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## Chapter 9

# Parks and Recreation

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Parks and recreation facilities and services are often a hallmark of community life. As places, they provide opportunities for physical activity that has numerous health benefits. Through programs, special events and public art, they sustain local culture, transferring skills, knowledge and values from one person to another—even one generation to another. Through all of these aspects of parks and recreation, people learn and practice new skills and make new friends.



### PARKS

For the purposes of this plan, parks are lands used primarily for free recreation by the public. In most cases, parks are owned by public entities. School facilities and commercial recreation are considered other recreation sites because of their limited or for-fee access. Table 9-1 lists the parks and some other recreation sites, their size, and basic park facilities in the Hanover Area. Table 9-2 lists the recreation facilities within each site.

### MEASURING LOCAL PARKLAND

Measuring parkland by a population-based measure dates to the early 1900s when the Playground Association of America adopted a London schoolyard policy of 30 square feet of playground area per child. In the 1930s, the often cited 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents was published by the National Recreation Association (now the National Recreation and Park Association, NRPA). A reference within the recommendation to the city appears to place the parkland acreage in an urban context. A less well known and complementary recommendation from the National Recreation Association called for an additional 10 acres of parkways, large parks, and forests per 1,000 residents. Both of these points were largely ignored.

In its 1969 National Park, Recreation and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, the NRPA endorsed the 10 acres per 1,000 residents provision, increased the regional parkland recommendation to 20 acres per 1,000, and in recognition of sweeping growth trends, recommended 25 percent of new towns and large residential developments be devoted to parks, recreation and open space. After witnessing indiscriminate application of the standard to communities large and small, urban and rural, the NRPA framed its 1983 update to emphasize a recreational needs assessment as a guide to planning parkland acquisition and

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expanded its parkland standards to a range of 6.25 acres to 10.50 acres of local parkland and 15 to 20 acres of regional (county or state) parkland per 1,000 residents. This guidance allowed for a higher acreage to be justified in areas rich in natural and cultural resources and a lower figure may where recreational needs were less land intensive.

In its 1996 update titled Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, NRPA further shifted its philosophy of park and recreation planning to a locally driven planning process and a recreational systems approach “to ensure that a community knows how to go about securing enough of the right kind of land to provide the scale of park and open space system the citizens desire.” It focused not on the standards but on the process for determining the diversity of recreational facilities and the size and type of land needed to accommodate those facilities. This approach compares resident participation in programs, leagues, clubs, special events, etc. to the available facilities for those activities. From this comparison, a gap or need is determined for specific facilities and the land area and type needed to accommodate them. The analysis can also project participation and recreational facilities needs over time, if historic data is available. This analysis results in more specific recommendations for land acquisition policies and park and facility development projects.



The Hanover Area has more than 1200 acres of parkland. The two largest tracts are the Sheppard-Myers and Long Arm Reservoirs, which are 1,130 acres and 95 acres respectively, and located just south of the community. Local public parkland within the Borough and the Township totals 88.3 acres. Using a population-based measure, this yields 2.86 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents. This figure is below the past guideline of 10 acres per 1,000. However, before suggesting that more parkland is needed, one should consider the types of

facilities provided within the parks, the availability of other recreation sites and the local needs of Hanover Area residents, both present and future. This approach is in line with the 1996 NRPA guidance.

### OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

School playgrounds and athletic fields are available to community organizations when not in use for school curriculum, athletics or other programs. Tri-Township Park was developed by the South Western School District on its campus for shared use with the community. Within the school campus, the environmental center offers an outdoor learning environment among the woods, pond, stream and walking trails. The indoor pool at the Emory H. Markle Intermediate School in the Township is open to community use. Outdoor swimming pools are available nearby at Codorus State Park and Neiderer's Swimming Pool on North Second Street, McSherrystown. Local walking trails are noted on page 206.

**Table 9-1 Parks and Recreation Sites in the Hanover Area**

Site	Size	Active, Passive, Both	Classification	Seating			Infrastructure			Access				
				Picnic tables	Pavilions	Benches/ Bleachers	Restrooms	Water, Electric	Lighting	Sidewalk/ Crosswalk	Bike Rack(s)	Parking		
Hanover Borough Parks														
1. Attlesberger Park	0.7	A	N	X		X	—					-		
2. Baer Avenue Playground	0.1	A	N	X	X	X	—	W				St		
3. Center Square	2.0	P	SU	X		X	—		X	X	X	All		
4. DeGuy Avenue Playground	0.9	A	N	X	X		—	W			X	St		
5. Elm Avenue Playground	0.9	A	N	X	X	X	X	W	X		X	St		
6. Fisher Crouse Farmhouse and Borough/YMCA Ballfield	14.5	A	C	—	—	X	—	—	—	X	—	Site		
7. Good Field	3.5	A	N			X				X	?	Site		
8. Moul Avenue Recreation Complex	12.0	A	SC	X	?	X	X	W/E	?		?	Site		
9. Myer's Arboretum at the Warehime-Myers Mansion	0.1		SU		?	X				X	—	St		
10. Myers Memorial Recreation Complex	2.0	A	SC	X	X	X	X	W	?		?	Site		
11. German (Calvinist) Graveyard Park	0.7	P	SU	X	—	—	—	—	—	X	—	Sh		
12. West Hanover Playground	3.5	A	N	X	X	X		W	X			Site		
13. Wirt Park	1.5	A	N	X	X	X				X	X	St		
Subtotal Acreage/Parks with Listed Features for Borough				42.4	—	—	10	6	11	1	6	3	4	—

Site	Size	Active, Passive, Both	Classification	Seating			Infrastructure			Access		
				Picnic tables	Pavilions	Benches/ Bleachers	Restrooms	Water, Electric	Lighting	Sidewalk/ Crosswalk	Bike Rack(s)	Parking
Penn Township Parks												
Penn Township Community Park	31.5	B	C	39	2	12	X	W/E	—	—	—	Site
Colonial Hills	2.4	B	N	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	St
Grandview Estates	2.4	B	N	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	St
Little Knoll Estates	1.2	B	N	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	St
Northview Acres	1.4	B	N		—	2	—	—	—	—	—	St
Timberland I (Forest Circle)	0.8	B	N	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	X	St
Timberland II (Arbor Lane/Nature Trail)	2.4	B	N	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	X	St
Youngs Woods	20.1	B	C	50	4		M/F	W/E	—	—	—	Site
Subtotal Acreage/Parks with Listed Features for Township	45.9	—	—	7	2	7	2	2	0		2	—
Total Local Parkland	88.3											
Public School District Facilities												
Tri-Township Park	5.0	B	C	3	1	15	—	—	—	—	—	Site
South Western School District Environmental Center		P	NR		—	—	—	—	—	—	?	Site
Other Outdoor Recreation Sites												
Codorus State Park	3,490.0	B	R	X	X	X	M/F	W		—	—	Site
Total												

Source: Hanover Borough, Penn Township, Gannett Fleming

Park Classifications (and size/service area): N = Neighborhood Park (1-10 acres; serves ¼- ½ mile); School-Park (variable); C = Community Park (30-50 ac, serves ½-3 mile); R = Regional (50+ acres, serves needs not accommodated in other parks); NR = Natural Resource Area (variable, serves resource conservation); G = Greenways (variable, serves resource conservation and trail connections); SC = Sports Complex (25-75+ ac, serves community); SU = Special Use (variable)

Parking: Site = On-site; St = Street; Sh = Shared, includes municipal lot on adjacent block; All = all types available

**TABLE 9-2 Facilities in Parks and Recreation Sites in the Hanover Area**

Park/Playground	Play Structures	Tennis Court	Handball Court	Basketball Court	Sand Volleyball	Baseball Field	Flat Field	Horseshoe Pits	Other Open Space	Off-road Trails	Fishing (F)/ Boating (B)	Memorials	Other
<b>Hanover Borough Facilities</b>													
Attlesberger Park											—		
Baer Avenue Playground	X			2						X	—		
Center Square	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	
DeGuy Avenue Playground	X			1							—		
Elm Avenue Playground	X	2		1							—		
Fisher Crouse Farmhouse and Borough/YMCA Ballfield	X	—	—	—	—	2	(1) shared with baseball outfield	—		—	—	Historic home	
Good Field						4					—		
Moul Avenue Recreation Complex	X	P		P		3		12			—		
Myer's Arboretum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Myers Memorial Recreation Complex	X	2		1							—	?	
German (Calvinist) Graveyard Park	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X		—	X	
West Hanover Playground	X	4		1							—		
Wirt Park	X			½						X	—	X	
<b>Subtotal in Hanover Parks</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6½</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>			

Park/Playground	Play Structures	Tennis Court	Handball Court	Basketball Court	Sand Volleyball	Baseball Field	Flat Field	Horseshoe Pits	Other Open Space	Off-road Trails	Fishing (F)/ Boating (B)	Memorials	Other
<b>Penn Township Facilities</b>													
Penn Township Community Park	X	—	—	—	2	2	1	3	X	—	—	—	
Colonial Hills	X	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	—	
Grandview Estates	X	—	—	¼	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	—	
Little Knoll Estates	X	—	—	¼	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	—	
Northview Acres	X	—	—	½	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	—	
Timberland I (Forest Circle)	X	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	—	
Timberland II (Arbor Lane/Nature Trail)	X	—	—	1½, ½	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	—	
Youngs Woods	X	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	—	
<b>Subtotal in Township Parks</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Local School District Facilities</b>													
Tri-Township Park	2	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Southwestern School District Environmental Center	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	X	—	—	Woods, Stream, Pond
<b>Other Recreation Sites</b>													
Codorus State Park	Y	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	X	X/X	—	

Source: Hanover Borough, Penn Township

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The 3,490-acre Codorus State Park offers trails for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling, hills for sledding, a swimming pool, a disc golf course, picnic facilities, areas for hunting and camping, and the 1,275-acre Lake Marburg for boating, fishing, and scuba diving, as well as iceboating, ice fishing, and ice skating in winter.

Hanover Little League and Mustang Softball play on two fields at Eagle Park, 60 Park Street, just south of SR 116/York Street; four Firehouse fields at Pleasant Hill, 3003 Baltimore Pike in West Manheim Township; and two ESAB Fields, 1601 Karen Lane in the Penn Township Industrial Park.

Utz and the Hanover Soccer Club have developed a field complex behind the Utz facility at the intersection of High Street and Kindig Lane; fields are in Conewago Township.

The South Hills Golf Course offers three 9-hole courses and spans Penn Township and Conewago Township. The course is open to the public and hosts tournaments of up to 216 players. A golf shop, restaurant and bar and driving range are located on the site.

Hickory Falls Family Entertainment Center offers outdoor mini-golf, as well as indoor laser tag, go-karts, play structures, and arcade.

Hanover Shoe Farms is located approximately 3 miles from the Hanover Square, halfway between Hanover and Littlestown on Route 194 South. The farm is open to visits by the public, 7 days a week during daylight hours. All tours are self-guided. The Farm's Fairgrounds are located at 451 York Street and extend to Eagle Avenue.

Other indoor recreation opportunities include a bowling alley, the YMCA and YWCA, and private fitness centers, among others.

## WHAT OUR PARKS OFFER

Recreation represents a wide range of activities that requires different types of parks and facilities. NRPA outlines several local and regional park types that together comprise the recreational system of a community. Each park type is associated with a certain size, types of facilities and amenities, and maintenance requirements.





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## PARKS BY SIZE AND TYPE

Public parks and other recreation sites in the Hanover Area range from less than one acre to more than 1,200 acres. There are fourteen neighborhood parks or playgrounds for close-to-home play—see Table 9-1. There are three sites used for community celebrations and memorials—Center Square, the German Graveyard Park and the Myers Arboretum. There is one community park—Penn Township Community Park—with multiple facilities, including Kid’s Kingdom, a wooden play structure, for up to a half-day of activity. There are two sports field complexes—Moul Ave Recreation Complex and the Fisher/YMCA ballfields. Young’s Woods, two large natural resource sites (the reservoirs), and Codorus State Park are primarily for passive recreation.



Among other recreation sites, the Tri-Township Park is best classified as a neighborhood park for its size and few facilities, but feels like a community park among the school district’s other outdoor facilities.

## PARKS BY TYPES OF FACILITIES

Nearly all public parks offer some basic park facilities and infrastructure.

- **Seating is essential.** The majority has benches or picnic tables for seating and many have pavilions.
- **Drinking water is advisable for community parks and sports complexes,** where people are more likely to spend longer periods of time, unless there is a clear pack-in/pack-out policy. The parks in the Hanover Area have water.
- Restrooms are also advisable for community parks and sports complexes. The parks in the Hanover Area have restrooms.
- Electric outlets for public use, which might be used for specialized equipment for persons with special needs, is also advisable. Moul Field, Youngs Woods and the Penn Township Community Park have electric outlets available for park users .
- **Facility lighting is optional, as preferred by the community.** Facility lighting enables people to be active into the evening hours, when the working population has more time for leisure activities. But it can have negative impacts on the neighborhood if not managed. Lighting should be timer-driven, so that lights self-extinguish, and can be coin-operated. A few of the neighborhood parks and playgrounds in the Borough have lighting for basketball and tennis courts, however parks are officially dawn to dusk.



Public parks and recreation sites offer opportunities for both active and passive recreation activities. Most parks in the Borough focus on one or the other, while parks in the Township offer facilities for both active and passive interests.

## DISTRIBUTION AND ACCESS

Park and recreation sites are distributed throughout the Borough to offer a walkable distance of five blocks or less from most residences.

Park and recreation sites in the Township are located in the southern and eastern portion of the township, where the majority of its residences are located. Community parks are planned for the central and northern parts of the Township.



Access to the parks is good and diverse, especially and appropriately in the Borough.

- **Sidewalks and crosswalks are important in urban neighborhoods.** Pedestrians, persons using strollers, wheelchairs, etc. should have safe access to parks. Parks and playgrounds in the Borough urban neighborhoods can be accessed by walking. Maintenance of crosswalks is also important .
- **Bike rack(s) are also important in urban neighborhoods and in parks with access to trails.** Bicyclists need a place to secure their bikes while they play. Parks and playgrounds in the Borough's urban neighborhoods can be accessed by biking but there are few bike racks.
- **Parking for automobiles is necessary at larger parks,** where sports are played and thus equipment needs to be transported. The parks in the Hanover Area typically have some on-site or on-street parking available. The Township's larger parks are essentially driving destinations as a result of their locations along busy roads without sidewalks.
- **Transit is a good option to advertise where it is available.** Center Square and the Moul Avenue Recreation Complex are served by transit routes at this time. While transit may not be used on a regular basis, these routes can be helpful if the parks and their parking lots are used as satellite parking for downtown events.

## PARK USE

Most parks with fields are well-used, especially by youth sports programs. There have been few complaints about facilities or maintenance. Participation has been declining in baseball and increasing in soccer and lacrosse across the community, as observed by activity at the Moul Avenue Recreation Complex



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in recent years. As a result of this shift in sports participation, there may be a need to change one or more diamond ballfields to rectangular flat fields. Since the ground surface is key to the quality of play, lacrosse clubs, like soccer clubs, often prefer fields clustered in one park so that turf maintenance is efficient and cost-effective. The level of turf maintenance may be more than the Borough can provide. There is precedent for sports clubs to pay or contribute to turf maintenance, and there is of course the option that lacrosse clubs provide their own facilities through leasing or corporate sponsorship, as the Hanover Soccer Clubs has done. Further discussion with the local lacrosse clubs is needed before a decision on field conversion is made.

Based on informal feedback to the Township, the Penn Township Community Park is the favorite park in the Township among children, youth and young adults. Kids Kingdom, the creative playground, is a draw for children and their families. Youth and adults enjoy the disc golf course. And older adults and seniors are fond of Young's Woods for picnicking. Residents have requested walking trails in the Community Park, more pavilions, and more fields.

### PARK MAINTENANCE

The Borough's Public Works Department maintains the parks and playgrounds it owns and also the Moul and Myers Recreation Complexes, which are owned by the Hanover Public School District. It checks equipment and facilities for needed repairs and replacements in the spring and fall seasons.

Safety checks of parks are performed once a year at Township parks. The safety check follows no specified checklist.

### PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Neither the Borough nor the Township have a current park, recreation and open space plan, but both are actively involved in park development. The Borough and school district work cooperatively to provide the summer playground program and a baseball/softball director for community sports programs and field scheduling. Together they distribute programming flyers to the public and parochial schools in the Borough.

While, the Township disbanded its Recreation Board in the mid 2000s, officials and staff remain committed to ongoing development of the Township Community Park. They recognize that previous planning recommended parks for the central and northern areas of the Township but have not acted upon this recommendation since most development in the central area is non-residential and the population in the northern area is small and dispersed. Township parks and any events held are advertised on the Township website and included in the municipal newsletter.

The Township continues to acquire parkland or fees in lieu of parkland through the land development process. Its Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance requires that a

minimum of 0.02 acres per lot or dwelling unit of a single family detached residential subdivision be dedicated as parkland. Similarly, it requires dedicated parkland in the amount of 20% of the total tract for multi-family and attached housing. In cases where the dedication of the required amount of land is impractical or would adversely impact the proposed development, the Board of Commissioners may request a fee in lieu of land dedication. The fee may be used to develop new or improve existing parkland that would benefit the future residents of the proposed development. The ordinance does not require the provision of “pedestrian and bike pathways”.

Since the Township’s residential areas are nearing build-out, any refinement of these regulations will have limited benefit. Currently, the Township prefers to receive a fee in lieu rather than the actual parkland to help fund the development of its current parks. However, if an opportunity for parkland comes about, the Township should consider:

- Does the site offer land suitable for the kinds of facilities that residents want, such as rectangular fields or linear trails?
- Does it offer unusual natural or cultural features that public parkland would help to protect?
- Does the subdivision/land development ordinance provide for safe walking access from nearby residential areas?

## FINDINGS ON PARKS AND RECREATION SITES

### PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue development of the Penn Township Community Park.
2. Install benches, bleachers, picnic tables or other appropriate seating in every park.
3. Add at least one bike rack to each neighborhood park and playground.
4. Ensure that some shade---either trees mature enough to provide shade or a pavilion---is available at each park and playground.
5. Provide trash and recycling receptacles at each park and playground or clearly state the municipality’s park-in/pack-out policy.
6. Develop a signage system for parks in the Hanover Area. This may include McSherrystown and Conewago Township and even West Manheim Township, since many recreational programs are open to residents of these communities. Park signage should clearly feature the park and may include a park system map to point visitors to other nearby parks.

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### TRAILS

#### YORK-HANOVER TROLLEY TRAIL

The York-Hanover Trolley Trail is planned for a 16.5-mile corridor between the Boroughs of West York, Spring Grove and Hanover through Penn, Heidelberg, and Jackson Townships. The corridor was originally developed as a passenger trolley line, which was in service from 1908 to 1939. The corridor is now owned by GPU Energy and utilized for electric transmission lines. A feasibility study was prepared in 2003 and currently two trail segments have been completed by the York Rail-Trail Authority.



The Hanover segment begins at Moul Field and extends for just under two miles to Gitts Run Road. The 0.5-mile Penn Township segment was constructed in 2013. The trail consists of a 10-foot wide crushed-stone surface. In addition, where the width of the corridor permits, an 8-foot wide dirt/grass pathway for horse riders parallels the trail. (An on-street bicycling route and sidewalks connect Moul Field to Center Square.) The Jackson Township segment runs from the Spring Grove Borough/Jackson Township line for approximately 1.5 miles to Martin Road.

The York-Hanover Trolley Trail is planned as one of several segments of the Grand History Trail from Maryland's Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail to Gettysburg:

- Heritage Rail Trail County Park – open
- York On-Street Route – gap through York and West York
- Hanover Trolley Trail – open in Spring Grove and Jackson Township; gap from Jackson Township to Gitts Run Road; open from Gitts Run Road to Moul Field
- Hanover On-Street Route – gap from Moul Field to the planned eastern terminus of the Gettysburg to Hanover Trail at Guthrie Memorial Library; streets and sidewalks are available for use, however there is no designated or signed route.
- Gettysburg to Hanover Trail – planned from Gettysburg to the Guthrie Memorial Library.

#### BATTLE OF HANOVER WALKING TOUR

The Battle of Hanover Walking Tour is a two-mile self-guided tour through 33 sites in downtown Hanover. A brochure of the walking tour is available at the Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce and online at <http://hanoverchamber.com/>.

## PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Encourage the York Rail-Trail Authority and Heidelberg Township to complete the gap in the York-Hanover Trolley Trail and to work with partners on completing the Gettysburg to Hanover Trail.

## RECREATION PROGRAMS

### FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Hanover Borough Recreation Department provides a summer playground program for area residents. Supervised by playground staff members, the program includes daily games and activities often along a weekly theme, such as science week, sports week, or the ever-popular water week. The program is offered mid-June to early August, weekdays 9-11:30 am and 6-8:30 pm, at six Borough playgrounds and the Washington and Hanover Street Elementary school playgrounds.

The Recreation Department also offers a baseball/softball program for children and youth of the Hanover Area ages 6-14. Leagues are organized by age and gender and games are played at the Moul Avenue Recreation Complex and Good Field, off North Forney Avenue. See Table 9-3.

**Table 9-3 Hanover Recreation Department Youth Baseball/Softball Leagues**

League	Age Group	League	Age Group
Boys Morning Instructional League	6-7-8 Years	Girls Morning Instructional League	6-7-8 Years
Boys Mustang League	9-10 Years	Girls Youth Fast Pitch	9-10 Years
Boys Bronco League	11-12 Years	Girls Junior Fast Pitch	11-12 Years
Boys Pony League	13-14 Years	Girls Fast Pitch	13-14 Years

The Hanover Borough Recreation Board sponsors special events throughout the year, such as the July 4<sup>th</sup> Liberty Day and 5k, Hanover Chili Cook-off on Labor Day weekend, and the Winter Holiday (Santa) Parades. The Chamber of Commerce sponsors Hanover Dutch Days held in late July on Center Square. The Hanover Allied Council sponsors the Memorial Day parade.

Penn Township relies on recreation programming for children and youth provided by the South Western Recreation Commission, a joint effort with the South Western School District. The Commission provides no adult programming.

The Hanover Little League and Mustang Softball is the baseball/softball organization that resulted from the consolidation of South Hanover, West Manheim and girls' softball leagues in late 2012.

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The Hanover Soccer Club is the Hanover Area's club in the American Youth Soccer Association. The club provides leagues for boys and girls ages 4-18 at the fields behind Utz's High Street facility and Penn Township Community Park. Some youth from Penn Township may play for West Manheim Soccer, another local club.

South Western Youth Lacrosse Club offers league play and camps/clinics for boys and girls ages 5-14. The club plays by boys lacrosse rules and is a member of the York County Lacrosse Association competing with other teams in the league throughout York and Adams counties. South Western Girls Lacrosse is a parallel spring league for girls only.

The Hanover Public School District and the South Western School District offer a wide variety of boys, girls and co-ed sports for students 7th grade and older. The schools also offer music and performing arts programs – band, choir, orchestra, and drama.

York and Adams Counties share youth basketball and elementary football leagues, as well.

The Hanover Area YWCA offers a variety of programs in its focus areas of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Camps, runners' races, teen center, youth fitness classes, youth committee, sports programs (baseball, football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, floor hockey, field hockey, track and field) are offered for youth. Also pee wee games and activities for children ages 3-5. Fitness, runners' races, and sports (basketball, football, racquetball, and volleyball) are offered for adults. Community garden, a garden club for all ages is also provided. Finally, the Y's child care service, free-of-charge events for non-profit community groups, canned food drives, and membership scholarships are offered as social responsibility actions to the Hanover Area. The Hanover Area YWCA operates three facilities – one at 500 North George Street in Hanover, one at 1013 Baltimore Street in Penn Township, and one in Littlestown.

### FOR ADULTS

Recreation activities for adults are offered among the Borough's and South Western's adult education programs. See page 185. The Eichelberger Performing Arts Center hosts local and traveling concerts, shows, and other performances in its 800+-seat theatre. In addition, social clubs, such as the Hanover Cyclers and various car clubs, offer activities and events for their members.

### PROGRAM DIVERSITY BY AGE GROUP AND TOPIC

Children and youth are well-served by baseball/softball and soccer clubs. Outside of summer playground, the YMCA is the sole source of programs for children and youth, which tend to focus on sports and fitness. There are no programs outside of schools offering activities in the performing arts, history and culture, environmental exploration such as geocaching, etc.



There are few recreation programs for active adults and seniors. There are annual special events but few, if any, recurring recreation programs or activities for families.

## PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Explore community interest in additional recreation programs. In conjunction with quality of life/quality of service surveyed recommended in Chapter 8 Community Facilities and Services, ask residents about their interest in programs for performing arts, arts and crafts, history and culture, technology, environmental exploration, etc. by age group. Ask for suggested program leaders and volunteers as well as preferred means of advertising programs. If the survey has a high response rate, is representative of the community's age distribution, and does ask for additional programs, look for ways to enhance programming and promotion through the Borough, the Recreation Commission and/or other entities.

## PROTECTED OPEN SPACE

Few lands in the Hanover Area are protected from development by farmland preservation or other permanent easements. The Gitt Farm is the only land protected by an easement held by the Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County. This is not unexpected given that York County's open space analysis ranked lands outside the growth area very low for open space value and priority for protection. The Hanover Area is viewed as a growing community that has few significant natural landscape elements that warrant protection.

Codorus State Park is the only site identified as a significant natural area by the York County Natural Area Inventory and the central node in the County's Southwestern Reservoirs/Codorus State Park Focus Area (Focus Area 6), is the largest focus area of York County. It contains all of the Codorus State Park area, the Codorus Creek West branch and main stem (high quality cold water fishes) and the Long Arm and Sheppard Myers reservoirs, as well as two natural areas sites as listed in the NAI. The Codorus State Park has also been identified as an important bird area (IBA) by PA Audubon. This focus area contains the only eight-point concentration, the highest identified in this analysis. Concentrations of "high" and "very high" priority areas follow the Codorus Creek West Branch. The Bandana Woods, a mixed hardwood forest, is home to a Pennsylvania endangered plant species. The focus area surrounds the Hanover Borough, Penn Township and West Manheim Township growth area (2004). The Long Arm Reservoir and Sheppard Myers Reservoir areas are both buffered by municipally-owned protected land.

The Township's zoning ordinance aims to conserve open space in three ways:

- By its steep slope protection overlay
- By its rural conservation zone, which uses a sliding scale to determine subdivision limits



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- By allowing cluster residential development in its urban (R-8) and apartment-office (A-O) districts. The provision gives the Board of Commissioners flexibility in approving the placement, bulk, and interrelationship of proposed buildings and uses within residential developments comprising 10 acres or more.

### PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue to buffer Codorus State Park and the Pigeon Hills with low density uses.

### GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and recreation can be a key service for connecting residents to their neighbors, their community, and its culture and heritage.

Our goal for parks and recreation is to provide relevant close-to-home and community parks and facilities and programs that residents of all ages enjoy and to make residents aware of other recreation opportunities in the region.

To achieve this goal, the Borough and Township need to:

1. Ensure facilities are safe and accessible.
2. Expand walking trails and walkable and bikeable intercommunity connections.
3. Continue to develop and enhance parks and to promote their availability.
4. Expand programs in areas of expressed interest.
5. Work collectively to fund parks, facilities and programs.

### LEADS AND PARTNERS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The municipalities can lead efforts to further develop, redevelop and enhance parks to serve the needs of residents.

The Borough, Hanover Public School District and the Recreation Commission can enhance programming as funds allow.

Corporate and private benefactors, including “Friends of Codorus State Park” organizations, can and do help support parks and recreation by providing land for sports fields and sponsoring local leagues.

# Parks and Recreation

Recommendations	Leads; Partners	Priority: Year of Completion
<b>Ensure facilities are safe and accessible.</b>		
1. Inspect recreation equipment and facilities monthly during the spring, summer and fall seasons. For playgrounds, use the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Public Playground Safety Checklist.	Borough and Township	High: 2014
<b>Expand walking trails and walkable and bikeable intercommunity connections..</b>		
2. Add walking trails within existing parks, where feasible.	Borough and Township	Medium: 2014
3. Encourage the York Rail-Trail Authority and Heidelberg Township to support completion of the York-Hanover Trolley trail with letters of support.	Borough and Township	Medium: Ongoing
<b>Continue to develop and enhance parks and to promote their availability.</b>		
4. Continue to promote parks and programs via municipal websites and newsletters.	Township	Medium: Ongoing
5. Continue development of the Penn Township Community Park.	Township	Medium: Ongoing
6. Install benches, bleachers, picnic tables or other appropriate seating in every park.	Borough	Low: 2019
7. Add at least one bike rack to each neighborhood park and playground.	Borough and Township	Low: 2019
8. Ensure that some shade---either trees mature enough to provide shade or a pavilion---is available at each park and playground.	Borough and Township	Low: 2019
9. Provide trash and recycling receptacles at each park and playground or clearly state the municipality's park-in/pack-out policy.	Borough and Township; adjacent municipalities	Low: 2019
10. Develop a signage system for parks in the Hanover Area. This may include McSherrystown and Conewago Township. Park signage should clearly feature the park and may include a park system map to point	Borough and Township; adjacent municipalities	Low: 2022

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Recommendations	Leads; Partners	Priority: Year of Completion
visitors to other nearby parks.		
<b>Expand programs in areas of expressed interest.</b>		
11. Explore community interest in additional recreation programs. In conjunction with quality of life/quality of service surveyed recommended in Chapter 8 Community Facilities and Services, ask residents about their interest in programs for performing arts, arts and crafts, history and culture, technology, environmental exploration, etc. by age group. Ask for suggested program leaders and volunteers as well as preferred means of advertising programs. If the survey has a high response rate, is representative of the community's age distribution, and asks for additional programs, look for ways to enhance programming and promotion through the Borough, the Recreation Commission and/or other entities.	Borough and Township; school districts, Hanover Hospital, SW Recreation Commission, Guthrie Memorial Library, YMCA, adjacent municipalities, etc.	Based on results
<b>Work collectively to fund parks, facilities and programs.</b>		
12. Based on the results of a community survey or other communitywide outreach, prioritize projects and submit a package of projects for grant funding.	Borough and Township; adjacent municipalities	High: as needed
13. Discuss field capacity and turf quality needs with the boys and girls lacrosse clubs. Consider the trends of baseball participation in deciding whether or not to convert one or more baseball fields to flat fields.	Borough	Medium: 2018