

Parks & Recreation Summit

March 23, 2013

A brief summary of some information that we learned:

5 Keys to Long Term Success:

1. Maximize Use
2. Maintain Relevance
3. Ensure Balance of Services
4. Ensure Sustainable Growth
5. Partnership

Every 5 years, the Parks should update the master plan. Your master plan should have operating cost and capital expenses listed.

The parks should be designed in age segments to create different experiences. The amenities and facilities should be designed on how old people feel. It was recommended to do a survey of what amenities residents would like to see at the local parks.

Some big questions municipalities need to ask themselves are "Can we afford to maintain our parks?" Many locations eliminated parks maintenance crews and the job was handed over to the Public Works Department to save money. Unfortunately, a flaw to that is, parks don't get the care they need and the park starts to look worn and unmaintained.

Going back to nature is a good thing. The movement is to leave what we can natural and not to mow every inch of grass. Posting signs in un-mowed areas explaining why, helps to eliminate many questions and complaints. Basically, we need to focus on what to keep and what to cut.

If money is an issue, build your parks in phases.

The Role of the Director and the Board

Teams need to work together! Too many hands in the pot don't work. Sub-committees are not always needed.

Role of the Board

- Effective and productive meetings
- Do not spend time discussing irrelevant business

The Board or the Director need to manage time at meetings better – 3 minutes is normal allowance time to allow a resident to speak about an issue.

Agendas

- First Agenda – 1 week prior to meeting date
- Additions/Changes to Agenda – 5 days prior to meeting date
- Final Agenda – 4 days prior to meeting

The Board should have goals set for parks and have a plan for the future of the parks.

Correspondence Received at Summit

- Community Recreation and Parks – An Essential Government Service in Pennsylvania
- Municipal Recreation Programming – A Resource Guide for Recreation, Parks and Conservation
- Recreation and Parks Board Handbook
- Financing Municipal Recreation and Parks
- Bureau of Recreation and Conservation – Regional Staff Assignments
- 2013 Green and Sustainable Webinar Series – List of Free Webinars Offered

ADDRESS

DATE REQUIRED

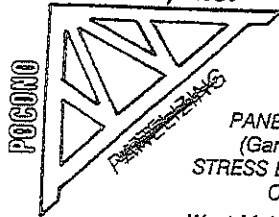
Phone 570-421-4077

Fax 570-424-8460

QUANTITY	PLEASE SUPPLY ITEMS LISTED BELOW		PRICE
1	31	30'	
2		5, 12	115
3		2'00 5 1/2" bry 12' high	3665
4		open pavillion	
5		Middle section	65
6		cap	
7			
8			3630
9			
10		TAX	
11			
12			
13			
TOTAL			

SAFEGUARD LITHO USA 5-05 103570101571

TRUSS, INC.



PANELIZED WALL UNITS
 (Garages, homes, etc.)
 STRESS ENGINEERED TRUSSES
 CRANE SERVICE 223 TRUSS Rd
 West Main St. • RR-2 Box 2086A
 Stroudsburg, PA 18360
 phone 570-421-4077
 fax 570-424-8460

6,730.00

METAL ROOF

2,200.00

FACIA

900.00

CRAIN

130.00 PER HR

Echo Lake Sign Policy:

General Rules:

- All messages on sign must be approved by a Supervisor, and Supervisor Announcements approved by BOS majority.
- Public Works Director, Parks Director and Parks Chair must be cc'd on all requests for use of the sign, and all requests should be sent to Park Liason and Public Works Coordinator, who will add the sign request to a shared calendar so that the BOS and receptionist can see the bookings for the Echo Lake Sign.
- No political advertising
- No commercial advertising

Use of the sign is for:

1. Board of Supervisor Announcements (approved by majority of BOS), including announcements in conjunction with other township officials (e.g. no burning, clean up, recycling, halloween trail, etc.)
2. Any Middle Smithfield Township Groups message/events:
 - a. Parks and Recreation
 - b. Economic Development Committee
 - c. Historical Commission
 - d. Golf Advisory Board
 - e. Future: Environmental Advisory Board
 - f. Litter and Beautification Committee
3. First Responder Fundraisers/announcements for Bushkill Ambulance, Suburban EMS, Marshall's Creek Fire, Bushkill Fire, and Shawnee Fire at no charge.
4. All others can request use of the sign for \$50 per use, first come, first served. Supervisor announcements, Township Boards, Committees, Commissions, First Responders, groups residing in MST and MST non-profit groups take priority over all others.
5. Any not-for-profit organization wishing to provide a message for the benefit of MST residents (e.g. Little League sign-ups, ESNorth fundraisers, etc.) may use the sign at no cost, if approved by the Supervisors, **and if the sign is not already booked and is available.**
6. The sign may not be used to advertise the sale of merchandise, business activities, or other use, that may be determined by the Supervisors, from time to time, to not be consistent with this general policy.
7. In certain circumstances, the sign may be changed, without notice, by the MST Supervisors for special announcements. All fees will be returned should the length of use be less than originally contemplated.

Judy Putek Memorial Park – Timeline

Judy Putek loved the outdoors, open space and nature. Mrs. Putek was very instrumental in acquiring several parcels through the countywide open space program and the Cradle of Liberty conservation program.

The land that is now the Judy Putek Memorial Park was originally owned by George Tsafos.

The property was sought due to the parcel being ideally suited for passive recreational use, as the previously farmed field areas could be developed into playing fields. The property is complimentary to Middle Smithfield Township's Echo Lake Park Area. Several wetlands areas plus a small-unnamed stream are part of the Pond Creek water system. The land provides a riparian buffer for these areas. Walking paths wind through fields and pastures, providing an excellent habitat for the native and rare flora and fauna. The park is particularly suited to bird watching. Warblers used to love this park.

Through a combination of grants through the Monroe County Open Space Bond Fund and PA Conservation and Natural Resources Debbie Kulick, Judy Putek and Sherry Predmore began the process to acquire the funding to purchase the 12.837 property.

Grant money was received from Monroe County (\$67,500.00) and MST matched it with \$22,500.00.

Appraisals were received and the appraised value was \$90,000.00

October 14, 2003 the Board of Supervisors, at a public meeting authorized offering \$90,000.00 for the purchase of 60 Municipal Drive, through the Open Space Program.

October 24, 2003 MST entered into a contract to purchase the 12.84 acres with a PIN number of 09733300797582

May 21, 2004 MST purchased the property

November 10, 2004 Recorded

2005 Exemption of real estate taxes took effect for the 2005 taxing year

MST DOG PARK SUB-COMMITTEE

MEETING

March 14, 2013

In Attendance:

Joyce Bush - Judy Putek Park Lead
Paula Schwartzman
William Bonser
Allyson Oliveira
Cary Dailey
David Steglik
Abigail Graham
Eric Graham
Charles Palecek
Steph Wise
Edie Braus
Joyce Fenical - Park Committee Chair

Meeting called to order 6PM

A packet with multiple local dog park rules was given to each member to illustrate other parks rules.

Joyce Bush began the meeting with an announcement about, Pecca an "original member" of MST dog park that passed away.

Members asked for the meeting to be brought to topic.

Joyce Bush discussed the origin of the park and her instrumental role in getting the park started. Joyce brought the news articles and a photo album to share with the committee.

Committee members thanked Joyce and suggested that the business portion of the meeting begin.

meeting back to topic

Several members questioned what the actual purpose of this meeting is....

Joyce Bush stated this was her first meeting . She stated that we were here to discuss the new rules and format that the supervisors suggested at the Township meeting on March 4, 2013

Abigail Graham stated that she did not agree that the supervisors were proposing to adopt the rules from the Montville, NJ dog park. She stated that this was information collected by Supervisor Marcus, that the committee could use as a model for the proposed New Dog Park.

Discussion: Regarding the "country club" style rules and membership only dog park. Committee agreed that we should not move forward with the "country club" style dog park at this time.

1. In an area that spends hundreds of thousands of dollars to promote tourism, should not have a locked township park. It strongly suggests that outsiders are not welcome.
2. Committee feels that the key fob would be a waste of money it could easily be bypassed and or broken creating more issues.
3. Why should dog owners pay for a park when the other parks are free.

Discussion: Regarding Re-location of dog park. Consensus is that all members are satisfied with current location. If park does move the majority of the committee are only concern that Judy Putek park remains open until the new park opens, ensuring continuous availability of a dog park.

Joyce Bush stated that we needed to go through the Montville NJ Dog Park rules, line by line to decide if we need to adopt any additional rules.

The committee discussed adopting the following rules from the Montville NJ Rules

1. Owner must carry proof of license and rabies vaccination. (Discussed having the dog warden drop by on occasion to check .)
2. Dogs must be over 4 months of age and vaccinated.
3. Owners should remove dogs displaying aggressive behavior or excessive barking
4. 3 dogs maximum to one handler.

**The dog to handler limit was discussed at length. Joyce Fenical suggested that the committee vote on this matter in order to move forward. We voted on this one rule with 8 members in favor of 3 dogs to one handler, and 2 members voting for a 2 dog to one handler limit. **

Committee Discussed the challenges of enforcing the rules and the suggested bans, associated with the proposed "3 strike rule" We concluded that educating the patrons of the dog park as to Pennsylvania State Laws regarding dogs and posting a Liability Disclosure Sign would be a first step in managing potential problems.

Proposed sign would state:

Guests enter at their own risk. Owners/handlers are responsible and liable for the actions and behavior of their dogs at all times. Middle Smithfield Township will not be held liable for any injury or damage caused by any dog on Municipal Property to any person or dog.

Committee will request a mowing schedule or some type of notification so that volunteers can remove dog toys and other items from the area.

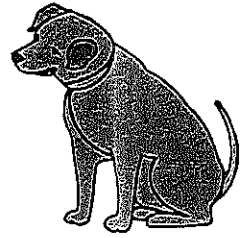
Committee agreed to institute a regular monthly meeting on the last Wednesday of each month.

Joyce Bush informed the committee that the kiosk was damaged when it was moved to its present location, and that it now leaks, rendering it useless. Sub-committee would like to see it repaired so that it can be used.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm

**MONOCACY PARK OFF-LEASH RECREATION AREA
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

259 Illick's Mill Road, Bethlehem, PA



OPEN FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK: Owners/handlers are responsible and liable for the actions and behavior of their dogs at all times. The City of Bethlehem will not be held liable for any injury or damage caused by any dog on municipal property or to any person within the park.

IF A DOG BECOMES AGGRESSIVE: It must be removed from the park immediately. Dogs known to be aggressive towards other dogs or people (or exhibiting any threatening behavior) may not enter the off-leash area.

GENERAL RULES:

- No more than two dogs per handler are permitted in the off-leash area at one time. Handler must be a responsible adult.
- Puppies under four months old are not permitted in the park.
- No animals other than dogs are permitted in the off-leash area.
- Handlers must be present with their dog(s) and have them under visual and voice control at all times.
- Dogs in heat, ill and/or with internal or external parasites (fleas, ticks & worms) are not permitted in the park.
- Dogs must be leashed when exiting or entering the off-leash area. Handlers must have a leash in hand at all times while in the off-leash area.
- **Dog waste must be collected by the handler** and placed in the proper receptacle.
- **No rawhide, treats, or food for pets or humans** allowed in the off-leash area.
- All dogs must display current license and vaccination tags.
- An attending adult must closely supervise all children while in the off-leash area.

The City of Bethlehem reserves the right to:
Close the facility for any circumstances deemed necessary.

Restrict entry to the facility, suspend, and/or ask dog handlers to leave the facility if any of the rules are not followed.

Please report problems to the Bethlehem Parks Department
610-865-7081

John Rudy Park

Canine Meadows
(York, Pa)

Requirements, Rules and Regulations:

Requirements:

Dogs must be state licensed, vaccinated and wearing current ID tags. Dogs must be healthy, no contagious conditions.

Rules:

1. Dogs must be 4 months of age.
2. Dogs are not allowed to dig, fill immediately.
3. Open 8:00 am to dusk, no fee.
4. Waste must be collected immediately & placed in proper receptacle.
5. You are responsible for injuries inflicted by your dog to other dogs or people.
6. Area closed during wet conditions.
7. Open one gate at a time in the double-gated area. Open and close it before opening the next one to enter the off-leash area.
8. Dogs must be leashed when entering or exiting the fenced-in area. (leash & unleash your dog inside the double-gated area)
9. Dogs over 30 pounds not permitted in small dog area. No dog less than 30 lbs is allowed in large dog area.
10. Dog owners/handlers must keep their dog (s) in view at all times. (never left unattended)
11. Dogs showing aggressive behavior must be removed immediately.
12. Children under 49 inches in height are not permitted, adults must accompany children up to 15 years of age.
13. Food/treats (dog or human) are not allowed.
14. Handlers must be at least 16 yrs of age.
15. Excessive dog barking not allowed.

16. Limit (3) dogs per adult handler.
17. Dogs in-heat are not permitted .
18. Wear flat collars only.
19. No dog grooming.
20. No Smoking.
21. No toys, chairs, dishes or trash left behind.
22. Small dog toys permitted.

Dog Owner and their invitees shall indemnify, save harmless and defend the County of York from any and all claims, actions, damages, injuries and/or expenses arising out of this activity or event at the York County Parks facility. Canine Meadows Off-Leash Area is subject to compliance with the above conditions and rules/regulations of the York County Department of Parks and Recreation and may result in a citation and/or removal for any violation of said rules and regulations.

In case of emergency, call 911. Non-emergency or questions (717) 840-7440

York County Parks, 400 Mundis Race Road. York Pa 17406

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CANINE MEADOWS:

1. Why aren't there more benches and trees and where are the trash cans?

Our initial phase was to construct the basic amenities that would enable us to open the dog area. Trees and benches are scheduled to be placed thanks to donations we've received from park users. We have a newly formed Friends of Canine Meadows committee that will be holding fundraisers to help obtain the funds to place more benches and trees. If you are interested in joining the Friends group or making a donation, please call the office at 840-7440. A dumpster is available as you are exiting the area for you deposit your dog's waste. We will not be placing trashcans. The park wide policy is carry in carry out.

2. Why can't my small dog be in the large dog area or my large dog be in the small dog area?

Separation of dog sizes is standard throughout the country in dog parks. Larger dogs as a rule try to intimidate smaller dogs. We feel this protects your pet as well as you.

3. Why are children under 49 inches prohibited in the dog area?

Dogs and children are unpredictable. Children run and dogs love to chase children. There is the possibility of your child being injured by a chasing dog. It is difficult to watch your dog and a small child at the same time.

4. We brought our lunch and we can't eat it in the dog area. Why?

There is no food allowed within the confines of the dog area. This is for the safety of you and your pet. There are many pavilions and picnic tables available for your use within the park. Pavilions are available on a first-come, first-serve basis if they are not reserved. Picnic tables are always available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Extensive research was done in the planning of Canine Meadows to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment. Please take the time to read all the rules and regulations. We want you and your pet to enjoy your visit!