



BOROUGH OF BATH

PARKS & RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

APRIL 2024

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Partial funding provided by Northampton County Department of Community & Economic Development through the 2022 Grow NORCO Grant Program

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan looks at the existing public park, recreation, and open space facilities within the Borough of Bath and provides an assessment of each facility and its ability to serve the needs of the community. This plan will also evaluate the needs and desires of residents. The existing inventory and community preferences will be compared to the recognized national standards for recreation as provided by the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA) to then determine where any gaps or shortfalls may exist.

1.2 PARKS & RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan expresses a municipality's vision for open space and recreation. A Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan provides a snapshot of existing conditions, identifies issues and opportunities, and offers strategies and a framework to address them. Having a local park and recreation system is important not only to meet the needs and desires of residents, but there are many secondary benefits to open space, including, but not limited to:

- Increased property values for parcels next to or near open space
- Increased revenues from tourism
- Soil conservation
- Preservation of biological diversity
- Air purification
- Drainage and water management
- Health benefits including reduced stress levels increased activity, etc.

1.3 APPROACH

This document provides a comprehensive analysis of existing conditions and sets forth goals and objectives regarding open space and recreation, and is divided into chapters covering the following topics:

- Inventory of existing parks
- Inventory of existing trails
- Relationship to the county and state Park and Open Space planning documents
- Assessment and needs analysis
- Park and Recreation recommendations
- Trail recommendations
- Open Space recommendations
- Goals and objectives to guide future actions regarding open space and recreation
- Plan for additional sites for passive or active recreation
- Phasing and Implementation

1.4 PLANNING AREA BACKGROUND

Geography

Bath is a borough in Northampton County, Pennsylvania and has a total area of approximately 0.91 square miles (582 acres). Bath is located around 6 miles north of Bethlehem and 4 miles west of Nazareth, at the intersection of Pennsylvania Routes 248, 329, 512, and 987. The Borough is around 60 miles northwest of Philadelphia and 100 miles southwest of New York City.

Bath is located near the Appalachian Trail, the Wind Gap, Delaware and Lehigh water gaps. Monocacy Creek, which is a tributary of the Lehigh River, flows through the Town center and through the Monocacy “walk-through” park between Main Street and Northampton Street. The borough contains about 34 acres of parks and recreational open space.

History

The Borough of Bath is one of the oldest communities in Northampton County. Founded in 1737, and nearly centrally located in the County, Bath was once a destination spot for quarry and mill workers, farmers and at one time, was a train stop. Bath was the place for dining, shopping for goods and services, or to find respite in the dusty, dirty hardworking life of the 19th century.

Thanksgiving Day in 1867 brought the railroad to Bath. The Lehigh Lackawanna R.R. gave the borough a link with neighboring states. Eight trains moved through Bath daily, a ticket was priced at seventy five cents. Later the Lehigh New England, Delaware Lackawanna, and Northampton & Bath added rail service to the community.

Bath changed when the cement industry arrived in 1900. The new industry brought dozens of companies to the Lehigh Valley and thousands of jobs; soon we became the largest producer of Portland Cement in the world. With the increase in cement companies in the area, employers went searching for employees in Europe, encouraging people to immigrate to the area. The influx of immigrants from Central Europe, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Ukraine and other countries came to work in the plants. They settled in Bath, Nazareth, Northampton, Coplay, Egypt, Cementon, Martins Creek, Stockertown, Ormrod and Fogelsville. They brought a solid work ethic, their customs and religions.

Bath is also home to America’s Friendship tree, a symbol of friendship between George Washington, General Henry Lee, and General Robert Brown. This friendship blossomed during the Revolutionary War and was

solidified when General Lee presented twelve Horse-chestnut saplings to Washington as a gift. Washington planted four of them at his home at Mount Vernon, two of the others he presented to General Brown as a gift of friendship. General Brown planted the saplings at his home near Bath, Pennsylvania.

Government

The Borough of Bath falls under ‘Dillons Rule’, following Title 8 Borough and Incorporated Towns (the Pennsylvania Borough Code). Bath’s Charter to operate as a Borough was recorded February 5, 1856. The governing body of a borough is an elected council. The tax collector, assessor and auditors are also elected. Many other officials are appointed by borough council. The mayor is elected for a four-year term; councilmen are elected for four-year overlapping terms. A borough not divided into wards has three, five or seven councilmen; in boroughs divided into wards, one, two or three are elected from each ward. The powers of council are broad and extensive, covering virtually the whole range of municipal functions.

Parks and Recreation Administration

The Borough provides use of field space to area youth or general sports associations based on seasonal fees. The Borough does not have its own youth, or any organized sports associations operated by the Bath Parks & Recreation Committee. In the past several years, the Borough Parks & Recreation Committee sponsored a summer season of kid’s crafts. The event was locally advertised: local paper, website, and announced during Council meetings. There have not been any recent Borough operated functions, services, or programs.

The Borough currently does not have any cooperative efforts or established agreements as it relates to Park & Recreation with other municipalities, schools, recreation providers, conservation groups, support groups, or area businesses. The Borough is developing internal policies and procedures for parks & recreational spaces. These ideas are in draft form, and nothing has been officially adopted by Borough Council, except for the Borough of Bath Code of Ordinances, Chapter 440 entitled Parks and Recreation Places.

In addition to Public Works, the borough contracts with Perfection Landscaping to mow approximately 34 acres of open park space.

The professional landscaper utilizes 3 men per week at 6 hours per man, total of around 18 man hours of work weekly. This occurs for approximately 22 weeks during the mowing season. Around 396 third-party man hours are also invested into the borough’s park system. The professional landscaper’s contract to mow this open space is typically between \$25,000 to \$30,000 per year, depending on how long mowing services are required.

Financing

Parks, Recreation & Open Space in the past several years as been widely reactive maintenance. Repairing damage from vandalism and simply maintaining parks in current conditions. Over the last one to two years the Borough has changed this mindset; refurbishing the ball fields in-field mix and fixing water drainage issues. The Borough has also integrated a new walking trail by cutting the grass shorter at different park locations. Funding any of these projects has been minimalistic in nature.

The major source of revenue for the parks & recreation comes from the General Fund or property taxes. Interestingly, in the last two years, the Borough has received over \$11,000 in donations from the Bath Republican Club, which is the highest amount donated to the Borough in recent time, if not historically. The Borough would like to investigate options for use of the snack stand to support recreation programs,

maintenance, and repair costs. The Borough does have a Recreation Fund, which is cash given to the Borough during a subdivision land development (fees in lieu of open space). This fund is tied to land development. For Bath, where nearly every acre is developed, it will not be a good source of future funding, unless there are adaptive reuse projects.

The current budgeting process is mixed in with the development of the annual General Fund budget. The Parks & Recreation Committee develops a list of needs/wants and submits a budget proposal by the summer months for the Council's consideration for incorporation into the General Fund.



CHAPTER 2 DEMOGRAPHICS

2.1 OVERVIEW

This analysis is reflective of the total population, and its key characteristics such as age segments, income levels, race, and ethnicity, households, etc.

Demographic data used for the analysis was obtained from U.S. Census Bureau. All data was acquired in February 2023 and reflects actual numbers as reported in the 2020 Census and the ACS 2020 5 year Survey.

2.2 POPULATION

In 2020, the population of Bath was 2,680 spread across 0.9 square miles. From the previous year, the population increase by around 0.9%. The population is evenly split amongst males and females at 50%.

Based on the historic and recent growth of the borough, the population projection is expected to experience 2.9% of growth by 2030, with the estimated population reaching around 2,882 by 2040.

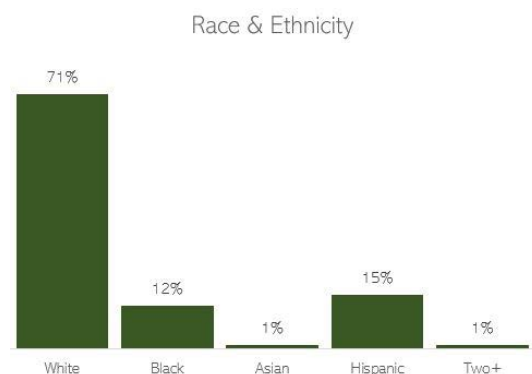
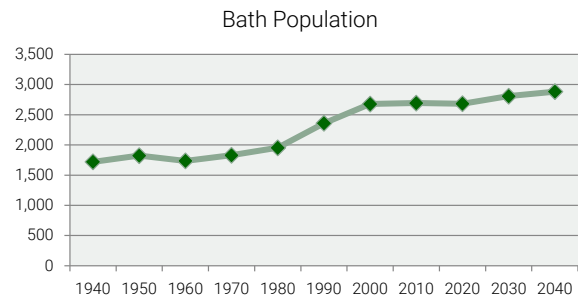
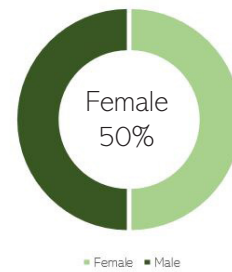
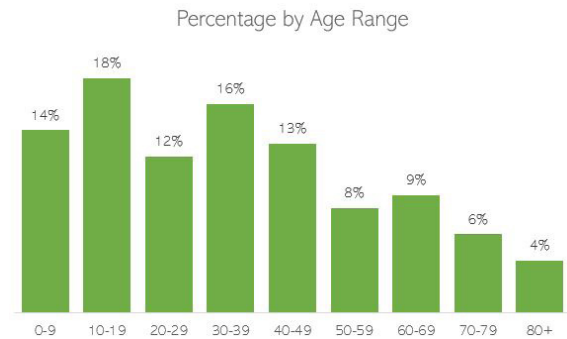
The median age of residents is 33 years old, with a majority of residents (57%) between the ages of 18 and 64 years old.

Majority of residents identify as White (71%) with 12% identifying as Black and 1% as Asian. Approximately 15% of residents identify as Hispanic.

2.3 ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

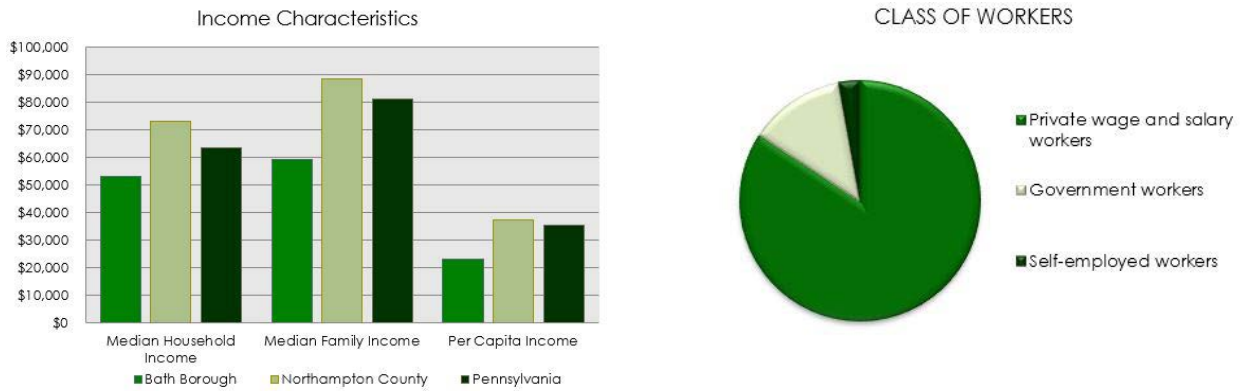
In total there are approximately 17.8% of people in Bath that live below the poverty line. In comparison, this figure is 1.5 times higher than that of Pennsylvania (12.8%) and the Metro Area (10.4%).

From 2019 to 2020, employment in Bath, PA declined at a rate of -0.88%, from 1,250 employees to 1,240 employees. The most common employment sectors for those who live in Bath, PA, are Health Care & Social Assistance (229 people), Manufacturing (157 people), and Retail Trade (139 people). It is important to not that



some of the residents who responded may live in Bath but work elsewhere.

The most common job groups, by number of people living in Bath, PA, are Office & Administrative Support Occupations (203 people), Healthcare Support Occupations (167 people), and Material Moving Occupations (117 people).



2.4 HOUSING UNITS AND HOUSEHOLDS

There are around 999 households in Bath, with around 2.7 persons per household. The persons per household figure is a little higher than that of Pennsylvania (2.4 persons) and the Metro Area (2.5 persons). The housing market within Bath is dominated by houses built from the years 1939 to 1959 (50.5%), with approximately 35.5% built in between 1960 to 1999, and 14% built since 2000.

In 2020, the median household income grew to around \$53,250 from the previous year's \$48,652.

There are approximately 1,120 housing units in Bath. Majority of which are single family homes (64%), with multi-unit structures following at 34%. From 2019 to 2020, homeownership in Bath decreased minimally. Homes are still predominantly owned (57.9%) rather than rented (42.1%). The occupancy rate is high in the Borough at 90% occupied.

In 2020, the median property value in Bath, PA was \$160,400, which is 0.698 times smaller than the national average of \$229,800. Between 2019 and 2020 the median property value increased from \$153,400 to \$160,400, a 4.56% increase.

CHAPTER 3

INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

3.1 LAND USE

Northampton County tax records have a land use code which identifies the uses on parcels. The existing land use map utilizes the tax land use code categories to identify the uses within the Borough. The categories were adjusted to fit the township (ie: condos and apartments were both categorized under residential-multifamily, rather than in their own separate category). The adjusted land use categories found within the Borough of Bath include the following:

Agricultural

Areas that are rural land or used for growing crops, pastures for livestock, and open meadows.

Auxiliary Improvements

Areas that contain uses that are secondary to the main land use.

Cemetery

Areas which are used for burial practices.

Civic and Institutional

Areas primarily used for civic purposes such as schools, fraternal organizations, government buildings, hospitals, community centers, and more.

Commercial

Areas that contain structures predominantly used for the sale of products and services are classified as commercial.

Industrial

Areas of land uses where manufacturing, assembly or processing of products takes place.

Mixed-Use

Areas which have a combination of uses on the same property. Such as commercial, residential, offices, etc.

Mobile home

Areas with manufactured housing dwellings.

Nursing Home

Areas used for nursing homes and assisted living.

Office

Areas that have professional offices or buildings.

Parking Lot

Areas that are utilized as a parking lot, not associated with single-family residential uses.

Parks and Recreation

Areas that have been specifically developed for recreational activities that are open to the general public.

Places of Assembly

Areas that are associated with religious sects, such as churches.

Public Utility

Areas that are utilized for utility services such as water, and electric.

Residential, Single Family

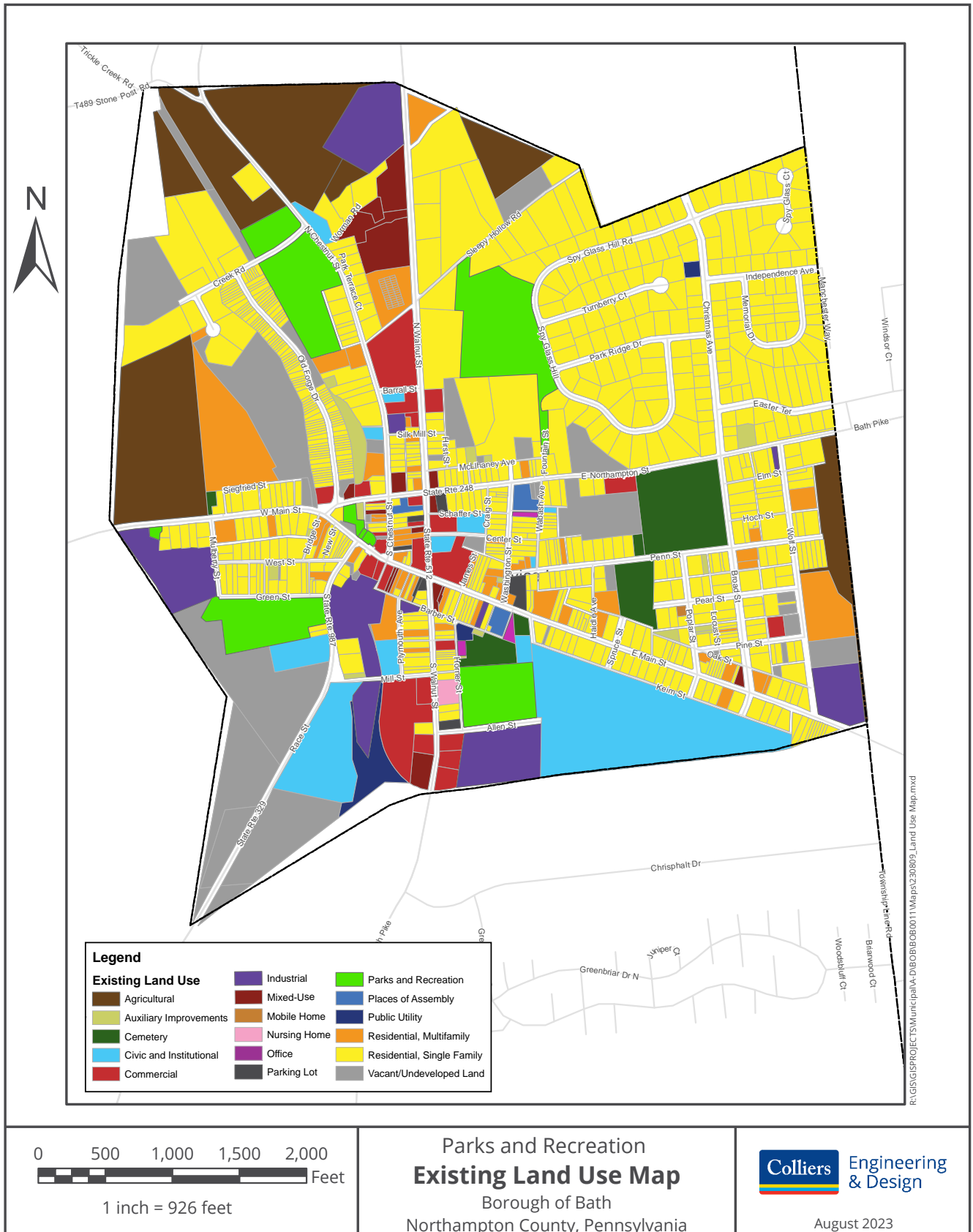
Areas with detached single-family homes and improvements.

Residential, Multi Family

Areas with multi-family living dwellings such as apartments and condos.

Vacant/Undeveloped Land

Areas with structures of all types that have been vacated or open space that is undeveloped.



3.2 ZONING

The Borough of Bath has approximately 8 zoning districts, all with different requirements pertaining to developments and existing structures within each respective zone. The most current categories of zoning districts were amended in 2016. The zone districts are as follows:

1. Low Density Residential
2. Medium Density Residential
3. High Density Residential
4. Commercial Neighborhood
5. Commercial Highway with Residential
6. Commercial Highway with Limited Residential
7. Manufacturing
8. Light Manufacturing Commercial

A brief description of the purpose of the districts is as follows:

Residential

The Residential class districts are intended to provide sufficient area in appropriate locations for residential uses and development to meet the housing needs of the Borough with due allowance for providing a choice of sites and types of housing without sacrificing desirable established residential patterns. Bath has three Residential zones; R-1 Low Density, R-2 Medium Density, and R-3 High Density .

Commercial

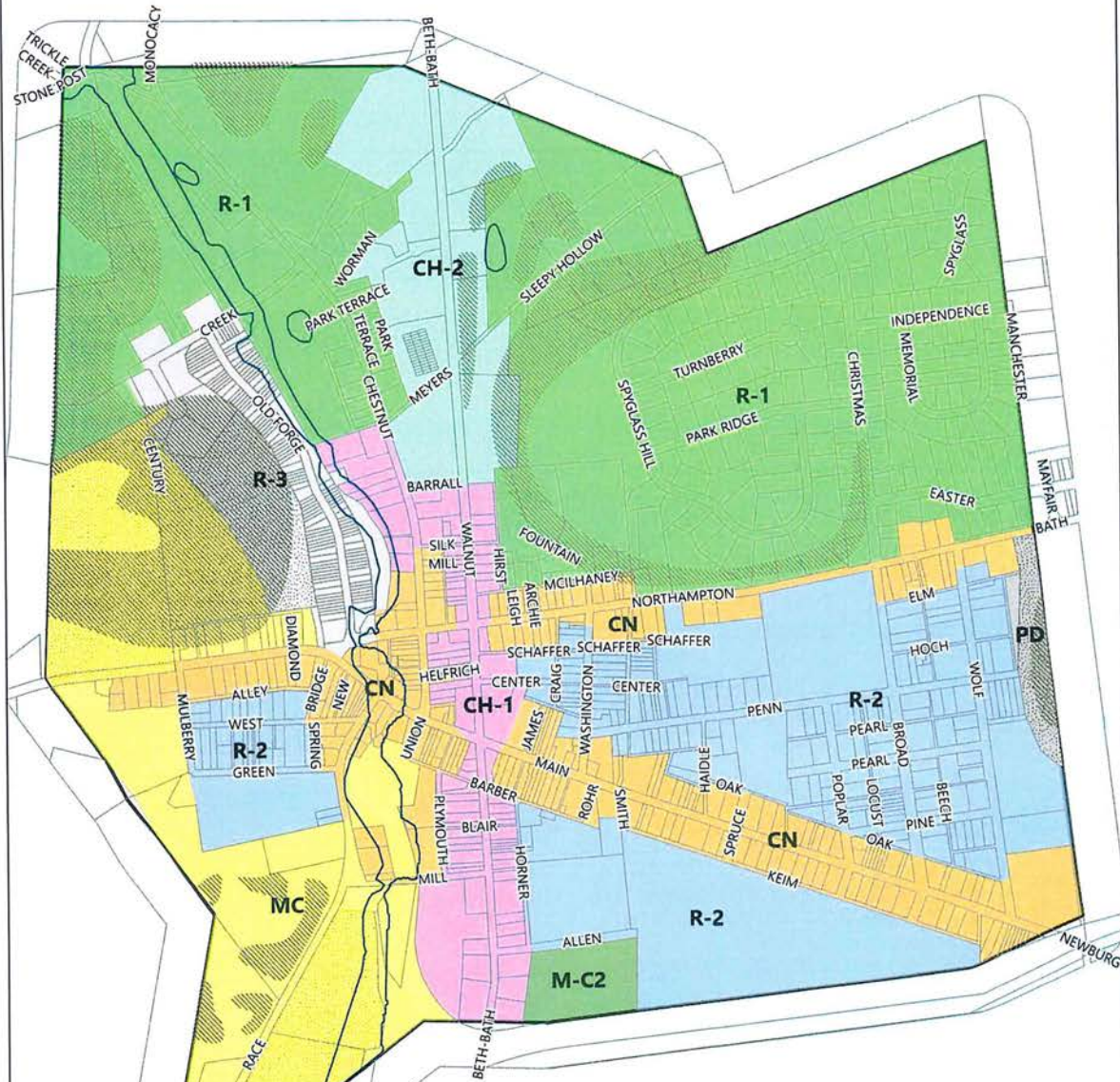
The Commercial class districts are intended to provide sufficient area in appropriate locations for various forms and types of business uses and development. Recognizing the mixed-use character of the Borough of Bath, it is intended that residential uses be permitted in commercial class districts in accordance with standards of specified residential districts. Bath has three commercial zones; C-N Commercial Neighborhood, C-H1 Commercial Highway-with Residential, and C-H2 Commercial Highway- with Limited Residential.

Manufacturing

The Manufacturing class districts are intended to provide suitable space for industrial and commercial types of business and development not ordinarily found nor desirable in commercial or neighborhood districts. Recognizing the opportunity for adaptive reuse of existing manufacturing buildings and for reuse of vacant industrial lands for other purposes, it is the intent that Manufacturing-Commercial Zones permit such adaptive reuse of industrial buildings as housing, neighborhood commercial and offices where existing buildings are appropriate for these uses.



OFFICIAL ZONING MAP BOROUGH OF BATH NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA



Zoning Districts:

- R-1 Low Density Residential
- R-2 Medium Density Residential
- R-3 High Density Residential
- CN Commercial Neighborhood
- CH-1 Commercial Highway with Residential
- CH-2 Commercial Highway with Limited Residential
- MC Manufacturing Commercial
- MC-2 Light Manufacturing Commercial
- PD Preservation District

Feature Legend:

- Steep Slopes ≥ 25%
- Flood Plain
- Keystone Opp Zone



0 400 800 1,600 Feet

Prepared by:
KCE KEYSTONE CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Last Revised: May 2021



3.3 NATURAL RESOURCES

Brownfields

There are no known brownfields in Bath at this time.

Flood Hazards

The Borough has an overlay district map that depicts the flood plain overlay zone (map can be found on the Borough’s website and in the Appendix). The area along Monocacy Creek is susceptible to flooding as it is within the 1% flood zone.

Wetlands and Streams

The Monocacy Creek is one of only 56 limestone streams in the State and is rated a Class A wild trout stream (supports natural reproduction of trout of sufficient abundance for the sport of fishing). The Monocacy Creek ranks 2nd best of creeks throughout the Commonwealth only to be outdone by a man-made creek in Centre County, PA.

There is a 150 foot riparian buffer adjacent to each stream in the borough. This buffer mainly provides conservation benefits, such as protecting the streams and wetlands from adjacent land uses. This buffer, however, also limits potential park improvements. In the park inventory section, a map will display the impact of the 150 foot buffer on the existing parks.

Farmlands

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, property can qualify as farmland if it is ten plus acres in size or is capable of generating \$2,000 annually in farm income. There is one farm that has portions of its property within the Borough limits. The Deyshers Farm has a portion of farmland in the northern most part of the Borough, the land is primarily used for wheat production and meat processing.

Critical Habitats

Monocacy Creek is rated a Class A wild trout stream, which means it is a stream that supports natural reproduction of trout of sufficient abundance for the sport of fishing. The creek begins near Chapman to the north and has a main stem of 20.3 miles with 43 miles of tributaries.

Topography

Bath is has a relatively flat landscape with low slopes of 3%.

Historic Resources

Bath is home to America’s first Friendship tree. The seeds of that tree were spread across the states. The tree in Bath is one of the first friendship trees.

3.4 TRANSPORTATION

Street Networks

There are four PA Routes that run through Bath; PA Route 248, Route 987, Route 512, and Route 329. There is also a minor State Route, Route 3020, which also runs through Bath. The two main traffic flow paths are via Race/Chestnut Streets and SR 512 (Walnut Street) that flow from south to north through the Borough.

Public Transportation

The Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) offers a reservation based route within the Bath-Hanoverville-Nazareth Flex Zone. All riders must reserve their trip two hours prior to the desired start time. It is a “curb-to-curb” service which means that passengers can designate a pick up and drop off location within the Flex Zone. For transportation outside of the Zone, passenger are able to transfer to scheduled bus route. More information can be found on the LANTA website.

In terms of private transportation, there is a Greyhound bus stop with Tans Bridge bus lines to Philly, Newark, and New York in the center of Town on the corner of Main Street and S Walnut Street.

Pedestrian Network

The Borough conducts a Borough-wide inspection of the sidewalks to ensure that they are being maintained to current Borough Code. The initial Borough-wide sidewalk inspection will begin Spring 2023.

3.5 INFRASTRUCTURE & UTILITIES

Water

The Bath Borough Potable is a municipal organization which provides water to the Greater Bath area. Water is received from groundwater wells in the Monocacy Creek Watershed.

Sanitary and Storm Sewers

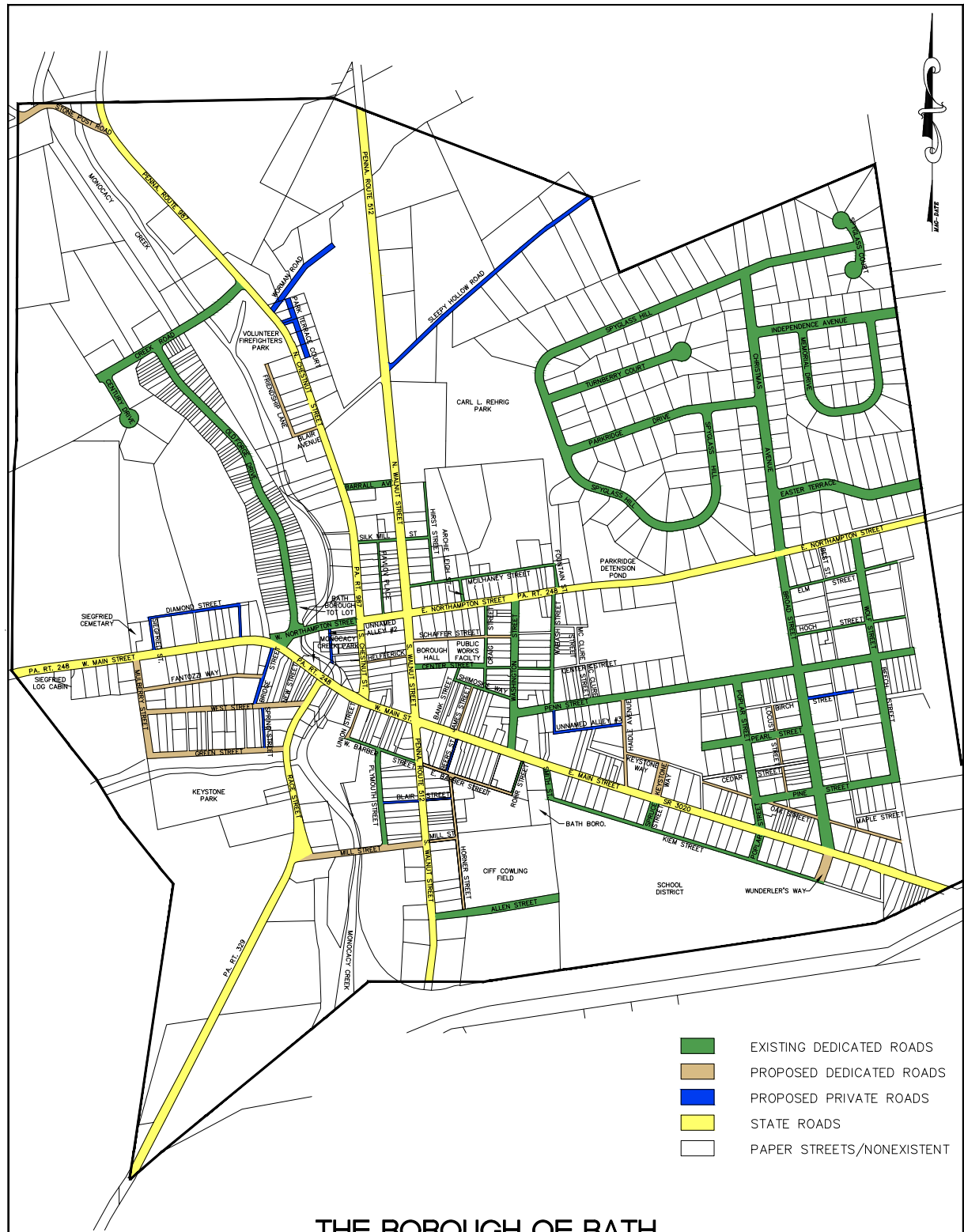
Bath is serviced by a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) which is a collection of structures designed to gather storm water and discharge it into local streams and rivers. The Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining the borough’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System or MS4 program containing 17 outfalls along the Monocacy Creek, more than 13,000 linear feet of storm drain pipes and hundreds of storm sewer facilities. The Bath Borough Authority maintains sanitary sewer collection and waste water treatment plant.

Energy

The present average price of residential electricity in Bath is 15.88 cents for every kWh.

Communications

There is one FCC registered antenna tower located in Bath.



THE BOROUGH OF BATH STREET DEDICATION PLAN

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DRAWING BY:	DDH
CHECKED BY:	RDC
SCALE:	NOT TO SCALE
JOB NUMBER:	BATH-19-007

3.6 EXISTING PLAN

2007 Lehigh Valley Green Way Plan

The Plan spans the municipalities in the Northampton and Lehigh Valley Counties. The plan provides information on a range of techniques that can be used to conserve open space and greenways. The Nor-Bath Trail, a rail trail utilizing the abandoned right-of-way of the Northampton-Bath Railroad, is mentioned with the following recommendation provided:

- Establish a safe pedestrian connection throughout the trail

2015 Livable Landscapes-An Open Space Plan for Northampton County

The plan is intended to guide the restoration and conservation of the county's open space resources. The Plan outlines six goals that will impact the existing open space throughout the county. The goals include:

1. Conserve, restore and enhance natural resources
2. Provide and maintain an exemplary park, trail and recreation system to meet residents' needs and enhance tourism opportunities.
3. Conserve, restore and enhance a greenways and blueways network.
4. Preserve farmland and farming to meet food production, economic and open space needs.
5. Preserve historic, cultural, and scenic resources and landscapes.
6. Advance County open space resources and usage through funding, promotion, education, partnerships and other strategies

The 2017 Monocacy Creek Watershed Assessment and Conservation Management Plan

The plan is intended to establish current conditions of natural resources in the watershed and to provide recommendations to conserve and restore those resources. Recommendations include:

- Investigate the stormwater outfalls and stream restoration opportunities throughout Bath Borough
- An unnamed tributary east of East Dannersville Road in Bath should be naturalized and planted to replace the mowed grass streambanks
- Invasive species management in Volunteer Firefighter park and Monocacy Creek Park
- Implement plans to construct the Nor-Bath Trail into Bath Borough and the adjoining Keystone Park
- Extend the Nor-Bath trail from Bath Borough to Chapman Borough and connect into other proposed regional trail systems

2019 Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Land Use Plan

The Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan identified 7 goals:

1. Reduce Development Stress On Existing Utility Infrastructure
2. Balance Preservation And Development
3. Improve Air And Water Quality
4. Increase The Attainability Of Housing
5. Mitigate The Impacts Of Increasing Traffic On Roads And Infrastructure
6. Identify Appropriate Site Locations For Warehouses And Industrial Development
7. Direct Investments And Resources To Maximize The Nazareth Areas Economic Strengths And Diversity

Each goal had policies and actions that aim at achieving the object of each respective goal. In addition, there are 12 Core Principles that are identified, of which, 6 are being furthered by the Bath Parks Plan .

- Enhance walking, rolling, biking and transit use for daily trips, including commuting to work
- Preserve natural resources
- Preserve farmland and cultural, historic and scenic resources
- Enhance recreational opportunities for all persons
- Enhance funding opportunities for needed improvements
- Create and enhance partnerships

2020 LVPC Walk/Roll Active Transportation Plan

The Plan focuses on the Lehigh Valley yet provides recommendations for the Nor-Bath Trail an Bath Borough. Recommendations for the Nor Bath Trail includes improving the connection across the region by extending the Nor-Bath Trail and providing multi modal integration for people walking and biking.

2020-2024 Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The 2020-2024 Statewide Recreation Plan identified 5 priorities to help foster outdoor recreation:

1. Health and Wellness: Promoting Healthy Living Through Outdoor Connections
2. Recreation for All: Ensuring Equity in Access to Pennsylvania’s Outdoors
3. Sustainable Systems: Protecting and Adapting Resources
4. Economic Development: Elevating Outdoor Recreation
5. Technology: Using New Tools to Improve Engagement

Each priority above had a list of recommendations to achieve the overarching goals the priorities are trying to address. The Bath Borough Parks Plan aligns with and is furthering the goals and recommendations outlined within the State Plan as indicated below:

- Creating walking and biking networks that provide safe access to recreation and encourage healthy behavior in communities.
- Enhance recreational amenities to fit the needs of under served people.
- Protect and conserve land and waters/Considering the impact of climate change.
- Design outdoor recreation areas to minimize impact on the environment and conflicts amongst user groups.

The State Plan outlines partners for goal and recommendation implementation which Bath can utilize and contact. The Plan also includes potential ideas that can be implemented that align with the goals and priorities contained within the document.



CHAPTER 4

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

4.1 MEETINGS

Study Committee

A representative and diverse study committee was formed and met on a regular basis to provide guidance and review of the work. The committee is identified as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and consisted of the members identified in the acknowledgment section on page 2. Summaries of meetings are included in Appendix B.

Public Meetings

The Borough held two open and advertised public meetings including local elected officials. The meetings were held on July 16th, 2023, August 9th, 2023, May 8th, 2023 and November 16, 2023. Summaries of meetings are included in Appendix B.

4.2 RECREATIONAL NEEDS SURVEY

As part of an ongoing community outreach process to gather public input for preparation of the Bath Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, a community survey was administered. By taking the survey, participants provided their input on the ways the parks and recreation facilities in Bath could be improved and preserved. The survey was designed to prioritize the issues and opportunities related to Bath's parks and recreation facilities and gauge support for potential strategies.

The Recreational Needs Survey for the Borough of Bath was made available online and at public spaces . The survey was advertised and distributed between May 19, 2023 and June 20, 2023. A total of 104 responses were recorded within the month the survey was live. The survey is comprised of ten questions . The questions about where respondents lived and personal information (such as age and household size) were asked only to help ensure that a representative sample of people from the neighborhood. The survey is attached as Appendix A.

Survey Summary

The responses to each question of the survey are summarized on the following pages.

Recreation Opportunities

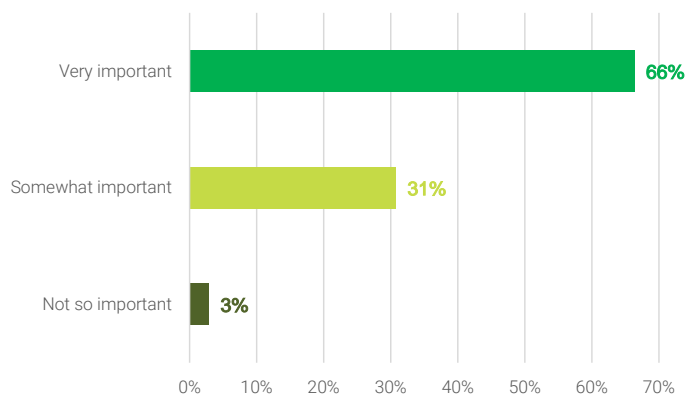
The proposed improvements to the parks will help to foster greater community bonds through socialization. Traditionally about 78 percent of the use of public recreation facilities is by park visitors using facilities at their own discretion. About 22 percent of use is for organized scheduled programs. The following describes the recreational activities that visitors can experience in the park.

1. **Playground** - The playground emerged as the most important facility to the respondents of the community survey. About half of the respondents indicated that they use the playground.
2. **Walking** – Walking was the second most preferred use by the survey respondents. This is borne out by observation in which people walking in the park year round in all kinds of weather is evident. The park will offer a total of over a mile of trails in a combination of paved, aggregate, and natural surfaces.
3. **Playing and Watching Sports** – The ballfields offer the opportunity for citizens to play and watch league sports including baseball, softball, and soccer. Game courts for tennis and basketball are used for drop-in play. They do have the potential for organized programs such as leagues, instruction, and competitions.

SURVEY SUMMARY

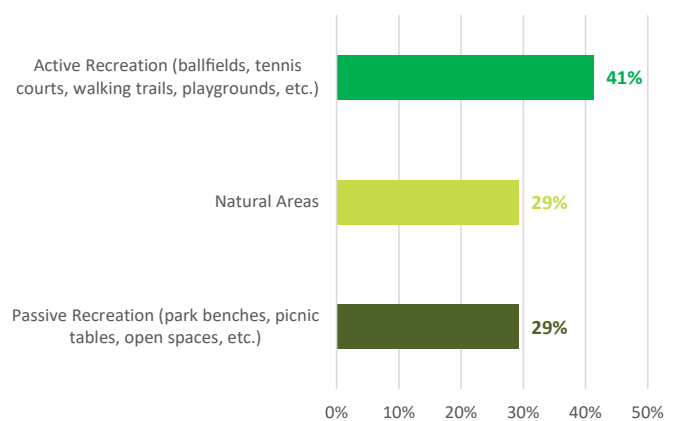
1. How important are the Town's park and recreation facilities and programs to you and your family?

Majority of respondents indicated that the Town's parks and recreation facilities were very important (66 percent) while only 3 percent indicated that they were not important. The value of parks as deemed by the community can predict the how much time, effort, and funds residents are willing to invest to the improvement of existing parks.



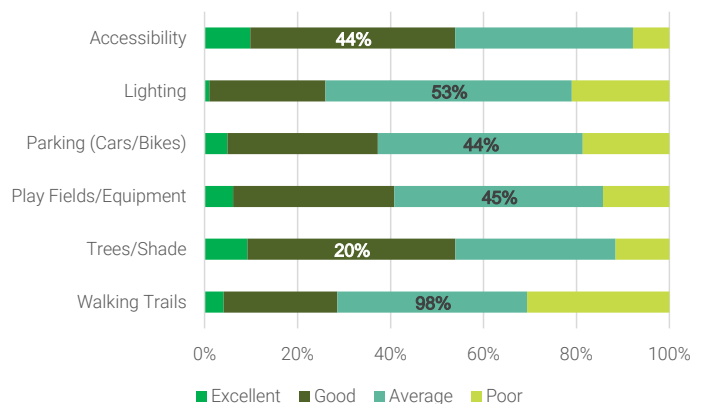
2. What types of park and recreation facilities do you and your family use on a regular and/or seasonal basis?

Respondents were able to select all that apply. The most selected facilities that respondents frequented was the active recreation category (41 percent) that consisted of the ballfields and playgrounds. Keystone Park, Carl Rehrig Park, and Ciff Cowling Park all contain active recreation ball fields and basketball courts for active recreation.



Question 3: Using the list below, what is your opinion of following existing park amenities?

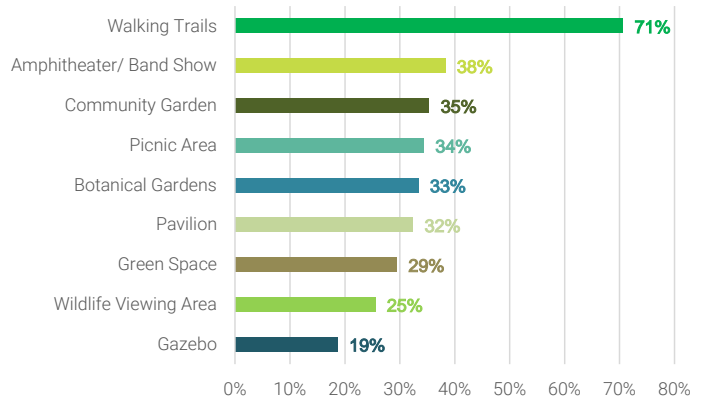
The amenities all fell into an average ranking with nothing being extremely good or extremely poor. Lighting, parking, play fields/equipment, and walking trails are all rated "Average" by the respondents. The amenities rated "Good" were accessibility and trees/shade. There is room for improvement amongst all amenities but nothing was ranked "Poor".



SURVEY SUMMARY

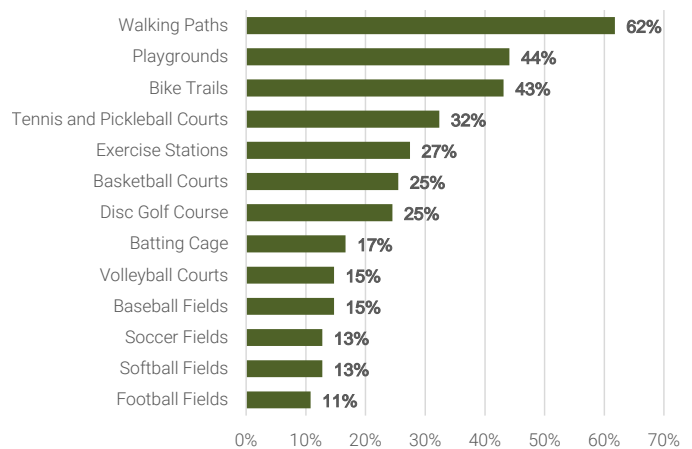
Question 4: Using the list below, choose Passive Recreation activities you and/or your family would like to see or would like to have more of in Bath.

Respondents were able to select all the options they wished to see more of in Bath. The most chosen activity was walking trails (71 percent) with band shows/amphitheaters (38 percent) and community garden (35 percent) as the second and third most chosen activities.



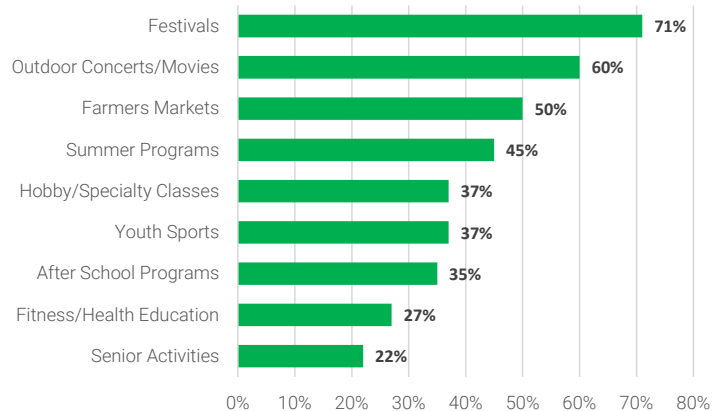
Question 5: Using the list below, choose Active Recreation that you and/or your family would like to see or would like to have more of in Bath.

Similar to the previous question, walking paths are the number one most chosen activity respondents wish to see more of in Bath (62 percent). Playgrounds (44 percent) and bike trails (43 percent) are the second most selected activity with tennis and pickle ball courts following as the third most selected option (42 percent).



Question 6: Using the list below, choose Events/Programs that you and/or your family would like to see or would like to have more of in Bath.

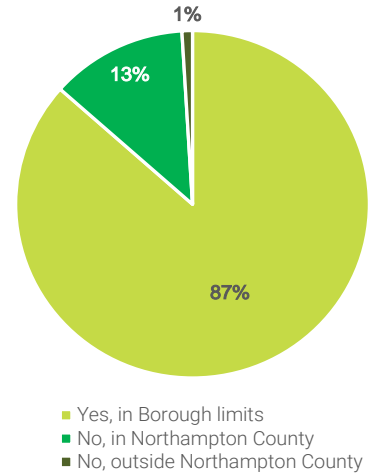
The top three events and programming options respondents wish to see more of are Festivals (71 percent), outdoor movie and concerts (60 percent), and farmers markets (50 percent). Residents were able to select multiple options.



SURVEY

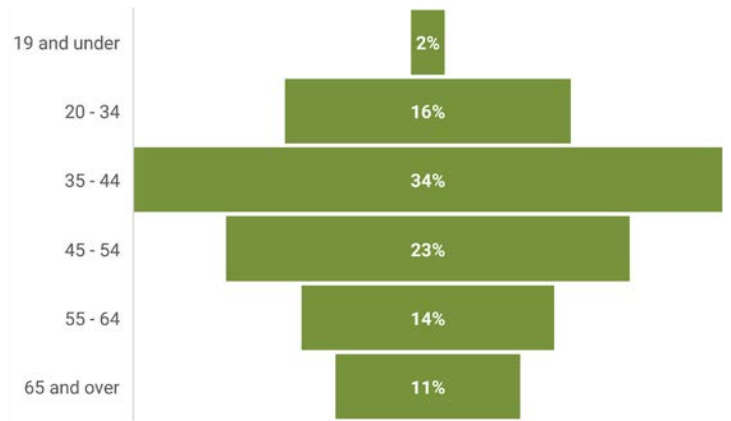
Question 7: Are you a resident of Bath?

87 percent of the survey respondents live within the Borough of Bath limits. Around 13 percent live do not live within the borough limits but within Northampton County. Those who indicated they did not live in the Borough still visit the parks in Bath frequently in the past.



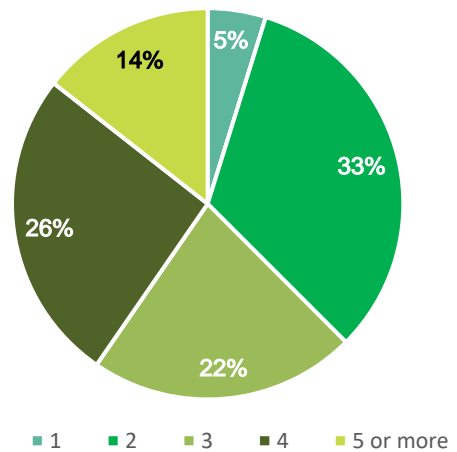
Question 8: Please select your age category.

The respondents fall primarily between the ages of 35 to 44 years old (34 percent). Around 23 percent are between the ages of 45 and 54 years old.



Question 9: What is your household size?

Respondents household sizes are varied. With 33 percent of respondents having a household of 2 people. 26 percent of respondents have a household size of 4 people.



SURVEY SUMMARY

Question 10: Please share any additional thoughts, suggestions, and concerns that you have regarding Bath Parks and Recreation.

Respondents indicated that they would like to see more toddler friendly equipment and more basketball courts. Youth programming like sports leagues was a repeated recommendation.

Residents are passionate about the improvements of the parks. So much so that respondents indicated they were interested in raising money personally for the upgrades and improvements to recreation equipment. More specifically for the installation of basketball courts in Carl Rehrig and Ciff Cowling Park.



4.3 PUBLIC MEETINGS

The public input during Council meetings is always welcome. Aside from the Borough Council meetings, the Borough Parks & Recreation Committee is a standing sub-committee that meets monthly. The Board consists of a few Councilpersons with the remainder of the board comprised of local/area residents. The Parks & Recreation Committee holds meetings and keeps meeting minutes, which are shared during the main monthly Council meetings. Park records of maintenance and repairs are maintained with the Administrative Office of the Borough.

Lack of personnel and/or community involvement with the local Parks & Recreation Committee is a challenge when considering full operation of park/open space assets. Lack of general funding and/or an idea of how to better allocate funds for projects, services, and programs to maximize benefit is another challenge faced by the Borough.

Public meetings were held via zoom and in the Borough Town Hall. Meeting minutes were taken during each meeting. A few ideas and opinions provided by the community are noted below. Full meeting minutes can be found in Appendix B.



4.4 KEY PERSON INTERVIEWS

Key Person Interviews were conducted on April 14, 2023, guided by Chris Craig, who works in Public Works. The interview consisted of a guided tour through all of the parks. The tour included a description of the maintenance routine, the members in Public Works, and recent improvements. The memo below includes an overview of the interview.

Overview:

- Each park has a Porter John
- Security cameras are installed in Monocacy Creek park, Ciff Cowling park, and Keystone Park
- Mowed walking trails can be found at each park

Monocacy Creek Park

- Contains 2 accessible routes. The route via the bridge has a steep slope that may not be ADA accessible.
- There is electric under the tree used for the Christmas celebration and near the bridge.
- Up lighting is at the base of most trees
- The clock tower has an internally illuminated clock face. Chris Craig, Bath's Public Works Crew Leader, stated that the clock timing is off (and tends to run late) and repairs are to occur soon.
- Cameras can be found facing the bridge on the parking lot side and on a pole facing the clock tower

Keystone Park

- Keystone Park is known by the locals as the area with the pavilions and playground equipment. Diehl Field is the area with the basketball court and volleyball net
- 1 playground set, 2 swings, park benches
- Pavilion is rentable and has a kitchen, bathroom, fridge, stovetop. Key is required for access
- 3 cameras at the pavilion- 2 facing in, one facing out. One camera on a pole
- Water fountain is at the park but water has been turned off for about a year
- Smaller pavilion near road was sued for farmers market (market now moved to Monocacy Park)
- Land extends across the parking lot, need to check ownership and boundaries

Ciff Cowling

- 1 play set, two swings, frame pavilion
- Basketball court, concrete pad (around 40ft x 100 ft), with enough space to add another activity court (pickle ball?)
- Check access (road through church property)
- Possibility of walking trail connecting Keystone and NorBa

Fireman Field

- Basketball court
- Dog park
- Playground set, donated last year
- Volleyball net
- Yearly community bonfire site near the center of park
- Fire mans training poles are at the edge of the property
- Possibility of a bridge connecting apartments to park (across the creek)
- Friendship lane is a dead end, possibility of making it a turn about?
- Tot lot is near the park, near shed owned by Bath fish committee, fishing events held on the Tot lot

Carl Rehrig Park

- New swing set added last year
- Access through steep walking trail-sleepyhollow rd
- 2nd parking lot- around 30ft to street
- Shale soil-solid

Numerous other residents and people familiar with the Borough and its history were also interviewed, in particular:

Former Councilman: Barry Fenstermaker who provided insight into the changing role that the Borough of Bath has played in the region. He noted that all of the recreation groups for sports such as football, baseball and softball were formerly based in the Borough with the surrounding regions children coming into Bath to participate. Parks such as Ciff Cowling were the epicenter of the local youth sports in this time. As the surrounding communities grew in population the pressure to develop their own recreation facilities increased and the dynamic eventually shift as the organization moved out of the Borough.

Now many of the Bath children play sports in the surrounding communities with Bath supporting softball and some baseball.

Other Key people spoke with the planning team about their impressions of how the parks can be improved and, in some cases, repurposed, including the development of a Band Shell brought up by local resident, Michael Lorey who explained that it has been a desire to create an outdoor performing facility at Ciff Cowling Park for some time, and that the park is presently used for communitywide functions.

Other Key people related to the Environmental Commission discussed how many of the parks are adjacent if not straddling creeks and how the borough over the years has worked with groups to re-naturalize the creek edges. Keystone Park had a project done along the creek several years ago tasked with removing invasive species and introduction of species that can encourage natural edges and wildlife. This program should be revisited and was discussed in relation to the improvements proposed at Firefighters Park.

CHAPTER 5

ASSESSMENT & NEEDS ANALYSIS

5.1 PARKS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

In 1996, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) published its *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines* which provided park classifications and identified national standards. As the years went on, park agencies began to focus not only on ball fields and playgrounds, but also urbanization, social equity and services, habitat restoration and economic development.

With this growth came the understanding that all parks and open space cannot be held to one national standard. That each community must determine its own standards and long-range vision for its parks and recreation system based on community issues, values, needs, priorities and available resources. Even NRPA's 1996 guidelines recognized that "a standard for parks and recreation cannot be universal, nor can one city be compared with another even though they are similar in many respects." Therefore, the park classification system identified by the NRPA no longer represents most parks. For the purposes of this plan and unique to the Borough, Bath has categorized the parks within it's boundary using the definitions established by the NRPA as a reference. The following categories of parks can be found within the Borough of Bath:

Mini Park

The mini park is used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreation needs of concentrated populations. Mini parks typically serve a quarter-mile radius. The size of a mini-park ranges between 2,500 square feet and one acre in size. These parks may be either active or passive, but address a specific recreational need rather than a particular population density, although a high population density may create a specific recreation need. Recommended improvements for mini parks may include a small pavilion, picnic area, park benches, and a 6 foot-wide perimeter trail. Off-street parking is not recommended.

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks serve a variety of age groups within a limited area or neighborhood. They range in size from 1 to 15 acres and generally serve residents within a quarter- to half-mile radius. The neighborhood park includes areas for active recreation activities such as field games, court games, playgrounds, etc. Passive recreation activities may include walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking. Facilities are generally unlighted and off-street parking is not recommended.

Community Park

Community parks are larger than neighborhood parks and serve several neighborhoods. They range in size from 16 to 99 acres and generally serve a user area of one to two miles in radius. The community park may include areas for intense recreation activities such as competitive sports, swimming, tennis, playgrounds, volleyball, etc. There may also be passive recreation opportunities such as walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking.

Special Use Area

Special use areas and parks are for specialized or single-purpose recreation activities. NRPA defines these parks as historical areas, nature centers, marinas, golf courses, zoos, conservatories, arboretums, arenas, amphitheaters, plazas, or community squares. There are no specific standards for size or acreage since

each site will vary. Special use parks may carry a double classification.

Trails and Greenways

Trails and greenways are built connections or natural corridors that link parks together. Typically, trails and greenways are developed for one or more modes of recreational travels such as walking, jogging, biking, and hiking. Greenways may include active play areas.

Cultural Parks

Cultural parks include areas for protection and management of the natural / cultural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective. Recreation use might include passive recreation such as viewing and studying nature and wildlife habitat, visiting structures on the historic registry.

5.2 ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An analysis of the existing conditions of each park is important in identifying the strengths and weaknesses that will be addressed in the recommendations. Initial observations of the existing conditions were conducted through site visits. Once compiled, the initial observations were reviewed by community members and the parks committee. The community and committee reviews were essential in identifying concerns, frequency of use, and overall usage of each site.



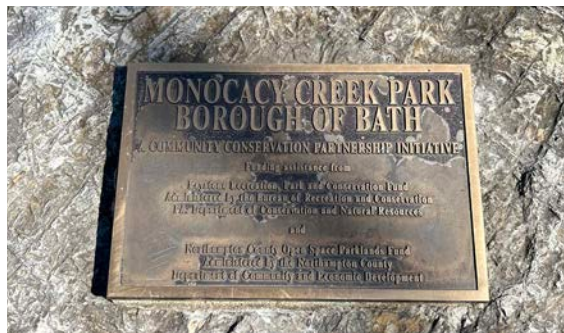
5.3 MONOCACY CREEK PARK

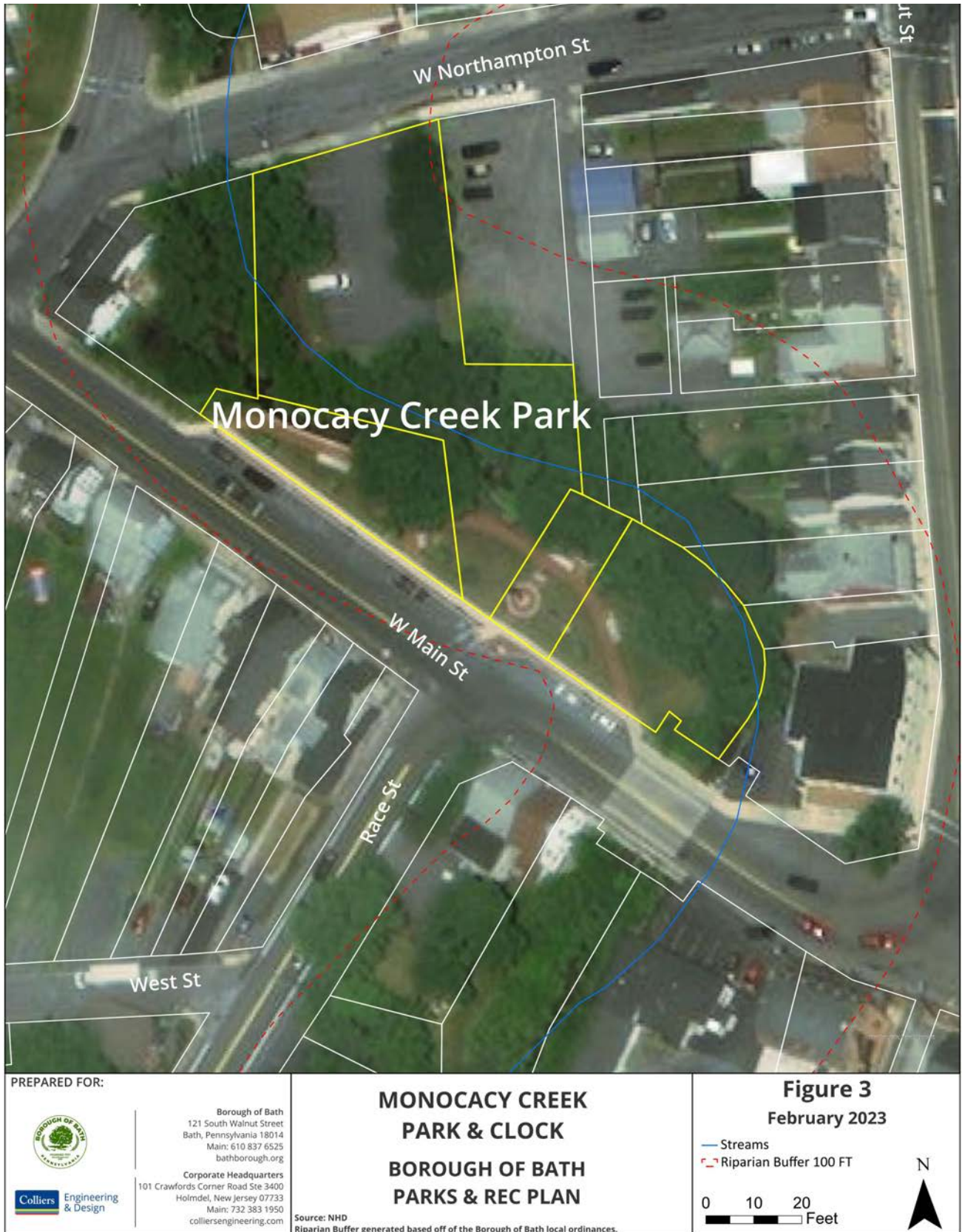
Monocacy Creek Park is roughly 0.6 acres with access via W. Northampton Street and W. Main Street. The park is located at the intersection of S.R. 987 (N. Chestnut Road) and Creek Road, within the Borough’s commercial zone district. The park is an aesthetic “walk-through” park and is home to various wildlife-including the aquatic, avian and horticultural varieties. There are copious amounts of trees lining the walking path and there are other plantings within the boundary.

Features within the park include:

- Walking path
- Pedestrian bridge

Centrally located, Monocacy Creek Park is within the downtown area of the borough and serves as a keystone for park system. The park has accessible brick paver walkways with benches, trash bins and safety railings. The dedicated town clock and town holiday tree are located in the vicinity of the W. Main Street and Race Street intersection. With frontage along either side of the creek, and a bridge over the creek, the park provides opportunities to observe wildlife such as birds, seasonal aquatic life in the creek, and a variety of horticultural interest. The northern side of the park has a parking area that is used seasonally for a local farmers market mid-May through September on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The park is in good condition, and it is understood that there have been repairs done over the years.





5.4 KEYSTONE PARK

Keystone Park is roughly 6 acres with access via Race Street and Green Street. The park is located at the intersection of S.R. 329 (Race Street) and Green Street, just south west of the Borough’s commercial zone district and is within the residential zone. The park contains predominately natural grass. There are a trees and other plantings dispersed throughout the park, mostly along the park’s edges. Keystone Park is also home to the Bath Farmer’s Market, which runs from May through to the last week of September each year.

Features within the park include:

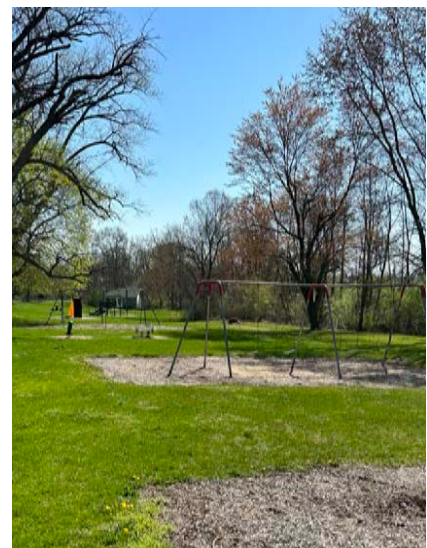
- Open space area with playground equipment
- Volleyball court
- Baseball field
- Pavilion (rent-able during the spring and summer seasons)
- Gazebo

Keystone park straddles the monocacy creek and as can be seen in the accompanying map has a delineated 100 foot wide riparian buffer on both sides of the creek (red dashed line).

The park has a parking area on the western side at the corner of Mulberry and Green Street, a few delineated handicapped spaces by the pavilion and a more informal access from race street to a stone parking area. Keystone park is home to a park pavilion building that is rented on a regular bases and which provides basic amenities to users.

There is also another smaller restroom facility on the northwestern portion of the park closer to Race Street that it is understood was installed for the farmers market.

There are two (2) pedestrian bridges over the creek that are accessible , but no walkways leading to them or connecting to other areas. It would also be recommended that the bridges have railings along the outside. The Boroughs parks department has begun a program to groom parts of adjacent field areas to serve as trails. This initiative should continue with the possibility of making these trails more accessible. There is also area on the south side of the park that has open fields outside of the riparian buffer. At the present time this is an abandon baseball field, a sand volleyball court and a basketball court. The recommendation would be to look to reprogram this usable area.





<p>PREPARED FOR:</p>  	<p>Borough of Bath 121 South Walnut Street Bath, Pennsylvania 18014 Main: 610 837 6525 bathborough.org</p> <p>Corporate Headquarters 101 Crawfords Corner Road Ste 3400 Holmdel, New Jersey 07733 Main: 732 383 1950 colliersengineering.com</p>	<p align="center">KEYSTONE PARK BOROUGH OF BATH PARKS & REC PLAN</p> <p><small>Source: NHD Riparian Buffer generated based off of the Borough of Bath local ordinances.</small></p>	<p align="right">Figure 5 February 2023</p> <p>— Streams - - - Riparian Buffer 100 FT</p> <p>0 20 40 Feet</p> <p align="right">N </p>
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5.5 FIREMAN PARK

Fireman Park is roughly 12 acres with access via Creek Road. The park is located at the intersection of S.R. 987 (N. Chestnut Road) and Creek Road, just northwest of the Borough’s commercial zone district and is within the residential zone. The park contains predominately natural grass with asphalt parking lots located along Creek Road. There is minimal shade and only a handful of trees and limited other plantings, restricted mostly along the park’s edges.

Features within the park include:

- Two regulation tennis courts
- Lighted basketball court
- Play and exercise facility
- Tot lot
- Softball field

Similar to Keystone Park, volunteer firefighters park is along the monocacy creek and has a 100 foot riparian buffer. At the present time the park has a basketball court, a tot lot, a dog park and exercise equipment. The park has two open field areas, one on either side of Creek road. The park is accessible from chestnut street to Blair Avenue to Friendship Lane, with no real defined parking, and from Creek Road to a stone area adjacent to the utility pump station. It is understood that the borough allows portions of the northern park area to be used as staging for utility projects, and that the fire department uses the site for training.





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5.6 CIFF COWLING PARK

Ciff Cowling Park is roughly 5 acres with access via a parking lot along Barber Street. The park is located at the intersection of Horner Street and Allen Street just southeast of the Borough’s commercial zone district and is within the residential zone. The park contains predominately natural grass and open space. There is minimal shade and only a handful of trees and limited other plantings, restricted mostly along the park’s edges.

Features within the park include:

- Softball field
- Hardball field
- Pavilion
- Playing space with playground equipment
- Basketball Court
- Dugout and bleachers
- Versatile field converts to football practice space in the fall

Located on Allen Street and adjacent to the school property, Ciff Cowling Field has a large open playing field area that has been used for organized sports, a playground area, pavilion and basketball court. It is understood that the field areas used to be home to local sports organizations such as the American Legion and senior baseball teams, but is not used for this purpose much anymore. There is presently a few parking spaces on Horner street and the playground and pavilion can be accessed from Smith street. It is understood that there have been discussions about expanded parking on Allen Street.

The pavilion, playground and basketball court area accessible from Smith Street and Keim Street. There is a service drive into the park but no organized parking. The pavilion is large and has picnic tables, so it can serve many people and groups. Similarly the play area is a multi-use piece with wood safety surfacing. The basketball court is a large asphalt pad. The condition of the asphalt shows some cracks and the dimensions of the area do not correspond to standards. A part of the recommendations it would be to evaluate the paved area and come up with a plan to either provide courts for pickleball or make 2 half courts for basketball.





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**CIFF COWLING PARK
BOROUGH OF BATH
PARKS & REC PLAN**

Figure 6
February 2023

0 15 30
Feet



5.7 CARL REHRIG PARK

Carl Rehirig Park is a neighborhood park roughly 11 acres fronting Spyglass Hill Road. The park is located northeast of the Borough’s commercial zone district and is within the residential zone. The park contains predominately natural grass with asphalt parking lots located along Spyglass Hill Road. There is minimal shade and only a handful of trees and limited other plantings, restricted mostly along the park’s edges.

Features within the park include:

- A softball field
- Lacrosse/Soccer fields
- Associated parking

Carl I. Rehrig park is located on the top of the hill in the development adjacent to Spyglass Hill Road. The park presently has a playground area and a large multi-purpose softball and soccer / lacrosse field. There is pull in parking on Spyglass Hill Road and a portion of the north part of the park is a large storm water detention basin.

The park has a spectacular view of the surrounding valley and must surely be used for sledding in the winter. The parks department is working to develop mown walking trails at the site.

The parks department has begun a mowing program similar to Keystone Park to provide a mowed path around the property. This is the most desired amenity for all age groups and with the nearby nursing home, school and church properties, it would be a good idea to pave this pathway and provide access in all directions. The area along Horner Street should be reevaluated. The proposed Nor-Bath Trail is intended to end at Cliff Cowling Field from Mill Street and at the present time the congestion on horner street makes that difficult.





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CARL REHRIG PARK
BOROUGH OF BATH
PARKS & REC PLAN

Figure 1
February 2023

0 25 50 Feet



5.8 SEIGFRIED LOG CABIN

Seigfried Log Cabin is a historic structure roughly 0.2 acres with access via W Main Street. The park is located along W. Main Street, within the Borough's commercial zone district. The property contains predominately asphalt as there is a parking lot and the log cabin structure. There is minimal shade and only a handful of trees, restricted along the property's edges.

Seigfried Log Cabin is a historic structure with access via W Main Street. The park is located along W. Main Street, within the Borough's commercial zone district. The property contains predominately asphalt as there is a parking lot and the log cabin structure. There is minimal shade and only a handful of trees, restricted along the property's edges.



Google Street Image



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 bathborough.org
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 Holmdel, New Jersey 07733
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Colliers Engineering & Design

**SIEGFRIED LOG CABIN
 "1785"**

**BOROUGH OF BATH
 PARKS & REC PLAN**

Source: NHD
 Riparian Buffer generated based off of the Borough of Bath local ordinances.

Figure 4
 February 2023

— Streams
 - - - Riparian Buffer 100 FT

0 10 20
 Feet



5.9 NOR-BATH TRAIL

The Nor-Bath trail is a regional trail network that is intended to enter bath from the south and connect to the Cliff Cowling field up Mill Street. It is understood that there have been discussions about the actual alignment through the bath borough authority site. The trail potentially links bath to the greater rail trail network, and consideration should be given to how parks in Bath can connect.

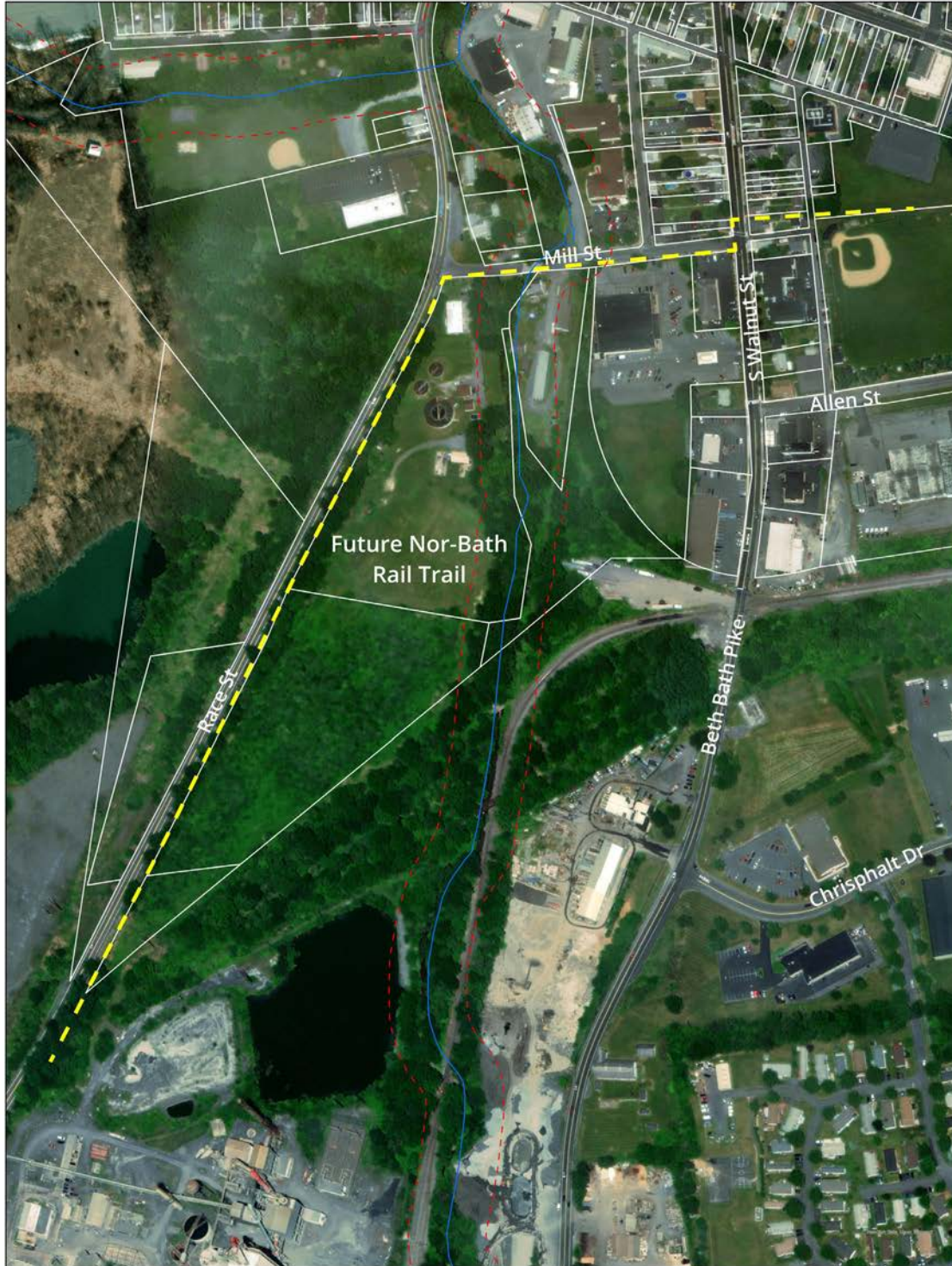
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Google Street Image



Google Street Image



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**FUTURE NOR-BATH RAIL TRAIL
 NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
 BOROUGH OF BATH
 PARKS & REC PLAN**

Source: NHD
 Riparian Buffer generated based off of the Borough of Bath local ordinances.

Figure 7
 February 2023

— Streams
 - - - Riparian Buffer 100 FT

0 52.5 105
 Feet



CHAPTER 6

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

6.1 INTRODUCTION

As a Borough, Bath operates with a Mayor, the seven-member Town Council, and a professional Borough Manager. Town Council sets policy and the Borough Manager is responsible for implementing policy and managing daily operations. Bath Borough understands the importance of addressing the operation, management, and support all of the community parks as part of the comprehensive park planning process. About 75 percent of the cost of a park over its lifetime goes to operations and maintenance. By focusing on operations, maintenance, and financing while creating the comprehensive park plan, the Borough will be able to make informed decisions about improving the park, allocating resources, budgeting, staffing, policies, and partnerships.

6.2 PARKS & RECREATION ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Park Board is an advisory board of residents. The Town Council appoints the seven members for a five-year term. The main purpose of the Park Board is to make recommendations to the Town Council concerning the operation, conduct, and maintenance of parks.

The Borough of Bath Parks and Recreation Committee is Chaired by Jim Lisiecki and tasked with the overview of the park's properties. Mr. Lisiecki also serves as a Councilman and was instrumental in providing background knowledge of the Borough history. Other Committees and members were also instrumental in the planning process including members of the Public Works and Facilities Committee chaired by Councilman Manny Mirabito, who provide regular maintenance of the Parks properties, the Environmental Steering Committee Chaired by Doug Hamadyk, and representatives of the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB).

As noted on the Borough website, the appointment of people to the various Boards including the Parks and Recreation Committee is done as a five-year term with a member of the Borough Council serving as chairperson. Residents are encouraged to become a part of the committees.

The Public Works Department maintains the borough streets and parks.

Financing

Bath Borough is allocating about 4.8 percent of its budget on Parks maintenance. Statewide the average municipal investment in parks and recreation as a ratio of the overall municipal budget is three percent. Municipalities managing very successful parks and recreation systems allot a minimum of five percent of the municipal operating budget to parks and recreation. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources recommends that municipalities allocate five percent of their operating budget for parks and recreation. With a population of 2,720, the Borough is spending about \$26.91 on parks and recreation per capita. In Pennsylvania, the average municipal investment is about \$36 per capita. Nationwide, it is \$65 per capita.

In systems similar to Bath Borough, the typical cost of maintenance per acre for active recreation areas ranges from \$1,500 to \$3,000 per acre. In national award winning systems the cost per acre is more in the \$8,000 range. For natural areas, the annual cost of maintenance is around \$500 per acre.

This information merely presents some benchmarks in order to frame parks and recreation planning in Bath Borough. The figures do not include the value of volunteers who contribute important knowledge, time, and support for public parks and recreation in Bath. The 2015 value of a volunteer hour is about \$23.56 to the Independent Sector. ¹ The value of volunteer time presented here is the average wage of non-management, non-agricultural workers.

Revenue Sources

This is about 12 percent of the budget. In parks and recreation systems that provide programs and services that generate revenues through fees, charges, admission, rents, leases, fund-raising, sales and other means, about 35 percent of the budget is raised from non-tax sources. Without staff to provide programs and facility rental fees limited to pavilions, this is about the amount that the Borough can expect to generate from non-tax sources.

As the parks are revitalized, recreation opportunities will expand, maintenance responsibilities will evolve, and new partnership opportunities will emerge. The projections for recreation, maintenance, and costs are based upon current operations and park improvements as depicted in the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

6.3 BOROUGH MAINTENANCE PLAN

Maintenance management is the process by which Bath Borough plans, directs, controls, and evaluates the care of parks and recreation facilities. All parks should reflect an inviting, clean, and attractive appearance; an effective level of service; and the reality of fiscal and human resource limitations of the Borough.

Routine scheduled maintenance provides the foundation for effective park maintenance, security, safety, and risk management. A park that is well- designed and maintained attracts visitors. The more use a park gets, the less vandalism occurs and the safer it is. When park visitors see that a park is well cared for, the risk of vandalism and other undesirable anti-social behaviors tends to diminish. Parks that are not well tended get fewer visitors and more vandalism.

Vandalism

Vandalism, is always a concern in public parks. The installation of the cameras that the Borough has already purchased should help to deter vandalism. Vandals should be pursued, prosecuted, and required to pay for their damages. Such prosecution and restitution should be heavily and widely publicized as a message that the Borough will not tolerate such destructive, anti-social, and expensive damage of public parks.

Maintenance Challenges and Opportunities

The maintenance of the Borough Parks requires a variety of skill sets including turf management, natural resource management, custodial care, and customer service. The conservation of the natural resources, especially the trees, and scenic beauty of the parks are crucial to community goals. Other tasks for this park include: citizen outreach and response, budgeting, procurement, personnel management, contract management, policy development, programming, and promotion.

Most of these administrative tasks fall to the Borough Manager. The Park Board meets monthly providing feedback to the Borough Manager about the park conditions. They make recommendations on park improvements such as playground equipment.

Volunteers support activities such as tree lighting. However, when the volunteers cease their service, their efforts fall to Borough staff. An example of this is the park holiday lights. A volunteer group of the Lions Club and the Fire Company has formed to sponsor Christmas programming that is not possible for local government due to religious reasons and the separation of church and state.

Sustainable Park Design and Maintenance

Protection of the environment and unique character of this park is a primary goal of the comprehensive park plan and its future maintenance. Too often park design and maintenance focus on active recreation to the detriment of the park's natural features and scenic beauty. The focus of this plan is on establishing and managing the park in a way that facilitates responsible public use in harmony with the natural features. Traditional park maintenance in the Borough has been focused on mowing and trimming to attain a manicured appearance. While the public may come to expect a manicured appearance, it is important to educate them on why it is important for parks to set the bar in practices that promote the healthy natural elements of public lands such as water, wildlife, and vegetation. Adopting maintenance practices that conserve natural resources require planning, training, expertise, and public education

Volunteers

Volunteers are often considered the means to managing parks. However, volunteers are not free. Volunteers require recruiting, training, supervision, recognition, and support. Someone must be in charge of volunteers and volunteer management. Borough staff is lean and does not have the capacity for extensive volunteer management. Any efforts in volunteerism should be limited to major groups that can support the volunteer work and provide a solid chance of long-term sustainability. Care in selecting volunteer program is crucial to avoid Borough staff inheriting maintenance responsibilities beyond their capacity should volunteer efforts end.

Funding Challenges

The major challenge for parks is capital and operating funding. Obtaining funding to improve the facilities is relatively easier than securing the funds to maintain the parks over its lifetime. Trends statewide show reluctance in local government to hire staff that require salary and benefits. Typically, revenues in parks and recreation are derived from special use facilities such as campgrounds, pools, skating rinks, sports facilities as well as from programs and activities. The small Borough staff also precludes the generation of significant revenues from programs and services as that would require additional staffing. Borough staff already volunteers to undertake activities such as the Egg Hunt which is well beyond their call of duty.

Establish Maintenance Goals

The following guidelines can formalize the Borough's approach to park maintenance operations. The guidelines would apply to municipal employees, contractors and volunteers who assume responsibility for park maintenance tasks.

All maintenance will be accomplished in a manner displaying respect and concern for the environment as well as public and private property. Maintenance practices that are rooted in a strong conservation ethic are to be instituted.

1. Maintenance tasks will be accomplished in a way that does not endanger the health or safety of the employees nor the public.
2. All maintenance tasks will be performed as quickly and economically as possible without any loss in efficiency.
3. All equipment and materials will be operated and maintained in such a way as to insure safe, effective use and long life.
4. Work will be scheduled in such a manner as to make the most use of the resources of other community organizations who are involved or who may become involved.
5. Preventive maintenance will be used in a continuing effort to avoid major problems and correct minor ones.

6.4 OVERALL MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Maintenance standards set forth the level of care that park and recreation facilities receive.

Importance of Assigning Maintenance Standards

Targeting the appropriate level of care will enable the Borough to direct resources to balance public use with cultural and natural resource conservation. The maintenance standards provide a common frame of reference for the community including elected and appointed officials, Borough employees, maintenance staff, administration, contractors, partners, sponsors, park visitors, and the citizens. The common agreement will facilitate discussions and communications about the parks. This will enable elected and appointed officials and Borough management to establish and implement policies on use, fees and charges, volunteer requirements, staffing levels, potential contractual service requirements, and other issues that may emerge. It will also enable the Borough to communicate with the public about the capacity of the municipality to undertake actions in response to citizen demands on the park(s), park maintenance tasks, natural resource protection actions, and requests for additional facilities and/or services.

National Recreation & Park Association Standards: An Approach

The National Recreation and Park Association advocates a system of maintenance modes for parks. Modes refer to the “way of maintenance” ranging from most intensive to least intensive. The modes range as follows:

- Mode I - State of the Art Maintenance
- Mode II - High Level Maintenance
- Mode III - Moderate Level Maintenance due to moderate levels of development
- Mode IV - Moderately Low Level Maintenance
- Mode V - High Visitation Natural Areas
- Mode VI - Minimum Level Maintenance

To protect the Borough’s investment in parks, to protect the natural beauty and resources of the site, facilitate safe and enjoyable use by park visitors, provide efficient and effective public service, and ensure park security, the following standards are proposed:

Inspections - Mode I - Park inspection of core visitation areas such as the playground should be done daily during peak season. Mode V should be done every other week in the natural areas. All formal playgrounds should follow CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) guidelines. Recommendations for playground inspections are daily or weekly during non-peak seasons.

Turf Care - Turf care for the Park would include general park areas.

- Mode I turf care would include the majority of park’s acres used for recreation. they are highly visible on a daily basis. The intent would be, however, that any landscape design minimize mowing and turf management. Small areas with the park are being planned as rain gardens but due to their size will not reduce mowing significantly.

Disease and Insect Control - Modes would vary by facilities

- Natural Areas - Mode III – Disease and insect control is done only to insure public safety or when a serious problem discourages public use. It is crucial for Bath Borough to develop a natural resources management plan for the Park.

Forestry – A forestry management program should be developed to provide short, medium, and long-range management for the care of the trees. Typically, municipalities obtain the services of county conservation district or a Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry Service Forster and a private consultant.

Floral Planting – Mode V - Floral planting should only be introduced where there is a community group to maintain them in accordance with a written agreement.

Tree and Shrub Care – Mode IV requires no pruning and care only to remove safety hazards.

Litter Control - Mode I which is once per day during peak season, weekly during non-peak, and monthly in cold weather months. Litter is always picked up after a special event. For special use facilities such as a picnic pavilion, the permittee should be responsible for litter pick-up while the Borough would remove it from the park.

Surfaces and Paths – Mode II so that surfaces are cleaned and repaired when appearance has notably been affected.

Repairs –Mode II - when safety, appearance or function is in question, repairs are made.

Restrooms - Mode I - Should be done at least once per day. Special events or times of high use may warrant more than one service per day

Achieving Borough Goals Through Parks and Recreation

Fortunately, the level of public support and interest in parks is high. Research into successful park and recreation systems elsewhere conducted by the Trust for Public Land and the National Recreation & Park Association offers guidance for how Bath Borough can organize its operations to undertake the revitalization of the park over the next ten years and beyond. The factors common in successful award winning parks and recreation systems throughout the United States include the following:

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

These factors can serve as the model for Bath Borough's parks and recreation system. The key recommendations detailed below were derived from the involvement of the Comprehensive Plan Study Committee, input from Borough management, key person interviews, and the experience of planning team.

1. Formalize the Core Values and Mission for Bath Parks

These included:

- Safe, clean and ready to use;
- Providing for the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens is the core duty of the Borough which can be made possible in part through the Park's providing opportunities for active healthy living; for families to form strong bonds vis shared recreational experiences; by reducing the isolation of the elderly through recreation and community gathering areas; and facilitating building a sense of community by people coming together and sharing positive experiences;
- Fiscal responsibility;
- Partnerships through collaboration with citizens and community based organizations;

2. Continue to Involve the Public in Park Planning, Design, Programming, and Operation.

Public support is vital to park success.

- Continue to involve the public in park planning

- Consider the establishment of a Park Friends group to support the park and its future development, programming, and operation. Establishing such a group as a private non-profit organization under the IRS code of 501-C-3 will enable the group to fund-raise and for contributions to be tax deductible.
- Join the Pennsylvania Parks & Recreation Society to take advantage of the current information available about parks, recreation, funding, and technical support. One of their services is a “no match” grant program of \$2500 called RecTAP. The RecTAP grant can be used to solve a problem, tackle an issue or seize an opportunity. It enables the Borough to address a specific idea in a relatively short timeframe. Projects that the Borough could consider include the establishment of a park friends’ groups; addressing a fundraising initiative; workload cost tracking for maintenance; natural resource management planning; and other subjects that could support the Borough’s interests.

3. *Implement the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.*

Follow the recommendations in phasing in the park improvements. Continue the momentum begun in the master planning process by developing a work plan for year one.

- Consider applying for three grants in the first year in order to stoke momentum: the Northampton County Livable Landscape Grant funding;
- The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnership’s and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. These grants can be used to match each other.
- Look for other community champions to take on a planning element such as the playground improvements, the amphitheater, or other park features that lend themselves to collaboration.

4. *Establish a Standardized Maintenance and Management Program.*

Since the operation of park and recreation facility maintenance is conducted as part of other maintenance for the streets in a way that works well for the Borough now based upon the level of parks and recreation development, it is not currently quantified. The following section outlines and approach for formalizing the park maintenance management system.

Risk Management

Having safe facilities for visitors as well as protecting the public investment is essential to the Borough. Public perception that the parks are safe is important to their success. As part of establishing safe parks that limit the Borough’s exposure to liability, effective risk management can help to protect both park visitors and the municipality. Coordination with the Borough’s insurance carrier is helpful in reducing risk. Supportive insurance carriers offer advice, on-site assessment, and sometimes grant funding to sustain safe facilities through proper maintenance management. Their advice would be helpful in identifying and adopting practices to insure visitor and park safety.

Risk Management is a standard operating practice of parks and recreation agencies. Risk includes the possibility that harm could result from a hazard that would cause personal injury, death, property damage, economic loss, or damage to the environment. To manage risk in the Borough, three steps are needed:

1. Risk Identification and Assessment – It is necessary to identify all of the sources of potential hazards in the parks. The Borough must have knowledge at all times of any risk related to the park. This includes park conditions as well as the employees or volunteers that might make the Borough subject to liability as the result of how they complete their duties, and any other liability.
2. Risk Assessment – The Borough should inspect and evaluate the parks and each facility as part of its ongoing park and recreation system operating practices. This would also include tracking of the incidents of injury reported in the parks. Consider having the two employees in the Park Department obtain their certification as playground inspectors, Certified Playground Safety Inspectors.
3. Risk Management Plan - The Risk Management Plan is important for both safe operations as well as

establishing credibility in case of litigation. The plan should include the following documents all of which should be reviewed by The Borough solicitor:

- Statement that The Borough is committed to safety for citizens, municipal employees, and Borough facilities
- Accident forms
- Participation forms and waivers
- Rental agreements and leases
- Program dates and documents
- Operations information and policies
- Reports for maintenance and procedures.
- Inspection program and reports
- Policy on background checks for Borough employees, volunteers working with children and for permittees of municipal facilities who are providing community recreation services.

Emergency Response

Consultation with emergency responders about the parks' operations and design features would be important. The proposed park design includes access for emergency response vehicles. Many emergency response teams are using GIS to establish methods for identifying locations where people are in need of assistance.

4. Funding: A Mix of Public and Alternative Resources

Maintenance Budget

The park budget guides decision-making, staffing, setting of fees and charges, policy formulation, resource allocation, and securing non-traditional methods of supporting park operations such as partnerships. Most of the park budget goes to mowing, trimming, litter pick up and trash removal, and restroom cleaning. There is no natural resource management, sports turf management, urban forestry, or other specialized areas of park care.

Management and Staffing

Park Maintenance Staff – Currently, the Streets and Park Department is mainly geared toward streets, providing basic park maintenance of mainly mowing. In successful park systems elsewhere, the municipalities have a dedicated park maintenance worker for every 14 – 18 acres of parkland. Should the borough continue in its current staffing for park maintenance, these workers should participate in an employee development program to expand their knowledge, expertise, and experience in parks such as turf management, natural resource management, and so on.

Outside Contractors – The Borough could consider contracting out two tasks: mowing and trimming, and tree care. The other routine task to consider contracting out is the custodial care of the restrooms. This could be a cost saving measure but it would still be important to have access to Borough staff for other park maintenance needs.

Equipment

A capital replacement program for park equipment such as trucks and sports field maintenance equipment should be undertaken.

Training

Since most of the parks and recreation expenditures are devoted to personnel, ensuring that they have state-of-the-art information and training in parks and recreation would be an important investment. A suggested formula for staff development is one to two percent of the parks and recreation budget annually. Training can include a mix of conferences and seminars as well as planned in-house meetings in which staff would request an outside guest to address of topic of interest to The Borough related to parks and recreation.

CHAPTER 7

RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 PURPOSE

After analyzing the existing conditions of the parks, recommendations are drafted to address any concerns and highlight any opportunities present at the parks. The preliminary recommendations were drafted by the planning team based on previous research, site visits, and key interviews as a starting guide for community input. The recommendations are later finalized after public input and community comments. The following chapter contains the final recommendations for each respective park, trail, and historical sites.

The Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan has reviewed the existing parks and open spaces located throughout Bath Borough and with discussions and consultations with the Borough created a series of recommendations for each individual park for possible improvements. The plan has also investigated the potential to provide connections between parks and the Nor-Bath Trail.



BOROUGH OF BATH
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN



The Public Survey found that the residents are very interested in recreation with nearly two thirds of the respondents stating that parks are very important. When asked what recreation amenities respondents would like to see more of seventy percent (70%) said safe walking trails as the highest priority with 44% stating Playgrounds , 32% for Tennis and Pickleball, and exercise stations and basketball courts pooled at around 25% each.

From this information and in consultation with the Parks and Recreation Board plans were developed for each park indicating how these amenities could be incorporated, expanded and in some instance updated and / or replaced existing facilities.

The following facilities were incorporated into the concept designs:

- Many of the Borough Parks need safe and accessible walking paths both to the parks and within the parks. These pathways are intended to connect adjacent streets, sidewalks, and parking areas in a manner that allows all users safe and ADA accessibility, The proposed paths are intended to be a minimum of 6 feet wide composed of porous asphalt and or stabilized crushed stone in flood prone areas.
- Some of the parks (Keystone, Firefighters and Cowling Parks) are designed to support new playing courts for Basketball and Pickleball.
- Keystone and Firefighters Parks need to formalize their parking areas to provide ADA accessibility, and Ciff Cowlings Park has a proposed reconfiguration of parking shown on the concepts.
- It was desired that Historic Markers should be located at each of the parks and each park has a designated paver area with seating to display the markers, usually these areas are planned toward the entry and within public view. In some instances, a pergola and or shade structure is shown. These areas have been shown to provide a sense of place for the park and would incorporate signage.
- Many of the concepts show additional seating, either benches or tables, and recommendations to provide additional shade trees and site lighting throughout. Residents requested that an ice skating rink area be reinstated at Firefighters Park.
- The other portion of the Public Survey asked residents what Events / Programs that they would like to see more of in the Borough with seventy-one (71%) citing more Festivals, 60% for Outdoor concerts / movies, and 50% for Farmers Markets.
- It was also noted that residents would like to have a bandshell and centrally located gazebo included in Ciff Cowling park and to budget for the potential of adding restroom facilities in Firefighters and Rehring, as Keystone and Cowling presently have facilities.

Additional comments were made about the possible reprogramming of an area referred to as the Tot Lot on Old Forge Road to accommodate a dog walking area.

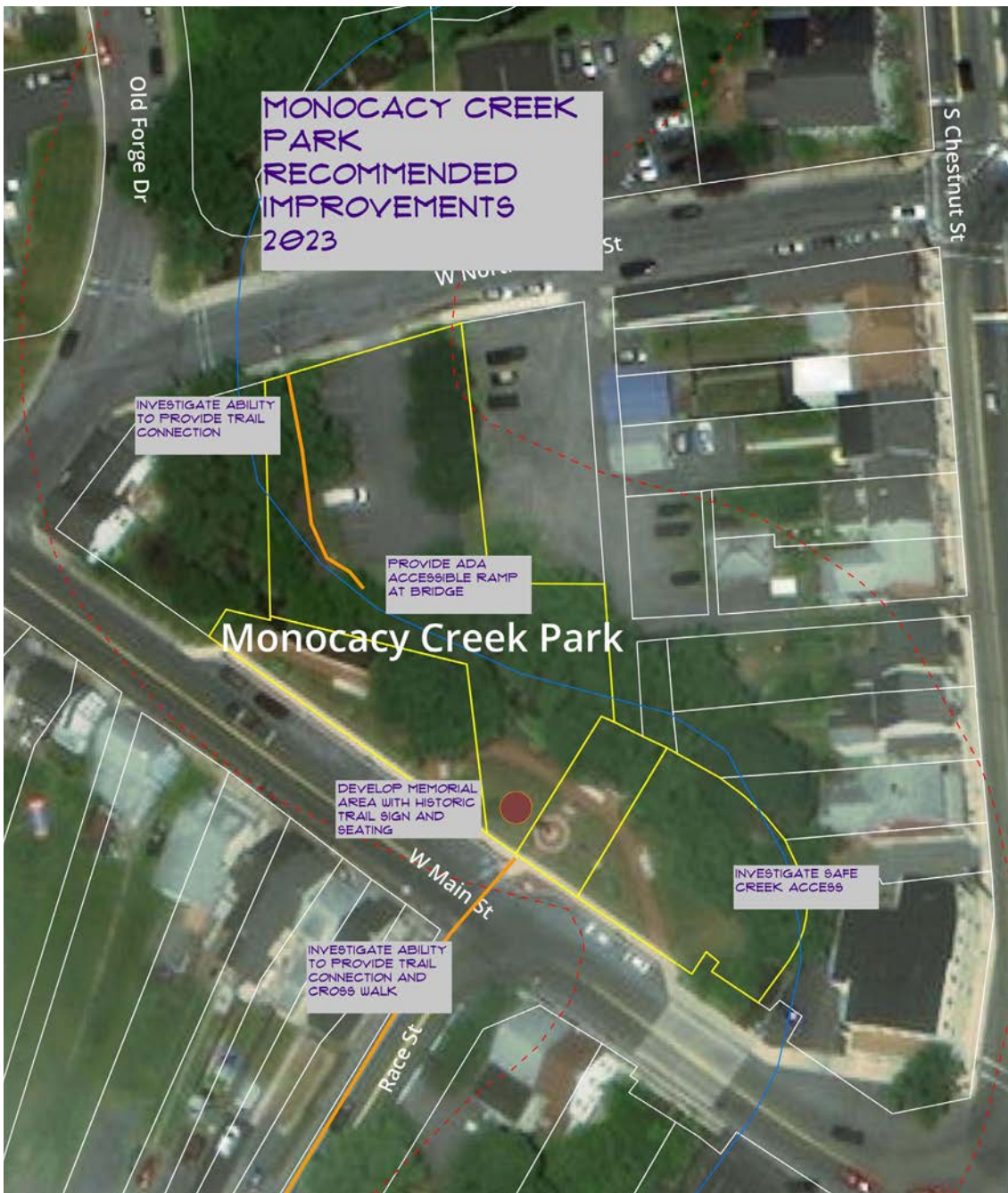
Each park concept has sought to provide open and non-programmed space that can be used as informal places to throw a ball but also places that could be used for events.

A cost estimate has been created for each of the park sites and Implementation and phasing recommendations are to follow. As outlined earlier Bath Borough efficiently uses the resources of its Public Works Department to provide the necessary maintenance and park improvements. The need for additional personnel and equipment is not needed at this time.

7.2 PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Monocacy Creek Park

There is discussion regarding creating an area for one of the historic Bath signs. The present asphalt ramp that connects the bridge to the parking lot needs to be reviewed for steepness of gradient and ADA accessibility. Also, the abutments to the bridge on the northern side should have rail extensions. There is an area on the east side of the main street park that has grades to the edge of the creek. This should be evaluated. There should be investigation into connecting this park with Keystone Park on race street and firefighters park up Old Forge Road.



Keystone Park

The strategic location of Keystone Park potentially allows it to be connect to Monocacy creek Park and the Nor-Bath Trail system, as well as other surrounding properties that can expand its use. Recommendations include:

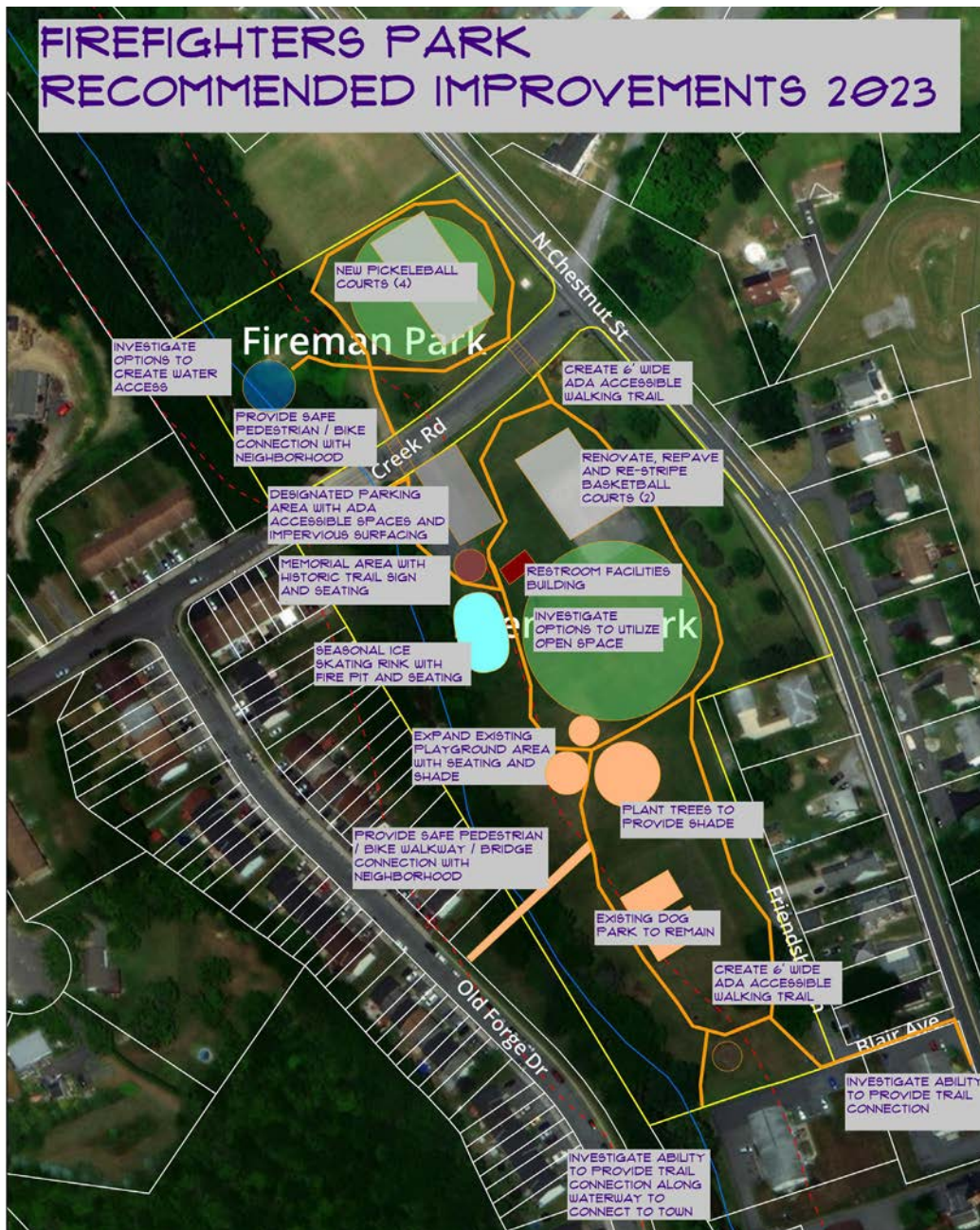
- Develop a walking trail system within the park that connects to the uses, the pavilions, the play areas, the bridges and field areas.
- Develop a seating/sign area at the corner of green and race streets that can provide pedestrian access.
- Evaluate existing play equipment and safety surfacing and develop a plan for renovations and additions.
- Develop the parking area on the south side to provide ADA accessible parking and access, and look at adjacent parking area for opportunities to provide access easements or other considerations.
- Look to develop playing courts on the open area above the flood way. Possible options are basketball, volleyball and pickle ball.
- Develop plans for new plantings and replacement plantings in the park of native shade trees
- Investigate trail connections to Cabin and NorBath Trail



Fireman Park

Recommendations include:

- Develop a walking trail system within the park that connects to all of the uses, and possibly crossing the Monocacy to Old Forge Road (private property).
- Develop a central parking area off creek road with ADA accessibility and access.
- Create a memorial sign area with seating and shade in the center of the park.
- Investigate providing court area on the northside of Creek Road
- Create areas with picnic tables with shade.
- Investigate developing creek side access on the north side.
- Evaluate existing play equipment and safety surfacing and develop a plan for renovations and additions.
- Investigate ability to provide fishing access along streambanks.
- Look at streambank restoration.
- Possibly look to change name.



Ciff Cowling Park

Recommendations include:

- Develop a walking trail system around the park to connect to the nor-bath trail and other locations such as the school and facilities.
- Along Horner Street remove existing ballfields fencing and posts and provide more parking along Horner Street.
- Develop a memorial seating area with historic marker at the northwest corner of the site.
- Coordinate County Trailhead location in park
- Evaluate condition of existing buildings on site.
- Evaluate potential new uses within the park, such as court area for basketball and pickleball.
- Evaluate additional parking on Allen Street and possible easement.



Carl Rehrig

Recommendations include:

- Develop the walking trail system within the park presently begun by the Borough and investigate connections.
- Develop a memorial seating / sign area in the open area at Spyglass Hill Road and Turnberry court.
- Develop safe street crossings at Turnberry court and park ridge drive.
- Evaluate existing play equipment and safety surfacing and develop a plan for additions.

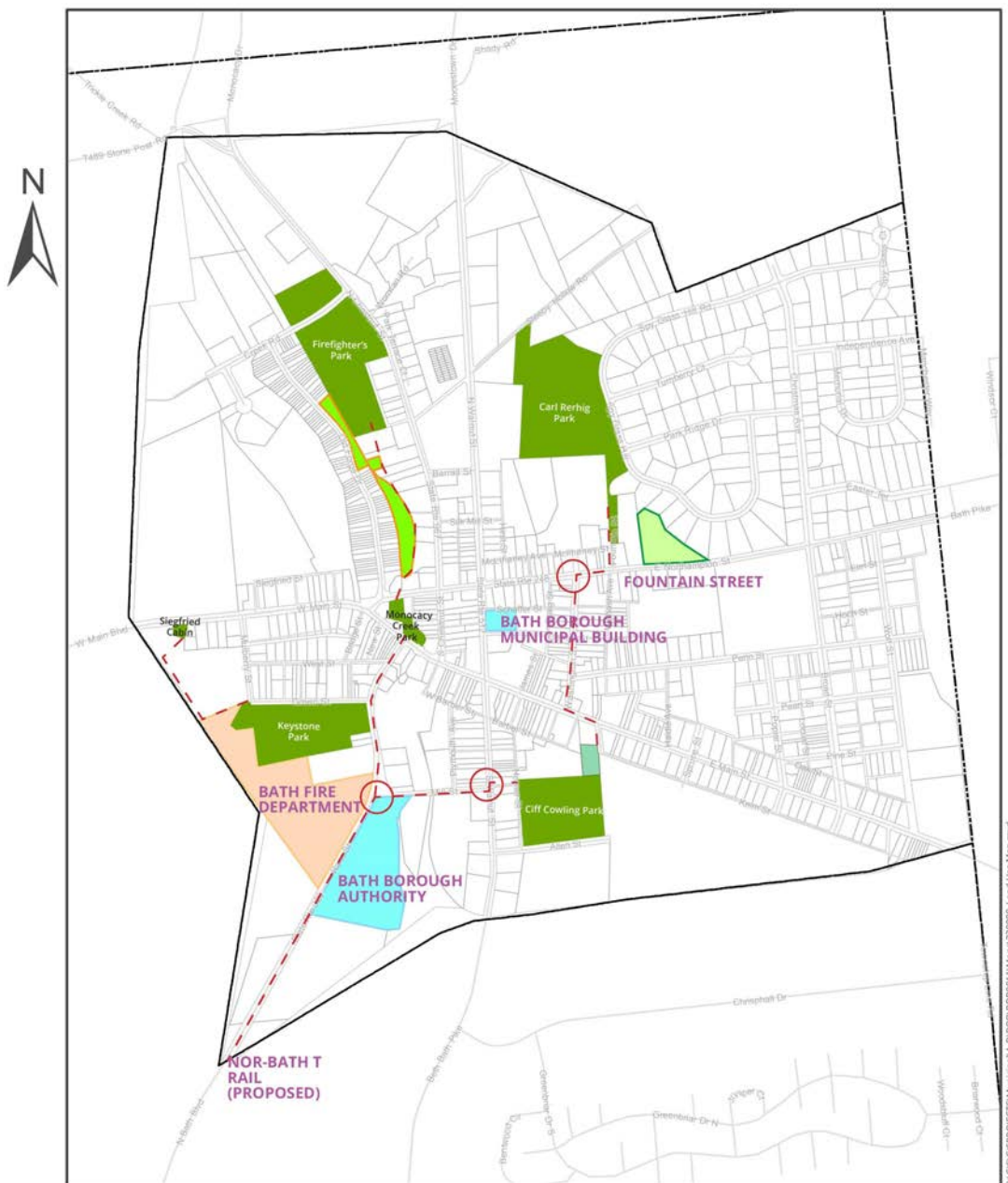


Park Connection Trail

The Trail Connections Plan is developed to look at potential connections between parks within the Borough. The plan also takes into account the proposed connections to the Nor-Bath Trail from the southern portion on Race Street (SR329) to Mill Street, to the trails' terminus at Cliff Cowling Park.

Portions of the trail connections are to be located within existing street Right of Ways and will need to be coordinated with PennDOT and the County. Safe signaled pedestrian crossing will be necessary at the crossings of routes 512, 248, and 329. In particular, at Washington Ave. and E Northampton St. (SR 248), Mill St. and Race St. (SR 329) and Mill St. and S Walnut St. (SR512).

There are concepts shown to potentially provide connects from Siegfried Cabin to Keystone Park, and Monocacy Creek Park to Firefighters Park that will require access easements to cross private property



Nor-Bath Trail

The concept shown provides a visual of the proposed connections to the Nor-Bath Trail from the southern portion on Race Street (SR329) to Mill Street, to the trails' terminus at Ciff Cowling Park.



Historic Signage

Potential historic sign location within the parks are proposed. The map on this page corresponds to the signage numbers below.

Sign 1. Monocacy Creek

Sign 2. Dr Wesselhoeft's Homeopathic School

Sign 3. Bath: Founded 1737

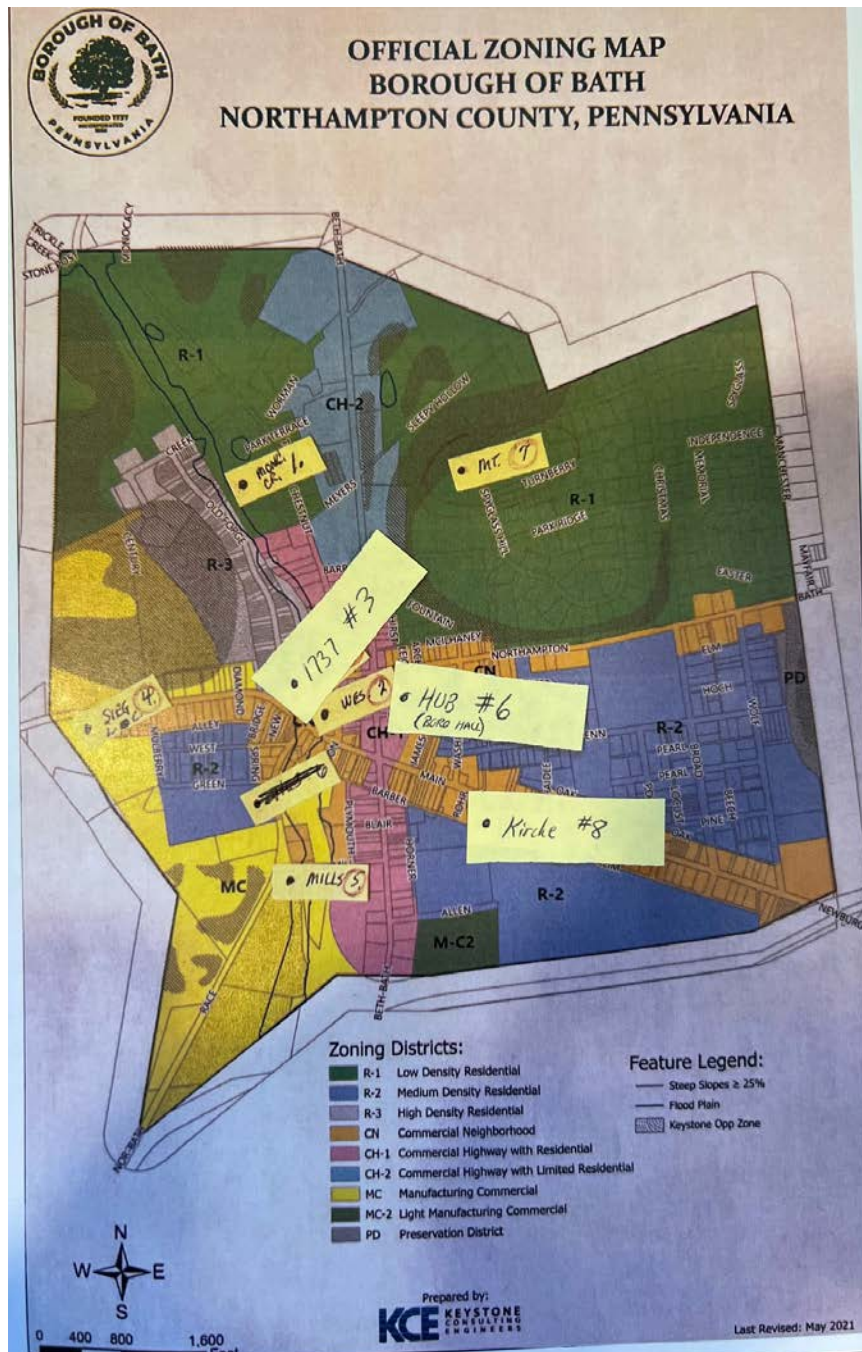
Sign 4. Siegfried Log Cabin

Sign 5. Mills Along the Monocacy

Sign 6. "Hub" of Northampton County

Sign 7. Mount Wolf

Sign 8. Bath Kirche



CHAPTER 8

PHASING & IMPLEMENTATION

8.1 PURPOSE

The final step in the planning process is to determine methods and means for implementing the recommendations.

The creation of Preliminary Cost Opinions provides some range to the costs and attempts to provide a clear analysis of what can happen but doesn't speak to how and / or when. Realizing that most of the Implementation will be based upon available funding the plan will suggest some priorities.

A plan of this type usually provides a breakdown of short (1-3 years), medium (4-7 years) and long term (8+) time periods for recommendations.

Short Term:

1. Address those items that will improve pedestrian accessibility and safety.
2. Provide safe vehicular access and parking.

Medium Term

1. Based upon available funding provide improvements that were identify by residents as desirable, trails and play areas.
2. Identify improvements that can be done by the Borough.
3. Provide a broader range of recreation facilities (Pickleball).

Long Term

1. Improvements that require outside funding.
2. Improvements that will need extensive permitting.

8.2 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In review, there were some miscellaneous improvements that were discussed as part of the planning process, including off site trails to connect park properties, the idea of potentially crossing private lands to provide connections to sites such as Keystone Park to Siegfried Cabin, and Keystone Park to the intersection of Race and Mill Street to potentially meet the Nor-Bath Trail, which due to there off site nature and future pending improvements are not included in these Preliminary Cost Opinions.

The costs as developed are based upon reasonable projections and recent bidding but can be subject to changes of economic conditions. The total of the proposed improvements for each park indicates a 10% contingency and a rough idea as to what can be expected for Design, Engineering and Permitting (15%).

	Parks	
Carl Rehrig Park		\$ 635,030.00
Ciff Cowling Park		\$ 818,455.00
Firefighters Park		\$1,323,190.00
Keystone Park		\$ 798,215.00
Monocacy Creek Park		\$ 226,435.00
Total for all Improvements		\$ 3,801,325.00

IMPROVEMENTS

Monocacy Creek Park



COST ESTIMATES

Monocacy Creek Park

**Cost Opinion
Monocacy Creek Park Improvement**



Location: Main Street

Date: November 2023

Colliers Project: BOB-0011

G. DeFelicis, LLA

Proposed Improvements	Cost
Site Preparation	
Site Preparation (fence removal)	\$ 12,000.00
Proposed Improvements	
Layout and Grading of ADA paths	\$ 18,000.00
Ramp for ADA access at bridge	\$ 16,000.00
Creation of memorial area with brick pavers and signage	\$ 26,000.00
Site Amenities (bike racks, picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles)	\$ 8,000.00
Stream Bank Stabilization	\$ 65,000.00
Lighting / Security	\$ 20,000.00
Native Landscape plantings	\$ 8,000.00
Soil Erosion Control measures	\$ 6,000.00
Total Cost for All Improvements:	\$ 179,000.00
10% Contingency	\$ 17,900.00
Design, Engineering and Permitting (15%)	\$ 29,535.00
Total plus Contingency and Engineering	\$ 226,435.00

IMPROVEMENTS

Keystone Park



COST ESTIMATES

Keystone Park



Cost Opinion Keystone Park Improvement

Location: Race and Green Streets

Date: November 2023

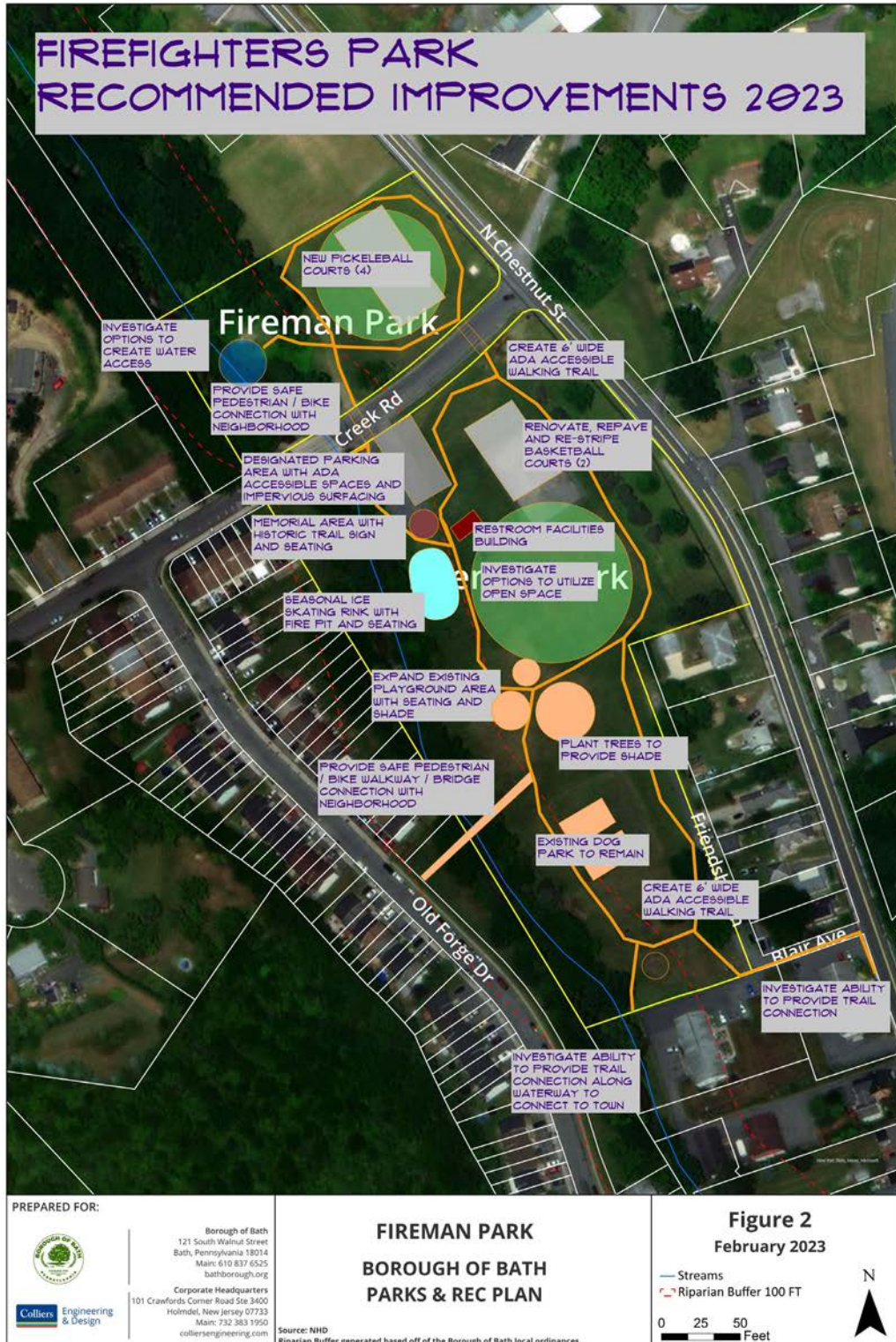
Colliers Project: BOB-0011

G. DeFelicis, LLA

Proposed Improvements	Cost
Site Preparation	
Demolition and Site Preparation	\$ 16,000.00
Proposed Improvements	
Layout and Grading of new parking area, paths and play areas	\$ 22,000.00
Paved parking area for 40 cars, ADA accessible	\$ 75,000.00
Creation of entrance areas with brick pavers and signage	\$ 26,000.00
Porous asphalt walkways within park (1,600 lf x 6' wide)	\$ 32,000.00
New Play area (equipment and safety surfacing)	\$ 95,000.00
Site Amenities (bike racks, picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles)	\$ 45,000.00
Trail Improvements (4' wide crushed stone porous paving)	\$ 24,000.00
Creation of 4 Paddleball courts	\$ 85,000.00
Creation of 2 new basketball courts	\$ 45,000.00
Lighting / Security	\$ 20,000.00
Native Landscape trees and riparian plantings	\$ 40,000.00
Race Street signalized Pedestrian Crossing	\$ 100,000.00
Soil Erosion Control measures	\$ 6,000.00
Total Cost for All Improvements:	\$ 631,000.00
10% Contingency	\$ 63,100.00
Design, Engineering and Permitting (15%)	\$ 104,115.00
Total plus Contingency and Engineering	\$ 798,215.00

IMPROVEMENTS

Fireman Park



COST ESTIMATES

Fireman Park

**Cost Opinion
Firefighters Park Improvement**



Location: SR 987 and Creek Road

Date: November 2023

Colliers Project: BOB-0011

G. DeFelicis, LLA

Proposed Improvements	Cost
Site Preparation	
Demolition and Site Preparation	\$ 24,000.00
Proposed Improvements	
Restroom Facility	\$ 260,000.00
Porous paved parking area for 40 cars, ADA accessible	\$ 75,000.00
Creation of entrance area with brick pavers, historic signage, seating and pavillion	\$ 50,000.00
Porous asphalt walkways within park (2,000 lf x 6' wide)	\$ 42,000.00
New Play area (equipment, seating and safety surfacing)	\$ 75,000.00
Site Amenities (bike racks, picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles)	\$ 24,000.00
Trail connection to neighborhood with pedestrian bridge (permitted)	\$ 125,000.00
4 Paddleball courts	\$ 85,000.00
2 new basketball courts	\$ 50,000.00
Lighting / Security	\$ 20,000.00
Shade Tree plantings	\$ 20,000.00
Soil Erosion Control measures	\$ 6,000.00
Water access Area with seating	\$ 60,000.00
Stream Bank Restoration	\$ 100,000.00
Ice Skating Rink (seasonal)	\$ 30,000.00
Total Cost for All Improvements:	\$ 1,046,000.00
10% Contingency	\$ 104,600.00
Design, Engineering and Permitting (15%)	\$ 172,590.00
Total plus Contingency and Engineering	\$ 1,323,190.00

IMPROVEMENTS

Ciff Cowling Park



COST ESTIMATES

Ciff Cowling Park

**Cost Opinion
Ciff Cowling Park Improvement**



Location: Allen Street

Date: November 2023

Colliers Project: BOB-0011

G. DeFelicis, LLA

Proposed Improvements	Cost
Site Preparation	
Demolition and Site Preparation (fence and paving removal)	\$ 32,000.00
Proposed Improvements	
Layout and Grading of new parking area, paths and play areas	\$ 28,000.00
New Parking areas (to be located along Horner and / or Allen Street)	\$ 65,000.00
Creation of Memorial Area with historic marker, pergola, brick pavers and signage	\$ 45,000.00
Porous asphalt walkways within park (1,600 lf x 6' wide)	\$ 32,000.00
New Play area (equipment and safety surfacing)	\$ 75,000.00
Bandshell / stage area	\$ 100,000.00
Site Amenities (bike racks, picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles)	\$ 18,000.00
Creation of 4 paddleball courts (paving, fencing, equipment)	\$ 85,000.00
Creation of 2 new basketball courts	\$ 45,000.00
Court Lighting	\$ 36,000.00
Landscape plantings	\$ 20,000.00
soil Erosion Control measures	\$ 6,000.00
New Gazebo	\$ 60,000.00
Total Cost for All Improvements:	\$ 647,000.00
10% Contingency	\$ 64,700.00
Design, Engineering and Permitting (15%)	\$ 106,755.00
Total plus Contingency and Engineering	\$ 818,455.00

IMPROVEMENTS

Carl Rehrig



COST ESTIMATES

Carl Rehrig

Cost Opinion Carl Rehrig Park Improvement



Location: Spyglass Hill Road

Date: November 2023

Colliers Project: BOB-0011

G. DeFelicis, LLA

Proposed Improvements	Cost
Site Preparation	
Demolition and Site Preparation (fence relocation and paving removal)	\$ 24,000.00
Proposed Improvements	
Layout and Grading of new parking area, paths and play areas	\$ 28,000.00
Restroom Facility	\$ 225,000.00
Memorial Seating area with historic marker, pergola, pavers and signage	\$ 46,000.00
Porous asphalt walkways within park (1,200 lf x 6' wide)	\$ 24,000.00
Additional Play area (equipment and safety surfacing)	\$ 65,000.00
Seating area associated with playground with shade structure	\$ 24,000.00
Site Amenities (bike racks, benches and trash receptacles)	\$ 16,000.00
Shade Tree planting	\$ 12,000.00
Lighting / Security	\$ 20,000.00
Soil Erosion measures	\$ 6,000.00
Safe Pedestrian crossings	\$ 12,000.00
Total Cost for All Improvements:	\$ 502,000.00
10% Contingency	\$ 50,200.00
Design, Engineering and Permitting (15%)	\$ 82,830.00
Total plus Contingency and Engineering	\$ 635,030.00

APPENDIX A

Bath Borough

Northampton County, Pennsylvania



The Borough of Bath Recreational Needs Survey 2023

The purpose of this survey is for Bath to gather input from residents on recreational needs and preferences related to Town-owned parks. Thank you for participating in the survey.

* 1. How important are the Town's park and recreation facilities and programs to you and your family?

- Very important
 Somewhat important
 Not so important

* 2. What types of park and recreation facilities do you and your family use on a regular and/or seasonal basis? Check all that apply.

- Active Recreation (ballfields, tennis courts, walking trails, playgrounds, etc.)
 Passive Recreation (park benches, picnic tables, open spaces, etc.)
- Natural Areas

* 3. Using the list below, what is your opinion of following existing park amenities?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Accessibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lighting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking (Cars/Bikes)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Play Fields/Equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trees/Shade	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

* 4. Using the list below, choose Passive Recreation activities you and/or your family would like to see or would like to have more of in Bath. Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amphitheater | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Green Space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Botanical Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Gazebo | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking Trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Viewing Area |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify)

* 5. Using the list below, choose Active Recreation that you and/or your family would like to see or would like to have more of in Bath. Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball Fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise Stations | <input type="checkbox"/> Splash Pad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball Courts | <input type="checkbox"/> Football Fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis and Pickleball Courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Batting Cage | <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball Courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking Paths |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disc Golf Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Softball Fields | |

Other (please specify)

* 6. Using the list below, choose Events/Programs that you and/or your family would like to see or would like to have more of in Bath. Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> After School Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Hobby/Specialty Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Festivals/Farmer's Markets | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Concerts/Movies | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness/Health Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Activities | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Other (please specify)

* 7. Are you a resident of Bath?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Yes, in Borough limits | <input type="radio"/> No, in Northampton County | <input type="radio"/> No, outside Northampton County |
|--|---|--|

* 9. Please select your age category.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 19 and under | <input type="radio"/> 35 - 44 | <input type="radio"/> 55 - 64 |
| <input type="radio"/> 20 - 34 | <input type="radio"/> 45 - 54 | <input type="radio"/> 65 and over |

* 10. What is your household size?

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 5 or more |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | |

11. Please share any additional thoughts, suggestions, and concerns that you have regarding Bath Parks and Recreation.

APPENDIX B

2000 Midlantic Drive Suite 100 Mount Laurel New Jersey 08054
Main: 877 627 3772



Minutes of Meeting

Recorded by: Jacqueline Fernandez
Meeting date: February 03, 2023
Meeting location: Bath Borough
Subject/project name: Bath Borough Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan
Project No.: BOB0011
Attendees: Fiorella Reginelli-Mirabito, Bradford Flynn, Frank Hesch- *Borough of Bath*
Sherry Acevedo, Bryan Cope- *Northampton County Parks & Recreation*
Ron Madison, Gerald DeFelicis, Jacqueline Fernandez, Julia Wolanski- *CED*

- Borough of Bath is bordered by Upper Nazareth to the east and East Allen Township to the north, south, and west. Bath was a part of the Nazareth Area Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan which includes a Park and Rec plan. Within the plan Bath is referenced a few times. Mostly to be used for consistency
- River Central/ East Allen Comprehensive plan is a resource to explore consistency with other parks
- Take parks deeper conceptually in terms of equipment, riparian buffer as a resource. Conceptual walking/trail and connectivity plan.
- Expand user groups by updating certain areas to ADA compliance and providing a variety of activities for all age groups. Implementing a walking trail in all parks, perhaps part of the connectivity plan.
- Discussed possible funding sources and grants from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), historic preservation, etc. for the development plan, implementation plan, and cost estimates. Farmland preservation was a topic of interest.
- Borough of Bath values its vast history. Some parks and open space have historical structures that could be registered and funding available. Borough of Bath is to identify historic structure date.
- Identifying existing and future capacity of parks. As well as
- Draft plan expected by October 2023

2000 Midlantic Drive Suite 100 Mount Laurel New Jersey 08054
Main: 877 627 3772



Minutes of Meeting

Recorded by: Jacqueline Fernandez
Meeting date: July 16, 2023
Meeting location: Bath Borough
Subject/project name: Bath Borough Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan
Project No.: BOB0011
Attendees: Bradford Flynn, Frank Hesch- *Borough of Bath Parks & Recreation Committee*
Ron Madison, Gerald DeFelicis, Jacqueline Fernandez- *CED*

- Summary of Survey was presented.
- Overview of parks and possible ideas
- Bath already has six historic posts made, proposed sign locations tbd
- Committee recommended a park name change to Fireman's Park to "Meadows" of "Bath Meadows"
- County wants to have a trail head at Ciff Cowling Park. Recommended location on south side of Allen Street or Mill Street head.
- Perhaps having a band stand at Ciff Cowling
- Removing fence from Ciff Cowling and create more parking by pushing it back 20 feet
- Lighting at parks was brought up around walkways
- Public meeting on August 9th and in October once committee sends confirmation of approval

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Main: 877 627 3772



Minutes of Meeting

Recorded by: Jacqueline Fernandez
Meeting date: August 9, 2023
Meeting location: Bath Borough
Subject/project name: Bath Borough Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan
Project No.: BOB0011
Attendees: Michele Ehr Gott, Barry Fenstermaker, Frank Hesch, Douglas Hamadyk, Phyllis Andrews, Jim Lisiecki, Emanuel Mirabito- *Borough of Bath*
Gerald DeFelicis, Jacqueline Fernandez- *CED*
Darren Heckman, Carol Heckman, Patty, Ann Costenbader, Susan Sink,
Helena Regee, Michael Lorey- *Members of the Public*

- Summary of Survey was presented.
- Overview of parks and possible ideas
- Community input and ideas:
 - Time of survey was when the basketball nets at cliff cowling were removed due to vandalism
 - Walking paths, parking, and upgrading/maintaining equipment are the top priorities
 - Firemans Park is a priority as residents indicated the amount of children living in the nearby apartments and condos
 - Safety is a concern along Old Forge with access to Firemans park
 - Creek road is how people access firemans- bus stop by the water house along the edge of firemans
 - Saving the ice skating area across creek rd is a wish item
 - Development of the plan should be done in sections/zones where the town needs it most (like firemans)
 - Flood issues and natural hazards along the creek are important to residents, flooding of basketball courts. Etc are a concern
 - Porous material should be used
 - Band shell or concert area is a wish item- perhaps in cliff cowling park
 - Creek maintenance- native planting, could combat flooding
 - Interconnectivity with the nor bath trail- having the trail end in bath would be awesome
 - Sidewalks to make connectivity easier- along creek rd near firemans?
 - Littering is an issue- having bolted in garbage cans, benches, picnic tables, etc

Main: 877 627 3772



Recorded by: Gerald DeFelicis
Meeting date: May 8, 2023
Meeting location: Bath Borough
Subject/project name: Bath Borough Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan
Project No.: BOB0011
Attendees: Bradford Flynn,
Gerald DeFelicis,

A meeting of the Borough of Bath Parks and Recreation Committee was held on Monday, May 8th at 5 PM.

At this meeting the preliminary evaluations of the Parks were reviewed. The consulting team had met with Chris Craig, the Public Works Leader on site visits to all of the properties and were provided insights into the history and status of each site and the Boroughs recreation programs.

For the evaluation of the sites see the presentation which will be updated and included in the DRAFT for the Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan.

The following are comments and recommendations provided by board members at the meeting and will be added:

Monocacy Creek Park:

Board members noted that they liked the brick paver walkways at this park and would like to see if a similar design palette can be used in other park properties. The discussion was about developing seating areas with pavers, benches, lighting and signage that can provide the Borough with a cohesive look.

It was discussed that at one point there was discussion of illuminating the bridge area in an aesthetic pleasing manner. This will be included in the ROSP recommendations.

There was reference made to 8 cast iron posts that the Borough has with historic information on them. The planning team will look to incorporate these posts in the park improvement recommendations.

Project No. BOB0011
May 9, 2023
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The eastern area of the park closest to the Main Street Bridge has a sloping lawn to the creeks edge. It was discussed to see if this could be made into a naturalistic seating area with native plantings and seating.

Ideas of connecting with park to other park properties were reviewed.

Keystone Park

The Committee noted that back in 2012 - 2014 the riparian buffer along the creek was stabilized and planted with native species. A plaque of this event is in the park.

A Friendship Tree was planted at the corner of Green Street and Race Street, and it as was discussed whether this area could be improved as a paver seating area resembling Monocacy Creek Park which is located north on Race Street.

The recommendations for walkways, parking and trees were reviewed.

Firefighters Park:

The park evaluation was reviewed and discussed.

It was agreed that the park could use more coordination of the parking and facilities. The idea of creating a consolidated parking area with access from Creek Road was proposed, as well as the recommendations for a bridge connection, walking paths and landscaping.

The possible programming of the site with new facilities were also discussed.

Ciff Cowling

The Committee noted that the softball field at Ciff Cowlings is still used for local organized sports associations.

The playground and pavilion area were reviewed as well as possible trail connections.

With the Nor-Bath Trail potentially terminating at Mill Street and Horner Street, it was discuss how to redesign this area to become more pedestrian friendly with the idea of creating a plaza and plaque here.

Carl L. Rehrig Park

The existing state of Carl L. Rehrig Park was reviewed and the preliminary recommendations to add a walking path, safe pedestrian connections to the neighborhood, more play equipment, a trail connection to Fountain Drive and a possible pavilion seating area at Spyglass Hill Road and Turnberry Ct.

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May 9, 2023
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The committee discussed how to potentially connect this park property with others both to the west and south.

Nor-Bath Trail

The Nor-Bath Trail is intended to connect to Borough property at the corner of Race Street and Mill Street. While the final configuration of the trail has not been set, it was discussed to look for connections to other Borough Parks and open spaces to this trail network if possible.

Overall, the Committee was happy with the progress and the Consultant will incorporate these comments.

The next steps in the planning process will be to perform the Citizen's Survey and to have a Public Meeting to review and discuss

2000 Midlantic Drive Suite 100 Mount Laurel New Jersey 08054
Main: 877 627 3772



Minutes of Meeting

Recorded by: Jacqueline Fernandez
Meeting date: November 16, 2023
Meeting location: Bath Borough
Subject/project name: Bath Borough Special Meeting
Project No.: BOB0011
Attendees: Borough of Bath Council- *Bath*
Gerald DeFelicis, Ron Madison, Jacqueline Fernandez- *CED*
Bob Fields, Susan Simon, Tricia Shellham, Bobby Siegfried, Carol Bean,
Darrian Hechman- *Public of Bath*

Draft Plan Cost Estimates, Recommendations, and Implementation Finalization

Introduction

- Implementation- 1-3 yrs, 4-7 yrs, 8+ yrs
- Plan addresses previous concerns and wants such as: safe walking paths, park connectivity, signage/placemaking, playing courts, accessibility.
- Cost estimates have 10% contingency and 15% construction/engineering built in

Summary

- Top Wants
 - Connectivity
 - Bandshell
 - Skating Rink
- Restrooms in every park (added into cost, may not be implemented)
- Placemaking/signage

Public Comments

Ciff Cowling

- Bandshell is a big want by some community members. Cost estimates were not presented or included on map. Members would like to see that included in plan
- Connectivity of all parks is important
- State grants such as safe routes to school may be useful with George Wolf elementary nearby

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November 16, 2023
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- State road permits needed for crosswalks, etc

Keystone

- Community members mentioned alley-ways people utilize to walk to the park. (Mulberry and Race)
- Questions of parking extension and pedestrian leases with private partners
- Landscaping can utilize the state donation of trees and volunteer plantings

Firefighters Park

- Area within riparian buffer can be landscaped or be able to grow natural. Adding a sign explaining as such
- Invasive species along creek
- Adding a pavilion
- Adding benches or picnic tables near creek
- Park has access to water lines (Water authority building in edge of property) Sewer lines?
- Park hosts events
 - Parking issues
 - Desires include- bonfire pit, Christmas tree lighting, more benches
- Vandalism occurred with people breaking ice in skating rink
- Ice skating rink ideas, grading, tarping, etc.

Carl Rehrig

- Community members don't want the view blocked by trees
- Retrofitting of basin (MS4)(PRP)
- Connection to Fountain Street
 - Not ada accessible
 - Make it a trail instead?
 - Create steps for access to park?

APPENDIX C

DCNR Response to plan submittal:

Email response dated: Monday 4-01-24:

I did get a chance to look over the plan and it does follow the DCNR's scope of work for a Rec and park Plan and we would consider it a valid plan, once adopted, to use to apply for a DCNR grant.

Lorne

Lorne Possinger | Recreation and Conservation Manager
PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
Bureau of Recreation and Conservation
Jacobsburg State Park, 400 Belfast Road., Nazareth, Pa. 18064
Phone: 610.746.5607 | Fax: 610.746.2804
E-mail: lpossinger@pa.gov
www.dcnr.pa.gov

Email response dated: Wednesday 2-28-24:

Good Afternoon Ron,

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to review your draft Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan. Attached is my comment letter and the plan with my notes and/or highlights.

I have some availability next week and the week of March 11th for a pre-grant application meeting (joint with Northampton County Livable Landscapes & DCNR) and plan discussion.

Please let me know thanks.

Sherry

Sherry L. Acevedo
Conservation Coordinator
Northampton County Parks & Recreation
Louise W. Moore County Park
151 Country Club Rd.
Easton, PA 18045
Office: 610-829-4872
Cell: 484-280-1894
SAcevedo@norcopa.gov

Please note: Northampton County is in the process of transitioning from the domain northamptoncounty.org to **norcopa.gov**. Please update any contact information you have for **me** in your address books or in your eMail allow lists.