

VI. Facility Recommendations and Criteria

The Facility Recommendations and Criteria Section describe the facilities with design criteria intended to define the recommended facilities and provide general guidelines to consider in follow-up planning and design. Photographs of other facilities are included to illustrate the concepts discussed.

A. Trails

Hiking trails, bike trails, paved and unpaved trails were among the top activities that residents would use more if facilities were provided. The “unmet demand” percentage illustrated in the community survey shows a very strong desire for more trails and a series of integrated trail systems. The ultimate goal is to have a series of interconnected trails that link neighborhoods, schools, parks, and community facilities. The criteria are followed by site concept plans for each primary park in Muhlenberg County.

1. In addition to the desire to connect to a county-wide system, the residents also desire the development of trail loops within the parks. These should be both paved and unpaved trails. Paved trails should be developed around the main activity areas of general use parks to link the facilities and to provide a smooth walking surface. Paved trails can help provide ADA accessibility. Natural trails with earth, stone, or bark chip surfaces are appropriate to provide opportunities for nature education, wildlife viewing, and hiking.

The parks with potential additional trails include:

- a. Rail-Trail extension
- b. Morgan Park
- c. Central Park – Central City
- d. The new County Park
- e. Gish Park
- f. Lake Luzerne
- g. The reconstructed Bremen Park
- h. All other proposed parks.



2. Trail Design Criteria
 - a. The trails that would be developed would receive a great deal of use according to survey results. These trails would be used for bicycling, walking and jogging. Therefore, the trails in these heavily used areas should be at least 10 feet wide and paved to provide ample room for this wide variety of potential users. Where land is available, a path for wheels (bikes and rollerblades) separated from the other walking paths will avoid conflicts among

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users. In areas where the slopes are steep or land is not available, the trails can be combined. The initial phases could include natural or wood chip type trails to allow pedestrian access only, but these trails would be damaged during flooding and would not allow for the maximum use of the proposed facility.

- b. It is also recommended that greenways be developed segment by segment, completing each segment entirely before moving on to the next. This will allow the completed segment to become a “utilized example”, therefore building public enthusiasm and support for the project.
- c. Trails for bicycles should be developed to the standards published in the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 1999.
- d. The hike and bikeways routes recommended suggest a three tiered system.
 - (1) Hikeways
 - Class One: Hiking Only
 - Class Two: Hike and Bikeway combined
 - Class Three: Hikeway on the berm of a vehicle right-of-way
 - (2) Bikeways
 - Class One: Bikeway Only
 - Class Two: Hike and Bikeway Combined
 - Class Three: Bikeway shared with vehicles, without a barrier but with marked off lanes and signs indicating bike lane.
 - (3) In this plan, the primary corridors should be Class One or Class Two Trails. Where necessary to connect destinations in developed areas, Class Three Trails are acceptable.

B. Playgrounds

1. Playgrounds are typically developed at nearly every mini-park, neighborhood, community, regional or county park. Playgrounds should be designed for the age specific group for which they are intended. At larger community parks, areas should be designated for pre-school and school- aged children.
2. It is recommended that a variety of experiences be provided at each playground. It is also recommended to use safe and durable materials such as plastic components, plastic coated steel decks, steel posts, and

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similar materials. The overall design of the playground in each facility should meet the Consumer Product Safety Commission and ADA Guidelines. Proper safety surfacing should be provided under all equipment. Handicap accessibility is a major issue, which must be considered in the design of each playground.

3. At the larger County Parks, it is recommended that larger and very creative destination playgrounds be developed since these parks typically have the infrastructure to handle larger groups of people. Larger Community Parks have the capacity to attract regional populations.
4. All playgrounds must meet minimum ADA requirements, but a higher level of universal access is desired at county and community parks. The main general use parks should have large destination playgrounds where appropriate.
5. Park land with potential for playgrounds include:
 - a. Large universal-access playground at the new proposed County Park
 - b. Beechmont Park
 - c. Reconstructed Bremen Park
 - d. Simmons Street Park in Drakesboro
 - e. Improvements at Gish, Central, and Morgan Parks and all other Community Parks throughout the County to make them more accessible and to meet current standards
 - f. New Neighborhood, Community and County Parks.



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C. Athletic Fields

1. The demand for athletic fields is ever increasing as participation grows. It would be ideal for these facilities to be developed in complexes rather than in single fields scattered throughout the Muhlenberg County. A complex is more efficient for the following reason:
 - a. It is more efficient for maintenance and for equipment purchase and installation.
 - b. It increases the potential for concession sales.
 - c. It provides better oversight and convenience to league officials.
 - d. It provides equipment storage in one location.
 - e. The location of many games in one site increases the chance of positioning qualified medical staff at the site where a possible injury or accident may occur.
2. The following are some recommendations and observations for specific types of fields.
 - a. Synthetic Turf Fields – The county or a sports organization may consider the development of synthetic turf fields. It has been proven that these fields can be used earlier in the year, later in the year, and more often during the playing seasons than natural grass fields, and are safer to play upon. The long term costs will be more for the development, replacement, and long term maintenance, but there will also be more events that can take place on the fields. This is taking advantage of the land without spreading play over several fields. The proposed Central County Park with several ball fields proposed would be ideal locations for this type of development.
 - b. Natural Grass Fields – Fields for soccer, baseball, and football should be irrigated if possible to provide better rejuvenation of the lawn. Also, rectangular fields, such as soccer fields can be rotated in different directions for various seasons or keep some fields out of use each year to allow them to rejuvenate the grass in the wear areas. The seasons for soccer are typically in the spring and fall, which are the prime growing seasons for grass, which makes it difficult on fields for a lot of use to maintain a good lawn.
 - c. Baseball Infields – A variety of ad mixtures are available for improving infields of ball fields. Fields should contain primarily dirt with ad mixtures to improve the playing surface if they are used for multiple age groups or girls softball. In cases where organizations desire grass infields, which require more maintenance, then the

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organization should be responsible for the maintenance and up keep of those fields.

- d. Support facilities that should be included with these fields include the following where practical:
 - (1) Bleacher/stadium seating.
 - (2) Parking for at least 60 cars per field.
 - (3) Restroom and concession facilities.
 - (4) The fields should be lighted to extend their use

D. Picnic Areas

The development of picnic areas and picnic shelters was very high on the list of items identified in the survey and in the public workshops. Picnic areas are best if developed in a natural setting. Shelters could be developed in each of the Neighborhood, Community, and County Parks. Community and County Parks provide better opportunities for the development of large shelters (group reservable picnic shelters). These could be used for company picnics, family reunions, church outings, etc. These group rental facilities are best if developed in conjunction with a playground, sand volleyball court, walking trails and open fields for games. Shelters should be located in close proximity to parking and restrooms. Shelters that are the most frequented in other communities are those that are located in wooded areas or that overlook water bodies. The natural settings that are most inviting for picnic areas would include wooded areas, open fields, lakes for fishing, riverfronts and natural stream corridors.

It would also be appropriate to develop picnic shelters and facilities in the vicinity of athletic complexes. Families often spend many hours at the ball fields on game days and this provides a place to get out of the sun and a facility where the teams can meet.

For the above reasons, new picnic areas should be developed as part of all new neighborhood and community parks. Also, the plans for picnic shelters and tables could be implemented at the following parks:

1. Morgan Park
2. Central City Park
3. Gish Park
4. The new Central County Park
5. Redeveloped Bremen Park at the Elementary School
6. Beechmont Community Park
7. New neighborhood park in Graham.

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Example Picnic Shelters

E. Restrooms

One of the items which the respondents of the survey identified as most needed to improve the parks is restrooms. This is common in many of the surveys recently completed by this Consulting Team. Ideally, these would include restrooms with running water, flush toilets and sinks for hand washing. Typically, they would be developed of masonry materials, be easy to clean, and would be designed to withstand heavy use and frequent cleaning.

Potential sites where restrooms could be added to improve the use of the park are:

1. Central City Park
2. Bremen Elementary School Park
3. All new community and county parks.

F. Pavilion/Amphitheater Covered Stage

The development of a pavilion, or bandstand with a covered stage at a park in Muhlenberg County would provide the opportunity for a wider variety of cultural arts programs, concerts, and other presentations that are of value to the community. These structures should be designed to accommodate the types of performances for which the programs would be planned. The photographs indicate some typical types of successful amphitheaters and bandstands that have been used in other communities.



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These facilities should be supported by the presence of restrooms, drinking fountains, parking areas and paved walkways for access. One possibility is to develop an amphitheater in the new proposed Central County Park. Another is to redevelop the stage and seating at Morgan Park in Greenville to be used to support the Brizendine Nature Park programs and for community use.

G. Dog Parks

Dog parks have become a very common element in many park systems throughout Kentucky and the United States. They provide an opportunity for people living in areas with small yards to have a place to let their dogs run free.

Support facilities at dog parks would include:

1. Three fence enclosed areas of approximately one half to one acre each. One would be for large dogs, one for small dogs, and one would be rotated so that there would be a chance for the grass to grow.
2. A drinking fountain with a bowl accessible to dogs.
3. Shade areas and sitting areas.
4. A parking area.
5. Dog waste bags with an appropriate disposal system.

H. Outdoor Aquatic Facilities

1. Outdoor Family Aquatic Centers

A new outdoor family aquatic center is recommended which should be centrally located to all residents of Muhlenberg County, but far enough south that it does not compete with the proposed facility that the City of Central City is developing. An ideal location would be within the proposed County Park to be located in the center of the County along with a variety of other features. Included on Figures 11 and 12 are examples of typical features of outdoor aquatic centers.

Design Criteria

- a. A minimum of five acres in size.
- b. Site should be highly visible to increase attendance.
- c. Could be developed in conjunction with other active recreation facilities to share parking.
- d. Could be included within a larger park with other activities that would increase attractiveness for family use.
- e. Easy road access.
- f. Water, sewer and major utilities are required.

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Amenities that should be provided include the following:

- a. Pool house with locker rooms.
- b. Large shallow water area with zero depth access and some water spray activities.
- c. Four lane by 25 meter (minimum) competition and lap swim area.
- d. A minimum of two 30 foot tall water slide towers with varying types of slides and the possibility of developing more slides in the future.
- e. A large water sprayground area for use by smaller children.
- f. Large grass sunbathing area.
- g. Large concession area with picnic shelter within the fence enclosure for use by larger groups.
- h. Several large umbrellas or shade shelters.
- i. A minimum of 200 car parking lot.
- j. High level of lighting on the pool and deck area to allow for night time rentals and evening programs such as movies at the pool, teen parties, luaus, and other water related programs.

2. Spraygrounds

The development of spraygrounds, or water playgrounds, has become very popular among communities for a variety of reasons. One reason is that they are less costly to both develop and operate than an outdoor swimming pool or aquatic center. They do not require lifeguards. They do require pumps, filtration system, chemical feeders, and systems similar to swimming pools to recirculate and reuse the water.

The photographs on Figure 13 identify potential elements of some spraygrounds. Features that would be included within the sprayground area include: areas for shade, sitting, restrooms, and parking.

Two sites that offers potential for the development of a spray parks are to replace the pool in Greenville when a new aquatic center is developed and in Central Park in Central City. These facilities will provide a strong family attraction to the park that is primarily sports related currently.

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Figure 11: Typical Family Aquatic Facility Features



Shallow Water Play Features and Slides



Steps



Lap Pool



Zero Depth Access



Water Slides



Spraygrounds

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Figure 12: Typical Family Aquatic Centers



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Figure 13: Typical Sprayground Features



I. Recreation/Community Center

The Plan recommends the development of a recreation center that is located south of Greenville so as not to compete with the Central City Wellness Center. The facility should include a minimum:

1. A gymnasium area large enough for two-full sized basketball courts.
2. A large cardiovascular fitness area with exercise machines.
3. Aerobics room.
4. Community meeting room with kitchen facilities.
5. Concession and snack bar.
6. Walking track.
7. Children's activity rooms and babysitting rooms.
8. Teen lounge.
9. Locker rooms.
10. Restrooms.
11. Administrative office space.
12. Large storage rooms.

Figure 14 provides examples of these elements within recreation centers.

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Figure 14: Typical Community/Recreation Center Features



Gymnasium/Game Courts



Indoor Soccer Field



Cardio-vascular Area



Indoor Sports



Walking/Jogging Track



Multi-Purpose Rooms



Game Room



Lounge Area

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2. Site Requirements

- a. Approximately seven acres required for the building and parking.
- b. Could be located within a larger park with other facilities and activities, but not absolutely necessary.
- c. Should be easily accessible by major roads throughout the County.
- d. Does not require the high level of visibility because many of the activities are programmed.
- e. Water, sewer, and major utilities are required.
- f. Parking for a minimum of 300 cars.

J. Signage

Proper signage is a key factor to allowing the community to find and relate the parks to a quality of life asset provided by the County. Each park should have a quality and consistent sign to identify the parks, and a series of coordinated way finding signs to provide directions to the parks and directions to facilities within the larger parks. These should also be coordinated with educational signs and sign boards/kiosks where they are needed for more detailed park program information and park maps.

K. Site Concept Plans

Site Concept Plans are included in this section to illustrate possible configurations of the proposed facilities at the primary parks. These plans should be used as a starting point for further discussions with the community, users, and neighbors in the design of the parks.

Figure 15: MCHS West Campus Central Park Concept Plan



TRUE NORTH
0 400' 800'
January 24, 2011



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Muhlenberg HS West Campus
Muhlenberg County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Muhlenberg County, Kentucky

Figure 16: Lake Luzerne Park Concept Plan



TRUE
NORTH
0 300' 600'
January 24, 2011

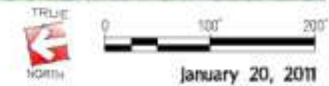
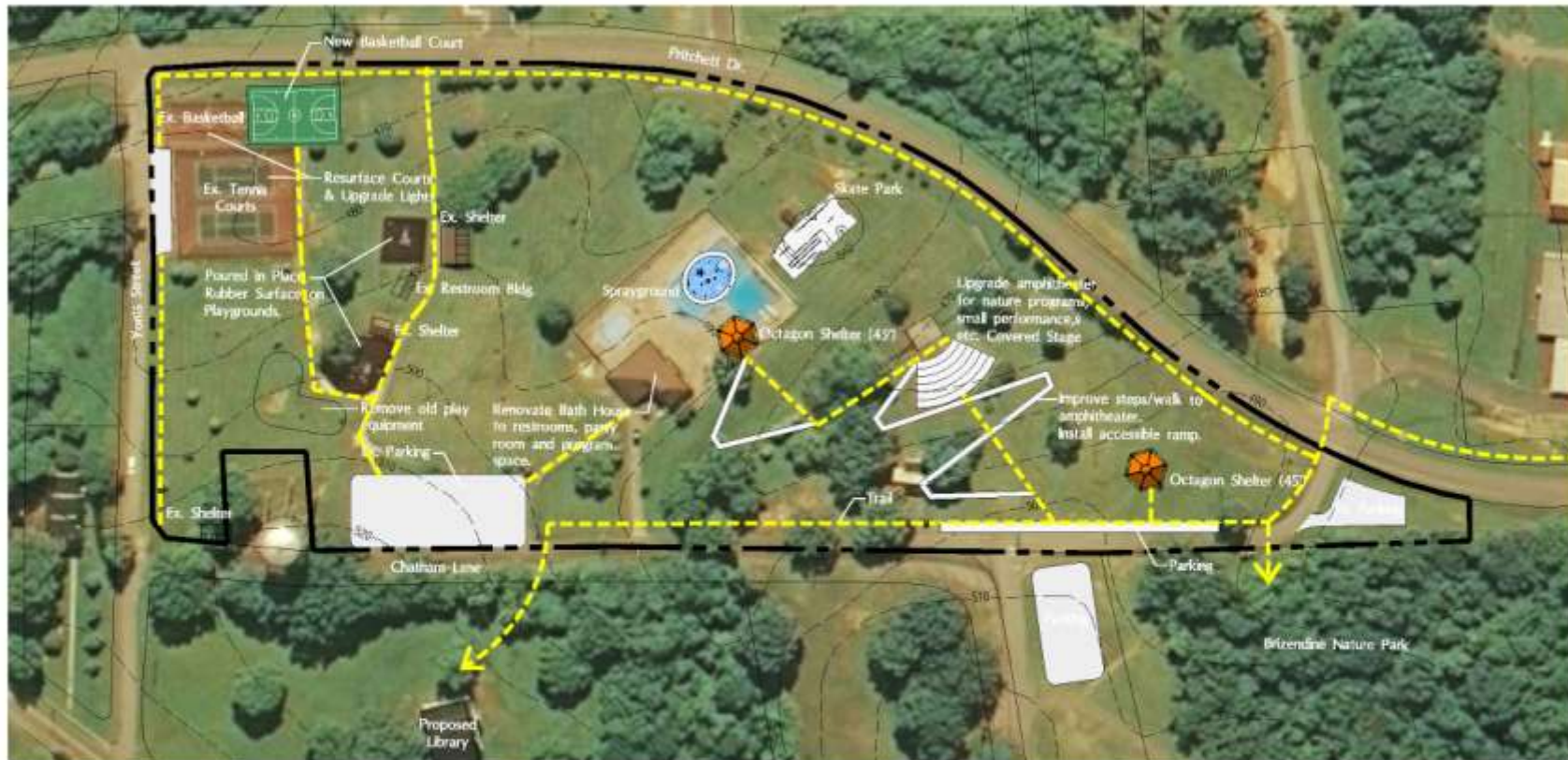


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Lake Luzerne Park

Muhlenberg County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Muhlenberg County, Kentucky

Figure 17: J.P. Morgan Park Concept Plan



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J.P. Morgan Memorial Park
Muhlenberg County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Muhlenberg County, Kentucky

Figure 18: Central City Central Park Concept Plan



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Central City Park
Muhlenberg County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Muhlenberg County, Kentucky

Figure 19: Gish Park Concept Plan



January 20, 2011

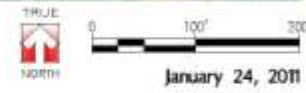


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Gish Park

Muhlenberg County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Muhlenberg County, Kentucky

Figure 20: Central City Festival Park Concept Plan



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Central City Festival Park
Muhlenberg County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Muhlenberg County, Kentucky

Figure 21: Greenville Main Street Plaza Concept Plan

