## **South Strabane Township**



# Community Park Master Plan Executive Summary

October 2021





#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

#### SOUTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Bob Weber, Chair Mark Murphy, Vice-Chairman Bracken Burns Richard Luketich Russell Grego

#### MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

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#### SOUTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP STAFF

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### INTRODUCTION





South Strabane Township, Pennsylvania, is located in Washington County, southwest Pennsylvania, neighboring the City of Washington and south of the City of Pittsburgh. The Township is 23 square miles in size. South Strabane Township is part of the Trinity Area School District.

The purpose of the South Strabane Township Community Park Master Plan Update is to provide recommendations and implementation strategies for improving the park to meet the recreation needs of Township residents, while also preserving and enhancing the natural resources of the site. This plan should be used to guide decision-making related to making future improvements in the park.

#### **DEMOGRAPHICS**

According to the US Census Bureau, South Strabane Township's 2019 population is estimated to be 9,430 residents. South Strabane Township's demographics are comparable to the census statistics for Pennsylvania with the following exceptions:

- The Township has a higher percentage of residents 65 years and over in age, 28.1% while the Pennsylvania state average is 18.7%.
- The Township is less diverse than the state average as 96.1% of the population is classified as white, 2.2% classified as black or African American, and 0.6% classified as Hispanic or Latino. The Pennsylvania state population statistics are 81.6% of the population classified as white, 12.2% classified as black or African American, and 7.8% classified as Hispanic or Latino.
- Median home value of owner-occupied homes in the Township is \$200,300 while the Pennsylvania state median home value is \$174,100.
- The percent of persons in poverty in the Township is 5.2% while the Pennsylvania state average is 12.0%.

#### **EXISTING COMMUNITY PLANNING**

South Strabane Township adopted a revised Comprehensive Plan in 2017. A goal of the Comprehensive Plan is for the Township to continue to provide recreational opportunities that serve all community residents. In seeking to accomplish the goals of the community the Plan recommends the Township consider improvements to enhance the existing parks and recreational facilities. The Community Park Master Plan establishes a vision for the Township to accomplish this goal over the next 10 to 15 years.

#### **VISION, GOALS, & OBJECTIVES**

#### MISSION:

For South Strabane Township to create a welcoming environment that promotes an appreciation of nature while providing health and wellness benefits to the community.

#### VISION AND GOALS:

- √ Provide year-round programs that will create a sense of community for Washington County residents of all ages and abilities
- √ Provide a well-maintained, safe community park that promotes health and wellness, and expand natural space for educational opportunities and exploration
- √ Provide useful recreational facilities that can be enjoyed for at least the next 10 years by updating existing structures and adding new amenities
- $\sqrt{}$  Provide maps, signage, and information on-site and on websites and social media pages





#### **INVENTORY & ANALYSIS**

The inventory and analysis conducted identifies the opportunities and constraints for site improvements and the conservation and enhancement of natural resources on the property.

South Strabane Community Park is located near the center of the Township, in close proximity to both Interstate 70 and Zediker Station Road. The site is comprised of two parcels, one 60 acre (approximately) property owned by the Township, and the smaller 13 acre (approximately) parcel, which includes an abandoned longwall mine.

#### **EXISTING FEATURES**

#### ADJACENT LAND USE

Currently adjacent land uses consist of residential development adjacent to the north boundary of the park. Properties to the east, west and south are currently undeveloped. The park and surrounding areas are currently zoned for industrial uses.

#### TOPOGRAPHY AND VEGETATION

Approximately half of the South Strabane Township Community Park site is steeply sloped, with grades greater than 15%. An additional quarter of the site demonstrates slopes with grades between 7.5%-15%.

Most of the site is covered with a mixture of low grasses and perennials. Brush vegetation, consisting primarily of blackberry and non-native roses, creates a transition between these vegetation types and the small patches of woodland scattered around the site. Three noticeable tree lines follow old property boundaries, and the northwest edge of the site is forested.

#### **SOILS**

Based on the Soil Survey for Washington County, the site consists of various types of soils, including Culleoka Silt Loams, Dormont Silt Loams, Dormont-Culleoka Silt Loams, Guernsey Silt Loams, and Newark Silt Loams.

#### **HYDROLOGY**

The tributary to Little Chartiers Creek (no. 37003 PA DEP eMap) within the park is identified as being impaired with acid mine drainage.

A review of the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map on October 6, 2020 indicates the park is located in an area of Minimal Flood Hazard.

A review of the US Fish and Wildlife National Wetlands Inventory Map indicates the 0.53 acre pond on the park as a freshwater pond habitat. In addition, it indicates there is a 2.58 acre freshwater emergent wetland and a 1.00 acre freshwater forested/shrub wetland.

The primary water feature on the South Strabane Township Community Park site is a small manmade pond located in the center of the site. A 0.46 acre stormwater management detention basin is located on the east side of the large parking lot.

Chartiers Creek flows north and east from the center of Washington County into the center of Allegheny County. It discharges into the Ohio River at McKees Rocks, PA. The size of the Upper Chartiers Creek Watershed is approximately 139 square miles. It is the most developed of the watersheds in the County, yet agriculture is still a major land use activity.

South Strabane Township should partner with the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association to ensure the park development plan aligns with the Chartiers River Conservation Plan.

#### **ECOLOGICAL & CULTURAL ANALYSIS**

On October 6, 2020 the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory database was queried, the results indicated there would be No Known Impacts to species of concern.

A review of the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office's Cultural Resources GIS (CRGIS) conducted on October 6, 2020 indicates there are no known archaeology or historic resources that may be impacted with improvements to the South Strabane Township Community Park.

#### SOUTH STRABANE COMMUNITY PARK FACILITIES

Currently the park contains the following facility and activity areas:

- Concession Building with Restroom Facilities
- Softball Field
- 30' x 50' Picnic Shelter

- Play Equipment with Swing set
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Multi-Purpose Court
- Soccer Field
- Small Picnic Shelter
- Bituminous Loop Walking Trail

There are two parking lots in the park, the larger of the two is located northeast of the softball field and the second smaller parking lot is located at the end of the park access road.





#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Public Involvement was a key component of the development of the South Strabane Township's Community Park Master Plan. The methods used to gather community input included: Steering Committee, 2 public meetings, digital and paper questionnaires, and key person interviews.

#### FIVE MECHANISMS TO GATHER PUBLIC INPUT INCLUDED:

The **Steering Committee** convened six times between January 2021 and August 2021 to represent the community in meetings with the Consultant. The Township and committee members publicized the meetings through the dedicated web page, Township website, social media and word of mouth

The committee held a **public meeting** on Friday April 9, 2021 at the South Strabane Township Community Park. The event was held in conjunction with the Salvation Army Spring Family Reading Fun Day. The Steering Committee and consultant gathered input at four stations: 1.) Programming, 2.) Connectivity, 3.) Park Improvements, 4.) Survey Completion.

The consultant created a **digital recreation questionnaire** to collect information concerning residents' recreational interests. A total of 286 individuals responded.

The consultant **interviewed key persons** and identified community organizations who represented a variety of interests in recreational opportunities and operations.

The consultant presented the findings and draft recommendations of the plan at a Board of Supervisors **public** meeting for comment on August 24, 2021.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY**

The Steering Committee and the Consultant worked together to identify common themes that occurred throughout the five venues of public participation. These common themes were used as the basis to develop the master plan and strategies which are detailed in Chapter Four. The following items were identified:

#### PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES

Throughout the planning process the need for park improvements through sustainable planning, resource protection and storm water management should be considered in all aspects of design and construction. The design and construction should consider the maintenance and operations of the proposed and desired amenities.

#### CONNECT THE COMMUNITY THROUGH HIKING AND BIKING TRAILS

The need for additional interconnected trails to provide for exercise, alternative transportation and connectivity among community resources was certainly one of the key issues addressed by South Strabane Township residents. According to the public input, many residents see a system of trails as the hub, connecting neighborhoods, parks and community facilities. Additionally, they hope the trail system will eventually connect to a host of regional trails to offer expanded recreational opportunities.

#### **ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS**

Cooperative arrangements between the Township and other agencies, municipalities and the school district could be beneficial to all parties.

#### **EXPAND PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

The community expressed the desire for additional programming and special event opportunities for all residents. Suggested methods to expand these services included community partners, volunteers or expanded services through the Township. It should be considered to reestablish the Parks and Recreation Board and/or hire a Parks and Recreation Professional.





#### **RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **DESIGN CONCEPT PLANS**

The committee was provided with a site analysis plan and conceptual ideas which were identified as key issues through the public outreach. The purpose of the planning exercise was to better understand the committee's goals for the park, the kind of park development desired, and the scale of support facilities that should be incorporated into the master plan.



#### Discussions included:

- Natural Resource Protection
- Additional Trails
- Cross Country Trail
- Additional Parking
- Improved Play Areas
- Dog Park
- Signage
- Facility for Family Events (Amphitheater, Community Center)
- Connectivity to neighboring developments



#### **MASTER PLAN**

A master plan was devloped by incorporating the analysis of the existing site with feedback provided by the Steering Committee and public involvement. The plan aims to meet the needs and wants of the community by celebrating the community of South Strabane, creating a park space that is unique to the area, and connecting the park and its facilities both locally and regionally.

#### **KEY AREAS**

#### **DOG PARK AREA**

This area is located on the West Side of the property. The Dog Park will consist of two dog areas designed for large dogs and small dogs. A perimeter trail, benches, shade trees and composting restrooms will be included in this area. Other features include: internal road extension, accessible routes, riparian plantings, stream access, pond access, and sledding hill.

#### ENTRANCE/LARGE PAVILION PLAY AREA

- Installing a welcome sign and entrance plantings, as well as wayfinding throughout the park
- Planting a riparian buffer along the Chartiers Creek
- Upgrade accessibility to all facilities
- Upgrade existing play equipment
- Enhance parking with stormwater management amenities

#### **SOFTBALL FIELD**

- Develop accessible routes to the softball field, dugouts and newly constructed restroom facilities
- Discuss renewing the agreement with the Trinity Area School District
- Installation of outfield and baseline netting

#### MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD

- Accessibility
- Children's bike path

#### KEISLING PAVILION/AMPHITHEATER AREA

The area near the Keisling Pavilion provides a great sloped area for an amphitheater which could be programmed for concerts, movies, environmental education and other community events.

- Expand Parking Area and stormwater management areas
- Develop Amphitheater with restrooms, accessible routes, and future expansion opportunities
- Trail connections to Wellness Area
- Meadow and rain garden plantings
- Accessible routes







#### TRAIL AND NATURAL AREA IMPROVEMENTS

The east side of Community Park was designed as a detention pond area during the initial construction of the park. This area contains steep slopes which should be converted to natural plantings and an enhanced rain garden area to reduce the amount of mowing and other maintenance in this area of the park. A crushed limestone perimeter trail will be developed in this area.

#### Overall this area includes:

- Rain garden
- Native plantings on steep slopes
- Crushed limestone trail
- Natural Resource Protection and Plantings
- Riparian Buffering Plantings
- Development of meadow and native steep slope planting to reduce maintenance costs while enhancing habitat and natural areas
- Pond improvements
- Arboretum plantings along existing paved and mowed trails

#### RECREATION AREA

This area is a level area located in the center of the existing paved trail. This area will provide the community with health and wellness opportunities which can be programmed for residents of all ages. The existing sand volleyball court will be replaced with pickle ball courts and the existing basketball court will be improved with new pavement and fencing.

- Pavilion
- Nature Play Area
- Shade Trees
- Labyrinth
- Wellness Trail
- Parking
- Shade Trees and Arboretum Plantings

#### WEST SIDE ADJACENT PARCEL EXPANSION

This 13- acre parcel sits below the Public Works Building. A second park entrance should be developed to allow access to this area. This area is used by the Trinity Area School District and JFK Cross Country Teams. Development of this area with sustainability and the needs for the Cross Country teams will enhance their partnership. During much of the year, this area will not be utilized by Cross Country and will provide additional opportunities to the community.

- Pavilion
- Additional Parking
- Sledding Hill
- Access to pond
- Mowed trails
- Access to creek
- Access to Mountain Bike Trails









#### **ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COST**

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Prepared by Pashek + MTR

Opinion of Frobable Construction Costs			Пери	CU Dy I asilek I WITK	
Item Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost	
Dog Park Area- Phase 1					
Removals and Site Preparation- Phase 1A					
Misc removals	1	LS	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Clearing and grubbing	1	LS	\$3,000	\$3,000	
Site preparation and earthwork	1		\$20,000	\$20,000	
ESC Controls	1	LS	\$15,000	\$15,000	
200 001101010	\$43,000				
Dog Park Site Improvements-Phase 1A			Site Preparation	, ,,,,,,,	
Internal Road Extension	1800	SY	\$50	\$90,000	
Stream crossing (stone, pipe)	1	LS	\$7,500	\$7,500	
Fencing, gates, auger rental, install by DPW	1700	LF	\$50	\$85,000	
ADA Paved Access 8'	380	LF	\$50	\$19,000	
Bituminous paving - Parking (28+2 ADA)	3200	SY	\$50	\$160,000	
Concrete wheelstops	26	EA	\$150	\$3,900	
Linestriping and cross walk painting	1	LS	\$200	\$200	
	Phase 1A		ements Subtotal	\$365,600	
		Ph	ase 1A Subtotal	\$408,600	
Dog Park Site Improvements- Phase 1B					
Permiter trail- crushed limestone	1600	SY	\$25	\$40,000	
Trail stream crossing (bridge)	1	LS	\$3,000	\$3,000	
Benches	5	EA	\$2,500	\$12,500	
Signage	4	EA	\$400	\$1,600	
Picnic tables	2	EA	\$1,000	\$2,000	
Trash receptacles	4	EA	\$150	\$600	
Benches	4	EA	\$500	\$2,000	
Dog waste stations	4	EA	\$500	\$2,000	
Composting Family Restroom, Unit, Install, Site Prep, Delivery		LS	\$75,000	\$75,000	
Planting C Landonna Footures Phase 1P	Phase 1B	improve	ements Subtotal	\$138,700	
Planting & Landscape Features- Phase 1B Shade Trees	24	EA	\$450	\$10,800	
Stream bank stabalization and stone stream access	1	EA	\$5,000	\$5,000	
	1	LS	\$7,500	\$7,500	
Pond Improvements Seeding - Meadow	90	SY	\$7,500	\$405	
Security - Meadow	Subtotal Planting			\$23,705	
	Subtotui i iuiitiiig		ase 1B Subtotal	\$162,405	
			doc 15 odstotal	ψ102, 103	
		DOG PA	ARK SUBTOTAL	\$571,005	
Contingency			15%	\$85,651	
Bonds and Insurance and stakeout and mobilization			12%	\$68,521	
	DOG PARK	CONSTI	RUCTION COST	\$725,176	
Survey, Design, Engineering, Permitting			20%	\$145,035	
		DC	G PARK TOTAL	\$870,212	

Amphitheater Area- Phase 2					
Removals and Site Preparation					
Misc removals	1	LS	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Clearing and grubbing	1	LS	\$3,000	\$3,000	
	Subtotal Remov	Subtotal Removals and Site Preparation			
Site Improvements-Phase 2					
Earthwork	1	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Concrete paving	200	SY	\$120	\$24,000	
Cut stone seat walls	1	LS	\$30,000	\$30,000	
Concrete steps	1	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Electrical service for band shell	1	LS	\$7,500	\$7,500	
Lighting	1	LS	\$7,500	\$7,500	
Band shell/rectangular monoslope pavilion	1	EA	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Restroom facilities	1	EA	\$100,000	\$100,000	
ADA Paved Access 8'	500	LF	\$50	\$25,000	
Bituminous paving - Parking	1,400	SY	\$50	\$70,000	
Concrete wheelstops	41	EA	\$150	\$6,150	
Linestriping	1	LS	\$400	\$400	
Planting & Landscape Features-Phase 2	Sub	total Sit	e Improvements	\$340,550	
Shade Trees	17	EA	\$450	\$7.650	
Shrub plantings	1	LS	\$3,000	\$3,000	
Rain garden plantings	1	LS	\$6,000	\$6,000	
Seeding - Meadow	700	SY	\$4.50	\$3,150	
Seeding	1,200	SY	\$2.25	\$2,700	
	Subtotal Planting	and Lan	dscape Features	\$22,500	
ESC and Misc Utilities			,		
ESC controls	1	LS	\$15,000	\$15,000	
	Subtotal Planting	Subtotal Planting and Landscape Features			
	AMP	HITHEA	TER SUBTOTAL	\$386,050	
Contingency			15%	\$57,908	
Bonds and Insurance and stakeout and mobilization			12%	\$46,326	
	AMPHITHEATER	CONST		\$490,284	
Survey, Design, Engineering, Permitting			20%	\$98,057	
	A	MPHIT	HEATER TOTAL	\$588,340	

Trails and Natural Area Improvements- Phase 3					
Removals and Site Preparation					
Misc removals	1	LS	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Clearing and grubbing	1	LS	\$3,000	\$3,000	
	Subtotal Remov	Subtotal Removals and Site Preparation			
Site Improvements					
Earthwork	1	LS	\$8,000	\$8,000	
Trail - 8' (Trail Surface Aggregate on new surface)	1,300	SY	\$50	\$65,000	
Trail Head/Park Kiosk	2	EA	\$3,000	\$6,000	
Interpretive Signs	4	EA	\$500	\$2,000	
	Sub	total Sit	e Improvements	\$81,000	
Planting & Landscape Features					
Shade Trees	6	EA	\$450	\$2,700	
Riparian buffer plantings (seedlings/bare root trees & shrubs)	7	AC	\$5,000	\$35,000	
Shrub plantings	1	LS	\$9,000	\$9,000	
Rain garden	1	LS	\$8,000	\$8,000	
Seeding - Meadow	45,000	SY	\$4.50	\$202,500	
	Subtotal Planting and Landscape Features			\$257,200	
Erosion and Sedimentation Controls & Misc					
ESC controls	1	LS	\$15,000	\$15,000	
		Subtotal ECS Controls		\$15,000	
		SUI	BTOTAL TRAILS	\$361,200	
Contingency			15%	\$54,180	
Bonds and Insurance and stakeout and mobilization			12%	\$43,344	
	SUBTOTAL	CONSTI	RUCTION COST	\$458,724	
Survey, Design, Engineering, Permitting			20%	\$91,745	
			TOTALTRAILS	\$550,469	

Recreation Area- Phase 4						
Removals and Site Preparation						
Clearing and grubbing	1	LS	\$5,000	\$5,000		
	Subtotal Remov	als and S	Site Preparation	\$5,000		
Site Improvements- Phase 4A						
Earthwork	1	LS	\$8,000	\$8,000		
Benches	10	EA	\$2,500	\$25,000		
Internal Road Extension	700	SY	\$50	\$35,000		
Bituminous paving - Parking (28+2 ADA)	2800	SY	\$50	\$140,000		
Concrete wheelstops	59	EA	\$150	\$8,850		
Linestriping and cross walk painting	1	LS	\$400	\$400		
Natural playground	1	LS	\$100,000	\$100,000		
New shelter	1	LS	\$40,000	\$40,000		
Storage lockers	1	LS	\$15,000	\$15,000		
Labyrinth	1	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000		
Wellness trail	1,200	LF	\$50	\$60,000		
Accessible sidewalks	600	LF	\$50	\$30,000		
Bike loop path	750	LF	\$50	\$37,500		
Basketball area improvements	1	LS	\$8,000	\$8,000		
Pickleball court, ADA access	1	LS	\$20,000	\$20,000		
·	Phase 4A Site	Improve	ements Subtotal	\$542,750		
		Pho	ase 4A Subtotal	\$547,750		
Site Improvements Phase 4B						
Softball field upgrades- outfield netting, accessible routes	1	LS	\$15,000	\$15,000		
Water fountain	1	EA	\$7,500	\$7,500		
Existing Playground upgrades	1	LS	\$100,000	\$100,000		
Main entrance gateway signage and landscaping	1	LS	\$15,000	\$15,000		
	Sub	total Site	e Improvements	\$137,500		
		Pho	ase 4B Subtotal	\$137,500		
Planting & Landscape Features- Phase 4C						
Shade Trees	50	EA	\$450	\$22,500		
Arboretum speciman trees, along existing paved trail	10	EA	\$650	\$6,500		
Shrub plantings	1	LS	\$5,000	\$5,000		
Rain garden plantings	1	LS	\$9,000	\$9,000		
Seeding - Meadow	37,000	SY	\$4.50	\$166,500		
Sensory garden plantings	6,500	SF	\$15	\$97,500		
	Subtotal Planting	and Land	dscape Features	\$307,000		
ESC and Misc Utilities			·			
ESC controls	1	LS	\$15,000	\$15,000		
	Subtot	al ESC ai	nd Misc Utilities	\$15,000		
		P	hase 4 Subtotal	\$322,000		
	SU	JBTOTA	L RECREATION	\$1,007,250		
Contingency			15%	\$151,088		
Bonds and Insurance and stakeout and mobilization			12%	\$120,870		
	SUBTOTAL	CONST	RUCTION COST	\$1,279,208		
Survey, Design, Engineering, Permitting			20%	\$255,842		
		TOTA	L RECREATION	\$1,535,049		

Adjacent Parcel Expansion- Phase 5							
Removals and Site Preparation							
Clearing and grubbing	1	LS	\$5,000	\$5,000			
			Site Preparation	\$5,000			
Site Improvements							
Earthwork	1	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000			
Internal Road Extension	5,400	SY	\$50	\$270,000			
Bituminous paving - Parking	30	SY	\$50	\$1,500			
Concrete wheelstops	12	EA	\$150	\$1,800			
Linestriping and cross walk painting	1	LS	\$200	\$200			
New shelter	1	LS	\$35,000	\$35,000			
Sidewalks	2,400	LF	\$50	\$120,000			
Trail signage	1	LS	\$1,500	\$1,500			
	Sub	total Sit	e Improvements	\$440,000			
Planting & Landscape Features			,				
Riparian buffer plantings (seedlings/bare root trees & shrubs)	2	AC	\$5,000	\$10,000			
Seeding - Meadow	32,000	SY	\$4.50	\$144,000			
Subtotal ESC and Misc Utilities				\$154,000			
ESC and Misc Utilities							
ESC controls	1	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000			
	Subtotal Planting and Landscape Features		\$10,000				
	9	SUBTOT	AL EXPANSION	\$609,000			
Contingency			15%	\$91,350			
Bonds and Insurance and stakeout and mobilization			12%	\$73,080			
	SUBTOTAL	CONSTI	RUCTION COST	\$773,430			
Survey, Design, Engineering, Permitting			20% AL EXPANSION	\$154,686			
	\$928,116						
			GRAND TOTAL	\$4,472,186			

#### Notes:

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs is made based on the experience and qualifications of Pashek + MTR, Ltd and represents reasonable judgment based on familiarity with the industry. Pashek + MTR, Ltd. has no control over the cost, or availability of labor, materials or equipment, or over market conditions or the provider's method of pricing. Pashek + MTR, Ltd cannot and does not guarantee that the opinion of probable cost provided the Owner will not vary from the actual cost experienced by the Owner.

#### **PHASING PLAN**

