

**Appendix C: Goals, Objectives & Strategies from the Open
Space and Recreation Plan**

Concord Township Comprehensive Plan Update

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
CONCORD TOWNSHIP - DELAWARE COUNTY, PA

GOALS, OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

To set the stage for discussion of the needed leadership and commitment regarding open space and recreation described in Section 9 under Implementation, these goals, objectives and strategies have been formulated. These statements are intended to express the mission of the Township relative to open space and recreation, and to define "action items" in the overall open space and recreation planning process.

The Goals, Objectives & Strategies outlined below are intended to be general statements of the Township's current philosophy and vision relative to recreational opportunities, activities and facilities, land preservation and conservation, and the coordination of open space and recreational programming. These statements have guided the planning process throughout the preparation of this Open Space and Recreation Plan. In addition, the statements below are intended to serve as a springboard to an on-going planning process for the development of park and recreational sites, the acquisition of land for open space and recreational purposes, the future refinement of ordinances, and the overall implementation of this Plan and a balanced development pattern for Concord Township.

These Goals, Objectives & Strategies are also intended to serve as the backbone of the "Recreation Plan" required under Section 503.(11) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, as briefly described in the Introduction, and as featured in the Fee-in-Lieu section of this report.

Primary Goal for Open Space

Strive to create a balance of open space to development, as the Township continues to grow, by preserving and protecting environmentally sensitive resources which are noteworthy due to their physical, biological, cultural, historic, or scenic qualities. In so doing, focus on the opportunities set forth in Section 605 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, as described in the Introduction section of this report.

Goal 1 - Develop Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Open Space

Objectives and Strategies:

- Identify those areas which should be considered for conservation, including flood hazard areas, slopes 25% and greater, and other lands for designated open space within new subdivisions or land developments.
- Identify refinement needs to ordinance provisions to promote more effective cluster development and to preserve critical open space.
- Identify refinement needs to the ordinances relative to the use and maintenance of open space.

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- Identify ordinance provisions needed to address environmental impact assessment as a means of minimizing the disruption and loss of open space, through the identification of mitigation measures and measures to restore landscape quality.
- Strengthen ordinance provisions related to wetlands identification requirements, and the mitigation of wetlands impacts.
- Promote the continued use of agricultural lands through the identification of agricultural security areas and the preparation of an agricultural security plan.
- Investigate techniques pertaining to the acquisition of development rights by the State, County, Township or other agencies or land trusts.

Goal 2 - Create Open Space Amenities

Objectives and Strategies:

- Analyze areas "where not to build" on currently vacant areas as shown on the Existing Land Use map, as a means of promoting an expansion of the open space and recreational network within the Township.
- Outline a street tree planting program to add shade and visual interest.
- Encourage the planting of trees, hedges, hedgerows, and other plantings to serve as a screen or buffer to development.

Goal 3 - Preserve Floodplains, Wetlands and Other Hydrological Resources

Objectives and Strategies:

- Confirm the locations of floodplains, wetlands and hydric soils, based on existing data.
- Focus on stream corridor preservation, especially along the West Branch of Chester Creek, Concord Creek and Green Creek.

Goal 4 - Preserve Areas of Steep Slope

Objectives and Strategies:

- Confirm the locations of slopes 15 to 25%, and slopes greater than 25%.

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- Identify additional ordinance provisions which minimize the disturbance of steep slopes, require mitigation measures for development of steep slopes, and prohibit disturbance of steep slope under certain circumstances.

Goal 5 - Preserve Wooded Areas of the Township

Objectives and Strategies:

- Delineate woodlands, hedgerows, and other significant vegetation as defined in the Delaware County Natural Areas Inventory.
- Discuss ordinance provisions which focus on the conservation of woodlands, the prohibition of clear cutting or unnecessary removal of trees, the replacement of trees under certain circumstances, and the protection of trees during construction.

Goal 6 - Preserve the Historic and Scenic Resources of the Township

Objectives and Strategies:

- Address historic and scenic resources of the Township.
- Identify ordinance provisions to address the protection of historic resources.
- Identify ordinance provisions to address the protection of scenic resources.

Goal 7 - Maintain and Enhance Existing Open Space Resources

Objectives and Strategies:

- Identify all existing Township owned open space areas.
- Identify all existing County, Institutional, Homeowners Association, and other open space resources.
- Discuss the future use, maintenance and program for existing open space areas.

Goal 8 - Expand the Open Space Network Through Effective Budgetary and Fiscal Planning

Objectives and Strategies:

- Pursue funding through the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs (Keystone Community Program, formerly known as Key '93), a gifts program, and other funding sources.

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- Investigate the floating of a bond issue as a means of providing funds for the expansion of the open space and recreational network.
- Refine the existing ordinance requirements for the mandatory dedication of open space, or the payment of a fee-in-lieu thereof.

Primary Goal for Recreation

Provide a balance of active and passive recreational areas and facilities for the use and enjoyment of individuals, groups and families of all ages who live or work in Concord Township.

Goal 1 - Provide for a Variety of Recreational Areas and Facilities

Objectives and Strategies:

- Strive to create a balance of recreational opportunities within the Township.
- Provide for a variety of recreational facilities to serve various portions of the Township, as well as age groups and abilities of Township residents.
- Incorporate variations in recreational needs or preferences in the recommended development of new or potential sites.

Goal 2 - Promote the Use, Maintenance and Enhancement of Existing Parks and Recreational Areas Within the Township

Objectives and Strategies:

- Enhance the existing recreational setting at the Kids' Dream Playground by adding picnic facilities, tennis courts, pathways, benches, shade trees, and other amenities to create a unified and attractive "central park" for Concord Township, to be known as Concord Township Park.
- Identify and evaluate all existing recreational lands, public and private, in terms of current uses, including school district property, Clayton (County) Park, Newlin Foundation property (Grist Mill Park), Camp Toland, the Brandywine Youth Club, private facilities, and the like.
- Promote compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Address operation and maintenance of parks and recreational areas and facilities.
- Create a safety inspection checklist.

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Goal 3 - Provide Lands Appropriate for Recreation

Objectives and Strategies:

- Evaluate locations for potential park and recreation sites which could meet the demands for future recreational activities.
- Investigate the acquisition of additional lands to satisfy current and future recreational needs.

Goal 4 - Manage Funds from the Existing Fee-in-Lieu Program to Create Recreational Facilities and Opportunities

- Establish a list of priorities for future recreational needs and demands, utilizing criteria based on facility service areas, and recreational activity demand, in accordance with National Recreation and Park Association standards and guidelines.
- Organize a phased program for the use of existing and future funds.
- Strive to collect funds from all applicants for use in the implementation of this Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Goal 5 - Investigate Pedestrian and Other Linkages Between Park and Recreational Sites Within the Township

Objectives and Strategies:

- Investigate opportunities and constraints for a linear open space system pertaining to trails, pathways, sidewalks, crosswalks, and other means.
- Analyze safe opportunities for pedestrian and other access to park and recreation sites, where feasible.
- Analyze locations where sidewalks and crosswalks are needed, or could be constructed.
- Analyze locations where bike paths could be constructed.

Goal 6 - Promote Varied and Diverse Recreational Programs

Objectives and Strategies:

- Identify existing recreational programs available to the residents of the Township, ranging from organized sports to the arts.

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- Analyze programs to serve children, youth, adults, senior citizens, and disabled individuals.
- Analyze educational programs to foster an understanding and appreciation of recreation resources and promote their safe and proper use.
- Promote active recreational programs within the business community to serve the working populations, as an element of a corporate wellness program.

Goal 7 - Promote Coordination Among Providers of Recreation

Objectives and Strategies:

- Identify recreation lands, facilities and programs which can be provided by public and private agencies, including the Township, the School District, private recreational organizations, commercial interests, churches, and homeowners associations.
- Outline coordination efforts which are necessary to integrate diverse public and private interests, in order to take maximum advantage of land, facility, programming, and funding resources.
- Analyze the possibility of a "park-school complex" to integrate the recreational facilities at the Township Building with those of the Gamet Valley School District.

Goal 8 - Provide Recreational Facilities and Programs Under Effective Budgetary and Fiscal Planning

Objectives and Strategies:

- Balance needs and demands with affordability, under a phased plan of implementation.
- Pursue funding through the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs (Keystone Community Program, formerly known as Key '93), a gifts program, and other funding sources.
- Investigate the floating of a bond issue as a means of providing funds for the expansion of the open space and recreational network.
- Refine the existing ordinance requirements for the mandatory dedication of recreational land, or the payment of a fee-in-lieu thereof.