Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan Update

Silver Spring Township
What is the Plan

The Plan ........

Provides a framework for parks, recreation, and open space over the next ten years.

Is a guide – not a law.

Sets a vision and creates a roadmap to achieve goals.
Why Plan?

To provide the park and recreation facilities that residents will benefit from, now and in the future.

To identify issues and seize opportunities.

To provide a framework for decision making based on a defined community vision.
Public Involvement

Determine community needs, interests, and values.

Interviews
Forums
Study Committee
Public Meetings
Plan Elements

- Parks & Recreation Facilities
- Trails & Greenways
- Open Space
- Programs & Services
- Organization, Management & Financing
What We Heard

Invest in existing parks and recreation facilities.

Provide sufficient recreation facilities for citizens to enjoy throughout their lifetime.

Provide opportunities for citizens to spend time in natural settings.

Develop trails to create a connected community.
What We Heard

Provide additional access to the Conodoguinet Creek.

Offer more special events and programs in fitness and nature.

Build-out existing parks with additional recreation and support facilities, infrastructure and amenities.

Residents think that park maintenance is good and that it should be a Township priority. Increasing the rating from “good” to “excellent” should be a goal.
Goals

Goal 1: Parks and Recreation
Goal 2: Trails and Greenways
Goal 3: Open Space
Goal 4: Programs
Goal 5: Operational Excellence
Goal 1

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

- Maximize recreation benefits of existing parks.
- Seek additional parkland.
- Undertake park planning and create great public spaces.
- Address safety and ADA.
Goal 2

Connect the community through a system of land and water trails and greenways.

- Coordinate trail and greenway initiatives.
- Set the stage for trail development.
- Develop trails to protect natural resources and connect community destinations.
Goal 3

Protect our open space and natural resources.

- Conserve and protect open space and natural resource areas.
- Promote appreciation and involvement in conservation in Silver Spring Township.
Goal 4

Engage residents of all ages in recreation opportunities that promote active healthy living, connect people to nature, build strong family bonds, and create a sense of community.

- Offer more special events to build a sense of community.
- Establish fitness, nature, lifelong learning, and special events as the core areas.
- Focus on families and youth for organized programs.
- Create safe places to walk and bicycle to serve the most people and residents of all ages.
Goal 5

Continue the Township’s commitment to operational excellence and financial sustainability for public parks and recreation that will garner widespread public support.

- Invest in parks and recreation to provide high quality facilities and services.
- Develop a formal written maintenance management plan.
- Institute practices to enhance expertise including an employees development program, training for volunteers, and an annual work program.
Plan Implementation

10 Year Plan

Conserve our natural resources and scenic beauty.

Acquire additional community parkland.

Develop a network of trails.

Expand recreation opportunities that contribute to public health, build a sense of community, and connect people with nature.

Establish a financing plan that includes a mix of public and private revenue sources to sustain parks and recreation.

Institute a formal maintenance management plan.
Your Thoughts?

What do you think about Parks, Recreation and Open Space in your community?
Thank you for Participating

Additional Comments
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