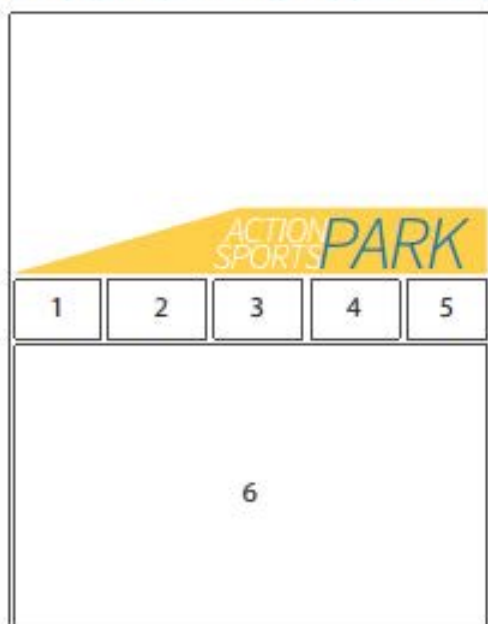


ACTION SPORTS PARK



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6. <https://www.pexels.com/photo/sport-skateboard-skateboarder-skateboarding-2909/>





Ad-Hoc Action Sports Park Committee Final Report

April 2018

Foreword

The Action Sports Park Committee envisions a regional action sports park that will enhance the lives of Centre County residents by offering recreational options that promote independence and healthy lifestyles. Most existing recreational facilities are geared towards team sports, which are not for everyone. An action sports park would provide an outlet for physical activity and socialization for youth and community members who are currently underserved by public recreational amenities.

For several years there has been discussion and debate about constructing an action sports park in or near the State College Borough. The most significant caution and concern expressed about the construction of an action sports park was where to build it. Despite this caution and concern, feedback about the need for such a park has been overwhelmingly positive.

Following much consternation that continued to exist over this potential project, Borough Council decided to establish an ad-hoc committee comprised of appropriate stakeholders and Borough staff. The Action Sports Park Committee has been extremely dedicated, knowledgeable, open-minded, thorough, and methodical through their discussions and development of these recommendations. Charged with researching feasibility and community attitudes towards such a park, the committee concluded their appointment by providing recommendations on further action to council. As this project progresses, strong consideration should be given to both the work of and recommendations made by the Ad-Hoc Action Sports Park Committee.

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1 Executive Summary

The creation of an Action Sports Park in the Borough or in the Centre Region has been a hot topic for many years; however, in 2013 the idea began to garner more interest and discussion. Community ventures, like this one, are often challenging due to the wide range of differing needs and opinions among community members. The process for this project has been no different.

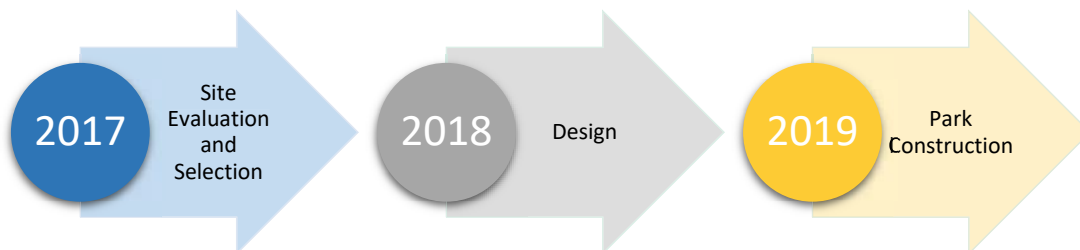
What is an Action Sports Park?

Action Sports are high intensity recreational activities that require physical activity and dexterity, and are typically performed by an individual (not a team). Action sports can be categorized into gliding or rolling sports, like skateboarding, BMX, scootering, and inline skating, and also includes activities such as rock climbing and parkour. An Action Sports Park is a recreational facility built with elements to accommodate the unique needs of action sport participants in a purposeful way.

History

Since this project has been of interest for not only the State College Borough community, but also for the greater Centre Region, the idea had been discussed by many organizations including Centre Region's Parks Capital Committee, the Centre Region Council of Government General Forum, Centre Region Park & Recreation, and The State College Borough. An Action Sports Park was first officially proposed in 2016 by The State College Borough as part of its 2017-2021 five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

The project's implementation goals are as follows:



This project is also included in the Borough's 2018-2022 Capital Improvement Plan.

To begin, the Borough and Centre Region Parks & Rec staff identified a portion of Orchard Park as a preferred location for an Action Sports Park. Public response to the suggestion indicated that many nearby residents vehemently opposed an Action Sports Park in Orchard Park. It became evident that more comprehensive research needed to be done to determine an appropriate location for such a park.

Ad-Hoc Committee Formation and Charge

During public hearings for the 2018-2022 CIP program, Borough Council decided to form an Ad-Hoc Action Sports Park Committee of community members and Borough and Parks & Recreation staff. The Committee was charged with researching and reporting on:

1. The feasibility of an action sports park
2. Possible park locations
3. Elements or activities that might be included in such a park

The Ad-Hoc Action Sports Park Committee was appointed on August 7, 2017 and held 11 meetings between August 23, 2017 and January 24, 2018.

The committee started by reaching out to existing Action Sports Parks in Pennsylvania and the surrounding region. The data gathered served as a starting point for further research and helped the committee understand what an Action Sports Park looks like in communities similar to State College. Additionally, the committee completed a literature review to learn about action sports and the process of creating an Action Sports Park, which is detailed in Appendix B.

Public Input Process

Due to the contentious nature and history of the project, the committee made every effort to thoroughly gather community input through the following avenues:

- Penn State students conducted surveys and focus groups to assess community attitudes about an Action Sports Park.
- The committee developed an 11-question survey that was widely distributed throughout the community. 412 people responded to the survey.
- A State College Area School District high school math and statistics class conducted a survey in the State College middle and high schools. This survey consisted of nine questions and had over 800 respondents.
- Action Sports Park Committee held a public meeting to discuss the creation of an Action Sports Park on October 11, 2017. Approximately 90 persons attended, nearly one third of which were youth. About 35 attendees spoke to provide input at this meeting.

Details about the survey results and the public meeting can be found later in this report in the Public Input section and the full results included in Appendix C.

To fulfill the charge given to the committee regarding locations and elements, the committee divided into two subcommittees; one to focus on locations and one to focus on elements.

Elements and Activities Subcommittee:

The Elements and Activities Subcommittee was tasked with identifying which activities an action sports park should accommodate, and which elements and amenities should be present there. There was strong feedback from the community for the inclusion of the following activities, elements, and amenities:

Activities	Elements	Amenities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skateboarding• BMX• Mountain Biking• Roller Blading/Skating• Scootering• Boulderling• Parkour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transition/Bowl/Vert• Street plaza• Flow Course• BMX Pump Track• BMX Race Track• Mountain Bike Skills Area• Boulderling skills area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parking• Rest area for spectators• Restrooms• Shade/shelter• Water fountain

Many of these activities can utilize the same elements. The type and configuration of elements included will largely depend on the location chosen for the park and the amount of space available. With this in mind, the Elements and Activities Subcommittee has detailed how activities and elements may be appropriately distributed at sites of different sizes.

In addition to site planning strategies, the subcommittee has also made a recommendation on implementation priorities based on community feedback. Though this may be outside the scope of this committee's work, we believe that these priorities are important to note for future planning purposes.

Specific details of specific recommendations can be found in the Elements and Amenities Subcommittee section of the report, starting on page 32.

SPECIAL NOTE: On a few occasions during the work of the Action Sports Park Committee, members raised the question of whether a Borough-owned Action Sports Park would increase the Borough's liability. Currently, the Borough has liability insurance through the PennPRIME Insurance Trust. Ernie Dabiero, Purchasing Director and Risk Manager for the Borough, contacted PennPRIME Insurance Trust to determine what impact the addition of an Action Sports Park would have on insurance rates. Marketing and Member Services Manager for PennPRIME Insurance Trust, Elizabeth Henry, advised that our current General Liability insurance policy would cover the addition of an Action Sports Park at no additional cost (see Appendix G).

Location Subcommittee

The Location Subcommittee members began by identifying all possible locations for an Action Sports Park using feedback from the committee at large and the feedback obtained through surveys and the public meeting. They started with a comprehensive list of 50 local parks and parcels/lots. The subcommittee also took into consideration the significant and often passionate concerns about some locations raised by community members throughout the input process.

To determine the feasibility of each location on the list, the subcommittee established 11 “Selection Criteria” to be used in assessing the possible merits and limitations of each park and parcel/lot. They also used Geographic Information Systems, aerial maps, and current bus routes, as well as other factors such as possible ADA compliance.

The specific selection criteria can be found in the Location Subcommittee section of the report.

Additionally, the subcommittee obtained professional input from State College Borough and Centre Region Parks & Recreation staff regarding “environmental” factors such as local sink hole situations and storm water drainage issues, and “safety” factors such as EMS access, visibility of the sites for police/safety services, current park usage data, and existing and evolving Master Plans for some of the suggested locations.

A thorough analysis of all 50 initial parks and parcels/lots resulted in the recommendation of the following 6 locations:

- **Whitehall Regional Park** - 900 Block of West Whitehall Road (Ferguson Township)
- **State College Area Family YMCA** – 677 West Whitehall Road (State College Borough)
- **Haymarket Park** – 1631 Bristol Avenue (Ferguson Township)
- **High Point Park** – 855 West Whitehall Road (State College Borough)
- **Tom Tudek Memorial Park** – 400 Herman Drive (Ferguson Township)
- **State College Borough Maintenance Facility** – 330 Osmond Street (State College Borough)

NOTE: The Location Subcommittee section of this report, starting on page 48, details the decision process of the committee in selecting these six locations.

2 Timeline





3 Action Sports Park Committee Effort

3.1 Project History

The possible development of a Skate Park, or Action Sports Park within the Centre Region has been a topic of interest in the community since the 1990's. However, the concept has gained much more attention and interest since 2013.

In 2013, a local action sports park enthusiast made a formal presentation to the Centre Region's Parks Capital Committee, which was then passed on to the General Forum. One major takeaway from the presentation was the importance of easy access for the primary park users: youth and young adults. Most members of the General Forum agreed that the idea was worth further consideration.

An Action Sports Park was first mentioned as a potential future project in the Borough's 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) under Project PK200. In August 2016, Borough staff recommended designing an Action Skate/Bicycle Park to be located in an existing Borough park.

Centre Region Park & Recreation and State College Borough staff were tasked with researching and assessing possible locations for an Action Sports Park. In order to make recommendations to Council, staff gathered information from experts, skate park developers, other communities, and the public. Each existing park within the Borough boundaries was looked at critically during the selection process.

After analysis of existing parks, staff recommended Orchard Park as a preferred location for an Action Sports Park. To gather public input, build awareness, and answer community member questions, staff spoke with residents and attended Neighborhood Association meetings. Public comments demonstrated that many nearby residents vehemently opposed an Action Sports Park in Orchard Park. It became evident that more comprehensive research needed to be done to determine an appropriate location for such a park.

In the spring of 2017, in partnership with The State College Borough, The Penn State Sustainable Communities Collaborative organized a semester-long project in which students researched the community's opinions on the development of an Action Sports Park. The class conducted surveys, held focus groups, and interviewed residents about perceived benefits and drawbacks of sports parks and preferred locations. The project reports, which are summarized in the Public Input section, are included in full in Appendix C of this report.

In the summer of 2017, Council added a new project (PK171) titled "Action Sports Park" to the 2017-2021 CIP. The timeline included identification and evaluation of potential sites by the end of 2017, design by the end of 2018, and construction in 2019. The project was also included in the 2018-2022 CIP.

During public hearings for the 2018-2022 CIP, it was suggested that an Ad-Hoc Action Sports Park Committee be formed consisting of representatives of the various Borough neighborhood associations as well as other at large members.

3.2 Ad-Hoc Committee Formation and Charge

The Action Sports Park committee was charged with researching the feasibility of an action sports park, elements or activities that might be included in such a park, and identifying some possible locations for the park. The full, detailed charge can be found in Appendix A. The Ad-Hoc Action Sports Park Committee was appointed on August 7, 2017. Councilman Evan Myers was appointed as the Council representative and chair of the Ad-Hoc Action Sports Park Committee. A detailed summary of all committee meetings can be found in Appendix F – Action Sports Park Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action taken by Borough Council on August 7, 2017:

Appointment of the following individuals to the Ad-Hoc Action Sports Park Committee with a term ending December 31, 2017.

Name	Affiliation
Peter Aeschbacher	At-Large Representative
Janejira Cervone	Vallamont Neighborhood Association
John Diercks	At-Large Representative
Kim Faulds	At-Large Representative
Jacqueline Gardner	At-Large Representative
Dan Grow	At-Large Representative
William Hartman*	Holmes-Foster Neighborhood Association
Mark Huncik	Highlands Neighborhood Association
Christopher Jones	At-Large Representative
Gordon Kauffman	At-Large Representative
Mitch LeBold	Tusseyview Neighborhood Association
Frank Maguire	Greentree Neighborhood Association
Steve Mower	College Heights Neighborhood Association
Elaine Prestia*	State College South Association

* Members identified after Council action on August 7, 2017

Staff Support to the Committee:

Name	Affiliation
Autumn Busbee	Community Engagement Specialist – State College Borough
Tom King	Assistant Borough Manager for Public Safety – State College Borough
Beth Lee	Recreation Supervisor – Center Region Parks and Recreation
Pam Salokangas	Director – Centre Region Parks and Recreation
Christine Stephens	AmeriCorps Member – State College Borough

4 Public Input Process

Limitations

It is recognized that there are limits to each aspect of this project. During the public input process, research was conducted by individuals without professional experience in data collection. It should be noted that unintentional biases may exist and that the data collected may not be empirically sound. That being said, the information we have received through the public input process has been very valuable to the committee throughout its deliberation.

4.1 Penn State Sustainable Communities Collaborative

In the Spring semester of 2017, students in the Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management 433 course participated in an applied research study in partnership with the State College Borough through the Penn State Sustainable Communities Collaborative.

The class was split into **four groups** that utilized different research methods to answer the following **two research questions**:

1. What are the State College area residents' attitudes and perceptions towards the proposed action sports park?
2. Where is an ideal location for the proposed park?

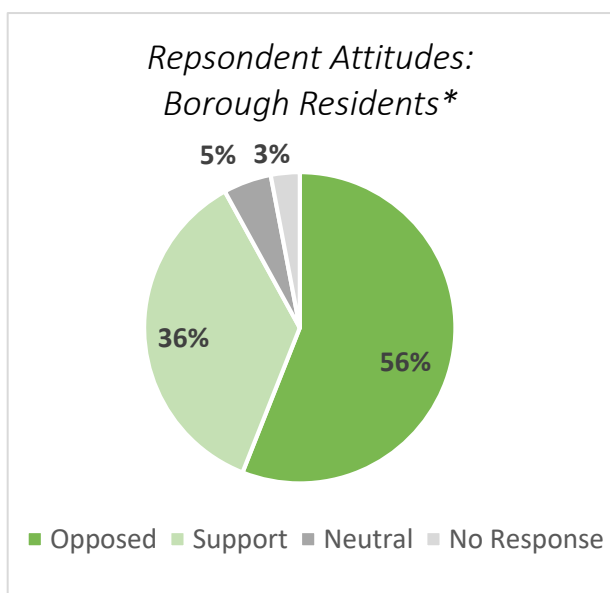
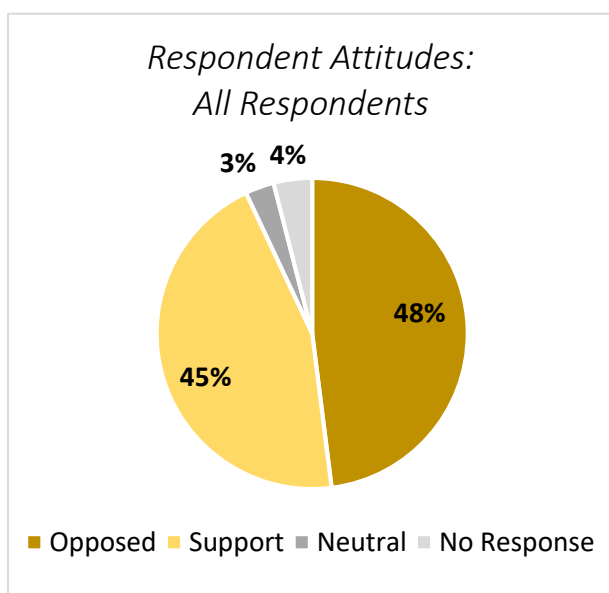
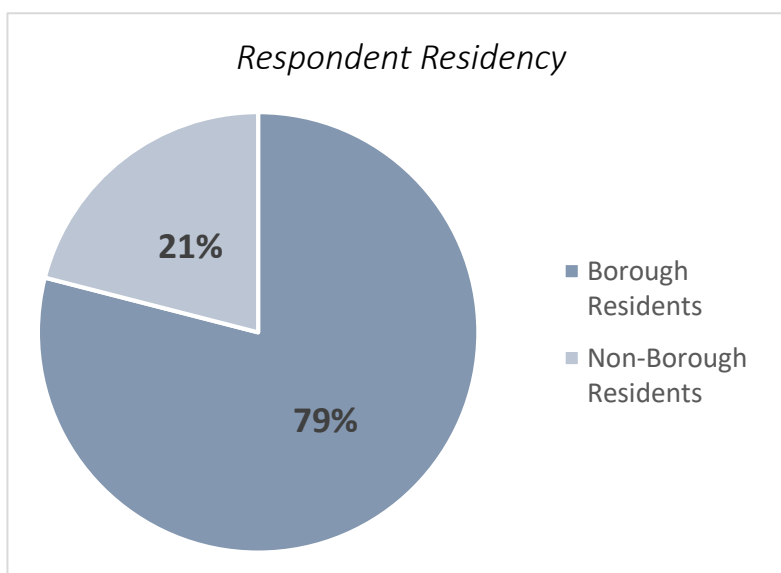
Each group utilized one of the following methods: **online community survey**, **interviews with stakeholders**, **adult focus group**, and a **youth focus group**. Students in each group also reviewed case studies to gain insight on outside communities and their experiences with Action Sports Parks.

The following is a review of each group's findings. Each full report can be found in Appendix C.

4.1.1 Online Community Survey: Putting Action in the Borough

Students in this group conducted an online survey through a platform called PlaceSpeak. The survey was distributed to Borough Neighborhood Associations via email and was shared on Facebook. The survey consisted of open and close-ended questions and allowed participants to pinpoint ideal park locations on a map of State College. The PlaceSpeak platform allowed students to identify the location of participants and allowed responses to be sorted by residency.

The students calculated that they would need 383 participants to accurately represent Centre Region residents with a confidence level of 95%. Overall, 143 community members participated in this survey.



*This chart represents an average for the Borough, however, opposition and support ranged greatly among the different Borough Neighborhoods.

Popular topics that emerged from the survey results included accessibility, Orchard Park and the Greentree Neighborhood, and perceptions of Action Sports Parks.

Participants stated that they would like an Action Sports Park to be developed in an area that is within biking distance, near downtown, and along bike/pedestrian paths so that youth would have a safe way to get to the park.

Orchard Park was mentioned as both a preferred and non-preferred location. Some preferred this location due to its proximity to State College Area High School, Welch Pool, bike paths, and rental housing. Others opposed Orchard Park due to its location within the Greentree neighborhood and proximity to residential property. Participants were overwhelmingly against the development of an Action Sports Park in the Greentree neighborhood.

Most participants believed that Action Sports Park users are responsible and valued members of their community and do not participate in vandalism, violent acts, or other forms of rebellion. The majority of survey participants also believe that an Action Sports Park would increase physical activity and provide a safe and supportive setting for social interaction and recreation.

Considerations

The student researchers received criticism from survey participants. Some participants felt that some survey questions were biased towards supporting an Action Sports Park. Some participants also felt that the researchers were not fully aware of the history of the proposed Action Sports Park and that the survey did not accurately reflect the community's needs.

Additionally, the survey did not have enough participants for the results to be considered statistically representative of the whole of Centre Region.

4.1.2 Stakeholders Interviews

Student researchers in this group interviewed six stakeholders to answer the Sustainable Community Collaborative's two key research questions. Each interviewee was asked a series of 13 questions, from which the following popular topics emerged: location, community benefits, safety, community concerns, and management.

Overall, stakeholders had mixed perceptions and emotions about the development of an Action Sports Park. All stakeholders expressed concern over the location of a potential Action Sports Park. Many interviewees stated that Orchard Park was not an appropriate location for an Action Sports Park. Whitehall Park was recognized as a future park that would be a more appropriate location. One interviewee stated that the location should be safely accessible by children.

Comments from interviewees had the following themes:

Concerns	Potential Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location inappropriate to surroundings• Safety• Noise• Drug use and violence• Decreased property values• Negative environmental impact• High cost of construction and maintenance for the Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides a legal place to skate• Safer than skating in the streets• Provides a space to learn and practice action sports• Venue for hosting community events, clinics, demonstrations, and competitions
Stakeholders expressed concerns about supervision and surveillance. One stakeholder, a skateboarder, stated that there is an unstated etiquette in sports parks, that skateboarders typically look out for one another, assist and coach one another, and take turns.	

Considerations

Student researchers indicated that the small sample size (six) of this study might not accurately reflect the views of the community. It was also noted that two of the interviewees were against the development of an Action Sports Park and the remaining four were in favor of an Action Sports Park. The student researchers also stated that they did not have much time to analyze the collected data and that the interviews were short in length. Lastly, the student researchers were concerned about how biases may have affected the information collected during the interviews.

4.1.3 Adult Focus Group

Student researchers recruited focus group participants by using PlaceSpeak and by emailing the Neighborhood Association listservs. 31 residents attended the focus group session, which was held at the State College Municipal Building. They were broken into five groups of five to seven participants to discuss the research topics. Popular topics that emerged from the focus group included location, support for independent (non-team) sports, supervision, safety, and environmental impact.

Overall, participants seemed to be in favor of the development of an Action Sports Park; however, favor was dependent on location. Some residents of the Greentree and Orchard Park neighborhoods showed favor of development, if it was not located in their neighborhood. Residents of these neighborhoods value green space. A resident stated, "People are not against the idea, but are [concerned with the potential] location."

Participants noted that athletes who participate in non-team sports should have a place to learn and grow at their own pace. They also stated that there needs to be a place for these like-minded individuals to come together and have social opportunities.

Opinions on supervision varied among participants. Views ranged from imperative staffing to athletes monitor/support one another and do not require supervision from others. Supervision was also discussed from a safety standpoint.

Participants were in favor of safety features, such as easy access for emergency vehicles and emergency call boxes.

Participants were concerned about the potential impact an Action Sports Park could have on the environment and were unanimously in favor of a park that was environmentally friendly. Participants also expressed concern about the aesthetics of an Action Sports Park.

Considerations

Students noted that the largest limitation of this study was time, since they only had a few weeks to complete the project. They also noted that the opinions of the entire community might not have been represented.

4.1.4 Youth Focus Group

Student researchers held a focus group consisting of 14 students (13 middle schoolers and one high schooler) who were between the ages of 12 and 16. Participants volunteered to partake in the focus group. Seven student participants were female and seven were male. There was also one adult participant who was a teacher. Student researchers explained the project background to the participants then asked open-ended questions. Popular topics from this focus group included accessibility, cost, safety, and design.

Overall, participants were interested in the development of an Action Sports Park and unanimously agreed that the Action Sports Park should be easily accessible, preferably within walking distance of their homes.

Participants want a park that is free, stating that the skate park at Tussey Mountain Ski Area costs money.

Participants stated they would feel safer riding bikes, skateboards, and scooters in an Action Sports Park rather than on streets or in other areas where cars are located. Each participant said they would wear a helmet when utilizing an Action Sports Park.

Participants were excited to share their ideas regarding content. They would like an Action Sports Park to include music, rental equipment, a perimeter bike path, concession stands, and helmets.

Considerations

The sample size of this group was small, only 14 participants. Additionally, the student researchers noted that their knowledge about Action Sports Parks was limited. Lastly, the participants' personalities ranged from quiet and shy to vocal and bold. This might have led to a lack of information collected from participants who did not speak up.

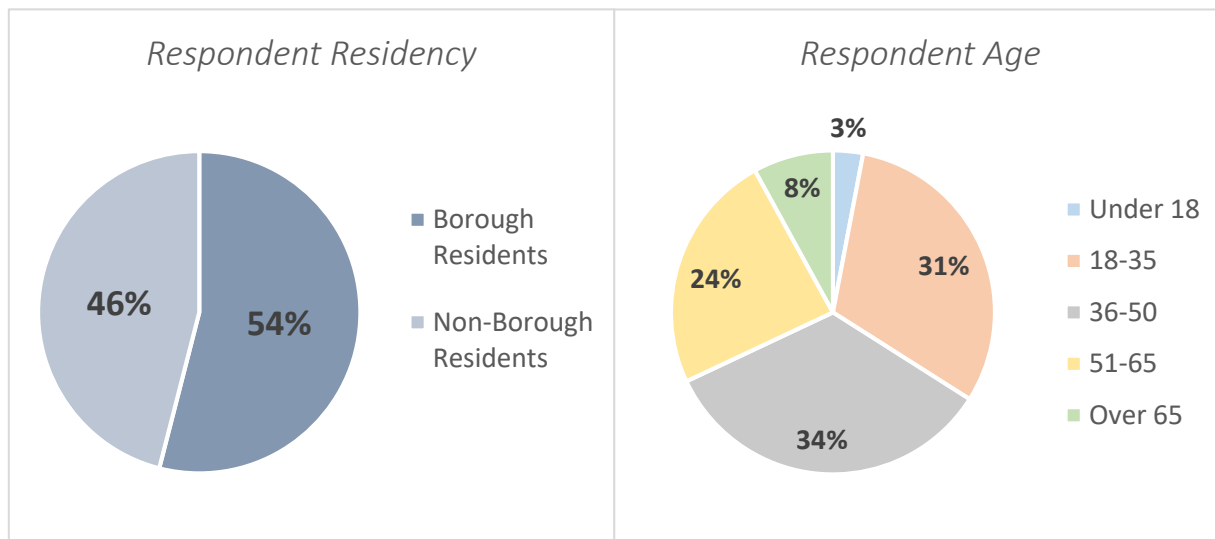
4.2 Borough Hosted Survey

Members of the Action Sports Park Ad Hoc Committee developed and distributed an online survey to gather community feedback on potential locations, activities, and elements of an Action Sports Park. The survey was hosted by the State College Borough's "Engage State College" Platform from October 12-31, 2017 and distributed by Neighborhood Associations, various State College Borough social media accounts, PSU listservs, and by independent individuals. The survey consisted of 11 questions to assess potential locations and action sport activities and elements. 412 people responded to the survey.

The following topics emerged as themes throughout this survey: action sports activities and action sports park location.

Survey Results

Demographics:



Participants were interested in a park that would host BMX Biking, bouldering, inline skating, parkour, scooter use, skateboarding, and Mountain biking/pump track.

Activity Statistics:

- 60-85% had never participated in the aforementioned sports
- 45-67% would continue to abstain if appropriate facilities existed within or near the State College Borough
- 31-55% had some skill in or were interested in learning how to BMX bike, boulder, inline skate, parkour, use a scooter, or skateboard
- 10% indicated that they would use a pump track or mountain bike skills course if it existed nearby.
- 82% of survey participants believed an Action Sports Park should require the use of safety equipment such as helmets and pads.

Recommended Amenities:

- Parking
- Bathroom facilities
- Lights for night use
- Elements for developing BMX and mountain biking skills
- An area for non-participants to utilize.

Location considerations:

- On a bus route
- Within biking distance (and on a bike path/route)
- Within walking distance for school-aged residents
- Central to downtown
- Accessible by first responders
- Near a hospital
- Low environmental impact.

In some cases, participants supported or opposed the same consideration. Participants suggested that the park both should/should not:

- Be in an existing neighborhood or regional park
- Share boundaries with residential lots
- Be visible from roadways
- Be within the State College Borough
- Be within the downtown district.

NOTE: A complete record of all thirty plus suggested locations can be found in Appendix C in the full survey results.

Considerations

Respondents needed computer and internet access to complete the survey. Additionally, open-ended responses were difficult to quantify and categorize.

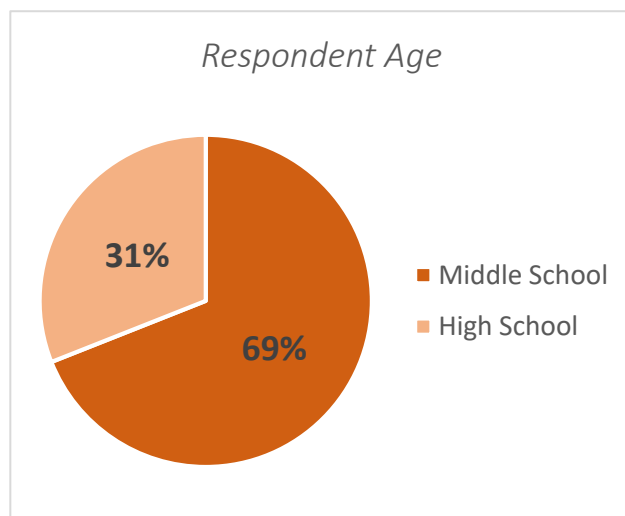
It is also important to note that, in addition to options provided, 42 participants (10%) used the “other” option on the survey to indicate that they would use a pump track or mountain bike skills area if it was available. This is of significance because it is not something that the committee had initially considered, but was frequently mentioned by survey respondents without prompting.

4.3 State College Area School District Survey

The State College Borough partnered with the State College Area School District to create a survey for middle and high school students. Erol McGowan, who teaches Statistics to 12th graders at State College Area High School, incorporated the development of this survey into his Fall 2017 lesson plans. His students constructed a nine-question survey that was distributed to students at the middle and high schools by email. The survey was active from November 13-30, 2017 and had 806 participants.

Survey Results

Demographics:



Location:

- 58% live in the State College Borough

Participation:

- 44% participate in action sports
- 70% would go to an Action Sports Park daily to monthly
- 27% do not know what an action sport is
- 74% would be more likely to visit an Action Sports Park if it had a concession stand
- 34% of participants would be willing to pay an admission fee

In addition to the action sports defined in the community survey (BMX Biking, skateboarding, scooter use, parkour, in-line skating, mountain biking, and bouldering), youth are interested in facilities for:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Volleyball | • Paintball |
| • Gymnastics/trampolines | • Obstacle/ninja warrior courses |
| • Frisbee/disc golf | • Jungle gyms |
| • Kickball/dodgeball | • Four square |
| • Roller hockey | |

Lastly, participants of this survey voiced similar opinions for locations as respondents of the community survey and participants of the public meeting.

Considerations

It should be noted that questions in this survey were not reviewed to eliminate potential biases. The survey also included many open-ended questions, which can be difficult to categorize and compare when analyzing data.

4.4 Public Meeting

The Action Sports Park Committee held a public meeting on the evening of October 11, 2017 to gather recommendations for elements and potential locations of an Action Sports Park. Approximately 90 individuals attended the public meeting. Approximately one third of attendees provided input to the Committee. A significant portion of attendees, perhaps up to 30 individuals, were adolescent; many of whom provided input to the Committee. A full transcript of the meeting and a link to the video recording can be found in Appendix C. The consensus was in favor of the development of an Action Sports Park.

The following popular topics were discussed at the meeting: safety, independent (non-team) sports, merits and positive aspects of action sports parks, action sports elements, and locations.

Attendees concerned with safety recommended that the proposed Action Sports Park be built near a hospital and be easily accessible by first responders. Attendees recommended monitoring/supervision, perimeter fencing, and scheduled hours to increase safety.

Many attendees spoke personally about their involvement in independent (non-team) sports. These attendees find this type of sport personally rewarding. Non-team sports allow for independence and serve as an outlet for energy. Attendees stated that Action Sports are inclusive and nurturing; participants are generally supportive of one another and serve as mentors.

Those in favor of an Action Sports Park believe it has the potential to strengthen community bonds. Additionally, an Action Sports Park would provide a safe and legal place for participants to practice and learn new skills in a variety of sports.

Attendees requested that elements of the proposed Action Sports Park be adaptive to accommodate all skill levels. Some requested that the park have free access and be open 24 hours a day. Attendees specifically mentioned the follow elements and design features: ramps, rails, a pump/race track, a bowl, to mimic streetscapes, and to be made of concrete.

Suggested Locations:

- Westerly Wetland Education Center
- Osmond Street Lot
- YMCA
- Central Parklet (Sydney Friedman Park)
- Lot on University Drive near Burger King
- Holmes Foster Park
- Tudek Park
- PSU Property
- Tusseyview Park
- Orchard Park
- Spring Creek Park
- within downtown State College
- High Point Park
- Fairbrook Park
- Dalevue Park

Some attendees were *against* the development of an Action Sports Park in Orchard Park and Holmes Foster Park.

Suggestions for the proposed Action Sports Park:

- It should be located within a neighborhood park
- It should not be located within a neighborhood park
- Tussey Mountain is not convenient
- It should be located within walking distance/bike facilities/bus line/near schools
- It could be incorporated into an existing drainage facility
- Existing parks could accommodate action sport elements

Additionally, attendees mentioned the following existing Action Sports Parks for inspiration: Raystown (PA), Fairfax (VA), Philipsburg (PA), Payne Park (PA), Woodward Camp (PA), Hampden (MD), Steelton (PA), and C3 Sports Community Center (PA).

Considerations

The committee held only one public meeting so some may have had other commitments preventing them from attending. The committee did receive correspondence from members of the public who were unable to attend the meeting, and these correspondences can be found in Appendix C.

5 Elements and Amenities Subcommittee

5.1 Purpose

The Elements Subcommittee was charged with identifying key elements and amenities that should be included in an Action Sports Park, and making recommendations to be reviewed and considered by the Overall Committee.

The Elements Subcommittee was comprised of six representatives from the State College community: Peter Aeschbacher, Mark Huncik, Gordon Kauffman, Mitch LeBold, Steve Mower, and Elaine Prestia. Staff support was provided by Beth Lee and Pam Salokangas.

The Elements Subcommittee undertook the following tasks:

1. Identification of primary users and activities who could be accommodated within an action sports park
2. A compilation of the key elements and amenities appropriate and necessary for a successful action sports park, based on current best practices and comparable action sports parks.
3. The integration of the subcommittee's findings with the opportunities presented by work on potential locations, resulting in three site planning strategies.
4. The development of planning, design, and implementation priorities to guide future action.

5.2 Action Sports Activities



BMX

an abbreviation for bicycle motocross, is a sport where participants use specialized bikes to perform stunts and race on motocross tracks.



Bouldering

a form of rock-climbing that is performed on small rock formations or artificial rock walls that are typically no taller than 20 feet. Participants in this activity do not need to use a harness/rope system.



Mountain Biking

A type of off-road biking that involves riding over rough terrain using specially designed mountain bikes.



Parkour

An action sport where participants aim to get from one point to another in a complex environment. This activity can include running, climbing, swinging, jumping, vaulting, rolling, and utilize other quadrupedal movements.



Scooter-Use

an emerging action sport where participants ride and perform tricks using a scooter. Scooter-use has less of a learning curve than skateboarding and often attracts younger participants.



Skateboarding

an action sport where participants ride and perform tricks using a skateboard.



Skating

an action sport where participants travel on surfaces and perform tricks while wearing inline or specialized skates.

5.3 Action Sports Design Elements

Skateparks

A skatepark is a **purpose-built recreational facility for action sports activities such as skateboarding, scooter use, skating, BMX, and other wheeled sports**. Elements typically include surfaces and forms such as vertical elements and smooth, ‘flow’ spaces, as well as objects such as street elements. Some facilities may share activity use within the same elements.

Material Type	hardscape concrete surfaces
Appropriate for	skateboarding, skating, scooter-use, BMX
Size Requirements	1/2 to 1 acre



Image: Reed Menzer Memorial Skatepark; York, PA.

- **Transition/Bowl/Vert:** dramatic vertical elements and pool-like bowls designed to replicate pool bowl skating. Curved walls enable continuous riding across and around the forms. Transition is a broad term that refers to any significantly curved portion of a skatepark. Vert refers to any portion of a transition skating surface that may reach a vertical angle. It is also common for skateparks to have a small amount of skateable surface that is overhanging, beyond vertical.
- **Flow Course:** A smoother and gentler combination of bowl and street plaza elements, suitable for a variety of skill levels.

- **Street plaza:** elements and areas designed to emulate common street skating obstacles such as stairs, rails, benches, and other street furniture. Skaters perform tricks around and over these obstacles which are not curved and maintain a rigid orthogonal or angular structure. These spaces are attractive to both skaters and the broader community while being less intimidating than the deep precipices found in transition style parks.

Skatepark Construction Types



Continuous Surface

Permanent, continuous elements typically made of concrete. Considered the standard for skatepark design preferences, usability, and maintenance.



Prefabricated Modular Elements

Elements typically made of wood, plastic, or metal. Modular elements are considered to have lower initial cost and present the potential for reconfiguring layouts. In practice, neither is convincingly accurate and skaters prefer continuous surfaces for rideability.

BMX Pump Track

A pump track is a type of off-road terrain for cycle sports consisting of a circuit of banked turns and features designed to be ridden completely by riders "pumping" - creating momentum by up and down body movements.

Material type	Softscape earthen surfaces
Appropriate for	BMX, mountain biking
Size requirements	1/8 to 1/4 acre



Image: Philadelphia pump track; Philadelphia, PA.

Pump track elements may also be modular and suited for differing ages and abilities.



BMX Race Track

Off-road BMX racing takes place on purpose-built, off-road, single-lap race tracks. Courses are usually flat with banked corners and include jumps and other features. Venues can conform to international standards for track design, enabling them to be used for competitions.

Material type	Softscape earthen surfaces
Appropriate for	BMX, mountain biking
Size requirements	2-3 acres



Mountain Bike Skills Area

A mountain bike skills area provides features that enable to mountain bikers and BMX riders to improve skills such as cornering, jumping, hopping, and single-track riding. Skills areas replicate desired features of natural environments while providing controlled situations and ease of access.

Material type	Softscape earthen surfaces and constructed elements
Appropriate for	BMX, mountain biking
Size requirements	Minimum 1/4 acre



Bouldering Skills Area

A skills area for bouldering and climbing features safe and accessible features for a range of climbers from newcomers to experts. Short pitches require no rope harnesses yet can be configured for challenging activities. Bouldering skills areas focus on the craft of climbing in a social setting.

Material type	Synthetic or nature stone material holds mounted on plywood or glass reinforced polyester (GRP) material
Appropriate for	Bouldering and Parkour
Size requirements	Negligible



5.4 Amenities

Action sports elements form the bulk of the consideration for programming an action sports park. Yet, a park is more than simply a collection of facilities. Parks serve important public functions such as building community and pride of place. Providing a wide variety of amenities helps to build community by inviting a wider range of park visitors to utilize and enjoy recreational spaces.

To this end, the Elements and Amenities Subcommittee considered a wide range of complementary and necessary amenities that should be included in an action sports park. The subcommittee has classified the amenities in two self-explanatory categories: must have amenities and could have amenities. The former is highly recommended to be included; the latter ought to be included but are not critical to the success of the action sports park

Must Have Amenity	Importance
Shade and Shelter	Providing shade and shelter from inclement weather prolongs the visitor's use of the park.
Water Fountains	Action sports induce thirst, so providing easy access to potable water for drinking as well as washing off is critical for a successful space.
Restrooms	These facilities may be devoted to the action sports park, or at minimum, shared access with an adjacent facility should be ensured. Restrooms may be provided seasonally or temporarily.
Rest Area for Non-Participants	Action sports have a highly social component, thus spaces for those watching friends or family, resting between bursts of action, or those interested but not yet involved and watching from a safe distance are important.

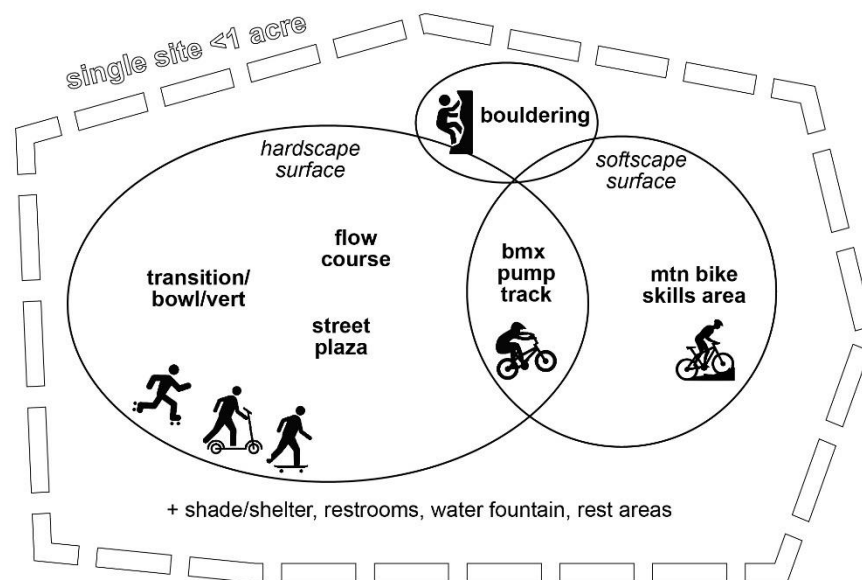
Could Have Amenity	Importance
Dusk and evening lighting	Lighting for low-light conditions, such as overcast days, dusk, and evening, extends the operating period of an action sports park. Lighting may also provide an enhanced sense of security as well as reduce shadows cast by park elements.

5.5 Site planning strategies

There is an inherent challenge in reconciling action sports activity space requirements and amenities with the sizes and appropriateness of sites under consideration by the Location Subcommittee. Accordingly, the Elements and Amenities subcommittee developed site planning configurations to accommodate three potential scenarios. These scenarios are: a small-site, shared-use configuration; a large-site, adjacent-use configuration; and, a multiple site configuration.

Small-site (< 1 acre), shared-use action sports park

In this scenario, a single site is selected that is between $\frac{3}{4}$ and $1\frac{3}{4}$ acres in size. This size is too small to accommodate separate facilities for all elements. A shared-use of the hardscape skatepark elements between skateboarders, skaters, scooter riders, BMX riders, and possibly mountain bikers.



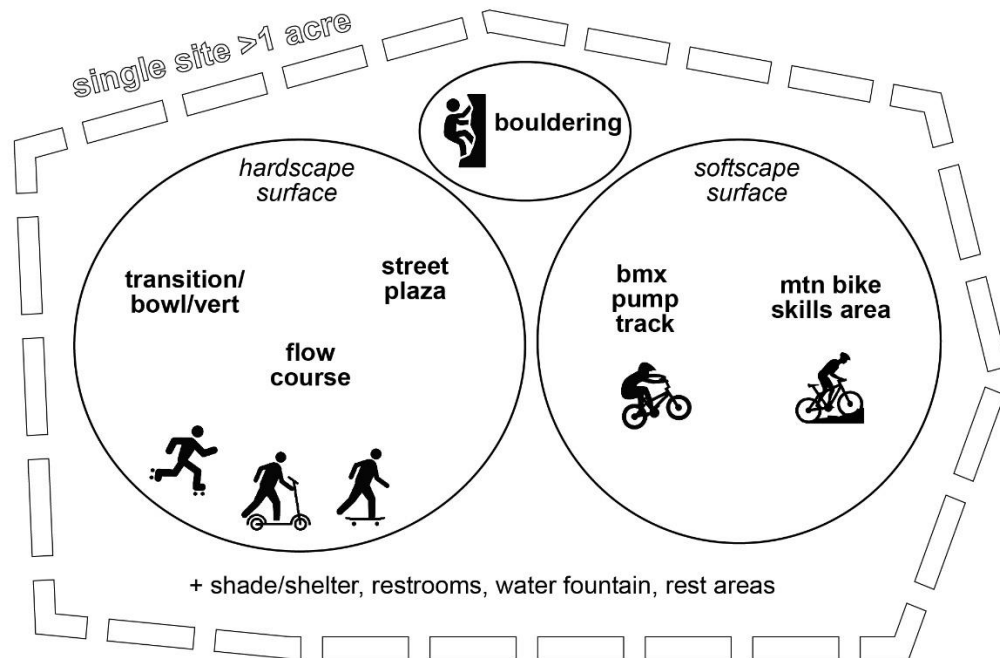
Activities accommodated:

bouldering; shared use for skateboarding, skating, scooter-use, BMX, mountain biking

User groups	Activities & elements	Space requirements
skateboarding, skating, scooter-use, BMX	Transition/bowl/vert	$\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 acre
	Street plaza	
	Flow course	
	BMX pump track	
Mountain biking	Mountain bike skills area	$\frac{1}{4}$ acre
Bouldering	Bouldering	~
Participants and visitors	Shade/shelter, water fountains, restrooms, rest area	$\frac{1}{8}$ acre
	Parking	?
approximate total		$\frac{3}{4}$ – $1\frac{3}{4}$ acres

Large-site (> 1 acre), adjacent-use action sports park

In this scenario, a single site is selected that is larger than 1 acre, preferably at least 1 ¼ acres. This size accommodates separate facilities for all activities for all user groups.



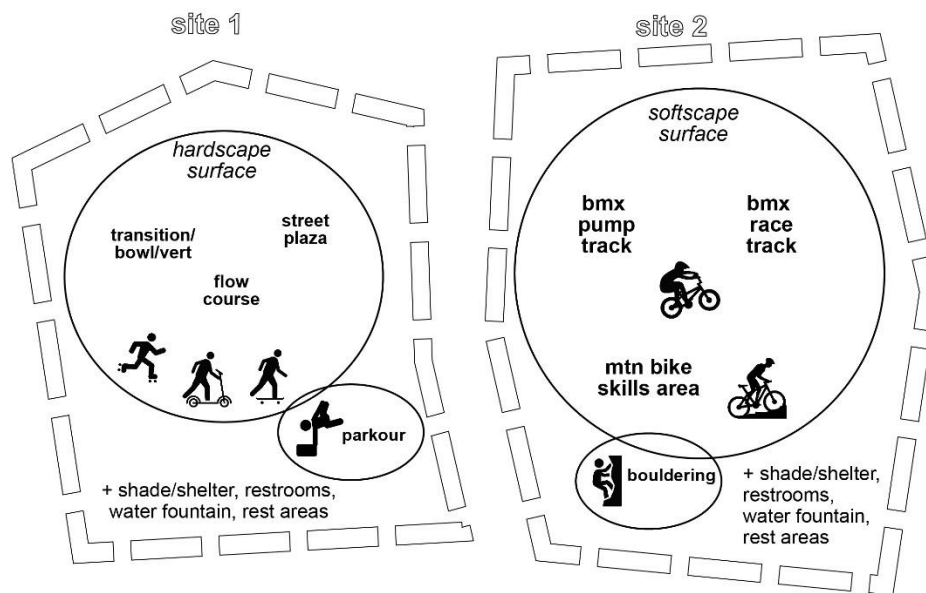
Activities accommodated:

bouldering, skateboarding, skating, scooter-use, BMX, mountain biking

User groups	Activities & elements	Space requirements
Skateboarding, skating, scooter-use	Transition/bowl/vert	½ - 1 acre
	Street plaza	
	Flow course	
BMX	BMX pump track	1/8 – ¼ acre
	BMX race track	2-3 acres
Mountain biking	Mountain bike skills area	¼ acre
Bouldering	Bouldering	~
Participants and visitors	Shade/shelter, water fountains, restrooms, rest area	1/8 acre
	Parking	?
	approximate total	3 – 4 acres

Multiple site action sports park

In this scenario, two sites are selected whose sizes, locations, and appropriateness enable them to be used independently. This configuration may be due to size limitations, but may also be desirable due to the urban/hardscape preferences of skateboarding, scooters, and skating as compared to the natural/softscape nature of BMX and mountain biking activities. Two sites will require some duplication of amenities, though careful co-location with existing facilities can reduce this need.



Site 1: Hardscape

Activities accommodated:

Skateboarding, skating, scooter-use, parkour

User groups	Activities & elements	Space requirements
Skateboarding, skating, scooter-use	Transition/bow/vert	½ - 1 acre
	Street plaza	
	Flow course	
Parkour	Parkour	~
Participants and visitors	Shade/shelter, water fountains, restrooms, rest area	1/8 acre
	Parking	?
	approximate total	3/4 – 1 1/4 acres

Site 2: Softscape

Activities accommodated:

BMX, mountain biking, bouldering

User groups	Activities & elements	Space requirements
BMX	BMX pump track	1/8 – ¼ acre
Mountain biking	Mountain bike skills area	¼ acre
Bouldering	Bouldering	~
Participants and visitors	Shade/shelter, water fountains, restrooms, rest area	1/8 acre
	Parking	?
	approximate total	1/2 – 3/4 acre

5.6 Implementation Priorities

Due to public interest in the quality and longevity of the future park, the Elements and Amenities Subcommittee chose to provide additional recommendations on priorities for the eventual design and implementation of an action sports park. The subcommittee considered many priorities and issues and then categorized the vital ones as high priority, medium priority, or lower priority. Items within each category are not ranked in order of desirability.

The intent of including the items in categories was to provide a frame of reference for proceeding through the planning, design, and implementation process. Establishing agreement on priorities early in the process will help decision-making along the way, especially when conflicts arise.

5.6.1 High Priority

High quality construction and materials

An investment in high quality design, construction practices, and materials will pay off in the long run with higher use and low maintenance costs. The temptation to skim on costs in the short term should be avoided, and appropriate levels of funding from multiple sources should be pursued.

Integral surfaces, not modular elements

Modular skateparks appear to engender flexibility and lower costs, but they are not popular amongst action sports participants. Rearrangement of elements rarely occurs and elements are not as long lasting. Integral materials provide better forms and surfaces for action sports and, if well-constructed, provide lower long-term maintenance. Modular skateparks are often included in local or pocket parks but are not appropriate for neighborhood or regional scale action sports parks.

Plan ahead and budget for maintenance

Considering future maintenance should be an integral part of the planning and design considerations for an action sports park. Design decisions, material choices, and construction techniques can have a long-term impact on future usability and upkeep. Planning a devoted budget for long-term maintenance is also critical.

Plan ahead for expansion or phasing

Action sports change as do the preferences of participants. Accommodating future developments within a design is important, as is considering the potential for facility expansion in site selection and design. Should budget not allow for a full implementation at the start, it is recommended that an action sports park be carefully and deliberately implemented in successive substantive phases rather than spreading limited resources across several elements, potentially resulting in unsatisfactory conditions across the action sports park itself.

5.6.2 Medium Priority

Co-locate with other activities

Placing an action sports park adjacent to other parks or activity areas can provide efficiencies for shared facilities. It will further encourage inter-generational participation and cross-linked activities. Families with children of varying ages can be accommodated at adjacent facilities, and differing age and ability levels can be introduced to new activities. The opportunity to pursue multiple activities in the same location will also encourage park visitation and duration.

Promote borough and regional identity

The placement of this priority in this category reflects a balance of two attitudes towards an action sports park present in the subcommittee discussions. One viewpoint sees an action sports park as a welcome addition to the breadth of quality parks and sports facilities available in the area, but one which satisfies primarily a local and neighborhood need. The action sports park should be well-sized to its service area population and serve to round out a range of recreational opportunities already present in such facilities as tennis courts, ball fields, and nature areas.

The other attitude towards an action sports park sees its potential as a draw for the region and beyond, promoting tourism, influencing choices for incoming residents, and serving as a flagship ‘jewel in the crown’ for the area.

Enable evening use

Evening and nighttime operation of an action sports park enables informal use during times outside of work hours, potentially enabling greater family participation. It also enables formal activities such as contests or competitions during or low-light conditions. Such operation will require controllable lighting. However, evening use may be a source of conflict with other stakeholders. However, the subcommittee recognized that many other public sports facilities such as tennis courts and sports fields provide controllable evening lighting until reasonable hours.

5.6.3 Lower Priority

On-site staff

The inclusion of attendants or supervisory staff was a robust topic of conversation amongst the committee as a whole. The subcommittee recognized that on-site staff are seen as a means to address concerns of participant and public safety. Some on-site staff are appropriate in circumstances such as instructional sessions, contests, and competitions which draw larger groups. However, the subcommittee’s review of similar facilities and best practices did not reveal need for a permanent on-site staff for safety or access control.

6 Location Subcommittee

6.1 Purpose

The Location Subcommittee was charged with identifying and assessing the feasibility of possible locations for a local Action Sports Park, and finally making a few recommendations to be reviewed and considered by the Overall Committee.

After several informative meetings and extensive discussions with the Overall Action Sports Park Committee, the co-chairs appointed a Location Subcommittee comprised of eight representatives from the State College community: Dan Grow (Chair), Janejira Cervone, Jackie Gardner, John Diercks, Kim Faulds, Bill Hartman, Chris Jones, and Frank Maguire. Staff support was provided by Beth Lee and Pam Salokangas.

The Location Subcommittee undertook the following tasks:

1. Identification of public and private lands to consider for construction of an action sports park in or near the State College Borough
2. Evaluation of feasibility of identified locations
3. Recommendation of several locations that are most feasible for an action sports park

6.2 Identification of Potential Sites

The subcommittee members began by identifying all possible locations suggested by members of the Overall Committee and feedback from the Community Survey. A comprehensive list of the 50 local parks, parcels, and lots considered by the subcommittee can be found in Appendix D.

During initial informative discussions about the possible locations, the subcommittee attempted to consider all significant (and often passionate) concerns raised by the Overall Committee and feedback from the Community Survey.

6.3 Evaluation of Site Feasibility

To determine the feasibility of each suggested location on the list, members of the subcommittee researched the sites and developed a methodology by establishing 11 “Selection Criteria” to be used in assessing the possible merits and limitations of the suggested parks and parcels/lots.

Selection Criteria

Criteria	Details
Proximity to Existing Homes	Due to concerns about noise
Accessibility	Getting to the site, distance from town, accessibility from the street, topography/ramps/sidewalks and ADA compliance
Available Parking	Existing or space available to add parking
Environmental Factors	Necessity for tree removal, flooding, sinkholes, and any topo/earthwork required
Municipal Location	Where each site is located within the State College Borough or surrounding region
Existing Infrastructure	Restrooms (porta-john or flushing), lighting, sidewalks, playgrounds/sports fields, electricity
Classification of Park or Parcel/Lot	Neighborhood, regional, destination, private
Safety/Visibility	EMS access, visibility from road for police surveillance, visibility to other park amenities, view to/from private land
High/Low Usage	CRPR identified extent of usage and programs/activities
Ownership	Municipality, COG/Regional, private or PSU ownership (to help determine liability & maintenance, or if a new location must be purchased)
Acres	Actual available acres within each parcel/park

Some of the following selection criteria required additional data and information outside of the committee's expertise.

To assist with researching the “**accessibility**” criteria for all of the locations, Geographic Information Systems, aerial maps, and current bus routes (all included in Appendix D) were analyzed, as well as other factors such as ADA compliance.

The State College Borough's Professional Engineer, Amy Kerner P.E., was very helpful in sharing information about “**environmental**” factors, such as local sink hole situations and storm water drainage issues for some of the locations.

Pam Salokangas (Director, Centre Region Parks & Recreation) and Beth Lee (Recreation Supervisor, Centre Region Parks & Recreation) were especially helpful in providing the subcommittee with valuable insights regarding “**safety**” factors such as EMS access, visibility of the sites for police/safety services, current park usage data, as well as existing and evolving Master Plans for some of the suggested locations.

Location Matrix

The selection criteria were combined with the list of suggested parks and parcels/lots to create a “Location Matrix” template. The completed matrix can be found in Appendix D, and served to assist subcommittee members in recording and comparing the positive and negative aspects of each location to determine its feasibility.

Following several informative discussions, each subcommittee member used the Location Matrix template to independently indicate their assessments of the **merits** and **limitations** for each location.

The subcommittee initially attempted to use a positive/negative numerical scale to assess the selection criteria for each location. However, using this method, it was discovered that many locations that were not feasible due to significantly negative limitations, such as sinkholes or other accessibility/distance factors, were still able to receive a high score because of several very favorable aspects. This resulted in misleading total scores.

The subcommittee determined that it would be much more appropriate to simply use a single or double “P” or “N” to indicate the degree of **Positive** or **Negative** aspects for each of the selection criteria on the Location Matrix.

*NOTE: There are three criteria that were unable to be quantified using the matrix format: **Classification of Park/Parcel**, **High/Low Usage**, and **Ownership**. These appear as empty columns in the matrix but were still important in the decision-making process of the subcommittee. Centre Region Parks and Recreation staff, Beth Lee and Pam Salokangas, provided information about these criteria on an as-needed basis.*

During a lengthy meeting, subcommittee members discussed the rationale for each of their assessments, and determined which locations needed to be eliminated due to infeasibility, and which locations should be reviewed for further consideration.

In addition to environmental issues, other factors for eliminating some of the parks and parcels/lots from consideration were related to accessibility or extreme distance from the State College Borough, and information that private owners had previously established other plans for their properties.

6.4 Recommendations

After compiling the individual assessments from all members into a summary (Site Evaluation Matrix – Appendix D), the subcommittee identified several locations for further review.

This resulted in the following recommendations of six locations, four parks and two parcels/lots, for consideration by the overall committee. All recommended locations are near bus routes and within reasonable walking distance from downtown State College and the high school.

Site	Address	Location/ Municipality	Ownership	Distance from SCASD High School	Distance from Memorial Field (Downtown)
Whitehall Road Regional Park	900 Block of West Whitehall Road	Ferguson Township	Public	1.4 mi	2 mi
Parcel between State College Area Family YMCA/ South Hills Business School	677 West Whitehall Road	State College Borough	Private	1 mi	1.4 mi
Haymarket Park	1631 Bristol Avenue	Ferguson Township	Public	1.4 mi	1.7 mi
Highpoint Park	855 West Whitehall Road	State College Borough	Public	1 mi	1.7 mi
Tom Tudek Memorial Park	400 Herman Drive	Ferguson Township	Public	2.8 mi	2.3 mi
State College Borough Maintenance Facility	330 Osmond Street	State College Borough	Public	1 mi	1.1 mi

Whitehall Regional Park – This was the top recommended location by the Action Sports Park Committee. This site ranked very high using the criteria matrix. It would make it a regional asset since it clearly will receive regional use and there is ample land to construct what is desired in an Action Sports Park. Once developed, it will have the desired amenities or elements. *At the time of the committee meetings, this park did not exist and was still in the planning phases.*

State College Area Family YMCA / South Hills Business – This was also a very highly recommended location based on the criteria matrix. This site is privately owned and would require negotiating an agreement/partnership with either the State College Area Family YMCA, the South Hills Business School, or both. It appears there would be ample land to construct the desired Action Sports Park. The YMCA has existing amenities for their existing operation which may be able to be used for the Action Sports Park.

Haymarket Park – This was also a highly recommended location based on the criteria matrix. This is a Ferguson Township Park (not a regional park) so it would require involvement and approval from the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors. The park has ample space for the construction of an Action Sports Park and currently has the desired amenities including parking, two pavilions, portable toilets, and a drinking fountain.

High Point Park – This was also a highly recommended location based on the criteria matrix. This is a State College Borough park (not a regional park) so this would only require approval of Borough Council. There is adequate space available in High Point Park to construct the desired Action Sports Park and currently has parking, picnic tables, portable toilets, and a drinking fountain.

Tom Tudek Memorial Park – This was also a highly recommended location based on the criteria matrix. This is a Ferguson Township Park (not a regional park) so it would require involvement and approval from the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors. Additionally, any future development at Tudek Park would require approval of the Tudek Trust. It appears the park has adequate space for the construction of an Action Sports Park and currently has the desired amenities including parking, pavilions, shade, flush toilets, and a drinking fountain.

State College Borough Maintenance Facility – This was also a highly recommended location based on the criteria matrix. This area is the "detention basin" for the impervious area of the Service Building, so adding impervious area to this site would require additional storage. Although the field is located in the Borough, the Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) had to get approval from Ferguson Township. This site is used to detain storm water that is not quickly handled by the Sheesley sinkhole. Altering the site, regardless of use would require a revision to the approved SWMP, which would have to go back through Ferguson Township's land development process for approval. Additionally, the Sheesley Sinkhole is a DEP registered Class V inject well which may have implications for developing the pervious area at this site.

7 Conclusion

The Ad-Hoc Action Sports Park Committee has provided four different types of recommendations:

1. Elements that should be available to the Action Sports Park users
2. Amenities to include in an Action Sports Park
3. Possible locations for the construction of an Action Sports Park
4. Next Steps

Based on all that the Action Sports Park Committee has gathered and learned over the course of their work, the committee is making the following recommendations:

Sporting Activities

The Action Sports Park facility or facilities should be constructed to allow for **roller blades/ inline skates, scootering, skateboarding, BMX biking, mountain biking, and bouldering.**

Elements

The park should include a **continuous surface (non-modular) hardscape skatepark, BMX pump track, BMX racetrack, and mountain bike skills area,** with specific features to be determined by the designer.

Amenities

The facility or facilities should, at a minimum, have access to **parking, rest area, restrooms, shade/shelter, water fountain, and have easy access via bus, bike paths, and for emergency services.**

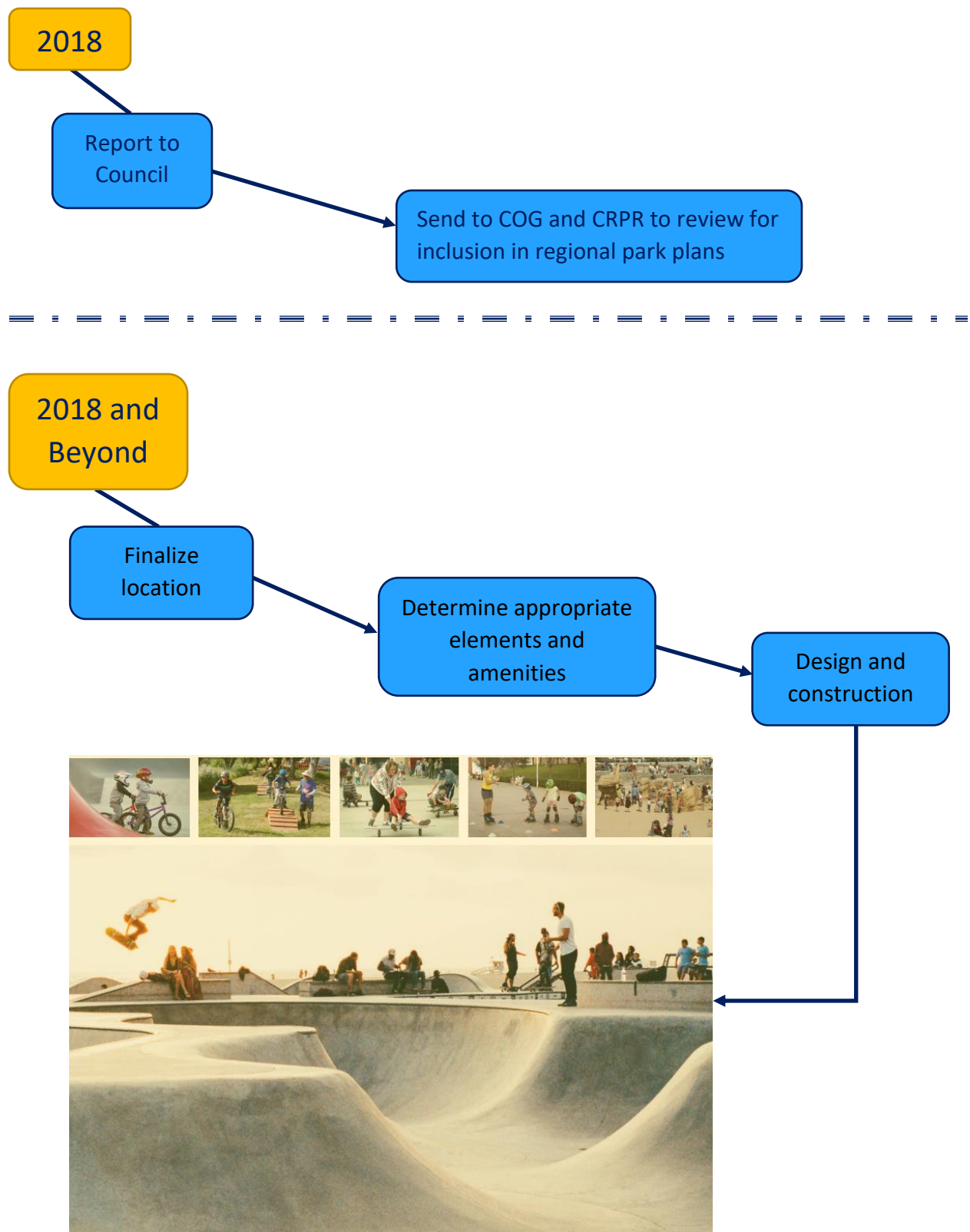
Implementation Priorities

Moving forward in the design and implementation process, the committee urges planners to incorporate the recommendations highlighted in section 5.6 of this report.

Locations

Based on the criteria listed in the Location Subcommittee Section of this report, one or more of the following six locations should be pursued for the construction of an Action Sports Park: **Whitehall Regional Park, High Point Park, State College Area Family YMCA / South Hills Business School, Tom Tudek Memorial Park, Haymarket Park, State College Borough Maintenance Facility.**

7.1 Road Map to the Future



7.2 Parting Thoughts

A group of highly motivated and dedicated citizens worked diligently for six months to provide the information included in this report. We hope that the recommendations generated provide adequate information and data to assist the Borough and other interested parties in making an informed decision regarding the construction of an action sports park. Next steps highlighted in the 'Road Map to the Future' should guide actions moving forward.

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To Accompany Final Report



Ad-Hoc Action Sports Park Committee

April 2018

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Appendix A

Action Sports Park Formation and Communication with Borough Council



Capital Improvement Project Summary

<i>Project Number</i>	<i>Request Type</i>	<i>Priority</i>
PK171	New	2 Should Do
<i>Project Title</i>		
Action Sports Park		
<i>Change from Previous CIP</i>	<i>Project Location</i>	
New Project	In one of the Borough owned Parks or open spaces	
<i>Department</i>	<i>Division</i>	
Public Works	Parks	
<i>Project Description</i>		
<p>This project includes the identification and evaluation of potential sites for an Action Sports Park, followed by its design and construction that may include facilities for skateboards, roller blades, scooters and bicycles. A specific location for the facility will be selected after considering all parks and open spaces (both public and private) in consultation with community members, Centre Region Parks and Recreation staff, Council and other stakeholder groups. The site selection process is expected to be completed by the end of 2017. It is proposed that the Borough develop a conceptual design, including site evaluation for storm water, traffic and other factors that will influence the final design in 2018 and complete final design for construction of the park in 2019.</p>		
<i>Statement of Need</i>		
<p>State College Borough has many parks and other outdoor recreational facilities but there are no areas within the Borough's park system that serve the community members that would utilize an Action Skate Park. This is a need that has been identified through preliminary planning and consultation with members of the community, both from the Borough as well as the Centre Region.</p>		



Capital Improvement Project Summary

<i>Project Title</i>									
Action Sports Park									
<i>Project Alternatives</i>									
N/A									
<i>Impact on Operating Budget & Departments - Narrative</i>									
The new facility, when complete, would require increased maintenance from Park & Rec staff or Borough staff to clean, repair equipment and empty trash cans.									
2017 Operating Impact		2018 Operating Impact		2019 Operating Impact		2020 Operating Impact		2021 Operating Impact	
<i>Operating Budget under Impact:</i>									
2017 Funding		2018 Funding		2019 Funding		2020 Funding		2021 Funding	
	\$0	General	\$2,500	General	\$250,000		\$0		\$0
	\$0	Other Grant(s)	\$2,500	State Grant	\$50,000		\$0		\$0
	\$0		\$0	Other Grant(s)	\$50,000		\$0		\$0
	\$0		\$0				\$0		\$0
	\$0		\$0				\$0		\$0
\$0		\$5,000		\$350,000		\$0		\$0	
Construction:				\$290,000					
Construction Contingency:									
Design, Engineering & Consultant Costs:				\$25,000					
Equipment:				\$40,000					
Demolition:									
Software:									
Other:									
Land Acquisition:									
<i>Total Project Costs</i>									
\$355,000									
<i>Estimated Start</i>		<i>Estimated Completion</i>		<i>Estimated Useful Life</i>					
1/1/2018		12/2/2019		20 years					



Capital Improvement Project Summary

<i>Project Number</i>	<i>Request Type</i>	<i>Scoring</i>	<i>Priority</i>
PK171	Previously Authorized - In Progress	18	Could Do

Action Sports Park

<i>Change from Previous CIP</i>	<i>Project Location</i>
No Change	In one of the Borough owned Parks or open spaces
<i>Department</i>	<i>Division</i>
Public Works	Parks

Project Description

This project includes the identification and evaluation of potential sites for an Action Sports Park, followed by its design and construction that may include facilities for skateboards, roller blades, scooters, and bicycles.

A specific location for the facility will be selected after considering all Borough owned parks and open spaces (both public and private) in consultation with community members, Centre Region Parks and Recreation staff, Council, and other stakeholder groups. The site selection process is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

It is proposed to develop a conceptual design, including evaluation for stormwater, traffic, and other factors that influence the final design in 2018, and complete final design and construct the park in 2019.

Statement of Need

State College Borough has many parks and other outdoor recreational facilities, but there are no areas within the Borough's or Centre Region's park system that serve community members that would utilize an Action Sports Park. This is a need that has been identified through preliminary planning and consultation with members of the Borough and Centre Region communities.



Capital Improvement Project Summary

<i>Project Title</i>									
Action Sports Park									
<i>Project Alternatives</i>									
N/A									
<i>Impact on Operating Budget & Departments - Narrative</i>									
The new facility, when complete, would require increased maintenance from Park & Recreation and/or Borough staff to clean, repair equipment, and empty trash cans.									
2018 Operating Impact		2019 Operating Impact		2020 Operating Impact		2021 Operating Impact		2022 Operating Impact	
<i>Operating Budget under Impact:</i>									
2018 Funding		2019 Funding		2020 Funding		2021 Funding		2022 Funding	
General	\$2,500	General	\$250,000		\$0		\$0		\$0
Other Grant(s)	\$2,500	State Grant	\$50,000		\$0		\$0		\$0
	\$0	Other Grant(s)	\$50,000		\$0		\$0		\$0
	\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0
	\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0
\$5,000		\$350,000		\$0		\$0		\$0	
Construction:				\$290,000					
Construction Contingency:									
Design, Engineering & Consultant Costs:				\$25,000					
Equipment:				\$40,000					
Demolition:									
Software:									
Other:									
Land Acquisition:									
Total Project Costs									
\$355,000									
<i>Estimated Start</i>		<i>Estimated Completion</i>		<i>Estimated Useful Life</i>					
1/1/2018		12/2/2019		20 years					

2018-2022 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Public Hearing Comments

Both Written and Oral Comments submitted prior to or at the Public Hearing

Joseph & Susan Rogacs, 862 Wheatfield Drive, requested Council remove Orchard Park from consideration for an Action Sports Park.

Mike Shigley, 122 Aikens Place, urged Council remove the Actions Sports Park from the CIP, unless the Borough planned to charge admission or limit its use to Borough residents only. He also requested Council eliminate the swale and the shared use path from the Easterly Parkway repaving project and replace them with bike lanes on the parkway.

Christopher Jones, 959 Grace Street, asked Council to remove Project #PK171 (Action Skate Park) from the CIP. He said he and many others did not want to see the open green space paved and turned into a single-use facility. He said by voting against the Action Sports Park, it would restore tranquility and peace back into the Greentree neighborhood.

Danae Powers, 965 Crabapple Drive, said if a Action Skate Park were built in Orchard Park she wanted to make certain easy access was available for emergency vehicles to help those, in a timely fashion, who are injured. She asked also that the area be locked when not in use and well light in case someone was injured so they could be seen and receive medical assistance, if needed.

Jamie Bestwick, 191 Pantops Parade, Port Matilda, said Orchard Park, like others, would be a wonderful location for a community sports park. He said his idea was to add something to what was currently offered and give more residents an opportunity to participate. With everyone carrying cell phones, emergency medical services are available to everyone.

James Milutinovic, 950 Grace Street, said Orchard Park's open space was heavily used for all types of activities, including lacrosse, drone flying, kickball, Frisbee, an Easter Egg Hunt, kite flying, softball, picnics and occasional flooding. He said on June 19 Ferguson Township received a conditional use application from a developer to allow the former Sheesley Concrete Plant, to become a skate park. He said the Greentree Neighborhood Association recently held their election and more than 190 families cast their ballots for leaders who were willing to protect and preserve Orchard Park's green space. He asked Council to remove Orchard Park from the list of potential sites.

Kristofer Greenert, 1096 Saxton Drive, said he was recently elected Vice President of the Greentree neighborhood. He asked Council to keep the community and neighborhood in mind when deciding on the location of the Action Sports Park. He said a member of the Greentree neighborhood should be a part of the Action Sports Park Committee.

Eric Scott, owner of the Bicycle Shop, urged Council to keep of the prospect of an Action Sports Park in the CIP because he felt it was a good project for the people of State College. He added that the people who ride BMX bikes, skateboards and

rollerblades are not on drugs or abusing alcohol. He said these are good kids and he would not be standing up for them if they were not good kids. He said if Orchard Park was not the right park, there were lots of other locations to consider.

Shannon Jones, 959 Grace Street, presented the Recording Secretary with an updated petition that included additional names of people who are opposed to an Action Sports Park in Orchard Park. She said no one is saying the kids who participate in Action Sports are drug addicts or bad kids. The Greentree residents just don't want it in Orchard Park. She urged Council to find a way to exempt Orchard Park from the list of locations being considered.

Cory Dickman, a Bellefonte resident whose parents live in Stratford Court, said the key to an Action Sports Park was a location where kids could get to the park without having to get into a car and driving across town to get to it. He said he cherished the opportunity for his kids to be recreate at Orchard Park while visiting their grandparents. He said Orchard Park was such a convenient location and urged Council to not remove the Action Sports Park from the CIP.

Ad Hoc Action Sports Park Committee Charge and Focus

Goal: The goal of the Ad Hoc Action Sports Park Committee is to select activities and elements appropriate and desirable for inclusion in an action sports park. The group shall evaluate the virtues of single versus multiple locations for the elements while weighing the key site factors and importance for consideration in State College's demographics.

The site criteria and potential sites shall be evaluated to provide a recommendation to Borough Council of three to five sites for further consideration and selection of a final site. A Land development and cost report shall be prepared for the sites by the Borough Engineering staff and Zoning staff

The recommendation and report shall be completed and submitted to Council for their consideration by November 30, 2017. Council will review the report and make a site selection decision by December 18, 2017.

Potential elements and considerations should include:

- Single or multiple sites
- Types of action sports to be included
- Age groups and skill levels targeted
- Proximity to: neighborhoods, schools, bike paths, other open space, and bus stops
- Visibility
- Property ownership
- Parcel sizes
- Tax and financial impacts
- Current land uses
- Environmental impacts
- Aesthetics
- Flexibility and adaptability based upon sports use and demand

Technical staff support outside meetings can include: GIS aerial mapping, site information from existing databases, parcel size and use data sorting, and assistance in locating desired experts and references for similar facilities.

Ad Hoc Action Sports Park (ASP) Committee

Literature Review

Progress Report

To

State College Borough Council

Monday, October 16, 2017

Ad Hoc Action Sports Park Committee Formation, Membership & Charge

- July 2017 - Committee formed and committee charge approved
- July 2017 - solicitation for volunteers to serve on the ASP Committee
- August 7, 2017 - Committee appointed by Borough Council
- The 15 person Committee consists of representatives from each Borough Neighborhood Association plus several at large members

ASP Committee Meetings

- August 23rd - Introduction and Organizational Meeting
- August 30th
- September 13th
- September 20th
- October 4th
- October 11th - Meeting to Receive Public Comment

ASP Committee Efforts

- Review the history of the ASP project to date
- Receive, review, and discuss the four (4) PSU class reports completed in Spring 2017 by students in Recreation, Park and Tourism (RPTM) classes
- Collect information on existing ASP's in or near PA
- Invite the Centre Region Parks and Recreational to participate on the Committee as a resource

ASP Committee Efforts

- Create a survey to be distributed to the public beginning tomorrow (10/11/2017)
- Work with the SCASD High School Math classes to design and distribute a survey to middle school and high school students
- An expert in the BMX biking field attended an ASP Committee meeting for a Q&A

ASP to Receive Public Comment

- Was held on October 11th
- Was recorded by C-Net if you want to view
- Approximately 90 persons in attendance
- 35 persons provided comments
- No opposition to an ASP expressed. Focus was on location first and foremost but also types of elements to include in an ASP and design suggestions were offered

Action Sports Park (ASP) Committee

Next Steps

- Receive and analyze community survey data
- Receive and review middle school and high school survey data
- Determine which ASP activities and elements to include in an Action Sports Park
- Consider the multitude of site options to locate the various ASP activities and elements

ASP Committee Tasks

- **Task 1** Identify activities and elements BY 9/30/17
- **Task 2** Identify site selection criteria and weight BY 9/30/17
- **Task 3** Identify all possibilities, public and private, that meet criteria in Task 1 and Task 2 in the Borough and edge of borough BY 10/31/17
- **Task 4** Site Evaluation/Prioritization BY 10/31/17
- **Task 5** Recommend sites in rank order BY 11/30/17
- **Task 6** Final Report to Council BY 12/18/17

ASP Community Survey

- Is open until October 31, 2017
- Link to complete the survey:

www.statecollegepa.us/actionsportsparksurvey

Action Sports Park (ASP) Committee

Council Update

Monday, December 11, 2017

7:00 PM

Action Sports Park (ASP) Committee

- Solicited in July 2017 for volunteers to serve on the ASP Committee
- ASP Committee was appointed by Borough Council on August 7, 2017
- The 15 person Committee consists of representatives from each Borough Neighborhood Association plus several at large members

Action Sports Park Committee Update

- Met about 8-10 times since August 23rd
- Collected information about other Action Sports Parks in or near Pennsylvania
- Created and distributed a community survey that had over 400 respondents
- Worked with a Math/Statistics class at the high school to survey middle school and high school students. This survey was administered in October and November and had over 800 respondents.

Action Sports Park Committee Update

- Held a public meeting in October in which approximately 90 persons attended with about 35 persons offering comments
- Following the public meeting, ASP Committee broke into two (2) subcommittees; Location Subcommittee and Activities & Elements Subcommittee
- The two subcommittees completed their work by the end of November and at our next meeting (Wednesday, December 13th) the full committee will finalize what locations and activities & elements to recommend to Borough Council

Action Sports Park Committee Update

- Following the December 13th meeting, staff will prepare a draft report for Council that will be reviewed by the ASP Committee in early January.
- The Action Sports Park Committee Report will be presented to Borough Council at a Council meeting in January or February 2018.

Appendix B

Literature Review & Existing Parks Matrix

Literature Review

Committee members have worked diligently to ensure that literature from a variety of sources related to action sports has been reviewed. The literature served to bring members up to speed on various action sports, types of parks, typical usage, community concerns and how to address them, and budget.

Below you will find a list of resources reviewed by the committee, as well as key **takeaways** from each resource.

****** The committee acknowledges that this is by no means an all-inclusive list and other literature likely exists that was not reviewed and that reflects both positive and negative aspects of action sports parks. ******

Planning, Development, and Construction

- *Public Skatepark Development Guide: Let's Get Started!*

Link: <http://publicskateparkguide.org/>

Takeaway: This page outlines the process of building a skatepark from the initial idea to post-construction management. Links are provided in each section for additional resources on each topic.

- *Public Skatepark Development Guide: Maintenance and Operation*

Link: <http://publicskateparkguide.org/maintenance-and-operations/>

Takeaway: Document guiding common maintenance and operations concerns and their solutions that arise from park users, the community, and local government.

- *Portland's bike parks: New Columbia Bike Skills Park (photos)*

Link: http://www.oregonlive.com/multimedia/index.ssf/2014/03/portlands_bike_parks_new_colum.html

Takeaway: This park is a good example of a low budget but successful park. It was designed and constructed on a \$15,500 budget.



Literature Review

- *Portland's bike parks: Ventura Park Pump Track (photos/video)*

Link: http://www.oregonlive.com/multimedia/index.ssf/2014/03/portlands_bike_parks_ventura_p.html

Takeaway: Pump tracks do not need to be elaborate. This park, located in Portland, OR, one of the most bicycle friendly cities in the country, features two tracks to accommodate different skill levels.



- *Wals Pump Track, Austria – Velosolutions*

Link: <https://www.pinkbike.com/video/480755>

Takeaway: This video shows construction and utilization of an asphalt pump track, the largest in Austria.

- *The Urban Grind. Skateparks: Neighborhood Perceptions and Planning Realities*

Link: https://www.pdx.edu/sites/www.pdx.edu.usp/files/usp_skate.pdf

Takeaway: This report was put together by Aperio Consulting, a group of Portland State University Urban and Regional Planning master's students. The goal was to study public perceptions of existing neighborhood parks with and without skateparks to determine the actual effects of a skatepark on the neighboring community. Skateparks are often perceived as noisy. Part of this study included a noise comparison of skateparks to other types of neighborhood noises, such as basketball courts, heavy traffic, or a leaf blower. The results showed that skateparks are no louder than other park uses, and at a distance of greater than 200 feet, are drowned out by other sounds.

Potential Benefits of Action Sports Parks

- *Make Your Next Playground a Bicycle Playground*

Link: <http://www.progressivebikeramps.com/bicycle-playgrounds/>

Takeaway: This advertisement from a bike park design and construction company shows how these parks come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and styles, and can add aesthetic value to park landscapes.

- *Parks and Rec and BMX*

Link: <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2017/august/parks-and-rec-and-bmx/>

Takeaway: Rock Hill South Carolina hosts high profile national racing events, which draw in millions of dollars each year for the local economy. The park also serves the recreational needs of a previously under-served population.

- *PSU researcher explores learning habits of skateboarders*

Link: [http://news.psu.edu/story/483393/2017/09/19/research/researcher-explores-learning-habits-skateboarders?utm_source=newswire&utm_medium=email&utm_term=484887_HTML&utm_content=09-27-2017-11-30&utm_campaign=Education Bridges](http://news.psu.edu/story/483393/2017/09/19/research/researcher-explores-learning-habits-skateboarders?utm_source=newswire&utm_medium=email&utm_term=484887_HTML&utm_content=09-27-2017-11-30&utm_campaign=Education+Bridges)

- **Takeaway:** Professor Tyler Hollett said he was “drawn to the culture of action sports because its athletes are typically youth who find themselves in the margins of more formal, school-based learning settings.” This study indicates that action sports create a collaborative learning environment that is inviting and nurturing. It encourages people to work together to improve their skills. “As a researcher in the learning sciences, I’m looking for new and innovative ways to help reframe what learning looks like and redesign some of those settings, whether it is in school or out of school” Hollett says. Action sports parks have value to many different types of community members, from athletes, to academics, to videographers.

- *Something for Everyone*

Citation: McIntyre, M., & Russell, K. (2017, August). Something for Everyone. Parks & Rec Business, 24-27.

Takeaway: Participation in BMX and skateboarding is on the rise, even as participation in team sports like softball and basketball declines. The construction of parks has increased surrounding communities’ favorable opinion of skaters. It provides the opportunity of turn blighted areas into areas for recreation and community engagement. This article highlights the importance of accessibility for users of all ages and skill levels and of incorporation of sociability components in design.

Literature Review

- *St. Louis' Only Legal Outdoor Skate Park Prepares to Unveil a Huge Upgrade*
Link: <https://www.riverfronttimes.com/artsblog/2017/09/05/st-louis-only-legal-outdoor-skate-park-prepares-to-unveil-a-huge-upgrade?media=AMP+HTML>

Takeaway: Skateparks are a point of pride for their users, which inspires them to participate in construction and maintenance of the park.

- *Top 6 benefits of a Skate Park*
Link: <https://www.spohnranch.com/the-top-6-benefits-of-public-skateparks-2014-03-02/>

Takeaway: Article by Spohn Ranch Skateparks, a skatepark design company, highlights benefits of skateparks to communities and users.

1. Skateparks reduce illicit activity by giving kids alternative activities.
2. Skateparks provide a safe environment for skateboarding. It reduces deaths occurring in roadways, which without skateparks are the only places for skateboarders to ride and practice.
3. Skateparks reduce damage to private property by creating a designated space for skaters to practice their skills.
4. Skateboarding has significant physical health benefits as it is a full body workout.
5. Skateboarding has significant mental health benefits and encourages young people to meet new people and make friends in a supportive and accepting environment.
6. Skateparks have a positive economic impact and draw people into the community from surrounding areas.

Limitations: This article is produced by a firm that builds and designs skateparks, which may lend to some bias.

Participation

➤ *2016 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report*

Link: <https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2016-Outdoor-Participation-Report.pdf>

Takeaway Statistics:

- More than 142 million Americans, or 48.4 percent of the US population, participated in an outdoor activity at least once in 2015.
- Road Biking, Mountain Biking and BMX: 15% of Americans Ages 6+ / 43.1 million participants
- Most popular activity among youth ages 6-17: Road, Mountain and BMX Biking 24% of American youth / 12.5 million participants
- Skateboarding: 21 average outings per skateboarder ages 6-17 / 73.7 million outings
- Road, Mountain and BMX Biking 13% of young adults ages 18-24 / 4.1 million participants
- Youth (6-17) Participation in Skateboarding in the US decreased from 11.5% to 6% from 2007 to 2015
- Young Adult (18-24) Participation in skateboarding decreased from 4.8% to 3.9% from 2007 to 2015
- Youth (6-17) Participation in BMX in the US increased from 1.9% to 3% from 2007 to 2015
- Young Adult (18-24) Participation in BMX increased from 1.4% to 2.1% from 2007 to 2015
- Youth (6-17) Participation in Mountain Biking in the US increased from 3.5% to 3.8% from 2007 to 2015
- Young Adult (18-24) Participation in Mountain Biking decreased from 3.6% to 3.3% from 2007 to 2015

Why Americans Didn't Participate in Outdoor Activities More Often

Non-Outdoor Participants, Ages 6+

As seen in previous years, lack of interest in outdoor activities was the top reason for why Americans didn't get outside more often in 2015. Thirty-seven percent of non-participants said that they were simply uninterested in outdoor activities. Lack of time was also a barrier to participation. Nearly one-quarter of non-participants said they didn't have time to enjoy outdoor recreation.

<i>I am not interested</i>	37%
<i>I do not have the of time</i>	23%
<i>I do not have the skills or abilities</i>	20%
<i>It is too expensive</i>	19%
<i>Too busy with family responsibilities</i>	16%
<i>I have a physical-limiting disability</i>	16%
<i>I do not have anyone to participate with</i>	16%
<i>My health is poor</i>	13%
<i>Places for outdoor recreation cost too much</i>	10%
<i>Places for outdoor recreation are too far away</i>	8%
<i>Too busy with other recreation activities</i>	7%
<i>I do not have enough information</i>	5%
<i>I have no way to get to outdoor recreation venues</i>	4%
<i>Places for outdoor recreation are too crowded</i>	3%
<i>I have household members with a physical disability</i>	3%
<i>I am afraid of getting hurt by other people</i>	3%
<i>Places for outdoor recreation are poorly maintained</i>	2%
<i>I am afraid of getting hurt by animals</i>	1%
<i>Places for outdoor recreation are over-developed</i>	1%
<i>Venues for outdoor recreation are too polluted</i>	1%
<i>Other</i>	12%

*Source: 2016 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report

What Motivates Americans to Get Outside

Outdoor Participants, Ages 6+

The majority of Americans participated in outdoor activities to get exercise. The second biggest motivator was the opportunity to spend time with friends and family, which highlights the family-friendly nature of many outdoor activities.

Get exercise	68%
Be with family and friends	55%
Keep physically fit	53%
Observe scenic beauty	49%
Be close to nature	48%
Enjoy the sounds and smells of nature	47%
Get away from the usual demands	43%
Experience excitement and adventure	35%
Be with people who enjoy the same things I do	32%
Experience solitude	27%
Develop my skills and abilities	25%
Gain a sense of accomplishment	22%
Be with people who share my values	19%
Gain self-confidence	17%
It is cool	16%
Talk to new and varied people	10%
Other	5%

*Source: 2016 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report

Why Youth and Young Adults Didn't Participate in Outdoor Activities More Often

Expense was the number one reason why children did not participate in outdoor activities, while lack of interest was the top reason why teenagers and young adults did not participate.

	Ages 6–12	Ages 13–17	Ages 18–24
<i>It is too expensive</i>	29%	35%	23%
<i>I am not interested</i>	25%	38%	40%
<i>I do not have the of time</i>	18%	19%	20%
<i>Too busy with family responsibilities</i>	14%	5%	10%
<i>I don't have the skills or abilities</i>	13%	14%	17%
<i>Too busy with other recreation activities</i>	11%	14%	7%
<i>I do not have anyone to participate with</i>	10%	12%	20%
<i>Places for outdoor recreation cost too much</i>	10%	15%	6%
<i>I do not have enough information</i>	7%	8%	12%
<i>I have no way to get to outdoor recreation venues</i>	6%	8%	5%
<i>I am afraid of getting hurt by other people</i>	5%	2%	5%
<i>I have a physical-limiting disability</i>	4%	3%	5%
<i>Places for outdoor recreation are too far away</i>	4%	10%	8%
<i>My health is poor</i>	3%	6%	2%
<i>Places for outdoor recreation are too crowded</i>	3%	2%	6%
<i>I am afraid of getting hurt by animals</i>	2%	4%	1%
<i>Places for outdoor recreation are poorly maintained</i>	1%	2%	1%
<i>I have household members with a physical disability</i>	1%	2%	1%
<i>Venues for outdoor recreation are too polluted</i>	1%	0%	1%
<i>Places for outdoor recreation are over-developed</i>	0%	0%	1%
<i>Other</i>	17%	12%	11%

*Source: 2016 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report

Literature Review

➤ *PA Outdoor Recreation Plan*

Link: http://paoutdoorrecplan.com/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20030881.pdf

Takeaway: This report provides useful statistics and trends in outdoor recreation participation. The report includes information related to demographics like age, income, gender, race, and level of education, and how each demographic affects participation in outdoor activities. Responses from South Central residents tended to hover towards the average in regards to most of the items.

Access

➤ *Access map created by PSU architecture student James Graef*

Link: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1cfCl6N3LjnYRustO7KISYy3PlhZd1M8v&ll=40.81819364083664%2C-77.88980500000002&z=12>

Takeaway: This map shows possible park locations, points of interest in the community, and CATA bus routes. It also rates locations based on access by transit and proximity to points of interest.

➤ *Centre Region Bike Plan*

Link: http://www.crcog.net/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC=%7b3E359605-1591-4CDD-A1CA-66740F4E2252%7d&DE=%7bB6B686CD-C73E-4770-A0B9-B98A2B6A78CF%7d

Takeaway: This plan details bicycle-friendly aspects of the community/region, including survey results and maps. This could be a useful tool in determining location of action sports park related to accessibility by bike.

➤ *Centre County GIS Public*

Link: https://gissites2.centrecountypa.gov/java/centregis_public

Takeaway: This map can be used to map different routes and locations of amenities in all of Centre County.

Existing Parks Matrix

	Bethlehem	Reid Menzer	Tussey Mountain	Monroeville	Lancaster	Hill Street, Frederick MD	Lake Fairfax
Size	26,250 sq. ft	23,000 sq. ft. (initial plan) 32,200 sq. ft. (after expansion)	10,000 sq. ft. of ramps		13,200 sq. ft.	17,000 sq. ft.	16,000 sq. ft.
Yearly Usage	50-200/day	20,000/yr	Unsure		Unsure	Unknown	
Devices Accomodated	Skateboards, BMX, Skates, Scooters	Skateboards, BMX (not a complete list!)	Skateboards, BMX, Skates, Scooters	Skateboards, BMX, Skates (no scooters)	Skateboards, skates (no bikes or scooters)	Skateboards and Rollerblades	
Cost to operate	\$0 (money comes out of Parks and Rec. general fund)	Maintinence endowment fund of \$100,000 - \$130,000	~\$8,500 every other year		Maintenance - \$1,250/yr (includes \$13,000 surface reno divided for park life of 18 years)	Concrete repair line item that varies from 10 to 15K	
Hours of Operation	Dawn-dusk everyday (weather permitting)	Dawn-Dusk everyday	9am - 7pm daily April 16 - November 1 (weather depending)		Dawn-Dusk everyday (weather permitting)	Dawn-9pm	Dawn-Dusk or 8:15 pm
Staffed?	No	No	Yes, office staff		No, Park rangers monitor as part of their regular patrol	No	No
Safety Equipmtent Required?	No, but recommended		Yes, helmets required - visitors must sign waiver	No, but strongly recommended	Yes	No, but recommended	No, but strongly recommended
Neighborhood/area	Near Sands Casino and Residential Area	City Park, near residential area and high school	Ski area near golf course	In a park, near but secluded from residential area	Within park, 0.5 miles from residential area and downtown	Residential	Park, buffered by woods
Located on school property?	No, Public Property	No	No, Private Property	No, Public Park	No, Public Property (544-acre county park)	No, Public Park	No, county park
Cost of Construction	Phase 1: \$954,000 Phase 2: \$450,000 Total: \$1,404,000	\$334,000 (initial budget) \$500,000 (for expansion) \$834,000 (Total)			\$633,916	\$450,000	
Sources of Funding	Grants (CDBG, DCNR), donations, city budget	Private Donations and Fundraising			PA-DCNR Grants Funding \$272,000 and County Bond Funding \$361,916	CIP Project	
On-site amenities	Restrooms, bicycle rack, landscaping, lighting, shade structure, seating on paved courtyard		Snacks, drinks, two restrooms, and a building to sit in and cool off in		There are picnic areas outside the skate park and there is a portable toilet in the parking lot.	Pavilion, restrooms, lighting	Lighting, restrooms, parking lot
Lessons Learned	Buy in from the skate community has been huge because it has been self-policing. Andy Po from					Worked with a local skate shop, during construction. Their insight regarding slopes and transitions was fantastic. Our park is all concrete. I would	
Other Notes	Homebase Skateshop has been a big advocate and kinda of like the Pied Piper of the users.			Children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult		limit the amount of concrete due to the freeze and thaw climate here in the mid-Atlantic.	

Key
Direct Contact with park
From Website
Speculation
No Response

Appendix C

Public Input

Spring 2017

Sustainable Communities Collaborative

Project Profile:

Community Action Sports Park

Completed by: RPTM 433 (Program Evaluation and Research Methods)

Course Instructor: Lauren Abbott

Community Partner: State College Borough

Community Contact: Alan Sam

Course Objectives

RPTM 433 is a required course for the Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management degree. The goal of this course is to provide students with the background necessary to understand and evaluate research reports and to conduct research projects of moderate complexity in the field of recreation, parks, and tourism management. This course focuses on using a hands-on, practical research project to better understand evaluation methods and processes.

Community Objective

State College Borough proposes to construct an Action Sports Park on public property (park or other open space) within the Borough boundary. An Action Sports Park or “skate park” provides a space for people to skateboard, ride bikes or scooters, rollerblade, etc. The project concept has been approved by Borough Council and is listed in the 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Program. The Borough anticipates formation of an ad hoc committee made up of residents that will help identify the ideal location for the facility. Through this collaborative, the Borough aimed to gain additional knowledge about the benefits (and problems) of Action Sports Parks, what components successful Parks have in common, and assistance with surveying Borough resident preferences. The information collected for this class project will be given to the ad hoc committee.

The Project

Introduction

The purpose of this project was for students to participate in an applied research study within the field of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management. Students gained hands-on research experience and helped the State College Borough better understand residents’ perceptions and attitudes towards the proposed Action Sports Park. Additionally, students used evaluation methods to write a literature review related to action sports parks and a case study that examines parks in areas comparable to State College. To aid the State College Borough in gathering residents’ opinions about the proposed action sports park, the class was split into four groups that used different research methods: 1) focus groups with residents, 2) stakeholder interviews, 3) online survey, and 4) focus groups with local youth.

Research Questions

The four groups used mixed research methods to answer these research questions:

- What are State College area residents’ attitudes and perceptions towards the proposed action sports park?
- Where is an ideal location for the proposed park?

Resident Focus Group

Students in this group conducted 5 focus group sessions with local residents. They advertised for the event via an email invite that was distributed to local neighborhood list serves. An

advertisement was also placed on the platform used to distribute the online survey, PlaceSpeak. The focus group sessions were held in Borough Building and 31 adults attended the event. Students facilitated open discussions regarding the proposed Action Sports Park. They created a series of open-ended questions that would ultimately answer their research questions. Focus groups were recorded, transcribed, and analyzed for reoccurring themes. The students determined that the main themes were location of the park, supervision of park users, safety features, and whether or not the park would be located within the State College Borough. The students concluded that there was support for the new Action Sports Park in Centre Region, especially with regard to the opportunities for social bonding and exercise. Some residents felt the park should be accessible to users from a broad area. However, the preferred location is not in a residential area. The group also determined that there is concern for the safety and liability of park users.

Figure 1. RPTM433 students facilitating a focus group session with residents



Stakeholder Interviews

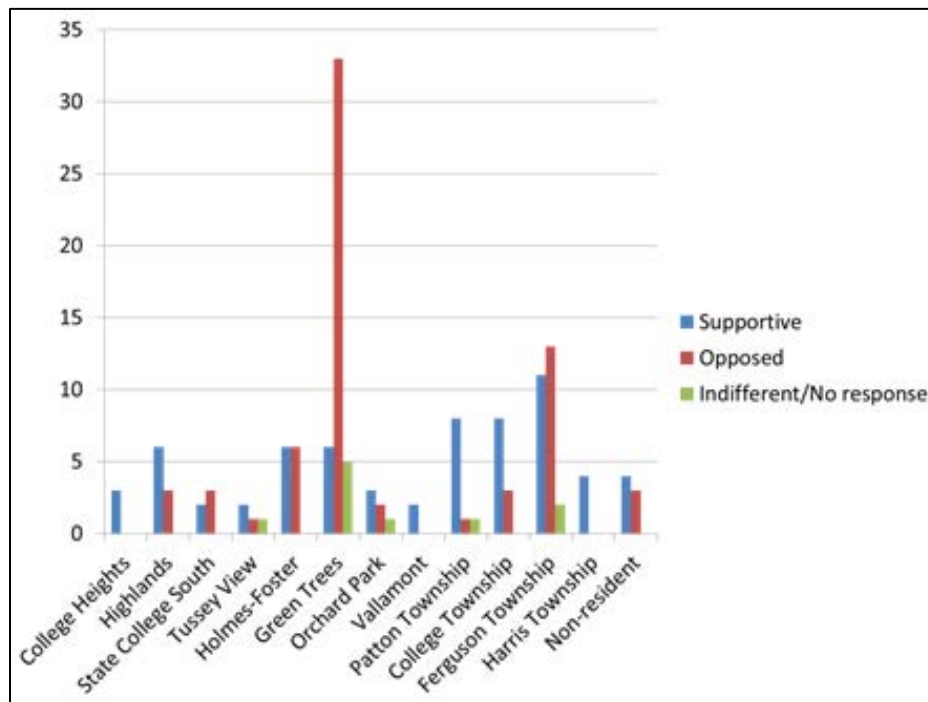
Students in this group conducted semi-structured interviews with 6 stakeholders that are involved with the proposed Action Sports Park. Interviews were recorded, transcribed, and coded for reoccurring themes. Themes included: youth development, the location of the park, and community wellbeing. Results from the interviews showed that some stakeholders are very supportive of the benefits an Action Sports Park would provide, but the location of the park is very controversial. There was consensus that the park would increase social interaction among young park users and improve the community through positive health benefits. Students

determined that location is the most important factor to community members. No one stakeholder was against the idea of a park but there were strong views on where the park should be placed.

Online Survey

Students in this group designed and analyzed an online survey that was conducted through an online community platform called PlaceSpeak. A link to the survey was sent via email to neighborhood groups and advertised online via Facebook. The survey consisted of both open and close ended questions, as well as, an innovative tool that allowed respondents to place on a map, an ideal park location. A total of 143 residents answered the complete survey (n=143). PlaceSpeak also allowed students to identify the location of respondents, so they could analyze responses based on residence. For example, the majority of those who were opposed to the proposed Action Sports Park were residents from Green Trees neighborhood (Figure 2). Results from the survey show that respondents have positive attitudes towards action sports participants and the benefits an Action Sports Park can provide. The survey did not determine an ideal location for the park. The students found there to be mixed feelings about the preferred location of the proposed Action Sports Park.

Figure 2. Percent of respondents supportive or opposed to the project by neighborhood



Youth Focus Group

Students in this group recruited youth from a local middle school and high school to participate in a focus group to discuss their perceptions of a proposed Action Sports Park. It was important

for the class to collect information about the opinions of both adults and children in the community. Three separate focus group sessions were facilitated by students. They were recorded, transcribed, and coded for reoccurring themes (Figure 2). For both the high school and middle school focus groups, major themes were park access, locations, and safety. The students determined that focus group participants were highly interested in action sports and the proposed park. Orchard Park was mentioned as an ideal location because of the ease of access and safety it would provide. They concluded that an outdoor Action Sports Park would provide a safe space for youth to participate in action sports, rather than playing on streets or other open spaces.

Figure 3. Word Cloud showing reoccurring words used by youth focus group participants



Conclusion

Students in RPTM433 designed and analyzed an applied research project with results that will be useful to the State College Borough as they develop an Action Sports Park. At the conclusion of the semester, the four groups met to discuss generally, the implications of their class projects. Their data shows that State College residents have mixed views towards the proposed project. In moving forward, the Borough should consider the opinions of all stakeholders when deciding on an ideal location for the park. The four research studies conducted by this class had several limitations, with the main being the lack of generalizability of the results. The class was unable to reach all residents and gather a large variety of perceptions. These studies were successful in providing the State College Borough with preliminary data and information that will be useful to the future ad hoc committee that will ultimately decide on the ideal location for the park.

Putting Action in the Borough of State College: Action Sports Park Proposal

Online Survey Final Research Report

By: Kashia Quay, Torrence Brown, Liz Clark, Richard Lani and Nick Murray

Executive Summary

Action sports parks offer refuge for participants of nontraditional sports such as skateboarding, BMX biking, rollerblading and scootering from the societal stereotypes and restraints of their ability to recreate. There is an existing body of literature that provides evidence that provides evidence of the benefits of action sports parks being developed in communities, as well as the positive and negative attitudes that surround these sports and those who participate in them. Through an online survey, we gathered nonexperimental, quantitative data from Centre Region community residents regarding their attitudes and beliefs of action sports park users and action sports parks. We also wanted to find possible locations that this type of park could be developed in, without causing any issues to local residents. Findings suggested that attitudes toward these individuals are neutral, and the major concern of respondents was primarily the location of the proposed skate park within the Borough of State College.

Outcomes of this study provide a better understanding of the concerns of local residents that could be affected by the addition of an action sports park within the Borough. In addition, we were able to gain a better understanding of the perceived benefits that an action sports park development would have on different groups within the community, and the importance of environmentally focused designs.

Introduction

State College is an interesting area that is vastly populated with young and adventurous emerging adults. The community is filled with attractions to keep both youth and adults in the area active. For example, we have open fields for activities, such as, Ultimate Frisbee, Intramural Sports, whiffle ball, etc. Our area is also known for hiking, mountain biking, and rock climbing. Although we are a very active community, we are lacking in the area of action sports parks.

Action sports parks are designated for activities such as skateboarding, BMX bike riding, and rollerblading. Alan Sam, the Environmental Coordinator/Arborist for the Borough of State College and a consultant in the study we are conducting, explained to us that there seems to be a misconception of individuals that skateboard and do other action sports. They are kind of looked at as hooligans or troublemakers by some people. This problem is clearly significant because Jamie Bestwick, a well-known X games BMX athlete, is getting involved by advocating for the park. He is the individual that started the idea of adding an action sports park in State College. He has been pretty helpful so far with providing the background about the study we are working on.

The purpose of this study is to determine the overall feelings of the community in regard to the addition of an action sports park and give a voice to the community members on the idea of an action sports park in their community. Since it is illegal to do these action sports in the public streets and sidewalks, it is important that they have a place where they are allowed to participate in such activities. We want to answer several research questions, such as, what location would be most preferred for an action sports park? What are the thoughts and feelings towards people who participate in action sports? What is the overall consensus for putting an action sports park in the Borough of State College? What are the perceived benefits and possible drawbacks to building an action sports park into the community? It is important to get these questions answered by individuals in the community because community input is important and necessary to better understand thoughts on implementing an action sports park.

Case Studies

The following Case Studies are very important because they give a different perspective

of action sport parks from several different locations. It is necessary to get a different perspective for these types of cases to enhance your understanding of action sports parks in communities. Another reason why these studies are important is because they show examples of different scenarios which could possibly give you a different view of the task at hand. Each case study is unique and important in its own way.

Location: Calgary, Alberta Canada

Shaw Millennium Skatepark was built in 2000 and is the largest skatepark in North America (“Shaw Millennium Park”). It was Calgary’s attempt to bring down tensions between skaters and the community. It faced its share of opposition, but was eventually accepted into the community. It was very successful and now offers places to skate as well as a variety of other things like fashion events, and volleyball. Pertaining to our situation, it is much bigger and in more of a cityscape. There is now discussion regarding the implementation of more skateparks around the city. Skaters have expressed that Shaw Millennium is outdated and that it was not designed by skaters meaning it has its flaws (Johnston, 2015).

Location: San Diego, California

In 2010, a group of young people came together to raise money for a skatepark. Their biggest issues was funding and getting approval from the district. The community did not have that many parks and they saw it as a moderately safe place for kids to be. As of now, the park has not been built yet due to construction complications (Senzee, 2016). The first construction company was fired for failing to meet the stipulations listed in the contract, but the company claims otherwise. The community is facing loss of faith issues with regards to the construction of the park. The construction company claims it needs more time to build it so that it is safe, while

the district claims that the company was just dragging its heels.

Location: Encinitas, California

A man named Thomas Barker rallied the community of skaters of Encinitas to push their city council into building a skate park which the community had been trying to get approved for about a decade in 2009. He created a Facebook page and got over 2500 likes on it to help show that the community supported the proposal. A 13000 square foot park was built as the result. Barker claims that using Tony Hawk's 'Public Skate Park Development Guide' helped him dispel some of the stigma surrounding skateboarding. He also said that staying informed and attending town meetings is important as well (Bradstreet, 2012).

Methods

We used a nonexperimental, quantitative research method by utilizing an online survey for data collection. This type of method helped to describe respondents' attitudes, beliefs and behaviors in a convenient, non-threatening approach. The procedures we followed to provide possible respondents with the ability to access the survey will include several different channels, including utilizing an email list provided by the Borough of State College, as well as social media outlets. We created the survey on the PlaceSpeak platform, which gave us the ability to design a well-developed survey, but also gain critical information about the respondents of the survey. This gave us the capability to analyze not only the responses of the survey, but also the area within the region that the respondents reside. This helped us pinpoint which area residents are participating and in turn can correlate responses based on the specific districts within the overall survey area. Prior to publishing our survey, we developed a letter that was emailed by the Borough of State College to inform residents about our project and the upcoming survey. Once

the survey was closed, we analyzed the results and then reported them to the Borough of State College, in order for them to be more confident in making decisions regarding this topic.

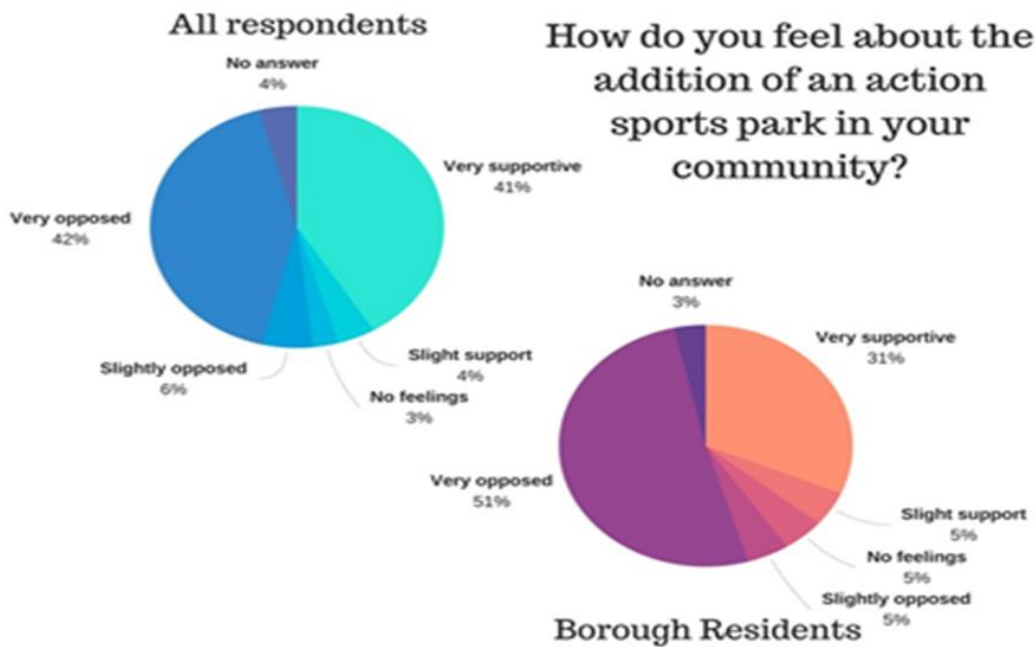
Our sample consisted of residents within the region, as recognized by the Centre Region Parks and Recreation service area. The five municipalities that this included were the Borough of State College, College Township, Patton Township, Ferguson Township and Harris Township. We selected our sample using non-probabilistic sampling methods, specifically the convenience sample. We were provided with an email list from the Borough of State College, which was our starting sample. We then utilized social media platforms to spread the sample to more residents of the area, by sharing it with our own friends and family, as well as posting it to community board within the sample population area. By utilizing these two outlets to distribute the survey, the convenience sample was the best method because it provided us with people who are easy to reach. According to the Centre Region Profile (2015), the population of these five municipalities totals at about 90,000 residents. Based on this information, in order to obtain a confidence level of 95%, we needed a sample size of 383 respondents to accurately represent the population as a whole.

Results

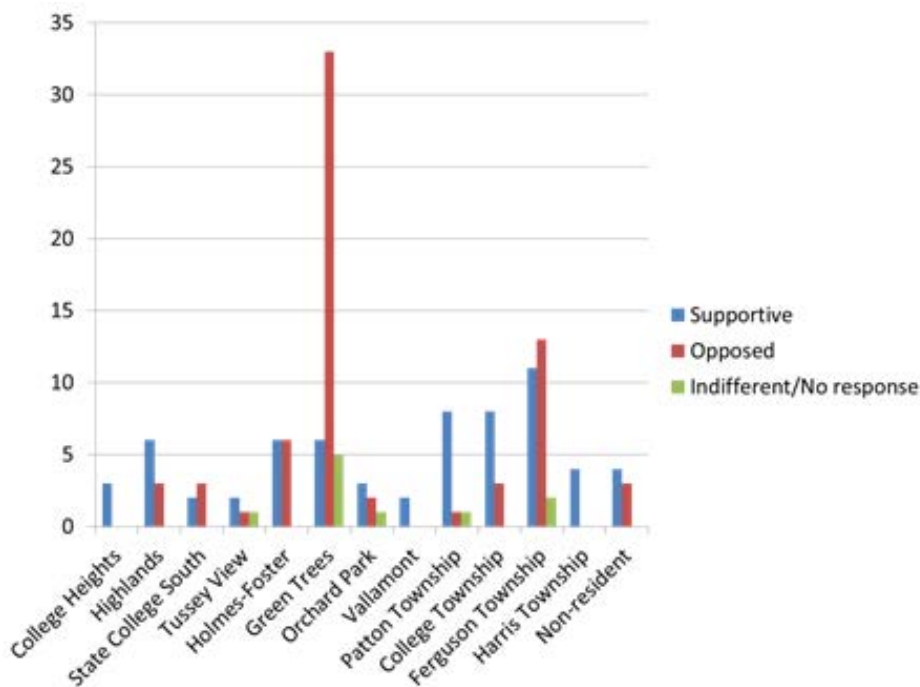
There were a total of 143 respondents of our survey, coming from the Borough of State College, the four surrounding townships within the Centre Region, as well as several locations in the outlying area. 79% of the respondents were Borough of State College residents, with some sort of representation coming from each of the individual neighborhoods within the Borough. 63% of our respondents fall between the ages of 26 and 60 years old. The gender of our respondents was closely distributed, with 64 women and 61 men who answered the question regarding gender. An estimated 53% of our respondents had children, with ages ranging between

newborn through 18 years old.

After asking respondents where they would prefer to have an action sports park developed in the Borough of State College, the responses encompassed several themes. Accessibility was referenced several times. “Anywhere that is accessible, by bike, from town. Cyclists don't put their bike on the car to drive where they then ride.... they just ride there.” and “The best place for such a park would be close enough to downtown, and connected to other areas of state college via bike/pedestrian paths. That way, children and teens would have safe passage to and from the park. If the park was too far away, it wouldn't be used.” were two quotes that mentioned accessibility. Orchard park was another theme that referenced preferred location with negative and positive responses. “Despite the concerns of my neighbors, I feel Orchard Park is ideally situated given its proximity to State College Area High School, Community Fields, Welch Pool, existing Bike Path, and student rental housing along Waupelani, Southgate, and Stratford Drives,” and “it should be in a regional park, not in the borough. It should not be in a residential neighborhood. It should not be at Orchard Park.” are two of several responses that mentioned orchard park in reference to location. The graph below shows the percentages for all the respondents and borough respondents that it was split on how supportive or opposed they were for the action sports park.



Based on responses from specific neighborhoods, the graph below shows the residents in the Centre Region that were supportive, opposed, and indifferent of the proposed action sports park.



More than half the respondents stated the importance of the proposed action sports park to include an environmentally focused design that would allow for dual purposes and an aesthetically pleasing design. 33% of respondents stated that they or their family members would be likely to use an action sports park in the area and for teens, youth, community, and college students about 50% for each category would benefit from the park. A majority of respondents agreed that users of action sports park are responsible, are creative thinkers, are valued members of the community, and are members that care about their community. Respondents disagreed that users of action sports parks participate in vandalism, are violent, don't do well in school, and are rebellious. Also, a majority of respondents agreed that action sports parks would help increase physical activity, provide a safe and supportive setting, would offer more social interactions for youth, and provide new recreational opportunities.

Conclusion

After analyzing our data from our survey we have come with a couple generalized conclusions. Our conclusions are meant to provide a synopsis of the community's views on this controversial topic, which are subject to the responses we received on our survey. While our conclusions may not apply to everyone living in the borough and surrounding areas, we are forming them based on the responses directly from our survey. Additionally, there are limits to what our survey could accomplish, as well as factors out of our control that may have affected these conclusions prior to the survey existence.

The first conclusion is that amongst all of the respondents, the majority of them were either very supportive or very opposed to the action sports park. These two answers made up of about 80% of the responses and suggest that the majority of respondents were very opinionated

on this topic. That leaves about 20% of respondents that did not feel extremely strongly one way or the other on the subject. Inferring from this, we have concluded that this topic was of serious concern to the public. We believe this result is due to the past attention from media and concerned residents regarding the project, which caused some people to take action before the borough had even put together a fully developed proposal. In other words, people had already begun forming opinions on this subject long before our survey was administered.

The second conclusion that can be made from our results is that location is key to the support, or lack thereof, of this project. Respondents seemed to be overwhelmingly against the park being put into the Green Trees area. Responses ranged in the location to put the park and there did not seem to be a consensus, or highly agreed upon location, as to exactly where would be the best location for the proposed park. A reason for this is because people have different ideas on where a park should and should not be for reasons like safety, noise, and many other noted reasons.

Our limitations on this survey have earned us some negative feedback. As noted from sources against the park, they claimed we did not fully hear their side when we were constructing the survey, and therefore could not contrive a proper, fully informed survey that left fewer holes in it. By this they meant that we had only heard the side of the pro-action sports park people and they felt that some of our questions were biased and not important to the overall topic. We also did not reach the required sample size of 393 noted in our methods section, to accurately represent the population as a whole. We only received just over one third of the total number of responses that we needed.

Overall, our survey did what we had intended it to do. It gathered public opinion and was

able to get a sense of where people stood in regards to some specifics like location. The only major problem is that it may not fully represent the public's opinion, due to the fact that the majority of respondents came from a handful of clusters of neighborhoods near potential locations. We were able to answer our initial research questions using the information gathered from our survey responses.

The Borough of State College should conduct future research in order to advance their knowledge of the community's opinions of the development of this park and regarding the location of this development. They should utilize a combination of several research methods, both qualitative and quantitative. Their focus should be primarily on the possible locations that the action sports park will be developed, and less on the attitudes and beliefs of residents regarding action sports park users. They need to make sure that a good sample size is taken into consideration and that all voices are heard in the matter, rather than just those that are either strongly for or against the action sports park.

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Survey

Introductory Questions

1. How beneficial do you think the action sports park would be to the Centre Region?
 - a. Very beneficial
 - b. Somewhat beneficial
 - c. Neither beneficial or problematic
 - d. Somewhat problematic
 - e. Very problematic
 - f. No response
2. Based on the scale below, how popular do you believe that action sports (skateboarding, BMX biking, rollerblading) are in the State College area?
 - a. Very popular
 - b. Somewhat popular
 - c. Somewhat unpopular
 - d. Very unpopular
 - e. I don't know
3. Prior to taking this survey, have you heard of the proposed addition of an action sports park in the region?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. No answer
4. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: skateboarders and action sports athletes currently cause problems in public areas (sidewalks, streets, parking lots) in State College.
 - a. Very much agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Very much disagree
 - f. No response

Skate Park Participants Attitudes

How much to you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding action sports park users and action sports participants?

5. Individuals who participate in action sports take part in vandalism.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree

- c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
6. Individuals who participate in action sports are responsible.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
7. Individuals who participate in action sports possess creative thinking skills.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
8. Individuals who participate in action sports would utilize an action sports park facility over using public areas (roads, sidewalks, parking lots).
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
9. Individuals who participate in action sports are valued members of the community.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
10. Individuals who participate in action sports care about their community.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer

11. Individuals who participate in action sports are violent.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
12. Individuals who participate in action sports participate in substance abuse
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
13. Individuals who participate in action sports do not do well in school.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
14. Individuals who participate in action sports are rebellious.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
15. Individuals who participate in action sports are a nuisance.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer

Skate Park Attitudes

How much to you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding action sports parks?

16. Action skate parks could help increase youth physical activity.

- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
17. Action sports parks are capable of providing an outlet for users to experience success in a safe and supportive setting.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
18. Action sports parks offer more social interaction for youth that have common interests.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
19. Action sports parks can provide new recreational opportunities and choices for those interested in using the facility.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
20. Action sports parks could reduce the amount of individuals using public areas (streets, sidewalks, parking lots) as a means to participate in sports.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
21. Action sports parks could result in increased violence in the surrounding area.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree

- c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
22. Action sports parks could result in increased property damage and vandalism in the surrounding area.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
23. Action sports parks could result in increased substance abuse in the surrounding area.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer
24. Action sports parks could result in younger users learning bad behaviors, such as swearing, fighting, drug use and vandalism.
- a. Strongly agree
 - b. Slightly agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Slightly disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. No answer

Action Sports Park Use

25. How likely would you or your family use an action sports park, if developed in the State College area?
- a. Very likely
 - b. Somewhat likely
 - c. Unsure
 - d. Somewhat unlikely
 - e. Very unlikely
 - f. No response
26. Who do you think will benefit from the action sports park? (Check all that apply)
- a. Community
 - b. Youth

- c. Teens
 - d. College students
 - e. Adults
27. How important is it to you that the proposed action sports park provides environmentally focused design that would allow for dual purposes such as rain/snow collection?
- a. Very important
 - b. Slightly important
 - c. Slightly unimportant
 - d. Very unimportant
 - e. No response
28. How important is it to you that the proposed action sports park is designed to be visually appealing?
- a. Very important
 - b. Slightly important
 - c. Slightly unimportant
 - d. Very unimportant
 - e. No response
29. How do you feel about the addition of an action sports park in your community?
- a. Very supportive
 - b. Slightly supportive
 - c. I don't have a feeling about it
 - d. Slightly opposed
 - e. Very opposed
 - f. No response

About you

30. What is your age?
- a. Under 18 years old
 - b. 18-25 years old
 - c. 26-40 years old
 - d. 41-60 years old
 - e. 61 and above years old
 - f. No response
31. What is your gender?
- a. Female
 - b. Male
 - c. No answer
32. Do you have children? If so, what ages are they? (check all that apply)
- a. Newborn-4 years old
 - b. 5-11 years old

- c. 12-15 years old
 - d. 15-18 years old
 - e. I don't have children
33. What is your connection to the Centre Region? (check all that apply)
- a. Resident
 - b. College student
 - c. Visitor
 - d. Other

Tell us more

34. Where would you prefer to have an action sports park developed in the Borough of State College?
35. Do you have any specific concerns regarding the addition of an action sports park? If yes, please explain.

Community Perspectives on an Action Sports Park in the State College Borough

By: RPTM 433 (Stakeholders Interviews)

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Introduction

This study was conducted by students in the Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Management Program at Penn State. These students conducted multiple interviews to provide insight into the community perspective on the creation of an action sports park in State College. The Borough of State College currently restricts the use of bikes and skateboards on its streets and the community feels that this problem needs to be address. Violators are subject to substantial fines and possibly confiscation of their bike or skateboard. The borough has been working with members of the community to plan and build an action sports park to provide a safe alternative to skating and biking on the streets of State College. The purpose of this study is to determine how the members of the community feel about action sports and the creation of a park in their own borough. In addition to the general perception of action sports parks, another focus of this study is to determine where members of the community feel the best location for a park is based on proximity to downtown State College and its surrounding neighborhoods. The main question that this study aims to answer is how do community members feel they will be impacted by an action sports park. It is very important to take their opinions into consideration when the use of public space is in question. The members of this community will ultimately be the ones who will have to live with and use the park.

Related Literature

Case Study #1:

NAME: Garrett Hysmith Skate Park (Apart of the Southwood Athletic Park)

LOCATION: College Station, Texas

Developer: SPA Skateparks

Opeining: 2011

The construction of a multiple use action sports park was completed in 2011 as an addition to the Southwood Athletic park in College Station, Texas. The park was designed with community input from skaters of varying backgrounds and skill levels. The park contains several elements to allow skaters to practice in a variety of environments. College Station is a city of around 100,000 people and this expansion of the athletic park has increased guest visitation to the park. Because of the influx of visitors to the skate park section of the park has also increased visitorship to the other areas of the athletic complex. Since the construction of the park only minor maintenance has been needed to keep the skate park in operational condition. This includes repairs due to normal wear and tear such as filling in cracks and removal of graffiti that has appeared over time. Based on observations and research on the project, the overall costs associated with the construction have been outweighed by the community benefits of the park. The increased physical activity by the youth in the area helps to build a culture of physical

activeness in the community. The new public space also has created an additional location for community gathering and engagement.

Case Study #2:

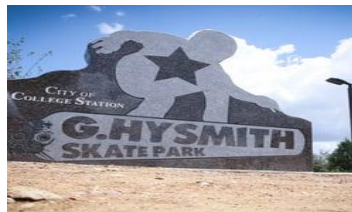
Name: Eccles Skate Park

Location: Manchester, England

Developer: Aylesford Parrish council

Opening: June 4th, 2015

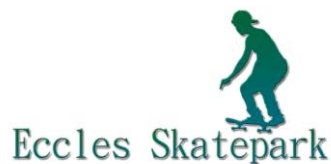
Aylesford Parrish council members in Manchester, England noticed the Eccles skate park was falling apart and was not as attractive as it was when it was first built. Instead of demolishing it, the council members decided to give upgrade. They decided to upgrade it and completed by the summer, and the least 20 years.



discussed were trying to the skate park or replace the Eccles skate park an since it would be faster upgrades would last at

The biggest issues that were decide what materials to use, reconstructing the surface or not, and if they wanted to add any new ramps or not. Eccles skate parks ramps were “upgraded from wooden surfaces and an all steel frame to an all steel construction” (Martorell, 2015). The previous wooden surfaces had to be regularly maintained and repaired, so the customer was very attracted to the idea of an all steel frame skate park.

Local users were allowed to speak up and provide their input regarding additions or upgrades they would have liked to see. Park users were able to be in the early planning stages and were involved throughout the whole process of building, and upgrading the park, and the park manager allowed this because he wanted users to enjoy all aspects of the skate park.



Case Study #3

Name: Calgary Skate Park

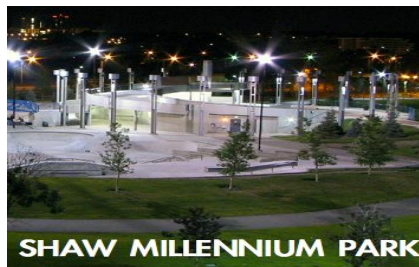
Location: Alberta, Canada

Developer: City of Calgary

Openning: 2000

The City of Calgary is located in Alberta, Canada. In essence Calgary is similar to State College. It is a city of rapid growth and numerous buildings, but it is still connected to its country culture that earned it the nickname “Cowtown”(City of Calgary, 2017). The population is significantly bigger than State College, but it has a similar like atmosphere with the University of Calgary located by the city. They have many established skate parks and some future projects in mind due to the popularity of them (Shaw Millennium Park, 2017).

One of their older skate parks, Shaw Millennium Skatepark. It was established in 2000 and has about 75,000 square feet of skate friendly surfaces. It was designated as a family activity park and special venue and has over 35,000 visitors a year (Shaw Millennium Park, 2017). It is open 24 hours a day and is an important part of the city for every citizen to bond with their family and friends. The city offers skateboarding lessons, as well as, skating boarding



competitions in the summer (Shaw Millennium Park, 2017).

Methods

Our research method was comprised of six different person to person interviews within the State College community. Our sample of interviewees comprised of 6 stakeholders that are heavily involved with the project. There were 10 different stakeholders that were contacted but only six responded and were interviewed. To prevent any sort of bias, the stakeholders had views both for and against the action sports park. Our goal was to ask questions that were general and broad, therefore preventing bias and leading in any way.

Once it was determined who was going to be interviewed, the next step was to schedule a time and place to meet that was most convenient for each stakeholder. The interviews were conducted during the week of March 13-19 and were held in quiet areas in downtown State College or at the stakeholder's place of work. Our group split up into 5 groups of 2 to conduct each interview. One interviewer was held responsible for asking the interview questions while the other was taking notes and observing non-verbal reactions. Once all of the interviews were completed, they were transcribed and analyzed to start to create codes and themes. This sample was used to represent many of the other stakeholders in the community but it was also realized that this is a rather limited data sample.

Timeline

Objective	Description	Date Completed
Develop Research Question	-What are the community perspective of an action sports park in the State College Borough?	3/3
Create Case Studies	-Observe how action sports parks have affected other communities	3/3
Develop Research Methods	-Observe how action sports parks have affected other communities -Use this information to develop interview questions for stakeholders	3/7
Develop Interview Questions	-Create detailed, non-leading, unbiased questions to ask stakeholders	3/10
Choose Interviewees	-Six interviewees out of 10 will be chosen	3/10
Determine Limitations	-Find limitations for our research -Find potential problems that could arise from these limitations	3/13
Conduct Interviews	-Interview stakeholders	3/13-3/24
Analyze Data	-Analyze information gathered in interviews	4/21

Results

We interviewed six stakeholders in the community. Each of these interviews were 20-60 minutes long. Each interview had the same 13 questions that were used to gather the data as scene below, Appendix A. Each constituent gave us a community perspective and helped add to our data needed for the borough.

General themes were noticeable throughout the 6 interviews and helped create general patterns that allowed us to compile our data. Common themes like location were brought up frequently and was a definite concern for many of the constituents. Determining the location for the proposed action sports park is one of the biggest concerns for both individuals who are for and opposed to the park. Other prominent themes include, community concerns and safety. Through our interview we determined that the community is concerned about the negative impact the park will have on their property values. Other interviewees stated the concern that it is illegal to skate in the State College borough and that they should have a place to legally go. Concerns about how the sports park would negatively affect the community were mentioned throughout the interviews. However, social and community benefits were also discussed and a positive light on the project was definitely defined. Some of our sample stakeholders were concerned about the building of the park, but others saw the community benefits of it, as well as, the social benefits. How the park will be managed and cared for was another important topic that was acknowledged throughout many of the stakeholder's interviews. Below are the major themes that came out of the interviews:

General Themes

Location

Determining the location for the proposed action sports park is one of the biggest concerns for both individuals who are for and against the action sports park. The proposed location of Orchard Park has led to homeowners in a neighboring housing development to openly express their opinions against the action sports park. Reasons for change of the location of Orchard Park include "Property value decline, noise, crime, impact on the environment, umm safety." as stated by several of the stakeholders that were interviewed. After the interviews, it was recognizable the action sports park location is a major topic on everyone's mind and proper action must take place. Certain locations were mentioned one of them being, Whitehall Park where the community is more open to sports related activity. "Whitehall is designed for this action and weather permitting action. Whitehall is walkable and it's a place where noise takes place, Whitehall is great because it has parking." Another comment was added in an interview from a State College community member in regards to the culture and location of the town. He says, "There are a lot of kids who like to ride this type of terrain and currently there is no place in

State College for them. There is no place like State College; you go to any other town, you don't see people out riding bikes. Here – every player is out riding a bike. It's a very, very sports-centric town, very, very active town.” One community member stated, he believes that it is very important that the location of the park is accessible for kids of all ages to safely travel to. He says, “I still think Orchard Park is the best spot – by far. It is close to the high school, it's along a major established bike path. That route is a route that's used every day. It has to be something within town where 8, 9 and 10-year-old kids can ride there.” There are mixed reactions from the stakeholder's on where the action sports park should be, different locations were mentioned, but not one location was more favorable than another.

Community Benefits:

From our sample, it seems as though the community sees benefits that the proposed action sports park can provide for the borough and for the surrounding area. A couple of the stakeholders can see the benefit of it, only if community focused events occur at the sports park. They also believe if a community friendly environment is provided there that it will in turn be beneficial to the community. “We have clinics and grand openings, we have demos, we bring in some of his (Jamie Bestwick) friends and pros and do an event where it could be a competition, something where people are going to watch, but it's bringing it into the area to educate folks, where you can start here as a basic skater or rider, there's opportunity for everybody” One of our stakeholders has seen other communities benefit from action sports parks and he believes with the right support it would be beneficial to the State College community. “When I have seen these parks work in locations for other people, the location and park itself are used to benefit the community. If you have the town behind the project and everyone on board then it can be an environmentally sustainable park that everyone is for. For example, there is a large park in Chicago now called They Dig and they have used this site with the communities help to turn it into one of these parks.” Another stakeholder commented on the criminality of the act of skateboarding in the borough and felt that the creation of a park would change the attitude of many skaters and bikers saying “it puts them in a pre-conceived notion that they are a criminal. If you don't provide an alternative to the activities that these kids want to do, they will choose to be criminals. I don't care if it is vandalism. It's not going to stop me from grinding your curb. I'm going to do it anyways.” he later added “It made no difference to me when I was 13 years old because I didn't have anyone there to say we should not do that here. Let's do that over here where it is safe and its controlled; where we can develop this and we can have a community aspect for this.” Ultimately, most of our sample believes the community will benefit in some way from the action sports park in the State College area.

Safety

Safety has been a theme that has come up throughout the interview process. Determining how the park is going to be policed is a concern to community members according to our sample. “What you do to police safety because if they self-police each other, you could say hey get your

elbow pads and helmet and they could say nah I'm good, you fall, you have a head injury. Where's the liability in that and who does the liability fall too", concerned community members want to have a piece of mind that their children will be safe and healthy in an environment that is unstructured.

Having a safe environment for kids to participant in action sports park is important to some our interviewees. One concerned father and citizen stated, "Well, I have a fifteen year old son and he is a skateboarder and it is not legal for him to be a skateboarder in state college. So, I think it is a ridiculous, in this day and age, to put him in that position" A couple of people stated, that it is unfair that they do not have a place to legally skate. The borough provides a plethora of options for children who play sports like baseball and football, but no safe alternative for kids who skate or bike. It is safer for them to build a park than have them illegally skate throughout skate college. The interviewee went on to say, "Kids are riding BMX, riding skateboards – they're in the streets – and a lot of places that's frowned upon." According to skateparks.org there were 26 deaths in 2015 - all of which were on the streets - or in other words no fatalities occurred within a skate park.

Community Concerns:

There are community concerns regarding the action sports park and how it will affect the State College community. Various reasoning was provided, to include; property value, noise, safety, drugs, violence, and impact on the environment. One interviewee stated, "It would kill our property values. And again, we've put a lot into this house. We've added on to it, we maintain it, we wanted to stay here, and I wouldn't have done it if I would have known they were going to kill our property value." Concerned members of the community are worried about the costs to build and maintain the park and has said, "It makes more sense to put it in a regional park. It makes more sense because you have five municipalities contributing to a huge expense that this would be." Other community members are concerned about their children if the park is not built. Since it is an illegal activity in State College he stated, "one of the first conversations we ever had to have when he was learning how to skate was here's how you talk to cops." Overall, our stakeholders have general community concerns about the building of an action sports park in the State College area, whether it be about their property value or costs the community is concerned for multiple reasons.

Management:

Management has been a concern from many community members. It seems that there is a collective agreement that there is potential for an action sports park to not receive proper supervision and guidance on a daily basis. However, in an interview with a stakeholder he has a different perspective to add based on his experience. "There is a spirit of cooperation that forms in a skate park area, as long as it's done right there's no problems with it, it's a positive thing all

the way around. The thing I have noticed from any kind of dirt-jump facility, action sports park – people keep an eye on each other. The older kids look after the younger kids, people are polite to one another, they take their turns – there’s an etiquette to them.”

Below is a Word-Doodle of some of the common themes that were brought up during the interviews and the larger the word is the more that theme was brought up.



(Figure 1: Represents most common themes brought up during our interviews)

Discussion:

Through the research process we have been able to place the community perception of action sports parks in the borough and have made recommendations on how the borough should proceed.

The data that we collected points to mixed emotions within community members. There were several stakeholders in our study that proved to be extreme outliers in our data set and provided both extreme opposition as well as extreme support for the development of the project. Overall, the general reaction of the proposed park is positive throughout the community. There arose a common theme in every interview we conducted and that was “location”. Location is the most important factor to community members. No one stakeholder was against the idea of a park but there were strong views on where the park should be placed. To appease all stakeholders an area must be found and developed that is easily accessible to both town & gown, while not interfering with residents in residential areas. If the action sports park is put to good use, there is belief in some of the stakeholders that it will benefit the community. This benefit can be seen in

both the Calgary Skate Park and the Eccles Skate Park. Both these parks showed a positive impact in the community and the current State College community wants the same thing. In order to have the support of the sports park by some community members they need to provide family community events at the park. It is thought that events like professional and nonprofessional competitions will bring not only people from the community together, but also bring more outside revenue into the community.

While some community members believe it will benefit the community, others have concerns. According to a couple of stakeholders in our sample they are worried about the decrease of their property if the park is built in their neighborhood. They feel that cementing a green space in the borough will destroy property values for those around. With families that have mortgages, this can be a detrimental aspect. One of the stakeholders stated “It would kill our property values. And again, we’ve put a lot into this house. We’ve added on to it, we maintain it, we wanted to stay here, and I wouldn’t have done it if I would have known they were going to kill our property value. I mean if the house on the corner just sold and it was worth 250,000 dollars, if that skate park was there it’s not selling for that. It’s selling for 150,000, it’s losing money.” Others mentioned their concern about what it is going to cost to build and maintain an action sports park. Concerns of limiting the park to one of two specific sports also arose.

With many community perspectives on the action sports park in the State College Borough it is imperative that everyone gets a say in the final verdict. As many stakeholders stated, having a park that was maintained by the people for the people is the best assurance that it will be well maintained and provide the benefits that everyone wants out of the park. Almost everyone agrees that a park is needed for the State College community but coming to a consensus on the location of this park and how the park should be implemented still needs some more research.

Limitations

Although six stakeholders should be able to provide quality information, they do not speak for everyone. With 4 confirmed stakeholders being vastly for the skate park and 2 stakeholders known to be against it, confirming that these stakeholders possess the information we wish to collect is imperative.

Another limitation of the interview process is the amount of time given. There was little time to get our interviews completed, and with a quick turn around it was hard to analyze all of the data. Furthermore, we are also limited to the amount of time we could spend with each interviewee—their time is valuable and we could not keep them for hours at a time. With the constraint on time, we were to ensure that our interviews are conducted efficiently and in a timely fashion, where attention to detail is imperative.

We were also limited to the amount of information these stakeholders actually possessed. What do they know about Action Sports Parks? Do they have children that use Action Sports Parks? Do they use Action Sports Parks? Have they lived near Action Sports Parks? Have they

built an Action Sports Park? What is their connection to Action Sports Parks? With the limited amount of interviews, it was important to be careful to have well balanced interviews, ensuring to not create a bias in our results. Both for and against themes needed to be created and many more could be developed if time allowed.

Future Research

There exists a strong need for further community research to form a acceptable conclusion as to the optimal location for the proposed land development project. Further research should be conducted over a longer period of time and larger, more representative sample should be collected. Measures should also be put in place to limit the effects of outlier data. Future research must also include more input from students regarding the proposed park to further establish an estimated use value for the entire community. We recommend the use of more interviews with relevant stakeholders and also advocate to open more opportunities for dialogue between members of the local government and members of the community.

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Appendix

Interview Questions:

Interview Questions:

1. What role does action sports (like BMX, biking, skateboarding, etc.) play in your life?
2. How long have you been involved in action sports?
3. How long have you lived in Centre Region?
4. What is your involvement in the proposed action sports park?
5. What benefits do you think the park will provide to the community?
1. What group will benefit the most from the action sports park (high school kids, university students, etc)?
6. What will the drawbacks to building an action sports park be?
7. Where would be an ideal location for the proposed action sports park?
1. Why is this an ideal location?
8. Is there a location you can think of that would NOT be an ideal location for the park?
1. Why is this not an ideal location?
9. How do you feel about the action sports park being built within the boundaries of the State College Borough?
10. Do you think the action sports park will be used by many people?
1. Explain why you believe an action sports parks will be put to good use?
11. Do you have children?

1. Do they participate in actions sports?
2. Do you think your children would use the park?
3. How would this change their current involvement with action sports?
4. Tell me about supervision. What type of adult supervision would be appropriate at the park?
5. What concerns would you have about your children using the park?
12. How would an action sports park in the area affect you?
13. Finally, do you have any comments or concerns regarding the proposed action sports park?

Thank you very much for your time!

RPTM 433 Adult Focus Group Final Research Report

**Jocelyn Green, Bethany Zucco, Mary Mcaliney,
Chris Rodgers, Jessie Radanovich & Jeremy Wdowiak**

Abstract

We are tasked as a class, more specifically our group to participate in a local community decision within State College, PA. The idea of an action sports park in close proximity to downtown State College has been discussed in the past. After conducting adult focus groups to gain further understanding of what this decision may entail, having an action sports park would be beneficial to the local community. There is concern associated with the location of an action sports park, however; location of the park is undetermined, most skate parks go unsupervised, and limits on safety would deter potential users. As more coverage helps to expose action sports and their growing popularity, many of those raising concerns within the community may be inclined to change their opinions.

Introduction

The purpose of our research project is to understand perspectives of an action sports park from stakeholders in the State College community. The State College Borough seeks to build an action sports park in the community. Jamie Bestwick, an X-Games gold medalist in BMX riding who lives in Central Pennsylvania, is working with the State College Borough to build an action sports park in the area. The borough set aside money in the budget and found a potential location in Orchard Park. However, community members felt blindsided by the park, and strongly opposed proposed location. The State College Borough asked our class to communicate with the community to research resident's true perceptions of an action sports park in the State College Borough. Our research questions are: "What are the State College community perspectives of an action sports park?" and "Where are potential locations for an action sports park in the State College Borough?". The borough does not believe community members have the correct information about the action sports park. Our project seeks to understand the concerns from stakeholders in the community and listen to their suggestions. Our research project will serve as the liaison to ensure both sides have correct information on the progress of the action sports park.

Case Studies

Information on other Action Sports Parks

In Ottawa, Canada, the Algonquin College Pembroke campus has initiated a very exciting program for its students. They proposed that students are actively going to help build this new action skate park for the community. Not only will this benefit the college students learning these new skills of planning, and actually getting hands-on experience, but it will benefit anyone who decides to use this new facility (Algonquin, 2017).

The Reid Menzer Memorial Skate Park, in York, Pennsylvania, was built in 2008 as a tribute to Reid Menzer, an avid skateboarder who passed away in 2006. The park was built on land provided by the city of York, while all of the costs came directly from donations. The park serves the population of York, which is roughly 40,000 people. The Site Design Group of Carlsbad, California, a world-renowned skate park design group, designed the skate park. The park is widely known as the best skate park in the Central Pennsylvania region. It gets an estimated 20,000 visitors each year. In 2014 they completed a \$500,000 renovation, all funded by donations. Donors saw the value in the park since it opened in 2008, and contributed to complete renovations (Menzer, 2017).

Not far away from State College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania offers another skate park. Covering about a quarter of an acre, this skate park was built in 2000, and has been bringing joy to people ever since. While this skate park offers great equipment that draws people in, this park only caters towards skateboarder and skaters (Lancaster, 2017).

Advantages and Disadvantages of the Parks

Although Algonquin's situation is a bit different than what we are doing here in State College, a skate park is still going to be put into a college community and enjoyed by all. As stated before, not only is it benefitting the public and students at the campus, but it also is benefitting the students who are on the program to help build the skate park (Algonquin, 2017). While the skate park itself only helps out the community and the students working on building it, there is a much larger population in Algonquin than in State College that would have to travel much farther to get to this prime destination.

Although State College and Lancaster are similar, the skate park in Lancaster had a big advantage. Lancaster is considered a city, because of its size and population. That being said, the skate park did not have as much of an impact because it was built close to the community enough to be widely accessible, but far enough away to not upset people. A huge disadvantage that Lancaster has is that they are only offering a park for skateboarders and skaters (Lancaster, 2017). In State College we are not only appealing to skateboarders, but also to BMX bikers, scooters, and any other action sport that could use the space we provide.

The Reid Menzer Memorial Skate Park not only serves the community of around 40,000 residents, which is similar to State College's population, but caters to a variety of skaters that traveled specifically to the area for the park. The park gets around 20,000 visitors each year. Bringing these visitors to the town of York provides economic benefits for the town and its residents. The city of York also did not have to fund the project, or the renovations, because it was completely funded by donors. The park has to be maintained regularly due to its high volume of visitors - that many skaters puts a lot of wear onto concrete. The park is mainly designed for skateboarders, so those interested in other action sports don't have as many features built specifically for them (Menzer, 2017).

Issues the Towns Faced in Building the Parks

This Algonquin College Skate Park had to go through a lot of paperwork and meetings to get this new program approved. Not only did they have to obtain the proper paperwork to build on the land, but they also had to prove to the school that their program would greatly benefit the students (Algonquin, 2017). Lancaster faced the same issues as State College, as they were trying to get their skate park through the proper channels (Lancaster, 2017). The city of York provided the land for the skate park, but the construction of the park was entirely from donations.

It took about 2 years for the idea to come fully into fruition, with recent renovations in 2014 (Menzer, 2017).

Details About the Action Sports Parks

The Algonquin Skate Park is outside with a wide area to utilize near the entrance of the campus. This park has all the normal aspects of a skate park you would expect to see. Along with the skate park, the Pembroke Campus Area also will have a BMX track, along with other action sports facilities (Algonquin, 2017). Lancaster's outdoor skate park includes a snake run that stretches nearly 200 feet, three ovoid bowls with four, six, and ten feet, and a full pipe (Lancaster, 2017). The Reid Menzer Memorial Skate Park is outdoors, but they attempt to keep it usable year round. The park was renovated in 2014, giving the park the addition of lighting and the commitment to shovel snow from the park. After the recent renovation, the park has nearly 30 features, one of which is a "full pipe". The park is also aesthetically pleasing with the inclusion of trees for shade and seating (Menzer, 2017).

Methods

The research method we used was a focus group, where we interviewed adult members of the community. These community members were voluntarily selected through a first come first serve sign up. We recruited the adults through our online survey on PlaceSpeak, and emails that were sent to neighborhood listservs. We had two main research questions that were followed by a number of follow up questions to further the dialogue. This focus group was a one-night occasion at the State College Borough Building on Allen Street, behind Schlow Library. We conducted five focus groups with 5-7 people in each group. Each focus group had two group members to take notes and record what was being discussed and body language of those

participating. We provided snacks and beverages for the participants that attended the focus groups. Our sample came from concerned community members of State College. Since this was a voluntary sign up, the people that came were passionate about the topic.

For this focus group, we worked with a sample of local adult residents in the area. The demographics in the areas offered are residential with young families or retired adults living close to family. According to City-Data, 79% of the population is white, and Asian is the second largest demographic (10%). African American (4.5%) and Hispanic (4.5%) make up the rest of the population. The majority in the area are males (53.6%) and an average age of 22.1 compared to 40.7 in the rest of Pennsylvania. Lastly, the average household size is 2.3 people in State College, with 24.3% of all households being that of families (City-Data, 2017).

Since the action sports park will be geared towards children through teenagers and young adults, it is important to gather parent's perspectives. We had concerned parents, enthused adults, and those who wanted to gain further knowledge on what is going on around the community participate in the focus groups. Since the action sports park will be located in or around downtown State College, PA, the sample needed fit those guidelines. While gathering input from other areas outside State College would be helpful, the direct impact will be to those in surrounding residential communities. To keep the focus group unbiased, any adult was welcome, however; keeping similar demographics to the community, so the sample represents the community.

We recorded the focus groups and took notes to ensure we retained everything that was said. After the focus groups, we transcribed the data and organized it into themes and codes. We put our transcriptions into a word cloud generator to visualize the most commonly said words. After coding our data, we answered our research questions and wrote our conclusions.

Results

Describe Sample Characteristics

Adults over the age of 18 who lived in the Centre County Region were invited to participate in our focus group. 31 people attended, and learned about this through an online forum called “PlaceSpeak”. They were broken into five different sections, with 5-7 people in each group. As well as this, emails were sent to neighborhood group listservs from the State College Borough, which invited groups to stop by and participate.

Answer Your Research Questions

Our research questions are: “What is the State College community’s perspectives of an action sports park?” and “Where are potential locations for an action sports park in the State College Borough?”. The questions asked at our focus groups centered on these two topics. Mainly, the State College community is in favor of the implementation of an action sports park. “[An action sports park is] awesome and very well needed.” Quotes like this one were heard throughout every focus group.

The community understands that action sports parks can serve as a way to get exercise and create social bonds. They are concerned for injuries that park users may sustain, and how accessible the park would be to emergency responders. “If we did put it on the outskirts, what is the response time there is somebody breaks a leg or if something happens?” Some residents suggested a plot of land near Burger King on University Drive as a possible location for the action sports park. Other suggestions were Hills Plaza and Whitehall Park. “Regional parks would be great, like Whitehall Park, because they are farther from the city.”

Although the State College Borough has the funds set aside for the park, some residents would prefer a more centralized location in the Centre Region to make the park more accessible

to a broader area. “When you take it to a larger scale, you are including people who aren’t in the borough and who might want it in a different location. I know Altoona has a skate park. That’s a good 30-45 minute drive away. I know a ton of kids in State College will commute just to go there over Tussey Mountain, which is much closer, just because it is a good environment to skateboard in. People, I would say, are willing to travel as long as the facility is run properly.” To add support for this idea, one participant stated, “I’ve talked to folks that don’t live in the borough that are excited for the idea... to me that makes sense for it to be in a regional location instead of just strictly the State College Borough.” An accessible park requires accessible transportation, as one participant pointed out. “It would be nice if it was in an area where there could be bus transportation.” Participants agreed that moving the park outside of the borough would be farther from the schools, but closer to more communities.

Relevant Figure



Describe Themes

Location

The majority of the participants wanted to discuss the location of the action sports park. While we were asking a variety of questions about perceptions of action sports parks, benefits, and drawbacks, it seemed as though every response given was dependent on where the park was located. “I might be very positive about having an action sports park in the State College area. But when there is discussion about a particular park which is in our neighborhood and which we love and cherish for the open space, then I have a totally different answer.” Specifically, Orchard Park was in high debate. Many members from the Orchard Park neighborhood attended these focus groups and fought for their case against having an action sports park in their neighborhood. The proposed space in Orchard Park is already utilized, and the neighbors do not want it taken away. “This is multi-use green space. Hundreds of people use this space every day. It’s used heavily every day.” A resident who lives near Orchard Park summarized the feelings of the neighborhood by saying, “I really do not think anyone is opposed to bringing an action park like this into the area. But I know in our neighborhood - I am a Green Tree resident - a high, high percentage of our neighbors think it should be located elsewhere. That is not the ideal place. People are not against the idea, but it is the location.” The Orchard Park community was very passionate about keeping their green space the way it is.

Independence in a Community

Another theme was support of building an action sports park. Some individuals who were in favor of the action sports park spoke about the park being a place for independence. Many people who use action sports parks love the independent nature of it. Skaters are able to go to the park at any time and learn on their own. Some prefer these individual sports to team

sports. “Some of those kids are not the ones in organized sports, so they look for alternatives. In doing so, they form their own communities as well” Another participant added, “People who use skate parks are people who value individual sports more than team sports. They like to progress basically on their own terms and not have to rely on others to succeed.” It provides them an opportunity to learn and grow at their own pace.

Also, a theme of community was discovered. Action sports parks provide a place for these independent athletes to come together and enjoy themselves as a group. “This is an outlet where they have been able to find a group that have similar interests in ways that they can grow together and learn.” Opportunities for friendship and learning from one another are abundant. “New friendships that can be built in that way, where happy people come together and seem to form a bond, that’s neat.” Communities in action sports parks allow independent athletes to bond with like-minded individuals.

Supervision

Supervision was another common theme in our discussions. The focus group participants questioned what kind of supervision would be available at a park like this, or if there would be no supervision at all. “I think it would need to be supervised. It should be staffed.” Another participant compared this new park to experiences at the skate park at Tussey Mountain. “They pretty much monitor themselves at Tussey. When somebody stepped out of line, they let them know.” Some participants said it would depend on the ages of the users. “Very young children, I would certainly supervise them. But, as they get older and gain some of their freedom, then they would probably go unsupervised.” Discussions about self-supervision and having some sort of guard or guide similar to a lifeguard were productive.

Safety

Participants talked about what features park would have that would allow participants to feel safe. Easy access for emergency vehicles to enter the park was brought up multiple times. “Easily accessible to ambulances. It can’t be out in the middle of nowhere where you have to walk down some path to get to it.” One idea was an emergency call box. “Something like a call box, like they have on campus, would also be a great idea because if it is kids, they might not have a cell phone.” Participants spoke about how dangerous action sports can be, and their fear for safety, whether the park was supervised or not.

Environmental Impact

When any structure is built, it affects the environment around it in some way. Participants were fearful of the environmental impact the park would have on its location, especially if it was built in a residential area. “I think you can make a skate park look nice enough that you don’t have to hide it. You can make it so it looks like an actual park and you see a bunch of kids having a good time.” Participants were asked whether the park should be above or below ground. One resident of the Orchard Park neighborhood cautioned about flooding. “If it’s at Orchard Park, it cannot be underground. That is in a floodplain. It gets flooded in every large storm we have.” “It should definitely be eco-friendly. Something State College has always been about is being sustainable.” Every focus group agreed that it is crucial to make the action sports park environmentally friendly.

Conclusions and Discussion

Results

Our focus group participants support the implementation of an action sports park in the State College Borough or surrounding areas. However, they are strongly opposed to the park being located in any residential area. Participants who live around Orchard Park specifically

opposed an action sports park in that location. The State College Borough would prefer to build the action skate park inside the borough, but there is support for moving it to another township. The Center Region provides more potential locations for an action sports park than just the State College Borough. It is also more accessible to a larger community. Regardless of where the action sports park is built, concerns for safety and liability will be present. Mainly, participants are concerned for the amount of access that emergency vehicles would have to the park. Participants also questioned who would be responsible for maintenance in the action sports park. These concerns depend on where the park is located.

Why Did We Get These Results?

The results from the focus group were all born out of passion from the participants. The main concern for the community members was the location of the park and safety. The consensus among community members was that the park should not be near a residential area. Their concerns for this are valid for a number of reasons. Having the park in a residential area could potentially decrease the property value of the nearby homes. It could also be seen as an eyesore for some of the homes in the neighborhood. Putting the park in a residential area will also create a lot of traffic in an area that has previously been peaceful or used as green space. Once these community members get used to their surroundings and what to expect in their neighborhoods it can be hard to accept changes. All of these concerns are valid and expected from these stakeholders.

However, there was also a lot of support for the action sports park. Many members of the community who participated in our focus believed the action sports park would be a positive addition to the community. The supporters mentioned independence as one the main reasons why the action sports park would be a positive addition. This type of park allows its users to go

there at anytime to learn on their own and from each other. This creates a positive community for connection and learning to happen. Also, many users of action sports parks do not typically participate in team sports. This provides individuals who learn on their own to thrive. Currently in the State College Borough, there is no legal place for skaters to skate. This creates unnecessary citations and trouble for individuals who are just trying to enjoy themselves and develop their skills. The results and arguments for both sides of the debate are grounded in passion and for the community's growth as a whole.

Limitations

The largest limitation to our study was time. We were given this study with only a few weeks to complete from beginning to end. If we had more time, we could have conducted more focus groups, and gotten more feedback from the community. With the amount of time we had we were faced with other limitations, for example we could have gotten more people from the community to attend our focus groups. The limitation of only having certain opinions at our focus groups and not all opinions of the community represented, made our results appear very one sided.

Suggestions for Future Research

In regards to expanding knowledge on action sports parks, it would be helpful to start with obtaining more information on how it will benefit the people and community. Track the amount of economic impact this action sports park would bring to the immediate and surrounding areas of this location. Adding this action sports park could bring in more revenue to the area and local businesses. A way to begin researching would be finding out how many action sports athletes are receiving tickets from local officers for practicing their sport in prohibited areas. This is one way to figure out how many people in the area are skating, BMX biking...etc.

and are in need of a place to practice and improve their on their skills. Additionally, one could also survey, as well as hold interview and focus groups in the community and in the surrounding areas. By looking at different communities that have similar issues as us, one can see how they went about it and what they did wrong so we do not follow in their footsteps.

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Interview Guide

1. When you think of “action sports (like BMX bike riding, skateboarding etc.)” what comes to mind?
2. Can you tell me a bit about action sports parks?
 - a. Where did you learn this?
3. What are your perceptions of people who participate in action sports?
4. What would the benefits of building an action sports park in our area be?
5. What would the drawbacks to building an action sports park be?
6. What other alternatives are there for action sports?
7. Who will benefit the most from building an action sports park (young children, high school students, Penn Staters)?
8. Tell me about your child’s participation in action sports.
 - a. Do you think your children would use the park?
 - b. How would this change their current involvement with action sports?
 - c. Tell me about supervision. What type of adult supervision would be appropriate at the park.
 - d. What concerns would you have about your children using the park?
9. Where would be an ideal location for the proposed action sports park?
 - a. Why is this an ideal location?
10. Is there a location you can think of that would NOT be an ideal location for the park?
 - a. Why is this NOT an ideal location
11. How do you feel about the action sports park being built within the boundaries of the State College Borough?
12. Would you rather have the park more accessible by walking, or would you rather drive?

13. What would you prefer in terms of the design of the action sports park?

- a. Would you prefer for it to be built above ground or below ground?
- b. How important is it to you that the park is eco-friendly (collects rainwater, uses recycled materials, etc.)

14. Finally, do you have comments or concerns regarding the proposed action sports park?

Research Proposal: Focus Group With Children

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Executive Summary

The borough of State College located in State College, Pennsylvania has proposed to build an action sports park somewhere within State College for the purposes of providing a place to engage in action sports activities in a location and venue that prohibits it. The borough of State College has also enlisted Pennsylvania State University RPTM 433 students to help them in their endeavors. The Penn State students will aid the borough by gathering valuable and necessary information. They will do this by gathering research and conducting focus groups. The purpose of the research study is to learn more about the advantages or disadvantages of having an action sports park. The primary research was also used to learn more about other cities and towns that have built action sports parks and what was the result of it. The purpose of focus groups was to determine the wants, needs, interests, or even disinterest of the residents of State College, Pennsylvania. Methods used to gather the data was through case studies and focus group interviews. Overall our findings showed that there is a strong interest and need for an action sports park to be built in State College, Pennsylvania. Also research has shown that there are a lot of benefits to the community with an action sports park built in it.

Introduction

The borough of State College is looking to install an action sports park in their community for residents to participate in recreational activities. We conducted this focus group in order to gain a better perspective on how the children in the community felt about an action sports park coming to their area. Since we predicted a large segment of our target consumers will be children of State College grades 6

through 12, we felt their input on the subject was extremely important. The research had four major components which were finding information about at least 3 other towns that have built adventure sports parks, the advantages/disadvantages of the park, issues the town faced when building the park, and provide as many details as possible about the park.

The students gave us great positive feedback, and displayed a lot of interest in bringing an action sports park to their community. We collected a set of codes and themes that were brought up during the focus group and created a wordle that shows which codes and themes came up more frequently. The students were very helpful to our research, and provided us with a lot of information that we used moving forward.

Case Studies

1. Monroeville Action Skate Park

This action skate park is located at Valley Park in Monroeville, PA. The skate park is open to the public and the admission is free. There is no supervision provided at this park so the park users must “use at their own risk”. This facility is used by experienced and inexperienced bikers, skateboarders, and in-line skaters. Serious injury may result from falling or colliding with other users, the asphalt surface, or equipment. The Municipality of Monroeville does not assume responsibilities for injuries. The skate park is equipped with Woodward ramps and rails. The park strongly recommends the use of a helmet or other protective gear but they are not required. Scooters are not

permitted in the park and all park users must be 9 years of age or older. The action sports park is also a drug, alcohol, and tobacco free zone.

Advantages/ Disadvantages

One advantage is that it provides a secluded and safe environment for action sports users (Monroeville, 2010). It also helped reduce damage to private property around town (Monroeville, 2010). The activities users engage in at the action sport park offer significant health benefits, and provides an outlet for any individual interested in action sports. It also acts as a setting where individuals can socialize, have fun, and form friendships (Monroeville, 2010).

A disadvantage to the action sports park is the weather permitting the park to be outdoors. Another is that Municipality had to introduce another tax to the community in order to build the park and maintain it. Since it is a public park it can be an insurance nightmare, and the park could have inadequate supervision which could cause numerous problems like injuries, vandalism, and other issues (Monroeville, 2010).

Monroeville didn't face many issues while building the action skate park. Usually one of the main problems in building an action skate park is finding the right location. Monroeville had the perfect location in Valley Park. Although, there were some legal matters the municipality had to deal with. They needed to work together with the community and local government in order to set rules and regulations in place. The Monroeville Recreation, Parks, and Human Services Department reserves the right to close the facility for any circumstances deemed necessary and restrict entry to the facility and to ask persons to leave the facility if any of the rules are not followed or if unsafe behavior is observed (Monroeville, 2010).

2. Bethlehem Skateplaza

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania installed their Skateplaza in 2010 on the south side of town. It is the largest one in the Lehigh Valley and recently included a new pavilion, concession stand, restrooms, bicycle rack, landscaping, lighting shade structure and seating (Olanoff, 2012). These additions were added in April of 2015. They are called the *Greenway Patio*. This portion of the park allows adults to come with their children, as well as other people who may want to hang out outdoors but not skate. The main logic of this park is to allow athletes to enjoy action sports with an urban feel and without causing any trouble in the area (Olanoff, 2012). The skate plaza includes ledges, pyramids and funnels for the public to come, ride around and let their hair down.

Advantages/Disadvantages

One advantage is although the skate park is out in the open, the pavilion can be used to still hang out outside. It is also one of the most used city facilities by its citizens that is packed on a daily basis, all year long, and has low upkeep costs. Another advantage is that it will be in an area for anyone of any age or demographic to be active and interact with others, with hours of operation from 7AM to 7PM to ensure the safety of all who attend. It will be a good place to go to keep children and teenagers out of trouble.

A disadvantage is that took 2 years of fundraising and more than a decade of lobbying teens and adults. With Bethlehem, PA having all four seasons, the weather could take a toll on the skateplaza being used. Also if any type of negative behavior occurs on the grounds, funding could be stopped immediately, which could

hurt with expanding it further. It can also potentially be dangerous, if inexperienced in action sports.

The reputation of South Side of Bethlehem has always been conceived as a negative one. Violence and poverty play a part, however, the Bethlehem Skateplaza has already made an impact on the community and flipping the reputation upside down. One of the voices in the skate park project is Andy Po, who owns a store called *Homebase SkateShop*, and he said, “he’s seen the sport turn around several kids who were heading down the wrong track.”

3. Pier Park SkatePark

Pier park skate park is a skate park located in northern Portland, Oregon. The skate park is 8,500 square feet and is used mostly by beginner to intermediate skaters as well as BMX bikers (Aperio Consulting, 2005) . There was a recent study conducted by a group called Aperio Consulting in 2005, to determine the impacts skate parks have on neighborhoods. During their study they asked the residents of Pier Park a series of question, in order to find out what were their perceptions on skate parks. A common perception of skate parks that they found was that skate parks bring in the “wrong element” (Aperio Consulting, 2005) . The reality that they found was that the tough appearance of some skaters is not an indicator that they are engaging in illegal activity. Busy parks are in fact safer parks.

Advantages/ Disadvantages:

One advantage is that it reduces bad behavior. Aperio consulting found out during their research that skate parks do not contribute to serious crime and actually reduce illicit behavior. In fact, the study showed that there is no evidence indicating

that any serious crimes have occurred at skate parks, and neighbors actually reported that skate parks actually serve to improve the park problems and skater's behaviors (Aperio Consulting, 2005). Another advantage to having this skate park was that it did not reduce any property value. One common concern when deciding in whether or not to build a skate park is property value decreasing. This is not true, skate parks can actually increase one's property value. Houses that live closer to skate parks have their property tax increase. The study also reported that 61% of Pier Park residents did not notice any decrease in property tax. The only disadvantage that came from having this skate park was noise complaint. The research team conducted a noise readings test that was conducted 50 feet away from the skate park. The result was that the peak noise levels averaged at 70 decibels, which is as loud as a dishwasher (Aperio Consulting, 2005). Beyond 200 feet, sounds were drowned out by other noises. Based on these readings, they found that skate park sound levels are no louder than other park uses or other noises such as traffic passing by and airplanes overhead. Sound levels were similar to basketball courts and to children playing on playground equipment. Noise levels were within the city of Portland's code limits as well (Aperio Consulting, 2005). So in other words the noises coming from skate parks are not that loud at all and are tolerable. Overall the advantages severely outweigh the disadvantages when it comes to skate parks. As Pier Park skate proved that skateparks benefit the community by reducing crime and even potentially increasing property tax. There is no evidence showing that skate parks do more harm than good.

Issues:

There were several issues that the town faced when building the skate park. One issue that they faced was the community's perception on skaters. The needs of skaters have not been met in many cities because they have commonly been perceived as antisocial, destructive "thugs on drugs" (Aperio Consulting, 2005). "The place proposed would be another place for unwanted late night partying. I have no idea how you would prevent that, and I'm not willing to take chances with our society" (PP&R public outreach process pg.3). Another issue was dealing with NIMBY (Not In My Backyard). They are opposed to unwanted facilities in their communities. Overall. After their research and evidence they were able to help change the community's perception on skate parks and build one in the Pier Park community.

Methods and Results

Our sample was a convenience sample drawn from a local middle and high School students in Downtown State College. We conducted focus groups and asked open-ended questions, which is considered qualitative research methods. Students were asked to volunteer their time to come to a classroom to answer questions about the Action Sports Park in State College. We briefly explained the plan of the State College Borough on the park and wanted to gather their opinions. The sample consisted of equal part boys and girls around the ages of 12-16. There were a total of fourteen students, along with one teacher. Thirteen students participated in the middle school focus group, while one student participated in the high school focus group, along with the teacher. The students volunteered to participate in the focus group and were not chosen randomly. The sample is meant to be representative of the children of the State College

community; however, more research must be done to find a stronger representative of the children who live in the State College community.

Accessibility

One theme that was reoccurring throughout the focus groups was the accessibility. When asked where they would like the Action Sports Park to be located, one student said, “My backyard!” Every student would prefer the sports park to be within walking distance of their home. One students said, “Near downtown or an accessible location,” which made it clear to us that accessibility is an important factor to the students. Another student said during the focus group, “I want to be able to walk there; I don’t want my parents to have to drive me.” Overall, ease of access of the Action Sports Park was crucial for the students in the focus group.

Cost

Another theme that the students in the focus group discussed was the price. Overall, the students would like to have a free location to participate in action sports. One students said, “Tussey costs money, it would be nice if this one was free.” The students agreed that they would enjoy an Action Sports Park that is free of charge; that way they would be able to use it at any time. The students discussed that they could go to Tussey Mountain’s skate park if they wanted to pay, but they would much rather have a free and accessible area to partake in action sports.

Safety

The last theme that the students brought up was safety. The students would feel much more safe riding their bikes, skateboards, and scooters in an Action Sports Park rather than the street. They mentioned that they would be more interested in action sports if there was an area for them to participate in these sports. They also said that they would be happier if they could

skateboard, ride their bikes, scooter, or rollerblade in a designated area where cars are not a safety concern. When asked if they would wear a helmet to the Action Sports Park, all of the students agreed that would willingly wear a helmet to the park. One student said “I think that helmets should be provided at the skate park.” The students also discussed the planning and design of the Action Sports Park. The students seemed to be very interested in giving ideas for the park. These ideas included music, rental equipment, a bike path around the perimeter of the park, and concession stands. Although we cannot guarantee that these students would be involved in the planning process, they were very excited to share their ideas.

Research Question #1: What are children’s perspectives on a sports park?

The students at the middle and high school were very interested in having a sports park located in State College. If they are already involved in action sports, they are excited for a place designated for action sports where they can recreate with their friends in a safe and fun area. If they are not already involved in action sports, they are excited to become involved in action sports at the park, in an area where they can learn the skills of action sports without the risks associated with skating, bike riding, or scootering on the street.

Research Question #2: Where is an ideal location for the skate park?

The students would like the action sports park to be located as close to their home as possible. They would like to avoid having their parents drive them to the location. Unlike the adults focus groups, the students at the local middle and high school would like the action sports park to be close to them. When Orchard Park was mentioned, they agreed that it would be a great location for the Action Sports Park to be located.



This Word Cloud describes some reoccurring words of students during the focus group.

Conclusion & Discussion

All in all, there was a general theme of support for the action sports park from the kids focus group. I believe we got these results because the kids want a safe place to go where they can participate in action sports for free. During the focus group the word safety was brought up numerous times. This became a recurring theme during our focus group and it resulted in the conclusion that the children would feel much safer participating in action sports at a regulated skate park as opposed to skating or biking in populated and typically dangerous public areas. One of the limitations was the same sample size. We only had two focus groups at one school, this is not a great representation of all the kids in the State College area. Another limitation we faced was the lack of concrete facts. The proposed building of the action sports park is still in the preliminary phases and we do not know all the facts about it. We discovered another limitation as we were conducting the focus group. This limitation had to do with the personalities of our participants. Some seemed shy and hesitant to share their answers to our questions, while other participants were very vocal and quick to offer their thoughts on the questions asked. Therefore

the data might be biased or skewed if only a certain fragment of the population are answering the questions. The data could end up being biased or skewed because the opinions, thoughts, and views of the participants that did not speak would go unaccounted for. “The data may not always be accurate because participants may be hesitant to give their own thoughts, especially when they oppose the views of others. This can lead to groupthink and inaccurate data” (Leung & Savithiri, 2009). Future research that should be conducted in order to know more about the addition of the skate park should include doing more focus groups with more kids from other schools. This would help the sample size properly represent kids of the borough of State College. We also believe that future research should be done in-depth on both the community and its residents in regards for picking a location to build an action skate park. This will allow for a better understanding of the specific demographics thoughts, beliefs, and opinions on the matter. Overall, further research needs to be conducted in order to come to a conclusion about how the kids of State College would react to the addition of an action sports park.

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Supplemental Information: Interview Guide

Delta School focus group: High School/Middle School Students

1. What kind of sports do you and your friends like to do?
2. Do you partake in an action sports like skateboarding and bike riding? If so what sports?
3. Have you ever been to an action sports park like the one at Tussey or in another area? If so which ones have you been to? Tell me about what you did while you were there?
4. How many days a week do you skateboard, roller blade, bike, or scooter?
5. Do you feel you or your friends have a good place to take part in action sports? If no how come? If yes where do you do these sports?
6. Do you feel safe doing action sports? Why or why not?
7. Would you partake in action sports more often if you had a park to do so?
8. Would you feel safe at an action sports park? If yes how come? If no how come?
9. What would make you more interested in being involved at an action sports park?
10. What sort of things would you like to see at an action sports park (like a ramp or half pipes)?
11. Do you like street or vert skateboarding, biking, roller blading, and scootering better, or both?
12. Where would you like an action sports park to be located in State College? Why is that a good location?
13. What action sport would you like the park to focus most on?
14. Do you have any other comments about action sports parks?

Community Survey Results

412 Participants

**This survey was hosted on the State College Borough's
“Engage State College” community engagement
platform from October 12-31, 2017.**

1a. What activities should be included within such a park? (Select all that apply.)

Activity	Percent In Favor
BMX Biking	66%
Bouldering	47%
Inline Skating	59%
Parkour	32%
Scooter Use	52%
Skateboarding	79%

1b. What activities should be included within such a park? (“Write-in” responses)

Activity	Percent Mentioned
Mountain Biking	3.5%
Pump Track	3.9%

The following activities were mentioned by less than 1% survey participants: ice skating, tennis, pickle ball, bar training, bike trails, squash, zip line, drone obstacle/racing course, slacklining, roller derby, bike safety class, basketball hoops. Archery range, bicycle class/training area, cheese rolling, larping, soccer, track cycling, racquetball, go-carts, cross-country skiing, fitness trails, outdoor table tennis, road cycling path, paintball, laser tag, and cyclocross course.

2a. How often do you participate in the following activities? (Select one option per row.)

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Seldom	Never
BMX Biking	4%	3%	2%	9%	83%
Bouldering	1%	6%	7%	21%	65%
Inline Skating	1%	1%	6%	8%	85%
Parkour	0%	3%	2%	11%	85%
Scooter Use	2%	1%	2%	10%	86%
Skateboarding	1%	6%	6%	10%	78%

2b. List any additional Action Sports you participate in and the frequency to which you participate:

Thirty-five survey participants mentioned that they mountain bike, with the majority of these respondents indicating that they would participate in the sport weekly. The following activities were mentioned by less than 2% of survey participants: dog agility course, archery, bike, bike hiking, cross-country skiing, cyclocross, fitness trails, frisbee/disc golf, hiking, ice skating, jogging, kangoo jumping, kickball, longboarding, paddle boarding, RC Planes, road biking, rock climbing, running, skiing, snowboarding, soccer, squash, swim, tennis, trail running, and walking.

3a. What is your skill level for the following activities? (Select one option per row.)

	Non-Participant, not interested	Non-Participant, but interested	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
BMX Biking	63%	19%	8%	6%	5%
Bouldering	54%	16%	13%	14%	3%
Inline Skating	74%	12%	6%	6%	3%
Parkour	71%	18%	9%	2%	0%
Scooter Use	79%	8%	11%	3%	0%
Skateboarding	64%	16%	9%	10%	1%

3b. List any additional Action Sports you participate in and your skill level for these sports:

Twenty-six survey participants mentioned that they participate in mountain biking, (2 at the beginner level, 11 at the intermediate level, and 13 at the advanced level). The following activities were mentioned by less than 2% of survey participants: archery, bike hiking, biking, cross skiing, cyclocross, fitness trail, frisbee, hiking, ice skating, kickball, longboarding, pickleball, rock climbing, running, skiing, slacklining, snowboarding, soccer, squash, street hockey, tennis, trail running, walking.

4a. Does someone in your household participate in the following activities? If so, to your knowledge, how often do they participate? (Select one option per row.)

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Seldom	Never
BMX Biking	2%	4%	4%	14%	77%
Bouldering	1%	7%	9%	13%	71%
Inline Skating	2%	2%	3%	11%	83%
Parkour	3%	2%	4%	5%	87%
Scooter Use	7%	4%	4%	9%	77%
Skateboarding	4%	4%	7%	14%	71%

4b. List any additional Action Sports someone in your household participate in and the frequency to which they participate:

Thirteen survey participants listed that they mountain bike, 9 of which do so on a daily to weekly basis. The following activities were also mentioned by less than 2% of the survey participants: autocross, biking, cross-country skiing, cyclocross, frisbee, ice skating, kickball, rock climbing, roller hockey, running skiing, slack lining, soccer, tennis, and track cycling.

5a. If facilities existed within or near the Borough of State College, how often would you, or someone in your household, participate in the following activities? (Select one option per row.)

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Seldom	Never
BMX Biking	3%	13%	11%	11%	64%
Bouldering	1%	14%	24%	10%	52%
Inline Skating	0%	6%	11%	13%	71%
Parkour	0%	6%	12%	13%	70%
Scooter Use	1%	10%	7%	10%	73%
Skateboarding	5%	13%	9%	14%	61%

5b. List any unmentioned Action Sport and the frequency of participation for you or someone in your household would partake in if facilities existed within or near the State College Borough:

Less than 2% of survey participants mentioned the following activities at varying frequencies: cross-country skiing, cyclocross, ice skating, inline/street hockey, laser tag, mountain biking, pump track, road cycling, rock climbing, roller derby, slacklining, soccer, squash, table tennis, track cycling, archery, and dog agility course.

6. What factors should the committee consider when identifying 2-3 locations for the Action Sports Park activities? Be specific and list all you want the committee to consider.

7a. List specific location(s) where Action Sports Park elements should be located:

7b. List specific locations where Action Sports Park elements should not be located:

Due to the overwhelming number of responses to these three open-ended questions, Borough staff compiled the following summary. If you would like access to the expanded results, please contact the State College Borough Office of Community Engagement.

Survey participants noted the following location considerations: on a bus route, within biking distance (and on a bike path/route), within walking distance for school-aged residents, central to downtown, accessible by first responders, near a hospital, and low environmental impact.

Survey participants were both for and against the following considerations: being in an existing neighborhood or regional park, sharing boundaries with residential lots, being visible from roadways, being within the State College Borough, and being within the downtown district.

Participants suggested the following parks as potential development sites: Haymarket Park, Orchard Park, Holmes Foster Park, Whitehall Park, Westerly Parkway Wetland Education Center, Tudek Park, Bernel Road Park, Spring Creek Park, Circleville Road Park, Cecil Irvin Park, and Saybrook Greenbriar Park.

Participants suggested the following open land areas within Centre Region as potential development sites: behind Parkway Plaza, between the YMCA and South Hills Business School, beside Rite Aid on Westerly Parkway, Tussey Mountain Ski Resort, Whitehall Road, State College Area High School football field, PSU/Toll Brothers land, somewhere in Park Forest, somewhere in Bellefonte, corner of Blue Course Drive and College Avenue, Old Nittany field, behind the Westfield Development on Sunday Drive, at the new high school complex, where the Delta Program current is in Downtown State College, land surrounding the Friends Meeting Space-State College, near the new Benner Pike developments, Corl Street soccer field, on the south end of Atherton Street, on or near PSU campus, Community Field, and the parking lot behind Memorial Field.

8. Should this facility require the use of safety equipment such as helmets and pads?

Yes	80 %
No	20%

9. Please provide any additional comments, suggestions, or concerns you would like the committee to consider.

In addition to the previously mentioned considerations, survey participants noted the following topics in-depth: safety, cost, liability, ownership, aesthetics, environmental impact, and opinions on the activities and behaviors an Action Sports Park could foster.

10. Identify the municipality you live in:

State College Borough	62%
College Township	6%
Ferguson Township	15%
Halfmoon Township	<1%
Harris Township	5%
Patton Township	5%

Additionally, participants identified the following municipalities of residence: Huntingdon County, Bellefonte Borough, Walker Township, Benner Township, Clearfield County, Spring Township, Allegheny County (raised in Patton), Centre Hall, Centre County, Blair Township, Mclore, Altoona, Montoursville Borough, Philipsburg, and Haines Township.

11. Please identify the age of the person completing the survey.

Under 18	1%
18-35	27%
36-50	34%
51-65	26%
Over 65	13%

State College Area School District Survey Results

806 Participants

**This survey was hosted by the State College Area
School District from November 13 - 30, 2018.**

1. How old are you?

11 years	11%
12 years	22%
13 years	23%
14 years	13%
15 years	9%
16 years	10%
17 years	9%
18 years or Older	3%

2. Do you live in the State College Borough?

Yes	58%
No	24%
Not Sure	18%

3. Do you participate in action sports?

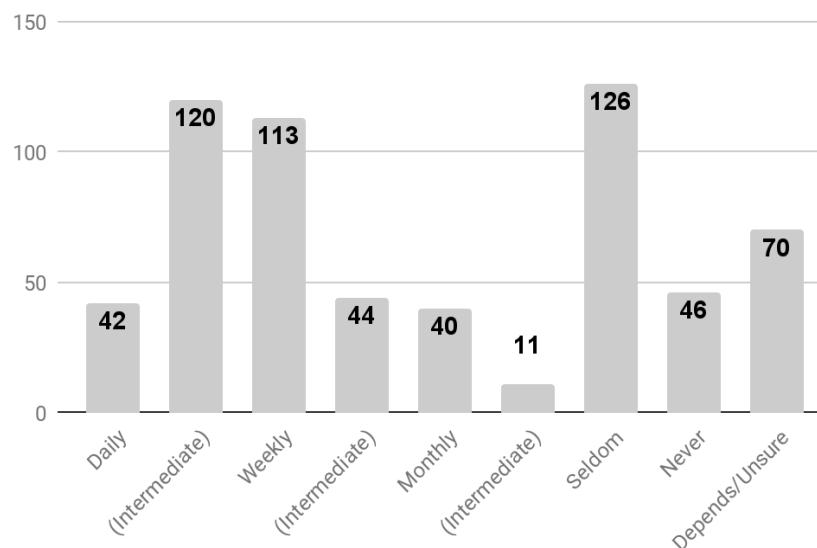
Yes	44%
No	30%
Not Sure What an Action Sport Is	26%

4. Are there any specific sports you would like to see at the park?

Activity	# of Responses
Skateboarding	117
BMX	63
Trampoline/ Gymnastics	52
Rock Climbing	33
Mountain Biking	20
Scooter	17
Frisbee/ Frisbee golf	17
Rollerskating	16
Parkour	16
Roller Hockey	9
Paintball	9

Due to the overwhelming number of responses to this open-ended question, Borough staff compiled the following summary. If you would like access to the expanded results, please contact the State College Borough Office of Community Engagement. Please note that the following traditional sports were omitted from this list, despite being mentioned by survey participants: volleyball, basketball, tennis, soccer, kickball, and dodgeball.

5. How often would you go to the sports park?



6. What activities would you like to see at the park?

In addition to the most common action sports (BMX biking, bouldering, inline skating, parkour, scooter use, and skateboarding) and team sports, survey participants also listed obstacle or ninja warrior course, jungle gym, four square, and trampoline and gymnastics elements.

7. Would you be willing to pay an admittance fee?

Yes	34%
No	66%

8. Would you be more likely to go to the park if there were concession stands?

Yes	74%
No	26%

9. Is there a location within the borough that you believe would be ideal for the action sports park?

Due to the overwhelming number of responses to these three open-ended questions, Borough staff compiled the following summary. If you would like access to the expanded results, please contact the State College Borough Office of Community Engagement.

Survey participants noted the following location considerations: on a bus route, within biking distance (and on a bike path/route), within walking distance for school-aged residents, central to downtown, and for an Action Sports Park to be located (or not located) within existing parks and open areas such as Orchard Park, Lederer Park, Community Field, Tudek Park, Circelville Park, Graysdale Park, Haymarket Park, Fairbrook Park, Spring Creek Park and by the mall.

**Action Sports Park
Public Meeting
October 11, 2017
Room 201, State College Borough Building**

Mr. Myers brought the Action Sports Park Public Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees – Tom King, Assistant Borough Manager; Evan Myers, Borough Council Member; Christopher Jones; Autumn Busbee; Peter Aeschbacher; John Diercks; Beth Lee; Pam Salokangas; Frank Maguire; Mitch Lebold; Kim Faulds; Elaine Prestia; Gordon Kauffman; Sandy Lieb and other interested parties.

Review of the Action Sports Park Committee

The goal and charge of the Action Sports Committee:

- Select activities and elements appropriate and desirable for inclusion in an action sports park.
- The group shall evaluate the virtues of single versus multiple locations.
- The site criteria and potential sites shall be evaluated to provide a recommendation to Borough Council of three to five sites for further consideration and a selection of a final site.
- A land development and cost report shall also be prepared for the sites by the Borough Engineering staff and the Zoning staff.
- Tasked to provide and submit this report to Borough Council by the end of November.

Elements and Considerations

- Single or multiple sites
- Types of action sports to be included
- Age groups and skill levels targeted
- Proximity to neighborhoods, schools, bike paths, other open space and bus stops
- Visibility
- Property ownership
- Parcel sizes
- Tax and financial impacts
- Current land uses
- Environmental impacts
- Aesthetics
- Flexibility and adaptability based upon sports use and demand

ASP Committee Progress Overview

Mr. King gave an update of the progress the committee has made to this point.

- Reviewed the history of the ASP.

Action Sports Park Public Meeting Minutes

- Received reports from Penn State students in Recreation, Park and Tourism classes.
- The committee has collected information on existing sports parks in Pennsylvania.
- An Online survey was posted for the public on October 12. The Survey will close on October 31.
- The committee worked with a SCASD 12th grade math class to design a survey for middle school and high school students.
- Jamie Bestwick spoke with the committee on October 4 to offer suggestions on what activities to include in the ASP and what types of locations the committee should be looking for.

Public Comments

Danae Powers, Greentree neighborhood resident, thought it was a great idea to have a sports park where kids can be safe. Dr. Powers is an anesthesiologist, and she had concerns about what was being discussed tonight. She wanted the committee to keep in mind what the area would be like, could an ambulance get thorough easily and if it could be located close to the hospital if possible. She added it would be good idea for safety to have the park monitored, have the park enclosed with fencing and have scheduled hours.

Michael Marx, Park Forest resident, agreed with Dr. Powers. Mr. Marx grew up in California. He stated they had a sports parks and the parks were supervised. He said kids need something and somewhere to go. Mr. Marx has seen kids skate where they should not be skating. He added it is an outdoor activity that is not going away. His son did play team sports but decided to pursue skateboarding. He believes individual sports teaches kids how to excel within themselves and creates a better individual child.

Don Hampton, Ferguson Township, stated his passion is bicycles and action sports. He added a skate park is a perfect fit here for the community. Mr. Hampton said there is concern the park could be an eye sore but if the park was crafted right it could be a work of art. He added his kids must wear a helmet. He suggested some ideas for a sports park.

- Traditional BMX park which would include the ramps and rails.
- Pump track
- Bike skills park
- BMX race track

Jennifer Walter, 1321 Shamrock Avenue, said her son has been scootering since he was five years old and was welcomed by others at the park since he has started. She stated it was important to have a safe place for kids to go and to have the challenges the kids want.

Carmine Prestia stated the other side of the safety issue. He thinks it is a really good idea. He said if we can give them a place to go it would be a positive thing for

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the kids and the community. Mr. Prestia added to have a place with supervision would be positive and a combination park and BMX track would be ideal. He encouraged the Borough and Townships to do it right.

Michael Linderman, 1271 Decatur Street, Philipsburg, stated Philipsburg has a pump track and slab track and it gets a lot of use. He said there are signs for helmet use and rules and regulations. Mr. Linderman added since they have been involved in these sports, they have found this to be the most inclusive community they have ever been a part of. He stated there are inherent risks but parents supervise their kids. This was a good outlet for pent up angst.

Patti Thor, 954 Grace Street, stated the committee wants to know what elements to have in the park and location suggestions. Ms. Thor suggested the storm water retention area by high school. This area is close to high school and already has some features for a pump track. She has talked to C3 sports, by the Nittany Mall, would be interested in putting something out there. She said they are building a huge indoor soccer facility for the community. She asked if an indoor facility has been discussed. Ms. Thor added season passes could be used to raise funds for the park.

Mr. Myers said the consensus was the park is a good idea. He added the committee needed recommendation for locations and elements. recommend where and what; He added the committee had not looked at any sites yet, so any suggestion are appreciated. The committee was charged with cost and how to finance the park.

Shannon Jones, Grace Street, stated she also thinks the drainage basin on Westerly Parkway is a great spot for the park, but she thought the Thomas Fountaine, the Borough Manager, said no to that location. Ms. Jones said there is a field on Osmond Street next to the Borough Service Facility near a school. Ms. Jones also suggested an area behind the YMCA. This area already has rock climbing. Another location would be in the Central Parklet. This could accommodate at least two different action parks. She stated on University Drive near Burger king had an area which might work. Ms. Jones said it does not belong in a neighborhood park.

Carrie Echart, Holmes Foster Neighborhood, asked the committee to not put it an existing neighborhood park or in community field. She added the green space in the Borough is very minimal already. Ms. Echart said neighborhood parks are used by little children and the elderly.

Danny Walter, 1321 Shamrock Avenue, stated he has been riding scooters for a long time, and he has been riding at Tussey which is not very convenient. He added the sports parks he has been at are always the nicest areas. Mr. Walter said the park should be concrete because they are easily maintained versus the prefab parks. He stated Fairfax skatepark, Fairfax, Virginia, would fit in here.

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Jim Welsh, 1359 Penfield Road, stated concrete would be the least maintenance overall. He added a mountain bike skills park like the one at Raystown would work here.

Daniel Briscoe, 1419 South Allen Street, stated he has been mountain biking and BMXing for a while. He suggested contacting Tussey and to see if they would open up the ski slopes for downhill bike park.

Erik Scott, owner of The Bicycle shop, stated incorporation into drainage areas are used in other places and these parks do not take a lot of space. He added this town does have the talent to make these parks aesthetically pleasing.

James Milutinovic – 950 Grace Street – Mr. Milutinovic was in favor of a facility, as long as, the users and the community are taken into account. He does not believe the sports park should be located in any park or neighborhood without an agreement with the residents. He added the park should be in a regional park with lots of space and a noise buffer. He stated the committee has the power to save the neighborhoods that surround a park. Mr. Milutinovic asked to make sure the neighbors are behind the locations to not locate this facility at Orchard Park or other neighborhood parks.

Mary Cooper, 846 Wheatfield Drive, asked what the original vision was and what they intended for the park. She added she never got a full sense of what the vision was. Ms. Cooper said she was interested in the pump track and it could be a dirt track with the curved angles or a wooden track. She has seen cool looking and aesthetic looking pump tracks and was very supportive of this idea. She added they would go out of town to seek areas for their kids to ride. She would like to walk to a sports park. Ms. Cooper asked about the division of skill levels in a sports park.

Mr. Myers said it was not sure if the idea came from Parks and Rec first came with an idea of an action sports park but one of the reasons the for the committee was nothing was specifically described for what would be in the park and they want input from community.

Jody Harrington said he was the Director of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Cycling League. He stated he has seen the positive impact on kids from the ages of 11 to 18 years old in the community. He said he utilized the State College public space and held practice in the parks twice a week. Mr. Harrington added this needed to be public space that was already integrated into the community. He stated risk management goes with every activity. He said the same thought needed to go into a sports park as the same thought for locations of baseball fields. The same formula for safety should be the same as any other sports. He thought the Borough had an ordinance that kids cannot skateboard in certain places, so this makes it is a crime and an alternative should be provided.

Laura Devinney, Ferguson Township, stated Tussey Skate Park was originally founded with municipal dollars. She asked the committee to take that as a

Action Sports Park Public Meeting Minutes

cautionary tale because now it is a failure because it is now owned by a private company, and they are charging. She added it is not easy able to get there. Ms. Devinney suggested the committee know their end goal and make sure they can support that goal.

Karen Burgess, Holmes Foster Neighborhood said she was for putting something in the Borough where it would be within walking or biking distance. She stated she lived near one of the parks and would be okay with it being in her backyard.

Tom Klinikowski said he was an active skateboarder, and he was happy to hear the positivity toward skateboarding in community. He added in order to have a sustainable park it should be concrete and in a park. The skill set was very important because there would be diverse interests. He noted it would be good for it to be within walking distance or near bus access, so they would not have to drive to it.

Spencer Hart, lives on Shamrock Avenue, stated it means so much to them to have a skate park. He added they skate downtown because they have nowhere else to go.

Matt Cantano, Ferguson Township, stated the park should be in a residential location. He added it should be open 24 hours with free access. Mr. Cantano said they should not assume the park should be limited to walking participants. He stated the indoor facilities are great but there are issues that come into play, such as heating. He agreed there would be noise because people are having fun.

Luke Zilkowski said he would love to have a park located convenient to every neighborhood that way it would not be as far of a commute for everyone

Julie Herrington said her father advised the biking team for State College. She added skate parks are not that loud.

Gabriel Marx, Park Forest, said having a sports park in any neighborhood would be an amazing feature. He added he lived next to Tudek Park which would be a great place for this park. Mr. Marx stated they are not bad kids they just want to have fun.

Gary Hampton said he has a great interest for an ASP. He would like a racing track for BMX competition. He added this would be great for economic purposes and for bringing the community closer together.

Mary Beth Hoffman stated skateboarders are good kids and are not in the community to cause trouble. She added we need to build a place where everyone can come together. She suggested Holmes Foster Park because it has three levels. She said there is no place to go to learn a new skill and be safe.

Eric Boeldt, Holmes-Foster neighborhood, asked how big an area would be needed for a skate park. He said a Tussey partnership would be a good idea and it would be a good place for an ASP. He added PSU has a lot of area that could be used.

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Mr. Myers said PSU has been bought up as a place to look for land. He noted PSU students ride skateboards too.

Kyle Posey, PSU student, said skateboarding served as a focus for them. He added a skate park would give kids motivation. He suggested not to put as many massive ramps, but should have clean flat bars. He stated they should mimic the street since kids are skating on the streets.

Sigrid Byers, 958 Grace Street, suggested putting the park near the schools. She asked why it could not go in the school property.

Ron Leynes, 506 Brittany Drive, asked why they there could not be smaller ones in local parks and a larger regional sports park. He suggested they have a master plan and maybe integrate it into the parks in the townships. He said there is a need for the park.

Owen Winn has been skateboarding for two years. He said the park needed to be concrete with ledges, flat bars and smaller ramps for beginners. He added Payne Park in Philadelphia had a nice plaza with a pavilion and benches. It was all encompassing for all ages.

Ben Hoffman, Boalsburg, noted Orchard Park would be the perfect place for a sports park.

Sophia Aeschbacher said she loved the idea of an ASP and would like it to be in Orchard Park or Tudek Park. She added Tudek Park would not bother a lot of people.

Tom Worrick stated he was a BMXer for life. He said some of the parks he had visited the upkeep was an issue. Mr. Worrick suggested to check the Woodward facility because they cater to each level of skill. He added a pump track was a good idea but should be easy to maintain and an amosited surface would work well. He said as far as the location, they will go wherever the ASP is built. He noted Spring Creek Park would be a good location.

Carol Lebold said she would like a park and would be happy to have it at Tusseyville Park. She added Hamden Park in Maryland was a skatepark built right by a park so everything was all in the same area. Ms. Lebold stated her son was starting to get into skateboarding. This allows him to do something independently and still be around other kids.

Mr. Briscoe said two locations on each end of town would make sense. This would also be a good idea because of the cost. Mr. Briscoe added, as far as the specifics, a bowl would be good for intermediate and advanced riders.

Erik said people are willing to have smaller facilities in their neighborhood parks. She added it was a myth the sports park needed to be by a school because the youth is moving outside the Borough. She noted there may be a need to have the

Action Sports Park Public Meeting Minutes

parks all over the place because the kids are all over. She said the green space in Orchard Park is used by everyone.

Shawn, West Hamilton Avenue, stated this discussion would not be happening if it was a football field. He would like kids to participate in a sport. He added Holmes-Foster Park would be good place for the park. He said to also consider the downtown.

Ty Wellington ,Ferguson Township, said somewhere near the high school would be good. Features like the street pump tracks would be great.

Mr. Prestia said him and his wife would not mind a park near them. He suggested High Point Park because it has a large field and could buffer the noise with the trees. Mr. Prestia added we can maximize tax dollars by phasing the park in over time.

Mr. Scott stated the kids like Orchard Park and there is a spot in the park where it would be buffered by trees. He added there is drainage in the park and the area is gradient. He suggested the local people be enlisted before bringing others in.

A resident stated he loves orchard park and wanted to keep the green space. He added it is quiet and it is green.

Matt Cantano said this would be a great opportunity for a design competition. It could have simple criteria would get a lot of responses.

Peter Aeschbacher said why not have it be a design collaboration for users.

Mr. Myers said there are some suggestions out in front of committee. The committee must locate an area and discuss the elements. He added he was not saying these are not great ideas and should not be considered, but they should submit them with the surveys and any surveys in the future.

Sophia Aeschbacher said another would be Fairbrook Park near Pine Grove Mills. There are big open fields and could be a good location for a sports park.

Luke Tzilkowski, Pine Grove Mills, stated he liked the ASP in Orchard Park. He said most of the noise would be people congratulating each other. He added the features are not what is being focused on, but see what the kids are doing and incorporate it into the ASP.

Owen Winn, said he likes the idea of smaller parks and it would take less time to build them. He added to scatter the parks around would enable kids more accessibility them.

Jennifer Walter said she would love to have the sports park in her neighborhood. She added Dalevue Park is a good location. She suggested the ASP needed to be located in a park that has many activities. It would be great to create a

Action Sports Park Public Meeting Minutes

community park to encompass everything and do it in scale one thing after another, but do it in an area where we can expand it.

Closing Comments

Mr. Myers said he appreciated all the comments because public input is very important in this endeavor. He reminded everyone the ASP meetings were open to the public and invited the residents to attend.

Mr. Myers adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Action Sports Park (ASP) Committee

Public Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

7:00 PM

State College Municipal Building

Community Room – Room 201

Action Sports Park (ASP) Committee

- Solicited in July 2017 for volunteers to serve on the ASP Committee
- ASP Committee was appointed by Borough Council on August 7, 2017
- The 15 person Committee consists of representatives from each Borough Neighborhood Association plus several at large members

Action Sports Park Committee Goal and Charge

- The Ad Hoc Action Sports Park Committee is to select activities and elements appropriate and desirable for inclusion in an action sports park. The group shall evaluate the virtues of single versus multiple locations for the elements while weighing the key site factors and importance for consideration in State College's demographics.

Action Sports Park Committee

Goal and Charge

- The site criteria and potential sites shall be evaluated to provide a recommendation to Borough Council of two to three sites for further consideration and selection of a final site. A Land development and cost report shall be prepared for the sites by the Borough Engineering staff and Zoning staff
- The recommendation and report shall be completed and submitted to Council for their consideration by November 30, 2017. Council will review the report and make and a site selection decision by December 18, 2017.

ASP Committee Tasks

- **Task 1** Identify activities and elements
- **Task 2** Identify site selection criteria and weight
- **Task 3** Identify all possibilities, public and private, that meet criteria in Task 1 and Task 2 in the Borough and edge of borough
- **Task 4** Site Evaluation/Prioritization
- **Task 5** Develop recommendations for sites in rank order
- **Task 6** Final Report to Council

Potential ASP Elements & Considerations

- Single or multiple sites
- Types of action sports to be included
- Age groups and skill levels targeted
- Proximity to: neighborhoods, schools, bike paths, other open space, and bus stops
- Visibility
- Property ownership

Potential ASP Elements & Considerations

- Parcel sizes
- Tax and financial impacts
- Current land uses
- Environmental impacts
- Aesthetics
- Flexibility and adaptability based upon sports use & demand

ASP Committee Meetings

- August 23rd - Introduction and Orientation
- August 30th
- September 13th
- September 20th
- October 4th
- October 11th

ASP Committee Efforts

- Review the history of the ASP project to date
- Receive, review, and discuss the four (4) PSU class reports completed in Spring 2017 by students in Recreation, Park and Tourism (RPTM) classes
- Collect information on existing ASP's in or near PA
- Invite the Centre Region Parks and Recreational to participate on the Committee as a resource

ASP Committee Efforts

- Create a survey to be distributed to the public beginning tomorrow (10/11/2017)
- Work with the SCASD High School Math classes to design and distribute a survey to middle school and high school students
- An expert in the BMX biking field attended an ASP Committee meeting for a Q&A

Receive Public Comment

- This session is being recorded by C-Net
- Come to one of the microphones to provide comment
- Provide your name and address including Municipality
- Limit your comments to four (4) minutes or less
- Try to avoid being redundant
- You will also have the opportunity to provide comments through the survey being released tomorrow

Dear Committee Members,

Orchard Park is a cherished green space, unlike any other in the State College Borough. It is presently utilized one hundred percent.

Peace, community, biodiversity, and physical fitness are enjoyed by all the current residents and guests who have made the park part of their lives. Not only does it provide fun and tranquility, but also structural integrity. This essential landscape facilitates the filtration of rainwater and snow-melt year round. Any destruction of the critical turf in this small area would be disastrous.

There is no other park like it in the Borough. Many species of trees, grasses, shrubs, birds, insects, and animals are thriving here. People of diverse ethnicity, age range, and economic backgrounds depend on this park. The elderly, international residents, graduate students, long-time residents, and families specifically seek out this low-noise, peaceful, and pastoral setting.

Orchard Park should not be destroyed or changed into a skate park.

Any such landscape changes to Orchard Park would have a “negative effect on the environmental quality of Borough and surrounding neighborhood impact.” (Capital Improvement Plan) A skate/bike park would definitely not, “extend the life of existing assets.” (Capital Improvement Plan)

It is evident from the many protests of Greentree residents at the Borough Council meeting of July 15, 2016, that the mere suggestion of such a destructive project, has been detrimental to my community’s morale.

Haymarket Park, or the future Whitehall Road Regional Parklands, would be more suitable locations for a loud, concrete, steel and asphalt, action sports park. A skate park would require extensive parking, emergency response accommodation, appeal to only a select and exclusive population, and impose a large carbon footprint.

Orchard Park is thriving, intact.

Any destruction of the current green space of Orchard Park, would be a grievous mistake on Borough Council’s part. The environmentally- and socially-responsible action is to retain this complete green landscape.

I appreciate your respectful consideration.

Sincerely,

Pembroke R. Childs

Hi there,

I'm not sure that I'll be able to make it to the meeting tomorrow night at the borough building but I wanted to send some thoughts about the action park.

In speaking with my two children, ages six and eight, they would like to see things like a scooter park, skate park, BMX bike park area, climbing and bouldering sections, and a ninja warrior obstacle course. It might be nice to also have an extended monkey bar area with some ropes.

I also saw there was a survey attached to this email. I'll try to complete it and handed in before the end of the month.

Thank you,

Diane Espy
1604 S. Allen St.
State College, Pa. 16801

Hi Douglas,

I am responding to an email I received today from the Borough, with 'Ad-Hoc Action Sports Park Committee Seek Public Input' in the subject.

I'm somewhat mystified about the Ad-hoc Sports Park Committee, and what their purview is. I am concerned about the development of Whitehall Park, and how it is the pet project of a couple who have strong associations with Ferguson Township and the County.

Please send me a link so I can learn more about the committee.

Thanks,

Karl Mierzejewski

Public Meeting: Citizen Correspondence

From: Todd Price [<mailto:toddallenprice@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 2:37 PM
To: Shontz, Douglas <dshontz@statecollegepa.us>
Cc: engage <engage@statecollegepa.us>
Subject: Re: Sports Park Committee

Thank you Douglas.

Listed below are my thoughts.

This email is to show support for the action sports park.

The State College area has committed land and resources to 'parks' in the area and the creation of an action sports park is no different from what is currently in the area.

While some detractors have committed to argument that the actions sports park will bring unsavory types to roost at such a park, this argument holds no water with the current park landscape.

Having stereotypical thoughts on what an action sports park 'would' encompass is to say that all sports have their stereotypes which the community must adapt to:

- ❑ Bikers hog the roads and walkways.
- ❑ Baseball and Softball fields contain players which sneak alcohol onto their respective fields.
- ❑ Basketball players are loud and cause violence on their courts.
- ❑ Open fields and green space allow ultimate Frisbee players to arrive, smoke weed and fling hard plastic projectiles which could injure those in the area.

Are we to say that an action sports park is a better or worse situation than what these items may encompass? If so, shouldn't we as a community remove all of these above listed parks to undo any harm which these parks may bring?

The Borough has committed to say that parks are good for the community and discriminating against a park based on who may or may not be there is prejudiced and a belief that I believe is not a tenet of which the State College area is tolerant of.

Todd Price

860 Bayberry

On October 4, 2017 at 10:46 AM IRENE TOCIMAK <irenetocimak@comcast.net> wrote:

To the Action Sports Committee Members:

I know you wish to move forward and you are intent on those that are interested but you must be responsible as the borough council and respect the wishes and desires of the borough neighborhoods that have no interest nor children. While I believe this is a good idea, I also know that skateboarding is very noisy having lived on Corl St and have listened to several skaters outside on the road. While the young boys were courteous in manner there is still the noise racket of it all. It is very noisy even one person. I like quiet. Especially like those out taking a walk and enjoying their time outside which I am one. I like Corl Street area just the way it is because it is quiet and pleasant. I do not know anything about skate parks but if it is outside and put in a neighborhood those residents of that neighborhood will not have quiet. And that is "unfair". You owe it to the neighborhoods to keep a level of quiet in those neighborhoods. This isn't a sound of "clink" from a bat in a ball park every now and then....it is roller blades going around and around and then those jumping noises of the board magnified in sound by the number of skaters.

Earlier in the year 1310 W. College Ave allowed a party with a band and skateboards. I was out walking Westerly Parkway just off Dorum Avenue and I could clearly hear the music (it sounded like a street dance) and I could hear skate boards. So, I walked over to find out what was going on because I know who owns that ground. By the time I got there I spoke with a band member who said it was being shut down in 30 minutes. This was around 6 pm in the evening. If you check Ferguson Police they probably have complaints from residents. I do not want that area or any area OUTSIDE used as a skating park. If that area was being used as some test, then you had the residents attention and the response was not favorable.

However, in the interest of finding a middle ground. Which, I think is truly pertinent in this situation, and one you should seek for an indoor Skate. One that has appropriate sound proofing. This is the middle ground to both sides. As I said there is much indication that even parents who have children agree there should be a skate park but NOT in Their Neighborhood. They have a right to choose! It is your responsibility, if you are set on going forward to create a resolution. That does not mean forcing it on people! You must understand this.

My suggestion is the empty lot beside Rite Aid on Westerly Parkway (the one that used to hold a June carnival) decades ago. Or behind it... that strip of land. It is right there by the school and places to eat. That should be a welcome site. It is already close to noise and heavy traffic noise from South Atherton Street. Young people should feel safe in a known environment. If those neighborhood citizens do not want it you must go to an Indoor facility. That is the middle ground. It doesn't have to be outside to skate. And it would eliminate the noise.

I must say that your notice for the meeting is for those interested only. So, this means you are going forward. Please be a responsible committee respecting everyone and finding a solution.

Regards,

320 S. Corl Street, State College, PA 16801

From: Eric Marshall [mailto:ericmarshall2@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 4:49 PM

To: engage <engage@statecollegepa.us>

Subject: Action Sports/Skatepark

Good Afternoon,

My name is Eric Marshall, and I'm a resident in the Holmes-Foster community. I'm also a health and physical education teacher at the Delta Program. Although I was unable to attend the meeting last night, I want to voice my support for the skate park.

I believe the park should be within walking distance of the high school. This will allow students to be able to get to the park without the need for transportation or an adult. I think it's also important to recognize that skating is a legitimate physical activity that kids should be proud of participating in. There are many communities (Buena Vista, CO comes to mind) that make such parks a focal point of their community. They recognize that these parks are an asset to their community and the young kids growing up in them.

Thank you,

Eric Marshall

Hi Doug,

I'm aware that there are some in my neighborhood, Greentree, that do not want an Action Sports Park anywhere in the community. Please know that these individuals are in the extreme minority. The majority of residents do not have any objection to having this park in another location, other than Orchard Park.

Thanks,

Joe Rogacs

From: Cindy Simmons [<mailto:cindy.simmons@comcast.net>]
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 4:50 PM
To: engage <engage@statecollegepa.us>
Subject: Extreme sports park

I am writing to ask that no new sports park, particularly an extreme sports park, be located in the Corl Street/Osmond area.

This neighborhood is already significantly impacted by the noise from the school. With plans to add 50 percent more students at Corl Street, we can only expect it to get louder. Don't take away our weekend enjoyment of our lawns and gardens too.

A private skateboard park opened a few blocks away behind a business on West College. Their special activities included a concert so loud that one had to wear noise-cancelling headphones to get away from the skateboarders' taste in music (which I do not share.)

I was at the meeting in which Orchard Park neighbors begged not to have this facility located there. We, too, don't want to be the ones who have to wait with injured kids while the ambulances come. We already have a few skateboarders who can't resist the Osmond hill that has newly been resurfaced. Because the city's refueling station is located at the end of Osmond, there are far more heavy trucks on Osmond and Corl Street than would normally be seen in a residential neighborhood. Please don't increase the likelihood that a skateboarder and a garbage truck collide.

The boarders are often not experienced riders, and they seem to have (like most pre-teen boys) problems with impulse control.

In general, while I have nothing against boys, I think it is a violation of the spirit of equality that so much of the borough's time and resources are going to a project that will be disproportionately used by boys. Please make sure equal effort is given to developing specialized park spaces for the activities girls might favor.

Cindy Simmons

Hi Douglas,

I'm writing in reference to last week's meeting which unfortunately I could not attend. I appreciate the voicemail you left me after I called your office. It was very helpful, but I feel it's important to note my concerns in writing for future reference.

I am a homeowner in the Greentree area - my address is 701 Edgewood Circle. We love living near Orchard Park and the high school facilities. It's a great family neighborhood and I grew up in this house after we moved in as one of the original families on the street in 1973. I heard about the meeting through my sister and also heard that one of the options being considered is constructing a skate park in the open space behind our house.

If this is true, I have several concerns to convey and hope they will be shared with the public/committee in lieu of my attendance at the meeting.

This space is near a sinkhole - what is the level of confidence that this won't be a structural issue at any point?

Would a skate park include lights for use at night? This would be very disruptive to residents.

There is no vehicle access. What if a park user was injured? Where would users park? What would the anticipated usage be and how many cars would be potentially be expected to park on neighboring streets?

If you have been on the bike path behind our house, you have probably noticed how peaceful and beautiful it is along that stretch of the open space. That is likely to be disrupted if a park is built there. The cyclists, dogwalkers, and joggers may have a very different experience going through that section of the path.

As you know, this part of Greentree is already home to Orchard Park and the bike path, as well as immediately adjacent to the high school track, athletic fields, and the Community Pool. There should be some balance between residential use and park/activity use in this part of the neighborhood. Adding another park would, in my opinion, create an imbalance and potentially change the feel of this beautiful place.

I hope this input is helpful to you and the committee and I am happy to provide further insights and/or answer any questions you may have as further discussions take place.

Thanks so much!

Kathleen Dolan and Ted Pellas
(908) 962-0537

Unfortunately, the survey that I picked up at the Oct. 11 meeting of the Action Sports Committee, at the Municipal Building, does not give voice to those Borough residents who may be opposed to an action sports part. This omission seriously calls into question the validity of any recommendations the Action Sports Park Committee will make in its report to the Council.

The Survey does not address the public's legitimate concerns such as safety, cost, parking, noise, hours, and supervision.

Municipality: State College Borough

Age: Over 65

Public Meeting CNET Link:

<http://vp.telvue.com/preview?id=T04959&video=322133>

Appendix D

Location Subcommittee

Location Committee Matrix (Parks)

Criteria	Parks												Recommendations
	Environmental Factors (including ADA)	Parking (New or Existing Spaces)	Accessibility (including ADA)	Proximity to Existing Homes	Existing Infrastructure (Flooding)	Municipal Location	Safety/Visibility (EMS and Police)	High or Low Usage (from CRPR)	Classification of Park/Parcel	Ownership	Acres		
1	Whitehall Road Regional Park	PP	PP	PP	P	PP	?		PP			100	Strongly Recommend
2	Haymarket Park	P	PP	PP	PP	P	PP		P			12.0	Strongly Recommend
3	Highpoint Park between Whitehall and Stratford	P	PP	PP	PP	PP	P		P			6.2	Strongly Recommend
4	Tudek Park	P	PP	PP	PP	P	PP		P			87.0	Strongly Recommend
5	Autumnwood Park	P	PP	PP	PP	N	P		P			9.5	Recommend
6	Circleville Park	PP	PP	PP	PP	NN	P		P			37.0	Recommend
7	Homestead Park	P	P	P	P	N	N		P			10.0	Recommend
8	Lederer Park	PP	PP	P	PP	N	N		NN			21.8	Recommend
9	Saybrook/Greenbrier Park	P	PP	P	P	NN	P		P			8.0	Recommend
10	Spring Creek Park	PP	PP	PP	P	NN	P		P			38.0	Recommend
11	Tussey View Park	P	P	P	PP	P	P		P			4.5	Recommend
12	Marjorie Mae	P	P	N	P	NN	N		N			4.7	Not Recommended
13	Oak Hall Park	PP	P	P	P	NN	P		N			68.0	Not Recommended
14	Sunset Park	PP	P	N	P	P	P		N			20.0	Not Recommended
15	Woodycrest Park	P	N	N	P	NN	N		N			6.0	Not Recommended
16	Bernel Road Park	PP	PP	PP	PP	NN	NN		P			74.0	Eliminated
17	Central Parklet	P	N	N	P	NN	N		P			<.50	Eliminated
18	Dalevue Park	N	N	P	P	NN	N		N			14.8	Eliminated

P = Positive Aspects Merits PP = Increased Degree of Positive Aspects Merits

N = Negative Aspects Limitations NN = Increased Degree of Negative Aspects Limitations

Site Evaluation Matrix: Parks

Criteria	Parks												Recommendations
	Proximity to Existing Homes	Accessibility (including ADA)	Environmental Factors (Existing ADA)	Parking (New or Existing Spaces)	Existing Location	Municipal Infrastructure	Safety/Visibility (EMS and Police)	High or Low Usage (from CRPR)	Ownership	Acres			
19	Fairbrook/Ramblewood Park	N	P	P	P	NN	P		N			29.0	Eliminated
20	Fogelman Park	P	P	P	P	NN	P		P			17.7	Eliminated
21	Green Hollow Park	P	NN	NN	P	N	N		NN			15.7	Eliminated
22	Hess Softball Fields	PP	P	P	P	NN	P		P			21.0	Eliminated
23	Holmes-Foster Park	NN	P	N	N	P	P		N			11.0	Eliminated
24	Mountainside Park	P	NN	N	P	NN	N		NN			9.3	Eliminated
25	Nittany View Park	N	N	N	P	NN	N		N			9.0	Eliminated
26	Oak Grove Park	N	P	N	P	NN	N		N			2.3	Eliminated
27	Oakwood Park	N	N	N	P	NN	N		N			4.3	Eliminated
28	Orchard Park	N	PP	N	NN	P	P		P			19.0	Eliminated
29	Park Forest Park	N	N	N	P	NN	N		N			0.9	Eliminated
30	Park Hills Park	N	N	P	P	N	N		N			4.0	Eliminated
31	Slab Cabin Park near Lemont	P	P	P	N	NN	N		N			19.9	Eliminated
32	Smithfield Park between Garner St & Univ Drive	N	P	N	P	P	N		NN			1.7	Eliminated
33	South Hills Park (Aikens & Waupelani)	NN	P	NN	P	P	NN		N			1.5	Eliminated
34	Suburban Park	N	P	NN	P	N	N		N			10.0	Eliminated

P = Positive Aspects Merits PP = Increased Degree of Positive Aspects Merits

N = Negative Aspects Limitations NN = Increased Degree of Negative Aspects Limitations

Site Evaluation Matrix: Parks

Criteria	Parks													Recommendations
	Proximity to Existing Homes	Accessibility (including ADA)	Parking (New or Existing Spaces)	Environmental Factors	Safety/Visibility (EMS and Police)	High or Low Usage (from CRPR)	Classification of Park/Parcel	Existing Infrastructure	Municipal Location	Ownership	Acres			
35	Tussey Mtn. "Private" Skate Park	PP	PP	PP	PP	NN	P			P			?	Eliminated
36	Walnut Springs Park	N	NN	NN	N	P	NN			N			19.4	Eliminated

P = Positive Aspects Merits PP = Increased Degree of Positive Aspects Merits

N = Negative Aspects Limitations NN = Increased Degree of Negative Aspects Limitations

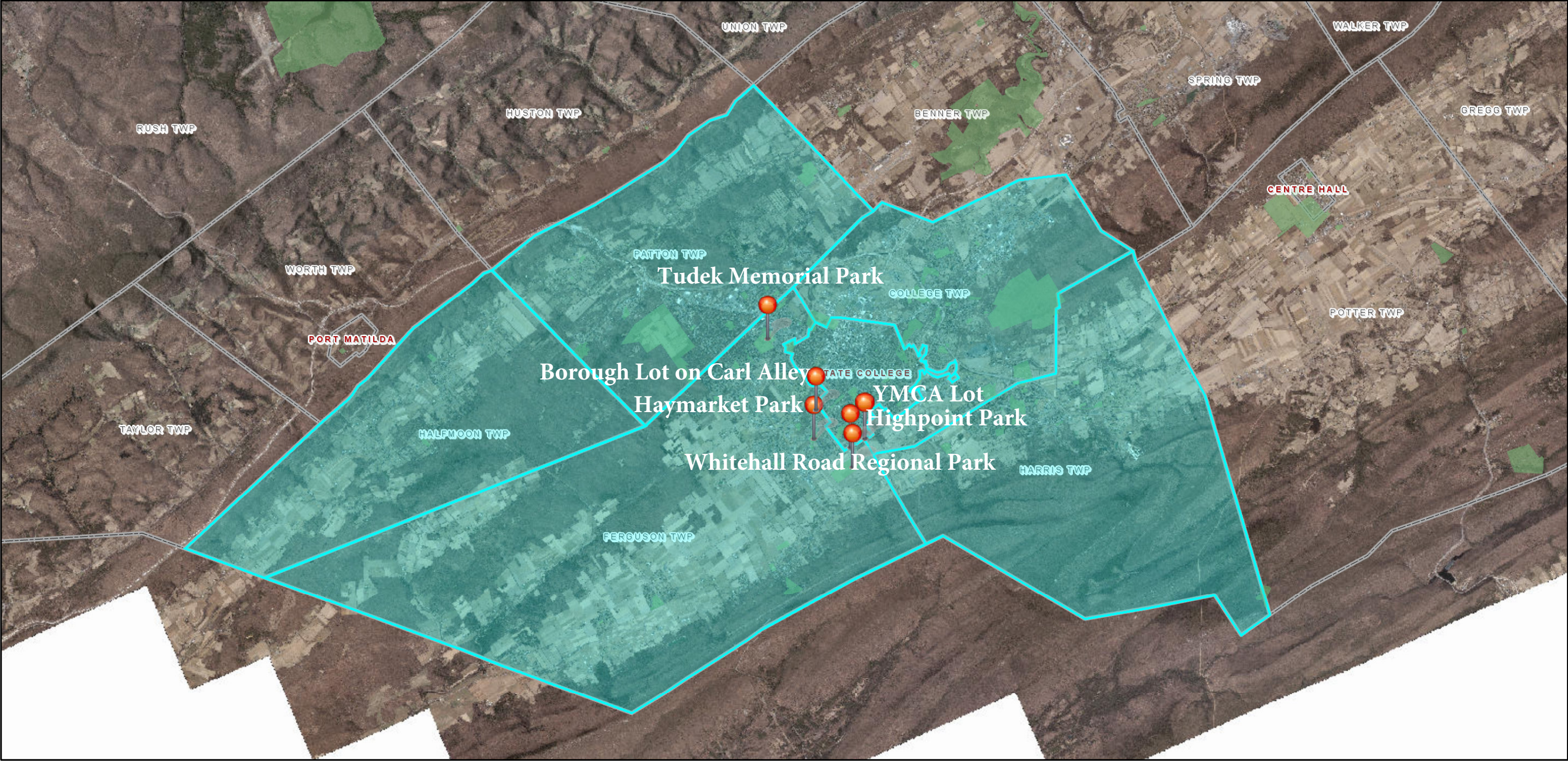
Location Committee Matrix (Lots)

Criteria	Lots	Environmental Factors (Including ADA)											Recommendations
		Proximity to Existing Homes	Parking (New or Existing Spaces)	Existing Infrastructure	Classification of Park/Parcel	High or Low Usage (from CRPR)	Ownership	Acres					
1	Lot between YMCA and South Hills Business School	PP	PP	PP	PP	PP	?		PP			1.2	Strongly Recommend
2	Lot near Boro Building on Carl Alley by Corl Street	P	PP	P	P	PP	N		?				Strongly Recommend
3	Lot on Bike Path across from Waffle Shop on W. College Ave	PP	PP	PP	PP	P	N		PP				Recommend
4	Lot on Blue Course at Evangelical Church (North Side)	N	PP	?	N	P	N		P				Eliminated
5	Lot between Weis Plaza and Retreat Cottages	P	PP	?	P	PP	NN		P				Eliminated
6	Lot between YMCA Skate Rink & Whitehall Road	P	P	P	NN	P	N		P				Eliminated
7	Lot on University Drive near Burger King	P	NN	NN	P	P	NN		N				Eliminated
8	Lot behind Overlook Heights near Bike Path	N	NN	NN	P	P	NN		NN				Eliminated
9	Lot below SCASD Community Fields on Atherton	P	N	N	P	PP	NN		N				Eliminated
10	Stormwater area between PW Plaza and Westerly	P	PP	PP	NN	PP	N		PP				Eliminated
11	Lot near SCASD Soccer Fields directly behind Welch Pool	N	NN	N	N	PP	NN		N				Eliminated
12	Lot Near Bike Path & Windsor Court by HS Track	NN	NN	NN	NN	PP	NN		NN				Eliminated
13	Lot behind Centre Glass on West College Avenue	P	NN	N	NN	P	NN		NN				Eliminated
14	Lot next to Rite Aid on Westerly Parkway	PP	PP	PP	PP	PP	NN		PP				Eliminated

P = Positive Aspects & Merits
N = Negative Aspects & Limitations

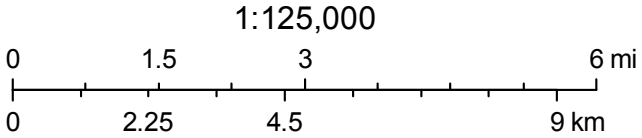
PP = Increased Degree of Positive Aspects & Merits
NN = Increased Degree of Negative Aspects & Limitations

Recommended Locations on Map of Centre Region



December 20, 2017

- Parks - gispub.GISDB.Parks
- Borough Names
- Township Names
- Parks
- Municipalities





Whitehall Road Regional Park

Whitehall Road Regional Park
FERGUSON TWP

Acreage: 38 acres total - Currently planned for Phase 1, but there is more acreage to be used.

Amenities: For future development for active recreation. There will be parking, restrooms/ portable toilets, pavilion or sun shelters.

Maps of Recommended Locations: YMCA Lot

Acreage: Not sure, but is strongly recommended, so falls within the size given by the elements committee.

Amenities: None at the moment, but parking at the YMCA may be available



YMCA Lot

STATE COLLEGE

Maps of Recommended Locations: Haymarket Park

Acreage: 12 acres total

Amenities: 2 pavilions, drinking fountain, charcoal grills, portable toilets.

State College Teener League Fields

STATE COLLEGE

Haymarket Park

Haymarket Park

S & A Homes Park

The Park at Stonebridge



High Point Park

STATE COLLEGE

High Point Park

Acreage: 6 acres total
Amenities: picnic tables,
drinking fountain,
portable toilets

FERGUSON TWP

Maps of Recommended Locations: Tudek Memorial Park



Green Hollow Park

PATTON TWP

FERGUSON TWP

Tudek Memorial Park

Tudek Park Community Garden

Tudek Butterfly Garden

Tom Tudek Memorial Park

Tudek Dog Park

STATE COLLEGE
Radio Park Elementary School

Park Hills Park

Homestead Park

Acreage: 87 total: Not sure about how many area available for park, but fits within the scope of the elements portion

Issue: Any future development within Tudek Park will need to go through the Tudek Trust, as well as Ferguson Township.

Amenities: Flush toilets, pavilions, shade, and water fountains and parking.

Maps of Recommended Locations: Borough Lot on Carl Alley

Acreage: Not sure, but Boro Public Works would know.
Elements: Fits within the recommended space
Amenities: No amenities except potential for parking in addition to what is there.

Borough Lot on Carl Alley

FERGUSON TWP

STATE COLLEGE

Appendix F

Action Sports Park Committee Meeting Minutes

Notes

Action Sports Park (ASP) Committee Meeting Wednesday, August 23, 2017

The Action Sports Park (ASP) met on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA in Room 220.

Attendees (Members): Tom King, Assistant Borough Manager; Evan Myers, Borough Council Member; John Diercks; Dan Grow; Christopher Jones; Jackie Gardner; Bill Hartman; Frank Maguire; Elaine Prestia; Janejira Cervone; Steve Mower; Autumn Busbee.

Mr. Myers brought the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Purpose of the Action Sports Park Committee

The purpose of the ASP Committee would be to find two or three locations within or close to the Borough to propose as sites for the ASP. The committee would locate the sites and discuss the elements of the park.

Project History

The idea of a sports park was first presented to Centre Region Council of Government (COG) in 2013. The Borough staff began to work on the project in the fall of 2014. Following approval of the sports park in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), Borough Council charged the ASP subcommittee to explore what should be a part of a sports park and to find two or three site locations.

Summary of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management Class Report

As part of an assignment for a Recreation, Park and Tourism Management (RPTM) class, Penn State students gathered information and assessed community opinions for a sports park.

Online Survey

- A common concern was accessibility to the park.
- The responses to the online survey were both positive and negative but mostly negative.
- Most of the responses were from the Greentree neighborhood. They were either very much for or very much against the sports park.
- The key to support for the sports park would depend on the location.

Community Population Responses

- Six community members were interviewed.
- Location was a concern. They were also concerned with their property values, increases noise, crime and safety.
- Most of them believed a sports park would benefit the community.
- Other concerns were visibility and liability. They also asked how the park would be managed and maintained.

Adult Focus Group

- This group were in favor of an ASP.
- Location was a concern and they preferred a more centralized location.
- There were strong opinions Orchard Park was not the right place for an ASP.
- There was concern about the safety of the park and easy access for emergency vehicles.
- There were questions about the environmental impact if the ASP was built in a neighborhood.
- Supported an ASP but were strongly opposed to neighborhood locations.

Child Focus Group

- The targeted group were middle school and high school students.
- The age range was 12-16 years old.
- They were concerned with accessibility to the park and the cost of admission.

Additional Questions/Comments

- What is the meaning of an ASP?
- What would the maintenance costs and liability costs be?
- The committee would like more information on use of skateboarding and its current popularity.
- Information on the size and dimensions of existing parks and what equipment they contain. The size of the equipment in the parks.
- What ongoing costs and commitment would the Borough incur?
- What additional resources would be required? Would the police department incur more expense?
- Had the Borough thought about an indoor sports park?

Task 1 Think about the space and accessibility
 Suggested uses are rollerblading, skateboarding and biking
 Completed by 9/30

Task 2 Identify site selection criteria and weight
Completed by 9/30

With no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m. and was adjourned by Mr. Myers.

Notes

Action Sports Park (ASP) Committee Meeting Wednesday, August 30, 2017

The Action Sports Park (ASP) met on Wednesday, August 30, 2017 in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA in Room 220.

Attendees (Members): Tom King, Assistant Borough Manager; Evan Myers, Borough Council Member; Gordon Kauffman III; John Diercks; Dan Grow; Christopher Jones; Kim Faulds; Jackie Gardner; Mark Huncik; Bill Hartman; Frank Maguire; Elaine Prestia; Autumn Busbee.

Mr. Myers brought the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Distribute Additional Documents

Mr. King distributed handouts about the sports facilities in Bethlehem, York, Tussey, Monroeville and Lancaster.

Christine Stephens, Americorp Member, will contact each of the agencies to get the following information of each park:

- The total square footage or acreage of the land for the skate park.
- The number of users for the last 3-5 years.
- What type of equipment the skate allows; such as, skateboard, BMX, rollerblades, etc.
- The startup costs and the maintenance costs of the facilities.

Additional Questions/Comments

What are the environments like around the parks? What are the locations? Are the parks in the middle of a residential development? If so, what type of neighborhood? Are the parks associated with the school? Are any of these parks staffed?

Other suggested skateparks to add to the list are Wawa Skate Park in West Chester, Bayne Park in Pittsburgh, Pitcher Park in Pittsburg, Portstown Park in Huntingdon, and Philipsburg Slabtown BMX/Skatepark.

Ernie Dabiero, Borough Risk Manager, had inquired to the Borough's insurance company as to what the liability would be for the Borough.

Our first step would be to define what constituted an Action Sports Park.

Park Users and Activities

What are the age groups? Who would be the potential users? Would they be college age, elementary age or teenagers? Would the sports parks need to represent all age groups? Would there be an inclusion of people with disabilities?

What constitutes an action sports park? We would need to identify the activities and elements of the Action Sports Park. Along with the need to identify activities, we would need to identify sections of the park for certain activities. In these parks, progression should be built into the park so it does not outgrow the users. Skill level would need to be considered. What would be included to accommodate other activities in a sports park.

If it would be too challenging to get to the sports park, the younger people would not be able to get there and would just stay on the streets.

Younger children's activities could be incorporated into an existing neighborhood park and as they get older, they would progress to the sports park.

Community Input

Mr. King suggested reaching out to people by inviting people that would use the park to get their input of what they are interested in having in a sports park. He also stated what the community thinks about the park should be included. He added a survey should be distributed through the school district for middle and high school students for their ideas.

It would also be important to also from people that do not want a sports park at all. We need to know what people are interested in.

Mr. Huncik stated that no one is vehemently opposed to a skate park, but they need to know what a skate park would entail.

Mr. Myers stated people need to be invited to tell what they want or do not want and ideas of where to put a sports park.

Mr. King suggested a survey for the community and to advertise to have the community voice their opinions. He also suggested we begin by surveying the Action Sports Park Committee members to find out what elements or features they would like the ASP to contain. The committee felt this was a good idea. Staff will develop a survey and send it to the committee members.

Other items

Mr. King emailed documents to the committee members on the Action Sports Parks (ASP). Following this meeting he will email two additional documents for the committee's review. Those documents are the PA Outdoor Recreation Plan and the 2016 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report

There was a suggestion of visiting a sports park to get an understanding of what a sports park entailed. One suggested site visit was Woodward Camp in Woodward, PA.

Project Timeline

Mr. Myers stated the charge of group was to recommend types of activities for the ASP and where they might occur. The findings would be presented to Council for their recommendation.

Task 1 Identify activities and elements
Completed by 9/30

Task 2 Identify site selection criteria and weight
Completed by 9/30

Task 3 Identify all possibilities, public and private, that meet criteria in Task 1 and Task 2 in the Borough and edge of borough
Completed by 10/31

Task 4 Site Evaluation/Prioritization
Completed by 10/31

Task 5 Develop recommendations for sites in rank order
Completed by 11/30

Task 6 Final Report to Council
December 18, 2017

Committee members were advised there would not be a meeting on Wednesday, September 6th. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 13th at 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 5:50 p.m. and was adjourned by Mr. Myers.

Action Sports Park (ASP) Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 13, 2017 – 4:30 PM - Latest 6:00 PM
State College Municipal Building – Room 220

Attending: Evan Myers, Steve Mower, Bill Hartman, Mark Huncik, Gordon Kauffman, Elaine Prestia, Mitch Lebold, John Diercks, Chris Jones, Dan Grow, Janejira Cervone, Kim Faulds, Jackie Gardner, Autumn Busbee, Christine Stephens, and Tom King

Called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairman Myers

1. Introductions
2. Updates from previous meetings

CRPR joining the ASP Committee – CRPR Director Pam Salokangas has agreed to participate on the ASP Committee as her schedule permits.

Communication w/SCASD – the district is considering assisting with the distribution of a survey to middle school and/or high school students and possibly have a high school math statistics class use it for course work. Staff will continue to have conversations with the school district to see what is possible.

3. Overview of ASP Committee Survey Results

Q2 - pie chart - doesn't tell us much to help – need to review charge to see what other questions we can include in future surveys. After revising the survey, send the revised survey out to the ASP Committee again. The committee members were urged to send staff questions they recommend be part of the survey.

Christine – gave an overview of the information she has received to date from other PA parks – she has heard from 3 of the 5 locations she has contacted. This information will be provided to the committee in the future. It was requested for the information to be put into an excel spreadsheet or matrix. Following Christine's overview, committee members suggested several other questions to attempt to get answered from the ASP's she is surveying, including where funding came from. The committee also requested an aerial view of the parks and ownership (public/private).

Chris Jones – read a source that indicated the cost for building a skatepark is about \$40/sq foot. The committee would like to have an idea of the need size and the cost per sq foot.

How much funding do we realistically have to work with? We don't want to suggest something that is unrealistic. The CIP lists \$350,000 for this project though it was made clear this was just a very general estimate and not based on any concrete financial costs. The committee was also reminded that currently the Borough does not have any funding allocated to this project. The committee also expressed interest in determining maintenance costs. The committee also wanted to consider co-aligning this park(s) with existing parks and sharing ownership to reduce expenses.

4. Discuss additional outreach needed to complete Task 1

Survey students

Survey broad community

Schedule evening ASP meeting for public to attend to provide input

Discussed surveying the general community – once a revised survey is completed, we will distribute the survey broadly through our usual forums such as advertise in CDT and Collegian, neighborhood associations, schools, PSU, web site, social media, etc.

Additional survey questions to consider:

-Would you participate in this sport/know someone who would?

-Age bracket

-Do you live in the Centre Region?

Tentatively we will hold an evening ASP Committee meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 11th to provide the public/community to provide input/feedback.

5. Begin discussing Task 2 – is there any information that staff will need to provide.

There were no suggestions at this point.

6. Open Discussion / Next Steps / Information Needed

The committee agreed one of the next steps was to bring in persons with some expertise in the ASP field. It was suggested to contact Jamie Beswick and Gary Ream at Woodward to see if they would be willing to come to an ASP committee meeting to provide advice and answer questions. If possible, we will schedule this for the Wednesday, Oct. 4th meeting.

7. Next Meeting Dates/Times – Wednesday, September 20th at Noon.
8. Future Agenda Items – nothing additional offered
9. Meeting Adjourned at about 5:50 p.m.

Project Timeline

Task 1 Identify activities and elements	Completed by 9/30
Task 2 Identify site selection criteria and weight	Completed by 9/30
Task 3 Identify all possibilities, public and private, that meet criteria in Task 1 and Task 2 in the Borough and edge of borough	Completed by 10/31
Task 4 Site Evaluation/Prioritization	Completed by 10/31
Task 5 Develop recommendations for sites in rank order	Completed by 11/30
Task 6 Final Report to Council	December 18, 2017

Notes

Action Sports Park (ASP) Committee Meeting Wednesday, September 20, 2017

The Action Sports Park (ASP) met on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA in Room 220.

Attendees (Members): Tom King, Assistant Borough Manager; Evan Myers, Borough Council Member; John Diercks; Christopher Jones; Jackie Gardner; Bill Hartman; Elaine Prestia; Christine Stephens; Peter Aeschbacher; Pam Salokangas, Centre Region Parks & Recreation Director; Autumn Busbee.

Mr. Myers brought the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Introduction

Pam Salokangas, Centre Region Parks and Recreation Director joined the ASP committee. Ms. Salokangas stated Ocean City, Maryland, has a skate park which was fenced and posted with operating hours and rules. This park was staffed mostly when there were special events. The city provided maintenance for the park. She believed the occasional staffing of the facility kept it in good repair. Ms. Salokangas stated a skate park in Nantucket was not supervised and was not fenced. This park did not succeed.

Updates

Mr. King reached out to Woodward Camp. Mr. Gary Ream has part ownership of Woodward Camp. Mr. Ream will not be able to attend the October 4 meeting because he will be away. He stated skateboarding will be an Olympic sport in 2020. He added skateboarding and BXMx is important globally. Mr. Ream can share do's and don'ts of skate parks.

Ms. Gardner will get contact information for Mr. Jamie Bestwick and see if he can attend the October 4 meeting.

Mr. King stated he does not have an update of distribution of the survey to the schools.

Ms. Stephens reached out to five parks and contacted a sixth park. She stated budgets were a little above our budget. She added concrete surfaces have maintenance issues with freeze/thaw and it was suggested to use asphalt. Location is the most controversial issue and only one is in a pure residential area. Ms. Stephens will email aerial screen shots of areas.

Review ASP Activities and Elements Survey

Question #1

Add other activities, such as, rock climbing.

Question #2

This question should be removed because it is being asked again in question #3.

Question #3

Other items to include in this question are interested/non-participant and skill level/frequency.

This question helps with future programming.

Question #4

This question should be split into two separate questions.

Would you utilize a local ASP?

We are charged to look outside of the Borough but not the Centre Region.

Question #6

This question should also be divided into two separate questions to get a better idea if and where a park would work.

Ask people if they would be opposed to building it in a neighborhood. In surveys, it is important to ask both way.

Question #7

Should question #7 go before question #5

What is the intent. What type of areas would you support for an ASP.

Ask where you like to see it built. Give examples.

Locations may be dependent on what elements are in the park.

How opposed would you be on a public/private option; is there support for it.

One factor has to be the response from the neighborhoods. The biggest issue is the location. What has been the support and pushback from neighborhoods?

A question for the committee was do you have what you need once the elements are determined. Do you have what you need to determine where it should go?

Would you prefer ASP elements at one or multiple sites? Quieter activities may be alright in neighborhood parks. We also need to think about overseeing the park.

Question #8

What additional factors should committee consider?

We hope to get task 2 & 3 out of this survey. People should be specific about whether the park should be in a neighborhood park or a regional park. We want to know how much support there is for this park.

The survey could have pictures inserted, so people can get a better understanding of the difference between a neighborhood park and a regional park.

Question Considerations

The use of helmets and pads should not be decided by the person but should be required.

Question #13 – change Centre County to Centre Region

Question #14 – age range is good.

Confirm Public Meeting Date & Time

The public meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date and Time

The next ASP meeting is October 4 at 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 1:15 p.m. and was adjourned by Mr. Myers.

Notes

Action Sports Park (ASP) Committee Meeting Wednesday, October 4, 2017

The Action Sports Park (ASP) met on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA in Room 220.

Attendees (Members): Tom King, Assistant Borough Manager; Evan Myers, Borough Council Member; Autumn Busbee; Pam Salokangas; Beth Lee; Mark Huncik; Kim Faulds; Steve Mower; Frank Maguire; Bill Hartman; Gordon Kauffman III; Dan Grow; John Diercks; Christopher Jones; Mitch Lebold; Jackie Gardner.

Mr. Myers brought the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Open Discussion with Jamie Bestwick

The ASP Committee asked what types of activities should be included in the park and what types of locations should the committee be looking for.

Mr. Bestwick gave the following suggestions for what types of activities should be included in the park and the best locations:

- Look at what the kids already do at home or on the street
- What types of equipment are in the garages, such as, skateboards, scooters and types of bikes.

Mr. Bestwick answered the question of whether there is a risk of kids going from a muddy track to an asphalt track. Not only of accidents but also of the upkeep of the surfaces:

- Kids know if you ride on a muddy track it does not make sense to then ride on a paved track with a muddy bike.
- There is a risk involved of playing on any park when it is wet, but people have common sense and the hope is they make good decisions.
- Along with common sense, warning signs of the conditions can be posted.
- Mr. Bestwick agreed people have to assume the risks regardless of the sport.

When asked whether kids should have to wear helmets and pads, Mr. Bestwick stated if people are made to wear helmets they will use helmets. He added you can promote safety by setting good examples, investing in the equipment and making sure they use them.

Mr. King asked what types of activities do people like to do and what activities should the committee focus on. Mr. Bestwick answered bikes, skateboards scooters and rollerblades.

Mr. Bestwick stated there should be one park for everyone. It can include every skill level and within reach of every participant. The park has to be something that encompasses everyone, otherwise, only a select few will use it. This would give others an opportunity who are not into team sports.

Mr. Bestwick does not see sports parks as disruptive. He said we need to have responsible parents, and we want kids to be fit and healthy.

Mr. Hartman asked how big should the park be. He added the main concern is putting it in one of the neighborhood parks. He said noise is a concern and would be incompatible within a neighborhood.

Mr. Bestwick stated the design of the park would be mutually agreed upon and designed with the space given. He added the surface will determine the noise level.

Mr. Beswick was asked to highlight what works and what does not work.

- Look at the base level of riders and look toward improvement.
- Have a track for bikes, as well as, a skate park.
- Make sure it allows for growth of ability of participants.

Ms. Busbee asked how to mitigate the noise. Mr. Bestwick stated the landscapers would be the ones to reach out to and ask these questions.

Mr. King asked if we would meet the needs of participants if we followed Philipsburg or Lewisburg. Mr. Bestwick said these two parks are great places to visit and to get ideas.

Mr. Bestwick stated he would like to see something in the area for kids to do. This would enable kids to pursue sports and dreams, but we have to provide the tools for them and have something for the non-team players.

Updates from Previous Meetings

Mr. King and Ms. Busbee gave an update about the school survey. They met with Erol McGowen, a teacher at the State College Area High School. Mr. McGowen has a module on designing surveys, and he was excited about designing a survey to be used for the high school and middle school. Mr. McGowen also has a class to evaluate and analyze the survey. The design of the survey would take ten school days.

Mr. King suggested allowing the school to design the survey for the students, and the committee would do their own survey for the community.

The committee was in favor of the school designing and distributing the survey to the high school and middle school students.

Mr. King stated the students would do an analysis of the survey, and we would also do our own analysis of the survey.

Mr. Myers was concerned the committee would not be able to review the survey before it is distributed to the students.

Mr. King stated when they met with Mr. McGowen they explained the charge of the committee and what should be considered. Mr. McGowen would gear the survey so it would be of value to the ASP committee.

Finalize the ASP Activities and Elements Survey

The last sentence in the introduction paragraph should be changed to:

- With this in mind, the site criteria and potential sites shall be evaluated to provide a recommendation to Borough Council of 2-3 sites for further consideration.

Question #1

What activities should be included within the Centre Region?

There should be a statement to distinguish between the Borough and Centre Region.

The committee is considering locations in the Borough and also within the Centre region

Should we say Borough or surrounding areas?

Change the question to "What activities should be included with such a park?"

Question #2

The question of how often do you participate and how often would you participate are both important.

The order of how often you participate should go from monthly to never.

Change location part, use wording we did before

Location selection

This question should be changed to "What specific locations would you suggest the committee considers when making their recommendations to council?"

Considerations

The breakdown of the age groups should be changed. The first group should age 10 and under.

The admission fee question should be taken out.

Demographic info

Do you live in the Borough if not where?

This focus of this question is who is answering the survey.

Please identify the age of the person completing the survey.

Public Meeting

Wednesday, October 11 at 7 in Room 201

Open Discussion

Mr. King stated he would ask Christine Stephens to email information on the parks.

Project Timeline

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Task 1 | Identify activities and elements
Completed by 10/31 |
| Task 2 | Identify site selection criteria and weight
Completed by 10/31 |
| Task 3 | Identify all possibilities, public and private, that meet criteria in Task 1 and Task 2 in the Borough and edge of borough
Completed by 11/30 |
| Task 4 | Site Evaluation/Prioritization
Completed by 11/30 |
| Task 5 | Develop recommendations for sites in rank order
Completed by 12/15 |
| Task 6 | Final Report to Council
December 18, 2017 |

Future Meeting

The next meeting of the ASP will be on October 18 at 12:00.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 6:02 p.m. and was adjourned by Mr. Myers.

Notes

Action Sports Park

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Mr. Myers called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Next Steps and Timeline

The ASP committee decided to form two sub-committees. The location sub-committee would focus on locations for the ASP, and elements sub-committees would investigate who would use the park and the different elements to be included. The sub-committees would report their findings to the ASP Committee.

Mr. King discussed the letters received from the residents for consideration.

Concerns of the ASP Committee

- Elements would be hard to decide because it may depend on the location of the ASP
- May decide to recommend two or three locations for the large equipment and another location for the smaller elements
- Having several options would enable options to be combined
- There was a concern there would be a lot of information for the elements to be included.
- Two other elements have been suggested; a pump track and a skills track
- Smaller elements, such as bouldering, could be located in a larger or smaller location and would not necessarily have to go in the same space
- There were concerns about noise and daytime and nighttime use
- The location list should be limited to five locations that were feasible
- When making recommendations for Council, how far outside of the borough was too far
- If our recommendation is not in the borough, it would fall upon Centre County Council of Government (COG) only if it is going into a regional park
- If the park was not accessible, it would not be used
- Has it been recommended to have it near the school, so it will be used after school

:

- Build the ASP in unimproved places
- Some parks have been built in the detention area of neighborhoods
- Elements could be decided because of the location

Meeting Minutes 10/18/17

- The corner of Easterly Parkway and University Drive adjacent to Ledderer Park
- Community Field towards the school there was a parking lot that could work
- Behind the pool on school property

The next ASP meeting is November 1, at 4:30 p.m.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. by Mr. Myers.

Notes

Action Sports Park (ASP) Committee Meeting November 8, 2017

The Elements and Location Sub-committees presented a report to the ASP.

The Elements Sub-committee reported their findings for the elements in the Action Sports Park (ASP). The report included who would use the park and the activities for the park.

The ASP would include:

- The street plaza (hard surfaces) would encompass approximately 3/8 to 1 1/2 acres for roller skaters, skateboarders and scooter riders
- The BMX bike pump track would be a dirt track of approximately an 1/8 to a 1/2 acre
- The Mountain bike skills area would be approximately a 1/4 acre
- There would be a Bouldering area which would have small-low scale walls or natural sculptural elements

1. Important priorities:

- Construction quality of the elements
- Maintenance budget
- Integral concrete
- Room for expansion

2. Moderately important:

- Co-locations with other activities
- Evening use
- Regional and Mid-Atlantic draw

3. Not important

- On-site staff

The Location Sub-committee: The Sub-committee presented their list of the locations for a ASP and reasons for the locations. The locations were chosen based on the size of the areas to determine which ones were not suitable to very suitable.

The list of locations was very extensive. The ASP committee suggested the list be trimmed to five or six locations to present to Borough Council. They also asked them to consider prioritizing the locations.

Dan Grow would provide aerial pictures of the locations to the ASP electronically.

Other Information

The school survey has been finalized and would be distributed through the school.

The next meeting of the ASP would be November 22.

Notes

Action Sports Park

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Mr. Myers called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Location Subcommittee Discussion

Whitehall Road Area

- Would this be contingent on Toll Brothers? No.
- Toll Brothers would have to build roads
- CRPR had \$1.2 million to build a driveway, get electricity and water
- CRPR would prefer to invest the money in a park
- Would want a recommendation from Borough Council that it would be alright to be a regional facility
- There would be a 4-way traffic light with crossing, a wide paved road and a separate bike path
- If this is the location, the ASP would be built in at the corner of the woods with a lower grade road
- The woods would remain
- Flush restrooms are in the plan but need a pump station

Lot between YMCA and South Hills Business School

- This location was 6/10 of an acre to an acre, level lot
- It appeared to belong to the YMCA
- Could have a preliminary discussion with the YMCA and South Hills Business School

Recommended Locations

- Highpoint Park—already available to recreation, parking, and east end was away from the apartments
- Service Building Lot—did not appear to have any Eco problems
- Haymarket—This location almost abuts Blue Course Drive. It is on the bus route. Noise would not be much of an issue because of the busier road and commercial business. The drainage area could not be used because of stormwater use. Haymarket had a master plan.
- Tudek Park—This location was privately owned by the Tudek Trust. This location had a master plan.

High School Survey Update—The survey data was ready. Ms. Busbee and Ms. Stephenson would read the survey data.

Addressing Community Rumors

- The way to react was not to respond and just complete the work.
- The meetings were open to the public.
- Recommend to move ahead as quickly as possible.

Next Steps & Timeline

- The original deadline was two weeks from now.
- There is nothing in the 2018 budget to do anything at this point.
- This information would be used as a basis for the future.
- December 4 or December 11 Mr. Myers would give Borough Council the report and it would be on the agenda in January or February.
- Next meeting the ASP committee would discuss more on the elements and framing the report.
- Mr. King would reach out to the YMCA and South Hill Business School. He would also contact Tudek Trust to discuss the possibility of using some of the park for the ASP.

Next Meeting

The next ASP meeting will be December 6 at 4:30 p.m.

Notes

Action Sports Park (ASP) Committee Meeting Wednesday, December 13, 2017

The Action Sports Park (ASP) met on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA in Room 220.

Attendees (Members): Tom King, Assistant Borough Manager; Evan Myers, Borough Council Member; John Diercks; Christopher Jones; Jackie Gardner; Bill Hartman; Elaine Prestia; Christine Stephens; Peter Aeschbacher; Mark Huncik; Pam Salokangas, Centre Region Parks & Recreation Director; Autumn Busbee.

Mr. Myers brought the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Action items

Mr. King talked to the YMCA. He also called Ferguson Township.

SCASD Survey

There were 412 responses in the Community survey.

There were approximately 800 responses from the school survey.

Review the Elements and Activities prioritization

- Need to prioritize elements and locations
- Looked at how much space would be required
- Great match up with location list
- Say in this site this is what would fit
- Have opportunity to recommend to do this or do that in different locations
- Looked at certain elements that would fit together
- Locations were chosen with element in mind and elements were chosen with sizes in mind
- Glossary is not just a visual guide but explains what something is

Review recommended locations for the ASP

- Started with 50 locations
- Looked for proximity to bus routes, schools and neighborhoods
- Whitehall area was 1.4 miles from high school and 2 miles from Memorial Field
- YMCA was 1 mile from high school and 1.5 miles from Memorial Field

- State College Borough Service Building was close to downtown and on bus route
- Highpoint park was on bike path
- Haymarket Park was close to downtown and on bus route
- Tudek Park

Based on evaluation there was no location on University Drive or near the high school on Easterly and Westerly Parkway.

The final analysis for the location of Burger King was safety an issue, since there was no safe place to cross University Drive.

Discussion of content to include in report to Borough Council

- Rank order of locations
- Recommend split and say these are the top 2 and these are the other 4
- Could decide the elements to be included
- Rank order can be strongly recommended and recommended
- Individual characteristics would be described for each

location Other information to include in the report:

- Background history
- Members
- Charge
- Community outreach
- Community expert
- Subcommittees
- Peter and Dan
- Recommendations
- Glossary and appendixes

The ASP committee would meet to discuss the final draft. The report to Council would be on February 5 or February 12.

The next ASP meeting would be January 10, 2018.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Notes

Action Sports Park (ASP) Committee Meeting Wednesday, January 24, 2018

The Action Sports Park (ASP) met on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA in Room 220.

Mr. Myers brought the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Action items

The ASP Committee reviewed a draft of the ASP report to submit to Borough Council.

Draft Review

Items to be included in the report:

- Brief history
- Members
- Executive summary
- Introduction and include a paragraph for each section
- Include page numbers
- More information of the elements
- Comments from the public meeting will be included
- Include Table of Content
- Include good pictures of a pump track and skate park
- Add a conclusion; with action, locations and elements
- Included glossary and appendixes

Suggestions and Changes to Draft

- Soften paragraph D under Executive Summary
- Lack of information on elements
- Shorten Executive Summary
- In the sixth paragraph under History, take out the Orchard Park section because it does not have any bearing on the locations that were chosen. Say instead, it has been a topic of discussion throughout the Borough, and it was very critical to have community input.
- Matrix is misspelled
- Use merits and limitations instead of positive or negative
- List sporting elements in priority order
- Include response rate for the surveys

- Change subcommittee to committee in the first paragraph under Matrix
- List where the information came from
- Include community input and outreach
- Include the four reports done by the PSU class
- Include the community survey
- In the Matrix section, move the links to the appendix with the other links

Other Comments

- It is alright to say strongly recommend
- Recommend following the presentation to Borough Council we get on the agenda to COG and Parks & Rec Board
- Mr. Myers would reinforce recommendation to Borough Council.
- The report becomes public when it is presented to Borough Council.
- Mr. Grow will present the location selections. He will talk about every location they reviewed and how they came to the top six locations.
- Mr. Aeschbacher will present the element selections.
- The #1 recommendation for location is the Whitehall area.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Appendix G

Liability

ASP Liability Insurance Answer



King, Thomas
Thu 10/26/2017, 9:58 AM



Reply all | v

Archive

ASP Committee,

See response below from the Borough's Insurance Trust regarding liability coverage for an Action Sports Park. Good news.

Also, though it may be outside of our charge or scope, the insurance rep also provided a link to two (2) articles she felt could be of value to help guide the Borough through the development and management of a park. It may be helpful information as we continue or focus on elements and location.

Have a great day.

Tom K.

From: Elizabeth Henry <EHenry@pamunicipalleague.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 4:03 PM

To: Dabiero, Ernest

Cc: Robert Anspach; Dona Yedlock

Subject: RE: Action Sports Park

Good afternoon Ernie,

You do have liability coverage under PennPRIME GL at no additional cost.

I Googled "Tony Hawk rules" and found this site. I recommend you take a 'look-see' to help guide State College through development and management of the park.

<http://publicskateparkguide.org/>

<http://publicskateparkguide.org/maintenance-and-operations/>

I hope these answers help with your decision making process.

Keep the questions coming ... Thank you and enjoy the rest of your day too!!!

Best regards,

Elizabeth Henry

Marketing and Member Services Manager

PennPRIME Insurance Trust

(717) 236-9469 ext dial *250