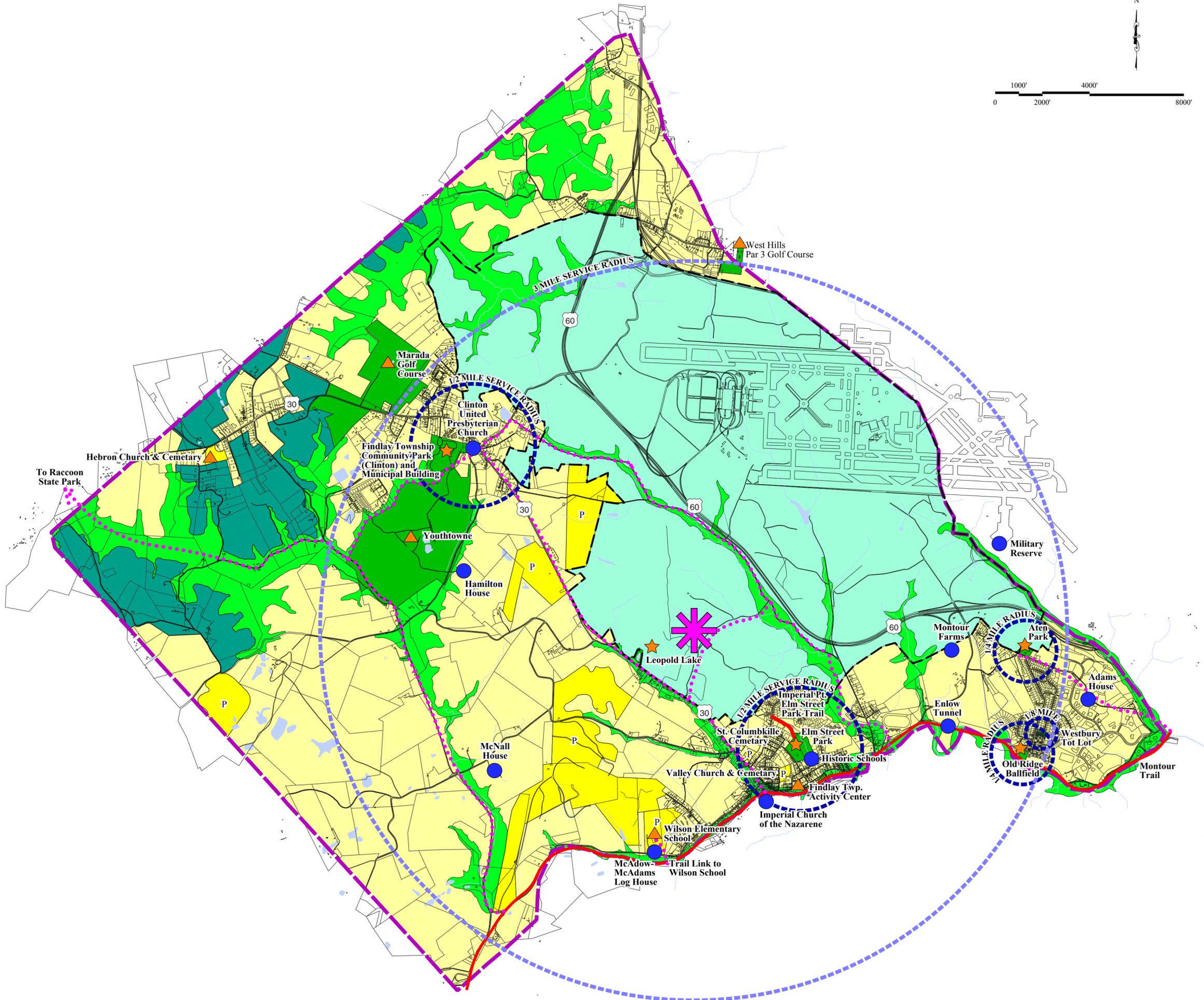
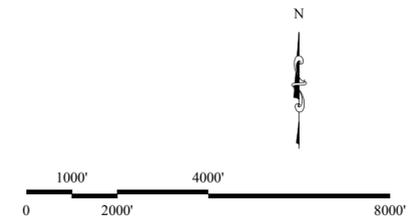


LEGEND

-  **Township Boundary**
-  **Areas Likely to be Preserved**
(Landfills, Churches, Cemeteries, and Schools)
-  **Areas Currently Dedicated to Open Space Preservation or Recreation**
(Parks, Golf Courses, and Camps)
-  **Conservation Areas**
(Wetlands, Flood Plains, Steep Slopes, Landslide Prone Slopes, and Scenic Areas)
-  **Agricultural Areas**
-  **Pittsburgh International Airport Property**
-  **Proposed Trails**
-  **Existing Trails**
-  **Historic / Semi-Historic Sites**
-  **Proposed Central Location for Recreation Facility**
-  **Points of Interest**
-  **Parks and Fields**
-  **Park Service Areas**



TOWNSHIP OF FINDLAY
 COMPREHENSIVE
 RECREATION, PARK
 AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Map by:
 GWSM, inc.
 1101 Greenfield Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15217



COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARK & OPEN SPACE PLAN



Prepared by:



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In Collaboration with:

Findlay Township Planning Commission

Findlay Township Manager
Gary Klingman

Findlay Township Assistant Manager
Christopher J. Caruso

INTENT

The Findlay Township Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan is the official policy document for providing information regarding open space and recreation facilities. This study provides the Township of Findlay a guide to improve and expand its parks, recreation facilities and programming services to meet the current and future needs of the community.

This pamphlet is a very brief summary of the official report.

GOALS

The Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan for the Township of Findlay seeks to address many desired goals of the community. However, one primary goal encompasses all other goals and that is:

To create a flexible set of planning guidelines which will provide direction for recreation, parks and open space for the next ten years.

A summary of the other planning goals that have evolved from discussions with the Planning Commission and from those previously set forth as part of the 1992 Open Space and Recreation Plan are as follows:

- Complete the Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan with consideration of the recommendations of the 1997 Comprehensive Plan and the 1991 Subdivision Ordinance.

INVENTORY

The Township of Findlay owns and maintains six parks with a combined area equaling slightly less than 90 acres. These parks include:

Park	Location	Facilities
Findlay Township Community Park (Clinton)	Route 30 (Clinton)	Ballfields, jogging and hiking trails, multi-use court, playground, picnic shelters. Approximately 67 acres.
Aten Road Park	Aten Road	Ballfield, concession, restrooms, tennis court, picnic pavilion, playground, biking/hiking trail. Approximately 11 acres.
Elm Street Park	Elm Street (Imperial)	Ballfield, concession building, portable restrooms. Approximately 13 acres.
Old Ridge Ballfield	Old Ridge Drive	Ballfield, concession stand, restrooms, basketball court, playground. Approximately 4 1/2 acres.
Westbury Tot Lot	Cranbrooke Drive	Playground equipment. Approximately .12 acres.
Leopold Lake	Route 30	Picnic tables, fire rings, portable restrooms. Approximately 3 acres.

The recreation needs assessment survey and the input sessions conducted in the summer of 2000 indicated that the highest priority features to be included as activities within the Township of Findlay are swimming, picnicking, jogging/walking, hiking, biking and sightseeing. These favored activities are consistent with the 1990 Region 10 Pennsylvania State Recreation Study.

- “Provide for a diversity of open space, recreational facilities and programs for all people who live and work in the Township by integrating natural, cultural and historical resources into a meaningful system.”
- “Establish and preserve a continuous system of open space accessible to all people who live and work in Findlay Township.”
- Provide a strategy to preserve openspace effectively and efficiently as development growth occurs within the Township.
- Develop a plan for future park(s) ad recreation opportunities by identifying the most appropriate and geographic locations including the potential expansion of the Leopold Lake area.
- Identify potential links to the Montour Trail from existing trails and future development areas.
- Evaluate existing facilities and programs for compliance with national safety and ADA standards and that current recreation opportunities meet the interests of all residents regardless of age, gender, disability or economic status.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Findlay Township Comprehensive Recreation Park and Open Space Plan is an update of the January, 1992 Open Space and Recreation Plan. This study is the result of a process of research, data gathering, public meetings, preparation and compilation of the results of a community recreation survey, field investigation and discussions with numerous individuals from Findlay Township Supervisors, Planning Commission and Staff.

The consultant reviewed the 1992 Open Space and Recreation Plan and the national and cultural features of the Township, including an assessment of demographics based on the 2000 census and a study of projected economic trends. The consultant also examined current recreation programs and facilities to determine whether deficiencies exist.

The basis for the recommendations of this study is rooted in the desires and needs of Findlay Township residents for recreation opportunities. The following is a brief summary of the various study recommendations.

STANDARDS

The proposed standards for the Township of Findlay reflect the needs of the residents and workers in a specific service area and are based on a sound analysis of the best available information. This updated plan uses a combination of methods to establish standards:

- demographics
- community focus
- specific use development

Park Type	Desirable Size	Acres/1,000 People
Local/close to home space		
Mini Park	up to 1 acre	1/4 to 1/2 acre
Neighborhood Park	15 – 10 acres	1 to 2 acres
Community Park	30 – 50 acres	5 to 8 acres
Unique to Community Space	Sufficient width to protect resource and provide maximum use	Variable
Linear Park/Trail Corridor		
Special Use	Variable	Variable



Based on the 2000 census, the current population in the Township is 5,145. With the relocation and expansion of the Pittsburgh International Airport Terminal, the construction of the Airport Expressway and plans for increased airport support facilities and the development of the Findlay connector, Findlay Township is expected to experience steady growth increases in its residential population over the next twenty years. According to the 1997 Comprehensive Plan, an increase of over 50% of the 2000 number is expected.



“Let us put our heads together and ...draw up a recreation and parks agenda for the twenty-first century. We owe it to ourselves and we owe it to our children.”

*~ Robert P. Casey, Governor ~
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
1990 Governor's Conference on
Recreation, Parks and Leisure*



- A mission statement and goals, which will be developed by the Township, communicates a vision and gives reason for the existence of the Parks and Recreation Department to the residents. A logo, symbolizing the mission statement, should be developed to give community identity to all Township facilities, signs, brochures and other promotional efforts.

- According to the recreation survey, the development of a centrally located community park complex including a community center/swimming pool facility is the highest priority of the residents of Findlay Township. It is recommended that a feasibility study should be conducted to determine the costs to the community for building, operating and maintaining such a facility. Intergovernmental cooperation agreements with neighboring communities and the school district should be explored.

- The Township should establish greenway corridors and trails to protect the natural resources of the Township as well as provide venues for passive and active recreation activities and outdoor education. The trail system will link together parks, recreation facilities and historic/semi-historic sites for the community's benefit.

- The Township should improve the existing parks by making each park the social focus of their respective neighborhoods. Signs and entrance monuments for each park should be consistent and clear. All parks should conform to ADA guidelines and all playground structures should comply with current Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) safety recommendations. The following is a summary of recommendations:

- Findlay Township Community Park (Clinton)
 - o Convert existing ballfield to Soccer/football field.
 - o Add accessible walks and develop trail links.
 - o Renovate amphitheater and fitness trail.

- Elm Street
 - o Improve bike trail link.
 - o Renovate tennis courts; reconfigure basketball courts.
 - o Provide accessible route to restrooms.

- Aten Road Park
 - o Remove existing play lot and reprogram play area space.
 - o Develop multi-purpose athletic field.

- Old Ridge Ballfield
 - o Reduce parking and add recreation space.
 - o Provide picnic shelters and tables.
 - o Develop playground.

- Westbury Tot Lot
 - o Remove existing play equipment.
 - o Provide gazebo, benches and landscaping.
 - o Develop new tot lot next to Westbrook Townhouses.

- Leopold Lake (if not site of new community park)
 - o Acquire greenspace buffer around lake.
 - o Provide wheelchair accessible parking and access To the lake.

- Private enterprise should be encouraged to participate in the development of recreational facilities that meet the needs of the community and work to establish trail links to Findlay

- It is recommended that a Risk Management Plan and Equipment Action Plan be developed by the Township to address both short-term and long-term actions. The emphasis should be preventative rather than responsive. The plan should include a clear definition of responsibility for decisions regarding maintenance, regular safety inspections, training of maintenance personnel, and documentation of park maintenance activities.



TOWNSHIP OF FINDLAY COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARK & OPEN SPACE PLAN



JULY 2001

Township of Findlay Supervisors

Joseph O. Nester, Chairman
Thomas J. Gallant, Vice Chairman
Janet L. Craig, Supervisor

“Play for the child, sport for youth, and recreation for adults are essentials of normal life. It is becoming generally recognized that the creation and maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities is a community duty in order that the whole public might participate in their enjoyment. This presents a particular challenge to municipal and county administrators.”

~ Calvin Coolidge, 1928 ~