

3.0 Conceptual Elements

Comments, suggestions, and feedback from the public and the steering committee guided the development of several conceptual elements. Each element was reviewed by the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee and at a public meeting. The most wanted park elements were incorporated into the final master plan. Section 4 of this report describes the master plan in detail and provides a description of each element.

Conceptual elements that were considered for incorporation into the Master Plan are described on the next few pages.



FISCHER'S PARK MASTER SITE PLAN
Towamencin Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

ELEMENT 1: CONNECTIVITY
SEPTEMBER 2009



FISCHER'S PARK MASTER SITE PLAN
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ELEMENT 2: NATURAL AREA ENHANCEMENT
SEPTEMBER 2009



3.1 Connectivity Elements

The Connectivity Elements are aimed at improving circulation and improving accessibility. Key considerations for these elements include providing sufficient parking, connecting to the township-wide trail system, connecting the northern and southern sections of the park, and mitigating traffic and pedestrian vehicle conflict concerns.

- 1.1 Develop on-road and off-road trail connections to Evansburg State Park
- 1.2 Install a pedestrian bridge over the Towamencin Creek
- 1.3 Close Kriebel Road to through traffic (and)
- 1.4 Install new road between Kriebel and Springer Road
- 1.5 Replace Bustard Road Bridge
- 1.6 Add additional parking

3.2 Natural Area Enhancement Elements

Considerable support for enhancing the natural environment came from comments and emails from the public. Key concerns are for providing safe habitats for local wildlife, reducing invasive plant species, improving water quality, and providing environmental education.

- 2.1 Enhance / provide basic habitat requirements:
 - Food plants for invertebrates and birds
 - Roosting / nesting sites / bird boxes
 - Cover vegetation (protection from predators)
- 2.2 Plant native plant species -Native warm season grasses/meadow – also good habit for different set of species than woodland
- 2.3 Create educational / information signage
- 2.4 Encourage vertical stratification of woodlands – herbaceous ground layer, intermediate shrub layer, understory layer, canopy layer – to provide diverse habitats
- 2.5 Restore stream and creek banks – riparian corridor restoration
- 2.6 Remove invasive species
- 2.7 Implement an ecological approach to infrastructure (i.e. using bioswales in the parking lot to cleanse stormwater)



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ELEMENT 3: ACCESS/MAINSTREAMING
 SEPTEMBER 2009



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ELEMENT 4: ACTIVE/FITNESS
 SEPTEMBER 2009



3.3 Access / Mainstreaming Elements

Making Fischer's Park inclusive to all township residents has been a central goal of the master plan update. The park's facilities should be designed to allow access to residents with all levels of ability.

- 3.1 Replace existing tot lot with inclusive playground.
- 3.2 Spray park or at-grade fountain
- 3.3 Add children's picnic tables
- 3.4 Add ADA accessible amenities
 - Accessible seating area (in front of Arneith Pavilion),
 - Fishing pier,
 - Creek side bench
 - Boardwalks for select woodland trails
- 3.5 Install raised planting beds
- 3.6 Mark additional ADA parking adjacent to the Stable Pavilion
- 3.7 Modify entrance of existing restroom to improve wheelchair accessibility
- 3.8 Add family bathroom facility with changing area in different parts of the park
- 3.9 Install all-purpose poured rubber surface / ADA softball field (miracle league)

3.4 Active Elements

A number of active elements were discussed by the committee for Fischer's Park. The committee concluded that Fischer's Park should be a mostly passive park and that active elements should address the needs for older park users. Active recreation and sports fields and courts should not be developed in Fischer's Park except for enhancing accessibility.

- 4.1 Install bocce court
- 4.2 Install game tables

