TATAMY BOROUGH PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

A Plan for Recreation Facilities, Recreation Programs, Open Space Preservation and Conservation developed by the Tatamy Borough Recreation Board and Planning Commission.

This Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan was recommended by the Tatamy Borough Recreation Board and Planning Commission and adopted by the Tatamy Borough Council on August 3, 2015.

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MISSION

To be successful in planning for enhanced and new recreation facilities, parks, open space and trails in the Tatamy, it is important to establish the mission of the recreation planners in the Borough and develop a vision of what these elements will be like in the future. The Borough's recreation planners will be able to communicate to governing bodies, planning commissions, municipal staffs and the general public what the purpose for recreation planning is (the mission), where it wants to go (the vision) and how it can get there (goals) accomplished through recommendations and implementation strategies. This process is important to developing support for new programs, special events and facilities.

The Tatamy Recreation Committee developed the following mission statement.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Borough of Tatamy will continue to cooperate in the planning and implementation of park, recreation, and trail facilities in the Borough and provide the recreation facilities throughout the Borough that are linked by a rails-to-trails system. Open space is protected and preserved. Enhanced pedestrian and bicycle facilities are available to the Borough's residents, handicapped facilities will be integrated into the plan and a plan for a future community center will be the key aspects in providing recreation to residents of all ages. The municipality will partner with the private sector and community groups as well as local municipalities, county, and state government to provide outstanding opportunities to the Borough's residents.

GOALS

The plan is intended to be a "living document." Its goals should serve as a guide for elected and appointed officials, community groups, and citizens regarding parks, recreation, trails, and open space in future discussions and decision-making.

The following goals have been established for this Plan:

Open Space: Provide for open space within the Region through the preservation of natural resources, the development and retention of recreation areas and parks, and the preservation of green infrastructure.

Natural and Scenic Resources: Protect and preserve the natural and scenic resources and beauty of the Region, including woodlands, open space, stream corridors, and viewsheds.

Recreation Programs: Provide recreation activities and programs that will enrich the quality of life for citizens, in cooperation with local recreation providers.

Administration: Provide an organized framework for the planning, management and maintenance of facilities and programs and distribution of information on recreation opportunities.

Financing: Provide funding to meet the facility and program goals utilizing a variety of funding opportunities.

Greenways and Trails: Link recreation facilities, open space parks and community destinations through a system of greenways, trails and sidewalks.

DEFINITIONS

- Action Plan -A plan that summarizes the many recommendations for activities and projects resulting from Community input.
- Active Recreation -Recreation facilities programmable for organized activities such as ball fields, basketball courts & soccer fields.
- Conservation Area -Environmentally sensitive areas with characteristics such as steep slopes, wetlands, flood plains, high water tables, forest areas, endangered species habitat, or areas of significant biological productivity or uniqueness that have been designated for protection from any activity that would significantly alter their ecological integrity, balance or character.
- **Environmentally Sensitive areas** -Areas that contain native vegetation and natural features and/or natural resources.
- Flood Plain -A relatively flat or lowland area which is subject to partial or complete inundation from an adjoining or nearby stream, river or water course; and/or any area subject to the unusual and rapid accumulation of surface waters from any source.
- **Greenways** -Contiguous parcels of land that connects wild life habitat, stream buffers and passive recreation areas.
- MPC- The Municipal Planning Code.
- Natural Area -A preservation of land for providing wildlife habitats, forests or scenic natural features that involves no buildings other than a nature education and/or study center.
- Official Map -Any official map that may be adopted or amended by the Council of Tatamy Borough in accordance with the PA Municipalities Planning Code.
- Open Space -The area of a tract of land unoccupied by principal or accessory structures, streets, driveways or parking areas; but includes areas occupied by walkways, playgrounds, outdoor recreation or play apparatus, gardens or trees.
- **Passive Recreation** -Recreation facilities programmable for non-organized activities such as walking, picnicking, biking, etc.
- Recharge Areas -Open space that allows storm water to infiltrate into the ground water table.
- Riparian Buffer Zone -The land area along waterways and wetlands providing shade and habitat that provide erosion prevention and the absorption of storm water pollutants.
- Steep Slopes -Those areas having slopes of 15% or more.

- **SALDO-** The Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance guides and controls the layout of streets, lots and utilities. The requirements within this Ordinance for developers to dedicate recreation land or fees and to possibly construct bicycle paths in certain areas are discussed, in the "Open Space Plan" section of this report.
- Viewshed an area of land, water, or other environmental element that is visible to the human eye from a fixed vantage point. The term is used widely in such areas as urban planning, archaeology, and military science. In urban planning, for example, viewsheds tend to be areas of particular scenic or historic value that are deemed worthy of preservation against development or other change. Viewsheds are often spaces that are readily visible from public areas such as from public roadways, public parks or highrise buildings. The preservation of viewsheds is frequently a goal in the designation of open space areas, green belts, and community separators.
- Waterways -Lakes, streams, creeks and rivers.
- Wetlands -Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a
 frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do
 support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil
 conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas.
- **Zoning Ordinance** The Tatamy Zoning Ordinance is the main legal tool for regulating uses of land.

DIRECTION GOALS OF THIS PLAN

As part of this planning program, the following major goals were established to provide the overall guidance and direction for the plan.

RECREATION PROGRAMS GOALS

• Establish a youth athletic program, while seeking expanded programs for other age groups and the handicapped. Promoting interaction between residents of the Borough to build new relationships within and across all age groups.

RECREATION FACILITIES GOALS

- Provide adequate opportunities for both active and passive recreation, with adequate distribution throughout the township.
- Plan for major community parks emphasizing active, programmed recreation and several well-distributed smaller neighborhood parks emphasizing more informal recreation.
- Plan development patterns and road improvements that promote bicycle and pedestrian circulation.
- Plan for a Community Center for recreational purposes.

GOALS TO PUT THIS PLAN INTO ACTION

- Cooperation and good communications with neighboring municipalities, the Nazareth Athletic Association, other recreation groups, the Nazareth Area School District and the Bushkill Stream Conservancy to carry out this plan.
- Carry out this plan through continuous program of citizen involvement, planning and action.

OPEN SPACE/CONSERVATION GOALS

- Use creative means of preserving wooded areas and land along the waterways.
- Locate and design recreational areas to make them safe and secure against crime and vandalism, and include native plants and "no mow" zones to reduce maintenance.
- Ensure that all development respects the natural features of the land, especially the waterways, wetlands, flood-prone areas, wooded areas and steep sloped lands.
- Preserve lands that are physically unsuited for development in public, homeowner association or private open space. This especially includes areas along the Bushkill Creek.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Before a community decides what recreation facilities it needs, it is essential to plan what types of recreation programs should be offered by both the community and local organizations. Everyone in every community needs to keep in mind that "recreation is more than ball fields."

Recreation programs include not only competitive athletic programs for young people, but also leisure programs for persons of all ages.

Recreation programs are extremely important to help people make the most worthwhile and enjoyable use of their leisure time. These are many of the major values of recreation and leisure programs:

- Promoting physical fitness and health.
- Developing the spirit of teamwork and fair play.
- Building feelings of accomplishment, self-fulfillment and self-expression.
- Offering worthwhile uses of leisure time that provide long-term satisfaction.
- Developing useful skills, mental abilities and creativity.
- Providing enjoyable social experiences.
- Promoting wholesome activities for youth.
- Allowing opportunities for people to learn to relate to different types of people.
- Encouraging the best possible use of available recreation facilities.

EXISTING RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Baseball ages 6-15 Nazareth Midget Baseball Nazareth, PA (use our facilities)
- Softball ages 6-15 Clippers Softball Upper Nazareth, PA
- Athletics offered by the Nazareth Area School District

RECOMMENDED RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

The vast majority of needed recreation programs can probably best be carried out by providing adequate land and facilities at cost or for free for nonprofit recreational and leisure groups, leagues and clubs.

It is important that recreation programs serve persons of all age groups one needs.

Certain additional programs should be considered by the Tatamy Borough Council or other groups as the Borough's population and facilities expand, including but not limited to the following:

- Summer Playground Program- Programs geared towards ages 5 to 15, Arts & crafts, games, picnics, etc.
- Nature Education Program-Programs geared towards all ages, but especially young teen-agers, should be in place to make people more aware of nature. This should include interpretative walks, self-guided walks, displays and trips. Portions of this program might best be conducted along Borough bike/walking trails and waterways and other natural areas. The Bushkill Stream Conservancy, and other area organizations that provide local nature education programs should be contacted to seek their participation.
- Special Events- Certain additional special events could be sponsored such as an outdoor concert during the summer, with families encouraged to bring a picnic lunch. Ideas concerning a possible outdoor amphitheater are discussed in the "Recreation Facilities Plan" section of this document.
- Outdoor Volleyball Teams- This should emphasize play by participants of all ages. The
 program preferably should be separated into teams at two or three different skills
 levels.
- Aerobics and Fitness Classes-These could be designed to be self-supporting, with the Borough's role mainly to provide adequate space, choosing qualified instructors, and helping with publicity. The instructors could be in charge of administering the program.
- Races-An annual race for runners and joggers along rural roads in the Borough and/or the Borough bike/walking trail. One race could be intended to be longer and more competitive, while another could be shorter and intended for a wider variety of persons, especially senior citizens and children. A non-competitive bicycling event should also be

- considered. These could be in conjunction with surrounding municipalities now that trails are connected.
- Senior Programs-In cooperation with the area senior citizen organizations, the Borough should conduct programs aimed directly towards the interests of senior citizens. This could include arts and crafts, senior fitness classes, horticulture classes, etc.
- Special Interests- hobbies, clubs, collector groups, chess, games, gardening, foreign languages, and ethnic / healthy cooking.
- Possible Community Center Activities -
 - Social Activities and Events-
 - Card club
 - Youth theatre
 - Youth dances
 - Adult dances
 - Square dancing
 - Provide offsite meeting location for area businesses
 - Hobby seminars
 - Special Interests- Hobbies, clubs, collector groups, chess, games, gardening, foreign languages and cooking.
 - Space for organizations to conduct meetings
 - Organized after-school programs for youth
 - Space for birthday parties, showers, family gatherings
 - Arts and crafts
 - Fitness programs geared toward individuals, teams and families
 - Public interest seminars such as travel seminars, job fairs, financial planning, higher education, electronics/ computer such as organizing documents and password, etc.
 - clinics/camps for various sports;
 - Basketball, volleyball, etc.
 - Civic events such as Tree Lighting, Memorial Day Service, fundraisers, food, clothing and blood drives
 - Emergency/disaster location if necessary which will reduce the impact to the public school system should a disaster occur
 - Aerobics classes scheduled to the level and convenience of various age groups
 - Basketball and Volleyball leagues and instructional classes for beginners
 - Public speaker forums
 - Activities to be coordinated by a professional staff
- Health Related Programs-
 - Health education classes in conjunction with area hospitals presented by physicians or qualified healthcare professionals such as Llantrisant Retreat & Wellness Center, such as reducing stress, healthy eating, etc.
 - Conduct prepared childbirth classes
 - Community health fairs with participation of local healthcare providers

It will be important to regularly monitor trends in program participation and citizen requests to respond to the desires and needs of residents.

The following concepts should be kept in mind during design of all the programs:

- Avoid Duplication The Borough should emphasize providing types of recreation programs that are not currently being provided, and coordinating existing efforts by local groups. The Borough responsibility might include types of recreation programs, such as aerobics and fitness classes, that local groups are less likely to undertake.
- Self-Supporting -It is desirable to seek to have adult programs be self-supporting, after the initial start-up costs. Children's programs should pay for actual expenses for materials and supplies.
- Fees and Demand -One method of handling periods of peak demand for facilities is to charge fees or charge higher fees only during these periods of the day, week and year when there is the most demand. This will encourage groups to schedule their activities during off-peak hours when the facility might normally be unused.

RECREATION FACILITIES PLAN

Three major factors affect the recreation facilities that the Borough should provide. These are the type of programs that will be provided, the facilities and land needed for unprogrammed activities and the suitability of the available land for different facilities.

TYPES OF PARKS

There are many types of public recreation areas, based generally upon the standards of the National Recreation and Park Association. The following are important to our area:

- "Regional Parks" -These are large, primarily passive parks typically of over 200 acres that
 are developed by the County or the State. The nearest examples include the Jacobsburg
 State Park & Environmental Education Center and Louise Moore Park.
- "Conservancy Lands" -These are passive lands that are set aside primarily to preserve important natural areas, and not primarily for recreation. These usually include creek valleys and wooded steep areas. The size of these areas will depend upon the amount of these resources in a community.
- "Community Parks" -These are parks typically of over 20 acres that include a wide variety of active and passive recreation-, and that emphasize facilities for organized recreation programs, such as athletic fields. These parks mainly serve a large portion of a municipality. This type of park usually includes three or more good quality athletic fields, two or more picnic pavilions, three or more tennis courts, basketball courts, trails, woods, volleyball courts and children's play equipment. Braden Park serves as Tatamy's Community Park.
- "Neighborhood Parks" -These are parks of typically 3 to 12 acres that primarily serve the surrounding neighborhoods and that emphasize more informal "pick-up" recreation as opposed to organized programs. These parks typically include a youth athletic field, basketball courts, volleyball courts, a picnic pavilion, benches and children's play equipment. Mark Metz Park and High Street Park serves as Tatamy's Community Parks.
- "Tot lots" -These are small play areas averaging one acre in size that mainly serve small children from nearby homes and that are built around children's play equipment. An example is the Playground behind the Municipal Building.

• "Mini-Park" – These are used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs between 2,500 square feet up to one acre in size. These could include green space with trees, shrubs, and benches.

EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

This list is the major recreation facilities in Tatamy Borough. Recommendations concerning many of these recreation areas are included in the "Recommended Recreation Improvements" section at the end of this "Recreation Facilities" portion of this report. The list will include the name and type of park, acreage, active recreation facilities, passive recreation facilities, support facilities and any additional comments.

- Braden Park- Bushkill Drive in Forks Township- Community Park of 10.5 acres
 - 2 ball fields, 2 volleyball courts, horseshoe pit, children's play equipment;
 pavilion, 19 picnic tables, bleachers, benches, 3 charcoal grills.
 - Port a potties April- October, 2 bay storage garage, large parking lot;
 - Park can be reserved by residents except holidays and holiday weekends. Also used by the Nazareth Baseball league April – June, 2 adult softball leagues May – August, and a traveling league from Forks Township spring – fall.
- Mark Metz Park- 7th Street- Neighborhood Park of 2 acres
 - o 1 basketball court, children's play equipment, open area for various games;
 - Benches and on street parking.
- High Street Park- High Street- Neighborhood Park of 1.5 acres
 - 1 basketball court, 1 volleyball court, fitness stations, children's play equipment;
 - bleachers, benches, picnic tables, and small parking lot.
- Park behind Municipal Building- Broad Street- Tot Lot of .5 acres
 - o children's play equipment, open area for various games
 - benches and on street parking.
- Tatamy Trail- Rails to Trails- walking / bike path; Palmer township boarder on the south to Main street on the North; 5 acres;
 - o 8' wide/ ¼ mile long trail
 - bike fix it station, No mow area- east side of trail to Bushkill creek.

FACILITY NEEDS AND REQUESTS

Numerous methods provide insight into what types of recreation facilities are most needed and desired by residents. These include requests by residents and groups, comparisons with national standards, types of existing and planned recreation programs and actual current use of facilities. An additional alternative would be to conduct a resident recreation survey, which may be a "mail-back" survey of either all households or a random sampling of residents.

The best way to determine needs is to look at the actual amounts of use that different facilities receive, and how many requests for facilities that cannot be met. As new facilities develop,

their amount of use should be monitored so that plans can be revised in response if needed. In addition, the distribution of recreation facilities is equally important.

According to the 2010 U. S. Census, Tatamy Borough had 1,203 residents. It is forecasted by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission that in year 2030, the population will increase to 1,646.

Based upon standards of the National Recreation and Park Administration (NRPA) a community should have between 6.25 and 10.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Currently Tatamy Borough has 14.5 acres of parkland, not including the Tatamy Trail. This is more than sufficient to meet current needs, according to the NRPA standard. To accommodate the Borough's forecasted population, according to the standard, Tatamy should have a total of 11 to 17.5 acres of parkland. It currently has sufficient parklands to satisfy the national standard through year 2020.

The NRPA guidelines recommend the following for fields and courts:

- softball/baseball fields -1 per 5,000 resident
- football/soccer fields -1 per 20,000 residents
- basketball courts 1 per 5,000 residents
- tennis courts 1 per 2,000 residents
- volleyball courts 1 per 5,000 residents

The Borough inventory indicates that there are more than sufficient fields and courts, excluding tennis courts, to satisfy the national standard. However, the reality of the Borough's needs with respect to future organized athletic association and adult leagues, etc., indicates that additional fields may be needed in different parts of the Borough. Future population statistics and programs will dictate the number of new fields and courts that may be needed in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF FACILITIES

- Athletic Fields-Additional athletic fields may be needed. Fields should be intended to be easily adaptable to softball, volleyball, and soccer. The fields need to be oriented with careful attention to the angles of the sun.
- Pavilions-There is extremely strong demand in Tatamy for additional picnic pavilions. Pavilions are especially important to provide shelter from both rain and the summer sun, especially for large group picnics. Pavilions function best when they are adjacent to restrooms, children's play equipment and informal play areas.
- Fencing Proper backstops are needed not only to protect players, but also spectators. Movable fencing should be considered to make it easier to use the same fields for both baseball/softball and soccer during different seasons.
- Play Equipment -Play equipment should be available within a relatively safe walking distance of all of the denser neighborhoods.
- Support Facilities- It is important to provide certain support facilities as part of any major park. These include restrooms, water fountains, benches, bleachers for spectators, security lighting, trash and recycling cans and paths or roads suitable for use by emergency vehicles.

DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

The "Open Space Plan" of this report addresses ways development regulations can be used to help provide adequate open space, recreational lands, conservation and recreation facilities.

As part of this planning program and to comply with changes in state law, several revisions to the Borough's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances are needed to assist in providing needed recreation. These include the following suggestions:

- require larger amounts of land per dwelling if land is only suitable for passive open space;
- base the recreation fees on the average value of the amount of land that would otherwise be required; this is important to ensure fairness among developers, so that one developer is not required to dedicate very valuable land while another developer is only required to pay a small amount in fees;
- establish a system to ensure fairness among developers who dedicate floodplains or wetlands versus those who dedicate prime developable land;
- establish a system to ensure that recreation fees are spent in an area that will be
 accessible to residents of the development that paid the fees except where a centrally
 located specialty recreation area is provided.

The largest expense in development of athletic fields is often grading the land. The Borough should consider allowing developers to accomplish grading on existing Borough owned land, in return for reducing the amount of open space or fees that must be dedicated. Any such agreement should require the work to follow a detailed grading plan.

PROPOSED RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS

The "Official Map" shows major existing and proposed recreation areas. These include approximate example locations of where it may be appropriate for a developer to be required to provide future recreation areas. These locations are meant to be for general planning purposes, and are not intended to define exact boundaries.

LOCATION PROPOSED RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS

BOROUGH WIDE-

- Recognize that the Borough generally has sufficient recreation areas in the majority of the already developed areas and that most of these existing parks are generally developed to their desired capacity.
- A recreation facility is required to serve the needs of the Borough.
- Continue to coordinate the Borough's future recreation needs with the Borough's ability
 to require developers to dedicate recreation land and/or recreation fees, while
 coordinating land to be dedicated by different developments (such as requiring land to
 be dedicated at the adjoining borders of two different developments).

- Direct noisier and more intense types of recreation (such as adult softball or lighted fields) to those locations where they are least likely to negatively impact adjacent homes.
- Emphasizing the development of active programs at various locations would allow most
 of the smaller parks that may be developed in the future to emphasize passive
 recreation and more informal "pick-up" games for neighborhood children.

EASTERN- (EAST OF BUSHKILL STREET, ALONG BUSHKILL CREEK)

- Along Bushkill Creek
 - Preserve the entire Bushkill Creek corridor as a passive natural greenway, preferably in public, private, or Wildlands Conservancy ownership. If this is not possible, seek conservation easements preventing development, working with the Wildlands Conservancy or the Bushkill Stream Conservancy.
 - O Work with Stockertown, Palmer Township, and Forks Township to connect the trail to the Plainfield Recreation Trail, the Stockertown Trail, and the Forks Township trail. Currently connected to Palmer Township trail by the Tatamy Trail that starts at Main Street Bridge heading south along the Bushkill Creek connecting to Palmer at Bushkill Street Bridge. Also work to extend this trail north to connect with Stockertown's bike/walking trail near the Palmer Township border to our north and proposed trail through the Chrin Commerce Center in the north/ west end of the Borough. Seek to link this Bushkill Creek trail with Forks' planned pathways running parallel to Uhler Road and running south from Newlins Road, and with Bushkill Park. Connections are also possible from Belfast to the trails of the Jacobsburg State Park & Environmental Education Center.
 - o Preserve sensitive natural areas of the Bushkill Creek in public ownership.
 - o Provide increased public access for fishing along the Bushkill Creek corridor.
 - Coordinate development of passive recreation areas along the Schoeneck & Bushkill Creek greenways.
 - Consider adding additional barriers at major road crossings such as at Main
 Street to cause bicyclists and pedestrians to stop or slow down at intersections.

LOCATION PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS-

• Continue recreation trail connection from the Main Street Bridge north to Stockertown, through the Signature Homes Estates and Chrin Commerce Center.

CENTRAL- (WEST OF BUSHKILL STREET TO 8TH STREET, SOUTH OF MAIN STREET)

- Recreation Facility- long term goal for the Borough to build a Community Center.
 Possible location would be existing open space next to Municipal Building. Used for activities listed on page 7.
- Hope Community Garden- a 1+ acre garden to benefit local food banks, soup kitchens, and low income/ needy families.

NORTHERN- (NORTH OF MAIN STREET)

• As land developed by Signature Homes, seek a neighborhood park to serve new residents and develop trail to link Tatamy Trail from owned property to Palmer Township and Stockertown.

LOCATION PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS-

• Continue recreation trail connection from the Main Street Bridge north to Stockertown, through the Signature Homes Estates and Chrin Commerce Center.

WESTERN- (WEST OF 8TH STREET)

• Connection to trails through the proposed Chrin Commerce Center and any parks that may be part of proposed future development.

LOCATION PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS-

• Continue recreation trail connection through the light industrial, business, and commercial development in the Chrin Commerce Center.

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PLAN

THE IMPORTANCE OF OPEN SPACES

It is important to preserve open spaces in The Borough for the following major reasons-

- to maintain the natural environmental processes and balances, ensuring adequate groundwater and high water quality.
- to provide an important psychological relief from developed areas.
- to preserve areas of scenic beauty, and protect the semi-rural character of outlying areas.
- to preserve lands that are not naturally suited for development.
- to provide land for active and passive recreation, both presently and in the distant future.
- to preserve habitat for birds, fish and other wildlife.

Open space can be preserved in public ownership, private ownership or by a semi-public organization, such as an association of adjacent homeowners. The difference is how much use is allowed by the general public.

LAND PRESERVATION METHODS

Many creative and practical methods should be used to preserve open space in the Borough, especially as a means to avoid the need for extremely expensive purchase of land by the Borough. These methods include-

- Purchase-This involves actual purchase of land by a public agency, and is the most expensive method. Purchase permanently preserves the land and provides complete control over it. Condemnation should be avoided whenever possible because of the expense, delay and ill-will that often results. To spread out costs over time, sales agreements could provide for the purchase of land in install merits in a form of "ownerfinancing."
- Leasing-Leasing can make sense to respond to recreation needs in the short-run, especially when the owner is not willing to sell the land. Another option instead of a formal lease is to pay a landowner to allow certain recreational use of the land during certain times of the year.
- Mandatory Dedication-Tatamy requires all proposed residential developments to
 dedicate a certain portion of the tract as permanent open space and/or recreation,
 and/or to pay recreation fees "in-lieu-of" dedicating land. New commercial and
 industrial uses should be required to pay recreation fees to compensate or the
 recreation demand caused by the additional employees.
- Conservation Easements-This method allows a private property owner to continue to own and use their land, while selling or donating the right to develop it. Restrictions on tree cutting and use of pesticides might also be included. The land is then maintained by its owner, without any public expense. The property can then be sold to others, provided that it continues to be preserved. This method may be significantly less expensive than outright public purchase, but does not allow public access, unless it is written into the easement document, to the land. A conservation easement often appeals to people who wish to preserve the land, but want to retain all fishing and hunting rights for themselves. This method also allows a landowner to protect the privacy of the land around their home. This method would be especially appropriate along the Bushkill Creek.
- Scenic Easements-This method is more limited than a "conservation easement" because
 it allows limited development to occur as long as certain major scenic views are
 protected. "Facade easements" are a related method that ensure the exterior of a
 historic building is preserved.
- Agricultural Easements-This method is very similar to a "conservation easement" except that it is intended for prime active farmland. The owner gives up the right to develop the land permanently or for a set number of years in return for a certain amount of money. Northampton County is currently participating in a statewide program that purchases these agricultural easements. However, this program has very limited funding. Therefore, a property must rank very high on the basis of certain criteria in order to be eligible. This method of preservation is especially appropriate in areas where there is the best chance to preserve large areas of open space.
- Donations-Certain landowners may be willing to sell land at a price below market value or donate land or donate "conservation easements." The Federal income tax benefits of this method should be well publicized to landowners. This method is often most attractive to persons who own land that has physical limitations on development.

- Tax Abatements-Certain property owners may be forced to sell their land for development because they cannot afford to pay the taxes. In response, the County allows real estate tax reductions under State Acts 319 and 515 for large properties if the owners agree not to develop their land for a seven year period. The owner may break this restriction only after paying significant penalties.
- Zoning -The following section describes ways zoning can be used to help preserve open space.

DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

The Borough's zoning and SALDO regulations should be used to preserve open space, especially on lands that are clearly physically unsuitable for building. Zoning mainly preserves open space through limitations on how intensely land can be developed and through incentives and disincentives. For example, a higher overall density might be permitted if a developer preserves key areas of a tract in open space. However, every landowner must be permitted some reasonable use of their land.

It is essential to ensure that all development respects the natural features of the land. Also, areas that are clearly unsuitable for development need to be protected. The most important natural features include creek valleys, wetlands, flood-prone areas, riparian buffer zones, wooded areas and steep sloped lands.

The following are certain key requirements and methods that should be used to accomplish these objectives-

- Continue to require large lot areas in areas with slopes of 15 to 25 percent
- Seek to avoid any earth disturbance on slopes over 25 percent
- Strictly enforce the Borough's regulations on flood-prone land (especially areas vulnerable to a "100-Year flood")
- Seek to have all paving and buildings setback at least 50 to 75 feet from the banks of each creek and wetland
- Carefully review all development plans and activities to help ensure that the Federal and state wetland regulations are enforced
- Carefully control unnecessary tree Cutting
- Encourage the development of carefully controlled low intensity uses throughout the Borough that would result in open space being preserved.
- Consider using an "Official Map" to reserve land that the Borough wishes to acquire in the future. This is discussed in the "Putting This Plan into Action" section of this report.

ACQUISITION OF OPEN SPACE

Recreation and conservation lands are very expensive to purchase (not to mention the high cost to develop facilities and maintain them). The preceding sections described ways that development regulations and other incentives can be used to help preserve and obtain land without expensive purchase.

If the Borough considers purchasing land, this Plan recommends that the following criteria be carefully considered-

- Is it physically suited for active recreation (including being relatively flat and well-drained)?
- Would it be well-located to serve current and future neighborhoods?
- Is it protected from development by existing regulations (such as floodplains or wetlands)?
- Does it have highly scenic qualities, especially if it is in a location that is very visible (such as along a major road or on a ridge)?
- Would it provide an important link between existing recreation areas and neighborhoods and/or connecting to natural features in adjacent municipalities?
- Would it be desirable for passive recreation?
- Could it be purchased for a reasonable price (especially if the seller will "donate" some of the value in return for Federal income tax benefits)?
- Does it involve a willing seller, as opposed to condemnation?
- Would it be developed in the near future if not purchased?
- Does it involve environmentally sensitive areas that could be developed under existing regulations (such as forests or steep slopes)?

Tatamy should work with the Wildlands Conservancy, Northampton County, Bushkill Stream Conservancy and possibly local fish and game organizations to acquire key areas of passive open space. This especially includes lands along the Bushkill creek. Other important open spaces should be sought through the land dedication requirements in the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

Lands along creeks are important to preserve because they combine many important and highly sensitive natural features. These include wetlands, steep slopes, flood prone areas, high water table soils and wooded areas. Also, lands along these waterways have tremendous potential in the long-run for recreation, especially for hiking, bicycling, fishing, walking, cross-country skiing and nature study.

Many environmentally sensitive areas such as lands along the Bushkill Creek that are not suitable for active recreation should be preserved. Especially if these lands are in small parcels, it may be difficult for the Borough to oversee and provide even minimal maintenance to them.

TRAILS

Walking, bicycling and cross-country skiing are becoming increasingly popular. In response, a full set of safer routes for bicycling, jogging and walking are needed throughout the Borough, especially for children to reach recreation areas. Although these routes will not be created in a short period of time, attention should be placed on developing key links that eventually will fit into a regional system.

Trails should connect the existing Tatamy bike/walking trails, major parks, major neighborhoods, and areas of commerce. These trails should include both recreation trails within parks and more transportation oriented trails between key locations to help reduce traffic congestion.

As new developments are proposed, pedestrian and bicycle access should be a consideration. If the local streets would not provide adequate connections from the development towards major attractions in the area (such as a park), then the developer should be required to develop a bike/walking trail for these connections. Also, bikeway systems should be considered within new industrial parks.

This Plan seeks to avoid the need for bicyclists, walkers and joggers to travel along major roads. The intent is to steer these people onto local streets and separate trails. However in certain areas, pedestrian and bicycle travel will continue to use the shoulders of these major roads because there are no alternatives. Bicycling and walking along roads is especially hazardous when the road is heavily traveled, and does not have much shoulder or if the road is narrow.

Along selected roads, in cooperation with Penn DOT and adjacent developers, shoulders should be made wide and smooth enough for bicycles and pedestrians. These shoulders should be well-marked and possibly sloped so that they are not used by vehicles.

Consideration should be given to requiring that large industrial parks include bike/walking trails through their development.

Specific trail recommendations are discussed in the "Location proposed recreation Improvements" section of this report starting on page 12.

IMPORTANT NATURAL FEATURES

Land varies greatly in the amount of development that it can naturally support. Some land, such as flood prone and very steeply-sloped land, should remain completely in open space. Other lands are suitable for moderate development, while some lands are able to support intense uses.

Development in Tatamy should only be allowed in a manner which carefully respects the natural features of the land. Environmentally sensitive lands should be preserved in open space to maintain environmental balances. Guidelines on how important natural features can be protected are on the following pages.

GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTING IMPORTANT NATURAL FEATURES

The list will include the type of natural feature, description, potential problems if not protected, and strategies for protection.

- Steep Slopes, Wooded areas, Conservation Areas- Slopes of 15% have 15 feet of vertical change for every 100 feet of horizontal distance. Steep slopes are often wooded and along creeks and are Areas with numerous mature trees
 - Difficulty of maintaining, snowplowing steep road, Higher costs of buildings, High rate of septic system failures, Increased erosion & runoff, Winter driving hazards from steep roads and driveways, Disturbance of scenic areas, Increased costs to extend public water and sewer lines, Loss of important birds and wildlife habitats, Loss of hunting areas, Loss of air purification, Loss of scenic resources, Noise & incompatible development may become more noticeable, Increase maintenance expenditure
 - Use special precautions during building, Cluster houses on the most suitable land while keeping Steep slopes in open space, Keep natural vegetation intact, Preserve areas of 25%+ slopes in open space/conservation districts, require larger lot sizes in steep areas, Prevent the unnecessary cutting of trees during building, Seek to preserve in public or private open space, Seek replanting with native vegetation of forested land that may be disturbed.
- Floodplains Areas that are prone to flooding. These include not only the legally designated Flood plain, but also areas along drainage channels.
 - o Increased flooding in other areas, Loss of potential public recreation areas, Threats to important wild life and bird habitats, Erosion & sedimentation
 - Consider prohibiting all structures & paving not only within the "100 year flood way" (which is the actual main flood channel), but also along the adjacent "100 year flood fringe.", Seek to preserve natural vegetation immediately adjacent to creeks, Seek to preserve land along major creek valley as private, semi-public or public open space, follow guidelines set forth in Ordinance 262-2014
- Waterways -There is one major surface water within and adjacent to Tatamy- the Bushkill Creek
 - Loss of potential public recreation areas, Threats to important bird, fish, and wildlife Habitats, Increased turbidity
 - Prevent soil erosion avoid sedimentation of creeks, Consider areas along creeks for public recreation, Prevent runoff from polluting creeks with pesticides, grease, and farm animal wastes, Protect & maintain riparian Buffer zones along waterways

PUTTING THIS PLAN INTO ACTION

It will be essential to carry out this Plan through action in several major areas-

- Administration
- Security
- Park Design and Engineering
- Financing
- Maintenance
- Communications with the Public

- Safety/ Liability
- Volunteers.

This section describes existing conditions and recommendations under each of these major topics.

This Plan should be carried out through a continuous process of planning and action. The awareness and continued participation of Tatamy residents will be extremely valuable in this process. This section describes ways to move the objectives and recommendations of this Plan towards reality.

ADMINISTRATION

The Borough's five member Recreation Board is appointed by the Borough Council to oversee the planning and development of recreation and facilities. The day-to-day administration of existing individual recreation programs are handled by the Municipal Secretary and Public Works Foreman. The Recreation Board are assisted by the Borough Council and Borough staff.

SECURITY

Security is especially a concern to prevent vandalism and garbage dumping and to avoid conflicts with adjacent neighborhoods. The Borough Police should regularly patrol Borough parks. To help address security, especially as additional recreation facilities are developed, the following should be considered-

- Carefully design all new parks with security concerns in mind, by making all areas visible from adjacent streets and by including security lighting.
- Utilize the Borough Police and/ or Public Works Department to lock the gates that may be placed at parks at night.
- Strongly encourage neighbors who live around parks to report any suspicious activity.
- Work through the schools to inform young people of the costs of vandalism, including potential prosecution.
- Seek to have young people who are caught vandalizing parks to repair and improve the parks if they want to avoid official punishment, or as a condition of such punishment.
- Avoid developing those recreation facilities that are expensive and more vulnerable to vandalism in areas that are more isolated.
- Provide recreation facilities near Borough buildings and other areas where responsible staff can help keep watch over the facilities.
- Use fences or barriers to limit access for dumping and to keep vehicles off of athletic fields.
- Enforcement of the Curfew Ordinance #115-1980 per Council or Mayor.

Make sure that all parks are designed to allow access for police patrols, especially at night. Consider using a police bicycle patrol for Tatamy Trail areas, especially during summer months.

Continue to enforce the hour restrictions in parks to prevent late night nuisances to adjacent neighbors.

PARK DESIGN AND ENGINEERING

Detailed site planning and engineering is essential to ensure that a park will be constructed properly and efficiently. If athletic fields are not carefully engineered, for example, they often have drainage problems that require large expenses and disruptions in use in the future to correct.

Careful site design is also important to adjust the facilities around each site's natural features; to make sure that there is proper access for emergency vehicles and to coordinate the long-term development of different facilities and areas.

FINANCING

State and Federal grants for parks, recreation and open space are extremely limited and increasingly competitive.

- Consider establishing a "Recreation Endowment Fund" for land acquisition or special projects, supported by donations and fundraisers.
- Consider creative ways of financing, such as offering to name facilities after persons or groups or businesses that pay for them (such as ball fields or tennis courts, or putting donor plaques on park benches).
- Establish a "memorial arboretum" where people can fund the planting of a tree in memorial to a person. This should involve a small memorial sign and an invitation to the donor to help plant the tree. An overall landscape plan should be completed including many different types of native trees, allowing people to select the one they wish to pay for. Boy Scout troops also are often interested in participating in tree planting programs in parks.
- Establish and periodically update a "capital improvements program".
- Incorporate bird, bat, or butterfly boxes and no mow zones wherever it makes sense.

MAJOR TYPES OF FINANCING

A combination of traditional and more creative financing methods will be needed to put this Plan into action. The following major types of financing should be considered-

 Recreation Fees by Developers- This will probably continue to be a major source for financing new recreation facilities and parkland in the Borough. These fees are paid by developers of new homes to compensate the Borough for the increased demand caused by each new household. Consideration should be given to charging reasonable

- recreation fees on new business developments to offset the demand on public recreation facilities caused by nonresident employees.
- User Fees- These are fees paid directly by the people who use a program or facility. The
 intent is that certain offerings, such as adult fitness programs, can sometimes be run in
 a business-like fashion for greater efficiency and a fair distribution of costs. Also, fee
 systems can help to avoid unnecessary costs. For example, if coin operated lights are
 used on a basketball court, the electricity is only being used when the court is actually
 being used. Care is needed to make sure that lower income families are not excluded
 because they cannot afford high fees. Also, user fees should not be charged if it would
 be too costly or administratively burdensome to collect.
- Bond Issue- For very large capital expenses, borrowing often makes sense. This avoids
 the need for-large short-term tax increases and spreads the payments over the many
 years over which the benefits will be enjoyed. The main disadvantage is the high costs of
 interest on the debt.
- Local, State, and Federal Grants- Significant amounts of (remove-State or Federal) grants cannot be expected to be available for parks or open space. Even if grants would be available, it must be remembered that grant programs often require significant work to prepare a competitive application and to fulfill all of the administrative requirements. Also, if Federal or State grants are used, all non-Borough workers must be paid the "prevailing union wage rates." This substantially increases the costs of most construction projects.

To increase the Borough's chances of receiving grants, it should only seek grants for those types of projects that are likely to rank highly according to the program's official selection criteria.

- Environmental Groups- To preserve key lands, the Borough should seek assistance from major environmental groups. These groups can often provide technical assistance to the Borough, financial advice to the landowner on major tax advantages and possible assistance in fund-raising. These groups include the Wildlands Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy and the Bushkill Stream Conservancy.
- Annual Appropriations- The Borough will need to decide each year whether appropriations from the Borough's general fund should be set aside to develop facilities or to sponsor types of programs that cannot be fully funded through user fees.
- Sponsorships and Private Grants- Area businesses or groups may be willing to contribute towards specific programs in return for public recognition.
- Gifts- The tax advantages of donating land and materials should be fully publicized. Also, contributors should receive public recognition to spur contributions. Specific businesses that might have excess of a needed item that could be approached for donations. A "Gifts Catalog" would be excellent ways of letting people know what the Borough needs, so they could choose exactly what items, materials or services they wish to contribute or pay for.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Major financial tools will be needed to carry out this plan-

- An annual recreation operating budget for routine expenses
- An annual capital expenses budget for large expenses serving a long-term need

 A five or seven yearlong "capital improvements" program to plan for large expenses proposed for future years, the two later items to be funded by developer recreation fees.

PLANNING FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS -

"Capital" improvements are projects involving a substantial expense for the construction or improvement of major public facilities. These are extraordinary expenses that occur only on occasion, opposed to "operating" expenses that occur every year.

To carefully prepare for major future expenses and to help decide when they should be accomplished, many communities have found great value in a formal "Capital Improvements Program" (CIP). A CIP is a process of systematically and rationally identifying, planning and budgeting very large capital expenses, such as purchasing parkland and developing facilities.

This allows communities to avoid short-term tax hikes, to set aside funds ahead of time for large projects, which can greatly lower the total cost of a project by reducing borrowing and to efficiently combine any borrowing needs into one bond issue.

A CIP should list all projects needed, their costs, the year each project will occur and the source of its financing. This also allows many different projects to be compared with each other to effectively prioritize different needs.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance includes not only repairing playground equipment and mowing grass, but also includes plant, lawn, and tree care, maintaining the equipment used for maintenance and preparing athletic fields for use.

The following suggestions should be considered in regards to maintenance of parks-

- Prepare a seasonal calendar of maintenance work that needs to be completed at different times of the average year, so the work can be more easily scheduled following a routine year after year.
- Use a checklist to check-off maintenance work that is needed on each parcel of Borough parkland.
- Carefully design new recreational facilities to hold maintenance to a reasonable minimum, such as using low-maintenance native plantings, reforesting certain areas, letting some areas "go natural" especially immediately along waterways, establishing no mow buffers and laying out grass areas so that they are wide enough for a large tractormower.
- Involve experienced maintenance workers in reviewing the design of proposed recreational facilities.
- Request that recreation groups accept primary responsibilities for preparing athletic fields for their use prior to each game (such as lining of fields, putting out bases, raking

- the infield and occasionally cutting the infield grass at the discretion of the Public Works Foreman). This would free the Borough Public Works Department to concentrate on routine grass cutting and major maintenance.
- Park clean up days could be established in the spring and fall. Residents would help with cleanup of the parks from winter debris, etc.

The long-term expenses of maintaining and repairing recreational facilities must be considered in the design of facilities. This includes the time needed for a worker and equipment to move between sites. Therefore, over the long-run, it may be desirable to have limited types of maintenance equipment, such as a riding mower, stored within a small building within a park.

Groups of adjacent homeowners may be willing to assume certain maintenance responsibilities for passive open spaces adjacent to their homes because they would have the most interest in seeing that these lands were well-maintained.

As additional facilities and lands are developed, consideration should be given to writing a maintenance manual that would establish a complete system for all of the maintenance that is needed.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC

Most residents are probably familiar with those parks that are nearest their homes or that are visible from major streets. Some residents may not be familiar with the opportunities at smaller, less visible and newer parks. Facilities and programs are of little value if the public is not aware of the offerings. Therefore, a good communications program will be essential.

To increase public awareness, information should continue to be put into the Borough newsletter, in email updates, on the Website and Facebook page, and supplements added to refuse and sewer billings. This information does list the locations of recreation areas and the facilities that are available at each area. This should be intended to be kept by families for reference. Also, the newsletter and Website should include lists of major recreation programs being offered by local organizations.

In addition, recreation programs should be publicized through radio, newspaper articles, newspaper ads and flyers through the schools. Press releases should routinely be sent to area newspapers to announce new facilities and programs. Small posters can be placed in key locations, such as the Municipal Building and local stores.

Tatamy could develop a strong public image for its parks, open space and recreation program by using an attractive logo on all recreation notices, letterhead and signs. A contest might be sponsored to spur further interest in the programs. Creating a partnership with school programs would allow for education about these programs, as well as civic responsibility. Good communication involves not only informing the public, but also listening to their recommendations, concerns and suggestions.

SAFETY AND LIABILITY

Safety has become a major concern in recreation because of the rise in insurance costs. However, it must not be forgotten that safety is an absolutely essential concern purely to avoid unnecessary injuries.

These methods are recommended to respond to this problem-

- Continue to have adequate insurance.
- Require large groups that regularly use Borough land to have adequate insurance of their own that also protects the Borough.
- Continually look for ways to make Borough lands and facilities safer.

In addition, high risk recreation facilities, such as skateboard areas, should be avoided since this is provided to Tatamy residents by our participation and funding of the Nazareth Skate Park. All parks should be regularly inspected to note any safety hazards. Any safety hazards should then be quickly resolved. If the Borough is aware of a correctable hazard and does not act within a reasonable period of time, it is much more likely to be found liable in the event of an injury.

Nationally, one of the major sources of accidents and lawsuits is children's playground equipment. Three quarters of these accidents involve falls in which a child hits a hard surface such as asphalt. In response, hard surface should never be used under or around play equipment. Instead, the Borough should continue to cover these areas with a softer surface, such as sand, wood chip carpet and/or recycled tire chips.

Also, all play equipment must be adequately anchored and should not involve ladders that are too steep. All equipment should have adequate space around it so that children playing around one piece do not run into a second piece of equipment in accordance with the Consumer's Products Safety Commission Publication #325 -Playground Safety Guidelines or most current version.

For safety, high and long backstops are needed around all fields used for softball or baseball. Fences should separate play areas from major roads. Sharp edges and protrusions must be avoided.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an essential part of many recreation programs, including coaches, leaders of activities, nature guides, fundraisers and teachers of skill. Teenagers often are a major untapped source of volunteers.

The easiest volunteers to work with are often those that participate as part of an already organized group, such as local service groups and boy scouts. Proper supervision, oversight, training, placement and scheduling of volunteers is essential, which often requires substantial effort.

College interns often can provide free labor, especially if they could obtain college credit for the work as well as those looking for community service hours. However, work intended for an intern must be of a type that will not require so much supervision that it becomes a burden to the staff.

- Provide volunteers with adequate recognition for their work.
- Provide volunteers with adequate training, such as first aid.
- Publicize the types of work that volunteers are needed to accomplish.
- Monitor volunteer coaches to ensure that they do not push young children beyond their mental and physical capabilities.
- Consider establishing a voluntary training program for coaches so that they can be the most effective program leaders, and to help them recognize possible health and safety concerns.

CONTINUING PLANNING

Planning must not be a once-and-done process. This Plan will need to be periodically revised to reflect changing circumstances, problems and trends.

As part of this continuing planning program, Tatamy should expand its relationships with neighboring municipalities and with other groups providing recreation. These strengthened relationships and coordinated efforts will most effectively broaden the recreational opportunities of all present and future residents.

The final decision on nearly every matter that affects recreation and open space conservation in Tatamy rests with the Tatamy Borough Council. Therefore, it is essential that all boards, commissions and committees maintain the very best of communications with Council. Many communities work towards this goal by appointing a member of all boards, commissions and committees to attend the monthly meetings of the Council and visa-versa.

TOOLS TO CARRY OUT THIS PLAN

- ZONING The zoning ordinance is the main legal tool for regulating uses of land.
- SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE -The Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance guides and controls the layout of streets, lots and utilities. The requirements within this Ordinance for developers to dedicate recreation land or fees and to possibly construct bicycle paths in certain areas are discussed, in the "Open Space Plan" section of this report.
- OFFICIAL MAP -The Municipal Planning Code provides the Borough with the authority to adopt an "Official Map." This Official Map can designate approximate proposed locations of streets and new and expanded parks. The Official Map then provides the

opportunity for the Borough to work with the owner to reserve those lands for one year after they are officially proposed for development. Within that one year, the Borough would then either have to purchase the land for its fair market value or decide not to go forward with the proposal. This method can provide the time needed to raise the needed funds, and to prevent the loss of important opportunities. It also puts the landowners on notice about the Borough's future plans.

Adopted at the August 3, 2015 Council meeting. Motion to adopt the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan made by John Nadolski, seconded by Stuart Albert. Motion approved unanimously.

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2010 Census Data

Total population- 1,203 51% female 49% male

Median age- 42 years

Under 5 years- 8.6% 5 to 9 years-4.8% 10 to 14 years- 3.7% 15 to 17 years- 6.2% 18 years and over- 76.7% 62 years and over- 20.5%

5 to 9 years enrolled in school- 95.9%9 to 17 years enrolled in school- 100%18 to 24 years enrolled in college or graduate school- 45.5%

Total Housing units- 446 80% owner occupied 20% renter occupied

Estimated families- 299
With related children under 18 years- 125
Estimated householder 65 years and over- 74

Estimated households with no child- 174
Estimated households with 1 or 2 children-104
Estimated households with 3 or 4 children-21
Estimated households with 5 or more children-0

Estimated number of people in family 2 people- 131
Estimated number of people in family 3 or 4 people- 137
Estimated number of people in family 5 or 6 people- 31
Estimated number of people in family 7 or more people- 0

Poverty status for families- 14.7%

Estimated number of workers in family no workers- 47
Estimated number of workers in family 1 worker- 71
Estimated number of workers in family 2 workers- 149
Estimated number of workers in family 3 or more workers- 32