

EDGEWOOD

Borough of Edgewood

Comprehensive Recreation, Park & Open Space Plan

January 2003



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The contributions of the following groups and individuals were vital to the successful development of this Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan. They are commended for their interest in the project and the input they provided for use in this Plan.

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Executive Summary

Parks and recreation play a critical role in providing a quality of life that attracts residents, businesses and economic activities to communities. Acknowledging the importance of parks and recreation to the Edgewood community, Borough Council approved the development of this Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan. The planning process utilized in the development of this Plan included extensive public input, detailed inventory and assessment, and the development of recommendations for the future of parks and recreation in Edgewood.



Community Background

Recreation, parks, and open space play a critical role in providing a quality of life that attracts residents, businesses, and economic activity to communities. Acknowledging the importance of parks and recreation to the Edgewood community, Borough Council approved the development of this Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan in the Spring of 2001. The planning process utilized in the development of this Plan included a detailed inventory and assessment, extensive public input, and the development of recommendations for the future of recreation, parks, and open space in Edgewood.

The following is a sample of the influences that were considered in planning for the future of parks and recreation within the borough.

- A vast majority of the Borough's land mass is developed.
- The Borough currently runs several successful recreation programs.
- The small population of the community will affect the number of programs able to be supported.
- There are no opportunities within the Borough to acquire land for additional park space.
- Collaboration is the key to the successful recreation system.
- Historically, parks and recreation projects have received little funding from the Borough.
- The residential streets within the Borough are lined with sidewalks, encouraging pedestrian mobility.

Public Participation

The public participation process was important in developing viable recommendations for the future of parks, recreation, and open space in Edgewood. The public input process included public meetings, close work with a project study group, distribution and tabulation of a

Collaboration is the key to the Borough's successful recreation system.

recreation questionnaire, and several key person interviews. A few of the recreation and open space needs, as identified through the public input process, are as follows:

- Develop trails within the Borough.
- Create additional landscaping within parks.
- Offer additional special events.
- Increase security at parks.
- Improve awareness of parks through sign programs and public reactions efforts.
- Develop volleyball court and soccer fields.

Inventory and Assessment

A detailed inventory and analysis of cultural resources and recreation facilities was completed. The inventory of recreation facilities included all local public and private recreation facilities serving the Edgewood community. Borough facilities were studied in detail, including the notation of size and condition of equipment. Recreation programs and existing undeveloped open space were also studied. Additionally, the operations of the Department of Recreation were examined, as well as those of the Department of Public Works as it relates to the Borough park system. This information was collected and analyzed to create an overview of the existing conditions in Edgewood. This background information provides a context within which this Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan was generated. A familiarity with this information will ensure the development of a Plan that is realistic, sensitive to current issues and tailored to the unique qualities of the Edgewood community.

Edgewood's Vision for the Future

We are proud of Edgewood's parks and recreation system. The hard work of residents and borough officials continues to result in a variety of recreation opportunities for residents of all ages.

Koenig Field is a key element of the park system. Efforts to ensure continued maintenance and improvements to the facilities result in a park that accommodates all residents for everyday use, sporting events,

community festivals, and a variety of organized recreation activities.

The improvements to Dickson Park are a wonderful addition to the Borough's park system. The new facilities are regularly used by residents in the surrounding neighborhoods. Children swarm the playground everyday.

Good communication among private organizations, borough staff and residents is the cornerstone of our successful recreation system. Regular publication of all recreation

activities and community programs within the borough ensures that everyone is aware of upcoming events. The School District, the Edgewood Club and the Borough successfully pool resources to provide a variety of recreation opportunities in an efficient manner.

Recreation continues to be a cornerstone in our community!

Recommendations

Drawing upon the inventory, assessment and public participation, recommendations for the future of recreation, parks, and open space were developed to achieve Edgewood's vision for the future.

Goals

Goals guide the fulfillment of the community's Vision. They are broad in nature and are designed to be all-encompassing, based upon community ideas and issues raised through the planning process. The goal statements reflect the themes that were identified through the inventory, assessment, and public input process illustrated in the Vision for the future. The goals also provide the organizational structure for the implementation of the Plan recommendations and future direction for the future of recreation, parks, and open space.

Implementation Strategies

Information collected through both the public input process and the professional assessment was utilized to develop detailed implementation strategies, which set forth a step-by-step Plan for fulfilling the recommendations of the Plan. Refer to Chapter 4 for detailed implementation strategies for this Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan.

Key Recommendations

Address Administrative Issues

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing Edgewood parks and recreation is the lack of an appropriate organizational structure to effectively implement its programs and manage its operations. Edgewood Borough Council, the Borough Manager, the Public Works Department and the Edgewood Recreation Board all play a role in operating Edgewood's parks and recreation. However, the authority and responsibility of each party is not easily defined. The Borough should identify the roles of each party involved and create a written description and organizational chart to depict their respective responsibility and authority. The Borough Ordinance that was enacted in 1947 to create the Edgewood Recreation Board should be updated to reflect its current authority and responsibilities; and bylaws need to be adopted by the Board to provide an effective operating structure.

Implement the Dickson Park Master Plan

The process used to develop the master plan includes an analysis of existing conditions, collection of residents' input, and the development of recommendations for the Dickson Park's future. It is this multi-faceted approach involving the community that yields a long-range strategy for improving the park. The park elements included in the master plan are:

- pedestrian trails
- 1/2 basketball court
- parking
- picnic shelter
- picnic tables
- playground
- borough recycling facility

A variety of funding opportunities should be explored, including the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, private foundations, community fundraising, and Borough tax monies.

Plan for heavy use of Koenig Field

Koenig Field serves Edgewood residents as a community park. Given that no room within the borough exists for the development of additional facilities, intense use of this park by all residents will continue for years to come. The importance of Koenig Field as the heart of Edgewood's recreation system necessitates diligent maintenance and upgrading of its facilities. The park's uses include organized sports activities, community day, recreation programs, playgrounds, and a variety of other opportunities. To ensure the continued success of this park, regular maintenance and upgrades should be planned for and performed.

Continue and enhance cooperative efforts

Cooperation is the key to the continuation of Edgewood's successful recreation system. A wealth of recreational resources exist within the Borough's boundaries and the surrounding areas. Continued open communication and sharing of resources will be an important asset. Cooperative efforts should be formalized to ensure their continuation.

Focus on Programs that can be Successful

- Be sure that all programming provided is of top quality. This includes program content, instructors and coaches, materials and supplies, facilities, and maintenance.

- Focus on programming that can be successful with smaller numbers of participants and ones that are likely to draw local participants. Look for programs that residents would like to have available within the local community.

- Seek out ways to cooperate with recreation providers to bring needed programming to the community. Do not try to compete with other recreation providers, either locally or regionally.

- Seek out ways to cooperate with surrounding communities for programs that require larger numbers of participation.

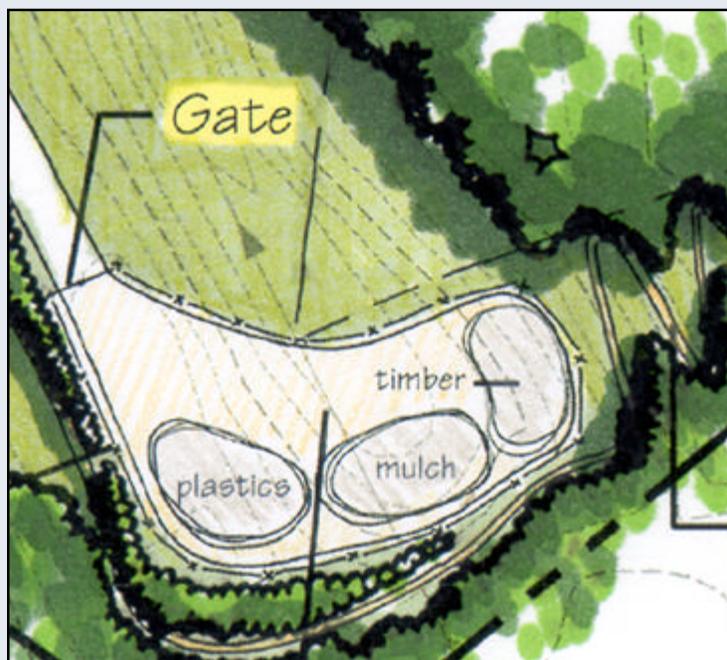
Dickson Park Master Plan

The purpose of the Master Site Development Plan for Dickson Park is to provide a foundation to guide decision making for improvements to the park. As a result, the Borough will be able to respond to requests from organizations and individuals to provide recreation facilities to Borough residents, in an orderly and fiscally responsible manner.

The master plan process included an inventory and analysis of natural features such as topography, soils, vegetative cover, wildlife habitat, hydrology and riparian corridors; reviewing cultural impacts to the site and the surrounding neighborhood, including circulation patterns, existing recreation facilities, and existing structures; determining the recreation needs of residents; and working with residents to establish recreation policies for the park.

The Final Dickson Park Master Site Development Plan embodies a lengthy design development process that involved valuable input from the project study group, as well as the professional assessment of the consultant. The following are recommendations for the future development of the park, as generated through the master planning process.

- A picnic areas with tables located among a stand of mature pines.
- 1/2 court basketball
- Paved trail (1,100 linear feet)
- Picnic pavilion
- Playground
- Borough recycling and storage area
- Pedestrian access to McKelvey Road



Success of this Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan

Key to the success of this Plan is the continuation of the current enthusiasm and support for recreation, parks, and open space in the Edgewood community, including the commitment to:

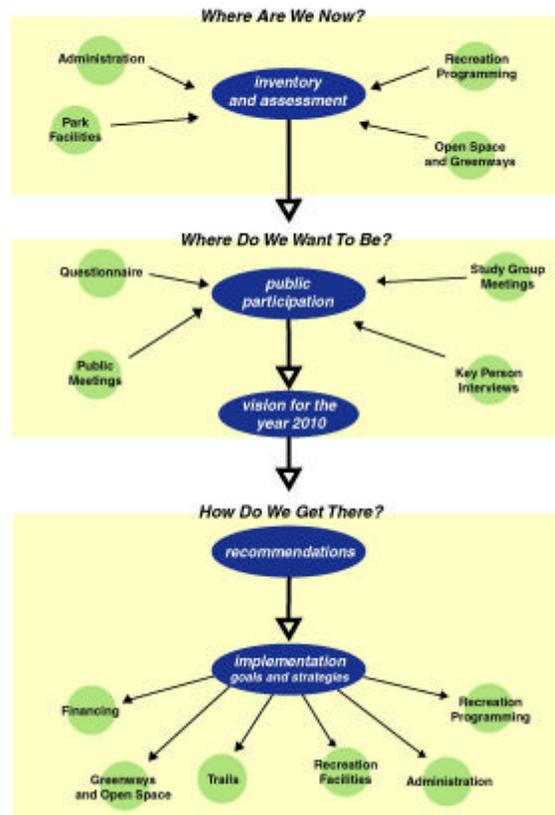
- financial support for facilities, programs, and staff;
- continued involvement of Edgewood residents;
- cooperation with the School District and local organizations;

This Plan challenges municipal officials and residents to continually work toward the fulfillment of the community's Vision for recreation, parks, and open space. Resident's continue involvement through volunteering, fund-raising, and the support of advocacy groups, will maintain recreation, parks, and open space as a key issue within the community. Residents are encouraged to check on the implementation of this plan on a yearly basis to see what was achieved, highlight successes and offer support for upcoming initiatives. Continued opportunities for public input should be offered through annual public meetings to reconfirm the Plan's priorities, refine the goals, and add new implementation strategies.

This Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan fosters the continued success of current achievements, outlines guidelines for areas of improvement, and presents new directions for the Borough to explore. Support for the implementation of the Plan's recommendations and a strong commitment to its use a guide and checklist in the future will ensure a continued high quality of life in the Borough of Edgewood for years to come.



Borough of Edgewood
**COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARK AND OPEN SPACE
 PLANNING PROCESS**



Planning for the Future

Opportunities for fulfilling leisure activities are an integral part of a quality lifestyle. The purpose of this study is to analyze Edgewood's current recreation, parks, and open space and develop recommendations for their future. In order to provide the Borough with a complete view of current conditions, an inventory of existing public and private recreation facilities was conducted.

Recognizing the need to address these issues and the positive impact recreation, parks, and open space have on the existing quality of life in Edgewood, Borough Council approved the preparation of this Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan in the Spring of 2001. The firm of Pashek Associates was retained to assist the Borough in development of this Plan. The consultant worked closely with the Borough Manager, Director of Recreation, and the project Study Group through the planning process. The approach used to generate the Plan included a detailed inventory and professional assessment, an extensive public input process, and the development of recommendations for the future of recreation, parks, and open space in the Borough.

This Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan will serve as a tool for addressing the current and future needs of Edgewood residents, and serve to aid in decision-making as recreation facilities and programs are provided. This Plan encompasses a variety of issues. It will lay the groundwork for the continued successful planning and development of recreation activities, parks, and open space within the Borough of Edgewood.

The purpose of this study is to provide an analysis of Edgewood's current parks and recreation system and make recommendations for its future.

The Benefits of Parks and Recreation

Recreation, parks, and open space are a critical part of a high quality of life that attracts residents and businesses to the Borough.

A recent report from Carnegie Mellon University Professor Richard Florida and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy further supports the importance of recreation at the local level. Parks and recreation opportunities are an important factor when young people are deciding where they want to live. As technology in the workplace continues to increase, many young adults want to go in-line skating, biking, hiking, or just relax in a park after staring into a computer screen all day. Florida, an economic development professor, argues that "restoration of the parks must be made a key element in the region's effort to attract talent and develop the economy." (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 10/3/00)

Environmental Benefits

- Clean water and air
- Preserve wildlife
- Reduce pollution
- Protect ecosystems
- Provide a place to enjoy nature's beauty



Economic Benefits

- Increase tourism
- Enhance land and property value
- Assist in business retention
- Generate revenue
- Reduce vandalism and crime



BENEFITS OF RECREATION, PARKS & OPEN SPACE

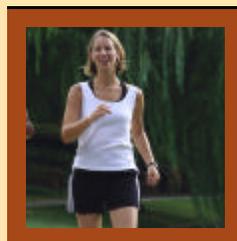
Community Benefits

- Reduce crime and delinquency
- Connect families
- Support youth
- Offer lifelines for elderly



Personal Benefits

- Reduce stress
- Increase life expectancy
- Create balance between work and play
- Eliminate boredom and loneliness



How to Use This Plan

Edgewood's Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan 2002, will be a powerful tool as the Borough continues to support a high quality recreation, and open space system. The Plan will serve as valuable resource for staff, elected officials, and local organizations in the following ways:

A GUIDELINE FOR THE FUTURE

The Vision and Recommendations presented in this document offer a clear direction for the planning of future initiatives. The Vision illustrates the community's overall image of a successful system. The recommendations include detailed implementation strategies to achieve the Vision. The wide scope and short, middle and long-term range of the strategies assist in realistic planning for implementation of the plan's recommendations. The detailed information provided will assist in the appropriate allocation of funding and support.

AN INFORMATION SOURCE

The broad scope of this Plan resulted in a documentation and analysis of a variety of issues pertinent to the Edgewood community. The document will be a valuable resource of supporting information as the recommendations are fulfilled, new implementation strategies are developed, and documentation of existing conditions is needed for grant applications or other reasons.

A PUBLIC RELATIONS TOOL

Residents' interest in the continuation and growth of a high quality system of recreation and open space opportunities is on-going. This planning document will offer accessible and understandable information for public consumption. Additionally, several of the key components may be used to garner support for a proposed project or raise needed funding assistance.

Document Organization

This document answers three main questions: Where are we now? Where do we want to be? And How do we get there?

Executive Summary

Introduction

Chapter 1: Where are we now?

This chapter provides an overview of the community, as well as an inventory and assessment of the current parks and recreation system, its administration, and existing open space.

Chapter 2: Where do we want to be?

Public input was a key component in the development of this Plan. This chapter describes the public participation process and summary results from each venue of participation. The input culminates in the identification of vision elements and development of a Vision for the future of recreation, parks, and open space in Edgewood.

Chapter 3: How do we get there?

This chapter draws upon the inventory, assessment and public participation to outline recommendations for the future of recreation, parks, and open space, including a Master Plan for Dickson Park.

Summary

Appendices

A detailed understanding of the existing components of the community and its current recreation, park, and open space system is key to making successful recommendations for the future. By answering "Where are we now", a knowledge base is developed, from which insightful recommendations are generated.

The .52 square mile community is built-out, with few remaining wooded areas. The community grew as a residential suburb in part because of the extension of the railroad lines beginning in 1852. Between 1864 and 1964, half the men in the community boarded trains at the Shingle Style Edgewood Railroad Station for their commute into the City of Pittsburgh.



Chapter 1

Where are we now?

inventory and analysis

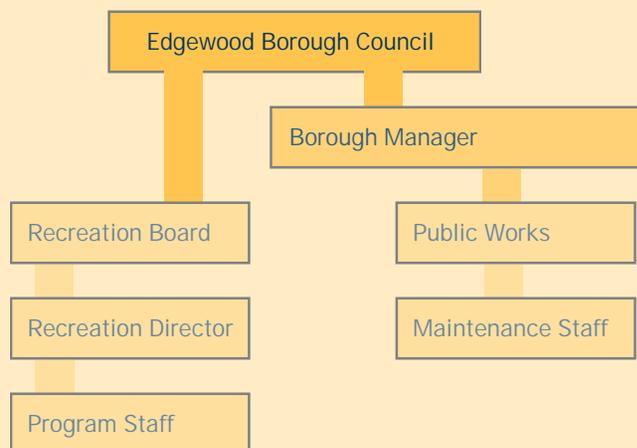
Government

Edgewood operates under the Borough code, which provides for a weak mayor-strong Council form of government. The mayor is elected at-large for a four year term, and serves as the chief executive officer of the Police Department. The mayor votes on Borough issues only in case of a tie. The seven member Council retains most of the executive functions. Council members are elected at-large for four year terms. Council appoints a Borough Manager to handle the day to day operations. Council also appoints the Fire Chief, Superintendent of Police, Supervisor of Public Works, Finance Officer, Recreation Director, and Newsletter Editor. A professional consulting firm is named to handle engineering and another to act as Borough Solicitor. The Borough also has an elected tax collector, who serves for four years.

Edgewood is a member of the Turtle Creek Council of Governments. Sewage is handled through the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (Alcosan), and works with Three Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Project to correct sanitary sewer overflows.

The community's background and existing cultural features are an important part of a well-rounded parks and recreation system.

BOROUGH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Population

It is important to take into consideration the characteristics of age, gender, ethnic heritage, education, household composition, and income of a community when planning for the future of recreation, parks, and open space. The following information gives a summary description of the community's characteristics, which influence its parks and recreation system.

Population Change	2000 Population	1990 Population	Population change	Percent change
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	11,881,643	399,411	3.4
Allegheny County	1,281,666	1,336,449	-54,783	-4.1
Edgewood Borough	3,311	3,581	- 270	-7.5

GENDER CHARACTERISTICS

Of the 3,581 residents of Edgewood counted in the 1990 census, 53.6 percent were female.

Chapter 1
Where are we now?

Ethnicity Trends

	1990	Percent of Total Population	2000	Percent of Total Population
Total Population	3,581		3,311	
White	3,428	95.73	2,951	89.13
Black	111	3.10	260	7.85
American Indian, etc.	2	0.05	4	0.12
Asian/Pacific Islander	30	0.84	52	1.57
Other	10	0.28	44	1.36
Hispanic Origin (any race)	35	0.98	44	1.33

Ethnicity

	Total population	White	Black or African american	American indian or Alaska native	Asian	Pacific Islander	other	two or more races
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	10,484,203	1,224,612	18,348	219,813	3,417	188,437	144,224
Allegheny County	1,281,666	1,080,800	159,058	1,593	21,716	335	4,399	13,765
Edgewood Borough	3,311	2,951 (89.13%)	260 (7.85%)	4 (0.12%)	49 (1.4%)	49 (1.4%)	17	27

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

According to 2000 census data, there were 1,639 family households in the Borough. Of these 644, or 39.3 percent, were characterized as married-couple households. Single females headed an additional 137 households, while single males headed 35. Residents 65 or older lived alone in 163 households.

There were 1,730 housing units in the Borough, of which 1,073 were owner-occupied, 566 were rental units, and 91 units were vacant. The median value of owner-occupied units in 1990 was \$76,700. The assessed value of all property in the Borough is \$28,987,235.

AGE CHARACTERISTICS

As has the rest of Allegheny County, Edgewood Borough has experienced a population decline over the past ten years.

The 2000 census data provides the following information about the age distribution of that population:

Age	Population
Under 5 years	166
5 to 19 years	469
20 to 24 years	176
25 to 44 years	1,145
45 to 64 years	894
65 years and over	461

The median age in 2000 was 40.1. Additionally, 583 residents, or 13.9 percent of the population, fell in the 65 or over cohort.

More importantly for recreational planning, 635 residents, or 19.1 percent of the population, were 19 years or younger. In 1990, there were 636, or 17.8 percent, in that group. So, while the gross numbers declined, the percentage of the population in the under 19 bracket stayed fairly consistent.

EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

In 1990, 9.3 percent of the population of Edgewood has less than a high school diploma, while 90.7 percent had graduated from high school. Additionally, 56.9 percent were college graduates.

EMPLOYMENT

Of the 3,581 residents of the Borough in 1990, there were 1,879 employed persons over the age of 16. Of these, 57.5 percent worked in service industries, while 7.9 percent worked in manufacturing. There were 983 females over age sixteen in the labor force, 282 of them with children.

According to the 1990 census, those workers fell into the following occupational categories:

Occupation	Percentage
Managerial	58.6
Sales & Support	26.3
Service	7.2
Craft & Repair	4.5
Labor	3.3

According to the Edgewood Community Profile on the Allegheny County Web Site, the five largest employers in Edgewood are Quality Cleaning Service, the Western Pennsylvania School For the Deaf, the Woodland Hills School District, Edgewood Borough, and Edgewood Town Square.

INCOME

The 1990 per capita income in Edgewood was \$20,807, while the median household income that year was \$33,423. While the mean income for married couple families was \$61, 889, female-headed households with children had a mean income of \$25,845.

Cultural Resources

Edgewood's cultural resources play an important role in the community's recreation and open space system.

Historic sites, public facilities, and development patterns influence the character, culture and recreation needs of residents. For example, school facilities and historic sites present possibilities for active and passive recreation facilities and programming; and transportation corridors influence access and character of facilities.

Sites of Local Significance

- The Edgewood Presbyterian Church was built in 1918. It features two huge towers connected by a bridge arch, and is an example of German Westwerk architecture.
- The Pennsylvania School for The Deaf is housed in a 1903 Beaux Arts Building with eight over scaled Ionic columns.
- The C.C. Mellon Memorial Library is located in a white stucco building with Spanish roof tiles, a pergola, and a line of columns. It was built in 1916 and was designed by Edward E. Lee.
- The Edgewood Borough Building was built by Clifford Lake in 1938. It features a Cotswold style tower and outbuildings.
- As a commuter suburb of Pittsburgh, Edgewood was home to many middle and upper class business people who built some of the best examples of Shingle style houses in the 1890's. The early 20th century saw the additional in-fill homes in the revival style. Some fine examples of these homes are still in use along Maple, Hawthorne, Locust, and Beech Avenues.
- John Grazier laid out the part of Edgewood that lies west of the railroad in 1864. After purchasing the land from James Kelly, Grazier's planned the community with curving streets laid out to take advantage

of the views. Among the outstanding examples of Victorian architecture in this area are the Gardner-Bailey House and the Grubbs-Kerr House. The Italianate Gardner farm house at 124 W. Swissvale was built in 1864, while the Grubbs house at 235 W. Swissvale is a board and batten home from the time of the Civil War.

Schools

Since 1981, Edgewood has been a part of the Woodland Hills School District. The district covers thirteen and a half square miles of the eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh, and has approximately 6,000 students. Edgewood primary sits within the Borough.

Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (S.E. corner Swissvale & Walnut) is a private institution operating within the Borough.

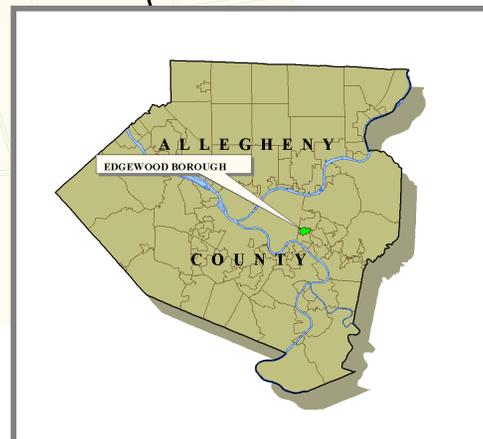
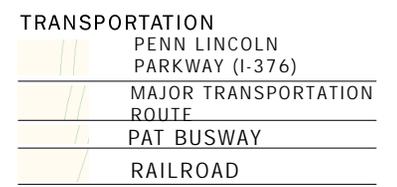
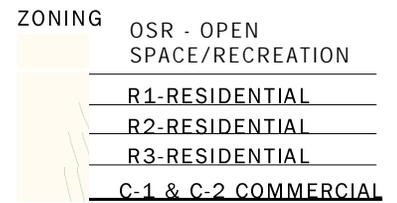
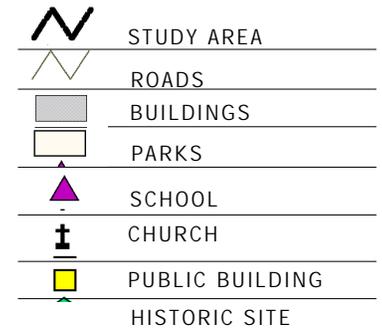
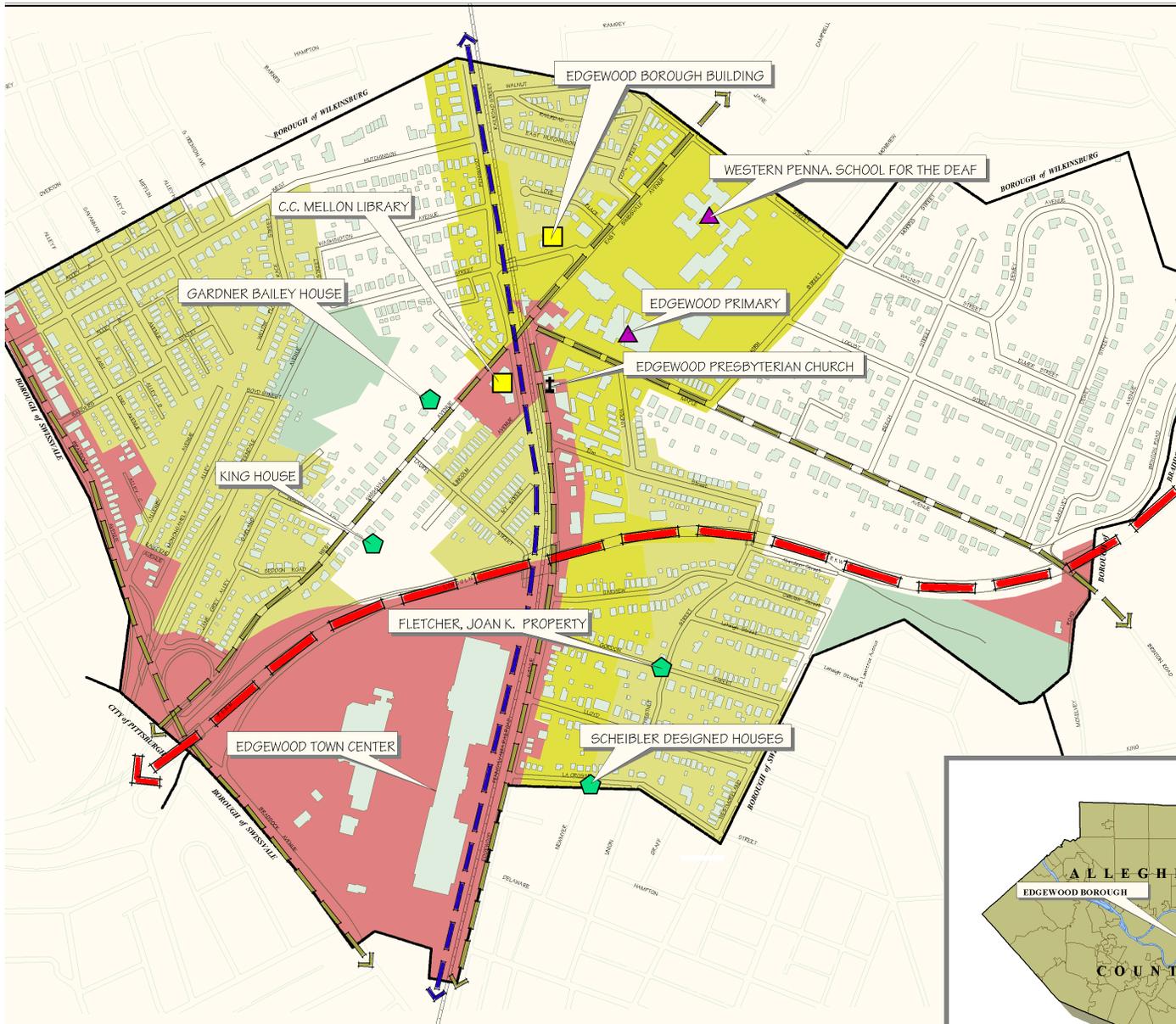
Transportation

Edgewood citizens have easy access to Route 376 (Parkway East), which bisects the community. Via the Parkway, they can head west into the city or out to the airport. Residents can also take the Parkway East to access the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Other main arteries included Swissvale, Pennwood, and Braddock Avenues.

Bus service is provided by the Port Authority of Pittsburgh, which provides access to the downtown area as well as to many of the suburbs surrounding the city.

Cultural Resources Map

The Cultural Resources Map illustrates key features of the community. These resources influence the character, culture, and recreation needs of residents. They are an important part of the community's fabric and a key asset to the park and recreation system.



Natural Resources

Given the developed nature of Edgewood, the Borough's natural resources are limited. Remaining undeveloped space within the Borough is primarily the area of Dickson Park and limited vegetated steep slopes. The developed nature of the vast majority of the Borough's land mass, highlights the importance of enhancement and conservation of the remaining natural features. This can be accomplished through specific land use strategies and proper planning of park and recreation facilities.

Administration

Appropriate administration is key to the successful management of a parks and recreation system. The following section analyzes the following: personnel, maintenance, financing. The general administration analysis review the current organizational, general operations, planning efforts, and intergovernmental cooperation. The maintenance analysis summarized current maintenance practices, such as management, staffing levels, risk management, training, and equipment. The personnel analysis reviews personnel systems, staffing levels, expectations of current staff, and the use of volunteers.

History of Recreation in Edgewood

The Edgewood Recreation Board was created in 1947 out of a desire in the community to provide a strong recreation program for all residents. The program's strength was in its volunteers who managed, administered, taught, coached, and did anything else that was necessary to provide quality recreation programs. That strength continues to this day.

Throughout the years programming has been highly successful. Programs have been many including a penny carnival, bowling, baseball, softball, basketball, community day, and many others. The Borough has long been committed to providing funding for maintenance, staff, and programming. The former Edgewood Youth Foundation provided additional funding to assure the success of youth recreation programs.

For a community it's size, Edgewood has benefited from a strong recreation program for over fifty years. This success has been and continues to be the result of many dedicated people who have given freely of their time and talents. Even in facing the changing demographics of the area and competing recreational facilities and programs from around the region, Edgewood continues to hold a strong commitment to providing top quality recreation for its own residents.

General Operations

Day-today operations of the Recreation Board are handled by the Recreation Director. Specific responsibilities for the operation of all programming are given to the recreation director. Additionally, he assists in the daily maintenance of Koenig Field. The Public works director manages and supervises the daily operation of all seasonal and year-round maintenance.

The department has no standard operating policies or procedures. There is no clear delineation of who is to do what or how it is to be done. Nor is there anything in writing concerning registration process, maintenance procedures, funding policies, standards for establishment of fees and charges, etc.

Record keeping has been very poor. Lists of programs, attendances, program fees, registrations, participant lists, etc. are not available for any year prior to 2000. Maintenance activities are not tracked.

RECREATION BOARD

The Board is generally responsible for supervision of the day-to-day operation of recreation programming within the Borough and for the management of Koenig Field. The Board meets monthly to manage existing programs and staff. The Board does elect officers but has no written bylaws, policies or operating procedures.

The Borough Ordinance clearly establishes the Board but is quite ambiguous as to what its role really is. It is not clear whether the Board is to be advisory to Borough Council or has the authority to set policy. Over the years, the role of the Board has been determined by its members. However, due to the ambiguity of the Ordinance, Borough Council has had the authority to dictate direction at its choosing.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

The Borough has a strong relationship with other community organizations. Numerous community organizations provide a variety of recreational programming for Edgewood residents that supplement the Borough offerings. These include the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department, Western PA School for the Deaf, C.C. Mellon Memorial Library, the Edgewood Club, Edgewood Garden Club, as well as numerous churches. This cooperation helps to bring a strong small-town atmosphere to a community that is surrounded by city life.

Edgewood has tried to remain strong in providing local opportunities for their residents that complement the larger efforts of many public and private offerings in the surrounding city. They have therefore, tried to maintain

some independence with their parks and recreation programs and facilities. Only in recent years have they begun to work with some surrounding communities and organizations in providing programming.

LEGAL STRUCTURE

Edgewood Borough Ordinance Number 602, dated July 10, 1947 creates the Edgewood Borough Recreation Board. The Ordinance is very vague in its authorization of the Board. Highlights of the ordinance are as follows:

- The Edgewood Recreation Board is to consist of five members to be appointed by council.
- It is to be "... within the limits of, and subject to the conditions of appropriations made to it from time to time by the Edgewood Borough Council and other such appropriations or money as may be received...from the School District of the Borough of Edgewood and other sources..."
- The "Recreation Board shall have the authority to equip, operate, supervise, and maintain recreation places in the Borough of Edgewood..."
- The Ordinance states that the Board shall have and exercise all powers vested by Borough Code but no other powers other than those stated above have been adopted by Borough Code.

The Ordinance provides very little power or authority to the Board, essentially leaving most authority and power with Edgewood Borough Council. This has proven to be one of the current problems with the operation of parks and recreation in the borough.

Parks and Recreation Planning

There are no specified goals, either short-term or long term, for parks and recreation. All activity seems to occur as needs become apparent. Goals are established only insofar as they are related to financing, significant deterioration of facilities, or community pressure. Though planning has not been a priority, a number of park improvements have been completed in the past two years at Koenig Field and plans are underway for additional improvements in 2002.

In the past, the primary forum for public input has been regular Borough Council meetings. That has changed to a great degree with the public input requests that are part of this study (public meetings, surveys, program input). Both the Borough and the Recreation Board have made a great effort to gather public input through public meetings, a community questionnaire, a booth at community days, and key person

interviews.

There is currently a realization that some longer range planning needs to be done and the hope is that it will come as a result of this study. A major part of this plan is to develop a master site plan for Dickson Park and to lay plans for meeting the communities recreational needs.

Publicity and Public Relations

The Edgewood Newsletter is published bi-monthly to provide the community with an excellent listing of programs and activities that are available in the Borough. The newsletter includes information on seasonal recreation programming offered by Edgewood Recreation Board and what is happening in the parks. Information is also published about activities offered by community groups, as well as general Borough information.

The Edgewood Recreation Board provides other types of publicity including flyers, posters, and brochures. A recreation bulletin board is located outside the main building at Koenig Field that displays current recreation and community information. And the Recreation Board maintains their own web page at www.edgewoodrecreation.com.

It appears that existing publicity keeps the community well informed.

Personnel

RECREATION PERSONNEL

The Recreation Board hires a full-time Recreation Director to manage and operate all recreational programming. Duties of the Recreation Director are stated in the Job Description as follows:

- Initiate, coordinate and administer team sports.
- Assemble volunteers to conduct, coach and referee activities.
- Order, purchase, and inventory equipment.
- Oversee and supervise all recreational properties and facilities within the Borough, including grooming the baseball fields and line painting.
- Prepare and maintain an annual budget and administer fiscal responsibilities such as payroll, fund raising, and office management.
- Hire and supervise part-time recreation workers.
- Complete recreation grants for activities, land purchasing, demolition, programming and salaries.
- Prepare the monthly agenda and financial statements for the Recreation Board and Borough Council.

- Attend all Recreation Board meetings.

An addendum to the job description details more specific work for individual programming such as baseball, softball, basketball, haunted house, bowling, the summer program and others.

The job description is reasonable for the type of job and the level of the organization.

The Recreation Director is appointed by Borough Council, and, according to Borough Ordinance, must "acknowledge Council upon request." In some cases the Borough exercises significant authority over the position but often leaves it to the Recreation Board to supervise the Director. The Recreation Director's Job Description states that he or she is responsible to the Recreation Board.

The Borough Ordinance that creates the Recreation Board is quite vague concerning staff. It only states, "...the Recreation Board shall have the authority to equip, operate, supervise, and maintain recreation places..."The problem is that as a practical matter, the Recreation Board is best able to supervise and manage the position, however, the Borough ordinance does not clearly define this authority. In fact, the Borough Ordinance does not even specifically authorize the hiring of any staff.

The Recreation Director is included in the Borough's Personnel Ordinance, which covers all appropriate personnel issues. The Recreation Board also hires several summer and/or program staff that are used for both recreational programming and some park maintenance. All staff hired by the Recreation Board are actually employees of the Borough. The Recreation Director manages them. This level of staffing is appropriate for the programs that are offered.

Because all staff, except the Recreation Director, are part-time or seasonal there is no formal personnel system and there are no job descriptions for part-time staff. Most staff are local persons who have an interest in specific recreation programs. They are either asked to work by the Director or a Board member or submit an application to the Board. The Director then makes recommendations to the Board as to who should be hire for individual programs. There is no formal system for usage, recruitment, training and/or retention and probably does not need to be. There is no volunteer program although there are quite a few volunteers used by the Recreation Board.

Maintenance

PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS

The Borough Public Works Department maintains the five Borough parks. The Edgewood Recreation Director and some seasonal staff assist with the daily maintenance of Koenig Field during the summer season. They hire four to six maintenance staff to carry out all daily and routine maintenance.

Maintenance tasks are based primarily on apparent needs and visual observations. There is no planning or record keeping indicating how and when tasks should be accomplished. Maintenance logs are not kept on equipment or facilities. Work orders, daily reports, inspection reports are not used. Safety audits are not conducted.

Maintenance consists of general cleaning, mowing, and simple facility preparation. Tasks are based on seasonal needs with most effort put into the parks during the spring and summer months. Park maintenance is generally adequate but some of the facilities are old and worn out making them difficult to maintain.

MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

A maintenance equipment inventory, conducted in the summer of 2001, indicates the following equipment is available:

Equipment	Quantity	Year	Condition
gasoline powered string trimmers	2	5+	good
gasoline powered string trimmers	1	2001	excellent
simplicity lawn tractor with mower - 17 hp	1	unknown	good
gravely lawn tractor with sully	1	unknown	fair
gilson lawn tractor (no mower) - 16 hp	1	unknown	poor
lawn boy self-propelled mowers	2	unknown	good

Maintenance equipment is generally not of commercial quality. This results in poor service and rapid deterioration of the equipment.

RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

There is a limited risk management plan in place for the Borough. Parks and playgrounds are included as part of the borough insurance carrier's loss control inspections. Though playground safety audits are not conducted, the Borough also has an agreement with playground manufacturer, Kompan to conduct annual inspections of it equipment located in the borough.

Several playground hazards are identified in the Playground Safety Audit conducted as part of this study. They are listed in a separate section of this report. Though the safety hazards were generally minor in nature, they should be dealt with immediately.

It is recommended that a risk management plan be developed and implemented. This plan is an important proactive step that will help to prevent injuries. The risk management plan should include documented safety inspections. By implementing a risk management program, municipalities can prepare a defense against claims or lawsuits.

To prepare a successful risk management plan, one must consider five factors:

1. Develop a plan of action by identifying hazards, prioritizing them, and determining costs to correct those hazards. This plan should include routine playground safety audits. The higher the playground use, the more frequently a playground should be reviewed for safety hazards.
2. Address known problems by correcting hazards.
3. Take all action necessary to prevent accidents from occurring in the first place.
4. Implement proactive steps by providing adequate training, acting immediately on complaints, and repairing equipment only with parts provided by the equipment manufacturer.
5. Document all activities including written inspection reports and corrective actions.

ADEQUACY OF FACILITY MAINTENANCE

General maintenance of park and recreation facilities is adequate. There is

relatively good cooperation between the Public Works and Recreation Departments. Park maintenance appears to be appropriately prioritized in comparison to other public works functions. However, public works priorities are not always the same as the recreation department's priorities. This sometimes results in conflict when facilities are not properly prepared for scheduled recreation programs. Additionally, non-routine maintenance is often not kept up with.

The landscaping at Koenig Field has been a nice addition to the attractiveness of the facility. However, such landscaping requires a great deal of regular maintenance the public works is unable to provide.

There are no maintenance plans for any of the parks and records to track repairs, inspections, and general maintenance are not kept. A maintenance plan establishes the level of care the parks should receive, and establishes a plan for how to maintain them. It also establishes a record-keeping system for tracking maintenance and repairs. With no maintenance plan, there are no established standards, no means of measuring productivity, no risk management, and no assurance of regular and long-range maintenance.

Park maintenance staff often require very different skills and knowledge that a general public works employee does not have. Current public works staff are not trained in proper techniques of ball field maintenance, turf maintenance, weed control, facility maintenance, park safety, equipment use, maintenance planning or other park maintenance activities.

Financing

Finances impact nearly every area of parks and recreation. They effect staffing, maintenance, programming, park development, and facilities. In order to understand the current state of the parks recreation system it is essential to understand current financing. Financing levels and sources indicate existing priorities within the parks and recreation system. They also indicate how parks and recreation rank with other borough services. The analysis of all financial aspects of the community provides an indicator as to how the Borough can proceed in meeting other priorities.

Edgewood Parks and Recreation is supported primarily by tax dollars from the Borough's General Fund Budget. The annual budget for park maintenance and improvements is prepared by the Public Works Director as part of the general Public Works budget. The Recreation Director and the Recreation Board develop a budget for recreation. Both budgets are then submitted to the Borough Manager for refinement and ultimately to Borough Council for final approval.

A specified amount for the Recreation Board is included as a line item in the Borough's operating budget annually and is transferred to a separate recreation account. All revenue and expenses for the Recreation Board are tracked through that account. Any excess of revenue over expenses remains in the account for the Recreation Board's future use.

An analysis of Edgewood Park expenditures produces the following observations:

- The Borough provides an annual allocation to the Recreation Board. That amount has remained about the same since at least 1996.
- Excluding the Borough contribution, revenue produced by the Recreation Board has averaged about 14% of its expenses.
- The Recreation Board is able to "carry-over" from year to year any balance in their budget at year's end.
- The Recreation Board budget us specific to recreation programming. It also includes the Recreation Director's salary. Park maintenance expenditures are recorded in the Public Works budget.
- No specific expenditures for capital projects are indicated in the budget in 1998, 1999, or 2000.

- The Park budget does not reflect indirect expenses that may be incurred, such as administrative costs and the costs from other sections of the budget.
- The Borough has encountered some difficult events in financial management in recent years. This has included some legal action taken against former Borough senior employees for mismanagement of the Borough's funds. The mismanagement creates some question as to the validity of the figures reported in this study. Figures used herein are the best available as provided by the Borough.

Comparisons of Expenditures for Parks and Recreation with Total General Fund Expenditures

In analyzing funding of parks and recreation it is important to review trends in expenditures in recent years. In Edgewood, monies spent for parks and recreation has remained at about 8% of the total General Fund expenditures. Actual dollars spent increased from \$135,813 in 1996 to a high of \$199,777 in 1998. The amount was down slightly in 1999. In 2000, the actual dollar amount and the percentage dropped significantly due to the fact that there was no Recreation Director on staff for most of the year.

Comparison of Park and Recreation Expenditures to Total General Fund Expenditures *

Year	General Fund Expenses	Park and Recreation Expenses	Percent of General Fund
1996	\$1,916,079	\$135,813	7.09%
1997	\$1,880,603	\$136,106	7.24%
1998	\$2,226,844	\$199,236	8.97%
1999	\$2,448,180	\$194,236	7.93%
2000	\$2,780,280	\$80,881	2.91%

* All figures are based on the best available information provided by the Borough. Due to accounting problems, figures, may not be accurate.

The Recreation Board Budget

Funding for the Recreation Board is tracked separately. The Borough allocated \$37,000 in 1996 and \$36,000 each year from 1997 through 2000. The Board also receives revenue from fees levied for programming. That revenue has remained fairly constant, averaging about \$6,300 per year. The Board's expenditures have also remained fairly consistent until 2000 when there was no Recreation Director on staff. If the Board and Borough officials want the program to grow in quantity and quality, additional revenues will be needed. The additional revenues will either have to come from increased program fees or an increase in the Borough's annual allocation.

Revenue Comparison

Year	Borough Contribution	Recreation Revenue	Recreation Expenditure	Net Revenue
1996	\$37,000	\$4,583	\$42,239	(\$656)
1997	\$36,000	\$7,053	\$44,339	(\$1,286)
1998	\$36,000	\$7,736	\$50,695	(\$6,959)
1999	\$36,000	\$8,017	\$32,581	\$11,436
2000*	\$36,000	\$7,554	\$28,665	\$14,889

* 2000 Borough contribution is an estimate. The Borough was unable to provide this information.

Cost Recovery

Year	Recreation Expenses	Recreation Revenue	Percent of Cost Recovery Through Fees
1996	\$42,239	\$4,583	10.85%
1997	\$44,339	\$7,053	15.91%
1998	\$50,695	\$7,736	15.26%
1999	\$32,581	\$8,017	24.61%
2000	28,655	\$4,092	14.28%

Financial Comparison of Edgewood to Other Communities

A comparison was conducted of communities of similar size and nature in Allegheny County to the Borough of Edgewood. Communities were selected for comparison based on population and total operating budget. However, because of the potentially inaccurate figures available for the Borough of Edgewood, the value of this chart is limited. One should not specifically compare Edgewood's expenditures to those of other communities. Instead, Edgewood should simply be aware of what other similar communities are spending and consider that in a relationship to their current and future demands. It is likely that Edgewood will spend more per capita than other communities because of its history and commitment to providing quality recreation to its residents. This should be viewed as a positive factor in funding parks and recreation.

Comparison of Communities of Similar Size and Nature in Allegheny County, Per Capita and Percent of Total Budget

Municipality	2000 Population	Total Municipal Expenditures	Parks and Recreation Operating Expenditures	Per Capita Expenditures	Percent of Total
Brackenridge	3,543	\$2,199,457	\$18,496	\$5.22	0.12%
Churchill	3,566	\$2,180,199	\$2,606	\$0.73	0.84%
Springdale	3,828	\$1,202,840	\$62,774	\$17.76	2.78%
Etna	3,924	\$2,098,967	\$100,028	\$25.49	3.11%
Aspinwall	2,960	\$2,061,335	\$64,061	\$21.64	4.77%
Fox Chapel	5,436	\$5,600,754	\$147,049	\$27.05	5.22%
Edgewood	3,311	\$2,912,181	\$80,881	\$24.43	2.63%
Average	3,795	\$2,607,962	\$67,985	\$17.47	2.78%

Source: Data from PA Department of Community and Economic Development, 2000 Municipal Reports. Due to DCED reporting procedures, the figures may vary from figures used elsewhere in this study.

Recreation Programming

Programming is a key function of parks and recreation in most communities. Programming is most often provided through a variety of sources including the municipal parks and recreation department, local youth sports associations, public and private non-profit recreation providers, and private businesses. An analysis of these programming venues and services provides an indicator as to what deficiencies exist and who might best meet those needs. The plans recommendations are based on this programmatic analysis. They provide suggestions on how to meet program deficiencies and community demands.

Edgewood Recreation Board

The Edgewood Recreation Board provides a number of recreational programs to the community. Programming offered in 2001 is listed in the following chart. Also included in the chart is a listing of several programs that the Board has offered in previous years. Record keeping has not been done so complete listings of programs, fees, attendance, etc. is not available for this report.

2001 Program Schedule

GROUP	AGES SERVED	SEASON	FEE
Little League Baseball	9-12	Spring-Summer	\$35
Pony League Baseball	13-14	Spring-Summer	\$35
Colt League Baseball	15-16	Spring-Summer	\$55
Girl's Softball League	8-12	Spring Summer	\$35
Co-ed Pick-up Softball	13 and up	Summer	Free
Summer Recreation Programs (nature walks, sports, crafts)	Youth	Summer	Free
Story Time	Youth	Summer	Free
T-ball	3-7	Summer	Free
Arts and Crafts	Youth	Summer	Free
Easter Egg Hunt	Youth	Spring	\$2
Community Day	All Ages	Summer	Free
Edgewood 5k Race	All Ages	Summer	\$10
Haunted House	All Ages	Fall	\$1-3
Youth Basketball	7-18	Winter	\$25
Adult Basketball	Adults	Winter	\$25
Golf Outing	Adults	Summer	\$75

Sampling of Programs Offered in Previous Years

ACTIVITY	AGES SERVED	SEASON
FALL BASKETBALL	YOUTH	FALL
PENNY CARNIVAL	YOUTH	SUMMER
YOUTH BOWLING	YOUTH	WINTER
ADULT BOWLING	ADULT	WINTER
STREET HOCKEY	YOUTH	WINTER
GOLF LEAGUE	ADULT	SUMMER
BACKGAMMON	ADULT	WINTER
ELECTRONIC FOOTBALL	YOUTH	SPRING
PUMPKIN DECORATING	YOUTH	FALL
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL	ADULT	WINTER

Recreation programs are offered by non-profit and private groups. The following is a listing of groups and organizations and the programming provided by each.

Edgewood Club

The Edgewood Club, located near the center of town, was founded in 1904 as the social, athletic and cultural center of the community. Membership is open to all residents of Edgewood Borough and to a limited number of residents of nearby communities.

A variety of membership categories are available as either full members or sports members. Annual membership fees range from \$300 to \$700. The membership categories are:

- Family
- Individual
- Couple
- Couple over 55
- Senior Citizen

The Edgewood Club has approximately 390 family members. With an average of three members per family, there are over 1170 members. Approximately 60% are Edgewood residents.

The Edgewood Club is a private non-profit recreation facility that includes the following facilities and programs:

EDGEWOOD CLUB FACILITIES

25 meter outdoor swimming pool
 baby pool
 3 omni-surface tennis courts
 ballroom with banquet and stage facilities
 4 duck-pin bowling lanes
 recreation room
 sun room
 locker facilities

COMMUNITY USES OF EDGEWOOD CLUB

light-up night
 library book sale
 various fundraisers
 town hall meeting

EDGEWOOD CLUB PROGRAMS

adult social functions
family picnics
dinner
youth swim team - approx. 120 children
youth tennis team - approx. 40 children
men's tennis team
women's tennis team
middle states men's invitational tennis tournament

PROGRAMS HELD AT THE EDGEWOOD CLUB BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

yoga classes
aerobics classes
fencing classes
dance classes - country, latin, contra.
summer camps
duck pin bowling

job of supplementing the Recreation Board's programs, there are a number of concerns and deficiencies.

One of the major concerns expressed by the study committee and other public input venues, is the trend toward Edgewood residents leaving the Borough for programming that is or should be available in the community. Youth basketball, baseball and softball programs in surrounding communities are drawing community residents into their programs. Edgewood Recreation Board is struggling to keep some of its programs operating because of this trend. The Edgewood Recreation Board and community residents are beginning to question why residents are leaving the community for such programming. Is it program quality, facility quality, coaching, atmosphere, competition levels, etc?

The Borough of Edgewood is a relatively small community. It is difficult to maintain programming that requires a larger number of participants in small communities. In most cases, providing sports leagues requires programming to be of top quality, in excellent facilities with good coaching and the opportunity to meet the competition demands of the participants. Even then, small communities find that they need to reach outside their boundaries to attract sufficient numbers to maintain the programs.

Programs that do not require the numbers that sports leagues do can be maintained a little more easily. Programs like playground activities, special events, arts and crafts, recreational day camps, etc. tend to be more viable programs.

The Edgewood Recreation Board needs to develop and maintain a focus on programming that can be successful. To that end, we recommend the following:

- Be sure that all programming provided is of top quality. This includes program content, instructors and coaches, materials and supplies, facilities, and maintenance.
- Focus on programming that can be successful with smaller numbers of participants and ones that are likely to draw local participants. Look for programs that residents would like to have available within the local community.
- Seek out ways to cooperate with recreation providers to bring needed programming to the community. Do not try to compete with other recreation providers, either locally or regionally.
- Seek out ways to cooperate with surrounding communities for programs that require larger numbers of participation.

Other Organizations Providing Recreation Activities

Greater Edgewood Soccer Association
Edgewood Police Department - Annual Bicycle Rodeo
Edgewood Fire Department - Hay Ride
Edgewood Garden Club - Promotes gardening as a recreational activity
Edgewood Historical Society - Events related to Edgewood's history
Edgewood Symphony Orchestra - approximately 65 members perform concerts several times per year.
Numerous other groups such as boy scouts, girl scouts, and churches also provide recreational activities.

Analysis of Comprehensive Program Offerings

A variety of recreational programs are offered by a host of different agencies in Edgewood. The Borough Recreation Board provides a number of offerings. While programs are offered year-round, the majority of programs tend to be youth oriented sports and summer recreation programs.

A number of community groups also provides a variety of programming for the community. While these community groups have done a good

Facilities

This section provides an overview of the Park, Recreation and Open Space Classifications defined by the National Recreation and Parks Association. Also included is an inventory and parks and recreation facilities found in Edgewood area, with particular emphasis on Borough parks. Each borough-owned site was visited and evaluated, noting type, quantity and condition of equipment, playing fields, and playgrounds. Factors such as site access, general condition, and conformance with ADA guidelines and CPSC safety standards were assessed.

The recommendations of this study with regard to recreation facilities are based upon the premise that in order to provide the best possible service to residents, recreation providers must understand and take into account the different ways in which people use parks and recreation facilities. The function or use of a facility depends on its size, location, and type of recreation opportunities available.

The National Recreation and Park Association's 1995 "Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines" offers facility classification to be used as a guide when planning for the future of recreation systems. The classifications identified in the following table provide the parameters that are necessary for any planning effort, while establishing a common terminology that defines facility functions and the kinds of recreation activities they can be expected to accommodate.

Given the unique qualities of every community due to geographical, cultural, social, economic, and environmental characteristics, each community must develop and adopt recreation and open space guidelines unique to their community setting. These guidelines are important because they provide a common framework for the planning of future recreation and open space efforts, allowing for orderly development of a park system that fulfills all community needs.

"There are no two fingerprints alike, no two snowflakes alike, and likewise, no two communities alike."
- T. Wirth (1994)

Controlled flexibility is an important part of successful guidelines, given the potential for unique circumstances and situations that may arise. A community should not limit its resources by relying on a rigid standards. This may prematurely thwart creative efforts to enhance the community's recreation and open space system. A flexible-use policy may allow for accommodation of a non-typical use of a facility on an interim basis to accommodate short-term demand. Such a policy should not be used to fulfill a long-term community need.

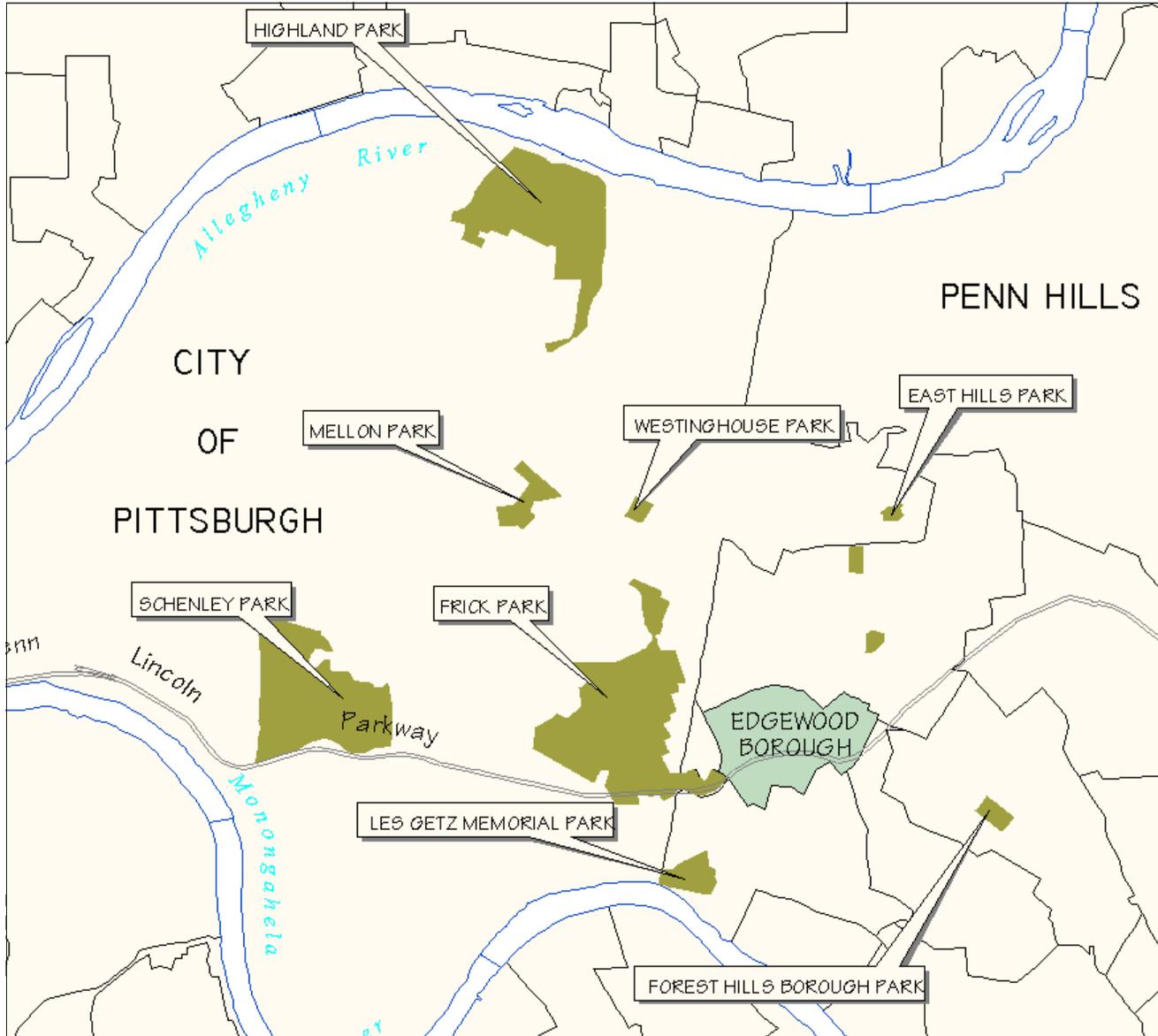
It should be noted that there are no specific standards for the amount of community conservation lands. The desired acreage of conserved land is dependent on the number and quality of natural resources in the area, public desire to preserve these resources, and the availability of funds for their conservation.

CLASSIFICATION	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	LOCATION CRITERIA	SITE CRITERIA
MINI-PARK	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.	Less than a 1/4 mile in distance in residential setting	Between 2,500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	Neighborhood remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on the informal and active and passive recreation.	1/4 to 1/2 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optional.
SCHOOL-PARK	Depending on the circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the pace equipments for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable - depends on function.
COMMUNITY PARK	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 30 and 50 acres.
LARGE URBAN PARK	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.
NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS	Land set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual/aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
GREENWAYS	Effectively tie park systems together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
SPORTS COMPLEX	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	Strategically located community-wide facilities.	Determined by project demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.
SPECIAL USE	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Variable - dependent on specific use.	Variable.
PRIVATE PARK/ RECREATIONAL FACILITY	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable - dependent on specific use.	Variable.

CLASSIFICATION	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	LOCATION CRITERIA
PARK TRAIL	Multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks, and natural areas. Focus is on recreational value and harmony with the natural environment.	Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Type II: Multipurpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters. Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard- or soft-surfaced.
CONNECTOR TRAILS	Multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as it is on recreation.	Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters located in independent r.o.w. Type II: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Typically located within road r.o.w.
ON-STREET BIKEWAYS	Paved segments of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic.	Bike Route: Designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. Bike Lane: Shared portions of the roadway that provide separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders.
ALL-TERRAIN BIKE TRAIL	Off road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes.	Single-purpose use trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.
CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL	Trails developed for traditional and skate-style cross-country skiing.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	Trails developed for horseback riding.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Sometimes developed as multipurpose with hiking and all-terrain biking where conflicts can be controlled.

Regional Recreation Facilities

Borough boundary lines do not limit the destinations to which residents will travel to use recreation facilities. It is important to consider the regional recreation opportunities beyond Edgewood's borders when taking an inventory of recreation facilities used by residents. The following map identifies these facilities.



Private Recreation Facilities

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

- Playgrounds (2)
- Ballfields (2)
- Track
- Tennis Court
- Soccer Field

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EDGEWOOD

- Community Rooms

EDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY

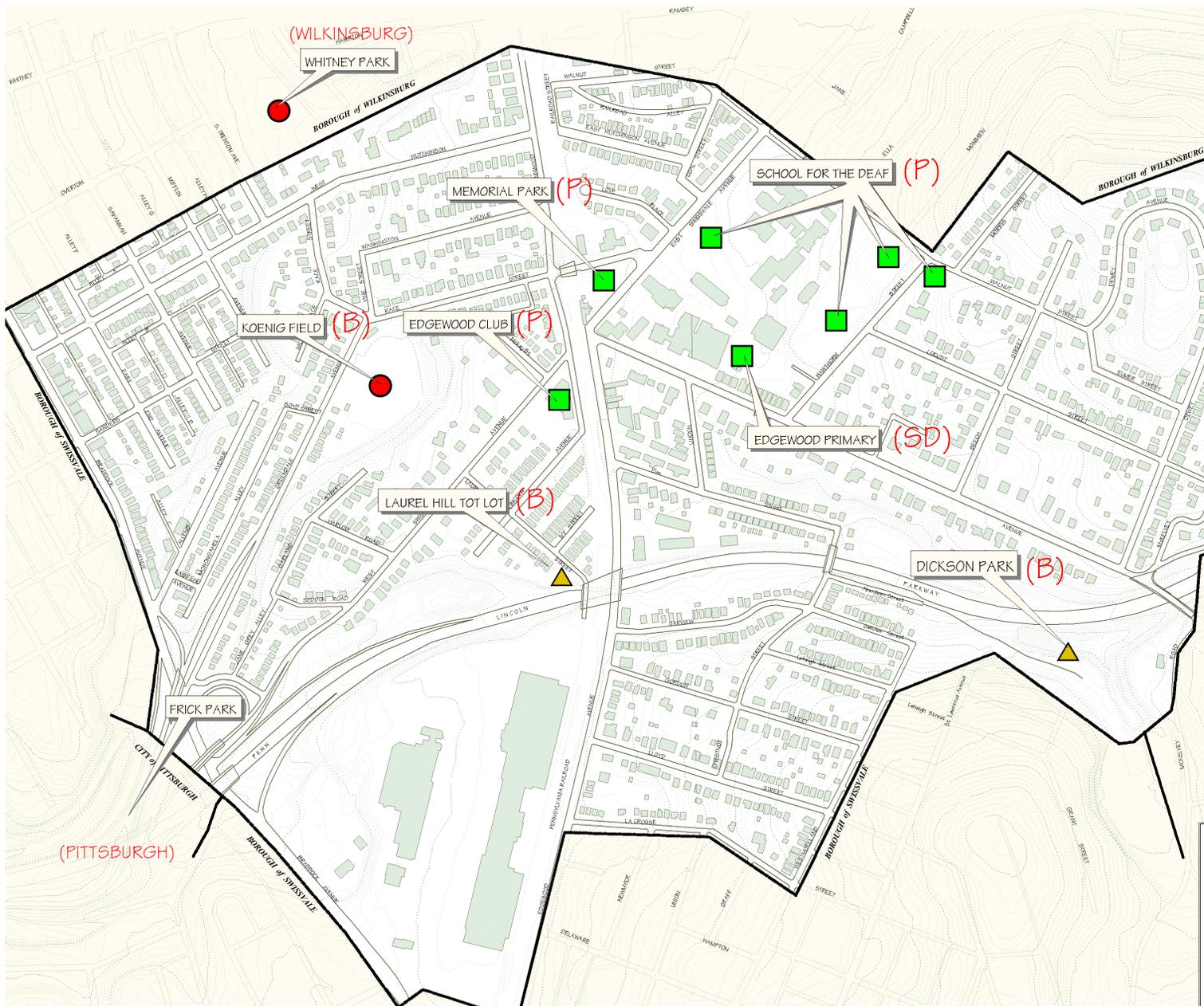
- Multi-purpose field

Borough Recreation Facilities

Park	Park Type	Facility	Number	Facility Condition	Size	ADA	Comments	
<u>KOENIG FIELD</u>	Community Park				6.5 acres			
		Tennis Courts	2	fair	full	N	new fencing; cracks	
		Batting Cage	1	good	70x15	N		
		Basketball Court (lighted)	1	fair	50x32	N	new fencing; cracks	
		Cinder Track	1	good	850'			
		Baseball Field	1	fair	200'			
		Softball Field	1	fair	200'		poor backstops	
		Community Building	1	fair	60x120	Y		
<u>LAUREL HILL TOT LOT</u>	Neighborhood Park				.25 acres			
		Playground (5-12yr olds)	see playground safety audit					
		Picnic Table	1					

Recreation Facilities Inventory Map

The Recreation Facilities Inventory Map shows the location of the parks available to residents within the Borough. The symbols associated with each park label illustrate the facilities provided at each park.



	COMMUNITY PARK
	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
	SPECIAL USE FACILITY
	PRIVATELY OWNED
	BOROUGH OWNED
	SCHOOL DISTRICT

School District Recreation Facilities

Edgewood Primary School field

- Small ballfield

Playground Safety Audits

During site visits to the two Borough playgrounds, the Consultant performed audits of playground safety and compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The following is a summary of the Consultant's findings. Detailed inventory sheets can be found in the Appendix. The playground safety audit was conducted under the supervision of John O. Buerkle, Jr., RLA, CPSI, a nationally certified playground safety inspector. Based on a field review conducted during the spring of 2001, the Consultant noted the instances where equipment did not meet the following standards:

- Consumer Product Safety Commissions' (CPSC) Handbook for Public Playground Safety and
- American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) Standard

Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Public Playground Equipment

It should be noted that the Consultant recommends modifying play equipment only according to manufacturer's recommendations. The original manufacturer of each piece of unsafe equipment should be

Playground Safety Hazard Score and Priority		
Playground	Safety Hazard Field	Playground Priority
Koenig Field	22	1
Laurel Hill Tot lot	4	2

approached to learn if retrofits or upgrade information are available. If this is not possible, or if retrofits are not available, unsafe play equipment should be removed and replaced. On no account should employees of the Borough of Edgewood attempt to perform ad hoc repairs to unsafe play equipment; this is unwise from the standpoints of safety and liability. In general, safety habits included:

- Protrusions
- Lack of access by sidewalks or parking lots
- Lack of signage on bordering roads

A system of inventory, analysis and ranking was used in order to better establish priorities of play equipment improvements. This type of ranking can also be beneficial when expanding facilities. By identifying the areas which contain pieces of equipment in need of repair or removal, it can be determined where space will be available for immediate development. This hierarchy is based on a points system determined by the playground hazards categories. A category one hazard earns one point, a category two hazard earns two points, and a category three earns three points. Once each piece of equipment has been audited, the points are then tallied, earning a rating for each playground.

Equipment Safety Hazard Score and Recommendation for Removal		
Playground (Equipment)	Safety Hazard Score	Recommended Removal (Y/N)
Koenig Field (2-Bay Swing)	14	N
Koenig Field (Spring Rockers)	4	N
Koenig Field (Play Structure)	3	N
Koenig Field (Slide)	2	N
Koenig Field (Climber)	1	N
Laurel Hill Tot Lot (Play Structure)	4	N

Spatial Analysis

Following the inventory of recreation facilities within the Borough, a Spatial Analysis was conducted. This analysis brings together the conceptual information described in the Hierarchy of Parks with the specific information on existing recreation facilities. The Spatial Analysis gives an assessment of how current parks met the recreational needs of Edgewood residents. The following factors were considered during the analysis:

- Location of all Borough recreation facilities
- Location of all school district recreation facilities
- The service areas of the above facilities, determined by park type
- Comparison of existing facilities with the National Recreation and Parks Associations' (NRPA) standards.
- Land use standards.
- Transportation systems and physical barriers, which may disrupt access to a facility or influence its character.

For the purpose of this Plan, each municipal and school district facility was categorized during the facility inventory as a community park, neighborhood park or special use facility. The Spatial Analysis map shows the location of existing recreation facilities and their corresponding service areas. Community parks often serve the entire municipality they are within. In addition, the facilities within community parks often fulfill neighborhood park needs of nearby residents. Special use facilities, by nature of the facility types, have no defined service radius, rather they serve the entire community. According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), the typical service area for a neighborhood park ranges from ¼ to ½ mile. The high level of pedestrian accessibility within the community promotes travel to these parks on foot. The service area radii illustrated on the map represent a ¼ mile radius. Families with children are the primary users of this type of park and this is the average distance typically accepted by families to walk to a park.

By taking into consideration observations during the cultural resources and recreation facilities inventories, analyzing the results of the various methods of public input and comparing existing recreation needs with current trends, the spatial analysis gives a detailed evaluation of the services current recreation facilities are providing. The following observations were made:

- There are currently no recreation facilities at Dickson Park. Should neighborhood park facilities be developed, the park would serve the south-east residential area of Edgewood Borough, as well as portions of Swissvale Borough and Braddock Borough. Unless safe and accessible pedestrian access is provided over the Penn Lincoln

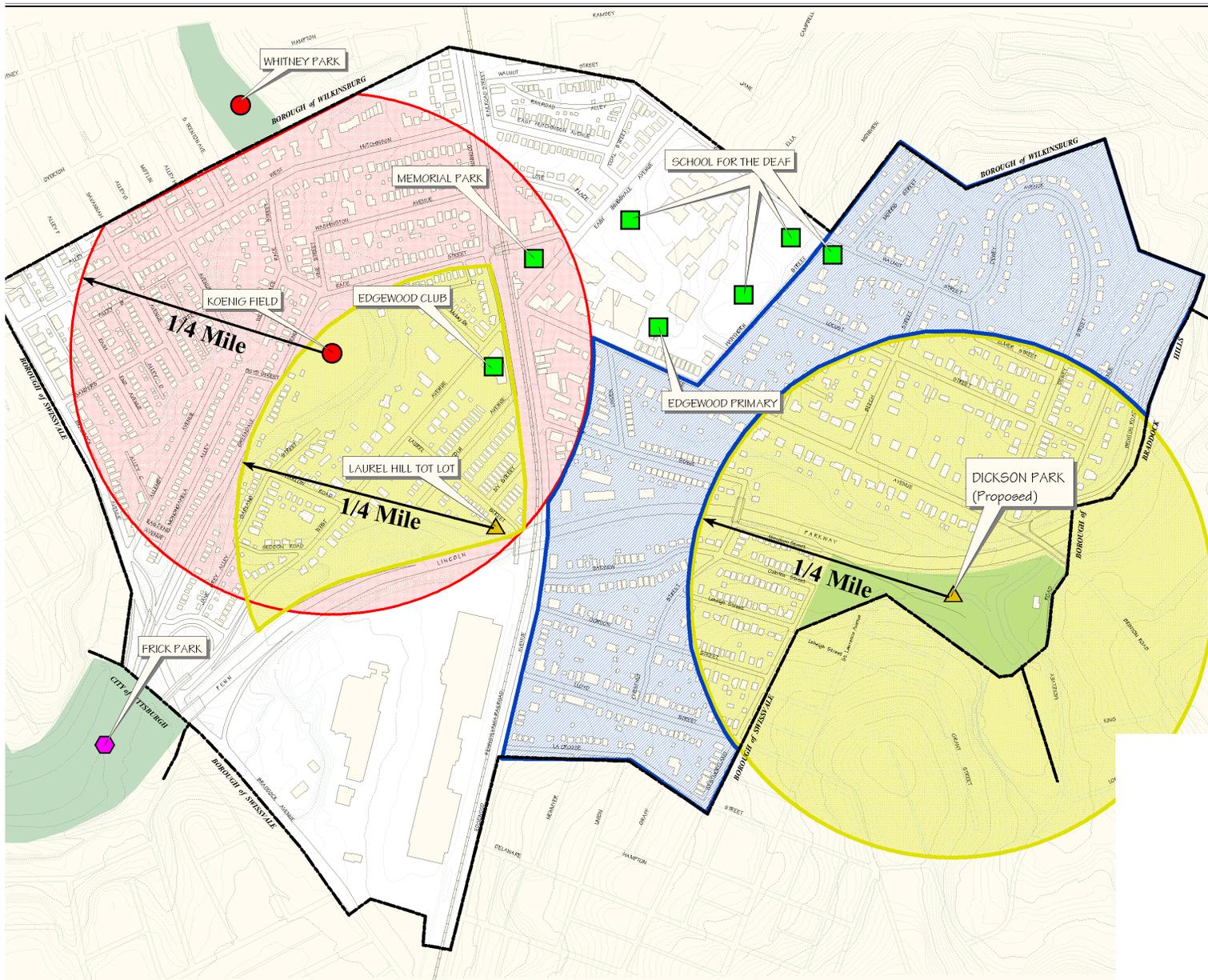
Parkway to the park, Dickson Park will not serve any portions of Edgewood Borough north of the Penn Lincoln Parkway.

- The School for the Deaf is a private institution, as a result, recreation facilities on their property are not accessible to the general public.
- Frick Park, southwest of Edgewood in the City of Pittsburgh, contains a variety of regional recreation facilities. Therefore, this park serves Edgewood residents on a variety of levels. Due to the size of the park and nature of the facilities it contains, Frick Park serves as a large urban park used by residents throughout the region. Secondly, the park facilities serve residents at a community level. Additionally, the park serves as a neighborhood park for residents in the immediate vicinity.
- Koenig Field is an important park of the Borough's recreation system. The park's facilities serve all Borough residents as a community park. Additionally, the park serves residents within a ¼ mile radius as a neighborhood park. A deficiency of neighborhood parks within the Borough, however, results in heavy use of the facilities at Koenig Field, often overburdening them.
- Whitney Park, in the Borough of Wilkinsburg, should be taken into consideration when planning for the future of Edgewood's recreation system. The large park abuts the border of the Borough of Edgewood and contains areas suitable for the development of community recreation facilities, which would ultimately serve Edgewood residents as both community and neighborhood park facilities.
- Two areas within the Borough are deficient in neighborhood parks. The northeast and southcentral portions of the Borough are not served by any existing neighborhood park. Additional parks in these areas, would fill this need.
- If neighborhood park facilities are developed within Dickson Park and safe pedestrian access is provided for residents from the northern side of the Penn Lincoln Parkway to the park, the park would begin to fill the Borough's need for an additional neighborhood park in the northeast area of the community.

Specific strategies resulting from the Spatial Analysis can be found in Chapter 3 of this report.

Spatial Analysis Map

The Spatial Analysis Map shows the service areas of recreation facilities within the Borough. The map is used to assess the distribution of current parks and their ability to meet the recreational needs of Edgewood residents.



-  PARKS
-  COMMUNITY PARK
 - SERVES ENTIRE BOROUGH
 - SERVES 1/4 MI. RADIUS NEIGH. PK. SERVICE AREA
-  NEIGHBORHOOD PARK WITH 1/4 MI RADIUS SERVICE AREA
-  SPECIAL USE FACILITY (NO SERVICE AREA)
-  LARGE URBAN PARK
-  NEIGHBORHOOD PARK DEFICIENCY

COMPARISON OF EDGEWOOD PARKS AND OPEN SPACE TO STANDARDS

Determining the appropriate acreage, type, and number of recreation facilities for a community is a function of analyzing a variety of data. There are many factors unique to Edgewood that the Consultant considered: limited natural resources, existing land use, existing parks and their current uses, recreation trends in the region, the role of the Borough's Recreation Department, and the input received through the public participation process.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), in its publication Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines (1995), provides guidelines for determining the number, type, and acreage of facilities a typical community should have to meet residents' recreation needs. It must be noted that these guidelines serve only as a point of beginning and must be tailored to meet the unique needs or desired level of service of the Edgewood community. As suggested in the NRPA's 1995 publication, critical to this process is the public participation component of this study. The recreation needs of residents are important in customizing national standards to fit their community. The Consultant utilized NRPA's guidelines to begin an evaluation of and make recommendations for Edgewood's park and recreation system.

Edgewood Borough	School District	Private
COMMUNITY PARKS		
Koenig Field		
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS		
Laurel Hill Tot Lot		

Park and Open Space Acreage

PARK	COMMUNITY PARK ACREAGE	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK ACREAGE
Koenig Field	6.5	
Laurel Hill Tot Lot		.25

Park Land Acreage Comparison to NRPA Standards

2000 population: 3,311

PARK TYPE	ACRES/1000 (NRPA STANDARD)	EXISTING ACRES	2000 NEED	2000 SURPLUS (DEFICIT)
Community	8.0	6.5	26.5	(20)
Neighborhood	2.0	.25	6.5	(6.25)

Facility Comparisons to NRPA Standards

FACILITY	1 FACILITY PER / # PERSONS	EXISTING	2000 NEED	SURPLUS (DEFICIENCY)
Basketball Courts	5,000	1	.5	--
Tennis Courts	2,000	2	1.5	--
Volleyball Courts	5,000	0	.5	(.5)
Softball Fields	5,000	1	.5	--
Football Fields	20,000	0	0	0
Soccer Fields	10,000	0	0	0
Swimming Pools	20,000	0	0	0
Picnic Shelters	2,000		2	
Baseball Fields	2,500	1	1.5	(.5)

Input from Edgewood's residents was an important part of this planning process. Several input venues were utilized to offer residents opportunities to voice their opinions about the current parks and recreation system within the Borough and what improvements should be made in the future.

The public input process included public meetings, close work with the project study group, distribution and tabulation of a questionnaire, and several key person interviews. Providing several venues for resident participation assists in gaining a holistic understanding of the current state of recreation, parks, and open space, the issues that are important to Edgewood residents, and the types of improvements they would like see.



Chapter 2

Where do we want to be?

public participation

Public Meetings

Input from many Edgewood residents was key to the success of this Plan. Three Public Meetings were held to gather information regarding recreation, parks, and open space from the general public. Minutes for each of the meetings can be found in the Appendix. The key issues identified at the meetings include:

THE KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN THESE MEETINGS:

Provide restrooms with baby changing station/water fountains/trash cans

More landscaping in parks - see Forest Hills shade trees in park

Focus on older youth, young adults, active walk/exercise/rollerblade/bike

Ice skating on courts

Offer special events especially seasonal - campout with fireman is an example

Consider Hierarchy of parks - neighborhood parks vs. community parks

Secure parks after dusk

Accessible park areas/addressing special needs - for example, a flower garden with windy paths with a variety of textures/smells

Better identification for parks with signage/public relations efforts

Edgewood primary field - cooperate with school district to improve. No recreation facilities at school.

The public input culminates in the identification of vision elements and the development of a Vision for the future of parks and recreation.

Provide benches in shade at park

Volleyball court and soccer fields are needed

Wooded portion of Koenig field - consider wood chip paths to walk, jog

Parking concerns

Programs in summer for different ages. Crafts, street hockey lessons, tai-chi, garden club classes are examples. Shelter, aviary, zoo could come to program.

Synthetic surface for playgrounds

Chess/checkers tables in parks

Regulation signs needed/clean up after your dog/no bikes

Signage system for all parks - ID program, logo - community pride

Consider the hillside at Koenig for an amphitheater

Fire ring with ice skating

Lease area for facilities by private vendor

Study Group

From the beginning of the planning process, through to the final recommendations, the fifteen member Study Group played an important role in the development of a successful Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan. Minutes from each of the seven meetings can be found in the Appendix.

THE ROLE OF THE STUDY GROUP IS TO...

1. Act as a sounding board for ideas as the Plan is developed
2. Assist in the development of the recreation questionnaire
3. Provide feedback as an inventory of existing recreation facilities and programs is completed
4. Review and comment on recommendations as they are developed

Key Person Interviews

The Consultant conducted several Key Person Interviews. The interviewees were identified by the Study Group as individuals who could provide valuable input regarding recreation, parks and open space in Edgewood. This survey technique was used as an additional way to understand and document the needs of area residents. The following information represents a summary of responses. See the Appendix for documentation of all responses given.

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED THROUGH INTERVIEWS:

What are the greatest recreational needs in Edgewood?

- Facilities for teenagers/preteens/children
- Open spaces (ball fields, etc.)
- Game/Rec Room
- Bike paths/lanes/walking trails/fitness trails
- Outdoor amphitheater
- Bowling alley
- Walking Trails
- Benches
- Skateboarding Facility
- Indoor swimming pool
- Deck hockey
- Track
- Dickson Park improvements
- Winter facilities/activities
- Ice skating rink
- Family recreation activities
- Fitness programs
- Golf outings

What are the strengths of Edgewood Parks and Recreation?

- Good director
- Facilities in good shape
- Tennis courts
- Koenig Field
- The interest/involvement and relationship of the borough, community, and parents to parks and recreation
- Good communication of events and programs
- Newsletter
- Koenig Field location is convenient to most in community
- Track
- Plenty of new things to do all the time
- Number of volunteers involved in programs
- Ball fields
- Playground

- Organized programs are excellent
- Edgewood Club
- Recreation board

Are there any weaknesses?

- Publicity and communication of programs
Website to communicate available programming
- Parking
- Lack of available open space
- Not enough playground equipment
- Edgewood not good at assessing and leading/initiating needed programs
- Leadership is not proactive - there is a lack of cohesion
- Not enough leadership to recruit more interest and interested personnel

Should the Borough of Edgewood be providing additional recreational programs? If yes, what? If No, why not?

- No
- Unless demand were to increase beyond existing opportunities
- What currently is being offered is adequate
- Yes
- Arts and crafts
- Whatever is needed
- Dances
- Cross section of sports and arts for different age groups
- Volleyball
- Volunteer service corp
- Lessons and classes

Are there specific groups that are not being served by existing recreational programs or facilities?

- If yes, what groups?
- Retirees
 - Teenagers
 - Adolescents

Is the maintenance of Edgewood parks adequate?

If no, what is deficient?

- Security
- Drainage at Koenig Field

Are there additions or improvements that need to be made at Koenig Field?

If yes, what?

- Track
- Tennis courts need some work

- Parking
- Track needs to be all weather
- Needs aesthetic improvements
- Drainage
- Needs more opportunities for basketball
- Field house could be improved - provide education/rec programs
- Needs multi-purpose meeting space
- Needs to provide classes
- Upgrade playing fields
- Upgrade walking tracks
- Needs additional and upgraded seating for games
- Needs scoreboards
- Needs better lighting on basketball courts

If there is a need for new programming or facilities, where should funding come from?

- Tax base
- Grants
- Not the tax base
- Programming ought be paid for by user fees
- Facilities ought be paid for by grants
- Private donations + tax free loan (construct facility with loan and have a private donation planned for in the way of a will to pay for loan)
- Fund raising (local/community)
- Private foundations
- Government agencies

Is there any other information we should know?

- Edgewood needs something to attract people to it - a well planned recreational facility might be just the thing
- Borough of Edgewood needs to prioritize and define/identify its recreational purpose and what it wants to accomplish
- Check duplication of services in neighboring communities in order to avoid unnecessary services
- There is a greater need/call for arts and crafts type recreation; consider encouraging sports programs supporters to neighboring communities with existing programs
- Important that whatever is instituted is attractive
- Collaboration of Edgewood Club and Board of Recreation would be valuable
- More needs done and needs aggressive leadership
- Supervision is important and necessary
- Playground equipment is needed; the wooden, attractive sort
- Concern about Dickson=s lack of space; if it caters to teens, little kids may not come. Maybe focus on younger kids.
- When a decision is made - especially in area of funding - make sure

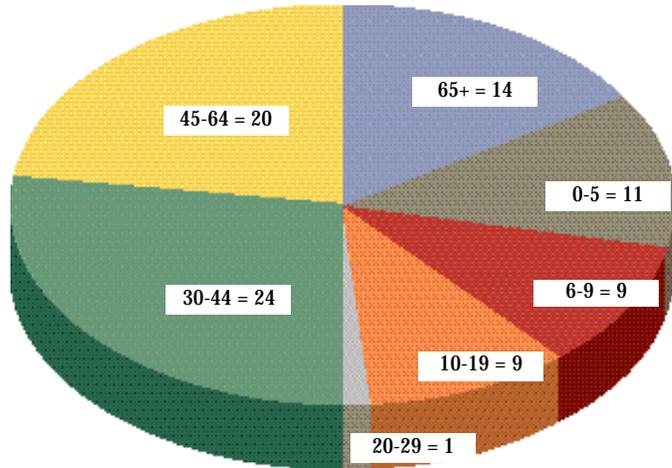
that everything is made completely public and be completely open to community about all decisions

- Vandalism could be a problem at Dickson Park
- Current library project could distract from any new projects
- Need family recreation to create sense of belonging, community, and ownership

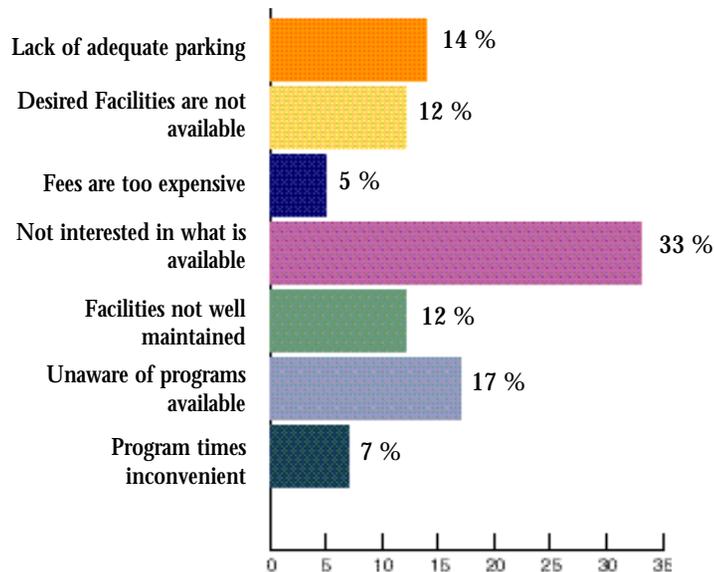
Recreation Questionnaire

Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Questionnaires were included as an insert in the May issues of the Borough newsletter, which every household receives. In addition, survey were distributed during Community Day in August to receive additional input.

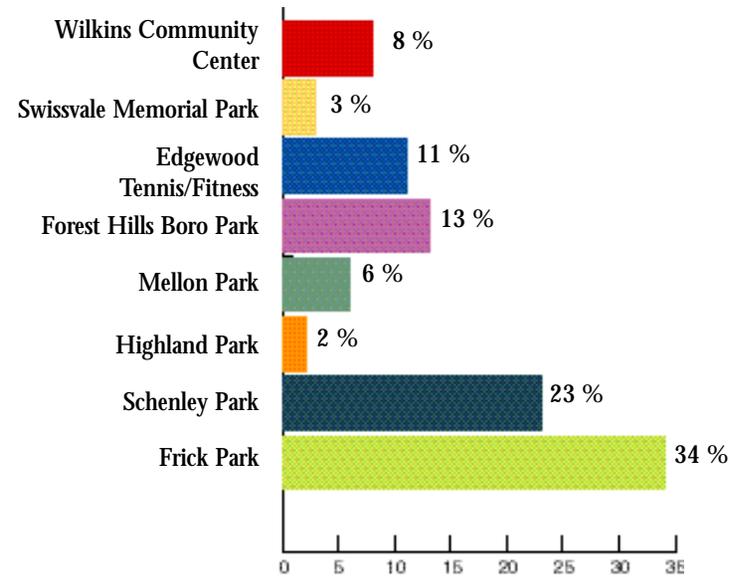
How many people in each category live in your household?



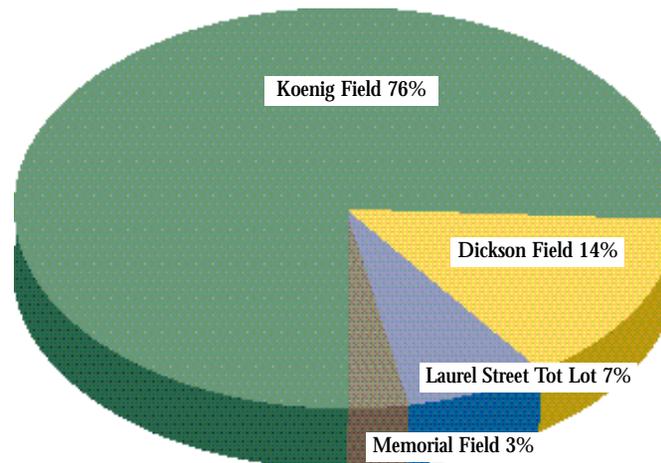
What other factors prevent your family from recreating?



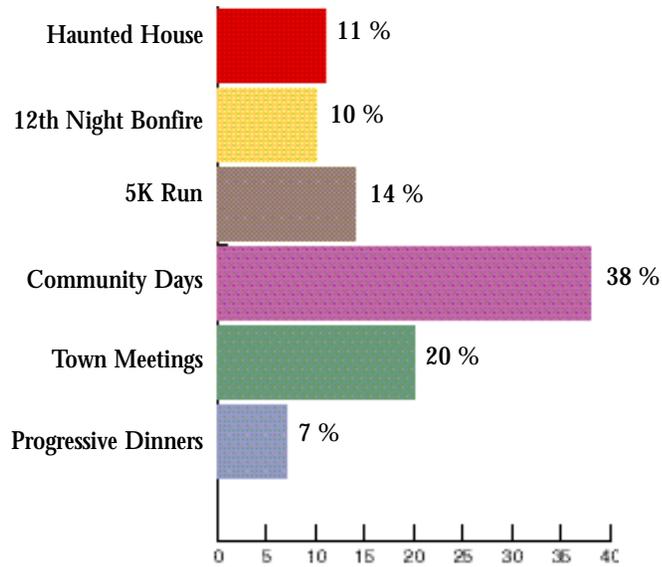
Do you currently use any of these recreation center facilities outside of Edgewood?



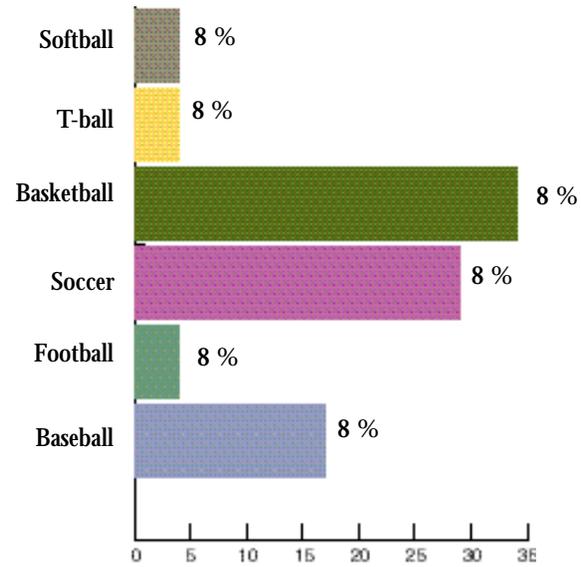
What Edgewood recreation facilities do you currently use on a regular basis?



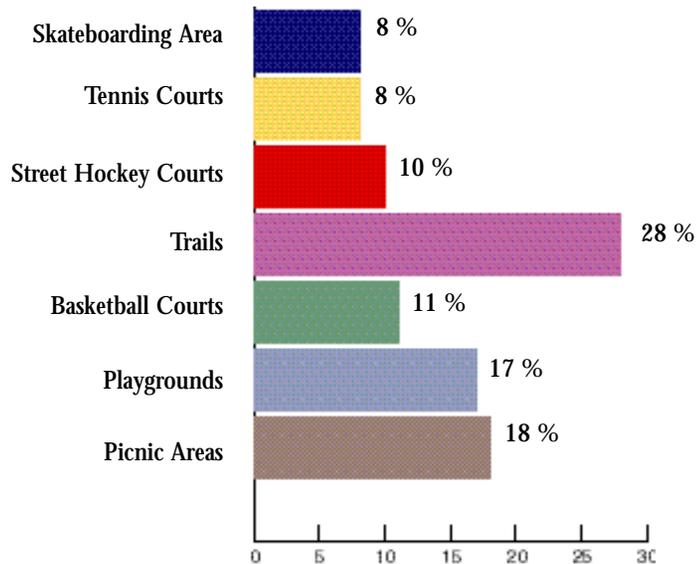
Which community events do you take part in?



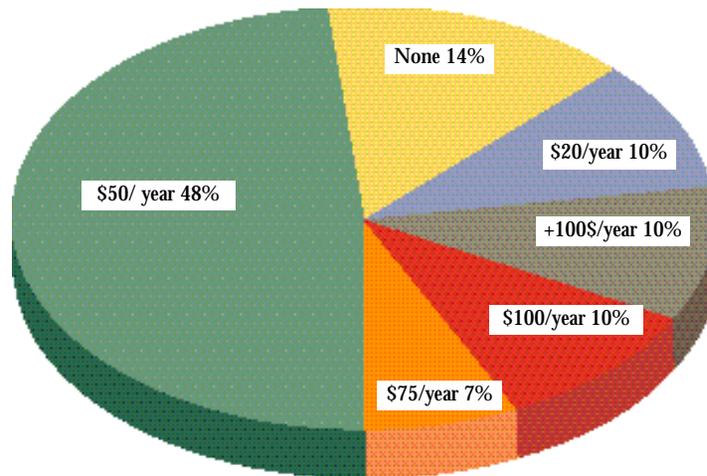
What organized sports leagues do members of your family take part in?



What recreation facilities would you like to see developed at Dickson Park?



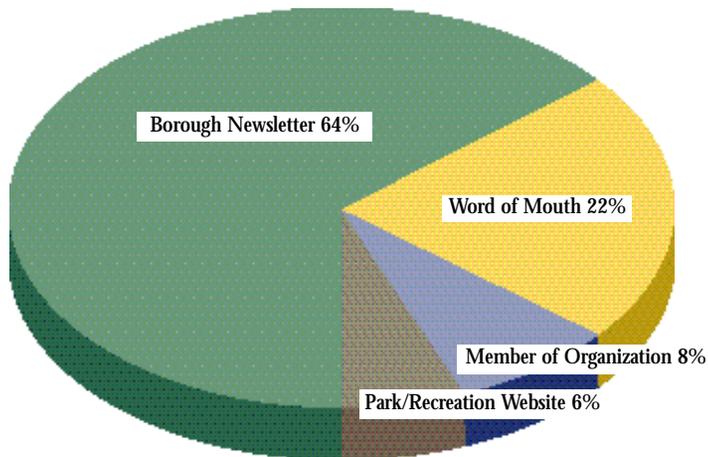
To improve services and facilities, how much would your family contribute toward Edgewood's parks, recreation programs and open space system?



Check the appropriate box for the response that best represents your view on each of the following statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A. I am satisfied with the current parks and recreation facilities in the Borough.	0%	50%	40%	10%
B. I am satisfied with the current recreation programs offered in the community.	7%	58%	28%	7%
C. Edgewood has sufficient baseball/softball fields.	3%	70%	17%	10%
D. The care and maintenance of recreation facilities is inadequate.	0%	65%	23%	12%
E. Edgewood's recreation facilities are easy to find and get to.	13%	74%	13%	0%
F. My family can easily find information on recreation activities, sports leagues and special events.	7%	59%	31%	3%

How do you learn about recreation programs in the Borough?



Creating a Vision for the Future

How do residents of Edgewood see parks and recreation in their community years from now? To arrive at a Vision narrative for the community, the Consultant analyzed the results of the public participation process, including study and focus group meetings, public input sessions, key person interviews and the results of the recreation questionnaire. During the course of this analysis, the Consultant looked for ideas (vision elements) consistently mentioned throughout the public participation process. These ideas were grouped into the vision elements listed below. The elements were then used to form the Vision narrative.

VISION ELEMENTS

- Provide more variety of recreation opportunities
- Increase awareness of recreation programs available
- Create trails at Dickson Park
- Improve landscaping at parks
- Provide more activities/facilities for young adults
- Offer special events
- Consider facilities within parks for residents with special needs
- Improve recreation facilities at Edgewood Primary
- Construct volleyball court and soccer field
- Install benches at park

We are proud of Edgewood's parks and recreation system. The hard work of residents and borough officials continues to result in a variety of recreation opportunities for residents of all ages.

Koenig Field is a key element of the park system. Efforts to ensure continued maintenance and improvements to the facilities result in a park that accommodates all residents for everyday use, sporting events, community festivals, and a variety of organized recreation activities.

The improvements to Dickson Park are a wonderful addition to the Borough's park system. The new facilities are regularly used by residents in the surrounding neighborhoods. Children swarm the playground everyday.

Good communication among private organizations, borough staff and residents is the cornerstone of our successful recreation system. Regular publication of all recreation activities and community programs within the borough ensures that everyone is aware of upcoming events. The School District, the School for the Deaf, the Edgewood Club, Edgewood Tennis Club and the Borough successfully pool resources to provide a variety of recreation opportunities in an efficient manner.

Recreation continues to be a cornerstone in our community!

This chapter presents recommendations for the future of Edgewood's Recreation, Park, and Open Space as the Borough works toward fulfilling its vision for the future. Included in the following sections are detailed goals and implementation strategies.



Chapter 3

How do we get there?

Included in for each category of recommendations, is a goal for the future. The goals are broad in nature and are designed to be all-encompassing, based upon community ideas and issues raised through the planning process. The goal statements reflect the themes that were identified through the public input process and illustrated in the Vision for the future. These goals also provide the organizational structure for the implementation of the Plan's recommendations and direction for the future of recreation, parks, and open space in Edgewood.

The following recommendations include detailed strategies for the implementation of this Plan. Information collected through both the public participation process and the professional assessment was utilized to develop these implementation strategies, which set forth a step-by-step plan for fulfilling the goals set forth by the community's Vision for the future.

The implementation strategies are organized into tables. The information provided includes categories for strategy priority, responsible party, cost estimate, and a space to record the completion of each strategy. These strategies will provide guidance to the decision makers of Edgewood and those organization and staff designated to implement portions of the plan. The successful implementation of these strategies will depend upon the fiscal and political climate in any given year. Therefore, it is essential that the Borough monitor, review, and prioritize the strategies on an annual basis, prior to the budgeting process.

Each implementation strategy is assigned a ranking of High, Medium, or Low. A High (H) ranking suggests that the strategy be implemented in the first one to two years following the adoption of this Plan. Medium (M) ranked strategies are to be implemented in the third to sixth year and Low (L) ranking strategies are to be implemented in the seventh to tenth year.

Annual Review of Strategies

- Formalize a process for maintaining an up-to-date summary of implementation accomplishments.
- Meet with Township and School District representatives on a regular basis to discuss progress, road blocks, and opportunities.
- Establish regular meetings with volunteer organizations and interested individuals who are committed to assisting with implementation of the strategies.
- Review and revise project priorities based upon accomplishments of the past year, public input, and opportunities for the future.

The implementation strategies set forth a step by step plan for fulfillment of the vision.

It should be noted that the cost estimates contained in the strategy tables are wide-ranging and should only serve as a starting point for project evaluation. Detailed costs will be developed as a particular project or strategy would be selected for implementation. Potential funding sources for the completion of the implementation strategies can be found in the Appendix. The opportunities identified do not constitute an exhaustive list and other possible resources should be continually sought. It will be important for the Borough to be up-to-date on future funding sources.

ADMINISTRATION

Goal:

Operate under an organizational structure in which the authority, roles, and responsibilities of the Edgewood Borough Council, Public Works Department, and Recreation Board are clearly defined. Assure competent and trained personnel are available for all parks and recreation functions.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES				
General	PRIORITY	COST	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	DATE OF COMPLETION
A1: Adopt this plan as the basis for a planning process	H	\$0	Borough Council	
A2: Utilize the Three Tier Planning Process described in this document.	H	\$0	Borough Council, Recreation Board, Public Works Dept.	
A3: Amend the Borough ordinance to specifically state the Recreation Board's duties and responsibilities, and powers and authority.	H	\$0	Borough Council	
A4: Adopt an administrative plan that clarifies the roles of Borough Council, Public Works, and the Recreation Board.	H	\$0	Borough Council	
A5: Develop and adopt the Mission Statement for the Recreation Department included in this plan.	H	\$0	Recreation Board	
A6: Adopt by-laws for the recreation board.	H	\$0	Recreation Board	
A7: Provide opportunities for public participation in evaluation of the recreation system and planning for its future.	M	\$0	Borough Council, Recreation Board	
A8: Implement a computerized record keeping system and database of recreation programs and registrations.	H	\$1,000	Recreation Board	
A9: Develop and maintain a recreation department policies and procedures manual. See sample on page #48.	M	\$0	Recreation Board	
A10: Develop a formalized system of cooperation with the School District.	H	\$0	Recreation Board	

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES, CONT.

	PRIORITY	COST	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	DATE OF COMPLETION
Maintenance				
A11: Develop a maintenance management plan for the parks to set standards of care and frequency of tasks. See the sample plan on page #50.	H	\$0	Borough Council	
A12: Assure that a maintenance plan is in place for the development of any new parks and/or facilities.	H	\$0	Borough Council	
A13: Adopt a risk management plan that includes equipment, facilities and grounds, annual safety audits of all parks and playgrounds, record-keeping of repairs, tracking safety hazards, training of staff. Refer to maintenance section of Chapter 1 for additional information.	H	\$0	Borough Council	
A14: Provide training for Public Works Staff in park maintenance related activities. At least one employee should be a certified playground safety inspector.	H	\$1,500	Public Works	
A15: As maintenance equipment is replaced, purchase commercial grade equipment.	H	depends on equipment	Public Works, Recreation Board	
Personnel				
A16: Develop an organizational chart with responsible parties identified.	H	\$0	Borough Council	
A17: Hire a part-time staff person specifically for maintenance of landscaping throughout the Borough.	H	\$6,000	Public Works	

APPROXIMATE TOTAL COST OF ADMINISTRATION IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES: \$8,500

Three-tier Goal Setting System

One example of a formal system of goal setting would include a three tier plan. The first tier would be the adoption of a written vision statement for the department. Within that vision the department should adopt a series of both long and short-range goals (tier two) and then create annual or bi-annual goals (tier three) to be accomplished within those parameters.



Each level becomes more clearly defined. The vision statement is intended to be very broad-based and forward - looking. Annual goals are developed to accomplish the short range goals, while the long and short range goals are created to fulfill the agency's vision, all goals should be clearly defined and measurable. It is necessary to continually evaluate and update goals on an annual basis, and to revise long-range goals periodically. Adoption of this plan provides both the vision statement and long and short - range goals. Using the above stated system, the department would simply need to prioritize and adopt annual goals that begin to accomplish the long and short-term goals and moving the community toward the fulfillment of a vision statement.

Public Participation

This planning process should provide an opportunity for public

participation. The Recreation Board is perhaps the strongest means of public participation. The Board would serve as an advocate for parks and recreation offering their input to Borough Council. Other possibilities would include park and program evaluation forms, public input sessions at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meetings, public meetings to discuss plans and goals of the Board, and/or questionnaires.

Proposed General Administrative Plan

Borough Council and Borough Manager

- Adopt this plan as the basis for maintaining a strong parks and recreation program within the Borough of Edgewood.
- Maintain ultimate responsibility for all parks and recreation operations
- Supervise the Public Works Department in maintenance of the parks.
- Supervise the Recreation Board providing recreational opportunities.
- Establish a reasonable budget for parks and recreation.
- Adopt a new ordinance that clearly defines the duties, responsibilities, power, and authority of the Edgewood Recreation Board.
- Maintain the vision for parks and recreation that the Edgewood residents have established through this plan.

Public Works Department

- Reports to the Borough Manager
- Responsible for maintenance of all parks.
- Supervises contracts for park maintenance.
- Coordinates scheduling of maintenance with recreation program schedules.
- Performs all maintenance not under contract to an outside agency.

Recreation Board

- Reports to Edgewood Borough Council

The Board will focus on achieving the mission and vision set for parks and recreation in the Borough as adopted by Borough Council. Once Borough Council adopts this Comprehensive Recreation Park and Open Space Plan, it shall become the Borough's vision for parks and recreation for the future. Details of operating recreation programs lies with the Recreation Board.

1. The Board should play a lead role in keeping the Borough's vision current and focused. However, it remains the role of Borough Council to adopt such changes as they see fit.
2. Serve in an advisory role to Borough Council. Borough Council may give specific rights and/or responsibilities in which the Board may not

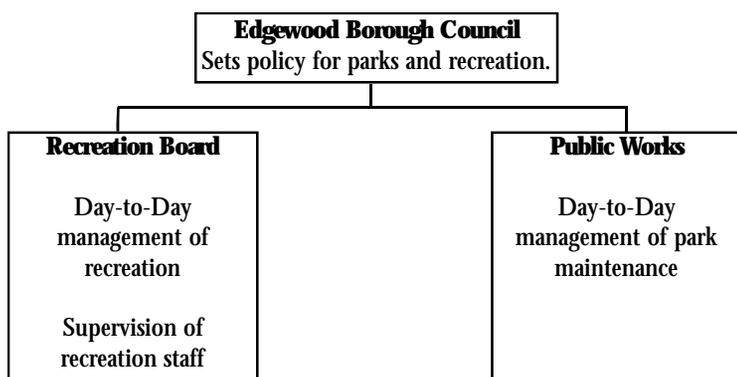
Typical Items included in an Operating Manual

This listing is not intended to be all-inclusive but rather to demonstrate the types of items that should be included in an operations manual.

1. Organizational Structure
 - a. Legal documents creating the Department
 - b. Statement of philosophy, goals and objectives
 - c. Organizational chart
 - d. Recreation Advisory Board Responsibilities
2. Personnel
 - a. Staff organizational chart
 - b. Personnel policies
 - c. Personnel policies impacting parks and recreation staff
 - d. Personnel forms
 - i. Applications forms
 - ii. Evaluation forms
 - iii. Employee information forms
 - iv. Other forms
 - e. Position descriptions
 - f. In-service training
3. Financial
 - a. Financing plan
 - b. Procedures for handling income received on location
4. Policy Statements (those adopted by the Council that impact the operations of parks and recreation)
5. Facilities
 - a. An inventory of each park or recreation facility
 - b. Rules and regulations governing each facility
 - c. Permits
 - d. Procedures for using facilities
6. Programming
 - a. Philosophy and goals concerning programming
 - b. Publicity procedures
 - c. Funding procedures and policies
 - d. Hiring procedures for program staff
 - e. Program evaluation forms
 - f. Procedures for programming by non-Borough organizations
 - g. Procedures for cooperative programming with other organizations
7. Borough Ordinances related to parks and recreation
8. Accident, Incident, And Safety
 - a. Risk Management Plan
 - b. Accident and incident procedures
 - c. First aid standards and procedures
 - d. Accident and incident report forms
 - e. Staff training
9. Publicity and Advertising

- need to make recommendations back to Borough Council.
3. Strive to include a variety of stakeholders on the Board. Interests that should be represented on the Board should include but not necessarily be limited to the following:
 - non-athletic users
 - teens
 - seniors
 - families
 - athletic organizations
 - arts
 - swimming
 - park planning
 - open space
 4. Provide a well-balanced variety of recreational programming for Edgewood Residents.
 5. Manage the operations of the recreation department and Koenig Field.
 6. Supervise all recreation staff.
 7. Coordinate recreation programming with other local recreation providers.
 8. Advise Borough Council on budgetary matters that pertain to parks and recreation.
 9. Serve as a community advocate for parks and recreation.
 10. Coordinate the use of park facilities.
 11. Monitor park facilities and make recommendation to Borough Council for maintenance and/or improvements.
 12. Maintain an inventory of park and recreation facilities and recreation providers in the community.
 13. Coordinate the publicity of community recreation.
 14. Assist in the application for grants.
 15. Undertake fundraising efforts.

General Responsibilities of Parks and Recreation



Sample Maintenance Management Plan

Task	Standard	Quantity	Frequency	Duration
Mow grass - riding mower	-Establish a specific mowing height that grass should be mowed to. Suggested height 2 1/2 inches.	x acres	1 - 2 times per week	May 1 - October 1
Mow grass - push mower	-Establish a specific mowing height that grass should be mowed to. Suggested height of 2 1/2 inches.	x acres	1 time per week	May 1 - October 1
String trim fence lines, equipment, trees, etc.		x linear feet	Every two weeks	May 1 - October 1
Hand pull weeds as necessary.				
Pesticide application for weed control along fence lines, buildings, bleachers, benches, play equipment, sidewalks, trees, etc.			2 times per summer and as needed	Mid-May Mid September
Litter Pick up			2 times per week 1 time per week	May 1 - October 1 October 1 - April 30
Equipment inspection	-Use checklist. -Repair hazards. -Report needed repairs to Parks and Recreation Director.	x pieces of equipment	2 times per week 1 time per week	May 1 - October 1 October 1 - April 30
Ballfield Maintenance	-Drag Fields. -Fill infield holes. -Clean dug-outs. -Perform Safety Inspection. - Repair safety hazards.	x ballfields	2 Times per week	May 1 - August 31
Seasonal Ballfield preparation.	-Specify the tasks to be performed.	x ballfields	2 days per field	April and June
Basketball Courts	-Litter pick-up. -Inspect and repair standards, rims, nets. -Inspect fencing and playing surface.	x courts	2 times per week	April - October
Tennis Courts	-Litter pick-up. -Inspect and repair standards, nets, and hardware. -Inspect fencing and playing surface.	x courts	2 times per week	April - October
Sweep and Clean Asphalt surfaces		x sq. feet	1 time per week 1 time per month	May 1 - October 1 October 1 - April 30
Snow removal		x sq. feet	as needed	October - March
Playground Maintenance				
Safety Inspections			1 time per week	Year-round
Rake and level safety surfacing			2 times per week as needed	April 1 - October 1 October 1 - March 31
Replenish safety surfacing			first week of every month	April 1 - October 1

FINANCING

Goal

Provide adequate funding for operation of recreational programming, maintenance of parks, and development of Dickson Park. Utilize appropriate financial controls to assure strong fiscal responsibility. Seek out new and unique ways of funding operations, maintenance, and expansion of parks and programs.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES				
	PRIORITY	COST	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	DATE OF COMPLETION
F1: Strengthen the fiscal accountability of the Borough.	H	\$0	Borough Council	
F2: Provide annual incremental increase in the Borough's contribution to the Recreation Board.	H	\$1,000/yr	Borough Council	
F3: Create a written process by which the Recreation Board can request increases in funding for specific purposes.	M	\$0	Borough Council	
F4: Utilize a variety of grant opportunities to fund Dickson Park and Koenig Field improvements.	H	\$0	Borough Council	
F4: Create a "Friends of Edgewood Recreation" to assist in fundraising efforts for both programs and facilities.	M	\$0	Recreation Board	
APPROXIMATE TOTAL COST OF FINANCING IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES: \$1,000				

Grant Sources

There are many sources of funding for parks and recreation. However there are three primary governmental programs that provide grants to local communities for parks and recreation purposes. The programs and funding opportunities are listed below. Other funding sources are listed in the appendices of the document.

1. PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

- Maximum grant - approximately \$100,000 (sometimes more can be available)
- Local Match - Generally grants require a 50% local match
- Sources of Local Match - Generally local cash match. In-kind services are now eligible as a match under certain conditions. DCED grants can be used as a match.
- Funding Cycle - Applications are generally due in late October. Awards are announced the following March.
- Eligible Uses
 - Technical Assistance
 - Feasibility Studies for recreation facilities
 - Acquisition of additional park land
 - Development and rehabilitation of existing facilities

2. PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)

- Maximum grant - no specified limit. Could be as much as \$500,000 or more
- Local Match - Generally grants require a some local match although 100% funding is available. DCED grants can be used to match DCNR grants.
- Sources of Local Match - Generally local cash match. In-kind services may be eligible as a match under certain conditions. Private local investment.
- Funding Cycle - Applications are accepted at any time. Awards are generally made on a quarterly basis in July, October, January and April.
- Eligible Uses
 - Community facility construction and/or rehabilitation
 - Some funding can be used for programming

3. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- Maximum Grant - Determined by the County.
- Local Match - Determined by the County.
- Sources of Local Match - Generally local cash match. In-kind services

- may be eligible as a match under certain conditions.
- Funding Cycle - Determined by the County
- Eligible Uses
 - Community facility construction and/or rehabilitation.
 - Some funding can be used for programming.
 - Limitations may be set by the County.

GRANT STRATEGIES

Applying for a grant is not simply a matter of filling out the proper forms and submitting them. Grants can be very competitive. Often funding agencies receive requests that amount to as much as ten times more than the money that is available. It is therefore very important that you are well prepared in submitting your application. The following outlines several steps that can significantly improve your chances of receiving a grant.

1. Be well prepared

- a. Know the funding agency - contact persons, addresses, phone numbers, etc.
- b. Be sure you are an eligible applicant for the agency and program through which you intend to apply.
- c. Investigate each grant opportunity to be sure that what you are applying for meets the funding criteria.
- d. Be complete and accurate in your application. Do not assume that you will have an opportunity to correct mistakes, update data, etc.
- e. Submit your application several days prior to the deadline. This assures it is in on time and shows that you are well prepared.

2. Have a Vision and a Plan

- a. A vision shows the funding agency that you have looked to the future. It shows where your application fits into the bigger picture in your community and/or department. A vision can come from your Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan or be a part of a broader community effort.
- b. A plan shows that you have looked at the details of what you want to do. Be more specific in your plan than in your vision.
- c. Describe where your matching funds will come from. Show that you can leverage funding from a variety of sources - local taxes, private contributions, other grants, etc.
- d. Describe in detail how you will address maintenance of any facilities you are requesting funding for. Maintenance is a key factor if an agency is to invest large dollars in your project.
- e. Show previous success you have had. Show existing parks that have previously been funded. Indicate how your successes in other projects will impact the project you are applying for.

3. Contact the Funding Agencies

- a. Make a personal contact with the funding agency as early as you can in the process. Keep them informed but don't badger them. Show them your vision and how this specific project fits into it.
- b. DCED - Contact your local State Representative and/or Senator. Also contact the Pittsburgh DCED office.
- c. DCNR - Contact Regional Recreation Advisor, Kathy Frankel.
- d. CDBG - Make a personal visit to the Allegheny County Office responsible for the CDBG Funding.

Recreation Programming

Goal:

To provide high quality recreation programs to the residents of Edgewood focusing on programs that tend to draw local participants only; and to seek out ways to cooperate with other organizations and municipalities to make programming available that cannot be supported solely by Edgewood residents.

Suggested programming:

- weekend night elementary dances or parties
- unstructured activities for teens
- teen dances
- arts programming
- youth carnival
- water carnival
- holiday events - Pumpkin carving party, Christmas party, Easter egg hunt,
- youth sports special events - one day sports clinics, out of season sports •
- tournaments, Pirates or Riverhounds field trip
- Hershey track and field
- Punt, pass, and kick
- summer sports camps
- after-school programming at elementary schools or the park
- outdoor nature activities
- senior activities

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

	PRIORITY	COST	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	DATE OF COMPLETION
P1: Ensure that all programming provided is of top quality, including program content, instructors and coaches, materials and supplies, facilities, and maintenance.	H	varies depending on program	Recreation Board	
P2: Focus on programming that will run successfully with smaller numbers of participants and will draw local participants.	H	varies depending on program	Recreation Board	
P3: Explore ways to cooperate with recreation providers to bring needed programming to the community. Avoid competition with local and regional recreation providers.	H	varies depending on program	Recreation Board	
P4: Explore opportunities to cooperate with surrounding communities for programs that require larger numbers of participants.	H	varies depending on program	Recreation Board	

APPROXIMATE TOTAL COST OF PROGRAMMING IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES: VARIES

FACILITIES

Goal:

Provide safe, attractive, well-maintained parks for the residents of Edgewood Borough.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES				
	PRIORITY	COST	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	DATE OF COMPLETION
F1: Implement the recommendations resulting from the playground safety audits.	H	varies	Borough Council	
F2: Implement the Dickson Park master plan.	H	Phase I - \$70,000	Borough Council	
F3: Collaborate with the School District to construct public playgrounds at the elementary school.	M	\$0	Borough Council	
F4: Develop a park master site development plan to address continued improvements to Koenig Park.	M	\$15,000	Borough Council	
F5: At Laurel Hill Park, construct a six foot high barrier fence between the park and the adjacent property to the northwest of the park.	M	\$1,000	Borough Council	
APPROXIMATE TOTAL COST OF FACILITIES IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES: \$86,000 - 316,000				



Chapter 4

Dickson Park

master plan

Purpose

The purpose of the Dickson Park Master Plan is to provide the Borough of Edgewood with a framework for making decisions regarding the development of Dickson Park to meet the recreation needs of the community.

The process used to develop the master plan includes an analysis of existing conditions, collection of resident's input, and the development of recommendations for the park's future. It is this multi-faceted approach involving the community and the decision makers that yields a long range strategy for improving the park

Goals

- Identify opportunities and constraints for the development of recreation facilities.
- Determine how the development of recreation facilities can be successfully incorporated into the site.
- Determine what facilities and activities will best meet the needs of residents and be incorporated into the master plan.
- Determine the cost for implementation of the development plan and to recommend how the plan can be implemented in a fiscally responsible manner.

Public Participation

Throughout the public participation process conducted as part of the Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan, Edgewood citizens were provided opportunities to provide input on both the overall recreation and open space system as well as Dickson Park. At a public meeting, a needs assessment for Dickson Park was conducted using the Nominal Group Technique. The following table shows the facilities and/or issues identified by Edgewood residents as well as the residents' rankings of the importance of those issues. This input enabled the thoughtful generation of conceptual designs for the park, responding directly to the community's needs and desires.

FACILITY OR ISSUE
Maintain park - new improvements, have a plan for maintenance
Perimeter wildflower/nature walk with shade
Picnic area - shelter (30' x 40') 4-5 picnic tables
Consider access from McKelvey - minimum impact on neighborhood
Dogs continue to be allowed, consider fencing in area along parkway
Patrol park to reduce vandalism/under-age drinking, safe use
Bike/rollerblade path - asphalt
Sledding area
Use old tennis courts for basketball-multipurpose activities
Local use - neighbors have small lots, trails - concern with parking lots and attracting lots of people/traffic
Play equipment like Laurel Street Playground
Quiet park, trees, in contrast to the active fields, courts and playgrounds of Koenig. Try not to ruin natural beauty of park/attract birds. Natural areas like Beechwood farms
Multi-purpose courts - ramps, skateboard area
"Bridge" steep areas - think creatively of spaces
Noise from Parkway - sound barrier?
Plan to utilize park given the large size of park
Lighting for security needed
Garbage bins that are attractive
Poison Ivy control needed
Look at acquisition on "V" area of site

Site Analysis

LOCATION

Dickson Park is located along the south-central border of the Borough. Route 376 (Penn Lincoln Parkway) runs along its northern boundary.

ACCESS

Currently, the park can be accessed from two locations. Pedestrian access is available at both the upper level of the park, from Oakview Street and the lower level, from Aberdeen Street. Edgewood citizens from east or north of the park currently have no easily accessible entry to the park. The site can be accessed by vehicle from a gravel road extending from Aberdeen street through the park. The gravel road is used primarily by the Borough for access to the eastern part of the site, where mulch, timber and recyclables are stored.

ACREAGE

Dickson Park is approximately 9.4 acres.

TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES

Dickson Park is a landscape of steep slopes, punctuated by grassy plateaus stepping from the south down to Route 376 to the north. Accessible pathways have been carved by pedestrian use of the park. Because of the Borough's use of the site for storage of materials, a larger plateau has been formed in the eastern part of the park by means of cutting from a steep slope and filling in a ravine. These natural and man-made barriers dictate the development of the site.

SURROUNDING LAND USES

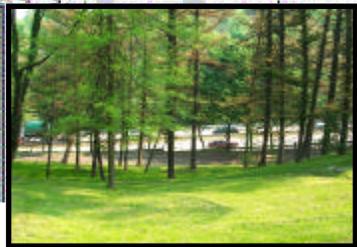
Heavily traveled Route 376 borders the park's northern side. The areas to the west, southwest and east of the park, are residential. Beyond the southeast tip of the park is the Edgewood Tennis and Fitness Facility.

UTILITIES

A sanitary sewer line runs through the site. Due to the proximity of Dickson Park to the residential areas, any utilities that may be planned would be accessible.



Site Analysis



↑ not to scale

refer to large drawing for additional information

Concept A



Approximately seventy percent of the site is vegetated. Due to a microburst in 1998, much of Dickson Park's vegetation was destroyed, giving invasive species an opportunity to thrive. Indeed, non-native invasive vines dominate much of the site.

In the western portion of the park, where access is located, is a stand of mature pines and virtually no understory growth, creating a lush green space stretching from north to south.

Most flat, grassy areas are maintained by the Borough.

EXISTING FACILITIES

The only recreational facility located within the park is an abandoned, unusable tennis court, surrounded on three sides by a 10' high chain link fence in poor condition. Informal, pedestrian trails are few, but existing. Therefore, Dickson Park, as it exists now, functions minimally as a passive neighborhood greens space.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

There are no historic features located within Dickson Park.

SOILS

The area consists primarily of Urban land-Culleoka complex, steep soils. Also in the park are the Urban land Culleoka complex-gently sloping, and the Gilpin, Weikert, and Culleoka shaly silt loams, very steep.

The Urban land-Culleoka complex is about 55% Urban land, 25% Culleoka soils, and 20% other soils. Much of the area is characterized by the large amount of earth moving that has occurred. Exposed cut and fill material is considered strongly acid to extremely acid. Runoff is very rapid. The steep slopes are considered as the limiting factor of uses.

The gently sloping form is found on the flat grassy areas within the park. This soil is similar to its steep counterpart. It is composed of 75% Urban land, 15% Culleoka soils, and 10% other soils. Its primary difference is that it is located along slopes ranging from 0% to 8%.

The Gilpin Weikert is found on the steepest slopes within the park, where no development, but rather woodland and wildlife habitat, is proposed.

SITE DESIGN

Two alternative site plans were developed and presented to the project study group on June 12, 2001. Refer to the Appendix for the meeting minutes. The purpose of this meeting was to determine which design or combination of ideas offers the best solution. Following the presentation of the alternatives, a group discussion led to the development of the following opportunities and constraints associated with each concept.

Concept A

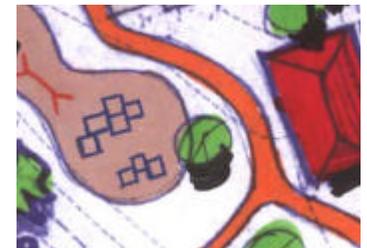
The proposed recreation development in this concept is concentrated at the western end of the park, near the existing entrance. The design elements include:

- pedestrian trails
- ½ basketball court
- paved parking lot (15 spaces)
- gravel parking lot (15 spaces)
- two pull-off parking areas (with three spaces each) along gravel road
- medium picnic shelter
- picnic tables
- playground
- multi-purpose field

Given the isolated nature of the site, most of the proposed recreation facilities are concentrated at the western end of the property. Given the access provided to the site from Aberdeen and Oakview Streets and the greater visibility of this area, this portion of the site is the setting for the primary recreation facilities.

Parking for the park is provided as an extension of Oakview Street. Trails from the parking lot and existing street sidewalks provide pedestrian access to the site. Immediately adjacent to the fifteen (15) car paved parking lot is a ½ basketball court. Also in the eastern third of the park are a medium-sized picnic shelter and a neighborhood playground. On the slope below the playground and above the gravel access road, a picnic grove is proposed. There are several existing larch trees in this mown lawn area and picnic tables are proposed.

This concept enhances the existing gravel road extension of Aberdeen Street. At the picnic grove area near the park entrance, there is a three car pull-off. Further up the road, an additional three car pull-off is near the picnic shelter at the center of the park. The gravel access road culminates in a fifteen (15) car gravel parking lot.



The remaining two thirds of the park is isolated from the surrounding residential areas by steep slopes and vegetation. Due to safety and use concerns, proposed improvements to this area are limited. They include a multi-purpose field, picnic tables, and trails. The multipurpose field is a level, mown grass area that is fairly small, but may be used for pick-up games and some younger-aged team practices.

The proposed pedestrian trails run throughout the site, connecting the various recreation components and providing opportunities for walking and jogging.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- includes an area for dogs off leash.
- provided for picnicking in the center of the largest depth of the park, which results in more buffer between adjacent uses.
- provides off-street parking for two major use areas which can double as trailheads.
- playground is focal point for Oakview Street.

CONSTRAINTS:

- placement of shelter may lead to more vandalism
- a second playground is required to meet neighborhood and group picnickers.
- court games not provided.

Concept B

The proposed recreation development in this concept utilize the entire site equally. The design elements include:

- two playgrounds
- two paved parking lots
- dog walking area
- medium picnic shelter
- wide pedestrian/bicycle trail bisecting the site from east to west.

Given the isolated nature of the site, this concept proposes improvements that would increase pedestrian circulation through the site and promote a greater number of park users, to negate potential safety concerns. In combination with facilities to promote activity, in or for this concept to be successful, appropriate clearing of the vegetated steep slopes between the park and the surrounding residential areas will allow views into and out of the park, increasing park safety.

A twenty car parking lot is proposed at the western edge of the park, off Oakview Street. Adjacent to the parking lot is one of two neighborhood playgrounds, which is highly visible from Oakview Street.

As an extension of the existing sidewalk on Oakview Street, a wide pedestrian and bicycle trail is proposed to run west-east from the entrance. The wide trail extends through the center of the site, connecting with McKelvey at the eastern end of the park, thus connecting these two residential streets for pedestrians and bicyclists. This increased traffic will add to an increase in safety of the isolated site.

To the east of the entrance playground, along the main trail, a dog park is proposed. Currently, many residents from the surrounding neighborhoods use the park to walk their dogs and continuation of that use is promoted.

This concept proposes that existing gravel access road off Aberdeen Street is extended to include a twenty-five space gravel parking lot.

Near the rear parking lot, is a medium shelter. Adjacent to that shelter is a second neighborhood playground. To the west, beyond the picnic shelter and second playground is a loop trail and small mown grassy areas.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- picnic shelter located closer to neighborhood (more security).
- court provided - half court to discourage team play.
- large area removed from active play areas is provided for off-leash dog activities.
- one playground is proposed for entire active play area.

CONSTRAINTS:

- too much land set aside for dogs.
- playground may be too close to court area (teens vs. preschoolers).
- parking is not close to picnic shelter.

Concept B



After analyzing conceptual options A and B, further investigation was conducted by the Borough to validate property ownership. It was discovered that some properties initially included in the conceptual design process were in actuality not park of the park. The only limitation this placed on the conceptual designs was the length of trail and magnitude of open space within the eastern part of the Park. Also, the Borough will still require use of a sizeable portion of this area for its storage of recyclables, further limiting the length of trail and amount of open area in this region of the park. Still, the most popular needs and desires of the community are met within the park lands, and are shown on the draft master plan for Dickson Park.

The draft master plan consists of:

- pedestrian trails
- ½ basketball court
- paved parking (4 spaces)
- unpaved parking (4 spaces)
- two parallel parking areas along paved road
- small to medium picnic shelter
- picnic tables
- playground
- Borough recyclables facility

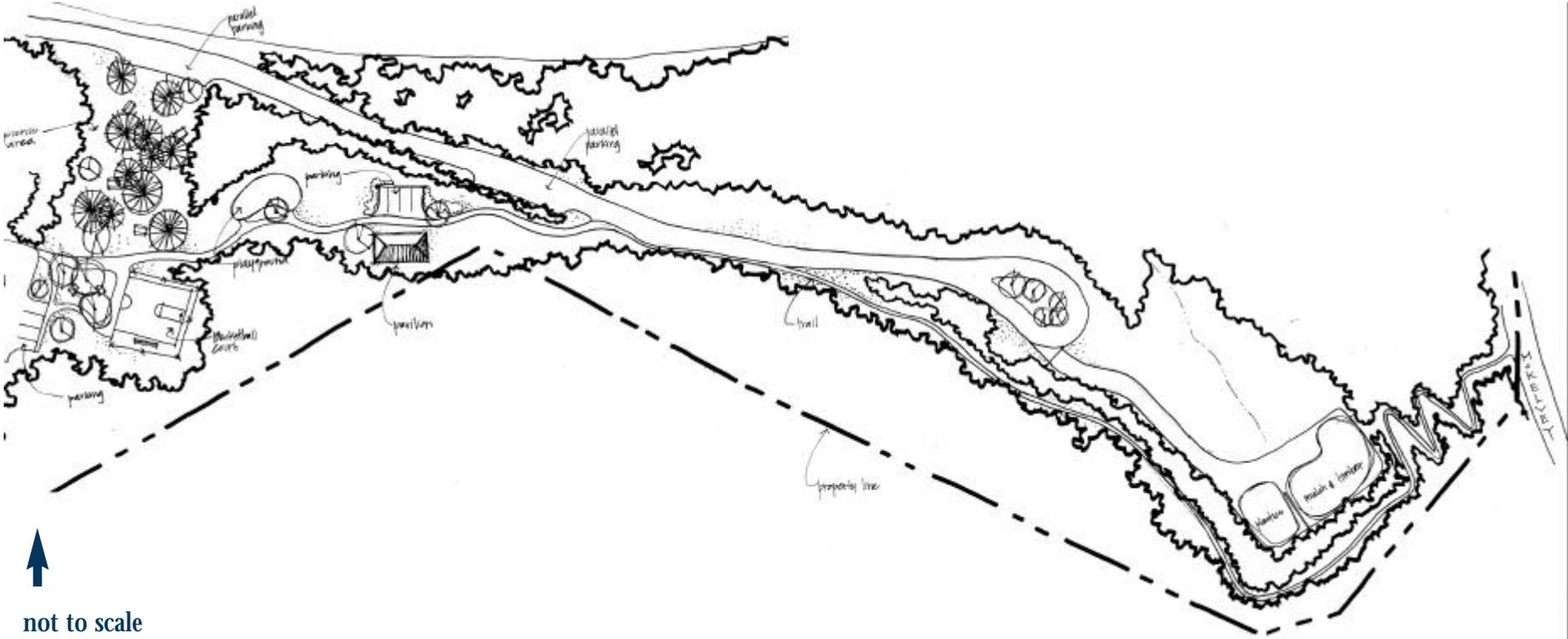
The draft master plan establishes formal vehicular access from both Aberdeen Street and Oakview Street. Vehicular access is also enabled, though not encouraged by formal paving, to the proposed pavilion. A total of 14 proper parking spaces are provided. Access from Aberdeen terminates at a cul-de-sac within the park. Fencing and a gate restrict access to the Borough storage area. Formal pedestrian access is addressed at the end of Oakview Street.

A half court basketball court with seating is proposed on the site of the abandoned tennis court. Below, among the stand of mature pines, a picnic grove is identified, with tables dotted among this area. Further along the paved trail leading from the Oakview Street connection, is a playground, approximately 1200 square feet, which would serve primarily ages 5 through 12. This is coupled with the planned offering of a pavilion, approximately 900 square feet, as well as 4 unpaved parking spaces to accommodate users. This more active region of the park would be served with additional picnic tables and trash receptacles. All of these uses are largely within a good view from the surrounding neighborhood.

The court, pavilion, and playground are located on existing plateaus that would remain, thus enabling a 2% to 5% slope.

The paved trail continues further into the park, eventually providing an accessible connection to McKelvey Road, and thus to neighbors to the west and north of the park. The trail is buffered from the Borough storage area by mature tree and shrub plantings along the trail, and beyond that fencing. Additional plantings are shown to enhance the aesthetics of the site as well as to help prevent erosion of the steeper areas near developments.

Draft Master Plan



↑
not to scale

refer to large drawing for additional information

Final Master Plan

The refined master plan remains largely unchanged from the draft master plan. However, the Borough storage area is enlarged to better accommodate truck traffic, new fencing is identified, new plantings are highlighted, and park signage is identified at the Oakview Street connection and the McKelvey Road connection.

No restroom facilities are planned, as Dickson Park is to serve the surrounding neighborhood, attracting users within walking distance from their homes.

The final master plan also denotes the items identified as Phase 1 developments. The Borough is currently in the process of applying for a DCNR small communities development grant to enable the implementation of Phase 1 items. This DCNR grant takes into account labor and equipment donations by the Borough. These items are reflected in the development costs.

Development Costs

Phase I					
Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Extension	
<u>Site Work</u>					
Pavilion (24' x 36')	1	LS	\$12,000.00	\$12,000	\$22,500
Concrete Pad	100	SY	\$22.50	\$2,250	
8' High Chain Link Fence	450	LF	\$10.00	\$4,500	
Signage	2	EA	\$625.00	\$1,250	
Erosion & Sedimentation Control	1	LS	\$1,800.00	\$1,800	
Bituminous Walkway (5')	1100	SY	\$22.00	\$24,200	
Demolition	1	LS	\$1,800.00	\$1,800	
Earthwork (On-Site)	2000	CY	\$5.00	\$10,000	
Mobilization	3% of	LS		\$1,200	
Construction Stake Out	const.	LS		\$2,000	
Total Additional Costs	5% of			\$61,000	
10% Contingency	const.			\$6,100	
Total				\$67,100	

Total Cost					
Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Extension	
<u>Site Work</u>					
1. Demolition (Clearing & Grubbing) <i>Partial</i>	1	LS	\$3,000.00	\$3,000	
<i>Donated Labor</i>					
2. Earthwork (On-Site)	3800	CY	\$5.00	\$19,000	
3. Bituminous Paving (Parking (& Road))	2100	SY	\$25.00	\$52,500	
4. Bituminous Walkway (5'-0")	1100	SY	\$22.00	\$24,200	
5. Bituminous Basketball Court	470	LF	\$22.00	\$10,340	
6. Line Striping	1	LS	\$200.00	\$200	
7. Shelter (24' x 34') <i>Materials Only</i>	1	LS	\$12,000.00	\$12,000	
8. Concrete Pad <i>Materials Only</i>	100	SY	\$22.50	\$2,250	
9. 8' High Chain Link Fence <i>Materials Only</i>	450	LF	\$10.00	\$4,500	
10. 10' High Chain Link Fence	250	LF	\$22.00	\$5,500	
11. Playground (combo safety surfacing, concrete curbs and play structure)	1	LS	\$70,000.00	\$70,000	
12. Basketball Goal	1	EA	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	
13. Signage <i>Partial Donated Labor</i>	3	EA	\$700.00	\$2,100	
14. Picnic Tables	9	EA	\$900.00	\$8,100	
15. Trash Receptacles	5	EA	\$700.00	\$3,500	
16. Landscaping	1	LS	\$3,000.00	\$3,000	
Total Site Costs					\$221,190
<u>Site Utilities</u>					
Water Main	900	LF	\$24.00	\$21,600	
Water Connection Fees	1	LS	\$500.00	\$500	
Water Valves and Accessories	1	LS	\$300.00	\$300	
Water Fountain	1	EA	\$2,000.00	\$2,000	
Water-Fire Hydrant	1	EA	\$1,200.00	\$1,200	
Water 2" Copper Lateral	100	LF	\$4.00	\$400	
Total Site Utility Costs					\$26,000
<u>Additional Costs</u>					
Erosion and Sedimentation Control	1	LS	\$4,000.00	\$4,000	
Construction Stake Out	1	LS	5% of	\$11,060	
			construction		
Mobilization	1	LS	3% of	\$6,636	
			construction		
Total Additional Costs					\$21,695
Subtotal					\$268,885
10% Contingency					\$26,889
Total					\$295,774

Final Master Plan



not to scale

refer to large drawing for additional information

Edgewood's Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan provides an analysis of the Borough's current parks and recreation system and makes recommendations for its future. The process began with a detailed inventory of current recreation facilities and programs. Public input throughout the development of the Plan helped to mold a document that is factual and realistic. The public participation process culminated in the Vision for the Future, which represents the communities recreation goals. The recommendations of this Plan include changes and enhancements that will move the community closer to those goals and fulfillment of its Vision.

This Plan lays the groundwork for an improved park and recreation system in the Borough of Edgewood. Future successes will be determined by residents' participation, financial support, community-wide cooperation, and an enthusiasm to create safe places for residents to live, play, and learn.

Appendix

Supplementary information can be found in the Plan's appendix. This information, bound separately from the main body of the document, includes reference materials for use as the plan's recommendations are implemented.

- Recreation Questionnaire
- Playground Safety Audits
- Funding and Support Sources



Appendix