



Bristol Township Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Greenways, and Trails Plan

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Bristol Township Board of Supervisors Meeting
November 9, 2023



Acknowledgements

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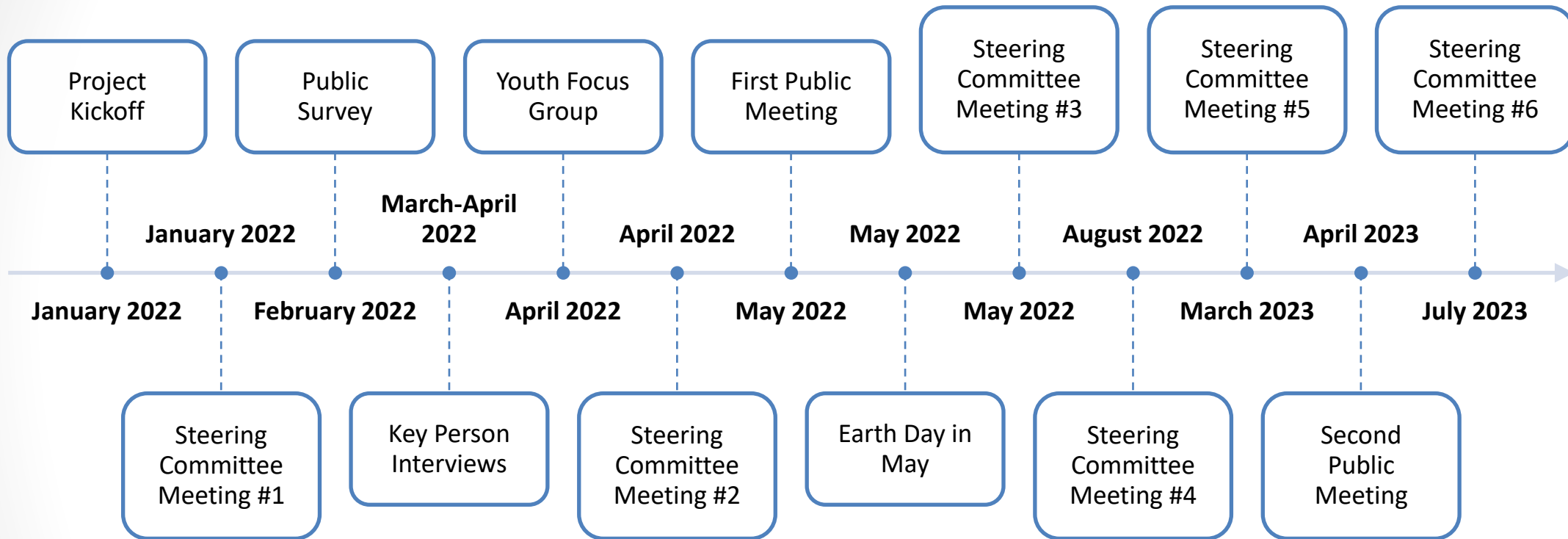
Township Parks & Recreation Director

Brian Morris

This project was financed in part through a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. Bristol Township provided funds to match the grant.



Project Process and Public Input



Parks

Key Findings and Recommendations

- The Township contains over 1,120 acres of public and semi-public parkland. Roughly 115 acres are Township-owned, 193 acres are privately owned, and 812 acres are county- or state-owned. The Township manages 30 parks, primarily neighborhood parks, and a few larger community parks, such as the Municipal Complex Park and the Firefighters & EMT Park.
- Maintenance, repairs, and replacement of park and playground equipment are an immediate priority. The Township has engaged a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) to perform park audits and to begin prioritizing maintenance and repairs for playground equipment.
- ADA-accessible paths and playground upgrades, shade, and signage are needed at many parks.
- Passive recreation is lacking within some Township parks, and there are opportunities to provide it as several parks and open space areas.



Open Space

Key Findings and Recommendations

- The Township contains more than 1,200 acres of open space, including roughly 177 acres of Township-owned open space and more than 570 acres of County-owned open space.
- Support and partner with other government entities and organizations to continue preserving land.
- Develop a maintenance strategy for Township Open Space including no-mow, naturalization, and invasive species control.
- Implement riparian corridor improvements on Township-owned properties with sensitive environmental features.
- Install trails and passive recreation amenities on open space parcels, where appropriate.



Greenways

Key Findings and Recommendations

- The Township contains 5 greenways stretching across roughly 12 miles. One Greenway, the Levittown Greenbelt, is fully Township-owned, while two additional Greenways are partly Township-owned.
- Look at the Levittown Greenbelt as a greenway to ensure long-term preservation efforts.
- Work with individual landowners within greenways to educate and encourage riparian corridor preservation and restoration.
- Improve Township greenway properties through riparian corridor improvements, restoration, and invasive species management, as well as public access, where appropriate.
- Look at trail corridors such as the D&L and the future River Road Trail and potential future greenways.



Trails

Key Findings and Recommendations

- The Township contains approximately 12.5 miles of trails, including hiking trails, park trails, and shared-use paths. More than 4 miles of these trails are Township-owned. The majority of trail mileage is within Delhaas Woods and Silver Lake Park.
- Increase use and visibility on existing trails to improve the sense of safety for users.
- Prioritize immediate trail and sidewalk gaps as well as connections between neighborhoods and parks.
- Support continued planning and next steps for the East Coast Greenway including implementation of the River Road Trail and safety improvements on the D&L Trail.
- Support long-term planning efforts for regional shared-used paths and County-led trail efforts.



Recreation

Key Findings and Recommendations

- Nearly 10,000 people participated in Township recreation programs in 2022, more than three times the number of participants in 2021. 2022 programs included Summer Camp, the Fall Festival, and the Concert Series with Bristol Riverside Theater.
- Leverage partnerships to expand programming.
- Expand programming opportunities for teen and adult age groups and diversify into programs beyond youth and athletics.
- Continue to engage the public to learn about desires for additional programs for the future.
- A more formal plan for maintenance between the Parks & Recreation Department and Public Works will need to be prioritized.



Management & Financing

Key Findings and Recommendations

- The Parks & Recreation Department (the Department) would benefit from increased public outreach.
- Additional staff and funding for the Department should be explored as the Department continues to grow.
- Enhancing partnerships and developing a more robust volunteer program can help reduce the burden on staff and the Department's limited budget.



Implementation

Goals

- Provide a broad range of safe and accessible passive and active recreation opportunities for all residents based on community feedback.
 - Prioritize maintenance for all parks and recreation facilities.
 - Increase public awareness of all Township Parks & Recreation programming.
 - Upgrade Township parks and broaden recreation opportunities.
- Look at park and facility maintenance, management, and financing to create a support structure and ensure longevity for existing facilities and programming.
 - Provide a variety of programs and events.
 - Continue to develop the Parks & Recreation Department with effective management.
 - Manage Department finances sustainably with an eye towards the future.
- Encourage biking and walking by promoting and maintaining existing trails and enhancing connectivity through new trails and sidewalks.
 - Install and work with partners to support the installation of shared-use paths and sidewalks.
 - Increase the use of Township pedestrian infrastructure by improving the safety, visibility, maintenance, and promotion of existing and future Township trails.
 - Make pedestrian and bicycle connectivity and maintenance a priority in policy and long-range planning for the Township.
- Examine existing greenways and open spaces and identify opportunities to preserve, protect, and connect these spaces for Township residents and the environment.
 - Improve Greenway and Open Space parcels for environmental and access purposes.
 - Protect and preserve Open Space and Greenway parcels.

Next Steps

- Adopt the plan.
- Send the plan to PA DCNR and close out the grant.
- Start on the implementation list.
- Use the Action Plan as a guide for future budgeting and planning for capital projects.
- Use the plan to assist with and support future grant applications.





Thank You!