

# Municipality of Mt. Lebanon



# Municipality of Mt. Lebanon

## Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan

### Volume I

2002

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# *Background*

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# *Planning for the Future*

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As we head into the twenty-first century, we must acknowledge the importance of opportunities for fulfilling leisure activities as an integral part of a quality lifestyle. This is paramount in suburban areas like Mt. Lebanon, where the pace of existence is frequently demanding.

The purpose of this study is to provide an analysis of Mt. Lebanon's current recreation, parks and open space and recommendations for their future. In order to provide the Municipality with a complete view of current conditions, an inventory of existing recreation features in the area, as well as local private and public recreation features, was conducted.

The majority of the recreation issues now facing Mt. Lebanon are the result of the struggle to maintain the community's unique character and limited natural resources, as well as meeting residents' on-going desire for quality recreational services. These pressures impact recreation, parks and open space in the community in the following ways:

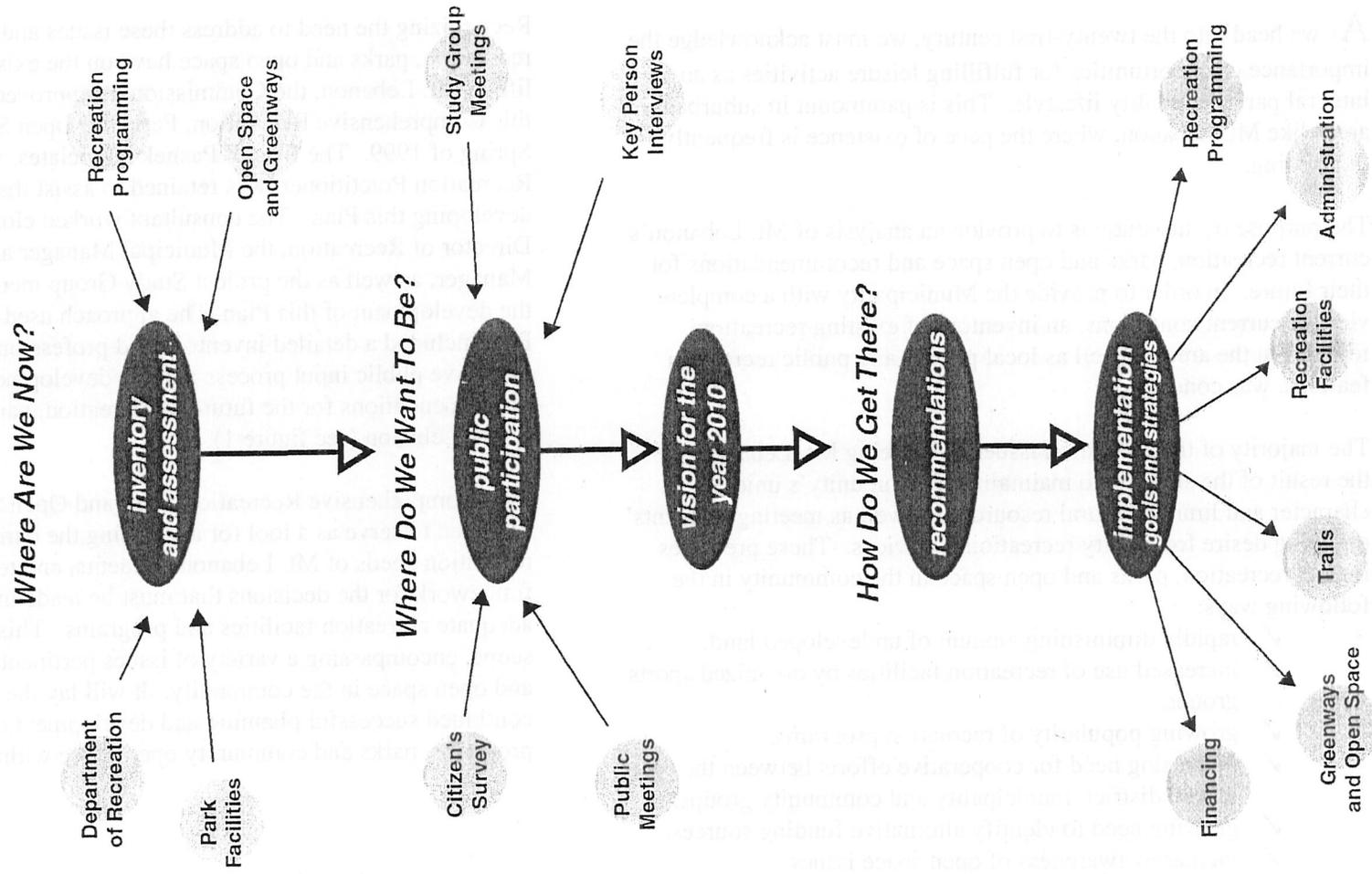
- ✓ rapidly diminishing amount of undeveloped land.
- ✓ increased use of recreation facilities by organized sports groups.
- ✓ growing popularity of recreation programs.
- ✓ increasing need for cooperative efforts between the school district, municipality and community groups.
- ✓ growing need to identify alternative funding sources.
- ✓ increased awareness of open space issues.

Recognizing the need to address these issues and the positive impact recreation, parks and open space have on the existing high quality of life in Mt. Lebanon, the Commissioners approved the preparation of this Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan in the Spring of 1999. The firm of Pashek Associates, with Bob Good, Recreation Practitioner, was retained to assist the municipality in developing this Plan. The consultant worked closely with the Director of Recreation, the Municipal Manager and Assistant Manager, as well as the project Study Group members throughout the development of this Plan. The approach used to generate this Plan included a detailed inventory and professional assessment, an extensive public input process and the development of recommendations for the future of recreation, parks and open space in Mt. Lebanon (see figure 1).

This Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan is designed to serve as a tool for addressing the current and future recreation needs of Mt. Lebanon residents, and to establish a framework for the decisions that must be made in order to provide adequate recreation facilities and programs. This Plan is broad in scope, encompassing a variety of issues pertinent to recreation, parks and open space in the community. It will lay the groundwork for the continued successful planning and development of recreation programs, parks and community open space within the Municipality.

Figure 1

Municipality of Mt. Lebanon  
**COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARK AND OPEN SPACE  
PLANNING PROCESS**



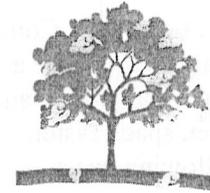
## The Benefits of Recreation

Recreation, parks and open space play a critical role in providing a quality of life that attracts residents, businesses and economic activities to communities. The economic benefits are quite clear, as businesses prefer communities with a high quality of life, including an abundance of open space and nearby recreation. Quality of life is a determining factor in real estate value and economic vitality as well. A 1996 report by Arthur Andersen Consulting found that mid- and high-level executives increasingly chose to work in locations that offer a high quality of life outside the workplace. A 1995 poll by the Regional Planning Associate and the Quinnipiac College Polling Institute queried nearly 2,000 people from around the country about quality of life. Major elements cited as crucial for a satisfactory quality of life were low crime with safe streets and access to greenery and open space.

A recent report from Carnegie Mellon Professor Richard Florida and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy further supports the importance of recreation at the local level. Parks and recreation opportunities are an important factor when young people are deciding where they want to live. As technology in the workplace continues to increase, many young adults want to go in-line skating, biking, hiking or just relax in a park after staring into a computer screen all day. Florida, an economic development professor, argues that "restoration of the parks must be made a key element in the region's effort to attract talent and develop the economy. (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 10/3/00)

### *Environmental Benefits*

- ✓ Clean Water and Air
- ✓ Preservation of Wildlife
- ✓ Reduce Pollution
- ✓ Protect Ecosystems
- ✓ Provide a Place to Enjoy Nature's Beauty



### *Economic Benefits*

- ✓ Increases Tourism
- ✓ Enhances Land and Property Value
- ✓ Business Retention
- ✓ Revenue Generation
- ✓ Reduces Vandalism and Crime



### *Community Benefits*

- ✓ Reduces Crime and Delinquency
- ✓ Connects Families
- ✓ Supports Youth
- ✓ Offers Lifelines for Elderly



### *Personal Benefits*

- ✓ Reduces Stress
- ✓ Live Longer
- ✓ Creates Balance Between Work and Play
- ✓ Eliminates Boredom and Loneliness



## How to Use this Plan

Mt. Lebanon's Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan 2000 will be a powerful tool in the Municipality's efforts to continually build and support a high quality recreation, park and open space system. The Plan will serve as a valuable resource in the following ways:

A Guideline for the Future

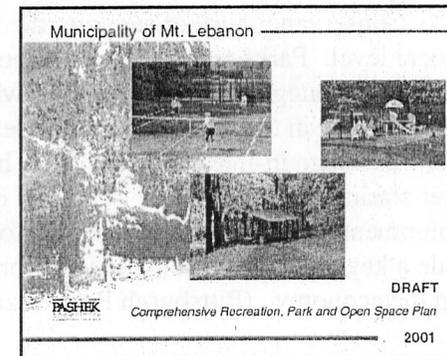
The Vision and Recommendations presented in this document offer a clear direction for planning of future recreation, park and open space initiatives. The Vision illustrates the community's overall goal for a successful system. The recommendations offer detailed implementation strategies to achieve the Vision. The wide scope and short, middle and long-term range of the strategies assist in realistic planning for implementation of the Plan. The detailed information provided will assist in setting financial goals and the appropriate allocation of needed municipal support.

An Information Source

The broad scope of this Plan resulted in a documentation and analysis of a variety of issues pertinent to the Mt. Lebanon community. The document will be a valuable resource for supporting information as the implementation strategies are completed, new strategies are developed and documentation of existing conditions is needed.

A Public Relations Tool

Residents' interest in the continuation and growth of a high quality system of recreation, parks and open space is on-going. This Plan, as a whole, or separately as key components, will offer accessible and understandable information for public consumption. Additionally, several of these key components could be used by the municipality or local organizations to garner support for a proposed project or funding assistance.



## Document Organization

*This Plan is organized in the following manner:*

### Background

### Executive Summary

#### Chapter 1: Introduction to the Community

This chapter gives an overview of the Municipality of Mt. Lebanon, providing context for the development of this plan.

#### Chapter 2: Where are we now?

This chapter provides an inventory and assessment of the Departments of Recreation and Public Works; the Municipality's current parks and recreation system; and existing greenways and open space.



#### Chapter 3: Where do we want to be?

Public input was a key component in the development of this plan. This chapter describes the public participation process and summary results from each venue of participation. The input culminates in the identification of vision elements and development of a Vision for the future of recreation, parks and open space in Mt. Lebanon.

#### Chapter 4: How do we get there?

This chapter draws upon the inventory, assessment and public participation to outline recommendations and implementation strategies for the future of recreation, parks and open space.

### Appendix

- A: Study Group Meeting Minutes
- B: Public Meeting Minutes
- C: Recreation Questionnaire
- D. Key Person Interview Responses
- E: Funding and Support Sources
- F: Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy Park Guidelines
- G: List of Municipal Maintenance Equipment

# *Executive Summary*

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## Background

Recreation, parks and open space play a critical role in providing a quality of life that attracts residents, businesses and economic activities to communities. Acknowledging the importance of recreation, parks and open space to the Mt. Lebanon community, the Commissioners approved the development of this Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan in the Spring of 1999. The planning process utilized in the development of this Plan included a detailed inventory and assessment, extensive public input, and the development of recommendations for the future of recreation, parks and open space in Mt. Lebanon.

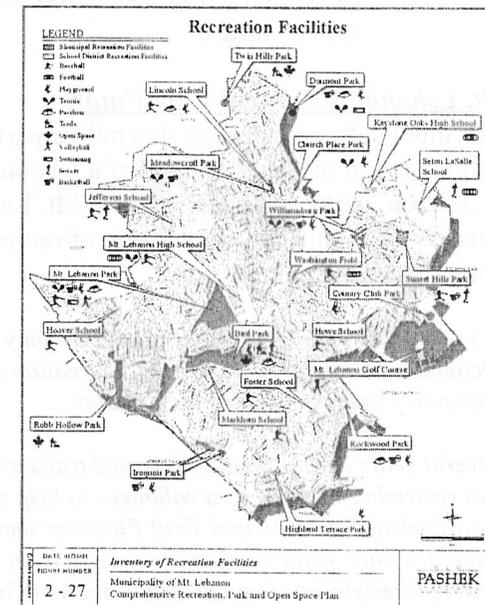
A densely populated Pittsburgh suburb, the Municipality is faced with many challenges as it strives to continue its support of a quality recreation and open space system. The following is a sample of the influences that were considered in the planning for the future of the system:

- ✓ *diminishing amount of existing undeveloped land;*
- ✓ *increasing use of recreation facilities by organized sports;*
- ✓ *growing popularity of recreation programs;*
- ✓ *increasing need for cooperative efforts;*
- ✓ *growing need to identify alternative funding sources;*
- ✓ *increased awareness of open space issues;*
- ✓ *and age of existing facilities.*

## Inventory and Assessment

A detailed inventory and analysis of cultural resources, natural resources and recreation facilities was completed. The inventory of recreation facilities included all school district and municipal facilities serving the Mt. Lebanon community. All municipal facilities were studied in detail, including the notation of size and condition of equipment at each facility. Recreation programs, and existing undeveloped open space, were also studied. Additionally, the operations of the Department of Recreation were examined, as well as those of the Department of Public Works as it relates to the Municipal park system. This information was collected and analyzed to create an overview of the existing conditions in the Mt. Lebanon community.

This background information provides a context within which this Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan was generated. A familiarity with this information will ensure the development of a Plan that is realistic, sensitive to current issues and tailored to the unique qualities of the Mt. Lebanon community.



## Public Participation

The public participation process was crucial in developing viable recommendations for the future of parks, recreation and open space in Mt. Lebanon. The public input process included public meetings, close work with a project study group, distribution and tabulation of a recreation questionnaire and several key person interviews. A few of the recreation and open space needs, as identified through the public input process, are as follows:

- ✓ Build and maintain the relationship between the school district and the Municipality;
- ✓ Protect natural resources and avoid over development in existing parks;
- ✓ Ensure that adequate funds exist for the future of parks and recreation;
- ✓ Ensure a balance of recreation facilities and programs, as well as for all age groups;
- ✓ Develop a balance of active and passive recreational opportunities;

### Mt. Lebanon's Vision for the Future

The input gathered through this public participation process culminated in the development of a Vision for the future of recreation, parks and open space in Mt. Lebanon. The vision is a narrative that illustrates the future of recreation, parks and open space in the community.

*It's when I'm walking along a trail on a sunny spring day like today that I recognize the importance of parks, recreation and open space to Mt. Lebanon's unique community character....*

*Several years ago, residents identified trails as a top recreation priority. I can remember working as a volunteer to help post signs along the trails in Bird Park as the Municipal Trail Plan was implemented. Now, enjoying the outdoors while getting around has never been easier. In keeping with our healthy lifestyle, our family safely travels on foot or bicycle to a nearby park, the recreation center, the bank and the library. Yesterday we roller-bladed along tree-lined streets and hiked a Bird Park nature trail, just*

*minutes from our front door!*

*The hub of activity is the recently expanded community recreation center. This place has it all! From the climbing wall to the community meeting rooms, the center offers a wide range of indoor recreation opportunities. Throughout the year, the facility is a gathering place for all Mt. Lebanon residents. The community pool is packed year-round with kids scrambling to shoot down the water slide and seniors enjoying water aerobics.*

*Representatives from the recreation department, school district and local organizations meet several times a year to discuss community recreation issues. Several sports fields were upgraded recently and a new field is being planned.*

*Cooperative efforts also resulted in the designation and appropriate management of the community's open space system. Future generations will surely enjoy unique natural spaces close to home. As a member of the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy and a parent of two baseball players, I am involved in the planning new recreation facilities and open space conservation efforts.*

*Our family enjoys the annual routine of deciding which recreation programs we will take part in each year. We are able to get all the information we need from the Mt. Lebanon web site. The Recreation Department's internet system keeps everyone informed of the recreation opportunities throughout the community. We check for program availability and sign up, print out sports teams' schedules and rosters, buy our pool passes, and reserve tee times all online from the comfort of our home.*

*Our trails, parks, golf course, skating rink and open spaces all contribute to a unique community setting. The number and variety of recreation and open space opportunities in our community are important to our family and we are thankful that the Municipality continually strives to offer the best!*

## Recommendations

Drawing upon the inventory, assessment and public participation to achieve Mt. Lebanon's Vision, recommendations for the future of recreation, parks and open space were developed.

### Goals

Goals guide the fulfillment of the community's Vision. They are broad in nature and are designed to be all-encompassing based upon community ideas and issues raised through the planning process. The goal statements reflect the themes that were identified through the inventory, assessment and public input process and illustrated in the Vision for the future. The goals also provide the organizational structure for the implementation of the Plan recommendations and further direction for the future of recreation, parks and open space in Mt. Lebanon. The following list of goals are not prioritized in any order of significance.

### Implementation Strategies

Information collected through both the public input process and the professional assessment was utilized to develop detailed implementation strategies, which set forth a step-by-step Plan for fulfilling the recommendations of the Plan. Refer to Chapter 4 for detailed implementation strategies for this Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan.

## GOALS

### **Administration**

*To strive to make available necessary personnel, financing and maintenance to support the on-going open space, recreation facility and programming needs of the community in collaboration with the School District, volunteers and local organizations.*

### **Financing**

*To explore creative funding opportunities, including grants and cooperative efforts with the School District and other area organizations.*

### **Greenways and Open Space**

*To acknowledge the importance of undeveloped natural areas and street trees within the community through education of the public, proper designation, protection and continued management.*

### **Recreation Programs**

*To provide a well-publicized variety of recreational programming that offers opportunities for individuals and groups of all ages to participate in an interactive manner.*

### **Recreation Facilities**

*To foster cooperative efforts with the School District and local organizations to provide indoor and outdoor recreation facilities for multiple types of recreation activities, programs and organizations.*

### **Trails**

*To develop a municipality-wide trail system that provides pedestrian and bicycle connections throughout the community, opportunities for interaction with nature and a variety of other recreational opportunities.*

*Key recommendations include:*

▶ **Develop a municipality-wide trail system.**

Recreational trails throughout the community were identified as a high priority during the public participation process. Mt. Lebanon residents highlighted the need for pedestrian and bicycle trails that could be used for walking, rollerblading and biking, as well as alternative transportation routes between community focal points. This Plan sets the stage for the development of a municipality-wide trail system. The proposed major routes in the system are comprised of on-road bicycle lanes that connect the library, schools, parks and other points of interest. Within the municipal parks, loop trails for jogging and walking, as well as wood-chip trails for hiking and environmental education are recommended. The variety of uses, from transportation to outdoor exploration, will make the Mt. Lebanon Trail System a valuable asset to the community.

▶ **Enhance or replace outdated playground equipment in municipally-owned neighborhood parks.**

Mt. Lebanon's neighborhood parks are essential to the community's successful recreation, park and open space system. Due to their proximity to densely populated residential areas, these facilities provide everyday recreational opportunities for residents. Families with children are the primary users of neighborhood parks, capitalizing on the availability of playground equipment so close to home. Therefore, as the primary point of resident's interaction with the Mt. Lebanon recreation system, it is important to ensure the availability of safe, attractive and varied playground equipment in neighborhood parks. The recommendations of this Plan include the enhancement of existing play equipment through upgrading and replacement of existing facilities. A phased plan should be developed to guide the incremental upgrading and replacement of outdated playground equipment in Municipal parks.

▶ **Fund several feasibility studies to assess existing recreation facilities in greater detail.**

The development of this Plan brought to light the need for detailed exploration of specific Municipal recreation facilities. This Plan includes recommendations for the development of feasibility studies for two existing facilities. Recognized as key assets to the Mt. Lebanon recreation system, the future of the community's swimming pool and ice rink should be closely examined to determine an appropriate course of action. Additionally, discussion of the possibility for a new community center through this planning process has resulted in a need for a community center feasibility study to assess demand, financial feasibility and potential locations. As a result of these feasibility studies, the Municipality will be able to make informed decisions regarding the role these facilities will play in future recreation within the community.

▶ **Support continued and enhanced cooperative efforts between the Municipality, the School District and local organizations.**

Cooperation among the Municipality, the Mt. Lebanon School District and local organizations is crucial to the community's successful recreation, park and open space system. As needs arise for facility improvements, new facilities and additional programming, cooperation will prove essential. Fulfillment of the goals outlined in this Plan will be truly completed only through the combined efforts of several entities. Increased demand for organized sports fields will require cooperative efforts to upgrade existing Municipal and School District fields to allow for increased use (improved drainage, lighting) and the exploration of other facility opportunities.

► **Establish a non-profit foundation to receive funds for recreation, parks and open space.**

Financing of facility improvements, new facilities and the implementation of this Plan will necessitate the utilization of alternative forms of funding, in addition to the municipal budget. A proven alternative to municipal funds is the establishment of a non-profit foundation to receive funds for community projects, such as those recommended by this Plan for recreation, parks and open space.

► **Work to provide adequate sports fields.**

Consistent with national and state trends, Mt. Lebanon's organized sports leagues are experiencing growth. Organized sports facilities in the Municipality are faced with increasing pressure as sports teams grow in number. Growth in the popularity of soccer and the rise of sports such as lacrosse has resulted in an increasing demand for practice and game facilities. Additionally, heavy use of fields that were not constructed for intense use compounds the problem. The following options are recommended for consideration:

- Cooperative efforts with the School District to install lighting on existing fields to extend hours available for use.
- Improve field infrastructure to withstand heavy use and stormwater runoff.
- Faced with lack of developable land within the municipality, explore cooperative efforts to provide sports fields elsewhere for use by the region.

► **Work toward a balance of recreation opportunities and open space conservation within the community.**

The future development or upgrading of recreation facilities and conservation of natural areas within the municipality will significantly impact the future of recreation, parks and open space. The success of a balanced system within this built-out community

will require strong support of a well-rounded philosophy from municipal officials and residents. This philosophy should provide guidelines for future recreation and open space efforts and promote communication between the local groups supporting such initiatives.

► **Additional recommendations**

The results of this plan encompass a wide array of recommendations and implementation strategies. This information can be found on the following pages in Chapter 4 of this document.

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VI. Trails .....	4-48

## Success of the Plan

Key to the success of this Plan is the continuation of the current enthusiasm and support for recreation, parks and open space in the Mt. Lebanon community, including the commitment to:

- ✓ financial support for facilities, programs and staff;
- ✓ the continued involvement of Mt. Lebanon residents;
- ✓ working with the School District and other communities;
- ✓ and the continued cooperation among all local organizations;

This plan challenges municipal officials and residents to continually work toward the fulfillment of the community's vision for recreation, parks and open space. Residents' continued involvement through volunteering, fund-raising and the support of advocacy groups, will maintain recreation, parks and open space as a key issue within the community. Residents are encouraged to check on the implementation of this plan on a yearly basis to see what was achieved, highlight successes and offer support for upcoming initiatives. Continued opportunities for public input should be offered through annual public meetings to reconfirm the plan's priorities, refine the goals and add new implementation strategies.

This Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan fosters the continued success of current achievements, outlines guidelines for areas of improvement and presents new directions for the Municipality to explore. Support for the implementation of the Plan's recommendations and a strong commitment to its use as a guide and checklist in the future will ensure a continued high quality of life in the Municipality of Mt. Lebanon for years to come.

# Recreation, Park & Open Space Plan

## LEGEND

-  Recreation Facilities
-  Conservation District
-  Potential Greenways
-  Pennsylvania Boulevard Property
-  Underserved by Neighborhood Parks
-  Proposed Trailhead
- Proposed Trails**
-  Pennsylvania Boulevard Connector
-  Gilkeson Road Connector
-  Robb Hollow Loop
-  North Loop



## Recreation, Park & Open Space Plan

Municipality of Mt. Lebanon  
Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan

FIGURE NUMBER:

ES-1





*The Mt. Lebanon*

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*Community*

# Background

1

When planning for the future of recreation, parks and open space in Mt. Lebanon, it is important to develop an understanding of the community as a whole. The background information discussed in this section, provides a context within which this Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan was generated. A familiarity with this information ensures the development

of a Plan that is realistic, sensitive to current issues and tailored to this unique community.

## Character & Geography

Six miles south of Pittsburgh in Allegheny County, Mt. Lebanon lies on the Allegheny plateau. Its topography consists of a series of ridges and valleys. Most of the hilltops have an elevation of 1250 feet. The average slope is 7%, including the core area of the community.

Mt. Lebanon is home to professionals, business leaders, university faculty, and administrators. Three of four residents own their own homes. Along with civic pride, the inhabitants share a commitment to education, as evidenced by the successful school system and library.

Suburban neighborhoods, including Mt. Lebanon, now cover rolling hills where Shawnee and Delaware Indians once hunted. Home to 34,000 residents, the 6.0 square mile community has gone from a frontier farming society to a suburb of commuters.

Considered a built-out community with little or no undeveloped land, the entire Municipality has access to public utilities and roads and an extensive pedestrian-friendly sidewalk system that covers over half of the Municipality.



## History

According to tradition, in 1850 Reverend Joseph Clokey returned from a trip to the near east with two Cedar of Lebanon trees, which he planted in front of his home on Bower Hill Road near its intersection with Washington Road. Clokey served the congregation of the Associate Reformed Congregation of Saw Mill Run (later the Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian Church). Both the church and Clokey's nearby home were located on one of the highest elevations in Allegheny County.

However, there is no evidence that the trees or the elevation influenced the decision to name the Post Office established nearby in 1855. The name is said to come from the mountain where the trees grew naturally –Mt. Lebanon in the Taurus Mountains of Lebanon. The town then took its name from the Post Office.

Mt. Lebanon's history and growth were heavily influenced by transportation. A road was built between Pittsburgh and Washington, Pennsylvania in 1797. A stagecoach provided public transportation until about 1874, stopping in Mt. Lebanon at Thomas Alderson's Five Mile House or at John Conner's Inn.

In the late 1800's, narrow gauge railroads crossed the area. Between 1874 and 1884, the Pittsburgh and Castle Shannon Railroad built a spur to Arlington Station near the foot of Cooke Lane to serve a Methodist campground located nearby. Residents of the Arlington Manor neighborhood still live in some of these summer homes.

Four months after the streetcar line was extended from Pittsburgh in July 1901, the first subdivision was laid out. The opening of the Liberty Tunnel in May 1924 paved the way for automobile commuters, and Mt. Lebanon was on its way to becoming an "automobile suburb."

## Government

Once part of St. Clair Township, then Upper St. Clair, and finally Scott Township, Mt. Lebanon became a separate community on February 6, 1912. In 1928, the community became the first "First Class" township in the state to operate under the council-manager form of government.

On January 1, 1975, Mt. Lebanon became one of the first Home Rule municipalities in Pennsylvania, maintaining its council-manager form of government. The appointed manager, who acts as the chief administrator, serves at the pleasure of the five elected commissioners. One commissioner is elected from each of five wards to serve a four-year term.

The manager is responsible for seeing to the day-to-day operation of the Municipality, including budget preparation and administration. He or she oversees five departments: police, fire, public works, recreation, and finance. In addition, there are four staff offices: public information, systems administration, economic development, and inspections. A consultant provides planning services, when needed. For more information on the current government structure in Mt. Lebanon, see the Administration section of Chapter 2.

# Socio-Economic Trends

It is important to take into consideration the characteristics of age, gender, ethnic heritage, education, household composition, and income of a community when planning for the future of recreation, parks and open space. The following information gives a summary description of the community's characteristics that influence its recreation, parks and open space system.

## Population/Age Characteristics

Table 1-1 (below) indicates that recent population trends are expected to continue. As has much of the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, Mt. Lebanon has steadily lost population over the past thirty years.

Projections for 2002 illustrate a modest increase in the preschool population. It also indicates a more moderate increase in the 75 and over category. However, the largest increase is expected to occur in the 45 to 54 year old group. All of the remaining age groups show a continued decrease in populations. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's Cycle V forecast predicts an expected total municipal population of 34,715 by 2015.

\*refer to the attachment at the end of this document for 2000 Census information

table 1-1

AGE	1970	1980	1990	Projections	2002	Change 1990 /2002
under 5 yrs	2580	1674	2198	0 to 5 yrs	2384	186
5 yrs to 17 yrs	10201	6978	5291	6 yrs to 17 yrs	4819	-472
18 yrs to 24 yrs	2806	2768	1994	18 yrs to 24 yrs	1592	-402
25 yrs to 44 yrs	8582	8907	10338	25 yrs to 44 yrs	8959	-1379
45 yrs to 54 yrs	5609	4202	3921	45 yrs to 54 yrs	5147	1226
55 yrs to 64 yrs	4579	4227	3469	55 yrs to 64 yrs	3300	-169
65 yrs to 74 yrs	3146	3122	3209	65 yrs to 74 yrs	2769	-440
75 yrs & up	2093	2536	2942	75 yrs & up	3265	323
<b>Total population</b>	<b>39596</b>	<b>34414</b>	<b>33362</b>		<b>32235</b>	<b>-1127</b>
<b>Population under 18</b>	<b>12781</b>	<b>8652</b>	<b>7489</b>		<b>7203</b>	<b>-286</b>
<b>% total population</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>-0.10</b>
<b>Population over 65</b>	<b>5239</b>	<b>5658</b>	<b>6151</b>		<b>6034</b>	<b>-117</b>
<b>% total population</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>0.28</b>

## Gender Characteristics

The table below shows that, over the past three decades, the population ratio of male to female has remained stable. In 1970, 1980, and 1990, 46% of the population was male, and 54% was female. The 2002 projections indicate a continuation of that trend, with only a 1% increase in the male population, with a corresponding decrease in the female population.

table 1-2

Gender	1970	1980	1990	2002 projection
Male	18253	15877	15357	15051
Female	21343	18537	18005	17184
Total	39596	34414	33362	32235

Notes:  
 1970, 1980, & 1990 data taken from US Census reports as prepared by the Allegheny County Planning Department  
 2002 projections provided by GeoLytics, Inc.

## Household Characteristics

According to census figures, there were 9,522 families in Mt. Lebanon in 1980. Of that number, 4402, or 46.23 percent, had children under 18.

By 1990, the number of families had dropped to 9,382. 4,052, or 43.19%, had children under the age of 18.

In 1990, there were 4103 females with children under age 17. Of this number of females, 2,496 were employed. Thus, almost 40 percent of women with children under 17 were not in the labor force.

In 1990, married couples headed 59.3 percent of households, down from 64.3 in 1980. In addition, in 1990, women headed 7 percent of all households, while men headed only 2 percent. In that year, single people occupied 29 percent of all households in the community.

Of the total households in 1990, 56.9 percent had a household income over \$40,000, and 36.4 percent had an income over \$60,000. In that year, 73.5 percent of housing units in Mt. Lebanon were owner occupied.

## Ethnic Characteristics

Table 1-3 (below) indicates that the minority population of Mt. Lebanon comprises only 1.6 percent of the total. Of this, Asian Americans are the most prevalent minority, followed by a growing population of Hispanic people.

table 1-3

Ethnic Composition	1970	1980	1990	Projections 2002
Total Population	39596	34414	33362	32235
White	39374	33851	32815	31698
African-American	106	101	112	110
Asian-American		357	435	427
American Indian		12		
Other	116	93		
Hispanic			228	307
Total Minority	222	563	547	537
Minority % of population	0.560663	1.635962	1.63959	1.665891

Notes:  
1970, 1980, and 1990 data taken from US Census reports as prepared by the Allegheny County Planning Department  
2002 projections provided by GeoLytics, Inc.

## Educational Characteristics

As indicated in table 1-4 (below), the population of Mt. Lebanon is becoming more educated. In 1980, only 42 percent of the population age 25 or older had completed four years or more of college. By 1990, that number rose to 53 percent.

table 1-4

Education	1980	1990
Persons Age 25+	22994	23943
Not High School Graduate	2512	1751
College 1-3 + years	4536	5143
College: 4+ years	9617	12768

Note:  
Data from US Census Reports

## Per Capita Income

Census data shows that residents of Mt. Lebanon enjoyed a higher per capita income level in 1989 than did residents of Allegheny County, the State of Pennsylvania and the United States in general.

<b>Mt. Lebanon</b>	<b>Allegheny County</b>	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>USA</b>
\$26,355	\$15,115	\$14,068	\$14,420

## Employment Characteristics

In 1990, 86.7 percent of the population of Mt. Lebanon was employed in a white-collar occupation, as compared to only 66 percent in Allegheny County as a whole. Census data summarized in table 1-5 (below) shows that 52.8 percent of the residents were engaged in managerial or professional jobs, while an additional 33.9 percent held technical, sales or administrative support positions.

table 1-5

Major Occupational Group	Number of Residents	Percentage
Managerial/Professional	8,489	52.8%
Technical, Sales, Administrative Support	5,448	33.9%
Service Occupations	1,047	6.5%
Farming, Forestry, Fishing	51	0.3%
Precision Products, Crafts, Repairs	574	3.6%
Operators, Fabricators and Laborers	473	2.9%

# Cultural Resources

Mt. Lebanon's cultural resources play a critical role in the Municipality's park, recreation and open space system. The community's cultural resources, including historic sites, public facilities, and development patterns, influence the character, culture and recreation needs of its residents. For example, school facilities and historic sites present possibilities for active and passive recreation facilities and programming; transportation corridors influence access to and character of facilities. Mt. Lebanon's cultural resources are illustrated on figure 1-6, Cultural Resources Inventory.

## Transportation

Mt. Lebanon currently contains approximately 100 miles of roadway. Major routes through the community become so crowded during peak hours that motorists use neighborhood streets to by-pass congested areas. This congestion is due in part to changing commuter patterns. Between 1980 and 1990, the number of commuters who used their private vehicle to travel to work increased by nearly 30 percent, while the number who carpooled dropped from 17 percent to 10.3 percent.

The major vehicular transportation routes are Washington Road, Cochran Road, Scott Road/Castle Shannon Boulevard, Cedar Boulevard, Beverly Road, Bower Hill Road, Gilkenson Road, Connor Road, and Mt. Lebanon Boulevard.

Washington Road from McFarland Road to Castle Shannon Boulevard serves as Mt. Lebanon's main street. According to the

Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, this corridor is eligible for registration as a historic district. The business district includes many specialty shops, restaurants, community facilities, offices, banks and other commercial establishments. The roadway consists of four vehicular traffic lanes, and a streetscape that includes many pedestrian amenities that make it appealing to shoppers.

Mt. Lebanon is only twenty minutes from the Pittsburgh airport, and about six minutes from Interstate 79, which provides a link to the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Residents also have access via the Parkway (Route 376) to areas east and west of Pittsburgh.

While many choose to commute via automobile, residents do have access to the Port Authority's light rail system (the "T"), which makes three stops in the community and runs into downtown Pittsburgh, as well as to communities to the south. Two bus routes, with seventeen stops within the community, also carry commuters from Mt. Lebanon neighborhoods into Pittsburgh. Commute time on the "T" or bus is approximately thirty minutes.

Refer to the Cultural Resources Inventory Map (figure 1-6) for locations of transportation routes.

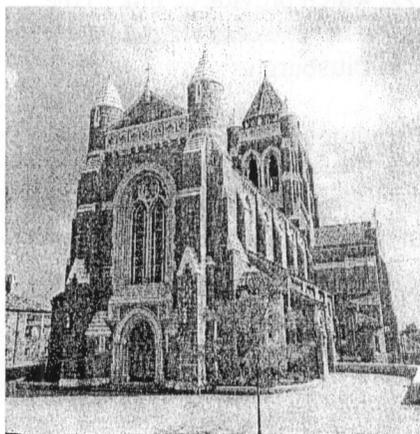
## Religious Institutions



A wide variety of religious denominations are represented in Mt. Lebanon. Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Christian Scientist, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Baptist, Episcopalian, Lutheran, and others all maintain active congregations.

Some of these congregations worship in buildings with significant architectural and/or cultural features. Both St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church and the Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian Church have been recognized as Allegheny County architectural landmarks. St. Bernard's is styled after French Gothic churches of the twelfth century. Built of granite and limestone, it was built between 1933

and 1947. The Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian Church, built between 1927 and 1929, is graced by a number of stained glass windows.

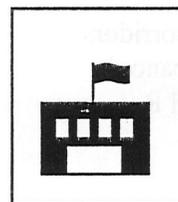


The following is a list of religious institutions. The numbers for each site correspond to the numbered symbols on the Cultural Resources Inventory Map (figure 1-6).

1. Beverly Heights United Presbyterian
2. Bower Hill Community Presbyterian
3. First Church of Christ, Scientist
4. Holy Cross Greek Orthodox
5. Mt. Lebanon Christian Church
6. Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran
7. Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian

8. Our Savior Lutheran
9. Southminster Presbyterian
10. St. Bernard Catholic
11. St. Paul's Episcopal
12. St. Winifred Catholic
13. Sunset Hills United Presbyterian
14. Temple Emanuel of South Hills
15. Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills
16. Knoxville Baptist Church

## Schools



Participants in the municipal comprehensive planning process (refer to Mt. Lebanon Comprehensive Plan 2000) rated the Mt. Lebanon education system as one of the community's top five strengths. The district has garnered many awards. Mt. Lebanon High School was named a

National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence three times. Pittsburgh Magazine has included the district as one of the area's top fifteen best public and private schools. The Pennsylvania Middle Schools Association named Mellon Middle School Most Outstanding Middle School of the Year for 1998-99. In 1999, the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators named Dr. Glenn F. Smartschan Superintendent of the Year.

In all, the district includes seven elementary schools, two middle schools, and one senior high school. Total enrollment in the district was 5,728 in September 1999, according to the district's web page.

In addition to these public school facilities, the community is also home to St. Bernard's Roman Catholic School. Located on Washington Road, St. Bernard's enrolls approximately 500 students from preschoolers to eighth graders.

Seton-LaSalle High School is one of seven Catholic high schools in the Pittsburgh Diocese. Approximately 575 students in grades 9 through 12 attend the school located on McNeilly Road.

Both the Keystone Oaks Middle and Senior High Schools, part of the Keystone Oaks school district, are located partially in Mt. Lebanon on a 43 acre campus along McNeilly Road.

The following is a list of schools located within Mt. Lebanon. The number for each facility corresponds to a numbered symbol on the Cultural Resources Inventory Map.

1. Foster Elementary
2. Hoover Elementary
3. Howe Elementary
4. Jefferson Elementary
5. Jefferson Middle
6. Lincoln Elementary
7. Markham Elementary
8. Mellon Middle School
9. Mt. Lebanon High
10. St. Bernard's Catholic
11. Washington Elementary
12. School Administration
13. Seton LaSalle High School
14. Keystone Oaks High School

## Public Facilities

The Mt. Lebanon municipal building is located at 710 Washington Road. The building houses municipal offices including the police and fire departments. Built in 1930, this Moderne style structure designed by William King Jr., is eligible to be registered as a historic structure by the Pennsylvania Historical and Landmarks Commission.

A new public safety building will be constructed in 2001. The new building will be located on a now-vacant 1.18 acre lot at the corner of Washington Road and Shady Drive East.

The rebuilt and expanded Mt. Lebanon library, located at 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., houses an extensive collection, including over 135,000 books.

St. Clair Hospital, located at 1000 Bower Hill Road, has been providing medical services to the community since 1954. It has 314 beds, offers general and acute care, and 24-hour emergency services.

The following is a list of public facilities. Each numbered site corresponds to a numbered symbol on the Cultural Resources Inventory Map (figure 1-6).

1. Cedarhurst Post Office
2. Library
3. Mt. Lebanon Cemetery
4. Castle Shannon /Mt. Lebanon Post Office
5. Municipal Building
6. Public Works
7. St. Clair Cemetery
8. St. Clair Hospital
9. Tax Office
10. Municipal Golf Course
11. Medical Rescue Team South Authority

## Historical Buildings and Landmarks

St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church and the Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian Church, discussed under religious institutions, are buildings with architectural significance.

As mentioned previously, the *municipal building* and the *Washington Road corridor* between McFarland Road and Castle Shannon Boulevard are eligible for registration by the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission.

Off Castle Shannon Boulevard is a private road leading to a group of thirteen Gothic Revival and Italianate structures that were originally built to serve The Arlington Camp Meeting Association. This Methodist group originally leased land from the Pittsburgh and Castle Shannon Railroad for a summer camp meeting facility. Many of these structures in what is now the *Arlington Park* neighborhood were originally erected in 1883.

The gatehouse at the *Mt. Lebanon Cemetery* was built in 1876 in the Italianate style with Gothic Revival and Stick Style details.

Many homes in the community were erected prior to the 1900's, including the *Jackson-Denman House* in Cedarhurst Manor. While the house was modified in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the initial portion was built in 1808. The *Peter Mink House* on Rockwood Avenue was constructed in 1860, while the *Samuel Carlisle House* on Bower Hill Road dates from 1868.

The Unitarian Universalist Church now occupies a building originally built in 1919 for Joseph Rousch. Called "Sunnyhill" at the time, this structure is cited by Walter Kidney in *PITTSBURGH'S LANDMARK ARCHITECTURE*, along with several others: Virginia Manor, Mission Hills and Hoodridge Drive buildings.

The site of many businesses once central to Mt. Lebanon's history,

such as the General Store, Couch's Wagon Shop, and the Blacksmith shop, are known. Work by the *Ad Hoc* Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Committee formed by the Municipality to complete a comprehensive survey of structures and sites of historic, architectural, and archaeological significance is an important first step in preserving those sites.

The following is a list of historical buildings and landmarks. Each numbered site corresponds to a numbered symbol on the Cultural Resources Inventory Map.

1. Arlington Park Neighborhood
2. Mt. Lebanon Cemetery Gatehouse
3. Jackson-Denman House
4. Peter Mink House
5. Samuel Carlisle House
6. "Sunnyhill"

## Land Use

### *Residential*

As a "built-out" primarily residential community, this land use category comprises a majority of the Municipality's land mass (just under 4 square miles). Residential dwellings range from apartments to single-family homes.

### *Commercial*

Commercial land use comprises a relatively small percentage of overall land area in the Municipality, accounting for 0.2 square miles of land, primarily concentrated along Washington Road, Castle Shannon Boulevard and Cochran Road.

### *Park Districts*

Parks comprise about 6.7 percent or 0.4 square miles of the Municipality's land mass. The Municipality's zoning code sets forth specific guidelines for park classification. In general, the code offers the following definitions regarding parks and open space.

*Recreation Space*: open space for active and passive recreation.

Passive Recreation Areas are outdoor sitting areas such as sundecks, roofs, gardens, parks, natural areas for walking and picnicking, and areas abutting minor pedestrian walkways.

Active Recreation Areas include major paved pedestrian ways, tennis courts, swimming and boating areas, shuffleboard courts, bridle paths, playlots, playgrounds and playfields.

Part 3 of the Municipality's code specifically describes types of park districts.

Statement of Intent: In addition to the goals set forth in the Statement of General Intent, the establishment and regulations of Park Districts with respect to use, density, bulk, parking and similar provisions are intended to achieve the following goals: provide sufficient recreational areas for active sports and other fitness activities to meet the needs of and otherwise enhance the quality of living for residents of the Municipality; preserve municipally-owned lands, where appropriate, for more passive activities such as nature study, picnicking and hiking.

### **Passive Park District (P-1)**

Specific Purpose: The P-1 Passive Park District is designed to provide for the maintenance and protection of naturalized public open space areas.

#### Uses by Right

Public Reserved Open Space	Nature Study area
Picnic facilities	Hiking and walking trails
Plant and wildlife sanctuary	Creative play space
Essential Communications Antenna or Commercial Communications Antenna mounted on an existing public utility.	

#### Conditional Uses

Facility for nature study  
Structure classified as having historical significance

### **Diversified Park District (P-2)**

Specified Purpose: The P-2 Diversified Park District is designed to provide, in addition to the uses authorized in the P-1 district, indoor and outdoor sporting and health and fitness-related facilities to enhance the health and well-being of the residents of the Municipality.

#### Uses by Right

Indoor and outdoor courts, fields and other playing facilities for sports activities of all types, including but not limited to: football; baseball; softball; rugby; soccer; ice and field hockey; skating, skiing, sledding and other winter sports; basketball; volleyball; tennis, racquetball and other racket sports; handball; public swimming pool swimming; weight-lifting; golf.

Indoor facilities providing rooms for sports and health and fitness instruction, child day care, community group meetings, art, dancing, music activities and recreation administration.

Picnic facilities.

Camping facilities.

#### Conditional Uses

Facility for nature study.

Structure classified as having historical significance.

A civic, social, recreational, educational or cultural center.

### **Conservation District**

Purpose: To preserve municipally-owned lands, where appropriate, for greenspace.

#### Uses by Right

Public Reserved Open Space.  
Essential Communications Antenna or Commercial Communications Antenna mounted on an existing Public Utility

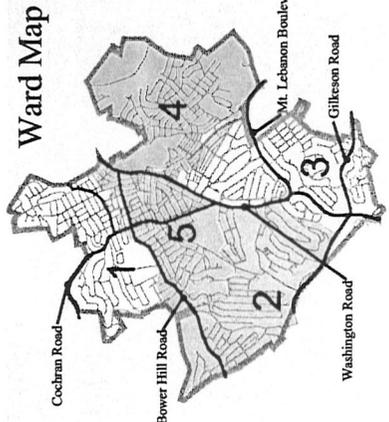
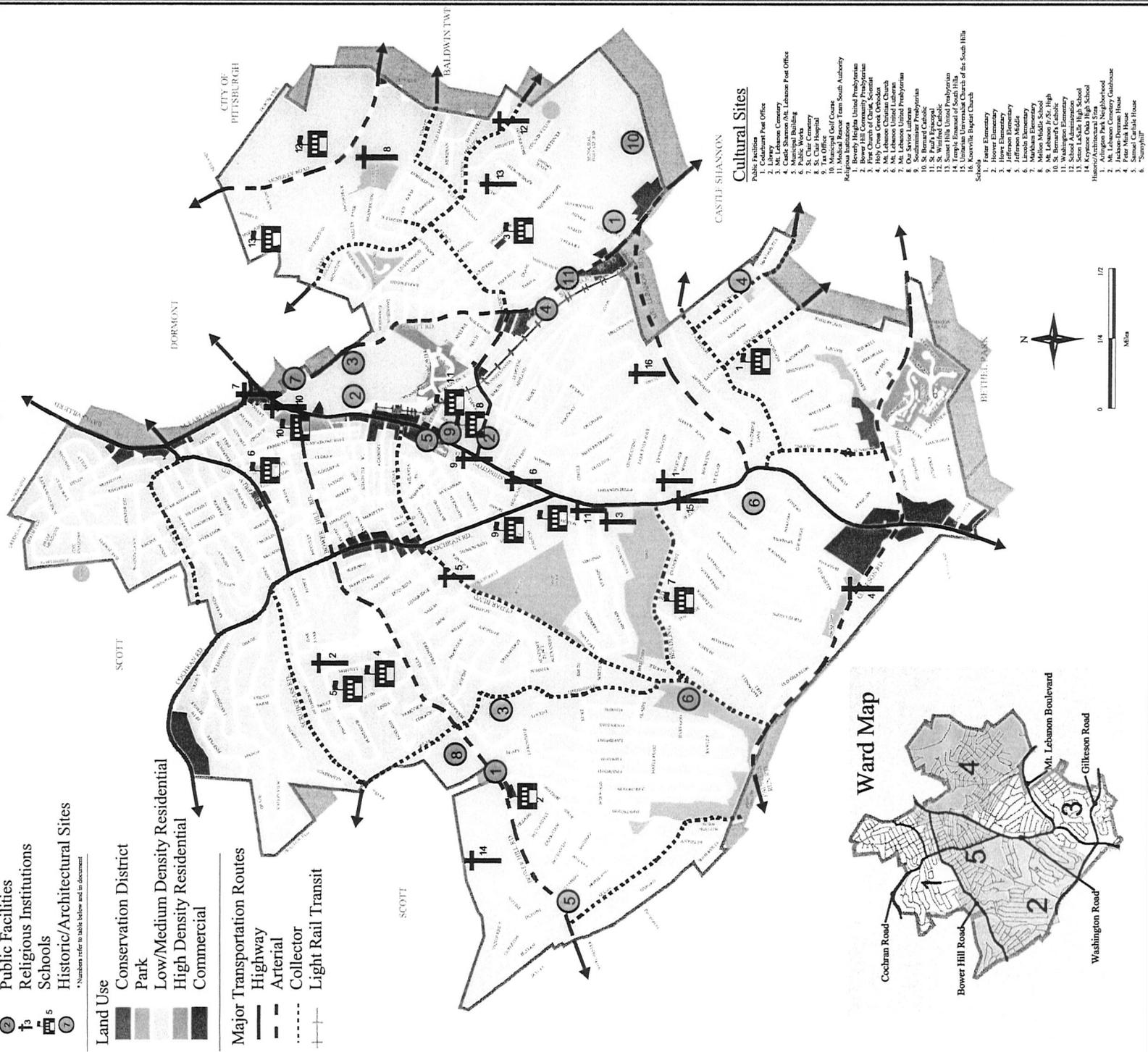
# LEGEND

- Public Facilities
  - Religious Institutions
  - Schools
  - Historic/Architectural Sites
- \*Numbers refer to table below and to document

- ### Land Use
- Conservation District
  - Park
  - Low/Medium Density Residential
  - High Density Residential
  - Commercial

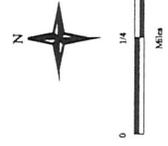
- ### Major Transportation Routes
- Highway
  - Arterial
  - Collector
  - Light Rail Transit

# Cultural Resources



## Cultural Sites

- Public Facilities**
1. Colclough Post Office
  2. Mt. Lebanon Cemetery
  3. Mt. Lebanon Cemetery
  4. Castle Shannon Mt. Lebanon Post Office
  5. Mt. Lebanon Public Library
  6. Public Works
  7. St. Clair Cemetery
  8. Mt. Lebanon Hospital
  9. Tax Office
  10. Municipal Golf Course
  11. Municipal Center from South Authority
- Religious Institutions**
1. Beverly Heights United Presbyterian
  2. Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian
  3. First Church of Christ, Scientist
  4. Holy Cross Greek Orthodox
  5. Mt. Lebanon United Methodist
  6. Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran
  7. Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian
  8. Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian
  9. Socastawakee Presbyterian
  10. St. Bernard Catholic
  11. St. Ignace Catholic
  12. St. Ignace Catholic
  13. Sunset Hills United Presbyterian
  14. St. Ignace Catholic
  15. Lutheran Universal Church of the South Hills
  16. Knoxville Baptist Church
- Schools**
1. Foster Elementary
  2. Hoover Elementary
  3. Hoover Elementary
  4. Jefferson Middle
  5. Jefferson Middle
  6. Macgill Elementary
  7. Macgill Elementary
  8. Melton Middle School
  9. Melton Middle School
  10. Mt. Lebanon J.F.S. High
  11. Washington Elementary
  12. School Administration School
  13. School Administration School
  14. Kyrnoson Ochs High School
- Historic/Architectural Sites**
1. Mt. Lebanon Cemetery
  2. Mt. Lebanon Cemetery
  3. Jackson-Dwight House
  4. Jackson-Dwight House
  5. Samsel Carriage House
  6. "Samsel" Hall



DATE 7/25/01

FIGURE NUMBER:

1 - 6

## Inventory of Cultural Resources

Municipality of Mt. Lebanon  
Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan



# Natural Resources

The natural characteristics of Mt. Lebanon provide unique opportunities for both active and passive recreation, as well as for the conservation of natural resources. The developed nature a vast majority of the Municipality's land mass, highlights the importance of enhancement and conservation of the remaining natural features. This can be accomplished through specific land use strategies and proper planning of park and recreation facilities, as well as undeveloped natural areas. Figure 1-8, illustrates the following resources within the Municipality:

## Geology

The Municipality is located in the Appalachian Plateau Province. This province is a northeast-southwest trending highland that occupies a large portion of Pennsylvania. The area is underlain by nearly horizontal sedimentary rock best of Paleozoic age and is characterized by steeply sloping hillsides and deep narrow valleys. There are three rock groups that comprise the Municipality of Mt. Lebanon: Waynesburg Formation, Monongahela Group and Casselman Formation.

The following chart describes the soil associations found in Mt. Lebanon. The Municipality consist of soil landscape variations which have occurred as a result of natural forces, as well as urban development.

Table 1-7

Soil Association	Characteristics
Culleoka-Weikert-Newark	Shallow and moderately deep, well-drained soils underlain by gray shale on uplands and deep, somewhat poorly drained soils on flood plains.
Dormont-Guernsey-Culleoka	Moderately deep and deep, well drained and moderately drained soils underlain by shale and limestone on uplands.
Urban Land-Dormont-Culleoka	Moderately deep and deep, well drained and moderately well drained soils and Urban land underlain by shale and limestone uplands.

## Hydrology



There are two primary waterways within the Municipality: Painters Run, with a watershed of 4.42 square miles, and Scrubgrass Run, with a watershed of 1.53 square miles. Both streams flow into Chartiers Creek. There are also numerous unnamed tributaries to

Painters Run and the McDonough's Run tributary to Sawmill Run, which has a watershed area of 19.4 square miles. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Water Quality Standards, the streams within the Municipality are designated as Warm Water Fisheries. This designation provides for the maintenance and propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna which are indigenous to a warm water habitat.

As the case with streams in heavily-populated areas across the United States, all streams within the Municipality are affected by urban development runoff, erosion and sedimentation.

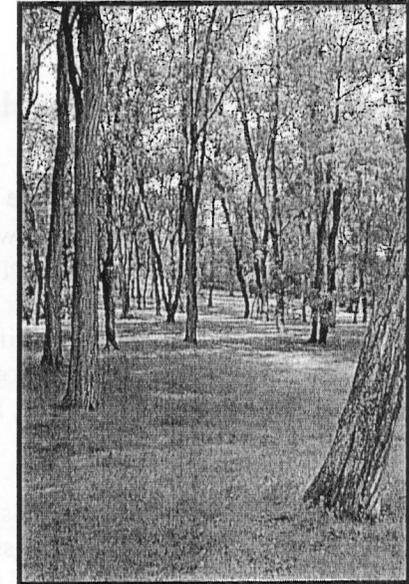
According to the Federal Management Agency (FEMA), the Municipality contains several floodplains along Painters Run.

## Vegetation

Vegetated areas within the Municipality include riparian buffers along streams, municipal parks, conservation areas and street trees. A variety of influences are negatively affecting these areas. Riparian habitat is significantly degraded as a result of residential, commercial and transportation land uses. Degradation and complete elimination of vegetated riparian buffers increases stream bank erosion, levels of pollutants and flow of runoff.

For over forty years, the Municipality's Public Works Department has planted and maintained trees throughout the community. With over 22,000 municipal street trees and 15,000 to 18,000 within municipal parks, Mt. Lebanon has maintained a key natural resource within a densely populated area. In fact, the Municipality currently contains 1.2 trees along streets and within parks, per resident.

Tree species currently available for planting along the Municipality's streets include: Harvest Gold and Red Baron crabapple, hedge maple, hawthorn, ash, sweet gum, linden, pear, and red sunset maple.



# Natural Resources

## LEGEND

-  Municipal Recreation Facilities
-  Natural Areas
-  Municipal Conservation Area
-  Streams and Drainageways
-  Major Transportation Routes



DATE 07/25/01

FIGURE NUMBER

1 - 8

## *Inventory of Natural Resources*

Municipality of Mt. Lebanon  
Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan

*Where are we now?*

---

Inventory and Assessment

# 2

A detailed understanding of the existing components of Mt. Lebanon's current recreation, park and open space system is key in making successful recommendations for the future. This chapter answers the question of "Where are we now?". By answering this question in regards to the Municipality's current administration, financing, programming and facilities, a knowledge base is developed, from which insightful recommendations are based.

*This chapter is organized into four sections:*

### **Section I: Administration**

This section gives an overview and assessment of current municipal administration, including personnel, maintenance and operations, as it relates to recreation, parks and open space.

### **Section II: Financing**

The second section provides a detailed inventory and assessment of the financing of recreation, parks and open space, a key issue in planning for future development.

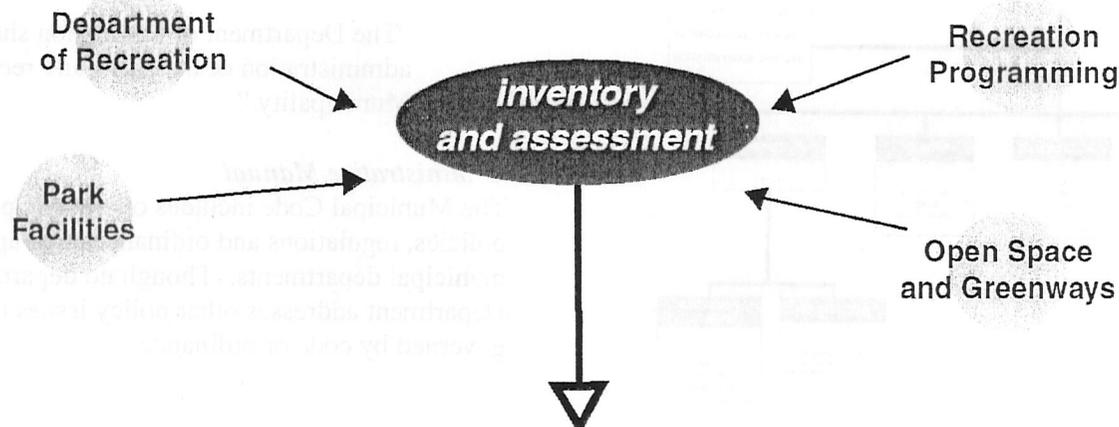
### **Section III: Recreation Programming**

The third section inventories recreation programs currently offered by the Municipality and local organizations and offers an assessment of the Municipality's operations related to programming.

### **Section IV: Recreation Facilities**

The fourth and final section inventories municipal and school district facilities, with particular emphasis on the Municipality's system of recreation facilities.

## *Where Are We Now?*





### ***Administrative Facilities***

Administrative offices of the Recreation Department are located in the Recreation Center. They are easily accessible to the public. Office supplies and equipment seem to be adequate. The size of the offices is rather limited. Existing staff are cramped and there is a severe shortage of storage space. Any expansion of staff will require that office space be expanded.

### ***Technology***

The offices recently became computerized. Current use of computers are for word processing. Plans are underway to connect department computers on the municipal computer network. This will allow a stronger means of communication among departments and with the main office. It will also allow for rapid transmission of data for improved financial analysis, record keeping and planning.

Plans are also underway for a computerized registration system. This will allow for a simpler means of registration, a more accurate compilation of registration data, a better system of record keeping, and the ability to better track and analyze program and facility usage.

### ***Record-Keeping***

In the Recreation Department, both facility attendance and financial records are tracked on a daily basis with monthly reports made to the Municipal Manager. These records provide a good overview of facility use and revenue produced at each facility. However, there is no annual compilation of these records into a single report to allow comparisons of one year to another. Additionally, there is no comprehensive record-keeping process for individual programs. Program registration and/or attendance is listed monthly for a report to the Municipal Manager but there is no comprehensive report on a monthly or annual basis from which to analyze attendances, trends in programming, levels of success or other important factors.

Further, there is no record-keeping of individual registrants for programs. Because of this, it is difficult to analyze data to determine if persons are attending more than one program or if there is little crossover, what the resident vs. non-resident usage is and whether all segments of the population are being served.

Financial records are kept much more accurately and in greater detail by the Municipal Finance Department. This Department has a sophisticated system of tracking both revenue and expense as they relate to individual facilities. However, the Recreation Center is generally tracked as one facility and reported in monthly and annual reports as one facility when in actuality there are three facility cost centers within the Recreation Center: the ice rink, swimming pool and community center. Reports are not generally provided to breakdown the income and expense of the individual facilities. Such a report would provide a much more accurate picture of how each facility is doing financially.

### ***Operations***

Operation of parks and recreation in Mt. Lebanon is a joint effort by the Department of Recreation and the Department of Public Works. The Recreation Department has control and responsibility over parks and recreation as it relates to programs. The Recreation Department also has responsibility for the maintenance and operation of all indoor recreation facilities as well as the Tennis Center, Municipal Golf Course and the Outdoor Swimming Pool. The Public Works Department is responsible for all park maintenance and park improvements. The Public Works Department also assists with the maintenance of all indoor facilities.

There is a cooperation between the two departments to coordinate general maintenance with park planning and recreational needs. The Municipality has a good understanding of the expectations of each department which is clearly stated in the Municipal Code.

### *Intergovernmental Cooperation*

There is an unwritten agreement between the Municipality of Mt. Lebanon and the Mt. Lebanon School District which primarily covers the sharing of facilities. Most often it is a case of the Municipality utilizing school facilities but the school does use municipal facilities for a number of programs. In either case there are generally no fees charged for the shared usage. Chart #2-2 details the shared use of recreational facilities.

There is no formal agreement between the Municipality and the School District to clearly identify roles or responsibilities. A formal written agreement would provide a strong future for such cooperation and assure a clear understanding of the roles of each party.

A number of community sports organizations make extensive use of both school and municipal facilities. The school district owns the majority of the recreational fields (approximately 20) and gymnasiums (8) that are available within the community. It also owns the only indoor swimming facility. The school district makes its facilities available to all community groups including the Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department. At this point in time, the Recreation Department does not necessarily receive preferential treatment in use of school facilities; rather facilities are available as they are to any community group.

The Municipality owns a number of outdoor sport facilities including five sports fields (Wildcat, Dixon, Middle, Brafferton, and Bird Park) and four basketball courts, which are made available for both school and community use. One of the difficulties facing the Recreation Department is that they must rely on the school district for much of their recreational sports facilities. It becomes very difficult to provide a balanced program of activities when twelve community sports organizations are vying for use of the same

facilities. Chart 2-2 details a listing of cooperative programming between the Municipality, community organizations and the School District.

There is also cooperation between the Municipality and the School District in the operation of a Teen Center. The School District is providing the space on a monthly basis in which the Teen Center may operate while the Municipality is providing some of the funding for its operation. The Center is coordinated and operated by a volunteer community group consisting mostly of parents of the teenagers.

The Municipality and the School District have recently entered into a maintenance agreement whereby the Municipality provides specific maintenance on certain School District sports fields. This agreement was entered into on an experimental basis in 1999 for a limited number of fields. It was found to be so successful that it has been expanded to cover nearly all School District sports fields for the years 2000 - 2003. The Mt. Lebanon Youth Sports Alliance (YSA) is a contributing partner in this agreement as well.

Previously, the School District had found that they were unable to provide adequate maintenance of the fields because they did not have a skilled turf manager on staff, manpower priorities forced these maintenance tasks low on the list, and the district had limited equipment for such tasks. The result was that most fields were being inadequately maintained, leading to an unusually high number of citizen complaints. The Municipality on the other hand, has a turf management specialist on staff, has the availability of equipment, and views field maintenance as a high priority in their provision of services to the community.

Highlights of the Agreement are as follows:

- (1) The Municipality performs what the contracts calls “annual infield and turf maintenance. For all fields the contract calls for general pre-season clean-up and preparation. For infields, this includes grading for proper drainage, adding infield mix, preparation of the batters box, catcher area, and pitching mound. For turf areas, it includes performing soil tests, aeration, fertilizing, over-seeding, and winterizing.
- (2) The School District contributes an agreed upon amount to the Municipality for the above stated work.
- (3) The School District is responsible for daily preparation for its own use of the fields including dragging, brooming and lining of the fields.
- (4) The School District maintains the right and responsibility for decision-making for major repairs, irrigation, weed control policies, facility and structural maintenance, fences and scoreboards.
- (5) The School District is responsible for lawn mowing that is consistent with the overall maintenance program established by the Municipality.
- (6) The YSA contributes an agreed upon amount to the School District to assist with the maintenance costs.
- (7) The YSA is responsible for daily preparation for its own use of the fields including dragging, brooming and lining of the fields.
- (8) The School District coordinates field usage among all organizations.

Recently, an informal committee has been formed consisting of the superintendent, athletic director and maintenance staff of the Mt. Lebanon School District, the Municipality’s recreation director and representatives of the Youth Sports Alliance. This committee has been meeting regularly to more specifically address the sports facility issues and demands of the community. The consensus of the committee is that it is addressing these issues effectively.

Table 2-2

Municipal/School Cooperation for Parks and Recreation			
Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department use of School District Facilities		School Use of Municipal Recreation Facilities	
<i>School Gymnasiums</i>	Recreation Department uses gymnasiums throughout the school system for a variety of recreational activities.	<i>Golf Course</i>	Varsity golf teams practice and matches.
<i>School Auditoriums</i>	Occasional use only. Department must pay "out of pocket" expenses related to use. Expenses could include custodial, sound crew, security, etc.	<i>Mt. Lebanon Park:</i>	
<i>Summer Playground Program</i>	Seven elementary school indoor and outdoor facilities.	<i>Wildcat Field</i>	High School baseball practice and games.
<i>Teen Center</i>	Operated monthly at school facilities. School also provides some staff support.	<i>Dixon Field</i>	High School softball practice and games.
<i>Sports Fields</i>	Recreation Department and Community Athletic Organizations utilize all school district sports fields throughout the year.	<i>Cross Country Course</i>	High School cross country matches.
<i>Swimming Pool</i>	Available for use by community, the Recreation Department and Community organizations. The Recreation Department is not currently making use of the pool.	<i>Outdoor Basketball Courts</i>	Physical education classes.
		<i>Sand Volleyball Court</i>	Physical education classes.
		<i>Multi-use Areas</i>	Intramural flag football.
		<i>Picnic Pavilions</i>	Various school activities.
		<i>Bird Park</i>	High School Soccer, environmental education, pep rally, parking.
		<i>Community Center</i>	Academic games.
		<i>Outdoor Swimming Pool</i>	Year-end swimming parties for a reduced fee.
		<i>Ice Skating Rink</i>	Skating field trips are provided at reduced fees.

**Publicity and Public Relations**

The Recreation Department has done an excellent job of promoting parks and recreation and keeping the public informed of available park and recreation opportunities within the Municipality. The Mt. Lebanon Magazine and the Mt. Lebanon Homepage are first rate publications for the entire Municipality and provide excellent coverage of parks and recreation.

The only deficiency in publicity seems to be the lack of a seasonal brochure providing a comprehensive, detailed listing of all facilities and programs available for a specific season. Though much of this information is available on the Mt. Lebanon web site, such a publication is still advisable.

**Table 2-3: Current Public Relations Efforts**

Method	Information Provided	Venue
<i>Fliers</i>	Specific Program Information	Distribution in schools, municipal building, library, etc.
<i>Mt. Lebanon Web Page</i>	General park and recreation information. Specific Program Information	Worldwide Web
<i>Cable Television</i>	Specific Program Information	Local Cable Channel
<i>Mt. Lebanon Magazine</i>	General Park and Recreation Information; overview of departmental activity; municipally operated programming, excellent photos and descriptions, some specific program information.	Mailed to residents, miscellaneous distribution.

## The Parks Advisory Board

The Municipal Administrative Code created the Parks Advisory Board in 1997. The Code outlines the purpose, membership, duties and functions of the Board as follows:

1. The purpose of the Parks Advisory Board is to “deal with issues related to parks and other public open space in Mt. Lebanon.”
2. The Board shall consist of seven members appointed to three year terms.
3. The purpose and duties of the Board were reviewed during its third year (prior to December 31, 2000) to determine if the Board should continue beyond January 1, 2001 and its continuation was approved.
4. The duties and functions of the Board are to
  - a. Inventory park and existing facilities;
  - b. Review park programming;
  - c. Recommend policies for park aesthetics and physical development, and;
  - d. Promote education/involvement of the community in resource preservation and organize clean-up programs.
5. The Board may also recommend fund-raising for improvements, promote public/private partnership projects and make recommendations for municipal budgetary considerations.

## Personnel

Staffing for parks and recreation is broken into two categories: recreation staff, who work with all park and recreation programming, and park maintenance staff who handle the maintenance activities for all parks and facilities.

All staff fall under the Personnel Policies and Procedures of the Municipality. The policies reviewed are adequate and appropriate for such staff. Wages and salaries for all positions are set by the Municipal Commissioners and/or fall within a bargaining unit for the Municipality. Wages are appropriate for the job expectations and economic standards of the community. All staff are hired according to the Municipality’s personnel manual.

### *Recreation Staff*

The Recreation Department is headed by the Director of Recreation. According to the Position Description, the work of the Director of Recreation “entails carrying out policy directives, performing overall direction of the department, fulfilling department reporting functions, directing capital improvements, department budget preparation and justification, and public relations activities.” Additional job functions include “determining department goals, procedures, and requisite orders; supervising personnel; establishing a comprehensive recreation program and supervising its execution; responsibility for acquisition, planning and improvements of all real property recreation facilities; coordinating and justifying annual department budget; initiating fee increases for facilities and programs, and; handling all major purchases of department equipment. The position is classified as one of the department heads within the Municipality’s organizational structure.

The Director of Recreation provides direct supervision to the Recreation Program Director, Recreation Facilities Manager, Golf Professional, Golf Course Superintendent, Tennis Professional, Tennis Maintenance Supervisor, and Recreation Department secretary. The Director also provides general supervision to all other subordinate staff.

The Position Description for the Director of Recreation sets appropriate standards for education, experience and necessary knowledge and skills pertaining specifically to parks and recreation.

The Director of Recreation is stretched to the maximum with the current work load. The Director and other current staff does not currently have adequate time to manage existing recreation programs nor to add new ones. The most appropriate addition of staff would be to add a part-time clerical/registration assistant and an additional program assistant. These persons would assist in meeting the program and administrative deficiencies identified in this study. The clerical/registration position could begin as part-time, but would likely need to expand to full-time within about three years. The program position would need to be full-time from the start and depending on the rate of program expansion, a second position could be needed in the near future.

### ***Park Maintenance Staff***

The Public Works Department provides staff to perform all maintenance within municipal parks. They do not perform maintenance tasks for the indoor recreation facilities and outdoor pool. The Recreation Department handles that. The department is headed by the Director of Public Works. According to the Position Description for the Director of Public Works entitled, "Nature of Work", the position has responsibility for "maintenance and construction of the Municipality's physical facilities." Though it can be generally understood that parks are considered part of the Municipality's physical facilities, it would also be understood that the recreation center, swimming pool, tennis center and other indoor facilities would also fit into that classification. There is no differentiation stating that the Director of Public Works is responsible for some recreation facilities but not others.

The Public Works Superintendent is second in command to the Director of Public Works and handles the daily operation of the department. The Job Description for this position includes as an essential job function, "Complete responsibility in all areas of parks maintenance, forestry, supervising, training and scheduling personnel, and planning weekly and seasonal maintenance programs." It is this individual who oversees the field maintenance

contract with the school district. Currently, the person who holds this position is a turf management specialist.

The Public Works Department has a total of 23 staff working in general operations. There are no staff assigned specifically to the parks. None of the Public Works staff other than the Public Works Superintendent have any specific training in parks maintenance. With the size and types of park facilities being maintained, it would certainly be advisable to have persons trained in pesticide application, playground safety, environmental standards, and typical park maintenance activity.

Public Works hours are tracked and classified as park expenditures in the municipal budget. This allows for a clear understanding of the total amount of dollars spent on park maintenance within the Public Works Department.

### ***Volunteers***

The Recreation Department makes only minimal use of volunteers. While there is no formal volunteer program, some standards have been established for the use of volunteers. (This is not an evaluation of volunteerism throughout the community.) Many community recreation departments make extensive use of volunteers. Volunteers can save the department thousands of dollars per year in staffing costs. Five hundred hours of volunteer time projected at minimum wage would provide over \$2500 worth of labor.

It is not likely that volunteers would serve as the primary leader or instructor in most programs. It is more likely that volunteers would be used to supplement program instruction to lower the staff-to-student ratio in youth programs. Volunteers could be used in a variety of positions including sports instruction, day camp assistants, playground supervision, instructional assistants, park clean-up, facility services, and many others. The possibilities are endless.

Currently, there are no specific guidelines for the recruitment or management of volunteers. Neither are there guidelines stating expectations, responsibilities or standards for volunteers. Significant use of volunteers would require the adoption of a volunteer management policy.

A volunteer management policy should be designed and implemented to address issues including, but not limited to:

- Recruitment and retention
- Management
- Training
- Job expectations
- Risk Management
- Recognition
- Benefits
- Maintenance vs. program
- Legal implications

These volunteers should be treated with great respect and dignity for the potential role they would play in the provision of quality parks and recreation programs in Mt. Lebanon.

## Maintenance

The Mt. Lebanon Public Works Department is responsible for all maintenance within the park system. However, they are not responsible for maintenance of recreation facilities, which include the Recreation Center, with its ice rink, community rooms, administrative offices, and the outdoor swimming pool, the Tennis Center, and the Golf Course. Through a contractual agreement, the department also has responsibility for general maintenance on all Mt. Lebanon School District sports fields except the football field. The contract includes seasonal field preparation and turf management. It does not include mowing of fields or daily preparation and lining.

In addition to daily and routine maintenance, the Public Works Department also undertakes numerous major projects such as sports field rehabilitation and construction projects.

In many situations where park work is done by a Public Works Department, the department is more focused toward typical public works tasks such as roads and drainage rather than parks. Other than one staff person with a pesticide applicators license and the Public Works Superintendent's turf management training, none of the staff are trained in the specifics of park maintenance. It would certainly be advantageous to have several staff trained in specific issues related to park maintenance. There are several schools and workshops offered by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the various Recreation and Park Societies, the National Recreation and Park Association Colleges and universities offer a variety of park maintenance related training programs. The Municipality should take advantage of this type of training.

Unquestionably, the Mt. Lebanon Public Works Department does an excellent job in their general responsibilities. Unfortunately, manpower is not adequate to provide the quantity and quality of work necessary in the parks to maintain them at the proper level.

### *General Maintenance*

Maintenance of parks and facilities is done on a system of daily, weekly or monthly visits to each location with specific tasks assigned for each visit. The frequency of the visits is determined by the season and the scheduled activity at each location. As part of each visit to a site, a safety check is completed. The results are reported to the Public Works Superintendent who prioritizes repairs and fits them into the regular schedule. Most sites are not visited often enough to assure the detail of maintenance that is required. Litter is a problem at some sites. Safety hazards that occur between visits may not be addressed until the next scheduled visit. This opens the door to some safety risk issues. Other maintenance tasks are based primarily on apparent needs and visual observations.

Daily work logs are kept and can be used to track work done at any facility. Maintenance logs are kept on equipment but not on facilities.

Pesticides are used, on a very limited basis, for control of weeds at many facilities as well as for fertilizing and maintaining ballfields. Currently, the only Municipal employee with a pesticide applicators license is employed at the golf course. He serves to oversee trained pesticide technicians within the Public Works Department in the use of pesticides. Appropriately, two Public Works employees are in the process of training to receive their pesticide applicator's license.

Sports organizations and other groups that use municipal parks and school fields are responsible for daily preparation of their individual fields for their own use. This would include dragging and lining of the fields.

The Public Works Department contracts with a local lawn care firm to do the mowing on all Municipal properties. The contract calls for general park properties to be mowed weekly for thirty one weeks beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, ballfields are to be mowed twice per week during the sports seasons. This arrangement appears to work very well. Several visual observations by the consultant indicate that all properties are being mowed appropriately.

### ***Maintenance Equipment***

The Public Works Department has all the equipment necessary for most types of routine and major maintenance within the park system. The contract with the School District has allowed the Department to purchase some additional turf management equipment that will be able to be used within the parks. All equipment is well maintained and is on a regular schedule for replacement through the Capital Improvement Program as its life expectancy is up.

### ***Capital Improvements***

Capital improvements are projected and budgeted in the Municipality's Capital Improvement Plan which is a 5-year schedule for all departments of the Municipality. The Director of Public Works presents capital requests at budget time to the Municipal Manager with justification for each project. Projects are generally included in the Capital Budget without regard to their viability. During the Budget process, the Municipal Commissioners review and allocate funding for projects based on merit, comparative needs with other departments, and available finances.

The Recreation Department also submits requests for capital improvements. These requests may be for maintenance needs within their facilities.

The Municipality has applied for and received grant funds on a limited basis through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. These grants have assisted in funding of capital improvement projects and planning for the parks.

## Regional Recreation Initiatives

The Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department is not involved in any regional initiatives. There seems to be some interest in how the Municipality can coordinate with surrounding municipalities for development and/or use of major recreation facilities. Such initiatives could include regional development of an in-line skating facility, indoor aquatics center or indoor soccer facility. These issues are being dealt with concurrently in many surrounding municipalities. It would be to the advantage of Mt. Lebanon residents for the Municipality to play a lead role in coordinating a group of municipal representatives from surrounding municipalities to begin discussion of the potential for such initiatives.

## Non-Resident Use of Mt. Lebanon Parks and Recreation Facilities

The basic philosophy of the Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department is that they are there to provide facilities and services to the residents of Mt. Lebanon. They recognize, however, that there are both facilities and programs that could not be financially successful without participation from residents of other communities. Therefore, non-residents are permitted and in some cases even encouraged to make use of Mt. Lebanon recreation facilities and programs.

Some facilities such as the ice skating rink, the golf course, and the tennis center market to non-residents in order to provide necessary revenues. The swimming pool is generally targeted at residents but does permit non-residents to purchase passes under certain conditions. Most programming provides a priority to residents but accept non-residents as space is available.

This general philosophy will allow for expansion of both facilities and programming in a very flexible manner. Facilities could be expanded with the expectation of marketing to both residents and non-residents to provide needed revenues. Expansion of facilities or programs that are heavily used by residents could be restricted to residents only or given a residential priority.

## Goals and Planning

There is no formal system of goal setting for either recreation programming or park maintenance. The Recreation Department does not utilize either a vision or a mission statement, and does not develop annual or long-term goals. Planning comes primarily through the Capital Improvements Program. However, since not all goals can be set through a Capital Improvements Program, from a strategic view, actual planning is minimal.

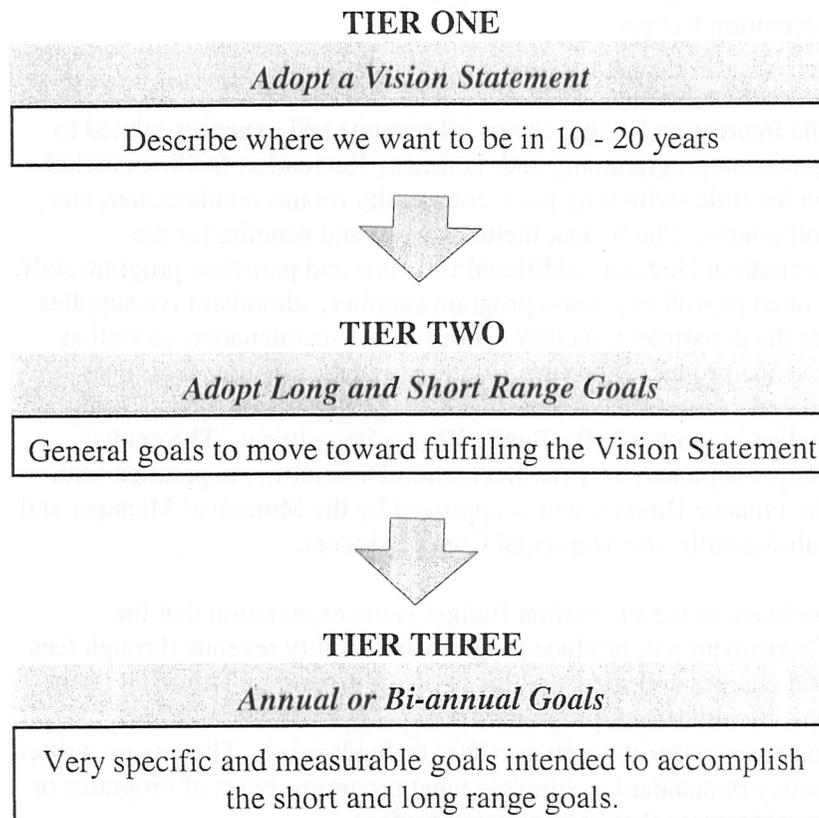
The Municipality has a strong sense of planning on a Municipal-wide basis. The Municipal Code created a Planning Board that is charged with the preparation of a Comprehensive Plan for development in the Municipality. Community development is then expected to fall in line with the Comprehensive Plan.

Though this Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan is currently being developed, there is no portion of the Municipal Code which demands preparation of such a document on any regular basis. Neither is there any section of the code which calls for the Municipality to adopt such a plan and to use it as a long-term planning tool establishing future development of parks and recreation within the Municipality.

## Three Tier Goal Setting System

Figure 2-4

One example of a formal system of goal setting would include a three tier plan. The first tier would be the adoption of a written vision statement for the department. Within that vision the department should adopt a series of both long and short-range goals (tier two) and then create annual or bi-annual goals (tier three) to be accomplished within those parameters. Each level becomes more clearly defined. The vision statement is intended to be very broad-based and forward - looking. Annual goals are developed to accomplish the short range goals, while the long and short range goals are created to fulfill the agency's vision, all goals should be clearly defined and measurable. It is necessary to continually evaluate and update goals on an annual basis, and to revise long-range goals periodically. Adoption of this plan provides both the vision statement and long and short - range goals. Using the above stated system, the department would simply need to prioritize and adopt annual goals that begin to accomplish the long and short-term goals and moving the community toward the fulfillment of a vision statement.



## Section II: Financing

The annual budget is broken into two sections by the Municipality, the Parks Budget, which is included in Public Works, and the Recreation Budget.

### **Recreation Budget**

The Recreation Budget covers all revenue and expenses related to recreation programming and facilities. Recreation facilities include the ice rink, swimming pool, community rooms, tennis center, and golf course. The budget includes wage and benefits for the Recreation Director, additional full-time and part-time program staff, related payroll expenses, program supplies, administrative supplies for the department, facility operation and maintenance, as well as revenue produced through programs and facility user fees. Park related expenses are not included in the Recreation Department budget but rather in the Public Works Department. The annual budget is prepared by the Recreation Director in cooperation with the Finance Director and is approved by the Municipal Manager and subsequently, the Municipal Commissioners.

Included in the Recreation Budget is the expectation that the Department will produce program and facility revenue through fees and charges and sponsorships to offset expenses. Though it is not specifically stated, programs are expected to cover all direct expenses either through user fees or fundraising. There is no written policy or standard to stipulate what programs, types of programs or specific costs should be covered by fees.

Chart #2-5, entitled Cost Center Analysis, shows that in each of the past five years, program fees have exceeded expenditures. The

cumulative dollar total of that five year excess is \$152,313. Funds that are raised in excess of direct program expenditures are credited into the overall recreation budget to offset losses in facility, operations and recreation management.

A separate accounting is kept for each recreation facility. As with programming, there is the expectation that each facility will produce revenue but there is no policy setting standards for what each facility is expected to raise. Chart 2-6 shows that in 1999 revenues produced at various facilities varied greatly. The Community Rooms raised only 18% of what was spent while the golf course raised nearly 100% of its expense. In reviewing actual cost to the tax payer for each facility, the analysis shows that in 1999 the ice rink cost the taxpayers the most at \$358,089 while the Golf Course cost taxpayers only \$1,147.

### **Park Budget**

The Park Budget is prepared by the Director of Public Works in cooperation with the Finance Director. It is approved by the Municipal Manager and submitted to the Commissioners for their final approval.

The Park Budget is tracked separately within the Public Works budget and includes all expenses related to the maintenance and upkeep of all municipal parks and improvements. The Director of Public Works tracks staff time, supplies and materials that are specifically related to parks and these are specifically reflected in budget of municipal budget and financial reports.

### *Capital Budget*

A separate accounting of capital expenditures is tracked through the Municipal Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The CIP is developed as five year plan for capital expenses. Its primary purpose is as a planning document. Each municipal department is expected to submit their requests annually. The department head submits a list of proposed capital projects for the upcoming five year period. The project requests are reviewed by management staff. Generally, all proposed projects are included in the CIP. Inclusion in the CIP does not necessarily result in funding. Funding is based on the projects merit, comparative needs with other departments, and available finances.

The information to the right illustrates the amount of capital expenditures spent from the general fund for parks and recreation in the past five years. It should be noted that larger multiple year capital expenditures are not included in this amount. Current major capital expenditures being paid through the municipal debt service include payments on the recreation center

Based on this information, it is clear that parks and recreation are reasonably considered in determining capital expenditures. It should further be noted that the Municipality is currently entering construction phase of a multi-million dollar safety services facility. The majority of the Municipality's capital debt service will be used in payment for that facility.

The parks and recreation have nine items listed in the 2000 - 2004 CIP as follows:

1. Multi-Use Gymnasium	\$2,510,000
2. Golf Course Driving Range	\$273,000
3. Electric Zamboni	\$85,000
4. Swim Center Mechanical Improvements	\$80,000
5. Golf Course Cart Paths	\$40,000
6. Golf Course Maintenance Building	\$25,000
7. Golf Course Starter Tees	\$26,000
8. Recreation Center Truck	\$26,000
9. Robb Hollow Park Land Acquisition	\$40,000
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$3,025,000</u>

Table 2-5

Cost Centers Analysis					
	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
<i>Recreation Management</i>					
Revenue	None	None	None	None	None
Expense	\$155,502	\$177,599	\$165,994	\$165,461	\$157,033
<i>Recreation Center</i>					
<i>Community Rooms</i>					
Revenue	\$24,138	\$20,366	\$19,814	\$17,095	\$13,187
Expense	\$133,396	\$110,294	\$136,045	\$139,941	\$135,642
Revenue vs Expense	(\$109,258)	(\$89,928)	(\$116,231)	(\$122,846)	(\$122,455)
% of Exp. covered by Rev.	18.10%	18.47%	14.56%	12.22%	9.72%
Attendance	104752	94411	95807	87400	90426
<i>Swimming Pool</i>					
Revenue	\$270,089	\$244,320	\$219,730	\$216,179	\$226,224
Expense	\$293,025	\$260,195	\$265,781	\$226,579	\$262,629
Revenue vs Expense	(\$22,936)	(\$15,875)	(\$46,051)	(\$10,400)	(\$36,405)
% of Exp. covered by Rev.	92.17%	93.90%	82.67%	95.41%	86.14%
Attendance	59256	72881	63291	68039	76448
<i>Ice Rink*</i>					
Revenue	\$773,697	\$832,967	\$864,752	\$807,411	\$998,285
Expense	\$1,131,786	\$1,062,917	\$1,018,982	\$985,670	\$989,350

Revenue vs Expense	(\$358,089)	(\$229,950)	(\$154,230)	(\$178,259)	\$8,935
% of Exp. covered by Rev.	68.36%	78.37%	84.86%	81.91%	100.90%
<i>Attendance</i>	<i>128503</i>	<i>137931</i>	<i>141686</i>	<i>141627</i>	<i>169739</i>
<i>Golf Course</i>					
Revenue	\$360,416	\$378,151	\$359,898	\$326,298	\$330,916
Expense	\$361,563	\$354,166	\$324,996	\$321,479	\$306,566
Revenue vs Expense	(\$1,147)	\$23,985	\$34,902	\$4,819	\$24,350
% of Exp. covered by Rev.	99.68%	106.77%	110.74%	101.50%	107.94%
<i>Attendance</i>	<i>40834</i>	<i>39357</i>	<i>40712</i>	<i>36118</i>	<i>40818</i>
<i>Tennis Center</i>					
Revenue	\$63,239	\$67,493	\$67,019	\$67,999	\$64,720
Expense	\$113,500	\$102,922	\$119,563	\$97,827	\$125,999
Revenue vs Expense	(\$50,261)	(\$35,429)	(\$52,544)	(\$29,828)	(\$61,279)
% of Exp. covered by Rev.	55.72%	65.58%	56.05%	69.51%	51.37%
<i>Attendance</i>	<i>17894</i>	<i>18546</i>	<i>16501</i>	<i>13880</i>	<i>18212</i>
<i>Seasonal Programs</i>					
Revenue	\$543,035	\$483,746	\$454,573	\$408,901	\$347,821
Expense	\$494,809	\$436,238	\$417,421	\$392,435	\$344,860
Revenue vs Expense	\$48,226	\$47,508	\$37,152	\$16,466	\$2,961
% of Exp. covered by Rev.	109.75%	110.89%	108.90%	104.20%	100.86%
<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Not Tracked</i>				

\*1995 Ice Rink figures in this chart may vary from the Municipal Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This is due to a change in the accounting procedure for this cost center beginning in 1996. The adjustment was made for this report in order to make accurate comparisons to future years.

Table 2-6

General Fund Recreation Expense and Revenue							
Description	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	5 Year Change	% Change
<i>Expense</i>							
Recreation Management	\$155,502	\$177,599	\$165,994	\$165,461	\$157,033	(\$1,531)	-1.0%
Recreation Center	\$1,558,207	\$1,433,410	\$1,420,809	\$1,352,189	\$1,518,442	\$39,765	2.6%
Golf Course	\$361,563	\$354,166	\$324,996	\$321,479	\$306,566	\$54,997	15.2%
Tennis Center	\$113,500	\$102,922	\$119,563	\$97,827	\$125,999	(\$12,499)	-11.0%
Seasonal Programs	\$494,409	\$436,238	\$417,421	\$392,435	\$344,860	\$149,549	30.2%
<i>Total Recreation Expenditure</i>	<i>\$2,683,181</i>	<i>\$2,504,335</i>	<i>\$2,448,783</i>	<i>\$2,329,391</i>	<i>\$2,452,900</i>	<i>\$230,281</i>	<i>9.4%</i>
<i>Revenue</i>							
Recreation Center	\$1,067,925	\$1,097,653	\$1,104,296	\$1,040,685	\$1,328,913	(\$260,988)	-24.4%
Golf Course	\$360,416	\$378,151	\$359,898	\$326,298	\$330,916	\$29,500	8.2%
Tennis Center	\$63,239	\$67,493	\$67,019	\$67,999	\$64,720	(\$1,481)	-2.3%
Seasonal Programs	\$543,035	\$483,746	\$454,573	\$408,901	\$347,821	\$195,214	35.9%
<i>Total Recreation Revenue</i>	<i>\$2,034,615</i>	<i>\$2,027,043</i>	<i>\$1,985,786</i>	<i>\$1,843,883</i>	<i>\$2,072,370</i>	<i>(\$37,755)</i>	<i>-1.9%</i>
<i>Revenue vs. Expenses</i>	<i>\$ (648,566)</i>	<i>\$ (477,292)</i>	<i>\$ (462,997)</i>	<i>\$ (485,508)</i>	<i>\$ (380,530)</i>	<i>\$ (268,036)</i>	<i>70.4%</i>
<i>% of Exp. Covered by Revenue</i>	<i>75.83%</i>	<i>80.94%</i>	<i>81.09%</i>	<i>79.16%</i>	<i>84.49%</i>		

**Table 2-7**

<b>Comparison of Parks and Recreation Capital Expense from the General Fund</b>					
	<i>1999</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1995</i>
<i>Capital Expenditures on Parks and Recreation</i>	\$318,267	\$43,123	\$129,772	\$82,973	\$1,068,508*
<i>Total Capital Expenditures</i>	\$613,432	\$422,565	\$467,620	\$397,783	\$1,762,322
<i>Percent of Total Capital Expenditures spent on Parks and Recreation</i>	51.88%	10.21%	27.75%	20.86%	60.63%

\*This includes funds for the purchase of Twin Hills Park (\$997,780.95).

**Table 2-8**

<b>Total Park and Recreation Expenditure from the General Fund</b>					
	<i>1999</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1995</i>
<i>Total Net Recreation Expense (Tax dollars spent on recreation)</i>	\$648,530	\$477,292	\$462,997	\$485,508	\$380,530
<i>Total Park Expense</i>	\$273,776	\$322,630	\$416,716	\$254,411	\$201,407
<i>Total Park and Recreation Expenditure</i>	\$ 922,306	\$799,922	\$879,713	\$739,919	\$581,937
<i>Total Municipal General Fund Expenditures</i>	\$16,662,782	\$15,416,649	\$15,510,330	\$15,279,165	\$16,622,185
<i>Percent of General Fund Spent on Parks and Recreation</i>	5.54%	5.19%	5.67%	4.84%	3.50%

Table 2-9

Tax Cost Per Capita							
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	5 Year Change	% Change
Recreation Facilities	\$5.68	\$9.34	\$9.49	\$10.06	\$14.70	\$9.02	158.8%
Recreation Programs and Administration	\$5.27	\$5.18	\$4.35	\$4.21	\$3.84	(\$1.43)	-27.1%
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$10.95</i>	<i>\$14.52</i>	<i>\$13.84</i>	<i>\$14.27</i>	<i>\$18.54</i>	<i>\$7.59</i>	<i>69.3%</i>
<i>Total Per Capita Cost of All Municipal Services</i>	<i>\$398.99</i>	<i>\$409.86</i>	<i>\$423.75</i>	<i>\$433.87</i>	<i>\$446.81</i>	<i>\$47.82</i>	<i>12.0%</i>

**Financial Comparison of Mt. Lebanon to Other Municipalities**

A comparison was conducted of communities of similar size and nature to Mt. Lebanon in Pennsylvania. The comparison looked at four other communities within Allegheny County and two communities in other counties. This allows a comparison of communities that are close by but also looks at other communities in the Commonwealth that are facing similar issues as Mt. Lebanon.

Mt. Lebanon ranks number one in a comparison of its per capita expenditures on parks and recreation operations. However, the per capita expenditure is based on the municipality's gross expenditures for parks and recreation and does not account for expenses that may be recovered through fees and charges. Mt. Lebanon also ranks number one in expenditures for capital outlay.

Table 2-10

*1997 Comparison to Communities of Similar Size and Nature (1)*

Municipality and County	1996 Population	Total General Fund Expenditures	Parks and Recreation Operating Expenditures	Per Capita Expenditures	Percent of Total General Fund	Capital Outlay
Bethel Park, Allegheny	33,823	\$13,094,153	\$649,982	\$19.22	4.96%	\$275,665
Monroeville, Allegheny	29,169	\$21,304,049	\$1,151,326	\$39.47	5.40%	\$447,343
Penn Hills, Allegheny	51,479	\$26,701,313	\$345,317	\$6.71	1.29%	\$338
Upper St. Clair, Allegheny	19,692	\$12,385,568	\$1,030,113	\$52.31	8.32%	\$353,078
Manheim Twp., Lancaster	28,880	\$15,664,318	\$2,064,244	\$71.48	13.18%	\$964,517
York, York	42,192	\$35,011,907	\$1,832,386	\$43.43	5.23%	\$73,209
Average	34,085	20,603,453	1,509,193	\$48.18	7.97%	\$533,141

Source: Data from PA Department of Community and Economic Development 1997 Municipal Reports. Due to DCED reporting procedures, the figures may vary from figures used elsewhere in this study. 1997 are the most recent DCED figures available that allow appropriate comparisons.

- (1) Information provided by the state may not uniformly document costs and expenditures for each community.
- (2) In addition to tax contributions, the figure includes revenue generated by recreation programs and may inflate the per capita expenditures.

<i>Mt. Lebanon (1)</i>	33,362	\$15,510,330	\$879,713	\$26.37	5.70%	\$129,772
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(1) The information was provided directly by the Municipality.

## Section III: Recreation Programming

The Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department is a key provider of recreational programs and activities in the community. Most programs are held at the recreation center, ice rink, outdoor swimming pool, tennis center, golf course, municipal parks or school district facilities. There are a variety of programs for all ages. There are both sports and non-sports programs. There are active and passive programs. There are programs that stand alone, as well as those which are part of a series. However, there are some specific areas where there seems to be some deficiencies. Refer to the recreation programming recommendations in Chapter 4.

It is apparent, both from the popularity of programs and the general consensus in public input sessions, that programs are generally of high quality and meet the expectations of the participants. Residents also believe that programs are well publicized and that registration procedures are easy. However, many would like to see the department initiate a system for internet registration.

The Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department does not have any policy to address ADA as it relates to either programming or facilities. New facilities and renovations to existing facilities always meet current ADA standards in their design and construction. However, recreation programming does not generally address ADA issues. Reasonable ADA accommodations are made for programming if an individual makes a request, but there is no proactive plan to incorporate ADA standards.

Table 2-11

Recreation Program Inventory						
Program Name	Grade	Ages	Season	Age Classification	Program Category	1999/2000 Fee
<i>Youth</i>						
Mommy and Me Dance		2-3	Fall/Winter	Pre-school	Dance	\$61
Children's Dance		3-5	Fall/Winter	Pre-school	Dance	\$29
Children's Dance	1 - 8		Fall/Winter	Youth	Dance	\$90
Hockey Systems		13-17	Summer	Youth	Hockey	\$45
Power Skating		15-18	Year-round	Youth	Hockey	\$54
Hockey School-Beginner		5-8	Year-round	Youth	Hockey	\$54
Hockey Drills		6-12	Spring	Youth	Hockey	\$54
Power Skating		8-14	Year-round	Youth	Hockey	\$65
Firearms Safety		12+	Fall/Winter	Youth	Other	\$5
Rifle Marksmanship		12-16	Fall/Winter	Youth	Other	\$25
Camp Chippeewee		3-5	Summer	Pre-school	Pre-school	\$90
Summer Playground	K - 3		Summer	Pre-school	Pre-school	\$105
Easter Egg Hunt					Special Event	NC
Kindergarden Enrichment Art	K			Pre-school	Youth Art	\$45

Program Name	Grade	Ages	Season	Age Classification	Program Category	'99/'00 Fee
Dance Recital					Youth Dance	
Youth Camp	4 - 9		Summer	Youth	Youth Program	\$61
Daddy Daughter Dinner Dance					Youth Program	
Computer Tots	K-5			Youth	Youth Program	\$25
Father Son Campout	K-5			Youth	Youth Program	\$25
Kindergarten Soccer	K		Summer	Pre-school	Youth Sports	\$30
Recreational Fencing		12 - 18	Year-round	Youth	Youth Sports	\$55
Karate		5-12	Year-round	Youth	Youth Sports	\$25
Beginner Tennis		8-14	Summer	Youth	Youth Sports	\$55
Team Tennis		8-16	Summer	Youth	Youth Sports	\$55
T-ball Baseball/Softball	K - 3		Summer	Youth	Youth Sports	\$25
Youth Basketball	1		Summer	Youth	Youth Sports	\$25
Youth Basketball	2-3		Summer	Youth	Youth Sports	\$39
Youth Basketball	4-6		Summer	Youth	Youth Sports	\$49
Youth Basketball	7-8		Summer	Youth	Youth Sports	\$49
Middle School Skiing	7-9		Summer	Youth	Youth Sports	\$207

Program Name	Grade	Ages	Season	Age Classification	Program Category	'99/'00 Fee
Hershey Track and Field			Summer	Youth	Youth Sports	\$5
Wrestling			Summer	Youth	Youth Sports	\$25
Basketball Clinics			Summer	Youth	Youth Sports	--
Baseball Clinics			Summer	Youth	Youth Sports	\$71
K - Micro Soccer	K		Summer	Youth	Youth Sports	\$25
<b>Family</b>						
Summer Concert Series		All	Summer	Family	Art/Music/Dance	NC
Outdoor Swimming Party		All	Summer	Family	Special Event	\$1
Great Pumpkin Patch Parade			Fall	Family	Special Event	NC
Community Steak BBQ			Summer	Family	Special Event	\$15
<b>Adult Programs</b>						
Art Classes		Adult	Year-round	Adult	Adult Art	\$25
Irish Dancing		Adult		Adult	Adult Dance	\$50
Discount Skiing		Adult		Adult	Adult Sports	\$25-32
Adult Tennis Clinic		Adult		Adult	Adult Sports	\$40
Team Tennis - Adult Coed		Adult		Adult	Adult Sports	\$100

Program Name	Grade	Ages	Season	Age Classification	Program Category	'99/'00 Fee
Team Tennis		Adult		Adult	Adult Sports	
Pistol		Adult	Fall/Winter	Adult	Other	\$15
Aerobic Dance		Adult		Adult	Fitness	\$77
JSAW		Adult		Adult	Fitness	\$37
Strong Step		Adult		Adult	Fitness	
New Attitude Aerobics		Adult		Adult	Fitness	\$50
Yoga		Adult		Adult	Fitness	\$39
Waterwalk		Adult	Summer	Adult	Fitness	\$50
Water Aerobics		Adult	Summer	Adult	Fitness	\$50
Body Shaping		Adult	Year-round	Adult	Fitness	\$44
Outdoor Movie		Adult	Summer	Adult	Other	N/C
Interior Design		Adult		Adult	Other	\$85
Senior Movie/Lunch		50+		Senior	Senior Programs	\$3
Senior Bus Trips		Adult		Senior	Senior Programs	Varies
Senior Picnic		50+		Senior	Senior Programs	\$3
Winter Golf Clinic		Adult	Winter	Adult	Adult Sports	\$32

### ***Community Programming***

In addition to programming provided by Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department, a number of local non-profit community organizations provide a wide variety of programs. The following list details the organizations and programs they offer.

1. Mt. Lebanon Aqua Club - Swimming lessons and competitive swimming for youth.
2. Mt. Lebanon Baseball Association - Youth Baseball Leagues.
3. Mt Lebanon Basketball Association - Youth Basketball Leagues.
4. Mt. Lebanon Football Association - Youth Football League.
5. Mt. Lebanon Girls Softball Association - Girls Youth Softball Leagues.
6. Mt. Lebanon Hockey Association - Youth Hockey instruction and leagues for youth and adults.
7. Mt. Lebanon Indoor Tennis Association - Adult Tennis.
8. Mt. Lebanon Lacrosse Association - Youth Lacrosse League.
9. Mt. Lebanon Soccer Association - Youth Travel and Recreational Soccer Leagues and day camps.
10. TOPS Soccer - Soccer for special needs youth.
11. Adult Softball Group
12. Center for Theater Arts
13. Performing Arts for Children - Presenter of children's theater, music and storytelling
14. Middle School Teen Center - A cooperative program between the Municipality, school and parents. Provides monthly programs (music, dancing, ping-pong,

- volleyball, basketball, games) during the school year and pool parties in the summer.
15. School in the Park - This educational program has run for the last fifteen years as a cooperative effort between the Mt. Lebanon nature conservancy and Mt. Lebanon School District. It gives children opportunities to learn about nature in a "hands-on" atmosphere.

When these programs are added to those provided by the Recreation Department, it is evident that there are many opportunities in Mt. Lebanon for recreational activities. It can also be seen that the community is very strong in sports with 11 of 13 community groups providing some sort of sports activity.

Perhaps the biggest obstacle facing the meeting of residents' needs for recreational programs and for expansion of these programs are the lack of recreational space. The community does not have adequate gymnasium space, indoor swimming facilities, spaces for art, senior programming and general youth programming. The second obstacle facing the recreation department is the limited staff. Current staffing is barely adequate for existing programming let alone any expanded programs. These two issues must be addressed if programming deficiencies are to be met.

### *Local Organizations*

#### **Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy**

The Nature Conservancy was established in 1984 with the mission to protect greenspace in the Municipality and to educate Mt. Lebanon residents about the need for maintaining existing open spaces. The Conservancy's goals focus on improved maintenance and management in the municipal parks, protection of private greenspace, expanded public greenspace and the replacement of dying street trees.

*Contact: Mark Evans*

#### **Teen Activities Association (TAA)**

The Teen Activities Association offers a middle school teen center one Saturday evening per month during the school year. The program is supervised by parents. Activities offered include music and dancing, ping-pong, volleyball, basketball, games and refreshments.

*Contact: Sherry Schwilm (412)561-6140*

#### **Mt. Lebanon Ice Hockey Leagues**

Junior Recreation League - Ages 5-12

Adult League - Ages 18 and older

Senior League - Ages 25 and older

High School Summer Hockey League - 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Freshmen Summer Hockey League - 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade

Junior Varsity Summer Hockey League - 8<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade

*Contact: Dave Hornak (412)343-4536*

#### **Mt. Lebanon Soccer Association (MLSA)**

The Mt. Lebanon Soccer Association is a non-profit organization that provide recreation, travel and summer camp soccer programs.

The LEBO soccer program is held in the fall for boys and girls in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The season begins after Labor Day and continues for eight weeks. Practices are held on weekday evenings and games are played on Saturdays.

The MLSA travel league is for players age 9 through 18. This program includes both fall and spring seasons. Teams play other community teams from Western Pennsylvania on Sunday afternoons through September, October, April and May.

The organization also runs two soccer day camps. The LEBO is usually held the first week of August and the travel camp is generally the second week of August. *Contact: Ty Ely (412)343-9432*

**Mt. Lebanon Aqua Club**

Contact: Theresa Rosenberg (412)531-5298

**Mt. Lebanon Baseball Association**

Contact: Scott Isler (412)341-2265

**Mt. Lebanon Basketball Association**

Contact: Greg Maxcy (412)343-1646

**Mt. Lebanon Blue Devils Club**

Contact: Brian Matthews (412)341-2789

**Mt. Lebanon Football Association**

Contact: Chip Dalesandro (412)561-2180

**Mt. Lebanon Girls Softball Association**

Contact: Jack Doyle (412) 279-8740

**Mt. Lebanon Hockey Association**

Contact: Everett Smith (412)220-2302

**Mt. Lebanon Indoor Tennis Association**

Contact: Tony Waterman (412)833-4124

**Mt. Lebanon Lacrosse Association**

Contact: Sam Shannon (412)343-8797

**Parents Athletic Council**

Contact: Mike Steinberg (412)571-0292

**Tops Soccer (special needs children)**

Contact: Bonnie Doran (412)344-3280

**Youth Sports Alliance**

Contact: Dan Bowman (412)343-4382

**Adult Senior Softball**

Contact: Dick Mummert (412)343-5438

**Center for Theater Arts**

Contact: Marc Field (412)563-5080

**Extended Day Administration**

Contact: Sharon Schneinder (412)343-1661

**Pittsburgh International Children's Theatre**

Contact: Marianne Welch (412)321-5520

**Mt Lebanon Varsity Hockey Association**

Contact: Mark Riswell (412)341-3504

**Mt. Lebanon Figure Skating Club**

Contact: Tim Leavey (412)220-3138

**Mt. Lebanon Field Hockey Association**

Contact: Celia West-Kushner (412)344-2242

**Mt. Lebanon Tennis Association**

Contact: Paul Schneider (412)341-2879

## Section IV: Recreation Facilities

This section provides an overview of a Hierarchy of Parks as defined by the National Recreation and Parks Association. Also included is an inventory of parks and recreation facilities throughout Mt. Lebanon, with particular emphasis on municipal parks. Each municipal recreation site was visited and evaluated, noting type, quantity and condition of equipment, playing fields and play structures. Factors such as site access, general condition and conformance with ADA guidelines and CPSC safety standards were assessed. In addition, a review of municipal playground conditions is provided. Facilities were also analyzed based on the level of service provided to area residents. Refer to *figure 2-12*, for regional recreation facilities in the surrounding area, and *figure 2-29*, for existing facilities in Mt. Lebanon.

### Hierarchy of Parks

The recommendations of this study with regard to parks are based on the premise that in order to provide the best possible service to residents, recreation agencies must understand and take into account the different ways in which people use parks and recreation facilities. The function or use of a park depends on its size, location and the facilities it includes. Parks can be organized into a “hierarchy” which defines their functions and the kinds of recreation activities they can be expected to accommodate. According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), there are generally five basic classifications of parks. They are as follows:

#### ***Regional/Metropolitan Park***

The regional/metropolitan facility serves communities within one hour’s driving time. These parks accommodate many types of outdoor activities, some of which may require large amounts of land for special facilities, such as special events, swimming, boating, hiking, camping and bicycling. South Park is a regional park that many area residents enjoy.

#### ***Regional Reserve Park***

The regional reserve park is a facility designed more for conservation of natural resources than recreational development. This type of park typically accommodates outdoor activities such as nature study, trail uses, camping, boating, fishing, etc. Regional park reserves are considerably larger than regional/metropolitan parks, but have the same forty to fifty mile radius service area.

#### ***Community Park***

Community parks serve all Mt. Lebanon residents. Although some people may be able to walk to a community park (thus serving as a neighborhood park for those individuals), most users would arrive by automobile or bicycle. Because of the travel time required for most people to reach the park, it becomes a local “special destination,” and its size, features and facilities reflect this. A community park accommodates a variety of facilities and types of activities and the park acreage should be adequate to provide “elbow room” for large facilities (swimming pools, ballfields), group activities and solitary recreation such as hiking or birdwatching. This type of park is truly a focus for the community.

### Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks serve a specific purpose. Users can and are expected to walk to a neighborhood park. Because neighborhood parks are quickly and easily reached, their use tends to be more casual and spontaneous. These parks are only large enough to accommodate a few activities and possibly a small amount of open space which may especially benefit a densely populated neighborhood. Equipment and facilities may be specifically geared toward children, especially young children, as they form the majority of users. A neighborhood park in an area with many children could have play equipment designed for both younger and older children, a shelter to accommodate recreation programs, open space for games, areas for quiet play, and benches for parents. Neighborhood parks in areas with older populations may be designed to accommodate the special requirements of the elderly, with paved paths, shaded benches and game tables. Thus, a neighborhood park serves as a focus for small, individual areas and ideally should serve the specific needs of its service population.

### Special Use Facility

Special use facilities are exemplified by individual sports fields, sports field complexes or facilities geared toward one type of use, such as a racquet club, fairgrounds, or ice rink. This type of facility is not typically located within a park. Whether privately or publically owned, these facilities are also “special destinations” for the community.

Table 2-12: Hierarchy of Parks

Component	Use	Service Area	Acres per 1,000 people	Desirable Characteristics
Neighborhood Park	Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playgrounds and picnicking, serving a concentrated population	1/4 to 1/2 miles	1 to 2 acres	Suitable for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population, geographically centered with safe access.
Community Park	Areas of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes, swimming pools. May include a combination of active and passive recreation	1 to 2 miles	5 to 8 acres	May include natural features such as bodies of water and areas suitable for intense development. Easily accessible.
Regional/Metropolitan Park	Area of natural or ornamental quality, for outdoor recreation such as picnicking, fishing, trail uses, swimming, camping; may include playgrounds	40 to 50 miles	5 to 10 acres	Contiguous to or encompassing natural resources.
Regional Reserve Park	Area of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation and nature study, swimming, picnicking, hiking, boating, camping. 80% of land reserved for conservation and less than 20% for recreational development	40 to 50 miles	variable	Diverse or unique natural resources, such as lakes and streams.
Special Use Facility	Areas for specialized or single purpose recreation activities	No applicable standard	variable	Within Communities

## Recreation Facilities Outside of Mt. Lebanon

Mt. Lebanon residents enjoy an extensive system of recreation facilities throughout the Municipality. However, residents often travel beyond municipal borders to use recreation facilities in neighboring communities for a variety of reasons (convenience, unique opportunities). The following is a brief list of some of the recreation facilities outside of Mt. Lebanon that Mt. Lebanon residents use. Refer to figure 2-12 for their approximate locations.

### *South Park*

South Park is located in the Townships of South Park and Bethel Park. The second largest county park with 1,999 acres, numerous recreation facilities and special use areas are located within the park. The available facilities include:

- |                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| +Golf courses (9 hole and 18 hole) | +Wave pool                 |
| +Fairground complex                | +Concert area and stage    |
| +Horse barn and show ring          | +Boy and girl scout cabins |
| +Game preserve                     | +Numerous trails           |
| +Oliver miller homestead           | +Multiple groves/shelters  |
| +BMX bike track                    | +Deck hockey rink          |
| +Ice-skating rink                  | +Model airplane field      |
| +Exercise trail                    |                            |
| +Paved pedestrian/bike trail       |                            |

### *Ice Castles*

This new indoor ice skating facility is located across the Mt. Lebanon border in Castle Shannon. The facility includes two sheets of ice for use by local hockey teams and private use.

### *Dormont Park*

Dormont Park is located just across Mt. Lebanon's northern border. The facility is Dormont's community park, providing a variety of

recreational opportunities. The park encompasses approximately 24 acres. The available facilities include the following:

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| +Baseball field                 | +Soccer field            |
| +Tennis courts                  | +Basketball court (half) |
| +Swimming Pool                  | +Playgrounds             |
| +Horseshoe pits                 | +Sled-riding hill        |
| +Picnic pavilions/tables/grills |                          |

### *South Hills YMCA*

### *South Hills JCC*

### *South Pointe Indoor Soccer*

### *Children's Dance Studios*

### *Golden Bear Golf*

### *Settler's Cabin*

This Allegheny County park encompasses approximately 1,600 acres. The available recreation facilities include the following:

- |                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| +Tennis courts  | +Trails                  |
| +Swimming pools | +Picnic pavilions/tables |

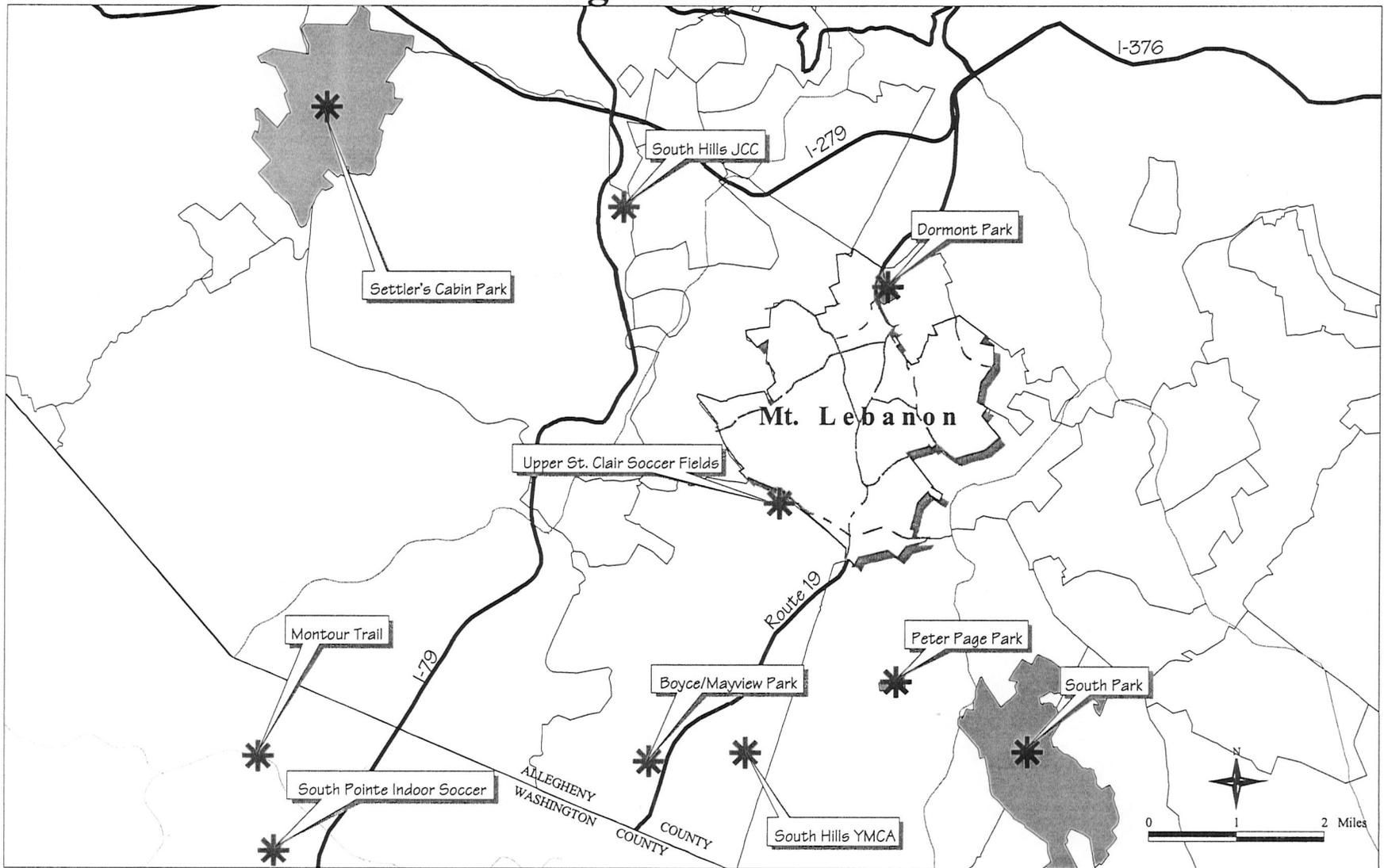
### *Peterswood Park*

### *Montour Trail*

This regional recreational trail provides several miles of recreational trails for residents from throughout the region.

### *Boyce/Mayview Park in Upper Saint Clair*

# Regional Facilities



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FIGURE NUMBER:

2 - 13

## *Regional Facilities Map*

Municipality of Mt. Lebanon  
Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan



## Private Recreation Facilities

A vast majority of the current recreation facilities within Mt. Lebanon are owned by the Municipality or the School District. However, private facilities (primarily indoor gyms) do serve some residents and should be noted. These facilities are not included on the Recreation Facilities Inventory or Spatial Analysis Maps because they may not be open to the public and serve a limited segment of the general population. Existing private recreation facilities are listed below.

1. Our Lady of Grace - indoor gym
2. St. Winifred - indoor gym
3. Holy Cross - indoor gym
4. St. Anne - indoor gym
5. St. Bernard - indoor gym

## School District Recreation Facilities

Mt. Lebanon residents enjoy a variety of available recreation facilities owned by the Mt. Lebanon School District. A cooperative relationship between the Municipality and the School District provides a varied system of facilities distributed throughout the community. In addition to the community facilities available at the High School, including tennis courts, football and running track, several elementary schools include playground equipment on the premises that is used by nearby residents from nearby neighborhoods on a daily basis. These facilities are an important part of the Mt. Lebanon recreation system. Their locations and types of available facilities are illustrated on figure 2-27.

## Municipal Recreation Facilities

With fourteen parks, totaling over 250 acres, the Municipality of Mt. Lebanon offers a wide array of recreation opportunities. The recreation opportunities provided by the Municipality in conjunction with those available through the School District combine to provide a successful recreation and open space system.

Mt. Lebanon parks offer unique opportunities for both active uses, including several sports facilities, and interaction with nature within an urban context.

The parks vary in size and type, as illustrated on the following pages. A detailed inventory was completed for each facility, noting number, size and condition of facilities. Playground safety audits were completed for all play equipment located within municipal parks. The location of all municipal recreation facilities can be found on figure 2-27.

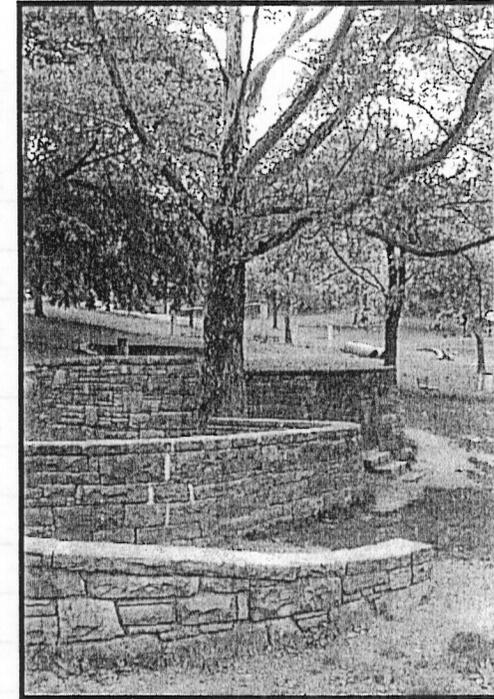


Table 2-14

Summary of Municipal Park Amenities																					
	Acreage	Basketball Courts	Playgrounds	Community Rooms	Fire Circle	Baseball Fields	Game Tables	Horseshoe Courts	Indoor Ice Rink	Picnic Shelters	Platform Tennis Courts	Trails	Shuffleboard Courts	Sitting Areas	Soccer Fields	Swimming Pools	Indoor Tennis Courts	Outdoor Tennis Courts	Lighted Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Golf Course
<i>Community Parks</i>																					
Bird Park	42		✓		✓					✓		✓			✓						
Mt. Lebanon Park	51	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Neighborhood Parks</i>																					
Church Place Park	0.3		✓				✓							✓							
Country Club Park	0.3	✓	✓																		
Highland Terrace Park	0.3	✓	✓											✓							
Hoodridge Park	11.4																				
Iroquois Park	5.4	✓	✓											✓							
Rockwood Park	1.0	✓	✓							✓										✓	
Sunset Hills Park (Brafferton)	8.4	✓				✓															
Williamsburg Park	7.1	✓	✓					✓		✓				✓				✓		✓	
Meadowcroft Park	1.0													✓				✓	✓		
<i>Special Use Facilities</i>																					
Twin Hills Trails Park	24.9											✓									
Golf Course	95.0																				✓
Robb Hollow Park	28											✓									

## *Community Parks*

### **Mt. Lebanon Park (Main Park)**

*Acreage: 51 acres*

*Location: Cedar Boulevard*

Mt. Lebanon Park, commonly referred to as Main Park, is located off Cedar Boulevard. The 51 acre community park is the setting for many types of active and passive recreation opportunities, including the Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center.

#### *Tennis Center*

The recreation department maintains 15 tennis courts, all of which are located at the municipal tennis center within Mt. Lebanon Park. The courts are operational from May 1 through September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Indoor Tennis Association of Mt. Lebanon operates indoor courts from October 15 through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Municipal tennis courts can also be found at Williamsburg and Meadowcroft Parks. Two platform tennis courts are located in the park, offering year-round playing. The lighted courts are primarily used in the fall, spring, and winter seasons. The Founders Room offers 1,150 sf of rentable space at the tennis center. The facilities includes a room, kitchen and deck.

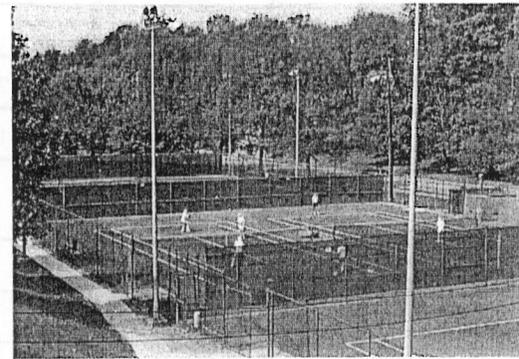
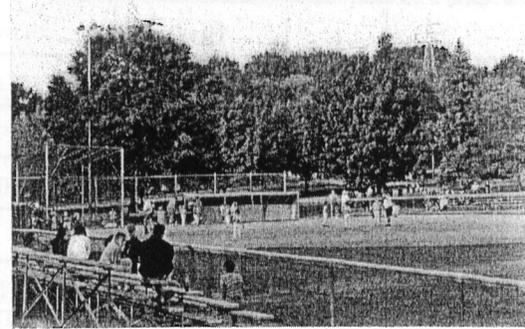


Table 2-15: Mt. Lebanon Park Inventory

Facility	No.	Condition	Size	ADA	Parking	Utilities	Comments
Swings	1	Poor	Two-Bay	No			
Upper Parking Lot		Fair	72 spaces	No			bituminous
Small Playground	1	Poor	35 x 32	No			see playground safety audit
Upper Shelter	1	Fair	20 x 46	No		None	two barbeque pits, eight tables
Trails		Good		No			900 feet of trails are accessible
Swings	2	Poor	1 - Two Bay 2 - Three Bay	No		Water Fountain	see playground safety audit
Shelter	1	Good		Yes			two grills, eight tables
Lower Parking Lot		Good		Yes			no accessible parking near trail
Large Playground	1	Good	75 x 55	No			no accessible route
Upper Shelter	1	Fair	18 x 22	No			one grill, two tables
Picnic Tables on Concrete Pads	6	Fair		No			
Sand Volleyball Court	1	Good		No			
Basketball Courts	2	Fair		No		Water Fountain, Lighted	
Rest Room	2	Good	24 x 24	Yes			no accessible parking stalls
Tennis Courts	15	Good	regulation				
Platform Tennis Courts	2	Good		No			
Baseball Fields	3	Good		N/A			
Concession Stand	1	Good		Yes			
Batting Cages	2	Good		N/A			
Bocce Courts	1	Good		N/A			
Shuffleboard Courts	1						

## Bird Park

Size: 42 acres

Location: Beadling Road

Bird Park is located in the heart of the Municipality, not far from Mt. Lebanon Park (Main Park). The park offers residents a unique variety of passive recreation opportunities. Several trails run through the wooded parcel, providing opportunities for leisurely walks, nature hikes and children's exploration. A large picnic pavilion sits on the upper plateau of the park. The park is heavily used for group picnics, educational programs, annual camp-outs and everyday hiking.



Table 2-16: Bird Park Inventory

Facility	No.	Condition	Size	ADA	Parking	Utilities	Comments
Playground	1	Fair	55 x 25	No	loop pull-off	none	see playground safety audit
Fire Ring	1	Fair	N/A	No	loop pull-off	none	stone ring with log benches
Picnic Pavilion	1	Fair	24 x 42	No	limited access, loop drop-off	Water Fountain	porta-john located along access road
Trails	N/A	Poor	N/A	No	loop pull-off	none	wood chip and earth
Upper Play Equipment	1 - swings 1 - slide	Fair	N/A	No	none accessible	none	isolated individual pieces
Lower Parking Lot	N/A	Fair	15 spaces	No	N/A	none	loop pull-off
Soccer Field	1	Good	regulation	No	None accessible	none	
Upper Parking Lot	1	Good	40 spaces	No		No	soccer field use; also used as overflow parking by nearby school

*Neighborhood Parks*

**Country Club Park**

*Size: 0.3 acres*

*Location: Country Club Drive*

Country Club park is small neighborhood recreation area located near the Mt. Lebanon Golf Course. The park includes play equipment for use by area residents.

**Highland Terrace Park**

*Size: 0.3 acres*

*Location: Terrace Drive*

Highland Terrace Park is a small park, similar to Country Club Park, located at the southern end of the Municipality.

**Table 2-17: Country Club Park Inventory**

Facility	No.	Condition	Size	ADA	Parking	Utilities	Comments
Play Structure	1	See Playground Safety Audit					
Basketball Court	1	good	full court	no		none	

**Table 2-18: Highland Terrace Park Inventory**

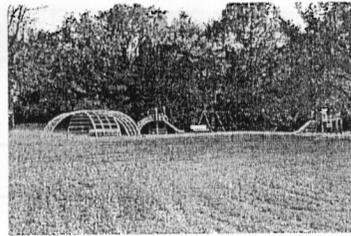
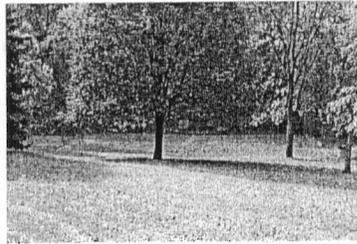
Facility	No.	Condition	Size	ADA	Parking	Utilities	Comments
Basketball Court	1	Fair	full court	no			
Playground	1	See Playground Safety Audit					

**Iroquois Park**

*Size: 5.4 acres*

*Location: Iroquois Drive*

Iroquois Park, one of the Municipality's larger neighborhood parks, is located at the southern end of the Municipality. The parks is divided into two parcels by Iroquois Drive.

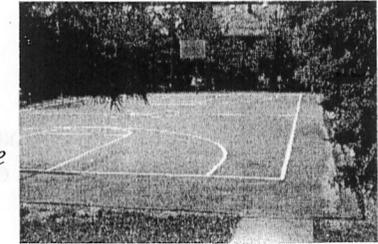


**Meadowcroft Park**

*Size: 1.0 acres*

*Location: North Meadowcroft Avenue*

Meadowcroft Park is located at the northern end of the Municipality. This small neighborhood park offers a variety of recreation facilities to area residents.



**Table 2-19: Iroquois Park Inventory**

Facility	No.	Condition	Size	ADA	Parking	Utilities	Comments	
Basketball Courts	1	fair	full court	no	no	none		
Playground	1	See Playground Safety Audit						

**Table 2-20: Meadowcroft Park Inventory**

Facility	No.	Condition	Size	ADA	Parking	Utilities	Comments
Basketball Courts	1	Good	full court	no	no		no accessible route to court
Tennis Courts	2	Fair	regulation	no	no	lighted	no accessible route to courts

**Sunset Hills Park (also known as Brafferton Field)**

Size: 8.4 acres

Location: McNeilly Road

Sunset Hills Park consists primarily of a baseball field and basketball court. The baseball outfield is often utilized by soccer teams for practices.

**Williamsburg Park**

Size: 24.9 acres

Location: Sleepy Hollow Road

**Table 2-21: Sunset Hills Park Inventory**

Facility	No.	Condition	Size	ADA	Parking	Utilities	Comments
Baseball Field	1	fair		no	residential street cul-de-sac		no ada access from parking area to park facilities.
Basketball Court	1	good	full court	no			
Soccer Field	1	fair	practice	no			

Notes: Porta-John available at park site.

**Table 2-22: Williamsburg Park Inventory**

Facility	No.	Condition	Size	ADA	Parking	Utilities	Comments
Tennis Court	1	fair	regulation	no	limited		An accessible route exists from parking, but no ramp up curb.
Basketball	1	good	full court	no	limited		
Pavilion	1	fair		no			No accessible route.
Swings	2	poor	see safety audit	no			
Playground Equipment	1	fair	see safety audit	no			
Slide (freestanding)	1	poor	see safety audit				

### Church Place Park

This park is small neighborhood park, located a few blocks from Washington Road in the northern portion of the municipality. It includes play equipment and a picnic pavilion.

### Rockwood Park

This is small neighborhood park that includes playground equipment and a basketball court.

**Table 2-23: Church Place Park Inventory**

Facility	No.	Condition	Size	ADA	Parking	Utilities	Comments
Playground Equipment	1	Fair		No	Adjacent Lot - Restricted Access		See Playground Safety Audit
Pavilion	1	Fair		No	same as above		Includes two picnic tables. No accessible tables available.

**Table 2-24: Rockwood Park Inventory**

Facility	No.	Condition	Size	ADA	Parking	Utilities	Comments
Basketball Court	1	Poor		No			
Upper Parking Lot		Poor		No	10 spaces		ten spaces
Lower Parking Lot		Fair		No	5 spaces		
Play Equipment		Fair	25 x 55	No			
Shelter	1	Fair	20 x 10	No			one grill, two picnic tables
Paths							
Swings	1	Fair		No			
Climbing Equipment	2	Poor	28 x 15	No			Sand ground surface

**Special Use Facilities**

**Recreation Center**

Mt. Lebanon's recreation center is open year-round to all citizens. The facility, which is located off Cedar Boulevard, operates daily from 6am to midnight.

**Mt. Lebanon Golf Course**

The golf course is municipally owned and operated, providing nine holes of golf to area residents.

**Robb Hollow Park**

Size: 28.3 acres Location: Cedar Boulevard

**Hoodridge Park**

Size: 11.4 acres Location: Connor Road

**Twin Hill Trails Park**

Size: 24.9 acres Location: Twin Hills Drive

Twin Hills, Hoodridge and Robb Hollow Parks are large undeveloped parcels of land with organic-surface trails through some portions of the parks.

**Table 2-25: Recreation Center Inventory**

Facility	No.	Condition	Size	ADA	Parking	Utilities	Comments
Room A	1	Good	2,220 sf	yes			
Room B	1	Good	1,248 sf	yes			

**Table 2-26: Swimming Pool Inventory**

Facility	No.	Condition	Size	ADA	Parking	Utilities	Comments
Swimming Pool	1	Good	50-meter				open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day

**Table 2-27: Ice Rink Inventory**

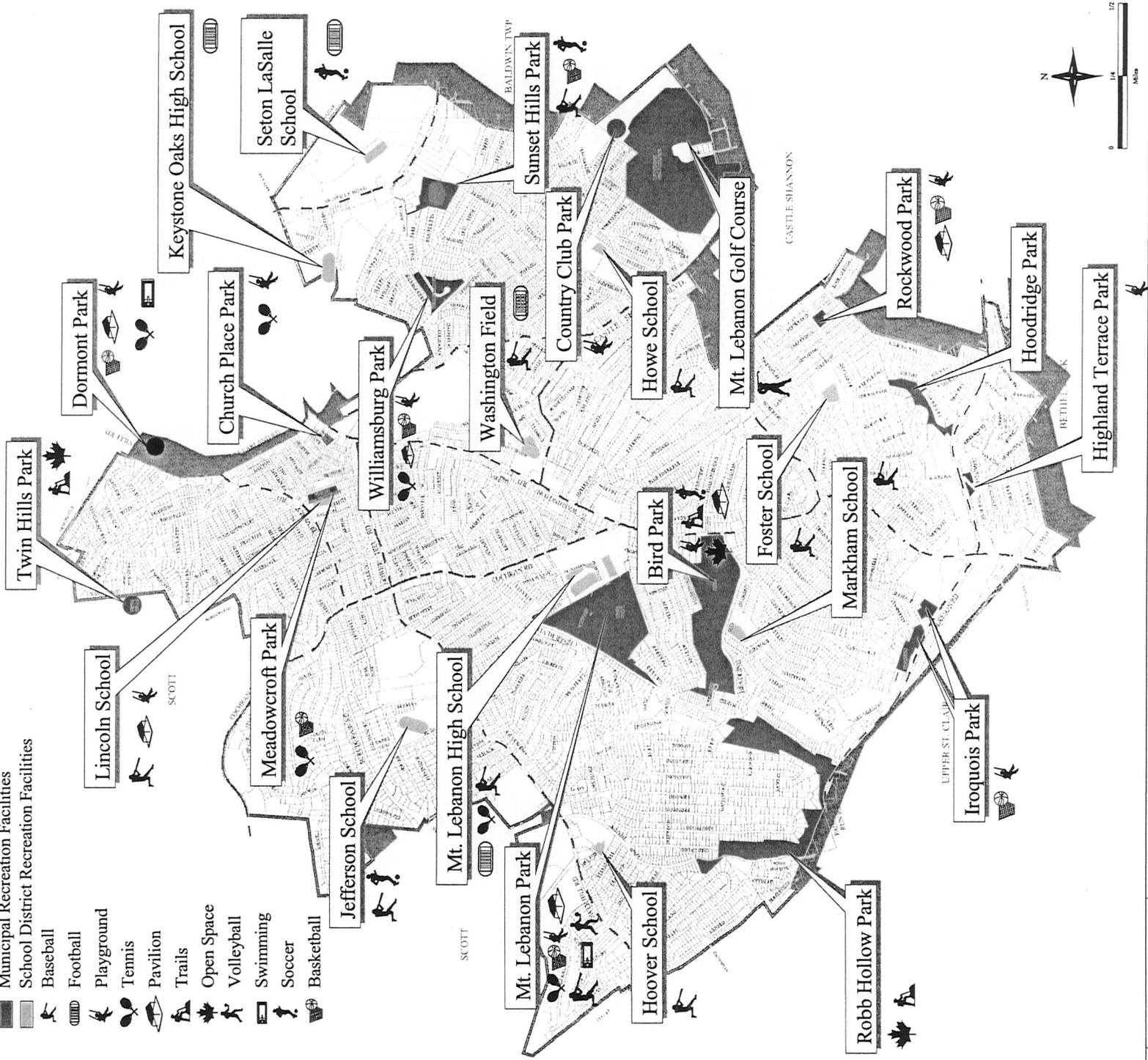
Facility	No.	Condition	Size	ADA	Parking	Utilities	Comments
Large Ice Rink	1	Good	Regulation				
Small Ice Rink	1	Good	Studio				used for teaching

# Recreation Facilities

## LEGEND

-  Municipal Recreation Facilities
-  School District Recreation Facilities

-  Baseball
-  Football
-  Playground
-  Tennis
-  Pavilion
-  Trails
-  Open Space
-  Volleyball
-  Swimming
-  Soccer
-  Basketball



DATE: 07/25/01

FIGURE NUMBER:

2 - 28

## *Inventory of Recreation Facilities*

Municipality of Mt. Lebanon  
Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan

## Playground Safety Audits

Across the nation over 150,000 children are treated annually in hospital emergency rooms for playground-related injuries. To reduce the occurrence and severity of playground injuries several organizations have developed playground safety standards which, if followed, should dramatically reduce the number of playground accidents. The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) are two organizations which have established general guidelines for new and existing playgrounds and technical guidelines for equipment and surfacing. These guidelines and regulations include the following:

- ✓ ASTM F-1487 Standard for Playground Equipment for Public Use
- ✓ ASTM F-1292 Standard for Playground Surfacing for Public Use
- ✓ United States Consumer Product Safety Commission Handbook for Public Playground Safety

Steps should be taken to ensure that all playgrounds and equipment meet the above safety criteria.

It is recommended that frequent playground safety inspections should be performed to identify such hazards as worn or broken equipment, unsafe environmental conditions, and insufficient depth of organic safety surfacing. Safety inspections should be performed on a frequent and regular basis, by qualified staff members who have been trained in performing these inspections.

It is recommended that a risk management plan be developed and

implemented. This plan is an important pro-active step which will help to prevent injuries. The risk management plan should include documented safety inspections. By implementing a risk management program, municipalities can prepare a defense against claims or lawsuits.

To prepare a successful risk management plan, one must consider five factors:

- 1) Develop a plan of action by identifying hazards, prioritizing them, and determining costs to correct those hazards. This plan should include routine playground safety audits. The higher the playground use, the more frequently a playground should be reviewed for safety hazards.
- 2) Address known problems by correcting hazards.
- 3) Take all action necessary to prevent accidents from occurring in the first place.
4. Implement pro-active steps by providing adequate training, acting immediately on complaints, and repairing equipment only with parts provided by the equipment manufacturer.
5. Document all activities including written inspection reports and corrective actions.

Hazards are generally classified into three categories:

### 1. A Condition Likely to Cause Minor (Non-Disabling) Injury

#### Examples of Hazards:

- A. Loose steering wheel.
- B. Missing parts, such as: missing support post caps, tic-tac-toe panels, etc.
- C. Splinters and sharp corners of metal washers.
- D. Protruding bolt threads (non-entanglement).
- E. Protruding set screws, bolts at base, etc.
- F. Handgrips and/or footrests on spring rockers or buck-about that fail the protrusion gauges, or are less than 3" in length.
- G. Railings that are installed too high above ramps or stairways.
- H. Railings that are not between 0.95" and 1.55" in diameter.
- I. Newer slides that no longer meet current standards; e.g., handrails at top of slide chute lack sufficient clearance and are considered obstructions.
- J. Swing seat protrusions.
- K. Combined tot and junior swing seats in one bay.
- L. Swing hangers of a unit closer than 20" apart, measured at the pivot point along the top rail.
- M. Deck heights or reach problems associated with horizontal climbers, such as:
  - Rungs shall be no greater than 15" apart
  - Horizontal distance from the deck surface to the first rung shall be no greater than 10".
  - Horizontal distance from vertical climbing rungs to the first rung shall be between 8" and 10".

- Maximum height shall be 84" for 5 to 12 year old children.
- Maximum Height shall be 60" for 2 to 5 year old children.
- Sliding poles not between 18" to 20" from access deck.
- Climbing rungs not spaced evenly or properly, i.e., rungs cannot be more than 12" apart for 2 to 5 year old children and cannot be more than 16" apart for 5 to 12 year old children.
- Seats to spring rockers higher than 24" above the protective surfaces.
- Balance beams higher than 12" above the protective surfaces.

### 2. A Condition Likely to Cause Serious Injury or Illness, Resulting in Temporary Disability.

#### Examples of Hazards:

- A. Oscillatory motion (wobble) of whirl.
- B. Missing or damaged parts that create sharp points.
- C. Sharp points or edges.
- D. Insufficient protective surfacing that fails to meet fall zone requirements around play structures, i.e., minimum 6' beyond stationary play structures, including climbers, access and sides of slides, whirls, support posts of swings, balance beams, and spring rockers intended for sitting.
- 2. For slide exit region: height (elevation of slide entrance above surface) plus 4', to be measured from transitions change at bottom of slide chute.
- 3. For swings: twice the distance between the surface and the pivot point of the swing seat, to be measured in both directions from the top rail.

4. For tire swings: the distance between the surface and the pivot point of the tire, plus 6' to be measured in both directions from the top rail.
  5. Minimum 7' beyond spring rockers intended for standing.
- E. Insufficient fall zone clearance to adjacent elements, i.e., measurements as per above requirements, in relationship to fence lines, gutters, walls, trees, etc.
- F. Overlapping fall zones of adjacent play structures, that fail to meet the following requirements:
- Minimum 12' between play structures; exceptions:
  - Components of stationary play structures that are less than 30" high, may be a minimum of 6' apart.
  - Support posts of adjacent swing frames may be a minimum of 6' apart.
  - Spring rockers intended for sitting may be a minimum of 6' apart.
- G. Inadequate guardrails or protective barriers, that fail to meet the following requirements:
- A guardrail is a device around an elevated surface that prevents inadvertent falls from the elevated surface. The top surface shall have a minimum height of 29" above the deck for 2 to 5 year old children; and a minimum height of 38" for 5 to 12 years old children. There shall be no spaces between 3-1/2" and 9".
  - A protective barrier is an enclosing device around an elevated surface that prevents both inadvertent and deliberate attempts to pass through the device. The top surface shall have a minimum height of 29" above the deck for 2 to 5 year old children; and a minimum height of 38" for 5 to 12 year old children. There shall be no spaces greater than 3-1/2".
- H. Composite units that lack in-fill plates between deck elevations.
- I. Old, traditionally-designed slides that no longer meet current standards, due to design, fabrication, or inadequate fall restraints, e.g.:
- Lack of transition deck at slide entrance (22" minimum).
  - Lack of handholds or barriers to facilitate the transitions from a standing to a sitting position.
  - Lack of hand railings that extend the entire length of step access.
  - Sides of slide chute are less than 4" high.
  - Lack of sufficient clearance along slide chute (obstructions that cause entanglement).
  - Incorrect height of exit region above protective surfacing such as:
    - When slide is no greater than 48" long, height shall not

exceed 11".

- When slide is greater than 48" long, height shall not be less than 7" or exceed 15".

- J. Swing seats within 30" of support posts and/or within 24" of each other, measured at a height of 5' above protective surfacing; or more than 2 seats per bay.
- K. Circulation problems, (relationship of swings and whirls to movement through site).
- L. Fall onto interior components of structure from a height greater than 18".
- M. Arch or net climbers connected above decks.
- N. Supports of net climbers not attached beneath protective surface.

### 3. A Condition Likely to Cause Fatality, Permanent Disability, or Loss of Body Part.

Examples of Hazards:

- A. Lacks structural integrity or stability (equipment failure or tip over).
- B. Loose, damaged or missing parts, that affect stability or can lead to falls, such as worn swing hangers, "S" hooks, or other hardware.
- C. Protrusions that can cause deep lacerations.
- D. Protrusions that can present entanglement situations, which are directly related to articles of clothing:
  - Bolt threads more than 1/8" from a horizontal plane (entanglement).

- Bolt caps not flush against nut, or other similar situations (entanglement).
- Protrusions or projections formed by fabrication technique, assembly or design composition that present possible entanglements.
- E. Pinch/crush/shear points (between moving parts relative to one another, or juncture between moving and stationary supports).
- F. Head entrapment (spaces between 3-1/2" to 9"), and components that intersect creating angles less than 55 degrees, that are greater than 9" in length and project upward.
- G. Entanglement: "S" hooks open more than .04", and/or gaps between slide chute and deck, or along slide chute, that are associated with catching articles of clothing.
- H. No protective surface beneath play equipment, or insufficient depth to meet shock absorbing requirements.
- I. Pivot points of swings that are higher than: 10' for junior seats; 8' for tot seats.
- J. Swing attachments connected to composite units; or hard hitting swing units.
- K. Environmental ground obstacles, such as: rocks, roots, raised concrete footings, etc.
- L. Climbers and slides that are higher than CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) safety guidelines:
  - 6' for 2 to 5 year old children.
  - 7' for 5 to 12 year old children.
- M. Sliding poles attached to play structures intended for 2 to 5 year old children.

N. Swing frames that do not discourage climbing.

Based on a field review conducted during the summer of 2000, the Consultant noted the playground safety hazards identified on the following pages.

It should be noted that this study recommends modifying play equipment only according to manufacturer's recommendations. The original manufacturer of each piece of unsafe equipment should be approached to learn if retrofits or upgrade information are available. Where this is not possible, or if no retrofits are available, unsafe play equipment should be removed and replaced. On no account should the Municipality of Mt. Lebanon attempt to perform ad hoc repairs to unsafe play equipment; this is unwise from the standpoints of both safety and liability.

## Audits of Municipal Facilities

### *1. Mt. Lebanon Park*

*Date Inspected: October 10, 2000*

#### **Comments:**

It appears that the playground is a mixture of both updated and outdated equipment.

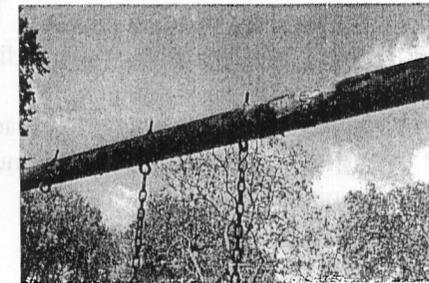
One of the three-bay swings fails numerous safety tests including: inadequate use zone and safety surfacing, missing swings, visible rotting or corrosion, and exposed footings. It should be removed immediately.

The crawl-thru tunnels fail numerous safety tests including: not draining freely, the internal diameter is less than 40", contains rough or sharp edges, and lacks both adequate use zone and safety surfacing. Both should be removed immediately.

#### **Recommendations:**

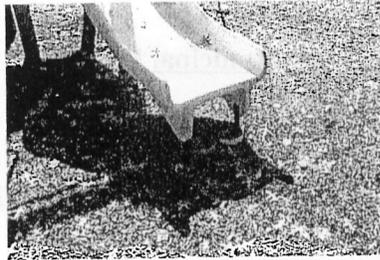
##### *General:*

1. Maintain safety surface to meet current safety standards. Maintain organic protective surface depth of 12" for all structures.
2. Repaint all equipment that is chipped or rusting.
3. Eliminate protrusions by



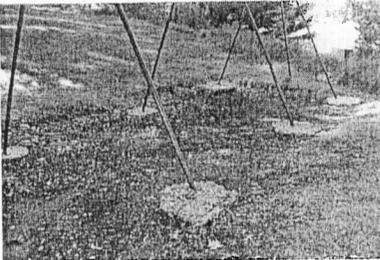
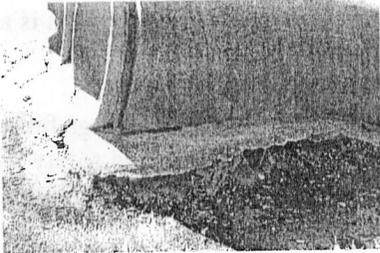
reducing protruding bolts so that no more than two threads are visible.

- Reverse bolts so that nut is on the bottom of all vertical bolt installations to eliminate vertical protrusions.



*Specific:*

- On large play structure, eliminate protrusions by reducing protruding bolts so that no more than two threads are visible.
- Large play structure accessible height exceeds 4', the maximum for children 2-5, and should be designated for older children.
- On small play structure, bury footings and cover with safety surfacing to meet current standards.
- On both swings, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.
- On both swing sets, eliminate protrusions by reducing protruding bolts so that no more than two threads are visible.
- On designated tot-swing bays, adjust height of seat to meet current standards of 18" maximum and 12" minimum from ground.



## 2. Bird Park

Date Inspected: October 10, 2000

### Comments:

It appears that the playground is a mixture of both updated and outdated equipment.

The slide fails numerous safety tests including: inadequate use zone and safety surfacing, transition platform, safety barriers, height of slide at exit, contains open "V" entrapment angles, head entrapment areas, and exposed footings: It should be removed immediately.

The three-bay swing fails numerous safety tests including: inadequate use zone and safety surfacing, height of cross bar exceeds maximum for all age groups, visible corrosion or rotting, and exposed footing. It should be removed immediately.

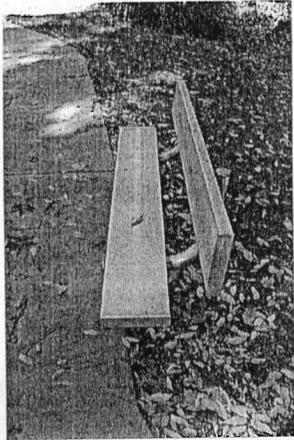
### Recommendations:

*General:*

- Maintain safety surface to meet current safety standards. Maintain organic protective surface depth of 12" for all structures.
- Repaint all equipment which has been chipped or is rusting.

*Specific:*

- On play structure, there is standing water within the use zone, drainage should be improved to correct this situation.



### 3. Country Club Park

Date Inspected: October 10, 2000

#### Comments:

It appears that the playground is a mixture of both updated and outdated equipment.

The crawl-thru tunnels fail numerous safety tests including: not draining freely, the internal diameter is less than 40", and lacks both adequate use zone and safety surfacing. Both should be removed immediately.

The aluminum bench extends over the sidewalk. This is a safety hazard, and should be relocated to a more suitable location.

#### Recommendations:

##### General:

1. Maintain safety surface to meet current safety standards. Maintain organic protective surface depth of 12" for all structures.
2. Repaint all equipment that is chipped or rusting.

##### Specific:

1. On play structure, expand safety surfacing area to meet current safety standards.
2. On climber, increase use zone and safety surfacing to meet current safety standards.
3. On climber, eliminate protrusions by reducing protruding bolts

4. On climber, bury footings and cover with safety surfacing to meet current standards.
5. On two-bay swing set, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.
6. On two-bay swing set, adjust swing hangers to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.
7. On two-bay swing designated tot-swing bay, adjust height of seat to meet current standards of 18" maximum and 12" minimum from ground.
8. On two-bay swing, reduce height of swing set to meet current standards of 8' for children 5-12, or 10' for older children.

### 4. Highland Terrace Park

Date Inspected: October 10, 2000

#### Comments:

It appears that the playground is a mixture of both updated and outdated equipment.

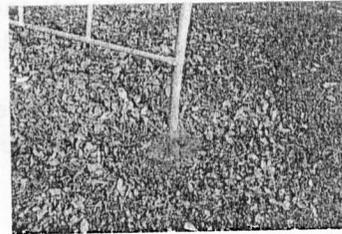
#### Recommendations:

##### General:

1. Maintain safety surface to meet current safety standards. Maintain organic protective surface depth of 12" for all structures.
2. Repaint all equipment that is chipped or rusting.

*Specific:*

1. On play structure, expand safety surfacing area to meet current safety standards.
2. On both swings, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.
3. On tot-swing, adjust height of seat to meet current standards of 18" maximum and 12" minimum from ground.
4. On one-bay swing set, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.
5. On one-bay swing set, reduce height of swing set to meet current standards of 8' for children 5-12, or 10' for older children.
6. On one-bay swing set, relocate swing set, or realign walk to allow for acceptable buffer between swing and circulation path.



**5. Iroquois Park**

*Date Inspected:* October 10, 2000

**Comments:**

It appears that the playground is a mixture of both updated and outdated equipment.

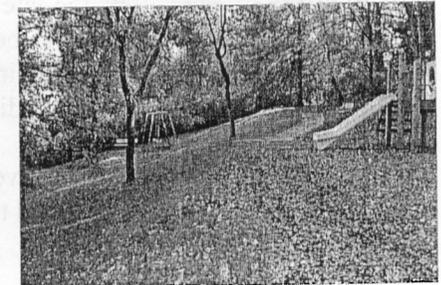
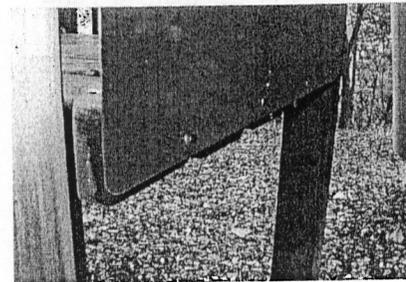
The slide-climber fails numerous safety tests including; inadequate use zone and safety surfacing, sufficient safety barriers, sharp edges, visible corrosion or rotting, and exposed footings. It should be removed immediately.

The crawl-thru tunnel does not drain freely, and the internal diameter does not meet safety standards, and should be removed immediately.

**Recommendations:**

*General:*

1. Maintain safety surface to meet current safety standards. Maintain organic protective surface depth of 12" for all structures.
2. Repaint all equipment that is chipped or rusting.



*Specific:*

1. On climber, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.
2. On climber, bury footings and cover with safety surfacing to meet current standards.
3. On two-bay swing set, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.
4. On two-bay swing set, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.
5. On two-bay swing set, reduce height of swing set to meet current standards of 8' for children 5-12, or 10' for older children.
6. On two-bay swing, seats designated for children 2-5, adjust

- height of seat to meet current standard of 18" maximum or 12" minimum from ground.
- On play structure, increase slide exit zone to meet current safety standards.

**6. Rockwood Park**

*Date Inspected: October 10, 2000*

**Comments:**

It appears that the playground is a mixture of both updated and outdated equipment.

The crawl-thru tunnel does not drain freely, encroaches on the arch-climber use zone, and the internal diameter does not meet safety standards. It should be removed immediately.

**Recommendations:**

*General:*

- Maintain safety surface to meet current safety standards. Maintain organic protective surface depth of 12" for all structures.
- Repaint all equipment that is chipped or rusting.

*Specific:*

- On arch-climber, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.
- On play structure, expand safety



surfacing area to meet current safety standards.

- On both swings, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.
- On designated tot-swings, adjust height of seat to meet current standards of 18" maximum and 12" minimum from ground.
- On one-bay swing set, adjust swing hangers to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.

## Spatial Analysis

Following the inventory of recreation facilities within the Municipality, a Spatial Analysis was conducted. The Analysis brings together the conceptual information illustrated in the Hierarchy of Parks with the specific information on available recreation facilities gathered through the inventory portion of this Plan. The Spatial Analysis gives an assessment of how current parks meet the recreational needs of Mt. Lebanon residents. The following factors were analyzed:

- ▶ location of all existing municipal recreation facilities
- ▶ location of all school district recreation facilities
- ▶ the service areas for the above facilities
- ▶ comparison of existing facilities with the National Recreation and Parks Association's (NRPA) standards
- ▶ residential and commercial land use patterns
- ▶ transportation systems and physical barriers, which may disrupt access to a facility

For the purpose of this plan, each municipal and school district facility was categorized during their inventory as a community park, neighborhood park or special use facility (see table 2-34). The Spatial Analysis Map (figure 2-30) shows the location of existing recreation facilities and their corresponding service areas. Community park service areas are not graphically shown on the Spatial Analysis Map. These parks serve the entire Municipality. Special use facilities, by nature of the facility types, have no specified service radius; rather, they serve the entire community as well.

According to the NRPA, the typical service area for a neighborhood

park ranges from 1/4 to 1/2 a mile. The high level of pedestrian accessibility within the community promotes travel to these parks on foot. The service area radii shown on the map represent 1/4 of a mile. Families with children are the primary users of this type of park and this is the average distance typically accepted by families to walk to a park.

By taking into consideration observations during the cultural resources and recreation facilities inventories, analyzing the results of the various methods of public input and comparing existing recreation needs with national standards, the spatial analysis gives a detailed evaluation of the services current recreation facilities are providing. The following observations were made:

1. Mt. Lebanon Park and Bird Park are community parks, serving the entire Municipality.
2. Robb Hollow Park and the Municipal Golf Course are Special Use facilities and are excluded from this analysis because these types of facilities have no specified service area.
3. School District Facilities are serving a large percentage of the municipal population as neighborhood parks.
4. Washington Road, Bower Hill Road and Gilkeson Roads act as barriers to pedestrian access to the neighborhood parks nearby. This truncates the potential service area for these parks, thus reducing the number of residents served.

5. The central area of the Municipality, east of Washington Road is currently not adequately served by neighborhood park facilities.
6. Northern portions of the Municipality west of Washington Road do not contain neighborhood parks.
7. Main Park and Bird Park serve as neighborhood parks for residents living in the neighborhoods nearby.
8. The proximity of Dormont's Community Park to Mt. Lebanon warrants its inclusion in the assessment of facility service areas. It is represented as a neighborhood park in the Spatial Analysis because this is the function it serves for Mt. Lebanon residents who live nearby.

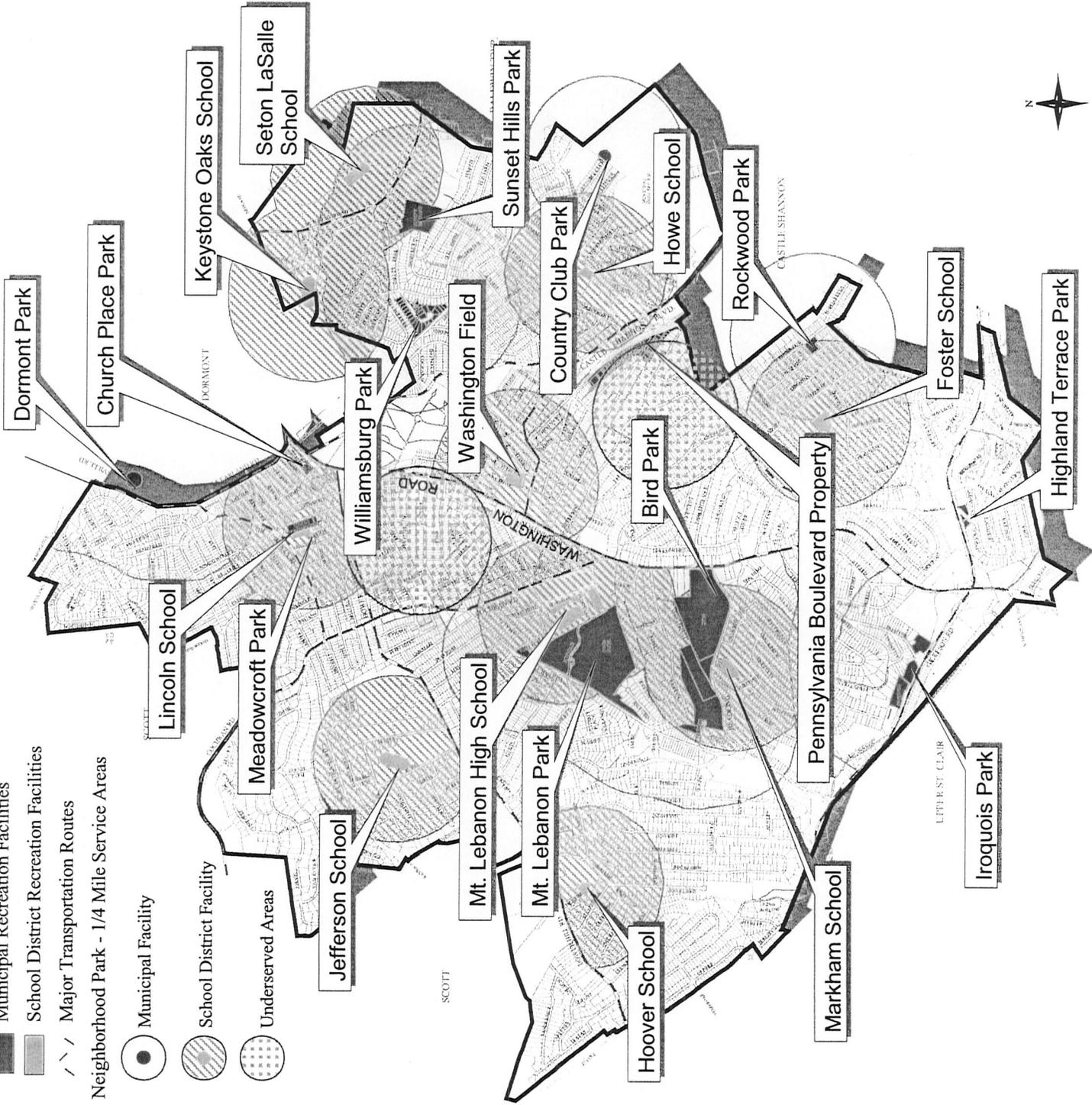
Specific strategies resulting from the Spatial Analysis can be found in the recommendations chapter of this report (Chapter 4).



# Spatial Analysis

## LEGEND

-  Municipal Recreation Facilities
-  School District Recreation Facilities
-  Major Transportation Routes
- Neighborhood Park - 1/4 Mile Service Areas



DATE: 07/25/01

FIGURE NUMBER:

2 - 29

## Spatial Analysis

Municipality of Mt. Lebanon  
Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan



## Sports Fields

Active, organized sports are an important part of recreation in Mt. Lebanon. Many residents use the Municipality's parks primarily for the purpose of playing or watching others play organized sports.

### Existing Facilities

Currently, both municipal and school district fields are scheduled by sports organizations and the Recreation Department, in addition to spontaneous use by the general public. Refer to the following chart for an inventory of available facilities.

### Field Reservations

The recreation department makes available municipal sports fields for permit use. However, sports organizations usually fill the fields' schedules during their seasons of play. In addition to the municipal fields, the school district fields are also available for public use. Field permits are obtained by calling the individual schools. The fields are reserved on a first-come first-serve basis.

### Sports Organizations

See the programming section of this Chapter for detailed information on each of the following groups.

- Mt. Lebanon High School
- Mellon Middle School
- Jefferson Middle School
- Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department
- Athletic Associations (5)
  - Mt Lebanon Baseball Association
  - Mt. Lebanon Girls Softball Association
  - Mt. Lebanon Soccer Association (boys/girls)
  - Mt. Lebanon Lacrosse Association (boys/girls)
  - Youth Football Association

Table 2-30: School District Facilities

Location	Facility	Use
<i>Stadium</i>	Astroturf  Track	Football Soccer Lacrosse Softball Field Hockey Track
<i>Horsman</i>	Diamond (LL)  Micro Soccer Field	Baseball Softball Track Soccer
<i>Upper Field</i>	Football Practice Field Micro Soccer Fields (3) Track Field	Football Soccer Lacrosse Track
<i>Washington-Mellon</i>	Diamond (regulation) Diamond (LL)  Football Field Soccer Field  Lacrosse Field Walking Track	Baseball Baseball Softball Football Soccer Football Lacrosse Walking
<i>Lincoln</i>	Diamond (LL) (2)  Practice Field	Baseball Softball Football Soccer
<i>Howe</i>	Diamond (LL)  Micro Soccer Field Practice Area	Baseball Softball Soccer Football
<i>Hoover</i>	Diamond (LL)  Micro Soccer Field	Baseball Softball Field Hockey Soccer

\*table based on information provided during 2000 inventory.

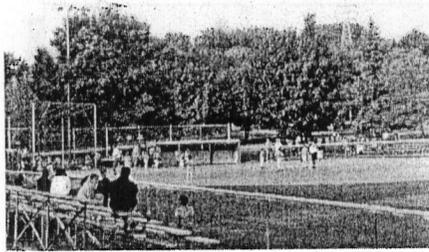


table 2-31: Municipal Fields

Location	Facility	Use
<i>Wildcat Field</i>	Diamond (regulation) Batting Cages Soccer Fields (2 micro &/or 1 u11)	Baseball Baseball Soccer Field Hockey
<i>Middle</i>	Diamond	Baseball Softball Fast Pitch
<i>Bird</i>	Soccer (regulation) Soccer (4 micro, 2 mid) Lacrosse Field	Soccer Soccer Lacrosse
<i>Brafferton</i>	Diamond (pony)  Soccer Field (micro) Practice Field	Baseball Softball Fast Pitch Soccer Football
<i>Dixon</i>	Field	Baseball/Softball

The following is a list of available fields by sport type.

**Soccer**

- Washington-Mellon (1)
- Bird Park (1)
- Jefferson School (1)

**Total: (3)**

**Micro Soccer**

- Horsman (1)
- Upper Field (3)
- Howe (1)
- Hoover (1)
- Wildcat (2)
- Bird Park (4)

**Total: (12)**

**Baseball**

- Horsman (1)
- Washington-Mellon (2)
- Lincoln (2)
- Howe (1)
- Hoover (1)
- Wildcat (2)

**Total: (9)**

**Lacrosse**

- High School Astroturf (1)
- Upper Field (1)
- Washington-Mellon (1)
- Bird Park (1)

**Total: (4)**

**Table 2-32: Use of Playing Fields by Private Athletic Associations**

Youth Sports Program	Season	Length of Season	No. of Players	No. of Teams	Age Range (by school grade)	Field Hours Used (present program)	Field hrs for ave. player per season	Additional Needs (Hours) of Present Program
Baseball (spring)	Spring	14 wks	1150	95	1-12	4150	66	300
Baseball (fall)	Fall	6 wks	140	13	1-8	165	27	
Softball (spring)	Spring	10 wks	635	34	3-12	560	27	200
Softball (fall)	Fall	6 wks	45	3	9-11	36	12	
Boys' Soccer (spring)	Spring		231	15	3-11	405	27	254
Boys' Soccer (fall)	Fall		581	50	3-8	1425	29	768
Girls' Soccer (spring)	Spring		164	10	3-11	270	27	169
Girls' Soccer (fall)	Fall		541	43	3-8	1226	29	749
Football	Fall	12 wks	135	8	3-6	860	110	111
Lacrosse	Spring	10-13 wks	130	8	5-8	604	150	300
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>3,752</b>	<b>279</b>		<b>9,701</b>		<b>2,851</b>

\*Information relates to private use and does not include School District sports.

## Comparison of Mt. Lebanon Parks and Open Space to National Standards

Determining the recommended acreage, type and number of recreation facilities for a community is a function of analyzing a variety of data. There are many factors unique to Mt. Lebanon that the Consultant considered, including: natural resources, land use, existing parks and their current uses, recreation trends in the region, the role of the Municipality's Recreation Department, and the input received through the public participation process.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), in its publications *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines* (1983) and *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines* (1995), provides criteria for determining the number, type and acreage of facilities a typical community should provide to meet resident's recreation needs. It must be noted that these guidelines serve only as a point of beginning and must be tailored to meet the unique needs or desired level of service of the Mt. Lebanon community. As recommended in the NRPA's 1995 publication, critical to this process is the public participation component of this study. The recreation needs of residents are important in customizing national standards to fit their community. The Consultant modified the NRPA guidelines to develop a Mt. Lebanon recreation, parks and open space model unique to the Municipality.

The Mt. Lebanon model begins with the designation of individual parks to the hierarchical categories identified by the NRPA. This organization is based upon the clarification of each park's role as identified in this Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan and a redefinition of the NRPA park categories as they apply to Mt. Lebanon's unique park system. Refer to the following table for a list of all municipal and school district facilities as they fit into the hierarchy.

Table 2-33

Hierarchy of Municipal and School District Recreation Facilities	
<i>Community Parks</i>	
<i>Municipal</i>	<i>School District</i>
Mt. Lebanon (Main) Park	Mt. Lebanon High School
Bird Park	
<i>Neighborhood Parks</i>	
<i>Municipal</i>	<i>School District</i>
Country Club Park	Lincoln School
Church Place Park	Jefferson School
Highland Terrace Park	Hoover School
Iroquois Park	Markham School
Rockwood Park	Foster School
Sunset Hills Park (Brafferton)	Howe School
Williamsburg Park	Washington School
Meadowcroft Park	
<i>Special Use Facility</i>	
<i>Municipal</i>	<i>School District</i>
Golf Course	None
Robb Hollow Park	
Twin Hills Trails Park	
Hoodridge Park	

**Table 2-34**

<b>Existing Municipal Park Land Acreage in Mt. Lebanon</b>			
<i>Park</i>	<i>Community Park Acreage</i>	<i>Neighborhood Park Acreage</i>	<i>Special Use Facility Acreage</i>
Mt. Lebanon (Main) Park	51		
Bird Park	42		
Country Club Park		0.3	
Church Place Park		0.3	
Highland Terrace Park		0.3	
Hoodridge Park		5.7	
Iroquois Park		5.4	
Rockwood Park		1.0	
Sunset Hills Park (Brafferton)		8.4	
Williamsburg Park		7.1	
Meadowcroft Park		1.0	
Golf Course			95.0
Robb Hollow Park			28.3
Twin Hills Trails Park			24.9
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>148.2</b>

Table 2-35

NRPA Recommended Standards for Parks					
Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1000	Desirable Characteristics
Community Park	Areas of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes, swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for passive recreation, or a combination of both types of recreation.	2 miles	25+ acres	5 to 8 acres	May include natural features such as bodies of water and areas suitable for intense development. Easily accessible.
Neighborhood Park	Area for intense recreation activities such as field games, court games, play equipment, picnicking.	½ mile	1 to 15 acres	1 to 2	Suitable for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population, geographically centered, with safe access.

Table 2-36

Mt. Lebanon's Standards for Parks					
Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1000	Desirable Characteristics
Community Park	Areas of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes, swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for passive recreation, or a combination of both types of recreation.	Entire Municipality	40+ acres	varies	May include natural features as well as areas suitable for intense development. Easily accessible.
Neighborhood Park	Area for intense recreation activities such as field games, court games, play equipment, picnicking.	½ mile	.5 to 10 acres	varies	Suitable for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population, geographically centered, with safe access.

Table 2-37

Municipal Park Land Acreage Comparison to National Standards						
Mt. Lebanon 1996 Population Estimate: 31,879 Mt. Lebanon projected 2015 Population: 34,715						
Park Type	Acres/1000 (NRPA Standard)	Existing Acres	1996 Need	1996 Surplus (Deficit)	2015 Need	2015 Surplus (Deficit)
Community Park	8.0	93	255	(162)	278	(184.72)
Neighborhood Park	2.0	29.5	64	(34.5)	69.43	(39.93)
Special Use Park	as needed	148.2	---	---	---	---

Table 2-38

Facility Comparisons to National Standards						
Mt. Lebanon 1996 Population Estimate: 31,879 Mt. Lebanon projected 2015 Population: 34,715						
Facility	one facility / # persons	existing (1)	1996 need (2)	1996 surplus (deficit)	2015 need	2015 surplus (deficit)
Basketball Courts	5,000	7	6	1	7	0
Tennis Courts	2,000	18	16	2	17	1
Volleyball Courts	5,000	1	6	(5)	7	(6)
Baseball Fields	2,500	11	13	(2)	14	(3)
Football Fields	20,000	1	1.5	(.5)	1.75	(.75)
Soccer Fields	10,000	3	3	0	3.5	(.5)
Swimming Pools	20,000	1	1.5	(.5)	1.75	(.75)
Picnic Shelters	2,000	6	16	10	17	(11)

(1) Several field are combined use fields. (2) This does not include lacrosse, which is a growing sport.

*Where do we want to be?*

Public Participation

# 3

The public participation process was crucial in developing viable recommendations for the future of parks, recreation and open space in Mt. Lebanon. The public input process included public meetings, close work with the project study group, distribution and tabulation of a recreation questionnaire and several key person interviews. Providing several venues for resident participation resulted in a holistic understanding of the current state of recreation, parks and open space, the issues that are important to Mt. Lebanon's residents and the types of improvements they would like to see.

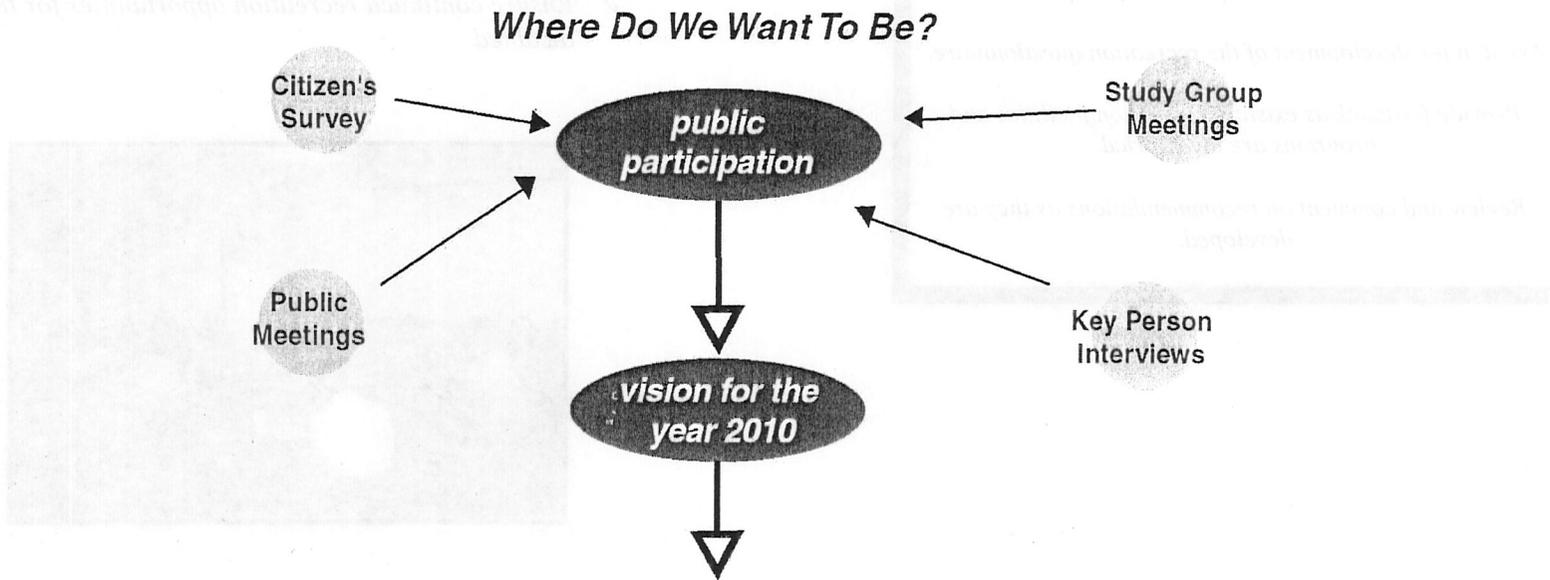
## Section 1: Project Study Group

## Section 2: Public Meetings

## Section 3: Recreation Questionnaire

## Section 4: Key Person Interviews

## Section 5: A Vision for the Future



## Section I: The Project Study Group

From the beginning of the planning process, through to the final recommendations, the fifteen member Study Group played an important role in the development of a successful Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan. Minutes from each of the seven meetings can be found in Appendix A.

### The Role of the Study Group

*Act as a sounding board for ideas as the Plan is developed.*

*Assist in the development of the recreation questionnaire.*

*Provide feedback as existing recreation facilities and programs are inventoried.*

*Review and comment on recommendations as they are developed.*

Key issues identified by the study group include:

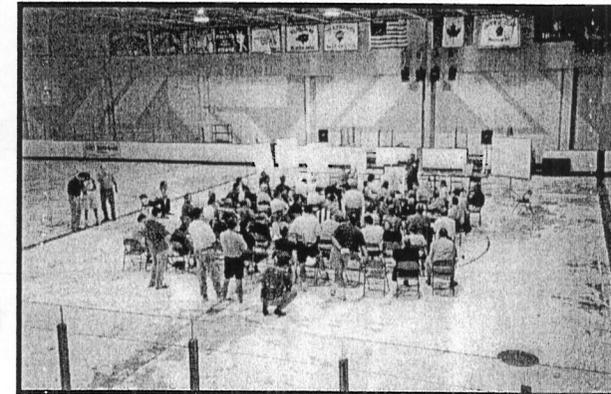
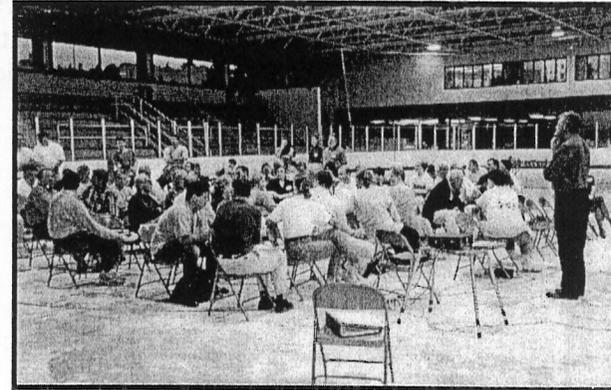
- ✓ *Build and maintain the relationship between the school district and the Municipality*
- ✓ *Protect natural resources and avoid over development in existing parks*
- ✓ *Ensure that adequate funds exist for the future of parks and recreation*
- ✓ *Ensure a balance of recreation facilities and programs for all age groups*
- ✓ *Develop a balance of active and passive recreation opportunities*
- ✓ *Ensure continued recreation opportunities for the disabled*



## Section II: Public Meetings

Input from all Mt. Lebanon residents was key to the success of this Plan. Three Public Meetings were held to gather information regarding recreation, parks and open space from the general public. Minutes for each of the meetings can be found in Appendix B. The key issues identified at these meetings include:

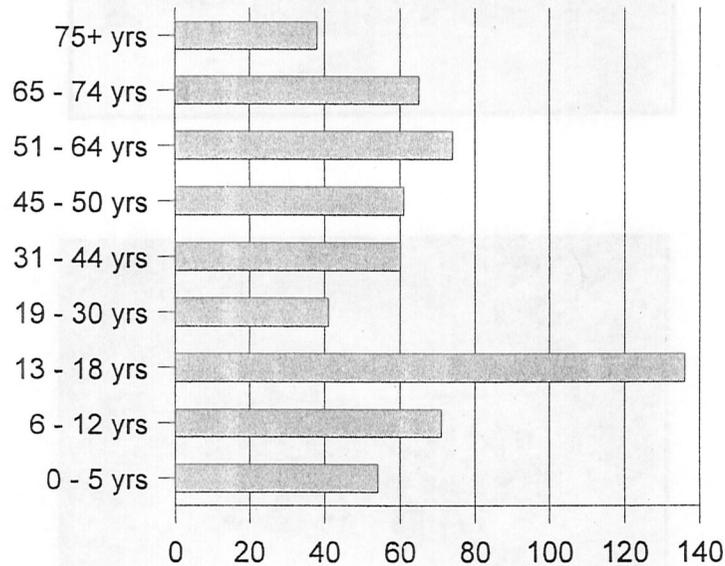
- ✓ *Current opportunities for swimming are limited*
- ✓ *Communication between the school district and the Municipality is important*
- ✓ *Undeveloped property and street trees add value to the community*
- ✓ *Passive parks, such as Bird and Twin Hills are worn from overuse; a management plan should be developed*
- ✓ *Inadequate number of sports fields prevents proper field rotation*
- ✓ *More trails are needed within Mt. Lebanon*



## Section III: Recreation, Parks and Open Space Questionnaire

Recreation, Parks and Open Space Questionnaires were sent to a random sampling of 2,000 Mt. Lebanon residents. Forty surveys were returned undeliverable, for a total of 1,960 survey delivered to Mt. Lebanon households. Four hundred twenty-one surveys, or twenty-one percent (21%), were received by the Consultant and tabulated. The following are summary results of the questionnaire response analysis. Refer to Appendix C for a copy of the questionnaire and tabulations of all responses.

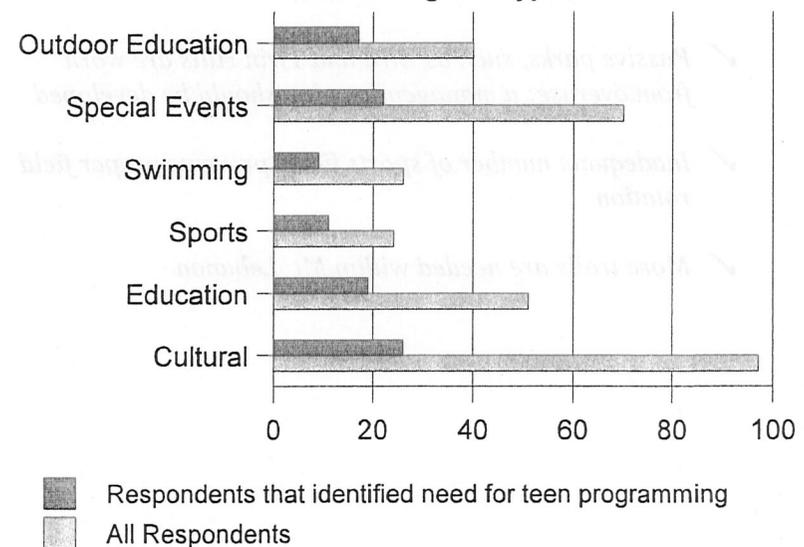
**Need for Programming, by Age**



### Recreation Programming

The Department's available recreation programming has continued to grow in popularity with area residents. When asked which age group is currently in most need of additional programming, the 13-18 year old age group was most often identified (below, left). An additional question asked what types of new programs should be offered by the Municipality. The largest percentage of respondents felt that additional cultural programming was needed (below). Additionally, those respondents that identified a need for teen programming also felt more cultural programming was needed (below).

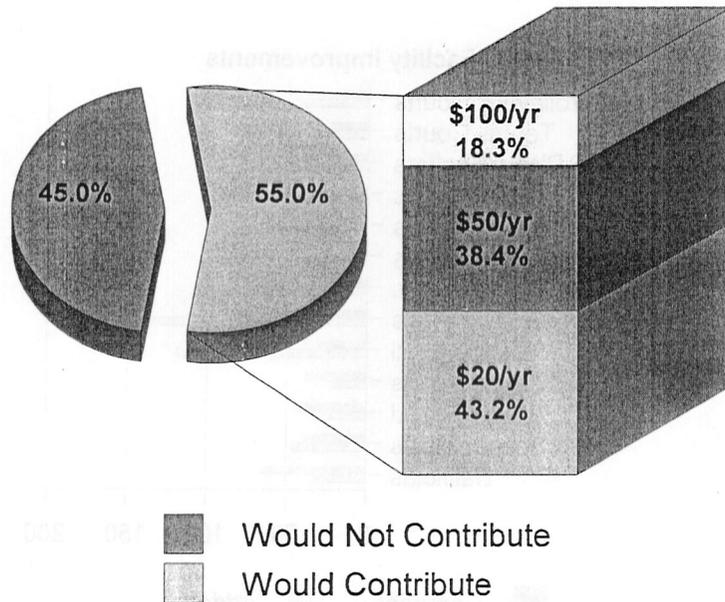
**Desired Program Types**



## Funding

Over half of the respondents to a question regarding funding for recreation, parks and open space stated that they would contribute to a non-profit organization for that purpose. Of that group, most were willing to contribute \$20 or \$50 a year per household (below).

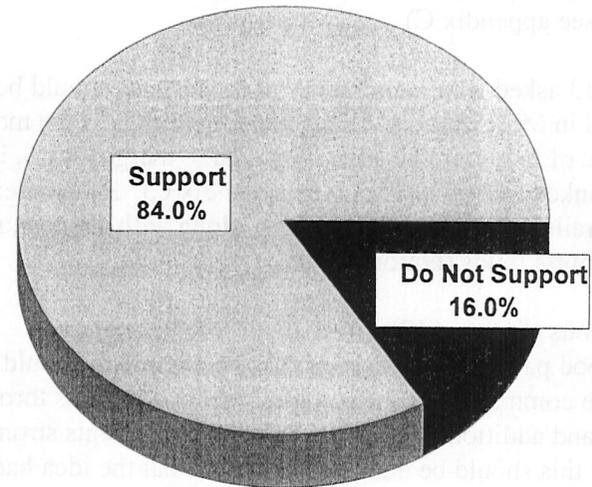
### Contributions



## Registration

The Recreation Department currently supports a large number of well-attended recreation programs. The number of participants may result in registration difficulties. As illustrated below, at vast majority (84%) of respondents are in favor of on-line registration through the Municipality's web site.

### On-Line Registration



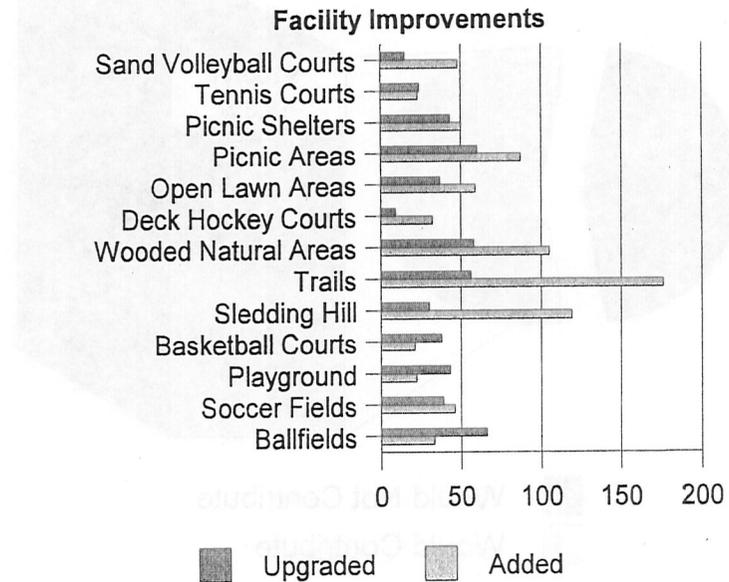
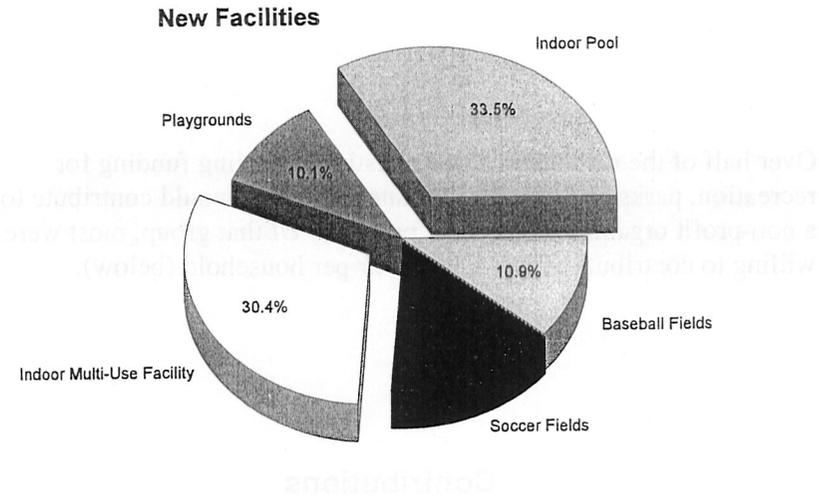
## Facilities

Question #16 asked respondents what new recreation facilities are needed in their community. The top two answers to this question were indoor multi-use facility and indoor pool (see top right).

When asked how sports fields should be provided for local organizations, the top two responses were to expand the use of School District fields and to light existing fields to extend the hours of use (see appendix C). When a cross-tabulation was performed, those respondents who indicated that they used School District fields or Wildcat Field seven or more times a year responded similarly to all respondents. The lighting of fields and expanded use of School District fields were the top answers, development of new facilities within the Municipality was received the third-highest number of responses (see appendix C).

Question #13 asked what community park facilities should be added or upgraded in Mt. Lebanon. Trails were identified as the most desired type of facility to be added, by a large margin, 45%, indoor pool was ranked second at 15% (see appendix C). Respondents also identified trails as in need of upgrading, along with shelters, natural areas and sports fields (bottom right).

Two questions (#11 & #12) asked about Mt. Lebanon's neighborhood parks. When asked if the Municipality should enhance the community's system of neighborhood parks through upgrading and additional facilities, 33% of respondents strongly agreed that this should be done and 56% felt that the idea had merit and should be explored further. Secondly, picnic shelters, playgrounds and open lawn were identified as those facilities that should be added or improved within current neighborhood parks.



## Section IV: Key Person Interviews

During a two month period, the Consultant conducted twenty-four Key Person Interviews. The interviewees were identified by the Director of Recreation and the Study Group as individuals who could provide valuable input regarding recreation, parks and open space in Mt. Lebanon. This survey technique was used as an additional way to understand and document the needs of area residents. The following information represents a summary of responses. See Appendix D for documentation of all responses given.

1. *Are you satisfied with parks and recreation facilities and programs in Mt. Lebanon?*  

**Yes(20) No (3)**
2. *Are you aware of current recreation programs offered by Mt. Lebanon?*  

**Yes (20) No (3)**

*Are they adequately publicized?*  

**Yes (17)**

*What types of new programs should be added?*  

**See Appendix D**
3. *How do you use Mt. Lebanon's parks? (Active-sports / Passive-walking, picnicking)*  

**Active (9) Both (5)**  
**Passive (11) Neither (1)**

4. *What is the nearest park/recreation facilities to your home?*  

**See Appendix D**

*What other Mt. Lebanon parks/recreation facilities in Mt. Lebanon do you use?*

<b><u>Bird Park (11)</u></b>	<b>Golf Course</b>
<b><u>Mt. Lebanon Park (12)</u></b>	<b>Rockwood (1)</b>
<b><u>Iroquois Park (1)</u></b>	<b>Foster School (1)</b>
<b><u>Williamsport (3)</u></b>	<b>Jefferson Middle (1)</b>
<b><u>Twin Hills (2)</u></b>	<b>Cedar Blvd (2)</b>
<b><u>Highland Terrace (2)</u></b>	<b>Lincoln Elem.School (2)</b>

5. *Do you use recreation facilities in other nearby municipalities?*  

**Yes (14) No (10)**

*If yes, what recreation facilities do you use outside of Mt. Lebanon?*

**See Appendix D**

6. *Are there adequate recreation facilities for those in your household?*  

**Yes (18) No (13)**

*Are there any geographic areas or population groups (teens, seniors) that are not adequately served by existing recreation facilities?*

**Teens (\*\*)**  
**Seniors (\*\*)**

7. *What type of new recreation opportunities would you like to see*

developed in Mt. Lebanon? Would you support the development of a community center? indoor pool? public open space? nature center?

**Indoor Recreation (8)**

**Community Center (5)**

**Improvements on the Rec. Center (3)**

**In main park, playground equipment, benches at fields**

**An Amphitheater**

**Jogging paths**

**Roller-blade park**

*If you would like to see the development of a new community center, what type of facilities should it include?*

**Meeting Rooms (5) Indoor Pool (3)**

**Place for Teens to go (5) Fitness Facilities (2)**

8. *How should new facilities, public open space and park improvements be paid for? (tax increase, dedication of funds, private donations, user fees)*

**User Fees (14) Grants or Funding (4)**

**Tax Increase (13) Donations (3)**

*Should a fee be charged for the use of park picnic shelters?*

**Yes (16) No (9)**

9. *Does Mt. Lebanon have enough public open space?*

**Yes (8) No (15)**

*Is the existing open space properly cared for?*

**Yes (13) No (10)**

10. *Would you pay user fees to fund the development and maintenance of new recreation facilities?*

**Yes (23) Not Sure (1)**

11. *Are you aware of any opportunities for collaborations*

*between groups/organizations/local governments to provide or support recreation programs/facilities for area residents? (See Appendix D for a list of opportunities identified)*

**Yes (19) No (4)**

12. *Are there any other issues that you feel should be addressed in this Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan?*

**See Appendix D for responses**

Key issues identified through the key person interviews are as follows:

- ✓ There is a high level of satisfaction with parks and recreation facilities
- ✓ Recreation programs are well-publicized
- ✓ Bird Park and Mt. Lebanon (Main) Park are used by residents most often
- ✓ Indoor recreation facilities are among the most desired new facilities
- ✓ An equally large number of respondents propose that user fees and tax increases be used for renovation and construction

## Section V: A Vision for the Future

### The Visioning Process

Successful long-range planning begins with a Vision or “picture” of how recreation, parks and open space in Mt. Lebanon should appear sometime in the future. By developing a methodology that works in simple, clear steps, an agency can understand and communicate to staff and the general public where it wants to go (the Vision) and exactly how it can get there (recommendations). This is especially important when soliciting support for a new program, special event or facility. People will be more inclined to support an interesting story that excites them and if they are able to understand that what you are asking of them is an integral part of fulfilling that Vision.

How do residents of Mt. Lebanon see parks and recreation in their community years from now? To arrive at a Vision narrative for the community, the consultant analyzed the results of the public participation process; including study and focus group meetings, public input sessions, key person interviews and the results of the citizen survey. During the course of this analysis, the Consultant looked for ideas (vision elements) consistently mentioned throughout the public input process. These ideas were grouped into the vision elements listed in table 3-1. These elements were then used to form the vision narrative.



Table 3-1

<i>Vision Element</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Vision Element</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p><b><u>Ensure a balance of programs and activities for all age groups</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ provide more opportunities for teens (rollerblading/skateboarding)</li> <li>▶ young children and seniors are important groups to consider</li> <li>▶ 25-44 age group is looking for outdoor recreation opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Key Person Interviews</li> <li>✓Study Group</li> <li>✓Recreation Questionnaire</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Provide additional opportunities for indoor recreation/community center</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ swimming pool</li> <li>▶ golf driving range</li> <li>▶ racquet ball</li> <li>▶ fitness center</li> <li>▶ basketball courts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Key Person Interviews</li> <li>✓Public Meeting #1</li> <li>✓Recreation Questionnaire</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Balance active and passive opportunities</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ develop a management plan for passive parks (overused)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Study Group</li> <li>✓Public Meeting #1</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Funding sources for parks and recreation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ user fees</li> <li>▶ taxes</li> <li>▶ picnic shelter fees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Key Person Interviews</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Protect natural resources</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ ensure proper maintenance/management of existing open spaces</li> <li>▶ protect limited wildlife</li> <li>▶ avoid over development of parks</li> <li>▶ increase public awareness about greenspace</li> <li>▶ connections throughout Municipality</li> <li>▶ green “stepping stones”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Key Person Interviews</li> <li>✓Study Group</li> <li>✓Public Meeting #1</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Establish/strengthen collaborations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ school district</li> <li>▶ cooperation among recreation groups</li> <li>▶ inter-generational programming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Key Person Interviews</li> <li>✓Study Group</li> <li>✓Public Meeting #1</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Explore opportunities to capitalize on existing technology</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ cable channel</li> <li>▶ web site</li> <li>▶ on-line registration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Study Group</li> <li>✓Recreation Questionnaire</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Tie into recreation assets in neighboring communities</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Study Group</li> </ul>

<i>Vision Element</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Vision Element</i>	<i>Source</i>
<u>Exercise area for dogs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ bird park puppy club</li> <li>▶ people walk/jog with pets</li> <li>▶ fenced area for dogs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Public Meeting #1</li> </ul>	<u>Street trees</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ important asset to the community</li> <li>▶ protect and enhance the current system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Public Meeting #1</li> </ul>
<u>Create additional sports fields</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ balance with open space</li> <li>▶ allow for field rotation</li> <li>▶ meet current demand</li> <li>▶ look for creative opportunities</li> <li>▶ partnerships</li> <li>▶ expand use of school fields</li> <li>▶ light existing fields to extend hours of use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Public Meeting #1</li> <li>✓Key Person Interviews</li> <li>✓Recreation Questionnaire</li> </ul>	<u>Develop new trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ currently use those in surrounding communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Public Meeting #1</li> <li>✓Recreation Questionnaire</li> </ul>
<u>Preserve park/open space edges</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ dumping, dogs, maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Public Meeting #1</li> </ul>	<u>Create additional special events</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Recreation Questionnaire</li> </ul>
<u>Provide additional outdoor recreation opportunities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ small picnic shelters</li> <li>▶ playgrounds</li> <li>▶ open lawn areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Recreation Questionnaire</li> </ul>	<u>Increase awareness of programs</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Recreation Questionnaire</li> <li>✓Key Person Interviews</li> </ul>

## The Vision Narrative

### *A Vision for the Future of Recreation, Parks and Open Space in Mt. Lebanon.....*

It's when I'm walking along a trail on a sunny spring day like today that I recognize the importance of parks, recreation and open space to Mt. Lebanon's unique community character....



Several years ago, residents identified trails as a top recreation priority. I can remember working as a volunteer to help post signs along the trails in Bird Park as the Municipal Trail Plan was implemented.

Now, enjoying the outdoors while getting around has never been easier. In keeping

with our healthy lifestyle, our family safely travels on foot or bicycle to a nearby park, the recreation center, the bank and the library. Yesterday we roller-bladed along tree-lined streets and hiked a Bird Park nature trail, just minutes from our front door!

The hub of activity is the recently expanded community recreation center. This place has it all! From the climbing wall to the community meeting rooms, the center offers a wide range of indoor recreation opportunities. Throughout the year, the facility is a gathering place for all Mt. Lebanon residents. The community pool is packed year-round with kids scrambling to shoot down the water slide and seniors enjoying water aerobics.

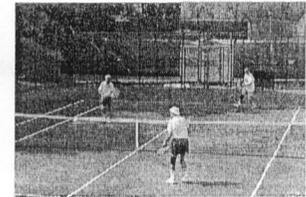
Representatives from the recreation department, school district and local organizations meet several times a year to discuss community recreation issues. Several sports fields were upgraded recently and a new field is being planned.

Cooperative efforts also resulted in the designation and appropriate management of the community's open space system.

Future generations will surely enjoy unique natural spaces close to home. As a member of the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy and a parent of two baseball players, I am involved in the planning new recreation facilities and open space conservation efforts.

Our family enjoys the annual routine of deciding which recreation programs we will take part in each year. We are able to get all the information we need from the Mt. Lebanon web site. The Recreation Department's internet system keeps everyone informed of the recreation opportunities throughout the community. We check for program availability and sign up, print out sports teams' schedules and rosters, buy our pool passes, and reserve tee times all online from the comfort of our home.

Our trails, parks, golf course, skating rink and open spaces all contribute to a unique community setting. The number and variety of recreation and open space opportunities in our community are important to our family and we are thankful that the Municipality continually strives to offer the best!



*How do we get there?*

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Recommendations

# 4

This section presents recommendations for the future of Mt. Lebanon's Recreation, Parks and Open Space as the Municipality works toward fulfilling its vision for the future. Included in the following sections are goals and specific strategies for each of the following categories:

- Administration
- Financing
- Greenways and Open Space
- Recreation Programs
- Recreation Facilities
- Trails

Included in each section is a goal for the future of recreation, parks and open space in Mt. Lebanon. The goals are broad in nature and are designed to be all-encompassing based upon community ideas and issues raised through the planning process. The goal statements reflect the themes that were identified through the public input process and illustrated in the vision for the future. These goals also provide the organizational structure for the implementation of the Plan recommendations and direction for the future of recreation, parks and open space in Mt. Lebanon.

Included as part of the following recommendations are specific strategies for the implementation of Mt. Lebanon's Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan. Information collected through both the public input process and the professional assessment was utilized to develop these strategies, which set forth a step-by-step plan for fulfilling the goals set forth by the community's Vision for the future of recreation, parks and open space.

The implementation strategies are organized into tables. The information provided includes categories for strategy priority, responsible party, cost estimate, potential funding sources and a space to record the completion of each strategy. These strategies are intended to provide guidance to the decision makers of Mt. Lebanon and those organizations and staff designated to implement portions of the plan. The successful implementation of these strategies will depend upon the fiscal and political climate in any given year. Therefore, it is essential that the Municipality monitor, review and prioritize the strategies on an annual basis prior to the budgeting process.

### Recreation Department's Annual Review of Strategies

- ✓ Formalize a process for maintaining an up-to-date summary of implementation accomplishments.
- ✓ Meet with municipal and school district officials on a quarterly basis to discuss progress, road blocks and opportunities.
- ✓ Establish regular meetings with volunteer groups and other associations and individuals, who are committed to assisting with the implementation of the strategies.
- ✓ Decide on project priorities prior to the annual budgeting process.

Each implementation strategy was assigned a ranking of High, Medium or Low. A High (H) ranking suggests that the strategy be implemented in the first one to two years following the adoption of this Plan. Medium (M) ranked strategies are to be implemented in the third to sixth year and Low (L) ranking strategies are to be implemented in the seventh to tenth year.

The potential funding sources identified offer opportunities for providing all or partial financing for the implementation of a strategy. The opportunities identified do not constitute an exhaustive list and other possible resources should continually be sought. It will be important for the Municipality to be up-to-date on future funding sources. It should be noted that the cost estimates contained in the strategy tables are wide-ranging and should only serve as a starting point for project evaluation. Detailed costs will be developed as a particular project or strategy would be selected for implementation.

## Organization of Recommendations

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
I: Administration .....	4-3
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III: Greenways and Open Space .....	4-11
IV: Recreation Programs .....	4-21
V: Recreation Facilities .....	4-23
VI: Trails .....	4-48



## Section I: Administration

General department administration plays a significant role in setting the stage for how well the agency performs. Within a department, the magnitude of Mt. Lebanon's, the administrative structure lays the foundation for managing the department effectively. The administrative structure includes the roles of the Recreation Director, key department staff, other Municipal Department Heads, the Park Advisory Board, the Mt. Lebanon School District, youth sports organizations and other community agencies. It deals with key issues such as community involvement, intergovernmental cooperation, cooperation with community groups, managing and supervising staff, dealing effectively with residents and patrons, planning, public input and a host of other concerns. This study includes an evaluation of the administration of the Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department. This analysis describes the current status of the department and makes recommendations for future adjustments.

### Key Recommendation:

*Support continued and enhanced cooperative efforts between the Municipality, the School District and local organizations.*

Cooperation among the Municipality, the Mt. Lebanon School District and local organizations is crucial to the community's successful recreation, park and open space system. As the needs arise for facility improvements, new facilities and additional programming, cooperation will prove essential. Fulfillment of the goals outlined in this Plan will be truly completed only through the combined efforts of several entities.

### GOAL

*To strive to make available personnel, financing and on-going maintenance to support the open space, recreation facilities and programs needed to continually fulfill the community's on-going needs.*

### Parks Advisory Board

If it is to deal strictly and specifically with parks and open space, the stated function of the Park Advisory Board is very appropriate. However, we believe the function of the Board falls short by not including recreation as part of its purpose. Because of the inter-relationship between parks and recreation in Mt. Lebanon, it would seem appropriate to include recreation as an integral part of the Board's function.

Currently, the Recreation Director, who really has very little to do with park management but rather with recreation management, serves as liaison to the Board. It would be much more appropriate for the Recreation Director to work with a combined Park and Recreation Board in conjunction with someone from the Public Works Department.



Table 4-1

<b>IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES</b>				
<b>Administration</b>				

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
<b>General</b>					
A1	H	Clarify the role of the Park Advisory Board. Adjust the stated function of the Board to include recreation as part of its purpose.  <i>Director of Recreation, Parks Advisory Board, Superintendent of Public Works</i>	\$ N/A	N/A	/ /
A2	H	Include the Public Works Director or a departmental designee as a regular attendee of the Park Advisory Board meetings.  <i>Parks Advisory Board, Public Works Director</i>	\$ N/A	N/A	/ /
A3	H	Formalize and clarify the role of the Director of Recreation as the position relates to the Parks Advisory Board.  <i>Director of Recreation, Municipal Manager, Parks Advisory Board</i>	\$ N/A	N/A	/ /
A4	H	Formalize the existing cooperative relationship between the Municipality's Recreation Department and the School District regarding the use of recreation facilities. This should ultimately result in a written document.  <i>Director of Recreation, Municipal Manager, School Board</i>	\$ N/A	N/A	/ /

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
A5		Formalize the role and function of the committee formed to address sports facility issues and demands. The committee should consist of the School District Superintendent, School Board representative, Athletic Director and maintenance staff of the School District, the Municipality's Recreation Director, Board of Commissioners representative, and representatives of the Youth Sports Alliance.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Director of Recreation, School Board and Superintendent, Board of Commissioners</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
A6		Adopt Mt. Lebanon's Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan, 2001 as the basis for establishing a formal planning system for recreation, parks and open space within the Municipality. Require the preparation and adoption of a Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan every seven to ten years			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Board of Commissioners</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
A7		Implement a sophisticated, computerized registration system that has the ability to track program registrations, programs, facility use, finances, user and program profiles, and can provide a variety of reports from which these can be analyzed.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Director of Recreation, MIS Director</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
A8		Take a proactive role in developing regional recreation initiatives. Coordinate a group of municipal representatives from surrounding municipalities to begin discussion of such initiatives.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Director of Recreation, Board of Commissioners</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
A9		Continue to develop the Parks and Recreation link on the Municipality's web page and utilize local cable access to publicize information on programs, facilities and events.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
A10		Ensure the continuation of a successful public input process in future recreation and open space planning efforts, including public meetings, continued involvement of the Parks Advisory Board, and other input venues.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Director of Recreation, Parks Advisory Board</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
A11		The Mt. Lebanon Parks Advisory Board should adopt Mt. Lebanon's vision for the future of recreation as its Mission (identified in this Plan). The Board will then assist in providing direction for the implementation of the Plan's recommendations.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Director of Recreation, Director of Public Works</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
A13		Adopt a policy to address ADA issues related to parks and recreation.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Director of Recreation, Municipal Manager</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
A14		Adopt a planning process such as the "three tier system" illustrated as part of this study.			
	<i>M</i>	<i>Director of Recreation, Municipal Manager</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
A15		Implement internet registrations as alternatives to the current phone, drop-in and mail-in registration.			
	<i>M</i>	<i>Director of Recreation, Municipal Manager, MIS Director</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<b><i>High: \$0</i></b>	<b><i>Medium: \$15,000</i></b>	<b><i>Low: \$0</i></b>	<b><i>Total: \$15,000</i></b>

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>	
<b>Personnel</b>						
P1	Hire a part-time clerical/registration assistant.	<i>H</i>	<i>Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>	<i>Recreation Department Budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
P2	Hire a full-time program assistant.	<i>M</i>	<i>Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>Recreation Department Budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
P3	Create and adopt a volunteer management policy.	<i>M</i>	<i>Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
P4	Explore opportunities for additional office space as additional employees are hired.	<i>L</i>	<i>Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
P5	Expand the Municipality's use of volunteers for parks and recreation.	<i>L</i>	<i>Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<b><u>High: \$25,000</u></b>	<b><u>Medium: \$50,000</u></b>	<b><u>Low: \$0</u></b>	<b><u>Total: \$75,000</u></b>	

**Maintenance**

M 1	Adopt a policy for resource-based solutions to engineering problems within municipal parks. Park maintenance training may include pesticide applicator's license, playground safety standards, etc.				
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>\$5,000 / year</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
M 2	Utilize turf management practices that make fields more playable, promote optimum stormwater infiltration and decrease use of chemicals within municipal parks.				
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
M 3	Develop a cooperative program with the School District to develop a volunteer program for students to perform community service hours within municipal parks.				
	<i>H</i>	<i>Directors of Recreation and Public Works, School Board</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>volunteer labor</i>	<i> / /</i>
M 4	Dedicate additional man hours of public works employees to routine maintenance within municipal parks.				
	<i>H</i>	<i>Director of Public Works</i>	<i>\$ varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<b><i>High: \$5,000</i></b>	<b><i>Medium: \$0</i></b>	<b><i>Low: \$0</i></b>	<b><i>Total: \$5,000</i></b>

## Section II: Financing

### Key Recommendation:

*Establish a non-profit foundation to receive funds for recreation parks and open space.*

Financing of facility improvements, new facilities and the implementation of this plan will necessitate the utilization of alternative forms of funding, in addition to those from the municipal budget. A proven alternative to municipal funds is the establishment of a non-profit foundation to receive funds for community projects, such as those recommended by this Plan for recreation, parks and open space.

### Capital Improvements

The recommendations of this Plan do not include significant capital improvements. There are, however, several recommendations to conduct feasibility studies on the Municipality's major recreation facilities (ice rink, swimming pool, recreation center). Depending on the outcome of these studies, renovations, additions or new facilities may be recommended as considerations for upcoming years. Therefore, it is recommended that the Municipality be aware of the potential for a five to seven million dollar capital improvements program within the next several years to improve/expand upon the existing recreation facilities. This will include funds from the municipal budget, fund-raising campaigns and grants. Additionally, if Municipal officials decide that the Mt. Lebanon Ice Rink is to continue operation, it may be beneficial for the Municipality to examine the facility's energy efficiency for the potential to reduce expenditures.

### GOAL

*To explore creative funding opportunities, including grants and cooperative efforts with the School District and other area organizations.*

Refer to *Appendix E* for a detailed listing of potential funding and support sources to supplement both municipal funds and those generated by a non-profit foundation.



Table 4-2

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

### Financing

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
F 1	<i>H</i>	<i>Directors of Recreation and Finance</i>	<i>\$ 30,000</i>	<i>DCNR, municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
Conduct a swimming pool feasibility study to determine the best course of action in upgrading the existing pool or construction of a new facility.					
F 2	<i>H</i>	<i>Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
Increase use of grant funding for parks and recreation capital projects.					
F 3	<i>H</i>	<i>Director of Recreation, School Board</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
Explore the possibility of jointly pursuing a new community center in conjunction with the School District.					
F 4	<i>M</i>	<i>Directors of Recreation and Finance</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>	<i>DCNR, municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
Conduct a feasibility study for the Ice Rink to determine its financial and programmatic feasibility for the future, in conjunction with the recreation center feasibility study.					
F 5	<i>M</i>	<i>Directors of Recreation and Finance, Municipal Manager, Board of Commissioners</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
Establish a complete financial policy that would create individual cost centers, identifying for each how fees are to be determined, what the expected cost recovery is, and compare revenues to expenses.					

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
F 6		Produce an annual report for the department that will include program and facility highlights, attendances (listed by facility and program classification), financial data, goals and plans for the future, and a review of progress made toward the implementation of the Vision for the Future.			
	<i>M</i>	<i>Directors of Recreation and Finance</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>	<i>municipal budget, advertisers</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
F 7		Identify all cost centers or revenue centers within the Recreation Center for financial reporting purposes.			
	<i>M</i>	<i>Director of Finance</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
F 8		Develop a funding strategy and policy (set guidelines, not ordinances). The following should be addressed: what types of programs should the Municipality support; should total or partial funding of programs and related facilities be provided; what types of programs should be self-sufficient; what expenses should program fees cover; how program fee rates are established.			
	<i>M</i>	<i>Director of Finance</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
F 9		Create a non-profit foundation to receive contributions for parks and recreation expansion.			
	<i>M</i>	<i>Director of Finance</i>	<i>\$2,500</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
F 10		Conduct a feasibility study to determine the feasibility of the expansion or renovation of the existing recreation center.			
	<i>L</i>	<i>Directors of Recreation and Finance</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>	<i>DCNR, municipal budget</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<b>High: \$30,000</b>	<b>Medium: \$66,500</b>	<b>Low: \$0</b>	<b>Total: \$96,500</b>

## Section III: Greenways and Open Space

Greenways and open space provide multi-faceted benefits to the Mt. Lebanon community in very unique ways. Given the highly developed nature of the community, natural spaces are at a minimum and function differently than they would in a more rural area. Nature is an important part of Mt. Lebanon's identity. Picturesque tree-lined streets offer a unique residential setting seldom found in many densely populated areas. Vegetative buffers separate neighborhoods within the Municipality, giving each an individual identity and providing visual barriers between developed areas. Existing natural spaces provide wonderful opportunities for education. Pockets of open space in the heart of a densely populated residential community offer residents highly accessible opportunities for environmental education and everyday interaction with nature. The designation, conservation and proper management of Mt. Lebanon's greenways and open spaces are key to the conservation of the community's heritage, natural resources and recreation.

### GOAL

*To acknowledge the importance of undeveloped natural areas and street trees within the community through education of the public, proper designation, protection and continued management.*

### The Benefits

A recent report from the Trust for Public Land examined how communities can benefit from greenways and open space. The results conclude that the development of a greenway and open space system attracts businesses and residents, stimulates revitalization, brings in tourism dollars, provides flood control and serves to protect the overall natural environment.

Additional benefits of greenways and open space include:

- ✓ **Environmental protection:** Greenways and open space protect wildlife and habitats, wetlands, and steep slopes; reduce landslides and flooding; and improve water quality.
- ✓ **Educational opportunities:** Greenways and open space are ideal sites for students and the general public to observe and study natural systems.
- ✓ **Increase property values:** Greenways and open spaces can attract residents and improve property values.
- ✓ **Improve recreation opportunities:** Greenways and open space can include trails for walking, cycling, and skiing.
- ✓ **Connect parks and cultural features:** Greenway corridors and open spaces can incorporate parks, gamelands, trails and historic sites, creating linkages for both wildlife and recreation users.

## Greenways

Typically, greenway corridors are linear undeveloped spaces established along a natural corridor, such as a stream, or overland along a railroad right-of-way or road. Greenway corridors are often designed to link wetlands, steep slope areas and wildlife habitat; and can include trailways, parks and historic sites. Every greenway is unique and the purpose and uses of greenway corridors often overlap.

There are five general types of greenway corridors:

1. Urban riverside greenway, developed as part of renovation of run-down waterfront areas
2. Environmentally significant natural corridors, often along rivers and streams
3. Scenic and historic routes along a road or highway, often providing pedestrian access or “points of view”
4. Recreational greenways, featuring trails, may be based on man-made corridors (such as railbeds) or natural corridors
5. Comprehensive greenway systems, usually based on natural corridors, but sometimes arbitrarily designed to link parks, schools and other cultural nodes

## Riparian Buffers

Riparian buffers protect stream quality and should be carefully considered when restoring the natural features of the Municipality. Riparian buffers help to control sedimentation, reduce pollution associated with runoff, provide habitat for wildlife and enhance the potential for recreational opportunities.

Riparian buffers enhance the natural quality of the stream environment in the following ways:

- ▶ slow flood waters and reduce the volume of water through root absorption
- ▶ improve water quality by filtering runoff and promoting sediment deposition
- ▶ allow water storage in plant roots and provide pathways to ground water layers
- ▶ provide canopy cover which shades and cools the stream and improving habitat conditions for in-stream organisms, this shade also provides relief from extreme heat for terrestrial animals
- ▶ provide habitat for a variety of birds and small mammals
- ▶ provide great opportunities for recreational activities such as fishing, hiking and bird watching

Existing riparian buffers within the Municipality are limited and

their protection is a high priority. There are two primary waterways within the Municipality: Painters Run, with a watershed of 4.42 square miles, and Scrubgrass Run, with a watershed of 1.53 square miles. Both streams flow into Chartiers Creek. There are also numerous unnamed tributaries to Painters Run and the McDonough's Run tributary to Sawmill Run, which has a watershed area of 19.4 square miles. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Water Quality Standards, the streams within the Municipality are designated as Warm Water Fisheries. This designation provides for the maintenance and propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna which are indigenous to a warm water habitat.

As the case with streams in heavily-populated areas across the United States, all streams within the Municipality are affected by urban runoff, erosion and sedimentation.

The information on the following pages includes guidelines for the enhancement of riparian zones through streambank restoration and through the designation and enhancement of greenway corridors.

### ***Guidelines for Maintaining and Enhancing Riparian Functions in a Greenway***

*Source: Adapted from Loring Schwaz, eds., Greenways (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 1993)*

- ▶ Make greenway corridors continuous along each side of a stream if possible.
- ▶ Include in the greenway the stream's floodplain, riparian forest, associated wetlands, intermittent tributaries, gullies, swales, and upland areas if possible.
- ▶ If possible, undertake a comprehensive study of the site's sediment and nutrient flow to establish how much is entering the riparian zone and how much it will need to filter.
- ▶ Maintain a band of natural vegetation along the stream bank

to protect the water temperature moderation function. Avoid mowing stream-side vegetation, as this practice will decrease the vegetation's filtering effectiveness and lessen wildlife habitat value.

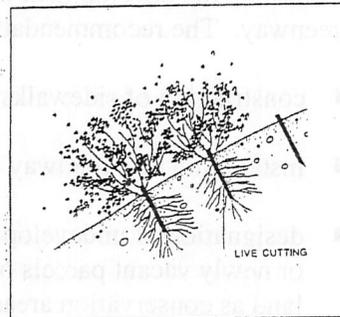
- ▶ Supplement the natural sediment trapping function of the greenway with retention basins or vegetated berms where necessary.
- ▶ Advocate the use of best management practices-terraces, strip cropping, vegetated buffer strips-by private landowners in your watershed to reduce nonpoint pollution of your stream.
- ▶ Become familiar with signs of erosion, sedimentation and pollution in your stream. Contact trained professional for advice about erosion control.
- ▶ Keep people, cars and grazing animals away from the edge of the water.
- ▶ Build steps or a ramp between the top and bottom of a bank if you need access to the water.
- ▶ It may be necessary, depending on the condition of upstream riparian forest buffers, to rehabilitate or revegetate upstream areas.
- ▶ Carefully review the practice of mowing stream banks and removing vegetation. Plant trees to provide shade and food, prevent erosion and encourage the uptake of nutrients.
- ▶ Conduct stream restoration projects, stream cleanups and bank stabilization projects or build spawning beds in creeks for fish.
- ▶ Carefully consider any new development in the floodplain. If facilities do not need to be located in the forage portion, find an alternate site.



## Streambank Restoration Guidelines

### Live Stake

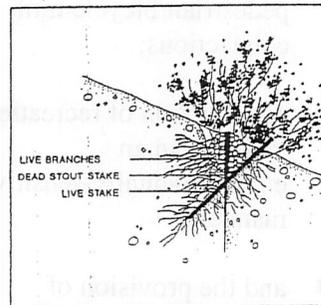
Live stakes are living, woody plant cuttings capable of rooting with relative ease. The cuttings are large enough and long enough to be tamped into the ground as stakes. They are intended to root and grow into mature shrubs that, over time, will serve to stabilize the soils, enrich the riparian zone for habitat restoration and improve water quality. Typically, this is the simplest and least expensive system to organize and install.



Live Stake

### Live Fascine

Live fascine structures are sausage-like bundles of live cut branches. They are tied together securely and set into trenches on the stream bank. Normally, they are placed on contour in the slope face. They are shallowly installed and create little site disturbance compared with other systems, such as a live cribwall, which requires in-stream work. To be successful, these systems require careful assessment and installation.

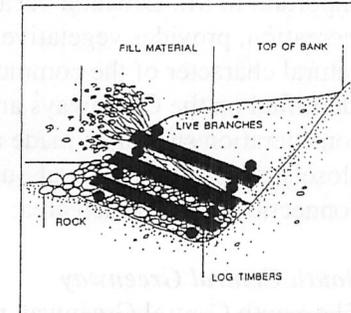


Live Fascine

Source: Robbin Sotir, Robbin Sotir and Associates

### Live Cribwall

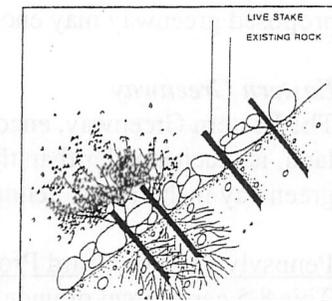
A live cribwall installation is a rectangular framework of logs or timbers, rock and woody cuttings that can protect an eroding stream bank on fast-flowing steep gradient streams. Live cribwalls require thorough assessment and a full understanding of stream hydraulics. Compared with other soil bioengineering systems, live cribwall installations are complicated and expensive to design and install.



Live Cribwall

### Joint Planting

The joint planting system involves installation of live stakes between previously placed rip rap rock. It serves as an adjunctive backup, intended to increase the effectiveness of the conventional system by forming a living soil mat in the material base upon which the rip rap has been placed. The rock needs to be loosely dumped or no thicker than two feet in depth. Joint planting is an excellent way to combine soil bioengineering with conventional systems.



Joint Planting

## The Mt. Lebanon Greenway System

Undeveloped open space and vegetative cover in the Municipality exists primarily on steep slopes within parks. These areas are important to Mt. Lebanon because they offer opportunities for recreation, provides vegetative buffers and preserves the remaining natural character of the community. Two proposed greenways are identified on the Greenways and Open Space Map. Careful consideration should be made and further study undertaken to closely examine the natural qualities and potential for greenway connections within each area.

### *South Central Greenway*

The South Central Greenway runs along the southern part of the Municipality, along Gilkeson Road and up Cedar Boulevard to include Iroquois, Bird and Main Parks. This area is the larger of the two proposed greenways. It encompasses five municipal parks: Iroquois, Main, Bird, Robb Hollow, Hoodridge, and Highland Terrace Parks. Also included in this area are several acres of undeveloped steep slopes and a parcel of land owned by the Municipality that is zoned a conservation district. In total, the proposed greenway may encompass approximately 375 acres.

### *Eastern Greenway*

The Eastern Greenway, encompassing approximately 30 acres of land, is much smaller than the South Central Greenway. This greenway includes the Pennsylvania Boulevard property.

### Pennsylvania Boulevard Property

This 8.5 acre parcel of undeveloped land is under consideration for purchase by the Municipality as of the writing of this report. The acquisition of this land for open space preservation and the development of passive recreation facilities is strongly recommended.

### On-Going Development

As a Greenways and Open Space Plan is implemented over the next several years, improvements to the greenway corridor will be made incrementally. The unique character of the designated areas will necessitate the development of recommendations specific to each greenway. The recommendations may include:

- construction of sidewalks with street trees;
- installation of a roadway median with planting beds;
- designation of undeveloped or newly vacant parcels of land as conservation areas;
- implementation of a forest management plan;
- tree planting program site;
- development of pedestrian/bicycle trail connections;
- construction of recreation facilities in an environmentally-sensitive manner;
- and the provision of environmental education opportunities.



## Natural Areas within Parks

Municipal parks play an important role in greenway and open space conservation. It is within these parks that a majority of Mt. Lebanon's undeveloped open space and potential for greenway designation exist. In addition to the potential incorporation into the larger greenways system (as previously mentioned), these open spaces provide a variety of unique opportunities that should be explored, including:

- ▶ Buffers between use zones:  
Within each municipal park, several types of recreational activities may take place. Large parks, such as Mt. Lebanon Park may contain areas of conflicting use types within close proximity to one another. Often, natural or enhanced vegetative buffers will provide a visual and sound buffer that allow such uses to successfully continue within the same park.
  
- ▶ Conservation of natural areas  
Unique natural areas exist within some of the Municipalities parks. Key "pockets" of natural areas within the parks, as identified by the Open Space Management Plan should be designated as conservation areas and managed according to the Plan's recommendations. These areas may encompass park land that provides opportunities for passive recreation or environmental education.
  
- ▶ Environmental education opportunities:  
The natural areas within some Municipal Parks currently provide opportunities for environmental education. Proper management of these areas will allow for the continuation of this activity. Additional educational opportunities within the parks should be explored as well.

## Natural Open Space Management Plan

The development of an Open Space Management Plan is recommended by this study to provide management strategies specific to the unique natural areas within the Municipality. This Plan should be long-range in scope and provide direction for future maintenance and development of all municipally-owned natural areas. Key to this plan will be the re-establishment of all layers of the forest structure (ground covers, shrubs, young trees, canopy trees). The ultimate goal of the plan will be to accelerate succession to result in a mature woodland forest, including plant species native to the area. The Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy currently examines the ecological health of the Municipality's natural areas. See Appendix F, Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy's Park Guidelines.



Table 4-3

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES Greenways and Open Space

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
GOS 1		Develop a open space management plan for all undeveloped land within the Municipality. Consult a forest ecologist during the development of the plan, as well as on an as-needed basis as the plan is implemented.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Nature Conservancy, Director of Public Works, Board of Commissioners, Parks Advisory Board</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>		<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
GOS 2		Implement the open space management plan. Divide each municipally-owned park and natural area into zones for staged implementation of the plan over several years. Within each section, work with a forest ecologist to remove invasive species and introduce native vegetation.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Nature Conservancy, Park Advisory Board, Director of Public Works, Volunteers</i>	<i>\$25,000 / year</i>	<i>municipal budget/grants</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
GOS 3		Identify, develop and foster cooperative relationships with surrounding municipalities to work toward the development of a regional greenway system that includes natural areas within several communities.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Director of Recreation, Nature Conservancy</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>on-going</i>
GOS 4		Consider the designation of key natural areas within municipal parks as conservation districts, according to the Municipality's zoning ordinance.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Planning Commission, Nature Conservancy, Parks Advisory Board</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
GOS 5		Develop and adopt a plant list for use by the Municipality for all future vegetative plantings within municipal parks. This list should only include species native to the forest community found in this area of Western Pennsylvania.			
	<i>M</i>	<i>Board of Commissioners, Nature Conservancy, Director of Public Works</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
GOS 6		Develop and implement a streambank restoration plan for key stream segments within the Municipality.			
	<i>M</i>	<i>Nature Conservancy, Director of Public Works</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>DCNR</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
GOS 7		Actively undertake a program for the enhancement of wildlife habitat within municipally-owned natural areas. This could include nesting boxes for birds and small mammals.			
	<i>M</i>	<i>Nature Conservancy</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>volunteer materials and labor</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
GOS 8		Establish a policy to discourage the cutting down of healthy trees with a diameter of breast height (dbh) of 8 inches or more. (Source: Mt. Lebanon Comprehensive Plan, 2000)			
	<i>L</i>	<i>Director of Public Works, Nature Conservancy</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>incorporate into management plan</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
GOS 9		Develop and adopt a revised planting list for street trees that includes additional species native to western Pennsylvania.			
	<i>L</i>	<i>Street Tree Commission, Director of Public Works</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<b><i>High: \$40,000</i></b>	<b><i>Medium: \$50,000</i></b>	<b><i>Low: \$0</i></b>	<b><i>Total: \$90,000</i></b>

# Greenways and Open Space

## LEGEND

-  Natural Areas
-  Municipal Parks
-  Municipal Conservation Area
-  Potential Greenways
-  Riparian Zone



DATE: 7/25/01

FIGURE NUMBER:

4 - 4

### *Greenways and Open Space*

Municipality of Mt. Lebanon  
Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan



## Section IV: Recreation Programming

The following chart details program deficiencies. The listing of possible programs are only suggestions. It is certainly not intended to be an exhaustive list but rather to stimulate the imagination of Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department program staff. A good means of continuing program creativity is to attend program workshops offered by the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, National Recreation and Park Association, and others. It is also good for program staff to make a habit of visiting other recreation departments to see first-hand what they have to offer. Another suggestion is get on the mailing list of recreation departments around the country. Most recreation departments produce seasonal brochures and are happy to share that information with other departments.

### GOAL

*To provide a well-publicized variety of recreational programming that offers opportunities for individuals and groups of all ages to participate in an interactive manner.*

Table 4-5

Program Deficiencies	Possible Programs
<i>Youth Non Sports Programming</i>	After-school general recreational programming. Weekly arts and crafts programs. Saturday morning recreation. Expanded Theme-Oriented Summer Day Camps, ie. Science, model rocketry, music, art, drama. Youth drama team.
<i>Pre-school Programming</i>	Pre-school gym. Mother-tot programs. Weekly drop-in play time with unique apparatus not generally available to families (ball pit, parachute, big wheel traffic course, etc.) Parent-tot swimming.
<i>Teen Programming</i>	Expand the teen center to include more frequent and different activities. It would be a natural fit for the Recreation Department to play a lead role in this but the parents and teens must be actively involved. Teen Drama troupe. Skate facility . Extreme games.
<i>Senior Programming</i>	Art classes and shows. Dances. A senior organization that would play a lead role in recreational and social program development.
<i>Special Events</i>	Summer Family Carnival. Winter Carnival. Family Halloween event (pumpkin carving contest, scarecrow contest, etc.) Water Carnival at the pool.



Table 4-6

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

### Recreation Programming

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
RP 1	Provide additional opportunities for cultural programming. (i.e. trips to cultural sites in the City of Pittsburgh)				
	<i>H</i>	<i>Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>self-funded</i>	<i> / /</i>
RP 2	Program staff should continually keep current on new program ideas by attending programming conferences and visiting other departments.				
	<i>H</i>	<i>Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
RP 3	Work towards implementing program ideas to fill the program deficiencies identified in the study, including teen and senior programming.				
	<i>M</i>	<i>Director of Recreation, Recreation Assistant</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
RP 4	Build upon existing programs to develop a formal environmental education program that capitalizes on natural features within the community. These programs could be run by the Municipality in cooperation with the School District and local organizations.				
	<i>M</i>	<i>Director of Recreation, School Board</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>DCNR grants, School District</i>	<i> / /</i>
RP 5	Create an option for on-line evaluation of programs and facilities by residents and program participants.				
	<i>L</i>	<i>Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
RP 6	Create opportunities that capitalize on the availability of retirees for the instruction of recreation programs and activities.				
	<i>L</i>	<i>Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>volunteer hours</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<b><i>High: \$5,000</i></b>	<b><i>Medium: \$10,000</i></b>	<b><i>Low: \$0</i></b>	<b><i>Total: \$15,000</i></b>

## Section V: Recreation Facilities

### GOAL

*To foster cooperative efforts with the School District and local organizations to provide indoor and outdoor recreation facilities for multiple types of recreation activities, programs and organizations.*

#### Key Recommendations:

##### ***Develop a municipality-wide trail system.***

Recreational trails throughout the community were identified as a high priority throughout the public participation process. Mt. Lebanon residents highlighted the need for pedestrian and bicycle trails that could be used for walking, rollerblading and biking, as well as alternative transportation routes between community focal points. This Plan sets the stage for the development of a municipality-wide trail system. The proposed major routes in the system are comprised of on-road bicycle lanes that connect the library, schools, parks and other points of interest. Within the municipal parks, wide loop trails for jogging and walking, as well as wood-chip trails for hiking and environmental education are recommended. The variety of uses, from transportation to outdoor exploration, will surely make the Mt. Lebanon Trail System a valuable asset to the community.

##### ***Enhance or replace outdated playground equipment in municipally-owned neighborhood parks.***

Mt. Lebanon's neighborhood parks are essential to the community's successful recreation, park and open space system. Due to their proximity to most residential areas, these facilities provide everyday recreational opportunities for residents. Families with children are the primary users of neighborhood parks, capitalizing on the availability of playground equipment so close to home. Therefore, as the primary point of resident's interaction with the Mt. Lebanon recreation system, it is important to ensure the availability of safe, attractive and varied playground equipment in neighborhood parks. The recommendations of this Plan include the enhancement of existing play equipment through upgrading and replacement of existing facilities. A phased plan should be developed to guide the incremental upgrading and replacement of outdated playground equipment in Municipal parks.

##### ***Fund several feasibility studies to assess existing recreation facilities in greater detail.***

The development of this Plan brought to light the need for detailed exploration of specific Municipal recreation facilities. This Plan includes recommendations for the development of feasibility studies for two existing facilities. Recognized as key assets to the Mt. Lebanon recreation system, the future of the community's swimming pool and ice rink should be closely examined to determine an appropriate course of action. Additionally, discussion of the possibility for a new community center through this planning process has resulted in a need for a community center feasibility study to assess demand, financial feasibility and potential locations. As a result of these feasibility studies, the Municipality will be able to make informed decisions regarding the role these facilities will play in future recreation within the community.



## Sports Fields

Mt. Lebanon residents have available a variety of organized sports organizations to join. Team sports are an important part of the recreational system within the Municipality. Many residents use parks for the purpose of playing or watching others play organized sports.

As discussed in the Facilities Section of Chapter 2, comparisons to national standards can be used as a point of beginning in determining the appropriate number of recreation facilities for a community. Changes in regional and local trends will influence the use of sports facilities within the Municipality. Currently, organized sports facilities in the Mt. Lebanon are faced with increasing pressure as sports teams grow in number. Growth in the popularity of soccer and the rise of sports such as lacrosse has resulted in an increasing demand for practice and game facilities. Additionally, heavy use of fields that were not constructed for intense use is worsening the problem.

The need for additional field time for organized sports teams is evident from public input, increasing program enrollment, and analysis of existing facilities. Construction of new sports fields, however, is limited by the lack of undeveloped land within the Municipality. A deficit can be filled through a variety of options other than construction of new facilities. They may include the following:

- ✓ Cooperative efforts with the school district to provide adequate facilities.
- ✓ Improved field infrastructure to withstand heavy use and stormwater runoff.
- ✓ Cooperative efforts with surrounding municipalities to identify opportunities to provide sports fields for the region.

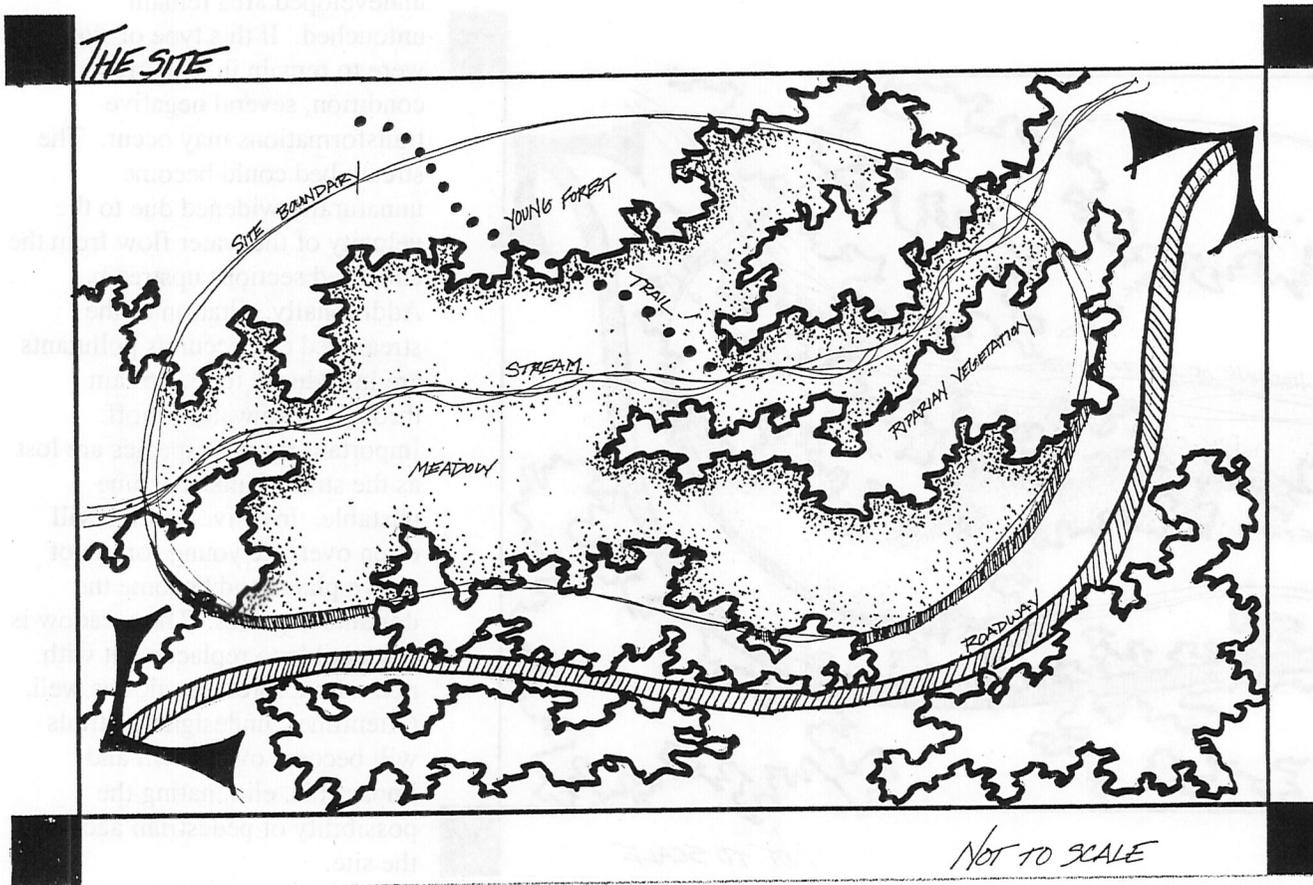
## Future Park Development

At the writing of this report, a vast majority of the land within the Municipality is developed and few opportunities exist for the construction of new recreation facilities. However, as limited possibilities for the fulfillment of on-going needs for recreation opportunities within the municipalities are explored, several factors highlight the need for sensitive consideration of future sites. For example, the existence of a limited amount of undeveloped land within the Municipality's borders, the potential for redevelopment within the Municipality, the possibility of adding additional facilities within current municipal parks and further exploration of land acquisition opportunities beyond municipal borders. Within the context of new park development or further development of existing parks, it is important to emphasize the fact that undeveloped land of any kind (intended for construction or preservation) is at a premium.

Throughout the public input process, two key issues among those identified as important to the community were the preservation of natural spaces and the provision of adequate sports facilities. These issues, in combination with the limited amount of undeveloped land within the Municipality, necessitated a special Study Group meeting to set the groundwork for the Municipality to develop and adopt a philosophy for the management of undeveloped land in relationship to recreation facilities.

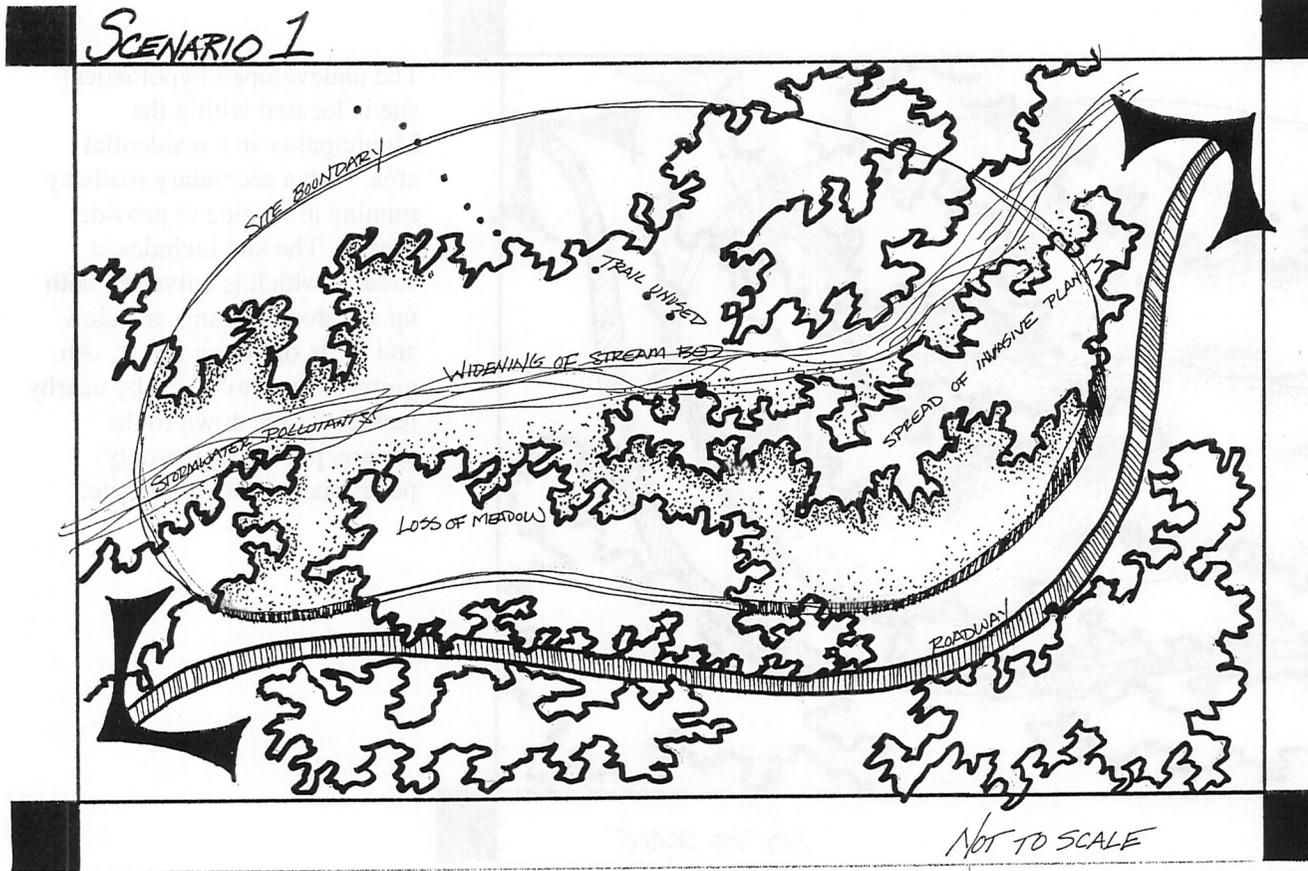
The Group discussed three possible scenarios for future park development, all based on a hypothetical parcel of undeveloped land. An illustration and description of the site and each of the three options can be found on the following pages. As noted in the meeting minutes for the Special Study Group Meeting, scenario three was supported by a large majority of study group members. This scenario illustrates the potential for construction of sports fields, active and passive recreation opportunities within undeveloped parcels or existing parks in a manner that balances several needs.

Figure 4-7: A Hypothetical Site



The undeveloped hypothetical site is located within the Municipality in a residential area, with a secondary roadway running alongside to provide access. The site includes, a stream (which is culverted both up and downstream), meadow and areas of young forest. An unimproved trail worn by nearby residents runs down to the stream, providing the only pedestrian access to the site.

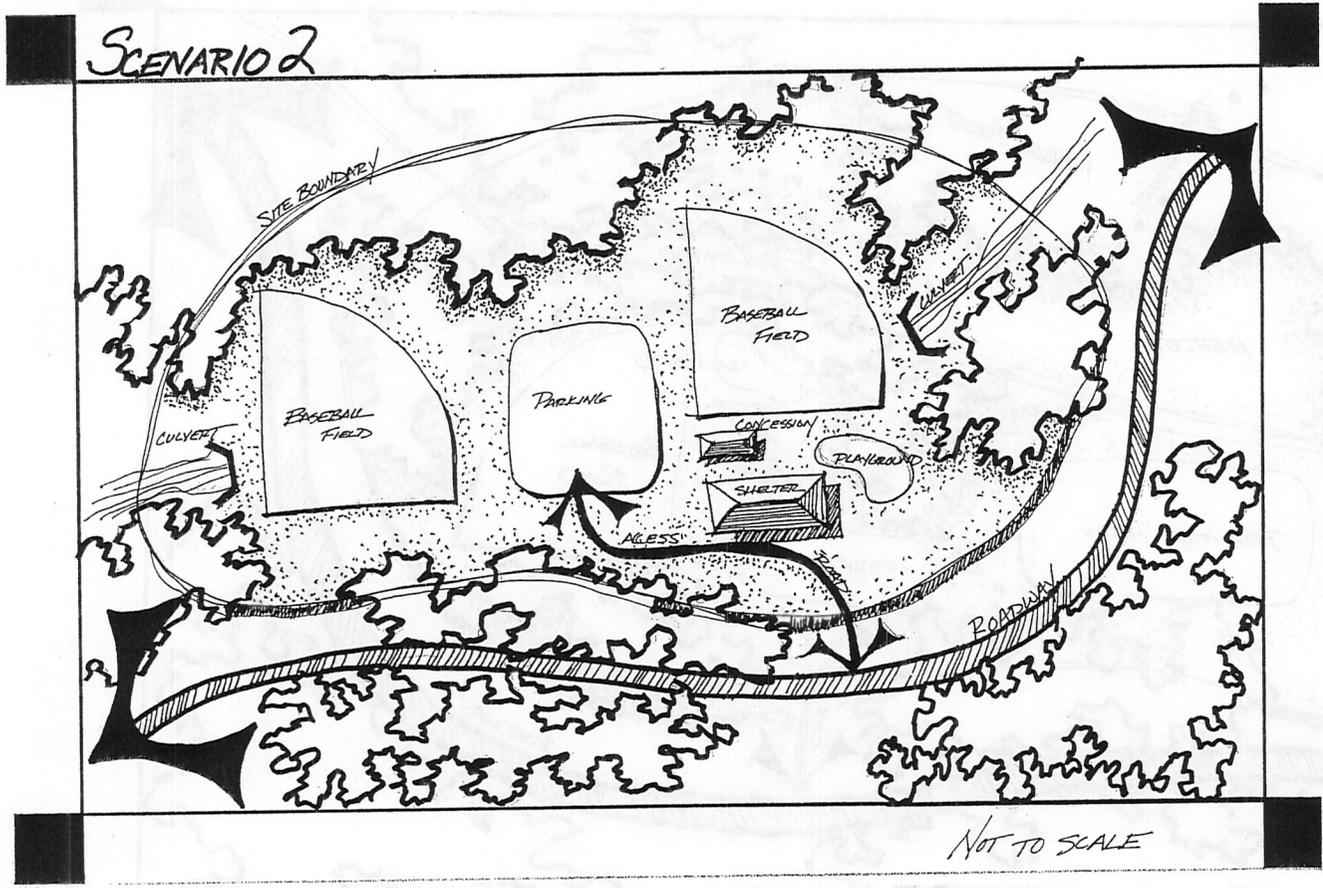
Figure 4-8: Scenario 1 - Remains Untouched



The first scenario suggests that the undeveloped area remain untouched. If this type of site were to remain in its current condition, several negative transformations may occur. The stream bed could become unnaturally widened due to the velocity of the water flow from the culverted sections upstream. Additionally, siltation of the streambed can occur as pollutants are introduced to the stream through stormwater runoff. Important riparian species are lost as the streambanks become unstable. Invasive species will often overtake young forests of native plants and become the dominant species. The meadow is susceptible to replacement with non-native forest species as well. Oftentimes, undesignated trails will become overgrown and impassible, eliminating the possibility of pedestrian access to the site.

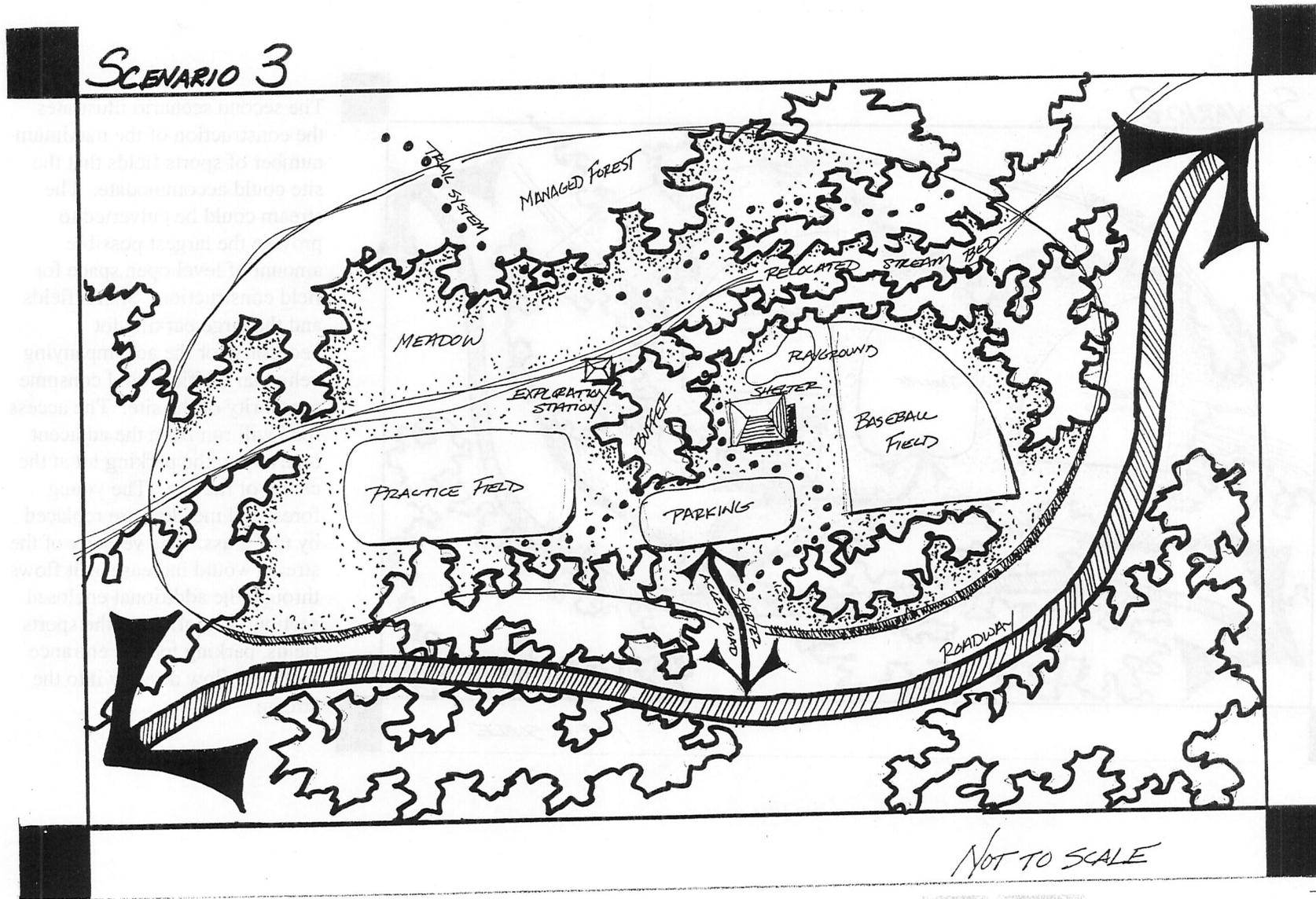


Figure 4-9: Scenario 2 - Maximize Potential for Sports Fields



The second scenario illustrates the construction of the maximum number of sports fields that the site could accommodate. The stream could be culverted to provide the largest possible amount of level open space for field construction. Sports fields and the large parking lot necessary for the accompanying vehicular traffic would consume a majority of the site. The access road will run from the adjacent roadway to the parking lot at the center of the site. The young forest and meadow are replaced by turf grass. The velocity of the stream would increase as it flows through the additional enclosed section. Runoff from the sports fields, parking lot and entrance road will flow directly into the stream.

Figure 4-10: Scenario 3 - A Balance of Active and Passive Recreation



The third scenario offers a compromise, including elements of the first two scenarios. The construction of one sports field and a practice field reduces the impact on the site. The stream is relocated to provide the needed area for the sports field development. However, this relocation could include natural enhancements such as streambank stabilization measures, streambed enhancements to slow the water flow to a more natural level and the enhancement of riparian buffers. A forest management program will mitigate the impacts of non-native plant species and proper maintenance of meadow areas will ensure their continuation. The enhanced stream and surrounding vegetation could offer unique opportunities for environmental education. Site access is provided from the adjacent roadway by a short park road that leads to a gravel parking lot, appropriately sized for the type of activity taking place. Accessible trails are constructed and maintained, as part of the management plan to allow pedestrian access to the site from the surrounding neighborhoods.

#### ***Setting Guidelines for Future Development***

The future development of new parks and recreation facilities or the expansion of existing facilities will significantly impact the future of recreation, parks and open space in the Municipality. This Plan recommends that the Municipality further develop and formally adopt guidelines for future development within new or existing parks to ensure the fulfillment of its recreation, parks and open space goals in a balanced manner. These guidelines should address, but are not limited to, the following topics.

#### **Buffers**

Natural buffers can be beneficial on a small scale, separating use zones within a municipal park. Vegetative buffers are important to providing a successful balance of recreation opportunities, while conserving natural areas. Buffer areas will vary greatly in size, type and function, but not in importance to the natural environment or residents' experience within a municipal park.

#### **Active and Passive Recreational Use**

In addition to conserving unique natural features, the function of new or expanded municipal parks is to provide adequate recreational opportunities for area residents. This may include the addition of new facilities or upgrading of existing facilities within municipal parks. It is important to examine the appropriateness of either active or passive recreation, as related to the effected park and ensure that a proper balance is maintained. Additions or improvements to any recreation areas should be done in an environmentally sensitive manner.

#### **Education**

The education of residents is an important role that the municipal park system plays in the community. Municipal facilities currently offer a wide array of opportunities for sports and environmental education. These programs should continue and be expanded. The appropriate facilities within the parks should be made available.

#### **Use Zones**

Consideration of the different types of activities that could occur within municipal parks should be made. Active recreation, passive recreation, and open space conservation are all supported by residents and will impact the potential for the future success of municipal parks. Each municipal park (and the park system as a whole) should be examined with regard to proper distribution and location of these use types in relationship to one another.

#### **Conservation**

Conservation of key natural areas is important to many Mt. Lebanon residents. Open space conservation within the municipality may include reforestation programs or the environmentally-sensitive design of new or upgraded recreational facilities.

## Recreation Facility Service Areas

In Chapter 2 of this document, a Spatial Analysis of recreation facilities within the Municipality was described. Building upon the findings of that assessment, the following recommendations were developed. See figure 2-30, Spatial Analysis Map for additional information.

### ***Bird Park***

Bird Park is currently, and will continue to function as a community park. However, the park's role in the Municipal recreation system is quite different than that of Main Park. The park has historically served as a natural-resource focused facility. The large wooded area and stream valley offer natural qualities, unique to the area. It is these qualities (different from those that facilitate Mt. Lebanon Park's successful use as a community park) that necessitate an evaluation of the park's current function and recommendations for several park improvements, primarily dealing with trails (see recreation facility strategies).

While offering important opportunities for residents to interact with natural elements, this park's use as a community facility is potentially damaging to its long-term viability. In addition to sports activities at the soccer field, the park users primarily walk their dogs, hike and explore nature. Heavy foot traffic has resulted in an overabundance of unmarked trails and erosion of steep slopes. Recommendations for this park focus primarily on the designation, construction and maintenance of trail facilities. See page 4-35 for implementation strategies related to Bird Park.

### ***Upgrading of existing neighborhood parks***

The Spatial Analysis Map (figure 2-30) illustrates the land area serviced by Mt. Lebanon's neighborhood parks. A vast majority of the residential areas within the community fall under services areas for one or more of the existing parks. This illustrates that residents have *access* to neighborhood parks, however, the type and condition of facilities must also be considered when determining level of service.

The playground safety audits of existing playground equipment (see Chapter 2) documents its current condition. Our analysis of these audits concludes that several of the Municipality's neighborhood parks contain playground equipment that is need of repair or replacement. It is recommended that an aggressive plan be adopted for the updating of this equipment over the next several years. Refer to the general recreation facilities implementation strategies for more detailed information.

### ***Developing and fostering future cooperative efforts with the School District.***

The Mt. Lebanon School District plays an important role in providing neighborhood park facilities, including sports fields, for residents of the Municipality. Continued cooperation between the School District and the Municipality is essential if adequate recreation facilities are to be provided.

Cooperation between municipal government and the local school district is often the key to successfully providing adequate recreation facilities. For example, the Municipality of Monroeville recently funded ballfield lighting on a school district field through a DCNR grant. In return, the Municipality was given priority use of the field after school hours.

Currently, cooperative efforts between the Recreation Department and the School District do provide recreation opportunities for residents. An important recommendation of this plan is to continue

this relationship and further enhance it through additional cooperative efforts. Several of the implementation strategies exemplify this relationship.

***Exploring opportunities to provide new neighborhood parks where deficiencies exist as redevelopment occurs.***

Neighborhood park deficiencies exist in the following areas (refer to Spatial Analysis Map for specific locations):

- #1. At the northern end of the Municipality, to the west of Washington Road.
- #2. In the east, central portion of the Municipality, to the north of Mt. Lebanon Boulevard.

While every square mile within the Municipality does not fall within the 1/4 mile neighborhood park service areas, these locations represent residential areas that are farthest from this type of facility. Both areas fall within a portion of the Municipality identified as potential opportunities for redevelopment in the 2000 Comprehensive Plan. Should redevelopment occur, acreage for the development of a neighborhood park facility within each of the zones should be considered.

At the writing of this report, the Municipality is attempting to purchase an eight-acre parcel of land referred to as the Pennsylvania Boulevard Property. The intent is to develop trails and preserve natural areas on this land. With the development of trails and if construction of appropriately-sized playground equipment was considered, this new Municipal Park will provide residents in underserved area #2 with neighborhood park facilities.

Table 4-11

**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**  
**Recreation Facilities**

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
<b>General</b>					
RF 1	H	Park Advisory Board, Board of Commissioners	\$ N/A	municipal budget	___ / ___ / ___
Develop and adopt design development criteria and guidelines for the construction of new recreation facilities within previously undeveloped areas. Build upon the preliminary guidelines discussed in this plan to provide a balance between active and passive recreation.					
RF 2	H	Park Advisory Board, Board of Commissioners	\$ N/A	see strategy #1	___ / ___ / ___
Develop and adopt design development criteria as guidelines for future renovations and construction within existing parks. These criteria could be based upon the guidelines developed for new park development and the open space management plan.					
RF 3	H	Director of Recreation, Municipal Manager, School Board	\$ N/A	N/A	___ / ___ / ___
Explore the possibility of submitting a grant application in conjunction with the School District for the installation of synthetic surfacing on Mellon or Jefferson fields.					
RF 4	M	Director of Recreation, School Board	\$ N/A	N/A	___ / ___ / ___
Assist in the clarification of the policy toward public access to outdoor recreation facilities owned by the School District.					
RF 5	M	Director of Recreation and Public Works Superintendent	\$1,000	volunteer labor and materials	___ / ___ / ___
Provide designated areas on municipally-owned park property for the construction of public community gardens for use by area residents.					

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
RF 6	M	Director of Recreation	\$10,000	municipal budget, sponsors	___ / ___ / ___
RF 7	M	Director of Recreation, Municipal Manager, School Board	\$ N/A	N/A	___ / ___ / ___
RF 8	M	Director of Recreation	\$30,000	DCNR, municipal budget	___ / ___ / ___
RF 9	L	Public Works Foreman	\$25,000	DCNR, municipal budget	___ / ___ / ___
RF 10	L	Parks Advisory Board, Public Works Supervisor	\$225,000	DCNR, municipal budget	___ / ___ / ___

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
RF 11		Upgrade existing sports fields to improve stormwater drainage.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, School District, Directors of Recreation and Public Works</i>	<i>\$150,000</i>	<i>municipal budget, DCNR grants</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<b><u>High: \$151,000</u></b>	<b><u>Medium: \$40,000</u></b>	<b><u>Low: \$250,000</u></b>	<b><u>Total: \$441,000</u></b>

**Mt. Lebanon Park**

ML 1		Remove three bay swings.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
ML 2		Remove both crawl-thru tunnels.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
ML 3		On large play structure, eliminate protrusions by reducing protruding bolts so that no more than two threads are visible.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
ML 4		Large play structure accessible height exceeds 4', the maximum for children 2-5, and should be designated for older children through sign installation.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>\$500</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
ML 5		Maintain safety surface to meet current safety standards. Maintain organic protective surface depth of 12" for all structures.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i>as-needed basis</i>

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
ML 6		On small play structure, bury footings and cover with safety surfacing to meet current standards.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
ML 7		On both swings, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
ML 8		On both swing sets, eliminate protrusions by reducing protruding bolts so that no more than two threads are visible.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
ML 9		On designated tot-swing bays, adjust height of seat to meet current standards of 18" maximum and 12" minimum from ground.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
ML 10		Install new playground equipment to replace equipment recently removed and to provide additional play opportunities.			
	<i>M</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Director of Recreation, Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
ML 11		Consider identifying an appropriate area within the park for a dog park and designate it as such (fencing/signs).			
	<i>L</i>	<i>Park Advisory Board, Director of Public Works</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>	<i>volunteer labor, municipal budget, DCNR</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
ML 12		Develop a trail head within Main Park to provide pedestrian access to the park. See Municipal Trail System Map.			

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
	<i>L</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Public Works Foreman</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>	<i>DCNR, municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>ML 13</b>	Develop a trail head within Main Park to provide access to the community trail system. See Municipal Trail System Map.				
	<i>L</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Public Works Foreman</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>DCNR, municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>ML 14</b>	Properly designate all trails within Main Park through the use of information signs and markings				
	<i>H</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>volunteer services, municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>ML 15</b>	Create a trail map for Main Park, indicating the location, length and degree of accessibility for each trail segment within the park.				
	<i>M</i>	<i>Nature Conservancy, Parks Advisory Board, Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>volunteer labor and material donations</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>Cost Summary</b>					
	<i>High: \$10,500</i>	<i>Medium: \$50,000</i>	<i>Low: \$28,000</i>	<i>Total: \$88,500</i>	

### **Bird Park**

<b>B1</b>	Remove free-standing slide.				
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>B2</b>	Remove three-bay swings.				
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
B3	H	Public Works Superintendent	\$500	municipal budget	/ /
B4	H	Director of Recreation, Parks Advisory Board, Nature Conservancy, Director of Public Works	\$7,500	DCNR, municipal budget	/ /
B5	H	Parks Advisory Board, Public Works Superintendent	\$15,000	DCNR, DCED	/ /
B6	H	Director of Public Works, Director of Recreation	\$N/A	municipal budget	/ /
B7	H	Public Works Foreman	varies	municipal budget	/ /
B8	M	Parks Advisory Board, Public Works Foreman	\$10,000 / year	DCNR, municipal budget, volunteers	/ /

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
B 9	M	Director of Recreation, Parks Advisory Board, Director of Public Works	\$60,000	DCNR, municipal budget	___/___/___
B 10	L	Parks Advisory Board, Public Works Foreman	\$6,000	DCNR, municipal budget	___/___/___
B 11	M	Nature Conservancy, Parks Advisory Board	\$ N / A	N / A	___/___/___
B 12	L	Parks Advisory Board, Nature Conservancy	\$5,000	volunteer labor, America's Treeways	___/___/___
B 13	L	Parks Advisory Board, Director of Recreation	\$ N / A	N / A	___/___/___
B 14	L	Parks Advisory Board, Director of Public Works	\$5,000	municipal budget	___/___/___

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
B 15		Properly designate all trails within Bird Park through the use of information signs and markings.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Nature Conservancy</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>	<i>TEA-21, PA recreational trails, municipal budget</i>	<i>/ /</i>
B 16		Develop a trail head within Bird Park to provide access to the community trail system. See Municipal Trail System Map.			
	<i>L</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Public Works Foreman</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>	<i>DCNR, Municipal Budget</i>	<i>/ /</i>
B 17		Manage all natural areas within this park according to the long-range open space management plan.			
	<i>L</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Director of Public Works</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>/ /</i>
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<b><i>High: \$38,000</i></b>	<b><i>Medium: \$70,000</i></b>	<b><i>Low: \$20,000</i></b>	<b><i>Total: \$128,000</i></b>

### **Robb Hollow Park**

RH 1		Manage natural areas within this park according to the long-range open space management plan.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Foreman, Parks Advisory Board, Nature Conservancy</i>	<i>\$5,000 / year</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i>/ /</i>
RH 2		Provide suitable, well-designed pedestrian access to the park through the development of trails. Access to these trails from the surrounding residential areas should be provided in a safe manner.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Directors of Public Works and Recreation</i>	<i>\$15,000 / year for four years</i>	<i>DCNR, municipal budget</i>	<i>/ /</i>

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
RH 3		Identify, define and designate key natural features within the park as a conservation district, as outlined by the Municipality's zoning ordinance.			
	<i>M</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Nature Conservancy, Board of Commissioners</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>/ /</i>
RH 4		Develop a trail map, indicating location within the park, length and degree of accessibility.			
	<i>L</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Directors of Recreation and Public Works</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>volunteers, donations, municipal budget</i>	<i>/ /</i>
RH 5		Properly designate all trails within Robb Hollow Park through the use of informational signs and trail markings.			
	<i>L</i>	<i>Director of Public Works, Parks Advisory Board, Nature Conservancy</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>	<i>TEA-21, PA recreational trails, municipal budget</i>	<i>/ /</i>
RH 6		Develop the three trail heads within Robb Hollow Park to provide pedestrian access to the park and the community trail system.			
	<i>L</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Public Works Foreman</i>	<i>\$12,000</i>	<i>DCNR, municipal budget</i>	<i>/ /</i>
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<b><u>High: \$20,000</u></b>	<b><u>Medium: \$0</u></b>	<b><u>Low: \$32,000</u></b>	<b><u>Total: \$52,000</u></b>

**Iroquois Park**

I1		Remove the slide-climber.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i>/ /</i>

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
12	Remove crawl-thru tunnel. <i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
13	On climber, increase use zone to meet current safety standards. <i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
14	On climber, bury footings and cover with safety surfacing to meet current standards. <i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
15	On two-bay swing set, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame. <i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
16	On two-bay swing set, increase use zone to meet current safety standards. <i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
17	On two-bay swing set, reduce height of swing set to meet current standards of 8' for children 5-12, or 10' for older children. <i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
18	On two-bay swing, seats designated for children 2-5, adjust height of seat to meet current standard of 18" maximum or 12" minimum from ground. <i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
I 19	H	Public Works Superintendent	\$1,000	municipal budget	___/___/___
I 10	H	Director of Recreation	\$45,000	DCNR, municipal budget	___/___/___
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<u>High: \$47,000</u>	<u>Medium: \$0</u>	<u>Low: \$0</u>	<u>Total: \$47,000</u>

**Highland Terrace Park**

HT 1	H	Public Works Superintendent	\$1,000	municipal budget	___/___/___
HT 2	H	Public Works Superintendent	\$1,000	municipal budget	___/___/___
HT 3	H	Public Works Superintendent	varies	municipal budget	___/___/___
HT 4	H	Public Works Superintendent	varies	municipal budget	___/___/___

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
HT 5		On one-bay swing set, reduce height of swing set to meet current standards of 8' for children 5-12, or 10' for older children.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<u>  /  /  </u>
HT 6		On one-bay swing set, relocate swing set, or realign walk to allow for acceptable buffer between swing and circulation path.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<u>  /  /  </u>
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<b><u>High: \$3,500</u></b>	<b><u>Medium: \$0</u></b>	<b><u>Low: \$0</u></b>	<b><u>Total: \$3,500</u></b>

**Country Club Park**

CC 1		Remove crawl-thru tunnel.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<u>  /  /  </u>
CC 2		Relocate aluminum bench.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<u>  /  /  </u>
CC 3		On play structure, expand safety surfacing area to meet current safety standards.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<u>  /  /  </u>
CC 4		On climber, increase use zone and safety surfacing to meet current safety standards.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<u>  /  /  </u>

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
CC 5	H	Public Works Superintendent	varies	municipal budget	___/___/___
CC 6	H	Public Works Superintendent	\$500	municipal budget	___/___/___
CC 7	H	Public Works Superintendent	\$1,000	municipal budget	___/___/___
CC 8	H	Public Works Superintendent	varies	municipal budget	___/___/___
CC 9	H	Public Works Superintendent	varies	municipal budget	___/___/___
<b>NEW PLAY EQUIP</b>					
CC 10	H	Public Works Superintendent	varies	municipal budget	___/___/___
<b>Cost Summary</b>					<b>Total: \$3,500</b>
	<b><u>High: \$3,500</u></b>	<b><u>Medium: \$0</u></b>	<b><u>Low: \$0</u></b>		

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
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**Rockwood Park**

R 1	Remove crawl-thru tunnel.  <i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
R 2	On arch-climber, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.  <i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
R 3	On play structure, expand safety surfacing area to meet current safety standards.  <i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
R 4	On both swings, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.  <i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
R 5	On designated tot-swings, adjust height of seat to meet current standards of 18" maximum and 12" minimum from the ground.  <i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
R 6	One one-bay swing set, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.  <i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
R 7	Install new playground equipment to replace unsafe equipment and provide additional play opportunities.				

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
	<i>H</i>	<i>Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$55,000</i>	<i>DCNR, municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>Cost Summary</b>	<b><u>High: \$58,000</u></b>	<b><u>Medium: \$0</u></b>	<b><u>Low: \$0</u></b>		<b><u>Total: \$58,000</u></b>

**Williamsburg Park**

<b>W 1</b>	Remove slide.	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>W 2</b>	Eliminate protrusions by reducing protruding bolts so that no more than two threads are visible.	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>W 3</b>	Reverse bolts so that nut is on the bottom of all vertical bolt installations to eliminate vertical protrusions.	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>W 4</b>	On both swings, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>W 5</b>	On both swings, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
W 6	H	Public Works Superintendent	varies	municipal budget	___ / ___ / ___
W 7	H	Public Works Superintendent	varies	municipal budget	___ / ___ / ___
W 8	H	Public Works Superintendent	varies	municipal budget	___ / ___ / ___
W 9	H	Public Works Superintendent	varies	municipal budget	___ / ___ / ___
W 10	H	Director of Recreation	\$25,000	DCNR, municipal budget	___ / ___ / ___
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<b><u>High: \$25,000</u></b>	<b><u>Medium: \$0</u></b>	<b><u>Low: \$0</u></b>	<b><u>Total: \$25,000</u></b>

**Church Place Park**

CP 1	H	Public Works Superintendent	\$1,000	municipal budget	___ / ___ / ___
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	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
CP 2		On tot-swings, adjust height of seat to meet current standards of 18" maximum and 12" minimum from ground.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
CP 3		On one-bay swing set, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>varies</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
CP 4		On play structure slide, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
CP 5		On play structure, bury footings and cover with safety surfacing to meet current safety standards.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Public Works Superintendent</i>	<i>\$500</i>	<i>municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<b><u>High: \$3,500</u></b>	<b><u>Medium: \$0</u></b>	<b><u>Low: \$0</u></b>	<b><u>Total: \$3,500</u></b>

**Twin Hills Park**

TH 1		Identify, define and designate key natural features within the park as a conservation district, as outlined by the Municipality's zoning ordinance.			
	<i>H</i>	<i>Nature Conservancy, Parks Advisory Board</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i> / /</i>
TH 2		Develop a trail master plan for the park to determine location, type and accessibility of proposed trails.			
	<i>M</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Directors of Recreation and Public Works</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>	<i>DCNR, municipal budget</i>	<i> / /</i>



	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
TH 3		Construct the first trail segment within the park.			
	L	Parks Advisory Board, Directors of Recreation and Public Works	\$10,000	DCNR, municipal budget	/ /
TH 4		Install entrance and directional signs.			
	L	Parks Advisory Board, Directors of Recreation and Public Works	\$5,000	DCNR, municipal budget	/ /
TH 5		Develop a trail map, indicating location within the park, length and degree of accessibility.			
	L	Parks Advisory Board, Directors of Recreation and Public Works	\$5,000	DCNR, municipal budget	/ /
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<b><u>High: \$0</u></b>	<b><u>Medium: \$20,000</u></b>	<b><u>Low: \$0</u></b>	<b><u>Total: \$20,000</u></b>



## Section VI: Trails

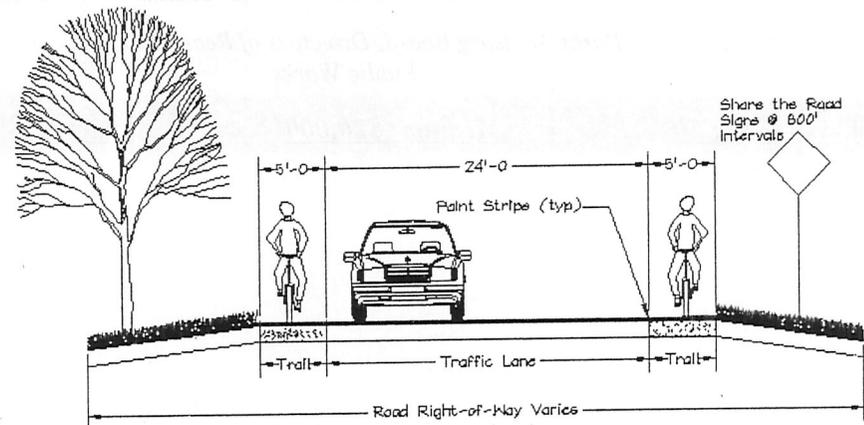
Throughout the public input process, walking, biking and hiking trails were identified as a top recreation priority in the Mt. Lebanon community, reflecting current trends across the nation. Although there are a few existing informal trails, as well as existing recreational trails in neighboring municipalities, additional trail planning is needed to fulfill residents' need for a Municipality-wide trail system within Mt. Lebanon. The following recommendations set the groundwork for the development of such a trail system.

The trail system plan (figure 4-9) illustrates the overall concept for the development of a successful municipal trail system. Key to its success is the establishment of pedestrian and bicycle connections between community focal points and Mt. Lebanon neighborhoods. The locations of potential trail corridors as identified on the plan are sensitive to existing residential patterns, conflicting land uses and physical barriers.

This trail system, while providing a variety of recreation and transportation opportunities to Mt. Lebanon residents, should also be linked to regional trail systems that serve the greater Pittsburgh area.

### GOAL

*To develop a Municipality-wide trail system that provides pedestrian and bicycle connections throughout the community, opportunities for interaction with nature and a variety of other recreational opportunities.*



— Typical Bike Lane —  
 Not to Scale      On road shoulder, one lane each direction

## Guidelines

When planning for bicycle facilities, it is important to recognize and comply with current guidelines and standards related to bicycle facility planning and design. The primary guide, recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, is the "Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities" published by the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials. This document is generally recognized for establishing the design requirements for shared roadways, paved shoulders, bike lanes, shared use paths, bike turning lanes, bike lanes at intersections, bike lane symbols and other factors to be considered.

Consideration of on-road facilities should include research conducted, and subsequently published, by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regarding the Bicycle Compatibility Index (BCI). The title of their publications are "The Bicycle Compatibility Index: A Level of Service Concept, Implementation Manual", 1998 and the "Development of the Bicycle Compatibility Index: A Level of Service Concept, Final Report", 1998. The Federal Highway Administration's Bicycle Compatibility Index allows the determination of a roadway segment's compatibility with the average adult bicyclist.

## Level of Service

To determine whether a road corridor can accommodate a bicycle facility, the Bicycle Level of Service Model and Compatibility Index is utilized. The purpose is to evaluate the capability of specific roadway segments to accommodate both motorists and bicyclists. This model incorporates geometric and operational variables considered by adult bicyclists to be important to their level of comfort when riding on streets in the presence of vehicular traffic.

## Developing a Municipal Trail System

The following seven steps highlight a detailed process that is recommended for the development of the Municipal trail system. Several of the steps were completed to varying degrees as part of the recommendations of this plan.

1. Identify parks, neighborhoods and key destination points.
2. Facilitate a public input session to identify issues, opportunities and potential threats related to the development of pedestrian/bicycle trails.
3. Identify preliminary trail corridors that offer the potential connection between parks, neighborhoods and key destinations.
4. Conduct field investigation, obtain right-of-way information and conduct a corridor analysis to define preliminary routes of potential trail corridors.
5. Evaluate level of service of preliminary trail corridors to determine if they can successfully accommodate safe bicycle and/or pedestrian facilities.
6. Delineate preferred trail routes and alignments, as well as recommendations for protection of key parcels, rights-of-way or easements.
7. Present preferred trial routes to public and obtain input.

### *Community Focal Points*

Identified as asterisks on the Municipal Trail System Map, community focal points are key locations within the community that

should be incorporated as part of the overall system. These sites include recreation facilities, schools and the community business district. The on-road trails will provide bicycle and pedestrian access from local neighborhoods to these main cultural features, thus promoting use of the trail system as a transportation alternative.

### ***On-Road Trails***

Given that the amount of undeveloped or park acreage for trail development is at a minimum, most of the segments of the Municipality-wide trail system will be developed as on-road bicycle lanes. These trails will serve as the primary links between the community focal points. To implement these on-road trail segments, factors such as on-road parking road width must be considered. A level of service (as previously mentioned) must be performed for all potential on-road trail segments. Following the appropriate assessment of the trail segments, their construction will consist primarily of roadway striping and the installation of signs (informational, directional, safety).

### ***Trail Segments***

The on-road bicycle trail system is divided into four main segments to facilitate implementation and aid in identification. The total length of trail for the on-road system is approximately ten miles.

#### ***Northern Loop***

The Northern Loop of the Municipal Trail System is located in the northeastern section of the Municipality. This loop includes connections with Twin Hills Park, Meadowcroft Park, and Jefferson School. This segment consists of approximately three miles of trail.

#### ***Robb Hollow Loop***

Robb Hollow Park includes several existing trails, as well as opportunities for new trail development. The Robb Hollow Loop Trail connects to either end of the Park, in addition to Bird and Main Parks. A trail head at the center of Robb Hollow Park connects the park and the Robb Hollow Loop to the Gilkeson Road Connector as well. This segment of trail is approximately two and three quarters of a mile.

#### ***Gilkeson Road Connector***

The Gilkeson Road Connector is a linear section of the on-road bicycle trail system that runs from the trail head at the center of Robb Hollow Park along Gilkeson Road and to the north to a trail head near the intersection of Washington Road and Mt. Lebanon Boulevard. Iroquois Park is located along this segment of Gilkeson Road. The total trail segment length is approximately one and three quarters of a mile.

#### ***Pennsylvania Boulevard Connector***

As of the writing of this Plan, the Municipality was working toward the acquisition and development of a linear piece of undeveloped property, with the intent of constructing passive recreation facilities, including trails. This offers an opportunity to develop a segment of connector trail that provides access to the Castle Shannon community, the Municipal Golf Course, the Mt. Lebanon business district, as well as Mt. Lebanon, Seton LaSalle and Keystone Oaks High Schools. This segment of the trail system is approximately two and a half miles in length.

#### ***Trails within Municipal Parks***

In addition to the development of an on-road bicycle and pedestrian trails as part of the Municipality-wide trail system, the trails within

municipal parks are an important part of the system and should be upgraded and expanded.

This Plan recommends the development and improvement of trails within municipal parks. These trails will provide a variety of recreational opportunities. These local trails are an important part of the municipal trail system and it is important that access is provided to them. The proposed trail heads, as indicated on the Municipal Trail System Map, will do just that. They will link the trails within municipal parks to the overall trail system, thus providing pedestrian and bicycle access to these facilities. Additionally, the trail heads will provide direct access to the parks and the trail within them to the residents in the park's immediate area.

### ***Trail Heads***

Trail heads are an important aspect of a successful bicycle or pedestrian recreational trail. They can provide safe access, mark the location of the trail or trails, provide information on other trails or surrounding facilities, and offer amenities for trail users.

Two levels of trail heads should be considered. The overall municipal on-road trail system would ideally include a main trail head to provide primary access to the system. As the on-road trails are developed, Main Park should be considered as a potential location for such a trail head. This trail head type would act as the starting point for trail users; provide restroom facilities, bike racks and a water fountain; and an information station that would include detailed information about the trail, as well as information on other area recreation opportunities.

Additionally, several smaller trail heads throughout the community will provide access for nearby residents to the overall trail system, as

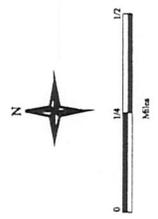
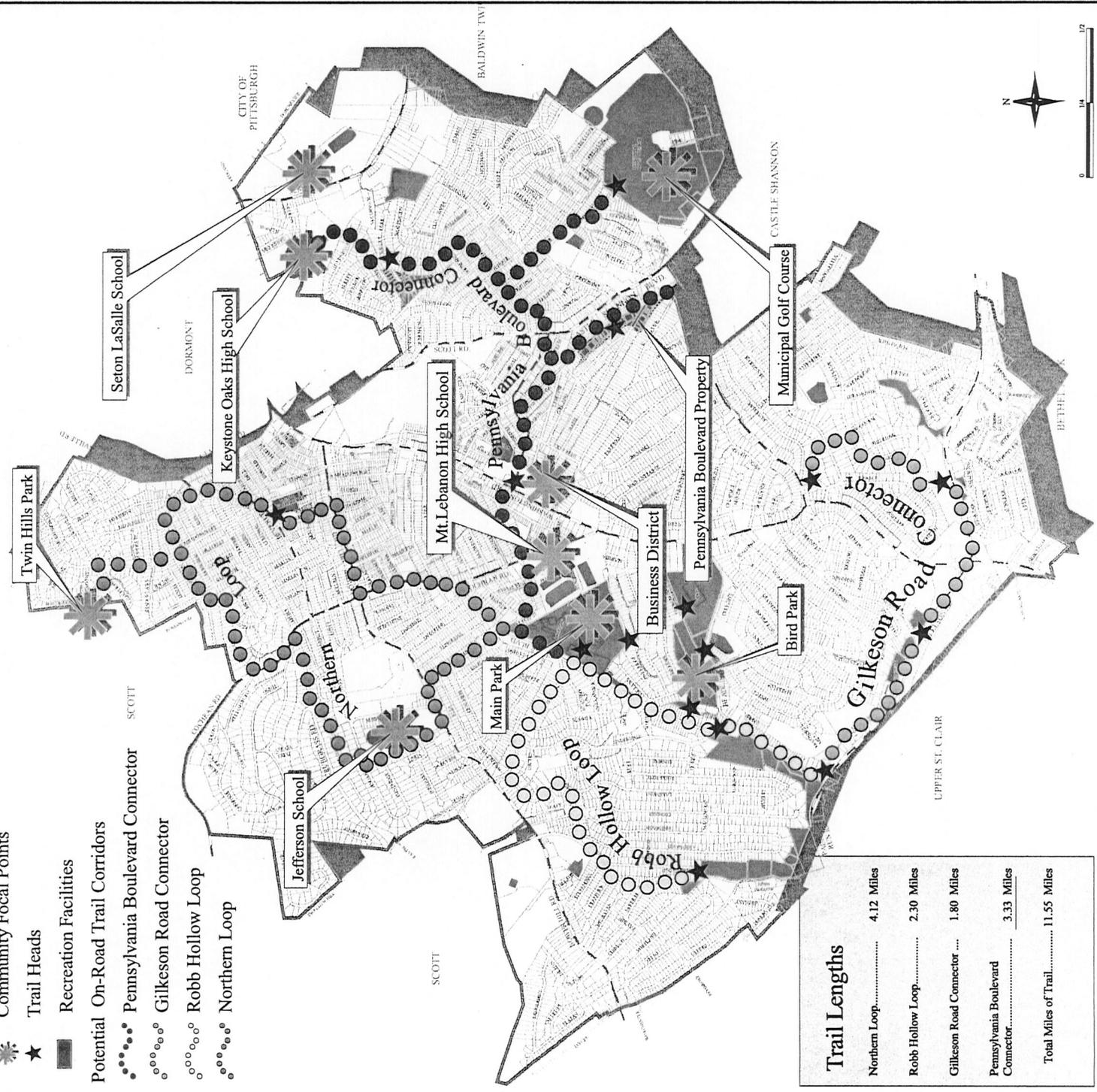
well as to trails within parks near their home. Most municipal parks only provide one access point that serves both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. For the three larger parks, Main, Robb Hollow, and Bird, it would be beneficial to provide additional pedestrian access points to the parks and the trails with the construction of a trail head. This is important because these parks may serve a neighborhood park function for nearby residents and pedestrian access is important. These trail heads would be smaller than the main trail head for the overall system, and could include a bike rack, water fountain, directional sign and park/trail map.



# Municipal Trail System

## LEGEND

-  Community Focal Points
-  Trail Heads
-  Recreation Facilities
- Potential On-Road Trail Corridors**
-  Pennsylvania Boulevard Connector
-  Gilkeson Road Connector
-  Robb Hollow Loop
-  Northern Loop



Trail Lengths	
Northern Loop.....	4.12 Miles
Robb Hollow Loop.....	2.30 Miles
Gilkeson Road Connector ....	1.80 Miles
Pennsylvania Boulevard Connector.....	3.33 Miles
Total Miles of Trail.....	11.55 Miles

DATE: 07/25/01

FIGURE NUMBER:

# 4 - 12

## Municipal Trail System Plan

Municipality of Mt. Lebanon  
Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan



Table 4-13

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES Municipal Trail System

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
T1	Develop a feasibility study for the municipal trail system. Potential on-street locations should be evaluated for their bicycle level of service factor. Incorporate and update applicable recommendations from the 1975 "Bikeways for Mt. Lebanon" trail feasibility study, where appropriate.				
	<i>H</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$35,000</i>	<i>TEA -21, PA recreational Trails, municipal budget</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
T2	Identify and develop a master plan for the first on-road bicycle trail segment of the municipal trail system.				
	<i>H</i>	<i>Parks Advisory Board, Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>	<i>TEA-21, PA recreational trails, municipal budget</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
T3	Construct the first on-road bicycle trail segment (line striping, signs)				
	<i>H</i>	<i>Directors of Recreation and Public Works</i>	<i>\$65,000</i>	<i>TEA-21, PA recreational trails, municipal budget</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
T4	Continue the development of the on-road bicycle lane portion of the Municipality-wide trail system. These routes should connect community focal points, such as the library and parks, and local neighborhoods throughout the Municipality.				
	<i>H</i>	<i>Directors of Recreation and Public Works, Parks Advisory Board</i>	<i>\$65,000/year for 3 years</i>	<i>TEA-21, PA recreational trails, municipal budget</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>
T5	Identify, develop and foster cooperative relationships with surrounding municipalities that integrate trails in surrounding communities as a regional system.				
	<i>H</i>	<i>Nature Conservancy, Director of Recreation</i>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>___ / ___ / ___</i>

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
T6	M	Parks Advisory Board, Directors of Recreation and Public Works	\$100,000	municipal budget, DCNR grants	___/___/___
T7	M	Director of Recreation, Parks Advisory Board	\$7,500	volunteers, local business donations, municipal budget	___/___/___
T8	M	Directors of Recreation and Public Works, Scout Leaders, Nature Conservancy	\$ N/A	volunteer labor, donations of maintenance tools	___/___/___
T9	L	Parks Advisory Board, Public Works Foreman	\$16,000/year for four years	DCNR, municipal budget	___/___/___
T10	L	Director of Recreation, Public Works Supervisor, Parks Advisory Board	varies	municipal budget	___/___/___
T11		Pennsylvania Boulevard Property - Develop a park master plan for the Pennsylvania Boulevard Property. This master plan should include trail facilities and trail head. Incorporate these facilities into the overall municipal trail system..  <i>See recreation facilities strategies in section V</i>			

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
T 12	Bird Park - Properly designate all trails within Bird Park through the use of information signs and markings.				
		<i>See Bird Park strategies in section V</i>			
T 13	Robb Hollow Park - Create a trail map for Robb Hollow Park, indicating the location, length and degree of accessibility for each trail segment within the park.				
		<i>See Robb Hollow strategies in section V</i>			
T 14	Bird Park - Create a trail map for Bird Park, indicating the location, length and degree of accessibility for each trail segment within the park.				
		<i>See Bird Park strategies in section V</i>			
T 15	Main Park - Create a trail map for Main Park, indicating the location, length and degree of accessibility for each trail segment within the park.				
		<i>See Main Park strategies in section V</i>			
T 16	Robb Hollow Park - Provide suitable, well-designed pedestrian access to the park through the development of trails to withstand heavy pedestrian traffic. Access to these trails from the surrounding residential areas should be provided in a safe manner.				
		<i>See Robb Hollow strategies in section V</i>			
T 17	Bird Park - Develop an overall trail plan for the entire park. This plan will guide the designation, creation or elimination of trails based on the trail plan's layout.				
		<i>See Bird Park strategies in section V</i>			

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
T 18	Bird Park - Construct a 8' wide crushed limestone entrance path from the parking area to the rear of the open field.				
		<i>See Bird Park strategies in section V</i>			
T 19	Main Park - Properly designate all trails within Main Park through the use of information signs and markings.				
		<i>See Main Park strategies in section V</i>			
T 20	Bird Park - Construct shorter trail segments, with proper drainage and organic surfacing, for hiking and educational use.				
		<i>See Bird Park strategies in section V</i>			
T 21	Bird Park - Develop two trail heads, one at each the norther and souther edges of the park to provide secondary pedestrian access to the park.				
		<i>See Bird Park strategies in section V</i>			
T 22	Robb Hollow Park - Properly designate all trails within Robb Hollow Park through the use of informational signs and trail markings.				
		<i>See Robb Hollow strategies in section V</i>			
T 23	Main Park - Develop a trail head within Main Park to provide pedestrian access to the park. See Municipal Trail System Map.				
		<i>See Main Park strategies in section V</i>			
T 24	Main Park - Develop a trail head within Main Park to provide access to the community trail system. See Municipal Trail System Map.				
		<i>See Main Park strategies in section V</i>			

	<i>priority</i>	<i>responsible party</i>	<i>cost estimate</i>	<i>funding source</i>	<i>date completed</i>
T 25		Bird Park - Develop two trail heads within Bird Park to provide pedestrian access to the park. See Municipal Trail System Map. <i>See Bird Park strategies in section V</i>			
T 26		Bird Park - Develop a trail head within Bird Park to provide access to the community trail system. See Municipal Trail System Map. <i>See Bird Park Strategies in section V</i>			
T 27		Robb Hollow Park - Develop the three trail heads within Robb Hollow Park to provide pedestrian access to the park and the community trail system. <i>See Robb Hollow strategies in section V</i>			
T 28		Twin Hills - Construct a limestone loop trail through the park. <i>See Twin Hills Strategies in section V</i>			
T 29		Twin Hills - Construct shorter wood chip loop trails. <i>See Twin Hills strategies in section V</i>			
T 30		Twin Hills - Develop a trail map, indicating location within the park, length and degree of accessibility. <i>See Twin Hills strategies in section V</i>			
<b>Cost Summary</b>		<u><i>High: \$180,000</i></u>	<u><i>Medium: \$107,500</i></u>	<u><i>Low: \$16,000</i></u>	<u><i>Total: \$303,500</i></u>

## Section VII: Summary Tables

Table 4-14

<b>GOALS</b>	
<i>Administration</i>	To strive to make available necessary personnel, financing and maintenance to support the on-going open space, recreation facility and programming needs of the community in collaboration with the School District, volunteers and local organizations.
<i>Financing</i>	To explore creative funding opportunities, including grants and cooperative efforts with the School District and other area organizations.
<i>Greenways and Open Space</i>	To acknowledge the importance of undeveloped natural areas and street trees within the community through education of the public, proper designation, protection and continued management.
<i>Recreation Programs</i>	To provide a well-publicized variety of recreational programming that offers opportunities for individuals and groups of all ages to participate in an interactive manner.
<i>Recreation Facilities</i>	To foster cooperative efforts with the School District and local organizations to provide indoor and outdoor recreation facilities for multiple types of recreation activities, programs and organizations.
<i>Trails</i>	To develop a municipality-wide trail system that provides pedestrian and bicycle connections throughout the community, opportunities for interaction with nature, and a variety of other recreational opportunities.

*Table 4-15: Summary strategies, by category*

**Administration**

**Goal** *To strive to make available necessary personnel, financing and maintenance to support the on-going open space, recreation facility and programming needs of the community in collaboration with the School District, volunteers and local organizations.*

**General**

A1	Clarify the role of the Park Advisory Board. Adjust the stated function of the Board to include recreation as part of its purpose.
A2	Include the Public Works Director or a departmental designee as a regular attendee of the Park Advisory Board meetings.
	Formalize and clarify the role of the Director of Recreation as the position relates to the Parks Advisory Board.
A3	Formalize the existing cooperative relationship between the Municipality's Recreation Department and the School District regarding the use of recreation facilities. This should ultimately result in a written document.
A4	Formalize the role and function of the committee formed to address sports facility issues and demands. The current committee consists of the Superintendent, Athletic Director and maintenance staff of the Mt. Lebanon School District; the Municipality's Recreation Director; and representatives of the Youth Sports Alliance.
A5	Adopt Mt. Lebanon's Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan, 2001 as the basis for establishing a formal planning system for recreation, parks and open space within the Municipality. Require the preparation and adoption of a Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan every seven to ten years
A6	Implement a sophisticated, computerized registration system that has the ability to track program registrations, facility use, finances, user and program profiles, and can provide a variety of reports from which these can be analyzed.
A7	Take a proactive role in developing regional recreation initiatives. Coordinate a group of municipal representatives from surrounding municipalities to begin discussion of such initiatives.
A8	Continue to develop the Parks and Recreation link on the Municipality's web page and utilize local cable access to publicize information on programs, facilities and events.

A9	Ensure the continuation of a successful public input process in future recreation and open space planning efforts, including public meetings, continued involvement of the Parks Advisory Board, and other input venues.
A10	The Mt. Lebanon Parks Advisory Board should adopt Mt. Lebanon's vision for the future of recreation (identified in this Plan) as its Mission. The Board will then assist in providing direction for future parks and recreation policies.
A11	Adopt a planning process such as the "three tier system" illustrated as part of this study.
A12	Implement internet registrations as alternatives to the current phone, drop-in and mail-in registration.

**Personnel**

P1	Hire a part-time clerical/registration assistant.
P2	Hire a full-time program assistant as additional programs are developed.
P3	Create and adopt a volunteer management policy.
P4	Explore opportunities for additional office space as additional employees are hired.
P6	Expand the Municipality's use of volunteers for parks and recreation.

**Maintenance**

M1	Adopt a policy for resource-based solutions to engineering problems within municipal parks. Park maintenance training may include pesticide applicator's license, playground safety standards, etc.
M2	Utilize turf management practices that make fields more playable, promote optimum stormwater infiltration and a decreased use of chemicals within municipal parks.
M3	Develop a cooperative program with the School District to develop a volunteer program for students to perform community service hours within municipal parks.

## Financing

Goal	<i>To explore creative funding opportunities, including grants and cooperative efforts with the School District and other area organizations.</i>
F1	Conduct a swimming pool feasibility study to determine the best course of action in upgrading the existing pool or construction of a new facility.
F2	Increase use of grant funding for parks and recreation capital projects.
F3	Explore the possibility of jointly pursuing a new community center, in conjunction with the School District.
F4	Conduct a feasibility study for the Ice Rink to determine its financial and programmatic feasibility for the future, in conjunction with the recreation center feasibility study.
F5	Establish a complete financial policy that would create individual cost centers, identifying for each how fees are to be determined, what the expected cost recovery is, and compare revenues to expenses.
F6	Produce an annual report for the department that will include program and facility highlights, attendances (listed by facility and program classification), financial data, goals and plans for the future, and a review of progress made toward the implementation of this Plan's Vision.
F7	Identify all cost centers or revenue centers within the Recreation Center for financial reporting purposes.
F8	Develop a funding strategy and policy (set guidelines, not ordinances). The following should be addressed: what types of programs should the Municipality support; should total or partial funding of programs and related facilities be provided; what types of programs should be self-sufficient; what expenses should program fees cover; how program fee rates are established.
F9	Create a non-profit foundation to receive contributions for recreation, parks and open space.
F10	Conduct a study to determine the feasibility of the expansion or renovation of the existing recreation center.

## Greenways and Open Space

Goal	<i>To acknowledge the importance of undeveloped natural areas and street trees within the community through education of the public, proper designation, protection and continued management.</i>
GOS1	Develop an open space management plan for all undeveloped land within the Municipality. Consult a forest ecologist during the development of the plan, as well as on an as-needed basis as the plan is implemented.
GOS 2	Implement the open space management plan. Divide each municipally-owned park and natural area into zones for staged implementation of the plan over several years. Within each section, work with a forest ecologist to remove invasive species and introduce native vegetation.
GOS 3	Identify, develop and foster cooperative relationships with surrounding municipalities to work toward the development of a regional greenway system that includes natural areas within several communities.
GOS 4	Consider the designation of key natural areas within municipal parks as conservation districts, according to the Municipality's zoning ordinance.
GOS 5	Adopt a plant list for use by the Municipality for all future vegetative plantings within municipal parks. This list should only include species native to the forest community found in this area of Western Pennsylvania.
GOS 6	Develop and implement a streambank restoration plan for key stream segments within the Municipality.
GOS 7	Actively undertake a program for the enhancement of wildlife habitat within municipally-owned natural areas. This could include nesting boxes for birds and small mammals.
GOS 8	Establish a policy to discourage the cutting down of healthy trees with a diameter of breast height (dbh) of 8 inches or more. (Source: Mt. Lebanon Comprehensive Plan, 2000)
GOS 9	Develop and adopt a revised planting list for street trees that includes additional species native to western Pennsylvania.

## Recreation Programming

<i>Goal</i>	<i>To provide a well-publicized variety of recreational programming that offers opportunities for individuals and groups of all ages to participate in an interactive manner.</i>
<b>RP1</b>	Provide additional opportunities for cultural programming. (i.e. trips to cultural site in Pittsburgh)
<b>RP2</b>	Program staff should continually keep current on new program ideas by attending programming conferences and visiting other recreation departments.
<b>RP3</b>	Work towards implementing program ideas to fill the deficiencies identified in the study, including teen and senior programming.
<b>RP4</b>	Build upon existing programs to develop a formal environmental education program that capitalizes on natural features within the community. These programs could be run by the Municipality in cooperation with the School District and local organizations.
<b>RP5</b>	Create an option for on-line evaluation of programs and facilities by residents and program participants.
<b>RP6</b>	Create opportunities that capitalize on the availability of retirees for the instruction of recreation programs and activities.

## Recreation Facilities

**Goal** *To foster cooperative efforts with the School District and local organizations to provide indoor and outdoor recreation facilities for multiple types of recreation activities, programs and organizations.*

### General

RF1	Develop and adopt design development criteria and guidelines for the construction of new recreation facilities within previously undeveloped areas. Build upon the preliminary guidelines to provide a balance between active and passive recreation.
RF2	Develop and adopt design development criteria as guidelines for future renovations and construction within existing parks. These criteria could be based upon the guidelines developed for new park development and the open space management plan.
RF3	Explore the possibility of submitting a grant application in conjunction with the School District for the installation of synthetic surfacing on Mellon or Jefferson fields.
RF4	Assist in the clarification of the policy toward public access to outdoor recreation facilities owned by the School District.
RF5	Provide designated areas on municipally-owned park property for the construction of public community gardens for use by area residents.
RF6	Utilize the inventory information from this Plan to develop an informational brochure locating municipal and school district recreation facilities throughout the community. The map should provide information on park size, type of facilities available and park regulations.
RF7	Explore the possibility of submitting a grant application in conjunction with the School District for the lighting of a School District Field.
RF8	Following the successful acquisition of the Pennsylvania Boulevard Property, develop a park master site development plan for the property. This master plan should consider the construction of neighborhood playground equipment to serve a portion of the municipality underserved by neighborhood park facilities.
RF9	Establish a pathfinder/wayfinder sign program to mark routes to municipal recreation facilities.
RF10	Construct additional picnic pavilions within existing municipal parks to meet growing demand.
RF11	Upgrade existing sports fields to improve stormwater drainage.

## Mt. Lebanon Park

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| ML1  | Remove three bay swings..   |
| ML2  | Remove both crawl-thru tunnels.   |
| ML3  | On large play structure, eliminate protrusions by reducing protruding bolts so that no more than two threads are visible.                               |
| ML4  | Large play structure accessible height exceeds 4', the maximum for children 2-5, and should be designated for older children through sign installation. |
| ML5  | Maintain safety surface to meet current safety standards. Maintain organic protective surface depth of 12" for all structures.                          |
| ML6  | On small play structure, bury footings and cover with safety surfacing to meet current standards.   |
| ML7  | On both swings, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.  |
| ML8  | On both swing sets, eliminate protrusions by reducing protruding bolts so that no more than two threads are visible.                                    |
| ML9  | On designated tot-swing bays, adjust height of seat to meet current standards of 18" maximum and 12" minimum from ground.                               |
| ML10 | Install new playground equipment to replace equipment recently removed and to provide additional play opportunities for children.                       |
| ML11 | Consider identifying an appropriate area within the park for a dog park and designate it as such (fencing/signs).                                       |
| ML12 | Develop a trail head within Main Park to provide pedestrian access to the park. See Municipal Trail System Map.   |
| ML13 | Develop a trail head within Main Park to provide access to the community trail system. See Municipal Trail System Map.                                  |
| ML14 | Properly designate all trails within Main Park through the use of informational signs and markings  |
| ML16 | Create a trail map for Main Park, indicating the location, length and degree of accessibility for each trail segment within the park.                   |



## Bird Park

B1	Remove free-standing slide.
B2	Remove three-bay swings.
B3	On play structure, there is standing water within the use zone, drainage should be improved to correct this situation.
B4	Develop an overall trail plan for the entire park. This plan will guide the designation, creation or elimination of trails based on the trail plan's layout. The plan should include a crushed, stone loop trail circling the park and shorter, organic surfaced, hiking trails.
B5	Construct an 8' wide crushed limestone entrance path from the parking area to the rear of the open field.
B6	Re-grade stream banks where recent dredging has left them too steep and dangerous. This should be done in a way to provide safe stream access and include the re-introduction of native riparian vegetation.
B7	Develop and annually implement a proper aeration and drainage plan for the soccer field. This will not only improve the playing surface, but allow for increased infiltration of stormwater to the natural drainage system within the park.
B8	Construct short trail segments, with proper drainage and organic surfacing, for hiking and educational use.
B9	Install new 2-5 composite play structure and swings at the lower level of the park.
B10	Develop two trail heads within Bird Park to provide pedestrian access to the park. See Municipal Trail System Map.
B11	Identify, define and designate key natural features within the park as a conservation district, as outlined by the Municipality's zoning ordinance.
B12	Implement a planting plan consisting of natural plant species to enhance the development of a vegetative "edge" to the forest surrounding the soccer field.
B13	Adopt a policy that modifies current park regulations to ban bicycle traffic within this park.
B14	Install informational signs pertaining to the ecology and the natural elements found within the park.
B15	Properly designate all trails within Bird Park through the use of information signs and markings.
B16	Develop a trail head within Bird Park to provide access to the community trail system. See Municipal Trail System Map.
B17	Manage natural areas within this park according to the long-range open space management plan.

**Robb Hollow Park**

RH1	Manage natural areas within this park according to the long-range open space management plan.
RH2	Provide suitable, well-designed pedestrian access to the park through the development of trails. Access to these trails from the surrounding residential areas should be provided in a safe manner.
RH3	Identify, define and designate key natural features within the park as a conservation district, as outlined by the Municipality's zoning ordinance.
RH4	Develop a trail map, indicating location within the park, length and degree of accessibility.
RH5	Properly designate all trails within Robb Hollow Park through the use of informational signs and trail markings.
RH6	Develop the three trail heads within Robb Hollow Park to provide pedestrian access to the park and the community trail system.

**Iroquois Park**

I1	Remove the slide-climber.
I2	Remove crawl-thru tunnel..
I3	On climber, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.
I4	On climber, bury footings and cover with safety surfacing to meet current standards.
I5	On two-bay swing set, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.
I6	On two-bay swing set, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.
I7	On two-bay swing set, reduce height of swing set to meet current standards of 8' for children 5-12, or 10' for older children.
I8	On two-bay swing, seats designated for children 2-5, adjust height of seat to meet current standard of 18" maximum or 12" minimum from ground.
I9	On play structure, increase slide exit zone to meet current safety standards.

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Install new playground equipment to replace unsafe equipment and provide additional play opportunities.

### **Highland Terrace Park**

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| HT1  | On play structure, expand safety surfacing area to meet current safety standards.  |
| HT 2 | On both swings, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.  |
| HT 3 | On tot-swing, adjust height of seat to meet current standards of 18" maximum and 12" minimum from ground.                      |
| HT4  | On one-bay swing set, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.             |
| H 5  | On one-bay swing set, reduce height of swing set to meet current standards of 8' for children 5-12, or 10' for older children. |
| HT6  | On one-bay swing set, relocate swing set, or realign walk to allow for acceptable buffer between swing and circulation path.   |

### **Country Club Park**

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| CC1 | Remove crawl-thru tunnel.  |
| CC2 | Relocate aluminum bench.   |
| CC3 | On play structure, expand safety surfacing area to meet current safety standards.  |
| CC4 | On climber, increase use zone and safety surfacing to meet current safety standards.   |
| CC5 | On climber, eliminate protrusions by reducing protruding bolts so that no more than two threads are visible.                           |
| C 6 | On climber, bury footings and cover with safety surfacing to meet current standards.   |
| CC7 | On two-bay swing set, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.  |
| CC8 | On two-bay swing set, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.                     |
| CC9 | On two-bay swing designated tot-swing bay, adjust height of seat to meet current standards of 18" maximum and 12" minimum from ground. |

CC10 On two-bay swing, reduce height of swing set to meet current standards of 8' for children 5-12, or 10' for older children.

### **Rockwood Park**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| R1 | Remove crawl-thru tunnel.   |
| R2 | On arch-climber, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.  |
| R3 | On play structure, expand safety surfacing area to meet current safety standards.   |
| R4 | On both swings, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.   |
| R5 | On designated tot-swings, adjust height of seat to meet current standards of 18" maximum and 12" minimum from the ground. |
| R6 | One one-bay swing set, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.       |
| R7 | Install new playground equipment to replace unsafe equipment and provide additional play opportunities.                   |

### **Williamsburg Park**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| W1 | Remove slide.  |
| W2 | Eliminate protrusions by reducing protruding bolts so that no more than two threads are visible.                                       |
| W3 | Reverse bolts so that nut is on the bottom of all vertical bolt installations to eliminate vertical protrusions.                       |
| W4 | On both swings, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.  |
| W5 | On both swings, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.                           |
| W6 | On both swings, eliminate protrusions by reducing protruding bolts so that no more than two threads are visible.                       |
| W7 | On tot-swing, adjust height of seat to meet current standards of 18" maximum and 12" minimum from ground.                              |
| W8 | On one two-bay swing set, reduce height of swing seat to meet current standards of 8' for children age 5-12, or 10 for older children. |

W9	On play structure, expand slide exit zone to meet current safety standards.
W10	Install new 3-5 playground equipment to replace outdated equipment and provide additional children's play opportunities.

**Church Place Park**

CP1	On one-bay swing set, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.
CP2	On tot-swings, adjust height of seat to meet current standards of 18" maximum and 12" minimum from ground.
CP3	On one-bay swing set, adjust swing hangars to meet safety standards of 24" from each other and 30" from the frame.
CP4	On play structure slide, increase use zone to meet current safety standards.
CP5	On play structure, bury footings and cover with safety surfacing to meet current safety standards.

**Twin Hills Park**

TH1	Identify, define and designate key natural features within the park as a conservation district, as outlined by the Municipality's zoning ordinance.
TH 2	Develop a trail master plan for the park to determine location, type and accessibility of proposed trails.
TH 3	Construct the first trail segment within the park.
TH 4	Install entrance and directional signs.
TH 5	Develop a trail map, indicating location within the park, length and degree of accessibility.

## Municipal Trail System

Goal	<i>To develop a municipality-wide trail system that provides pedestrian and bicycle connections throughout the community, opportunities for interaction with nature, and a variety of other recreational opportunities.</i>
T 1	Develop a feasibility study for the municipal trail system. Potential on-street locations should be evaluated for their bicycle level of service factor. Incorporate and update applicable recommendations from the 1975 "Bikeways for Mt. Lebanon" trail feasibility study, where appropriate.
T2	Identify and develop a master plan for the first on-road bicycle trail segment of the municipal trail system.
T3	Construct the first on-road bicycle trail segment (line striping, signs).
T 3	Continue the development of the on-road bicycle lane portion of the Municipality-wide trail system. These routes should connect community focal points, such as the library and parks, and local neighborhoods throughout the Municipality.
T4	Identify, develop and foster cooperative relationships with surrounding municipalities to integrate trails in surrounding communities as a regional system.
T5	Continue the process of developing the vacant land adjacent to Hazel Drive to be used as a linear park that would contain walking trails, natural areas and provide a connection to and from the neighborhoods in accessible areas of Mt. Lebanon. <i>(source: 2000 Comprehensive Plan)</i>
T6	Create and distribute a trail map that indicates the location of all trails and trailheads within the municipality.
T7	Encourage scouting organizations to participate in the development and maintenance of trails as service programs.
T8	Continue to develop the remaining trail heads as part of the municipal trail system to provide pedestrian access to the community trail system.
T9	Identify, map and incorporate into the trail system plan the existing pedestrian and bicycle routes throughout the Municipality, where appropriate. Discourage use of unsafe trails or those identified by the community trail system feasibility study as unnecessary or superfluous.
T10	Pennsylvania Boulevard Property - Develop a park master plan for the Pennsylvania Boulevard Property. This master plan should include trail facilities and trail head. Incorporate these facilities into the overall municipal trail system..
T 11	Bird Park - Properly designate all trails within Bird Park through the use of information signs and markings.
T12	Robb Hollow Park - Create a trail map for Robb Hollow Park, indicating the location, length and degree of accessibility for each trail segment within the park.
T13	Bird Park - Create a trail map for Bird Park, indicating the location, length and degree of accessibility for each trail segment within the park.

T14	Main Park - Create a trail map for Main Park, indicating the location, length and degree of accessibility for each trail segment within the park.
T 15	Robb Hollow Park - Provide suitable, well-designed pedestrian access to the park through the development of trails to withstand heavy pedestrian traffic. Access to these trails from the surrounding residential areas should be provided in a safe manner.
T16	Bird Park - Develop an overall trail plan for the entire park. This plan will guide the designation, creation or elimination of trails based on the trail plan's layout. The plan should include a crushed, stone loop trail circling the park and shorter, organic surfaced, hiking trails.
T19	Bird Park - Construct a 8' wide crushed limestone entrance path from the parking area to the rear of the open field.
T20	Main Park - Properly designate all trails within Main Park through the use of information signs and markings.
T21	Bird Park - Construct shorter trail segments, with proper drainage and organic surfacing, for hiking and educational use.
T22	Bird Park - Develop two trail heads, one at each the norther and souther edges of the park to provide secondary pedestrian access to the park.
T23	Robb Hollow Park - Properly designate all trails within Robb Hollow Park through the use of informational signs and trail markings.
T24	Main Park - Develop a trail head within Main Park to provide pedestrian access to the park. See Municipal Trail System Map.
T25	Main Park - Develop a trail head within Main Park to provide access to the community trail system. See Municipal Trail System Map.
T26	Bird Park - Develop two trail heads within Bird Park to provide pedestrian access to the park. See Municipal Trail System Map.
T27	Bird Park - Develop a trail head within Bird Park to provide access to the community trail system. See Municipal Trail System Map.
T28	Robb Hollow Park - Develop the three trail heads within Robb Hollow Park to provide pedestrian access to the park and the community trail system.
T29	Twin Hills - Construct a limestone loop trail through the park.
T30	Twin Hills - Construct shorter wood chip loop trails.
T31	Twin Hills - Develop a trail map, indicating location within the park, length and degree of accessibility.

Table 4-16

## Strategies Summary by Priority (H,M,L)

### High Priority Strategies

A1	Clarify the role of the Park Advisory Board. Adjust the stated function of the Board to include recreation as part of its purpose.	n/a
A2	Include the Public Works Director or a departmental designee as a regular attendee of the Park Advisory Board meetings.	n/a
A3	Formalize and clarify the role of the Director of Recreation as the position relates to the Parks Advisory Board.	n/a
A4	Formalize the existing cooperative relationship between the Municipality's Recreation Department and the School District regarding the use of recreation facilities. This should ultimately result in a written document.	n/a
A5	Formalize the role and function of the committee formed to address sports facility issues and demands.	n/a
A6	Adopt Mt. Lebanon's Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan, 2001 as the basis for establishing a formal planning system for recreation, parks and open space within the Municipality.	n/a
A7	Implement a sophisticated, computerized registration system that has the ability to track program registrations, programs, facility use, finances, user and program profiles, and can provide a variety of reports from which these can be analyzed.	\$20,000
A8	Take a proactive role in developing regional recreation initiatives.	n/a
A9	Continue to develop the Parks and Recreation link on the Municipality's web page and utilize local cable access to publicize information on programs, facilities and events.	n/a
A10	Ensure the continuation of a successful public input process in future recreation and open space planning efforts, including public meetings, continued involvement of the Parks Advisory Board, and other input venues.	n/a
A11	The Mt. Lebanon Parks Advisory Board should adopt Mt. Lebanon's vision for the future of recreation as its Mission (identified in this Plan).	n/a
P1	Hire a part-time clerical/registration assistant.	\$25,000/yr
M1	Adopt a policy for resource-based solutions to engineering problems within municipal parks.	\$5,000/yr

M2	Utilize turf management practices that make fields more playable, promote optimum stormwater infiltration and decrease use of chemicals within municipal parks.	n/a
M3	Develop a cooperative program with the School District to develop a volunteer program for students to perform community service hours within municipal parks.	n/a
M4	Dedicate additional man hours of public works employees to routine maintenance within municipal parks.	n/a
F1	Conduct a swimming pool feasibility study to determine the best course of action in upgrading the existing pool or construction of a new facility.	\$30,000
F2	Increase use of grant funding for parks and recreation capital projects.	n/a
F3	Explore the possibility of jointly pursuing a new community center in conjunction with the School District.	n/a
GOS1	Develop a open space management plan for all undeveloped land within the Municipality.	\$15,000
GOS2	Implement the open space management plan.	\$25,000/yr
GOS3	Identify, develop and foster cooperative relationships with surrounding municipalities to work toward the development of a regional greenway system that includes natural areas within several communities.	n/a
GOS4	Consider the designation of key natural areas within municipal parks as conservation districts, according to the Municipality's zoning ordinance.	n/a
RP1	Provide additional opportunities for cultural programming.	n/a
RP2	Program staff should continually keep current on new program ideas by attending programming conferences and visiting other departments.	\$5,000/yr
RF1	Develop and adopt design development criteria and guidelines for the construction of new recreation facilities within previously undeveloped areas.	n/a
RF2	Develop and adopt design development criteria as guidelines for future renovations and construction within existing parks.	n/a
RF3	Explore the possibility of submitting a grant application in conjunction with the School District for the installation of synthetic surfacing on Mellon or Jefferson fields.	n/a
RF11	Upgrade existing sports fields to improve stormwater drainage.	\$150,000

ML14	Properly designate all trails within Main Park through the use of information signs and markings	\$10,000
B4	Develop an overall trail plan for the entire park.	\$7,500
B5	Construct a 8' wide crushed limestone entrance path from the parking area to the rear of the open field.	\$15,000
B6	Re-grade stream banks where recent dredging has left them too steep and dangerous.	n/a
B7	Develop and annually implement a proper aeration and drainage plan for the soccer fields.	n/a
B15	Properly designate all trails within Bird Park through the use of information signs and markings.	\$15,000
RH1	Manage natural areas within this park according to the long-range open space management plan.	\$5,000/yr
RH2	Provide suitable, well-designed pedestrian access to the park through the development of trails.	\$15,000/yr/ 4 yrs
I10	Install new playground equipment to replace unsafe equipment and provide additional play opportunities.	\$45,000
R7	Install new playground equipment to replace unsafe equipment and provide additional play opportunities.	\$55,000
W10	Install new playground equipment to replace outdated equipment and provide additional play opportunities.	\$25,000
T1	Develop a feasibility study for the municipal trail system.	\$35,000
T2	Identify and develop a master plan for the first on-road bicycle trail segment of the municipal trail system.	\$15,000
T3	Construct the first on-road bicycle trail segment (line striping, signs)	\$65,000
T4	Continue the development of the on-road bicycle lane portion of the Municipality-wide trail system.	\$65,000/yr/ 4yrs
T5	Identify, develop and foster cooperative relationships with surrounding municipalities that integrate trails in surrounding communities as a regional system.	n/a
	<b>Total Cost for High Priority Strategies</b>	<b>\$647,500</b>

**Medium Priority Strategies**

A12	Adopt a planning process such as the “three tier system” illustrated as part of this study.	n/a
A13	Implement internet registrations as alternatives to the current phone, drop-in and mail-in registration.	\$15,000
P2	Hire a full-time program assistant.	\$50,000/yr
P3	Create and adopt a volunteer management policy.	n/a
F3	Conduct a feasibility study for the Ice Rink to determine its financial and programmatic feasibility for the future.	\$30,000
F5	Establish a complete financial policy that would create individual cost centers, identifying for each how fees are to be determined, what the expected cost recovery is, and compare revenues to expenses.	n/a
F6	Produce an annual report for the department that will include program and facility highlights, attendances (listed by facility and program classification), financial data and goals and plans for the future.	\$4,000/yr
F7	Identify all cost centers or revenue centers within the Recreation Center for financial reporting purposes.	n/a
F8	Develop a funding strategy and policy (set guidelines, not ordinances).	n/a
F9	Create a non-profit foundation to receive contributions for parks and recreation expansion.	\$2,500
GOS5	Develop and adopt a plant list for use by the Municipality for all future vegetative plantings within municipal parks.	n/a
GOS6	Develop and implement a streambank restoration plan for key stream segments within the Municipality.	\$50,000
GOS7	Actively undertake a program for the enhancement of wildlife habitat within municipally-owned natural areas.	n/a
RP3	Work towards implementing program ideas to fill the program deficiencies identified in the study, including teen and senior programming.	n/a
RP4	Build upon existing programs to develop a formal environmental education program that capitalizes on natural features within the community.	\$10,000
RF4	Assist in the clarification of the policy toward public access to outdoor recreation facilities owned by the School District.	n/a
RF5	Provide designated areas on municipally-owned park property for the construction of public community gardens for use by area residents.	\$1,000

RF6	Utilize the inventory information from this Plan to develop an informational brochure locating municipal and school district recreation facilities throughout the community.	\$10,000
RF7	Explore the possibility of submitting a grant application in conjunction with the School District for the lighting of a School District Field.	n/a
RF8	Following the successful acquisition of the Pennsylvania Boulevard Property, develop a park master site development plan for the property.	\$30,000
ML10	Install new playground equipment to replace equipment recently removed and to provide additional play opportunities.	\$50,000
ML15	Create a trail map for Main Park, indicating the location, length and degree of accessibility for each trail segment within the park.	n/a
B8	Construct shorter trail segments, with proper drainage and organic surfacing, for hiking and educational use.	\$10,000/yr
T6	Continue the process of developing the vacant land adjacent to Hazel Drive to be used as a linear park that would contain walking trails, natural areas and provide a connection to and from the neighborhoods in accessible areas of Mt. Lebanon.	\$100,000
T7	Create and distribute a trail map that indicates the location of all trails and trailheads within the municipality.	\$2,500
T8	Encourage scouting organizations to participate in the development and maintenance of trails as service programs.	n/a
T10	Identify, map and incorporate into the trail system plan the existing pedestrian and bicycle routes throughout the Municipality, where appropriate.	n/a
B9	Install new 2-5 composite play structure and swings at the lower level of the park.	\$60,000
TH2	Develop a trail master plan for the park to determine location, type and accessibility of proposed trails.	\$20,000
<b>Total Cost for Medium Priority Strategies</b>		<b>\$475,000</b>

**Low Priority Strategies**

F10	Conduct a feasibility study to determine the feasibility of the expansion or renovation of the existing recreation center.	\$30,000
P4	Explore opportunities for additional office space as additional employees are hired.	n/a

P5	Expand the Municipality's use of volunteers for parks and recreation.	n/a
GOS8	Establish a policy to discourage the cutting down of healthy trees with a diameter of breast height (dbh) of 8 inches or more.	n/a
GOS9	Develop and adopt a revised planting list for street trees that includes additional species native to western Pennsylvania.	n/a
RP5	Create an option for on-line evaluation of programs and facilities by residents and program participants.	n/a
RP6	Create opportunities that capitalize on the availability of retirees for the instruction of recreation programs and activities.	n/a
RF9	Establish a pathfinder/wayfinder sign program to mark routes to municipal recreation facilities.	\$25,000
RF10	Construct additional picnic pavilions within existing municipal parks to meeting growing demand.	\$225,000
ML11	Consider identifying an appropriate area within the park for a dog park and designate it as such (fencing/signs).	\$20,000
ML12	Develop a trail head within Main Park to provide pedestrian access to the park.	\$3,000
ML13	Develop a trail head within Main Park to provide access to the community trail system.	\$5,000
T9	Continue to develop the remaining trail heads as part of the municipal trail system to provide pedestrian access to the community trail system.	\$16,000/yr/ 3 yrs
B10	Develop two trail heads within Bird Park to provide pedestrian access to the park.	\$6,000
B12	Implement a planting plan consisting of natural plant species to enhance the development of a vegetative "edge" to the forest surrounding the soccer field.	\$5,000
B14	Install informational signs pertaining to the ecology and the natural elements found within the park.	\$5,000
B16	Develop a trail head within Bird Park to provide access to the community trail system. See Municipal Trail System Map.	\$4,000
RH4	Develop a trail map, indicating location within the park, length and degree of accessibility.	\$5,000
RH5	Properly designate all trails within Robb Hollow Park through the use of informational signs and trail markings.	\$15,000
RH6	Develop the three trail heads within Robb Hollow Park to provide pedestrian access to the park and the community trail system.	\$12,000

TH3	Construct the first trail segment within the park.	\$10,000
TH4	Install entrance and directional signs.	\$5,000
TH5	Develop a trail map, indicating location within the park, length and degree of accessibility.	\$5,000
	<b>Total Cost for Low Priority Strategies</b>	<b>\$366,000</b>

# Recreation, Park & Open Space Plan

## LEGEND

-  Recreation Facilities
  -  Conservation District
  -  Potential Greenways
  -  Pennsylvania Boulevard Property
  -  Underserved by Neighborhood Parks
  -  Proposed Trailhead
- Proposed Trails**
-  Pennsylvania Boulevard Connector
  -  Gilkeson Road Connector
  -  Robb Hollow Loop
  -  North Loop



## Recreation, Park & Open Space Plan

Municipality of Mt. Lebanon  
Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan

FIGURE NUMBER:

4-17

Table 4-18

Fiscal Impact on the Municipal Budget 2001 - 2010											
Strategy	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Part-time Clerical/Registration Assistant (P1)	\$25,000	\$25,960	\$27,000	\$28,080	\$29,205	\$30,370	\$31,585	\$32,850	\$34,165	\$35,530	\$299,745
Full-time Program Assistant (P2)	----	----	\$50,000	\$52,000	\$54,080	\$56,245	\$58,495	\$60,835	\$63,265	\$65,795	\$460,715
Computerized Registration System (A7)	\$20,000	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	\$20,000
Internet Registration (A13)	----	----	----	\$15,000	----	----	----	----	----	----	\$15,000
Dog Park (ML11)	----	----	----	----	----	----	\$20,000	----	----	----	\$20,000
Training (M1, RP2)	\$10,000	\$10,400	\$10,815	\$11,250	\$11,670	\$12,165	\$12,655	\$13,160	\$13,685	\$14,235	\$120,035
Feasibility Studies (F1, F3, F4, T1)	\$90,000	\$35,000	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	\$125,000
Department of Recreation Annual Report (F6)	----	----	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$32,000
(F9) Create a non-profit foundation	----	----	\$2,500	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	\$2,500
Open Space Management Plan (GOS1, RH1)	----	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$115,000
Strembank Restoration (GOS6)	----	----	----	----	\$50,000	----	----	----	----	----	\$50,000

**Fiscal Impact on the Municipal Budget 2001 - 2010**

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>Total</i>
Environmental Education Program (RP4)	----	----	----	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$40,000
Community Gardens (RF5)	----	----	----	----	\$1,000	----	----	----	----	----	\$1,000
Recreation Brochure (RF6)	----	----	\$10,000	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	\$10,000
Park Master Plans (RF8, B4, TH2, T2)	----	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$50,000	----	----	----	----	----	----	\$72,500
Sign System (RF9, ML14, B14, B15, RH5, TH4, T7)	----	\$25,000	----	\$25,000	\$7,500	----	----	\$10,000	\$15,000	----	\$82,500
Playground Equipment (ML10, B9, I10, R7, W10)	\$25,000	\$45,000	\$55,000	\$50,000	\$60,000	----	----	----	----	----	\$235,000
Trail Construction (B5, B8, RH2, RH4, TH3, TH5, T3, T4)	----	\$30,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$80,000	\$5,000	----	\$15,000	----	\$400,000
Picnic Pavilions (RF10)	----	----	----	----	\$225,000	----	----	----	----	----	\$225,000
Sports Field Improvements (RF11)	----	----	\$150,000	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	\$150,000
Trail Heads (ML12, ML13, B10, B16, RH6, T9)	----	----	----	----	----	----	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$22,000	\$16,000	\$94,000

**Fiscal Impact on the Municipal Budget 2001 - 2010**

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>Total</i>
Facility Improvements (T6)	----	----	----	----	\$100,000	----	----	----	----	----	\$100,000
Miscellaneous	\$8,000	\$5,500	\$3,000	----	----	----	\$5,000	----	----	----	\$21,500
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$178,000</i>	<i>\$199,360</i>	<i>\$447,315</i>	<i>\$345,330</i>	<i>\$647,455</i>	<i>\$197,780</i>	<i>\$179,735</i>	<i>\$163,845</i>	<i>\$182,115</i>	<i>\$151,560</i>	<i>\$2,692,495</i>