



BERWICK PARKS MASTER PLAN

AUGUST 2024





RIVER OYSTER MURAL AT ST. CHARLES PARK

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Berwick Parks Master Plan is a vision for public space that embodies community priorities – ensuring that both current and future public spaces are cared for throughout the Borough. The plan’s strategies for creative placemaking will support Berwick in retaining and attracting residents to live, work, and play. This document celebrates Berwick’s creative community and natural assets, developing a visionary yet clear and feasible master plan that can enhance spaces for all.

The six-month planning process was led by Omnes – a landscape architecture, planning, and art studio based in Easton, PA. Berwick residents and visitors provided input to the planning team via community survey responses, written input, and feedback and insights contributed during key person interviews, public sessions, and in-person site visits.

The Berwick Parks Master Plan is a complementary planning effort to the Columbia County Placemaking Initiative (www.ourplacecolumbia.com) developed by Hailstone Economic. Both plans are made possible through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge Grant.

The recommendations of the Berwick Parks Master Plan work in conjunction with some major aims of the Columbia County Placemaking Initiative, including:

- Enhancement of Berwick’s Parks and open spaces for the enhancement of physical and emotional health, and to better meet community needs.
- Establishment of The Arts & Culture Alliance, a catalyst to create a vibrant, flourishing arts community in Columbia and Montour counties and beyond.
- Designation of the new Berwick Arts District in downtown Berwick. A mixed-use development called Coblentz Corner will be an anchor for the district, with potential uses including: a maker space, gallery, arts education, and the new home of the Berwick Teen Center.

The proposed guidelines of the Berwick Parks Master Plan emphasize the creation of inclusive spaces that invite people of all abilities and backgrounds to use the parks. The plan also uses art and creative activation of public space as a catalytic tool for community cohesion and neighborhood improvement. The plan articulates recommendations for physical improvements as well as programming and activation of public spaces. The improvements are intended to be pursued through grant-funding efforts, allowing the Borough of Berwick to bring projects to life as funding allows.

The voices of Borough residents were essential in the development of this master plan, which centers community ambitions for a vision of improving the near and long-term future of Berwick’s parks.

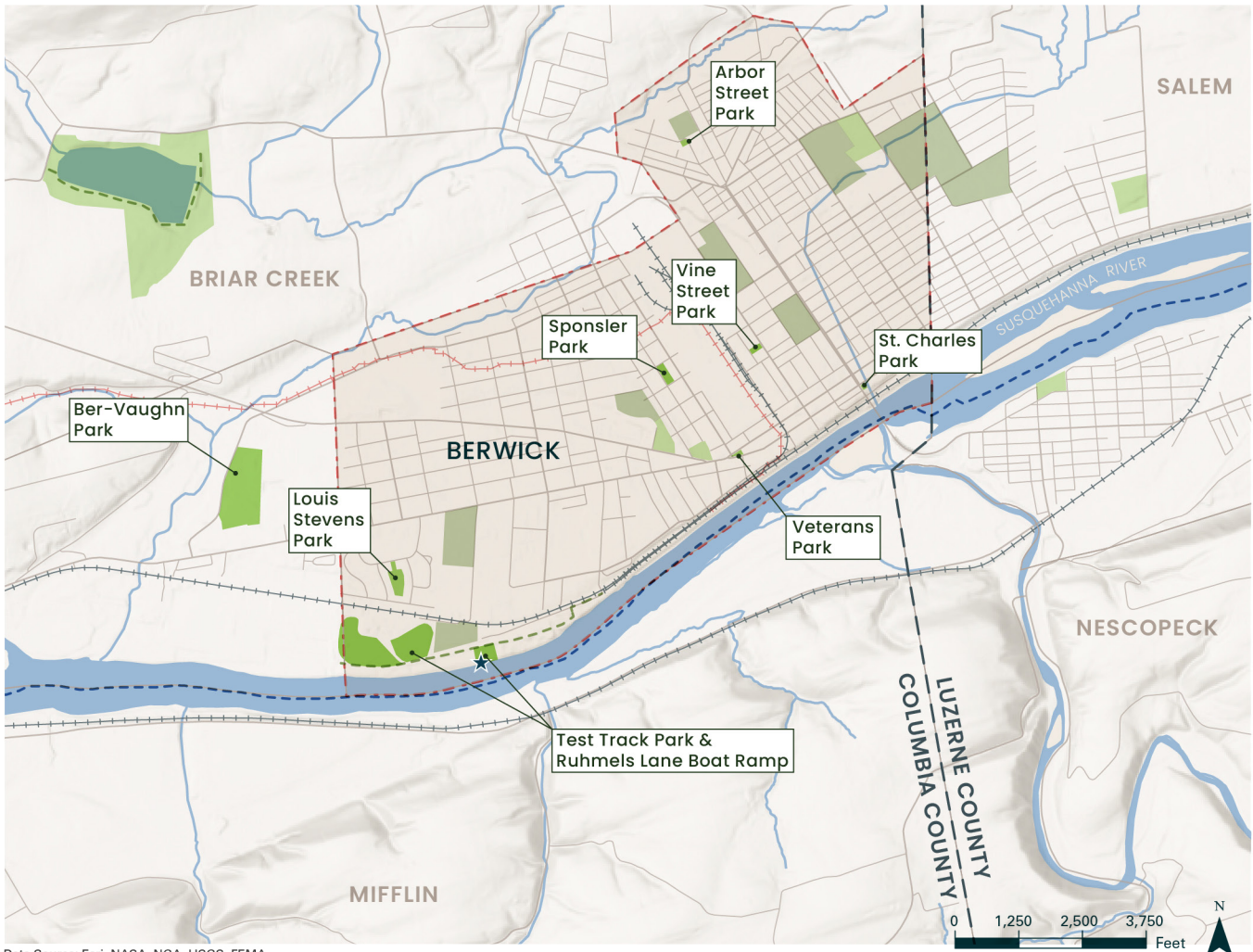
Berwick, Pennsylvania
August 2024

BERWICK PARKS & OPEN SPACES

Spanning 3.1 square miles along the banks of the Susquehanna River, Berwick is home to 10,318 residents. Berwick residents have access to eight existing community parks managed by the Borough, all of which were studied in this planning process. The master plan addresses the use and programming of these existing parks and also inventoried other local open spaces within the Berwick Area School District.

The Borough of Berwick, Pennsylvania, owns or maintains 93.8 acres of parks and open space. The projects in the master plan scope include:

- St. Charles Park (0.1 acres)
- Veterans Park (.25 acres)
- Ber-Vaughn Park (26.6 acres)
- Test Track Park (60 acres)
- Vine Street Park (0.5 acres)
- Sponsler Park (1.3 acres)
- Louis Stevens Park (2.3 acres)
- Arbor Street Park (0.5 acres)



Data Source: Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

BOUNDARIES

- BERWICK BOROUGH
- BERWICK AREA MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES

RECREATION & TRAILS

- PARKS IN PROJECT SCOPE
- PARKS IN BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
- OPEN SPACE (SCHOOLS, CEMETERIES)
- EXISTING TRAILS
- EXISTING WATER TRAILS

TRANSPORTATION

- INACTIVE RAIL LINES
- ACTIVE RAIL LINES
- STATE ROADS
- LOCAL ROADS

NATURAL FEATURES

- MAJOR RIVERS
- TROUT STREAMS

PLAN GOALS

**BRING TOGETHER BOTH NEW IDEAS & OLD
DREAMS FOR BERWICK'S PARKS**

**PRIORITIZE EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE,
AND QUALITY PUBLIC PARKS FOR ALL RESIDENTS**

**CONTINUE TO INTEGRATE AND PRIORITIZE
PUBLIC ART WITHIN BERWICK'S PARKS**

**CONSIDER BERWICK COMMUNITY MEMBERS'
IDEAS AND GUIDANCE TO DEFINE A VISION FOR
THE FUTURE OF THE PARKS**

SCHEDULE

	WEEKS																								
	4 FEB	11 FEB	18 FEB	25 FEB	3 MAR	10 MAR	17 MAR	24 MAR	31 MAR	7 APR	14 APR	21 APR	28 APR	5 MAY	12 MAY	19 MAY	26 MAY	2 JUN	9 JUN	16 JUN	24 JUN	1 JUL	8 JUL	15 JUL	22 JUL
ENGAGE																									
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS	1		2	3	4			5			6		7		8		9				10				
KEY PERSON INTERVIEWS																									
PUBLIC MEETINGS																			1						
SURVEY													100%						1						
ANALYZE																									
PLAN PURPOSE, GOALS, OBJECTIVES	100%																								
INVENTORY & ANALYSIS					100%																				
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ANALYSIS					100%																				
PLAN																									
PLANNING CONCEPTS & STRATEGIES								25%			50%		75%					100%							
BUDGET COST ESTIMATES																		100%							
IMPLEMENT																									
ACTION PLAN																		100%							
FINAL REPORT																						50%			100%

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE COMMUNITY OF BERWICK

Community engagement directly informed the master plan and will help shape the future of Berwick’s parks for years to come. Residents of the Borough of Berwick were integral team members in the development of the Berwick Parks Master Plan, completed in August 2024. Community members made their voices heard throughout the planning process – through 566 responses across two public parks surveys, as well as 22 key person interviews.

PLANNING CONSULTANT

As a sub-consultant to Hailstone Economic, the plan was led by Omnes – a landscape architecture, planning, and art studio based in Easton, Pennsylvania. The Omnes team included:

- Laura Stedenfeld, Principal, Omnes
- Sheila M. Fuentes, Director, Omnes
- Sara Harmon, Project Manager, Landscape Designer, Omnes
- Carson Fisk-Vittori, Landscape Designer, Omnes

THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee worked directly with the planning team to provide resources, feedback, and guidance throughout the planning process. The members of the Steering Committee included:

- Damien Scoblink, Manager, Berwick Borough
- Jack Kytte, Head of Public Works, Berwick Borough
- Josh Nespoli, Community Strategies Group, Deputy Director
- Sara Hailstone, Hailstone Economic
- Jessica Aviva, Ph.D, Hailstone Economic
- Angela Callie, Hailstone Economic

2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



METHODOLOGY

This community-driven master plan centers residents' voices and ambitions to inform the future of parks in Berwick. In prioritizing equitable, inclusive, accessible, and quality public parks for all residents, the public engagement process sought feedback from people of all backgrounds and experiences to define a collective vision. Engagement activities were publicized through social media, emailers, and posted signs. An inclusive approach to engagement yielded a collaborative planning process with many voices shaping the plan.

PUBLIC MEETINGS:

The public forum for the project included a virtual public meeting as well as a public presentation at City Council session, held at Berwick City Hall. These meetings provided residents with opportunities to learn about the plan, take the project surveys, ask questions, and engage in discussions with the planning team.

- Public Council Presentation: April 15, 2024
- Public Meeting: June 04, 2024

COMMUNITY SURVEYS:

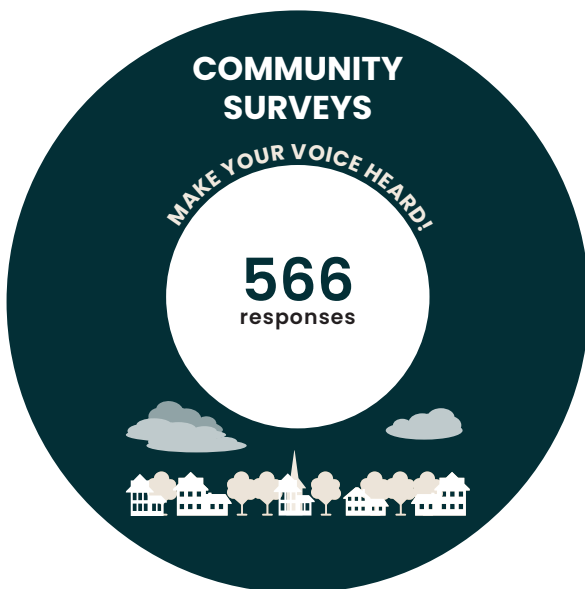
Public engagement for the planning process centered on two community surveys that sought residents' feedback about parks and recreation opportunities in Berwick parks. Survey 1 welcomed initial input about the state of and desires for parks and recreation in Berwick and a subsequent Parks Survey 2 asked for residents' feedback about specific design concepts developed for seven borough parks. A total of 566 responses were received across both surveys, with Survey 1 collecting 493 responses and Survey 2 receiving 73 responses.

Surveys were conducted during the following time periods:

- Survey 1: March 12–May 1, 2024
- Survey 2: June 4–July 7, 2024

KEY PERSON INTERVIEWS

Key person interviews were conducted to capture important perspectives to inform the plan. Interviewees with key ties to Berwick and/or Columbia County provided insights that enriched the planning process significantly. Omnes interviewed 22 key individuals (see page 12) to understand their perspectives about the needs for Berwick's parks.



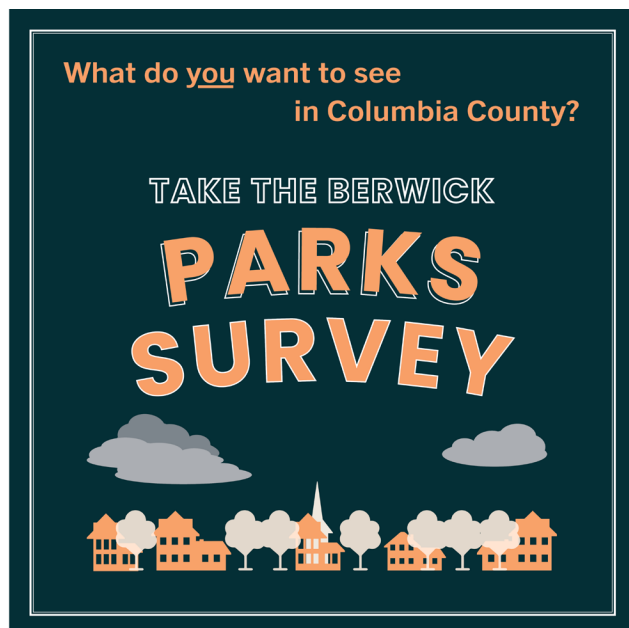
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COLLATERAL

Graphics were produced and used during the planning process to get the word out about public engagement initiatives undertaken as a part of this master plan. The team also used paper surveys to make the community survey more accessible to those without access to the digital survey via broadband internet.

SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS - SURVEY 1:



SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS - SURVEY 2 & COMMUNITY MEETING:



SURVEY 1 FLYER:

BERWICK PARKS MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

TAKE THE BERWICK PARKS COMMUNITY SURVEY & MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Berwick Borough is now gathering public feedback to inform the development of a connected, accessible and art-focused Parks Master Plan. The project is part of the Columbia County Placemaking Initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge.

This Community Survey asks for your input about the current state of parks in the borough, as well as what you would like to see in the future. Take the project survey at www.ourplacecolumbia.com to learn more and help guide long-term planning decisions for Berwick!


TAKE THE SURVEY NOW AT
www.ourplacecolumbia.com
 and be entered to win a \$50 gift card to Weis Market!

OR USE YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA TO SCAN THE CODE →



Thank you for your help in supporting the future of Berwick's parks!
 Questions? Contact Omnes at info@omnes.studio






KEY PERSON INTERVIEWS FLYER:

BERWICK PARKS MASTER PLAN

What is the Berwick Parks Master Plan?

Berwick Borough recently began the process of developing a new, community-based parks master plan for eight Berwick Borough-managed parks. The primary goals of this plan are to:

- prioritize equitable, inclusive, accessible, and quality public parks for all residents
- continue to integrate and prioritize public art within Berwick's parks
- consider Berwick community members' ideas and guidance to define a vision for the future of the parks

Berwick Borough and Hailstone Economic are leading the plan with Omnes, a landscape architecture and planning firm that specializes in community-engaged planning, with support from a generous grant from the USDA.

You're Invited!

You have been identified as a key stakeholder to participate in one of the master plan's "Key Person Interviews." Omnes will be contacting you to schedule an interview.

Thank you for your help in supporting the future of Berwick's parks!
 Questions? Contact Sheila Fuentes at smf@omnes.studio or 570-815-0763





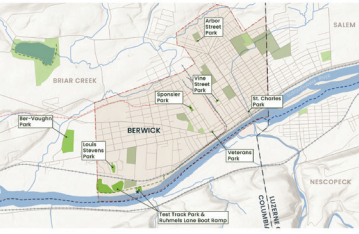
SURVEY 1, PAPER VERSION:

BERWICK PARKS MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

1. When you want to spend time outside or in nature, where do you go and why?


2. How often do you visit each of Berwick's parks?

	Every day (or almost every day)	1-2 times per week	1-2 times per month	1-2 times per year	Never
Arbor Street Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ber-Vaughn Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louis Stevens Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sponser Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
St. Charles Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Track Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veterans Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vine Street Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>







DON'T WANT TO FILL THIS OUT BY HAND? TAKE THE SURVEY ONLINE NOW AT:
www.ourplacecolumbia.com

OR USE YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA TO SCAN THE CODE BELOW:



3. When you want to visit a park, how do you usually get there?

4. If you or members of your household seldom or do not use Berwick parks, what are the reasons?

More questions on the other side! →

5. On a scale of 1-5 below, rate how **safe & welcome** you feel in Berwick's parks.

1	2	3	4	5
NOT AT ALL	SOMWHAT	FAIRLY	VERY	TOTALLY

6. On a scale of 1-5 below, rate how easy or difficult it is for you to **access & use** Berwick's parks.

1	2	3	4	5
IMPOSSIBLE	VERY DIFFICULT	SOMWHAT DIFFICULT	FAIRLY EASY	VERY EASY

7. Within Berwick parks, have you experienced any physical barriers or areas that are not accessible, or felt that you are unable to participate in programs or activities because they are not accessible?

No

Yes (please specify)

8. What recreation, sports, events, or classes would you like to see in Berwick's parks?

9. What are the most important issues or concerns for Berwick's parks? Choose up to 3.

- Accessibility & Disability
- Art & Culture
- Children & Youth
- Education & Learning
- Maintenance & Safety
- Nature & Sustainability
- Sports & Recreation
- Walkability & Connectivity
- Other (please specify)

10. Which of the following are the **highest priority** for you? Choose top 3.

- ADA accessible paths & play equipment
- Clean & well-kept parks
- Safety improvements
- New & refreshed park amenities
- Public art like murals & sculptures
- Recreational programming & events

11. What could be done to make Berwick parks more enjoyable for you? Choose up to 3.

- Add more support facilities (restrooms, etc)
- Beautify parks with public art (murals, etc)
- Create accessible & sensory-friendly play areas
- Enhance natural elements & experiences
- Improve maintenance
- Offer more programming/events in parks
- Provide accessible trails & pathways
- Provide better sense of safety & security

12. What else does Berwick's parks system need? Is there anything you want to tell us about your parks or community?

13. Which municipality do you live in?

14. What is your age?

14. Are there children under the age of 18 in your household?





Yes No

15. Do you or any members of your household have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?

Yes No

Would you like to receive updates about the Berwick Parks Plan & be entered to win a \$50.00 gift card to Weis Market? Share your information below.

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

Thank you for your help in supporting the future of Berwick's parks!
 Questions? Contact Omnes at info@omnes.studio

KEY PERSON INTERVIEWS

Key person interviews were integral to capturing diverse perspectives of public space. Interviewees with key ties to Berwick & Columbia County enriched the planning process significantly with their insights. Omnes conducted twenty-two interviews with key individuals, listed in the table below, to learn their perspectives about the parks/recreation needs of Berwick.

These conversations made up a large part of the community engagement process. It was important to speak with representatives from all different fields, and the Omnes team grouped their feedback into the following categories: community development, art & activation, organizational / policy and access & connection.

Speaking with advocates for disability in the Columbia County area helped the team to understand some of the unique challenges and opportunities for community members with physical or intellectual disabilities.

Diversity in age was also a factor in the selection of interviewees. Omnes spoke with people of all generations, including teens on the Teen Center’s Youth Action Board as well as the director of the Berwick Senior Center.

See below for a list of all interviewees. The opposite page shows key insights gained from these conversations that helped inform Omnes’ understanding of park needs, and bolstered feedback from Community surveys.

KEY PERSON(S)	ORGANIZATION
Geary Gearinger	Berwick Area Little League (BALL)
Wendy Kupsy, Elizabeth Shotwell & Jill Shipman	Berwick Area School District
Nick Pajovich	Berwick Area YMCA
Connie Donlin	Berwick Arts Association
Jim Stout	Berwick Historical Society
Kelly O’Brien	Berwick Industrial Development Association (BIDA)
Jan Banko	Berwick Senior Center
Ginny Crake & Josh Kishbaugh	Ber-Vaughn Pool
David “Otto” Kurecian	Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau
Josh Nespoli	Community Strategies Group
Shelly Stroble	Central Susquehanna Sight Services
Teresa Peters	For the Cause (Berwick Teen Center)
Jennifer Billig	Hand in Hand Family Resource Center
Keith Loughney & Keith Williams	NEPA Center for Independent Living
Tyler Dombroski	SEDA-COG
Leslie Warriner & Alana Jajko	Susquehanna Greenway Partnership
Tessa Moore	The Arc Susquehanna Valley
Oren Helbok	The Exchange Bloomsburg
Youth Action Board	Teen Center’s Youth Action Board

KEY PERSON INTERVIEWS: KEY TAKEAWAYS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DIFFICULTIES ATTRACTING & RETAINING RESIDENTS & WORKERS

POTENTIAL TO USE LOTS "CLEAN AND GREEN" AS POCKET PARKS

MORE & BETTER LIGHTING IS NEEDED IN PARKS FOR SAFETY & COMFORT

CONSIDER CREATING A "BLOCK CAPTAIN" TYPE OF PROGRAM FOR SAFETY / PROGRAMMING

MORE OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING NEEDED FOR SENIORS

COMMUNITY GARDEN AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS FORTHCOMING

ART & ACTIVATION

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO DONATE TIME AND SUPPLIES FOR PUBLIC ART

MUSIC IN BERWICK - MUSICIANS AND EVENTS

EMBRACE BERWICK'S IDENTITY THROUGH SCULPTURE

ARTISTS PRACTICE IN BERWICK BUT NO COHESIVE ART COMMUNITY PER SE

INTERESTED IN CONVERTING RC TRACK TO SKATING RINK

MORE CELEBRATION / EDUCATION OF BERWICK'S HISTORY THROUGH SIGNAGE

ORGANIZATIONAL / POLICY

LACK OF CHILDCARE AVAILABILITY IMPACTS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND RECREATION

CONSIDER OFFERING PROGRAMMING BY LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS IN PARKS (YOGA, FITNESS, TAI CHI, ETC)

CONSIDER PART-TIME POSITION FOR PARKS & REC PROGRAMMING WITHIN THE BOROUGH

CMVB INTERACTIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION MAP CAN BE UPDATED WITH PARK AMENITIES & ACCESSIBILITY

EXPLORE POTENTIAL FOR RIVER TOWN DESIGNATION

POTENTIAL TO PARTICIPATE IN TRAIL DESIGNATION PROGRAM

ACCESS & CONNECTION

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ADULTS - GAMES, ALTERNATIVE SEATING, WELL STRIPED PARKING

GRANTS CAN BE USED FOR STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS

CREATING REGIONAL CONNECTIONS (TO TRAILS, ETC.)

ACCESSIBILITY FOR KIDS - ADA PLAY, SAFE, ENCLOSED AREAS FOR ALL NEEDS AND ABILITIES

CONNECTIONS, ACTIVE HEALTHY LIVING, COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS, CONNECTING TO THE RIVER

ACCESSIBLE WALKING TRAILS, INCLUDING DESIGN FOR VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS (EG., SENSORY GUIDE ROPE)

SURVEY 1 RESULTS

BERWICK COMMUNITY PARKS SURVEY

This section presents responses to Survey 1, which asked users about their experiences with and ambitions for Berwick’s parks system.

The survey was open from March 12 to May 1, 2024, and received a total of 493 respondents.

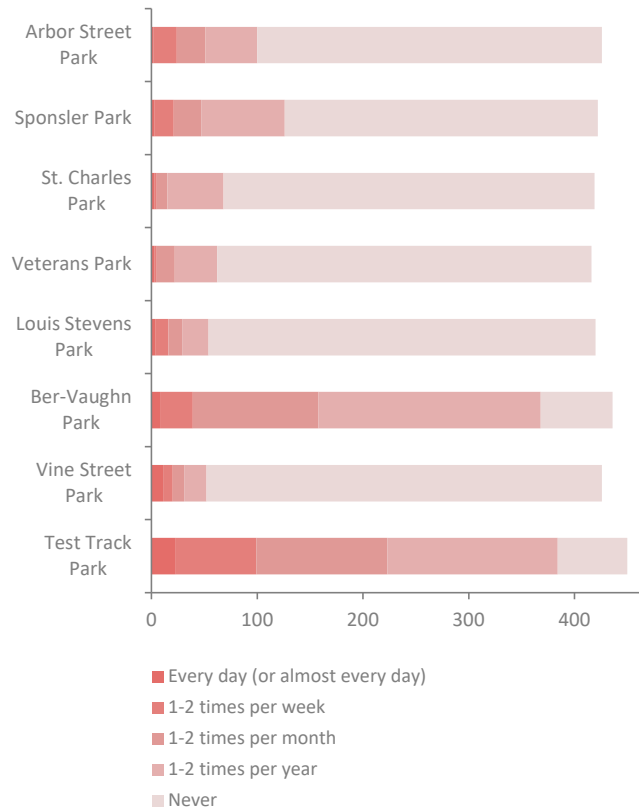
Q1: WHEN YOU WANT TO SPEND TIME OUTSIDE OR IN NATURE, WHERE DO YOU GO AND WHY?

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 462

MENTION	% RESPONSES W/ MENTION	# OF MENTIONS
Parks	26.62%	123
Walking, hiking & running	24.89%	115
Test Track Park	17.97%	83
Natural & wild places	14.94%	69
Peaceful & calming	12.99%	60
Water, lakes & rivers	12.12%	56
Trails & paths	10.82%	50
Briar Creek	8.23%	38
Play & playgrounds	8.23%	38
Evansville	8.01%	37
Children & families	6.93%	32
Backyards	5.63%	26
Susquehanna Riverlands	5.19%	24
Local / close to home	4.98%	23
Fishing	4.76%	22
Safe & clean places	3.68%	17
Dogs	3.68%	17
State parks	2.16%	10
Places to sit	2.16%	10
Salem Township	1.95%	9
Ber-Vaughn Park	1.73%	8
Exercise	1.52%	7
Biking	1.52%	7
Ricketts Glen	1.52%	7
Bloomsburg Town Park	0.87%	4

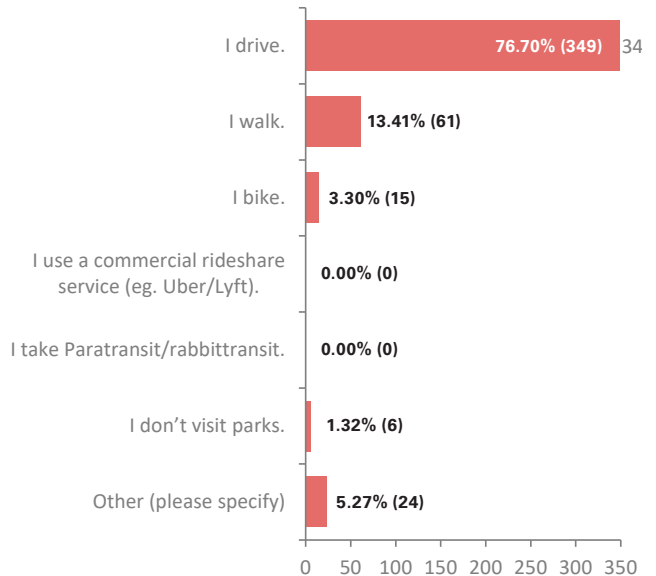
Q2: HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT EACH OF BERWICK’S PARKS?

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 456



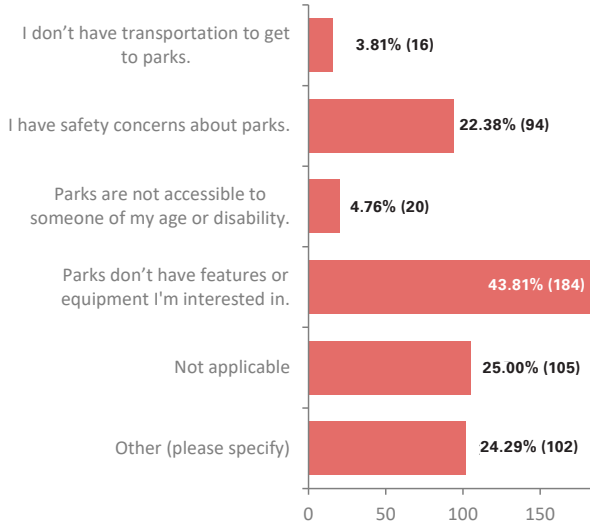
Q3: WHEN YOU WANT TO VISIT A PARK, HOW DO YOU USUALLY GET THERE?

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 455



Q4: IF YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD SELDOM OR DO NOT USE BERWICK PARKS, WHAT ARE THE REASONS? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 420



Q5: ON A SCALE OF 1-5 BELOW, RATE HOW SAFE & WELCOME YOU FEEL IN BERWICK'S PARKS. IN BERWICK'S PARKS, I FEEL:

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 435



AVERAGE SCORE: 4.32

Q6: ON A SCALE OF 1-5 BELOW, RATE HOW EASY OR DIFFICULT IT IS FOR YOU TO ACCESS & USE BERWICK PARKS. FOR ME, ACCESSING & USING BERWICK'S PARKS IS:

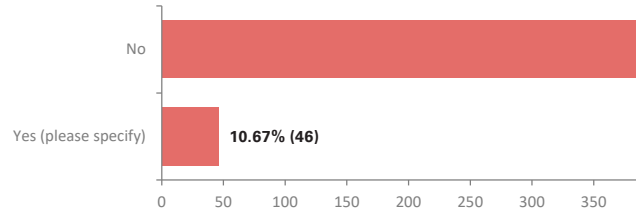
TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 432



AVERAGE SCORE: 4.31

Q7: WITHIN BERWICK PARKS, HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY PHYSICAL BARRIERS OR AREAS THAT ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE, OR FELT THAT YOU ARE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE?

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 431



Q8: WHAT RECREATION, SPORTS, EVENTS OR CLASSES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN BERWICK'S PARKS?

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 348

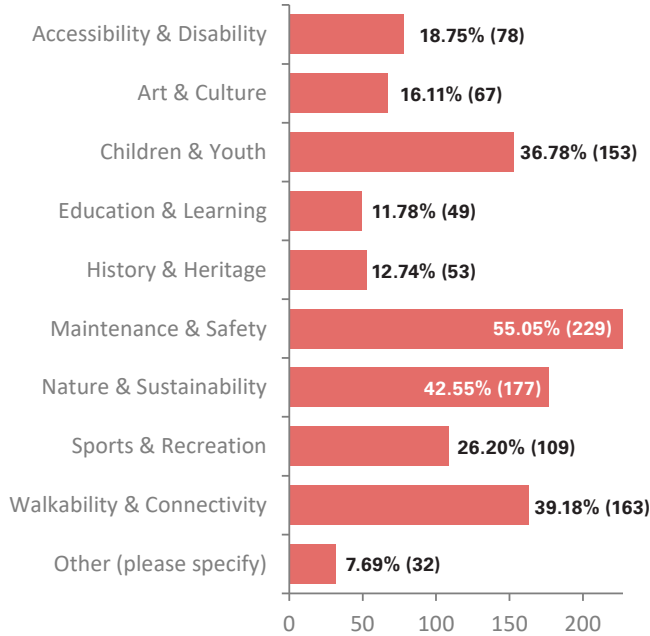
MENTION	% RESPONSES W/ MENTION	# OF MENTIONS
Play & programs for children	23.56%	82
Park amenities & improvements	20.98%	73
Nature walks / hiking groups	20.11%	70
Exercise / recreation classes	18.10%	63
Yoga & meditation	14.94%	52
Concerts & performances	14.66%	51
All-ages / family programming	11.21%	39
Arts & crafts programs	8.91%	31
Pickleball	6.61%	23
Basketball	4.60%	16
Dogs	4.02%	14
Tennis	3.45%	12
Biking	2.59%	9
Soccer	2.30%	8
Volleyball	2.30%	8
Skateboarding	2.01%	7
Baseball	1.44%	5
Frisbee golf	1.44%	5
Disc golf	1.44%	5
Sports	0.86%	3

SURVEY 1 RESULTS

BERWICK COMMUNITY PARKS SURVEY

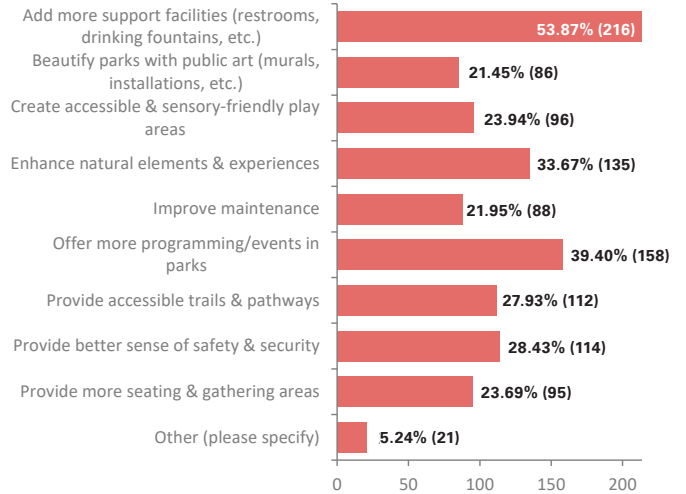
Q9: WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES OR CONCERNS FOR BERWICK'S PARKS? PEOPLE CHOSE 3.

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 416



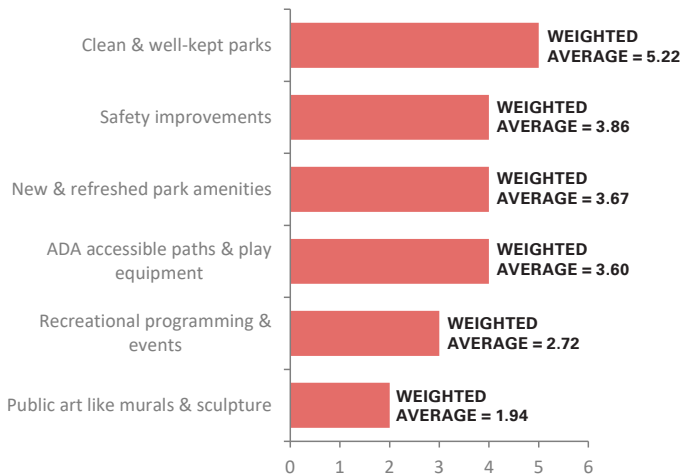
Q11: WHAT COULD BE DONE TO MAKE BERWICK PARKS MORE ENJOYABLE FOR YOU? CHOOSE UP TO 3.

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 401



Q10: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR YOU? DRAG TO RANK PRIORITY ORDER

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 400



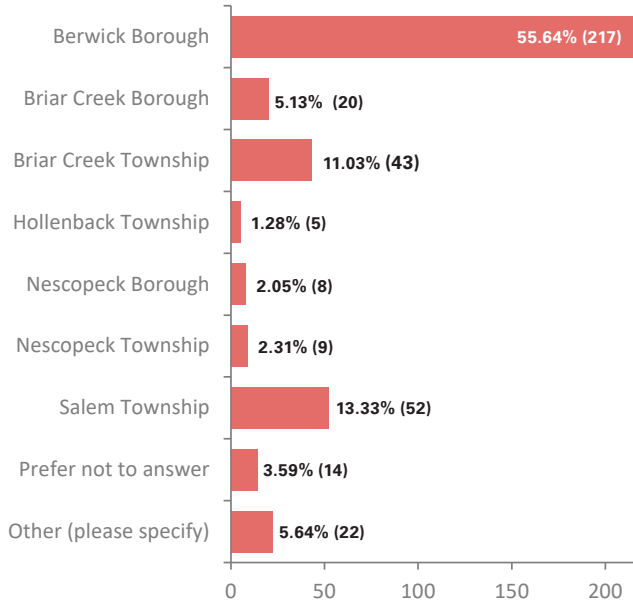
Q12: WHAT ELSE DOES BERWICK'S PARK SYSTEM NEED? IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT YOUR PARKS OR COMMUNITY?

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 232

MENTION	% RESPONSES W/ MENTION	# OF MENTIONS
Facilities & equipment	20.69%	48
Children	18.97%	44
Test Track Park	9.48%	22
Maintenance	9.05%	21
Walking	7.33%	17
Safety & security	5.60%	13
Play & playgrounds	4.74%	11
Access & disability	4.31%	10
Activities	2.59%	6
Ber-Vaughn Park	2.16%	5
Programs	2.16%	5
Teens	1.72%	4
Dog park	1.72%	4
Vine Street Park	1.72%	4
Events	1.29%	3
Art	1.29%	3
Natural	1.29%	3
Fitness	1.29%	3
Walking paths	1.29%	3
Sponsler Park	1.29%	3

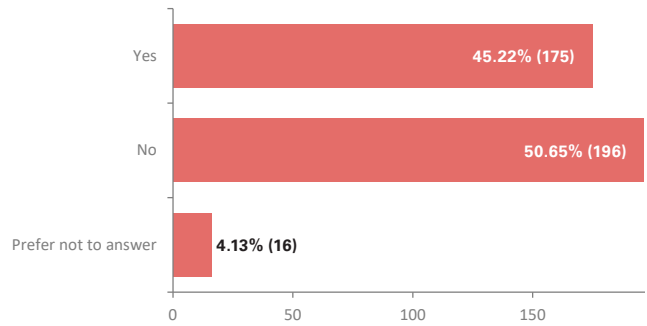
Q13: WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 390



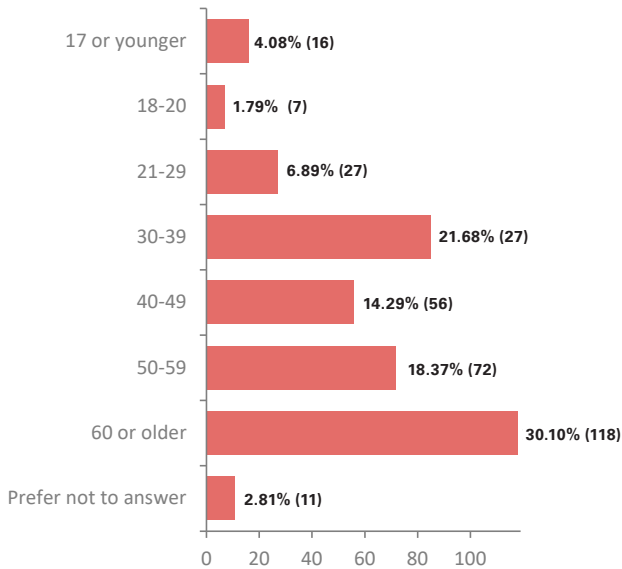
Q15: ARE THERE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD?

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 387



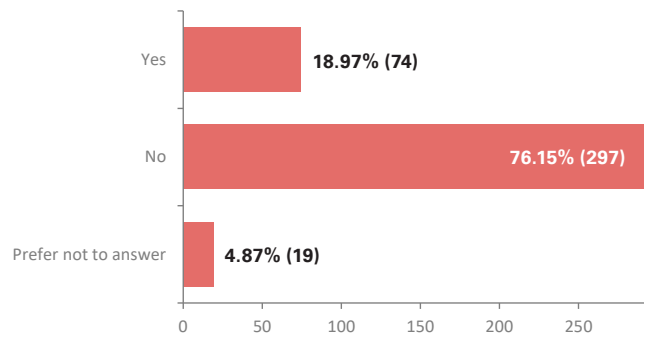
Q14: WHAT IS YOUR AGE?

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 392



Q16: DO YOU OR ANY MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE A DISABILITY AS DEFINED BY THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)?

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 390



SURVEY 2 RESULTS

BERWICK COMMUNITY PARKS SURVEY

This section presents responses to Survey 2, which asked users to rate and offer feedback about the park planning recommendations.

The survey was open from June 3 to July 8, 2024, and received a total of 73 respondents.

Q2: RATE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OVERALL FOR **VINE STREET PARK**, ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 5 STARS.

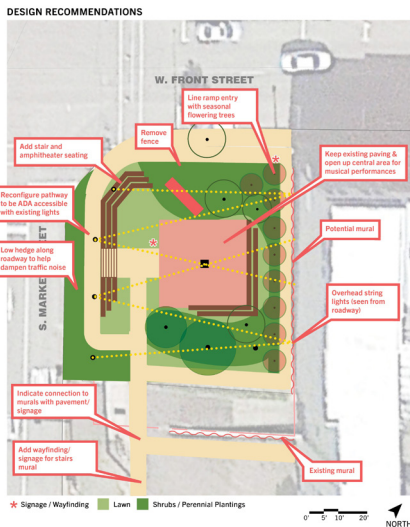
TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 60



AVERAGE SCORE: 4.00

Q1: RATE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OVERALL FOR **ST. CHARLES PARK**, ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 5 STARS.

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 65



AVERAGE SCORE: 3.92

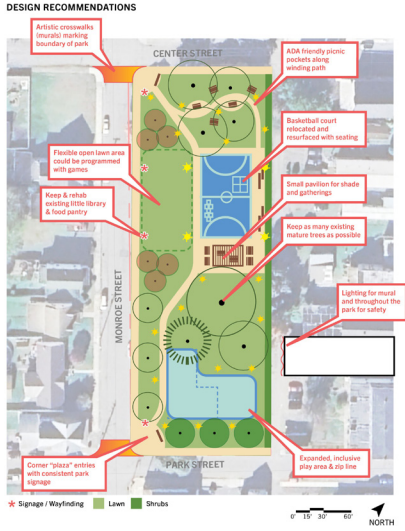
Q3: RATE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OVERALL FOR **LOUIS STEVENS PARK**, ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 5 STARS.

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 61



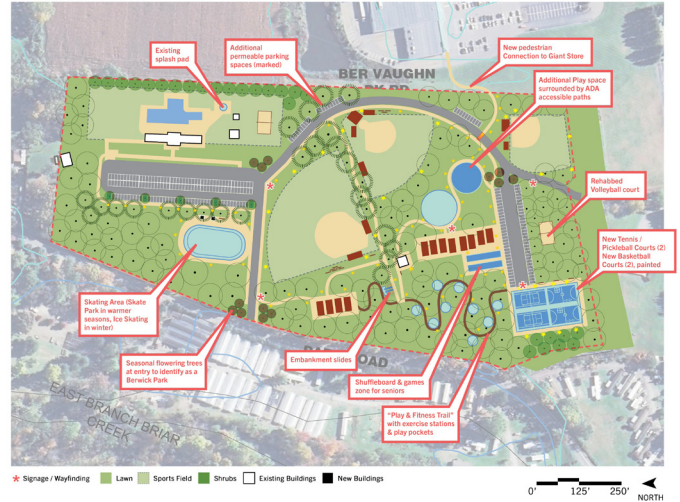
AVERAGE SCORE: 4.13

Q4: RATE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OVERALL FOR SPONSLER PARK, ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 5 STARS.
TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 58



AVERAGE SCORE: 4.38

Q6: RATE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OVERALL FOR BER-VAUGHN PARK, ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 5 STARS.
TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 66



AVERAGE SCORE: 4.48

Q5: RATE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OVERALL FOR ARBOR ST PARK, ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 5 STARS.
TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 54



AVERAGE SCORE: 4.22

Q7: RATE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OVERALL FOR TEST TRACK PARK, ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 5 STARS.
TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 51



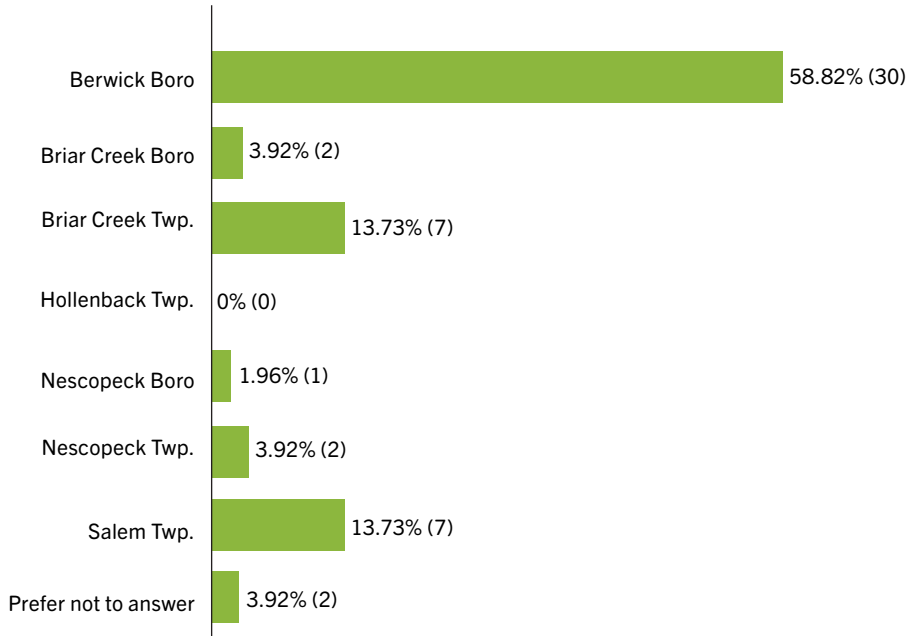
AVERAGE SCORE: 4.25

SURVEY 2 RESULTS

BERWICK COMMUNITY PARKS SURVEY

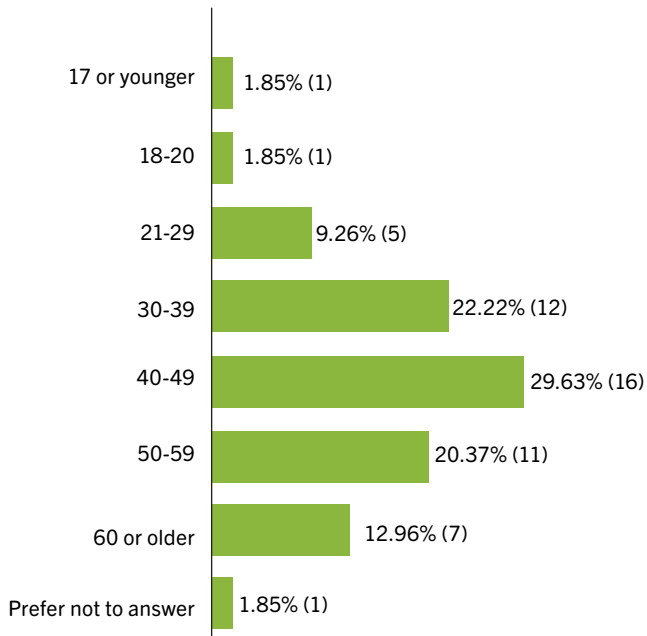
Q8: WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 51

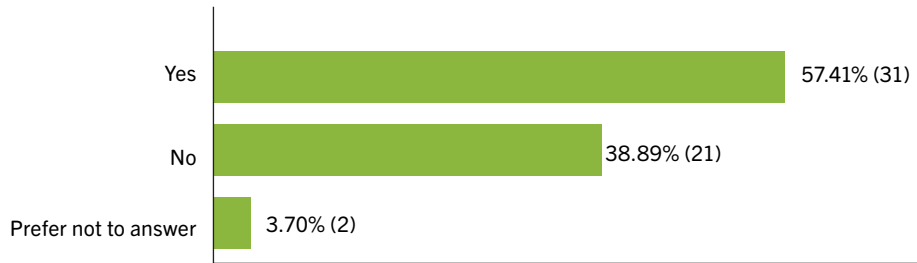


Q9: WHAT IS YOUR AGE?

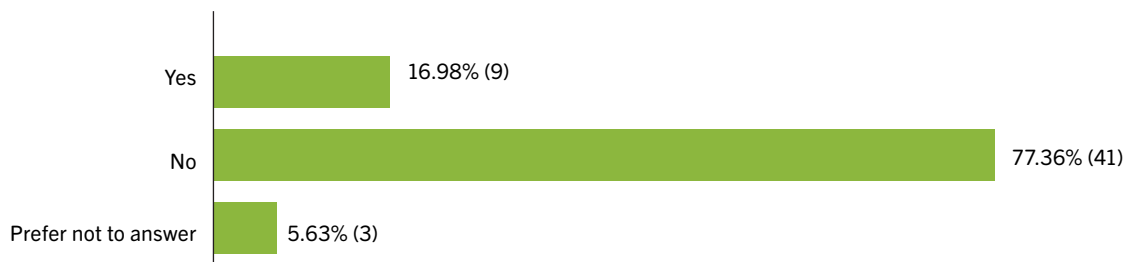
TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 54



Q10: ARE THERE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD?
TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 54



Q11: DO YOU OR ANY MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE A DISABILITY AS DEFINED BY THE ADA?
TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 53



3. CONNECTIVITY & ACCESS



VETERANS PARK

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an overview of Berwick’s socio-ecological landscape and its regional context, exploring how people connect to and from parks. Several of the Borough’s social strengths and challenges are outlined here.

Connectivity and walkability are a challenge in Berwick that was frequently noted by members of the public throughout this planning process. Public transit does not exist in the Borough, which means residents must rely on cars or bikes to access parks and other places. Currently, those who do not have the ability to travel by car have very little options for getting around – often relying on parents, friends, or local organizations to help them to fulfill daily tasks like getting groceries or traveling to school. This issue disproportionately impacts Berwick residents with disabilities.

Berwick is a community with a higher than average population of people with disabilities at 20.1%. This is higher than the Pennsylvania state average rate of 14.6%. It is especially important to consider the needs of people with disabilities in all aspects of public life. It is also important to note that designing for disability often benefits all.

One recommendation of the Berwick Parks Plan is to encourage the Borough to act on previously proposed SEDA-COG projects related to connectivity and access. Initiatives such as “Berwick Area Safe Routes to School” and “Identify Best Biking Routes around Berwick” could drastically improve residents’ ability to travel to schools, stores, and parks safely.

IDENTIFYING PARKS AS A CONNECTED NETWORK

Currently, Berwick parks are not perceived as a cohesive network. Signage style varies from park to park, and there is no publicly accessible map or inventory of the park system.

There are various strategies that can be employed to help Berwick's parks to be seen as a cohesive system. The images below represent strategies that work on multiple scales.

Linkages: Use trails and streetscape improvements to better link parks. By filling in gaps in the sidewalk network and extending trails, residents can better access parks from different modes of transport – especially if by foot or by bike.

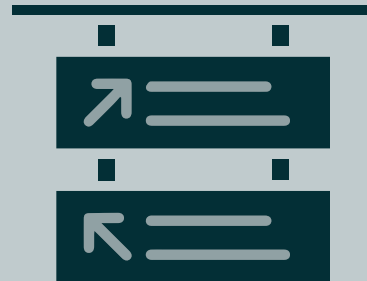
Equitable placement of amenities: By prioritizing park improvements for neighborhoods that are marginalized or underserved, park improvements can bring equity to Berwick's landscape.

Signage: Consistent signage for parks signals the "brand" of Berwick and its parks, and can help the system be legible for all. Signs can also integrate websites or QR codes to connect to the parks information online. Including an e-mail or web link can also allow park visitors to report maintenance issues or see what events are coming up in the parks.

Park Maps: Clear signage and the installation of park maps in strategic locations throughout town and on the



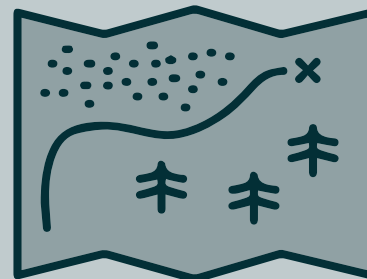
LINK PARKS WITH TRAILS & STREETSCAPES



CLEAR CONSISTENT "FAMILY" OF SIGNAGE



EQUITABLE PLACEMENT OF AMENITIES (SPORTS COURTS, PUBLIC RESTROOMS, SHADE PAVILIONS, ETC.)



PARKS MAP AT EACH PARK, WITH LINKS TO SOCIAL MEDIA TO ANNOUNCE PARK EVENTS, REPORT ISSUES, ETC

Borough website will help the community to understand the park network and which spaces belong to it.

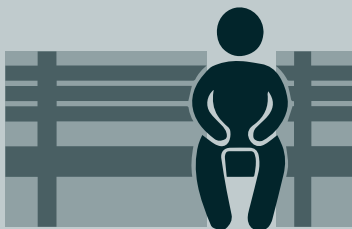
Consistent Site Furnishings and Play Elements:

Consistent site furnishings and play elements across all the parks can act as a visual cue to visitors that they are in a borough-maintained space. Consistency of site furnishings can also be helpful for ease of maintenance – there can be a stockpile in storage for quick and easy repairs.

Consistent Plantings: Plantings can also be a tool to indicate a borough park to visitors. Beautiful native seasonal flowering trees, such as Redbuds or Serviceberry, located at park entries can grab

community members' attention with their bright color and draw them into park spaces. Seasonal flowering bulbs can be employed in a similar way on the ground plane. These bulbs can be a much lower maintenance way of adding color to existing lawn spaces. Who doesn't love seeing a field of crocuses pop up after a long cold winter?

Artistic Crosswalks: Art within streetscapes and thresholds of parks can be a powerful tool to both identify and liven up park spaces. The Borough has already built strong partnerships with local art organizations to incorporate murals into parks, but the same medium can also be introduced to other surfaces such as crosswalks and sports courts.



CONSISTENT
SITE FURNISHINGS



SIGNATURE FLOWERING TREES & FLOWERS
ACROSS ALL PARKS



CONSISTENT PLAY DESIGN GUIDELINES, BUT UNIQUE
PLAY PROGRAMMING AT EACH PARK



ARTISTIC CROSSWALKS
AT ALL PARKS

MULTI-MODAL CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS









There have been a number of successful planning efforts completed to date that recommend connectivity strategies in Berwick, including *Berwick Town Trails* (SEDA-COG, 2010) and *Berwick on the Move* (Hailstone Economic, 2019). These plans make recommendations for linking trails, streetscapes, and routes within the city as well as finding ways to engage the community in connectivity improvements. These plans have all taken multi-modal approaches, and would greatly contribute to the walkability of Berwick, and connectivity to/from parks.

The projects listed below should be undertaken in the future, in connection to Berwick’s park improvements. The data displayed in the map on the facing page is a conglomeration of data from SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG)’s “Middle Susquehanna Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan” from June 2019 as well as their “Matrix of Bicycle and Pedestrian Needs” from May 2019. This matrix compiled projects from several previous plans and reports, including the *Berwick Town Trails* report, into one matrix and categorizes them by priority level – see the list at right.





Berwick should collaborate on programming, initiatives, and potential grant applications with the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership. Trail development to the west toward Bloomsburg should continue as an initiative, since the lands along the river in this area have potential for access easements in the future. Industrial development and PPL’s nuclear unit sites to the east of Berwick will block access, so continuation of a waterfront trail in this area will be hindered.

Trail projects to/from the waterfront and within Berwick should be prioritized, working in tandem with streetscape improvements to bring better connectivity to parks. Water trails along the Susquehanna should also be considered within the recreational landscape of Berwick.


KEY

-  EXST. PUBLIC PARKS WITHIN PROJECT SCOPE
-  EXST. PUBLIC PARKS IN BERWICK AREA
-  EXST. OPEN SPACE (SCHOOL, CEMETERIES)
-  EXST. RAILWAYS (ACTIVE)
-  EXST. RAILWAYS (INACTIVE)
-  EXST. STATE HIGHWAYS
-  EXST. TRAILS
-  PROP. TRAILS






STRESS LEVEL FOR BIKES / PEDS (SEDA-COG)

-  LEVEL 1 (COMFORTABLE FOR KIDS & ADULTS)
-  LEVEL 2 (COMFORTABLE FOR MOST ADULTS)
-  LEVEL 3 (MODERATELY STRESSFUL)
-  LEVEL 4 (STRESSFUL)

HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS:

-  Berwick River Landing and trailhead at historic railroad station
 - Identify best biking routes around Berwick
 - Berwick Area Safe Routes to School
 - Elm Street & Main Street Streetscapes

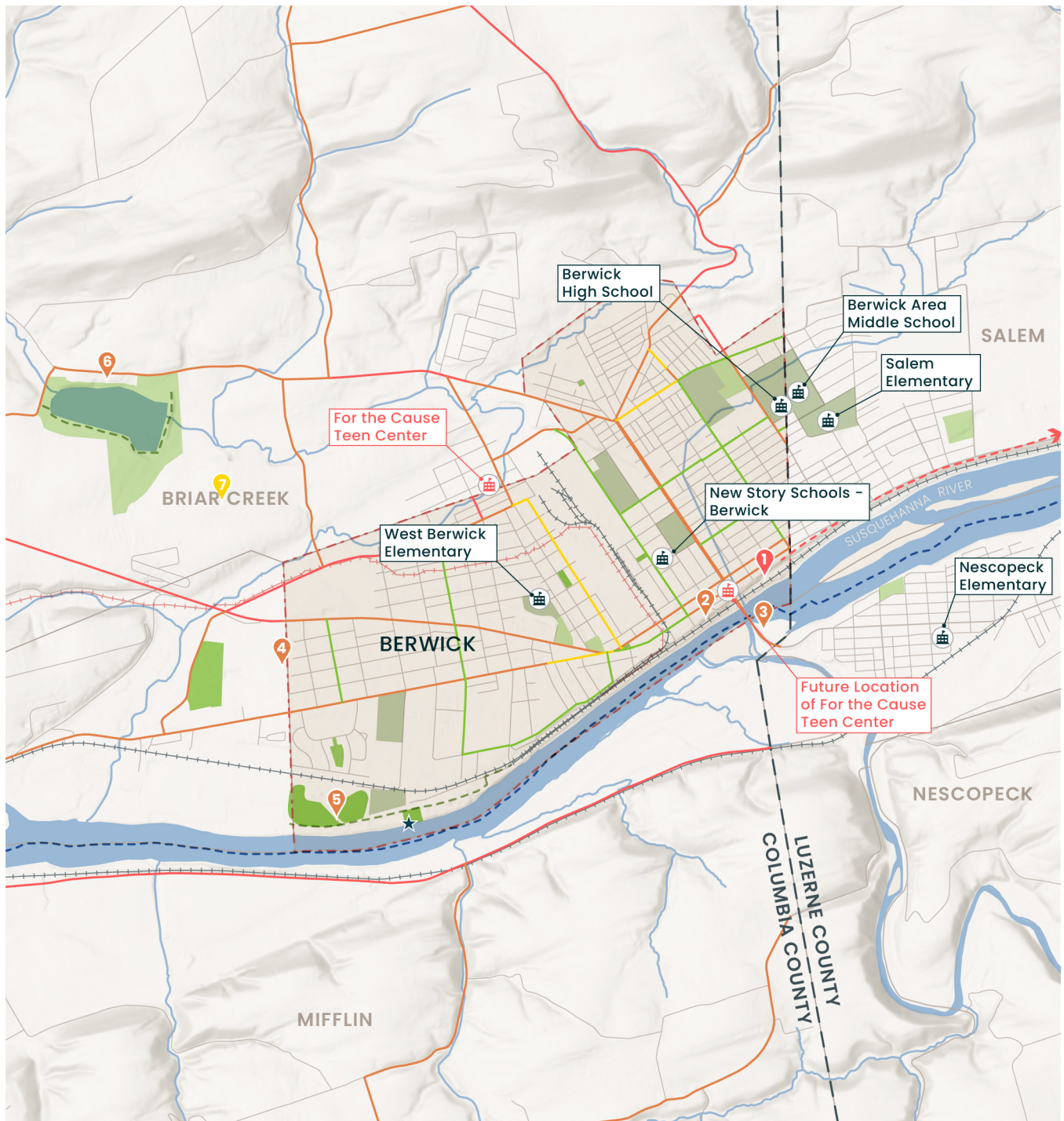
MEDIUM PRIORITY PROJECTS:

- Network of Berwick Neighborhood Parks
- Railroad Riverfront Corridor & RiverWalk
-  Identify best Biking Routes around Berwick
-  Nescopeck Connect Trail & Tribute Park
-  Ber-Vaughn Park Connection
-  Test Track Park Playground
-  Complete Briar Creek Park Loop around Lake

LOW PRIORITY PROJECTS:

-  Briar Creek Lake & Bloomsburg Trail Connection

Data Source: Middle Susquehanna Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (June 2019), SEDA-COG Matrix of Bicycle and Pedestrian Needs (May 2019)



Data Source: Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

BOUNDARIES

- BERWICK BOROUGH
- BERWICK AREA MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES

RECREATION & TRAILS

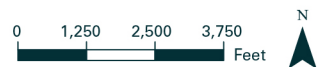
- PARKS IN PROJECT SCOPE
- PARKS IN BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
- OPEN SPACE (SCHOOLS, CEMETERIES)
- EXISTING TRAILS
- EXISTING WATER TRAILS

TRANSPORTATION

- INACTIVE RAIL LINES
- ACTIVE RAIL LINES
- STATE ROADS
- LOCAL ROADS

NATURAL FEATURES

- MAJOR RIVERS
- TROUT STREAMS



WALKABILITY






Berwick is a relatively walkable town, with the majority of the Borough’s population living within a 15-minute walk of a public park. However, when the 10-minute walk distance is considered, there are significantly larger pockets of residential area that are no longer walkable to parks.

There is a national standard that recommends everyone in U.S. cities should have access to a quality park within a 10-minute walk of their home. Led by the Trust for Public Land, the 10-minute standard is helping to drive creation of parks that support equitable, healthy and thriving communities. The 10-minute metric represents the average distance most able-bodied people are willing to walk to reach a destination.




According to ParkServe, a tool provided by the Trust for Public Land, 59% of Berwick residents are within a 10-minute walk of a park (6,255 people). While the center of Berwick has walkable coverage to parks, the neighborhoods adjacent to East Berwick and Briar Creek could benefit from more walkable, connected park spaces.

The eastern side of Berwick could also benefit from more walkable spaces that promote safe routes to school for children of all ages. The eastern edge of Berwick has a large concentration of young people under 18, and also overlaps with the lowest-income areas in Berwick. Improvement of parks in these zones (Vine Street, Arbor Street, and the school yards) could have positive impact on the community, and work in tandem with future economic development in the downtown Arts District.

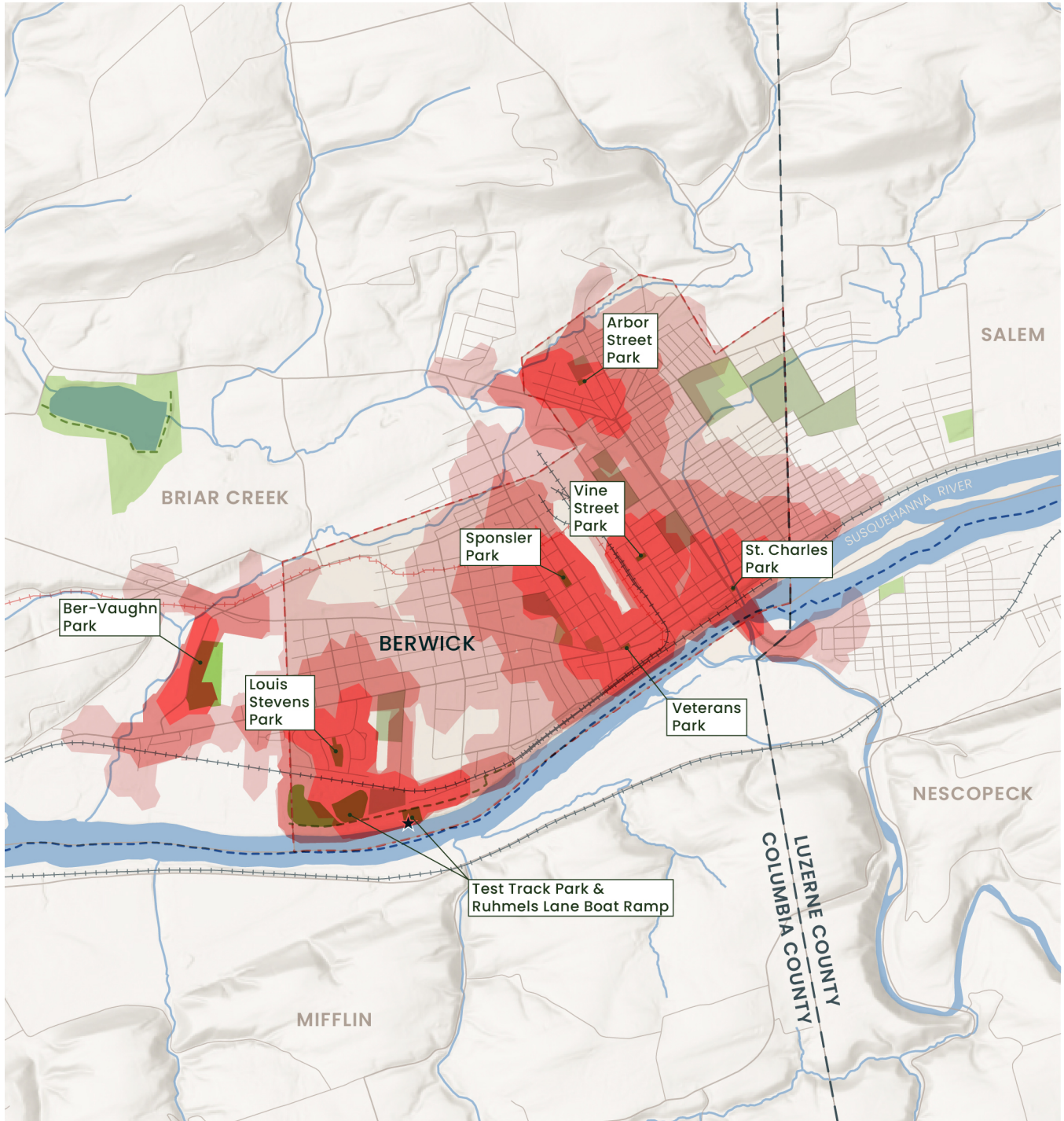
KEY

-  EXST. PUBLIC PARKS WITHIN PROJECT SCOPE
-  EXST. PUBLIC PARKS IN BERWICK AREA
-  EXST. OPEN SPACE (SCHOOL, CEMETERIES)
-  EXST. RAILWAYS (ACTIVE)
-  EXST. RAILWAYS (INACTIVE)

WALKABILITY

-  5-MINUTE WALK AREA FROM PARKS
-  10-MINUTE WALK AREA FROM PARKS
-  15-MINUTE WALK AREA FROM PARKS

Sources: Trust for Public Land, 10 Minute Walk Program, <https://10minutewalk.org/about-us/>; ParkServe, <https://parkservetpl.org/mapping/#?CityID=4203705888>; PolicyMap, <https://www.policymap.com/>.



Data Source: Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

BOUNDARIES

- BERWICK BOROUGH
- BERWICK AREA MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES

RECREATION & TRAILS

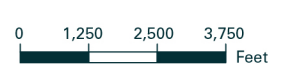
- PARKS IN PROJECT SCOPE
- PARKS IN BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
- OPEN SPACE (SCHOOLS, CEMETERIES)
- EXISTING TRAILS
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TRANSPORTATION

- INACTIVE RAIL LINES
- ACTIVE RAIL LINES
- STATE ROADS
- LOCAL ROADS

NATURAL FEATURES

- MAJOR RIVERS
- TROUT STREAMS



HISTORIC CONTEXT



Map of Berwick, 1884

Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, O.H. Bailey & Co. Berwick, Pennsylvania. Boston: O.H. Bailey & Co, 1884, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2007625030/>

BRIEF HISTORY OF BERWICK

Before European colonization, the Susquehanna River watershed was inhabited by the indigenous Susquehannock people. “Hannock” means “moving water” or “river” in Algonquian, the language spoken by the Susquehannock.

Berwick was founded in 1769 and officially incorporated in 1818. The borough’s founder was a Welsh Quaker named Evan Owen who named the town after Berwick-upon-Tweed in England. Owen settled here because of its location at the intersection of the Susquehanna River and Nescopeck Creek.

The Jackson Mansion and Carriage House and the Berwick Armory are listed on the National Registry

of Historic Places. The Jackson Mansion was built by Colonel Clarence Jackson in 1787. It served as Berwick’s City Hall from 1914 to 2009. Several hotels were founded in Berwick during its industrial boom period, including the Berwick Hotel, Hotel Morton and St. Charles Hotel, the last of which stood on the site of today’s St. Charles Park.

INDUSTRIAL HISTORY

The initial growth of Berwick’s population happened in the late 1800s and early 1900s as a result of the success of the Jackson & Woodin Manufacturing Company. This company, founded in 1840 by Mordecai W. Jackson and George Mack, got its start producing agricultural equipment. Nine years later, Jackson partnered with William Hartman Woodin to expand

into the production of rail cars for use in mines. This ultimately led to further expansion into the general freight car manufacturing industry. Jackson & Woodin was one of thirteen car manufacturers that entered into a merger in 1899 to form the American Car & Foundry Company.

Later, during World War II, the American Car & Foundry Company's Berwick plant produced 15,224 Stuart Light Tanks for the United States military services and the Lend-Lease Program for the Allies. The Berwick

plant was also the largest producer of armor plate at that time, and 1 in every 8 armored vehicles produced in the US for WWII was built there. Test Track Park, one of the borough parks studied as a part of this plan, was the designated testing location for tanks built by the American Car & Foundry Company during World War II.

Sources for Further Reading:

- Berwick Historical Society, <https://www.berwickhistoricalsociety.org/Local+History-13.htm>
- Mid-Continent Railway Museum, <https://www.midcontinent.org/rollingstock/builders/jacksonwoodin.htm>
- Susquehanna Greenway, <https://susquehannagreenway.org/news-and-stories/indigenous-names-of-the-susquehanna-greenway/>



Views of the Susquehanna River at Berwick, ca. 1890-1901

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2016799480/> & <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2016801696/>



Railroad employees posed on a railroad car in Berwick, 1900

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2012649476/>

DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION: 10,318

MEDIAN AGE: 41.7 years

SEX: 5,130 Male / 5,188 Female

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

AGE GROUP	Percent	Male	Female
Under 5 years	4.5%	4.9%	4.1%
5 to 14 years	11.1%	10.8%	11.4%
15 to 19 years	4.5%	6.6%	2.5%
20 to 34 years	22.7%	21.7%	23.7%
35 to 64 years	38.9%	42.5%	35.2%
65 to 74 years	9.2%	8.2%	10.3%
75 years and over	9.1%	5.4%	12.7%

2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

EDUCATION

13.42% Bachelor's Degree or Higher over 25
(LOWER THAN STATE AVG. OF 35.1%)

2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

FAMILIES & HOUSEHOLD

CHARACTERISTICS

2.77 Average Family Size

32.4% Householder Living Alone

2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

RACE + ETHNICITY

94.4% White (alone)

5.6% Two or More Races

3.7% Some Other Race (alone)

2.5% Black or African American (alone)

0.5% Asian (alone)

0.2% American Indian and Alaska Native (alone)

0.0% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (alone)

2020 Decennial Census

94.3% Not Hispanic or Latino (of any race)

5.7% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)

2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

1.8% Language Other Than English Spoken at Home

2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$46,505 (LOWER THAN STATE AVG. OF \$73,170)

2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

EMPLOYMENT

60.2% (SIMILAR TO STATE AVG. OF 62.8%)

2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

HOUSING TENURE

61.8% Owner-occupied housing units

38.2% Renter-occupied housing units (higher than state avg. of 30.9%)

2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

HOME VALUE

2.2% Less than \$50,000

15.3% \$50,000 to \$99,999

78.4% \$100,000 to \$299,999

4.1% \$300,000 to \$499,999

0.0% \$500,000 or more

2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

PUBLICLY FUNDED HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Total: 206 units

1 Bedrooms: 151 units

2 Bedrooms: 14 units

3 Bedrooms: 41 units

Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, Borough of Berwick, FFY 2020-FFY 2024

DISABILITY DEMOGRAPHICS

Berwick has a large number of residents who are disabled, with a total average of 20.1%. This is higher than the Pennsylvania state average of 14.6%. A majority of those with disabilities have ambulatory difficulties, cognitive difficulties, or a difficulty living independently. These factors all impact how these residents live, work, and play, and also how they access and use public space.

DISABILITY

20.1% (HIGHER THAN STATE AVG. OF 14.6%)

DISABILITY TYPE	Percent
With an ambulatory difficulty	9.7%
With an independent living difficulty	8.9%
With a cognitive difficulty	8.4%
With a hearing difficulty	4.2%
With a self-care difficulty	3.6%
With a vision difficulty	2.2%

AGE (WITH DISABILITY)	Percent
Under 5 years	0.0%
5 to 17 years	12.9%
18 to 34 years	9.0%
35 to 64 years	28.4%
65 to 74 years	13.6%
75 years and over	43.4%

2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

PERCENT OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH
DISABILITIES IN COLUMBIA COUNTY*

14.3%

HIGHER THAN
NATIONAL AVERAGE: 13%**

PERCENT OF PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES IN POVERTY IN
COLUMBIA COUNTY*

22.93%

DISABILITY BY AGE IN COLUMBIA COUNTY*

LESS THAN 18 YEARS OLD:

4.02%

18-64 YEARS OLD:

11.58%

65 YEARS OR OLDER:

32.88%

PERCENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
INSTITUTIONALIZED IN COLUMBIA COUNTY*

0.97%

PERCENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES THAT
ARE UNEMPLOYED IN COLUMBIA COUNTY*

3.5%

FLOOD RISK

Because of their placement on bluffs along the Susquehanna, many of Berwick’s neighborhoods are elevated out of the flood zone. However, there are low-laying neighborhoods, roads, and parks along the river that have flood risk, and often see floods during storm events. The non-profit FirstStreet lists Berwick as a “moderate” flood risk, with 1,458 properties in Berwick at risk of flooding over the next 30 years. This represents 32.4% of all properties in Berwick. (See FirstStreet, https://firststreet.org/city/berwick-pa/4205888_fsid/flood.)






There are currently three parks in Berwick that are impacted by flood risk, according to FEMA’s National Flood Hazard Layer mapping:

- Ber-Vaughn Park
- Test Track Park
- Louis Stevens Park




Since the majority of these parks are pervious open space, they should not experience effects to the same extent as residential neighborhoods and roads. Parks in these zones should be designed to be floodable, with resilient riparian buffers that can help lessen the effects of flooding.

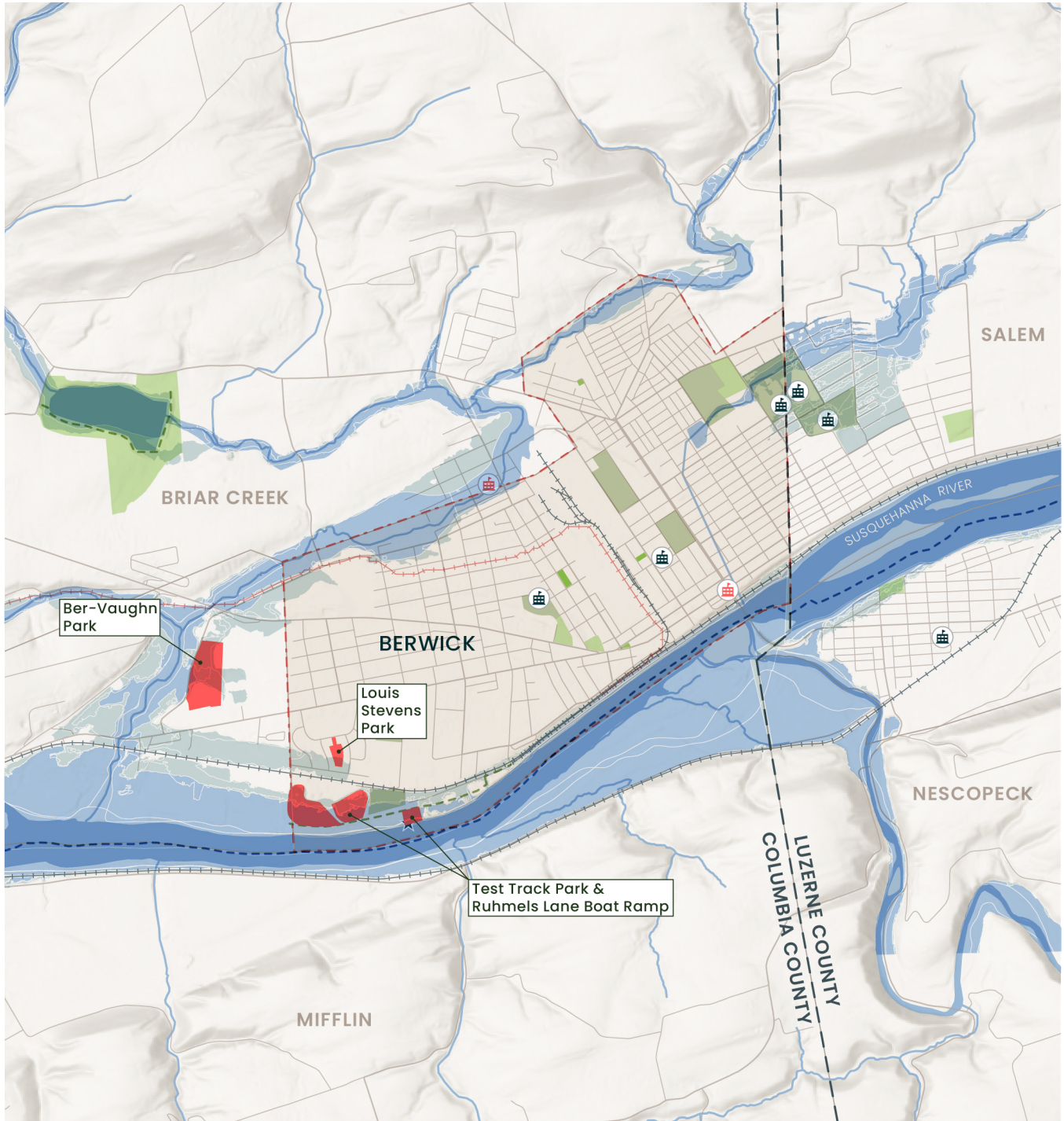
The Borough should avoid significant infrastructural investment within the floodplain to minimize risks and protect their investments. For example, this is the primary reason why new restrooms were not recommended near the boat ramp at Test Track Park, despite a desire for them from the community.

KEY

-  EXST. PUBLIC PARKS WITHIN PROJECT SCOPE
-  EXST. PUBLIC PARKS IN BERWICK AREA
-  EXST. OPEN SPACE (SCHOOL, CEMETERIES)
-  EXST. RAILWAYS (ACTIVE)
-  EXST. RAILWAYS (INACTIVE)

FLOOD RISK

-  .2% ANNUAL FLOOD RISK
-  1% ANNUAL FLOOD RISK
-  NAVIGABLE WATERS



Data Source: Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

BOUNDARIES

- BERWICK BOROUGH
- BERWICK AREA MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES

RECREATION & TRAILS

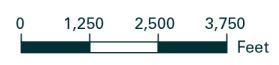
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TRANSPORTATION

- INACTIVE RAIL LINES
- ACTIVE RAIL LINES
- STATE ROADS
- LOCAL ROADS

NATURAL FEATURES

- MAJOR RIVERS
- TROUT STREAMS



WATERSHEDS

There are six distinct watersheds in the region surrounding Berwick. The parks in this project scope are located within four of these areas. The watersheds impact physiography, water flow, and drainage within the region, and should be considered when stormwater and permitting for parks is being engineered.

PARKS WITHIN SUSQUEHANNA RIVER WATERSHED:

- 1 St. Charles Park
- 2 Veterans Park
- 4 Test Track Park
- 5 Vine Street Park

PARKS WITHIN BRIAR CREEK WATERSHED:

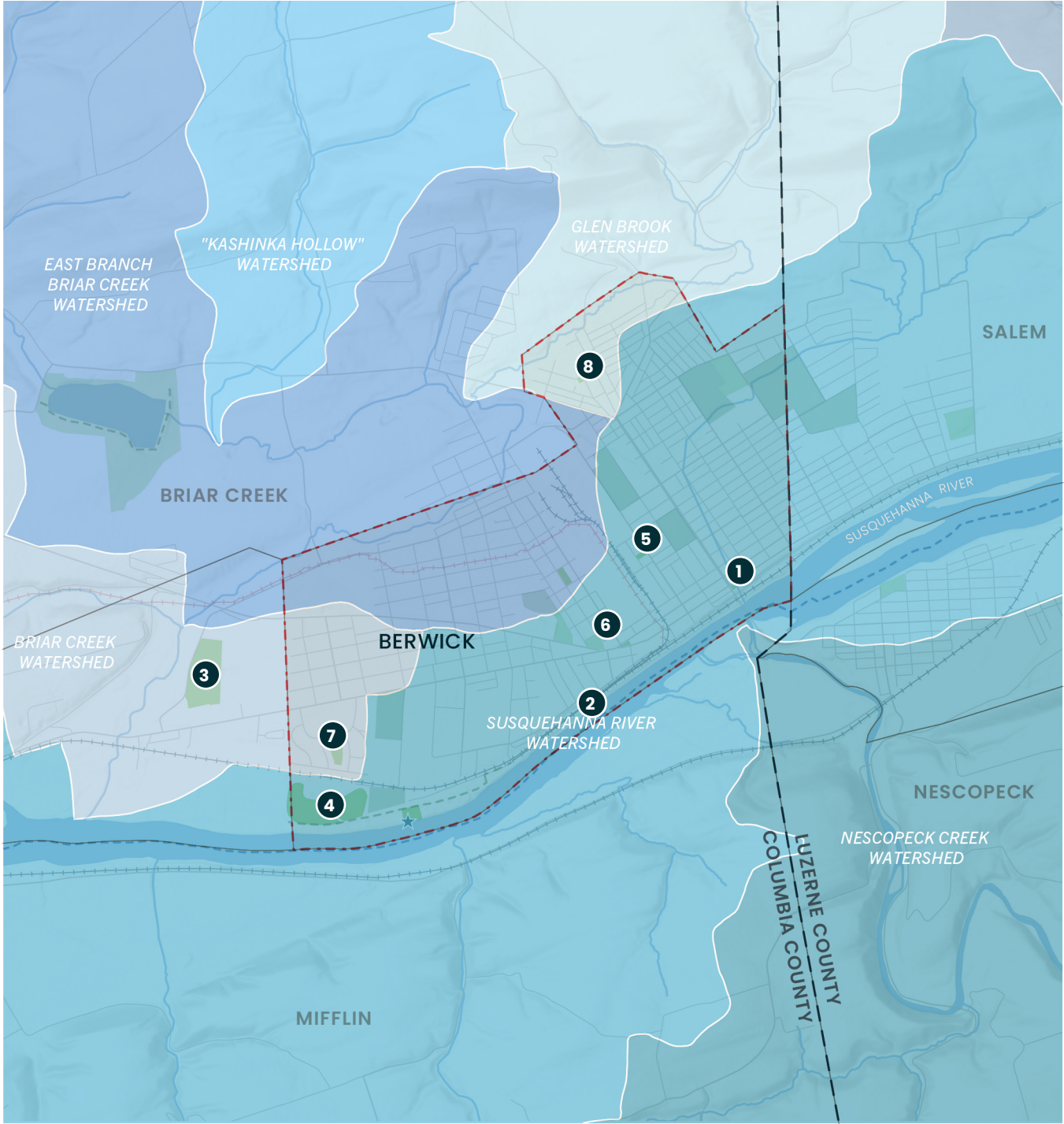
- 3 Ber-Vaughn Park
- 7 Louis Stevens Park

PARKS WITHIN EAST BRANCH BRIAR CREEK WATERSHED:

- 6 Sponsler Park

PARKS WITHIN GLEN BROOK WATERSHED:

- 8 Arbor Street Park



Data Source: Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

BOUNDARIES

- BERWICK BOROUGH
- BERWICK AREA MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES

RECREATION & TRAILS

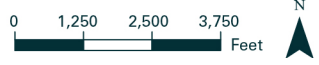
- PARKS IN PROJECT SCOPE
- PARKS IN BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
- OPEN SPACE (SCHOOLS, CEMETERIES)
- EXISTING TRAILS
- EXISTING WATER TRAILS

TRANSPORTATION

- INACTIVE RAIL LINES
- ACTIVE RAIL LINES
- STATE ROADS
- LOCAL ROADS

NATURAL FEATURES

- MAJOR RIVERS
- TROUT STREAMS



ECOLOGY

The portion of the borough adjacent to the Susquehanna River is designated as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA) by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP). Natural Heritage Areas are places that support rare plants or animals, exemplary ecological communities and Pennsylvania native species biodiversity. The PNHP have identified the Susquehanna River NHA as core habitat due to the presence of several important species:













SPECIES OF CONCERN, SUSQUEHANNA RIVER IN COLUMBIA COUNTY:

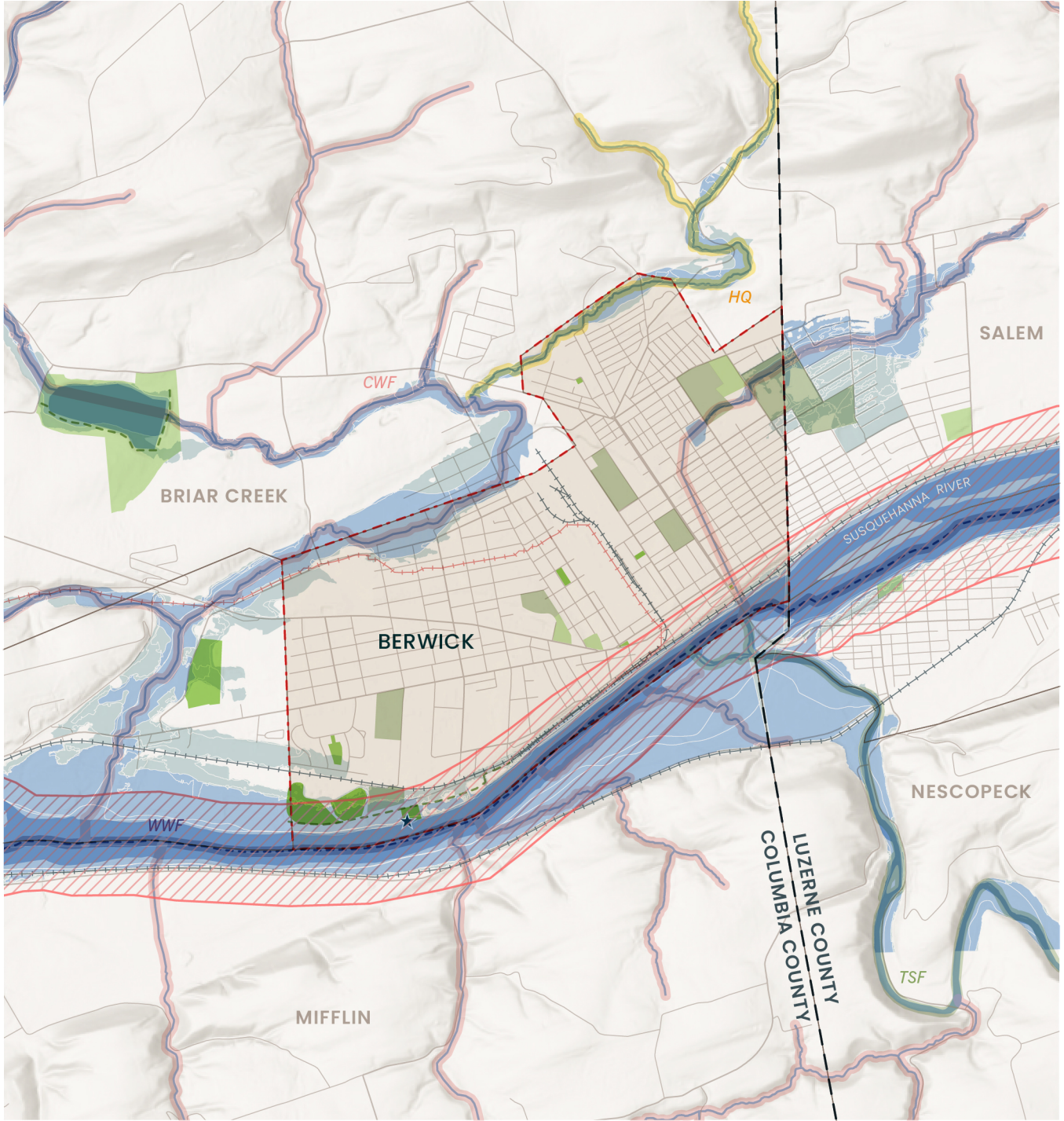
- Elktoe Freshwater Mussel (*Alasmidonta marginata*)
- Triangle Floater Freshwater Mussel (*Alasmidonta undulata*)
- Yellow Lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*)

DISTINCTIVE SPECIES, SUSQUEHANNA RIVER IN COLUMBIA COUNTY:

- Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
- Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
- Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*)
- Indian Hemp (*Apocynum cannabinum*)
- Water Willow (*Justicia americana*)

KEY

-  EXST. PUBLIC PARKS WITHIN PROJECT SCOPE
-  EXST. PUBLIC PARKS IN BERWICK AREA
-  EXST. OPEN SPACE (SCHOOL, CEMETERIES)
-  WATER FEATURES
-  WATER ACCESS POINT (BOAT RAMP/FISHING)
-  FEMA 1% FLOOD ZONE
-  FEMA 0.2% FLOOD ZONE
-  NATURAL HERITAGE AREA (PNHP)
- CHAPTER 93 STREAM DESIGNATIONS**
-  COLD WATER FISHES (CWF)
-  HIGH QUALITY WATERS (HQ)
-  TROUT STOCKING (TSF)
-  WARM WATER FISHES (WWF)



Data Source: Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

BOUNDARIES

- BERWICK BOROUGH
- BERWICK AREA MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES

RECREATION & TRAILS

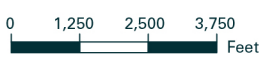
- PARKS IN PROJECT SCOPE
- PARKS IN BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
- OPEN SPACE (SCHOOLS, CEMETERIES)
- EXISTING TRAILS
- EXISTING WATER TRAILS

TRANSPORTATION

- INACTIVE RAIL LINES
- ACTIVE RAIL LINES
- STATE ROADS
- LOCAL ROADS

NATURAL FEATURES

- MAJOR RIVERS
- TROUT STREAMS



4. ACTIVATION & THE ARTS



STAIR MURAL AT CANAL STREET

INTRODUCTION

What if art was woven into the tapestry of Berwick’s public space as a way of expressing and exploring the identity of each unique neighborhood? Various forms of art and performance could be an integral part of parks, trails, and the downtown commons, activating the landscape of Berwick. Art, play, performance and festivals can be a catalytic form of activation in Berwick’s parks, providing opportunities for people to connect as a community. Activation can also enhance the life of park spaces, establishing parks as places of meaning and memory while making them feel safe and well-cared for.

The Berwick Parks Master Plan embraces the power of art to change communities and people’s relationships. The merits of public art are vast, and can include:

- **Beauty:** Creating and revealing beauty to see one’s world/community differently
- **Maintenance:** Showing community care for a space with improvement
- **Economic development:** Catalyzing growth and change, inviting increased tourism
- **Safety:** Crime reduction through inviting more use and “eyes on street,” as well as public safety (i.e. traffic calming through crosswalk art*)
- **Health:** Enhancing positive physical and mental health outcomes by stress reduction and/or exercise
- **Quality of Life:** Adding interest and community connection with multi-generational activities

Art is an inherent expression of our culture, and a source of beauty and inspiration in the world. For many who enjoy its merits, the act of human creation can be as profound as a reason for living. Taking the energy of these cultural institutions into the parks creates excitement and activity, and a place for cultural growth in the public landscape.

For this study, the planning team expanded the role of public art to be *the arts*, which is inclusive of many creative mediums. Together, these disciplines form a cultural landscape that offers many different events, programming, education, and resources to the community:

- Art organizations & galleries
- Theater and performance spaces
- Museums
- Libraries
- Historic Sites
- Cultural Organizations

ART AS ACTIVATION

Art within parks could include what we think of as art objects – murals or sculpture – but can also embody art as activation. Parks could host performances, music, play, poetry readings, tai-chi and yoga lessons, art-making activities, and seasonal celebrations. With grant-funded art initiatives, artists could work with communities to reveal history, create spectacle and dialogue, and connect to work with neighborhoods so the genesis of art is with the people who live there. Within the public landscape, art can take many forms, including:

- Murals
- Sculpture
- Overhead Elements
- Kinetic Art
- Sound Art / Music Art
- Creative Lighting
- Temporary Art

*Schwartz, Sam. (April 2022). “Asphalt Art Safety Study: Historical Crash Analysis and Observational Behavior Assessment at Asphalt Art Sites.” Bloomberg Philanthropies. <https://assets.bbhub.io/dotorg/sites/43/2022/04/Asphalt-Art-Safety-Study.pdf>

ART AS ACTIVATION

The ideas below show ways that Berwick can begin to activate spaces in the immediate term, while working towards longer-term park improvements.



FREE LITTLE ART LIBRARY

Similar to the little libraries at Sponsler Park, each park could have a “Free Little Art Library” that provides chalk, bubbles, crayons, paper, etc. for art-making activities in the park. Berwick could work with manufacturer such as Crayola to obtain donated materials.



ART GALLERY / STATION

A picnic table and simple display could host an art-gallery pop-up. This could be impromptu art that is posted by visitors, or generated as part of a family-oriented public art-making event.



ART MARKETS IN THE PARK

The Arts & Culture Alliance and Berwick Arts Association could work with local artists, galleries, and even schools to develop an outdoor art / craft market. This could be held in any park, and could help support local artists while inviting fun community gathering.



COMMUNITY MURALS

The momentum of the work the Berwick Arts Association is doing could continue within the parks, creating murals not just on walls but unexpected places like basketball courts, crosswalks, trailheads, and streetscapes.



UBIQUITOUS ART PIECES

Similar to the “Miles of Mules” public art initiative created by the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission Berwick could have individual sculptures designed by different artists – but with a mascot that has special meaning to Berwick.



POP-UP EVENTS

Having events with pop-up play, food, games, and contests that is sponsored and hosted by Berwick can build excitement in parks and get neighbors out to play with their kids. KABOOM has bright blue play blocks that can be deployed in parks for a day of imagination play.

A NEW ARTS COUNCIL & DISTRICT

A NEW ARTS ORGANIZATION

The *Columbia County Creative Placemaking Plan* recommended the establishment of The Arts & Culture Alliance, a regional arts council for Columbia and Montour counties to increase visibility and opportunities for residents. This expands the influence of the existing Berwick Arts Association, helping to work at the county scale to establish more resources for artists and those involved in the creative placemaking process.

A NEW ARTS DISTRICT

The Columbia County Placemaking Initiative also recommends the designation of an Arts District in downtown. A mixed-use development called Coblenz Corner will be an anchor for the district, with potential uses including: a maker space, gallery, arts education, and the new home of the Berwick Teen Center.

The location of the new Arts District is located at the intersection of South Market Street and West Front Street, and extends for two blocks east and west. This is how many enter Berwick, making a grand crossing across the Susquehanna River's Berwick-Nescopeck Veterans Memorial Bridge. The area surrounding

downtown is a low-income area with high rates of vacancy, and can benefit from increased activity, interest, investment, and community care.

The district will use cultural events and public art to spark economic opportunities for existing and new businesses. This catalytic placemaking will help to activate vacant storefronts and draw people downtown for participation in various cultural activities such as recreation, dining, shopping, attending performances, or taking art classes.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT ARTS DISTRICT?

- Day & night activities
- Streetscape improvements for safety & comfort
- Walkability and parking availability
- Ever-changing and seasonal programming & events
- Active retail & dining
- Multiple things to do in one area, such as visit a park & get lunch, or have dinner & see a show
- Beautiful sculpture, murals, and public art
- Preservation of historic architecture; integration of contemporary architecture
- Programming to appeal to people of all ages & backgrounds



CULTURAL DESTINATIONS

KEY

- EXST. PUBLIC PARKS WITHIN PROJECT SCOPE
- PA OPEN SPACE (CONSERVED LANDS)
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES
- BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- WATER FEATURES
- WATER ACCESS POINT (BOAT RAMP/FISHING)

DESTINATIONS KEY

- ART ORGANIZATIONS / GALLERIES
- THEATER / PERFORMANCE SPACES
- MUSEUMS / LIBRARIES
- HISTORIC SITES / ORGANIZATIONS



There are many important cultural organizations & destinations in the Berwick Area. **Names in red are within Berwick Borough.**

ART ORGANIZATIONS / GALLERIES:

1. **Berwick Arts Association**
2. **For the Cause Teen Center**
2. The Exchange
3. Haas Center for the Arts
4. Artspace Co-op Gallery
5. Northern Columbia Community & Cultural Center

THEATER / PERFORMANCE SPACES:

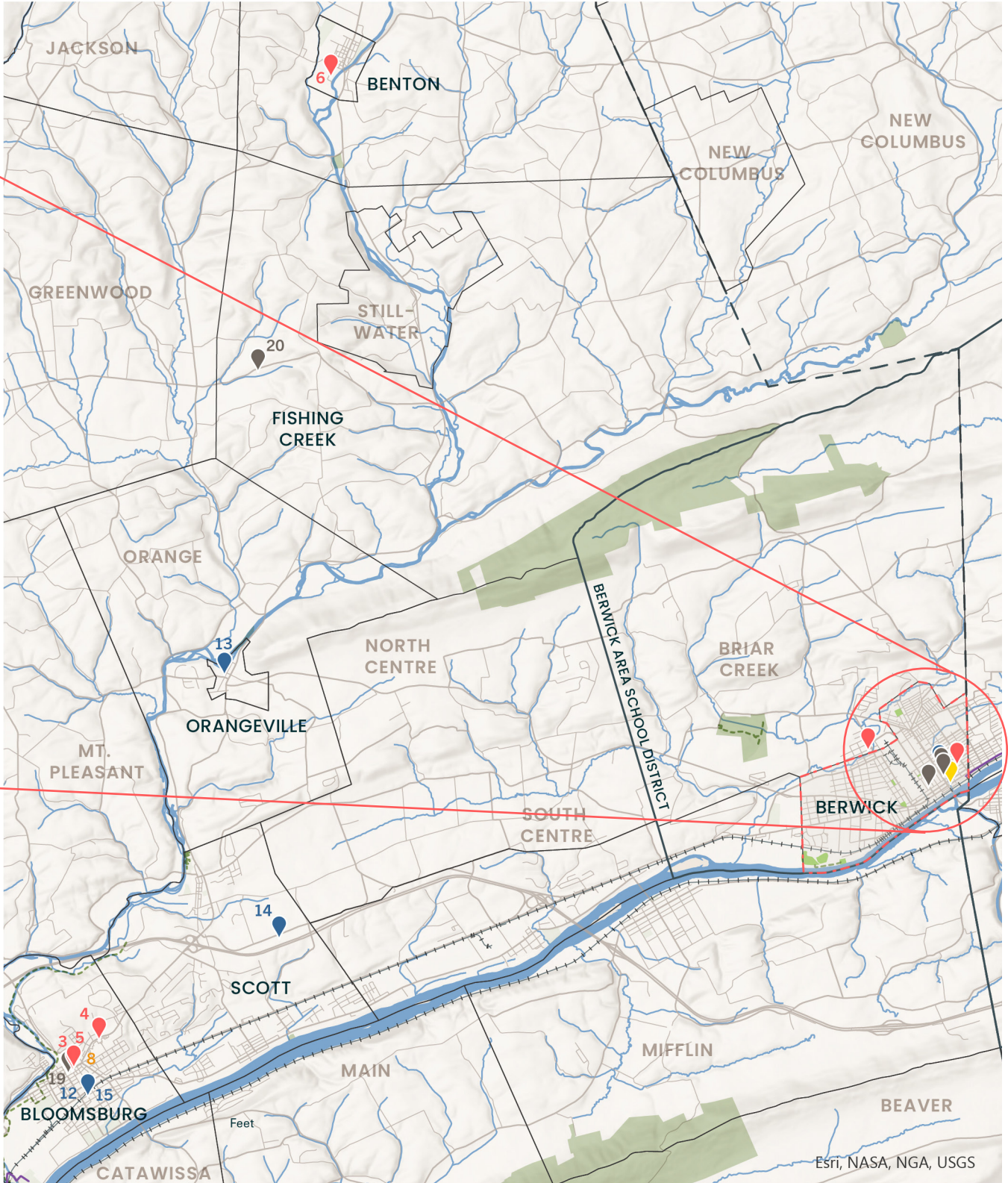
1. **Berwick Theater & Center for Community Arts**
2. Bloomsburg Theater Ensemble
3. Fishing Creek Players (not mapped)

MUSEUMS / LIBRARIES:

1. **Stuart Tank Museum**
2. **McBride Memorial Library**
3. Bloomsburg Public Library
4. Orangeville Public Library
5. Columbia County Traveling Library
6. Bloomsburg Children's Museum

HISTORIC SITES / ORGANIZATIONS:

1. **Berwick Historical Society & Jackson Mansion**
2. **Historic Berwick Train Station**
3. **First Presbyterian Church**
4. Columbia County Historical and Genealogical Society
5. Columbia County Covered Bridge Association



EXISTING PUBLIC ART ASSETS INVENTORY

Thanks to the efforts of local art organizations, including the Berwick Arts Association, there are already quite a few pieces of public art in the borough. Some of these are located within the parks:

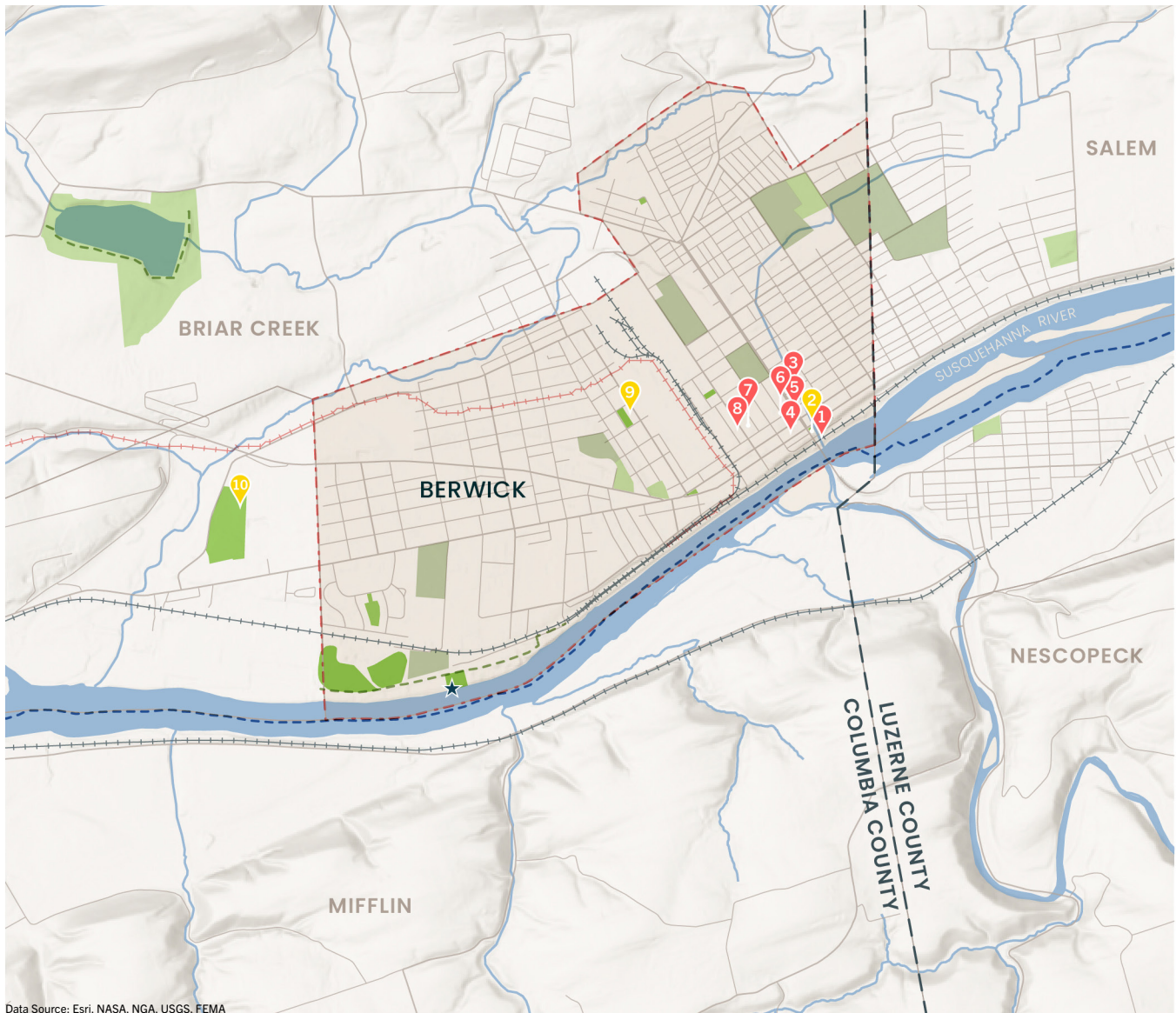
EXISTING PUBLIC ART ASSETS

WITHIN PARKS:

- 2 River Oyster Mural, St. Charles Park
- 9 Sponsler Park Mural, Sponsler Park
- 10 Ber-Vaughn Pool Mural, Ber-Vaughn Park

EXISTING PUBLIC ART ASSETS:

- 1 Stairs Mural, Canal Street
- 3 Mosaic Sculptures, First Presbyterian Church
- 4 Euclid Alley Art, Euclid Alley
- 5 Sowing Compassion, 50 2nd Lane
- 6 Veterans Mural, Elks Lodge
- 7 YMCA Murals, Berwick Area YMCA
- 8 Stuart Tank Mural, Stuart Tank Museum



Data Source: Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA



1 Stairs Mural, Jermaine Johnson
Canal St



2 River Oyster Mural, Maria Roman
St. Charles Park



3 Mosaic Sculptures, Dave & Deb Stabley
First Presbyterian Church*



4 Euclid Alley Art, Multiple Artists
Euclid Alley



5 Sowing Compassion, Anthony Ferro
50 2nd Ln



6 Veterans Mural, Vincent Wood
Elks Lodge*



7 YMCA Murals, Graffiti Park
Berwick Area YMCA*



8 Stuart Tank Mural, Vincent Wood
Stuart Tank Museum*



9 Sponsler Park Mural, Brian Powlus &
Community; Sponsler Park*



10 Ber-Vaughn Pool Mural, Laura Knorr &
Community, Ber-Vaughn Park



Singing in the Rain, Berwick Arts Association
Throughout Berwick (Temporary)*

*Images sourced from Berwick Arts Association
(<https://www.berwickartsassociation.com/>)

BERWICK AREA EVENTS & PROGRAMMING

Events listed on this spread are compiled from various local sources, including the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau, Berwick Borough, and the Columbia County Placemaking Initiative. These events either currently

take place within Berwick itself or in the surrounding area (including towns within the Berwick Area School District and Bloomsburg, PA).

WINTER / SPRING	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
	NO EVENTS	<p>DESTINATION BLUES FESTIVAL: MAIN ST, BLOOMSBURG</p> <p>RUN FOR THE COOKIES: ELKS LODGE, BERWICK</p>
SPRING / SUMMER	MAY	JUNE
	NO EVENTS	<p>BEACH HAVEN CARNIVAL: SALEM TOWNSHIP FIRE CO, EAST BERWICK</p> <p>BERWICK AREA REGATTA: TEST TRACK PARK, BERWICK</p> <p>CELEBRATE BERWICK FESTIVAL: JACKSON MANSION, BERWICK</p> <p>EAST BERWICK FIRE CO. CARNIVAL: SALEM TOWNSHIP FIRE CO, EAST BERWICK</p> <p>SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: JACKSON MANSION, BERWICK</p> <p>CENTRAL PA WINE FESTIVAL: BLOOMSBURG FAIRGROUNDS, BLOOMSBURG</p>
FALL / WINTER	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
	<p>FOOD TRUCK WARS AGAINST HUNGER: FREAS FARM WINERY, BERWICK</p> <p>FREEWHEELIN': FORKS FARM, ORANGEVILLE</p> <p>SPONSLER PARK BLOCK PARTY: SPONSLER PARK, BERWICK</p> <p>WINE IN THE GROVE: WEST SIDE GROVE, BERWICK</p> <p>BLOOMSBURG FAIR: MAIN STREET, BLOOMSBURG</p>	<p>BERWICK RIVERFEST: TEST TRACK PARK, BERWICK</p> <p>HELLER ORCHARDS APPLE FESTIVAL: HELLER ORCHARDS, WAPWALLOPEN</p>

MARCH

COLUMBIA MONTOUR RESTAURANT WEEK:
BERWICK, BLOOMSBURG & DANVILLE
**NESCOPECK TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE
COMPANY SPRING BAZAAR:** NESCOPECK

APRIL

WALK TO DEFEAT ALS: BERWICK

JULY

BRIGGS FARM BLUES FESTIVAL: NESCOPECK
FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS: JACKSON
MANSION, BERWICK
NESCOPECK TWP VOLUNTEER FIRE CO CARNIVAL:
NESCOPECK
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, CNTD: JACKSON
MANSION, BERWICK
WWII WEEKEND: TEST TRACK PARK, BERWICK

AUGUST

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: TEST TRACK PARK, BERWICK
NESCOPECK COMMUNITY DAYS: NESCOPECK

NOVEMBER

BERWICK SPEEDO RUN FOR THE CAUSE:
FRONT ST, BERWICK
MARKET STREET RACES:
BERWICK
RUN FOR THE DIAMONDS:
ELKS LODGE, BERWICK

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS BOULEVARD: N MARKET ST, BERWICK
VICTORIAN NIGHTS: JACKSON MANSION, BERWICK
WINTERFEST TREE LIGHTING & MOVIE:
ST. CHARLES PARK, BERWICK

PLAY: EXISTING CONDITIONS

Most of the existing play equipment in Berwick Parks is outdated and unsafe, and not built to standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Specific safety concerns are highlighted in the images below, but they represent pervasive issues throughout the play areas in the borough. Because there are significant safety risks associated with this equipment, Berwick should aim to replace these structures as soon as possible.

There has been a significant increase in the variety and richness of play equipment in decades, offering physical activity that enhances children's well-being. Implementing new play equipment is also an opportunity to enhance ADA access to parks, introducing universally-accessible recreation.



A dangerous gap at top of slide could catch clothing and cause choking. The play element also has flaking paint and rust.



Exposed bolts protruding too far could cause injury. There is a lack of safety surfacing in the fall zone.



Exposed concrete footing with sharp edges within fall zone can cause injury. There is a lack of safety surfacing.



The metal slide surface with no shade can cause burns. There is also a lack of safety surfacing.



Exposed fittings can catch clothing and cause falls or injury. The play element also has flaking paint and rust.



There is a lack of safety surfacing around this element. There are also sharp metal fittings & exposed bolts that could cause injury.

PLAY: PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

With researched focus on the benefits of different kinds of play, manufacturers now offer a variety of different experience for kids of all age ranges. The play types listed below should each be represented in newly designed play areas within Berwick’s park system. It is important to children’s development for them to exercise their minds and bodies in ways that are distinct to each play type.

Each play type provides its own unique set of benefits, a selection of which are listed below:

- Social skills such as teamwork, coordination, communication, and courage
- Balance, coordination, and motor skills
- Sensory stimulation, imagination, creativity, and cause-and-effect thinking skills
- Muscle strengthening, increased bone density, and heart health



Spinning and rotating play



Swinging play



Climbing and balancing play



Sliding play



Fitness equipment for families
(Adults can play, too!)



Competitive play and sports

Source: Kompan.com

INCLUSIVE PLAY

To promote inclusivity, Berwick's play spaces should emphasize universal access and safety, and invite children of a variety of needs and ages.

The more municipalities like Berwick can do to provide inclusive public spaces, the more welcomed and accepted children of all abilities will feel in their own community. The considerations listed below provide a road map for the Borough to follow when designing a new play space for its community.

Providing inclusive play spaces can also be a form of activation and economic development, as visitors from surrounding communities will be drawn to more inclusive spaces.

ACCESSIBILITY NETWORKS

Berwick should list the accessibility of its parks on its website and/or Google so that people can plan their visits. Berwick should also consider participation in the Access Now Network, which lists the accessibility of public space and trails. For more information, visit www.accessnow.com.

DESIGNING FOR INCLUSIVE PLAY

WHAT IS INCLUSIVE PLAY?

An inclusive playground, or "universal play" is a play space for kids and families that:

- Addresses needs of all people, including those who have autism, intellectual disabilities, hearing impairments, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida and other disabilities
- Addresses needs of typical children
- Accommodates everyone and challenges them at their own developmental level

ELEMENTS OF AN INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

- **Play Richness:** Provide a rich, inclusive play space where children of all abilities can grow and learn through physical, emotional, sensory & social experiences
- **Flush Transitions:** Provide flush transitions between two materials, there should be no trip hazards at seams
- **Reach Ranges:** Place play elements at varying heights, including multiples of the same equipment at different heights, ensuring ability of wheelchair users to roll under and reach
- **Transfer Platforms:** Provide transfer platforms at 16-18" to allow wheelchair users to utilize equipment, provide grip points to aid in transfers
- **Unitary Surfacing:** Surfacing should be poured in place, tiles, playground turf or hybrid surfacing, not loose fill
- **Width of Routes:** Provide entry and exits onto accessible routes of at least 60", 72" allows 2 wheelchair users to pass each other, spaces in front of play components should allow a wheelchair user and companion to be next to each other

Sources:

Playworld Systems, Inc., , Inclusive Play Design Guide (2015), <https://www.accessibleplayground.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Inclusive-Play-Design-Guide-LowRes-2.pdf>.
Kompan Play Institute, Play for All: The Inclusive Playground Checklist, <https://publications.kompan.com/inclusive-play-check-list?page=1>

SENSORY PLAY

Neurodivergent and physically disabled children have different ways of approaching the world. Sensory play equipment can provide alternative play experiences that can help them to feel more comfortable and included in play experiences. Sensory play is often overlooked when it comes to playground design, but it can be incredibly important to the inclusivity of a play space. By tying everyday sensory experiences with positive experiences, children are encouraged to exercise their minds while they play.



Tactile play



Auditory



Encountering natural materials



Interaction with living and/or natural features



Visual stimulation



Cozy places for respite

Source: Kompan.com

SUITE OF RECOMMENDED PLAY EQUIPMENT

The numbers keyed into the map at right indicate initial ideas for potential locations where certain play equipment and play styles could be implemented. A range of equipment could work for these locations, and these recommendations are flexible rather than prescriptive. The Borough should ultimately make the final selections with further community input during future design processes for each park.

A variety of potential play equipment was selected to demonstrate the wide range of play experiences that are possible across Berwick's park system. These include sensory play, a range of play activities, such as swinging, rotating, climbing, balancing, and sliding.

MAINTENANCE & SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Frequent inspections of the play features during the first year are recommended to establish an understanding of the patterns of use. All play equipment should be inspected by a Certified Play Safety Inspector, at least on an annual basis.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

- **Play Surface:** Provide a contiguous surface that can be accessible for wheelchairs and those with ambulatory disabilities, such as poured-in-place rubber.
- **Fall Zones:** Provide a 72" around perimeter of amenities that are taller than 30" in height.
- **ADA access:** Provide a 60" minimum width for paths, 80" min overhead clearance, and a 6.25% slope maximum.
- **Barrier around perimeters:** Add a hedge or fence at edges where kids might wander off.
- **Seating:** Place seating around perimeter for caretakers, with sight lines to all areas.

1



COCOWAVE ROPE PENDULUM SWING
Age group: 5-12; up to 8 users

2



SWING, 8 FT H, 1 ROPE SEAT
Age group: 2-12; up to 9 users

3



UNIVERSAL CAROUSEL
Age group: 2-12; up to 8 users

4



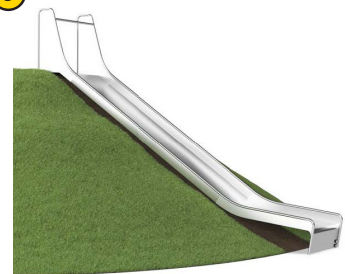
SATURN 4 CAROUSEL
Age group: 5-12; up to 4 users

5



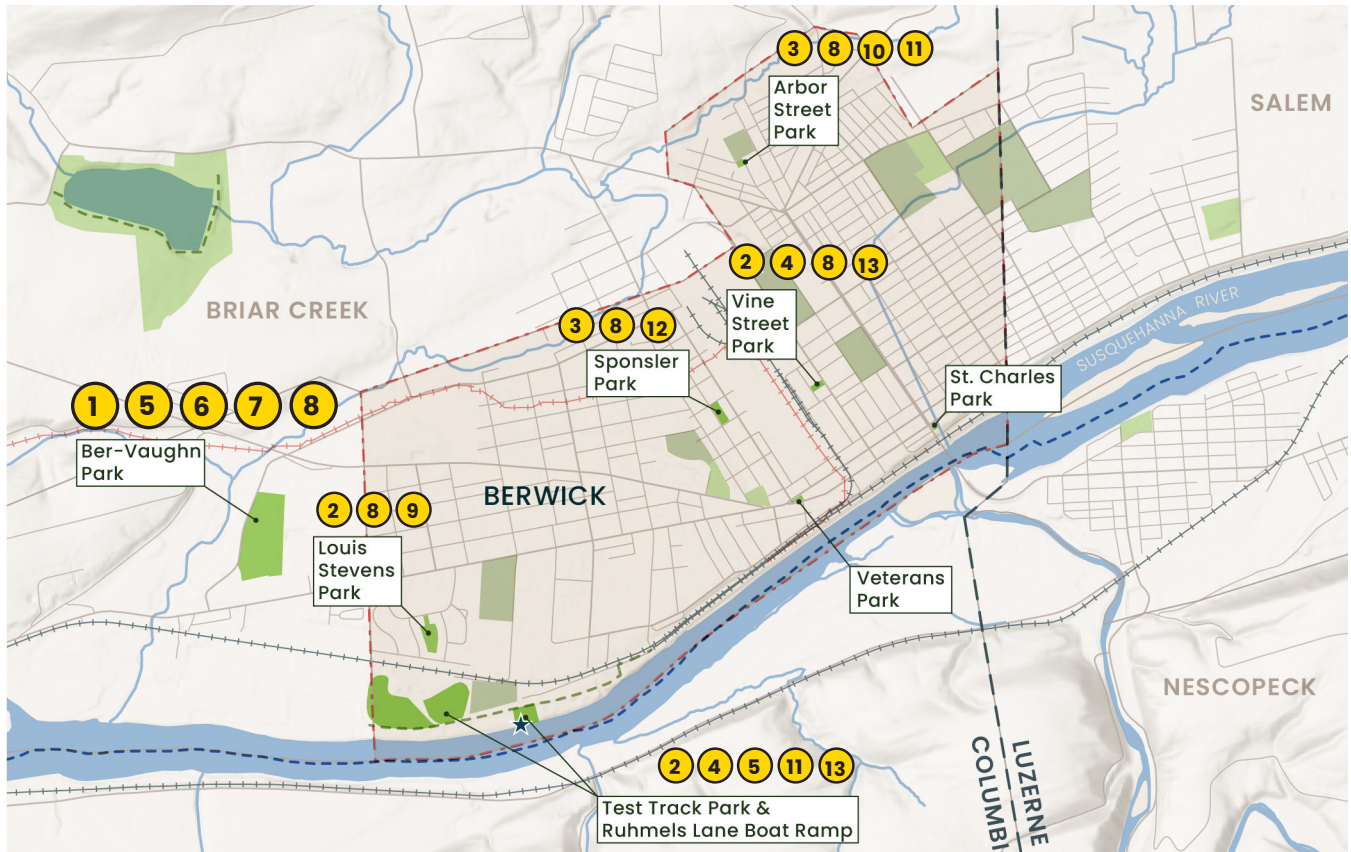
PARKOUR 4
Age group: 5-12; up to 12 users

6



EMBANKMENT SLIDE, 8 FT H, 3 FT W
Age group: 2-12; up to 2 users

Source: Kompan.com



7



FITNESS COMBI 2 ROBINIA
Age group: 13+; up to 5 users

8



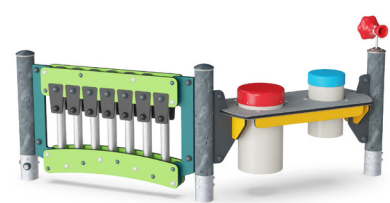
BASKETBALL GOAL
Age group: 3+

9



SURPRISE BASKET
Age group: 3+

10



PLAY PANEL 2 - MUSIC, CLASSIC
Age group: 2-12; up to 7 users

11



SENSORY MULTI PLAY PANEL
Age group: ANY

12



ZIPLINE, FLAT SPACE, 82FT LONG
Age group: 5-12; up to 1 user

13



YELLOWSTONE WITH SHADING
Age group: 2-12; UP TO 19 USERS

Source: Kompan.com

5. PARK BENCHMARKING & SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS



FITNESS ZONE AT VINE STREET PARK

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides specific information about how well Berwick's park system is functioning by comparing its comparable data on parks and recreation.

The planning team provides inventories of park amenities in both Berwick-managed parks and other open spaces in the Berwick area to help determine where there are opportunities to improve and add new amenities.

PARK AMENITIES BENCHMARKING

Each year, the Trust for Public Land compiles park data* across the nation’s 100 most populous cities, which represent about 20% of the population in the United States. This data was used to compile the summary below that compares Berwick Borough’s existing park amenities and facilities against the national benchmark.

This chart is not prescriptive about what amenities or facilities should be in Berwick, but rather, is a helpful benchmark to compare with other park systems. The data shown in green denotes a “surplus” of amenities and facilities, where Berwick Borough exceeds the national benchmarks. The data in red denotes a “deficiency” of amenities and facilities, where Berwick Borough could look to add additional amenities.

BERWICK BOROUGH POPULATION:

10,270
2022 Census

AMENITY	MIN. RESIDENTS PER AMENITY	MIN. BENCHMARK FOR BERWICK BASED ON DATA	EXISTING IN PROJECT SCOPE PARKS	EXISTING IN BERWICK & EAST BERWICK (NOT IN PROJECT SCOPE)	DELTA
BASEBALL DIAMOND FIELDS	2018	6.30	3	1	-2.30
MULTIPURPOSE FIELDS	2454	5.18	2	7	+3.82
PICKLEBALL	1701	7.48	0		-7.48
TENNIS	4879	2.61	6		+3.39
VOLLEYBALL	5488	2.32	1		-1.32
BASKETBALL	568	22.39	6	1	-15.39
COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOT	246	51.70	0		-51.70
COOLING CENTERS	11244	1.13	0		-1.13
DOG PARKS	17512	0.73	0	1	+0.27
DRINKING FOUNTAINS	1264	10.06	0		-10.06
PLAYGROUNDS	1490	8.54	6	1	-1.54
RECREATION & SENIOR CENTERS	8477	1.50	1		-0.50
RESTROOMS	1664	7.64	2		-5.64
SKATEPARKS	30399	0.42	0		-0.42
SPLASH PADS	7971	1.60	1		-0.60
SWIMMING POOLS	9289	1.37	1		-0.37
DISC GOLF	46607	0.27	1		+0.73
TRAILS	1070	11.89	2	1	-8.89
WALKING LOOPS	3918	3.25	0		-3.25
FITNESS ZONES	5259	2.42	1		-1.42

*Source: The Trust for Public Land, 2023 ParkServe Amenities and Facilities Web Data Tables: City Park Facts. 2023.



CURRENT RESIDENTS PER PARK

1,290

HIGHER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE: 2,287**



PROGRAMMING DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

0

ONLY 34% OF AGENCIES SERVING POPULATIONS OF 20,000 OR LESS OFFER THESE**



RESIDENTS PER PLAYGROUND

1,720

HIGHER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE: 3,759**



CURRENT ACRES OF PARK PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

9.1

Area of Parks in Project Scope: 93.8 acres
Area of Parks in Berwick Area: 273.5 acres

SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE: 10.8**



MILES OF TRAILS

1.1

LOWER THAN MEDIAN OF JURISDICTIONS WITH LESS THAN 20,000 PEOPLE: 4.0 MILES**



WALKABILITY

59%

of Residents Live within a Ten-Minute Walk of a Park

LOWER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE: 72%*

Sources: * <https://parkservetpl.org/mapping/#/?CityID=4204522296>; **Source: National Recreation and Park Association, 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review. Icon source: Disability by Delwar Hossain from <https://thenounproject.com/browse/icons/term/disability> target="_blank" title="Disability Icons">Noun Project (CC BY 3.0)

PARK AMENITIES INVENTORY

The inventory below tracks the occurrence existing amenities within Berwick. The chart catalogues both the Borough-managed parks that are within the scope of this master plan, as well as other parks within Berwick’s School District that are not in this master plan scope.

Some of these amenities listed below exist within the parks, but are in an usable/broken condition, such as the volleyball court at western edge of Ber-Vaughn Park.

BOROUGH-MANAGED PARKS / 91.55 ACRES

FACILITIES	St. Charles	Veterans	Ber-Vaughn	Test Track	Vine Street	Sponsler	Louis Stevens	Arbor Street
SIZE (ACRES)	0.1	0.25	26.6	60.0	0.5	1.3	2.3	0.5
LOCATION	Market & Front Streets	Front & Second Streets	Park Road in Briar Creek Borough	50 S. Eaton Street	Vine between 7th and 8th	600 block of Monroe Street	100 block of Park Blvd	behind Borough Hall
SPORT								
Basketball courts			Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tennis courts (outdoor only)			Yes					
Diamond fields: baseball			Yes					
Diamond fields: softball				Yes				
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose				Yes				
Multiuse courts - basketball, volleyball			Yes (Volleyball in Pool Area)					
Skate park								
Disc Golf Course				Yes				
LEISURE & CULTURE								
Playgrounds			Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dog park								
Swimming pools (outdoor only)			Yes					
Boat Dock / Launch				Yes				
Community gardens								
Historic/Cultural resources		Yes						
Trails				Yes				
Fitness Zone					Yes			
AMENITIES								
Restrooms			Yes	Yes				
Benches/Seating	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Picnic Tables			Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes
Kiosk								
Shade structure (gazebo, pavilion, etc)			Yes	Yes		Yes		
ADA Accessible	Yes	Yes		Yes				
Lighting	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes		
Signage / Wayfinding	Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes
Public Art	Yes					Yes		
Flexible Lawn			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Water Features		Yes						
Overlooks								
Trash Receptacles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

NOT BOROUGH-MANAGED PARKS / 181.95 ACRES

	Orange Street Conservation Project	Berwick AYSO Fields	Salem Twp Municipal Park	Briar Creek Lake	Nescopeck Recreation Area	Fowler Field
	3.3	8.7	6.5	157	4.2	2.25
	Market & Front Streets	Front & Second Streets	Park Road in Briar Creek Borough	50 S. Eaton Street	Vine between 7th and 8th	Front & Second St
			Yes	Yes	Yes	
					Yes	
				Yes	Yes	Yes
		Yes	Yes			
			Yes	Yes	Yes	
			Yes			
				Yes		
				Yes		
	Yes (Mown)			Yes		
		Yes (Port-a-Potty)				
			Yes	Yes	Yes	
			Yes	Yes		
			Yes	Yes		
			Yes			
	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	
			Yes	Yes	Yes	

PARK MAINTENANCE BENCHMARKING

MAINTENANCE IN BERWICK PARKS

The parks that are owned by the Borough of Berwick are also or managed by Berwick. The only exception – Ber-Vaughn Park is technically located in Briar Creek Township, but it is owned and managed by Berwick Borough. Additionally, the pool within Ber-Vaughn Park is managed by the Berwick Area Swimming Pool Inc.

All parks are maintained by the Department of Public Works. When fully staffed, The Department of Public Works has ten full-time employees, whose time is devoted to both parks and the maintenance of public infrastructure. There is currently no staffing position for programming or events within the parks.

The chart below identifies general maintenance tasks for each park, with the needs for parks changing throughout the seasons.

Berwick has been working with a local landscaping company, Native Creations, to obtain state grant funding for the implementation of native gardens and meadows within parks. This initiative benefits residents through reduced costs for maintenance, enhanced stormwater infiltration, and introduction of native habitat into Berwick – all without utilizing taxpayer money.

MAINTENANCE TASKS:	ST. CHARLES PARK	VETERANS PARK	BER-VAUGHN PARK	TEST TRACK PARK	VINE STREET PARK	SPONSLER PARK	LOUIS STEVENS PARK	ARBOR STREET PARK
	0.1 acres	0.25 acres	26.6 acres	60.0 acres	0.5 acres	1.3 acres	2.3 acres	0.5 acres
Urban tree care	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Restoration & management			X	X			X	
Perennial gardens & meadows	X			X				
Rain gardens							X	
Lawn care	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Paving (concrete, asphalt)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Boardwalks, platforms & bridges							X	
Snow removal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Natural turf			X	X				
Sports courts			X	X	X	X	X	X
Rubber play surface			X	X	X	X	X	X
Play equipment			X	X	X	X	X	X

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS BUDGETING

The analysis below shows potential baseline costs for parks, based on both a per capita and acreage calculations. These were formed using data from the National Recreation and Planning Association's (NRPA) 2023 Agency Performance Review.

The numbers shown are meant to be baseline references to gauge current and future park expenditures. We have often found that the maintenance per acreage is a more realistic estimate than the cost per capita.



**COST PER
CAPITA**

BOROUGH
POPULATION

10,270



**COST PER
ACRE**

BERWICK PARK
ACREAGE

91.05 ACRES



**PARKS
STAFF**

CURRENT
PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

10 FT STAFF

Average per capita
maintenance cost

\$94.77

Average per acre
maintenance cost

\$7,388

Average full time staff per 10k
residents

8.9 FTE STAFF

Estimated Annual Maintenance
Cost, Per Capita:

\$973,287 / YR

Estimated Annual
Maintenance Cost,
Per Acre:

\$672,677 / YR

Estimated Park Staff
Members Needed:

**9.2 FTE
STAFF**

Estimated cost if Berwick spent the same rate
as national average cost per capita for park
maintenance

Estimated cost if Berwick spent the same
rate as national average cost per acre for park
maintenance

National average for park staff - adjusted
for the population size of Berwick

SUITE OF SITE FURNISHINGS: OPTION 1

These pages include design guidelines for site amenities that can be infused in the design of all of Berwick’s future parks. This provides the Borough of Berwick with a “kit of parts” that can be implemented at any time, bringing a level of consistency to each park.

SUITE OPTION 1

The first suite of furnishings maintains and matches familiar furnishings used by the Borough, while introducing a few more matching elements to the family of furnishings to make it feel overall more cohesive. This option uses primarily thermoplastic coated metal and can play with color to tie into identity across the whole park system. Colors can also be assigned to each park, providing variety within the framework.

- The expanded wire mesh bench and ADA picnic table from Summit Supply are already being used throughout the Borough.
- The expanded wire mesh trash receptacle from Summit Supply can be purchased with a dome lid and ties to protect from rain.
- The Horseshoe bike rack ties in nicely in its materiality with the other furnishings



SUMMIT SUPPLY - BENCH W/ BACK



SUMMIT SUPPLY - ADA PICNIC TABLE



SUMMIT SUPPLY - 32 GAL TRASH RECEPTACLE WITH DOME LID
(NOT PICTURED)



SUMMIT SUPPLY - HORSESHOE BIKE RACK

SUITE OF SITE FURNISHINGS: OPTION 2

SUITE OPTION 2

The second suite of furnishings seeks to provide options to elevate the furnishings in Berwick parks, while still considering budget. This option introduces modern and welcoming wood elements together with sleek powder-coated metals. This suite could be used selectively in special moments or throughout the park system.

- The 970 Bench and 400 Cluster Seating from Maglin use sustainable and durable thermally modified ash wood and powder-coated cast aluminum to create attractive and comfortable seating options for visitors.
- The BigBelly Sense Max trash receptacle will cost more upfront, but save in long term maintenance costs through compaction of trash and recycling, as well as providing options for remote sensing that could reduce maintenance hours



MAGLIN - 970 BACKED BENCH W/ARMS



MAGLIN - 400 CLUSTER SEATING



BIGBELLY - SENSE MAX COMPACTOR



MAGLIN - ICONIC BIKE RACK

6. PARK PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS



PLAY AREA AT SPONSLER PARK

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides specific planning recommendations for improving Berwick-managed parks within the scope of this master plan. For each of the eight Berwick parks, existing conditions are observed and planning recommendations are outlined. Unique opportunities to enhance connectivity, accessibility and art are highlighted for each park based on its identity and character.

GENERAL SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS:

The planning team made several recommendations for parks that are infused within all of the park plans. These are all opportunities to enhance usability, safety, and access to the parks while helping it to better function as a park system.

- **Uniform signage:** Include park guidelines and general rules in parks to cut down on litter and improve safety. There are also so many opportunities for interpretive signage related to history & ecology in the parks.
- **Inclusive programming:** Prioritize programming and play that caters to the needs of disabled and neuro-divergent members of the community.
- **Lighting and safety:** The Borough should evaluate lighting needs for parks, particularly for sport courts and fields. Safety was a highly-prioritized category during the first community survey. Lighting would allow parks to feel safer, while also expanding recreational sports programming opportunities.

VETERANS PARK: EXISTING CONDITIONS

PARK OVERVIEW

After assessing the existing conditions at Veterans Park, we and the Steering Committee determined that it is functioning as it is intended in its current state, as a memorial park. The busy roads on either side don't make it conducive to leisure, but it is well maintained, well lit and offers ample opportunities for visitors to honor and remember veterans.

EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- Lighting
- Stone wall raised garden beds
- Evergreen shrubs and trees
- 2 benches and 4 stone seating platforms
- Flags and memorial plaques
- Fountain

EXISTING USE & PROGRAMMING

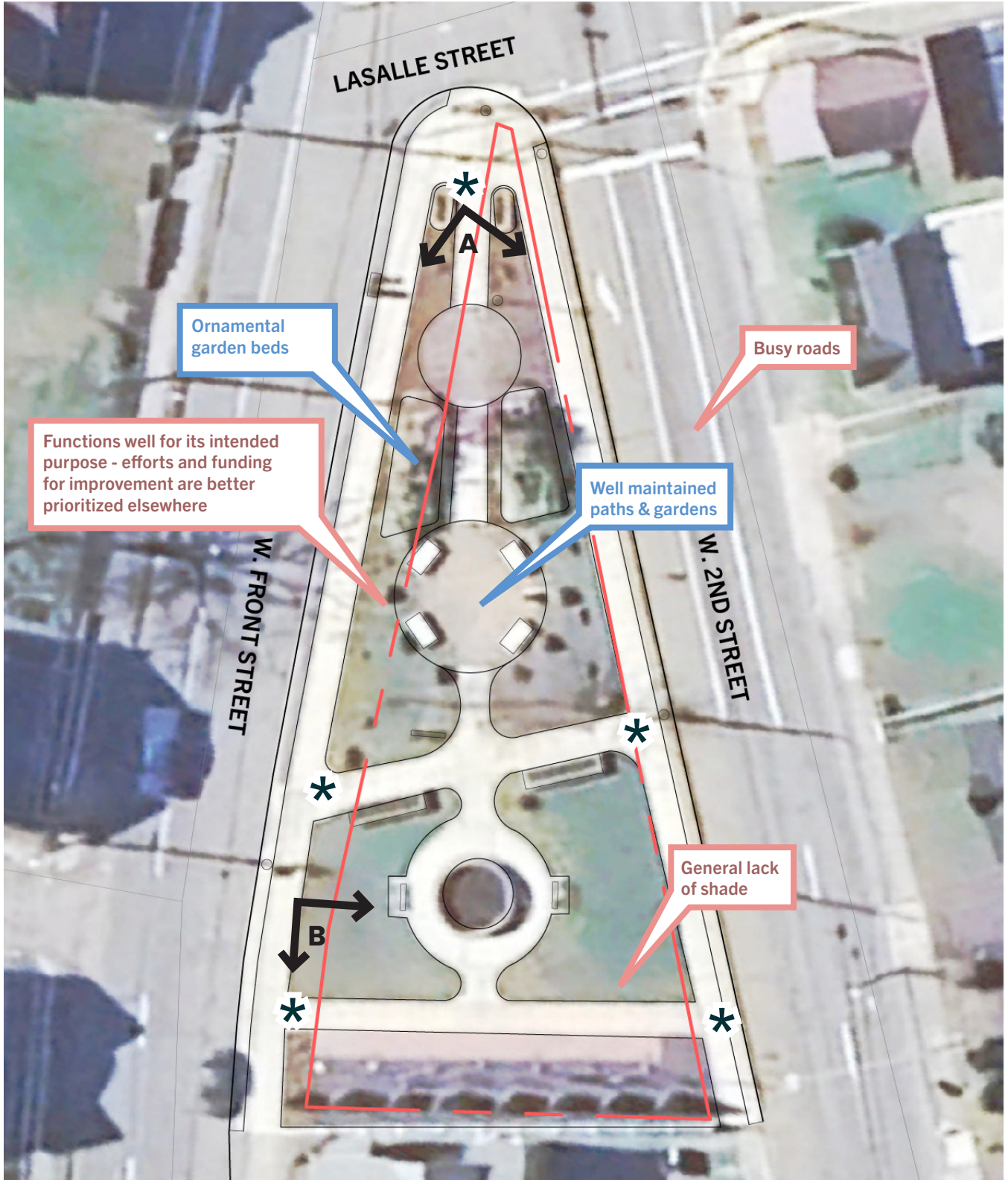
- Historic/cultural gathering



View from entrance, looking east



View of flags and trees, looking east



* Threshold
 ■ Challenge/Need
 ■ Asset/Opportunity

.25 acre
 Located at Front St., LaSalle St., and West 2nd St.



ST. CHARLES PARK: EXISTING CONDITIONS

PARK OVERVIEW

St. Charles Park is a “gateway” to Berwick with signage that welcomes all to the Borough. Because of proximity to traffic on South Market Street and West Front Street, the park is not frequently used on a day-to-day basis. The plaza also currently offers little shade and lacks comfortable seating.

This park is the site of the Winterfest Festival, when it is filled with visitors visiting the festival and downtown lights. During this festival there is also a seasonal movie screening for kids and families.

There is an ADA-accessible ramp on the eastern edge that allows for universal access to the park, but access to the riverfront is not possible due to steep slopes and an existing stairwell. The sidewalk on Market Street is not currently wide enough to be considered accessible and offers little buffer from the adjacent busy street.

There is already a recently-completed mural celebrating the river ecology just south of the site. This is the beginning of the potential to infuse other public art into the public space that enhances the identity and ecological narrative about Berwick’s Downtown.

EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- “Welcome to Berwick” signage
- Ramp pathway
- Clock
- Brick Paved Plaza
- 3 benches
- Lawn areas and perennial planted bush
- Lighting
- Public art - mural

EXISTING USE & PROGRAMMING

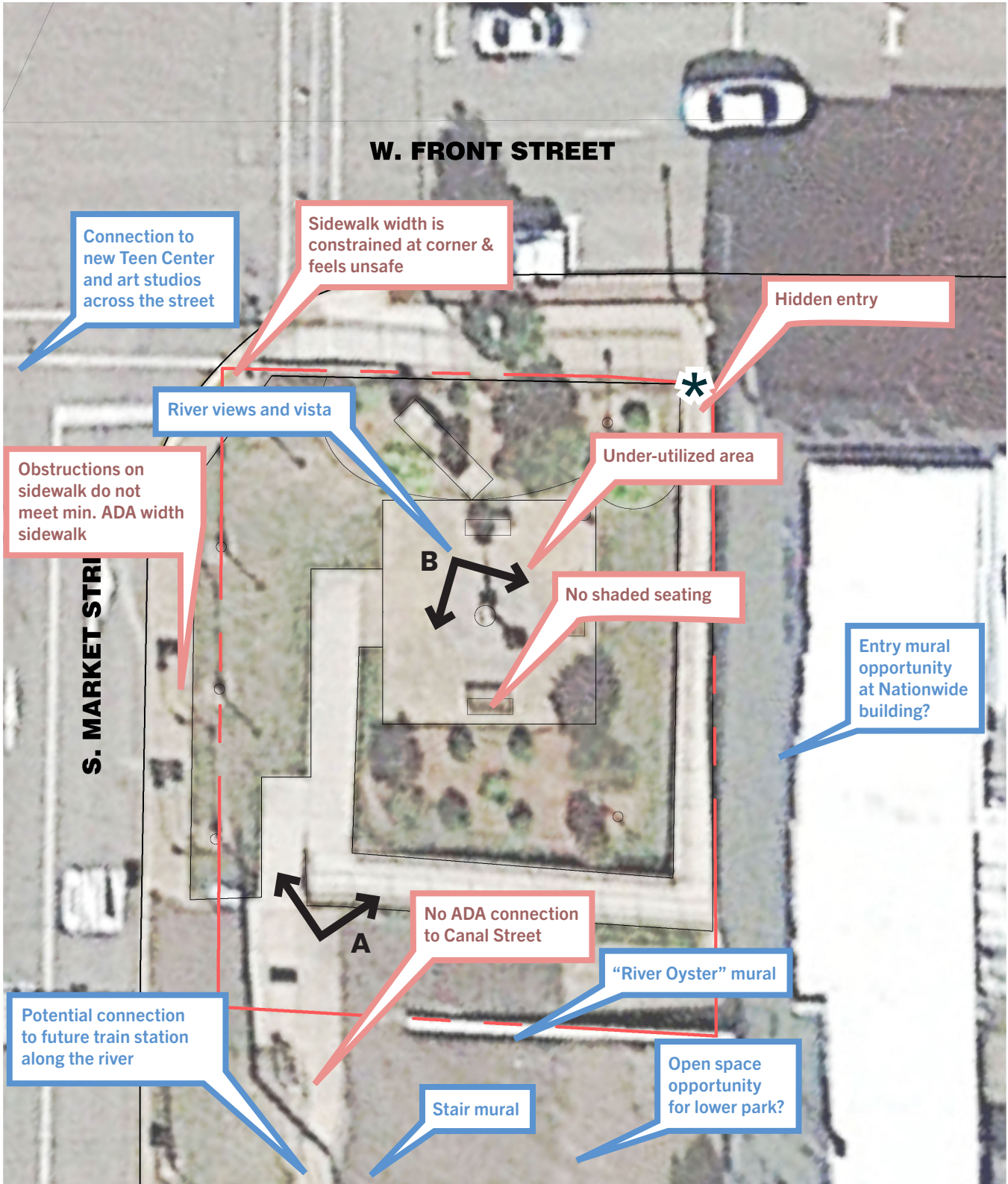
- Winterfest & Movie Screening



View from driveway, looking northwest

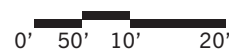


View from plaza interior, looking southeast



* Threshold
 ■ Challenge/Need
 ■ Asset/Opportunity

.1 acre
 Located at W. Front St. & S. Market St.



ST. CHARLES PARK: PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

In the proposed planning recommendations, this sidewalk is shifted over and widened to improve access and provide a green buffer to the street. This move also creates a more welcoming entrance to the park. Added trees will help with shade and new amphitheater seating is proposed to increase seating opportunities. Catenary lights crisscrossed above the space would provide playful lighting and a feeling of enclosure while drawing in visitors from the bridge.

Proposed historic interpretive signage would teach visitors about the history of the site. The Nationwide wall adjacent to the site provides opportunities for a new mural celebrating Berwick’s heritage and future.

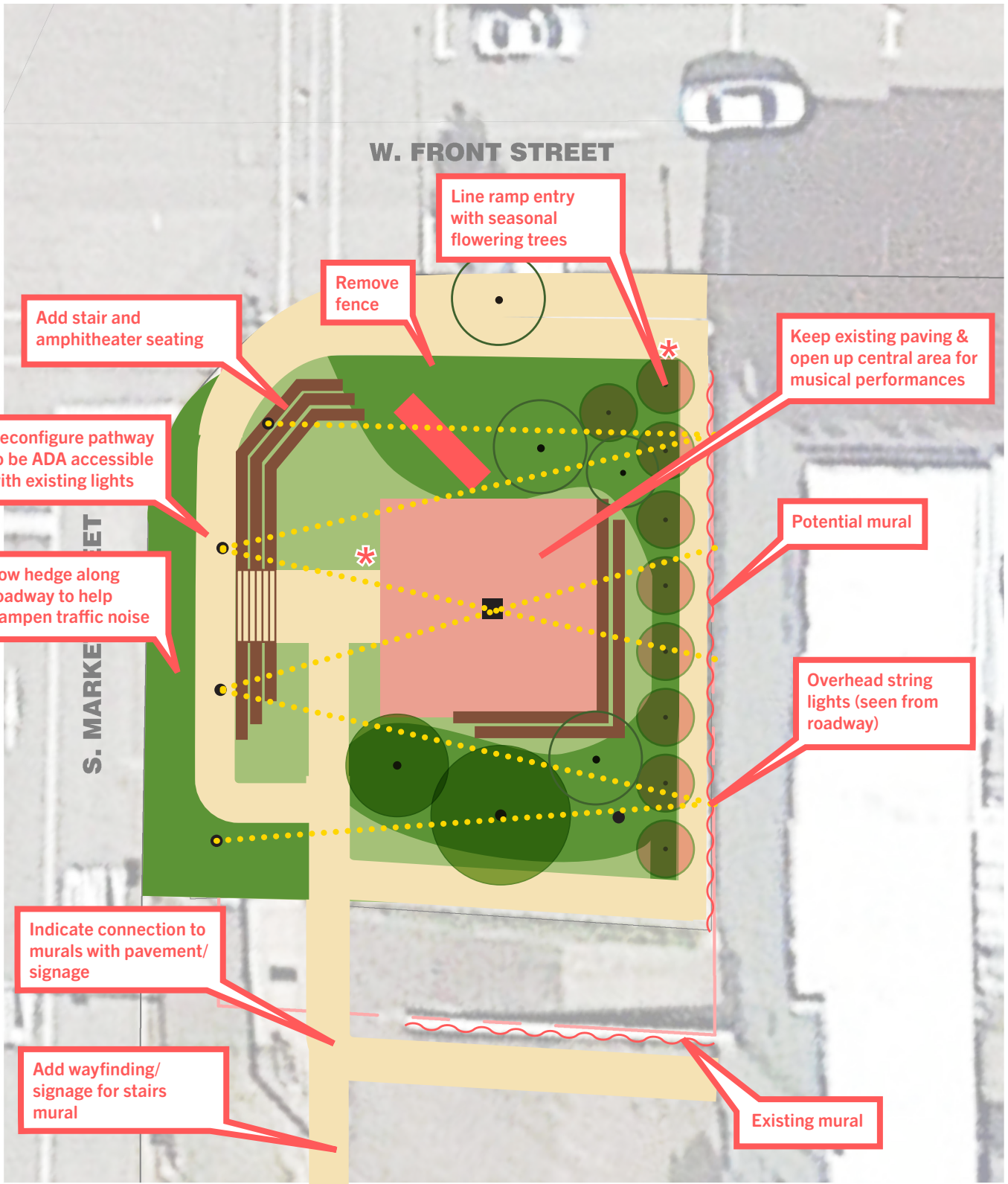
This park is an precedent for the activation of public space in the downtown core that can hold events and various programming. Berwick should continue to look at vacant lots as downtown develops, identifying if any additional public spaces could also be used – especially along West Front Street and South Market Street.

PROPOSED ELEMENTS

- “Welcome to Berwick” signage
- Ramp pathway
- Clock
- Plaza
- 3 benches
- Lawn areas and perennial planted bushes
- Lighting
- Public art - murals
- New accessible & expanded pathways and entry
- Amphitheater style seating
- Mural on Nationwide wall
- Shaded element (large tree or shade structure)

PROPOSED PROGRAMMING

- Small music/performance



* Signage / Wayfinding Lawn Shrubs / Perennial Plantings



VINE STREET PARK: EXISTING CONDITIONS

PARK OVERVIEW

Vine Street Park is a well-situated neighborhood park but the biggest issue is that there are currently no ADA accessible pathways through the park. There is a newly constructed outdoor Fitness Zone, but it seems to be underutilized. There is currently very little separation between the park space and the surrounding residential lots, which contributes to both a lack of privacy for these residents and a lack of enclosure for park visitors.

There are currently very few trees or other vegetation to provide shade or interest, the majority of the space is lawn. The play equipment is outdated and lacks proper safety surfacing and the basketball court's surface is deteriorating.

EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- Outdoor fitness zone
- Bench
- Trash receptacle
- Slide
- Swings
- Basketball court

EXISTING USE & PROGRAMMING

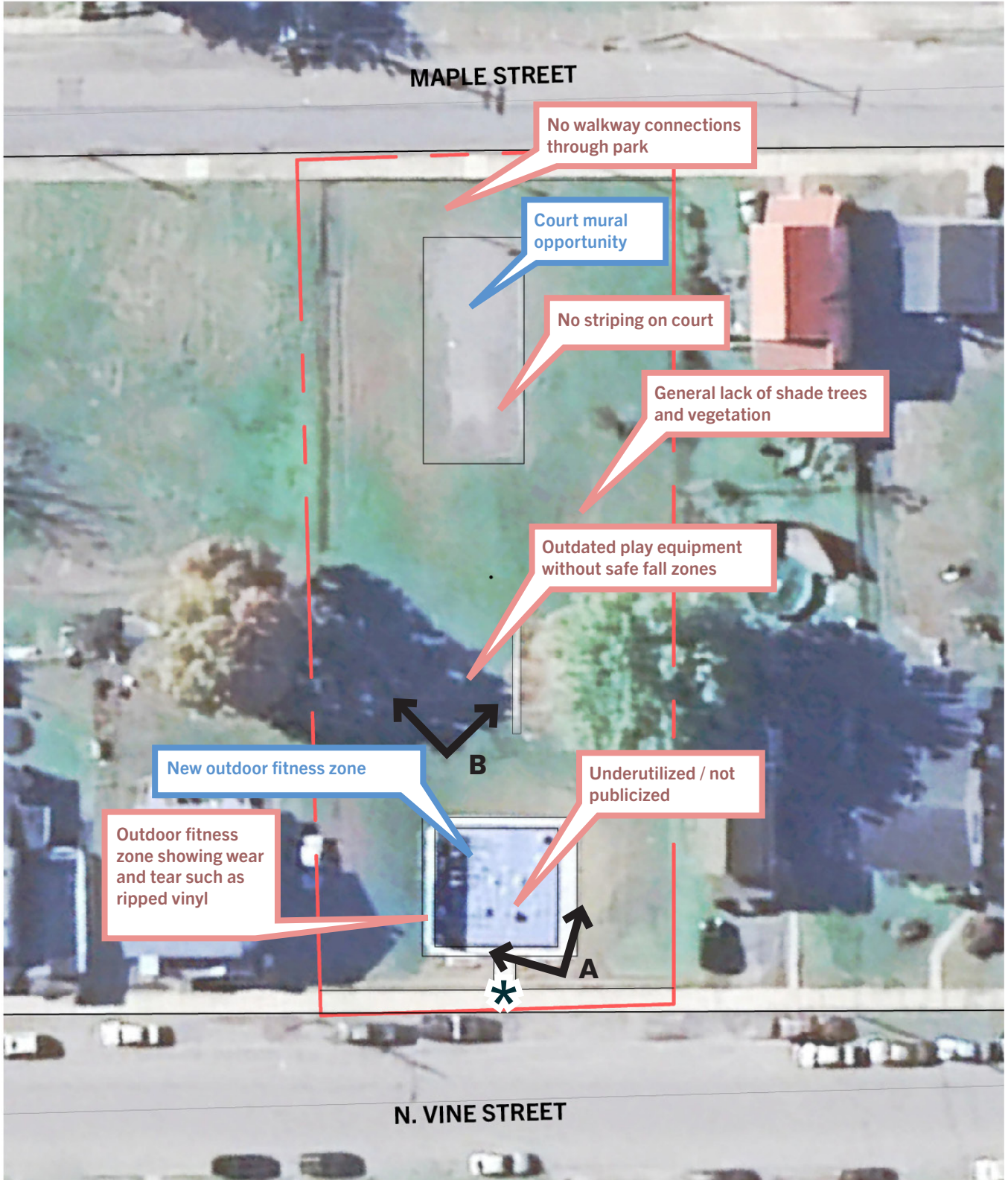
- No programming other than play & outdoor fitness



View of new exercise equipment area, looking west

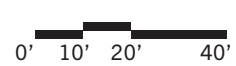


View of slide and swings, looking west



* Threshold Challenge/Need Asset/Opportunity

.5 acres
 Located at N. Vine St. between 7th & 8th St.



VINE STREET PARK: PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed recommendations include adding a curving path to connect visitors from Maple Street to Vine Street. The path would connect to a colorfully painted and resurfaced basketball court, a new central play area with ADA accessible surfacing, and the existing Fitness Court. Large trees are proposed to provide shade, as well as low hedges to help delineate and better enclose the park from surrounding residential lots.

New seasonal, flowering trees at the entry points would help visitors to identify the park as part of the network of Berwick parks and provide some beautiful color in the spring. New lighting throughout would help visitors feel safer at all times of day. Colorfully painted crosswalks at each entrance would aim to slow traffic and signal the presence of a playful space.

PROPOSED SITE ELEMENTS

- Outdoor fitness zone
- Benches
- Trash receptacle
- Accessible and inclusive play area
- Basketball court with mural and painted games
- Accessible walking path

PROPOSED PROGRAMMING

- Basketball
- Local fitness instructors could provide monthly classes to teach people how to use the equipment



* Signage / Wayfinding Lawn Shrubs



LOUIS STEVENS PARK: EXISTING CONDITIONS

PARK OVERVIEW

Louis Stevens Park acts as a kind of shared backyard to the surrounding neighborhood. The wide open lawn spaces are beloved by the community as spaces for flying kites. There is currently little signage to identify the park entrance and the majority of the park space is open lawn with a few small trees. There is a distinct lack of shade and very little definition of spaces within the park. The basketball court needs resurfacing and no longer has striping. The play equipment is nostalgic, but largely unsafe and does not have the proper safety surfacing within fall zones.

The southern edge of the site is within the 0.2% flood zone and has a tendency to hold water after heavy rainfall. There is also very little screening from the surrounding residential lots, but based on the borough's previous conversations with residents, this provides a feeling of "eyes on the park" and contributes to its unique character as the neighborhood's shared "backyard" space.

EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- Basketball court
- Playground with swings and slide
- Signage
- Trash receptacles
- Benches/seating

EXISTING USE & PROGRAMMING

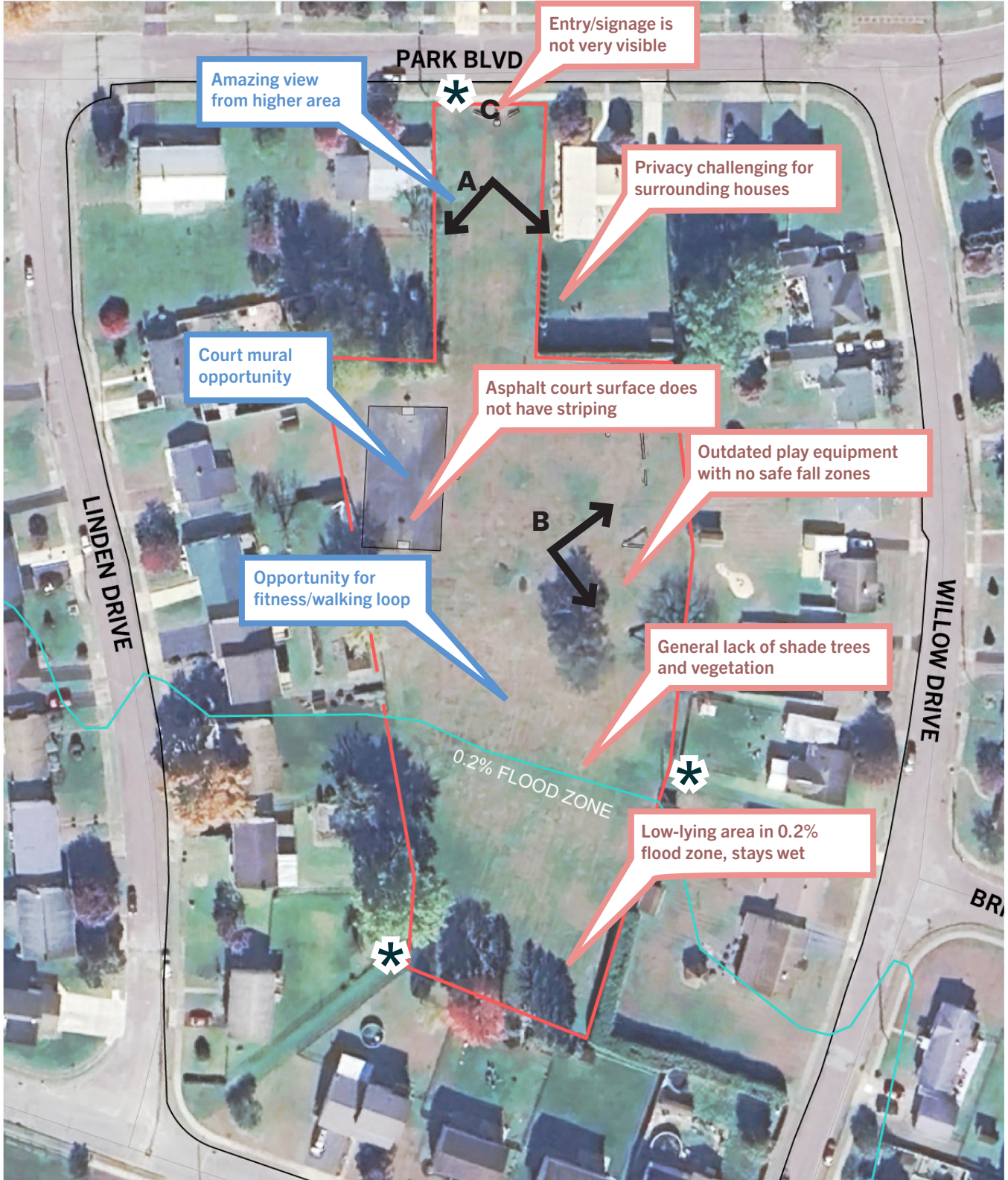
- No programming other than play



View near entrance looking south



View of old slide, looking east



* Threshold Challenge/Need Asset/Opportunity

2.3 acres
 Located at Park Blvd. between Willow Dr. & Linden Dr.



LOUIS STEVENS PARK: PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed recommendations enhance the existing amenities of the space while retaining the character & wide open spaces that are so beloved by the community. ADA accessible pathways would be added throughout the park, creating a walking loop that all visitors could utilize. Current play equipment and surface would be updated, and a picnic area with shade pavilion would be added for families to gather. The basketball court would stay in its current location, but be resurfaced, restriped, and transformed into a horizontal piece of art.

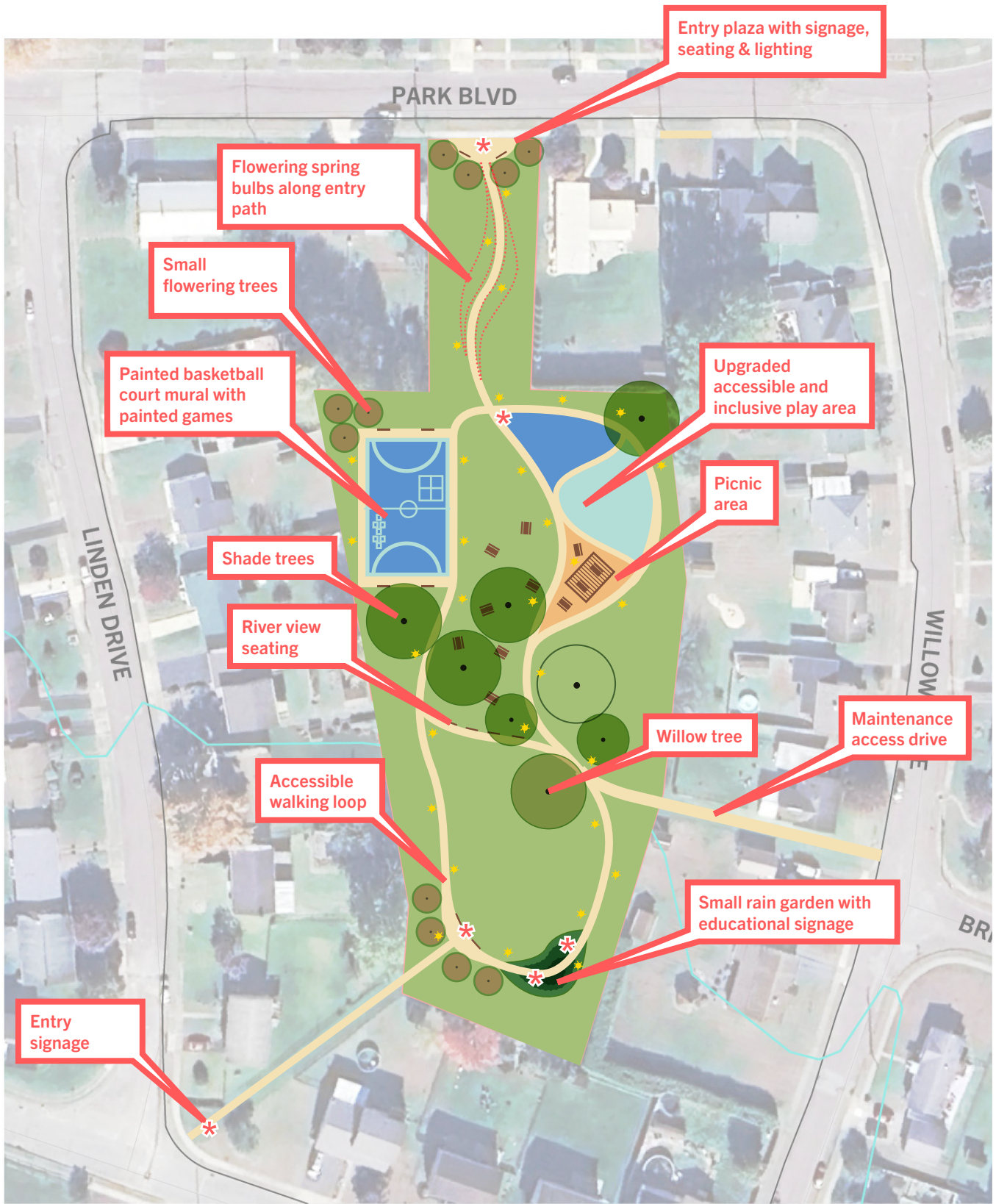
The addition of a few large shade trees would help to frame the space and provide shade for hot summer days. Since the lower portion of the site is within the floodplain and water already flows here, a small rain garden is proposed. Interpretive signage would help visitors understand the function of the rain garden and the ecology within. Lighting is proposed throughout to help visitors feel safer at all times of day.

PROPOSED ELEMENTS

- Mural on basketball court with painted games
- Accessible rubber play surface
- Upgraded accessible and inclusive play equipment
- Consistent signage and lighting
- Trash receptacles
- Benches/seating
- Picnic tables
- Benches/seating with river views
- Winding walking loop

PROPOSED PROGRAMMING

- Basketball
- Walking groups
- Education about Rain Gardens by local experts



* Signage / Wayfinding Lawn Rain Garden



SPONSLER PARK: EXISTING CONDITIONS

PARK OVERVIEW

Sponsler Park is a beloved neighborhood park, located in the heart of Berwick. The park already has some wonderful mature trees, which provide a sense of grandeur to the space as well as ample shade. There is a small, somewhat recently improved play area, which utilizes loose fill for its safety surfacing. The park acts as a community space by housing the local free food pantry box and the little free library.

There is also a beautiful mural created by the community in partnership with the Berwick Arts Association, but it lacks lighting. The basketball court is well utilized, but is in need of resurfacing and restriping.

EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- Basketball court
- Playground
- Benches/seating
- Picnic tables
- Shade structure
- Lighting
- Signage/wayfinding
- Public art - mural
- Trash receptacles
- Free little library
- Free food pantry box
- Mature trees

EXISTING USE & PROGRAMMING

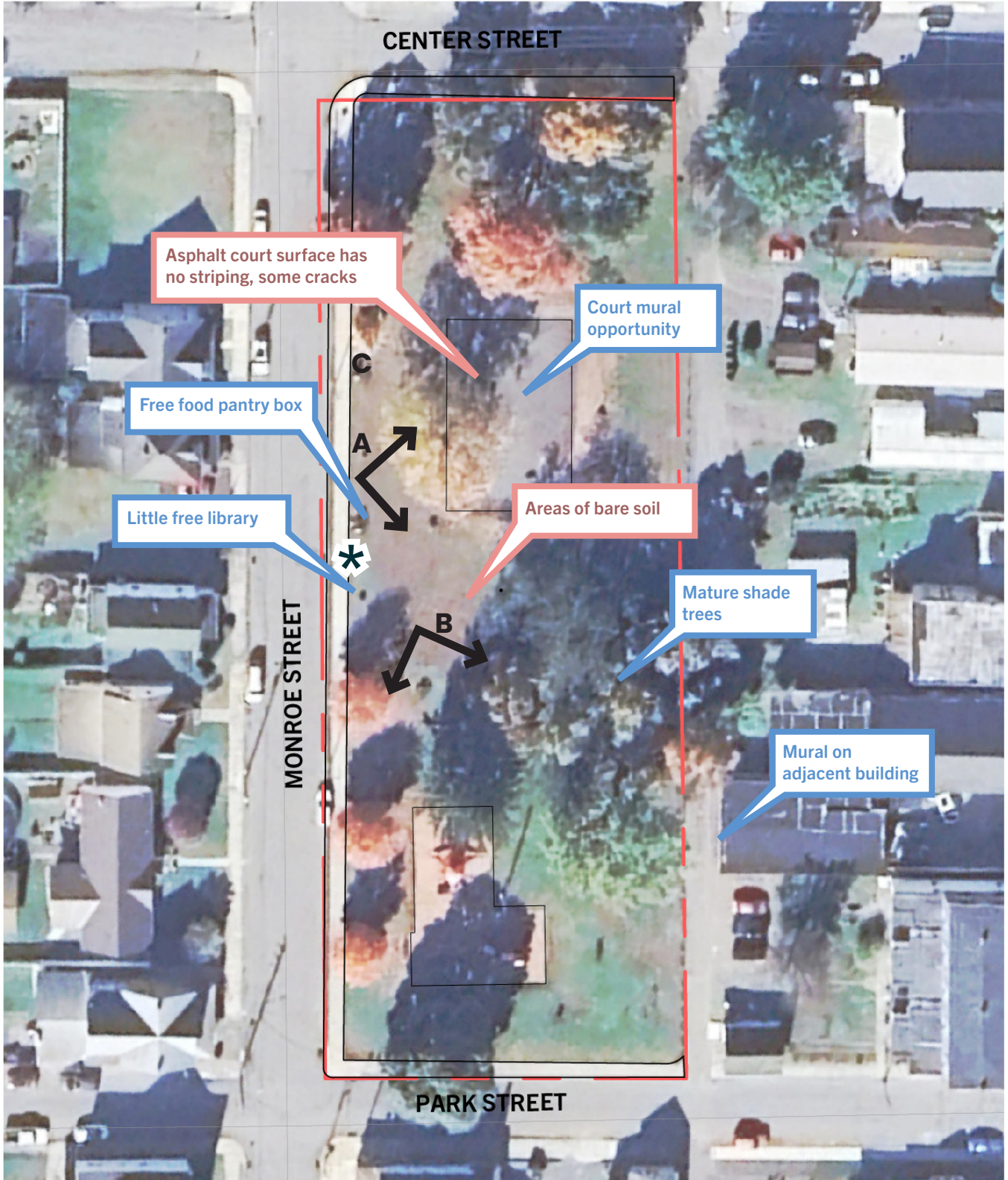
- Block parties
- Easter Celebration



View of basketball court, looking north



View of playground and mural on adjacent building, looking east



* Threshold Challenge/Need Asset/Opportunity

1.3 acre
 Located at Monroe St. between Center St. and Park St.



SPONSLER PARK: PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed recommendations include the creation of a central ADA-accessible pathway that would connect all the elements of the park. The resurfaced basketball court would be shifted toward the alley a bit to make room for picnic tables & a shade pavilion beside the court. This would leave room for a large open lawn space framed by beautiful seasonal flowering trees. In one of the groves of trees, a winding secondary path with ADA-accessible picnic area is proposed.

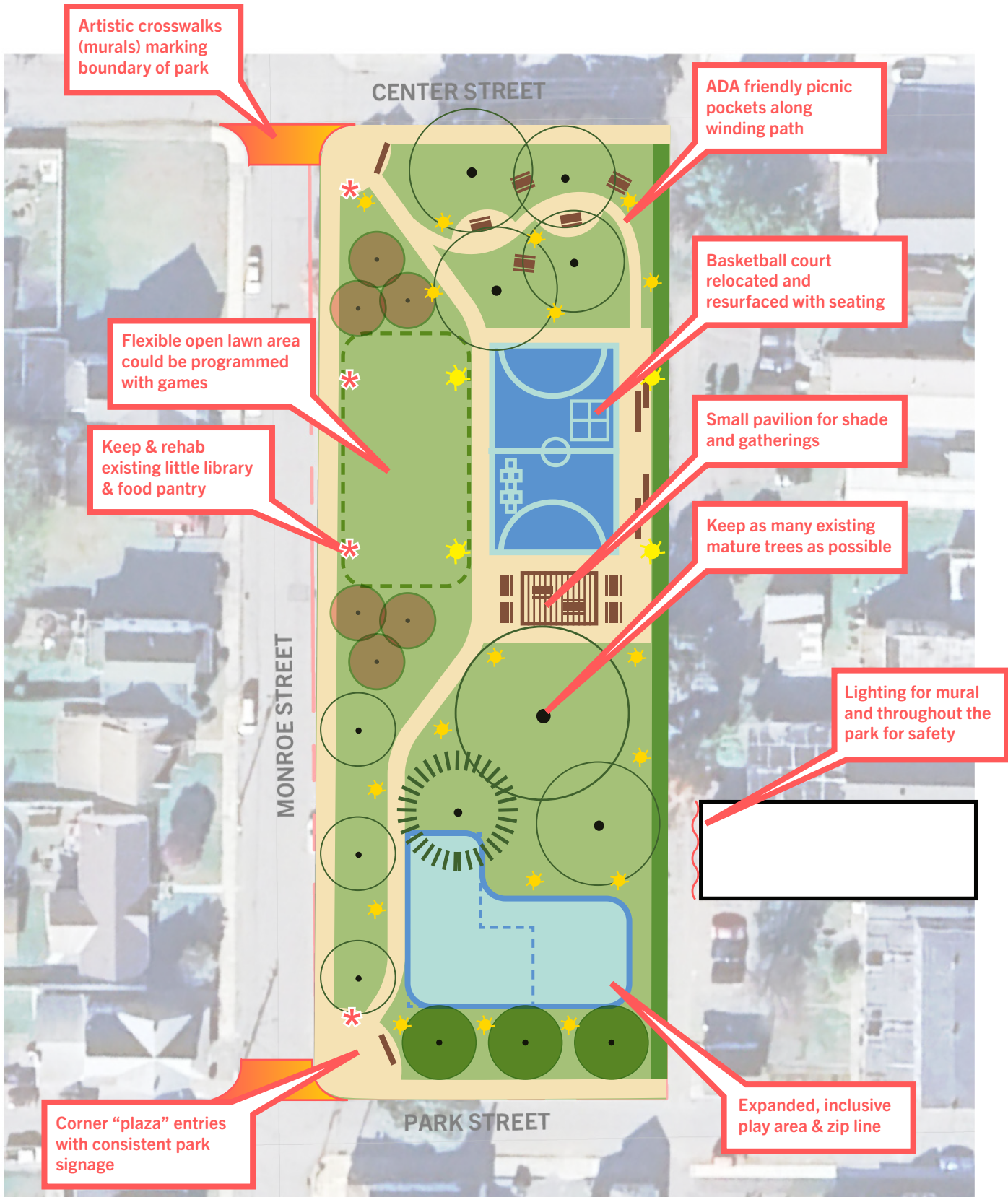
On the opposite side of the park, the existing play area would be expanded and ADA-accessible play surfacing would ensure safety and access for all children. Lighting throughout would help visitors to feel safe at all times of day.

PROPOSED SITE ELEMENTS

- Basketball court (resurfaced)
- Playground (expanded footprint, accessible surfacing)
- Benches/seating (additional)
- Picnic tables (ADA friendly)
- Pavilion/Shade structure
- Lighting (additional, highlight mural)
- Signage/wayfinding (consistent with other parks)
- Trash receptacles
- Free little library
- Free food pantry box
- Existing mature trees
- Seasonal flowering trees
- ADA accessible pathways
- Low hedge to block entrance from alley
- Shaded, ADA accessible dining nooks
- Artistic crosswalks marking park boundary

PROPOSED PROGRAMMING

- Block parties & Easter egg hunts
- Basketball games
- Lawn games in flexible lawn area (quoits, cornhole, croquet)



Artistic crosswalks (murals) marking boundary of park

ADA friendly picnic pockets along winding path

Flexible open lawn area could be programmed with games

Basketball court relocated and resurfaced with seating

Keep & rehab existing little library & food pantry

Small pavilion for shade and gatherings

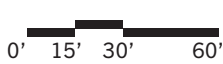
Keep as many existing mature trees as possible

Lighting for mural and throughout the park for safety

Corner "plaza" entries with consistent park signage

Expanded, inclusive play area & zip line

* Signage / Wayfinding Lawn Shrubs



ARBOR STREET PARK: EXISTING CONDITIONS

PARK OVERVIEW

Arbor Street Park is a small pocket of play for the North Berwick neighborhood. It is located within a grove of beautiful mature trees, which provide lots of shade to the space. Currently, there is no sidewalk leading to the park, which makes it even less accessible than other parks in the borough. There are also no ADA-accessible pathways through the park currently.

The play equipment scattered throughout is outdated and again does not provide acceptable safe fall zones. The basketball court needs to be resurfaced and restriped to function well for users. There is very little separation between park visitors and the adjacent road, which can foster an unsafe feeling for parents whose children might be prone to wandering.

EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- Basketball court
- Outdated play equipment
- Signage
- Trash receptacles

EXISTING USE & PROGRAMMING

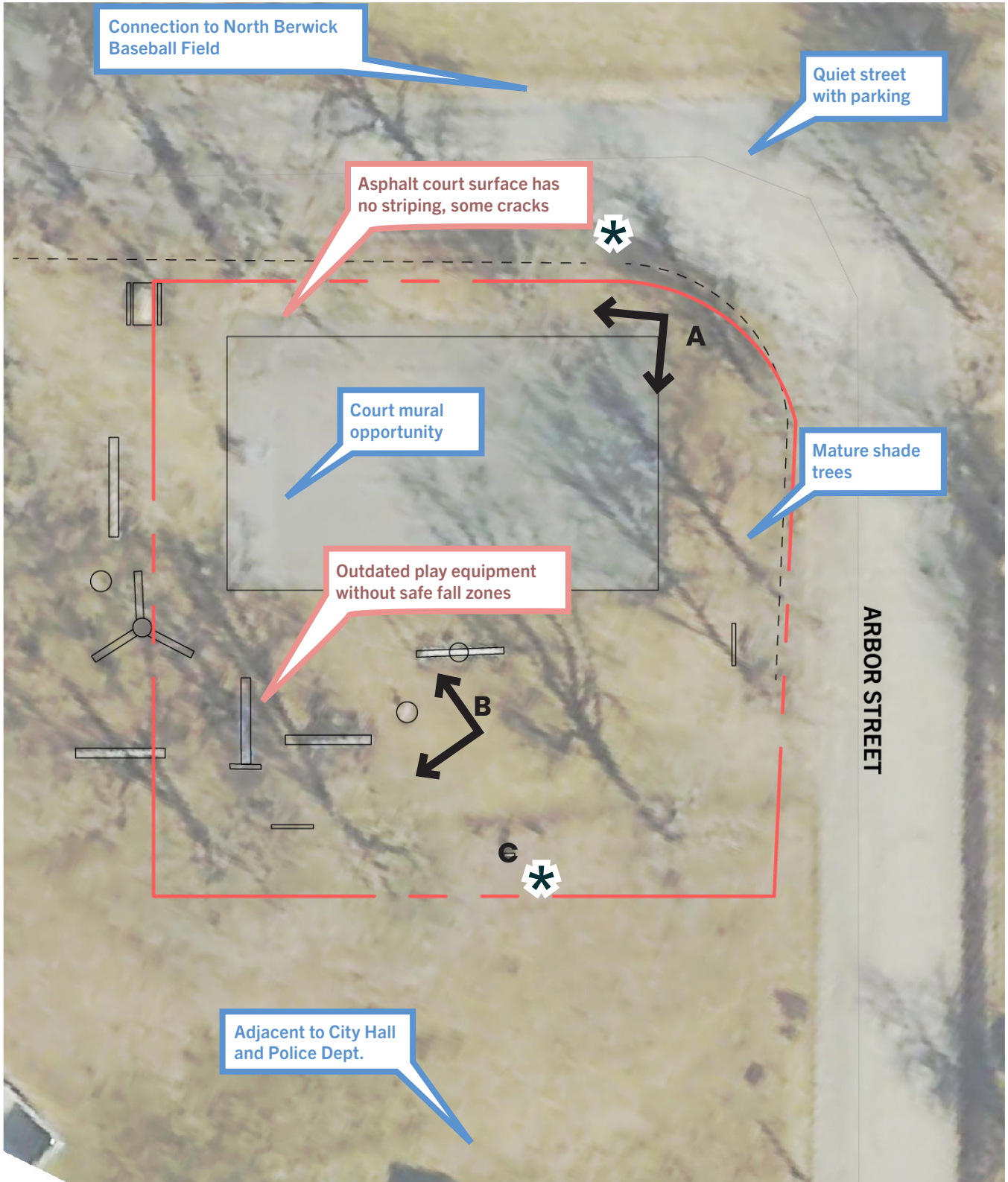
- Block parties
- Easter Celebration



View of basketball court, looking east



View of play area, looking south



* Threshold Challenge/Need Asset/Opportunity

.5 acres
 Located at Arbor St. between N. Vine St. and Elm St.



ARBOR STREET PARK: PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The planning recommendations propose the addition of sidewalks here that connect to the surrounding neighborhood & allow those with ambulatory difficulties to access this play space safely. These proposed sidewalks would connect to a pathway winding through the park, revealing different pockets of “sensory” play along the way. Sensory play can be extremely fulfilling for those who are neurodivergent or have cognitive disabilities. The basketball court would continue to provide a more active option for those who are more interested in competitive play.

The court would remain in its current location, but be resurfaced to provide a canvas for potential murals and asphalt games. Lighting throughout would help visitors feel safe, and colorfully painted crosswalks will slow cars and provide additional artistic elements to the space.

PROPOSED SITE ELEMENTS

- Resurfaced Basketball court
- Updated play structure
- Trash receptacles
- New sidewalk and street trees
- Low hedge and/or fence around boundary
- Entry “plaza” with consistent park signage
- Lighting
- Seating
- Sensory play pockets
- Seesaws

PROPOSED PROGRAMMING

- Basketball games
- Sensory Play

New sidewalk to improve accessibility to the park and street trees

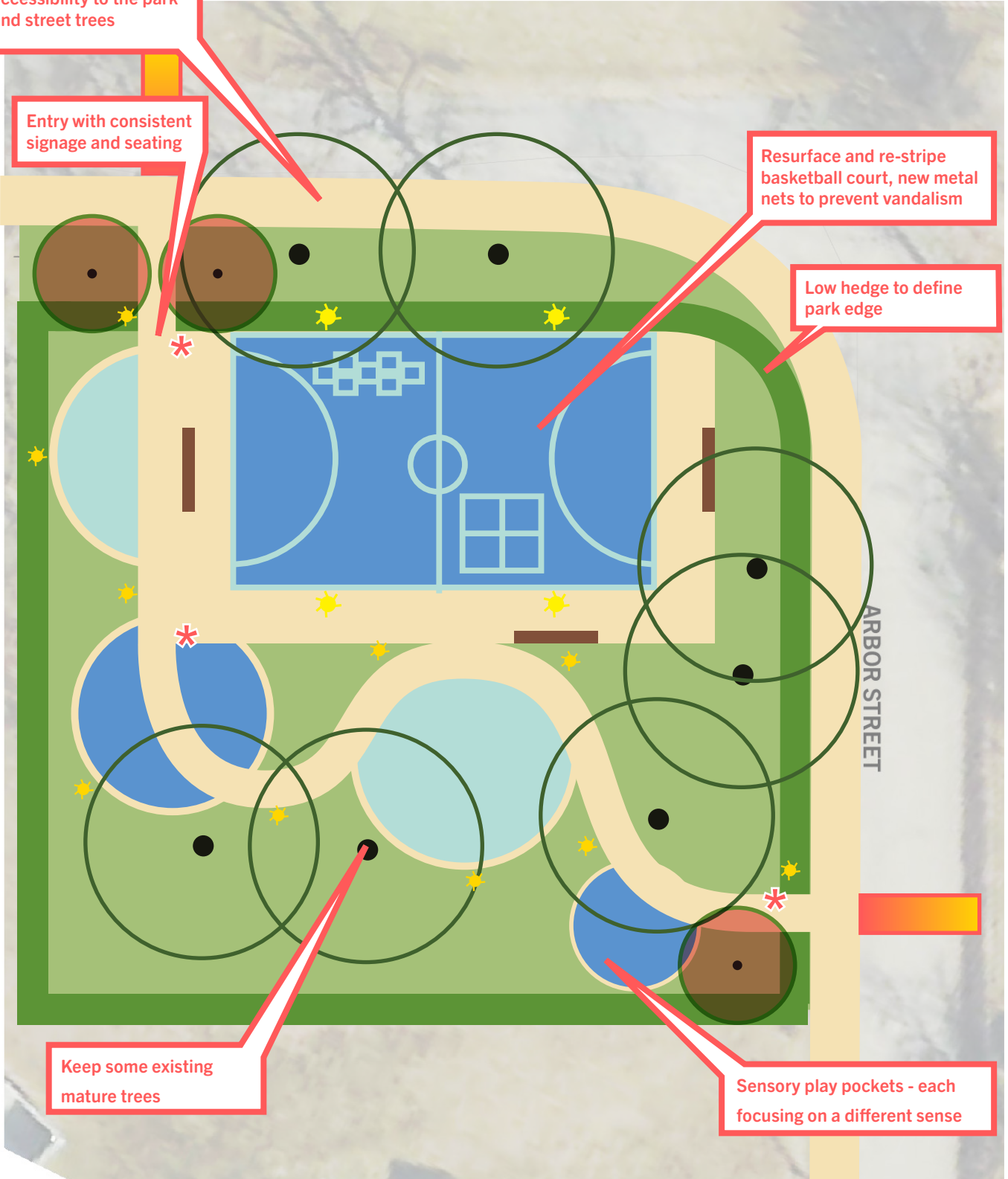
Entry with consistent signage and seating

Resurface and re-stripe basketball court, new metal nets to prevent vandalism

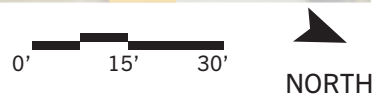
Low hedge to define park edge

Keep some existing mature trees

Sensory play pockets - each focusing on a different sense



* Signage / Wayfinding Lawn Shrubs



BER-VAUGHN PARK: EXISTING CONDITIONS

PARK OVERVIEW

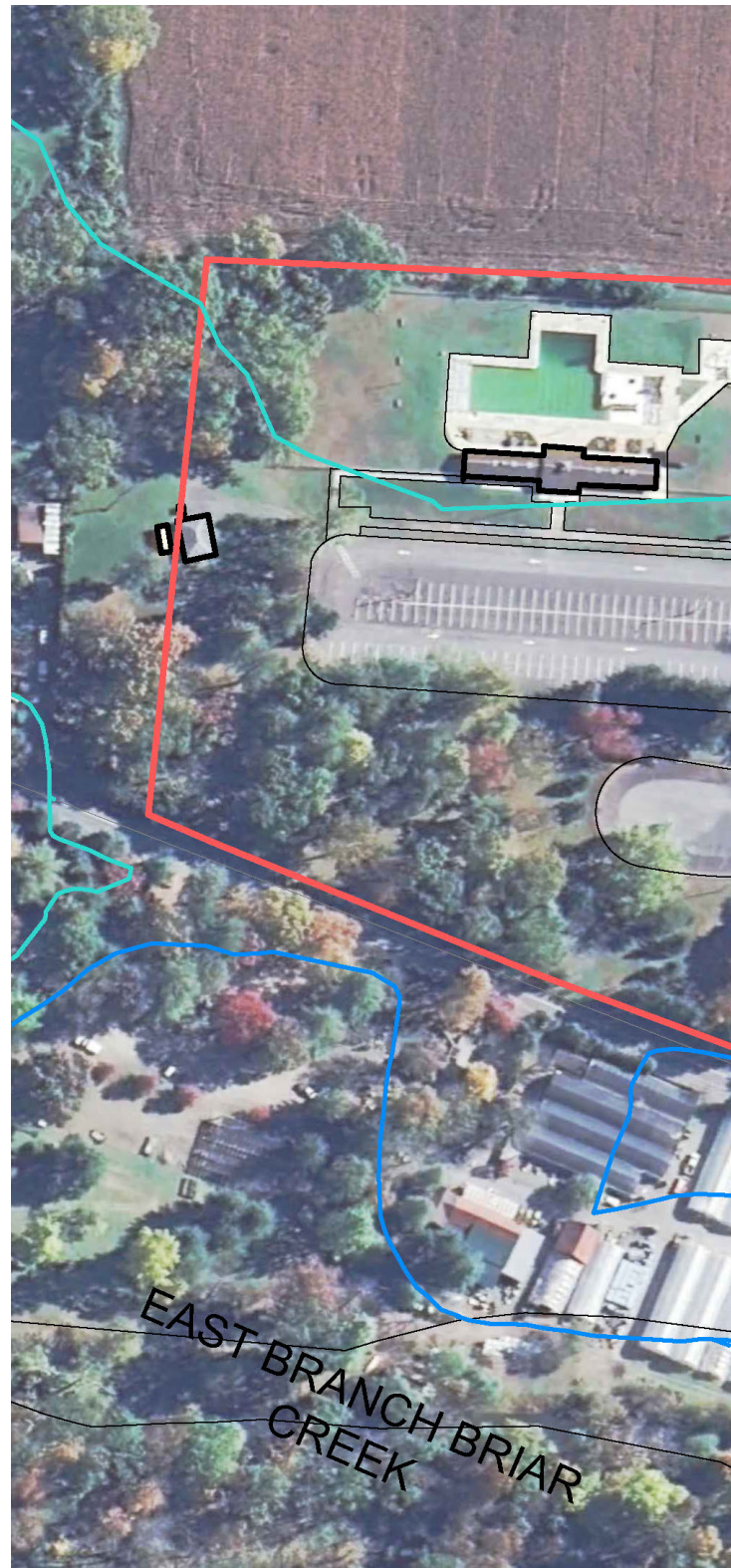
Ber-Vaughn Park is one of Berwick's most popular and beloved parks. It provides ample sports and recreational amenities such as: a pool, splash pad, three baseball fields and picnic pavilions for rent. The space is filled with beautiful mature trees, which really allow visitors to feel like they are immersed in nature. The old RC race track is unutilized at this time and would require resurfacing for any recreational use. The tennis and basketball courts have also fallen into disrepair and require resurfacing to become usable again. There is a newer playground, but the use of loose fill surfacing and lack of pathways to this play space make it inaccessible. There are no ADA-accessible pathways through the park, so any visitors with ambulatory difficulties are forced to use the roadways to traverse the park.

EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

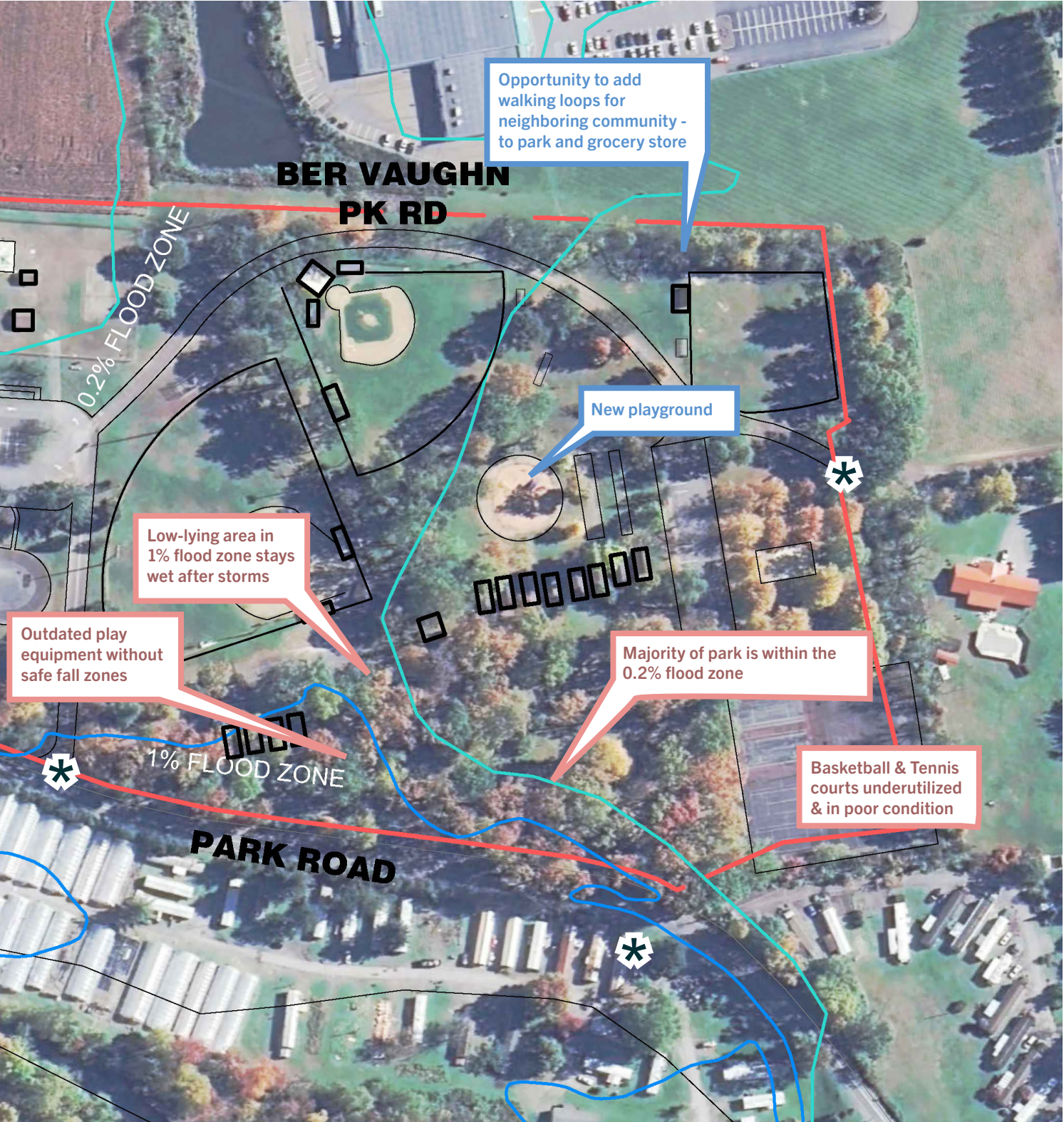
- Public restrooms
- Parking lot
- Maintenance shed
- Benches/seating
- Picnic tables and shelters
- Trash receptacles
- 1 playground
- 2 basketball courts
- 6 tennis courts
- 3 baseball diamonds
- 1 swimming pool (private)
- 1 volleyball court in pool area
- 2 shuffleboard courts (no striping)
- Sculptural play elements
- Swing sets

EXISTING USE & PROGRAMMING

- Little League Games & Tournaments
- Berwick School District Sports Practice
- Berwick Area YMCA programming
- Summer Day Camp (for young kids)



26.6 acres
Located at Park Rd. in Briar Creek Borough



* Threshold

Challenge/Need

Asset/Opportunity



BER-VAUGHN PARK: PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

As Ber-Vaughn Park is already a beautiful, active space, the planning recommendations focus on enhancing what is existing as well as providing more inclusive, accessible experiences for everyone. ADA pathways would connect visitors to areas throughout the park, and old, unsafe play equipment would be removed to make way for a play and fitness trail – a place where people of all ages could move their bodies and discover different fitness activities under the existing mature trees. The existing RC track has the potential to become a place for skating in all seasons with some resurfacing and movable equipment. The existing play area would be resurfaced, and the construction of an additional play space would ensure kids of all ages and abilities can enjoy the park. The existing tennis and basketball courts would be consolidated, resurfaced and include striping for pickleball, tennis and basketball. New lighting, signage and additional parking are also proposed to help with safety and connectivity for visitors.

PROPOSED SITE ELEMENTS

- Additional parking lots
- Additional benches/seating & trash
- 1 additional play area
- 2 basketball courts
- 2 tennis/pickleball courts
- 1 volleyball court
- Embankment slides
- ADA accessible pathways
- Skate Park (opportunity for Ice Skating in winter)

PROPOSED PROGRAMMING

- Berwick School District Sports Practice
- Berwick Area YMCA programming
- Summer Day Camp (for kids & teens)
- Little League Games & Tournaments
- Youth/Adult Outdoor Basketball
- Pickleball Club
- Ice Skating / Winterfest programming



Existing splash pad

Skating Area (Skate Park in warmer seasons, Ice Skating in winter)

Seasonal flowering trees at entry to identify as a Berwick Park

* Signage / Wayfinding

Lawn

Sports Field

Shrubs



Additional permeable parking spaces (marked)

New pedestrian Connection to Giant Store

Additional Play space surrounded by ADA accessible paths

Rehabbed Volleyball court

New Tennis / Pickleball Courts (2)
New Basketball Courts (2), painted

Embankment slides

Shuffleboard & games zone for seniors

"Play & Fitness Trail" with exercise stations & play pockets

Existing Buildings New Buildings

0' 125' 250' NORTH

TEST TRACK PARK: EXISTING CONDITIONS

PARK OVERVIEW

Test Track Park is another of Berwick's most popular open spaces, and it provides the Borough with access to its most significant landscape feature, the Susquehanna River. It also currently offers a beautiful, riverside setting for several large events. Its river trail already provides ADA access, but its features could be more inclusive. The more interior spaces of the park are currently inaccessible for those with ambulatory difficulties. There is an 18 hole disc golf course, but it currently lacks signage.

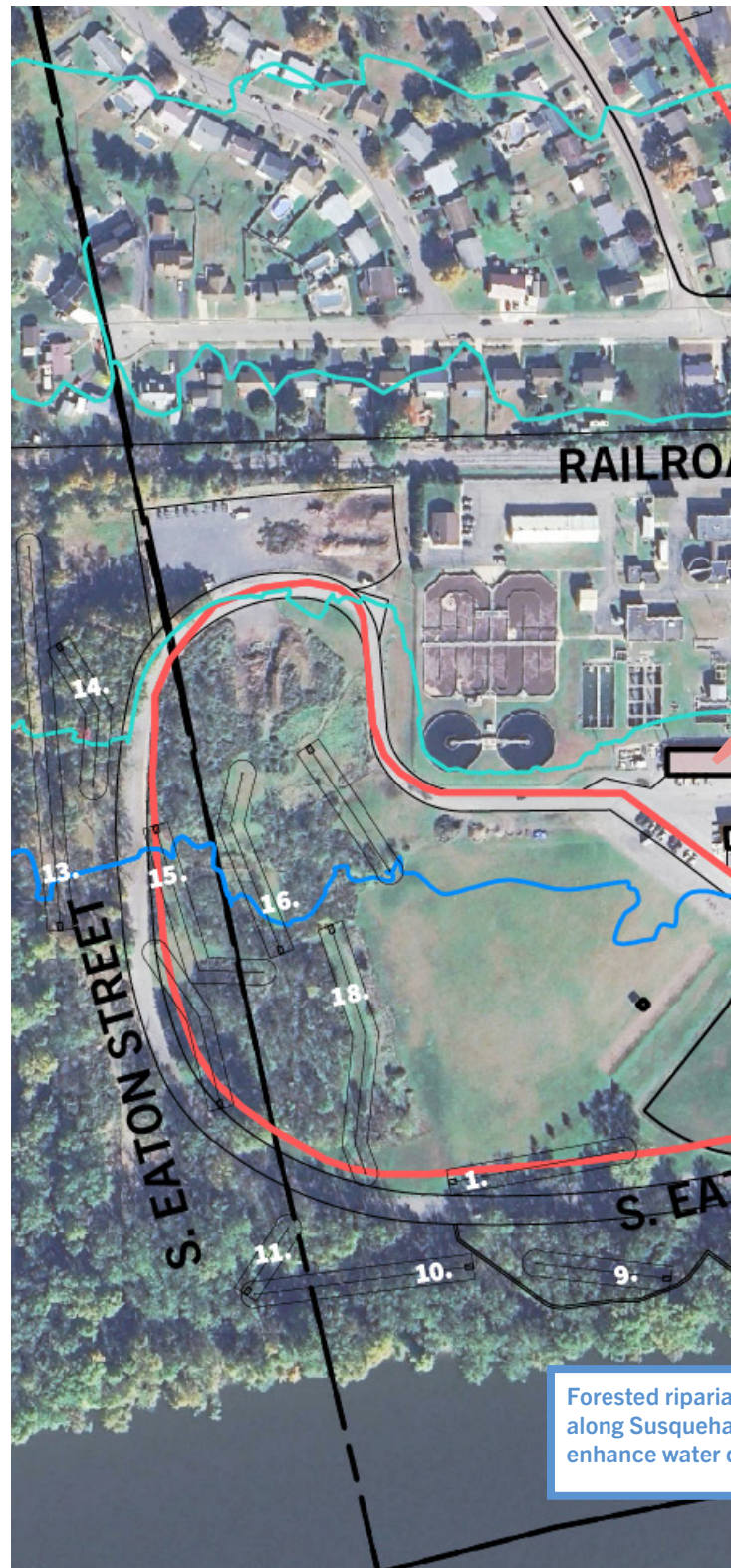
The majority of open spaces in the park are inaccessible because of lack of paved pathways. The municipal buildings, recycling center and waste water treatment plant are currently very visible from many areas of the park, some visual separation could be beneficial for visitors' experience.

EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

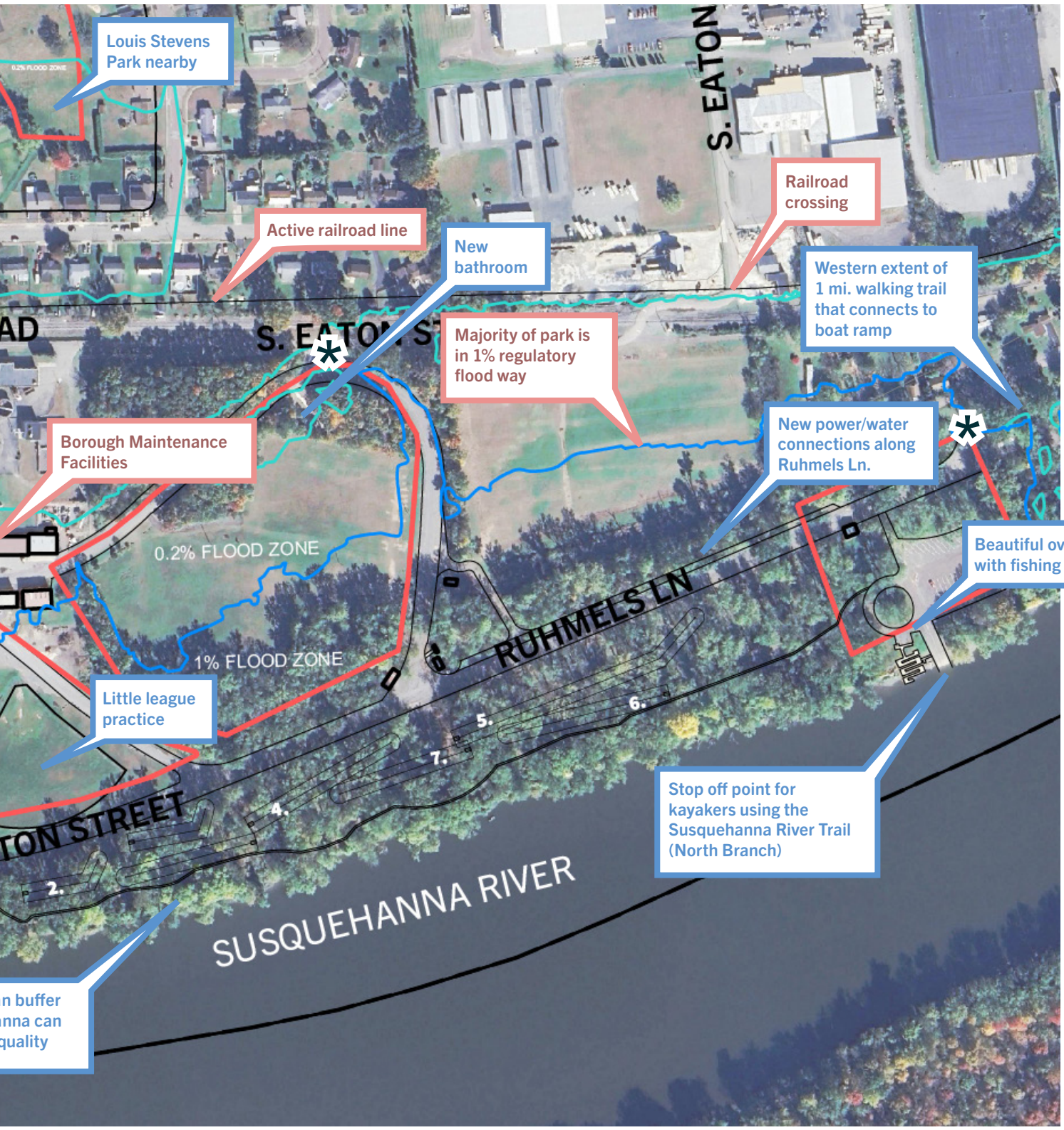
- 1 walking trail
- 1 set of public restrooms
- Boat ramp
- Benches / seating
- Picnic tables
- 1 disc golf course
- 1 shade structure
- Lighting
- Flexible lawn
- Trash receptacles
- Wi-fi
- 1 softball field
- 2 multipurpose fields
- Public art - mural
- 1 stage

EXISTING USE & PROGRAMMING

- Riverfest
- WWII Weekend
- Berwick Area Little League Baseball practice



60 acres
Located at 50 S. Eaton St.



* Threshold

Challenge/Need

Asset/Opportunity



TEST TRACK PARK: PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The addition of a guide rope along the river trail and raised lettering on signage is proposed to ensure that visitors who are visually impaired can also experience the riverfront. Signage and art along the trail could further enhance the experience for visitors. The recommendations include the addition of two loop trails that form a network across the site's vast fields, woods and proposed new pollinator meadow spaces. Along these trails, visitors would find spaces for inclusive play, gathering, and sports. A buffer of trees would help to block views of the various municipal facilities on site and help visitors feel surrounded by nature. Lighting throughout the park would help visitors to feel safer at any time of day.

PROPOSED SITE ELEMENTS

- Walking and biking trails
- 1 play area
- ADA kayak/canoe launch & river signage
- Additional benches / seating
- Picnic tables
- 1 shade structure
- Lighting
- Flexible lawn
- Trash receptacles
- Wi-fi
- Public art - mural, sculpture and historic signage and elements
- River overlook

PROPOSED PROGRAMMING

- Riverfest
- Tractor Pull
- WWII Weekend
- Berwick Area Little League Baseball practice
- More seasonal events with food trucks etc.
- Berwick Senior Center Picnic





Iniator Meadow Shrubs / Perennial Plantings



7. PHASING & IMPLEMENTATION

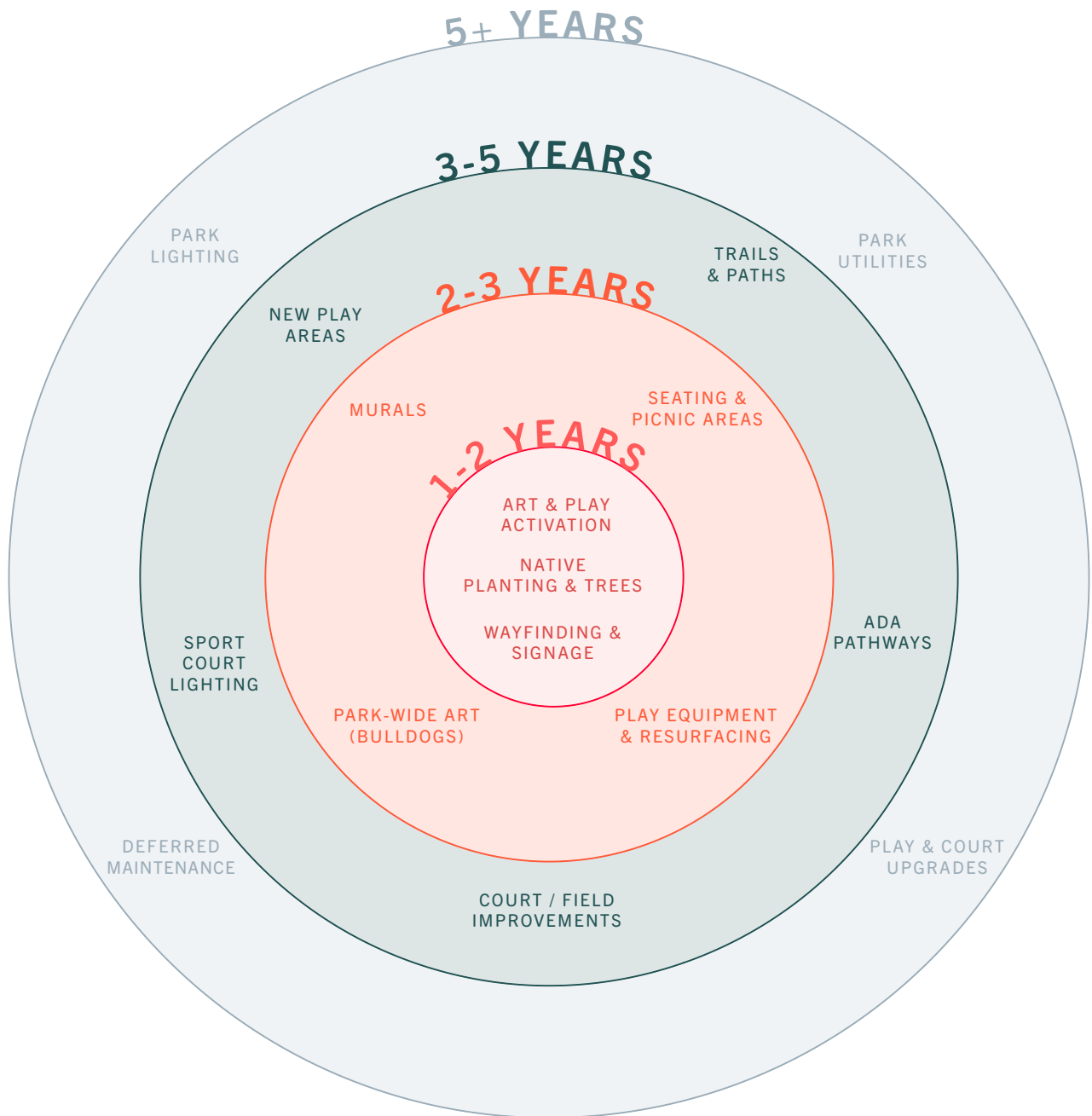


RENTABLE PICNIC PAVILIONS AT BER-VAUGHN PARK

HOW WILL THE BERWICK PARKS MASTER PLAN BE IMPLEMENTED?

The vision for connected and improved parks in Berwick will be a multi-phase initiative led by Berwick Borough, but involves many different project partners. Phasing of project recommendations will be based upon the Borough’s ability to secure funding to make these park improvements a reality.

The priority for project phasing should enhance access and walkability to parks, particularly for those with disabilities. Initiatives should also activate space and engage with the arts to bring further excitement and interaction to these public spaces.



PHASING

The diagram on the previous page represents a potential timeline for phasing improvements. However, the framework for phasing should be thought of as a flexible series of initiatives that can be implemented when funding becomes available.

1-2 YEARS: ACTIVATION

Building upon enthusiasm for development of the Columbia County Creative Placemaking Initiative, immediate activation and programming within parks can help the community realize transformation is possible. Parks could be temporarily activated with art and play; native trees and plants can infuse existing spaces; and the Borough can start to work toward uniform signage across all the parks. Activation and programming should also integrate with goals of the new The Arts & Culture Alliance.

2-3 YEARS: PARK NETWORKS

As the Borough applies for more grants and builds capacity, they can begin working toward development of the parks network, providing uniform park amenities and site elements that link parks to one another as a system. Replacement of unsafe or non-ADA accessible play spaces can also start to take place in this early stage.

3-5 YEARS: RECREATION AND ACCESS

As the Borough gains funds, redesigning play areas can create places for families and elevate the level of services within parks. This stage can also begin to implement ADA-accessible trails and paths and improvements. If grant funding allows, enhancement of sport courts and improved sports lighting can better serve the active recreational needs of the community.

5+ YEARS: INFRASTRUCTURE

Five years and onward, Berwick Borough should continue the momentum from short-term activation and improvements and also work toward more fundamental, expensive infrastructure upgrades. This includes general park lighting; power/water utilities that offer opportunities for more programming; and deferred maintenance for significant items such as bathroom or pavilion upgrades.

IMPLEMENTATION

CREATE A PARKS PROGRAMMING POSITION

It is a recommendation of this plan that in order to carry out the improvements laid out, Berwick Borough should consider creating an additional staff position that is specific to Parks & Recreation – focusing on the programming and activation of parks and the downtown arts district.

This position would be tasked with working with the community and implementing the short-term activation of parks. They could also liaise with the newly formed Arts & Culture Alliance to develop programming and events within parks and public space.

In the longer-term, Berwick should consider the potential to start a Parks & Recreation Department that is specifically in charge of parks programming, improvements, and events. The Department could also take on responsibility for applying for grant-funded improvement projects.

AMERICORPS

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism; it provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country, address the nation's most pressing challenges, and improve lives and communities.

Berwick should consider partnering with AmeriCorps as a way of building staffing capacity for parks and recreation programming implementation. The AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) program offers young people ages 18-26 service experience working with sponsor organizations to help meet community needs in the areas of energy conservation, infrastructure improvement, natural disaster services and urban and rural development.

An AmeriCorps service member could support parks and recreation programming in Berwick, implementing in-park programming such as classes, sports, pop-up events etc. An AmeriCorps service member could also help build staff capacity to pursue grant funding opportunities. Participation in the NCCC program could be useful to enhance Berwick's capacity, but would also require more experienced supervision within the Borough to achieve the goals of this plan.

While there are currently no AmeriCorps projects in Columbia County, Snyder Union Community Action (SUCA) administers AmeriCorps for several other Pennsylvania counties and has indicated that it would be interested in accepting a project site application from entities in Columbia County, such as Berwick, even though they are not currently serving this area. A partnership with Union-Snyder Community Action Agency could help to provide Berwick with the benefits of the AmeriCorps without the Borough itself having to administer the overall program.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

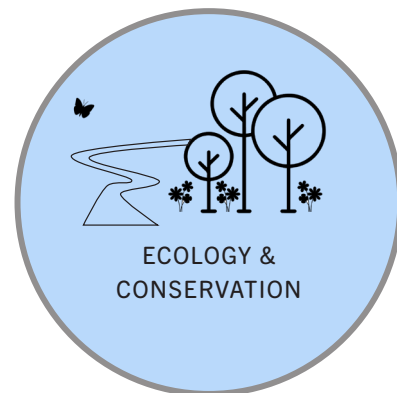
GRANTS

This master plan was developed with future funding considerations in mind, presenting graphics and text intended to support potential applications for grants and other funding opportunities. This section outlines potential grant funds for which the Borough of Berwick may be eligible to apply, outlined across four categories of opportunity pertinent to the recommendations described by the master plan:

- Park Infrastructure & Recreation Facilities
- Connectivity & Access
- Ecology & Conservation
- Activation & The Arts

These grants could be pursued according to the short-, mid-, or long-term phasing needs of the plan. Grants should be considered in concert with other available funds and partnerships to fully leverage economic impact.

Note that the opportunities described herein are available at the time of this master plan's development, however funding availability, program focuses, application deadlines, and eligibility requirements may shift from cycle to cycle. Visit program websites or contact grant administrators directly to learn more about current opportunities and requirements.





**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY (AAD)
SHADE STRUCTURE GRANTS**

<https://www.aad.org/public/public-health/shade-structure-grants>
AAD awards grants of up to \$8,000 to parks, schools, daycares, and non-profits for installing permanent shade structures for outdoor locations that are not protected from the sun, such as playgrounds, pools, or recreation spaces such as ball field dugouts, eating areas, etc. In addition to the grant, AAD also provides permanent signage for display near the shade structure. The Borough might consider partnering with or encouraging a community partner to apply for this grant. Applications typically due in December.

FRUIT TREE PLANTING FOUNDATION

<https://www.ftpf.org/>
FTPF donates fruit orchards where the harvest will serve communities for generations, at places such as community gardens, public schools, city/state parks, and low-income neighborhoods. Orchard donations are available for recipients who pledge to care for their trees and utilize them for a charitable purpose. FTPF provides high-quality fruit trees and shrubs, equipment, on-site orchard design expertise and oversight, horticultural workshops, and aftercare training and manuals. The minimum number of trees varies from program to program, however, a ballpark minimum is around 15-20 trees. Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND

<https://www.baseballydf.com/apply>
The MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation makes grants to increase participation in and expand access to youth baseball and softball. The Foundation considers requests for funding for capital projects (field lighting, renovations, and construction), baseball/softball programs (players and infrastructure equipment, uniforms, coaches training, background check fees, umpire fees, player registration fees, facility rental fees and field maintenance), and education initiatives and public schools. The Borough might consider partnering with or encouraging a community partner to apply for this program. Average grant award is approximately \$39,000. Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS MULTIFUNCTIONAL RIPARIAN BUFFER SUB-GRANT PROGRAM

https://pacd.org/?page_id=23886
This program invites conservation districts to apply in conjunction with landowners for funding to install riparian forest buffers. Multifunctional buffers are encouraged but conventional buffers are accepted as well. Multifunctional buffers may include those that provide opportunities for harvesting products such as nuts, berries, woody florals, forbs, and potentially woody biomass. Inputs such as fertilizer or manure would not be permitted, and harvesting would not be permitted in the first 15 feet of the buffer from the edge of the streambank. Written planting and maintenance plans are required prior to utilization of grant funds. The Borough would need to work, as the landowner, in conjunction with the Columbia County Conservation District to apply for funding. Funding up to \$75,000 is available with 50:50 match required. Penn State’s Master Watershed Steward Program and Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s Keystone 10 Million Trees Program will provide volunteer hours and trees for conservation district projects. Match may also be provided from the conservation district. Applications typically due in June.

PENNSYLVANIA DCNR LAND CONSERVATION AND ACQUISITION GRANTS

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/RiversConservationandCommunityWatershedForestryGrants/Pages/default.aspx>

This grant provides support to projects that involve the purchase and/or donation of land for Critical habitat and open space, community recreation areas, trail corridors and greenways and purchase of conservation easements. Project types can include those that will provide public access to local community park and recreation areas and/or that protect open space and critical habitat for important species and ecosystems. There is no maximum funding limit. Contact a Regional Advisor prior to application for guidance on developing a reasonable request. Applications typically due in April.

PENNSYLVANIA DCNR PARK REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/RiversConservationandCommunityWatershedForestryGrants/Pages/default.aspx>

These grants support projects that involve the rehabilitation and development of public parks, recreation facilities, greenways and river conservation projects. These include new development, rehabilitation of existing parks, and recreation facilities. There is no maximum funding limit for Park Rehabilitation and Development or Rivers Community Development grants. Funding and application dates vary by opportunity.

PETSAFE: UNLEASHED DOG PARK COMPETITION

<https://petsafeunleashed.petsafe.com/>

PetSafe offers grant funding for communities across the country to build or enhance off-leash dog parks. Awards are given to 26 communities each year: one award valued at \$50,000 for a brand new “dream” dog park, and 25 awards valued at \$15,000 for enhancements of existing dog parks. All entries must include documentation of support from either a 501c3 or local municipality for the proposed dog park project. Applications typically due in October.

SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY MINI-GRANT: WAYFINDING AND SIGNAGE

<https://susquehannagreenway.org/apply-to-the-mini-grant-program/>

Susquehanna Greenway provides grants of up to \$10,000 (with a 1:1 cash or in-kind match) to support wayfinding and signage along the Susquehanna Greenway and its network of trails, parks, or water trail access, interpretive panels, or other signage that supports informed exploration of the outdoors. Signage to be located at a water trail access must utilize the Susquehanna River Water Trail Wayfinding and Branding. Applications due in March.



AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANTS

<https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/>

The AARP Community Challenge provides small grants to fund quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages. In 2024, the AARP Community Challenge grant programs included: Flagship Grants ranging \$500 to \$50,000, including support for projects that create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities; and Capacity-Building Microgrants of \$2,500 and additional resources in support of “walk audits” to assess and enhance the safety and walkability of a street or neighborhood. Applications typically due in March.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (ATIIP)

<https://www.railstotrails.org/policy/funding/atiip/>

ATIIP grants will allow communities to identify, prioritize, and implement improvements to the largest barriers to safe, accessible, and equitable pedestrian and bicycle network connectivity through the development of infrastructure that will provide substantial additional opportunities for walking and bicycling. Eligible organizations will be able to create plans or implement active transportation networks that connect destinations within or between communities or create plans or implement an active transportation spine connecting two or more communities, metropolitan regions, or States. The Borough might consider this grant in the context of opportunities for connections to Bloomsburg. The following project types can be funded: active transportation projects with a total cost of over \$15 million, or total cost of \$100,000 for planning and design grants. A 20% match is required. Applications due in July.

AMERICAN TRAILS CAPACITY PROGRAM

<https://www.americantrails.org/resources/apply-for-the-trails-capacity-program>

This program administered by American Trails funds trail maintenance, research, and stewardship training. This program targets available funding toward supporting small local trail projects that engage the community and connect trail assets to a broader spectrum of users. Awards average \$5,000-\$10,000. The program is open to projects on public or private land on motorized or non-motorized trails/projects that are open to the public anywhere in the United States. Applications typically due in January.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION: BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/

Funding from the FHA's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program supports safe, comfortable, and convenient walking and bicycling for people of all ages and abilities. Support is available through dozens of funding opportunities, each with different eligibility and project

requirements. See the FHA's website for a full matrix of supported opportunities.

PENNSYLVANIA DCNR NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL GRANT

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/TrailGrants/Pages/default.aspx>

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources provides grants to support trail projects including the acquisition, planning, development, rehabilitation, or maintenance of designated routes on land or water for non-motorized recreation activities. There is no maximum funding limit. Contact Regional Advisor prior to application for guidance on developing a reasonable request. Applications typically due in April.

PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL STATEWIDE WATERWAY ACCESS GRANT (SWAG)

<https://pecpa.org/grants-awards/>

This program provides grants for design and engineering, construction, or upgrade and rehabilitation of non-motorized public access projects within the Commonwealth. Priority will be given to projects that improve recreational access on rivers and streams as well as those that support and advance POWR's mission, specifically the facilitation, stewardship, and enjoyment of Pennsylvania's waterways. Funding maximum is \$30,000 and must include a 1:1 match (cash or in-kind). Applications typically due in June.

PEOPLE FOR BIKES GRANTS

<http://peopleforbikes.org/grant-guidelines/>

This grant program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride. PeopleForBikes focuses most grant funds on bicycle infrastructure projects such as: bike paths, lanes, trails, and bridges, mountain bike facilities, bike parks and pump tracks, BMX facilities, end-of-trip facilities such as bike racks, bike parking, bike repair stations, and bike storage. PFB also funds some advocacy projects, such as programs that transform

city streets (eg. Open Streets Days) and campaigns to increase the investment in bicycle infrastructure. Funding ranges \$5,000 to \$10,000. Applications typically due in October.

RAILS TO TRAILS CONSERVANCY GRANT PROGRAM

<https://www.railstotrails.org/our-work/grants/eligibility/>

The Rails to Trails Conservancy awards grants to organizations and local agencies that are working to develop and connect equitable trail networks. Grant amounts range between \$5,000 and \$25,000. Projects must serve or plan to serve multiple user types (e.g., bicycling, walking/hiking, or horseback riding) and be considered a rail-trail, greenway, multi-use trail or shared-use path. Applications typically due in July.

RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS (RCN) PROGRAM

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/rcnprogram>

Under the US DOT, the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program prioritizes disadvantaged communities; aims to improve access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, and recreation; fosters equitable development and restoration; and reconnects communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic development. The program includes support for projects designed to build or improve complete streets, multiuse trails, regional greenways or active transportation networks and spines. Funding varies by opportunity. Applications typically due in September.

SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A)

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>

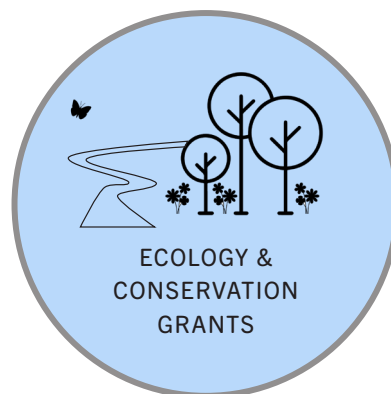
SS4A is a program of the U.S. Department of Transportation that offers funds for both planning and implementation available to support the creation of safe routes to school and public transit services through multiple activities that lead to people safely walking, biking, and rolling in underserved communities, the installation of pedestrian safety enhancements, and the closing of network gaps with sidewalks. Such route enhancements could include

more equitable access to nature such as safe routes to parks, connectors between green spaces, etc. Funding and due dates vary by program.

WECONSERVEPA REGIONAL TRAIL GRANTS

<https://weconservepa.org/trails/regional-trail-grants>

Funded through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and administered by WeConservePA, Regional Trail Workshop Grants are awarded to units of local government or nonprofit organizations. These grants support high-quality educational programming and safety training directly related to land trails, water trails, and greenways. Reimbursement grants cover up to 80% of costs directly associated with trail workshops (not to exceed \$5,000) and require at least a 20% match. Applications typically due in January.



FIVE STAR AND URBAN WATERS RESTORATION PROGRAM

<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program>

This National Fish and Wildlife Foundation program develops community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds, and the species and habitats they support. Funding priorities include on-the-ground wetland, riparian, in-stream and/or coastal habitat restoration; meaningful education and training activities, through community

outreach etc; measurable ecological, educational and community benefits; and engagement with a diverse group of community partners to achieve ecological and educational outcomes. Funding ranges \$25,000-\$50,000. Applications typically due in January.

GROWING GREENER PLUS GRANTS PROGRAM

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/GrantsLoansRebates/Growing-Greener/Pages/default.aspx>

This program by the Department of Environmental Protection supports projects that address several priority areas including Watershed Restoration Design & Construction projects; Stormwater Management Planning; Planning; and Watershed Protection. Successfully supported projects have included those that implement stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP), stream restoration, bank stabilization to reduce runoff volumes, increased infiltration, improved water quality, and assistance in future flood prevention and climate resiliency. Among other focuses, the program also supports the restoration of floodplains to mitigate the risk of flood damage in the watershed. \$500,000 is the maximum request amount. Applications typically due in June.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/stateside.htm>

The State Side of the LWCF provides matching grants to local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Seventy-five percent of the total funds obligated have gone to locally sponsored projects to provide close-to-home recreation opportunities that are readily accessible to youth, adults, senior citizens and the physically or mentally challenged. All projects eligible to be funded through LWCF's State Side program must reflect the policies and priorities of the state's most current Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The first step is to contact the cooperating state office, which in Pennsylvania is the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Funding varies by opportunity and requires 100% funding match.

PENNSYLVANIA DCNR COMMUNITY AND WATERSHED FORESTRY GRANTS

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/RiversConservationandCommunityWatershedForestryGrants/Pages/default.aspx>

This program aims to improve local water quality and wildlife habitat, and increase community resiliency through the installation of sustainable forest practices. Grants provide financial assistance to identify locations in need of riparian forest buffers, lawn conversion, and community tree planting and to design, implement, and establish those practices. It supports projects that produce conventional buffers and multifunctional buffers – a buffer type that provides an opportunity to harvest products such as nuts, berries, woody florals, forbs, and potentially woody biomass in addition to the conventional buffer of riparian tree and shrub species. Minimum grant award is \$50,000 and requires 20% match. Applications typically due in April.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: GREENWAYS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION PROGRAM

<https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/NFWF-Five-Star-20220823-FS.pdf>

This DCED program supports projects that involve development, rehabilitation and improvements to public parks, recreation areas, greenways, trails, and river conservation. Property may be acquired for active and/or passive recreation use to create new park and recreation areas and/or expand existing recreational sites. Greenways and trails projects can involve the renovation and development of linear public facilities, such as bicycle, walking, equestrian, snowmobile, and nature trails; passive recreation areas; riparian forest buffers; wetland boardwalks; observation decks. Rivers conservation projects can enhance rivers, streams, and watersheds for recreational purposes. Funding is available up to \$250,000 with 15% cash match of total project required. Applications typically due in January.

PENNSYLVANIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY PUBLIC GARDEN GRANTS

<https://www.panativeplantsociety.org/grants.html>

The PA Native Plant Society makes small grants to individuals or groups to install native plants. A successful application will include a general description of the project with Pennsylvania native plant species to be planted, a budget, and any relevant permits or landowner permission. Applicants will be reimbursed after providing purchase receipts to PNPS. Funding up to \$500. Applications typically due in March.

QUADRATEC ENERGIZE THE ENVIRONMENT GRANT

<https://www.quadratec.com/page/quadratec-cares-grant-program>

Quadratec makes small grants of \$3,500 to support programs or initiatives designed to benefit the environment. Some examples include: trail building or restoration projects; park beautification events; litter prevention; sustainable land management activities; community environmental educational projects; and youth educational engagement events. Applications typically due in June and October.

USDA URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM GRANTS

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf>

This program under the Inflation Reduction Act provides support for urban tree-planting, urban forest planning and management, and related activities, particularly in disadvantaged communities. It is unclear if funding for this program will be renewed. Funding is available up to \$500,000 for projects that address the National Ten Year Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan. Applications typically due in August.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS: OUR TOWN GRANT PROGRAM

<https://www.arts.gov/grants/our-town>

The NEA's "Our Town" creative placemaking grants program supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes. Successful projects lay the groundwork for changes that sustain the integration of arts, culture, and design into local strategies for strengthening communities. The current year program is particularly interested in arts, culture, or design projects that address health or well-being, transportation or infrastructure, or climate-related challenges within a community. Funding ranges from \$25,000 to \$150,000, with a minimum cost share/non-federal match equal to the grant amount. All applications must demonstrate a partnership that will provide leadership for the project. These partnerships must involve two primary partners: a nonprofit organization and a local government entity. Applications typically due in August.

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF THE ARTS CREATIVE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

<https://www.arts.pa.gov/Pages/Creative-Communities.aspx>

The NEA's "Our Town" creative placemaking grants program supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes. Successful projects lay the groundwork for changes that sustain the integration of arts, culture, and design into local strategies

for strengthening communities. The current year program is particularly interested in arts, culture, or design projects that address health or well-being, transportation or infrastructure, or climate-related challenges within a community. Funding ranges from \$25,000 to \$150,000, with a minimum cost share/non-federal match equal to the grant amount. All applications must demonstrate a partnership that will provide leadership for the project. These partnerships must involve two primary partners: a nonprofit organization and a local government entity. Applications typically due in August.

REGIONAL FOUNDATION NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GRANTS

<https://www.regionalfoundation.org/>

The Regional Foundation's Neighborhood Planning Grants support the creation of neighborhood plans that address root causes of inequality and address any number of community development priorities including but not limited to affordable housing, workforce development, human services, commercial corridor initiatives, environmental justice, transportation, and education. Requests may be made between \$50,000 and \$125,000 for a period of 12-18 months. The next funding cycle has not yet been announced.

SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY MINI-GRANT: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

<https://susquehannagreenway.org/apply-to-the-mini-grant-program/>

Susquehanna Greenway provides grants of up to \$10,000 (with a 1:1 cash or in-kind match) to support educational programs that build connections along the Susquehanna River or inspire people to engage with the outdoors, such as sojourns, environmental events, bike rides, cleanups, etc. Applications due in March.

TMOBILE HOMETOWN GRANTS

<https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants>

The T-Mobile Hometown Grants program offers grants of up to \$50,000 to fund projects to build, rebuild, or refresh community spaces that help foster local connections in towns. Projects should be shovel-ready, physical builds or improvements that can be

completed within 12 months of receiving Hometown Grants funding. Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to: adaptive uses of older and historic buildings into community gathering spaces, improvements to outdoor parks or trails, and technology projects for the public library. Funds may not be used for: engineering and architectural plans or fees, salaries or annual operating expenses, or reimbursement for projects that are already completed. Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

TRUE VALUE PAINTING A BRIGHTER FUTURE GRANT

<https://truevaluecompany.com/painting-a-brighter-future-grant>

True Value Foundation provides 20-gallon paint grants through the Painting a Brighter Future program for deserving schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, or other youth-development focused programs that have a need for paint. Retailers submit the application on the grantees behalf. The Borough might support or partner with a community partner applying for this grant. Applications typically due in April.



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