

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

North Lebanon Township

ADOPTED DECEMBER 3, 2007



This project was funded in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnership Program, Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, administered of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

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North Lebanon Township
Resolution No. 28-2007

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors of the township of North Lebanon, Lebanon County (herein "Board of Supervisors"), deem it to be an important goal of the township to develop and maintain park and recreation opportunities within the township for the benefit of Township residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has request the Township's appointed planner, RETTEW Associates, Inc., to prepare a Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan; and

WHEREAS, RETTEW Associates, Inc., has presented to the Board of Supervisors a Park and Recreation Plan outlining the existing park and recreation opportunities within the township, setting forth a park and recreation demands and needs of the Township as well as ways for implementing and funding new park and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan has been finance by a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and has been completed in accordance with grant agreement and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the Township will use the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan to guide future park and recreation decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Township Park and Recreation Board; and

WHEREAS, consideration for the adoption of the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan has been published in the Lebanon Daily News on November 7 and November 11, 2007 ; and

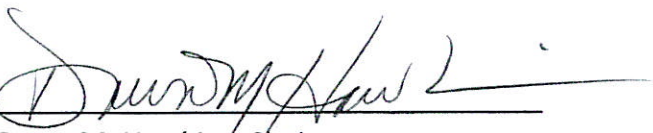
WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors deems it to be in the best interest of the Township to adopt the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

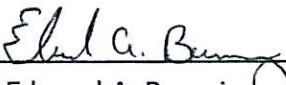
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, this 3rd day of December, 2007:

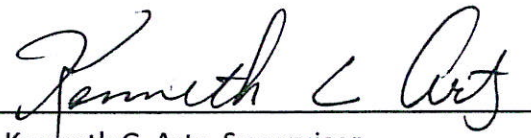
1. The North Lebanon Township Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan dated October 1, 2007, which is attached hereto, incorporated herein is hereby adopted.
2. The Board of Supervisors intends that the adopted North Lebanon Township Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan be considered formally adopted in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

3. All previously adopted resolutions inconsistent with this resolution shall be considered repealed.
4. This resolution shall be effective immediately.


**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH LEBANON
LEBANON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

By: 
Dawn M. Hawkins, Chairperson

By: 
Edward A. Brensinger, Supervisor

By: 
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ATTEST


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NLT – OPEN SPACE PLAN- DRAFT

North Lebanon Township

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Introduction

The *North Lebanon Township Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan* was developed to serve as a guide for the township in providing and establishing future open spaces, parks, and recreational services. This plan was designed to serve as an update to the 1994 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, which was fully implemented by the township by June of 2003.

Parks, recreation, and open spaces benefit communities and their residents and natural habitats in a variety of healthful, environmental, financial, and civic ways, although it is important to differentiate between these three terms. Parks are places, areas of land set aside for public use, maintained for the enjoyment and recreational use of people. Recreation is an activity, the act of participating in experiences that result in achieving and maintaining the balance required for people to live life fully and to realize their full potential. Passive recreation can be performed alone and typically is less intense or strenuous, such as picnicking, hiking, or fishing. Active recreation tends to be associated with specific facilities and is often group oriented such as baseball, soccer, or tennis. Open space includes all undeveloped or un-built areas of the township, including agricultural land, woodlands, stream valleys, public parks, and tree nurseries. The open space portion of this plan focuses on land that is used for public open spaces.

The plan provides a socioeconomic overview of the township and analyzes various components of parks, recreation and open space including current and planned facilities; open space and environmental assets; trails, sidewalks, and linkages; recreational programming; administration and staffing; park maintenance, safety, security, and accessibility; and financing, funding and promotions. Each of these topical areas is evaluated in a four step process that considers where we are today, how we measure up, the vision for the future as expressed by specified goals, and how we get there. This structure is meant to assist the township in fully implementing this plan update.

Plan Development and Public Participation

North Lebanon Township sought diverse public input throughout the planning process. A task force was established to guide the planning process, and contained members of the North Lebanon Township Parks and Recreation Board and key members of the community that have expressed their passion for parks, recreation, and open spaces. Each task force meeting was held at a regularly scheduled and advertised public Parks and Recreation Board meeting. In addition to the task force meetings, the township conducted a parks and recreation survey that was distributed to a random sampling of 1,500 township residents. In addition to the survey, the township conducted a community public meeting on parks and recreation, to seek further input from members of the community. To appeal to younger age groups, a student outreach program was integrated into the plan that targeted fifth graders in the two public elementary schools in the township. Children are often left out of the planning process; however the township felt it was important to gain feedback from this age group,



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especially since this age group is the most likely to witness implementation of the plan.

Parkland and Recreation Facilities

Trends in park planning focus on achieving a balance between protecting natural resources and meeting public needs for recreation. North Lebanon Township residents have access to a variety of publicly and privately owned parks and recreation facilities in the township and in surrounding areas. These facilities include regional facilities such as Coleman's Memorial Park and Lauther Water Complex, Union Canal Tunnel Park, and Stoever's Dam Park. Memorial Lake State Park and Swatara State Park are also located within Lebanon County. Township owned and operated facilities include two community parks, North Lebanon Township Community Park, and Lion's Lake, and one neighborhood park, Ebenezer Park. The township has acquired the former Moyer Tract with plans for developing it as a new community park with a focus on active recreation, to be named Lenni Lenape Park.

Community Park offers a wealth of playing fields, which act as a great asset in the township. The fields are generally well maintained, but the park lacks connectivity and coordination among its amenities and the playground facilities and other features are in need of repair or removal, due to underutilization. Lion's Lake is the most recently developed park in the township. It offers a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities, and provides a paved walking trail throughout. Ongoing maintenance is essential at this facility. The baseball field at Ebenezer Park is the nicest and best maintained field with the township, equipped with a scoreboard, dugouts, and a grandstand seating section; however, the field requires ADA accessibility improvements. Other amenities of Ebenezer Park including the playground equipment and basketball courts are in need of repair or removal to mitigate safety hazards at this location. The township developed a master site plan for Lenni Lenape Park in conjunction with this plan. The master site plan for the park includes a series of paved and unpaved walking and hiking trails, a disc golf course, pavilions, an outdoor learning center, multipurpose fields, sledding hill, and playground areas.

Open Space and Natural Resources

North Lebanon Township has a wealth of open spaces and natural resources including water resources, biotic resources, land resources, and historic and cultural resources. Natural resources such as stream corridors provide a migration network for various habitats in the township. Open space protection efforts should include approaches toward the conservation of biological diversity. Agricultural Security Areas and preserved farms represent two ways in which the township is maintaining open space. Although these areas are being used for agriculture, preserving agriculture in the region effectively maintains large contiguous tracts of open space. This plan suggests that the township review and update their comprehensive plan and subsequent ordinances to ensure that development is directed to the most appropriate areas and to discourage development from encroaching upon sensitive natural areas.

Trails, Sidewalks, and Linkages

Trails, greenways, and sidewalks can be used to connect people to various areas of recreation or other destinations throughout the township. The plan focuses on initiating



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connectivity throughout the township, between the various park and community facilities, such as schools, and within each of the township owned and operated facilities.

Recreational Programming

Although North Lebanon Township does not currently sponsor any community recreation programs, there are a number of groups that exist within and around North Lebanon Township that make recreation opportunities available to the general public at various facilities. The plan focuses on addressing the issues of duplication of youth sports organizations, the lack of indoor recreational space, and the limited availability of programs that are held in the township.

Recreation and Parks Administration and Staffing

As a second class township, a three member Board of Supervisors governs and is responsible for overseeing all functions of the township, including recreational and parks services and funding for these services. A five member advisory Parks and Recreation Board is appointed by the Board of Supervisors for three year terms. Several township staff are also involved with parks and recreation in the township including administrative positions, and billings. Maintenance is handled in the Parks and Recreation Department with assistance provided by the Road Department when needed. This plan stresses the need for additional education, training, and organization within the township and the potential for additional staffing. The township should annually evaluate whether there is a need to hire a Recreation Director.

Park Maintenance, Safety, Security, and Accessibility

Good maintenance practices are directly related to the level of use, citizen support for parks and recreation, and the safety of visitors to park facilities. Better maintenance also discourages vandalism and helps to develop a positive image for the township, increasing its attractiveness. In North Lebanon Township, park maintenance and construction work is performed by township staff, who undergo routine safety training and are provided with a personnel and safety manual. This plan works at addressing specific concerns such as vandalism, loitering, and the need for additional finances for maintenance improvements, through the establishment of a written maintenance management plan and other tools.

Financing, Funding, and Promotions

North Lebanon Township funds parks and recreation at an average level and over the years has shown an increased financial commitment to recreation and parks services. However, the revenue generated in the township by parks and recreation is minimal, the majority of which is earned through pavilion rentals. Nationwide financing trends show that recreation and parks are moving towards a market-based economy in which users pay for services or facilities from which they directly benefit. The township could increase its revenue generated from parks and recreation by changing its philosophy towards use of its fields and facilities. The township should also pursue additional income sources and partnerships to maintain existing parks, to develop recreation facilities, and to provide recreation programs for citizens.



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Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Action Items

In order to effectively plan for the future of recreation in the township and ensure a successful implementation, there has to be a set of goals and associated objectives and specific action items that, when carried out will lead the township to fulfill a recognized vision. The vision statement for parks and recreation in North Lebanon Township was developed through input from the steering committee and through the various methods of public participation that were conducted during the development of this plan. The table of goals, objectives, and action items can be used as a checklist as the township implements the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

Vision

In 10-15 Years...

North Lebanon Township provides its residents with a wide array of accessible and safe active and passive recreation opportunities. Its park facilities are clean and well maintained, which is due in part to the structured maintenance program that the township employs. Youth and adult sports organizations and leagues utilize the township's various facilities as established by the use schedule. Each organization is also required to renew its annual agreement and fee schedule with the township to use the facilities and specific amenities at each facility, such as the snack bar facilities at Ebenezer and Community Park. North Lebanon Township also has a written agreement with the ice cream vendor and paddleboat rental coordinator at Lion's Lake Park.

North Lebanon Township has also begun to develop a series of programs that are available to residents of North Lebanon Township and surrounding municipalities as outlined in the Intermunicipal Recreation Agreement. These programs are available to non residents for a slightly higher fee, similar to the pavilion rental rate fluctuations.

Community Park is entering into the first stage of redevelopment following the final master site plan for this park. The master site plan represented a cooperative effort between the Board of Supervisors and the Parks and Recreation Board and incorporated a high level of public input to designate appropriate areas for recreation uses and appropriate areas for municipal uses. The portion of the final master site plan that relates to recreational uses portrays a park that boasts an interconnected system of amenities and which is connected to the surrounding neighborhoods. Parking facilities, restrooms, and the snack bar and playground areas are strategically placed in relation to the popular field activities at this location.

Connectivity has also improved between and within Lion's Lake and Ebenezer Parks. While Ebenezer Park is still highly used by youth and adult sports leagues, it is common for families to walk to Lion's Lake following the games to visit the ice cream vendor and the geese.

Lenni Lenape Park is in Phase 4 of development. Residents in the eastern portion of the township take advantage of the passive recreation opportunities offered at this facility, as do the science teachers at Union Canal Elementary School. The pavilions and open air theater at this location make it just as popular as the other locations in the township.



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for family reunions and other events, it is also not uncommon to have at least one wedding at Lenni Lenape Park during the summer months.

Union Canal Tunnel Park has also undergone renovations in recent years. Although these efforts were funded by the Lebanon County Historical Society and other organizations, North Lebanon Township supports these activities and recognizes the potential economic benefits that tourism at this location can have in the township. This is one primary reason why the system of trails and walkways in the park is represented on the brochure that showcases recreation trails and parks in the township.

North Lebanon Township residents are satisfied with the level of service provided by township parks and recreation. The township has implemented most of the action items in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan and is looking to update the plan within the next six months to include expansion of the programs offered in the township, updating of equipment at certain facilities, and a reassessment of the need for a regional sports complex to serve the central and eastern portions of the county.



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Goal	Objective	Action Item	Notes	Range of Objectives
Capitalize upon the existing assets of Community Park including its well maintained fields and its location in the township through the modernization and improvement of facilities and equipment to enhance visitors' experiences.	Develop a master site plan for Community Park to focus the placement of the features within the park and to develop a system of interconnectivity.	A second entrance, located in proximity to the lower fields should be designed as part of this process.		Mid Term
		Encourage a separation of park facilities and other municipal uses to improve safety and retain the valuable recreational areas.		
		Consider developing the master site plan for Community Park in conjunction with the master site plan for municipal uses.		
	Design and construct hospitality facilities, including a restroom and snack bar, in proximity to the lower field activities.			Short Term
	Remove obsolete and deteriorated playground equipment.			Immediate
	Practice debris maintenance of the wooded areas.	Regularly clear debris and extract the large stump that is located among the equipment to improve safety and aesthetics in this area.		Continuous
	Monitor and continue to maintain the fields to retain or improve their condition.			Continuous
	Continue to improve connectivity and ADA accessibility throughout the park.	Expand the recently developed paved, ADA accessible path to link the various fields, parking areas, and the playground.		Short Term to Mid Term
		Construct steps on the bank of the hill from the upper to lower fields to allow easier access between these areas.		
	Improve connectivity between Community Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.	Construct crosswalks and sidewalks to create an integrated system of connectivity as described in Chapter 4.		Mid Term to Long Term
		Create a lower entrance that is ADA accessible with proper signage that allows visitors to the park and access the park from the surrounding neighborhoods.		
	Analyze strategic locations to post directional signage indicating the route to Community Park. Construct attractive signage at the entrances to Community Park to alert visitors that they have arrived.			Mid Term
	Rules and regulations should be posted in additional locations throughout the park as should a map that designates where the various amenities and hospitality features are located.	Post specific rules, where they apply, pertaining to fields and courts.		Short Term
Continue to provide the vast array of passive and active recreation opportunities that are offered at Lion's Lake Park through careful and continuous monitoring and maintenance of its various amenities.	Create well-defined boundaries on the edges of the park property to increase safety and awareness.	Install a fence or vegetative screening along the portions of the park that border the streets and along the border with the tree farm. Proper materials will increase safety for both visitors to the park, and motorists.		Short Term
	To maintain and enhance the overall condition of Lion's Lake Park, create a detailed maintenance schedule that tracks all maintenance procedures performed on equipment and other features in the park. Develop a schedule for the replacement deteriorating play structures, benches, and other equipment.			Short Term
	Pave the Jay Street parking area to allow for easier ADA access to the rental pavilion and fields.			Mid Term
	A map of the park should be located at each entrance, where the rules are posted, that designates where the restrooms, boat launch, and vending areas are in addition to the fields, playground, pavilions and other park amenities.			Short Term
	Restrooms should be locked after the park closes to maintain their cleanliness and good condition and to discourage vandalism.			Immediate / Continuous
	The waterfowl and their waste should be tended to daily by township staff. Signs should be posted alerting visitors not to feed the waterfowl.			Short Term / Continuous
	Improve relationships with the paddleboat operation, ice cream sales, and any other businesses that are located on the property. Establish a written agreement that defines costs, responsibilities, and liabilities.	Effectively post paddleboat rules, hours of operation, and fees.		Short Term
	Improve connectivity between Lion's Lake Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.	Construct crosswalks and sidewalks to create an integrated system of connectivity as described in Chapter 4.		Long Term
		Lion's Lake is also in close enough proximity to Ebenezer Park that a greenway or path should be constructed to link these two facilities. This will be discussed further in Chapter X.		



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Goal	Objective	Action Item	Notes	Range of Objectives
	Designated fishing areas should be delineated and areas that are off limits should be posted.			Short Term
Encourage Ebenezer Park to provide for localized active youth recreation programs through the enhancement and increased awareness of the high quality fields that are available at this location.	The paved lot accessed via Water Street should be lined and posted with appropriate signage.			Short Term
	Improve connectivity between Ebenezer Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.	Construct crosswalks and sidewalks to create an integrated system of connectivity as described in Chapter 4.		Mid Term
		Ebenezer Park is in close enough proximity to Lion's Lake Park that a greenway or path should be constructed to link these two facilities. This will be discussed further in Chapter 4.		
	Improve internal connectivity through an interconnected system of pathways used to access parking areas and different features at the park.			Long Term
	Evaluate the demand for basketball courts in this area of the township. If the demand exists, they need to be fully repaired and brought up to standards. If these courts are underutilized, an adaptive reuse of this area should be considered.			Mid Term
	Perform relatively simple maintenance procedures that will greatly improve the appearance of the park including painting playground equipment, storage crates and bleachers.			Short Term
	Remove deteriorated equipment and equipment where the height imposes a severe liability on the township.			Immediate
	Create well-defined boundaries on the edges of the park property to increase safety and awareness.	Install a fence or vegetative screening along the portions of the park that border the streets and along the border with the radio station.		Short Term
		Delineate the boundary between Ebenezer Park and the private school. Form a written agreement between the township and school officials that outlines the use policy for the school facilities and for the township facilities during school hours and lists responsibilities and liabilities of both parties.		
	Signs need to be posted stating rules and regulations. Signs should also be posted designating the age group that the playground equipment is meant to serve.			Immediate
Communicate with Lebanon City, Friends of Stoevers Dam Park, and local police services to ensure that North Lebanon Township citizens are able to obtain an enjoyable and safe recreational experience at this facility.				Continuous
				Continuous
				Continuous
North Lebanon Township should continue to work with the Lebanon County Historical Society to expand, promote, and protect the Union Canal Tunnel Park. The canal and trails throughout the park offer a strong potential for the township to expand upon the existing greenway.				Continuous
Establish and maintain an open line of communication with the school district to develop an understanding of their use policies regarding recreational facilities and equipment.				Short Term / Continuous



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Goal	Objective	Action Item	Notes	Range of Objectives
Establish and maintain an open line of communication with the various private recreation providers to develop an understanding of their use and membership policies.				Short Term / Continuous
To continue to conserve those open space, natural and cultural features of North Lebanon Township that contribute to its community character and setting and that comprise resource opportunities.	Update the North Lebanon Township Comprehensive Plan and subsequent ordinances to guide development away from land areas not suitable for buildings or structures due to steep slopes, poor soil bearing qualities or with poor sewage capabilities; mechanisms can include clearly-worded ordinances and township officials sensitive to the open space, natural, and cultural features of the land.	Investigate the possibility of developing a regional comprehensive plan with the municipalities that comprise the school district. Seek Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) funding should inter-municipal cooperation be established.		Short Term
	Support public and private efforts to enhance and conserve natural diversity; avoid isolation of wildlife habitat areas, seeking to coordinate protection strategies to maintain continuous corridors of protected open space.	Recognize public and private conservation efforts through the township web site, municipal meetings, and other special events.		Mid Term
	Focus on developing Conservation by Design zoning and subdivision and land development ordinance updates stressing "site sensitive" design standards.	Seek a Natural Lands Trust Grant to incorporate ordinance revisions.		Short Term
	Consider the establishment of a program for Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), within the township or regionally with multiple municipalities.	Host a regional transfer of development rights seminar to determine interest in inter-municipal trading.		Short Term
	Establish incentives for conservation of historic structures and landscapes, offering a modest density bonus and/or design flexibility. The essential purpose of any bonus would be to make conservation at least as financially feasible as demolition and replacement.	Update municipal ordinances to include conservation of historic structures and landscapes into the township's design standards.		Short Term
	Work with the Lebanon County Conservation District to facilitate continued efforts of encouraging ASA designation of North Lebanon farmlands and permanent preservation of those property owners that are designated ASAs.			Continuous
Establish an initial level of connectivity both internal and external to existing park facilities for residents to utilize alternative modes of transportation to reach the Township's recreational assets.	Establish Greenway and Trails steering committee from the park and recreation board to formalize greenway and trail suggestions from this plan and to advocate greenway and trail connections within the community.			Mid Term
	Focus on implementing the proposed priority greenway and trail links to establish connectivity between anticipated heavier pedestrian and bicycle traffic areas.	Seek funding opportunities to establish greenway and sidewalk connections. Support the Planning Commission in requiring pedestrian connections.		Long Term
	Celebrate greenway and trail successes with ribbon cutting ceremonies and other media opportunities.			Long Term
	Develop master plans for the existing township owned parks that focus on retrofitting connectivity between the park's amenities with a focus on ADA compliance.			Mid Term
	Support regional trail and greenway programs so as to provide linear connections outside the municipal boundaries.	Participate in regional greenway and trail committees.		Continuous
	Work with the school district to utilize safe routes to school grants to build sidewalks in communities that lie adjacent to school campuses.	Focus on establishing connections from Lenni Lenapi Park to the Union Canal Elementary School.		Short Term / Mid Term
	Revise township ordinances to support connectivity through trails, sidewalks, and bike lane provisions for both residential and non-residential development.			Mid Term
	Revise township ordinances and work with local watershed groups to educate the public on establishing modern riparian stream buffer practices.	Coordinate with the watershed specialist from the Conservation District to assist in riparian buffer education.		Mid Term
Strengthen year-round recreation program opportunities at township-owned and School District-owned park areas and recreation facilities.	A consolidation of overlapping youth sports organizations would eliminate confusion for residents and strengthen and improve services and facilities. An umbrella athletic association would allow each sport to have an executive board that focuses its efforts on that sport. The township should work with the youth sports groups to begin discussion on consolidation.			Mid Term



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Goal	Objective	Action Item	Notes	Range of Objectives
	While gyms for organized sports are important, other indoor facilities are needed. Drop-in activity space, fitness facilities and community meeting rooms enable people to participate in an active, healthy lifestyle year-round.			Long Term
	The township should form partnerships with others to maximize the resources needed for special events and other programming, due to staff limitations. Few programs are actually offered within the township's borders. Any of the agencies listed in the program inventory may be willing to work cooperatively to expand program offerings within the Township.	Develop a survey to be sent to adjacent municipalities to determine interest in participating and contributing in offering special programs.		Mid Term
	An assessment of existing recreational programs reveals the need for the Township to expand programming in the following areas:	Special events for families at North Lebanon Township parks. Activities should be planned that get people out to the parks to enjoy them and, hopefully, return on their own. A Fishing Derby would be a perfect event to hold at Lion's Lake Park. The Community Day event should be reinstated. Every community organization in the township should be invited and encouraged to participate. The Park and Recreation Board should become involved in planning a yearly schedule of recreational activities at the township parks. This schedule does not have to be extensive and should primarily include working with township civic clubs and community groups to hold family special events at the parks. The township's role should be that of providing the facilities and other support, rather than planning the entire activity itself.		Mid Term
		Outdoor recreation and environmental education programs. These activities should be conducted in cooperation with the City of Lebanon or the County Conservation District at the Quittapahilla Educational Wetland Preserve, Stoever's Dam Park and township-owned parks. Getting people back in touch with the outdoors is important.		
		Self-directed recreational opportunities (walking trails, fishing, in-line skating, mountain biking). The Center for Disease Control has stated that public parks and recreation departments have a primary role in addressing obesity and physical inactivity by providing attractive and safe places for people to walk, hike, bike and enjoy other active pursuits. Citizen use of the parks should be promoted as a way to enhance their fitness and wellness. Providing self-directed recreational opportunities will work well for North Lebanon Township since it does not have staff to plan and implement recreational programs.		
	Utilize the township newsletter and website to promote recreation opportunities. The program opportunities that already exist within and surrounding the township need to be promoted better. The inventory of recreation programs includes a long list of available opportunities. The township should promote these opportunities on its website and in its newsletter. Links to websites should be provided whenever possible. In addition, the township should develop a list of self-guided activities that people can take advantage of on their own during their leisure time and promote it on the township website and in the township newsletter.			Short Term
	Pursue recreation business development. The recreation activities that 5th grade students mentioned that they would most like to do, but aren't currently available, were things like Laser Tag, Go-Cart Tracks, Rock Climbing Walls, Paint Ball, Miniature Golf Courses, Water Parks...most often provided by commercial business, not municipal government. The township should pursue private business development in these activity areas when feasible.			Mid Term
Continue to operate the township's recreation, parks and open space system effectively and efficiently through volunteer and staff leadership.	<i>Plan of Work</i> – The Park and Recreation Board, with the help of the Assistant Township Manager and Parks and Recreation Foreman, should develop a yearly plan of work. The plan should review the Board's accomplishments, assess needs, set goals for the coming year and outline action strategies for the year's work. A written meeting schedule should be prepared for the year with recommended themes and activities for each Board meeting.	The Board's first quarter meetings should be for planning the year's activities and schedule of events.		Short Term/ Continuous
		Second quarter meetings should include a review of park facility fees and promotional materials, including the township website.		
		Park tours should be scheduled during the third quarter of the year.		
		Parks should be assessed for accomplishment of goals and evaluated for safety and maintenance issues. A priority list should be developed and submitted to the Parks and Recreation Foreman for budget planning.		
		The final meetings of the year should be focused on revising the plan of work, reviewing short and long-term goals and meeting with the Township Supervisors to inform them about Park and Recreation Board plans.		



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Goal	Objective	Action Item	Notes	Range of Objectives
		As part of the plan of work, a mission statement should be adopted for the Park and Recreation Board so that its work is focused. A simple orientation process should be put in place for new Board members as well.		
	<i>Purchase Membership for Board in Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society –</i> The Park and Recreation Board should join the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS), the statewide association for recreation and parks boards and staff. The Assistant Township Manager is currently a PRPS member.			Short Term
	<i>Hold Board Training Session –</i> The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Regional Recreation Advisor should be asked to attend a Park and Recreation Board meeting to conduct a training session for members on their roles and responsibilities. This would also be a good opportunity to take the Regional Recreation Advisor on a tour of township parks. This individual plays a key role in awarding state grant funds for park land acquisition and improvement projects.			Short Term to Mid Term
	<i>Non-Resident Fees –</i> The township should consider instituting a higher fee for non-resident use of pavilions. Residents pay taxes to support township services and should pay less than a non-resident to take advantage of them. Non-residents should be charged 25 to 50 percent more than residents.			Short Term
	<i>Revise Land Dedication/Fee in Lieu of Land Dedication Regulations –</i> The township should revise the land dedication and fee in lieu of land dedication requirements to include allowance for any fees paid to be used for maintenance of existing parks and recreational facilities, in addition to capital improvements.			
	<i>Plan Implementation –</i> The responsibility for oversight of the implementation of this plan should be given to the Park and Recreation Board. The yearly plan of work should contain actions to facilitate plan implementation.			Continuous
	<i>Annually Evaluate the Need for a Recreation and Parks Director -</i> North Lebanon Township is one of the largest municipalities in Lebanon County, population-wise. Its size makes hiring a recreation and parks director a realistic option, although financial demands dictate otherwise. If financially feasible, this position would oversee the development of Lenni Lenape Park and pursue citizen desired greenway and trail connections within the township. Planning and offering township-sponsored recreation programs would also be the director's responsibility. A recreation and parks director would coordinate grant writing, marketing of township services, including recreation and parks, and planning of special events, in addition to other duties. Currently, many of the duties that could be performed by a recreation and parks director are completed by the Assistant Township Manager or the Parks and Recreation Foreman. These specific duties should be outlined and the person responsible for each item should be noted. The list of duties should be reviewed annually to determine if they are all being accomplished, allowing the township to evolve in parks and recreation. Monitoring the situation will help to determine when the responsibilities for parks and recreation in the township exceed the time and resources of the positions currently performing these duties, and when a recreation and parks director will become a necessity. PRPS RecTAP grant funds are available for assistance with applicant recruitment, screening and interview process. RecTAP will match an experienced parks and recreation professional with the township to assist with the hiring process. A job description/list of duties for the recreation and parks director position should be developed.	Coordinate acquisition and development of new park and open space areas and improvements to existing areas.		Short Term
		Expand the number of grant applications submitted for park open space and trail acquisition, development and renovation projects, and program funding.		
		Work to ensure that all park and open space areas and recreation facilities meet safety and accessibility guidelines and develop a standardized inspection schedule and forms.		
		Alleviate usage and over-usage problems by coordinating the reservation, scheduling and permitting of field and park facility use, including rotating field use from heavy to light when necessary.		
		Develop and implement consistent standards of maintenance for park areas and facilities. Establish a year-round maintenance schedule for fields and facilities for items such as weed control, fertilizing and mowing.		
		Spearhead the development of a trail and greenway network connecting schools, parks and neighborhoods.		
		Coordinate the purchase of park maintenance equipment. Standardize inspection program for park maintenance equipment.		
		Coordinate the implementation of the township's Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan recommendations.		
		Establish a central source where residents can get information on all recreation opportunities. Develop a map and listing of all park and open space areas, recreation facilities, and a website that includes all recreation activities offered.		
		Communicate and coordinate with the volunteer-run sports associations and pull them together to share resources.		
		Establish a network of park facility and recreation program providers to improve communication and help them understand their role as part of the recreation and parks system.		
		Work with existing community special event providers to enhance and improve the events.		
		Direct the expenditure of funds in accordance with budget appropriations and collect and manage any revenue generated.		



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Goal	Objective	Action Item	Notes	Range of Objectives
		Serve as technical advisor to the Parks and Recreation Board and keep careful and complete records of their activities and services.		
		Prepare and recommend adoption of long-range goals and short-term objectives to meet needs for recreation programs and facilities.		
		Identify park areas and recreation facilities in need of upgrades. Prioritize park development and renovation projects.		
		Study the security needs for each park area and implement necessary improvements.		
		Promote neighborhood involvement in the parks through the creation of friends groups and adopt-a-park programs. Recruit volunteers for park and open space enhancement and clean-up projects and recreation programs.		
		Plan and conduct community recreation programs. Evaluate existing recreation programs to determine their effectiveness. Diversify and expand the recreation program opportunities offered for all age groups.		
		Coordinate promotion and marketing of the recreation, parks and open space system and programs.		
		Develop strategies to attract dedicated funding for recreation, parks and open space services. Coordinate public-private partnerships to benefit recreation opportunities and expand sources of revenue through business sponsorships, development of a parks foundation with 501(c)(3) status, donations, in-kind contributions, friends groups and fund raising activities.		
		Develop revenue-producing recreation facilities and programs.		
		Investigate and act upon citizen requests, suggestions and complaints concerning recreation, parks and open space services.		
		Educate elected officials and community leaders about recreation, parks and open space.		
		Foster intergovernmental cooperation whenever possible.		
	The township does not contain any formal greenways or trails within its borders. Connecting linkages between parks, schools and other community destinations that would facilitate safe walking and bicycling passages are needed. The township should appoint a Greenway and Trails Task Force to study potential linkages and connections between township parks, schools, residential neighborhoods, open space areas and other community destinations for safe pedestrian and other non-motorized use. Bicyclists, hikers and those knowledgeable about trail planning should be asked to join the task force. The Lebanon County Planning Commission should be contacted for assistance in coordinating the task force and invited to appoint a task force member.			Short Term to Mid Term
Build community awareness of the value of recreation opportunities as an important factor in improving the quality of life of citizens. Increase public knowledge and support of, and encourage public's use of - park and open space areas, greenways and trails, recreation facilities and recreation programs.	A guide to the township's recreation and parks system would increase citizen awareness of the opportunities available to them. The guide should include a map of park locations, featuring all public park areas and recreation facilities and private ones that are open for public use, the facilities and amenities at each park, the major recreation programs and special events in the township, other program opportunities available within the school district, contact information for the township's recreation providers and park rules and regulations.	The parks, recreation and open space guide should be mailed to citizens as an insert in the township newsletter. The guides should also be distributed at township special events and at schools, churches and municipal building.		Short Term to Mid Term
		The guide can be developed and designed using in-house staff or through a commercial firm, such as the company that prints community maps. Sharing the cost with special purpose facilities and/or seeking business sponsors and advertisers to offset the cost are options to pursue. The guide should be updated regularly, approximately every two years. The following items should be included in the guide:	Municipally-owned, school district-owned and privately-owned park and open space areas, greenways and trails.	
			Golf courses, swimming pools and other special purpose recreation facilities.	
			Map of site locations.	
			The acreage and amenities available at each site.	
			Park rules and regulations, including operating hours.	
			Photos of people enjoying the facilities.	



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Goal	Objective	Action Item	Notes	Range of Objectives
			Information on how to reserve/rent facilities at each site.	
			A detailed map of facilities at the township parks.	
			Listings of youth sports groups, service organizations and other recreation providers with brief descriptions of programs offered, contact names and phone numbers or websites for more information.	
			Program opportunities available within and surrounding the township.	
			A calendar of major community special events, including those sponsored by the township, with event description, date, time, place, contact name and phone number or website for more information.	
			Commercial recreation businesses such as campgrounds and fitness centers.	
	Concentrated efforts should be placed on making citizens aware of the park and open space areas, recreation facilities and recreation programs their tax dollars support. Better promotion will lead to citizen support for increased funding for open space protection and recreation and parks services.			Continuous
	The township website should be updated to include the guide, with links on the website to library, school district, neighboring municipalities, service clubs, universities, youth sports organizations, etc.			Short Term/ Continuous
Continue to ensure that park and open space areas and recreation facilities are attractive, well-maintained, and safe and secure for visitors.	<i>Maintenance Management Plan</i> – A written maintenance management plan should be instituted, with standards of care that describe how park areas and facilities are to be maintained and a schedule for completion of routine tasks. Work to be accomplished by maintenance staff should be scheduled as needed on a weekly basis in the spring, summer and fall after inspections. A separate work schedule should be developed for the winter months.			Short Term
	<i>Equipment Needs</i> – Locating recycling containers for disposal of aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles beside trash containers at park areas would eliminate the need for employees to hand separate the recyclables. The parks and recreation maintenance tractor must be shared and is often unavailable when needed for trash removal. A utility vehicle such as a golf cart would be a great help to more efficiently pick up park trash. Storage areas for park maintenance equipment should be larger, to enable staff to easily access the equipment. If the Moyer Tract is developed into a park, a separate storage area for maintenance equipment will be needed.			Mid Term
	<i>Play Area Safety</i> – The township should improve play area safety through a routine inspection and maintenance program. The playground environment is constantly changing due to weather conditions and participant use. Regular, documented inspections insure that these much-used facilities are safe for the township's children. Of particular concern is the playground equipment at the Ebenezer School, which is outdated and unsafe. It should be taken down and replaced with new equipment that meets safety standards.			Immediate / Short Term
	<i>Locking Park Bathrooms</i> – Locking of park bathrooms will help the vandalism problem and reduce maintenance costs, but may limit access to the bathrooms when they are needed by visitors. The most practical way to lock and unlock park bathrooms is to have the Police Department take on this responsibility.			Immediate
	<i>Increase Funding For Maintenance</i> – The township should update its policies for fee in lieu of land dedication to allow these funds to be used for maintenance improvements at existing facilities, in addition to capital improvements for recreation.			



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Goal	Objective	Action Item	Notes	Range of Objectives
	<i>Gates</i> - The township should consider constructing gates at the park facilities that are locked after hours to assist in loitering and vandalism concerns.			Short Term to Mid Term
	<i>Lenni Lenape Park</i> – Expansion of township parks will require an expansion of the park maintenance staff. An additional full-time park maintenance worker will be needed when Lenni Lenape Park is developed. Any plans for park development at this site should take into consideration the maintenance requirements, including the costs.			Long Term
Secure adequate financing and partnerships to support the operation, maintenance, development, future acquisition of park and open space areas and recreation facilities, and provision of recreation programs and services.	Currently, North Lebanon Township funds recreation and parks services at an average level. A more appropriate percentage for a township of North Lebanon's size would be seven to 10 percent of the township's budget. As the Moyer Tract is developed, the percentage of operating budget funds allocated to recreation and parks will continue to increase.			Continuous
	Financing trends show that recreation and parks is moving towards a market-based economy in which the users pay for services or facilities from which they directly benefit. Increased revenue generation would require a change in philosophy towards field use fees.	It is not unrealistic for the township to charge youth sports groups for field maintenance. Township youth sports groups are charging fees for involvement in their programs. Some portion of this fee should go to support the fields that are being played on. The township should work with each youth sports group utilizing its fields to set fees for field use and/or pay for field maintenance supplies. For instance, a rule of thumb for sports field maintenance for good quality conditions is about \$5,000 in revenue per field annually. Increased revenue generation could also be accomplished by the addition of revenue producing facilities and programs.		Short Term
		The township should pursue the development of income sources and partnerships to maintain existing parks, to develop recreation facilities and to provide recreation programs for citizens. The township should prepare a gift catalog of needed park improvements and a business sponsorship package for park projects, and develop an adopt-a-park program to help with improvements to park areas. This program would match civic clubs, neighborhood groups, service organizations or local businesses with a park to give money, raise money for on-going maintenance or park improvements or provide volunteer labor for clean-up days, special events, patrolling or landscaping projects. The township should apply for a Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society RecTAP grant to get help with developing a business sponsorship, adopt-a-park or gift catalog program. This is a \$1,500 grant to pay an experienced professional for a specific project. No matching funds are required, but providing matching funds can increase the size of the project. An ad-hoc fund raising committee should be created as an extension of the recreation and parks board. Township residents with expertise in marketing, advertising, fund raising and development should sit on this committee, which should direct the business sponsorship, adopt-a-park and gift catalog programs.		
	The township's mandatory dedication ordinance should be updated to increase the fee-in-lieu of dollar amount and land dedication acreage amount.			Short Term



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From the perspective of parks, recreation, and open space planning, North Lebanon Township, Lebanon County, is at a critical crossroads. As of June 2003, the township had implemented all of the components of the 1994 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. This plan is designed to serve as an update to the 1994 plan and will provide a path for the future of community parks, recreation and open space in North Lebanon Township.

Community recreation and parks can be defined as the entire range of activities, relationships, interactions and experiences planned for and carried out to meet the recreation needs of residents. This includes providing the spaces and places where recreation takes place and everything the community does to satisfy peoples' interests.¹ Recreation, parks and open space areas benefit the township in a variety of ways. Financially, parks increase property values and attract business to the area. Recreation programs improve the fitness and overall wellness of residents. Open space, greenways and trails preserve a community's natural environment.²

A parks, recreation, and open space plan serves as the backbone for developing future public parks and recreation services. Through this planning process, participants gain a better understanding of current township resources as well as the variety of services and facilities municipalities can offer to residents. Ways to provide and manage these services effectively and efficiently will be explored and evaluated to determine which of these methods can be customized to best fit the needs of North Lebanon Township and its residents. The parks, recreation and open space plan represents not only a plan for future facilities, but also recognizes maintenance and improvements that are needed at existing parks.

Having a parks, recreation, and open space plan is not an end-all solution to the recreation needs of a community. As a community undergoes social and economic changes, the parks, recreation and open space needs of the community also change. Therefore, a parks, recreation, and open space plan should be thought of as a strategy that will need to be reviewed and refined to ensure that it is up to date and that its recommendations are still valid. A current up-to-date parks, recreation and open space plan also assists a community in acquiring federal, state and county grants and other available funds.

Public awareness of, and participation in, the planning process are essential components in formulating goals, objectives and action items for parks, recreation and open space in North Lebanon Township. Involving the public through a park and recreation survey and public participation meeting session will help to determining what

¹ Landes, Susan E.; Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation and the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, Inc. *Community Recreation and Parks, A Handbook for Pennsylvania Municipalities*. 2004.

² Ibid.



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parks, recreation and open space components are considered the greatest assets in the township and what types of improvements are needed to make available the variety of recreation opportunities desired by township residents.

Public Park and Recreation Services

Parks, recreation and open spaces benefit communities and their residents in a variety of ways. In 1987, the President's Commission on American Outdoors canvassed the nation to meet with key community leaders. Their mission was to determine the impact of public parks and recreation services and to provide direction for needed federal, state, and local initiatives. The following points represent key findings:

- Recreation contributes to one's health and wellness.
- Recreation enhances environmental quality.
- Recreation is vital to the prosperity of our families and children.
- Recreation helps prevent crime.
- Recreation programs lead to civic pride and social unity.
- Outdoor places foster a spirit of belonging among generations.
- The outdoors is a habitat for plants, animals, and people.
- The outdoors is an investment in our education.

Definitions

Often the terms recreation, parks and open space are mistakenly used interchangeably. Although these terms are interrelated, there are fundamental differences between the terms.

- *Parks* are places - areas of land set aside for public use, maintained for the enjoyment and recreational use of people.
 - Typically, in Central Pennsylvania, county and state parks provide passive recreational experiences including hiking trails, picnic areas, and camping facilities. Local municipalities provide smaller parks that have a greater emphasis on active facilities such as fields, courts, and play areas.
- *Recreation* is an activity - the act of participating in experiences that result in achieving and maintaining the balance required for people to live life fully and to realize their full potential.
 - Recreation can be active or passive in nature. Passive recreation can be performed alone and typically is less intense or strenuous such as picnicking, hiking, or fishing. Active recreation tends to be associated with specific facilities and is often group oriented, such as baseball, soccer, or tennis.
- *Open space* includes all undeveloped areas of the township - This includes agricultural land, woodlands, stream valleys, public parks, and tree nurseries.
 - The focus for this plan is on public open space; land that is available for public use and recreation without an access fee.

Recreation and Park Providers

In Pennsylvania, providers of recreation and parks services fall into three basic sectors, all three of which will be analyzed for this plan. The following descriptions are given by DCNR:

- The *public sector* is commonly known as recreation and parks agencies at the national, state, regional and local levels of government. These agencies provide



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park areas, recreation facilities, programs and services that are supported by tax dollars for use by the general public.

- The *private for-profit business sector* includes commercial recreation, travel and tourism. Private for-profits are in the recreation business for financial profit. Examples include bowling centers, health and fitness clubs, movie theaters, ski resorts, golf courses, amusement parks and race tracks.
- *Nonprofit sector* recreation providers are generally social service oriented associations that extensively rely on volunteer support. These associations may focus on health, the environment, disability, the arts, religion, youth development or the elderly. They typically have a specific mission and operate on a nonprofit financial basis, relying on membership fees, donations, grants, and often United Way funding. Boys and Girls Clubs, Special Olympics, Lions Clubs and Little League Baseball organizations are examples.³

The Roles of Government Providers

Federal government agencies acquire, develop, maintain and preserve nationally significant natural, cultural, and historic resources. The National Park Service manages parks, the United States Forest Service manages forests, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers manages impounded waters.

The role of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is to preserve and manage natural, cultural, and historical resources of state-wide significance. State recreational areas tend to go beyond the financial and management abilities of county or local government and often cross political boundaries. Such areas include state game lands, state parks, and state forests.

The role of county government in Pennsylvania is to provide regional park areas and recreation facilities and programs that are beyond the capabilities of municipal government, yet less extensive than those provided by the state.⁴

The role of local government is to provide day-to-day park and recreation experiences that are accessible to residents of the municipality. Neighborhood and community parks are typical facilities that provide active recreation play areas such as playgrounds, courts, and athletic fields. Greenways and trails can also be the responsibility of local government.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources states that the mission of local government recreation and parks should be to, "provide opportunities that guarantee every resident quality recreation experiences by:

- Offering recreation programs and services that are consistent with citizens' needs and interests and that add to their health, sense of well being and sense of community.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.



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- Developing and maintaining park areas and recreation facilities for citizens to enjoy, and at the same time, protecting and preserving the environment for future generations.”

The plan will determine which programs and services are essential to meet the needs and satisfy the interests of the residents of North Lebanon Township and evaluate methods to offer these programs and services in an effective and efficient manner.

Layout of the Plan

This chapter provides important information about parks and recreation on a macro level, and about general socioeconomic trends occurring in North Lebanon Township. The following plan elements will address parks and recreation items specific to North Lebanon Township including: various facilities; open space and environmental assets; trails, sidewalks, and linkages; recreational programming; administration and staffing; park maintenance, safety, security and accessibility; and financing, funding and promotions. These planning elements will contain a certain structure that will be useful in evaluating the following four points:

Where We Are Today

How We Measure Up

Vision for the Future - as expressed by specific goals

How We Get There

Additionally, a separate and detailed implementation schedule has been provided that will serve as a checklist for the township in the future. Goals, objectives and specific action items will be listed, along with the lead party responsible for each item. A timeline will be established that denotes priority items and projected completion dates. Potential funding sources will also be included in the implementation schedule.

Public Participation

The development of the North Lebanon Township Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan relied heavily upon input from the community. The task force meetings, which were held during the regularly scheduled and advertised Parks and Recreation Board meetings, were all open to the public. There were also three additional public participation forums that were conducted through the development of this plan to give residents an opportunity to contribute to the development of the Parks and Recreation Plan for the township and to voice any concerns they may have. The community survey, fifth grade outreach program, and community public meeting were all ways in which the township sought input from the general public in the development of the plan.

Community Survey

A survey on parks and recreation in the township was distributed to a random sampling of 1,500 residents from each of the three voting districts in the township. The survey was structured such that respondents were questioned on each of the parks that the township owns and maintains as well as Stoevers Dam and Union Canal Tunnel parks, which are located in North Lebanon Township but are owned and maintained by other parties. There was also room for written comments on the back of the survey.



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Of the 1,500 surveys that were sent out, 221 were returned, for a return rate of 14.73%. The majority of respondents did not have children of preschool through high school age. More people responded that there were senior citizens living in the house than those who responded there were children in each of the school levels identified (preschool, elementary, middle, and high school). This indicates that the majority of the people who responded to the survey were adults without children living in the house, and many of the respondents were older adults.

Programs

Respondents were asked if their household would benefit if the township were to offer various programs. For most of the programs that were listed, the majority of respondents indicated that their household would not benefit. The only program for which the majority of respondents indicated that a member of their household would benefit, should the township choose to offer this program, was a fitness program. Respondents' opinions about the possible benefits of educational programs and aquatic programs were close to evenly split.

Lenni Lenape Park (former Moyer Tract)

The majority of respondents felt that the area formerly known as the Moyer Tract should offer a combination of both passive and active recreation opportunities. Respondents were asked about possible future facilities to be located in this park. The majority of respondents indicated that members of their household would benefit from the following facilities if they were located at Lenni Lenape Park:

- Picnicking areas
- Pavilions
- Open-air theater
- Playground equipment
- Fitness stations
- Unpaved hiking trails
- Paved walking paths
- Biking trails
- Public pool
- Winter activities
- Nature walk

Community Park

The majority of respondents indicated that they had not visited Community Park in the last year, but they felt that the safety, facilities, cleanliness, parking, maintenance, and the township's response to vandalism at Community Park were all adequate. The greatest number of respondents indicated that members of their household use the playground facilities at Community Park, but the baseball and softball fields and basketball court were also popular responses, as was the pavilion with kitchen facilities.

Ebenezer Park

The majority of respondents indicated that they had not visited Ebenezer Park in the last year, but they felt that the safety, facilities, cleanliness, parking, maintenance, and the township's response to vandalism at Ebenezer Park were all adequate. The greatest



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number of respondents indicated that members of their household use the playground facilities at Ebenezer Park, but the baseball and softball fields were also popular.

Lion's Lake Park

Lion's Lake Park is visited by more survey respondents than Community Park or Ebenezer Park, and the majority of respondents felt that the safety, facilities, cleanliness, parking, maintenance, and the township's response to vandalism were all adequate. When the survey respondents were asked what facilities members of their household use, the most popular responses were:

- Walking trail
- Playground
- Lake for fishing
- Concessions stand

Stoever's Dam Park

When survey responders were asked what facilities at Stoever's Dam Park members of their household generally use, the most popular responses were:

- Trails
- Fishing
- Picnic areas
- Nature center/barn

Union Canal Tunnel Park

When survey responders were asked if members of their household used any of the following facilities at Union Canal Tunnel Park, approximately 26% indicated that they used the hiking trails, 7% indicated that they used the picnic facilities, and 4% indicated that they used the park for fishing.

Fifth Grade Outreach Program

As part of the development of the plan, the township wanted to hear from the youth in the community. The consultant visited the two elementary schools in the township, Ebenezer Elementary School and Union Canal Elementary School, to conduct a two-hour program with the fifth grade classes, which involved a short educational presentation and two interactive activities. Approximately 100 students participated in the program at each school.



The first activity was conducted to determine what this age group likes to do for recreation, or what programs they like to participate in. The students were placed into groups and asked to name activities that they currently participate in or things that they like to do for recreation. Then, the students were asked what types of things they would like to do, but they are not currently able to do in the township's existing parks. The students were given dot stickers and were asked to place the dots next to their favorite activities on each list to determine which activities or programs were the most favored.

Students at Ebenezer Elementary School indicated that their favorite current activities were (listed in rank order):

- Swimming



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- Basketball
- Gymnastics
- Softball
- Track

The activities that they would most like to do, but are not currently available included:

- Rock Climbing
- Laser Tag
- Water Park
- Merry-go-rounds
- Climbing wall
- Go-Cart track

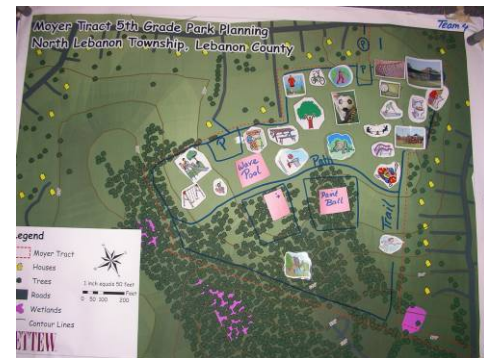
Students at Union Canal indicated that their favorite current activities were:

- Baseball/softball
- Football
- Basketball
- Swimming
- Cheerleading

The activities that they would most like to do, but are not currently available included:

- Paintball
- Laser Tag
- Swimming
- Gymnastics
- Mini-golf
- Ice Cream Pavilion
- Go-Carts

The second activity involved group collaboration to design a park. Each group had a large map of the former Moyer tract that the township will be developing into a park, and a set of different items that are typically found in a park such as a baseball fields, benches, trails and restrooms. Each student was allowed to pick one item to include in the park. They had to work together as a group to determine the best placement for the selected features considering various environmental constraints, the relationship between the features and the surrounding properties, and the relationships between the different items in the park. The parks that the students designed will be considered when the master site plan for Lenni Lenape Park is developed.



Additionally, there were two contests that were open to all students in grades K-5. The first contest was to design the cover of the plan. The second contest was to name the new park. The winning design was prepared by Carla Thomas in Mrs. Rexrodes 5th grade class at Union Canal Elementary. The winning name for the new park, Lenni Lenape Park, was entered by Olivia Devitz of Ms. Stoddard's 5th grade class at Union Canal Elementary. During the community public meeting on parks and recreation held June 20, 2006 the winners were announced. They each received a one-day pass to HERSHEY PARK donated by Lesco, a landscaping and grounds maintenance company that serves the township.



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Community Public Meeting on Parks and Recreation

The North Lebanon Township Community Public Meeting on Parks and Recreation was held on June 20, 2006 at the pavilion at Community Park. The public meeting gave residents and members of the community an opportunity to come out and voice their concerns, comments, and ideas for the future of parks and recreation in the township.

Residents participated in a Strengths and Weaknesses exercise, and were given the opportunity to state what they considered to be the vision for parks and recreation in the township and also what they thought the best future use for Lenni Lenape Park would be.

Community members stated their vision for the future of parks and recreation in the township in the next 10-15 years to be:

- Skate park
- Paintball/air soft park
- Natural areas with wildlife
- Hiking trails
- More walking/bike paths throughout the township (linking with parks and other paths in surrounding townships and the county)

Community members also provided input on how they felt the Moyer Tract should be used. They then ranked the items that were listed to determine which uses were the favorite of the group. The items that were listed, along with the number of "votes" each item received are shown here:

- Hiking trails (natural, not paved) (12)
- More baseball fields (12)
- Leave it natural and undisturbed (11)
- Ecology / environmental education (11)
- Education trails (9)
- Preserve land's natural state (8)
- Sledding hills - seasonal multi-use (5)
- Limited and controlled access (2)
- Defined boundaries for residents along Weavertown Road

A group facilitation effort took place during which community members were given an opportunity to discuss strengths and weaknesses of the different facilities owned and operated by North Lebanon Township. Following the discussion, residents placed stickers on the items they felt most strongly about. The results for each of the park facilities are shown below:

Community Park

Votes	Strengths	Votes	Weaknesses
8	Security	7	Need for updated playground equipment
6	Maintenance of fields	6	Need for pavilion that is not full service by ball field
5	Variety of facilities	4	Need softer surfaces
5	Something for all ages	4	Safety nets for backstops
4	Shade at playground	3	More parking
3	New walking path		



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Votes	Strengths	Votes	Weaknesses
2	Ball fields		
1	Restroom facilities (clean)		
1	Maintenance of facility		

Although the residents had many positive things to say about Community Park, including the excellent security that is available, the variety of the facilities available at this park, and the maintenance of the fields, they also recognized the need for updated playground equipment and a pavilion near the fields.

Lion's Lake Park

Votes	Strengths	Votes	Weaknesses
7	Walking trail	4	Vandalism
6	Lake	4	Slope of field
5	Veterans Memorial	4	Safety-speed along Water Street
4	Dogs allowed	3	Parking on Ashton by fields
3	Tree memorials	3	No backstop
3	Nice playground equipment	2	Geese
3	Well Maintained	2	Water fountain
3	Good accessibility for everyone	1	Damage to equipment
2	Two bathrooms	1	Accessibility/connectivity between park and neighborhood
2	Open areas	0	Cars broken into
2	Fishing		
2	Pavilions and variety		
1	Scenic		
1	Fields (soccer/baseball)		
1	Ice cream		
0	Parking availability		
0	More modern facilities		
0	Geese		

Residents of the township generally had very positive things to say about Lion's Lake Park. This is not surprising, considering that Lion's Lake is the most recently developed park and therefore generally contains newer equipment and infrastructure. Items of concern included vandalism that has been occurring, the slope of the field, and safety concerns along Water Street.

Ebenezer Park

Votes	Strengths	Votes	Weaknesses
6	Concession stand	9	Need updated playground equipment
6	Within walking distance to residential properties	9	Restrooms not open all of the time
5	Well maintained fields	7	Need for other activities besides youth sports
4	Updated parking (off of Water Street)	3	Basketball court
4	New pavilion		
3	Used heavily by youth sports ¾ seasons		
2	Dugouts and grandstand		
1	Accessibility		
0	Dual purpose of basketball/ street hockey court		

Residents noted the benefits of the concessions stand and the well maintained fields that Ebenezer Park brings to the community, and recognized the need for updated



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playground equipment. Residents also noted that although this park is heavily used by youth sports, there is a need for other activities in this area. The restrooms should also be open during the day for those who visit the park when there are no youth sports activities taking place.

Community members also ranked strengths and weaknesses of programs in the township. The results are shown in the following table:

Programs

Votes	Strengths	Votes	Weaknesses
10	Conservation district	11	Need for township recreation directors/recreation programs
9	Organized sports/organizations	9	Programs for adults
4	Private recreation businesses	3	No lacrosse
	-Dance	1	More kids for baseball
	-Karate	0	More gymnastics

Currently, there are no public programs available in the township that the township coordinates or funds. The community recognized the need for recreation programs and a recreation department in the township. They also noted that such programs should also provide for adults, and not just the township's youth. Residents did note that the programs that are provided by the Lebanon County Conservation District and the organized sports organizations were assets to the township.

If community members had thoughts they wished to express that did not fall into one of the previously mentioned categories, they were given the chance to in the 'general' category. These items ranged from items that pertained to all of the facilities in the township, to items pertaining to the township in general, to statements regarding the two parks that are physically located within the township but that the township does not own, maintain, or fund, Stoevers Dam Park and Union Canal Tunnel Park. Items in the 'general' category were not divided into strengths and weaknesses, but were ranked in order of importance like the other categories. Items stated in the 'general' category were:

General Comments

13	Keep wildlife
10	Need to pay attention to security at Moyer
7	All of the parks are very clean, well maintained
7	Access is an issue at Moyer Tract
6	Skating park
6	Way to get from park to park (sidewalks/crosswalks)
2	Enforcement issues at Stoevers Dam
	-Related to baseball
	-City has Stoevers Dam as home field
2	Need for lights
1	Need to organize crime prevention/neighborhood watch



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Information and input gathered from the community through the three forms of public participation that are presented here were used to formulate the vision, goals, and objectives for the North Lebanon Township Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Vision

As discussed in the Purpose of Planning Section, in order to effectively plan for the future of recreation in the township, there has to be a set of goals and a recognized vision. Through implementation of the plan, the vision for recreation in the township will come to be a reality. The vision statement for Parks and Recreation in North Lebanon Township was developed as a result of the various methods of public participation undertaken during the planning process, and from the input of Parks and Recreation Board and Steering Committee Members.

In 10-15 Years

North Lebanon Township provides its residents with a wide array of accessible and safe active and passive recreation opportunities. Its park facilities are clean and well maintained, which is due in part to the structured maintenance program that the township employs. Youth and adult sports organizations and leagues utilize the township's various facilities as established by the use schedule. Each organization is also required to renew its annual agreement and fee schedule with the township to use the facilities and specific amenities at each facility, such as the snack bar facilities at Ebenezer and Community Park. North Lebanon Township also has a written agreement with the ice cream vendor and paddleboat rental coordinator at Lion's Lake Park.

North Lebanon Township has also begun to develop a series of programs that are available to residents of North Lebanon Township and surrounding municipalities as outlined in the Intermunicipal Recreation Agreement. These programs are available to non-residents for a slightly higher fee, similar to the pavilion rental rate fluctuations.

Community Park is entering into the first stage of redevelopment following the final master site plan for this park. The master site plan represented a cooperative effort between the Board of Supervisors and the Parks and Recreation Board and incorporated a high level of public input to designate appropriate areas for recreation uses and appropriate areas for municipal uses. The portion of the final master site plan that relates to recreational uses portrays a park that boasts an interconnected system of amenities and which is connected to the surrounding neighborhoods. Parking facilities, restrooms, and the snack bar and playground areas are strategically placed in relation to the popular field activities at this location.

Connectivity has also improved between and within Lions Lake and Ebenezer Parks. While Ebenezer Park is still highly used by youth and adult sports leagues, it is common for families to walk to Lion's Lake following the games to visit the ice cream vendor and the geese.

Lenni Lenape Park is in Phase 4 of development. Residents in the eastern portion of the township take advantage of the passive recreation opportunities offered at this facility, as do the science teachers at Union Canal Elementary School. The pavilions and open



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air theater at this location make it just as popular as the other locations in the township for family reunions and other events; it is also not uncommon to have at least one wedding at Lenni Lenape Park during the summer months.

Union Canal Tunnel Park has also undergone renovations in recent years. Although these efforts were funded by the Lebanon County Historical Society and other organizations, North Lebanon Township supports these activities and recognizes the potential economic benefits that tourism at this location can have in the township. This is one primary reason why the system of trails and walkways in the park is represented on the brochure that showcases recreation trails and parks in the township.

North Lebanon Township residents are satisfied with the level of service provided by township parks and recreation. The township has implemented most of the action items in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan and is looking to update the plan within the next six months to include expansion of the programs offered in the township, updating of equipment at certain facilities, and a reassessment of the need for a regional sports complex to serve the central and eastern portions of the county.

Community Background Information

A community is constantly undergoing change as the residents marry, have children and go through various stages in life. In addition, people are continually moving to and from the community. By studying demographic trends, a community can better understand the changes taking place and plan for the future needs of its residents. In this case, the demographic section will help to identify future recreation needs. Knowing the location and distribution of township residents and where growth will occur helps to evaluate where the township needs to provide facilities or purchase additional open space. Analysis of socioeconomic trends coupled with population projections will lead to the identification of the types of recreation that are appropriate for and will satisfy the different groups represented in the township. This section provides a picture of growth trends and changes that are affecting the landscape now and are likely to affect it in the future.

Historic Population Trends

Table 1a: Historic Population Trends, 1960-1980

	1960	1970	% Decennial Change	1980	% Decennial Change
Pennsylvania	11,319,366	11,800,766	4.25%	11,863,895	0.53%
Lebanon County	90,853	99,665	9.70%	108,582	8.95%
North Lebanon Township	4,713	6,146	30.41%	8,343	35.75%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Lebanon County Planning Department

Table 1b: Historic Population Trends, 1990-2000

	1990	% Decennial Change	2000	% Decennial Change	Total Change
Pennsylvania	11,881,643	0.15%	12,281,054	3.36%	8.5%
Lebanon County	113,811	4.82%	120,327	5.73%	32.44%
North Lebanon Township	9,741	16.76	10,629	9.12%	125.53%

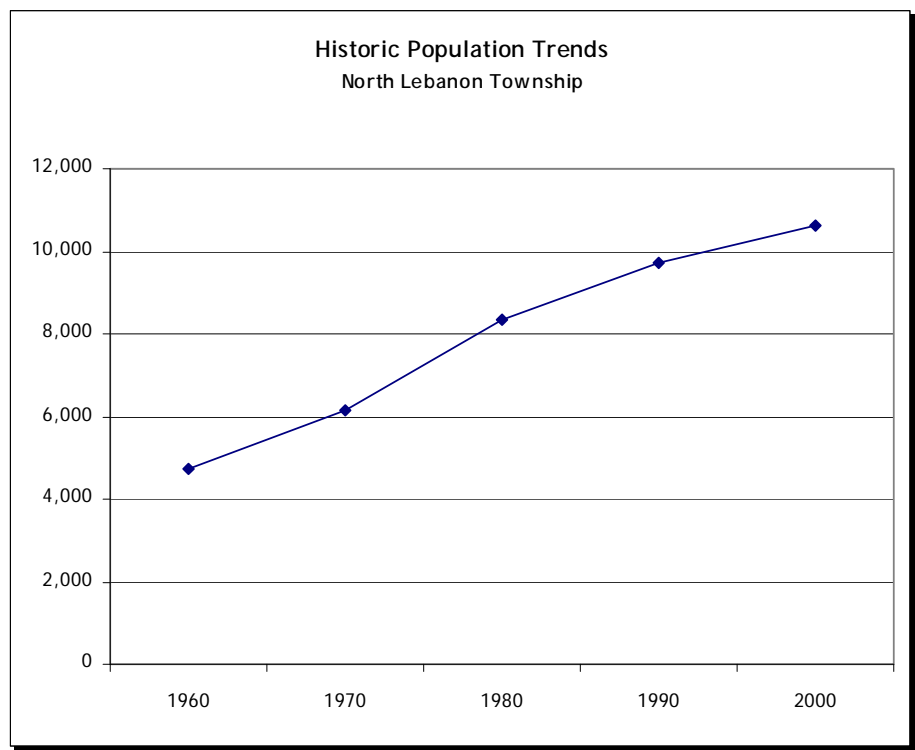
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Lebanon County Planning Department



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- The largest period of growth in the township since 1960 occurred in the 1970s when the township added 2,197 residents to the 1970 total of 6,146 residents. This represented an increase of 35.75%.
- Growth occurred at slower rates in the 1980s and 1990s, but the township continued to add residents in each decade.
- The township increased its population at a much faster rate between 1960 and 2000 than the county as a whole. The township increased its population by over 30% in both the 1960s and 1970s while the county population grew by less than 10%.

Figure 1: Historic Population Trends, 1960-2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Lebanon County Planning Department

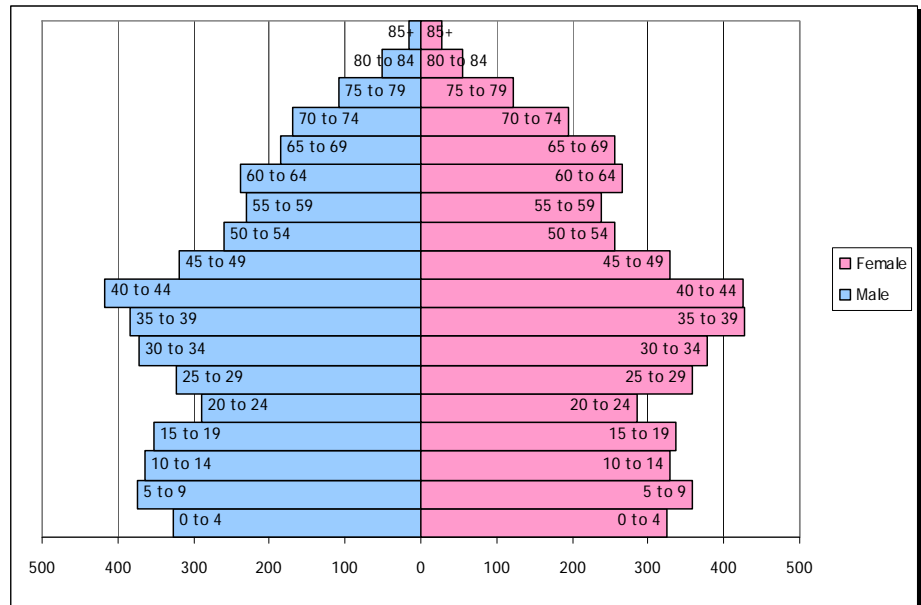
Composition of the Population by Age Cohort

- Determining what ages are present in the township can help to determine what age-appropriate recreation facilities and programs should be in place in the township in coming years.
- By examining the following two figures, it can be seen that the general makeup of the population changed between 1990 and 2000 in North Lebanon Township. In 1990, the population makeup of the township was much more uniform across the different age groups.
- In 2000, the number of young adults, age 20-30 decreased dramatically, but the number of people age 35 to 60 increased as did the number of children under age 18. This indicates that college aged students and young professionals are choosing to move out of the township, but an increasing number of families with children are choosing to relocate in the township.



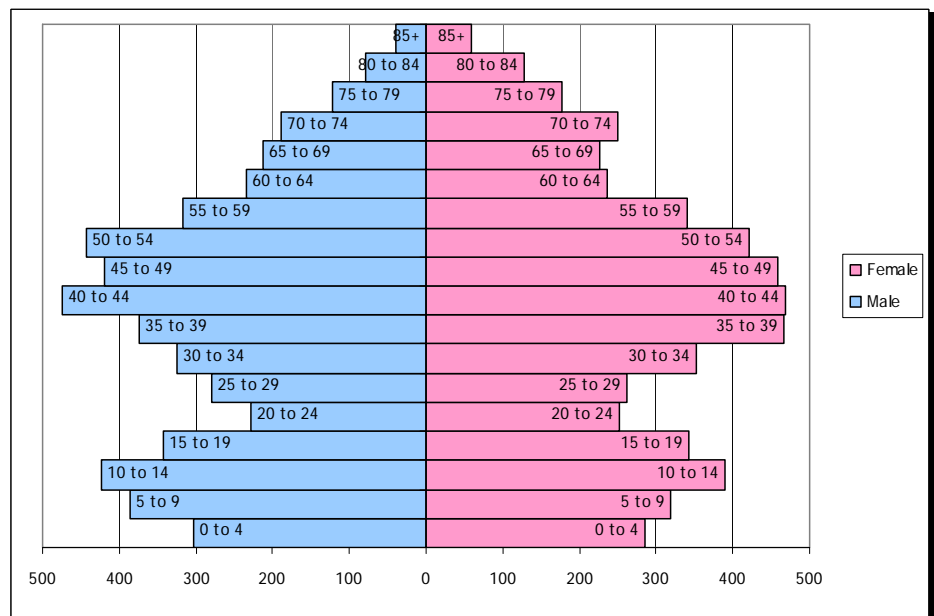
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Figure 2: Population by Age Cohort, North Lebanon Township 1990



Source: US Census Bureau

Figure 3: Population by Age Cohort, North Lebanon Township 2000



Source: US Census Bureau

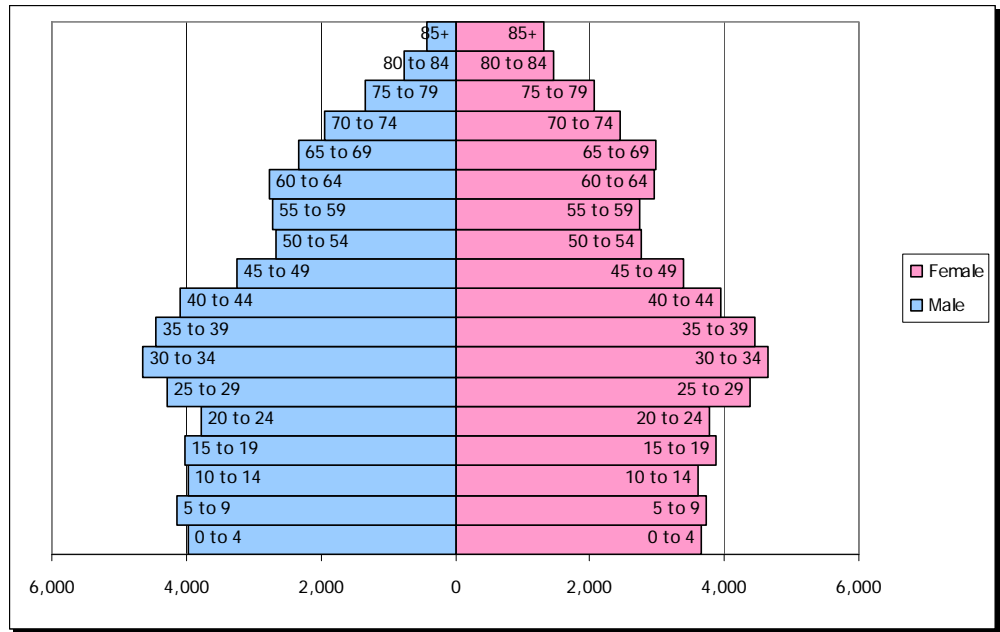
- The distribution of the population in the township is similar to the distribution of the population across the county.
- The trend of young adults is decreasing countywide although this trend is more pronounced in the township.



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- The trends that are present in North Lebanon Township can also be seen throughout the Cornwall-Lebanon School District. The number of people aged 25-30 are underrepresented in the district, while the number of those individuals with children have increased.
- The district also shows an increase in the number of senior citizens and elderly people.
- The overall composition of the school district was much more uniform in 1990 than it was in 2000.

Figure 4: Population by Age Cohort, Lebanon County, 1990

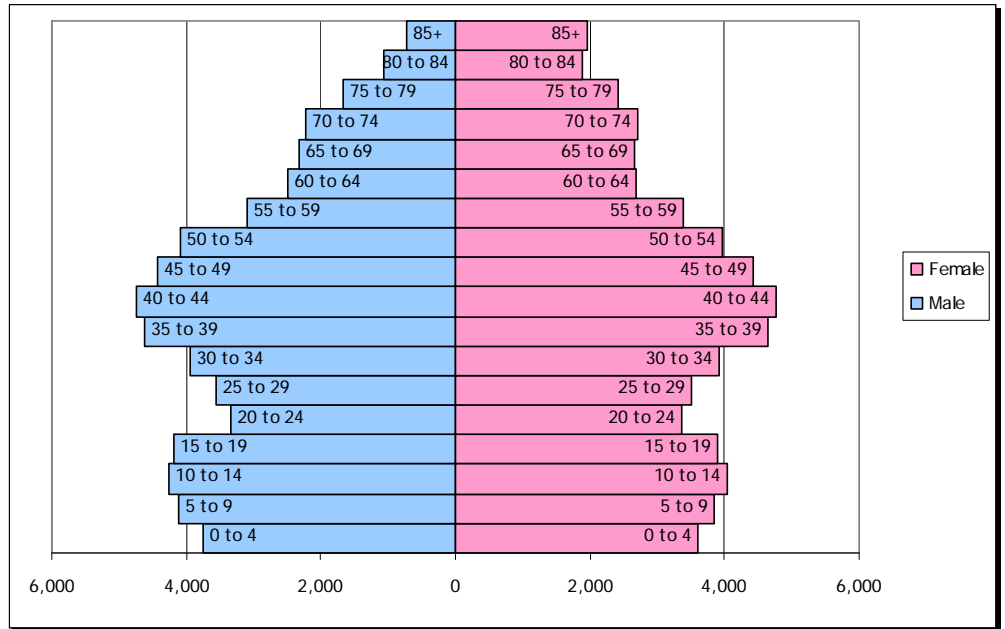


Source: US Census Bureau



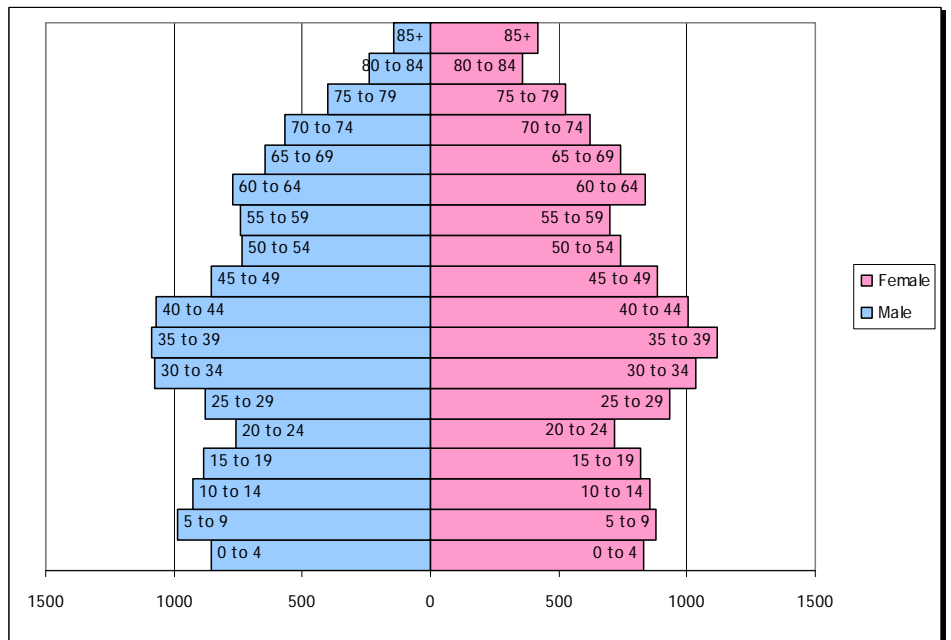
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Figure 5: Population by Age Cohort, Lebanon County, 2000



Source: US Census Bureau

Figure 6: Population by Age Cohort, Cornwall-Lebanon School District, 1990

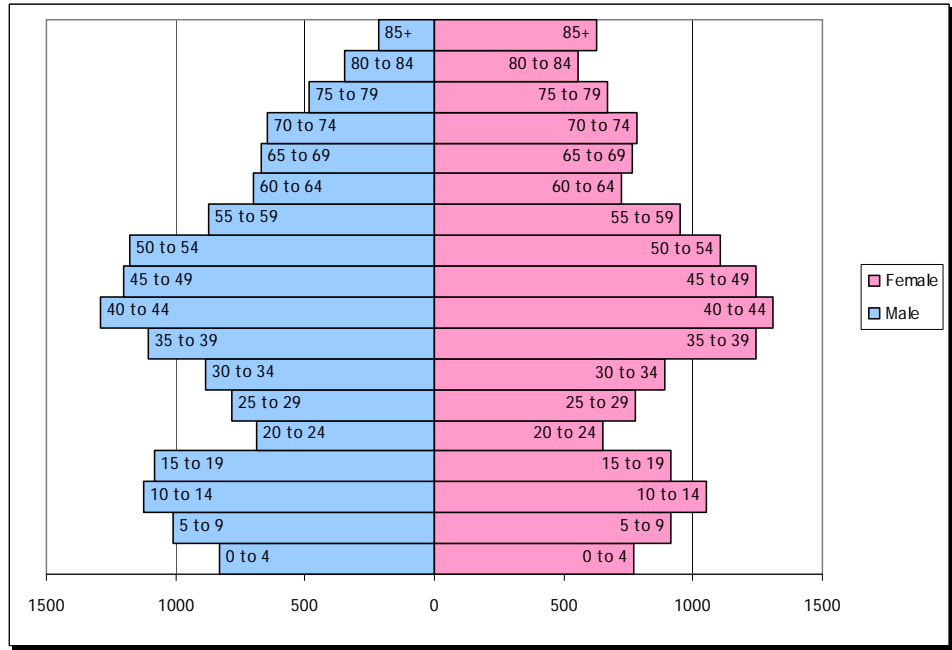


Source: US Census Bureau



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Figure 7: Population by Age Cohort, Cornwall-Lebanon School District, 2000



Source: US Census Bureau

School Enrollement Trends

Table 2: Enrollment Trends for the Cornwall-Lebanon School District

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Cornwall Elementary School	467	491	491	511	517
Ebenezer Elementary School	626	604	615	592	590
South Lebanon Elementary School	447	446	456	447	448
Union Canal Elementary School	482	496	459	442	460
Cedar Crest Middle School	1,103	1,117	1,177	1,164	1,199
Cedar Crest High School	1,481	1,453	1,479	1,486	1,500
Total District Enrollment	4,606	4,607	4,677	4,642	4,714

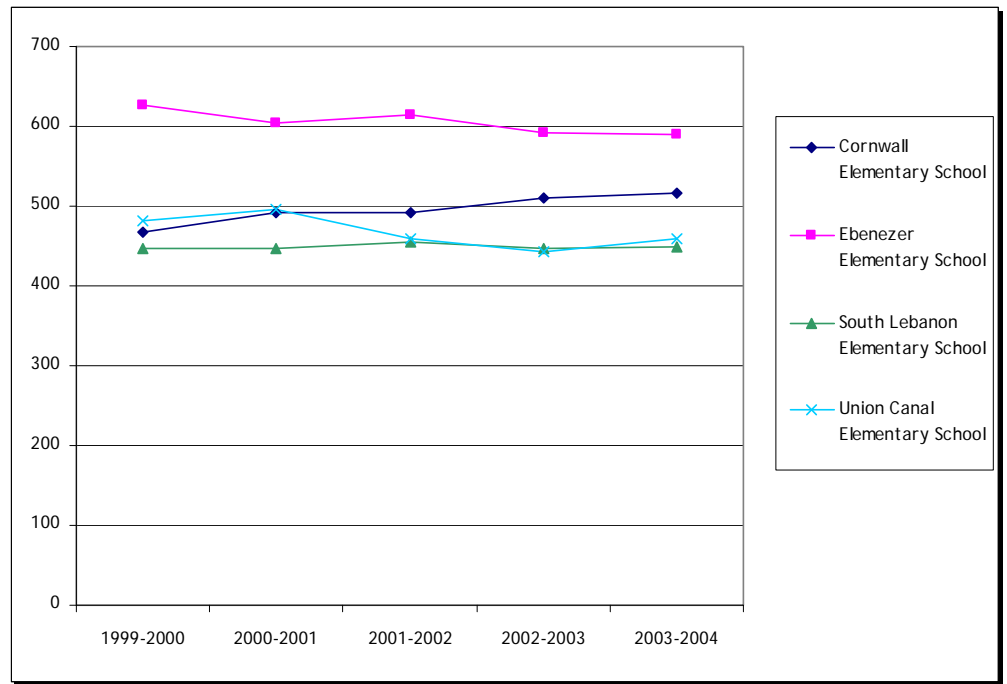
Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

- Because the U.S. Census is only completed every 10 years, it is often helpful to look at other data sources to determine what trends are occurring in the township.
- By examining enrollment trends for the Cornwall-Lebanon School District, it can be seen that enrollment has declined in both of the elementary schools in North Lebanon Township between 1999 and 2004.
- Enrollment has increased in both the middle school and the high school.



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Figure 8: Enrollement Trends in the Elementary Schools in the Cornwall-Lebanon School District



Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Projected Population

Table 3a: Population, 1990-2000

	1990 US Census Population	2000 US Census Population	Absolute Change, 1990-2000	Percent Change, 1990-2000
Lebanon County	113,811	120,327	6,516	5.73
Cornwall-Lebanon School District	27,648	31,052	3,404	12.31
Cornwall Borough	3,231	3,486	255	7.89
Mount Gretna Borough	303	242	-61	-20.13
North Cornwall Township	4,886	6,403	1,517	31.05
North Lebanon Township	9,741	10,629	888	9.12
South Lebanon Township	7,491	8,383	892	11.91
West Cornwall Township	1,996	1,909	-87	-4.36

Source: US Census Bureau; Lebanon County Planning Department

Table 3b: Projected Population, 2010-2020

	2010 Projected Pop.	Absolute Change from 2000	Percent Change from 2000	2020 Projected Pop.	Absolute Change from 2010	Percent Change from 2010
Lebanon County	130,682	10,355	8.61%	140,075	9,393	7.19%
Cornwall-Lebanon School District	34,515	3,463	11.15%	37,165	2,650	7.68%
Cornwall Boro	4,122	636	18.24%	4,619	497	12.06%
Mount Gretna Boro	234	-8	-3.31%	234	0	0.00%
North Cornwall Township	7,328	925	14.45%	8,023	695	9.48%



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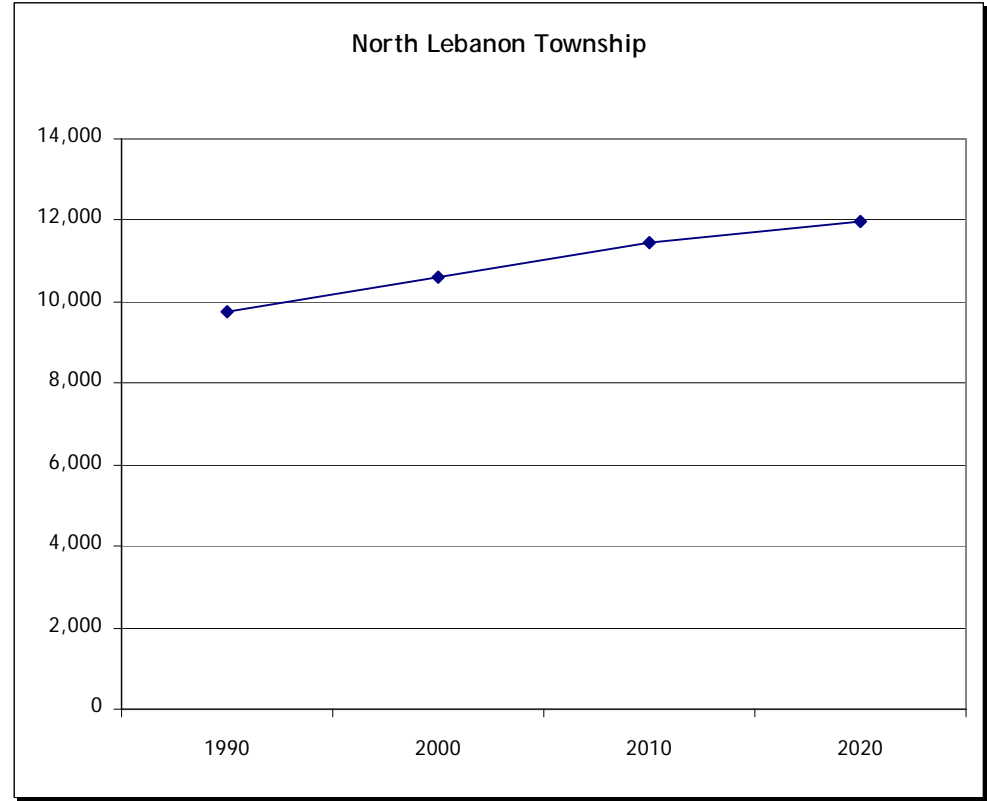
	2010 Projected Pop.	Absolute Change from 2000	Percent Change from 2000	2020 Projected Pop.	Absolute Change from 2010	Percent Change from 2010
North Lebanon Twp	11,537	908	8.54%	12,098	561	4.86%
South Lebanon Township	9,355	972	11.59%	10,230	875	9.35%
West Cornwall Township	1,939	30	1.57%	1,961	22	1.13%

*Population projections shown were taken from the DRAFT Lebanon County Comprehensive Plan.

Source: US Census Bureau; Lebanon County Planning Department; RETTEW Associates, Inc.

- The population of North Lebanon Township is expected to increase through 2020.
- The rate of increase is projected to slow each decade between 2000 and 2020. Between 1990 and 2000, the township saw a 9.12 percent increase in the number of people residing in the township. The township is expected to see an 8.54 percent increase between 2000 and 2010 and a 4.62 percent increase between 2010 and 2020.
- The percentage increases projected for the township are slightly lower than the percentage increases that are projected in the school district and the county as a whole.

Figure 9: Projected Population through 2020



Source: US Census Bureau; Lebanon County Planning Department

Household Statistics and Trends

Household Size

Statistics indicate that across Pennsylvania, the average number of people per household has declined in recent years. Decreases in household size can be attributed



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to increases in the number of elderly persons living alone, smaller family size and the number of single person households. These factors, coupled with the fact that there has been an increase in the amount of housing available, have resulted in an overall decrease in household size.

Table 4: Average Household Size, 1990-2000

	Average Household Size*		Absolute Change	% Change
	1990	2000		
Pennsylvania	2.57	2.48	-0.09	-3.50
Lebanon County	2.58	2.49	-0.09	-3.49
Cornwall-Lebanon SD	2.62	2.54	-0.08	-3.05
Cornwall Boro	2.57	2.58	0.01	0.39
Mount Gretna Boro	2.46	2.07	-0.39	-15.85
North Cornwall Twp.	2.47	2.49	0.02	0.81
North Lebanon Twp.	2.73	2.61	-0.12	-4.40
South Lebanon Twp.	2.63	2.54	-0.09	-3.42
West Cornwall Twp.	2.53	2.29	-0.24	-9.49

Source: US Census Bureau

- Between 1990 and 2000, the average household size in Pennsylvania decreased from 2.57 to 2.48 persons per household. This represents a 3.5 percent decrease. Lebanon County has had a similar average household size and saw a similar percent decrease between 1990 and 2000.
- The Cornwall-Lebanon School District was the only district in Lebanon County to see less of a percentage decrease in household size than that which occurred in the state. In the district, the average household size fell from 2.62 to 2.54 persons per household, a decrease of 3.05 percent. The smaller decrease seen in the school district can be attributed to larger decreases in Mount Gretna Borough and West Cornwall Township coupled with small increases in household size in Cornwall Borough and North Cornwall Township.
- In North Lebanon Township, the average household size decreased from 2.73 persons in 1990 to 2.61 persons in 2000.

Occupancy and Tenure Statistics

The type of housing that is present in a municipality can indicate a number of factors about the composition of the population. A large concentration of owner occupied housing may indicate that all sectors of the population are not being served. However, it may also indicate a safer area with a higher quality of life as there is often pride in ownership. A high concentration of rental housing units may indicate an older community or the conversion of single family dwellings to multifamily dwellings.

In addition to considering the composition of housing stock in a municipality as it relates to tenure, it is important to consider vacancy statistics as well. Generally, a vacancy rate between 4% and 6% is considered a healthy rate. Below 4% is an indicator of too few housing units, which may lead to inflated prices and/or higher demand for new housing. On the other hand, a vacancy rate of greater than 6% is an indicator of too many units, which may lead to deflated prices and lower demand. A



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true picture is difficult to discern from one point in time, since new units are being constructed and the status of housing changes daily.

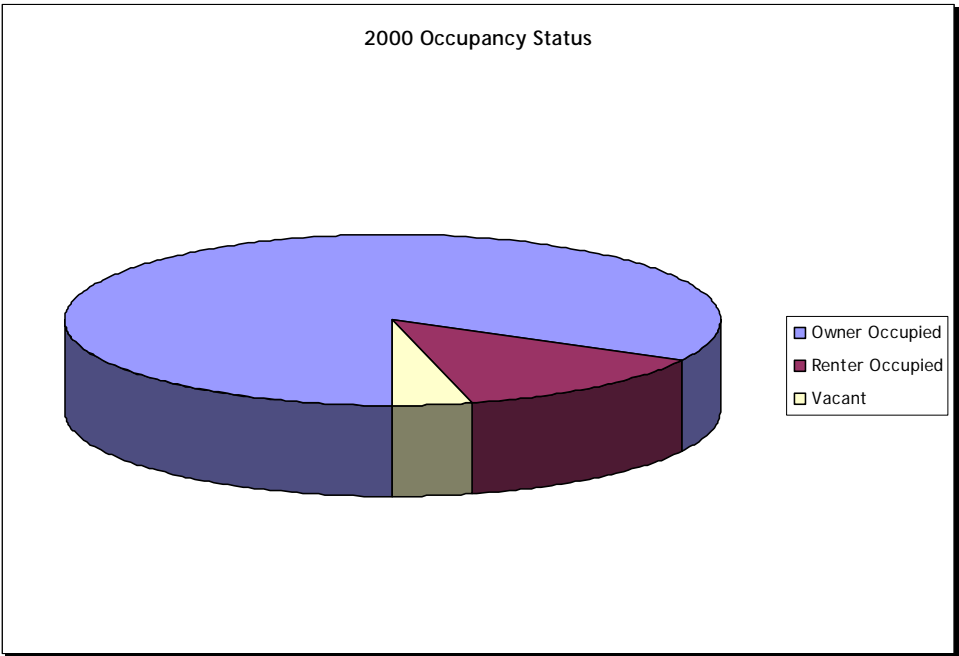
Table 5: Housing Unit Occupancy Statistics by Tenure, 1990 and 2000

	%Owner Occupied 1990	% Renter Occupied 1990	% Vacant 1990	% Owner Occupied 2000	% Renter Occupied 2000	% Vacant 2000
Pennsylvania	64.32	26.73	8.95	64.90	26.10	9.00
Lebanon County	67.92	27.72	4.36	68.60	25.70	5.70
Cornwall-Lebanon SD	75.28	19.44	5.28	77.40	16.90	5.70
Cornwall Boro	77.70	19.90	2.40	84.50	11.40	4.10
Mount Gretna Boro	60.75	5.38	33.87	52.20	4.90	42.90
North Cornwall Twp.	59.24	35.72	5.04	63.80	30.90	5.30
North Lebanon Twp.	82.95	13.53	3.52	82.80	13.40	3.80
South Lebanon Twp.	79.39	18.22	2.39	81.40	15.00	3.60
West Cornwall Twp.	68.54	12.86	18.60	73.90	9.60	16.50

Source: US Census Bureau

- Tenure and occupancy statistics did not differ significantly between 1990 and 2000 in North Lebanon Township.
- There was a greater percentage of owner occupied units in the township than in the school district, county, or state in 1990 and 2000.
- The township had a lower percentage of vacant units than the school district, county, or state in 1990 and 2000, although the percentage increased slightly over this time. The vacancy rate is close to the desired range of 4% to 6%, but is slightly low, possibly indicating a high demand for housing in this area.

Figure 10: North Lebanon Occupancy by Tenure, 2000



Source: US Census Bureau



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Economic Profile

Table 6: Employment by Industry for the Population Age 16+, 2000

Industry	Total	Percent
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	93	1.63
Construction	408	7.16
Manufacturing	1,339	23.50
Wholesale trade	240	4.21
Retail trade	636	11.16
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	316	5.55
Information	90	1.58
Finance, insurance, real estate and rental and leasing	190	3.34
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	298	5.23
Educational, health and social services	1,338	23.49
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	332	5.83
Other services (except public administration)	185	3.25
Public administration	232	4.07
Total	5,697	100.00

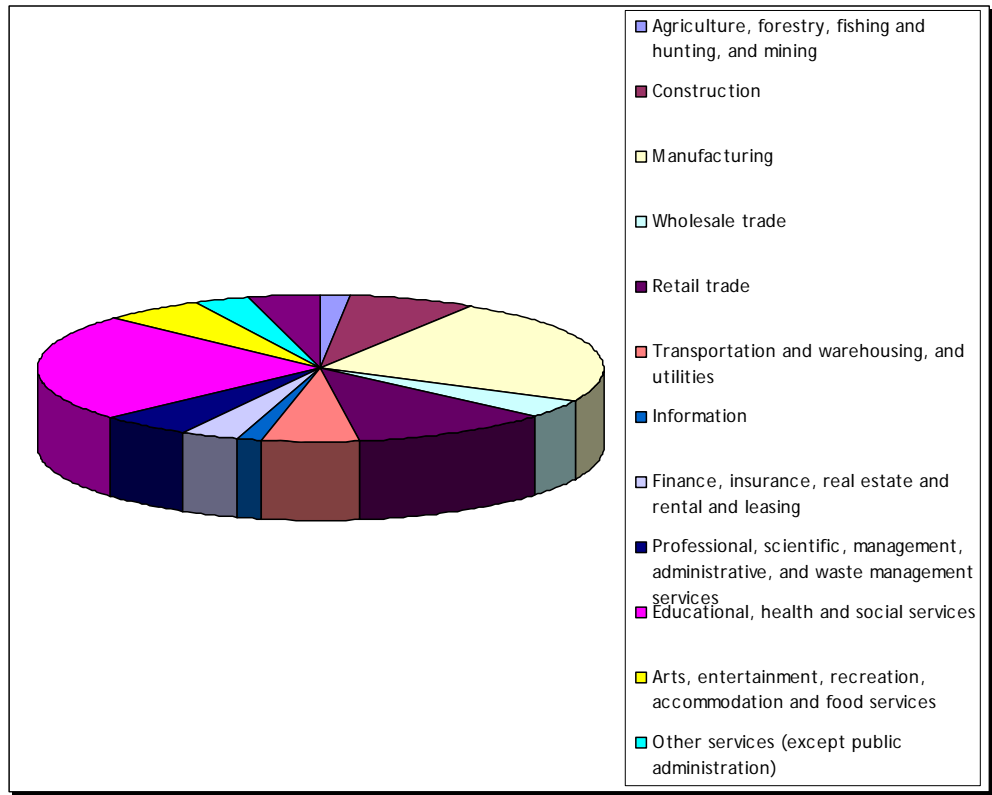
Source: US Census Bureau

- Residents of North Lebanon Township are employed in a variety of industries. The manufacturing, educational, health and social services industries are dominant in the township, but the mix of industries present is diverse.
- The retail trade and construction industries also have a large presence in the township.
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and mining and information have the smallest presence in the township. These industries each represent just over 1% of the population over age 16.



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Figure 11: Employment by Industry



Source: US Census Bureau

Table 7: Employment by Occupation, 2000

Occupation	Total	Percent
Management, professional, and related occupations	1,351	23.71
Service occupations	705	12.37
Sales and office occupations	1,491	26.17
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	32	0.56
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	722	12.67
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	1,396	24.50
Total	5,697	100.00

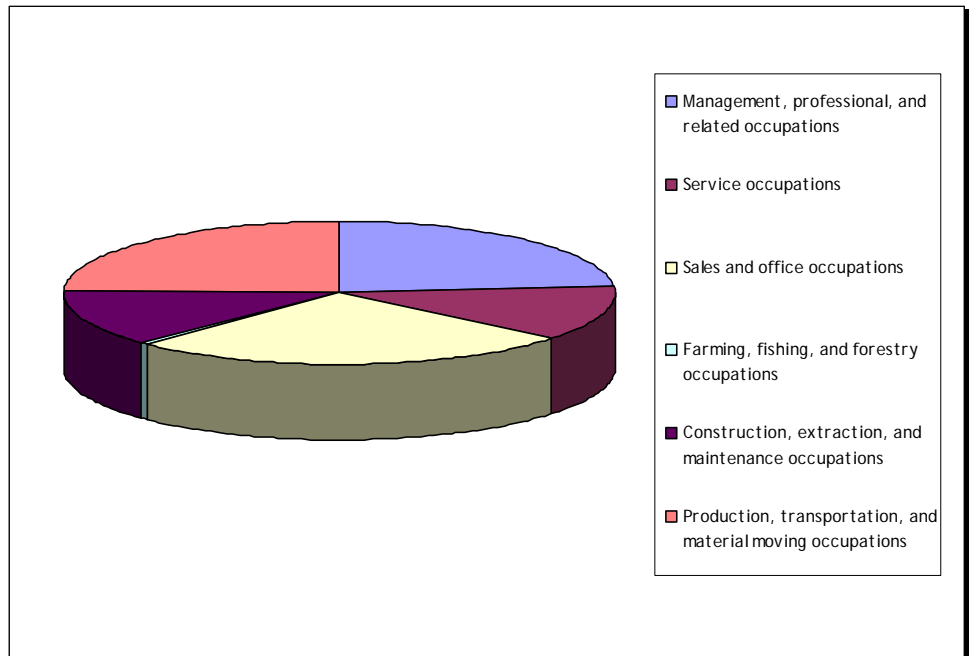
Source: US Census Bureau

- In North Lebanon Township in 2000, residents considered being in management, professional, and related occupations; sales and office occupations; and production, transportation and material moving occupations combine to represent close to 75% of the workforce.
- Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations had the smallest representation in the township.



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Figure 12: Employment by Occupation, 2000



Source: US Census Bureau

Community Character and Geography

North Lebanon Township lies in the central section of Lebanon County, north of the City of Lebanon. The township is approximately 7½ miles from east to west and 3½ miles from the north to the south, containing a total land area of slightly less than 17 square miles. Surrounding municipalities include Swatara, Bethel, Jackson, South Lebanon, West Lebanon, and North Annville Townships, Cleona Borough, and the City of Lebanon. Once a predominantly rural community, North Lebanon Township can now be considered a suburb of the City of Lebanon.

North Lebanon Township is characterized by gently rolling hills with a few areas of steep slope. The steepest slopes are found in two general areas; south of Tunnel Hill Road, and north of Weavertown Road. The township's topography consists of three major drainage basins. Tributaries to the Swatara Creek drain that portion of the township which is generally north of Tunnel Hill Road, Jay Street, Kochenderfers Road, Kimmerlings Road, Snow Drive and Strack Drive. The southeast portion of the township (generally south of Snow Drive and east of Narrows Drive) drains to the Tulpehocken Creek which ultimately flows into the Delaware River by way of the Schuylkill River. The remainder of the township (generally west of Narrows Drive and south of Kochenderfers and Tunnel Hill roads) is drained by tributaries to the Quittapahilla Creek.



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

2 - PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

North Lebanon Township residents have access to a variety of public and private facilities located in the township and in surrounding municipalities. Of concern to residents are what opportunities are offered at which locations, the level of convenience and accessibility for the user, the costs associated with the facility, and how well it is maintained. This chapter includes information and analysis on the public facilities that are located within the township, private facilities in the township, and public and private facilities located in adjacent and proximal municipalities that may be used by residents of North Lebanon Township.

Types of Facilities and Service Areas

The National Recreation and Parks Association, and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration developed park, open space, and pathways classifications in its 1995 Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. The following information on the different classifications of parks and open space is taken from this publication. Pathways are further discussed in Chapter 4, Trails, Sidewalks and Linkages.

- Mini-Parks are areas of approximately 2,500 square feet to one acre in size. They are geared specifically for those living within a service area radius of less than ¼ mile. Mini-parks are used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.
- Neighborhood Parks serve as the basic unit of the park system and serve people living within a ¼ to ½ mile radius. They are between 5 and 10 acres in size and are developed for informal active and passive recreational activities.
- Community Parks are generally larger than a neighborhood park, usually containing between 20 and 50 acres. Their focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open space. The service area radius for a community park is three miles.
- School-Parks are public school sites with facilities that could serve as a neighborhood or community park. Sites are determined by the location of school district property.
- Large Urban Parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. They are usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal, to serve the entire community.
- Greenways are linear park areas that focus on passive recreation and the natural environment. These areas frequently form connections throughout the community.
- Natural Resource Areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics and buffering.
- Single Purpose/Special Use Parks cover a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.
- Sports Complexes consolidate heavily programmed athletic fields and facilities into larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community for community-wide use. These areas are usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

- Private Park/Recreation Facilities are sites that are privately owned yet contribute to the public recreation and parks system. These areas can be of any size.

In addition to the types of facilities that are listed above, there are also regional and state parks that offer recreation opportunities to North Lebanon residents. In Pennsylvania, counties are mainly responsible for providing regional recreation facilities and park areas that are beyond the capabilities of municipal government. Recreation programs offered by counties are often environmentally oriented or considered to be special events. Three regional recreation facilities are available to North Lebanon Township residents: Coleman's Memorial Park and Lauther Water Complex; Union Canal Tunnel Park; and Stoevers Dam Park. Coleman's Memorial Park and Stoevers Dam Park are owned and maintained by the City of Lebanon. Union Canal Tunnel Park is owned and operated by the Lebanon County Historical Society. Stoevers Dam Park and Union Canal Park are located within North Lebanon Township and Coleman's Memorial Park and the Lauther Water Complex are located within the City of Lebanon.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has one of the largest state park systems in the country. Over 283,000 acres of state park property is maintained for public enjoyment. Pennsylvania has a 1.4 million acre state game lands system, open to the public for hunting, trapping, fishing and hiking, and over 2.1 million acres of state forests. State agencies offer mainly interpretive recreation and environmental education programs at their parks and historic areas.

Memorial Lake State Park and Swatara State Park are located within Lebanon County. Memorial Lake State Park offers 230 acres with a 45 acre lake, surrounded by Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation in East Hanover Township. Boating (electric motors only), fishing, hiking, cross country skiing, ice skating, ice fishing, and picnicking are offered at Memorial Lake State Park.

Swatara State Park is located on 3,515 acres in Lebanon and Schuylkill Counties. The park was acquired with capital development funds appropriated by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 2002. A recreation area is planned for the future and will offer canoeing, fishing, hiking, picnicking, bicycling, swimming, camping and environmental education. Although presently undeveloped, the park currently provides recreational opportunities including hiking. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail, stretching from Georgia to Maine, traverses two miles of the southern portion of Swatara State Park. The Waterville Bridge, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, allows hikers on the Appalachian Trail to cross the Swatara Creek. Visitors can also take part in fishing, hunting, boating (non-motored boats only), hiking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing.

Facilities Owned and Operated by North Lebanon Township

Trends in park planning focus on achieving a balance between protecting natural resources and meeting public needs for recreation. Communities are now looking at the best way to serve the public, rather than developing stringent standards that may not be flexible enough to accommodate changing trends in recreation. Location, convenience, access and connections via greenways and trails are all factors to consider.



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

North Lebanon Township owns three park facilities that are located in the township. North Lebanon Township Community Park and Lion's Lake Park are both community parks. Ebenezer Park is considered a neighborhood park.

Adequacy of Service

The Existing Township Parks Map found at the end of this plan shows that the existing parks and the future Lenni Lenape Park provide service to nearly all of North Lebanon Township. The only areas of the township that are located just outside of the service radius for a community park are the extreme northwestern and northeastern corners. These areas are included within the service areas of the three regional parks that are located within or in close proximity to the township: Coleman's Memorial Park and Lauther Water Complex; Union Canal Tunnel Park; and Stoevers Dam Park.

North Lebanon Township Community Park

Where We Are Today

The North Lebanon Township Community Park is one of two community parks owned and maintained by North Lebanon Township. In 1969, the township acquired slightly less than three acres adjacent to its municipal building on Kimmerlings Road. The park now encompasses 20 acres and includes playground equipment, covered pavilion with kitchen facilities, basketball and tennis courts and a variety of fields. Rules and regulations are posted.



	Site Name	North Lebanon Township Community Park		
	Type	Community Park		
	Condition	Good		
	Total Acreage	20 acres		
		Present	Condition	Notes
Playgrounds	Swing Sets (swings)	☺	Fair	
	Sliding Boards	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three metal and two plastic sliding boards Need more of a landing zone
	Climbing Equipment (age 2-6)			
	Climbing Equipment (age 6-12)			
	Merry-go-Rounds	☺	Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still spins, needs painted and maintained to prevent deterioration
	Seesaws	☺	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need replaced – deteriorated, unstable and present a safety hazard
	Sand Boxes	☺	Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs cleaned of debris
	Rocking Toys	☺		
	Hopscotch	☺	Good	
	Four-Square			
	Other Playground Equipment	☺	Fair to Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climbing pole and rings lack an adequate fall zone Large metal disk and two-person swinging bench should be removed Fire truck climber is in good condition, but needs repainted and steering wheel tightened





CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

	Site Name Type Condition Total Acreage	North Lebanon Township Community Park Community Park Good 20 acres		
		Present	Condition	Notes
Fields / Courts	Baseball/Softball Fields	☺	Excellent to Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fields are generally well maintained and in good condition. Dugouts, benches, backstops and scoreboards, where present, are in good condition Benches for the upper field will need replaced soon
	Soccer/Hockey Fields	☺	Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very well maintained Benches are new, but not secured No fence or vegetative buffer separating the field from the street
	Football Fields			
	Basketball Court	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backboards and nets are in good condition
	Tennis Court	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net and fences are stable and in good condition
	Volleyball Court			
	Racquetball/Hand-ball Court			
	Bocce Ball Court			
	Shuffleboard Court	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally in good condition Level of use is questionable
	Horseshoe Pits	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need cleared of debris
	Quoits Pits	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need cleared of debris
	Other Fields and Courts			
Picnic	Pavilions	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enclosed with electric and kitchen facilities and picnic tables Rented for a fee – groups of less than 100 \$125.00 a day; groups of more than 100 \$175.00 a day in the 2006 season
	Picnic Tables	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 picnic tables are located outside of the pavilion; 3 are painted All of the picnic tables are in good condition
	Barbecue Pits and Grills	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large flat-top grill is a nice amenity for larger groups Barbecue grills are in good condition, but need repainted
	Benches	☺	Good	
Trails	Hiking/Jogging Trail (paved)	☺	Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paved path provides access but is wide enough for a vehicle to drive on Connects to the street across from a township road, which is confusing to motorists and encourages use by vehicles
	Hiking/Jogging Trail (unpaved)			
	Biking Trail			
	Fitness Trail			
	Measured Path			



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Site Name		North Lebanon Township Community Park		
Type		Community Park		
Condition		Good		
Total Acreage		20 acres		
		Present	Condition	Notes
Support	Parking (paved)	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paved and handicapped parking is available Parking lot needs resurfaced and lined to improve accessibility
	Parking (unpaved)	☺	Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small unpaved parking area located near baseball fields
	Restrooms	☺	Good	
	Water Fountains			
	Snack Bar			
	Waste Receptacles	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available throughout the park
	Bike Rack			
	Signs	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules are posted
Other / Comments				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park lacks connectivity

Note: ☺ denotes feature is present

How We Measure Up

- Currently, many of the features in the North Lebanon Township Community Park are placed somewhat haphazardly. The playground equipment should be grouped based on the age group it is meant to serve. There are also areas on the playground where there is an insufficient space surrounding specific pieces of equipment. The degree to which some of the equipment is used, especially the shuffleboard, tennis, and basketball courts, is questionable.
- Much of the playground equipment seems to be deteriorating or of an unsafe condition including the two person swinging bench; the two-person swinger; see-saws; sand bowl/disk; climbing pole and rings.
- The storage of pipes and miscellaneous equipment presents a safety hazard.
- The wooded area provides a pleasant location for the playground, but creates debris.
- The various fields are in good to excellent condition and are a tremendous asset to the community.
- The park lacks connectivity between its different amenities, although the recent addition of a paved, ADA accessible trail is helping to better this situation. However, the trail is 8 feet wide and connects to the street, encouraging motorists to enter the park on what is meant to serve as a walking path.
- The park is not accessible to non-motorists in the surrounding neighborhood and there is only one defined entrance. There is currently no signage that directs visitors to the park, or alerts them that they have arrived. With the expansion of the municipal building and surrounding grounds, it is difficult to see the facilities at Community Park from the entrance on Kimmerlings Road.
- Community Park lacks a natural or manmade boundary to separate the park from the street or neighboring properties.





CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Goal to Achieve Our Vision

Capitalize upon the existing assets of Community Park including its well maintained fields and its location in the township through the modernization and improvement of facilities and equipment to enhance visitors' experiences.

How We Get There

- Develop a master site plan for Community Park to focus the placement of the features within the park and to develop a system of interconnectivity.
 - A second entrance, located in proximity to the lower fields should be designed as part of this process.
 - Encourage a separation of park facilities and other municipal uses to improve safety and retain the valuable recreational areas.
 - Consider developing the master site plan for Community Park in conjunction with the master site plan for municipal uses.
- Design and construct hospitality facilities, including a restroom and snack bar, in proximity to the lower field activities.
- Remove obsolete and deteriorated playground equipment.
- Practice debris maintenance of the wooded areas.
 - Debris should be cleared regularly and the large stump that is located among the equipment should be extracted to improve safety and aesthetics in this area.
- Monitor and continue to maintain the fields to retain or improve their condition.
- Continue to improve connectivity and ADA accessibility throughout the park.
 - Lengthen the recently developed paved, ADA accessible path to link the various fields, parking areas, and the playground.
 - Steps on the bank of the hill from the upper to lower fields should be constructed to allow easier access between these areas.
- Improve connectivity between Community Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.
 - Construct crosswalks and sidewalks to create an integrated system of connectivity as described in Chapter 4.
 - A lower entrance that is ADA accessible should be created with proper signage that allows visitors to the park to access the park from the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Analyze strategic locations to post directional signage indicating the route to Community Park. Construct attractive signage at the entrances to Community Park to alert visitors that they have arrived.
- Rules and regulations should be posted in additional locations throughout the park as should a map that designates where the various amenities and hospitality features are located.
 - Specific rules, where they apply, pertaining to fields and courts should be posted.
- Create well-defined boundaries on the edges of the park property to increase safety and awareness.
 - Install a fence or vegetative screening along the portions of the park that border the streets and along the border with the tree farm. Proper materials will increase safety for both visitors to the park, and motorists.



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

- Install a locking gate where the 8 foot wide paved path meets the road to notify motorists that it is not to be used by motor vehicles. Placing a sign in this area would encourage pedestrian traffic from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Lion’s Lake Park

Where We Are Today

Lion’s Lake Park is a 34.9 acre community park located on Jay Street and Water Street. Visitors can enter the park by using one of two parking areas at either end of the park. The most distinguishing feature of the park is its 13 acre lake which is open to fishing and motorized boating. The lake is stocked with trout by the PA Fish and Boat Commission. Other features of the park include a paved walking path, playground area, baseball field, sand volleyball, soccer field, restrooms, open space, and three pavilions. Two of the pavilions are not equipped with electric and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. There is one pavilion, located near the Jay Street entrance which is equipped with electric and kitchen facilities and is available for a daily rental fee from Memorial Day weekend through late September. The rates are the same as the pavilion rental rates at North Lebanon Community Park. Rules and regulations are posted at both entrances to the park. Trash receptacles are located throughout the park. Lions Lake is unique in that there are tree and bench memorials that are located throughout the park that people have bought and the township maintains. The creation of the park was the result of a funding drive by nearby homeowners and active residents to keep Lions Lake dam from being destroyed.



	Site Name	Lion’s Lake Park		
	Type	Community Park		
	Condition	Excellent to Good		
	Total Acreage	34.9 acres		
		Present	Condition	Notes
Playgrounds	Swing Sets (swings)	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small and large swing sets; both sturdy and in good condition; more ground cover needed • Swing set located near the pavilion with electric does not have any swings
	Sliding Boards		Excellent to Good	
	Climbing Equipment (age 2-6)	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More ground cover needed
	Climbing Equipment (age 6-12)	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sign designates age appropriateness for the metal climber • More ground cover needed • Some sections of wooden climber present a splinter hazard. Bolts on the under section of the bridge present a safety hazard
	Merry-go-Rounds			
	Seesaws			
	Sand Boxes			
	Rocking Toys	☺	Excellent	





CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

	Site Name Type Condition Total Acreage	Lion's Lake Park Community Park Excellent to Good 34.9 acres		
		Present	Condition	Notes
	Hopscotch			
	Four-Square			
	Other Playground Equipment	☺	Excellent to Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The red metal swinging benches are in very good condition, but need to be better secured in the ground Fire truck climber and Swiss cheese climber need repainted Older playground equipment near rental pavilion is in generally good condition; needs repainted
Fields / Courts	Baseball/Softball Fields	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located near the Jay Street parking lot, limited ADA accessibility No seating for spectators Backstop has no boards, only chain link fencing Outfield chain link fence is present, but a safety cover should be placed along the top
	Soccer/Hockey Fields	☺	Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very well groomed Benches in excellent condition, but not secure Vegetative screen separates the field from the surrounding neighborhood
	Football Fields			
	Basketball Court			
	Tennis Court			
	Volleyball Court	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could use some new sand Place for scorekeeping or rules to be posted, but is not utilized
	Racquetball/Hand-ball Court			
	Bocce Ball Court			
	Shuffleboard Court			
	Horseshoe Pits	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could use some new sand
	Quoits Pits	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could use some new sand
	Other Fields and Courts			
Picnic	Pavilions	☺		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 rental pavilion with electric and kitchen facilities including 2 stoves and 2 refrigerators 2 open air pavilions in excellent to good condition; exposed bolts near the base of the vertical support beams need replaced
	Picnic Tables	☺		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The picnic tables located under the pavilions are in good condition Picnic tables located along the walking trail will need to be replaced in the near future
	Barbecue Pits and Grills	☺	Fair to Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will need replaced soon
	Benches	☺	Good to Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wooden and concrete benches are located throughout the park. Some will require replacement soon, on a case-by-case basis. Others are in very good condition
Tr	Hiking/Jogging Trail (paved)	☺	Excellent to Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-use trail



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

	Site Name	Lion's Lake Park		
	Type	Community Park		
	Condition	Excellent to Good		
	Total Acreage	34.9 acres		
		Present	Condition	Notes
Support	Hiking/Jogging Trail (unpaved)			
	Biking Trail	☺	Excellent to Good	• Multi-use paved trail is generally in excellent to good condition, but may not be wide enough to accommodate multiple users
	Fitness Trail			
	Measured Path			
	Parking (paved)	☺	Good	• Paved and lighted allow for ADA accessibility • Parking area should be lined • Provides ADA Accessibility to paved walking path and ADA fishing pier
	Parking (unpaved)	☺	Good	• Secondary, gravel parking area is in an optimal location • Consider paving to allow for ADA accessibility to park amenities located near this lot • Third, dirt parking area is located off of Ashton Drive
	Restrooms	☺	Excellent	• Restrooms are cleaned and stocked daily • Open 24 hours a day; lighting is available • Changing facilities available in the women's restroom
	Water Fountains			
	Snack Bar	☺	Fair to Good	• Ice cream vendor • Soda machine located near baseball field
	Waste Receptacles	☺	Excellent	• Located in a variety of locations throughout the park
	Bike Rack			
	Signs	☺	Good	• Township rules and regulations are posted at both entrances
	Other / Comments			• Waterfowl are present • Bench memorials are available for purchase

Note: ☺ denotes feature is present

How We Measure Up

- Lion's Lake Park is in very good condition, is well maintained, and is heavily used by township residents and is used in all seasons.
- The three entrances that the park boasts provide a convenience for visitors, given the size of the facility and its linear shape.
- The paved multi-use trail contributes to connectivity within the park, but non-motorized traffic from surrounding neighborhoods face challenges. During the winter months, drainage on the path can become a problem and occasional icing occurs.
- The waterfowl contribute to the scenery, but bring with them a mess.
- The lake is a great asset, but can be a dangerous liability. When this site visit was performed, there was someone fishing just over the guard rail, around a curve on Water Street, where there are no sidewalks. This poses a severe safety hazard to the fisherman and to motorists.





CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

- The restrooms are in great condition and are a convenience for visitors to the park.

Goal to Achieve Our Vision

Continue to provide the vast array of passive and active recreation opportunities that are offered at Lion's Lake Park through careful and continuous monitoring and maintenance of its various amenities.

How We Get There

- To maintain and enhance the overall condition of Lion's Lake Park, create a detailed maintenance schedule that tracks all maintenance procedures performed on equipment and other features in the park. Develop a schedule for the replacement of deteriorating play structures, benches, and other equipment.
- Pave the Jay Street parking area to allow easier ADA access to the rental pavilion and fields.
- Locate a map of the park at each entrance, where the rules are posted, that designates where the restrooms, boat launch, and vending areas are in addition to the fields, playground, pavilions and other park amenities.
- Lock restrooms after the park closes to maintain their cleanliness and good condition and to discourage vandalism.
- Tend to the waste produced by the waterfowl on a daily basis. Post signs alerting visitors not to feed the waterfowl.
- Improve relationships with the paddleboat operation and ice cream sales, and any other businesses that are located on the property. Establish a written agreement that defines costs, responsibilities, and liabilities.
 - Effectively post paddleboat rules, hours of operation, and fees.
- Improve connectivity between Lion's Lake Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.
 - Construct crosswalks and sidewalks to create an integrated system of connectivity as described in Chapter 4.
 - Lion's Lake is also in close enough proximity to Ebenezer Park that a greenway or path should be constructed to link these two facilities. This will be discussed further in Chapter 4.
- Designate fishing areas and clearly designate areas that are off limits.



Ebenezer Park

Where We Are Today

Ebenezer Park, located behind the old Ebenezer Elementary School which is now in use by New Covenant Christian School, on Long Lane, is the only neighborhood park that is owned by North Lebanon Township. The park is 9.5 acres in size. The fields at Ebenezer Park are home to the Ebenezer Baseball Association and Ebenezer Midget Football and Cheerleading Associations. The park contains three baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, and playground equipment. Trash and recycling receptacles are located throughout the park. Parking is a major issue at the park; there is parking available along Long Lane, but off-street parking is limited. Traffic on Route 72 and Long Lane can become busy and discourage pedestrian traffic.



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Site Name		Ebenezer Park		
Type		Neighborhood Park		
Condition		Fair to Good		
Total Acreage		9.5 acres		
		Present	Condition	Notes
Playgrounds	Swing Sets (swings)	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sturdy, needs repainted May be located too close to the concrete pavement
	Sliding Boards	☺	Fair to Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need repainted Need additional landing mat
	Climbing Equipment (age 2-6)			
	Climbing Equipment (age 6-12)	☺	Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very high metal equipment presents some safety hazards Need more of a landing mat Needs repainted Needs signage indicating the appropriate age group for the equipment
	Merry-go-Rounds	☺	Fair to Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sturdy but needs additional ground cover Needs repainted
	Seesaws	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because the seesaws are adjustable, they are chained to a central pole and not secured
	Monkey Bars	☺	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable, but need repainted Large monkey bars are very high off of the ground
	Rocking Toys			
	Hopscotch			
	Four-Square			
	Other Playground Equipment	☺	Fair to Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chain link climber needs removed Carriage is starting to rust and needs repainted
Fields / Courts	Baseball/Softball Fields	☺	Good to Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The township owned fields are in excellent condition The lower field is maintained to near professional condition and a grandstand was recently built for spectators. The field boasts dugouts and an electric scoreboard
	Soccer/Hockey Fields	☺	Fair to Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field is not marked, but there appears to be an area in which to set up soccer nets
	Football Fields			
	Basketball Court	☺	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courts are lighted Surface of courts is in fair condition, but the hoops, nets, and backboards need replaced or are missing and the boards holding the backboards are rusting There are poles in place for an outer fence, but the fence is completely gone
	Tennis Court			
	Volleyball Court			
	Racquetball/Handball Court			
	Bocce Ball Court			
	Shuffleboard Court			





CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES



	Site Name	Ebenezer Park		
	Type	Neighborhood Park		
	Condition	Fair to Good		
	Total Acreage	9.5 acres		
		Present	Condition	Notes
	Horseshoe Pits			
	Quoits Pits			
	Other Fields and Courts			
Picnic	Pavilions	☺	Excellent	• Open air pavilions, recently constructed
	Picnic Tables	☺	Good	• Wooden picnic tables in good condition
	Barbecue Pits and Grills			
	Benches	☺	Good	• Wooden bleachers available for spectators of baseball and softball
Trails	Hiking/Jogging Trail (paved)	☺	Poor	• A narrow paved path runs behind the basketball courts from Long Lane but it is not ADA accessible.
	Hiking/Jogging Trail (unpaved)			
	Biking Trail			
	Fitness Trail			
	Measured Path			
Support	Parking (paved)	☺	Good	• Located off of Water Street • Should be lined and ADA accessible
	Parking (unpaved)			
	Restrooms	☺	N/A	• Locked
	Water Fountains			
	Snack Bar	☺	N/A	• Locked, but facilities are available
	Waste Receptacles	☺	Good	• Trash and recycling located throughout the park
	Bike Rack			
	Signs			
	Other / Comments	☺		• Fields are a tremendous asset to this park

Note: ☺ denotes feature is present

How we Measure Up

- The fields at Ebenezer are well kept and are a tremendous asset to the township. Because of the gatherings that these fields have a potential to create, parking can be a major issue at this site. There is parking available along one side of the street on Long Lane, but there are no sidewalks present and spaces are not delineated.
- Although recent improvements have been made at this park, ADA accessibility is lacking.
- Many of the features in the park need to be repainted, including playground equipment, storage crates, and bleachers.



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

- The lack of a fence or vegetative barrier around the property creates a safety hazard, due to the proximity of traffic on Long Lane, the radio station field and wires.
- Presently, it is difficult to determine where the school property ends and Ebenezer Park starts.
- The height of some of the existing equipment, including the large metal climber and the straight monkey bars, poses a severe liability to the township. The chain climber and wooden climber also present a danger to children.
- This park is not accessible to non-motorist visitors that live in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Goal to Achieve Our Vision

Encourage Ebenezer Park to provide for localized active youth recreation programs through the enhancement and increased awareness of the high quality fields that are available at this location.

How We Get There

- The paved lot accessed via Water Street should be lined and posted with appropriate signage.
- Improve connectivity between Ebenezer Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.
 - Construct crosswalks and sidewalks to create an integrated system of connectivity as described in Chapter 4.
 - Ebenezer Park is in close enough proximity to Lion's Lake Park that a greenway or path should be constructed to link these two facilities. This will be discussed further in Chapter 4.
- Improve internal connectivity through an interconnected system of pathways used to access parking areas and different features at the park.
- Evaluate the demand for basketball courts in this area of the township. If the demand exists, they need to be fully repaired and brought up to standards. If these courts are underutilized, an adaptive reuse of this area should be considered.
- Perform relatively simple maintenance procedures that will greatly improve the appearance of the park including painting playground equipment, storage crates and bleachers.
- Remove deteriorated equipment and equipment where the height imposes a severe liability on the township.
- Create well-defined boundaries on the edges of the park property to increase safety and awareness.
 - Install a fence or vegetative screening along the portions of the park that border the streets and along the border with the radio station.
 - Delineate the boundary between Ebenezer Park and the private school. Form a written agreement between the township and school officials that outlines the use policy for the school facilities and for the township facilities during school hours and lists responsibilities and liabilities of both parties.
- Post signs stating rules and regulations. Signs should also be posted designating the age group that the playground equipment is meant to serve.
- Install benches for spectators and parents in the vicinity of the playground and upper field closer to the school.



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

- Improve relationships with the sports associations that use the township facilities. Establish a written agreement that defines costs and fees, responsibilities, and liabilities.
 - Work with the sports associations to ensure that the restrooms are open during park hours and accessible to all visitors to the park.

Other Facilities Located in North Lebanon Township

Where We Are Today

There are two parks that are located wholly or partially within North Lebanon Township that are owned and operated by outside agencies. North Lebanon Township does not provide financial or other support to these locations and does not have a hand in decisions made regarding these locations. It is important to consider these two facilities in this analysis due to their physical location in North Lebanon Township and their availability to township residents.

Stoever's Dam and Union Canal Tunnel Park are both considered regional parks and are located wholly or partially in North Lebanon Township. Stoever's Dam Park is approximately 150 acres and is owned and operated by the City of Lebanon. The park is maintained by the city and Stoever's Dam Park Friends, a non-profit organization of volunteers. Union Canal Tunnel Park is owned by the Lebanon County Historical Society and maintained by this organization and the Friends of Union Canal. North Lebanon Township does not contribute to or maintain either of these facilities.



Stoever's Dam Park

How We Measure Up

Stoever's Dam Park is approximately 150 acres and is located in the City of Lebanon and North Lebanon Township. The majority of the park is located in the township, but the facility is owned by the City of Lebanon and maintained by the city and the Stoever's Dam Park Friends. The park includes a 23.5 acre lake, a 1.5 mile walking/jogging trail, nature and theater barns and other amenities. The park is named for John Stoever, who acquired the property in 1821, the same year that the Union Canal Company began construction of a dam to provide a water supply for the canal. Lebanon City acquired the property in 1973 and in 1981 the dam was scheduled to be condemned unless it could be rehabilitated. News of the condemnation resulted in a successful fund drive to finance repairs, leaving the city with a new beautiful park. Today, the park provides visitors with numerous recreational opportunities including fishing, camping, picnicking and wading. Baseball fields, garden plots, a nature barn, and a theater barn are additional attractions of the park.

Stoever's Lake is the only lake in Lebanon County to be accepted into the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Early Season Trout Stocked Water's Program for 2006. The program allows fishing in the lake from March 1 to March 31. There is then no fishing from April 1 to the opening day of trout season. The facility also offers an ADA accessible fishing pier that is posted regulating its use strictly to handicapped individuals.



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Although Stoever’s Dam Park is not located on a main road, there are way-finding signs and a large sign at the entrance to the facility to alert visitors that are not local to the area.

Goal to Achieve Our Vision

Communicate with Lebanon City, Friends of Stoever’s Dam Park, and Local police services to ensure that North Lebanon Township citizens are able to obtain an enjoyable and safe recreational experience at this facility.

Union Canal Tunnel Park

How We Measure Up

The Union Canal Tunnel Park is located in North Lebanon Township and owned by the Lebanon County Historical Society. In the early to mid 1800’s, the Union Canal Tunnel, the oldest existing transportation tunnel in the United States, was a connecting link between the eastern and western branches of the Union Canal. The Tunnel received recognition as a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior on April 19, 1994.



Today the Union Canal Tunnel Park boasts hiking trails, fishing, and picnic facilities. The Lebanon County Historical Society and the Friends of Union Canal are responsible for the park’s existence and maintenance. Special community events, such as Union Canal Days and canal rides, are held at this park.

The park is comprised of two properties that are located across from each other on Tunnel Hill Road. Entrances are located on Tunnel Hill Road and on Twenty-Fifth Street. The entrance on Twenty-Fifth Street leads to paved parking. Park rules and a map are posted here. A port-o-pot is located in this general vicinity, but there are no other restrooms available for visitors. Both entrances are difficult to find. The entrance at Twenty-Fifth Street is marked by a sign, but there are no way-finding signs present in the immediate area. Locating this National Historic Landmark can be difficult for someone who is unfamiliar with the local area. The park entrance located to the north of Tunnel Hill Road was under construction as of May, 2006.

Goals to Achieve Our Vision

Continue to work with the Lebanon County Historical Society to expand, promote, and protect the Union Canal Tunnel Park. The canal and trails throughout the park offer a strong potential for the township to expand upon the existing greenway.

School — Parks

Where We Are Today

There are two public elementary schools located within North Lebanon Township that are part of the Cornwall-Lebanon School District.

How We Measure Up

Ebenezer Elementary and Union Canal Elementary School are the only two public schools located in the township. These facilities are owned and operated by the



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Cornwall-Lebanon School District. The district mandates monthly maintenance checks and reports on all of the playground equipment. There is a building maintenance staff and a district maintenance staff that responds to any problems with equipment.

Both school facilities offer separate playground equipment for older and younger children in addition to a multi-use field, four square and basketball. There is a port-a-pot located in the parking lot of each of the facilities and a paved ADA accessible trail leads from the parking area to the equipment and fields at both locations.

Goal to Achieve Our Vision

Establish and maintain an open line of communication with the school district to develop an understanding of their use policies regarding recreational facilities and equipment.

Private Park/Recreation Facilities

Where We Are Today

In addition to the public and school facilities located in North Lebanon Township, there are also an array of private facilities that provide unique recreational opportunities for members. Facilities in North Lebanon Township that fall under this classification include the Ebenezer Fire Company Park, Mount Lebanon Camp Meeting, C.B. Sportsman's Club, Northeast Swim Club, Tulpehocken Fishing Club, and the Fifth Ward Athletic Club. The two private schools in the township, New Covenant Christian School and the Lebanon Christian Academy offer recreation opportunities for their students as well.

Goal to Achieve Our Vision

Establish and maintain an open line of communication with the various private recreation providers to develop an understanding of their use and membership policies.

Public and Private Park and Recreation Facilities in Neighboring Municipalities.

Where We Are Today

North Lebanon Township's location within Lebanon County places residents of the township in close proximity to a variety of public and private recreation opportunities. Many of the township's residents choose to use facilities such as the "In the Net" facility in Palmyra to meet their recreation needs that are currently not met within the township.

Table 8: Municipal Parks in other Lebanon County Municipalities

Municipality	Community Park	Neighborhood Park	Mini-park	Natural Resource Area/Other
Annville-Cleona School District				
Annville Township				Quittie Creek Nature Park
Cleona Borough		Cleona Community Park		



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Municipality	Community Park	Neighborhood Park	Mini-park	Natural Resource Area/Other
North Annville Township				
South Annville Township				
Cornwall-Lebanon School District				
Cornwall Borough		Miner's Village Field, Bus Garage Football Field	Harold Basehore Memorial Field, Cornwall Borough Municipal Park	
Mount Gretna Borough				
North Cornwall Township	City of Lebanon Authority Fields		Pleasant Hill Playground	20.2-acre undeveloped parcel (Oak St.)
South Lebanon Township	South Hills Park		Avon Memorial Park	1-acre undeveloped parcel
West Cornwall Township			Quentin Tot Lot	
Eastern Lebanon County School District				
Heidelberg Township		Heidelberg Township Park		
Jackson Township			Grumbine Field, Jackson Heights Meadows Playground	Lakeside Recreation Area, future Jackson Recreation Area
Millcreek Township		Millcreek Township park, Newburg Recreation Area	Millcreek War Memorial Park	
Myerstown Borough		Myerstown Borough Park		
Richland Borough			Dr. E.O. Moehlmann Field	
Lebanon School District				
Lebanon City Note-small parks with unknown acreage are listed at 0.3 acres	Coleman Memorial Park, Stover's Dam Park, (located in North Lebanon Township) Northeast Park, Southwest Park	Skateboard Park	Fishers Park, Veteran's Walkway, Beautex Park, Meadowbank Park, Tot lots, East End Playground, Southeast Playground, Progressive Playground	
West Lebanon Township		Henry Arnold Recreational Area		
Northern Lebanon School District				
Bethel Township		Bethel Township's Lions park and Pool		
Cold Spring Township				
East Hanover Township	H. M. Levitz Memorial Park			
Jonestown Borough	Jonestown Community Park			
Swatara Township				
Union Township				
Palmyra Area School District				



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Municipality	Community Park	Neighborhood Park	Mini-park	Natural Resource Area/Other
Palmyra Borough		Southeast Family Park, Palmyra Borough Fireman's Park	Heritage Park, Town Square	
North Londonderry Township				
South Londonderry Township		Lawn Community Park, Thistledown	Londonderry Village, Colebrook Park, Country Squire Estates park, Phillip Park	Kreider Glen Wetland

Source: Draft Lebanon County Comprehensive Plan

Table 9: Private Parks and Recreation Facilities in Lebanon County by School District

Recreation Facility	Total Area (Acres)	Municipality	Ownership
Campgrounds			
Annville-Cleona School District			
Thousand Trails Campgrounds PCOA #2467	190.5	South Annville Township	Thousand Trails Inc.
Cornwall-Lebanon School District			
Penryn Park YMCA Camp	179.6	Cornwall Borough	Lancaster Family YMCA
Mt. Lebanon Camp Meeting	21.6	North Lebanon Township	Mt. Lebanon Camp Meeting Association
UMC Gretna Glen Camp	215.1	West Cornwall Township	Eastern PA Conference
Eastern Lebanon County School District			
Camp J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation, BSA	211.0	Heidelberg Township	Lancaster County Council, BSA
Shady Oaks Campgrounds PCOA #2432	22.6	Millcreek Township	McNally, Lewis
Eagles Peak Family Camping Resort PCOA #2128	79.2	Millcreek Township	E/P Campground Inc.
Lebanon School District			
None			
Northern Lebanon School District			
Baptist Churches Camp Area	68.9	Bethel Township	Central Baptist Association
Camp Carson	343.3	Bethel Township	Schadler, Alletta
Camp Strause	3.0	Bethel Township	Joint ownership of Lake Strause Inc. & Camp Strause Fire Co.
Camp Greble	9.8	Bethel Township	Althouse, Vincent
Kenbrook Bible Camp	65.7	Swatara Township	Atlantic Conference
Jonestown KOA Campground	24.8	Swatara Township	Bacon, Jonathan
Lickdale Campground PCOA #2246	25.1	Union Township	Boltz, Kyle



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Recreation Facility	Total Area (Acres)	Municipality	Ownership
Twin Grove park Campground, KOA Camp	33.2	Union Township	Conestoga Log Cabin
Camp Bashore BSA	405.3	Union Township	Lancaster Lebanon Council
Palmyra Area School District			
Camp Seltzer	6.8	North Londonderry Township	First UB Church in Christ
Camp Kirchenwald	342.9	South Londonderry Township	Lutheran Camping Corporation
Golf Courses			
Annville-Cleona School District			
None			
Cornwall-Lebanon School District			
Iron Valley Golf Course	304.4	Cornwall Borough	Byler Management Co. LLC
Royal Oaks Golf Course	153.9	North Cornwall Township	ROGC Golf Partners LP
Lebanon County Club	147.3	North Cornwall Township	Lebanon Country Club
Fairview Golf Course	168.3	West Cornwall Township	Fairview Golf Course Inc.
Eastern Lebanon County School District			
Lebanon Valley Golf Course	118.5	Jackson Township	Lebanon Valley Golf Club, Inc.
Lebanon School District			
None			
Northern Lebanon School District			
Pine Meadows Golf Course	70.1	Bethel Township	Rabold, Larry
Blue Mountain View Country Club	140.7	Bethel Township	Lebanon Valley Golf Club Inc.
Freeport Mills Golf Course	63.2	Bethel Township	Schock, James
Monroe Valley golf Club	153.1	Swatara Township	Monroe Valley Golf Club
Palmyra Area School District			
None			
Fish and Game Clubs			
Annville-Cleona School District			
CB Sportsmen's Club	109.9	North Annville Township	CB sportsmen's Club
Quittapahilla Rod and Gun Club	12.2	South Annville Township	Quittapahilla Rod and Gun Club
Cornwall-Lebanon School District			
R' Field and Stream	7.4	North Lebanon Township	R' Field and Stream Association
Tulpehocken Fishing Club	17.0	North Lebanon Township	Tulpehocken Fishing Club
Quentin Riding Club	61.8	West Cornwall Township	Quentin Riding Club
Willow Spring Farm Trout Hatchery	102.7	West Cornwall Township	Good, Clifford



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Recreation Facility	Total Area (Acres)	Municipality	Ownership
Eastern Lebanon County School District			
Heidelberg Sportsmen's Club	26.6	Heidelberg Township	Heidelberg Sportsmen's Club
Limestone Springs Trout Hatchery	36.1	Jackson Township	Tulpehocken Parsonage
Myerstown Rod and Gun Club	77.6	Jackson Township	Tulpehocken Parsonage
Millcreek Rod and Gun Club	4.5	Millcreek Township	Millcreek Rod and Gun Club
Arrowhead Springs Trout Hatchery	94.0	Millcreek Township	Ludwig, Edmund, Darlene and Michael
Lebanon School District			
None			
Northern Lebanon School District			
Kittatinny Hunting and Fishing Club	119.8	Bethel Township	Kittatinny Hunting and Fishing Club
Lebanon Beagle Club	209.2	Bethel Township	Lebanon County Beagle Club Inc.
Sweet Arrow Rod and Gun Club	0.7	Bethel Township	Sweet Arrow Rod and Gun Club
Jonestown Fish and Game	15.2	Swatara Township	Jonestown Fish and Game
Izaak Walton League of America	39.5	Union Township	Izaak Walton League
Yellow Springs Hunting Club	14.3	Union Township	Yellow Springs Hunting Club
Palmyra Area School District			
Palmyra Sportsman's Club	138.7	North Londonderry Township	Palmyra Sportsman's Association
Delches Fishing Club	84.2	South Londonderry Township	Delches Fishing Club
Hempfield Farmers' and Sportsmen's Club	38.7	South Londonderry Township	Hempfield Farmers' and Sportsmen's Club
Private Parks			
Annville-Cleona School District			
Annville Cleona Community Park	8.3	Annville Township	Annville Cleona Recreation Assoc. and the American Legion
Lebanon Valley College Ball Fields	79.1	Annville Township	Township leases fields from Lebanon Valley College
Waterworks Park	6.6	North Annville Township	Union Water Works Fire Company
Cornwall-Lebanon School District			
Rexmont Fire Company Playground	3.1	Cornwall Borough	Community Fire Company
Neversink Fire Company Park	1.2	North Cornwall Township	Neversink Fire Company
Ebenezer Fire Company Park	1.7	North Lebanon Township	Ebenezer Fire Company
Fifth Ward Athletic Club Park	5.2	North Lebanon Township	Fifth Ward Athletic Club



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Recreation Facility	Total Area (Acres)	Municipality	Ownership
Union Canal Tunnel Park	75.4	North Lebanon Township	Lebanon County Historical Society & County of Lebanon
South Lebanon Lions Club Park	4.3	South Lebanon Township	Lions Club of South Lebanon
Prescott Field	15.6	South Lebanon Township	Prescott Community Fire Company
AES Ironwood Corp.'s Avon Sports Center	10.3	South Lebanon Township	AES Ironwood Foundation
Quentin UCC's Power Park	11.1	West Cornwall Township	Quentin United Church of Christ
Valley Beach Club, Inc.'s Park	5.1	West Cornwall Township	Valley Beach Club Inc.
Eastern Lebanon County School District			
Fountain Park	4.2	Heidelberg Township	Friends of the Park Group's Fountain Park
Schaefferstown Fireman's Park	13.4	Heidelberg Township	Volunteer Fire Co. #1
Spring Haven Park	22.1	Heidelberg Township	Lebanon Church
Friedens Memorial Park	25.8	Jackson Township	Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church
Willow Springs Park	46.4	Jackson Township	Stokes, John
Newmanstown Athletic Association Park	5.2	Millcreek township	Newmanstown Athletic Association
Myerstown American Legion Park	1.8	Myerstown Borough	Litschi, James
Memorial Park	10.2	Richland Borough	Neptune Fire Co.
Richland Borough Community Swimming Pool	4.0	Richland Borough	Richland Community Swimming
Richland American Legion Park	5.5	Richland Borough	American Legion Post 880
Lebanon School District			
None			
Northern Lebanon School District			
Fredericksburg Fireman's Park	16.9	Bethel Township	Fredericksburg Fireman's Park Association
Palmyra Area School District			
Palmyra Community Pool	10.4	North Londonderry Township	Palmyra Recreation Association
Palmyra Bologna Company Park	5.5	Palmyra Borough	Palmyra Bologna Co.
Campbelltown Fireman's Park	16.3	South Londonderry Township	Campbelltown Volunteer Fire Co.
Conewago Lake	149.8	South Londonderry Township	Eastern Enterprises Inc.
Horseshoe Trail	19.4 Mile Corridor	South Londonderry, South Annville, West Cornwall Townships and Cornwall Borough	Created and managed by the Horseshoe Train Club



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Recreation Facility	Total Area (Acres)	Municipality	Ownership
Lawn Fire Company Playground	12.1	South Londonderry Township	Lawn Fire Company

Source: Draft Lebanon County Comprehensive Plan

Future Parks and Recreation in North Lebanon Township

Lenni Lenape Park - Former Moyer Tract

Where We Are Today

North Lebanon Township has acquired and will be developing Lenni Lenape Park on the former Moyer property located in the eastern part of the township. The park encompasses 28 acres and is located to the rear of 775 Narrows Drive. A second access is provided on Weavertown Road. The township was able to acquire the park with funds partially provided through grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

The park received its name from a contest that was conducted with the two public elementary school students in the township. Students were given the opportunity to name the park and the winning entrant received a one-day pass to HERSHEY PARK. The HERSHEY PARK passes were donated by Lesco, a landscaping and grounds maintenance company that serves the township.

Olivia Devitz from Mrs. Stoddard's fifth grade class at Union Canal Elementary School provided the name, Lenni Lenape. The Lenni Lenape were a Native American tribe, also known as the Delaware Indians, which settled in this area. The Lenni Lenape were known as "the people of the rising sun" and their name means "true people" in their own language. They had a good relationship with William Penn and others. The Delaware were called the "Grandfather" tribe because they were respected by other tribes as peacemakers and often served to settle disputes between rival tribes. They were also known for their fierceness and tenacity as warriors when they had to fight, however, they preferred a path of peace with the Europeans and other tribes. They lived in wigwams, were skilled artisans and were knowledgeable in many areas including astronomy and natural processes. They worshipped light and its representatives, the sun and fire.

How We Measure Up

- Lenni Lenape Park is unique in that its topography allows for a variety of potential uses.
- A rather flat area to the north dips off to a forested hill that already contains a few makeshift trails. A small area of wetlands is located near the entrance at the bottom of the hill.
- The two points of access, located at the base of the hill on Weavertown Road, and on the flat plateau on Narrows Drive add to the number of possibilities for this park.



CHAPTER 2 – PARK LAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Goals to Achieve Our Vision

Develop Lenni Lenape Park into a more passive recreation area, with some active uses, that can be used for educational purposes and can be used in all seasons.

Sports Complex

As part of the development of this plan, the North Lebanon Township Parks and Recreation Board discussed the possibility of planning for a future sports complex that would serve the regional recreational needs of the northern and eastern sections of Lebanon County.

Goal to Achieve Our Vision

Consider the development of a regional sports complex to serve the needs of residents of North Lebanon Township and residents of the northern and eastern portions of the county.

How We Get There

- Initiate discussions with neighboring municipalities to determine if there is a common interest in developing a regional sports complex.
- Form a task force comprised of members of each municipality to conduct a feasibility study and to determine possible locations for a regional sports complex.
- Negotiate an inter-municipal cooperative agreement for acquisition, construction, use, operation, and maintenance of the potential facility.
- Reevaluate the need for a skate park and consider including it in a future regional sports complex.



CHAPTER 3 – OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

3 - OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

While the conventional method of evaluating natural resources is to discuss natural elements (water, soil, vegetation, etc.) individually, it is crucial to keep in mind that all natural elements - including human beings - are inseparable and form varied landscapes. This interrelationship constitutes the broad ecological picture. Natural biodiversity - the total variety of life forms on earth - both defines and sustains interrelationships.

This chapter discusses individual resources, but also examines the critical relationships which must be considered in a well conceived landscape approach to open space and resource planning.

Topography, geology, water resources and soil characteristics were identified and mapped as part of the North Lebanon Township's 1993 Comprehensive Plan. Wildlife, woodlands, protected areas and historical/cultural information were identified and mapped as part of the Lebanon County Comprehensive Plan process that was developed concurrent with this plan. This chapter will utilize data from both of these sources for analysis purposes.

Where We Are Today

Water Resources

Drainage Patterns

The topography of North Lebanon Township is broken by the numerous branch streams tributary to the four main streams draining the township. The slope of the land varies greatly throughout the township from gently rolling farmland to sharp folds along the streams.

North Lebanon Township is divided into four major drainage basins: Swatara Creek; Brandywine Creek; Quitapahilla Creek; and Tulpehocken Creek; containing a total of approximately 11,465 acres.

The largest of the four is the Swatara Creek Watershed draining the far north and northeast portions of the township, which contains an area of approximately 6,780 acres. Swatara Creek Watershed is further subdivided into eight sub-drainage areas all of which drain northward away from the remainder of the township and the City of Lebanon.

The second largest drainage area is the Brandywine Creek Watershed, located directly north of the City of Lebanon and containing approximately 1,715 acres. This area is subdivided into sub-drainage basins all of which drain directly southward into the City of Lebanon.

The next smaller drainage basin is the Tulpehocken Creek Watershed, draining approximately 1,560 acres of the township's southwestern corner. This area is further



CHAPTER 3 – OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

subdivided into sub-drainage areas and slopes in the southeast away from any other portions of North Lebanon Township.

The final drainage basin in North Lebanon Township is Quitapahilla Creek. Quitapahilla Creek drains a total of approximately 1,410 acres, divided into two sub-drainage areas, one located to the northeast of the City of Lebanon and the other located to the west of the city.

Edge Areas

Alluvial soils, floodplains, hydric soils, and wetlands are those critical areas where water and land meet and mingle. These edge areas provide essential habitat for plants, insects and wildlife, help regulate water flows, and provide an important filtering system for water on its way to open streams.

Alluvial Soils and Floodplains

Floodplains form a finery pattern of lands along all but the tiniest streams, where they are subject to flooding by periodic overflow of the adjacent stream. At the most general level, floodplains can be defined by the location of alluvial soils. These soils have been eroded, transported and deposited by flood water over the millennia. However, alluvial soils are not always coextensive with present day floodplains due to changes in stream flow characteristic over time.

Floodplain areas (including all alluvial soils) should remain undeveloped and undisturbed for obvious safety reasons, and also to limit potential for erosion, downstream sedimentation, non-point source pollution and obstruction or alteration of the floodway.

Hydric Soils and Wetlands

Soils with occasional standing water and/or shallow depth (18" - 24") to the underground water table are found in low-lying areas at the fringes of alluvial soils and floodplains and sometimes in upland depressions. National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps indicate that the township contains a significant number of probable wetlands. According to this source, the township's largest wetlands are located in the vicinities of Lion's Lake, west of Kenbrook Road, and at the abandoned quarry west of Sandhill Road near the Lebanon City boundary.

Typically, hydric soils are not suitable for development and construction. Hydric soils cause wet basement problems and do not adequately absorb sewage. Pollutants of any sort easily enter the groundwater system through hydric soils, potentially contaminating water supply sources.

Biotic Resources

Carefully planned open space protection efforts should include the approaches toward conservation of biological diversity found in North Lebanon Township.



CHAPTER 3 – OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Woodlands

Forested areas are a critical habitat type for native vegetation and wildlife. While not a significant feature in North Lebanon Township, the region contains several deciduous areas. The highest density of this resource is located in Stoevers Dam. Several smaller wooded stands are located throughout the region primarily along stream corridors.

Wildlife

The Natural Areas Inventory recognizes two primary levels of significance for the protection of biodiversity: sites of statewide importance and sites of local significance. Sites of statewide importance support species of special concern, or have exemplary natural communities. Locally significant sites provide locally significant habitat and may be suitable for environmental education, parks or preserves. No species of special concern or exemplary communities have been identified at the locally significant sites, but the absence of species of concern cannot be proven in these potential habitats.

North Lebanon Township does not contain any significant sites but the lands provide connectivity for wildlife migratory patterns.

Land Resources

Soils

Approximately 60% of the township's land area is composed of prime agricultural soils (Class I and II). Most of these soils are in active farmlands falling outside the built areas of the township. Prime agricultural soils are prone to erosion, particularly on slopes, and require the use of basic, easily applied conservation practices such as planting of buffer grass zones and contour farming.

Prime agricultural soils are generally conducive to building activity thus presenting market pressures on the transformation of farmland to suburban development. This conversion of agricultural lands to residential development expedites the loss of various habitats by fragmenting wildlife migratory corridors and replacing them with suburban landscapes that have little to low ecological value.

Topography

North Lebanon is located in the Piedmont Region of Pennsylvania, a rich fertile land of valleys and rolling hills. The township lies entirely within the Lebanon Valley formed by the Blue Mountains to the north and the South Mountains to the south. Elevations range from 440 feet along US 422 in the southwest corner of the township to 710 feet on the northern boundary just east of Rockwood.

The main feature of the township is a U-shaped ridge with elevations between 600 and 700 feet. From just east of Rockwood, this ridge goes south to Sand Hill and then northeast to that corner of the township. The rest of North Lebanon is between 500 and 600 feet in elevation. The area surrounding the township is generally lower in elevation.

The township has a gently rolling countryside with a few areas of steep slope. Slope conditions can act as a guide in determining the extent and type of future development.



CHAPTER 3 – OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Agricultural Security Areas

The Agricultural Security Area (ASA) program began in 1981 as a tool for strengthening and protecting agriculture in Pennsylvania. These ASAs are intended to promote more permanent and viable farming operations over the long term by strengthening the farming community's sense of security in land use and the right to farm. ASAs are created by local municipalities in cooperation with individual landowners who agree to collectively place at least 250 acres in an ASA. It should be noted that ASA designation is not a permanent designation but rather a seven year program. The land to be included must have soils conducive to agriculture and be used for the production of crops, livestock, livestock products, horticultural specialties, and/or timber. Specific regulations applying to the eligibility of property are as follows:

- Noncontiguous farm parcels must be at least 10 acres in size. The farm tracts needed to create a new 250 acre or larger agricultural security area do not have to be under the same ownership or even be located in the same municipality. The Agricultural Area Security Law (Act 43 of 1981) allows for the creation of multi-municipal ASAs.
- The property should be viable agricultural land. Cropland, pasture, and woodland can all be included in an ASA.
- At least 50% of the land should be in Soil Capability Classes I-IV, as defined by the county soil survey.
- The property must be zoned to permit agricultural uses.
- Subdivision or development, however, is not prohibited.

North Lebanon Township has several farms that contain ASA designations. These lands lie within the agricultural zoning district which lies in the western, eastern and northern portions of the township.

Preserved Farms

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program was developed in 1988 to help slow the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. The program enables state, county and local governments to purchase conservation easements from owners of quality farmland. Counties participating in the program, including Lebanon County, have appointed Agricultural Land Preservation Boards. A state board oversees the program, and provides \$750 of the \$1,500 dollars offered per acre, with the remaining \$750 provided by local sources.

By voluntarily selling or donating agricultural conservation easements, the landowner is preventing development of the land for purposes other than agricultural production, while retaining ownership and other property rights. In order to qualify for a conservation easement, the following conditions must be met:

- The farmland tract must be located in an Agricultural Security Area. Parcels located outside of an Agricultural Security Area will be considered on a case-by-case basis with regards to the other conditions listed here and municipal zoning and land development plans.
- The property must contain at least 50% of soils which are available for agricultural production and are of Soil Capability Classes I-IV.



CHAPTER 3 – OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- The property must contain at least 50% harvested crop land, pasture lands or grazing lands.
- The property must be at least 50 contiguous acres in size unless a minimum of 10 acres is of a unique crop or adjoining an attached perpetual agricultural conservation easement.
- The landowner must have a conservation plan meeting Resource Management System (RMS) standards, and approved by the Lebanon County Conservation District, including an “Act 6 level” of nutrient management plan review by the Conservation District by the time of closing.
- The land use must be compatible with municipal land development plans.
- The landowner must be willing to accept \$1,500 per acre.
- Not more than 50% of the property may be enrolled in a reserve program such as CRP.

At the time of the plan, over 1,000 acres are permanently preserved within North Lebanon Township.

Existing Land Uses

The 1993 North Lebanon Township Comprehensive Plan documented the township’s mixed patterns of land use with the historical prominence of agricultural gradually being replaced by suburban development. Scattered residential developments in what would otherwise be agricultural areas and roadway corridors (such as Routes 72 and 343) have resulted in developed areas. Such a land use pattern results in a reduced distinction between agricultural and residential areas.

Historic/Cultural Resources

The following historical/cultural resources were identified in North Lebanon Township as part of the Lebanon County Comprehensive Plan project that was conducted concurrently with the development of this plan:

Union Canal Tunnel National Historic Landmark

The oldest existing tunnel in the United States is a local tourist attraction of national significance. It was tunneled out of solid rock under Pansy Hill on the northwest fringe of the City of Lebanon for the Union Canal which connected the Susquehanna River at Middletown with the Schuylkill River at Reading. The canal was planned to carry passengers and freight between Philadelphia and Harrisburg, facilitating commerce between Pennsylvania’s major urban center and the resource rich interior. Furthermore, the canal was regarded as a necessary first step in recapturing some of the commerce lost to New York State’s more ambitious Erie Canal. The tunnel, located on the summit of the canal, was originally 729 feet long when it was first completed in 1827. It was shortened to 600 feet when the tunnel was adapted to accommodate barges of 50 tons circa 1853.

With the completion of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal in the mid 1830s, the Union Canal became a link in an even longer canal system leading all the way to Pittsburgh. Shortly thereafter, newer canals capable of carrying even larger barges began to take much of Pennsylvania’s barge commerce away from the Union Canal. After going bankrupt during the 1860s, the canal was purchased at auction by one of its most



CHAPTER 3 – OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

formidable competitors, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, who finally abandoned the canal in 1885. Beginning in 1950, the Lebanon County Historical Society began acquiring parcels of land which include the tunnel and the adjacent canal. The Historical Society preserves and maintains the tunnel, a short section of watered canal and the 100+ acre park surrounding the site for the education and enjoyment of the community.

National Register of Historic Places Eligible Properties in Lebanon County

Property Name	Address	Date
Eckert, Mary & Perter, House	15 th Avenue	2/29/2000
Heilman, Samuel Phillip, Property	Emma Road	9/26/1990
Kreider Farm & Cemetery	Center Street (SR 4002) At Conrail Railroad	9/6/1995
Krieder, John, Farm	3181-3189 Tunnel Hill Road	12/23/1987

How We Measure Up

The Comprehensive Plan’s Future Land Use Plan classified areas of the township as recreation/open space that generally follow the floodplains, stream valleys, steep slope areas and other conservation areas. The township’s Zoning Ordinance, as modified, offers some floodplain, prime agricultural soil protection through its Agricultural Zoning District and steep slope protection. However, the following items should be considered:

- The township’s Zoning Ordinance offers some protection for steep slope areas, essentially limiting steep slope requirements for slopes 15% or greater. The Zoning Ordinance prohibits the removal of vegetations on lands/lots that have 25% of the area with greater than 15% slopes. Land in the 0% to 15% slope category can also be vulnerable to vegetation removal and/or development, particularly at the upper end of that range. Such areas are subject to no particular ordinance protection.
- The stream corridors provide the only means for wildlife migration to navigate through the township.
- In essence, no development activity should occur within a regulated wetland area without a permit. The permitting process requires investigation of alternatives, and may require “mitigation.”
- The protection of stream corridors are protected through the combination of the floodplain and steep slope ordinances but does not address those areas that fall within the 0% to 15% slope areas. Additionally, no riparian buffer or streambank stabilization requirements are present that would improve the health of the stream.
- The township contains many acres of ASA and Preserved Farms. While the ASAs are not a permanent protection against development, it does provide an “edge” to the township’s development patterns.
- Several historic/cultural resources have been protected within the township. Union Canal Tunnel Park has coupled its historical significance with providing recreational opportunities to township and regional citizens.

Goal to Achieve Our Vision

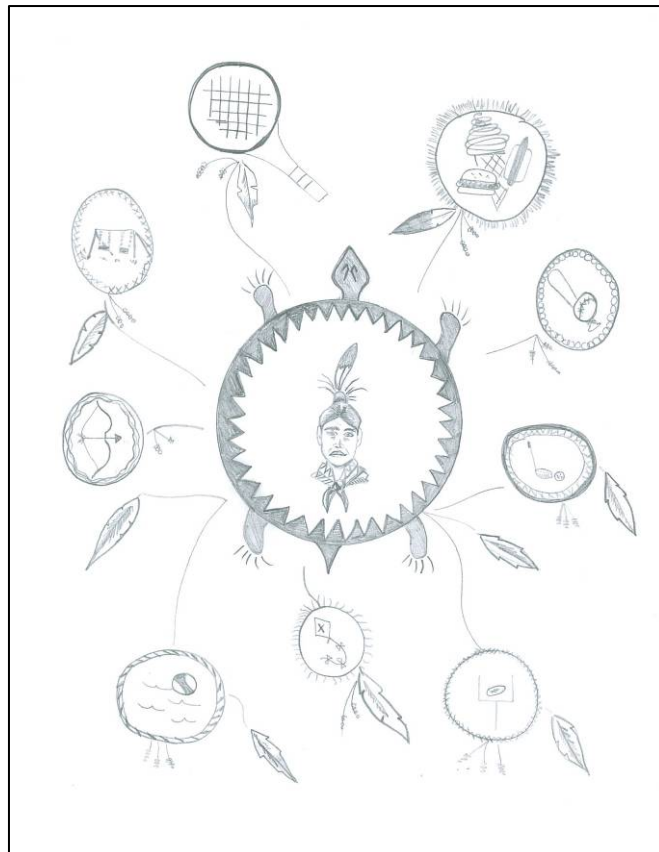
To continue to conserve those open space, natural and cultural features of North Lebanon that contribute to its community character and setting and that comprise resource opportunities.



CHAPTER 3 – OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

How We Get There

- Update the North Lebanon Township Comprehensive Plan and subsequent ordinances to guide development away from land areas not suitable for buildings or structures due to steep slopes, poor soil bearing qualities or with poor sewage capabilities; mechanisms can include clearly-worded ordinances and township officials sensitive to the open space, natural, and cultural features of the land.
- Support public and private efforts to enhance and conserve natural diversity, avoid isolation of wildlife habitat areas, and seek to coordinate protection strategies to maintain continuous corridors of protected open space.
- Focus on developing Conservation by Design zoning and subdivision and land development ordinance updates stressing “site sensitive” design standards.
- Consider the establishment of a program for Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), within the township or regionally with multiple municipalities.
- Establish incentives for conservation of historic structures and landscapes, offering a modest density bonus and/or design flexibility. The essential purpose of any bonus would be to make conservation at least as financially feasible as demolition and replacement.
- Work with the Lebanon County Conservation District to facilitate continued efforts of encouraging ASA designation of North Lebanon farmlands and permanent preservation of those property owners that are designated ASAs.



Dreamcatcher drawn by 5th grade student at Union Canal Elementary School



CHAPTER 4 – TRAILS, SIDEWALKS AND LINKAGES

4 - RAILS, SIDEWALKS AND LINKAGES

Because of society's dependence on the automobile, connectivity is normally defined in terms of modernized travel. However, alternative modes of transportation services for all population groups must be considered. Many times park facilities are not utilized because youth, handicap, or seniors do not have a method of transportation to and from the park grounds. As identified in the facilities chapter all park sites have automobile access and parking considerations located within or adjacent to these resources. Therefore, this chapter will focus on the non-motorized network of connections.

Where We Are Today

Destination Points

North Lebanon Township Lies in the central section of Lebanon County, north of the City of Lebanon. Containing a total land area of slightly less than 17 square miles, the township is approximately 7½ miles across from east to west and 3½ miles from the north to south. Surrounding municipalities include Swatara, Bethel, Jackson, South Lebanon, West Lebanon, and North Annville Townships and the Borough of Cleona. Once predominantly a rural community, North Lebanon is gradually becoming a suburb of the City of Lebanon. Generally, the residential areas in the south-central portion of the township, closer to the city, are denser with smaller lots. The further away from the city, the greater the amount of agricultural and large lot residential areas. Farms containing less than 50 acres and single-family houses on lots ranging from ¼ acre to two acres comprise the largest amount of land area in the township.

North Lebanon's economy is based on a broad mix of residential development, lighter industries, commercial enterprises, and agriculture. Once largely a rural farming area, North Lebanon now contains several commercial and light industrial businesses. Commercial businesses are found along the township's heavily-traveled roads; specifically PA Route 72, which runs on a north-south route through the township, and PA Route 422, an east-west route along township's southern border. There are no heavy industrial or office park facilities in the township. Light industries such as small scale assembly and storage facilities also tend to be located along these two main routes, but closer to the City of Lebanon.

This diverse landscape provides many destination points that span from retail centers, community centers, and of course, recreational parks.

Internal Connectivity

The township owns several park facilities that cater to various active and passive recreational opportunities. Providing internal connectivity allows users the opportunity to walk, skate, or bike from one point in the park to another. Improving these connecting trails and paths to Americans with Disabilities Act requirements will encourage usage by these users. Lion's Lake Park contains an internal walking trail that connects patrons to various facilities within the park but also serves as a stand-alone



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feature for walking and in-line skating. The other township-owned parks lack internal connection and pedestrian comforts that tie various activities and facilities together.

External Connectivity

Sidewalks

Given North Lebanon's proximity to the City of Lebanon, it would seem logical that many of the existing residential subdivisions contain sidewalks to offset automotive trips on the existing roadways. The township also contains requirements to encourage the use of sidewalks within residential developments. However, the township has only one major subdivision (20 or more lots) that contains sidewalks. The subdivision that contains sidewalks provides a linkage between the residential population center and Ebenezer Elementary School.

Trails

Many people recreate within 20-30 minutes of their home. Trails can provide close-to-home, accessible recreation with health benefits, non-polluting transportation routes, and more. While associated with parks, they usually have much less of a financial burden.

The emphasis on most trails has shifted to multi-use design and management. Hikers, walkers, strollers, joggers, bicyclists and/or horses all can be accommodated on the same trail or corridor in many instances. Innovative strategies for sharing corridors with motorized trail users also are being tested throughout the country. The key to successful corridor sharing is proper planning and design, along with educational programs and some enforcement. Many voluntarily patrol multi-use trails for misuse and educate people about proper etiquette.

Many businesses also develop trails through their properties to connect to existing trails and allow public access. With more businesses realizing the value of trails for employees' physical and mental health, private corporate trails are more numerous and need to be included in comprehensive trail plans. In addition, many developers realize that the incorporation of a trails system can help increase housing and office space values and/or increase sales. Where possible, private trails should connect to public systems.

Currently, the township does not contain any significant external trail system within its boundaries. The Tulpehocken Trail represents the first planned regional trail system. Currently, portions of the trail are planned to be located in the eastern section of the township.

Greenways

A greenway is a corridor of open space that can vary greatly in scale and purpose, from a narrow ribbon of green that runs through urban, suburban, and rural areas to a wide-open corridor that incorporates diverse natural, cultural, and scenic features.

Greenways include both land- or water-based areas, running along stream corridors, shorelines or wetlands. Some greenways follow old railways, canals, ridge tops, or other natural and man-made features, and they can incorporate both public and private



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property. Greenways often provide for recreational opportunities, while others are established almost exclusively for environmental protection and are designed to limit human passage. Greenways differ in their location and function, but overall, a greenway network will protect natural, cultural, and scenic resources, provide recreational benefits, enhance the natural beauty and the quality of life in neighborhoods and communities and stimulate economic development opportunities.

While North Lebanon Township does not contain any formalized greenways, the township does contain many stream valleys and other opportunities that lend themselves to be identified as potential greenway corridors.

How We Measure Up

- The diverse landscape of destination points provides opportunities for varying structured (work related) or unstructured (recreation) trips.
- Lion's Lake Park contains great internal connectivity, however, the other township-owned facilities do not link facilities together.
- Many stream corridors throughout the township could lend themselves to being organized greenways.
- No ordinance provides for the establishment of greenways or bike lane corridors.
- The township contains an ordinance that requires sidewalks however, most of the developments that have been constructed do not contain any sidewalk infrastructure.

Goal to Achieve Our Vision

Establish an initial level of connectivity both internal and external to existing park facilities for residents to utilize alternative modes of transportation to reach the township's recreational assets.

How We Get There

- Establish a greenway and trails steering committee from the Park and Recreation Board to formalize greenway and trail suggestions from this plan as identified in the Lenni Lenape Service Areas and Connectivity Map. This committee will also advocate greenway and trail connections within the community.
- Focus on implementing the proposed priority greenway and trail links to establish connectivity between anticipated heavier pedestrian and bicycle traffic areas.
- Celebrate greenway and trail successes with ribbon cutting ceremonies and other media opportunities.
- Develop master plans for the existing township owned parks that focus on retrofitting connectivity between the park's amenities with a focus on ADA compliance.
- Support regional trail and greenway programs to provide linear connections outside the municipal boundaries.
- Work with the school district to utilize school grants to build sidewalks in communities that lie adjacent to school campuses.
- Revise the township ordinances to support connectivity through trails, sidewalks, and bike lane provisions for both residential and non-residential development.
- Revise township ordinances and work with local watershed groups to educate the public on establishing modern riparian stream buffer practices.



CHAPTER 5– RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

5 - RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Providing park land and recreation facilities are important municipal functions. Equally as important are the recreational experiences individuals have through involvement in recreation programs. Recreation programs build community by providing positive and meaningful activities that encourage a sense of unity, pride and appreciation for the traditions and heritage of a municipality. Through recreational programs, citizens improve their health and fitness, enhance their creativity, build relationships, reduce stress and become happier and more involved in community life. Children develop self-confidence, stay physically active and make friends.

Where We Are Today

Recreation Programs Available to North Lebanon Township Residents

A number of groups exist within and surrounding North Lebanon Township whose purpose is solely or partially to provide recreational opportunities to their members or to the general public. The township itself does not sponsor any community recreation programs.

Table 10 lists the major recreational programs offered in which township citizens may participate.

Table 10: Recreational Programs – North Lebanon Township

Program Name	Sponsoring Group	Program Type	Gender	Age	Facilities Used
Midget Football and Cheerleading	Ebenezer Midget Football and Cheerleading Association	Sports	M/F	6-12 yrs	Ebenezer Athletic Fields
Youth Baseball and Softball	Ebenezer Baseball Association	Sports	M/F	6-15 yrs	Ebenezer Athletic Fields
Youth Baseball and Softball	Union Canal Athletic Association	Sports	M/F	6-15 yrs	Community Park Fields, Lions Lake Fields
Youth Soccer	Great Valley Futbol Club	Sports	M/F	4-14 yrs	Ebenezer Athletic Fields, Lions Lake Fields
Story Time	Lebanon Community Library	Social Recreation	M/F	3-5 yrs	Lebanon Community Library
Toddler Time	Lebanon Community Library	Social Recreation	M/F	2-3 yrs	Lebanon Community Library
Summer Programs- Magic Show, Puppet Show, Storytelling, Science Show	Lebanon Community Library	Special Event	M/F	3-14 Yrs	Lebanon Community Library
Write and Illustrate Your Own Book Contest	Lebanon Community Library	Special Event	M/F	Grades 1-5	Lebanon Community Library
Poetry Contest	Lebanon Community Library	Special Event	M/F	All ages	Lebanon Community Library
Bingo	Lebanon Community Library	Special Event	M/F	All ages	Lebanon Community Library
One Book One Community	Lebanon Community Library	Social Recreation	M/F	18 yrs & up	Lebanon Community



CHAPTER 5– RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Program Name	Sponsoring Group	Program Type	Gender	Age	Facilities Used
Discussion Group					Library
Old Ebenezer Days	Ebenezer Fire Company	Special Event	M/F	All ages	Ebenezer Fire Company
Union Canal Days	Lebanon County Historical Society	Special Event	M/F	All ages	Union Canal Tunnel Park
Sunday Boat Rides, Moonlight Rides and Private Boat Tours	Lebanon County Historical Society	Outdoor Recreation/Education	M/F	All ages	Union Canal Tunnel Park
Halloween Scare Affair	Lebanon County Historical Society	Special Event	M/F	All ages	Union Canal Tunnel Park
History Programs	Lebanon County Historical Society	Education	M/F	All ages	Union Canal Tunnel Park
Fire Company Fundraisers	Ebenezer, Glenn-Lebanon, Rural Security and Weavertown Fire Co's.	Special Event	M/F	All ages	Fire Company Halls
Adult Education Computer Courses	Cornwall-Lebanon School District	Educational	M/F	18 yrs & up	Cedar Crest High School
Water Fitness	Cornwall-Lebanon School District	Aquatics	M/F	18 yrs & up	Cedar Crest High School Swimming Pool
Recreational Swims	Cornwall-Lebanon School District	Aquatics	M/F	All ages	Cedar Crest High School Swimming Pool
Falcon Swim Club	Falcon Swim Club	Sports	M/F	5-18 yrs	Cedar Crest High School Swimming Pool
Cornwall-Lebanon After School Specials (CLASS) Tennis	Cornwall-Lebanon School District	Sports	M/F	Grades 1-8	Cedar Crest High School Tennis Courts
CLASS Archery	Cornwall-Lebanon School District	Outdoor Recreation	M/F	Grades 6-8	Hemlock Field Archers Club
CLASS Bus Trips – NYC Broadway Musicals, Radio City Music Hall, Phillies Baseball Games	Cornwall-Lebanon School District	Social Recreation	M/F	5 yrs & up	Depart/Return to Cedar Crest High School Parking Lot
Craft Show	Cornwall-Lebanon School District	Special Event	M/F	All ages	Cedar Crest High School
Senior Citizen Holiday Breakfast	Cornwall-Lebanon School District	Special Event	M/F	67 yrs & up	Cedar Crest Middle School Cafetorium
Senior Senior Prom	Cornwall-Lebanon School District	Special Event	M/F	67 yrs & up	Cedar Crest High School Cafeteria
Adults Sports Programs - Indoor Soccer League, Golf, Racquetball League, Noon Basketball, Open Volleyball and Badminton, Men's Basketball League, Dodgeball League	Lebanon Valley Family YMCA	Sports	M/F	18 yrs & up	YMCA A.L. Hanford Center; YMCA at the VA Hospital
Youth Swimming Lessons	Lebanon Valley Family YMCA	Aquatics	M/F	6 months & up	YMCA A.L. Hanford Center; YMCA at the VA Hospital
Water Fitness, Lifeguarding, Master Swim, Scuba Classes	Lebanon Valley Family YMCA	Aquatics	M/F	Varies	YMCA A.L. Hanford Center; YMCA at the VA Hospital
Fitness Classes, Personal Training	Lebanon Valley Family YMCA	Health and Wellness	M/F	18 yrs & up	YMCA A.L. Hanford Center



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Program Name	Sponsoring Group	Program Type	Gender	Age	Facilities Used
Preschool Programs	Lebanon Valley Family YMCA	Social Recreation	M/F	2-5 yrs	YMCA A.L. Hanford Center
Youth Sports Programs- T-Ball, Soccer, Basketball, Dodgeball, Floor Hockey, Ultimate Frisbee, Flag Football, Swim Team, Gymnastics, Martial Arts	Lebanon Valley Family YMCA	Sports	M/F	3-17 Yrs	YMCA A.L. Hanford Center
Before and After School Child Care, Summer Day Care	Lebanon Valley Family YMCA	Child Care	M/F	Grades K-5	Ebenezer and Union Canal Elementary Schools
Skate Park Operation	Lebanon Valley Family YMCA	Sports	M/F	All ages	Lebanon Valley Family YMCA Skate Park
Music in the park Summer Concert Series	Coleman Park Board	Cultural	M/F	All ages	Veteran's Memorial Amphitheater at Coleman Park
Biddy Basketball	City of Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department	Sports	M/F	7-13 yrs	Lebanon School District Gymnasiums
East End Summer Basketball League	City of Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department	Sports	M/F	13-16 yrs	Lebanon School District Gymnasiums
Bus Trips- NYC, Professional Baseball, Basketball, Hockey Games	City of Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department	Social Recreation	M/F	All ages	N/A
Community Theatre Performances	Lebanon Community Theatre	Cultural	M/F	All ages	Stoevers Dam Park
Spring Crafts Festival, Other Downtown Events	Community of Lebanon Association	Special Event	M/F	All ages	Downtown Lebanon
Musical Performances	Lebanon County Community Concert Association	Special Event	M/F	All ages	Lebanon High School Auditorium
Miniature Golf Operation	Coleman Park Board	Sports	M/F	All ages	Watering Hole Miniature Golf Course at Coleman park
Summer Swimming Pool Operation	Lebanon Valley Family YMCA	Aquatics	M/F	All ages	Lautner Water Complex at Coleman Park
Summer Swimming Pool Operation	Lebanon Valley Family YMCA	Aquatics	M/F	All ages	Northeast Swim Club
Personal Development, Communication Skills and Computer Skills Courses, Community Education Classes	Lebanon Campus of Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC)	Leisure Learning	M/F	18 yrs & up	Lebanon Campus of HACC
Garden Plots	City of Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department	Outdoor Recreation	M/F	18 yrs & up	Stoevers Dam Park
Overnight Camping	City of Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department	Outdoor Recreation	M/F	18 yrs & up	Stoevers Dam Park
Karate	Kim Karate Studio	Sports	M/F	5 yrs & up	Kim Karate Studio



CHAPTER 5– RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Program Name	Sponsoring Group	Program Type	Gender	Age	Facilities Used
Lebanon Senior Center	Lebanon County Area Agency on Aging	Social Recreation, Health and Wellness	M/F	60 yrs & up	Lebanon Senior Center
Golf Course Operation	Pine Meadows Golf Course, Freeport Mills Golf Course	Sports	M/F	All ages	Pine Meadows Golf Course, Freeport Mills Golf Course
Aquatic Exercise, Arthritis Aquatics, Water Wellness Classes	Lebanon Valley College (LVC)	Aquatics	M/F	18 yrs & up	LVC Health and Sports Center
Learn to Swim, Stroke Conditioning, Competitive Stroke Clinic, Wellness Pool, Address Your Stress, Lifeguard Training	Lebanon Valley College	Aquatics	M/F	All ages	LVC Health and Sports Center
Tennis Lessons, Golf School	Lebanon Valley College	Sports	M/F	12 yrs & up	LVC Health and Sports Center
Body Pump, Cardio Pump, Cardio Tennis Fitness Classes	Lebanon Valley College	Health and Wellness	M/F	18 yrs & up	LVC Health and Sports Center
Boys' Basketball, Big Man/Point Guard, Football and Soccer Summer Camps	Lebanon Valley College	Sports	M	Grades 9-12	Lebanon Valley College
Summer Music Camp	Lebanon Valley College	Cultural	M/F	Grades 9-12	Lebanon Valley College
Community Music Institute	Lebanon Valley College	Cultural	M/F	All ages	Lebanon Valley College
Science Olympiad	Lebanon Valley College	Educational	M/F	Grades 9-12	Lebanon Valley College
Summer Book Reviews	Lebanon Valley College	Educational	M/F	18 yrs & up	Lebanon Valley College

Brief Description of Major Program Providers

There are several key organizations that offer recreation program opportunities for township residents. A brief description of each follows.

Youth Sports Associations - North Lebanon Township has several privately- sponsored youth sports associations that serve school age children. These groups are run by volunteers and hundreds of township youth participate in their programs. The number of children involved is much greater at younger ages than during teenage years.

Lebanon Valley Family YMCA - As a private membership organization, the YMCA charges membership fees to join. Non-members can take part in programs but must pay a 50% higher fee. The YMCA is a full-service organization with many program opportunities at its City and VA Hospital locations.

Cornwall-Lebanon School District - The school district offers after school programs, adult education classes, community bus trips, special events and recreational use of its indoor swimming pool.



CHAPTER 5– RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

City of Lebanon - The City of Lebanon offers public recreation programs through its Parks and Recreation Department and opportunities to participate are made available to township residents. The Lebanon Community Library also offers a variety of programs for the general public. The Lebanon Senior Center offers activities for people ages 60 and over. These activities all take place in the City of Lebanon.

Lebanon Valley College - Lebanon Valley College provides a significant number of recreation opportunities to the community. Memberships may be purchased to its Health and Sports Center, which includes an indoor swimming pool and fitness center, among other facilities. The college offers a variety of health and fitness classes, summer sports camps and private music instruction for community residents. These activities take place at the college, located in Annville.

Recreational Trends

Much has changed in society. Cell phones, personal computers and the Internet that we now use every day were unheard of 20 years ago. More women work today and more children are home alone after school. With more single adult run households and two-income families, people are increasingly busy. Not only have program interests changed but the factors related to recreational programming have changed as well.

As part of the assessment of the township's recreational services, it is important to look at trends elsewhere. This will enable the township to plan for trends that have not yet emerged and find ways to deliver services the community might desire. Important recreation program trends include the following:

- People want information and education about recreational opportunities.
- People want convenience, easier ways to become involved, more flexibility and more options.
- Today, two-thirds of all Americans recreate outdoors monthly while in 1994 only half did.
- Sports are expanding to year-round play indoors and outdoors. In 1971, less than one out of 27 girls participated in high school sports. By 2004 that figure increased to more than one out of three. Sports participation has increased and players are involved at older and younger ages.
- Interest in self-directed types of facilities such as trails, in-line skating, scenic areas and access to streams and nature is emerging.
- People want recreational opportunities year-round including indoor recreation.
- Today's seniors with extensive free time and good health lead more active lifestyles.
- The demand for public recreational facilities is outpacing availability and the resources to develop and manage new ones.

Source: [Community Recreation and Parks](#), DCNR and PRPS, 2004

How We Measure Up

- *Few Programs Available Within Township* - With the exception of youth sports and a handful of special events, the recreational program opportunities available to North



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Lebanon Township residents are located outside of the township. The public library, senior center and YMCA are in the City of Lebanon. Programs sponsored by the Cornwall-Lebanon School District are primarily located at the middle school/high school complex in South Lebanon Township. Special events are held in the City's downtown, Coleman Park and Stoevers Dam Park. The indoor recreation facility, In the Net, is located in Palmyra. The facilities at Lebanon Valley College in Annville are open to community residents, and the college offers an extensive schedule of aquatics and fitness classes. However, the available recreational program opportunities are within easy driving distance of township residents.

- *Duplication of Youth Sports Organizations* - The township has a number of organizations offering youth sports opportunities. Each sport - baseball/softball, soccer, football - has its own volunteer organization, plus baseball is offered by two different organizations. These organizations must interact with the township for facility use, recruit and train coaches, provide insurance coverage, do promotion, hold sign-ups, raise funds and so on. There is no coordination of communication to parents, cooperative scheduling of facilities, standard maintenance practices or equipment sharing among youth sports groups. The youth sports organizations are scheduling, planning, promoting and conducting programs themselves. The township does its best to provide information for residents on recreational programs provided for citizens and keeps an updated contact list for youth sports groups.
- *No Indoor Recreational Space* - One of the major limitations for the township is a lack of indoor recreational facilities. Schools are important sources of indoor facilities but they cannot be used during the school day. Many groups are competing for the same facilities. The school programs have top priority for use. Scheduling is not always reliable because non-school groups get bumped from time to time for school programs.
- *Availability* - Few programs are actually offered within the township's borders.
- *Programs to Consider* - An assessment of existing recreational programs reveals the need for the township to expand programming in these areas:

Goal to Achieve Our Vision

Strengthen year-round recreation program opportunities at township-owned and school district-owned park areas and recreation facilities.

How We Get There

- A consolidation of overlapping youth sports organizations would eliminate confusion for residents and strengthen and improve services and facilities. An umbrella athletic association would allow each sport to have an executive board that focuses its efforts on that sport. The township should work with the youth sports groups to begin discussion on consolidation.
- While gyms for organized sports are important, other indoor facilities are needed. Drop-in activity space, fitness facilities and community meeting rooms enable people to participate in an active, healthy lifestyle year-round.
- The township should form partnerships with others to maximize the resources needed for special events and other programming, due to staff limitations. Few programs are actually offered within the township's borders. Any of the agencies



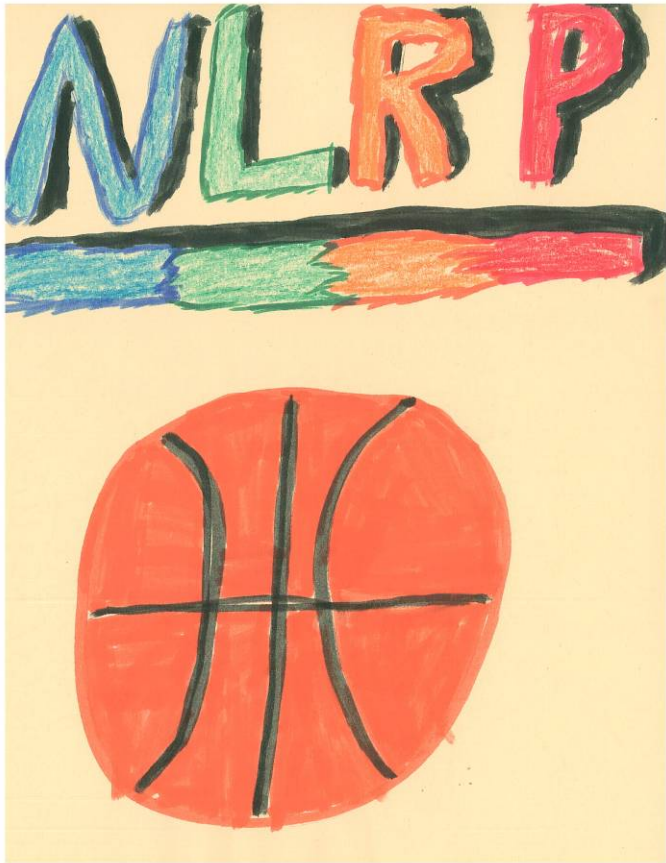
CHAPTER 5– RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

listed in the program inventory may be willing to work cooperatively with the township to expand program offerings within the township.

- An assessment of existing recreational programs reveals the need for the township to expand programming in the following areas:
 - Special events for families at North Lebanon Township parks. Activities should be planned that get people out to the parks to enjoy them and, hopefully, return on their own. A Fishing Derby would be a perfect event to hold at Lion's Lake Park. The Community Day event should be reinstated. Every community organization in the township should be invited and encouraged to participate. The Park and Recreation Board should become involved in planning a yearly schedule of recreational activities at the township parks. This schedule does not have to be extensive and should primarily include working with township civic clubs and community groups to hold family special events at the parks. The township's role should be that of providing the facilities and other support, rather than planning the entire activity itself.
 - Outdoor recreation and environmental education programs. These activities should be conducted in cooperation with the City of Lebanon or the County Conservation District at the Quittapahilla Educational Wetland Preserve, Stoevers Dam Park and township-owned parks. Getting people back in touch with the outdoors is important.
 - Self-directed recreational opportunities (walking trails, fishing, in-line skating, mountain biking). The Center for Disease Control has stated that public parks and recreation departments have a primary role in addressing obesity and physical inactivity by providing attractive and safe places for people to walk, hike, bike and enjoy other active pursuits. Citizen use of the parks should be promoted as a way to enhance their fitness and wellness. Providing self-directed recreational opportunities will work well for North Lebanon Township since it does not have staff to plan and implement recreational programs.
- Utilize the township newsletter and website to promote recreation opportunities. The program opportunities that already exist within and surrounding the township need to be promoted better. The inventory of recreation programs includes a long list of available opportunities. The township should promote these opportunities on its website and in its newsletter. Links to websites should be provided whenever possible. In addition, the township should develop a list of self-guided activities that people can take advantage of on their own during their leisure time and promote it on the township website and in the township newsletter.
- Pursue recreation business development. The recreation activities that 5th grade students mentioned that they would most like to do, but aren't currently available, were things like Laser Tag, Go-Cart Tracks, Rock Climbing Walls, Paint Ball, Miniature Golf Courses, Water Parks...most often provided by commercial business, not municipal government. The township should pursue private business development in these activity areas when feasible.



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Drawing by 5th grade student at Union Canal Elementary School



CHAPTER 6– RECREATIONAL AND PARKS ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING

6 - RECREATION AND PARKS ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING

Where We Are Today

Government Organization

North Lebanon Township is a second-class township governed by a three-member Board of Supervisors that is elected at-large for terms of six years. The Board of Supervisors oversees all functions of the township, including recreational and parks services. Its responsibilities include appointing Park and Recreation Board members, planning, improving and maintaining township park areas and recreational facilities; hiring staff to assist with the day-to-day operations, and enacting parks and recreation policies. The Board of Supervisors also approves funding for recreational and parks services.

Township Volunteers

Recreation and parks services in North Lebanon Township are a priority for local government and citizen involvement and input is encouraged and welcomed. Volunteers help the township offer recreation and parks services in three primary ways.

Park and Recreation Board

A five member advisory Park and Recreation Board is appointed by the Township Supervisors for three-year terms. The township's first Park and Recreation Board was created by ordinance in 1965. Over the years, its activities were minimal and the board was disbanded. In 1985, North Lebanon Township Ordinance 6/3/85 reformed the Park and Recreation Board. Currently, the board has five appointed members.

Its powers and duties are to:

- See that park and recreation-related buildings and grounds are properly supervised and report any maintenance requirements to the Board of Supervisors.
- Oversee use of the buildings and grounds as approved by the Board of Supervisors.
- Meet with the Board of Supervisors annually to submit a proposed operating budget, apply for funding and submit a report on the prior year's operation, including a year-end financial statement.
- Submit to the Board of Supervisors rules and regulations for the operation of the recreational facilities and enforce the rules and regulations after approval by the Board of Supervisors.
- Make reports of accidents, injury or damage to property to the Board of Supervisors within five days of the occurrence.
- Conduct at a minimum, semi-annual on-site inspections of all recreational properties owned by the township in April and October, or as otherwise approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The Park and Recreation Board has adopted by-laws that cover such topics as membership, officers, meetings, order of business, elections, communications, and quorum requirements. Implementation of this plan will be a primary responsibility of the board.



CHAPTER 6– RECREATIONAL AND PARKS ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission consists of five residents appointed by the Board of Supervisors for four-year terms. Its duties include updating the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, which provides the township with the authority to protect environmentally sensitive natural resources and to require the dedication of public open space. The Planning Commission also reviews and provides recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on proposed subdivision and land development plans.

Other Recreation and Parks Volunteers

Youth sports organizations are run entirely by volunteers. In addition, Eagle Scouts and high school students have completed numerous volunteer community service projects at the parks.

Township Staff

All township staff work out of the municipal building complex on Kimmerlings Road. Figure 13 is the township's organizational chart. Job descriptions are in place for all full-time and part-time staff.

Administration

The township has five full-time administrative staff including a Township Manager, Assistant Township Manager, Receptionist/Clerk, Accounting Clerk and Billing Clerk, plus a part-time Receptionist/Clerk. The Township Manager reports directly to the Board of Supervisors and is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the township, with the exception of the Police Department. Preparing the township's annual budget proposal and handling the concerns of citizens are also the Township Manager's responsibilities.

In addition to many other duties, the Assistant Township Manager is responsible for supervising the township's day-to-day recreation and parks services. The Assistant Township Manager serves as the staff liaison to the Park and Recreation Board, coordinates its activities and attends its monthly meetings.

The township Billing Clerk handles park pavilion rentals.

Parks and Recreation Department

A full-time Parks and Recreation Foreman is in charge of the maintenance of township parks, repair to recreational facilities and improvements to park areas, as well as township building maintenance. He performs a combination of administrative, supervisory and park maintenance duties, and reports to the Assistant Township Manager.

A full-time mechanic is also employed in this department. Two seasonal part-time workers help to maintain the park areas in the spring and summer.

Road Department

The Road Department consists of five staff, one Roadmaster and four Crew Members. It is responsible for maintenance of the township's roads, bridges, and public grounds. The Road Department staff assists Parks and Recreation staff with major projects.



CHAPTER 6– RECREATIONAL AND PARKS ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING

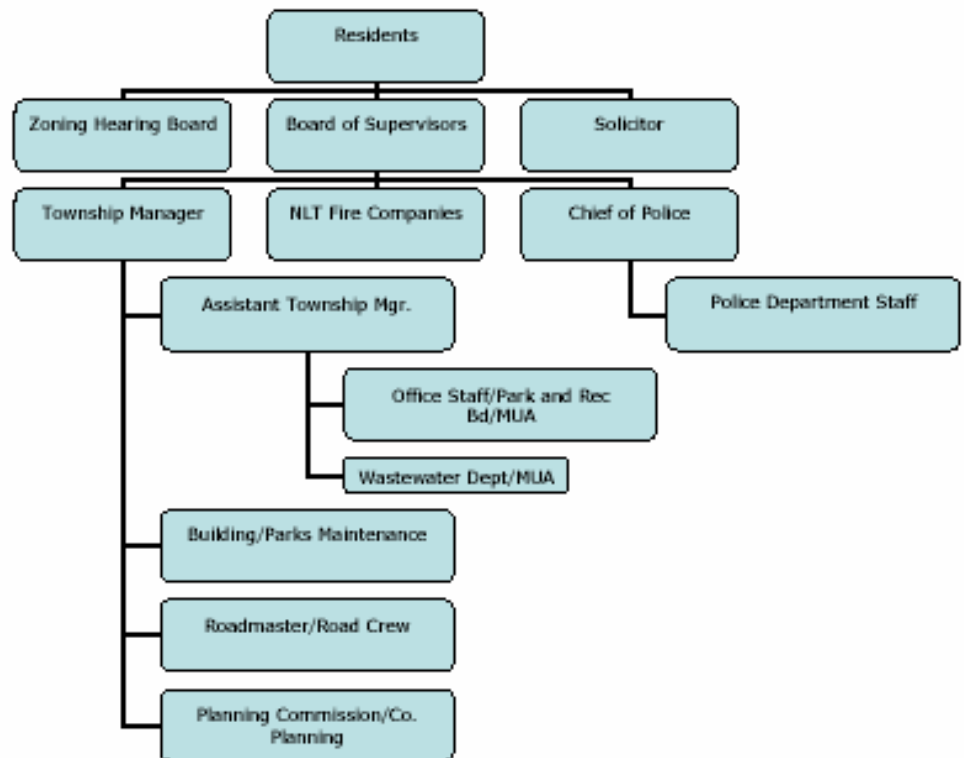
Police Department

The Police Department has 12 full-time police officers, which includes a Chief of Police, three sergeants, a criminal investigator, six patrolmen and one clerical support worker. Part-time staff includes a clerical support worker and a Code Enforcement Officer. The department enforces the laws of the United States, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the ordinances of the township. Officers patrol the township park areas to insure that park visitors comply with park rules and regulations. Through an agreement with the City of Lebanon, officers also patrol Stoevers Dam Park and enforce the City of Lebanon's park ordinances.

Wastewater Department

The Wastewater Department employs three full-time employees who report to the Assistant Township Manager. They maintain the sewer collection system in North Lebanon Township.

Figure 13: North Lebanon Township Organizational Chart



Public Relations and Marketing Efforts

The township publishes newsletters in the spring and fall that are mailed to all homes and businesses. Each issue contains information on recreational and parks facilities and activities. The township has its own website, www.twp.northlebanon.pa.us which is maintained by the township Accounting Clerk. In addition to details on the township's park areas, the website includes the Park and Recreation Board meeting agendas and minutes. The website has links to the websites of other government and community



CHAPTER 6– RECREATIONAL AND PARKS ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING

organizations, current township news and many other items to inform citizens about the township.

Policies and Procedures

The picnic pavilions at Lion's Lake and Community Parks are rented for public use. A fee schedule, list of rules and regulations and rental forms are in place. Forms for park pavilion rentals cannot yet be downloaded from the website. Non-residents pay the same fees for pavilion rental that residents pay. The number of rentals and estimated attendance figures are kept for pavilion rentals.

Youth sports groups utilize the ball fields at township parks at no charge. Field use is scheduled through the township office.

How We Measure Up

- Volunteers help the township offer recreation and parks services in three primary ways (park and recreation board, planning commission, and local sports organizations).
- The Assistant Township Manager serves as the staff liaison to the Park and Recreation Board, coordinates its activities and attends its monthly meetings. The Assistant Township Manager is also responsible for supervising the recreation maintenance on a day-to-day basis.
- A full-time Parks and Recreation Foreman is in charge of the maintenance of township parks, repair to recreation facilities and improvements to park areas, as well as township building maintenance. He performs a combination of administrative, supervisory and park maintenance duties, and reports to the Assistant Township Manager.
- The township has developed procedures for land dedication for parks and recreation, or fee in lieu of land dedication in their Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. Currently, the monies collected in lieu of land dedication can only be used for capital improvements for parks and recreation.
- The township publishes newsletters in the spring and fall that are mailed to all homes and businesses.
- The township has its own website, www.twp.northlebanon.pa.us, which provides details on the township's park areas and the Park and Recreation Board meeting agendas and minutes.
- The picnic pavilions at Lion's Lake and Community Parks are rented for public use.
- Youth sports groups utilize the ball fields at township parks at no charge.

Goals to Achieve Our Vision

Continue to operate the township's parks, recreation, and open space system effectively and efficiently through volunteer and staff leadership.

How We Get There

- *Plan of Work* – The Park and Recreation Board, with the help of the Assistant Township Manager and Parks and Recreation Foreman, should develop a yearly plan of work. The plan should review the board's accomplishments, assess needs, set goals for the coming year and outline action strategies for the year's work. A



CHAPTER 6– RECREATIONAL AND PARKS ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING

written meeting schedule should be prepared for the year with recommended themes and activities for each board meeting.

- The board's first quarter meetings should be for planning the year's activities and schedule of events.
- Second quarter meetings should include a review of park facility fees and promotional materials, including the township website.
- Park tours should be scheduled during the third quarter of the year.
- Parks should be assessed for accomplishment of goals and evaluated for safety and maintenance issues. A priority list should be developed and submitted to the Parks and Recreation Foreman for budget planning.
- The final meetings of the year should be focused on revising the plan of work, reviewing short and long-term goals and meeting with the Township Supervisors to inform them about Park and Recreation Board plans.
- As part of the plan of work, a mission statement should be adopted for the Park and Recreation Board so that its work is focused. A simple orientation process should be put in place for new board members as well.
- *Purchase Membership for Board in Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society* – The Park and Recreation Board should join the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS), the statewide association for recreation and parks boards and staff. The Assistant Township Manager is currently a PRPS member.
- *Hold Board Training Session* – The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Regional Recreation Advisor should be asked to attend a Park and Recreation Board meeting to conduct a training session for members on their roles and responsibilities. This would also be a good opportunity to take the Regional Recreation Advisor on a tour of township parks. This individual plays a key role in awarding state grant funds for park land acquisition and improvement projects.
- *Non-Resident Fees* – The township should consider instituting a higher fee for non-resident use of pavilions. Residents pay taxes to support township services and should pay less than a non-resident to take advantage of them. Non-residents should be charged 25 to 50 percent more than residents.
- *Plan Implementation* – The responsibility for oversight of the implementation of this plan should be given to the Park and Recreation Board. The yearly plan of work should contain actions to facilitate plan implementation.
- *Revise Land Dedication/Fee in Lieu of Land Dedication Regulations* – The township should revise the land dedication and fee in lieu of land dedication requirements to include allowance for any fees paid to be used for maintenance improvements at existing parks and recreational facilities, in addition to capital improvements.
- *Annually Evaluate the Need for a Recreation Director* – North Lebanon Township is one of the largest municipalities in Lebanon County, population-wise. Its size makes hiring a recreation and parks director a realistic option, although financial demands dictate otherwise. If financially feasible, this position would oversee the development of Lenni Lenape Park and pursue citizen desired greenway and trail connections within the township. Planning and offering township-sponsored recreation programs would also be the director's responsibility. A recreation and parks director would coordinate grant writing, marketing of township services, including recreation and parks, and planning of special events in addition to other



CHAPTER 6– RECREATIONAL AND PARKS ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING

duties. Currently, many of the duties that could be performed by a Recreation Director are completed by the Assistant Township Manager or the Parks and Recreation Foreman. These specific duties should be outlined and the person responsible for each item should be noted. The list of duties should be reviewed annually to determine if they are all being accomplished, allowing the township to evolve parks and recreation. Monitoring the situation will help to determine when the responsibilities for parks and recreation in the township exceed the time and resources of the positions currently performing these duties, and when a Recreation Director will become a necessity. PRPS RecTAP grant funds are available for assistance with applicant recruitment, screening and interview process. RecTAP will match an experienced parks and recreation professional with the township to assist with the hiring process. A job description/list of duties for the recreation and parks director position should be developed similar to the following examples:

- Coordinate acquisition and development of new park and open space areas and improvements to existing areas.
- Expand the number of grant applications submitted for park, open space and trail acquisition, development and renovation projects and program funding.
- Work to ensure that all park and open space areas and recreation facilities meet safety and accessibility guidelines and develop a standardized inspection schedule and forms.
- Alleviate usage and over-usage problems by coordinating the reservation, scheduling and permitting of field and park facility use, including rotating field use from heavy to light when necessary.
- Develop and implement consistent standards of maintenance for park areas and facilities. Establish a year-round maintenance schedule for fields and facilities for items such as weed control, fertilizing and mowing.
- Spearhead the development of a trail and greenway network connecting schools, parks and neighborhoods.
- Coordinate the purchase of park maintenance equipment. Standardize inspection program for park maintenance equipment.
- Coordinate the implementation of the township's Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan recommendations.
- Establish a central source where residents can get information on all recreation opportunities. Develop a map and listing of all park and open space areas and recreation facilities and a website that includes all recreation activities offered.
- Communicate and coordinate with the volunteer-run sports associations and pull them together to share resources.
- Establish a network of park facility and recreation program providers to improve communication and help them understand their role as part of the recreation and parks system.
- Work with existing community special event providers to enhance and improve the events.
- Direct the expenditure of funds in accordance with budget appropriations and collect and manage any revenue generated.
- Serve as technical advisor to the Parks and Recreation Board and keep careful and complete records of their activities and services.



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- Prepare and recommend adoption of long-range goals and short-term objectives to meet needs for recreation programs and facilities.
 - Identify park areas and recreation facilities in need of upgrades. Prioritize park development and renovation projects.
 - Study the security needs for each park area and implement necessary improvements.
 - Promote neighborhood involvement in the parks through the creation of friends groups and adopt-a-park programs. Recruit volunteers for park and open space enhancement and clean-up projects and recreation programs.
 - Plan and conduct community recreation programs. Evaluate existing recreation programs to determine their effectiveness. Diversify and expand the recreation program opportunities offered for all age groups.
 - Coordinate promotion and marketing of the Recreation, Parks and Open Space system and programs.
 - Develop strategies to attract dedicated funding for recreation, parks and open space services. Coordinate public-private partnerships to benefit recreation opportunities and expand sources of revenue through business sponsorships, development of a parks foundation with 501©(3) status, donations, in-kind contributions, friends groups and fund raising activities.
 - Develop revenue-producing recreation facilities and programs.
 - Investigate and act upon citizen requests, suggestions and complaints concerning recreation, parks and open space services.
 - Educate elected officials and community leaders about recreation, parks and open space.
 - Foster intergovernmental cooperation whenever possible.
- The township does not contain any formal greenways or trails within its borders. Connecting linkages between parks, schools and other community destinations that would facilitate safe walking and bicycling passages are needed. The township should appoint a Greenway and Trails Task Force to study potential linkages and connections between township parks, schools, residential neighborhoods, open space areas and other community destinations for safe pedestrian and other non-motorized use. Bicyclists, hikers and those knowledgeable about trail planning should be asked to join the task force. The Lebanon County Planning Commission should be contacted for assistance in coordinating the task force and invited to appoint a task force member.

Goal to Achieve Our Vision

Build community awareness of the value of recreation opportunities as important factors in improving the quality of life of citizens, by increasing public knowledge and support of and encouraging the public's use of park and open space areas, greenways and trails, recreation facilities and recreation programs.

How We Get There

A guide to the township's recreation and parks system would increase citizen awareness of the opportunities available to them. The guide should include a map of



CHAPTER 6– RECREATIONAL AND PARKS ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING

park locations, featuring all public park areas and recreation facilities and private ones that are open for public use, the facilities and amenities at each park, the major recreation programs and special events in the township, other program opportunities available within the school district, contact information for the township's recreation providers and park rules and regulations.

- The parks, recreation and open space guide should be mailed to citizens as an insert in the township newsletter. The guides should also be distributed at township special events and at schools, churches and municipal building.
- The guide can be developed and designed using in-house staff or through a commercial firm, such as the company that prints community maps. Sharing the cost with special purpose facilities and/or seeking business sponsors and advertisers to offset the cost are options to pursue. The guide should be updated regularly, approximately every two years. The following items should be included in the guide:
 1. Municipally-owned, school district-owned and privately-owned park and open space areas, greenways and trails.
 2. Golf courses, swimming pools and other special purpose recreation facilities.
 3. Map of site locations.
 4. The acreage and amenities available at each site.
 5. Park rules and regulations, including operating hours.
 6. Photos of people enjoying the facilities.
 7. Information on how to reserve/rent facilities at each site.
 8. A detailed map of facilities at the township parks.
 9. Listings of youth sports groups, service organizations and other recreation providers with brief descriptions of programs offered, contact names and phone numbers or websites for more information.
 10. Program opportunities available within and surrounding the township.
 11. A calendar of major community special events, including those sponsored by the township, with event description, date, time, place, contact name and phone number or website for more information.
 12. Commercial recreation businesses such as campgrounds and fitness centers.
- Concentrated efforts should be placed on making citizens aware of the park and open space areas, recreation facilities and recreation programs their tax dollars support. Better promotion will lead to citizen support for increased funding for open space protection and recreation and parks services.
- The township website should be updated to include the guide, with links on the website to library, school district, neighboring municipalities, service clubs, universities, youth sports organizations, etc.



CHAPTER 7 – PARK MAINTENANCE, SAFETY, SECURITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

7 – PARK MAINTENANCE, SAFETY, SECURITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Good maintenance practices are important for North Lebanon Township public recreation and parks facilities for five reasons:

- Increased Safety for Visitors – Public safety is an essential concern and proper maintenance of facilities can avoid unnecessary injuries.
- More Facility Use By the Public – Well-maintained facilities are frequented more often by residents. Residents are better able to enjoy their visits in a clean and safe park environment.
- Less Vandalism – The better a facility is maintained, the less vandalism that occurs. Vandalism must be corrected immediately and proper maintenance procedures allow that to happen.
- Citizen Support for Additional Recreational and Parks Facilities – As citizens see North Lebanon Township properly maintain recreation and park areas, they are more inclined to support expansion of these services.
- A More Attractive Municipality – Well-maintained public recreation and park areas help to develop a positive image for the township, making it one where people want to live.

Where We Are Today

Maintenance Program

The Parks and Recreation Foreman oversees park maintenance work. In addition to parks and recreation, he is also in charge of building maintenance and vehicle maintenance for the township. Other employees involved in park maintenance are a full-time Mechanic, a year-round part-time Building Custodian and two seasonal Park Maintenance Workers who work full-time hours from April through October.

Employees are provided with a personnel manual and a safety manual that outlines the clothing, eye protection, gloves, shoes and other safety gear they must wear while operating maintenance equipment, performing maintenance tasks and handling hazardous materials. Safety training is also held for employees.

The township contracts out the spraying of Lions Lake for weeds each spring. All other park maintenance work is performed by in-house staff. The township Road Department assists the parks staff with large park projects such as constructing new pavilions.

Youth sports organizations that use North Lebanon Township recreational facilities do not perform field maintenance, other than dragging and lining ball fields.

Maintenance Equipment

The township has the basic equipment needed to perform routine park maintenance functions; it is reported to be in good condition. Township staff complete routine repairs and preventative maintenance on its equipment; larger repairs are sent out. An equipment replacement schedule is in place. The township annually reviews equipment needs as part of the budget process. Table 11 lists available equipment that is useful for park maintenance.



CHAPTER 7 – PARK MAINTENANCE, SAFETY, SECURITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Table 11: Park Maintenance Equipment

Maintenance Equipment	Year Purchased
PARKS VEHICLES	
Chevy 3500 5.7L	2000
TRAILERS	
Husky Trailer	
Haulin Trailer	
TRACTORS/MOWERS	
John Deere 1600	2002
John Deere 4300	2001
Turf Ranger Mower	
Craftsman Push Mower	
Ventrac Mower	2007
LANDSCAPE EQUIPMENT	
Millcreek Top Dresser	2003
Zimmerman Tank Sprayer	2003
Echo Weed Eaters	
Trac Vac	
Aeroil Sweeper Broom	
Stihl Chain Saws	2000
D/R Trimmer	2000
Leaf Vac	2001
Echo Leaf Blower	
Homemade Turf Roller	2003
Echo Trimmer	2002
Lely Spreader	2001
Hi-Co Disc	2001
Billy Goat	2005
TOOLS	
Delta Table Saw	1999
Pacer Pump	
Honda Generator	2000
Blade Sharpener	2002

Safety and Security Efforts

Park areas and recreational facilities need a variety of safety and security measures to protect park visitors and the resources themselves. Security lighting is installed at the parks. No alarm systems are in place and the entrances to the township parks are not gated and locked after hours.

Vandalism is reported to be somewhat of a problem. The bathrooms are left unlocked and are prone to frequent vandalism of soap dispensers and toilets. The North Lebanon Township Police respond to calls and follow up on reported incidents of vandalism at park sites. The township maintains insurance for all park areas and recreation facilities. North Lebanon Township has rules and regulations for its park areas and recreational facilities that have been adopted by ordinance which provides police with enforceable regulations in the event they are needed. Rules and regulations are posted at all of the



CHAPTER 7 – PARK MAINTENANCE, SAFETY, SECURITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

park sites. Loitering in the parks after hours has become a problem, both in pavilions and in parking lots.

Play areas are routinely inspected. The township has an inspection kit and manual prepared, and the safety committee is responsible for inspecting the facilities. Necessary improvements, however, do not always occur because of financial obligations.

Accessibility

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all public facilities to be accessible to all people. This includes the following: barrier-free entrances and exit's, ease of access to seating areas, barrier-free access to service areas such as restrooms and concession stands, exits near vehicle parking spaces, designated parking spots for users with physical disabilities and accessible drinking fountains. The ADA was written to guarantee equal opportunities for persons with disabilities; it is the township's responsibility to ensure that all of its services are accessible to everyone in the community. Under the ADA, if any new park areas or recreational facilities are constructed, or any alterations are made to existing areas and facilities, they must be made ADA accessible. Also, the township must ensure that persons with disabilities are not excluded from services because existing park areas and recreational facilities are inaccessible. In addition, the ADA specifies that reasonable accommodations must be provided to people with disabilities who are interested in participating in community recreational programs and enjoying park areas and recreational facilities that are not presently accessible.

Of particular concern for the township is the need to install accessible pathways from parking areas to sports fields for handicapped spectators.

How We Measure Up

- Employees are provided with a personnel manual and a safety manual along with routine safety training.
- Park maintenance and construction work is performed by in-house staff.
- The township has the basic equipment needed to perform routine park maintenance functions and equipment needs are annually considered as part of the township budgeting process.
- Vandalism and loitering problems are identified at most of the township's park facilities.
- The township has an inspection program in place, but necessary improvements do not always occur because of financial obligations.
- The township is lacking accessible pathways from parking areas to sports fields for handicapped spectators.

Goal to Achieve Our Vision

Continue to ensure that parks, recreation and open space areas and facilities are attractive, well-maintained, and safe and secure for visitors.



CHAPTER 7 – PARK MAINTENANCE, SAFETY, SECURITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

How We Get There

- *Maintenance Management Plan* - A written maintenance management plan should be instituted, with standards of care that describe how park areas and facilities are to be maintained and a schedule for completion of routine tasks. Work to be accomplished by maintenance staff should be scheduled as needed on a weekly basis in the spring, summer and fall after inspections. A separate work schedule should be developed for the winter months.
- *Equipment Needs* - Locating recycling containers for disposal of aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles beside trash containers at park areas would eliminate the need for employees to hand separate the recyclables. The parks and recreation maintenance tractor must be shared and is often unavailable when needed for trash removal. A utility vehicle such as a golf cart would be a great help to more efficiently pick up park trash. Storage areas for park maintenance equipment should be larger, to enable staff to easily access the equipment. If the Moyer Tract is developed into a park, a separate storage area for maintenance equipment will be needed.
- *Play Area Safety* - The township should improve play area safety through a routine inspection and maintenance program. The playground environment is constantly changing due to weather conditions and participant use. Regular, documented inspections insure that these much used facilities are safe for the township's children. Of particular concern is the playground equipment at the Ebenezer School, which is outdated and unsafe. It should be taken down and replaced with new equipment that meets safety standards.
- *Locking Park Bathrooms* - Locking of park bathrooms will help the vandalism problem and reduce maintenance costs, but may limit access to the bathrooms when they are needed by visitors. The most practical way to lock and unlock park bathrooms is to have the Police Department take on this responsibility.
- *Increase Funding For Maintenance* - The township should update its policies for fee in lieu of land dedication to allow these funds to be used for maintenance improvements at existing facilities, in addition to capital improvements for recreation.
- *Gates* - The township should consider constructing gates at the park facilities that are locked after hours to assist in loitering and vandalism concerns.
- *Lenni Lenape Park* - Expansion of township parks will require an expansion of the park maintenance staff. An additional full-time park maintenance worker will be needed if Lenni Lenape Park is developed. Any plans for park development at Lenni Lenape Park should take into consideration the maintenance requirements, including the costs.



CHAPTER 8 – FINANCING, FUNDING, AND PROMOTIONS

8 - FINANCING, FUNDING, AND PROMOTIONS

Acquiring the financial resources to operate public recreation and parks services is a major challenge. Like other Pennsylvania municipalities, North Lebanon Township operates within a climate of fiscal conservatism and increasing demands. The township has provided funding for public recreation and park services since 1969.

Where We Are Today

Budget Process

The township finances its park areas, recreational facilities and programs using the General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, Capital Reserve Fund and Park and Recreation Fund. Most of the revenues and expenses used for the operation of the township pass through the General Fund. The two Capital Funds are utilized for major capital improvement projects and equipment purchases. The Park and Recreation Fund helps with the expense of creating park areas and recreation facilities as new housing developments are constructed. The municipality begins its budget process in August and Township Supervisors adopt the budget no later than December 31 each year.

Four-Year Comparison of Township General Fund Spending and Income

Tables 12a and 12b contain a four-year summary of General Fund activity for the township. Figures for 2003 through 2005 are actual year-end totals; figures for 2006 are budgeted totals. In 2005, 4.7% of the township's General Fund budget was spent on recreation and parks. The majority of this expense is for park maintenance. In comparison, 55.3% was spent on public safety, 20.4% on public works and 15% on general government administration.

North Lebanon Township receives most of its revenue to provide public services from earned income, real estate, per capita, real estate transfer and occupational privilege taxes. Recreation and parks revenue is generated mainly from picnic pavilion rentals. The 2005 revenue totaled \$9,315, representing about 9% of the operating expenses for recreation and parks. The remaining \$93,963 needed to fund recreation and parks services came from the township's General Fund. Recreation and parks revenue makes up .4% of the total revenue earned by the township.

Table 12a: North Lebanon Township Revenues

General Fund	Actual 2003	Actual 2004	Actual 2005	Budget 2006
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$1,441,751	\$1,558,552	\$1,630,595	\$1,717,100
Licenses & Permits	110,267	112,149	107,015	110,943
Fines, Forfeits, Interest & Rents	98,176	103,573	116,617	130,991
Intergovernmental Revenue	380,320	176,493	168,408	212,437
Charges for Service	167,060	153,346	132,006	136,035
(Recreation portion of total)	(12,525)	(10,737)	(9,315)	(11,500)



CHAPTER 8 – FINANCING, FUNDING, AND PROMOTIONS

General Fund	Actual 2003	Actual 2004	Actual 2005	Budget 2006
REVENUES				
Interfund Operating Transfer	32,677	19,325	16,284	16,284
Donation & Contributions	1,000	2,171	3,850	0
Sale of Property & Fixed Assets	13,324	3,452	50,764	1,500
Miscellaneous Revenue	218	24	136	50
Total	2,244,793	2,129,085	2,225,675	2,325,340

Table 12b: North Lebanon Township Expenditures

General Fund	Actual 2003	Actual 2004	Actual 2005	Budget 2006
EXPENDITURES				
General Government	\$ 276,237	\$ 300,146	\$ 329,039	\$ 353,060
Public Safety	1,132,940	1,135,442	1,207,418	1,220,906
Planning & Zoning	14,370	17,881	13,685	12,800
Public Works	379,459	407,330	444,344	509,056
Recreation	110,743	104,595	103,278	142,091
Library & Humane Society	6,875	7,400	7,645	7,890
Debt Service	132,612	19,325	16,284	16,285
Miscellaneous Expenses	33,998	14,501	0	150
Interfund Operating Transfer	201,090	60,000	60,000	60,000
Total	\$2,288,324	\$2,066,620	\$2,181,693	\$2,322,238

Capital Funds

Table 13 contains a comparison of capital expenses for capital projects and purchases in 2005 and 2006. Monies to pay for these expenditures come from a variety of sources, including transfers from the General Fund, contributions from the Municipal Authority and proceeds from a general obligation note. The township has a Capital Improvement Fund and a Capital Reserve Fund. In 2006, approximately 6% of the township's capital improvement expenditures were budgeted for recreation and parks. Capital reserve expenditures are for the express purpose of purchasing equipment. This equipment is primarily used for public works and roads and is shared for parks and recreation maintenance. A replacement schedule is in place that is based on the life expectancy of the various pieces of equipment. All large capital purchases for equipment are through this fund.

Table 13 North Lebanon Township Capital Expenses

Capital Funds	Budget 2005	Budget 2006
Capital Improvement Expenses		
Municipal Building Expansion	\$1,707,000	\$1,683,019
Land Acquisition/Athletic Fields	115,000	100,000
Debt Service	15,000	35,000
Capital Reserve Expenses		
Highway – General	159,952	66,149
Total	\$1,996,952	\$1,884,168



CHAPTER 8 – FINANCING, FUNDING, AND PROMOTIONS

Park and Recreation Fund

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) provides local governments with a financial tool to assist with the capital expense of creating park areas and recreational facilities to serve the future residents of new housing developments. Land developers can be required to provide an amount of land for recreation or pay fees in lieu of land dedication under specific conditions. North Lebanon Township has enacted a mandatory dedication/fee-in lieu ordinance establishing that a minimum of nine one-hundredths (0.09) acres of land or equivalent fee-in-lieu be set aside as park, recreation or open space for each residential lot created in a subdivision or each dwelling unit constructed in a land development. In the event a fee-in-lieu dedication is provided, North Lebanon Township collects \$1,250 per unit on all new subdivision and/or land development plans that are submitted.

North Lebanon Township deposits all money received as a result of its mandatory dedication ordinance into a special Park and Recreation Fund. The money is tracked for expenditures based on the requirements of the Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan. The Park and Recreation Board also reviews and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on fund expenditures. The township stretches its dollars for recreational projects by applying for grants whenever they are available.

Table 14 contains a comparison of budgeted revenues and expenses for the Park and Recreation Fund in 2005 and 2006.

Table 14: North Lebanon Township Park and Recreation Fund

Park and Recreation Fund	Budget 2005	Budget 2006
REVENUES		
Interest/Rents/Royalties	\$ 600	\$ 3,000
State Grants/Entitlements	10,000	0
Developer Fees	116,250	126,250
Total	\$126,850	\$129,250
EXPENDITURES		
Special Projects	\$ 61,357	\$ 22,500
Interfund Operating Transfer	12,863	16,285
Total	\$ 74,220	\$ 38,785

Recreation and Parks Spending Comparison

Tables 15a and 15b compare the total amount of funds expended on recreation and parks in North Lebanon Township with the largest nearby municipalities in Lebanon County. North Lebanon Township is second in population size in Lebanon County to the City of Lebanon. The Lebanon County municipalities in Table 15a and 15b are considerably smaller in population size than North Lebanon Township but are considered comparable municipalities within the same county. To expand the comparison, several municipalities within neighboring Lancaster County that are similar in population size have been used.



CHAPTER 8 – FINANCING, FUNDING, AND PROMOTIONS

The information presented is from 2003, which is the latest information available on the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) website. DCED compiles these financial statistics from information supplied by municipalities on an annual basis. In 2003, per capita spending in North Lebanon Township for recreation and parks was \$12.25.

Table 15a: Recreation and Parks Spending Comparison

Municipality	2000 Population	2003 Recreation and Parks Income	2003 Recreation and Parks Expenses	2003 Net Recreation and Parks Spending	Per Capita Spending
North Lebanon Township	10,629	\$ 1,662	\$131,862	\$130,200	\$12.25
Jackson Township	6,338	14,068	16,311	2,243	.35
North Cornwall Township	6,403	0	1,181	1,181	.18
North Londonderry Township	6,771	0	21,910	21,910	3.24
South Lebanon Township	8,353	506	785,037	784,531	93.92
East Cocalico Township	9,954	56,143	117,598	61,455	6.17
East Lampeter Township	13,556	43,342	177,953	134,611	9.93
Mount Joy Township	7,944	59,580	335,777	276,197	34.77
Upper Leacock Township	8,229	155,426	226,317	70,891	8.61
West Lampeter Township	13,145	\$ 1,800	\$108,446	\$106,646	\$ 8.11

Table 15b: Recreation and Parks Spending Comparison

Municipality	Recreation and Parks % of Total Municipal Revenue - 2003	Recreation and Parks % of Total Municipal Expenses - 2003
North Lebanon Township	.06%	4.6%
Jackson Township	.6%	.8%
North Cornwall Township	0%	.04%
North Londonderry Township	0%	.7%
South Lebanon Township	.01%	24%
East Cocalico Township	1.2%	2.7%
East Lampeter Township	.5%	1.9%
Mount Joy Township	1.7%	10.9%
Upper Leacock Township	5.3%	8.6%
West Lampeter Township	.04%	2%

How We Measure Up

- Funding Trends* - An evaluation of past funding for recreation and parks reveals that the Parks and Recreation Department’s share of the township’s operating budget was an average of 4.8% for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005. The township maintained its level of funding for recreation and parks over those years. In 2006, recreation and parks spending is estimated to be 6.1% of the township’s budget. Between 2003 and 2006, the township’s tax revenues have increased 16%. The budget increase for recreation and parks during the same years is 22%. This shows an increased financial commitment to recreation and parks services. Operating



CHAPTER 8 – FINANCING, FUNDING, AND PROMOTIONS

budget funds spent on recreation and parks are primarily for park maintenance. In addition, capital budget funds are consistently provided for recreation and parks. Currently, North Lebanon Township funds recreation and parks services at an average level.

- *Revenue Generation* - The township's recreation and parks revenue is minimal. Currently, the majority of revenue earned is from pavilion rentals. In 2003, recreation and parks revenue was just .06% of the township's total revenue.
- *Municipal Comparison* - Many of the Lebanon County municipalities make a very limited investment in recreation and parks services. On the whole, Lancaster County municipalities make more of a financial investment. Of the comparable municipalities, North Lebanon Township had the third highest per spending on recreation and parks at \$12.25 in 2003. The national average per capita spending by municipalities on recreation and parks is \$45.

Goal to Achieve Our Vision

Secure adequate financing and partnerships to support the operation, maintenance, development and future acquisition of park and open space areas and recreation facilities, and provision of recreation programs and services.

How We Get There

- Currently, North Lebanon Township funds recreation and parks services at an average level. A more appropriate percentage for a township of North Lebanon's size would be 7 to 10 percent of the township's budget. As Lenni Lenape Park is developed, the percentage of operating budget funds allocated to recreation and parks will continue to increase.
- Financing trends show that recreation and parks is moving towards a market-based economy in which the users pay for services or facilities from which they directly benefit. Increased revenue generation would require a change in philosophy towards field use fees.
 - It is not unrealistic for the township to charge youth sports groups for field maintenance. Township youth sports groups are charging fees for involvement in their programs. Some portion of this fee should go to support the fields that are being played on. The township should work with each youth sports group utilizing its fields to set fees for field use and/or pay for field maintenance supplies. For instance, a rule of thumb for sports field maintenance for good quality conditions is about \$5,000 in revenue per field annually. Increased revenue generation could also be accomplished by the addition of revenue producing facilities and programs.
 - The township should pursue the development of income sources and partnerships to maintain existing parks, to develop recreation facilities and to provide recreation programs for citizens. The township should prepare a gift catalog of needed park improvements and a business sponsorship package for park projects, and develop an adopt-a-park program to help with improvements to park areas. This program would match civic clubs, neighborhood groups, service organizations or local businesses with a park to give money, raise money for on-going maintenance or park improvements or



CHAPTER 8 – FINANCING, FUNDING, AND PROMOTIONS

provide volunteer labor for clean-up days, special events, patrolling or landscaping projects. The township should apply for a Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society RecTAP grant to get help with developing a business sponsorship, adopt-a-park or gift catalog program. This is a \$1,500 grant to pay an experienced professional for a specific project. No matching funds are required, but providing matching funds can increase the size of the project. An ad-hoc fund raising committee should be created as an extension of the recreation and parks board. Township residents with expertise in marketing, advertising, fund raising and development should sit on this committee, which should direct the business sponsorship, adopt-a-park and gift catalog programs.

- The township's mandatory dedication ordinance should be updated to increase the fee-in-lieu dollar amount and land dedication acreage amount. Permit any fees paid in lieu of land dedication to be used for maintenance improvements at existing facilities, in addition to capital improvements.



Drawing by 5th grade student at Union Canal Elementary School



CHAPTER 9 – APPENDIX

9 – APPENDIX

Survey Results