

Chapter Five: Implementation and Funding Strategy

The Phasing Plan and Potential Funding Sources outline an initial strategy for development of improvements and new facilities within Town Park. During the period of time over which park improvements will be implemented, the availability of funding along with other factors, such as an increased demand for certain park facilities, may affect implementation phases. The town must be flexible and adapt to these changes as it moves forward with the park's development.

Phasing Plan

The implementation strategy revolves around the concept of addressing immediate needs in a logical construction sequence. The Phasing Plan outlined below summarizes potential projects for phased implementation of construction at Town Park and references the phasing plan map (need one) included at the end of this chapter.

It is important to consider that this sequence may be modified to address any potential changes in opportunity or demands that may occur in the coming years and as project funding becomes available. Different project components can be constructed concurrently, again dependant on available funding and dedication of town resources for maintenance and operations.

The phasing plan suggests twelve (12) major park improvements phases.

Phase 1- Market Street Entry / Veteran's Memorial / Parking Improvements - \$343,033

The Market Street Entry / Traffic Circle / Veteran's Memorial is the first priority for improvement for several reasons. These include: park user safety; traffic calming; pedestrian circulation; the importance of the Veteran's Memorial; creating a formal entrance to this magnificent park; and the historical reference of creating a monumental entry to recall the downtown memorial / fountain. These improvements include 90 degree parking along the length of Market Street in the park with the new traffic island at the south end.

Phase 2-Tennis Courts Relocation - \$460,717

The existing tennis courts are in deteriorating condition. Depending on when funding becomes available, new courts will be needed – even if a temporary repair and resurfacing is completed soon.

Phase 3- Skate park Improvements - \$312,500

The active and engaged skateboarding community has worn-out this heavily used facility.

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Phase 4- Parking / Vehicular Circulation Improvements/ Stone Restroom renovation - \$791,253

Phase 4 can be divided into at least five sub-phases – each being a fairly discrete area in the park where parking and circulation needs improvement. Within this phase, priorities are recommended as follows:

- 4a. Close Colonial Street, new parking lot at north end of Colonial Street
- 4b. New parking lot on south end of Colonials Street, repair stone restroom
- 4c. New Parking lot on Market Street
- 4d. New 90 degree parking on Railroad Street
- 4e. Parking lot improvements at Skate Park
- 4f. New parking lot at bocce courts

Phase 5- Ft. McClure Boulevard River Trail \$450,355

Once traffic is made one way west on Ft. McClure Boulevard, a “temporary” trail corridor can be established used barriers. The permanent trail improvements will separate bicyclists and pedestrians from vehicles and will create important linkage along the river and to the future town athletic fields to the west (Streeter site).

Phase 6- River Plaza- \$203,200

This improvement can proceed with Fort McClure Boulevard River Trail if possible.

Phase 7-Loop Trail / Interior Paths \$469,875

The loop trail will likely be constructed in segments as other improvements allow. There may also be some intermediate routes that are constructed for “temporary” links, especially in the lagoon area.

Phase 8- Dog Park - \$48,500

A relatively low-cost improvement, this work can proceed independently, as funds are raised.

Phase 9- Pool Improvements- \$644,975

This will be a major project that might be undertaken independently by the Pool Board. (correct name???)

Phase 10- Re-orientation of ballfields - \$1,070,541

To be completed when funds become available.

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Phase 11 – Lagoon Improvements / Amphitheater lawn grading \$1,082,630

While this is a major project, it might move up dramatically in the priority based on funding. This project is an excellent candidate for Growing Greener and similar funds and may attract unexpended funding based on the environmental and water quality benefits.

Phase 12 – New Playground / Town Park Display Gardens- \$522,550

This will occur when Kidsburg is “retired”

Additionally, there are a number of other park improvements that should be implemented in conjunction with major improvement phases or, in the case of low cost improvements, can be implemented at almost any time.

- Disc Golf Course Reconfiguration
- Canoe Access
- Utility upgrades
- Enter into right of first refusal agreement with out parcel owners for possible use as park center (environmental education, greenway trail B&B, park restaurant, community center, etc.).
- Market Street Improvements
- Tree maintenance & replacement

Potential Funding Sources

The Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2)

The State of Pennsylvania makes available grant money to municipal governments through this program to support greenway and park planning, design, and development. Applications for development grants are due in the spring of each year, and a 50 percent match is required from the local project sponsor. The amount of maximum award varies with the requested activity. Having completed the master plan, Bloomsburg will be in an appropriate position to apply for a development grant in April, 2008. If interested in applying for a grant for Town Park, it is recommended that the township meet with the regional DCNR advisor as soon as possible. Additional information can be accessed at:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/>

Growing Greener 2

Growing Greener funds can be used for farmland-preservation projects; preserving open space; cleanup of abandoned mines, watershed planning; recreational trails and parks; and to help communities address land use concerns. Eligible applicants include non-profit groups, counties, and municipalities. A local match of 15% is required. The match can be met with cash, or in-kind goods and/or services. Additional information is available at:

<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/growinggreener/site/default.asp>

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Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)

DCED's mission includes four elements that each has a relationship to parks and greenways: economic development, travel and tourism, technical assistance, and community development. The Community Revitalization Program is an applicable funding program that supports local initiatives aimed at improving a community's quality of life and improving business conditions. These grants, typically range from \$5,000 to over \$50,000, require the active support of state legislators. Additional information can be accessed at: <http://www.newpa.com/default.aspx?id=1>

Private Foundations

There are various corporations and foundations, which support public works such as park improvements. The competition for these funds has become brisk, but the opportunities should be researched. Funding must often be to non-profit organizations.

Schools

The School District may also be of assistance in several ways. The student body might get involved with clubs, fundraising events, and site cleanup days. While the amount of funds raised may be relatively small, this process builds constituents and support for the park, critical to its long-term success.

Other Potential Funding Sources may include:

- SEDA-COG - River Towns Initiative
- Columbia County
- Susquehanna Greenway Partnership
- Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Regulatory Considerations

A number of permit requirements will apply to this project. These must be addressed during the various phases of design and engineering.

Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances

Park improvements have historically been subject to Land Development review and approval by the Town. A list of variances and conditional uses necessary for park development is provided in the Appendix of this report.

Wetlands Delineation

A wetland delineation study will need to be performed to indicate the presence of any jurisdictional wetlands. Any wetland disturbance associated with development would have to be mitigated accordingly with review and approval from the US Army Corps of Engineers and the PA DEP.

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Stormwater Management

Most construction projects in the park that will involve the disturbance of more than one acre of earth disturbance are required to obtain an NPDES Stormwater Permit for Construction Activities

Erosion and Sedimentation Control

All projects must comply with the stipulations of PA Code Chapter 102, Erosion and Sediment Control. Temporary erosion and sedimentation control measures must be installed for any earthmoving project.

Building Codes

The Town may dictate that certain codes apply pertaining to such things as structural, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical aspects for the proposed storage/concession building addition.

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