

Community Services and Facilities Initiative

Comprehensive Regional Recreation Program

The strategy supports a regional approach to recreation. The expectation is that the greatest demand for active recreational facilities will focus on the region's primary growth area (Logan Park and the Northern Elementary School athletic fields are the only active recreation areas in the growth area). The strategy recognizes the desire for more passive recreational areas (e.g., trails, picnic areas, and greenways), as expressed at the region's community focus groups and visioning forum. This strategy recognizes the continued work of the Northern York County Community and Recreation Center Steering Committee and the efforts of the Logan Park Committee. The strategy strives to bring together these expectations and efforts into a comprehensive regional recreation program strategy. As the region continues to explore these ideas, it is recommended that all the municipalities in the Northern York Area School District and that the School District work together.

The Plan's environmental and land use strategies interface with the recreation program, particularly with the open space and passive recreation components. For example, the Crafting a Watershed Management Plan strategy includes the identification and prioritization of the primary and secondary corridors, which will provide important background information for the development of a comprehensive greenway and trails plan. The greenway and trails plan will form the basis for the network of open spaces to be integrated into conservation subdivision design (see Design Features and Guidelines Strategy).

Key Components:

- Complete a comprehensive recreation, park and open space plan for the region. Inventory and analyze the region's existing parks, recreation facilities, trails, and conservation areas to establish a basis for evaluating the future needs of the community. Establish the need for additional recreation facilities based on population projections, the results of the recreation survey completed in May 2002 (Northern York County Community and Recreation Center Steering Committee) and other focus group input that will be incorporated into the recreation planning process. Funding information for support of a variety of park, recreation, conservation, heritage and greenways projects is available online at www.dcnr.state.pa.us/grants
Or contact Southcentral Field Office of DCNR
P.O. Box 1554
Harrisburg, PA 17105-1554
717-705-2943

Special elements that integrate regional interests and actions should be part of the scope of work (several of these elements may be funded separately, if the desire is to advance these activities more quickly):

- Identification of recreation needs within the primary and secondary (i.e., Franklinton Borough) growth areas and review of recreation fees and policy on dedication of recreation land. The needs analysis must consider the Recreation Survey recently completed for the region.
- Inclusion of the work and findings of the Northern York County Community and Recreation Center Steering Committee – it is important to include this as a component of the study to maximize funding opportunities.
- Development of a comprehensive greenways (open space) and trail plan based on the identification and prioritization of the primary and secondary conservation corridor. This element is expected to complete the following activities:
 - Establish a framework for future preservation of conservation areas and open spaces important to the protection of environmental and cultural resources. It is important that the plan provide municipal officials with an understanding of what kinds of land uses residents think are appropriate for conservation areas.
 - Evaluate the role of the Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society and other entities in advancing and coordinating projects and programs related to open land / farmland preservation within the region.
 - Outline the steps in the process of land acquisition or greenway development, exploring ideas such as, bargain sales, conservation subdivision design (see Design Features and Guidelines Strategy), Forestry Legacy Program (see Agriculture Preservation/Forestry Conservation Program), conservation easements, and a regional open space land acquisition fund (requires referendum for a funding program).
 - Develop a method to assess parcels that come under consideration for inclusion and acquisition as a part of an open space program. A digital inventory of all ranked sites would assist in tracking potential sale of environmentally significant properties.
 - Explore the process of adopting the greenway and trail system as part of an official map.
- Development of a Master Plan for Logan Park (Dillsburg Borough and Carroll Township) and R.G.Hess Memorial Park (Franklinton Borough) The master plan element will put the property in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources funding stream for park development. The master plan may be developed as a part of the recreation plan or may be developed as a “stand-alone study” depending on the timing of the recreation plan.
- Continue to advance the plans for a community center and solicit regional support.

- ❑ Consider the advantages of obtaining funding from the Community Conservation Partnership Program for a Circuit Rider position (program administrator) from Pennsylvania DCNR to help coordinate the regional recreation program activities and to develop comprehensive recreation, park and open space plan.

Older Adults Services Program

The focus of the Older Adults Services Program is the continuation of the works and services provided by the Dillsburg Senior Activity Center, Inc.

Key Components:

- ❑ Recognize the importance of the Dillsburg Senior Activity Center, Inc. to the region. The Center offers on and off-site recreational and fitness programs, regional travel offerings, educational and health seminars, health screenings, tax preparation programs, cultural programs, daily lunches, and meals-on-wheels.
- ❑ Recognize the biggest threat to the organization is inadequate revenues to continue operation. The primary source of funding is the York County Area Agency on Aging (less than 50% of funding). Other funding sources are provided by municipalities, fundraisers, personal and civic donations, and small enterprises.
- ❑ Work with the Center to develop a plan to secure the Center's future and address funding issues. The study would include the following elements:
 - Develop a demographic profile of the region's older adults based on secondary sources: the 2000 U.S. Census, statistical data from the York County Area Agency on the Aging, the Senior Center, and transportation and housing service providers.
 - Conduct key person interviews with primary service providers to determine the existing level of services being provided and known service needs.
 - Conduct focus group discussions with senior citizens to obtain perspective on the quality of services being provided, unmet needs and additional services desired.
 - Work with a community advisory committee comprised of seniors, service providers and municipal officials to develop a report on the needs and funding issues and a listing of strategies to resolve these needs. Uncover successful strategies, such as Christmas in April – a community service program for rehabilitating homes for older adults and disabled individuals, thus keeping them in their home environment.

Volunteer Outreach Program

The Volunteer Outreach Program focuses on developing opportunities within the community for residents of all ages to fully participate in community projects as volunteers and/or mentors. Opportunities may exist with local service organizations, community service providers, and local government.

Key Components:

- ❑ Develop a volunteer bank – a comprehensive listing of volunteer opportunities within the region.
 - Prepare a letter survey requesting information on volunteer opportunities and needs.
 - Send the survey to service organizations, municipalities, emergency services, the library, and Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society, etc.
 - Develop a volunteer form to be utilized by organizations and submitted as new volunteer opportunities / needs arise.
- ❑ Establish a clearinghouse organization and/or mechanism to develop and manage the volunteer bank.
- ❑ Publish volunteer opportunities in a regional newsletter, website or press releases in the *Dillsburg Banner* or West Section of the *Patriot News*.
- ❑ Send a special insert to the Northern High School at the beginning of each calendar year as a reference for students in selecting graduation projects.
- ❑ Consider an annual event – Volunteer Action Day / Carnival – showcase volunteer organizations, volunteers, opportunities for volunteering and sign-up sheets.

Intergovernmental / Services Communications Program

The inter-governmental / organizational communications program focuses on developing a formal dialogue between the officials of the Northern York County School District, the northern region municipalities and community service providers. The focus of the dialogue is common issues, collaborative efforts, and joint projects.

Key Components:

- ❑ Continue the Intermunicipal Task Force (frequency and schedule of meetings to be determined with participants) including representation from governing bodies of the School District and the municipalities (invite all municipalities of the School District to the meeting).

- Exchange information on common areas of interest and/or concerns, such as:
 - Collaborative strategies from the Northern Region Comprehensive Plan: region newsletter, volunteer outreach program, growth management strategies, comprehensive regional recreation program and strategies from the Northern York County School District Strategic Plan.
 - Growth trend tracking and fiscal impacts on educational and municipal services.
 - Sharing of the School District's facility plans and municipal subdivision and land development plans for review and comment (should be part of routine operations).
 - Policy changes which would affect the delivery of services.
 - Emerging issues within the region or affecting the region.

- Uncover opportunities for future collaborations:
 - Joint grant opportunities as a regional endeavor, rather than individual municipal endeavors.
 - Use of facilities, resources and programs: recreation, public works, professional staff (zoning officer and codes enforcement support) and technical services, information systems and meeting rooms / auditoriums.
 - Track progress of comprehensive plan implementation.

- Establish an annual meeting (or greater frequency, if desired) between the municipalities, School District, and emergency service providers (fire, ambulance, emergency management agency and police)

- Develop an agenda based on common interests and concerns. The current list of discussion topics from the comprehensive plan include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential for merging police services. ○ Road conditions for moving equipment. ○ Access issues to residential properties. ○ Level of volunteerism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facility needs for the Citizen Hose Number One Fire Company in Dillsburg. ○ Fundraising activities. ○ Facility needs for the Franklintown Community Fire Company.
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- Hold a roundtable discussion of these interests to develop an Emergency Services Enhancement Program. Explore innovative programs such as the Warwick Region Emergency Services Alliance (Lancaster County), developed as a result of a comprehensive regional fire and ambulance service study (an implemented strategy of the Lititz-Warwick Strategic Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2000). The Alliance is a cooperative arrangement between the three municipalities and seven emergency service providers. It is not a merger of services. Key components of the Alliance are:
 - 20 hour a week staff position (Alliance Coordinator) – funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development as a

circuit rider position (grant picks up 75% of cost first year, 50% the second year, and 25% the third year)

- Duties of the Coordinator for the Alliance include:
 - ✓ Fund raising
 - ✓ Marketing
 - ✓ Retention and recruitment of volunteers
 - ✓ Fire safety programming
 - ✓ Grant application and management
- Advantages of the Alliance
 - ✓ Avoids duplication of efforts
 - ✓ Cost-effective use of resources
 - ✓ Formalizes, concerted effort for recruitment
 - ✓ Consolidates municipal contributions
 - ✓ Creates a clear-line of communication
- Establish a yearly priority list for the region with action items.
- Resolve to take action.
- Establish a Northern Region Administrators/Secretaries Roundtable
 - Meet quarterly to discuss common concerns, issues and collaborative efforts that will help with the day-to-day operations of the municipalities and school district, such as regional opportunities to streamline government operations through the sharing of resources and/or personnel, regional information system and computerized databases, joint purchases, and collaborative public works projects (see PENNDOT Agility Program below).
 - Develop the administrative capacity to carry forward many of the ideas coming out of the comprehensive plan by delegating specific responsibilities, staff and logistical support. Ideas include:
 - A common capital improvements process or budget schedule to filter in region-level projects.
 - Collaboration with the PENNDOT Agility Program and establishment of a Regional Program using similar guidelines (swap for services rather than purchase of services).
 - Intermunicipal implementation agreements for creating consistent land use regulations.
 - Organization of meetings of governing officials of the five municipalities and the School District.
- Report to the public regarding the results or activities of these collaborative meetings and opportunities for public involvement (see Regional Newsletter Strategy).

Dillsburg Area Public Library Strategic Plan

The Dillsburg Area Public Library strategic plan focuses on the library board's continued efforts to provide facility, programming, information technology and staffing to meet

future demands for the library system. The strategy recognizes the Dillsburg facility as the only public library within the Northern York County region.

Key Components:

- Initiate a strategic planning process to uncover strengths and issues. The initial list of strengths and issues may include:

Strengths:

- Part of Countywide system
- Offers numerous educational and information activities and programs
- Patrons include people of all ages
- Funding through municipal contributions and fundraisers
- Draw people from all over the region
- Central regional location

Issues/Plans

- Adding space to meet the needs of a growing population
 - Organizing a “Friends of the Library Association”
 - Promoting services to new residents
 - Staffing to assist in using the interlibrary loan system
- Initiate a community-based (utilize the input of many residents from various sectors of the service area by age and geographic location) strategic planning process (plan for a five-year period or longer).
 - Determine a five-year vision for the service; that is, goals for circulation, utilization, technology integration/training opportunities, programming, hours of operation, facility needs, number of employees/volunteers, fundraising and organizational structure, including partnerships with others.
 - Determine what strategies are needed to address the goals.
 - Determine actions needed to implement the strategies.
 - Begin to implement the strategic plan.

Regional Newsletter

The Regional Newsletter addresses the need to provide information to the public on a routine basis concerning service needs, programs and opportunities within the region. It is a vehicle to be utilized by community service providers and to announce accomplishments of regional projects and programs.

Key Components:

- ❑ Publish the newsletter (frequency to be determined) with distribution to all households and property owners in the region.
- ❑ Recognize the current limited resources of staff time for producing the publications. Consider the following alternatives to supplement staff and at the same time continue to build community capacity.
 - Establish a newsletter committee comprised of individuals with either an interest/talent in writing/publication or a willingness to help with the routine tasks of mail preparation.
 - Seek the assistance of a student intern or work with the school district to utilize a student who is interested in working on the newsletter as part of a senior project or adult education project.
 - Seek the assistance of a retired or semi-retired volunteer.
 - Develop a partnership with the Senior Center or other service organization to prepare a joint publication.
 - Discuss with the *Dillsburg Bannet* the option of a quarterly newsletter inserts.
- ❑ Determine the focus for the newsletter. Ideas to be considered:
 - Promotion of community services
 - Announcement of volunteer outreach opportunities / needs
 - Announcement of honored volunteers
 - Announcement of fundraising activities / use of donations
 - Announcement of public meetings and activities
 - Update on comprehensive plan implementation
- ❑ Consider a trial issue with community feedback to determine the worth of the endeavor.

Northern Region Website

The Northern Region Website creates a digital community for the region by linking the five municipalities and the School District (invite all school district municipalities to join in this effort) with their constituents, service providers, visitors, and the business community.

Key Components:

- ❑ Explore a variety of possibilities for initial setup and host site:
 - Website development as a community service project. Uncover local resources, groups and individuals in the community who have expertise and a willingness to

help the region get started. Work closely with the School District to determine to what extent students could participate in the site.

- In the process of uncovering local resources, identify expertise that would be qualified to setup and manage the site, if the community service project idea is not achievable.
- Compile a list of information to be included on the website. Initial thoughts:
 - Listing of community service providers and businesses
 - Public transit routes and schedules
 - Hot links to other local and county sites
 - Public meeting announcements and agendas
 - Regional news releases / special interest stories / service announcements
 - Feature stories on activities of community services
 - Feature stories on volunteerism
 - Progress reports on implementation activities of the region's comprehensive plan and other projects
 - Comment box and links to email sites
- Develop a plan for initiating and managing the site.
 - Start small – a few ideas done well.
 - Build on successes, adding more links.
 - Plan to grow to a community concept, offering site space for other community organizations, services, and businesses.
- Complete a funding plan.