

SECTION I – SITUATIONAL PROFILE

Where are we now?

This section provides a listing of the strengths and weaknesses of the region and presents a concise overview of the current situation. The statements contained in this section directly reflect the information compiled through the various public input methods (see Appendices A, B & C) and the professional assessment of conditions contained in Appendix D, Background Data & Analysis.



Study Committee Members

It is important to note that the classification of key points by strengths and weaknesses is neither a positive or a negative. This information is intended to objectively show areas upon which to build, such as the two successful models of intergovernmental cooperation (Stroud Area Police and the Jacob Stroud Corporation) and areas for improvement, such as increasing the level of comfort and safety within the less-visible park and open space areas.

For ease of reference, the strengths and weaknesses have been organized by the following topics:

- " General
- " Administration, Maintenance, Finance & Personnel
- " Programs & Special Events
- " Facilities/Natural Resources & Land Use

Table I-1 – Summary of Strengths and Weaknesses

SITUATIONAL PROFILE:	
Strengths....	Weaknesses...
GENERAL:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> " High response rate to Parks, Recreation and Open Space questionnaire 22.67% " Large public turn-out for Public Input Sessions " Have several successful examples of intergovernmental agreements in place among the regional partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jacob Stroud Corporation - Recycling Center - Stroud Area Regional Police 	

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Strengths...	Weaknesses...
ADMINISTRATION, MAINTENANCE, FINANCE, AND PERSONNEL:	
<p>All three municipalities have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a strong commitment to providing parks and recreation services to residents - successful Parks and Recreation Boards - shown a commitment to regional planning efforts - expressed openness to the idea of regionalizing parks and recreation operations (in some form) - a strong commitment to funding park maintenance - regular capital budgeting for parks and recreation <p>" Excellent cooperation exists between each of the municipalities and the non-municipal recreation providers</p> <p>" All three municipalities have shown a strong financial commitment to parks and recreation</p> <p>" Monroe County has encouraged regional park and recreation efforts by providing financial incentives</p> <p>" Planning for parks, recreation and open space is now a part of municipal operations via this document/process</p> <p>" Recreation revenues for the three municipalities combined have increased by \$88,000 or 162% from 1995 to 1999</p> <p>" Stroud Township and Stroudsburg have a mission statement specific to parks and recreation</p> <p>" East Stroudsburg has a draft statement that is pending approval</p> <p>" East Stroudsburg has increased funding of parks and recreation in each year from 1995 to 1999</p> <p>" East Stroudsburg recently updated facilities at Dansbury Park in accordance with a master plan</p> <p>" Stroudsburg has spent nearly \$1,000,000 on capital improvements within its park system in the past five years; including \$250,000 shown in the 1999 park budget</p> <p>" Stroudsburg has been creative in their funding sources for park development, utilizing DCNR grants, CDBG Funds, Shade Tree Commission funds, force account labor, and cooperative funding with other municipalities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> " Three individual parks & recreation boards – potential for duplication of effort & economy of scale " No formal regional policy for providing parks and recreation services " Few municipal policies in place to manage the growth of parks and recreation " No formal planning processes in place for parks & recreation " Most parks and recreation intergovernmental arrangements do not have written agreements " Despite the existing cooperation, there is still a degree of local control exhibited among the communities " No parks & recreation director positions filled in East Stroudsburg or Stroudsburg " No annual reports showing all park & recreation activities for a given year " East Stroudsburg & Stroudsburg do not show separate expenditures for parks and recreation (does not provide a clear picture of total expenses) " None of the three municipalities have a stated policy concerning fees and charges

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Strengths....	Weaknesses...
ADMINISTRATION, MAINTENANCE, FINANCE, AND PERSONNEL (continued):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> " Stroudsburg provides annual report on pool activities " A preliminary master plan for Stroudsburg Borough – Glen Park was created by East Stroudsburg University Students " Swimming pool managers in Stroudsburg & East Stroudsburg have done an excellent job " Stroud Township has increased funding of parks and recreation ten-fold from 1995 to 1999. The five year growth has been 1053% compared to 36.8% in the general fund " Master Plans have been developed for Stroud Township Parks (Big Pines and J. Albertson Park) " Stroud Township hired a professional recreation director in 1998 to manage parks and recreation planning, development and operations " All three municipalities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hire seasonal park laborers and program staff on an as-needed-basis - maintenance staff do an excellent job - have adequate/appropriate equipment " Existing (successful) examples of formal intergovernmental collaborative arrangements (related to parks, recreation and open space): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stroudsburg/Stroud Township swimming pool agreement - Hamilton Twp/Stroud Twp land purchase: McMichael Creek Conservation Land - Bridge over Brodhead Creek between Glen Park in Stroudsburg to the Recycling Center in East Stroudsburg (pending) - Brodhead Creek Greenway Feasibility Study - Pocono Creek Pilot Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> " Training in park related maintenance practices has not been priority " Volunteers are not used very much " Stroud Township recreation director position is part-time with increasing demands on position " None of the three municipalities have a risk management plan specific to parks and recreation " Some duplication of equipment due to maintenance being performed by each individual municipality " East Stroudsburg spending on parks and recreation has not kept pace with the general fund spending " All three municipalities rank average or below average in spending on parks and recreation when compared to municipalities of similar size within the Commonwealth " Continued park development will place a financial burden on individual municipalities

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Strengths....	Weaknesses...
PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> " Excellent market penetration for recreation programming. Twenty-four (24%) percent of residents surveyed said they participate in recreational activities " YMCA offers a balanced recreational program at reasonable rates " Stroudsburg/Stroud Township and East Stroudsburg offer excellent summer swimming programs " Great potential for expanding program opportunities by using East Stroudsburg University as a resource " Current youth sports organizations provide excellent programs¹ " East Stroudsburg School District and Stroudsburg School District make facilities available for programs use when not in use for educational purposes " Non-municipal recreation providers have expressed a commitment toward program and facility development² " Local artists have expressed interest in developing art for public spaces " Strong and well established groups of non-municipal recreation providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ESYA - YMCA - Monroe County Arts Council - Pocono Medical Center - Wellness Programs - Monroe County Parks & Recreation Commission - Monroe County Housing Authority " Stroud Area hosts many local festivals and special events e.g., Garlic Festival, Arts Festival, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> " Shortage of non-sports programming " Limited art programs available (this may change with the recent location of the Monroe County Arts Council building being located in Stroudsburg) " Potential programming opportunities/resources of East Stroudsburg University not being utilized " Few programming options available to teens other than the traditional sports programs " Lack of indoor swimming facility limits year-round swimming programs " Limited programmatic cooperation between East Stroudsburg and Stroudsburg/Stroud Township " No single source for program information - the extensive number of individual program providers makes it difficult for residents to gain access to comprehensive program information " Limited Adult Programming and for Senior Citizens e.g. planned recreation programming³

¹Note, a detailed analysis of programming was beyond the scope of this study which has a primary emphasis on open space. Statement is based on the collective understanding of the Study Committee.

²Commitments such as the YMCA's offer to do fundraising for non-public dollars to make Stroudsburg Pool a year-round facility to develop a loop around Main Street/McMichael Creek starting/ending at the YMCA.

³Although not a major finding in the various methods of public input employed in this planning process, it is the collective understanding of the Study Committee that programming needs are not being met.

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Strengths...	Weaknesses...
FACILITIES/NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND USE:	
<p>" Monroe County recently completed several ambitious planning efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monroe 2020 – County Comprehensive Plan which has strong support for open space preservation and conservation oriented growth management - County Open Space Plan - County-wide Geographic Information System (GIS) - Open Space Bond Issue/municipal grants for open space & recreation planning <p>" Monroe County Open Space Advisory Board very active in grantwriting and collaborating with local governments</p> <p>" Monroe County's Municipal Partnership Program was designed to promote cooperation between the county and local governments</p> <p>" Convenient access to regional amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delaware Water Gap - Tannersville Cranberry Bog - Appalachian Trail – Regional natural amenities - Camelback Mountain - Jack Frost - Blue Mountain <p>" Numerous streams⁴ meander through the three municipalities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brodhead Creek - Cherry Creek - Poplar Creek - Pocono Creek - Little Pocono Creek - Big Meadow Run - Flagler Run - McMichael Creek - Wigwam Run - Michael Creek - Little Sambo Creek 	<p>" No formal map showing the location of parks, open spaces in region</p> <p>" No pathfinder signs directing residents or visitors to public parks or open spaces</p> <p>" Lack of amphitheater or bandshell to support outdoor concerts</p> <p>" No designated areas for motorized trail use/potential conflict exists between motorized/non-motorized</p> <p>" Stroud Township experiencing growth pressure – numerous residential subdivisions proposed</p> <p>" While the distribution of parks in the Stroud area is adequate, the average size of facilities is either below or at the low-end of Monroe County open space standards for size</p>

⁴Reference Exhibit D-3, Stroud Area Biotic, Land and Water Resources Map, Appendix D.

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Strengths....	Weaknesses...
FACILITIES/NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND USE (continued):	
<p>" Eight Natural Area Inventory (NAI)⁵ sites in Stroud Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tannersville Cranberry Bog - Center Field Coral Reef - Mesic Central Forest - Mansfield Seep - Former Site of Federally Endangered Species - Appalachian Trail - Intake Dam Wood <p>" Two Natural Treasures Sites⁶:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pocono Creek Riparian Zone - Brodhead Creek Riparian Zone <p>" Interesting variations in the regional topography (steep slopes, deep flat valleys and flat uplands)</p> <p>" Many scenic views found throughout area</p> <p>" Several important watersheds which drain into the Delaware River Basin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brodhead Creek Watershed - McMichael Creek Watershed (a sub-watershed to the Brodhead Creek) - Cherry Creek Watershed <p>" Numerous wetland and floodplain areas remain in the area for potential perpetual preservation</p> <p>" Stroud Township has 974 acres in the Agricultural Security Area and 2,717 acres in the Clean and Green Program (Act 319)</p> <p>" Several pockets of viable prime agricultural soils remain in the Cherry Valley</p> <p>" Unique Geologic Features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tannersville Cranberry Bog - Centerfield Coral Reef - Clark Falls 	<p>" Majority of prime agricultural soils in the Stroud Area are developed e.g. Exhibit D-3 shows the concentrations of prime agricultural soils in the location of Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg. Traditionally, the best farming soils are also areas most desirable for development</p>

⁵Reference Exhibit D-3, Appendix D.

⁶Reference Exhibit D-3, Appendix D.

Strengths...	Weaknesses...
FACILITIES/NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND USE: (continued)	
<p>" Numerous man-made corridors exist throughout the region providing opportunities for greenway and trail linkages. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Levee System (flood control project) - Utility Corridors - Bell Atlantic; GPU; PP&L - Railroad Lines - former Delaware, Lackawanna and Western mainline (active); Stroudsburg Traction Line (abandoned); WB&E (abandon); and Delaware Valley Corridor (abandoned) <p>" Many private hunting, fishing and recreation camps in Stroud Township (reference Exhibit I-1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 76ers Basketball Camp - Kirkridge Retreat - Monroe Beagle Club - Hill Meadow Stables (abandoned) - Manitou Mountain Resort - Shadow Brook Camp - Lakewood Rehab Center - Analomink Rod and Gun Club - Brodhead Forest and Stream Association - Penn Hills Resort/Wooded Ski Slope - Pocahontas Rod and Gun Club - Pinebrook Bible Conference <p>" Several Golf Courses in Stroud Township (reference Exhibit I-1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cherry Valley Golf Course - Glenbrook Golf Course - Evergreen Golf Course <p>" Strong interest and support from area conservation organizations for the protection of important resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nature Conservancy - Brodhead Watershed Association - Natural Lands Trust - Trout Unlimited - Pocono Heritage Land Trust <p>" U.S. Government Flood Control Dike along Brodhead Creek, leased by Stroudsburg Borough, East Stroudsburg and Stroud Township: provides band of open space on both sides of Brodhead Creek</p> <p>" Vast areas of open space and woodlands still remain in Cherry and Poplar Valleys of Stroud Township (reference Exhibit D-3, Appendix D)</p>	

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Strengths...	Weaknesses...
FACILITIES/NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND USE: (continued)	
<p>" As a region, the Stroud Area supports ±419.3 acres of publically accessible open and/or park lands</p> <p>" Stroud Area Level of Service equates to about 10 - 11 acres of park/open space land per 1,000 residents in the year 2000. NRPA and Monroe County recommended range is between 8-14 acres per 1,000 residents</p> <p>" The spatial distribution of public park areas and common open space generally meet the NRPA and Monroe County recommended service areas (reference Exhibit D-1, Appendix D)</p> <p>" School district properties supplement the park, recreation and open space demand of the region by providing access to the following:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Stroudsburg School District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stroudsburg High School/Morey Elementary School Complex⁷, 50 acres - Stroudsburg Intermediate School⁸, 110 acres - Arlington Elementary, 10 acres - Ramsey Elementary, 1 acre - Clearview Elementary, 10 acres <p style="margin-left: 20px;">East Stroudsburg School District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - East Stroudsburg South High School/North Courtland Elementary Complex⁹, 55 acres - J.T. Lambert Intermediate School, 41 acres - J.M. Hill Elementary, 4.6 acres 	<p>" The Stroud Area Regional Level of Service would drop to 8-9 acres of park/open space land per 1,000 residents in the year 2010 (assuming the expected population increase and no new land acquisition)</p> <p>" An additional 111 acres will need to be acquired over the next 9 years to maintain current level of service</p> <p>" While the service areas meet the recommended standards, the actual size of community parks is below or at the low end of the recommended size standards. The increase of such park facilities in the Boroughs will be difficult due to the built-up nature of the communities</p> <p>" Number of neighborhood parks in the region is limited. Although access to community parks and greenway/open space areas many mitigate the demand to some degree</p> <p>" Based on 2000 population estimates, the existing Recreation Node/Neighborhood Park land equates to a little over 0.5 acres per 1,000 residents. NRPA and the Monroe County guidelines suggest between 1.2 and 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents</p> <p>" School District properties are not 100% accessible to the public - not the same accessibility as a the municipal owned/leased property. School use takes priority over the use of facilities.</p>

⁷ Located along Pocono Creek.

⁸ Located along Flagler's Run.

⁹ Located along the Brodhead Creek/Little Sambo Creek.

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Strengths...	Weaknesses...
FACILITIES/NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND USE: (continued)	
<p>“ <u>Stroud Township</u> supports a total of ±308.7 acres of public open space (reference Exhibit I-1, sheet 1 of 2). Public areas include :</p> <p><u>Community Parks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Big Pines Park, 25 acres - Pinebrook Camp, 60 acres leased through 2008 <p><u>Recreation Node/Neighborhood Parks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jay Albertson Park, 5.3 acres - Katz Park, 7.2 acres - Michael Moore Pocket Park, 0.5 acre <p><u>Natural Resource Areas/Greenway Links</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kovarick Park Lands, 13 acres - Carol Dailey Property, 1.2 acres - Laurel Street Pond, 1.5 acres - McMichael Creek Conservation Lands, 107 acres - Van D. Yetter, Jr. Park, 25 acres - Totts Gap Trail Head, 42 acres - Felker Tract, 32 acres <p>“ Stroud Township has taken an aggressive role in the acquisition and preservation of open spaces along McMichael and Brodhead Creeks as well as purchasing a large parcel in Poplar Valley. This tract will be developed as Totts Gap Trail Head .</p> <p>“ Stroud has identified other properties¹⁰ for consideration for acquisition, easement, right-of-way, etc., and are shown on Exhibit II-1, Greenway, Open Space, Parks and Recreation Concept Map.</p> <p>“ Cherry Valley remains the most undeveloped</p>	<p>“ Stroud Township has experienced a land consumption rate of about 85 acres per year</p> <p>“ Exhibit D-2, Stroud Area Existing Land Use Map shows the existing development pattern as of 2000 and the number of approved/proposed subdivisions in Stroud Township as of January 2001. Many of the open natural areas are being incrementally developed</p>

¹⁰ Note, the properties shown on Exhibit II-2 represents conceptual ideas for future open space, greenway or park areas at this point in time. Based upon political and fiscal realities, as well as project readiness, these properties may or may not meet the intent of the plan during actual implementation.

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Strengths...	Weaknesses...
FACILITIES/NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND USE: (continued)	
<p>" East Stroudsburg Borough supports ±88.3 acres of public open space (reference Exhibit I-1, sheet 2 of 2). Public areas include :</p> <p><u>Community Parks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dansbury Park, 15.7 acres - Zacharias Pond Park, 36.5 acres <p><u>Recreation Node/Neighborhood Park</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David Miller Park, 1.2 acres <p><u>Natural Resource Area/Greenway Links</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gregory s Pond Park, 16.1 acres - Flory Pond Property, 3.8 acres - Van D. Yetter Park, 15 acres <p>" East Stroudsburg recently (year 2000) acquired the Yetter Property; adding an additional 15 acres to their park system inventory</p> <p>" East Stroudsburg has identified other properties for consideration¹¹ for acquisition, easement, right-of-way, etc., and are shown on Exhibit II-1, Greenway, Open Space, Parks and Recreation Concept Map</p>	<p>" Size and acreage of existing park areas within Borough - expansion of existing park areas is limited by development patterns</p>

¹¹Note, the properties shown on Exhibit II-2 represents conceptual ideas for future open space, greenway or park areas at this point in time. Based upon political and fiscal realities, as well as project readiness, these properties may or may not meet the intent of the plan during actual implementation.

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Strengths...	Weaknesses...
FACILITIES/NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND USE: (continued)	
<p>“ Stroudsburg Borough supports ±22.3 acres of public open space (reference Exhibit I-1, sheet 2 of 2). Public areas include :</p> <p><u>Community Parks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stroudsburg Borough Park, 9.3 acres, long term lease with School District - Glen Park, 9.6 acres <p><u>Recreation Node/Neighborhood Parks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helen Amhurst-Third Street Parks, 1.5 acres - Corner of Park/Bryant Street Park, 0.2 acre <p><u>Natural Resource Areas/Greenway Links</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rotary /Ann Street Park, 1.6 acres <p>“ Stroudsburg currently collaborating with private land owners to lease, purchase or obtain right-of-way access on the following properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - G.P.U. Energy - Best Supply Company - Monroe Silk Mills - Labar Village - Shiffer Property <p>“ Stroudsburg has identified other properties¹² for consideration for acquisition, easement, right-of-way, etc., are shown on Exhibit II-1, Greenway, Open Space, Parks and Recreation Concept Map</p>	<p>“ Size and acreage of existing park areas within Borough - expansion of existing park areas is limited by built-out development patterns</p>

¹² Note, the properties shown on Exhibit II-2 represents conceptual ideas for future open space, greenway or park areas at this point in time. Based upon political and fiscal realities, as well as project readiness, these properties may or may not meet the intent of the plan during actual implementation.

Where do we want to be?

It is vision that inspires,
motivates, and transforms desire
into action – Unknown

This section provides an overview of the process used to create the Stroud Area's Vision for the Future. The process consisted of the following steps:

- (1) the creation of a vision statement describing the community in the next 20 years,
- (2) the development of community based goals, and
- (3) the delineation of a concept plan showing areas in need of protection, future greenway linkages and additional park land opportunities.

Step 1: Create a Vision – A “vision” is a mental image that empowers individuals and communities by giving them foresight to make events happen and projects possible. The vision statement incorporates the principal points extracted through the inventory of existing conditions and the public input process; it sets the tone and direction for the plan. The vision also describes an ideal for the region and provides a target to aim towards when making future decisions, whether public or private. Figure II-1 presents “Stroud Area's Vision for the Future”.

Step 2: Develop Goals – This step involved the development of goals statements. The statements presented in Table III-1 on page III-3, are broad in nature and designed to be all encompassing. The goal statements define what is important to the region, by theme or topic.

Step 3: Create a Conceptual Map – The final step in creating the vision was the development of a graphic map or concept plan, Exhibit II-1 – Sheet 1. This Greenway, Open Space, Park and Recreation Concept Plan map visually depicts the vision and goals of the region.

This concept map should be used to market the plan strategies. It is intended to excite residents, stakeholders and investors by helping envision the possibilities for open space and recreation in the Stroud Area.

SECTION II –CREATING THE VISION

Figure II-2		Open Space, Recreation, and Park Goals
Topics:	Goal Statements:	
Greenways & Open Space:	<p>To acquire significant natural resource lands, parcels along stream corridors, and linear easements for perpetual open space conservation and linkage of land throughout the Stroud Area region.</p> <p>To create a comprehensive system of greenways and open space that is accessible and inviting to many interests.</p> <p>To create diversity in greenway linkages by connecting urban streetscapes, scenic road corridors, abandoned rail-lines, natural resource lands, open space pockets, and cultural resources.</p>	
Agricultural Conservation	To promote farming as a viable industry in the region and protect farmland through preservation efforts.	
Facilities:	To ensure that all public recreation facilities are accessible, inviting, well maintained, and safe.	
Regional:	To coordinate, operate, and maintain an enhanced regional park system that meets the regional recreation needs of Stroud Area residents.	
Neighborhood/ Community:	To improve community and neighborhood parks, including expanded access to them.	
Special Use:	<p>To support the development of special use recreation facilities that are accessible to all Stroud Area residents, which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an outdoor amphitheater - a centrally-located skateboarding park - a year-round swimming pool facility 	
Transportation:	To provide safe and accessible routes of travel for pedestrians, bicyclists, and individuals with disabilities.	
Programs & Special Events:	To provide facilities and staff that support and enhance recreation and open space activities for all interests, ages, and abilities.	
Funding & Administration:	<p>To build and maintain the Stroud Area open space and recreation system in an effective manner through qualified professional leadership.</p> <p>To secure and manage fiscal resources and administrative partnerships, to expand all types of open space, recreation, and park opportunities needed to meet the changing needs of Stroud Area residents.</p>	
Community Awareness & Involvement:	<p>To utilize the strong volunteer base for support of cultural and recreational programming, fund-raising efforts, and maintenance of regional facilities.</p> <p>To increase residents awareness of current open space conservation efforts, available recreation activities and facilities, and volunteer opportunities.</p>	
Intergovernmental Cooperation:	To formalize regional partnerships that support open space, parks, and recreation.	

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The Greenway, Open Space, Park and Recreation Concept Plan that follows should be used as a supplement to any future land use planning undertaken by the Regional Partners, as it identifies important resources in need of protection. Further, this concept plan should be used as a marketing tool for creating excitement about the possibilities for the future, as this plan brings to life the vision and goals of the Stroud Area.

Exhibit II-1, presents the Stroud Area Greenway, Open Space, Park and Recreation Concept Plan. The text which follows describes the features shown on the map. Detailed strategies for implementing the concept plan are contained in Section III, Strategies for Action.



Pocono Creek Corridor

The Greenway, Open Space, Park and Recreation Concept Map was developed in two parts. The first part consists of a base map showing the greenway, open space, park and recreation situation as it exists in the year 2001. The second part consists of an overlay outlining ideas for the future. These concepts were developed by analyzing the inventory maps contained in Appendix D, by incorporating ideas outlined in previously completed studies, and by incorporating public input.

In terms of analysis of existing conditions, the most important information was contained on Exhibits D-3, Stroud Area Water, Land and Biotic Resources Map and D-5, Stroud Area Protected Lands Map. By understanding the location of valuable resource land and comparing those resources to land that is already in some form of permanent or quasi-protected state¹, the areas in need of protection became obvious when tested against the vision and goals of the community.

The preservation concepts are described below:

Base Map

- " Publicly Owned Lands – The areas shown in green represent land currently owned by either Stroud Township, Stroudsburg Borough, East Stroudsburg, Municipal Authorities, Stroudsburg School District, East Stroudsburg School District, East Stroudsburg University, and U.S. Government.

¹ Quasi-Protected=Land place in Agricultural Security Area Program or Act 319, Clean and Green Program.

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“ Privately Owned Conservation Lands

Land acquisition in progress represents land that is currently in the acquisition process by one of the regional partners.

Lands currently under consideration are currently being considered or in some state of negotiation for acquisition; to become a part of the greenway and open space network.

Other private conservation/recreation lands are tracts of land currently in some form of private recreation e.g. Monroe Beagle Club, Nature Conservancy's Tannersville Cranberry Bog or the various private camps in the area.

Homeowners association green areas are common open space for use by residents of a particular subdivision, e.g. Blue Mountain Lake.

Agricultural security areas are currently protected significant farmlands (see Appendix H).

Agricultural reserve areas and undeveloped prime agricultural soils include significant farmlands to be considered for preservation.

Overlay

“ Conceptual Greenways (Concepts taken from previously completed studies²)

Brodhead Creek Corridor (7.5 miles) – This corridor runs through each of the three municipalities and is a key feature in the regional community as it will connect the village of Analomink (in Stroud Township) to the Delaware Water Gap. Through progressive efforts, much of the corridor is now being acquired for park, recreation or open space uses by each of the regional partners³. Exhibit II-1 shows the extent of the lands in some form of public ownership along Brodhead Creek. A study of the Brodhead Creek Greenway will be completed in 2002 as part of the Brodhead, McMichael, Pocono Creeks Greenways Plan.

Cherry Valley Corridor (3.75 miles) – A limestone valley with a unique ecosystem and outstanding visual quality. This valley is bordered by two parallel ridgelines, Godfrey Ridge and the Kittatinny Mountain. The valley as a whole should be

² Source: Monroe County Open Space Plan – 2001 and the Monroe Greenway Feasibility Project Study.

³ Means of access include, outright purchase, easement and long- term lease arrangements.

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considered as a significant component of the regional open space system. Efforts to preserve the rural character and natural elements of the valley should be undertaken.

Delaware Valley Rail Corridor (4 miles)– The section of the Delaware Valley Rail Corridor which parallels the McMichael Creek was never fully constructed and the tracks never laid. The embankments and grading still remain. This corridor will be considered for potential greenway trail development as part of the Brodhead, McMichael, Pocono Creeks Greenways Plan, which is to be completed in 2002.

Godfrey Ridge (.5 miles) and Godfrey Ridge Extension (4 miles)– A proposed trail and greenway corridor that provides a link to the Brodhead Creek Corridor, Cherry Valley Corridor, McMichael Creek Corridor and Delaware Valley Corridor.

A study of the corridor was completed in 2002. The vision for the Godfrey Ridge Section of the Brodhead Greenway includes the development of an initial trail spine that serves both transportation and recreational needs and offers the opportunity to create an entire system of trails that could eventually link to this spine. The potential development of this segment as a multi-objective greenway with trails fits into a broader vision for the development of a "Brodhead Greenway." The Godfrey Ridge section is a key link to many surrounding public lands and trails both existing and planned. To the west, it offers a link along the Brodhead Creek to property owned by Stroud Township. It would achieve this through the construction of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge spanning the Brodhead Creek from Glen Park to lands to the north owned by the Borough of East Stroudsburg, near the Twin Borough Recycling Center. This also would create a linkage to East Stroudsburg University and to major shopping facilities along Lincoln Avenue in East Stroudsburg. To the east, it offers a link to Smithfield Township Park and to a visitor center proposed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. In addition, the eastern reaches also offer links to recently released plans for a trail system proposed by the National Park Service for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. By linking to the borough of Delaware Water Gap, access to the Appalachian Trail is provided.

Guiding Recommendations

1. Provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access between the three Boroughs and through the adjoining Townships.
2. Promote a multi-objective greenway approach for the Godfrey Ridge corridor.
3. Encourage pedestrian and bicycle linkages to the Godfrey Ridge Corridor.

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Pocono Creek/WB&E Corridor – (4.5 miles) This corridor generally parallels Interstate 80 traversing the private recreation lands of the Kirkwood Camp and Religious Retreat (also includes a Natural Treasures Registry Riparian Zone) A stream assessment project was completed in 2000. A study of the Pocono Creek Greenway as it runs through the Stroud Region will be completed in 2002, as part of the Brodhead, McMichael, and Pocono Creeks Greenways Plan.

McMichael Creek Corridor (3.5 miles) – This corridor runs upstream from its confluence with the Brodhead Creek (in Stroudsburg Borough) southwesterly through Stroud Township (past the Glen Brook County Club) into the conservation lands jointly owned by Stroud and Hamilton Townships⁴. A study of the McMichael Greenway will be completed in 2002, as part of the Brodhead, McMichael, and Pocono Creeks Greenways Plan.

Paradise Creek Corridor (.5 miles) – A small area of the Paradise Creek Corridor is located in the northern end of Stroud Township along Route 191. This corridor provides a link between the village of Analomink and the Borough of Mount Pocono.

Flagler Run Corridor (4 miles) / Trails-Bikeways (9 miles) – A greenway feasibility study and Phase I master plan explored establishing the Flagler Run Greenway, as part of the master site development plan for Big Pines Park located in the headwater area of Flagler Run. The proposed greenway follows the Flagler Run stream corridor running from Brown Road at Big Pines Park through or adjacent to Old Mill Run, a residential subdivision south of the park, and through Stroudsburg School District property adjacent to and south of Old Mill Run. The Flagler Run Greenway could ultimately extend from Big Pines Park to an interim southern entrance at the Stroudsburg school tract, to a southern entrance near Stroud Mall and/or Arlington Elementary School and the Eastern Monroe Public Library and ultimately link to its confluence with the Pocono Creek.

⁴Stroud Township owns 107 acres of the McMichael Creek Conservation Lands.

“ Additional Open Space Planning Concepts

Scenic Roadway/Bikeway (30 miles) – This concept suggests the incorporation of on-street bikeways⁵ for safe travel along scenic roadways⁶.

Route 191 – This scenic road and historic drive offers the potential for bicycle compatible facilities.

Poplar Valley Road (providing a connection to Totts Gap Trailhead)
Cherry Valley Road – Cherry Valley Road offers outstanding views of forested areas, active farms and Kittatinny Mountain.

Main Street/McMichael River Walk Trail (1.5 miles) – This loop would incorporate the urban streetscape of Main Street (starting at the YMCA) and continue to create a link with McMichael Creek via a street connection or Pocono Creek.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Linkages (15 miles) – These corridors are important connector trails⁷ in the Stroud Area Greenway and Open Space System:

Route 611 is a main travel route and commercial corridor in the Stroud Area. The streetscape in Stroud Township is typical of suburban style development (limited pedestrian connections, sign clutter, longer setbacks and large areas of parking).

5th Street in Stroud Township

Main Street (Stroudsburg) and Crystal Street (East Stroudsburg)

Priority Conservation Areas and Parcels for Potential Acquisition– These areas represent land that should be a priority for acquisition/conservation/preservation. Some of these areas may be appropriate to serve as a regional park facility.

Potential Right-of-Way – In developing the overall system, portions of many large parcels were found to lie within the priority conservation area. Acquisition of these large parcels would be unrealistic. Therefore, a three hundred foot buffer surrounding key waterways was used to indicate the potential for the development of rights-of-way through the significant areas of the large parcels.

Views – These symbols represent areas identified by the community as having important viewsheds.

⁵Reference Appendix I – PennDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan – Executive Summary

⁶ Noted in the Monroe County Open Space Plan – Draft 2001, Cherry Valley roads are a favorite with long-distance bicyclists. See page 162 of the Monroe County Open Space Plan for more information on the Cherry Valley area.

⁷Connector trails are multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community, source NRPA Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, page 115.

The priorities for the conservation of open space, the development of formal trails, or the construction of recreation facilities depends upon the priorities identified by various groups within the region. It will be to the Regional Partners advantage to assess the priorities and the readiness of the stakeholders in acquiring and ultimately maintaining important lands and facilities.

For example, the large tracts of land located along the western edge of Stroud Township (just south of McMichael Creek Conservation Lands and encompassing an NAI site as well as forested and agricultural lands), may be a high priority of The Nature Conservancy and other environmental groups while the acquisition of a parcel along Brodhead Creek in Stroudsburg may have the same level of important/urgency to another greenway stakeholder as a means to complete a vital segment of the greenway system.

The political, fiscal and project readiness of any idea outlined in this plan could change almost instantly depending upon marketing success, leadership, and the excitement of elected officials, just to mention a few. It would be wise to use this plan as a tool, but not an end in itself. Section III, Strategies of Action, outlines a mechanism for prioritization of projects on an annual basis and system for tracking projects. Project tracking, coordination and facilitation should be a key responsibility of the professional hired to oversee development, operation and maintenance of the regional open space, park and recreational system.

In instances where acquisition may not be an option, e.g. areas of high growth where investors have already secured lands for future development, this map should be used as a step in conservation⁸

⁸Due to the growth pressures of the area, conservation subdivision design practices are the preferred option. The Stroud Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance was amended to incorporate the principals of conservation subdivision design as suggested by the Natural Lands Trust Audit report and will be considered for approval in Spring of 2002. East Stroudsburg officials are planning to conduct a similar audit of the Borough's ordinance in 2002. An audit of Stroudsburg's ordinance was recently completed and its implementation is recommended as well.

"The Governor's 21st Century Environment Commission identified sprawl as the commonwealth's most basic underlying problem. Between 1960 and 1990, the population of Pennsylvania grew by 12 percent with the developed land area growing by 80 percent." In other words, the amount of resource land taken for urban or suburban development grew by six to seven times faster than population.

An important point of conservation subdivision design is the separation of lot size from density. Traditionally, many municipalities have used a minimum lot size to establish the number of dwelling units permitted to be developed on a given tract of land. This method, known as conventional subdivision design, promotes the covering of the total tract with house lots and or streets. Conservation subdivision design assumes a density-neutral approach that would yield the same number of lots attainable under the base or preexisting zoning. A principal point outlined in the conservation subdivision design workbook is that the idea that,

"Density should never be regulated through a minimum lot size requirement, which is an indirect and counter-productive method. Instead, density should be regulated directly as "maximum number of dwellings permitted for the total acreage in question", or as "the overall acreage required per dwelling, including common, undivided conservation land".

The Growing Greener workbook for Municipal Officials provides the example of a two-acre zoning district as being land consumptive as are lots within a half-acre district. Specifically, "ordinances that do not separate lot size from density, and do not allow smaller lots provided that the density remains "neutral", produce "mandatory sprawl & "The workbook also documents the many benefits of conservation subdivision design, such as:

subdivision and land development processes to ensure important resource lands remain undeveloped and protected.

Potential Conservation Techniques

Open Space Zoning/Conservation Design

“Description: The purpose of this technique is to preserve a larger amount of land for conservation uses, while still allowing full-density development. In contrast to cluster zoning, where the emphasis is more often placed on providing active recreation areas, open space zoning is more suited for protecting farmland, woodland habitat, historic sites, and scenic views. Subdivisions are required to dedicate a significant portion of their unconstrained land to permanent open space uses. The open space is typically owned and managed (according to an approved management plan) by a homeowner association. Other possible owners include land trusts, the municipality, or individuals with large “conservancy lots”, which are a form of non-common open space.

“Benefits: This technique preserves large open spaces while allowing full-density development. When done, the open space in each new subdivision will ultimately join together to form interconnected systems of conservation lands.

“Implementation: This technique can be implemented through a municipality’s zoning ordinance. The number of dwellings permitted is based on the net acreage of buildable land and the underlying density in the zoning district. Easements are then placed on the open space to ensure that it will not be further subdivided or developed.

Lower Costs – providing opportunities to reduce infrastructure, engineering, and construction costs e.g. streets can be narrowed/shortened
Marketing and Sales Advantages
Value Appreciation
Wildlife Management
Greater Water Quality Protection through Improved Buffers
Greater Aquifer Recharge through Improved Stormwater Management

Conservation subdivision design uses a four-step process in lot layout that helps to preserve the natural features. According to the Growing Greener workbook for Municipal Officials, “this approach reverses the sequence of steps in laying out conventional subdivisions, where the street system is the first thing to be identified followed by the lot lines.

The conservation subdivision process dictates that the lot lines are the last item to be drawn in after all of the natural features have been identified. To better illustrate this concept, the four-step design process is outlined below:

- Step 1. Identifies lands that should be permanently preserved, e.g. wetlands, flood prone areas, steep slopes, mature woodlands, stream corridors, prime farmlands, etc.
- Step 2. Locates the individual home sites to maximize the open space, maintain views, & preserve the character of the area.
- Step 3. Involves drawing in the potential streets and trails to connect the home sites.
- Step 4. Concludes with the drawing of the lot lines.

Overlay Zoning Districts

“Description: An overlay zoning district applies regulations to and are in addition to and superseding the requirements of the underlying zoning district(s). Such a district may recognize unique features, either natural or man-made, requiring special attention, or may facilitate development of a special character.

“Benefits: Overlay zoning allows regulations to be tailored to specific conditions. Administration is the same as any zoning district.

“Implementation: In general, the provisions of a zoning district must apply uniformly to each class of uses or structures within each district. However, Section 605 of the Municipal Planning Code authorizes additional classifications, potentially through the use of overlay zoning, for:

- Making transitional provisions at and near the boundaries of districts.
- Regulating nonconforming uses and structures.
- Regulating, restricting, or prohibiting uses and structures at, along or near:
 - * Major thoroughfares, their intersections and interchanges, transportation arteries and rail or transit terminals.
 - * Natural or artificial bodies of water, boat docks and related facilities
 - * Places of relatively steep slope or grade, or the areas of hazardous geological or topographic features
 - * Public buildings and public grounds
 - * Aircraft, helicopter, rocket and spacecraft facilities
 - * Places having unique historical architectural, or patriotic interest or value
 - * Floodplain areas, agricultural areas, sanitary landfills, and other places having a special character or use affecting and affected by their surroundings.
- Encouraging innovation and the promotion of flexibility, economy and ingenuity in development, including subdivisions and land developments, and for the purpose of authorizing increases in the permissible density of population or intensity of a particular use based upon expressed standards and criteria set forth in the zoning ordinance.
- Regulating transferable development rights on a voluntary basis.

Open Space and Natural Areas Acquisition

“Description: This practice is based on the acquisition of land by a municipality or any governmental agency for the purpose of preservation of open space and natural areas. The purchase can be of fee simple title or conservation easements and is usually done by a governmental or public agency or a non-profit land trust organization. Land acquisition can be made at every level of government.

“Benefits: Acquisition of fee simple title or a conservation easement on land provides a more permanent long-term protection of open space and natural areas than through other methods such as zoning or subdivision requirements. Acquisition provides a means to enable nonprofit groups in partnership with communities to protect open space and natural areas at minimal or not cost and little administrative burden to local governments.

“Implementation: Pennsylvania’s Department of Conservation and Natural Resources have sources of funding to help communities and non-profit groups implement acquisition of open space and natural areas projects.

Forest Land Conservation Easements

“Description: Conservation easements on working forests are a market-driven tool used to preserve open space, like those used to protect working farmland. Easements can be used to protect forests for present and future economic benefit, with subsequent attendant benefits such as wildlife habitat, watershed protection, outdoor recreation, and soil conservation.

“Benefits: As open space diminishes while development advances, economically valuable forest land is lost. Timber is one of the top five sectors in Pennsylvania’s economy, and its continued availability is dependent upon the existence and preservation of open space and forests. The benefits are economic as well as environmental. Site benefits of easements include lower property taxes for landowners.

“Implementation: Some non-profit organizations, such as conservancies and land trusts, provide financial support for purchasing easements from landowners; they also accept tax-deductible donations of easements from landowners. The U.S. Forest Service’s Forest Legacy initiative provides funding to state governments to help purchase easements on private forestland.

Agricultural Protection Zoning

“Description: Agricultural Protection Zoning ordinances designate areas where farming is the primary land use, and discourage other land uses in those areas.

“Benefits: Agricultural Protection Zoning stabilizes the agricultural land base by keeping large tracts of land relatively free of non-farm development. This can reduce the likelihood of conflicts between farmers and their non-farming neighbors. Maintaining a critical mass of agricultural land can ensure that there will be enough farmland to support local agricultural services.

“Implementation: Agricultural Protection Zoning can be economically viable by using such tools as Transfer of Development Rights and Purchase of Development Rights.

Transfer/Purchase of Development Rights

“Description: Transfer of Development Rights (TDR’s) is a zoning tool that allows conservation and development to coexist within a municipality. Growth is directed to preferred locations through the sale and purchase of development rights. Development rights are established for a given piece of land and can be separated from the title of that property. The sale of TDR’s leave the rural landowner is

possession of title to the land and the right to use the property as a farm, open space or for some related purpose. However, it removes the owner's right to develop the property for other purposes. The transfer of development rights allows the purchaser of the development rights to then develop another parcel more intensively than would otherwise be permitted.

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR's) operate in a similar manner. However, with PDRs, an entity (either alone or jointly) buys the right to develop land from the landowner. The landowner retains the use of the land, and receives tax benefits. The municipality can pass a bond issue to buy the rights and "bank" them. A developer may purchase the development rights from the municipality when he wished to develop an area with high density. The municipal bond financing which was entered into to purchase the rights is paid off over the years by the purchase of the development rights, as development occurs.

"Benefits: The value of each development right is controlled by the open market, not the municipality. TDRs are an equitable option for preserving open space and agricultural lands by compensating the owner of preserved land, while guiding the growth of development through the allowance of increased density where existing infrastructure can support it.

PDRs give immediate return to the landowner. It compensates the landowners for reduction in development potential and facilitates the goals of the development district concept. PDRs also streamline the time line for development since private sales and negotiations for development rights are not necessary to go forward with high density development. It allows the municipality to guide growth since it owns all the development rights.

"In Pennsylvania, TDR programs can only be used to transfer development rights within a single municipality or among municipalities with a joint ordinance. It is up to each municipality implementing TDR to set up a mechanism to accomplish this transfer.

Agricultural Security Areas

"Description: A landowner or group of landowners whose parcels together comprise at least 250 acres may apply to their local government

"Benefits: Agricultural Security Designation encourages the preservation of agricultural land. Security Areas give a landowner protection from local ordinances that restrict farm practices unless those ordinances have a direct relationship to public health or safety. These areas also protect an area from nuisance ordinances. Additionally, the designation limits land condemnation procedures – eminent domain by the Commonwealth and local agencies – unless approval is gained from the Agricultural Lands Condemnation Approval Board. The designation also qualifies the land (if it is an area of 500 acres or more) for purchase of conservation easements under the Pennsylvania statewide program. An attractive feature of the ASA designation is that it is not a permanent designation and this may be suitable for some communities and landowners.

“Implementation: The process to designate an ASA must be initiated by a landowner or a group of landowners.

Agricultural Conservation Easements

“Description: Conservation easements permanently protect farms from development. Landowners voluntarily sell conservation easements to a government entity or private conservation organization or land trust. The agency or organization usually pays them the difference between the value of the land for agricultural use, and the value of the land for its “highest and best use” which is generally residential or commercial development.

“: Conservation easements permanently preserve land for agricultural use. Purchase of easements by municipalities on their own can be done more selectively and expeditiously as they do not have to conform to the county or State guidelines.

“Implementation: County Agricultural Land Preservation Boards have primary responsibility for developing application procedures. They also establish priority for easement purchases based on a numerical ranking system. The ranking system is modeled upon state regulations that require consideration of soil quality, conservation practices, development pressures in the County, and the location of other permanently preserved farmland and open space.

Agricultural Tax Incentives

“Description: Differential assessment laws direct local governments to assess agricultural land at its value for agriculture, instead of at its full market value, which is generally higher. Differential assessment laws are enacted in the state, and implemented at the local level.

“Benefits: These programs afford protection to farmers to continue operating an agricultural operation in the face of development, thus helping to ensure the economic viability of agriculture. These tax laws align agricultural property taxes with what it actually costs local governments to provide services to the land.

“Implementation: Landowners must apply to the County Assessment Office.

Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances

For Stroud Township, a land dedication and fee in lieu ordinance may be a conservation tool. The built-out nature of the Boroughs makes this option less viable, but as Stroud Township continues to experience the pressures of residential and commercial development, such an ordinance may prove useful.

Sample Ordinance

Public Sites and Open Space

A. The Township shall require the public dedication of land suitable for parks, playgrounds or other recreational use and for open space or green area; and upon agreement with the applicant or developer, the construction of recreational facilities, the payment of fee in lieu thereof, the private reservation of the land or a combination for park, recreation and open space or green area purposes. Such dedications and/or agreements are to serve the future population of the township and to protect sensitive area such as steep slopes, floodplains or special scenic areas.

B. Residential site development or subdivision shall dedicate to the township, for public use a portion of such site as a recreational use area and also an additional portion to remain in its natural state as open space or green area.

The total amount of land to be deeded to the township or maintained by a homeowner's association shall be equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total site area, at the minimum.

1. A minimum of 0.028 acres of contiguous land shall be dedicated for each dwelling unit in a residential site development or each lot in a residential subdivision.

If the recreational use land is less than 5% of the total site area, the developer shall dedicate such additional land as necessary to satisfy the five percent minimum area requirement.

2. Upon developer's request, council may permit the developer to satisfy the recreational use and open/green area requirements upon payment of to Murrysville the sum of \$800 for each dwelling unit in a residential development or \$800 for each lot in a residential subdivision.

C. Site selection of land for recreational use.

1. Land shall be accessible to residents of the development.

At least one side of the site shall be abut a public street for all land deeded to the township. Recreational use area must have a slope from 0 to 8%, either in its natural or graded state.

The shape of the site shall be suitable for the proposed use considering size of the property and the proximity of the development to other facilities.

2. If public utilities are available to the subdivision or development, the proposed parkland must have access to those utilities.

3. Land proposed for parks shall not be burdened with an undue number restrictions such as mining conditions, overhead or underground utilities, storm water management facilities, wetlands, etc.

4. Any phased plan, land set aside, shall be in the first phase.

D. Fee in Lieu of required land

1. If land offered does not meet the criteria for a park site, playground or other recreational use, as noted by the Parks Commission and the Planning Commission, or if the Comprehensive Plan or Recreation and Open Space plan indicate that such land offered cannot be

properly located in the proposed development & the payment of fees in lieu of the land offered or a combination of fees and land shall be required.

2. The amount of fees shall be \$800 per dwelling unit in a residential site development or \$800 per lot in a residential subdivision.

It is intended that the amount of the fee be substantially equal to the anticipated costs to the township in providing for recreational use lands and facilities.

3. All fee payments received shall be used solely and exclusively for the acquisition of land for parks, playgrounds or other recreational sites and the construction of improvements thereon, and for costs incidental and ancillary to such purposes, including but not limited to planning, engineering and design of recreational space and improvements.

E. Disposition of fees

All fees in lieu paid to the township shall be placed in a capital reserve fund established as provided by law; Interest earned on the capital reserve fund shall become part of the capital reserve fund.

Fees collected shall be expended only in proper allocable proportions of the cost incurred to construct the specific recreational facilities for which the funds were collected.

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

How do we get there?

People set goals, enjoy striving, and take pleasure in achievement, contribution, and association – Unknown

The strategies have been organized according to the following topics:

- A. Greenways and Open Space
- B. Agricultural Conservation
- C. Facilities
- D. Transportation
- E. Programs and Special Events
- F. Funding and Administration
- G. Community Awareness and Involvements
- H. Intergovernmental Cooperation

This section presents the various implementation strategies for achieving the vision, goals and planning concepts presented in this plan. Table III-1 to III-8 provide a detailed information on the priority of the strategy, responsible party, cost estimate, and a space for documenting actions taken to implement the strategy. Together, these strategies outline a program for implementation over the next 5 to 10 years.

The strategies are intended to provide guidance to the municipal leaders, staff, local organizations and citizens. Most importantly, it is the responsibility of all citizens to ensure that their vision and goals are being met.

The implementation of these strategies will depend upon the fiscal and political climate and the level of citizen involvement in any given year. Therefore, it is essential that the regional partners review the strategies and set priorities on an annual basis prior to the budgeting process. Priorities may change as new funding and support sources are identified or public support for a particular project increases.

The responsible party column of the strategy tables is used to identify the individual(s) or group(s) that may be responsible for a strategy's implementation. For most of the strategies found in the following tables, responsible parties are not identified. The clarification of those responsible for some of the strategies will be deferred until the completion of the Stroud Region Peer-to-Peer Study, which will determine the feasibility of creating a regional open space and recreation organization. The outcome of this study will greatly influence the fulfillment of the implementation strategies, given that a regional organization may be responsible in part for many of the strategies.

Also, It should be noted that the cost estimates contained herein are wide-ranging and should serve only as a starting point for project evaluation. Detailed costs will need to be developed as a particular project or strategy is selected for implementation.

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

It is suggested that the record of action column be used to indicate the status of completion of each strategy. For example, I would indicate in-progress and C would indicate completed.

Further, potential funding sources are listed in Appendix J. This is not exhaustive and other possible sources should continually be sought. It will be important for implementing agencies, groups, and individuals to be up-to-date on future funding opportunities. One or several of the sources may be used to assist in the completion of an implementation strategy. Due to the uniqueness of the context within which an individual strategy may be completed, specific funding options are not listed for each strategy. Rather, the regional partners are encouraged to explore a variety of sources for each strategy as implementation occurs.

Mission Statement

To set the stage for the development of the detailed implementation strategies, a mission statement for the open space and recreation within the region was developed. This statement provides a direction for future efforts as the recommendations of this Plan are implemented.

The Stroud Area regional open space system will encompass a wide array of conservation and recreation efforts. Local governments, private organizations, and a strong volunteer base work to sustain and operate the system. These regional efforts will guide the community's future growth, support continued environmental quality, enhance economic viability, and greatly contribute to a high quality of life for generations of residents.

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

Table III-1

GREENWAYS and OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION				
<p>Goal:</p> <p>To acquire significant natural resource lands, parcels along stream corridors, and linear easements for perpetual open space conservation and linkage of land throughout the Stroud Area Region.</p> <p>To create a comprehensive system of greenways and open space that is accessible and inviting to many interests.</p> <p>To create diversity in greenway linkages by connecting urban streetscapes, scenic road corridors, abandoned rail lines, natural resource lands, open space pockets, and cultural resources.</p>				
strategy	priority	partners	cost	record of action
1	Purchase the GPU property in Stroudsburg Borough.	H	Stroudsburg Borough	
2	Purchase the Shiffer property in Stroudsburg Borough.	H	Stroudsburg Borough	
3	Promote the use of Growing Greener conservation subdivision design techniques as part of subdivision and land development on a parcel by parcel basis.	H	Stroud Township	to be determined
4	Build upon the Open Space, Greenways and Park Concept map to develop and adopt a Green Infrastructure Map for the region that will guide future development.	H	Stroud; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	to be determined
5	Implement an ambitious acquisition program with associated funding. Potential properties or portions thereof to be purchased as part of the regional open space system may include, but are not limited to: GPU, Shiffer, Walker, Wicks, Stish and adjoining properties, Peeney, along Brodhead Creek, north of Dansbury Park, Knights of Columbus.	H	Stroud; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg; County Open Space Board	\$250,000 or more / year

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

strategy	priority	partners	cost	record of action	
6	Complete a Greenway Plan to examine the Brodhead, McMichael, and Pocono Creek Greenways, in connection with the County-wide Plan.	H	Stroud Township; Stroudsbu rg; East Stroudsbu rg	\$60,000	
7	Continue an ongoing Greenway Committee as created for the Brodhead, Pocono and McMichael Creek Greenway Plan.	H	Brodhead, Pocono, McMichael Greenway Comm ittee	\$0	
8	Building upon the Brodhead, Pocono, and McMichael Creeks Greenways Plan, develop a Master Plan for the Main Street/McMichael Creek Walk Trail. Incorporate picnic areas, public art displays, and exercise stations.	H	Brodhead Watershed Association ; Stroudsbu rg	\$30,000	
9	Assist in the development of the Monroe County Natural Treasures Registry.	H	Stroud Township, Stroudsbu rg, East Stroudsbu rg	to be determined	
10	Complete a conservation plan for Cherry Creek.	H	Stroud Township	\$80,000	
11	Explore o pportu nities to provide access to the McMichael Creek Conservation Lands.	H	Stroud Township	to be determined	
12	Amend the Stroud Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordina nce to incorporate the principals of conservation and subdivision design as suggested by the Natural Lands Trust Audit report.	H	Stroud Township	\$0	
13	Complete a Regional Land Use Plan that includes support for a regional open space system.	H	Stroud Township, Stroudsbu rg, East Stroudsbu rg	\$50,000	
14	Develop a natural open space management plan for all undeveloped municipal land in the region. Consult a naturalist during development and implementation.	M	Regional Open Space Comm ittee; Brodhead, McMichael, Pocono Creeks Greenway Comm ittee	\$15,000	

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

strategy	priority	partners	cost	record of action
15	M	Brodhead Watershed Association; ROSARC	\$5,000	
16	M	Stroud Township; Stroudsbu rg; East Stroudsbu rg	\$50,000	
17	M	Brodhead Watershed Association; Stroudsbu rg	\$100,000 / year	
18	M	ROSARC	to be determined	
19	L	ROSARC; local volunteer organizations	to be determined	
20	L	Stroud Township; Stroudsbu rg; East Stroudsbu rg	\$0	

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

Table III-2

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION				
Goal: To promote farming as a viable industry in the region and protect farmland through preservation efforts.				
Strategy	priority	partners	cost	record of action
1	Actively promote and support the County and State Agricultural Preservation Programs for high priority agricultural lands.	H	Stroud Township; Monroe County	to be determined
2	Help to increase visibility of the Pocono Heritage Land Trust and refer interested landowners to the organization.	H	Stroud Township, Pocono Heritage Land Trust	to be determined
3	Identify opportunities to work with other groups to explore possibilities for agricultural land preservation, natural resource conservation, and the development of trail/greenway connections.	H	Regional Open Space Committee	to be determined
4	Explore the possibility of running an agricultural preservation workshop for interested landowners.	M	Monroe County, Pocono Heritage Land Trust, Stroud Township, ROSARC	\$1,000/ year
5	Distribute information on land protection options to local landowners.	M	ROSARC	\$2,500/ year
6	Coordinate with other agencies to identify property owners of key agricultural lands and approach them regarding their participation in preservation programs.	L	ROSARC	to be determined

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

Table III-3

FACILITIES				
<p>Goals: To ensure that all public recreation facilities are accessible, inviting, well maintained, and safe.</p> <p>Regional: To coordinate, operate, and maintain an enhanced regional park system that meets the regional recreation needs of Stroud Area residents.</p> <p>Neighborhood/Community: To improve community and neighborhood parks, including expanding access to them.</p> <p>Special Use: To support the development of special use recreation facilities that are accessible to all Stroud Area residents, which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an outdoor amphitheater - a centrally-located skateboarding park - a year-round swimming pool facility 				
Strategy	priority	partners	cost	record of action
1	H	Stroud Township; Stroudsbu rg; East Stroudsbu rg	\$0	
2	H	Stroud Township; Stroudsbu rg; East Stroudsbu rg; ROSARC	\$50,000	
3	H	ROSARC; Brodhead, McMichael, and Pocono Creeks Greenways Plan	\$10,000	
4	H	Monroe County	\$500,000	
5	H	East Stroudsbu rg	\$18,000	

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

Strategy	priority	partners	cost	record of action	
6	Evaluate the feasibility of developing a regional recreation facility on the Christman property along Route 191.	H	ROSARC, Stroud Township, County	\$6,000	
7	Develop stream access points along Brodhead Creek, including handicap accessible fishing areas.	M	Brodhead, McMichael, Pocono Creek Greenways Committee; ROSARC	\$50,000	
8	Connect trails to other existing and proposed trail systems.	M	ROSARC	\$25,000 / year	
9	Plan for and construct a local outdoor amphitheater.	L	ROSARC	\$200,000	
10	Work to provide outdoor recreation facilities that will meet activity needs in the region.	L	ROSARC	\$100,000 / year	
11	Develop a year-round indoor swimming pool that is available to residents. This could be through ESU, YMCA, or a community pool.	L	East Stroudsburg University; YMCA	\$2 million	
12	Consider development of a skate park.	L	Stroud Township, Stroudsburg, East Stroudsburg	\$250,000	
13	Construct sports fields to meet active recreation needs. Partner with local sports organizations, ESU, YMCA, schools, etc.	L	Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg; School District; YMCA; East Stroudsburg University	\$50,000	
14	Evaluate the feasibility of purchasing and operating existing golf courses as community resources and revenue generators.	L	Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	to be determined	
15	Develop community gardens at various sites throughout the region. (i.e. Albertson Park)	L	local volunteer organizations; ROSARC	\$10,000 / year	

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

Strategy	priority	partners	cost	record of action
16	L		\$50,000	
17	L	Stroud Township; ROSARC	\$25,000 / year	
18	L	Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	\$30,000	
19	L	Local organizations; ROSARC	to be determined	
20	L	ROSARC	to be determined	
21	L	ROSARC; local organizations	to be determined	

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

Table III-4

TRANSPORTATION				
<p>Goal: To provide safe and accessible routes of travel for pedestrians, bicyclists, and individuals with disabilities.</p>				
strategy	priority	partners	cost	record of action
1				
Conduct a bicycle system feasibility study for the region (including Cherry Valley Road, Clearview Road, Hickory Valley Road, and Route 191). Potential on-street locations should be evaluated for their bicycle level of service factor.	H	ROSARC; Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	\$40,000	
2				
Promote bicycle and pedestrian compatibility on all local roadways, including the implementation of traffic-calming techniques.	H	ROSARC; Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	to be determined	
3				
Continually explore opportunities for providing alternative modes of transportation.	H	ROSARC; Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	to be determined	
4				
Prepare a master plan for Route 611's enhanced streetscape (trees, sidewalks, and pedestrian amenities).	M	Stroud Township	\$30,000	
5				
Develop bicycle trails connecting urban areas to the Cherry Valley area.	M	ROSARC; Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	\$15,000	
6				
Plan routes and diagrams for walking tours throughout the region.	L	ROSARC; local organizations	to be determined	

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

Table III-5

PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS				
Goal: To provide facilities and staff that support and enhance recreation and open space activities for all interests, ages, and abilities.				
strategy	priority	partners	cost	record of action
1	Encourage the YMCA and other local recreation providers to meet the residents recreation activity needs (including riverwalk development).	H	ROSARC	\$0
2	Create fundraisers and special events to support greenway development.	H	ROSARC; Brodhead, McMichael Pocono Grenways Committee	to be determined
3	Work to provide recreation facilities and activities for teenagers in the region.	H	ROSARC	to be determined
4	Offer regional special events (concerts, walking tours, bike tours, cleanups, etc.)	M	ROSARC; Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	to be determined

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

Table III-6

FUNDING and ADMINISTRATION				
<p>Goal: To build and maintain the Stroud Area open space and recreation system in an effective manner through highly qualified professional leadership.</p> <p>To secure and manage fiscal resources and administrative partnerships, to expand all types of open space, recreation, and park opportunities needed to meet the changing needs of Stroud Area residents.</p>				
strategy	priority	partners	cost	record of action
1	Adopt this Open Space, Recreation, and Park Plan as the basis for establishing a formal planning system.	H	Stroud Township; Stroudsbu rg; East Stroudsbu rg	\$0
2	Adopt a planning process, such as the Three Tier System outlined in this Plan.	H	ROSARC	\$0
3	Hire a professional staff person to implement the Comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Plan.	H	Stroud Township; Stroudsbu rg; East Stroudsbu rg	\$40,000/ year
4	Develop and adopt a risk management plan specific to open space, recreation, and parks.	H	Stroud Township; Stroudsbu rg; East Stroudsbu rg	to be determined
5	Provide park maintenance training for park employees. Training should include pesticide licensing, playground safety, turf and land management techniques, athletic field and trail maintenance, etc.	H	Stroud Township; Stroudsbu rg; East Stroudsbu rg	\$1,500/ year
6	Create and adopt a maintenance management plan.	H	Stroud Township; Stroudsbu rg; East Stroudsbu rg	to be determined
7	Explore additional funding opportunities through state, federal, and private organizations.	H	ROSARC	\$0
8	Develop a policy for creating an endowment for the purchase of open space.	H	ROSARC, Stroud Township, Stroudsbu rg; East Stroudsbu rg	to be determined

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

strategy	priority	partners	cost	record of action
9				
Explore the possibilities presented by Act 153 of 1996 authorizing the levying of taxes for financing the purchase of open space.	H	Stroud Township	\$0	
10				
Evaluate the possibility of adding an open space district to existing codes.	H	Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	to be determined	
11				
Explore mechanisms for residents to voluntarily contribute to a non-profit open space and recreation organization (i.e. Friends of the Park).	M	ROSARC; Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	to be determined	
12				
Require, by ordinance, the completion of an Open Space, Recreation, and Parks Plan every ten years and its use as a tool for planning and development.	M	Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	\$0	
13				
Create an annual report.	M	ROSARC	\$1000/year	
14				
Develop a fees and charges policy.	L	ROSARC; Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	to be determined	
15				
Approach local organizations regarding maintenance of local recreation facilities.	L	ROSARC; Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	to be determined	

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

Table III-7

COMMUNITY AWARENESS & INVOLVEMENT				
<p>Goal: To utilize the strong volunteer base for support of cultural and recreational programming, fund-raising efforts, and maintenance of regional facilities.</p> <p>To increase residents awareness of current open space conservation efforts, available recreation activities and facilities, and volunteer opportunities.</p>				
strategy	priority	partners	cost	record of action
1	H	ROSARC	to be determined	
2	H	Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	\$0	
3	H	ROSARC; Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	to be determined	
4	H	Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	to be determined	
5	M	ROSARC; Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	\$5,000 / year	
6	M	ROSARC	\$1,500/ year	
7	M	ROSARC; Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	\$0	
8	L	ROSARC	\$1,000	

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

strategy	priority	partners	cost	record of action	
9	Create a formal volunteer system to identify volunteer projects and resources.	L	ROSARC	to be determined	
10	Develop a web site to distribute information on local open space efforts, recreation activities, and special events.	L	ROSARC	\$5,000	
11	Develop a brochure for bicycle routes that describes the routes, difficulty ratings, and trail qualities.	L	ROSARC; local organizations	\$1,000	
12	Promote the theme of Forever Green , identified in the Monroe County Open Space Plan.	L	ROSARC; Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	to be determined	
13	Develop a mechanism for tracking facility usage and collecting feedback from residents.	L	ROSARC; Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	\$1,500	

SECTION III – STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

Table III-8

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION				
Goal: To formalize regional partnerships that support open space, parks, and recreation.				
strategy	priority	partners	cost	record of action
1				
Conduct a DCNR Peer to Peer Study to explore the possibility of establishing a Regional Open Space and Recreation Partnership.	H	Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	\$8,250	
2				
Formalize existing intergovernmental agreements related to open space, recreation and parks.	H	Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg; School Districts	\$0	
3				
Identify, develop, and foster cooperative relationships with surrounding municipalities to work toward the creation of a regional greenway and trail system that stretches beyond the Stroud Area.	H	Stroud Township; Stroudsburg; East Stroudsburg	to be determined	
4				
Continue communication and cooperation with the surrounding municipalities and the County as the Plan is implemented. Opportunities may include: - joint acquisitions (i.e. McMichael Creek conservation lands with Hamilton Township) - regional open space and recreation newsletter/web site - implementation of a regional trail system irrespective of municipal boundaries	H	Stroud Township, Stroudsburg, East Stroudsburg	to be determined	