

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION
Department of Parks & Recreation

Shortridge Memorial Park
Document & Plan Review: 12/11/2013

2012 Lower Merion Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan

Goal #1: Enrich parks and recreation facilities as community destinations where residents can have fun, experience nature, socialize and exercise.

Objective #6: Ensure that all parks include an environmental component as part of the park, design operation and programming.

Objective #7: Evaluate, design and upgrade of parks with consideration for safety and security of users.

- Follow the principles of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design):
 - ❖ Maintain clear site lines in the parks from public streets and sidewalks.
 - ❖ Locate recreation facilities for safety; avoid conflicts between park users and pedestrians and vehicles
 - ❖ Limit vehicle penetration into the park, as much as possible to avoid pedestrian/vehicle conflict and safety issues.
 - ❖ Provide trails of adequate width for the intended users.

Objective #8: Provide accessible trails, viewing areas and other accommodations to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

- Develop trails within all parks to provide accessible routes from parking areas and sidewalks to recreation and support facilities.
- Provide site amenities that accommodate persons with disabilities.

Objective #9: Design, plan and implement a Township-wide signage system for parks and recreation facilities.

- Build upon the Township's signage system to establish a readily identifiable signage system for wayfinding, park and facility name, directions, rules and regulations, interpretation and information.

Objective #11: Create destinations in parks where people can gather and socialize.

- Add pavilions of all sizes in parks for general picnic use.
- Add benches for seating.

Goal #2: Conserve our natural resources by using best management practices in the parks for conservation, public education and partnerships.

Objective #3: Establish a philosophy of environmental sustainability in the parks.

- Consider applying Sustainable Sites Initiative Guidelines to park’s design and future improvements.
- Incorporate landscapes for learning (interpretive signs, demonstration projects, habitat areas).

Objective #4: Improve Lower Merion Township’s parks for environmental sustainability.

- *Shortridge Memorial Park:* Stabilize the stream bank and add riparian buffer planting on the full length of the stream in the park.
- Consider adding wildflower meadow planting along wooded edge of park to minimize maintenance.
- Add habitat area.

Objective #5: Address environmental issues in the Township’s parks.

- Manage stormwater and enhance water quality through infiltration of runoff.
- Continue to plant trees in the park.
- Stabilize the stream bank of the creek that runs through the park.
- Develop and implement a plan to remove invasive species from the park.

Objective #6: Develop strategies for solving environmental problems through solutions in the parks.

- Develop a strategic plan for stormwater management and stream bank stabilization in the parks in collaboration with the Public Works Department.

2012 ADA Title II Compliance Audit

- Not included in audit.
- Apply criteria from audit where possible.

Examples:

- ❖ Install pads at benches that allow wheelchairs.
- ❖ Provide accessible stream access points.
- ❖ Walking paths must be ADA compliant.
- ❖ Install accessible walking paths.
- ❖ Provide handicapped parking along Shortridge Dr.

1996 Natural Areas Study

- Control invasive vegetation.
- Minimize the edge of the woodland by expanding the lawn area.

- Natural regeneration should be augmented with plantings protected by tree shelters if necessary.
- Improve the existing riparian forest buffer along the creek through the tree and shrub plantings to protect the bank and shade the stream.

2004 Open Space and Environmental Resource Protection Plan Update

Natural Resource Protection:

- Work with neighboring municipalities to create a riparian management plan for the Indian Creek Watershed.
- Seek additional funding to implement natural areas improvements to existing and proposed passive recreation areas. Improvements include meadow conversions, reforestation, riverbank stabilization and riparian buffer improvements.

2003 Bicycle & Pedestrian Network Plan

Bicycle Network

- The park is bookend by Remington Rd. (Priority Bike Route) at the southern end and E. Wynnewood Rd. (sidewalks exist) on northern end.
- Easement from Parkview Dr. to/through the park; picks up on Shortridge Dr., continues between private properties to E. Wynnewood Rd. Used by students walking to Merion Elementary School.

Pedestrian Network

- No sidewalk along Shortridge Dr.
- Pedestrian network recommends sidewalks on Remington Rd. at the southern end of the park.
- E. Wynnewood Rd. (sidewalks exist) part of Pedestrian network.

2012 Environmental Action Plan

Stormwater Management:

- Increase use of stormwater controls.
- Increase use of porous pavement.
- Increase riparian buffers in Township parks.

Miscellaneous Environmental Initiatives:

- Implement Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan
- Increase the availability of “mutt mitts” and trash cans for disposal of dog waste trash cans for disposal of dog waste resulting in less pollution to streams.

Misc. Plans, Drawings & Documents

**September 25, 1940 Ella S. Williams and Parker S. Williams / Township of Lower Merion
Agreement @ 12.228 acres:**

- Develop site exclusively as a park.
- Park cannot be used for playground or playfields if it would attract spectators or if the use would, “prove materially disturbing to the residents or the neighboring areas.”
- “The Township can build shelters, comfort stations or other buildings incidental to the use of the park, but the buildings would need to be in general conformity and design with structures located in the park area.”