Montoursville Borough

Park Master Site Plans for Indian Park, Mill Street Park and Susquehanna River Access







Plan Prepared By:





MONTOURSVILLE BOROUGH PARKS

MASTER PLAN SUMMARY REPORT

December 2014

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December 2014

SPECIAL THANKS

PROJECT STUDY COMMITTEE

Ron Beach **Tim Bowers Eric Comini Louise Courtney** Silvia Davis John Dorin Ginny Gardner **Dennis Holt** Tiffani Helmrich **Dorrie Joiner** Matt Joiner Sally Kiessling **Donald King** Chris Lucas Scott Metzger Robert Phelan, Jr. Kevin O'Shea Steve Rush

> Ron Smith Kim Tucker Frank Valez Jerry Walls

Bob Weaver Bryce Weaver

Louis M. Bassler

PROJECT ADVISORS

Renee Carey
Wes Fahringer
Chris King
Megan Lehman
Jerry Walls
Kim Wheeler
Mel Zimmerman

PROJECT TEAM

Brian Auman Alice Trowbridge Ben Mayer Emily Larkin

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MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

Organization and Background Data Gathering

- Form Study Committee
- Review Previous Plans and Reports
- GIS Mapping and Site Analysis
- Facilitate Study Committee Meetings (4)

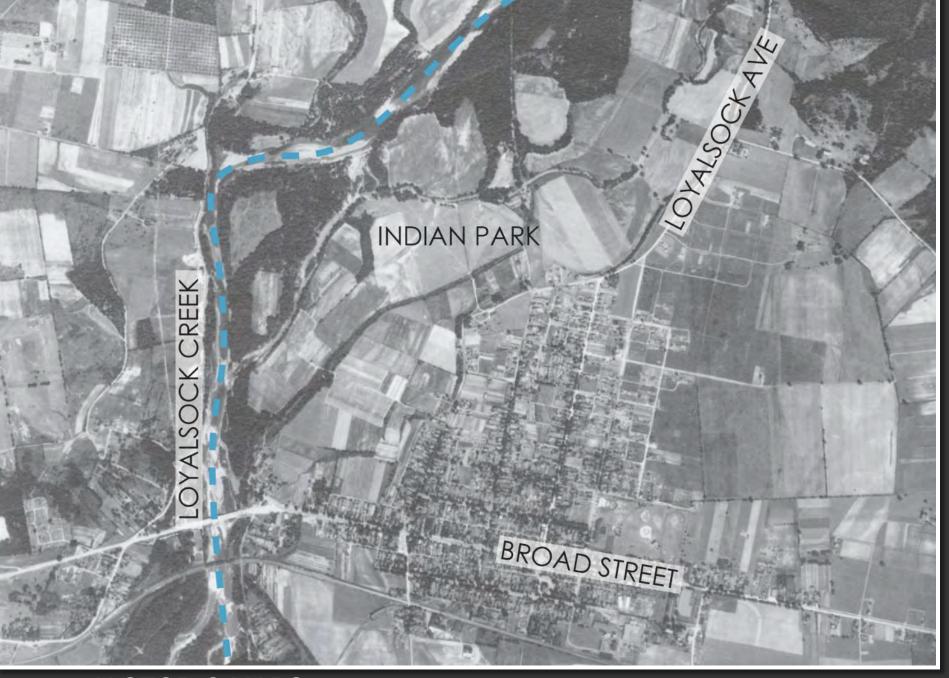
Community Engagement

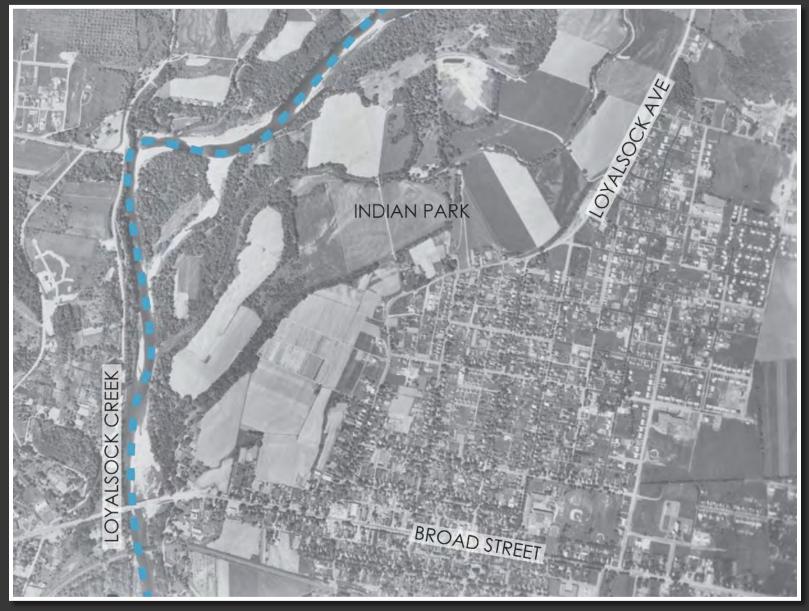
- Focus Groups (6)
- Park User Survey
- Public Meetings

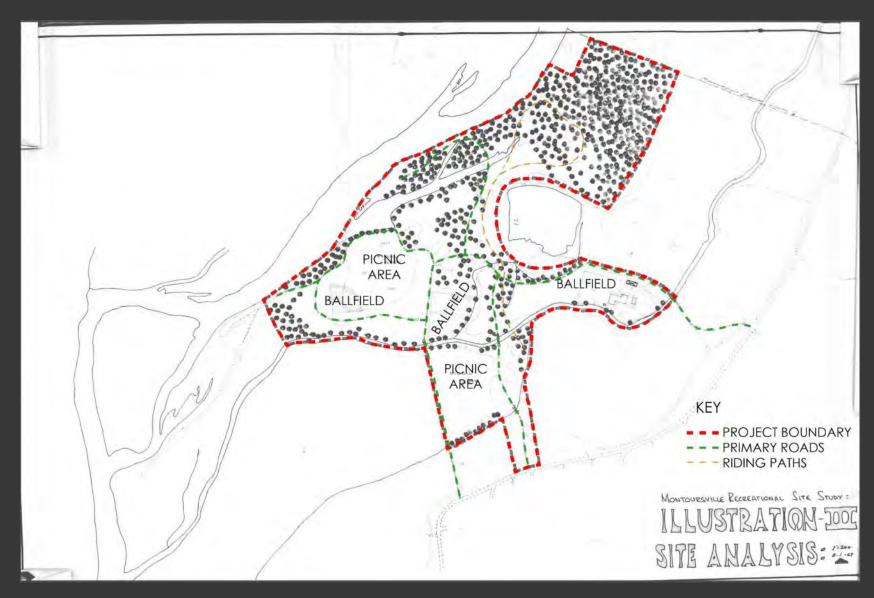
Park Master Site Plans

- Park Master Plans
- Priority Project Lists
- Cost Estimates
- Actions and Strategies
- Funding Partnership
- Grant Assistance

ORGANIZATION AND BACKGROUND DATA GATHERING

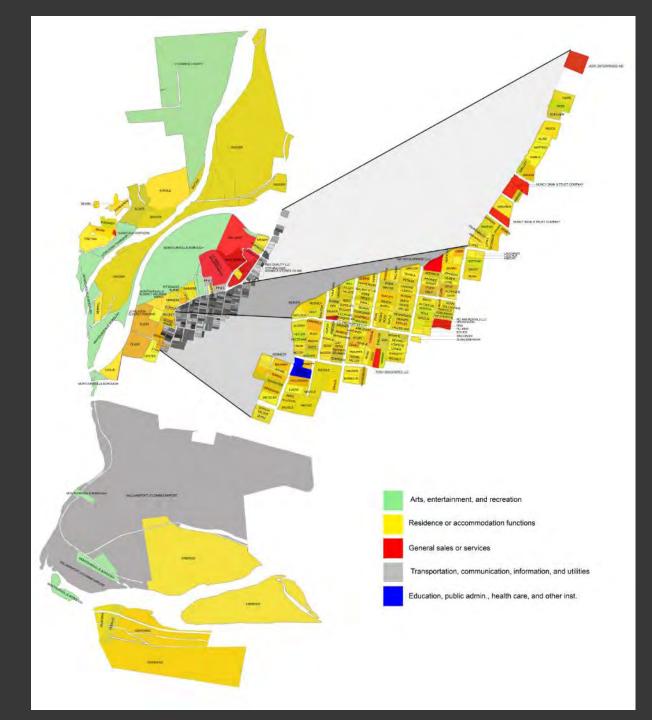






HISTORIC PARK PLANS

Indian Park Site Analysis 1967



LAND OWNERSHIP MAP____

Linden loam, occasionally flooded (Ln)

	Category	Rating	Rating Reasons
Recreational Programs	Playgrounds	Somewhat Limited	Flooding (0.60)
			Dusty (0.03)
	Picnic Areas	Somewhat Limited	Dusty (0.03)
	Paths and Trails	Somewhat Limited	Dusty (0.03)
	Camp Areas	Very Limited	Flooding (1.00)
			Dusty (0.03)
Septic Capability	Septic System In Ground Trench (Conventional) (PA)	Very limited	Seasonal High Water Table (1.00)
			Flooding (1.00)
			Fast Percolation >12" (1.00)
-			Slope (0.01)
Wastewater	Slow Rate Treatment of Wastewater	Very Limited	Filtering Capacity (1.00)
			Flooding (0.60)
			Too Acid (0.14)
Surface Treatment	Unpaved Local Roads and Streets	Very Limited	Flooding (1.00)
	J 1400 200 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000		Frost Action (0.50)
			Dusty (0.03)
Erosion	Erosion Hazard (Road Trail)	Slight	
	Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off Trail)	Slight	
Hydric	Hydric Rating		3



Udifuvents, loamy (Ud)

3	Category	Rating	Rating Reasons
Recreational Programs	Playgrounds	Not Rated	
The season of th	Picnic Areas	Not Rated	
	Paths and Trails	Not Rated	
	Camp Areas	Not Rated	
Septic Capability	Septic System In Ground Trench (Conventional) (PA)	Very limited	Seasonal High Water Table (1.00)
			Flooding (1.00)
			Miscellaneous Area (1.00)
			Potential Bedrock near 60" (0.20)
			Slope (0,01)
Wastewater	Slow Rate Treatment of Wastewater	Somewhat Limited	Flooding (0,60)
			Depth to Saturated Zone (0.09)
			Too Acid (0,08)
Surface Treatment	Unpaved Local Roads and Streets	Not Rated	
Erosion	Erosion Hazard (Road Trail)	Slight	
	Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off Trail)	Slight	
Hydric	Hydric Rating		5

SOIL INVENTORY MAP



EXISTING CONDITIONS



River Birch Betula nigra



Blueberry Vaccinium angustifolium



Honeysuckle Lonicera periclymenum



Norway Maple Acer platanoides



Poison Ivy Toxicodendron radicans



American Sycamore Platanus occidentalis



Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata*



Mayapple
Podophyllum peltatum



Red Raspberry Rubus stigosus



Yellow Water Lily Nuphar lutea



Black Cherry Prunus serotina



Common Wild Violet Viola



Staghorn Sumac Rhus Typhina



Sensitive Fern
Onoclea sensibilis



Wild Onion

Alium canadense

EXISTING VEGETATION



Honeysuckle Lonicera periclymenum



Norway Maple Acer platanoides



Poison Ivy
Toxicodendron radicans



Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata*



Tree of Heaven

Ailanthus altissima

EXISTING INVASIVE VEGETATION



Black Bear Ursus americanus



Canada Goose

Branta canadensis



Carp Cyprinus carpio



Catfish

Pylodictis olivaris



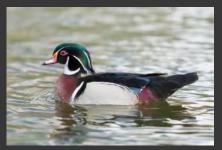
Bass Micropterus dolomieu



Mallards Anas platyrhynchos



Opossum Didelphis marsupialis



Wood Duck Aix sponsa

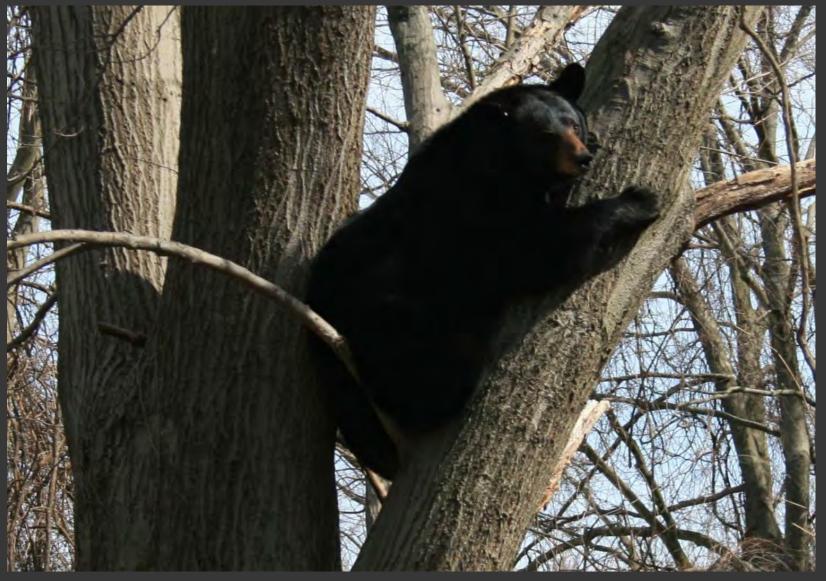








EXISTING WILDLIFE



Black Bear Ursus americanus

PHOTO INVENTORY OF INDIAN PARK, MILL STREET AND RIVER ACCESS AREA



INDIAN PARK - THE PONDS













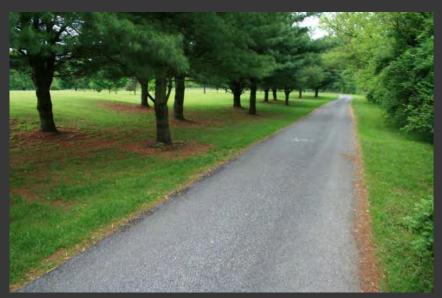


SOCCER, SOFTBALL, BASKETBALL, TENNIS, BOCCE, VOLLEYBALL AND HORSESHORES

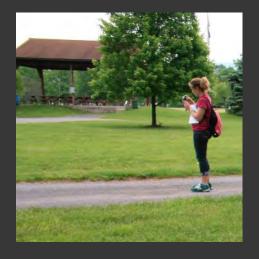








AMPHITHEATER AND LAWN AREA





















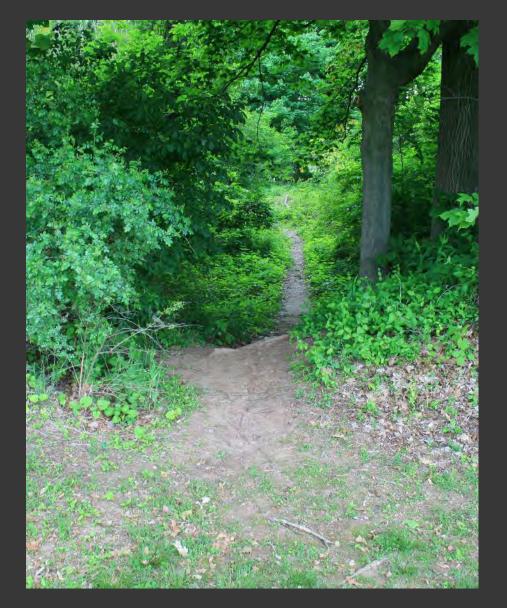
PLAYGROUNDS





Restroom Facilities









WOODED AND UNIQUE AREAS





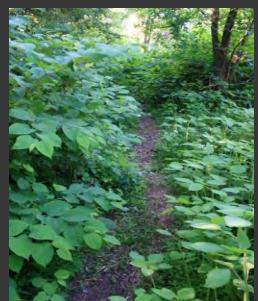




MILL STREET – BASEBALL AND SOCCER FIELDS





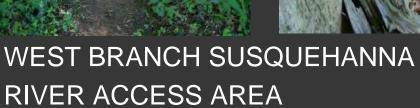




MILL STREET – LOYALSOCK CREEK ACCESS, FISHING & SWIMMING







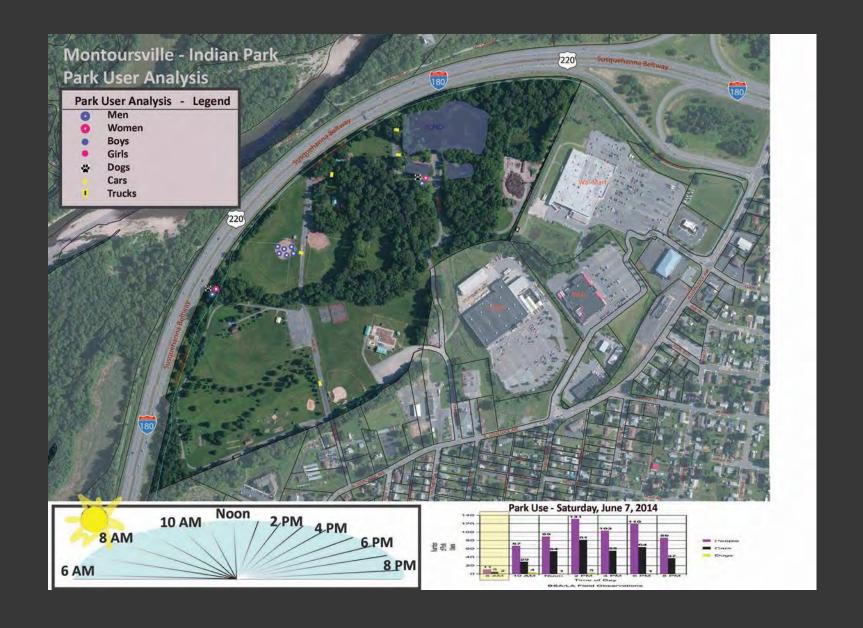


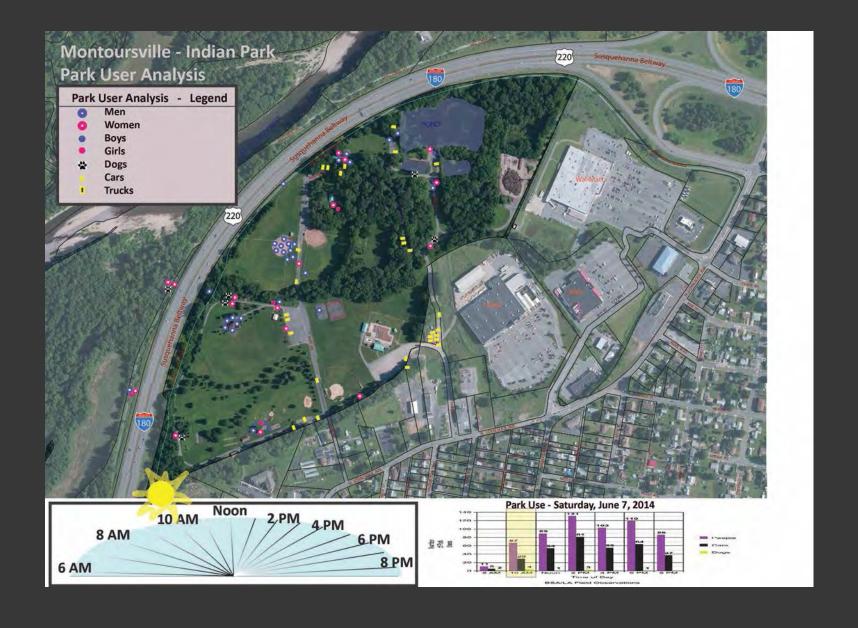


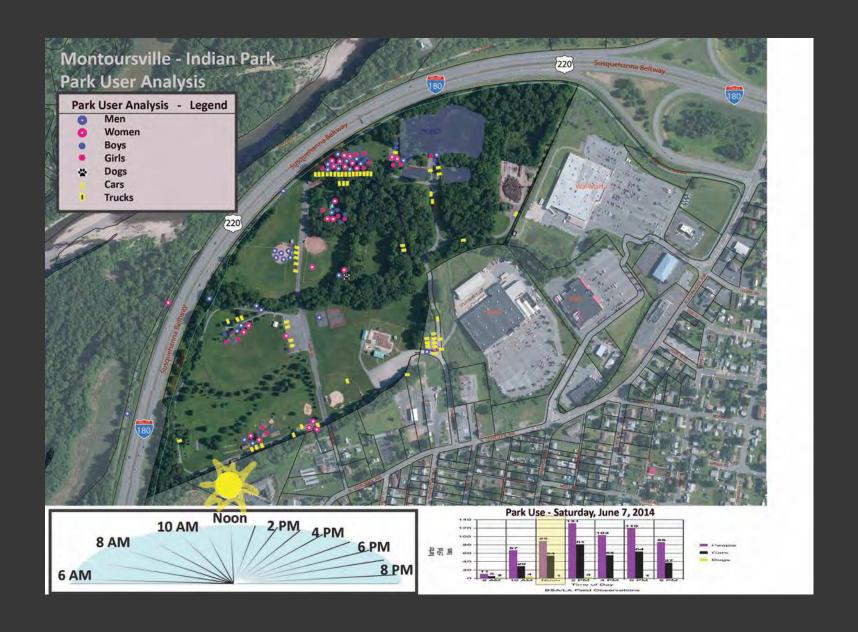
INDIAN PARK USE ANALYSIS -

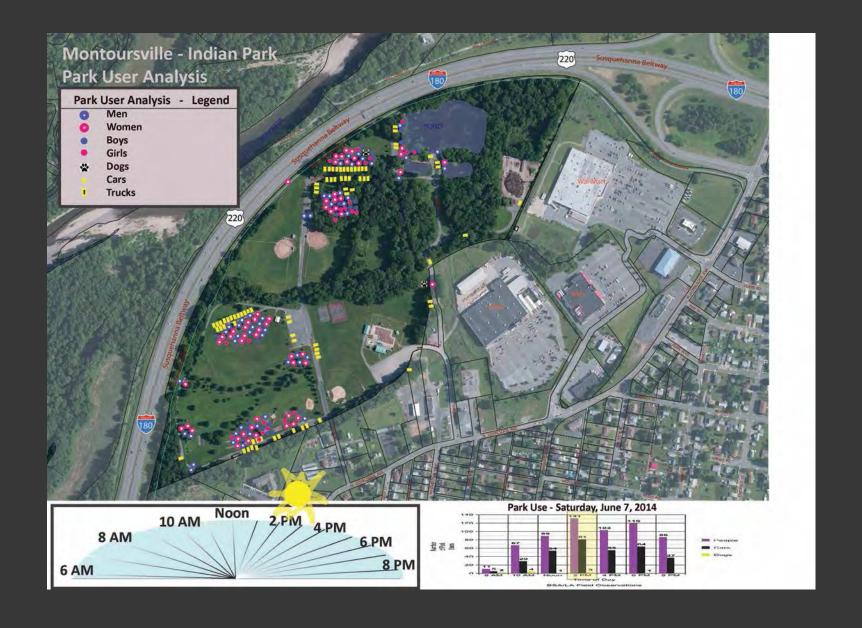
NUMBERS AND DISTRIBUTION OF PARK USERS

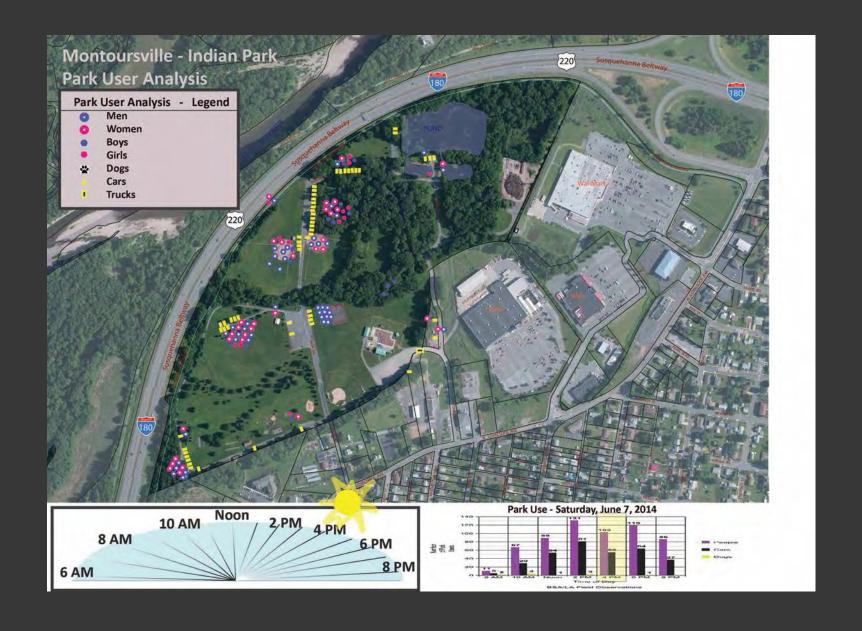
JUNE 7, 2014

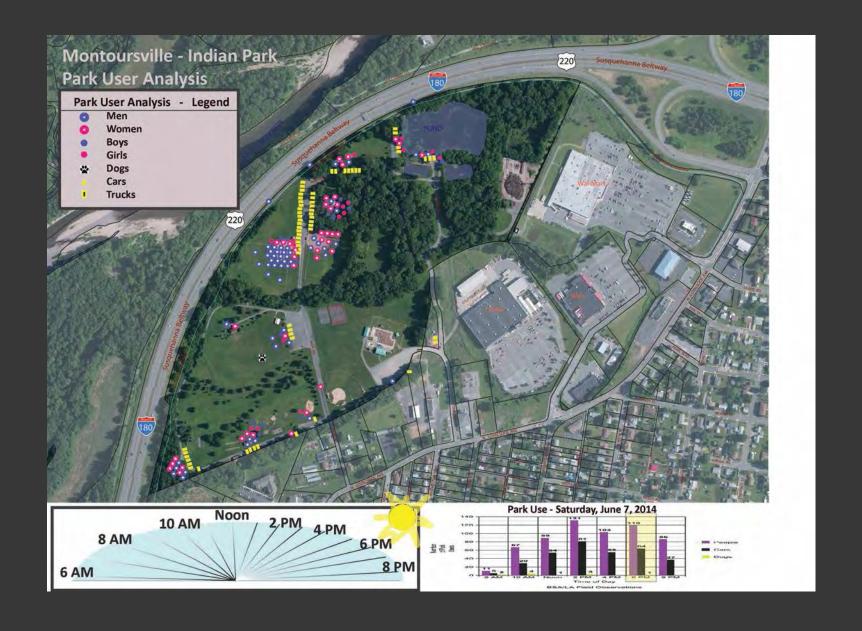


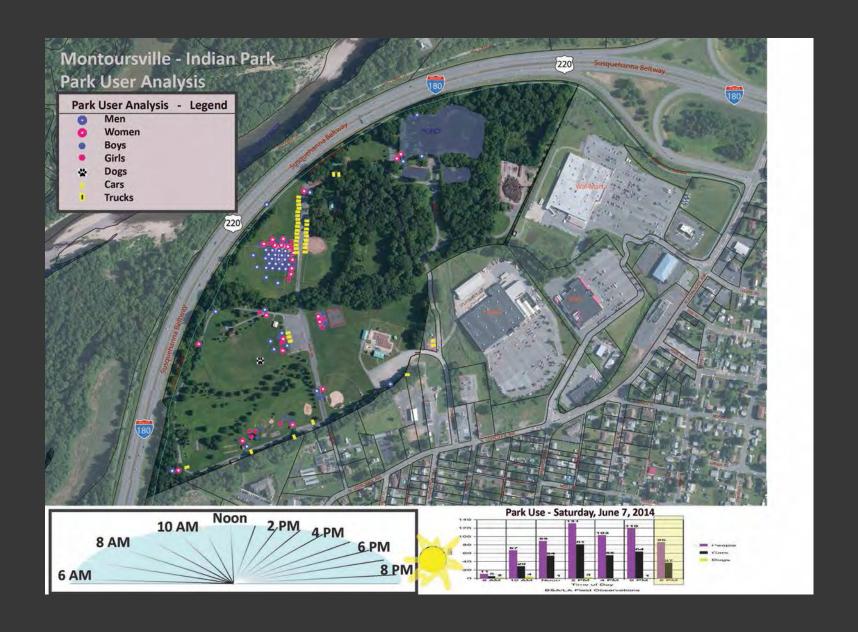


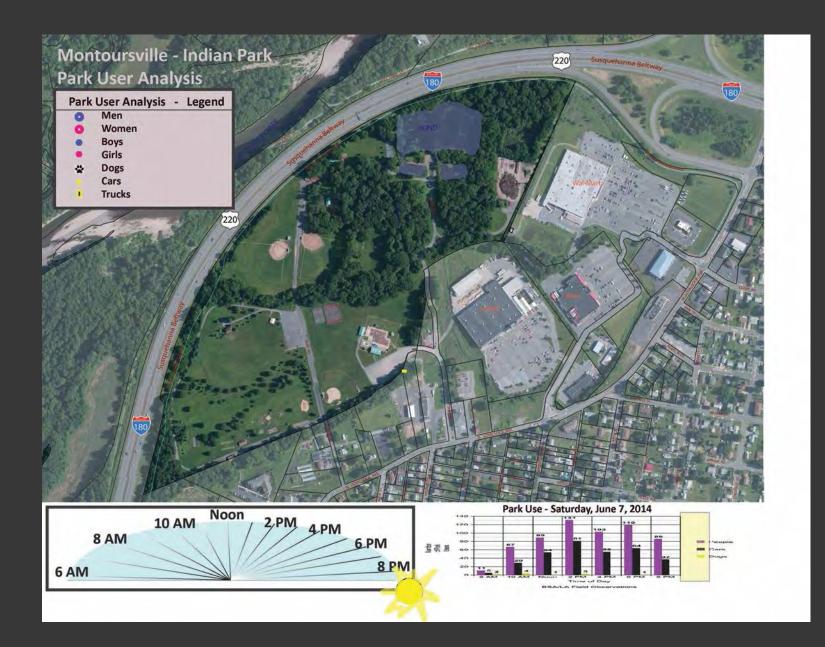








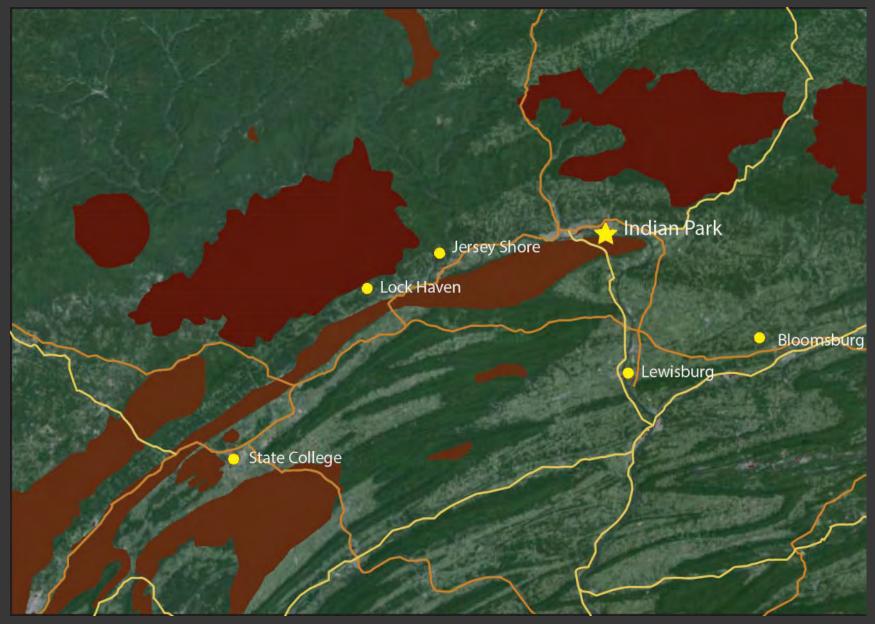




Acadian Flycatcher 1 Barred Owl Black-throated Blue Warbler 7 Black-throated Green Warbler Blackburnian Warbler 12 **Brown Creeper** Canada Warbler 9 Common Merganser 14 Common Raven Least Flycatcher Magnolia Warbler 3 Nashville Warbler 6 Northern Goshawk 2 Northern Saw-whet Owl 8 Northern Waterthrush Red-breasted Nuthatch 13 Ruffed Grouse Scarlet Tanager 10 Swainson's Thrush White-throated Sparrow Winter Wren Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Yellow-rumped Warbler 15 American Woodcock Broad-winged Hawk Cerulean Warbler 11 Ovenbird 5 Wild Turkey Wood Thrush Worm-eating Warbler



IMPORTANT BIRD SPECIES



IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Focus Group Meetings

- Volunteers of Indian Park (VIPs)
- Senior Citizens
- Volunteer and Service Organizations
- Health and Environment
- Sports Leagues

Key Person Interviews

- Thomas J. Hart, Executive Director Williamsport Regional Airport
- Lou Bassler, Park Volunteer
- Don King, Historic Society

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - CONTINUED

Park User Survey

- On-Line and Hard Copy Surveys
- 420 Responses

Public Meetings

- Beginning of the Process
- Review of Draft Plan

What We Heard... Indian Park

Park Upkeep / Maintain Existing Facilities

Improve Ponds – an Attraction for Young and Old

Create Walking, Running and Biking Trails (off-road)

Upgrade Playground Equipment

Improve Pedestrian and Bicycle Access to Park(s)

Better Defined Parking

Environmental Enhancements - Plant Trees, Improve Pond Water Quality, Improve Wildlife Habitat

Splash Park – Viable Option to a Pool?

Better Utilize Entire Park...

What We Heard... Mill Street and River Access

Trail and Creek Access

- Create off-road Trail the Length of Mill Street
- Provide Parking and Improve Access to Creek

Location for Future Sports Fields

- Coordination Between Soccer, Baseball
- Need a Plan to Guide Long-Term Development
- Central Location for Playground Facility
- Parking Define Space and Improve Safety

What We Heard... Mill Street and River Access

Trail and Creek Access

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- Central Location for Playground Facility
- Parking Define Space and Improve Safety

PARK USER SURVEY - SUMMARY

420 Survey Responses

Montoursville Residents	229 Responses	55 %
From Surrounding Municipalities	181 Responses	43%
From Beyond the Region	10 Responses	2%
Top Surrounding Municipalities:		
Fairfield Township	60 Responses	(14.3%)
City of Williamsport	23 Responses	(5.5%)
Upper Fairfield Township	17 Responses	(4.0%)
Loyalsock Township	15 Responses	(3.6%)
South Williamsport	13 Responses	(3.1%)
Eldred	10 Responses	(2.4%)
Muncy	8 Responses	(1.9%)

High Repeat Users

- 1. Bikeway
- 2. Open Play Areas
- 3. Soccer Fields
- 4. Playgrounds
- 5. Baseball (Rotondi Field)

Highest Uses

- 1. Bike Path
- 2. Playground
- 3. Open Play Area
- 4. Walking Trails
- 5. Attend Event
- 6. Fishing Pond
- 7. Pavilion #5

What Brings You to the Park?

- 1. Playground
- 2. Walking
- 3. Open Play Areas
- 4. Picnic Facilities
- 5. Fitness / Jogging Trails
- 6. Nature Trails

Suggestions for Park Improvements

Bring Back the Pool - got the largest number of written responses.

However - Splash Park also received numerous responses.

Improve / Update Playground Equipment received the second most responses.

Other Suggestions Receiving Significant Numbers of Votes:

- Dog Park
- Pond Area Improvements
- Bathrooms Improvements
- More Trees

Suggestions for Park Programming and Maintenance:

- More Movies
- Better Cleaning and Overall Park Maintenance

Park Features – Adequate, Increase or Improve

Adequate – Most Responses said there were adequate ball fields, soccer fields, tennis and basketball courts, bocce, horseshoes.

Needs More of:

- 1. Splash Park
- 2. Mini-Golf
- 3. Dog Park
- 4. Community Gardens
- 5. Natural Areas / Wildlife Habitat

Needs Improved:

- 1. Public Restrooms
- 2. Playgrounds
- 3. Volleyball Courts

Interesting Activities and Programs

- 1. Walking / Fitness
- 2. Concerts / Cultural Arts
- 3. Arts and Crafts
- 4. Fishing
- 5. Photography
- 6. Wildlife Education

Support Developing Trails

- 1. Walking / Hiking Trails
- 2. Nature Trails
- 3. ADA Accessible Trails
- 4. Off-Road Family Biking
- 5. Water Trails

Walking and Biking to the Park

Most Residents feel it is safe to walk or bike to Indian Park.

Fewer felt it was safe to walk or bike to Mill Street.

Paying for Parks and Recreation

Expansion of recreation facilities and programs should be supported by a mix of sources with more that 50% of all respondents listing the following order of preference:

- 1. grants & local funds
- 2. volunteer time/donated materials
- 3. private/corporate donations
- 4. registration fees (organized sports)



MASTER PLAN - FINAL



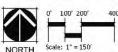
Montoursville Indian Park - Park Master Plan Opportunities for Park and Recreation Enhancements Montoursville Borough, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania

Indian Park - Master Plan

Eventing County SIS.
Frepared By: B. Mayer

Checked by: 3 Auman Date: August 9, 2014

Revisions Ontober 20, 2014 November 1, 2014













PARK SUSTAINABILITY

Develop the organizational framework for park planning, development, operations and maintenance

Resolve liability issues with park volunteers

Allocate sufficient borough staff to park development and maintenance

Maintain existing park facilities and programming

Expand the park volunteer network

Develop new avenues to fund parks and recreation – including corporate sponsorship

Establish regional municipal partnerships to fund parks and recreation





POND RESTORATION AND NATURE TRAIL

ADA parking spaces and ADA accessible Nature Trail

Fishing Pier

Boardwalk and Bridge

Native Plant Habitat Plantings / Educational Signage

Benches and Shaded Seating Areas

Outdoor Classroom and Water Quality Improvement Projects

Partner with schools, garden club, conservation organizations and county conservation district





PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Gradual replacement of outdated playground equipment

Provide age-appropriate playgrounds – tot, children, pre-teen, teen play areas

Create quality play environments – easy access, shade and seating for parents

Partner with YMCA, Daycares and Lycoming County





RESTROOMS AND PARKING

Provide new restroom facility at northern end of park

Make Improvements to existing restroom facilities

Re-configure parking to make more efficient and provide proper drainage

Integrate parking into existing site – to reduce tree removal

Partner with existing sports leagues to design, fund and implement enhanced parking, restrooms and other park amenities



PRIORITY PROJECT



SPLASH PARK AND EVENT PLAZA

Splash park / play area at former pool site

Plaza space suitable for events and programmed activities

Event facilities – kitchen, storage, inside meeting space

Landscaping, trellis shade structures, seating, lighting, electric, AV / PA System

Program the plaza with community events and active-living programs

Partner with YMCA, Susquehanna Health and local doctors, day cares, fitness and yoga instructors, and health insurance providers

ADDITIONAL PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES



MEMORY TRAIL

Establish a segment of trail as the Memory Trail

Replace Memorial Trees that have been lost

Designate Opportunities for new Memorial Trees and Benches

Create Other Memory Naming Opportunities – Pavilions, Shelters, Playgrounds, etc.

MEMORY WALK





Tree Plantings, Benches, Shelters...

A Memory Walk can be created by designating a segment of trail for this purpose. The park plan seeks to create a more distinct separation between the amphitheater lawn area and the playground lawn area and is an appropriate location for targeted tree plantings to replant existing memorial trees – and as a location for future memorial plantings.



WALKING, RUNNING AND BIKING TRAILS

Expand offerings to existing park walkers, bikers and runners

Develop a network of off-road trails

Improve safety by separating vehicles and bikes / pedestrians

Better park utilization – trails access ponds and woods

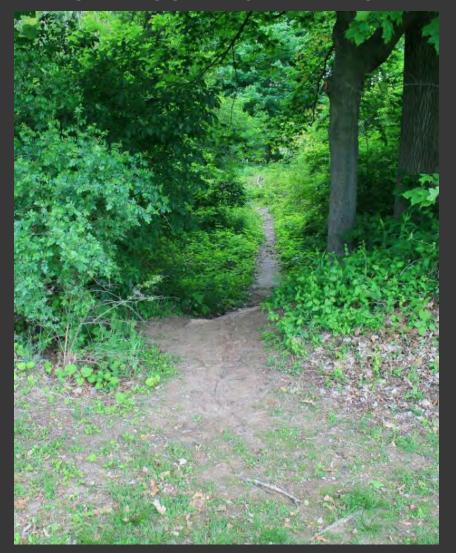
Trail network to include both accessible routes and primitive trails

Bike / mountain bike skills park

Fitness stations or alternative (informal) fitness stations

Partner with schools, seniors, health care providers, fitness instructors and bike clubs / shops

NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS







Natural Surface Trails - with some basic guidance and direction these trails can be built with volunteer labor



HABITAT ENHANCEMENTS AND NATURAL AREAS

Planting native trees, shrubs, grass / wildflower meadows

Wetland and Stream Restoration

Enhance habitats and biodiversity

Improve park aesthetics

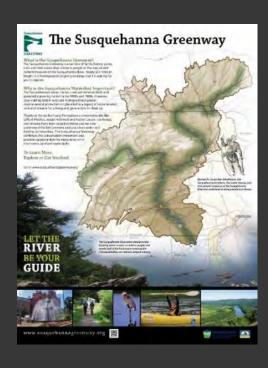
Reduce maintance costs associated with mowing of lawns

Educational programs on natural landscaping for homeowners

Partner with garden club, master gardeners, conservation organizations and schools



UNIQUE FEATURES AND HABITATS



INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

Interpret the landscape's natural and cultural heritage

Engage youth in research and develop the program

Tell the 'story' with signage and on-line resources

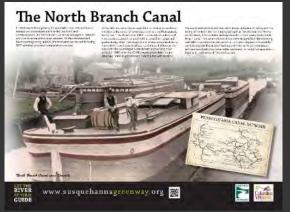
Partner with schools, historical societies, museums, and the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

Interpretive Program













http://nearyous.com



IMPROVED PEDESTRIAN / BIKE ACCESS

Identify primary routes for Montoursville residents to access parks

Identify key safety 'hot spots' and alternative improvements

Create safe connections – crosswalks, sidewalks, trails, and 'share the road'

Partner with PennDOT, Lycoming County Transportation Department, and Municipal streets crew

MILL STREET RECREATION AREA / RIVER ACCESS

Coordinate long-term sport field development between all sports

Develop a central playground area as amenity to soccer, baseball and future fields

Parking – better define sufficient and safe parking locations

Loyalsock Creek – Improve access to the creek

Trail – create an off-road walking and biking trail the length of Mill Street

MILL STREET MASTER PLAN - FINAL



Montoursville - Mill Street Corridor - Master Plan

Opportunities for Park and Recreation Enhancements Montoursville Borough, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania Scale: 1" = 150" when printed at 24" x 36"







Mill Street - Master Plan GIS Mapping Information: Lycoming County DIS Prepared By, A. Trowbridge Checked By: 8. Auman

Date: November 1, 3014 December 14, 2014

OTHER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

I-180 Underpass / Loyalsock Creek – small neighborhood park, skate park, bicycle skills park

Sand and Gravel Quarry – Future Regional Recreational Lake and Riverfront?

I-180 Underpass / Loyalsock Creek Area



I-180 Underpass / Loyalsock Creek Area









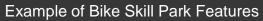
Bicycle Skills Park











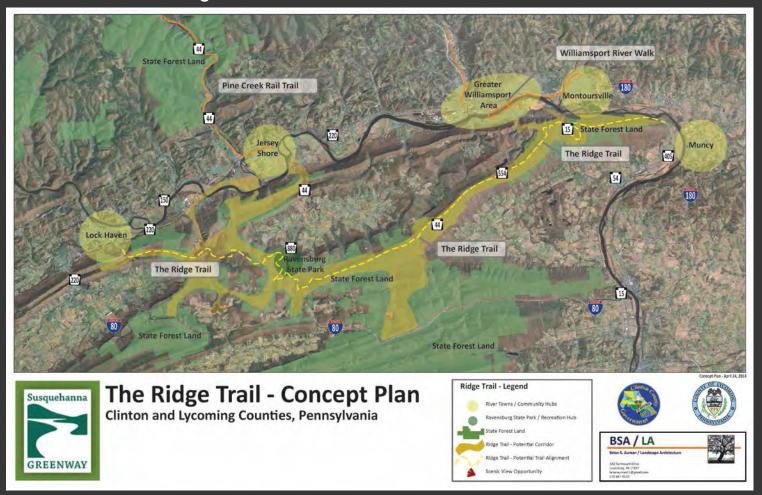


Future Land Acquisition



Sand and Gravel Quarry / Ponds – Property that offers great recreational opportunities. The community may consider acquiring in the future.

Ridge Trail and Source Water Protection for Montoursville Borough Water Works



Project Partners







PA DCNR, Fish & Boat, NFWF, DEP

Lycoming College / School District

Williamsport – Lycoming Foundation / First Community Foundation

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership





















IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

PARK SUSTAINABILITY On-going coordination and collaboration between Borough Council, Recreation Committee and Park Volunteers	ON GOING
POND RESTORATION AND NATURE TRAIL Secure Lycoming County Act 13 and First Community Foundation of PA Funding to match PA DCNR Grant Funding to develop ADA Parking, Trail, Fishing Pier, Boardwalk, Bridge and Fishing Platform.	2015 – 2016
PLAYGROUND ENHANCEMENTS Incrementally replace outdated playground equipment and bring all existing playgrounds up to current ADA and safety compliance	2016 – 2018
RESTROOM AND PARKING IMPROVEMENTS Construct New Restroom near the Pond Area and incrementally update the other restroom facilities	2018 – 2020
SPLASH PARK AND EVENT PLAZA Establish a strong working relationship with the First Community Foundation of PA, PA DCNR and local donors to undertake the design and construction of the Splash Park and Event Plaza	2021 – 2024

PRIORITY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

POND RESTORATION AND NATURE TRAIL

POND RESTORATION AND NATURE TRAIL – EXISTING CONDITIONS



POND RESTORATION AND NATURE TRAIL - MASTER PLAN



Indian Park - Pond Area Master Plan Pond Restoration and ADA Accessible Nature Trail Montoursville Borough, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania

Pond Area - Master Plan GIS Mapping Information: Lycoming County GIS

Prepared By: B, Mayer Checked By: B, Auman Date: August 1, 2014

Revisions: December 14, 2014

Montoursville - Indian Park - Pond Area Master Plan





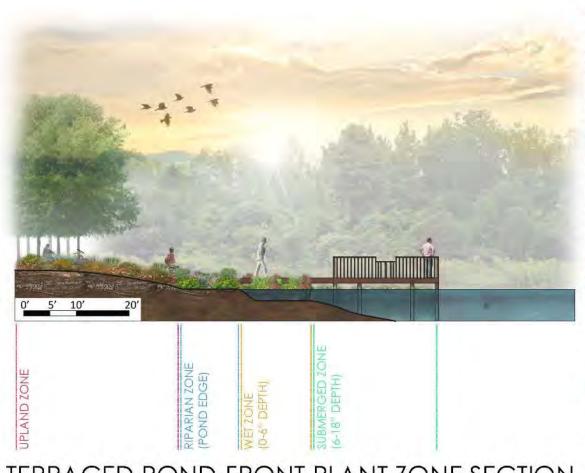


POND RESTORATION AND NATURE TRAIL - ILLUSTRATION



Shaded rest area for trail users under a bosque of oak trees with benches and interpretive signage. ADA accessible trail and fishing pier with native grasses, wildflowers and shrub plantings for upland, riparian, wetland and submerged aquatic habitat types.

POND RESTORATION AND NATURE TRAIL - NATIVE PLANT LIST



TERRACED POND-FRONT PLANT ZONE SECTION

UPLAND ZONE

Bluestar Amsonia tabemaemontana Shadbush Serviceberry Amelanchier laevis Bluebird Smooth Aster Aster laevis 'Bluebird' **Butterfly Weed** Asclepia tuberosa Blue False Indiao Baptista australis Sweet Pepperbush Clethra alnifolia White Oak Quercus alba Swamp White Oak Quercus bicolor Fragrant Sumac Rhus aromatica Meadow Beauty Rhexia virginica

PIPAPIAN ZONE /POND EDGE

Swamp Milkweed
Marsh Marigold
Tussock Sedge
Silky Dogwood
Spotted Joe Pye Weed
Common Sneezeweed
Square Stern Monkey Flower
Green-Headed Coneflower
Black Willow
Grass-Leaved Goldenrod

NET TONE TO-A" DEPTH

Northern Water Plantain Scarlet Rose Mallow Swamp Mallow Blue Flag Common Rush Smartweed Pickerel Weed Green Bulrush American Bur-Reed Common Bulrush Alisma triviale
Hibiscus coccineus
Hibiscus moscheutos
Iris versicolor
Juncus effusus
Polygonum pensylvanicum
Pontederia cordata
Scirpus atrovirens
Sparganium americanum
Typha latifolia

Asclepia incamata Caltha palustris

Cornus amomum

Eupatorium maculatum

Helenium autumnale

Rudbeckia laciniata

Solidago graminifolia

Carex stricta

Mimulus rigens

Salix nigra

SHRMERISED TONE 14-18" DEPTH I

Coontail Ceratophyllum demersum Water Stargrass Heteranthera dubia Northern Waternilfoil Myriophyllum sibricum Variable-Leaf Pondweed Potamogeton diversifolius Leafy Pondweed Potamogeton foliosus Floating Leaf Pondweed Potamogeton natans Sago Pondweed Potamogeton pectinatus Common Bladderwort Utricularia vulgaris Wild Celery Vallisnera americana

POND RESTORATION AND NATURE TRAIL – ILLUSTRATION



Nature Trail - Boardwalk Section

POND RESTORATION AND NATURE TRAIL – ILLUSTRATION



Nature Trail - Boardwalk Section at sunset

POND RESTORATION AND NATURE TRAIL – COST ESTIMATE

SOFT COSTS Engineering, Landscape Architecture, Design, Permitting, Approvals, Environmental Review and Approvals	\$28,000
FISHING PIER Fishing Pier – 50' Length with 20'x20' Fishing Platform	\$20,000
ADA PARKING AND NATURE TRAIL ADA Parking Spaces (2) and ADA Accessible Trail Surface to encircle Indian Park Recreation Pond – 6' x 2600LF	\$40,000
BOARDWALK DECKING OR FILL ALTERNATIVE Boardwalk Decking area or Fill to Create Level Trail – 6' x 110LF	\$20,000
RIVER BIRCH SEATING AREA AND BENCHES 12 Benches	\$6,000
FISHING PLATFORM 8' x 12' Fishing Platform	\$5,000
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE 50' x 6' Pedestrian Bridge	\$18,000
HABITAT PLANTINGS AND OAK BOSQUE Native Grasses, Wildflowers and Shrubs for upland, riparian, wet and submerged aquatic habitat types	\$15,000
INTERPRETIVE SIGNS (3)	\$ 8,000
TOTAL COST	\$160,000

POND RESTORATION AND NATURE TRAIL - FUNDING STRATEGY

LOCAL MATCH

LYCOMING COUNTY – ACT 13 FUNDING	\$20,000
FIRST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF PA	\$25,000
MONTOURSVILLE BOROUGH CASH	\$10,000
MONTOURSVILLE BOROUGH LABOR & EQUIPMENT	\$10,000
CORPORATE DONATIONS OF CASH & MATERIALS	\$10,000
VOLUNTEER LABOR	\$ 5,000

STATE FUNDING

PA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DCNR)

\$80,000

TOTAL COST

\$160,000

ADDITIONAL COST ESTIMATES

RECREATION FACILITIES – COST ESTIMATES

LARGE I	PLAYGROUND Site Design, Permitting, Approvals Site Preparation Playground Equipment Wood Fiber Surface Rubber Surface – Pour in Place Landscaping & Fencing Installation Supervision and Labor	\$ 21,000 \$ 15,000 \$ 130,000 N/A \$ 90,000 \$ 12,000 \$ 15,000	\$ 285,000
SPLASH	PARK Site Design, Permitting and Approvals Concrete Work Flow-Thru System Seating Areas Landscaping & Shade Structures		\$ 500,000
BIKE SK	ILLS PARK Steel Frame Structures (6)		\$ 50,000
RESTRO	ОМ		\$
PARKING	S IMPROVEMENTS		\$
ICE SKATING – COURT AND LINER			\$
TRAIL C	OSTS		\$

PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS – FUNDING STRATEGY

LOCAL MATCH

LYCOMING COUNTY – ACT 13 FUNDING	\$XXX
FIRST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF PA	\$XXX
MONTOURSVILLE BOROUGH CASH	\$XXX
MONTOURSVILLE BOROUGH LABOR & EQUIPMENT	\$XXX
CORPORATE DONATIONS OF CASH & MATERIALS	\$XXX
VOLUNTEER LABOR	\$XXX

STATE FUNDING

PA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES (DCNR) \$XXX

TOTAL COST \$XXXXXX

PARK OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND LIABILITY

Park Safety and Security

During the park planning process several residents and park users expressed concerns of safety in the park particularly in the evening and after hours. Additional police patrols at this time and to strictly enforce the closed after dark park rule would improve the situation. The police department's location in such close proximity to the park should make this additional park patrol achievable.

Risk Management and Liability

Pennsylvania has a law that limits the legal liability of landowners who make their land available to the public for free recreation. The purpose of the law is to supplement the availability of publicly owned parks and forests by encouraging landowners to allow hikers, fishermen and other recreational users onto their properties. The Recreational Use of Land and Water Act ("RULWA"), found in Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes, title 68, sections 477-1 et seq., creates that incentive by limiting the traditional duty of care that landowners owe to entrants upon their land. So long as no entrance or use fee is charged, the Act provides that landowners owe no duty of care to keep their land safe for recreational users and have no duty to warn of dangerous conditions. Excepted out of this liability limitation are instances where landowners willfully or maliciously fail to guard or warn of dangerous conditions. That is, the law immunizes landowners only from claims of negligence. Every other state in the nation has similar legislation.

Indian Park and Mill Street Recreation Areas will remain 'use at your own risk' facility that is free and open to the public, with information kiosks posting park rules and regulations. A park maintenance plan should be formalized to establish a schedule for park inspections and maintenance and minimize risk exposure to park visitors. The free access, trail rules and regulations, park maintenance plan with scheduled park inspections and maintenance are all intended to meet all requirements of "RULWA" and thus minimize landowner liability exposure.

Park Maintenance Plan

A Park Maintenance Plan should be formalized to minimize risk exposure to park visitors and guarantee full landowner protections provided by the Recreational Use and Land and Water Act ("RULWA") legislation. The Park Maintenance Plan will include a list and schedule of all regular and periodic park maintenance needs. Maintenance can be completed more efficiently and safely during off-peak hours when fewer park visitors are in the proximity of maintenance equipment. The Park maintance plan will rely on a combination of Borough Staff and Volunteers of Indian Park and a network of park stewards and volunteers to identify areas of safety concerns and required maintance in a timely manner, and implement a swift response to address the problem to minimize risk to trail users.

Adopting the Plan

The Montoursville Borough Parks Master Plan shall be adopted by the Borough Council and Recreation Committee and shall serve as a guide for park and recreation planning and programming for the next decade.

The Montoursville Borough Parks Master Plan has been reviewed, approved and adopted by the following community leaders:

Borough Council President	Date
Recreation Committee Chair	Date
Montoursville Mavor	Date

References and Links – General Recreation

Workout Stations – Blue Zone Rack

http://m.communitynewspapergroup.com/cedar falls times/news/article 07c3adea -fe70-545d-8856-52b2815c92ce.html?mode=jqm

The Overprotected Kid - The Atlantic

http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/03/hey-parents-leave-those-kids-alone/358631/

The Land – Video Documentary - of Risk-Taking Park for Kids in the UK

Video link can be found in the same article:

http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/03/hey-parents-leave-those-kids-alone/358631/

Montoursville Borough Parks Master Plan Report Appendix Documents (CD)

- Indian Park Master Plan (pdf)
- Mill Street and River Access Master Plan (pdf)
- Master Plan Summary Report (pdf)

MONTOURSVILLE BOROUGH PARKS

MASTER PLAN SUMMARY REPORT

December 2014

Prepared for: Montoursville Borough

Prepared by: Brian S. Auman / Landscape Architecture

and Alice Trowbridge, RLA

www.bsalandplan.com

