



# CRANBERRY

• TOWNSHIP •

2024 Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan

*March 7, 2024*



•CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP•  
PARKS & RECREATION

PASHEK  MTR





# Acknowledgements

*This Plan reflects significant contributions of time, expertise, and advice from the following individuals, as well as input and perspective from a variety of stakeholders and the many people who live and/or work in Cranberry Township. This Plan would not have been possible without the valuable assistance of all.*

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This Plan was prepared with the assistance of:







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# Introduction

## Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, & Open Space Plan

### *Cranberry Township*

In 2022, Cranberry Township hired Pashek+MTR, a planning and design firm based in Pittsburgh, to update the Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan. The plan was developed through a detailed inventory and professional assessment of existing recreation opportunities, a public input process, and the creation of a vision for the future of recreation, parks, open space, and greenways in Cranberry Township. Pashek+MTR worked closely with the project Study Committee throughout the planning process to ensure that the Plan reflects the community's needs and interests. This Plan serves as a tool for addressing the current and future recreation needs of the Township's residents and establishes a framework for making decisions in order to provide adequate recreation facilities and programs. This Plan is broad in scope, encompassing a variety of issues pertinent to parks, recreation, and open space in the Township. It lays the groundwork for successfully planning and developing recreation, parks, trails, amenities, facilities, and programs.

It's important to note that this plan is not a regulatory document or law, but rather a guide for future actions and decisions. It recommends an approach to maintain and provide a parks and recreation system that serves all Cranberry residents throughout their lifetime with diverse and inclusive recreation opportunities. It suggests recommendations and strategies to maintain and provide residents with quality recreation opportunities. The plan serves as a reference for Township officials, staff, and advisory boards, partner organizations, and other interested parties. Implementing the recommendations contained in the plan requires further discussion, public involvement, and approval for actions to be undertaken.

### **The Comprehensive Planning Process**

*Where are we now?*



*Where do we want to be?*



*How do we get there?*



## The Planning Process

The Planning Process was led by a three-step progression of questions that would allow this Plan to be tailored to Cranberry Township.

### → Where Are We Now?

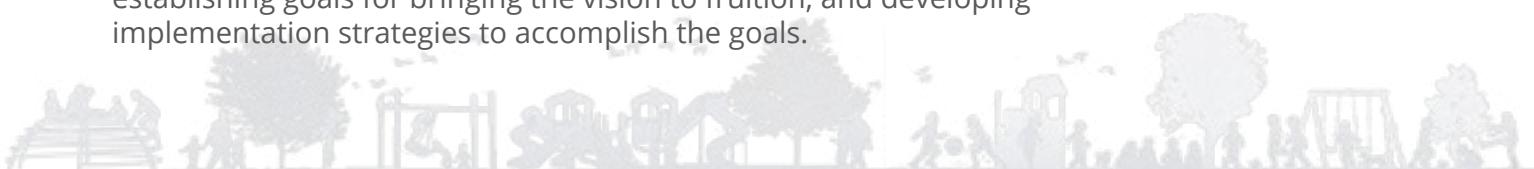
This question prompted research of the existing Township recreation and parks opportunities. It is important to identify the types of recreation and natural resources already available to the community and the area of the Township which they serve. These facilities and resources could be Township owned and operated or they may be offerings and amenities provided by non-profits, school districts, private entities, and other government agencies. The management, finances, and operations of these recreation facilities are documented and compared to State and National Statistics.

### → Where Do We Want To Be?

This question was the central focus of the public engagement process to help determine the future of parks and recreation in the Township. Public input was gathered through a variety of sources including: a study committee, representatives of local interest groups, public meetings, key person interviews, and a digital and paper recreation questionnaire. In addition, Pashek+MTR completed a thorough analysis of existing conditions to determine needs for the future.

### → How Do We Get There?

The culmination of the answers to the two previous questions established the direction the Township needs to take to meet the recreation needs, wants, and desires of current and future residents. It resulted in updating the vision statement to reflect what the future of recreation should be, establishing goals for bringing the vision to fruition, and developing implementation strategies to accomplish the goals.



# Parks & Recreation - Good for You: Good for All

Providing parks and recreation services is a critical component of community services for all Pennsylvania residents. As one looks at parks, recreation, and open space across the country, the benefits are evident – senior citizens exercise to stay active and healthy; youth learn life skills by playing baseball, soccer or other youth sports; families strengthen relationships by hiking, biking or picnicking together; and communities come together through special events.

Numerous studies show there are physical and mental health benefits to spending time in green spaces. Local parks, trails and open spaces have recently become even more of a respite from stress. Popular outdoor activities such as walking, jogging, hiking, and biking allow people time away from their usual daily grind. We must all work together to ensure that these vital parks and open spaces remain open, accessible, welcoming, and inclusive to all people. Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society says: Parks and Recreation are **good for you and good for all.**

**good for you.  
good for all.**

PENNSYLVANIA PARKS & RECREATION

Parks and recreation opportunities encourage citizens to be engaged in their communities as volunteers, stewards, advocates, and students. Access to parks and recreation facilities leads to healthy lifestyles for people of all ages. Activities in parks build self-esteem, reduce stress, and improve overall wellness. Parks enhance property values, contribute to healthy and productive work forces and help attract and retain businesses. Parks give communities a vital identity. Well maintained, accessible parks and recreation facilities are key elements of strong, safe, family-friendly communities.

## How to Use this Plan

The Plan provides a framework to fulfill the community's vision for the future of recreation, parks, open space, and greenways. It also provides the Township with a wealth of data and background information to support the enhancement of its recreation facilities, the preservation of natural features, connections to local assets, and the addition and development of new park land.

The broad scope of this Plan includes the documentation and analysis of a variety of issues pertinent to recreation, parks, open space, and greenways in Cranberry Township. The recommendations presented in this document offer a clear direction for future recreation and green space initiatives. The wide scope of recommendations and strategies leads to realistic planning for implementation.



The detailed information provided will assist the Township and other stakeholders in setting financial goals and the appropriate allocation of needed financial support. The document will be a valuable resource of supporting information as the implementation strategies are completed, new strategies are developed, and documentation of existing conditions is needed. Recommendations and implementation strategies are outlined and prioritized to guide parks and recreation in Cranberry Township for the next 5 -10 years. The Plan also provides the information needed to support grant applications for the acquisition, improvement, and expansion of recreation facilities.

Residents will be the ultimate beneficiaries of new and improved recreation facilities and preserved resources. Residents have demonstrated an on-going interest in the growth of a high-quality recreation, parks, open space, and greenways, and the preservation of natural resources in the Township. This Plan provides recommendations for expanding and improving those efforts.



# PA Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

## Recreation for All - Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2024

identifies the following priorities for action to protect these lands and waters and investing in future recreation needs for all Pennsylvanians. Cranberry Township's priorities for parks and recreation were guided by these priorities.



### Health and Wellness

1. Educate on the connection between health and outdoor recreation.
2. Support programs that connect health and outdoor recreation.
3. Equip health care providers with the tools needed to promote the health benefits of outdoor recreation.
4. Create walking and biking networks that provide safe, close-to-home access to recreation and encourage healthy behavior in communities.



### Recreation for All

1. Provide opportunities for everyone to regularly engage in outdoor recreation.
2. Enhance recreation amenities to fit the needs and expectations of underserved people.
3. Provide equitable access to outdoor recreation and conservation programs.
4. Build a diverse workforce and volunteer base.



### Sustainable Systems

1. Address infrastructure and maintenance needs in Pennsylvania's existing outdoor recreation areas.
2. Protect and conserve lands and waters considering the impacts of climate change on outdoor recreation.
3. Foster stewardship for Pennsylvania's recreation areas and natural, cultural, and historic resources.
4. Design outdoor recreation areas to minimize impacts on the environment or conflicts among user groups.



### Funding and Economic Development

1. Protect and expand public and private investments in outdoor recreation.
2. Build strategic coalitions to maximize the economic impacts of outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania.
3. Market Pennsylvania as an outdoor recreation destination.
4. Demonstrate the benefits and impacts of nature-based solutions to addressing community needs.



### Technology

1. Increase mobile connectivity in outdoor recreation.
2. Develop best practices for emerging outdoor recreation technologies.
3. Use technologies to support health goals and find places to recreate outdoors.
4. Enrich the understanding of the natural, cultural, and historic aspects of the outdoors through technology.







# Chapter 1 Community Background

## Cranberry Township - Our Community

The history of Cranberry Township dates back to 1753 when a young George Washington hiked through the area on what is now Venango Path. His mission was to deliver a message for a French commander stationed at a fort further north. During his journey, Washington may have seen the abundance of wild cranberries that grew along the banks of Brush Creek, which later gave the Township its name. The abundance of cranberries attracted numerous deer, which in turn attracted Native American hunters. As farmers moved into the area at the end of the 18th century, the wild cranberries gradually disappeared. Cranberry Township was primarily an agricultural community with small stores, taverns, a sawmill, school, and churches.

After World War II, with the completion of the Pennsylvania Turnpike's western section in 1951, the Township began to transform into a more urban community with the establishment of an industrial park and other businesses. In 1989, the construction of Interstate 279 further accelerated the Township's growth, providing local residents a direct route into Downtown Pittsburgh.

Today, Cranberry Township is one of the fastest-growing communities in the Pittsburgh area. It is home to major businesses like Westinghouse Electric, a UPMC satellite campus, and the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex. As a result, the Township's growing population attracts restaurants, shopping complexes, new neighborhoods, and visitors. Although a bustling hub of urbanism, Cranberry Township also boasts impressive open spaces, attractive parks, and a very active parks and recreation department with programs for all ages.

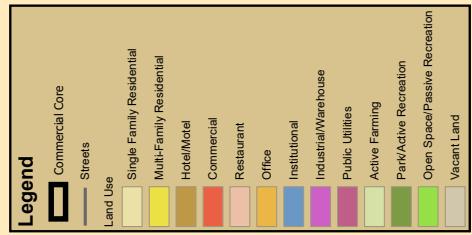


...to create a vibrant and inclusive community where the benefits of parks and recreation are accessible to all, fostering health, happiness, and creating a strong sense of belonging. We strive to be the catalyst for positive change, leading the way in transforming our community into a haven of natural beauty, active lifestyles, and unforgettable experiences.

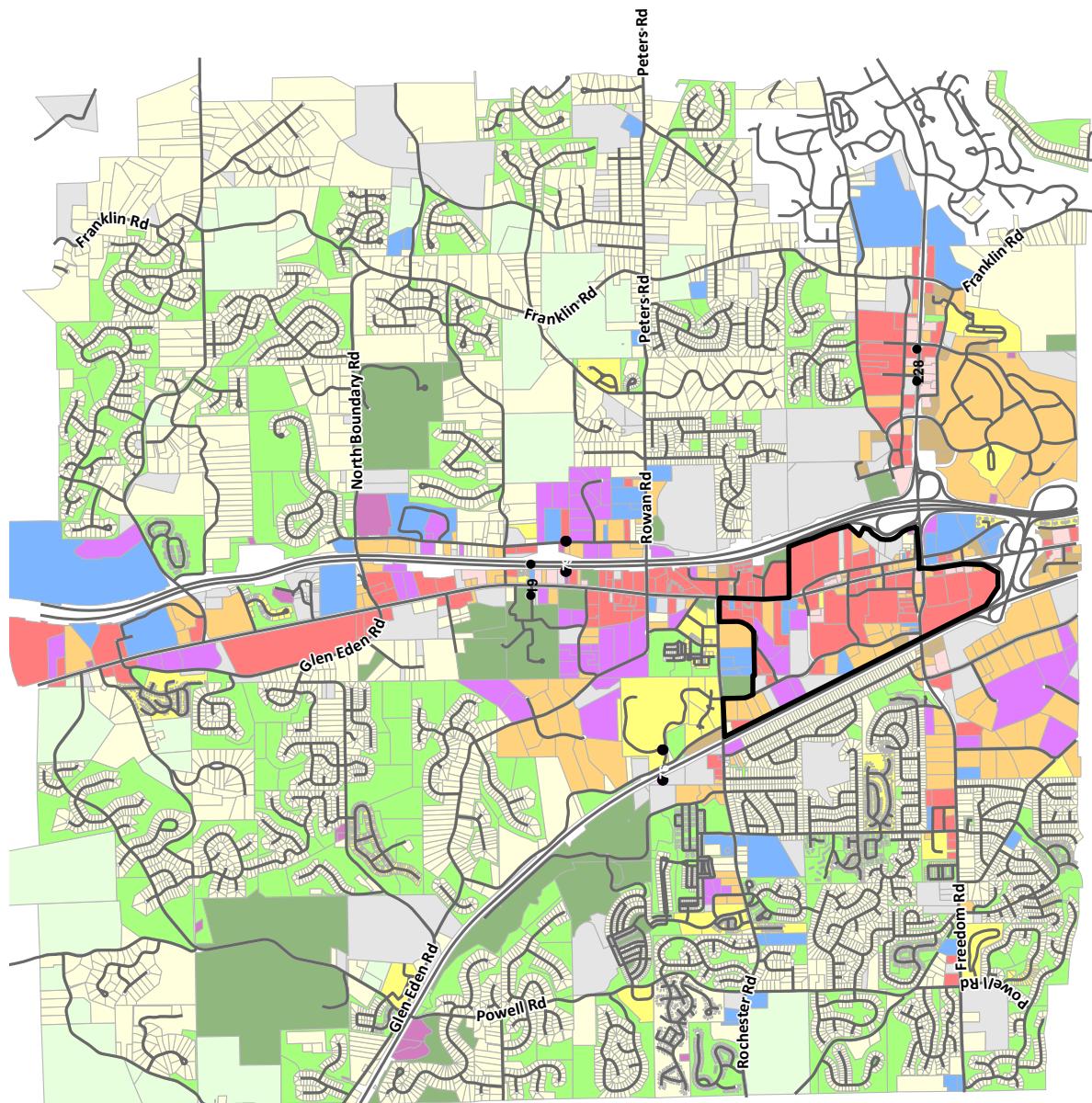
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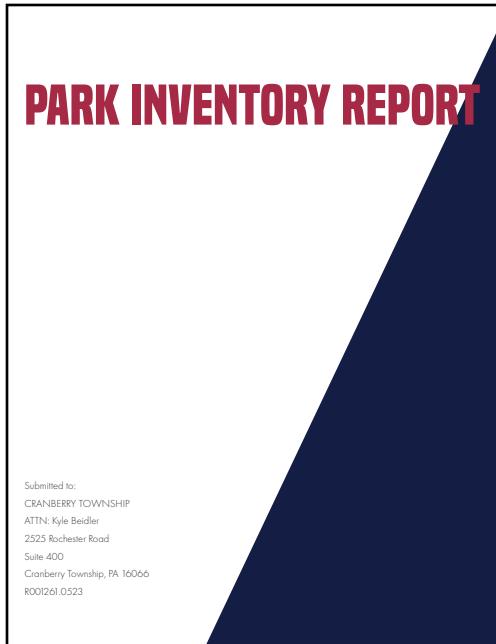
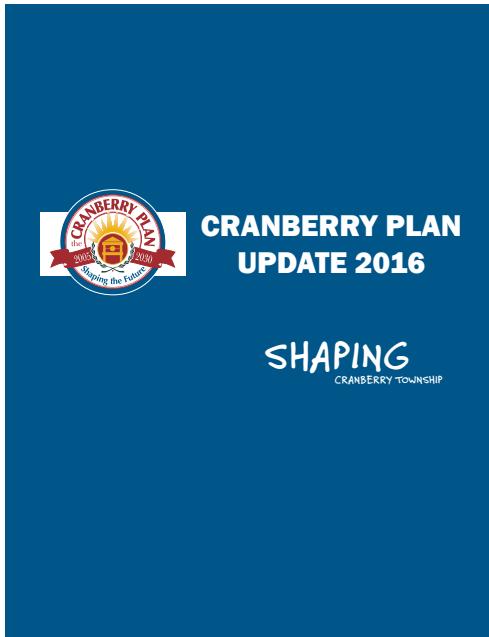
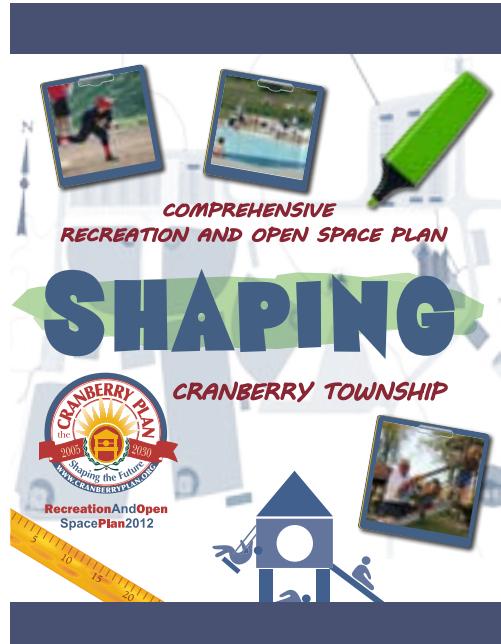


# Cranberry Township Land Use



● ● ●  
Cranberry Township  
Butler County  
January 29th, 2020  
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP built for you.





## Past Planning Efforts

Cranberry Township believes in creating a place where residents, visitors, and those who work within the Township can flourish and thrive. To that end, many studies and plans have been created to guide the Township. Those plans include:

- 2009 Comprehensive Plan
- 2011 Bike-Ped Study
- 2012 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan
- 2016 Park Economic Impact Study
- 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update
- 2022 Park Inventory Report

## 2012 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

Parks and Recreation have always been an important part of Cranberry's identity as a community. In 2012 the Township created a Plan focused on three main goals:

- Maintain and improve the quality of life in Cranberry Township as it relates to leisure and recreation.
- Strengthen the position of Cranberry Township as a distinguished leader in the provision of diverse and attractive park, recreation, and open space system.
- Cultivate an appreciation and education of the outdoors and our natural environment.



These goals encompassed the recommendations included in the plan that would guide Cranberry's twenty years into the future. Eleven years later, many of these recommendations have been incorporated into Cranberry's parks and recreation programs such as the King's Castle Playground, constructing batting cages, lighting additions and upgrades, further ADA accessibility, and diverse summer programming. Cranberry has done much over the last decade to improve both its passive and active recreation opportunities. In many ways, the Township has outgrown the 2012 Plan and is poised to advance its parks and recreation programs to new heights.

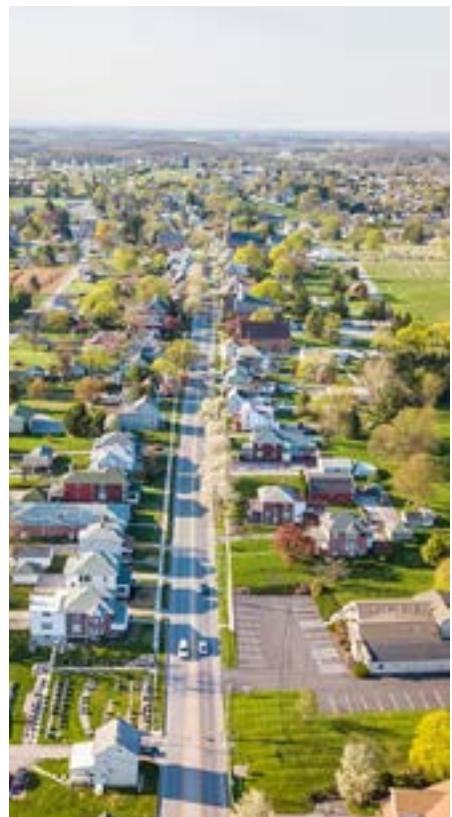
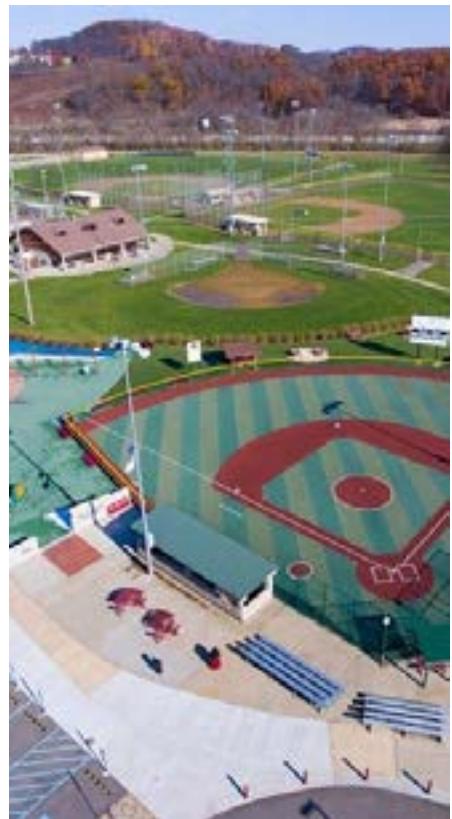
## 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update

Goals regarding recreation and open space from the 2016 Comprehensive Plan included:

- Succeed in dialogue and working together with the school district to expand available active and passive recreation facilities available to residents and maximize space in the community.
- Recognize the role of recreation facilities as a community resource and continue to reach out to residents to determine how and to what extent their needs for and access to these resources are being met.
  - » Evaluate the impacts and determine the course of action for constructing an off-leash exercise area for dogs.
  - » Continue to advance Township efforts that have been initiated and financial commitments that have been made to address major community recreation facility upgrades.
  - » Promote public/private partnerships related to recreation planning and improvements to maximize recreation opportunities in a cost-effective manner.

## 2022 Park Inventory Report

This report, completed by Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG), inventoried facilities in the Community Park, Graham Park and North Boundary Park. With the acknowledgment that Cranberry has a heavily-used park system, it is important to maintain, improve, and find ways to expand the park system. The report contains recommendations for immediate improvements to each of the parks and suggests future projects to expand the facilities. The information within this report was utilized as a resource in creating this Plan.



# Demographic, Social, and Economic Analysis

Cranberry Township is one of the fastest growing areas in Western Pennsylvania. It is home to over 20,000 jobs in retail, hospitality, medical, industrial, research, and corporate fields. More people commute to Cranberry to work than those who live within the Township.

Cranberry is just over 23 square miles of family-oriented neighborhoods, retail and shopping hubs, parks, rolling landscapes, and a progressive school system.

## Demographic Analysis

- Municipal Classification: Township, 2nd Class
- School District: Seneca Valley School District
- Population: 33,768
- Population per square mile: 1,445.8
- Age Distribution:
  - » Under 5: 7%
  - » Between 5 and 18: 18%
  - » Between 19 and 40: 25%
  - » Between 41 and 65: 36%
  - » 65 and up: 15%
  - » Average age: 40
- Household Data:
  - » Total Households: 13,076
  - » Median Household income: \$113,157
  - » Percentage of persons below the poverty level: 3.7%

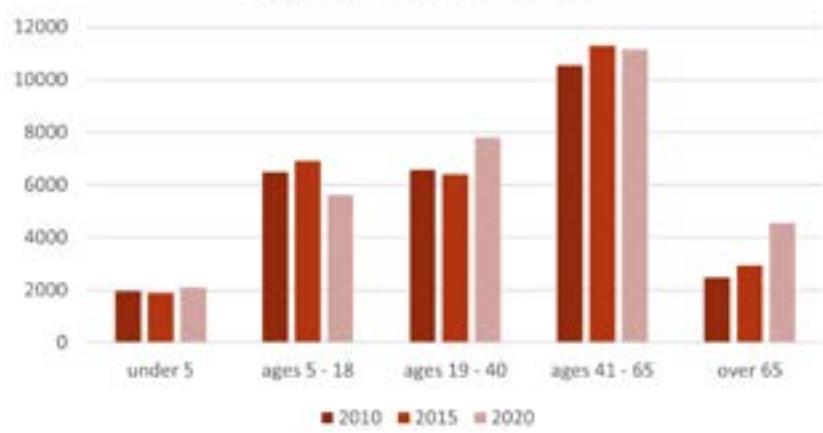
Understanding how population is distributed among various age groups is relevant when determining how to meet the recreation needs of an area. For purposes of benchmarking and comparison, the distribution of the population within certain age ranges in 2020 has been compared to the years 2015 and 2010. By doing so, we can draw the following conclusions about the Township:

- The total population has increased from 28,098 (2010) to 33,096 (2020), an increase of 17.9%.
- The largest age population growth over the past ten years is ages 19 to 40, an increase of 21.5%
- The only decrease in population growth over the past ten years is ages 5 to 18, a 13.3% decrease.

## Cranberry Township Population

Year	Population	Growth	Growth Rate
2023	33,768	672	0.67%
2020	33,096	2,929	1.87%
2015	30,167	2,069	1.43%
2010	28,098	1,294	0.95%
2005	26,804	3,179	2.56%
2000	23,625		

Population Growth by Age



As a whole, the population of Cranberry continues to grow and this appears to be a trend that will continue. The growth of older people would indicate that those who move to Cranberry remain in the Township, but Cranberry also continues to attract young families and young adults who do not yet have families, giving the Township a growing population of what is commonly referred to as "Generation Z".

Cranberry Township has continuing opportunities to provide recreation spaces and activities for all ages. As its population ages, targeting activities for older adults should be a priority. Also, as the population of young adults grows, the growth of recreation spaces should also grow. Studies indicate that "Generation Z" appreciates outdoor spaces, recreation activities and healthy lives.

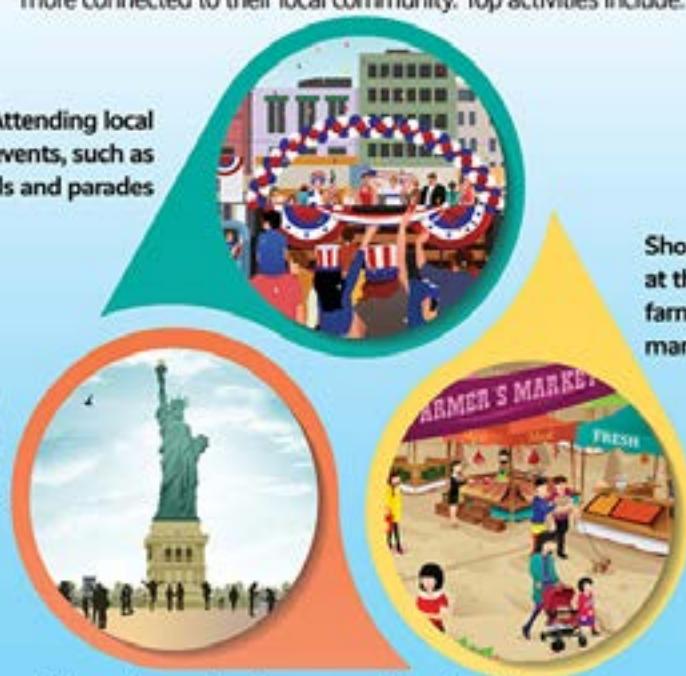
## NRPA PARK PULSE

### Parks and Recreation Creates Community Connections

**87%** of U.S. adults enjoy activities that make them feel more connected to their local community. Top activities include:

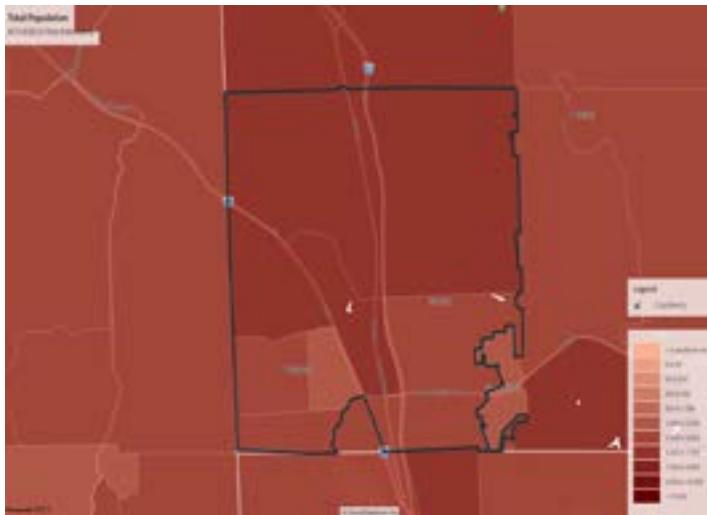
- Attending local events, such as festivals and parades
- Visiting local historical areas
- Shopping at the local farmers market

Parks and recreation is a top provider of activities and spaces that foster community connections.

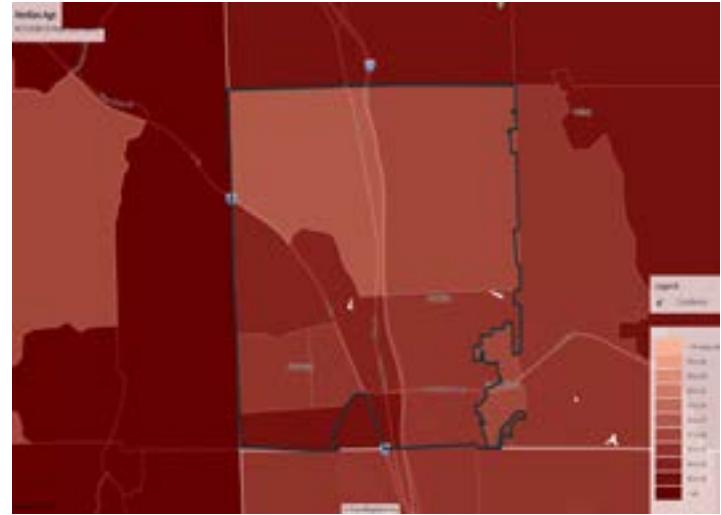


## Social Explorer Maps

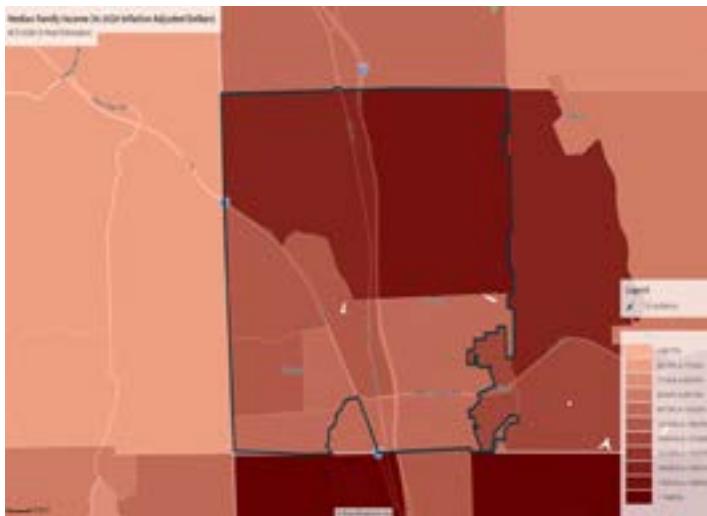
Social Explorer is a tool used to visualize and interact with data indicators related to demographics, economics, health, politics, the environment, and much more. For this plan, the following maps can be used to help Cranberry understand how the population of the Township is distributed. This information contributes to discussions on where parks or trails should be established, where open green space should be cultivated, and how connections can be made within the community.



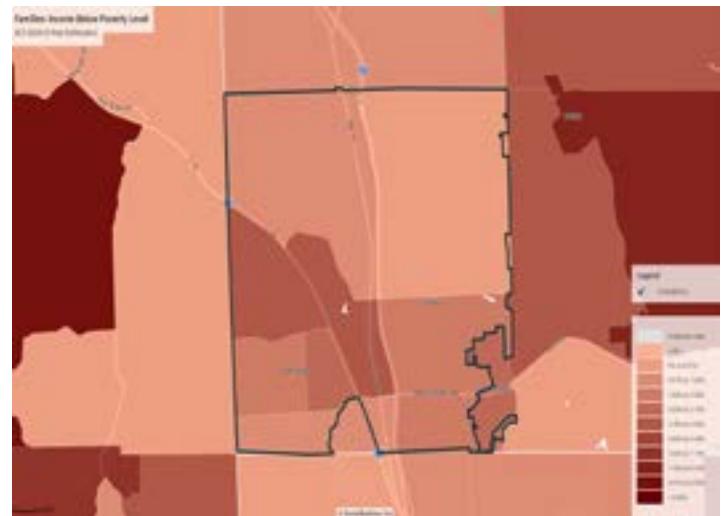
**Total Population:** This map shows where the population of Cranberry is concentrated and which areas are more rural.



**Median Age:** The median age of Cranberry is 40.3, a little higher than the national age of 38.8. This map shows how the age brackets of Cranberry are distributed.



**Median Family Income:** This median family income in Cranberry is \$113,157 - well above the national average of \$78,500. This map shows how these families are distributed.



**Families Below Poverty Level:** Only 3.7% of Cranberry's population lives below the poverty level, indicating a thriving, industrious community.





## Location and Education

### *Transportation*

Cranberry is a hub of transportation routes:

- US 19 – US Route 19 begins at the border of Pennsylvania and West Virginia and extends to Erie, Pennsylvania.
- PA 228 – Pennsylvania Route 228 begins in Buffalo Township and extends until Cranberry where it meets US 19.
- I 79 – Interstate 79 is an Interstate Highway through West Virginia and Pennsylvania.
- The Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76) connects Eastern Pennsylvania to Western Pennsylvania.

### *Education*

#### **Seneca Valley School District**

The Seneca Valley School District (SVSD) covers 100 square miles in Southern Butler County with approximately 7,225 students. The public school district includes the townships of Cranberry, Jackson, Forward, and Lancaster and the boroughs of Evans City, Harmony, Seven Fields, and Zelienople. Nine schools make up the district including four Elementary Schools, one Intermediate School, three Middle Schools, and one Senior High School. It also provides a Cyber school option.



The SVSD takes pride in its outstanding sports and athletic programs. Sports can teach children important life skills such as teamwork and discipline. They also provide children with social and health benefits. SVSD aspires to give athletic opportunities to all students by providing a wide-range of sports activities. These include:

- **Fall Sports:** Football (Var/JV/JH/MS), Boys and Girls Soccer (Var/JV/JH/MS), Boys and Girls Cross Country (Var/JV/MS), Girls Tennis (Var/JV), Boys and Girls Golf (Var/JV), Girls Volleyball (Var/JV/MS)
- **Winter Sports:** Boys and Girls Basketball (Var/JV/JH/MS), Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving (Var), Co-ed Wrestling (Var/JH)
- **Spring Sports:** Boys Tennis (Var), Softball (Var/JV/MS), Baseball (Var/JV/JH), Co-ed Track and Field (Var/9th Grade/MS), Boys Volleyball (Var/JV/MS), Girls Lacrosse (Var/JV), Cheerleading (Girls Var/JV/MS), Girls Dance Team
- **Youth Sports Clubs:** Ultimate Frisbee, Boys Lacrosse (Var/JV), Ice Hockey (Var), In-Line Hockey, Indoor Track, Softball Slow Pitch, Bowling, Competitive Cheerleading and Unified Bocce

## North Catholic High School

North Catholic High School serves children in the high school grades (9th through 12th). Along with college-prep academics, it has a thriving athletic program, including over twenty sports:

- **Fall Sports:** Boys and Girls Cross Country, Football, Boys Golf, Boys and Girls Soccer, Girls Cheerleading and Dance Team, Girls Tennis, and Girls Volleyball
- **Winter Sports:** Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys Ice Hockey, Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving, and Boys Wrestling
- **Spring Sports:** Baseball, Boys and Girls Crew, Boys and Girls Lacrosse, Boys and Girls Track and Field, Boys Tennis, Boys Volleyball, and Softball



## Saint Kilian Parish School

St. Kilian Catholic School is the largest Catholic primary school in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, serving children from ages 3 through 8th grade. It provides various athletics for its students including basketball, cheerleading, cross country, soccer, track and field, football, and volleyball.

## Butler County Community College

Butler County Community College (BC3) provides opportunities for the community to enrich their lives including life-long learning classes such as adult literacy, computer and technology, culinary arts, fine arts and crafts, personal development, and yoga, pilates, and fitness. Its Cranberry's campus is located on Executive Drive.

# Community Parks & Recreation Facilities

Cranberry Township has a thriving parks and recreation department with activities, clubs, and sports for all ages. It is also the home of four community parks, various neighborhood parks, a golf course, waterpark and municipal center.

## Community Parks

Cranberry Township is the home of three community parks:

- **Community Park** - 95 acres
- **UPMC Passvant Sports Complex at Graham Park** - 170 acres
- **North Boundary Park** - 133 acres
- **Powell Farm** - 71 acres

The features of each of these parks are discussed in detail in Chapter 2.

## Other Facilities

Cranberry Township also maintains three other assets contributing to its recreation opportunities:

- **Cranberry Township Municipal Building**
- **Cranberry Township Waterpark**, located in North Boundary Park
- **Cranberry Highlands Golf Course**

The programs and activities that are held within the municipal building and the Waterpark are reviewed in Chapter 2. For purposes of this Plan, the Highlands Golf Course and its programs are not included.

## Neighborhood Parks

Cranberry also has multiple neighborhood open spaces. These include:

- **Autumn Hill** (Autumn Hill Drive)
- **Freedoms Wood** (Brandywine Drive)
- **Woodlands** (Hummingbird Hill)
- **Creekwood Commons** (Woodhollow Drive)
- **Ehrman Farms** (Gate Dancer Drive)
- **Fox Run** (Deerfield Drive)



# Natural Features & Historical Sites

## ***Natural Features***

Located in the rolling hills of western Pennsylvania, Cranberry Township has grown rapidly into a vibrant community. Natural resources and open space remain in the Northwest corner of the Township.

Future development throughout the Township should continue to establish a green space network and engage people in land and resource conservation initiatives.

## ***Historic Points of Interest***

The Cranberry Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Cranberry. It hosts programs and is always interested in old pictures, items, and stories from Cranberry's history.

### **Powell Farm**

Historically, Cranberry was a farming community. One of the last working farms in the area, Powell Farm, was gifted to the Township in 2023 with the requirement that it remain agricultural. Cranberry plans to preserve the property a passive park and agricultural education center.

### **Sample Schoolhouse**

This one-room schoolhouse, located near the Municipal Building on Rochester Road, was one of the six schoolhouses that once served the Cranberry community. One can step back in time and sit at one of the old desks as a docent from the historical society tells of what school would have been in the 19th Century. The schoolhouse is open during the summer months and for special tours.

## ***Cranberry: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow***

Cranberry Township is a bustling, growing, suburban community with immense opportunity. It has a track record of wanting to provide a safe and high quality of life for people of all ages and demographics. The following chapters evaluate, consider, and envision how Parks and Recreation can continue to expand with the growth of the Community.







# Chapter 2 Inventory & Analysis

## Recreation Assets

This Plan identifies opportunities to achieve a better match between provided facilities and programming. It also focuses on the needs and preferences of the current and future population. The Township's current assets have been inventoried and analyzed in order to establish a baseline of current offerings. Information has been gathered to show how these resources are managed, maintained, operated, and funded. This information was then compared to established benchmarks and similar municipalities in order to determine how Cranberry is doing compared to its peers and which direction it should head as it plans for the future.

This inventory and analysis includes:

1. Parks, Facilities, Trails, and Open Space
2. Township Recreation Programs and Events
3. Area Recreation Opportunities
4. Township's Parks and Recreation Finances
5. Parks and Recreation Administration and Personnel

## Inventory of Parks, Facilities, Trails & Open Space

Cranberry Township is the home of three community parks\*:

Community Park



Graham Park



North Boundary Park



\* The Municipal Center and Waterpark were also reviewed in light of the programs and events each one hosts. For purposes of this Plan, the Highlands Golf Course was not reviewed.



# Community Park

**Location:** 111 Ernie Mashuda Dr.

**Area:** 95 acres

**Community Park** is the oldest and one of the most popular parks not only with the residents of Cranberry but also with visitors from other communities. It is probably most known for its colorful "Kid's Castle" Playground with sections representing Cranberry's past, present, and future. This playground has been a community project from its initial design and construction in 2014 to its refresh in 2023. Children of all ages enjoy playing and imagining among its creative features.

In addition to the playground, Community Park is the home of the Rotary Amphitheater which hosts concerts and movies in the Park during the summer months. It also hosts the annual three-day Cranberry Township Community Chest (CTCC) Community Day Event each summer. For those who are athletically (or dream of being athletically) inclined the park includes sand volleyball, baseball/softball fields, a multi-purpose field for football/lacrosse, a basketball court, and four lighted tennis courts.

A half mile nature trail allows people of all ages to enjoy the beauty of the park and explore the nature around them during any season. The small creek is

# ark



always an attraction for children!

The Rotary Dog Park is located within Community Park. It provides dog-owners a place to let their four-legged friends run off-leash. It has spaces for both small and large dogs, water fountains for dogs and their owners, and a clean-up bag dispenser. Within the park itself, leashed dogs are permitted on the Nature Trail and other designated areas and are welcome to attend concerts and movies at the Amphitheater.

Community Park also offers a Little Free Library, picnic shelters, and restrooms.

- Uniting Playground
- Auxillary playgrounds (2)
- Tennis Courts (5)
- Horseshoes (2)
- Baseball Fields (5)
- Batting cages (2)
- Basketball Court
- Soccer Fields (2)
- Sand volleyball (2)
- Nature Trail
- Dog Parks (2)
- Shelters (4)
- Support buildings/restrooms (4)
- Parking lots (6)
- Amphitheater



## Community Park Thoughts

Community Park is the home of "Community Days". It is hosted by Cranberry Township Community Chest (CTCC) and is the largest fundraising event of the year. The three-day event provides a family fun destination where people from the region love spending time. It consists of a 5K Race, concerts, over 200 vendors, a carnival, and beer garden. All proceeds from the event are utilized for future park projects.

Future development in this park must consider parking and Community Day program criteria related to this essential event.

It is a priority of the Township to provide high quality, not necessary quantity, facilities. The vision conceptualized during the discussions built around this approach.

A conceptual master plan and cost estimates for Community Park were developed during this planning process, exploring the highest, best use and resulting in facility improvement recommendations. The recommendations are described in more detail based on all input in Chapter 4.



Community Park				
Facility	Condition	Lights	Accessibility	Notes
Baseball Field #1	Good	Poor	No	Dugout upgrades, replace lights with LED
Baseball Field #2	Good	Poor	No	Dugout upgrades, replace lights with LED
Baseball Field #3	Good	Poor	No	Dugout upgrades, replace lights with LED
Baseball Field #4	Good	Poor	No	Dugout upgrades, replace lights with LED
Baseball Field #5	Good	Poor	No	Dugout upgrades, replace lights with LED, relocation of grandstand bleachers, remove football scoreboard
Basketball, multi-court	Fair	Poor	Yes	Plastic surfacing cracking from gravel, no ADA parking
Batting cage #1	Fair	No	No	Area is overgrown and nets are broken/drooping
Batting cage #2	Fair	No	No	Area is overgrown and nets are broken/drooping
Dog park - new	New	No	Yes	Consider second entrance to prevent wear at existing entrance
Rotary Shelter	Fair	Yes	No	Consider installation of gutters, grills, water fountains and signage
Lions Shelter	Fair	Yes	No	Consider installation of gutters, grills, water fountains and signage
Jaycee Shelter	Fair	Yes	No	Consider installation of gutters, grills, water fountains and signage
Raider Pride Shelter	Good	Yes	No	Consider installation of gutters, grills, water fountains and signage
Kids Castle Playground	Good	No	Yes	Additional shade should be considered, Playground Inspection located in Appendix
Playground #2 - near Rotary	Good	No	No	Remove bouncer, possible future nature play area, Playground Inspection located in Appendix
Playground #3 - above Field 5	Fair	No	No	Replace existing equipment, Playground Inspection located in Appendix
Soccer #6	Good	No	No	To be relocated through DCNR Grant Funding
Soccer #7	Good	No	No	To be relocated through DCNR Grant Funding
Amphitheater	Good	Yes	Yes	Develop accessible parking and seating area
Tennis, 5-court	Good	Yes	No	Resurface
Volleyball, sand #1	Good	No	No	Consider relocation
Volleyball, sand #2	Good	No	No	Consider relocation
Support building #1 (restrooms, concessions)	Good	Yes	Yes	Football and cheerleading storage
Support building #2 (restrooms, storage)	Fair	Yes	No	Baseball Storage, possible removal to expand parking
Parking Lot #1 - near Lions	Fair	No	No	Gravel, unlined, no ADA parking, trees located in parking area, consider realignment
Parking Lot #2 - near Jaycee	Fair	No	No	Gravel, unlined, no ADA parking, consider realignment
Parking Lot #3 - Main	Good	Yes	No	Paved, ADA parking
Parking Lot #4 - Dog Park	Good	No	Yes	Gravel lot with paved ADA parking
Parking Lot #5 - Older Dog Park	Good	No	Yes	Dog park to be removed in future
Parking Lot #6 - Basketball	Fair	No	No	Consider redesign of entire court area to include accessibility to Amphitheater
Trails	Good	No	Yes	Improve Wayfinding, stormwater drainage and general maintenance





# Graham Park

**Location:** 260 Graham Park Dr.

**Area:** 170 acres

**UPMC Passavant Sportsplex at Graham Park** is the place to be if sports are your thing. It is the home of soccer fields, football fields, baseball fields, and lacrosse fields. Its SportsCourt includes horseshoes, basketball, tennis courts, and the very popular pickleball courts which are managed and maintained by the Cranberry Township Pickleball Association (CTPA). There are fitness stations, a Dek Hockey rink, and the Miracle League Field which is designed to accommodate children with various accessibility needs as "every child deserves a chance to play baseball".

Designed to resemble a baseball field with many baseball icons, the Pirates Charities "Out of the Park" playground is popular among families. What child doesn't want to play on a pirate ship and imagine themselves the terror of the seas?

The park is popular with walkers, runners, and bicyclists with several loops and a bike repair station. There are picnic tables, restrooms, and a Little Free library. The one-acre pond is stocked with bass and bluegill and is open for all residents and visitors to fish and enjoy. The Community Garden is supported by the Southern Butler Community Garden Club which supports many gardening efforts throughout the Southern Butler County area.

Within the roundabout are chain saw carved figures memorializing the Seneca Native American tribe that once lived in the area. The Scout Centennial Plaza marks 100 years of Scouting in



America. It includes a monument containing three graphic panels illustrating the cycle of Scouts. The plaza and adjacent three-acres, reserved as an environmental area, are sites where Boys and Girls Scouts can meet, plan, and carry out community service activities.

- Out of the Park Playground
- Baseball Fields (5)
- Baseball Miracle League Field
- Batting cages (2)
- Basketball Courts (2)
- Soccer Fields (4)
- Football Fields (3)
- Pickleball Courts (19)
- Tennis Courts (2)
- Dek Hockey
- Fitness Stations (3)
- Brush Creek Trail
- Picnic Areas (3)
- Community Garden
- Fishing Pond
- Maintenance Facility
- Restrooms/Shelter/Storage (3)
- Parking Lots (5)

## UPMC Passavant Sportsplex at Graham Park Thoughts

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in America. Its popularity comes from its versatility. For although a majority of players range from 18 to 34 years of age, the sport is also very popular among older adults. Smaller courts allow for less area to cover, which equates less running, sprinting, and jumping. It is also an easy game to learn with simple rules, but it can develop into a quick, fast-paced game for those who are more competitive.

Graham Park is the home of Cranberry's thirteen pickleball courts and six new courts under an all-weather dome. The pickleball courts were built and are maintained by the Cranberry Township Pickleball Association (CTPA). Per agreement with the Township, the CTPA charges membership fees for use of the courts. Open court time is limited and at the discretion of the CTPA.

The CTPA offers classes in pickleball once a month for those interested in learning. Members may reserve courts for playing time with friends. The CTPA also offers various levels and types of games as well as tournaments.

As pickleball continues to grow, the Township should continue to review its agreement with the CTPA to ensure it best benefits the community.

## Key Pickleball Stats for 2023



**36.5 million**

Number of pickleball players in the US



**158.6%**

Pickleball's average growth rate over the last 3 years



**18-34**

Largest age bracket of pickleball players (28.8% of total)



**10,320**

Number of places to play pickleball in the US



**\$152.8 million**

Pickleball paddle market size in 2021



**7.7%**

Forecasted compound annual growth rate through 2028



## UPMC Passavant Sportsplex at Graham Park

Facility	Condition	Lights	Accessibility	Notes
Baseball Field #H	Good	Yes	No	Possible turf field opportunity in this complex
Baseball Field #I	Good	Yes	No	Possible turf field opportunity in this complex
Baseball Field #J	Good	Yes	No	Possible turf field opportunity in this complex
Baseball Field #K	Good	Yes	No	Possible turf field opportunity in this complex
Baseball Field #L	Good	Yes	No	Possible turf field opportunity in this complex
Baseball Field #M - Miralce	Good	Yes	Yes	Repair outfield fencing and gate
Basketball, 2 courts	New	No	Yes	Constructed in Fall 2023, consider installing lights
Batting cage #1	Good	No	No	
Batting cage #2	Good	No	No	
Bocce Courts	Good	Yes	Yes	Removed 2023
Bush Creek Trail	Good	No	No	Signage, wayfinding, interpretive signage; 1.7 miles
Dek Hockey	Good	Yes	Yes	Replace scoreboard, repair fencing
Fitness Station #1	Poor	No	Yes	Consider inclusion of shade, develop routine inspection schedule
Fitness Station #2	Poor	No	Yes	Consider inclusion of shade, develop routine inspection schedule
Fitness Station #3	Poor	No	Yes	Consider inclusion of shade, develop routine inspection schedule
Fishing Pond	Good	Yes	Yes	Environmental education programming opportunity
Football/Lacrosse #A	Good	Yes	Yes	Possible turf field opportunity in the complex
Football/Lacrosse #B	Good	Yes	Yes	Possible turf field opportunity in the complex
Football/Lacrosse #C	Good	Yes	Yes	Possible turf field opportunity in the complex
Community Garden	Good	No	No	Consider nature programming opportunities
Horseshoes, 4 courts	Good	No	No	Consider reuse of area
Maintenance Facility	Good	Yes	Yes	Consider expansion
Parking Lot #1	Good	Yes	Yes	Replace grass islands with stones to decrease maintenance
Parking Lot #2	Good	Yes	Yes	Replace grass islands with stones to decrease maintenance
Parking Lot #3	Good	Yes	Yes	Replace grass islands with stones to decrease maintenance
Parking Lot #4	Good	Yes	Yes	Replace grass islands with stones to decrease maintenance
Parking Lot #5	Good	Yes	Yes	Replace grass islands with stones to decrease maintenance
Pickleball, 13 courts	Good	No	Yes	Heated dome installed Fall 2023
Pickleball, 6 courts	Good	Yes	Yes	Constructed in Fall 2023, heated dome
Picnic Area #1	Fair	Yes	No	Consider installation of gutters to prevent water damage and erosion
Picnic Area #2	Fair	Yes	No	Consider installation of gutters to prevent water damage and erosion
Picnic Area #3	Fair	Yes	No	Consider installation of gutters to prevent water damage and erosion
Miracle League Playground	Good	No	Yes	See playground inspections in Appendix
Restrooms, baseball	Good	Yes	Yes	
Shelter, baseball	Good	Yes	Yes	Consider installation of gutters to prevent water damage and erosion.
Storage, Miracle Field	Fair	Yes	Yes	Concrete has settled near storage entrance, resurface area
Soccer #D	Good	Yes	No	Possible turf field opportunity in this complex
Soccer #E	Good	Yes	No	Possible turf field opportunity in this complex
Soccer #F	Good	Yes	No	Possible turf field opportunity in this complex
Soccer #G	Good	Yes	No	Possible turf field opportunity in this complex
Tennis, 2 courts	Good	Yes	Yes	Constructed 2023



# North Boundary



**Park Location:** 1171 North Boundary Rd.

**Waterpark Location:** 450 North Boundary Rd.

**Area:** 133 acres

**North Boundary Park** is the place to be on a hot, summer day and is home to the community Waterpark. The Waterpark includes two wading pools, a splash pad, bathhouse, concessions, sand volleyball, and a sand pit. Both daily passes and annual memberships are available during the pool season. The pool also offers swimming lessons and special events like Christmas in July, Puppy Plunge, Noodle Nights, and Totally Tubular Tuesday Night Swims.

The park also includes sports opportunities: soccer fields and the American Legion baseball field. There are two walking trails, a nature trail and bike/walking trail, as well as picnic shelters and a gaga ball pit.

Crocodile Cove Playground is Cranberry's newest play area and incorporates the crocodile theme and mascot from the Waterpark. It gives children the opportunity to play in the "swamps" with crocodiles, a boat, and stumps to jump across.

The 18-hole Championship Disc Golf course is located on the 30-acre western



# ry Park

portion of the park. It is very popular among disc golfers and is a beautiful course to play with a challenging terrain. Each hole has three different concrete tee pads which allows for those of every level to play. It also includes a 6-hole Learn-to-Play recreation course. The nature trail which traverses the Disc Golf course is a beautiful place to walk and enjoy the outdoors during the changing seasons. It can also be enjoyed by on-leash dogs.

- Community Pool
  - Main and Wade Pools
  - Splash Pad
  - Bathhouse
  - Concessions
  - Party Decks (2)
  - Shade Structures (14)
  - Sand Volleyball
  - Sand Play Area
- Crocodile Cove Playground
- Veterans Baseball Field
- Veterans Memorial
- Fitness Station
- Soccer Fields (3)
- Shelters (3)
- Walking Paths (3)
- Gaga Pit
- Meadow
- Championship Disc Golf Course
- Parking Lots (6)

## North Boundary Park Thoughts

The Waterpark located within North Boundary Park is a very popular, high quality facility for the residents and non-residents in the area. As with all outdoor amenities in Pennsylvania's climate, upkeep and maintenance is challenging but a priority.

Future enhancements at the Waterpark include:

- (2024) Refurbishing the existing slide: \$45,000
- (2024) New Vacuum: \$1,000
- (2024) Upgrades to the concession equipment: \$6,000
- (2024) New Splashpad \$400,000
- (2024) Shade Structure for new splashpad \$97,000

Public engagement efforts show there is a desire for indoor water facilities in the area. Indoor aquatics is not only utilized for recreation and relaxation but also for physical therapy. Although there are multiple indoor aquatic facilities in the region such as the Seneca Valley Aquatic Center, Rose Schneider YMCA, and Big Blue Swim School, the use of these facilities are fully maximized.

Heather Lewis, Seneca Valley Athletic Director shared, "The Seneca Valley Aquatic Center is maximized by teachers during the instructional day, by coaches during after-school activities, and by the community in programmatic efforts for all residents." Use of this facility by the community is very limited due to school activities. The Rose Schneider Family YMCA has a robust membership which limits the capacity for additional community aquatic use. The Big Blue Swim School's main objective is geared toward swimming lessons for children.

Should the Township wish to provide indoor aquatics to the community at-large, building a facility of their own is the direction that could be considered. This has been discussed as a possibility when building a Community Center in Chapter 4 and the Appendix.



## North Boundary Park

Facility	Condition	Lights	Accessibility	Notes
Veterans Field	Good	No	No	Utilized by Adult League, consider repurposing
Fitness Station	Poor	No	Yes	Consider shade structure, develop routine inspection schedule
Parking Lot #1	Good	Yes	Yes	Ramps from accessible parking to sidewalk should be evaluated and possibly replaced
Parking Lot #2	Good	No	Yes	Ramps from accessible parking to sidewalk should be evaluated and possibly replaced
Parking Lot #3	Good	No	Yes	Ramps from accessible parking to sidewalk should be evaluated and possibly replaced
Parking Lot #4	Good	Yes	Yes	Ramps from accessible parking to sidewalk should be evaluated and possibly replaced
Parking Lot #5	Good	Yes	Yes	Ramps from accessible parking to sidewalk should be evaluated and possibly replaced
Parking Lot #6	Good	Yes	Yes	Ramps from accessible parking to sidewalk should be evaluated and possibly replaced
Penn Power Shelter	Good	Yes	Yes	Consider the addition of accessible picnic tables
Dan Baker Shelter	Good	Yes	Yes	Consider the addition of accessible picnic tables
North Boundary Shelter	New	Yes	Yes	Consider the addition of accessible picnic tables
Veterans Memorial	Good	No	Yes	Consider the addition of accessible picnic tables
Crocodile Cove Playground	Good	No	Yes	See Playground Inspection in Appendix.
Pool	Good	Yes	Ye	Develop Feasibility Study for future upgrades and expansion
- Pool, main	Good	Yes	Yes	
- Pool, wade	Good	Yes	Yes	
- Splash pad	Good	Yes	Yes	
- Bathhouse	Good	Yes	Yes	
- Concessions	Good	Yes	Yes	
- Party space, 2	Good	Yes	No	
- Shade structures, 14	Good	Yes		
- Volleyball, sand	Good		No	
- Sand Play Area				Remove in 2024, replace with toddler spray area
Restrooms, soccer field	Good	Yes	Yes	
Restrooms, baseball field	Good	Yes	Yes	Repair stormwater damge
Soccer #1 - James Wolfe	Good	Yes	No	Evaluate accessible routes
Soccer #2 - Giant Eagle	Good	Yes	No	Evaluate accessible routes
Soccer #3 - Rodgers	Good	Yes	No	Evaluate accessible routes
Walking Path, Next Tier	Good	No	Yes	Plant additional trees for shade
Walking Path, wetlands - Skip Gross	Good	No	No	
Walking Path, natural areas/ Disc Golf	Good	No	No	Repair washout areas
Championship Disc Golf Course	Good	No	Yes	Provide accessibility in Learn to Play Area



# Municipal Center

**Location:** 2525 Rochester Rd.

**Area:** 6 acres

**The Municipal Center of Cranberry Township** is the focal point of the Township and the location of Cranberry's iconic clock tower.

Originally built in 1991, today the space has been expanded to encompass nearly 180,000 square feet. It houses the Township offices, Cranberry Public Library (and Forge Makerspace), Cranberry Township Police Department, Cranberry Township Early Learning Center, the Historical Society, and the Parks and Recreation Department's gym and workout spaces. There are also meeting rooms and even tenants such as the Butler County Chamber of Commerce and offices for the District 12 State Representative.

The Center hosts major community events throughout the year including CranFest, Light Up Night, and Santa's First Stop. The Parks and Recreation Department keeps the building hopping with basketball for all ages, exercise classes, dance classes, E-sports, other workshops, and much more. The library is a popular place for borrowing books, movies, and music as well as participating in reading clubs, makerspace projects, and computer classes.



Outside the Center is the Sample Schoolhouse, the Sunrise Rotary Gazebo, an outdoor garden, and a cardboard compactor residents may use. It also hosts the Farmer's Market each Friday from June through September.

The 2024 Cranberry Township Community Chest project of the year is the Municipal's Center Great Lawn which will replace the front parking lot.

- Township Offices
- Departmental Offices
- Gym
- Workout rooms
- Preschool
- Library
- Makerspace
- Meeting Rooms
- Gazebo
- Sample Schoolhouse
- Parking lots (2)
- Other offices



## Community Space Thoughts

The Municipal Center has been the home of the Township's government for over 30 years and has gone through many renovations during that time. Most recently its Great Lawn has been the 2023-2024 Cranberry Township Community Chest's project of the year. The construction and expansion will give the Great Lawn green gathering spaces, safe pedestrian connections, and a face lift and upgrades to the building itself. This will give the community a beautiful, functional gathering space for its Farmer's Market, many community events, and simply a place to sit and sip coffee with friends.

The Great Lawn project will provide Cranberry with a valuable area of functional open space, but discussions on the space *inside* the Center continue. The Parks and Recreation Department makes full use of the gymnasium, workout spaces, and classrooms for its many programs throughout the year which hundreds of people of all ages participate in. The growing consensus is a Community Center dedicated to recreation programs for Cranberry's residents would be a considerable asset.

## What is the Vision for the Potential New Space?

The need for additional indoor recreation facilities was identified in the 2012 Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan, has been discussed often, and was revisited during the development of this Plan.

The Municipal Center is currently being renovated to better serve the community. However, the renovation does not include additional indoor recreation space. Current recreation components of the center are staff offices, a full size gymnasium, exercise room, and three multi-use rooms. Often the Council Chambers meeting room is utilized for additional programming and meeting space. The existing spaces are also available for rent from outside



groups such as the Senior Group, 55+ Club, and Homeowner Association meetings. Often the rooms are not available for additional recreation programming opportunities due to the demand. There is also a desire for another gymnasium as there is no open time available.

Through the planning process the Study Committee has discussed the possibility of a dedicated Community Center with a possible indoor water component. Research and data collection was undertaken during this process related to local and national Community Centers data. This information can be found in Chapter 4 and the Appendix. Should the Township see the need for a larger space, it is recommended that a Community Center Feasibility Study be conducted to gain a better understanding of the appropriate amenities, location, and associated costs. According to NRPA metrics, Cranberry Township's current population would likely be able to sustain and fund an indoor recreation facility.

# 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review: Park Facilities, Programming, Responsibilities & Staffing

Residents per Park & Acres of Parkland p...	Prevalence of Outdoor Facilities	Population per Outdoor Facility	Prevalence of Indoor Facilities & Population per Indoor Facility	Programming & Targeted Programs Offered by Agencies	Key Responsibilities & Miles of Trails	Number of FTEs & FTEs per 10,000 Resident
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Hover over & select a

## Indoor Park and Recreation Facilities — Prevalence and Population per Facility

	Jurisdiction Population					
	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	Over 250,000
Recreation centers (including gyms)	63%	47%	59%	74%	77%	68%
Community centers	59%	52%	57%	71%	60%	59%
Senior centers	41%	22%	42%	49%	51%	47%
Performance amphitheater	37%	16%	34%	46%	48%	52%
Nature centers	33%	11%	20%	30%	42%	73%
Aquatics centers	28%	16%	24%	38%	35%	37%
Stadiums	20%	13%	13%	21%	26%	31%
Teen centers	13%	7%	13%	17%	13%	16%
Indoor ice rink	12%	7%	11%	16%	13%	16%
Arena	8%	4%	5%	9%	11%	15%

	Jurisdiction Population					
	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	Over 250,000
Recreation centers (including gyms)	31,215	9,745	24,380	38,018	54,125	65,909
Community centers	29,494	8,829	26,696	53,331	54,354	109,710
Senior centers	59,727	14,000	31,199	67,139	123,882	294,394
Performance amphitheater	67,862	11,100	30,283	60,495	121,000	298,416
Nature centers	120,000	10,633	32,000	71,360	129,859	358,431
Aquatics centers	53,950	11,650	31,645	60,116	108,843	273,914
Stadiums	79,866	9,250	31,000	64,150	156,798	432,000
Teen centers	55,494	14,593	31,645	58,174	127,301	426,501
Indoor ice rink	53,224	8,000	24,838	53,224	102,132	395,699
Arena	79,828	5,531	24,626	68,208	104,774	578,231

[www.NRPA.org/APR](http://www.NRPA.org/APR)

\*Findings from the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review uses survey data gathered from 2020-2022 by NRPA Park Metrics.



# Powell Farm

**Location:** 9600 Goehring Rd.

**Area:** 71 acres

Like so many communities in the state of Pennsylvania, Cranberry was once a farming community. Rolling hills and green forests interspersed with fields, farmhouses, silos, and barns dotted the landscape. Today Cranberry is a suburban area with growing neighborhoods and expanding commercial corridors. And yet, the rolling green hills remain and open spaces of green are there to be conserved and enjoyed. One of those locations is Powell Farm.

The Powell family farmed their acreage on Goehring Road for decades. Following the death of Denton Powell in 2021, the land was gifted to Cranberry with the requirement that the land would remain passive with a focus on the history of agriculture. The desire is to create a place where families and children on field trips can learn about both the history and current practices of farming.

In October 2023, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors established an Ad-Hoc Powell Farm Advisory Committee. The committee consists of residents and individuals who will recommend programs and operational strategies. These strategies will



be presented to the Board which will begin the process of implementing them in order to create both an oasis for residents and visitors to enjoy for generations to come.

- Farmhouse
- Outbuildings (5)
- Silos (6)
- Pond
- Rolling fields

## Cranberry's Vision for Powell Farm

A carefully thought out 5-point vision has been created for the future of Powell Farm:

- Education: Via the Powell Farm, students of all ages will be able to get hands-on experience at a working farmstead, see where food comes from, gain an understanding of the area's history, and learn about potential careers.
- Farm to Table: While from the outside it would not seem that food scarcity is a problem in Cranberry Township, almost 4 percent of families in the community live below the poverty line. By working with charitable organizations, the community can come together to put food on the tables of anyone who may need assistance.
- Community Farming: At the Powell Farm, members of the community will have the opportunity to participate in the production of local produce and potentially grow their own crops.
- Environmental Conservation and Preservation: While the Powell Farm presents endless possibilities, the main goal is and will remain preservation. It is another opportunity to build upon the groundwork set by the Township over the past 30 years focused on maintaining and expanding efforts to create an environmentally conscience community.
- Passive Recreation: As a passive recreation area, Powell Farm will offer plenty of places to simply exist in nature and experience the calm, quiet countryside.

As the Advisory Board works to create a plan on how this amazing place can benefit the community, the parks and recreation department should explore how it can help. Further suggestions are given in Chapter 4.



## Connectivity

As a suburb that saw little growth in its early years, Cranberry developed as a car-based community with little bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Today, more residents are noticing the absence of walking and biking routes. This awareness of gaps in "connectivity" is occurring amidst a rising preference for non-motorized transportation modes and a search for healthy lifestyles, making it an issue in the Cranberry Plan 2009 led to creating the Bicyclist and Pedestrian Connections Plan in 2011. The Cranberry Plan Update 2016 states:

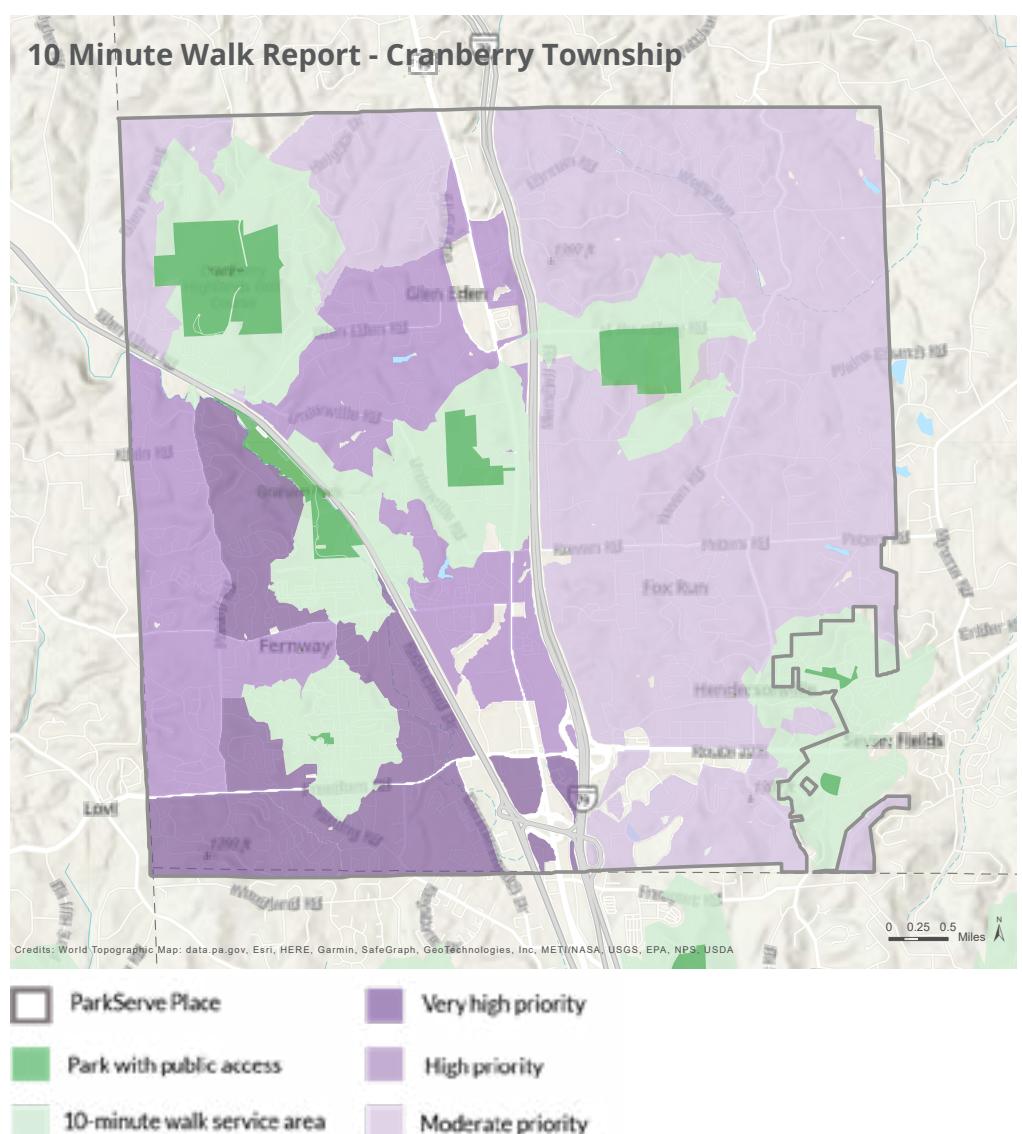
**Vision** - Cranberry Township will improve connectivity and mobility to become a community with a grid network of interconnected streets, sidewalks, and trails; and will connect and expand local pedestrian and street networks to access key north/south and east/west transportation corridors.

## The Trust for Public Land: 10-Minute Walk and Equitable Resources

**Mission:** Everyone in U.S. Cities should have access to a quality park within a 10-minute walk of their home. We call on mayors to accelerate the creation of parks that drive equitable, healthy, and thriving communities.

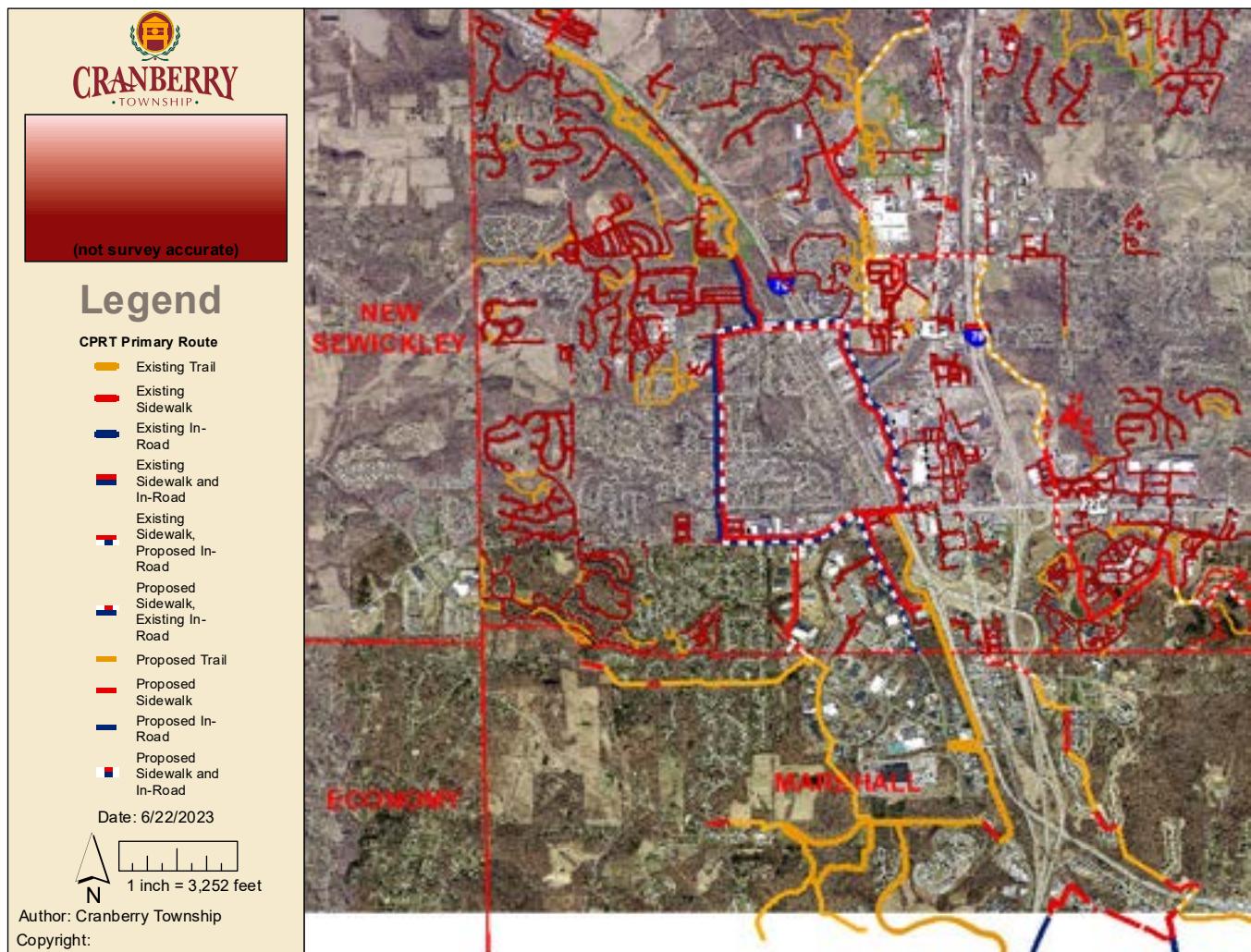
The Trust for Public Land 10-Minute Walk program, [www.10minutewalk.org](http://www.10minutewalk.org), works with partners to prioritize park equity. Launched in 2017, they are an award-winning national effort to improve safe and easy access to parks and green spaces.

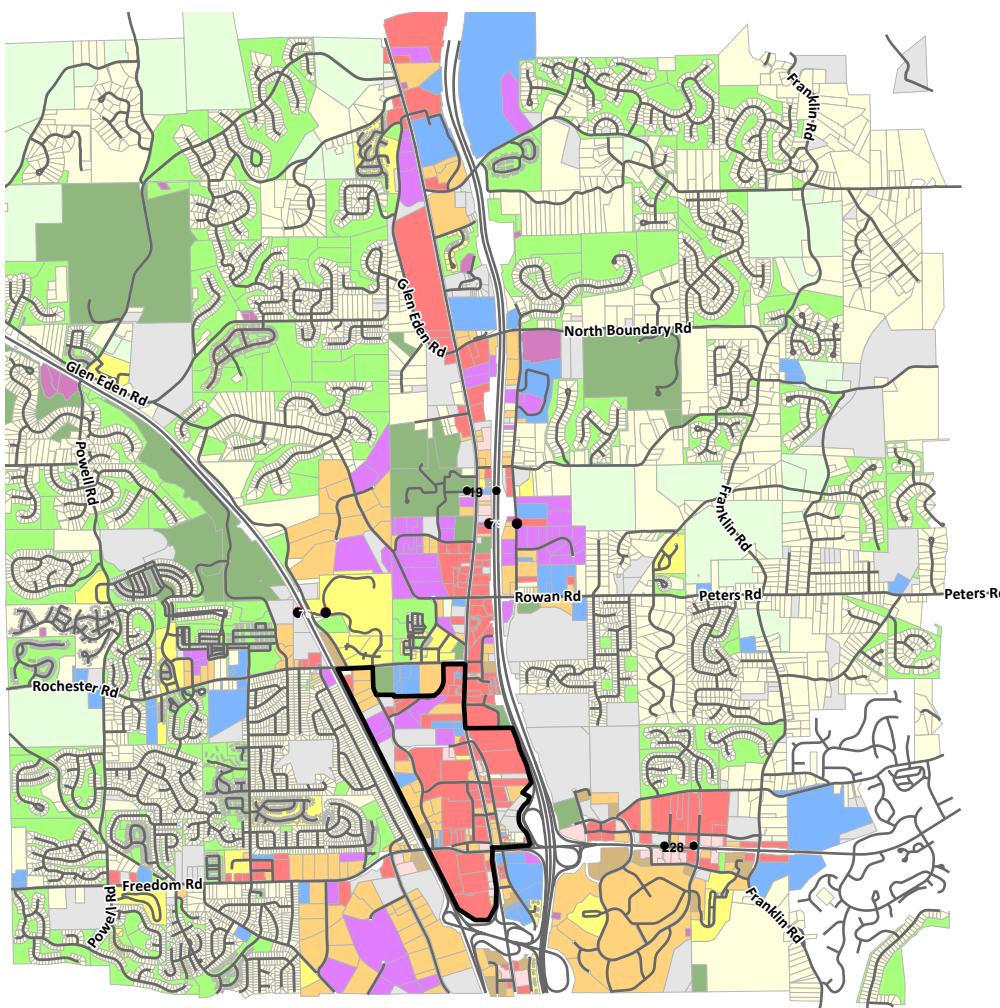
According to the TPL data, 19% of community members have a 10-minute walk to an existing park. Very high and high priorities identified by TPL are located in the Southwest corner of the Township. The Township has initiated connections in this area including Haine School Road, Robinhood Drive and Rochester Road providing access to UPMC Sports Complex.



## Connectivity and Trails

1. Continue to utilize the Trust for Public Lands 10-minute walk data to prioritize connections to existing and future parks. Reach out to potential partners for inclusive pedestrian, cycling and trail connections to serve very high and high priority areas of the Township. The map below outlines completed and proposed trails, sidewalks, and in-road connections. It is recommended the Township prioritize the future projects in the very high and high priority areas identified by the TPL 10-Minute Walk data.
2. Implement a network of walking and biking routes in the Township by funding and building connections to existing and future parks and open space.
3. Develop practical tools related to an active transportation network including seeking funding sources and partners to implement projects.
4. Create design standards and implement a signage and amenities plan in support of trail use across the Township.





## Cranberry Township Land Use

Legend	
Commercial Core	
Streets	
Land Use	
Single Family Residential	
Multi-Family Residential	
Hotel/Motel	
Commercial	
Restaurant	
Office	
Institutional	
Industrial/Warehouse	
Public Utilities	
Active Farming	
Park/Active Recreation	
Open Space/Passive Recreation	
Vacant Land	

Cranberry Township  
Butler County  
January 29th, 2020

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP built for you.

## Greenways and Open Space

Cranberry is the home of 2,686 acres of open space. As seen on the Open Space Map below, vast areas of open space are left surrounding the neighborhoods of Cranberry. Together, this space totals 2,008 acres. Another 678 acres of public open space can be found within the Township. These parcels offer opportunity to develop additional connections. Greenways create pathways that connect communities, neighborhoods, and urban centers. They provide safe and accessible routes for walking, jogging, biking, and other forms of active transportation, reducing reliance on cars and promoting healthier lifestyles. These pathways also facilitate social interactions, fostering a sense of community and belonging among residents.



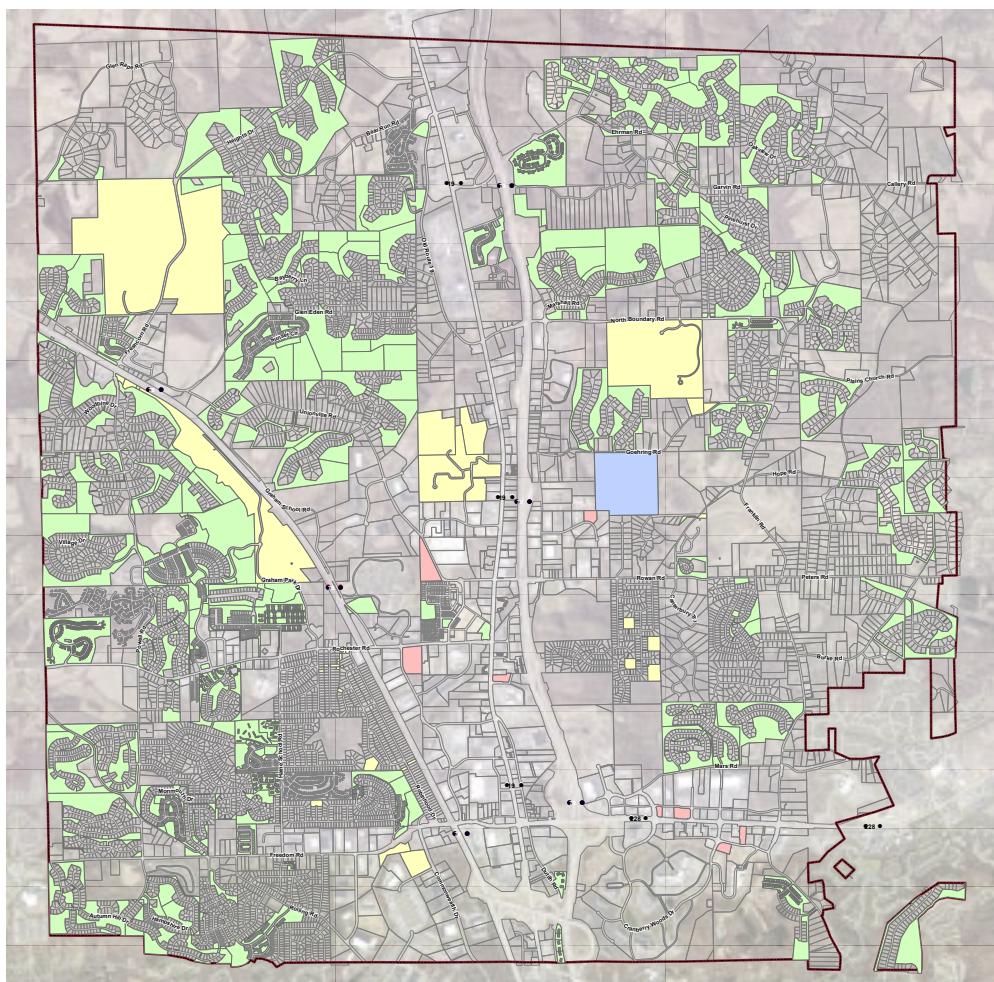
## Open Space

### Legend

OpenSpaceType
Agriculture Security Area 70.76 ac
Non Residential/Stormwater 31.65 ac
Public 678.18 ac
Residential 2,007.98 ac
Parcels
Township Boundary

Updated July 29th 2021

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP built for you.



## Comparison of Cranberry Parks & Open Space to NRPA Metrics

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is a national, non-profit service organization dedicated to advancing parks, recreation, and environmental efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people and impact their health and wellness. NRPA works closely with national, state, and local recreation and park agencies, corporations and citizens' groups in carrying out its objectives. The NRPA has created a hierarchy of park types, as well as a set of acreage standards for different park types.

The findings from the **2023 National Recreation and Park Association Agency Performance Review** uses data from Park Metrics, NRPA's park and recreation agency performance benchmarking tool. This research indicates there is typically one park for every 2,287 residents in the United States. In 2023 the estimated population of Cranberry is 33,768. Utilizing this metric, Cranberry's population indicates fifteen parks would serve the community well.

2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review - Park Facilities				
Park Facility	Median # of Residents per Facility (20,000 - 49,999 range)	Existing	Recommended	Adequate/Deficient
Playgrounds	3,028	5	11	deficient
Basketball Courts	7,117	3	5	deficient
Pickleball Courts	9,257	16	4	adequate
Tennis Courts (outdoors)	5,815	7	6	adequate
Diamond Fields	13,473	14	3	adequate
Rectangular Fields: Soccer, Football, Lacrosse	12,773	9	3	adequate
Dog Park	28,000	1	1	adequate
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	25,191	1	1	adequate
Skate Park	32,000	0	1	deficient
Multi-purpose Synthetic Field	25,330	0	1	deficient
Aquatics Center	31,645	0	1	deficient
Nature Center	32,000	0	1	deficient
Community Center	26,696	1	1	adequate
10 Acres/1,000 Residents = 365 Acres				
Community Park - 95 acres				
UPMC Passavant Sportsplex at Graham Park - 170 acres				
North Boundary Park - 133 acres				
Municipal Center Park & Great Lawn - 6 acres				
Powell Farm - 71 acres				
Highlands Golf Course - 186 acres				
Total Park Acreage - 661 acres				
Total Public Open Space - 678 acres				
Total Residential Open Space- 2,008 acres				

NRPA data also indicates for every 1,000 residents there should be 10.8 acres of overall parkland. With a population of 33,768 the Township should be providing approximately 365 acres of parkland for its residents.

Cranberry Township is the home of three community parks, which encompass a total of 398 acres. The Municipal Center's complex and great lawn provide another 6 acres. The Highlands Golf Course, which is comprised of 186 acres, if included, then the acreage of Cranberry's parkland totals 537. Add to this the newly acquired Powell Farm (71 acres) and the total park acreage Cranberry Township offers is 661 acres. This is well above the national averages, even though the number of actual parks is below the average.

Parks are the keystone of a municipality's recreation functions and feature athletic fields and courts, playgrounds, open play areas, picnic pavilions, and other related amenities. Determining the appropriate acreage, type, and number of recreation facilities for a community is a function of analyzing a variety of data.

Each community has specific needs based on their individual necessities, demographics, and the various demands of their residents. As these families age, sports become vital and fields to accommodate those sports are necessary. What is important today should be re-evaluated in ten years to see how those trends have changed. The unique parks and recreation needs of any one community can change and should be considered when being compared with national metrics.

The Township's parks are large and combinations of many facilities within each park require many different types of work. Staffing levels, including programming, operations, and maintenance, need to be sufficient to assure proper maintenance. Proper staffing levels related to existing facilities should be addressed to provide quality parks and programs.

If the Township moves forward in developing additional park land the NRPA facility recommendation should be reviewed. These standards change based on new trends in the industry. They should then be compared to the needs of the Township itself.

For the purposes of this study, we have taken the level of service approach a step further to determine the needs in the community by:

## INFOGRAPHIC

### 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review Key Findings



- Interviewing representatives of various sports organizations; inventorying available fields and analyzing their specific usage; and projecting future growth potential in youth sports.
- Listening to residents as they expressed their desires at public meetings.
- Inventorying all recreation facilities in the Township and evaluating their condition.
- Questioning stakeholders about their views on parks and recreation facilities.

## ADA Compliance

Public facilities must comply with the 2010 American with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design. As the Township moves forward with redevelopment or new facilities, it is imperative that they are developed using the Standards for Accessible Design.

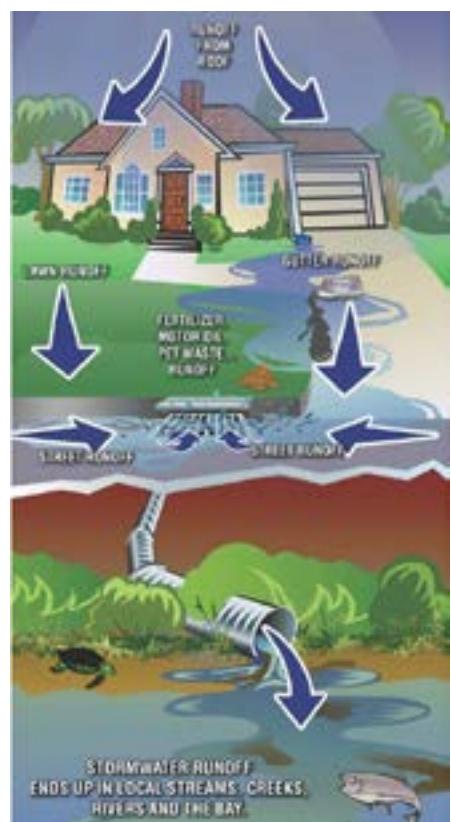
The 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design are available at the United States Department of Justice website at: <https://www.ada.gov/law-and-regs/design-standards/>

Playground components that are no longer compliant with the current ASTM F-1487 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use and ASTM F2223 Standard Guide for ASTM Standards on Playground Surfacing, as identified in the playground inspections included in the Appendix of this report, should be repaired based on the manufacturer recommendation, removed, or replaced with new equipment.

## Stormwater Management

Cranberry's current stormwater management system is extensive. All property owners are required to keep their stormwater facilities in working order at their own expense. Cranberry currently spends over a million dollars a year to maintain its portions of that system and update the system per state and federal regulations.

Cranberry's Pollution Reduction Plan (2017) addresses stormwater practices as well as MS4s. The Township, through the hard work of the Public Works Department, continues to keep up with the best practices on stormwater throughout Cranberry and within its parks.



# Township Recreation Programs and Events

Cranberry Township has a flourishing Parks and Recreation Department with an abundance of programming and events. A recreation guide is available online and mailed to residents in the community twice a year (spring/summer and fall/winter) containing the many recreation programs, classes, workshops, and events the Township offers. Registration for these events can be done online, by phone, or in person. The Parks and Recreation [website](#) is also kept up to date. Further information can be found on the Department's Facebook and Instagram pages.

## Spring/Summer Sports and Fitness Programming

Program	Ages	Location
Soccer	2 to 6 years	Municipal Center
Dek Hockey	4 to 17 years	UPMC at Graham Park
Field Hockey	5 to 13 years	Community Park
Basketball	5 to adults	Municipal Center
Tennis	5 to 18 years	Community Park
Barbell	14 to adults	Municipal Center
Yoga (various types)	14 to adults	Municipal Center
Fitness-Lite (+ Express)	14 to adults	Municipal Center
Pilates	16 to adults	Municipal Center
Barre	adults	Municipal Center
Volleyball	adults	Municipal Center
Pickleball	adults	UPMC at Graham Park
Cornhole	adults	Community Park

## Fall/Winter Sports and Fitness Programming

Program	Ages	Location
Soccer	2 to 6 years	Municipal Center
Tee Ball	3 to 6 years	Municipal Center
Dek Hockey	4 to 16 years	UPMC at Graham Park
Field Hockey	5 to 13 years	Community Park
Basketball	5 to adults	Municipal Center
Barbell	14 to adults	Municipal Center
Yoga (various types)	14 to adults	Municipal Center
Fitness-Lite (+ Express)	14 to adults	Municipal Center
Pilates	16 to adults	Municipal Center
Barre	adults	Municipal Center
Flag Football	adults	Community Park
Volleyball	adults	Municipal Center





## **Sports and Fitness**

Sports and Fitness programming is a big piece of the Township's recreation programming. The Township provides clinics, leagues, and classes for all ages during all seasons. Many of these are offered at the Municipal Center with other programs taking place at the parks.

## **Summer Camps**

"Camp Cranberry" is a very successful weekly, theme-focused day camp designed to challenge, entertain, and inspire! It is offered during the summer for children ages 3 to 15. There are half day options for the younger children and full day options for all ages. Extended care and meals are also offered. Filled with games, crafts, water fun, sports, and activities - no child will be bored! Some of the theme's include Jurassic Journey, Mad Science, Safari Week, Stars and Stripes, Wild West, Olympic Fun, Space Cadets, and Superheroes. For the older children classes in baby sitting, CPR, and job preparation techniques are offered.

## **Aquatics**

The Cranberry Waterpark is **the** place to be on a hot, summer day. Open from Memorial Day to Labor Day each year, it offers individual, family, and senior memberships as well as daily admissions. Several events are offered each summer including Totally Tubular Tuesday Night Swims, Noodle Nights, Military Appreciation Days, Christmas in July, and Puppy Plunge. Swimming lessons are offered for ages from six months (with parents) through age twelve. Private lessons are offered for all ages. American Red Cross Life guarding classes are offered for ages 15 and up, and Scuba diving lessons for ages 12 and up. The Waterpark can be rented for private parties, and the Party Shack and both decks can be rented in 2-hour time slots for parties.



## Early Learning Center

Cranberry Township offers several preschool options at their State Certified Early Learning Center, located at the Municipal Center. These programs include:

- Age 2½ Preschool - 1 day a week
- Age 3 Preschool - 2 days a week
- Ages 4 and 5 Pre-Kindergarten - 3 or 4 days a week
- Kindergarten Prep - a 5-days-a-week program for children who miss the Kindergarten cut off date or need one more year of preschool

## Programming for Children

In addition to the sports, fitness programming, and camps, Cranberry offers many other programs for children of all ages. These programs include:

- **Safe Sitter Baby Sitting:** classes offered for children ages 11 to 15 who want to learn safe childcare practices.
- **Young Brother Tae Kwon-Do:** for children ages 5 to 12, this intro class will give children a taste of an art that strengthens both body and mind.
- **E-Sports:** if your child (or you!) enjoy video games, this program for ages 8 through adults will let you play many different kinds of video games on various gaming platforms.
- **Chess Camp:** whether you are just learning or want to develop your game, this 8-week class is open for children ages 7 to 15 and offered at different times throughout the year.
- **Baker's Dozen Academy:** does your child like to make a mess in the kitchen? Then this class is for them! Seasonal baking classes like Halloween Cakes or Snowman Cookies are offered for children ages 6 and up.
- **Cookie Decorating:** no experience necessary to learn a variety of cookie decorating techniques for ages 12 and up.
- **Mad Science:** for ages 5 to 12, these STEM classes offer children a variety of scientific learning through experimentation and exploration.
- **Fire Cadet Academy:** offered by the local Cranberry Fire Department, this one-week class offered during the summer for children ages 14 to 18 who may have an interest in being a fire fighter.
- **Woman and Teen Safety Empowerment Seminar:** help women and girls ages 12 and up feel safe and confident with this class offered several times a year.
- **Before/After School Program:** for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade, this program will give them homework time and fun activities in a supervised environment.



## **Adult Programming**

Who says only children can have fun? In addition to sports leagues and fitness classes, Cranberry also offers classes for adults:

- **Nutrition for Healthy Living:** an 8-week class on the power of nutrition in supporting well-being.
- **Let's Dance!:** learn various kinds of dancing including the hustle, salsa, swing, rumba and bachata.
- **55+ Club:** meeting every 2nd Tuesday at the Municipal Center, this club offers community through lunches, day trips, picnics, and involvement in community drives and initiatives.

## **Senior Center**

Located in the Grange Hall at the Municipal Center, the Senior Center is a gathering place for seniors in the community. It offers in-person and "grab-and-go" meals as well as frozen meals that can be home delivered. Programs include blood pressure screening, Bingo, and Stay Active and Independent for Like (SAIL) exercise.

## **Seasonal Events**

There is never a dull moment in Cranberry Township! Every season brings the opportunity for community events for all ages.

### **Spring**

As the snow melts away and flowers start to bloom, Cranberry offers fun opportunities to get out and enjoy the warmer weather.

- Cranfest celebrates cultural diversity with music, dance, food and fun.
- A Memorial Day Celebration, hosted by the VFW, takes place at the Veterans Memorial in North Boundary Park to honor those who have given their all for our country.

### **Summer**

Enjoy the great outdoors and warm temperatures with events of all kinds!

- The Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company hosts the Fire and Food Trucks and is great whether you like BBQ or shaved ice.
- The Cranberry Police Department hosts the Bike Rodeao, a fun way to learn bike safety.
- The Miracle League All Star Baseball Game in Graham Park celebrates sports for all.
- If you like to run (or if walking is more your speed), join one of the many 5Ks the Township offers or supports.
- Disc Golf tournaments at North Boundary Park.
- The Cranberry Cup offers a Golf Classic as well as a Softball and Cornhole tournaments.



- Concerts and movies are held at the Rotary Amphitheater in Community Park.
- Cranberry Community Days offer a weekend full of food, events, contests, rides, and just a lot of good old fun!

## Fall

Love the cool, crisp mornings and pumpkin spice? Then you may also enjoy Cranberry's "Spooktacular" events.

- The Great Pumpkin Festival offers crafts, food, games, and a pumpkin patch for children and their families.
- The Pet Costume Contest is a fun event for four-legged community members and their owners.
- The Farmer's Market is in full swing each weekend with vendors from all over the area.
- Santa's First Stop in November will help you get ready for Christmas early!

## Winter

Beat the winter blues with fun winter events!

- The Holiday Village Market has live music, holiday vendors, food trucks, and hot chocolate.
- Santa comes to town for Milk and Cookies with Santa and Pet Photos.
- Celebrate Hanukkah with the Menorah Lighting.
- Start your New Year Resolutions by joining an adult fitness class!

## **Block Party Trailer**

Cranberry will bring the party to you with its Block Party Trailer that is fully equipped and ready to allow you to host a Block Party in your neighborhood. It comes with barricades, tables and chairs, lawn games, a canopy, and trash/recycling containers to provide a fun and easy way to get to know your neighbors. The Trailer can be reserved online or through a paper Block Party Application.



## NRPA Recreation Programming Comparisons

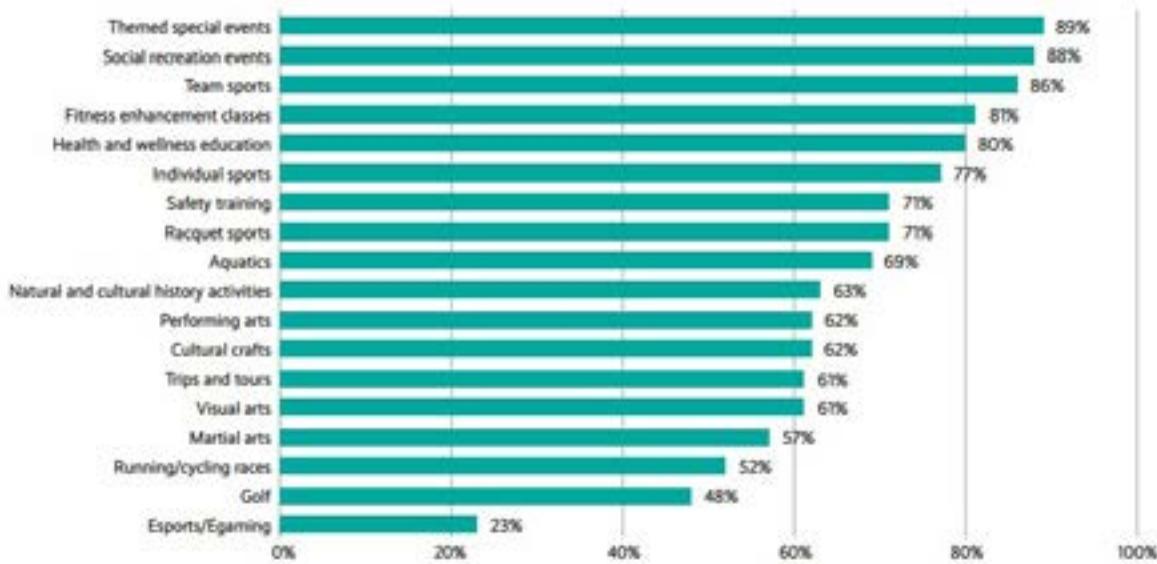
Each time a person visits a park or attends a recreation program, the Parks and Recreation Department has created a “touchpoint”. One person can have many touchpoints throughout a year: from taking their child to swing at a park, to taking their teenager to basketball practice at the Municipal Center, to going for a run down a trail after work in the evening. The NRPA estimates a community the size of Cranberry could have 258,000 touchpoints every year. Many of these are through recreation programming.

The NRPA suggests that park and recreation departments serving a population of 20,000 people offer about 30 programs to their community. With a population of nearly 34,000 and over 50 programs throughout the year, Cranberry excels in programming. Approximately 7,500 people have attended a program or event in Cranberry through the fall of 2023. Many hundreds more will attend holiday activities before the year is over. These numbers do not include those who have played at the playgrounds, splashed at the pool, run down the trails, picked up a pickleball paddle, or thrown a round of disc golf. Parks and recreation in Cranberry truly touches the lives of every single member of the community.

Cranberry also excels in the variety of programs it offers. The NRPA chart shows the most common programs offered by Parks and Recreation Departments throughout the country, all of which Cranberry offers. Suggestions for expanding the recreation programming and reaching a broader age-range are given in Chapter 4.

2023 Park and Recreation Programs - Attendance	
Program	Attending
Early Childhood	1,061
Youth	1,806
Teen	98
Adult	1,469
Senior	19
Family	527
Muliple Ages	479
Preschool Program	326
Summer Camp	1,650
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,435</b>

**FIGURE 6: PROGRAMMING OFFERED BY PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES (PERCENT OF AGENCIES)**



## Regional Recreation Facilities

# CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION



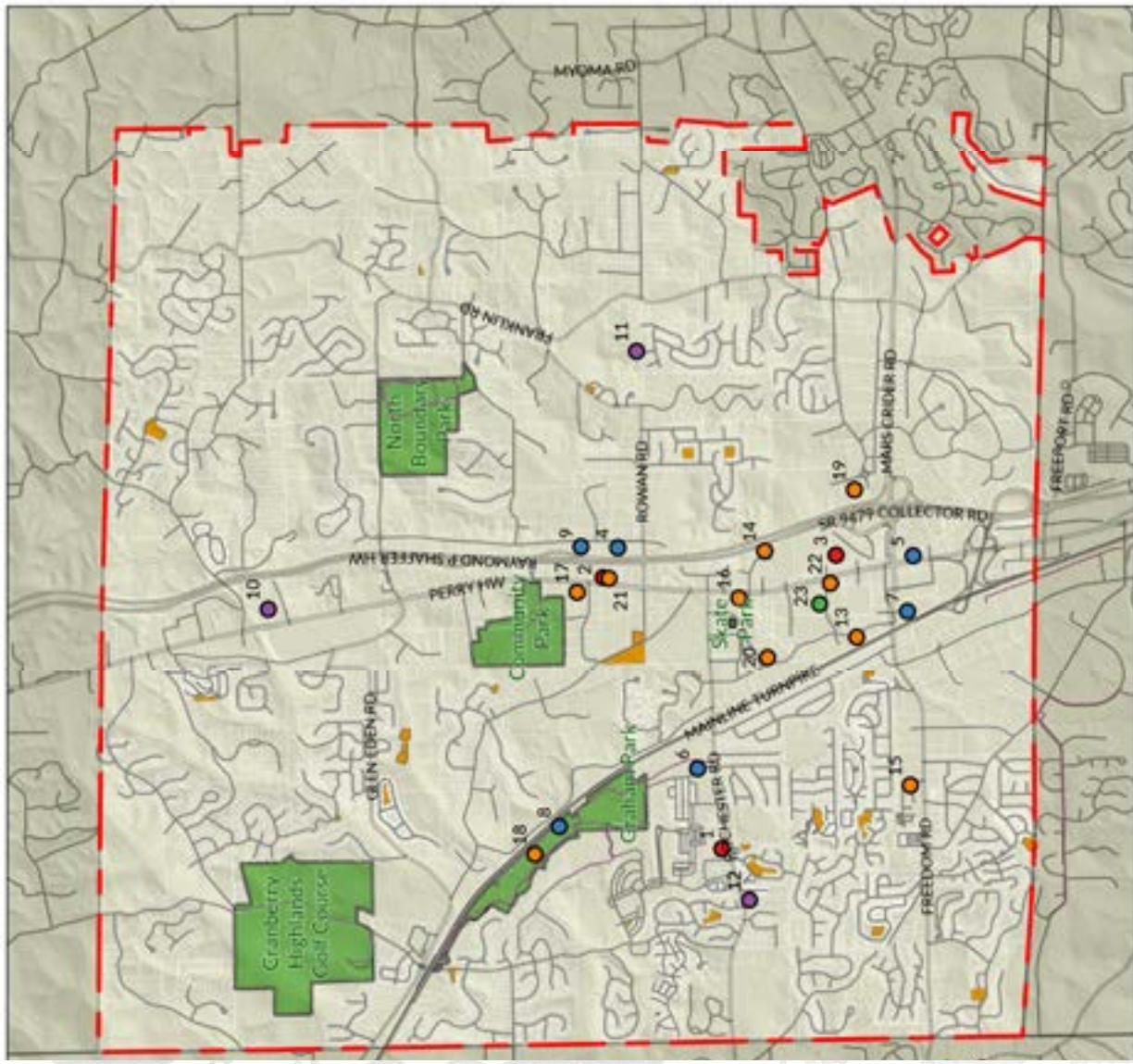
• CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP.

## PARKS & RECREATION

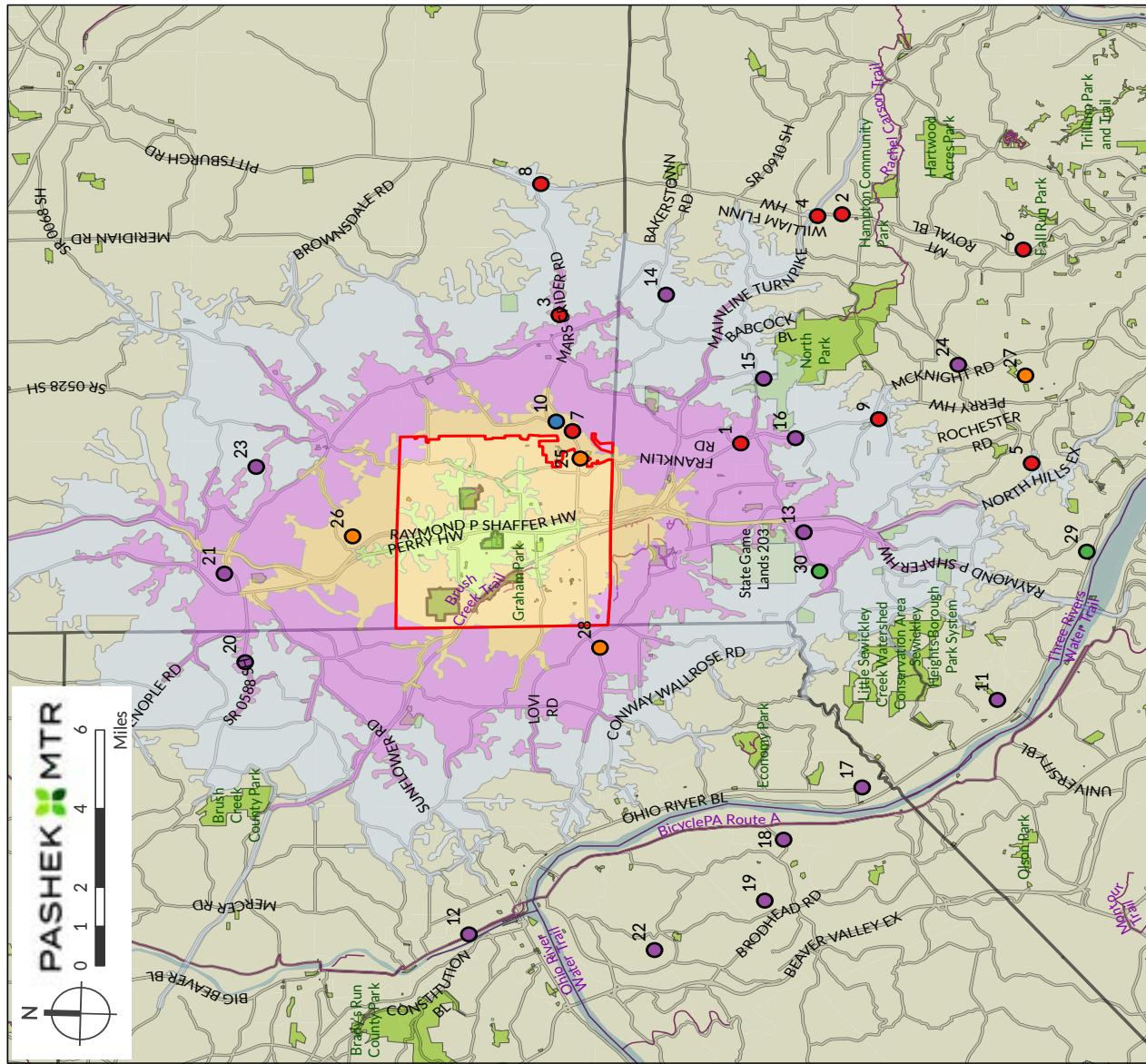
- Gyms
- Other Fitness
- Outdoor Recreation

- Private/Non-Profit Program Providers
- Sports

Key	Name	Type
1	Snow Fitness	Gym
2	Fit Body Boot Camp	Gym
3	Planet Fitness	Gym
4	Beyond Parallel Fitness Community	Other Fitness
5	The Exercise Coach	Other Fitness
6	Fabletics	Other Fitness
7	DI Training North Pittsburgh	Other Fitness
8	Fitness Station	Other Fitness
9	Diesel Edge Training Academy	Other Fitness
10	Rose E. Schneider Family YMCA	Private/Non-Profit Program Providers
11	Crossroads Church	Private/Non-Profit Program Providers
12	Christ Bible Church	Private/Non-Profit Program Providers
13	X-Off Gymnastics	Sport
14	Urban Air Adventure Park	Sport
15	Premier Martial Arts	Sport
16	Star Styled Dance Center	Sport
17	Fun Fare All Family Fun Park	Sport
18	Centerville United Soccer Campus	Sport
19	UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex	Sport
20	Rockable Cheer Pittsburgh	Sport
21	Young Brothers Tae Kwon-Do	Sport
22	Sifu Slaughter's Kung Fu and Tai Chi	Sport
23	Public Lands	Outdoor Recreation



## Regional Recreation Options



# Area Recreation Opportunities

In addition to the programming and events the Cranberry Parks and Recreation Department offers, the Township is also the home of many sports associations and community organizations.

## Sports Associations

Cranberry is the home of several sports associations which use the municipal fields within the parks. These associations offer a wide variety of athletics for all ages and abilities.

- Cranberry Township Pickleball Association
- Miracle League of Southwestern PA
- Seneca Valley Baseball and Softball Association
- Seneca Valley Girls Youth Lacrosse Association
- Seneca Valley Junior Football and Cheer Association
- Seneca Valley Boys Lacrosse Association
- Seneca Valley Soccer Association
- Seneca Valley Swim Club

## UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex

Located just off I-79, this 185,000 square foot sports complex is the primary practice and training facility for the Pittsburgh Penguins. It also offers world-class hockey training for all ages with camps, clinics, leagues, private lessons, and tournaments. In addition to its ice hockey training, it also offers freestyle skating lessons, public skates, a pro shop, and sports medicine.

## Seneca Valley School District Facilities

Cranberry is a part of Raider Nation. The Seneca Valley School District has a thriving athletics program and facilities to give the best athletic experience possible to its students. These facilities include Nextier Stadium for football and track and field, and Myers Law Stadium for soccer and lacrosse.

It offers the Raider Baseball Stadium, Raider Softball Stadium and Raider Baseball and Softball Building for spring ball seasons. The Raider Tennis Complex offers six courts for play and practice. Inside facilities include the Raider Fieldhouse for the wrestling program and the William Paul Gymnasium for basketball. The school district also utilizes soccer fields at North Boundary Park for practice and the Cranberry Highlands Golf Course.



One of its newest facilities is the Aquatic Center. This beautiful 46,902 square foot center was completed in 2021 for \$12.6 million. Located adjacent to Seneca Valley Intermediate High School, it is an 8-lane multi-purpose pool with a separate diving area. The facility also includes a large lobby with a learning stair for viewing activities outside of the natatorium, locker rooms, and elevated spectator viewing platform. It is the home of the boys and girls swim and dive teams. It is also where the Seneca Valley Swim Club offers lessons and competitive swimming.

## Review of the Township's Parks & Recreation Finances

### ***Sponsorships***

Cranberry has created a thriving sponsorship program to support its recreation programs. An annual sponsorship guide is produced and provided to local businesses, allowing them the opportunity to market themselves while also supporting the community they call home. Businesses are given the opportunity of supporting summer camp, sports activities, and community events. In return for their support, businesses can market themselves on anything from team shirts to naming rights on park pavilions or other recreation facilities. It is a great way for businesses to partner with their community and for recreation programming to grow.

### ***Cranberry Township Community Chest***

The Cranberry Township Community Chest (CTCC) is a non-profit organization that engages residents and businesses to actively support community projects and organizations that make the Cranberry region a better place to live. They promote volunteerism and provide financial assistance to many projects. Their assistance has given Cranberry's Parks and Recreation system many impressive facilities over the past many years including:

- Armstrong Great Lawn at the Municipal Center (current project)
- Cranberry CUP Kids Castle Build (2013) and Refresh (2023)
- Rotary Amphitheater Expansion and Renovation (2020-2021)
- Forge Ahead: Library Maker Space (2019)
- North Boundary Disc Golf Course and Nature Trail (2018)
- Graham Park's SportsCourt (2017)
- Graham Park's Miracle League Resurfacing and Playground (2016)
- Graham Park's and North Boundary Park's Fitness Stations (2014)
- Graham Park's Centennial Scouting Plaza and Fishing Lake (2012)



## Program Fees

The Parks and Recreation Department establishes program fees which are based on the type of program, and necessary overhead and material expenses related to individual programs. The spreadsheet below outlines individual types of programs and the revenue and expenses associated with the program categories. Typically, the Township develops fee structures using a 70/30 percentage.

## Success of the Waterpark

The Cranberry Township Waterpark is a great example of a successful program. It operates from Memorial Day to Labor Day and generates an annual surplus that helps fund the ongoing capital investments of the facility. This success is attributed to thorough training, exceptional maintenance, and a variety of programs offered. To maintain the high quality of the facility, yearly assessments should be conducted to identify any necessary maintenance and enhancements.



### 2022 Park and Recreation Programs - Revenue

Program	Fees
Early Childhood	\$ 349,522
Youth	\$ 387,818
Teen	\$ 19,171
Adult	\$ 231,064
Family	\$ 8,421
Other	\$ 70
Special Programs	\$ 10,298

### 2022 Park and Recreation Programs - Expenses

Program	Fees
Early Childhood	\$224,140
Youth	\$292,540
Teen	\$ 5,385
Adult	\$136,161
Family	\$ 48,754
Other	\$ 3,612
Events	\$ 52,953
Special Programs	\$ 26,364



# Parks & Recreation Administration and Personnel

The Cranberry Township Parks and Recreation Department is tasked with the responsibility to provide safe, affordable, quality recreation programs, services, and facilities to meet the broad and diverse needs of the community. This encompasses all ages, ethnicities, cultures, interests, and abilities. Communication with residents and participants, delivery of quality recreation opportunities, maintaining facilities and equipment, development of creative and unique programs, and a high level of quality customer service guide each action and all future plans.

Parks and recreation professionals oversee a myriad of services and facilities in their communities. The Cranberry Township Department has recently hired a new Director. Current staff also includes a Manager, two Recreation Program Supervisors and a Facility, Field, and Special Event Supervisor. Recently the Parks and Recreation Customer Service was combined with the Municipal Customer Service Department.

According to national metrics, agencies operating a Recreation Center similar to the Municipal Center have an average of 10-24 full-time employees. The Department, with a current staff of 7 full-time employees (FTE) should consider additional staff.

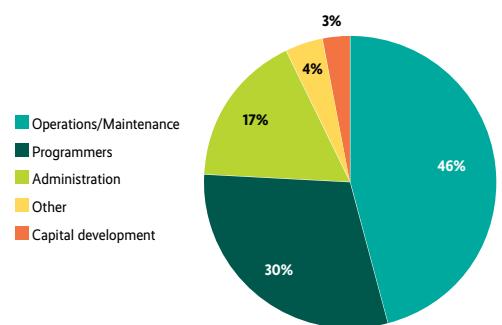
National benchmarking with communities with populations of 20,000-49,000 staffing responsibilities are broken down as:

- 46% of the workforce in Operations and Maintenance
- 30% in Programming
- 17% in Administration
- 4% in other duties
- 3% in Capital Development

An existing conditions operations analysis was developed with input from the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Grounds Division. This analysis, which is included in the Appendix, estimates the total hours required to operate and maintain the parks and facilities to the high standards the Township desires. As additional programs and facilities are expanded, staffing should be reevaluated to ensure the capacity to continue to provide high quality programs and services.

Building this Plan has identified opportunities to achieve a better match between desired programming and facilities with staffing needs.

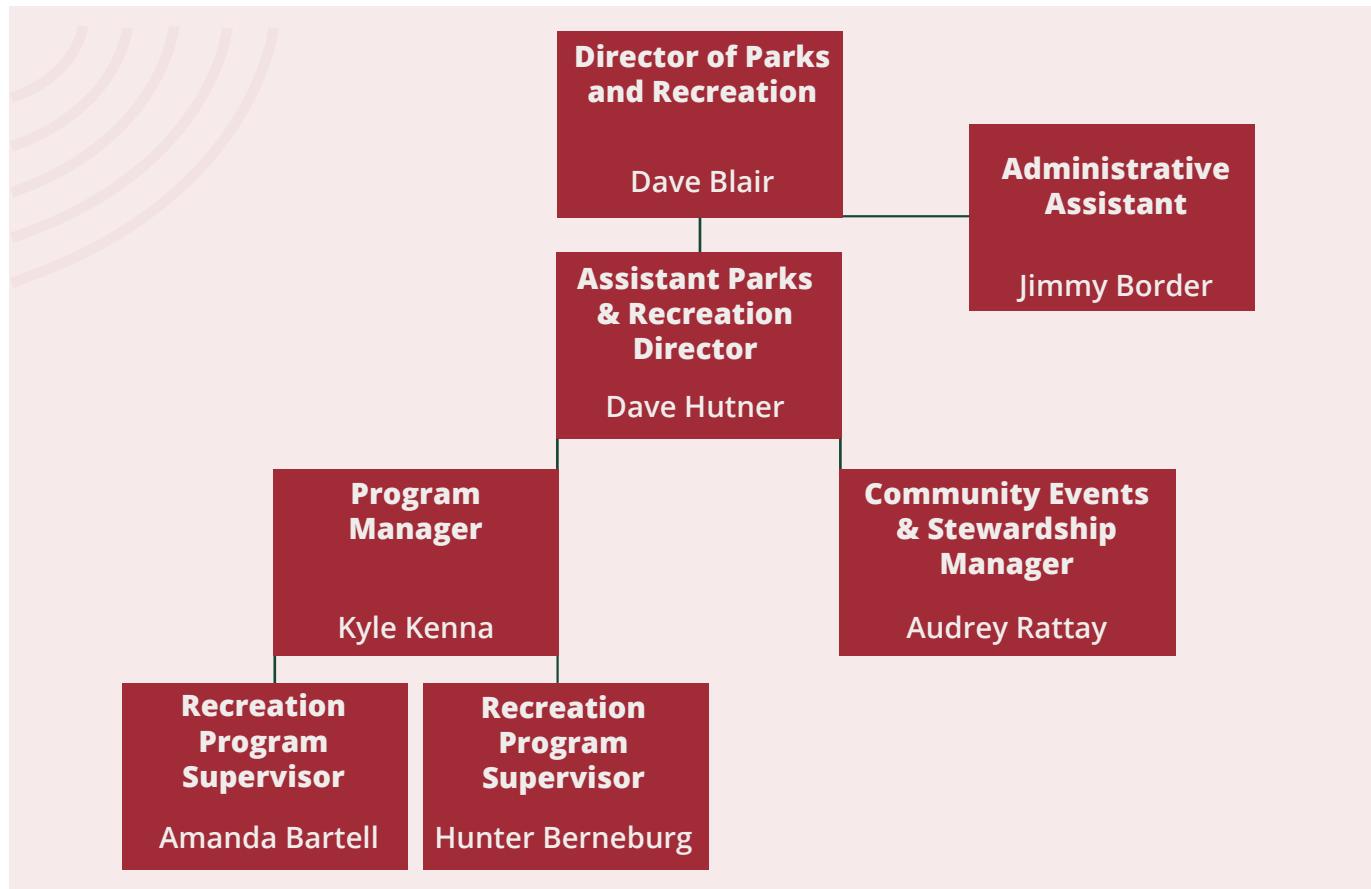
**FIGURE 12: RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARK AND RECREATION STAFF**  
(AVERAGE PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF AGENCY FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS (FTEs))



Responsibility	Percentage
Operations/Maintenance	46%
Programmers	30
Administration	17
Other	4
Capital development	3



## *Parks and Recreation Staff Organizational Chart*



## **Recently Hired Administrative Assistant**

This position will perform advanced level administrative support work. Work will involve performing responsible clerical and secretarial work essential to the successful operation of the department.

This newly developed position consists of one FTE employee. An evaluation of the need for an additional PTE may be considered in the future. The PTE may be valuable to the Department in providing consistent customer service after regular business hours.

### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Process invoices
- Pulling reports: budgets, Active Net, Munis, Kronos
- Receive and process payments for facility rentals
- Billing
- Track professional services that are categorized as annual contracts with vendors to assure contract completion
- Liability insurance for events, contracted services tournaments
- Administer loaner equipment paperwork and inquiries (tables, chairs, fishing)
- Administer payroll for part-time and seasonal staff
- Review program entries for accuracy
- Process paperwork during interview process
- Entering new hires into the Active Net system
- Serve as the initial contact for program wait list, and provide payment to Customer Service
- Serve as the middleman to field calls from Customer Service and direct them to the appropriate staff if they are unable to provide the customer with answers
- Administer programming paperwork: Summer camp, authorized pick-up forms, work orders, purchase orders, check requests



## ***Facility Attendant Position vs. Program Support Position***

Both of these positions would be part time positions.

A Facility Attendant would ideally not fall under the Parks and Recreation Department.

### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

- HOA Rentals
- Cranberry Artist Network
- Library
- Maintenance
- Department Meetings
- Board of Supervisors Meetings
- Additional rental in the Municipal Building
- IDEA
- Door Schedules

Program Support Attendant should be considered part of the Parks and Recreation Department.

### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Unlocking doors for programs
- Assisting instructors with programming needs.
- Drop-in programs.

## ***Public Works and Grounds Crew***

On average, 46% of the responsibilities of Park and Recreation Staff fall under "Operations and Management". Day to day management and operations of Cranberry's vast acreage of parkland truly is a full-time job - not just for one person but for many.

Cranberry's Parks and Recreation Staff work hand in hand with the Public Works Department which is then broken down into a multiple divisions including the Grounds Maintenance Division. This Division works to improve, maintain and repair Township owned public spaces. These include three parks and facilities, the Municipal Center, Fire Stations, Public Works Operations Center, and Brush Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, as well as various neighborhood playlots, open green space, traffic islands, and building areas.



The Division is progressive and takes great pride in their work and providing a positive image of the community assets. A Park Maintenance Plan has been developed to outline categories of maintenance associated with each facility, trails, and site amenities. The Maintenance Plan should be updated as needed to reflect current standards of care necessary to provide quality facilities throughout the Township.

The grounds crew is comprised of a Manager, six (6) FTEs, and averages sixteen (16) seasonal employees during the summer season. The Grounds Crew manager reports directly to the Public Works Director. As the Township's population increases, new facilities are developed and older facilities require additional maintenance, the Township may consider additional ground crew members to continue to provide high quality community experiences.

**During a Focus Group meeting with Grounds staff key priorities included:**

- Long term plan for repair and maintenance.
- Maintenance responsibilities (Associations vs. Grounds Crew).
- Seasonal staffing challenges.
- Disc Golf Course maintenance.
- Necessary equipment to get the job done.
- Prioritizing maintenance, events, emergencies and capital projects.
- Additional maintenance and storage space in the parks, focused on North Boundary Park.
- Sports Association scheduling and communication.
- Township owned outparcels. How to reduce maintenance and manpower associated with them.
- How can a loop trail be developed in Community Park?
- Synthetic Turf is desired in all parks.

Groundskeeping by Acreage					
Facility	Total Area	Turfgrass	Landscaping	Skinned Infields	Walking Trails (miles)
Municipal Building	5.00	2.00	0.80	n/a	n/a
Road Islands	0.50	n/a	0.70	n/a	n/a
North Boundary Park & Waterpark	125.00	23.00	0.40	0.30	1.10
Community Park & Fire Station	85.00	26.00	0.50	1.00	0.80
UPMC at Graham Park	115.00	43.00	0.80	0.90	2.50
Outparcels	9.00	6.40	0	n/a	2.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>339.50</b>	<b>100.40</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>2.20</b>	<b>6.90</b>





# Chapter 3 Public Participation

## Your Opinion Matters

Public Involvement is a key component of the development of a Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan. After all, it is the public that uses the parks, recreation programs, trails, and facilities. What do they think of the parks and facilities? Do they participate in the recreation programs? What improvements would they like to see in the parks? How can the programs be improved? And, most important of all, what do they see as the future of the recreation, parks and open space they enjoy today?

Cranberry Township's leaders determined four methods in which valuable information would be provided:

# 1

### Study Committee

This committee of 12 people met with the planning consultant 11 times. Their role was to guide the planning process, discuss the issues, create strategies, and respond to the information gathered from the community.

# 2

### Public Meetings

Several community events were utilized to gather information from the public at large: 2022 & 2023 Community Days, Halloween Event, and 55+ Club Luncheon.

# 3

### Survey

Both a paper and online questionnaire were created to obtain as many opinions and perspectives on various parks and recreation topics. Over 2,000 people responded!!!

# 4

### Key Person Interviews

The Township determined various community leaders, business owners, & residents for interviews on specific topics. Fifteen one-on-one discussions with these people clarified issues for the Study Committee to further discuss.

### Township Website

Updates on the planning process were posted on the Township's website throughout the Plan's development.



The information received through each method of public engagement was reviewed and discussed among the Study Committee and consultant. This information provided a better understanding of the needs, desires, concerns, strengths, and weaknesses of the parks and recreation opportunities in Cranberry. Combined with the inventory and analysis, the Study Committee could create steps of actions and strategies to achieve the goal and mission of the immediate and future of parks and recreation in Cranberry.

## ***Study Committee***

The project's Study Committee met eleven times between August 2022 and November 2023. The Committee's responsibilities included assistance with:

- Sharing knowledge of the community.
- Defining the vision, goals, and objectives for the Township's Parks and Recreation for the next ten years.
- Engaging other community members by
  - » Creating an online/paper survey.
  - » Identifying a group of diverse key persons for one-on-one interviews with the consultant.
  - » Identifying community events to serve as opportunities for input from the public.
- Serving as a sounding board to vet recommendations and implementation strategies.
- Reviewing draft content of this Plan.



## **CTCC Community Days - 2022**

This 3-day festival is a regional event hosted by Township staff, volunteers, and the Cranberry Township Community Chest. Games, rides, great food, and performances provide entertainment to thousands of visitors. A display booth was set up and the attendees invited to answer the question: "What's your Big Idea for the Future Parks and Recreation?" As this event occurred just as the planning process began, it was a great opportunity to get the community's initial responses before the Plan took shape.

## **The Great Pumpkin Festival**

Participation in this community event is geared towards families with young children. It is one of the most attended events in Cranberry and drew over 150 residents. Overwhelmingly, the attendees would love more family events like this one!

## **55+ Club Luncheon - 2022**

Attendance at the summer luncheon held at Community Park provided opportunities to gather input from residents ages 55 and over. The Club provides opportunities to develop friendships within the community and the people who gather would love to see more opportunities for them to be active in the parks and recreation programs, including yoga in the park and walking events.

The attendees also discussed the success of the UPMC Legacy Theater, located at Cumberland Woods Village in Allison Park which provides performances, movies, educational seminars, and health and wellness discussions. They would love to see more of these types of events in Cranberry.

## **CTCC Community Days - 2023**

With the Plan taking shape, another Community Day rolls around and offers one more opportunity to get ideas on what people would like to see in their parks and what programs and events they would love to participate in. These final insights give focus to the objectives and steps of action the Study Committee develops to give this Plan direction.



## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TAKEAWAYS



### Conversations

- Holiday events
- Concerts/movies in the parks
- Great lawn
- Farmers market
- Camp Cranberry
- Environmental programs
- E-sports
- Walking
- Adult sports



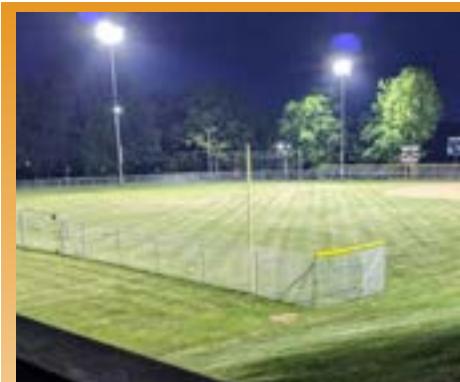
### Park Facilities

- Enhancing park pavilions
- Indoor aquatics/rec center
- Meadows
- Walking trails
- Skate park
- Driving range
- Enhancing disc golf
- Kids pickleball
- Swimming



### Community Park

- Additional shelter near dog park
- Parking!!! (ADA, near grass field & Lion's Shelter)
- Upgrade tables, water fountains, bathrooms
- Improve shelters
- More baseball storage
- Play structures - nature play
- Shade structures
- Improve basketball courts
- Remove unhealthy trees



### Community Park

- Improved fencing
- Improved lighting
- Touch up dugouts
- Move batting cages
- Camp Cranberry
- Separate football & baseball storage
- Improve accessibility
- Improve seating between fields 2 and 3



### North Boundary Park

- Accessibility
- Shade structures: near benches, walkways, and playgrounds
- Expand playground - musical features
- Enhance amenities for summer camp



### Graham Park

- Parking flow near pickleball/ basketball
- Dugouts at teeball field K
- Accessibility
- New scoreboard for Dek Hockey
- Repair Eagle Scout monument
- Trade out football field fitness equipment for playground
- Install basketball court lights
- Second Dek Hockey
- Football field layout practice vs. game



## Questionnaire Results

The Study Committee worked with the consultant to create a 24-question survey that allowed residents to express their thoughts and concerns regarding the parks, facilities, trails, and recreation programs of Cranberry Township. It also allowed the opportunity for residents to make comments and share their thoughts. Over 2,000 people responded to the questionnaire, most via digital format. A copy of the survey and detailed responses can be found in the Appendix.

Questions in the survey covered the importance of parks and recreation programs, satisfaction of the current parks, participation of the programs, and several open-ended questions for comments on programming, needed facilities, and satisfaction in the current programming and upkeep of the parks and facilities. Some of the main takeaways include:

What programs have you or your family attended in the last year?	% of users
special events	31%
local sports association events	27%
parks and rec athletic events	24%
educational programs	23%
dog-related programs	22%
arts & crafts programs	21%

What facilities do you or your family utilize most?	% of users
paved trails	55%
non-paved/nature trails	42%
dog park	30%
playgrounds	30%
basketball courts	29%
pickleball courts	25%

**94%** of survey respondents say parks and recreation in Cranberry is important to their quality of life.

when  
asked...

## KEY PERSON INTERVIEWS TAKEAWAYS



### Strengths

- **Recreation programming:**
  - » The community has a lot to offer, especially for young families and seniors.
  - » The community does a great job of marketing and promoting programs, especially on the website and with digital media.
- **Recreation facilities:**
  - » Cranberry Township has a good number of facilities.
  - » Recreation facilities are well maintained.
  - » The community is always investing in recreation facilities. For example, the waterpark and dome at pickleball courts.
  - » The Pickleball Association has 13 pickleball courts with 6 more under a bubble for indoor play.
  - » All three parks are wonderful, and the Township has done a lot to improve recreation in the community.
  - » The community has an elaborate and great assortment of recreation spaces and facilities.
  - » There are great trails in the parks.

### Recreation Programming

- **More marketing and promotion of community exercise programming to special populations to encourage participation:**
  - » There are currently low levels of participation due to cost and availability.
  - » Should market the municipal center's classes and exercise spaces to older residents.
  - » Younger moms used to participate in exercise classes but there is no childcare for them.
  - » Exercise classes provide socialization for members in the community.
- **Sample Schoolhouse should be open to the public for guided tours which could be a community asset for recreation.**
- **Additional indoor recreation facilities, especially for inclement weather months.**

### Opportunities

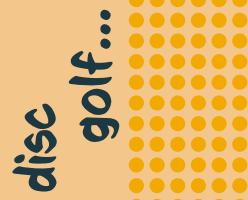
- **Additional programs and facilities for all ages:**
  - » Additional playground equipment and amenities for children at Graham Park.
  - » Pickleball and exercise classes for senior residents.
  - » Create a separate recreation division to support adult recreation leagues.
  - » Lack of places for young adults to socialize.
  - » Programs for persons with disabilities like sports, classes, or day camps.
- **Playground improvements:**
  - » Shade amenities over play structures.
  - » More play areas for children.
- **More walking and biking amenities:**
  - » Develop the community so people can take their bikes out and around.
  - » It would be great to have a bike trail across the community and more walking trails.
- **Market the Township as a great community with parks and recreation, not just shopping.**



## Key Person Interviews

The Consultant conducted fifteen stakeholder interviews with people in the community identified by the Study Committee. These interviewees provided insight on the **strengths and opportunities** regarding Cranberry's parks, programs, and green space. They also discussed what community recreation amenities and facilities they would like to see in the Township's future.

- Build more pickleball structures and seating to bring in more tournaments and professional players.
- Parking is a challenge for the disc golf courses, especially during events.



## What's Happening in Surrounding Communities?

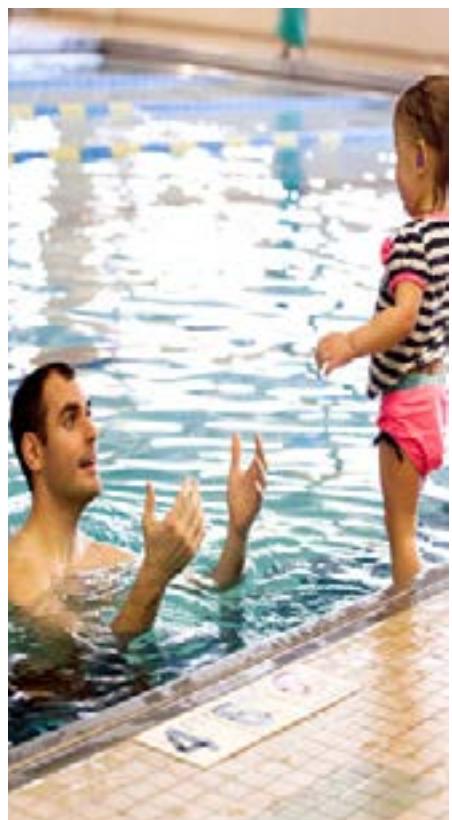
Interviewees provided the following examples of recreation amenities in other communities which could be considered in future planning efforts:

- Knob Hill Park, Marshall Township – The Park has a zip-line, roller coaster, shade, rope climbing, and balance beams.
- Richland Township– The playground has a splash pad which provides a free option rather than paying for the community pool.
- Presque Isle State Park – The park has ponds as well as bicycle facilities, paddle boat facilities, and playgrounds.
- Pittsburgh – The community has adult leagues like flag football and field hockey.
- Bike paths.
- More disc golf courses.
- An indoor bubble with multi-purpose turf and courts for volleyball, pickleball, and racquetball.
- Skate parks.

## Thoughts on Aquatic Center Facilities

The Township's Waterpark provides the community with many opportunities for summer fun. However, climate in Western Pennsylvania provides only three short months of outdoor aquatic fun. A vision for indoor aquatic facilities was shared with the public. When asked what the public enjoys about aquatic facilities, we heard:

- A Zero-entry children play area.
- Provide more opportunities for swimming lessons
- Available rental space for birthday parties.
- An indoor pool with lap lanes.
- Saunas and steam rooms.
- Adults only pool space.



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# Chapter Implementation & Strategies

# 4

## Mission, Goals, Recommendations & Implementation

Cranberry Township has a thriving Parks and Recreation Department. This plan has been developed as an update to the 2012 Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan. It has built upon the goals from 2012, reviewing what has been accomplished and evaluating what still needs to be done. This plan focuses on generating capacity and momentum to take action on consensus community priorities. A decade brings on a lot of changes in a community that is growing both residentially and commercially. With those changes brings a re-evaluation of the goals of parks and recreation in Cranberry. How can Cranberry continue to excel?

...to create a vibrant and inclusive community where the benefits of parks and recreation are accessible to all, fostering health, happiness, and creating a strong sense of belonging. We strive to be the catalyst for positive change, leading the way in transforming our community into a haven of natural beauty, active lifestyles, and unforgettable experiences.

the vision

Part of any comprehensive plan process will be balancing the needs of what the community wants to see against what is feasible. The following recommendations intend to address this delicate balance by suggesting recommendations that address what residents would like to improve on that are also achievable.

As Cranberry advances its strategies a foundation of public input should continue. This Plan will pursue the Vision of Cranberry's Parks and Recreation Department. It will guide the Township towards the future but it, too, will need to be re-evaluated as each objective and strategy is discussed and put into action.

**Remember the Vision. Think of the Future. Take Action.**

# A Vision for the Future

Through innovative programs, state-of-the-art facilities, connections, and sustainable practices, we seek to inspire individuals of all ages and backgrounds to embrace the wonders of nature and explore the limitless possibilities of recreation. Our vision centers on four core principles:

- Community Engagement:** We envision a community united by shared experiences, forging connections through various recreational activities. By encouraging participation, feedback, and collaboration, we will build an environment where everyone feels heard, valued, and empowered to shape the future of our parks and recreational offerings.
- Preservation and Sustainability:** We are committed to being good stewards of the environment, preserving the natural beauty of our parks and green spaces for generations to come. Our sustainable practices will promote conservation, safeguard wildlife habitats, and mitigate our ecological impact, creating a harmonious balance between urban life and nature.
- Health and Wellness:** Promoting physical and mental well-being is at the heart of our vision. We strive to provide accessible fitness opportunities, sports programs, and recreational activities that inspire active, healthy lifestyles, enhancing the overall quality of life for our community members.
- Cultural Enrichment and Education:** We believe that parks and recreation should be platforms for cultural exchange and personal growth. By offering diverse educational programs, arts and cultural events, and recreational workshops, we aim to foster creativity, empathy, and lifelong learning.

Together, as a united community, we will realize this vision of Parks and Recreation, enriching lives, embracing nature, and creating a thriving and sustainable environment that makes our Township a truly exceptional place to live, work, and play.

## Objectives

In order to continue their vision, the Study Committee created three main objectives to focus on:

### 1 Quality and Diversity in Parks and Facilities

### 2 Corridors of Connection and Open Space

### 3 Innovative Programs to Enhance the Quality of Life

These objectives have been built upon the Township's desire to further their parks and recreation programming and the input given by the community through the survey, one-on-one conversations with stakeholders, and ideas shared and discussions had with the public. They also align with Pennsylvania's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2024 (SCORP). For easy implementation, they are further broken down into strategies, responsibility, and status.



## Strategies

Each strategy is broken down into action steps and are intended to accomplish each individual goal. The implementation strategies provide guidance to the decision-makers of the Township and those organizations and staff designated to implement the recommendations of the Plan. These strategies are categorized into three main priority levels: Short, Mid, and Long.

Potential funding sources to implement the recommendations are included in the Appendix. It should be noted that any cost estimates are wide-ranging and should only serve as a starting point for project evaluation.

## Implementation Chart Key

The leadership in Cranberry is responsible to see these strategies are implemented. A breakdown of which department would be responsible to see each strategy through completion is suggested. Collaboration within and between the responsible agencies is the key to successful implementation. They are indicated on the chart below:

## SCORP PRIORITIES

Health and Wellness



Recreation for All



Sustainable Systems



Funding & Economic Development



Technology



## IMPLEMENTATION CHART KEY

PRD	Parks and Recreation Department	K9	Canine Committee
DPW	Department of Public Works	CTAA	Cranberry Township Athletic Association
EAC	Environmental Agency Council	C	Communication Department
M	Township Manager	BOS	Board of Supervisors
P	Planning Department		

# Quality & Diversity in Parks & Facilities

## SHORT TERM STRATEGIES 1 - 3 YEARS

**STRATEGY 1:** Develop a Master Plan for Powell Farm.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Scope of work should include staffing, maintenance, programming, funding, and partnership opportunities.
- Utilize a variety of native plantings which will provide shade, habitat, and stormwater management.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD, M, P    **STATUS:** In Progress

**STRATEGY 2:** Continue to advance the implementation of Community Park North with funding assistance through DCNR 2023 Grant award.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Begin engineering and permitting process.
- Develop phasing of implementation.
- Develop Facility Management and Operations Procedures.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD, DPW    **STATUS:** In Progress

**STRATEGY 3:** Develop a Waterpark Master Plan.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Develop a long-term vision for the future of the facility.
- Conduct a facility and building assessment.
- Develop Public Engagement strategies.
- Review management and operation procedures.
- Evaluate the need for an indoor aquatic component.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD, DPW    **STATUS:** Forthcoming

**STRATEGY 4:** Identify remaining areas in all the parks and facilities which are not ADA compliant including parking, pavilions, playgrounds, sports fields, and amenities.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Develop a strategy to become compliant with the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all parks.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD, DPW    **STATUS:** In Progress

Health and Wellness



Recreation for All



**STRATEGY 5:** Evaluate the need and opportunity for a skate park.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Identify potential locations based on skate park size, budget, parking, and visibility.
- Discuss amenity design with community members and local skate park advocates.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD    **STATUS:** Forthcoming

**STRATEGY 6:** Establish playground equipment and fitness equipment maintenance and replacement plans.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Implement playground audit recommendations and establish replacement funding strategies.
- Prioritize removal based on safety standards. Prioritize replacement based on available funding.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD, DPW    **STATUS:** Forthcoming

**STRATEGY 7:** Identify areas of shade near existing and proposed amenities.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Utilize a variety of native plantings which will provide shade, habitat, and stormwater management.
- Evaluate opportunities to utilize stormwater funding to meet MS4 goals and stormwater management best practices.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD, EAC    **STATUS:** In Progress

**STRATEGY 8:** Continue partnerships and open communications with the Athletic Associations and School District.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Annually review priorities and establish improvements and funding opportunities for desired improvements.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD, CTAA    **STATUS:** Ongoing



# MID TERM STRATEGIES 4 - 6 YEARS

**STRATEGY 1:** Continue to evaluate dog park and dog friendly trail opportunities and enhancements.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Continue to work with K9 group on an annual basis to identify challenges and improvements based on use.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD, K9

**STATUS:** Ongoing

**STRATEGY 2:** Implement the Community Park concept plan recommendations.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Prioritize and determine phasing of recommendations.
- Take steps to find funding to put Plan into action.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD, DPW    **STATUS:** In Progress

# LONG TERM STRATEGIES 7 - 10 YEARS

**STRATEGY 1:** Evaluate potential new park and open space locations.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Open space in the northeast region of the Township should be analyzed in order to provide amenities for the residents in that area.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** M, P, BOS    **STATUS:** In Progress



# Cranberry Township's Park System

Cranberry Township maintains high quality facilities which are the center point of the community. They foster community pride and a sense of belonging. During the public input process, residents, staff members and other stakeholders contributed additional ideas, issues and concerns that the Township intends to address.

## **NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park & Recreation Agencies (CAPRA)**

CAPRA is the only national accreditation of park and recreation organizations and is a valuable measure of an organization's overall quality of operation, management, and service to the community. Achieving CAPRA accreditation is the best way to demonstrate that your organization and your staff provide your community with the highest level of service. There are many benefits to be had from this accreditation:

### **For Your Community**

- Demonstrates that the organization meets national standards of best practice.
- Recognizes the community as a great place to live.
- Helps secure external financial support and reduces costs for the community.
- Holds an organization accountable to the public and ensures responsiveness to meet their needs.
- Ensures that all staff are providing quality customer service.



### **For Your Organization and Staff**

- Provides positive public and political recognition.
- Proves to decision makers, stakeholders, and the public that the organization is operating with the best practices of the profession.
- Increases credibility and can improve internal and external funding.
- Improves overall operations and increases efficiency.
- Enhances staff teamwork and pride by engaging all staff in the process.
- Creates an environment for regular review of operations, policies and procedures, and promotes continual improvement.

To date there is only one Pennsylvania department which has achieved this status: **Lower Makefield Township Parks and Recreation**. Cranberry Township is a leader in the Parks and Recreation industry. The department should consider setting their standards in line with the standards and policies outlined in the CAPRA accreditation process. And ultimately, work towards CAPRA accreditation.



## Maintenance and Operations

Preventive maintenance is a top priority of the Grounds Division. The goal of the Public Works Grounds Division is to provide a positive image, safe and clean facilities, and well-maintained properties. The Department is progressive and has developed The Cranberry Township Public Works Grounds Maintenance Division Parks Maintenance Plan which serves as a guide to ensure proper maintenance of Township owned facilities. This plan is broken down into five categories: Turfgrass, skinned infields, trees and landscaped areas, walking trails, and facilities and site amenities. This plan was developed approximately ten years ago. It should be updated and reviewed annually as facilities and level of maintenance continue to change.



## Risk Management Strategies

### 1. Risk Management Plan

A risk management plan for parks and recreation facilities is of the highest importance for the safety of the residents and to minimize the Township's liability exposure. Documentation of all risk management procedures is essential, not only for good record keeping and maintenance scheduling but, also, to provide evidence in case of legal action. The risk management plan should be based on the competence and training of the maintenance staff.

### 2. Playground Safety Inspections

As part of this Plan, playground inspections were conducted by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI). They can be found in the Appendix.

Audits should be conducted on an annual basis by a CPSI. The Audits should be conducted utilizing the most current standards of care published by the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use.

### 3. Playground Inspections and Maintenance

Routine inspections and maintenance should be conducted by full time staff. Unsafe conditions, equipment, and facilities should be reported, posted, and written documentation should be recorded.

As new programs and facilities are developed, liability insurance coverage should be reviewed and revised to reflect new conditions.

### 4. Lighting and Security Cameras

Parks and trails should be safe places for all. The Township has provided security cameras in strategic locations to ensure the safety of those using the parks. As new facilities are developed, additional security equipment and proper lighting should be included.



## Park Maintenance Training Opportunities

The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) is the primary organization promoting quality recreation and park opportunities for all Pennsylvania citizens. They are a tremendous support for local municipalities and parks and recreation agencies. PRPS provides education, training, technical assistance, and other support to local, county, state, and federal recreation and park providers.

PRPS has developed the Pennsylvania Park Maintenance Institute. The institute is a statewide resource to help community parks and recreation agencies with the latest tools, techniques and strategies for efficient park maintenance. More information is available at [www.prps.org](http://www.prps.org).

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provides opportunities related to playground and park maintenance. Annually, NRPA offers the Park and Recreation Maintenance Management School. This program is a comprehensive two-year professional development program designed to teach park and recreation professionals how to develop and manage a variety of maintenance programs. Also, a one-day Playground Maintenance Course is offered in various locations nationwide. Information on that course can be found at [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org).

Additional training and support materials are available at [www.dcnr.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov) and [www.conservationstools.org](http://www.conservationstools.org). These resources can provide the Township with information and training on greenspaces, conservation, trails, and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

## Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Compliance

ADA compliance standards have continued to change over time. The 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act have been implemented to specifically address park and recreation facilities. A thorough ADA analysis of the parks was completed as part of this Plan. This analysis, which is included in the Appendix, identified areas that are not currently compliant with the 2010 ADA standards.

Each component of the park must comply with specific guidelines from the 2010 ADA Accessible Design Guidelines. A specific set of guidelines for parking, existing facilities, park amenities (water fountains, benches, garbage cans, etc.), new construction, signage, playgrounds, access to the park, and restrooms should be referenced as repairs, upgrades, and new construction are designed. The Township has continued to design new and upgraded facilities to comply with these guidelines.

## ***Green Infrastructure, Tree Planting, and Maintenance***

Stormwater management and shade go hand and hand. With the declining tree cover due to community growth and tree disease, it is important to have the resources in place to insure continued community tree cover. Cranberry has recognized the importance of planning for and providing trees and parks to foster a sense of place. Trees can be used to make tranquil havens from underutilized spaces, announce entry to a community gateway, or transform





dull roadways into memorable drives. Success of tree planting is dependent on proper location, planting techniques, and maintenance. A tree planting and maintenance plan should be developed.

A Green Infrastructure Framework will provide enormous benefits in the Township including environmental, health, social, and economic benefits. Resources to evaluate green infrastructure in the Township are available through the National Recreation and Park Association's **Green Infrastructure Evaluation Framework**.

Due to the rate of climate change, the gradual natural selection of genetic traits that allow species to adapt and reproduce over time may not be enough to preserve the abundance of tree species in Pennsylvania. Some Northern species like mountain maple, American beech, paper birch, and quaking aspen are especially at risk. Climate change resilient trees for Pennsylvania should be southern tree species that tolerate or prefer wetter soil such as:

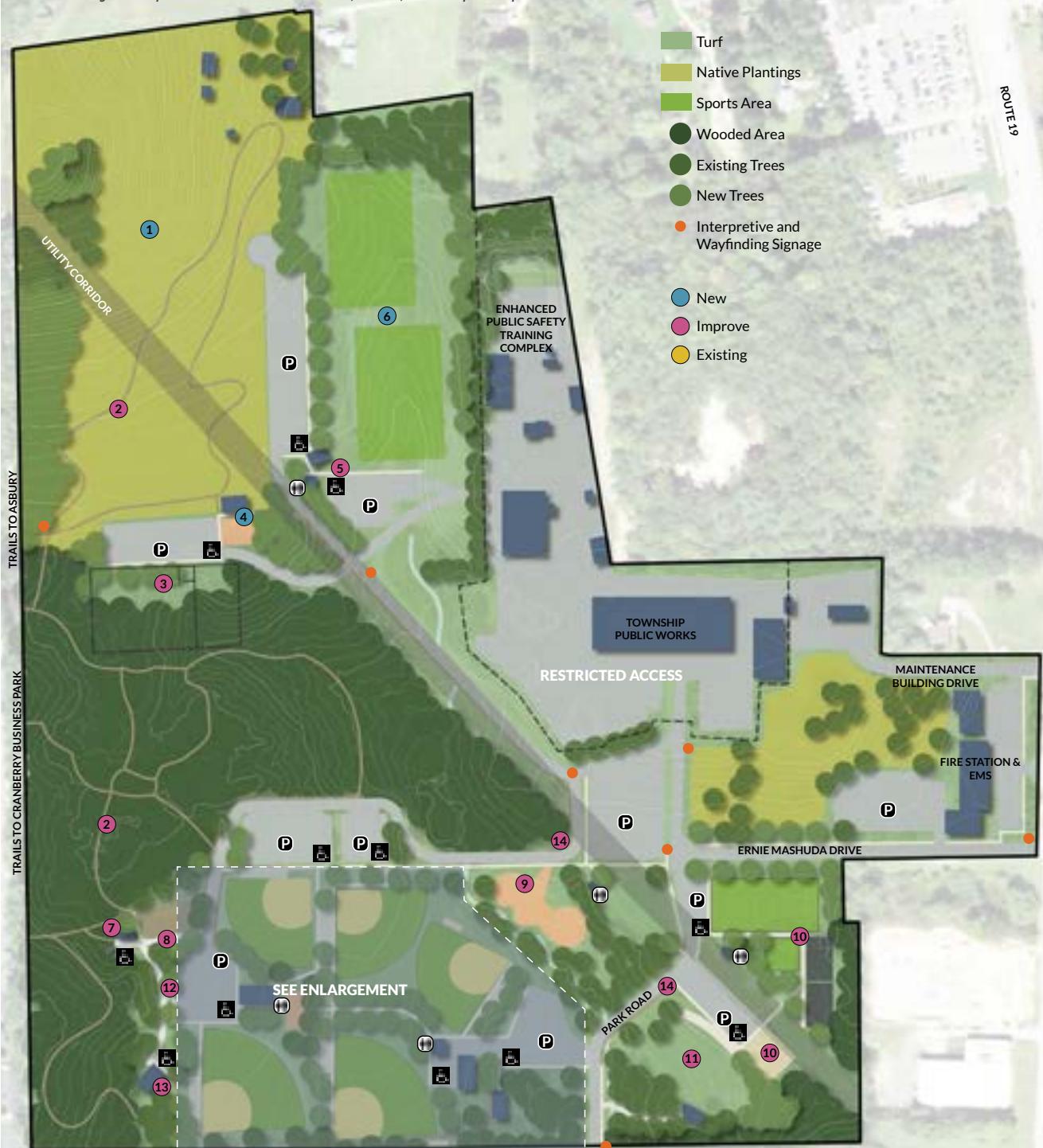
- Sycamore
- Hackberry
- Boxelder
- Eastern redbud
- Slippery elm
- Black gum
- Shortleaf pine
- Eastern hophornbeam
- Serviceberry
- Witch hazel
- American hornbeam
- Sweetbay magnolia
- Dogwood
- Redbud
- Fringe tree
- Mountain laurel
- Rhododendron
- Tulip tree
- Cucumber magnolia
- Kentucky coffee tree

The **DCNR Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation** has more information about climate change predictions for tree species.

# CONCEPTUAL PLAN

## CRANBERRY COMMUNITY PARK

Cranberry Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan



- ① Sledding Hill / Expand Trails
  - Native plantings and meadows
  - Photo opportunity
- ② Nature Trail
  - Wayfinding and interpretive signage
- ③ Dog Park
  - Develop second entrance for each area
  - Install water fountains inside fence areas
  - Benches
  - Shade tree plantings
- ④ Playground & Shelter
  - Pavilion with kitchenette
  - Restroom facilities
  - Small play area with swings and merry-go-round
- ⑤ Raider Pride Shelter
  - Restroom facilities
- ⑥ Multipurpose Sports Fields

- ⑦ Rotary Shelter
  - Accessible parking area with limited access
  - Replace roof and add gutters on shelter
  - Replace picnic tables, include one accessible table
  - Replace water fountain, include bottle filling station
- ⑧ Nature Play
  - Replace existing equipment with nature based play equipment
  - Accessible route to play area
- ⑨ Kids Castle Playground
  - Add shade structure
- ⑩ Sports Court Area
  - Repair existing tennis courts
  - Develop two pickleball courts
  - Relocate and expand basketball courts including fencing, lighting, and benches
  - Relocate existing sand volleyball courts
  - Expand and realign parking, include ADA spaces
- ⑪ Rotary Amphitheater Area
  - Expand parking, include ADA spaces and access to amphitheater seating area
  - Accessible viewing area off parking lot
  - Develop terrace seating
- ⑫ Parking
  - Remove existing restroom and storage facilities
  - Expand and realign parking, include ADA spaces and improved access to fields
- ⑬ Lions Shelter
  - Accessible parking area with limited access
  - Replace roof and add gutters on shelter
  - Replace picnic tables, include one accessible table
  - Replace water fountain, include bottle filling station
  - Replace grills
- ⑭ Sidewalks & Trails
  - Expand and improve sidewalks and trails along roadways to improve walking opportunities
  - Develop walking loop



## CONCEPTUAL PLAN

### CRANBERRY COMMUNITY PARK ENLARGEMENT

Cranberry Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan



**15 Jaycee Shelter**

- Add kitchen area
- Replace roof and add gutters on shelter
- Remove horseshoe pits and replace with permanent cornhole boards
- Replace water fountain, include bottle filling station
- Replace grills
- Replace concrete floor
- Reliamparking, including ADA spaces
- Replace lighting, fencing, and spectator seating
- Add accessible route to field and dugouts

**16 Baseball Field #1**

- Improve lighting, fencing, and spectator seating
- Add accessible route to field and dugouts

**17 Baseball Field #2**

- Improve lighting, fencing, and spectator seating
- Add accessible route to field and dugouts

**18 Baseball Area Walkways**

- Create a network of walkways connecting all the baseball fields
- Expand parking to include ADA spaces

**19 Batting Cages**

- Improve lighting, fencing, and spectator seating
- Add accessible route to field and dugouts

**20 Baseball Field #3**

- Improve lighting, fencing, and spectator seating
- Add accessible route to field and dugouts

**21 Baseball Field #4**

- Relocate field to the north, and eliminate warning track
- Improve lighting, fencing, and spectator seating
- Add accessible route to field and dugouts

**22 Playground**

- Replace existing play equipment
- Add accessible route to playground and benches

**23 Concession Stand**

- Expand and realign parking, include ADA spaces and improved access to fields

**24 Parking**

- Improve lighting, fencing, and spectator seating
- Add accessible route to field and dugouts

**25 Baseball Field #5**

- Remove football scoreboard
- Improve lighting, fencing, and spectator seating
- Add accessible route to field and dugouts

**26 Walking Path**

- Trim tree line
- Repair erosion and trail surface

PASHEK MTR

0 20 40 80 120 FT  
SCALE: 1" = 40 FT  
October 10, 2023

## Community Park - Implementation Projects

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>S H O R T</b>	Continue to be a dog friendly park and assure proper maintenance and upgrades to the dog park	Develop second entrances for each area, install water fountains inside fence areas, benches, shade tree plantings.
	Develop multi-purpose fields	2024 Project - DCNR funding secured.
	Upgrade sports court area	Repair existing tennis courts; develop two pickleball courts; relocate and expand basketball courts including fencing, lighting and benches; relocate existing sand volleyball courts; expand and realign parking including ADA spaces; upgrade restrooms; remove unsafe trees; remove small shade structure.
	Expand sidewalks and trails	Expand and improve sidewalks and trails along roadways to improve walking opportunities. Develop walking loop.
	Baseball Field #1	Improve lighting, fencing, and spectator seating. Add accessible route to field and dugouts.
	Baseball Field #5	Remove football scoreboard; improve lighting, fencing and spectator seating; add accessible route to fields and dugouts; construct storage building.
	Replace upper park play equipment	Replace existing play equipment near concession stand. Add accessible route to playgrounds and benches.
	Park edge walking path	Trim tree line and repair erosion and trail surface.
	Update signage and wayfinding throughout park	Plan has been developed and implementation has been initiated.
	Expand nature trail and walking opportunities	Install wayfinding and interpretive signage. Improve trail signage.
<b>M I D</b>	Upgrade Rotary Shelter	Establish accessible parking area, replace roof and gutters, upgrade tables with the inclusion of one accessible table, replace water fountain.
	Add shade structure to Kids Castle Playground	Determine best form of structure according to placement within the playground.
	Parking expansion	Remove existing restroom and storage facilities, expand and realign parking to include ADA spaces and improved access to fields.
	Upgrade Jaycee Shelter	Add kitchen area, replace roof and add gutters, remove horseshoe pits and replace with permanent cornhole boards, replace water fountain to include bottle filling station, replace grills, replace concrete floor, realign parking and include ADA spaces.
	Upgrade Rotary Amphitheater area.	Expand parking in conjunction with the sports court realignment, access to ADA seating, develop terraced seating.
	Upgrade Lions Shelter	Establish accessible parking area, replace roof and gutters, upgrade tables with the inclusion of one accessible table, replace water fountain, replace grills.
	Baseball Field #2	Improve lighting, fencing, and spectator seating. Add accessible route to field and dugouts.
	Baseball Field #3	Improve lighting, fencing, and spectator seating. Add accessible route to field and dugouts.
	Baseball Field #4	Relocate field to the north and eliminate warning track. Improve lighting, fencing, and spectator seating. Add accessible route to field and dugouts.
	Business Park trail entrance	Include interpretive signage and removal of invasives. Establish dedicated and improved entrance.
<b>L O N G</b>	Develop sled riding opportunities and a meadow plantings plan	The hill on the north side of the park would serve as a sledding hill and focal point for meadow plantings.
	Construct new shelter and play area in the north area	Shelter with kitchenette, restroom facilities, small play area.
	Upgrade Rotary Shelter play equipment with nature play	Explore nature play alternatives appropriate to the space.



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CRANBERRY  
TOWNSHIP

UPMC Passavant Sportsplex

# at Graham Park



UPMC Passavant Sportsplex at Graham Park - Implementation Projects		
	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Comments</i>
S H O R T	1 Parking improvements and expansion for trails (Powell Road trailhead)	Redefine entrance and exit.
	2 Reconfigure parking flow near pickleball and basketball courts	Options include one way in and one way out or the addition of stop signs.
	3 Improve drainage near Field B	
	4 Repair Scout Centennial Plaza	Make repairs to the cracks in the concrete.
	5 Reevaluate Football Practice Field vs. Game Field layout	Identify spectator seating areas.
	6 Install consistent parking lot island materials	Reduce maintenance with the use of stone.
	7 Update signage and wayfinding throughout park	Plan has been developed and implementation has been initiated.
M I D	8 Include shade structures near benches, play areas, and sport viewing areas	Additional shade tree plantings or shade structures.
	9 Construct two dugouts for T-Ball Field K	
	10 Replace scoreboard at Dek Hockey Court	
	11 Install lights on basketball court	
L O N G	12 Improved maintenance facility and storage	Expand.
	13 Remove fitness equipment near football fields	Replace with play equipment.
	14 Secondary Dek Hockey or Skatepark	Located near existing Dek Hockey rink.





CRANBERRY  
TOWNSHIP

# North Boundary Park



North Boundary Park - Implementation Projects		
	Recommendation	Comments
S H O R T	1 Expand maintenance and storage capacity in the park	Expand building and storage. Add a lunch room.
	2 Review possible location(s) for new skatepark area	Near practice soccer field on Reynolds Property.
	3 Expand Crocodile Cove Play Area	Expansion to include shade and musical instruments.
	4 Include shade structures near benches, play areas, and sport viewing areas	
	5 Evaluate Veterans Field use	Determine best use for this area.
	6 Provide new amenities to enhance the Summer Camp experience	Expand Penn Power Shelter, install restroom facility, construct court area, or additional play structure.
	7 Develop the Reynold's property	Possible skatepark or Community Center location.
	8 Continue to identify maintenance improvements on the Disc Golf Course	Purchase additional maintenance equipment such as a brushhog.

North Boundary Waterpark - Implementation Projects		
	Recommendation	Comments
S H O R T	Refurbish existing slide	2024 project.
	Develop Waterpark Master Plan	2024 project.
	Upgrades to concession equipment	2024 project.
	New splashpad	2024 project.
	Shade structure for new splashpad	2024 project.
	Annual replacement of chairs, umbrellas, and pool mechanics	
	Men's restroom changing stalls upgrade	In conjunction with overall renovations.
	Continue to implement Master Plan	Once the Master Plan is developed, continue to review and implement.



## Building Upon Exceptional Resources

Cranberry is building upon exceptional park and recreation resources. Statewide and national patterns since the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic reported a 27% increase in state park attendance from 2019-2020. According to a poll the PA DCNR commissioned in fall 2020, 86% of those who visited the State's parks, trails, or open spaces found that time spent in these areas had been essential to their mental and/or physical health during the pandemic. Seventy-five percent agreed that state and local governments should make funding outdoor recreation facilities a top priority. Research published in late 2021 showed that nearly half of adults across the country now participate in outdoor recreation at least monthly, of whom 20% may be new to outdoor recreation since the pandemic.

The Committee identified Community Park as the amenity that should be looked at in more detail during the development of this Plan. A conceptual plan of Community Park was developed as well as implementation projects. UPMC Passavant Sportsplex at Graham Park and North Boundary Park's future implementation projects are also included on the following pages.

## Expansion of Park Land

Cranberry does parks well. Thousands of visitors enjoy the Township's open spaces every month. Leaders know the impact these parks have on the community.

### Powell Farm

Cranberry's recent acquisition of the 71-acre Powell Farm is a great asset to the community and the Township is quickly moving on how this asset can be used to benefit residents. Preserving the history and importance of farming in America is important. To this end, small farms have been preserved throughout America as active, working educational farms. Families and school children can visit these farms to see how farms have historically supported the nation and currently bring food to our tables each day. There are programs through the USDA, colleges and universities, and private companies that help communities preserve these farms for future generations.

**Snipes Farm** in Morrisville, Pennsylvania offers programs for preschoolers and their parents throughout the week as well as an after-school program.

**Flint Hill Farm** in Coopersburg, Pennsylvania teaches classes in many of the older art forms of farming: cheese making, bread baking, and felting and spinning. They also offer summer camps with each week focusing on a different theme of farming.

Many colleges and universities, especially those with agricultural courses, have student run farms on or near their campuses. These farms often focus on sustainable practices in growing food, crops,



and general agricultural systems. Finding students who work and learn at these farms to volunteer hours or intern during the summer at Powell Farm could be a valuable resource as they bring their education and passion to the Cranberry community. **Penn State University's** student farm is located at their State College campus.

Networking is also a way Cranberry can find support in creating an educational farm. There are many active farm-based educational groups throughout the country such as the **Farm-Based Education Network** which supports the work of educators, farmers, and community leaders to provide access and experience on working farms.

A locally preserved, active and educational farm is **Round Hill Park** in Elizabeth Township which encompasses 1,101 acres. This Allegheny County owned park is both a traditional park (pavilions, sports field, trails, spray park, playgrounds) and active farm for educational purposes. School groups can take field trips to the farm, receiving a tour focused on farming history and the animals and livestock kept at the farm. Small groups and families can also visit daily and take their own tour of the farm. Visits to the farm are free.

Vegetables and herbs are grown at the Round Hill, as well as corn for grain and hay for the animals. The host of animals include sheep, cows, goats, chickens, horses, alpacas, small donkeys, and pigs. The farm also provides programs, including "Day on the Farm" where children can tour the farm, cook lunch, and do farm chores alongside the workers. Maple sugaring is offered in the spring and there is a sheep shearing event in May. These programs are often made possible by partnering with local groups including the Humane Society or volunteers who have agricultural and farming backgrounds.

Outside of educational purposes, Round Hill volunteers grow produce on the farm for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The Allegheny County Parks Foundation also supports many projects within the park including interpretive signage, animal shelters, and the preservation of wildlife habitats.

**The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA)** also offers communities help with agriculture preservation with programs such as Agricultural Security Area, Century and Bicentennial Farm Program, and Clean & Green.

## **Partnerships**

Cranberry is part of the Seneca Valley School District, which is the home of a variety of sports. Some of these sports use fields in Graham Park, Community Park, and North Boundary Park. The High School Varsity boys golf team uses Highlands Golf Course. The continued partnership between Cranberry and the School District provides successful programs for youth in the community.

Cranberry is also home to many Athletic Associations which partner with the Township's Park and Recreation Department to bring valuable athletic opportunities to the community. It also partners with local sports businesses to provide instruction on things like indoor soccer or Tae Kwon Do. Good relationships and communication are vital in order to continue to provide these great programs.

## Local Non-Profits, Businesses, and Sponsorships

The **Cranberry Township Community Chest** (CTCC) is a local non-profit that has been very supportive of parks and recreation in Cranberry, providing them with both funds and volunteers for projects such as Kids Castle in Community Park, the Rotary Amphitheater, and a variety of amenities in Graham Park.

Other non-profit organizations within Cranberry that have shown support of the parks and recreation through donations, volunteers, and support of certain amenities are the Rotary Club and the Lion's Club. Both of these clubs are dedicated to the success of their communities.

The Township provides a multitude of opportunities for local businesses to support programming and naming rights within the Township. Interested parties are able to provide donations towards programs such as Camp Cranberry, CranFest, Movies in the Park, Opening Weekend at the Waterpark. The link to sponsorships is available on the [Township website](#).

In late 2022 UPMC Passavant took over the naming rights of Graham Park on a 10-year deal. This partnership will provide funding to continue to maintain and develop the already world class park while providing health and fitness opportunities which aligns with the mission of UPMC Passavant.

Good relationships with local business owners - large and small - through sponsorships, special events, and programs like "Adopt-a-Roadway" are also important to the success of not just the Parks and Recreation Department but the Township itself.



## Funding Opportunities

This plan outlines multiple projects which could have costs projected to be upwards of \$50 million. Funding opportunities related to individual projects will need to be identified through a variety of available sources.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as well as local conservancies, counties, and non-profits also partner with municipalities to provide resources for them to achieve their goals in parks and recreation. These resources can include funding for ballfield renovations, new playgrounds, the purchase of open spaces, or trees to line a sidewalk. A list of these funding opportunities can be found in the Appendix of this report.



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# Corridors of Connections & Open Spaces

Technology



Funding & Economic Development



Sustainable Systems



Recreation for All



Health and Wellness



## SHORT TERM STRATEGIES 1 - 3 YEARS

**STRATEGY 1:** Continue to build out the cycling/pedestrian network through trails, paths, and sidewalks to create safe, attractive, and convenient connections between and among destinations and neighborhoods.

### ACTION STEPS:

- Evaluate whether such improvements can be made part of the paving projects and/or the Township road maintenance program.
- Communicate and collaborate with neighboring municipalities, county, and trail advocates on the benefits of regional planning and connectivity.

RESPONSIBILITY: P

STATUS: Ongoing

**NOTE:** This will happen with the SS4A Grant in 2024.



**STRATEGY 2:** Continue to develop partnerships with neighboring communities, businesses, and private owners to strengthen funding opportunities through County, DCNR, and DCED funding sources.

### ACTION STEPS:

- Build out a cycling and pedestrian network that could connect with neighboring communities.

RESPONSIBILITY: P

STATUS: Ongoing



**STRATEGY 3:** Create connections that will increase inclusive and accessible routes to existing and future parks and open spaces to serve very high and high priority areas of the Township.

### ACTION STEPS:

- Continue to utilize the Trust for Public Lands 10-minute Walk data to prioritize connections to existing and future parks.
- Seek ways to partner with landowners for expansion of trails and greenway systems.

RESPONSIBILITY: P

STATUS: Ongoing



# MID TERM STRATEGIES 4 - 6 YEARS

**STRATEGY 1:** Continue to invest in infrastructure improvements that enhance the public realm and pedestrian experience (lighting, street furniture, signage, landscaping, sidewalks, etc.).

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Identify funding, sponsorships, and locations.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** M, P

**STATUS:** Forthcoming

**STRATEGY 2:** Promote health and wellness through trails and connections.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Develop additional trail walks at Township parks.
- Partner with PA DCNR and the Walk with a Doc program.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD

**STATUS:** Ongoing

**STRATEGY 3:** Enhance wayfinding and signage throughout the Township with guidance from the UPMC Sportsplex at Graham Park Signage Plan.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Determine funding strategies and locations of new signage.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** P

**STATUS:** Forthcoming

**STRATEGY 4:** Increase mobile connectivity in outdoors and trails.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Stay current with new apps, data, equipment which are constantly changing and evolving.
- Develop Wi-Fi connections in strategic locations to enrich their experiences and comfort levels.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD

**STATUS:** Forthcoming

# LONG TERM STRATEGIES 7 - 10 YEARS

**STRATEGY 1:** Explore the feasibility of partnering with a Land Trust to purchase, own, and protect open space.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Identify steep slopes, forested areas, and open space as development continues in the Northeast region.
- Link land owners with land conservation options.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** M, P, BOS

**STATUS:** Forthcoming

**STRATEGY 2:** Establish and grow a green corridor network.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Acquire land and trail easements for the development of trails, parks, and the expansion of greenways.
- Continue to utilize the Trust for Public Lands 10-minute Walk data to prioritize connections to existing and future parks.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** P, M, BOS

**STATUS:** Forthcoming



# Corridor's of Connections & Open Spaces

The Township's natural spaces provide quiet environments to enjoy and explore, habitat for native species, and protection for air and water quality. Visualizing and adopting a green corridor network will be important to intentionally protecting and building upon this network and the resources it contains.

## ***Creating Linear Passive and Active Recreation Space***

A common concern voiced by conversations with residents and stakeholders and responses to the survey are safe connections between the neighborhoods, commercial districts, and parks within Cranberry. The up-and-coming generations place a high value on being able to walk or bike from their homes to stores, their workplaces, and recreation locations. It is vital for Cranberry to consider creating safe connections and maintaining the ones already in place.

## **Improve Safety of Road Riding/Walking Conditions**

Cranberry developed a Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections Plan in 2011. It identified roads which could be suitable for a bike route system as well as trails from the parks that could be interconnected. Existing sidewalks were analyzed and proposed sidewalks were listed in order to connect neighborhoods, schools, and parks safely. Intersections were evaluated for safety and recommendations were made for improvements including curbs, crosswalks, signals, and ADA accessibility.

As part of the road maintenance program, evaluate whether such improvements can be made part of projects on the paving list.

Select Pedestrian & Bicycling Facilities Unit Price Schedule				
Improvement	Width	Material	Estimated Cost	Unit
Sidewalk	5 foot	Concrete	\$100	LF
Multi-use trail	8 foot	Asphalt	\$95	LF
Multi-use trail	10 foot	Asphalt	\$110	LF
Multi-use trail	10 foot	Crushed limestone	\$75	LF
Bi directional shared-lane markings (sharrows)*		Thermoplastic pavement markings	\$3	LF
Striped bike lane and pavement markings on existing shoulder (both sides)		Thermoplastic pavement markings	\$1,000 - \$11,000	Mile
Widening both shoulders to add striped bike lane and pavement markings			\$150,000 - \$500,000	Mile
High-visibility crosswalk			\$2,540	Each
Flashing beacon			\$22,250	Each
Easement			\$2	SF
Design and engineering fees	15% to 20% of estimated construction cost			

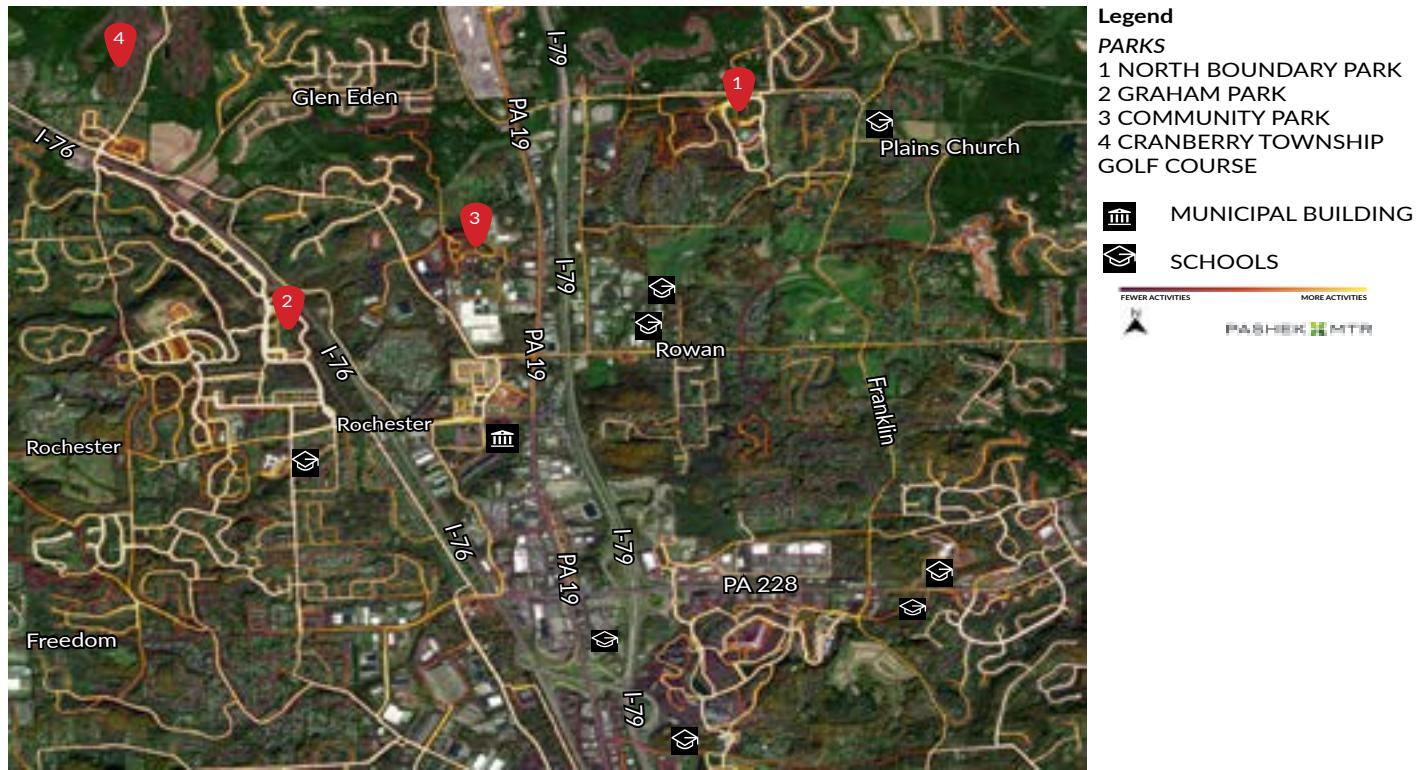
\* Per AASHTO, these should be placed immediately after an intersection and at least every 250 feet thereafter



## CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP

### COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

#### HEAT MAPS: WALKING AND BIKING



## CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP

### COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

#### HEAT MAPS: WALKING AND BIKING



## Trails and Greenways

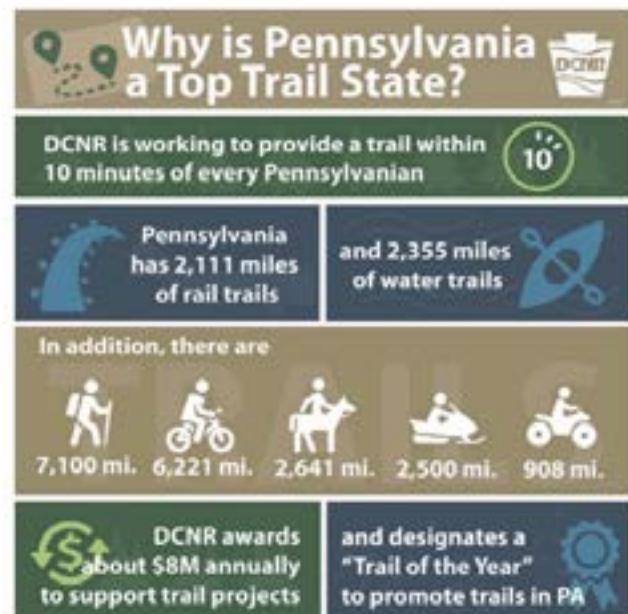
Pennsylvania's Trail and Greenway Vision, established by PA DCNR, will connect Pennsylvania's open space; natural landscape features; scenic, cultural, historic, and recreation sites; and urban and rural communities. Greenways will become one of the Commonwealth's most powerful tools to achieve sustainable growth and livable communities.

### Trails

Cranberry has many well-used trails within its parks. These trails are very popular with residents of all ages. Trails offer both active and passive recreation in that they allow people to be active as they walk or bike in a passive, relaxed atmosphere of the natural world around them.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has made trails an important part of the 2020-2024 SCORP Plan and created a stand alone [Trail Network Plan](#).

In 2018, Cranberry worked with neighboring communities to create the Commodore Perry Regional Trail Plan which will use existing connections within the communities to build out a trail which will interconnect them. The Township continues to create sections of the Commodore Perry Trail, a network that spans five neighboring communities. The Township has accomplished significant extension of walking paths in recent years and has proven adept at brainstorming and scouting ideal alignments, sorting out access, permits and approvals, assembling funds and putting construction in motion. The Township should consider seeking opportunities to work with surrounding communities on expanding access to recreation and open space amenities, as well as connecting with private entities where there are mutual advantages. Future trail design should consider sustainable trail principles that site, design, and build trails which protect against harming vegetation, soils, streams, and other natural resources. More details are available in the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources publication [Pennsylvania Trail Design and Development Principles](#). Cranberry should continue to review the Commodore Perry Trail Plan and partner with the other communities on how to best bring this trail to fruition.



### Pennsylvania's Trail and Greenway Vision

Develop a statewide land and water trail network to facilitate recreation, transportation, and healthy lifestyles for all.



## Land Conservation

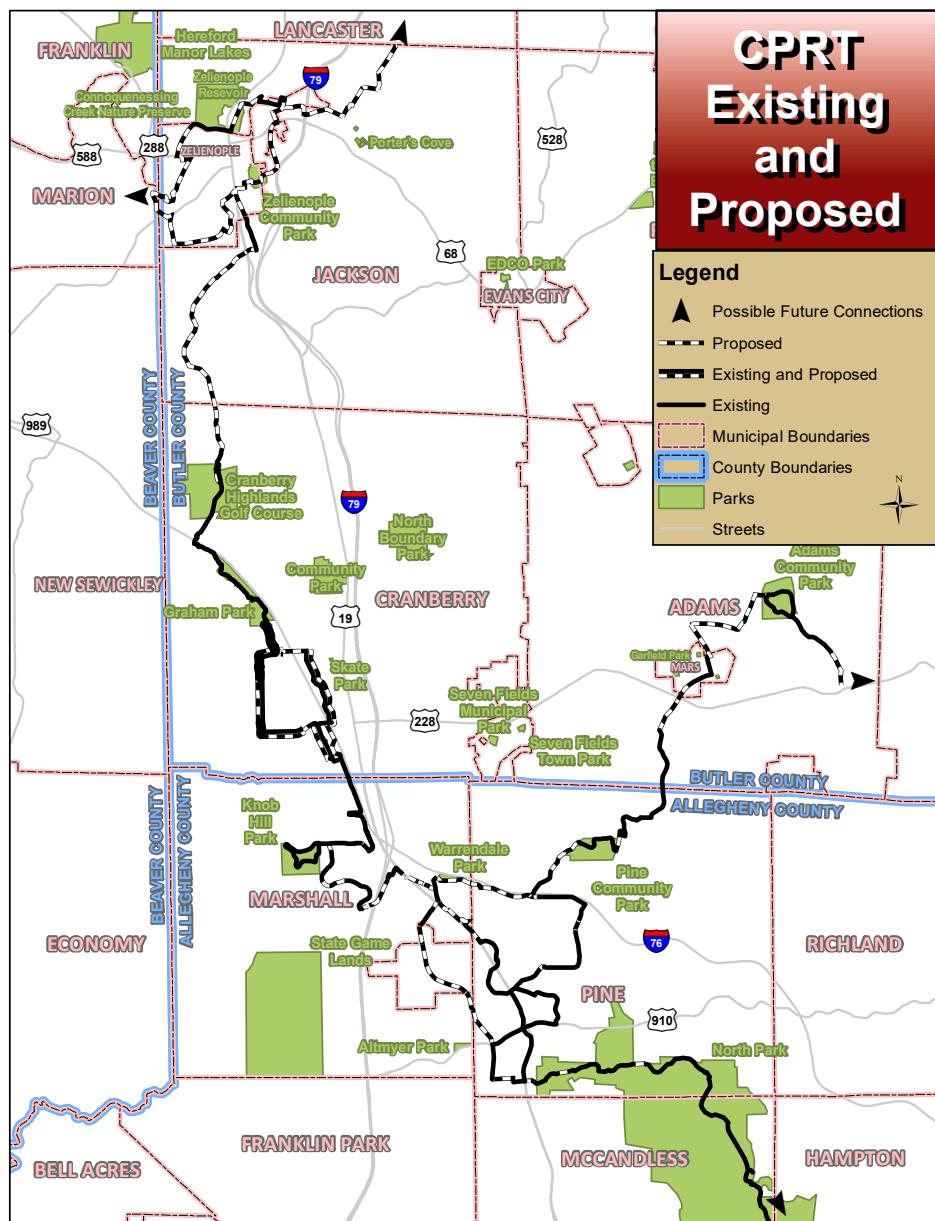
The Environmental Advisory Committee was formed in 2020. The Committee consists of ten community members and two employees focusing on new ways to implement and support the Township's environmental goals. The Committee should develop a list of properties with high preservation value, in terms of connection to a green corridor network, environmental quality, and community resilience. The Committee would need to analyze how land would be selected and administered. Conversations and coordination with a Land Trust to identify financing methods, preservation goals, and strategies would provide an overall understanding on the quality of natural resources, flood risk reduction, and political action.

## Greenways

A greenway is

1. A linear open space established either along a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley, or ridge line; or overland along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreation use, a canal, a scenic road, or other route.
2. Any natural or landscaped course for pedestrian or bicycle passage.
3. An open space connector linking park nature reserves, cultural features, or historic sites with each other and with populated areas.
4. Locally, certain strip or linear parks designated as a parkway or greenbelt.

Creating greenways is a multi-year effort. As Cranberry considers spaces within its borders that could be used as greenways, strategies and priorities should be adjusted based on the location or established need. Potential alignments should evaluate the opportunity to expand recreation development, provide



opportunities for an under served population, and provide space for additional facilities needed now and as the community grows.

Properties being considered as potential greenways should be evaluated for their ability to:

- Be included in a larger Greenway system
- Meet additional park facility development needs
- Close identified trail gaps
- Provide additional trail opportunities
- Preserve plant and wildlife habitat
- Protect steep slopes, 15% to 25% or greater
- Expand existing parks
- Connect or enhance Township assets or hubs
- Provide alternative transportation

## ***Preservation of Open Spaces***

A first step in developing a thriving network of greenways and trails is to explore funding strategies through grants or other means. Having these strategies in place when an opportunity to acquire an open space arises will give the Township a jump start on purchasing and preserving the land.

Another step is to explore open spaces that exist now but do not belong to the Township, just as the Township proactively and strategically acquired Powell Farm. What would the Township do with the open space? Does it fit into the desired trail network or park vision? Who owns the property? Would they be willing to sell or donate it to the Township or provide an easement? Many options are available to enlarging and preserving open spaces in Cranberry.

## **Easements**

Often, connectivity requires easements. The process for acquiring needed easements for trails is flexible and may be based on the Township's comfort level with opening conversations with property owners. Naturally, the community may wish to consult with its solicitor, as legal advice may be needed.

The nature of an initial conversation about an easement could depend on the location of the property, the importance of an easement to the success of a project, and any understanding of the property owner's point of view about a project. The community may consider it advantageous to approach an owner through official channels or could arrange for a simple conversation on a neighbor-to-neighbor basis.



Pennsylvania-specific information on easement acquisition, easement agreements, sidewalk design, implementation, and strategies may be found at [conservationtools.org](http://conservationtools.org). This site also provides model easement agreement documents, both simple and detailed versions. (A link to a sample version is provided in the Appendix.)

## **Mandatory Dedication or Fee-in-Lieu of Ordinance**

One of the potential funding strategies for the acquisition and development of the new parks and trails recommended in this plan is through the "Mandatory Land Dedication or Fees-in-Lieu-of" Ordinance. The Township has established fees authorized by the MPC instead of the dedication of land. These funds are made available for recreational use, the construction of recreation facilities, acquisition of additional public space and trails. In 2014, the law brought more flexibility and modified the public dedication rules. The new rules state:

"The land or fees, or combination thereof, are to be used only for the purpose of providing, acquiring, operating or maintaining park or recreation facilities reasonably accessible to the development."

In other words, under the new rules, municipalities are clearly authorized to use fees not only for acquisition and development of facilities but also for operations and maintenance. More information and examples of ordinances in other communities and counties can be found on the [WeConservePA's website](http://WeConservePA.org).

## **Land Trusts**

Land Trust organizations are similar to conservation organizations and focus on preserving open space. They protect land of value to a region's unique scenic landscape, biodiversity, and water quality. They desire to protect the land in order to improve the quality of life for current and future generations by offering recreation and educational opportunities.

Land Trusts can help local communities preserve open spaces as they have both the finances, educated staff, and experience in acquiring land, supporting the land, and developing it into a safe but natural area for people to enjoy.

# Innovative Programs to Enhance the Quality of Life

## SHORT TERM STRATEGIES 1 - 3 YEARS

**STRATEGY 1:** Complete an Arts, Culture, and Recreation Center Feasibility Study.

### ACTION STEPS:

- Scope of work should include potential locations, amenities, staffing, operations, revenue, expenses and funding opportunities.
- Determine indoor space opportunities and needs related to Arts, Culture, Youth Services (Daycare, Before and After School Services), and Aquatics.
- Match facility programming with needs of the community.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD, M, P    **STATUS:** Forthcoming

**STRATEGY 2:** Build and expand signature events and programming with connections to new Park and Recreation position.

### ACTION STEPS:

- Consider additional investments that are unique to Cranberry Township.
- Continue to monitor Statewide and National trends.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD, M, BOS    **STATUS:** Forthcoming

**STRATEGY 3:** Develop a Parks and Recreation Operations Plan.

### ACTION STEPS:

- Ensure sufficient capacity of the Parks and Recreation staff is maintained as programming increases.
- Evaluate program success by providing program participants the opportunity to share ideas through program evaluations.
- Identify desired evaluation criteria and develop a framework to improve efficiency and intended cost recovery level.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD    **STATUS:** In Progress



**STRATEGY 4:** Continue to evaluate trends in facilities such as youth sports, adult sports, and passive recreation.

### ACTION STEPS:

- Determine ongoing needs and keep pace with the current demand.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD    **STATUS:** Forthcoming

**STRATEGY 5:** Evaluate current amenities and storage for programming summer camp.

### ACTION STEPS:

- Consider expansion of existing facilities, additional restrooms, and court activities.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD    **STATUS:** Forthcoming

**STRATEGY 6:** Continue to support the 55+ Club and Senior Center to coordinate programming.

### ACTION STEPS:

- Develop programming expectations and desired additional amenities and staff requirements.
- Continue to work with program leaders to identify opportunities to offer a range of programs and activities to encourage active and independent living.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD    **STATUS:** Forthcoming



# MID TERM STRATEGIES 4 - 6 YEARS

**STRATEGY 1:** Increase nature-oriented programs such as hiking, environmental education, sustainable gardening, birding, and astronomy.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Support efforts provided by other regional recreation providers which increases opportunities for economic benefits.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD

**STATUS:** Forthcoming

**STRATEGY 2:** Increase inclusive and diverse programming to provide opportunities for all members of the community.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Develop new recreation programming that meet community needs for existing residents and enhance community's desirability for prospective residents.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD

**STATUS:** Forthcoming

**STRATEGY 3:** Develop opportunities for young professionals to mingle and develop relationships.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Provide opportunities for pick up sports, food truck events, and health and wellness programs designed for young professionals.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD

**STATUS:** Forthcoming

**STRATEGY 4:** Provide additional teen opportunities: hang out spaces, E-sports, dances, battle of the bands, volunteer opportunities, outdoor adventure.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Partner with youth and school groups to gain a better understanding of successful programming opportunities.
- Promote the economic benefits of Parks and Recreation in regards to deterring crime, positive development of youth, healthy family bonds, and a sense of community.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD

**STATUS:** Forthcoming

# LONG TERM STRATEGIES 7 - 10 YEARS

**STRATEGY 1:** Use communications to reinforce and identify an image for the Parks and Recreation Department.

**ACTION STEPS:**

- Refresh branding and identity as new facilities and programming develop.
- Facilitate pop-up events that cultivate energy and test demand for additional programs.
- Take the pulse of the community to reensure the direction and benefit of new programs.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** PRD

**STATUS:** Forthcoming





## **Innovative Programming**

Cranberry has programs of all shapes and sizes for people of all ages and backgrounds. From baking cookies to yoga to soccer. From weekly preschool classes to teen E-sports to 55+ luncheons. Thousands of children, teenagers, young adults, and older adults take part in Cranberry's recreation programs throughout the year. These programs need to be continually supported. They also need to be able to grow. And new programs to attract even more users should also be considered.

## **Room to Grow**

Space to support recreation programming is a concern for every Park and Recreation Department. No one wants to turn people away because space is unavailable or too many teams are using the baseball fields on Saturday mornings. Finding ways that will allow the current programming to grow is vital to the success of the Department.

## **Summer Camp**

Cranberry's summer camp programs are wildly popular. Over a thousand children from preschoolers to 12-year-olds attend a camp and some come for more than one. Good camp programming takes a lot of work. It's easier to envision activities on warm summer days. But what about rainy days? Or days when it is blistering hot? Great indoor spaces would be of value to the summer camp program, as would locations where summer camp equipment can be stored all year long. These are things that should be considered as the Township discusses a Community Center.

## **Staffing Capacity**

Great programming does not create, nor support, itself. Having a full staff that is both good at what they do and excited about parks and recreation is important. Cranberry should take time to annually review their current staff and their staffing needs.



## What Could a Community Center look like in Cranberry Township?

A Community Center is another important piece of furthering parks and recreation in Cranberry which has been discussed throughout the creation of this Plan. Community Centers bring valuable recreation programs to the residents of communities. They allow for programs to be conducted regardless of the weather outside and give space for classes and workshops in which all ages can participate. Current generations especially hold exercise and recreation as vital to their lives, and share that love with both the young and older people in their lives. A recent NRPA Park Pulse survey showed that 91% of Americans believe their community is enhanced by having easy access to local recreation or community centers.

Many communities in Western Pennsylvania have Community Centers. The types of recreation programs these centers offer differ from the facilities the communities have built from indoor swimming to weight rooms to community gathering places. The common denominators of many of these facilities is a cardio and/or weight room, a gymnasium, an indoor track, and rooms for classes or meetings.

Cranberry Township has cited building a community center separate from the Municipal Center as a high priority. Information on both local and national community centers has been provided to the Township to further the discussion on size, location, amenities, programs, staff, etc. A Community Center Feasibility Study should be completed by knowledgeable architectural, engineering, and recreation firms. This Study will give the Township a practical guide on how to bring the desire of a Community Center to a reality.



Local Community Centers Amenities Matrix						
	Upper St. Clair	Township of Pine	Ross Township	Collier Township	Hampton Township	Lauri Ann West
Membership Fees	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Indoor Pool	✓					
Meeting Rooms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Exercise Rooms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Weight Room	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indoor Track	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Preschool/Childcare Rooms	✓					
Gym/Court	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

# LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTERS



## Upper St. Clair 2009

**square footage**  
90,000

**population served**  
20,935

**construction cost**  
\$16.5 million

**approx. yearly revenue**  
\$3.6 million

**approx. yearly operating costs**  
\$4.5 million

## Township of Pine 2000

**square footage**  
55,000

**population served**  
15,018

**construction cost**  
\$8.3 million

**approx. yearly revenue**  
\$180,700

**approx. yearly operating costs**  
\$154,200

## Ross Township 2003

**square footage**  
12,000

**population served**  
33,176

**construction cost**  
\$7 million

**\* approx. yearly revenue**  
\$13.6 million

**\* approx. yearly operating costs**  
\$1.4 million



## Collier Township 2014

**square footage**  
40,000

**population served**  
8,931

**construction cost**  
\$576,000

**\* approx. yearly revenue**  
\$107,000

**\* approx. yearly operating costs**  
\$162,000

## Hampton Township 2005

**square footage**  
51,000

**population served**  
18,235

**construction cost**  
\$5 million

**approx. yearly revenue**  
\$542,300

**approx. yearly operating costs**  
\$334,300

## Lauri Ann West - O'Hara 2016

**square footage**  
28,000

**population served**  
14,500

**construction cost**  
\$420,000

**approx. yearly revenue**  
private organization

**approx. yearly operating costs**  
private organization

\* Hard to determine as township budget does not separate recreation costs vs. community center costs



## Developing Programming

Recreation programming is always evolving. Some of these changes take place with demographic shifts. Other changes occur when an activity becomes popular or fades over time. Park and Recreation Departments must be aware of these trends and adjust in order to be continually relevant. Discussions among the staff, those who attend the events, and the community at large will help guide the Department when changes need to be made.

### Nature and Technology

The National Wildlife Federation provides innovative ways to connect children with nature. Today the amount of time children spend outside is alarmingly low while screen time is at an all-time high. Connecting children and nature has important health benefits. Children who spend time outside are active, imaginative, have longer attention spans, and are less likely to be aggressive. In addition, children who spend time in nature regularly appreciate the world around them and want to learn more about the environment.

There are many apps and websites available to encourage children to participate in outdoor activities. A sampling includes:

- [www.naturefind.com](http://www.naturefind.com) - NatureFind is a great hub for local nature-based organizations and nature enthusiasts to share favorite places, upcoming events, interests, photos and more.
- [www.kidweatherapp.com](http://www.kidweatherapp.com) - A true weather app for children designed by a six-year-old boy (and his meteorologist dad).
- <https://starwalk.space/en> - Star Walk is the most beautiful stargazing app. It will become your interactive guide to the night sky.
- <https://www.inaturalist.org/> - iNaturalists is a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society. Record your encounters, learn about nature, create useful data, become a citizen scientist, or run a Bioblitz.

### Programming for All Ages

It is a challenge to provide programming that will be of interest to varying demographic groups. Families with children flock to participate in sports, swimming lessons, art classes, and community events. It can be more difficult to find programs that will be of interest to busy young professionals, teenagers, or senior citizens.

Thinking outside the box and involving people within diverse demographics to give input and even volunteer to spearhead a program is key in creating targeted events. For young professionals this may mean offerings exercise classes or opening weight rooms very early in the morning or later at night. Seniors often enjoy sociable activities such as trips or lunches, but they are also individuals who make great volunteers.



## PA DCNR - Walk with a Doc

PA DCNR has partnered with health systems throughout the state to highlight the benefits of spending time in nature. Walking is one of the best things you can do for your health. Benefits include:

- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Control weight
- Reduce risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and some cancers
- Strengthen bones and muscles
- Improve mental health and mood
- Improve sleep quality
- Increase your chances of living longer
- Increase positive feelings about quality of life
- Keep your lungs healthy

As Cranberry Township has recently partnered with UPMC as a sponsor of Graham Park, a conversation with UPMC to initiate this program would be a benefit to residents of the community. More information can be found on the [DCNR's Walk with a Doc](#) website.



## Statements of Support

This Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan was developed to achieve consistency with the goals of Cranberry Township, as well as Pennsylvania and National visions for outdoor recreation. During the public input process, residents, staff members, and other stakeholders contributed additional ideas, issues, and concerns. These matters are gathered in this report. This Plan establishes a high-level blueprint for the continued development of Cranberry Township and their multitude of public spaces. As the Township makes progress implementing strategies in each category, it will continue to provide excellent local government services and collaborate with other agencies, governments, groups, and individuals to pursue shared goals.

This plan specifically memorializes support for initiatives included in, but certainly not limited to:

- 2020-2024 Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- 2022 Park Inventory Report
- 2016 Park Economic Impact Study
- 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update
- 2012 Cranberry Township Parks and Recreation Plan
- 2011 Bike-Ped Study
- 2009 Comprehensive Plan





PASHEK MTR

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-18**

### **CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF BUTLER, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING THE CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE, PLAN, DATED MARCH 7, 2024.**

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, the Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors adopted the Recreation and Open Space Plan, which set forth the Community's comprehensive plan for the Township's parks, recreation facilities and programming, greenways, and open spaces; and,

**WHEREAS**, the current update to the Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan (Plan) was made possible in part through a grant from Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, in partnership with Butler County and has been submitted to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Recreation and Open Space Plan Advisory Committee actively participated in the preparation of the Plan, received public input throughout the planning process, and has recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the Plan; and,

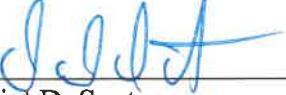
**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors has determined that the proposed Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan dated March 7, 2024 is an accurate and thorough summary of the community's parks, recreation, and vision, and recommendations for the future of Cranberry Township's parks and recreation network; and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Cranberry Township, a Second-Class Township of Butler County, that the Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan dated March 7, 2024 is hereby adopted; and,

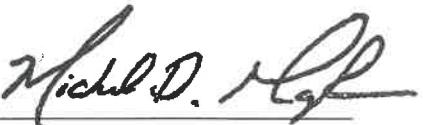
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors does hereby designate the Township Manager as the official to advance the mission, goals, and priorities listed in the Plan and is charged with the implementation of the vision as set for in the Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan dated March 7, 2024.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I affix my hand and attach the seal of Cranberry Township, this 7th day of March 2024.

ATTEST

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel D. Santoro,  
Township Manager/Secretary

TOWNSHIP OF CRANBERRY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael D. Manipole,  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors