

Snell and Norton Park

DRAFT - Master Plan

March, 2010



Lower Pottsgrove Township
Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

Snell and Norton Park

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Lower Pottsgrove Township

*2199 Buchert Road
Pottstown, PA 19464*

This study was prepared by:



511 Old Lancaster Road
Berwyn, PA 19312
Phone: 610-889-0348 Fax: 610-889-7521
www.simonecollins.com

Project Committee:

Rodney Hawthorne, *Lower Pottsgrove Twp. Manager*

Alyson Elliott, *Lower Pottsgrove Twp. Assistant Manager*

Jennifer Corley, *Lower Pottsgrove Twp. Parks & Recreation Coordinator*

Stephen Klotz, *Lower Pottsgrove Twp. Commissioner / Sports Group Organizer*

Michael McGroarty, *Lower Pottsgrove Twp. Planning Commission*

Rich Wood, *Twp. Parks & Recreation Board/MC Parks & Rec. Dept./Pottsgrove Soccer/ Neighbor*

Loretta Holinka, *Park Neighbor*

Willard Bickel, *Sanatoga Ridge Community*

Steve Wurtz, *Park Neighbor*

Phil Lang, *Park Neighbor*

Chris Lucci, *Park Neighbor*

PJ McGill, *Park Neighbor*

Nat Bartholomew, *Park Neighbor*

Jim Pinto, *Park Neighbor*

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INTRODUCTION

The 32-acre Snell & Norton Park is an unimproved open space property located in Lower Pottsgrove Township, Pennsylvania. This property is characterized by its diversity of natural features including: fallow agricultural fields, a successional cedar forest, streams and woodlands. This varying landscape provides a green oasis in a midst of residential neighborhoods.

The Township applied for and received a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant to prepare the master plan according to DCNR guidelines.

In July 2009, Lower Pottsgrove Township solicited proposals from consultants to plan the future recreational uses of Snell and Norton Park. The Township's Open Space Plan recommendations in combination with ideas from the public, project committee, Township staff, and consultants have evolved into the master plan presented in this report. This document outlines the planning process and the Master Plan design.



Aerial photograph of the site.

1. Introduction

Master Plan Purpose & Goals

The goal of this master plan is to make the Park accessible to a wider variety of users, while respecting the natural and cultural integrity of the site.

Regional Context

Lower Pottsgrove Township is a second class township located in western Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The Township has a total land area of approximately 7.9 square miles. The Township is considered an inner ring suburb of Pottstown Borough and outer ring suburb of Philadelphia. The southern portion of the Township is served by the U.S. Route 422 bypass which connects Philadelphia (about 35 miles to the southeast) to Reading (about 20 miles to the northwest). The Township's development pattern along the 422 corridor is distinctly denser than the more rural northern portion of the Township. This strategic location, coupled with ample highway access, has allowed the Township to become a fairly developed community that is experiencing increasing development pressures.

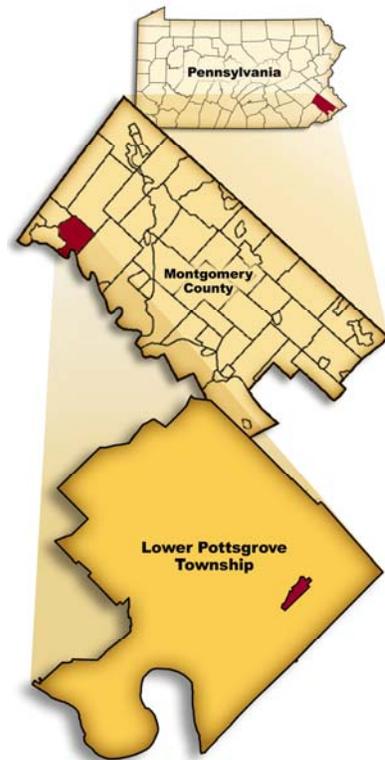
Demographics

According to the 2000 census Lower Pottsgrove Township has a population of over 12,000 residents. Lower Pottsgrove has a significant mix of young families and residents over 55 - creating a need for diverse recreational facilities and uses.

According to the Lower Pottsgrove Township Open Space and Environmental Resource Plan, population is projected to be 13,880 in 2010, or an increase of 23.7%. The population is expected to continue to grow at a higher than average rate into the foreseeable future. In 2020, it is projected to reach 15,140 (+9.1%) and by 2025, it is projected to reach 15,540 (+2.6%). The projected population increase from 2000 to 2025 is 38.6%. These numbers confirm the importance of preserving lands for active and passive recreational uses for this growing population.

Objectives:

- Provide background information about the community that will place the Master Plan reader within the context of the community and the overall park system;
- Incorporate community ideas into the Master Plan;
- Prepare the plan in conformance with DCNR guidelines;
- Develop a master plan that respects the natural features of the site and adjacent areas;
- Use sustainable design principles and materials; and,
- Provide recommendations for park improvements and operational issues such as safety, security and risk management.



Regional Context Map.