

5 IMPLEMENTATION

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It is important to first establish a solid base and foundation before trying to improve the Parks & Recreation System. Several key questions must be addressed at the outset. For example: How will the Department ultimately be managed?; What are the expectations of the Park System by the public and the administration?; What are the full responsibilities of the Parks & Recreation Department? Is the current interaction of the Parks Department and DPW healthy - should there be more of less coordination?

Following are suggestions and discussion topics that may improve the organization of and the efficiency within the Parks & Recreation Department. These topics will also initiate dialogue and start to address the complex questions listed above.

- **What is the Full Parks & Recreation System?**

- » The City lists 31 formal parks. However, there is no reason the City should consider Central City Little League as a park, yet not consider Harmon Field, North Scranton Little League, Cayuga Field, Sloan Field, Marvine-Dutch and others. There is no real consistency.
- » In our opinion, all city-owned land that is used for recreation under lease agreements should be recognized under the Park System umbrella.
- » Additionally, all city-owned parcels used for storm water management (basins), green infrastructure, riparian buffers and greenway land should be part of the Parks and Recreation System.

- **Are All Recreation Areas Needed?**

- » A few parks like Jackson Street Park and Powderly Park are not heavily utilized and/or need significant investment to make them more of a draw for city residents. The City should actually considering selling these parcels, which will add them back onto the tax rolls. However, the City law department must assure there are no stipulations on sale. The City can add the money accrued into a dedicated maintenance budget for other City parks.
- » An additional study is also needed to survey all little league fields throughout the City, most of which are not within formal City parks; however, are on City-owned land. With documented drops in youth participation, there is a real likelihood that the City has too many baseball fields. These fields can be re-purposed to support other uses or interests (soccer, pickle ball, biking, skating, dog park, etc.), or the land may be sold to developers for housing or upgraded to accommodate private recreation/performance training centers. One such facility is the Central City Little League

- **Are More Recreation Areas or Specific Facilities Needed?**

- » Regarding access to City-owned playgrounds, there are a few gaps (recreation voids) in the City - the Hill Section and central South Side. Due to steep hills and busy roads, walking to Nay Aug Park is not convenient for residents west of Harrison Avenue. Prescott Elementary just installed a new play ground to help fill this need. Similarly, there is a gap between Connell Park and Orchard Street in South Side, leaving the residents an inability to easily and safely walk to a park.

- » For these areas, the City should consider an evaluation of city-owned vacant lots. A vacant-lot study was initiated by the Hill Neighborhood Association but never completed, after the untimely passing of Ozzie Quinn.
- » On most occasions, the City should first consider selling vacant lots to add them back to the tax rolls; however, some strategically located vacant lots should be evaluated for off-street parking, green infrastructure and for new parks. They may fill the play gaps and increase the health, wellness and value of the local neighborhood.
- » Based on comparison to national averages (by prevalence and population per facility), the City should invest in more tennis/pickle ball courts, a skate park

- **Prepare Annual Park Maintenance Budgets**

- » Moving forward, the Parks & Recreation Director must keep track of all expenses throughout the year and make timely edits and updates to the current Annual Budget, so the following year's budget will become more comprehensive and accurate. The director should prepare charts/graphs that explain how resources are spent, including the allocation of maintenance dollars within each park. Each year, the director should analyze the data, identify any anomalies and reevaluate maintenance and short-term planning recommendations/budgets for each park.
- » Parks and Recreation should keep a spreadsheet documenting total labor (hours) and material costs required for each park. Over time, this valuable data can identify trends and provide a more robust determination about how much money for maintenance and programming each recreation area requires. A separate spreadsheet can document all improvement costs, not related to maintenance. This spreadsheet will help determine whether improvements are being spent equally within City districts.
- » A non-exhaustive list of yearly expenses that the Park & Recreation Department should start tracking includes Gas (vehicles); Natural Gas (buildings); Water; Electric; Yearly Supplies; Paper products (toilet paper, hand towels, garbage bags). The City should use CoStars to order supplies or reach out for competitive bids from local Scranton-based suppliers.

- **Park System Oversight**

- » The ideal scenario is having a stand-alone Department that oversees the Parks & Recreation System. That does not mean there will no longer be coordination between or cooperation with DPW; however, the Park System should have its own dedicated staff and leadership to oversee park improvements, maintenance and programming.
- » The Municipal Recreation Authority appears to work well at Nay Aug Park and there is clear definition of responsibilities between the Authority and the City. There should be a comparable entity to represent other parks or zip codes/regions within the City.
- » A Park System-wide Authority would be comprised of representatives from each major neighborhood, or each zip code and adjusted to have adequate representation based on population distribution. For example, a highly populated zip code may warrant two representatives. Representative would report ASAP to Parks & Recreation on any park issues and participate in quarterly meetings with Parks & Recreation.

- **Additional Staffing & Training**

- » The City should consider adding additional staff. Currently only 6 staff members are dedicated to Parks and Recreation, which is insufficient for the summer season due to heavy mowing requirements. Additionally, per the DPW, the hired temporary summer staff is not very useful because they are not able to legally use equipment due to proper safety training requirements and age restrictions.
- » Staff Training is needed to improve the staff's skill set and promote personal responsibility. For example, DPW should send a few staff for the ISA Arborist Certification, the PSU Extension Tree Trimming webinar/course, a Stihl safety course, a Pesticide/Herbicide Certification, and/or Playground Safety Training.
- » All parks with play grounds should have a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) inspect the play areas on an annual basis. The City can have a staff member take the class and get certified, or contract out this work.
- » The City may consider create a new position that is focused on storm water management, green infrastructure and ecosystem restoration. This person, based under Parks & Recreation, would interact with DPW, the City Planner, Flood Control, and the Shade Tree Commission and create a better flow of information between departments.

- **Contract Out Specialized Work**

- » The City should consider contracting out specialized tasks and/or time-consuming tasks that a contractor can complete more efficiently than the City. Hired contractors also have Professional Liability insurance to keep the City better covered.
- » For example, through a CoStars Playground Representative, contract out the supply and installation of playground safety surfacing (Engineered Wood Fiber) across all City Parks.
- » One potential specialty task is the shut-down / winterizing and re-opening of aquatic facilities like the pool complexes, the Novembrino Splash Pad and all appurtenant buildings. The current staff is competent; however, it is a large job for only two trained staff, especially with the many other park tasks to complete in Spring and Fall. The current staff would bear responsibility of operating the systems throughout the Summer.

- **Need Better Control Over the Use of Park Land and Athletic Facilities**

- » Consistent and structured oversight is needed for non-standard usage of park facilities. This includes any reservations or rentals of park pavilions, shelters and buildings. This also includes more formal MOU's, leases, concession permits, etc. for buildings, and fields in City parks or on City land.
- » The City must clearly state through lease agreements what is the maintenance expectations from all parties to avoid gray areas. The Law Department is currently reviewing, rewriting and trying to standardize this process across all parks, which will establish clear responsibilities and protections for both parties.
- » City should hold annual meetings with all entities that have long term leases, or agreements

to utilize City lands. This will be a valuable use of time to identify any concerns or issues on either side and address them quickly. Communication is key for successful partnerships.

- » Parks & Recreation (director of staff) should develop and manage a spreadsheet and calendar to book parties, to keep track of scheduling and to document any agreement violations. Currently rentals at Robinson Park and Nay Aug Park are not run through the Parks Department.

- » If properly managed, having parks used by private, non-profit and/or youth associations is beneficial for several reasons. They provide a source of money to support programming and park improvements, and act as a catalyst for increased park use and assistance with park maintenance.

Nay Aug Black Watch Coffee Shop



Scranton Parks Renderings
Proposed Design Renderings
07/22/2025

FANCY PARSLEY
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

- **Park & Public Safety**

- » Installation of cameras linked to the Scranton Police Station and Parks and Recreation should be standard practice at park facilities. Signs stating cameras are in use are a deterrent for vandalism and crime.
- » Increased policing/security for Parks; perhaps through a partnership with the Scranton Police Department, the Police can add a specific Parks Division to their force, where two or more officers are dedicated to park patrols. These officers can be trained in conservation, similar to DCNR park rangers. The Conservation Officer Program at Lackawanna College may provide a source of new recruits.
- » Another option is to examine the value of adding more Police substations at City Parks like Connell Park, Novembrino Splash Park, and/or Nay Aug Park.

- **Focus Improvement Efforts on the Most Needed Spaces**

- » Refer to 'Phasing and Construction' section below.

- **Increase Maintenance Efficiency**

- » Firstly, define the full responsibilities of the Parks & Recreation staff. Park employees need better defined responsibilities and structure. There is currently no standard or clear expectations for union workers. It is also hard to gauge individual accountability because workers are not assigned specific facilities.
- » Thus, park staff should be organized into crews (A, B, C, n....) and assigned a set number of parks within a manageable geographic area within the City. Having a known crew in charge

of specific parks will allow for better assessment of workmanship and overall accountability. It will hopefully grow personal responsibility and allow the staff to make more meaningful connections with local park users. The crews will also have a better pulse on current and changing needs within parks and any needed short-term improvements moving forward.

- » One way to increase efficiency is to assure that both DPW and Parks & Recreation have facilities that foster efficiency - adequate, organized space with storage and garage space. The establishment of an enlarged central DPW facility, as well as, a few satellite facilities in West Scranton and South Scranton will allow DPW to handle trash removal and snow removal in a more efficient way. DPW explained the need for a smaller park-specific garbage truck would dramatically improve their ability to clean and remove trash from City Parks.
 - » Another suggestion, with merit, is to relocate the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Garage from Weston Field to a new facility that shares space with the DPW. This can promote efficiency and lessen duplication of equipment. More importantly, it will remove potential safety hazards at Weston Field that occur when overlapping recreational facilities with maintenance activities without clear and defined separation. Shared recreation and maintenance space is restricted by PA DCNR.
 - » Mowing is by far the biggest drain on resources in the summer. Some of the larger or more natural parks, like Nay Aug, Robinson, and Connell Park can be redefined to leave un-mowed (or cut 1-2 a year) sections as conservation areas to lessen the overall acres of mowed lawn. This technique will reduce mowing time and still keep a maintained look.
- **Increase Accessibility and Inclusivity**
 - » The City should add 1-2 new and accessible features to established parks that are not currently in need of a full make-over, like Billy Barrett Park, Crowley Park, Dorothy Park and Orchard Street Park. This will help add a splash of excitement to the park and encourage use by all residents. Although this will not make the parks fully inclusive, these additions are still valuable and they can increase quality of life for local residents - perhaps someone with a disability no longer has to always drive outside of their neighborhood to enjoy a park.
 - » Beyond the retrofit option, the City should consider the construction of a fully inclusive play area, at a focal park like Nay Aug.
 - » Continue with goals of fixing broken infrastructure, improving park circulation patterns and installing more wellness loops within City parks. These features have multiple value, one of which is providing accessible parking and accessible routes to better connect park facilities.
- **Park Standards**
 - » A standard signage package is needed for all parks. Many parks lack park signs including entrance signs and park rules. A few of the harder to locate parks like Weston Park and Connell Park need directional signage, as well.
 - » All parks should have security cameras, power and internet access.
 - » All parks need restrooms (indoor, port-a-lavs, vault toilets) and adequate shade and seating at playground facilities. Shade can be accomplished in several ways, ranging from low to high

costs, via trees, site design, shelters and/or through shade structures.

- **Create Multi-Functional Parks - Green Infrastructure and Environmental Benefits**
 - » All parks should be assessed with a holistic approach. Incorporate green infrastructure where possible to help with City MS4 requirements and spur more partnership with PA American Water. Storm water control is a key issue for most Pennsylvania communities, which is why storm water is a key element to design for and try to utilize - make storm water an asset and not always a constraint. Future park projects should include planning elements that will account for storm water control on site. Additionally, existing problems should be redesigned to avoid safety hazards caused by storm water. Innovative storm water management and green infrastructure can be built into most project sites. Bioretention swales, expansion of the vegetated riparian buffers, vegetated swales and rain garden areas are examples of storm water facilities that can capture and filter storm water prior to entry into local streams.
 - » Initiate a composting program, with stockpile areas in or near certain city parks, where nearby residents can dump yard waste. Also, the City should reuse any spent safety surfacing from play grounds in park landscaping or along riparian lands to facilitate several local sapling planting projects.

5.2 PHASING AND CONSTRUCTION

Because of the complexity and varying needs of each park, in our opinion, the following is a justifiable approach to project phasing:

- » **Safety & Accessibility First**
Complete all short - term improvements related to safety and accessibility and all items classified as High Priority.
- » **Listen to the People**
Fix parks that have not seen improvements over the last 20 years (Robinson, Oakmont, Grace Street) and that already strong have interest and support from the immediate neighborhood. Choose final location(s) and start final plans/designs and fund raising for a new skate park.
- » **Focus on Regional Parks**
Nay Aug Park is the signature park in Scranton and Weston Field is home to the Parks & Recreation Department. These facilities are statement facilities and they are utilized and judged by both residents and tourists.

Also, implement unique and exciting improvements, like the proposed pump track and a renovated dog park, that will facilitate the shift of Connell Park from a Community Park into a Regional Park.
- » **Park Assessment Rankings**
Allocate funding to those existing parks that exhibit the highest score based upon 'Current Urgency & Support for Plan Implementation,' as outlined below and as determined by the consultant team's professional opinion during this planning process. Note: This list and these rankings should be reevaluated every year to remain current.

- **Highest [9-10]:** High interest from City and community; Public survey showed a need; Park neglected or overdue for improvements; Park in strategic location to serve the most residents; Funding already in place or applied for via grants.
- **High [6-8]:** Needed improvements once completed can help finalize or help a park meet its full build-out potential; Public survey showed a need; Targeted funding available for the specific improvement.
- **Medium [3-5]:** Park may have undergone recent improvements; Public survey showed only partial need for upgrades; Funding and partnership not yet in place.
- **Lowest [1-2]:** Park has been recently upgraded and it is no longer in need of improvements; Site is open space and does not require much investment; No public support identified or the site is minimally used; City should defer park investment if final, long-term plans are not fully known.

Table 3. Current (2021) Park Rankings*

Highest (9-10)	High (6-8)	Medium (3-5)	Lowest (1-2)
Oakmont Park [10]	Capouse Avenue Pool [8]	Billy Barrett Park [5]	Rockwell / McLain Park [2]
Robinson Park [10]	Connell Park [8]	Crowley Park [5]	Sunset Island [2]
Grace Street Park [9]	Nay Aug Park [8]	Fellows Park [5]	Woodlawn Islands [2]
Weston Field [9]	Bill Gerrity Park [7]	Novembrino Splash Park [5]	Chic Feldman Field [1]
	Clover Field [7]	Renaissance Park [5]	Duffy Park [1]
	Linden Street Park [7]	The Lookout [5]	Jackson Street Park [1]
	Weston Park [7]	Central City Little League [3]	Powderly Park [1]
	Allen Park [6]	Darcey/Richter Ave. Park [3]	
	Connors / Orchard Street Park [6]	Sturgis/Pretzel Park [3]	
	Dorothy Street Park [6]		
	North Scranton Mini Park [6]		

(*) - Ranked by consultant team; based on the public survey, site inventory

Field, Weston Park, Novembrino Splash Park, Robinson Park, et. al.) have buildings and pavilions that can house gatherings in all weather.

- The Parks & Recreation Director should create a new committee to act as a think tank and brain storm exciting events. For example, *the PATH committee - Parks At The Heart* - can initiate partnerships with local businesses, schools, non-profits, and restaurants to create fun activities in the parks. Ideas are limitless: Electric City Aquarium at Novembrino; 5K runs between parks; Anthracite Bicycle Coalition at the Connell Park Pump Track; Cross-Fit, Yoga studios offer classes in the park.... The Parks & Recreation Department should prepare an annual City events calendar for distribution every January.
- The Parks & Recreation Department should team with the School District and offer a City Summer Camp program. It can be a worthwhile endeavor that can even raise funds for Park System. They will participate in games, activities, and even some park maintenance, like weeding and planting new trees and flowers.

5.4 FUTURE STUDIES & PLANNING INITIATIVES

• Youth Sports Programs

A full assessment of youth sports programs in the City is needed in the next 1-3 years (enrollment, sustainability, needs, enough fields/courts, too many?). The leagues, which are currently on file with the City, are listed below. The status of the current leases varies, with many expired. Several of the leagues are dissolved, like the Central City Little League, which merged with Green Ridge Little League.

Scranton School District
 East Scranton Little League
 North Scranton Vikings
 South Scranton Connell Park Little League
 South Scranton Little League
 Tripp Park Miss-E League
 Central City Little League
 Luzerne/Lackawanna Soccer
 Scranton School District - Soccer

West Scranton Little League, Inc. Jr. Invaders
 North Scranton Little League
 Senior Little League
 South Side Football Organization
 Green Ridge Little League
 Minooka Little League
 Scranton Youth Soccer
 Scranton Social Sports Club
 Lackawanna Little League

These programs should be run through the City. There should be required yearly meetings to discuss leases, field conditions, sustainability of the leagues, as well as, needs and potential grant applications. All grants applications will be run through the City, this includes any grants in partnership with Lackawanna County.

• Vacant Lot Study

A full assessment of the strategic value of city-owned vacant lots should be initiated. 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.

5.3 PROGRAMMING

- Programs that are interesting, fun and educational are needed throughout the City and the existing parks are ideal venues for these activities. Several of the parks (Nay Aug, Weston

5.5 PARK OVERSIGHT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Ongoing public interest in City Parks is crucial for the Park System to reach its full potential and grow into a source of neighborhood pride. The City once had an Adopt-a-Park Program; however, it has faded in projects, participants and effectiveness. Several remnant signs are visible in parks. The City has two separate, but complimentary programs that are poised to once again seek assistance from the community - The Mayor's Volunteer Corps and the more in-depth Park Ambassador Program.

» **Mayor's Volunteer Corps**

More than 70 Scranton residents already enlisted in Mayor Paige Gebhardt Cognetti's burgeoning volunteer corps in 2020/2021. These community-minded volunteers will conduct neighborhood and park cleanups around the city during specified times throughout the year. Megan Preambo, the acting deputy director of the city's Licensing, Inspections and Permits Department, is overseeing the volunteer corps program.



» **City of Scranton Park Ambassador Program**

(as outlined by Councilman Gaughan) Councilman Gaughan has proposed and started to enact a Park Ambassador Program. This all-volunteer program gives the public an opportunity to promote community stewardship and bridge any communication gap between the community and the Parks & Recreation Department. The Park Ambassador program will send a message that the community cares about its parks, and that the City in turn will strive to be responsive to identified needs.

Through weekly visits to the park, Ambassadors would document maintenance needs, report acts of vandalism, interact with park users, promote park safety and encourage an overall positive use of public space. The Ambassador position is a minimum one-year commitment and requires volunteers to attend an Ambassador Orientation prior to participation in the program.

Objectives for the Park Ambassador program are to bridge the line of communication between the community and Scranton Parks and Recreation Department; assist Scranton Parks and Recreation with the general maintenance and upkeep of parks through close observation which will enhance safety for park visitors while, at the same time, provide a presence to deter crime and vandalism; encourage the community to take a proactive approach in maintaining the integrity and intended use of parks and green space.

Once trained, volunteers are expected to:

- » visit park at least once per week to assess the overall condition
- » report unusual or suspicious activity taking place in the park
- » complete one-page Observation Report on park condition and park activity once per month and submit it to the program supervisor
- » organize one park beautification work day and schedule with volunteer coordinator a minimum of once per year

City of Scranton Parks and Recreation will:

- » orient individuals and/or groups to the Park Ambassador program

- » keep Ambassadors informed of park projects or activities taking place in adopted park
- » provide maintenance tools and arrange for the use of maintenance equipment during scheduled beautification days
- » recognize Ambassadors on Web page and provide Ambassador names to Scranton Police Department

» **Scranton Municipal Recreation Authority (SMRA)**

This Authority is currently focused solely on Nay Aug Park, and recently has been doing a great job with park cleanup and landscaping. They are also looking long-term with fundraising for an inclusive play area. However, can this Authority be expanded across the Park System? Can other parks garner enough support and involvement to meet similar success like Nay Aug?

As suggested above, a Park System-wide Authority would be comprised of representatives from each major neighborhood, or each zip code and adjusted to have adequate representation based on population distribution. For example, a highly populated zip code may warrant two representatives. Representative would report ASAP to Parks & Recreation on any park issues and participate in quarterly meetings with Parks & Recreation.

» **Neighborhood Associations**

The current list of 16 Associations are listed below. The current interests, causes and involvement of these Associations can be fluid and even political at times. Additionally, they vary in scope and mission amongst each other. It is important for Parks & Recreation to have meetings with the Associations and explore the potential for better partnership or at a minimum a vessel to disseminate important park event information.

- | | |
|--|--|
| - Dutch Hollow Association | - Green Ridge Neighborhood Association |
| - Lower Green Ridge Association | - Pine Brook Neighborhood Association |
| - North Scranton Neighborhood Watch | - Weston Field/Bulls Head Resistance Group |
| - Plot Neighborhood Association | - Hill Neighborhood Association |
| - Minooka Neighborhood Association | - South Side Neighborhood Association |
| - East Mountain Resident's Association | - Oakmont Neighborhood Association |
| - Tripp Park Neighborhood Association | - West Scranton Hyde Park Neighborhood Watch |
| - West Scranton Neighborhood Association | - Keyser Valley Neighborhood Association |

5.6 FUNDING OPTIONS

A goal of this plan is to focus the city on current needs and long-term planning goals. The provided master plans and budgets will facilitate the preparation of grant applications and the attainment of funding. This is considered Phase II of this process. The consultant team has already assisted the City of Scranton's grant writer and OECD on 7 grant applications, with results pending in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022. One grant to fund construction of a pump track in Connell Park was approved through the Pennsylvania Environmental Council in June 2021 and will be built this fall with matching funds from the City's OECD Block Grant Program.

» **5.6.a Scranton Office of Economic & Community Development**

Role of Scranton OECD is crucial for park development. Through restructuring, Scranton OECD will now oversee all grant and funding applications. This will provide consistency and eliminate internal competition and favoritism. OECD will have set rules that all partnering groups will have

to meet. Additionally, for all recreation based applications, the Scranton Parks & Recreation Department must be briefed, approve the project and be a partner. These groups may include, Little Leagues, Neighborhood Groups, and Civic organizations. OECD will be a valuable resource in directing interested partners to the proper and most-advantageous sources of funding. The city should maintain a full-time grants writer to take advantage of the continual stream of grant opportunities available at the state and federal level, and to aid in city staff in efficient project management to assure compliance with all administrative and technical grant requirements.

» **5.6.b Funding Opportunities**

There are many options to secure funding for parks, wellness, and trails including federal, state, and local agencies. There are also private groups and entities available for assistance, as well. Below are several available options for the funding of trail development, implementation, and maintenance.

Federal Sources of Funding

- American Rescue Plan Act provides an opportunity for counties and municipalities to fund conservation, trails, parks, and recreation as part of COVID -19 recovery strategies in Pennsylvania.
- The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The RTP is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Federal transportation funds benefit recreation including hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or using other off-road motorized vehicles. https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/
- Americorps has been around for over 50 years and was started by President John F. Kennedy as a domestic version of the Peace Corps. There are several programs such as the Vista program which provides a skilled volunteer in a specific area for a set period of time (usually one year). These are volunteers whom upon completion of the program receive a stipend. They can aide in many things from trail maintenance to grant writing.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers funding that provides opportunities for the community to use and enjoy fish and wildlife through non-consumptive activities. Potential assistance is available for expanding public recreational opportunities pertaining to wildlife enjoyment, including trails and waterways.
- NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund can support green Infrastructure and trail projects, especially those that lessen pollution to the Chesapeake Bay, which this project can accomplish through mine land reclamation and reduced sediment loading.
- EPA Five Star Urban Waters Restoration Grant is focused on ecological improvements with targeted community outreach, education, and stewardship. May work well for restoration initiatives in the Leggett's Creek Corridor and along the Lackawanna River.

State Sources of Funding

- Community Conservation Partnership Program Grants (C2P2) Funded through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (BRC), is supports recreation, park, trail, and conservation projects. These include the rehabilitation and development of parks and recreation facilities; acquisition of land for park and conservation purposes; and technical assistance for feasibility studies, trails studies, and site development planning. Within C2P2 are the DCNR PA Recreational Trails Program and the DCNR Rails-to- Trails Program. <https://www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us/GrantPrograms.aspx>
- Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship Fund was established in 1999 through a commitment of \$650,000,000 to fund conservation and environmental protection projects, including trails. Growing Greener II included \$625 million in 2005; however, much of that funding has been depleted. This program struggles for adequate funding but may be a source in the future especially if it is geared toward green infrastructure. <http://www.growinggreener.info>
- CFA Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program funds up to \$250,000 of any project and requires a 15% local cash match of total project costs. Projects that benefit from this funding includes public parks, recreation areas, greenways, trails and river conservation areas. <http://www.newpa.com/GTRP>
- PEC Pocono Forests & Waters Conservation Landscape Mini-Grants. This grant was used for the Connell Park Pump Track.
- CFA Multimodal Transportation Funds can be used for development, rehabilitation and enhancement of transportation assets to existing, streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancements, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets and transit-oriented development. This can be used to fund safe street crossings and work along the streets leading to parks. Grants are available for projects over \$100,000 and a maximum amount of \$3,000,000. Funds must be matched by local funding not less than 30% and funds from a county or municipality must be cash. <http://www.newpa.com/find-and-apply-for-funding/funding-andprogramfinder/multimodal-transportation-fund>
- PA DCED Local Share Account (LSA) Monroe County: Funds may be used for economic development, community development and public interest projects, including in Lackawanna County. Pennsylvania DCED - LSA Act 71 and ACT 13
- Marcellus Legacy Fund (Act 13) distributes unconventional gas well impact fees to counties, municipalities and Commonwealth agencies. It can be used for recreational trails. It has dispersed more than \$475,000,000 for recreation, environmental and conservation projects since 2013. It is currently one of the more stable state funds.
- DEP Environmental Education Grants Program supports and strengthens environmental education in PA. These EE Grants are funded by a 1993 mandate that 5% of some pollution fines and penalties the DEP collects annually are set aside for environmental education. <http://www.dep.pa.gov/citizens/environmentaleducation>
- Adopt-a-Stream Program is provided by the PA Fish and Boat Commission and involves group sponsored cleanups and fish habitat improvement projects. The commission provides funding, assistance, and materials. There is a similar program called Adopt-an-Access from the PA Fish and

Boat Commission as that can be used along Leggett's Creek, the Lackawanna River and other streams throughout the city.

Local Sources of Funding

- Lackawanna Heritage Valley Educational Mini-Grants for programming and educational signage needs
- PA American Water may want to partner to design and install green infrastructure within City parks. Refer to the Green Infrastructure plan already completed by the Scranton Sewer Authority before they were sold to PA American. American Water is also a key stakeholder within the Leggett's Creek Greenway.
- Through partnerships with local municipalities, specific departments such as public works or parks department may be a solid source for in-kind matching funds. In some communities revenues for recreation and trail development have been attained through property tax, sales tax or bond measures - these funds are then available via grants. Additionally, trails alongside roadways may be eligible for transportation, complete streets, and other roadway improvements funding sources.
- Trails have increasingly become an important component in many municipal planning decisions. Multi-use trails are considered low-impact transportation and recreation infrastructure facilities that benefit the host community and may extend across several adjacent municipalities. Multi-municipal projects are most likely to receive favorable reviews from many grant fund sources.

Private and Non-Profits

- American Water Environmental Grant Program awards grants of up to \$10,000 to support diverse types of environmental sustainability activities such as watershed cleanups, reforestation efforts, biodiversity projects, streamside buffer restoration projects and hazardous waste collection efforts. <https://www.amwater.com/paaw/about-us/environmental-stewardship>
- National Trails Fund Grants range from \$500 to \$5,000 for non-profit organizations that are committed to protecting nature and helping Americans enjoy the outdoors. The purpose of this grant is to support organizations that establish, protect and maintain foot/hiking trails across America.
- PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program provides funding for important projects that build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. These projects include bike paths and rail trails, as well as mountain bike trails, bike parks, BMX facilities, and large-scale bicycle advocacy initiatives. <https://peopleforbikes.org/our-work/community-grants/>

APPENDIX

Appendix A:
Site Inventory & Analysis Notes

Appendix B:
Public Outreach/Survey

Appendix C:
Annual Maintenance Schedule

Appendix D:
Short-Term Park Improvements

Appendix E:
Long Term Park Improvements

Appendix F:
Greenway Mapping

