

# ***Hanover Township – Northampton County***



## ***Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan***

Sponsored by:

Hanover Township Board of Supervisors  
Hanover Township Recreation Advisory Board  
Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc.

September 12, 2006

Hanover Township Board of Supervisors

Honorable John N. Diacogiannis  
Honorable Glenn R. Walbert  
Honorable Frank T. Colon  
Honorable Stephen R. Salvesen  
Honorable John D. Nagle

Chairman  
Vice Chairman

Honorable John J. Finnigan, Jr.

Township Manager

Stacy C. Milo

Secretary/Treasurer

Recreation Advisory Board

Elizabeth J. Soltys  
Robert Roll  
Stephen R. Crump  
Karen E. Kennedy  
Michael W. Stasak, Jr.  
Alexander M. Sahaydak

Township Solicitor

Broughal & DeVito, LLC  
James L. Broughal, Esquire

Township Engineer

Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc.  
James B. Birdsall, PE  
C. Michael Schmalzer, PLS

This Plan was officially adopted by the Board of Supervisors  
of  
Hanover Township, Northampton County  
on  
September 12, 2006

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Hanover Township in Perspective .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Regional Setting .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Population .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Natural Features.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Flood Plains and High Water Tables .....	6
Drainage Swales.....	6
Slopes .....	7
Woodlands and Tree Lines .....	8
Wetlands .....	8
<b>Recreation Planning Principles and Analysis .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Recreation Programming .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Physical Recreation .....	9
Service Activities .....	10
The Arts.....	10
Social Recreation .....	11
Existing Recreational and Community Programs as of 2006 .....	12
Special Events.....	12
<b>Recreation Facilities.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Parklands .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Regional Parks .....	21
Community Parks.....	21
Neighborhood Parks .....	22
<b>Open Space .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Township Sidewalk and Pathway Plan.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Recreation Support Services .....</b>	<b>25</b>
Administration.....	25
Maintenance and Security .....	26
Communications and Public Relations .....	26
<b>Goals and Objectives .....</b>	<b>27</b>
Organization and Administration.....	27
Recreation Programs .....	27
Recreation Facilities.....	28
Maintenance and Security .....	28
Public Relations and Communications.....	28
Environmental and Open Space Plan.....	29
Finance and Budgeting.....	29
Preschool.....	30
<b>Plan Recommendations</b>	
Outdoor Facilities .....	31
Recreation Programming and Indoor Facilities .....	32

## Maps

Map 1 – Regional Location .....	2
Map 2 – Township Planning Areas.....	4
Map 3 – Natural Features .....	7
Map 4 – Existing Facilities .....	16
Map 5 – Township Sidewalk and Pathway Master Plan .....	24

## Tables

Table 1 – Hanover Township Population Change, 2000-2010.....	3
Table 2 – Past, Current and Potential Population .....	5
Table 3 – Existing Recreation Programs as of 2006.....	13
Table 4 – Categories of Existing Programs .....	14
Table 5 – Existing Lands and Facilities .....	17
Table 6 – Hanover Township Facility Acreage Requirements.....	20

## Appendix

Park Pictures .....	A1-A6
---------------------	-------



# **HANOVER TOWNSHIP IN PERSPECTIVE**

Hanover Township is a place where people live, work and spend their time. What makes the Township unique is its location, its residents, its businesses and its physical characteristics. A solid planning effort must start by identifying the qualities that define Hanover Township. The following sections will discuss the Township's location, population characteristics and natural features.

## **REGIONAL SETTING**

Hanover Township is located in central Northampton County, at the center of the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton metropolitan area (Map 1). To the south lies the City of Bethlehem. Other bordering municipalities are East Allen Township to the north, Lower Nazareth and Bethlehem Townships to the east, and Hanover Township (Lehigh County) to the west.

US Route 22, which bisects the Township, was the only major east-west artery through the Lehigh Valley until Interstate 78 opened in 1989. Route 22 still provides significant east-west access through the areas, connecting Harrisburg and points west to the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area. State Route 512 connects Route 22 to the north-central portions of Northampton County. The Lehigh Valley International Airport is located in neighboring Hanover Township (Lehigh County).

The Township is known for its superior residential developments. In addition, the Bethlehem Business Park, Lehigh Valley Industrial Park IV, Lehigh Valley Corporate Centers I and II, Northgate I and II and Hanover Corporate Centers I and II provide significant present and future employment opportunities.

## **POPULATION**

Hanover Township is part of a fast-growing portion of Northampton County. From 1990 to 2003, the U.S. Census estimates that population growth in Hanover Township (35.7%), Bethlehem Township (37.9) and East Allen Township (9.0%) has been higher than Northampton County as a whole (2.1%). Regional population forecasts anticipate continued growth in the Township through the year 2020 (Table 1).

MAP 1  
REGIONAL LOCATION

Hanover Township  
Northampton County, Pennsylvania

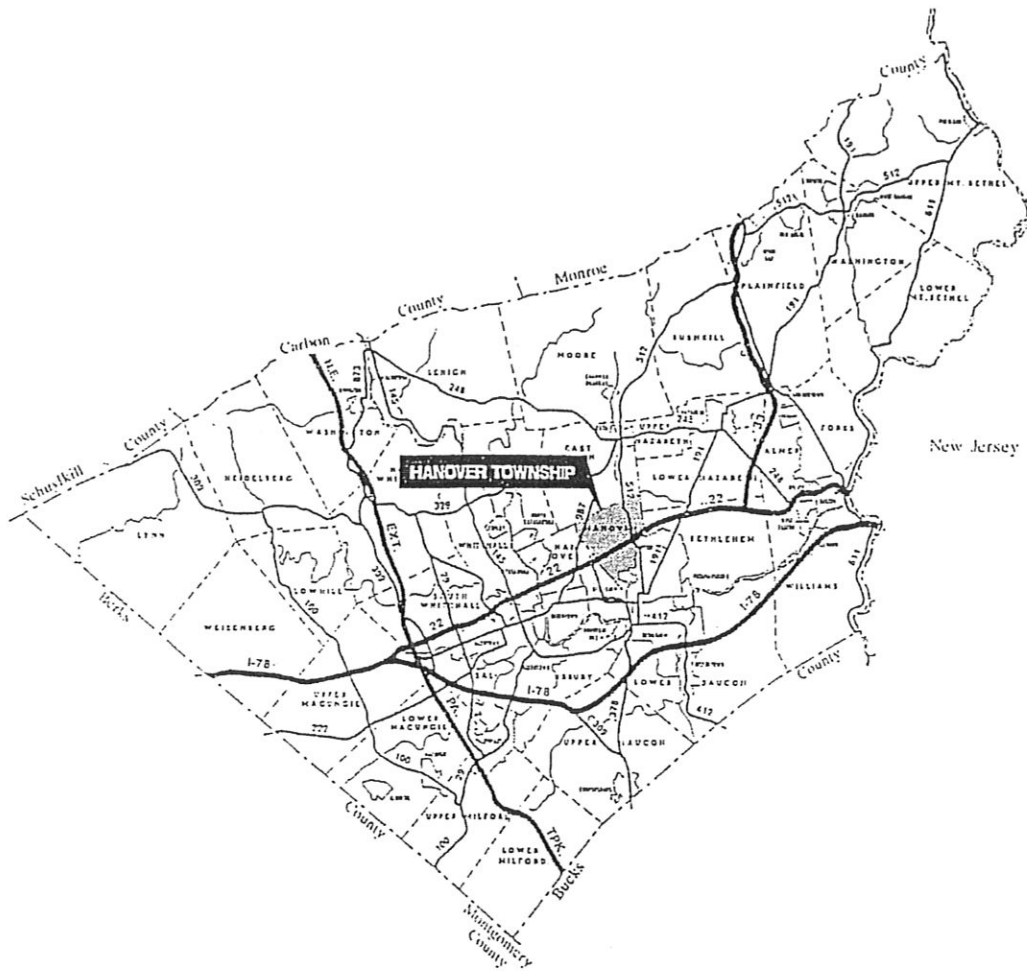


Table 1

HANOVER TOWNSHIP POPULATION CHANGE, 2000-2010

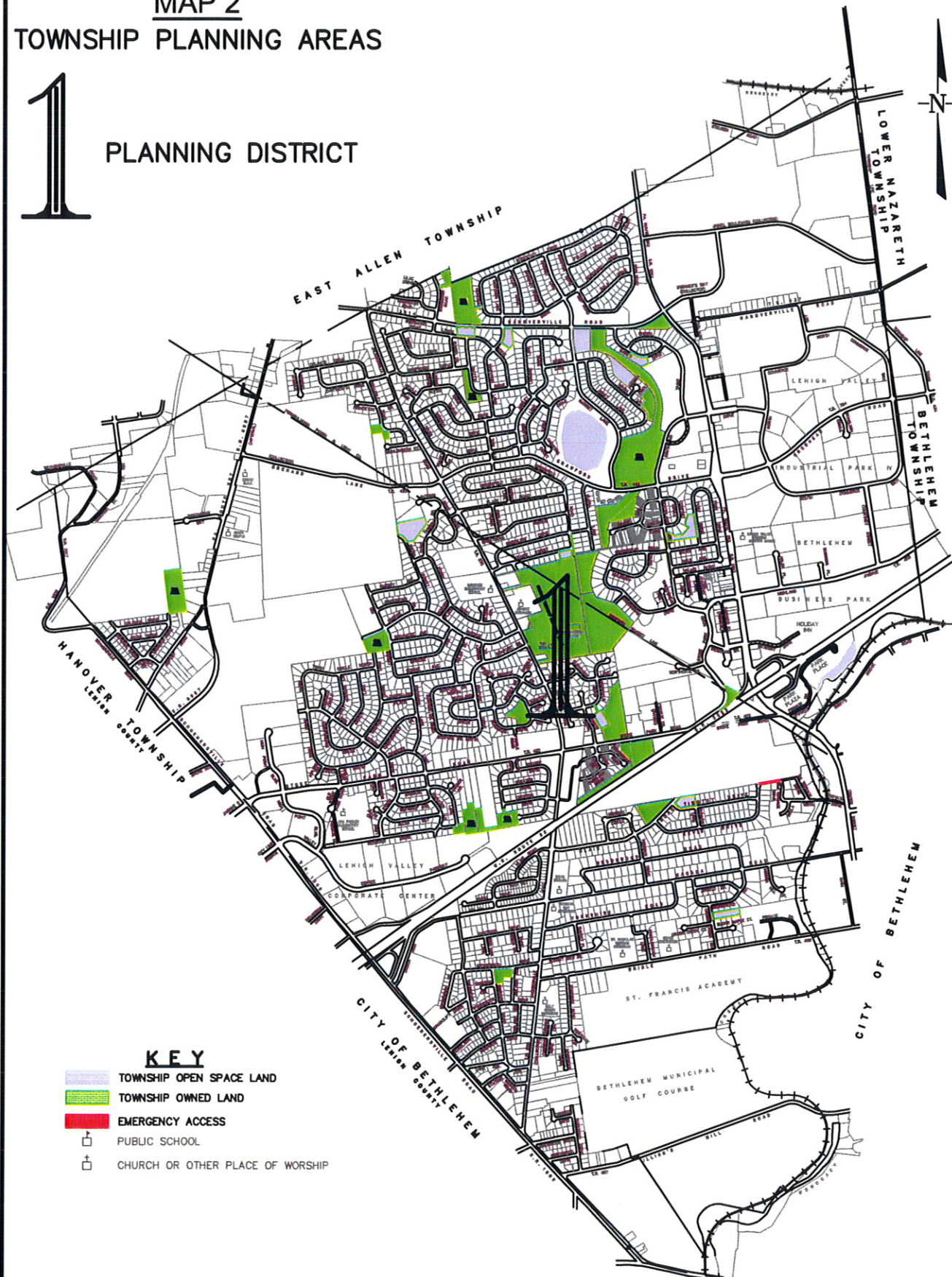
	PROJECTED POPULATION CHANGE 2000-2010
Hanover Township	** 28.1%
Northampton County	*8.9%
Source:	Lehigh Valley Planning Commission *
	Hanover Township Land Use Assumption Report **

Recreational planning guidelines are often based on population. Larger populations generate more demand for recreation programs and facilities than smaller populations. Previously, for recreation purposes the Township was divided into three (3) planning areas. However, much of the land within the Township is now developed and a larger portion of the undeveloped land is either unsuitable for or not zoned for residential development, such as the land owned by the Lehigh Valley International Airport. Therefore, at this time, the Township is being viewed as one (1) planning area. The estimated population at the end of 2005 was 10,967 people. This number was determined by using the actual population from the 2000 census and adding to it from the building permits issued from 2000 to 2005, (see Table 2)

# MAP 2 TOWNSHIP PLANNING AREAS

# 1

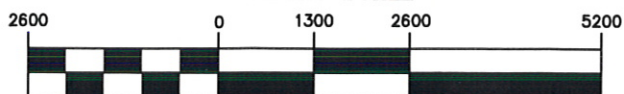
## PLANNING DISTRICT



### KEY

- TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE LAND
- TOWNSHIP OWNED LAND
- EMERGENCY ACCESS
- PUBLIC SCHOOL
- CHURCH OR OTHER PLACE OF WORSHIP

### GRAPHIC SCALE



1 inch = 2,600 ft.

### PARKS-RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN 2005 TO 2010

**HANOVER TOWNSHIP  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA**

DRAWN BY  
JAM  
CHECKED BY  
CMS  
DATE  
8-25-2008  
SCALE  
1" = 2,600'

PROJECT NO.  
H05-23  
H05-23P/Hanover  
SHEET NO.  
1 of 1

**HANOVER ENGINEERING  
ASSOCIATES, INC.**

252 BROOKHEAD ROAD, SUITE 100  
BETHLEHEM, PA. 18017

Table 2

**PAST, CURRENT AND POTENTIAL POPULATION**

1990 Census Population	2000 Census Population	Population Change 1990-2000 #	%	2005 Estimated Population from Approved Developments	Total Population Including Approved Developments	Potential Population from Undeveloped Land (1)
7,176	9,563	2,387	33.3	1,404	10,967	12,249

SOURCES: Hanover Township Land Use Assumption Report

1 – Assumes zoning from Comprehensive Plan



## NATURAL FEATURES

Natural characteristics of the Township are important elements of an open space conservation system. Floodplains, high water tables, steep slopes and swales should remain open due to drainage or construction difficulties. Hanover Township has recognized the importance of preserving natural areas by creating a Special Conservation District (SCD) in the Township Zoning Ordinance. Areas in the SCD Zone, which is defined according to steep slopes, floodplains and high water table must meet special requirements.

The Township has attempted to preserve much of the SCD Zone. As an example, the Township has preserved much of the land comprising the main swale through the center of the Township. It has been preserved by being dedicated to the Township as open space, by being protected by easements and by creating restrictions on lot sizes and percentages of allowable impervious cover on lots within the SCD Zone.

In addition, other areas have been valued at a premium and should be preserved simply because they are in short supply. Woodlands, tree lines and some slopes may add significantly to the physical character of the Township. Premium natural areas of the environmentally-sensitive areas which comprise the SCD Zone form the basis of the Township's open space system (Map 3).

## FLOOD PLAINS AND HIGH WATER TABLES

Areas subject to flooding should remain free from intense development. Structures within a floodplain are subject to weak foundations and periodic basement flooding. The areas adjacent to the Monocacy Creek, both along the southwest border of the Township and in the far northeastern corner near Steuben Road, are flood-prone.

Land where the water table is high poses similar restrictions to development. Basements are subject to flooding. Foundations can be weakened by prolonged exposure to water. Septic systems are prone to malfunction. High water tables in the Township tend to follow the drainage swales, which are discussed below.

## DRAINAGE SWALES

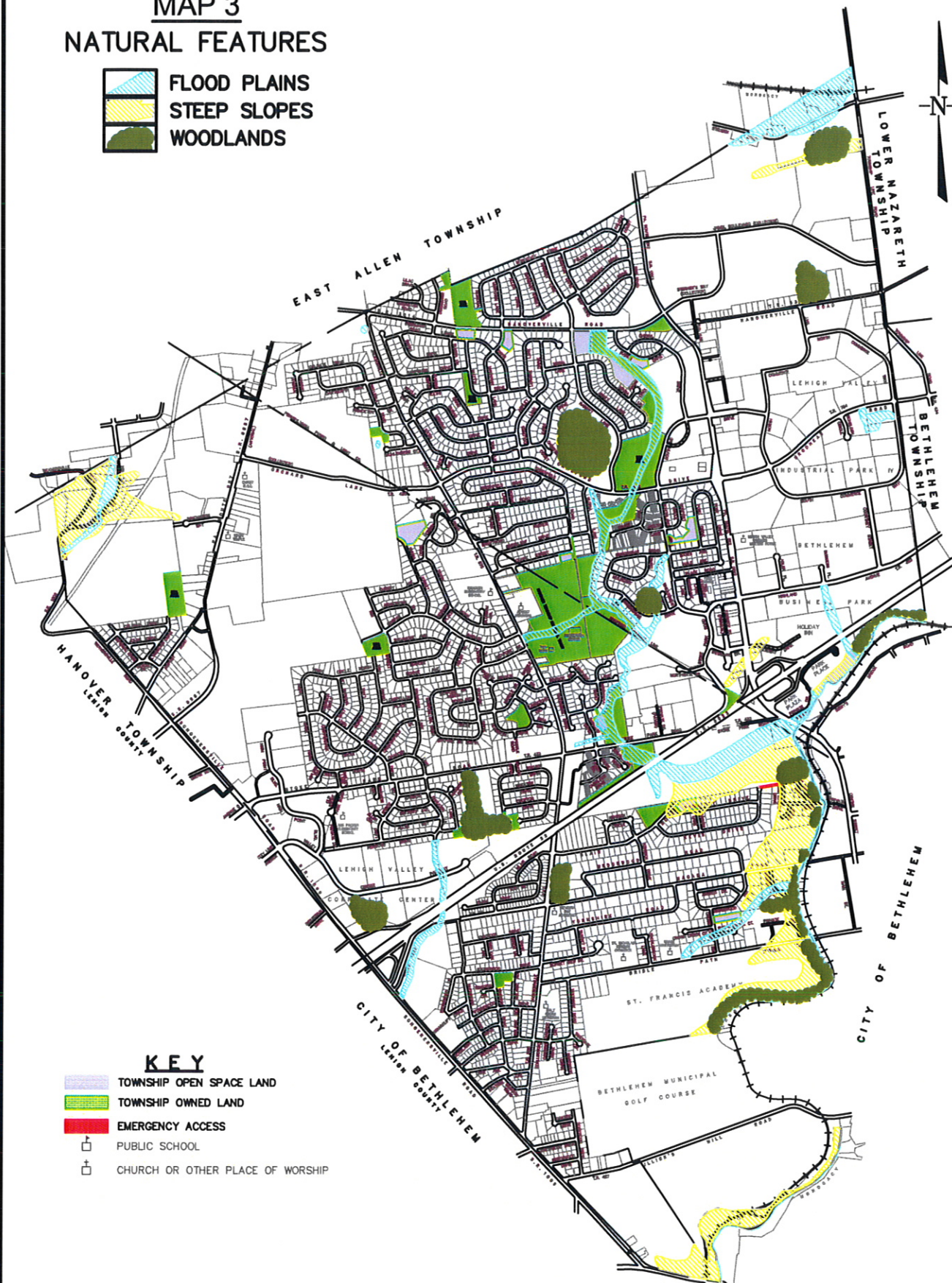
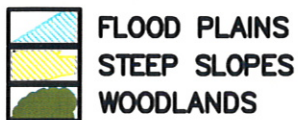
Hanover Township has an extensive system of drainage swales. Swales are important to drain storm water and prevent flooding. They can also serve as pedestrian links to Township parks and recreation facilities.

Three drainage basins serve the Township:

1. Monocacy Creek drains the eastern portion of the Township,
2. Catasauqua Creek drains the northwest corner of the Township, and
3. The Lehigh River drains the west central area.



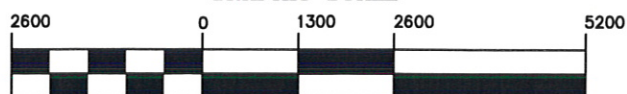
# MAP 3 NATURAL FEATURES



## KEY

- TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE LAND
- TOWNSHIP OWNED LAND
- EMERGENCY ACCESS
- PUBLIC SCHOOL
- CHURCH OR OTHER PLACE OF WORSHIP

## GRAPHIC SCALE



1 inch = 2,600 ft.

## PARKS-RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN 2005 TO 2010

**HANOVER TOWNSHIP  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA**

DRAWN BY  
JAM  
CHECKED BY  
CMS  
DATE  
5-25-2008  
SCALE  
1" = 2,600'

PROJECT NO.  
H05-23  
SHEET NO.  
1 of 1

**HANOVER ENGINEERING  
ASSOCIATES, INC.**

252 BROOKHEAD ROAD, SUITE 100  
BETHLEHEM, PA. 18017

Swales connect the Monocacy Creek to several Township recreation sites, including Macada North Park, Municipal Park and Crawford Park. In the central portion of the Township much of the main swale is now owned by the Township and has a pathway system that connects the individual parks to the Township sidewalk system.

### SLOPES

Topography provides visual relief in the landscape. Steep slopes of greater than 15 percent should be reserved for open space or uses which occupy a small percentage of the lot. Hanover Township is generally level. According to the Township's Comprehensive Plan, approximately 95 percent of Hanover's land slopes eight percent or less. Significant slopes (greater than 15 percent) occur mainly in the far northeastern corner of the Township.

### WOODLANDS AND TREE LINES

Wooded areas and trees lend a charm and quality to the landscape. Trees are attractive, provide shade, reduce soil erosion and are important scenic and recreational resources. Furthermore, individual tree lines, like swales, can be used to connect Township recreational facilities.

Most of the Township's woodland was cleared many years ago. Two key remaining woodlands are in and around the quarry north of Crawford Drive and south of Stoke Park Road near Kenwood Park. The quarry site is now contained in a park that is controlled by the Wildlands Conservancy. A portion of the woodlands near Delta Manor Park has been included in a lot in the Hanover Ridge subdivision that has been offered to the Township as open space. This open space will be used to connect the Hanover Ridge development to Delta Manor Park via a pathway.

### WETLANDS

Wetlands are typically low-lying areas usually covered with water for at least part of the year. Wetlands support a unique array of wildlife and important natural processes, such as water purification and groundwater recharge. A formal determination of wetlands is often difficult and requires a study of soils, plants and the water table.

Due to the Township's location in mostly Karst topography there are very few wetlands. Any wetlands in the Township are found along the Monocacy Creek.

## RECREATION PLANNING PRINCIPLES

### RECREATION PROGRAMMING

When planning all aspects of Hanover Township, Northampton County recreation activities, the following goals and mission apply to the Community Center which is the focal point of all recreational activities.

Mission Statement:

To enrich the quality of life of Hanover Township individuals and families while building strong communities relationships.

Vision Statement:

To promote programming helping to develop strong, healthy individuals and families who will build, serve and lead our community.

Image Goal:

To be the PLACE where strong community relationships grow and the quality of life is enriched!

A consistent focus will include but not be limited to:

- Being the leading facility in innovative programming for families
- Facilitate a network for positive relationships within the community
- Fulfill the mission of Hanover Township Recreation Department and of Hanover Township Community leaders and residents
- Provide an arena for local businesses to give back to their community

It helps to break programming down into categories. Programs in one category may have some of the same benefits that characterize programs in another category. The following categories help to guide and develop the programs that make up the Recreation Activities.

### PHYSICAL RECREATION

Programs under this category encompass a variety of active recreation opportunities which test a person's physical skills. Physical recreation programs can be further classified into the following subgroups:

- Individual & dual games and activities such as racquet sports
- Tumbling and creative movement

- Gym games and activities such as kickball, tag games, relays, etc.
- Sports such as basketball, baseball, soccer, flag football, cheering, etc.
- Aquatics such as swimming, diving and water aerobics
- Fitness programming such as aerobics, weight lifting, running and walking

Ideally, physical recreation programs should be organized to meet the needs and interests of the novice through the highly skilled, the young and the old, males and females, and the physically strong and the disabled.

### SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Service activities afford the recreation department the opportunity to enrich the lives of residents through wellness programs, challenging the mind, as well as the body. Programs include but are not limited to:

- Community Service Programs
- Volunteerism for all ages and abilities
- Wellness programs in collaboration with local hospitals and nonprofit organizations

### THE ARTS

The category of the “arts” includes music, dance, drama, and various mediums of arts, as well as crafts. Many of these program attributes can be found throughout different programming in recreation areas such as camps, child care, summer parks, etc. Specific programming includes but is not limited to:

- Introduction to ballet and tap
- Individual instrument lessons
- Vocal lessons
- Creative movement for the preschool age group
- Dance classes for physical fitness for all ages



## SOCIAL RECREATION

Social health is promoted by almost all recreation activities. Leisure time spent will enhance all different aspects of one's life. The opportunity exists through recreation to offer many different means to stimulate the mind, body and soul of our residents and neighbors. Programming for social activities includes, but is not limited to the following opportunities:

- Community Bingo
- New Comers groups
- Family nights
- Community programming, such as summer parks and camps
- Providing facilities for private or community gatherings such as the pavilion, meeting rooms, lobby areas, and gymnasium to promote social activities
- Collaborating with nonprofit organizations servicing our community
- Preschool programming

Recreation activities are offered through many different organizations, such as local schools, churches, athletic groups, scouting, etc. These opportunities not only enhance our community, but also attract different people to our facilities and programs that may not otherwise be engaged.

Hanover Township sponsors a summer playground program at numerous pocket parks, as well as the Municipal Tract and pool areas. The pool is home to numerous aquatic programs, as well as, the Hanover Swim team. The centerpiece of recreation programming is the Hanover Township Community Center (HTCC). HTCC hosts the administration for all parks and recreation, as well as providing a venue for a host of recreation activities year round.

The following table represents the existing activities offered throughout Hanover Township and the times when they are offered.

## EXISTING RECREATIONAL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AS OF 2006

Current recreational and community programs at the Community Center are varied and range from structured fee programming to open social activities and awareness presentations. Among the many activities currently offered are:

"Young at Heart"	Dance Camps	Rowing
3 on 3 Basketball	Health Presentations	Soccer Academies
Aerobic Classes	Hip Hop Classes	Soccer Camps
Balloon Twisting Classes	Karate	Spinning
Basketball Camps	Kickboxing	Step & Tone
Basketball Leagues	Long & Lean Stretch	Step Aerobics
Blood Pressure Screening	Middle School Dances	Stroke Awareness Sessions
Book Club	Music Camp	Summer Day Camps
Card Club	Oldies Dance	Toning
Cheer Camps	Open Adult Basketball	Tumbling
Cheerleading	Open Gym	Volleyball Camps
CPR Classes	Red Hat Club	Yoga

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events are programs conducted on an annual basis by the Township with the assistance of the Township's Special Events Committee. These events are often related to a holiday, such as Patriot's Day, Halloween or Christmas. Special Events generate much excitement in the community, take considerable time to plan and are managed by the Community Relations Director.

EVENT	MONTH
Ready to Read	May
Sousa Concert	May
Community Fair	May/June
Patriot's Day	September
Halloween Parade	October
Christmas Tree Lighting	December



**Table 3**  
**EXISTING RECREATION PROGRAMS AS OF 2006**

PROGRAM	FEE	LOCATION	TIME OF YEAR OFFERED	LENGTH OF PROGRAM	APPROXIMATE PARTICIPANTS
Summer Park Program	Free	Municipal tract, pool and satellite parks	June, July & August	8 weeks	250+
Summer Day Camps-weekly	\$125+ per week	HTCC	June, July & August	9 weeks	270+ 30-35 per camp
After School Programs – (Avg. of 6-8 programs per session)	\$35+ per session	HTCC & municipal tract fields	September to June	6 week sessions/5 sessions	5 to 25 per program
Music/Instrument lessons	\$18 piano/ instrument \$25 voice	HTCC	Year round	Weekly	24+
Tumbling Classes (avg. of 3 programs offered at a time)	\$69+	HTCC	Year round	8 week sessions up to 4 sessions	5-20 per program
Arts & Crafts	\$25+	HTCC	Year round	Varies	5+
Programs in collaboration with other entities such as Lehigh Valley Hospital, Bethlehem Soccer Club, Penn State Extension, etc.	Free Varying fees determined by expenses	HTCC, Pool, Parks	Year round	Varies	Varies
First Strides	\$35+	HTCC and surrounding area	Spring and Fall	12 weeks	35 to 85
5K Run/Walk	\$10 - \$15	HTCC and surrounding area	Spring and Fall	1 day	150+
Swimming Lessons	\$40	Hanover Pool	June, July & August	2 weeks per session	400+
Tennis Programs	\$45+ Varies according to program	Hanover tennis courts & HTCC	May - September	Varies	200+
Sport Specific Camps Volleyball, Strength & Speed & Basketball	\$125+	HTCC & municipal tract facilities	June, July & August	Varies per program	100+
Cheer Sport	\$35+	HTCC	Year round	6 week session/one week camp	Avg. of 10+ per program
Cheerleading Teams	\$156+	HTCC	July – December	2/3 times per week from July-Dec.	45+

Table 4  
CATEGORIES OF EXISTING PROGRAMS  
HANOVER TOWNSHIP

<u>2006</u>			
Recreation Categories	Summer Playground	Winter Recreation	Leasee Programs
Arts and Crafts	X	X	
Clubs, Hobbies and Special Interests	X		X
Dance	X		X
Drama	X	X	
Language Arts and Mental Activities	X	X	
Music	X	X	
Outdoor Recreation and Camps	X		
Service Activities	X	X	
Social Recreation	X	X	X
Special Events	X	X	X
Sports and Games	X	X	X

## **RECREATION FACILITIES**

Hanover Township has a variety of recreation facilities and parklands (Map 4, Table 6). The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) have developed guidelines for the dimensions and composition of specific types of outdoor and indoor recreation facilities.

Standards have also been developed for the number of persons served by a particular facility. The NRPA guidelines and standards help to evaluate the recreation facility needs in Hanover Township.

Facility guidelines are based on population. According to the NRPA guidelines, Hanover Township has adequate numbers of most facilities (Table 7). One additional volleyball/multiuse court and one baseball/softball field should be considered to accommodate the current population. Current need is measured using the Township's 2005 estimated population.

Future need is measured using the year 2010 population estimate. The NRPA guidelines suggest that the Township should develop two baseball/softball fields and two volleyball/multiuse courts.

The facility analysis in Table 7 indicates that pool facilities in the Township are adequate through the year 2010. In practice, the Hanover Township pool is used heavily and was designed to accommodate a Township population of only 5, 500. The main pool was reconditioned in 2005 and the baby (wading) pool in 2006.

Two considerations are important in understanding the facility analysis for Hanover Township. First, the guidelines represent a general assessment of need according to documented nationwide demand for each facility. The needs of Hanover Township residents may differ from the standards. The Township Recreation Advisory Board constantly assesses the need for facilities based on the desires voiced by residents, coaches and others directly involved in recreation programming. A current trend is for more children to be involved with soccer than in the past. In reality, additional soccer fields are in demand, even though NRPA guidelines do not indicate that need.

Secondly, this particular analysis is performed on a Township-wide basis and does not consider that recreation facilities in Hanover are not distributed evenly throughout the Township. Some areas of the community are better served than others.

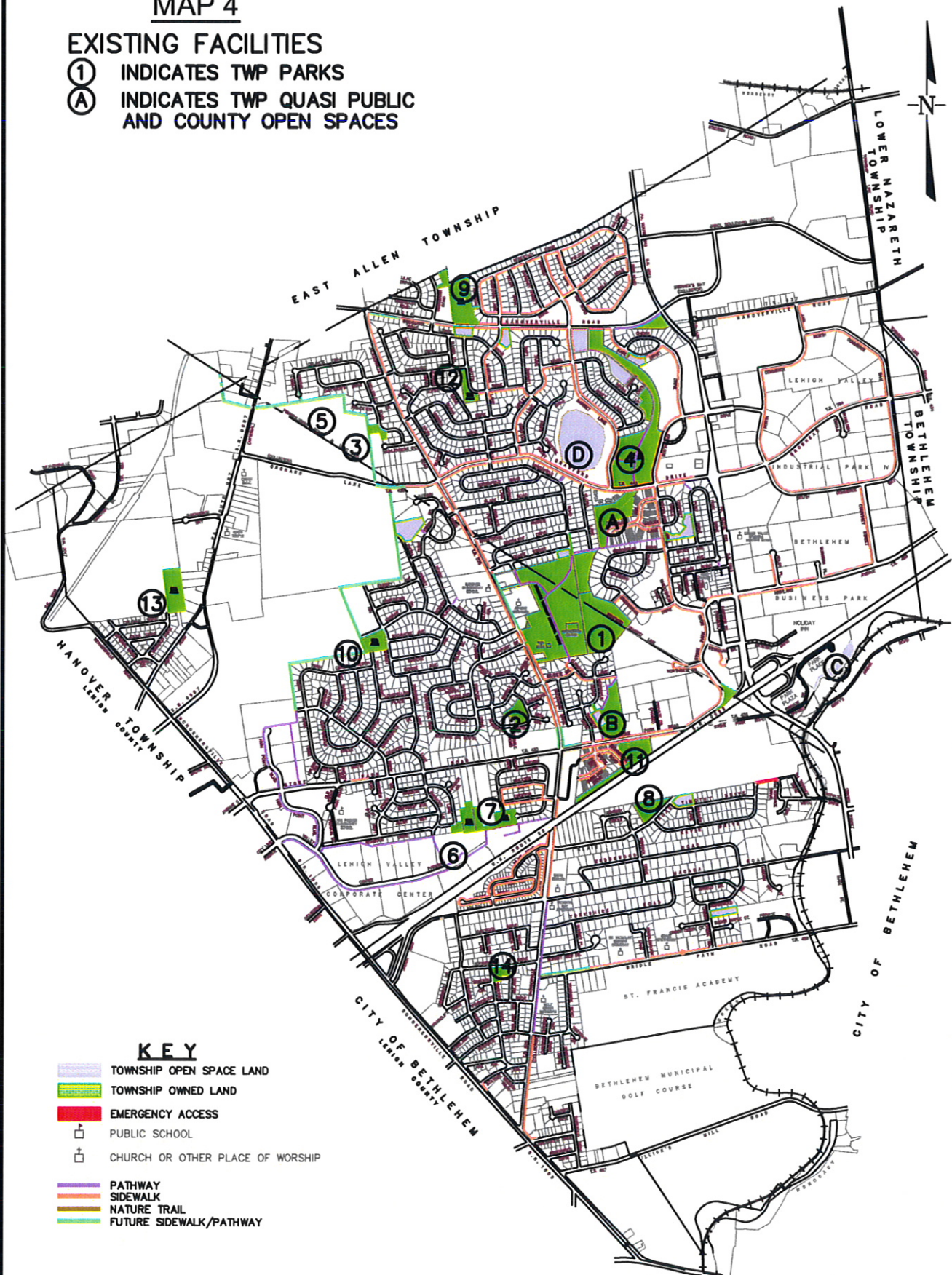
## **PARKLANDS**

Hanover Township has a variety of existing parks, (Map 4, Table 5). Ideally, parks should combine to form a hierarchy according to size and function. The Township park system should include different types of parks. Each type of park should provide a different kind of service to a different size area.

# MAP 4

## EXISTING FACILITIES

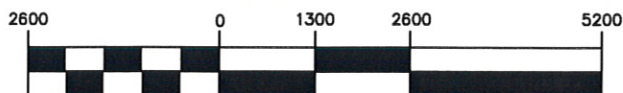
- ① INDICATES TWP PARKS
- Ⓐ INDICATES TWP QUASI PUBLIC AND COUNTY OPEN SPACES



### KEY

- TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE LAND
- TOWNSHIP OWNED LAND
- EMERGENCY ACCESS
- PUBLIC SCHOOL
- CHURCH OR OTHER PLACE OF WORSHIP
- PATHWAY
- SIDEWALK
- NATURE TRAIL
- FUTURE SIDEWALK/PATHWAY

### GRAPHIC SCALE



1 inch = 2,600 ft.

### PARKS-RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN

2005 TO 2010

HANOVER TOWNSHIP  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA

DRAWN BY  
JAM  
CHECKED BY  
CMS  
DATE  
5-25-2008  
SCALE  
1" = 2,600'

PROJECT NO.  
H05-23  
SHEET NO.  
1 OF 1

**HANOVER ENGINEERING**  
ASSOCIATES, INC.

252 BROOKHEAD ROAD, SUITE 100  
BETHLEHEM, PA. 18017



Table 5

## EXISTING LANDS AND FACILITIES

LEARNING, RECREATION, AND FACILITIES														
FACILITY NAME	ACREAGE	ACTIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES				PASSIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES		OTHER FACILITIES	SUPPORT FACILITIES			POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION		
		Tennis Courts	Pool (Children's)	Pool (Adult's)	Track/Field Facilities	Playground Equipment	Lacrosse Field		Outdoor Volley Ball Court	Indoor Basketball Court	Outdoor Basketball Court	Soccer/Football Field	Baseball & Softball Field	Site
Municipal Tract (1)	65.3													
Birchwood Park (2)	1.3													
College Heights Park (3)	1.0													
Crawford Park (4)	27.9													

Table 5

## EXISTING LANDS AND FACILITIES

FACILITY NAME	ACREAGE	ACTIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES										PASSIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES					OTHER FACILITIES	SUPPORT FACILITIES									POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION	
		Baseball & Softball Field	Soccer/Football Field	Outdoor Basketball Court	Indoor Basketball Court	Outdoor Volley Ball Court	Lacrosse Field	Playground Equipment	Track/Field Facilities	Pool (Adult's)	Pool (Children's)	Tennis Courts	Passive Open Space	Pavilion	Picnic Table	Hiking Trail	Benches	Bike Rack	Drinking Water	Restrooms	Trash Receptacles	Indoor/Undercover Areas	Outdoor Lighting of Facilities	Lighting for Security	On-Site Parking	Telephone	Site	Facilities
Open Space - Dartmouth Drive (5)	0.4																			NO	NO						NO	
Delta Manor Park (6)	4.3							Y									2			YES	YES	Y					YES	YES
Hanover Ridge Park (7)	2.6																			YES	YES						YES	
Macada North Park (8)	4.3		1			1		Y							3		4			YES	YES	Y					YES	YES
Monocacy Park (9)	8.5																										NO	YES
Pharo Park (10)	2.3	1		1				Y				2							1	Y	Y	Y			Y		NO	YES



Table 5

## EXISTING LANDS AND FACILITIES

Evaluating Existing Parks and Facilities																												
FACILITY NAME	ACREAGE	ACTIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES										PASSIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES					OTHER FACILITIES	SUPPORT FACILITIES									POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION	
		Baseball & Softball Field	Soccer/Football Field	Outdoor Basketball Court	Indoor Basketball Court	Outdoor Volley Ball Court	Lacrosse Field	Playground Equipment	Track/Field Facilities	Pool (Adult's)	Pool (Children's)	Tennis Courts	Passive Open Space	Pavilion	Picnic Table	Hiking Trail		Benches	Bike Rack	Drinking Water	Restrooms	Trash Receptacles	Indoor/Undercover Areas	Outdoor Lighting of Facilities	Lighting for Security	On-Site Parking	Telephone	Site
																		6 SWINGS										
Open Space - Steak & Ale (11)	3.6																									NO	NO	
Troxell Park (12)	2.5								Y								6	2 PLAY STRUCTURES, 6 SWINGS, 3 SPRING TOYS	1			Y				NO	YES	
Village View Park (13)	6.0												Y													YES	YES	
Westgate Park (14)	1.0			1				Y						1			2	1 PLAY STRUCTURE; 4 SWINGS; 1 PAVILION		Y		Y	Y			NO	NO	

Number in Facility Name column corresponds to Map 4.

Table 6

**HANOVER TOWNSHIP FACILITY ACREAGE REQUIREMENTS**

	<b>EXISTING FACILITIES<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>NRPA SUGGESTED GUIDELINES</b>	<b>(POP: 10,967) 2005 DEFICIENCY(-) OR SURPLUS (+)</b>	<b>(POP: 12,249) 2010 DEFICIENCY (-) OR SURPLUS (+)</b>
Baseball/Softball	3	1:2,500	-1	-2
Soccer/Football	5	1:7,000 <sup>(1)</sup>	+3	+3
Basketball	6	1:5,000	+2	+2
Volleyball/Multiuse	4	1:3,500	+1	Even
Playground	7	No Standard	--	--
Equip./Tot Lot				
Pool Complex	1	1:20,000 <sup>(2)</sup>	Even	Even
Tennis Courts	6	1:2,000	+1	Even
Pavilion	3	No Standard	--	--
Trails	1	1 System Per Region	Even	Even
Handball	1	1:20,000	Even	Even

## Notes:

- (1) Although the Township currently exceeds the NRPA suggested guideline the growth of soccer as a recreational sport indicates the need for additional venues.
- (2) Minimum 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer; deck-to-water ratio of 2:1; should accommodate 3 to 5 percent of Township population at one time.

The classification system used for Hanover Township parks includes three types of parks – regional, community and neighborhood (pocket). The following sections define each type of park. Regional park is included because of the location of the City of Bethlehem’s Monocacy Park. Monocacy Park is a regional facility which lies adjacent to Hanover Township in the City of Bethlehem and is readily available for use by Township residents.

The sections regarding community and neighborhood (pocket) parks also include a comparison of existing acreage in the Township compared to NRPA standards. The analysis of neighborhood park acreage is further divided by planning area.

### REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks tend to be large areas (200+ acres) which typically emphasize passive recreation and serve communities within a multimunicipal region. They are areas of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor activities such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping and trail uses. Regional parks may also offer facilities such as ball fields for structured active recreation and playground equipment and grassed open space for unstructured active recreation. The suggested standard for regional park acreage is 5 to 10 acres per 1,000 people.

Monocacy Park, in the City of Bethlehem, adjacent to the Township, is an example of a regional park. The Northampton County Park Board is also considering establishing a regional park in the Weaversville area of adjacent East Allen Township.

### COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are those that serve the entire Township. Community parks usually include 30 to 50 acres, and offer a wide variety of active and passive recreation. Typically, a community park often includes several athletic fields, pathways, a picnic area, a playground area, basketball courts and tennis courts. Programmed recreation activities typically occur at community parks.

The only true community park in Hanover Township is the Municipal Tract located on Jacksonville Road. The park is approximately 65.3 acres, which is more than acceptable according to the range of acreage suggested by the standard for the current Township population. During the 2010’s, the Township will grow to the point where the standard suggests that additional community parkland should be developed.

### **EXISTING AND SUGGESTED ACREAGES OF COMMUNITY PARKLAND IN HANOVER TOWNSHIP**

---

Existing Community Parkland – 2005	65.3	Acres
Suggested Acres of Community Parkland – 2010	61 to 100	Acres

---

Note: Based upon a guideline of 5 to 8 acres per 1,000 persons.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood (pocket) parks are smaller than community parks, and typically serve an area of approximately one-half mile to three miles around the park, instead of serving an entire municipality. Neighborhood parks are usually of three to twelve acres, and usually include children's playground equipment, a basketball court and, perhaps, some athletic fields. Although some programming occurs at neighborhood parks, particularly summer playground programs, the location and facilities at these parks are designed more for free play.

Hanover Township has eleven parks which function as neighborhood parks. These parks total 61.7 acres. (Several open space areas from Table 1 were not classified as neighborhood parks because they currently have no facilities and are not likely to be developed in the foreseeable future.) The standard suggests that the current neighborhood parkland is adequate for current residents, and will be through 2010.

### EXISTING AND SUGGESTED ACREAGES OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARKLAND IN HANOVER TOWNSHIP

Existing Neighborhood Parkland	- 2005	61.7 acres
Suggested Neighborhood Parkland	- 2005	14 to 28 acres
Suggested Neighborhood Parkland	- 2010	15 to 31 acres

---

Note - Based upon a guideline of 1.25 to 2.5 acres per 1,000 persons.

Neighborhood parkland should be measured on as fine a level as possible – neighborhoods if possible – since neighborhood parks are designed to serve small areas. The following is a listing of all neighborhood parks in Hanover Township:

#### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Birchwood Park	1.3 acres
College Heights Park	1.0 acres
Crawford Park	27.9 acres
Delta Manor Park	4.3 acres
Hanover Ridge Park	2.6 acres
Macada North Park	4.3 acres
Monocacy Park	8.5 acres
Pharo Park	2.3 acres
Troxell Park	2.5 acres
Village View Park	6.0 acres
Westgate Park	<u>1.0 acres</u>
TOTAL	61.7 acres

Of these eleven (11) parks, Monocacy and Hanover Ridge Parks are new and do not yet have any facilities located on them. Birchwood Park has been designated as a passive recreational area.

## OPEN SPACE

Many people associate open space only with parks and recreational uses. Open space is indeed a crucial element of any recreation delivery system. However, preserving open space is important for other reasons, as well, including:

1. protecting natural resources,
2. preserving historic structures, rare geologic and botanic sites and other unique features,
3. creating and maintaining “breathing spaces” in densely-settled areas,
4. shaping growth within the Township and
5. preserving natural beauty near built-up and developing areas.

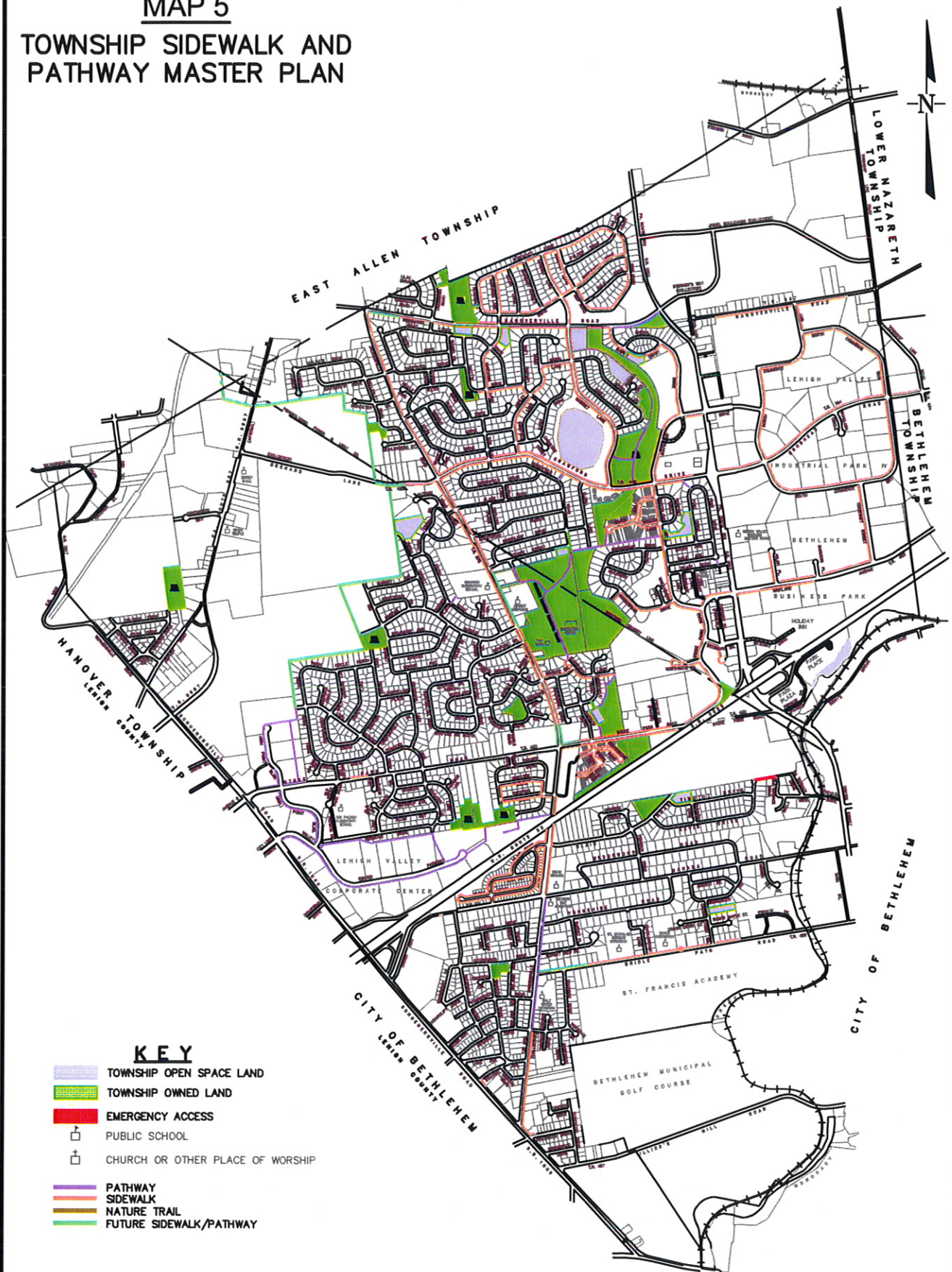
Many criteria can be used to identify open space areas which should be preserved. Preservation areas are often determined by natural features or characteristics, such as:

- streams (intermittent and free-flowing) and other water bodies,
- 100-year floodplains,
- steep slopes (25 percent or greater),
- forested areas,
- wildlife values,
- recreation values,
- unique geologic areas,
- unique botanical areas,
- unique wildlife areas,
- unique ornithological areas, and
- scenic areas.

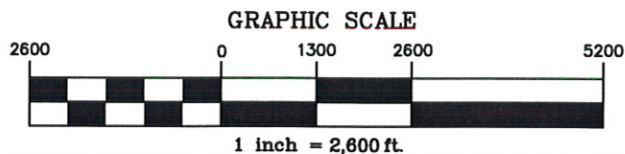
Some of the Township’s natural features were identified earlier. Others should be located, and action taken to preserve key areas – areas which are significant because of the presence of natural features or because they provide needed visual relief and breathing space in a more densely-developed area. Since the Township has been developed heavily in recent years, it is especially important to continue to preserve existing open space and, where possible, identify and protect new open space areas.



# **MAP 5** **TOWNSHIP SIDEWALK AND** **PATHWAY MASTER PLAN**



- KEY**
- TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE LAND
  - TOWNSHIP OWNED LAND
  - EMERGENCY ACCESS
  - PUBLIC SCHOOL
  - CHURCH OR OTHER PLACE OF WORSHIP
  - PATHWAY
  - SIDEWALK
  - NATURE TRAIL
  - FUTURE SIDEWALK/PATHWAY



## **PARKS-RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN**

**2005 TO 2010**

**HANOVER TOWNSHIP**  
**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY**  
**PENNSYLVANIA**

DRAWN BY  
JAM  
CHECKED BY  
CMS  
DATE  
5-25-2008  
SCALE  
1" = 2,600'

PROJECT NO.  
H05-23  
H05-23P&RPlan.dwg  
SHEET NO.  
1 of 1

**HANOVER ENGINEERING**  
 ASSOCIATES, INC.

252 BROOKHEAD ROAD, SUITE 100  
 BETHLEHEM, PA. 18017

The following is a list of open space areas within the Township:

- \* 5 Dartmouth Drive
- \*11 Steak and Ale
- A Main swale at Point North Phase III Section 2
- B Main swale at Birchwood
- C Gertrude Fox County Park
- D Wildlands Conservatory Quarry at Point North  
Numerous Detention Basins
  
- \* See Existing Lands and Facilities Table 5  
and Existing Facilities Map 4

### **TOWNSHIP SIDEWALK AND PATHWAY PLAN**

A large asset of Hanover Township's recreation and open space system is the sidewalk and pathway system. The Township adopted a Township Sidewalk and Pathway Master Plan in 2005 (see Map 5). This plan shows both existing sidewalks and pathways and a proposed pathway system.

The existing system already connects many areas of the Township to the Municipal Tract and the Community Center. It connects many residential areas to numerous park and open spaces within the Township and runs throughout the Lehigh Valley Corporate Center and the Lehigh Valley Industrial Park. This pathway system runs the full length of Jacksonville Road from Schoenersville Road to Hanoverville Road.

The Master Plan calls for the pathway system to run through and along the property of the Lehigh Valley International Airport and up to the East Allen Township boundary. The Hanover Township Recreation Advisory Board and East Allen Township Parks and Recreation Board are working together to provide a pathway system from Monocacy Park in the City of Bethlehem to the Northampton County Rails to Trails system, which runs through East Allen Township and into Allen Township to Northampton Borough.

## RECREATION SUPPORT SERVICES

The Recreation Advisory Board is made up of volunteers from the community; this Board provides recommendation for all aspects of Park and Recreation other than financial. The Board's Mission Statement is: *"To add to the quality of life and attractiveness of our community while continuing to meet the populations needs for recreation and fitness in our parks, open space and community center."*

### ADMINISTRATION

Hanover Township employs a full-time Recreation Director. The Director oversees the recreation staff and all recreation programs in the Township. Assisting the Director is the Assistant Director of Administration and the Assistant Director of Programming and Aquatics. Other key employees consist of a part-time Preschool Director and a part-time Administration Manager. A full-time janitor is employed for HTCC year round. During the summer months seasonal help is hired for parks and pool programs, and two head lifeguards are hired to assist the Assistant Director of Programs and Aquatics in daily management. Additionally a Park Coordinator and two Camp Program Supervisors are hired seasonally to manage the park and camp programs.

### MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY

Parks and recreation facilities are maintained by the Hanover Township Public Works Department. Daily maintenance of the Community Center is completed by the janitor on staff.

Security was being upgraded in 2006 to include cameras and secure entries for the Community Center and pool areas.

Hanover Township is included in the Colonial Regional Police Department coverage.

### COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Information regarding recreation opportunities in Hanover Township can be found in numerous ways. A website hosts general information and explanations on programs, registration, memberships to HTCC and facilities available. Two mailings are produced a year; spring/summer and fall/winter program booklets are direct mailed to all businesses and residents within the Township. Recreation also has the ability of providing four pages of information in the quarterly publication of the *Hanoverview*. This publication allows the recreation department to enhance their visibility through human interest stories and additional program information on a more frequent schedule. Other publications include: school flyers, local newspapers, local TV broadcasts, and radio announcements for nonprofits, in-house newsletters, member mailings, Township emails, magazines, sport papers, and the marquee board located on Jacksonville Road.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals are general statements to a desired end result outlining a vision of Hanover's Park and Recreation programming twenty years into the future. Objectives are perceived current steps anticipated to attain the goals. Together goals and objectives provide the framework within which to develop recommendations for the Township's future recreation delivery system.

Goals and objectives provided in eight categories:

- Organization and Administration
- Recreation Programs
- Recreation Facilities
- Maintenance and Security
- Public Relations and Communications
- Environmental and Open Space Plan
- Finance and Budgeting
- Preschool

### ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Goal: Provide the most efficient system to meet the recreation and park needs of all Township residents.

Objectives to be achieved by:

- Providing programs and opportunities while being fiscally responsible.
- Encouraging efficient delivery of recreation opportunities to current and future Township residents through affordable marketing tools.
- Developing volunteer opportunities to support the community service program through local high schools and develop volunteer opportunities for adults to enhance the staff and customer service at HTCC.
- Optimizing the strengths of all employees to work together as a team.

### RECREATION PROGRAMS

Goal: To be the leading facility (HTCC) in innovative programming for families and facilitate a network for positive relationships within the community.

- Continually examine programming needs.
- Assess recreation trends and how they affect our demographic area.



- Ensure the opportunity for diverse offerings to all residents of Hanover Township, regardless of age, sex or background.

## RECREATION FACILITIES

Goal: Provide the facilities needed to support both organized recreation programs and any future identified needs.

- Maximizing the use of existing facilities and update or develop as necessary.
- Providing clean and user friendly facilities throughout the Township park system and HTCC.

## MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY

Goal: Maintain parks and recreation facilities to the highest level possible.

- Developing park and recreation facilities with maximum consideration given to the health and safety of users.
- Keeping up-to-date on all recommendations and changes in the area of maintenance and security.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Goal: Make every Township resident and Township business employee aware of all park and recreation activities available in the Township. Provide an arena for local businesses to give back to their community.

- Collaborating with local organizations to maximize exposure to all residents.
- Building relationships with businesses in the Township to expose opportunities to employees who spend a large part of their time in our Township.
- Offering opportunities for businesses to give back to their community through time, talent and/or treasure.
- Providing a forum for local businesses or organizations to contribute financially through sponsorships or advertisements in recreation publications.
- Encouraging residents to take ownership of their recreation programs by contributing ideas and input to development of future recreation programs and facilities.



## ENVIRONMENTAL AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Goal: Protect and Preserve Key Natural and Open Space Characteristics of the Parks and Recreation System.

- Encouraging and providing leadership in the preservation of natural and scenic resources along the banks of major watercourses.
- Maintaining environmental balances and preserving unique and sensitive areas naturally unsuitable for development, especially floodplains, steep slopes, wetlands and swales.
- Identifying those areas of the Township which are important to protect through public ownership because of their environmental or ecological importance or because of their contribution to the overall scenic or environmental quality of the Township.
- Developing and maintaining a feeling of open space and visual relief from man-made development.
- Coordinating open space preservation in the Township and County and regional open space systems.

## FINANCE AND BUDGETING

Goal: Maintain parks and recreation as a vital Township service to residents at an appropriate funding level.

- Using creative means of financing improvements and providing recreation and open space land, especially conservation easements and open space within land developments.
- Using various methods of fund raising, financing and economizing for recreation, parks and open space.
- Analyzing programs to ensure profitability of all recreation programs.

## PRESCHOOL

Goal: Provide appropriate year-round preschool programs for Township residents.

- Exploring traditional school year program expansion to meet current and future demand.
- Exploring expansion of summer preschool program.
- Exploring the expansion of special interest classes.

## PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

### OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Existing outdoor facilities have been heavily used during different periods of time. Because of the population increase and the use of fields for existing programs, as well as future programs, internal guidelines and recommendations for usage should be established from a field management perspective.

Continued assessment of safety factors should be updated for park playground equipment and all parks should be brought up to these standards. Example: College Heights, Delta Manor and Village View.

Additional park lands are being developed in neighborhoods that are in the building stages. These parks should be well thought out, taking into consideration the existing facilities, the neighborhoods they serve, programs that will be offered, and any other known facts that may influence the use or development of these parks.

Biking is a sport that has shown longevity. Safe bike paths have been developed to meet the growing needs of our bikers. With this in mind, we need to consider the development of bike facilities for all age groups. Bike parks have been a growing trend in the recreation industry. These parks also provide an area for bikers to gather and practice their skills as well.

Expansion of the Village View Recreation Area should be explored with Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority. When the Authority develops their land assets, they would be required to make either a land or monetary recreational contribution. The Township should attempt to secure a land contribution based on current Authority holdings within the Township in the near future.

The Township should continue to develop and expand the pathway system in conjunction with Township Sidewalk and Pathway Plan. The ultimate goal should be a system that connects with Rails to Trails in East Allen Township through all neighborhoods in the Municipality to recreation facilities in the City of Bethlehem along Illick's Mill Road.

If and when, the St. Francis property develops, the Township should require public recreation property on the western end of the tract.

The main drainage swale through the center of the Township should be maintained as open space with any future development from the East Allen Township border to the Monocacy Creek.

Property abutting the Monocacy Creek should remain undeveloped to protect the unique characteristics of the stream and associated wetlands and floodplains. Land along the creek should be preserved as open space provided to the Township in fee-simple.

## RECREATION PROGRAMMING AND INDOOR FACILITIES

Preschool programs provide a very important service to Township residents. HTCC hosts a successful preschool program consisting of half-day educational programs running over the traditional school year, summer preschool camps and special interest classes geared towards creative movement, music, art, etc. These programs are poised to grow and will need facilities to accommodate them. The Preschool Director has identified several areas for growth: extended care before and after half-day programs that already exist, license for a full-day Kindergarten program and expansion to the enrichment programs targeted for this age group. Those programs would include, but not be limited to: art, music, computers, tumbling, dance and creative movement. Staff would need to be expanded to continue and the need to look at creating a full-time Preschool Director to handle the increase of registrations and programming needs is necessary. The facilities necessary to accommodate the suggested programs would need to be added to the existing Community Center. Facilities needed would be: 2 to 3 classrooms for enrichment programs or half-day preschool, 1 classroom for full-day Kindergarten programs and 1 classroom for before and after care.

The Recreation Department will need to continue to explore ways to improve revenue. Two areas identified have the ability to increase revenue without increasing our expense would be in the number of program participants in existing programs and membership sales. HTCC administration constantly seeks ways to accomplish this through efficient and effective marketing tools.

Additional areas of potential revenue increases would be through sponsorships, advertising and partnerships. These opportunities need to be explored and pursued.

Expenses will be monitored to run all recreation facilities in the most efficient means possible.

Indoor water facilities have been brought to the attention of the recreation administration as a potential need. The sport of swimming is continuing to grow in the Lehigh Valley area. The area lacks sufficient swimming facilities to accommodate the growing need. Hosting the Hanover Swim team for many years, offering swim lessons and other water programs at the outdoor pool offers the opportunity to see the potential for success in programming for year-round water programs.

With the increase in memberships and the demand for gym rentals and programming, there is often a need for additional gym space. It is recommended that HTCC be expanded to include an additional all-purpose gym.

It is recommended that the recreation department continues to follow the trends of the fitness industry. Recreation programming includes a full aerobic program with many different group formats. In order to properly facilitate these programs, an aerobic studio should be considered as part of any expansion of the Community Center. Weight room and cardio space should be evaluated on an ongoing basis as well.

Keeping in mind the diverse nature of our residents and wanting to provide leisure activities for all residents, it is important not to forget to mention the possibilities for developing programs or facilities to encourage the performing arts; music, dance, and drama. Hanover Township has enjoyed presenting the John Phillip Sousa Concert for many years now; this sets the stage for the success of other programs within the Township. It is recommended that the Township look at an outdoor music venue; stage or band shell.

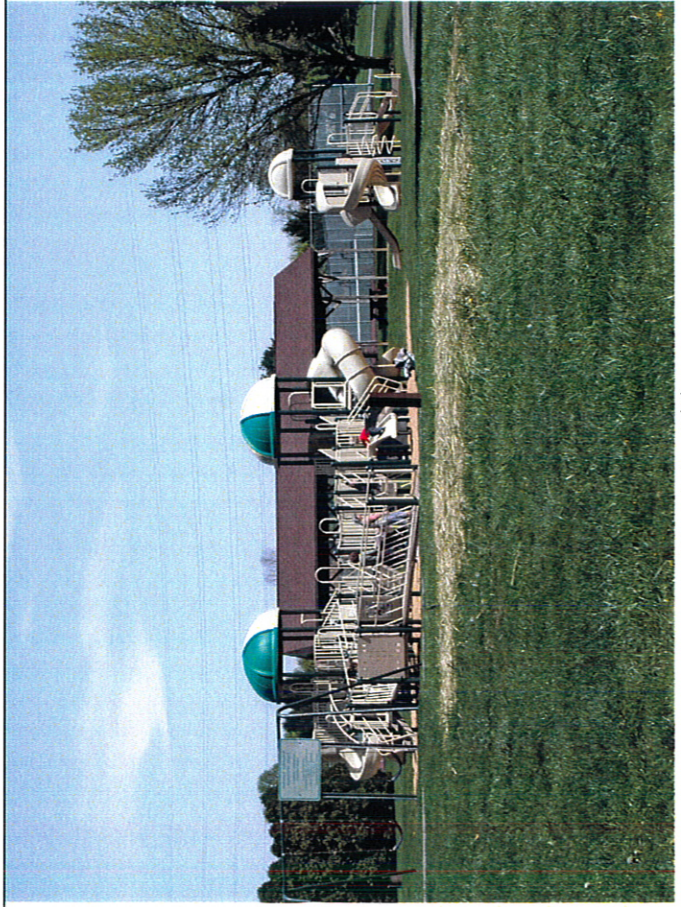




**Municipal Tract**



**Municipal Tract**



**Municipal Tract**



**College Heights Park**

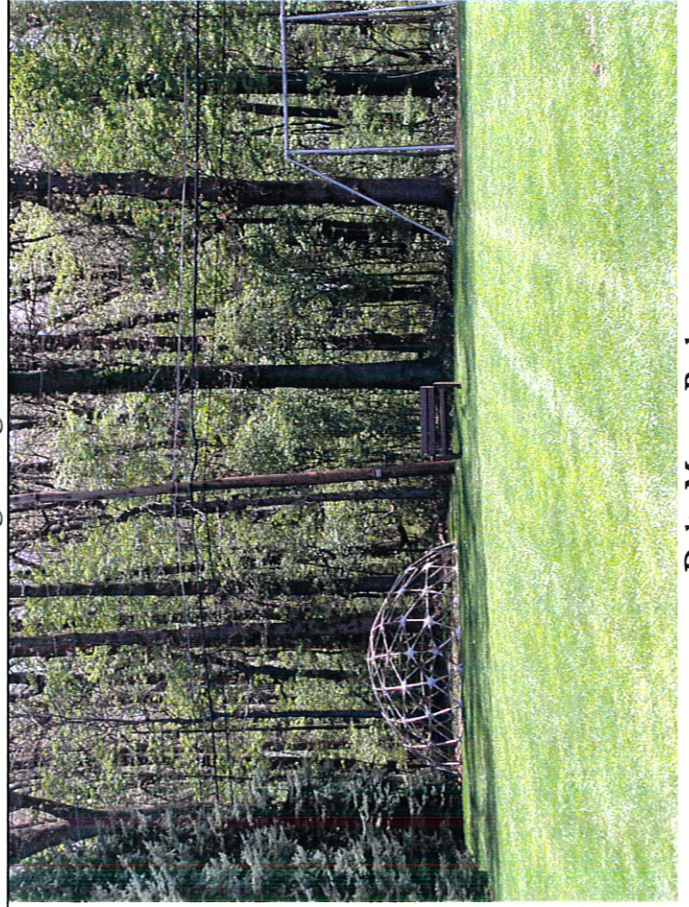




College Heights Park



Delta Manor Park



Delta Manor Park



Delta Manor Park





Crawford Park



Crawford Park



Crawford Park



Macada North Park

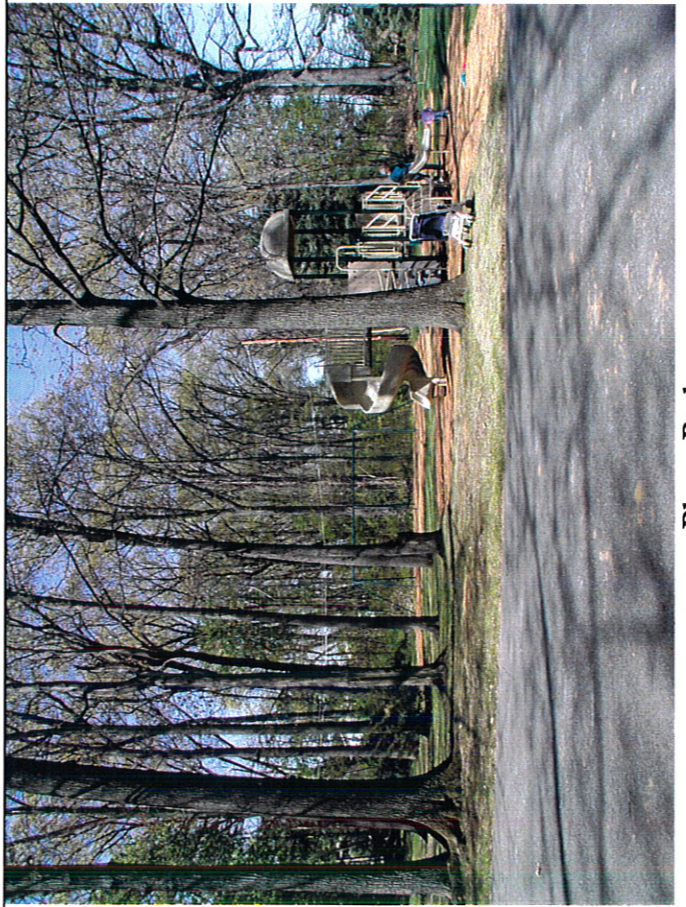




Macada North Park



Pharo Park



Pharo Park



Pharo Park





Pharo Park



Pharo Park



Troxell Park



Troxell Park





Troxell Park



Westgate Park



Westgate Park



Westgate Park