

Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Profile

Recreation is an essential public service. Parks, trails, recreation programs, cultural attractions, festivals, and other special events breathe life into individuals and communities. They offer “things to do” for young citizens, employees and their families, and visitors. They contribute to the economic vitality of the county through direct and indirect spending in local businesses and are often a cornerstone of community revitalization plans. Parkland can protect and integrate natural and scenic features into communities and recreation programs foster socially responsible citizens and healthy families, the foundation of our society.

Recreation is a key factor in the quality of life in Lebanon County, as revealed through the public participation activities of this planning process. The Lebanon Valley Rail Trail, scenic open spaces and cultural activities, as well as the recent planning for the Tulpehocken Greenway, were commonly listed among the positive aspects of life in Lebanon County. At the same time, more facilities, more linkages between existing parks, and more programs were clearly expressed as citizen needs throughout the county.

Within a half hour drive, the 120,000+ citizens of Lebanon County can enjoy a wide range of outdoor recreation experiences. They can hike, cycle, boat, fish, hunt, camp, bird watch, ride horses, and enjoy cultural and historic experiences in more than 42,000 acres of recreation land in two state parks, six state game lands, a wildlife management area, the Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, two state-designated historic sites, three county-owned or county-cooperative parks, a 16-mile section of the Appalachian Trail, and the 12.5-mile Lebanon Valley Rail Trail. In addition, Lebanon County municipalities have a long tradition of providing community parks where residents recreate and attend community celebrations. Furthermore, the school districts in Lebanon County play a vital role in community recreation by making their campus grounds and athletic fields and facilities available for community recreation programs. Finally, private organizations contribute to recreation opportunities through lands owned by sportsmen’s clubs, fire companies, golf courses, and campgrounds and services offered by commercial operators. Recreation in Lebanon is truly a multi-faceted community service.

The Recreation Profile provides a benchmark of existing recreation conditions in Lebanon County in 2006 and evaluates how recreation needs are being met and where the gaps in service exist. The profile inventories existing park and recreation sites, trails, and greenways and documents how these recreation facilities are managed, operated, funded and promoted. The profile considers trends in program participation and diversity and explores needs and opportunities for expansion of recreational facilities and services based on the school district planning regions. It records the challenges and benefits of recreation specific to Lebanon County and its municipalities and school districts. On-site investigation, discussions with the County Planning Department staff, contacts with municipalities, outreach to school district officials, and input from citizens through the public participation process provided the local knowledge and perspectives presented here.

Inventory of Park and Recreation Lands

Different types of park and recreation lands serve different recreational purposes. Municipal neighborhood and community parks typically serve the active, close-to-home recreation needs of nearby citizens. County and regional parks provide larger sites for resource-based recreation; preservation of natural, cultural, and historic resources; and enjoyment of scenic resources. State and federal agencies typically establish recreation lands where recreation is compatible with resource conservation policies.

Table 5-1 presents the Lebanon County Park and Recreation Land Classification System. It shows the range of park types, their benefits, appropriate facilities, and the maintenance levels appropriate for the type of park and resources available. Tables 5-2 through 5-7 inventory public recreation lands in Lebanon County, as well as, school properties, and quasi-public and other protected recreation lands. The Recreation Lands Map illustrates the locations of these park and recreation lands in Lebanon County.

Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Profile

Table 5-1 Lebanon County Park and Recreation Land Classification System

Type/Size/Service Radius	Definition	Benefits	Appropriate Amenities	Maintenance Level
Mini Park 0-5 acres ¼-mile service radius	Smallest park type, addresses limited recreation need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides close-to-home recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground Benches, seating area 	High level of maintenance associated with well developed park and playground and reasonably high visitation
Neighborhood Park 5-15 acres minimum ½-mile service radius	Focus of neighborhood; in walking/biking distance of visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides access to basic recreation opportunities Contributes to neighborhood identity Establishes sense of community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play areas Ball fields Game Courts Picnic/Seating Pathways Community gardens 	High level of maintenance associated with well-developed park and reasonably high visitation.
Community Park 25-50 acres, preferably 50-80 acres 2-mile service radius	Large park for active & passive recreation; serves residents municipality-wide. Accommodates large groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variety of recreation opportunities for all ages and interests Space for organized, large scale, high participation events Family destination Fitness and wellness opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play areas Organized sports facilities Pavilions Permanent restrooms Lighting Amphitheaters Pools, Rinks Parking 	Moderate level of maintenance associated with moderate level of development, budget restrictions, inability to perform higher levels of maintenance. Potential for park “friends” or adopt-a-park partners.
School/Community Park Variable	Parkland adjoining a school used for both recreation and education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combines two public entities for expanded year round recreation. Maximizes public resources Expands recreation opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth-oriented game courts and ball fields Play areas Seating Pathways Lighting Parking 	Moderate level of maintenance associated with moderate level of development, budget restrictions. Potential for cooperative agreement with school.
Sports Complex 30+ acres; preferably 50-80 acres	Consolidates sports fields and related facilities in a centralized location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economy of scale Improved management Municipal showcase Attracts visitors who stimulate local economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ball fields Lighting Spectator areas Restrooms, Concessions Landscaping Parking 	State of the art maintenance applied to high quality facilities. Associated with high visitation; revenue generating facilities, tourism.
Special Use Facility Variable	Facility for a single purpose use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides special focus recreation opportunities Contributes to community identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depends on purpose 	High level of maintenance associated with well-developed park and reasonably high visitation.
Greenways and Trails Variable	Tie park areas and community together to form a contiguous park environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connects community Reduces auto dependency Improves air quality Contributes most desired recreation facility for people throughout their lifetime Attracts visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways – multipurpose Trailheads Support facilities Signage 	Lowest level of maintenance. Focus on trailheads and trail safety.
Natural Resource Area/ Preserve	Natural areas for the protection and management of natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protects resources Provides wildlife habitat Offers opportunities for environmental education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails Signage Support facilities 	Lower level of maintenance.

Federal Recreation Lands in Lebanon County

Two federal land holdings contribute to recreation opportunities in Lebanon County. These large natural resource-based areas provide outdoor recreation opportunities to both residents of Lebanon County and the tourists who contribute to Lebanon County’s economic vitality through their discretionary spending.

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail stretching from Maine to Georgia traverses the northern portion of the county through State Game Lands No. 80 and No. 211 and Swatara State Park. Approximately 16 miles of the trail are located in Lebanon County and a majority of this segment is located on permanently protected public lands.

Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation (FTIG) is comprised of over 140 training facilities. These facilities are fairly concentrated, leaving the approximately 11,500 acres of the 17,000-acre reservation as open space. FTIG makes these woodlands, streams, lakes and mountain vistas available to the public for hunting, fishing, and bird watching; the military training areas are off limits to the general public. Shuey Lake, Marquette Lake and the athletic fields and other recreation lands of FTIG have restricted hours and all recreation users must attend a safety briefing and pay a fee.

For these large recreation landscapes, the total area listed on the inventory tables indicates the acreage of the specified park or recreation site in Lebanon County; the site may extend beyond Lebanon County.

Table 5-2 Federal Recreation Lands in Lebanon County, 2006

Federal Recreation Lands	Acres in Lebanon County	Municipality	Comments
Northern Lebanon SD			
Appalachian National Scenic Trail	Approx. 16-mile length through Lebanon County predominantly on state lands	Cold Spring, Union, Swatara and Bethel Townships	Primitive hiking trail connects three large protected natural areas in northern Lebanon County, State Game Lands No. 211, Swatara State Park and State Game Lands No. 80.
Fort Indiantown Gap National Guard Training Center	11,501.2	East Hanover and Union Townships	Recreation opportunities open to the public include hunting, fishing, wood gathering and bird watching on lands not used as training grounds.

State Parks and State Game Lands in Lebanon County

There are two Pennsylvania State Parks and portions of six State Game Lands in Lebanon County. These larger landholdings are primarily located along the northern and southern ridgelines of Lebanon County.

Memorial Lake State Park is located in northwestern Lebanon County adjacent to Fort Indiantown Gap. The park contains an 85-acre lake with access for fishing, electric boating, sailing and paddling, as well as picnic areas and trails. Boats can be rented at the park.

Swatara State Park is a 3,516-acre park spanning Lebanon and Schuylkill Counties in the gap of land traversed by Swatara Creek between Second and Blue Mountains. Approximately 2,538 acres of the park are within Lebanon County. The park offers trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing and natural areas for hunting, fishing, and non-motorized boating and is traversed by the Appalachian Trail. A Master Plan Feasibility Study was completed in 2003 to define the appropriate facilities for this park; further development is anticipated but has not been a state priority.

Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Profile

Table 5-3 State Parks and State Game Lands in Lebanon County, 2006

State Park	Total Area (Acres)	Municipality	Comments*
Northern Lebanon School District			
Memorial Lake State Park	217.6	East Hanover Township	Memorial Lake (85 acres), picnic areas, trails, and lake access for fishing and boating (electric motor only)
Swatara State Park	2,538.5	Union, Bethel and Swatara Townships	The Master Plan Feasibility Study was completed in 2003. Additional park development is anticipated.
Rock, State Game Lands No. 80	5,552.30	Bethel Township and Swatara Township	Located in Lebanon, Berks & Schuylkill Counties. Primarily wooded mountain land. Deer, grouse and turkey are prevalent game species.
Manada Gap/Green Point, State Game Lands No. 211	16,543.3	Cold Spring Township and Union Township	Located in Lebanon, Dauphin & Schuylkill Counties. Largely wooded tract covering portions of the Fishing, Stony and Clarks Creeks drainages. Assorted wildlife species found. Includes portions of Appalachian and Horseshoe Trails and has good access roads.
Cornwall-Lebanon School District			
Cornwall Iron Furnace	5.3	Cornwall Borough	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission site
Poplar Grove, State Game Lands No. 156	1,561.9	South Lebanon Township and Cornwall Borough	Located in Lebanon & Lancaster Counties. Rexmont Dam is located here with wooded land accessible from Rte. 322. Some deer and all types of small game.
ELCO School District			
Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, State Game Lands No. 46	1,123.3	Heidelberg Township	Located in Lebanon & Lancaster Counties. Highly developed waterfowl and small game area with lake and nature center. Opportunities for fishing, picnicking, hiking and nature study. Regionally significant bird watching facility. Wooded areas provide grouse, squirrel and deer habitat.
State Game Lands No. 225	299.4	Millcreek Township	Wooded land providing habitat primarily for deer, rabbits and squirrel
Palmyra Area School District			
Colebrook, State Game Lands No. 145	2,895.2	South Londonderry Township	Highly developed open areas interspersed with woodlots. Deer, pheasants, grouse and rabbits prevalent.
Total in County	30,736.8		

* Comments compiled from interviews and agency publications.

Lebanon County Parks

Lebanon County holds full or partial ownership in three parks and approximately 12.5 miles of the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail corridor. These sites offer opportunities for passive recreation and historic interpretation.

Monument Park is wholly owned by Lebanon County and occupies a city block at 8th and Lehman Streets in the City of Lebanon. The park contains a monument dedicated to the memory of Lebanon County Civil War veterans.

The Union Canal Tunnel Park is located in North Lebanon Township, just west of the City of Lebanon and offers opportunities for walking, picnicking, and interpretation of the 600 foot long Union Canal Tunnel, a National Historic Landmark and a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The Union Canal was built to connect the Philadelphia area with the Susquehanna Valley via a man-made canal from the Schuylkill River in Reading, Berks County, to the Susquehanna River in Middletown, Dauphin County. The park occupies 109.1 acres; Lebanon County owns 33.7 acres and the Lebanon County Historical Society owns the remaining 75.4 acres. The Historical Society manages the entire property.

The Clarence Schock Memorial Park at Governor Dick is located on South Mountain in West Cornwall Township. Lebanon County and the SICO Foundation are co-trustees of the park. The Governor Dick Board of Directors manages the park. This park provides an extensive forested natural area for hiking and nature study. An observation tower provides views of a five county area. A newly constructed Environmental Education Center provides a home for environmental education programming and hosts group activities.

The Lebanon Valley Rail Trail is discussed in detail in the Greenways and Trails section of the profile, though it is worthy to note here that a spur to the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail is being explored to connect the trail to the Governor Dick Environmental Education Center.

Table 5-4 Lebanon County Parks, 2006

County Park	Total Area (Acres)	Municipality / School District Location	Description
Monument Park	2.0	Lebanon City / Lebanon SD	A small urban park located in the City of Lebanon. A monument in the memory of Lebanon County's Civil War veterans.
Union Canal Tunnel Park	109.10	North Lebanon Township / Cornwall-Lebanon SD	The tunnel is designated as a National Historic Landmark and is the oldest existing transportation tunnel in the U.S. Park ownership is shared between Lebanon County and The Lebanon County Historic Society.
Lebanon Valley Rail Trail	12.5 Mile Length, 46.6 acres	Cornwall Borough, W. Cornwall Township, S. Londonderry Township / Cornwall-Lebanon SD	Converted rail line between the Lancaster Lebanon County boundary to Zinns Mill Road in Cornwall Borough.
Clarence Schock Memorial Park at Governor Dick	1,079.0	West Cornwall Township / Cornwall-Lebanon SD	The property is a wooded natural area with an environmental education center, hiking trail, and observation tower. Lebanon County is a co-trustee of the park with the SICO Foundation.
County Total	1,236.7		

Source: Lebanon County Planning Department; interviews with park operators/managers

Municipal Parks in Lebanon County

Twenty of the 26 municipalities of Lebanon County have one or more municipal parks. These range from traditional community parks such as Levitz Park in East Hanover Township and neighborhood parks like Ebenezer Park in North Lebanon Township, to small playgrounds like Jackson Heights Playground in Jackson Township and natural areas like the Quittie Creek Nature Park in Annville Township. The inventory of municipal parks shown in Table 5-5 classifies each park by type based on the Lebanon County Park and Recreation Land Classification System: Community Parks of 25 acres or more, Neighborhood Parks of between 5 and 15 acres, Mini-Parks of less than five acres, and Natural Resource Areas/Others

Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Profile

for nature parks and undeveloped park and recreation lands. Parks with acreage between 15 and 25 acres are generally categorized by use; if the park is used as a community park, it is classified as such, even though the acreage may fall below the 25 acres defining a community park.

Table 5-5 Municipal Parks in Lebanon County

Municipality	Community Park (acres)	Neighborhood Park (acres)	Mini-park (acres)	Natural Resource Area / Other (acres)	Total Area (Acres)
Annville-Cleona School District					
Annville Township				Quittie Creek Nature Park (23.1)	23.1
Cleona Borough		Cleona Community Park (15.0)			15.0
North Annville Township					0.0
South Annville Township					0.0
Total Acres	0	15.0	0	23.1	38.1
Cornwall-Lebanon School District					
Cornwall Borough		Miner's Village Field (5.7), Bus Garage Football Field (2.0)*	Harold Basehore Memorial Field (4.4), Cornwall Borough Municipal Park (2.9)		15.0
Mt. Gretna Borough					0.0
North Cornwall Township	City of Lebanon Authority Fields (30.0 leased from the City of Lebanon)		Pleasant Hill Playground (0.3)	Undeveloped parcel (Oak St.) (20.2)	50.5
North Lebanon Township	Lion's Lake Park (34.9), Community Park (17.0)	Ebenezer Park (9.5)		Moyer Tract – undeveloped (28.4)	89.8
South Lebanon Township	South Hills Park (100.1 acres)		Avon Memorial Park (3.9)	Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands Preserve (7.0), undeveloped parcel (1.0)	112.0
West Cornwall Township			Quentin Tot Lot (0.3)		0.3
Total Acres	182.0	17.2	11.8	49.6	267.6
Eastern Lebanon County School District					
Heidelberg Township		Heidelberg Township Park (8.7)			8.7
Jackson Township			Grumbine Field (1.8), Jackson Heights Meadows Playground (2.0)	Lakeside Recreation Area (20.8), Future Jackson Recreation Area (34.8)	59.4
Millcreek Township		Millcreek Township Park (8.3), Newburg Recreation Area (14.4)	Millcreek War Memorial Park (1.6)		24.3
Myerstown Borough	Myerstown Borough Park (26.6)				26.6
Richland Borough			Dr. E.O. Moehlmann Field (2.6)		2.6
Total Acres	26.6	31.4	8.0	55.6	121.6

Municipality	Community Park (acres)	Neighborhood Park (acres)	Mini-park (acres)	Natural Resource Area / Other (acres)	Total Area (Acres)
Lebanon School District					
Lebanon City	Coleman Memorial Park (104.2), Stover's Dam Park (148.9), located in North Lebanon Township) Northeast Park (24.5), Southwest Park (26.5)	Skateboard Park (5.8),	Fishers Park (0.9), Veteran's Walkway (7.1), Beautex Park (4.2), Meadowbank Park (1.7), Tot lots (0.3), East End Playground (0.9), Southeast Playground (1.6), Progressive Playground (0.4)		327
West Lebanon Township		Henry Arnold Recreational Area (7.8)			7.8
Total Acres	304.1	13.6	17.1	0	334.8
Northern Lebanon School District					
Bethel Township		Bethel Township's Lions Park and Pool (10.3)			10.3
Cold Spring Township					0.0
East Hanover Township	H.M. Levitz Memorial Park (104.9)				104.9
Jonestown Borough	Jonestown Community Park (16.6)				16.6
Swatara Township				Undeveloped Township Parcel (7.0), undeveloped Blatt tract (13.0)	20.0.0
Union Township					0.0
Total Acres	121.5	10.3	0	20	151.8
Palmyra Area School District					
North Londonderry Township					0.0
Palmyra Borough		Southeast Family Park (8.5), Palmyra Borough Fireman's Park (8.0)	Heritage Park (0.9), Town Square (0.1)		26.5
South Londonderry Township		Lawn Community Park (2.4), Thistledown (3.1)	Londonderry Village (0.8), Colebrook Park (0.6), Country Squire Estates Park (1.0), Phillipy Park (1.2)	Kreider Glen Wetland (1.0 acres)	10.1
Total Acres	0	22.0	4.6	1.0	36.6
County Total Parks	11.0	14.0	23.0	9.0	57.0
County Total Acres	634.2	109.5	41.5	149.3	934.5

*approximate acreage

Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Profile

Other Park and Recreation Lands in Lebanon County

There are many quasi-public and private park and recreation lands in Lebanon County. Tables 5-6 through 5-9 list private parks, campgrounds, golf courses, and fish and gun club lands. These sites offer specialized recreation opportunities that, in many cases, supplement public recreation facilities. This is particularly true of the private parks owned and maintained by fire companies, American Legions or other community-based groups, while campgrounds, fish and gun clubs, and golf courses, are typically member-based or commercial (for-fee) operations.

Table 5-6 Private Parks in Lebanon County, 2006

Private Parks	Total Area (Acres)	Municipality	Ownership
Annville-Cleona School District			
Annville Cleona Community Park	14.5	Annville Township	Annville Cleona Recreation Assoc. and the American Legion
Lebanon Valley College Ball Fields	89.1	Annville Township	Township leases fields from Lebanon Valley College
Waterworks Park	6.6	North Annville Township	Union Water Works Fire Company
Total	110.2		
Cornwall-Lebanon School District			
Rexmont Fire Company Playground	3.1	Cornwall Borough	Community Fire Company
Mt. Gretna Men's Club	6.0	Mt. Gretna Borough	Mt. Gretna Men's Club
Chautauqua Playground	1.0 +/-	Mt. Gretna Borough	Pa. Chautauqua Assoc.
Neversink Fire Company Park	1.2	North Cornwall Township	Neversink Fire Company
Ebenezer Fire Company Park	1.7	North Lebanon Township	Ebenezer Fire Company
Fifth Ward Athletic Club Park	5.2	North Lebanon Township	Fifth Ward Athletic Club
Union Canal Tunnel Park	75.4	North Lebanon Township	Lebanon County Historical Society & County of Lebanon
South Lebanon Lions Club Park	4.3	South Lebanon Township	Lions Club of South Lebanon
Prescott Field	15.6	South Lebanon Township	Prescott Community Fire Company
AES Ironwood Corp.'s Avon Sports Center	10.3	South Lebanon Township	AES Ironwood Foundation
Quentin United Church of Christ's Power Park	11.1	West Cornwall Township	Quentin United Church of Christ
Valley Beach Club, Inc.'s Park	5.1	West Cornwall Township	Valley Beach Club Inc.
Total	140.0		
Eastern Lebanon County School District			
Fountain Park	4.2	Heidelberg Township	Friends of the Park Group's Fountain Park
Schaefferstown Fireman's Park	13.4	Heidelberg Township	Volunteer Fire Co 1
Willow Springs Park	46.4	Jackson Township	John Stokes
Newburg Village Park	14.0	Millcreek Township	Peter Shirk
Newmanstown Athletic Association Park	5.2	Millcreek Township	Newmanstown Athletic Association
Myerstown American Legion Park	1.8	Myerstown Borough	James Litschi
Memorial Park	10.2	Richland Borough	Neptune Fire Co.
Richland Borough Community Swimming Pool	4.0	Richland Borough	Richland Community Swimming
Richland American Legion Park	5.5	Richland Borough	American Legion Post 880
Total	104.7		
Lebanon School District			
None			
Northern Lebanon School District			
Fredericksburg Fireman's Park	16.9	Bethel Township	Fredericksburg Fireman's Park Association
American Legion Ball Field	2.0+/-	Bethel Township	American Legion Home
Total	18.9		

Private Parks	Total Area (Acres)	Municipality	Ownership
Palmyra Area School District			
Palmyra Community Pool	10.4	North Londonderry Township	Palmyra Area Recreation and Park Commission
Palmyra Bologna Company Park	5.5	Palmyra Borough	Palmyra Bologna Co.
Campbelltown Fireman's Park	16.3	South Londonderry Township	Campbelltown Volunteer Fire Co.
Conewago Lake	149.8	South Londonderry Township	Eastern Enterprises Inc.
Horseshoe Trail (acreage as 19.4 mile corridor estimated at 25' wide)	58.79	South Londonderry, South Annville, West Cornwall Townships and Cornwall Borough	Created and Managed by the Horseshoe Trail Club
Lawn Fire Company Playground	12.1	South Londonderry Township	Lawn Fire Company
Total	252.89		

Table 5-7 Golf Courses in Lebanon County, 2006

Golf Course	Total Area (Acres)	Municipality	Ownership
Annville-Cleona School District			
None			
Cornwall-Lebanon School District			
Iron Valley Golf Course	304.4	Cornwall Borough	Byler Management Co. LLC
Royal Oaks Golf Course	153.9	North Cornwall Township	ROGC Golf Partners LP
Lebanon Country Club	147.3	North Cornwall Township	Lebanon Country Club
Fairview Golf Course	168.3	West Cornwall Township	Fairview Golf Course Inc.
Eastern Lebanon County School District			
Lebanon Valley Golf Course	118.5	Jackson Township	Lebanon Valley Golf Club, Inc.
Lebanon School District			
None			
Northern Lebanon School District			
Pine Meadows Golf Course	70.1	Bethel Township	Larry Rabold
Blue Mountain View Country Club	140.7	Bethel Township	Lebanon Valley Golf Club Inc.
Freeport Mills Golf Course	63.2	Bethel Township	James Schock
Monroe Valley Golf Club	153.1	Swatara Township	Monroe Valley Golf Club
Palmyra Area School District			
None			

Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Profile

Table 5-8 Campgrounds in Lebanon County, 2006

Campground Facility	Total Area (Acres)	Municipality	Ownership
Annville-Cleona School District			
Thousand Trails Campgrounds PCOA #2467	190.5	South Annville Township	Thousand Trails Inc.
Cornwall-Lebanon School District			
Penryn Park YMCA Camp	112.8	Cornwall Borough	Lancaster Family YMCA
Mt. Lebanon Camp Meeting	21.6	North Lebanon Township	Mt. Lebanon Camp Meeting Association
UMC Gretna Glen Camp	215.1	West Cornwall Township	Eastern PA Conference
Eastern Lebanon County School District			
Camp J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation, BSA	211.0	Heidelberg Township	Lancaster County Council, BSA
Shady Oaks Campgrounds PCOA #2432	22.6	Millcreek Township	Lewis McNally
Eagles Peak Family Camping Resort PCOA #2128	79.2	Millcreek Township	E/P Campground Inc.
Lebanon School District			
None			
Northern Lebanon School District			
Baptist Churches Camp Area	68.9	Bethel Township	Central Baptist Association
Camp Carson	343.3	Bethel Township	Alletta Schadler
Camp Strause	69.8	Bethel Township	Joint ownership of Lake Strause Inc. & Camp Strause Fire Co
Camp Greble	9.8	Bethel Township	Vincent Althouse
Kenbrook Bible Camp	65.7	Swatara Township	Atlantic Conference
Jonestown KOA Campground	24.8	Swatara Township	Jonathan Bacon
Lickdale Campground PCOA #2246	25.1	Union Township	Kyle Boltz
Twin Grove Park Campground, KOA Camp	33.2	Union Township	Conestoga Log Cabin
Camp Bashore BSA	405.3	Union Township	Lancaster Lebanon Council
Palmyra Area School District			
Camp Seltzer	6.8	North Londonderry Township	First UB Church in Christ
Camp Kirchenwald	342.9	South Londonderry Township	Lutheran Camping Corporation

Table 5-9 Fish and Game Clubs in Lebanon County, 2006

Fish and Game Clubs	Total Area (Acres)	Municipality	Ownership
Annville-Cleona School District			
C.B. Sportsmen's Club	11.5	North Annville Township	CB Sportsmen's Club
Quittapahilla Rod and Gun Club	22.6	South Annville Township	Quittapahilla Rod and Gun Club
Cornwall-Lebanon School District			
'R' Field and Stream	16.9	North Lebanon Township	R' Field and Stream Association
Tulpehocken Fishing Club	6.1	North Lebanon Township	Tulpehocken Fishing Club
Quentin Riding Club	61.8	West Cornwall Township	Quentin Riding Club
Willow Spring Farm Trout Hatchery	102.7	West Cornwall Township	Clifford Good
Eastern Lebanon County School District			
Heidelberg Sportsmen's Club	26.6	Heidelberg Township	Heidelberg Sportsmen's Club
Limestone Springs Trout Hatchery	36.1	Jackson Township	Tulpehocken Parsonage
Myerstown Rod and Gun Club	77.6	Jackson Township	Myerstown Rod and Gun Association
Millcreek Rod and Gun Club	100.7	Millcreek Township	Millcreek Rod and Gun Club
Arrowhead Springs Trout Hatchery	97.6	Millcreek Township	Edmund, Darlene and Michael Ludwig
Lebanon School District			
None			
Northern Lebanon School District			
Kittatinny Hunting and Fishing Club	119.8	Bethel Township	Kittatinny Hunting and Fishing Club
Lebanon Beagle Club	209.2	Bethel Township	Lebanon County Beagle Club Inc.
Sweet Arrow Rod and Gun Club	0.7	Bethel Township	Sweet Arrow Rod and Gun Club
Jonestown Fish and Game	15.2	Swatara Township	Jonestown Fish and Game
Izaak Walton League of America	39.5	Union Township	Izaak Walton League
Yellow Springs Hunting Club	14.3	Union Township	Yellow Springs Hunting Club
Palmyra Area School District			
Palmyra Sportsman's Club	138.7	North Londonderry Township	Palmyra Sportsman's Association
Delches Fishing Club	73.8	South Londonderry Township	Delches Fishing Club
Hempfield Farmers' and Sportsmen's Club	38.7	South Londonderry Township	Hempfield Farmers' and Sportsmen's Club

Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Profile

Public School and College Recreation Lands in Lebanon County

The six public school districts in Lebanon County all have lands dedicated to recreation purposes, as does Lebanon Valley College. Typically, school acreage is not included in the assessment of public recreation lands, as the first priority for school facilities is school district-related activities whereby public access is often limited. However, school and campus land acreage can be significant and recreational facilities that are available even on a limited basis do supplement public recreation opportunities, especially in rural areas. Table 5-10, School and College Recreation Lands, inventories school and college properties and their total acreage, inclusive of the buildings, parking, and recreation facilities.

Table 5-10 School and College Recreation Lands in Lebanon County, 2006

School Facility	Total Area (Acres)	Municipality
Annville-Cleona School District		
Annville-Cleona Secondary School	76.0	South Annville Township
Annville Elementary School	7.7	Annville Township
North Annville Elementary School	11.6	North Annville Township
Cleona Elementary School	10.7	Cleona Borough
Lebanon Valley College Campus and Lands	119.6	Annville Township
Cornwall-Lebanon School District		
Cedar Crest High School and Middle School	92.8	South Lebanon Township
Cornwall Elementary School	22.7	Cornwall Borough
Ebenezer Elementary School	23.1	North Lebanon Township
South Lebanon Elementary School	38.1	South Lebanon Township
Union Canal Elementary School	15.2	North Lebanon Township
Eastern Lebanon County School District		
Eastern Lebanon County High School and Middle School	99.5	Jackson Township
Fort Zeller Elementary School	27.3	Millcreek Township
Jackson Elementary School	12.0	Jackson Township
Myerstown Elementary School	2.8	Myerstown Borough
Schaefferstown Elementary School	5.4	Heidelberg Township
Lebanon School District		
Lebanon High School	40.1	Lebanon City
Lebanon Middle School	10.9	Lebanon City
Harding Elementary School	1.8	Lebanon City
Henry Houck Elementary School	1.9	Lebanon City
Northwest Elementary School	3.5	Lebanon City
Southeast Elementary School	9.1	Lebanon City
Southwest Elementary School	13.5	Lebanon City
Northern Lebanon School District		
Northern Lebanon High School	71.1	Bethel Township
Northern Lebanon Middle School	48.7	Bethel Township
East Hanover Elementary School	8.7	East Hanover Township
Fredericksburg Elementary School	5.5	Bethel Township
Jonestown Elementary School	5.3	Jonestown Borough
Lickdale Elementary School	9.5	Union Township
Palmyra Area School District		
Palmyra Area High School	41.6	North Londonderry Township
Palmyra Area Middle School	21.8	Palmyra Borough
Forge Road Elementary School	13.2	Palmyra Borough
Pine Street Elementary	9.9	Palmyra Borough
Northside Elementary School	12.9	Palmyra Borough

Analysis of Parkland

Amount of Parkland

Based on local land ownership, Lebanon County and its municipalities have 970.2 acres of local active public parkland distributed among 57 municipal park sites and two county parks. This equates to 8.06 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents based on the 2000 U.S. census population count of 120,327.

This type of population-based analysis is typically used to evaluate the amount of local active public parkland. State parklands and game lands, as well as local passive parks, greenways and trails, and nature preserves, are not included in this kind of analysis because their size is based primarily on the amount of land needed to conserve the resources and secondarily on the needs for public access and recreational activities. Therefore, the state parks and game lands (totaling 30,736.8 acres), the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail (46.6 acres) and the Clarence Schock Memorial Park at Governor Dick (1,079.0 acres) are not included in the analysis above. Furthermore, if the municipal park land categorized as Natural Resource Area / Other (totaling 9.0 acres) is segregated from this analysis, there are 820.9 acres of active public parkland or approximately 6.82 acres per 1,000 residents provided throughout Lebanon County.

Parkland Standards

In 1983, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) published standards and guidelines for parks and recreation services. In its classification system, NRPA outlines a range of traditional parks and recreation areas, as well as special purpose facilities, such as historic parks, waterfront parks, riverwalk parks, athletic parks, cultural parks, aquatic parks, etc. It notes that the diversity of park types offers a wide range of recreation environments, but that the provision of basic park and recreation areas is most important; other types supplement and enhance recreational opportunities for special interests. In addition, "geographic location, demographics, economic base, and history are important variables that influence the availability of resource patterns" to meet recreation needs. Yet, these should not outweigh the primary need to provide basic recreation opportunities. Furthermore, a community should have a number of different types of parks - not a single large park - that together meet standards for acreage and diversity of recreational opportunities.

With this background, NRPA recommended that "a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a core system of parklands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population." This core system would be comprised of traditional mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and regional park reserves. "The size and amount (number) of "adjunct" (or special use) parks would vary from community to community" but must be considered when accounting for the total of all park and recreation areas. Since its publication, this standard has been widely interpreted by community and recreation planners as 10 acres per 1,000 population.

In 1996, NRPA updated its standards and guidelines. It attempted to present a more community-based approach to determining the appropriate acreage for parkland and diversity of recreational opportunities. While many communities recognized the flexibility in this approach, others longed for a simple standard. Reluctantly, the editors published a standard of 10 acres per 1,000 population, noting that this should be starting point for community discussion of parkland needs. Some communities rich in resources (natural and historic, as well as staff and volunteer) may find that a much higher acreage meets their needs for parkland and open space. Other communities with fewer resources may determine that a lower figure is suitable. Due to Lebanon County's abundant, high quality natural and cultural resources, the higher end of the original parkland standard, 10.5 acres per population, is noted here as the minimum parkland standard for the purposes of this analysis. Further consideration of the parkland standard will be given in the recreation profile and plan.

NRPA Park, Recreation, and Open Space Guidelines 1983; Revised, 1996

Lebanon County has no park and recreation land standard, however using this formula to establish one would provide the basis for acquiring additional parkland for current and future residents. The land standard could range from the minimum standard of 10.5 acres per thousand residents used widely over the past three decades to a standard of 15 acres or more per thousand residents. This standard should recognize the availability of suitable lands for active recreation sites, the trends in recreation participation witnessed over the past 30 years, and the needs and desires of Lebanon County residents for recreation opportunities.

Table 5-11 Parkland Acreage Standard Analysis

Year	Lebanon County Population Projections	Parkland Required @ 10.5 Acre Standard	Parkland Deficit @ 10.5 Acre Standard	Parkland Required @ 15 Acre Standard	Parkland Deficit @ 15 Acre Standard
2000	120,327	1,263	442	1,805	984
2010	130,682	1,372	553	1,960	1,139
2020	140,075	1,471	650	2,101	1,280

Table 5-11 shows that per the 10.5 acre standard, Lebanon County should have had approximately 1,263 acres of active public park and recreation land available for residents in 2000. The current active recreation acreage of approximately 821 acres results in a deficit of 442 acres of active public parkland throughout the county. If no additional lands are acquired, the deficit of park and recreation land throughout the county will grow as the county’s population grows. Population projections for 2020 suggest that there should be 1,471 acres of park and recreation land based on a 10.5 acre standard, and 2,101 acres based on a 15 acre standard; an additional 650 acres and 1,280 acres respectively, of park and recreation land would need to be acquired to provide adequate park and recreation lands.

This real value in selecting this standard is revealed when the cost of land is factored into the equation. At \$30,000 per acre, the value of 650 acres (the 10.5 acre standard) is \$ 19,500,000 and the value of 1,280 acres (the 15 acre standard) is \$38,400,000 - a difference of \$18,900,000 considered either a cost savings or a revenue source for local recreation.

Suitability of Lands for Parkland

All land set aside for recreation should be suitable to serve the purpose of the recreation needs. The size, shape, location, and topography, as well as other criteria the community may define, should be evaluated by the local parks and recreation board, elected officials, and if in conjunction with Lebanon County, with county planners.

Local communities could identify the major vacant parcels in their community and evaluate them according to criteria that the community develops for recreation land. The municipality could use these evaluations when the jurisdiction moves ahead with acquiring parkland through outright purchase, mandatory dedication of parkland, conservation by design land planning or other techniques.

Mandatory Dedication of Parkland

One mechanism that many municipalities use to ensure that future residents have adequate park and recreation opportunities is mandatory dedication. The Mandatory Dedication of Parkland provision in the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC)(Article V, Section 503(11)) allows a municipality to require developers to dedicate open space within proposed developments for public recreational purposes. As an alternative, and if the municipality and the developer agree, the proposed development may accomplish one or more of the following in place of public land dedication: 1) construct recreational facilities, 2) pay fees in place of land dedication, or 3) reserve land in private ownership.

It should be noted that it is not legal to use mandatory dedication to make up for past or current deficiencies in park and recreation land for the existing residents. A municipality’s future need for parkland and recreation facilities depends on future population growth. The MPC recognizes that it would be unfair to place the burden of meeting past and current recreational needs on new development and therefore requires “a reasonable relationship” between the land to be dedicated or the fees to be paid and the recreation needs of future inhabitants of the development.

Municipalities Planning Code Article V Section 503 (11)

(11) Provisions requiring the public dedication of land suitable for the use intended; and, upon agreement with the applicant or developer, the construction of recreational facilities, the payment of fees in lieu thereof, the private reservation of the land, or a combination, for park or recreation purposes as a condition precedent to final plan approval, provided that:

- (i) The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any plan application, whether preliminary or final, pending at the time of enactment of such provisions.
- (ii) The ordinance includes definite standards for determining the proportion of a development to be dedicated and the amount of any fee to be paid in lieu thereof.
- (iii) The land or fees, or combination thereof, are to be used only for the purpose of providing park or recreational facilities accessible to the development.
- (iv) The governing body has a formally adopted recreation plan, and the park and recreational facilities are in accordance with definite principles and standards contained in the subdivision and land development ordinance.
- (v) The amount and location of land to be dedicated or the fees to be paid shall bear a reasonable relationship to the use of the park and recreational facilities by future inhabitants of the development or subdivision.
- (vi) A fee authorized under this subsection shall, upon its receipt by a municipality, be deposited in an interest-bearing account, clearly identifying the specific recreation facilities for which the fee was received. Interest earned on such accounts shall become funds of that account. Funds from such accounts shall be expended only in properly allocable portions of the cost incurred to construct the specific recreation facilities for which the funds were collected.
- (vii) Upon request of any person who paid any fee under this subsection, the municipality shall refund such fee, plus interest accumulated thereon from the date of payment, if the municipality had failed to utilize the fee paid for the purposes set forth in this section within three years from the date such fee was paid.
- (viii) No municipality shall have the power to require the construction of recreational facilities or the dedication of land, or fees in lieu thereof or private reservation except as may be provided by statute.

In order to impose this requirement, the municipality must comply with the following standards:

1. The ordinance must include “definitive standards” for amounts of land or fees to be dedicated. The generally accepted standards are those set forth through the recreation planning process identified by the National Recreation and Park Association. For over 30 years, these standards equated to a minimum of 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Since then, many trends in parks and recreation have occurred that merit consideration of raising this standard including new sports emerging such as soccer, lacrosse and field hockey; sports moving from one traditional season to year round play; more girls playing; people playing at younger and older ages, and a healthy aging population who are more involved in active lifestyles. In 1996, the NRPA updated the recreation planning process to encourage municipalities to plan for a standard that meets the true community need. In other words, recreation planning should respond to the local needs for specific types of recreation facilities based on the interest and well-being of residents, not just the land required for “all-purpose” play. Therefore fees and other alternatives to land dedication should respond to these local needs.
2. The land or fees shall only be used to provide facilities “accessible” to the development.
3. There must be an adopted recreation plan.
4. The amount and location of land or fees must bear a “reasonable relationship” to the use of facilities by future inhabitants.
5. Fees from each development shall be designated for specific recreation facilities and shall only be spent for those facilities.
6. If the municipality does not use the fees within three years after they are paid, the person who paid the fees may, upon request, receive a refund including interest earned.
7. The municipality cannot require the dedication of land, fees, or facilities except in accordance with these standards.

Generally these standards are met through these three actions:

1. Adoption of a recreation plan that establishes open space standards and park service areas, identifies areas in need of open space and includes a capital improvement program.
2. Adoption of a mandatory dedication ordinance that contains definite standards for determining the portion of a development to be dedicated and the amount of any fee to be paid in lieu of land.
3. Creation of a separate interest bearing account for the placement of any collected fees.

Mandatory Dedication of Parkland for Commercial Development

The PA MPC does not distinguish between residential development and other types of development with regard to mandatory dedication. While most municipalities enforce their mandatory dedication requirement only on residential land development submissions, many municipalities in Pennsylvania have been enacting mandatory dedication of parkland ordinances for commercial development as well. This has resulted in the generation of significant lands and revenues for parkland and recreation facilities in these communities. For example, South Londonderry Township in Chester County has generated nearly \$200,000 in fees-in-lieu from non-residential development since 2005.

The Cost Savings of Mandatory Dedication

If every jurisdiction were to adopt a mandatory dedication ordinance with this standard, the jurisdictions of Lebanon County would be able to add a minimum of 207 acres of parkland by 2020 at virtually no cost.

Mandatory Dedication in Lebanon County Municipalities

Few Lebanon County municipalities are taking advantage of their authority to require the dedication of land during the land development process. Ten municipalities in Lebanon County have mandatory dedication provisions in their ordinances; the remaining 16 municipalities have no provisions for recreation or open space land dedication. Municipalities with adopted provisions are shown in Table 5-12.

Location and Service Areas of Active Public Parkland

The Lebanon County Recreation Lands and Service Areas Map illustrates the locations of public and private parkland in Lebanon County. In conjunction with the inventory tables, the map reveals that park and recreation land is not evenly distributed by location or by type throughout the county. Expansive, contiguous areas of protected recreation land are located in the northern portion of county and significant but smaller areas of protected recreation lands across South Mountain. Relatively small municipal park, private park and school parcels are scattered throughout the central valley.

There are eleven community parks, 14 neighborhood parks and 23 mini-parks across 20 of the county's 26 municipalities. The eleven community parks in the county are concentrated in seven communities. These parks are predominantly clustered in and around the City of Lebanon, though East Hanover Township and Jonestown and Myerstown Boroughs also have community parks. Based on the two mile service area for community parks, most county residents are underserved by community parkland that provides traditional active recreation facilities and activity areas.

The 14 neighborhood parks are found in 10 municipalities. Each school district region contains at least one and at most four neighborhood parks; however, based on a ½-mile service area for neighborhood parks, county residents are also underserved by neighborhood parks that provide close-to-home parkland.

The 23 mini parks are located in 10 municipalities. The Annville-Cleona and Northern Lebanon School Districts have no mini parks. With a ¼-mile service radius, these mini parks help fill the gap in close-to-home parkland, though large areas of the county are still underserved.

The nine natural resource areas or other parklands are found in seven municipalities; only the Lebanon School District has no natural resource areas, though it has the most total park and recreation acreage. These resource areas are not classified as active parkland since they are resource-based or undeveloped at present.

Table 5-12 Lebanon County Municipalities with Mandatory Dedication Provisions

Municipality	Land Area Requirement	Fee-In-Lieu Option	
Annville-Cleona School District			
Annville	(Fee only)	\$175 per dwelling unit ¹	
Cornwall-Lebanon School District			
Cornwall	0.029 acres/dwelling unit	Fee – equivalent to fair market values of equivalent land as developed or improved property	
N. Cornwall	0.029 acres/dwelling unit	Fee – based on number and market value of lots in development for single family developments, and on number units and number of bedrooms per unit for multi-family development	
N. Lebanon	(Fee only)	\$1,250 per residential lot	
S. Lebanon	0.025 acres/dwelling unit	\$1,225 per residential lot	
ELCO School District			
Jackson	0.029 acres/dwelling unit	Fee – equivalent to fair market values of equivalent land as developed or improved property	
Northern Lebanon School District			
Bethel	0.06 acres per dwelling unit	Fee – equivalent to the value of the lots or land being developed.	
Swatara	0.054 acres/dwelling unit	\$750 per residential lot	
Union	0.051 acres/dwelling unit	Fee – based on proportional fair market value of land; or \$750 per residential lot if no appraisal is available; 3% for non-residential development	
Palmyra Area School District			
South Londonderry	Units in Sub-Division	Land to be dedicated for recreation/open space	\$1,200 per single family attached or detached dwelling unit to be adjusted annually. For multi-family dwelling developments, the developer shall provide land with recreational improvements which shall be maintained by the land owner for recreation.
	1-2	None	
	3-4	.25 acre -.99	
	25-50	1 acre	
	51-150	3 acres	
	151-300	6 acres	
	301-450	9 acres	
	451-600	12 acres	
	each additional 150 units	3 acres	
Multi-family developments	1,000 sq. ft per dwelling unit; 5,000 sq. ft. minimum		
Source: Lebanon County Planning Department			

Six municipalities have no municipal parks: Mount Gretna Borough and South Annville, North Londonderry, North Annville, Cold Spring, and Union Townships. Cold Spring, and Union Townships have State Game Lands or State Parks within their borders, though these recreation lands serve vastly different recreation and open space purposes from municipal parks.

Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Profile

Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities are the fields, courts, and playground equipment that recreation participants require. These facilities should be provided across the community to meet the local needs and demands of individuals, families, community groups, and organized adult and youth leagues. These needs and demands should be based on need, as defined by current facility usage, and should consider local and regional trends in recreation and leisure activities. Table 5-13 provides the facility inventory for Lebanon County municipal parks.

Table 5-13 Municipal Park Facility Inventory

Municipality	Multi-purpose Field	Football Field	Baseball or Softball Field	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Swimming Pool	Playground
Annville-Cleona School District								
Annville Township								
Cleona Borough			1	1	1			1
North Annville Township								
South Annville Township								
Totals	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1
Cornwall-Lebanon School District								
Cornwall Borough		1	3		2			1
Mt. Gretna Borough								
North Cornwall Township	2		2					1
North Lebanon Township	5		7	2	1	1		3
South Lebanon Township	1	1	5	4	4	2		2
West Cornwall Township								1
Totals	8	2	17	6	7	3	0	8
ELCO School District								
Heidelberg Township	1		2					
Jackson Township	2		4		1			1
Millcreek Township	1		2	1		1		1
Myerstown Borough		1	1	2	4		1	1
Richland Borough			1	1				1
Totals	4	1	10	4	5	1	1	4
Lebanon School District								
City of Lebanon			13	6	14	1	2	7
West Lebanon Township			1			1		
Totals	0	0	14	6	14	2	2	7
Northern Lebanon School District								
Bethel Township			1	1			1	
Cold Springs Township								
East Hanover Township			1		2	1		1
Jonestown Borough			3	2	1	1		1
Swatara Township								
Union Township								
Totals	0	0	5	3	3	2	1	2
Palmyra Area School District								
Palmyra Borough	2	1	3	1				3
North Londonderry Township								
South Londonderry Township	2		1	1	2	1		5
Totals	4	1	4	2	2	1	0	8
County Totals	16	4	51	22	32	9	4	30

Recreation Trends

Recreation, the way we spend our leisure time and the activities we enjoy, has changed dramatically over the past several decades. New trends have emerged and factors have changed the number and type of the parks and recreation facilities that we need in our communities today. Consider the broad trends:

- People are living longer and remaining active longer.
- Persons with disabilities are to have full access to public programs, including recreation.
- Participation rates for females in athletics are increasing.
- Sports participation is increasing dramatically.
- Soccer has emerged as a ubiquitous sport.
- The decline of the rail industry and increase in recreation birthed the rail-to-trail movement.
- Interest in outdoor, nature-based recreation has increased.
- Despite increasing participation in recreation, new sports and activities, and a broadening of the participation base, obesity and the lack of physical activity in the United States is at an all-time high as cited in U.S. Surgeon General report entitled “Physical Activity and Health”.

In Lebanon County, specific trends are influencing citizens’ leisure time and their demands placed on parks and recreation facilities. The following local trends have emerged as part of the analysis of Lebanon County’s parks and recreation facilities:

- First and foremost Lebanon County’s quality of life attributes and the quality environment are attracting growth to the county.
- New sports are emerging that required specialized facilities. These include in-line hockey, skateboarding, and lacrosse.
- Expanding sports seasons and high use demands do not allow the overlapping use of facilities. Dedicated fields for individual sports enable multi-season play, provide higher quality field conditions, reduce maintenance requirements, and deter conflicts among leagues for different sports.
- More recreation facilities are needed to meet the demands of the organized sports groups.
- Development is transforming open spaces to more intensive uses with little conservation of land for recreational purposes.
- Citizens desire close-to-home recreation opportunities to reduce driving for activities.
- The growing population of senior adults is more active than ever. Facilities and activity areas are needed that provide opportunities for fitness and wellness activities. Lifetime recreation activities such as golf, tennis, walking, and bicycling will have sustained popularity.
- Trails are popular among all age groups. Citizens and visitors are interested in walking and bicycling opportunities throughout the county, particularly on the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail.
- In addition to hiking, other nature-based recreation activities are growing in popularity such as birding and geocaching.
- Safe non-motorized linkages from neighborhoods to parks are lacking.
- Recreation facilities serve more than the local population, as recreation sites are increasingly becoming travel destinations.

Park, Recreation and Open Space Planning

Park, recreation and open space plans help municipalities outline the purpose and improvements needed for their park and open space systems and recreation programs. Such planning is required to support a mandatory dedication of parkland provision in municipal ordinances.

Annville-Cleona School District

None of the municipalities in the Annville-Cleona School District have a park, recreation and open space plan. Annville Township adopted Ordinance 464 in 1993 to provide for the recreation needs of future residents through mandatory dedication of park land or fee-in-lieu of dedication.

Cornwall-Lebanon School District

Cornwall Borough, North Cornwall Township, North Lebanon Township, and South Lebanon Township each have a park, recreation and open space plan. The Cornwall Borough and South Lebanon Township plans provide the required foundation for a Mandatory Dedication of Park Land Ordinance and use a standard of 10 acres of park land per thousand residents. North Lebanon Township already had a Mandatory Dedication of Parkland Ordinance in place prior to its plan.

The major recommendations of the Cornwall Borough Plan (2001) are to:

- Acquire land for one community park and one neighborhood park. The total acreage should be 40 acres.
- Establish a place for community events.
- Develop two football soccer fields, a volleyball court and a swimming pool.
- Adopt a standard of 10 acres per thousand population for park land.
- Develop a capital improvement plan for improvements estimated at \$782,300 at the new community park.

The major recommendations of the North Cornwall Plan (1999) are to:

- Develop master plans for all township parks.
- Develop a Capital Improvement Program for parks and recreation.
- Establish a community park and secondarily add one to two min-parks in conjunction with the land development process.

The major recommendations of the South Lebanon Plan (2002) are to:

- Promote the acquisition and development of the entire Lebanon Valley Rail Trail through the township
- Create trails to connect with Lebanon Valley Rail Trail.
- Provide additional sports fields, playgrounds and perhaps a swimming pool.
- Establish a standard of ten acres per thousand population thus forecasting no need for additional park land.
- Develop master plans for the parks.
- Develop a capital improvement program to fund about \$2 million in recreation facility development.

The major recommendations of the North Lebanon Plan (2006, Draft) are to:

- Continue to improve the three existing township parks.
- Protect and expand Union Canal Tunnel park along with the Lebanon County Historical Society.
- Communicate and partner with other organizations such as Lebanon City, the Lebanon County Historical Society, the Cornwall-Lebanon School District, community groups, (especially volunteer groups), and private recreation providers.
- Conserve open space, natural and cultural features to contribute to community character.
- Establish connectivity throughout the community for both recreation and transportation.
- Strengthen year round recreation in township and school district facilities.
- Continue to manage the parks and recreation system effectively and efficiently through volunteers and staff leadership.
- Build awareness and promote recreation and parks as essential to the quality of life in North Lebanon Township.
- Continue to maintain open space, parks and recreation areas as attractive, safe and secure facilities.
- Secure adequate financing and partnerships to operate, maintain, and expand the park and recreation system.
- Update the Mandatory Dedication of Land Ordinance to increase the acreage and fees-in-lieu of dedication.

Eastern Lebanon County School District

None of the municipalities in this planning district have a park, recreation and open space plan.

Lebanon School District

There is no park, recreation and open space plan for the City of Lebanon or West Lebanon Township. The City of Lebanon and Lebanon County began a peer-to-peer study in 2003 to explore the feasibility of joint management of parks and recreation. The peer-to-peer study was not yet complete when the County’s comprehensive planning project was initiated. Its final phases have been postponed until the county plan establishes recommendations and priorities and state grant funds are allocated for implementation.

Northern Lebanon School District

Bethel and Union Townships each have a park, recreation and open space plan. Both plans provide the required support for a Mandatory Dedication of Park Land Ordinance. Bethel Township set a standard of 10 acres of parkland per thousand residents while Union Township established 20 acres per thousand of population as their standard. Municipalities and the school district have been discussing recreation among their possible topics for regional planning.

The major recommendation of the Bethel Township Plan (2001) is to:

- Acquire 60 acres of parkland. The intent of this plan was to focus on park land needs.

The major recommendations of the Union Township Plan (2001) are to:

- Establish a Parks and Recreation Board.
- Develop three parks: a community or neighborhood park in West Jonestown and in the Village of Lickdale as well as a neighborhood park in the northern portion of the township.
- Conduct studies for rail trail feasibility and plans for the three parks recommended.
- Maintain parks and recreation with current township staff. Monitor parks and recreation improvements to determine when changes or additions to staff should be made to manage parks and recreation.

Palmyra Area School District

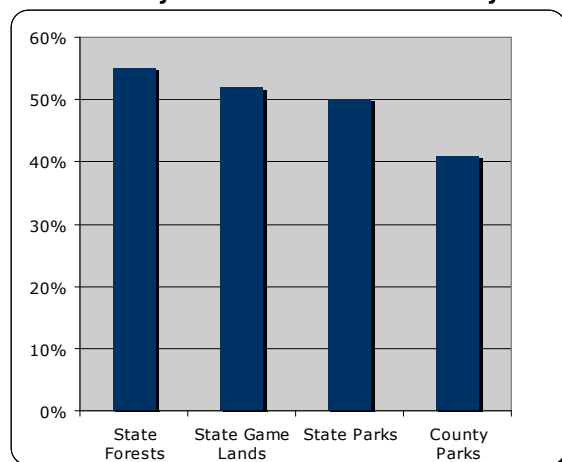
The Palmyra Area Recreation and Park Commission is in the process of developing a multi-municipal park, recreation and open space plan to serve Palmyra Borough, North Londonderry Township and South Londonderry Township.

Citizens’ Perceptions of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Areas

In 2004 the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) conducted an in-depth public opinion survey. In the survey, Lebanon County residents rated their level of satisfaction with state and county parklands. Figure 5-1 presents the level of satisfaction with state and county parks, game lands and forests.

This chart provides valuable information as it sets a baseline on which to measure satisfaction levels in the future as Lebanon County implements its Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Since 100% satisfaction is impossible to reach, the goal should be to work toward a citizen satisfaction level of 80%.

Figure 5-1 Percentage of Lebanon County Survey Respondents Satisfied or Very Satisfied with State and County Parks in Lebanon County



Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Profile

Additionally, respondents were asked to report their opinions on the weaknesses and threats to open space and municipal parks and recreation areas:

Open Space

- Four out of five respondents stated that development was threatening open space in Lebanon County.
- About one out of two respondents believe there was not enough open space; one out of five respondents agreed that there was enough open space.
- Two of five respondents agree that public access to open space should be increased.

Municipal Parks and Recreation Areas

- Only 38% thought that there was enough recreation areas close-to-home.
- About 50% of respondents thought that maintaining recreation areas is more important than adding new ones.
- 47% indicated that recreation areas for people with disabilities should be improved.
- 25% responded that parks were adequately policed.
- 42% agreed that the environmental quality of recreation areas were good.
- 83% stated that recreation areas were well maintained.

Parkland and Recreation Facilities Conclusions

The following are conclusions regarding parkland and recreation facilities in Lebanon County. The conclusions consider the diverse resources of the county, the opportunities offered by existing recreation facilities and trends affecting recreation county-wide and beyond.

Park System

- Lebanon County has many pieces of a comprehensive parks system: significant natural resources preserved through State Parks and State Game Lands, historic and cultural resources, municipal parks offering local recreation opportunities, school sites, trails and trail extension opportunities and many green corridors.

Parkland

- Nature based recreation is plentiful with over 30,000 acres of state parks, game lands, historic areas, and forests.
- There is a deficit of parkland throughout Lebanon County based on the current and projected population. The current parkland deficit is estimated at 984 acres and is projected to expand to 1,216 acres in 2020.
- The county has no parkland standard. A county-wide parkland standard of 15 acres per 1,000 residents should be adopted. Lebanon County and its municipalities should be working to provide 1,928 acres of parkland for residents by 2010 and 15 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents as the county's population grows.
- Lebanon County is beginning to experience the growth that is transforming open space to development in other Pennsylvania counties. Fortunately, opportunities for parkland acquisition and protection of land and corridors for recreation still exist. Decisive action is necessary to stay ahead of development to secure parkland for existing and future residents.
- The county and municipalities need to acquire parkland now to accommodate future needs or obtain options for future purchase and should land-bank parkland until community need emerges and capital funding is available.
- Mandatory dedication of parkland is an effective means for municipalities to obtain parkland for future residents. Municipalities without a mandatory dedication ordinance should adopt an ordinance that requires the dedication of parkland, or a fee-in-lieu of land dedication, based on the fair market value of land. Municipalities with mandatory dedication ordinances should review them annually to determine if their fee-in-lieu requirements align with the fair market value of land.

Parkland Distribution

- Parkland is not evenly distributed throughout Lebanon County. The State Parks, State Games Lands and Fort Indiantown Gap protect significant acreage at the northern and southern boundaries of the county.
- Of the 26 municipalities in Lebanon County, six lack any municipal parkland – Cold Spring Township, North Annville Township, South Annville Township, North Londonderry Township, Union Township and Mt. Gretna Borough.
- Much of the county is underserved by the existing community, neighborhood and mini parks. Residents of outlying areas must travel to participate in activities and enjoy traditional community park facilities.
- Parkland acquisition should be targeted to areas of the county that are experiencing growth and are currently underserved or have no parkland.
- Safe access to public recreation areas via non-motorized trails and pathways is needed for those who do not or cannot drive, i.e. children, youth, disabled and seniors.

Recreation Facilities

- Recreation facilities throughout the county should be updated and renovated to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Trails and pathways should be located to provide accessible routes to facilities and to provide recreation opportunities for walkers and joggers.
- Playgrounds should be renovated to meet the guidelines of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) guidelines for public playground safety. Equipment that does not meet these guidelines should be removed from parks and replaced with compliant equipment.
- Facilities should be developed to accommodate user needs and recreation trends, e.g. sports fields that do not overlap other facilities and facilities for non-traditional sports that have sustained popularity, such as skateboarding and in-line hockey.
- Provide facilities and lifetime recreation activity areas for the broad county population including youth, tots, teens, young adults, adults, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

Greenways, Trails and Open Space

Despite the abundance of open space in Lebanon County, development is gradually encroaching into these areas. This phenomenon reflects a reduction in population densities in the urban core communities and older settlements and an increase in land area used for residential, commercial and other uses in the outlying areas. The effects of this population shift can be seen on the landscape, with development occurring in formerly wooded or agricultural areas. The dispersion of residences and businesses brings with it other problems, including a lack of public services in rural areas, dependency on the automobile, decline of business centers and loss of strong social interaction. Scattered residential and business uses threaten environmentally sensitive resources, visually intrude into the scenic countryside, and weaken the agricultural and tourism economies of the county.

By planning for an open space and greenway network, the county would promote the importance of these features and ensure a high quality of life for residents, protect wildlife, and preserve natural features. Such a network would include natural greenways (primarily for conservation) and water trails and man-made greenways or land-based recreation trails. This section explores the existing greenway and trail resources of Lebanon County and opportunities for interconnection and expansion.

“Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections”

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge enacted Executive Order 1998-3, charging DCNR, DEP, and PennDOT, assisted by the Pennsylvania Greenways Partnership Commission, to develop an action plan for advancing a Pennsylvania Greenways Partnership Program (PA Greenways Action Plan, 2001). In June 2001, “Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections” was completed. The plan sets forth a series of goals and action items in a coordinated and strategic approach aimed at developing a statewide system of connected greenways. One of the key action statements calls for all counties within the Commonwealth to develop and adopt greenway plans by 2007.

A greenway is a corridor of open space. Greenways vary greatly in scale, from narrow ribbons of green that run through urban, suburban, and rural areas to wider corridors that incorporate diverse natural, cultural and scenic features. They can incorporate both public and private property, and can be land- or water-based. They may follow old railways, canals, or ridge tops, or they may follow stream corridors, shorelines, or wetlands, and include water trails for non-motorized craft. Some greenways are recreational corridors or scenic byways that may accommodate motorized and non-motorized vehicles. Others function almost exclusively for environmental protection and are not designed for human passage. Greenways differ in their location and function, but overall, a greenway will protect natural, cultural, and scenic resources, provide recreational benefits, enhance natural beauty and quality of life in neighborhoods and communities, and stimulate economic development opportunities.

- Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections,
Pennsylvania Greenways Partnership Commission, 2001

It is envisioned that Pennsylvania’s greenways network will consist of individual greenways and regional networks of greenways of all kinds. While every greenway is important and adds value to Pennsylvania’s landscapes and communities, a statewide greenways network achieves broad connections that are fundamental to sustainable environments in rural, suburban, and urban settings. Landscape connections throughout Pennsylvania will create a "green infrastructure" of open space vital to the health of Pennsylvania’s ecological systems and manmade communities. The statewide greenways network can also provide a new connectivity within and among Pennsylvania’s communities and promote healthier lifestyles with more abundant recreational opportunities and transportation alternatives, and stronger connections to cultural and historic places. This connectivity can be represented by the metaphor of the "hubs and spokes" of a wheel.

"Hubs and Spokes"

Pennsylvania’s greenways network will ultimately take the form of "hubs and spokes." The "hubs" will include parks, forests, game lands, nature preserves, lakes, vistas, cultural attractions, or other destination areas, including sites and recreation systems within communities. The "spokes" will be greenways connecting these destinations with the places where we live, work and play; these greenways may conserve ecologically sensitive corridors, such as riparian buffer corridors; provide non-motorized public access to destinations; provide land and water trails for fitness and outdoor recreation; accommodate motorized recreational vehicles such as snowmobiles or ATVs; or host historic or cultural events.¹

¹ Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections

Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code

Amendments to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), known as Acts 67 and 68 or “Pennsylvania’s growing smarter laws,” were signed into law in 2000. These acts encourage multi-municipal planning and set forth new growth control laws for a balanced and coordinated approach to development. Specifically, the acts enhance the authority of municipalities to protect agricultural, natural, and historic resources and provides funding incentives to adopt ordinances and actions that are consistent with local and county plans.

Natural Greenways

As identified in the natural resources profile, the physiography of Lebanon County has had an incredible influence on development patterns. Mild slopes and well drained soils attracted farmers and the majority of community centers to the great valley, leaving the forested slopes and ridges of Blue Mountain/Kittatinny Ridge and South Mountain relatively undisturbed. Across the state, these mountains are classified by DCNR as “Major Greenway Corridors,” or long-distance corridors (at least 50 miles) that pass through two or more counties and are recognized in official county planning documents. They represent the major “arteries” of the developing statewide greenway system in Lebanon County. Smaller natural greenways, such as the Tulpehocken Greenway, also exist in the county. The Lebanon County Greenways and Trails Map illustrates the existing greenways in the county.

Blue Mountain and Kittatinny Ridge Greenway

Blue Mountain and Kittatinny Ridge are names for a 185-mile mountain ridge that stretches across 11 Pennsylvania counties and extends nearly to the Maryland state line. It is known in eastern Pennsylvania as Kittatinny Mountain, in central Pennsylvania as Blue or North Mountain, and in Franklin County as Front Mountain. The Kittatinny Ridge is one of Pennsylvania’s most prominent natural features, forming the eastern-most edge of the “ridge and valley” region - a forested series of folds in the earth’s crust that uniquely defines the landscape of the southeast quadrant of Pennsylvania. This ridge is recognized as a "globally significant" migration flyway for thousands of hawks and eagles and millions of songbirds and has been officially designated by Audubon Pennsylvania as the state’s largest "Important Bird Area." The ridge provides the headwaters for many of the streams in south central and southeast Pennsylvania, supplying drinking water for human water supplies and fresh-water habitat for fish. The interior forests of the ridge also provide some of the best wildlife habitat in the state. In short, the Kittatinny Ridge is a valuable natural resource that defines the region and enhances its quality of life.

State Game Lands account for the majority of the public land ownership along the Kittatinny Ridge. Audubon Pennsylvania is currently working on a conservation project to assist in protecting and buffering the remaining land areas along the ridge from development and its impacts.²

Highlands Greenway and Trail

The Highlands is a rugged series of discontinuous, steep-sided ridges and narrow valleys spanning the states of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The rivers born in the Highlands – the Hudson, Delaware, Schuylkill, and Susquehanna – slice through the Highlands’ corrugated topography.

In 1990 Congress directed the USDA Forest Service to conduct a study of the Highlands that would assess the region’s resources and land use patterns, examine the impacts of change, and propose strategies to protect the long-term integrity of lands and traditional land uses within the region. The USDA Forest Service published its first study of the New York – New Jersey Highlands in 1992. USDA Forest Service has begun the Pennsylvania and Connecticut Update study in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. The first stage of the study will focus on: public involvement to identify issues, opportunities and concerns; resource data collection; and resource assessment with the aim of identifying land having high conservation value due to sensitivity and/or vulnerability.³

² Audubon Pennsylvania

³ Highlands Regional Study/Pennsylvania Update

Benefits of Greenways

Creating a network of green corridors throughout the municipality is one means of protecting the character and landscape of the municipality. Greenways provide an array of direct and indirect benefits that add to the quality of life of both a place and region. Protection of green corridors and open spaces provides numerous economic, social, transportation, recreation, environmental education and ecological benefits as identified below:

Economic Benefits

- Increase nearby property values.
- Precipitate new and expanded businesses related to greenway and trail use. New businesses will provide employment opportunities and revenues.
- Create tourist destinations which will generate expenditures on food, services and lodging.
- Reduce damage and financial loss from flooding by providing buffer areas along stream and river corridors.

Social Benefits

- Provide access to historically and culturally significant features in our communities.
- Provide opportunities to reconnect with the natural environment and urban fabric of our communities.
- Help to preserve the character and aesthetic appeal of a place or landscape.
- Provide significant new public places which can help to connect people and communities.
- Increase quality of life.
- Improve health and wellness of greenway and recreational trail users.
- Heighten sensitivity to the natural environment by providing for interaction between people and nature.

Transportation Benefits

- Promote non-motorized transportation.
- Provide safe alternative transportation routes for pedestrians and bicyclists which will lessen our dependency on automobiles.
- Provide emergency access via trails to undeveloped areas.
- Reduce roadway congestion through redistribution of users to alternative transportation routes.

Ecological Benefits

- Promote plant and animal species diversity.
- Serve as a filtering zone; wetlands absorb pollutants and nutrients and slow surface run-off thereby enhancing stream health
- Provide corridors for wildlife migration and movement.
- Preserve and protect vital wildlife, plant, and aquatic habitats.
- Improve air quality and reduce noise.
- Reduce stormwater damage and promote flood mitigation within protected floodplains.
- Protect natural areas.
- Connect fragmented landscapes.
- Store and convey floodwaters.
- Clean up abandoned corridors.

Recreation Benefits

- Provide areas to jog, walk, bike, ride horses and canoe.
- Serve as sites for passive pursuits such as picnicking, fishing and enjoying nature.
- Connect existing and planned trails.
- Encourage ecotourism.
- Provide connections between parks and other protected lands.

Environmental Education Benefits

- Provide landscapes for learning.
- Create an awareness and appreciation for the environment.
- Introduce and illustrate environmental concerns to the general public.

In Pennsylvania, the Highlands form a chain of ridges and hills that culminate in the dramatic heights above the City of Reading. In Lebanon County, the Highlands traverse the southern portion of the county. Similar to the Kittatinny Ridge, a portion of the lands that fall within the Highlands greenway of Lebanon County are protected through state ownership; however, many more are not protected. Much of the study being conducted now is to determine which lands are most sensitive and most vulnerable to intrusive development.

A recreation trail is proposed to traverse the Highlands corridor. The Highland Trail is in the conceptual stage of development and is initially envisioned as a main trunk trail with loop trails off of the trunk. In Lebanon County the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail and Horseshoe Trail are the potential trunk corridors.

Swatara Creek Water Trail

The Swatara Creek Water Trail is a 42-mile segment of Swatara Creek from Jonestown, Lebanon County, to the PA Fish & Boat Commission's Middletown Access in Dauphin County. Farms and bank barns, Union Canal locks, forested riparian buffers, the abandoned Lebanon to Tremont railroad and bridge, historic Harper's Tavern, limestone outcrops and the only lava deposits in the state can be seen along the trail.

Access to the Swatara Creek Water Trail is provided at two formal trailheads: one in Jonestown, Lebanon County and one at the Boat House Road Park, Derry Township, Dauphin County, and at other public and private access points identified on the trail guide/map. The normal flow of the Swatara Creek accommodates most non-motorized recreational watercraft throughout the summer.⁴

In addition, a Swatara Creek Greenway has been evaluated in Dauphin County and could extend into Lebanon County. This greenway has potential for land-based trails but no trails exist along the creek at this time.

Tulpehocken Greenway

The Tulpehocken Greenway extends through the Tulpehocken Creek watershed from the City of Lebanon to the upper reaches of Blue Marsh Lake in Berks County. The watershed encompasses prime farmland, rolling hills, wooded slopes, villages, and remnants of the Union Canal. A feasibility study was completed in 2005 that proposed a five-component greenway concept: natural resource conservation greenways, land preservation greenbelts, land-based trails, a water trail, and auto and bike routes. The implementation plan charges the Lebanon Valley and Berks County Conservancies with guiding the implementation of the Tulpehocken Greenway to create protected green areas along the Tulpehocken Creek and its tributaries.

Additional natural greenway opportunities identified in Lebanon County are associated with the Little Swatara Creek, Quittapahilla Creek, and the Conewago Creek corridors.

⁴ Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Recreation Trails

Lebanon County is fortunate to have seven existing recreation trails located throughout the county as well as other linear resources that present additional trail opportunities. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Horseshoe Trail offer long-distance footpaths for hiking, while the other trails are rail-to-trail conversions. The Lebanon County Greenways and Trails Map illustrates the proposed greenway and trail network for Lebanon County, which includes existing trails and trail opportunities.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is a 2,174-mile footpath along the ridgecrests and across the major valleys of the Appalachian Mountains from Maine to northern Georgia traversing 14 east coast states. An approximate 16-mile length of the trail passes through Cold Spring, Union, Swatara, and Bethel Townships in northern Lebanon County. The Appalachian Trail provides a recreation corridor linking the major natural areas in northern Lebanon County from State Game Lands No. 211 to Swatara State Park to State Game Lands No. 80. The trail intersects with the Stony Valley Railroad Grade, the Swatara State Park Trail, and Swatara Creek Water Trail. The trail also passes under Interstate 81 in Inwood, Lebanon County just north of Exit 90.

The Horseshoe Trail

The Horseshoe Trail is a 140-mile multi-use trail that originates in Valley Forge National Park and terminates at the Appalachian Trail on Sharp Mountain, just northeast of Hershey. A 19.4-mile segment of the trail crosses Lebanon County's southwestern corner passing through South Londonderry, South Annville and West Cornwall Townships and Cornwall Borough. The trail intersects with multiple recreation areas and corridors including the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail, State Game Lands No. 145, Clarence Schock Memorial Park at Governor Dick, Cornwall Iron Furnace, and the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Lebanon Valley Rail Trail

The Lebanon Valley Rail Trail is a rail to trail conversion on the former Penn Central line of the Cornwall-Lebanon Railroad. The trail currently extends approximately 12.5 miles from the Lancaster-Lebanon County line to Zinns Mill Road in Cornwall Borough. The corridor connects to the existing Conewago Trail in Lancaster County, a 5-mile trail from the Lebanon County border to Elizabethtown. Lancaster County recently received grant funding to resurface this portion of the trail and install other improvements.

The Lebanon Valley Rail Trail passes through South Londonderry Township, West Cornwall Township and Cornwall Borough. The trail is located in close proximity to many other recreation areas including Cornwall Furnace National Historic Site, recreation and cultural sites in Mt. Gretna, Clarence Schock Memorial Park at Governor Dick, and State Game Lands No. 145. A 1000' spur trail has been built to give direct access into Mt. Gretna and convenient access to the Jigger Shop; hence it's local name, the "Ice Cream Trail".

Several trail extensions are in the planning and development stages with the vision of extending the trail northward through the county to Swatara State Park. A spur trail was recently constructed to Mt. Gretna following the alignment of the Mt. Gretna Narrow Gauge Railroad. This spur will provide a safe link between the main trail and points of interest in Mt. Gretna.

Federal funding was recently secured for a 2.5 mile extension of the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail from Zinns Mill Road north to the City of Lebanon. This section of the corridor will pass in close proximity to the Lebanon Expo Center and Fairgrounds, South Hills Park in South Lebanon Township, Cedar Crest High School, and Lebanon High School. South Lebanon Township is proposing a link to this trail extension that will connect to South Hills Park, the Cedar Crest Middle & High School campus, South Lebanon Elementary School and nearby residential areas.

An additional 9+ mile segment is proposed to extend the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail north from the City of Lebanon to Swatara State Park. The proposed segment would follow the former Conrail line through North Lebanon, Swatara and Union Townships and join with the Swatara State Park Trail along the Swatara Creek corridor. Recently the LEBCO MPO and the Lebanon Valley Rails To Trails Inc. has received funding to assess the feasibility of a rail to trail conversion on this rail

corridor. This corridor has the potential to connect with the Union Canal Tunnel Park; however, it is not intact as many pieces were sold to adjoining property owners.

Stony Valley Railroad Grade Trail

The Stony Valley Railroad Grade Trail is a 22-mile multi-use trail that runs on the old Reading Railroad line through State Game Lands No. 211 from Middle Paxton Township in Dauphin County to the Lebanon Reservoir in Pine Grove Township, Schuylkill County. An approximate 11-mile segment transverses northern Lebanon County through Cold Spring Township running parallel to the Lebanon-Dauphin County line. Stony Valley Railroad Grade is extremely removed from any urban areas in Lebanon County. The trail intersects with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail approximately five miles from where the Appalachian Trail enters Swatara State Park and State Game Lands No. 80.

Swatara State Park Trail

The Swatara State Park Trail is a 9.53-mile corridor that follows the Conrail line for 6.82 miles and the Reading Railroad line for 2.71 miles. The trail extends from the southern tip of Swatara State Park along the Swatara Creek corridor in Swatara and Union Townships, Lebanon County, through Swatara State Park to Interstate 81 in Pine Grove Township, Schuylkill County. The trail intersects with the Appalachian Trail, State Game Lands No. 80 and connects to other loop trails within Swatara State Park and connects many park facilities.

Whitmoyer Trail

The Whitmoyer Trail, also known as the Quittie Trail, is located parallel to the Quittapahilla Creek within the City of Lebanon. The trail is paved and extends from approximately 4th Street to the intersection of Cumberland Street and 12th Street. The paved trail is developed as an urban park corridor and is located on one or both sides of the stream as land is available. As the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail is extended into Lebanon City, opportunities to extend the Whitmoyer Trail west to join the Rail Trail near Union Canal Tunnel Park should be explored.

South Lebanon Township Trail

South Lebanon Township has developed a plan to link to the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail at the Lebanon City High School. The trail would extend through South Hills Park and the grounds of the Veterans Administration golf course to the Cedar Crest Middle and High School campus. From the school campus, the trail would extend east across various parcels, some which will require right-of-way purchase or easement, to the South Lebanon Elementary School and surrounding residential neighborhood.

Recreation Trail Opportunities

Linear manmade corridors that may contribute to the interconnection or extension of the above listed trails are discussed below. These transportation corridors represent recreational re-use opportunities with potential to interpret industrial and transportation history in Lebanon County. Other historic resources in proximity to these corridors may offer additional themes for trail development and historical interpretation throughout the county. Ideas for Lebanon County Heritage Trail are beginning to emerge.

Lebanon City Abandoned Rail Lines

A portion of the former Avon Industrial rail line in the northern section of city runs parallel to Maple Street from North 7th Street to Lincoln Avenue where it ends at the active Conrail line. This portion of the former rail corridor remains open and presents an opportunity for rail-to-trail conversion.

Governor Dick Trail Link

The Lebanon Valley Rails to Trails organization is exploring a link from the rail trail to the Environmental Education Center at Clarence Schock Memorial Park at Governor Dick. This link would require easements from private property owners and would provide a connection to a destination along the trail.

Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Profile

Cornwall Rail Line

The former Cornwall Railroad extends 8.4-miles from Route 419 in Cornwall Borough south to Manheim Borough in Lancaster County. From north to south, the line begins at the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail, intersects with the Horseshoe Trail in southern Cornwall Borough and links to Penryn Lake before the Lancaster-Lebanon County Line. Another abandoned line extends eastward from the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail just north of Cornwall to the former Alcoa site.

Regional Greenways and Trails

Greenways typically extend beyond government boundaries due to the expansive nature of the streams, abandoned rail lines and ridge lines on which they are based. Of the two major and five minor greenways identified for Lebanon County, six extend beyond the county boundary. Additionally, three trails extend beyond the county boundary. These greenways have been identified as part of county planning efforts and are presented in Table 5-14. Cooperation and partnerships with adjacent counties and municipalities to promote these connections would promote greenway and conservation objectives regionally, therefore the lead greenway or trail development agency is also provided.

Table 5-14 Regional Greenways and Trails

Greenway or Trail	Additional Counties Crossed	Lead Development Agency
Kittatinny Ridge Greenway	Dauphin, Berks	PA Audubon
Highland Greenway	Dauphin, Berks, Lancaster	Highland Coalition
Swatara Creek Water Trail/Greenway	Dauphin	Swatara Creek Watershed Association
Tulpehocken Greenway	Berks	Lebanon Valley Conservancy/ Berks County Conservancy
Little Swatara Creek Greenway		Swatara Creek Watershed Association
Conewago Creek Greenway	Dauphin	Tri-County Conewago Creek Association
Appalachian Trail	Dauphin, Schuylkill	National Park Service/ Appalachian Trail Club
Horseshoe Trail	Dauphin, Lancaster	Horseshoe Trail Club
Lebanon Valley Rail Trail/Conewago Trail	Lancaster	Lebanon Valley Rails to Trails/Lancaster
Stony Valley Railroad Grade Trail	Schuylkill	PA Game Commission
Swatara State Park to Sweet Arrow Lake Trail (proposed by Schuylkill County)	Schuylkill	Schuylkill County

Greenway and Trail Conclusions

The following conclusions consider the existing greenway and trail opportunities, the diverse resources of the county, opportunities offered by existing recreation facilities and trends affecting recreation in Lebanon County and beyond.

Greenway Network

- Major resource-based greenways cross the northern and southern borders of the county.
- The smaller Tulpehocken Greenway spans the eastern border with Berks County. It is the only local greenway in the county and still in its infancy.
- The existing east-west greenways are not interconnected with north-south corridors. Interconnection would provide greater mobility for recreationists and wildlife.
- There are no other local greenways that connect park sites, open space, residential neighborhoods, schools and community destinations, provide trail opportunities for recreation, transportation, and environmental education, and/or protect and conserve “green infrastructure” of the county for environmental quality and biodiversity.
- Greenway planning and development will require communication and coordination with municipal and county partners as the greenway corridors span many jurisdictions.
- Pennsylvania’s Growing Greener program helps to fund the study and conservation of greenways corridors and the revision of ordinances to protect sensitive resources.

Trail Network

- The Lebanon Valley Rail Trail is the major local trail in Lebanon County. It has the potential to connect South Mountain and the Kittatinny Ridge through the City of Lebanon, if extended.
- The South Lebanon Township Trail is an excellent example of a local trail that connects a trail spine with community destinations.
- Abandoned rail lines and select roadways offer additional corridors for trail development. PennDOT, the LEBCO MPO and municipal public works departments may be able to provide bicycle and pedestrian friendly facilities when upgrades are undertaken for public roads and bridges.
- Like greenways, trail planning and development will require communication and coordination with municipal and county partners as the trail corridors span many jurisdictions.
- The benefits of greenways and trails are not widely understood throughout the county. Interviews found that greenways are still a relatively new concept to the citizens of Lebanon County and were frequently synonymous with trails. While trails are popular, they tend to generate a NIMBY reaction in which citizens want trail access but “Not In My Back Yard”. Trails and greenways developed in advance of extensive subdivision and land development is often more affordable and there are fewer NIMBY problems. An urbanizing county such as Lebanon County still has time to get ahead of the curve. It is very expensive to go in and retrofit an area with trails and greenways after an area is developed. Promoting the benefits of greenways will help to advance greenway development throughout the county.
- Derry Township in Dauphin County has an extensive trail system. Linkage from the Palmyra Area School District region to this system should be explored to facilitate commuting for the many employees that work and residents that visit the Hershey area.

Outdoor Recreation Participation in Lebanon County

In 2004 the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) conducted an in-depth public opinion survey to determine the recreational preferences and participation rates of citizens statewide. Lebanon County was included in PA DCNR’s planning region for south central Pennsylvania with seven other counties including: Lancaster, Dauphin, York, Perry, Cumberland, Adams and Franklin. The information presented in Table 5-15 below is based upon the participation rate for PA DCNR’s south central planning region. The assumption was made that participation in Lebanon County is roughly the same as that of the south central Pennsylvania planning region overall, and the regional participation rate was applied to Lebanon County’s population to project the number of county participants.

Outdoor Recreation Participation

By far the most popular recreation activity listed in the study was walking. About seven out of every ten citizens in Lebanon County walk for pleasure. The other top activities include sightseeing, swimming, viewing nature, visiting wild areas, picnicking, hiking, nature walks, fishing and sledding.

Table 5-15 Top Ten Most Popular Activities by Participation Rate and Numbers in the Lebanon County Region

Activity	South Central PA Participation Rate (%)	Participants in Lebanon County
1. Walking	68.4	82,303
2. Sightseeing	54.7	65,818
3. Swimming	49.6	59,682
4. View Nature	49.3	59,321
5. Visit Wildlife Areas	46.9	56,433
6. Picnicking	44.0	52,943
7. Hiking	36.6	44,039
8. Nature Walks	34.1	41,031
9. Fishing	29.6	35,616
10. Sledding	28.1	33,811

Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Profile

Recreation Trends found by PA DCNR since 1990

Since 1990, more Pennsylvanians are participating in bird and wildlife watching, golf, off-road motor sports and camping. Participation in organized sports such as soccer, basketball, field hockey, and lacrosse also is increasing.

Close-to-Home Recreation Participation

Nearly half of all recreation experiences in Pennsylvania take place in municipal parks. In rural communities where recreation programs and services are available, such programs and services are usually provided by numerous volunteer, school and faith based institutions. Activities are typically focused on youth, sports, summer recreation and community festivals. Little coordination is achieved because the efforts are rooted in volunteerism and there is no single entity responsible for overseeing community recreation. In Lebanon County, municipalities tend to operate independent parks and recreation programs that are centered on youth sports. Several municipalities also offer a six to eight week summer playground program as well as a few community festivals.

The notable exception is the Palmyra Area Recreation and Park Commission (PARPC), which is a regional parks and recreation organization, consisting of Palmyra Borough, North Londonderry Township, South Londonderry Township, and the Palmyra Area School District. Formed in 1974, PARPC is a model in the state for multi-municipal and school district partnerships for the purpose of providing close-to-home regional recreation and parks. PARPC offers over 200 programs annually.

Perceived Socio-Economic Value of Recreation and Parks by Lebanon County Citizens

- 70 percent agreed that recreation reduces youth crime.
- 62 percent agreed that parks increase property values.
- 58 percent agreed that greenways increase property values.
- Outdoor recreation was important or very important to 64% of the respondents.
- Access to public recreation areas was important or very important to 62%.
- Indoor recreation was important or very important to one out of three.

Source: 2004 PA DCNR Resident Recreation Survey

Recreation Programs and Organization in Lebanon County

There are numerous organizations that provide recreation programs and services to the residents of Lebanon County. These include municipal recreation boards and committees, school districts, non-profit organizations and the commercial providers. The Lebanon Valley Family YMCA is the only recreation service provider operating countywide, providing summer enrichment programs, school age child care at several elementary schools, facilities downtown and at the VA Hospital, and expanded recreation services in the Northern Lebanon School District.

The following section details the public recreation programs that are organized by local government and the schools districts, as identified through interviews with municipal representatives and school district superintendents.

Municipalities of Annville-Cleona School District: Annville Township, Cleona Borough, North Annville Township and South Annville Township

The four jurisdictions operate independently without any joint services other than public education through the Annville-Cleona School District. Of the four municipalities, only Cleona Borough has a Parks and Recreation Board. The Borough offers recreation programs in the summer such as movie night, summer programs for youth and a fall festival. Annville Township has a volunteer recreation association that oversees sports programs.

Annville-Cleona School District

The Annville-Cleona School District has about 1,700 students, down from an all time high of about 2,500. The decline has leveled off since 2004. Growth is projected to result from 600 new houses proposed in South Annville Township; this cluster of developments includes potential trails and greenways linking the neighborhood to the nearby junior and senior high school

complex. Cleona Borough is nearly fully developed without potential for additional park land. Annville Township is fully developed with development now in the revitalization arena. North Annville Township is predominantly agricultural and, with rolling topography and no public sewer, has limited opportunities for significant growth. Still, residents have generally been moving out of the established communities with older homes into outlying areas with larger more expensive housing.

The school district provides use of its facilities for public recreation and has been working to improve and expand such facilities. This includes the addition of lights on the football field, community use of the outdoor track and ball fields, expansion of gym time through the construction of an oversized gym that will double the practice area. The sports fields, however, are overused due to high demand.

The Annville-Cleona School District identified the following focus areas or initiatives regarding recreation:

- More programs for people of all ages. Additional programs for youth. Adult recreation and self-improvement especially in the area of technology. Services for senior adults. There is no adult evening school in the district.
- Nature study including facilities close to the Annville-Cleona Schools.
- Biking and walking paths.
- Prevention programs to deter anti-social behavior and substance abuse.

Communities That Care is an organization that provides funding to the school district for youth services. As in all communities, there are drug and alcohol issues among the youth. Communities That Care works with the school district in addressing youth behavior and development through the 40 Assets Program, which includes recreation and healthful living as key assets.

It costs \$36,000 annually to incarcerate one youth, more than 100 times the cost of providing public recreation throughout their lifetime. Recreation deters juvenile delinquency, crime and substance abuse.

Lebanon Valley College (LVC) provides community use of facilities for recreation. LVC opened its sports complex, which includes a track, gym and a pool, at relatively low membership rates to the public. The college also provides cultural opportunities through concerts, recitals, art festivals and the art gallery.

Municipalities of Cornwall-Lebanon School District: Cornwall and Mount Gretna Boroughs and North Cornwall, North Lebanon, South Lebanon, and West Cornwall Townships

Cornwall Borough and North Cornwall Township each provide a summer playground program. Cornwall Borough provides additional youth programs in the summer and winter basketball leagues. Sports groups provide programs, oriented towards youth sports, in North Lebanon Township. No programs are available in South Lebanon Township. The citizens of West Cornwall Township and Mt. Gretna Borough participate in sports groups based in other municipalities. All of the municipalities use school district facilities for recreation.

Cornwall- Lebanon School District

The Cornwall-Lebanon School District has an expanding tax base. The school district has 6,000 students, an increase of 1,100 since 1996. Another 400-500 housing units are approved in South Lebanon Township which will bring in more students. Industrial development is attracted by tax breaks given in return for the installation of infrastructure.

The district is committed to supporting public recreation through the use of its facilities, as well as by providing programs and services where possible. For example, the high school weight/fitness facility is open to district residents free of charge during weekday evenings; a qualified training specialist staffs the facility. The district is in good shape in terms of accommodating sports teams including little league, teener league, softball and football. The exception is accommodating girls' sports such as softball and field hockey. The school district programs receive first priority, but they are extensively used with permission for community events such as the annual car show. There are no fees charged except when a janitor has to be on site during hours when the schools are closed. South Lebanon Township and South Lebanon Elementary School recently put in dual use baseball/soccer fields. The toughest issue is the high school stadium field which hosts 60 events from August through November 1. The demand for use of this field greatly exceeds its capacity. The school district is so supportive of public recreational use of its fields that the overuse is a detriment to school programs. Consequently, the district

Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Profile

is considering an artificial turf surface. Parent groups have indicated that they are willing to do private fundraising for this project. Also needed are public restrooms, locker rooms and storage.

The district is fortunate to have supporters such as the parent groups willing to do fund-raising, individuals who provided a grant for tennis lights and facilities, and the Falcon Foundation. The Foundation provided \$30,000-\$35,000 to each of the four elementary school for restrooms, storage and refreshment stands to support sports use.

At one time, the school district provided funds for summer playground programs. Without the school district funding, the municipalities have had to provide summer programs either on their own, as done by Cornwall Borough and North Cornwall Township, or in partnership with community organizations, as North Lebanon Township has done with community sports organizations.

The Cornwall-Lebanon School District identified the following focus areas or initiatives regarding recreation:

- Artificial turf field
- Rail trail extension and repair of the bridge at Zinn's Mill Road
- Getting students safely to school via biking and walking
- Recreation that will get kids away from video games and computers to lead more active healthy life styles
- Continuation of the fitness and wellness program for both students and staff
- Lifetime sports
- Continuation of the lease of the VA Hospital Golf Course by South Lebanon Township or the course will be lost
- Restrooms at Lebanon County Career and Technology Center nature area used by 200 students for environmental education

Municipalities of Eastern Lebanon County School District: Heidelberg, Jackson, and Millcreek Townships and Myerstown and Richland Boroughs

Millcreek and Jackson Townships and Myerstown and Richland Boroughs each provide a summer playground program. Myerstown contracts its summer playground program. Myerstown is considering a skateboard facility. The Heidelberg Township Recreation Association provides youth sports. Heidelberg, Jackson and Millcreek use school district facilities for recreation, in addition to public parks. Sports in the municipalities are offered by community sports organizations. Jackson Township has been moving ahead in public recreation in its establishment of the three parks with street hockey, in-line hockey and skateboarding facilities and athletic fields.

Eastern Lebanon County School District

This district of 2,500 students is growing by about 20 students per year. The older smaller communities such as Myerstown and Richland are becoming rental communities as citizens leave for new, modern houses in the townships. Those who rent are generally less affluent than those who own their own homes, and the district has seen a tremendous shift in the numbers of Myerstown students who qualify for free and reduced lunch programs. The school district meets with each municipality two to three times annually to discuss proposed housing developments and projected student increases.

The Eastern Lebanon County School District facilities are the hub of recreation in the eastern portion of the county. Through a cooperative relationship, the municipalities share facilities and maintenance tasks, such as turf irrigation, and respond to community requests, such a lights for the tennis courts. Not only are the traditional ball fields and gyms available to the community, but the weight and fitness room is open to senior citizens weekdays from 10:30 a.m. until noon. A training specialist is on site to assist the senior citizens in their workouts.

The Eastern Lebanon County School District reported the following future objectives regarding recreation:

- Providing services for a population that is economically disadvantaged, diversifying and multi-lingual
- Providing more services as the district grows in response to development pressures
- Adding more school and support facilities
- Consideration of swimming facilities to teach people how to swim
- Continuing to grow collaborative relationships with the community
- More musical programs should be considered for teens as music tends to attract teens.

Municipalities of Lebanon School District: City of Lebanon and West Lebanon Township

Lebanon City once had a professional parks and recreation department. Financial challenges led to the demise of the department and regrouping as an arm of the mayor's office and partnering with the YMCA. The city gave up its recreation programs and services. In 2006, the City and the school district partnered on the Super Summer Camp in Coleman's Park. In 2007, the park's Board of Trustees began discussion on the need to update and master plan the park to meet contemporary recreation needs and standards.

Lebanon School District

The 154 year old Lebanon School District has 4,500 students. Half of the students are minorities with 43 percent being Latino. The District is working on the development of new recreation facilities including a 22 acre property adjacent to the high school. A bridge will be constructed to connect this site with the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail. The 22 acre parcel will be used for field hockey, baseball, softball and soccer. Private funds will be raised to meet the \$3.1 million campaign goal. The school district received a 21st Century School grant of \$468,000 over three years for elementary after school programs. The school district works with the YMCA and Big Brothers/Big Sisters in youth services. In 2006, the school district and the city partnered on the Super Summer Camp for middle school children at Coleman Park. Lebanon is one of the ten communities in the state to receive the designation of Blueprint Community. Housed in Northwest Elementary School, the program has a task force to coordinate all the best practices of city management and redevelopment, including recreation.

The Lebanon School District identified the following pressing issues for this school district:

- Involvement and services to the Latino community are much needed.
- Truly safe routes to school need to be established. Interviewees were particularly concerned with child "predators," individuals and groups who lurk in public places to engage students in negative behaviors such as substance abuse, gang participation, truancy, and other forms of self-destructive, anti-social behavior and juvenile crime.
- Generate feelings of trust among the citizens as a result of effective programs and improvements in public safety.
- Elimination of gangs.
- City-wide wireless network that would help to get people to move back into the city thereby adding more school support.
- Trail connectors.
- Adult programs.
- Funding for Coleman Park.
- Capacity for more kids to go to the YMCA
- More scheduled, organized activities and places for kids to congregate safely, away from negative influences.

Municipalities of Northern Lebanon School District: Jonestown Borough and Cold Spring, Bethel, East Hanover, Swatara, and Union Townships

Union Township is the only municipality with a recreation program. The other municipalities depend on the YMCA and the school district for recreation. The YMCA is an important provider of recreation services in northern Lebanon County including programs for people of all ages from tots through senior adults, aquatics, gymnastics, summer camps, adult sports leagues, off-site programs in partnership with municipalities and school districts and child care.

Northern Lebanon School District

The "Northern Lebanon Way" is rooted in collaboration and communication between the school district and the municipalities. The 144 square mile, 2,500 student School District instituted the Northern Lebanon Joint Planning Program in which the district and the municipalities meet every six to eight weeks. During an evening supper, the participants discuss issues of common concern in an open forum. There is no voting or priority setting. As a result of the discussions, municipalities are now sharing equipment and staff. There are three key areas of interest: Recreation, Land Use, and Growth. The district is teaming with the YMCA on recreation programming for citizens of all ages, not only students. Senior adults use the school facilities in the summer. During the senior adult recreation program development, transportation emerged as an issue. As a result, the district is studying transportation to determine how to provide transportation for senior adults who do not drive. They are a significant portion of the school district's tax base. The school district has worked with municipalities in creating safe routes to school by fronting the required match to the grant funds to enable the municipalities to participate. Other collaborative ventures include:

- Shared maintenance in which the municipalities provide the labor and equipment while the school district provides the materials
- Working with the municipalities to plan and guide new development towards planned growth areas and away from conservation areas
- Seeks grants for conservation and recreation facilities. The district has received Growing Greener funding for several construction projects
- Offering recreation programs, facilities and services are among the district's highest priorities.

The Northern Lebanon School District identified the following future objectives related to recreation:

- Transportation planning to develop the means to transport citizens who do not drive to recreation facilities and program sites
- Establishment of a YMCA facility in the northern end of the county
- Provide services to all citizens, not just the school age population, especially senior adults and active aging adults
- Establish the school district as source of assistance, information and direct services for recreation for senior citizens to keep this age group active and involved in the community
- Responding to the community and anticipating future opportunities and emerging needs
- Trails

Municipalities of Palmyra Area School District: Palmyra Borough, North Londonderry and South Londonderry Townships

Palmyra Borough and North Londonderry and South Londonderry Townships are progressive municipalities in the realm of regional recreation. PARPC provides over 200 programs and services year round for the citizens of these communities. Travel time to facilities is an issue for PARPC as residents want to have facilities close-to-home. Most programs are for youth. Senior Adult programs are AARP programs.

Palmyra Area School District

The Palmyra Area School District has the highest growth rate of the school districts in Lebanon County. There is an influx of new residents moving into this school district from Dauphin County. The school district is growing so quickly that it has 14 modular units serving as class rooms. The district and its municipalities formed the Palmyra Area Recreation and Park Commission (PARPC) in 1974. This formal, jointly funded organization with a full-time recreation professional is a statewide model and a progressive way of delivering community recreation services. The growth has resulted in pressure on sports fields and demand is exceeding capacity. Girls' lacrosse is a PIAA sanctioned sport, yet there is no field for this sport. All recreation programming is done by PARPC using both school district and municipal facilities. The high school pool is the home of the area's recreational aquatics program. The school district will be investing about \$400,000 to renovate the pool. Over the next ten years, about 729 additional students are expected to join the student body. This equates to about 28 new classrooms with 25 students per classroom. Housing trends show that residents are moving out of the borough and into the outlying townships. People are also moving from Lebanon City to the Palmyra area. The Palmyra Area School District is the district with the highest proportion of students in the free and reduced lunch program. About 90 percent of the recreational use of school facilities is through PARPC and there is no charge for this use. The school district does not have enough soccer fields or gyms. Gyms are needed for middle and high school wrestling and basketball. The district is adding a full size gym in Pine Street Elementary School but had to eliminate plans for a second gym at the high school due to cost.

The Palmyra Area School District identified the following focus areas or initiatives regarding recreation:

- Addressing the need for additional gyms and soccer fields. School district facility expansion has resulted in the elimination of some existing soccer fields
- Continued association with PARPC
- Meeting the needs of a growing, diversifying and disadvantaged population
- Trails and rail trails
- Conveniently located recreation facilities and services
- More parks
- More areas for public gathering
- Conservation of open space and natural resources

Program and Service Conclusions

1. Lebanon County Planning Department provides quarterly housing reports, which help the school districts in planning for future students. In the school district work sessions, the superintendents reported the value of these reports in facility and service planning which encompasses community/school recreation.
2. Recreation programs and services are available in Lebanon County; however, they are scattered and not coordinated. Volunteer organizations such as athletic associations and parks and recreation boards provide most of the organized programs in the municipalities. Better coordination and promotion of parks and recreation would enhance public service and better allocate available funding
3. There is no on-going needs assessment regarding parks and recreation in Lebanon County.
4. Close-to-home recreation opportunities focus primarily on sports and summer recreation programs for youth and community festivals. Citizens of all ages need to have recreation opportunities that they can enjoy year-round throughout their lifetime. Services for a diversifying and aging population are needed; service to the Latino community and low income residents should be a priority. Recreation opportunities in addition to sports are important including, the arts, volunteerism, music, drama, special events, self-improvement, fitness and wellness and environmental education and nature.
5. Lebanon County is just beginning to become involved in the environmental education field. The programs that began in 2005 have already proven to be popular. Developing expertise in programming and environmental education, promotion, partnerships and revenue generation is needed.
6. The Palmyra Area Recreation and Park Commission provides full service municipal recreation services with over 200 programs annually and should serve as a model to other school districts in the county
7. Professional recreation programs and services are greatly needed in the City of Lebanon.
8. Since all six districts host community recreation programs at their facilities, school districts play a crucial role in community recreation programs and services. Several districts also provide programs and services including services for senior adults and during school hours.
9. Promoting recreation programs and services to increase public awareness of the opportunities is crucial.
10. There is a need for more public/private partnerships, like the AES Ironwood and Avon Playground collaboration.

Parks and Recreation Operation, Management and Financing

Federal and State Agencies

Due to the number and size of federal and state lands in Lebanon County, six federal and state agencies provide operation and management of recreation lands in the county. In association with the National Park Service, the 1,200 member Appalachian Trail Club oversees the 16-mile stretch of the trail in Lebanon County. The Pennsylvania National Guard oversees management of Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation. PA DCNR Bureau of State Parks manages the two state parks: Swatara and Memorial Lake State Parks. The Pennsylvania Game Commission is responsible for the six state game lands, and the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission directs the Cornwall Furnace site.

Federal and state agencies' operations and management of these recreation lands is based on the purpose and needs of the resources in meeting each agency mission and is funded by tax payer dollars as a shared resource. Roughly 50% of residents reported being satisfied or very satisfied with state parks and state game lands. Residents are most interested in better promotion of the opportunities available on federal and state recreation lands among operation and management improvements. About 66% of the respondents in the 2004 statewide recreation survey agreed that local and state government needs to do more to increase awareness about parks and recreation. The county's role in promotion of parks and recreation was not addressed in the survey. However, it is assumed based on these findings, that promotion of parks and recreation is needed in Lebanon County overall.

Lebanon County

Lebanon County does not have a parks and recreation department nor does it budget for parks and recreation. The county works with its internal departments, private sector partners, and volunteers to operate and manage county-owned or county-affiliated parks. The Lebanon County Planning Department assists in park planning and development through grant preparation and coordination. The County Maintenance Department and volunteers provide park maintenance. The Lebanon County Historical Society provides the management and maintenance for Monument Park and Union Canal Tunnel Park.

Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Profile

The Clarence Schock Environmental Center at Governor Dick is partially funded with a \$15,000 grant from the Clarence Schock Foundation (formerly known as the SICO Foundation) annually matched with a \$15,000 appropriation from Lebanon County. As a 501(c)(3) corporation, the Advisory Board also accepts donations and utilizes volunteers. When the Center was developed, agreements were made that tax funds would only be used for the development of the center, that programs would be free to the public and that there would be no additional fund raising. This agreement has resulted in severe limitations on revenue generation either through fees and charges, tax support and private fund-raising. The only other categories of funding that remain available to the center are grants, gifts and bequests. Operations of the Clarence Schock Memorial Park are partially funded by the co-trustees; however, additional funds will be necessary in order for the Board to maintain the park.

Nature Centers typically generate significant revenue with upwards of two-thirds of their budgets originating from fee charges, memberships, fund raising, sales, rentals, grants, gifts, donations, and bequests. Without the ability to charge for services, the center cannot grow and provide public service to the extent possible with an adequate budget and staffing. Programs, services and management are extremely limited by the capacity of the staff that only works part time, about 900 hours per year. While volunteers are usually viewed as free labor, they actually cost money in terms of the supervision, recruiting, training, recognition, coordination, evaluation and management that results in quality, sustainable programs.

Regional Recreation Partnerships

The Palmyra Area Recreation and Parks Commission (PARPC) is a regional recreation commission supported by three municipalities and their school district and managed by a professional parks and recreation staff. While the PARPC's financial information has not been made available, it is known that the Palmyra Area School District contributes \$12,500 annually and it is assumed that most of the operating budget is generated through fees, charges, partnerships and sponsorships from the programs and events.

Municipalities

Twenty-two municipalities manage independent municipal park and recreation functions. In many cases, municipalities work together with their school districts to provide facilities and with community organizations to provide organization and oversight to sports program. Such programs are often open to residents from surrounding municipalities.

The average annual per capita municipal investment in parks and recreation in Pennsylvania is about \$23 per year. According to the Center for Local Government Services, about 69% of small Pennsylvania communities spent about \$10,100 annually on parks and recreation in 1999, or roughly 2-4% of their municipal budgets. Small boroughs typically spent about \$11,380 or \$12.22 per capita, while small townships spent about \$5,600 or \$3.92 per capita. Municipalities with regional recreation agreements spent about \$8.75 per capita while those operating independently spent about \$9.30⁵.

Levitz Park

East Hanover Township offers a fine example of how a small community can provide big recreation opportunities. With about 2,600 citizens, East Hanover Township developed and maintains the 105-acre Levitz Park with virtually no tax money. A school district employee bequeathed the land to the Township. Through grants, in-kind contributions, public-private partnerships, bartering, and a creative use of resources, the Township in collaboration with Lebanon County created this community park. Partnerships with organizations and agencies, such as PA DEP, enabled the Township to accomplish park improvements in return for lending the park facilities for use by the partners. Levitz Park has athletic fields, volleyball courts, rinks, a pond, picnic areas, pavilions, a log cabin, restrooms, and trails. Significant natural areas including the Swatara Creek provide important environmental education and recreational opportunities. An on-site caretaker provides park oversight and recreational programs and events in return for housing.

Interviews with most Lebanon County municipalities did not generate budget information for parks and recreation. Park and recreation budget figures from the five municipalities that provided them are shown in Table 5-16. Thirteen municipalities indicated that they have parks and recreation budgets or line items in their municipal budgets though they did not provide the figures; this unspecified support is noted as "Yes" in Table 5-16. Eight municipalities have no parks and recreation budget or did not reply to the request for information and are listed as "No" in the table: North Annville, South Annville, North

⁵ Ibid. p.7.

Cornwall, Millcreek, West Lebanon, Cold Spring, East Hanover, and Union Townships. Based on this incomplete information, the municipal investment in parks and recreation in Lebanon County appears to be minimal, a likely condition in a county with a long rural history.

Other Operations and Management Organizations

In addition to municipal or regional funding for parks and recreation there are two organizations dedicated to operating two important parks in Lebanon County: the Advisory Board of the Clarence Schock Memorial Park at Governor Dick (described previously) and the Coleman's Park Board of Trustees. Coleman's Park in the City of Lebanon operates with a \$150,000 annual budget. Of this budget, the City of Lebanon provides about \$36,000 in cash along with in-kind services which add another \$15,000-\$20,000 in value. Furthermore, the City donates used equipment to the Board for park maintenance. The rest of the budget is generated through facility rentals and donations. In 2007, after a 3 year hiatus, the County of Lebanon reinstated financial support to the park in the amount of \$23,200 annually.

Model: Churchville Nature Center

The Churchville Nature Center in Bucks County provides environmental education for school districts, public programs, hosts clubs and community organizations, operates a gift shop, does fundraising, has a volunteer program and a Friends of the Churchville Nature Center group. Started in 1965, CNC serves over 42,000 people in organized programs, 38,000 visitors, 1,000+ volunteer hours, and about 5,000 participants in clubs and community events. CNC has developed school curricula for environmental education and trains teachers from four school districts in addition to providing actual programs on site for the students. Operating on a \$425,000 annual budget, only 32 percent comes from tax dollars, which has not increased in over a decade. Park maintenance is performed by volunteers. CNC is a county treasure loved and visited by the citizens year round.

Operations, Management and Financing Conclusions

1. The operation and management of parks and recreation in Lebanon County is fragmented and uncoordinated.
2. The Palmyra Area Recreation and Park Commission is a model organization, for a formal written agreement, for the operation, management and financing of a regional parks and recreation system.
3. Although Lebanon County owns over 1,200 acres of park land, the county does not have a parks and recreation department. The county manages its holdings through partnerships and volunteers who are coordinated by partnering organizations. Consideration should be given to establishing a formal county role in parks and recreation given the county's existing investment in parks and recreation and the potential for an expanded network.
4. There is no formal planning, budgeting and evaluation of parks and recreation in Lebanon County. Maintenance management is performed as needed in most parks and recreation systems in the county without a documented maintenance and management program.
5. As a countywide trail network is planned and developed, the creation of an entity to oversee Lebanon County Trails should be considered.
6. Operating budgets for parks and recreation are lower than the averages of the state overall. There is little tracking of parks and recreation spending. Tracking of expenditures and revenues would help to set benchmarks and assist in future planning and more effective allocation of resources.
7. The Peer-to-Peer Study already funded by PA DCNR to explore operations, programming and financing of the Clarence Schock Environmental Center at Governor Dick Park is an important project that will help to ensure the future success of the Center through the development of strategies for effective management.
8. PA DCNR has agreed to fund a Peer Study for Lebanon City/County Parks and develop a recreation management plan when the environmental center peer project is completed. The County and the City can explore this opportunity in the future based upon the recommendations of this plan and circumstances at the time.
9. With a successful regional parks and recreation system in place for nearly 35 years, the creation of additional regional parks and recreations systems should be considered. Rather than having municipalities operating independently, several regional associations could be formed. These could be congruous with school districts for maximum efficiency and coordination.

Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Profile

Table 5-16 Municipal and Regional Park and Recreation Operating Budgets in Lebanon County

Jurisdiction	2006 Parks & Recreation Budget (\$)	2000 Population	2006 Annual Per Capita Parks & Recreation Investment
Annville-Cleona School District			
Annville	\$1,000	4,518	\$0.22
Cleona	\$22,375	2,140	\$10.45
North Annville	No	2,279	
South Annville	No	2,946	
Cornwall-Lebanon School District			
Cornwall	Yes	3,486	
Mount Gretna	Yes	242	
North Cornwall	No	6,403	
North Lebanon	\$142,091	10,629	\$13.36
South Lebanon	Yes	8,383	
West Cornwall	Yes	1,909	
Eastern Lebanon County (ELCO) School District			
Heidelberg	\$4,000	3,832	\$1.04
Jackson	Yes	6,338	
Millcreek	No	2,921	
Myerstown	Yes	3,171	
Richland	Yes	1,508	
Lebanon School District			
City of Lebanon	\$201,065	24,461	\$8.22
West Lebanon	No	836	
Northern Lebanon School District			
Bethel	Yes	4,526	
Cold Spring	No	49	
East Hanover	No	2,858	
Jonestown	Yes	1,028	
Swatara	Yes	3,941	
Union	No	2,590	
Palmyra Area School District			
Palmyra Area Park and Recreation Commission	Yes	19,325	
North Londonderry	Yes	6,771	
Palmyra	Yes	7,096	
South Londonderry	Yes	5,458	
Palmyra Area School District	\$12,500	19,325	

Source: Municipal interviews, 2005/2006.

Tourism: Recreation as Economic Development

Visitors are drawn to Lebanon County for its scenic, recreational and cultural attractions. The Lebanon Valley Exposition Center and Fairgrounds and the Lebanon County Tourism Promotion Agency serves as the tourism agency for Lebanon County. The four major tourist attractions promoted by this organization include two cultural parks (Cornwall Iron Furnace and Union Canal Tunnel Park), Historic Schaefferstown, and downtown Lebanon. Other public parks and recreation attractions promoted include Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Swatara Creek Water Trail, Lebanon Valley Rail Trail, the tower at Governor Dick, and Fort Indiantown Gap. In addition to public recreation attractions, the tourism agency promotes many private facilities including commercial fisheries, golf courses, camp grounds, a BMX facility, shopping areas and restaurants in the county. These facilities not only provide important recreation opportunities but also attract thousands of people who spend their money in Lebanon County. These facilities are crucial to tourism and the economic vitality of Lebanon County.

Economic Value of Outdoor Recreation Activities

Citizens spend a great deal of money on their recreational pursuits. Table 5-17 presents average activity costs by activity (2003) dollars.

Table 5-17 Average Annual Recreation Activity Costs

Activity	Equipment Cost	Non-Equipment Cost	Total Cost
Hunting/sport shooting	\$2,616	\$774	\$3,390
Off-road motor sports	\$2,646	\$366	\$3,012
Horseback riding	\$1,618	\$998	\$2,616
Boating/canoeing/kayaking	\$971	\$221	\$1,192
Camping	\$953	\$272	\$1,225
Fishing	\$204	\$718	\$922
Bird or wildlife watching	\$150	\$760	\$910
Wilderness visits	\$411	\$161	\$572
Snowmobiling	\$230	\$315	\$545
Golf	\$151	\$357	\$508
Sightseeing/driving for pleasure	\$260	\$345	\$605
Hiking	\$76	\$410	\$486
Snow skiing	\$164	\$246	\$410
View nature	\$159	\$190	\$349
Baseball/softball	\$185	\$61	\$246
Tennis	\$84	\$112	\$196
Picnicking	\$46	\$145	\$191
Nature walks	\$65	\$117	\$182
Bicycling/mountain biking	\$92	\$74	\$166
Jogging	\$58	\$78	\$136
Swimming	\$240	\$68	\$308
Skateboarding	\$98	419	\$117
Basketball	\$71	\$43	\$114
Football/soccer	\$35	\$72	\$107
Walking for pleasure or fitness	\$39	\$67	\$106
Rollerblading	\$53	\$38	\$91
Ice skating	\$23	\$59	\$82
Sledding	\$12	\$50	\$62

Source: Pennsylvania's Recreation Plan 2004-2008 Executive Summary p17, as revised by Toole Recreation Planning

In 2003, Pennsylvanians spent over \$11.5 billion dollars on their recreation activity costs. This amount extrapolated for Lebanon County equals over \$103 million or about \$860 per person.

Source: 2004 PA DCNR Resident Recreation Survey

Outdoor Traveler Study⁶

Outdoor recreation travel and heritage tourism represent a significant portion of the Commonwealth's total visitors. Tourism is Pennsylvania's second leading industry, second only to agriculture. Eco-tourism and nature-based recreation are growing in participation.

In 1997, about 14% of travel in Pennsylvania was for outdoor recreation and accounted for 23% of the total travel dollars spent. Between 1995 and 1997, Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation travelers' expenditures grew at more than double the rate of Pennsylvania total travelers' expenditures. The trend is toward increased travel for outdoor recreation at a growth rate of about 2% annually. Visitors to public lands such as game lands, parks and forests accounted for about 34% of the revenues generated by outdoor recreation travel or about 11.5% of all leisure travel in Pennsylvania.

PA DCNR Outdoor Traveler Study

Strong growth in the outdoor recreation market is becoming an increasingly critical component of Pennsylvania's tourism and future economic well being.

Pennsylvania Heritage Tourism Study⁷

Closely related to outdoor travel is heritage tourism. The Pennsylvania Heritage Tourism Study conducted in 1999 found considerable crossover between heritage travelers and outdoor recreation travelers. The main difference was that heritage tourists tended to be older.

Heritage tourism is an important and growing part of Pennsylvania's tourism economy. From 1996 to 1997, heritage tourism increased 23% while spending increased by 15%. About one in four of Pennsylvania's leisure travelers is a heritage tourist. A typical Pennsylvania heritage tourist is 43.2 years of age, married, employed in a white-collar position such as a professional or managerial position, with a high average annual household income and traveling as a family or in an adult party of three or more.

Heritage Tourism

The Pennsylvania Heritage Tourism Study defines Heritage Tourism for Pennsylvania as a broadly defined travel market that encapsulates a wide variety of historic, cultural and outdoors activities. The most popular attractions are Pennsylvania's historic towns/districts, the Liberty Bell, Gettysburg's battlefields, Amish country and various museums and attractions throughout the state.

Expansion of tourism attractions to include more heritage components has potential for Lebanon County and should include:

- Continuing to advertise the heritage locations and activities in Cornwall Iron Furnace and Union Canal Tunnel Park and add other sites in the future.
- Tying heritage promotion with outdoor recreation travel promotion, as there is a great deal of crossover between the two.
- Focusing on the promotion of Lebanon County's historic towns and districts as well as the Amish heritage.
- Promoting the fun, educational and scenic aspects of the county.
- Utilizing the extensive agricultural assets of the county to promote agri-tourism initiatives.

⁶ Shifflet, D.K. and Associates. (1998). DCNR Outdoor Traveler Study. Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

⁷ Shifflet, D.K. and Associates. (1999). Pennsylvania Heritage Tourism, Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

MODEL: York Heritage Rail Trail

The York Heritage Rail Trail generates over \$10 million annually for York County's economy. About 70 percent of the trail visitors are residents of the county while 30 percent are tourists. The York Visitors Bureau has a ten year agreement to fund the York Heritage Rail Trail Authority with \$50,000 annually to support professional staff and other operating expenses. This funding is generated by the proceeds of the hotel tax because the rail trail is an important tourist attraction.

The Value of Outdoor Recreation Activities

How much is the outdoors worth in monetary terms? Quite a lot, according to a study conducted for the state of Pennsylvania. The study focused on three activities - hunting, fishing, and trapping - computing two measures of their economic significance. Although the study took into account the collateral activities (such as bird watching) of the survey participants and their families, it did not include hikers, canoeists, cross-country skiers, and the many others who use the outdoors.

The first measure was the total impact of expenditures on those activities, including both direct and induced expenditures. That value came to \$9.6 billion in 1997, or equal to "more than half of Pennsylvania's total state budget" for that year. The study also found that more than 88,000 jobs were created by these sports. Most survey respondents in this study indicated that communities, families and individuals benefit from the existence and maintenance of wildlife resources.

The Value of Fishing, Boating, and Hunting in Lebanon County

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission tracks fishing and boating licenses purchased in Pennsylvania according to the county in which the licenses were purchased. While there is no tracking of where people fish or boat after they purchase their license, these figures in Table 5-18 give some sense of the economic benefit of fishing.

Table 5-18 Fishing, Boating, & Hunting Licenses Purchased in Lebanon County

License Type	Licenses Purchased in 1996	Licenses Purchased in 2005	Change in Licenses Purchased, 1996-2005	2005 Estimated Expenditures by Participants
Fishing	9,411	8,131	-13.6%	\$1,951,440
Watercraft	3,529	3,659	3.7%	\$878,160
Hunting	n/a	34,063	n/a	\$4,189,749

Source: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Annually, there are about 18 million fishing trips in Pennsylvania. A study by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service determined that the value of these trips translates into \$1.3 billion dollars in the Commonwealth's economy. According to the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, anglers in Pennsylvania spend about \$40 per trip for a median of six trips annually. Hunters take about half as many trips with three trips as the median annually. They spend about \$41 per trip⁸. Based on these very rough figures and projections, the annual value of fishing for those licensed in Lebanon County is over \$7 million in the economy although where they spend their money is unknown. No information is available on just where hunters and anglers go to hunt and fish nor is information available on how many people from outside the area come to Lebanon County for these purposes.

⁸ Shafer, E.L. Dick. (2000) *Economic Values and Impacts of Sport Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Activities in Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg, PA: Center for Rural Pennsylvania. pp 8-10.

Tourism Conclusions

Outdoor recreation travel and heritage tourism have great potential in Lebanon County. Based on current facilities, programs and promotional efforts, the following conclusions about how to move ahead in this area are offered:

- Hunting, fishing and wildlife watching should be major components of promotion both within and outside of Lebanon County. The successful PA WILDS initiative in northern Pennsylvania demonstrates the value and interest in this subject.
- Potential topics related to tourism that could be pursued as tourism and recreation themes include: coal mining, railroads, City of Lebanon industrialists (e.g. Bethlehem Steel and individual.), bologna, agriculture, military history as related to FTIG. Individual sites of interests such as Babe Ruth's house in the City of Lebanon can contribute to a rich venue of things to see and do in Lebanon County. Combined these make up the unique heritage of Lebanon County.
- With hunting and fishing on the decline, it is important to offer programs in these sports to children and youth to cultivate the next generation of hunters and anglers.
- Public lands provide extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation by sportsmen. These lands should continue to be managed, and expanded where feasible. Since many people who hunt and fish also use private land, it is important to develop outreach programs with private landowners including education and incentives for wildlife habitat management.
- Develop and implement a system to collect, monitor and report information about the economic value of outdoor recreation, heritage and eco-tourism.

Summary

Recreation in Lebanon County plays an important role in the quality of life, community service, and economy. Nature-based recreation in the great outdoors, close-to-home parks and recreation programs and tourism are Lebanon County's themes in recreation. The Recreation Profile presents the existing elements of parks and recreation in Lebanon County along with the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century. The opportunities include the tremendous natural resources, the strong sense of community in which citizens and organizations work together, and a solid planning program that will foster implementation of actions towards a common vision for Lebanon County. The challenges for the future include:

- insuring an adequate supply of park land and recreation facilities, protection of natural resources that support both the environment and recreation
- creating connectivity through trails and greenways
- strengthening regional collaboration and partnerships
- tapping a mix of providers in the public and private sectors to offer programs and services and
- developing creative strategies to make the best use of limited financial resources.

Money spent on parks and recreation is an investment, not a cost! As this profile shows, parks and recreation yields important returns in tourism dollars, attraction and retention of businesses with jobs, elimination of social program costs through prevention and deterrence of anti-social behavior, and open space preservation.