



GOOD | CLEAN | FUN

HERMITAGE COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION,
PARKS & OPEN SPACE PLAN

February 2016
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & DESIGN, LLC





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INTRODUCTION

THINKING AHEAD

Having accomplished many aspects of its recreation, park and open space strategies outlined in the previous decade, the City of Hermitage, in 2014, recognized the need to update its planning priorities. The City authorized the Parks and Recreation Department to form a twenty-five person Steering Committee composed of County residents and recreation stakeholders to form the foundation of its Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan update. This Plan is conceived to:

- Identify the major matters the City faces now and in the upcoming decade.
- Refine the long-term vision for the City's various park, recreation and open space opportunities.
- Formulate policies and strategies to guide the planning, development and integration of park, recreation and open space resources within and bordering the City.
- Enhance the framework for cooperation and collaboration between the various recreation and open space providers.
- Define and prioritize short-term and long-term implementation strategies.
- Embrace opportunities to improve recreation in conjunction with related Commonwealth planning initiatives such as Pennsylvania's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2014-2019).

Urban parks improve lives. They educate, protect, and enrich young people. They provide places to play after school and during summer vacations, and give individuals and families countless hours of recreation and relaxation. Open spaces produce clean air and protect cities from flooding. They help to increase property value, grow the local tax base, contribute to education, reduce crime, attract businesses, and create jobs. These ideas and principles have been adopted by National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) as a call-to-action in its *National Agenda for Urban Parks and Recreation in America*. Parks are also elements that help make up the public realms of desirable cities – cities that people desire in which to live, work, and raise a family. Increasingly, people look to parks and recreation as fundamental elements of what makes a city a great place.

In Hermitage, these park and open space areas are critical elements of what the community is all about. The volunteers that serve on the Parks and Recreation Board are a vital link between the City's decision making and resident desires. Hermitage is known for its community setting and its expanding quality outdoor recreation. The recreation and leisure experiences are varied, from playing organized league sports to simply enjoying the quiet, contemplative places with sounds of nature.

The City of Hermitage has taken the initiative to identify enhanced areas of park and recreation opportunities within the community, and subsequently create innovative solutions, to ensure that the community within and surrounding Hermitage continues to be a place where people have a desire to live, work, and play.



Pennsylvania's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2014-2019 outlines five priority areas that it seeks to join with local providers in helping to foster outdoor recreation for all. These five priorities include advancing ideas and opportunities for how recreation continues to improve lives through health and wellness, local facilities and programming, tourism and economic development, resource management and stewardship, as well as funding and financial stability.

State-wide and Regional Influences:

By 2030, people over the age of 65 will be approaching one quarter of the state's population. This percentage will be a significant component of the audience of those residents and visitors coming to enjoy parks and recreation in the Hermitage area. Programming and facilities for the aging population is of significance in the City's future planning efforts. Coupling aging audiences with interests listed below that are most popular by the general population, the City is encouraged to join with its partners and the State where possible to have an underscoring set of outlets and recreation avenues that support the following types of activities that the SCROP identifies as ones that recreation participants most enjoy:

• Walking (Streets, Sidewalks, Trails)	Visiting Historic Sites
• Scenic Driving	Picnicking
• Swimming	Wildlife Viewing
• Visiting Nature Centers	Night Sky Viewing
• Bird Watching	

These activities are not only for recreation; done in balance with other City-wide planning, they can help in generate opportunities for economic development. In addition to the Commonwealth's encouragement for developing quality

recreation facilities, other avenues of potential influences or benchmarking that the City may want to consider in teaming with others in coming years to enhance the scale and performance of both City-wide and low-impact and passive neighborhood-oriented recreation and open space offerings.

There are many ways in which benchmarking can be evaluated. The National Recreation and Parks Association highlights quality recreation communities with Gold Medal recognition. As the City continues to offer its public facilities and work with private and quasi-public providers to realize the full range of recreation, a listing of example level of service benchmarks include those to the right.

Average Level of Service NRPA Gold Medal Communities	
Football/Soccer Fields	1: 2,479
Softball/Baseball Fields	1: 1,428
Outdoor Basketball Courts	1: 7,320
Tennis Courts	1: 2,358
Skateboard Parks	1: 11,029
In-line Hockey Rinks	1: 12,162
Ice Rinks	1: 3,681
Swimming Pools	1: 10,674
Gymnasiums	1: 16,710

The Shenango Valley Bikeway is a marked on-road bike route completed in 2009 that connects Hermitage with the neighboring communities of Wheatland, Farrell, Sharon, and Sharpsville. Four high schools (Farrell Area High School, Sharon High School, Hickory High School, and Sharpsville Area High School) and Buhl Farm Park are connected by the bikeway, either along the main route or by spurs. This Bikeway, marked at key intersections by green "Bike Route" signs with arrows directing users along the route, has the opportunity to be a key part of the City's overall system of connectivity. Consistent with the Commonwealth's SCORP and regional initiatives, Hermitage seeks to emphasize the potential for expanding and enhancing connectivity.



The specific focus of this plan is to:

- Update key inventory components of the park and recreation space available to existing and future residents.
- Identify key changes of the condition of the City's parks, trails, and recreation facilities, including consideration of safety conditions and ADA issues.
- Analyze and determine community needs through discussions with user groups, trends in recreational programs in parks, and public meetings.
- Identify areas of the community currently underserved by parks and changes in population to determine parkland and facility needs, as well as opportunities for synergies between parklands and future development projects.
- Define level of service standards for parks.
- Create and define a clear mission and complementary goals to help realize improvements to the community quality of life.
- Develop an action plan for implementation.

An adopted parks and recreation master plan is intended to be a guiding document that is used by the elected and appointed officials to discuss and evaluate potential actions.

Recommendations for projects and other specific actions will be further evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Preferences in recreation are continually changing. Additionally, recreation facilities deteriorate over time, thus requiring ongoing maintenance. Therefore, it is critical that park and recreation departments continue to stay abreast of trends to ensure that their system stays current and continues to serve the ever evolving needs of residents and visitors.

Similar to the 1996 and 2004 plans, this park and recreation master plan should be revisited and updated periodically to

ensure that it accurately reflects current and future needs and changing conditions, and to adjust priorities within the community as appropriate.

MISSION

To continue providing good, clean, fun recreation in Hermitage, the City has set out on its mission to *Enhance and assure the quality of life of Hermitage residents by providing a diversity of park and recreation resources that are:*

- Safe
- Accessible
- Family-oriented
- Well maintained and/or protected
- Economically responsible
- Strategically located

GOALS

In seeking to realize balanced and appealing opportunities, the City aims to:

- Engage in outreach, education, communication and cooperation
- Foster the continued livability and successes of the community's recreation and open spaces
- Facilitate the protection and promotion of the City's rich natural resources, recreation opportunities and history
- Encourage recreation-based economic development that complements existing resources and landscape capacities
- Use a balanced approach in the maintaining and sustaining facilities and fiscal health associated with recreation vitality
- Serve all members of the community including all ages, all abilities



INVOLVEMENT AND IDEAS

Building on the emphasis of Pennsylvania's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2014-2019), communities across the Commonwealth are encouraged to uphold ideas that 'local parks afford communities the opportunity to provide quality recreation experiences to residents of all ages by offering recreation programs and services that are consistent with citizens' needs and interests and add to their health, sense of well-being and sense of community. Local parks deliver opportunities for play and physical activities and promote mental and spiritual well-being and environmental stewardship. Local parks often provide a sense of place and a gathering space, and are the heart of a community.'

INVOLVEMENT/PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

With these ideas and public feedback obtained through the Steering Committee, 100 invited stakeholders to be furthered interviewed, and findings from the Fall 2014 City-wide survey, the City knows that:

- Many residents feel that parks and recreation significantly add to the City's quality of life and are crucial to successfully attracting new residents and businesses to the City.
- The community wants to provide for future park and recreation needs by continuing to enhance partnerships to fulfill recreation needs.
- Residents feel that the City should proceed with improvements based on the following priorities:
 1. Maintaining and enhancing existing facilities;
 2. Developing a network of trails and pedestrian/bicycle connections that furthers local and Statewide planning initiatives; and
 3. Evaluating the feasibility and pursuing construction of new.

- Most residents are pleased with the quality of the recreation facilities and services that the City provides.
- With the evolution of media and technology, there is always opportunity for the Recreation Department to adapt ways to increase public knowledge and awareness regarding the City's park and recreation resources.
- To help expand quality recreation in Hermitage, residents are most willing to pay for Special Types of Recreation Facilities that require high maintenance, followed by user fees, as well as contribute time or expertise. Hermitage residents most often participate in recreation geared toward:
 1. Exercise and Fitness.
 2. Other special events in the community.
 3. Nature Enjoyment (playing/socializing in parks).

- City households prefer to engage in unorganized recreation opportunities. However, households do like a combination of organized and unorganized recreation opportunities available to them.
- Recreation facilities within the City that are most often visited include: Hickory High School, Buhl Farm Park, Private Fitness Facilities and Linden Pointe Trails. Of these, favorites include Buhl Farm Park and Linden Pointe Trails.
- Participants in Hermitage recreation programs believe the City offers opportunities that are interesting, of high quality, are suitable for varying interests and are appealing for their price, schedule and ease of sign up. Interest exists to expand programming for adults (18-64).
- Noting an "excellent" rating, residents are happy with the cleanliness, attractiveness, quiet, fun, safe, maintenance, location, access to nature and appeal to all ages within City facilities.



As a complement to community survey feedback, a series of project meetings were held to gather input and evaluate potential planning direction. These meetings included:

- 4/17/14 Committee Kick-Off Meeting
- 8/18/14 Committee Meeting
- 12/10/14 Committee Meeting
- 4/8/15 Recreation Board Meeting
- 9/30/15 Final Committee Meeting
- 10/22/15 Board of Commissioners Meeting

IDEAS AND INFLUENCES

Because of the variety of recreation program and facility providers in place, Hermitage area residents have many opportunities. The Hermitage Parks and Recreation Department collaborates and cooperates with other recreation providers. It helps to give residents an understanding of the opportunities available to them, fill in the gaps in programming and minimize duplication of services. The Parks and Recreation Department aims to not duplicate programs that can be found elsewhere in the City. Its focus is on enhancing the community's recreation and parks system through City-operated programs and valued partnerships of many facilities.

Programming: The City has a strong number of program and facility partners. In conjunction with its other recreation providers, the City offers a balanced recreation program schedule with activities for varying age groups and a focus on

those for children. As encouraged through the Commonwealth's greater recreation programming initiatives and the City's proven past successes, joint sponsorship of recreation programs, including shared use of facilities, should continue to be pursued. Website information for the Parks and Recreation Department is integrated into the City's overall site. The process of registering for a recreation program has opportunity to be more user- friendly with reorganization of information, on-line registration and payment for recreation programs being made available; in conjunction with other on-line permitting and payment could be made available for building and recreation facility rentals; and credit cards could be accepted for program or facility payments.

Directions and a brief listing of the facilities along with their specific amenities within the City could be listed under a Facilities tab. Self-directed recreation opportunities available at the parks, such as picnic pavilions and walking trails, should be promoted with photos. Facility rental information should be included as well.





Park areas and recreation facilities are significant City-owned and financially-supported assets that should be actively promoted for resident use. Further highlights in regular City newsletter publications can include facility rental fees along with description about where the facilities are located.

Publication of program refund policies should be reconsidered to be more customer friendly. The City should adopt a 100 percent satisfaction guaranteed policy for its programs. This shows a commitment to quality programming and to customer satisfaction. Program participants are not asked to evaluate programs. Getting feedback from participants would help to improve and enhance the recreation programs.

With a written inclusion of the statement in the City Newsletter or on the Parks and Recreation Department webpage, the City can promote the value of involvement of all persons – including those of all ages and abilities – in recreation program offerings. An annual report detailing Parks and Recreation Department programs and park facility use is an important element of formally tracking.

Programs are reasonably priced. Non-resident fees are charged for recreation programs at a slightly greater rate than resident pricing.

The benefits of the City's recreation programs and special events should be clearly stated. The Department plays an important role in improving the quality of life in the City. The City Parks and Recreation Department could be promoting more self-directed use of park areas by residents. Parks and recreation programming is all about activity and giving people an opportunity to be more active. Further

emphasizing the Commonwealth's SCORP recommendations, the link between being active, improving wellness and becoming healthier should be embraced when promoting programs. With that, the City needs to establish a more clearly -defined public relations role for its Parks and Recreation Department. It has the opportunity to either individually or jointly offer programs for those who cannot afford the cost of programs provided by private and non-profit providers. Development of a system that allows residents to participate in City recreation programs regardless of ability to pay could be explored.

Expanding opportunities with the School District for robust adult education programming is a tremendous opportunity for the Parks and Recreation Department. These programs will add to the programs already sponsored by the City, and will give the Parks and Recreation Department a stronger identity and important service niche.

Family programming and special events are significant services. The City should focus on expanding partnerships with the Hermitage School District and other public, quasi-public and private-sector entities. Building a stronger base of volunteers with businesses, community groups, youth sports organizations, other recreation providers, etc. will also be important to address current needs as well as any expansion of programs and/or special events. One or two special events could be added each year, such as an outdoor Arbor Day event, Halloween Costume Swap, Howl-o-ween dog event, Family Camp out Nights in the parks, Family Old-Fashioned Game Day, or Candy Cane Hunt. As a general rule of healthy community recreation planning encouraged by park and recreation professional



organizations and researchers, the City should aim to adopt a formula of 50% repeat programs, 30% seasonal programs and 20% new programs annually. Continued partnering helps with staffing, promoting programs, sharing facilities, and keeping costs down. The City should be actively promoting its many partnerships and how partnering reduces the costs to provide public recreation programs.

Other potential program areas to consider are: group bike rides that start and end at a park or open space, in partnership with a local bike outfitter; a walking club that meets at community parks; fitness and wellness activities in partnership with other fitness programmers; outdoor recreation programming such as hunter safety education, geocaching, astronomy, and bird watching; or introduction to Pickleball for adults.

A summary listing of programming offerings as delivered to all residents' mailboxes several times a year is included within this document's Appendix.

Key Personnel: The City's Parks and Recreation Board serves as an advisory board for the City. The Board is responsible for oversight of City-sponsored recreation programs and the acquisition, development and maintenance of City-owned park areas.

In addition to working with the Parks and Recreation Board, the City's Parks and Recreation Director works in conjunction with the City Manager, the Planning Department and Public Works Street Department to make the daily offerings of recreation run smoothly. As found in many communities, the continued search for committed volunteers to assist with supporting program

participants is often in need. The Public Works Department is responsible for park operations and maintenance. The Recreation Director works closely with the Public Works Staff on the acquisition, planning and design, construction and maintenance of park areas and recreation facilities. Job descriptions that exist for recreation-related positions are included within this document's Appendix.

Park Maintenance: In upholding the City's quality offerings and affirming the tenets of responsible resource management as called out in the Commonwealth's SCORP, the City's park maintenance program is aimed toward providing safe, clean, and useable park areas and recreation facilities to the public as efficiently and effectively as resources permit. While the initial expense to acquire park land and construct facilities is significant, the cost of maintenance during the lifetime of a park can easily amount to two to even three times the actual cost of construction.

The City of Hermitage has a talented and dedicated staff working in the Public Works Department as evidenced by both the condition of the parks, the pride for the system expressed by Staff and resident feedback.

Routine park maintenance and minor construction projects are performed by full-time employees and seasonal, part-time employees in the Public Works Department. As in many professions, certifications are important. The City is encouraged to work with Staff for future participation in the National

Recreation and Park Association's nationally-recognized certification program in playground safety. It provides the most



comprehensive and up-to-date training on playground safety issues including hazard identification, equipment specifications, surfacing requirements and risk management methods. The CPSI must be updated every three years. Certification in Public Pesticide Applicator licensure is very important for park maintenance because it is required if pesticides are being applied to the parks, playgrounds and athletic fields. This certification must also be updated every three years.

The Facilities Coordinator is responsible for a wide variety of maintenance, service, repair, and minor construction functions. This role determines how and what tasks need to be performed on a daily, weekly and monthly basis using his experience, input from his supervisors and requests for service from park users and residents. Meetings held by the Facilities Coordinator for all parks maintenance staff aid in reviewing the work assignments for the day. There currently is no written formal maintenance plan that describes the City's expectations for maintenance. At the minimum such a plan would contain an inventory of each site,

what time of year and the frequency with which maintenance tasks should occur, and the acceptable standard of care in each park and facility that describes what they should look like when maintenance is completed. This level of care could be different for each location depending on the type of facilities, the frequency and type of use, and the amount of manpower and budget resources available. Such a plan will benefit the City with work scheduling, opportunities for partnering in future facility endeavors, making sure that everyone's expectations for maintenance are on the same page, and assisting with planning and transitions that will occur with staff.

The residents of Hermitage respect facilities within the City. Vandalism in the parks is characterized as minor such as damaged locks and doors, driving in turf areas, damage to playground equipment, carving on tables and fences, and graffiti.



The City's General Fund is the source of all monies needed to support the expense of recreation-related capital projects. A breakdown of budgeting the City prepares is included in this document's Appendix. Parks maintenance tasks are focused on the duties needed to proactively as well as reactively care for the parks including a variety of recreation facilities and amenities. The percentage of time spent for scheduled tasks versus reacting to unforeseen needs cannot be easily determined but, from 2015 written records, the breakdown of maintenance staff responsibilities includes the following and, to maintain the level of satisfaction that residents appreciate within the facilities, is significant to account for as part of future individual or joint pursuits in facility expansion:

City of Hermitage-Full Time Grounds Staff:	3
City of Hermitage-Part Time Staff:	4-5

Grounds Maintenance season runs from March 1st through November 1st, weather permitting. If the weather allows, it may work a little further into November or until it begins to snow.

Seasonal part time college help is generally a total of 4 staff members. They work from May 15th through August 1st.

Throughout the growing season, the following tasks are performed:

Mowing: Mowing begins late March and ends around November 1st. There are 2 routes for 3 Full Time staff to perform. The first route consists of mostly right-of-way and sight distance areas. This task is completed weekly. This

route also covers a few of our parks green spaces. This takes up 75% of the time for one Full Time staff member. The second route consists mainly of open spaces in our parks. 1 full time staff person is dedicated to mowing this route. The second route takes up 95% of their time weekly during the mowing season. A 3rd full time staff person will occasionally assist with mowing the second route. This will consist of approximately 25% of their time weekly.

String Trimming: String trimming usually begins in April when mowing begins. Full Time staff string trims April 1st through May 15th. This task is usually performed 10% of the work day prior to part time staff arriving. When college help arrives, the string trimming usually increasing to 50%, meaning the summer help will string trim 50% of the time in the spring/summer on a weekly basis. The spring trimming usually falls back to 10-15% in the fall when the summer help goes back to school.

Infields: The infields are maintained by 1 full time staff member and with help from 1-2 part time college help. This will normally take place from May 15th through July 15th. This is completed daily during that time frame and consists of 10% of time. Once the summer help is finished for the season, 1 Full Time staff member takes over the infield maintenance. Their time will increase once our Fall Instructional Baseball Program begins. This will take place from September through October and will consist of 25% of time. Time spent on grounds maintenance at Little League increases in the fall because of the instructional program.



Garbage: The Garbage is removed weekly throughout City parks. Garbage is handled mainly by part time summer help at the Hermitage Athletic Complex from May 15th - August 1st. Full time staff then takes over the remaining of the season. This task takes 5% of time during the work week.

Weed Control: Weed control is handled by Full Time staff members only. This generally takes 35% of total time during the season and consists mainly of non-selective herbicide applications in all of our parks landscape beds, sidewalks, parking lots, fences lines and infields. The Little League complex is also treated during our applications.

Mulching: Mulching is handled by 1full time staff member and 2part time summer help. This consists of 25% of total time during the season.

Pruning: Pruning is handled by full time staff in selected areas throughout the City's parks. Pruning usually occurs prior to mulching and in the fall when mowing has slowed down. This would consist of 5% of total time. Larger landscapes are outsourced to a landscape contractor.

Fertilizing: All fertilizing and selective weed control is handled by an outside contractor at this time for all playing fields and identified common areas in our parks. This also includes the Little League playing fields only.

Maintenance Equipment and Vehicles: All equipment and vehicles needed to maintain the park areas and recreation facilities belong to and are maintained by the Public Works Department. A five-year capital equipment purchase plan is

in place. This plan is reviewed at least annually when it is time to request that vehicle and equipment replacement be included in the coming year's budget.

The responsibility and expense to purchase and maintain equipment rests solely with the Public Works Department. There is no expense charged to the Recreation Department budget for this purpose.

Grounds Maintenance Equipment

TRUCKS

1994 F-350 Pickup
1996 F-350 Pickup
1986 Chevy Blazer
2004 Ford Dump Truck 1-Ton

TRAILERS

2014 Corn Pro
10'x12' Utility
2011 Appalachian
10'x15' Utility

Mowers

2012 -Toro Grounds Master 4000
2012-Toro Zero-Turn Mower (2)

Equipment – Other

2011 Cub Cadet UTV withe following attachments: Utility/ Trailer, Aerifier, 20 Gal. Tank Sprayer
2015 Toro Infield Pro. withe following attachments: Weeder Tines, Steel Matt Drag, Box Grader, Push Blade (Front)
(2) Kifco Water Wheels
(5) Stihl FS 130 String Trimmers
(1) Stihl FC 1 10 Edgers
(2) Stihl BR 600 Backpack Blowers
(2) Stihl BG 86 Hand Blowers



Hand Tools (For Coaches' Use)

- (2) Homeplate Layout Templates
- (2) Hard Rakes
- (2) Grading Rakes
- (2) Flat Shovels
- (2) Leaf Rakes
- (2) Wheel Barrels
- (4) Mound Scraper/Dig Out Tool
- (2) Chalk Liners
- (2) String Lines
- (2) Digging Shovels
- (2) Brooms



In addition to its own facilities, the City joins with other local recreation providers and organizations so that residents have quality park and recreation resources at its fingertips such as Buhl Farm Park.

Hand Tools (For City Use)

- (1) Flat Shovel
- (1) Digging Shovel
- (1) Grading Rake
- Leaf Rake
- Tape Measures
- (1) Chalk Liner
- (2) String Lines
- (2) Brooms

In summary, based upon the existing facilities for which the City is responsible, a general breakdown of typical annual maintenance commitments includes:

Full Time Staff-4320 Hours

- Mowing-65% or 2808 Hours
- String trimming-10% or 432 Hours
- Infields-10% or 432 Hours
- Garbage-5% or 216 Hours
- Mulching/Weed Control-432 Hours

Part Time Staff-1920 Hours

- String Trimming-50% or 960 Hours
- Infields-10% or 192 Hours
- Garbage-50% or 96 Hours
- Mulching/Misc-35% or 672 Hours



CONTINUING SUCCESSES

Building on all of the resources and opportunities for parks and recreation within the Hermitage area that were documented as part of previous planning efforts, the City of Hermitage works diligently with many partnering semi-public and private recreation providers to deliver quality recreation opportunities. One of the most significant efforts in recent years is the further enhancement and development of its athletic field complexes. This includes the master planning of the Carl Harris Little League Complex. The aim of these efforts is to build upon the character and features of the existing fields while making them more accessible to all potential users. The program is a byproduct of applicable codes and guidelines, the City of Hermitage's wish list and Hermitage Little League's "wish list". The facility's overall design program includes:

- A proposed 2,700 square foot Concession Building with meeting room
- A proposed 2-story 2,200 square foot Storage/Utility Building containing ADA accessible male/female restrooms on the top floor and an ADA accessible family restroom located on the lower level.
- Updating the dugouts throughout the facility by replacing any below grade dugouts with ADA accessible at-grade dugouts.
- Replacing of all field fencing, gates and backstops.
- Replacing bleachers at all fields with an ADA accessible standard.
- Provide new ADA accessible pavement to all fields and between the bleachers, dugouts and fields.

- Install new potable water and sewer line extension from the manhole at the Hermitage Athletic Complex to the existing connections that extend from the well and septic on site.
- Upgrade/update electric service to the facility.
- Provide new field lighting at the Junior/Senior Field.
- Review maintenance operations to ensure that all of the proposed upgrades are able to be properly maintained.

The City also has the opportunity to achieve many elements of continued success in its pursuit over the course of the next decade with a focus on two other major projects. These include the expansion of its pedestrian and bicycle network as well as the determining the feasibility of construction and operation of an Indoor Recreation Facility.

In the process of determining whether an indoor recreation center is viable for Hermitage, the City will need to conduct a Feasibility Study. The following tasks and take-aways are recommendations as to how to conduct such a study.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMPONENT

Vital to any Feasibility Study is public participation of the community residents and primary committee members. To first introduce a Feasibility Study, one may want to consider calling upon the Recreation Committee to help shape base ideas for the complex. This discussion can be in a formal gathering in order for the committee members to bounce ideas off each other and/or to form a common vision. From there, the feedback of community residents will help ensure that the complex will be accommodating best to the citizens it will be serving. Public meetings are a practical way for gathering input on the potential project. A public survey can also provide the



CARL HARRIS LITTLE LEAGUE COMPLEX

HERMITAGE LITTLE LEAGUE ASSOCIATION



OBSERVATIONS / IMPORTANT CONDITIONS

OBSERVATIONS

- ADA Access
- Ballfield Maintenance
- Drainage / Wet Areas
- Safety

- Electrical Utility
- Water/Sewer Utility
- Building / Structure

CONDITIONS

- Slope Area
- Observation Item
- Drain Basin
- Light Post
- Electrical Line
- Property Line
- Underutilized Area

SITE VISIT OBSERVATIONS (8/21/2013)

A. PARKING

- 1. The Hermitage Athletic Complex (HAC) parking area (137 spaces) is used during Little League tournaments/special events.
- 2. The lower Little League parking area (97 spaces) does not have hard edges and is not uniformly paved with a hard stable surface material.
- 3. The 90 parking space Little League main parking area is also in need of an update because the paving is degraded and has numerous grading issues.
- 4. A chain-link swing gate is located at the entrance to the parking areas. Frequency of use of this item is not known.

B. FIELDS

- 1. Fences at all fields are older and worn showing conditions such as mesh bending and crimping as well as oxidation on the mesh, posts and frames. Both the Strosser and American Fields could potentially be replaced first. The American Field fence shows significant wear and the issue with the Strosser Field fence is its proximity to the field. The on deck area and dugout area appear to be cramped.
- 2. Some backstops are also in need of replacement. They should all be evaluated, starting with the Junior/Senior Field backstop. The backstops exude the same worn characteristics as the fence including oxidation and also have areas of mesh missing, such as at the American Field.
- 3. An existing Batting Cage is located between the Junior/Senior Field and Minor Field. It appears old and worn showing characteristics of severe oxidation.
- 4. Infields need cleaned up as they are not edged or leveled as a general observation. It was also noted that there was a significant amount of vegetation growing in the infield of the Junior/Senior Field. This would include clover, crabgrass, etc.
- 5. Drainage is an issue at the Junior/Senior Field outfield near the existing evergreen trees. Grading of the existing lots needs to be addressed.
- 6. The existing evergreen trees are fairly mature and pose a slight chance for falling down as most evergreens have shallow roots. They are also messy because they shed needles as well. It may be in the Little Leagues best interest to remove them all at once as a group as opposed to potentially having to remove individual trees with significant root run and migration issues. The trees that the evergreens are located on should be addressed for safety and improved to potentially include a wall or rail or slope stabilization planting other than lawn seeding. Issue should be studied further.
- 7. Scoreboards are located at the Junior/Senior Field, American Field and Strosser Field. Operation was not witnessed during site visit, but they appear to be functioning.
- 8. Location of the Hermitage Athletic Complex ballfield.
- 9. Location of three (3) welcome sign and three (3) flagpoles
- 10. Location of flagpole on concrete pad
- 11. Location of large open grass area that appears to be under utilized

C. UTILITIES

- 1. Electric lines run above ground from Virginia Road. Electric is believed to be single phase. Electric appears to be sufficient for the current needs, however if upgrades are desired, such as lighting an additional field, it is believed that it would be best to add a transformer and bring the power to the field need to be done. However, it would be the best expansion option as the nearest available three phase electric is a considerable distance down Virginia Road. In addition, the Little League Association needs to determine future additional power upgrades desired, such as lighting any additional fields, upgrades to the Concession Building or adding any additional press boxes.
- 2. Existing field lighting is only provided at Strosser Field. It is thought to be manufactured by Musco. Concrete in light pole bases have small chunks broken from them. Some of these may be determined to need replaced.
- 3. There are two cobra-head lights (1 pointed at each lot) located in the parking areas. Their operation was not witnessed and they do not appear to sufficiently light the parking area. This would be another item to consider when determining desired power upgrades.
- 4. Well water currently serves as a static wellhead is north of the Conference Room/Storage Building. The Little League Concession said that it is not located in a good area, emitting a smell during tournaments/special events. Because of proximity, accessing public water by extending the line from the hotbox located on the HAC property line between the Junior/Senior and American Fields. A meter would most likely need to be set after the line extension as well as a separate backflow preventer. Distance to the Concession Building is approximately 270 linear feet.
- 5. A septic area is located between the Junior/Senior Field and the Conference Room/Storage Building. The Little League Association said that it is not located in a good area, emitting a smell during tournaments/special events. Because of proximity, accessing public water by extending the line from the main line located on the HAC property line between the Junior/Senior and American Fields. A valve would need to be set on the line presumably near the property line between HAC and the Little League parcel. Distance to the Concession Building is approximately 270 linear feet.

D. ADA CONFORMANCE

- 1. Bleachers and the pathways leading to them in general are not ADA accessible because of grade obstacles or width.
- 2. Dugouts are not accessible. Three (3) dugouts are below grade and incorporate steps to access and one (1) of which is filled with gravel (grade (Minor Field)). The dugouts at the Junior/Senior Field are above grade, but there are no accessible pathways to the dugouts.
- 3. There are only 2 signed/not striped ADA spaces in parking lot. This is not adequate as there are +/- 184 parking spaces in the lot. The ADA Guidelines state that there should be 7 ADA spaces for the 184 total spaces that are in the lot and the ADA spaces should have a sign and be striped properly with the symbol of accessibility.
- 4. There is no accessible route between the parking and any of the 4 fields. An adequately sized and sloped path should be provided to at least one (!) field in order to conform with the intent of the ADA Guidelines.
- 5. Bathrooms in the Concession Building are not accessible. Would need updated to achieve ADA conformance.

E. BUILDINGS

- 1. There is a small fryer located in the Concession Building. Existing fire suppression should be evaluated for conformance to codes. Additionally, fire suppression will need evaluated further if the facility is updated. The Eastern portion is lightly colored with picnic tables and is in fair condition.
- 2. The Conference Room/Storage Building appears to have some water damage to the concrete block walls in the lower level garage area. Additionally, it appears to need painted and decluttered to spruce it up.
- 3. Concrete block storage structures are located at the Junior /Senior Field and Minor Field. The exterior appeared to be in good condition. Strosser Field has an indoor storage area in the lower level of the Press Box. The Strosser Press Box also appeared to be in good condition.



opportunity to reach more community members. Once enough feedback is procured, as determined by the City, the comments and survey results can be assessed to form the final vision of the project.

PROGRAMMING AND FACILITY ANALYSIS COMPONENT

Based off of demographic information that relates to recreation and facility use, such as population, age, sex, and specifically which targeted groups will be using the facility most and for what reason, potential programming opportunities can be evaluated. While considering potential programming, the evaluation of probable operating costs and revenues should be considered as well. This will need to expand into both short-term and long-term funding strategies and will require the contemplation of programming, construction, maintenance, and staffing costs. Based on the programs that will take place at the facility, the City should examine a range of the center's square footage/accessibility options that will be able to accommodate the different uses.

SITE FEASIBILITY COMPONENT

A range of different locations for recreation development should be determined in order to provide several potential options for the site under consideration. In order to decide on a final location for development, the following factors should be examined: topography, zoning and development opportunities and challenges, site access, circulation patterns, building characteristics in relation to programming (once a final design is determined), compatibility with surrounding uses, conservation of landscape, review of physical limitations, and potential development costs. It should be noted that facility design may have to be revised depending on site decision, relative to examined factors.

FINAL PRODUCT COMPONENT

A final report, including all survey information, feedback, and all related factors that took place during the planning process should be consolidated into a final package for not only a final review, but for future reference and reproduction.

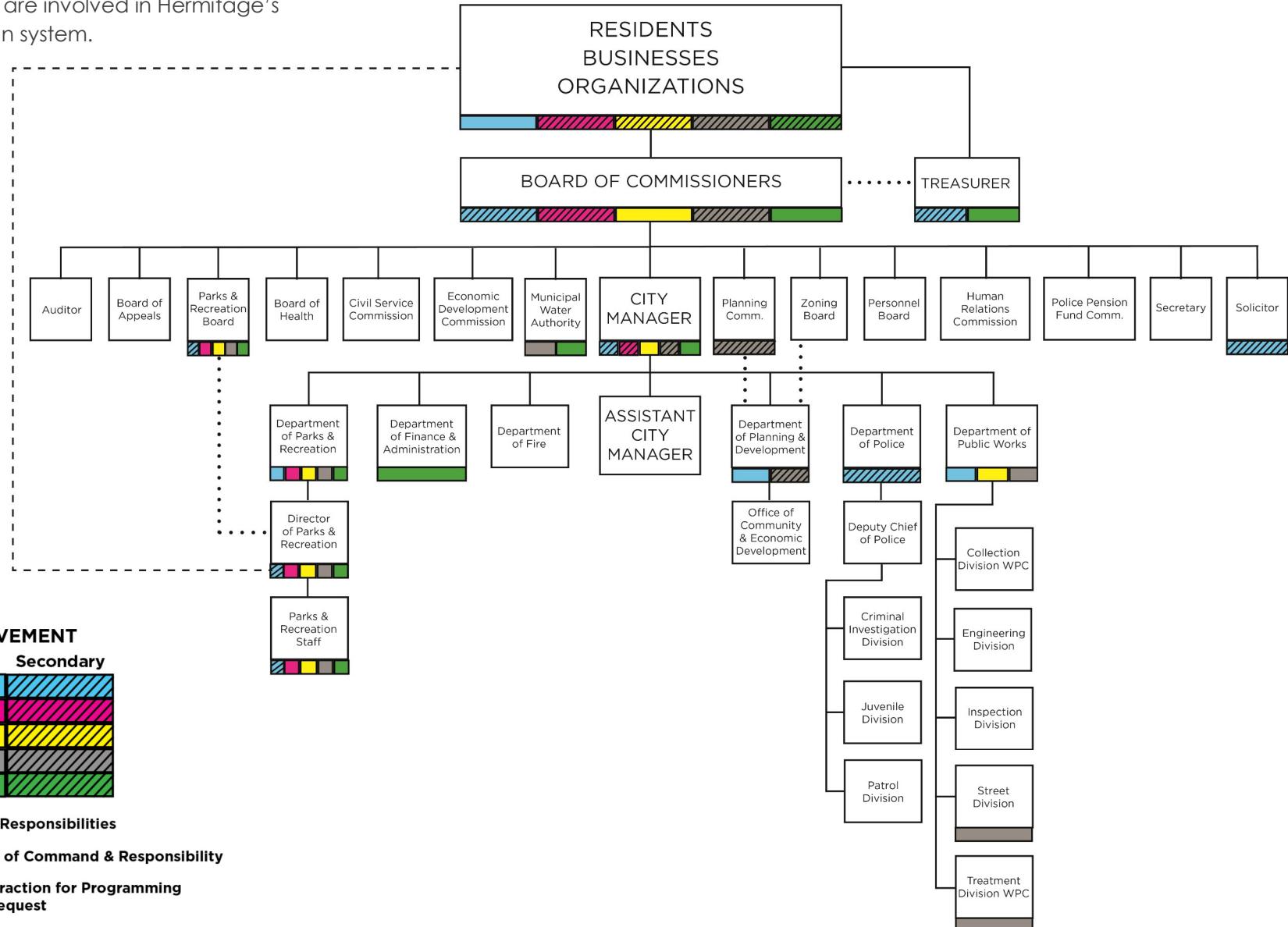


RECOMMENDATIONS

Fundamental to the success of the Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan are the specific actions and strategies established to fulfill the mission and achieve the Plan's goals. These big Ideas are outlined on the following pages.

Success Takes the Talents of Many

A number of City departments and leaders work in conjunction to fulfill the various responsibilities of the Department of Parks and Recreation, which include facilities, programs, management, maintenance, and financing. The following chart shows the areas with which municipal officials, boards, staff, and public stakeholders are involved in Hermitage's parks and recreation system.





FACILITIES

CORE RECOMMENDATION

Improve existing facilities and expand the development of new facilities that offer a variety of new programs or activities for residents in the perspective of long-term goals. Focus on the potential of an indoor recreation facility and further development of the trail/sidewalk network to connect residential neighborhoods and established recreation facilities. Strengthen relationships with private and public sector providers within or around the City and in Mercer County.

Overview

Facilities are the backbone of the parks and recreation systems. The City of Hermitage has their own facilities, but residents are able to use the facilities of nearby communities as well. They provide a place that residents can enjoy themselves while engaging in healthy activities with their neighbors. Currently, Hermitage can grow their accessible facilities by expanding their public and private sector network, and strengthening connections between neighborhoods and recreation facilities. With proper management, facilities can provide programming that meets the needs of residents of all ages and abilities.

Benefits

- Provides a local, integrated and connected network of open spaces and parks through the City and the County
- Improves property values and quality of life throughout the City
- Enables residents to conveniently access various types of athletic and passive recreation activities

which encourage health, fitness, enjoyment, and relaxation

- Coordinates City-owned facilities with those provided by others to promote sharing and avoid duplication.

Priority Strategies

1. Conduct a Feasibility Study to determine the physical need, level of citizen support, and financial alternatives associated with a private, public, or private/public indoor recreation facility. (Appendix)
2. Accommodate changes in recreation offerings and interest. The city has reached a point where the "knitting" of the public and private sector will allow for a recreational network, meeting the facility needs of all its residents.
3. Prioritize the City's sidewalks and trail offerings and look for opportunities, either by the City or through partnerships, to expand the current facilities; establish sidewalk and trail expansion as a long-term goal.
4. Construct trail improvements for hiking and biking that minimize future erosion damage and remedy accessibility issues.
5. Initiate, update, and develop implementation strategies associated with a Resource Management Plan for the City's parks.
6. Develop a unified and comprehensive signage system for use in traveling to/arriving at existing and future designated parks.



PROGRAMS

CORE RECOMMENDATION

Continue to provide a variety of recreation programs to the residents of the City of Hermitage that includes activities for all ages and groups.

Overview

Programming is a fundamental component of parks and recreation management. Activities range from special community and family events to team sports to leisure time pursuits for individuals. To effectively involve residents in program offerings, the City needs to identify what various target audiences want and then determine the proper balance between programs it sponsors and those provided by other organizations. Cooperation with private and non-profit recreation providers is a key to programming success.



Benefits

- Promotes health and wellness, increases quality of life
- Provides educational/cultural/arts/nature experiences
- Engages residents in the social life of the community

Reaches all segments of the community

- Improves awareness of public and private-sector programs
- Streamlines program administration efforts

Priority Strategies

1. Assess vitality of all recreation and sports programs, and strive to expand programming for unestablished and/or unorganized activities.
2. Disseminate programming opportunities and community events effectively through different forms of media that can reach all residents.
3. Evaluate which programs are the least utilized, which potential programs need funding/organization; develop a base to establish new programs, i.e. space, time, management. If there are specific athletic or recreation activities needing proper programming (e.g. intermural soccer), develop practical starting points to implement activity.
4. Enhance opportunities for volunteers: Under the coordination of the Director of Parks & Recreation, strengthen the opportunities for volunteers through coordinated/systematic outreach. Consider how these volunteers can expand opportunities for the Parks & Recreation department and their respected programs.
5. Restructure the Parks & Recreation website so that digital mode of communication is intuitive and navigable.



MANAGEMENT

CORE RECOMMENDATION

Match administrative capabilities with needs to enhance functionality of programs, facilities, maintenance operations, finance and project management.

Overview

Parks and recreation management requires interdisciplinary skills which focus on the care and maintenance of facilities and programs. It is the role of the managers to coordinate and oversee the safe, secure and environmentally-sound operation of the City's recreation assets in a cost effective manner aimed at their long-term preservation and enhancement. Their role extends to keeping a cohesive recreational structure and acting as a facilitator between all recreation programs and locations, ensuring the programs and facilities maintain as much transparency among each other as possible. Their duty is to make sure the day-to-day delivery of parks and recreation services and facilities are satisfactory to the end users and provide an optimal environment for recreation functions. Recreation management incorporates all activities related to keeping a park system running.

Benefits

- Control/oversight/reporting/accountability/reliability/increased effectiveness
- Promotes strategic thinking and sound decision making
- Matches organizational capabilities with pragmatic processes, which in cooperation with diverse constituencies, achieve Department goals and objectives

- Creates a parks environment which integrates people, places, programs, processes and projects in a sustainable system

Priorities

1. Organize administration roles and responsibilities to ensure continued short-term and long-term park and recreation successes. Address issues that need immediate attention, but shift focus onto longer-term goals.
2. Build on partnerships and explore options including funding through the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for combining resources and sharing responsibilities for recreation services with the business community, influential individuals, and neighboring municipalities where feasible.
3. Focus attention on conducting the Feasibility Study for proposed indoor recreation facility; expand trail network to fuse into the Industrial Heartland Trail Coalition.
4. Utilize strategic management systems to most efficiently plan and implement policies, procedures, and projects.

Management Scenarios for Parks and Recreation

Conventional Management	Strategic Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Maintaining the status quo2. Rooted in tradition3. Adheres to a rigid decision-making formula4. Reactive5. "Wait and See" in ambiguous situation6. Focused on internal operations7. Relies on the tried and true8. Lock-step processes9. Focus on efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Change-oriented, dynamic2. Mission-oriented3. Dynamic procedure of give-and take which guides future actions4. Proactive5. Action-oriented, even in face of ambiguity6. Focused on customer service7. Operates with creativity and innovation8. Emphasis is on options and high quality9. Focus on effectiveness



MAINTENANCE

CORE RECOMMENDATION

Expand the current state of maintenance by taking a "green approach" through elevated sustainable performance standards for all maintenance programming and functions.

Overview

Over the past twenty years, the City has made headway in further organizing and optimizing its plans for maintenance and performance. As the goal for the next ten years, the Department should focus their efforts on improving their maintenance program through the implementation of sustainability Best Management Practices and sharpening related skills through periodical training workshops and system evaluations.



Benefits

- Improves and preserves the quality of existing facilities and extends their usefulness
- Minimizes waste and effort
- Promotes safety and limits liability while enhancing the recreation experience and enjoyment

Priority Strategies

1. Establish periodic news briefs associated with Natural Resource Management and Stormwater Best Management Practices to inform residents of progress and performance of facilities.
2. Adopt and carry-out formalized sustainability solutions and work plan/schedules for facility-specific maintenance.
3. Develop a formalized, software based workload cost tracking and Maintenance Management System. Develop a database that provides inventory of all maintenance equipment, maintenance scheduling, and an overall maintenance program cost-tracking system. This cost tracking system will allow for proper estimations when considering short-term and long-term expenses.
4. Focus on employment development and create opportunities for employee advancement; Establish training system that includes education in natural resource management. Extend opportunities to designated employees for periodic training programs facilitated by professionals/schooling offered by National Recreation and Park Association.
5. Define short-term and long-term goals to determine a time-line of future investments



FINANCING

CORE RECOMMENDATION

Enhance Financial Management Practices

Financing equates to three equally significant matters: time, talent and resources. Allocating how the days and weeks are spent in providing, constructing and maintaining recreation is influenced by the minds and muscles talents that are present and available to carry. Several new funding streams are providing an infusion of cash into local recreation facilities. Act 13 of 2012 allocates a percentage of fees collected from unconventional gas wells to counties and municipalities impacted by the drilling partially for use on environmental programs. A portion of the fees collected are deposited into the Marcellus Legacy Fund, which is distributed to all counties for use on conservation and recreation initiatives and also provided to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for greenway, trail and park grants. In 2013, the CFA invested \$16.4 million in greenways, trails, open space and parks in municipalities across the state. The Transportation Act 89 of 2013 created two multimodal transportation funds. PennDOT now has a dedicated funding stream of at least \$2 million a year for bicycle and pedestrian projects with an emphasis on safety, shared use, pedestrian connectivity and partnerships. The CFA also receives at least \$40 million in multimodal funds. A 2013 amendment to the state's open space law allows for up to 25 percent of open space taxes to be used to develop, improve, design, engineer and maintain open space. This new flexibility enables municipalities with well-established open space protection programs to enhance their protected lands with trails and other recreational facilities. Additional funding flexibility also is available to municipalities with the September 2014 passage of an amendment to the Municipal Planning Code that allows municipalities to use a portion of the fees collected from developers to maintain existing parks instead of solely building new facilities.

The PA Recreation and Park Society also has a technical assistance service called RecTAP that offers great potential to expand to more communities, with up to \$2,500 available for small projects.

Overview

The purpose of financial management in parks and recreation is the judicious use of capital resources and the careful selection of capital projects to enable City spending to advance parks and recreation goals.

Benefits

- Prudent use of resources
- Maximize return on investment
- Assure achievement of objectives
- Improves cost control and revenue generation
- Provides measures of performance and accountability
- Provides data which can be used to modify goals and objectives

Priorities

1. Continue to evaluate all costs associated with parks and recreation facilities and programs on a regular basis
2. Continue making capital improvements based on available finances and funding available
3. Find additional opportunities for public/private facility funding (operations and capital improvements)
4. Continue to maintain a 5 year capital improvement plan
5. Define short-term and long-term goals to determine a timeline of future investments



Legend

- City of Hermitage
- Surrounding Municipalities
- Parcels
- Woodland Cover/Potential Greenway Linkages
- Existing Connections
- Potential Pedestrian Connections
- Schools
- Churches
- Public or Semi Public Parks and Recreational Green Spaces
- Non-Green Private Space Recreation Centers

OVERALL RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES HERMITAGE COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Prepared for: City of Hermitage

Prepared by: Environmental Planning and Design, LLC

October 14, 2015
2040.15.01

0 2,000 4,000 Feet





LEGEND

- Indicates a strategically important item as identified by the Project Steering Committee

CM City Manager

BoC City Board of Commissioners

PB Parks and Recreation Board

PS Parks and Recreation Department Staff

FC Facilities Coordinator

FP Other Facility Provider

ACTION	TERM	STAKEHOLDERS	RELATIVE ASSOCIATED COSTS
A. Facilities			
1 Indoor Recreation Facility			
a. Conduct a Feasibility Study to determine the physical need, level of citizen support and financial alternatives associated with a private, public or private/public indoor recreation facility.	Immediate	CM, BoC, PB, PS, FC, FP	\$20,000-\$25,000
2 Trails			
a. Prioritize the City's Trail offerings and look for opportunities, either by the City or through partnerships, to expand the current facilities within the City and in the greater region.	Immediate	PB, PS, FC, FP	Staff Time
b. Construct trail improvements for hiking and biking that minimize future erosion damage and remedy accessibility	Ongoing	PS, FC, FP, Volunteers	To be assessed
3 Enhance Users Experience			
a. Develop an ongoing method for customer input such as surveys, interviews or focus groups.	Ongoing	PS	Staff Time
4 Resource Management Plan			
a. Initiate, update and develop implementation strategies associated with a Resource Management Plan for the City's	Ongoing	CM, BoC, PB, PS, FP	Staff Time
5 Additional Facilities Actions			
a. Create and adopt sustainability standards in conjunction with other facility providers for all park sites, stormwater management practices and other supporting public recreation facility improvements.	Immediate	BoC, PB, PS, FC, FP	Staff/Board Time
b. Develop a unified and comprehensive signage system for use in travelling to/arriving at existing and future park	Short Term	PB, FC	Board Time/Varies
c. Evaluate and modify seeding, cutting and aeration strategies based on turf management evaluation findings	Short Term	CM, PS, FC	Staff Time
d. Prepare and implement a Forest Stewardship Plan and Sensitive Resource Assessment for public woodlands and/or	Medium Term	CM, BoC, PB, PS, FC, FP	Varies
e. Identify and evaluate the costs, policies and lands appropriate for an off leash recreation area.	Medium Term	CM, PB, PS, FC	Staff Time
f. Incorporate native xeriscape (drought resistant) landscape treatments in the passive open space areas of all parks.	Ongoing	PS	Varies



ACTION	TERM	STAKEHOLDERS	RELATIVE ASSOCIATED COSTS
B. Programming			
1 Website			
a. Create a more streamlined approach to parks and recreation on the City website. Enable request forms and program registration along with electronic payment forms as applicable to occur directly from the website and eliminate mailing of forms, etc. Minimize links to snapshots of the newsletter and provide a more customized feel to			
2 Balanced Recreation Program			
a. Continue to provide a variety of recreation programs to the residents of the City of Hermitage that includes activities for all ages and groups.			
3 Program Evaluation			
a. Provide ongoing evaluation of all programs offered by the City including things such as marketing of the programs and program feedback forms. Include actively promoting of all City owned and financially supported programs.			
4 Additional Programming Actions			
a. Create a program management plan that utilizes regular public involvement, program evaluation and outreach.			
b. Focus City resident participation on use of the parks by providing information to the community to motivate citizens to enjoy the parks and trails.			
c. Collect and analyze data to make informed decisions regarding participation, programs, fees, etc. Perform exit surveys for each program activity to enhance customer service/quality delivery.			
d. Establish an evaluation system using input from participants and leaders to improve programs and guide the planning and development of new recreation opportunities.			
e. Continue to update programs that identify specific target groups based on age and build from existing successful program areas.			
f. Adopt a formula of 50% repeat programs, 30% seasonal programs and 20% new programs.			
g. Develop a three year marketing plan to increase public awareness about parks and recreation.			
h. Continue to update programs of recreation focus areas such as nature, fitness and special events in order to further connect residents to the outdoors.			
i. Strengthen partnerships with public and private sector recreation providers and local businesses where beneficial.			
C. Management			
1 Strategic Management System			
a. Utilize a strategic management system philosophy, versus a conventional management philosophy, to more effectively carry out policies, procedures and plans,			
2 Partnerships			
a. Build on partnerships and explore options including funding through DCNR for combining resources and sharing responsibilities for recreation services with neighboring municipalities where feasible.			
3 Reporting			
a. Make seasonal and annual reports documenting the performance on the work program available to City Supervisors and the general public			



ACTION	TERM	STAKEHOLDERS	RELATIVE ASSOCIATED COSTS
D. Financing			
1 Cost Tracking			
a. Continue to evaluate all costs associated with parks and recreation facilities and programs on a regular basis. Establish 'per acre' maintenance costs for City owned facilities that can then be tracked. Continue making capital improvements based on available finances and funding available. Maintain a 5 year capital improvement plan.	Ongoing	PB, PS, FC, FP	Board Time
2 Cost Recovery			
a. As part of overall cost and revenue considerations, the City should determine its philosophy on cost recovery for facilities and programs it sponsors (i.e. free or minimal program cost versus fee programs paid for by individuals with some City support.)	Ongoing	PB, CM, BoC, FC	Board Time
E. Maintenance			
1 Management			
a. Establish a formalized maintenance management system using written/computerized workload cost tracking.	Immediate	CM, FC, PS	Staff Time
b. Adopt the use of a Management Impact Statement for improvements, projects or programs that could have a major impact on staffing, maintenance requirements, programming and department functions overall.	Short Term (0-2 years)	CM, PB, FC, PS	Staff Time
c. Expand on current practices and prepare an overall Park Maintenance Plan	Ongoing	PB, PS, FC, FP	Staff Time
d. Use the \$1,500 per acre cost as the minimum for projecting future costs until the City develops real time workload cost tracking information on which to base actual per acre per facility and cost center prices.	Ongoing	PS, FC	Staff Time
2 Park Maintenance Personnel Training			
a. Consider sending the City Facilities Coordinator to the NRPA (National Park and Recreation Association) Maintenance Management School as needed.	Short Term (0-2 years)	CM, PB, FC, PS	Staff Time
b. Establish a 5-year employee development program for the park maintenance management team.	Medium Term	CM, PB, FC, PS	Staff Time
c. Dedicate one to two percent of the park operating budget to employee development including participation in relevant organizations such as the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society.	Ongoing	PB, FC	Staff Time
3 Alliances			
a. Strengthen alliances with the Mercer County Parks Department and the Sharon City and Hermitage School District's Facilities Department to share knowledge and ideas on park maintenance.	Ongoing	PB, PS, FC, FP	Staff Time



GOOD | CLEAN | FUN

HERMITAGE COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION,
PARKS & OPEN SPACE PLAN

APPENDIX

This appendix contains supporting background information as related to:
Roles, Recent Capital Budgeting, Citizen Feedback and City Programming Information

CITY SNAPSHOT

The City of Hermitage is located in the southwest quadrant of Mercer County, PA. Along with its neighbors of Sharon, Wheatland, Farrel, and Sharpsville, Hermitage is one of the "Shenango Valley" communities named after the Shenango River that runs through western portions of Mercer County. Early industrial development in the county clustered around the Shenango River caused the growth of towns such as Sharon and Farrel.

Hermitage remained rural until the 1950's when suburbanization occurred in the Shenango Valley. At this time, the population in town centers like Sharon began to drop, and Hermitage with its growing population, began to transform from a rural community to the suburban community that it is today. In 1940, Hermitage, called Hickory Township, had a population of 4,295; by 1960, the population of the City of Hermitage was 12,635. Hermitage continued to grow until 1980 when its population peaked at 16,365. The 1980's decline of the steel industry caused population losses to both the traditional towns and the suburban communities in the Shenango Valley. In 1990, the population of the City had dropped to 15,300. Hermitage has slowly regained some populations (over 16,000) and is Mercer County's second largest municipality. Despite the population losses in the 1980's and the relatively stagnant population growth since, the demand for recreation programs and facilities in Hermitage has continued to be significant. The numbers of youth involved in athletic programs as well as the numbers of youth sports programs including Little League Baseball, soccer and girls softball has seen increases over the past five to ten years.

Parks and recreation planning in Hermitage has been and continues to be a priority. The Hermitage Parks and Recreation Board, a joint recreation board between the City and the

Hermitage School District, was created by a City ordinance enacted in 1975. The City Parks and Recreation Department with a full time director was formed in 1998 following the number one recommendation of the 1996 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

The City currently owns five park and open space sites including 22 acres of the Rodney White Olympic Park, the 22-acre Whispering Pines Community Park, the Baker Avenue Park, the Hermitage Athletic Complex and the Stull Property acquired in recent years. In addition, the City maintains trails at Linden Pointe and owns two natural resource areas - the Hickory Heights Dedication and the Nature Reserve.

Other significant notes of recreation opportunities include two golf courses, various athletic fields, other ball field complexes, the Shenango Valley YMCA and the Buhl Club. Finally, there are numerous private facilities that include private schools, churches, and clubs/social organizations. The City's decision to plan and construct a state of the art Athletic Complex is a response to a community need for more facilities of this type.

The recommendations of previous plans emphasized local sports organizations were in need of additional fields for games and practice, and that the City should aid in the development of new facilities. With the construction of the Athletic Complex, the desire and participation in athletic team sports has continued to grow, and the City carries on its desire to employ the phasing of its overall Athletic Complex planning strategy. With a significant amount of capital expended on facility construction in the past decade, the focus of this planning effort is in laying some groundwork to address the on-going care of these facilities as it is now a priority. Further, the City is focusing on enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of its daily operations and services to ensure quality recreation is delivered to residents and visitors in the decade ahead.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

Overview

Background information associated with what City-available record-keeping files have been incorporated into the series of following exhibits and observations. As part of the 2015 planning process, City Staff has begun to evaluate the potential electronic programs that could be used for internal recording and tracking additional enrollment, its programming operations practices and maintenance needs information in coming years. Further as a result of this planning process, the City has also identified, begun evaluating and is staging to implement ways in which its on-line/ website outreach can evolve so that electronic sign-ups and payments for recreation activities, along with other similar City-wide services, can be available to all of those with digital access.

Programming

The program assessment explores service to the citizens through recreation programs and opportunities in the City of Hermitage. The purpose of the program assessment was to assist the City in gaining insight into the current recreational activities and interests of the citizens, program and service expectations, level of awareness about recreation programs and barriers to participation. The insight generated from this exploration helped guide recommendations for providing recreational opportunities for citizens of all ages and interests in the community.

The assessment evaluated quantitative and qualitative data on programs, community and recreation trends identified through the public participation process as well as department records generated through the department's reporting system. Quantitative data includes the Park and Recreation Department's available records. Qualitative data includes resident feedback obtained through the Study Committee,

public forums, interviews, a city-wide electronic survey, and customer feedback through letters and programs. A copy of the survey's results is included with the Plan's Appendix.

The Hermitage Parks and Recreation Department plays an active role in promoting recreation opportunities in the community. The Department's mode of dissemination is through the municipal website, social media postings, and also through a periodic newsletter sent to all residents of the City of Hermitage. While all programming information is available to residents through an on-going list on their municipal website and through the newsletter, signing up for programs must be done in person or by contacting the Department directly. In today's electronically/geared business world, there is an untapped opportunity to provide residents convenience with online services, sign-ups, and payments.

Residents who participate in Department-run programming are enrolling in city-sponsored recreational activities more often, and more programming hours are being seen. In order to ensure that the high quality of the recreational programs are being made available to residents, it is possible that the introduction of an easily accessible enrollment process, more participants may be attracted to available programming.

Additionally, the Department can further its efforts to enhance its enrollment tracking procedures and patterns. In conjunction with assessing electronic sign-up platforms, the City Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works Streets Department are currently evaluating available electronic methods or recording enrollment. By doing so, the Department will be able to see which programs are the most valued and which ones can be reconsidered to offer new programs. If new administrative persons join the Department, they will be able to understand the programming system easily.

The City of Hermitage excels at offering a variety of recreational

activities- from birdwatching outings, pottery classes, to peewee football- programs that can touch the lives of children, adults, and seniors alike. Though the Department is able to provide City residents and non-residents with diverse recreational programs, it's clear that there is a fondness for athletic activities. With the addition of the City's Athletic Complex, there has been more recreation opportunities and facility use, resulting in a higher demand for facility staff. As record keeping becomes more efficient, the City can analyze the change in enrollment numbers in certain programs that have boomed since the addition of the Athletic Complex. Currently, the most popular recreation programs that are offered to residents are the divisions of youth baseball. Even during the off season, Fall Ball had 425 participants in 2015, and increase of 35 since the previous year.

Popular programs, such as Fall Ball, are recorded for annual evaluation, and the Department finds with lower participation in programs such as pottery or stamp scrapbooking, enrollment is not recorded in the same manner. It is a general observation from City staff that non-athletic programs yield an average of 15-25 participants per session. Hermitage is constantly striving to expand programming by changing up adult-targeted programs every few years, but substantial participation has yet to be realized.

The City is constantly adapting to the external influences and demands of resident recreation desire by ensuring that its citizens are able to participate in high-quality recreational programming, whether it be through the City itself, or through one of its many collaborative partners. One such example is the City passes the torch to other recreational providers to offer teen-oriented programs. This includes activities such as drama or orchestra classes managed by the School Districts. The YMCA has begun to propose to the City more joint programming for athletics.

At the end of each year, the Parks and Recreation Department is able to manage program funds efficiently enough to have consistent budget surpluses. With the growing demands of the Athletic Complex's use, these dollars are judiciously repurposed from programming line and put towards on-going facility improvements. The Department always manages to be strategic as to how they allocate their budget. Looking towards the future of recreational programming, there is continuous demand for a Department-facilitated soccer program, but with these other non-city providers fulfilling this role, resolution of this issue remains under constant evaluation. This may be an issue that can be further addressed with changes in the practices of logging programming and enrollment information.

Athletic Programs

Athletic Programs				
Program	Age Range	Gender	Season	Number of Participants
1. Tennis	Youth/Adult	M/F		
2. Football - Smiglets	6 - 8	M	Fall	25
3. Football - Pee Wees	9 - 10	M	Fall	20
4. Football - Midgets	11 - 12		Fall	18
5. Cheerleading - Smiglets	6 - 8	F	Fall	45
6. Cheerleading	9 - 10	F	Fall	25
7. Fall Ball		M	Fall	425
7. Baseball - T-Ball	5 - 8	M	Summer	60
8. Baseball - FarmTeen		M	Summer	
9. Baseball - Major	11 - 12	M	Summer	45
10. Baseball - Junior	13 - 14	M	Summer	26
11. Baseball - Senior	15 - 16	M	Summer	15
12. Basketball	Grades 3 - 4	M/F	Winter	
13. Basketball	Grades 3 - 12	M/F	Summer	
14. Soccer	Grades 2 - 12	M/F	Summer	
15. Wrestling	Youth - Highschool	M	Summer	
16. Cross County/Track & Field	Middleschool - Highschool	M/F	Summer	

Information not currently on City record

Non-Athletic Programs

Non-Athletic Programs				
Program	Age Range	Gender	Fee	Location
1. Pottery	18+	M/F	\$150	Circle K Studio
2. Peak N' Peak	14+			
3. Holiday Valley				
4. Pewter Jewelry- Castimg		M/F	\$25.00	DK Little
5. Crafter's Club			Cost of Supplies	Municipal Building Studio
6. Cooking Class with Floria	Adult	M/F	\$80.00	HHS Home Econ Room
7. Card Making Class	Adult	M/F	\$20	
8. Theatre Bus Trips		M/F	Varies	Cleveland/Pittsburgh
9. Casino Trips	Adult	M/F	Varies	Cleveland/Pittsburgh
10. Swing Dance	Adult	M/F	\$25.00	Hermitage Middle School
11. Drum Circle Class	Kids 5+	M/F	\$15.00	Community Library
12. Cooking for Crowds	Adult	M/F	\$15.00	Municipal Building
13. Zumba	Adult	M/F	\$25.00	Buhl Kindergarten Building
14. Pottery with Adam Darby	Adult	M/F	\$40.00	Adam Darby Studio
15. "Oh Wow" Field Trips	Youth	M/F	\$5.00	Oh Wow Science Center: Youngstown
16. Pittsburgh Arts Fest/Strip District	Adult	M/F	\$30.00	Pittsburgh
17. Amish Country	Adult	M/F	\$30.00	Berlin, OH
18. Stampin' w/ Theresa	Adult	F	\$25.00	Municipal Building
19. Arts Fest 5K	Youth/Adult	M/F		
20. Home Composting	Adult	M/F	\$25.00	Municipal Building
21. Pittsburgh Home & Garden Show	Adult	M/F	\$35.00	Pittsburgh
22. Wine Tasting	Adult	M/F	\$30.00	DiLorenzo's/ Buhl Park Casino
23. Bridge Really Rocks	Youth	M/F	\$15.00	Municipal Building
24. Music Lessons	Grades 6 - 12	M/F		

Information not currently on City record

Management / Financing

The management of the Parks and Recreation Department and their associated facilities function through the collaboration of different City budgets. The responsibilities which keep the City of Hermitage's parks well maintained, safe, and thriving for their guests are shared by the Streets Department, Recreation Department, and Parks (physical improvements through the Recreation Department). The following gives a glimpse into the general responsibilities held by each sector.

When analyzing the Park and Recreation Department's budget (all drawn from the City's General Fund, attention is drawn to the

Facilities (Streets Department)	Parks (Recreation Department)	Amenities/Participation (Recreation Department)
Grass Mowing	Specialized Field Maintenance	Food/Water for events
Park structure repairs	3 rd Party Contracting	Rentals
Paving		Shirts
		Sponsorships

fact that year after year, the Recreation Department and the Street Department stays under budget. Expenditures of the Recreation Department which they are able to stay the most under budget are Senior Programs and Adult Programs, and overall were able to stay more than ten percent under budget each year between 2010 to 2015.

Since the Recreation Department is consistently under budget, they could choose to expand budgeting into different areas that may be lacking funding. With a reoccurring push for youth soccer program, perhaps financial consideration, in combination with current programming evaluation, is an opportunity to address.

The Department is always seeking opportunities to work with partners to provide the best recreational programs and facilities it can find for its residents. The YMCA and City are under on-going discussion about potential ways to do joint programming. The City is initiating discussion with Buhl Farm Park for consideration in

partnering in regards to the purchase and/or operation of management software. This increased interest in IT collaborative is illustrative of the innovation the Departments are seeking out for strategic opportunities to continually raise the bar in recreation management and services. Department determination to continuously set higher standards for itself is becoming infectious throughout the City. Buhl Farm Park has brought in new administration recently to help reinvigorate programs and broaden their services further. This healthy collaboration between different recreational providers throughout Mercer County is creating an exciting and thriving area, with multiple resources striving to provide the highest quality resources to its citizens.

The Recreation Department is in collaboration with Buhl Pool to help offer Hermitage Residents the opportunity to purchase seasonal pool passes at discounted rates. Though originally piloted through a contribution to the pool made for the Hermitage residents, the Recreation Department wanted to be able to keep allowing residents to swim at leisure at an affordable price. This has resulted in the department now reimbursing the pool for the difference in price. (See data on the following page.)

A management practice that has the opportunity for improvement is through the Department's strategy of relaying program and activity information and enrollment. Currently, the Recreation Department plays an active role in promoting recreation opportunities in the community through their municipal website, and also through a periodic newsletter that is sent to all residents, and then residents can enroll by contacting the department directly. While this procedure may work well for smaller municipalities, a city of Hermitage's size requires convenient and accessible enrollment operations. Currently, the City does not accept online reservations or payments. When looking at other municipalities of similar size, online recreational services is not only normal, but the most used mode by residents. Upon providing this option, online department services can result in increased program enrollment and also make tracking

enrollment numbers much easier. Further, the department can customize online services to provide information and opportunities that will be the most useful to its citizens, ranging from pavilion rentals to volunteer sign ups.

A challenge ubiquitous among all Parks and Recreation Departments is the level of volunteer engagement. Though there is ample volunteer participation in athletic events, other less popular recreational programs do not receive the same amount of interest in volunteer. Recording of volunteer participation can begin to be recorded in electronic tracking

software when available. Recognizing volunteer engagement in certain programs while reserving staff for programs that do not yield as much volunteer interest can stabilize volunteer and department efforts.

The City of Hermitage Recreation Department's ability to stay within budget year after year is a hallmark of effective management and coordination among all City leaders and staff. It takes significant effort and forethought to consistently excel at properly allocating funds among the different City Departments' necessities.

Buhl Community Recreation Center: Pool Tag Quantities (through the City) and Costs

A very important part of recreation offerings in the City is the City's relationship with Buhl Farm Park. On an annual basis, residents can purchase pool passes to the Buhl Farm Park facility at a discounted rate through the City. The City provides a baseline contribution to Buhl Farm Park; for any overage beyond the contribution that may be incurred as part of the pool pass purchases, the City pays Buhl Farm Park the difference.

Year	Quantity Sold at Municipal Building	Municipal Discounted Rate	Municipal Sales	Regular Rate	Regular Sales	Difference Owed	Difference Owed (Total)
2015	Family Passes: 71 Adult Passes: 15 Youth Passes: 2 Senior Passes: 4		Family Passes: \$3,173 Adult Passes: \$450 Youth Passes: \$40 Senior Passes: \$80		Family Passes: \$5,680 Adult Passes: \$900 Youth Passes: \$80 Senior Passes: \$160	Family Passes: \$2508 Adult Passes: \$450 Youth Passes: \$40 Senior Passes: \$80	\$3,078
2014	Family Passes: 80 Adult Passes: 17 Youth Passes: 1 Senior Passes: 0	Family Passes: \$45 Adult Passes: \$30	Family Passes: \$3,600 Adult Passes: \$495 Youth Passes: \$20 Senior Passes: \$0	Family Passes: \$80 Adult Passes: \$60	Family Passes: \$6,400 Adult Passes: \$1,020 Youth Passes: \$40 Senior Passes: \$0	Family Passes: \$2800 Adult Passes: \$525 Youth Passes: \$20 Senior Passes: \$0	\$3,345
2013	Family Passes: 86 Adult Passes: 14 Youth Passes: 3 Senior Passes: 0	Youth Passes: \$20 Senior Passes: \$20	Family Passes: \$3,870 Adult Passes: \$420 Youth Passes: \$60 Senior Passes: \$0	Youth Passes: \$40 Senior Passes: \$40	Family Passes: \$6,880 Adult Passes: \$840 Youth Passes: \$120 Senior Passes: \$0	Family Passes: \$3,010 Adult Passes: \$420 Youth Passes: \$60 Senior Passes: \$0	\$3,490
2012	Family Passes: 95 Adult Passes: 18 Youth Passes: 0 Senior Passes: 0		Family Passes: \$4,275 Adult Passes: \$540 Youth Passes: 0 Senior Passes: 0		Family Passes: \$7,600 Adult Passes: \$1,080 Youth Passes: \$0 Senior Passes: \$0	Family Passes: \$3,865 Adult Passes: \$540 Youth Passes: \$0 Senior Passes: \$0	\$3,865

Overall Municipal Facilities Budget (General Fund)

Facilities Budget		
YEAR	Projected	Actual
2015	\$347,367	
2014	\$359,087	\$337,310
2013	\$329,180	\$314,102
2012	\$247,095	\$204,736
2011		
2010		

Recreation Department Budget

RECREATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET																	
	2015		2014			2013			2012			2011			2010		
EXPENDITURE	Project-ed	Project-ed	Actual	Under Budget													
Administration	\$119,666	\$118,595	\$99,264	16%	\$117,433	\$106,377	9%	\$111,140	\$107,348	3%	\$108,828	\$101,766	6%	\$98,021	\$75,162	23%	
Participation	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,300	6%	\$4,000	\$3,232	19%	\$4,000	\$3,713	7%	\$4,000	\$3,713	7%	\$4,000	\$3,673	8%	
Summer Recreation	\$42,395	\$48,778	\$36,370	25%	\$49,510	\$47,919	3%	\$54,490	\$42,837	21%	\$50,995	\$46,155	9%	\$42,797	\$49,445	-16%	
Adult Programs	\$17,500	\$17,500	\$7,000	60%	\$25,000	\$14,000	44%	\$24,000	\$13,500	44%	\$25,000	\$24,708	1%	\$32,500	\$30,200	7%	
Youth Programs	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$13,293	26%	\$18,500	\$15,500	16%	\$13,500	\$13,360	1%	\$14,500	\$13,000	10%	\$15,750	\$10,000	37%	
Senior Programs	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	100%	\$2,000	\$400	80%	\$2,000	\$0	100%	\$2,000	\$0	100%	\$2,000	\$0	100%	
Elementary Summer Camp	\$17,748	\$17,298	\$16,458	5%	\$17,948	\$20,756	-16%	\$17,947	\$16,576	8%	\$18,947	\$16,358	14%	\$19,307	\$15,611	19%	
Summer Arts Festival	\$27,500	\$27,000	\$22,337	17%	\$18,000	\$14,722	18%	\$19,000	\$14,775	22%	\$17,000	\$16,883	1%	\$15,500	\$14,496	6%	
Parks *	\$75,500	\$64,500	\$58,421	9%	\$92,500	\$62,465	32%	\$80,700	\$76,000	6%	\$72,000	\$70,689	2%	\$50,500	\$41,900	17%	
Library	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	0%	\$100,000	\$100,000	0%	\$100,000	\$100,000	0%	\$100,000	\$100,000	0%	\$100,000	\$100,000	0%	
TOTAL	\$426,809	\$420,171	\$356,443	15%	\$444,891	\$385,371	13%	\$426,777	\$388,109	9%	\$413,270	\$393,272	5%	\$380,375	\$340,487	10%	

PARKS BUDGET																	
	2015		2014			2013			2012			2011			2010		
EXPENDITURE	Project-ed	Project-ed	Actual	Under Budget													
Misc. Materials & Supplies	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$7,271	-32%	\$5,000	\$5,200	-4%	\$5,000	\$5,000	0%	\$5,000	\$4,500	10%	\$2,500	\$265	89%	
Misc. Services	\$45,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	0%	\$30,000	\$30,000	0%	\$20,000	\$20,000	0%	\$15,000	\$15,200	-1%	\$4,500	\$5,575	-24%	
Electric	\$9,000	\$5,500	\$6,850	-25%	\$7,000	\$4,900	30%	\$7,000	\$6,000	14%	\$6,000	\$6,189	-3%	\$5,500	\$3,200	42%	
Sewer	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$3,000	25%	\$4,000	\$3,365	16%	\$4,200	\$3,500	17%	\$4,000	\$3,500	13%	\$3,000	\$2,160	28%	
Water	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$5,300	47%	\$12,000	\$6,000	50%	\$12,000	\$10,000	17%	\$5,000	\$11,100	-122%	\$5,000	\$2,375	53%	
Equipment Rental	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,000	60%	\$2,500	\$1,500	40%	\$500	\$1,000	-100%	\$500	\$200	60%	\$2,500	\$250	90%	
Equipment Repair	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	100%	\$2,000	\$500	75%	\$2,000	\$500	75%	\$1,500	\$0	100%	\$2,500	0	100%	
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	\$30,000	\$11,000	63%	\$30,000	\$30,000	0%	\$35,000	\$30,000	14%	\$25,000	\$28,075	-12%	

Maintenance

The City of Hermitage takes an innovative approach to park maintenance by strategic distribution of efforts among the different municipal departments. The Parks sector of the department oversees all park and facility maintenance, with the exception of mowing, which is managed through the Public Works Department. By separating these maintenance practices, the Parks office is able to save substantial funds on what tends to be the most expensive upkeep of the department. Since these expenses are being saved, it could be expected that the other aspects of maintenance are held to a higher standard due to their ability to fund other maintenance projects. As a component of City work that has taken on greater breadth and expertise in the past decade, data associated with the Street Department's work and the Facilities Coordinator management of this crew is found in the main body of this report.

Facilities

According to the American College of Sports Medicine, "research studies tell us that the majority of adults in the United States (54.1%) do not engage in enough physical activity. Inactivity doubles the risk of developing heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and obesity. Physical inactivity also has staggering economic consequences. The annual cost directly attributable to inactivity in the U.S. is an estimated \$24–76 billion. The good news is that modest increases in physical activity have the potential to produce substantial health benefits. Population-based interventions to promote health and prevent disease have provided strong evidence that public health efforts can successfully increase physical activity."

Providing a quality system that residents and visitors can rely upon is a significant undertaking. The City of Hermitage's partnership with the quasi-public and private-sectors to round out a wide range of recreation opportunities stems from its on-going pursuits. As part of previous recreation planning efforts, a detailed site and conditions inventory was completed. Those facilities were once again examined to identify notable changes. Based upon site reviews, most local facilities have maintained their same conditions with normal signs of wear and tear. The conditions of ADA accessibility remain good to excellent on all

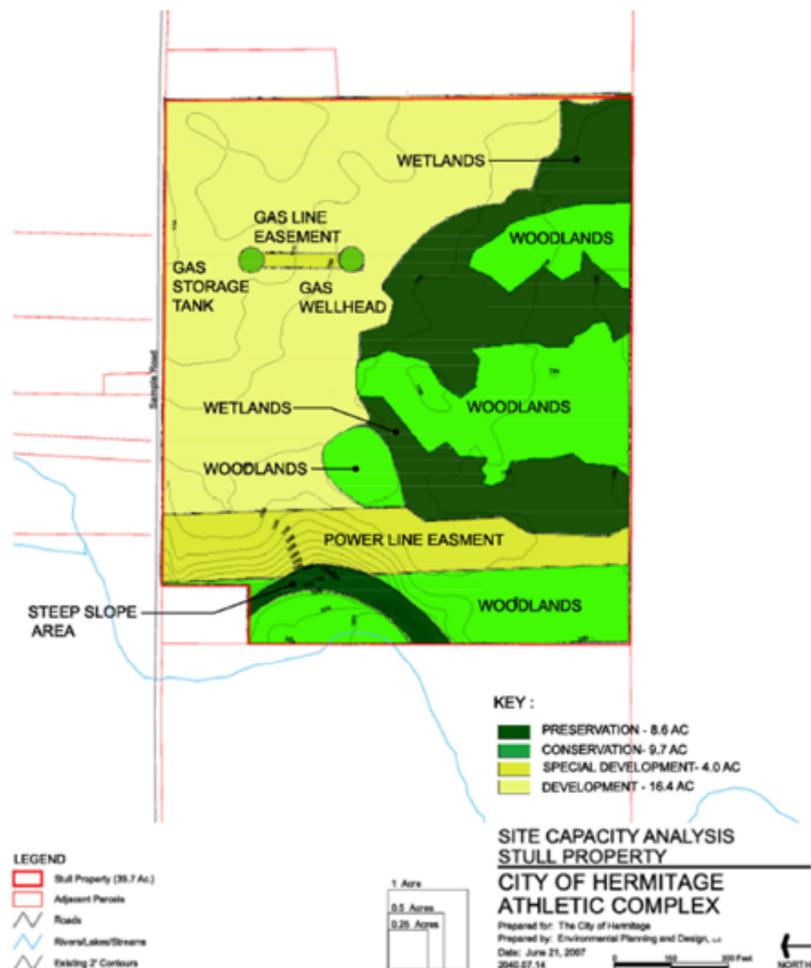
public facilities. A City Safety Committee meets monthly to determine any applicable updates that are needed. The City's insurance adjuster completes safety walk-throughs unannounced typically multiple times a year. Reports of walk-through findings are available on record at the City Administration Building. The addition of/maintaining trail linkages at Linden Pointe, the improvements of Whispering Pines Community Park and, of course, the development of the Hermitage Athletic Complex are notable improvements the City has made commitments to in the past decade.

In review of the 2007 Hermitage Athletic Complex site feasibility analyses associated with determining its appropriate location, the Stull Property is one of the City's future recreation opportunities in future decades. The Stull Property is a 37.9-acre parcel situated on the south side of Sample Road. The former land owner had resided on the property for many years and although rural in nature, it exhibits many characteristics of a residential property. The property is accessed by the driveway to the previous owner's home. A dense windbreak of Norway Spruce parallels the existing driveway to the west of the farming homestead. To the south and east of the house are several outbuildings including a former hen house and a barn. A gas wellhead is located in the meadow area to the east of the house with its storage tanks placed just beyond the outbuildings. Additional spruce trees and a narrow woodland hedge row form the eastern border of the property.

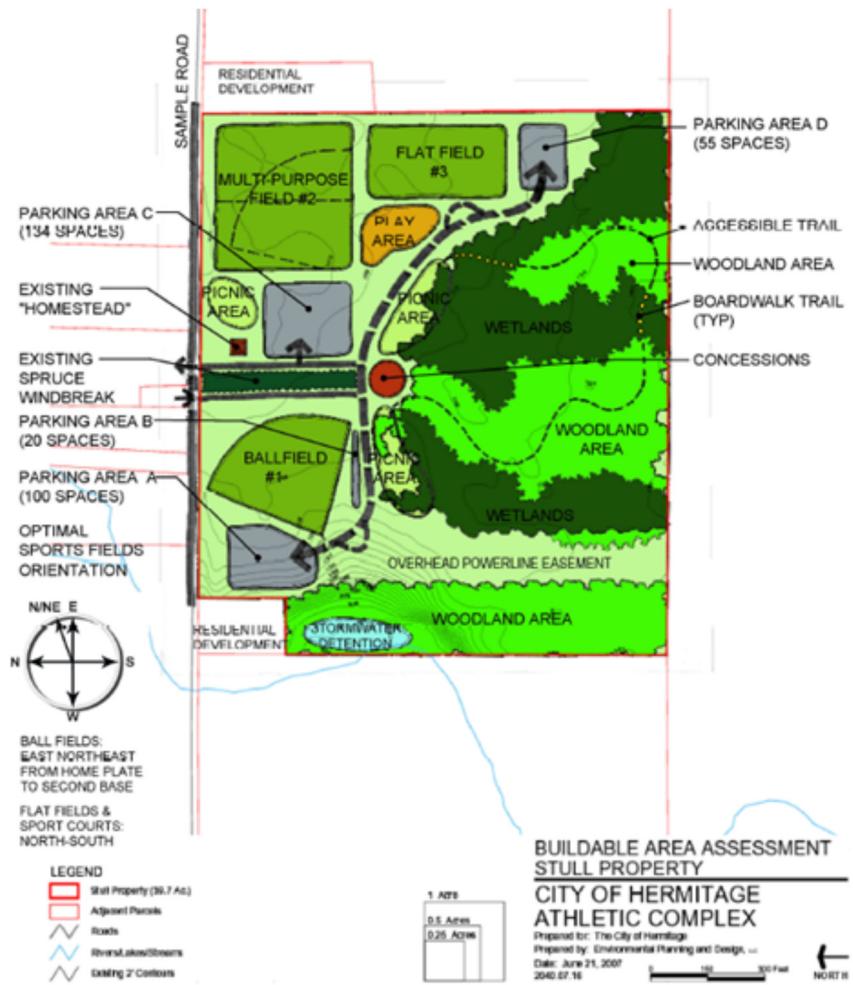
Open meadows with slopes of one percent (1%) or less in gradient flank the homestead to the east and to the west. Beyond the meadows to the west and the south are densely wooded areas. To the southeast beyond the barn a path leads to the family picnic grove where a large pavilion exists. At the northwestern corner of the property, the land slopes steeply down to a stream valley located on the adjacent parcel. The far western portion of the property is divided from the rest of the land by an overhead power line easement approximately 80 feet in width.

The southern area of the property is poorly drained and consists of wetland grasses and flowers as well as a large woodland area that contains two very large wetlands (2.4 acres and 4.75 acres). These wetlands have been previously delineated, appear to have a high

ecological value and are generally unsuitable for development. The permitting process to mitigate or remove the wetlands through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection would most likely be lengthy and costly because of the size and quality of the wetlands. The vegetation in these areas is very dense and contains many hardwood trees including beech, maple, walnut and several species of oak. Large specimen trees are interspersed among the dense under story trees and shrubs. The Stull Property's proximity to municipal infrastructure and utilities readily available with the exception of potable water that needs a 3,000 foot extension to reach the property.



Overall, the Stull Property has many unique visual qualities due to its farming history and the existence of the homestead. The property has a unique character from existing structures, the bright spots of peonies and forget-me-nots, the exceptional high quality wetlands, the overhead power lines, the picnic grove and the spruce windbreak. Although a buildable area assessment (shown to the right) has been completed to determine the range and scale of athletic-oriented facilities that could possibly fit on the site, it is most suitable for passive types of recreation.



1976, shall maintain residency in the City of Hermitage as a condition of employment.

§ 1-199.6. Prohibitions of City Employees. [Ord. 51-75, 12/30/1975, § 1; as amended by Ord. 18-83, 12/22/1983]

Any City employee who has any financial interest, direct or indirect, in any contract or purchase involving the City shall make known that interest to the Manager and shall refrain from influencing or otherwise participating in any decisions affecting said contract or purchase. Violation of this section by any City employee shall be grounds for discharge.

§ 1-199.7. Amendments. [Ord. 51-75, 12/30/1975, § 1]

This Part shall be amended in accordance with § 303 of the Home Rule Charter.

M. Department of Parks and Recreation.

§ 1-199.11. General. [Ord. 51-75, 12/30/1975, § 1; as added by Ord. 12-98, 10/22/1998, § 1]

The Department of Parks and Recreation shall be headed and directed by a Director of Parks and Recreation, who shall be appointed by the City Manager as provided in § 601 of the Home Rule Charter.

§ 1-199.12. Duties of the Director of Parks and Recreation. [Ord. 51-75, 12/30/1975, § 1; as added by Ord. 12-98, 10/22/1998, § 1]

The Director of Parks and Recreation shall be responsible for all matters relating to planning, development and administration of City recreation programs, the supervision of all Department personnel, and management, maintenance and operation of the physical recreation properties, facilities and equipment of the City, and shall perform such other duties related to parks and recreation as may be assigned to him from time to time by the City Manager.

§ 1-199.13. Job Qualifications for the Director of Parks and Recreation. [Ord. 51-75, 12/30/1975, § 1; as added by Ord. 12-98, 10/22/1998, § 1]

The Director of Parks and Recreation shall possess a bachelors degree in recreation or sport science or a related field from a four-year college or university and one year's related experience and/or training, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

CITY OF HERMITAGE, PENNSYLVANIA
Equipment Operator Position Description

Page 1 of 4

DAN BURKE

Position Number: 026.01

Reports To: Street Foreman

Revision Number: 000

Department: Street

Most Recent Revision Date: October 1, 2013

FLSA Status: Non-Exempt

GENERAL PURPOSE

The Equipment Operator operates a variety of equipment to transport material, perform routine and winter maintenance on City streets, properties and facilities and performs various labor duties.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The duties listed below are intended as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed pursuant to the City Charter. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment pursuant to the requirements of the City Charter or other applicable laws or regulations.

1. **PERFORMS STREET AND ROAD MAINTENANCE:** Transports materials and personnel to and from specified destinations; repairs and maintains streets and roads including patching and resurfacing; cleans and maintains storm water conveyance systems including catch basins; installs, removes and maintains street and traffic control signs and pavement markings on roadway surfaces.
2. **PERFORMS WINTER MAINTENANCE:** Operates truck to plow and applies salt and related materials to remove snow from roadways; operates equipment and tools to remove snow and ice from walkways and driveways; loads winter maintenance materials on trucks.
3. **PERFORMS GRASS AND LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE:** Operates mowers and related landscape maintenance equipment and tools to maintain recreational facilities, lawns and landscaped areas; sprays herbicides; prunes trees; applies mulch; cleans and performs routine maintenance on mowers and landscape equipment.
4. **PERFORMS TRAFFIC CONTROL AT WORKSITES:** Properly distributes traffic control signs and markers; directs movement of traffic through worksites using signs, flags and hand signals as per PENNDOT regulations.
5. **OPERATES VARIOUS PIECES OF HEAVY OR SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT:** Operates street sweeper on streets and City driveways and parking lots; operates dump trucks; operates bucket trucks with adjustable boom to install and maintain signs, decorations and lighting; operates tractors with mowers and brush hogs to cut grass on fields, around stormwater detention facilities and along roadways; operates loader/backhoe and forklift to load and unload trucks and to move and stack

CITY OF HERMITAGE, PENNSYLVANIA
Equipment Operator Position Description

Page 2 of 4

materials; operates roller to compact road patching materials, stones and dirt; operates truck with trailer to haul materials and equipment; and operates other equipment as needed and assigned such as crack sealing tar machine, sign machine, torches, straw bale chopper, tree chipper and welding machines.

6. **PERFORMS MINOR EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE:** Washes; lubricates; recharges batteries; fills fuel tanks; replaces liquefied gas tank; checks tires and fluid levels and performs minor adjustments and repairs on all equipment; notifies proper individuals of operational or safety problems with equipment and vehicles.
7. **ADHERES TO SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND PRACTICES:** Assures that work is performed in compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, practices, rules and policies of the City, the Collective Bargaining Agreement and equipment manufacturer's instructions and warranty information; assures that work areas are safe and as clean as reasonably possible; reports and/or corrects unsafe conditions as needed; reports maintenance issues when observed.

RESULTS EXPECTED

1. Streets, roads, storm water conveyance systems, municipal properties, recreational facilities and landscaped areas are maintained in good condition.
2. Streets, roads, City driveways, trails and building sidewalks are kept clear of snow and ice.
3. Street signs and pavement markings are installed properly and maintained in good condition.
4. Equipment and vehicles are operated properly, safely and are well maintained
5. Worksites are safe for employees and the public.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

None

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

1. The proper operation and basic maintenance of large trucks with plows and spreader boxes and heavy, or specialized, equipment and vehicles.
2. The proper operation and basic maintenance of various types of mowing equipment, landscape maintenance equipment and hand tools.
3. Safety regulations, rules and policies.
4. Traffic control laws, regulations and best practices.

CITY OF HERMITAGE, PENNSYLVANIA
Equipment Operator Position Description
Page 3 of 4

Ability to:

1. Make basic adjustments and repairs to operating equipment.
2. Operate vehicles and equipment for extended periods of time in a variety of working conditions.
3. Acquire a knowledge of standard methods and best practices for street and stormwater facility maintenance and basic heavy equipment construction trades.
4. Work independently and as part of a group.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Qualifications include a high school diploma or general education degree; minimum one year of experience operating large trucks and heavy construction equipment; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

MATHEMATICAL SKILLS

Ability to add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers; ability to perform those operations using units of American money, weight measurement and distance.

LANGUAGE ABILITY

Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, work rules, operating and maintenance instructions and procedure manuals. Ability to write routine reports and correspondence. Ability to speak effectively to members of the general public and employees of the City.

REASONING ABILITY

Ability to apply common sense understanding to carry out detailed written and oral instructions. Ability to deal with problems involving a few concrete variables in standardized situations.

COMPUTER SKILLS

None

CERTIFICATES, LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS

Possession of a valid PA operator's license – CDL, Class A, A combination, N endorsement tank vehicle, with air brakes.

CITY OF HERMITAGE, PENNSYLVANIA
Equipment Operator Position Description

Page 4 of 4

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to stand; walk; sit; reach with hands and arms and talk and hear. The employee is occasionally required to use hands to finger, handle or feel; climb or balance; stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl; and smell. The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 25 pounds and occasionally lift and/or move up to 100 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include distance vision, color vision and peripheral vision.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly exposed to moving mechanical parts; outside weather conditions and vibration. The employee is frequently exposed to fumes or airborne particles; must work for extended periods of time operating motor vehicles and related equipment; is occasionally exposed to toxic or caustic chemicals. The noise level in the work environment is usually loud.

NOTICE

This description is written to generally define the role of each person's job to help the employee understand the expectations of the City of Hermitage. The essential functions, expected results, personal expectations; qualifications, training, physical requirements and work environment may not be all inclusive and were current as of the date of the most recent revision. The City of Hermitage may add or delete items as the need arises, pursuant to the requirements of the City Charter, the Collective Bargaining Agreement if applicable or other pertinent laws or regulations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Employee Signature

Date

Supervisor

Date

CITY OF HERMITAGE, PENNSYLVANIA

Laborer Position Description

Page 1 of 3

MIKE L.

Position Number: 025.01

Reports To: Street Foreman

Revision Number: 000

Department: Street

Most Recent Revision Date: October 1, 2013

FLSA Status: Non-Exempt

GENERAL PURPOSE

The Laborer operates a variety of equipment and tools to transport material plow snow and maintain city property and perform associated labor duties.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The duties listed below are intended as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed pursuant to the City Charter. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment pursuant to the requirements of the City Charter or other applicable laws or regulations.

1. **MAINTAINS STREETS AND ROADS:** Transports materials to and from specified destinations; repairs and maintains road and streets including patching, and resurfacing; cleans and maintains ditches, storm water conveyance systems and catch basins; installs, removes or maintains street and traffic control signs and line markers on roadway surfaces.
2. **REMOVES SNOW:** Operates truck to plow and/or remove snow from roadways; removes snow from walks and driveways; spreads salt on public passageways to prevent ice buildup.
3. **MAINTAINS LANDSCAPING:** Mows grass; removes leaves; maintains landscaping; prunes trees and shrubs; sprays herbicides; pulls or trims weeds; edges landscaped areas.
4. **MAINTAINS TRAFFIC CONTROL AT WORKSITES:** Distributes traffic control signs and markers along site in designated pattern; directs movement of traffic through site using sign, hand and flag signals.
5. **PROVIDES GENERAL LABOR SERVICES:** Performs painting, staining and cleaning of facilities and structures; performs general maintenance of grounds at the City facilities; performs general labor duties on City construction projects.
6. **ADHERES TO SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND PRACTICES:** Assures that work is performed in compliance with the requirements of OSHA, practices of the city, the collective bargaining agreement and equipment manufacturers; assures that work areas are clean of any debris for safe working conditions; reports and/or corrects unsafe conditions as needed.

CITY OF HERMITAGE, PENNSYLVANIA

Laborer Position Description

Page 2 of 3

RESULTS EXPECTED

1. Roadways are in good condition
2. Roadways are kept clear of snow and ice
3. Streets and roadways have proper safety markings and signage
4. Street crews are protected while working on roadways
5. Traffic congestion at worksites is kept to a minimum
6. City properties are groomed and landscaped

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

None.

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

1. Basic landscaping and maintenance
2. Traffic control regulations and best practices
3. Operation of mowers, landscape equipment, snow removal equipment

Ability to:

1. Make minor adjustments and repairs to maintenance equipment
2. Learn the application and care of maintenance tools and equipment
3. Perform flagging and traffic control on roads and highways.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Qualifications include a high school diploma or general education degree; and one year of related experience or equivalent combination of education and experience.

MATHEMATICAL SKILLS

Ability to add and subtract two digit numbers and to multiply and divide with 10's and 100's. Ability to perform these operations using units of American money and weight measurement, volume, and distance.

LANGUAGE ABILITY

Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals. Ability to write routine reports and correspondence. Ability to speak effectively to the general public or employees of the City.

CITY OF HERMITAGE, PENNSYLVANIA

Laborer Position Description

Page 3 of 3

REASONING ABILITY

Ability to apply common sense understanding to carry out detailed written or oral instructions. Ability to deal with problems involving a few concrete variables in standardized situations.

COMPUTER SKILLS

None

CERTIFICATES, LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS

Valid PA motor vehicle operator's license

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to stand; walk; sit; reach with hands and arms and talk or hear. The employee is occasionally required to use hands to finger, handle, or feel; climb or balance; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl and taste or smell. The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 25 pounds and occasionally lift and/or move up to 100 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include distance vision, color vision and peripheral vision.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

While performing the duties of this Job, the employee is regularly exposed to moving mechanical parts; outside weather conditions and vibration. The employee is frequently exposed to fumes or airborne particles. The employee is occasionally exposed to toxic or caustic chemicals. The noise level in the work environment is usually loud.

NOTICE

This description is written to generally define the role of each person's job to help the employee understand the expectations of the City of Hermitage. The essential functions expected results, personal expectations; qualifications, training, physical requirements and work environment may not be all inclusive and were current as of the date of the most recent revision. The City of Hermitage may add or delete items as the need arises, pursuant to the requirements of the City Charter, the Collective Bargaining Agreement if applicable or other pertinent laws or regulations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Employee Signature

Date

Supervisor

Date

vehicle being driven or parked on the streets or within the property limits of the owner or keeper.

SHENANGO VALLEY — the City of Farrell, the City of Hermitage, the City of Sharon, the Borough of Sharpsville, the Borough of Wheatland and such other municipalities as may hereafter become a participating member of the Shenango Valley Animal Control Board. [Ord. 18-83]

VACCINATION — inoculation of a dog with a vaccine that is licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture, and which is administered by a veterinarian for the purpose of immunizing the dog against rabies.

VETERINARIAN — a doctor of veterinary medicine who holds a valid license to practice his profession.

(Ord. 28-66, 11/9/1966, §4; as amended by Ord. 18-83, 12/22/1983; by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998; and by Ord. 19-99, 7/28/1999, §4)

§105. At-Large.

Any person who owns, keeps, harbors or cares for a dog is subject to a notice of violation and penalty or the impoundment of the dog, or both, if the dog is permitted to be at-large. A dog will be considered at-large in the following instances:

- A. All Dogs. Any dog that is off the property of the owner or the person keeping or harboring him; unless said dog shall be on a leash, at "heel" beside a competent person and obedient to that person's command, under the immediate control of a competent person, or otherwise humanely restrained.
- B. School Grounds and Recreation Areas. Any dog that is upon any school premises or grounds or upon any public recreation area when an organized activity is being conducted unless the dog is controlled by a leash or similar device.
- C. Public Places. Any dog, whether on leash or not, which shall be or which shall enter upon any church premises, any public meeting or gathering place, restaurants, food markets, eating establishments, department and dry goods stores, and rest rooms open to the public during the time that said place is open for business; provided, however, these provisions do not apply to dogs leading visually handicapped persons.
- D. Muzzling Vicious Dogs. Any dog of fierce, dangerous or vicious propensity off the property of the owner or the person keeping or harboring said dog unless said dog is wearing a muzzle of sufficient strength to prevent its biting any person or another animal. Said muzzle shall be worn even though the dog is controlled by a leash, at "heel" beside a competent person and obedient to

§ 1-427. Procedure. [Ord. 13-68, 8/14/1968, § 7]

Any person claiming to be aggrieved by an alleged unlawful discriminatory practice may make, sign and file with the Commission a verified complaint, in writing, which shall state the name and address of the person alleged to have committed the unlawful discriminatory practice complained of and which shall set forth the particulars thereof and contain other information as may be required by the Commission. The Commission may, in like manner, make, sign and file such compliant. The procedure thereafter shall be the same as that provided by § 9 of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

§ 1-428. Enforcement and Judicial Review. [Ord. 13-68, 8/14/1968, § 8]

The complainant or the Commission may secure enforcement of the order of the Commission or other appropriate relief by application to the Court of Common Pleas of Mercer County in the same manner as is provided by § 10 of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

§ 1-429. Penalties. [Ord. 13-68, 8/14/1968, § 9; as amended by Ord. 40-75, 12/17/1975; and by Ord. 11-98, 9/23/1998]

Any person who shall willfully resist, prevent, impede or interfere with the Commission, its members, agents or agencies in the performance of duties pursuant to this Part or who shall willfully violate any of the provisions of § 1-424 hereof or shall willfully violate an order of the Commission shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$600 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 30 days.

D. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.**§ 1-431. Establishment of Board. [Ord. 2-2010, 3/24/2010, § 1]**

There is hereby created a board to be known as the "City of Hermitage Parks and Recreation Advisory Board" ("Board"), which shall be comprised of nine members who are electors of the City of Hermitage.

§ 1-432. Appointment and Terms of Office. [Ord. 2-2010, 3/24/2010, § 2]

Members of the Board shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Hermitage in accordance with the following procedures:

- A. Board members shall serve for terms of five years, or until their successors are appointed, except that members first appointed shall be appointed so that the terms of not more than two members expire annually. Vacancies occurring otherwise than by expiration of term shall be for the completion of the unexpired term and shall be filled in the same manner as other appointments.

B. The Board shall consist of nine members, one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors of the Hermitage School District, nominated by the School District. All other members shall be selected at large from the community with representation from the following:

- (1) One member who is a representative of a regional provider of recreational services.
- (2) One member who is a representative from the community of the arts.
- (3) One member who is a representative from the Hermitage School District involved in the providing of athletic or physical education/fitness activities.

§ 1-433. Service Without Pay. [Ord. 2-2010, 3/24/2010, § 3]

Members of the Board shall receive no compensation for their services but may be reimbursed by the City in accord with City policy for eligible expenses incurred in performing their duties.

§ 1-434. Advisory Role. [Ord. 2-2010, 3/24/2010, § 4]

The Board shall be advisory and coordinate its activities with the Hermitage Board of Commissioners.

§ 1-435. Administration and Coordination. [Ord. 2-2010, 3/24/2010, § 5]

The Hermitage Board of Commissioners may appoint a member of the Board of Commissioners to serve as a representative of the Board of Commissioners in an ad hoc capacity. This member shall participate in discussions and make recommendations but will not be a voting member of the Board. The City's Parks and Recreation Department shall provide the members of the Board with the necessary administrative support and information to perform their duties.

§ 1-436. Ad Hoc Student Member. [Ord. 2-2010, 3/24/2010, § 6]

The Hermitage Board of Commissioners may appoint a student enrolled at Hickory High School to serve in an ad hoc capacity. This member, nominated by the Hermitage School District, shall participate in discussions and make recommendations but will not be a voting member of the Board. This appointment will be for a twelve-month term beginning on August 1.

§ 1-437. Officers; Meetings. [Ord. 2-2010, 3/24/2010, § 7]

The Board shall appoint from its membership a Chairperson and such other officers as it may deem necessary for the orderly procedure of its business. The Board shall hold regular meetings at such time and place as it may designate and, from time to time, other meetings it deems necessary. All meetings shall be publicly advertised as per state and local requirements.

HICKORY TOWNSHIP
MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
ORDINANCE NO. 1-75

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A PARKS AND RECREATION
BOARD FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF HICKORY.

WHEREAS, the Township of Hickory by Ordinance No. 9-56 had previously created a Park and Recreation Board which is to be hereby repealed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF HICKORY TOWNSHIP, MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY AUTHORITY OF THE SAME AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Purpose: In order to create, approve, maintain and regulate public parks and recreation areas and facilities, the Township of Hickory ordains it to be in the public interest to create a joint parks and recreation board to supervise and direct the parks and recreation areas, facilities, and programs of the Township of Hickory.

Section 2. There is hereby created a parks and recreation board known as the Hickory Township Parks and Recreation Board.

Section 3. The Parks and Recreation Board shall be composed of seven (7) members, one (1) of whom shall also be a member of the Hickory Township Board of Commissioners, and one (1) of whom shall also be a member of the Board of Directors of the Hickory Township School District and the remaining five (5) members shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners of Hickory Township provided, however, that at least one (1) of such five (5) remaining members shall be an appointee of the Board of Directors of the Hickory Township School District.

Section 4. The Parks and Recreation Board shall have the power to provide, contract and maintain public recreation areas, facilities and centers subject to all responsibilities of the Recreation Enabling Legislation and provided further, that all projects, programs, budgets, and policies adopted by the Parks and Recreation Board shall be first jointly approved by the Board of Commissioners of Hickory Township and the Board of Directors of the Hickory Township School District.

Section 5. The Parks and Recreation Board members shall serve for terms of five (5) years and until their successors are appointed, except that the members first appointed shall be so appointed that the term of one member shall expire annually thereafter. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments and for the unexpired term. Members shall serve without pay.

Section 6. That the Parks and Recreation Board shall appoint from its membership a chairman and such other officers as it may deem necessary for the orderly procedure of its business, and may adopt by-laws, rules and regulations covering its procedure not inconsistent with the provisions of the State laws. The Parks and Recreation Board shall, from time to time, make rules governing the operation and conduct of the recreational facilities operated by the Parks and Recreation Board. The Parks and Recreation Board shall hold regular meetings at such time and place as it may designate.

Section 7. That the Parks and Recreation Board may accept any grant, gift, bequest, or donation of services, equipment, real estate, or money from any individual or group, to be used as specified by the donor, or by the terms of acceptance and received in the name of Hickory Township. The Parks and Recreation Board shall have no authority to enter into any contract or incur any obligation binding upon the Township of Hickory and/or the Hickory Township School District, other than current obligations or contracts to be fully executed within the then current fiscal year, and all within the budget appropriations made by the governing body of Township of Hickory or Hickory Township School District, unless specifically approved in writing by the Board of Commissioners of Hickory Township and the Board of Directors of the Hickory Township School District.

Section 8. That the Parks and Recreation Board shall have the power to appoint an executive director or superintendent of recreation, who possesses the necessary qualifications and who has demonstrated by actual work his ability to organize and direct a community recreation system, and such other personnel as may be deemed necessary and are recommended by the executive director.

Section 9. That the Parks and Recreation Board shall make full and complete reports to the governing body at such times as may be designated or requested by the governing body. The fiscal year of said Parks and Recreation Board shall conform to that of the Township of Hickory. The Parks and Recreation Board shall make an annual report to the Board of Commissioners of Hickory Township and the Board of Directors of the Hickory Township School District and the minutes of each meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board shall be submitted forthwith to the President of the Board of Commissioners of Hickory Township and President of the Board of Directors of Hickory Township School District.

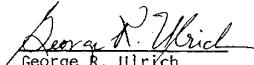
Section 10. That such powers that are now or may hereafter be provided by the statute of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or by ordinances of the Township of Hickory relating to the development and operation of recreation systems, public parks, and playgrounds, are hereby vested in the Parks and Recreation Board, to be exercised by its subject to any and all restrictions contained in such powers and ordinances.

Section 11. Ordinance No. 9-56 of the Township of Hickory is hereby repealed and all ordinances or parts of ordinances not consistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

DULY ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF HICKORY TOWNSHIP, MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, THIS 29TH DAY OF JANUARY, 1975.

HICKORY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:


George R. Ulrich
Township Secretary


By William E. Scanlon, President

PARKS AND RECREATION
FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAM

Proposed Capital Expenditure w/Justification	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	TOTAL COST
pickup Truck	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Major Equipment	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Field/Facility Improvements	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$240,000
<i>Case 10K</i> <i>Sign 15K</i>						
Total	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$60,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$285,000

**CITY OF HERMITAGE
MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ORDINANCE NO. 4 -2010

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HERMITAGE, MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA CREATING AN ADVISORY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD; ESTABLISHING THE NUMBER AND TERM OF MEMBERS; AND DESIGNATING THE DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE BOARD.

WHEREAS, the City of Hermitage (City) had previously created a Parks and Recreation Board by Ordinance No. 1-75, which is to be hereby repealed; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the City of Hermitage believe that an advisory Parks and Recreation Board is necessary for the City to continue to provide quality recreational facilities and programs for the health, fitness and welfare of City residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the City of Hermitage believe that a new ordinance is necessary to prescribe the role of an advisory Parks and Recreation Board and its relationship to the City of Hermitage Parks and Recreation Department that was created in 1998.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF HERMITAGE, MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY AUTHORITY OF THE SAME AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Establishment of Board. There is hereby created, a board to be known as the City of Hermitage Parks and Recreation Advisory Board ("Board") which shall be comprised of nine members who are electors of the City of Hermitage.

Section 2. Appointment and Terms of Office. Members of the Board shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Hermitage in accordance with the following procedures:

- 1) Board members shall serve for terms of five years, or until their successors are appointed, except that members first appointed shall be appointed so that the terms of not more than two members expire annually. Vacancies occurring otherwise than by expiration of term shall be for the completion of the unexpired term and shall be filled in the same manner as other appointments.
- 2) The Board shall consist of nine (9) members, one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors of the Hermitage School District, nominated by the School District. All other members shall be selected at large from the community with representation from the following:

- one (1) member who is a representative of a regional provider of recreational services
- one (1) member who is a representative from the community of the arts
- one (1) member who is a representative from the Hermitage School District involved in the providing of athletic or physical education/fitness activities.

Section 3. Service Without Pay. Members of the Board shall receive no compensation for their services, but may be reimbursed by the City in accord with City policy for eligible expenses incurred in performing their duties.

Section 4. Advisory Role. The Board shall be advisory and coordinate its activities with the Hermitage Board of Commissioners.

Section 5. Administration and Coordination. The Hermitage Board of Commissioners may appoint a member of the Board of Commissioners to serve as a representative of the Board of Commissioners in an ad hoc capacity. This member shall participate in discussions and make recommendations but will not be a voting member of the Board. The City's Parks and Recreation Department shall provide the members of the Board with the necessary administrative support and information to perform their duties.

Section 6. Ad Hoc Student Member. The Hermitage Board of Commissioners may appoint a student enrolled at Hickory High School to serve in an ad hoc capacity. This member, nominated by the Hermitage School District, shall participate in discussions and make recommendations but will not be a voting member of the Board. This appointment will be for a twelve (12) month term beginning on August 1.

Section 7. Officers/Meetings. The Board shall appoint from its membership a chairperson and such other officers as it may deem necessary for the orderly procedure of its business. The Board shall hold regular meetings at such time and place as it may designate and, from time to time, other meetings it deems necessary. All meetings shall be publicly advertised as per State and local requirements.

Section 8. Power and Duties of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Board shall act solely in an advisory capacity to the Hermitage Board of Commissioners and shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Identify the open space, recreation, park and trail needs of the residents and recommend plans, programs, activities and policies regarding the provision of recreation and park services.
2. Advise the Hermitage Board of Commissioners in the acquisition, use and development of parklands and recreation facilities.
4. Staff and operate the Hermitage Summer Recreation Program and other programs and activities as authorized in the annual program budget allocated by the Hermitage Board of Commissioners.
5. Undertake recreation activities and park program assignments as requested by the Hermitage Board of Commissioners.

Section 9. Reporting. The Board shall keep minutes of its meetings, which it shall submit to the Hermitage Board of Commissioners. The Board shall submit an annual report to the Board of Commissioners, including an analysis of the adequacy and effectiveness of community recreation areas, facilities and program services. The report shall also include a breakdown of participation in the various programs and activities by age and gender and any other specific information requested by the Board of Commissioners.

Section 10. Contracts, and Obligations. The Board shall have no authority to enter into any contracts or to incur any obligation binding upon the City of Hermitage other than current obligations to be fully executed within the current fiscal year and not to exceed the budget appropriation made by the Hermitage Board of Commissioners, unless such is specifically approved in writing by the Hermitage Board of Commissioners.

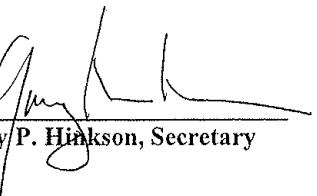
Section 11. Severability. If any sentence, clause, section, or part of this ordinance is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or parts of this ordinance. It is hereby declared as the intent of the Hermitage Board of Commissioners that this ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid sentence, clause, section or part thereof not been included herein.

Section 12. Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. Ordinance 1-75 is specifically repealed.

Section 13. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective at the expiration of seven (7) days after formal enactment.

HERMITAGE ORDAINS AND ENACTS AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED FINALLY INTO LAW BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF HERMITAGE, THIS 24th DAY OF MARCH, 2009.

ATTEST:


Gary P. Hankson, Secretary

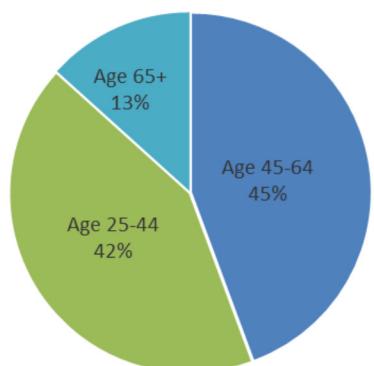
CITY OF HERMITAGE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


by: Duane J. Piccirilli, President

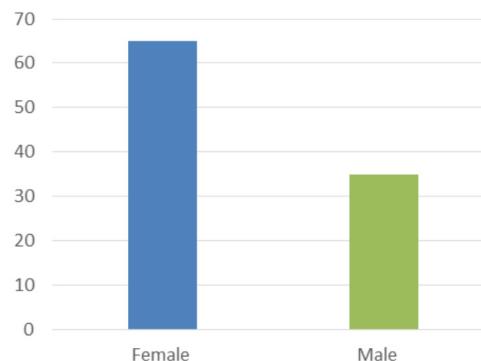
COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

1. About 75% of survey participants are working adults. 50% have kids less than 18 years of age. 25% have no kids. 81% have been residents of the City of Hermitage for 10 years or longer.

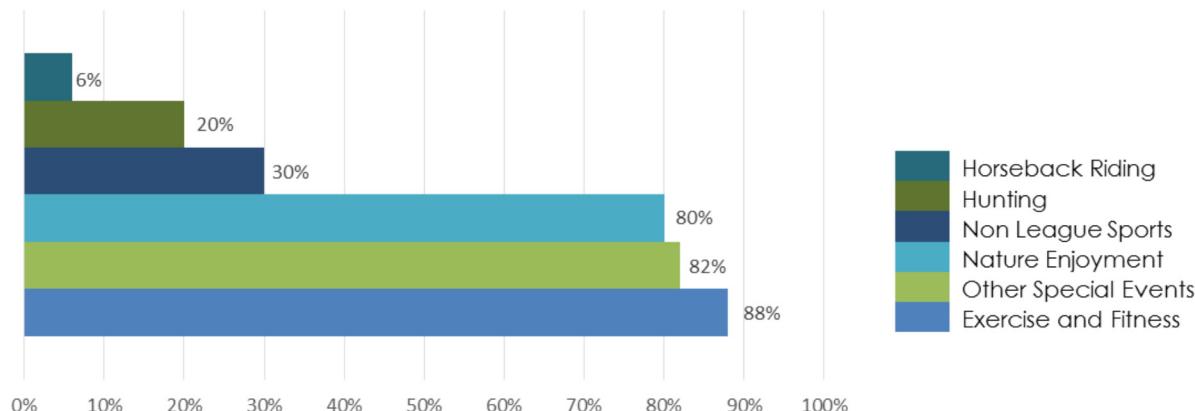
Survey Participant's Age



Survey Participant's Gender



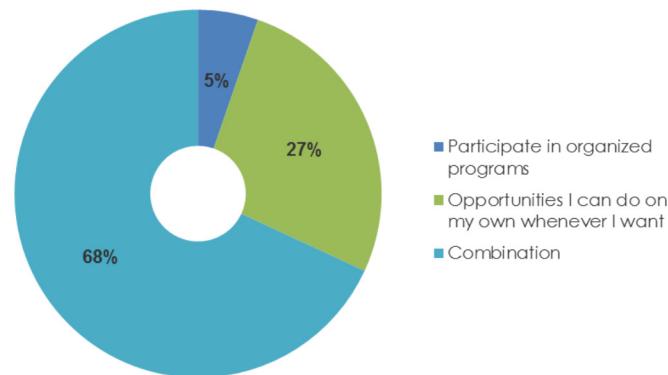
2. In the table, the top 3 listings represent the least popular activities and the bottom 3 listings represent the most popular activities. Residents are also interested in learning about adult classes and winter sports.



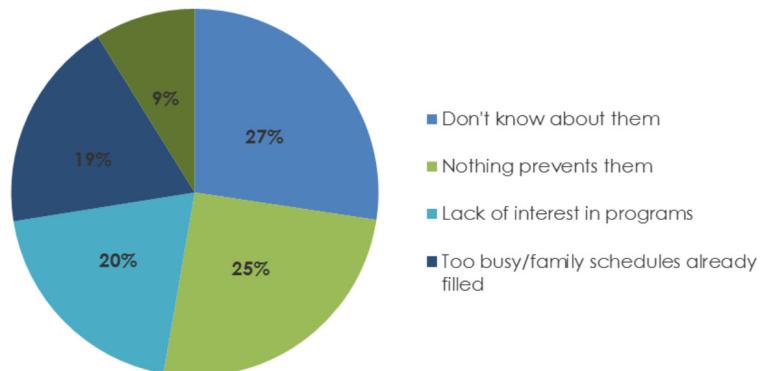
3. Survey participants generally consider the qualities of the park and recreation programming to be average.

- Interesting
- Quality programs
- Variety of programs
- Price
- Schedule
- Ease of signing up
- Overall recreation programs and services

4. A majority of residents prefer to have a combination of organized and free form recreation activities as opportunities from which to choose. Adults (age 18–65) and families are the groups most likely to participate in recreation and leisure program.



5. The chart below lists the reasons households are not participating in recreation and leisure opportunities.



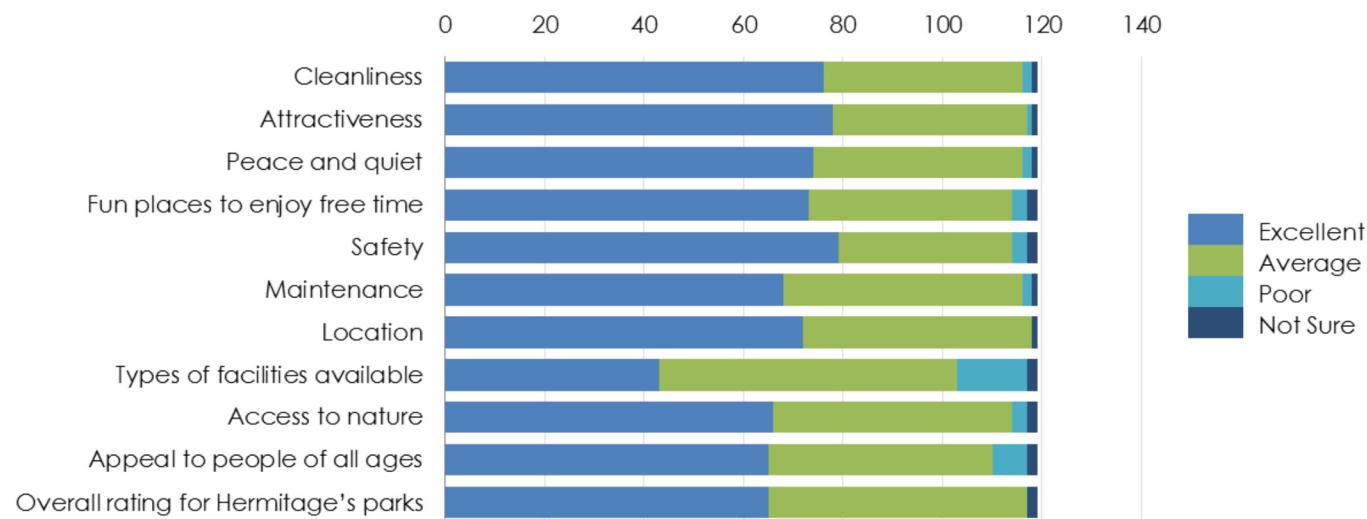
6. A very small percentage of survey participants utilized the area's park and recreation facilities daily. Write-in votes included for Trout Island Trail, city sidewalks and rails-to-trails indicating usage of area trails.



7. The following park facilities were all listed as being their favorite park/recreation area in the Hermitage area by survey participants:

- Buhl Farm Park
- Linden Pointe Trails

8. The majority of survey participants thought that the City facilities were “excellent” in respect to the qualities listed below in the table.



9. Of items listed in the question, the following were most important (listed in order):

- Safety
- Cleanliness
- Fun Place to Enjoy Free Time

10. The majority of survey participants think the community has the right amount of:

- Playgrounds
- Sport Courts
- Game Courts
- Picnic Pavilions
- Comm. Gathering Spaces
- Performing Arts Facilities
- Game Courts

11. When asked to select from a list which 3 items are most important to you/your household (listed in order):

- a. Path Systems
- b. Access to Woods and Natural Areas
- c. Indoor Recreation/Performing Arts Facilities

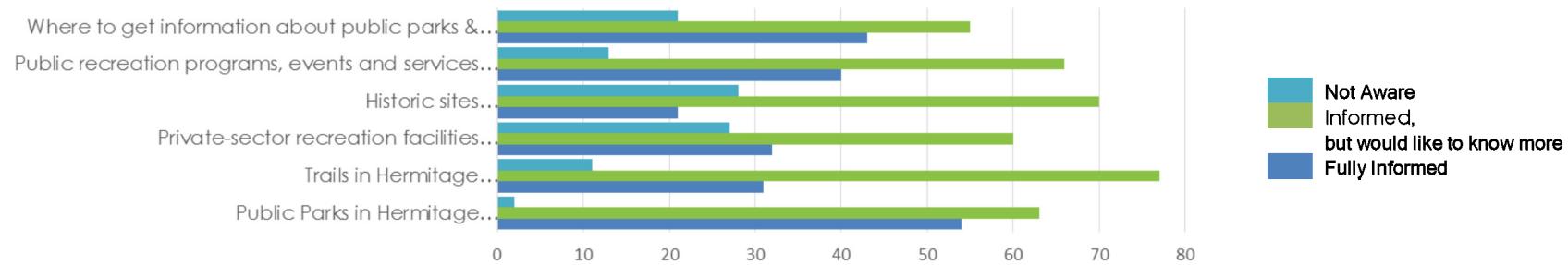
12. The preferred methods of parks and recreation financial support are listed below beginning with most preferred:

- a. Pay for special types of Recreation Facilities that require high maintenance.
- b. User Fees
- c. Contribute Time or Expertise

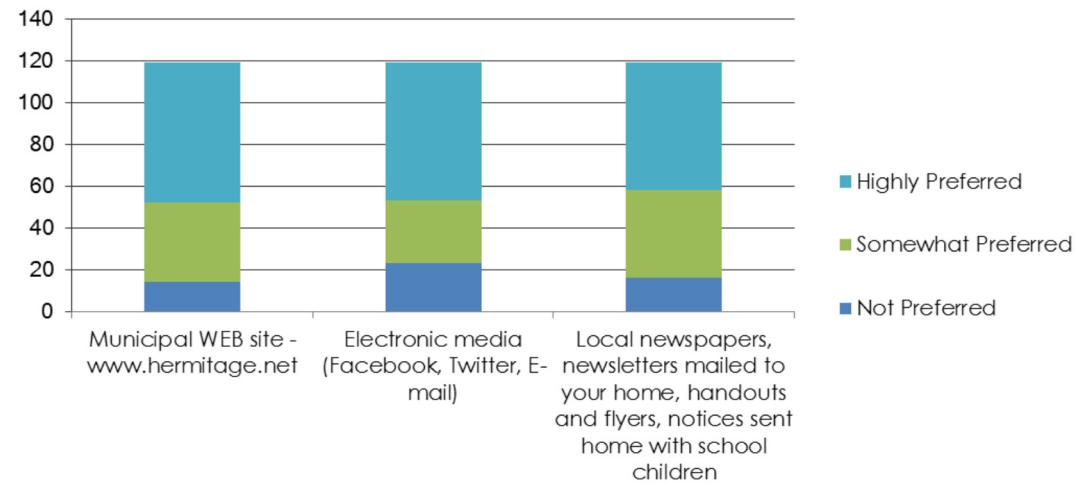
13. The greatest favored improvements to Hermitage's parks and recreation opportunities include:

- a. Improving or building trails and paths. Walking, hiking, running and biking (off road bicycle trails). Used as connections between different facilities.
- b. There is a need for an indoor recreation facility
- c. Pool
- d. Additional organized programs – for all age levels and various types (environmental, seasonal)
- e. Maintaining existing recreation facilities

14. The majority of survey participants are informed, but would like to know more about public parks, trails, private recreation facilities and historic sites



15. The majority of survey participants prefer to receive information about parks, recreation and leisure from the municipal website, electronic social media or mailers to homes, all ways in which the City currently delivers services.





ACSM AMERICAN
FITNESS INDEX™

community action guide

We know that sedentary behavior contributes to a host of chronic diseases, and regular physical activity is an important component of an overall healthy lifestyle. There is strong evidence that physically active people have better health-related physical fitness and are at lower risk of developing many disabling medical conditions than inactive people.

Michael O. Leavitt
U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (2005-2009)

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Executive Summary

The *ACSM American Fitness Index™* (AFI) program can help city planners, policy makers, health educators, and other professionals understand how the health of the city, its residents, and community assets that support healthy lifestyles compare to other cities nationwide. The AFI data report includes health indicators such as the percentage of people who exercise regularly, maintain a healthy weight, eat the recommended daily servings of fruits and vegetables, have access to health care, have health insurance, and don't smoke. Environmental factors included the availability of parks, walking/bike trails, and public transportation.

The *AFI Community Action Guide* is designed to serve as a companion tool to the *ACSM American Fitness Index™* data report. It is intended to support and advance groundwork that has already begun, as well as to assist communities that have not yet started to address physical activity. It is hoped that the guide will help to facilitate the efforts of government leaders; non-profit organizations; community-based physical activity and smart growth coalitions; medical centers/hospitals; and professionals in the fields of public health, planning, zoning, community development, transportation, parks, recreation, education, youth services, and aging services.

The *AFI Community Action Guide* supports efforts to address community challenges and encourages communities and neighborhoods of all sizes to focus efforts to help improve the health of their residents. The guide is not a "how-to manual," but rather an overview of the critical factors related to effective community action with suggested practical tools and resources.

Many of the tools and resources listed in the guide do offer detailed "how-to" information. These resources are also listed on the AFI Web site (www.americanfitnessindex.org).

The *AFI Community Action Guide* is organized into sections on leadership, coalitions, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy.

Leadership

A first step in addressing health and physical activity through community programming and intervention is to identify and engage passionate, committed leaders. These individuals are catalysts who can begin the strategic planning process, engage the community, recruit and develop a strong coalition, lead concerted public policy and advocacy efforts to create systems change in communities, and help assure sustainability of efforts.

There are two types of volunteer leaders that might be involved in community action – figurehead leaders and actively-engaged leaders.

A figurehead leader might be an individual who lends their name and image to efforts, but who might not be able to provide much hands-on involvement. This type of individual might be recruited as an honorary chairperson of a coalition or partnership. These individuals are typically celebrities, professional sports figures, CEOs of major businesses, or high-ranking elected officials. Their positions and time commitments often preclude them from becoming engaged significantly in ongoing activities, but they can bring several important resources to the table.

The prominent status of some people can often attract others into a coalition or group. For example, an invitation to join a coalition that is extended from a renowned community leader might garner better results than an invitation from an agency staff person. Also, this type of leader is able to facilitate networking opportunities and open doors to other resources that have value for the community initiative. This might include funding support from community and regional foundations or access to key elected officials. If a community leader has significant resources at their disposal (such as a CEO or major philanthropist), they might be able to provide direct financial or in-kind support (staff, office space, overhead, equipment, or meeting space.) Prominent community figures can also be excellent spokespersons for an issue or cause. Their time might be used when you need presentations made to policy making groups such as city council, state legislatures, foundations, or the media.

An actively engaged leader is someone who has demonstrated leadership capabilities, is committed to improvement in the community, and is willing to give their time to be actively involved in your efforts. Initially you might identify a small number of these leaders to help your community initiative get off the ground. This type of leader is typically someone who is already passionate about your issue or cause. They might be an officer or senior staff member of an agency that shares common goals or missions with your community issues. You might recruit several leaders who can function as an executive committee. Their roles may transition as your coalition or group grows, though hopefully they will remain involved and assume roles such as committee chairs.

The roles and expectations for your leadership need to be clearly communicated to the people who are being asked to serve. A formal method to do this would be to develop a “volunteer leadership job description” that outlines roles and expectations. If it is possible to outline the amount of time that will be requested, this can also be helpful, since it will help your leaders have a comprehensive understanding of the role they will be taking on.

Some community-based initiatives are fortunate to have assigned staff members. Staff might be individuals from a lead agency or organization whose time has been allocated specifically to the initiative. Or a grant or other funding mechanism might enable an initiative to secure a staff person (or people). Staff who are involved in community-based initiatives at a leadership level, usually possess many of the competencies of volunteer leaders. In addition, they are likely to also have responsibilities such as fiscal management, activity follow-up and reporting, assuring that plans are developed and appropriately monitored, operational functions, communication, volunteer coordination, and responsibility for providing information to the media and policy makers.

Coalitions

A coalition is a group of individuals and groups working together to achieve a shared goal. Coalition members should represent the diverse interests of the community. Their backgrounds might include government; nonprofit organizations; medical institutions; academia; and faith, civic, youth, and business groups. Engaged members with a shared sense of direction, defined objectives, and a realistic action plan can help assure success.

The functions of a coalition might include community awareness, education, and strengthening knowledge; educating policy makers and influencing public and private policy issues; building support for improvements in infrastructure; and changing organizational practices.

When launching a coalition, the vision, mission, goals, and objectives should be discussed and agreed on. Determining how the coalition will function from an operational perspective is a good next step.

There are several factors that are critical to the success of coalitions. These include having systems for good communication, listening to opposing points of view, establishing decision-making processes, determining how tasks will be delegated, and celebrating success.

Planning

A clear vision and agreement of the end goals is essential for success. Effective planning provides a clear focus, supports monitoring and assessment of results, facilitates new program development, and enables an organization or coalition to look into the future in an orderly and systematic way. Most organizations and coalitions understand the need for annual program objectives and a program-focused work plan. Funders require them, and they provide a basis for setting priorities, organizing work, and assessing progress.

An initial step in planning is to define a vision. The vision communicates what your organization believes are the ideal conditions for your community and how things would look if the issue important to you were perfectly addressed. By developing a vision statement, your organization makes the beliefs and governing principles of your organization clear to the greater community (as well as to your own members).

One important part of the planning process is to conduct a needs assessment. This enables you to obtain and analyze information to determine the current status and service needs of a defined population and/or geographic area. Without a needs assessment it is easy to jump to developing a list of solutions before you have an adequate understanding of issues and problems from the broad community perspective. One method of conducting a needs assessment is using asset mapping, a process of identifying community resources that will help accomplish goals. Asset mapping is focused on identifying a community's capacity—what the resources are in a community. Community capacity looks at all assets related to the community project including people, relationships, infrastructures, and financial resources. Knowing the assets of a community sets a foundation for effective planning.

When assets are identified, needs can be determined. This is done through a gap analysis – a process of comparing actual community assets to potential, desired assets. Once this step has been taken, plans can be developed to work to close the gap between the two.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Every good plan needs an evaluation component. The evaluation process helps you understand what progress is being made toward your goals, what is effective, and what is not working. Realizing what is not working is critical, so you can make mid-course corrections rather than continuing to do things that are not producing results.

The benefits of evaluation are that results are important to funders; evaluation enables you to measure and celebrate successes and build trust within your coalition.

Public Policy/Advocacy

Advocacy allows organizations to promote their causes by educating the public, community decision makers, and policymakers. At the community level, public policy generally refers to laws, codes, and regulations established by governing entities such as city councils, departments of transportation, zoning commissions, county commissioners, or the state legislature. Regulations and codes might also be established by community agencies such as planning departments, water departments, school boards, and parks and recreation departments.

In order to impact policy change, it is necessary to first educate policy makers about the issues that your coalition is concerned with. Research-based information and fact sheets on the benefits of physical activity and negative health consequences of inactivity are important to develop. Excellent sources for this type of information are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Physical Activity and Obesity (<http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/>), your state health department (an easy way to get to state information is to Google the name of your state and the words "health department"), the American College of Sports Medicine (www.acsm.org), and local medical schools or schools of public health at your area universities.

To create systemic lifestyle changes in communities, policy change is often necessary. Consider, for example, the work that has been done in tobacco reduction. Educating smokers about the negative health impact of tobacco only went so far in reducing tobacco use. However, once laws went into place regarding clean indoor air, tobacco excise taxes became significant enough to deter many from purchasing cigarettes, and smoking became socially unacceptable in most public places and businesses, real change began to occur.

Community-based organizations that want to participate in policy issues need to have a clear understanding of who makes decisions, how decisions are made, and how policies are introduced and established. One way to learn how your community government works and who you should meet with is to look at your city, county and council of government (COG) websites or invite representatives from policy-making entities to speak to your coalition.

In addition to public policy that is put into place by lawmakers and regulatory agencies, policy can also be implemented by community institutions such as businesses and industries. You might consider working with business and industry leaders to address physical activity for their employees. Similar tactics to working with public policy officials generally work – one-on-one or small meetings and customized fact sheets that address the importance of physical activity from the employer's standpoint.

Moving Forward

The road to success might be long, but you will find it invigorating. As you launch your efforts have at the forefront the ACSM American Fitness Index™ Guiding Principles for Healthy Communities:

- ◆ Overall health improvements in U.S. cities must focus on the prevention of behavior-linked diseases by effectively addressing the underlying risk and community factors.
- ◆ The rise in chronic diseases attributable to physical inactivity and unhealthy diets are a "clear and present danger" to our health and healthcare systems, our cities, our nation, and our future.
- ◆ All cities in the U.S., irrespective of size or current health status, can make powerful advances in improving the health of their people through simple, affordable, effective steps.
- ◆ There is a need for even more synergy and collaboration to assist U.S. cities in actively making the move toward better health.

ACSM American Fitness Index™ Background

The ACSM American Fitness Index™ (AFI) (<http://www.americanfitnessindex.org/report.htm>) program is designed to help improve the health, fitness, and quality of life of Americans by promoting physical activity. The program is an evidence- and science-based measurement of the state of health and fitness at the community level throughout the U.S.¹

Research studies tell us that the majority of adults in the United States (54.1%) do not engage in enough physical activity. Inactivity doubles the risk of developing heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and obesity. Physical inactivity also has staggering economic consequences. The annual cost directly attributable to inactivity in the U.S. is an estimated \$24–76 billion. The good news is that modest increases in physical activity have the potential to produce substantial health benefits. Population-based interventions to promote health and prevent disease have provided strong evidence that public health efforts can successfully increase physical activity.²

AFI can help city planners, policy makers and health educators understand how the health of the city and its residents and community assets support active, healthy lifestyles compared to other cities nationwide. While the AFI only looked at data from the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the United States, the information can help all communities address the health of their residents. The AFI data report addresses several preventive health behaviors, levels of chronic disease conditions, and health care access, as well as community resources and policies that support physical activity. In addition, demographic and economic diversity, and levels of violent crime are shown for selected metropolitan areas to help increase the understanding of the unique attributes of each city.

AFI program components include:

- ◆ Aggregated data related to healthy lifestyles, health outcomes, and community resources;
- ◆ Resources for practical application of sports medicine and exercise science at the community level; and
- ◆ Support to health promotion partners by linking communities with organizations and existing programs in their metro areas; promoting collaboration on physical activity and healthy lifestyle initiatives; and connecting local, state and national partners and resources.

In May 2008, the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) released the pilot ACSM American Fitness Index™ data report. In January 2009, the first full version of AFI data report was released. Health indicators including the percentage of people who exercise regularly, maintain a healthy weight, eat the recommended daily servings of fruits and vegetables, have access to health care, have health insurance, and don't smoke were included in the report. Environmental factors included the availability of parks, walking/bike trails, and public transportation.

¹ ACSM American Fitness Index™: Actively Moving U.S. Cities to Better Health. 2008 Edition. American College of Sports Medicine. www.acsm.org.

² Roux L. et. al. Cost Effectiveness of Community-Based Physical Activity Interventions. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. 35:6 (578-588) Dec. 2008.

ACSM American Fitness Index™ Community Action Guide

This *AFI Community Action Guide* is designed to serve as a companion tool to the ACSM American Fitness Index™ data report. The AFI data report helps communities focus on indicators that are related to levels of health status and/or physical activity within their metropolitan area. The data in the AFI have been measured by well-respected agencies or organizations. Most importantly, these indicators can be modified through community efforts.

The indicators are:

- ◆ Health behaviors of the population
- ◆ Levels of chronic disease conditions
- ◆ Health care access
- ◆ Built environment
- ◆ Recreation facilities
- ◆ Per capita park-related expenditures
- ◆ Required physical education in schools
- ◆ Number of primary health care providers



This document is not a "how-to" manual, but rather a guide that provides an overview of the critical factors related to effective community action and suggests practical tools and resources. Many of these tools and resources listed in this document provide detailed "how-to" information. Most are available free and online. Hyperlinks are included.

The AFI data report identifies areas of strength and challenges for each metropolitan area in order to assist communities in identifying potential areas where they might focus efforts to improve the health and lifestyles of residents by using successful approaches adopted by cities with similar strengths and challenges.

This *AFI Community Action Guide* has been developed to support efforts to address community challenges and to encourage communities and neighborhoods of all sizes to focus efforts to help improve the health of their residents.

Many communities are already addressing some of the issues related to increasing physical activity and improving healthy lifestyles. For instance, the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP) (<http://www.physicalactivityplan.org/resources/index.htm>) has identified twelve states that have physical activity plans in place that include community strategies. These state-plans can be accessed through the NPAP Website:

◆ Arizona	◆ Iowa	◆ Nebraska
◆ Colorado	◆ Maine	◆ New Mexico
◆ Georgia	◆ Maryland	◆ South Carolina
◆ Hawaii	◆ Montana	◆ South Dakota

Many other states may also have plans in place, and some of these might include community strategies. You can look at the National Association for Health and Fitness (http://www.physicalfitness.org/state_councils.html) Website to find a link to your state's Governor's Councils on Physical Fitness.

In addition, regional agencies such as Councils of Government (COGs), counties, and cities are starting to address physical activity through existing alliances with other community-based groups. Check your local health departments or parks and recreation departments to see what is available in your community.

Efforts already underway have already resulted in the development or identification of some valuable and effective processes and tools. These resources should be used and shared as much as possible. A good rule-of thumb for community-based initiatives is, "Don't reinvent the wheel."

This *AFI Community Action Guide* is intended to help support and advance the groundwork that has already begun, as well as to assist communities that have not yet started to address physical activity.

Planning in the City of Hemingway

The information in this *AFI Community Action Guide* is organized around the following people, groups and topics:

- ◆ Leadership
 - Figurehead Leaders
 - Actively Engaged Leaders
 - Leadership Game Plan
 - Leadership Competencies
 - Staff Leaders
- ◆ Coalitions
 - Coalition Basics
 - Coalition Pitfalls
 - Coalition Building
- ◆ Planning
 - Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis
 - Monitoring and Evaluation
- ◆ Advocacy
 - Education
 - Public Policy
 - Understanding Community Government
 - Non-government Policy
- ◆ Moving Forward

This guide is intended to facilitate the efforts of government leaders; non-profit organizations; community-based physical activity and smart growth coalitions; medical centers/hospitals; and professionals in the fields of public health, planning, zoning, community development, transportation, parks, recreation, education, youth services, and aging services.

Leadership

Confucius said that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Addressing issues related to physical activity at the community level can indeed be viewed as a long, exciting, and frequently challenging trek. Perhaps one of the most critical first steps in this journey is to identify and engage passionate, committed leaders. These few individuals will serve as catalysts to begin strategic planning, engage the community, recruit and develop a strong coalition, lead concerted public policy and advocacy efforts to create systems change in communities, and help assure sustainability of efforts.

It is important to have a strong leader at the start of a coalition. It is also key to identify and develop new leadership for the long haul and to ensure continuity of leadership, because a group without a leader easily stalls or becomes chaotic.

– Maintaining Effective Community Coalitions



There are two types of volunteer leaders that might be involved in community action: figurehead leaders and actively-engaged leaders.

Figurehead Leaders

A figurehead leader might be an individual, or individuals, who lend their name and image to efforts, but who might not provide much hands-on involvement. This type of individual might be recruited as an "Honorary Chairperson" of a coalition or partnership. These individuals are typically celebrities, professional sports figures, CEOs of major businesses, or high-ranking elected officials. Their positions and other time commitments often preclude them from becoming engaged significantly in ongoing activities, but they can bring several important resources to the table. These include:

- ◆ **The value of their name and image. The prominent status of some people is enough to attract others into a coalition or group. For example, an invitation to join a coalition that is extended from a renowned community leader might garner better results than an invitation from an agency staff person.**
- ◆ **Ability to facilitate networking opportunities and open doors to other resources that have value for the community initiative.**

- ◆ **Lending their name to a cause, and also provide resources through their organization in the form of direct financial or in-kind support (such as staff, office space, overhead, equipment, or meeting space).**
- ◆ **Serving as a spokesperson for your issue or cause. Their time might be used when you need presentations made to policy making groups such as city council, state legislatures, foundations, or the media.**

When identifying and recruiting figurehead leaders:

1. **Be realistic in your expectations.** Prominent individuals usually have extremely limited free time. They might appear at high-profile events such as kick-off meetings, ribbon cuttings, or awards functions. But generally they are not going to be available to take part in operational activities of your community effort, such as committee meetings.
2. **If you involve elected officials, be sensitive to partisan issues.** The best course is to recruit bipartisan leadership so you are appealing to a broad base of organizations and individuals. This is especially important if you, or your partner organizations, are not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agencies, government entities, or public education organizations that need to be sensitive to politicized issues.
3. **Be aware that celebrities sometimes come with baggage.** Having an "A-list" celebrity or professional sports figure as an honorary chair can be exciting and rewarding. But celebrities can become entangled in controversial issues. Professional sports figures can get traded. If you tie your community group or coalition to a high-profile individual and that individual becomes involved in negative publicity or moves from your community, there is the potential of a negative reflection on your efforts.

Actively Engaged Leaders

An actively engaged leader is someone who has demonstrated leadership capabilities, is committed to improvement in the community, and is willing to give their time to be actively involved in your efforts. Initially, you might identify a small number of these leaders to help your community initiative get off the ground. This type of leader is typically someone who is already engaged and passionate about your issue or cause. They might be an officer or senior staff member of an agency that shares common goals or missions with your community issues. Examples might include a prominent physician who has a high-profile involvement in physical activity; CEOs of health/wellness organizations or medical centers; business leaders; or individuals engaged in civic leadership.

You might think of your carefully selected leadership group as an Executive Committee. Their roles may transition as your coalition or group grows, though hopefully they will remain involved and assume roles such as subcommittee chairs.

As hands-on leaders, these individuals would initially be engaged in activities such as:

- ◆ **Agenda setting**
- ◆ **Helping identify and recruit coalition members**
- ◆ **High-level strategic planning**

- ◆ Facilitating meetings
- ◆ Identifying and securing resources (both financial and in-kind)
- ◆ Serving as a media spokesperson
- ◆ Building sustainability
- ◆ Making presentations to community and business groups

As you think about who to recruit as your key leaders, consider:

- ◆ “Who cares?” Who are the prominent people in your community who have a passionate concern about the health and well-being of your residents and are already engaged in similar issues/causes?
- ◆ Who is “angry” about poor health and the increased rates of obesity and physical inactivity?
- ◆ And perhaps most importantly, who are the people in your community who have a reputation of getting things done?

Many of the people you want to recruit as leaders for your community initiative might already be actively engaged in other issues. A community board member quoted in the publication *Coloring Outside the Box: One Size Does Not Fit All in Nonprofit Governance* said, “Like any sub-sector of the community, there is a group who are the people you call. That makes it a real challenge to get full engagement. They are overcommitted.”



Leadership Game Plan

The roles and expectations for community-based initiative leadership need to be clearly communicated to the people who are being asked to serve in this capacity. A formal method to do this would be to develop a “volunteer leadership job description” that outlines roles and expectations. If it is possible to outline the amount of time that will be requested, this can also be helpful. This helps your leaders have a comprehensive understanding of the role they will be taking on.

You likely need a number of individual leaders; each will have different leadership roles in your initiative. For example:

- ◆ In the initial stages, it is essential to have “ideas people.” These are the visionaries who are good at seeing possibilities and getting others excited.
- ◆ At the same time, you also want people who are action-oriented – the type of person who can bring a vision to life. You don’t want to spend your efforts completely in idea generation and planning, without actually making something happen to enhance your community.
- ◆ When working within a coalition, leaders will need to be able to share power and credit, facilitate the input of diverse groups, and engage and inspire multiple stakeholders.
- ◆ Similar to figurehead leaders, operational leaders can also bring resources to the table in the form of financial support, human capital (staff or volunteers), and in-kind support such as office space, networking, supplies, staff support, and meeting support.

Leadership Competencies

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management describes key leadership qualifications, called *Executive Core Qualifications*, that can be used to help identify and develop community coalition leaders.³

<p>Leading Change Ability to develop and implement an organizational vision that integrates key national and program goals, priorities, values, and other factors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision • External awareness • Creativity and innovation • Strategic thinking • Continuous learning • Flexibility • Service motivation 	<p>Leading People Ability to design and implement strategies that maximize employee potential and foster high ethical standards in meeting the organization's vision, mission, and goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict management • Leveraging diversity • Team building • Integrity/honesty 						
<p>Business Acumen Ability to acquire and administer human, financial, material, and information resources in a manner that instills public trust and accomplishes the organization's mission, and the ability to use new technology to enhance decision making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial management • Human resources • Technology management 	<p>Results Driven Accountability and continuous improvement. Includes the ability to make timely and effective decisions and produce results through strategic planning and the implementation and evaluation of programs and policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability • Problem solving • Decisiveness • Customer service • Entrepreneurship • Technical credibility 						
<p>Coalitions and Communication Ability to explain, advocate, and express facts and ideas in a convincing manner. To negotiate with individuals and groups internally and externally. The ability to develop professional networks with other organizations and to identify the internal and external politics that impact the work of the organization.</p> <table> <tr> <td>• Oral communication</td> <td>• Written communication</td> <td>• Influencing/negotiating</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Partnering</td> <td>• Political savvy</td> <td>• Interpersonal skills</td> </tr> </table>		• Oral communication	• Written communication	• Influencing/negotiating	• Partnering	• Political savvy	• Interpersonal skills
• Oral communication	• Written communication	• Influencing/negotiating					
• Partnering	• Political savvy	• Interpersonal skills					

³ *Executive Core Qualifications*. U.S. Office of Personnel Management. <http://www.opm.gov/ses/recruitment/ecq.asp> (accessed 4/16/09)

Staff Leadership

Some community-based initiatives are fortunate to have staff allocated to the efforts. Staff might be individuals from a lead agency or organization whose time has been allocated specifically to the initiative, or a grant or other funding mechanism might enable an initiative to secure a staff person (or people). Staff who are involved in community-based initiatives at a leadership level usually require many of the competencies of volunteer leadership. In addition, they are likely to also have responsibilities such as:

- ◆ **Fiscal management**
- ◆ **Preparing reports and updates for funders and other key partners**
- ◆ **Assuring that plans are developed and appropriately monitored**
- ◆ **Assuring smooth operational functions of activities**
- ◆ **Assuring adequate communication with leadership and coalition members**
- ◆ **Assuring follow-up is conducted and keeping track of volunteer assignments**
- ◆ **Serving as the point-of-contact for media and policy makers**

Leadership Tools and Resources

Building a Healthier Chicago

(<http://healthierchicago.avenet.net/>). Building a Healthier Chicago is a collaborative of local and national stakeholders working to strengthen efforts to promote the health of Chicago residents and employees. This website offers resources on topics including nutrition and physical activity, blood pressure, school health and wellness, worksite wellness, health data and research findings, public health policy, and health in the news.

Coloring Outside the Box: One Size Does Not Fit All in Non-Profit Governance.

(<http://www.mapfornonprofits.org/vertical/Sites/%07B876C4FB8-E997-480F-BF5B-AFAAOF113D9D%07D/uploads/%07B06FC1B58-B131-4A8A-8545-7E9D09388C38%07D.PDF>). This report presents findings and recommendations from leaders about ways to improve board functionality and effectiveness.

Eleven Cool Ideas for Finding Hot New Board Members

(http://www.fieldstonealliance.org/client/tools_you_can_use/11-01-07_find_new_board_members.cfm). These practical tips have been compiled by The Fieldstone Alliance, a 501(c)(3) agency that provides consulting, that help nonprofits, funders, networks, and communities achieve greater impact.

United States Department of Agriculture Cooperative Extension System Offices

(<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/index.html>). Each U.S. state and territory has a state office at its land-grant university and a network of local or regional offices. These offices provide useful, practical, and research-based information on a variety of topics. Many state extension offices address community leadership issues.

Coalitions

Coalition Basics

A coalition is a group of individuals and groups working together to achieve a shared goal. Community coalition members should represent diverse interests (see list below).

Concrete, near-term benchmarks that change over time are also essential. Examples of these might be building or improving parks, creating walking trails in a community, or providing low-cost (or free) fitness classes at community centers.

Functions a coalition might include:

- ◆ **Community awareness, education, and strengthening knowledge.**
- ◆ **Educating policy makers.**
- ◆ **Influencing public and private policy issues.**
- ◆ **Building support for improvements in infrastructure.**
- ◆ **Changing organizational practices.**

As you begin to think about bringing together a coalition, don't get stuck on what to call your group. Hours and days have been spent debating if a group should be labeled a 'coalition,' 'collaborative,' 'partnership,' or similar term. What you call your group is not likely to matter – at least as you begin your work. Once you are organized and functioning, you can revisit the "What do we want to call ourselves?" question, if you feel it is an important issue. For the sake of simplicity, this guide will use the word "coalition."

To change public policy at the local, state and national levels, multiple coalitions must form and work together collaboratively to produce systemic changes. Individual leaders comprise the coalition membership. Leaders (members) must adopt an attitude of understanding and respect for one another.

*- Applied Leadership for Effective Coalitions
National Council on Disability*



When launching a coalition, the vision, mission, goals, and objectives should be discussed and agreed on. Then address these critical questions:

- ◆ **What do we expect to accomplish?**
- ◆ **Who needs to be at the table?**
- ◆ **What needs to change in our community?**
- ◆ **What resources do we have?**
- ◆ **What resources will we need?**
- ◆ **What resources are available to us?**
- ◆ **What are the various roles and responsibilities of coalition members?**
- ◆ **To whom is the coalition accountable?**
- ◆ **What is the intended timeframe for the coalition (will it be ongoing or are there date-specific goals that will be addressed, and then the coalition will disband)?**

A coalition should determine how it will function from an operational perspective.

- ◆ **When, where, and how often the coalition will meet?**
- ◆ **Who will chair meetings?**
- ◆ **How will the chair be selected?**
- ◆ **What is expected of members?**
- ◆ **How will the agendas be set?**
- ◆ **Who is responsible for administrative functions such as meeting arrangements, agenda distribution (ideally prior to the meetings), minutes, assuring follow-up? (This is especially important if there is not an assigned staff person.)**
- ◆ **Will the coalition need a budget, and if yes, who will serve as the fiscal agent?**

Many communities have built coalitions with cross-cutting partnerships to address a variety of health and wellness challenges and opportunities. One example is the Tobacco Free Partnerships, which have been successful in addressing tobacco issues through community awareness, education, and policy change.

Who might you engage in a coalition to improve the physical activity health and wellness environment within a community? The following list is not intended to be a complete inventory of the types of organizations possible for a coalition, but serves as a guide to help you get started. The actual

organizations you engage for your local action should be representative of your community, and the diversity, talent and resources that are available. Some examples are:

- Area businesses
- Chambers of commerce
- City and county health departments
- Community groups and organizations (AARP, Urban League, YMCA's, bicycle clubs, running clubs, walking clubs, etc.)
- Developers/builders
- Environmental groups (Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, etc.)
- Exercise and rehabilitation professionals
- Government agencies (National Parks Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife; U.S. Forestry Department; USDA)
- Cooperative Extension state and county health educators, specialists, and agents)
- Health agencies (American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, etc.)
- Health care professionals (physicians, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, medical students, nursing students)
- Health and fitness clubs
- Law enforcement
- Neighborhood associations
- Parks and recreation department professionals
- Realtors
- Religious leaders
- Retail establishments and shopping centers
- School districts
- Students
- Teachers
- Transportation experts
- Urban planners
- Zoning department

Forming a coalition provides several practical benefits. There is strength in numbers. People and organizations that work together can leverage their resources and skills. In addition, coalitions often command more attention than individual organizations. This is especially true when groups with different purposes collaborate on a common goal, as well as when coalitions strive for bipartisanship.

Coalition Building

There are excellent sources that outline approaches to coalition building; several are included in the Tools and Resources section. There are, however, a few factors that are critical to success that you should keep in mind, no matter what your coalition building process is.

1. **Set clear goals.** Later in this guide, there is a chapter that addresses planning. A clear plan is vital to keep your efforts on track. This can be especially important if you have a diverse membership, since coalition members often bring their own organizations' goals and agendas to the table. As ideas and issues arise, continually ask the question, "How does this relate to the coalition's mission, goals, and objectives?"
2. **Communicate clearly, adequately, and regularly.**
3. **Listen to opposing points of view.** Often coalitions are comprised of like-minded individuals. But opposing views and opinions can provide insight and information that could be overlooked if it is not sought and valued. One way to gather this input is to talk with those who oppose your efforts. Find out why. What concerns do they have? Can you address those concerns? Are they seeing potential problems that you are missing?
4. **Determine a decision-making process and stick with it.** It may be that decisions are made by a majority vote, consensus, or by sub-committees charged with making decisions on specific issues. Whatever process you have, stick with it and don't spend time rehashing or questioning decisions.
5. **Determine how tasks will be delegated, and what the process for follow-up and reporting will be.**
6. **Recognize and celebrate successes.** This provides momentum and helps eliminate burnout.

Coalition Pitfalls

Often efforts at building an effective coalition fail. Be aware of potential pitfalls. Go through this list with your group and talk about how you can deal with these issues. You might consider setting up ground rules or bylaws.

- ◆ **Lack of clear leadership, goals or focus**
- ◆ **No defined decision-making process**
- ◆ **Impatience – expecting change to occur instantly**
- ◆ **Inadequate, infrequent, or irregular communication and follow-up**
- ◆ **One agency having too much perceived or real authority**
- ◆ **Competition or conflict among members**
- ◆ **Too many meetings, not often meetings, meetings that last too long, or hard to get to meeting locations**
- ◆ **Not enough funding to cover basic operating costs**
- ◆ **Staff/member turnover and burnout**
- ◆ **Language and cultural barriers in multi-lingual and multi-cultural communities**

Coalition Building Tools and Resources

Applied Leadership for Effective Coalitions.

(<http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2001/pdf/appliedleadership.pdf>). This National Council on Disability guide is designed to assist those interested in promoting leadership development and coalition building.

Community Coalitions for Prevention and Health Promotion.

Frances Dunn Butterfoss, Robert M. Goodman, Abraham Wandersman. This article, published in *Health Education Research*. Vol. 8, No. 3, 1993. (315-330), provides useful coalition definitions, outlines various types of coalitions, and offers information on coalition development and function.

Creating an Effective Coalition: An Eight Step Guide

(<http://www.preventioninstitute.org/eightstep.html>). From the Prevention Institute, this guide suggests eight specific steps for coalition development.

Elevation: A Community Health Practice Guide

(http://www.communityhealthresource.com/Cultivating_Community_Coalitions.doc). From Community Health Solutions, Inc., this Guide outlines 10 steps for starting an effective community coalition and 15 strategies for sustaining a coalition.

Maintaining Effective Community Coalitions

(http://www.cchealth.org/groups/health_services/pdf/maintaining_effective_community_coalitions.pdf). Chuck McKitney and Julie Freestone. This report, from the Contra Costa County (CA) Health Services, provides useful, practical information on running efficient coalitions, evaluating coalition work, and knowing when to end a coalition.

State Coalition Handbook: Strategies and Techniques

(<http://www.ncppa.org/State%20Coalition%20Handbook%20Final.pdf>). The National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity (NCPA) developed this handbook to provide an in-depth look at the challenges, tasks, and solutions facing those who have committed to starting a physical activity coalition in their state or local community.

Sustainable Communities for All Ages

(http://www.viablefuturestoolkit.org/toolkit_tab.htm)

This guide from Just Partners, Inc. includes planning worksheets, issues briefs, community checklists, assessment tools, communication tips, coalition building tools, and information on resource development.

United States Department of Agriculture Cooperative Extension System Offices

(<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/index.html>)

Each U.S. state and territory has a state office at its land-grant university and a network of local or regional offices. These offices provide useful, practical, and research-based information on a variety of topics. Many state extension offices provide information on community coalition building.

Planning

One of Steven Covey's seven habits of highly effective people is, "Start with the end in mind."⁴ This concept is the essence of planning. A clear vision and agreement of the end goals is essential for success. Effective planning:

- ◆ Provides a clear focus
- ◆ Supports monitoring and assessment of results and impact
- ◆ Facilitates new program development
- ◆ Enables an organization or coalition to look into the future in an orderly and systematic way

Most organizations and coalitions understand the need for annual program objectives and a program-focused work plan. Funders require them, and they provide a basis for setting priorities, organizing work, and assessing progress.



When government officials, business leaders, and citizens come together to build communities that enrich people's lives, that's planning.

– American Planning Association

An initial step in planning is to define the vision. The vision communicates what your organization believes are the ideal conditions for your community – how things would look if the issues important to you were perfectly addressed. By developing a vision statement, your organization makes the beliefs and governing principles of your organization clear to the greater community (as well as to your own members).

⁴ Covey, S. *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. 1989. Free Press

1. Your vision statement should be:

- Understood by members of the community
- Broad enough to allow a diverse variety of local perspectives to be encompassed
- Inspiring and uplifting
- Easy to communicate – it should be short enough to fit on a T-shirt

2. Create a mission statement that describes what the group is going to do, and why it's going to do that. Mission statements are action-oriented and might refer to a problem, such as "All citizens will enjoy easy access to parks and open space in our community" or "All citizens will have affordable opportunities and resources for physical activity." Mission statements are:

- Concise – easy to understand and to remember
- Outcome-oriented
- Inclusive – engage all sectors of your community involved in your issue

3. Define objectives – specific measurable results for the initiative's broad goals. An organization's objectives generally lay out *how much of what* will be accomplished by when.**4. Outline strategies that explain how the initiative will reach its objectives.** Generally, organizations will have a wide variety of strategies that include people from all of the different parts, or *sectors*, of the community.**5. Create an action plan that describes in great detail exactly how strategies will be implemented to accomplish the objectives.**

Needs assessment and gap analysis

The *Community-Based Health Program Tip Sheet* defines a needs assessment as the process of obtaining and analyzing information to determine the current status and service needs of a defined population and/or geographic area.⁵ All too often, people address issues by immediately jumping to develop a list of solutions before they truly need to address. They focus on "wants" before clearly identifying the "need."

For example:

Wants	Needs
We want to build a new park	We need easily accessible places in our community where people can be physically active
We want better streetlights	We need to address safety issues for pedestrians
We want to build bicycle lanes	We need to identify how people can safely bicycle in our community, and also address the needs of motorists

⁵ Beadle de Paloma, Frank & Luna, Elisa (Eds.) (1999). Proceedings from Annie E. Casey Foundation Conference: *Neighborhood Health Partnerships: Building a Strong Future*. Washington DC. <http://coach.aed.org/pubs/factsheets/-NeedsAssessment.pdf> (accessed 4/17/09)

Focusing on the "need" rather than the "want" can lead to multiple solutions rather than getting focused on a single solution, which may or may not be the best approach for your community.

For example, using the table on the previous page, if the need is accessible places in the community for people to be more physically active, the "want" might be a new park. However, though effective questioning, it might be that what is needed is a refurbishment of an existing park. Or perhaps there is a beautiful, accessible, and well-equipped park that is under utilized because children have to cross a major roadway to get to the park; there is inadequate parking; or people in the community simply are not aware of the park's facilities. Then the "need" becomes different. It might be a new park, but perhaps a pedestrian/bicycle bypass for easy access to the park, improved parking facilities at the existing park, or a community awareness and education program.

One method of conducting a needs assessment is using asset mapping, a process of identifying community resources that will help accomplish goals. Asset mapping is focused on identifying a community's capacity—identifying what the resources are in a community. Community capacity looks at all assets related to the community project including people, relationships, infrastructures, and financial resources. Knowing the assets of a community sets a foundation for effective planning.

Developing asset maps

To develop asset maps, start by identifying community assets based on the AFI health indicators. A simple way to do this is to establish a list of all services, businesses, or other aspects that meet the criteria of the selected indicator. Develop a spreadsheet listing the identified asset (such as a park or fitness center), address for the asset, and indicator category. With asset mapping, it is also feasible to drive or walk through various neighborhoods to help identify assets. Talking to a variety of community members can be helpful. Word-of-mouth is a great way to find out information about community services.

Many communities have a Global Positioning Service (GPS) division in their city or county government. If GPS is available, data can be utilized to develop maps with data points plotted. If no GPS service is available, obtain a printed map of the community of focus, and plot all assets on the map. An example of an asset map related to the AFI health indicators for Muncie, Indiana is included on page 24.

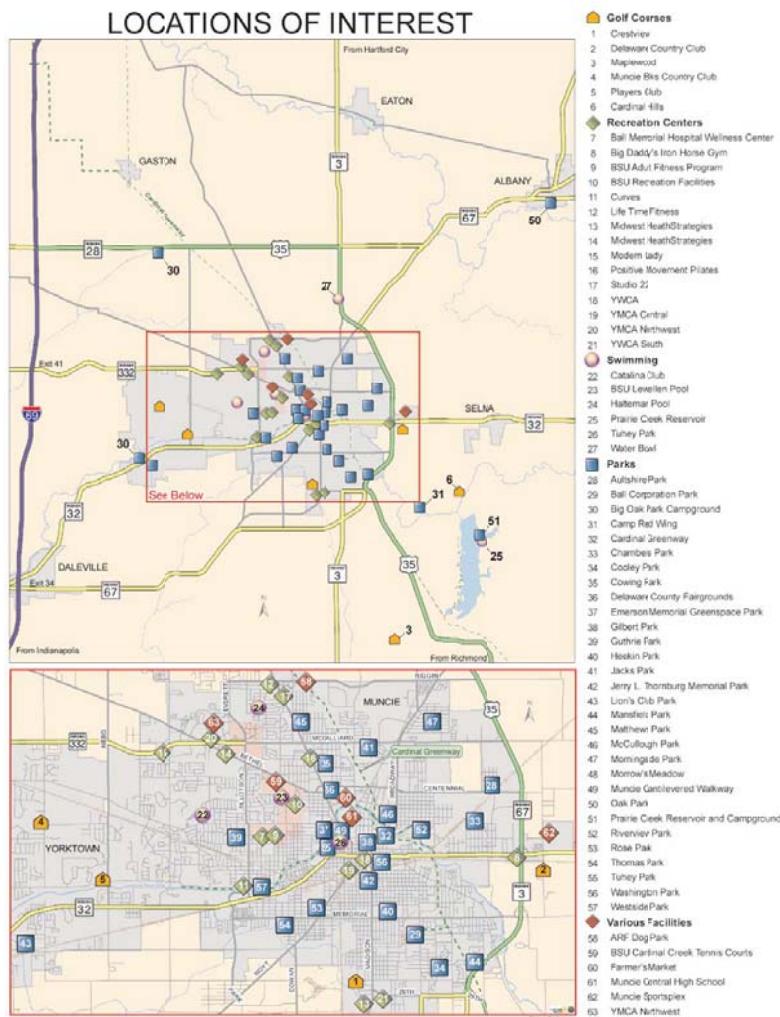
Gap Analysis from Indicators: Here's What is Missing

After developing an asset map, it can be reviewed to determine a community's strengths as well as resources that may be lacking. Once an asset map is developed, needs can be identified based on those indicators that are not present, or poorly addressed, based on the asset map. A gap analysis is simply a process of comparing actual community assets to potential, desired assets. Once this step has been taken, plans can be developed to work to close the gap between the two.

Start the gap analysis process by reviewing the asset map, and determining which of the AFI health indicators have no, or few resources. Also look at geographic regions or neighborhoods that have a less than desirable amount of resources available. Take into account access and barrier issues.

Using information from the needs assessment and gap analysis you can begin to build a plan that is based on factual data that had helped identify where the community needs and resources are.

Asset Map Example (Muncie, Indiana)



Planning tools and resources

American Factfinder

(<http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>). Based on U.S. Census Bureau data, users can create a variety of tables, reports, or maps with information on their community that is available in this resource.

Blueprint for Action: Developing Livable Communities for All Ages

(http://www.aginginplaceinitiative.org/storage/api/documents/Blueprint_for_Action_web.pdf). From the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Partners for Livable Communities, and the MetLife Foundation, this guide provides local leaders with tools to build the collaborations needed to create livable communities for people of all ages. The guide can be used as a quick-reference kit for practitioners looking for tools, resources, and best practices. The resources at the end of the guide can be used to find the information most immediately relevant to your community's priorities and challenges.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Promoting Physical Activity: A Guide for Community Action

(http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/physical/health_professionals/promotion/community_guide.htm). This guide offers creative, fresh ideas for promoting physical activity in your community, workplace, school, or health care facility. Practical examples drawn from a variety of settings; helpful hints on how to create a positive environment where physical activity is accessible, safe, affordable, and fun. There is extensive information on sources for additional help.

Evaluation and Data Collection Tools from the Center for Substance Prevention

(<http://prevention.samhsa.gov/evaluation/default.aspx>). This website offers tools for designing an outcome or process evaluation and identifying data collection strategies; technical assistance to answer questions related to evaluation; assistance with planning evaluation efforts; and suggested data collection instruments.

Field Guide to Nonprofit Strategic Planning and Facilitation

(http://www.managementhelp.org/plan_dec/str_plan/str_plan.htm). This guidebook focuses on customizing and implementing an organization- or program-wide, strategic planning process for a nonprofit organization. Guidelines show how to conduct a complete, realistic, simplified strategic planning process that is flexible and suited to the nature of nonprofit organizations. Guidelines are useful to cultures that prefer rational approaches to planning or more naturalistic and unfolding (organic) approaches.

National Civic League Community Visioning/Strategic Planning Handbook

(http://www.ncl.org/publications/descriptions/community_visioning.html). This handbook provides a step-by-step guide to creating a sustainable vision and action plan for communities. From the logistical planning of the initiating committee to the implementation of the community plan, communities will learn how to engage broad-based community participation, evaluate their civic infrastructure and effectively reach their desired future.

University of Kansas Community Toolbox. Developing a Strategic Plan, Organizational Structure, and Training System. Chapter 8. Developing a Strategic Plan
http://ctb.ku.edu/en/tablecontents/chapter_1007.htm. This information covers seven issues: Overview of strategic planning; developing a vision and mission statement, creating objectives, developing strategies, developing an action plan, obtaining feedback from constituents, and identifying action steps to bring about community and systems change.

Zoning Practice

(<http://www.planning.org/zoningpractice/>). From the American Planning Association, this online publication helps guide you as you write and administer smart development codes.

Needs assessment tools and resources:

Community Health Promotion: Mobilizing Your Community to Promote Health (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/chp/hpkit/index.htm>). This kit from the Minnesota Department of Health can assist in developing strategies. The guide was built on a five-phase framework of community health. Phase one outlines an eight-step process to determine community assets.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Online Course.

(http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/cls/needs_assessment.html). This course introduces professionals to needs assessments and what it means to conduct one. By assessing target audience needs, programs can determine a focus and direction and make more informed decisions about program or project objectives. While this is developed for coastal management professionals, the content is useful for work in on a variety of areas, such as physical activity.

SMART: BRFSS City and County Data

(<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSS-SMART/>). The Selected Metropolitan/Micropolitan Area Risk Trends (SMART) project uses the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to analyze the data of selected metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas (MMSAs) with 500 or more respondents. BRFSS data can be used to identify emerging health problems, establish and track health objectives, and develop and evaluate public health policies and programs.

University of Kansas Community Toolbox. Community Assessment, Agenda Setting, and Choice of Broad Strategies (http://ctb.ku.edu/en/tablecontents/chapter_1003.htm). Chapter 3 of this community toolbox outlines a 19-steps process for assessing community needs and resources.

United States Department of Agriculture Cooperative Extensive System Offices

(<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/index.html>). Each U.S. state and territory has a state office at its land-grant university and a network of local or regional offices. These offices provide useful, practical, and research-based information on a variety of topics. Many state extension offices provide information, training, and tools related to community assessments.

YMCA Community Healthy Living Index

(<http://www.ymca.net/communityhealthylivingindex/>). This is a set of five community assessment tools that measure opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating in areas that impact an individual's daily life. These tools also facilitate discussion about how to improve the community environment to increase opportunities for healthy living.

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

(<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs/>). The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) monitors priority health-risk behaviors and the prevalence of obesity and asthma among youth and young adults. The YRBSS includes a national school-based survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state, territorial, tribal, and local surveys conducted by state, territorial, and local education and health agencies and tribal governments.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Every good plan needs an evaluation component. The evaluation process can help you have a clear understanding of what progress is being made toward your goals, what is effective, and what is not working. Realizing what is not working is critical, so you can make mid-course corrections rather than continuing to do things that are not producing results.

Other benefits of evaluation:

- ◆ Evaluation results are important to funders. A robust evaluation process makes your organization appealing for continued funding.
- ◆ Evaluation enables you to measure and celebrate successes.
- ◆ Evaluation builds trust within your coalition.

Just as people participate in project activities, people must participate in project evaluation. The best evaluations value multiple perspectives and involve a representation of people who care about the project.

– *W.H. Kellogg Foundation Evaluation Handbook*



Consider these questions as you discuss evaluation:

1. Who will use the evaluation information?
2. What is being evaluated?
3. What methods will be used to conduct the evaluation?
4. How will information be gathered and analyzed?
5. How can we be assured that what we learn will be used?

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation suggests that evaluation be ongoing and occur at every phase of a project's development: preplanning, start-up, implementation, and expansion or replication phases. The relevant questions to ask and the evaluation activities may differ for each phase. What remains the same is that evaluation assists project staff and community partners make effective decisions to continuously strengthen and improve the initiative.

Evaluation tools and resources:

An Evaluation Framework for Community Health Programs

(<http://www.cdc.gov/eval/evalcbph.pdf>). From the Center for the Advancement of Public Health, this document presents a framework that emphasizes program evaluation as a practical and ongoing process that involves program staff, community members, as well as evaluation experts. The document promotes a common understanding of program evaluation. It provides a conceptual roadmap that can be adapted to a variety of settings and within many different groups and communities.

An Evaluation Primer on Health Risk Communication Programs and Outcomes

(<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HEC/evalprmr.html>). This U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Environmental Health Policy Committee document focuses on planning and executing evaluations of health risk communication programs and materials.

Basic Guide to Program Evaluation

(http://www.managementhelp.org/evaluatn/fnl_eval.htm). Written by Carter McNamara, this document provides guidance on planning and implementing an evaluation process for profit and nonprofit programs. It is available from the Free Management Library™.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Evaluation Working Group

(<http://www.cdc.gov/eval/>). This website highlights of a framework, steps, and standards for program evaluation. Links to additional resources are provided.

RE-AIM

(www.RE-AIM.org). RE-AIM (reach, efficacy/effectiveness, adoption, implementation, maintenance) is a way for researchers, practitioners, and policy makers to evaluate health behavior interventions. The website offers tools including calculations, checklists, and measures.

United States Department of Agriculture Cooperative Extensive System Offices

(<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/index.html>). Each U.S. state and territory has a state office at its land-grant university and a network of local or regional offices. These offices provide useful, practical, and research-based information on a variety of topics. Many state extension offices provide information, training, and tools related to evaluation.

W.K. Kellogg Foundation Evaluation Handbook

(<http://www.wkkf.org/Pubs/Tools/Evaluation/Pub770.pdf>). This document provides a framework for thinking about evaluation as a relevant and useful program tool. It is written primarily for project directors who have direct responsibility for the ongoing evaluation of W.K. Kellogg Foundation-funded projects. However, it is a useful resource for others who have evaluation responsibilities.

Public Policy/Advocacy

Advocacy allows organizations to promote their causes by educating the public, community decision makers, and policymakers. At the community level, public policy generally refers to laws, codes, and regulations established by governing entities such as city councils, departments of transportation, zoning commissions, county commissioners, or the state legislature. Regulations and codes might also be established by community agencies such as planning departments, water departments, school boards, and parks and recreation departments. How public policy is developed and implemented varies from one municipality, county, and state to another.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed individuals can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

— Margaret Mead



Education

In order to impact policy change, it is necessary to first educate policy makers about the issues that your coalition is concerned with. In the area of physical activity, it is essential that policy makers understand the impact of your cause, using information that is credible and valuable.

Be strategic in how you create awareness and communicate with policy makers and community leaders to influence change. Sometimes, when community-based coalitions think about awareness or education, there is a tendency to jump to tactics such as writing news releases, producing public service announcements, or printing brochures. While these tools have their place in awareness and education for the general public, they are not particularly targeted and are generally difficult to measure and evaluate in terms of their effectiveness as it pertains to policy makers.

When communicating with policy makers and community leaders, tactics that are more likely to be effective are one-on-one or small group meetings or briefings that include your target audience and one or two experts who can provide in-depth information on the issues related to physical activity and community change.

When educating policy makers, keep in mind that short, simple messages are often best. Policy makers are inundated with information, facts, and data. Their time is at a premium. Focus presentations with a few clear facts and tie your data to your community as much as possible. Develop easy-to-read leave-behind folders that include fact sheets, one-page overviews of the issue, a copy of the AFI data report, and information on how to contact you for follow-up or to get more information.

Public Policy

To create systemic lifestyle changes in communities, policy change is often needed. For example, educating smokers about the negative health impact of tobacco only went so far in reducing tobacco use. However, once laws went into place regarding clean indoor air, tobacco excise taxes became significant enough to deter many from purchasing cigarettes, and smoking became socially unacceptable in most public places and businesses, real change began to occur.

The American Public Health Association offers 10 Rules of Advocacy.⁶

1. Get to know legislators, their districts and constituencies, voting records, personal schedules, opinions, expertise and interests.
2. Acquaint yourself with the staff members for the legislators, committees and resource officials with whom you will be working. These people are essential sources of information and have influence in the development of policy.
3. Identify fellow advocates and partners in the public health community to better understand the process, monitor legislation, and assess strengths and weaknesses.
4. Identify the groups and other legislators with whom you may need to negotiate for changes in legislation. Do not dismiss anyone because of previous disagreements or because you lack a history of working together.
5. Foster and strengthen relationships with allies and work with legislators who are flexible and tend to keep an open mind.
6. Be honest, straightforward and realistic when working with legislators and their staff.
7. Be polite, remember names and thank those who help you both in the legislature and in the public health advocacy community.
8. Learn the legislative process and understand it well. Keep on top of the issues and be aware of controversial and contentious areas.
9. Be brief, clear, accurate, persuasive, timely, persistent, grateful and polite when presenting your position and communicating your needs or wants.
10. Follow up with legislators and their staff. Remember to thank them for their time and efforts.

⁶ American Public Health Association. Top Ten Rules of Advocacy. <http://www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/B333E66A-5E83-408B-9871-980BEFAA209D/0/TopTenRulesofAdvocacy.pdf>. (accessed 4/18/09)

Understanding community government

Community-based organizations that want to participate in policy issues need to have a clear understanding of who makes decisions, how decisions are made, and how policies are introduced and established. One way to learn how your community government works and who you should meet with is to look at your city, county and council of government (COG) Web sites. These will almost always provide detailed information on structure, elected and appointed officials, which regulatory and code agencies or departments are in place, and what they do. These Web sites will also provide contact information, meeting schedules, and agendas for meetings. Look for information on topics such as zoning, transportation (bicycle lanes, sidewalks, trails, public transportation, streets, and crosswalks), public safety (street lighting), parks/open space, and schools (playgrounds).

Inviting representatives from policy-making entities to speak to your coalition can be helpful in helping your group understand the processes in your community. While staff from policy-making entities or elected officials are usually precluded from being formal members of your coalition, often they can be invited to serve as an advisory member and be of invaluable assistance in helping you understand processes and procedures for advocating for change.

Social marketing programs can do well in motivating individual behavior change, but that is difficult to sustain unless the environment they're in supports that change for the long run. Often, policy change is needed.

– Nedra Weinreich
Weinreich Communications



Non-governmental policy

In addition to public policy that is put into place by lawmakers and regulatory agencies, policy can also be implemented by community institutions such as businesses and industries. You might consider working with business and industry leaders to address physical activity for their employees. Similar tactics to working with public policy officials generally work – one-on-one or small meetings and customized fact sheets that address the importance of physical activity from the employer's standpoint.

When addressing the importance of physical activity, employers will often be interested in "Return On Investment" data or ROI.

The following facts might be useful when talking with business leaders.

- ◆ Michael P. O'Donnell, editor of the *American Journal of Health Promotion*, notes that health promotion activities are likely to yield greater returns from increased employee productivity than from medical care cost-savings.⁷
- ◆ Worksite wellness programs improve productivity through:⁸
 - Reduced absenteeism/lost time
 - Improved on-the-job decision-making and time utilization
 - Improved employee morale
 - Stronger organizational commitments
 - Reduced organizational conflict by building a reservoir of goodwill toward management
 - Reduced employee turnover
- ◆ Partnership for Prevention notes that employees are more likely to be on the job and performing well when they are in optimal health. The indirect costs of poor health, which include absenteeism and presenteeism, can be two to three times the direct medical cost.⁹ (The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine defines absenteeism as the number of days missed from the workplace, while presenteeism is the health-related productivity loss while at work. Presenteeism describes an employee who is present at work but limited in some aspect of job performance by health-related problem[s].¹⁰)
- ◆ How significant are healthcare costs? The National Health Expenditure Data¹¹ from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services indicate that:
 - Growth in national health expenditures was expected to remain steady at 6.7% in 2007 and average 6.7% per year over the projection period (2006-2017).
 - The health share of GDP was estimated to be 16.3% in 2007 and 19.5% by 2017.
 - Private spending on health expenditures was projected to grow 6.3% in 2007 and average 6.2% per year over the projection period.
 - Spending on prescription drugs was projected to grow 6.7% in 2007 to \$231 billion. Average growth of 8.2% per year is expected for the entire projection period.
- ◆ Wellness and health are key components of top 20 corporate responsibility reports and "Best Places to Work" rankings.¹²
- ◆ Wellness initiatives can help employers attract and retain new staff, and ensure that older workers remain healthy.¹¹ *Fortune* magazine's annual ranking of the U.S. Best 100 Companies to Work For indicates healthcare benefits and a company's commitment to help staff achieve work-life balance are important to keep employees and attract new ones.¹³

⁷ O'Donnell M. *Health Promotion in the Workplace*. 3rd ed; 2001.

⁸ Partnership for Prevention. *Healthy Workforce 2010*.

http://www.prevent.org/images/stories/Files/publications/Healthy_Workforce_2010.pdf

⁹ Partnership for Prevention. Worksite Health. <http://www.prevent.org/content/view/29/39/>.

¹⁰ American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. *Elements of health-related productivity measures*. <http://www.acoem.org/HealthProductivityMeasurements.aspx>.

¹¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. National Health Expenditure data. <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/>

¹² World Economic Forum. Working Toward Wellness. PricewaterhouseCoopers. 2007.

¹³ http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/bestcompanies/2006/best_benefits/health_care.html

Advocacy tools and resources

Active Community Environments Initiative

(http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/physical/health_professionals/active_environments/aces.htm). This CDC website includes physical activity recommendations and guidelines, fact sheets, and easy-to-understand data.

Alliance for a Healthy Generation

(<http://www.healthiergeneration.org/>). Offers information and resources for healthy schools programs.

Charting and Changing the Policy Landscape: Promoting Physical Activity & Reversing Physical Inactivity through Policy Solutions

(http://www.physicalactivityplan.org/resources/Policy_Brief.pdf). An executive summary from a policy roundtable discussion comprised of national leaders in public health industries. During this roundtable discussion, the concept of national physical activity guidelines and a national plan for implementation of these guidelines emerged.

Community Health Living Index

(<http://www.ymca.net/>). Contact your local YMCA and inquire about this tool that assesses community environments for opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating and helps schools, worksites, neighborhoods and the larger community make needed healthy living changes.

Complete Streets Laws and Ordinances

(Early Success Stories. <http://www.walkinginfo.org/library/details.cfm?id=3968>). National Complete Streets Coalition of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center offers sample policies, ordinances, and design manuals.

Cost Effectiveness of Community-Based Physical Activity Interventions

([http://www.ajpm-online.net/article/S0749-3797\(08\)00770-8/abstract](http://www.ajpm-online.net/article/S0749-3797(08)00770-8/abstract)). Roux L. et. al. *American Journal of Public Health*. December, 2008.

Designing & Building Healthy Places

(<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/default.htm>). Promotes healthy community design. The interaction between people and their environments, natural as well as human-made, continues to emerge as a major issue concerning public health.

Environmental Change Strategies to Promote Physical Activity Quick Start

(http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/physical/pdf/pa_qs_environmental_change.pdf). This resource provides key references, tools, and components for the planning, implementation, evaluation, and maintenance of environmental interventions to promote physical activity.

Physical Activity and the Built Environment

(<http://www.fitness.gov/digests/December2006Digest.pdf>). From the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, this Research Digest discusses research in the field of physical activity and the built environment.

SmartGrowth Online: Create Walkable Communities

(<http://www.smartgrowth.org/about/principles/principles.asp?prin=4&tres=1400>). This is a comprehensive website that includes resources such as a guidebook, tools, suggested funding sources, and fact sheets.

State-based Physical Activity Program Directory

(<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/DNPAProg/>). This site is useful for research, idea generation, and resource sharing. It provides information about physical activity programs involving state departments of health.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services Community Guide –

Promoting Physical Activity: Environmental and Policy Approaches

(<http://www.thecommunityguide.org/pa/environmental-policy/index.html>). This guide offers resources and detailed reference information.

Tips for Evaluating Advocacy

(<http://www.afj.org/assets/resources/nap/evaluation-tips-for-both.pdf>). These tips from The Alliance for Justice are helpful for both grantee organizations and funders.

University of Kansas Community Toolbox.

Chapter 5: Choosing Strategies to Promote Community Health and Development (www.ctb.ku.edu/). This section of the toolkit addresses getting issues on the public policy agenda.

WalkScore

(www.walkscore.com). WalkScore ranks 2,508 neighborhoods in the largest 40 U.S. cities on walkability.

What is Social Marketing?

(<http://www.social-marketing.com/Whatis.html>) by Nedra Kline Weinreich (Weinreich Communications) this website offers an easy-to understand overview of the elements of social marketing, including policy.

Worksite Walkability Audit Tool

(http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/hwi/toolkits/walkability/audit_tool.htm). A walkability audit broadly assesses pedestrian facilities, destinations, and surroundings along and near a walking route and identifies specific improvements that would make the route more attractive and useful to pedestrians. Using CDC's Walkability Audit from this site can help you assess the safety or attractiveness of walking routes.

Moving Forward

Congratulations! Having reviewed the ACSM American Fitness Index™ data report and this AFI *Community Action Guide* you have taking important steps in starting to address community-level issues to help improve the health of your community.

As you launch your efforts, have the ACSM American Fitness Index™ Guiding Principles for Healthy Communities at the forefront:

- ◆ Overall health improvements in U.S. cities must focus on the prevention of behavior-linked diseases by effectively addressing the underlying risk and community factors.
- ◆ The rise in chronic diseases attributable to physical inactivity and unhealthy diets are a “clear and present danger” to our health and healthcare systems, our cities, our nation, and our future.
- ◆ All cities in the U.S., irrespective of size or current health status, can make powerful advances in improving the health of their people through simple, affordable, effective steps.
- ◆ There is a need for even more synergy and collaboration to assist U.S. cities in actively making the moves toward better health.

As you lay groundwork for your efforts, also take some immediate action by following the AFI's four action steps for promoting good health and physical activity. And as you involve others in your efforts, share these action steps with them.

1. Be a role model for good health and physical activity.

- Make a commitment to participate in at least 30 minutes of physical activity and 10 minutes of stretching and light muscle training five days a week.
- Model healthy behavior to children by incorporating activity into the weekday schedule and by limiting TV, computer, and video game time.
- Recruit family, neighbors, coworkers, church members, or other social group members to join a walking club. Buy a pedometer and start counting your steps, and set targets to eventually accumulate 10,000 steps a day.

2. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper to educate the public and bring awareness to the physical inactivity epidemic in your community. A sample letter to the editor is included at the end of this document. The media can be the most efficient way to communicate with the largest audience possible in the least amount of time. You can use the media to:

- Educate the public about what really causes or contributes to the physical inactivity epidemic in our nation.
- Frame the physical inactivity epidemic as a social concern that affects everyone.
- Promote services and resources that encourage physical activity within your community.

3. Volunteer your time for the cause by joining a local coalition in your community dedicated to encouraging physical activity. Check out www.americanfitnessindex.com for local resources.

4. Educate community leaders and bring awareness to the physical inactivity epidemic in your community.

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor of newspapers have the best chance of being published when they are brief, focused, and to the point. Here are some other tips for your letter:

- Make sure that you include your full name, address, day and evening phone numbers, and your e-mail address at the top of the letter. Most newspapers will contact the letter writer to confirm authenticity.
- Write short sentences and limit your letter to no more than two or three paragraphs.

Dear Editor:

Physical inactivity and obesity are at epidemic proportions in the United States, resulting in an increase in the prevalence of a multitude of chronic diseases, poor quality of life and premature deaths. The health care expenditures associated with physical inactivity and obesity continues to rise each year with increasingly catastrophic costs to society.

The key fundamentals for improving physical activity behaviors include increasing awareness and motivation at the personal level; providing a built environment and resources that encourage physical activity; and setting policies to better enable individuals and communities to engage in physical activity as part of a healthier lifestyle.

According to a data report from the ACSM American Fitness Index™ program, [insert name of city] ranked [insert ranking of city] out of 50 metropolitan areas in community indicators for preventive health behaviors, levels of chronic disease conditions, access to health care, and community supports and policies for physical activity. Challenges our city needs to address include: [insert priority challenges from AFI data report for the city].

As a resident of [insert name of city], I am advocating and encouraging our community leadership and citizens to positively focus future efforts on improving our city's challenges related to healthy, active living in our community.

Name
Street Address City, State
Phone number(s)

Acknowledgements

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Questions and comments on the document should be directed to the
American College of Sports Medicine at afi@acsm.org.



PITTSBURGH, PA

(Pittsburgh, PA MSA)

Ranking: Total Score = 54.8; Rank = 17

Areas of Excellence (at or better than target goal):

- More farmers' markets per capita
- Higher percent using public transportation to work
- Higher percent bicycling or walking to work
- Higher Walk Score®
- More ball diamonds per capita
- More dog parks per capita
- More park playgrounds per capita
- More park units per capita
- More recreation centers per capita
- More swimming pools per capita
- More tennis courts per capita
- Higher park-related expenditures per capita
- Higher level of state requirement for Physical Education classes

Improvement Priority Areas (worse than 20% of target goal):

- Lower percent meeting both CDC aerobic and strength activity guidelines
- Lower percent eating 3+ vegetables per day
- Higher percent currently smoking
- Higher percent obese
- Higher percent of days where physical health was not good in the past 30 days
- Higher percent with asthma
- Higher percent with angina or coronary heart disease
- Higher percent with diabetes
- Higher death rate for cardiovascular disease
- Higher death rate for diabetes
- Fewer acres of parkland per capita
- Fewer golf courses per capita

Description of Pittsburgh, PA MSA

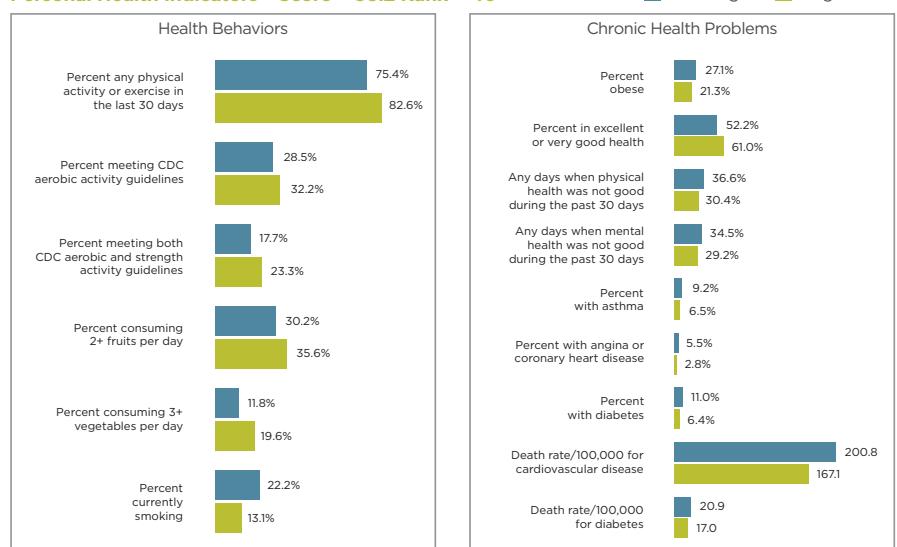
Population	2,360,733
Percent less than 18 years old	19.6%
Percent 18 to 64 years old	62.7%
Percent 65 years old and older	17.7%
Percent male	48.5%
Percent high school graduate or higher	92.2%
Percent White	87.5%
Percent Black or African American	8.3%
Percent Asian	1.9%
Percent Other Race	2.3%
Percent Hispanic/Latino	1.4%
Percent unemployed	7.2%
Median household income	\$50,489
Percent of households below poverty level	8.6%
Violent crime rate/100,000*	N/A†
Percent with disability	13.8%

*Due to differences in jurisdictional definitions and reporting, the FBI recommends that these rates not be compared across areas.

†This measure was not available.

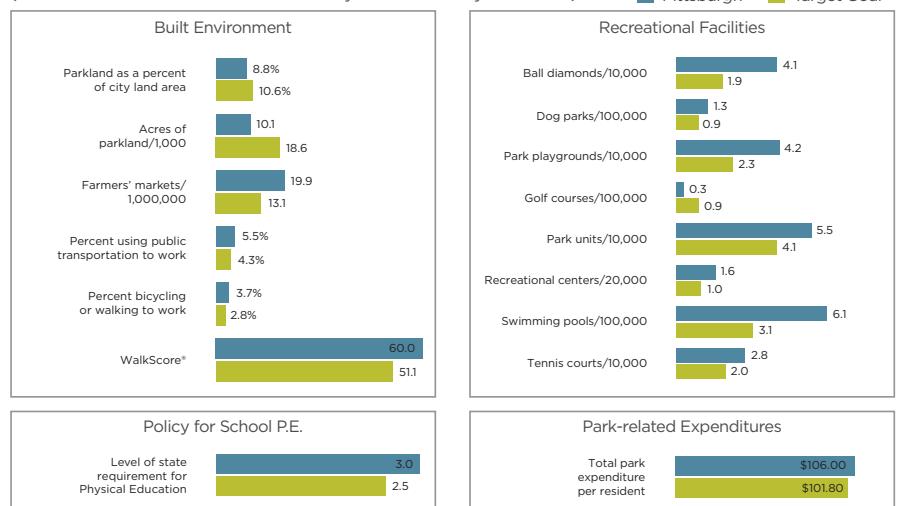
ACSM American Fitness Index™ Components

Personal Health Indicators - Score = 36.2 Rank = 40



Community/Environmental Indicators - Score = 73.0 Rank = 4

(note: most of these data were available only for the main city in the MSA)



*The target goal for the Personal Health Indicators that did not change was the 90th percentile for MSAs during 2008-2012. For the new personal health indicators, the target goals were 90% of the 2014 values.

**The target goal for the Community/Environmental Indicators that did not change was the MSA average for 2008 to 2012. New community indicators target goals were an average of the 2014 values.

CLEVELAND, OH

(Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH MSA)

Ranking: Total Score = 45.4; Rank = 33

Areas of Excellence (at or better than target goal):

- More farmers' markets per capita
- Higher Walk Score®
- More ball diamonds per capita
- More park playgrounds per capita
- More golf courses per capita
- More recreation centers per capita
- More swimming pools per capita
- More tennis courts per capita

Improvement Priority Areas (worse than 20% of target goal):

- Lower percent consuming 3+ vegetables per day
- Higher percent currently smoking
- Higher percent obese
- Higher percent of days when mental health was not good during the past 30 days
- Higher percent with asthma
- Higher percent with angina or coronary heart disease
- Higher percent with diabetes
- Higher death rate for cardiovascular disease
- Higher death rate for diabetes
- Lower percent of city land area as parkland
- Fewer acres of parkland per capita
- Lower percent using public transportation to work
- Fewer dog parks per capita
- Lower park-related expenditures per capita
- Lower level of state requirement for Physical Education classes

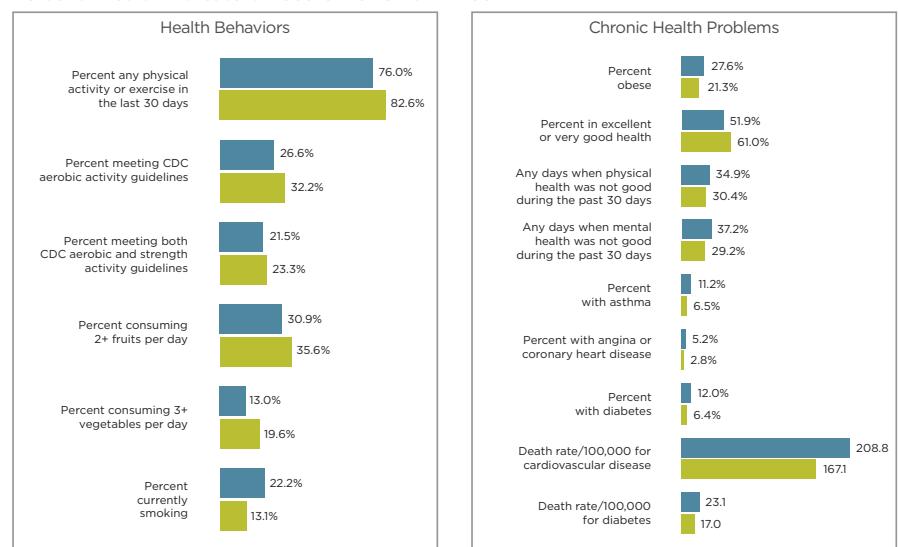
Description of Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH MSA

Population	2,063,535
Percent less than 18 years old	22.4%
Percent 18 to 64 years old	61.7%
Percent 65 years old and older	15.9%
Percent male	48.1%
Percent high school graduate or higher	88.5%
Percent White	74.5%
Percent Black or African American	20.4%
Percent Asian	2.0%
Percent Other Race	3.1%
Percent Hispanic/Latino	5.0%
Percent unemployed	9.9%
Median household income	\$46,944
Percent of households below poverty level	12.0%
Violent crime rate/100,000*	N/A†
Percent with disability	13.6%

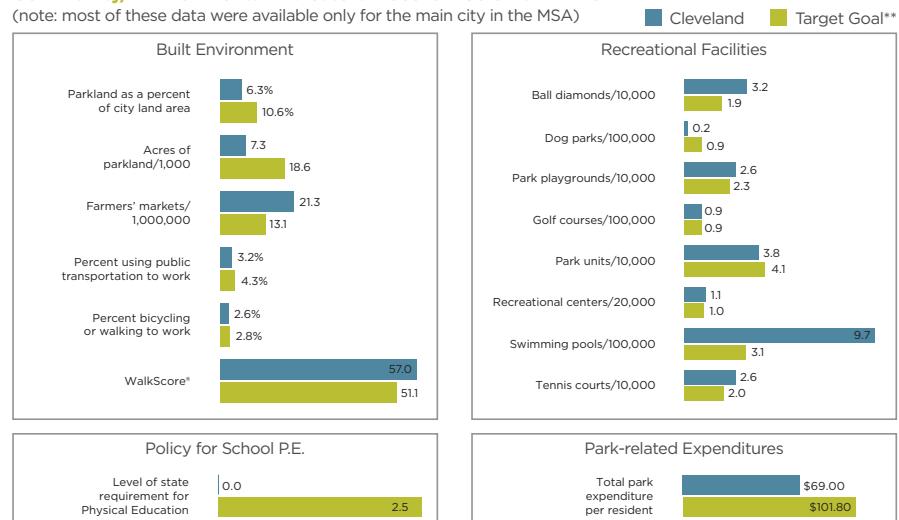
*Due to differences in jurisdictional definitions and reporting, the FBI recommends that these rates not be compared across areas.
†This measure was not available.

ACSM American Fitness Index™ Components

Personal Health Indicators - Score = 37.5 Rank = 38



Community/Environmental Indicators - Score = 53.3 Rank = 25



*The target goal for the Personal Health Indicators that did not change was the 90th percentile for MSAs during 2008-2012. For the new personal health indicators, the target goals were 90% of the 2014 values.

**The target goal for the Community/Environmental Indicators that did not change was the MSA average for 2008 to 2012. New community indicators target goals were an average of the 2014 values.



THE CITY OF HERMITAGE

www.hermitage.net

Community Update

Volume 14, Issue 41

Winter 2014

2014 Budgets Approved, Capital Project Investments Planned

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On December 18, 2013 the Hermitage Board of Commissioners approved the City's 2014 budgets which total \$18.75M, including both the General and Sewer Funds. There is no increase in taxes or fees and staffing levels will be maintained. The 2014 budgets project that the General Fund revenues will remain stable, enabling the City to maintain the current level of City services and expand capital programs. Capital programs provide funding for purchases of needed major equipment in various City departments and allocation of substantial funds for infrastructure investment. One of the core functions of local government is to provide and maintain a functionally sound infrastructure system. City officials take very seriously their responsibility to invest in our community.

A summary of the 2014 City budgets can be found on the City website at www.hermitage.net

Neighborhood Investment Programs

Block 5 - Improvements Scheduled for 2014 -2016



SEE MORE IMPROVEMENTS ON PAGE 2



Block 4 - Northern Patagonia Area Improvements Scheduled for 2013-2016

2014 CDBG Budget \$131,000

Phase II 2014 Streets

Kossuth St

Cambria St

2014 Budget & Capital Projects

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

2014 Capital Paving Program

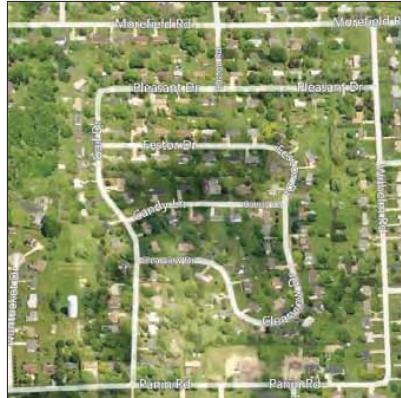
\$375,000 Budget

2014 Streets

Candy Lane
Festor Lane
Clearview Drive
Pleasant Drive
Gail Drive
Easton Road
(between Morefield & Pleasant)



Hann Hill Road



2014 Stormwater Projects Program

\$480,000 Budget

2014 Projects: Festor Drive • Butterfly Lane
Hermitage Industrial Corridor • Rombold Road



Hermitage Athletic Complex

Phase II • \$675,000 Budget

Additional parking lot, field lighting, playground, and trail expansion



Montrose Buick-GMC-Cadillac-Nissan is the Proud Sponsor of the new Shenango Valley Mall Kids Play Area!



"We were excited to partner with Shenango Valley Mall to bring a new amenity for families in the area" says Todd Mullen, General Manager of Montrose Auto Group. "When we were given the opportunity to be a part of a creative way to get our brand out to the community, we couldn't pass it up."

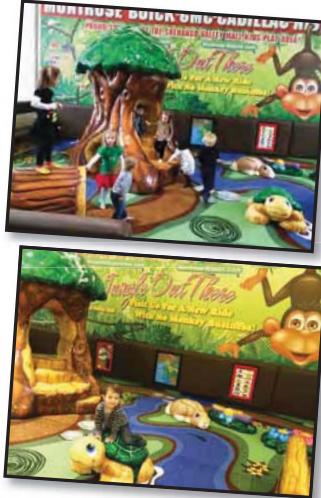
The soft play area was designed, manufactured and installed by PLAYTIME, LLC, the global provider of unique, interactive indoor, outdoor and water play areas and playground equipment.

The new 600-square-foot play area at Shenango Valley Mall includes a treehouse with steps and a slide, a bridge, log tunnel and outdoor animal friends, located next to Sears. There is also comfortable bench seating for parents, interactive games, and ultra-padded colorful carpeting. In addition, cafe tables are located along the outside of the play area for parents to sit and relax with their favorite beverage from Something's Brewin' while watching their children have a great time.

"Parents are always looking for fun and safe activities for their children," says Meghann Flynn, General Manager of Shenango Valley Mall. "We are excited to partner with Montrose Auto Group to provide this amenity for area families 12 months out of the year."



To extend the family fun time experience, there are transportation themed rides next to the play area and Party Zone for kids will open their children's activity center January 2014, next to Leana's Books and More.



Visit ShopShenangoValleyMall.com for up to date family events and retailer promotions. For leasing information call 724-346-4564 and ask for Meghann Flynn.



Mark Your Calendar!

January
 3-5 Sports Card and Collectibles Show
 17-20 Winter Clearance Sidewalk Sale
February
 7-9 Sports Card and Collectibles Show
 7-14 A Sweet Deal!
 Spend \$100 or more at mall retailers and receive your FREE coffee delight goody set. See King's Jewelry for details.
 14-17 President's Day Sidewalk Sale

15

Walk with a Doc
 9 a.m. outside Something's Brewin'
 Presented by Sharon Regional Health System. Call 724-983-5518 to register.

March

7-9 Sports Card and Collectibles Show
 Mercer Raceway Park Show

14-16 Walk with a Doc

9 a.m. outside Something's Brewin'
 Presented by Sharon Regional Health System. Call 724-983-5518 to register.

April

4-6 Sports Card and Collectibles Show

Easter Bunny Arrival Show,
 11 a.m. at Sears Court

5-19 Easter Bunny Photos

10-13 Spring Bazaar Event
 9 a.m. outside Something's Brewin'
 Presented by Sharon Regional Health System. Call 724-983-5518 to register.

10-13 Kid's Fest
 9 a.m. outside Something's Brewin'
 Presented by Sharon Regional Health System. Call 724-983-5518 to register.

19 Walk with a Doc
 9 a.m. outside Something's Brewin'
 Presented by Sharon Regional Health System. Call 724-983-5518 to register.

20 Happy Easter - Mall Closed

May

2-4 Sports Card and Collectibles Show
 Mother's Day Gift with Purchase
 Spend \$100 or more at mall retailers and receive your FREE pot of flowers for Mom. See Leana's Books & More for details.

5-11 Sports Card and Collectibles Show
 Mother's Day Expo
 Memorial Day Sidewalk Sale

Hermitage Police Department

Motorist Reminder - SCHOOL BUSES

The Hermitage Police Department wants to remind motorists that they must stop for school buses that have their red flashing lights and stop arms activated. Motorists must stop at least ten feet from a stopped school bus. This applies when a car is approaching the bus in the opposite direction or while following the bus. Motorists can legally proceed after the buses' red flashing lights and stop bars are deactivated and the child(ren) is safely off the roadway.

Motorists must also stop at intersections in all directions with or without a posted stop sign if the bus is stopped at the intersection with its red lights and stop arm activated.

A common question asked of police is whether or not cars should stop for buses on multi-lane roadways. Cars need to stop

on multi-lane roadways in **BOTH** directions if the roadway is **NOT** physically divided. An example of this would be for buses stopping to discharge students on E. State Street for those students who reside at the Kilgore Mobile Home Park. **ALL** cars must stop in both directions in this situation when the bus has its red lights and stop bar activated. A physical barrier or a dividing section includes raised concrete barriers, guard rails, grass sections, etc. – all of which can be found in Hermitage. When these barriers are in place on a multi-lane roadway, a motorist need only stop behind the bus traveling in the same direction. Motorists traveling in the opposite direction when barriers are in place do not need to stop for stopped school buses discharging students.



Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department

Annual Truck Fund Drive - 2014

The City of Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department will kick off their 29th annual truck fund drive commencing January 1, 2014. This is the only fund drive where the department reaches out to city residents, businesses and professional community for contributions to support the department's purchase of major fire apparatus.

Your city's volunteer fire department has conducted an annual fund drive for 29 consecutive years. Community contributions to the fund enable the department to maintain modern fire apparatus (Fire - Rescue Trucks) to serve our city.

All addressed residences in the city will be receiving a complementary packet of fire safety education material, and 2014 wall calendar, requesting support and contribution to this dedicated and restricted purchase fund.

Keep in mind the city's volunteer fire department is a valuable tax saving asset to our city residents and business community by providing fire, rescue, and emergency management services to you when needed. During the year 2013 the department responded to over 700 such assistance requests.



Your support of the contribution request is greatly appreciated by the Officers and Firefighters of the Hermitage-Patagonia Volunteer Fire Department

Interested in serving on an ABC?

Volunteers - an invaluable complement to the City

The City currently has 17 authorities, boards and commissions (ABCs) made up of over 70 City residents who volunteer their time and talent in service to our community. They are an invaluable complement to the City in their advisory role to the staff and Board of Commissioners. Members contribute informed opinions and multiple perspectives in the City's planning and decision making processes. They bring additional ideas and energy to existing programs as well as suggest future initiatives and innovations to consider.

Examples of just a few of the active ABCs are the Hermitage Planning Commission, Hermitage Municipal (Sewer) Authority, Zoning Hearing Board, Parks & Recreation Board and the

Hermitage Community & Economic Development Commission.

All of the ABCs are listed on the City website – www.hermitage.net. If you are interested in serving you can express your interest by completing the "Volunteer Interest Form" that is available on the website by clicking on "FORMS" then "Other/General". You can express an interest in a specific ABC or just a general interest in serving by e-mailing the completed form to the City Manager at ghinkson@hermitage.net or dropping it off at the Municipal Building to the Manager's attention. As terms expire or vacancies occur, new members are needed. Fresh ideas, flexibility and diverse perspectives ensure that the City and its culture remain receptive to innovation and will anticipate change.

Hermitage Business Association Scholarship Applications



The Hermitage Business Association (H.B.A.) is pleased to announce its Annual H.B.A. Scholarship Award. One college bound High School Senior who resides in Hermitage, will receive an award of \$500.00. Successful candidates will have achieved at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average; have volunteered within the community beyond scholastic requirements and plan on attending a post secondary or continuing education program. Ideal candidates will possess the character and motivation of a business leader.

Students who wish to be considered must submit a letter to the Hermitage Business Association, Scholarship Committee, 800 N. Hermitage Road, Hermitage, PA 16148. Letters should outline the candidates qualifications, their school activities and, given the opportunity to start a business in Hermitage, what would it be and why. Please include High School transcript. Submissions must be received by March 31, 2014.

All applicants will be notified of the winner by mail and the winner will receive their award at the annual H.B.A. Social, to be held in May. We look forward to receiving your applications.

Cleveland Bus Trip

Cleveland Home & Garden Show
Saturday, February 15, 2014
I-X Center
Cleveland, OH

Bus will leave the Hermitage Municipal Building Parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and return to Hermitage at around 7:00 p.m. Price includes round trip deluxe motor coach transportation and admission to the Home & Garden Show. Will be stopping at Cracker Barrel in Twinsburg for dinner on your own.

Cost: \$38.00 per person

Payment due by Mon., Feb. 3, 2014. More information @ 724-981-0800.

ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: City of Hermitage • MAIL TO: 800 N. Hermitage Road, Hermitage, PA 16148

2013 Hermitage Light Parade Thank You!

Fun for everyone!

The Hermitage Light Parade Committee would like to thank the following for helping to make the 16th annual Holiday Parade a tremendous success:

Gold Sponsors

- City of Hermitage • Shenango Valley Mall • Joy Cone Co. • Greenville Savings Bank
- Hermitage Towne Plaza / JJ Gumberg Co. • Mercer County Community Federal Credit Union
- First National Bank of PA • Hudson Companies • KAKE Development, Inc. • PNC Bank
- Tri-County Industries, Inc. • Kraynak's, Inc. • Hermitage Giant Eagle • Sharon Regional Health System
- Hermitage Business Association • Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc. • Advance Auto Parts

Silver Sponsors

- SCP Group • Black, Bashor & Porsch, LLP • Combine Construction, Inc.
- Tim Horton's • UPMC Horizon • La Isla Mexican Restaurant
- LRC Hermitage, PA • Wallace & Pancher, Inc.

Bronze Sponsors

- Nick's Inn 62 • Quaker Steak & Lube • Hermitage DQ Grill & Chill • Auntie Anne's Pretzels
- Shenango Valley Cinemas • Diorio Paving, Inc. • 10 Pin Alley • Jammin'Jac's Pizza
- Leana's Books & More • Chipotle Mexican Grill • Macy's

- Minuteman Press • Hermitage Volunteer Fire Dept. • Hermitage Police Dept. • Hermitage Public Works Dept.
- Hickory V.F.W. Honor Guard & Women's Auxiliary • Parade Judging Committee • Scheidemantle Motors
- Mercer County PennDOT • Mercer County Community Transit
- Thom Kwolek, Debbie Knis, Hickory High School, WLOA 1470
- Every business, organization, family and volunteer who participated

A Special Thank You to John Durisko and Satin Sounds

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED TO COMMUNITY FOOD WAREHOUSE, PSU HAT & MITTEN DRIVE, AND HILLCREST-FLYNN PET FOOD DRIVE.

A Special "Thank You" to:

- PI&I Motor Express • Strimbu Trucking, Inc. • Fredonia Tire • Yourga Trucking, Inc. • Dave's Towing
- Jones Performance • Apex Landscaping • Carpenter's Towing • Myers Towing



2013 Hermitage Light Parade Winners

Cash Prizes

School

- 1st (\$200) - SV Catholic School System
- 2nd (\$150) - PSU Shenango
- 3rd (\$100) - Hop Scotch Preschool
- 4th (\$75) - Tender Care

Bands

- 1st (\$200) - Hickory
- 2nd (\$150) - Brookfield
- 3rd (\$100) - Reynolds
- 4th (\$75) - Jamestown

Entertainment

- 1st (\$200) - Northwest Allstars
- 2nd (\$150) - Spirit Baton
- 3rd (\$100) - Twirling Angels
- 4th (\$75) - The Pennsylvania Dance Company

Clubs & Organizations

- 1st (\$200) - Buhl Community Recreation Center
- 2nd (\$150) - Anytime Fitness
- 3rd (\$100) - Hermitage Lions
- 4th (\$75) - Charlie Oakes Antique Car

Congratulations
to all of the
winners!



Iceberg Awards

Corporate (Division A) -

Over 30 feet in length

- 1st - Hermitage Agway
- 2nd - First National Bank
- 3rd - Avalon Golf and Country Club

Corporate (Division B) -

Under 30 feet in length

- 1st - Elite EMS
- 2nd - Dr. Gulland
- 3rd - Dean Dairy

Municipal

Local & County Officials, Fire Departments

- 1st - Sharon Fire Department
- 2nd - Hermitage Fire Department
- 3rd - Farrell Fire Department

Non-Profit Floats

- 1st - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
- 2nd - Sharon Regional Health System
- 3rd - Greater PA SuperKids

Special Recognition Iceberg Awards

"Twinkle" -

Presented to the entry with the brightest lights.

- Sharon Regional Health System

"Santa's Choice" -

Presented to the entry exhibiting the most holiday spirit.

- Faith Presbyterian Church

"Most Unique" -

Presented to the entry demonstrating a creative and unique float design

- Youth Bowling League

"Most Entertaining" -

Presented to the entry with the best holiday music or entertainment theme.

- Boy Scout Troop 52

"William E. Scanlon" -

Presented to the entry with the best community spirit.

- Spirit Baton

"Community" -

- Shenango Valley YMCA

"Judges' Choice" -

Presented as the judges choice for special recognition to entries that creatively combined bright lights & holiday spirit.

- Flynn's Tire
- Scott's Furniture
- Mercer County Girl Scouts
- Hillcrest/Flynn Pet Care Foundation
- The Ridgewood of Shenango Valley
- UPMC Horizon

"Rudolph" -

Presented to the entry escorting Santa.

- McGonigle's

Buhl Farm Park www.buhlfarmpark.com

2014 Winter Fest • Sunday, February 9th



The event will begin with a pancake breakfast in the Casino Ballroom from 8:00 am-11:00 am.

Following the breakfast the remaining Winter Fest activities will take place.

- Chili Cook-Off
- Ice Sculpture by Jeff Kaiser
- Horse Drawn Wagon rides
- Dog Sledding Demo with the "Country Critters"
- "Dally's Photo Booth" with Dale Alfredo
- "The Great Snowman Challenge"
- Much, much more!

The Winter Fest will run from 8:00am-3:00pm with various family fun activities taking place. The event will take place with or without snow!



Come join the fun!



2014 Calendars now available!



Purchase yours today from the Park Casino Monday-Friday between 8:00 am-4:30 pm.

Did you know....

Buhl Park receives less than half of the annual operating budget from the Trust? The balance is realized through grants, bequests, special fundraising and continuous donations from individuals.

WAYS YOU CAN DONATE: Memorial Benches, Memorial Trees, Memorial Bricks, Memorial Butterflies

Casino Bus Trip



Buhl Park is hosting a Bus Trip to Seneca Allegany Casino in Salamanca, NY on Sunday, February 16. The bus will depart from the Park at 8:00 am and will return at 8:45 pm. The cost for the trip is \$37.50 and includes \$20 in gaming vouchers and \$5 in food vouchers. For reservations please call Bud Mehalko at 724-981-5522 ext. 104

If Buhl Park has made a contribution to your life, would you consider returning the favor? Your generosity is the only thing that can perpetuate our existence for future generations. Your kindness is what will keep Buhl Park growing!

Any questions regarding donations, please stop by or call the Buhl Park Casino at 724-981-5522.

Holiday Valley Ski Trip

Brought to you by Hermitage Parks & Recreation and HHS Ski & Board Club

Holiday Valley • January 19, 2014



Bus, Lift Tickets, Ski and Snow Board Rental prices to be determined. Visit our website at www.hermitage.net or call 724-981-0800 for details.

ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: City of Hermitage • MAIL TO: 800 N. Hermitage Road, Hermitage, PA 16148

Shenango Valley Ski Club Trips

Saturday, January 18

Holiday Valley NY

\$55 for coach bus and 8 hr lift ticket,
Contact John Sherretts
724-346-5341 (H) 724-347-1013 (C)

Sunday, January 26

Hidden Valley, PA

\$40 for coach bus and 8 hr lift ticket,
Contact Dave Gill
724-342-5305 (H) 724-301-1494 (C)
dependant on price confirmation by resort

February 7-9

Weekend Condo Trip

Holiday Valley
\$230 includes coach bus,
two nights lodging, two 8 hr lift tickets,
and a condo party

Contact Michalene Mattson

724-981-9220 (H/W) 724-992-4894 (C)

Saturday, February 22

Holiday Valley, NY

\$55 for coach bus and 8 hr lift ticket
Contact Dave Adams
724-748-4097 (H) 724-355-8550 (C)

Weeklong Trip

Taos NM

\$1095 includes round trip air,
7 nights lodging and 5 days of lift tickets
Contact Craig Schneider
814-397-4742

Monday (President's Day)

Holimont, NY

\$50 for coach bus and 8hr lift ticket
Contact Helmut Schumacher
724-346-4633 (H) 724-813-2171 (C)

Most of the trips begin loading at 6:30 am for a 7 am departure at the garden center side of the Hermitage Lowe's. There is usually a second stop at the old Mercer Howard Johnson's inn just off the Mercer exit of I-80 scheduled for 7:30 am on the trips that go north. Be sure to get loading info for your specific trip.

You can qualify for these special membership rates for the entire ski season by paying a one-time annual membership fee of \$25 that can be mailed to our membership chairman, Betty Savach, 1363 Mt. Everett Rd, Hubbard, OH 44425. All trips must have at least 20 people with \$20 deposits in the hands of the trip leader at least a week in advance to keep the trip from being cancelled; once that minimum is established you can still mail in deposits the week before the trip.



Shenango Valley YMCA

Call or stop in for a tour.
724-981-6950 • www.svymca.com

Group Exercise:

Get all the benefits of support and motivation from an entire group of like-minded members and instructors.

- Over 60 classes offered weekly.
- FREE FOR ALL MEMBERS
- Huge variety of classes: times, types and intensities for anyone.

Wellness Programs:

Learn the strategies and techniques you'll need to make improvements in specific areas with your health. Open to everyone, FREE with Highmark Insurance!

- **Drop 10 in 10:** Need to lose weight? Get the results.
- **Daily Steps to Less Stress:** Dealing with unwanted stress? Learn effective coping skills.
- **Personal Nutrition Coaching:** Need to eat a better balanced diet? Get one-on-one counseling.
- **Eat Well for Life:** Optimize your health, vitality and long-term weight management.



Specialized Services:

Qualified, competent, caring, and here to help!

- **Personal Training:** Whether you're an exercise veteran, new to a gym, or somewhere in between...a personal trainer will keep you motivated and organized, and will make sure you perform properly. FREE SESSION AVAILABLE FOR ALL NEW MEMBERS!
- **Massage Therapy:** 1 hour session-full-body or upper-body specific. Non-members welcome.

Working Together:

You might have access to FREE or reduced memberships and other services. Call today to see if you qualify.

- **Free Memberships/Services through Insurance**
- **Corporate Memberships**

Youth Development Programs:

Helping kids reach their full potential.

- **Spring Soccer:** Boys and girls ages 3-13. Registration starts February 10. Practices start the week of April 14.
- **Self Defense:**
Ages 14+: Wednesdays 6:45 pm.
Ages 6-13: Fridays at 6:00 pm.
- **Fitness:** Ages 7-11. Youth Fitness Training. Ages 12+. Workout Instruction for Teens.
- **Nutrition:** All ages. By appointment only.



Community Library of the Shenango Valley



Winter 2014 Events
724-981-4360 • www.clsv.net

Library Programs

Story Hour: Wednesdays 11:00 am. Ages 3-5. Join us for stories, songs, crafts, and more.

Kid's Crafts: Thursdays 3:00 – 5:00 pm. Ages 5+. Make & Take craft time for children ages 5-up.

Kindermusik: Fourth Friday of each month through April 10:30 am. Ages 3-5. Play, sing, and develop motor and language skills through music! Registration required. Call the library to register. Space is limited. Taught by certified instructor Mary Rumelfanger.

Regular Programs

Chess Club: Every Monday & Thursday 5:30 pm. Beginners welcome!

Knit, Crochet & More: Tuesdays 12:30 – 2:00 pm. Bring your needlework and join us! Get tips, ideas, and new patterns! All levels of experience welcome.

Electronic Gadget Instruction: Offered by appointment two designated days each month. In a one-on-one session, a librarian will answer your questions and guide you through the process of borrowing library books for your Kindle, iPad, Nook, and other related devices. Please call the library to schedule a 30 minute session to receive help making the most of your device!

Independent Film & Discussion: Third Thursday of each month 6 pm. Thought provoking film and discussion. Watch the trailers for each month's film on our website!

Fine Arts Painting: Watercolor & Acrylics: Free Art Lessons for adults and teens. Saturday mornings, twice monthly. Taught by professional artist Don Gold. Please call the library or check our website for an upcoming schedule. Registration is required.

Shenango Valley Gardeners: Second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. Join a new club and watch your garden grow!

Shakespeare in the Stacks: Third Tuesday of each month 5:00 pm. Join us to read plays, watch movies, and discuss the works of the Bard of Avon.

Shenango Valley Penwriters: Third Saturday of each month 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Sharpen skills and network with other writers. For more information, call Catherine McLean @ 814-425-7163.

Friday Night Magic: Fridays 3-5 pm. Play the card game Magic: The Gathering at the Library. Meet new friends and win cool cards.

Read to a Therapy Dog: Join us in the children's area to meet specially trained therapy dogs. Sponsored by Canine Connections.

Library Book Clubs: First Thursday of each month 6:00 pm or third Thursday 2:00 pm. Call the library to pick up a copy of this month's selection. Registration required.

Computer Classes for Beginners: Held monthly. Learn the basics—surf the net, write a letter, send an e-mail, move a mouse! Call the library for schedule. Registration for classes required.

Library Hours:

Monday-Thursday 10 am – 8 pm
Friday & Saturday 10 am – 5 pm

The Buhl Community Recreation Center



Save the Date - Oldies and More

Dance Fundraiser: We are currently in the planning stage for the Buhl Community Recreation Center annual Buhl Club Oldies and More Dance!

Date: March 8, 2014. **Time:** 8 pm to midnight **Place:** Yankee Lake Ballroom, Brookfield, Ohio **Tickets:** \$25.00 in advance, \$27.00 at the door (includes refreshments and appetizers) Tickets will be available soon.

Buhl Community Recreation Moves Toward the Future:

New professional-quality equipment includes: 15 pieces of Cardio Equipment, 23 pieces of Strength Training Equipment and 2,000 lbs additional Olympic weights & Bars. The room has also been repainted. **Circle for Life Fitness Room:** moved to a private area off the Henry and Catherine Evans Fitness room. **Spinning Bikes:** moved into a larger area. **New Hot Yoga Room:**

Deluxe Fitness News: **New classes coming:** Men's Weight Club, Boot Camp for Men, Hot Yoga, H.I.I.T./Tabata and Beginners Yoga. **Deluxe still offers:** Stress-Free, Jump Stretch, Group Cycling, Cardio Groove, Power Pilates, Deluxe Fit Jump Stretch, Pilates Tone, Zumba, Bosu, Femme Fatale, Rock N Roll, Bust a Move, Simple Sculpt, Gateway Pass and Deluxe Fit Jump stretch.

Jump Stretch: Offers classes for athletes of all sports, ages 10 years of age and up. **Athletic class:** helps athletes to increase

vertical jump, explosive power, speed and prevention of injury with large continuous loop bands. **Also:** classes for weight loss, stress reduction, increasing muscle tone and general feeling of well-being. **Class based on Dr. William Kraemer's study at Penn state weight and resistance training:** These classes are effective for people who have various injuries. **Free orientation class every Saturday at 12:15, all fitness levels are offered.** Athletic classes are offered after school, call for team rates.

New "Frozen Oasis" Smoothie Bar: Come check out this new addition to the Buhl Community Recreation Center. Stop in and find your favorite signature smoothie and a healthy snack! From kid's smoothies to protein packed workout smoothies. Something for everyone!

Aquatic Health and Fitness:

- Deep Water Aerobics – Mon. and Wed. 5:30-6:30 pm (Deep)
- Aqua Zumba – Tues. and Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm (Shallow)
- Watch for dates for Tot Swim Lessons and Red Cross Lessons

Upcoming Programs: So many new things happening at Buhl Rec. Call Debbie @ 724-981-3700 Ext. 108 for more information. . .Scrapbooking, Ghost Hunting 101, German Lessons, Paint and Taste, Craft Lessons with Debbie, Cheerleading Clinic, and Tutoring.

Watch for Flag Football and Baseball information.

Hermitage Little League and Girls Softball Assoc. Registration



The Hermitage Little League registration has been set for the following dates:

Saturday, Jan. 25th • 10 am-2 pm
Wednesday, Jan. 29th • 5:30-8:00 pm

Location: Hermitage Municipal Bldg., 800 N. Hermitage Road

Registration: \$75 per child

Questions: hermitagelittleleague@gmail.com



Hermitage Girls Softball will have sign-ups in February at the Hermitage Municipal Building.

Dates and times to be announced.

Check the city's website for more information: www.hermitege.net

Hermitage 2014 Recycling / Solid Waste Information

Yard Waste Collection

(Green-lid) yard waste carts or biodegradable bags may be placed at the curb on your regular collection day. **Apr.-Nov.**

Acceptable yard waste includes:

- Leaves
- Shrubbery, pruning
- Grass clippings
- Branches, tree limbs under 4" in diameter
- Plants, flowers
- Roots
- Properly tagged freon-free items with any doors disabled
- Sawdust
- Brush up to 4' in length

Spring Cleanup - Bulk Trash

Usually scheduled the 1st or 2nd week of May. Call 724-981-0800 for more information.

Acceptable bulk trash items include:

- White goods
- Bulk items
- Larger items
- Properly tagged freon-free items with any doors disabled

- Branches, tree limbs under 4" in diameter
- Brush up to 4' in length
- Year-round @ the City Garage 5250 Virginia Road, Mon.-Fri. 8-3
- There is no cost to residents. Proof of residency required.
- Number of fires per visit may be limited. (no fires with rims, or dirt in casings)
- All household appliances accepted.
- Call in advance to drop off materials, 724-981-0800.

Christmas Tree Pickup

The 2-week Christmas tree pickup for 2014 will be the week of January 13th - 16th and January 20th - 23rd. Please set natural Christmas trees out at the curb next to your carts on your regular trash collection day.



City of Hermitage

Parks & Recreation

800 North Hermitage Road
Hermitage, PA 16148



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Hermitage Elected Officials



Front left to right:

Rita L. Ferring - Commissioner
Duane J. Piccirilli - President
Bernadette Harry - City Treasurer

Back left to right:

William J. Moder, III - Commissioner
Maria A. Koledin - Commissioner
Timothy J. Ruffo - Vice President

THE CITY OF HERMITAGE www.hermitage.net



Community Update

Volume 15, Issue 45 Winter 2015

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Best City to Live in PA

The City officials would like to thank the residents, businesses, and many community volunteers that invest in the city to make it a great place to live, work, and visit.



The City of Hermitage has been named the best city to live in Pennsylvania, according to CreditDonkey, a popular credit card comparison and financial education website. Safety, commute time, income and education are among the factors that make Hermitage

shine above other places in the Keystone State. [To view the full article and find out more information about the study methodology and selection process, visit: creditdonkey.com/live-pennsylvania.html](http://creditdonkey.com/live-pennsylvania.html)

We need your help!

Take this survey & help impact your City by letting us know what you think!



The City of Hermitage is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan and we want to hear from the residents of Hermitage and the general public! This Plan will help shape the way the City offers its residents parks, recreation and open space opportunities. Please take the time to complete a brief survey we have developed to gather information from the public about Parks & Recreation programs and facilities in the City of Hermitage. Help us spread the word and SHARE!

Go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/COH-RecParks1 or scan the QR code to the right with your smart phone to take the survey.

Highlighting Hermitage Business

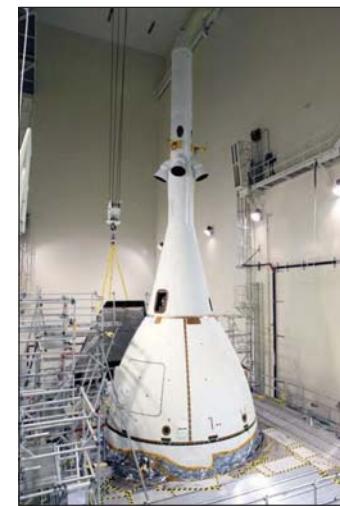


Solar Atmospheres Vacuum Heat Treats Ti Manifold for Orion Spacecraft

On Friday, December 5, 2014, NASA's new spacecraft Orion launched successfully from Cape Canaveral and completed its first test flight. One of the tricky parts of launching humans into space is deciding what to do if something goes wrong while riding on top of a controlled explosion for nine minutes. New to all future "human present" rockets will be the Launch Abort System (LAS). This critical part of the safety system was vacuum heat treated by Solar Atmospheres of Western PA. The large manifold housing made from 6Al 4V titanium is designed to rapidly propel astronauts away from the main rocket in case of a catastrophic explosion or any other unexpected event. Once fired, the LAS will accelerate the astronauts away from the main rocket at forces up to 10 to 15 g's.



Titanium manifold weldment after vacuum heat treatment.



Orion LAS. (Credit: NASA)

For more information about Solar Atmospheres of Western PA, please contact Mike Johnson at (866) 982-0660 ext. 2223, or mike@solarwpa.com, and visit us at www.solarwpa.com.



Orion Launch Abort System

(Credit: NASA)

Traffic signal retiming study developed.

Improvements in traffic flow along Route 18 anticipated.

The City of Hermitage, in conjunction with its consultant (Whitman, Requardt, and Associates), the Mercer County Regional Planning Commission and PennDOT, has recently developed a signal retiming study along a 2.2 mile portion of State Route 18 (Hermitage Road), beginning at Lamor Road and ending at Morefield Road, as well as two (2) nearby intersections along Business Route 62 (State Street), and one (1) intersection on U.S. Route 62 (Shenango Valley Freeway) for the City of Hermitage. The study included evaluating the existing intersections and corridor performance, conducting capacity analyses, optimizing the traffic signal timings, recommending short-term capacity improvements, documenting the findings and

improvements in a written report, and implementing the proposed timings in the corridor's traffic signal controllers.

As a result, motorists traveling along Route 18 in Hermitage should notice significant improvements to the flow of traffic, which will result in less frequent starting and stopping while driving through the corridor. Fine tuning will continue through January.



2015 Budgets Approved

On December 17, 2014 the Hermitage Board of Commissioners approved the City's 2015 budgets which total \$19.5M, including both the General and Sewer Funds. There is no increase in taxes or fees and staffing levels will be maintained. The 2015 budgets project that the General Fund revenues will remain stable, enabling the City to maintain existing services and capital programs. City officials place a high priority on maintaining a sound infrastructure system. Several projects will be undertaken in 2015 including:

- Phase II of Block 5 of the Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP). Parkview Drive (from North Buhl Farm Dr. to Woodlawn Dr.) and Richmond Dr. (from Parkview Dr. to Bartholomew Dr.) will be milled with base repairs as needed and repaved. Also, some stormwater facilities improvements will be made and new street signs installed. Estimated cost - \$525,000.
- 2015 Capital Paving Program. Goli Drive and Pleasant Drive will be milled with base repairs as needed and repaved and new street signs will be installed. Also several streets will be seal coated, the exact locations to be determined, under

the City's AGILITY agreement with PennDOT. Estimated cost - \$430,000

- 2015 Stormwater Facilities Improvement Program. Projects will be undertaken on Mt. Hickory Boulevard, Marylane Drive, Trout Island Road and along Baker Run near Woodside Drive. Estimated cost - \$239,500.
- South Hermitage Road/Innovation Way Traffic Signal Project. A new traffic signal and pedestrian crossing facilities will be installed at this intersection during 2015. Estimated cost - \$425,000 (funded primarily through a state grant). In addition other capital expenditures include renovations at the City Garage, including the conversion to LED lighting, new computers at the Water Pollution Control Department, new police cars and Fire Department equipment and construction of the memorial garden at Still Farm. During 2015 the City will continue to study the potential for converting methane gas, produced at the wastewater treatment plant, to compressed natural gas (CNG) to fuel City vehicles.

A summary of city budgets can be found at www.hermitage.net.

Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department

ANNUAL TRUCK FUND DRIVE - 2015: The Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department's annual truck fund solicitation drive for 2015 is now underway. City residents and businesses will soon be receiving their complementary calendars, fire education message and a request to the community to support this once a year fund drive. Your contribution permits the department to maintain an updated fleet of fire apparatus to serve our city.

The 2014 contributions supported the purchase of a Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV). The truck, pictured right, was designed by members of the department to be an all hazard and life safety response vehicle. The unique unit was built for the department in a partnership with our local Chevron- Champion Recovery Vehicles of Hermitage. It is now being outfitted and will soon be ready for service.

www.hermitage.net



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HHS Ski & Board Club Trip

Brought to you by Hermitage Parks & Recreation and HHS Ski & Board Club

Holiday Valley January 19, 2015

- Leave HHS parking lot at 7 am
- Depart to Holiday Valley at 4 pm
- Return home around 7 pm
- Students MUST have all paper work in to Mrs. Ramage or Mrs. Pierce by 1/1/2015
- **Make Checks Payable to HHS Ski and Board Club.**
- Must have a completed 2013-14 health form on file with Mrs. Pierce/HHS Ski Club.
- Learn to ski or snowboard or learn to ski or snowboard BETTER packages include lesson, rentals, lift ticket and bus. GREAT DEAL FOR ALL LEVELS.
- **Questions:** Ski Club Advisor: Lindsay Ramage 724-601-3618 (text or call)



Holiday Valley • January 19, 2015

Lift & Bus \$86 Lift, Bus & Ski Rental \$113

Lift, Bus & Snowboard Rental \$115

Learn to Ski or snowboard Package and Bus \$120.....DEAL

Student Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Parent Phone # _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

** Must have parent complete 2014-15 health form in addition to signing below.

In case of emergency, I _____ authorize the director, instructor, aid or supervisor of the Parks & Recreation Program or HSD to seek medical treatment for my child _____. I voluntarily choose to participate in this athletic activity and I realize the risk that injury could occur. I release the City of Hermitage and the Hermitage School District from liability regarding such injury or emergency.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____
Absolutely no refunds one week prior to the trip.

Shenango Valley Ski Club Trips

February 16 Hollmont Pres. Day

Info: Helmut Schumacher H: 724-346-4633 or helmut@BusinessPTG.com.

Cost: \$50, \$20 Deposit / Full payment by February 2nd. Cost increases to \$55 after that date.

Checks: Payable to: SVSC **Mail to:** Helmut Schumacher, 3089 Hann Hill Road, Hermitage, PA 16148

February 21 Kissing Bridge

Info: John Sherriffs H: 724-346-5341 or sherriffs4@msn.com.

Cost: \$35, Full Payment by February 7th. Cost is \$45 after that date.

Checks: Payable to: SVSC **Mail to:** John Sherriffs, 956 Alcoma Street, Sharon, PA 16146-3422

March 15 Holiday Valley "Winter Carnival"

Info: Jane Reese C: 716-969-4368 or janereese12@gmail.com

Cost: \$20 deposit is due by March 1st. Cost increases to \$60 after that date.

Checks: Payable to SVSC **Mail to:** Jane Reese, 360 Carley Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146-3720



P.O. Box 945, Sharon, PA 16146
svskiclub.org • mail@svskiclub.org

Pittsburgh Bus Trip



Pittsburgh Home & Garden Show Saturday • March 7, 2015 Pittsburgh Convention Center

8:30 a.m. - bus arrives at Hermitage Municipal Building parking lot. 9:00 a.m. - depart Hermitage. 10:30 a.m. - arrive at show (lunch on own). 4:00 p.m. - depart Convention Center. 4:30 p.m. - dinner at Bob Evans, Cranberry Twp. (on own). 7:00 p.m. - arrive in Hermitage. Price includes round trip deluxe motor coach transportation and admission to the Home & Garden Show.

Cost: \$35.00 per person More information @ 724-981-0800.

Registration Form for Bus Trips

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Bus Trip _____

Checks payable to: City of Hermitage **Mail to:** 800 N. Hermitage Rd., Hermitage, PA 16148

OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE: ____/____/____ PAID: \$ _____

CASH CHECK # _____ ENTERED

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www.hermitage.net

2014 Hermitage Light Parade Wrapup

Cash Prizes

- 1st (\$200) - MC Head Start/Early Head Start
- 2nd (\$150) - Tender Care Learning Center
- 3rd (\$100) - West Middlesex School Bus

Bands

- 1st (\$200) - Hickory HS
- 2nd (\$150) - Reynolds HS

Entertainment

- 1st (\$200) - Twirling Angels
- 2nd (\$150) - Spirit Baton
- 3rd (\$100) - Synergy Baton & Flog
- 4th (\$75) - Froggy 95 Radio

Clubs & Organizations

- 1st (\$200) - Tumble Zone
- 2nd (\$150) - Boy Scout Troop 52
- 3rd (\$100) - Mercer County Jeepers
- 4th (\$75) - Redick's Family Martial Arts

Iceberg Awards

Corporate (Division A) -

Over 30 feet in length

- 1st - McGonigle Ambulance
- 2nd - UPMC Horizon
- 3rd - Flynn's Tire

Corporate (Division B) -

Under 30 feet in length

- 1st - Hermitage Agway
- 2nd - Dean Dairy
- 3rd - Elite Ambulance

Municipal

Local & County Officials, Fire Departments

- 1st - Sharon Fire Department
- 2nd - Farrell Fire Department
- 3rd - Hermitage Fire Department

Non-Profit Floats

- 1st - Relay for Life of the Shenango Valley
- 2nd - Mercer County A.B.A.T.E.
- 3rd - Hillcrest-Flynn Pet Care Foundation



Special Recognition Iceberg Awards

"Twinkle" - The entry with the brightest lights.

- UPMC Horizon

"Santa's Choice" - The entry exhibiting the most holiday spirit.

- Hermitage Agway

"Most Unique" - The entry demonstrating a creative and unique float design

- Dean Dairy

"Most Entertaining" - The entry with the best holiday music or entertainment theme.

- Mercer County A.B.A.T.E.

"William E. Scanlon" - The entry with the best community spirit.

- Shenango Valley YMCA

"Community"

- PI&I Motor Express, Inc.

"Judges' Choice" - The judges choice for special recognition to entries that creatively combined bright lights & holiday spirit.

- Yumberrries

- J.E.W.E.L.S.

- Mater Foundation

- K-9 Searching Out Scent

- Home Depot

- Noah Davis of Strimbu Trucking

"Rudolph" - The entry escorting Santa.

- Elite Ambulance



Thanks to those who helped to make the parade a success:

Gold Sponsors

- City of Hermitage • Shenango Valley Mall
- Joy Cone Co. • Greenville Savings Bank
- Hermitage Towne Plaza/JJ Gumberg Co.
- Mercer County Community Federal Credit Union
- First National Bank of PA • Hudson Companies
 - KAKE Development, Inc. • PNC Bank
 - Tri-County Industries, Inc. • Kraynak's, Inc.
 - Hermitage Giant Eagle • Lennon, Smith, Souleff Engineering, Inc. • Advance Auto Parts

Silver Sponsors

- SCP Group • Black, Bashor & Porsch, LLP
- Tim Horton's • Wallace & Pancher, Inc.
- Nugent Convalescent Home, Inc. • HHSDR Architects/Engineers • Hickory Bar & Grille
- J&T Paving, Inc. • JFS Wealth Advisors
- McGonigle Ambulance Service • Penstar Federal Credit Union • Perkins Restaurant • Valley Silk Screening • UPMC • CT Consultants
- Protech Asphalt Maintenance

Bronze Sponsors

- Nick's Inn 62 • Quaker Steak & Lube

Shenango Valley Professionals

Junior Marshal Sponsors

- Ad Specs, Inc. • 10 Pin Alley • Bruster's
- Buffalo Wild Wings • Daffins Candies • Dairy Queen Grill & Chill • Donna's Diner • Eat 'N Park
- First National Bank • The Herald • Joy Cone Company • Leand's Books & More • Montana's Rib & Chop House • Nugent's Convalescent Home
- Olympic Fun Center • Party Zone for Kids
- Penn State Shenango • Philadelphia Candies
- Pizza Joe's • Quaker Steak & Lube • Shenango Valley Cinemas • Tumble Zone • James E. Winner Jr. Arts & Cultural Center

- Hermitage Volunteer Fire Dept., Police Dept., and Public Works Dept. • Hickory F.W.M. Honor Guard & Women's Auxiliary • Parade Judging Committee • Scheidemantle Motors
- Mercer County Community Transit • Lou Ann Nassar
- Marissa Works • Hickory High School
- WLOA 1470 • Every business, organization, family and volunteer who participated

A special thank you to John Durisko and Satin Sounds.

Thank you to everyone who donated to Community Food Warehouse, McGonigle Toys for Tots Drive, and Hillcrest-Flynn Pet Food Drive.

A Special "Thank You" to:

- PI&I Motor Express
- Strimbu Trucking, Inc.
- Fredonia Tire • Yourga Trucking, Inc.
- Dave's Towing • Jones Performance
- Carpenter's Towing • Myers Towing
 - Joe Martin Trucking
- PGT Trucking • Dennis Bollinger

Hermitage School District

Kindergarten Registration 2015-2016



WHEN:

- Wednesday, February 25
- Wednesday, February 25
- Thursday, February 26
- Thursday, February 26
- Friday, February 27

- 9:00 – 10:30 AM
- 12:30 – 2:00 PM
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM
- 12:30 – 2:00 PM
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM

- Last Names A-E
- Last Names F-J
- Last Names K-O
- Last Names P-T
- Last Names U-Z

LATE REGISTRATION:

- Thursday, March 26
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM

- 12:30 – 2:00 PM

WHERE:

The Artman Elementary Building Community Room

WHAT TO BRING:

- ✓ State Birth Certificate
- ✓ Immunization Record – 4 doses of tetanus, 4 doses of diphtheria (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday, usually given as DTP, Dtap, DT or Td), 3 doses of polio, 2 doses of measles, 2 doses of mumps, 1 dose of rubella (usually given as MMR), 3 doses of hepatitis B (1 dose on or after the age of 6 months), 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or history of disease
- ✓ Physical/Dental Examinations will be accepted if appointment was after September 1, 2014 (but is not necessary to register child) Physicals are due to the nurse no later than 9/1/15 Dentals are due to the nurse no later than 11/1/2015
- ✓ Proof of Guardianship (if not natural parent)
- ✓ If legal guardian, court documentation/affidavit of residency/guardianship must be notarized first, signed and approved by the superintendent before the registration process is complete.
- ✓ If needed, affidavits of custody.
- ✓ Proof of Residence – one of the following: Deed, escrow papers, mortgage book or statement, lease agreement/rental contract and current rent receipt, letter on apartment complex or mobile home park stationery signed by landlord stating that the parent/guardian lives there **or** two of the following: Gas, electric, water, phone, or trash bills, verification of Social Services, Unemployment or Employment Check

Please note that a driver's license is not an acceptable proof of residency.

REGISTRATION DAY:

- Registration must be done by **PARENT accompanied by the child**.
- **Please allow approximately one hour for the registration process.**
- All children who register will participate in a screening, which includes assessment in several areas: School readiness check (reading – letter and sound recognition, rhyming; math – counting, number recognition) vision, speech and language screening.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Your child must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2015

WEB ADDRESS:

For your convenience, you may go to the following website, print out all of the Kindergarten registration forms, fill them out and bring with you on registration day:

www.hermitage.k12.pa.us (Click on Forms → Select Enrollment → Select Kindergarten Registration Forms)

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Jeanne Mikulski at 724-981-8750, Ext. 5001.

Buhl Farm Park www.buhlfarmpark.com



Centennial Celebration

You're invited! 2015 marks Buhl Park's 100th year. Join us for a centennial celebration! Each month throughout the year, events such as a record hop, Frisbee golf, old-fashioned baseball games, Mercer County Bike Race, Tea Tasting and other great events will take place. Check our website, facebook page and other local publications for more details regarding this event.



Kick-off Event

As part of the 2015 Centennial Year celebration, a **History of Buhl Farm Exhibit** is planned for late January. The exhibit will be located on the second floor of the Casino and will include historic photographs, artifacts, maps and artwork from the past. Visit the exhibit January 19th – 30th (Monday thru Friday only)

Wine, Cheese, and Buhl History

Friday, January 23rd from 5 pm-7 pm in the Casino Ballroom. Enjoy an evening at the Park while going back in time to learn about Frank and Julia Buhl and the Legacy they left within our community.

Did you know....

Buhl Park receives less than half of the annual operating budget from the Trust? The balance is realized through grants, bequests, special fundraising and continuous donations from individuals.

WAYS YOU CAN DONATE: *Memorial Benches *Memorial Trees
*Memorial Bricks *Memorial Butterflies *Bequests

If Buhl Park has made a contribution to your life, would you consider returning the favor? Your generosity is the only thing that can perpetuate our existence for future generations. Your kindness is what will keep Buhl Park growing! *All proceeds benefit Buhl Park.

Any questions regarding donations, please stop by or call the Buhl Park Casino at 724-981-5522.

www.hermitage.net

2015 Winter Fest Sunday, February 8th

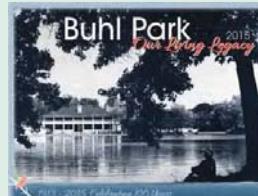
The event will begin with a pancake breakfast in the Casino Ballroom from 8 am-11 am. Following the breakfast the remaining Winter Fest activities will take place, running through 3 pm (with or without snow):

- Chili Cook-Off
- Ice Sculpture by Jeff Kaiser
- Horse Drawn Wagon rides
- Dog Sledding Demo with the "Country Critters"
- "Duffy's Photo Booth" with Dale Alfredo
- "The Great Snowman Challenge"
- Much, much more!

Come join the fun!



2015 Calendars now available!



This years calendar is a special edition, featuring many old photos. Purchase yours today from the Park Casino Monday-Friday between 8 am-4:30 pm.

"Midnight Tour" Casino Bus Trip



Friday, February 13th – "Midnight Tour" (hosted by Buhl Park)
– A late night bus trip to the River's Casino in Pittsburgh. Bus will depart at 10 pm and return at 4 am. (Price – TBD) For more details, please call Bud at 724-981-5522 (ext. 106)



Shenango Valley YMCA

Call or stop in for a tour.
724-981-6950 • www.svymca.com

Youth Sports:

Youth Soccer League: Boys and girls ages 3-13. Registration starts February 9. Season starts in April.

Youth Programs:

F.I.T. for Kids: Fun Interactive Training: Fun activities & games; nutrition & exercise tips and demonstrations; take-home challenges & more!

Workout Instruction for Teens (WIT): Ages 12+ (any beginners): 4-week instructional program designed to educate students about exercise techniques and the benefits of health and fitness.

Y Self Defense: Ages 6-Adult. Conditioning and basic self-defense techniques, based on participant's experience.

Adults and Older Adults:

Choose to Lose: 8-week class. This program was designed specifically to help you lose weight, and keep it off! In a class setting, participants will gain the insight, tools and support needed to drop serious pounds.

Nutrition Coaching: Address weight management, heart health, diabetes and/or other conditions. Develop a plan for success with one-on-one counseling with a registered dietician. AM and PM appointments available.

Personal Training Plus: ONE-ON-ONE COMPREHENSIVE WEIGHT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM! Work with a certified personal trainer to identify the proper lifestyle changes you need to make to meet your goals! Includes exercise and eating plan. Call for an appointment.

Group Exercise: So much more than a workout! Join a class, and reach your goals with like-minded members and instructors who provide support and motivation!

- Over 60 classes offered weekly.
- FREE FOR ALL MEMBERS.
- Huge variety of classes: times, types and intensities.

Working Together: You might have access to FREE or reduced memberships and other services at the Y!

- FREE MEMBERSHIPS/SERVICES THROUGH INSURANCE: Silver Sneakers, Silver & Fit, Coventry Cares, Prime and More! Call today to see if you qualify.

- CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS: The Y works with several local businesses to provide memberships and other services. Contact the Y today to see if your business participates!

Specialized Services: Qualified, competent, caring, here to help!

- PERSONAL TRAINING: A Personal Trainer will keep you motivated, organized, and make sure you perform properly.
- MASSAGE THERAPY: Options are available for full-body or upper-body specific. 1 hour massages. Non-Members welcome!



Community Library of the Shenango Valley

Winter 2015 Events
724-981-4360 • www.clsv.net

Library Programs

Story Hour: Wednesdays, 10:30 am. Ages 3-5. Planned to meet preschool common core standards. Registration encouraged.

Kid's Crafts and Fun: Thursdays 3-5 pm. Ages 5-up. Make & Take craft time.

Flip Bingo: January 6th & 20th, 3:30-5 pm. Ages 5-up. If you love to play Bingo and Dice games you will love playing this new game created right in the Valley!

Primary Health: Affordable Health Care Act Application Assistance: Tuesday, Jan. 20 & Wednesday, Feb. 11, 10:30 am – 4 pm. Learn how to apply for health insurance through the Affordable Health Care Act free of charge.

Civil War Story Teller: Wednesday, Jan. 14. 6 pm. Meet Cynthia Clarke as she takes on the persona of Belle Boyd, the infamous female Confederate Spy.

Message in a Quilt Square: Thursday, Feb. 12, 6:00 pm. Linda Armstrong from Pymatuning State Park shares how quilts were used on the Underground Railroad to aid escaping slaves on their journey north.

Downton Abbey Tea: February 28th, Time TBA. Are you a fan of the PBS show Downton Abbey? Registration required.

Great Decisions: Beginning in late February (official date TBA). Do you follow current events and like to discuss issues affecting the Nation and the World? Join us for an eight week program, and study a different significant event each week.

Regular Programs

Chess Club: Every Monday & Thursday 5:30 pm. Beginners welcome!

Knit, Crochet & More: Tuesdays 12:30-2 pm. Bring your needlework. Get tips, ideas, and new patterns! All levels welcome.

Computer: Microsoft Word and Excel Classes: Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise. Please call for an upcoming schedule and to register for either class. Space is limited.

Electronic Gadget Instruction: Monthly by appointment. A guide through the process of borrowing library books for your Kindle, iPad, Nook, and other related devices.

Fine Arts Painting: Watercolor & Acrylics: Saturday mornings, twice monthly 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Taught by professional artist Don Gold. Registration is required.



Shenango Valley Gardeners: Second Monday of each month at 6 pm all year.

Shakespeare in the Stacks: Third Tuesday of each month 5 pm. Join us to read plays, watch movies, and discuss the works of the Bard of Avon.

Read to a Therapy Dog: Last Thursday each month 6 pm. Sponsored by Canine Connections.

Shenango Valley Penwriters: Third Saturday of each month 1-4 pm. Sharpen skills and network with other writers. For more information, call Catherine McLean @ 814-425-7163.

Library Book Clubs: First Thursday of each month 6 pm or third Thursday 2 pm. Call the library to register.

The Buhl Community Recreation Center



Winter Cheerleading Clinic:

Instructors: Cheerleading advisors Shelby Greene and Kaitlyn Stidham
Dates: 6 week session starting Saturday, January 17th
Time: 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Cost: \$50.00 **Call:** Debbie @ 724-981-3700 Ext. 108
 The Clinic will end with a mini review of some of the techniques the students have learned.

AMP 28: Director, Joey Comisso, has developed a life changing, practical solution, to eating/movement/fitness combination. Designed specifically for non-athletes ages 3-84. AMP28 involves an approach with participants committing spiritually, mentally, emotionally, nutritionally and physically to their health improvement.

Individuals: \$100 month/members \$110 month/non-members
Couples: \$125 month/members \$145 month/non-members

Information or Registration: Joey @ 724-971-9886
Facebook: AMP28/StrategicFitnessLlc

Body Fat Assessments at Buhl Community Recreation Center:
 Time to get ready for beach season; the Buhl Community Rec Center has the answer. Call and get an appointment for your body fat assessment and consult with two trainers.

Winter Youth Sports: Learn the fundamentals of football, soccer, baseball and/or basketball in 4 week sessions. Play one, two, three or all four. **Ages:** Boys and girls ages 5-12.

Days: Soccer Saturdays, Basketball Saturdays, Baseball Sundays and Flag Football Mondays

Fees: \$25 per sport/members \$35 per sport/non-members
 \$85 all four sports/members \$95 all four sports/non-members

Information: 724-981-3700 Ext. 102

Jump Stretch Classes: help you achieve your fitness goals with large continuous loop bands. Athletic classes help to increase speed, vertical jump, explosiveness and injury prevention. The am and 6:30 pm classes involve flexibility, toning, weight loss and increase wellness, even if you have had a history of injury.

Instructor: Carl LaRosa, B.A. and A.C.E. certified

Call to get started: Carl LaRosa 724-981-3700 Ext. 105

Buhl Community Recreation Opportunities: Volunteer program, Senior Insurance Program, Municipal/Corporate Memberships, Insurance Discounts, and Silver Sneakers coming in January.

Call: Mary Ann in our front office @ 724-981-3700

Friends of the Indoor Pool Campaign: Now underway to raise the funds needed to restore our POOL. Our Sustaining Donors Program allows you to make a long-term commitment to support BCRC by extending your gift for multiple years.

Contact: Tony Rogers of amrogers@fhbuhlclb.org or 724-854-2845 or pick up a flyer at the Buhl Community Recreation Center.

New Babysitting Hours: **Daytime:** Monday-Thursday 9 am-2 pm; Friday 9 am-Noon; Saturday 8 am-2 pm

Evening: Monday-Thursday 4:30-7 pm

Hermitage Little League and Girls Softball Assoc. Registration



The Hermitage Little League registration has been set for the following dates:

Saturday, Jan. 31st • 9 am-1 pm

Wednesday, Feb. 4th • 5:30-8 pm

Location: Hermitage Municipal Bldg, 800 N. Hermitage Road

Forms & 2015 Fees: Available online at www.HermitageLL.com by January 15th.



Hermitage Girls Softball will have sign-ups in February at the Hermitage Municipal Building.

Dates and times to be announced.

Check the city's website for more information: www.hermitege.net

Hermitage 2015 Recycling / Solid Waste Information

E-Waste Recycling Program

- Year-round @ the City Garage 5250 Virginia Road, **Fridays**, 7 am-noon
- Call 724-342-0210 to drop off materials.

Acceptable e-waste includes:

- Televisions
- Computers
- (including monitors, keyboards, mice and printers)
- Cell phones
- Any other electronics banned in landfills in Pennsylvania

Spring Cleanup - Bulk Trash

The Spring Bulk collections are May 1st for residents with a Monday or Thursday trash day, and May 8th for residents with a Tuesday or Wednesday trash day.

Acceptable bulk trash items include:

- White goods
- Bulk items
- Larger items
- Properly toggled freon-free items with any doors disabled
- Number of tires per visit may be limited, (no tires with rims, or dirt in casings)
- All household appliances accepted.
- Call in advance to drop off materials, 724-342-0210.

Tire & Appliance Recycling

- Year-round @ the City Garage 5250 Virginia Road, **Mon.-Fri.**, 8 am-3 pm

- There is no cost to residents. Proof of residency required.
- All household appliances accepted.
- Call in advance to drop off materials, 724-342-0210.

City of Hermitage

Parks & Recreation

800 North Hermitage Road
 Hermitage, PA 16148



PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Sharon, PA
 PERMIT No. 83

Hermitage Elected Officials



Front left to right:

Rita L. Ferringer - Commissioner

Duane J. Piccirilli - Commissioner

Bernadette Harry - City Treasurer

Back left to right:

William J. Moder III - Vice President

Maria A. Koledin - Commissioner

Timothy J. Ruffo - President

Convenient new options to pay sewer bills.



Want to pay your sewer bill with your credit or debit card? Now you can! Payments can be made at the sewer counter in the City Building using your card. We also have a drop box for payments located on the north end of our parking lot or you can sign up to have the payment deducted from your checking account. We continue to strive to make paying your sewer bill more convenient. An online payment option will also be added in the future.

Payments for real estate taxes and wage tax payments to Berkheimer may also be deposited in the box.

Payment deadlines will remain the same.



THE CITY OF HERMITAGE

www.hermitage.net

Community Update

Volume 15, Issue 46

Spring / Summer 2015

12th Year!

Fireworks
9:30 pm

HERMITAGE ARTS Festival

July 11 & 12
2015

Saturday • Noon to 9 p.m.
Sunday • Noon to 5 p.m.



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Summer Parks & Rec Edition

FOR MORE ARTS FESTIVAL
INFORMATION CALL
724-981-0800

Scan with your smart phone
to visit our website.



Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter
@Hermitage_Parks



800 North Hermitage Road on the Grounds of
Hermitage Municipal Building & Rodney White Olympic Park

The Hermitage Arts Festival Committee is seeking talented individuals to participate in our Summer Arts Festival. **ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, DANCERS, PERFORMERS OF ALL TALENTS ARE INVITED TO APPLY** Contact MaryEllen McKendry at (724) 981-0800 for more information.



Artists' Marketplace Application

Artist's Name _____

Company (if any) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (daytime) _____ (evening/cell) _____

E-Mail _____ Fax _____

Fees

\$50.00 for 10' x 10' booth space

Number of spaces requested: _____

\$10.00 for electricity per space (if needed)

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to City of Hermitage. Return completed application with fees and photos of artwork to:

Hermitage Arts Festival | Attention: MaryEllen McKendry
800 N. Hermitage Road, Hermitage, PA 16148

Art Categories

Please indicate the category in which you will be displaying and selling artwork.

Two-Dimensional Fine Arts

Painting Photography Mixed Media

Drawing (including pastels) Printmaking Computer Generated

Three-Dimensional Fine Arts

Sculpture Clay (non-functional) Mixed Media

Fine Crafts

Jewelry Clay (functional) Wood (functional)

Metalsmithing Glass Fibers/Textiles

Leather Other: _____

Please indicate if your art does not fit the major categories listed here. The Hermitage Arts Festival committee will make the final decision. The committee will evaluate art on the basis of uniqueness, quality, and excellence of conception and execution. All work must be original and designed and executed by the artist applicant. Only work of the type and quality shown in submitted photos may be displayed and sold.

This application also available online at
www.hermitage.net

2

Follow us on Twitter @Hermitage_Parks

Artist's Brief

Please describe the work that you will display and sell at the Festival. This information may be used for promotional purposes.

Signature _____

Date _____

Artwork Description

Please submit at least three photos (no slides) of the work to be displayed and sold. If possible, at least one photo should represent the overall look of your display booth. Photos will be returned to you. Please list below the photos submitted and describe the artwork shown.

Would you like to demonstrate your art talent during the festival?
 Yes No

Artist Release

The undersigned and all persons in the booth agree to all the terms of the Hermitage Arts Festival. Any injury or damage to persons or property caused by either items for sale or display is the sole responsibility of the artisan and his/her representative. Property owners and/or agents of Hermitage Arts Festival shall be held blameless from any liability thereof. Because space is being reserved for the undersigned, the undersigned understands that the application fee is fully refundable only until June 8, 2015; after that date, refunds for cancellations are at the discretion of the festival organizers. Hermitage Arts Festival reserves the right to accept/reject any application at its discretion without explanation.

Your signature on this application is an agreement to these terms.

Signature _____

Date _____

Terms & Conditions

- Applications must include fee. Please make checks payable to City of Hermitage.
- Applications is \$50.00 for 10' x 10' display space. Electricity is an additional \$10.
- All Artists must exhibit their own, original work; all items listed on the application form types of items indicated on the application form types will be permitted.
- No resold or commercially produced items will be permitted.
- At least three photos (no slides) of work to be displayed must be provided. Application is up to the committee discretion of a potential exhibitor, at least one photo should represent the overall look of your display booth.
- Space will be assigned according to art categories and artist's booth, and on a first-come, first-serve basis. Application fee is non-refundable for cancellations received after May 30, 2015.
- Exhibitors must furnish their own displays and must furnish their own tables, table coverings, chairs, and any extension cords for electricity.
- All exhibitors are responsible for their own displays.
- Set up is 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., or Saturday, July 11, and 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Sunday, July 12.
- No eating, drinking or smoking permitted. Downtown Hermitage will only allow hours.
- Instructions for unloading and parking area designation for exhibitors will be available at the application form.
- Preparation, maintenance and protection of work and displays are the responsibility of the artist. Hermitage Arts Festival will not be responsible for damage to work or displays by due to weather or other uncontrollable circumstances. Security will be provided overnight.
- No more than two artists may share a regular 10' x 10' space. Each artist will submit photo of work to be displayed and sold.

Like us on Facebook!

www.hermitage.net



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @Hermitage_Parks

Summer Rec Programs

June 10 - July 24

*PROGRAMS NOT OFFERED THE WEEK OF JUNE 29-JULY 3.

The following activities are free to all Hermitage residents. The City of Hermitage and the Hermitage School District are proud sponsors of this program. The program begins Wednesday, June 10 and runs until Friday, July 24, 2015.

PLAYGROUND (Grades 2-4 & 5-8)

Time: M-F 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Location: M,W,F Grades 2-4 Delahuntly Cafeteria/Auditorium
Grades 5-8 Delahuntly Gym
T,Th Grades 2-8 Buhl Park Shelter #1

*ARTS & CRAFTS

Arts & Crafts is offered to students entering grades 2-8
Dates: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Location: Delahuntly Cafeteria/Auditorium

SWIMMING

Dates: Tuesdays & Thursdays, June 11 - July 23
Time: Lessons: 11:00 am - 11:30 am
Open Swim 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
* All participants are eligible for open swim on both Tuesdays & Thursdays
Location: Buhl Park Pool

CHEERLEADING (Grades 2 - 8)

(Two Week Camp)
Dates: Mon, Wed, Fri - July 13-24
Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Location: Delahuntly
Note: On Friday July 24 there will be a program for family to attend.

TENNIS LESSONS (Grades 2-Adult)

Lessons are offered to students and adults
Time: Times to be announced based on enrollment
Location: Rodhey White Olympic Park Courts

*MUSIC LESSONS (Grades 6-12)

Lessons will be offered on band and orchestra instruments for students who have completed 5th grade up to those entering 12th grade. Younger students and beginners may take part in the program with prior approval from Mr. Garay. Students will receive a 30-minute lesson per week. Students will be grouped by like instruments and ability as much as possible. This program is designed to keep the students involved with playing their instruments throughout the summer months.

Instructor: Steve Garay

Location: Middle School/Hickory High School

Dates: Tues., Wed., Thurs. mornings, early Tues. afternoons
Note: Schedule will be set up based on grade level, instrument and student availability.

TRACK & FIELD

CROSS COUNTRY & DISTANCE RUNNING (Grades 7-12)

Hickory High School coaches Mark Slezak, Patti Rodenbaugh and some past Hornet star runners, will lead the athletes in running activities that will build endurance and strength. This program is for runners who may be running Cross Country, or athletes who are looking to build their endurance for other sports. Athletes will go through dynamic stretching routines and work on speed, distance training, hills and running strategies. Experience is not necessary, but maximum effort is.

Dates: Begins Tuesday, June 9 (Meets Tues., Thurs. & Sat. throughout the summer)
Time: 9:00 am - 10:15 am
Location: Buhl Park (just past shelter #2 near the Kite Field)
*Weather permitting

LEARN TO THROW SHOT PUT, DISCUS & JAVELIN

Throwing Coach Keith Woods and staff will instruct girls and boys on how to throw and how to lift weights for throwing. From the novice to the skilled, 7th through 12th grade. There will be a "mini meet" at the end of the program to see how much you learned!

Dates: Mon., Wed., & Fri. - June 10 through July 24
Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
Location: Hickory High School

*GIRLS BASKETBALL (Grades 3 - 12)

Coach Jeannette Whitehead and staff will instruct girls through drills to develop skills in the following Summer Rec Girls Basketball schedule.

Grades 9-12 M, T, W, Th: 8:00 - 10:00 am HHS
Grades 7-8 M, T, W: 6:00 - 7:30 pm Delahuntly
Grades 5-6 M, W: 11:45 am - 1:00 pm Artman Gym
Grades 3-4 M, W: 10:15 - 11:30 am Artman Gym

*BOYS BASKETBALL (Grades 5 - 12)

Grades 9-12 M, T, W, Th: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm HHS Gym
Grades 7-8 M, T, W, Th: 12:30 - 1:30 pm HHS Gym
Grades 5-6 M, T, W, Th: 10:00 - 11:00 am HHS Gym
Grades 3-4 M, W: 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Delahuntly

*GIRLS VOLLEYBALL (Grades 5-12)

Coch John Henwood and staff will run this six week program.

This program will begin Monday, June 8.
Grades 9-12 Mon.-Thurs: 7:00 - 9:00 pm HHS
Grades 7-8 Tues.: 7:00 - 8:00 pm HHS
Grades 5-6 Mon.: 7:00 - 8:00 pm HHS



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Summer Rec Programs

June 10 - July 24

*PROGRAMS NOT OFFERED THE WEEK OF JUNE 29-JULY 3.

Elementary Summer Camp

Fun with Nature Summer Camp is a summer program for children age 3 to entering into first grade. Camp will be held at Artman Elementary in the kindergarten pod area. Register at the Hermitage City Building. Registration is limited to 200 campers.

Choose M & W for six weeks or T & Th for six weeks.

Date: June 10 - July 23

Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Artman Kindergarten Pod

Cost: \$50.00 per child

Campers should bring bag lunch and drink. Snack and mid-morning drink provided. Financial aid available, please contact Ed Chess: 724-981-0800.



Youth Sports Programs

START SMART BASEBALL (Ages 3-5)

This program will prepare children ages 3-5 for organized tee ball, baseball, and softball in a fun, non-threatening environment. Parents work one on one with children. This program teaches children a variety of skills including: throwing, catching, batting, and running/agility. This is a National Alliance for Youth Sports program that includes fun, safe and developmentally appropriate equipment. Each participant receives a bat, ball and glove set, a participant manual and T-shirt.

Date: Beginning July 20 - runs for six Mondays

Time: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Location: Hermitage Athletic Complex, 750 S. Darby Road

Instructor: Ed Chess

Cost: \$65

Football

HICKORY HORNET FOOTBALL VARSITY & FRESHMEN SUMMER FOOTBALL PROGRAM (Grades 9-12)

The Hickory Hornet Football Summer Program is intended for those student-athletes interested in being a part of the Hornet Football Program. The emphasis of the summer program will be on strength and conditioning development as well as football specific position techniques. Run by Head Football Coach Bill Brest and his coaching staff.

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 11 - July 30

Times: 9:30 - 11:30 am

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER FOOTBALL PROGRAM (Grades 7 & 8)

The Middle School Summer Football Program is intended for those student-athletes interested in being a member of the Middle School Football Program. The emphasis of the summer program will be on strength and conditioning development as well as football specific position techniques. Run by Co-Head Junior High Coaches Tim Petersen and Brian Burdette.

Dates: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, June 11 - July 23

Times: 8:00 - 11:00 am

Soccer

All sessions will be at the old middle school field.

FOOT SKILLS CLINICS (Grades 5 - 12)

Dates: June 11, 18, 25

Grades 5-8 Girls: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Grades 9-12 Girls: 7:00 - 8:00 pm

SOCCER SKILLS SESSIONS (Grades 7 - 12)

Dates: July 7, 14, 21

Grades 7-12 Girls: 5:30 - 7:00 pm

SMALL SIDED GAMES (Grades 9 - 12)

Dates: July 9, 16, 23

Grades 9-12 Girls: 5:30 - 7:00 pm

K-6 MINI CAMP (Grades K-6)

Dates: July 13-15

Grades K-6 Boys & Girls: 9:30 - 11:00 am

Cost: \$15 (all proceeds will go to Hermitage Soccer Boosters)

Visit www.hermitage.net
for information and registration.

Hickory Hornet Youth Soccer Camp

The Hickory girls' soccer program will be holding a soccer camp for Hermitage students in grades K thru 6th. This camp is designed to help provide instruction on the fundamentals of soccer within a fun environment. The highlight of the camp will be our showcase game on Wednesday evening. Players will have the opportunity to play a game at the high school stadium where their names will be announced over the PA system.

Dates: July 13 - 15
Times: 9:30 - 11:00 am (rain or shine)
 Showcase game: July 15, 7:00 pm
Location: Middle School Soccer Field (across from the Mall)
Cost: \$20 (players will receive a Hickory soccer T-shirt; all money raised will go to the Hermitage Soccer Boosters)
Questions: Contact Coach Katie Mild @ 724-730-4599 or BJ Rudge @ 724-301-0507.



Soccer Camp Registration Form

Please fill out the form below, and mail with payment by July 1 to:
**1050 North Keel Ridge
 Hermitage, PA 16148**

Name _____

Grade _____ (upcoming year)

T-Shirt Size: YS ____ YM ____ YL ____ YXL ____ AS ____

Parent/Guardian _____

Phone# _____

Cost: \$20 • Please make all checks payable to:
Hermitage Soccer Boosters

PARENTAL WARNER: I HEREBY UNDERSTAND THAT THE HERMITAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND ITS EMPLOYEES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACCIDENTAL INJURIES THAT MAY OCCUR DURING THE CAMP. I AUTHORIZE THE CAMP AUTHORITIES TO ACT FOR ME ACCORDING TO THEIR BEST JUDGMENT USING REASONABLE AND PRUDENT CARE IN ANY EMERGENCY. ANY PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS WILL BE SHARED WITH CAMP DIRECTORS IN ADVANCE.

More Soccer Fun in the Valley



Summer Adult Coed Soccer

- Registration @ El Alirro
 - May 2: 11 am - 2 pm
 - May 6: 5 pm - 8 pm
 - May 9: 11 am - 2 pm
- 18 years or older
- Males & Females
- Individual and team registrations
- Cost: \$65 per individual
- Games are on Sunday afternoons
- Season runs June 7 to August 2
- Bring driver's license for proof of age.
- Questions? Call Mark Vance @ 216-269-6498

Mommy or Daddy & Me Soccer

The Mommy or Daddy & Me program is a series of high-energy clinics that focus on teaching introductory soccer skills. Through games and technical development, the program aims to develop listening skills, eye-foot coordination, endurance and balance. The instructor demonstrates, guides, encourages and rewards your child as they accomplish goals of the various activities. It is a rewarding activity that connects you and your young one, along with meeting new friends.

- Toddlers and preschoolers, both boys and girls between ages 2 and 4 1/2

- 8-session season: May 4 - June 1
- Mondays and Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 pm
- Arftman Elementary soccer fields
- Cost: \$30 includes a t-shirt for both player and parent involved
- Download registration @ www.shenangovalleysoccer.org

3v3 Live Soccer Tour - July 11

Brought to you by SVSC and sponsored by the City of Hermitage.



- Male & Female Teams, U6 - Adult
- Parents or Coaches can organize and coach 3v3 teams.
- Up to 6 players per team
- Guaranteed minimum of four games per team
- Official 3v3 Tour T-shirt
- Medals to players to 3 teams in each division
- All participating teams qualify for Disney Championships, Orlando, FL, Jan, 2016
- Early Bird Reg: by June 11, \$170/team
- Final Reg: by July 5, \$190/team

First Tee of Sharon



Adult & Child Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 2, 2015
 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Proceeds benefit the renovations of the Buhl Land Golf Course Driving Range, scheduled to reopen spring 2016.

Tournament hosted by Leadership Shenango. For further information, or to inquire about tee times still available call Mary Lynn at 724-981-5522, Ext. 102

Community Library of the Shenango Valley

Visit www.clsv.net • Find us on Facebook • Call us at 724-981-4360



Library Hours

Monday thru Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm.
 Friday & Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm

Friends of the Library Book Sale

May 6-9 • Thousands of books, DVD's and audio books!



All programs are free of charge!
 For more information call 724-981-4360
 visit www.clsv.net or find us on Facebook
 for all the Library has to offer.

one session, a librarian will answer your questions and guide you through the process of borrowing library books for your Kindle, iPad, Nook, and other related devices or will instruct you on laptop or computer use. Please call the library to schedule a 30 minute session to receive help making the most of your device!

Shenango Valley Gardeners • 2nd Monday of each month 6 pm. Read to A Therapy Dog the last Thursday of each month at 6 pm. Join us in the children's area to meet specially trained therapy dogs. Sponsored by Canine Connections.

Shenango Valley Penwriters • 3rd Saturday of each month 1-4 pm. Learn to sharpen skills and network with other writers, and how to start getting a manuscript published. For more information, contact Catherine McLean @ 814-425-7163.

Library Book Clubs

Evening Book Club • 1st Thursday of each month 6 pm

Afternoon Book Club • 3rd Thursday of each month 2 pm

Shenango Valley YMCA

Visit www.svymca.com • Call us at 724-981-6950

Youth Sports

T-Ball - Coach Pitch

• Boys and girls ages 3-7

• Register Now - June 7, Starts in June

Fall Soccer

• Boys and girls ages 3-12

• Register June 29 - August 15, Starts in August

• Instructional league with team practice one night per week and games on Saturdays

YMCA Special Event

• All Ages Welcome

Polar Bear Thaw Bike Ride

• Sunday, May 17 starting at the YMCA

• Riders can choose an 11, 21 or 30 mile route.

5K Run / 2 Mile Walk

• Sunday, July 12, during the Hermitage Arts Festival

• Rodney White Olympic Park & Trails.

Youth Programs

F.I.T. For Kids: Fun Interactive Training

• Fun activities & games, nutrition & exercise tips and demos, take-home challenges & more!



Workout Instruction for Teens (WIT)

• Ages 12+ (any beginners) 4 week program educates students about exercise techniques and the benefits of health and fitness.

Y Self Defense

• Ages 6-Adult. Conditioning and basic self defense techniques

Adults and Older Adults

Group Exercise Join a class and reach your goals with like-minded members and instructors who provide support and motivation.

Working Together You might have access to FREE or reduced memberships and other services at the Y.

Specialized Services Qualified, competent, caring and here to help!

Buhl Community Recreation Center

Visit www.buhlcommunityreccenter.com • Find us on Facebook & Twitter • Call us at 724-981-3700

Piano Lessons

Students will get familiar with the piano keys; learn how to read music and how to play the piano. Appointments only!

Instructor: Kristin Weinel **Ages:** 7 and up

Cost: for the session is \$60.00

Must pre-register: 724-981-3700 Ext. 108

Spring Dance

DJ Pflaster will take you from the past to the present as we rock the night away at our Annual Spring Dance.

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2015 **Time:** 8:00-Midnight

Place: St. Michael's Social Hall

Tickets: \$25 in advance / \$27 at the door

Tickets can be purchased in our Business Office at 28 N. Pine St., Sharon, Pa. Call 724-981-3700 Ext. 108. Tickets include draft beer and a catered dinner. Bring your own bottle as we enjoy the music and fun, all to benefit Buhl Community Recreation Center's Capital Improvement Project.

Deluxe Fitness Classes

We offer a wide variety of exercise classes. Whether it's one class or many classes

Deluxe Fitness offers something for you:

Pump, Femme Fatale, Insanity, Barre Fusion, Zumba Cardio Cottifight, Cardio Barre Workout Muse, Workout Circus, Femme Fatale and Ab Addict, Cardio Groove, Cardio Rewind, Toning 101 Group Cycling HITT the Road

Toning, Spin into the Oldies, Hot Yoga and Gentle Flow Yoga.

Yoga with Judson

Yoga is used to increase the body/mind/and spirit connection. You will learn the common terms, as-well-as basic postures, poses and breathing techniques. Classes are 6 week sessions (pre-pay).

Instructor: Judson Poknis **Dates:** Mondays at 6:00 pm

Location: In our Willow Room

Cost: \$15/session for members, \$30/session for non-member

Jiu-Jitsu Youth Program

Ages: 5-12 **Instructor:** Jose Sandoval @ 909-609-4719

Dates: Mondays and Wednesdays

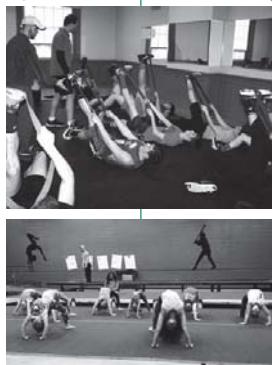
Cost: \$25/member, \$35/non-Buhl member

Information: 724-981-3700 Ext. 102

AMP 28

Director, Joey Comisso, has developed a life changing, practical solution, to eating/movement/fitness combination. Designed for non-athletes ages 3-84. AMP28 involves an approach with participants committing spiritually, mentally, emotionally, nutritionally and physically to their health improvement.

Dates: Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:00 am and Wednesday 7:30 pm



To Register: Call Debbie DiCarlo 724-981-3700 Ext. 108 for Joey's info.

Jump Stretch Classes

These classes help you achieve your fitness goals with large continuous loop bands—the same bands invented by Coach Dick Harzell and taught by his son-in-law, master clinical instructor Carl LaRosa, B.A. and A.C.E. certified. Athletic classes help to increase speed, vertical jump, explosiveness and injury prevention. The classes involve flexibility, toning, weight loss and increase wellness, even if you have had a history of injury. Call Carl LaRosa 724-981-3700 Ext. 105 to get started.

Buhl Community Recreation Center Offers

Volunteer program; participates in a senior insurance program; municipal/corporate membership and insurance discounts. We now accept Silver Sneakers Insurance. Call Mary Ann in our front office to get the information on all these opportunities.

Senior Program Class Schedule

Silver Sneakers Welcome

Monday: Sit-N-Fit, 10:45 am

Wednesday: Senior Stretch, 10:45 am

Friday: Circle for Life, 10:45 am

Seniors for Safe Driving

May 26, 9:00 am-1:00 pm (4 hrs.) – Refresher Course
October 20 & 21, 5:30-9:00 pm (7 hrs.) – Standard Course

Henry and Catherine Evans Fitness Center Updates

The Buhl Community Recreation Center can give you the jump start you need to a new you, with our personal training service! Stop by today for a consult and Body Composition Testing. Let our team of Fitness Professionals get you on track to a healthy happy year. Other places give you what you want....We give you what you Need! Are you ready for a little one on one?

Free Community Swim

The Buhl Community Recreation Center would like to thank the community for its patronage.

Time: 3:30-5:00 pm

Dates: The last Friday of every month (April 24, May 29, June 26, July 24, August 28, September 25)

All non swimmers and children under 3rd grade must be accompanied by an adult, within arms length of their child.

Free Summer Lessons for Hermitage Residents

Dates: Tuesday and Thursdays

Information: Debbie Currier 724-981-3700 Ext. 107

Buhl Farm Park Programs

Visit www.buhlfarmpark.com • Like us on Facebook • Follow us on Twitter
Find us on Instagram • Call us at 724-981-5522



Calendar of Events

May

- May 2nd - First Tee Registration, 5:00-7:00 pm @ The Buhl Park Golf Course
- May 9 – Bird Walk, 9:00 am Join experienced bird walk leaders who will help you explore the varied habitat located throughout Buhl Park. Please bring your own binoculars.
- May 2 – The First Tee of Sharon Classic presented by Leadership Shenango, 9:30 & 1:30 shotgun start
- May 16 – Armed Forces Day at Buhl Park, 10 am - 7:00 pm
- May 23 – Shenango River Watchers' Tire Recycling, 8:00 am -1:00 pm
- May 28 – Brian Stafford Lecture & Reception, Buhl Timblin Casino Ballroom, 6:00 pm

June

- June 6 – Friends of Buhl Park 5K Run/2M Walk, 10:00 am
- June 9 – Summer Youth Program Registration, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- June 12 – Joe Valentino 27 Hole Scramble, 10:00 am Shotgun Start, Buhl Timblin Casino Driveway
- June 20 – Mercer County Bike Trail Event, 7:00 am
- June 27 – Touch A Truck at Buhl Park – 10:00 am -2:00 pm

July

- July 11 – Old Fashioned Record Hop, Buhl Timblin Casino Ballroom
- July 25 – Buhl Park Disc Golf Tournament



August

- August 14 – Back to School Dance, Buhl Timblin Casino Ballroom, 6:00 pm

September

- September 7 – Buhl Day
- September 12 – Bird Walk, 9:00 am
- September 13 – Dog Day in the Park
- September 16 – Ladies Tee Off for Buhl

October

- October 10 – Tree Walk, 10:00 am
- October 10-11 – Fall Fest
- October 16 – Buhl Park Golf, Avalon at Buhl

November

- November 1 – Closing Centennial Celebration

December

- December 5 – Breakfast with Santa, Buhl Timblin Casino Ballroom, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Other Activities

Buhl Park Garden Club

Would you like to join our Garden Club in an effort to keep our Park beautiful? The club meets every Wednesday evening at 5:30 and works throughout the Park. Although the group meets every week, we only ask that you attend when you can. Paige O'Hare is the director and always welcomes new members. Please contact Julie at 724-981-5522 (ext 103) or email at julie@buhlfarmpark.com for more information.



Tennis Programs

Our programs offer many opportunities for tennis players as well as free lessons for adults beginning June 13th and for juniors beginning June 19th. For more information regarding tennis lessons, please contact Buhl Park Tennis director Sue McLaughlin (724-346-0982)

The Summer Youth Program

A six-week summer program for children in grades 1-6 begins on June 15th and runs through July 24th. Students participate in a variety of activities including active recreation, environmental learning and arts and crafts. The cost of the program is \$80 for six weeks. Registration will be held on Tuesday, June 9th.

Movies Under the Stars

This summer, 3 movies will be shown at the PAC stage on June 27th, July 25th, and 29th. Movie titles are still to be determined. Movies begin at dusk (8:30-8:45). Hot dogs, chips and drinks available at concession stand. And FREE popcorn!



Other Park Activities

2015 Summer Concert Series

Located at the Performing Arts Center
Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm • Sundays @ 6:00 pm (unless noted)

Sunday, June 14 Sound Bite	Wednesday, July 22 Max Schang
Wednesday, June 17 Nick Fiasco	Sunday, July 26 Del Sinchak Big Band
Sunday, June 21 Canfield Community Band	Wednesday, July 29 Youngstown Fine Brass Quintet
Wednesday, June 24 Erie Heights Brass Ensemble	Sunday, August 2 The Sensations
Sunday, June 28 Buhl Community Concert Band	Wednesday, August 5 Rick Bruckner & The Brotherhood
Wednesday, July 1 County Mayo	Sunday, August 9 Wrangler Band
Sunday, July 5 2nd Avenue Project	Wednesday, August 12 The Reunion
Wednesday, July 8 Anthony	Sunday, August 16 Pipe Dreams
Sunday, July 12 Grant Street Exit	Wednesday, August 19 JD Eicher & The Goodnights
Wednesday, July 15 North Side Jazz	Sunday, August 23 The Four Kings
Sunday, July 19 Salem Quaker City Band	

HERMITAGE RESIDENTS Buhl Park Community Pool Pass

Hermitage residents are now able to purchase 2015 Season Passes for the Buhl Park Outdoor Pool at a discount. Season rates are as follows:

- Family - \$45** - includes up to 2 adults and dependent children in the same household through high school
- Adult - \$30** - 18 years of age and above
- Youth - \$20** - Ages 5 through Grade 12

Residents of Hermitage must show proof of address at time of purchase. Passes are available at the Hermitage Municipal Building, 800 N. Hermitage Road, between the hours of 7:30 am and 4:30 pm daily, Monday through Friday. Pool schedules and regulations available at time of purchase. Open June 1.

Buhl Park Community Pool Rules:

- All non-swimming minors must be accompanied by an adult (18 years or older) in the water and within arm's reach at all times.
- All children 9 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- Complete rules and regulations are posted on the Buhl Farm Park website at www.buhlfarmpark.com

* Please note: All SS/Wraparound Workers will be required to purchase a separate individual Adult pass.

www.hermitage.net

Like us on Facebook!

From the Treasurer



All County/ City tax bills were mailed on March 1, 2015. If you have not received your bill kindly notify our office. As a property owner, remember that it is your responsibility to pay your taxes even if you have not received a bill. Also remember that we are a homeowner area which means that we do not service banks and mortgage companies. All bills are mailed directly to the home owner who in turn needs to forward it to their own mortgage holder. To pay your taxes, the lenders need your bill before they can forward the check to our office. All new homeowners and those who relocated within the City of Hermitage must apply for the Homestead Exclusion in order to get the discount allotted to all owner-occupied parcels on your school tax bill. Applications are available on line from the County website or in the local tax office. Deadline for application was March 1st for the current year, but new applications sent after that date will be processed for the next year. We are happy to help with your tax questions and concerns and remind you that our office is open to you both in person or by phone @ 724-347-4472. Regular hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Summer hours begin May 1st and continue through Sept. 4th. They are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It's always a privilege to assist you.

Thank you. *Bernie Harry, Hermitage Treasurer*

Sewer Bill Payment Options

- Online payment – Go to www.hermitage.net and choose the "Pay Your Sewer Bill Online" icon. ****IMPORTANT**** Site works best in Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome and/or Safari – The site does NOT work in Internet Explorer. Please be sure to turn off pop-up blockers to get a receipt for payment.
- Cash, checks and credit/debit cards are accepted at the Municipal Building during normal business hours. **No phone payments are accepted.**
- Payments can be dropped off after hours in the drop off box located on the North side of the parking lot at the Municipal Building. ***CHECKS ONLY***
- Automatic payments of current month charges can be deducted from your checking account. Sign-up forms are available at the Municipal Building and online. Payments are deducted on the 5th of the month or the next business day after the 5th in the case of a weekend or holiday. **Past due balances will not be auto deducted and will continue to accrue penalty and interest.**
- Checks may be mailed to the lock box in the envelope provided with your bill. You **MUST** include the remit stub from your bill in order for your payment to be processed correctly. Payments without remit stubs may be delayed and late fees will accrue.
- Online bill pay through your bank. Please remember account or customer number has to be included with each payment entered. If not, payment may be delayed and late fees will accrue. **It can take up to seven days for a payment to process so please allow for the additional time.**

Any questions regarding these payment options, please contact Kathy 724-981-0800 ext 1360 or email kpatrizi@hermitage.net.

Follow us on Twitter @Hermitage_Parks

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LOCAL YOUTH COMPETITION Pitch Hit & Run



Hermitage Little League and Hermitage Girls Softball Association will host a free Major League Baseball® Pitch, Hit & Run™ Competition for area youth.
Date: Saturday, May 9
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Carl Harris Little League Complex
Ages: 7-14 (4 level of competition)
Cost: Free
Information: Jay Fazzone 330-503-1267

Bus Trip

Strip District/ Pittsburgh Arts Festival



First stop the Strip District, spend a few hours exploring the shops and great food carts before heading to the Pittsburgh Arts Festival.

Date: Saturday, June 13
Time: Leave Hermitage Municipal Building 8:00 am, return around 6:30 pm
Cost: \$25 per person includes deluxe motor coach transportation. On your own for all meals.
Register by: Wednesday, May 27 **Information:** 724-981-0800

22nd Annual Hermitage Fraternal Order of Police 4-Person Golf Scramble

Saturday, May 30, 2015

"Shotgun Start" at 8:00 am

Tam O'Shanter Golf Course

\$300 per team • \$75 per person

NO REFUNDS. ENTRY FEE MUST ACCOMPANY ENTRY. Complete form with check payable to: **Hermitage F.O.P. #82, and mail entry to: Hermitage F.O.P. Attn: Golf Scramble, 800 N. Hermitage Rd., Hermitage, PA 16148**

Registration NOT accepted over the phone. Register by May 15.

Team Captain: _____ Phone: _____

Player 2: _____

Player 3: _____

Player 4: _____

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Follow us on Twitter @Hermitage_Parks

Be kind to the environment...

...car washing courtesy



When you're washing your car in the driveway, remember – you're not just washing your car in the driveway!

All the soap, suds and oily grit runs into the street and storm drainage system, and then directly into our streams, lakes, and rivers. PLEASE wash your car on grass or gravel, and use soap sparingly. Dispose of the soapy water in a sink or grassy area. Better yet, take your car to a commercial car wash, where the dirty water will be treated by the City sewer system before being released into the environment.

2015 - Spring Clean-up / Bulk Trash

Friday, May 1, 2015

for residents with a regular collection on
MONDAY & THURSDAY

Friday, May 8, 2015

for residents with a regular collection on
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

All white goods, bulk items and larger items will be taken on these collection days. These include, but are not limited to lawn chairs, lamps, bicycles, carpet rolls (no more than 4 ft. in length), large and small appliances, furniture, tables, washers, dryers, stoves, etc. Air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators & freezers must have their doors disabled and Freon removed and be properly tagged by a certified technician.

All items must be placed out at the curb the night before pickup. Items for bulk trash collection days do not require a tag for disposal.

No bagged leaves, TV's or computers will be accepted on the bulk trash days.

Like us on Facebook!

www.hermitage.net

Hermitage Recycles...



BLUE-LID cart	GREEN-LID cart	BROWN-LID cart
✓ Accepted	✓ Accepted	✓ Accepted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Beverage bottles & food jars (clear, brown, amber, or green) ✓ Food cans ✓ Clean aluminum foil & foil products ✓ Aluminum cans ✓ Empty aerosol cans ✓ All plastic containers #1 - #7 ✓ Bleach, detergent, household cleaner bottles ✓ Bundled plastic bags ✓ Corrugated & pressed cardboard ✓ Paperboard cartons or boxes ✓ White office paper/computer paper ✓ Magazines, newspapers & advertising inserts ✓ Junk mail and envelopes ✓ Catalogs, phonebooks, and paperbound books ✓ Colored construction paper ✓ Coupons and receipts ✓ Paper bags and shopping bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Leaves ✓ Grass Clippings ✓ Plants & Flowers ✓ Roots ✓ Sawdust ✓ Shrubbery & Prunings ✓ Branches, tree limbs (under 4" in diameter) ✓ Brush up to 4 feet in length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any cardboard, paperboard or foil with food residue/grease (i.e. pizza boxes, cardboard milk cartons and juice boxes, take-out food containers, greasy foil, styrofoam products) ✓ Kitchen food waste

Cart Placement Tips:
Place your carts at the curb the night before collection day. Place carts 2 feet apart at the curb line. Keep at least 5 feet away from mailboxes. Point the lid arrows on the cart toward the street. Retrieve your carts by the end of your collection day.

City of Hermitage:
800 North Hermitage Road • Hermitage, PA 16148
724-981-0800 • www.hermitage.net
Like us on Facebook!

City of Hermitage

Parks & Recreation
800 North Hermitage Road
Hermitage, PA 16148



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Sharon, PA
PERMIT No. 83

Hermitage Elected Officials



Front left to right:

Rita L. Ferringer, Commissioner;
Duane J. Piccirilli, Commissioner;
Bernadette Harry, City Treasurer

Back left to right:

William J. Moder, III, Vice President;
Maria A. Koledin, Commissioner;
Timothy J. Ruffo, President

Shenango Valley Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America presents the 32nd Annual

Father's Day Car Show '15



**Sunday, June 21, 2015
Noon - 4 p.m.**

(Registration 8:00 am - Noon)

Rain or Shine • Free to the Public
Door Prizes • Car Corral • Food & Drink

Judging & Awards Trophies at 3:45 pm
Information: 724-981-1653 or 330-534-4188