5 Acres/1,000 Population	0.45	15.11	-14.66	16.08	-15.63
Totals (Total community park + neighborhood park)	28.73	63.45	-34.72	67.53	-38.80
Hallam Borough (Population: 2010 – 2,673, 2030 – 2,713)					
Community Parks @ 8 Acres/1,000 Population – Total acreage	30.30	21.38	8.92	21.70	8.60
Neighborhood Parks @ 2.5 Acres/1,000 Population	0.00	6.68	-6.68	6.78	-6.78
Totals (Total community park + neighborhood park)	30.30	28.06	2.24	28.48	1.82
Township and Borough Population: 2010 – 8,716, 2030 – 9,144)					
Combined Community Parks @ 8 Acres/1,000 Population – Total acreage	58.58	69.72	-11.14	73.15	-14.57
Combined Neighborhood Parks @ 2.5 Acres/1,000 Population	0.45	21.79	-21.34	22.86	-22.41
Combined Totals (Total community park + neighborhood park)	59.03	91.51	-32.48	96.01	-36.98

The 2010 US census counted 6,043 people in the Township and 2,673 in the Borough. York County Planning Commission projects that Hellam Township's population will grow by 6.42 percent to 6,431 by 2030 and Hallam Borough will grow 1.5 percent to 2,713 in the same time period.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the assessment of parkland acreage:

- Based on parkland acreage analysis using the prevailing standard, Hellam Township has a deficit of parkland and Hallam Borough exceeds the standard. Based on the 2010 US Census, Hellam Township needs over 34 acres of parkland to meet the recreation needs of the 2010 population and Hallam Borough has an excess of slightly over 2 acres.
- Because the communities and residents function regionally, with parks serving both Borough and Township residents, the combined total of parkland deficit probably tells a better story. Together, the two municipalities needed 32.48 acres in 2010 to meet their active parkland needs. The deficit is projected to grow to 36.98 acres by 2030 and this acreage equates to the size of an average community park.
- The deficit of neighborhood parkland is larger at 21.34 acres (2010) than the deficit of community parkland at 11.14 acres (2010). While this points to the need for additional neighborhood parks, recreation in the municipalities has been centralized in community park sites and based on public input, residents are satisfied with this approach to providing parkland.
- The parkland acreage analysis includes the Hellam Regional Park acreage that is currently undeveloped and unavailable for recreation.
- The deficit of parkland is somewhat offset by the use of Beaver Street Ball Fields – East and West which are not municipal-owned park sites. If long-term leases could be secured for these sites the amount of additional parkland needed would be reduced by approximately 11 acres.
- The parkland acreage analysis indicates that another community park is needed at this time. The Study Committee discussed the idea of securing additional acreage when parkland is acquired to set aside as legacy lands for future undetermined recreation needs. Recreation and leisure trends have changed dramatically over the past three decades and it is impossible to anticipate the parkland needs of the next generation. Land as a commodity is finite and the idea of purchasing additional parkland now was recommended as a legacy for future residents.

Location of Parks

The parkland distribution analysis evaluates the location of parks relative to existing residential development and considers physical barriers that limit easy access to park sites. Planning Districts were defined to divide the study area into four quadrants. Route 30 divide the communities north and south and Ducktown Road, Walnut Springs, Rudy Road, and Codorus Furnace Road divide the communities east and west. Service radiuses, which define the geographic area generally served by a park, have been applied to each active park based on the Hellam Township and Hallam Borough classification system.

To evaluate the distribution of parks, a one-half mile service radius has been applied to neighborhood and mini parks and a two mile service radius has been applied to community parks. Community parks serve

the entire community and access is typically not influenced by barriers such as highways and railroads. Residents typically drive to community parks unless safe trails or sidewalks link to the site. Neighborhood and mini parks serve the immediate neighborhood in which they are located. Major roadways and railroads form barriers to access these small parks.

The Parkland Map on page 5-30 illustrates the locations of parks in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough and the four Planning Districts. The following conclusions can be drawn from analysis of park locations:

- All of the parks, with the exception of Liberty Park, are located in the Southwest Planning District, within or adjacent to Hallam Borough. These locations are convenient for Borough residents, as well as, Township residents who typically travel to the Borough to the elementary school and commercial establishments.
- The service areas of the parks in the Southwest Planning District serve the majority of the two municipalities. Township areas that extend beyond the community park service areas include large parcels and lands along the Susquehanna River, much of which falls within the continuous wooded canopy area and is not heavily developed with home sites.
- The Southeast Planning District beyond the community parks service radius surrounds the Borough of Wrightsville and parks within Wrightsville Borough may offset some of the recreation needs of this Planning District.
- Residents rate the location of parks in the community high with a combined response of 62.4% rating parks and recreation facility location as excellent and very good.
- There are no parks or public open space associated with the primary commercial area of the Borough, Market Street. Pocket parks, plazas, and public open space, if properly designed, used, and maintained can be major assets in a community. These public places can provide traditional park amenities or include elements like the War Memorial monument. Enhancing these urban spaces can “green” the vehicle-oriented corridor and promote pedestrian use, provide locations for people to meet and gather, offer locations for workers to retreat to the outdoors for lunch, and could be programmed for community celebrations.

Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities should be provided within a community to meet the demands of individuals, community groups, and organized adult and youth leagues. The appropriate number of park facilities in a community should be based on need as defined by current facility usage and local trends in recreation and leisure activities.

An analysis of facilities must consider the context of the municipality and the trends and popularity of the sport or activity that the facility serves. Facility trends and observations in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough illustrate the need for additional recreation facilities. Consider the following findings from the key person interviews, internet survey, and public meetings:

- Growth within the Borough has placed a high demand on sports fields.

- The majority of internet survey respondents rated existing facilities as average (44.3%) while only 9.6% rated facilities as excellent.
- There is an overall need for athletic fields, especially flat multipurpose fields that could be used for soccer or lacrosse.
- The only ball fields for baseball and softball in the two municipalities are located on private lands and continued public use is not guaranteed.
- Support facilities, such as restrooms, adequate parking, and shade and landscaping, are important features and add to the function and quality of facilities.
- Lacrosse is growing in the communities and region.
- Gymnasiums for indoor recreation are needed in the communities.
- Seniors are more active and are requesting facilities for recreation and fitness and wellness activities.
- Walking is a popular activity.
- Cycling is popular in the communities along local roads and PA Route 462.

Table 5-4
**Hellam Township and Hallam Borough
 Existing Facility Inventory**

Activity/ Facility	No. of Facilities
Basketball	3
Tennis	2
Volleyball	0-lawn, 1-sand
Baseball - Adult (90')	1
- Youth (60'-75')	2
Softball	2
Soccer (variable sizes)	5
Field Hockey	0
Lacrosse	0
Football	0
In-line Hockey	0
Swimming Pools	0
Golf Courses	1 (for profit)

Facility Assessment

Following is the facility assessment for Hellam Township and Hallam Borough by activity:

Softball – There are two softball fields located in the Borough on land owned by a local church. Hellam Recreation’s softball program uses these fields for girls from U7 – U18. In 2013 there were 102 players divided between eight teams (six summer and two fall teams). Softball is played as part of the York County Junior Girls Softball League. The future use of these fields is not guaranteed, as use is granted year to year, and there is no long-term lease. Any improvements to the property must be approved by the church. Softball fields are recommended in new community parks. Softball participation has been growing and one additional field is desired to accommodate the program.



Baseball – There are three baseball fields (1-90’, 2-60’) all located at the Beaver Street Ball Fields – East which are owned by the Eastern York School District. Hellam Recreation Commission organizes the baseball program, which serves T-ball (age 5-7) through age 18. In 2013 nine teams with a total of 102 players participated in baseball as part of the Eastern York County Youth Sports League. There are spring and fall seasons for baseball. Hellam has one team in the Susquehanna Baseball League, a men’s baseball league that plays on the stadium field. Hellam Recreation has a five year plan for improvements to the Beaver Street Ball Fields. The stadium field is used on Sundays by the York County Old-timer’s Baseball League. There is limited time available for adult use of baseball fields. Baseball fields should be provided in community parks and developed with lights, as appropriate based on the location.



Football / Cheerleading – There are no football fields located in the two communities. Young Knights – Eastern Youth Football and Cheerleading serves the communities of Eastern York School District. Practice and games are played at Rexroth Park in Lower Windsor Township and at the high school. Football play is not compatible with soccer on the same field due to turf wear and shared use is not recommended. Football fields are not currently recommended for parks in the study area.

Basketball – There are three basketball courts in the Borough, one in Emig Park and two at the Beaver Street Ball Fields – East. Youth basketball is organized through the Eastern York County Youth Sports league. The gymnasium in Kreutz Creek Elementary School has been used for basketball league play. Basketball is considered important by 80% of the respondents to the on-line survey and additional courts are recommended in new community parks. Where possible, courts should be located in banks of at least two courts near parking areas and separated from younger children and passive activity areas. Court lighting extends play time and lights are suggested in parks where they would be compatible with surrounding land use.



Soccer – There are five soccer fields located at Barshinger Fields. Hellam Recreation Commission organizes youth soccer. In the 2013 spring season there were 22 teams with 284 players and 21 teams and 297 players for the fall season. Soccer is popular in the area and the youth program continues to grow. Additional soccer fields are needed to accommodate the growing program and to provide opportunities for adult play. Hellam Recreation organizes a women’s over 30 soccer team that plays locally. Soccer fields are proposed in future developed areas of Hellam Regional Park to keep the fields in one central location. Field lights are suggested, where appropriate, to extend playing times and maximize the use of existing facilities.



Lacrosse – Lacrosse is a growing sport in the municipality and school district. Lacrosse is currently played as a club sport in the school district and is part of the York County Lacrosse Association. Currently the club plays on a private field in Hellam Township. The interest in lacrosse and its growth at the youth level is expected to continue in the region. Multi-purpose fields should be provided in community parks for lacrosse and other emerging sports such as field hockey. Multi-purpose fields should be sized to accommodate each of these sports.

Volleyball – One sand volleyball court is located in Emig Park. Volleyball courts are popular park facilities and the on-line survey indicates continued interest in volleyball. Volleyball courts are often used in conjunction with picnic outings and should be located close to picnic pavilions, where possible. Families and adults generally prefer lawn volleyball while teens and young adults prefer sand volleyball courts.

Sand volleyball league play is popular in the City of York. When new community parks are developed, the level of interest in league play should be evaluated. If interest emerges for competitive volleyball, courts in banks of two or more for league play should be developed. League play is typically in evenings and courts should be developed with lights.

Tennis – There are two tennis courts located in the Beaver Street Ball Fields - East. There are no tennis courts available at schools in the area to supplement the two in the Borough. Tennis is a lifetime recreation activity that can be enjoyed by all ages. Although the popularity of the sport has waned over the last decade, it is important to provide tennis courts in municipal park systems for the lifetime recreation benefits. The on-line survey found continued interest in the sport. Tennis courts should be developed in banks of two or more and should be



located in visually accessible areas, preferably near parking areas and park entrances. Court lighting is recommended where adjacent land use is compatible. Tennis courts should be developed in future community parks, for the reasons stated above and because the courts at the Beaver Street Ball Fields are not owned by the municipality and continual general public use is not guaranteed.

Swimming Pools – There are no public or membership-based swimming pools in the project area. The need for a public swimming venue was discussed as part of the Regional Park master plan and an indoor facility with a swimming pool was suggested at that time. Swimming is a lifetime recreation activity, and there should be convenient access to swimming in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough. Partnerships should be explored to bring swimming to the area.

Playgrounds – Play equipment is located in each park with the exception of Beaver Street Ball Fields – West. The upper playground in Emig Park is the only playground that meets all of the safety and accessibility requirements. Liberty Park, Beaver Street Ball Fields – East, Barshinger Fields, and the lower playground areas of Emig Park have older play equipment and lack an accessible route to the play area.



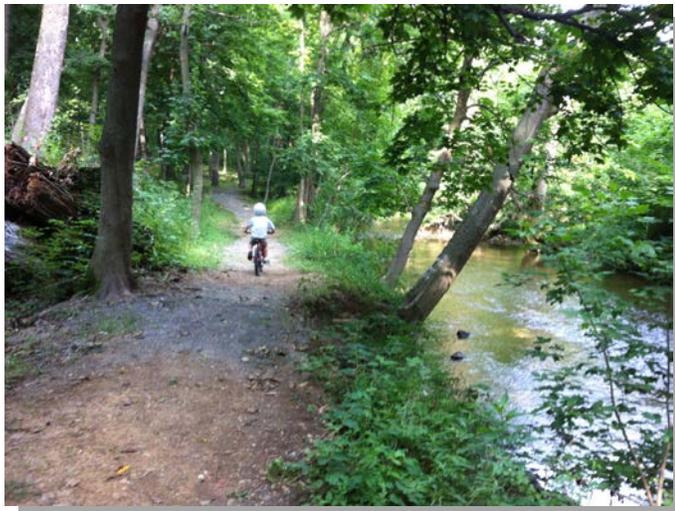
When developing and renovating playground areas, the following general guidelines should be incorporated into the design:

- The playground layout, equipment and safety zone should comply with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Guidelines for Playground Safety.
- Playgrounds must meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which requires that an accessible route be provided from walkways/parking areas to the playground equipment and that a portion of the equipment offer activities that can be utilized by physically challenged children.
- Playgrounds should be age-segregated to accommodate children of different ages and abilities and meet the CPSC safety guidelines.
- Important American Society for Testing and Materials references for public playground safety:
 - F1487 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use.
 - F2373 Standard Consumer Safety Performance specification for Public Use Play Equipment for Children 6 Months through 23 Months.
 - F1292 Standard Specification for Impact Attenuation of Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment.

Playgrounds should be renovated or upgraded on a cyclic basis to conform to safety and accessibility standards. Playgrounds should be developed to stimulate imaginative play as well as physical activity. Playgrounds should be bright, interesting environments that engage children while providing convenience facilities for adults, such as benches and shaded seating areas. Locate playgrounds for safety. Provide adequate separation from parking areas, ball field foul ball and home run territory, and drives/roadways.

A playground safety and accessibility audit should be completed for all parks and playground equipment removed that cannot be rehabilitated to fully comply with the latest standards. Playground renovation and replacement should be identified in the municipality's Capital Improvement Program, starting with the playground that is in most urgent need of replacement. As new parks are developed, playgrounds should be incorporated into the park layout.

Trails/Pathways – Trails and pathways should be provided in every park for recreation purposes and to meet the requirements of the ADA. ADA requires an accessible route from parking areas and drop-off areas to recreation facilities. Accessible routes must extend to players areas. Additionally, viewing areas for physically impaired spectators must be provided at sports fields and courts. In community parks, where space allows, developing trails with a minimum eight-foot width is recommended to accommodate multiple users. In more



urban or developed settings, trails should be paved to provide multiple recreational opportunities, such as bike riding, inline skating, jogging, and walking. Stonedust aggregate trails may be preferred in parks with natural settings where slopes are gentle.

Walking is an activity widely enjoyed by all segments of the population and ranked highest in facility importance in the internet survey. The master plan for the Regional Park proposes a trail that extends through the western parcels of the park and encircles the Barshinger Fields. Emig Park has a trail system that extends to facilities, and there is an informal earthen trail along Kreutz Creek. The trail along Kreutz Creek in Emig Park should be stabilized to provide full accessibility to persons with disabilities. Trails in parks should link to nearby multi-use trails and sidewalks to promote non-motorized access to park sites.

Internet Survey – Importance of Recreation Activities

92.7% of survey respondents indicated that walking was very important, important, or somewhat important in the communities.

86.8% of survey respondents indicated that enjoying nature was very important, important, or somewhat important in the communities.

Indoor Recreation – There are no municipal indoor recreation facilities in Hellam Township or Hallam Borough. Previously, school gymnasiums were used for the Hellam Recreation youth basketball program. There is interest in the community in having indoor recreation programs, the ability to hold indoor sports practices, and training throughout the winter months. At one time the YMCA of York was exploring development of an eastern York satellite facility in the area but at present, is providing programs at the Children’s Home of York. The Regional Park Master Plan suggested that the western portion of the park as a possible site for the YMCA Eastern York facility. There is a need in the community for indoor recreation and a swimming pool, but interest reflected in the internet survey is relatively low at a combined 53.5-percent, citing indoor recreation facilities as very important or important.



Picnic Area – Picnic pavilions are offered in Emig Park and the new concession building addition at Barshinger Fields includes a pavilion for covered seating.



Picnic areas can be configured as scattered picnic tables and grills within a shaded grove of trees or a picnic pavilion with complementary amenities such as horseshoe pits, volleyball court, playground, or softball field. In community parks, picnic areas serve families and groups. In sports complexes picnic pavilions are often located for team use and tournament orientation. Pavilions offer shaded sitting areas for caregivers near playgrounds and are important amenities in new parks with limited vegetation for shade. The upper picnic pavilion in Emig Park is well developed for traditional group picnic activities with a serving area and outlets for covered dishes.

Conditions of Parkland and Facilities

Multiple field visits were made to the parks in the Township and Borough. Generally, the parks are well maintained and maximized in terms of development. The findings of the facility inventory for each site have similarities that relate to the requirement to meet the public access provisions of the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA), the suggested addition of trees or pavilions for shade, and the addition of convenience facilities, such as benches, signs, etc. Specific findings of site observations and recreation opportunities include the following:

Barshinger Fields

Park Description: A 17.5 acre site split by Accomac Road. The site is in the Southwest Planning District in Hellam Township. Barshinger Fields are the developed portions of tracts #4 and #5 of the Hellam Regional Park as described in the 2005 Master Plan.

Active Recreation Facilities: 5 Soccer fields, small tot lot, concession/pavilion/maintenance building.

Passive Recreation Facilities: Walking trail (½ mile).

Support Facilities: Porta-jons and parking.

General Site Observations: The site is maximized with soccer fields and functions as an athletic complex. The tot lot is small and serves to complement the fields rather than as a destination playground. Facilities and parking do not meet the requirements of the ADA. The picnic pavilion is attached to the concession stand and provides shade.



Opportunities: Implement the recommendations of the Regional Park Master Plan to include making a safe trail connections across Accomac Road and expanding the playground to include separate tot lot and youth playground areas with accommodations for caregivers and possibly a small pavilion. Add pavilions for team and family use. Plant trees for shade and as a visual buffer to Accomac Road.

Hellam Township/Hallam Borough Regional Park

Park Description: The park is linear, extending from Barshinger Fields along the south right-of-way of US Route 30, west to Kreutz Creek Elementary School. The 17.5 acre park has access from Wilson Lane, Harold Street, and Prospect Street.

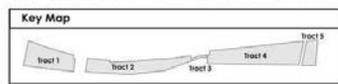
Active Recreation Facilities: The site is currently undeveloped and used for agricultural purposes.

Passive Recreation Facilities: None.

Support Facilities: None.

General Site Observations: The park offers rolling topography, in a linear site that extends 1.10 miles and connects Barshinger Fields to Kreutz Creek Elementary School and the Borough street network.

Opportunities: The 2005 Regional Park Master Plan depicts the proposed amenities for the park site to include trails, pavilions, athletic fields, age segregated playground, and an indoor recreation building.



Hellam Township/Hallam Borough Regional Park
Master Plan
 Hellam Township
 York County, Pennsylvania
 August 2008

Emig Park

Park Description: This 21.58 acre park is the only developed Borough-owned recreation site. The park includes both traditionally developed recreation facilities and undeveloped open space. The park includes land on both sides of an unnamed tributary to Kreutz Creek and on the north side of Kreutz Creek. Access to the park is from Prospect Street and Buttonwood Lane.

Active Recreation Facilities: Basketball court, volleyball court, sand volleyball court, and playground equipment.

Passive Recreation Facilities: Pavilion and trails.

Support Facilities: Parking.

General Site Observations: The upland portion of the site is maximized with traditional recreation facilities. The majority of the facilities are for self-directed use and not competitive play. Play equipment along the stream is not accessible. The lowland along Kreutz Creek offers a natural setting and areas for walking, fishing, and enjoying nature. There are no ADA accommodations within the natural area.

Opportunities: Develop an accessible trail that explores the parkland along Kreutz Creek. Add distance markers and benches and layout the trail with multiple loops for diversity in walking experience. Create an accessible stabilized fishing area that connects to the trail. Enhance the stream corridor with riparian buffer plantings.



Beaver Street Ball Fields – East

Park Description: This 7.4 acre park site functions as a community park for competitive sports. The park is owned by the Eastern York School District and leased to Hellam Recreation. The lease is nearing its expiration. The park has a “hometown” feel and is well maintained.

Active Recreation Facilities: Baseball stadium (90’ baseline field), two 60’ baseline baseball fields, two basketball courts, one sand volleyball court (abandoned), two tennis courts, four horseshoe pits, and playground equipment.

Passive Recreation Facilities: None.

Support Facilities: Parking, benches, picnic tables, concession stand, storage buildings, porta-jons, and bleachers.

General Site Observations: The recreation facilities dominate the space with no areas set aside for gatherings and informal play. There are no ADA accommodations, including accessible routes to facilities, spectator viewing areas, and parking spaces. The stadium has a poor solar orientation and the basketball courts are 90-degrees to the preferred north-south orientation. The horseshoe pits are well developed with lights and benches, but are located in an area that is difficult to access. The playground is outdated and should be replaced to conform to the latest safety and accessibility standards. Playground safety surface areas are not properly sized. The concession stand and playground are in foul ball territory.

Opportunities: Improvements are suggested to make the park more convenient and enjoyable to visit, such as shade trees, gathering areas, and benches. Trails should be added to



provide accessible routes to facilities and developed in a looped layout for recreation use. A new playground near the concession stand could become the hub of the park if developed with a plaza area for seating, eating, and viewing park activities; shade; and trail connections. Modify ballfield fencing to limit foul balls reaching activity areas. Develop a trail to provide convenient access to the horseshoe pits.

Beaver Street Ball Fields – West

Park Description: This 3.5-acre site is owned by St. James Lutheran Church with frontage on West Market Street.

Active Recreation Facilities: Two softball fields

Passive Recreation Facilities: None

Support Facilities: Bleachers, storage, concession building, porta-jon, and turf/gravel parking.

General Site Observations: The site is not developed as a park but rather accommodates two softball fields and includes minor amenities necessary for the function of the fields. The site is not owned by the Borough or Recreation Commission and improvements are contingent upon approval of the owner. A narrow sidewalk is provided on the south side of the parcel.

Opportunities: If long-term use of the small site is secured through a lease, a master plan should be developed to explore the best layout and recreation facilities for the site. The two softball fields occupy the majority of the site, but small areas exist that could be developed with complementary amenities, such as a tot lot. A trail encircling the block would provide walking opportunities and could



be developed as a sidewalk. ADA accommodations to include accessible routes to the fields, stabilized spectator viewing areas, and designated accessible parking spaces should be provided. Street trees along the four street frontages would provide shade, define the space, and visually enhance the parcel.

Liberty Park

Park Description: This 0.45-acre mini-park is located adjacent to Wrightsville Borough.

Active Recreation Facilities: Playground equipment.

Passive Recreation Facilities: None.

Support Facilities: Benches.

General Site Observations: This park needs a full rehabilitation. The play equipment is outdated and does not comply with safety and accessibility standards and has not been located within safety surfacing. The benches are in poor condition. The park is triangle shaped and fenced on two sides. The park is small, but could be developed as a nice neighborhood amenity.

Opportunities: A master plan should be developed for the park that locates amenities and maximizes the site as an asset for the neighborhood. Improvements should target the needs of the immediate neighborhood. A small age-segregated playground could be developed at the site with new equipment, safety surfacing, and benches and tables for care-givers. Trees should be added for shade and to create a sense of place. A walkway should connect to facilities and a handicap curb cut should be provided for wheelchair access.



Park and Facility Trends

The way we spend our leisure time and the activities we enjoy changes over time. Trends emerge that impact the parks and recreation facilities that we need in our communities. The following trends were identified as impacting the parks and delivery of recreation services in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough.

- Expanding sports seasons and sports program growth have placed a high demand on available fields and additional sports fields are needed. Soccer, softball, and baseball are dual-season sports for Hellam Recreation. Flat fields and diamond fields sports are currently played in different parks, somewhat minimizing the impact of overlapping facilities.
- Lacrosse is a growing sport that is having an impact on school facilities. Although, currently played on private land, as the sport grows, the need for fields will most likely expand to public parkland.
- Recreation trends include increased popularity of self-directed activities, such as skateboarding, cycling, and disc-golf.
- Adult recreation opportunities are limited in the community due to lack of available facilities and demands of youth sports programs.
- Trail activities are very popular among all age groups, and trails for walking and cycling are desired by residents of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough.
- Non-sport-oriented teens desire opportunities for self-directed recreation and hanging out.
- Senior adults are more active than ever. The Horseshoes League is evidence of a popular recreation activity enjoyed by seniors in the community. Additional facilities are needed that provide opportunities for lifetime recreation activities, such as swimming, golf, tennis, walking, and bicycling. These activities have sustained popularity through all age groups.



Parkland & Recreation Analysis

Strengths

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough work together to meet the recreation needs of the community and have a combined total of nearly 60 acres of parkland available for public use. The parks provide a variety of recreation opportunities from the traditional park setting of Emig Park to the athletic fields of Barshinger Fields. Additionally, the municipalities have secured additional parkland acreage at Regional Park which, has been master planned and is available for recreation development.

Challenges

While the communities have well developed parkland, there are important recreation facilities located on lands that are not owned by the municipalities. Securing continued, long-term use of these facilities is a priority and necessary to support the recreation programs that are popular in the

communities. The analysis of parkland found that one additional community park is needed to serve the future needs of the two communities.

The parks are well developed with the basic facilities, such as athletic fields and courts, but additional improvements that enhance the park setting and convenience of visiting the park are needed. These tweaks include adding areas for gathering, shade, and site amenities. Accessible routes and handicap parking spaces are needed in each park to meet the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act. The river is the dominant landscape feature of the community, but there is no public access in Hellam Township, where riverfront land is privately owned.

Opportunities

The master plan for Regional Park illustrates proposed improvements that will help to offset some of the current recreation needs and provide a trail that connects community destinations. Hellam Township has partnered with the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area to explore the possibility of acquiring a riverfront park site which would provide access to the Susquehanna River. Additional enhancements, such as addressing the accessibility requirements of the ADA, adding trails, and adding convenience amenities will create premier parks that target the recreation interests of the public.

Recommendations

Following are recommendations for Hellam Township and Hallam Borough parks and recreation facilities:

1. Maximize the use of existing parks to respond to the expanding needs, interests, and desires of citizens through the following initiatives:
 - Secure a long-term lease with St. James Lutheran Church for Hallam Borough and Recreation Commission use of the Beaver Street Ball Fields - West.
 - Secure a long-term extension of the lease on Beaver Street Ball Fields - East from Eastern York School District.
 - Develop Regional Park, including Barshinger Field as recommended in the 2005 Regional Park Master Plan. Prioritize extending the trail to the west to Wilson Lane and develop the safe crossing of Accomac Road.
 - Develop master plans for park sites to guide future improvements and investment. Incorporate suggestions listed in the “Conditions of Parkland” assessments outlined in this plan. The master plans should include the plan for the park sites and a phased cost estimate that outlines the anticipated development costs. Public input should guide the master planning process.
 - Develop a master plan for Liberty Park. Due to the small size of this park site and limited development potential combine the planning, design, and engineering of the park into a single initiative.

- If a long term leases are secured for Beaver Street Ball Fields – East and West, complete master plans for the tracts to maximize recreation uses, address safety and accessibility issues, add gathering areas, and provide support facilities.
- Develop a master plan that explores how the natural area of Emig Park could be improved with trails, stabilized fishing access, and other features desired by residents.

2. Incorporate improvements into the parks that will enhance the convenience of using the facilities, enhance the visual image of park sites, and introduce additional recreation opportunities. Improvements suggested for Hellam Township and Hallam Borough parks include the following initiatives:

Safety Enhancements –

- Develop a safe crossing of Accomac Road at Barshinger Fields. Install a pavement crosswalk, warning signs, and other amenities to control crossing the road and alerting motorists.
- Provide adequate safety zones around sports facilities and play equipment. Foul balls from the 60-foot baseball fields at Beaver Street Fields – East pose a safety concern for visitors at the picnic tables near Beaver Street and at the concession stand and playground area. Extend the height of backstops and sideline fence and/or install safety netting.
- Remove the playground equipment in Beaver Street Ball Fields – East and Liberty Park.

Convenience Facilities -

- Enhance park sites by adding benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, grills, bike racks, restrooms, and other convenience facilities as appropriate.
 - Provide benches near playgrounds, in shaded locations, and at activity areas for caregivers to sit and watch park activities.
 - When trails are developed in parks, add benches at convenient intervals and in shaded spots.
 - Add bike racks near park entrances/drop-offs if safe bicycle access is provided to the site.
 - If water is available, add drinking fountains near athletic facilities, at concession stands, at restrooms, and at other convenient locations.
- Develop restrooms in community parks.
- Consider the needs of the senior adult population. Make facilities pedestrian friendly, convenient to use, and provide sitting areas in the shade that are conveniently spaced along trails and near activity areas. Provide pavilions near parking areas for easy access.

- Extend sidewalks to park sites and along park road frontage. Sidewalks on primary Borough streets extend along park frontage. Develop sidewalks on additional park street frontage to provide links to the parks from other streets.
- Develop park hubs near park entrances and parking which have information kiosk with site maps and park and recreation program information. Trails should radiate from the hub to explore the park site. Where space permits, develop a pedestrian drop-off area configured for safely entering the park site separated from vehicular traffic.

Park Site Enhancements -

- Enhance park entrances, drop-off areas, and hub areas of concentrated activities with landscaping. Use large masses of colorful perennials and ornamental grasses to add interest and variety to park settings. Unify the park sites by repeating a pallet of plants within a park. Add street trees along road frontage and park drives. Consider planting street trees along both sides of the Accomac Road frontage of Barshinger Fields to identify the park site and slow traffic in the area of the park.
- Establish a readily identifiable image in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough for public parks.
 - Create a uniform signage system that conveys the image of a premier public park system. Include the Township and Borough logos or seals or a new logo representing the park and recreation partnership of the Township and Borough on all park signs.
 - Establish park design standards through the master planning process with the goal of providing a consistent quality design and construction features in all facilities. This would include quality materials, harmonious colors, and prime consideration of the natural environment.
 - Provide street trees along park road frontage and park drives and colorful perennials and ornamental grasses at entry areas into park sites.
- Provide walking and bicycling trails within parks and connecting to park sites. Trails are enjoyed by all segments of the population and are highly desired recreation facilities. The ADA requires access to recreation facilities and activity areas via an accessible route. Where possible, develop multiple trail loop layouts for diverse walking experiences.
- Provide shade in parks near activity areas. Shade could be provided by planting deciduous trees, installing shade structures/sails, and/or building pavilions.
- Incorporate field and court lighting to maximize the use of existing facilities, where lighting is compatible with the park setting and neighborhood.

New Recreation Opportunities –

- Complete the development of Hellam Township/Hallam Borough Regional Park which will include facilities and amenities desired by residents to include walking trails, pavilions, and a new playground. The trails will extend through extensive areas of grass

and wildflower meadows providing visitors the opportunities to enjoy nature while walking the trails. The athletic field located east of Wilson Lane should be developed to meet the needs of the Hellam Recreation Commission. Based on current needs, a multi-purpose field should be developed for soccer and lacrosse use instead of a baseball field.

- Develop a new playground at Liberty Park.
- Develop walking trails and stabilized stream access areas for fishing in Kreutz Creek in the riparian corridor of Emig Park.
- Develop parks, plazas, and public open space in the Borough’s commercial corridor that enlivens the community and provides opportunity for people to gather, meet, and hold community celebrations. Explore opportunities to enhance the War Memorial corner on Market Street and opportunities to “green” the vehicle-oriented corridor to enhance pedestrian use.

3. Target acquisition and development of parkland to meet current and future needs of the municipality.

- A high priority of this Plan is securing a long-term lease with St. James Lutheran Church for Hallam Borough and Recreation Commission use of the Beaver Street Ball Fields – West and an extension of the lease on Beaver Street Ball Fields - East from Eastern York School District. If a long-term lease cannot be secured, seek to acquire these parcels fee simple to retain public use of the recreation facilities or seek a right-of-first-refusal for the future acquisition of both parcels.



- Acquire additional parkland contiguous to existing park and municipal lands and along designated greenways through purchase, donation, dedication, or grants to meet the recreation needs of the municipality.
- The Township and Borough should work together to acquire one additional traditional community park (50—80 acres) to meet the community recreation needs of the two municipalities. The potential park site should contain natural areas for the leisure enjoyment of the outdoors and relatively level land for the development of active recreation facilities. A central location with convenient access is preferred by residents to be in close proximity to existing park sites. Legacy park acreage should be incorporated into the acquisition, increasing the overall community park acreage by 50+/- acres. The legacy acreage should be set aside and retained as an undeveloped portion of the park for future recreation use.

- Seek land for the development of a riverfront park along the Susquehanna River. Hellam Township has partnered with the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area on an acquisition/planning grant for approximately 3.2 acres of land known as the Hellam Township River Park & Water Access Facility. A Concept Plan was prepared to illustrate the potential improvements to the three contiguous parcels that combine to form the riverfront site. If grant funding is secured a master plan should be developed for the property referencing the Concept Plan as a departure point for evaluating potential park improvements. Public input should be sought as part of the master planning process. See the box below for a description of the Concept Plan. If funding is unsuccessful continue to seek lands along the Susquehanna River for development of a municipal park for river access.

Hellam Township River Park & Water Access Facility

A concept plan was developed for the 3.2 acre site (3 parcels) which illustrate improvements discussed as part of this Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan. Improvements target river activities and passive recreation and include:

- Canoe/kayak launch
- Fishing access areas
- Picnic areas
- Picnic pavilion
- Trails – connection to the Mason-Dixon Trail
- Vehicle and trailer parking and paddle craft unloading area
- Open lawn
- Interpretative signs
- Overflow parking
- Meadows



4. Create great public places.

Parks are the public spaces of our communities. The care and dedication we commit to their design, development, operations, and ongoing maintenance speaks volumes about a community. Commit to great design and sensitive, thoughtful master planning of new and existing parks.

- Strive to undertake improvements to the parks that are holistic and not piecemeal in order to provide a sense of presence and accomplishment in the public view.
- Design with nature in a manner that is consistent with sustainable design principles.

- Protect and enhance natural resources of the park sites.
- Provide buffer areas around sensitive natural resources that should have limited or no public access.
- Protect water resources from erosion, pollution, and other negative impacts and promote infiltration of stormwater runoff. Enhance streams and creeks by establishing or expanding riparian buffers within park sites. Plant buffer vegetation native to southcentral Pennsylvania. Provide riparian enhancements to Kreutz Creek and its tributary in Emig Park and to the tributaries to Kreutz Creek that flow through Regional Park/Barshinger Fields. Develop rain gardens to control stormwater runoff and promote groundwater recharge.
- Limit disturbance of natural areas and consider natural functions when incorporating site improvements.
- Locate facilities with consideration of prevailing wind and solar orientation.
- Develop parking, trails, and other pavements with pervious materials, as appropriate for the setting and use.
- Use native plant material to enhance wildlife habitats and minimize watering and maintenance requirements.
- Locate shade trees to reduce heat island effect in parking areas, cool buildings in summer, and allow solar access in winter.
- Consider the site soil, underlying geology, and depth of ground water during the planning and development phase. Soil, geology and depth of ground water and bedrock directly affect facility constructability, drainage, and long-term maintenance.
- Incorporate wetlands, rock outcrops, hedgerows, and other natural features sensitively into park designs.
- Develop park sites using Best Management Practices for erosion control and stormwater management.
- Consider life-cycle costs and use of post-consumption materials when designing improvements.
- Consider development options that reduce energy consumption and use such as ground source geothermal heating and cooling, connections to trail system to promote non-motorized transportation, solar powered amenities/features, and no-mow/low-mow areas.
- Create great playground areas that promote fun, socialization, learning, creativity, and healthy exercise. Create playground areas that engage children and provide a safe, fun setting for play. Where appropriate, playgrounds should be developed with themes that relate to the context of the site and its resources. Develop the playgrounds as a space, not just equipment placed in mulch. Include benches for caregivers and small pavilions for storytelling, shaded play or crafts, and traditional picnics. Include shade via shade trees, pavilions,

or shade sails. Include pavement areas for pavement games, chalk drawings, and other activities.

- Design with consideration of safety and security of the parks for users:
 - Provide visual access into parks from surrounding streets and sidewalks. Avoid designs that create “hidden” areas. While the developed area of Emig Park and Barshinger Fields complies with this recommendation, improvements to the lower Kreutz Creek area of Emig Park and the future portions of Regional Park cannot be readily viewed from surrounding roadways. Provide visual access into these areas as possible by minimizing landscaping that cuts off long views into park activity areas, limbing tree branches up to seven feet, and locating structures and equipment to retain clear sight lines into the parks.
 - Provide adequate safety zones around sports facilities and play equipment. Foul balls from the 60-foot baseball fields in Beaver Street Ball Fields – East could reach adjacent picnic and concession areas and backstop/fencing modifications are suggested.
 - Provide physical barriers as appropriate between park activity areas and adjacent roadways, drives, and parking areas.
 - Where possible, limit the extent of vehicle penetration into park sites and vehicular/pedestrian conflict areas.
 - Provide trails of adequate width for the intended user groups. Multi-use trails should be developed at a minimum width of eight feet wide.
- Provide support and accessory facilities that create a premier recreation destination, such as, dugouts for baseball fields; picnic areas designed as a unit with grills, picnic tables, horseshoe pits, shaded areas and water; restrooms in each park; and benches convenient to courts for depositing equipment and viewing activities.

5. Provide facilities for public uses that comply with accessibility and safety regulations and guidelines.

- Address accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) within existing parks. The ADA is federal legislation that prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation. Municipal parks are public accommodations and must meet the requirements of the ADA. The list below identifies ADA issues within the Hellam Township and Hallam Borough park sites. The list is not an all-inclusive ADA audit of each park site but highlights many of the ADA upgrades that should be incorporated as the parks are enhanced.
 - Accessible route - Develop walkways to provide an accessible route from handicap parking spaces and sidewalks to and between recreation facilities. This requirement is lacking in each park site with the exception of the newly developed portion of Emig Park. Walkway should be developed to not exceed five-percent slope to be accessible.

Additionally, PA DCNR requires that when benches are provided along a trail that a clear stabilized area for a wheelchair also be provided adjacent to benches.

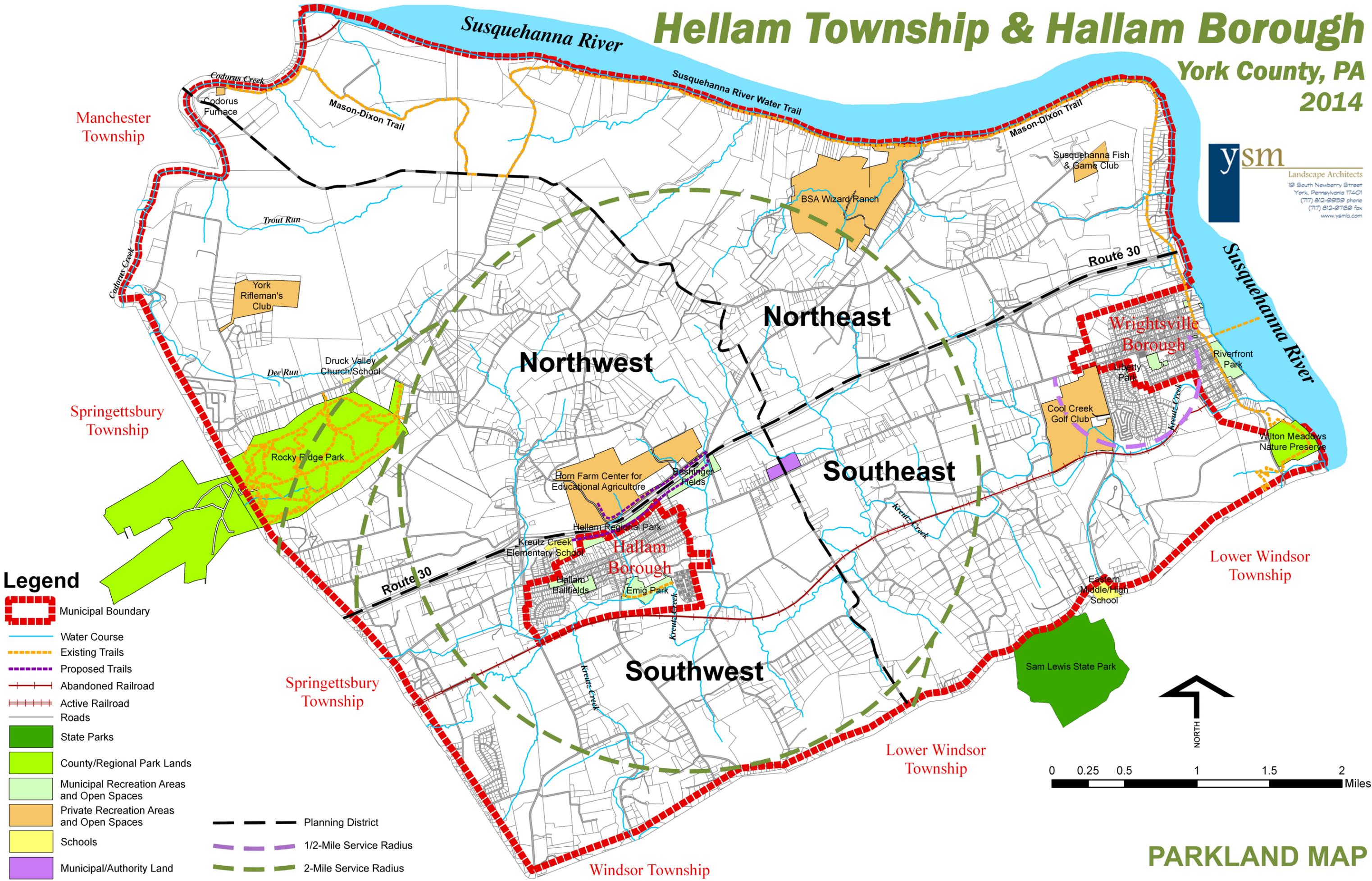
- Provide stabilized handicapped parking space in each parking area. Barshinger Fields is developed with gravel parking. Paved accessible parking spaces should be developed in each parking area with pavement markings, handicap parking signs, and immediate access to an accessible route. There are no formalized parking areas for Beaver Street Ball Fields - East and West and handicapped parking should be developed and appropriately designated for these two parks.
- Playgrounds must offer play equipment that provides play options for the physically challenged. Playground manufacturers are aware of this requirement and work with communities as new playground equipment is specified to provide accessible play options.
- Athletic fields and courts must be accessible and provided with accessible spectator viewing areas and player accommodations. PA DCNR interprets this requirement to include an accessible route to players' benches at ballfields and accessible viewing spaces adjacent to bleachers at athletic fields and courts. This accommodation has not been provided at any of the existing facilities.
- Fences surrounding game courts should have gates with clear opening widths that meet or exceed the ADA requirements to allow use by disabled athletes. The gates at Beaver Street Ball Fields – East tennis courts meets this minimum width but is not connected to an accessible route.
- Picnic areas should offer accessible picnic tables. Every picnic table in a park need not provide this accommodation, but, as new tables are added, a percentage should be accessible models. There should be accessible picnic tables in each pavilion.
- Drinking fountains should be accessible models.
- Provide play equipment that meets the safety criteria of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Guidelines for Public Playground Safety. Playground equipment at Liberty Park and Beaver Street Ball Fields – East is outdated and should be replaced. The equipment at Barshinger Fields is older and in disrepair and should be rehabilitated to meet CPSC guidelines or replaced. The lower playground equipment in Emig Park should be evaluated for compliance with CPSC safety guidelines and an action plan defined for bringing older equipment into compliance. The CPSC guidelines state “In playgrounds intended to serve children of all ages the layout of pathways and the landscaping of the playground should show the distinct areas for the different age groups. The areas should be separated at least by a buffer zone, which could be an area with shrubs or benches.” New play areas in Liberty Park, Barshinger Fields, and Beaver Street Ball Fields – East should be separated into areas for two to five year olds and six to twelve year olds. Signs should identify age appropriate use of equipment and these signs are available from playground manufacturers.
- Playground safety inspections should occur on an ongoing basis and be conducted by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) or under the guidance of a CPSI.

- The stadium bleachers at the 90-foot baseball field in Beaver Street Ball Fields – East provides a “hometown” feel to the park and has served the community for many years. The bleachers should be evaluated for compliance with safety guidelines and accessibility requirements. The CPSC provides “Guidelines for Retrofitting Bleachers” which addresses the need for guardrails on bleachers as follows: “Guardrails should be present on the backs and portions of the open ends of bleachers where the footboard, seatboard or aisle is 30 inches or more above the floor or ground below. Bleaches with the top row nominally 30 inches above the ground may be exempt from this requirement.”
 - It is important to identify and prioritize improvements needed to bring existing facilities into compliance with the ADA and CPSC. A phased implementation schedule should be developed and improvements should be included in the park/municipal capital improvement program budget.
6. Plan for the continued revitalization and improvement to Hellam Township and Hallam Borough parks through a comprehensive capital improvement program that outlines annual capital expenditures and cyclic improvements to the parks. Update the capital improvement program annually.
- Reference Appendix A – Capital Improvement Program.

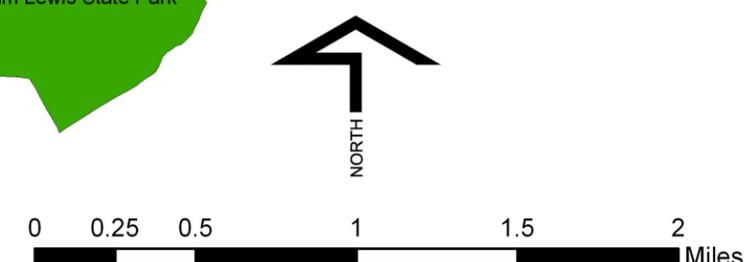
Hellam Township & Hallam Borough

York County, PA
2014

ysm
Landscape Architects
19 South Newberry Street
York, Pennsylvania 17401
(717) 812-9959 phone
(717) 812-9769 fax
www.ysmla.com



- Legend**
- Municipal Boundary
 - Water Course
 - Existing Trails
 - Proposed Trails
 - Abandoned Railroad
 - Active Railroad
 - Roads
 - State Parks
 - County/Regional Park Lands
 - Municipal Recreation Areas and Open Spaces
 - Private Recreation Areas and Open Spaces
 - Schools
 - Municipal/Authority Land
 - Planning District
 - 1/2-Mile Service Radius
 - 2-Mile Service Radius



PARKLAND MAP

Chapter 6 – Greenways & Trails

Open space, greenways, and trails are components of a community's comprehensive parks and recreation plan. Trails provide passive recreation opportunities and open space and green corridors protect natural resources and important habitat areas. Easy access to trails facilitates exercise and fitness, as well as, safe linkage to connected locales. Connecting parks and community destinations in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough with trails and greenways will add to the livability and quality of life for citizens.

Greenways

Greenways

A greenway is a corridor of open space. Greenways may vary greatly in scale, from narrow ribbons of green that run through urban, suburban, and rural areas to wider corridors that incorporate diverse natural, cultural, and scenic features. They can incorporate both public and private property, and can be land- or water-based. They may follow old railways, canals, or ridge tops, or they may follow stream corridors, shorelines, or wetlands, and include water trails for non-motorized craft. Some greenways are recreational corridors or scenic byways that may accommodate motorized and non-motorized vehicles. Others function almost exclusively for environmental protection and are not designed for human passage.

Greenways differ in their location and function, but overall, a greenway will protect natural, cultural, and scenic resources, provide recreational benefits, enhance natural beauty and quality of life in neighborhoods and communities, and stimulate economic development opportunities.

Source: Pennsylvania Greenways – An Action Plan for Creating Connections

Benefits of Greenways and Trails

Social Benefits –

- Provide access to historically and culturally significant features in our communities.
- Provide opportunities to reconnect with the natural environment and urban fabric of our communities.
- Help to preserve the character and aesthetic appeal of a place or landscape.
- Provide significant new public places which can help to connect people and communities.
- Increase quality of life.
- Improve health and wellness of greenway and trail recreation users.

- Heighten sensitivity to the natural environment by providing for interaction between people and nature.

Transportation Benefits –

- Promote non-motorized transportation.
- Provide safe alternative transportation routes for pedestrians and bicyclists which will lessen dependency on automobiles.
- Provide emergency access via trails to undeveloped areas.
- Reduce roadway congestion through redistribution of users to alternative transportation routes.



Ecological Benefits –

- Connect fragmented landscapes.
- Promote plant and animal species diversity.
- Provide corridors for wildlife migration and movement.
- Preserve and protect vital wildlife, plant, and aquatic habitats.
- Improve air quality and reduce noise.
- Protect natural areas.
- Reduce stormwater damage and promote flood mitigation within protected floodplains.
- Serve as a filtering zone; wetlands absorb pollutants and nutrients and slow surface run-off.
- Protects watersheds and groundwater retention areas.
- Store and convey floodwaters.
- Clean up abandoned corridors.



Recreation Benefits –

- Provide areas to jog, walk, bike, ride horses, and canoe.
- Serve as sites for passive pursuits such as picnicking, fishing, and enjoying nature.
- Connect existing and planned trails.
- Encourage ecotourism.
- Provide landscapes for environmental education.
- Provide connections between parks and other protected lands.



Economic Benefits –

- Increase nearby property values.
- Precipitate new and expanded businesses related to greenway and trail use. New businesses will provide employment opportunities and revenues.
- Create tourist destinations which will generate expenditures on food, services, and lodging.
- Reduce damage and financial loss from flooding by providing buffer areas along stream and river corridors.

State and Local Greenway and Trail Initiatives

Pennsylvania

In 1991, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge enacted Executive Order 1998-3, charging DCNR, DEP, and PENNDOT, assisted by the Pennsylvania Greenways Partnership Commission, to develop an action plan for advancing a Pennsylvania Greenways Partnership Program. In June 2001, *Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections* was completed. The plan sets forth a series of goals and action items in a coordinated and strategic approach aimed at developing a statewide system of connected greenways.

It is envisioned that Pennsylvania's greenways network will consist of individual greenways and regional networks of greenways of all kinds. While every greenway is important and adds value to Pennsylvania's landscapes and communities, a statewide greenways network achieves broad connections that are fundamental to sustainable environments in rural, suburban, and urban settings. The landscape connections that will result throughout Pennsylvania will create a "green infrastructure" of open space vital to the health of Pennsylvania's ecological systems and manmade

communities. The statewide greenways network also can provide a new connectivity within and among Pennsylvania's communities, and promote healthier lifestyles with more abundant recreational opportunities and transportation alternatives, and stronger connections to cultural and historic places. This connectivity can be represented by the metaphor of the "hubs" and "spokes" of a wheel.

Pennsylvania Greenways Vision

Pennsylvania and its many partners will develop an outstanding network of greenways across the Commonwealth, creating an asset highly valued by Pennsylvanians and enhancing the quality of life for all. This network of greenways will connect Pennsylvanian's open space, natural landscape features, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites, and urban and rural communities. Greenways will become one of the Commonwealth's most powerful tools to achieve sustainable growth and livable communities.

Source: Pennsylvania Greenways – An Action Plan for Creating Connections

York County Trail Plan

York County completed a comprehensive assessment of trail and greenway opportunities throughout the County in 2011. Trail and greenway opportunities identified in the area of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough includes:

- Susquehanna Greenway
- Susquehanna River Water Trail
- Codorus Navigation Trail (concept)
- Codorus Water Trail (concept)
- York- Wrightsville Rail Trail (concept)
- Codorus - Rocky Ridge Trail (concept)
- Mason Dixon Trail

Three of the trail concepts (Codorus Water Trail, Codorus – Rocky Ridge Trail, and York – Wrightsville Rail Trail) link the City of York to the Susquehanna River, a priority identified in the Plan. Each of these linkages traverses Hellam Township, in part, to achieve this connection, and differs in the type of recreation opportunity provided. Codorus Water Trail will be a water trail on the Codorus Creek. Codorus – Rocky Ridge Trail will be a hiking trail and additionally includes the trail extending from Rocky Ridge Park to Rudy Park and the Northern Extension of the Heritage Rail Trail County Park to reach the City. The York – Wrightsville Rail Trail provides a multi-use trail link.

Greenway and Trail Initiatives of Adjacent Municipalities

Adjacent municipalities were contacted to discuss greenway and trail initiatives. Each municipality was asked if they had an official map or trail initiatives that could potentially extend into Hellam Township.

Springettsbury Township – Springettsbury Township developed a Greenways and Trails Map as part of their 2006 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The map documents trail and greenway opportunities but no initiatives have been undertaken to develop trails or protect green corridors. The map documents four potential linkages between the two communities:

- The utility right-of-way that enters Hellam Township within Rocky Ridge Park and extends south bisecting the Regional Park.
- Codorus Creek Greenway
- Kreutz Creek Tributary
- Rocky Ridge Park spans both municipalities and provides both primitive and developed trails. Springettsbury Township identifies a future link from Rocky Ridge Park to Springettsbury Township Park which, when developed, would extend a trail link from Hellam Township to a regional commercial center and park.

Windsor Township – Windsor Township’s Comprehensive Recreation & Open Space Plan identifies the Kreutz Creek Greenway as a recreation greenway with trail that extends to the Hellam Township boundary. Windsor Township has not initiated greenway protection or trail development associated with this greenway. Windsor Township does not have an official map.

East Manchester Township – East Manchester Township does not have an official map. The municipality has not identified any greenway or trails with the exception of the Codorus Navigation Trail and the Codorus Water Trail identified in the York County Trail Plan.

Lower Windsor Township – Lower Windsor Township does not have a Comprehensive Recreation and Parks Plan or a greenways and trails map. The conservation zone buffers land along streams. There is a Township official map but trails are not identified. There have been discussions about a trail along the river in the Long Level Road area but no plans have been developed.

Organizing Elements of the Greenways and Trail Network

The 2001 Pennsylvania Greenways – An Action Plan for Creating Connections proposes that “... the Commonwealth should have a distinguishable greenway network, similar to the Interstate Highway System ...”. This greenway network will ultimately take the form of "hubs and spokes." The "hubs" of this network are the destination and the "spokes" are the greenways and trail corridors connecting these destinations with the places where we live, work, and play. The following hubs and spokes have been identified in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough:

Hubs

Transportation –

- Rabbit Transit Route 12 Stop – Prospect and Market Streets in Hallam Borough
- Rabbit Transit Route 12 Stop – 4th Street in Wrightsville

Schools –

- Kreutz Creek Elementary School
- Eastern York Middle and High School (Lower Windsor Township)

Recreation –

- Municipal Parks
- Rocky Ridge County Park
- Sam Lewis State Park (Lower Windsor Township)
- Cool Creek Golf Club
- York Rifleman’s Club
- Susquehanna Fish & Game Club
- Susquehanna River
- YMCA at the Children’s Home

Commercial – Employment –

- Wright’s Crossings
- Campbell Road
- Wrightsville Borough
- Hallam Borough

Other Destinations –

- Horn Farm Center for Educational Agriculture
- Eastern Area Senior Center (Wrightsville)
- Restaurants
- Library
- Churches
- BSA Wizard Ranch
- Municipal buildings

Spokes

- Trails
- Stream and river corridors
- Sanitary sewer easements
- Utility rights-of-way
- Railroad corridors
- Road rights-of-ways
- Sidewalks

Barriers

There are several barriers to greenway and trail development in the study area. The very resources that promote greenway potential also influenced land use and development patterns, resulting in barriers to connectivity. The major roadways present the most significant barriers to connectivity in the two communities. Route 30 and Route 462 present physical impediments to continuous flow of greenways, trails, and open space.

Alternative routes or engineering solutions such as bridges, underpasses, and controlled crossings must be incorporated to provide a connected network across these barriers. To create a comprehensive greenway system that provides the maximum benefit to the community it is important to find linkages across these barriers. It is important to work with PennDOT to incorporate

pedestrian and bicycle friendly linkage solutions when bridges and underpasses are upgraded. It will be necessary to evaluate existing sidewalks and road rights-of-ways as part of a comprehensive system of greenways, trails, and trail links.

Greenway in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough

Streams and the Susquehanna River provide the spokes for the Hellam Township and Hallam Borough greenway system. Two major greenway corridors have been identified with three minor greenways connecting to the major greenways. The greenways are illustrated on the Greenway and Trail Map on page 6-23.

Major Greenways

Susquehanna Greenway – The Susquehanna Greenway provides regional linkages along the 500-mile river corridor in Pennsylvania, stretching from New York to Maryland. The Susquehanna Greenway links natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources and enhances the quality of life enjoyed in river communities. There are currently no public parks or public river access areas in Hellam Township. The Susquehanna Greenway is the longest greenway in Pennsylvania. The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership is the lead advocate for the Susquehanna Greenway and the Susquehanna Greenway Regional Partner for the Lower Susquehanna is the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area.



Codorus Creek Greenway – The Codorus Greenway connects regionally, tying the City of York to the Susquehanna River and connecting Springettsbury, East Manchester, and Hellam Townships. There are no recreation amenities located along this corridor in Hellam Township with the exception of the historic Codorus Furnace.

Minor Greenways

Kreutz Creek Greenway – Kreutz Creek Greenway extends along Kreutz Creek between the Windsor Township boundary and the confluence with the Susquehanna River in Wrightsville Borough. Emig Park and Cool Creek Golf Club are located along this greenway. This greenway extends to Windsor and Springettsbury Townships and connects Hellam Township and Hallam Borough. Throughout Hellam Township, the greenway is primarily in agricultural and wooded settings. The former York-Wrightsville Railroad corridor crosses this greenway in several locations.

Deep Run Greenway – Deep Run Greenway is tributary to the Codorus Creek Greenway and is located north of Druck Valley Road and along the northwest municipal boundary. This greenway is primarily in wooded settings with steep slopes along much of the corridor.

Trout Run Greenway – Trout Run is a stream that is tributary to Codorus Creek on the northwest side of the municipality. Trout Run is designated as a High Quality-Cold Water Fishes, while other streams in the study area are designated Warm Water Fishes. Trout Run is located entirely within woodlands which shades the stream and cools the waters, correlating to its higher water quality designation.

Greenways and Open Space Protection

The greenways in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough function primarily to protect natural area and resources. Preservation and protection of these greenway corridors is a goal of other regional and local planning initiatives. The greenways primarily traverse private lands. While public ownership is one way to protect the greenways and their underlying resources, few municipalities have the financial resources or the opportunity to acquire all of the land along a natural corridor. Working with willing landowners to protect land through conservation easements is a popular approach to conservation, while the land remains in private ownership. Chapter 4 – Open Space explores strategies for open space protection and conservation of natural resources.

It will take the cooperative efforts and long-term commitment of landowners, municipalities, the county, and land conservation organizations to fully protect the five greenways identified. The existing protected open space parcels and park site are the building blocks of a continuous network of protected green corridors. Protecting contiguous lands along the major greenway corridors is recommended as the highest priority for conservation. The rationale for starting with contiguous lands is based on the conservation principles stated by the *International Union for Conservation of Nature – 1980 World Conservation Strategy* which suggests that connected natural systems are ecologically more sustainable and important than unconnected systems. “If all else is equal, large reserves are better than small reserves; a single large reserve is better than several small ones of equivalent total area; reserves close together are better than reserves that are far apart; rounded reserves are better than long, thin ones; reserves clustered compactly are better than reserves in a line; and reserves that are connected by corridors are better than unconnected reserves.”¹

Mandatory Dedication

In addition to the open space strategies discussed in Chapter 4, one of the most successful means of acquiring land for recreation purposes, including trails is the mandatory dedication process. In 1989, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), Act. No. 170 of 1988 went into effect. This legislation provides municipalities with the authority to require the dedication of public land for recreation purposes. To comply with this legislation, municipalities must meet the following requirements:

1. Adopt a recreation plan that establishes open space standards and park service areas, identifies areas in need of open space, and includes a capital improvement program.
2. Develop a mandatory dedication ordinance that contains standards for determining the portion of a development to be dedicated and the amount, if any, of fee to be paid in lieu of land.
3. Create a separate interest bearing account for the placement of any collected fees.

The dedication of parkland is a mechanism that many municipalities use to ensure that future residents have adequate park and recreation opportunities by requiring developers to dedicate public open space within proposed developments. Both Hellam Township and Hallam Borough have mandatory dedication ordinances that requires the developer of subdivisions of one or more new

¹ Mark A. Benedict and Edward T. McMahon, *Green Infrastructure, Linking Landscapes and Communities* (Washington: Island Press, 2006), p.110.

dwelling units to dedicate parkland for recreation purposes. The ordinances require fees-in-lieu of land as an alternative to dedication, when approved by the municipalities.

Current Land Dedication Formula

The ordinances define the required parkland acreage to be dedicated per permitted dwelling unit as follows:

- Hellam Township – A minimum of 0.02 acres of park and/or open space shall be dedicated per dwelling unit.
- Hallam Borough – Required land must not exceed 0.02 acres of land for each lot or dwelling unit.

The characteristics of land suitable for dedication for recreation purposes should be defined by the ordinances.

- Hellam Township has an extensive listing of criteria for land suitable for dedication. The criteria defines access; configuration for use, protection of natural resources, and historic and archaeological sites; allowable amount of land constrained by floodplain, stormwater management facilities, and/or steep slopes; access to utilities; and promotes greenbelt linkage to parks and schools.
- Hallam Borough dedication criteria is limited to a generalized requirement that the land must be of suitable size, dimensions, topography, access, and general character for the proposed use.

Current Fee-in-Lieu Requirements

Fee-in-lieu of dedicating parkland or open space is defined by the ordinances as follows:

- Hellam Township – The fee is \$2,000 per dwelling unit.
- Hallam Borough – The fee is \$100 per lot or dwelling unit shown on the Final Plan.

Alternative Land Dedication Formula

One popular method to determine how much open space should be required in a subdivision is through a dwelling unit calculation using the nationally accepted standard of providing 10.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. To derive a per unit calculation using this methodology, the 1,000 population figure is divided by the municipality's 2010 U.S. Census average household size. The following calculation results:

- Hellam Township – 2010 Average Household Size: 2.47

$$1,000/2.47 \text{ persons per dwelling unit} = 405 \text{ dwellings}$$

Dividing this number by the desired 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents' yields this amount of land:

$$10.5 \text{ acres}/405 \text{ dwellings} = 0.026 \text{ acres/dwelling}$$

Example: For a subdivision of 50 homes, this 0.026 acre requirement would net 1.3 acres of parkland:

$$0.026 \text{ acres/dwelling} \times 50 \text{ dwellings} = 1.3 \text{ acres}$$

- Hallam Borough – 2010 Average Household Size: 2.22

$$1,000/2.22 \text{ persons per dwelling unit} = 450 \text{ dwellings}$$

Dividing this number by the desired 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents' yields this amount of land:

$$10.5 \text{ acres}/450 \text{ dwellings} = 0.023 \text{ acres/dwelling}$$

Example: For a subdivision of 50 homes, this 0.023 acre requirement would net 1.15 acres of parkland:

$$0.023 \text{ acres/dwelling} \times 50 \text{ dwellings} = 1.15 \text{ acres}$$

Using the same 50 homes with the current ordinances yields the following land dedication for both municipalities:

- Hellam Township and Hallam Borough –

$$0.02 \text{ acres/dwelling} \times 50 \text{ dwellings} = 1.0 \text{ acres}$$

The alternative land dedication formula relates to the Parkland Acreage Standard adopted by this recreation plan and is based on the latest U.S. Census data for average household size. The alternative formula yields parkland dedication acreage that exceeds the current ordinance provisions.

Alternative Fee-in-Lieu Calculation

When fee-in-lieu is preferred over land dedication the municipalities should require that the fee relate to the fair market value of the land to be dedicated.

Hallam Borough Example: Using the 1.15 acres of land dedication for a 50-unit subdivision, the developer should provide the Borough with an appraisal of the required 1.15-acre parcel. Therefore, if the land were appraised at \$50,000 per acre, the Borough would accept a \$57,500 fee in lieu of the land dedication. By contrast, the current requirement is \$100 per unit results in \$5,000 for the same 50 unit subdivision.

By tying the mandatory dedication fee-in-lieu to the fair market value of an acre of land and the average household size, the dedication of lands or fee will align with the changing real estate market. If the Borough prefers a dwelling unit calculation the calculation should relate to the fair market value and should be review and adjusted on an annual basis. The following calculation is based on \$50,000 per acre land appraisals:

Hallam Borough Example: Using the previous example of appraised land value of \$50,000 per acre translates as follows:

$$0.023 \text{ acres} \times \$50,000/\text{acre} = \$1,150/\text{dwelling unit fee-in-lieu amount.}$$

Alternative Land Type and Characteristic Requirements

Mandatory Dedication ordinances should provide concise criteria for land to be dedicated for parkland or open space. Hellam Township has defined criteria that relates to land characteristics and ties to other ordinance provisions. Hellam Township should consider expanding criteria for dedication of land for trail connections. Hallam Borough should amend the mandatory dedication ordinance to include specific criteria of land suitable for dedication. Following are suggested criteria for land to be dedicated for parkland and trails.

- The land is a minimum of five acres in size, contiguous in shape and has soil conditions for developing recreational facilities. The five acres relates to the size of a neighborhood park as defined by this Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Park and Recreation Classification System. The municipalities should require a fee-in-lieu for land areas less than five acres.
- The land is configured to include natural features worthy of preservation and protection.
- The land is easily and safely accessible from all areas of the subdivision with direct access to a public street and the minimum required lot width at the public street frontage. Sidewalk connections are provided where feasible. No roadways traverse the site.
- A maximum of 15% of the total site to be dedicated can consist of floodplain, wetlands, steep slopes (in excess of 8%), utility easements or right-of-ways, or other limiting features that render the lot un-developable.
- The land should be accessible to utilities such as sewer, water, and power. The municipalities should require that the developer extend utilities to the tract.
- The land should not contain stormwater facilities designed to detain, retain, or infiltrate stormwater.
- The land should, where possible, be located adjacent to existing parkland, protected open space, undeveloped tracts, or other dedicated lands to create a single, larger tract.
- The land to be dedicated may be incorporated in the trail system of the municipality, by means of a grant of right-of-way or easement to the municipality, shall be consistent in location, design, dimension, topography and route as is consistent with approved *Trail System Map* or recommended by the Board of Supervisors/Council. Lands to be dedicated for trails should be suitable for the development of a trail without extensive engineering and structures. Grant of rights-of-way or easements, intended to be incorporated in the trail system shall be not less than 20 feet wide and not more than 30 feet wide at any point along the length of said trail and shall include an additional 20 foot wide parallel construction easement along the length of said trail which shall automatically terminate upon the completion of construction of the same.

Existing and Potential Trails in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough

There is one regional trail in Hellam Township. There are numerous trail opportunities in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough. The trails are illustrated on the Greenway & Trail Map on page 6-23.

Existing and Planned Trails and Bicycle Routes

Mason Dixon Trail – The Mason Dixon Trail is a long distance footpath that extends 193 miles to connect the Appalachian Trail in Cumberland County with the Brandywine Trail in Chester County. The trail traverses the eastern portion of Hellam Township in close proximity to the Susquehanna River. The Mason Dixon Trail, in Hellam Township, is located within road rights-of-ways, with the exception of the segment that traverses Wilton Meadows Nature Preserve.



Susquehanna River Water Trail – The Susquehanna River Water Trail extends the length of the river in Pennsylvania. Hellam Township is located within the Lower Section of the water trail which extends 53 miles to the Mason Dixon Line. The Lower Section has been designated a National Recreation Trail by the National Park Service and a component of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

PA Highlands Trail – The PA Highlands Trail is a conceptual trail route that spans from the Delaware River at Riegelsville (D&L Trail) to the Susquehanna River at Wrightsville (Mason-Dixon Trail) and on to the Appalachian Trail and the Maryland Border. The trail is primarily within the Highlands Greenway, the eastern-most ridges of the Appalachian Mountains that form a greenbelt across south-central Pennsylvania and extend into New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut. The trail crosses from Lancaster County into York County on the Wrightsville – Columbia Bridge (Route 462) and joins with the Mason-Dixon Trail northern route which traverses Hellam Township. The Appalachian Mountain Club is leading the effort in Pennsylvania to develop the PA Highlands Trail.



Horn Farm Trail – The Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education master plan proposes a trail along Horn Road, extending from the Horn Farm Center to Accomac Road where it crosses beneath the Route 30 bridge and connect to Barshinger Fields/Hellam Township/Hallam Borough Regional Park.

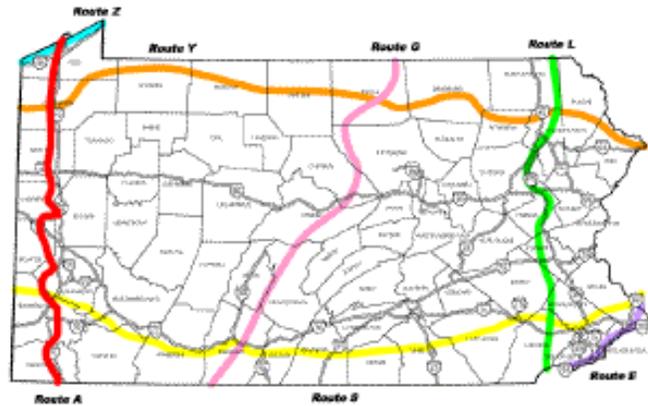


Hellam Township/Hallam Borough Regional Park Trail – The 2005 Regional Park Master Plan proposed a trail that extends from Accomac Road to Kreutz Creek Elementary School. The approximately 1.1 mile trail will be located primarily on municipal parkland and link the five individual tracts that comprise the park. Two access easements are required from private landowners to achieve full connection between Barshinger Field and the school. The trail encircling the existing fields on Tract #4 was developed in 2014.

Kreutz Creek Trail – An informal earthen trail extends along Kreutz Creek in Emig Park between the Prospect Street bridge and the Eastern York County Sewer Authority property. This trail follows the creek and the alignment of the Kreutz Creek sewer interceptor and provides access for fishing and nature study. Loop trail explore the floodplain area of the park.

Rocky Ridge County Park Trails – There are extensive trails located in Rocky Ridge County Park and the park master plan recommends a trailhead/parking area on Fahringer Drive at the eastern end of the park, in Hellam Township. This improvement would provide convenient access to Rocky Ridge Park trails to Hellam Township and Hallam Borough residents.

BicyclePA Route S – Seven bicycle routes traverse the Commonwealth as on-road routes designated for experienced riders. BicyclePA Route S is the longest route traversing the southern portion of the State. Route S extends 435 miles from the Washington County at the West Virginia border to the New Jersey border near Washington Crossing, Bucks County. In the study area, Route S is on Route 462.



Potential Trails and Bicycle Routes

Codorus Navigation Trail – The Codorus Navigation Trail is identified in the York County Trail Plan as a potential trail along the Codorus Creek. The trail follows the route of the historic Codorus Navigation Canal and will provide opportunities to interpret remnants of canal structures. The trail would extend from the Springettsbury Township border to the Susquehanna River and provide access to the historic Codorus Furnace. The trail may be limited to a footpath in portions of Hellam Township due to the steep terrain.

Codorus Water Trail – The York County Trail Plan identified the Codorus Water Trail. Seasonally and in periods of high water Codorus Creek draws paddlers from the region to kayak and canoe the white water from Springettsbury Township to the Susquehanna River. Currently paddlers begin in Rudy Park, or near the Springettsbury Township Sewage Treatment Plant on Route 24, and take out at the Codorus Road bridge or Codorus Furnace. There are no formal trailheads currently developed for this water trail.



York-Wrightsville Rail-Trail/Kreutz Creek Trail – The York – Wrightsville Rail Trail follows six miles of the abandoned railroad that ran between Wrightsville to the City of York. The rail corridor has reverted to adjoining landowners but is considered a possible recreation trail conversion project because the number of property owners along the corridor is relatively few and several of the rail structures remain and may be able to be repurposed for trail use. The rail corridor, in general, aligns with Kreutz Creek, which flows from west to east in the same valley. The creek has a meandering path and crosses the rail corridor in several locations. Hellam Township has a riparian buffer requirement of 100-feet from the edge of streams. This riparian area may be appropriate for trail

development. A feasibility study should be undertaken to determine if there are willing landowners along the former railroad alignment or land within Kreutz Creek’s riparian buffer area that is compatible with recreation trail development. A trail along these corridors would link Hallam Borough and Emig Park to Wrightsville Borough and Riverfront Park and provide non-motorized access to the Susquehanna River.

Market Street to Emig Park Trail – A small tributary to Kreutz Creek extends from north of Route 462 in the area of Prospect Street in Hallam Borough, somewhat parallel to Prospect Street south to Emig Park. This stream corridor includes stormwater management facilities associated with the residential development to the east. Permission of the homeowners association will be necessary to traverse this property. The stream corridor provides a continuous green connection between Forry Avenue and Emig Park and, if a trail connection could be secured from private landowners between Forry Avenue and Market Street, the community’s primary sidewalk system would link to Emig Park. The development of this trail connection is important to provide a safe linkage to the park and to create trail loops within the Borough.



Kreutz Creek Trail Extension – The Kreutz Creek sewer interceptor extends west of Prospect Street along Kreutz Creek with lateral connections that extend to the Beaver Street Ball Fields – East between Franklin Street and Emig Street. This extension of the Kreutz Creek Trail could provide a continuous trail connecting these two park site and has the potential to connect to the York Wrightsville Rail-Trail, south of the Eastern York County Sewer Authority facility.

Route 462 Bike Lanes – Route 462 is a popular roadway for cycling and designated as BicyclePA Route S. This roadway is under PennDOT jurisdiction and has a consistent 50-foot right-of-way in both Hellam Township and Hallam Borough. The vehicular lanes in the area of the Township building measure 10-foot wide with a center 10-foot turning lane for a total cartway width of 30-feet. The paved shoulders measure five foot in the west bound side and seven foot on the east bound side of the cartway. Route 462 is developed without curb or gutter and parking is not permitted along the roadway outside of the Borough. In the Borough, east of Emig Street and west of Wilson Lane, the roadway is stripped with two travel lanes and parking on both sides of the road with curb. The width of the right-of-way and current road stripping configuration presents an opportunity to develop bike lanes along the roadway.



Codorus - Rocky Ridge Trail – The York County Trail Plan identifies the opportunity of developing a trail that connects Rocky Ridge Park to the Mason Dixon Trail. The trail alignment exits the northeast area of Rocky Ridge Park and follows the rights-of-way of Druck Valley Road and Tower Road to the intersection with Codorus Furnace Road where the Mason Dixon Trail route is located. If the trail cannot be developed within the public right-of-way, easements would be required from willing private landowners to develop the trail.

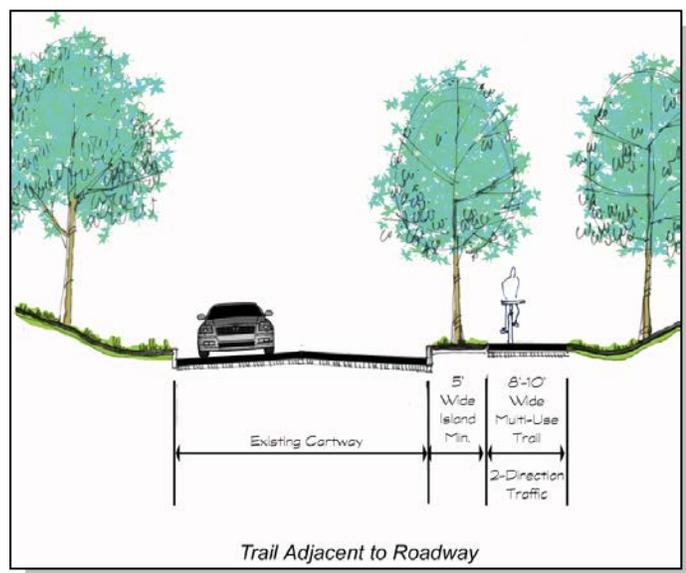
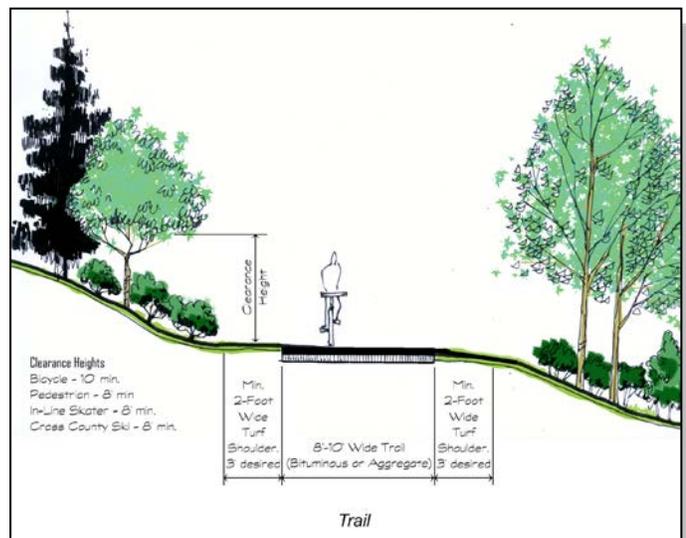
Expanding the Trail System

The diverse setting of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough with developed neighborhoods, suburban residential areas, and farmland will require a varied approach to create a comprehensive network of trails. When new development is planned, trails and trail links should be incorporated into the development from the outset. In existing neighborhoods and built areas, a variety of solutions may be needed. Following are facilities that should be considered to enhance community mobility.

Sidewalks – Sidewalks present one level of solution for enhancing mobility, but only accommodate pedestrians. To truly enhance mobility in a community, trails of sufficient width to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists are needed. The majority of the streets in the Borough are developed with sidewalk while the majority of the Township streets do not include sidewalks.

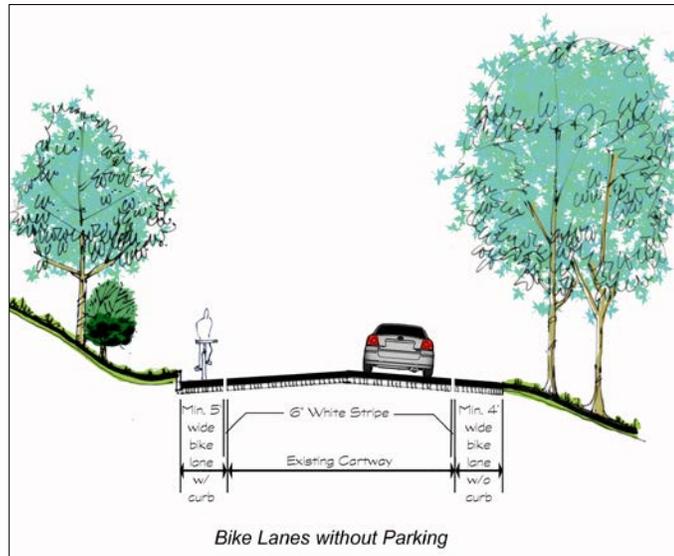
Trails – Typically, the preferred configuration for a trail is a separate corridor that extends from point A to point B. Safety is enhanced when trails are separated from roadways and road crossings are minimized. Community trails should be multipurpose for both pedestrians and bicycles. Recommended width for a shared use trail with two-directional traffic is 8-12-feet. Trails may follow a stream corridor or a utility right-of-way, or run cross-country following no physical feature at all. Because trails are typically outside of public rights-of-ways, access easement will be required where trails are not on public land.

Trails Adjacent to Roadways – Trails adjacent to roadways are typically located within the road right-of-way. A



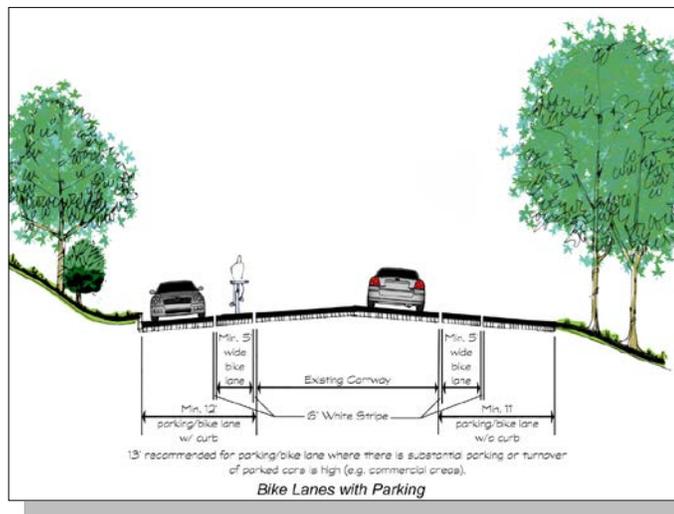
grass strip of at least 5-feet wide should separate the trail from the roadway where possible. Trails adjacent to roadways are suggested along roads that do not have adjoining sidewalks and the physical area to develop a separate trail is available.

Bike Lanes without Parking – There may be areas of the communities where sufficient physical space is not available to develop a trail. Some of these areas may have wide roadways with adequate right-of-way width to allow the development of bike lanes within the road cartway adjacent to the travel lanes. Bike lanes should be developed on both sides of a two-way street, separated from the vehicular cartway by a 6" white stripe. Bike lanes carry bike traffic in the same direction as the adjacent vehicular traffic. The recommended minimum width of a bike lane is 4' on streets without curb or gutter and 5' from the face of a curb.



The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities should be referenced when designing on-road bicycle facilities. Bike lanes provide a travel route for bicycles but do not provide accommodations for pedestrians. In areas where sidewalks exist, bike lanes can expand the network by providing a dedicated location for bicyclists. Where sidewalks are not provided a separate multi-use trail is preferred to accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists. Bike lanes effectively narrow a street and provide a traffic calming effect as motorists typically drive slower on narrower cartways.

Bike Lanes with Parking – Parking is permitted on many of the residential streets in the Borough. To expand the connectivity of the trail network for cyclists, bike lanes are often developed between the parking aisle and the vehicle cartway on streets with parking where certain spatial parameters exist. The adjacent sketch shows the dimensions provided in the AASHTO guidelines for bike lanes on streets with on-street parking.



There is an inherent danger associated with bike travel in the “door zone” of parked cars and the topic of bike lanes on streets that allow on-street parking is controversial, with diverse views that relate to safety. Car doors opening into bike lanes present a significant safety concern for cyclists. When cyclists encounter a door opening in their path of travel they must either stop short or swerve into the vehicle travel lane to avoid the

open door. Cyclists have been injured and killed trying to avoid an open car door or hitting an open door. The possibility of a door zone related crash is highest in locations with high parking turnover, such as a main street or in commercial districts.

Various techniques have been experimented with in communities to reduce door zone accidents such as wider bike lanes, pavement markings and warning signs, and in some communities shared lane pavement marking are used. Hellam Township and Hallam Borough should consider the expanded mobility opportunities associated with bike lanes as well as the associated safety issues. Each potential bike lane location should be analyzed for compatibility with existing conditions. Additional study should also investigate roadway width, linkages to other segments of the trail system, if stormwater inlets have bicycle grates, pavement markings commonly used in the region, and other factors that affect safety.

Signed Shared Roadways – The roadways in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough have not been designed with bicyclists in mind. In Pennsylvania, a bicycle is considered a vehicle and must conform to the rules and regulations that apply to all vehicles as well as specific requirements for bicycles. There are accommodations that can make a roadway more compatible with bicycle travel. Signing or marking a road for shared use is a common design feature that enhances bicycle use. The AASHTO guidelines note the following reasons for developing a signed bike route:



- The route provides continuity to other bicycle facilities such as bike lanes and shared use paths.
- The road is a common route for bicyclists through a high demand corridor.
- In rural areas, the route is preferred for bicycling due to low motor vehicle traffic volume or paved shoulder availability.
- The route extends along local neighborhood streets and collectors that lead to an internal neighborhood destination such as a park, school, or commercial district.

The circumstances described above align with some of the roadways in Hellam Township popular with bicyclists, such as Codorus Furnace Road, Tower Road, Accomac Road, Dark Hollow Road, and Freysville Road.

The two signs at the right are used in Pennsylvania to designate a shared road roadway. In April of 2012 Pennsylvania enacted a new law to enhance bicycle safety, requiring drivers to provide a 4-foot comfort zone when passing on the left of bicyclists.



Another method of signing a roadway that emerged in recent years and is becoming more popular is the installation of “sharrow” markings on roadway pavement. A sharrow is a shared lane marking that is often installed on roadways that are popular with bicyclists but too narrow or inappropriate for bike lanes. The sharrow indicates where bicyclists should ride to avoid traveling in the door zone of parked cars and alerts motorists of bicycle traffic. Sharrows are typically installed 11-feet from the curb, which provides approximately 4-foot clearance from parked cars. Sharrow markings are intended to improve the position of the bicyclists and motorists on roads without bike lanes, alert motorists, deter aggressive motorist behavior, encourage correct bicycle travel, and encourage bicycle use.

Other roadway improvements that enhance shared road bicycle travel include bicycle-safe drainage grates, paved shoulders, flush bridge expansion joints, improved railroad crossings, controlled intersections with lights, and wide curb lanes.



Greenways & Trails Analysis

Strengths

There is significant community interest in the development of trails for biking and hiking. Local enthusiasts enjoy cycling on Hellam Township’s rural roads and PA Route 462 and the Township is a regional destination for on-road biking. In addition to on-road biking opportunities, the communities include numerous opportunities for developing trails.

There is a noticeable appreciation for open space and conservation in the communities and conservation of natural resources is supported by Hellam Township’s ordinances. The Township is fortunate to have retained extensive wooded cover within large tracts. This continuous wooded canopy and stream riparian corridors are afforded limited protection by ordinance provisions. Hellam Township’s Susquehanna River corridor is part of the largest greenway in the Commonwealth, the Susquehanna Greenway. Other important green resources to include Codorus Creek and Kreutz Creek were identified as potential greenway corridors in other planning documents.

Challenges

Access and ownership are the greatest challenges to trail development and greenway conservation. The two communities have the natural and manmade infrastructure for the development of trails, but much of the land associated with these resources is privately owned. Likewise, while conservation is embraced locally, conservation efforts is primarily dependent on the actions of landowners.

Opportunities

The public input process found that there is broad public support for trails and there are numerous opportunities for trail development in the communities. The parks provide a good location to begin trail development and create momentum for long distance, interconnecting trails throughout the

communities. The Borough has an extensive sidewalk system and linking park trails to the sidewalk system and creating close to home walking opportunities will be important building blocks for a comprehensive trail and greenway system. Greenways corridors exist in the community providing the foundation for conservation efforts. Collaboration with the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area, and others will advance greenway conservation goals.

Recommendations

1. Coordinate greenway and trail planning and development with regional partners and stakeholders.

- Coordinate with the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area, York County Planning Commission, and the York County Rail Trail Authority regarding greenway and trail planning efforts and initiatives in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough.
- Coordinate with the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. regarding planning efforts and initiatives for the PA Highlands Trail and Mason-Dixon Trail. Seek trail route modifications that will move the Mason-Dixon Trail off-road through the cooperation of willing landowners.
- Coordinate with York County and adjacent municipalities regarding greenway and trail initiatives that could extend regionally. Forward this Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan to entities responsible for regional and municipal plans to promote coordination and incorporation of initiatives into regional implementation efforts.
 - Coordinate with Springettsbury Township and East Manchester Township regarding the Codorus Creek Greenway, Codorus Navigation Trail, and the Codorus Water Trail.
 - Coordinate with Springettsbury Township, Windsor Township, and Wrightsville Borough regarding the Kreutz Creek Greenway.
 - Coordinate with Wrightsville Borough regarding the York-Wrightsville Rail-Trail/Kreutz Creek Trail.
- Coordinate with the Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education regarding the development of the Horn Farm Trail and connection to Barshinger Fields/Regional Park.
- Coordinate with the Eastern York Sewer Authority regarding the development of Kreutz Creek Trail within Emig Park and the possible extension, west and north to the Beaver Street Ball Fields – East.
- Coordinate with PennDOT regarding the feasibility of developing bike lanes on PA Route 462 in the two municipalities.
- Work with Eastern York School District to explore pedestrian and bicycle linkages from school sites to trail corridors and sidewalks.

- Work with PennDOT and municipal public works departments to provide bicycle and pedestrian friendly facilities and accommodations when public roads and bridges are upgraded or replaced.
- Communicate with York County Parks and Recreation Department about the desire to develop the eastern Rocky Ridge Park trailhead to provide convenient access to Rocky Ridge Park trails from the east.

2. Undertake initiatives that set the stage for the successful development of greenways and trails.

- Work to raise public awareness about the benefits of greenways and trails throughout the project area through a targeted public awareness campaign. The Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board should lead this effort.
- Develop trails within municipal parks to expand the municipal trail system and provide trail opportunities as a means to create momentum for trail initiatives and a broader understanding of trail benefits. Prioritize trail development in Regional Park and Emig Park.
- Undertake improvements to make parks and other public lands convenient for bicycle use by providing bike racks.
- Use the Hellam Township Official Map as a tool to acquire and extend trails throughout the community. Review and update the Official Map annually.
- Expand the trail network through the land development process.
 - Amend the mandatory dedication of open space provisions to permit the dedication of land for trails.
 - Seek rights-of-ways and conservation and access easements from developers when new residential subdivisions and land developments are proposed along designated greenway corridors and in areas designated for trails or trail links.

3. Develop a greenway and trail network that protects the green corridors and linear natural resources of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough and connects neighborhood, parks, schools, and community destinations.

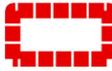
- Explore creation of a greenway and trail system for Hellam Township and Hallam Borough composed of greenways, bicycle routes, bike lanes, multi-purpose trails, and trail links that connect with hubs. Appoint the Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board to champion this effort.
- Seek conservation easements to protect and buffer natural resources along designated greenway corridors.
- Complete a feasibility study that explores the potential to develop the York-Wrightsville Rail-Trail/Kreutz Creek Trail. Coordinate this effort with the York County Rail Trail Authority and Wrightsville Borough. Seek funding for the study from the PA DCNR.

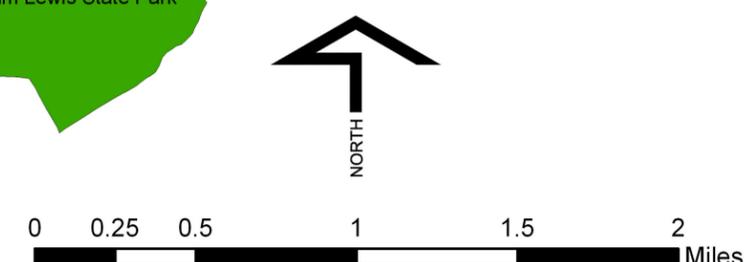
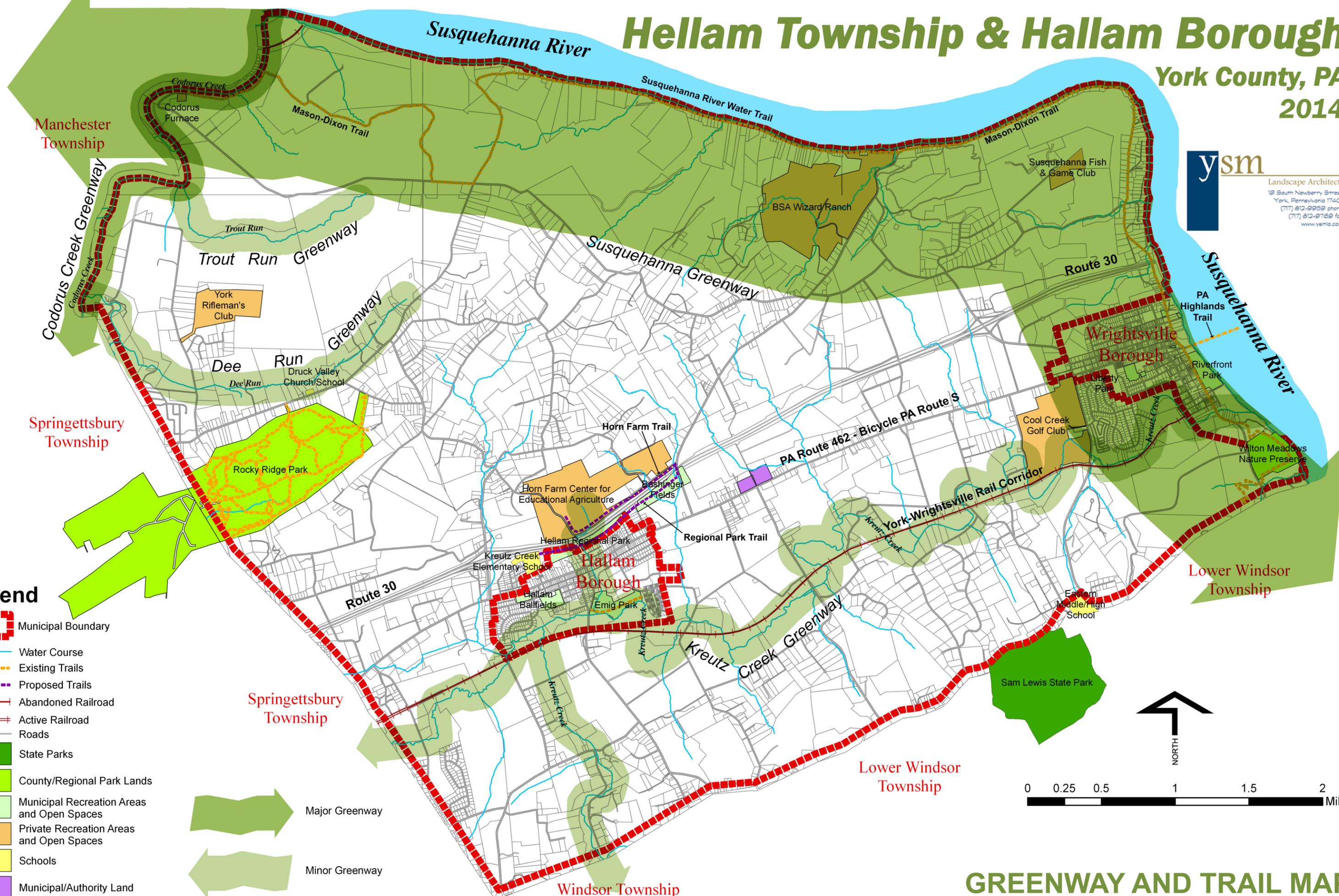
- Complete a feasibility study that explores the potential modification of PA Route 462 within the municipalities to incorporate bike lanes.
- Complete a feasibility study that explores trail extensions from Emig Park to include the Market Street to Emig Park Trail and the Kreutz Creek Trail Extension.
- Evaluate local roads in terms of bicycle and pedestrian compatibility, working with transportation engineers familiar with bicycle and pedestrian facility development and integration of bicycle facilities and accommodations into existing roadway networks.
- Develop trails based on the recommendations and guidelines presented in the Statewide Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan and AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.

Hellam Township & Hallam Borough

York County, PA
2014

ysm
Landscape Architects
19 South Newberry Street
York, Pennsylvania 17401
(717) 812-9959 phone
(717) 812-9769 fax
www.ysmla.com

- Legend**
-  Municipal Boundary
 -  Water Course
 -  Existing Trails
 -  Proposed Trails
 -  Abandoned Railroad
 -  Active Railroad
 -  Roads
 -  State Parks
 -  County/Regional Park Lands
 -  Municipal Recreation Areas and Open Spaces
 -  Private Recreation Areas and Open Spaces
 -  Schools
 -  Municipal/Authority Land
-  Major Greenway
-  Minor Greenway



GREENWAY AND TRAIL MAP

Chapter 7 – Programs & Services

With its riverfront location, abundant natural resources, and scenic beauty, the Hellam community is the kind of place where people can enjoy nature and live active healthy lifestyles. This is evident in the everyday vignettes of citizens of all ages walking, bicycling, fishing, and playing in the parks year round.

In this close-knit community, examples abound of people pitching in to make recreation happen. As customary in rural communities, organized recreation is rooted in community volunteerism. Volunteers here range from individuals, organized sports groups, and non-profit organizations to the business community where recreation is a key factor in economic development, such as tourism and nature-based recreation. This chapter focuses on trends, current recreation services, needs, and future directions.

What is Recreation?

Recreation is the voluntary participation in any activity that contributes to the improvement of the general health and wellbeing of both the individual and society.

Trends & Influences

Recreation Trends

Public recreation trends are those changes that go beyond fads and that have affected society so much that they are now a part of our culture. Today public recreation is viewed by major forces at regional, state, and federal levels as a means to achieve important public policy objectives, including the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Pennsylvania's state tourism and economic development planning, anti-crime agencies, educational systems, and environmental organizations. Programs and activities that directly affect the health of the residents of the community, connect them with nature, and require minimum support to maintain those services, is becoming a principal mission of many public park and recreation organizations. Trends include the following:

- Nearly half of all Americans say they spend time together outdoors at least once a month. Recreation is important to families with young children.
- While participation among children and young adults remained steady, participation among adolescents dropped, dragged down by low participation among adolescent girls.
- Participation in outdoor recreation among youth ages 6 to 12 declined from 78 percent in 2006 to 63 percent in 2012.¹

¹ The Outdoor Foundation's 2013 Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report (www.outdoorfoundation.org/pdf/ResearchParticipation2013Topline.pdf).

- Today, 66% of all Americans recreate outdoors monthly. In 1994 only 50% did.
- In 2011, outdoor recreation had the highest participation level in over five years. 2011 was the first year since 2006 in which participation in outdoor recreation among boys increased. 2001 also recorded the highest levels of participation in outdoor recreation by girls. It's a family activity, as 73 percent of adults reported being married or with a committed partner.²
- Running, including jogging and trail running, is the most popular activities among Americans when measured by number of participants and by number of total annual outings.
- The outdoor participation rate among adolescent boys ages 13 to 17 continued to rise in 2012, adding three-percentage points in the past two years.
- Outdoor participation rates declined among adolescent girls. With just over half of adolescent girls participating in outdoor recreation, the participation rate is the lowest recorded since this report began in 2006.
- Youth who do not participate in outdoor activities say they are not interested in the outdoors. For young adults, lack of time is a bigger barrier than lack of interest.
- Introducing outdoor recreation and physical activities early in life has a lasting effect. Among adults who are current outdoor participants, 75 percent had physical education and 42 percent enjoyed outdoor activities in elementary school.
- Sports are played throughout four seasons. The Hellam area has spring and fall baseball and softball and year round soccer.
- Today's seniors, with extensive free time, unprecedented good health, and solid retirement plans are indulging in active lifestyles. For example, the target cycling market of the \$6.5 billion bicycling industry is people between the ages of 35 and 54. The National Senior Games is reporting a bumper crop of participants over 100 years of age.
- Baby Boomers represent the major planning challenge for parks and recreation. They are more active, well educated, and healthier than previous generations and are more involved in recreational pursuits. The sheer number of baby boomers will require more facilities and services than did previous generations of people over the age of 60.



² Outdoor Foundation. 2012 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report. Boulder, CO: Outdoor Foundation. p2.

- Generation M (born 1981 – 1993) represent the group of young people who live a media-saturated life (M for media). This generation is exposed to 8 ½ hours of media daily. The actual time spent is 6 ½ hours daily with the remaining two hours accrued through simultaneous multiple media use (e.g. video gaming and music listening)³.
- Recreation preferences are moving from organized scheduled programs to self-directed opportunities.

Natural Resource Protection and Stewardship Trends

The President's Commission: Americans Outdoors⁴ issued a report that stated that the protection of natural resources and open space was the first priority for the future. Public recreation is positioned to lead in land stewardship because collectively, public parks and recreation departments are often one of the largest land managers in a community. Linking parks together with green corridors and trails and linking public transportation systems with trails, parks, and recreation facilities is crucial. Much of the new park land acquisition that is desired today appears to be of this type, developing linear green spaces designed to link people using foot and bicycle transportation to parks, to shopping, and to other neighborhoods.



Challenges of the Times

The United States Surgeon General issued a report stating that physical inactivity among Americans is the number one public health issue.⁵ The incidence of obesity in the United States has soared from 13 percent to 34 percent over the last 50 years, while the percentage of Americans who are extremely or "morbidly" obese has rocketed from 0.9 percent to 6 percent. Michelle Obama's campaign to eliminate childhood obesity has had positive results in all but three states. Pennsylvania is one of only three states in which obesity rates among children and youth continue to climb. Although the epidemic of obesity is well known, the costs of treating disease resulting from obesity are not. The costs are significantly greater than estimated even a few years ago: \$190 billion in annual medical costs are due to obesity, double earlier estimates. The annual health care costs associated with diseases, such as diabetes, stroke, and heart disease do not even include the cost of treating the obesity itself.⁶

³ Rideout, Victoria; Roberts, Donald; and Foehr, Ulla. **Generation M: Media in the Lives of 8-18 Year Olds**. Kasier Family Foundation Study. 2005. Pp 39-40.

⁴ President's Commission on Americans Outdoors. (1987) *Americans Outdoors: The Legacy, The Challenge*. Washington D.C. U.S. Department of the Interior

⁵ Surgeon General. (1996). Physical Activity and Health. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Public Health Service, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. <[Http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/sgr/npai.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/sgr/npai.htm)>.

⁶ O'Grady, Michael. (2012) *Assessing the Economics of Obesity*. Princeton, NJ: Roberth Wood Johnson Foundation. [p3.

Another challenge facing both private enterprise and all arenas of public recreation is that the growing demand for facilities is outpacing availability and the resources to develop and manage new ones. Combined with rapid development in the metropolitan areas of Pennsylvania, the available open space is dwindling and land costs are escalating. Public recreation opportunities in the future may be limited because of large demand and/or tight budget constraints. Evidence of this with respect to sports fields and gyms exists here in the Hellam community.

It will become increasingly important to find creative ways of bringing recreation opportunities and facilitating healthy active lifestyles for citizens in the future. Consideration needs to be given to the perception of “senior citizen” centers with respect to what will be in demand in the future. While senior centers have been in operation for many years, the trend now is to plan community recreation centers that people use throughout their lifetime and on an expanded basis upon retirement.

Recreation Needs and Interests in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough

Understanding the public’s underlying motivation for recreation will help Hellam Township and Hellam Borough to plan and be responsive to the needs of citizens of all ages. It will also help to tap into the growing tourism sector in the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area. The following trends and issues emerged from the public participation process:

- The Hellam Recreation Commission is the primary provider of public community recreation services including organized sports and the annual carnival.
- Programs have traditionally been focused on youth, outdoors, and sports.
- The Horn Farm Foundation has introduced a new area of community recreation based on the agricultural heritage of the area and helping people to get outside using trails, learning about the rich agricultural heritage, and enjoying nature close to home.
- Volunteers provide most of the organized programs and services.
- The need to collaborate was a consistent message among all those involved in the planning process for this plan.
- Resource-based recreation opportunities are important here including hunting, fishing, hiking, boating, and camping. The proximity to state parks, forests, and game lands makes these activities convenient for residents.



- The YMCA established a presence in the community using the Children’s Home. The YMCA has not found a strong enough base of support yet, to construct an independent facility in the eastern portion of York County.
- Environmental education for all ages is emerging as a recreational interest. York County Parks Department could be a fine partner in this effort.
- More parkland and active recreation facilities are needed, especially ball fields, game courts, and trails.

Community Recreation Services in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough

A variety of recreation programs, services, and opportunities are available in the region. As in rural communities statewide, municipally sponsored parks and recreation activities are limited.

York County Parks Department

York County has 11 parks including the well-known Heritage Rail Trail Park. The department’s mission is to enhance the quality of community life and act as a steward for the environment. In this capacity, the department acquires, conserves, and manages park lands and offers a variety of recreational and educational opportunities.

York County Area Agency on Aging

The Area Agency on Aging supports senior centers in the area, including in Wrightsville, Red Lion, and York. Daily activities include computer lessons, exercise, chorus, local shopping, bingo, pinochle tournaments, entertainment, and informational speakers.

Municipal Recreation

The Hellam Recreation Commission offers organized sports and the Hellam Recreation Carnival. About 900 participants are involved in the organized sports provided by the Hellam Recreation Commission. These include:

Soccer – 600 boys and girls ages 6 to 14. 300 play in the spring and 300 in the fall.

Baseball – 100 participants playing in spring and fall leagues. About 98 play in the spring and 24 in the fall. Fall is new and expects to increase in participation.

Softball – Girls from ages 5 to 14 play on seven teams in the spring and two teams in the fall. About 135 participants are involved.

Basketball – 100 players are in the basketball league.



Horseshoes – About 24 players pitch horseshoes in the ten-week league. They are primarily in their 70’s while a few twenty-something’s also participate. The league also sponsors a horseshoe tournament at the Hellam Recreation Carnival.

Eastern York County Sports League

Local residents participate in the lacrosse program offer by this league.

Hellam Recreation Carnival

The Hellam Recreation Commission sponsors the Hellam Recreation Carnival, a four-day event. It includes activities, rides, food, the horseshoe tournament, and entertainment.



Non-Profit Organizations

Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education – The Horn Farm Center was founded as a non-profit, 501c3 organization in 2004 on the 187-acre County-owned Horn Farm in the heart of Hellam Township’s farmland, not far from Hallam Borough. Its mission is to showcase the past, present, and future of York County agriculture. By bringing people together to directly experience sustainable agriculture, the Center promotes the rich agricultural heritage of the County and the fundamental importance of local agriculture to the health and wellbeing of the local community, its economy, and the environment. The Center’s Incubator Farms Project ‘grows’ new farmers by providing infrastructure and support for these farmers, who will move on after several years to establish their own small scale sustainable farms. The Community Gardens Project provides over 100 plots for county residents to grow their own chemical-free vegetables, flowers, and herbs. In addition, the Center sponsors many agriculture-related educational events for the public. The Center leases over 100 acres to a local farming family; this provides income to supplement that obtained from a Horn family endowment and from grants, donations, and other fundraising. Part-time staff include an Interim Executive Director, a Farm Manager, and a Bookkeeper. Volunteer support is strong and growing.

Both Hellam Township and York County are extremely supportive of the Center, with the Township providing a small annual donation and the County allowing the Center to retain lease income. An important public use that ties into the top recreational interests of the local citizens is trails for walking, and the Center has several short trails on site with plans for more extensive trails in the future.



YMCA of York – The YMCA provides programs and services based in the Children’s Home.

Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area – The Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area offers outdoor recreation and arts and cultural heritage programs for both residents and tourists. Their goal is to connect people to the river and local history through outdoor recreation.

Recreation Program and Service Analysis

Recreation programs and services are important in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough. They are vital to both the quality of life here as well as for economic development in terms of tourism and attracting and retaining businesses and residents in the area. The analysis of recreation programs and services in the community found the following:

Strengths

- The Township and the Borough have found an effective way to collaborate in providing community sports programs and the important Hellam Recreation Carnival. In this public-private partnership with the Hellam Recreation Commission, the municipalities provide an annual contribution that the organization uses to leverage additional revenue and volunteer support from private sources, including fees, charges, and fundraising.
- Recreation programs and services are volunteer-based. The organized recreation programs are primarily oriented toward youth and sports. In addition to youth sports, the Recreation Commission sponsors the adult horseshoe league which is treasured in the community. It serves adults over age 70 and a few people in their 20’s.
- Plentiful opportunities for nature-based recreation exist in the county parks not far from Hellam Township and Hallam Borough.
- While tourism opportunities in the area are very important, the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area and the York County Convention and Visitors Bureau are responsible for this. Since Hellam Township and Hallam Borough offer potential tourism destinations with the parks, the Susquehanna River, and the town center with its service-oriented businesses, they will play a support role in regional tourism. The ball fields also provide a destination for sports tournaments, a growing segment of the tourism market in Pennsylvania.

Tourism is the second leading industry in Pennsylvania.

- Not all recreation needs to be provided through organized programs. The addition of facilities, such as gathering places, trails, playgrounds, and making the parks “park-like”, can help the citizens expand recreation opportunities exponentially without added program staff – and are free to the public 365 days a year.

Challenges

- Sports are played in multiple seasons and are no longer relegated to one traditional season such as spring baseball and fall soccer. As a result, there are user conflicts in use of facilities. New leagues are emerging, such as lacrosse. The need for sports fields is especially pressing.
- Additional parkland is needed to add recreation facilities (especially sports fields) to support increasing participation in sports as well as new sports leagues.
- Indoor recreation facilities are needed for year-round active, healthy living. Long term, planning for senior adults needs to focus on intergenerational centers rather than the stand-alone senior centers.
- Municipal contributions to the Recreation Commission have fluctuated over the last five years. It is important for the Recreation Commission to provide information on a regular basis including an annual report on the achievements of the organization and the benefits it provides to the community. In an era of decreasing government support, it is important for organizations using public funding to make the case for their services in order to build support and sustainability.

It costs \$36,000 a year to incarcerate one youth. That is more than one hundred times the cost of public recreation over the offender's lifetime.

Opportunities

- The Susquehanna River is becoming a more important and available recreation resource. More needs to be done in terms of creating opportunities for river recreational use. Tapping the river for expanded recreation would be a tremendous asset in the community for residents and visitors alike.
- Working in partnership with organizations such as the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area, the Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education, York County Parks, and York County Planning Commission will help to advance recreation experiences for the residents of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough.
- Establish the role of the Township and the Borough in recreation programs and services as follows:
 - **Facilitator of Recreation Programs and Services** in supporting the efforts of other providers. In terms of facilitation, the Township and the Borough would continue to provide financial support to the Hellam Recreation Commission, for use by this community-based organizations to provide recreation programs and services. The Township and the Borough will not provide any recreation programs and services directly. That will continue to be a responsibility of the Hellam Recreation Commission.
 - **Promoter of Recreation Opportunities** in advertising the parks, recreation facilities, and services offered by community-based recreation organizations.

Chapter 8 – The Plan

Nestled alongside the Susquehanna River, Hellam Township and Hallam Borough feature the bucolic beauty of the countryside surrounding a charming town center. The communities treasure their scenic rural character. Citizens have worked long and hard to protect the woodlands, farmland, and natural resources by planning and implementing progressive open space conservation measures. This **Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan** is one more way in which elected and appointed officials and the citizens joined forces in adopting a strategy to further conserve Hellam Township's and Hallam Borough's scenic beauty and rural character, while providing opportunities for active healthy living.

What Works Well

Hallam Township and Hallam Borough have collaborated for many years on issues and opportunities of mutual interest in a partnership that can serve as a model of intermunicipal cooperation statewide. By joining forces and working with community volunteers, the Township and the Borough have found ways of providing recreation opportunities, programs, and services through public-private partnerships and a combination of municipal and private funding. The joint planning efforts help the communities to make the best use of limited staff and budgets.

The citizens have access to recreation and nature-oriented programs through important community-based organizations. The Hellam Recreation Commission is made up of volunteers. They leverage an annual contribution from the Township and the Borough to generate volunteer support and private funds to provide youth sports and the Hellam Recreation Carnival. The Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education is a private, non-profit, community-based organization that offers a variety of agriculture and nature-based recreation programs and experiences. This organization is relatively new and their programs are expanding.

The public supports the parks, recreation, and open space. Through public outreach for this **Plan**, the citizens indicated that:

- They want to use community parks to walk, hike, experience nature, and get to the river.
- They think that it is important or very important for the Township and the Borough to offer a variety of recreation facilities and opportunities in the community.
- The highest priorities for parks, recreation, and open space over the next ten years should be improvements to existing facilities, trails, open space conservation, and access to natural areas.
- Organized sports are very important to children and families.
- The majority of respondents in the online survey indicated that they are willing to pay more to support parks and recreation.

By working together on projects identified as priorities in an adopted plan, developed with a foundation of public participation, Hellam Township and Hallam Borough will be more competitive for grant funding.

Challenges

As small municipalities with limited staff and budgets, implementing a parks, recreation, and open space plan will require time, a variety of support mechanisms, and momentum rooted in small successes over time. Every accomplishment, no matter its size, will help to advance parks, recreation, and open space in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough. While some projects would be expensive, others are not and just require the continued efforts of community volunteers and the support of the municipalities. Things to focus on include:

Organizing for Implementation – It is important to build momentum for implementation by undertaking specific actions upon plan adoption. The establishment of a multi-municipal parks, recreation and open space board would be an important means to oversee plan implementation.

Branding the Woodlands – Establishing a “brand” for the community’s woodlands will help the citizens to identify with the importance of protecting the important natural resources and scenic character of the community. Zero in on a specific goal for the percentage of the undeveloped land to preserve. Setting a goal like this will help citizens to understand and rally them around working toward accomplishing it.

Consider a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Referendum – Make a decision about going before the voters regarding securing a bond or loan for parks, recreation, and open space. Plan and run a campaign to generate support and voter turnout for the initiative.

Taking Care of Existing Facilities and Improving What We Have – Maintenance is the single most costly function of parks and recreation. Effective maintenance is, in the long run, the least expensive way to care for public facilities. Repairing facilities on an emergency basis costs seven times as much as regular routine maintenance. Ensuring that adequate support for park maintenance is crucial.

Securing Grants – For capital improvements, land acquisition, and open space conservation, tracking funding sources and applying for grants will be essential as township and borough resources alone would never be enough.

A Model to Consider

The Trust for Public Land and the National Recreation and Park Association provide insight into the factors that contribute to the success of public parks and recreation systems. They can serve as a model for Hellam Township and Hallam Borough as follows:

1. The park must rank high on the political agenda to get funded.¹

¹ Harnik, Peter. (2000) **Inside City Parks**. Washington, D.C.: Trust for Public Land. p xi.

2. The public is involved in the planning, design, and operation of the park.
3. The design conveys a strong vision and purpose for the park.
4. The park is programmed with a variety of many activities for visitors of all ages.
5. The park and all of its facilities are clean. Clean, attractive appearance is crucial to a park's success and positive perception by the public and the business community.
6. A mix of public and private funding sources support park improvements and operation.
7. Parks are an organizing element for initiatives such as economic development, increasing livability of the region, tourism, and so on.
8. Parks & Recreation Departments, boards, directors, and staff must play a leadership role in insuring that parks are part of overall community and economic planning.²

A Framework for Decision-Making

This **Plan** is not law or a regulatory document. It recommends an approach to achieve a parks, recreation, and open space system that conserves our scenic beauty and serves our citizens throughout their lifetime, close to home, with recreation opportunities year-round. It suggests management strategies and policies to protect our natural resources and provide quality recreation opportunities. The **Plan** will serve as a reference for Township and Borough officials; management and advisory boards; community organizations; the Eastern York School District; and other interested parties. It is a guide for future actions and decisions. Recommendations will require further discussion, public involvement, and approval for the actions to be undertaken.

Core Values, Vision, Mission and Goals

The following core values, vision, mission, goals, and recommendations upon implementation will advance Hellam Township and Hallam Borough's work in the conservation of the community's scenic rural character, the conservation of natural resources, and establishment of an excellent public park system through their continued collaboration.

Core Values

As the qualities valued by the community, the core values are embodied in the mission, vision, and recommendations for open space conservation, parks, recreation, greenways, and trails. All policies and actions should be rooted in the core values.

Community Character and Scenic Beauty – Hellam Township's agrarian roots and scenic rural character are the essence of this community. Hallam Borough is an important town center that serves as the "front porch" for the area. Together, the town center and surrounding countryside

² Garvin, Alexander and Berens, Gayle. (1997) *Urban Parks and Open Space*. (New York: Urban Land Institute) pp 36-40.

have their own special flavor that relates to and nurtures the quality of life distinct to the Hellam/Hallam area.

Natural Resource Conservation – Forests, the Susquehanna River, streams, wildlife, and clean water and air must be conserved.

Sustainability – Making the best use of all resources in ways that demonstrate stewardship of the environment, respect human and financial capacity, and provide a legacy for future generations is vital.

Health – The health and wellness of citizens of all ages is paramount. Recreation fosters active, healthy lifestyles through facilities, programs, and services that benefit individuals and the community.

Collaboration – Continuing the township/borough partnership in parks and recreation has widespread support.

Vision Statement

The parks, recreation, and open space system of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough enriches the community through the conservation of natural resources, recreation opportunities that support active, healthy lifestyles, and the preservation of our rural scenic character.

Mission Statement

To acquire, develop, operate, and maintain a park, recreation, and open space system that enriches the quality of life for those who live, work, and visit here.

Goals

The goals are based upon the community values, vision, mission, and themes that emerged in the planning process.

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Recreation, Park and Open Space Goals

- Goal 1:** Protect our open space, natural resources, and scenic rural character.
- Goal 2:** Establish parks and recreation facilities as community destinations where residents can have fun, experience nature, socialize, and lead active, healthy lifestyles.
- Goal 3:** Connect our community through a system of trails.
- Goal 4:** Facilitate recreation opportunities to help citizens engage in active, healthy living.
- Goal 5:** Provide operational excellence and financial sustainability through a continued partnership of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough that will garner widespread public support for parks and recreation.

Goal 1: Protect our open space, natural resources, and scenic rural character.

Objective 1 – Conserve open space and natural resource lands through various protection and acquisition techniques.

Recommendations –

1. Prioritize acquisition of land along the Susquehanna River for public access, protection of the riparian ecosystem, and management of the floodplain.
2. Hellam Township should continue to develop progressive conservation strategies through ordinance provisions.
3. Hallam Borough should enact ordinance provisions that protect riparian buffer corridors and promote the use of Conservation by Design ordinances as part of the development process.
4. Consider funding options for open space acquisition to include raising the earned income tax or a bond. Explore the feasibility of these options following consultation with a land trust.
5. Support the land conservation efforts of the Farm and Natural Land Trust of York County, Lancaster County Conservancy, and others. Partner with these entities as appropriate to advance conservation goals.
6. Refine the Open Space Criteria to align with the conservation goals of the communities and use the criteria to prioritize properties for conservation.

Objective 2 – Promote expanded public appreciation and involvement in the conservation of the natural resources in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough.

Recommendations –

1. Develop a strategic plan for public outreach and landowner education regarding opportunities and benefits of environmental conservation and resource protection and what landowners can do to promote conservation goals.
2. Use the park sites to promote environmental awareness through demonstration projects and interpretative signage.
3. Develop a branding initiative for the continuous woodland. Choose an identifiable name for the continuous woodlands and promote the conservation of this unique landscape.
4. Involve residents in open space conservation initiatives who believe in the cause and are willing and able to commit time and energy toward reaching conservation goals.

Goal 2: Establish parks and recreation facilities as community destinations where residents can have fun, experience nature, socialize, and lead active healthy lifestyles.

Objective 1 – Maximize the use of existing parks to respond to the expanding needs, interests and desires of citizens.

Recommendations –

1. Secure continual use of Beaver Street Ball Fields – East and Beaver Street Ball Fields – West through long term leases.
2. Develop Hellam Township/Hallam Borough Regional Park/Barshinger Fields based on the 2005 master plan. Prioritize trail development and accommodations for safe crossing of Accomac Road.
3. Develop master plans for Liberty Park, Beaver Street Ball Fields – East and West, and the natural area of Emig Park.
4. Develop a new playground in Liberty Park.
5. Develop walking trails and stabilized stream access at Kreutz Creek in Emig Park.
6. Develop a master plan for the Borough’s commercial corridor that enhances the area with pocket parks, plazas, street trees, and public open space.

Objective 2 – Incorporate improvements into the parks to enhance the safety, convenience, and overall enjoyment of using the facilities.

Recommendations –

1. Develop a safe crossing of Accomac Road at Barshinger Fields
2. Provide adequate safety zones around athletic fields and playground equipment. Address safety zones in Beaver Street Ball Fields – East.
3. Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles into park designs.
4. Add convenience amenities to parks (benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, etc.).
5. Incorporate facilities that make parks convenient for seniors to use (shaded sitting areas, easy access to facilities).
6. Extend sidewalks along the frontage of park sites.
7. Develop park hubs near entrances with drop-offs, information kiosk, and trails.

8. Enhance parks with colorful landscaping and street trees.
9. Incorporate amenities that enhance and identify the parks, such as uniform signs, consistent quality materials, and street trees.
10. Develop walking and bicycle trails throughout the park sites to connect facilities and provide for trail activities.
11. Provide shade in activity areas by introducing pavilions, shade structures, and shade trees.
12. Add field and court lights, as appropriate, to maximize use of existing facilities.
13. Create great public places by designing parks that are sustainable and compatible with the natural setting, include playgrounds that are creative and compelling to children, consider safety and security, and include appropriate support and accessory facilities.

Objective 3 – Target acquisition of parkland to meet current and future needs of the municipalities.

Recommendations –

1. Secure long term leases for Beaver Street Ball Fields – East and West. If long term leases cannot be secured, acquire these parcels fee simple or seek a right-of-first-refusal for future acquisition.
2. Maximize the recreation potential of existing parks through the acquisition of contiguous acreage. Reach out to adjacent property owners to open a dialog about the desire for park acreage expansion.
3. Seek acreage for a community park (50-80 acres) plus legacy acreage (50+/- acres) in a location central to the two communities.
4. Acquire land for a riverfront park.

Objective 4 – Provide facilities for public use that comply with accessibility and safety regulations and guidelines.

Recommendations –

1. Develop park trails as accessible routes between facilities and parking areas/entrances at each park.
2. Develop accessible parking spaces in each parking area serving a park site.
3. Incorporate play options for physically challenged children when replacing and/or upgrading playgrounds.
4. Develop accessible viewing areas at athletic field player's benches and bleachers.

5. Provide fence opening to courts and other facilities that have clear opening to comply with the ADA and are connected to an accessible route.
6. Provide accessible picnic tables and drinking fountains.
7. Retrofit or replace bleachers to have backs to meet the guidelines of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).
8. Develop playgrounds areas that are age segregated and developed with adequate buffer zones.
9. Develop a phased implementation plan for safety and accessibility improvements.

Objective 5 – Develop a capital improvement program that outlines annual capital expenditures and cyclic improvements to the parks. Update the capital improvement program annually.

Goal 3: Connect our community through a system of trails.

Objective 1 – Coordinate greenway and trail initiatives with local and regional entities.

Recommendations –

1. Coordinate with the Susquehanna Greenway, Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area, York County Planning Commission, and York County Rail Trail Authority regarding all greenway and trail planning efforts and initiatives in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough.
2. Coordinate with the Appalachian Mountain Club and Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc., regarding planning efforts and initiatives for the PA Highlands Trail project, which includes the Mason-Dixon Trail.
3. Coordinate trail and greenway initiatives and planning efforts with adjacent municipalities.
4. Coordinate with other entities regarding trail planning and trail development initiatives to include the Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education, Eastern York Sewer Authority, PennDOT, Eastern York School District, and York County Parks and Recreation Department.

Objective 2 – Undertake initiatives that set the stage for the successful development of greenways and trails.

Recommendations –

1. Work to raise awareness of the benefits of greenways and trails throughout the communities. Task the Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Board with leading this initiative.
2. Promote trail and greenway opportunities and benefits on municipal websites.
3. Develop trails within municipal parks. Prioritize the trails in Hellam Township/Hallam Borough Regional Park/Barshinger Fields and Emig Park.
4. Add bike racks and make other improvements to make parks convenient for bicycle use.
5. Use the Hellam Township Official Map as a tool to acquire land for trails and extend trails.
6. Expand the trail network through the land development process. Amend the mandatory dedication process to set criteria for land to be dedicated, relate the fee-in-lieu to fair market value, and permit the dedication of land for trails.
7. Seek rights-of-way, conservation easements, and access easements for designated greenways and trails.

Objective 3 – Develop a greenway and trail network that protects the green corridors and linear natural resources of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough and connects neighborhoods, parks, schools, and community destinations.

Recommendations –

1. Explore creation of a greenway and trail system for Hellam Township and Hallam Borough composed of greenways, bicycle routes, bike lanes, multipurpose trails, and trail links that connect with hubs.
2. Seek conservation easements to protect and buffer natural resources along designated greenway corridors.
3. Maximize the use of riparian buffer protection areas for use in a greenway and trail system.
4. Complete a feasibility study that explores the potential to develop the York-Wrightsville Rail-Trail/Kreutz Creek Trail. Seek funding from PA DCNR.
5. Complete a feasibility study that explores the potential modification of PA Route 462 to incorporate bike lanes.
6. Complete a feasibility study that explores trail extensions from Emig Park to include the Market Street to Emig Park Trail and the Kreutz Creek Trail Extension.
7. Evaluate local roads for bicycle compatibility and pedestrian accommodations.

Goal 4: Facilitate recreation opportunities to help citizens engage in active healthy living.

Objective 1 - Facilitate programs offered by community-based providers with township and borough operations and ensure that the programs comply with operating procedures that are in the best interest of the community.

Recommendations –

1. Encourage the use of township parks and recreation facilities for use by community-based parks and recreation providers.
2. Develop a policy on facility use regarding public, private non-profit, and private organizations. This should also include a fees and charges policy to cover facility use and rentals.
3. Ensure that all agreements for public use of facilities by community organizations comply with standard operating procedures. This would include proper background checks, insurance liability requirements, and philosophies that strive to create healthy social environments for all involved.
4. Request an annual report of accomplishments, benefits, financial status, needs, and recommendations for planning, managing and operating the programs from the Hellam Recreation Commission for programs and services provided with financial support from the Township and Borough.
5. In order to encourage more programming in township parks, consider dedicating one annual meeting of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Board to be devoted to bringing in community organizations to discuss programs and events that might be offered by the various groups or in partnership. Organizations would include the Hellam Recreation Commission, Hellam Township Environmental Advisory Council, the Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education, Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, School District representatives, PTO's, Senior Citizens group director from the Center, the Library, and others.

Objective 2 - Plan the development and enhancement of parks and recreation facilities that people can use for self-directed recreation at their own discretion.

Recommendations –

1. Use the recommendations in the parks and recreation facilities goal to guide the planning and establishment of facilities that people can use on their own, such as trails for walking, places to hike, safe bicycle pathways, playgrounds, places to sit and socialize, and natural areas for quiet respite and exploration.
2. Advertise the opportunities that are available in the area, including parks and trails.

Objective 3 - Collect and provide information to citizens about recreation opportunities in the community.

Recommendations –

1. Maintain and publish on websites and in newsletters a current list of contacts for community recreation providers so that citizens can go to them for information and participation in their programs.
2. Maintain and publish a calendar of recreation and nature-based events and programs.
3. Use a regional township and borough map, showing a listing of recreation facilities, on the websites so that citizens know where to go for recreation. This can also include county parks.
4. Make the collection of information a function of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Board.

Objective 4 - Build upon community nature-based recreation opportunities in municipal parks and programming in partnership with other providers.

Recommendations –

1. Focus on creating self-directed nature-based recreation experiences in municipal parks.
2. Work with organizations such as the EAC, the Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education, the School District, Scouts, and others in planning and establishing nature-based programs in the parks.
3. Advertise these areas and opportunities to the public. Promote recreational experiences that people can enjoy at their own discretion for relaxation, nature study, photography, and bird and wildlife watching year round.
4. Encourage group use of future environmental areas of the parks. Work with groups, such as scouts, school groups, day care centers, senior centers, and other community-based organizations to conduct their own self-directed programs and experiences.
5. Advertise these opportunities in the newsletters and on the websites.

Objective 5 - Provide and promote recreation opportunities aimed at improving lifelong fitness and wellness.

Recommendations –

1. Promote and advertise facilities, such as pathways, year-round recreation, and scenic natural areas, to entice people to participate in activities outdoors.

2. Promote the need for an active lifestyle, its role in disease prevention, and how parks and recreation can help citizens to lead healthy lifestyles. Use articles from other sources that can be re-produced in the township and borough newsletters.

Objective 6 - Develop and implement an advertising program to enhance and increase community awareness about parks and recreation.

Recommendations –

1. Use the township and borough newsletters to promote parks and recreation. Include an article about parks and recreation in every issue.
2. Provide a parks and recreation link on the township and borough websites.
3. Provide links to other recreation organizations' websites on the township and borough websites.
4. Take photos to use in the newsletter and post on the website.
5. Have a booth for parks and recreation at the annual Hellam Recreation Carnival. Get volunteers to staff the booth. Make the booth fun with some games. Provide maps and brochures of parks, recreation programs, and locations.

Goal 5: Provide operational excellence and financial sustainability through a continued partnership of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough that will garner widespread public support for parks and recreation.

Objective 1 - Continue to work together in the Hellam Township and Hallam Borough parks, recreation, and open space partnership.

Recommendations –

1. Establish the Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Board. Follow the Pennsylvania codes for Townships of the Second Class and Boroughs as well as Pennsylvania’s Intergovernmental Cooperation Law in the formation and operation of the board.
2. Use this **Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan** to set the agenda for the proposed board. This will foster momentum for plan implementation.
3. Designate a municipal contact as the “go to” person about parks and recreation-related matters. This can be one person agreed upon by the Township and the Borough or one person from both, since the goal is to pursue an intergovernmental parks, recreation and open space system. The person can be an existing staff person with a portion of their time and responsibility allocated for parks, recreation, and open space.
4. Vest responsibility for implementing this plan in the proposed Board. The Board would serve in an advisory capacity to elected officials and would also shepherd action items through the implementation process.
5. Join the Pennsylvania Parks & Recreation Society. This organization provides current, state-of-the-art information on parks, recreation, open space, trails, greenways, programming, management, and funding sources.
6. Upon joining PRPS, consider securing a \$2,500 no-match grant to help establish the Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Board and get it up and running. The grant will enable Hellam Township and Hallam Borough to secure the services of a parks, recreation, and open space professional to formulate the mission, goals, roles, responsibilities, and action plan collaboratively with board members and municipal officials.

Objective 2 - Continue to support the Hellam Recreation Commission and provide for effective communication and information sharing.

Recommendations –

1. Formalize a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hellam Recreation Commission regarding the partnership roles and responsibilities of the Commission, the Township, and the Borough and how the three entities will work together.
2. The Commission should develop an annual report about accomplishments, opportunities, needs, and issues. The Commission and the elected officials should meet at least once annually to discuss recreation services provided by the Commission, community needs, facility-related issues, financial status, and other items of common concern.
3. Designate a Recreation Commission member to serve as a liaison to the proposed Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board. The liaison could function as a Board member or as a liaison.

Objective 3 - Develop a written maintenance management system.

Recommendations –

1. Develop quality standards for the parks and recreation facilities.
2. Develop a formal, written maintenance plan. Include planning, directing, controlling, and evaluating park and recreation system maintenance.
3. Consider natural resources management as part of this plan. Consider naturalizing areas to reduce mowing costs and create better conditions for environmental sustainability. Work with the Hellam Township Environmental Advisory Council on this.
4. Use the information generated from the maintenance system to make decisions about facility improvements or changes, resource allocation, fees and charges, staffing, and other important functions.
5. Incorporate maintenance planning in all major capital improvement projects. Use the Management Impact Statement Tool shown in Figure 1, on the following page, for this purpose.
6. Implement an effective communication and scheduling system to ensure that facilities are ready to use for scheduled recreation programs, activities, and events.

Figure 1
MIS
Management Impact Statement

Purpose

1. To assess the impact of a significant proposed project or a major program, considering the capital and operating costs, including human resources, and the effect on other parks and recreation facilities and services.
2. To use the assessment to make an informed decision about feasibility and viability of the proposed project.

Method

Determine -

1. Capital cost of the proposed project.
2. Operating costs of the proposed project. Include:
 - Number of staff hours required
 - Cost of the staff hours
 - Cost of materials and supplies
 - Miscellaneous costs
 - Volunteer support over the long term
3. Impact on other facilities and programs with the implementation of the proposed project.
 - Will the project/service require funds needed for other facilities/programs?
 - Will the project/service require staff time needed for other services/programs?
 - How will the project impact the quality of service in the municipality?
 - Will the project require resources from the community and are they available?
4. Revenue Sources
 - Grants
 - Donations
 - Municipal funds – additional appropriation
 - Municipal funds – within current budget
 - Non-tax funds to be generated from the project/program

Decision-Making

Based upon the above information, does Hellam Township and Hallam Borough or their partners for the initiative have the resources to move ahead with this project?

Objective 4 - Produce an annual report for parks and recreation.

Recommendations –

1. Produce an annual report for Parks, Recreation, Greenways, and Open Space in accordance with the requirements of Pennsylvania Municipal Codes. Include information about the benefits and outcomes of investment in parks and recreation.
2. Ensure that reporting emphasizes outcomes, benefits, and quality standards as well as the facts and figures about municipal parks and recreation efforts, partnerships, and volunteerism.
3. Distribute this report widely. Use it strategically to make the case for the importance of parks and recreation in Hellam Township and Hallam Borough.

Objective 5 - Establish an employee development program.

Currently the Roads/Highway Departments provide maintenance of all township and borough property. Parks maintenance includes functions such as natural resources management, safety inspections for playgrounds, athletic field maintenance, customer service, and coordination with other providers in recreation programs and others that require expertise, knowledge and experience. Since most of the cost of parks is in personnel, ensuring that staff has excellent training will reap rewards in cost savings, enhanced appearance of public properties, and increased park use.

Recommendations –

1. Undertake an assessment to determine the skills and expertise the parks and recreation system will need in the future. Include development of skills, such as natural resource management, sustainability, sports field maintenance, Consumer Product Safety Commission standards for playground safety inspections, and other functions to be identified in the assessment. Involve staff in the assessment to include their interests and professional development as part of this program.
2. Develop a five-year employee development program. Include a mix of strategies and methods, such as conferences, seminars, training programs, school classes, web-based programs, networking and visiting other departments, brown bag lunches, and others.
3. Target one to two percent of the parks and recreation operating budgets for the Parks and Recreation Employee Development Program.
4. Consider working with other organizations, such as the Eastern York School District, the Conservation District, York County Parks Department, and the Environmental Advisory Council on the development of natural resource management plans, ball field maintenance, coordination with community recreation groups, volunteer efforts, and staff training on natural resource management.

Objective 6 - Support parks and recreation through a mix of public and private funding.

Recommendations –

1. Support parks and recreation through a mix of public and private resources at a level commensurate with the resources and capacity of the Township and the Borough.
2. Strive to invest in parks and recreation at a budget ratio of two to three percent of the municipal operating budget.
3. Develop a gifts and donations policy. This will support responsibilities regarding the long-term nature of gifts and donations. Develop a gifts catalog for parks and recreation to generate help for park facility development.

Objective 7 - Develop a capital improvement plan.

Recommendations –

1. Establish a five to seven year time frame for the capital improvement program.
2. Consider developing an intergovernmental capital improvement plan.
3. Consider saving two to four percent of capital improvement costs for future cyclic maintenance and replacement costs.

Objective 8 - Consider securing a bond or loan for open space and parks.

Recommendations –

1. Explore the level of support in the community for an open space bond referendum.
2. Consider doing exit polling after a major November election or surveys of super voters to determine the level of support among voters.
3. Work with financial consultants to determine appropriate funding levels for a bond.
4. If the bond and voter referendum appear to be feasible, plan and implement a public awareness and educational campaign to generate support for the referendum.

Chapter 9 – Action Plan

The implementation schedule sets forth the time frame for the actions that Hellam Township and Hallam Borough will undertake over the short, medium, and long term through 2023. The implementation plan is scheduled around the five goals of the plan.

Goal 1: Protect our open space, natural resources, and scenic rural character.

Goal 2: Establish parks and recreation facilities as community destinations where residents can have fun, experience nature, socialize, and lead active healthy lifestyles.

Goal 3: Connect our community through a system of trails.

Goal 4: Facilitate recreation opportunities to help citizens engage in active healthy living.

Goal 5: Provide operational excellence and financial sustainability through a continued partnership Hellam Township and Hallam Borough that will garner widespread public support for parks and recreation.

Goal 1

Protect our open space, natural resources and scenic rural character.

Project Key √ Start Project → Continue Implementation	Cost/Source	2014-2016	2017-2019	2020-2023+
Conserve open space and natural resource lands.	Volunteer and staff time.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prioritize acquisition of land along the Susquehanna River. 	Staff time.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hallam Borough to enact ordinance provisions to protect riparian buffer corridors and promote the use of Conservation by Design as part of the development process. 	Staff time.	√		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explore funding options for open space acquisition through consultation with a land trust. 	Staff time.	√		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support land conservation efforts of the Farm and Natural Land Trust of York County, Lancaster County Conservancy, etc. and partner with these entities to advance conservation goals. 	Staff time.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refine Open Space Criteria to align with the conservation goals of the community and use the criteria to prioritize properties for conservation. 	Staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Modify the Mandatory Dedication of Parkland Ordinance to provide for future park and recreation needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the parkland standard – Hellam Township: minimum of 0.026 acres per dwelling unit. Hallam Borough: minimum of 0.023 acres per dwelling unit. - Tie the fee-in lieu amount to the fair market value of land. - Include specific criteria for land suitable for dedication as parkland and trails. 	Staff time	√		
		√	→	→
Promote expanded public appreciation and involvement in conservation of natural resources.	Volunteer and staff time.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a strategic plan for public outreach and landowner education. 	Staff and EAC time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake environmental awareness demonstration projects and install interpretative signs. 	Volunteer and staff time.	√		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Branding for the continuous woodlands. 	Volunteer and staff time.	→	→	→

Goal 2

Establish parks and recreation facilities as community destinations where residents can have fun, experience nature, socialize, and lead active healthy lifestyles.

Project Key √ Start Project → Continue Implementation	Cost/Source/ Responsibilities	2014- 2016	2017- 2019	2020- 2023+
Maximize use of existing parks.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Secure long-term leases for Beaver Street Ball Fields - East and West. 	Staff and solicitor time.	√		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop Hellam township/Hallam Borough Regional Park/Barshinger Fields per the master plan. 	\$3,733,834. Source: Grants, municipal funds.	√		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Complete master plans for municipal parks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liberty Park - Beaver Street Ball Fields – East and West - Emig Park natural area - Hallam Borough Commercial Corridor 	\$8,000 - \$12,000 \$18,000 - \$25,000 \$8,000 - \$12,000 \$35,000 - \$50,000	√	√	√
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enhance existing park sites to target citizen interests. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liberty Park – new playground - Emig Park – trails and stream access - Hallam Borough – pocket parks, plazas 	To be determined. Reference CIP. Source: Grants, municipal funds.	√	√	√
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Acquire parkland for recreation in the Township or Borough. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Negotiate long term leases for Beaver Street Ball Fields - East and Beaver Street Ball Fields – West. - Expand existing park sites through acquisition of contiguous acreage. - Seek acreage for a community park plus legacy acreage (100+ acres). - Acquire land for a riverfront park. 	To be determined. Source: Grants, municipal funds, mandatory dedication of parkland ordinance.	√		
		→	→	→
		√		
		√		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Upgrade parks with consideration of safety and security, convenience, and overall enjoyment of using the facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a safe crossing of Accomac Road at Barshinger Fields. - Provide adequate safety zones at the Beaver Street Ball Fields - East and all playground equipment. - Add convenience amenities (benches, bike racks, etc.). - Add shade (trees, pavilions, shade structures). - Extend sidewalks along park frontage. - Develop park hubs with drop-offs, information kiosk, and trails. - Add colorful landscaping and street trees. - Add field and court lights. - Incorporate CPTED principles to park designs. 	To be determined. Volunteer and staff time.	√		
		√		
		√		
		√		
		√		
		√		
		√		
		√		
		√	√	
		→	→	→

Goal 2, continued

Establish parks and recreation facilities as community destinations where residents can have fun, experience nature, socialize and lead active healthy lifestyles.

Project Key ✓ Start Project → Continue Implementation	Cost/Source/ Responsibilities	2014- 2016	2017- 2019	2020- 2023+
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Renovate parks with accommodations to meet the requirements of the ADA and safety guidelines. Document the phased implementation of safety and accessibility improvements in a written plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide accessible routes to facilities. - Provide paved, signed HC parking in all parks. - Provide accessible viewing areas at athletic fields and courts. - Provide accommodations to enable use of recreation facilities by persons with disabilities. - Renovate playgrounds to offer accessible play options. - Provide site amenities to accommodate persons with disabilities. - Retrofit or replace bleachers that do not meet safety guidelines. - Develop playgrounds with safety zones and age segregated equipment. 	To be determined in planning process for each park.	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓		

Goal 3

Connect our community through a system of trails.

Project Key √ Start Project → Continue Implementation	Cost/Source	2014-2016	2017-2019	2020-2023+
Coordinate greenway and trail initiatives with local and regional entities.	Staff time.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with the Susquehanna Greenway, Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area, York County Planning Commission, York County Rail Trail Authority and other entities regarding greenway and trail initiatives. 	Staff time.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with the Appalachian Mountain Club and Mason-Dixon Trail System regarding PA Highlands Trail and Mason-Dixon Trail initiatives. 	Staff time.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate greenway and trail initiatives with adjacent municipalities and York County. 	Staff time.	→	→	→
Set the stage for successful greenway and trail development.	Staff time.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness of the benefits of greenways and trails. 	Staff and EAC time.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop trail in municipal parks. 	Staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add park amenities to make bicycle use convenient. 	Staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the trail network through use of the Official Map and mandatory dedication of land process. 	Staff time.	→	→	→
Develop a greenway and trail network that protects green corridors and linear natural resources and connects neighborhoods, parks, schools and community destinations.	Volunteer and staff time.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek conservation easements along greenway corridors. 	To be determined. Source: Grants, township funds	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximize use of riparian buffer protection areas for use in a greenway and trail system. 	Staff time.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a feasibility study for the York-Wrightsville Rail-Trail/Kreutz Creek Trail. 	To be determined. Source: DCNR grant, municipal funds.	√		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a feasibility study that explores the potential of developing a bike lane on PA Route 462. 	To be determined. Source: Grant, municipal funds.		√	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a feasibility study that explores trail extensions from Emig Park. 	To be determined. Source: DCNR grant, municipal funds.	√		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a feasibility study to evaluate local roads for compatibility with bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. 	To be determined. Source: Grant, municipal funds.		√	

Goal 4

Facilitate recreation opportunities to help the citizens engage in active healthy living.

Project Key √ Start Project → Continue Implementation	Cost/Source	2014- 2016	2017- 2019	2020- 2023+
Continue to facilitate recreation programs, activities, and events offered by other providers.	Volunteer and staff time.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop and implement policies on facility use by non-profit, public and private community based organizations including fees and charges, background checks, insurance, and so on. 	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop an annual report for the programs services, community benefits, operation, and management of the Hellam Recreation Commission. 	Volunteer and staff time. The effort should be commensurate with time available.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hold an annual meeting of community parks and recreation organizations that provide parks and recreation related services for the purpose of addressing issues and opportunities of common interest. 	Volunteer and staff time. \$100-300 for refreshments and materials.		√	→
Plan, develop and promote recreation facilities that people can use at their own discretion for fun, fitness, and community building.	Volunteer and staff time in the planning. Development costs would be part of the Capital Improvement Program.	→	→	→
Collect and provide information to the community about recreation opportunities.	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Current list of contacts for community recreation organizations 	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Annual calendar of recreation activities and programs. 	Volunteer and staff time.		√	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Include a map of regional recreation facilities and parks with addresses on the municipal websites. 	Volunteer and staff time. Use map from this plan.		√	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Make the collection and dissemination of information about recreation a function of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Board. 	Volunteer and staff time.		√	→
Establish nature-based recreation opportunities as a core parks and recreation function.	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work with nature based community organizations in developing environmental educational and recreational opportunities in the parks. 	Volunteer and staff time.		√	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Include information about these opportunities on the websites and in newsletters. 	Volunteer and staff time.		√	→

Goal 4, continued

Facilitate recreation opportunities to help the citizens engage in active healthy living.

Project Key √ Start Project → Continue Implementation	Cost/Source/ Responsibilities	2014- 2016	2017- 2019	2020- 2023+
Develop a promotional program to increase public awareness about recreation opportunities.	Volunteer and staff time.		√	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reach out to citizens and community organizations about recreation opportunities via the newsletters, websites, and direct e-mails. 	Volunteer and staff time.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consider the use of social media in the future. 	Volunteer and staff time. Consider using a student intern for ongoing social media.		√	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use community events to showcase parks and recreation by having a booth at festivals with information and interactive games to engage people in recreation. 	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ask recreation providers to take photos at their events to provide to the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Board for posting on the website. 	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→

Goal 5

Provide operational excellence and financial sustainability through a continued partnership of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough that will garner widespread public support for parks and recreation.

Project Key √ Start Project → Continue Implementation	Cost/Source	2012- 2014	2015- 2017	2017- 2021+
Continue to collaborate as a multi-municipal parks, recreation and open space organization.	Ongoing staff and volunteer coordination. Potential cost savings through shared functions.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establish the Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Board. 	Time of elected and appointed official and volunteers.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Designate a municipal contact as the “go to” person regarding parks, recreation and open space and promote this contact information to the public. 	Elected and administrative officials. Portion of existing staff member’s time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Joint the Pennsylvania Recreation & Parks Society. 	\$20 per member or \$300 as a patron for the organization as whole.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Apply to PRPS for a RecTAP grant to help in the establishment of the Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board. 	No match required. Staff or volunteer time to write the grant application.	√	√	√
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Vest responsibility for shepherding the implementation of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan in the Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board. 	Board member time.	√	→	→
Continue to support the Hellam Recreation Commission.	\$30,000 from the Township and the Borough.	→	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establish an effective ongoing accountable communication and information sharing system. 	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Formalize a Memorandum of Agreement on mission, goals, roles, responsibilities, annual reporting, and so on, regarding the operation of the Hellam Recreation Commission and public funding. 	Volunteer and staff time. With involvement of elected officials.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Designate a member of the proposed Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board as a liaison to the Hellam Recreation Commission. 	Volunteer time.	√	→	→
Develop a written maintenance management plan for the parks and recreation facilities.	Staff time with support from outside consultant via a grant or private sector support.		√	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consider applying for a grant or enlisting the assistance of a private business or university to help in the development of the plan. 	\$10,000 Peer grant from PADCNr with \$1,000 match required.		√	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Include the development of a natural resources management plan in the park maintenance plan. Enlist the support of nature based organizations in the area to assist in the development of this component of park maintenance management. 	Volunteer and organizational support.		√	→

Goal 5, continued

Provide operational excellence and financial sustainability through a continued partnership of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough that will garner widespread public support for parks and recreation.

Project Key √ Start Project → Continue Implementation	Cost/Source/ Responsibilities	2014- 2016	2017- 2019	2020- 2023+
Produce an annual report for parks and recreation.	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include accomplishments, needs, outcomes, and community benefits. 	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute this report to elected and appointed officials, community organizations, and other stakeholders including posting the report on the municipal websites. 	Volunteer and staff time.	√	→	→
Establish an Employee Development Program since most of the parks and recreation expenses are devoted wages, salaries, and benefits.	Staff and volunteer time. Potential support from local business or college.		√	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess current skills and future skill needs to meet legal, technological, and safety standards as well as best practices in park and natural resources management. 	Staff time. Potential volunteer support.		√	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a five-year employee development program targeting one to two percent of the parks and recreation budget for the training. Highest priority should be the NRPA Maintenance Management School, Playground Safety training and certification programs for licensing. 	Staff time and support from related organization. Potentially to be coordinated with Peer Study on the maintenance management system development. \$800 – 1600 minimum annually.		√	→
Support parks and recreation through a mix of public and private funding.	Municipal funding plus revenues from fees, charges, rentals, sales, grants, gifts, donations, bequest and other sources.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop policies on fees, charges, gifts, and donations. 	Volunteer and staff time	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strive to invest two to three percent of the municipal budget in parks and recreation. 	Municipal decision and commitment.		√	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and distribute strategically a gifts catalog for parks and recreation. 	Volunteer time.	√	→	→

Goal 5, continued

Provide operational excellence and financial sustainability through a continued partnership of Hellam Township and Hallam Borough that will garner widespread public support for parks and recreation.

Project Key √ Start Project → Continue Implementation	Cost/Source/ Responsibilities	2014- 2016	2017- 2019	2020- 2023+
Develop a Capital Improvement Program.	Staff and volunteer time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establish a five to seven year capital improvement program for park improvements, including consideration of a multi-municipal CIP. 	Staff and volunteer time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consider allocating two to four percent of capital improvement costs for a fund to support cyclic maintenance requirements over time. 	Municipal decision.		√	√
Consider securing a bond or loan for open space and parks.	Elected officials staff, and volunteer time.	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Explore the level of support for an open space bond referendum. 	Elected officials staff , and volunteers time	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consider undertaking an exit poll after a major election or doing a survey of super voters to gauge the level of support for an open space referendum and open space bond. 	Elected officials staff , and volunteers time	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work with financial consultants to determine appropriate funding levels and methods of financing. 	Elected officials staff , and volunteers time	√	→	→
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If support appears viable, work through a committee to plan, direct and implement a campaign to inform the public of the benefits of the bond as well as to generate support for passing a potential referendum. 	Elected officials staff , and volunteers time	√	→	→

Appendix A – Capital Improvement Program

The recommendations of this **Plan** will require Hellam Township and Hallam Borough to make both capital and operating expenditures. Determining capital costs can be somewhat nebulous. Many communities use their own work forces and are able to save considerable costs. Others are very resourceful and able to secure alternative sources of funding through business contributions, grants, individual donations, or other means. The following table provides costs estimates for proposed capital improvements identified in this plan. These are generalized opinions based on the best available information and are subject to change when each project is further evaluated based on accurate survey information and design and engineering documents. Master plans are recommended for several parks and cost estimates should be provided as part of the master planning process. Planning and capital investment costs are not provided for Beaver Street Ball Field – East and West as these properties are not owned by the municipalities or controlled by a long term lease.

Projected costs are based on 2013 construction costs, with the exception of Barshinger Fields and Hellam Regional Park, and do not consider any particular source of revenue. Design, survey, engineering, contractor bond, insurance, and contingency costs have been included based on typical percentage of the projected development costs. These costs should be re-defined after an approach and scope are determined for each project.

Hellam Township and Hallam Borough Parks and Recreation Facilities Capital Improvement Program (CIP)					
Park Improvement	Quantity	Cost Opinion	2014-2016	2017-2019	2020-2023+
Barshinger Fields and Hellam Township/Hallam Borough Regional Park					
The following construction costs are from the 2005 Hellam Township/Hallam borough Regional Park Master Plan. The Alternate Plan cost is used in lieu of the YMCA Family Center cost for Tract #1. Escalation costs have not been added.					
Tract #1 Alternate Plan		\$917,744			√
Tracts #2 & #3		\$535,297		√	
Tract #4 (Western)		\$1,268,617		√	
Tract #4 (Eastern) & #5		\$1,012,176	√		
<i>TOTAL Barshinger Fields and Hellam Township/Hallam Borough Regional Park</i>		<i>\$3,733,834</i>			
Emig Park					
The following improvements are proposed:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop an accessible trail that extends along Kreutz Creek and includes multiple loops. ▪ Create an accessible stabilized fishing area. ▪ Install trail markers and benches. ▪ Install riparian buffer planting. 					
Site Preparation, Earthwork, Erosion Control					
Site preparation and demolition	LS	\$3,000			
Earthwork and stormwater	LS	\$18,000			
Erosion control	LS	\$8,000			
Sub-Total		\$29,000			

Park Improvement	Quantity	Cost Opinion	2014-2016	2017-2019	2020-2023+
Trail and Trail Enhancements					
Paved 8' wide bituminous trail loops	4,800 LF	\$120,000			
Stabilized fishing area	LS	\$3,000			
Sub-Total		\$123,000			
Amenities					
Benches (6), trail markers (4)	LS	\$8,400			
Sub-Total		\$8,400			
Landscaping					
Riparian buffer planting	LS	\$5,000			
Seeding along trail	LS	\$16,400			
Sub-Total		\$21,400			
General Project Costs					
Contingency (15%)	LS	\$27,300			
Bond, mobilization, and layout (12%)	LS	\$25,100			
Design, engineering, and permitting (15%)	LS	\$35,200			
Sub-Total		\$87,600			
TOTAL Emig Park		\$269,400	√		
Liberty Park					
A master plan is recommended for Liberty Park and improvements should target the needs and interests of the neighborhood. Likely improvements are outlined below:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove deteriorated, outdated facilities. ▪ Develop a new playground. ▪ Develop a trail that extends to the facilities and seating plaza. ▪ Install benches, picnic table, and a park sign. ▪ Install landscaping to provide shade and aesthetically enhance the park. 					
Master Plan					
Master plan	LS	\$8,000 - 12,000	√		
Site Preparation, Earthwork, Erosion Control					
Site preparation and demolition	LS	\$2,500			
Earthwork and stormwater	LS	\$4,000			
Erosion control	LS	\$2,500			
Sub-Total		\$9,000			
Trail and Plaza					
Paved 8' wide bituminous trail	150 LF	\$3,750			
Concrete plaza	1,000 SF	\$7,000			
Sub-Total		\$10,750			
Playground					
Playground equipment	LS	\$35,000			
Safety surfacing (mulch)	LS	\$3,000			
Edging	LS	\$7,500			
Sub-Total		\$45,500			
Amenities					
Benches (4), picnic table (1), sign (1)	LS	\$6,800			
Sub-Total		\$6,800			

Park Improvement	Quantity	Cost Opinion	2014-2016	2017-2019	2020-2023+
Landscaping					
Tree and shrub planting	LS	\$2,400			
Lawn seeding	LS	\$7,800			
Sub-Total		\$10,200			
General Project Costs					
Contingency (15%)	LS	\$12,400			
Bond, Mobilization, and Layout (12%)	LS	\$11,400			
Survey, design, and engineering (15%)	LS	\$15,900			
Sub-Total		\$39,700			
<i>TOTAL Liberty Park</i>		\$121,950		√	
<i>Hellam Township and Hallam Borough CIP TOTAL</i>		\$4,125,184			