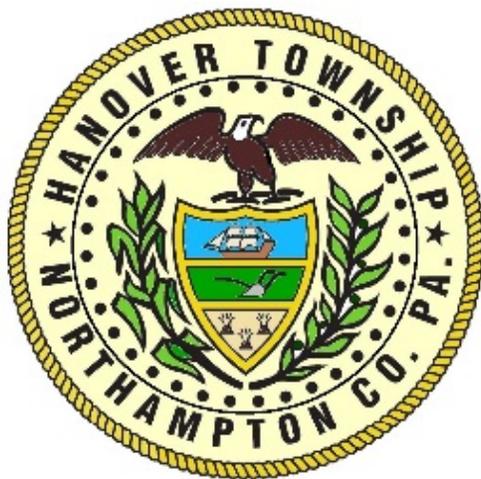


HANOVER TOWNSHIP

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

NEW RESIDENT INFORMATION



Board of Supervisors

Susan A. Lawless, Esq, Chair

Jean E. Versteeg, Vice Chair

Michael J. Prendeville

Stephen M. Gross

Joseph Pepitone

Mark L. Hudson - Township Manager

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Welcome	2
2. Important Numbers	4
3. Municipal Services	5
4. Municipal Government	4
5. Meeting Schedules	6
6. 2026 Tax Information	6
7. Park & Recreation	6
8. Important Ordinances & Permits	7
9. Website	7
10. Hanover Volunteer Fire Company & Ambulance Corp	7
11. Residential Permits	8
12. Hanover Township Park System	15

Addendum:

Hanover Township Park System Map

Hanover Township Voting Districts Map

Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness Guide

Revised: January 2, 2026

WELCOME TO HANOVER TOWNSHIP

What European settlers' first saw when they looked upon the land that now comprises Hanover Township, Northampton County, was a watersparse wilderness covered with scruboaks. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that they called it "The Barrens" or "The Dry Lands". By the early nineteenth century, however, Pennsylvania Dutch farmers had turned the area into some of the most fertile farmland in the state.

Originally, the Township was part of 23,000 acres which formed John and Richard Penn's "Manor of Fermor". In 1747, it became part of Allen Township, which was comprised of what are now Allen, East Allen, and the two Hanover Townships. Hanover Township was officially incorporated as a separate entity on August 8, 1798.

The Township acquired its present boundaries in 1812 when Lehigh County was created. At that time, Hanover was split into two separate townships with approximately one-third of the land and one-half of the population remaining in Northampton County.

Farming predominated Township life throughout the nineteenth century and into the twentieth. During that time, development centered around the village of Hanoverville in the east and Schoenersville in the west. Each had a tavern, a store, a post office, and a handful of dwellings. Power for grist and sawmills and a brewery was provided by the Township's only stream, the Monocacy, which flows along the southeastern boundary.

Until 1956, three one-room schools were the locations for the education of Township children. Schortz School, the oldest of the three, is located on Jacksonville Road, across from the present Hanover Elementary School. Knauss School stands in the northeastern section of the Township on Hanoverville Road. The third school, Rudolph, was located on Jacksonville Road near the Schoenersville Road intersection and now houses a beverage distributorship. In 1965, nine years after the opening of Hanover Elementary School, Hanover Township joined with three other local townships and the City of Bethlehem to form the Bethlehem Area School District. A second elementary school, Asa Packer, was built at the western end of Stoke Park Road in 1967.

Population growth in the Township remained slow and steady until the 1920's when the trend toward suburbanization began. Hanover's population doubled between 1950 and 1960 and nearly tripled in the decade that followed. The 1990 Census showed 7,136 individuals living in the Township. During the next 10 years the population increased by 34% with the 2000 Census showing 9,563 residents.

Hanover Township today is a residential community with excellent recreation facilities, highlighted by the Hanover Township Community Center which opened in November of 1996. The township is located northwest of the City of Bethlehem allowing easy access to urban facilities. Well-planned employment districts are currently being developed, which will allow employment opportunities within the Township.

Hanover Township is a Second Class Township under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors. The Township Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the township. Fire protection is provided by the Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company #1 and police protection is handled by the Colonial Regional Police Department.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We hope that you will find this information packet helpful as you move into our Township and get adjusted to a new area. Below are numbers and general information that you will most likely need in the future. Please keep this handbook in a convenient spot for easy reference.

Township Numbers	
Hanover Township Administration Building	610.866.1140
Colonial Regional Police Department Non-Emergency Line	610.759.2200
Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company #1	610.867.2103
Post Office	
Bethlehem Township – U.S. Post Office (South Commerce Way)	610.882.3247
Bethlehem – U.S. Post Office (Wood Street)	610.866.0911
Local Hospitals	
Lehigh Valley Hospital – Muhlenberg	610.402.8000
St. Luke’s Hospital	610.954.4000
Newspapers	
<i>The Bethlehem Press</i>	610.625.2121
<i>The Express-Times</i>	610.258.7171
<i>The Morning Call</i>	610.820.6500
Northampton County Numbers	
Northampton County Court House	610.829.6500
Voter Registration	610.559.3055
Library	
Bethlehem Area Public Library	610.867.3761
Electric Company	
PPL	800.342.5775
Gas Company	
UGI	610.866.0951
Cable TV	
Astound	610.443.2900
Service Electric	610.865.9100
Real Estate Tax Information	
Berkheimer Tax Administrators	610.599.3143
Waste & Recycling	
Hanover Township has a single Waste Hauler that is responsible for both trash & recycling. This service is billed separately from your tax bill in January of each year. Residents who move out of the Township should have the fee adjusted at closing. Recycling is Mandatory in Pennsylvania & Hanover Township.	
Whitetail Disposal (A Casella Company)	610.936.9967
Elected Officials	
State Senator Nick Miller	610.821.8468
US Senator David McCormick	610.782.9470
US Senator John Fetterman	814.453.3010
State Representative Steve Samuelson	610.867.3890
US Congressman Ryan Mackenzie	610.333.1170

School District	
Bethlehem Area School District	610.861.0500
Places of Worship	
Advent Moravian Church	610.868.0477
Brith Shalom	610.866.8009
Christ United Church of Christ	610.264.9325
Hindu Temple Society	610.264.2810
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church	610.867.6231
Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting House	610.691.3411
Lehigh Valley Grace Brethren Church	610.868.0004
Notre Dame of Bethlehem Roman Catholic Church (Bethlehem City)	610.866.4371
Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church (Bath)	610.837.7874
Local Organizations	
Red Hat Society @ HTCC	610.317.8701

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The Township Administration Building is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Township Administration Building
3630 Jacksonville Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017-9302
610.866.1140

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Board of Supervisors
Susan A. Lawless, Chair
Jean E. Versteeg, Vice Chair
Michael J. Prendeville
Stephen M. Gross
Joseph Pepitone

Township Manager
Mark L. Hudson

MEETING SCHEDULES:

Most meetings are held at the Township building in the meeting room and all are open to the public. Please come and attend to learn more about the workings of the Township. Any resident interested in joining one of the Boards or Commissions should write to the Board of Supervisors stating their interest and qualifications. Appointments are made as vacancies occur.

The Board of Supervisors meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of month at 7:00 P.M. for regular meetings during the months of January – June and September – November, the 4th Tuesday of the month in July and August and the 3rd Tuesday in December. Please check our website for details at www.hanovertwp-nc.org.

The Planning Commission meets on the first Monday of each month, except for the month September when they meet on the second Monday at 7:30 P.M.

The Recreation Advisory Board meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M., at the Community Center.

The Zoning Hearing Board meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, when required, at 7:00 P.M.

The Shade Tree Advisory Board meets on the last Monday of each month, except for the month of December, at 6:00 P.M.

The Special Events Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M., at the Community Center.

2026 TAX INFORMATION:

Township Tax Rate for General Purposes	<u>3.40</u> Mills	<u>34.0</u> Cents
Tax Rate for Fire Tax Purposes	<u>0.75</u> Mills	<u>7.5</u> Cents
TOTAL	<u>4.15</u> Mills	<u>41.50</u> Cents

A 1% earned income tax is also collected. There is also a local services tax of \$52.00 that is collected from every person working in the Township and making over \$12,000 per year.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Hanover Township has a lot of activities to offer its residents either through municipal services or private enterprise. Hanover Township has 10 dedicated parks that include varying play equipment, tennis, basketball, and pickleball courts, and baseball and soccer fields. The Township is especially proud of its Parks, Community Center and Outdoor Swimming Pool (refer to the enclosed listing of Township parks).

Residents can also enjoy activities sponsored by the Township Special Events Committee like the Crime Watch/National Night Out Party, Patriot Day, Hanover Tree Lighting Ceremony and more! Keep an eye on the Township website for all events and details.

IMPORTANT ORDINANCES AND PERMITS:

The Following ordinances and permit requirements are important to know:

- A Use and Occupancy permit is required before new owners or tenants may occupy any residential, commercial or industrial property.
- Street numbers, at least 4 inches high and in a contrasting color to your background paint, must be prominently displayed on every property.
- Permits are required for all building construction including new homes, alterations and additions to existing homes, basements, sheds, fences, patios, porches and swimming pools.
- Any future construction, alterations or change of use, other than storage, will require a building permit by the Township. Any further questions, call 610.866.1140, Extension 226

- Snow, sleet and freezing rain must be cleared from sidewalks within 12 hours after snow, sleet and freezing rain stops falling. Following a snow accumulation of 3 inches or more, parking on streets is prohibited until streets have been completely plowed. Snow Emergencies are announced on WFMZ (TV 69).
- The Township road crew collects leaves from residential properties between Mid-October and the first week of December, weather permitting. Leaves should be raked to the street for collection. The Township is divided into three sections and each section is completed prior to starting the process over.
- Residents must license dogs over 6 months of age. Licenses can be purchased at the Northampton County Courthouse or on the Northampton County website (www.ncpub.org). Hanover Township has the licensing forms at the Township Office and on the township website, to fill out and mail into the county. Dogs must be under control at all times and must not be allowed to run at large. Fines are administered to those who do not curb or clean up after their dog.
- Open burning is not allowed in the Township.
- Recycling is required by law. The following items must be recycled and commingled as follows:
 - Aluminum, tin, and steel cans
 - Clear, green or brown glass jars and bottles
 - Plastic marked with a #1 through #7
 - Newspapers, magazines and phone books.
 - Junk mail, home/office paper, etc.
 - Cardboard boxes (Must be broken down)
 - Contact our waste hauler for larger items.

WEBSITE: Hanover Township official website at www.hanovertwp-nc.org - Township information.

HANOVER TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY AND AMBULANCE CORP:

The Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company and Ambulance Corps need your support – in both time and money. Volunteer today and join a family of dedicated emergency personnel who make a difference in the lives of those around them. Please visit our website at www.htvfc.org for more information on the Fire Company.

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

All Residential Contractors must be registered by the State Attorney Generals Office and include their registration number on their permit application.

This publication provides general information regarding permit requirements for various residential construction and maintenance activities. The Township may regulate work even if a permit is not necessary. Some of those requirements have been included. The adopted code for Hanover Township is the 2009 International Residential Code. This code is amended by ordinance. Please call if you have questions – 610-866-1140 ext. 236

ADMINISTRATIVE – BUILDING PERMIT AND PLAN REVIEW FEES:

Permit fees are imposed to cover the operation of the code enforcement department. The services provided for your permit fee include comprehensive plan review (including amended plans), thorough inspections and processing of all legal documents. As our fee schedule varies depending on the nature of work being performed, please stop by our office to pick up the most current copy.

ADMINISTRATIVE – PLUMBER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

All persons undertaking commercial work which requires a plumbing permit are required to have a currently valid Master Plumbers License.

AIR CONDITIONER REPLACEMENT:

Air conditioners (except window air conditioners) require a permit.

Repair does not require a permit (including condenser replacement). If the demand for the unit is greater than the old unit, conductor sizes may need to be increased. A means to disconnect power is required within sight of the unit.

ACCESSORY STRUCTURE – (DETACHED) GARAGES, CARPORTS, GAZEBOS AND GREENHOUSES, etc.:

A building permit is required for accessory structures. It must be compatible with residential construction and shall comply with zoning setbacks.

ACCESSORY STRUCTURE – (DETACHED) SHEDS:

A storage shed shall not exceed 120 square feet in area and 9 feet in height and requires a zoning permit.

A permit is required for any electrical or plumbing installation in an accessory structure.

ALARM/SECURITY SYSTEM:

Registration of burglar alarms is required by Hanover Township. This will enable the police department or fire company to reach an emergency contact if you are away from your home. A permit is required to register your alarm system. Low-voltage wiring (less than 12 volts) does not require a permit.

ADDITION – RESIDENTIAL:

A permit is required. The addition of a building area to a dwelling requires a permit regardless of the area. Replacement of a deck or porch also requires a permit.

BASEMENT FINISH:

A permit is required. Permits are required to install walls or framing to finish a basement. A handout is available which describes special plumbing, mechanical, electrical, framing and insulation requirements for basement finishes.

CABINET INSTALLATION/REPLACEMENT:

An electrical or plumbing modification associated with cabinet replacement requires a permit. No permit is required for cabinets and shelves which are not structural and generally are treated similarly to furniture.

DECKS:

A permit is required. New decks or replacement of existing decks (regardless of the height above grade) and balconies require a permit to verify setbacks from property lines and structural stability. A handout showing comprehensive requirements is available. (See also Porches.)

DEMOLITION PERMITS:

Complete demolition needs a completed application, site plan, photographs, and proof that all utilities have been turned off. Partial demolition (i.e. wall removal) requires plans to be submitted to the Building Department for review.

Demolition for underground fuel tank/storage tank requires the following for a permit:

- a. State license (PA DEP) to remove tank
- b. Tank removal permit application
- c. Tanks to be continually vented during extraction process
- d. Soil evaluation must be submitted for review within 2 weeks of completion.

DISHWASHER – NEW AND REPLACEMENT:

No permit is required to replace an existing dishwasher. A permit is required for new installation. New installation requires a separate circuit (can be combined with garbage disposal circuit). If a new branch circuit is installed, an electrical permit is required. Dishwashers and disposals are to be on a separate circuit from the two required counter top small appliance circuits.

DRIVEWAYS AND DRIVE APPROACH REPLACEMENT:

A permit is required if the area of the driveway is to be increased, or the layout changes, or if driveway is excavated and materials are removed to install new driveway.

No permit is required to resurface a driveway. A drive shall be 5 feet from a property boundary line and shall be a maximum of 20 feet wide at the road right-of-way line.

DWELLING – NEW:

A permit is required for new dwellings. Plans sealed by a licensed Pennsylvania architect or engineer must be submitted and reviewed in advance of permit issuance. Handouts are provided as a guide to the requirements for new dwellings.

ELECTRICAL LOW VOLTAGE WIRING:

No permit is required. Low voltage wiring in plenums and return air spaces must meet the applicable flame spread requirements for plenums in the mechanical code. This would also apply to controllers for lawn sprinkler systems and alarm systems.

ELECTRICAL SERVICE UPGRADE:

A permit is required for electrical service upgrades.

ELECTRICAL PORTABLE GENERATOR:

No permit is required except for a generator that is directly wired to the building's main electrical system. A transfer switch is required.

ELECTRICAL MISCELLANEOUS REPAIR/REPLACEMENT:

New branch circuits or extension of branch circuits or placing additional fixtures or receptacles on an existing circuit require a permit.

Replacement of receptacles or light fixtures is considered repair and does not require a permit.

FENCE:

New residential fences require issuance of a permit. A permit is required if the existing fence is being replaced in kind.

FENCE – ELECTRIC:

No permit is required if using off-the-shelf, step-down transformers that plug into a standard receptacle.

FENCE – ELECTRONIC (INVISIBLE FENCE):

No permit is required. Fence must be located entirely on the owner's property.

FLATWORK ON PRIVATE PROPERTY – SIDEWALKS, CONCRETE PATIO, ETC.:

A zoning permit is required. Setback and impervious coverage areas vary between and within zoning districts. Please call the Zoning Department for further information.

FOUNDATION REPAIR:

Wall replacement and the addition of structural columns on bulkheads require a permit and an engineered design (sealed plan). No permit is required for maintenance and repair, i.e., epoxy injection.

FURNACE REPLACEMENT:

A permit is required. Many new furnaces and hot water heaters have venting systems, which are fan-assisted and are high efficiency. The existing venting system may not be adequately designed for the new system. Repair does not require a permit (including fan replacement).

GARAGE DOOR OPENER:

No permit is required. Cord and plug-connected equipment does not require a permit.

GAS LINE (INSIDE A BUILDING) – INSTALLATION/REPLACEMENT:

A permit is required. To assure gas line installations and replacement are of approved materials and free of leaks, a permit is required. Copper gas lines are permitted if the copper is listed as gas pipe (minimum Type K or L, identified continuously on each pipe). Pressure test mercury gauge to 10 inches.

GAS LINE (OUTSIDE A BUILDING) – INSTALLATION/REPLACEMENT:

No permit is required with this exception: The line from the house to the meter (service line) is the responsibility of the utility company. Lines from the house to gaslights, cookers, or other accessory structures (yard lines) would be covered by the building code and require a permit.

GARBAGE DISPOSAL – NEW/REPLACEMENT:

No permit is required for replacing a garbage disposal. A permit is required if it is a new installation which requires a separate circuit (can be combined with dishwasher circuit). If a new branch circuit is installed, an electrical permit is required. The dishwasher and disposal are to be on a separate circuit from the two required counter top small appliance circuits.

HOME OCCUPATION/BUSINESS:

A permit is required for all home based businesses. Contact the Zoning Officer for permit details. Home occupations shall be registered with the local tax authority.

HOUSE MOVE:

A permit is required for structures to be moved from, to or through Hanover Township. Planning and coordination with multiple government entities and utility companies is required. Applicants should contact the Building Department at least 30 days prior to the anticipated move.

LP GAS TANK – RESIDENTIAL:

No permit is required with this exception: Permit is not required for a tank with less than 500-gallon capacity (see Fire Code).

LAWN IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

A permit is required. Please submit specifications on the connection to the domestic water supply and backflow prevention.

PAINTING, WALLPAPER, PANELING, WAINSCOTING:

No permit is required. Painting and wall finish does not require a permit. Commercial facilities, elevators, corridors, stairway enclosures, etc., have specific flame spread requirements that are regulated by the Building Code.

PATIOS:

A permit is required for patios on grade consisting of concrete, paving blocks or brick. (See also Flatwork, Retaining Walls and Electrical.)

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT:

No permit is required. However, equipment must be located within the 10-foot setback as required for accessory structures.

PLUMBING FIXTURE INSTALLATION – REPAIR/REPLACEMENT:

No permit is required. Fixture replacement is considered repair/maintenance and, therefore, does not require a permit. This would include sinks, lavatories, tubs, showers, valves, garbage disposals, dishwashers, etc. A permit is required for installation or replacement of the building piping or drainage system.

PLUMBING – SUMP PUMPS:

No permit required with these exceptions: Replacement of an existing pump does not require a permit. New sump pumps require a dedicated GFCI electric circuit and a permit is required for new branch circuits. Hanover Township does not permit sump pump connections to the sanitary sewer system.

PORCHES:

A permit is required to install, replace or enclose a deck or porch. Porches must be located within the building setbacks. Please call the Zoning Department for specific information regarding a property.

PONDS/POOLS:

“Water features” (Not for human submersion), requires a zoning permit. Re-circulating equipment requires an electrical permit.

POOLS:

A permit is required. All swimming pools (inground, above ground, and storable) and all spas and hot tubs require a permit prior to installation. These are specific electrical and enclosure requirements for spas and hot tubs.

RETAINING WALLS:

A zoning permit is required. Retaining walls require a site plan and must be located 10-feet from property boundary line. Walls over 48 inches require engineered (sealed) design.

ROOFING – REPAIR/REPLACEMENT:

A zoning permit is required. The code has specific material and installation requirements for roofing and re-roofing. A composition roof may be installed over wood shingles (not permitted over shakes). No more than two layers of any type of covering may be placed on a roof.

SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT – EXTERIOR:

A permit is required for sewer line replacement. Hanover Township regulates the sewer line from the exterior wall to the sewer main. Please contact the Zoning Department for applications, fees and inspections.

SEPTIC TANK DEMOLITION AND CONNECTION TO PUBLIC SEWER SYSTEM:

A permit is required. Please contact the Zoning Department for permit, fees and inspections.

SIDING – REPLACEMENT/REPAIR:

A zoning permit is required. The building code contains requirements regarding siding applications and flashing.

SIGNS AND BANNERS:

A permit is not required. Signs for contractors, sale of homes and yard sales may be placed on the property for the duration of the event. The signs must be removed upon completion of the work, sale of the house, or end of the yard sale.

SPAS AND HOT TUBS:

A permit is required. There are specific electrical and enclosure requirements for spas and hot tubs.

TREE HOUSES:

No permit is required. The Building Code or Zoning Ordinance does not address tree houses; therefore a permit is not required. Electrical connections to tree houses are not permitted.

TOWERS – RADIO/COMMUNICATION:

A permit is required with these exceptions: Residential – permits required; engineering data to support the design may be required.

WATER HEATER REPLACEMENT:

A permit is required. Many new furnaces and hot water heaters have venting systems that are fan-assisted and are high efficiency. The existing venting system may not be adequately designed for the new system.

WATER LINE REPLACEMENT – EXTERIOR:

A permit is required for domestic water line replacement. A permit is also required for the replacement or repair of fire service mains serving private fire hydrants, fire suppression systems (sprinkler) or standpipe systems.

YARD SALE AND YARD SALE SIGN:

A permit is required. One sign is allowed on the premises.

HANOVER TOWNSHIP PARK SYSTEM

Municipal Tract – 3630 Jacksonville Road (65.3 Acres) – 1

Municipal Tract is located on Jacksonville Road near the Township Administration Building and Community Center. This park has two play structures, one for 3-5 year olds and one for 5-12 year olds, one set of swings, one saucer ride and a pavilion. The facility has three softball/baseball fields, two multipurpose soccer/lacrosse/football fields, four tennis courts, two outdoor basketball courts and one outdoor volleyball court. Located on the Municipal Tract is the Hanover Township Community Center, the seasonal outdoor pool and off leash Dog Park.

Armed Services Park – 5425 Hanoverville Road (1.6 Acres)

This park is located off Hanoverville Road and Rt. 512.

Birchwood Park – 1150 Bluestone Drive (1.3 Acres) – 2

Birchwood Park is a passive recreational area located on Bluestone Drive in the quiet residential neighborhood in Stafore Estates.

College Heights – 4201 Wellesley Road (1.0 Acres) – 3

College Heights is located on Wellesley Drive. This park has one slide, six swings, three spring characters and one climbing structure.

Crawford Park – 4200 Harriet Lane (27.9 Acres) – 4

Crawford Park is located at the intersection of Crawford and Harriet Drives. This park has two play structures, one for 3-5 year olds and one for 5-12 year olds, restrooms and three multipurpose soccer/lacrosse/football fields.

Delta Manor- 3200 Harmor Lane (6.9 Acres) – 5

Delta Manor Park is located on Harmor Lane. This park has one slide, six swings and three spring characters. It progresses through a nature trail and ends up in the Hanover Ridge Development on Crofton Drive.

Macada North Park – 600 Blair Road (4.3 Acres) – 8

Macada North Park is located on Blair Road. This park has one play structure and eight swings.

Monocacy Park – 5800 Hanoverville Road (8.5 Acres) – 9

Monocacy Park is located on Hanoverville Road. This park has one play structure and a Thrive 450 Exercise Station.

Pharo Park – 3745 Kim Street (2.3 Acres) – 10

Pharo Park is located on Kim Street. This park includes one handball wall, one play structure and six swings. The facility also has one baseball field, two tennis courts and one basketball court.

Troxell Park – 4875 Matts Drive (2.5 Acres) – 12

Troxell Park is located on Matts Drive. This park has two play structures, one for 3-5 year olds and one for 5-12 year olds, six swings and three spring characters.

First Responders Park – 4025 Airport Road (22.2 Acres) – 13

This park is located off Airport Road and Innovation Way. 4 soccer fields.

Westgate Park – 1305 Stonewood Drive (1.0 Acres) – 14

Westgate Park is located on Stonewood Drive. This park includes one play structure, four swings, one-half of a basketball court and one pavilion.

The following Map identifies the Recreational Lands in the Township by the Corresponding Numbers above.