



COLLEGE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Monday, January 12, 2026

7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting (In-Person or via Zoom)

General Meeting Information

College Township offers both in-person and virtual meeting attendance for all public meetings. To attend in-person, meetings will be held at 1481 E. College Avenue, State College PA, 16801, 2nd floor meeting room. To attend virtually, please see the information below.

To Attend the LIVE Meeting Via Zoom on Computer or Smart Phone:

- [Click HERE to REGISTER for the meeting via Zoom](#). Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

To Attend the LIVE Meeting Via Phone:

- Dial +1 646 558 8656 • Meeting ID: 819 9697 4178 • Passcode: 027326

* [Click here](#) for detailed instructions on how to participate via zoom.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: Please use the raised hand feature to participate. The moderator will recognize those with their hands raised (either by name or phone number).

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS: For specific Park and Recreation agenda items and for items not on the agenda, written public comments may be submitted in advance by emailing smeyers@collegetownship.org by noon the day of the meeting.

College Township is committed to making meetings accessible to everyone. If you require an accommodation or service to fully participate, please contact College Township at admin@collegetownship.org or 814-231-3021.

CALL TO ORDER:

ZOOM MEETING PROTOCOL:

REORGANIZATION: To be chaired by staff member present

OPEN DISCUSSION (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA/CITIZENS COMMENTS):

CONSENT AGENDA: CA-1 November 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes
(Approval)

OLD BUSINESS: OB-1 DRAFT Annual Report
(Discussion/Approval)

NEW BUSINESS: none

PARK REPORTS: Attached

Park	Representative
Planning Commission	Meyers
Public Works	Kerner
Bike Paths	Simpson

Cairns Crossing	Sittler
CRPR	Matason
Dalevue	Schulte
Fieldstone	Sulzer**
Fogleman Fields	Simpson
Fogleman Overlook	Schulte
Glenn Park	Smith
Gordon D. Kissinger Meadow	Sittler
Harris Acres	Sulzer**
Limerock Terrace	Smith
Millbrook Marsh	Matason
Mountainside	Smith
Mt. Nittany Terrace	Sittler
Nittany Orchard	Sittler
Oak Grove	Schulte
Panorama	Sulzer**
Penn Hills	Schulte
Shamrock	Moore
Slab Cabin	Moore
Slab Cabin Overlook	Simpson
Spring Creek Park	Simpson
Spring Creek Estates	Sittler
Stoney Batter Natural Area	Sittler
Thompson Woods Parklet	Moore
Thompson Woods Preserve	Moore

STAFF INFORMATIVES: SI-1 2026 Approved Budget Items for College Township Parks and Recreation Committee

SI-2 Spring Creek Estates Update

SI-3 Gordon D. Kissinger Meadow Update

OTHER MATTERS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

UPCOMING MEETING: Monday, February 9, 2025 at 7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT:



COLLEGE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 10, 2025
1481 E. College Avenue State College PA 16801
Hybrid Meeting (In-Person or via Zoom)

**ATTENDED BY –
P&R COMMITTEE:**

Janet Sulzer, Chair
 Judi Sittler, Vice Chair
 Kathy Matason
 Earl Moore
 Dave Schulte
 Jude Simpson
 Sue Smith

STAFF:

Amy Kerner, P.E., Public Works Director
 Sharon Meyers, Sr. Support Specialist – Engineering/Planning

GUESTS:

Declan McGinnis, Scouting America

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Sulzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ZOOM MEETING PROTOCOL:

Ms. Sulzer determined there were people present via zoom and reviewed the Zoom meeting protocol.

OPEN DISCUSSION: None presented.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CA-1 September 8, 2025 Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes

*Ms. Matason moved to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2025 meeting as written.
 Ms. Sittler seconded the motion.
 Motion carried unanimously.*

CA-2 Proposed 2026 College Township Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Schedule

Mr. Schulte recommended adding an asterisk to the August meeting date. The committee agreed, noting that this reflects the committee's typical practice of meeting approximately every other month.

*Ms. Matason moved to approve the meeting dates as amended and establish a 7:00pm start time for the Parks and Recreation Committee's 2026 regular meetings, with the Park Tour meeting in June to begin at 6:00pm and continue offering both in-person and virtual meeting attendance via the Zoom platform.
 Ms. Smith seconded the motion.
 Motion carried unanimously.*

Ms. Sulzer proposed moving New Business item number three, Service Project in Mountainside Park, to the next item on the agenda. The committee agreed.

NB-3 Service Project – Mountainside Park

Mr. Declan McGinnis, a Life Scout with Troop 367, presented a proposal for a service project at Mountainside Park. His project includes installing educational signage featuring QR codes at the park's two main entrances. When scanned, these QR codes will direct users to a website describing flora and fauna commonly found along the trail. Mr. McGinnis noted QR codes will enable delivery of multimedia content such as videos and images and allow information to be updated without replacing physical signs.



Mr. McGinnis requested the following support from College Township:

1. Completion of required paperwork identifying the Township as the project beneficiary.
2. Guidance and assistance in selecting and installing materials.
3. Financial support for purchasing and installing materials.
4. Provide the best way to host and maintain the proposed educational website.

Committee members asked how many signs were proposed and what level of funding would be requested. Mr. McGinnis anticipates installing five to seven signs at the entrances and along the trail but has not yet determined a funding estimate. The committee encouraged him to prepare a prototype sign and consult with a biologist to ensure accuracy of information included on the website.

Mr. Schulte offered to serve as liaison to Mr. McGinnis, citing his experience with similar projects. The committee also discussed that Mr. McGinnis will need to request use of the Township website. They reiterated the importance of providing a mock-up of the signage. Ms. Kerner stated she would speak with the Public Works Technology and Operations Manager regarding website use prior to the January Committee meeting.

To allow Mr. McGinnis to continue moving forward, the committee expressed consensus support for the project, with the expectation of a more detailed presentation in January. Ms. Sulzer added that she will update Council on the committee's support and anticipates a more comprehensive presentation, including a funding request, in January 2026.

NEW BUSINESS:

NB-1 Thompson Woods Preserve Bike Board Remand from Council

Ms. Sulzer summarized a letter received by Council requesting installation of a board on the stairway of the bridge into Thompson Woods Preserve so cyclists would not need to carry their bikes. Ms. Kerner explained that a board had previously been installed but was removed because it had not been approved and created a tripping hazard.

The committee discussed ADA considerations, possible widening of the steps, and options for bicycle ramps. Ms. Kerner clarified that the bridge is grandfathered and not compliant with current ADA standards; any modifications such as widening would require full ADA compliance. Two avid bicyclists on the committee noted that metal ramps can be difficult to use and agreed that a wooden plank would be preferable.

Ms. Simpson moved to recommend College Township staff design and install a ramp on the steps of the bridge near Your Building Center, allowing bicycles can be pushed rather than carried up the steps to the pedestrian bridge into Thompson Woods Preserve.

Ms. Sittler seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 6:0:1, with Mr. Moore abstaining due to his role on the Thompson Woods Preserve Governance Committee.

NB-2 College Township Parks & Recreation Draft Annual Report

Ms. Kerner introduced the draft 2025 Annual Report and invited committee input, noting that staff will incorporate edits for final approval in January.

The committee offered the following revisions and will continue reviewing the document:

- Add park names to photo captions throughout the report
- Include the picnic area at GD Kissinger Meadow in the Inventory of Facilities
- Add the joint service project with U.S. Fish and Wildlife at Fogleman Overlook to the Highlights section
- Incorporate Ms. Smith's updated biography

OLD BUSINESS: No *Old Business* was presented.



PARK REPORTS:

Planning Commission: Ms. Meyers provided a brief update, noting that the Planning Commission continues its review of the Dale Summit Area Hybrid/Form Based Code. She clarified that the Code will only apply to the Dale Summit Area of College Township and described the approximate boundaries.

Public Works: Ms. Kerner reported that the Public Works crew recently completed renovation of the roof on the upper pavilion at Slab Cabin Park. She added that the Public Works section of the Annual Report will be updated accordingly.

Cairns Crossing: Ms. Sittler noted that several boardwalk planks have been replaced as needed.

Dalevue: Mr. Schulte requested an update on the removed spring animal. Ms. Kerner will follow up with Centre Region staff regarding its status.

Fogleman Overlook: Mr. Schulte stated the joint service project with U.S. Fish and Wildlife is complete.

GDK Meadow: Ms. Sittler stated that the missing gravel at the park entrance/exit has been replaced.

Mt. Nittany Terrace: Ms. Sittler inquired about the replacement park sign. Ms. Kerner shared that installation is anticipated within the next few months.

Oak Grove: Mr. Schulte noted that many of the dead trees in the park have been removed.

Slab Cabin Overlook: Ms. Kerner stated that the requested equipment for the park has been ordered.

Spring Creek Park: Ms. Simpson reported that the court resurfacing project is now complete. She also asked about a tree that has been cordoned off; Ms. Kerner will contact Centre Region Parks and Recreation for more information.

Spring Creek Estates: Ms. Sittler reported that a few trees had fallen during strong winds earlier in the year.

Thompson Woods Preserve: Mr. Moore stated that the Governance Committee is planning to fund a reforestation study, including fenced demonstration plots intended to reduce deer impact. He added that the Preserve's website is nearing launch and that the Committee recently met with a Schreyer Honors College professor regarding an educational project for the Preserve.

STAFF INFORMATIVES: No *Staff Informatives* were presented.

OTHER MATTERS:

Ms. Sulzer gave a few updates on Township and regional activities. She reported that the West Nile Virus study being conducted in parks throughout the region has concluded, pickleball courts are being installed at Tussey Mountain, and the Slab Cabin Park parking are continues to experience use from nearby restaurants.

Ms. Sittler commented on the spotted lanternfly issue. It was determined that Penn State Cooperative Extension maintains a website for reporting lanternfly sightings.

Mr. Moore asked about potential challenges related to maintaining a quorum at future meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Ms. Smith announced that the Lemont Christmas Market is scheduled for December 5-6.
- Ms. Sittler announced that the College Township Sesquicentennial Committee will hold its final celebration on November 23, 2025, featuring refreshments and a flag ceremony.
- Ms. Kerner announced that the Appreciation Dinner will be held at the Penn Stater on December 5.
- Ms. Kerner expressed appreciation to Ms. Sulzer, whose term concludes at the end of the year, for her many years of service on various Township Authorities, Boards, and Commissions, especially her recent service on the Parks and Recreation Committee.



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Matason moved to adjourn the November 10, 2025 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

Ms. Smith seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Draft

Sharon E. Meyers
Recording Secretary

**COLLEGE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**



Newly resurfaced tennis court in Spring Creek Park

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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I. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Janet Sulzer, *Chair*

Park Assignments: Fieldstone, Harris Acres, Panorama
Member Since: March 2018
Term Ends: December 2025

Janet was raised in Central Pennsylvania and has a BS from Mansfield State University and an AS from Penn State. She and her husband moved to the Centre Region in 1970 and then to College Township in 1979. Since 1983, Janet has held numerous positions in local government in College Township and the Centre Region, including eight years as a College Township Council Member. She was Chairperson of the Centre Region Council of Government's Public Service Commission when regional trash collection was implemented.

Judi Sittler, *Vice-Chair*

Park Assignments: Cairns Crossing, Gordon D. Kissinger Meadow, Mount Nittany Terrace, Nittany Orchard, Spring Creek Estates, Stoney Batter Natural Area
Member Since: January 2015
Term Ends: December 2027

Judi was born and raised in Berks County, Pennsylvania. She raised a family in State College, and got her undergraduate and master's degree in Special Education from Penn State. Judi moved to Los Angeles where she lived for thirty years, teaching special education at UCLA and Beverly Hills High School. During this time, she got a PhD in Psychology and set up a private practice as a licensed psychologist. When she retired in 2006, she moved to State College with her husband Stu Silver. She is happy to be "back home" and close to her son and daughter-in-law. Her home is along Spring Creek in the Lemont area. Having Spring Creek in her backyard, prompted Judi to join the Central PA Women Anglers in 2007 and the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited in 2009. She served as the chapter's president for four years and then moved to the position of chair of the Spring Creek Watershed Association in March 2014. Judi attributes everything she knows about watershed conservation to her experiences with everyone associated with Trout Unlimited and the Spring Creek Watershed Association.

Kathleen Matason

Park Assignments: Millbrook Marsh, Centre Region Parks & Recreation

Member Since: January 2005

Term Ends: December 2026

Kathy has a BS in Management and a MA in American Studies, both from Penn State. She retired in 2018 from her position as Director of Operations of the Ben Franklin Technology Center. Kathy joined the College Township Parks and Recreation Committee in 2005 (chair from 2008-2010) and has represented College Township on the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority since 2005, serving as secretary (2007-2018) and chair (2018-present). She also represents College Township on the Millbrook Marsh Advisory Committee (2005-present). Kathy is a long-standing member of the Centre County Drug and Alcohol Planning Council, serving in several key leadership positions (2003-present) and continues to serve on the Volunteer Event Staff Advisory Board of the Center for the Performing Arts (2016-present; president from 2019-present). Participating in two major construction projects, Whitehall Road Regional Park and Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Spring Creek Education Building Phase II/Diane Kerly Welcome Pavilion, has been the highlight of 2023!

Earl Moore

Park Assignments: Shamrock, Slab Cabin, Thompson Woods Parklet, Thompson Woods Preserve

Member Since: March 2016

Term Ends: December 2027

Earl was born and raised in Central Pennsylvania. He lived in the Pine Creek Valley for twenty years and the last seven years in College Township. He has a degree in Information Technology from Penn State. Earl has a wonderful wife, Kimberly, three sons, a grandson, and a granddaughter. He has served on the College Township Parks and Recreation Committee since March 2016 and on the LTAC since January 2016. His hobbies include gardening, woodworking, and home improvements.

David Schulte

Park Assignments: Dalevue, Fogleman Overlook, Oak Grove, Penn Hills

Member Since: January 1989

Term Ends: December 2028

Dave has a BS in Psychology from the *State University of New York* (1974) and is an MCSE(2003). After 45 years as a professional systems designer, implementer and administrator, he retired in 2019 and now enjoys bringing his grandchildren to the park, bicycling, and flying his plane. He has been a Little League coach, CRPR soccer coach, and BSA adult leader (CM, RT, SM, WB). Dave has served as the committee secretary (1990-1996, 2013), vice-chairman (2003, 2023) and chairman (1997-2002, 2004-2007, 2024).

Jude Simpson

Park Assignments: Bike Paths, Fogleman Fields, Slab Cabin Overlook, Spring Creek Park

Member Since: January 2007

Term Ends: December 2026

Jude is a Penn State graduate who studied Fisheries Science and Biology at the University of Alaska in Juneau. Since moving to State College in 2000, Jude has served on the boards of the Centre Region Bicycle Coalition and as a volunteer for Pennsylvania Rails to Trails. She believes all residents of the Centre Region should have the opportunity to enjoy convenient, non-motorized access to trails and other recreational facilities. Her vision is for the development of a safe, destination bound continuous alternative transportation system that would link parks, trails, and bike paths in order to promote physical activity and healthy living.

Susan Smith

Park Assignments: Glenn Park, Limerock Terrace, Mountainside

Member Since: January 2011

Term Ends: December 2025

Susan F. Smith (Sue) was a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee in the late 1970's and early 1980's, at the time Spring Creek Park was created. She is Chair of the Lemont Village Association (LVA) and is very involved in the activities sponsored. Sue is also a member of the Centre County Housing Authority, and other non-profit organizations. She is a graduate of Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, and has worked as an elementary school teacher, legislative aide, and fundraising consultant to non-profit organizations.



(Pictured from left to right) Kathy Matason, Judi Sittler, Sue Smith, Jude Simpson, Amy Kerner, Dave Schulte in Fieldstone Park

II. BACKGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS

Founded in 1875, College Township is a composite of zoned areas that allows for a mixture of agricultural, commercial, industrial, residential, residential-office, and university, which is blended into an area of approximately eighteen and one-half square miles. According to the 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, College Township population was 10,916. This was a 1.25% increase from the 2020 US Census. The median age of residents of College Township is 40.4 years, which is 14.6 years greater than the median age of Centre Region.

Age Range:	<18	18-24	25-34	35-59	60+
% of Population:	16.03%	16.44%	10.81%	29.27%	27.45%

PUBLIC RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

College Township is proud to be part of a larger regional network of parks and recreation spaces that serve residents throughout the Centre Region. Each municipality contributes by acquiring and developing parkland and investing in improvements that benefit the whole community. The care and maintenance of the parks is a shared responsibility with Centre Region Parks and Recreation (CRPR) overseeing designated regional parks, while College Township maintains the neighborhood parks within its boundaries ensuring they remain welcoming, safe, and enjoyable for everyone.

RECREATION PLANNING

College Township has a long history of thoughtful recreation and open space planning. In the 1970's, the Township adopted the Centre Region Comprehensive Plan, which included goals for parks and open space and referenced the 1973 Centre Region Parks and Open Space Plan. Building on that foundation, the College Township Parks and Recreation Committee developed a five-year improvement plan in 1985 to enhance existing parks within the Township.

A year later, in 1986, the landscape architecture firm Griswold, Winters, Swain and Mullin (GWSM) completed a comprehensive recreation, park, and open space study for the entire Centre Region. This study provided an updated inventory of recreational facilities and offered recommendations for improving regional amenities. The Centre Region Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan has continued to evolve over time, with the most recent update completed in January 2020. This plan addresses everything from facilities and programming to financing, maintenance, and future recommendations.

Most recently, in 2023, the College Township Parks and Recreation Committee proposed updates to the Township's Official Map, a planning tool used to identify existing and proposed public lands and facilities. The update process included valuable input from public meetings, the College Township Planning Commission, and Centre Region Planning staff. In addition to mapping future roads and bicycle paths, the Committee identified potential locations for two types of parks; active parks, which support organized recreation and play, and passive parks, which protect natural areas such as floodplains and other environmentally sensitive spaces.

ENABLING LEGISLATION

In 1968, the Pennsylvania General Assembly enacted the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), granting municipalities the authority to adopt an Official Map. The purpose of this legislation is to promote public health, safety, and general welfare; ensure adequate public streets and facilities; improve traffic circulation; provide for community recreation and open space needs; protect and enhance water resources; and facilitate the subdivision and use of land and watercourses.

College Township exercised this authority by adopting its own Official Map through Ordinance No. 87 on November 14, 1985, thereby establishing Chapter 133 of the College Township Code. The MPC was later amended in 1988 to clarify provisions and expressly authorize municipalities to identify the approximate locations of both existing and proposed public streets, watercourses, and public grounds on their Official Maps.

Also in 1988, further revisions to the MPC (Section 503(11)) empowered municipalities to require the dedication of parkland or the collection of “fees-in-lieu” as part of the subdivision and land development process, consistent with an adopted recreation plan. This legislative action ensured that local governments could secure the resources necessary for the acquisition and development of parkland to serve current and future residents.



Newly resurfaced basketball court in Spring Creek Park

III. PARK FACILITIES

INVENTORY OF FACILITIES

Below is a list of park facilities and activities available within College Township.

(* denotes park facilities not overseen by College Township Parks & Recreation Committee)

Facility	Size	Playground / Play Area	Picnic Area	Ball Field(s)	Restroom/ Pavilion	Other Activities	Walking/ Cycling	Maintained By
Bicycle Path	~6.5 ln mi						Paved	Township
Cairns Crossing	1.37 acres						Path	Township
Dalevue	14.78 acres	X	X	X	P	Basketball Tennis Sledding	Bikeway Access	CRPR
Fieldstone	1.83 acres	X	X					Township
*Fogleman Fields	15.30 acres	X			P R	Soccer	Paved	SCASD/ CRPR
Fogleman Overlook	2.68 acres					Bench	Paved	Township
Glenn Park	1.71 acres	X	X					Township
GDK Meadow	11.60 acres		X					Township
Harris Acres	1.16 acres		X	Back stop				Township
*Lemont Village Green	0.95 acres	X			P	Concerts, Markets, Festivals		Lemont Village Association
Limerock Terrace	0.55 acres	X	X			Basketball ½ Court		Township
*Millbrook Marsh	67.71 acres				P R	Education Center	Path/ Boardwalk	CRPR
Mountain-side	7.17 acres	X	X				Nature Trail	Township
Mt. Nittany Terrace	2.93 acres	X	X		P	Basketball		Township
*Nittany Mountain	765.03 acres					Overlooks	Hiking Nature Trail	Conserv- ancy & Lions Paw
Nittany Orchard	5.20 acres	X	X	X		Basketball Tennis Gazebo		CRPR
Oak Grove	2.92 acres	X	X			Basketball ½ Court	Paved	Township
*Oak Hall Regional	68.27 acres			X	R		Trail	CRPR
Panorama Parklet	0.65 acres		X					Township
Penn Hills	4.89 acres	X	X	X	P	Sledding		Township
Shamrock	3.00 acres	X	X				Grass	Township
Slab Cabin	15.35 acres	X	X		P	Basketball ½ Court Sledding	Bikeway Access	CRPR

Facility	Size	Playground	Picnic Area	Ball Field(s)	Restroom/Pavilion	Other Activities	Walking/Cycling	Maintained By
Slab Cabin Overlook	5.11 acres						Paved	Township
Spring Creek Estates	10.24 acres						Trail	Township
Spring Creek Park	36.25 acres	X	X	X	P R	Basketball Soccer Volleyball Tennis	Paved Bikeway Access	CRPR
Stoney Batter	32.90 acres						Hiking	Township
Thompson Woods Parklet	1.82 acres					Gazebo		Township
*Thompson Woods Preserve	36.60 acres						Hiking	CRPR

ACQUISITION

College Township recognizes the importance of ensuring that every neighborhood has convenient access to park and recreation opportunities. Ideally, each neighborhood should have a park within walking distance. Whenever possible, the Township seeks to acquire land adjacent to existing parks to expand recreational spaces and strengthen community connections.

Land and/or funding for these acquisitions may be obtained through the following sources:

- a.) Dedication of land as part of subdivision approval
- b.) "Fee-in-Lieu" contributions from developers
- c.) Government grant programs
- d.) Township tax funds
- e.) Private donations
- f.) Easements

Parcels identified for acquisition should meet the following general criteria:

- a.) Size:
 Neighborhood Parks are generally less than ten acres and serve residents within approximately a one-half (½) mile radius.
 Regional Parks are typically twenty (20) acres or larger and serve a more broad population.
- b.) Access:
 Neighborhood Parks should abut a public street and have a minimum frontage of fifty (50) feet OR include a clearly defined easement acceptable to the Township.
 Regional Parks should provide vehicular access from the public street.
- c.) Shape:
 Parcels should be configured to accommodate a mix of recreational and open space activities appropriate to the surrounding neighborhood. Site may include both natural and active recreation areas.
- d.) Surface:
 Soils should be suitable for the intended park use. Portions of parkland may be located within detention basins or floodplains, provided that the majority of the area has appropriate topography for recreational purposes.

e.) Service Area:

Neighborhood Parks should be accessible by walking and may include limited parking, as they serve residents within approximately a one-half (½) mile radius.

Regional Parks in general, serve a larger area, often with a three (3) mile or greater radius and should include adequate parking and facilities accessible by walking, bicycling, and driving.

DEVELOPMENT

The development of parkland within College Township includes both the improvement of existing underdeveloped parks and the planning and construction of new facilities on recently acquired sites. Because the cost of park development can be significant, projects are typically implemented through a phased approach. Priorities are established and updated annually within the Parks and Recreation Committee's Five-Year Plan, based on available funding, community needs, and long-term goals for the Township's park system.

MAINTENANCE

Park maintenance within College Township is a shared effort designed to ensure that all recreation areas remain safe, attractive, and functional for public use. Centre Region Parks and Recreation (CRPR) provides general maintenance services, such as grassing mowing, equipment painting and repair, and field grading and lining at designated regional parks. The Township Public Works Crew performs these same services for neighborhood parks within its jurisdiction.

In addition, College Township is responsible for major maintenance and repair projects, including site preparation for new equipment installation, replacement of outdated equipment, resurfacing of hard courts, and repair of parking areas, among other tasks. This collaborative approach helps maintain high-quality park and recreation facilities that serve residents across the community.



Newly resurfaced tennis court in Spring Creek Park

IV. OBJECTIVES

The Parks and Recreation Committee's primary objective is to encourage and support College Township in providing high-quality parks and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. To achieve this goal, the Township will pursue the following objectives:

CONTINUE TO ACQUIRE PARK AND RECREATIONAL LAND

College Township will continue to acquire parkland and open space as subdivision and land development occur within the Township, and when other appropriate parcels become available. Strategic acquisition ensures that park and recreation areas grow in step with community development and future needs.

DEVELOP NEW PARKS AS ACQUIRED

The development of newly acquired parkland will follow a three-step process to ensure timely and thoughtful planning:

- 1.) Identification: As soon as possible after obtaining title, install signage designating the property as public parkland.
- 2.) Planning: Prepare a detailed site development plan, including phased implementation if necessary.
- 3.) Implementation: Carry out the approved plan as funding becomes available and in accordance with the Township's capital improvement priorities.

IMPROVE EXISTING PARKS

College Township is committed to the continual improvement of its existing parks to enhance safety, accessibility, and overall community enjoyment. Improvements may include:

- a.) Repairing and maintaining existing facilities and equipment
- b.) Preparing and updating master plans for individual parks
- c.) Installing new playground, fitness, or recreation equipment as budgets allow
- d.) Preserving and planting native and noninvasive vegetation to support wildlife and reduce noise
- e.) Protecting streams, buffer zones, and other environmentally sensitive areas

PROVIDE ACCESS

The Township will promote safe and convenient access to recreation areas by improving pedestrian and bicycle connections between residential neighborhoods, parks, and nearby commercial and industrial places. These efforts support community quality of life within College Township.

V. RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

- The Township manages the nature trail in Mountainside Park.
- The Mt. Nittany Conservancy is a partner in overseeing the Stoney Batter Natural Area.
- The Centre Soccer Association is a partner in the development of Fogleman Fields.
- State College Little League uses some ball fields in township parks.
- Centre Soccer provides programs at Fogleman Fields and other facilities within College Township.
- Centred Basketball utilizes the Spring Creek Park basketball facilities through their “Growing the Game” program.
- Centre Region Parks and Recreation also provides many recreation programs to residents and non-residents throughout the year.

VI. HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past year, the Parks and Recreation Committee remained actively engaged in reviewing plans, assessing community needs, and supporting the continued growth and improvement of College Township’s parks. Key accomplishments and activities included:

- Reviewed an open space plan for a Planned Residential Development and recommended College Township Council and Planning Commission consider population density when setting ordinance requirements for similar developments in the future.
- Recommended the incorporation of dedicated parkland received from the Aspen Heights development into the existing Slab Cabin Overlook Park to enhance future connectivity and recreational value.
- Reviewed and updated the committee’s five-year plan to ensure that priorities reflect current community needs, resources, and opportunities.
- Conducted an annual park tour meeting, visiting Fieldstone Park and Slab Cabin Overlook.
- Visited the 100-acre Whitehall Road Regional Park, toured its innovative play area, and gathered ideas for future park enhancements.
- Fogleman Overlook joint service project with US Fish and Wildlife.

VII. PLANS AND CHALLENGES

Looking ahead, the Parks and Recreation Committee remains committed to maintaining and enhancing College Township’s park system through thoughtful planning, collaboration, and long-term vision. The following goals and ongoing challenges will guide these efforts:

- Update the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan annually during the first quarter to reflect current priorities, funding availability, and community needs.
- Ensure the implementation and completion of capital improvement projects and maintenance to ensure timely progress and responsible use of resources.
- Support the acquisition of future parkland and/or easements that enhance recreational access, connectivity, and opportunities for residents.
- Encourage neighborhood and community participation in planning, improvement, and renovation of park facilities to foster local pride and stewardship.
- Plan for future generations by securing sufficient land for the continued development of quality parks and recreational spaces.
- Encourage developers to highlight the value of incorporating parkland and public amenities into development plans, demonstrating that such features increase both community benefit and property appeal.

VIII. APPENDICES

PARKS AND RECREATION FIVE YEAR PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

	Description	Grant/ Service Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Neighborhood Parks							
Bike Paths	Potential Resurfacing					\$7,000	
Bike Paths	Replace Pine Saplings from 2024 (40-1gal. \$40each)		\$1,600				
Bike Paths	Winter Maintenance						
Cairns Crossing	Streambank Planting				\$1,500		
Cairns Crossing	Boardwalk Repairs						
Cairns Crossing	Invasive Mitigation			\$1,000			
Fieldstone	Pavilion				\$15,000		
Fogleman Overlook	Parking Reconfiguration						
Fogleman Overlook	Pave Parking (pave access from Meadowsweet Dr.)		\$12,000				
Fogleman Overlook	Pave Parking Area			\$24,000			
Glenn Park							
GDK Meadow	Stormwater Management		\$5,000				
GDK Meadow	Pollinator Plot (spray invasives-if needed)		\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650
Harris Acres	Park Access (pave path)		\$10,000				
Harris Acres	Bike & Ped Safety (Atherton)						
Limerock Terrace							
Mountainside							
Mt. Nittany Terrace	Future Improvements associated w/ Manor Dev					\$10,000	
Mt. Nittany Terrace	Basketball Court (widen to 50' with 3pt arc)						
Oak Grove	Extend Path 375' to Elizabeth Road			\$6,500			
Oak Grove	Basketball Court (widen to 50' with 3pt arc)		\$10,000				
Panorama Parklet							
Penn Hills	Baseball Field Improvements						
Penn Hills	Play Equipment			\$40,000			
Penn Hills	Basketball Court				\$17,136		
Penn Hills	Pavilion Refurbish					\$2,500	
Shamrock	Relocate Slide from Slab Cabin Park			\$3,000			
Shamrock	Extend walking path around perimeter		\$1,000				

	Description	Grant/ Service Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Slab Cabin Overlook	Amenities & Future Amenities			\$5,000			
Spring Creek Estates							
Stoney Batter	Stormwater Management		\$15,000				
Thompson Woods Parklet	Future Improvements				\$10,000		
Thompson Woods Parklet	Tree Removal						
Neighborhood Park Totals			\$55,250	\$80,150	\$44,286	\$20,150	\$650
	Description	Grant/ Service Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Regional Parks							
Dalevue	Pavilion Refurbish				\$13,045		
Dalevue	Plantings (sound mitigation)	S	\$1,400				
Dalevue	Multi-Purpose Play Field (grading and hydroseeding)		\$9,300				
Fogleman Fields							
Millbrook Marsh							
Nittany Orchard	Gazebo (refurbish & landscape)		\$5,000				
Oak Hall							
Slab Cabin	Upper Pavilion (refurbish)		\$10,000				
Slab Cabin	Replace Play & Fitness Equipment		\$65,000				
Slab Cabin	Master Plan Development		\$60,000				
Spring Creek	Benches (repair/ replace/ relocate)			\$2,000			
Spring Creek	Landscaping	G			\$20,000		
Spring Creek	Walking Path to Puddintown Rd					\$13,000	
Spring Creek	Pavilion						
Thompson Woods Preserve	Trail						
Thompson Woods Preserve	Educational Kiosk						
Thompson Woods Preserve	Reforestation						
Regional Park Totals			\$150,700	\$2,000	\$33,045	\$13,000	\$0
TOTAL			\$205,950	\$82,150	\$77,331	\$33,150	\$650

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

The following maintenance and projects were completed by the Public Works Crew in 2025:

Refurbished some wooden park signs; Mowing and weed removal/spraying in all parks as needed throughout the summer; Replaced mulch when needed

Bike Path: Trimmed trees and shrubs encroaching on path; Plowed after snow events; Swept paths in spring

Cairns Crossing: Replaced rotten/broken boards on small boardwalk; Trimmed evergreen tree

Fieldstone: Installed ADA path to newly established play equipment

Oak Grove: Removed dead trees

Penn Hills: Maintenance on the pavilion; Washed and stained picnic tables

Slab Cabin: Replaced roof of pavilion in upper portion of the park

Slab Cabin Overlook: Installed bench, trash receptacle, and bike rack

Spring Creek Estates: Cleared fallen trees and debris from paths

Spring Creek Park: Installed backstop on newly resurfaced tennis court; Installed a new bench base; Refurbished picnic tables throughout the park

Thompson Woods Preserve: Installed bike ramp on pedestrian bridge (pictured below)



College Township Parks and Recreation Committee

January 12, 2026

Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority

November 20, 2025 – cancelled

December 18, 2025

Members: Kathy Matason, College Township
Corey Gracie-Griffin, Ferguson Township
Bruce Lord, Harris Township
Clara Franklin, Patton Township
Tom Daubert, State College Boro
Gretchen Brandt, State College Area School District

Gretchen Brandt introduced us to Jen Black, who will be replacing her as representative of the State College Area School District starting January 1, 2026.

Voted unanimously to have Clara Franklin represent the Authority on the Parks and Library Ad Hoc Committee.

Voted unanimously to approve the 2026 CRPR Fee Policy, which includes Appendix A 2026 Fee Schedule and Appendix B Rental Guidelines, as presented.

Voted unanimously to approve the bid documents and advertisement to bid the Welch Pool replastering project.

Voted unanimously to approve the 2026 monthly meeting dates as presented, to include Joint Meetings with a Designated COG Committee and to meet on the third Thursday of each month at a meeting time of 12:15 pm for regular meeting and 10:00 am for quarterly work sessions, unless otherwise noted.

Next scheduled meeting is January 15, 2026, 12:15 pm, in the COG General Forum Room.

COG Parks and Recreation Governance Special Committee

November 26, 2025

Discussed the proposed Intergovernmental Relationship Agreement.

Next scheduled meeting is December 17, 2025, 8:30 am, COG General Forum Room

December 17, 2025

Voted unanimously to move the Intergovernmental Relationship Agreement to the next reviews by solicitor, municipalities, and Authority.

Next scheduled meeting is January 28, 2026, 8:30 am, COG General Forum Room

COG Finance Committee, COG Executive Committee, and General Forum – I have been attending, via Zoom, the meetings of Finance and Executive in order to keep abreast of developments relating to Authority activities. I attend General Forum meetings when needed as they generally occur on evenings when I have an ongoing prior commitment.

College Township Council and Planning Commission - I am attending College Township Planning Commission and College Township Council meetings when agenda items are related to Parks and Recreation.

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee

November 19, 2025

Heard a presentation on Collaborative Cartography for Ecosystem-Services Provision at Millbrook Marsh with The Riparia Center and GeoGraphics Lab at Penn State.

Voted unanimously to endorse the reappointment of members with appointments ending at the end of December.

Voted unanimously to approve the 2026 meeting schedule.

Reviewed a proposed Water Sampling Cooperative Agreement from the Keystone Water Resources Center.

Heard a presentation from Susan Hart on Nature and Well-Being: Connection and Growth through Shared Stewardship.

Next scheduled meeting is March 18, 2026, 4:00 pm, Spring Creek Education Building

Prepared by Kathy Matason

2026 APPROVED BUDGET ITEMS

SI-1

FOR

COLLEGE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Local Parks	Amount per Project	Description	2026 Approved Budget per Park
Mt. Nittany Terrace Park			\$0
Mountain Side Park			\$0
Penn Hills Park	\$5,000	grade ball field	\$5,000
Stoney Batter Open Space			\$0
Harris Acres Park			\$0
Oak Grove Park			\$0
Thompson Woods Parklet			\$0
Cairn Crossing Parklet	\$1,700	boardwalk repairs	\$1,700
Shamrock Park			\$0
Fieldstone Park			\$0
Spring Creek Estates Park			\$0
Kissinger Open Space			\$0
Fogleman Overlook Park	\$19,500	parking lot reconfiguration	\$19,500
Slab Cabin Overlook			\$0
Glenn Park			\$0
Limerock Terrace Parklet			\$0
Panorama Village Open Space			\$0
Regional Parks			
Spring Creek Park			\$6,000
	\$4,000	Replace Pavilion Roof	
	\$2,000	Replace Benches	
Slab Cabin Park	\$65,000	Replace Play Equipment	\$65,000
Nittany Orchard Park			\$0
Dalevue Park			\$0
Thompson Woods Preserve	\$10,000	Management Plan	\$10,000
Fogleman Fields			\$0
Oak Hall Park			\$0
Millbrook Marsh			\$0