Chapter 12Parks, Recreation, Sidewalks and Trails Plan

Introduction

Along with Chapter 11, this Chapter updates and replaces the joint 1993 Kennett Township and Kennett Square Borough Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan and the 2004 Township Comprehensive Plan supplements to that Plan. While Chapter 11 focuses on planning for an interconnected open space network, this Chapter looks into planning for active and passive recreation needs. Specifically, recreation planning efforts to date, current recreational facilities and programs, and present and future recreational needs for Township residents are examined. Both chapters are interrelated, as for example, parks are a form of open space that can provide active and passive recreation. PA Act 247, the Municipalities Planning Code (PA MPC) supports local recreation planning via municipal Comprehensive Plans.

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Park/Recreation Facilities

What are 'Parks'?

Parks are a form of open space with a primary purpose of providing outdoor areas for active and/or passive recreation. Linking Landscapes defines a park as any outdoor property with few if any structures that is: 1) owned in-fee or permanently eased for recreation by a government entity, 2) open to the general public, 3) specifically managed to provide public recreation, and 4) has public recreation as its primary use. To be defined as a park, lands must be acquired, designed, and managed to be public recreation facilities.

A park can vary in type, size, and features. Parks can be in the form of a 1/4-acre tot-lot or basketball court, 1-acre open lands with picnic areas, 10-acre historic site/grounds, 100-acre wildlife preserve, or 500-acre County Park. It is no coincidence that parks are often found in places having sensitive natural
resources, as they provide a land use that can readily coexist with such resources due to their lesser impacts on the environment, building coverage, and impervious surfaces. In Chester County, preserved natural areas are sometimes called ‘parks’ although they do not provide public recreation.

Parks providing **active recreation** may contain tennis, volleyball, or basketball courts; swing sets, playgrounds, or tot-lots; or football, soccer, and baseball/softball playing fields for team sports. In Chester County, active recreation parks traditionally have been, and will likely continue to be, municipal parks that are owned and managed by local governments. Parks providing passive recreation commonly may include hiking trails, walking paths, memorial areas, open lands, fishing, canoeing, and picnic areas. Parks with a **passive recreation** focus generally tend to be larger in size than parks with a focus on active recreation and may have natural, scenic, and/or historic significance containing a stream, meadow, or historic site. In Chester County, county and state parks are primarily designed for passive recreation.

**What is 'Recreation'?**

*Recreation refers to a range of activities that provide opportunity for therapeutic improvement and restoration of one’s physical and/or mental welfare.*

For planning purposes, ‘recreation’ can be looked at from various aspects, as follows:

**Recreation facilities** can be oriented to a variety of sport, non-sport, and/or cultural activities, and may be indoor and/or outdoor. Examples of facilities categorized by their type of recreational focus include those oriented to:

- **Access** - Parks, trails, paths, sidewalks, or bike routes;
- **Sports** – Playing fields, sport courts, track/field;
- **Fitness** – Pools, circuit parcours, fitness centers, yoga/pilates studios;
- **Pastime** - Golf courses, lawn games, playgrounds, adult learning institutes, dance studios;
- **Reflective** - Camps, retreat centers/grounds, community gardens, public open areas, greenhouses, arboretums, nature preserves, pavilions, benches, picnic areas, streams to canoe, kayak, or fish;
- **Cultural** - Youth or senior centers, libraries, movie theaters, performance venues, historic or memorial sites/grounds, museums, historical societies;
- **Recreation support amenities** – Parking, drinking water, restrooms.

**Recreational pursuits** can be ‘active’ – often entailing some level of athletic rigor, noise, and noticeable presence (e.g. team sports, large community events, playgrounds, tennis courts) - or ‘passive’ – entailing less physical rigor, relative quietness, and lower impact in its surroundings (e.g. walking, hiking, bird watching, picnicking). Certain recreation pursuits (e.g. on-road cycling, horseback riding, frisbee golf), however, could be either active or passive depending on the scale of activity (50 people or 2 people) and size of facility (e.g. on-road cycling on 50-miles of back roads or a 2-mile urban race course loop). The Township could review what constitutes active and passive recreation for Kennett Township, and ensure policy and regulations are consistent. In this way, recreational areas can be designated for active recreation and/or passive recreation, and the designation can be clearly conveyed to users. In some case, sections of a park could be designated for active uses, while other areas could be set aside for passive uses.

**Ownership of recreation facilities** falls into three general categories. ‘Public’ facilities (e.g. Anson B Nixon Park) are open to the general public, often affiliated with a government entity, mostly free of charge, and have rules and hours of use related to public health, safety, and welfare. ‘Quasi-Public/Limited-Access’ facilities (e.g. KCSD Legacy Fields) are available to the public under limited conditions and commonly used by the public for more informal recreation. They are often affiliated with schools, other institutional uses, and organized sports leagues, may involve a fee, and the owner maintains the option to further limit or ban public use. ‘Private’ facilities (e.g. Longwood Gardens) are privately owned/operated, often having limited access to paying members, ticketed admission, or the like as determined by the owner, involve a market-driven fee, and have rules of availability, hours, and use as mandated by the owner.
Interconnectivity of recreational facilities, particularly trails, paths, sidewalks, bike routes, and the like, that provide access with each other and with residential, commercial, and institutional land uses should be a key consideration in creating a pedestrian-oriented network in the Township and one that extends to adjacent communities and amenities. Linking residential areas in the Township, commercial areas near and within the Borough, and recreational uses/areas contributes to the quality-of-life and provides mental and physical health opportunities for Township residents.

**Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory**

### Table 12-1: Parks and Recreation Facilities within the Township, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership Type</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Quasi-Public</th>
<th>Private</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recreational Facilities and Features</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anson B. Nixon Park</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennock Memorial Fields</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KTSB Twp Bldg Grounds</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCSO Legacy Fields</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenwood Elem. School Grounds</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Bridge Preserve</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Mill House Preserve</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Leaf Eco Center</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Line Woods Preserve</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckeye Creek Preserve</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAU Little League Fields</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenwoods Swim Club</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartfield Golf Club</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longwood Gardens</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Number of Acres in Kennett Township | 79 | 10.1 | 9.2 | 27.7 | 24.5 | 80 | 40 | 11 | 82 | 279 | 3.6 | 7 | 44 | 299 |
| Owner** | KAPA | KSB | KT | KCSO | TLC | TLC | TLC | Private | KAU | Private | Private | Private |
| Municipality(s) Located In | KT | KSB | KT | KSB | KT | KT | KT | NCC | KT | NGT | KT | KT | KT | NGT |

| Active Recreation: |
| Outdoor Fields/Courts | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Play Equipment | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Swimming Pool | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Frisbee Golf | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Fitness Course | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Golf Course | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

| Passive Recreation: |
| Open Areas | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Concert Venue | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Pavilion/Gazebo/Clubhouse | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Garden/Greenhouse | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Benches/Picnic Areas | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Trail/Path | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Fishing | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

| User Amenities: |
| Restrooms | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Drinking Water | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Outdoor Lighting | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| On-Site Parking | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

| Site Access/Maintenance: |
| Maintenance Level Needed | Mod | High | Low | Low | High | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| Ease of Pedestrian Access | High | Low | Low | Low | High | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |

*Table lists acres for portions of facilities located in Kennett Township. Total facility size may be larger.
* Marshall Bridge Preserve is part of the larger Auburn Valley Bi-State Pa/DE Preserve.
Chapter 12 – Parks, Recreation, Trails

Kennett Township Comprehensive Plan

**KAPA – Kennett Area Park Authority; KSB – Kennett Sq Boro; KT – Kennett Twp; KCSD – Kennett Consolidated School Dist; TLC – The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County; KAU – KAU Little League**

Parks and Recreation Facilities within the Township

The largest and most diverse park in the Township is **Anson B. Nixon Park**. Since opening in 1993, the Park has grown to its present total size of around 106 acres. The Park spans the Township and Kennett Square Borough and serves approximately 50,000 visitors annually.

The Park is owned, maintained, and operated by Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA), a joint municipal authority of the Township and Borough that oversees park development and management. A park friends group helps with fund raising, planning, and programming. Initially, the Park was used for passive recreation (walking/hiking). Since that time funds have been raised to add a variety of active and passive recreation facilities and user support amenities, including an outdoor covered concert pavilion (2001). Southern Chester County Soccer Association (SCCSA) has a long-term agreement to improve/manage Leto Fields (northeastern part of Park), which SCCSA has made into a premier soccer facility.

The Park remains largely naturalistic with woodlands, open lawns, streams, and two stocked fishing ponds. It includes the site of a historic mill complex and was the location of a War of 1812 troop camp site. More recent activities include planning for the preservation/reuse of the three c. 1920 Kennett Waterworks buildings, a portion of which includes the remains of an 18th century mill structure (the existing fishing ponds were also part of the waterworks and are stone lined).

In 2013, a Park Master Plan was completed to direct future improvement. Priority improvements include: improved access and parking, new vehicular entrance, upgraded/relocated active recreation courts, new dog park, sewer connections, new playground, and ADA walkways. With support from Longwood Rotary, the first of two phases of a new playground was completed in 2013. The Park is the centerpiece of the Township’s and Borough’s recreation system, and a good example of joint municipal planning.

Immediately adjacent to as well as physically located in Anson B Nixon Park are **KAU Little League Fields**. They include a 60’ baseball field (upper field) and 60’ and 70’ baseball/softball fields (lower field). Fields are maintained and operated by KAU, which is an official chartered little league. The lot where the two western fields are sited is also owned by KAU. There is parking and outdoor lighting for evening games.

Kennett Square Borough owns **Pennock Memorial Fields Park**, just west of the Borough in Kennett Township. Location-wise, Pennock Park is technically within walking distance of the Borough; however it is not linked to the sidewalk grid so pedestrian access is limited. The Park contains two softball fields, some open land, play equipment, a snack shed, bathrooms, and a parking area. The two fields are used for league play, but can be used for ‘pick-up’ games or general public use when not in use by leagues. Kennett Area Park and Recreation Board (KAPRB) has managed Pennock Park since 2007 and completed many improvements, e.g. an upgraded playground, new lighting, parking lot improvements, and an irrigation system. The Park’s site is underlain by a former municipal trash dump and fill, and thus experiences settling; this remains an ongoing issue that some of KARPB’s improvements are working to address. Future plans include developing a walking trail and planting shade trees in the Park.

Kennett Consolidated School District’s (KCSD) recreational lands/facilities located in the Township include **Legacy Fields** that straddles the Township/Borough line, and **Greenwood Elementary School Grounds** in the northeastern part of the Township. Legacy Fields consist of three multi-purpose fields, plus a parking area, and restroom pavilion. The fields are primarily for use by KCSD student sports and KAPRB sports programs. The open lands to the south (on the same lot) are wetlands and provide open space/buffering for Red Clay Creek. Roughly 60 percent or 15 acres of Greenwood Elementary’s land area is for recreation.
The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC) manages and/or owns several protected open space land preserves in the Township. The focus of these preserves, and of TLC overall, is to establish conservation corridors, protect historic sites, provide pedestrian access via trail and linkages, and offer ecological education and outreach programs to the community. **Marshall Mill House Preserve** includes 1.5 miles of trails and offers recreational opportunities for walking/hiking, bird/wildlife watching, nature photography, and cross-county skiing. **Stateline Woods Preserve** includes 4 miles of trails and offers opportunities for walking/hiking, bird/wildlife watching, nature photography, cross-county skiing, mountain biking, and horseback riding. **Marshall Bridge Preserve** includes 4.5 miles of trails and offers opportunities for walking/hiking, bird/wildlife watching (bird watching with field scope available to rent on-site), nature photography, cross-county skiing, horseback riding, nature study/environmental education programs, and guided trail tours. It is part of the larger Auburn Valley Bi-State Preserve that was created in partnership with the State of Delaware, which owns adjacent Auburn Heights Preserve to the south. Once completed, the Bi-State Preserve will encompass over 400-acres with more than 10-miles of trails. **Bucktoe Creek Preserve** entails privately-owned natural lands managed by TLC. It promotes enhancing biodiversity, sound ecological stewardship with woodland/meadow/wetland restorations, long-term environmental monitoring/ecological research, cultivating and protecting threatened flora and fauna, and environmental education at all levels of expertise. It is open to the public via scheduled programs. **New Leaf Eco Center** is a community ecology education/resource center showcasing holistic land management and ‘sustainable’ demonstration projects for residents. It features a 2-acre woodland/riparian buffer restoration project, backyard composting educational installation, a three-honeybee hive apiary and related public education workshops, and ecological gardens for utility (e.g. growing herbs, vegetables) approximately 1-mile of ecology learning trails, and educational programs on soil health, biodiversity, plant fertility, and resource conservation.

Adjacent to the Center is the **Kennett Township Building/grounds**, which include open lands and a naturalistic mowed walking loop path.

There are also private recreational facilities in the Township. The most notable, largest, and diverse of which is **Longwood Gardens**, a world-class arboretum consisting of over 1,000 acres in Kennett (299 ac), Pennsbury (89 ac), and East Marlborough Townships (659 ac). Longwood includes gardens, greenhouses, a conservatory, concert venues, historic buildings, worker housing, a visitor’s center, restaurants, meadows, woodlands, and miles of paths/walkways, and has around 1.2 million visitors each year. **Green Woods Swim Club** is a small 285-member swim facility that offers a large outdoor pool as well as picnic areas, sand volleyball, shuffleboard, social events, and other recreational features for members. **Hartefeld National Golf Club** is a full-scale facility that features a championship 18-hole golf course and a clubhouse with event, banquet, and meeting facilities, and offer tournaments, family, sport, and holiday activities, and cultural/educational/business seminars. Over $1 million in facility improvements were recently undertaken.

**Nearby and Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities outside the Township**
Township residents have access to many public, quasi-public, and private park lands and recreation facilities that are located within a 30 minute drive (Table 12-2). For example, the heavily used and recently expanded Kennett Area YMCA, located in Kennett Square Borough, offers a broad array of recreational facilities and programs, and with a gymnasium, indoor pools, and courts for basketball and volleyball, it provides most of the area's youth recreation activities. It also operates the off-site outdoor pool (at Kennett Community Park) and holds an off-site summer camp. It is part of the YMCA of the Brandywine Valley, which serves southern Chester County. As well, Kennett Community Park, also in the Borough, is a linear park with basketball and volleyball courts, playground equipment, roller hockey, and a covered pavilion. A segment of the Red Clay Creek Trail extends through the park. Its outdoor pool was leased to the YMCA from 2000-2050, and is the only outdoor recreational swimming pool in the Region.

Evaluating Recreation Needs

Land Use and Demographic Trends

For much of its past, the Township has been a rural agricultural-based community where outdoor physical activity was part of everyday life. Recent decades have witnessed a rise in more sedentary activities in combination with less farming and farm lands as well as open lands used for traditional outdoor recreation (e.g. hunting, fishing, or camping). As a result, many residents now rely on dedicated facilities for their recreational needs.

Table 12-2: Nearby and Regional Recreation Facilities outside the Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES</th>
<th>AMENITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KENNETT COMMUNITY PARK, Kennett Square Borough</td>
<td>5.1-ac municipal park – fields, courts, playground, roller hockey, pavilion, picnic areas, trail, YMCA-run pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RACE STREET PARK, Kennett Square Borough</td>
<td>12.7-ac municipal park – playground, pavilion, picnic areas, trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP PARK, Pennsbury Township</td>
<td>54-ac municipal park – open lands, picnic areas, informal playing field, dog park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD PARK, Chadds Ford Township</td>
<td>52-ac state site/ non-profit support - educational center/museum, trails, historic sites/interpretation, picnic areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITE CLAY CREEK BI-STATE PRESERVE, London Britain Township</td>
<td>1,350-ac state park – parklands, trails, picnic areas, historic buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAIR HILL STATE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA, Cecil County, MD</td>
<td>5,600-ac state preserve - trails, campsites, equestrian facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRANDYWINE CREEK STATE PARK, New Castle County, DE</td>
<td>930-ac state park – trails, nature center, creek access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUBURN HEIGHTS PRESERVE, Yorklyn, DE</td>
<td>200-ac state park/preserve – historic site/ interpretation, museum, trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DELCASTLE RECREATION AREA, New Castle County, DE</td>
<td>400-ac county park/18-hole golf course with 1.7-mi scenic trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAROUSEL PARK EQUESTRIAN CENTER, New Castle County, DE</td>
<td>220-ac county park/equestrian center with recreational programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographics are a consideration in understanding potential community active recreation needs. (Chapter 3 has demographic information) In Kennett Township, there is a need for emphasis on recreational planning and programming for persons 55+, the fastest growing age group in the Township. While numerically Township population grew in all age groups between 2000 and 2010, the 55+ age groups grew to the noticeable extent that they increased in proportion as compared to other age groups that decreased in proportion. This trend is partly the result of the larger national trend of the aging Baby Boom generation. Awareness of community demographics, as well as communication with residents and stakeholders, assists in understanding current and probable future recreation needs and preferences.

Recreation Guidelines

Prior Township recreational planning efforts, mainly the Joint Township/Borough Open Space Plan, evaluated future park/ recreation needs using National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines. NRPA guidelines provide an overall national benchmark for recreational park standards by looking at the size/distance of service areas as compared with the size of parklands/level of facilities. In general, smaller parks (e.g. Kennett Community Park) attract users from a smaller service area, while larger parks of greater size with more facilities or unique features (e.g. Brandywine Creek State Park) attract users from a larger radius. Linking Landscapes presents guidelines for evaluating recreation parklands/facilities needs that reflect, but update and refine, the national standards in order to more specifically address the needs of Chester County communities. Due to their nature and metrics, for Chester County, the refined guidelines are more applicable to active (vs passive) recreation parkland needs.

It should be taken into account that NRPA and Linking Landscapes guidelines are to be used as generalized planning tools and not ‘set in stone’ standards. Often, parklands are acquired on short notice when unique opportunities arise, e.g. via a developer’s land donation as part of undertaking a subdivision or land development. As such, a certain degree of flexibility needs to be built into municipal recreation planning in order to create a recreation network that is responsive to resident’s needs, available land opportunities, and the community’s ability to fund and maintain parklands.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUASI-PUBLIC/LIMITED-ACCESS</th>
<th>AMENITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KENNETT AREA YMCA, Kennett Square Borough</td>
<td>29.7-ac site - fitness center, field, camp, climbing tower, trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCSD HIGH SCHOOL, New Garden Township</td>
<td>36-ac site – courts, sports fields, track/field, outdoor lights, gymnasium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KENNETT MARY D LANG KINDERGARTEN</td>
<td>3.8-ac site – playground, recess area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCSD MIDDLE SCHOOL, New Garden Township</td>
<td>80-ac site – sports fields, gymnasium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCSD BANCROFT ELEM. SCHOOL, New Garden Township</td>
<td>20-ac – gymnasium, playground, playing fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCSD NEW GARDEN ELEM. SCHOOL, New Garden Township</td>
<td>30-ac – gymnasium, playground, playing fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHESLENS PRESERVE, Newlin Township</td>
<td>1,263-ac preserve – trails, creek access, historic site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRANDYWINE VALLEY ASSOC. MYRICK NATURE CENTER, Pocopson Township</td>
<td>236-ac non-profit environ. education center/preserve – public trails, fee-based recreation/education programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY CHADDS FORD TOWNSHIP</td>
<td>Trails, fishing, canoeing, art museum, envir. management center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNISCRONE GOLF COURSE, London Grove Township</td>
<td>18-hole public fee-based golf course on Township owned land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOODLAWN, FIRST STATE NATIONAL MONUMENT, WILMINGTON, DE</td>
<td>2,000-ac preserve – trails, leased farmlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASHLAND NATURE CENTER, Hockessin, DE</td>
<td>130-ac non-profit environ. education center/preserve – trails, lodge, fee-based recreation/education programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES</th>
<th>AMENITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KAU SENIOR/NVF FIELD, Kennett Square Borough</td>
<td>3.6-ac baseball/softball field for KCSD high school students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAURELS PRESERVE, West Marlborough, East Fallowfield, Newlin Townships</td>
<td>771-ac member-only accessed preserve with trails and historic sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT. CUBA CENTER/GARDENS, New Castle County, DE</td>
<td>600-ac non-profit horticulture center - gardens, picnic area, walking paths, historic sites, natural lands/preserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINTERthur GARDENS/MUSEUM, New Castle County, DE</td>
<td>980-ac - a museum and gardens having over 100,000 visitors/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCH NAIN GOLF COURSE, New Garden Township</td>
<td>18-hole golf course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 12-3: Comparison of Recreation Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MINI-PARK</td>
<td>2,500 sq. ft. to 1 ac. in size, in a residential setting serving the surrounding 0.25 mi.</td>
<td>0.01 to 0.49 ac., with 0.25-mi. service area equal to an 8-min. walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEIGHBORHOOD PARK</td>
<td>5 to 10 ac. in size, serving the surrounding 0.25 to 0.50 mi.</td>
<td>0.5 to 19.9 ac., with 0.5-mi. service area equal to a 15-min. walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY PARK</td>
<td>30 to 50 ac. in size, serving the surrounding 0.50 to 3.0 mi.</td>
<td>20 to 399 ac., with 2.5-mi. service area equal to a 5-min. drive or 30-min. walk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recreation Needs in the Township

In 2002, Linking Landscapes applied the County standards to evaluate projected recreation needs across Chester County. Each municipality was classified as to their density (Kennett Township was classified on the low end of ‘medium density’), among other factors.

There are around 37 acres of active recreational public parklands in the Township (2014). These include the active recreation facilities in the Township portion of Anson B. Nixon Park (27 acs) and Pennock Park (10 acs). Using County Recreational Standards (Table 12-4) and population forecasts (Chapter 3), it is expected that by 2025 there will be a need for around 69 acres of total active recreational public parklands in the Township (or 39 acres in community parklands and 30 acres in neighborhood parklands). Looking further into the future, it is expected that total needed active recreational public parklands in the Township will be around 77 acres by 2035 (or 43 acres in community parklands and 34 acres in neighborhood parklands). KAU Little League and Green Woods Swim Club comprise about 10 acres more of active recreation, though these facilities are private.

Using the above guidelines, Anson B. Nixon Park, as a community park, is overcapacity as to the maximum number of persons being served – as of 2013, it served around 50,000 people, twice the maximum recommended for a park of its size and classification. By 2025, the Township is expected to need roughly an extra 32 acres in active recreation. Although recreational facilities within existing parks in the Township continue to be upgraded, improved, and their capacities expanded, by 2025 there will still likely be a need for additional fields and other current active recreation facilities, as well as new/other types of active recreation facilities needed. The Township is well involved and interconnected with the larger Kennett area, this need for the Township, and possibly adjacent communities, could be potentially fulfilled via creation of a larger scale multi-municipal or regional park in the Township or Kennett Area. Investigating additional and different types of parkland options would provide a wider variety of recreational opportunities for Township residents.

When planning for active recreation facilities (e.g. sports fields, courts, or swimming pools), there are also suggested dimensions/ sizes for different types of recreational facilities. Table 12-5 provides a sampling of suggested NRPA design standards for the most common types of sports and outdoor recreation facilities.

Population demographics are not used when looking at passive recreation needs of residents. Typically, passive recreation focuses on protecting or conserving specific natural, historic, cultural, or locally significant features or landscapes, apart from of population size. Passive recreation is currently available in the Township at Anson B Nixon Park, Greenwood Elementary School, the Township Building Grounds, and TLC lands, as well as Longwood Gardens. This passive recreation is in the form of open lands, wildlife observation, community gardens, concert venues, picnic areas, covered pavilions, paths, and trails. These recreational lands also overlap with other types of resources, e.g. Red Clay Creek critical wildlife and plants habitats; historic structures at Anson B Nixon Park; meadow and wetlands at the Township Building Grounds; Bucktoe Creek Preserve protected endangered habitats; and wetlands at the Legacy Fields site, to name a few. Residents also benefit from protected open spaces in the Township, which include areas for public, limited public access, and private (fee or member-based) access via natural areas with picnicking and bird watching opportunities, walking paths, and hiking or cross-country skiing trails, as well as recreation/educational programming at certain sites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>METRIC</th>
<th>REGIONAL PARK</th>
<th>SUB-REGIONAL PARK</th>
<th>COMMUNITY PARK</th>
<th>NEIGHBORHOOD PARK</th>
<th>MINI PARK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SERVICE RADIUS</td>
<td>30 mi. (equal to 60 min. drive)</td>
<td>7.5 mi. (equal to 15 min. drive)</td>
<td>2.5 mi. (equal to 5 min. drive or 30 min. walk)</td>
<td>0.5 mi. (equal to 15 min. walk)</td>
<td>0.25 mi. (equal to 8 min. walk)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINIMUM ACREAGE</td>
<td>20 ac. per 1,000 people</td>
<td>8.5 ac. per 1,000 people</td>
<td>3.0 to 6.0 ac. per 1,000 people</td>
<td>2.5 to 3.5 ac. per 1,000 people</td>
<td>0.25 ac. per 1,000 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAXIMUM PERSONS*</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARK SIZE</td>
<td>1,000 ac.</td>
<td>400 to 999 ac.</td>
<td>20 to 399 ac.</td>
<td>0.5 to 19.9 ac.</td>
<td>0.01 to 0.49 ac.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Maximum Population is the largest recommended population for a given service area.
^ For a medium density classified community, such as Kennett Township, the acreage standard for a community park is 4.5 ac and the acreage standard for a neighborhood park is 3.5 ac.
What are 'Sidewalks', Trails', 'Paths', and 'Routes'?

Sidewalks, Trails, Paths, and Routes are forms of linear recreation facilities that provide passive recreation and allow pedestrian passage and access between home, work, parks, and other uses.

There is no universally recognized definition for trails and in common conversation the term is often used interchangeably with path or route. In this Chapter, sidewalks, trails, paths, and routes are discussed using definitions developed by Linking Landscapes and that are based on terminology used by PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR).

A ‘sidewalk’ generally known as a footpath, footway or pavement along the side of a road. A sidewalk may accommodate moderate changes in grade (height) and is normally separated from the vehicular section by a curb. There may also be a road verge (a strip of vegetation, grass or bushes or trees or a combination of these, referred to as an island in parts of the United States) either between the sidewalk and the roadway or between the sidewalk and the boundary.

A ‘trail’ generally is an off-road facility with a permanent alignment that is open to the general public; designed, constructed, and maintained as part of a public park system; and used for a variety of non-motorized forms of travel including walking, hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, or horseback riding.

A ‘path’ generally is a type of trail that has been designed, constructed, maintained, and used primarily for one form of travel. Thus, a ‘bike path’ is an off-road facility that has been designed to be used primarily by bicyclists. Although paths are designed to be used by only one mode of travel, they are often used by

### Table 12-5: NRPA Outdoor Recreational Facility Development Guidelines (Sampling)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>SIZE AND DIMENSIONS</th>
<th>AREA NEEDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BASKETBALL, YOUTH</td>
<td>46’ – 50’ x 84’</td>
<td>2,400 to 3,036 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASKETBALL, HS</td>
<td>50’ x 84’</td>
<td>5,040 to 7,280 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASEBALL, OFFICIAL</td>
<td>Baselines - 90’, Pitching distance - 60.5’, Foul lines - min. 320’, Center field - 400’+</td>
<td>3.0 to 3.85 ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASEBALL, LITTLE LEAGUE</td>
<td>Baselines - 60’, Pitching distance - 46’, Foul lines - 200’, Center field - 200’ to 250’</td>
<td>1.2 ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFTBALL</td>
<td>Baselines 60’, pitching distance 40’ (women) &amp; 45’ (men), fast pitch field radius from plate 225’, slow pitch field radius from plate 250’ (women) &amp; 275’ (men)</td>
<td>1.5 to 2.0 ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOTBALL</td>
<td>160’ x 360’ with min. 6’ clearance on all sides</td>
<td>1.5 ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCCER</td>
<td>195’ to 225’ x 330’ to 360’ with 10’ min. clearance on all sides</td>
<td>1.7 to 2.1 ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 MILE RUNNING TRACK</td>
<td>Overall width - 276’, length - 600’, track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32’</td>
<td>4.3 ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TENNIS</td>
<td>36’ x 78’ with 12 ft. clearance on both ends</td>
<td>7,200 sq. ft. single court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MULTIPLE USE COURT</td>
<td>120’ x 80’</td>
<td>9,840 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWIMMING POOL, TEACHING</td>
<td>Min 25 yards x 45’, even depth of 3-4 ft.</td>
<td>1 to 2 ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOLF- DRIVING RANGE</td>
<td>900’ x 690’ wide. Add 12’ width each additional tee</td>
<td>13.5 ac. for 25 tees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOLF, 9-HOLE</td>
<td>Average length 2,250 yards</td>
<td>50 ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOLF, 18-HOLE</td>
<td>Average length 6,500 yards</td>
<td>110 yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOLF, PAR 3, 18 HOLE</td>
<td>Average length varies – 600 – 2,700 yards</td>
<td>50 to 60 ac.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
other types of users. Limiting the use of a path to one type of user is difficult to enforce, and so path managers commonly rely on voluntary compliance by the users. Sidewalks could be considered as a walking form of paths.

A ‘route’ generally is a facility that utilizes the shoulders of paved streets or the motor vehicle travel lanes of roads generally with lower traffic volumes. Roadside routes are sometimes used to link trail segments that cannot be linked by an off-road corridor, and so should be considered in any trail network project.

Multi-use trails, bike paths and on-road bike routes are an important component to recreation as well as circulation. Depending on what the trail is designed for, trails can provide residents the opportunity to: bike, walk, jog/run, roller blade, or skateboard for recreation or as a non-vehicular mode of transportation. Trails provide important links in the open space, greenway, and circulation network.

**Trails and Pedestrian Network Inventory**

**Existing Trails and Pedestrian Network within the Township**

There is not an extensive pedestrian system in the Township. There are trails in various areas, largely associated with protected lands, and a few sidewalks in place associated with residential development. The Township is interested in establishing a more pedestrian-oriented network, starting with a trail system in the vicinity of east and west branches Red Clay Creek. Township policy going forward is to determine other areas suitable for/ could accommodate future pedestrian facilities for the purpose of creating an interconnected and publicly-accessible pedestrian network. The Township created a Trails and Sidewalks Committee to address this. Chapter 9 and Map 12-1 provide pedestrian improvement recommendations.

Publicly-accessible trails are found in southern parts of the Township, near the Township Building, west of the Borough in Pennock Park and along the west branch Red Clay Creek, and within Anson B Nixon Park. Trails in the southern parts of the Township are the Mason-Dixon Trail and many trails on TLC lands. Trails near the Township Building are the mowed meadow trail on the Township Building Grounds and in TLC’s New Leaf Eco Center. There are also private trails and paths in HOA communities that are for sole use by residents of those communities. The regional Mason-Dixon Trail is a more traditional type of hiking route passing in the vicinity of and denoting the Mason-Dixon Line. A section of the Red Clay Creek Greenway/trail along the west branch is in design and the Route 52/ Kennett Pike Bikeway is in construction. The Red Clay Creek Greenway concept was launched by TLC as a Livable Communities Project. It is envisioned to be a 13-mile trail connecting open spaces with existing trails, scenic road, access points, and other community assets, along east and west branch Red Clay Creek.

Sidewalks are speckled in residentially developed areas in northern parts of the Township. For example, public sidewalks are in Penns Manor and along Davenport Road, but have missing linkages to connect these residents to the proposed west branch Red Clay Creek trail and the Borough. Improvements along East Cypress Street, Yorktown Drive, and a short segment of McFarland Road would allow Victoria Gardens’ residents pedestrian access to services and businesses in the Borough. Sidewalks are also found in Hamorton and Kendal at Longwood, which could connect residents to future pedestrian improvements along Route 1 and the Route 52 bikeway. Currently, there is a significant missed opportunity for pedestrian connections within the Township to access the Borough sidewalk system and amenities/services for Township residents who do not drive and/or have access to a vehicle.

**Existing Nearby Pedestrian Facilities outside the Township**

Kennett Township residents have access to many publicly-accessible trails, and the Borough’s sidewalk system, within 7.5 miles or about a 15-minute drive from the Township.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 12-6: Sampling of Nearby and Regional Places with Public Trails or Sidewalks outside the Township, 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EAST MARLBOROUGH TOWNSHIP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposed Trails and Pedestrian Network Connections within and near the Township

Planning for a more interconnected pedestrian network, via trails, paths, or sidewalks, is a Township objective. To that end, there are a number of proposed trails within Kennett Township. They are largely located in the western part of the Township along the east and west branch Red Clay Creek, near the Borough and New Garden Township. There is also a trail potential along the rail line right-of-way, as more of a planning placeholder, in the highly unlikely event that East Penn Railroad would cease to exist during the timeframe of this Plan. Suggested pedestrian and bicycle connections are also recommended along Route 1 between Route 52/Kennett Pike Bikeway, Hamorton, and Longwood Gardens. A better connected trail network could be used by nearby Township residents to access shops, restaurants, and events nearby in the Borough without the need to use their cars to travel the relatively short distance. Designated routes and/or trails in the form of bicycle paths could also promote bicycle commuting to employment.

Within the larger area, Kennett Square Borough and its surrounds (including Kennett Township) are positioned as a natural central point, or a crossroads, for proposed trails. Trails proposed along east branch Red Clay Creek in Kennett Township link to the existing Red Clay Creek Trail in the Borough. There is a missing link needed to connect the east branch creek trails to the trails on the three preserves in the southern part of the Township and further south to the trails and parklands in DE (see map below).

The Red Clay Creek Greenway is a proposed (and partially completed) trail loop between the Township, Borough, and Auburn Park in New Castle County, generally following east and west branches of the Red Clay Creek (map, right). The Greenway initiative is being undertaken by Kennett Trails Alliance (KTA), with the purpose of Kennett area pedestrians being able to connect with their surroundings/landscapes and promoting health/wellness, safety, environmental awareness/impact, and a sense of community/connection. To provide further connection to the Borough sidewalk system, a link is also needed along West South Street in the Township; if completed this link would create a supplemental loop between both branches of the creek, the Township, and Borough, as well as connect to on-road bike routes in New Garden Township. KTA’s ultimate vision is for a network of trails throughout the Kennett area that are interconnected, safe, well-maintained, and consistently built as well as which connect to larger regional trails and amenities, e.g. Kennett Bikeway or Brandywine Greenway.

New Garden Township has a proposed network of mostly on-road bike routes that link into Kennett Township in several locations. They connect along State and Cypress Streets, in the form of on-road bike routes, which link Kennett Township and the Borough with New Garden Shopping Center and west to Avondale. New Garden’s on-road bike route also connects to trails along west branch Red Clay Creek in Kennett Township by way of Scarlett Road. Additionally, a multi-use trail

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**Proposed Trails and Pedestrian Network Connections within and near the Township**

**Kennett Township**
- Red Clay Creek Trail along east branch
- New Garden Twp Park
- Former Phelps property/ Laurel Woods
- Mill Race Preserve
- Hartfeld
- Candlewyck
- Myrick Nature Center
- ChesLen Preserve
- Laurels Preserve
- Brandywine Trail along west side of Brandywine Creek
- Mason-Dixon Trail
- Brandywine Creek State Park (connects south to trails in Wilmington)
- Woodlawn/1st State National Monument
- Flint Woods Nature Preserve
- Valley Garden Park trail/Hobbs trail
- Auburn Heights State Park/Bi-State Preserve
- Mill Creek Greenway
- DeCastle Recreation Area Loop
- Carousel Park Equestrian Center
- Paper Mill Park
- Middle Run Valley Nature Area
- Ashland Nature Center
- White Clay Creek Preserve (also in London Britain Twp, PA)

**New Garden Township**
- Extensive sidewalk network
- Myrick Nature Center
- Pocopson Twp Park
- County Facilities Campus
- Mill Race Preserve
- Hartfeld
- Candlewyck
- ChesLen Preserve
- Laurels Preserve
- Brandywine Trail along west side of Brandywine Creek
- Mason-Dixon Trail
- Brandywine Creek State Park (connects south to trails in Wilmington)
- Woodlawn/1st State National Monument
- Flint Woods Nature Preserve
- Valley Garden Park trail/Hobbs trail
- Auburn Heights State Park/Bi-State Preserve
- Mill Creek Greenway
- DeCastle Recreation Area Loop
- Carousel Park Equestrian Center
- Paper Mill Park
- Middle Run Valley Nature Area
- Ashland Nature Center
- White Clay Creek Preserve (also in London Britain Twp, PA)
proposed in New Garden south of West Hillendale Road and an on-road bike route on Bucktoe Road connect to in design and proposed west branch Red Clay Creek trails in Kennett Township.

**East Marlborough Township** is focusing its trail planning on the Unionville Road corridor, which would link the New Unionville Park with Unionville High School, Anson B. Nixon Park, and Kennett Square Borough. As well, with the planned widening of Route 1 in East Marlborough Township, there may be a possibility for pedestrian connections on Route 1 to occur. Kennett Township has identified ‘Regional Recreation Corridors’ as conceptual planning areas and prime locations for multi-municipal trails. The Township is crossed by the Red Clay-Pocopson Corridor, which generally follows along the Red Clay Creek and promotes north-south connections between Unionville, Kennett Square Borough, and New Castle County via Kennett Township. The Township is also bordered by the DE Arc Corridor, which follow the shared PA-DE state border and promotes east-west connectivity linking Brandywine-Struble Corridor with White Clay Creek Preserve and other rural destinations to the west. More recently, CCPC also developed ‘Heritage Loops’ which are conceptual linear pedestrian-oriented corridors that are well suited to link natural, historic, and cultural resources. The Township and Borough would be major destinations for a possible Quaker-oriented Heritage Loop, which could be renamed per the Township’s suggestion to ‘Manor of Steyning Loop’, due to the area’s significant ongoing roots of Quaker settlement and as a farming community as well of the Underground Railroad.

**Evaluating Trail and Pedestrian Network Needs**

The critical need for trails and pedestrian connections for circulation and recreation is usually based on how well and readily they can link a population center (e.g. higher density developments in the northern part of the Township) with a destination (e.g. Anson B. Nixon Park and Kennett Square Borough). In the Township, a need for pedestrian linkages has been identified, particularly in the vicinity of the Borough.
along East Cypress Street commercial corridor and to McFarlan Road medical center, and along West State and Cypress Streets to New Garden Shopping Center.

In the Township, as part of the Brandywine Creek Greenway Concept Plan, there has been identified a need for a trail along Brandywine Creek, with a conceptual link extending west in the vicinity of Rosedale Road to Kennett Square Borough via Kennett Township, as well as along the Mason-Dixon Trail. A trail would increase recreation opportunities, provide improved access, and improve links. It is an extensive undertaking that would need to be implemented in stages.

**Trail Planning and Funding Considerations**

**PA MPC**, Sections 303(a)(3), 401(a)(3), 503.3, 603(b)(2), and 604.(1), empowers municipalities to address trail and path planning via regulatory measures. Relatively speaking, pedestrian network planning is a newer planning issue in the County and accordingly many municipal ordinances do not contain standards that readily facilitate trails/path creation.

**Chester County Trail Planning Guide**, Trail & Path Planning, is a manual for communities on methods to address trail and path planning via municipal policies and regulations. Public involvement is always a key element in proper and successful public trail planning.


**Public safety concerns**, e.g. crime, hazards, accidents, and emergency vehicle access, are other important aspects of trail planning to consider. In undertaking trail planning, fundamental principles underlying properly functioning and safe public trails and paths are that they be appropriately and adequately designed, maintained, policed.

**Local Trail Groups**, e.g. Kennett Trails Alliance and Friends of the New Garden Trails, should be included in trail planning in order to better understand user densities and needs as well as to help promote trails.

**PennDOT’s Policies and Procedures** for Transportation Impact Studies Related to Highway Occupancy Permits (2009) address trails and pedestrian facilities. As such, it mandates that land developers who complete a Transportation Impact Study address pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access and facilities.

**Recreation Programs and Administration**

Until relatively recently, municipal recreation planning mostly focused on acquisition and construction of parks and recreation facilities. Coordination of recreational events or programming has now emerged as a key role of municipalities in recreation planning, and is a necessary municipal role to ensure such events/programs reflect community needs and desires. Increasingly, communities are employing a wide range of civic events (e.g. parades, concerts, festivals) as a form of cultural recreation and a way to build a sense of community. Due to its relatively rural character, the Township does not directly provide recreational programming, however does advise on, participate in, and contribute to recreational issues, administration, and programs. Recreation programming, via entities outside of Kennett Township government, and recreation administration (e.g. issues of maintenance and funding) are addressed here.

**Recreational Programs**

The Township does not have a formal municipal recreation program; rather it participates in recreational programming at a regional level and serves on KAPRB (recreational programming) and KAPA (Anson B
The Township also works cooperatively with other recreation-oriented organizations within the region that provide programs and events to Township residents.

**Sports Programs/Events**

Kennett Area Parks and Recreation Board (KAPRB), a community based non-profit that receives financial support from the Township, Borough, East Marlborough, and New Garden, is the primary group that promotes and organizes recreational (mostly sport through also some non-sport) activities in the Kennett area. A sampling of sports programs and events are as follows:

There are many active recreation events at Anson B. Nixon Park. The Park hosts tennis events (organized by the Friends of Tennis) and Frisbee golf tournaments (organized by Kennett Disc Golf Club). It contains a youth-sized basketball court for youth-related, but not league, events. Its soccer fields, previously managed by the YMCA, have a long-term lease to SCCSA that organizes soccer games/events. The annual Kennett Run is the largest park event and attracts up to 25,000 people. The Parks also hosts KAPRB Kid’s Cross Country run for children ages 14 and under and the Mushroom Festival’s 5K run for people of all ages. There is also an annual Trout Rodeo organized with the Red Clay Creek Association.

**Soccer Shots** (previously KAPRB Kindergarten Kickers) is for boys and girls ages 3 to 8 years and is held at Greenwood Elementary School in the winter and spring.

**Jr. Basketball League** is for 3rd to 10th graders and has over 280 participates in the program each year. Games are played at Kennett High School, Middle School, and Greenwood Elementary School. Practices are held at three KCSD elementary schools.

**KAPRB Blue Demons** is a youth lacrosse program for boys and girls residing in the KCSD as well as neighboring DE communities. Games and practices are held at Kennett High School and other nearby schools (Greenwood Elementary, Unionville Patterson Elementary, Upland Country Day School).

**Co-Ed Adult Softball League** and **Sam Tavoni Men’s Softball League** are for adults ages 18 to 60, with games and practices at Pennock Fields. Together both leagues fielded a total of 16 teams.

**Men’s Fall and Spring Flag Football** is for men ages 35 years+, with games played at local fields.

**Kennett Wrestling Summer Day Camp** for 2nd through 9th graders is a week long summer program held at Kennett Middle School.

**KCSD Athletics** programs are extensive for students of the school district. Kennett High and Middle School campuses have extensive playing fields and courts for school programs; the track and tennis courts at the High School are available to the public and other facilities made be available upon application to KCSD. Likewise, the playgrounds, courts, fields, and trail at both elementary schools are not open to the general public. However, these facilities are rented by local sports leagues and YMCA teams and programs.

**Traditional Outdoor Recreation**

Hunting and fishing have traditionally been common recreation activities in the Kennett area. These activities have typically taken place on private property with permission of landowners. The focus for fishing is Brandywine Creek and Anson B Nixon Park’s stocked ponds. Hunting generally occurs on forested and agricultural lands. The Township has an active deer management program, which was a pioneer of such programming and has been held as a model for other Chester County communities. Overpopulation of deer in the area continues to be a concern in the Township as well as for the PA Game Commission, including concerns about property damage to natural landscapes, vehicular accidents, and high incidences of Lyme disease. The Township’s long term goal is to continue to support interaction between property owners and hunters in accessing available lands to manage deer overpopulation issues. To this end, many landowners have worked cooperatively with one another to allow hunters access between and through their adjacent properties, which has helped significantly increase deer management/deer population reduction. As well, PA Game Commission has increased antlerless deer permits for the area, and provides support programs for agricultural property owners, extended dates for deer hunting season, increased fines for illegal poaching, and encourages cooperation between
landowners and hunters. In 2012, the Township participated in a forum sponsored by TLC where PA Game Commission programs were discussed.

Non-Sports and Cultural Programming/Events

Community events, including walking tours and festivals, are an important type of recreation and occur throughout the region. Not every individual municipality holds such events and often instead events are organized and run by volunteer consortiums or non-profits with the cooperation of municipalities and local businesses. There are a number of events in the region, largely focused in Anson B Nixon Park and the Borough business district, a sampling of which follows:

Anson B. Nixon Park cultural events include the Summer Concert Series, stargazing walks, community gardening, Brandywine Folk Festival, and the La Comunidad Hispana family health festival.

Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC) holds year-round environmental, history, and ecology educational programs and events (e.g. African-American Civil War soldier memorial events, guided nature and history hikes, multi-recreational use coordination meetings, winter solstice celebration, and after school children's nature activities) at their owned and managed preserves and Eco Center.

KAPRB Summer Camp Program is a day camp held at a local elementary school for Kennett Area children ages 5 to 13 years and includes arts and crafts, field trips, game days, educational, and athletic programs.

Kennett Area YMCA Summer Camp for children ages 3 to 17 years is held at several locations in the Borough and provides full and half-day camp options. It features traditional Camp Lenni Lenape, full-day sports camps, specialty camps (e.g. art, science, and snorkeling), adventure camps (e.g. alpine tower climbing and skateboarding), full-day Montessori preschool camp, full-day and half-day preschool camp, traveling teen camp, extended mornings and evenings for day camp, as well as Leader-In-Training and Counselor-in-Training Camps and opportunities for junior counselors.

Kennett Area YMCA Community Activities include family events (e.g. movie nights) and holiday themed events (e.g. Halloween parties, making Thanksgiving baskets and holiday gifts for those in need). The YMCA hosts arts and humanities classes (e.g. Spanish, youth finance, dance, theater), and offers youth development classes and Saturday Night Lights Program’s safe activities for children ages 4 to 12.

Boy Scout Troop 24 has met at the Kennett Square Presbyterian Church since 1945 and has about 40 Scouts representing a range of ages and ranks. The Boy Scouts Administration Building is located on Ways Lane in Kennett Township. Brandywine Valley Girls Scout Service Unit serves the Kennett and Unionville-Chadds Ford School districts.

Garage Community & Youth Center, a non-profit youth center located in a former garage in the Borough's downtown, is a non-denominational faith-based organization. It expanded to a second location in West Grove. It serves middle and high school students and as of 2014 served more than 400 students per week for tutoring, mentoring, computer lab use, youth groups, and activities organized by partner groups.

Kennett Public (formerly Bayard Taylor Memorial) Library hosts extensive programming including partnering with local groups focused on underserved Latino immigrant communities and migrant workers. Programming for children includes Children's Summer Incentive Reading Program, Science in the Summer, Summer Wednesday Children's Crafts, Lego Club, and Geography Club. Adult and family activities include the Adult Literacy Program, Thursday Book Club for Adults, Family Movie Nights, Local Author Presentations, and Special Speakers and Performers.

Kennett Symphony of Chester County performs six concerts each year in various places in Chester County, including children’s concerts with ‘a meet and greet’ musicians and an instrument zoo where children can play orchestra instruments. The Symphony has community outreach programs that include annual instrumental and vocal performance competitions for young artists, a Symphony Children’s Chorus comprising nearly 100 student vocalists ages 6 to 18 years, free family concerts, and working with Art-Reach to provide free concert tickets to local community organizations that reach underserved populations. The Symphony holds a few annual fundraising events including a fashion show.
Kennett Area Senior Center provides a variety of recreational programs for seniors such as dancing, movies, music programs, classes, and health related programs and fundraisers.

Longwood Gardens with its 1000+ acres of renowned and ever changing gardens, plus various concerts series, classes, lectures, and holiday themed events, as well as large conservatory, many historic buildings, and the like, provides a venue that attracts and brings to the area many visitors from throughout the nation and world. As of 2014, Longwood attracts over 1 million visitors annually.

Mushroom Festival occurs annually over three days in late summer. Streets in the Borough’s business district are closed to vehicular traffic and turned into recreational space. In 2010, the festival attracted ~100,000 people and ~200 vendors. Grants are generated from Festival proceeds, which in 2009 provided $70,000 to local non-profits. Festival ‘staff’ includes 300 volunteers plus support from local businesses, many mushroom-related. Mushroom Festival Inc., a non-profit organization, operates the festival.

Historic Kennett Square Events include a number of indoor and outdoor activities that are organized by the non-profit organization Historic Kennett Square, Inc. Kennett Square Farmers Market and Kennett Brewfest are two examples of events.

Cinco De Mayo Festival is held in the Borough each May to celebrate Mexican Independence Day. Since 2006, it has been organized by Casa Guanajuato, an organization founded in 2003 that promotes Mexican culture and traditions via educational programs; it is one of 53 similar organizations across the U.S. Its members are Mexican immigrants, and it receives support from the government of the State of Guanajuato in Mexico.

Recreational Administration

The Township has no formal recreation staff, but it does support recreational staffing and administration of KAPA, KAPRB, and other groups.

Organizations

Established by the Township and Borough as a joint municipal authority in 1988, Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA) owns, manages, maintains, and continuously works to develop/upgrade Anson B. Nixon Park. KAPA does not conduct recreational programs and has minimal staffing, heavily relying on its many volunteers to undertake projects. KAPA’s Board is made up of nine members from the Township and Borough, with a minimum of four members representing either municipality. Members are recommended by the KAPA Board as a whole and approved by both municipalities for a specific term. The Board meets monthly in the Township Building. KAPA’s typical budget is around $120,000, and revenues usually meet the expenditures. The Township and Borough provides funding plus in-kind services, with other revenues from facility rental fees and the leased land for the cell tower in the Township portion of the Park.

Kennett Area Park and Recreation Board (KAPRB) is managed by a Board of up to 16 members. As of 2014, there are 13 board members and a Recreational Coordinator. KAPRB promotes, encourages, and supervises recreational activities and programs in the Township and Borough, as well as in East Marlborough and New Garden. KAPRB receives funding from all four municipalities. KAPRB’s typical annual budget is between $160,000 and $195,000 and revenues generally meet expenditures, taking into account an included $20,000 emergency fund. KAPRB’s programs include: a Jr. Basketball league; Men's Softball leagues; Co-Ed Adult Softball Leagues, a Summer Camp Program, Boys and Girls Lacrosse, soccer clinics, Men's Fall and Spring Flag Football, a Spring High School Basketball league, Summer Sports Camps, the Mushroom Festival 5K, and a Summer Cross Country Race.

Kennett Area YMCA is a regional branch of the greater YMCA of the Brandywine Valley, which also includes YMCAs in West Chester, Coatesville, and Jennersville, as well as a Youth Center in West Chester. Kennett YMCA serves over 12,000 members and offers a wide variety of sport and non-sport recreational facilities and programming. It is a heavily used facility that recently completed a facility expansion and upgrades as well as additional programming to accommodate the growing demand for its services.
Kennett Consolidated School District (KCSD) offers and administers a full array of athletic and sports programs as well as non-sports recreational and enrichments programs for students in the district.

Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC) is a non-profit land trust that owns, operates, and/or manages land preserves as places of land conservation, historic preservation, land stewardship, and related public education and outreach.

**Leagues**

Kennett Avondale Unionville (KAU) Little League plays at their fields located in and directly west of Anson B. Nixon Park. KAU is open to boys and girls from Kennett and Unionville School districts. Each year, more than 500 children participate on 40+ KAU baseball, t-ball, and softball teams.

Kennett-Unionville Titan Youth Football League teams are part of the larger Bert Bell Memorial (traveling) League. Titan League teams play home games at Kennett High School Stadium and away games at locations usually within one hour’s drive. The Titans have programs for flag football, cheerleading, and tackle football for ages 7 to 15 years.

Kennett Friends of Tennis (FOT) is a non-profit organization providing Kennett area boys and girls ages 6 to 14 years an opportunity to participate in both tennis instruction and team play. In 2011, FOT offered spring and fall weekend sessions, and a weekly summer camp. FOT also participates in after-school programs and summer park-related activities. They host evening adult ‘round robins’ at Anson B. Nixon Park tennis courts.

Southern Chester County Soccer Association (SCCSA) provides recreational soccer played at Anson B Nixon Park, Leto Field, KCSD fields and other locations usually within a 30 minute drive.

**Maintenance**

The Township contributes funding support as well as in-kind assistance to the local parks and recreation facilities and programs. Other than the Township Building Grounds, the Township does not have direct management or maintenance responsibilities over recreational areas.

Pennock Fields Park is located in the Township, but is owned by the Borough and managed by KAPRB. Anson B. Nixon Park is owned and managed by KAPA. KAPRB and KAPA have limited maintenance equipment, thus the Township and Borough help undertake routine park maintenance using their Public Work personnel and equipment. Security for the Anson B. Nixon Park is mainly through the Borough Police. KAPA maintains liability and other insurance equivalent to that required for a municipal authority. Emergency and ambulance services for both parks are provided via the County 911 system, and park trails and roadways are accessible by emergency vehicles.

**Liability**

As the Township may have more direct responsibility related to recreation in the future, an important law for the Township to be aware of is PA Recreation Use of Land and Water Act (RULWA) of 2003. This Act limits the legal liability of private landowners who make their land available to the public without charge for recreation (e.g. for hiking, fishing, or trail cycling), with the goal of making it easier for people to open their private lands for public recreation uses. Under the Act, a land owner “owes no duty of care to keep the premises safe for entry or use by others for recreational purposes, or to give any warning of a dangerous condition, use, structure, or activity on such premises to persons entering for such purposes.” The Act indicates that a landowner who does not charge an entrance fee and who maintains their land using safe, conventional management practices may not be held liable by any person who has an accident while using the land for recreation.
Planning and Protection Efforts

Township Recreation Policies

There are existing Township recreation- and trail-related policies in place in the 2004 Township Comprehensive Plan, as follows:

**Community Facilities and Services Objective** – Evaluate the need for current and future recreational land, facilities, and programs. Coordinate with local and regional recreational organizations to meet recreational needs. Facilitate the implementation of a local and regional trail system and protect existing trails when new developments are proposed. Coordinate these efforts with the creation of the greenway system and open space network.

**Transportation and Circulation Objective** – Plan for alternative transportation needs in the Township including pedestrian and bike paths, and connect these routes with major centers of activity and recreation.

Current Recreation Standards Summary

**General Township Code**

§ 7-5 *Kennett Area Park Authority* is established and authorized to undertake acquisition, improvement, development, financing and endowment of what is now known as Anson B Nixon Park.

§ 192-3 *Terms* establishes definition for Community Activity (public or private nonprofit organization activity/event for recreation/education/cultural/civic purposes that may be attended by 200+ people).

§ 197-1 *Terms* establishes definition for Athletic Event (organized competitive or recreational event).

**Zoning Ordinance (ZO) of 2006, as codified 7-2012 (Township Code Ch. 240)**

§ 240-201 *Terms* establishes definitions for Active Recreation (activities that are rigorously athletic and not quiet and have a noticeable impact on their surroundings); Passive Recreation (activities that are usually quiet, not rigorously athletic, and have a low impact on their environment); Indoor And Outdoor Recreation Area (use and facilities for sports and leisure time activities), Community Center (building/related outdoor areas used for noncommercial social, recreation and meeting activities); Country Club (club with a building/ facilities/ specified types of services for members); Cemetery (burial park)

§ 240-1001 C *Commercial District* permits Recreation area (outdoors) or recreational facility (indoors) by Conditional Use.

§ 240-1101 SA *Specialized Agricultural District* permits Recreation area (outdoors) by Conditional Use.

§ 240-1201 LI *Limited Industrial District* permits Recreation area (outdoors) or recreational facility (indoors) by Conditional Use.

§ 240-1301 BP *Business Park District* permits Recreation area (outdoors) or recreational facility (indoors) by Conditional Use.

§ 240-1400 Planned Residential Development permits accessory recreation facilities as Uses By-Right solely for the use of PRD residents. Requires a minimum of 20% of the area designated for open space have environmental characteristics making the area suitable for supporting active recreation.

§ 240-1604 Special Requirements for Flood Prone Areas permits public and private recreational uses within the Floodway District.

§ 240-1700 Open Space Design Development Option design standards allow limited disturbance of open space for purposes of trails and passive recreation facilities. Uses permitted in open space include passive
parks, outdoor recreation areas (not golf courses), and neighborhood open space uses e.g. village greens, commons, picnic areas, community gardens, trails, and similar low-impact passive recreational uses. Permits stormwater management facilities to be part of open space if, when not storing water run-off, they can provide for active or passive recreation and are scenic. Historic transport traces, paths and trails are to be preserved as part of historic resources/landscapes conservations.

§ 240-1900 Supplemental Uses address recreation as accessory to primary educational, hotel, retirement community, and residential uses. Specifically, Retirement Community requires a minimum of 40% of total tract area in common open space to be used solely for recreation or remain in its natural state. Recreation area (outdoor) and recreation facility (indoor) requires a minimum lot size of 4-ac, specific setbacks and screening for active outdoor recreational areas, lighting standards, and seasonal or permanent rest rooms.

§ 240-2003 Nonresidential off-street parking standards require parking spaces for various recreation uses.

§ 240-2017 Design of Formal Open Space requires proposed formal open space (greens, commons, squares, parks) for multi-family development in R-4 and V-1 districts and for open space design development meet certain design criteria, e.g. serve a variety of outdoor leisure and assembly needs of residents, enhance the development, and planted with shade trees at least every 40’ along the perimeter.

§ 240-2202 Mobile Home Park standards require 30% minimum total tract area is for open space with at least 25% as useable for active recreation and not in flood prone areas.

§ 240-2509 Conditional Use Process evaluates whether the proposed use is compatible with current or a logical extension of public services/utilities, e.g. open space, recreation, and takes into account § 240-1700.

Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SLDO) of 2008, as codified 7-2012 (Township Code Ch. 206)

§ 206-204 Terms establishes definitions for Trail (linear route for non-motorized recreation or transportation), Path (trail designed primarily for one form of travel, e.g. bike path).

§ 206-403 Preliminary Plans require open lands including recreational lands are identified for multi-family or any other proposal that includes preserved open space; and that historic resources, including transportation traces (trails and abandoned roads) are depicted as part of the natural/cultural resources site analysis plan.

§ 206-405 Local Traffic Impact Study analyzes pedestrian traffic based on a site's proximity to trails and other amenities, e.g. places of employment, recreation, or commercial uses, and requires description of improvements to facilitate pedestrian circulation in light of other traffic and circulation issues.

§ 206-405 Recreation Impact Study analyzes active and passive recreation demands/needs that proposed developments will generate to determine whether adequate facilities exist or are planned.

§ 206-503 Sidewalks, Trails, and Paths are to be kept and maintained, if already existing on-site, as necessary and desirable, and may be relocated to better serve interconnectivity within other sites. To facilitate pedestrian circulation on-site and link to other sites/trail networks, new pedestrian paths may be required. Trail design/construction/material are to be suitable for the trail’s function/volume. Long-term maintenance plan including the means by which the trail or path will be permanently preserved is required.

§ 206-513 Community Facilities and Easements requires developments provide recreation/parkland or fee-in-lieu thereof. Specifically, an applicant is to provide suitable land for parks/playgrounds/recreational facilities with consideration of preserving natural features and historic areas in their design and a long-term management plan is required. However, when recreation for the development is better suited off-site, a fee-in-lieu of on-site recreation may be paid by the applicant.

§ 206-611 Recreation facilities; fee in lieu thereof allows with agreement of the applicant, the Township may require construction of recreational facilities, payment of fees-in-lieu thereof, private reservation of lands, or a combination of the above for purposes of park/recreation needs related to new developments. Includes standards, e.g. proportion of development lands to be for recreation, amount of fees to be paid in lieu of setting aside development lands for recreation, lands/fees/combination thereof to be used to provide recreation accessible to the development in question, fees to be repaid if not used for specified purposes within three years of date paid.
§ 206-801 Mobile Homes Includes recreation and open space standards e.g. locate near residential areas, preserve natural resources, have active recreation areas and lands left in their natural state.

**Official Map (OM)**

Township Code Chapter 153 defines public grounds (parks, playgrounds, and other public areas) and provides for recreation and open space needs of the community, among other planning items.

**Recommendations**

**Recreation Studies**

12-1  **Conduct a Township-wide recreation study to identify recreational needs and how they can be addressed.**

The Township should consider conducting a study to identify recreational demands and needs of Township residents, as well as business ‘residents’. This could involve a survey (mailed and/or available on the Township website and social media), meetings with stakeholders, and public informational work sessions. Hiring a recreation consultant to analyze needs and how to best accommodate those needs may be necessary. As the Township does not have a recreation-related commission or committee, working in coordination with regional entities that partake in recreation, including KAPRB, KAPA, or other entities, would more effectively help to achieve this recommendation. The recreation study should identify particular types of active and passive recreation desired and potential feasible locations for these activities. Traffic, safety, noise, and amount of land and types of facilities required are also all related considerations that should be taken into account for the location of recreation uses in the Township. As an initial step in this process, the Township should look at information gained from recreation impact studies that have been completed as part of SLDO requirements.

12-2  **Study and develop a Township approach for identifying and prioritizing suitable locations for future potential sidewalks, trails, parklands, and pedestrian facilities.**

Recreation and trail planning have been an ongoing interest and policy of the Township. Since at least the 1990s when the Township Open Space, Recreational and Environmental Resources Plan was developed, Kennett Township has espoused a policy of encouraging trails, path, sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities within the Township. At this juncture, the Township needs to develop a more systematic approach on how to achieve this policy. To this end, in 2014, the Township created a Trails and Sidewalks Committee and retained a Landscape Architect/Land Planner to assist in developing a trail and pedestrian network concept; this includes looking at the feasibility of possible sidewalk and trail locations and connections, and working to put in place a systematic approach for the Township to determine future suitable trail linkages and locations. KTPC could work with the Township Safety Committee, Township staff, and land trusts that hold conservation easements on lands within the Township to discuss identifying an approach. The possibly for the Township to hold potential trail easements, and other available mechanisms, to secure future trails should be considered as part of this overall discussion. How to address approaching trail connectivity on a regional level via KARPC should also be an element considered. The Township Official Map and Ordinance should be revised to reflect desired locations for future trails.

Developing a Township system could also include an approach for identifying parcels for their potential for future parklands. The Township could identify those parcels that have the greatest
potential for future parklands for active and passive recreation, e.g., parcels that are relatively flat in topography, not prime ecological or wildlife habitat areas, or have little historic value would be better candidates for active recreation facilities. Whereas, parcels that contain varied topography, ecological and wildlife habitat, and historic resources would be good candidates for more passive recreation-oriented activities. The Township EAC could be the primary facilitator of a parcel inventorying effort in conjunction with the resources information and mapping efforts the EAC undertakes. Once parcels have been identified, a strategy should be developed to prioritize them and to work with property owners regarding their true potential as future parkland.

**12-3 Evaluate the cost of development in relation to the cost of purchasing lands for recreation when considering the purchase and funding of open space.**

Planning studies, such as the well-used DVRPC Return on Environment - The Economic Value of Protected Open Space in Southeastern PA (http://www.dvrpc.org/openspace/value), have looked at long term municipal expenditures for residential development failing to ‘pay for itself’. This is looked at in terms of the higher costs of residential facility/services needs as being disproportionate to the lower amount of tax revenue it generates. This has been considered in relation to open space as a land use and to help validate the acquisition of lands for open space, in that open space ‘pays for itself’ in the long term both financially (by needing few services) and due to its environmental benefits. The Township should continue to evaluate these studies and consider how they may be useful to the Township strategy for protecting open space. The potential for passing an open space referendum to fund open space preservation is one opportunity that may benefit from the positive justification these studies offer.

**12-4 Consult Linking Landscapes and Chester County Trail and Path Planning Guide as references for additional recreation and trail planning information.**

**Parklands and Recreation Facilities**

**12-5 Continue to support development and management of Anson B. Nixon Park, and coordinate with KAPA and Kennett Square Borough to evaluate its use, capacity, and need for additional active recreation facilities as well as its possible future physical and/or facilities expansion.**

The Township actively supports Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA) and continued improvement of Anson B. Nixon Park. The Township participated with funding and development of additional lands for fields in the northern portion of the park located within the Township. The Township should continue to promote further additions of land to the park on adjacent parcels within the Township as well as in East Marlborough Township and contribute to its continued development and improvement through assisting with acquiring grants and other funding. The Township should work through KARPC on park development, due to the potential for greater and additional funding that may be available to a larger regionally-oriented planning group. Enlargement of parklands, and development of additional facilities, particular for active recreation, should be a communicated priority of the Township in working with KAPA.

There is a projected need for additional active recreation in the Township. Anson B. Nixon provides the majority of active recreation facilities for residents. Based on recreational guidelines in Linking Landscapes, Anson B Nixon Park serves twice the maximum recommended persons for a park of its size and classification. Even though recreational facilities continue to be upgraded, improved, and their capacities expanded, by 2020 the Township is expected to still need additional active recreation lands. As the Township is well involved and interconnected with the larger Kennett Region, this need in the Township, as well as in adjacent communities, could potentially be fulfilled via creation of a larger scale multi-municipal or regional park in the Township or Kennett Area. The Township should
coordinate with KAPA, KAPRB, and the Borough in considering needs, types, and how to accommodate additional future active recreation needs and facilities.

12-6 **Consider including passive parklands and trails on Township-owned lands.**

The Township acquired two parcels via purchased development rights transactions and could consider having passive parkland and trails on these parcels as a way to promote and the creation of additional pedestrian linkages in the Township, as well as to provide additional passive recreation opportunities. This is already being done on the Township building grounds via a mowed meadow trail. The Township maintenance facility land and adjacent Township-owned land are not suitable for parkland at this time, though hold potential to have trails and pedestrian paths that connect to and form part of a pedestrian network in the Township. These areas should be evaluated for the potential for recreation to increase the distribution of parklands within the Township. Being Township parcels, they present a more immediate opportunity to broaden the amount and location of parklands and trails for residents.

12-7 **Pursue the acquisition of land for future parks.**

The Township could pursue acquiring land for future parks for both active and passive recreation, which have been identified using the prioritization process recommended in Action 12-2. Acquisition could be accomplished via fee-simple land purchase by the Township, coordination with land trusts on fee-simple purchase or easement of land for parks, coordination with KARPC on future multi-municipal parks in the Township or region, or via communication with Chester County through KARPC on the potential for a future County Park within the Region.

Parkland dedication negotiated as a part of an open space design development or other type of development is an additional method for gaining parklands. The Township can inform developers of potential parcels for parkland (identified as a part of the prioritization process), so that negotiations may begin early in the subdivision process. The Township should consider adding top priorities for potential parkland and trails to the Township Official Map. The Township could require dedication of parklands, trails, and the location of open space in new development that are adjacent to like lands established in prior developments.

It is anticipated that any future parklands in the Township would be patrolled by Township police, possibly supplemented by Borough Police via contract. Due to the suburban-rural nature and relatively low overall density of the Township, additional parks in the Township would likely be lower maintenance with fewer facilities. The Township should consider parking standards for parks that require appropriate facilities, including shared parking between uses, while allowing less maintenance and incorporating permeable paving, such as gravel.

12-8 **Encourage public accessibility to current and future quasi-public open space areas.**

Quasi-public areas that have limited public access, e.g. Greenwood Elementary School grounds, are not included in the above evaluation of potential future recreational needs for residents (Acts 12-1 and 12-2). However, the Township should encourage quasi-public areas to continue to be available to the public for passive and active recreational purposes, as appropriate, and should open and continue dialogue with entities that own and manage such areas. As one example, the Township should work with New Garden Township and Kennett Square Borough to continue communications with KCSO on the availability and use of school grounds for residents when they are not being used for official school purposes. As well as another example, the Township should communicate with KAU Little League and KAPRB to investigate the potential use of KAU ball fields and Pennock fields by Township residents when the facilities are not in use by either organization. These and other areas in the Township could yield additional opportunities for recreational opportunities for residents.
Sidewalk, Trails and Pedestrian Connectivity

12-9 Plan a sidewalk and trail network to provide recreational facilities for residents. Identify potential trail corridors throughout the Township for passive recreation and access between residential areas and business, service, education, open space, and recreation uses.

The Township should continue to identify and map existing and potential sidewalk and trails within and adjacent to the Township to maximize connectivity and coordination. The Trails and Sidewalks Committee has begun to spearhead this effort and should coordinate this effort with the approach in Action 12-2. Linking Landscapes recommends that all pedestrian links within at least one mile of the Township border are also taken into account in order to develop multi-municipal coordinated pedestrian linkages. Chester County Trail Planning Guide, *Trail and Path Planning*, should also be consulted for further information on municipal sidewalk and trail planning. In particular, the Township should coordinate with the Kennett Square Borough sidewalk, trail/greenway network and with New Garden Township’s planned network. An important element to take into account is a balance between public access, security, and safety.

Additionally, the Township should consider bicycle paths and routes, both for recreational purposes and as an alternative means for travel throughout the Township. The Township’s scenic roads analysis (Chapter 6) along with Chester County Planning Commission’s Bike-ability Network (Chapter 9) should be considered. Additional signage (e.g. ‘share the road’ or ‘reduced speed’ signs) may be appropriate along with possibly improved shoulders to accommodate bike safety on priority roads. Coordination with New Castle County on bike routes as well as trails between Kennett Township and DE will maximize the potential of network connectivity.

As well, as part of Brandywine Creek Greenway Concept Plan implementation, the Township would like to pursue a future connection between nearby Greenway Concept Plan proposed trails and the Kennett Pike Bikeway. TLC has made great strides in developing public trails on TLC and associated preserved open space lands.

12-10 Continue to pursue trail development along east and west branch Red Clay Creek.

Development of a trail system along east branch Red Clay Creek has occurred within Anson B. Nixon Park (with trails in both the Township and Borough) and via Red Clay Creek Trail in the Borough. This coordinates with and implements Linking Landscapes conceptual ‘Red Clay-Pocopson Regional Recreation Corridor’ along the east branch, which would link to other corridors to form a southeastern County trail loop. The Township should continue to evaluate the potential for east branch trails to continue north of the Park, possibly connecting to the paths through St. Patrick and Union Hill Cemeteries, and south of the Borough, via a potential Legacy Fields walking path. The Township would need to work with both cemeteries and the School District to make this concept a reality, and should take the first steps of contacting these parties to begin conceptual discussions.

Planning and development of a trail system along the west branch Red Clay Creek is also underway. Red Clay Creek Greenway trail, spearheaded by TLC along a portion of west branch Red Clay Creek and Bucktoe/Agnew Run, is in design, while a connecting trail is already in place along the west branch on Borough land to the north. North of the Borough land and rail line, development of a continued trail link could provide connection to the few sidewalks in that area of the Township as well as the sidewalk network in the Borough. As well, the Township is interested in investigating the possibility of additional future active recreation in this area near Pennock Park. At Penns Manor, there is an easement along one side of Red Clay Creek to allow for a future greenway and trail. Hartfeld development in the southwestern portion of the Township has open space that protects the creek corridor and a trail network that is part of Hartfeld’s HOA.
The Township should continue to evaluate lands along the remainder of the west branch and the entire east branch and a detailed stream corridor inventory should be compiled to include:

- Extent of development, land use (e.g., residential, commercial, other), current owner
- Stream corridor condition (e.g., wooded, eroded banks, structures near the stream bank, meadow, mowed lawn, other)
- Potential for ‘improvements’ related to recreation use, access, connectivity, inclusion of a trail (e.g., presence of steep slopes, sensitive vegetation, flat lands, wetlands, historic resources)
- West branch has been edging toward and into the roadway and there should be an evaluation of acquiring an easement on either side of the stream corridor to help remediate stream movement and overflow flooding

Using information from the EAC, the Trails and Sidewalks Committee can compile the inventory and formulate a preliminary strategy for the trail system along the stream. Based on Action 12-9, areas immediately outside the Township should also be examined as to their existing and proposed pedestrian network, whether pedestrian facilities are public or private, and whether they connect or have the potential to connect to those in the Township. Meetings with property owners, land trusts, the Township, adjacent municipalities, and Chester County agencies, individually and/or as a whole, will be essential for progressing with this concept. Linking Landscapes encourages municipalities to think about trails on a multi-municipal basis for reasons of greater pedestrian interconnectivity, additional funding opportunities, and priority of grants for multi-municipal projects. Chester County Trail Planning Guide, Trail and Path Planning, should also be consulted for further information on municipal trail planning.

12-11  **Pursue the further development of the regional Mason-Dixon Trail.**

The Mason-Dixon trail is most accurately described as a traditional hiking route, as it does not have constructed facilities or a permanent trail alignment. The route traditionally has been primarily used by hiking clubs and not dedicated as a formal facility. The trail traverses along roadways and through private property via ‘hand-shake’ agreements with property owners. The primary purpose of this corridor is to provide the Township and other southeastern Chester County communities with access to the White Clay Creek State Park Preserve and Fair Hill Natural Resource Areas. The Mason-Dixon corridor is identified in Linking Landscapes as the DE Arc Regional Recreation Corridor, and has potential for linkage to the Red Clay-Pocopson corridor which follow east branch Red Clay Creek.

The Township should continue investigating the potential for possible further development of this regional trail, with the involvement of trail hiking clubs and property owners. ‘Development’ may eventually be as simple as posted signs or as complex as a regional walking trail linking from the Brandywine Battlefield to the White Clay Creek Preserve. Access, parking, and safety should also be addressed in regional discussions. Linking Landscapes can be referenced for more information.

12-12  **Continue to pursue bike and possible pedestrian linkages between Kennett Bikeway, Hamorton, and Longwood Gardens.**

The Township through the Kennett Bikeway project should continue investigating the potential for this connection, with the cooperation of Longwood Gardens and PennDOT.

12-13  **Communicate with New Castle County and the State of Delaware regarding open space, greenway corridor, trail network, and bike route strategies.**

For many years, DE has had progressive policies and implementation in developing an open space network, greenway corridors, trail networks, and bikeways. The Township and KARPC should coordinate with New Castle County and DE to ensure that efforts for potential greenways, trails, and bike routes in PA connect with facilities in New Castle County.
12-14 **Coordinate with other trail development efforts in the Kennett Region.**

The Township should coordinate with the larger Kennett area via KARPC on planning and development of trails for purposes of maximizing trail corridor lengths, connectivity, and funding opportunities for trails that will connect throughout the area.

12-15 **Pursue development of trails along utility easements.**

Because of their potential for connecting parklands, the Township should investigate opportunities for trails to be established along utility corridors. Investigating the legality of such trails and communicating with utility providers should be the first step undertaken. Establishing pedestrian connections along these corridors initially may simply involve more frequent mowing of continuous strips of land throughout the corridors and posting signage along roadways announcing permission of the utilities for public access. A possible sequence of tasks to undertake use of these corridors is:

1. The Township solicitor determines whether utility companies would be willing legally to allow for public use of their easement corridors. (e.g., railroad companies often do not allow for pedestrian access along active rail corridor for safety reasons).

2. If the Township solicitor determines a potential exists, the Township then contacts utility companies to set up discussion meetings. In preparation for this discussion, the Township could draft language for the assumption of municipal trail liability (similar to park language), consider undertaking a survey or petition in support of such trails, and prepare a well-developed presentation on this concept.

3. If meetings with utility companies reveal interest in this concept, strategies for physically developing trails begin including trail surface (e.g., frequent grass mowing, gravel, wood chips, paved surface) and trail heads (e.g., signage, road shoulders, gravel parking lots).

4. Once development strategies and plans have been drafted, there would be a public information meeting with property owners along the utility corridors, residents, utilities, and other stakeholders. Depending on the outcome, developing a utility trail network could begin.

East Penn Railroad currently operates the active, though relatively low volume, Octoraro freight line through the Township. There are no plans for the rail road line use to lessen or be abandoned within the timeframe of the Comprehensive Plan. If this status changes in the far future, the Township should take steps to ensure the corridor continues to be protected as a right-of-way by some means, possibly as an easement or purchase by the Township or other organization. Additionally, in such case, the Township could consider efforts for the abandoned line to be converted into a rails-to-trails facility.

12-16 **Highly encourage new sidewalks, trails and trail linkages to be developed as part of new conservation easements and land developments, as appropriate.**

The Township EAC is putting together a request for the Township to formalize a process that highly requires trails for pedestrian and bicycle access and connections on any proposed new easement or land development.

**Ordinance Considerations**
12-17 **Consider expanding the use of the Official Map for the designation of trails, recreation, and open space areas.**

Official Maps, which are enabled under the PA MPC, often provide a vision for the desired locations of future roadway extensions and public facilities. The Township has a 2005 Official Map specifically for the Ways Lane Area, which depicts future desired street locations. The Township also has a 2001 Township-wide Official Map, which depicts Township owned lands, Anson B Nixon parklands, and street-rights-of-way and cartway widths. The Township-wide Official Map and Ordinance should be revised to reflect and depict desired locations for future trail links, and other uses such as potential parklands, recreation facilities, open space areas, street extensions, or public facilities.

12-18 **Review park, recreation, and trail standards when updating Township ordinances. Allow for parks and associated cultural and educational facilities in appropriate areas of the Township.**

Zoning Ordinance § 240-1700 Open Space Design Development Option should be examined to ensure consistent language is used. One area of this section indicates *where practicable*, greens, commons, squares and parks shall be distributed throughout the development. Another section indicates that greens, commons, squares and parks *shall be dispersed* throughout the development in such a way that no lot is more than 1,250 feet from a green, common or square.

Township ordinances should be examined to ensure reference to Kennett Township Open Space, Recreation and Environmental Resources Plan is still accurate. (For example, Zoning § 240-1700, and SLDO § 206-304, § 206-405, and § 206-611)

Zoning Ordinance, SLDO, and Official Map definitions for recreation, parks, and trails should be examined to ensure that they are consistent with one another and cross-referenced properly. For example, the SLDO and Official Map include differing definitions for *Public Grounds*.

SLDO § 206-503 indicates that existing Sidewalks, Trails, and Paths are to be kept and maintained, as necessary and desirable. This language should be reviewed to ensure it meets the intent of the Township’s policy to actively promote pedestrian linkages.

To further foster future trail and pedestrian network development and linkages in the Township, key trail planning concepts to include in the SLDO are to: require trails and sidewalks in new developments are built prior to buildings, and 2) define trails and paths specifically as a form of passive recreation so they are able to receive fee-in-lieu funding via SLDO regulations.

Likewise, to further foster parklands in the Township, parks and recreation use regulations should be revised when Township ordinances are next updated. In particular, districts in which recreation uses are currently permitted should be revisited to ensure all intended districts for these uses are included. Related standards for minimal impervious coverage, structures, and parking should be reviewed as well as regulations for lighting, permeable paving surfaces, fencing, and buffers from adjacent uses.

Recreation Programming and Outreach

12-19 **Continue to support and participate on Kennett Area Parks and Recreation Board (KAPRB).**

KAPRB is a primary provider of active recreation in the Kennett Area. The Township has appointed members to and provides funding for KAPRB. The Township should continue to support and view this organization as the Township’s means of providing for organized active
recreation and recreational programming. The Township should continue to communicate closely with Township representatives on KAPRB to ensure the needs of the organization are met and consequently needs of residents are served. The Township should encourage cooperation between both the multi-municipal groups of KAPRB and KARPC to address funding issues, development of activities, and other benefits that may arise through working with the larger Regional organization.

There have been strides to improve the funding for KAPRB. KARPC developed an equitable financing strategy whereby KAPRB municipalities would contribute financially in a way that represents each community’s population effect on KAPRB operations and programs. The Township should continue to monitor its contribution to KAPRB so that an appropriate level of contribution is made in line with the needs/demands of Township residents for recreation programs and as well promotes equitable funding of KAPRB at a regional level. Proper financing of KAPRB is important to ensure recreation programming is continued and expanded as necessary to meet the needs of the area population.

**12-20 Continue to support recreation programs in the Township that are undertaken by other entities.**

Aside from KAPRB, there are other recreational providers the Township should continue to communicate with and support, e.g. KAU Little League, the YMCA, and KAPA. The Township could help publicize events, facilities, and programs of these entities so that residents are aware of the recreational opportunities. The Township could consider initiating communication meetings of area recreation providers, possibly on a regular basis, e.g. bi-annual meetings. These meetings could take place at the municipal or possibility the KARPC level to encourage interaction between municipalities and recreation providers, and between recreation providers themselves. There is a continual need to assess existing programs and promote new programs to meet changing community needs and to provide types of programs that are of interest to residents.

KARPC had initiated an effort to inventory recreation uses, programs, and parks within the Region and develop a strategy for recreational uses on a regional basis. The Township should actively participate in this effort to increase recreational opportunities. The Township should advocate for relevant recreation groups to be involved in this effort.

**12-21 Use a variety of media to publicize recreation opportunities.**

The Township newsletter, website, events, social media, and other means should be used to provide information on recreational opportunities available to Township residents.