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INTRODUCTION

Different types of facilities serve different recreational purposes. Active recreation facilities support intensive physical activity with fields, courts, rinks, playgrounds and other built components. Passive facilities provide an open space environment for activities that requires limited physical effort but otherwise relax, refresh, and fulfill the mind and body. The selection and composition of active and passive recreation facilities influences a park’s desirability or curb appeal and its use. This Appendix presents an inventory of recreation facilities in municipal parks, an analysis of diversity among active and passive opportunities, and an assessment of park design and development including individual reviews of the eleven parks in the Northern Chester County (the Region).

MUNICIPAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

ACTIVE RECREATION FACILITIES

The active recreation parks in Northern Chester County offer a total of 46 active recreation or physical play facilities for 13 unique active recreation activities, as listed in *Table A3.1*. *Table A3.2* presents a compilation of facility counts by type: team sports, informal sports, exercise, and children’s active play.

- Parks tend to emphasize team and informal sports over other physical activities. Team sports include field, court, and rink sports where teams of multiple players are needed. Informal sports facilities include multipurpose fields, running tracks, outdoor basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts, skateparks, golf and disc-golf (Frisbee® golf courses, and the like, where individuals can play one-on-one.
- All parks except Ellis Woods Park and Pickering Grove offer one or more sports fields for organized or informal team play. Multiple diamond fields for baseball, softball, and Little League, and several multipurpose flat fields for soccer, football, field hockey, and lacrosse are found here. (Further discussion of sports fields can be found in Appendix 8.)
- All of the parks except Pickering Grove have playground equipment or tot lots for children.

Appendix 3 Recreation Facilities

Table A3.1: Active Recreation Facility Inventory in Municipal Parks

Facility Name	Active Recreation Facilities																				Total Active Facilities	
	Baseball: 90-ft	Softball/Little League: 60-ft	Field Hockey	Football	Soccer field	Track	Multipurpose field	Outdoor Basketball	Tennis	Volleyball	Swimming pool	Playground / Tot lot	Exercise trail/stations	Hockey Rink	Skatepark	Ice Rink	Sledding Hill	Golf Course	Frisbee Golf	Horseshoe Pits		Climbing Wall
Ellis Woods Park												1	1									2
Towpath Park							1		1			1										3
Kimberton Community Park							1	1	3			1		1								7
Community Park on the Ridge		1			1			1	2	1		1	1							1		9
Kenilworth Park	2						1		2			1										6
River Bend Park		2					1					1										4
Riverside Park								1	2	1		1										5
Connie Batdorf Park				1								1										2
Pickering Grove																						0
Pine Creek Park					2	1						1										4
Andrew Evans Park		1			1			1				1										4
Total Facilities	2	4	0	1	4	1	4	4	9	3	0	10	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	46

Appendix 3 Recreation Facilities

- The fitness trail with exercise stations at Community Park on the Ridge and walking loop at Ellis Woods Park are the only facility specifically designed for fitness exercise. The former horseracing track at Pine Creek Park is also suitable for distance walking. Paths and trails in other parks are listed under passive recreation facilities.
- There is one horseshoe pit at Community Park on the Ridge. It is not heavily used, however having only one place to throw horseshoes can limit interest. Parks with multiple facilities of a single type (e.g., basketball, tennis, etc.), demonstrate more demand than parks with just one.
- There are no public swimming pools, public golf courses, skateparks, ice rinks, Frisbee golf courses, sledding hills, or climbing walls in any of the parks.
- There are no indoor facilities for general recreation. The 422 SportsPlex and the Longstreth Training Academy/Wells Road Facility are commercial, for-profit facilities designed for sports training. Four YMCA facilities are located just outside the region: Pottstown, Phoenixville, Lionville, and Morgantown.

Table A3.2: Facilities for Active Recreation by Physical Activity

Physical Activity Type	Ellis Woods	Towpath	Kimberton	Community Park on the Ridge	Kenilworth	River Bend	Riverside	Connie Batdorf	Pickering Grove	Pine Creek	Andrew Evans
Team Sports	○	◐	●	●	●	◐	◐	◐	○	◐	●
Informal Sports	○	◐	●	●	●	●	●	◐	○	◐	◐
Exercise	◐	○	○	◐	○	○	○	○	○	◐	○
Children's Active Play	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	○	◐	◐

Key: ○ No Facility, ◐ 1-2 Facilities, ● 3 or more Facilities

FACILITIES FOR PASSIVE RECREATION

These same parks offer a total of 59 natural or manmade features for passive recreation for 14 unique passive recreation activities, as listed in *Table A3.3*.

- All parks offer one or more seating areas. Types vary from park benches to picnic benches to sports field bleachers, and numbers of benches vary from 1 to 12 seating locations per park.
- All but Riverside Park have a picnic area or pavilion.
- Ellis Woods, Towpath Park, Kenilworth Park, Kimberton Community Park, Pine Creek Park, and Andrew Evans Park have walking or “fitness” paths. These paths provide a smooth surface for internal circulation. Their functionality to support walking for fitness varies with their length and configuration. None offer facilities for strength-building, flexibility or other aspects of fitness
- Ellis Woods, Towpath Park, Kenilworth Park, Riverside Park, Pickering Grove, and Pine Creek Park offer access to a river, creek, or pond for fishing.
- In addition to the parks with fishing waters, Ellis Woods abuts Pigeon Creek and River Bend Park offer views of the Schuylkill River.
- Towpath Park and Riverside Park have the only boat launches.

Appendix 3 Recreation Facilities

Table A3.3 : Passive Recreation Facility and Natural Area Inventory in Municipal Parks

Facility Name	Passive Recreation Facilities																		
	Paths/Trails	Benches/Sitting Areas	Amphitheatre / Bandshell	Fishing Access	Boat Launch	Picnic Area/Pavilion	Elevated Viewpoint/ Observation Tower	Manmade Water Feature	Ornamental Gardens	Community Planting Gardens	Historical Features	Historical Markers	Nature Study Area	Campsites	Woods	Meadows	Wetlands	Natural Water Feature	Total Passive Facilities
Ellis Woods Park	1	Y				1									1		1	1	6
Towpath Park	1	Y		1	1	1		1			1	1			1			1	10
Kimberton Community Park	1	Y				1													3
Community Park on the Ridge		Y				1									1	1			4
Kenilworth Park	1	Y		1		1									1			1	6
River Bend Park		Y				1							1		1			1	5
Riverside Park		Y		1	1														3
Connie Batdorf Park		Y				1													2
Pickering Grove		Y		1		1									1			1	5
Pine Creek Park	1	Y		1		1	1		1		1				1	1		1	10
Andrew Evans Park	1	Y				1			1										4
Total Facilities	6	11	0	5	2	10	1	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	7	2	1	6	59

Appendix 3 Recreation Facilities

- All except Kimberton Community Park and Riverside Park have natural or naturalized landscapes (woods, meadows, wetlands); Towpath Park’s pond is manmade but has a naturalized appearance.
- Only River Bend Park has a signed nature study area.
- Only Pine Creek Park has an observation tower or other elevated viewpoint.
- Only Pine Creek Park and Andrew Evans Park have ornamental plantings.
- Only Towpath Park and Pine Creek Park have historical features, namely the canal bed and the horseracing track and stables, respectively; only Towpath Park has interpretative signage of its historic feature.
- None of the parks has an amphitheatre or a bandshell, a community garden.
- None of the parks permits camping or mountain biking; these functions are not typical of community parks but may be of interest to youth and young adults in semi-rural settings.
- There are no dog parks, i.e., fenced areas for dogs to run off-leash, however, five municipal parks as well as the county park and several private conservation lands allow dogs on-leash.

Most parks offer more than one recreation facility for physical activity for a variety of age groups. Offering multiple facilities for intended age groups is important in promoting varied park experiences, repeat visits, and a sense of community ownership of the park. *Table A3.4* summarizes each park’s facility count by the age groups served.

Table A3.4: Total Facilities by Age Group

Age Groups	Ellis Woods	Towpath	Kimberton	Community Park on the Ridge	Kenilworth	River Bend	Riverside	Connie Batdorf	Pickering Grove	Pine Creek	Andrew Evans
Children (3-5 years)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
Children (5-12 years)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
Youth (12-17 years)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Adults (18-64)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Seniors (65+ years)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Families / Intergenerational Groups	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Key: ○ No Facility, ● 1-2 Facilities, ● 3 or more Facilities

- Children ages 3 to 5 can use playgrounds, multipurpose fields, swimming pools, and walking paths.
- Children ages 5 to 12 are able to use these same facilities, plus team and informal sports fields and courts independent of adults, as well as passive nature study areas.
- Youth ages 12 to 17 years make use of team and informal sports facilities including hockey and ice rinks, as well as passive fishing and boating accesses.

Appendix 3 Recreation Facilities

- Active adults over age 17 engage in activities requiring team and informal sports facilities, walking paths, passive fishing and boating accesses, and natural landscapes, e.g., for birding.
- Active seniors make use of lifetime sports facilities such as tennis courts, swimming pools, and walking paths as well as natural landscapes, nature study areas, and fishing and boating accesses for passive recreation.
- Active recreation facilities for family and intergenerational groups include walking and fitness trails and golf courses; passive areas include natural landscapes and nature study areas, fishing and boating accesses, picnic areas, and community gardens.
- All parks except Pickering Grove offer at least one recreational facility for physical activity appropriate for each age group. Pickering Grove has no active recreation facilities for children.

Table A3.5 tallies each park's recreational opportunities for contact with nature; arts, history, and culture; and other people. Overall, most recreation facilities are concentrated in the areas of team sports and play equipment. Seating and picnic areas are common to the parks but their numbers are few and limit social use to only a few individuals. Trails are also present though most are laid out for internal circulation, and none offer facilities for strength-building, flexibility or other aspects of fitness. Natural areas are fairly common though they require complete self-direction and self-motivation; few are interpreted as having environmental or cultural value.

Only Towpath Park features and interprets local history. While other sites may not contain historic features, their proximity to communities, waterways, and other historic sites suggests that there are stories about this region that could be told in local parks.

Table A3.5: Non-Physical Recreational Opportunities in Municipal Parks

Facility Name	Recreational Opportunities					
	Contact with Nature		Connect with Arts, Culture, History		Social Connections	
	Nature Observation or Study	Trails in Nature	Historical Features	Historical Markers	Places to sit and "people watch"	Places to picnic
Ellis Woods Park	3	1	0	0	2	1
Towpath Park	3	1	1	1	2	1
Kimberton Community Park	0	1	0	0	11	1
Community Park on the Ridge	2	0	0	0	13	1
Kenilworth Park	3	1	0	0	5	1
River Bend Park	4	0	0	0	2	1
Riverside Park	2	0	0	0	3	0
Connie Batdorf Park	0	0	0	0	1	1
Pickering Grove	3	0	0	0	1	1
Pine Creek Park	5	1	1	0	2	1
Andrew Evans Park	2	1	0	0	2	1
Total Parks with Specified Recreational Opportunities	10	6	2	1	11	10

MUNICIPAL PARK DESIGN

MASTER PLANNING

Master planning ensures that a park's design includes needed recreational and support facilities that meet national play and accessibility standards through a unified design. These qualities can be achieved in parks developed incrementally, but the master planning process provides the opportunity to explore and select design alternatives before the construction investment.

PARK ACCESS

Access to nearly all of the parks in the region is predominantly by automobile, as evidenced by the presence of parking lots. The low density distribution of homes places most parks beyond a comfortable 10-15 minute walking distance. In addition, few sidewalks, walking trails, or marked road shoulders connect neighborhoods to public parks. However, trail planning and development with an aim to connect more residents to parks is active in the region. This suggests the need to design the trail access to the park – not just the driveway and parking lot – for park visitors. The trail access to the park will need to provide or direct trail users to suitable “parking,” e.g., for bicycles and horses as permitted by the trail.

PARK USER EXPERIENCE

The experience of a park is driven by physical design and maintenance as well as by the social experience, and helps a park visitor determine whether he/she will use and/or return to the park. First impressions, largely visual impressions, are critical to welcoming the park visitor. They include overall appearance and facilities of interest that help determine whether a visitor wants to enter the park. A clean, litter-free park conveys that people, either park visitors or park maintenance staff or both, value and take care of the park. Design, signage, and lighting contribute to a sense of safety. Visible places to sit and areas in sun and shade provide places to rest.

ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY CONDITIONS OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

None of the parks are fully ADA-accessible, providing continuous universal access to the park, its parking lot, its primary recreational facilities, and its amenities. This prohibits or discourages park use by people with disabilities and also by families with strollers as well as individuals with temporary disabilities.

The first national accessibility guidelines for playgrounds were published by the U. S. Access Board in 2000, well after most parks in the region were established. Guidelines for other common community recreation facilities soon followed in 2002. These guidelines were combined with the ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities and published as the *2004 ADA/ABA (Architectural Barriers Act) Accessibility Guidelines*.

The Department of Justice has added requirements for policy and operational concerns, i.e., service animals, personal mobility devices (wheelchairs, Segways, etc.), and telecommunications for the deaf, by publishing the *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design*, which took effect on March 15, 2011. Compliance with the *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design* is permitted as of September 15, 2010, but

Appendix 3 Recreation Facilities

not required until March 15, 2012. Standards are to be applied according to when the facility was built or last improved.¹

Compliance Date for New Construction or Alterations	Applicable Standards
Before September 15, 2010	1991 Standards or Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS)
On or after September 15, 2010, and before March 15, 2012	1991 Standards, UFAS, or 2010 Standards
On or after March 15, 2012	2010 Standards

Given that the new regulations have already taken effect, park owners should assess each park against the applicable standards and establish a program to address deficiencies.

Playgrounds are intended to provide active recreation activities for children. Yet, too often, they present safety hazards to the spontaneous and unpredictable behavior of children aged 6 months to 12 years. Since 1981, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has published voluntary standards for public playground safety. These standards are intended to minimize injuries associated with the use of playground equipment by addressing site selection, playground layout, equipment selection, materials, and surfacing, as well as assembly, installation, and maintenance.

Playgrounds in the region built within the past decade appear to meet the CPSC standards, but the few older playgrounds, including individual pieces of play equipment, do not. While the standards are voluntary, their application provides a basic level of physical safety for children. Park owners should review the CPSC's Public Playground Safety Handbook and apply the CPSC Public Playground Safety Checklist to regular playground maintenance inspections. As recommended by the CPSC, the frequency of inspections will depend on the type and age of equipment, the amount of use, and the local climate. Inspections should be carried out in a systematic manner by personnel familiar with the playground, such as maintenance workers, playground supervisors, etc.

DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF MUNICIPAL PARKLANDS

RIVER BEND PARK

River Bend Park's location along the riverfront and its athletic fields for community use are the park's strengths. Yet its isolation from neighbors by the nearby elevated U.S. Route 422 and its focus on sports are drawbacks, resulting in narrow use by sports leagues and limited use when players are not present. Given the need to drive to the park and the concentration of visitors on game days, the park lacks adequate parking, and its play equipment does not meet current safety standards. Its riverfront is underutilized; views and access are very limited. Its memorial field plaques are not prominent. It also lacks a sense of design to tie the park elements together.

¹ <http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAregs2010.htm>

The age of the facilities, namely the playground equipment, the high demand for parking, and other concerns suggest that the park may benefit from evaluation and renewal through a new master planning effort. Opportunities for park enhancement include the addition of a perimeter walking path and interpretation of the river history and ecology to expand recreational offerings, more benches and shade trees to support social activities, identified parking and overflow areas, and signage to identify the park and orient park visitors to its layout and features. Signage and plantings will also improve curb appeal.

RIVERSIDE PARK

Riverside Park's strengths are its neighborhood location in the heart of South Pottstown and its basketball and tennis courts for informal, "drop in" recreation. Like River Bend, Riverside lacks a sense of design to tie the park elements together. At the same time, the park is nearly surrounded by parking, streets, and alleys – and thus vehicles – especially on game days at the adjacent Wampler Little League Complex. On the day of its field view, the tennis nets were missing, raising questions about the courts' use and suitability for neighbors' recreational interests. This park, too, could benefit from a new master plan with neighborhood input. Opportunities for improvement at this site include an integrated design for circulation, landscaping, and signage with the adjacent Wampler Complex.

KENILWORTH PARK

Kenilworth Park has been fully developed with varied active and passive recreation facilities. It has not been master-planned, yet its facilities are well-used by the surrounding neighborhood. The mature trees along the adjacent streets and around the pond help define and unify the site. Kenilworth Park's assets include its neighborhood location, varied athletic facilities, pond and walking trail, areas of both sun and shade, and activities building. The park sits slightly lower than the surrounding neighborhood, giving passersby a birds-eye view of the activities in the park.

While the park offers two ball fields, a multipurpose field, and tennis courts, they are fitted tightly on the site with little space between them for circulation and buffering wayward balls. Sidewalks along the perimeter of the park are in need of repair. Opportunities for park improvement or enhancement include additional benches and greater field separation with trees or other plantings for seasonal interest and buffering.

TOWPATH PARK

Towpath Park is primarily a park for passive recreation along the Schuylkill River. The park offers an informal grass field and a small children's play area in the sun, abundant shade under the riparian forest canopy, a fishing pier and boat launch, a small pond and varied facilities for social activities, including benches, a picnic pavilion, grills, etc. Strengths of Towpath Park include its riverside location and access, interpreted canal history, and internal walking trail, meeting recreational interests in natural resources, history, and physical activity at one site. The park falls short on ADA accessibility to its varied facilities. Opportunities for park improvement include universal access to all facilities; accessible play equipment to replace the concrete animals in sand; the addition of a trailhead, signage, and bike rack to the Schuylkill River Trail (upon its construction); and additional pavilions.

ELLIS WOODS PARK

Ellis Woods Park has been master-planned and partially developed. To date, a playground has been installed adjacent to the municipal building, the municipal parking lot expanded, and an improved (cindered) loop walking path installed in the large grassed area between the parking lot and the woods. The wooded portion at the rear of the site along Pigeon Creek will remain in a natural condition. The park's visibility and "curb appeal" are relatively low given its remote location and limited view of available activities from the road. Opportunities for enhancement include more activities in the grass area surrounding and inside the walking loop, which could range from exercise stations to naturalized meadows; seating, pavilion(s), and trees/plantings to support social use of the space; and potential expansion of this narrow site to accommodate additional facilities and extended trails.

COMMUNITY PARK ON THE RIDGE

Community Park on the Ridge offers a wide variety of athletic fields sited into the park's hillside topography, a contemporary playground, and room to add an additional athletic field in the future. A walking path with occasional bench seating and shade trees ties the park elements together visually. Time will mature the park's trees and plantings, increasing its seasonal interest and shaded seating. The park's primary challenge is the fact that it lies hidden from view behind and below the township building along Route 23. Opportunities to enhance the park include the construction of the additional sports field for league or community play, interpretation of the on-site and adjacent naturalized landscape, and additional shade trees, perhaps planted in clusters.

KIMBERTON COMMUNITY PARK

Kimberton Community Park includes varied sports, informal play, and social facilities for all ages. The park's layout fits these facilities into the varied topography of the site and allows visitors to casually view activities occurring on lower levels of the park. A walking path and landscaped areas provide interconnected access among the facilities. Opportunities to enhance this park include integration of village history and extension of the walking path system to the adjacent Kimberton Youth Athletic League ball field complex and the Kimberton Fire Company Fairgrounds.

PICKERING GROVE

Continuing to operate primarily as a summer camp, Pickering Grove has had limited site development, yet its facilities are laid out in a way that is easily understood by the visitor. The creekside location and closed tree canopy are the primary strengths of Pickering Grove, creating an intimate space for experiences with nature. The former camp building provides a central location for activities. The simple structures used to designate other activity or group centers may be beneficial to the summer camp but offer no long-term value to the park. The park's primary challenge is the entrance; the driveway leads to unmarked gravel parking from which the activities building and creek are barely visible. In addition to a more intentional entrance design and identification signage, opportunities for park improvement include interpretation or guided study of nature and a trailhead for the Pickering Creek Trail.

PINE CREEK PARK

Pine Creek Park, the former horseracing facility, has been adapted as West Pikeland's community park. The racetrack is now used as a walking track. Pavilions, picnic benches, and grills have been added to support picnicking in the park. A trail has been constructed through the natural wooded, wetland, and meadow areas as well as through the developed areas. Park signage displays the layout of the park.

This is helpful to the park visitor, because the topography and vegetation hide some areas from view. The strengths of Pine Creek Park include its size and variety of natural landscape types and water features, trail, social areas, and signage within the park. Feasible use and maintenance of the stable and other buildings associated with the park's former use as a horseracing track are the park's primary challenge. Opportunities to enhance the park include interpretation of the site's natural and cultural features through signage and/or programs.

ANDREW EVANS PARK

Like Kimberton Community Park, the fields and facilities at Andrew Evans Park "fit" into the topography of the site. This design approach, along with a walking path and ornamental plantings, unify the park into a cohesive landscape. The provision of two parking locations, one upper and one lower, promotes convenient access to the park's facilities. There are large expanses of grass between the fields and facilities, absorbing the change in grade and allowing for informal play. Converting portions of the grassy areas to a naturalized landscape would reduce the need for regular mowing. A trailhead for hikers and bicyclists may be appropriate if trails are designated or developed to/from or along the park. Over time the existing plantings will mature, enhancing the park by providing additional shade.

CONNIE BATDORF PARK

Connie Batdorf Park was planned to provide an athletic field and field house for local area sports teams which currently includes Norchester Red Knights and Coventry Lacrosse. In addition to the athletic field, the park has a picnic pavilion built by local boy scouts and a modern playground. The park's design is uncomplicated and the facilities are easily visible from the parking area. Connie Batdorf Park's location along Route 100 is both a strength and a weakness. The location is well suited to drop-in park use as residents of the region travel this busy route. However, the route can be a hazard to those entering and exiting the park, particularly those crossing the road to reach the food vendor.

Advance visibility of the park from Route 100 is limited, given its location behind frontage properties. Queues to its presence, such as landscaping and signage, especially at the park entrance, would increase appreciation for this park. Finally, additional facilities – active, passive, or social – should be considered to create more diversified recreational opportunities at the park. Elements such as a perimeter trail, ornamental or community planting beds, and benches, could help unify this space and add interest to the park experience. Signage could also help inform the park visitor of the park boundaries and included areas.

FINDINGS

RECREATION FACILITIES

1. The active recreation parks in Northern Chester County offer a total of 48 active recreation or physical play facilities for 13 unique active recreation activities. Parks in the Region offer duplicate facilities, especially team sports fields. This repetition supports sport leagues and competition. One notable exception is the single horseshoe pit at Community Park on the Ridge.

Appendix 3 Recreation Facilities

2. Overall, most of the available recreation facilities support team sports and children's play (playgrounds). This may limit use of the facilities and the park to groups large enough to "hold a game" and age groups interested in such activities.
3. The fitness trail with exercise stations at Community Park on the Ridge is the only facility specifically designed for exercise. While other parks have paths, they function as circulation paths within the park, not fitness facilities. Other facilities require physical activity but are not focused on the individual's fitness as the primary function.
4. Five parks offer access to water for fishing or boating. Towpath Park, Kenilworth Park, Riverside Park offer access to the Schuylkill River; Pickering Grove and Pine Creek Park offer access to Pickering Creek. Also, the Tri-Town accessible fishing park is under development along French Creek.
5. Natural areas are commonly found in the Region's parks. Eight parks have natural or naturalized landscapes (woods, meadows, wetlands) within the park. These landscapes function largely as backdrops to open grass fields. With the exception of the signed nature study area along the edge of the riparian forest in River Bend Park, there are no blazed trails to guide visitors to or through these natural features. Any experience of these natural features requires complete self-direction and self-motivation
6. Heritage is not commonly featured in the Region's parks. Only Towpath Park and Pine Creek Park have historical features, namely the canal bed and the horseracing track and stables, respectively; only Towpath Park has interpretative signage of its historic feature. While other sites may not contain historic features, their proximity to communities, waterways, and other historic sites suggests that there are stories about this region that could be told in local parks.
7. Other common park facilities not found in the Region include public swimming pools, public golf courses, skateparks, ice rinks, Frisbee golf courses, sledding hills, climbing walls, amphitheatres or bandshells, manmade water features (e.g., a fountains), and a community gardens.
8. There are no public or private indoor community recreation centers in the Region. The nearest centers are the Phoenixville YMCA and Pottstown YMCA. A previous feasibility study found an insufficient support for such a facility in the Region, however the Ludwig's Corner master site plan reserves a site for a future YM/YWCA should conditions change.
9. There are no dog parks, i.e., fenced areas for dogs to run off-leash. Five of the municipal parks, as well as the county park and several private conservation lands, allow dogs on-leash.
10. Most parks offer more than one recreation facility for physical activity for age groups ranging from children to adults to intergenerational groups. Few offer more than three age-group appropriate facilities to support repeated park visits.
11. Seating and picnic areas are common to the parks but their numbers are few and limit social use to only a few individuals.

PARK MASTER PLANNING

12. Park master plans have guided the most recent park designs and improvements. Master plans have been prepared and at least partially implemented for Ellis Woods Park, Kimberton Community Park, Community Park on the Ridge, Pine Creek Park, and Andrew Evans Park. Facilities in other, older parks were installed over time to serve the needs of the community.
13. Site analysis and preliminary planning for some future park sites have occurred. Only the Snyder Avenue Park has been master planned, namely as a multi-use park with active and passive facilities. The Parker Tavern and Wade Tract are envisioned as complementary sites to the Schuylkill River Trailhead at the Parker House, though no detailed planning has occurred. The Heyser Tract has been proposed as a baseball field for the Norchester Baseball League and soccer fields for Vincent United Futbol Club; concept sketches have been prepared. The Pennhurst Tract had a preliminary engineering evaluation that indicated Tract A “lend best to natural trail systems and passive uses,” while Tract B could support more active recreation. Other sites have had minimal discussion. The Reiff Tract has been laid out for soccer fields.

FACILITY ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY

14. None of the parks are fully ADA-accessible, providing continuous universal access to the park, its parking lot, its primary recreational facilities, and its amenities. Newer parks, particularly those that have used state funding for construction, have accessible recreation and support facilities.
15. Playgrounds in the Region built within the past decade appear to meet the CPSC standards, but older play equipment does not.

Appendix 3 Recreation Facilities

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