



# BETHEL PARK

2016 Park Assessment: An Evaluation of the Community's  
Parks and Outdoor Recreational Amenities

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK

JANUARY 2017

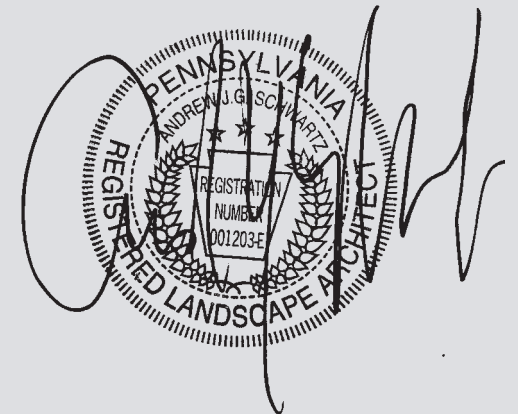
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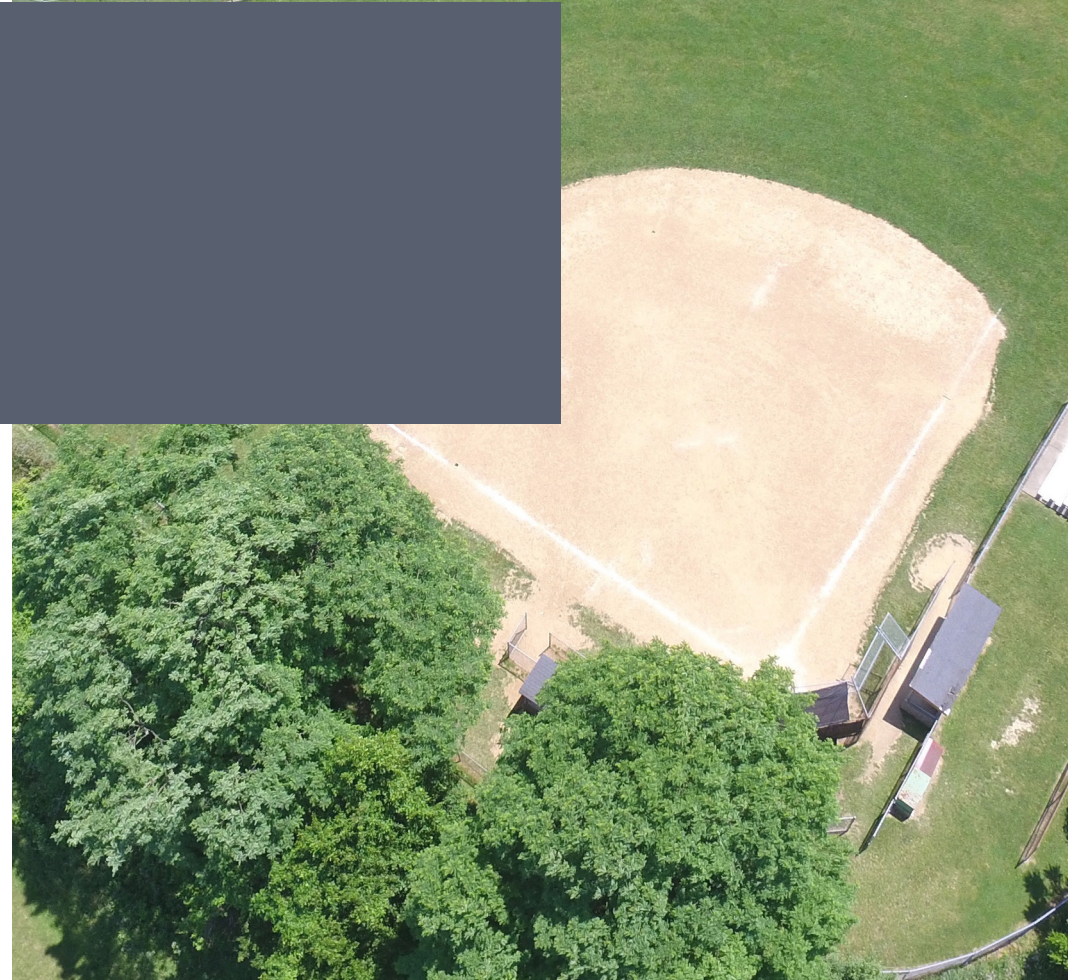
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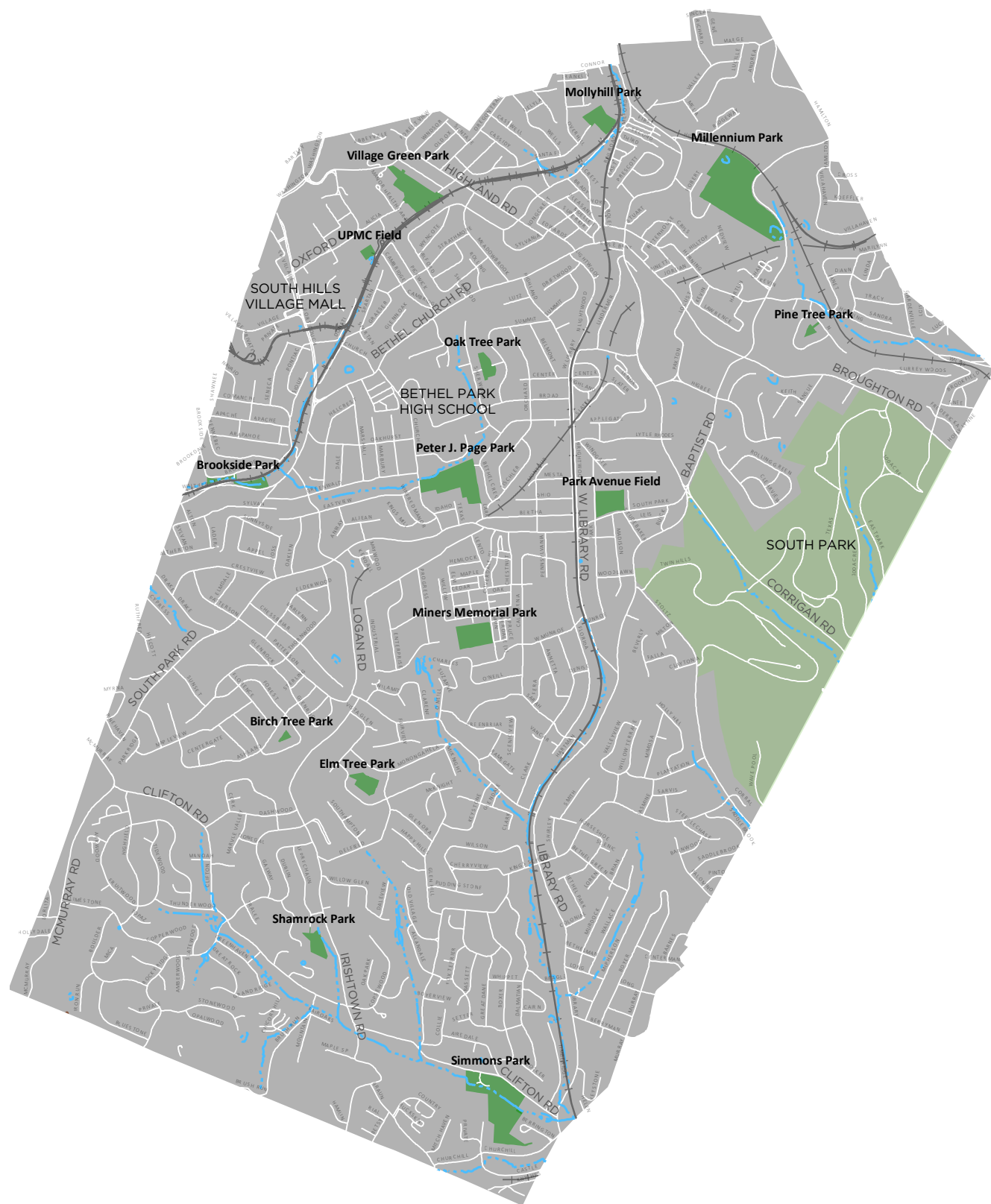




# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY









The Municipality of Bethel Park is a community located on the southern border of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania and is part of the Pittsburgh Metro Area, approximately 7 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. With a population of approximately 33,000, Bethel Park consists of extensive well-established single family residential neighborhoods that were primarily developed between 1950 and 1990. In addition, there are several retail/commercial areas and fourteen (14) public parks (134 acres) that are owned and operated by Bethel Park. There are five smaller neighborhood parks, six larger athletic/community parks and three natural areas. All of the above facilities are maintained by the Bethel Park's Public Works Department.

### **Project Background**

Bethel Park embarked on an ambitious and necessary project to gain insight on how the Municipality's parks are performing. Bethel Park conducted an assessment of the parks' athletic fields, playground equipment, site amenities such as benches and tables, overall visibility, and accessibility. As a part of the assessment, numerous strategies have been considered as to how to further enhance policies, facilities and facility usage. Many ideas have been discussed among the project's Study Committee, community residents through a public survey, recreation organization representatives, the Municipality's Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Department, the Public Works Department as well as community officials. The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate the condition of the man-made components and natural areas of each of Bethel Park's fourteen (14) parks and identify repairs/upgrades that are needed, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) deficiencies, and green practices and sustainability deficiencies. This document seeks to outline recommendations and action plans which are practical and achievable within the next ten (10) years.

Bethel Park encompasses the same hilly and wooded geography as its bordering regions: South Park, Baldwin, Whitehall, Castle Shannon, Mount Lebanon, and Upper St. Clair. Like the majority of Allegheny County, these municipalities share a devotion to providing recreational spaces and parks to their residents. This geography makes their recreational spaces and parks especially unique. While South Park ranks the highest in terms of land allocated to parks at over 3,000 acres, Bethel Park's park system is



comprised of 134 acres of public land. Similar to Bethel Park, Upper St. Clair has 14 designated parks with a mixture of neighborhood parks, athletic/community parks, and natural areas. Of these surrounding regions, Bethel Park and Mount Lebanon are similar in population size while Castle Shannon comes in at the lowest with a population of over 8,000 residents. Bethel Park is also the largest of its surrounding regions extending over 11 mi<sup>2</sup>.

### **Public Outreach**

An important component of any master planning effort is including residents and park visitors to express their concerns and aspirations for the programming of the future of the park system. Conducting an online survey is the most efficient method in gathering wide spread input across the community. Multiple key person interviews were also held. Groups interviewed included sports organization leaders and the senior social group, the Gold Card Club to allow for a more in-depth conversation and gain insight about specifics for each park. Public outreach methods employed also entailed attending multiple public events such as the Memorial Day parade, the farmers' market and youth sporting events at the larger athletic complexes. In an effort to get more public feedback, business-card sized marketing pieces were produced to hand out at those events. Dissemination of these cards allowed for a casual conversation with attendees of each event. Each event presented a varied audience ensuring that a larger segment of the population was represented in the public outreach process.

A healthy schedule of set meeting days and time were solidified as one of the first tasks at hand. Throughout the course of the project, monthly progress meetings were held with the Municipality's Study Committee typically at the Bethel Park Community Center in order to establish a solid line of communication and set important dates. In addition to the normal monthly meeting a site specific meeting was held at Simmons Park to ascertain in depth insight as to what the Committee is expecting for Park design.



### **Activities, Facilities and Maintenance**

Bethel Park provides families with young children a wide variety of athletic opportunities at the Municipalities parks. Bethel Park's Parks and Recreation Director oversees coordinating the sports organizations scheduling of the fields to allow practice and game day calendars, this can and is a daunting task for one individual. There are numerous volunteer groups running the numerous sports with numerous challenges. Maintenance has at times fallen on the shoulders of the volunteer groups and while appreciated, has largely been completed by untrained and inexperienced hands. The adverse ramifications of the novice maintenance procedures have created rutting in the infield, lips at the edges at the infield and other unfavorable conditions.

A number of recommendations within the report focus on these important issues such as: the creation of an agreement between the volunteer groups and the Municipality and; facilitating a workshop to provide the volunteers with the training needed to complete basic maintenance tasks.

### **Design Process**

A thorough site inventory and analysis was completed at the onset of the project. It was vital to see first-hand the conditions of each park and its amenities. An important component associated with visiting each park was gaining an understanding of regional context and the relationship between the parks. Fortunately, staff from Bethel Park lead the site visits and offered insight that would not be heard otherwise, such as providing information about mowing schedules, routine maintenance practices and history. All of the Park assessments can be found within this report.

### **Overarching Brief Park Assessments**

Site context was an important aspect to study due to the wide variety of parks as a part of this study, the range between small pocket parks such as Birch Tree Park to large athletic complexes such as Millennium Park. This served as a way to categorize each of the parks specific and unique elements.

These elements are highlighted below:

Birch Tree Park is located within one of Bethel Park's residential areas.

Being the smallest of Bethel Park's parks, parking is only available along the

street. This park contains a half-basketball court, wooden playground set, and a pavilion with seating.

Brookside Park does not require any maintenance from the Municipality as it is a passive, wooded green space. There is also no designated parking. Elm Tree Park is specifically unique with the large Elm trees and steep slopes found within the park. Like Birch Tree Park, parking is available on-street. Inside the park are a playground structure, half-basketball court, and a single picnic table.

Millennium Park, consisting of 40 acres, is the newest addition to Bethel Park's parks. Three ballfields and sports courts make this park popular for athletic events. Three large paved parking areas provide easy access to the fields.

Miners Memorial Park is split into two sections, Upper Miners and Lower Miners. Upper Miners is primarily used for softball tournaments while Lower Miners contains a playground, slides, swings, and a pavilion. Parking is divided for this park as Upper Miners is accessed through a paved upper lot and Lower Miners is accessed by a gravel parking lot.

Mollyhill Park sits right along the T tracks and has available parking for 2-3 vehicles. The basketball court, wooden playground equipment and swings are complimented by the park's natural beauty. There is also an upper field for a variety of activities.

A larger residential park is Oak Tree Park. This park contains a ball field, basketball court, and playground. Parking tends to be an issue for this park as there are only 2-4 designated parking spots.

Park Avenue Field is located near the Bethel Park Community Center and offers a variety of amenities from a large playground to recreational fields. There is designated parking, however, visitors must go the Community Center for a restroom.

Peter J. Page Park is mainly comprised of walking trails and requires little maintenance. There is enough space for a couple of cars, but designated parking has not been designed for this park.

Pine Tree Park is another small park located in a residential area. Like Birch Tree Park, this park contains a half-basketball court, playground, and pavilion. On-street parking is available but many of the visitors come from the nearby homes.

Shamrock Park is a wooded green space that requires no maintenance from the Municipality. Parking is not designated for this area.

The park with the heaviest foot traffic is Simmons Park. This park holds the widest variety of amenities with tennis courts, basketball courts, a volleyball court, pickle ball courts, ball fields, a playground, and a trailhead. This park has two paved parking areas to accommodate the large crowds.

UPMC Field speaks for itself as it is mainly a baseball field. Because of this, UPMC Field gets the most use during baseball season.

Village Green Park is located near Market District. In addition to the playground, baseball field, and flat field, the park also contains horseshoe pits and a trailhead.

## Highlighted Plan Goals & Recommendations

Determine how existing facilities can be optimized and begin pursuing enhancements, expansions and upgrades so that the overall system can accommodate the community's needs.

### Recommended Priorities for Action:

- Categorize parks into series of typologies (community parks, athletic parks, neighborhood parks, and conservation areas) for guidance on improvement and maintenance of parks.
- Create online scheduling database for use of fields. Moderating this will alleviate over-use of fields and inform Public Works of when maintenance is needed.
- Adopt short term and long term field maintenance goals/standards.
- Create a Risk Management Plan to prevent avoidable risks and hazards, minimize impact of unavoidable risks, and create strategies to prevent incidents from recurring.
- Hire a third-party maintenance consultant to develop maintenance program and provide training.
- Host an annual spring field maintenance training workshop.
- Involve residents in volunteer program to work on beautification projects throughout parks.
- Rehabilitate parks with necessary repairs/updates and ADA deficiencies.





MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY

1-mile radius

2-mile radius



## PREFACE

Bethel Park developed the *2016 Park Assessment: An Evaluation of the Community's Parks and Outdoor Recreational Amenities* as a means to lead the community's elected officials, administration, advisory boards and committees, recreation partners and residents for the next ten years. The Municipality worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) to develop a customized work scope that focused on the physical, financial, management and maintenance aspects of the community's fourteen (14) parks. Subsequently, this Park Assessment was brought to fruition through professional analyses completed by park planners and landscape architects, high level discussions gleaned from a variety of stakeholder meetings, public forums and a community-wide survey. All sections of the Assessment follow the format suggested by the PA DCNR.

The result of the eleven-month long planning process is a Park Assessment that will serve as a roadmap for Recreation and Leisure Department and the Park, Recreation and Leisure Board to follow with intensive implementation efforts for the next seven years as well as a handful of far-reaching long-term actions that could span the next decade. The Park Assessment process takes a comprehensive approach to melding field analyses, anecdotal information, best practices and goal setting to create a structured plan that addresses all the issues facing the Municipality's ever-changing recreational needs.

While this Park Assessment has been mindfully built around achievable goals, it has also attempted to give full representation of the hopes and aspirations expressed by the residents, elected officials and administrative staff through many discussions and community-wide survey. Most importantly, these aspirations have been tuned based on a variety of constraints or realities such as availability of funds, personnel resources and the land's capacity to support development.

## FOREWORD

The importance of parks, trails and recreational assets relative to a community's long-term quality of life or sustainability is significant. A community's park and recreational assets are frequently viewed as high-cost outlays within its annual budget because they have operational expenditures that typically exceed revenues. Additionally, parks and trails are rarely thought of as civic infrastructure – rather they are viewed as niceties or luxuries. Consequently, when elected officials are tasked with difficult budgetary decisions, they are often driven to address the 'most immediate needs' or the maintenance and/or improvement of general infrastructure. This narrow perspective, however, is short-sighted because it fails to recognize the intrinsic and difficult task it is to quantify the value that parks and recreation bring to a community outside of its general fund.

Following is a short synopsis of the benefits of parks, trails and recreational assets. Each of these factors have been considered as part of Bethel Park's 2016 Park Assessment. Their significance and potential impact on the community sincerely influenced the Study Committee's decision-making as related to future investments and priorities.

**The availability and quality of parks, trails and recreation are one of the top reasons people settle on a community for residency.**

The desire to live in a particular place is most often driven by closeness to family and quality of the local schools. Secondary attractants for residency are proximity to employment opportunities and available civic attractions such as parks, trails and major recreation facilities operated by park and recreation departments. Real estate agents commonly note the distance between a property for sale and the local park. Today, real estate-oriented websites such as 'Zillow' or 'Apartments' provide 'filters' or search criteria for persons looking for a new home located near a park or trail.

**Parks, trails and recreational amenities are essential to retaining current residents and competing with other communities for new residents.**

Parks, trails and recreational amenities can measurably improve a community's quality of life by providing: opportunities for social connection;

safe places for commuting and exercise; and most importantly - community identity. These benefits really serve residents, rather than visitors. While a community's parks, trails and recreational amenities typically do not attract visitors who spend money at local businesses, they expose visitors to community's other superlatives - its schools, its neighborhoods, its housing stock, its places of worship, etc... A community's full complement of amenities is what many urban economists, real estate professionals, etc... consider its competitive edge. Based on current demographic trends, it appears that Bethel Park is a community in transition. As a product of the community's 20-year aging trend, many single family homes are occupied today by 'empty nesters' or 'near retirement-aged' persons. In the near future, some of these homes will once again be attractive starter homes for young families. Bethel Park will be competing with its neighbors for those young families. And these potential new residents will look at the Municipality's competitive edge when making their residency decisions.

### **Parks and trails have a significant impact on the value of nearby residential real estate.**

Since the latter part of the nineteenth century, park designers such as Frederick Law Olmsted have contended that there is a 'proximate' effect or principle related to parks and residential neighborhoods. Communities have long used economic improvement as a justification for park development including that of New York's Central Park in the late 19th century. Recent studies show that the proximate principle does in fact exist and has a measurable effect on property values and the economic stability of a neighborhood. In Portland (Bolitzer & Netusil, 2000), 193 public parks ranging in size from less than an acre to over 500 acres were commonly found to have a significant positive impact on the value of properties within a straightline distance of 1,500 feet. In a separate study, homes facing one of 14 Dallas parks, were found to be worth 22 percent more than homes more than one half mile from such an amenity. This study further suggested that approximately 85 percent of an urban park's positive property value impact occurs within 800 feet of its edge. In general, studies have projected that the close proximity of a house to a park represents between one and ten percent of the value of such properties.



**Community-based parks, trails and recreation improvements are important assets in supporting and promoting wellness and physical health.**

Parks and trails improve public health by increasing physical activity and providing safer transportation routes for pedestrians and cyclists. They provide a safe and affordable environment where less affluent residents have the opportunity to exercise. In light of increasing chronic disease and obesity, the United States Surgeon General identified physical activity as one of the most effective actions people can take to improve their physical well-being. Parks and trails often encourage inactive people to become active and can increase the activity levels of already-active residents. Moreover, research found that the benefits of reduced health care costs associated with increased physical activity within parks and on trails far outweigh the costs of constructing the assets.

**Park and Recreation Goals**

In response to the above factors/influences and the input garnered through the community recreation survey as well as the field observations, a series of goals were formulated to serve as the philosophical foundation of the 2016 Park Assessment's recommendations. The following goals outline the general aspires of the community as related to its parks and outdoor recreational facilities.

- Focus on safety and security first; enhance functionality and facility diversity second;
- Provide clean and well-maintained park facilities and recreational amenities;
- Develop both active and passive-oriented amenities that meet the current and future resident needs;
- Improve universal accessibility within each of the park and recreation facilities;
- Elevate the importance of annual maintenance needs through budgetary and staffing priorities;
- Adopt maintenance standards that consider park type and function, terrain and neighborhood setting;
- Improve maintenance functions by adopting uniform benchmarks, best practices and training routines;
- Strengthen the effectiveness of the recreation partnerships between the Municipality, the Bethel Park School District and the community's various recreation stakeholders/providers; and
- Use technology to streamline management needs and operational activities.



# PUBLIC OUTREACH





# COMMUNITY-WIDE SURVEY

## OVERVIEW

Residents and visitors of Bethel Park were invited to provide input and insights about their impressions of the Municipality's parks and recreation system. Available online as well as in hard copy-format at the municipal building and at various community events, the community-wide survey was the primary vehicle for identifying the public's ideas about park opportunities and concerns. Information cards were created and distributed at the Bethel Park Farmers Market, the Memorial Day Parade and other heavily-attended community events. Information about the survey was also included in Bethel Park's magazine, *The Chronicles*, which is mailed to every household in the Municipality.

The Municipality received 519 responses to the Community-Wide Survey between March 28 and June 20, 2016.

A smaller, more specific Park Neighbor Survey was mailed to residents who live adjacent to the Municipality's smaller neighborhood parks: Pine Tree, Mollyhill, Elm Tree and Birch Tree parks. This specific survey gathered information on the frequency of use for these smaller parks and received 71 responses.



## SURVEY CARD:



What do you like about the parks?

What do you wish you could add, eliminate or change?

Your feedback will be used to assist in planning for the future of our community and to enhance the quality of life in Bethel Park.

ONLINE SURVEY AVAILABLE AT:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BethelPark-Survey2016>

OR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW WITH YOUR MOBILE PHONE



## RESIDENTS' KEY COMMENTS

- Of all possible recreational activities/amenities—whether present or absent in Bethel Park—respondents expressed most interest in sports associated with the outdoor courts and fields.
- Many people do not feel that they can walk or bike safely to their local parks.
- Parks like Simmons, Miners Memorial, Millennium and Village Green are well known and visited by the community, but several of the other municipal parks are not even known by many residents.
- Field condition is a primary concern, especially during and after inclement weather.
- Many residents are interested in having a pool and/or water feature at a municipal park.



# QUESTION 1

HOW OFTEN DO YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD USE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES?

TABLE 1

PARK	DAILY	WEEKLY	OCCASIONALLY	NEVER VISIT	NEVER HEARD OF IT
BIRCH TREE	7	7	33	138	270
BROOKSIDE	0	1	24	160	263
ELM TREE	1	10	58	166	212
MILLENNIUM	22	135	209	111	11
MINERS	17	75	125	<b>170</b>	72
MOLLYHILL	3	8	31	124	283
OAK TREE	2	50	115	143	142
PARK AVE	7	110	188	82	78
PETER PAGE	1	5	35	134	273
PINE TREE	0	3	26	132	286
SHAMROCK	0	1	13	127	<b>301</b>
SIMMONS	<b>40</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>217</b>	58	24
UPMC	10	83	121	142	106
VILLAGE GREEN	4	93	191	110	68

From the results to the left, the most visited parks (ranking highest for occasional, weekly, and daily use) are Simmons, Millennium, Village Green, Miners and Park Avenue. This may be due to the high number of responses received by residents that attend sporting events or practices at these parks, since they all have multiple sports fields and/or courts.

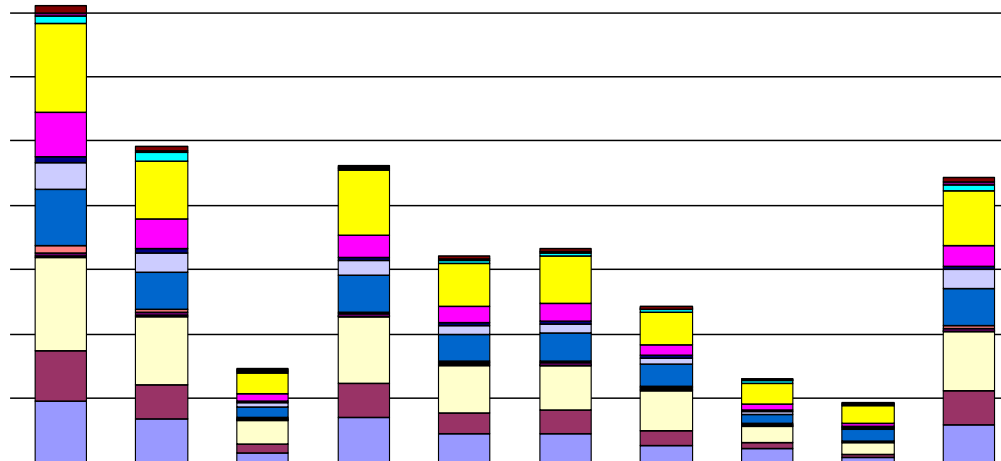
Interestingly, Miners was also highest ranked for “Never Visit.” This could be attributed to its location or to the fact that it caters to softball only. Shamrock, Pine Tree, Peter Page, Birch Tree and Brookside are parks that many of the respondents had never heard of.

# QUESTION 2

CONSIDER YOUR RECENT PARK EXPERIENCE AND OVERALL IMPRESSIONS, PLEASE WRITE (Y) FOR “YES, I AGREE” OR (N) FOR “NO, I DO NOT AGREE.”

TABLE 2

## “YES” RESPONSES



	I was able to easily locate this park	I was able to easily find the amenities within the park	Information about this park was readily accessible inside the park	Parking area was neat and well-maintained	Park grounds were easy to traverse; the amenities were well connected	Park grounds were neat and well-maintained	Park was attractively landscaped	Restrooms were cleaned and well-maintained	I use this park as a part of my exercise or fitness routine	I feel safe within this park
■ Birch Tree Park	21	15	5	5	9	11	9	3	1	17
■ Brookside Park	8	5	2	3	4	4	2	1	0	6
■ Elm Tree Park	27	25	6	6	10	12	8	5	4	18
■ Millennium Park	276	180	63	203	130	146	104	69	56	174
■ Miners Memorial Park	136	91	24	68	52	53	32	18	10	62
■ Mollyhill Park	20	17	5	8	8	9	6	2	3	9
■ Oak Tree Park	84	59	13	48	31	31	20	8	6	59
■ Park Avenue Field	175	115	32	115	80	86	70	30	34	115
■ Peter J. Page Park	19	11	5	5	6	6	4	3	5	9
■ Pine Tree Park	13	9	3	6	4	6	6	4	0	9
■ Shamrock Park	5	3	2	3	4	2	2	1	0	4
■ Simmons Park	286	214	71	204	150	140	125	52	38	184
■ UPMC Field	160	103	29	109	64	72	47	18	8	105

The answer options with the highest number of “yes” responses were: “I was able to easily locate this park,” “I was able to easily find the amenities within the park,” “Parking area was neat and well-maintained” and “I feel safe within this park.”

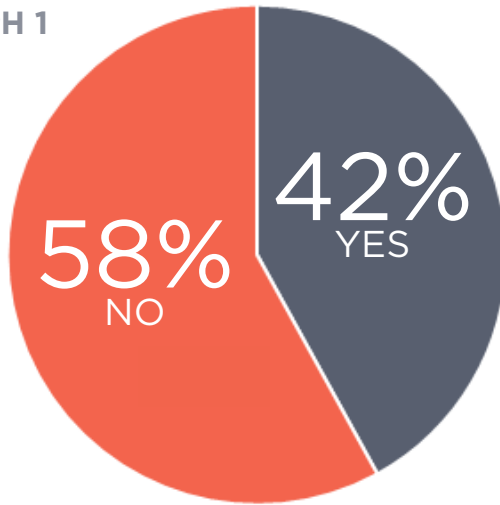
Notably, “Restrooms were clean and well-maintained” received few positive responses. An answer option allowing open-ended feedback indicated that restrooms were a hot topic. Of the 54 open-ended responses, 15 focused on the condition and/or availability of restrooms.

An additional 10 responses focused on specific negative aspects of other infrastructure, such as the condition of play equipment and fields. 10 out of the 54 comments indicated a negative overall view of the park system, with several residents mentioning their use of park facilities in neighboring communities rather than those in Bethel Park.

## QUESTION 3

FROM YOUR HOME, CAN YOU WALK OR BIKE SAFELY TO YOUR LOCAL PARK?

GRAPH 1



GRAPH 2

58%

Over half of the community expressed concerns about safety in walking or biking to their local parks. This makes access difficult for the large percentage of residents who do not drive or have access to a car, including children.

## QUESTION 4

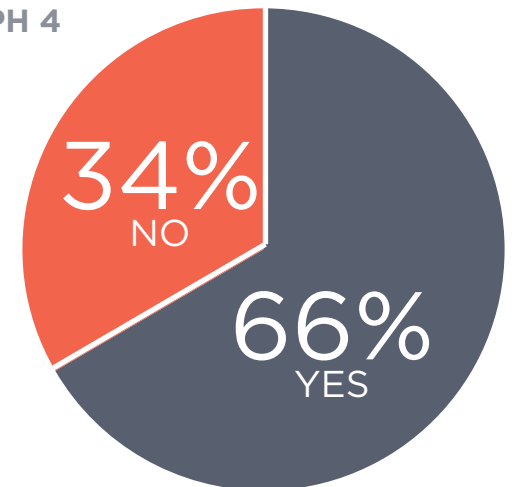
IF YOU CAN'T WALK OR BIKE SAFELY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ABLE TO USE SIDEWALKS OR PATHS SEPARATED FROM THE ROAD?

GRAPH 3

66%

Most visited parks are not located in concentrated neighborhoods, so many residents are likely comfortable or used to driving to destinations for scheduled games and activities. However, a large percentage of residents expressed a desire for alternative ways to access the Municipality's park system.

GRAPH 4



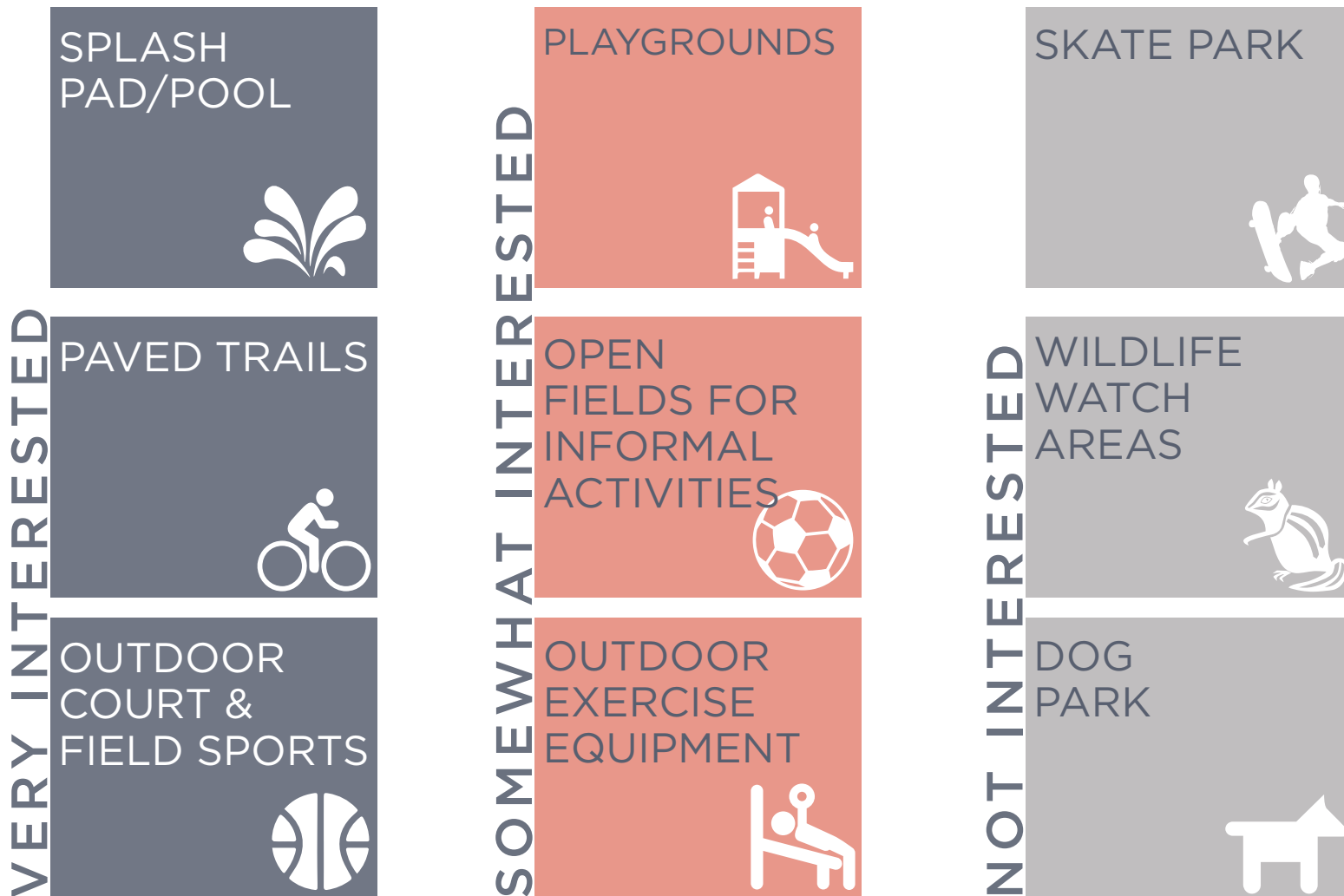


## QUESTION 5

BELOW IS A LIST OF COMMON RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED IN COMMUNITY PARKS. SO THAT WE CAN ATTEMPT TO MEET THE COMMUNITY'S RECREATION NEEDS, PLEASE INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF INTEREST IN EACH ONE.

**THESE WERE THE TOP RESPONSES IN EACH CATEGORY OF INTEREST:**

GRAPH 5




## QUESTION 5 (continued)

The table below lists the various activities and amenities asked about in Question 5, with the number of survey respondents marking in the three interest levels for each activity/amenity. The five activities that respondents most frequently marked in each level of interest are highlighted in green, while those least frequently marked are highlighted in red. Existing activities and amenities, such as outdoor sports and playgrounds, generated the most interest among respondents—as well as, notably, paved trails.

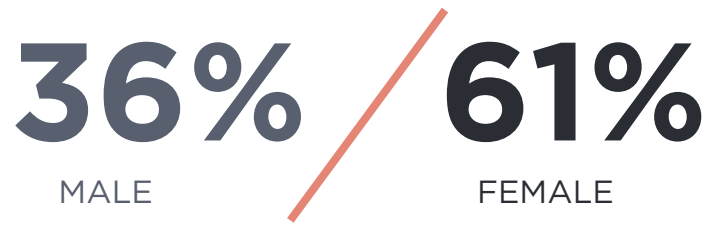
**TABLE 3**

Activities	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not Interested
Birdlife/Wildlife Watching Areas	60	133	260
Dog Park	124	109	230
Skate Park/BMX Track/Pump Track	78	108	268
Open fields for informal activities (Frisbee, pick-up soccer, kite flying, etc.)	232	192	51
Playgrounds for Small Children	240	150	86
Playgrounds for Older Kids	314	125	47
Playgrounds or adapted facilities for special needs children	153	170	124
Outdoor Court Sports (tennis, basketball, volleyball)	316	124	47
Outdoor Field Sports (e.g. baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse)	360	94	33
Outdoor Exercise Equipment for Adults	221	159	94
Paved Trails (e.g. Bicycling, Walking)	360	103	28
Unpaved/Bare Earth Trail Activities (e.g. Hiking/Mountain Biking)	222	174	79
Bethel Park Historical Sites	102	188	166
Adult Classes for life-long learning or skill development	99	163	195
Amphitheater for Outdoor Performances	169	171	128
Community Gardening	79	145	226
Environmental Education/Nature Programming (birding, stargazing, etc.)	92	143	224
Picnicking	186	209	82
Concerts/Plays/Arts (music, arts, drama, dance)	216	152	99
Geo-Caching Areas	92	135	225

 Highest Interest  
 Lowest Interest

## QUESTION 6

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR GENDER.



\*3% PREFERRED TO NOT ANSWER

Over 6 in 10 respondents to the public survey reported themselves as female. When analyzing the age profile of the users of the parks and recreation system, seen in Question 7 below, it becomes evident that a large number of those using the online survey system are mothers with children.

## QUESTION 7

PLEASE INDICATE THE AGE FOR YOURSELF AND ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

TABLE 4

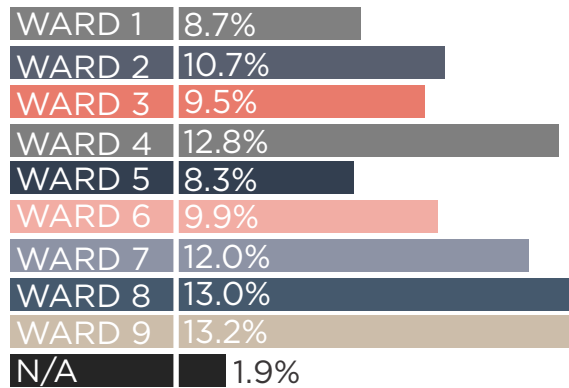
	Number of Household Members Per Age Range						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6+	
<b>0 - 10 years</b>	148	110	37	4	0	0	299
<b>11 - 20 years</b>	102	124	40	11	1	2	280
<b>21 - 30 years</b>	38	18	1	1	0	0	58
<b>31 - 40 years</b>	64	124	0	0	1	1	190
<b>41 - 50 years</b>	94	184	1	0	2	1	282
<b>51 - 60 years</b>	44	33	0	0	0	1	78
<b>61+ years</b>	17	16	0	0	1	2	36

The chart to the left shows that almost half of parks and recreation system users who answered the survey had members of their household under the age of 20 and that almost 40% had household members in the 31-50 age range. This hints at a high level of park usage by children and their parents. In contrast, only 3% of survey respondents were over the age of 60 or had members of their household who were older than 60.

## QUESTION 8

IF YOU ARE A RESIDENT OF BETHEL PARK, WHERE IN THE MUNICIPALITY DO YOU LIVE?

GRAPH 6

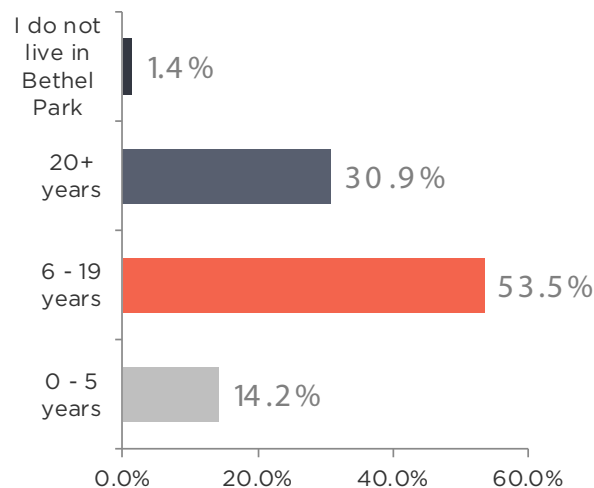


Despite being home to only Simmons Park, Ward 9 comprised a plurality of respondents to the Community-Wide Survey. Ward 8, which is home to four parks (UPMC Field, Village Green Park, Oak Tree Park and Peter J. Page Park), followed, with 13% of all responses. Residents of Ward 5, home to Millennium Park and Mollyhill Park, and Ward 1, home to Miners Memorial Park, made up the lowest shares of survey respondents.

## QUESTION 9

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN BETHEL PARK?

GRAPH 7



Long-term residents made up a disproportionately large share of survey respondents, at over 84%. Notably, the residents who lived in Bethel Park for over 20 years made up almost one-third of all respondents. These residents would likely have significant insight into the long-term development and maintenance of the parks and recreation system. Only 1.4% of survey respondents were non-residents, despite the heavy use of Bethel Park's many fields by visiting sports teams in league play.



## QUESTION 10

WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO OFFER RELATED TO BETHEL PARK RECREATION, PARKS, AND LEISURE SERVICES OR BETHEL PARK MUNICIPALITY.

A large percentage of the total survey respondents (99% of whom were Bethel Park residents) took time to provide additional feedback on the Municipality's parks and recreation system. In total, there were 318 written responses to this open-ended question. The full listing of responses is included within this Plan's Appendix.

### TOP THEMES OF THE RESPONSES (AND FREQUENTLY CITED DETAILS):

**Bathrooms:** poorly-maintained, unsanitary bathroom facilities (no soap, no paper towels, no hot water or running water, no lighting, non-working doors); too many port-a-johns and not enough permanent bathrooms; not enough bathrooms in general

**Sports fields:** poor field conditions and drainage; uncut grass; facilities for boys' sports (football and baseball) are in better condition than those for girls (softball); more bleachers/seating desired; volunteers/facility users not allowed to perform needed maintenance/field prep even when willing and necessary; lack of dugouts, backstops or fences in certain facilities

**Desire for swimming pool and/or water features:** outdoor community pool and splash park desired (as something to do for kids and as a community gathering spot)

**Comparisons to neighboring communities:** "embarrassing," "embarrassed" and "embarrassment" were frequent adjectives used by residents; numerous negative comparisons of Bethel Park's facilities to those of surrounding municipalities; numerous residents cited patronizing other municipalities' parks and recreational centers because of the conditions or lack of desired facilities/features; desire to keep money in the community but need to spend it in adjacent communities with better facilities often cited

**Lighting:** heavily used Millennium Park, UPMC Park and Miners Memorial Park were cited as having no field lighting to extend hours

**Community center:** functions more like a senior center; needs more open gym time and more availability for kids

**Accessibility:** fields and community center need to be more accessible for open play and all year round, including during the winter

**Connectivity:** lack of sidewalks; lack of access for pedestrians and bicyclists; lack of trail connections; walking and biking connectivity via sidewalks, trails and/or greenways desired to neighborhoods, schools and business areas

# PARK NEIGHBOR SURVEY

## OVERVIEW

A smaller, more specific survey than the Community-Wide Survey was mailed to residents who live adjacent to four of Bethel Park's smaller neighborhood parklets: Pine Tree, Mollyhill, Elm Tree and Birch Tree parks. This Park Neighbor Survey aimed to gather information on the frequency of use for these smaller parklets and received 71 responses, a response rate of 25% (301 total residents were sent the survey).

Over all, the open-ended feedback from the Park Neighbor Survey was more positive than the feedback solicited from the Community-Wide Survey. While there were frequent mentions for the need of updated play equipment, there was also a much greater number of compliments and positive comments directed toward the Municipality and its staff for the upkeep, maintenance, scenic value and family-friendliness of the parklets.

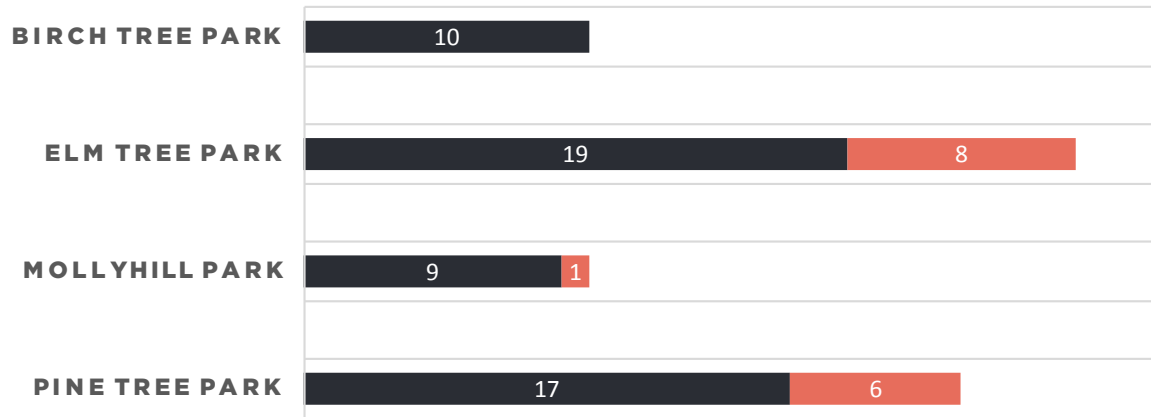
Enthusiastic comments such as, "We like it just the way it is!," "I wouldn't change a thing!," "Keep up the good work!!" and "No complaints here" were very much the norm in the responses.

# RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

## QUESTION 1

DO YOU VISIT THIS PARK? YES OR NO.

GRAPH 8 **YES** **NO**

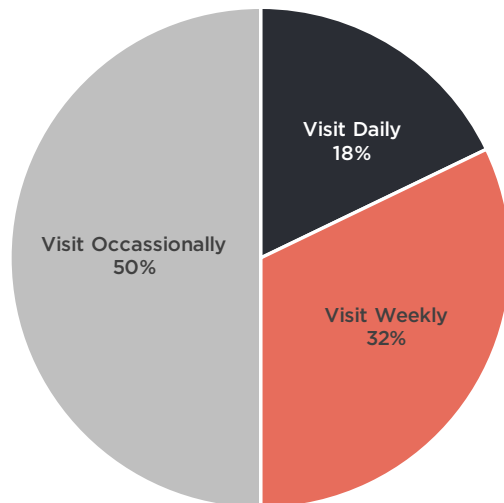


All four of the neighborhood parklets covered in the Park Neighbor Survey were reviewed positively by respondents. However, a sizeable percentage of respondents answered in Question 1 of the larger Community-Wide Survey (ranging from 41% to 55%) had never heard of at least one of these four parklets. The steady yet light use and of these neighborhood parklets helps ensure their general upkeep.

## QUESTION 2

IF SO, HOW OFTEN?

GRAPH 9



A large majority of residents (75%) who answered the Park Neighbor Survey indicated that they visited the neighborhood parklets. Almost one-third of respondents said that they visited one of the four parklets at least once a week, with almost one-fifth of respondents saying that they visited daily.



# KEY PERSON INTERVIEWS

## OVERVIEW

Significant insight about the existing parks and recreation programs was relayed through telephone interviews with key persons. The list of interviewees included elected officials, local business leaders and non-profit organizations.

Furthermore, meetings were held with each sports group that utilizes the fields within the Bethel Park parks system. These meetings revealed insight on preferred fields, valuable characteristics of preferred fields and current benefits and issues of the park system with regard to athletics.

The meeting with the Gold Card Club, a social and fellowship organization for seniors, helped provide insight on the interests and needs of seniors in the community and ways to make the parks more accessible and usable for this demographic.

Feedback from Council pointed toward a greater focus on the overall parks system, including a tree analysis throughout all of the parks, play experiences geared toward all age groups and making maintenance the first priority at all of the parks.

## KEY PERSON INTERVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

### Individual responses:

- a. “More could be done in the parks”
- b. “If more fields had lights, BP Rec Programs could play at municipal-owned fields more often”
- c. “Village Green needs lights”
- d. “Sports groups would pay to paint fields if they could rent the field for the whole day and hold a tournament – Online scheduling system for coaches??”
- e. “Millennium multi-use field needs lights”
- f. “Parks are clean and well-maintained”
- g. “Strength within the parks system is that they are spread out across the municipality”
- h. “Presentation of the parks is a weakness”
- i. “A lot of residents do not even know half of the parks exist”
- j. “Peter Page be used as an educational tool for the schools? Plants, science, community gardens?”
- k. “There is a lack of updates within the parks”
- l. “When reevaluating parks, things like shade, seating, tables, pavilions should be considered”

### Council responses:

- a. “Peripheral trail at Millennium if possible”
- b. “Simmons and Village Green are candidates for a spray park”
- c. “More trails”
- d. “Parks should reflect the first-class community that Bethel Park continues to be”



# MEETINGS

## PROGRESS MEETINGS

As part of the project scope requirements monthly progress meetings were required to be held between the consultant and the Municipality's Study Committee. To maximize and capitalize the Committee time, the progress meetings were held on the first Wednesday of every month to "piggyback" onto the reoccurring Recreation Board's monthly meeting in the Bethel Park Community Center. These meetings were held to establish milestone dates of completion, share information and establish a solid chain of communication. The first progress meeting served as the project "kick-off" meeting to solidify a stable cast to attend the meetings. The group was streamlined to create a smaller more manageable decision making body that would serve as the guiding voice for the Committee.

## SITE VISITS WITH THE RECREATION BOARD

Periodically throughout the process, the Committee, the Recreation Board and Elected Officials were invited to walk the parks with the consultant to gain intimate insight pertaining to specific elements of the parks. Simmons Park was a particular focus for the Municipality due to the amount of different park amenities present and the varied issues. Simmons and Village Green Parks were chosen for site walks due to the intent for them to receive in depth study in the form of Site Development Plans. Concept Site Development Plans were prepared prior to the site walks to serve as an instrument for feedback. Information gathered from online, the public meetings and the monthly progress meetings were utilized to structure the Concept Plans. The Site Visits garnered buy-in and a direction for the final Site Development Plans.







# SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

## OVERVIEW

Throughout the year, seven (7) different official sports organizations schedule to use the sixteen (16) different sports fields within the Municipality. The fields used by the sports organizations are Municipality owned, School District owned or privately owned. Only the sixteen (16) Municipality owned fields are responsible for being on the schedule, leaving the School District and privately owned fields in a gray area. Understanding the total amount of time each team needs or schedules is complex because it transcends three different ownerships and the process of scheduling does not cover all of the fields being used. Currently, scheduling is not a streamlined system where the Recreation Department easily knows what is scheduled on public versus privately owned fields.

For example, when a sports organization is using Lions Field (privately owned), the sports organization is competing against other users such as reunions, corporate gatherings and picnics who pay a rental fee to use the facility. The Lions Club is more apt to reschedule the sports organization off the field if another group is willing to pay a rental fee for the facility on the same day. Leaving this playable time 'up to chance' forces sports associations to book additional time on other Municipality owned fields which is guaranteed time for them to practice. Since the Municipality only sees the scheduled time on their fields, this gives the perception that sports associations are scheduling adequate time. Time scheduled on public fields then goes unused if the private fields are available for practice, and is not available for other organizations that could have utilized it.

## SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS MEETINGS

Meetings were held with each sports organization individually to better understand their preferred field usage, normal weekly schedule and the challenges they have encountered with scheduling field time or field maintenance. These individual meetings revealed that most sports organizations are using 4-6 different facilities to satisfy their practice and game time needs. This is stretching the resources and time of the sports organizations, players and parents. It was also learned that some fields within the parks system are obsolete to most groups in term of playability because of outfield depths being too short or too large. This makes the total number of fields within the Municipality misleading because it narrows the number of usable fields for most sports organizations. The narrowed scope of usable fields also led to a discussion about field lighting and extending the playable hours at particular fields, such as UPMC Field or Millennium Park.


Tournaments were also a pertinent topic because the sports organizations currently need to use at least two (2) different parks to have the field capacity to run a successful tournament. Tournaments are capable of creating important revenue for the sports organizations when the facilities are in place, such as adequate restrooms and concessions. Safety is a primary concern of the Municipality and should always be the first item addressed in park and field maintenance. One sports association pointed out that the traveling teams verbalized potential safety issues with the existing fence configuration and/or construction. Multiple sports organizations explained the lack of adequate restroom and concession facilities, especially in comparison to neighboring communities. These structural facilities are equally as important to the sports organizations as the athletic field improvements. Traveling teams are deterred from coming to Bethel Park for tournaments when the facilities are lacking in quality compared to other communities in the area.

Learning from the presented material thus far, strategies can be implemented to begin making a difference. The grouping of particular sports organizations to certain parks will alleviate purchasing multiple goals, nets, etc. for sports like soccer and lacrosse. For example, parks such as Village Green could accommodate multiple flat fields and become purely a soccer and lacrosse facility. Constructing additional flat fields allows these teams to no longer use the Neil Armstrong Field, which belongs to the School District. As discussed in other areas of this report, understanding the athletic fields' pertinent maintenance issues requires an understanding of the facilities' different users.

An additional advantage of consolidating sports organizations to particular fields is the reduced travel time for teams and families. Currently, families have to travel to multiple fields to get their children to their respective games. From a player and parent standpoint, playing at one park is more economical and keeps everyone from stretching their resources across multiple parks. This convenience factor was noted by the sports organizations through the individual meetings.



# SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

A young child in a red shirt is running across a large, open green lawn in a park. The background shows a dense line of trees under a clear blue sky.

One of the most enlightening observations made by the Municipality through these outreach initiatives was how differently the Community-Wide and Park Neighbor Survey respondents perceived the overall park system in comparison to the small neighborhood parklets. The far higher usage and awareness of the parks with sports fields has demanded a much greater number of maintenance requirements and expected amenities for those parks.

Currently, each of the Municipality's parks is maintained using the same methods and maintenance standards, whether the park is predominantly a sports field, a playground, or a wooded space. Given the differences of each park it may be prudent to revisit the maintenance strategies for the individual park types.

For instance, certain parks can incorporate no-mow areas or areas with less turf grass and more native vegetation. Similarly, the frequencies of landscape maintenance may be adjusted based on the level of use of certain parks and their intended activities.

This topic of tailored maintenance is covered extensively in the next chapters.



# PARK INVENTORY & ANALYSIS





A photograph of a playground structure. In the foreground, a green tire swing hangs from a wooden frame. The structure is made of dark wood and is set on a ground covered with wood chips. The background shows more of the playground and some green foliage.

# PARK INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

## OVERVIEW

In order to understand and become familiar with the park system, each park was visited, photographed and documented. The Consultant toured the parks with Municipal Staff which furthered the insight. The Staff provided a unique perspective due to the intimate familiarity the Staff has with each park and each park's individual nuances. Each park was visited multiple times at different periods of the year to attain a broad view of how the park system evolves throughout the year. A checklist of park amenities and condition was developed prior to the park system tour. The checklist served to create a concise inventory of each of the parks specific elements. An assessment of the condition of park amenities such as: playground equipment, athletic fields & equipment, pavilions, etc. was conducted and documented.





Village Green Park

Mollyhill Park

Millennium Park

UPMC Field

Pine Tree Park

Oak Tree Park

Brookside Park

Peter J. Page Park

Park Avenue Field

Miners Memorial Park

Birch Tree Park

Elm Tree Park

Shamrock Park

Simmons Park

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY

88

McMillan Rd

McLaughlin Run Rd

Fort Couch Rd

Bethel Church Rd

Kings School Rd

Stoltz Rd

McMurray Rd

Stewart Rd

Downsville Rd

Curry Rd  
Hornig Rd

Broughton Rd

Gardenville Pk





# BIRCH TREE PARK

0.75 ACRES

Located off of Forest Drive, Birch Tree Park is just under one acre and surrounded by homes within a residential neighborhood. This park contains one half-basketball court with a new background, rim and net. The wooden playground set on site could be updated. There are three swing sets and a tire swing beside the playground set. The mulch under these swings is heavily rutted (even through the snow) which indicates their popularity all throughout the year. A large wooden octagon pavilion is along the main path within the park and has a picnic table and two benches underneath it. There are multiple wooden planter boxes that are maintained by local residents in the neighborhood. This park is near the regional Montour Trail but does not connect to the trail directly (it is separated by homes). The play equipment, swings and basketball court are not ADA accessible. Parking for Birch Tree Park is available along the street.



### PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Swings and playground equipment need to be updated.

### ADDITIONAL SEATING

The park and pavilion can accomodate extra seating.



### BASKETBALL COURT

Basketball court lines should be repainted.

# ELM TREE PARK

4 ACRES



Surrounded by homes on all sides, Elm Tree Park is four acres in size and very unique. Aptly named for the large Elm trees within the park, the steep slopes within the space is wildly popular for sled riding in the winter months. So much so that Bethel Park regularly puts hay bales at the base of the trees to help prevent sled riders from getting injured. These same steep slopes create a major issue for ADA accessibility within the park. Street parking for Elm Tree Park is available on Glen Hill Drive or Delfield Drive. The main entrance from Glen Hill Drive is paved for fifteen feet and the pavement stops at the top of a significant hill. The other option for park access is between two private residences on Delfield Drive. It is unclear if an easement exists for this access or if it is going through private property, but it is unpaved and unclear that it is an access point into Elm Tree Park. The park contains a half-basketball court, classic playground equipment such as a play set, swings, slides and a picnic table. According to the Public Survey feedback, these amenities are difficult for adults to get young children to with the severe slopes at the Glenn Hill Drive entrance. The topography within Elm Tree Park will be the guiding factor for its future development plans.





### BASKETBALL COURT

The backboards need to be painted.



### PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The playground equipment has since been damaged due to a fallen tree and need to be replaced with safety-code compliant equipment.



### SEATING

Seating is minimal within the park. Additional benches and picnic tables are needed.



# MILLENNIUM PARK

40 ACRES

Millennium Park, at around forty acres, is located on Baptist Road. As Bethel Park's newest park, it is home to three ballfields, a multi-use flat field and sports courts. The fields in Millennium Park are for permit use only and are heavily scheduled by the Municipality. The amount of spectator seating for the field usage is insufficient based on the heavy recreation schedules at the park. The park has a small playground with classic playground equipment, bouncing spring toys and a swing set. Vending machines and a restroom are located in the center of the park, but is a substantial walk from any of the baseball fields. This park has ADA accessible walking paths around the fields from the three (3) paved parking areas that collectively total 175 parking spaces and 7 ADA spaces.



### ENTRANCE AREA

The entrance area on Baptist Road should be enhanced.



### RESTROOM REHABILITATION

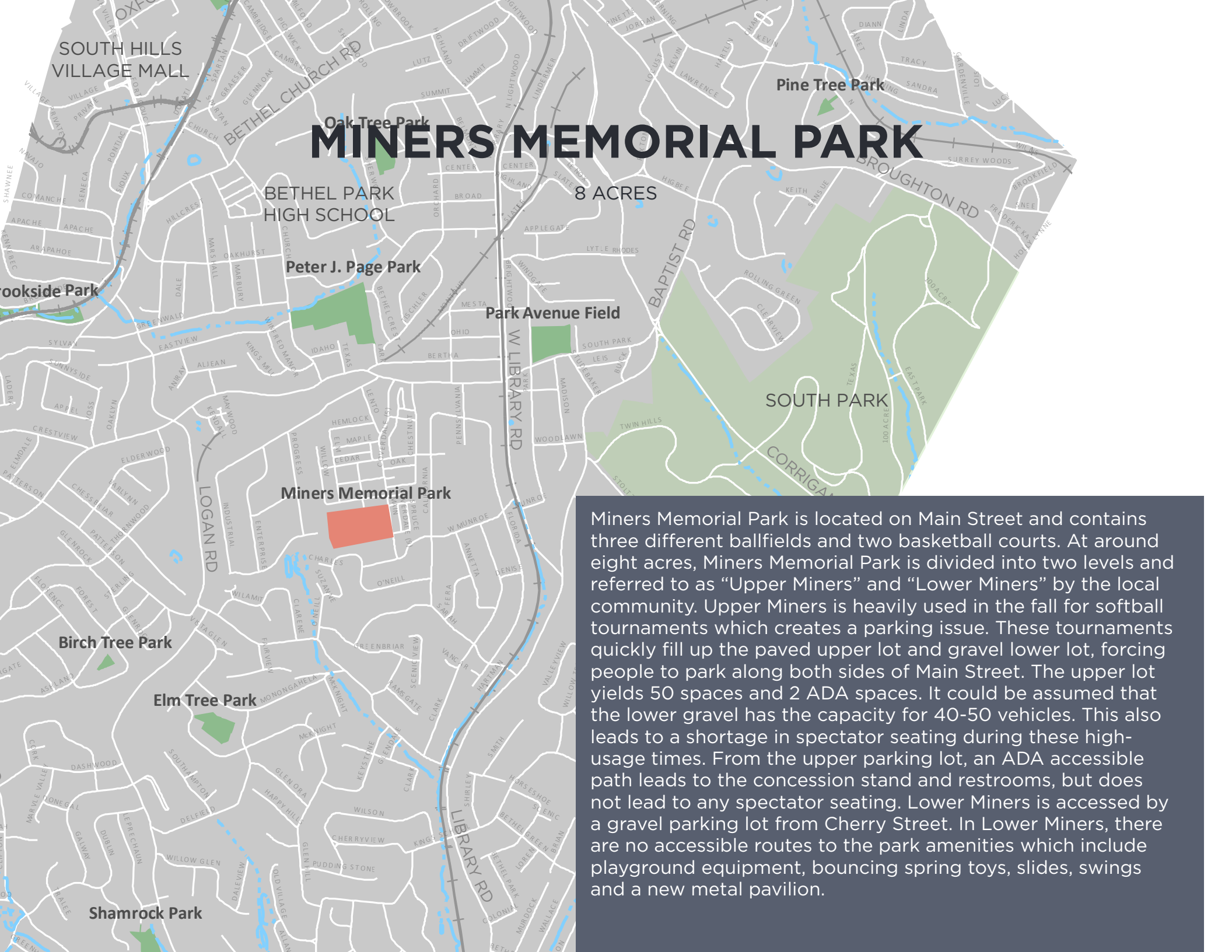
The restroom facilities need to be improved.



### SEATING

Spectator and park seating is insufficient within the park. Additional bleachers for the fields and benches for park visitors are needed.





# MINERS MEMORIAL PARK

8 ACRES

Miners Memorial Park is located on Main Street and contains three different ballfields and two basketball courts. At around eight acres, Miners Memorial Park is divided into two levels and referred to as “Upper Miners” and “Lower Miners” by the local community. Upper Miners is heavily used in the fall for softball tournaments which creates a parking issue. These tournaments quickly fill up the paved upper lot and gravel lower lot, forcing people to park along both sides of Main Street. The upper lot yields 50 spaces and 2 ADA spaces. It could be assumed that the lower gravel has the capacity for 40-50 vehicles. This also leads to a shortage in spectator seating during these high-usage times. From the upper parking lot, an ADA accessible path leads to the concession stand and restrooms, but does not lead to any spectator seating. Lower Miners is accessed by a gravel parking lot from Cherry Street. In Lower Miners, there are no accessible routes to the park amenities which include playground equipment, bouncing spring toys, slides, swings and a new metal pavilion.



### FENCING

Fences throughout the park need to be replaced.

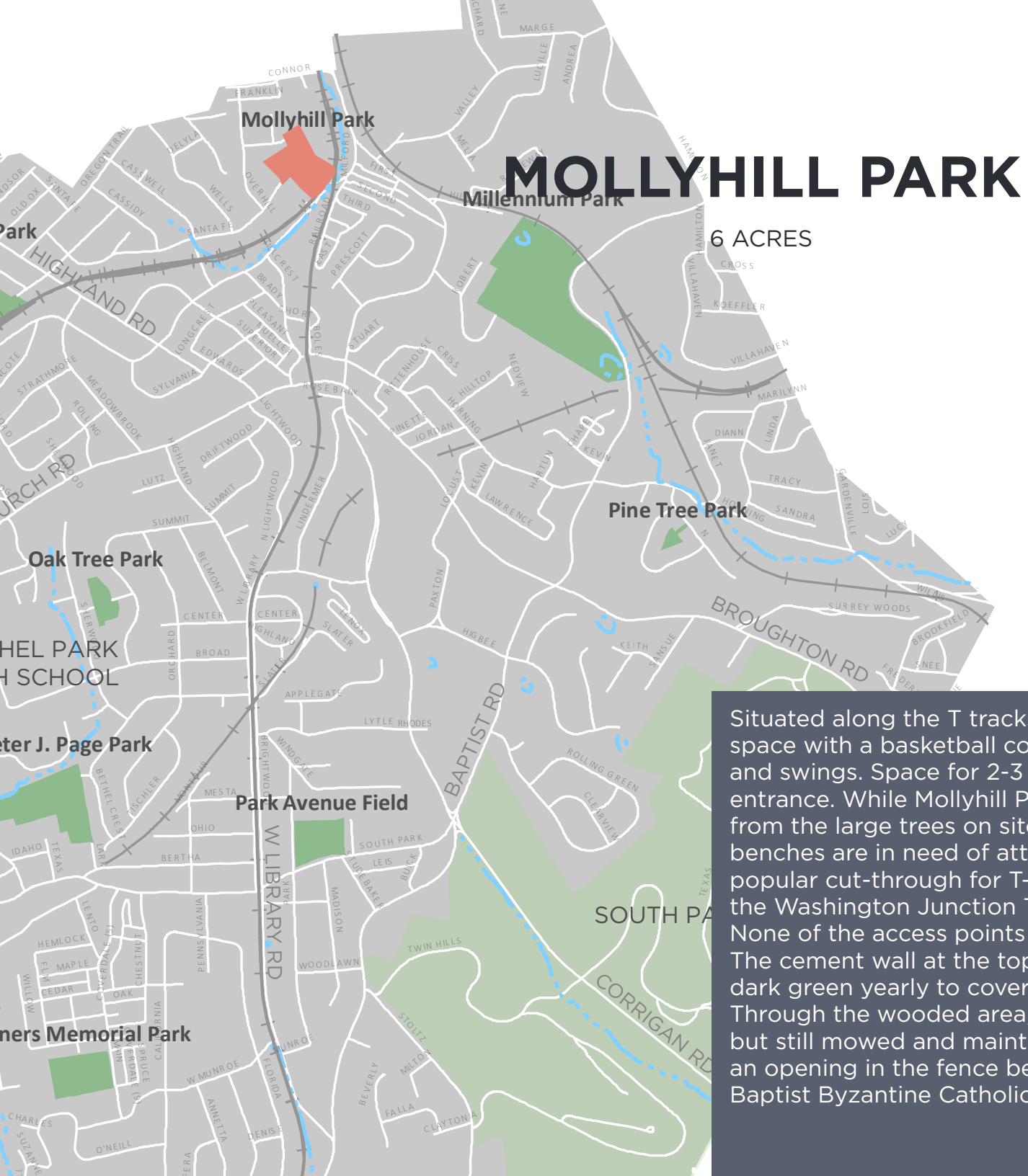
### SEATING REHABILITATION

Wooden bleachers need to be upgraded.



### FIELD REHABILITATION

The upper fields need fencing to delineate outfield perimeters.



# MOLLYHILL PARK

6 ACRES

Situated along the T tracks, Mollyhill Park is a unique six acre space with a basketball court, wooden playground equipment and swings. Space for 2-3 vehicles is available at the park entrance. While Mollyhill Park has significant natural beauty from the large trees on site, the playground equipment and benches are in need of attention. This park also seems to be a popular cut-through for T-riders, as there is an access route to the Washington Junction T Stop from the bottom of the park. None of the access points or site amenities are ADA accessible. The cement wall at the top of the hill within the park is painted dark green yearly to cover up graffiti and other vandalism. Through the wooded area, there is an upper field that is empty but still mowed and maintained by the Municipality. There's also an opening in the fence between Mollyhill Park and St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cemetery.





### PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Playground equipment needs to be all brought up to comply with safety codes.

### SEATING REPLACEMENTS

The existing benches need replaced.



### BASKETBALL COURT

The basketball court backboards, nets and poles need replaced.



# OAK TREE PARK

3 ACRES

Oak Tree Park, which is around three acres, is another park that is situated in between residential properties. The park provides its neighborhood with several recreational amenities including a ball field, basketball court and playground equipment. The youth baseball field is heavily used, but there is minimal designated parking for Oak Tree Park (2-4 spots). Cars will occasionally park along the main entry way during baseball games. If this ball field is continually scheduled at a high rate, parking will continue to be an issue. If the lower empty field could be accessed by cars, this could become permeable pavers for parking. The wooden playground equipment functions, but should be updated since this is one of the more popular neighborhood parks. Oak Tree Park also contains a large wooden pavilion on an asphalt pad. The main entry from Summit Street is not ADA accessible.





### BASEBALL FIELD

The baseball field needs minor infield improvements and new bleachers.



### PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The playground equipment needs to be all brought up to comply with safety codes.



### SEATING

Additional seating is needed under the pavilion.

# PARK AVENUE FIELDS

7.3 ACRES



Park Avenue Field, which is just over seven acres, is adjacent to the Bethel Park Community Center. The paved parking area is capable of accommodating 36 cars with one ADA space. Parking is adjacent to a large playground that includes classic playground equipment, two swing sets and bouncing spring toys, all in good condition. A new metal pavilion is along the walking path from the parking area to the fields and has two benches underneath, one of which is broken and unusable. The main field is used for soccer, lacrosse and football and includes a scoreboard and a press box. Spectator seating is located on the opposite side of the field from the press box. The smaller youth baseball/softball field is heavily used but is not of standard field dimensions. There is potential to relocate the field onsite, or repurpose this area for another activity. No permanent restrooms exist onsite but it is possible that visitors go into the community center to use the restroom.





### BASEBALL FIELD

The baseball field needs to be rehabilitated and there is a need for player and spectator seating.

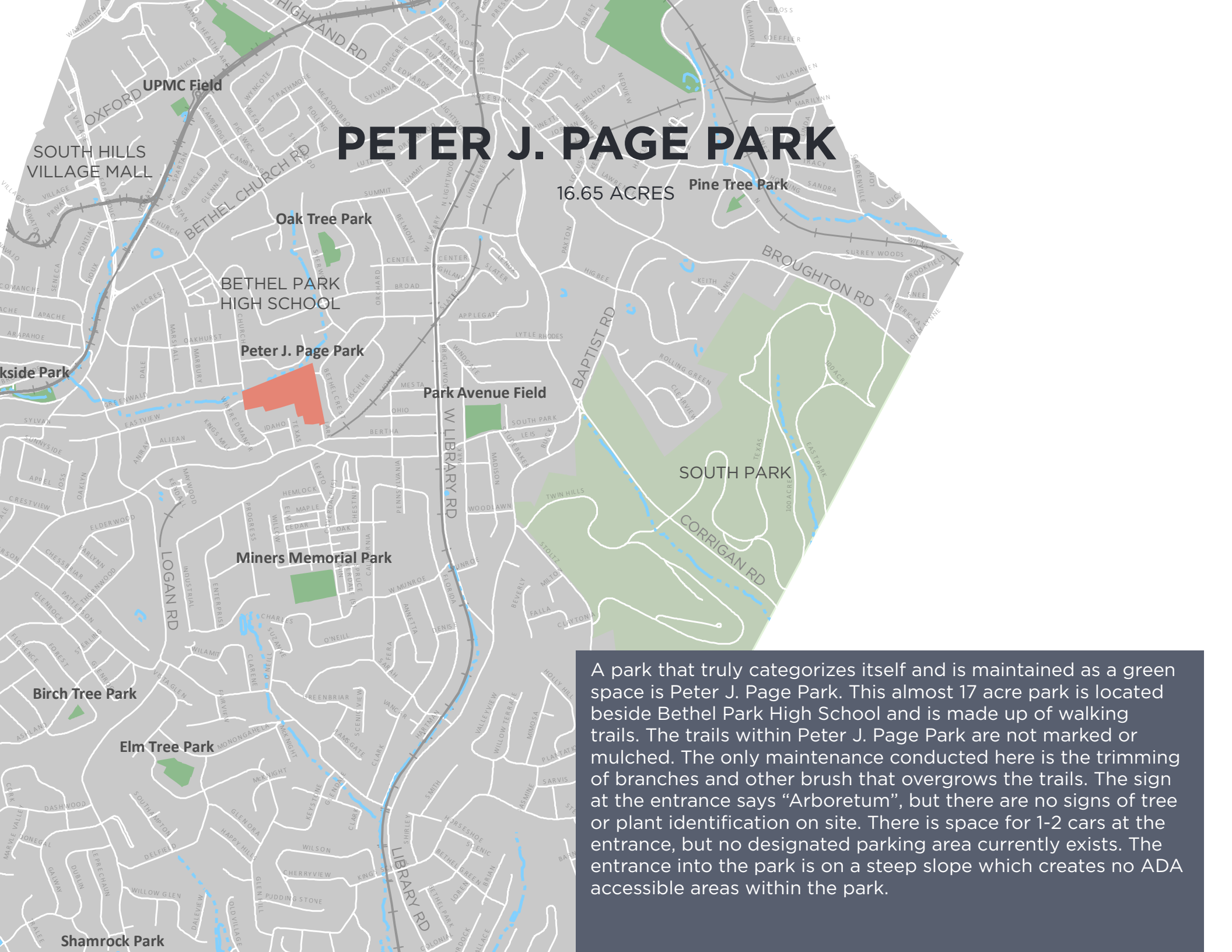
### ADDITIONAL SEATING

The park and pavilion needs extra benches and picnic tables.



### PLAYER SEATING

Additional player seating is needed on the flat field. Football and soccer have benches they store for winter and games.



# PETER J. PAGE PARK

16.65 ACRES

BETHEL PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Peter J. Page Park

Park Avenue Field

SOUTH PARK

A park that truly categorizes itself and is maintained as a green space is Peter J. Page Park. This almost 17 acre park is located beside Bethel Park High School and is made up of walking trails. The trails within Peter J. Page Park are not marked or mulched. The only maintenance conducted here is the trimming of branches and other brush that overgrows the trails. The sign at the entrance says "Arboretum", but there are no signs of tree or plant identification on site. There is space for 1-2 cars at the entrance, but no designated parking area currently exists. The entrance into the park is on a steep slope which creates no ADA accessible areas within the park.





### PARKING

A designated parking area needs to be created to encourage visitors.



### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The stream that runs along the park could be used for educational opportunities in conjunction with the adjacent schools.



### SEATING

New benches are needed at the entrance to the park and could be incorporated throughout the trail system at key nodes, stopping points or views of interest.



# PINE TREE PARK

1 ACRE

Pine Tree Park



Hidden off N. Street, Pine Tree Park is a one acre park within a residential neighborhood. The only parking available for this park is street parking, so it is assumed that nearby residents are the main visitors of this park. This park is not ADA accessible because of the steep slope of the pathway into the park. Once in the park there are no ADA accessible pathways to the park amenities. Pine Tree Park contains a half-basketball court and a classic playground set with bouncing spring toys and swings. There is a large wooden pavilion within the park that has picnic tables and benches. There is also a grill near the pavilion, but it is severely rusted and needs to be replaced.





PAVILION

Minor repairs to the pavilion are needed such as repainting and patching.



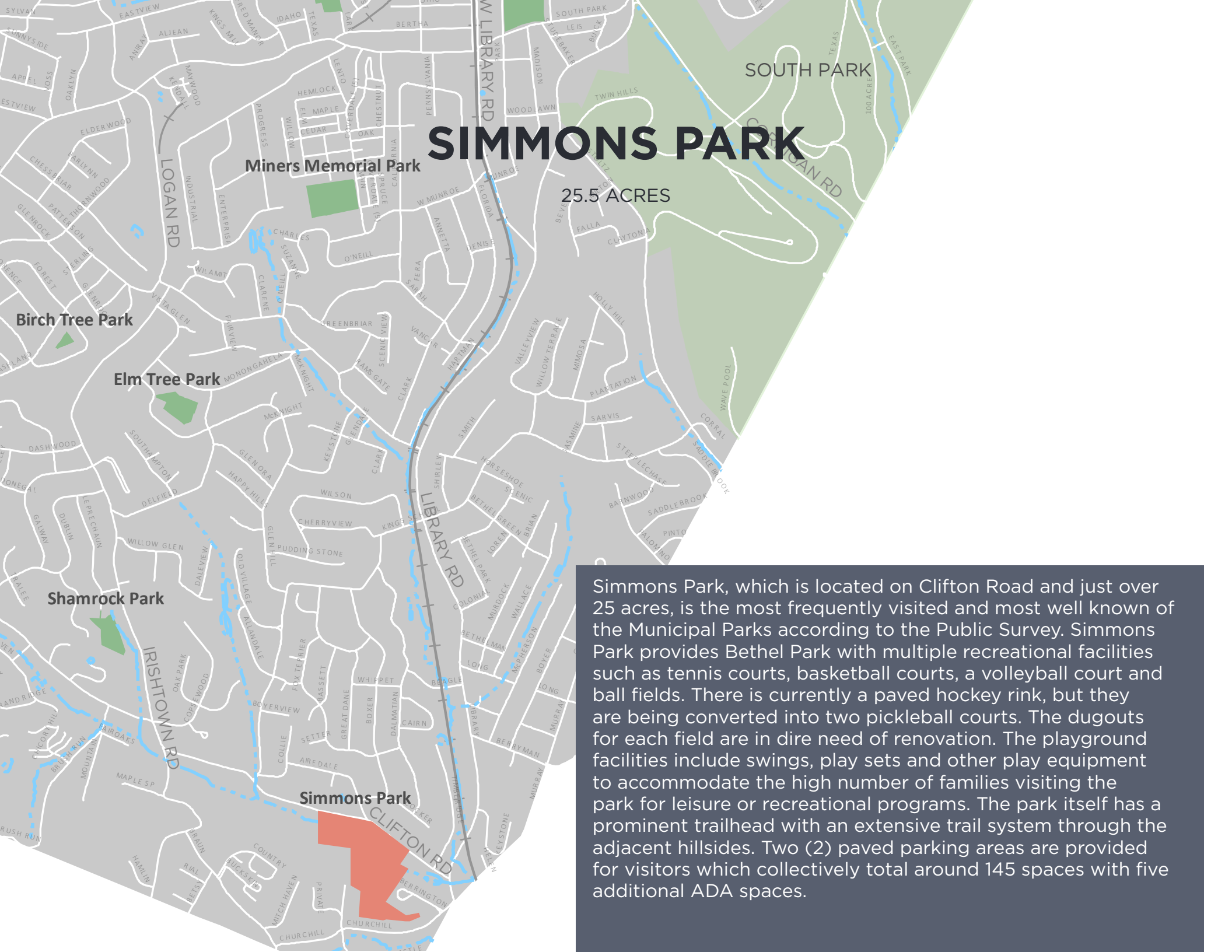
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The playground equipment should be brought up to safety codes.



SEATING

The benches need to be replaced and additional ones could be added.



# SIMMONS PARK

25.5 ACRES

Miners Memorial Park

Birch Tree Park

Elm Tree Park

Shamrock Park

Simmons Park

Simmons Park, which is located on Clifton Road and just over 25 acres, is the most frequently visited and most well known of the Municipal Parks according to the Public Survey. Simmons Park provides Bethel Park with multiple recreational facilities such as tennis courts, basketball courts, a volleyball court and ball fields. There is currently a paved hockey rink, but they are being converted into two pickleball courts. The dugouts for each field are in dire need of renovation. The playground facilities include swings, play sets and other play equipment to accommodate the high number of families visiting the park for leisure or recreational programs. The park itself has a prominent trailhead with an extensive trail system through the adjacent hillsides. Two (2) paved parking areas are provided for visitors which collectively total around 145 spaces with five additional ADA spaces.





### FIELD DRAINAGE

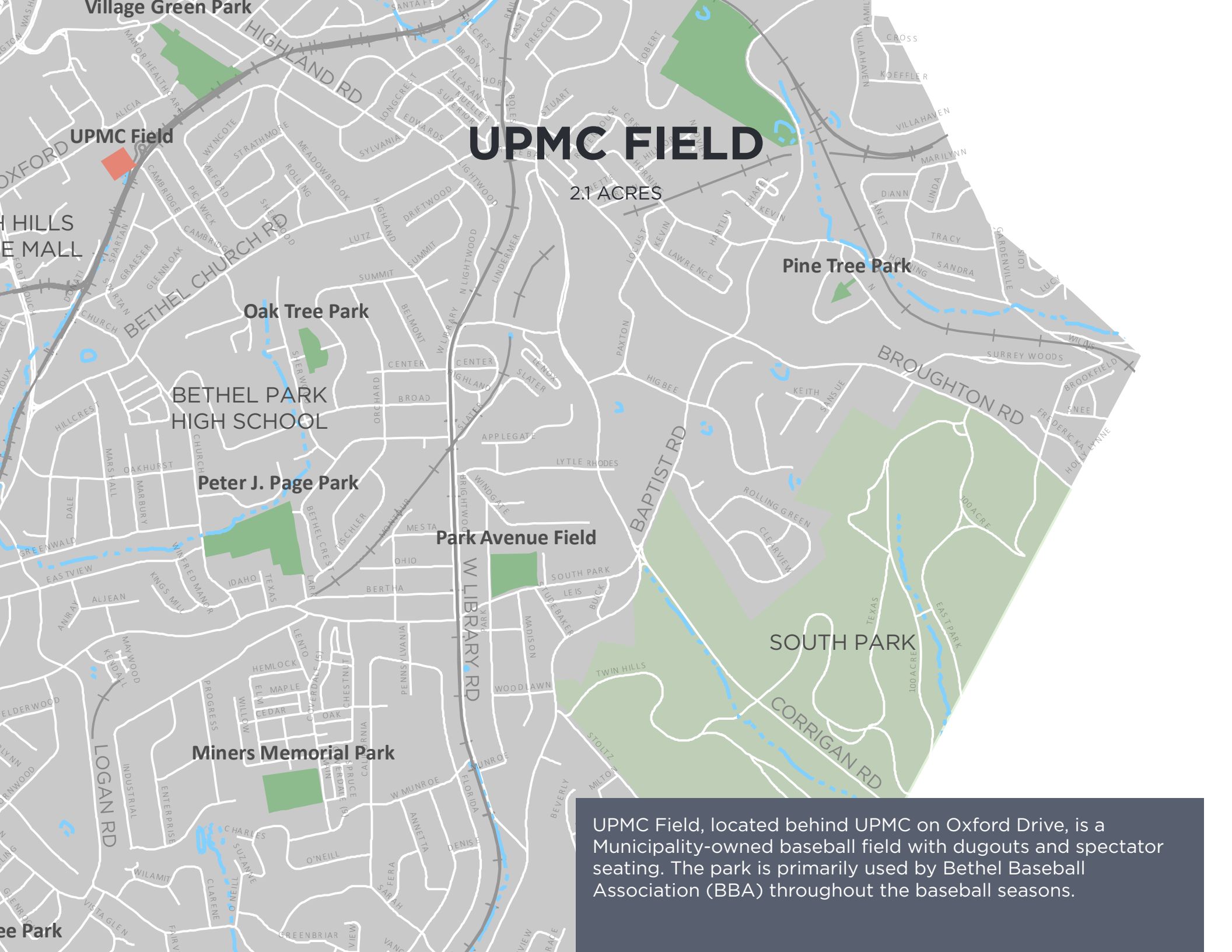
Field areas need to be rehabilitated to remedy existing drainage issues.

**MIDDLE FIELD PAVEMENT**  
Pavement repair is needed to avoid safety hazards.



### RESTROOM REPLACEMENT

The existing restrooms are beyond repair and need to be replaced.



# UPMC FIELD

2.1 ACRES

UPMC Field

Pine Tree Park

Oak Tree Park

BETHEL PARK  
HIGH SCHOOL

Peter J. Page Park

Park Avenue Field

SOUTH PARK

Miners Memorial Park

UPMC Field, located behind UPMC on Oxford Drive, is a Municipality-owned baseball field with dugouts and spectator seating. The park is primarily used by Bethel Baseball Association (BBA) throughout the baseball seasons.



### DUGOUT REHABILITATION

Dugouts facades need cleaned and roofs need to be replaced.

### BACKSTOP REHABILITATION

Existing backstops need to be replaced.



### BLEACHER REPLACEMENT

Existing bleachers need to be repaired or replaced if the damage and deterioration is in an advanced state.





# VILLAGE GREEN PARK

11 ACRES

Village Green is located behind Market District and in the vicinity of South Hills Village Mall. The park has a multi-use flat field and a baseball field. The field is not completely flat due to a high point centrally located between the baseball and multi-use field. This park has a playground with classic playground equipment, swing sets and pavilions, which are ADA accessible from the parking lot. There are horseshoe pits near the upper parking area. Village Green also has a trail through the woods up to the neighborhood on Highland Road. The restroom and concession building is in need of repair and is no longer used for concessions. The park is currently used for practices by soccer teams and for tee ball. This park is in the vicinity of a special-needs school and a Preschool/Elementary/Middle School.



### BASEBALL FIELD

Drainage issues occur around the baseball field.



### PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

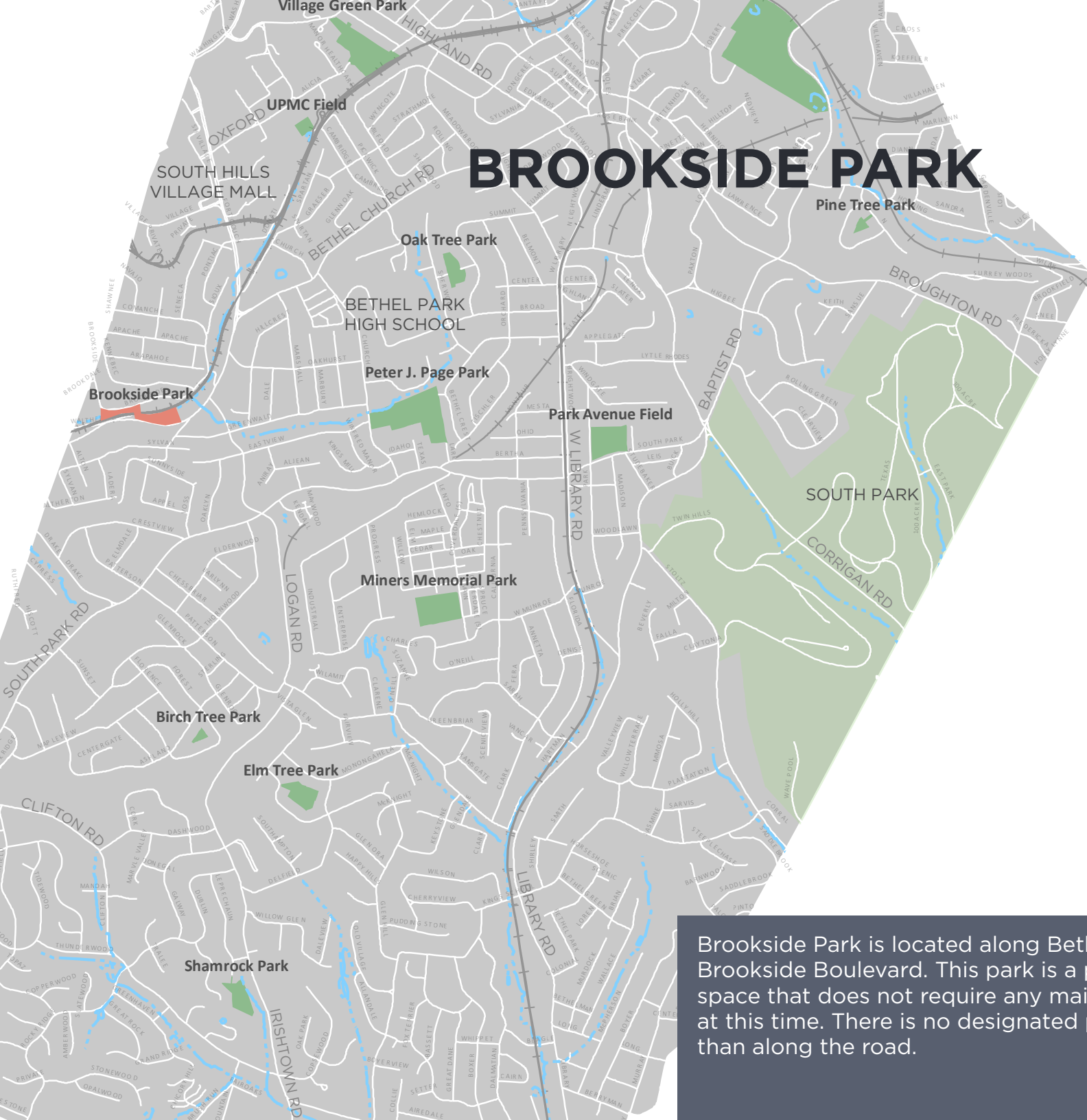
New playground equipment will be installed.



### SEATING

The existing pavilion is in good shape and can accommodate additional seating. The park could also use additional benches.

# BROOKSIDE PARK



SOUTH HILLS VILLAGE MALL

UPMC Field

Oak Tree Park

Pine Tree Park

BETHEL PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Peter J. Page Park

Park Avenue Field

Brookside Park

SOUTH PARK

Miners Memorial Park

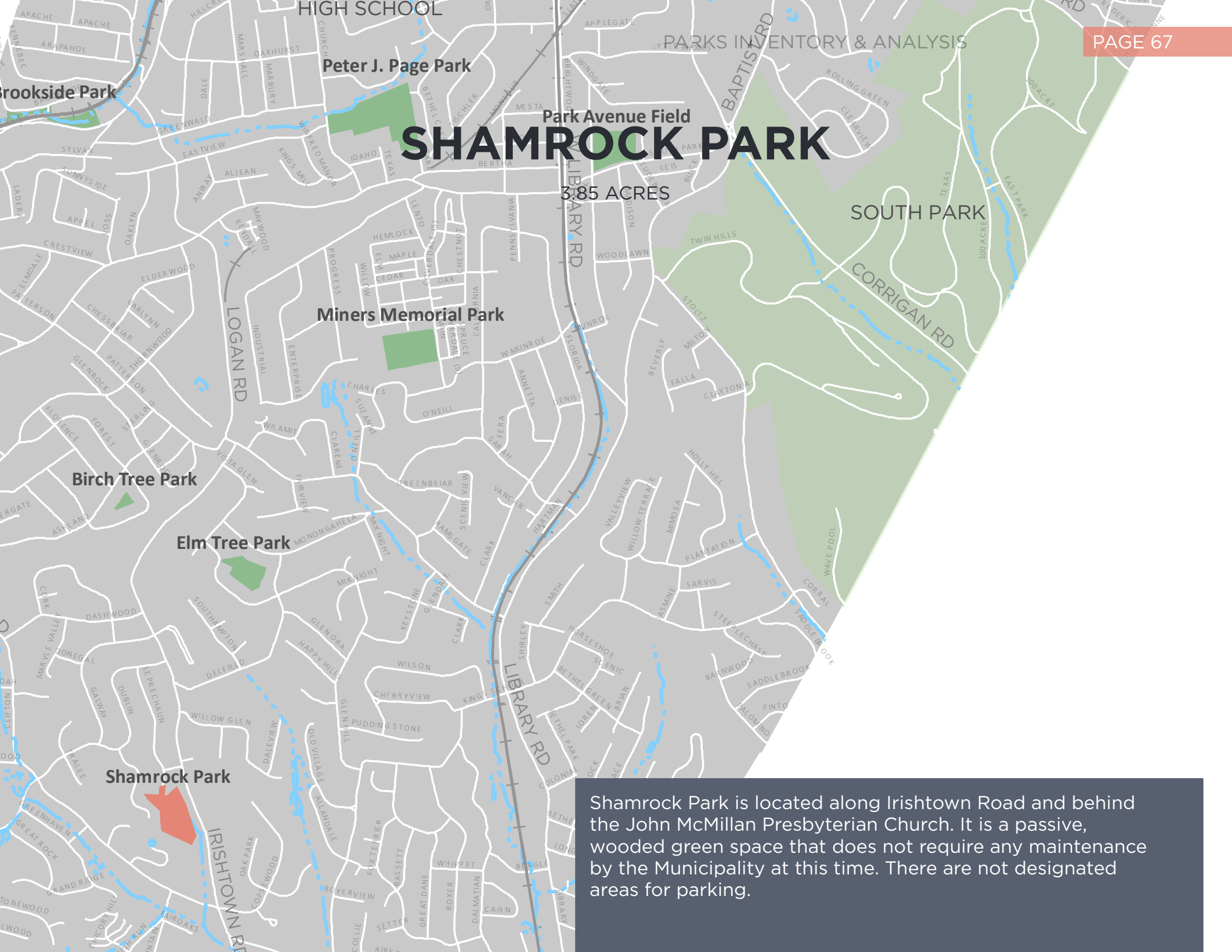
Birch Tree Park

Elm Tree Park

Shamrock Park

Brookside Park is located along Bethel Church Road and Brookside Boulevard. This park is a passive, wooded green space that does not require any maintenance by the Municipality at this time. There is no designated parking for this space other than along the road.





Peter J. Page Park

Park Avenue Field

# SHAMROCK PARK

3.85 ACRES

SOUTH PARK

Miners Memorial Park

Birch Tree Park

Elm Tree Park

Shamrock Park

Shamrock Park is located along Irishtown Road and behind the John McMillan Presbyterian Church. It is a passive, wooded green space that does not require any maintenance by the Municipality at this time. There are not designated areas for parking.

An aerial photograph of a park area. In the top left, there is a large, grey, rectangular building with a flat roof and several air conditioning units. To the right of the building is a paved parking lot with several cars. A paved path leads from the parking lot towards a large, green grassy field. In the middle left of the field, there is a small, brown, gabled structure, possibly a shelter or restroom, with people gathered around it. Several people are scattered across the grassy field, some appearing to be playing or walking. The overall scene is a well-maintained park area with various recreational spaces.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## **ADOPT FORMAL PARK TYPOLOGIES**

Bethel Park has a diverse range of parks and open space which serve different functions and encourage different recreational activities. Shamrock, Brookside and Peter J. Page parks, for example, promote passive recreation that allows residents and visitors to explore natural areas with no programmed activities. Simmons and Miners Memorial Parks encourage active recreation opportunities through its athletic fields, outdoor courts and playground facilities.

Despite the contrasting functions of these different parks, they each need to be maintained properly to encourage continued use by the residents of Bethel Park. However, since the parks do not function the same or serve the same recreational purpose. Consequently, the parks should be categorized into a series of typologies, or classes. These typologies can be used to guide appropriate improvements, usage and landscape standards as well as maintenance levels and practices within the overall park system.

By designating appropriate park typologies, Bethel Park's parks can better serve their specific functions and be maintained appropriately in the future. Diverse park typologies will result in different recreational activities and therefore specified maintenance plans. These typologies will help the Municipality understand the programming focus of each park moving forward and help the Public Works Department understand the required maintenance to improve and uphold the purpose of each park.



## PARK TYPOLOGIES

The following are park classes recommended to be adopted by the Municipality:

*Community Park*

*Athletic Park*

*Neighborhood Parklets*

*Conservation Area*

### **Park Typologies: Community Park**

**Function:** Larger in size and often visited by car, these community parks provide residents with access to the outdoors and recreational activities. These parks strive to serve the interest of its users and are visited by residents from all over Bethel Park. They consist predominantly of active recreational facilities.

**General Character:** Active and/or passive recreation

**Typical/Appropriate Uses:** Softball fields, basketball courts, volleyball courts, tennis courts, playgrounds, sitting space, pavilions, etc.

**Community Parks:** Simmons Park and Miners Memorial Park







## PARK TYPOLOGIES (CONTINUED)

### Park Typologies: Athletic Park

**Function:** Larger in size and often visited by car, these athletic-based park facilities provide residents with multiple types of outdoor fields for organized sports activities. These parks serve seven (7) different sports associations within the Municipality.

**General Character:** Mainly intended for active, organized recreation with secondary passive elements

**Typical/Appropriate Uses:** Diamond fields and multi-use flat fields and their associated sports

**Athletic Parks:** Village Green Park, Millennium Park, Park Avenue Fields and UPMC Field



### Park Typologies: Neighborhood Parklets

**Function:** Small, locally-oriented Neighborhood Parklets provide nearby residents with walkable access to limited open space and recreational amenities. These Neighborhood Parklets primarily serve residents adjacent to the parklet or within walking distance of the space, rather than bringing in residents from other Bethel Park neighborhoods.

**General Character:** Mildly active and/or passive recreation

**Typical/Appropriate Uses:** Playgrounds and swings

**Neighborhood Parks:** Oak Tree, Birch Tree, Elm Tree, Mollyhill Park and Pine Tree



**Park Typologies: Conservation Area**

Function: These parks vary in size and include landscapes which receive very little to no maintenance due to their current status.

General Character: Passive recreation

Typical/Appropriate Uses: Conservation areas may provide physical and visual access, or just visual access. Opportunity for educational programming is possible.

Conservation Areas: Brookside, Shamrock and Peter J. Page



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# ACTIVITIES & FACILITIES ANALYSIS





# ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

## OVERVIEW

Bethel Park's system of outdoor recreation facilities includes fourteen (14) parks on 134 acres of public land. Within the Municipality, there are sixteen (16) different athletic fields ranging in size, quality and type. Seven (7) different official sports organizations schedule and use outdoor facilities throughout the year. To understand the athletic fields' pertinent maintenance issues requires an understanding of the facilities' different users.

The Municipality's Parks and Recreation Department, its Recreation Board and the various independent sports organizations aim to coordinate field usage; this requires continual collaboration. Sports organizations' heavy field use creates challenging maintenance expectations for the Municipality to uphold and maintain. Where possible, field scheduling needs to be moderated in a way that alleviates some of the fields' physical wear and tear.

Allowing multiple sports organizations to schedule the same field leads to an unfocused user-group and maintenance plan per field. Without knowing the specific user or users of a field, the maintenance standards cannot satisfy that particular group's expectations. Scattering the sports groups on different fields also requires the groups or the Municipality to purchase multiple sets of athletic equipment to have readily available at each field. A consolidation of sports organizations to certain fields or parks will keep the maintenance plan tailored to the assigned user and require the Municipality to purchase minimal sets of equipment and store it in one place. Additionally, tournament planning and execution is easily facilitated when one sport is designated per field or park. A tournament being played at multiple Municipality parks is undesirable and less successful in terms of attendance and monetary earnings.





### **Summary of the Proposed Changes Intro**

An accessory to the Recommendations is the structuring of the park system into a distinct set of park typologies. Each park studied can be neatly classified into a specific classification or typology. The typologies established by the Committee are:

- Athletic Complex
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Conservation Area

Certain levels of maintenance, amenities and activity level are to be adhered to. Creation of these typologies allow the Municipality council, Department of Recreation and Leisure, and Department of Public Works to establish a set criteria and schedule of maintenance procedures. For instance, the level of mowing expected at a park with a designation of Conservation Area will be much different than a park with a designation of Athletic Complex. A table establishing these Typologies is included in the following section.

To go hand in hand with this typology establishment, a series of phases or steps have been studied to give the Municipality a concise game plan for making improvements throughout the park system. Sweeping and in some cases, dramatic changes are being recommended. Without a clear path for how these improvements are conducted could lead to a fragmented, disjointed product. Site Development Plans were completed for Village Green and Simmons Parks, as part of these Site Development Plans other parks were affected. Flat fields are proposed to be replaced with new ballfields at Millennium Park. In order for that to occur those flat fields will have to be constructed at Village Green as proposed. Once those fields have been established, the flat fields at Millennium can then be removed and replaced with two new ballfields.

**TABLE 5: SURVEY OF PROPOSED CHANGES**

	<b>PARK</b>	<b>USE</b>	<b>MAJOR STRATEGIC CHANGES/IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
STEP 1	Simmons Park	Softball	1. Improve the middle field and back field	Allow softball exclusive use
			2. Replace backstops	
			3. Ensure fields are graded properly	
			4. Shorten infields where necessary	
			5. Provide safe pedestrian (paved/ADA accessible) route to back field	
STEP 2	Village Green	Soccer and Lacrosse	1. Install two flat fields	Allow soccer and lacrosse exclusive use
			2. Lacrosse rebounding board	
			3. Create inclusive flatfield if space allows	
			4. Purchase new/more nets, etc.	
			5. Add perimeter trail	
			6. Expand parking	
STEP 3	Millennium Park	Baseball	1. Replace soccer fields with two diamond fields (230' to fence and 210' to fence)	BBA and BCL to be primary user
			2. Construct concession stand	
STEP 4	Simmons Park	Softball	1. Remove front field	Road, basketball and tennis courts remain as is
			2. Replace front field with relocated parking, new concession stand, new restrooms, etc.	
			3. Implement splash pad, new inclusive playground, patio terrace oriented toward the stream, additional court sports (Pickleball, etc)	
STEP 5	Oak Tree	"Baseball/T-Ball"	1. Remove existing ballfield	BBA to be primary user
			2. Reorient ballfield	
			3. Create additional ballfield	
STEP 6	Park Avenue	Soccer, Lacrosse and Football	1. Install turf on play surface	Move BBA use to Oak Tree
			2. Repurpose the lower field	



**TABLE 6: OTHER NEEDED FUNCTIONAL/SAFETY CHANGES/IMPROVEMENTS**

<b>PARK</b>	<b>USE</b>	<b>MAJOR STRATEGIC CHANGES/IMPROVEMENTS</b>		<b>COMMENTS</b>
Miner's Memorial	Softball	1	Improve middle field (move fence to create two different sized fields)	Maintain softball exclusive use
		2	Improve restroom facilities	
		3	Improve lower parking	
		4	Improve access between upper and lower fields with staircase	
UPMC Field	Baseball Practice Field	1	Bleacher rehabilitation	
		2	Restroom facilities	
		3	Drainage	
		4	Lighting	
Oak Tree	Baseball	1	New playground equipment	
		2	New equipment storage boxes	
		3	Additional parking	
Birch Tree		1	New playground equipment	
		2	ADA accessibility	
Elm Tree		1	New playground equipment	
		2	ADA accessibility	
Mollyhill		1	New playground equipment	
		2	New pavilion	
		3	ADA accesibility	
		4	Additional parking	
Peter J Page		1	New trail surface - crushed limestone	
		2	New parking area	
Pine Tree		1	New playground equipment	
		2	ADA accessibility	

TABLE 7: ACTIVITY/USE

<b>ATHLETIC COMPLEX</b>	<b>ACTIVITY/USE</b>
Village Green	Soccer
	Lacrosse
	Inclusive Field
	Walking path
Millennium Park	Baseball
	Adult Softball
Park Avenue (upper)	Soccer
	Lacrosse
	Football
Park Avenue (lower)	Multi-purpose (unorganized open space)
UPMC Field	Baseball field
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>	<b>ACTIVITY/USE</b>
Simmons Park	Softball
	Court Sports (basketball, tennis, volleyball, Pickleball, etc.)
	Splash Pad
	Small playground/large inclusive playground
	Hiking trails/walking path
Miner's Memorial	Softball
	Playground
	Basketball courts

TABLE 7: ACTIVITY/USE CONTINUED

<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>	<b>ACTIVITY/USE</b>
Oak Tree	Baseball/T-ball
	Playground
Birch Tree	Playground
	Basketball
Elm Tree	Playground
	Basketball
Mollyhill	Playground
	Basketball
Pine Tree	Playground
	Basketball
	Pavilion and Grill
<b>CONSERVATION AREAS</b>	<b>ACTIVITY/USE</b>
Brookside	Passive open-space
Shamrock	Passive open-space
Peter J Page	Hiking trails/walking path



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Identify and Select Preferred Smartphone Field Scheduling/ Maintenance Application (App)**

With the advancement of modern technology, coordinating tasks and schedules among groups is easier than ever. Through the simple use of an application on a mobile device, the Recreation Department can create an online scheduling account for each of the official sports organizations to subscribe to. With the use of a scheduling database, each sports organization will be allotted a specific amount of time, (determined by the Recreation Department) to schedule for practices, rain-make-up dates and games. Having a prescribed amount of time allowed per sports organization will prevent certain groups from over-scheduling field time and will also allow the Municipality to moderate the play-time happening on the fields. Moderating the playable time on the fields will help alleviate over-use and physical wear and tear.

Working synonymously with the Recreation Department field scheduling, the Public Works maintenance staff and road crew can create maintenance work schedules and deadlines to keep everyone informed through the work week. The Public Works maintenance can also be synchronized with certain scheduled athletic games that require additional maintenance attention (tournaments, etc.). Additionally, sending and receiving messages will be much easier as both parties will be interacting with the fields at different times and can inform one another of deficiencies or issues. Finding the preferred app should be a collaborative process between the Community Services and Recreation staffs. Depending on which app they choose, the app can also assist in keeping a digital log of other maintenance components, such as flagging vandalism locations, unforeseen conditions at particular parks, etc. Maintaining work schedules throughout the entire maintenance team will enhance the Municipality's overall ability to meet deadlines and focus on both short-term and long-term maintenance goals.

### **Sports Agreement Elements**

Examples are provided within the Appendix found at the end of this report, below is a bullet list of what to consider including when drafting a typical agreement between the Municipality and any sports organization that is requesting field time.

Definitions - provide a clear and concise description of words and wording that maybe confusing

Description of application and rental process - create a list of criteria that must be followed when using Municipality property. It should be apparent for both who an organization speaks to at Bethel Park and who is the point person for the organization. Expectations of the applicant can be scripted within this section.

Scheduling - the process as to which a schedule is established and adhered to should be made apparent through the Agreement.

Descriptions of the facilities - the applicant should have a baseline understanding of the existing facility for which they are applying for.

Fees - there should be no doubt about how much a facility costs to rent, whether or not the applicant can charge an admission fee and how that process is applied and what the process of cancellation would be.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)**

### **Create an Organizational Planning Strategy for Sports Tournaments**

Along with the seven (7) different sports organizations regular season games, there are additional sports tournaments throughout the season that are played within Bethel Park's park system. To alleviate traveling between multiple parks through the duration of a single tournament, the restructuring of the parks and fields allows for all games to be played at one park. Successfully creating a planning strategy for sports tournaments will be the responsibility of the Recreation Department. An annual meeting should be held to decide which organizations will have tournaments during which dates throughout the season. This will lessen future scheduling conflicts for different organizations. Tournament planning and scheduling can also be incorporated into the Field Scheduling/Maintenance App. Detailed planning and coordination can create more appealing tournaments and allow the Bethel Park sports organizations to hold tournaments at the same caliber of neighboring communities.

### **Form Agreements between the Municipality and Sports Organizations**

A formal written agreement is a legal document summarizing the obligations between two parties. The implementation of formal written agreements between the Municipality and the various sports organizations holds both parties accountable for field quality, use and maintenance. Without a written agreement specifying exact terms, collaborators are not held responsible for how a field is prepared, used or left once a game or practice has concluded; the creation and completion of these agreements will be the responsibility of the Recreation Board.

# MAINTENANCE & EQUIPMENT





# MAINTENANCE & EQUIPMENT

## OVERVIEW

### **Purpose of the Maintenance and Equipment Assessment**

The purpose of the facilities and equipment assessment was to review how park facilities are utilized and maintenance, as well as parks are managed and evaluated in terms of meeting community goals with respect to the Municipality's resources. The assessment addresses organizational structure, staffing and facility schedules, maintenance equipment and practices and revenues versus expenditures. The assessment, conducted in collaboration with the Bethel Park Public Works Department and the Department of Recreation and Leisure Services, provides a framework to ensure facilities can be utilized to their fullest ability and realistically maintained in an organized and effective manner.

### **Maintenance Overview**

As previously mentioned, the Municipality's parks and respective facilities are maintained by three specialized Public Works staff members, with help from the road crew and temporary student workers during the peak summer months. The maintenance budget comprises the payroll for permanent Public Works staff and seasonal staff members, expenses related to equipment repairs or purchases, supplies, uniforms, etc. During the summer months, the Public Works maintenance staff maintains the five (5) most visited parks: Simmons, Millennium, Miners Memorial, Park Avenue and Village Green; their maintenance routine begins with Simmons Park and ends with Millennium Park. Neighborhood parks are maintained by the road crew and student workers. During the off-season, the Public Works staff resumes maintaining all of the parks. The Maintenance staff responsibilities include mowing fields, pruning,

collecting trash, cleaning and stocking bathrooms, cleaning and repairing pavilions, ballfield dragging, addressing any vandalism issues, repairing any playground related deficiencies or hazards and any other issues that arise. The maintenance equipment includes 3 tractors with various attachments, a Z-Mover, a standard mower, a weed whip, one rototiller, one aerator, fertilizer spreader, a power washer, a chainsaw and a backpack-style leaf blower. Additionally, the various sports organizations that use the athletic facilities perform their own occasional maintenance, such as dragging.

### **Maintenance Challenges**

Maintenance during the summer months makes it necessary for extra staff to help with park upkeep. Road crew time is dedicated to park maintenance; however, the limits of some maintenance expertise can cause challenges. Maintenance responsibilities of the road crew and student workers pertain solely to mowing the grass and emptying trash receptacles. While these are vital maintenance responsibilities, other essential practices, such as checking and/or repairing playground facilities, removing graffiti, etc., are not completed by the road crew. Resulting in, such tasks being on hold until the summer months are complete and the Public Works staff returns to visiting all of the parks.

Because the number and acreage of parks within the Municipality, field mowing often consumes most amount of time. This landscaping creates parks distinguished for their well-manicured fields; the emphasis on mowing makes other necessary maintenance tasks, such as the cleaning of bathrooms and the repair of pavilions, secondary and ultimately neglected. Challenges also arise with the schedule of mowing. During the summer months, though each of the five (5) major park gets mowed on a weekly basis, by Saturday when several different sports teams are using the parks, the fields that were mowed on Monday are no longer freshly cut and ideal for specific athletic activities. While long grasses do not affect sport activities like baseball and softball, long grasses can greatly impact sports like soccer. The high demand of athletic spaces, such as ballfields, in combination with tight schedules in between field users, has resulted in sports teams doing their own limited field maintenance like dragging the infield.

Bethel Parks' various ballfields have infield dirt mixes with different proportions of sand, clay and silt. This means that the maintenance procedures for one field does not translate to the other and can often times result in infields being left in conditions making it difficult for other teams to use. Infields designed with the same types of dirt mixes are able to support a uniform dragging routine.

Infield mixes are not the only issues with the baseball fields. Years of dragging from the inside to the outside of the infield caused the residual dirt mix to gather and create a continuous mound along the perimeter of the infield. This causes safety hazards like ground balls bouncing up when rolling from the infield to the outfield and players tripping when running between the infield and outfield. This mound is due to the repetitive method of dragging, starting from the inside of the infield to the outside. With alternating dragging directions, this mound could be alleviated. Additionally, several baseball fields have been designed with a swale to capture water that would otherwise drain into the infield. While this technique saves the infield from water damage, it causes a tripping hazard in the outfield.

**TABLE 8: INVENTORY OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT FOR PARK AND RECREATION FACILITY MAINTENANCE**

<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>BRAND/MODEL</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Tractor	2	New Holland Boomer 37	
Tractor	1	New Holland TC 45	2002
Tractor Attachment - Mower	1	Land Pride	2002
Tractor Attachment - Infield	1	Diamond Master	2001
Z-Mower	1	Toro 6000 Series	
Walk-behind Mower	1	Toro 48"	
Weed Whip	3	Stihl FS90r	
Rototiller	1	Lawn Chief - 5 HP	
Aerator	1	Toro - 687 3/4 Spoon	2013
Fertilizer Spreader	1	Lely	2013
Chainsaw	Used from Public Works Inventory		
Leaf Blower Backpack	1	Stihl	
Power Broom	1	Stihl	2007



In defining athletic field boundaries, Bethel Park provides fencing along their perimeters throughout the most popular parks. This is helpful for stopping balls and creating barriers between the playfields and spectators; the fence quality, however, poses safety problems. Most park fences are chainlink, which is appropriate for athletic fields, but may be older and worn, resulting in rusty metal. The fences in front of sideline bleachers are too low, failing to serve their primary function of providing a safety barrier for spectators. Years of players holding onto the fences caused the metal to bend and consequently curve at the base, exposing the sharp, twisted ends of the chainlink. Park visitors have noticed that even for children wearing cleats this is a safety hazard. Recently, a regional youth soccer governing body submitted a complaint about the danger of these fences and that children sliding near or into fences during games could be seriously injured. Consequently, tournaments choose locations other than Bethel Park's facilities to hold their events.

Almost every park within the Municipality has a playground facility for citizens to use. These playgrounds range in size and age. Overall, residents are satisfied with the quantity of playground structures. Maintenance challenges are occurring with the structures' age and wear. Some older playgrounds, over time, need repairs and improvements as all playgrounds do (purchasing a replacement equipment piece from the original playground manufacturer). Bethel Park repairs/replaces playground parts itself. Attempts are commendable for saving repair expenses, but because no maintenance staff member is CPSI certified, Municipality playgrounds can be found with hazards like uncapped screw ends. These safety concerns put users at risk and may be deterrents for those visiting the parks.







An essential attribute of any high-quality park is a clean restroom. While many of the features in the Municipality's parks embody its mission to provide quality recreational facilities to residents and visitors, Bethel Park's restrooms do not follow suit. Park bathroom maintenance deters visitors from using them, and while some bathrooms may be recoverable with spackle, paint and cleaner, several are to the point where the only intervention would be replacement. Most restrooms are also not ADA accessible, and with Simmons Park having bathrooms open 24-hours a day, this poses a safety issue. As a park feature that greatly reflects any community, public restrooms are one in which cleanliness and proper maintenance is a necessity.

### **Conclusion**

General maintenance strategies and procedures that could be adopted are:

- Focus post-season field maintenance in the fall. This practice allows the fields time to naturally recover throughout the fall and winter months as lay dormant and begin the process of their own natural recovery processes.
- Inspect and remediate apparent drainage issues. It is important to first identify where the water is coming from. Surface water is generally easier to remediate through use of swales and bioretention areas. Regrading fields and installation of underground conveyance systems are much more labor intense. Subsurface water is due to a high water table and would require much more discussion.
- Implementing an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practice, it would be important for a member of the Bethel Park staff to become trained and familiar with monitoring turf, pests, and environmental conditions.
- Join a turfgrass management group such as Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO - [www.kafmo.org](http://www.kafmo.org)) to stay current with progressive practices and a forum to ask questions.

Parks are the public face of the community. Well maintained parks reflect that a community strives to provide its citizens with quality and safe recreational spaces. In order to let the community's parks embody municipal values, Bethel Park has the opportunity to prioritize its maintenance practices and resources.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Adopt Park Typology Maintenance Standards**

Bethel Park parks experience different levels of activities which serve different functions. Additionally, the parks also vary in their ecological qualities, some characterized by unique species of plants and animals, while others are distinguished by large fields, making them more suited for active recreation. With this diversity, Bethel Park should adopt the park typologies in order for the parks to fulfill their most appropriate function.

A key component of the classification system is the adoption of park-specific maintenance standards: with different park functions comes different park maintenance practices. Parks which are used for athletic activities and active recreation, such as Millennium Park, should be maintained in a very different manner than parks, such as Peter J. Page Park, that are valued for their inherent ecological attributes and the passive recreation opportunities they offer. This differentiation will result in some parks being acutely maintained and manicured as they are now while others will support “no-mow” areas and will require little maintenance. Other aspects of a standardized maintenance plan will include the use of pesticides, pruning practices, etc. A standardized maintenance plan should be developed through the collaboration of a third-party maintenance consultant and the Public Works maintenance staff.

### **Adopt General Field Maintenance Goals/Standards**

With a clear vision, it is easier to know what the end goal is and how to achieve that goal. This challenge is no different for a parks maintenance team. In order for an aspiration to become an expectation, both short-term and long-term goals and standards should be clearly defined, complete with detailed objectives, procedures and timelines. This practice will allow for the Bethel Park Public Works Department to transcend tedious maintenance and improvement planning and realize what the long-term goals of the community’s parks system are, while in the meantime focusing on day-to-day maintenance.

### **Create a Risk Management Plan**

With most public parks and facilities there are some types of inherent risks that may be hazardous to patrons and/or maintenance staff. The purpose of a Risk Management Plan is to prevent all avoidable risks and hazards, minimize the impact of unavoidable risks, and implement strategies to prevent any incidents to be repeated. Developing a risk management plan consists of identifying possible risks, analyzing how the risks can be avoided, and then monitoring the progress of risk management through tracking frequency and severity of incidents. This will not only improve the safety of the Municipality’s park visitors and valued staff but also save the Municipality potential insurance expenses. Basic components of the Risk Management Plan will be proper maintenance of equipment and facilities, the value of signage, recommended staff and volunteer training, special events best practices, etc.



### **Hire a 3rd Party Groundskeeper to Develop a Park Facility-Specific Maintenance Program and Provide Training/ Instruction to the Department of Public works**

In order to fully understand the necessary maintenance practices and procure professional training instructions, it would be advantageous for the Municipality to seek a third-party maintenance consultant to develop a park and facility-specific maintenance program. This consultant would have a 3 to 5-year contract with the Municipality, and they would show the Public Works maintenance staff the proper procedures and scheduling of maintenance tasks, such as fertilizing, pruning, etc. The consultant would work alongside the staff to ensure that all maintenance tasks are being performed properly, and by the end of the contract, the consultant would transition all tasks completely over to the Public Works staff. Having an impartial, professional perspective of maintenance practices can be helpful to supply a fresh pair of eyes in recognizing challenges and providing solutions.

### **Host an Annual Spring Field Maintenance Training Workshop**

In preparation of an upcoming summer athletic season, the Recreation and Leisure Board, should facilitate an annual Spring Field Maintenance training workshop in order to educate and train all the Bethel Park sports groups on proper field maintenance. This type of workshop would ensure that all sports groups understand the etiquette and expectations associated with using the athletic fields and to ensure that all sports groups will be able to use fields in good conditions. This training workshop will also outline the schedule of all groups using the spaces so that teams are aware of when they need to be finished with the fields. Additionally, this would serve as an opportunity to inform teams of any new maintenance practices that will be new to the upcoming season and a review of overall summer maintenance goals.

### **“Park Tenders” Program**

A way to get the community involved with the aesthetic enhancement and cultivate a sense of park ownership is to host two events per year at specific parks that brings residents and Public Works together to work on park beautification projects. This program would be facilitated through the Recreation and Leisure Board and would require the collaborative efforts of the Board and Public Works maintenance staff to prioritize improvement projects and coordinate the details of the event. After jointly identifying the park for the event, Public Works would develop an improvement plan that would be designed for residents and which would focus on aesthetic values. Focal projects would be re-painting park pavilions, constructing guide rails along streams, the planting of shade trees, etc. This kind of event would foster a greater sense of park ownership within the community and may help minimize park vandalism.

# FINANCE & MANAGEMENT







## OVERVIEW

### **Purpose of the Finance & Management**

In order for any Parks and Recreation system to sustain itself, financial planning and Department management are critical issues that should be assessed and revisited often. The purpose of financial management in parks and recreation is the judicious use of capital resources and the careful selection of capital projects to enable Municipality spending to advance parks and recreation goals. With proper organization, management and distribution of responsibilities, a Department can reach these goals. A focus on improving financial systems and distinguishing management dynamics can also help maximize the return on investment, improve cost control and revenue generation, enhance overall system functioning and interrelationships, and provide measures of performance and accountability.

### **Financing Parks and Recreation**

Every year, each Pennsylvania municipality must find a way to meet required mandates and provide all public services at the desired level of its residents, while balancing its local tax burdens. Like other municipalities, Bethel Park operates within a climate of fiscal conservatism and increasing demands.

Bethel Park funds expenses for recreation services and parks maintenance from local tax revenues (annually). The expenditures for overall park maintenance and capital improvement projects, however, have been under budget in recent years. Unused budget funds for capital improvements carry over to the following year and become incorporated into the next year's budget.



## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

### Department of Recreation and Leisure Services

The main objective of the Department of Recreation and Leisure Services is to provide residents and non-residents alike with a multitude of recreation and leisure programs throughout the year. These programs, ranging from art lessons to fitness classes, are established to offer quality activities and workshops for all Bethel Park residents.

The Recreation Director is responsible for guiding and administering the strategic and functional activities related to year-round recreation programs. The essential duties of the position include the following:

- To supervise all recreation office activity including the daily operations, development and implementation of new programs, evaluation and improvement of existing programs, supervision and evaluation of all program supervisors and activity instructors
- To develop and review budgets for all current and active department programs/activities, project activity revenues (including registration fees and sponsor fees), activity expenditures for payroll, contract costs and materials/supplies, and to confirm any contract costs as may be required
- To plan, develop, organize and administer Youth Programs, Adult Programs, Special Programs and Aquatics Programs
- To confer at frequent intervals with Public Works personnel, recommend work to be done in order to have recreation areas and facilities ready for use in carrying out recreation program as planned
- To maintain coordination with School District Central Administration, School Principals and Athletic Office for availability of facilities and to confirm approval of use for department activities
- To communicate with class supervisors and instructors to confirm all class dates, times and locations
- To represent the Department in meetings with the Municipal Council, Recreation Advisory Board and various community and recreation groups
- Coordinate with Bethel Park Sports Organizations in scheduling practice, game, and tournament dates.

**Department of Recreation and Leisure Services Support**

In addition to the Recreation Director, the Department of Recreation and Leisure Services has multiple positions of support. The Assistant Recreation Director who supervises all community center activity including the daily operations, development and implementation of new programs, and evaluation and improvement of existing programs.

The Youth Program Coordinator's tasks include: maintaining the internet presence of the Department through Facebook, e-Newsletters, the coordination and facilitation of the Summer Day Camps, NAMS Jams, Battle of the Bands, Ski Trips and other youth-focused activities, supervision and evaluation of activity instructors.

The Recreation Secretary and Clerks provide support to the Recreation Director and keep records of all Recreation Office and Community Center registrations, facility rental agreements and payments.

The Community Center Clerks and Attendants greet visitors and answers telephones, documents program registrations, memberships and registration payment information.

**Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services Board**

The Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services Board makes recommendations to Council pertaining to recreation programs and the purchase, development, maintenance, proposed uses, supervision and regulation of public park and recreation facilities located in the Municipality. Their goal is to advance the parks in Bethel Park for the entire community. The Board includes eight (8) members. Some of their responsibilities include:

- To recommend policy relating to the conduct of all recreational programs and activities including specific rules, regulations, etc. relating to such programs
- To recommend fees, charges and expenditures for programs offered by the Department of Recreation and Leisure Services
- To recommend an annual budget to the Municipal Manager for approval by Municipal Council and School Board in accordance with the agreement



- To review the purchase of supplies and equipment for programs offered by the Department of Recreation and Leisure Services in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Agreement
- To review recommendations from the Municipality and School District concerning Parks and Recreation matters, and to respond to it in writing
- To advise the Municipality and School District on matters relating to recreational needs, use of facilities and the development of parks in the community
- To perform such other responsibilities as may from time to time be set forth by mutual consent of the Municipality and School District

### **Municipal Council**

The Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Board has an active and ongoing relationship with the Municipal Council. The Municipal staff recommends an annual budget, which includes the recreation and leisure services program and property maintenance, to the Council for review and approval. The Board also advises the Municipality as to parks, recreation and leisure service needs and demands the community expresses.

### **Department of Public Works**

The Bethel Park Department of Public Works not only manages a wide variety of fields and parks, but is also responsible for performing a myriad of tasks and projects including maintaining the roads, storm and sanitary sewers, street signs and Municipal facilities. The scope of management includes, but is not limited to, essential maintenance tasks such as patching asphalt, assembling wooden booths for Community Days and mowing the grass of a ballfield.

Collectively, the Public Works Department is responsible for all fourteen (14) parks along with the other responsibilities.

The Public Works Director is responsible for running a Parks crew, Road crew and Signage crew. Determining where to allocate manpower, hours, and resources throughout the Municipality is essential.

**Managing Park Maintenance**

Bethel Park Public Works performs all routine and cyclic maintenance of parks and recreation facilities including the Community Center. Addressing park maintenance through a unique approach, the Municipality integrates park maintenance within the Public Works Department to make best use of the entire maintenance workforce, equipment and supplies. Bethel Park employs three (3) Public Works staff members that specialize in park maintenance to take care of the Municipal parks. Having three (3) specialized Public Works members greatly assists the Municipality in maintaining park facilities, as these staff members address maintenance issues like playground repairs, pavilion improvements, vandalism removal, etc., in addition to basic tasks like mowing fields and emptying trash receptacles. While these three (3) staff members work year round to maintain the parks, the Department augments the maintenance effort during the spring and summer months due to the intensity of the field maintenance schedule.

The amount of time spent on park maintenance varies annually depending on factors such as weather, facility use, etc., but the summer months consistently keep all park maintenance staff busy. During the spring and summer seasons, the three (3) Public Works staff members are assigned to the five (5) major parks within the Municipality (Simmons, Village Green, Park, Millennium and Miners). The additional parklets are maintained by the road crew within the Public Works department. These extra hands are immensely helpful in park maintenance, but are limited in park maintenance expertise and thus the road crew only mows fields and empties trash receptacles. Facility improvements such as playground or pavilion repairs are not undertaken by the road crew due to limited training, and as a result, repairs in smaller parks are delayed until after the summer season. During the spring and summer, seasonal help is employed, usually student workers on summer break, to assist the road crew. There is a park maintenance routine for both the Public Works staff and the road crew to visit and service the parks, but like most municipalities, there is no written maintenance plan that outlines Bethel Park's expectations for maintenance or seasonal goals.

In 2014, the Municipality allocated approximately \$425,700 for total park maintenance, which includes expenditures like salaries and vehicle repairs but does not include funds that are spent on major capital improvement projects. In 2015, Bethel Park was able to increase their general maintenance budget to about \$432,700 and even more so in 2016, with a total budget of about \$523,700. Considering 2016's budget, park maintenance accounts for about 2.1% of the Municipality's total budget (see Table 9). While Bethel Park has been successful in securing more funding for park maintenance in recent years, compared to neighboring communities or communities with similar park systems, the Municipality dedicates considerably less of its total budget to maintenance.

**TABLE 9: BUDGET**

<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b># OF PARKS</b>	<b>TYPICAL ANNUAL PARK MAINTENANCE BUDGET</b>	<b>TYPICAL ANNUAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET</b>	<b>% BUDGET FOR PARK MAINTENANCE</b>
MURRAYSVILLE	16	\$600,000	\$14,000,000	4.3%
RICHLAND TOWNSHIP	1	\$225,000	\$6,100,000	3.7%
UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP	14	\$800,000	\$9,500,000	8.4%
BETHEL PARK	14	\$523,800	\$24,700,000	2.1%

### **Long-Term Investing**

Currently, the Municipality has no sinking fund for the reserve toward long-term capital improvement projects. Further, Bethel Park has no capital improvement plan specifically for parks. In the past couple years, the Municipality has begun to set funding aside specifically for capital improvements; this saving method is not intended for the long term improvements, but rather for small-scale improvements. The Municipality's approach to public improvements is reactive rather than proactive, meaning capital improvements are addressed when issues arise. With no sinking fund, budget set aside for overall capital improvements is spent on short-term, small-scale projects.





### **Certifications & Licenses**

The Public Works staff does not currently have a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI). The National Recreation and Park Association offers this nationally-recognized certification program in playground safety. This program provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date training on playground safety issues including hazard identification, equipment inspections and specifications, surfacing requirements and risk management methods. The CPSI certification is one that must be updated every three (3) years.

Credentials on staff can be challenging to fulfill. Beyond CPSI certification, many municipalities have found the value of offering training workshops for maintenance staff to enhance their ability to recognize hazards during routine inspections throughout the year.

No one on the Public Works staff possesses a Certified Public Pesticide Applicator (CPPA) license. Certification as a Public Pesticide Applicator is crucial for park maintenance because it is required if pesticides are being applied to the parks, playgrounds and/or athletic fields. This type of certification must also be updated every three (3) years.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Define roles and goals of various park and recreation parties and improve internal coordination.**

Citizens of Bethel Park have high expectations for the services that the Department of Recreation and Leisure Services, the Public Works maintenance staff and the road crew provide. Clarifying the function, roles and responsibilities defined for these positions can make long-term goals and expectations easier to attain. Specific roles, responsibilities and long-term targets should be defined as a step in enhancing the relationship and common mission within these vital parties.

In conjunction with defining the overall mission and individual roles of the various parties is improving their communication. With the advancement of modern technology, coordinating work tasks and schedules among work

teams is easier than ever. Through the simple use of an application on a mobile device, the Department Director can coordinate with the various sports organizations and Public Works maintenance staff to bring all parties together on a single interface. Managing park activities and maintenance on a single application will make schedule coordination easier for sports groups and allow for the maintenance staff to better anticipate maintenance timelines.

#### **Train a staff member(s) to become CPSI and CPPA**

The National Recreation and Park Association offers a nationally-recognized Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) certification program in playground safety that provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date training on playground safety issues including hazard identification, equipment specifications, surfacing requirements and risk management methods.

Without a CPSI on staff, this function should either be annually contracted, or, for the most cost-effective and efficient way to inspect municipal play areas, a Public Works staff person should obtain CPSI certification. Additionally, having a road crew member that is also CPSI certified will allow the crew to assist in maintenance operations beyond trash and mowing during the summer months. If not feasible, the CPSI certified Public Works staff member should be scheduled to do continuous inspections of neighborhood parks throughout the summer months. Further, having a staff member with this certification will support other municipal safety efforts like the Risk Management Plan and will allow the CPSI to be a resource for other maintenance staff, making it easier for the entire maintenance staff to recognize facility safety hazards. Over time the Municipality will realize the cost savings as a result of not having to hire an outsider consultant.

The Municipality should undertake a similar process for assigning Certified Public Pesticide Applicator (CPPA) responsibilities.

#### **Increase the allocation of budget resources to parks and recreation**

The Municipality recognizes that its parks are the public face of the community, and while it may not wish to compete with the facilities of some neighboring communities, it strives to offer quality passive and active recreation opportunities for its citizens. To raise the standards for the Municipality's park system, it is recommended that Bethel Park reconfigures its annual budget to reserve more funding for park

**Creation of a “Friends of the Park” or other volunteer-based park group**

A “Friends of the Park” (Friends) group is a private organization that can work closely with the Municipality as a private entity. As a private organization, Friends can engage in different fundraising opportunities that a Municipality cannot, such as corporate sponsorships. Friends can also raise funds through advertising and marketing to enhance the quality of the parks and park programming. Along with the Municipality, Friends can work in conjunction with sports organizations to coordinate special events and fundraising opportunities related to the athletic fields and facilities.

**Enhance Park Security**

To improve park visitor safety, equally as important as creating a Risk Management Plan, is enhancing park security. This effort will require the Department of Recreation and Leisure Services to work with the Municipal Police Department to take a multi-pronged approach to visitor safety. First, more frequent police rounds should occur around the various community parks, especially those that are frequently used like Simmons Park and Millennium Park. Another safety improvement should be increased lighting in places such as along pedestrian trails, in parking lots, and other commonly used areas that would leave visitors vulnerable if not well lit. Security cameras can be installed to not only deter criminal acts, but to help identify criminals or track frequently plighted spots. Police presence at community events would also be helpful in both making park visitors feel more safe and also discouraging criminal activities.

**Park Lighting Additions**

Adequate lighting in public parks plays a crucial role in park safety, security and directly impacts visitor’s perceptions of safety and their willingness to use a park. Lighting is a key factor in clarifying the layout of a park by emphasizing walkways and gathering spaces, especially during evening hours. Additional park lighting for site amenities such as outdoor courts or fields will also encourage greater evening use. Illuminating major pathways helps minimize the risk for slips or falls for park users and creates a greater perception of safety within the park. Lighting types, placement, and level of illumination should be appropriate for the park typology and the adjacent land uses.

**Establish a program for Dog Walkers**

All across the country communities are working together to create opportunities for dog owners to enjoy their community parks with their dogs. Designating certain parks for dog walking will meet residents’ desire to have dedicated areas to walk their dogs while sharing time with other park users. In addition to designating particular parks for dog walking, installing waste pick-up bag stations and trash receptacles will help minimize maintenance issues associated with dogs in parks.



# RECOMMENDATIONS





# RECOMMENDATIONS

## OVERVIEW

As the Municipality has set forth a goal of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Recreation Department, the Department should continue monitoring and updating the manner in which it develops the planning and support mechanisms needed to attain its proven efficiency and effectiveness of quality that the community desires.

### **Improvement/Investment Timeframe Legend for Action Plan:**

Immediate: 0-2 years

Short-Term: >2-4 years

Intermediate-Term: >4-7 years

Long-Term: >7-10 years



**TABLE 10: IMPROVEMENT/INVESTMENT**

<b>PARK</b>	<b>Improvement/Investment</b>	<b>Improvement/ Investment Timeframe</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Applies to All Parks	Enact Action Plans	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Community Services
Applies to All Parks	Adopt Formal Park Typologies	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Community Services
Applies to All Parks	Host an Annual Spring Field Maintenance Training Workshop	Immediate	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Applies to All Parks	Identify a Smartphone Field Scheduling/Maintenance App	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Public Works
Applies to All Parks	Enhance Park Security	Immediate	Council and Parks and Rec Dept, Community Services, Police
Applies to All Parks	Define roles and goals of various park and recreation parties to improve internal coordination	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Public Works
Applies to All Parks	Hire a 3rd Party Groundskeeper	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Train an employee to become a Certified Playground Safety Inspector and Certified Public Pesticide Applicator	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Form Agreements between the Municipality and Sports Organizations	Immediate	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Sports Associations
Applies to All Parks	Adopt General Field Maintenance Goals/Standards	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Increase the allocation of budget resources to parks and recreations	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Community Services
Applies to All Parks	Establish a Capital Improvements Program for Parks	Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Park Lighting Additions	Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Organization of Sports Tournaments	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept and Sports Organizations
Applies to All Parks	Creation of a "Friends of the Park" or other volunteer-based park group	Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept
Applies to All Parks	Creation of a "Park Tenders" program	Intermediate-Term	Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Establish a program for Dog Walkers	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Community Services
Applies to All Parks	Create a Risk Management Plan	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Community Services



# ACTION PLAN

## OVERVIEW

Bethel Park's system of outdoor park and recreation facilities is an integral and valued element of the Municipality's landscape. As part of the Community Parks Assessment planning effort, the Municipality focused on developing a long-term strategy to meet resident and visitor recreational needs through maintaining and/or improving existing Municipal facilities. The following Action Plan summarizes items for implementation across the system of outdoor facilities. This Action Plan considers public input, collaboration with Municipality staff and input from community leaders. Recognizing there is a finite amount of resources available to address the wide range of recommendations, a phased strategy for carrying out this plan is anticipated. Consequently, strategies are itemized with potential implementation timeframes and anticipated responsibility parties.

To implement complex recommendations, cooperation and collaboration among many will most likely be necessary. Varying recommendations and policies will require civic leaders', municipal staff's, authorities', residents' and the sports groups' commitment within Bethel Park. Complex projects will also typically have a high level of direct Council and Municipality staff involvement. Recommendations with limited scale and/or complexity may provide opportunity for the Parks and Recreation Board to initiate efforts and the Public Works Department to implement them.

### **Improvement/Investment Timeframe Legend for Action Plan:**

Immediate: 0-2 years

Short-Term: >2-4 years

Intermediate-Term: >4-7 years

Long-Term: >7-10 years

TABLE: 11 - ACTION PLAN

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Applies to All Parks	Enact Action Plans	Policy		Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Community Services
Applies to All Parks	Adopt Formal Park Typologies	Policy		Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Community Services
Applies to All Parks	Host an Annual Spring Field Maintenance Training Workshop	Policy		Immediate	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Applies to All Parks	Identify a Smartphone Field Scheduling/ Maintenance App	Policy		Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Public Works
Applies to All Parks	Enhance Park Security	Policy		Immediate	Council and Parks and Rec Dept, Community Services, Police
Millennium Park	Field evaluation - turfgrass management and core samples	Capital	\$10,000	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Field evaluation - turf grass management & no mow implementation at Lower Field	Capital	\$15,000	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Oak Tree Park	Field evaluation - turfgrass management and core samples	Capital	\$3,500	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Park Avenue	Field evaluation - turfgrass management and core samples	Capital	\$7,500	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Hockey court repurposing - Pickleball retrofit	Capital	\$0	Immediate	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Field evaluation - turfgrass management and core samples	Capital	\$10,000	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Simmons Park	Drainage remediation - at back field	Capital	\$10,000	Immediate	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Village Green Park	Field evaluation - turfgrass management and core samples	Capital	\$5,000	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Village Green Park	Playground equipment - new (funding currently in place)	Capital		Immediate	Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor

TABLE 11: ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Applies to All Parks	Adopt General Field Maintenance Goals/Standards	Policy		Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Increase the allocation of budget resources to parks and recreations	Policy		Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Community Services
Applies to All Parks	Hire a 3rd Party Groundskeeper	Policy		Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Train an employee to become a Certified Playground Safety Inspector	Policy		Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Form Agreements between the Municipality and Sports Organizations	Policy		Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Sports Associations
Birch Tree Park	Basketball court rehabilitation - paint backboards, new net	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Public Works
Birch Tree Park	Benches - 2	Capital	\$1,000	Short-Term	Public Works
Birch Tree Park	Playground rehabilitation - minor - new swing seats, painting, new surface, code compliance	Capital	\$20,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Elm Tree Park	Basketball court rehabilitation - paint backboards	Capital	\$750	Short-Term	Public Works
Elm Tree Park	New Benches - 2	Capital	\$1,000	Short-Term	Public Works
Elm Tree Park	Playground rehabilitation - minor - new swing seats, painting, new surface, code compliance	Capital	\$20,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Millennium Park	Entrance sign beautification	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Miners Memorial Park	Upper front - fix rutting, fix edge condition	Capital	\$2,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Upper front - backstop refurbishing	Capital	\$3,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor



TABLE 11: ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Miners Memorial Park	Upper back - fix rutting, fix edge condition	Capital	\$2,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Upper back - fence renovation	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Lower field - fix rutting, fix edge condition	Capital	\$2,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Lower field - fence renovation, painting	Capital	\$500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Lower field - new bleachers - 2 sets	Capital	\$20,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Mollyhill Park	New benches - 2	Capital	\$1,000	Short-Term	Public Works
Oak Tree Park	New bleachers - 2 sets of new bleachers	Capital	\$20,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Oak Tree Park	Pavilion repair - minor	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Public Works
Oak Tree Park	Baseball field - minor rehabilitation	Capital	\$750	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Park Avenue	Site furnishings at pavilion - picnic table, 2 benches	Capital	\$1,750	Short-Term	Public Works
Park Avenue	Baseball field - 1 set of bleachers	Capital	\$10,000	Short-Term	Public Works
Park Avenue	Flat field - players benches - 2	Capital	\$500	Short-Term	Public Works
Park Avenue	Playground rehabilitation - code compliance, new shade trees	Capital	\$2,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Peter J. Page Park	New benches - 3	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Public Works
Pine Tree Park	Basketball court rehabilitation - new backboard	Capital	\$1,000	Short-Term	Public Works

TABLE 11: ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Pine Tree Park	Pavilion repair - minor	Capital	\$2,000	Short-Term	Public Works
Pine Tree Park	Grill - new	Capital	\$400	Short-Term	Public Works
Pine Tree Park	New benches - 3	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Public Works
Pine Tree Park	Playground rehabilitation - minor - new swing seats, painting, new surface, code compliance	Capital	\$20,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Middle field - replace backstop	Capital	\$12,000	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Back field - replace backstop	Capital	\$12,000	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Volleyball court - edge construction	Capital	\$1,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Tennis court rehabilitation - fix cracks, repaint	Capital	\$20,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Playground rehabilitation - minor, new swings, paint, code compliance	Capital	\$10,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Pavilion repair - minor	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Public Works
Simmons Park	Front field - fix rutting, fix edge condition	Capital	\$2,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Safety netting - to prevent foul balls hitting spectators	Capital	\$3,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Simmons Park	Middle field - pavement repair around restroom	Capital	\$3,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Back field - fix rutting, fix edge condition	Capital	\$2,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Back field - fence renovation	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor

TABLE 11: ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Simmons Park	Middle field - infield replacement	Capital	\$35,000	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
UPMC Field	Bleacher rehabilitation	Capital	\$1,000	Short-Term	Public Works
UPMC Field	Backstop rehabilitation	Capital	\$12,000	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
UPMC Field	Field rehabilitation - infield replacement	Capital	\$35,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
UPMC Field	Drainage remediation	Capital	\$10,000	Short-Term	Public Works
Village Green Park	Site furnishings at lower pavilion - 4 picnic tables	Capital	\$3,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Village Green Park	New bleachers - 3 sets	Capital	\$30,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Village Green Park	Site furnishings at upper pavilion - 2 picnic tables	Capital	\$1,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Village Green Park	Drainage remediation - at base of outfield slope and swales	Capital	\$50,000	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Lower pavilion repair - minor	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Village Green Park	Restroom rehabilitation	Capital	\$30,000	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Concession stand rehabilitation	Capital	\$35,000	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Applies to All Parks	Establish a Capital Improvements Program for Parks	Policy		Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Sports Field Lighting Additions	Policy		Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Organization of Sports Tournaments	Policy		Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept and Sports Organizations
Applies to All Parks	Creation of a "Friends of the Park" or other volunteer-based park group	Policy		Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept



TABLE 11: ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Applies to All Parks	Creation of a "Park Tenders" program	Policy		Intermediate-Term	Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Establish a program for Dog Walkers	Policy		Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Community Services
Millennium Park	New storage boxes - 12	Capital	\$6,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Sports Associations
Millennium Park	Additional bleachers - 3 sets	Capital	\$30,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Millennium Park	Restroom refurbishing	Capital	\$30,000	Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Millennium Park	Field rehabilitation - new infield mix at each ballfield	Capital	\$100,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Lower field - new storage boxes - 3 boxes	Capital	\$1,500	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Sports Associations
Miners Memorial Park	Upper back - move fence location to create 2 different sized fields	Capital	\$2,000	Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Lower field - fence addition to create outfield	Capital	\$8,500	Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Mollyhill Park	New concrete sidewalk - ADA accessible	Capital	\$25,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Mollyhill Park	Landscape buffer between park and trolley	Capital	\$10,000	Intermediate-Term	Public Works
Oak Tree Park	New storage boxes - 12	Capital	\$6,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Sports Associations
Oak Tree Park	ADA accessibility - concrete sidewalk 6' wide	Capital	\$12,500	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Peter J. Page Park	New parking area - gravel	Capital	\$3,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Simmons Park	Middle field - fence replacement	Capital	\$8,500	Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor

TABLE 11: ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Simmons Park	Back field - new storage boxes - 4	Capital	\$2,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Sports Associations
Simmons Park	New bleachers - 6 sets	Capital	\$60,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
UPMC Field	Dugout rehabilitation - graffiti removal, roofing, concrete paving in dugout (x2)	Capital	\$12,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Applies to All Parks	Create a Risk Management Plan	Policy		Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Millennium Park	Baseball Fields - 2 new in former flat field location	Capital	\$130,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Millennium Park	Concession stand and restrooms - new near lower fields	Capital	\$120,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Millennium Park	Playground equipment - new	Capital	\$75,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Millennium Park	Addition of perimeter trail - asphalt 6' wide, permeable	Capital	\$100,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Millennium Park	Lighting at multi-use field	Capital	\$75,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Lower field - dugouts	Capital	\$30,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Lower field - restroom facility (if water)	Capital	\$90,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Concrete walk 6' wide at lower area from concrete steps at parking lot	Capital	\$35,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Mollyhill Park	New Pavilion	Capital	\$35,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Mollyhill Park	Playground equipment - new	Capital	\$30,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Mollyhill Park	New trail system - crushed limestone 6' wide	Capital	\$27,000	Long-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Mollyhill Park	New parking - ADA accessible	Capital	\$20,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor

TABLE 11: ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Oak Tree Park	Playground equipment - new	Capital	\$40,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Park Avenue	Playground equipment - new	Capital	\$75,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Peter J. Page Park	New trail system - crushed limestone 6' wide	Capital	\$55,000	Long-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Simmons Park	Middle field - push fence back and make it 6' high	Capital	\$8,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Remove front field	Capital	\$5,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Parking - new in former front field location	Capital	\$175,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Concession stand with restrooms - new	Capital	\$120,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Cornhole - 3 boards	Capital	\$3,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Bocce Ball courts - 3 new	Capital	\$50,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Basketball courts - 1 new	Capital	\$20,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Batting Cages - relocate	Capital	\$2,000	Long-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Simmons Park	Sun Shades - 2 new	Capital	\$50,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Playground equipment - new	Capital	\$75,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Middle field - dugouts - 2	Capital	\$30,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Improved circulation to Front and Back field - permeable asphalt path 6' wide	Capital	\$15,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor



TABLE 11: ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Simmons Park	Splash Pad - recirculating	Capital	\$100,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
UPMC Field	Restroom facilities	Capital	\$90,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Soccer fields - install 1 new (180'x120')	Capital	\$30,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Lacrosse Field - install 2 new (330'x180')	Capital	\$150,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Sun Shade	Capital	\$25,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Concession stand with restrooms - new	Capital	\$120,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Parking - expansion	Capital	\$150,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Lacrosse rebounding boards - new	Capital	\$3,500	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Public Works
Village Green Park	Perimeter Trail - new	Capital	\$100,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor

TABLE 12: ACTION PLAN BY PARK

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Applies to All Parks	Enact Action Plans	Policy		Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Community Services
Applies to All Parks	Adopt Formal Park Typologies	Policy		Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Community Services
Applies to All Parks	Host an Annual Spring Field Maintenance Training Workshop	Policy		Immediate	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Applies to All Parks	Identify a Smartphone Field Scheduling/ Maintenance App	Policy		Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Public Works
Applies to All Parks	Enhance Park Security	Policy		Immediate	Council and Parks and Rec Dept, Community Services, Police
Applies to All Parks	Adopt General Field Maintenance Goals/Standards	Policy		Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Increase the allocation of budget resources to parks and recreations	Policy		Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Community Services
Applies to All Parks	Hire a 3rd Party Groundskeeper	Policy		Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Train an employee to become a Certified Playground Safety Inspector	Policy		Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Form Agreements between the Municipality and Sports Organizations	Policy		Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Sports Associations
Applies to All Parks	Establish a Capital Improvements Program for Parks	Policy		Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Sports Field Lighting Additions	Policy		Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Organization of Sports Tournaments	Policy		Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept and Sports Organizations

TABLE: 12 - ACTION PLAN BY PARK CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Applies to All Parks	Creation of a "Friends of the Park" or other volunteer-based park group	Policy		Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept
Applies to All Parks	Creation of a "Park Tenders" program	Policy		Intermediate-Term	Recreation Board
Applies to All Parks	Establish a program for Dog Walkers	Policy		Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Community Services
Applies to All Parks	Create a Risk Management Plan	Policy		Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Birch Tree Park	Basketball court rehabilitation - paint backboards, new net	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Public Works
Birch Tree Park	Benches - 2	Capital	\$1,000	Short-Term	Public Works
Birch Tree Park	Playground rehabilitation - minor - new swing seats, painting, new surface, code compliance	Capital	\$20,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Elm Tree Park	Basketball court rehabilitation - paint backboards	Capital	\$750	Short-Term	Public Works
Elm Tree Park	New Benches - 2	Capital	\$1,000	Short-Term	Public Works
Elm Tree Park	Playground rehabilitation - minor - new swing seats, painting, new surface, code compliance	Capital	\$20,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Millennium Park	Field evaluation - turfgrass management and core samples	Capital	\$10,000	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Millennium Park	Entrance sign beautification	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Millennium Park	New storage boxes - 12	Capital	\$6,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Sports Associations
Millennium Park	Additional bleachers - 3 sets	Capital	\$30,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works



TABLE 12: ACTION PLAN BY PARK CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Millennium Park	Restroom refurbishing	Capital	\$30,000	Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Millennium Park	Field rehabilitation - new infield mix at each ballfield	Capital	\$100,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Millennium Park	Baseball Fields - 2 new in former flat field location	Capital	\$130,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Millennium Park	Concession stand and restrooms - new near lower fields	Capital	\$120,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Millennium Park	Playground equipment - new	Capital	\$75,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Millennium Park	Addition of perimeter trail - asphalt 6' wide, permeable	Capital	\$100,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Millennium Park	Lighting at multi-use field	Capital	\$75,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Field evaluation - turf grass management & no mow implementation at Lower Field	Capital	\$15,000	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Upper front - fix rutting, fix edge condition	Capital	\$2,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Upper front - backstop refurbishing	Capital	\$3,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Upper back - fix rutting, fix edge condition	Capital	\$2,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Upper back - fence renovation	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Lower field - fix rutting, fix edge condition	Capital	\$2,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Lower field - fence renovation, painting	Capital	\$500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Lower field - new bleachers - 2 sets	Capital	\$20,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works

TABLE 12: ACTION PLAN BY PARK CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Miners Memorial Park	Lower field - new storage boxes - 3 boxes	Capital	\$1,500	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Sports Associations
Miners Memorial Park	Upper back - move fence location to create 2 different sized fields	Capital	\$2,000	Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Lower field - fence addition to create outfield	Capital	\$8,500	Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Lower field - dugouts	Capital	\$30,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Lower field - restroom facility (if water)	Capital	\$90,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Miners Memorial Park	Concrete walk 6' wide at lower area from concrete steps at parking lot	Capital	\$35,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Mollyhill Park	New benches - 2	Capital	\$1,000	Short-Term	Public Works
Mollyhill Park	New concrete sidewalk - ADA accessible	Capital	\$25,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Mollyhill Park	Landscape buffer between park and trolley	Capital	\$10,000	Intermediate-Term	Public Works
Mollyhill Park	New Pavilion	Capital	\$35,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Mollyhill Park	Playground equipment - new	Capital	\$30,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Mollyhill Park	New trail system - crushed limestone 6' wide	Capital	\$27,000	Long-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Mollyhill Park	New parking - ADA accessible	Capital	\$20,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Oak Tree Park	Field evaluation - turfgrass management and core samples	Capital	\$3,500	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Oak Tree Park	New bleachers - 2 sets of new bleachers	Capital	\$20,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works

TABLE 12: ACTION PLAN BY PARK CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Oak Tree Park	Pavilion repair - minor	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Public Works
Oak Tree Park	Baseball field - minor rehabilitation	Capital	\$750	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Oak Tree Park	New storage boxes - 12	Capital	\$6,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Sports Associations
Oak Tree Park	ADA accessibility - concrete sidewalk 6' wide	Capital	\$12,500	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Oak Tree Park	Playground equipment - new	Capital	\$40,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Park Avenue	Field evaluation - turfgrass management and core samples	Capital	\$7,500	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Park Avenue	Site furnishings at pavilion - picnic table, 2 benches	Capital	\$1,750	Short-Term	Public Works
Park Avenue	Baseball field - 1 set of bleachers	Capital	\$10,000	Short-Term	Public Works
Park Avenue	Flat field - players benches - 2	Capital	\$500	Short-Term	Public Works
Park Avenue	Playground rehabilitation - code compliance, new shade trees	Capital	\$2,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Park Avenue	Playground equipment - new	Capital	\$75,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Peter J. Page Park	New benches - 3	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Public Works
Peter J. Page Park	New parking area - gravel	Capital	\$3,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Peter J. Page Park	New trail system - crushed limestone 6' wide	Capital	\$55,000	Long-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Pine Tree Park	Basketball court rehabilitation - new backboard	Capital	\$1,000	Short-Term	Public Works
Pine Tree Park	Pavilion repair - minor	Capital	\$2,000	Short-Term	Public Works



TABLE 12: ACTION PLAN BY PARK CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Pine Tree Park	Grill - new	Capital	\$400	Short-Term	Public Works
Pine Tree Park	New benches - 3	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Public Works
Pine Tree Park	Playground rehabilitation - minor - new swing seats, painting, new surface, code compliance	Capital	\$20,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Hockey court repurposing - Pickleball retrofit	Capital	\$0	Immediate	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Field evaluation - turfgrass management and core samples	Capital	\$10,000	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Simmons Park	Drainage remediation - at back field	Capital	\$10,000	Immediate	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Simmons Park	Middle field - replace backstop	Capital	\$12,000	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Back field - replace backstop	Capital	\$12,000	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Volleyball court - edge construction	Capital	\$1,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Tennis court rehabilitation - fix cracks, repaint	Capital	\$20,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Playground rehabilitation - minor, new swings, paint, code compliance	Capital	\$10,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Pavilion repair - minor	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Public Works
Simmons Park	Front field - fix rutting, fix edge condition	Capital	\$2,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Safety netting - to prevent foul balls hitting spectators	Capital	\$3,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Simmons Park	Middle field - pavement repair around restroom	Capital	\$3,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor

TABLE 12: ACTION PLAN BY PARK CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Simmons Park	Back field - fix rutting, fix edge condition	Capital	\$2,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Back field - fence renovation	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Middle field - infield replacement	Capital	\$35,000	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Middle field - fence replacement	Capital	\$8,500	Intermediate-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Back field - new storage boxes - 4	Capital	\$2,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Sports Associations
Simmons Park	New bleachers - 6 sets	Capital	\$60,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Simmons Park	Middle field - push fence back and make it 6' high	Capital	\$8,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Remove front field	Capital	\$5,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Parking - new in former front field location	Capital	\$175,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Concession stand with restrooms - new	Capital	\$120,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Cornhole - 3 boards	Capital	\$3,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Bocce Ball Courts - 3 new	Capital	\$50,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Basketball courts - 1 new	Capital	\$20,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Batting Cages - relocate	Capital	\$2,000	Long-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Simmons Park	Sun Shades - 2 new	Capital	\$50,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Playground equipment - new	Capital	\$75,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor

TABLE 12: ACTION PLAN BY PARK CONTINUED

PARK	Improvement/Investment	Improvement /Investment Type	Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost	Improvement/ Investment Timeframe	Responsibility
Simmons Park	Middle field - dugouts - 2	Capital	\$30,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Improved circulation to Front and Back field - permeable asphalt path 6' wide	Capital	\$15,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Simmons Park	Splash Pad - recirculating	Capital	\$100,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
UPMC Field	Bleacher rehabilitation	Capital	\$1,000	Short-Term	Public Works
UPMC Field	Backstop rehabilitation	Capital	\$12,000	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
UPMC Field	Field rehabilitation - infield replacement	Capital	\$35,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
UPMC Field	Drainage remediation	Capital	\$10,000	Short-Term	Public Works
UPMC Field	Dugout rehabilitation - graffiti removal, roofing, concrete paving in dugout (x2)	Capital	\$12,000	Intermediate-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
UPMC Field	Restroom facilities	Capital	\$90,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Field evaluation - turfgrass management and core samples	Capital	\$5,000	Immediate	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board
Village Green Park	Playground equipment - new (funding currently in place)	Capital		Immediate	Parks and Rec Dept, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Site furnishings at lower pavilion - 4 picnic tables	Capital	\$3,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Village Green Park	New bleachers - 3 sets	Capital	\$30,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Village Green Park	Site furnishings at upper pavilion - 2 picnic tables	Capital	\$1,000	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Village Green Park	Drainage remediation - at base of outfield slope and swales	Capital	\$50,000	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor



**TABLE 12: ACTION PLAN BY PARK CONTINUED**

<b>PARK</b>	<b>Improvement/Investment</b>	<b>Improvement /Investment Type</b>	<b>Projected Improvement/ Investment Cost</b>	<b>Improvement/ Investment Timeframe</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Village Green Park	Lower pavilion repair - minor	Capital	\$1,500	Short-Term	Parks and Rec Dept, Public Works
Village Green Park	Restroom rehabilitation	Capital	\$30,000	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Concession stand rehabilitation	Capital	\$35,000	Short-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Soccer fields - install 1 new (180'x120')	Capital	\$30,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Lacrosse Field - install 2 new (330'x180')	Capital	\$150,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Sun Shade	Capital	\$25,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Parking - expansion	Capital	\$150,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor
Village Green Park	Lacrosse rebounding boards - new	Capital	\$3,500	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, Public Works
Village Green Park	Perimeter Trail - new	Capital	\$100,000	Long-Term	Council, Parks and Rec Dept, Recreation Board, 3rd Party Contractor







# SITE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

## VILLAGE GREEN PARK

Village Green rests in a forgotten parcel of land at the end of an access road in a large retail development. The park is tucked into a wooded perimeter and is adjacent to single family homes, a parking lot not owned by the Municipality and a big box retail store. Existing amenities include two pavilions, two playgrounds, a concession/restroom building, horseshoe pits, a skinned infield ballfield and a large flat field.

A noticeable high point exists roughly in the middle of the flat field in the north east corner of the park. Site inventory and analysis has shown that this high point is not able to be lowered due to subsurface geotechnical issues.

A main feature of the park is the noticeable drainage patterns that exist both within and in the northern portion of the flat field between it and one of the pavilions and the horseshoe pits. The Site Development Plan makes recommendations to alleviate the high point by strategically placing three (3) new flat fields that either avoid the high spot or allows for grading to dramatically reduce the severity of the high point.

The dead end parking lot is largely undersized and poorly designed. The Site Development Plan depicts an expansion that allows for nearly a 50% increase of number of spaces and better placed ADA spaces near the entrance into the park.

The existing concession stand/restroom will remain, a new proposed playground which the Municipality already owns and a new sun shade. To further bring the park together into a complete park complex a perimeter walking trail has been proposed.







**VILLAGE GREEN PARK  
SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**  
**BETHEL PARK PARKS ASSESSMENT**  
 PREPARED FOR: THE MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK  
 PREPARED BY: EPD,LLC  
 JANUARY 2017

0 40 80 NORTH  
 Property owned by the Municipality of Bethel Park  
 Total site: 11 acres  
 Site to be developed: 4.88 acres  
 \*Survey data dated 1986



## SIMMONS PARK

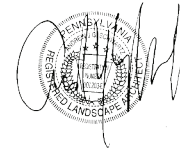
Existing on a busy Municipality road, Clifton Road, Simmons Park contains a wealth of riches; it suffers from having too much. Simmons Park park amenities include: two basketball courts, a volleyball court, a playground complex, picnic pavilion, three (3) ball fields of various sizes, a concession stand, sand volleyball court, batting cage, parking lots, restroom building and a Municipality maintenance storage shed. The elements are scattered and lack a sense of order. There is a lack of adequate parking numbers, the middle ballfield is experiencing advanced drainage issues, the back ballfield is accessible by only a dirt path and the restroom facility is substandard.

A unique element that exists at Simmons Park is a stream, Piney Fork Creek, allowing for two different classifications of park. North of the stream is the active uses, south of the stream is a wooded tranquil passive park. Cross the stream on a wooden bridge or via a concrete ford to arrive to a large pavilion and trail network that includes traversing slopes. This area of the park should be celebrated and announced. Currently Simmons Park could be classified as an Athletic Park. The current notion is shift that class to a Community Park offering less athletic fields and creating opportunity for more residents to enjoy the park. Short term recommendations would be to renovate existing park elements that are slated to remain. Bethel Park has received a grant to improve playground and sports courts facilities. A coat of paint and new playground equipment would make a statement showing the residents that things are happening in Bethel Park. The Municipality also had a grant to create a pickleball court on the existing paved hockey rink that had already taken place. The biggest move in the short term plan is a complete renovation of the middle ballfield that would propose shifting it north to accommodate a paved pedestrian walkway to the back ballfield. Older children will be able to play on the middle ballfield; the outfield fence is proposed to be 230' deep. Creating an accessible route from the parking lot in the middle of the park to the back ballfield is the beginning to making Simmons Park a unified and cohesive experience. This route also connects visitors to the concessions, splash pad, playground and turf lawn.





Property owned by the Municipality of Bethel Park  
 Total site: 22.19 acres  
 Site to be developed: 8.97 acres  
 [Icon] Indicates Accessible Parking Space  
 \*Survey data dated 1986  
 \* Potential accessible route contingent upon proper grading and construction.



**SIMMONS PARK**  
**SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**  
**BETHEL PARK PARKS ASSESSMENT**  
 PREPARED FOR: THE MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK  
 PREPARED BY: EPD, LLC  
 JANUARY 2017

0 40 80 ↑ NORTH







# APPENDIX

