



HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP PROS PLAN

PUBLIC MEETING #3

MAY 9, 2023

AGENDA

PRESENTATION

- Introduction
- About the Plan
- Planning Process
- Public Engagement Highlights
- Goals & Objectives

ACTIVITY

- Goals & Objectives
- Comments
- Open Discussion & Questions

INTRODUCTIONS & KEY PERSONNEL



TIM STAUB, AICP
Project Manager & Planner



KAITLIN MILLS
Community Planner



STEPHANIE MILEWSKI, RLA, ASLA
Senior Project Manager



BOB THOMAS, AIA, AICP
Principal



DOUGLAS MAISEY
Planner

SUBCONSULTANTS



**Administration,
Maintenance &
Personnel**
Review, Analysis and
Recommendations



Campbell Thomas & Co.
1504 South St., Philadelphia, PA 19146 • 215-545-1076
Architecture • Preservation • Community & Transportation Planning

Trails & Connectivity
Review, Analysis and
Recommendations



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Brian Barrett

Eileen Mottola

Michelle Alvare

Jamie Jilozian

Peter Puglionesi

Rich Kerr

Gail Farally-Semerad

Ben Vaughan

Paul Davit

David Chanin



ABOUT THE PLAN



PROJECT OVERVIEW

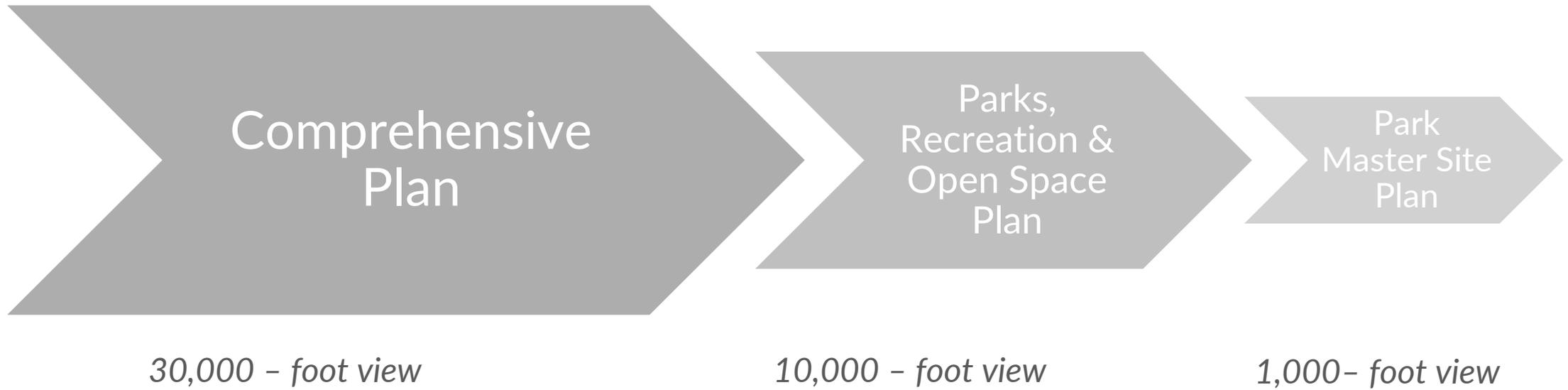
WHAT IS A PARK, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN?

Develops A township wide vision specifically for township owned parks, recreation facilities, open spaces and trails.

Evaluates existing conditions and community needs, considers trends, analyzes growth projections and develops recommendations for park needs, improvements, maintenance, programming, connectivity, open space management and potential acquisition.

The recommendations will help provide a basis for local decision making and support grant applications for funding which will help implement the plan.

PROJECT OVERVIEW



Haverford Township Comprehensive Plan

Haverford Township Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan

Brookline Park Master Site Plan

PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROJECT GOAL

Develop a comprehensive and implementable plan for parks, recreation, trails and open spaces within the township

PROJECT PROGRESS

- Site Visits
-  Public Engagement
 - Key Person Interviews
 - Open Houses
 - Online Surveys
 - Committee Meetings
-  Draft Goals & Objectives
-  Draft Report
-  Final Report – Anticipated in August 2023



ONLINE SURVEY #1

ONLINE SURVEY #1

- 2,835 Responses
 - 2,771 Residents (98%)
 - 64 non-residents



ONLINE SURVEY #1

FAVORITE PARK, TRAIL OR OPEN SPACE



CREC / RESERVE



PADDOCK PARK



MERRY PLACE



GRANGE FIELD

24%
Of responses
identified a
trail

ONLINE SURVEY #1

HOW DO YOU GET THERE?



DRIVE
48%



WALK
48%



BIKE
4%



WHEEL
<1%

WHO DO YOU GO WITH?



FAMILY
25%



KID(S)
21%



MYSELF
21%



PARTNER
15%



FRIEND(S)
7%



DOG(S)
4%



GRANDKID(S)
4%



NEIGHBOR(S)
1%

ONLINE SURVEY #1

BEST FEATURES

1



TRAILS

2



TREES & NATURE

3



PLAYGROUND

4



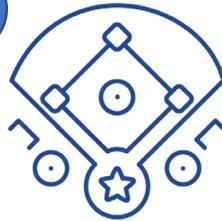
OPEN SPACE

5



WATER

6



FIELDS



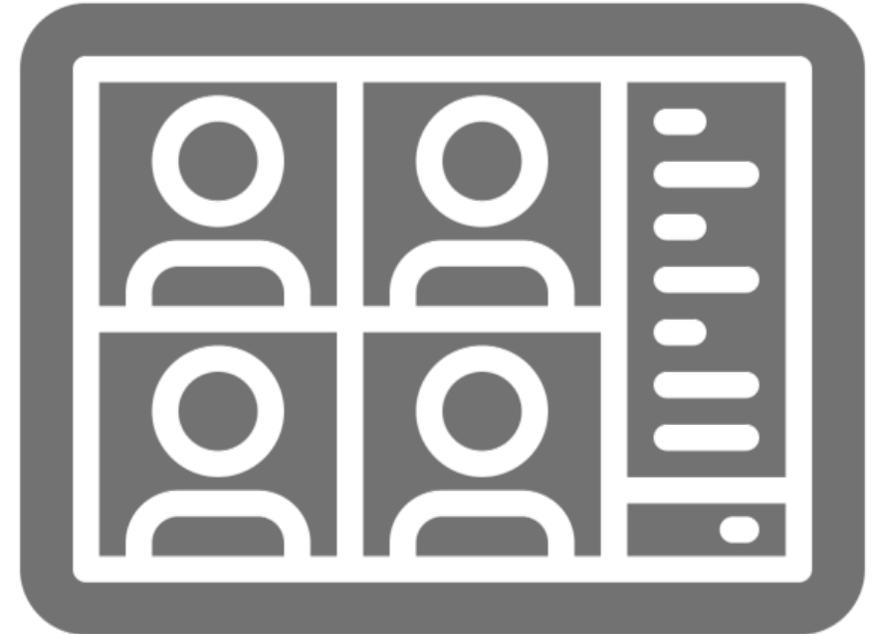
Friends of
Haverford Trails

KEY PERSON INTERVIEWS

KEY PERSON INTERVIEWS

PERSON INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED

- Parks and Recreation Maintenance
- Friends of Haverford Trails
- Youth Sports Organizations
- Tree Tenders & Shade Tree Commission
- Civic Groups
- Senior Groups
- Darby Creek Valley Association
- Parks and Rec Board
- Trail Users
- Adult Sports Groups



OPEN HOUSE #1

OPEN HOUSE #1 HIGHLIGHTS

- 44 attendees signed-in
- Nearly 250 comments
- Most used parks or amenities were:
 - Trails – Darby Creek Trail & Pennsy Trail
 - The CREC / Haverford Reserve
- Most liked parks or amenities
 - Merwood Park
 - The CREC / Haverford Reserve
- Many people noted that they enjoyed the existing open / natural spaces, but it was also noted that they would like to see more of these spaces including shade
- Many people noted that they enjoyed the existing trails but would like to see more of them, including trail connections along the creek(s)



OPEN HOUSE #1 HIGHLIGHTS

VISION & GOALS HIGHLIGHTS

- Focus on making the existing spaces, safe, and accessible while enhancing and maintaining amenities
- Create a larger trail network with connections to community amenities
- Create connection between neighborhoods, parks and trails that are pedestrian and bike friendly
- Green spaces that support the environment and people's health
- Increased bicycle infrastructure
- Increase the open space and tree canopy in the Township
- Increased staff and funding to maintain and improve amenities



OPEN HOUSE #2

OPEN HOUSE #2 HIGHLIGHTS

- 53 attendees signed-in
- About 56 additional comments

AMENITIES	#	%
Rest Rooms	30	13.4%
Shade, Trees & Native Plantings	30	13.4%
Second Turf Field	29	12.9%
Walking Paths	29	12.9%
Field Maintenance	23	10.3%
Repair Existing Amenities	21	9.4%
Update Playgrounds	20	8.9%
Skate Park	13	5.8%
Environmental Learning Opportunities	10	4.5%
Accessible Amenities	10	4.5%
Water Fountains	8	3.6%
Skate / Roller Hockey	1	0.4%



OPEN HOUSE #2 HIGHLIGHTS

VISION & PRIORITIES

TRAILS & CONNECTIVITY – 68 TOTAL VOTES

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES – 57 TOTAL VOTES

OPEN SPACE – 33 TOTAL VOTES

PROGRAMMING – 33 TOTAL VOTES

MAINTENANCE – 27 TOTAL VOTES



ONLINE SURVEY #2

ONLINE SURVEY #2

- 1,010 Respondents
 - 91% of Respondents were Township Residents
- Only 10 % of respondents attended one or both of the previous Open Houses
- 58% of respondents completed the first online survey



ONLINE SURVEY #2

PARK OR TRAIL YOU VISIT MOST

1



HAVERFORD RESERVE

2



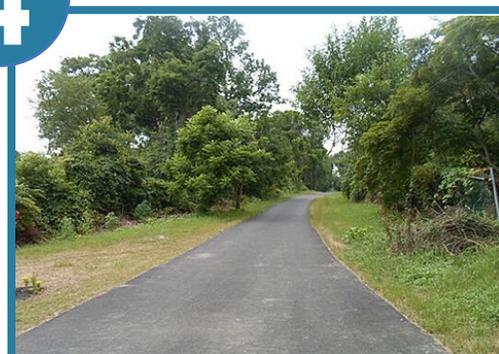
PADDOCK PARK

3



GRANGE FIELD

4



PENNSY TRAIL

18%

Of responses identified a park or trail they do not use for a specific reason

ONLINE SURVEY #2

WHY DO YOU VISIT THAT PARK OR TRAIL MOST?

1



PLAYGROUND

2



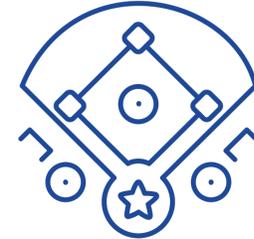
TRAILS

3



OTHER

4



FIELDS

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE MAINTENANCE IS AT THIS PARK?



4%



8%



23%



37%



28%

ONLINE SURVEY #2

WHAT ARE THE TOP 3 ITEMS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADDRESSED OR ADDED AT THIS LOCATION?

- Other – 37%
- Seating & Tables – 27%
- Restrooms – 25%
- New Playground Equipment – 25%

Note: Select Multiple Question - Percentage of the # of Respondents

ONLINE SURVEY #2

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD CURRENTLY UTILIZE ANY OF THE TOWNSHIP'S PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMMING?

■ Yes - 59%

■ No - 41%

WHAT PROGRAMS DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN?



Youth Sports - 48%



Summer Camps - 38%



Adult Fitness Classes - 20%

Note: Select Multiple Question - Percentage of the # of Respondents



GOALS & OBJECTIVES



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Identified a draft Goals & Objectives
- Organized by Plan Topic Areas
- Utilized feedback from Conversations with Township Staff, Public Meetings, Key Person Interviews, and Steering Committee Meetings

**HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP PARK, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN
DRAFT GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

- 1. Update and enhance the Townships existing facilities.**
 - 1.1 Integrate into existing and construct new features and amenities that promote visitor connections and meet the needs of the community as it changes over time.
 - 1.2 Ensure that parks are well signed and easily navigable.
 - 1.3 Provide more space for informal play.
 - 1.4 Provide amenities within parks that provide spaces for more programmed events.
 - 1.5 Regularly survey the community to identify their desires and or needs within the Township owned parks.
- 2. Incorporate nature into the existing parks.**
 - 2.1 Increase native plantings within parks, while working to remove non-native and invasive species.
 - 2.2 Increase shade trees within parks.
 - 2.3 Create space, places and trails that allow people to connect with and experience nature.
 - 2.4 Use educational signage to inform the community about the importance of natural and environmental features located within the parks.
- 3. Create welcoming spaces and places for social interactions.**
 - 3.1 Provide comfortable and safe places that enable formal and informal social interactions and experiences.
 - 3.2 Seek a like experience for all park visitors.
 - 3.3 Determine the feasibility of extending the hours of operation at the CREC.

OPEN SPACE & NATURAL RESOURCES

- 1. Explore ways to protect and enhance open space lands and stream corridors.**
 - 1.1 Restore native vegetation along stream corridors and in open spaces, while working to remove invasive species.
 - 1.2 Seek acquisition, conservation easements, and access easements to connect open spaces and stream corridors.
 - 1.3 Restore and enhance the stream corridor buffers through planting vegetation and trees that will mitigate runoff.
 - 1.4 Implement ordinance recommendations to protect stream corridors.
- 2. Provide opportunities to connect with nature.**
 - 2.1 Develop educational signage within open spaces and along trails to provide environmental education opportunities.
 - 2.2 Increase community access to open spaces and stream corridors.
 - 2.3 Develop passive recreation programming that is environmental, and nature focused.
 - 2.4 Increase accessibility to stream corridors.

TRAILS & CONNECTIVITY

- 1. Develop a walking and biking network to provide a safe place for recreation, non-motorized travel, increased community connectivity, and access to community amenities.**
 - 1.1 Develop a walking and biking network of pedestrian sidewalks, on-road and off-road bicycle facilities, trails, greenways, and intersection improvements.
 - 1.2 Annually build upon the network of active transportation infrastructure in the Township.
 - 1.3 Prepare a list of missing connections. Update annually.
 - 1.4 Routinely survey the community to identify needs and desires regarding the active transportation network in the township.
- 2. Expand and enhance the trail and greenway network to provide a safe place for recreation, increased community connectivity, and access to community amenities.**
 - 2.1 Regularly coordinate with trail, greenway, and transportation organizations in the region to ensure opportunities to connect are prioritized.
 - 2.2 Coordinate regularly with adjacent municipalities and have township representation at multi-municipal, trail, greenway, and park meetings.
- 3. Provide safe, sustainable, multimodal recreation and transportation options for people of all abilities.**
 - 3.1 Prioritize Township projects that provide safe, accessible access for all.
 - 3.2 Provide bicycling and public transportation education for people of all ages.

MAINTENANCE

- 1. Mitigate litter and vandalism.**
 - 1.1 Provide trash receptacles at each facility and routinely monitor and remove full receptacles.
 - 1.2 Immediately remove graffiti and address vandalism.
 - 1.3 Provide a hotline to report damaged/broken equipment.
- 2. Prioritize maintenance throughout all Township Parks.**
 - 2.1 Develop maintenance standards.
 - 2.2 Evaluate the conditions of each park and prioritize under maintained areas to bring them up to standards.
- 3. Provide low maintenance amenity alternatives.**
 - 3.1 Select amenities and materials that are not maintenance intensive.
 - 3.2 Develop low maintenance landscapes by evaluating current landscapes and transform low use, high maintenance areas to low maintenance, natural areas, such as lawn areas to meadow.
 - 3.3 Plant native species.

Maintain trails in a safe and sustainable condition.

- 4.1 Assure trails are free of trash and debris, hazardous areas and limbs.
- 4.2 Maintain trails to get water off the trail as quickly as possible. Culverts and other drainage structures are free of debris and free flowing.
- 4.3 Maintain a vertical clearance of 7' for pedestrian only trails, and 12' for trails that offer equestrian use.
- 4.4 Maintain a side clearance of vegetation of 2' (3' for Poison Oak).

3. Partner with local organizations to support open space management efforts.

- 3.1 Partner with the Civic Association to help with the implementation of initiatives.
- 3.2 Partner with organizations to monitor stream health, plant riparian buffers, and other stream corridor improvements.

4. Increase, preserve, manage, and protect the Township's tree canopy.

- 4.1 When legacy trees are removed, and replaced, provide additional permanent or temporary shade alternatives where needed.
- 4.2 Hire or contract an arborist to help develop a tree management plan for the Township, including the development of a tree inventory.
- 4.3 Work with the Tree Tenders and the Shade Tree commission to develop a tree planting map that identify and prioritize tree plantings.

4. Celebrate neighborhoods.

- 4.1 Continue to work with the various civic groups in the Township to provide facilities for their events.
- 4.2 Look to provide programming opportunities in neighborhoods that may not have any or have minimal programming options.

5. Improve the reservation system for scheduling field usage

- 5.1 Use a scheduling software that allows organizations and residents to see what facilities are available to aid in the scheduling process.
- 5.2 Allow field permit information and field usage to be viewed to help make people aware of when fields are permitted.

3.1 Engage local artists to continue and expand programming in the parks through musical concerts, art walks, or theatrical shows.

- 3.2 Establish a system of commissioning local artists and a method displaying art exhibits in public spaces.

PROGRAMMING

1. Continue to evaluate, update, and improve programming options and the facilities that aid in these programming opportunities.
2. Expand passive recreation programming opportunities.
3. Develop an Art in the Park program to engage local artists.
4. Celebrate neighborhoods.
5. Improve the reservation system for scheduling field usage.

OPEN SPACE & NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Explore ways to protect and enhance open space lands and stream corridors.
2. Provide opportunities to connect with nature.
3. Partner with local organizations to support open space management efforts.
4. Increase, preserve, manage, and protect the Township's tree canopy.

TRAILS & CONNECTIVITY

1. Develop a walking and biking network to provide a safe place for recreation, non-motorized travel, increased community connectivity, and access to community amenities.
2. Expand and enhance the trail and greenway network to provide a safe place for recreation, increased community connectivity, and access to community amenities.
3. Provide safe, sustainable, multimodal recreation and transportation options for people of all abilities.
4. Improve and enhance trail related resources and amenities within the Township.
5. Form a Trails and Connectivity citizen-led group focused on increased opportunities for active transportation improvements within the Township.

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

1. Update and enhance the Townships existing facilities.
2. Incorporate nature into the existing parks.
3. Create welcoming spaces and places for social interactions.

MAINTENANCE

1. Mitigate litter and vandalism.
2. Prioritize maintenance throughout all Township Parks.
3. Provide low maintenance amenity alternatives.
4. Maintain trails in a safe and sustainable condition.



TONIGHT'S ACTIVITIES



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Review the Goals & Objectives Handout
- Use your 5 Stickers to Identify which Goals you feel are most important, and/or should be prioritized
- Index Cards are available for additional comments

OPEN SPACE

1. EXPLORE WAYS TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE OPEN SPACE LANDS AND STREAM CORRIDORS
2. PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH NATURE
3. PARTNER WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT EFFORTS
4. INCREASE, PRESERVE, MANAGE, AND PROTECT THE TOWNSHIP'S TREE CANOPY

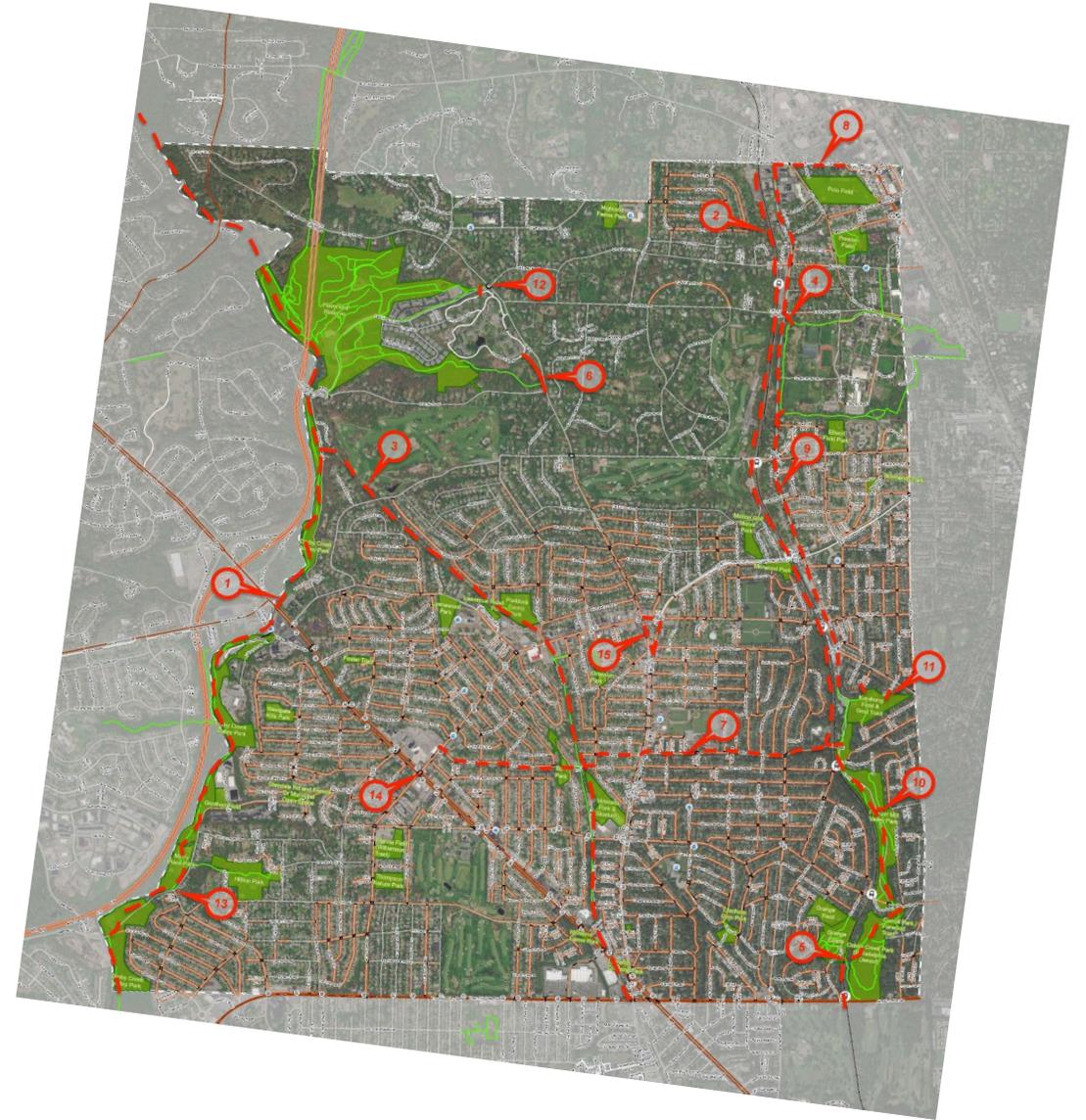
PROGRAMMING

1. CONTINUE TO EVALUATE, UPDATE, AND IMPROVE PROGRAMMING OPTIONS AND THE FACILITIES THAT AID IN THESE PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES
2. EXPAND PASSIVE RECREATION PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES
3. DEVELOP AN ART IN THE PARK PROGRAM TO ENGAGE LOCAL ARTISTS
4. CELEBRATE NEIGHBORHOODS
5. IMPROVE THE RESERVATION SYSTEM FOR SCHEDULING FIELD USAGE

The handout features a light blue background with white clouds. The 'OPEN SPACE' section is at the top, and the 'PROGRAMMING' section is below it. The background of the 'PROGRAMMING' section includes a green hill with a path, a signpost, and a playground.

“TOP 15”

- Identified a draft “Top 15” for Trails and Connectivity Improvements or Projects
- Range from Planning and Design Projects for Trails, to Bike Lanes and Intersection Improvements
- Utilized feedback from Public Meetings, Key Person Interviews, and Steering Committee Meetings



“TOP 15”

- Review the “Top 15” Map and their Descriptions
- Use your 3 tickets to Identify which of the “Top 15” you feel are most important, and/or should be prioritized
- Index Cards are available for additional comments

TOP 15 TRAIL & CONNECTIVITY IMPROVEMENTS & PROJECTS

- 1 PLANNING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF DARBY CREEK TRAIL**

The Darby Creek Trail in Haverford Township currently exists between the Sewage Authority property on Glendale Rd. and Hilltop Rd., just south of Old West Chester Pike. A continuous corridor through Haverford Township along the extent of Darby Creek should be pursued. Some portions of this corridor have already been planned for, while other portions still require a feasibility study.
- 2 PLANNING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE VALLEY FORGE TO HEINZ REFUGE (VF-HR) TRAIL**

The VF-HR Trail is a proposed trail corridor on the Eastern side of the Township that will ultimately connect the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Philadelphia with Valley Forge National Historical Park west of King of Prussia. A trail feasibility study of this corridor was completed in 2015 between the Cobbs Creek Trail at 63rd and Market Streets in Philadelphia and Karakung Dr. at Mill Rd. in Haverford Township, but the corridor north to the Radnor Trail and then to Valley Forge is still to be studied in detail. A continuous corridor through Haverford Township should be pursued.
- 3 PLANNING AND DESIGN OF THE NEWTOWN SQUARE BRANCH TRAIL**

The Pennsy Trail in Haverford Township currently exists between Manoa Rd. and Ralston Ave., just south of Eagle Rd. on the former Newtown Square Branch R.R. Corridor. A continuation of this trail between Baltimore Pike in East Lansdowne and Newtown Square has been proposed as part of the Circuit Trail network. Haverford Township should work to complete the Newtown Square Branch RR. through the Township. Like the Darby Creek Trail, portions of this corridor have already been planned for, while other portions still require a detailed feasibility study.
- 4 FORMALIZE THE CONNECTION TO SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES AT HAVERFORD COLLEGE TRAIL**

The existing Haverford College Trail is largely an internal trail loop around the campus. There is an existing pedestrian bridge over Railroad Ave. on the north, but there are no formal connections to Haverford Rd. at College Ave. or Haverford Rd. at Overhill Rd. Formalizing and improving these connections as a community pedestrian corridor would improve connectivity for both the College and surrounding residents.
- 5 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT A BRIDGE OVER COBBS CREEK AT THE GRANGE ESTATE**

As part of the 2015 VF-HR Trail Feasibility Study, a trail bridge over Cobbs Creek was recommended. This would not only serve as a bridge on the VF-HR Trail alignment, but it would connect the Grange Estate with the existing trails in Carroll Park. There is already an access driveway under the Norristown High Speed Line in this location and remnants of an old bridge over Cobbs Creek, as it once served as the access driveway for the Grange Estate off City Ave.
- 6 CREATE A TRAIL CONNECTION THROUGH THE QUADRANGLE PROPERTY BETWEEN PARKVIEW DRIVE PATH AND MARPLE RD.**

The Quadrangle retirement community is located between Marple Rd. and Parkview Drive, just west of Darby Rd. There is currently a very low-volume internal loop road. By connecting the internal loop with a portion of trail between Parkview Drive and Manoa Rd., pedestrians and cyclists could benefit from a safe alternative to Darby Rd. and better connections to the Parkview Drive Trail and Southbrook Trail.
- 7 INSTALL BIKE LANES / SIGNAGE ON MILL RD., DARBY RD., YALE RD., MANOR RD., AND LINCOLN AVE. BETWEEN KARAKUNG DR. AND EAGLE RD.**

Mill Rd. not only provides access to the Beachwood Brookline station at Karakung Drive, but will ultimately connect to the VF-HR Trail. This east-west connector also connects to the Haverford Middle and High School and the existing bike lanes on Darby Rd. Sidewalks already exist, but by improving this corridor with bike trail signage and possibly some bike lanes community connectivity would be improved. Additionally, providing a pedestrian/bicycle crossing of Darby Rd. at Mill Rd. and Yale Rd., would enable a continued east-west route along Yale Rd., Manor Rd., and Princeton Rd., to connect to the Pennsy Trail and Lincoln Ave. all the way to Eagle Rd.
- 8 SIDEWALK ALONG COUNTY LINE ROAD BETWEEN HAVERFORD ROAD AND OLD LANCASTER AVE.**

On the northeastern end of the Township, a sidewalk is missing on County Line Rd., between Haverford Road and Old Lancaster Ave. This corridor is a key connector between the Paoli-Thorndale Regional Rail Line and the Norristown High Speed Line. It is also adjacent to Bryn Mawr Hospital, one of the largest employers in the area, and provides direct access to the Polo Field and Acme Market.
- 9 HAVERFORD ROAD FROM COUNTY LINE RD. TO KARAKUNG DR. NEEDS CONTINUOUS SIDEWALKS.**

Haverford Rd. is one of the primary north-south transportation routes in the Township and serves a mix of residential, institutional, commercial, industrial, and transportation resources. Although sidewalks are visible on several portions of the corridor, there is no continuous walking corridor, and several areas could be upgraded and improved. Continuing these improvements along Karakung Rd. would enable a safe walking connection through much of the township. Bicycle improvements may also be suggested as a more comprehensive study of this road.
- 10 NEW BRIDGE OR STEPPINGSTONES CONNECTING POWDER MILL PARK OVER COBBS CREEK TO KARAKUNG DR.**

Two of the Township's best recreational resources include Powder Mill Park and the Karakung Walking Trail, but although they are adjacent to one another, a connection between them is missing. A bridge or stepping-stones would help to connect these two recreational resources and better connect the adjacent residential communities.
- 11 IMPROVED NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING CONNECTIONS TO KARAKUNG FIELD**

Karakung Field and the Karakung Swim Club are located near large residential populations. Although there is a pedestrian connection to Pelham Ave. to the south, residents to the north must access the park and swim club via automobile. Improving walking and biking to these resources would help to remediate parking concerns and improve access for residents.
- 12 DARBY RD. AT PARKVIEW DR.**

This intersection poses a challenge for walkers and cyclists connecting from the Parkview Trail to the signed bike route on Williams Rd., Meadowview Ln., and Buck Ln. Enhancing the intersection with a push-button crossing at of Darby Rd. would greatly improve pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- 13 BURMONT RD. AT GLENDALE RD.**

This intersection serves as an informal connection to the Darby Creek Trail corridor, but sight lines and the lack of a pedestrian crossing pose a challenge for walkers and cyclists connecting from the residential community along Burmont Rd. to the Creek. Enhancing the intersection with a push-button crossing at of Glendale Rd. in addition to a trail spur connection to the Darby Creek Trail would greatly improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. A flashing-beacon at the crossing would also improve safety for all modes.
- 14 EAGLE RD. AT WEST-CHESTER PIKE**

This intersection of two major transportation routes poses a challenge to all modes (vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle). A study to improve multimodal transportation through this intersection is recommended in coordination with active transportation improvements to both transportation corridors.
- 15 INTERSECTIONS AT THE TRIANGLE FORMED BY DARBY RD., WEST CHESTER PIKE, AND TOWNSHIP LINE RD.**

Much like the intersection of Eagle Rd. and West Chester Pike, this series of intersections, pose a challenge to all modes (vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle). A study to improve multimodal transportation through these intersections is recommended in coordination with active transportation improvements of all three transportation corridors. Additionally, this area serves as a commercial node for the community that could be greatly enhanced as part of a large study.





THANK YOU!