

Parks and Recreation Plan



Williams Township Northampton County, PA

November 2010



85 Old Dublin Pike
Doylestown, PA 18901

(215) 345-7020

(215) 345-4328

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Parks and Recreation Plan



for Williams Township,
Northampton County, Pennsylvania

November 2010

Acknowledgements

Board of Supervisors

George Washburn, Chair
Fred Mebus, Vice Chair
Sally Hixson



The Popularity of Community Day Fills the Parking Lot



Rec Board Members at Work in Concession Stand

Recreation Board

Raymond Abert
Andy Kanusky
Judy Abert
Dorothy Hagenbuch
Leroy Williams
Tina Fiorino
Bobbi Lytle

Planning Consultant



85 Old Dublin Pike
Doylestown, PA 18901
(215) 345-7020

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in association with Sara Pandl and Associates



View of Melchor Tract

Williams Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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Plan Purpose and Goals

A Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan is a valuable tool in assisting local municipalities in addressing the leisure needs of their residents. The in-depth planning process combines a careful analysis of a community's demographic and physical characteristics with a thorough review of its existing recreational facilities, programs and operations to identify ways in which a municipality's leisure services can be improved for all age groups and interests. The study includes a public participation process that solicits feedback from residents with regard to the success of existing recreational opportunities and their desire for new leisure activities and facilities. The findings are used to create a series of recommendations to guide municipal officials and community leaders in implementing recreational improvements over a ten-year period. The Park and Recreation Plan for Williams Township is intended to provide the Recreation Board with the information it needs to effectively oversee and improve recreational opportunities in the township in collaboration with the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and Land Preservation Board.



Pedestrian Entrance to Williams Township Municipal Park

Background

Williams Township is one of the oldest municipalities in Northampton County, having been formed in 1750 while it was still part of Bucks County. It is situated in the southeast corner of Northampton County and is bounded by the following communities:

- Lower Saucon Township to the west
- City of Easton, Glendon Borough, Palmer Township and Bethlehem Township to the north
- Pohatcong Township and Phillipsburg in New Jersey to the east
- Riegelsville Borough and Springfield and Durham Townships in Bucks County to the south

The entire eastern border of the township abuts the Delaware River and a portion of its northern boundary abuts the Lehigh River. The township encompasses 18.85 square miles of land. The municipality is a second-class township governed by an elected 3-member Board of Supervisors.

Socioeconomic Features

The socioeconomic conditions of a community can have an impact on the development and use of a municipal park, recreation and open space system. Demographic characteristics and economic data offer insight into the potential demand for leisure services and the ability of a municipality to provide these services.

Population

Of the 38 municipalities in Northampton County, Williams Township ranks 20th in total population, according to the 2000 U.S. Census. The township's population of 4,470 persons is equal to 1.67% of Northampton County's total population of 267,066 persons. Table 1 shows the historical growth of the township's population since 1970 based upon the U.S. Census results. Table 2 shows the projected population estimates for 2010 through 2030 as prepared by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC). The upcoming 2010 U.S. Census will confirm whether the project 38% growth spurt has occurred or whether this estimated growth rate has been curtailed by the recent economic recession.

Table 1 Historical Population Changes for Williams Township			
U.S. Census Year	Total # of Persons	# Change from Previous Decade	% Change
1970	3,282	-	-
1980	3,843	561	17.09
1990	3,982	139	3.62
2000	4,470	488	12.26

Table 2 Population Projections for Williams Township			
Year of LVPC Estimate	Total # of Persons	# Change from Previous Decade	% Change
2010	6,178	1,708	38.21
2020	7,372	1,194	19.33
2030	8,262	890	12.07

Housing

The 2000 U.S. Census shows that there are 1,657 households in Williams Township with 2.7 persons per household, compared to a total of 101,541 households in all of Northampton County with a county-wide average of 2.53 persons per household. Owner-occupied housing represents 87.5% of the total number of households in the township. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission keeps track of the number of residential building permits filed for each municipality in the Lehigh Valley. Table 3 shows the number of such permits filed for Williams Township since the year 2000. If all of these homes are constructed and occupied by the average of 2.7 persons per home, the township's population will grow to an additional 2,082 persons to a total of 6,552 persons by the year 2010, exceeding the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's estimate.

Table 3 Residential Building Permits Filed for Williams Township	
Year	# of Permits Filed
2000	58
2001	39
2002	37
2003	211
2004	138
2005	123
2006	105
2007	37
2008	23
Total	771

Age

Different age groups have different leisure interests. Table 4 compares the changes in the age of the Williams Township population between 1990 and 2000. The number of children under the age of 5 decreased during this decade, while the number of individuals between 45 and 54 years of age increased. The median age for the township as of the 2000 U.S. Census is 40.7 years, slightly higher than the median age of 38.5 years for Northampton County.

Table 4 U.S. Census Age Distribution in Williams Township				
Age Category	# in 1990	% of 1990 Total Population	# in 2000	% of 2000 Total Population
Under 5 years	272	6.8	211	4.7
5 to 9 years	1039	26.1	308	6.9
10 to 14 years	(5 to 17 = 732)		353	7.9
15 to 19 years	(18 to 20 = 136)		295	6.6
20 to 24 years	(21 to 24 = 171)		176	3.9
25 to 34 years	1,310	32.9	433	9.7
35 to 44 years			823	18.4
45 to 54 years	486	12.2	803	18.0
55 to 59 years	203	5.1	273	6.1
60 to 64 years	195	4.9	212	4.7
65 to 74 years	311	7.8	352	7.9
75 to 84 years	136	3.4	188	4.2
85 years and over	30	0.8	43	1.0
Total Population	3,982	100.0	4,470	100.0

Gender

Leisure activities also differ between men and women. The 2000 U.S. Census shows that there are slightly more women than men in Williams Township, with the greatest difference in gender occurring with individuals 65 years of age and older.

Table 5 2000 U.S. Census Gender Distribution for Williams Township				
Age Category	Male		Female	
Under 18	546	12.2 %	535	12.0%
18 to 64	1,416	31.7 %	1,390	31.1%
65 and Over	266	5.9%	317	7.1%
Total	2,228	49.8%	2,242	50.2%

Ethnicity and Place of Birth

The vast majority of township residents are white (97.25%) as shown in Table 6. In contrast, 91.2% of Northampton County residents are white. Persons in Williams Township of Black or African-American, Asian or multiracial heritage each represent approximately 1% of the total population.

Table 6 2000 U.S. Census Ethnicity for Williams Township		
Category	# of Persons	# of Total Population
One Race		
White	4,347	97.25
Black or African American	36	0.81
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	0.04
Asian	42	0.94
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1	0.02
Some Other Race	6	0.13
Two or More Races	36	0.81
Total	4,470	100

Williams Township includes 47 individuals of Hispanic or Latino descent, equaling 1.1% of the total population. Ninety-seven percent of Williams Township residents were born in the United States, with two-thirds of those individuals born in Pennsylvania.

Income:

Williams Township residents have a median household income higher than that of Northampton County as a whole, as shown in Table 7. There are 1,260 families living the township. The number of families and individuals in Williams Township living below the poverty level is significantly lower than that of Northampton County.

Table 7 2000 U.S. Census Income for Williams Township					
Municipality	Median Household Income	# of Families Below Poverty Level	% of Families Below Poverty Level	# of Individuals Below Poverty Level	% of Individuals Below Poverty Level
Williams Twp.	\$56,196	22	1.7	119	2.7
Northampton Cty.	\$45,234	4,059	5.7	20,404	7.9

Education

Individuals with a high school diploma or better represent 86.3% of Williams Township residents compared to 80.7% of Northampton County residents. Persons with a bachelor's degree or higher represent 23.2% of Williams Township residents compared to 21.2% of Northampton County residents.

Employment

Of the 2,306 residents from Williams Township in the workforce, nearly three-quarters are employed in white-collar jobs, such as management, service and sales positions, as shown in Table 8.

Table 8 Occupation of Williams Township Residents as of 2000 U.S. Census		
Category	# of Employed Persons	% of Total Employed Persons
Management, professional, and related occupations	887	38.4
Service occupations	285	12.4
Sales and office occupations	539	23.4
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	7	0.3
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	296	12.8
Production, transportation, & material moving occupations	292	12.7
Total	2306	100

Residents are employed by a wide range of industries as shown in Table 9, with the greatest number of individuals working for health and education institutions or in the manufacturing sector.

Table 9 Distribution of Williams Township Workforce by Industry as of 2000 U.S. Census		
Industry	# of Persons Employed	% of Total Employed
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting and mining	33	1.4
Construction	229	9.9
Manufacturing	458	19.9
Wholesale trade	72	3.1
Retail trade	221	9.6
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	93	4.0
Information	121	5.2
Financing, insurance, real estate and rental and leasing	87	3.8
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, & waste management services	175	7.6
Educational, health and social services	485	21.0
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	136	5.9
Other services (except public administration)	127	5.5
Public administration	69	3.0
Total	2,306	100

The Existing Land Use Map from the 2000 Supplement to the 1989 Williams Township Comprehensive Plan lists the major employers in the municipality consisting of approximately 30 small commercial establishments (restaurants/taverns, automotive repair shops, convenience

stores, lawn/garden supplies and service, personal care, gas stations, home improvement contractors, etc.) in addition to several industrial sites listed in Table 10.

Table 10 Industrial Employers in Williams Township as of 2000 Comprehensive Plan Update	
Name of Employer	
Bay Insulation of Pennsylvania	
Chrin Landfill	
Columbia Gas	
ICT Associates, Inc. (Innovative Control Technologies)	
J&J Flock/Filmtech Corp.	
J&J Flock Warehouse/Intercoastal Trucking	
Panel Hi-Tech, Inc. (Industrial Controls)	
Polytek Development Corporation	
Purity Zinc and Alloys Manufacturing, Inc.	
Rapp Pallet	
Smooth On	

Glendon Borough

Residents of Glendon Borough are welcome to utilize the park facilities and programs in Williams Township for recreational purposes since the borough is very small and has only a 0.2-acre Poswistilo Pavilion, a municipally-owned recreational area. For this reason, the socioeconomic features of Glendon Borough are briefly reviewed here. U.S. Census and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission statistics show that Glendon Borough's population has decreased significantly since 1970 and is expected to remain stagnant over the next twenty years. (See Tables 11 and 12).

Table 11 Historical Population Changes for Glendon Borough			
U.S. Census Year	Total # of Persons	# Change from Previous Decade	% Change
1970	637	-	-
1980	354	- 283	- 44.42
1990	391	37	10.45
2000	367	- 24	- 6.14

Table 12 Population Projections for Glendon Borough			
Year of LVPC Estimate	Total # of Persons	# Change from Previous Decade	% Change
2010	368	1	0.27
2020	368	0	0.00
2030	369	1	0.27

The distribution of the borough's population by age can be seen in Table 13. Individuals between the ages of 0 to 9 and 35 and 44 make up the largest segments of population, followed by persons between the ages of 45 to 54 and 25 to 34 respectively. The median age for the borough as of the 2000 U.S. Census is 36.5 years.

Table 13 U.S. Census Age Distribution in Glendon Borough				
Age Category	# in 1990	% of 1990 Total Population	# in 2000	% of 2000 Total Population
Under 5 years	40	10.2	24	6.5
5 to 9 years	92	23.5	39	10.6
10 to 14 years	(5 to 17 = 58)		25	6.8
15 to 19 years	(18 to 20 = 10)		25	6.8
20 to 24 years	(21 to 24 = 24)		9	2.5
25 to 34 years	142	36.3	48	13.1
35 to 44 years			63	17.2
45 to 54 years	27	6.9	51	13.9
55 to 59 years	18	4.6	20	5.4
60 to 64 years	23	5.9	15	4.1
65 to 74 years	28	7.2	27	7.4
75 to 84 years	16	4.1	13	3.5
85 years and over	5	1.3	8	2.2
Total Population	391	100.0	367	100.0

Unlike Williams Township, there are slightly more men than women in Glendon Borough for each age category, as shown in Table 14.

Table 14 2000 U.S. Census Gender Distribution for Glendon Borough				
Age Category	Male		Female	
Under 18	57	15.5%	49	13.4%
18 to 64	111	30.3%	102	27.8%
65 and Over	24	6.5%	24	6.5%
Total	192	52.3%	175	47.7%

Glendon Borough consists predominantly of white individuals as shown in Table 15.

Table 15 2000 U.S. Census Ethnicity for Glendon Borough		
Category	# of Persons	# of Total Population
One Race		
White	351	95.6
Black or African American	3	0.8
American Indian or Alaska Native	-	-
Asian	5	1.4
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	-	-
Some Other Race	1	0.3
Two or More Races	7	1.9
Total	367	100.0

Table 16 highlights the income characteristics for families and individuals in the borough. Out of 101 total families, 13 families (12.9%) in Glendon Borough live below the poverty level, nearly three times the rate of Northampton County as a whole. These families represent 57 individuals

living below the poverty level. The median household income is also lower than that of Northampton County or Williams Township.

Table 16 2000 U.S. Census Income for Glendon Borough					
Municipality	Median Household Income	# of Families Below Poverty Level	% of Families Below Poverty Level	# of Individuals Below Poverty Level	% of Individuals Below Poverty Level
Glendon Borough	\$42,969	13	12.9	57	15.5
Northampton Cty.	\$45,234	4,059	5.7	20,404	7.9

Natural, Geologic, & Historic Resource Inventory & Assessment

Many recreational activities are related to the enjoyment of natural or historic resources and require specific environmental or cultural features in order to support these activities. For example, birdwatchers need access to areas with diverse bird habitats, soccer players need large flat open play field, hikers like traversing scenic hills and valleys of varying slopes, and history buffs enjoy reenactments and other cultural events. As a result, it is important to understand the natural and historic features of Williams Township in order to understand how these resources can enhance leisure opportunities for residents, as summarized below.

Pennsylvania Highlands

The natural character of Williams Township can be defined by its location within an ecologically significant region known as the Pennsylvania Highlands that stretches from the Delaware River just south of Easton to the Susquehanna River at Conewago Falls, as shown on The Pennsylvania Highlands Greenway Map. A variety of state, county, and local agencies and organizations are currently working together to preserve the most important natural resources, called “critical treasures,” to form a greenway corridor in this area.

In Williams Township, this landscape consists of a unique pattern of limestone valleys surrounded by ridges made of gneiss, granite and quartzite that create a dramatic topography ranging from a peak elevation of 1,017 above sea level at Hexenkopf Hill to a low elevation of approximately 140 feet along the Delaware River, as shown on the USGS Topography Map. A considerable portion of the township is steeply sloped due to the underlying geology, and many of these slopes are densely forested, as depicted on the Steep Slope/ Carbonate Geology Map and the Woodlands Map. The ridge lines delineate the boundaries of five watersheds within the township including the Delaware River, Cooks Creek, Fry’s Run (aka Frya Run), Lehigh River and Saucon Creek, each with their own floodplain, wetland and hydric soil features as shown on the Streams and Watersheds Map and the Floodplains, Wetlands and Hydric Soil Map. The water quality of each of these streams is summarized in Table 17.

Table 17 Characteristics of Streams in Williams Township	
Stream Name	Water Quality Designation
Delaware River (Lehigh River to Head of Tide)	Warm Water Fishes, Migratory Fishes
Delaware River Unnamed Tributaries (Lehigh River to Pidcock Creek)	Trout Stocking, Migratory Fishes
Frys Run (aka Frya Run)	High Quality Waters, Cold Water Fishes, Migratory Fishes
Lehigh River (Allentown Dam to Mouth)	Warm Water Fishes, Migratory Fishes
Lehigh River Unnamed Tributaries (Allentown Dam to Mouth)	Cold Water Fishes, Migratory Fishes
Saucon Creek (East Branch)	Cold Water Fishes

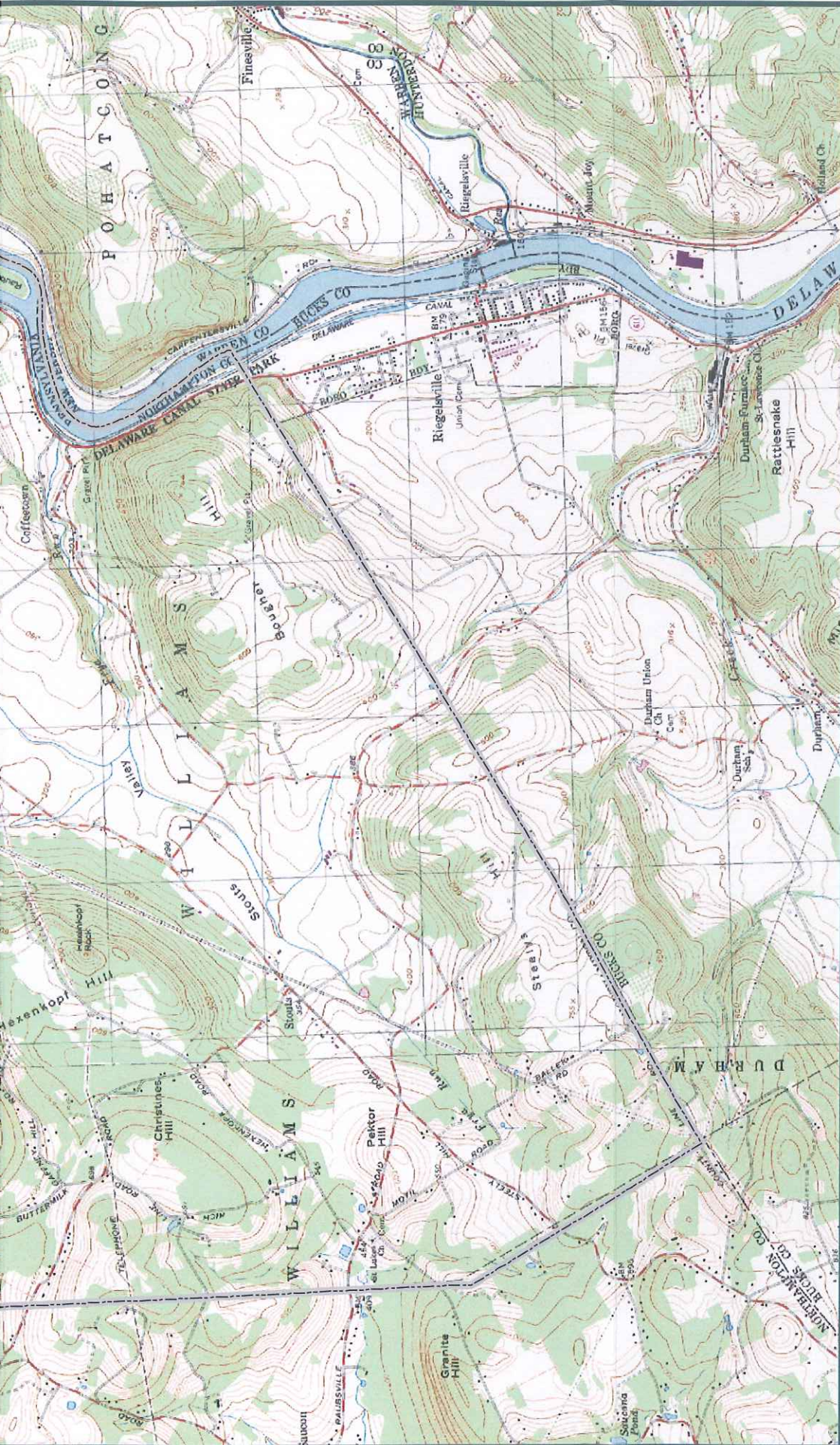
Natural, Geological, Historic and Cultural Resources

The physical characteristics of the Pennsylvania Highlands landscape not only exposes some unusual geologic formations but also supports a variety of plant/animal habitats, the most unique of which are documented in the 1999 Natural Areas Inventory of Lehigh and Northampton Counties. This report identifies several sites possessing high-quality natural features worthy of conservation within Williams Township as shown on the Natural, Geologic, and Historic Resources Map:

DELAWARE RIVER is an excellent recreational and scenic resource; it includes many current and historical records for species of special concern. The river and adjacent forested watersheds comprise one of the major corridors for the movement of biota in eastern Pennsylvania.

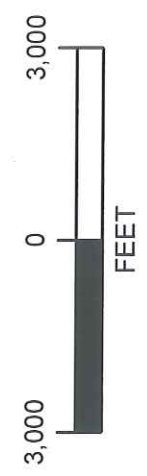
GRANITE HILL (Williams Twp) This site contains a fair to good quality "Herbaceous Vernal Pond" Natural Community, an S3S4 community of special concern. This site is described as a former farm containing very disturbed woods, a conifer plantation, and lots of flowing water. The woods are very severely impacted by invasive non-native species including Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), Morrow's Honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), and Garlic-Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Currently the site is low density rural residential and is surrounded by low density residential. This site also contains a good to excellent quality "Birch/Black Gun Rocky Slope Woodland" Natural Community. Granite hill is a steep, rocky forested hill rising 500 feet above the adjacent valley. The ridgetop of this site has a rocky spine running for approximately 1500 feet and the lower slope of the hill on the north side is completely forested and relatively undisturbed. Currently the site at the west end is surrounded by low density rural residential, but for the most part this site is in excellent condition. Associated species include Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), Poison-Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), Allegheny- Vine (*Ailanthus fragosa*), Herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Rock Polypody (*Polypodium virginianum*), Black Nightshade (*Solanum americanum*), Ricegrass (*Oryzopsis racemosa*), Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), Wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*), Common Blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*), Tall bentgrass (*Agrostis perennans*), American Basswood (*Tilia americana*), Witch-Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Chestnut Oak (*Quercus montana*), Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), Sedge (*Carex communis*), Black Birch (*Betula lenta*), Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), Wild Sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), White Oak (*Quercus alba*), White Wood-Aster (*Aster divaricatus*), Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Orange Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), Bedstraw (*Galium aparine*), and Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*). The Granite Hill area has a high development threat as lots are being carved out of the adjoining woods along a road. In addition, some non-native species are present, but for the most part this site is in excellent condition. The area with the vernal ponds is threatened by off-site development that could affect hydrology. In addition, the woods are very severely impacted by invasive non-native species including Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), Morrow's Honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), and Garlic-Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). It is recommended that a forested buffer be left around each vernal pond to ensure ecological integrity and to reduce hydrological changes. Logging should be minimized in this area to impede the further spread of invasive plant species that are already prolific in the area. Further steps to eradicate the spread of these invasive plant species are recommended.

HEXENKOPF SLOPES (Williams Twp.) - This locally significant area is a broad southeast facing forested slope. The summit of the ridge includes a large linear rock outcrop formation (see Hexenkopf Rock GE529). Areas adjacent to the summit have large and small boulders making up the substrate. Common tree species include tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), sweet birch (*Betula lenta*), oaks (*Quercus spp.*), and hickories (*Carya spp.*). Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) and spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) are common shrubs. Herb diversity is moderate with



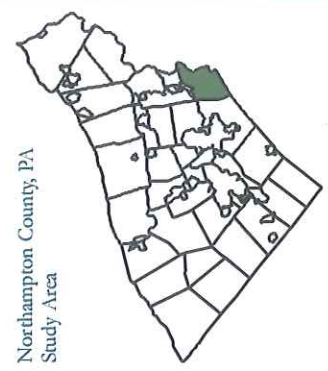
Legend

- 1-78
- Williams Township



Sources: Easton, Hellertown, Nazareth, and Riegelville USGS Quadrangles

Northampton County, PA
Study Area





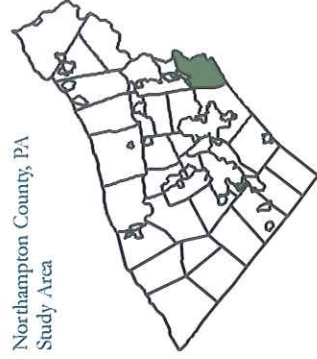
WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP - STEEP SLOPE AND CARBONATE GEOLOGY



Legend

- Road
- Williams Township
- Tax Parcel
- Stream
- Carbonate Geology
- Steep Slopes
 - 15 to 25 %
 - > 25 %

Northampton County, PA
Study Area



Sources: Parcels, Slopes and Geology - LVPC September 2009 GIS Data Release

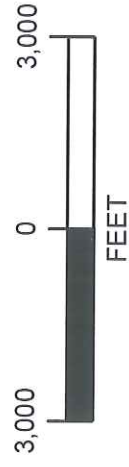


WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP - WOODLANDS MAP



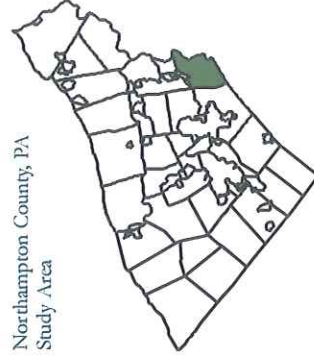
Legend

- Woodland Area
- Road
- Williams Township
- Tax Parcel
- Stream



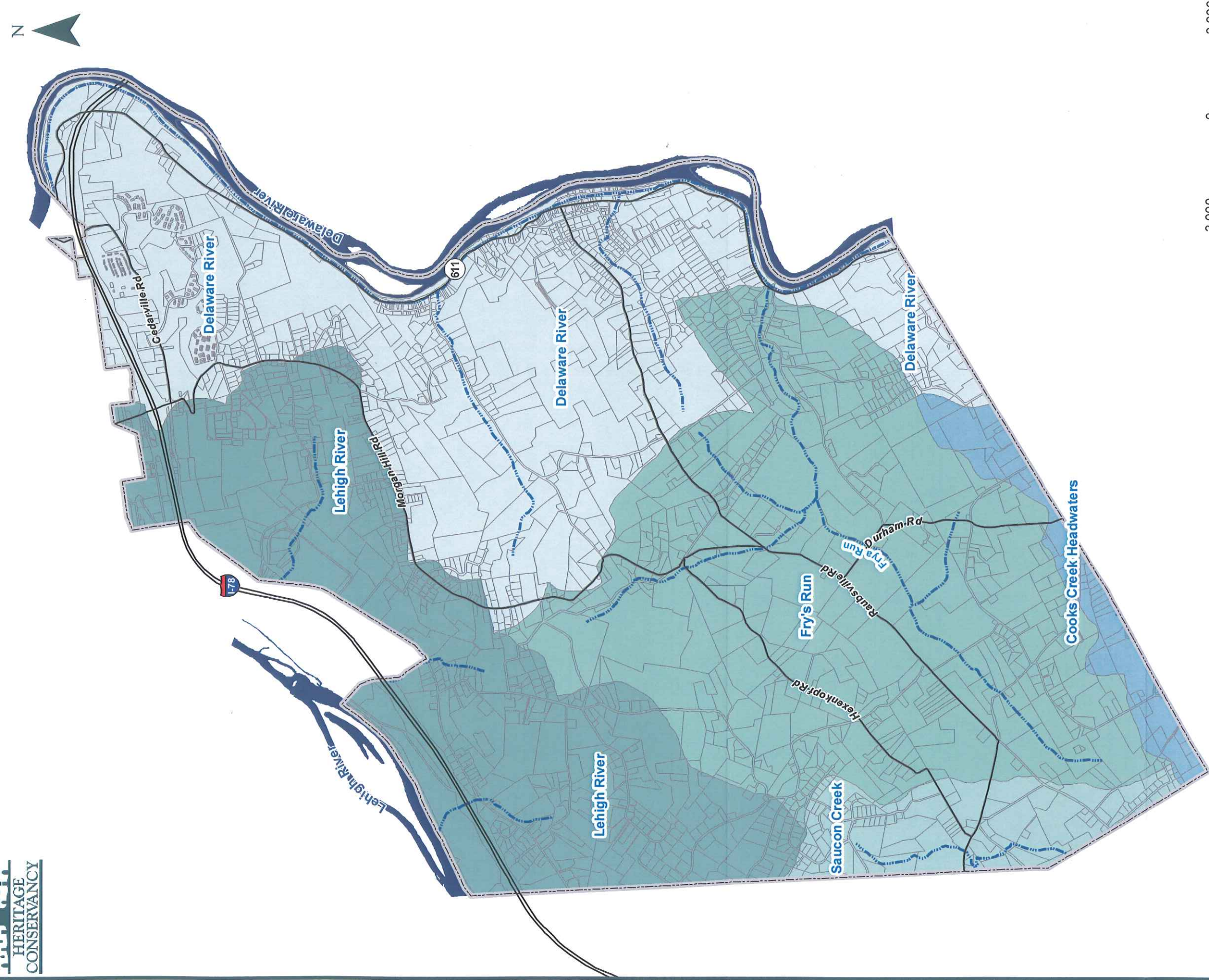
Sources: Woodlands and Parcels - LVPC September 2009 GIS Data Release

Northampton County, PA
Study Area





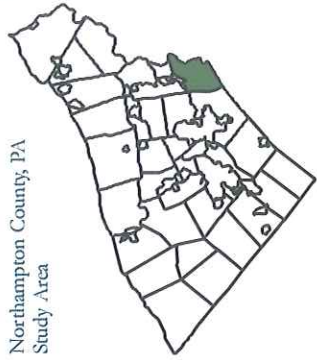
WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP - STREAMS AND WATERSHEDS MAP



Sources: Parcels, Watersheds, and Streams - LVPC September 2009 GIS Data Release

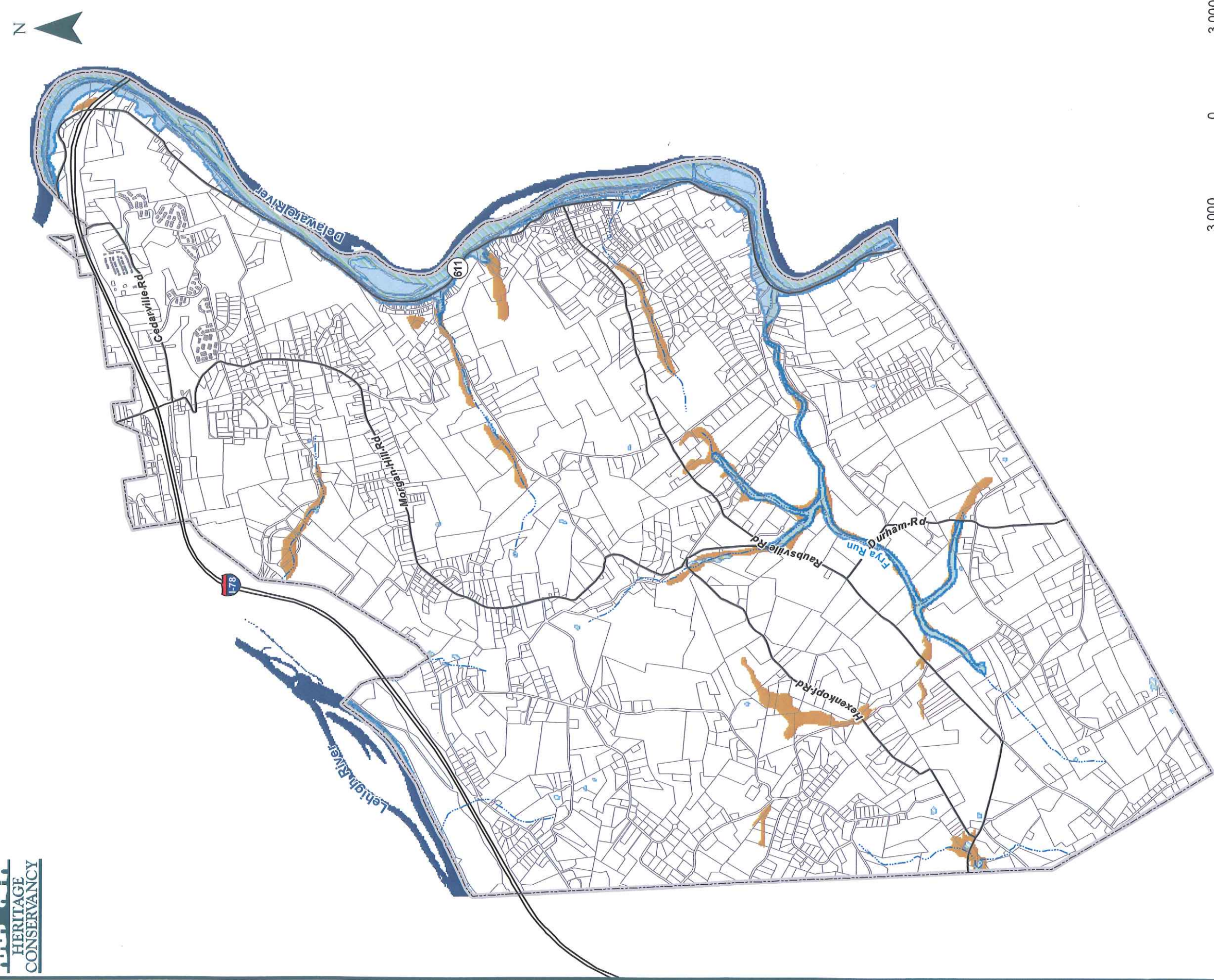
- Legend**
- Road
 - Williams Township
 - Streams
 - Tax Parcel
 - Cocks Creek Headwaters
 - Delaware River
 - Fry's Run
 - Lehigh River
 - Saucon Creek

All streams except Frya Run and Delaware River are unnamed tributaries.

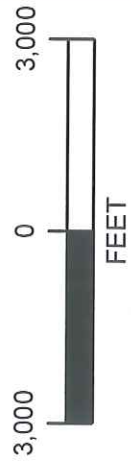




WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP - FLOODPLAINS, WETLANDS, AND HYDRIC SOIL MAP



FILE: X:\Projects\33020_WILLIAMS_TOWNSHIP\ArchMap\Williams Twp Natural Resource Maps.mxd



Sources: Floodplains, Wetlands, Soils, and Parcels - LVPC September 2009 GIS Data Release

Legend

- Road
- Williams Township
- Tax Parcel
- Stream
- Wetlands
- 100 Year Floodplain
- Hydric Soils

Northampton County, PA
Study Area



DATE: 3/26/2010



WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP - NATURAL, GEOLOGIC, HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MAP



FILE: X:\Projects\3020_WILLIAMS_TOWNSHIP\ArcMap\Williams Twp Natural Resource Maps.mxd

No.	Historic Site	NR Listed or Eligible
1	Jacob Arndt House and Barn	Listed
2	Coffeetown Grist Mill	Listed
3	Delaware Canal	Listed
4	Lehigh Canal	Listed
5	Multiple Stone Arch Bridge	Listed
6	Isaac Stoudt House	Listed
7	M. Opp Bridge	Eligible
8	G. Miller Rodenback Farmstead	Eligible
9	Unangst/Wirth Farm	Eligible
10	Monitz Grist Mill	Eligible
11	Stoudts Valley	Hist. Res. Survey Form Only

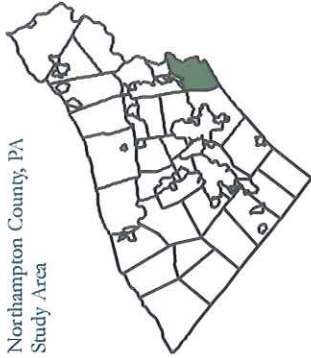


Sources: Parcels, Natural Areas Inventory and Soils - LVPC September 2009 GIS Data Release, Outstanding Scenic Geologic Feature, Historic and Cultural Resources - Heritage Conservancy

Legend

- Historic Location
- Road
- Stream
- Williams Township
- Tax Parcel
- Farmland Soils of Statewide Importance
- Prime Farmland Soils
- Natural Area
- Natural Area and Outstanding Scenic Geologic Feature
- Outstanding Scenic Geologic Feature

Northampton County, PA
Study Area



DATE: 3/26/2010

greater numbers of species being found further down slope. The site also includes several seeps and at least one vernal pool. These wetland areas support numerous plant species and are home to many animals as well. Upland areas on the slope have long been known as nesting areas for both black vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) and turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*). Although portions of the site have been selectively logged and it is currently bisected by a large power line right-of-way, there are a variety of habitat types here and there is potential for several species of special concern. Retaining the forest in an unfragmented condition will benefit the numerous species that make their homes here as well as those that use this area for migration.

HEXENKOPF ROCK (Williams Twp.) G8529 - This is a hilltop outcrop of Pochuck gneiss, one of the oldest rocks in North America. The rock also contains the mineral magnetite (Geyer and Bolles 1979).

HEXENKOPF WETLANDS (Williams Twp.) SA572 - This site includes a series of wetlands and seepy forest that occur along an unnamed tributary to Frys Run. They are variously dominated by shrubs, sedges (*Carex spp.*), and sweetflag (*Acorus calurus*). A PA-Endangered animal has been observed at this site as recently as 1995. Surveys in 1998 were unsuccessful but only a small portion of the area was surveyed. During the 1998 surveys it was determined that suitable habitat still exists, but it is marginal. Better habitat may occur elsewhere in the vicinity. Further surveys are recommended to determine if this species still occurs here. Avoiding disturbance to these wetlands and the adjacent forest should help keep this habitat in reasonable condition.

LEHIGH SLOPES (Bethlehem, Lower Saucon, Williams, and Palmer Townships) - This site contains a fair quality population of Bladder Fern (*Cystopteris ternesseensis*), an S1 Pennsylvania plant species of concern. The site is described as a west-northwest facing forested slope along the Lehigh River with scattered rock outcrops. The forest cover is mainly deciduous. The listed plant was found on mesic-limestone outcrops overlooking the Lehigh River. Associated species include Marginal Shield Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*), Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), Zigzag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*), Black Cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), White Wood Aster (*Aster divaricatus*), American Basswood (*Tilia americana*), Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), Stoneroot (*Collinsonia canadensis*), Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), and Witch-Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*). This site is currently being used as a highway construction site, a railroad corridor at the base of the slope, and forest. Threats and Disturbances include deer overbrowsing, highway construction in which a broad corridor has been cleared, and the construction of a bridge to link a road to I-78. More surveys are recommended for this site along the slopes to better determine the size of the plant's population. Logging at this site is not recommended.

MARITON SLOPES (Williams Twp.) - This locally significant area is a series of forested slopes and shaded escarpments above the Delaware River. The steepest portion of the slopes are dominated by red oak (*Quercus rubra*), chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*), sweet birch (*Betula lenta*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*) with scattered stands of hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). These areas consist of many vertical rock faces interspersed with narrow ravines. These cool, heavily shaded outcrops are good habitat for numerous fern species as well as spring wildflowers. Rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) is very common on these slopes and extends in dense thickets far upslope. The forest on the crest of the slope is less diverse with large tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) dominating the canopy. A predominance of tulip poplar indicates that the site has a history of logging because tulip poplar requires forest openings to germinate. It grows faster than other trees and eventually dominates a site. As the forest matures, however, shade-tolerant species (such as red oak) replace tulip poplar because it does not regenerate under a closed canopy (Tryon 1980). Wildflowers are abundant on the upper slope, but exotic species such as garlic mustard (*Alliaria officinalis*), wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*), and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) are also common. Overall this site includes numerous habitat types and is an asset to the biological diversity of the greater Delaware River corridor.

MARITON UPLANDS (Williams Twp.) SP574 - This site includes forest of varying ages and several large meadows. It supports a fair quality population of a PA-Threatened plant species. Associated plants include various species of goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*) and aster (*Aster spp.*). This site occurs on the grounds of the Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary and Wilderness Trust and is contiguous with the Locally Significant Area - MARITON SLOPES (see above).

MORGAN HILL (Williams Twp.) This site contains a fair quality population of Nodding Trillium (*Trillium cernuum*), an S3 plant species of concern. The site is described as a rocky forested hill and an extensive early successional old field. Associated species include Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), Ash-leaved Maple (*Acer negundo*), Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutea*), Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), Black Birch (*Betula lenta*), Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), Black Cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), Liverleaf (*Hepatica nobilis* var. *obtusata*), Wineberry (*Rubus phoenoclasius*), Life-of-man (*Aralia racemosa*), May-apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), Stoneroot (*Collinsonia canadensis*), Lopseed (*Phytolacca leptostachya*), False Solomon's-seal (*Smilacina racemosa*), and Moonseed (*Menispermum canadense*). Currently the site is unused and surrounded by residential areas, a small community park, forest, and a highway. Threats and Disturbances include development and resulting fragmentation, further spread of invasive, exotic species; in the woods are traces of stone walls, an old well, woods roads; the early successional old fields were farmed until recently. This area would be best protected by decreasing fragmentation in and around the forest that can lead to the further spread of invasive plant species. Further surveys in the area are encouraged to better assess the population of the species in the area.

OLD SOW ISLAND (Williams Twp.) SP524 - This site is located on an island in the Delaware River adjacent to Raubsville. The island includes two primary habitat types. One is the higher elevation forested portion which is infrequently flooded and occurs on the downstream portion of the island. The other habitat type, located on the upstream half of the island has a substrate of sand, gravel and cobble. This habitat is characterized by seasonal scouring from ice and flood waters. Vegetation consists of dense patches of shrubs and stunted trees such as sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), ash (*Fraxinus spp.*), and sandbar willow (*Salix spp.*) interspersed with small open areas dominated by robust herbs and vines such as sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*) and frost grape (*Vitis riparia*), as well as many exotics including purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), soapwort (*Saponaria officinalis*), and crown-vetch (*Coronilla varia*). The scoured upper end of this island supports a good quality population of a PA-Rare plant species. This species was last observed at this site in 1986. A survey during the 1997 field season failed to relocate the population. It is possible that the species still occurs here but was missed during the 1997 survey due to the island's dense vegetation. The island is also good habitat for bird species such as osprey and herons. Leaving this site in its current condition will best benefit the species that depend on it.

RAUBS ISLAND (Williams Twp.) SP521 - This site is located on an island in the Delaware River. The island includes two primary habitat types. One is the higher elevation forested portion which is infrequently flooded, has deep alluvial soil and occurs on the downstream half of the island. The other, which consists of shrub thicket, is located on the upstream portion of the island and is at a slightly lower elevation with a substrate of sand, gravel and cobbles. This habitat is characterized by seasonal scouring from ice and flood waters. Vegetation consists of linear patches of shrubs and stunted trees such as sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) and ash (*Fraxinus spp.*) interspersed with open areas dominated by herbs, vines, and grasses. This scour impacted habitat supports a good quality population of a PA-Rare plant species. The rare plant grows in association with poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), frost grape (*Vitis riparia*), and many exotics including soapwort (*Saponaria officinalis*), Cypress-spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*), and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*). The margin of the upstream portion of the island particularly in the late season) is mostly unvegetated gravel and cobbles with a few scattered weedy plant species. The island is also good habitat for bird species such as osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and herons. This island has

been disturbed in the past by the construction of a bridge of which only an abandoned stone pier remains. Leaving this site in its current condition will help the rare plant persist here.

RAUBSVILLE LOCK 22-23 - DELAWARE RMR (Williams Twp.) SA575 - This stretch of the Delaware supports an animal species of special concern. Evidence of this species was observed during 1994 field surveys, though no living individuals were seen. Further surveys are encouraged to determine the extent and quality of this occurrence. Pollutants and excessive sedimentation are threats to this species.

WHIPPOORWILL ISLAND (Williams Twp.) SP526 - This site is located on an island in the Delaware River. The island includes two primary habitat types. One is the higher elevation forested portion which is infrequently flooded, has deep alluvial soil and occurs on the downstream half of the island. The other habitat type, located primarily on the upstream half of the island, is at a slightly lower elevation with a substrate of sand, gravel and cobble. This habitat is characterized by seasonal scouring from ice and flood waters. Vegetation consists of linear patches of shrubs and stunted trees such as sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), ash (*Fraxinus spp.*), and sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*) interspersed with open areas dominated by herbs, vines, and grasses such as big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), frost grape (*Vitis riparia*), common sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*), and many exotics including purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), soapwort (*Saponaria officinalis*), and crown-vetch (*Coronilla varia*). The margin of the upstream portion of the island (particularly in the late season) is mostly unvegetated gravel and cobbles with a few scattered weedy species. The scoured upper end of this island supports a fair to good quality population of a PA-Rare plant species. The island is also good habitat for bird species such as osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and herons. The main threat to this interesting island community is the spread of non-native invasive plant species that threaten the ecological integrity of the site. Flooding is a natural disturbance that occurs periodically and restricts the vegetation that thrives in this area. Leaving this site in its current condition will help the rare plant persist here.

The Pennsylvania Geologic Survey has also identified Hexenkopf Rock and Elephant Rock as Outstanding Scenic Geologic Features of Pennsylvania. Elephant Rock is an outcrop of Byram gneiss from the Precambrian Age, another of the oldest rocks in the state. Years of weathering appear to have sculpted the rock into the shape of an elephant.

The natural resources of the municipality have been used for centuries to support human activities. Native Americans mined jasper for their spearheads from Rattlesnake Hill and used Hexenkopf Hill as a shrine. In 1728, William Allen purchased 20,000 acres of land, eventually called "Williams Land," which covered much of present-day Williams Township. When the township was officially organized as a municipality in 1750, it was inhabited by one hundred and fifty people, predominantly German immigrants who were cultivating the limestone rich valleys and/or involved in the local grain and cereal milling industry. The brown hematite ore found in the rocks was soon mined to provide the raw materials for nearby iron furnaces in Glendon, South Easton, Durham and surrounding communities. The power of river water to transport goods across Eastern Pennsylvania was captured by the Lehigh and Delaware Canals. Several sites which reflect the history of Williams Township are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as shown on the Natural, Geological, and Historic Resources Map:

- The Jacob Arndt House and Barn located along Raubsville Road are significant as examples of colonial stone architecture (Early Republic/Federal style) found in rural agricultural areas. The building is currently used as a private residence.



Jacob Arndt House



Coffeetown Grist Mill

- The Coffeetown Grist Mill located at the intersection of Kressman and Coffeetown Roads is a banked stone mill built in 1762. The structure is an architectural example of a pre-revolutionary industrial building that has served over time as a water-powered grist mill, temporary schoolhouse, a post office and store, a fertilizer factory and now a private residence.
- Situated along Durham Road, the Isaac Stoudt House is an excellent representative of Georgian style architecture from the colonial period. Built in 1771, the home still functions as a private residence.



Isaac Stoudt House



Stone Arch Bridge Over Fry's Run

- A multiple span stone arch bridge located along Durham Road near the Isaac Stoudt House is noted for its unusually small arch spans as a unique engineering design. Built in 1857, this camelback shaped bridge provides vehicular access over Fry's Run.
- Early efforts to ship coal found near Jim Thorpe down the Lehigh River to the Lehigh Valley were fraught with problems, since river conditions were rarely suitable for the "wooden boats called arks" used for transportation. In 1820, the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company was established to finance and construct the more reliable Lehigh Canal system for shipping the coal. Completed in 1829, the Lehigh Canal operated for over 100 years until 1931, carrying a peak load of 5 million tons in 1923. A chain bridge was constructed circa 1857 across the Lehigh River to ferry mules and their towed boats and barges across this waterway, linking the City of Easton with Williams Township. Only the three stone piers and cable exist today

as part of the Hugh Moore Parkway, the wooden floor and support structure having been removed or destroyed along ago.

- The Delaware Canal (officially called the Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania Canal) is part of a statewide system of canals constructed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between 1826 and 1834 to support regional economic development. The canal opened in 1831 and was operated by the Commonwealth until 1858 when it was sold to a subsidiary of the Lehigh Canal and Navigation Company. In 1931, the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company relinquished the canal back to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, after which it was incorporated into the state park system. During its 100-year period of operation, records show that the canal transported 33 million tons of coal and 6 million tons of other cargo. The canal, nearly intact along its entire length, is a National Historic Landmark recognized for retaining much of its integrity as an historic structure.

Other eligible historic resources include the M. Opp Bridge over Fry's Run, G. Miller Rodenback Farmstead, Unangst/Wirth Farm and Moritz Grist Mill. In 1997, Groenendaal and Jones identified Stoudts Valley as a potential historic district in their *William Township – Stoudts Valley Agricultural Conservation and Historic Resource Study*. The study was never officially adopted by the township in response to concerns from local residents. However, the report findings did enhance the public's appreciation for the unique historic qualities of this portion of the township.

Suggested Conservation Priorities

The *Lehigh Valley Comprehensive Plan 2030* prepared by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission identifies those areas within Williams Township that have conservation value due to the number and quality of the natural resources present there, as shown on the Conservation Values Map. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission used a weighting system to determine which resource deserved the highest conservation value so that they would receive the highest priority with regard to conservation efforts. Based upon the weighting system, "very high conservation priority areas should be given first consideration for public and private conservation acquisition programs. High priority areas should also be considered for acquisition, especially if they are part of a larger natural feature identified as a very high conservation priority. Medium priority area should be protected through zoning regulations."

In 2001, the Natural Lands Trust completed the *Stoudts Valley Landscape Conservation Plan* to help guide Williams Township in understanding the ecological importance of the region of the municipality located south of Hexenkopf Road and Browns Drive. The findings in this document can also be used to understand the importance of the forested ridges in providing the kind of habitat that sustains a variety of wildlife.

The Williams Township Open Space Plan completed in 2002 and recently updated sets forth a vision for protecting natural and historic resources to be achieved with guidance from the 5-member Williams Township Land Preservation Board. This vision consists of the following overall objectives:

- To help maintain its unique character and rural heritage, Williams Township should be proactive in identifying and acting upon preservation opportunities.

- Public parks and open spaces must be augmented with permanently preserve private land if the Township hopes to protect farmland, waterways, woodlands and other environmental amenities, in any significant way.
- Conservation easements, mandatory dedication, donations and other means of preserving land should be emphasized over fee simple acquisition.
- Federal, state, county and private funds to supplement municipal funding will be essential to fully implement this plan.
- Municipal regulations and strict development criteria will be needed to conserve natural features on properties slated for development.
- The Township must determine its preservation priorities based upon fair and objective criteria.
- The Township's preservation criteria should place primary emphasis on lands most susceptible to development and should include both farmlands and woodlands.
- Condemnation will not be used or implied; acquisitions and easements will only results from negotiations with willing sellers.
- Appraisals should be used to establish fair market value before any funds are expended for preservation.
- A standardized systematic approach is required to administer and implement an open space preservation program equitably and effectively.

A number of specific recommendations were included in the plan to accomplish these objectives:

Preserve more open space by...

1. Establishing and administering a Williams Township Open Space Program
2. Use a numerical ranking system to evaluate the suitability of properties for potential preservation.
3. Use public information to increase future participation in the Williams Township Open Space Program.

Improve the protection of natural and historic features by:

1. Making greater use of zoning and subdivision regulations to enhance environmental protection
2. Enhance wellhead protection efforts through regulation and other techniques.

Implement Conservation-Oriented Subdivision Design by:

1. Consider amending the A-Agricultural and LDR-Low Density Residential Zoning to require developers to use more open space oriented subdivision design.
2. Encouraging developers to use voluntary design guidelines in addition to any conservation-oriented design techniques mandated in new zoning and/or subdivision ordinance amendments.
3. Requiring developers to identify conservation areas before delineating development areas.
4. Investigating the feasibility of using transfer of development rights.

Facility, Program and Open Space Inventory and Analysis

Williams Township is fortunate to have a mixture of state, county and local parks and public and private open space areas that provide an appealing combination of active and passive leisure opportunities for township residents and conserve unique natural and historic resources: The Existing Park, Recreation and Open Space Map shows the extent to which property has been preserved in Williams Township as a park, open space area or farmland.

Existing Township Parks

Several parks have already been developed by the township for recreational purposes and are being heavily used by the public.

Raubsville Municipal Park

This 3.66-acre park situated at the intersection of Kiefer and Young Street in the Village of Raubsville provides a mixture of recreational opportunities. Athletic facilities include a basketball court, sand volleyball court, tennis court, two baseball fields, and an equipment storage shed. Each baseball field includes a skinned infield, aluminum spectator bleachers, player benches and a chain link backstop. The larger baseball field has an outfield fence and scoreboard. A batting cage is provided on a temporary basis during the playing season. A small banner states that the Williams Patriots



Raubsville Park

team was the Knee-High Champion of the Penn-Jersey League in 2008. Other park amenities consist of a picnic pavilion with picnic tables and grills, park benches, flagpole with a memorial marker, park rules sign, trash receptacles, port-o-john and a 14-car parking lot. New play equipment featuring separate composite play structures for 2-5 year-olds and 5-12 year-olds, play houses, tot and adult swingsets, and safety surfacing was recently installed by the township to replace older, outdated equipment. Tennis players have requested the installation of a wall for individual practice purposes. The picnic pavilion is also in need of a new roof.

Williams Township Municipal Park

The 26.83-acre Municipal Park is immediately adjacent to the new township municipal building at the intersection of Gaffney Hill and Cider Press Roads. Nine acres of the park are dedicated to active recreation, which much of the remaining land consisting of steep slopes. This complex provides residents with a 0.34-mile paved walking trail, a wooded nature trail, two tennis courts, a basketball court and a large lighted athletic field area that includes two baseball fields (one 60' baseline, one 90' baseline) with an overlapping football/soccer field. Each baseball field features a skinned infield and backstop. Some player benches, spectator bleachers and free-standing storage facilities are provided in addition to one scoreboard per field. A batting cage is provided on a seasonal basis to support baseball and softball activities. A Recreation Building provides centralized access to a refreshment stand, restrooms, and equipment storage space for athletic teams. A children's play area includes four belt swings (two swings per bay), a small multi-purpose play structure for 2-5 year olds, a large multi-purpose play structure for 5-12 year olds and rubber chip safety surfacing. The play area is located next to a picnic pavilion with picnic

tables and grills. Park benches, trash receptacles and a port-o-john are scattered throughout the site. Signage consists of an entrance sign with map of the park and two park rules signs. A Community Building is used for the Recreation Board meetings and includes restrooms, office space and a flagpole. Parking facilities are shared between functions at the park and new township building. New fitness equipment has been purchased and will be installed along the existing trail.



Municipal Park

Existing Township Programs

The township offers free a Summer Recreation Program at the Williams Township Municipal Park for resident children ages 5 to 13. The program is held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. over the course of a six-week period each year. In 2009, approximately 220 children participated in the program that included arts/crafts and athletic activities, with an average of 90 children per day. On rainy days, the activities are held indoors at the Community Building. Children are required to bring their own lunch, with the exception of the hot dog picnic provided at the end of the program.

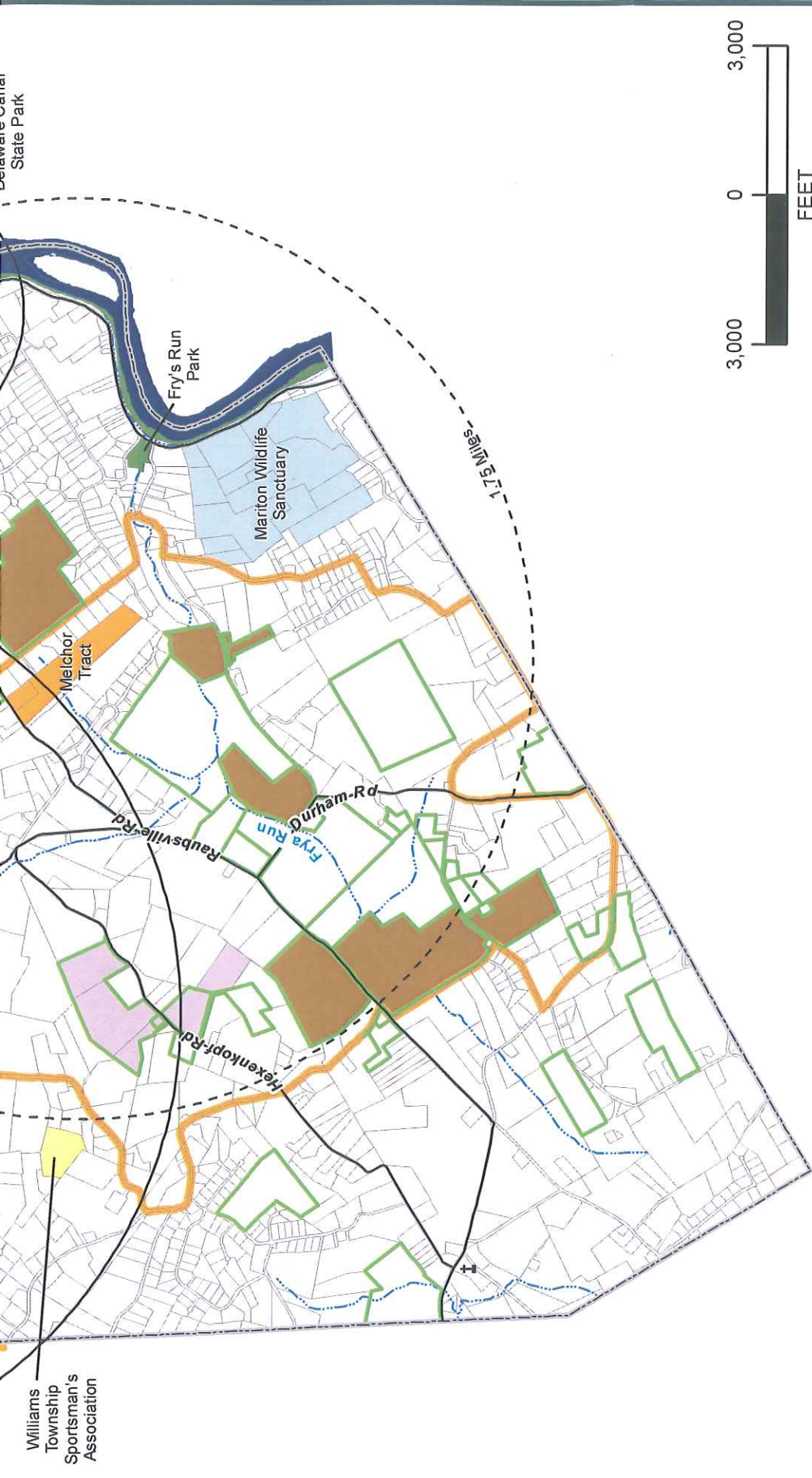
Special family-oriented events sponsored by the township include two Movies in the Park nights, one in July and one in August, and the annual Community Day in August, both held at the Williams Township Municipal Park. Recent Community Day activities included booths for vendors and community group displays, demonstrations by the Fire Company and Easton Police Canine Corps, a caricature artist, refreshments, blood donations collected by the Miller Blood Bank, a yard sale and a clown.

Future Township Parks

The township possesses land that can be developed for recreational purposes. A concept or master plan gives insight into how a park property could be used to support new leisure activities.

Melchor Tract

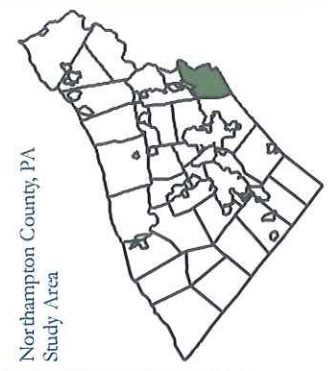
This 35.53-acre property is currently being leased to a farmer for agricultural purposes until such time as it is improved for recreational purposes. A master plan for this park shows the possible



Sources: Parcels and Agricultural Preservation - LVPC September 2009 GIS Data Release, All Other Data - Heritage Conservancy

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| | Lehigh Valley Wheelmen Association Pyrenes Bike Ride | | Future Park Service Area |
| | Agricultural Security Area | | Church |
| | Agricultural Conservation Easement | | Future Park (Leased from Chrin) |
| | Existing Public Park | | Public Works |
| | Conservation Easement | | Fire Station |
| | Stream | | Williams Township Elementary School |
| | Road | | |
| | Tax Parcel | | |
| | Williams Township | | |



arrangement of a Little League field, three midget soccer fields, a baseball field (350' outfield), a soccer field, a football field with an overlapping Little League field, two tennis courts, two basketball courts, a playground, a walking trail, three picnic pavilions, concession/storage areas, restrooms, site furniture, two parking areas, a natural habitat area and landscaping.

Leased Recreation Area

The owners of the Chrin Landfill have agreed to lease a 10.2-acre area at the intersection of Berger and Wotrings Mill Roads to the township pending approval of a landfill expansion by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Plans for improvements to this site to be provided by Chrin are currently conceptual in form and include a regulation soccer field and Little League field with parking facilities.



Underutilized Site

Many years ago, the former Fairview Schoolhouse property at the intersection of Morgan Hill and Diehl Roads was used as the township municipal building. The property now serves as a recycling center and a salt storage area. However, these functions may eventually be relocated to the newer Public Works facility. The potential for rehabilitating this site for recreational purposes has yet to be thoroughly investigated.

School Property

Williams Township is served by the Wilson Area School District and the Williams Township Elementary School is the only school facility located within the municipality. Covering 4.24 acres, the recreational amenities at the school include an indoor gymnasium and several outdoor facilities including a gazebo, a multi-use play structure, open play field, two Little League baseball fields, and a concession stand. The school district currently allows the Williams Township Athletic Association to conduct its baseball, basketball, football and cheerleading programs at the Williams Township Elementary School.



Williams Township Elementary School Grounds

Northampton County Parks

There are two county parks in Williams Township:

Fry's Run Park

Located along Route 611 at the intersection of Kressman Road, Fry's Run is a 4.82-acre wooded streamside park with a small picnic area and rest stop. The site is owned and maintained by Northampton County. The upcoming replacement of a road bridge on Route 611 adjacent to the park will include rehabilitation of the historic M. Opp Bridge over Fry's Run inside the park, which will be used to temporarily redirect traffic during construction.

Wy-Hit-Tuk Park

This county-owned recreational area is 22.24 acres in size and is adjacent to the Delaware River and Delaware Canal. The park includes a playground with tot and belt swings and a multi-use play structure, a volleyball court, hiking/nature trails, a picnic pavilion with grill and picnic tables, permit-only group camping facilities, a canoe launch, restrooms and parking. Two bridges provide a direct connection to the towpath trail in the Delaware Canal State Park.



Wy-Hit-Tuk Park

State Parks

One state park is located in Williams Township:

Delaware Canal State Park

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources owns and manages this 111.5 acre park that follows the 60-mile Delaware Canal and towpath along the western shore of the Delaware River. A total of 75.37 acres of this park are located in Williams Township. The towpath, a National Heritage Hiking Trail, is a popular hiking and bicycling path. Other areas of the park are used for fishing, boating/canoeing/kayaking, hunting, birdwatching and tubing. Several trailheads spaced along the length of the park provide access to the towpath, canal and river along with interpretive signage, parking facilities and restrooms. Although recent floods damaged portions of the canal and towpath, efforts to repair the canal to its previously watered condition and reconstruct the towpath are underway. The park encompasses two natural areas: Nockamixon Cliffs in nearby Nockamixon Township and seven river islands, three of which are located adjacent to Williams Township as previously described on Pages 24 and 25. Educational programs consist of hikes and bike trips along the towpath, canoeing/kayaking excursions, photography lessons, wildlife identification classes and fishing lessons in addition to organized activities for school students.



Theodore Roosevelt Recreation

One of the park's features, the Theodore Roosevelt Recreation Area, is located in Williams Township and includes a picnic area, restroom facilities and riverfront access for canoes. Just north of this area are Locks 22 and 23 which were combined into a double lock in the 1850's and later called Groundhog Lock. According to the park's brochure, "this consolidated lock lifted boats 17.3 feet, which made it the highest on the Delaware Canal. The water power generated at Groundhog lock was used in many ways over the years. Various industries were located at the site, including a sawmill, a distillery, and later a paper mill. In the early 1900s a hydroelectric plant was built on the site, the remains of which can still be seen today."

Private Parks, Open Space Areas and Recreation Programs:

Governmental agencies are not the only providers of park, recreation and open space opportunities in Williams Township. Several privately-owned recreational areas and privately-preserved open spaces contribute to the quality of leisure activities and the environment in the municipality.

Agricultural Preservation

Williams Township is blessed with prime farmland soils, as shown on the Natural, Geologic, and Historic Resources Map, and a rich agricultural heritage. Agricultural security areas (ASA) have been established in the township for the "production of crops, livestock and livestock products" and are "protected from new ordinances that would restrict normal farming operations or define farms as nuisances." Agricultural conservation easements have been purchased on several farms within the ASA's as shown in Table 18, providing an additional level of protection through the acquisition of development rights and requiring these farm owners to prepare and implement a conservation plan to minimize non-point source pollution.

Table 18		
Agricultural Conservation Easements in Williams Township		
Easement Name	Tax Parcel Number	Total Acreage
Donald and Geraldine Seipt	P9-8-8	38.44
Donald and Geraldine Seipt	P9-7-7, P9-11-1, P9-17-4	171.23
Roger & Shirley Wolfe	N9-17-2B	92.41
Roger & Shirley Wolfe	P9-8-6, P9-12-8, P9-12-8A	28.35
Total		330.43

Easton Fish and Game Association (EFGA)

This organization hosts monthly meetings for its 2500 members at its clubhouse in Williams Township and firearm activities on its archery range, 100-yard rifle/pistol range, .22 rimfire range and 25-yard centerfire pistol range located nearby in Lower Saucon Township. Incorporated in 1935, the public can join the organization for a \$20 initiation fee and a \$30 annual membership fee.

The group's conservation efforts include annual stocking trout activities and the sponsorship of one or two youths to attend the Northampton County Junior Conservation School held each year at the 4-H Center in Nazareth. The Junior Conservation School is managed by the Northampton County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc., and offers a week-long environmental leadership and outdoor educational experience for 35 youths ages 14 to 17 in the summer. This program emphasizes hands-on activities and field trips focusing on forestry, watershed protection, agricultural issues, canoeing, firearm training/safety, hiking, camping, backpacking, air quality, land use, and wildlife management, among others.

Other recreational opportunities provided by the Easton Fish and Game Association include training programs designed and provided by the National Rifle Association, a home firearm safety training program for EFGA members, and police training activities. Special events include:

- Adventure Days for Women consisting of two one-day firearm safety and range practice activities, one held in the fall and one in the spring.
- Informal pistol target shoots.
- Second Amendment Day for students from Lehigh University and Lafayette College consisting of one day of classroom instruction and shooting practice at the range for each institution.
- Cowboy Action Shoots where members dress up in period clothing and utilize Wild West style firearms to participate in shooting competitions and displays. The public is welcome to observe this event.
- Individual pistol shooting activities using modern firearms.

Fry's Run Watershed Association

The mission of this non-profit organization is to "protect, preserve and improve the quality of the water and land in the Fry's Run watershed." The association partners with other stakeholders to conduct scientific research and provide educational outreach related to this high-quality, cold water and migratory stream. Recent activities included a nature walk lead by Virginia Derbyshire of Mariton Sanctuary, a clean-up along Hellertown-Raubsville Road, and a Critter Capture event for children and their families interested in identifying small animals in the stream.

Homeowner's Associations

There are several land developments with homeowner's associations responsible for maintaining minor open space areas and providing social activities for their residents, as desired. The Cedar Park townhouse complex includes playground with a multi-purpose play structure, tot and belt swings, benches and walking trail. The developments surrounding The Club at Morgan Hill golf course



Playground at Cedar Park

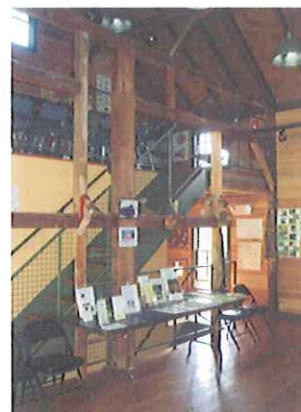
provide more substantial leisure opportunities. The Legacy at Morgan Hill active-adult development provides its residents with a clubhouse, exercise room, community room and heated swimming pool. The Country Classics at Morgan Hill residential area also has a clubhouse with a kitchen, meeting room, offices, fitness center and outdoor swimming pool.

Legion Baseball

This program is overseen by the Wilson Borough Baseball Association and is no longer associated with the American Legion. The Junior Legion aspect of this program has been temporarily disbanded due to a lack of field space, no established coaching support and low athlete participation. However, the Senior Legion program for 16-18 year-old boys is still active and includes athletes from Williams Township.

Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary

The Natural Lands Trust acquired this 197.69-acre property for use as a nature preserve in 1992. The property is predominantly wooded with four small meadows and a steep cliff along the Delaware River that offers a dramatic view. Recreational facilities include approximately 5 miles of trails with interpretive signage and information kiosk, wildlife viewing areas and benches. A bank barn has been converted into an environmental education center with a library, natural history collection, bathrooms, and parking area. The center provides two week-long camps during the summer in addition to other programs year-round. The trails are open from dawn to dusk daily.



Mariton Environmental Education Center

Open Space Conservation Easements

Private landowners in collaboration with the township and local non-profit lands trusts have preserved significant open space lands that protect vernal pools, woodlands, wetlands, springs, caves, tributaries, steep slopes, meadows associated with the Hexenkopf and Elephant Rock natural and geologic areas, as listed in Table 19.

Table 19 Open Space Conservation Easements in Williams Township		
Easement Name	Tax Parcel Numbers	Total Acreage
Heindel-Kirby Property	P9-7-13	13.1
Heindel Properties	P9-6-2, P9-6-3A, P9-6-4, P9-6-4A, P9-7-15	73.8
Horth Property	N9-15-5	219.0
McBrien Property	N9-15-14	35.7
Morgan Hill Open Space Area 1	M10-3-S1-0836E	30.9
Morgan Hill Open Space Area 2	M10-3-S2-0836E	6.9
Morgan Hill Open Space Area 3	M10-3-S3-0836E	8.6
Painter Farm Tract	N9-12-1-0836	44.4
Total		432.4
Source: Williams Township records and Northampton County Tax records		

Raubsville Sportsman's Association

Approximately 120 individuals from this organization are involved in hunting and fishing activities in Williams Township and across Pennsylvania and New Jersey and support conservation efforts. Although the association does not own any property, the group leases exclusive rights to use and maintain a boat ramp located along Canal Road that provides direct access to the Delaware River. Outdoor programs include an annual canoe trip on the Delaware River for youth and pheasant hunts and fishing activities on the Delaware River for all members. The organization occasionally collaborates with the Williams Township Sportsman's Association on specific programs or projects, since a number of members belong to both groups. Monthly meetings and an annual banquet are held at local restaurants.



Raubsville Sportsman's Association Boat Launch

Religious Organizations

Annual craft bazaars are held at St. John's Morgan Hill Church, St. John's Lutheran Church and the Blue Church. St. Luke's Church is noted for its annual Ice Cream Festival and also hosts penny parties and rummage sales.

The Club at Morgan Hill

Morgan Hill is a 180.21-acre, 18-hole, par 71 golf course with a pro shop, restaurant and men's and women's locker rooms. The restaurant and an adjacent area for a tent can be used for wedding and other group events. The general public may pay daily fee to use the course and individual, family and corporate memberships are available. The golf team from Wilson Area School District uses the Club at Morgan Hill for its sporting activities.



The Club at Morgan Hill Golf Course

Two Rivers Birding and Natural History Trail

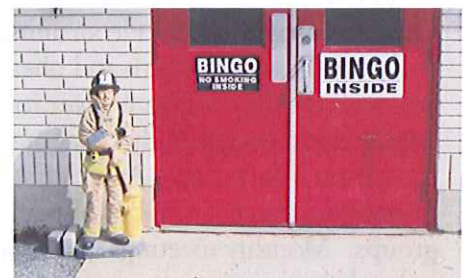
This self-guided birding opportunity was developed by the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, Bushkill Stream Conservancy, Lafayette College and the Northampton County Conservation District to encourage public enjoyment of accessible natural resources in the Two River region of Northampton County. A guide map has been prepared highlighting the Delaware Canal State Park, Wy-Hit-Tuk Park, and the Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary as places to view more than 50 species of migrating and nesting birds in forest, hedgerow, edge and river habitats.

Williams Township Athletic Association

This athletic association is the largest organized recreational program in the township and provides baseball, basketball, cheerleading, football, and softball activities for boys and girls living in Williams Township and Glendon Borough. Charts A and B show the level of participation in each of the recreational activities and documents when and where games and practices are played. The combined 36 teams accommodate nearly 500 children and engage in almost 250 games each year in addition to numerous practice sessions. The basketball events are held at the gymnasiums at Williams Township Elementary School or Phillip F. Lauer Middle School (in Wilson Borough), while the football games and cheerleading activities are held at field the Williams Township Municipal Park. Baseball and softball games are held at two fields at Raubsville Municipal Park, two fields at the Williams Township Municipal Park, and a field at the Williams Township Elementary School. The organization also hosts tournament play for various sports and adjusts its game schedule on occasion to allow teams from the Wilson Area School District to share athletic fields at parks owned by Williams Township.

Williams Township Fire Company

The fire company hosts a week-long annual "Country Fair" at the end of July featuring amusement rides and food as its major fundraiser. Other events provided by this organization include bingo every Tuesday, breakfast twice a year, an annual Easter Egg Hunt, an a fire truck tour of the township on Halloween and with Santa at Christmas to distribute candy to children.



Williams Township Fire Hall

Chart A - Level of Participation in Programs Provided by the Williams Township Athletic Association					
Sport	Age Group/Level	Season Starts	Season Ends	# of Teams	# of Children
T-Ball	Boys and Girls (Ages 6-7)	April 1	June 10	6	60
Baseball	Instructional (Age 8)	March 20	June 10	1	15
	Knee-Hi (Ages 9-10)	March 20	June 10	3	36
	Midget (Ages 11-12)	March 20	June 10	2	24
	Teener (Ages 13-14)	March 20	June 10	1	12
Basketball for Boys	Instructional (Age 7-8)	November	March	1	15
	Instructional (Age 9)	November	March	1	10
	Under 9	November	March	1	10
	Under 10	November	March	1	10
Basketball for Girls	Under 11	November	March	1	10
	Under 12	November	March	1	10
	Instructional (Age 7-8)	November	March	1	15
	Instructional (Age 9)	November	March	1	10
	Under 9	November	March	1	10
	Under 10	November	March	1	10
	Under 11	November	March	1	10
	Under 12	November	March	1	10
Cheerleading	Level 1 - Flag (K-1 st)	August	November	1	9
	Level 2 - Jr. Pee Wee (2 nd /3 rd)	August	November	1	30
	Level 3 - Pee Wee (4 th /5 th)	August	November	1	17
	Level 4 - Midgets (6 th /7 th)	August	November	1	31
Football	Flag (Ages 5-6)	August	November	1	24
	Jr. Pee Wee (Ages 7-8)	August	November	1	24
	Pee Wee (Ages 9-10)	August	November	1	24
	Midgets (Ages 11-12)	August	November	1	24
Softball	Coach Pitch (Age 8)	March 20	June 10	1	12
	Minors (Ages 9-10)	March 20	June 10	1	12
	Majors (Ages 11-12)	March 20	June 10	1	12
	Juniors (Ages 13-14)	March 20	June 10	1	12
	Seniors (Ages 15-16)	No	Team	In	2010

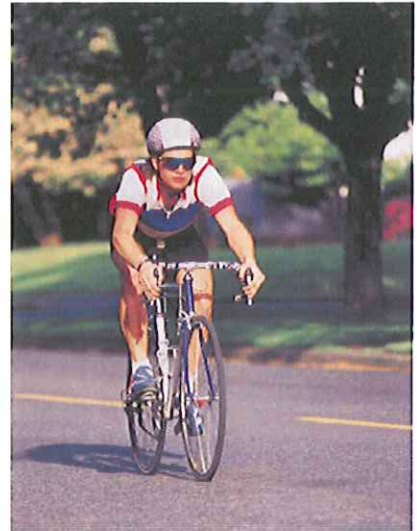
**Chart B - Field Usage in Programs Provided by the
Williams Township Athletic Association**

Sport	Age Group/Level	# Games Played	Game Field Name	# Practices Played	Practice Field Name
T-Ball	T-Ball (Ages 6-7)	8-10/year	Raubsville T-Ball Field	2/week	Raubsville T-Ball Field
Needs/Comments: Teams use the field once during the week and once on the weekend. The first few weeks of the season consist of the each team practicing two times a week. For the rest of the season, the teams play one game a week with each other, rather than playing games with teams from another league.					
Baseball	Instructional (Age 8)	12/yr, Tues thru Fri	Rotate among Raubsville Field, Muni Park Small Field A, Elem Sch Field A	2/week	Rotate among Raubsville Field, Muni Park Small Field A, Elem Sch Field A
	Knee-Hi (Ages 9-10)	12/yr, Mon thru Thurs		2/week	
	Midget (Ages 11-12)	12/yr, Tues thru Fri		2/week	
	Teener (Ages 13-14)	15/yr, Mon/Wed/Fri	Muni Park Large Field B	3/week	Muni Park Large Field B
Needs/Comments: The Junior Legion (1 team during June through August Season), Senior Legion (1 team during June through August Season), Wilson School District Junior Varsity (1 team) and Wilson School District Varsity (1 team) have used the Muni Park Large Field B for practices and games in the past. The Wilson Borough Athletic Program also uses the Elementary School Field B for practices/games for its two Age 13-14 Teams. The first few weeks of the season consist of the each team practicing several times a week. For the rest of the season, the teams participate in a mixture of practices and home and away games per week.					
Basketball	Instructional (Age 7-8)	None	Elem. School Gym	8 clinics/yr	Elem. School Gym
for Boys	Instructional (Age 9)	12/yr	Elem. School Gym	2/week	Elem. School Gym
	Under 9	12/yr	Elem. School Gym	2/week	Elem. School Gym
	Under 10	12/yr	Elem. School Gym	2/week	Elem. School Gym
	Under 11	12/yr	Middle School Gym	2/week	Elem. School Gym
	Under 12	12/yr	Middle School Gym	2/week	Elem. School Gym
Needs/Comments: There are some scheduling challenges, since the school is closed for holidays and certain school functions that prevent access to the gym. The gym is used during on weekdays from 3:30 pm to 9 pm, on Saturdays from 9 am to 5 pm, and on Sundays from Noon to 5 pm.					
Basketball	Instructional (Age 7-8)	None	Elem. School Gym	8 clinics/yr	Elem. School Gym
for Girls	Instructional (Age 9)	12/yr	Elem. School Gym	2/week	Elem. School Gym
	Under 9	12/yr	Elem. School Gym	2/week	Elem. School Gym
	Under 10	12/yr	Elem. School Gym	2/week	Elem. School Gym
	Under 11	12/yr	Middle School Gym	2/week	Elem. School Gym
	Under 12	12/yr	Middle School Gym	2/week	Elem. School Gym
Needs/Comments: Note that the Williams Township Board of Supervisors pays for the custodial fees charged by the school district for use of the gym space.					

Chart B - Field Usage in Programs Provided by the Williams Township Athletic Association					
Sport	Age Group/Level	# Games Played	Game Field Name	# Practices Played	Practice Field Name
Cheerleading	Flag (K-1 st)	8-10/yr	Muni Park Football Field	2/week	Muni Park Football Field and Elementary School Field
	Jr. Pee Wee (2 nd /3 rd)	8-10/yr	Muni Park Football Field	2/week	
	Pee Wee (4 th /5 th)	8-10/yr	Muni Park Football Field	2/week	
	Midgets (6 th /7 th)	8-10/yr	Muni Park Football Field	2/week	
Needs/Comments: The cheerleaders would prefer to use the lined Muni Park Football Field for its practices, as the lines help with them perfect their alignment during cheers.					
Football	Flag (Ages 5-6)	8-10/yr	Muni Park Football Field	3-4/week	Muni Park Football Field
	Jr. Pee Wee (Ages 7-8)	8-10/yr	Muni Park Football Field	3-4/week	Muni Park Football Field
	Pee Wee (Ages 9-10)	8-10/yr	Muni Park Football Field	3-4/week	Muni Park Football Field
	Midgets (Ages 11-12)	8-10/yr	Muni Park Football Field	3-4/week	Muni Park Football Field
Needs/Comments: The Wilson High School Team uses the Muni Park Football Field for its first night practice and game. Williams Township does not charge for the use of the field/lights by the school district. The Williams Township Athletic Association has also hosted playoff games in the past. WTAA hosted a competition for midget teams that accommodated 500 kids (the WTAA midget team won).					
Softball	Coach Pitch (Age 8)	14-15/yr	Muni Park Small Field A or Elementary School	2/week	Muni Park Small Field A or Elementary School
	Minors (Ages 9-10)	14-15/yr		2/week	
	Majors (Ages 11-12)	14-15/yr		2/week	
	Juniors (Ages 13-14)	16/yr	Muni Park Large Field B	2/week	Muni Park Large Field B
	Seniors (Ages 15-16)	No	Team	In	2010
Needs/Comments: Fields are used Wednesday through Saturday for games/practices. The first few weeks of the season consist of the each team practicing several times a week. For the rest of the season, the teams participate in a mixture of practices and home and away games per week.					

Williams Township Pyrenees Ride

The Lehigh Valley Wheelmen Association provides recreational and racing activities for its members and is the largest bicycling organization in the Lehigh Valley. The group has developed more than 50 different on and off-road bike rides through the region, each route exploring various aspects of the local scenery. One such route, called the Pyrenees Ride, is a 51.6-mile ride that traverses Williams Township. The ride begins at the Northampton County Community College (NCCC) and continues through Bethlehem Township, Palmer Township, Easton City and Glendon Borough before entering Williams Township on Berger Road. The bike route then loops through Williams Township as shown on the Land Preservation Map before returning to NCCC via Lower Saucon Township, Hellertown Borough, Bethlehem City, Freemansburg Borough and Bethlehem Township. If no short cuts are taken, the route challenges cyclists to climb more than 5,000 feet to complete the trip.



Williams Township Sportsman's Association

This sporting organization has approximately 160 members involved in hunting and fishing activities. Its clubhouse is located on 14.77 acres of land off of Gaffney Hill Road. Members have access to a rifle range for a modest annual fee of \$20 for adults and \$5 for children age 16 and under. The group hosts several yearly events including a Fishing Tournament each May that is free for children and grandchildren of club members and two Block Shoots, one in the spring and one in the fall, that are open to the public at no charge. Awards are given out to adult and youth members at an annual banquet in recognition of their prowess in hunting deer, bear and turkey and catching fish during the year. The organization also pays the cost for two 14-17 year-olds to attend the Northampton County Junior Conservation School.

Wilson Youth Soccer Association

This organization provides spring and fall season soccer activities for more than 100 boys and girls, ages 5 through 15, from Wilson Borough and Williams Township, as shown in Charts C and D. The practices and games are held at Lauer Middle School in Wilson Borough and at the Moore Township Municipal Park.

Adjacent Recreation Areas

Hugh Moore Canal Park

Hugh Moore Canal Park is a significant recreational resource in the City of Easton and Glendon Borough that abuts Williams Township. This site preserves a portion of the Lehigh River and Lehigh Canal and is owned and maintained by the non-profit organization known as the Hugh Moore Historical Park and Museum, Inc. as a component of the National Canal Museum



Josiah White Canal Boat Ride

Chart C - Level of Participation in Programs Provided the Wilson Youth Soccer Association (A Combination of Players from Wilson Borough and Williams Township)					
Sport	Age Group/Level	Season Start	Season End	# of Teams	# of Children
Spring Soccer 2010	In-House (Coed 5-6)	March 29	June 20	1	28
	U8 (Coed 6-7)	March 29	June 20	2	26
	U10 (Coed 8-9)	March 29	June 20	2	22
	U12 (Coed 10-11)	March 29	June 20	1	19
	U14 (Coed 12-13)	March 29	June 20	1	18
	U16 (Coed 14-15)	March 29	June 20	1	14
				Total:	127
Sport	Age Group/Level	Season Start	Season End	# of Teams	# of Children
Fall Soccer 2010	In-House (Coed 5-6)	Sept 11	Oct 30	1	10
	U8 (Coed 6-7)	Aug 23	Oct 30	2	29
	U10 Boys (8-9)	Aug 23	Nov 7	1	13
	U10 Girls (8-9)	Aug 23	Nov 7	1	21
	U12 Boys (10-11)	Aug 23	Nov 7	1	13
	U12 Girls (10-11)	Aug 23	Nov 7	1	13
				Total:	114
Please note number of children may increase as season has not started. In House does not include new 2010 Kindergartens.					

Submitted by Mark Janik via e-mail to Heritage Conservancy on July 21, 2010

**Chart D - Field Usage in Programs Provided by the
Wilson Youth Soccer Association**

Sport	Age Group/Level	# Games Played	Game Field Name	# Practices Played	Practice Field Name
Spring Soccer 2010	In-House (Coed 5-6)	0	NA	8	Lauer Middle School
	U8 (Coed 6-7)	8	Moore Township	2/week	Lauer Middle School
	U10 (Coed 8-9)	8	Moore Township	2/week	Lauer Middle School
	U12 (Coed 10-11)	8	Moore Township	2/week	Lauer Middle School
	U14 (Coed 12-13)	8	Moore Township	2/week	Lauer Middle School
	U16 (Coed 14-15)	8	Moore Township	2/week	Lauer Middle School

Needs/Comments: In House plays Saturday mornings, they practice and then play a short game amongst them selves.

All games in the Spring league are at Moore Twp. Municipal Park. Practice fields very scarce as High School Girls Soccer, Baseball and Softball are in season and have game and practices at Phillip Lauer Middle School..

Sport	Age Group/Level	# Games Played	Game Field Name	# Practices Played	Practice Field Name
Fall Soccer 2010	In-House (Coed 5-6)	0	NA	8	Lauer Middle School
	U8 (Coed 6-7)	11	Lauer Middle School	2/week	Lauer Middle School
	U10 Boys (8-9)	10	Lauer Middle School	2/week	Lauer Middle School
	U10 Girls (8-9)	10	Lauer Middle School	2/week	Lauer Middle School
	U12 Boys (10-11)	10	Lauer Middle School	2/week	Lauer Middle School
	U12 Girls (10-11)	10	Lauer Middle School	2/week	Lauer Middle School
	U14 Coed (12-13)	10	Lauer Middle School	2/week	Lauer Middle School

Needs/Comments: Phillip Lauer Middle School is very congested as High School Soccer and Field Hockey also practice and have games at Lauer Middle School.

Submitted by Mark Janik via e-mail to Heritage Conservancy on July 21, 2010

in Easton, “the only museum in the country dedicated to telling the story of America’s historic towpath canals.” The park, which abuts the northwestern portion of Williams Township, is noted for interpreted tours of its restored locktender’s house with period furnishings and Josiah White canal boat rides led by guides in period costumes. Boat rides are available to the public in June, July and August from Wednesdays through Sundays, in addition to weekends only in September. Reservations are required for boat rides from Thursdays through Sundays in late May. The boat ride costs \$9.25 for adults, \$8.75 for seniors, and \$6.50 for children ages 3 to 15, with children ages 2 and under admitted for free. The Emrick Technology Center houses local industry exhibits featuring displays related to the manufacturing of furniture, iron, steel and paper products, such as the Dixie Cup. The center is open when the canal boats are operating and admission is included in the price of a boat ride ticket or can be purchased separately for a \$5 per person. Several special evening cruises on the canal boat include entertainment and dinner for \$40 to \$45 per person. The park also provides fishing access to the Lehigh River, picnic areas, a towpath trail, a playground, an interpreted archaeological dig site, restrooms and parking.

Riverview Park

Palmer Township owns and maintains Riverview Park as part of its 400-acre municipal park system. Located along the Lehigh River at 25th Street, this park includes two softball fields, a playground, picnic pavilions and tables, a fishing pier and restrooms. The southern end of a rail-trail begins at Riverview Park and winds for 8.4 miles through the township.



Fishing Pier at Riverview Park

Regional Recreation Initiatives

There is increasing interest in investigating how individual parks and open spaces can be interconnected to form a larger regional system of conservation and recreation lands consisting of greenways and trails. In 2001, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources released its *Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections* publication to set forth its ideas for interconnecting parks and open spaces across the Commonwealth. The document is important in that it defines the term “greenway” in order to coordinate the efforts of a variety of stakeholders involved in interconnecting parks and open spaces in their communities:

A greenway is a corridor of open space. Greenways vary greatly in scale, from narrow ribbons of green that run through urban, suburban, and rural areas to wider corridors that incorporate diverse natural, cultural and scenic features. They can incorporate both public and private property, and can be land- or water-based. They may follow old railways, canals, or ridge tops, or they may follow stream corridors, shorelines, or wetlands, and include water trails for non-motorized craft. Some greenways are recreational corridors or scenic byways that may accommodate motorized and non-motorized vehicles. Others function almost exclusively for environmental protection and are not designed for human passage. Greenways differ in their location and function, but overall, a greenway will protect natural, cultural, and scenic resources, provide recreational benefits, enhance natural beauty and quality of life in neighborhoods and communities, and stimulate economic development opportunities.

Several initiatives are currently underway to link the conservation and recreation lands in Williams Township with surrounding parks and open spaces for various reasons. Each of these initiatives provides a unique opportunity for the township to share its leisure resources with surrounding communities and provide its residents with new ways for maximizing access to park land and increasing the environmental benefit of conservation practices.

Comprehensive Plan – The Lehigh Valley...2030

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) is responsible for preparing an overall plan to guide and help coordinate the full-range of land development and preservation activities of state, county and local government and the private sector in the Lehigh Valley. A goal of the plan is to provide and maintain adequate space and facilities to meet the recreation needs of Lehigh Valley residents. A number of policies in this plan provide insight into how these different constituent groups can work together to meet the recreation needs in the two-county area.

Policies

- The counties and municipalities should meet minimum National Recreation and Park Association suggested guidelines for park space and recreation facilities.
- Current recreation activity trends and local demographics should be used when planning for new recreation facilities and programs.
- The counties should acquire the following types of parks: large community parks, regional parks, regional park reserves, linear parks and conservancy areas.
- Parkland acquisitions that are inaccessible, limited in use potential, or are tied up with legal restrictions or informal understandings with former or neighboring property owners on use of the land should be avoided.
- Land acquired by the counties or municipalities for parks or open space should not be converted to other uses.

- Municipalities should be responsible for providing mini-parks, neighborhood parks and playgrounds, and community parks.
- High priority should be given to acquiring parkland and open space along rivers and major streams.
- The needs of the handicapped should be considered in any recreation and open space planning.
- Recreation facilities at schools should be available to the public.
- Quasi-public organizations and the private sector should provide special use recreation facilities such as golf courses, campgrounds and ski areas.

Implementation

- Municipalities should:
 - prepare and implement park and recreation plans, and
 - require the dedication of land or money for parks as a condition for subdivision or land development approval as provided in the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.
- The counties and municipalities should:
 - cooperate in acquiring, developing and maintaining parks and other outdoor recreation facilities;
 - encourage private sector participation in the acquisition and development of park and recreation areas.
 - commit the financial resources and efforts needed to maintain existing recreation facilities.
 - take advantage of any grant programs for park acquisition, development or maintenance.
- Important natural areas should be preserved as part of parks and open space areas whenever possible.

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor/State Heritage Park

In recognition of the role that the Delaware and Lehigh Canals and the surrounding communities in Luzerne, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Bucks counties played in spurring the Industrial Revolution as our nation grew, the federal government and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania designated this five-county region as a National and State Heritage Corridor. Unlike other large-scale efforts, heritage corridors are not owned by the state or federal government. Instead, heritage corridors are operated at the local level with limited technical and financial assistance from the state and federal government.

In 1993, the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor published a Management Action Plan describing how the preservation of natural, cultural, scenic, historic, archaeological, and recreational resources within the corridor could be preserved and enhanced to revitalize local communities, many of which had suffered a significant economic decline. The plan outlines two major recreation-based projects that involve Williams Township. These projects involve interconnecting Wilkes-Barre with Bristol Borough by:

1. Converting the canal towpaths and abandoned railroads into hiking and biking trail to be known as the D&L Trail, and
2. Developing a continuous driving route or scenic byway to be known as the D&L Drive.

Significant sections of the D&L Trail are already in place and are being enjoyed by the public. The section of the Delaware Canal in Williams Township previously damaged by flooding is in the process of being repaired. Efforts to pursue a scenic byway designation for the portion of the D&L Drive between the City of Easton and Bristol Borough are underway, and Williams

Township has endorsed the scenic byway designation. The Management Action Plan also recommends the development of educational programs to increase the public's understanding, appreciation and exploration of the natural and cultural resources of the corridor.

Lehigh River Watershed Conservation Plan

One of several functions of the watershed conservation plan for the Lehigh River completed in 2003 is to identify the recreational resources along this large stream and recommend ways for "increasing and enhancing watershed recreational opportunities." The plan outlines four objectives pertaining to recreational improvements and lists number of specific actions that can be taken to achieve these objectives:

Objective I: Create, improve and expand watershed recreational facilities.

- Support and encourage the construction and/or restoration of parks, recreational greenways, and trails.
- Support, encourage, and facilitate frequent trail maintenance.
- Conduct studies of existing streamside parks in the watershed in order to guide future environmental improvements in these parks.
- Maintain publicly owned land in the watershed, in a natural environmentally beneficial state, wherever practical.
- Work with state, county, and local recreational agencies to form a watershed recreation task group to coordinate planning for development and operation of recreational facilities within the watershed.
- Re-establish or improve riparian corridors in watershed recreational areas.
- Examine the feasibility of linking recreational areas along the Lehigh River and its tributaries with riparian corridors through easement or acquisition.
- Expand current Pennsylvania State Gamelands and improve access to gamelands throughout the watershed.
- Develop all-terrain vehicle (ATV) recreational alternatives on appropriate lands within the Lehigh River watershed. Use mine-impacted lands where feasible.
- Support, encourage and facilitate the master planning of parks, recreational greenways, and trail designs.

Objective II: Implement and enhance trails and rails-to-trails projects.

- Enhance the experience of using greenways by providing information about ecology, natural history, and conservation through the installation of educational signs posted along greenway trails and appropriate riparian corridors.
- Work with state, county, and local agencies and landowners in creating volunteer trail-maintenance programs to help maintain trails and greenways.
- Conduct a feasibility study to: assess the extent of abandoned rail lines and public right-of-way lands; the possibilities of linking the lines; the costs associated with acquiring the necessary lands or easements; and converting and maintaining them as usable trails.
- Examine the economic benefits of trails and rails-to-trails projects.
- Connect recreational facilities, parks, stream corridors, schools, and communities using trails or greenways.
- Establish and support rails-to-trails and trail projects in the Lehigh River watershed.
- Connect the Nor-Bath Trail in East Allen Township, Northampton County, to the D&L Trail.
- Acquire missing segments of the D&L trail along the Lehigh River and Lehigh Canal.

- Establish connections from Hazleton to the D&L Trail.
- Establish spur trails off the D&L Trail.
- Enhance existing trails and rails-to-trails projects

Objectives III: Support river-based recreation

- Provide and improve access to the Lehigh River and its tributaries for recreational activities.
- Create, maintain, and improve the Lehigh River Water Trail, including signage.
- Support the Urban Wilderness Challenge and other events designed to promote river recreation and awareness.
- Create and support programs designed to promote river recreation.
- Open additional stream miles to public recreation.
- Enhance existing fishing opportunities and areas.
- Promote the establishment of special regulation areas where appropriate to protect naturally reproducing fish populations.
- Support organizations whose mission is it to promote the recreational use of the river and its tributaries.

Objective IV – Clean up the stream corridors, parks, greenways and trails within the watershed

- Sponsor public river corridor, park, greenway, and trail clean-up days, which also provide opportunities for education.
- Develop strong public-education programs encouraging residents to use the waterways and land responsibly, and to feel a sense of ownership and to help prevent littering. Post “no littering or dumping” signs on recreation lands throughout the watershed and promote the “carry in-carry out” ethic, where appropriate
- Support organizations dedicated to the clean-up of watershed recreational areas and trails.
- Annual or semi-annual clean-ups should occur throughout the Lehigh River watershed.

Middle Delaware River Conservation Plan

This regional conservation effort focuses on the preservation and enhancement of natural and cultural resources along a 48.4-mile section of the Delaware River that stretches from Forks Township, Northampton County, to Upper Makefield Township, Bucks County. A goal of this 2004 plan is to “foster the provision of active and passive recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of current and future residents and visitors” of the river corridor. The plan recommends that public and private partners work together to accomplish the following objectives:

Recommendations

- Ensure that recreational areas and facilities are compatible with the protection of natural resources. Develop guidelines that identify the carrying capacity of the landscape.
- Assess the needs for recreation facilities and programs. Undertake this evaluation on a municipal basis.
- Undertake and implement greenway and trail planning.
- Encourage municipalities to prepare and implement park and recreation plans.

- Encourage cooperation among the municipalities to avoid unnecessary duplication of recreational facilities and programs. Promote a broad and comprehensive view of these facilities to include meeting places and libraries.
- Include open space, recreation and bikeway provisions in municipal land development ordinances. During the development review process, encourage or require developers to incorporate trails and open space linkages.
- Identify and pursue funding to enhance and protect the Delaware Canal State Park.
- Identify and provide river access points in suitable locations.
- Identify ways to reduce or eliminate the impact of motorized vehicles, including jet skis and four-wheel vehicles, on the river, wildlife, natural environment, area residents and on other recreation users. Prohibit off-road vehicles in creeks.
- Foster tourism at locations (such as Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, Washington Crossing State Park and the county parks) that are equipped to handle sizeable numbers of visitors. Discourage heavy use of locations that lack parking and other infrastructure to accommodate many users.

Two Rivers Watershed Conservation Management Plan

The Two Rivers Area Watershed Conservation Plan was prepared by the Two Rivers Area Council of Governments in recognition of the importance of local waterways and associated underground aquifers in sustaining public health, economic development and leisure activities. These waterways include all of the tributaries in Williams Township that drain directly to the Lehigh and Delaware Rivers. The planning process resulted in the creation of three goals and several recommendations pertaining to recreational opportunities within the Two Rivers Area:

Goals

- Improve educational outreach, public education and passive recreational uses and values, to increase appreciation of the what the Two Rivers Area has to offer and increase stewardship.
- Improve streamside access and recreation opportunities with the streams.
- Identify regional recreation needs and desired recreational interaction with streams. (Conduct professional assessment of potentials and survey and assess the regional needs).

Recommendations

- The Two Rivers Area Council of Governments (COG) should define and initiate a Two Rivers Area Intermunicipal Open Space & Parks Task Force.
- The purpose of the Task Force will be to undertake and affect the Two Rivers Area Open Space, Parks and Greenway Plan which will plan, effect and develop an intermunicipal and physically integrated open space, park and greenway based on facility development within a projected 50-year population growth horizon of 175,000 residents with the Two Rivers Area. This task force shall be a committee of the Two Rivers Area COG and subject to its charter and by-laws.
- The Two Rivers Area COG shall consider and advocate for an annual set of public funds, in tandem with local and private funds which shall be used to implement conservation easements and open space, natural habitat, park and recreation facility land purchase and development.

Two Rivers Area Greenway Plan

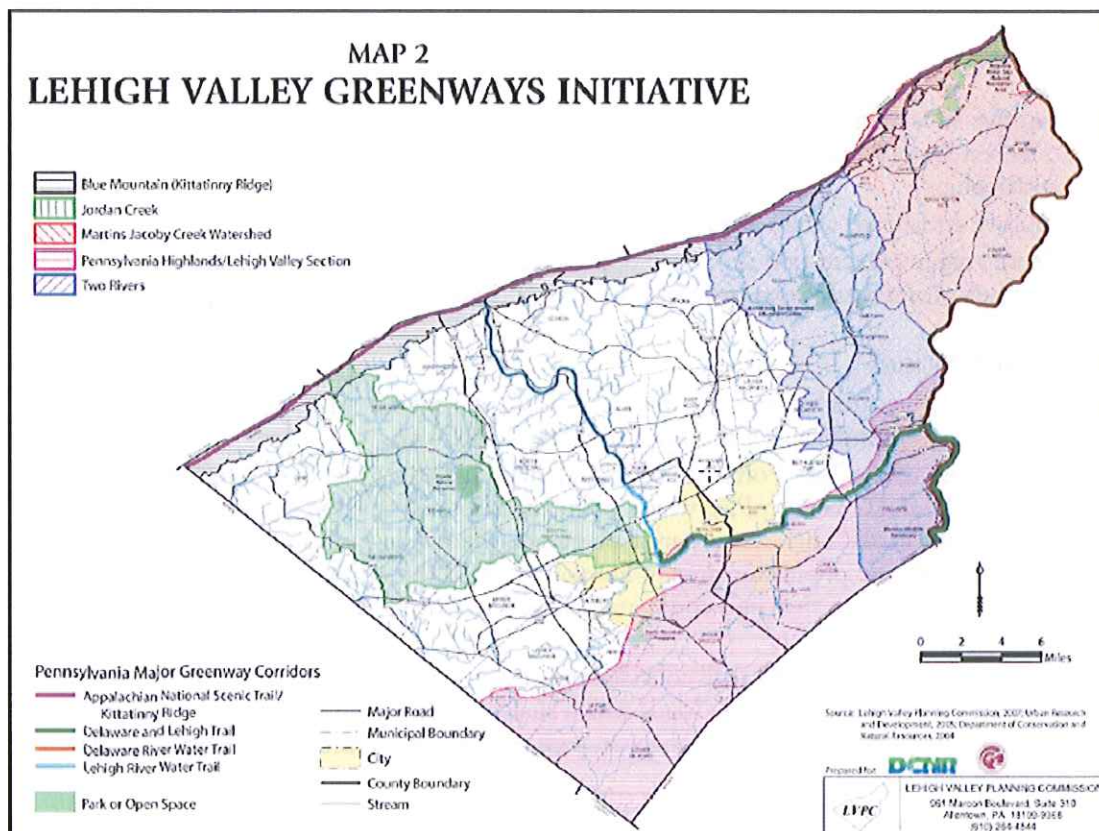
The Two Rivers Area Greenway Plan outlines how park, recreation and open spaces within the seventeen municipalities surrounding the Bushkill Creek, Lehigh River and Delaware River in eastern Northampton County can be interconnected to protect stream headwaters, preserve riparian buffers, provide recreational opportunities, enhance the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and conserve important natural resources. The plan includes two recommendations pertaining to leisure improvements in Williams Township:

Recommendations

- Add additional interpretation along the Delaware Canal at Raubsville.
- Consider a possible extension of the Highlands Trail into Pennsylvania.

Lehigh Valley Greenways Plan

The Lehigh Valley Greenways initiative is “a collaborative state and local partnership striving to conserve and connect people to valued natural resources in the Lehigh Valley through targeted outreach, recreation, education and land protection.” The *Lehigh Valley Greenways Plan* “examines the physical framework of natural, recreational, cultural, historical and scenic resources that make us a multiform network of corridors and destinations to benefit a myriad of users. The overall aim of the plan is to connect these resources with existing and planned pathways that are protected and carefully managed to form a continuous green route throughout Lehigh and Northampton Counties.” Williams Township falls within two of the five focus areas of the plan as shown below:



The plan identifies potential greenway corridors within these focus areas and categorizes them according to their attributes: cultural/recreational, conservation, scenic and multi-use. Three greenway corridors are in Williams Township are highlighted in the plan:

Delaware River Greenway (Multi-Use Category)

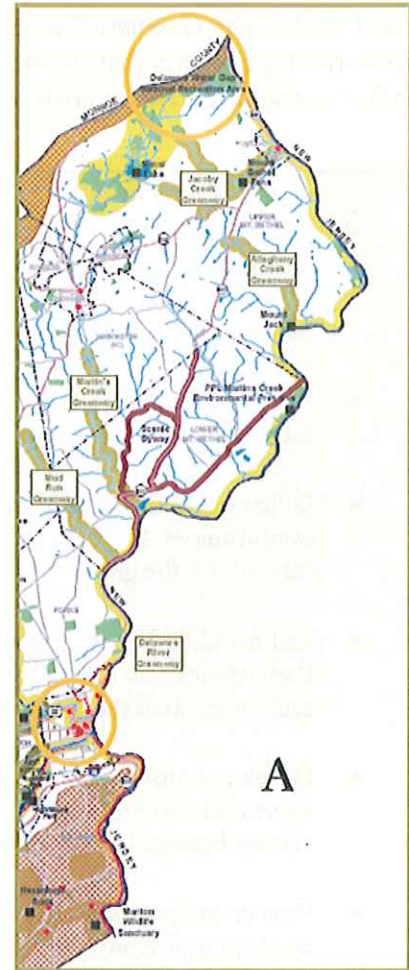
This greenway extends the entire 35-mile length of Northampton County, following the Delaware River. The greenway is anchored at the north by the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area and at the south by the Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary.

Pennsylvania Highlands Greenway (Conservation and Scenic Categories)

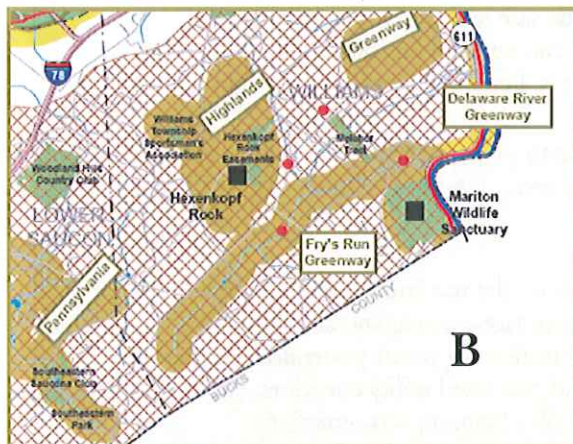
Corresponding to the Pennsylvania Highlands region in southern Northampton County, the greenway encompasses the rock, slopes and wetlands of the Hexenkopf area in Williams Township, among other natural features. It is tied to the Delaware River Greenway along with the East Branch Saucon Creek, Leibert Creek, Cooks Creek, and Macungie-Alburtis Trail greenways to the west of Williams Township.

Fry's Run Greenway (Conservation Category)

This 4-mile long greenway winds along the high-quality stream of Fry's Run. It connects with the Delaware River Greenway and falls within the Pennsylvania Highlands Greenway.



A



B

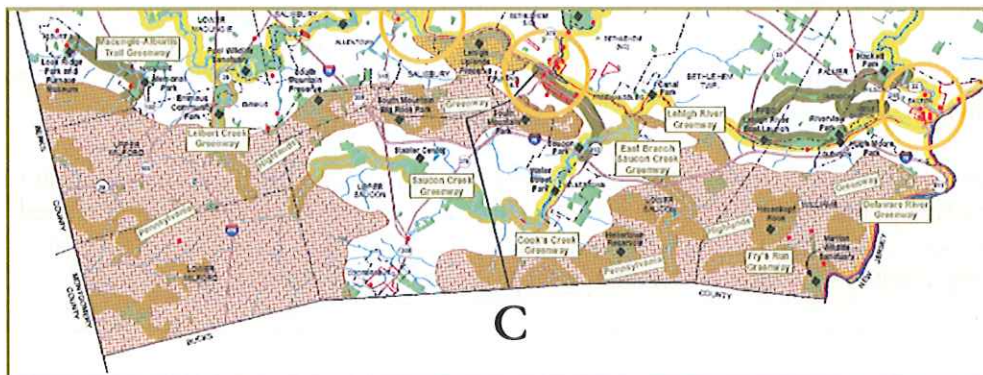
Excerpt Maps from the *Lehigh Valley Greenway Plan*

A Delaware River Greenway (Above)

B Fry's Run Greenway (Left)

C Pennsylvania Highlands Greenway (Below)

Note: See *Lehigh Valley Greenway Plan* for a more detailed description of each greenway.



C

The *Lehigh Valley Greenway Plan* sets forth several goals, one of which is to create a “regional network of greenways that provides an array of recreational opportunities and access to existing parks/ outdoor recreation areas, open space, and areas with cultural/historical significance.

Recommendations

- Coordinate the planning and development of the greenways network with transportation, economic development, tourism, recreation and open space priorities in the region. (state, county, municipality, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission)
- Adopt separate recreation, greenway and open space plans with specific recommendations for acquisition and improvements to protect significant resources. (state, county, municipality)
- Utilize cultural/ recreational greenways to provide local, close-to-home/ work recreation opportunities. Promote the development of new recreation facilities at strategic locations throughout the greenway network. (county, municipality, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission)
- Utilize cultural/ recreational greenways to meet the recommended National Recreation and Park Association acreage requirements of 10 acres per 1,000 population of recreation space in each municipality and county. (county, municipality)
- Develop a promotional brochure of active and passive cultural/ recreational attractions to foster interest in and provide information about the many opportunities available. (convention and visitors bureau, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission)
- Protect and promote rivers and streams as a source of numerous recreational benefits to residents and visitors of the Lehigh Valley. Provide safe and easily accessible public access points along the Lehigh and Delaware rivers that encourage recreational use. (state, county, municipality, local conservation groups, landowners, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission)
- Protect and utilize floodplains and riparian buffers to provide contiguous and substantial trail mileage linking and adjacent to existing recreation areas. (county, municipality, local conservation groups, developers, landowners)
- Encourage dialogue with rail and utility companies on the use and/or acquisition of existing or abandoned right-of ways for trail development. Prioritize existing and abandoned rail corridors for their potential trail use and conduct feasibility studies for priority corridors. Complete a comprehensive bi-county inventory of existing and proposed utility corridors. (state, county, municipality, local conservation groups, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission)
- Work with PennDOT and local road departments to include bicycle and pedestrian friendly facilities when road improvements are planned. Incorporate trails and greenways into the design of proposed roadways where appropriate. (state, county, municipality, local conservation groups)
- Encourage historic preservation planning and adopt historic district regulations pursuant to the Pennsylvania Historic District Act (Act 167). Develop trails for historic interpretation and education. Update the LVPC National Register of Historic Places inventory yearly. (state, county, municipality, local conservation groups, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission)

Pennsylvania Highlands Trail

A component of the Pennsylvania Highlands conservation initiative is the development of a trail network through this important landscape. A total of 150 miles of trail has already been completed, consisting of the entire section in New York State and portions of the trail in New Jersey. The location of the trail in Pennsylvania is in the planning stages and may include connections with the Appalachian Trail, Horseshoe Trail, D&L Trail and Mason-Dixon Trail through the use of spur and loop trails. Initial concepts show the Pennsylvania Highlands Trail crossing the Delaware River at Riegelsville via the toll bridge. The Upper Bucks and Lower Northampton Counties Steering Committee has been established to prepare an action plan for developing a trail route that would eventually connect with Green Lane Park in Montgomery County. A representative from the Williams Township Land Preservation Board will serve on this committee on behalf of Williams Township.



The Highlands Trail

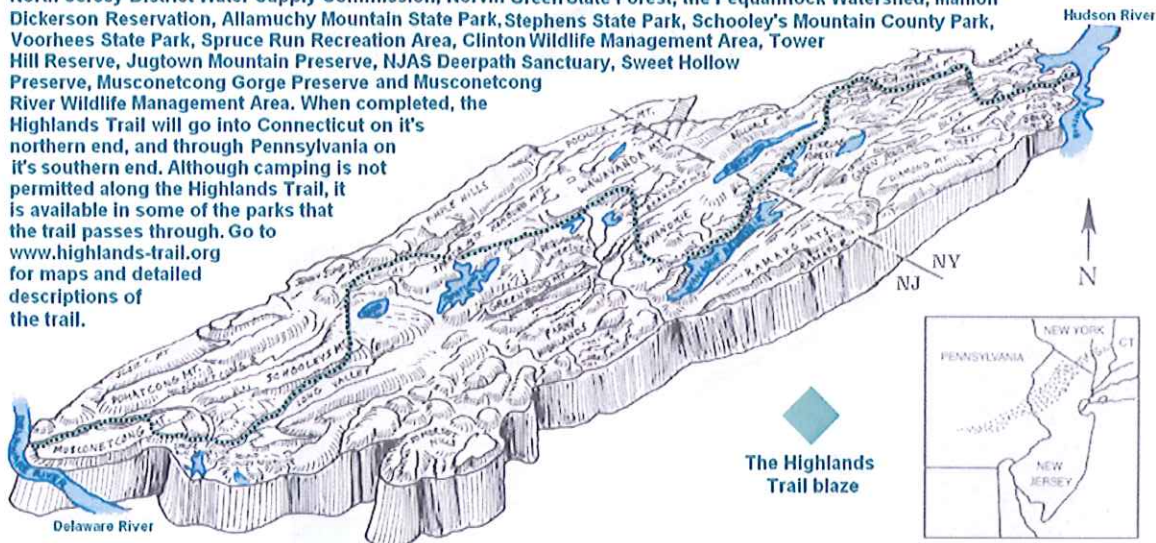
"A rugged footpath"

www.highlands-trail.org

A project of the New York - New Jersey Trail Conference



Beginning at the Hudson River in Cornwall NY, the Highlands Trail passes through Storm King Mountain State Park, Black Rock Forest, Schunemunk Mountain State Park, Goose Pond Mountain State Park, and Sterling Forest State Park. Entering New Jersey, the Highlands Trail passes through Long Pond Ironworks State Park, North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, Norvin Green State Forest, the Pequannock Watershed, Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, Allamuchy Mountain State Park, Stephens State Park, Schooley's Mountain County Park, Voorhees State Park, Spruce Run Recreation Area, Clinton Wildlife Management Area, Tower Hill Reserve, Jugtown Mountain Preserve, NJAS Deerpath Sanctuary, Sweet Hollow Preserve, Musconetcong Gorge Preserve and Musconetcong River Wildlife Management Area. When completed, the Highlands Trail will go into Connecticut on its northern end, and through Pennsylvania on its southern end. Although camping is not permitted along the Highlands Trail, it is available in some of the parks that the trail passes through. Go to www.highlands-trail.org for maps and detailed descriptions of the trail.



The Highlands Trail is built and maintained by volunteers. Whether you wish to come on a group work trip building or maintaining sections of trail, or be an individual maintainer of your own section, there are many opportunities to get involved. For information on volunteer opportunities go to www.nynjtc.org. Scheduled work trips are posted on the Highlands Trail web site at www.highlands-trail.org.

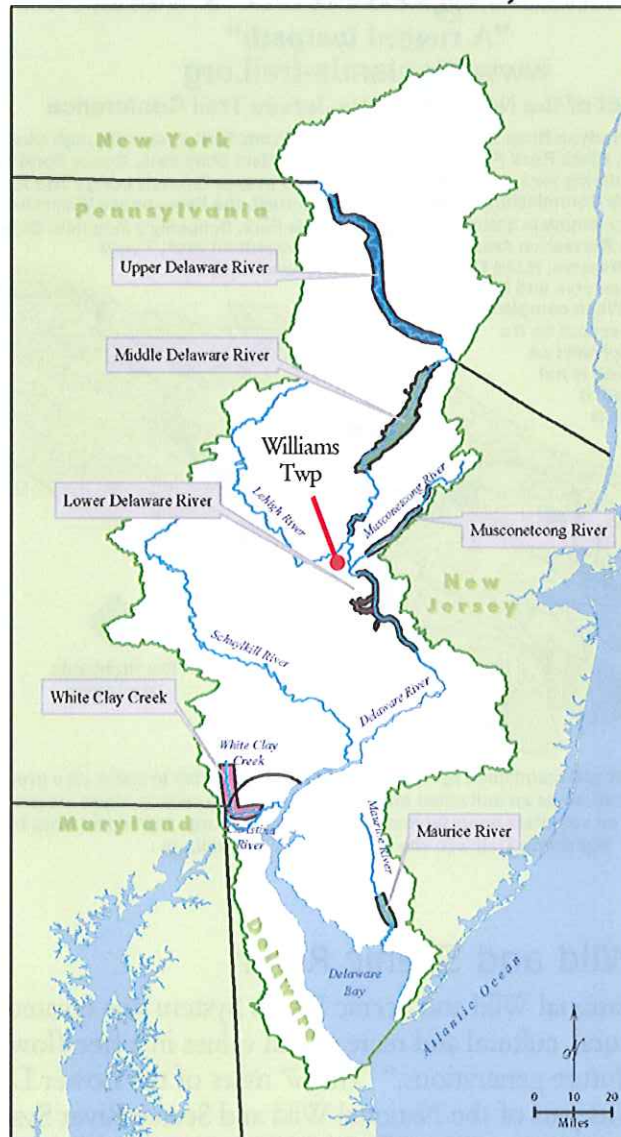
Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River

Established in 1968, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created to "preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations." The 67 miles of the Lower Delaware River and its tributaries were designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System by the federal government on November 1, 2000. The designation encompasses seven distinct segments which are valued for either their scenic or recreational qualities:

Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Segments

- Segment 1 From river mile 193.8 to the southern border of the City of Easton, PA.
- Segment 2 From just south of the Gilbert Generating Station to just north of the Point Pleasant Pumping Station.
- Segment 3 From just south of the Point Pleasant Pumping Station to a point 1,000 feet north of the Route 202 Bridge.
- Segment 4 From 1,750 feet south of the Route 202 Bridge to the southern boundary of New Hope Borough to the town of Washington Crossing.
- Segment 5 All of Tinicum Creek.
- Segment 6 Tohickon Creek from the Lake Nockamixon Dam to the Delaware River.
- Segment 7 Paunacussing Creek in Solebury Township.

Stretches of the Delaware River and its Tributaries Included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System



DRBC
 Delaware River Basin Commission
 DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
 PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 WWW.DRBC.NET
 PO BOX 7350
 WEST TRENTON, NJ 08628
 (609) 883-9500

Although the portion of the Lower Delaware River and its associated tributaries that form the eastern boundary of Williams Township have not received a Wild and Scenic River designation, the Township is located between two of the designated segments (# 1 and # 2 above). Thus, persons coming to enjoy these nearby Wild and Scenic River segments may pass through Williams Township as they journey up or down stream.

The Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River is part of the National Park Service - Partnership Rivers Program. The distinguishing feature of a *Partnership River* is that it flows primarily through private land, and designation to the National Wild and Scenic River System does not change land ownership or the existing regulatory framework for land use and river recreation. The National Park Service plays an important advisory role, but it is prohibited (by the legislation that established the Wild and Scenic River designation) from owning or managing land. The Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River corridor is therefore managed through a partnership between the municipalities located along the designated segments and the National Park Service.

The Lower Delaware River Management Plan was adopted in August 1997 by the National Park Service and received formal support from the Delaware River Basin Commission with Resolution No. 98-2 (1997). This plan has been re-affirmed in the *Lower Delaware River Management Committee Action Plan 2007-2011*. Six goals were developed as the basis for the 1997 management plan and are summarized below:

1997 Goals

- **Goal 1: Water Quality** – Maintain existing water quality in the Delaware River and its tributaries from measurably degrading and improve it where practicable.
- **Goal 2: Natural Resources** - Preserve and protect the river's outstanding natural resources.
- **Goal 3: Historic Resources** - Preserve and protect the character of historic structures, districts and sites, including landscapes, in the river corridor.
- **Goal 4: Recreation** – Encourage recreational use of the river corridor that has a low environmental and social impact and is compatible with public safety, the protection of private property and with the preservation of natural and cultural qualities of the river corridor.
- **Goal 5: Economic Development** – Identify principles for minimizing the adverse impact of development within the river corridor.
- **Goal 6: Open Space Preservation** – Preserve open space as a means of maximizing the health of the ecosystem, preserving scenic views and minimizing the impact of new development in the river corridor.

A set of six similar goals were developed for the updated *Lower Delaware River Management Committee Action Plan 2007-2011* as follows:

2007-2011 Goals

- **Goal 1: Water Quality** - Maintain existing water quality in the Delaware River and its tributaries from measurable degradation and improve it where practical.
- **Goal 2: Natural Resources** - Preserve and protect the river's outstanding natural resources, including rare and endangered plant and animal species, river islands, steep slopes and buffer areas in the river corridor and along the tributaries.
- **Goal 3: Historic Resources** - Preserve and protect the character of historic structures, districts and sites, including landscapes, in the river corridor.

- **Goal 4: Recreation** - Encourage recreational use of the river corridor that has a low environmental and social impact and is compatible with public safety, the protection of private property and with the preservation of natural and cultural qualities of the river corridor.
- **Goal 5: Economic Development** - Identify principles for minimizing the adverse impact of development within the river corridor and to encourage sustainable development where appropriate.
- **Goal 6: Open Space Preservation** - Preserve open space as a means of maximizing the health of the ecosystem, preserving scenic values, and minimizing the impact of new development in the river corridor.

Water Trails and River Sojourns

Water-based trails have been officially designated by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission along the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers to encourage greater enjoyment of these resources. The Delaware River Trail extends 250 miles from Hancock, New York, to Trenton, New Jersey, while the Lehigh River Water Trail runs 75 miles from the Francis Walter Dam to the river's mouth. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission describes water trails as "boat routes suitable for canoes, kayaks and small motorized watercraft. Like conventional trails, water trails are recreational corridors between specific locations. Water trails are comprised of access points, boat launches, day use sites, and -- in some cases -- overnight camping areas. Each water trail is unique, a reflection of Pennsylvania's diverse geology, ecology and communities." These trails are tailored to persons who use the river for recreational purposes, such as fishermen and boaters. The development and maintenance of these trails is a collaborative effort among public and private individuals and organizations. .

A waterproof set of maps for the Delaware River provide information from the perspective of water users about recreational facilities in addition to public access points, river conditions, hazards and safety issues. Similar water trail information for the Lehigh River can be found on the Wildlands Conservancy website at <http://www.wildlandspa.org/lrwt/>. These maps encourage river users to adopt a "leave no trace" approach to their recreational activities.

As part of the annual celebration of National Rivers Month, week-long river sojourn events are held in communities across the country to call attention to the scenic beauty, ecological function, economic importance and recreational value of these streams. The Lehigh River Sojourn and the Delaware River Sojourn are two separate events in June that draw residents and visitors alike to the region for a trip down the river. Participants can attend the sojourn for one-day or the entire week-long program that integrates environmental and historic educational activities with canoeing and camping. The sojourn is designed to provide a memorable for persons of all ages and abilities.

Administration, Personnel and Facility Maintenance

The operation of the Williams Township Park, Recreation and Open Space System is a collaborative effort between various individuals and groups. The 3-member Board of Supervisors is ultimately responsible for all of the decisions made with regard to the way in which the system is developed and managed. However, the Recreation Board, Township Manager, and Public Works Department assist the Supervisors in carrying out this function by performing a number of important tasks.

Recreation Board

The 7-member Recreation Board was established by Ordinance # 11 of 1966 and # 97-3 of 1997 to advise the Board of Supervisors in providing leisure services to residents. This ordinance states that the Recreation Board has “the authority to equip, supervise, and maintain parks, recreation areas and facilities and to conduct recreation programs and shall have the powers and be subject to all the responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors; the Recreation Board shall exercise its powers and duties in establishing standards, qualifications and salary schedules, all of which shall be approved by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Williams.” All members of the board serve as volunteers without compensation. The activities of the Recreation Board are governed by a constitution and by-laws.

The primary duties of the Recreation Board include:

- Coordinating and monitoring the use of park facilities by the public, particularly the Williams Township Athletic Association;
- Working with the part-time staff hired to conduct the annual summer camp;
- Organizing and implementing special events;
- Submitting requests to the Wilson School District for use of school facilities for recreational activities;
- Working with the Public Works Department to determine the desired park maintenance activities;
- Soliciting and coordinating the assistance of volunteers to conduct recreation programs or perform park maintenance work;
- Assisting the Board of Supervisors in hiring part-time staff to manage the summer recreation programs;
- Providing input on the purchase of recreational equipment and contracted services;
- Supplying information about recreational activities to the Township Manager for distribution to residents;
- Identifying existing and future recreation needs; and
- Suggesting to the Board of Supervisors how these recreation needs can be met.

The Recreation Board meets on a monthly basis to complete its work and a member of the Board of Supervisors usually attends these meetings. Meeting minutes are prepared to document the results of the meetings and are distributed to the Board of Supervisors, Township Manager, and Public Works Director for review and input. The Chairman of the Recreation Board attends each Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss the status of the Recreation Board's work and seek official action from the Board of Supervisors as needed. As part of the annual municipal budget process, the Recreation Board prepares a draft estimate of anticipated recreation-related expenses

for the upcoming year and submits it to the Township Manager. The estimate is part of an annual report submitted to the Board of Supervisors that includes “an analysis of the community recreation area, facilities and leadership.”

Township Manager

The Township Manager plays an important, but often a behind-the-scenes, role in providing leisure services. The manager’s duties include:

- Assisting the Board of Supervisors by identifying residents who would be willing and able to serve on the Recreation Board;
- Acting as the liaison for the Board of Supervisors, Recreation Board, Public Works Department and Land Preservation Board with regard to day-to-day park and open space system operations;
- Assisting the Board of Supervisors in hiring part-time and full-time staff involved in recreation programming and maintenance;
- Overseeing the purchase of recreation equipment and contracted services, including soliciting/reviewing bids for such items and making sure that all contractual paperwork is properly completed;
- Working with township clerical staff to process requests for picnic pavilion use;
- Confirming that groups using park facilities provide proof of adequate insurance;
- Working with the Public Works Department to coordinate park maintenance activities;
- Informing the public of recreational activities via the township’s newsletter, website, community bulleting board, etc.;
- Working with the Recreation Board to refine its draft budget estimate to meet the overall financial goals for the township.

As the lead administrative staff person, the Township Manager facilitates the flow of information among the Supervisors, Recreation and Land Preservation Board members and staff.

Public Works Department

Once the township obtains a park or open space area, the Public Works Department’s involvement in the long-term care of the property begins. The department’s park and open space maintenance duties include:

- Daily checking the properties for signs of wear and/or misuse,
- Mowing lawns;
- Collecting trash and placing it in dumpsters for pickup by a waste hauler;
- Dragging infields, installing/removing goal posts, moving bleachers, installing/removing temporary fences for games and events;
- Setting up and taking down chairs and tables for Community Day and Directing parking for this event;
- Raking leaves, trimming trees and performing other general landscaping tasks;
- Working with state police to discourage vandalism and repairing vandalism damage;
- Completing minor equipment repairs; and
- Overseeing contracted lawn services and major park facility construction projects;

The department has line striping machine, zero-turn lawn mowers and a gator (for dragging infields) for use in maintaining park and open space areas. The equipment is relatively new and in good condition.

Assigned Staff and Contracted Services

Williams Township uses a combination of seasonal part-time employees, full-time employees and contractors to assist with park and open space programming activities and maintenance. Several seasonal part-time individuals, some of whom are professional school teachers, are hired to run the annual summer recreation program at the Municipal Park including a director, assistant director, five counselors and two alternate counselors. The Public Works Director supervises the work of one full-time and one seasonal part-time crew members assigned to maintaining the parks and open space areas. Tasks performed by contractors include custodial care of township buildings, seasonal pesticide/herbicide/fertilizer treatments for the lawns and athletic fields, and the design and construction of major park improvements.

Park Rules

The general public contributes to the overall management of Williams Township Municipal Park and Raubsville Park by obeying the park rules adopted by the Board of Supervisors in Ordinance # 1 of 1995. A park rules sign is posted at these recreational areas to inform the public as to the behavior permitted on-site.

Issues and Concerns

Although the park, recreation and open space system is very-well managed and has few problems, some issues have arisen:

- There are times when all of the township representatives who should be involved in making various decisions are not properly informed or involved in the decision-making process, especially with regard to the scheduling of maintenance and making small purchases.
- There are occasional problems with skateboarding and snowmobiling activities that are not permitted in the existing parks.
- In spite of the presence of security cameras, there have been a number of vandalism incidents that usually occur after dark (drinking, graffiti, theft of picnic tables, etc.) and also seem to happen just before the beginning and end of the public school year (i.e., end of August and in late May/early June). However, the parks are properly used for the majority of the year (at least 85% of the time).
- Even though the park rules clearly state that pets are not allowed on-site, residents often bring their unleashed dogs to the parks, creating liability concerns.
- There is a need for a maintenance plan and schedule, especially with regard to checking the condition of playground equipment.
- Volunteer participation in maintaining park and participating in special events is inconsistent, placing additional burdens on the Recreation Board members and township staff.
- It would be helpful to know how other municipalities with comparable park and open space systems address similar administration, personnel and maintenance issues.
- The equipment used to drag the infields is very heavy and must be lifted by two men onto a vehicle for transport from field to field.
- The weight and tires of the large maintenance trucks sometimes damage the field turf when minor field repairs are being made, such as adding infield mix, etc.

- The Township Solicitor has expressed liability concerns about posting signage governing playground use.
- The park and open space system will soon be expanding with the constructions of ballfields by Chrin. As a result, there will be an increased need for additional staff to provide maintenance services.
- There is no formal agreement with the Wilson School District for long-term use of the school facilities for recreational activities.
- The public may not fully appreciate the annual value of the township's support for the athletic activities (i.e., the amount of labor contributed and other expenditures made each year).

Financing

Funding for improvements to the township's park and recreation system comes from a 0.25% earned income tax specifically set aside for open space conservation, real estate tax revenues, memorial contributions from private donors, and state and county grants. These monies are supplemented by a \$2,000 per dwelling unit recreation fee associated with new land development projects. In-lieu of the recreation fees, land developers may opt to construct recreational improvements as part of the new development.

Public Participation

Several techniques were used to gather input from the public with regard to park, recreation and open space opportunities within Williams Township. Meetings were held with the Recreation Board to discuss existing and future recreational challenges throughout the planning process. Key recreational providers were interviewed to better understand the contribution they make to the community. Residents were also asked to complete a survey to express their ideas about the quality of existing leisure services in Williams Township. The resident responses were compared with the results of a similar survey conducted by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as part of its 2009 Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update (SCORP). The information collected through the public participation process has been used to develop the goals and objectives included in this plan. The major findings are outlined below:

2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents:

A questionnaire was distributed to township residents in the Spring of 2009 seeking their input on park, recreation and open space usage, needs and goals. A total of 134 responses were received and tabulated for evaluation. The responses included households representing all of the age groups as shown in Table 20 with the largest age group being adults between the ages of 55 and 64.

Table 20 Age of Persons in Household by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents			
Age Category	Percentage	Age Category	Percentage
Less than 5 Years of Age	8%	35-44 Years of Age	14%
5-12 Years of Age	11%	45-54 Years of Age	15%
13-17 Years of Age	4%	55-64 Years of Age	21%
18-24 Years of Age	6%	65-74 Years of Age	11%
25-34 Years of Age	4%	75 Years of Age and Older	6%
Total = 100%			

Table 21 shows that responses were submitted by residents from a wide cross-section of residency characteristics, with the exception of new residents who represented only 1% of the total responses.

Table 21 Length of Residency in Township by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents					
Less than 1 Year	1-5 Years	6-15 Years	16-30 Years	More than 30 Years	Total
1%	27%	20%	18%	34%	100%

The responses indicated that the natural landscape is their major reason for settling in the township as shown in Table 22, with proximity to family and friends and the sense of neighborhood and community as the second and third most important reasons for living in the township.

Table 22 Top Reasons for Residing in Williams Township by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents	
Decision-Making Feature	Percentage
Natural Landscape	26%
Family/Friends	15%
Neighborhood/Community	14%
Proximity to Work	9%
Access to Highways	9%
Property Value	8%
Property Tax	7%
Other Reason (See below)*	5%
School District	4%
Proximity to Shopping/Entertainment	3%
Total	100%
* Other reasons include historic residence, quiet, farmland, rural living, scenery, always lived here, proximity to river, affordability	

Table 23 shows that 82% of respondents are either satisfied or very satisfied with the existing park and recreation facilities in Williams Township while 63% are satisfied or very satisfied with open space and farmland preservation efforts in the township.

Table 23 Satisfaction with Leisure Facilities and Conservation Efforts in Williams Township by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents		
Level of Satisfaction	Park and Recreation Facilities	Open Space Protection and Farmland Preservation
Very Satisfied	24%	15%
Satisfied	58%	48%
Dissatisfied	7%	23%
Not Familiar with Program	11%	14%
Total	100%	100%

At least 79% of the respondents were impressed with the cleanliness, attractiveness, safety and location of the township parks as shown in Table 24. The majority of respondents (57%) also felt good about the types of facilities available.

Table 24 Condition of Existing Township Parks by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents							
Condition	# of Responses	Excellent	Good	No Impression	Fair	Poor	Total
Cleanliness	134	46%	39%	13%	2%	1%	100%
Attractiveness	134	40%	44%	12%	4%	0%	100%
Safety	130	36%	43%	16%	4%	1%	100%
Location	134	34%	48%	14%	4%	1%	100%
Types of facilities available	134	14%	57%	16%	10%	3%	100%

Nearly half of the respondents (47%) indicated that they most frequently visit a public park while almost a quarter (23%) stated that they most frequently recreate at home as shown in Table 25.

Table 25 How Residents Describe Their Most Frequently Visited Recreational Facility by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents	
Recreational Facility	Percentage
Public Park	47%
Private At Home Play Equipment	23%
Health and Fitness Club	11%
Other (See below)*	8%
Golf Course	6%
Country or Social Club	2%
Homeowner's Assoc. Recreation Space	2%
Public School	1%
Total	100%
* Other includes canal towpath, river, fire company grounds, sportsman's association property	

Table 26 shows that one-fourth of the respondents have used the township park. Mariton Preserve, Lehigh Heritage Canal Trail, Raubsville Park, Williams Elementary School Playground Wy-Hit-Tuk Park and Fry's Run Park have each been visited by 9% to 14% of the respondents. Residents indicated that they also use recreational facilities outside of the township. One-third of the respondents indicated that they use the canal towpath in surrounding municipalities, while 22% visit Hugh Moore Park and 16% visit Jacobsburg Park. Respondents stated that they utilize a diversity of recreational areas elsewhere in the Lehigh Valley, in addition to sites across the state and nation.

Table 26 Resident Use of Existing Parks and Open Space Areas by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents			
Sites Within Township	Percentage	Sites Outside of Township	Percentage
Township Park	26%	Canal Towpath	33%
Mariton Preserve	14%	Hugh Moore Park	22%
Lehigh Heritage Canal Trail	14%	Jacobsburg Park	16%
Raubsville Park	13%	Meuser Park	9%
Williams Elementary School Playground	12%	Other (Specified Below)*	8%
Wy-Hit-Tuk Park	10%	Heil Park	1%
Fry's Run	9%	YMCA Park	1%
Other (Not Specified)	2%	-	-
Total	100%	Total	100%
* Other sites outside Williams Township include in alphabetical order: Bethlehem Township, Bethlehem Township Community Center, Bucks County Horse Park, Chanticleer, Chrin Community Center, Dimmick Pool, Golub Park, Hawk Mountain, Hellertown Pool, National Arboretum, Nazareth Skate and Pool, Nockamixon State Park, Other State Parks, Palmer Bike Path, Palmer Township Rec Center, and Rails to Trails in Palmer and East Allen.			

Table 27 documents how often the respondents take advantage of leisure opportunities in the township. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the respondents use the township park, recreation and open space facilities or programs at least once a year. The response rates indicate that the predominant usage of township leisure resources by adults occurs either several times a year (27%) or several times a week (10%).

Table 27 Frequency of Use of Township Parks, Recreation Programs and Facilities by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents			
Frequency	Children (Ages 0-12)	Teens (Ages 12-18)	Adults (19 and older)
Several times a week	6%	3%	10%
Once a week	4%	2%	7%
Once a month	3%	3%	6%
Several times a year	5%	4%	27%
Once a year	2%	0%	5%
Never	1%	0%	6%
Not Applicable	1%	2%	3%
Subtotal	22%	14%	64%
Total = 100%			

Teen usage is evenly spread across all frequency periods. The responses show that children most frequently use the township's park, recreation and open space facilities and programs several times a week.

The most important factors influencing a respondent's decision to visit a township park are the availability of the desired recreational opportunities (42%) and the proximity to their home (38%) as shown in Table 28.

Table 28 Features Influencing Decision to Visit a Township Park by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents	
Decision-Making Feature	Percentage
Facilities available (i.e., trails, picnic area, etc.)	42%
Proximity to my residence	38%
Recreational programs and organized activities	12%
Other (including safety, natural features, dog friendly, cleanliness)	8%
Total	100%

Slightly over one-third of all respondents (37.5%) indicated that they or members of their family belonged to an organized group involved in outdoor recreation. (See Table 29). Of these respondents, the majority are involved with a garden club (31%), one of several sporting organizations (25%) or an athletic association (24%).

Table 29 Involvement in Recreation Organizations by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents	
Name of Organization	Percentage
Garden Club	31%
Easton Fish & Game	15%
Athletic Association	12%
Youth Athletic Association	12%
Morgan Hill Golf Course	8%
YMCA	7%
Williams Twp. Sportsman's Assoc.	6%
Other (See below)*	5%
Raubsville Sportsman's	4%
Total	100%
* Other organizations include 4-H camping, scouting (Wilson Borough), Fry's Run Watershed Association, North American Hunting Dog Association, Mariton Nature Center, Friends of the Delaware Canal, Saucon Valley Country Club, Farm Bureau, WE 8 Sportsman Club, Rhododendron Society of Lehigh Valley, Recreation Board, HLS Little League, Bethlehem Twp. Community Center, running club, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Spinone Club of America, VSTA tennis and MASS mountain bike clubs.	

Several survey questions asked respondents to evaluate the availability of leisure opportunities. Table 30 shows that respondents are not sure whether there are enough recreational programs for pre-schoolers (48%), disabled individuals (48%), young adults (44%) and high school students (42%). Respondents feel that the programs for elementary school children (45%) and families (41%) are about right but that there are not enough programs for retired adults (35%) and adults (32%). However, 46% of respondents believed that the overall availability of recreational programs was about right, while 34% were not sure whether the programs were adequately available. Only 4% of the responses indicated that the township offered too many recreational programs from an overall perspective.

Table 30 Availability of Recreational Programs by Age Group by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents						
Spending Priorities	# of Responses	Not Enough	About Right	Too Much	Not Sure	Total
Pre-Schoolers	115	20%	27%	5%	48%	100%
Elementary School Students	116	12%	45%	8%	35%	100%
Middle School Students	115	17%	39%	7%	37%	100%
High School Students	115	21%	29%	8%	42%	100%
Young Adults	112	21%	28%	7%	44%	100%
Adults	115	32%	35%	6%	27%	100%
Retired Adults	117	35%	27%	4%	34%	100%
Families	112	25%	41%	4%	30%	100%
People with Disabilities	114	27%	20%	5%	48%	100%
Overall Availability of Programs	113	16%	46%	4%	34%	100%

The survey asked respondents to review a list of existing or potential recreational facilities and programs and indicate the importance of these amenities in providing leisure opportunities for adults, teens and children. Tables 31, 32, and 33 show that ponds, streams, and trails for walking, hiking, fitness, jogging, bicycling and nature observation are very important for all age groups. Although undeveloped open spaces are very important to all age groups, the responses show that these natural areas are most important to adults. Neighborhood parks are the most important to teens and children who may not have the ability to travel far to access recreational opportunities. Adults also feel that handicapped access, a recreation center, parking facilities and senior citizen activities are very important. Respondents indicated that summer day camps are very important for children and athletic fields and courts that can support organized sports are very important for both children and teens.

Picnic pavilions, fishing areas and an environmental center are considered important for all age groups, while arts and crafts activities, a recreation/community center, and certified youth sport coaches are important for teens and children. The importance of a senior center to children and teens may be a reflection of a desire for intergenerational contact between youths and older adults. There is general consensus that facilities and programs for golf, skateboarding, dance and archery/target shooting are not important to any age group.

Table 31
Top Ten Recreational Opportunities Requested for Adults by Number of Requests
2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents

Rank	Very Important	Important	Not Important
1	Undeveloped Open Space	Picnic Pavilion	Skateboarding
2	Trails – Nature/Hiking	Historic Society	Roller Skating
3	Trails – Fitness/Jogging/Walking	Tennis Courts	Dance
4	Ponds/Streams	Fishing	Archery/Target Shooting
5	Bicycle Trails (level/paved)	Environmental Center	Golf Driving Range
6	Neighborhood Park	Handicapped Access	Amphitheatre/Stage
7	Handicapped Accessible Facilities	Community Center	Golf Course
8	Recreation Center	Parking Facilities	Camping
9	Parking Facilities	Sports Leagues	Equine Trails
10	Senior Citizen Activities	Meeting Rooms	Racquetball/Handball Courts

Table 32
Top Ten Recreational Opportunities Requested for Teens by Number of Requests
2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents

Rank	Very Important	Important	Not Important
1	Neighborhood Park	Tennis Courts	Golf Course
2	Trails – Nature/Hiking	Fishing	Ice Skating
3	Undeveloped Open Space	Arts and Crafts	Skateboarding
4	Trails – Fitness/Jogging/Walking	Senior Citizen Center	Golf Driving Range
5	Ponds/Streams	Picnic Pavilion	Dance
6	Baseball/Softball Fields	Volleyball Courts	Community Garden
7	Bicycle Trails (level/paved)	Certified Youth Sport Coaches	Cross-Country Skiing
8	Racquetball/Handball Courts	Recreation Center	Archery/Target Shooting
9	Sports Leagues	Environmental Center	Amphitheatre/Stage
10	Soccer/Football Fields	Sports Workshops/Classes	Equine Trails

Table 33 Top Ten Recreational Opportunities Requested for Children by Number of Requests 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents			
Rank	Very Important	Important	Not Important
1	Neighborhood Park	Arts and Crafts	Golf Course
2	Undeveloped Open Space	Senior Citizen Center	Golf Driving Range
3	Trails – Nature/Hiking	Picnic Pavilion	Ice Skating
4	Trails – Fitness/Jogging/Walking	Environmental Center	Archery/Target Shooting
5	Baseball/Softball Fields	Fishing	Skateboarding
6	Soccer/Football Fields	Handicapped Access	Dance
7	Bicycle Trails (level/paved)	Certified Youth Sport Coaches	Cross-Country Skiing
8	Ponds/Streams	Sports Workshops/Classes	Weight/Exercise Room
9	Summer Day Camps	Meeting Rooms	Community Garden
10	Racquetball/Handball Courts	Community Center	Special Interest Classes

Nearly three-quarters of all respondents feel that it is very important to preserve environmentally sensitive areas to provide a high quality of life for township residents, as shown in Table 34 and an additional 22% of respondents feel this is an important factor. Residents also strongly supported the concept that attractive neighborhoods and recreational opportunities for all age groups contribute favorably to the quality of life. In contrast to previous responses which show a desire for neighborhood parks and a recreation/community/senior center, one-third of respondents did not think it important to create areas where neighbors can get to each other.

Table 34 Importance of Park, Recreation and Open Space to Quality of Life by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents					
Importance to Quality of Life	# of Responses	% Very Important	% Important	% Not Important	Total
Preserving environmentally sensitive areas	133	73%	22%	5%	100%
Making neighborhoods more attractive places	133	48%	41%	11%	100%
Providing play areas for children & young adults	131	38%	46%	16%	100%
Offering recreation facilities for adults & seniors	130	36%	41%	23%	100%
Creating areas where neighbors can interact	132	21%	44%	35%	100%

The Delaware River is not only the eastern boundary for the township but also a valued recreational resource as shown in Table 35. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents feel that it is very important to preserve the riverfront and provide walking and biking paths along the river, with an additional 29% of respondents feeling that riverfront preservation is important. Scenic viewing areas, public access for fishing and boating, environmental education programs, developing riverfront parks and interpreting the river's history and culture are also highly supported by township residents. Ten percent of the respondents were opposed to providing other activities along the river (note the limited number of responses) and nearly half of the respondents feel that swimming is not an important activity along the river.

Table 35 Delaware River Priorities by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents						
Delaware River Priorities	# of Responses	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Opposed	Total
Preserving the riverfront	133	63%	29%	8%	0%	100%
Walking and biking paths along the river	131	59%	32%	8%	1%	100%
Other (See below)*	10	50%	10%	30%	10%	100%
Scenic viewing areas	129	44%	38%	17%	1%	100%
Public access (fishing, boating, etc.)	130	41%	42%	15%	2%	100%
Environmental education programs	133	32%	47%	20%	1%	100%
Developing riverfront parks	132	30%	42%	24%	4%	100%
Interpretation of river's history & culture	129	24%	49%	26%	1%	100%
Swimming	127	19%	28%	47%	6%	100%
*Other includes dog park and dog recreation areas.						



Delaware River and Canal at Wy-Hit-Tuk Park

Tables 36, 37, and 38 highlight the where the township should focus its efforts to improve leisure opportunities in the future. Respondents placed the greatest importance on protecting natural resources and creating trails and connections, indicating their support for more spending to implement these improvements immediately.

Table 36 Future Park and Recreation Focus Areas by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents					
Future Focus Area	# of Responses	% Very Important	% Important	% Not Important	Total
Protecting natural resources	127	68%	24%	8%	100%
Creating trails and connections	123	54%	33%	13%	100%
Providing riverfront recreation	126	33%	35%	32%	100%
Developing an indoor recreation center	123	25%	25%	50%	100%
Expanding recreation programs & services	125	20%	42%	38%	100%
Developing new parks	121	12%	48%	40%	100%

Table 37 Spending Priorities by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents					
Spending Priorities	# of Responses	Spend More \$	Spend Less \$	Spend the Same \$	Total
Nature Areas/Trails	127	66%	5%	29%	100%
Bicycle Trails	124	58%	10%	32%	100%
Open Space Areas	130	53%	13%	34%	100%
Jogging and Exercise Trails	125	51%	10%	39%	100%
Other (See below)*	18	39%	28%	33%	100%
Recreation/Community Center	127	31%	26%	43%	100%
Township Events	119	30%	21%	49%	100%
Summer Programs	124	26%	14%	60%	100%
Recreation & Other Activities	128	26%	19%	55%	100%
Open Play Areas	120	25%	17%	58%	100%
Playgrounds	125	25%	19%	56%	100%
Picnic Areas	125	18%	19%	63%	100%
Tennis Courts	125	16%	24%	60%	100%
Parking Areas	126	14%	22%	64%	100%
Ball Fields	127	14%	24%	62%	100%
Basketball Courts	125	12%	21%	67%	100%
Golf Courses	120	6%	65%	29%	100%
*Other priorities include dog park, indoor activities, preserving ferns, fishing, horseback/riding trails, pool, National Wildlife Habitat Areas, and new basketball rims and tennis court net at Raubsville Park.					

Table 38 Timeframe for Implementing Outdoor Recreational Improvements by Percent of Responses 2009 Survey of Williams Township Residents						
Recreational Improvement	# of Responses	Immediately	In 5 Years	In 10 Years	Never	Total
Walking Paths	124	73%	16%	3%	8%	100%
Natural Areas	124	67%	18%	6%	9%	100%
Bike Paths	123	59%	29%	5%	7%	100%
Music in the Park	115	45%	24%	5%	26%	100%
Movies in the Park	115	44%	20%	5%	31%	100%
Recreation Programs	92	34%	31%	13%	22%	100%
Community Days	113	34%	26%	11%	29%	100%
Off-Leash Dog Park	118	25%	24%	10%	41%	100%
Play Equipment Area	93	24%	40%	16%	20%	100%
Special Events	111	22%	38%	9%	31%	100%
Picnic Pavilions	116	22%	44%	12%	22%	100%
Bus Trips	115	21%	23%	10%	46%	100%
Sports Fields	113	20%	48%	12%	20%	100%
Outdoor Pool	118	19%	20%	14%	47%	100%
Mountain Bike Area	115	18%	43%	16%	23%	100%
Tennis Courts	113	15%	40%	18%	27%	100%
Ice Rink	118	13%	30%	16%	41%	100%
Basketball Courts	114	10%	38%	23%	29%	100%
Skateboard Park	95	11%	25%	16%	48%	100%
Street Hockey Courts	115	4%	28%	17%	51%	100%
*Other includes community center with indoor basketball courts, community gardens, fix towpath, wildlife habitat, horseback/riding trails, indoor pool, and driving range.						

PA DCNR SCORP 2009 Survey Results:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is responsible for preparing a Comprehensive Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) as a pre-requisite for obtaining Land and Water Conservation funds from the U.S. Government. PA DCNR recently updated this plan using feedback received from residents across the state. The results of the public participation process for the SCORP are somewhat similar to the responses received from the survey of Williams Township residents, as shown in Tables 39 and 40. SCORP survey respondents indicated that walking is the most popular outdoor recreation activity, with fishing, bicycling, hiking, hunting, picnicking, jogging, running and baseball also highly ranked. These respondents also asked that the number and/or quantity of bike lanes/trails, environmental education areas, natural/wildlife viewing areas and lake/river access be increased, among other improvements.

Table 39
Favorite Outdoor Recreation Activities in Order by
Total Number of Respondents Participating in the Activity
Preliminary Resident Survey Results for the 2009 PA SCORP

Rank	Recreational Activity	Rank	Recreational Activity	Rank	Recreational Activity
1	Walking	7	Swimming	13	Boating
2	Fishing	8	Hunting	14	Birding/Bird Watching
3	Camping	9	Golf	15	Downhill Skiing/Snowboarding
4	Bicycling	10	Picnicking	16	Driving for Pleasure
5	Other	11	Dog Walking	17	Visiting Historic Sites
6	Hiking and Backpacking	12	Jogging/Running	18	Baseball

Table 40
Most Frequently Requested Facilities that Should be Increased in Number or Quality
Recreation Area and Facility Needs
Preliminary Resident Survey Results for the 2009 PA (SCORP)

Type of Facility	Percent of Respondents Who Feel <u>Number</u> Should be Increased	Type of Facility	Percent of Respondents Who Feel <u>Quality</u> Should be Increased
Bike Lanes	69 %	Bike Lanes	60 %
Dog Parks	64 %	Dog Parks	51 %
Rental Cabins	62 %	Wildlife Viewing Areas	47 %
Wildlife Viewing Areas	60 %	Rental Cabins	46 %
Nature Inns/Lodges	60 %	Lake/Stream Swimming Areas	44 %
Environmental Education Areas	56 %	Environmental Education Areas	43 %
Bicycle Paths	55 %	Fish Viewing Areas	43 %
Natural or Wild Areas	54 %	Nature Inns/Lodges	42 %
Fish Viewing Areas	54 %	Bicycle Paths	42 %
Indoor Pools	51 %	Natural or Wild Areas	42 %
Skateboarding/Rollerblading Areas	51 %	Horseshoe Pits	41 %
Mountain Bike Trails	51 %	Lake and River Access	41 %
Archery Ranges	51 %	-	-

Comparison with Recreation Guidelines

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed various methods for evaluating an existing municipal park and open space system that are recognized by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. In particular, NRPA has established guidelines for classifying parks and open space areas according to their intended purpose, general size, recreational features, and the geographical area they are meant to serve as described in Chart E on Page 76. These eleven different classifications range from the smallest mini-parks, having a limited amount of recreational opportunities, to larger parks that provide a variety of leisure amenities used by residents of an entire municipality. Other classifications include natural resource areas, linear parks, greenways, sports complexes, special use facilities and private recreational areas that possess unique environmental features or support the activities of specific user groups. A municipality should seek to provide a system of parks and open spaces with a mixture of classifications suited to meet the recreational needs of its residents. Table 41 shows how the parkland and open space in Williams Township can be classified according to the NRPA guidelines.

Table 41 Classification of Parkland and Open Space in Williams Township				
Park or Open Space Name	Classification	Total Acres	Ownership	Open to Public?
Agricultural Conservation Easements	Natural Resource Area	330.43	Private/County	No
Cedar Park Townhouse Development	Mini-Park	8.55	HOA*	Yes
Delaware Canal State Park	Linear Park	75.37	State	Yes
Easton Fish and Game Association	Special Use-Hunt/Fish	0.33	Private Club	Member Fee
Fry's Run Park	Natural Resource Area	4.82	County	Yes
Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary	Natural Resource Area	197.69	Land Trust	Yes
Melchor Tract	Future Community Park	35.53	Township	Yes
Open Space Conservation Easements	Natural Resource Area	432.40	Twp/County	Restricted
Proposed Lease from Chrin Landfill	Future Community Park	10.20	Private/Twp Lease	Yes
Raubsville Municipal Park	Neighborhood Park	3.66	Township	Yes
Raubsville Sportsman's Association	Special Use - Fish/Boat	NA	Private/ RSA Lease	Member Fee
The Club at Morgan Hill	Special Use-Golf	180.21	Private Club	Member Fee
The Country Classics at Morgan Hill	Special Use - Club	NA	HOA*	No
The Legacy at Morgan Hill	Special Use - Seniors	NA	HOA*	No
Williams Twp Elem. School Rec. Area	School Park	4.24	School District	Yes
Williams Township Municipal Park	Community Park	26.83	Township	Yes
Williams Twp Sportsman's Assoc.	Special Use-Hunt/Fish	14.77	Private Club	Member Fee
Wy-Hit-Tuk Park	Community Park	22.24	County	Yes
Total		1347.27		
*Homeowners' Association NA = Not Available Source: Total acreages from Williams Township records, Northampton County Tax records and Park, Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Inventory-2008, Lehigh and Northampton Counties, March 2009 by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission				

As a guide, the NRPA recommends that a municipality provide between 6.5 acres and 10 acres of "local, close-to-home" developed parkland for each 1000 residents. Local, close-to-home developed parkland includes mini-parks, neighborhood parks, school parks, and community parks that are open to the general public and relatively easy for residents to access. Table 42 shows that Williams Township needs between 47 and 74 acres of local, close-to-home park and open space in order to

Chart E - Parks and Open Space Classification National Recreation and Park Association - 1990 & 1996			
Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs. Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Less than a ¼ mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2,500 square feet and one acre in size.
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼ to ½ mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.
School Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable -- depends upon function.
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.
Large Urban Park	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.
Natural Resource Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
Linear Park*	An area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. May include active play areas.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Sufficient width to protect the resource and provide maximum use.
Greenways	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
Sports Complex	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	Strategically located community-wide facilities.	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.
Special Use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.	Variable -- dependent upon specific use.	Variable.
Private Park/Recreation Facility	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable -- dependent upon specific use.	Variable.

* from 1990 Edition

meet these NRPA guidelines, based upon the available U.S Census data and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission population projections presented in the Background Chapter of this plan.

Table 42 Comparison of Existing Williams Township Parkland with NRPA Local, Close-to-Home Park Guidelines			
Year	Existing or Projected* Population	6.5 Acres per 1000 Residents	10 Acres per 1000 Residents
2000	4,470	29.055	44.70
2010*	6,178	40.157	61.78
2020*	7,372	47.918	73.72
Source: 2000 U.S. Census and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission projections			

The township's existing park system includes 65.52 acres of developed park land and an additional 45.73 acres of undeveloped open space that could be improved for recreational purposes, as shown in Table 43. However, it is important to note that the township controls approximately 30 acres of this developed parkland with the remaining acreage either undeveloped or controlled by Northampton County, the Wilson Area School District, Chrin Landfill or the Cedar Park Homeowners Association.

Table 43 Assessment of Publicly Accessible Local, Close-to-Home Park Land			
Park Name	Classification	Total Acres	Acres Developed
Cedar Park Townhouse Tot Lot	Mini-Park	8.55	8.55
Melchor Tract	Community Park	35.53	0
Proposed Lease from Chrin Landfill	Community Park	10.20	0
Raubsville Park	Neighborhood Park	3.66	3.66
Williams Twp Elem. School Rec. Area	School Park	4.24	4.24
Williams Township Municipal Park	Community Park	26.83	26.83
Wy-Hit-Tuk Park	Community Park	22.24	22.24
Total		111.25	65.52

NRPA also recommends that a municipality provide an additional 15 to 20 acres of park and open space at the regional level for each 1000 residents. Large urban parks, natural resource areas, linear parks and greenways are considered to be regional level amenities if they, too, are accessible to the public for leisure purposes. Table 44 shows that Williams Township needs between 110 and 148 acres of regional park and open space in order to meet NRPA's guidelines.

Table 44 Comparison of Existing Williams Township Parkland with NRPA Regional Level Park and Open Space Guidelines			
Year	Existing or Projected* Population	15 Acres per 1000 Residents	20 Acres per 1000 Residents
2000	4,470	67.05	89.4
2010*	6,178	92.67	123.56
2020*	7,372	110.58	147.44
Source: 2000 U.S. Census and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission projections			

Williams Township is fortunate to have more than 700 acres of preserved park and open space in the municipality, as shown in Table 45. Since the open space conservation easements have significantly restricted access, only the Delaware Canal State Park, Fry's Run Park and Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary provide unlimited public access to their amenities. However, these three sites alone, totaling 277.88 acres, provide more than NRPA's recommended standard of regional parkland.

Table 45 Assessment of Publicly Accessible Regional Park Land and Open Space			
Park or Open Space Name	Classification	Total Acres*	Acres Developed
Delaware Canal State Park	Linear Park	75.37	75.37
Fry's Run Park	Natural Resource Area	4.82	4.82
Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary	Natural Resource Area	197.69	197.69
Open Space Conservation Easements	Natural Resource Area	432.40	432.40
Total		710.28	710.28

Parks and open spaces that are not open to the public or require a membership fee in order to gain admittance are usually not considered in the calculations discussed above, due to the physical and financial access limitations they pose. Special use sites are also not usually considered, since they typically provide a single recreational activity that may not be of interest to the general public on a regular basis. However, they do play a valuable role in complementing the system of local, close-to-home and regional parks and open space areas.

The geographical distribution of mini-, neighborhood, and community parks can also reveal the extent to which these facilities are easily accessed by residents. The Existing Park, Recreation and Open Space Map shows the geographical regions of the township served by these parks based upon the NRPA Chart C location criteria. These "service areas" cover a number of residential developments. However, the majority of the township is served by existing or proposed community level parks that are not within walking distance of many homes and require residents to drive to these facilities. The development of the Melchor Tract and the leased park to be constructed by Chrin will improve access to parkland for residents, even though many of them will still need to travel by car to get to these recreational areas.

Athletic Field Assessment

The successful sports programs offered by the Williams Township Athletic Association (WTAA) have created a considerable demand for athletic fields. Lights at the Williams Township Municipal Park have extended game play into the evenings during the spring and fall seasons when daylight hours are shorter. However, scheduling of practice and game events is difficult at times. The capacity of the existing township-owned football and baseball fields to support the WTAA's activities was assessed in order to identify a potential need for additional athletic fields, as documented in Appendix A. The analysis took into consideration several factors including the number of teams using the fields, differences between practice and game events, the time of day when practices/games are held, cancellations of events due to rain or other inclement weather, the availability of field lighting, and field rest for maintenance and grass recovery purposes.

The assessment revealed that the demand for use of the only football field in the township at the Municipal Park exceeds the ability of this field to support the flag football, traditional football and cheerleading activities. The T-Ball field at Raubsville Park can accommodate game events during the later portion of the baseball season, but can only support approximately 88% of the practice events during the earlier training portion of the season. The remaining baseball fields at the Municipal Park, Raubsville Park and the Williams Township Elementary School currently handle all of the game and practice events needed, although they are used to 85% of their capacity during the earlier practice portion of the season and 57% during the later game portion of the season. Note that the assessment did not take into consideration the following factors:

- The demand that the general public may have for these fields for free play purposes, as it is difficult to determine how frequently the general public may wish to use the fields for free play purposes.
- The potential conflicts created by moving the bases and pitching plate to meet the field dimension requirements of the different baseball and softball leagues. The Recreation Board has been informed by the Athletic Association that some of the league rules regarding field dimensions may soon be changing.
- The need for soccer fields to support the Wilson Youth Soccer Association. A new soccer field is proposed for the park proposed on the property to be leased from Chrin.

It is clear that the baseball field at the Williams Township Elementary School plays an important role in support the Williams Township Athletic Association program. If the field at the elementary school would no longer be available, the existing township-owned facilities would not be able to accommodate the demand for practices and games without the development of the proposed new fields at the Chrin leased property.

Assessment of Recreational Trail Opportunities

As part of the process of updating the Park and Recreation Plan, an investigation was conducted to assess the potential of establishing a network of recreational trails through the municipality, in a manner that would complement the Regional Recreation Initiatives previously mentioned. The trail classification system created by the National Recreation and Park Association (see Chart F) was discussed with the Williams Township Recreation Board to understand the purpose of different kinds of trails and to identify which trail classifications could best meet the needs of residents as revealed by the citizen survey. Park, connector and on-street bikeway trails were determined to be the most appropriate for addressing the demand for nature/hiking, fitness/jogging/walking and bicycle trails.

Findings of Field Investigations

Field investigations were conducted to determine how the existing system of roads and parks could be used to develop a trail network. The investigations discovered the following unique opportunities and challenges:

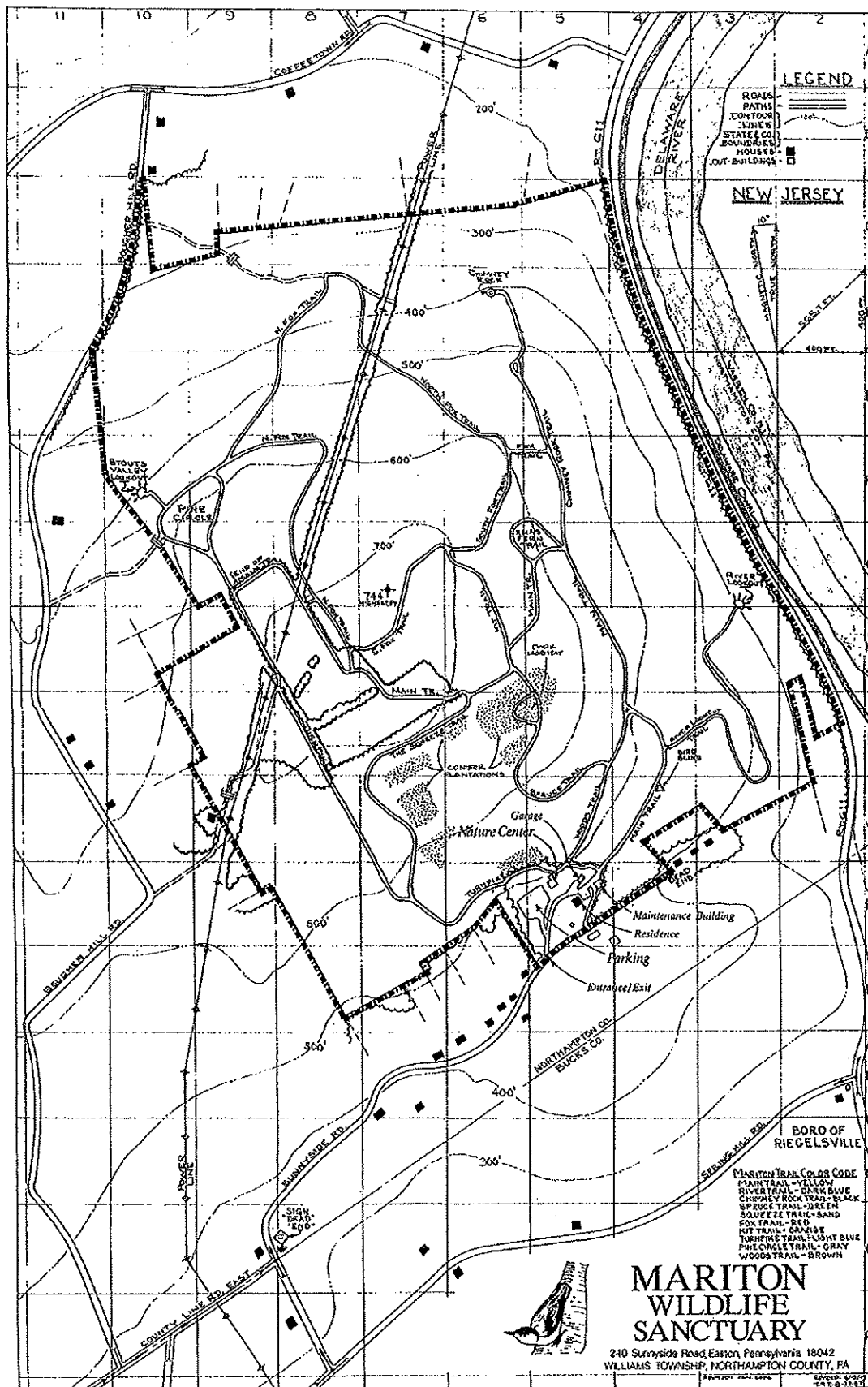
- The existing D&L Trail along the towpath at the Delaware Canal State Park provides the longest off-road hiking and biking path in the township and connects not only to the adjacent municipalities but also the entire network of trails throughout the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. As a result, the D&L Trail should be considered the primary anchor of any future trail network within the township. This trail can be accessed at Canal Road, Royal Manor Road, Theodore Roosevelt Recreation Area, and Wy-Hit-Tuk Park.



View of staircase leading down from Canal Road to D&L Trail.

- The Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary contains an extensive trail network, but the preserve is difficult to access by car along the very narrow Sunnyside Road, let alone by walking or biking. The preserve does possess frontage along Bougher Hill Road. However, existing pathway connections between Bougher Hill Road and the trail network within the preserve cross private property and may not be accessible to the public. If a trail connection to Bougher Hill Road could be created, then the Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary

Chart F - Pathway Classification System National Recreation and Park Association - 1996		
Classification	General Description	Description of Each Type
Park Trail	Multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas. Focus is on recreational value and harmony with natural environment.	<p>Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters.</p> <p>Type II: Multipurpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters.</p> <p>Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard- or soft-surfaced.</p>
Connector Trails	Multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as it is on recreation.	<p>Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters located in independent right-of-way (e.g., old railroad right-of-way).</p> <p>Type II: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Typically located within the road right-of-way.</p>
On-Street Bikeways	Paved segments of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular travel.	<p>Bike Route: Designated portions of the roadway for the preferred or exclusive use of bicyclists.</p> <p>Bike Lane: Shared portions of the roadway that provide separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders.</p>
All-Terrain Bike Trail	Off-road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes.	Single-purpose loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.
Cross-Country Ski Trail	Trails developed for traditional and skate-style cross-country skiing.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.
Equestrian Trail	Trails developed for horseback riding	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Sometimes developed a multipurpose with hiking and all-terrain biking where conflicts can be controlled.



could become a secondary anchor for a future trail network within the township. (See map on Page 83).

- The paved exercise path and the nature trail system at the Williams Township Municipal Park are popular recreational facilities. These trails can serve as a secondary anchor for the township's proposed trail network.
- Residents currently use the existing sidewalk system and golf cart paths within the Morgan Hill development for walking. The sidewalk system extends along Clubhouse Drive to Morgan Hill Road on the western end of the development and to along Congressional Drive to Cedarville Road on the northern side of the development. Sidewalks extending to Cedarville Road have also been constructed within the Cedar Park Townhouse development. These sidewalks and golf cart paths can also serve as a secondary anchor for the future trail network in the township.



View of sidewalk and golf cart path system along Clubhouse Drive in the Morgan Hill Development.

- The Melchor Tract could serve as a secondary anchor for a township-wide trail network if pedestrian and/or bicycle paths are constructed in the future at this park.
- The existing recreational amenities at Riverside Park in Palmer Township and Hugh Moore Canal Park in Glendon Borough and the City of Easton allow users of these parks to connect to the trail system in Palmer Township and a different segment of the D&L Trail, respectively. Although these parks are located in adjacent municipalities, a trail connection to these sites would significantly increase trail opportunities for Williams Township residents.
- The October 2006 *Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Report* prepared by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission documents only one fatal automobile crash along Raubsville Road during the 2000 through 2005 period (excluding 2002) that might denote a potential hazard to the traveling public. This report suggests that schools, parks, and shopping areas are major generators of pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Based upon this information, the field investigations focused on developing trails in Williams Township to interconnect the following five combinations of recreational areas and schools:

- The D&L Trail, Raubsville Park and Melchor Tract
- The D&L Trail, Fry's Run Park, Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary and Melchor Tract.
- Williams Township Municipal Park, Elementary School, Fire Company and Public Works Department
- Proposed Park at Chrin Landfill, Hugh Moore Canal Park in Glendon Borough and the City of Easton and Riverside Park in Palmer Township.
- Cedar Park Townhouse Development, Morgan Hill Development and Proposed Park at Chrin Landfill.

Possible on- and off-road trail connections between these key recreational areas and with nearby residential areas are limited by the following factors:

- Narrow road rights-of-way that restrict cartway and shoulder widths and preclude the construction of parallel sidewalks, bike lanes, or trails.
- Building, utility poles and other structures in close proximity to the roads that limit the ability of the township and/or Commonwealth to widen the rights-of-way to allow for the construction of parallel sidewalks, bike lanes, or trails.
- The majority of existing residential developments lack sidewalks, bike lanes or trails.
- Residential developments that are not interconnected to each other and to nearby parks due to cul-de-sac streets. In these instances, easements are lacking at the bulb ends of the cul-de-sacs which would permit pedestrians or bicyclists to travel between abutting residential neighborhoods or to adjacent recreational areas.
- Narrow bridges that have side walls or abutments that prevent the addition of sidewalks, bike lanes or trails.
- The lack of street lights and crosswalks to provide safe road crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Steeply sloping topography that impacts the ability of a trail network to accommodate the disabled.



*View looking west on Coffeetown Road at the intersection of Bougher Hill Road
This bicyclist is not deterred by the narrow roadway, limited visibility,
and the close placement of structures along the roadside.*

Unfortunately, the Lehigh Valley 2009-2012 *Transportation Improvement Program* developed by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority and PennDOT does not include any projects that would upgrade the existing road network in Williams Township to accommodate pedestrian or bicycle traffic. No other improvements are currently proposed by Williams Township along its local roads that would accommodate on- or off-road trail use.

Agency Mission Statement and Goals

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) recommends that each municipality define the mission and goals of its Recreation Board as part of a Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan. The mission of the Williams Township Recreation Board is to:

Provide advice and recommendations for consideration by the Board of Supervisors relating to parks and recreation facilities and organized recreation programs to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Williams Township.

The Recreation Board has set forth the following goals to achieve this mission over the next ten years:

- Provide the necessary facilities to ensure that opportunities are provided for full parks and recreation participation by all Township residents.
- Encourage open space conservation efforts by Williams Township, Northampton County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to protect, preserve, use or develop as appropriate the township's natural, historic and man-made resources.
- Provide recreation programs which meet the needs and desires of Williams Township and Glendon Borough residents.
- Provide maintenance and security to township facilities to minimize the loss of property due to deterioration or vandalism.
- Provide and/or secure the necessary funds for a parks and recreation system which meets the needs of the residents.
- Continue to advertise available recreation facilities, programs and events and to foster community awareness regarding the role that parks and recreation play in developing a high quality of life in Williams Township.
- Continue to work with the Williams Township Athletic Association and Wilson School District to provide an efficient system to meet the recreation and park needs of all residents.

Recommendations and Implementation Schedule

The Recreation Board developed a variety of recommendations using the results of the comprehensive planning process in keeping with its mission and goals. These recommendations have been organized according to the topics covered in this document to allow the reader to easily refer to the information that serves as the basis for each recommendation.

Natural, Geologic and Historic Resources

- As additional parkland is needed in the future, work with the Land Preservation Board to acquire property that is not only suitable for recreational purposes but also preserves unique natural, geologic and historic resources.
- Refer to the *Creating Sustainable Community Parks* booklet published by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for guidance in incorporating natural resources into recreational areas.

Facilities and Programs

- Provide recreational facilities and programs for individuals of all ages and abilities, especially youth and seniors.
- Install lightning alert devices at all parks with athletic fields.
- Renovate the former township building at the Williams Township Municipal Park as a community center for indoor recreational use.
- Enlarge the existing parking lot at Raubsville Park, repair the picnic pavilion roof and add new picnic tables.
- Work with Chrin to develop the proposed park at the intersection of Berger and Wottrings Mill Hill Roads to include a baseball field and soccer field with parking. Consider the future installation of lights for the athletic fields, a concession stand, bleachers and restroom facilities.
- Develop the Melchor Tract to provide passive recreational amenities, such as free play space and a trail system.
- Improve the existing playgrounds by:
 - Installing new safety surfacing at the Williams Township Municipal Park.
 - Installing age-appropriate signage at all playgrounds.
- Continue to promote and enhance Community Day activities by adding a parade and/or other events.
- Reassess the suitability of the existing baseball/ softball fields to support the Williams Township Athletic Association Programs after proposed park on land leased from Chrin has been constructed and the leagues have implemented new field dimensional requirements.

Modify the scheduling of games and provide new fields, as needed, based upon the results of the assessment.

- Investigate the feasibility of rehabilitating the Fairview Schoolhouse site as a recreational area.

Regional Recreation Initiatives

- Work with a variety of state, regional, county and local partners to utilize the township's park system to support the goals and objectives of river conservation, greenway and trail plans.

Administration, Personnel and Facility Maintenance

- Create a park department with staff assigned to performing regular park maintenance. Staff members should have appropriate experience in grounds maintenance, particularly with regard to the application of fertilizers and pesticides. Additional duties of the park department would be to:
 - Develop and implement a maintenance plan for each park.
 - Implement a playground safety inspection and training program.
 - Keep records of all maintenance tasks completed for workload scheduling and budgeting purposes.
 - Assist the Rec Board and Board of Supervisors in budgeting maintenance costs.
- Improve communication with residents by:
 - Providing an annual update on the support given by the township to the Williams Township Athletic Association
 - Highlighting significant recreational opportunities in the township provided by Northampton County at Wy-Hit-Tuk Park, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the Delaware Canal State Park, Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary, and the nearby recreational amenities at Hugh Moore Canal Park and Riverside Park.
 - Announcing ways in which volunteers can help with recreation activities.
- Establish a group of volunteers to assist the Recreation Board in conducting recreation programs, such as Community Day.
- Explore strategies to reduce vandalism, such as through the adoption of an ordinance with fines, etc.

Public Participation

- Work with the county and state to further preserve the Delaware riverfront for recreational access to the water for fishing, boating and trail use.
- Utilize the results of resident surveys to guide the development of new leisure opportunities by the township.

Recreational Trails

- Work with the Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board and Land Preservation Board to:
 - Require sidewalks and/or multi-purpose paths in new residential developments, especially along major roadways, to make these neighborhoods more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly and prepare these residential areas for a future connection with a township-wide trail network.
 - Require trail access easements at the bulb end of new cul-de-sacs and where new residential developments abut existing parks and open spaces.
 - Include provisions for future sidewalks and/or multi-purpose trails in agricultural conservation easements, if possible.
 - Monitor existing buildings and other structures that do not conform to current zoning ordinance setbacks. If significantly damaged, require these structures be rebuilt at a distance away from the road so that sidewalks, bike lanes and/or multi-purpose trails can be constructed along the road.
 - Work with township and PennDOT officials to include sidewalks, bike lanes and/or multi-purpose trails in future road and bridge improvement projects.
 - Monitor the status of proposed road and bridge improvement projects through the Transportation Enhancement Program (TIP) for the Lehigh Valley and coordinate requests for pedestrian and bicycle improvements in the township with the TIP.
 - Evaluate the potential benefit of adopting an Official Map to formally document a proposed trail plan.
- Repair and extend existing trail system at the Williams Township Municipal Park to connect with the Public Works Building

Implementation Schedule

The Recreation Board has prioritized the implementation of these recommendations over the next ten years as shown in the Chart G Implementation Schedule. This ten-year period has been divided into short- (1 to 3 years), mid- (4 to 6 years) and long-term (7 to 10 years) timeframes based upon the manpower, planning and funding needed to complete them. Some recommendations involve large projects that benefit from a phased approach to implementation over a several timeframes, while others can easily be completed within a single timeframe. Other recommendations reflect the need for an on-going commitment from the township in order to achieve success.

The township will continue to use a combination of tax revenues, private donations, impact fees from new land developments, state and county grants to finance the proposed park and recreation improvements. In particular, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Northampton County have grant programs that provide funding up to 50% of the total cost of a park land acquisition or park facility improvement project, under specific guidelines. Additional funding sources for a variety of different park and recreation projects are available as outlined in the Appendix, based on certain criteria. Funding opportunities continue to arise as new public and private grant programs are created.

Chart G - Implementation Schedule
Williams Township Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

Recommendations	Priority			Cost Opinion
	1-3 Years	4-6 Years	7-10 Years	
Natural, Geologic and Historic Resources				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As additional parkland is needed in the future, work with the Land Preservation Board to acquire property that is not only suitable for recreational purposes but also preserves unique natural, geologic and historic resources. Refer to the <i>Creating Sustainable Community Parks</i> booklet published by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for guidance in incorporating natural resources into recreational areas. 			X	N/A
Facilities and Programs				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide recreational facilities and programs for individuals of all ages and abilities, especially youth and seniors. Install lightning alert devices at all parks with athletic fields. Renovate the former township building at the Williams Township Municipal Park as a community center for indoor recreational use. Enlarge the existing parking lot at Raubsville Park, repair the picnic pavilion roof and add new picnic tables. Phase 1 - Work with Chrin to develop the proposed park at the intersection of Berger and Wottings Mill Roads to include a baseball field and soccer field with parking. Phase 2 - Consider the future installation of lights for the athletic fields, a concession stand, bleachers and restroom facilities (contingent upon transfer of property to township). Develop the Melchor Tract to provide passive recreational amenities, such as free play space and a trail system. Install new safety surfacing at the Williams Township Municipal Park playground. Install age-appropriate signage at all playgrounds. Continue to promote and enhance Community Day activities by adding a parade and/or other events. Reassess the suitability of the existing baseball/softball fields to support the Williams Township Athletic Association Programs after proposed park on land leased from Chrin has been constructed and the leagues have implemented new field dimensional requirements. Modify the scheduling of games and provide new fields, as needed, based upon the results of the assessment. Investigate the feasibility of rehabilitating the Fairview Schoolhouse site as a recreational area. 			Phase 1 by Chrin Phase 2 by Township Phase 1 Build \$250K Phase 2 Build \$250K X X X	\$500/year \$30,000 \$10,000 \$18,000 \$500,000 for Phase 2 \$530,000 \$23,000 \$5,000 \$1,000/year \$1,000 (possible additional cost if new fields needed) \$1,000

Chart G - Implementation Schedule
Williams Township Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

Recommendations	Priority			Cost Opinion
	1-3 Years	4-6 Years	7-10 Years	
Regional Recreation Initiatives				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with a variety of state, regional, county and local partners to utilize the township's park system to support the goals and objectives of river conservation, greenway and trail plans. 			X	N/A
Administration, Personnel and Facility Maintenance				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a park department with staff assigned to performing regular park maintenance. Staff members should have appropriate experience in grounds maintenance, particularly with regard to the application of fertilizers and pesticides. Additional duties of the park department would be to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a maintenance plan for each park. Implement a playground safety inspection and training program. Keep records of all maintenance tasks completed for workload scheduling and budgeting purposes. Assist the Rec Board and Board of Supervisors in budgeting maintenance costs. Provide an annual update on the support given by the township to the Williams Township Athletic Association Highlight significant recreational opportunities in the township provided by Northampton County at Wy-Hit-Tuk Park, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the Delaware Canal State Park, Marion Wildlife Sanctuary, and the nearby recreational amenities at Hugh Moore Canal Park and Riverside Park. Announcing ways in which volunteers can help with recreation activities. Establish a group of volunteers to assist the Recreation Board in conducting recreation programs, such as Community Day. Explore strategies to reduce vandalism, such as through the adoption of an ordinance with fines, etc. 	X			\$65,000/year for one staff person w/ all benefits
	X			N/A
	X			\$500/year
			X	N/A
			X	N/A
			X	N/A
			X	N/A
			X	N/A
			X	N/A
	X			\$500/year
				\$2,000/year
Public Participation				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the county and state to further preserve the Delaware riverfront for recreational access to the water for fishing, boating and trail use. Utilize the results of resident surveys to guide the development of new leisure opportunities by the township. 	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	\$1,000/year
			X	N/A

Chart G - Implementation Schedule
Williams Township Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

Recommendations	Priority			Cost Opinion
	1-3 Years	4-6 Years	7-10 Years	
Recreational Trails				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board and Land Preservation Board to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require sidewalks and/or multi-purpose paths in new residential developments, especially along major roadways, to make these neighborhoods more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly and prepare these residential areas for a future connection with a township-wide trail network. Require trail access easements at the bulb end of new cul-de-sacs and where new residential developments abut existing parks and open spaces. Include provisions for future sidewalks and/or multi-purpose trails in agricultural conservation easements, if possible. Monitor existing buildings and other structures that do not conform to current zoning ordinance setbacks. If significantly damaged, require these structures be rebuilt at a distance away from the road so that sidewalks, bike lanes and/or multi-purpose trails and be constructed along the road. Work with township and PennDOT officials to include sidewalks, bike lanes and/or multi-purpose trails in future road and bridge improvement projects. Monitor the status of proposed road and bridge improvement projects through the Transportation Enhancement Program (TTP) for the Lehigh Valley and coordinate requests for pedestrian and bicycle improvements in the township with the TTP. Evaluate the potential benefit of adopting an Official Map to formally document a proposed trail plan. Repair and extend existing trail system at the Williams Township Municipal Park to connect with the Public Works Building 	X			N/A
	X			\$20,000

Summary

Williams Township is blessed with beautiful scenery, a rich history and a wealth of natural resources that serve as a good foundation for an attractive and effective park system that will provide leisure opportunities for both existing residents and future citizens. Collaboration among the various township boards and surrounding communities will be key to maximizing the potential of this park system and connecting it with larger recreation and open space initiatives at the regional level. Efforts to broaden the diversity of quality recreation programs beyond athletics and summer youth activities will enable more residents to enjoy the township's park system on a regular basis and improve and maintain their health and wellness.



Williams Township Municipal Park

Williams Township T-Ball Field Demand vs. Availability Analysis

Background and Assumptions:

Williams Township provides one T-Ball field without lights to support six T-Ball teams during the spring season. The following factors were considered in assessing the availability of this field for games and practices over a typical two-week period:

- The first few weeks of the season consist of the each team practicing two times a week. For the rest of the season, the teams play one game a week with each other, rather than playing games with teams from another league.
- On weeknights, practices or games can be held during the evening, after daytime school activities are over and when coaches are available after work. Practices and games can also be scheduled on weekends.
- Only one practice can be held each weeknight since the field is not lit and the children are young. Four practices or games can be scheduled on a Saturday and three practices or games can be held on a Sunday.
- The T-Ball field needs to rest at least one day during the two-week period.
- Rain will prohibit practices or games one weekday per week.
- The public does not require access to the T-Ball field for other activities during the baseball season.
- The number of teams has been fairly consistent in the past and is not expected to change in the future.

There is a difference in the demand for the field between the practice and game portions of the T-ball season. The total number of T-Ball events held over a two-week period at this field during practice versus game play is as follows:

6 T-Ball teams x 2 practices/week x 2 weeks = 24 practice events

6 T-Ball teams divided by 2 (paired up for games) x 1 games/week x 2 weeks = 6 game events

Table A shows that the one T-Ball field can accommodate a total of 21 practice or game events during a two-week period. Although the field can easily support the game events, the demand for the field during practice season slightly exceeds the capacity of the field. This assessment does not attempt to take into consideration the effects of more inclement weather (especially on game days), since there is excess capacity to accommodate game play and the number of practices could be reduced to address this situation. Nor does this assessment attempt to estimate how much access the general public should have to the T-Ball field during the baseball season.

Table A T-Ball Field Availability in Spring Season							
Period	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1	3 practices or games	Field Rest	1 practice or game	1 practice or game	Rain Day Allocation	1 practice or game	4 practices or games
Week 2	3 practices or games	1 practice or game	1 practice or game	Rain Day Allocation	1 practice or game	1 practice or game	4 practices or games

Williams Township Municipal Park Small Field A, Raubsville Park Field and Williams Twp Elementary School Field A Demand vs. Availability Analysis

Background and Assumptions:

Williams Township provides the Municipal Park Small Field A with lights and Raubsville Park Field without lights and the Williams Township Elementary School provides Field A without lights to support three softball and six baseball teams during the spring season. (Note that the Wilson Baseball Association uses the other field at the Williams Township Elementary School for its athletic program). The following factors were considered in assessing the availability of these fields for games and practices over a typical two-week period:

- The first few weeks of the season consist of the each team practicing three times a week. For the rest of the season, the each team uses a field for two home games or practices per week.
- Games can be held on weekends and on weeknights during the evening, after daytime school activities are over and when coaches are available after work.
- One practice or game can be held each weeknight. Four practices or games can be scheduled on a Saturday and three practices or games can be held on a Sunday.
- The field needs to rest at least one day during the two-week period.
- Rain will prohibit practices or games one weekday per week.
- The public does not require access to the field for other activities during the baseball season.
- The neighbors have requested that the lights at the Municipal Park Small Field A be turned off by 10 p.m. Since some games may go into extra innings, only one game can be scheduled in the evening hours. When games are played on fields without lights, the games are sometimes called due to darkness, especially in the early part of the season.
- The teams groom the infield area after each practice or game.
- The dimensions of all three fields are approximately 180 to 200' along the baselines and 200' feet to center field. The pitching mound and base locations are adjusted to accommodate the different regulations of the softball and baseball leagues.
- The number of baseball and softball teams has been fairly consistent in the past and is not expected to change in the future.

There is a difference in the demand for the fields between the practice and game portions of the baseball/softball season. The total number of combined events (games or practices) held at these three fields over a two-week period during practice versus game play is as follows:

Practice Only:

9 teams x 3 practices/week x 2 weeks = 54 practice events

Games and Practices:

9 teams x 1 home game/week x 2 weeks = 18 game events

9 teams x 1 practice/week x 2 weeks = 18 practice events

Total of 36 game or practice events

Table A shows that these fields can collectively accommodate a total of 63 practice or game events during a two-week period. Although the three fields can support the game events, the demand for the fields during practice season comes close to their capacity. This assessment does not attempt to

take into consideration the effects of more inclement weather (especially on game days), since there is excess capacity to accommodate game play and the number of practices could be reduced to address this situation. Nor does this assessment attempt to estimate how much access the general public should have to these three fields during the baseball/softball season.

Table A All Three Field Combined Availability in Spring Season							
Period	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1	3 practices or games x 3 fields	Field Rest	1 practice or game x 3 fields	1 practice or game x 3 fields	Rain Day Allocation	1 practice or game x 3 fields	4 practices or games x 3 fields
Week 2	3 practices or games x 3 fields	1 practice or game x 3 fields	1 practice or game x 3 fields	Rain Day Allocation	1 practice or game x 3 fields	1 practice or game x 3 fields	4 practices or games x 3 fields

However, it is clear that these teams need access to the elementary school field in order to hold their game and practice events. If the elementary school field is no longer available, then the two remaining township-owned fields could only accommodate 42 events, resulting in a significant shortage of practice opportunities.

Williams Township Municipal Park Large Field B Demand vs. Availability Analysis

Background and Assumptions:

Williams Township provides one field with lights to support the one Teener baseball, one Junior softball and one Senior softball teams during the spring season. The following factors were considered in assessing the availability of this field for games and practices over a typical two-week period:

- The first few weeks of the season consist of the each team practicing three times a week. For the rest of the season, the each team plays 1 home game and 1 away game and has one practice per week.
- Games can be held on weekends and on weeknights during the evening, after daytime school activities are over and when coaches are available after work.
- One practice or game can be held each weeknight using the lights. Four practices or games can be scheduled on a Saturday and three practices or games can be held on a Sunday.
- The field needs to rest at least one day during the two-week period.
- Rain will prohibit practices or games one weekday per week.
- The public does not require access to the field for other activities during the baseball season.
- The neighbors have requested that the field lights be turned off by 10 p.m. Since some games may go into extra innings, only one game can be scheduled in the evening hours.
- The teams groom the infield area after each practice or game.
- The field dimensions are 300' along the baselines and 360' feet to center field. The pitching mound and base locations are adjusted to accommodate the different regulations of the softball and baseball leagues.
- The number of baseball and softball teams has been fairly consistent in the past and is not expected to change in the future.

There is a difference in the demand for the field between the practice and game portions of the baseball/softball season. The total number of events held over a two-week period during practice versus game play at the Municipal Park Large Field B is as follows:

Practice Only:

3 teams x 3 practices/week x 2 weeks = 18 practice events

Games and Practices:

3 teams x 1 home game/week x 2 weeks = 6 game events

3 teams x 1 practice/week x 2 weeks = 6 practice events

Total of 12 game or practice events

Table A shows that the Municipal Park Large Field B can accommodate a total of 21 practice or game events during a two-week period. Although the field can easily support the game events, the demand for the field during practice season comes close to the capacity of the field. This assessment does not attempt to take into consideration the effects of more inclement weather (especially on game days), since there is excess capacity to accommodate game play and the number of practices could be reduced to address this situation. Nor does this assessment attempt to

estimate how much access the general public should have to the Municipal Park Large Field B during the baseball/softball season.

Table A Municipal Park Large Field B Availability in Spring Season							
Period	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1	3 practices or games	Field Rest	1 practice or game	1 practice or game	Rain Day Allocation	1 practice or game	4 practices or games
Week 2	3 practices or games	1 practice or game	1 practice or game	Rain Day Allocation	1 practice or game	1 practice or game	4 practices or games

Williams Township Football Field Demand vs. Availability Analysis

Background and Assumptions:

Williams Township provides one football field with lights to support four football teams, each with their own separate cheerleading squad, during the fall season. The following factors were considered in assessing the availability of this field for games and practices over a typical two-week period:

- All four teams play their home games on the same Sunday. All four teams play their away games on the same subsequent Sunday.
- All four cheerleading squads accompany their respective teams to the home and away football games.
- Each football team and each cheerleading squad practices or conducts a walk-through of their football plays at least three times a week.
- On weekdays, the practices can be held during the evening hours, when daytime school activities are over and coaches are available after work. The football team can conduct walk-throughs on Saturday in accordance with league rules. The cheerleading teams can also practice on Saturday.
- On weeknights, the field is divided into three areas so that three football teams can practice at the same time, assisted by the field lights. Up to four events can be held on a Saturday, consisting of any combination of cheerleading practices or football team walk-throughs.
- The cheerleading squad needs to practice their formations on the football field at least once a week and can utilize other space for their remaining practices. Currently, the cheerleaders use the parking lot at the Municipal Building and gym or outdoor space at the Williams Township Elementary School, if available.
- The football field needs to rest for at least one day a week, usually the Monday after home games and the Sunday when away games occur.
- Rain will prohibit practices one weekday per week. If Sunday games are cancelled due to rain, two of the games are then held on the following Monday and the remaining two on Tuesday, assisted by the field lights.
- The public does not require access to the football field for other activities during the football season.
- The neighbors have requested that the field lights be turned off by 10 p.m. Since some games may go into overtime, only one game can be scheduled in the evening hours.

The total number of football/cheerleading events (games, practices, or walk-throughs) held during a two-week period is as follows:

4 football teams with cheerleading squads x 1 home game per two-week period = 4 game events
4 football teams x 3 practices or walk-throughs/week x 2 weeks = 24 practice events
4 cheerleading squads x 3 practices/week x 2 weeks = 24 practice events
Total number of events: 4 home game events + 48 practice events = Total 52 events.

Table A shows that the one football field can only accommodate 4 home game events and 29 practice events for a total of 33 events during a two-week period. Although the field can accommodate the desired number of home games, there is a greater demand for practice events than the field can support due to rain, field rest and scheduling time limitations. The parking lot space at the Municipal Building is not ideal for cheerleading from a safety standpoint. Cheerleaders do not have access to restrooms when they utilize the outdoor space at the Elementary School and indoor gym space is limited.

Table A Football Field Availability in Fall Season							
Period	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1	4 Home Games	Field Rest	3 evening practices (under lights)	Rain Day Allocation	3 evening practices (under lights)	3 evening practices (under lights)	4 walk-throughs
Week 2	Field Rest Due to Away Games	3 evening practices (under lights)	Rain Day Allocation	3 evening practices (under lights)	3 evening practices (under lights)	3 evening practices (under lights)	4 walk-throughs

Note that this assessment does not attempt to take into consideration the effects of rescheduling home games if there is inclement weather on Sunday, since it is assumed that the teams would reduce the number of practices to accommodate this situation. Nor does this assessment attempt to estimate how much access the general public should have to the football field during the football season. Clearly, the football teams, cheerleading program and the general public would benefit from having access to an additional regulation-size field and/or appropriately designed practice area to support all of the desired game, practice and walk-through events.

Excerpt from *Financing Municipal Recreation and Parks*
 “Financing Resources” (Appendix I from this PA DCNR/PRPS publication, authored by Susan E. Landes, CPRP, representing Pages 139-143)

Financing Resources for Recreation, Parks and Open Space			
Category	Program	Description	Contact Information
Federal Grants	National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance	Offers in-depth staff assistance and consultation for locally led conservation projects such as developing trails and greenway networks or protecting rivers and open space.	www.nrc.nps.gov/programs/RTCA/index.html
	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Education Grants	Supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to make informed, responsible decisions that affect environmental quality.	www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html
	U.S. Department of Transportation Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement	Provides funds to reduce transportation-related emissions and improve air quality. Trails designed for transportation as well as recreation are eligible.	www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cmaq.htm
	U.S. Department of Justice	Provides information on crime and violence prevention grants that can be used to support recreation programs.	www.oip.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm
	U.S. Department of Education	Provides information on grants to apply for in cooperation with school districts.	www.ed.gov/funding.html
	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Provides information on available grants that can be used to fund recreation programs that improve health.	www.hhs.gov/agencies/grants.html
	Federal Grants Clearinghouse	Provides information on hundreds of federal grants that can be used to support youth recreation programs.	www.alternativeschool.gov
	Other Federal Grants	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance	www.cfda.gov
		Conservation Technology Support Program	www.ctsp.org
		Computers for Learning	www.computers.fed.gov/School/user.asp
		Department of Energy	www.energy.gov
		Department of Labor	www.dol.gov
		Federal Commons Grants Portal	www.cfda.gov
		Federal Nonprofit Gateway	www.nonprofit.gov
		Federal Register	www.archives.gov/federal/register/
		Health and Human Services GrantsNet	www.hhs.gov/grantsnet
		Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	www.samsha.gov
		Federal Funds Express	www.house.gov/fir/resources_all.shtml
		The Watershed Academy	www.epa.gov/watertrain

Financing Resources for Recreation, Parks and Open Space			
Category	Program	Description	Contact Information
State Grants	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Community Conservation Partnership Program	Planning Grant Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plans Conservation Plans Feasibility Studies Greenways and Trails Plans Rails-to-Trails Plans Master Site Plans Rivers Conservation Plans Technical Assistance Grant Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and Training Peer-to-Peer Circuit Rider Acquisition Grant Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park and Recreation Areas River Conservation Rails-to-Trails Development Grant Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park Rehabilitation and Development Greenways and Trails Rails-to-Trails Rivers Conservation 	www.dcnr.state.pa.us
	Pennsylvania Recreation Trails Program Grants	Provides funds to develop and maintain recreation trails and trail related facilities for motorized and non-motorized and non-motorized recreation trail use.	www.dcnr.state.pa.us
	Other State Grants	Piper Resources State and Local Government on the Net	www.statelocalgov.net/index.cfm
		The Grantsmanship Center's Funding through State Government	www.tgci.com/STATES/states2.htm
		U.S. State and Local Gateway	www.statefocal.gov
		Pennsylvania Council on the Arts	www.artsnet.org/pca/pca.html
		Pennsylvania Humanities Council	www.pahumanities.org
		Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Community Revitalization Grants and Shared Municipal Services Grants	www.inventpa.com
		Pennsylvania Department of Health	www.health.state.pa.us
		Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Growing Greener Grants	www.dep.state.pa.us

Financing Resources for Recreation, Parks and Open Space			
Category	Program	Description	Contact Information
Federally-Funded/State-Adm. Grants	U.S. Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)	Provides funding for breakfast, lunch, and snacks for children ages 18 and under at summer playgrounds, camps, and other recreation programs.	www.frac.org
	Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	Provides meals and snacks for after school and evening youth recreation programs.	www.frac.org
	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Transportation Enhancements Programs	A cost reimbursement program, not a grant program, funded through TEA-21. Provides funding for facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, educational activities, acquisition of scenic easement and scenic or historic sites, landscaping or other scenic beautification, historic preservation, and preservation of abandoned railway corridors.	www.dot.state.pa.us
Foundation Grants	Target Stores and Tiger Woods Foundation	Provides Start Something Scholarships for youth to use for summer camps, music lessons, sports entertainment, travel expenses, and so on. Programs enrollment forms are available at Target stores.	www.startsomething.target.com/info/index.asp
	American Legacy Foundation Initiative for Tobacco Control	Provides grants of up to \$200,000 for anti-smoking projects.	(202) 293-5960
	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Provides grants for conservation and environmental education projects.	www.nfwf.org
	Pew Charitable Trust	Provides grants in a number of program areas including environment, culture, and health and human services.	www.pewtrusts.com/grants
	Three Guineas Fund	Supports projects to benefit women and girls.	www.3gf.org
	UPS Foundation Community Investment Grants	Allocates dollars to UPS region offices to invest in their communities.	www.ups.com
	Women's Sports Foundation	Offers a variety of grant programs to benefit women and girls sports programs and travel and training grants for athletes.	www.womenssportsfoundation.org
	Funders Supportive of Communication Technology	A collection of funding information on how to get technology resources.	www.benton.org/publibrary/toolkits/techmoncy.html
	The Foundation Center's Finding Funders	Provides access to web sites for private foundations, corporate grantmakers, grantmaking public charities, and community foundations.	www.fdcncenter.org/funders
	Other Foundation Grants and Technical Assistance/Support Resources	Amherst Wilder Foundation	www.ncna.org
		Philanthropy Journal	www.philanthropyjournal.org
		Board Source	www.ncnb.org
		Association of Fundraising Professionals	www.afpnet.org
		TechSoup – technology information	www.techsoup.org
		American Philanthropy Review Charity Channel	http://charitychannel.com/
		The Foundation Center's RFP Bulletin	http://fdncncenter.org/funders/html
		Free On-Line Management Library	www.managementhelp.org
		The Foundation Center's Grantmaker Website	http://fdncncenter.org/funders/grantmaker
		Internet Nonprofit Center	www.nonprofits.org
		Grantsmanship Center's Community Foundations by State	www.tqci.com/funding/states.asp
		Alliance for Nonprofit Management	www.allianceonline.org
		About.com	www.nonprofit.about.com/
		Compass Point Nonprofit Services	www.compasspoint.org/

Financing Resources for Recreation, Parks and Open Space			
Category	Program	Description	Contact Information
Non-Government Grants	Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) RecTAP Program	Provides technical assistance grants of up to \$1,500 to help recreation and park boards and departments with specific issues. No matching funds are required.	www.prps.org
	Bikes Belong Coalition	Provides grants of up to \$10,000 to assist agencies in developing bicycle facilities projects to be funded by TEA-21.	www.bikesbelong.org
	National Gardening Association Youth Garden Grants	Provides grants of over \$750 for seeds, tools and gardening supplies for children to learn and work in outdoor gardens.	www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp
	NFL Community Football Fields Program	Provides grants of up to \$100,000 for capital improvement projects to improve or create football fields in low and moderate-income neighborhoods.	(212) 455-9881
	NFL Youth Football Fund	Provides grants of \$500 to \$2,500 to purchase equipment, repair fields, establish new football programs, and improve existing programs.	www.nrpa.org
	American Forests	Provides tree-planting assistance with Global ReLeaf, an ecosystem restoration grant program, which includes urban and community forests and an environmental education program for children stressing the benefits and rewards of planting trees.	www.americanforests.org/global_releaf/
	Cyberstart	Provides free computers, tech support and Internet access to preschool and child care programs.	www.cyberstart.org

Financing Resources for Recreation, Parks and Open Space			
Category	Program	Description	Contact Information
Publications	Cost of Urban Sprawl	Published by 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania	www.10000friends.org
	Rural Access Guide	Published by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania	www.ruralpa.org
	Growing Greener: Putting Conservation into Local Codes	Published by the Natural Lands Trust	www.natlands.org
	Common Wealth: Giving in Pennsylvania	Published by Community Foundations	www.communityfoundations.org
	Opportunity Knocks: Open Space is a Community Investment	Published by the Heritage Conservancy	www.heritageconservancy.org
	Growing with Green Infrastructure	Published by the Heritage Conservancy	www.heritageconservancy.org
	Landsavers	On-line presentations of practical techniques to preserve open space.	www.greenworkds.tv/landsavers/
	PAS Reports	Published by the American Planning Association	www.planning.org
	Various publications	Published by the National Recreation and Park Association	www.nrpa.org

Financing Resources for Recreation, Parks and Open Space			
Category	Program	Description	Contact Information
National Programs	Smokey Bear Program	Encourages children to take an active role in protecting forestland and the animals that live in the forest from wildfires.	www.symbols.gov
	Woodsy Owl Program	Encourages children to develop a sense of responsibility and compassion for the natural world through hands-on land stewardship activities.	www.fs.fed.us/spf/woodsy
	National Center for Recreation and Conservation, Bureau of Land Management	Offers activity books, lessons plans, posters, articles, and general information on heritage education.	www.blm.gov/heritage/ne.htm
	Endangered and Threatened Species Programs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Offers educational materials about the preservation and protection of wildlife, biodiversity, and habitat conservation.	www.endangered.fws.gov
	Boat U.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water	Offers brochures and posters on pollution prevention tips and littering on land and in the water.	1-800-BOAT-USA
	America the Beautiful	Provides free flower, vegetable, and herb seeds to plant Freedom Gardens across America.	www.america-the-beautiful.org
	NBA, WNBA, Gatorade, and Nike	Offers Jr. NBA and Jr. WNBA programs at no cost to recreational youth basketball leagues.	1-800-JRHOOPS
	First Serve	Provides inner-city youth with a safe and nurturing after-school program that combines academics with tennis.	www.usta.com
	JumpStart After School	Provides a hands-on manual full of fun activities to get kids active and eating healthy foods.	www.nrpa.org
	S & S Crafts Worldwide Chalk It Up!	Offers communities a kit containing sidewalk chalk, certificates of achievement, instruction booklets, and full-color posters to plan, run, and publicize events.	1-800-642-7354
	Let's Play Sports Coordinator's Manual	A comprehensive resource to implement introductory sport programs for elementary age youth in 16 sports.	www.nrpa.org
	Hershey Foods Corporation	Offers the Hershey Track and Field Programs, a series of local, regional, state and national track and field competitions for children ages 9 to 14.	www.nrpa.org
	Active Options	A free program resource guide to develop fitness programs for older adults.	www.nrpa.org
	Flaghouse, Inc	Offers Catch Recreation, a resource compendium that provides hundreds of youth activities promoting physical activity, including a recreation leader's guide.	1-800-793-7900
	Pool Cool Program	A sun-safety, skin cancer prevention program focusing on informing children about sun-safety practices during swim lesson, utilizing lesson plans and poolside activities.	www.nrpa.org
	U.S. Lacrosse	Offers a loan kit program which provides field sticks and goalie sticks, plus a dozen balls to keep, at no cost for communities interested in starting lacrosse programs.	www.lacrosse.org
	Hooked on Fishing International	Provides a complete kit and guidebook to conduct a fishing derby, with prizes, posters, tote bags, decals and more.	www.fishingworld.com/Kids-Fishing