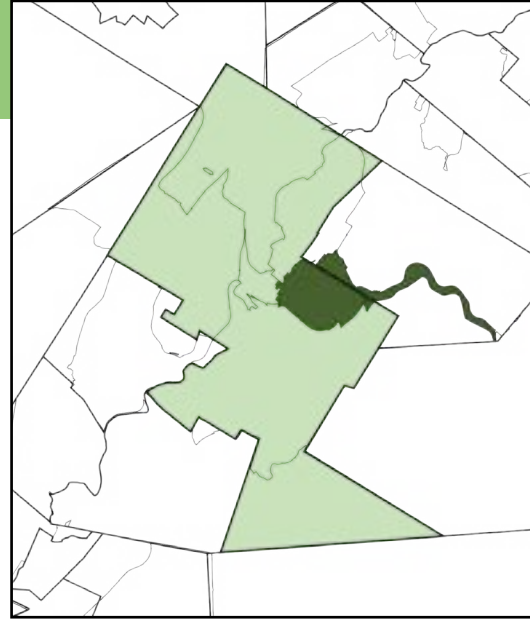


8510

18510

- 1 Nay Aug Park
- 2 Richter Avenue Park



ZIP CODE LOCATION



NAY AUG PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Address: 400 W. LOCUST STREET

Neighborhood: HILL SECTION

Size: 100.78 ACRES

Low-Mod Income Area: NO

Classification: REGIONAL PARK



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Nay Aug Park is the largest and most regional park within the City of Scranton. This park is a destination for many events throughout the year, including 5-K runs, car shows, yearly Christmas lights, and more. It has access to beautiful views of Roaring Brook and trout fishing. There are extensive paved and stone dust walking and biking trails. Hanlon's Grove provides picnic opportunities, as well as, the other 3-4 pavilions and shelters. A few buildings have been leased for use as a coffee house, concession stand, and animal rescue. New landscaping has been a recent initiative.



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The pool complex is a critical use area in the park and it needs a full redesign. The optimal design would incorporate both open water and splash pad features. The Davis Trail needs trail restoration closer to Myrtle Street and better control of Knotweed near the CMC parking lot. Green infrastructure can be implemented throughout the park to better handle runoff.

SITE PHOTOS



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- Design a new pool complex that incorporates splash pad features and a large community pool
- Design a new children's discovery corridor above the David Wenzel Treehouse that provides natural play features, structured play elements, and passive recreational opportunities for users
- Incorporate green infrastructure, conservation/restoration improvements and innovative storm water catchment and treatment (per the NFWF plan)
- Install cohesive signage within the trail system and throughout the park
- Consider locations within the park that lack ADA accessibility and provide new opportunities for accessible routes
- Remove areas of invasive Japanese Knotweed within the park and establish native plant species
- Restore areas of the Davis Trail near the Myrtle Street trail head

PRIORITY USE AREAS



RICHTER AVENUE PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Address: 900 RICHTER AVENUE

Neighborhood: EAST SCRANTON

Size: 2.51 ACRES

Low-Mod Income Area: NO

Classification: OPEN SPACE



DENAPLES
AUTO PARTS

TREE GROVE

LOFTS AT
THE MILL

ASH STREET

AMPHITHEATER

RESTORATION MEADOW

WALKING TRAILS

RICHTER AVENUE

EAST SCRANTON
LITTLE LEAGUE



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Richter Avenue Park is located near Nay Aug Park along Roaring Brook. This park is mainly used for passive recreation, as it is adjacent to the East Scranton Little League fields. The park contains several walking trails, a central seating area, open lawn, unique tree plantings around the park. Overall, the park is good shape, but it lacks definition in many areas and needs considerable updates to become more functional and usable.



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The major issue within the park is the lack of definition. The park would benefit from new streetscaping and sidewalks along Richter Avenue. The trails within the park need to be edged and resurfaced. Because of its location near Roaring Brook, the park should be more heavily planted and utilized as a riparian zone for flooding events. New plantings along the riverbank and bank stabilization methods would better equip the park during flooding events. A new viewing deck would allow views down into Roaring brook and for fishing as well. The existing lawn areas with the landscape berms should be converted into meadow to create pollinator habitat within the park. Because of the extensive environmental focus for a redesign of the park, educational signage and wayfinding would greatly improve user experiences. The park would add plenty of environmental benefits for this section of Scranton, while also adding complimentary space for the adjacent Little League fields.

SITE PHOTOS



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- Install new streetscaping and sidewalks along Richter Avenue to provide better access and circulation
- Install a new cantilevered observation/fishing deck over Roaring Brook
- Reshape and resurface existing pathways for better circulation within the park
- Establish new meadow plantings in the main open areas of the park to improve ecological resilience of the park
- Establish new signage throughout the park to describe some of the environmental and ecological aspects of the park
- Provide parking within the park from the main access area
- Design a small playground or natural play area for children to use the space and enhance environmental learning experiences

OBSERVATION DECK



MEADOW RESTORATION AND SIGNAGE



NATURE-THEMED PLAY EQUIPMENT (EXAMPLES)



MASTERPLAN

- NEW PARKING LOT
- NEW PLAYGROUND
- OVERLOOK DECK
- MEADOW PLANTINGS
- NEW STREETSCAPING
- DAVIS TRAIL ACCESS



SCALE: 1" = 60'



TOGETHER

1 Greenways & Trails

2 Restoration & Conservation

3 Vacant Lots

4 Alley Ways

5 Public/Private Partnerships

6 Storm Water Management

1 GREENWAYS & TRAILS

A greenway can have multiple meanings; however, for this study it is defined as the corridor of partially developed and undeveloped land typically along watercourses that are preserved for recreational use or environmental protection. Several streams flow within the City of Scranton and have value as greenways, including Stafford Meadow Brook, Roaring Brook, Leggett's Creek and the Lackawanna River. Encouragement of restoration, conservation and recreation, as well as, smart and low impact economic development is crucial in these areas.

The City has several existing and planned recreation areas, river access points, and trails within these important corridors. They are important venues for river access and events. Despite being on city-owned land, most are overseen and maintained by other organizations like The Lackawanna Heritage Valley and the Lackawanna River Conservation Association. Others recreation facilities are in private lands like the University of Scranton's South Side Complex.

- **Lackawanna River Heritage Trail:** The 40-mile long LRHT is the premier multi-use trail within Scranton. It is the backbone of the Lackawanna Valley and the 6-plus miles within Scranton is both an economic and recreation driver. The trail hosts numerous running events (marathons, 5K races), is a transportation corridor and a viable connect between recreation areas.

Portions of the trail run along the top of the Scranton Levee system. Coordination and efforts to pave the levee top should be initiated with the Army Corps and FEMA. Currently, portions of the levee are too short, so paving may help attain required flood elevations, and provide a more sustainable trail surface.

- **Roaring Brook Trail:** This facility was already designed and slated for development until the Scranton Sewer Authority was sold to PA American. This is an important connector between the Iron Arts District and the South Side Flats.
- **Davis Trail:** The trail within Nay Aug Park parallels Roaring Brook. Historic planning documents highlight the importance of this trail and the potential to connect into Moscow and the Lackawanna River.
- **Leggett's Creek Connector Trail:** There is a proposed alignment and initiative to construct a connecting trail between the Countryside Conservancy Trolley Trail in Clarks Summit and the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail. Portions of the trail would utilize the Leggett's Creek Greenway in North Scranton near McLain Park.



- Existing recreation areas include Nay Aug Avenue Natural Play Area, Sweeney's Beach Recreation Area, and the LRHT Riverside Sculpture Garden Spur and Olive Street Pavilion.
- Proposed and Potential sites include Parkers Landing Recreation Area, and the UGI Brownfield (behind Steamtown NHS) that may become a new County-run park.

2 RESTORATION & CONSERVATION

The City should continue, in partnership, with efforts to restore riparian areas and stabilize stream banks.

- **Improve Riparian Buffers:** Other groups, like Lackawanna Chapter Trout Unlimited, LRCA Conservation Corps have been planting saplings and battling invasive plants along several City waterways. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley has a Memorial Tree planting program along the Heritage Trail and the Lackawanna River.
- **Mine Reclamation:** An ecosystem restoration and recreation plan is currently being completed along Leggett's Creek by the Lackawanna River Conservation Association to address failing banks comprised of mine spoils, invasive plants and eroding storm water ditches.
- **Protect Existing Woodlots:** A few parks like Nay Aug, Connell, Central City Little League, Crowley and others still have pockets and swaths of woodland. These should be avoided and enhanced.



VACANT LOT IN SOUTH SIDE



3 VACANT LOTS

- The city should conduct another study to fully inventory and address vacant lots. Certain vacant lots can be sold and added to the tax rolls, whereas, other lots may have strategic value for playgrounds, off-street parking, riparian buffers and green infrastructure.

4 ALLEY WAYS

- **Center Street:** One block of Center Street was improved with stamped concrete and wall art between Adams Avenue and North Washington Avenue. This small sample is an example of how improvements to alley ways can create valuable recreation and social gathering spaces.
- **Dix Court:** This alley has great potential as a linear, urban park. It connects Vine Street at Lackawanna College, through the Albright Library, City Hall, the County Courthouse, Center Street before ending at the 500 Block of Lackawanna Avenue

DIX COURT PEDESTRIAN ALLEY



and Renaissance Park.

- Penn Avenue Pedestrian Mall: Pedestrian Malls are very successful in cities and should be considered in Scranton. Penn Avenue between the Marketplace and Steamtown and the Time Building has potential for an outdoor mall.

5 PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

- Exploring partnerships or encouraging investment by private companies and non-profits within City park land is an opportunity that should be explored. Money gained through leases/rent can help cover maintenance costs and fund park improvements. The uses, which may include sports clubs, training facilities, non-profits, restaurants, coffee shops, ice cream stands, etc., must be compatible for the specific park and reviewed on an individual basis. Examples include the Scranton Social Sports Club, and several initiatives to bring a successful soccer club and training facility to Scranton.

6 STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

The City should fully examine and strive to increase green infrastructure, per the NFWF Plan, within city parks and vacant lots to better comply with MS4 requirements.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DESIGNS



DARK SKATE PARK



Scranton Parks Renderings
Proposed Design Renderings
07.22.2021



FANCY PARSLEY LLC, ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN | MICHAEL MULLER, AIA, NCARB | 333 OAKFORD CT, SCRANTON PA 18503 | INFO@FANCYPARSLEY.COM

Option #1:	Weston Field
Option #2	Linden Street Bridge
Option #3	Nay Aug Avenue Natural Play Area
Option #4	South Washington Avenue
Support Site	Nay Aug Park

SKATE PARK OPTIONS

- **Primary Skate Park at Weston Field (Option #1)**

- » This site was selected as a first choice for several reasons:

- » It is centrally located within the City;
- » It is along a bus route and school routes (high school and elementary school);
- » Weston Field house has supporting facilities to host large skating events
- » Interesting retrofit to provide cover and allow skating in all weather.

- » Constructing the park will require relocation of Park & Recreation Maintenance Facility. However, this is already a recommendation of this Parks Assessment Plan. Mainly this impacts how quickly the project could start.



- **Primary Skate Park at Redner's / Under Linden Street Bridge (Option #2)**

- » Requires purchase of land; potential hold harmless/MOU with Redner's to use parking lot
- » Close to Downtown, Supermarket and Heritage Trail; Skate in all weather with bridge cover



- **Primary Skate Park at Nay Aug Avenue Natural Play Area (Option #3)**

- » Will compliment Natural Play Area; creates a core use area in the City for all ages and activities
- » Has supporting facilities to host larger skating events
- » Near Providence Corners, commercial area and Heritage Trail



- **Primary Skate Park in the South Side Flats (Option #4)**

- » Potential reuse of a vacant lot that may be hard to develop for another commercial purpose
- » Perhaps a new pedestrian bridge over Roaring Brook and an MOU with South Side Bowling can allow shared parking and an opportunity to create an enhanced recreation area for all ages
- » Update: I believe this space may have just been purchased as potential community event space, so this may no longer be an option



- **Small Skate Park near Pool Complex at Nay Aug Park**

- » Will tie in nicely with proposed pool complex improvements; creates a core use area in the park for all ages and activities
- » Has supporting facilities to host larger skating events
- » Already a City/Regional destination
- » There are other portions of park beyond pool complex that may work, like the access off Richter Avenue and the old wooden play structure area



NEXT STEPS

- Continue to work with the local skating community (led by Dino & Stephanie DeNaples) and finalize location
- Start securing funding and applying for grants.
- Construction costs for a high quality skate park are approximately \$450,000.