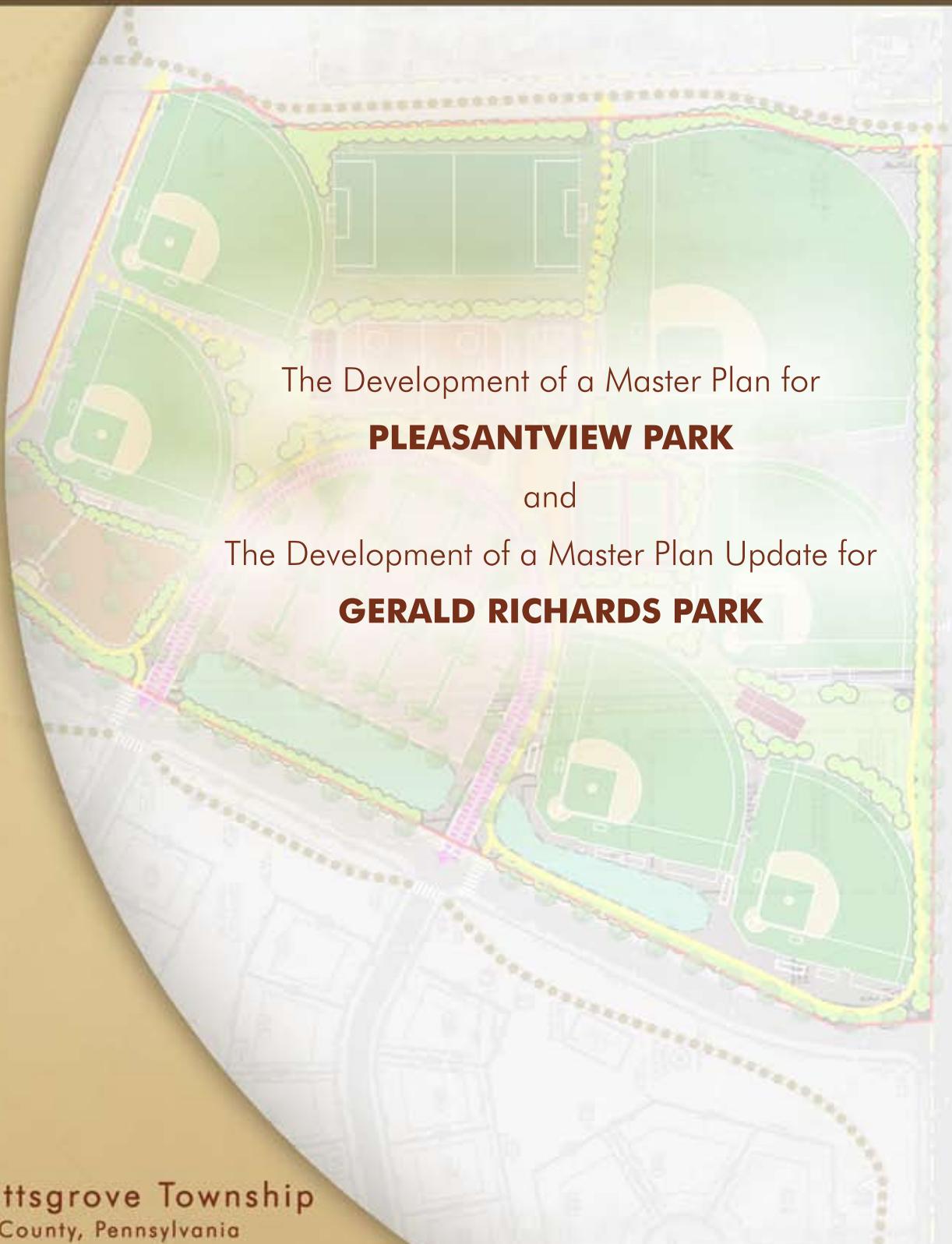


Gerald Richards Park & Pleasantview Park DRAFT MASTER PLANS

March, 2011



The Development of a Master Plan for

PLEASANTVIEW PARK

and

The Development of a Master Plan Update for

GERALD RICHARDS PARK

The Development of a Master Plan for
PLEASANTVIEW PARK

AND

A Master Plan Update for
GERALD RICHARDS PARK

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CHAPTER I – INTRODUCTION	1
Master Plan Purpose and Goals	1-2
Objectives	1
Regional Context	2
Demographics	2
CHAPTER II – ANALYSIS	3
Township Park and Recreation System	3
Context within the Park System	5-6
Relevant Planning Documents	6-12
Master Plan Process	12-13
Scope of Work Summary	13
Public Participation Process	13-14
Data Collection Methodology / Site Data	14-27
Activity and Facility Analysis	27-28
CHAPTER III – MASTER PLAN	29
Meeting Consensus	29
Gerald Richards Alternative Concept Plans	30-32
Gerald Richards DRAFT Plan	32-33
Pleasantview Alternative Concept Plans	34-35
Pleasantview DRAFT Plan	36
Master Plan	36
Site Maintenance	36-40
Security Analysis	40-41
CHAPTER IV-IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING STRATEGY	43
Project Phasing	43-44
Estimate of Probable Development Costs	44
Phased Capitol Program	44
Accessibility	46
Regulatory Requirements	46
Potential Funding Sources	47-52
LIST OF MAPS AND FIGURES	
Chart #1-Township Recreation Facilities	4
Open Space and School Parcel Map	6
Public / Committee Meeting Schedule	13
Spring Valley Farms Land Development Plan	17
Gerald Richards Site Analysis Plan	18
Pleasantview Site Analysis Plan	19
Figure “A” - Gerald Richards Soils Survey	21
Figure “B” - Pleasantview Soils Survey	21
Gerald Richards Alternative Concept Plans	31
Gerald Richards DRAFT Plan & Phasing Plan	33
Pleasantview Alternative Concept Plans	35
Pleasantview DRAFT Plan & Phasing Plan	37
Estimates of Probable Development Costs (summary)	45
APPENDIX	
Estimates of Probable Development Costs	
Sign in Sheets / Meeting Notes	
PNDI Search Results	
Press Releases / Newspaper Articles	
Gerald Richards & Pleasantview Concept Plans	
Deed Information	

Table of Contents

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Aerial photograph of Gerald Richards Park.



Aerial photograph of Pleasantview Park.

Objectives:

- Provide master plans for Gerald Richards and Pleasantview Parks that fit within the context of the Township's overall park system;
- Meet criteria for a DNCR master planning process;
- Develop a master plan that respects the natural features of the land and lands adjoining the park area; and,
- Use sustainable design principles and materials where deemed appropriate.

INTRODUCTION

Faced with a deficit of active recreation facilities in the community, Lower Pottsgrove Township commissioned this study to update the master plan for Gerald Richards Park, and to develop a new master plan for Pleasantview Park. The 32 acre Gerald Richards Park is a heavily used active recreation park offering a variety athletic facilities. Pleasantview Park is a 23 acre undeveloped open space property characterized by agricultural fields. The Township wishes to concurrently plan both properties for future re-development / development in an effort to expand recreational opportunities for its' residents.

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

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 plans presented in this report. This document outlines the planning process and the Master Plan designs for both parks.

Master Plan Purpose & Goals

To develop a master site plan for Pleasantview Park and a master plan update for Gerald Richards Park that will help meet the active recreation needs of the Township's diverse population.

1. Introduction

Regional Context

Lower Pottsgrove Township is a first 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 year 2000 US 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.

Detailed 2010 US Census Bureau data specific to Lower Pottsgrove Township is expected to be released after April 1, 2011.

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.



Regional Context Map.