

Recreational services are an outlet for youth and adults to expend energy in addition to providing a positive atmosphere for residents to interact with each other. The availability of recreation facilities lends to the quality of life within a community and families typically prefer to reside within a municipality that has an extensive recreation system.

A. Existing Conditions

In 1997, Greenville Borough, in cooperation with the Greenville Area Leisure Services Association (GALSA), a Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan was completed to identify future needs regarding recreation services for Greenville Borough, Hempfield Township, and West Salem Township. Although this plan was never officially adopted by the borough, it contains an overview and an inventory of parks and recreation facilities and services. The plan also contains recommendations for all three municipalities as well as GALSA regarding facilities, programming, financing, and administration. The plan is further addressed under the Analysis of Existing Conditions where appropriate.

Greenville Recreation Center

Greenville Borough's first municipal recreation effort was the purchase of the USO building at Riverside Park following WWII. The USO building provided services to over 800,000 soldiers and remains a significant component of the municipal park system. This building is currently being used as the Greenville Recreation Center.

Located at 45 Alan Avenue in Riverside Park, the Rec Center provides numerous recreational programs throughout the year ranging from ballroom dance lessons to adult basketball / volleyball to youth basketball to hosting elementary and junior high dances. The Greenville Recreation Center is also home to the Greenville Area Leisure Services Association.



Greenville Recreation Center (Mackin, 2003)

Greenville Area Leisure Services Association (GALSA)

In 1948, Greenville Borough, Greenville Area School District and the United Way of Northern Mercer County came together and created the Greenville Community Association by resolution. In 1978 the Association changed its name to the Greenville Area Leisure Services Association (GALSA). GALSA is an agency of Greenville Borough that provides recreation programming for Greenville Borough, surrounding municipalities, and to manage the parks in the area. GALSA services five school districts: Greenville Area, Commodore Perry, Reynolds, Lakeview, and Jamestown, as well as St. Michaels.

GALSA is funded through contributions made by the three primary sources, Greenville Borough, Greenville Area School District, and the United Way, as well as revenues generated from user-fees, fundraisers, and contributions from outside sources.

GALSA staff consists of three office people, an executive director, a program director, and an office manager, along with a full-time maintenance worker. During the summer months, between 70 and 80 part-time maintenance workers are employed to assist with park maintenance. GALSA is overseen by a Board, which is comprised of two Borough Council members, six community residents, and the borough manager.

Affiliated organizations with GALSA are the Greenville Area Youth Soccer Association, the Greenville Memorial Swimming Pool, the Greenville Area Ladies Softball, the Greenville Area Community Theatre, the Canal Museum, the Greenville Area Church Co-ed Softball, and Kid's Korner Day Care.

Kid's Korner Day Care is a program sponsored by GALSA and is open to children between ages 0 and 12. Children of the ages 0-5 are cared for at the First Baptist Church while children between 6-12 years are cared for at the Rec Center.

Riverside Park

Riverside Park is a 90-acre park located in downtown Greenville on land that was donated to the borough by the several prominent Greenville families during the mid-1940s. There are many recreational amenities and facilities located within the park that include the following:

- Amphitheatre
- Nature Center
- Walking Trail
- Multi-use field
- Cooper Field
- Pavilions (open and closed)
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Volleyball Nets
- Horseshoe Pits



Riverside Park (Mackin, 2003)

- Variety of Playground Equipment for All Ages

Pavilions and fields are available for residents to rent out for all occasions.

Other facilities located in Riverside Park include the Greenville Recreation Center and the Greenville Memorial Swimming Pool. The Greenville Recreation Center was built as a USO building and was bought by the borough after World War II.

As a component of the Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan for Greenville Borough, a Riverside Park Swimming Pool Feasibility Study and Sketch Master Plan were also developed. Some of the recommendations include:



Riverside Park Amphitheatre (Mackin, 2003)

Greenville Memorial Swimming Pool

The Greenville Memorial Swimming Pool is located in Riverside Park. The pool is affiliated with GALSA but is run by a separate board of directors. The pool was open in 2003 from June 7th until August 17th from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. daily. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between July 7th and August 1st, the hours were extended until 8:00 p.m. Additional evening hours depended on the weather.



Greenville Memorial Swimming Pool (Mackin, 2003)

The pool is available to rent for all occasions on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturday and Sunday evenings at a starting rate of \$40 / hour. Season passes are also available. The pool also offers Red Cross Swimming Lessons, Lifeguarding Red Cross Certifications, and a host of other community events during the course of the season.

Greenville Area Sports Complex

The Greenville Area Sports Complex is located on East Jamestown Road in West Salem Township. When Paschek Associates was commissioned to complete the comprehensive parks, recreation and open space plan in 1997, they were also hired to complete a Greenville Area Leisure Services Association Sports Complex Master Site Development Plan. In 2000, Greenville Borough received a grant from Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and constructed the \$1.8 million sports complex. The sports complex is an outdoor facility built on property that is leased by the borough from St. Paul's (a retirement center) for \$1 / 50 years.



Greenville Area Sports Complex (Mackin, 2003)

The Sports Complex covers 42 acres and includes approximately four soccer fields, three softball / baseball fields, a 1.2-mile fitness trail, concession stand, pavilions, picnic benches / tables, indoor restrooms, and other amenities.

York Street Play Lot – is a small, 1/2 acre play lot located on York Street in a residential neighborhood near the Trinity site. The lot has playground equipment suitable for younger children. Signage is present indicating the park name and hours of operation. There are sidewalks and fences that border the lot and provide a buffer from the street and traffic.

Central Park – is approximately one acre and located on Main Street and South Penn Avenues in downtown Greenville Borough. The park is mostly open space with an honor roll. Park benches are present for residents.



York Street Play Lot (Mackin, 2003)

Prairie Park – is a small, one-acre park located at the intersection of College and Main Street in Greenville Borough.

Other parks / parklets located in Greenville Borough include Riverview Park and Diamond Park. These areas are owned by Greenville Borough and maintained by GALSA.

Hempfield Township Municipal Park

Hempfield Township Municipal Park is the only municipally owned park or recreation area in Hempfield Township. The park is located at the corner of Fredonia Road and St. Glory Road in the township. It is a 150-acre park that includes:

- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Court
- Variety of Playground Equipment for All Ages
- Three Outdoor Pavilions

Hempfield Township maintenance personnel maintain the park.



Hempfield Township Municipal Park (Hempfield Twp, 2005)

Greenville Area School District

There are numerous recreational facilities owned by Greenville Area School District that are located at each school facility.

- ⇒ East Side Elementary—facilities include an all purpose room, a playground and a playing field. All facilities at this school have limited use.
- ⇒ Hempfield Elementary School—facilities include an all purpose gymnasium, a playground, and a ball field. GALSA uses the gymnasium and ball field.
- ⇒ Greenville High School—facilities include a gymnasium, auxiliary gymnasium, soccer field, weight room, track and field, outdoor basketball court, and tennis courts. The outdoor facilities are open to the public and there is limited access to the indoor facilities.

Thiel College

Thiel College owns and operates a few recreational facilities on their campus in Greenville Borough. Facilities include a baseball field, tennis courts, gymnasium, and a multi-purpose field. Thiel College works cooperatively with GALSA in sharing fields and services. Prior to the closing of Thiel's indoor pool, the college and GALSA exchanged uses of the ball fields at Riverside Park for swimming lessons at the pool. The Master Plan for Thiel College contains recommendations to construct an indoor and outdoor sports complex. The Master Plan is summarized in Section 5—Community Amenities, of this plan.

Golf Courses

Pine Hill Golf Course – located at 263 Leech Road, Pine Hill is a public golf course. Pine Hill was founded in 1967 and is an 18-hole course open from April to September.

Greenville Country Club – located at 365 Mercer Road, Greenville Country Club is a private facility that has an 18-hole course, which is open year round.

B. Analysis of Existing Conditions

Recreation is an issue that is typically very important for communities and Greenville Borough and Hempfield Township are no exceptions. Recreation sites were evaluated using the assessment tool shown in Appendix II. Each site was observed through field views conducted during the planning process. Recreation sites and equipment were then rated as being in good, fair or poor condition (sites in poor condition should be examined by municipal officials who can then place these sites on a priority list for state and federal funding for repair or replacement of equipment).

The following analysis reflects the information gathered during field views and from the responses received during the public participation process.

Riverside Park – A spacious park covering 90 acres in Greenville Borough. Ample parking is available and signage is present at the entrance indicating hours. This park has many recreational amenities that range in condition from good to fair. Playground equipment needs regular maintenance such as fresh coats of paint and replacement of missing or broken parts. The tennis courts are in need of major repair – the courts are cracked, allowing weeds to grow on the playing surface. Basketball courts need new hoops and nets. The amphitheatre is in good condition.

This park has been identified through public participation as being underutilized. It is recommended that Greenville Borough and Hempfield Township develop a stronger partnership to promote this park.

During the planning process, park representatives noted their concern with the safety of pedestrians and the speed of vehicular traffic. Currently, the park has employed a traffic calming measure of speed bumps, which are raised areas of roadway designed to slow traffic.

In Pennsylvania, Liquid Fuels funds may be used for traffic calming measures listed in PennDOT's *Publication 383*, "Pennsylvania's Traffic Calming Handbook", January 2001, provided that a Traffic Calming Study and Approval Process, as described in Chapter 4 of *Publication 383*, has been followed.

A speed hump is a raised surface above the existing roadway grade that is approximately three (3) to four (4) inches in height and between twelve (12) and twenty (20) feet in length. An independent speed hump is designed to reduce speeds by fifteen (15) to twenty (20) miles per hour. A series of speed humps could reduce speeds up to thirty (30) miles per hour. The installation of speed humps can cost approximately \$1,500 to \$3,500.

Raised crosswalks are similar to speed humps in that they are designed to raise pedestrians between three (3) to six (6) inches above the existing roadway grade. Raised crosswalks can reduce speeds by approximately six (6) miles per hour. The installation of raised crosswalks can cost approximately \$2,000 to \$10,000.

A combination of both speed humps and raised crosswalks along the service road into Riverside Park should reduce speeds and improve pedestrian safety throughout the park..

Greenville Recreation Center – Located in Riverside Park, the Rec Center building is in sound condition and is handicapped accessible. Parking is adequate. The Rec Center provides a variety of ongoing recreational programs for all ages and has a semi-annual newsletter that identifies these programs. The center also provides indoor recreation facilities such as a basketball court for community residents.

Greenville Memorial Pool – The pool is host to a variety of community activities, including swimming lessons, and works cooperatively with Thiel College. It is recommended that Greenville Borough along with GALSA continue to implement the recommendations contained in the 1997 *Greenville Memorial Swimming Pool Feasibility Study*. No major improvements have been made to the pool since the study's completion, although a local contractor has donated time and materials to fabricate a new filter tank. The Borough has no funds available nor are any applications in progress to fund such a project.

Greenville Area Sports Complex – Located in West Salem Township, the sports complex is somewhat removed from both Greenville and Hempfield residents. Although the complex can be easily viewed from Jamestown Road / PA Route 18, the sign present that has the name of the facility and hours of operation is too close to the road for easy viewing while driving. As the complex is only three years old, fields and equipment are in excellent condition. Indoor restroom facilities are present, however due to construction and plumbing problems there is no running water. Numerous port-a-johns are present. There are plans to install bleachers at the soccer fields and plant trees along the roads and trail throughout the 42-acre complex. A pedestrian / bicycle path connecting the complex to areas in Hempfield and Greenville, such as Thiel College and the central business district in Greenville, would provide residents more access to the complex.

York Street Play Lot –The play lot has playground equipment suitable for younger children and is in good condition. Signage is present indicating the park name and hours of operation. On street parking is available nearby and the park is located in a residential neighborhood for children to walk / bike to.

Central Park –park is mostly open space with an honor roll. Park benches are present for residents. The park is in good condition and needs only continued maintenance.

Prairie Park – The park is in good condition and needs only continued maintenance.

Hempfield Township Municipal Park – As the only municipally owned park in Hempfield Township, the park provides a large selection of recreation facilities and equipment to suit residents of all ages. Roads throughout the park are in excellent condition and there is ample parking available. While the tennis courts are in good condition with nets present, the basketball court is in poor condition with a gravel surface and no nets on the hoops. Three outdoor pavilions are available and in excellent condition, having been recently painted. There is only one sign for the park, located on St. Glory Street and although it indicates the hours of operation,

it is in poor condition and difficult to read. Playground equipment is somewhat dated and is in need of fresh coat of paint.

Hempfield Township has contracted Winslow Engineering, Inc. to complete a site development plan for the following park improvements:

- Construction of handicapped accessible sidewalks that will connect the existing parking lot to the pavilion and the restroom facilities
- Upgrade the existing restroom facilities at to ADA standards
- Replace some of the existing playground equipment a new play structure and swing
- Remaining playground equipment will be modified to provide safety surfacing in designated fall zones.

It is recommended that township officials place another sign along Methodist Road to direct people to the park and update the existing sign at the main park entrance on St. Glory Road.

Greenville Area School District – The track is open to public use and is readily used by residents. Greenville High School wellness committee teamed with school administration and acquired a fitness grant worth \$218,000 to construct a new fitness center in the high school. The fitness center will include two treadmills, one elliptical, two recumbent bikes, one upright bike, 18 universal weight training machines, and 12 steel steppers.

A this time, the School District is in the fifth year of their funding agreement with GALSA. There is no indication that they will continue to fund the association in the future, which leaves the future of GALSA uncertain.

Thiel College – GALSA works cooperatively with Thiel College in the sharing of facilities and services. It is recommended that both entities pursue additional areas where they can share facilities and services to eliminate any duplication and employ potential cost saving measures.

GALSA

Greenville Area Leisure Sports Association (GALSA) is an agency of Greenville Borough. The structure is somewhat ambiguous, with some employees working directly for the borough and some working for GALSA. GALSA may lose not only funding from the school district, but also United Way. Through interviews with GALSA, the association would like to become an Authority of the borough so that it will be a separate entity from the borough but would retain governmental immunity.

One of the issues facing GALSA is that it provides recreational amenities and programs for not only the borough, but also the surrounding townships. Due to the funding it receives from United Way, it must provide these services to the surrounding areas but it does not receive any funding from the municipalities outside of the borough. It is estimated that park usage is 40% Greenville Borough residents, 40% Hempfield Township residents, and 10% surrounding townships. The Recovery Plan for the Borough of Greenville addresses this issue in more detail and recommends that GALSA seek funding from these municipalities.

Numerous associations are affiliated with GALSA as stated earlier. In addition to these organizations, GALSA would like to create a men's softball league. GALSA currently manages many of these associations' funds but does not oversee other activities.

GALSA indicated that speeding in Riverside Park is a problem. They would like to see more police presence throughout the park and the other parks in the borough to help reduce speeding and vandalism. GALSA installed speed bumps on the entrance road to Riverside Park, however this has not lessened the speeding. Due to the presence of the speed bumps, the borough cannot receive liquid fuel tax for the road and the Street Department cannot maintain it.

Another area that GALSA would like to improve is grant writing and funding. Until recently, GALSA used to employ a grant writer whose job was to seek and obtain funding for the recreational facilities and programming maintained by GALSA. The position has been vacated and remaining GALSA employees are now responsible. Due to large workloads, this is a difficult task and many areas are neglected due to lack of funding. A solution to this problem could be utilizing Thiel students as interns who would fill the position.

Although the Greenville Area Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan was never adopted, the Borough and GALSA have been trying to follow the plan recommendations. Borough Council is currently deliberating on the restructuring of the GALSA board, which was a high priority in the Plan. GALSA continues to develop new partnerships with a variety of community organizations and neighboring townships. GALSA also is continually improving its program activities to target activities for all ages. In the spring of 2004 the Borough relinquished the maintenance responsibilities to GALSA who will be doing all park maintenance under contract with the Borough. A tiered fee schedule has been adopted and user fees are based on the amount of support given to GALSA from the users home municipality..

Trails

A trail feasibility study was completed in May 2001 for Greenville Borough. The study recommended a two-phase project, with phase one being the corridor from Main street along the abandoned rail bed on the West side of the Shenango River to the southern property line of the existing nature trail and across the river on the existing pedestrian bridge. The trail would then link the park to Thiel College. During the process of the study, property ownership issues were found and the consultant recommended that Phase two be completed first. Phase two begins at Riverside Park and follows the nature trail then meets up with the abandon rail bed. The trail follows the rail bed along the West side of the Shenango River to Porter Road near the Porter Road Bridge. The study then recommended a pedestrian walkway along Porter Road a short distance to connect with the new 42-Acre Sports Complex. The Borough has a DCNR rail trail grant in hand for this project. The total project cost was identified at \$224,000 with a grant of \$112,000 from DCNR.

It is recommended that the borough, continue to pursue trail development in conjunction with surrounding municipalities.

PARKS & RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

GOAL: Promote the recreational value of the Shenango and Little Shenango Rivers

Strategies	Responsible Party	Potential Partners	Funding Sources
Work with Shenango Conservancy and Shenango River Watchers to develop a "canoe trail" with public boat launches available in Riverside Park near the Nature Center and one at the Kidd's Mill Covered Bridge.	Greenville Borough Council & Hempfield Township Supervisors	Local trail organizations, GALSA, Thiel College	
Identify underutilized waterfront property to provide passive recreational opportunities	Greenville Borough Council & Hempfield Township Supervisors	St Paul Homes, Thiel College, Mercer County Conservation District, Mercer County Regional Planning Commission, Shenango River Watch	Rivers Conservation Program (DCNR), Western Pennsylvania Field Institute

GOAL: Maximize the utilization of existing parks and recreational facilities in the communities

Increase the use of Riverside Park by holding community events at the amphitheatre	GALSA	Thiel, GACT, Greenville Orchestra, Greenville High School, Thiel College Arts	PA Humanities Council,
Implement thematic signing for all recreational facilities	Greenville Borough Council & Hempfield Township Supervisors	GALSA, GASD	DCNR, municipal budgets
Finish the construction and renovation of the Greenville Area Sports Complex	Greenville Borough, GALSA	Surrounding municipalities, local sports organizations	
Implement the 2002 Recovery Plan recommendations regarding parks and recreation	Greenville Borough	Surrounding municipalities, local sports organizations, GALSA, GASD, Mercer County Regional Planning Commission	DCNR, municipal budgets, CDBG
Implement recommendations from the trail feasibility study to link existing parks/facilities to population centers	Greenville Borough Council & Hempfield Township Supervisors	Rails to trails organizations, local trail groups, surrounding municipalities, local sports organizations, GALSA, GASD, Mercer County Regional Planning Commission	PENNDOT (Transportation Enhancement Funds)

PARKS & RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

GOAL: Maximize the utilization of existing parks and recreational facilities in the communities (continued)

Strategies	Responsible Party	Potential Partners	Funding Sources
Involve all age groups in recreation planning to identify needed programs and facilities	GALSA	Senior centers, Greenville Area School District, local social & civic organizations	DCNR, Local Government Academy, DCED
Enter into Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreements with surrounding municipalities, Greenville Area School District and Thiel College to meet regional recreational programming needs	Greenville Borough Council & Hempfield Township Supervisors	Governor's Center for Local Government Services, Mercer County Regional Planning Commission	DCED, DCNR
Develop a parks equipment repair and replacement plan	Greenville Borough Council & Hempfield Township		CDBG, DCNR, DCED
Work with Mercer County to access Saul Dam for fishing and improve trail to ADA standards	Hempfield Township	Mercer County FEMA, Mercer County Conservation District, DCNR, Local Boy Scout/Girl Scout Organizations	DCNR
Increase the summer concert series held at Central Park	Greenville Borough	Greenville Area Theatre Company, surrounding municipalities, Thiel College	Western Pennsylvania Field Institute