

THINKING OUTSIDE THE PARK: WHY PARK, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLANS NEED TO ADDRESS PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIVITY

KAITLIN MILLS & DEREK DUREKA

APA PA conference : October 2023

INTRODUCTION



WHAT WE WILL BE DISCUSSING

BACKGROUND

IMPORTANCE OF A 10-MINUTE WALK

UDT & A 10-MINUTE WALK

DEVELOPING MISSING CONNECTIONS

MISSING CONNECTIONS

PRIORITIZATION

IMPLEMENTATION

LESSONS LEARNED

WHO ARE WE



KAITLIN MILLS

Planner, HRG



DEREK DUREKA

Parks & Recreation Director



INTRO POLLS



Join at slido.com
#4927995

① Start presenting to display the joining instructions on this slide.



What represents your role best?

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.



If you have worked on a Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan, did you include a goal “to increase access to a park within a 10-minute walk”?

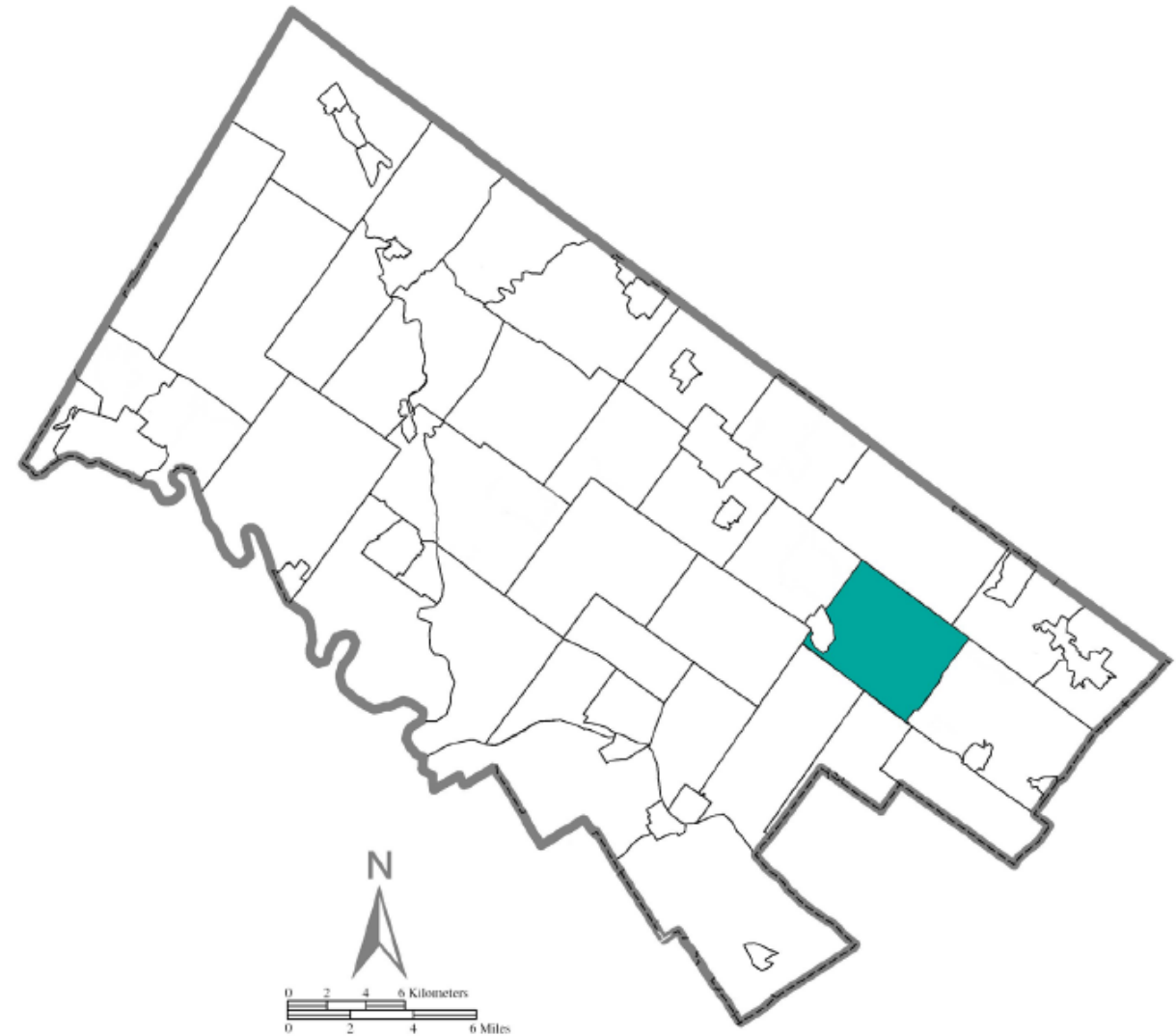
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BACKGROUND



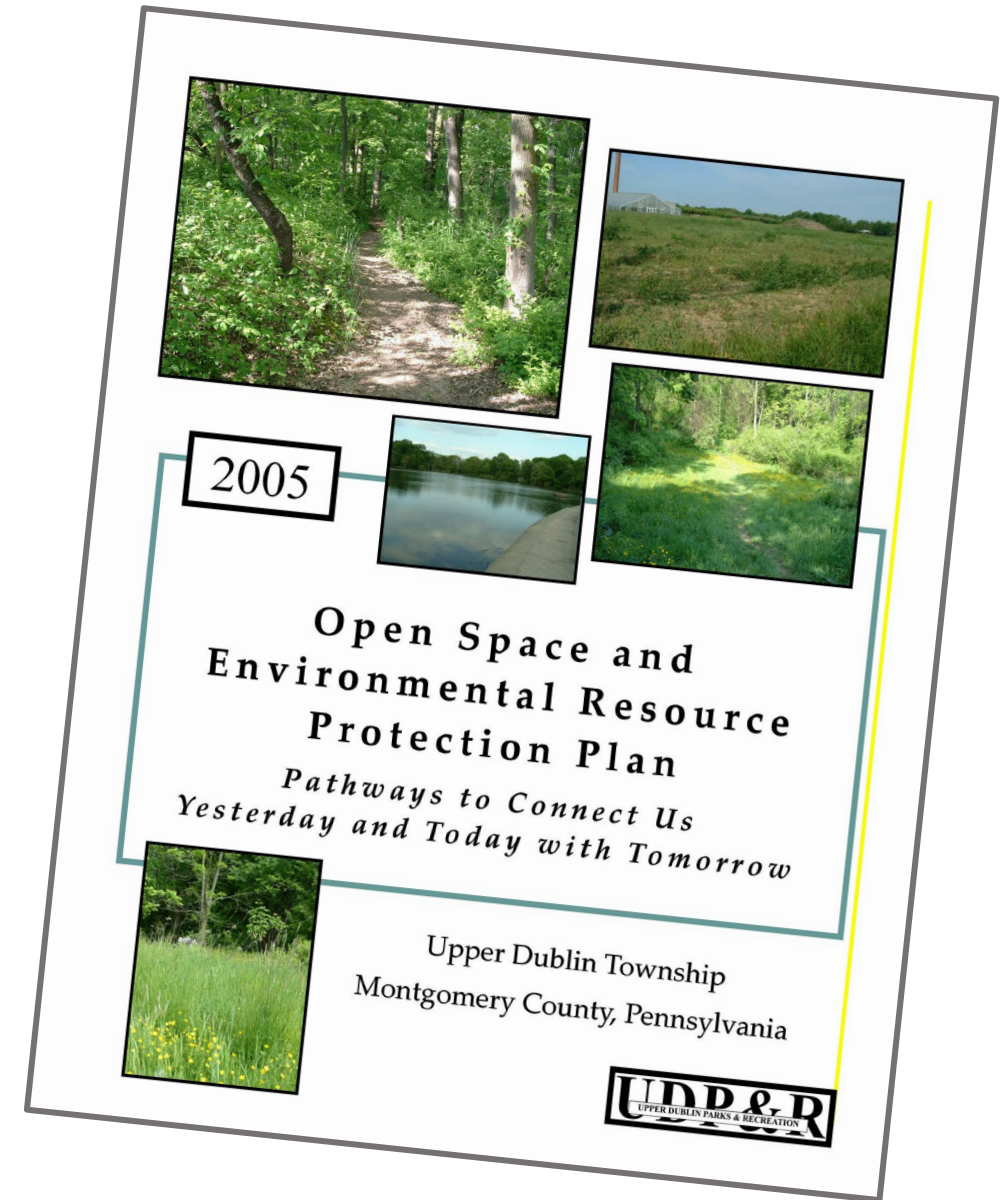
WHO IS UPPER DUBLIN?

- Suburb outside of Philadelphia
- 13-square miles
- Largely developed community but has 45 Township-owned parks & open spaces, which total 628 acres



HOW DID WE GET HERE

- In 2022 HRG was Contracted by Upper Dublin Township to update their Open Space Plan
- Previous Plan was Completed in 2005
- The Plan's progress was regularly updated over the years



WHY IS A 10-MINUTE WALK IMPORTANT?



10-MINUTE WALK

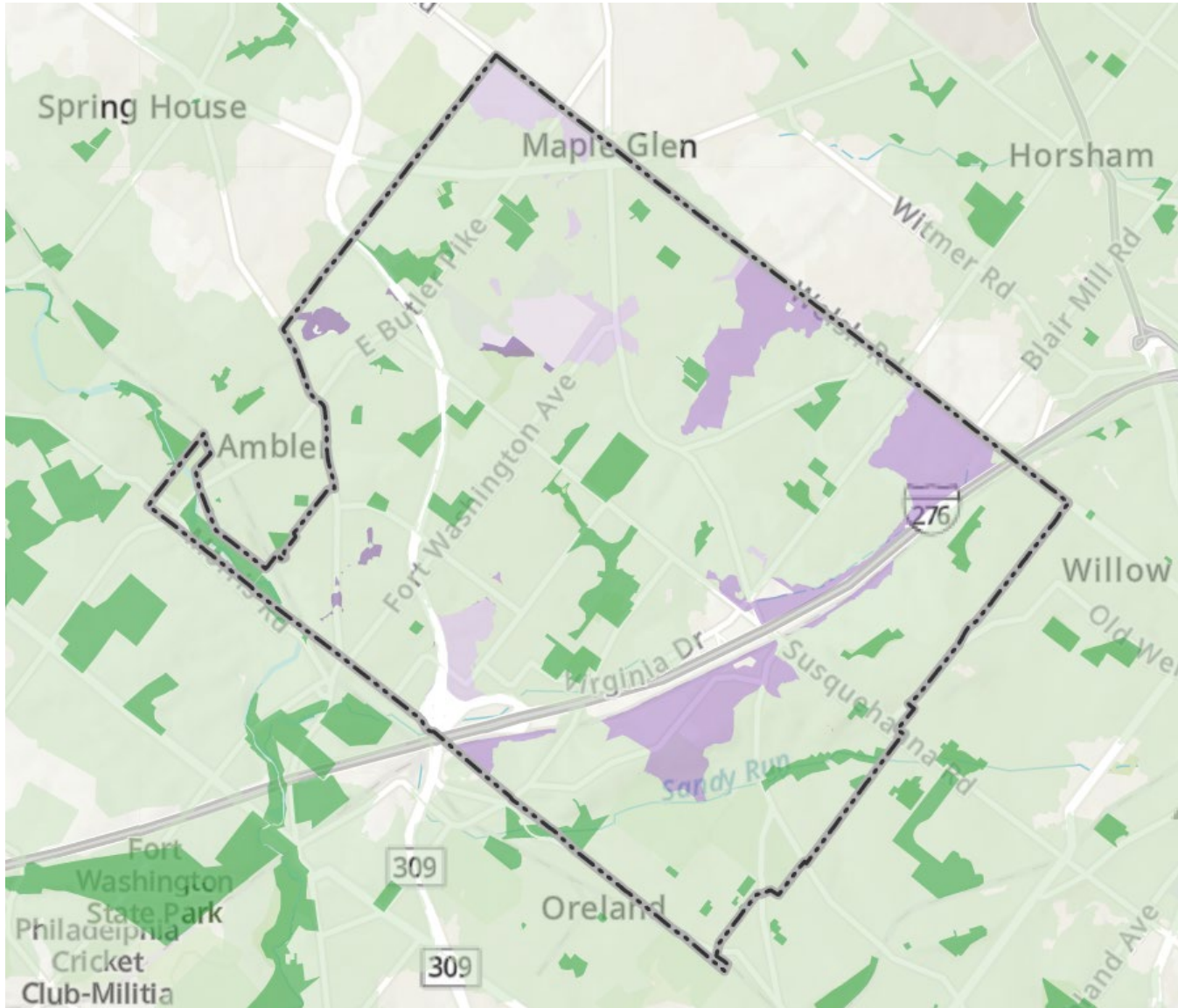
- Parks play an important role in health and well-being, climate resilience, and interconnectedness.
- 1 in 3 U.S. Residents do not have a park or green space within a 10-minute walk of home.
- 100 million people including 28 million children do not have access to parks.



UDT & A 10-MINUTE WALK



UDT & A 10-MINUTE WALK



ParkServe®

Legend



City Boundary



Parks



Service Areas

Priority areas for new parks



Very high priority



High priority



Moderate priority

GOALS: 10-MINUTE WALK & CONNECTIVITY

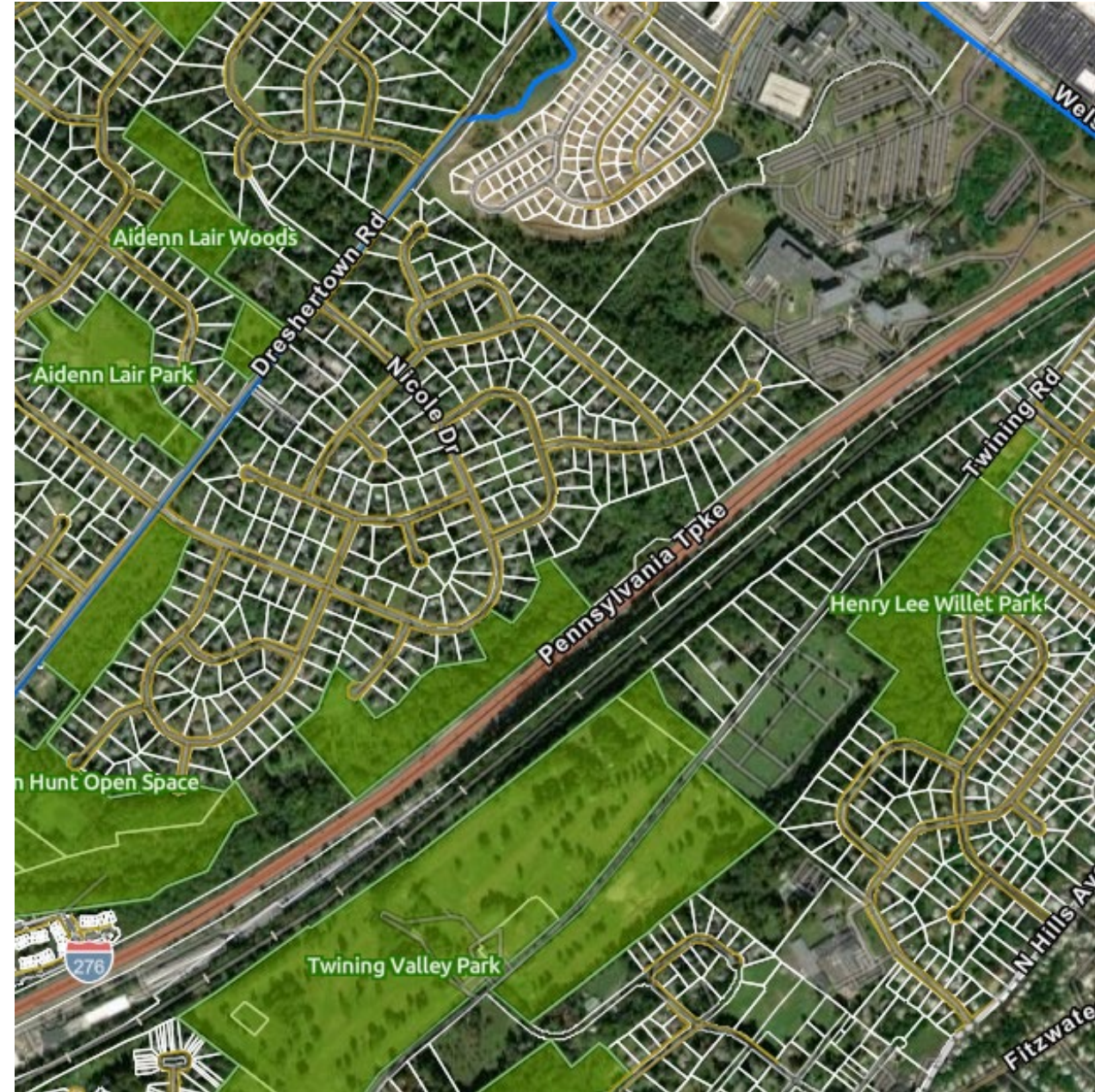
1. Develop a network of sidewalks, trails, crosswalks, greenways and bike lanes to provide safe places for recreation, more community connectivity and improve access to local amenities.
2. Provide safe access to at least one park for passive or active recreation within a 10-minute walk of every Township residence.
3. Provide safe access to a neighborhood or school playground within a 10-minute walk of every Township residence.

DEVELOPING THE MISSING CONNECTIONS



WHERE WE STARTED

- Previously the Township Identified 8 Critical Connections
- The team pulled GIS data to form an existing pedestrian infrastructure network
- Looked at previous planning documents



IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE MISSING CONNECTIONS

COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



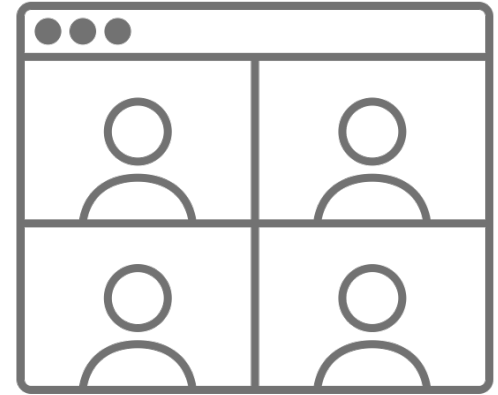
Survey



Committee Meetings



Public Meeting



Focus Groups

SURVEY

- 713 out of 2,500 mailed surveys returned
 - 29% return rate
- 966 responses online
- 6 Questions related to connectivity

Parks & Recreation Use & Connectivity Survey
This survey is being conducted by Upper Dublin Parks & Recreation (UDP&R) for short and long-term planning purposes.
Please return your completed survey in the self-addressed stamped envelope by 10/7/2022.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please indicate the "number" of people in your household in each age group.

1. Indicate "the number" of people in your household in each age group.
a. ___ 5 yrs. old & under c. ___ 10-14 yrs. old e. ___ 19-25 yrs. old g. ___ 40-59 yrs. old
b. ___ 6-9 yrs. old d. ___ 15-18 yrs. old f. ___ 26-39 yrs. old h. ___ 60+ yrs. old

2. Indicate which zip code your household resides in.
a. ___ 19001 c. ___ 19025 e. ___ 19038 g. ___ 19090
b. ___ 19002 d. ___ 19034 f. ___ 19075

PARKS

3. Do people in your household visit Upper Dublin Parks?
a. ___ Yes b. ___ No, see follow-up question below, then skip to question #8

4. How often does your household visit an Upper Dublin Park(s)?
a. ___ Everyday b. ___ Once per week c. ___ Several days per week d. ___ Monthly

5. For what purpose(s) do people in your household visit Upper Dublin Parks? Select all that apply.
a. ___ Attend UDP&R program or event b. ___ Participate in an organized youth sport c. ___ Exercise d. ___ Relaxation e. ___ Participate in a pick-up sport f. ___ Use a playground g. ___ Use a sports court (ex. tennis or basketball) h. ___ Enjoy/explore nature i. ___ Use/Rent a pavilion or sports field j. ___ Other: _____

6. How do you get to Upper Dublin Parks? Select all that apply.
a. ___ Drive b. ___ Walk/Run c. ___ Bike d. ___ Other: _____

7. Indicate with an "X" which Upper Dublin Parks you have visited within the last year? Select all that apply.
a. ___ Alden Park (Dresher) k. ___ Mondsak Common (Ambler)
b. ___ Burn Brae Park (Dresher) l. ___ North Hills Park (North Hills)
c. ___ Campbell & Highland Athletic Complex (CHAC) (Fort m. ___ Pine Run Park (Dresher)
Washington) n. ___ Robbins Park (Ambler)
d. ___ East Oreland Park (Oreland) o. ___ Sheeleigh Park (Ambler)
e. ___ E.B. Wright Park (North Hills) p. ___ Three Tuns Park (Willow Grove)
f. ___ Franklin Park (Maple Glen) q. ___ Twining Valley Park (Willow Grove)
g. ___ Henry Lee Willet Park (Willow Grove) r. ___ Upper Dublin Community Pool (North Hills)
h. ___ Koonsman Park (Fort Washington) s. ___ Upper Dublin Sports Park (SPARK) (Ambler)
i. ___ Loch Alsh Reservoir (Ambler) t. ___ Veterans Memorial Park (Ambler)
j. ___ Mondsak Manor/MonDaug Park (Fort u. ___ Wentz Pond (Fort Washington)
Washington) v. ___ Other: _____

8. What park amenities do you feel our park system is missing? If needed, feel free to use an additional sheet of paper.

CONNECTIONS & LINKAGES

9. Do people in your household walk or bike in Upper Dublin Township?
a. ___ Yes b. ___ No, then skip to question #12 c. ___ Leisure d. ___ Other: _____

10. Please indicate why those in your household walk or bike in the township? Select all that apply.
a. ___ Exercise / Health & Wellness b. ___ Destination (as a mode of transportation) c. ___ Other: _____

Parks & Recreation Use & Connectivity Survey
This survey is being conducted by Upper Dublin Parks & Recreation (UDP&R) for short and long-term planning purposes.

11. Where do you walk or bike to? Select all that apply.
a. ___ Parks, Recreation Facilities or Trails g. ___ Maple Glen
b. ___ Schools h. ___ Dresher
c. ___ Library i. ___ Fort Washington
d. ___ Work j. ___ Willow Grove
e. ___ Public Transit Stations (bus, train) k. ___ Food & Beverage Establishments
f. ___ Ambler Borough l. ___ Other: _____

12. Where would you like to walk or bike to but currently cannot? If needed, feel free to use an additional sheet of paper.

RECREATIONAL SERVICES

13. What types of UDP&R Recreational Services has your household used within the last 3 years? Select all that apply.
a. ___ Discount tickets (movie, amusement, ski) h. ___ Park Challenge (Eiff in the Park, Park Poker)
b. ___ Preschool aged programs i. ___ Bus trips
c. ___ Elementary aged programs j. ___ Summer concert series
d. ___ Adult programs (fitness or enrichment) k. ___ Outdoor movies (movie in the park/drive-in movie)
e. ___ Weeklong sports camps l. ___ Virtual Programs
f. ___ Weeklong science/art/nature camps m. ___ Other family-oriented special events
g. ___ Twining Valley and/or X-Zone day camps n. ___ Do not use any of the mentioned services

14. What other recreational services or specific programs would you like UDP&R to consider offering?

15. How do you typically find out about UDP&R's Recreational Services? Select all that apply.
a. ___ UDP&R Leisure Guide mailed d. ___ Social media g. ___ Word-of-mouth
b. ___ UDP&R Leisure Guide online e. ___ UDP&R eNews h. ___ Other: _____
c. ___ UDP&R website f. ___ Flyers

16. Where else do you feel UDP&R should be advertising its recreational services for residents?

17. If your household does not use UDP&R's Recreational Services, why not? Select all that apply.
a. ___ Nothing of interest to me What would interest you? _____
b. ___ Not offered at convenient times/days When would be convenient? _____
c. ___ Do not know about them How can we better inform you? _____
d. ___ Cost is prohibitive
e. ___ Other: _____

FUTURE FOCUS

18. Over the next 3 to 5 years, what do you think UDP&R's focus should be? Select all that apply.
a. ___ Offering a greater variety of programs e. ___ Enhance recreational amenities at existing Parks
b. ___ Offering a greater variety of special events f. ___ Acquisition of Open Space
c. ___ Offering a greater variety of discount ticket opportunities g. ___ Environmental improvements to Parks/Open Space
d. ___ Development of Township trail/pathway systems for a more walkable community h. ___ Nothing - maintain the status quo, UDP&R's Recreation Services and Parks are just fine
i. ___ Other: _____

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK

19. Please provide any additional comments you may have concerning the UDP&R Department and/or its Parks and Recreational Services it provides to the residents of the Township. Please use an additional sheet of paper to do so.
Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please return your completed survey in the self-addressed stamped envelope by 10/7/2022.

DO YOU WALK OR BIKE IN UDT?

88%
responded
YES

WHY DO YOU WALK OR BIKE?



Exercise/Health &
Wellness
96%



Leisure
59%



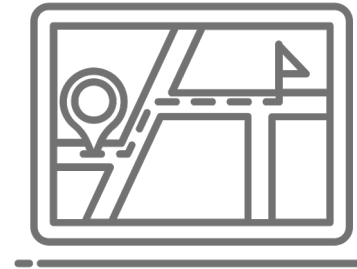
Destination
20%

Other
5%

WHERE DO YOU WALK OR BIKE TO?



Parks, Recreation
Facilities & Trails



Township
Neighborhoods



Food & Beverage
Locations



Schools

OVER THE NEXT 3 TO 5 YEARS, WHAT SHOULD UDP&R'S FOCUS BE?



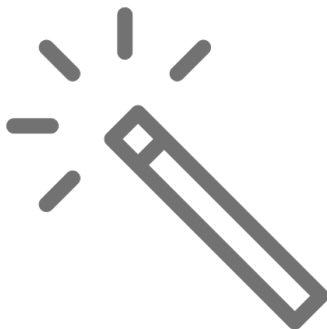
Development of
Township
trail/path/systems
for more walkable
community

64%



Acquisition
of Open
Space

33%



Enhance
recreational
amenities at
existing Parks

33%

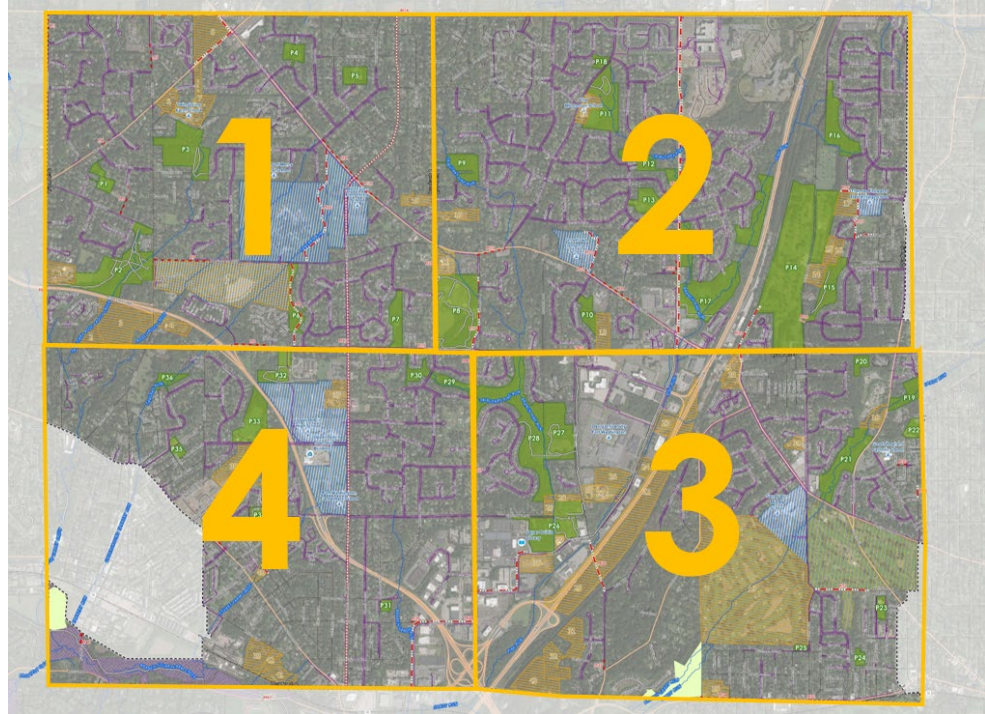


Environmental
improvements to
Parks/Open
Space

26%

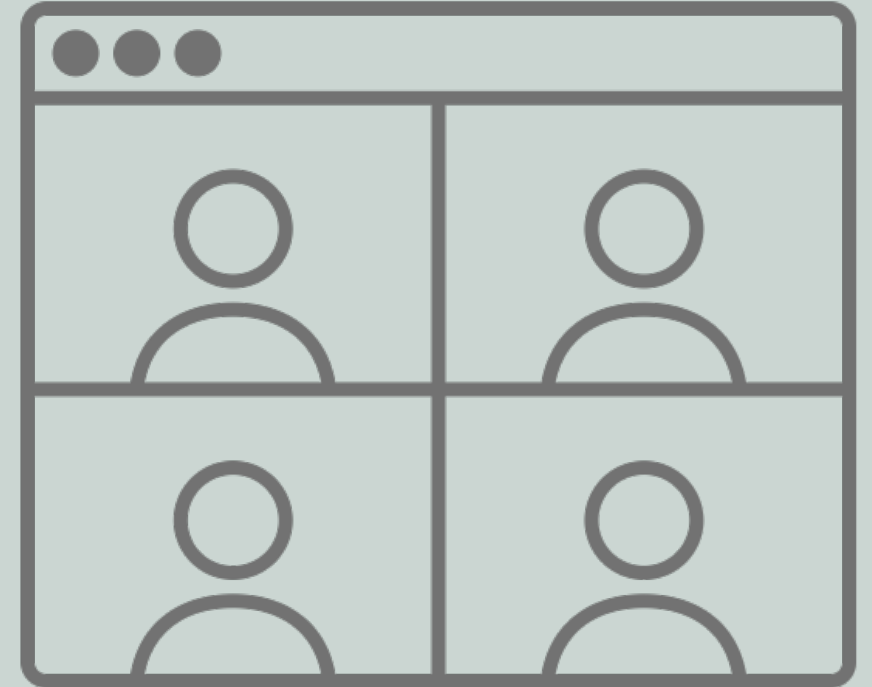
PUBLIC MEETING #1

- Broke the Township into Quadrants
- Asked for Residents to Identify:
 - “Missing” Existing Sidewalk
 - Barriers
 - Sidewalk Connection
 - Trail Connections
 - Bike Connection



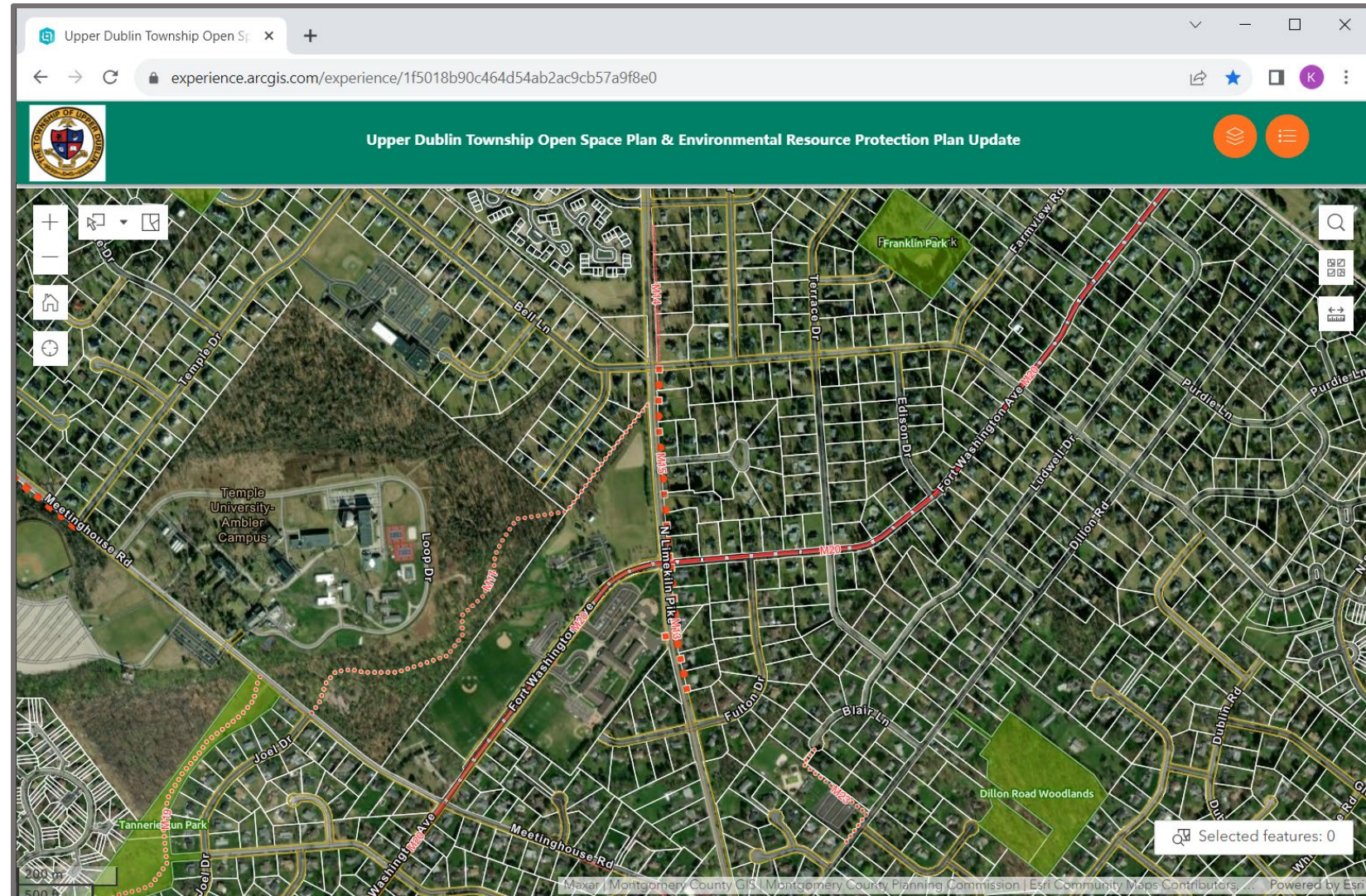
FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

- Multiple meetings were held with stakeholder groups including:
 - School District Transportation Department
 - Township Engineer
 - Township Traffic Engineer
 - Township Police Department
 - Township Staff – Parks, Public Works, etc.
 - Montgomery County Planning Commission



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Iterative process with updated mapping and Missing Connections list.



MISSING CONNECTIONS



MISSING CONNECTIONS

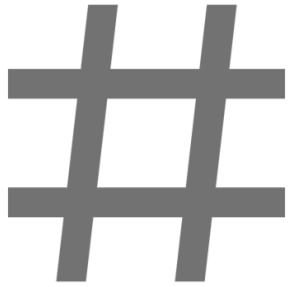
- 70 Missing Connections Identified
- Over 20 miles of Connections
- Missing Connection Types
 - Sidewalk
 - Trail
 - Bike Lane
 - Pedestrian Crossing
 - Tunnel
 - Bridge
- Range in length from 100 feet to 3.3 miles



Temple Sinai Missing Connection

MISSING CONNECTIONS

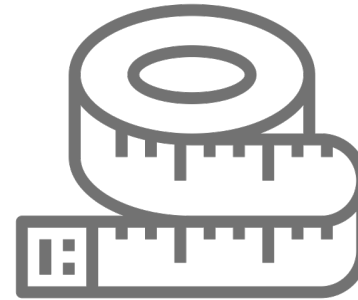
LIST OF MISSING CONNECTIONS IDENTIFY:



Number



Type



Length



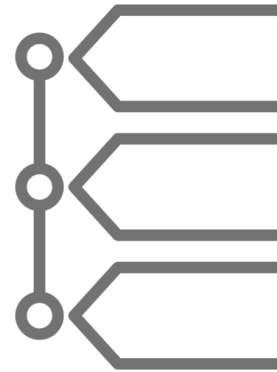
Location



Description



Goal



Status



Additional Notes

HOW DO WE PRIORITIZE & ACHIEVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MISSING CONNECTIONS?





What factors or characteristics should a community consider when prioritizing the development of connections?

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

PRIORITIZATION WORKSHEET

- Developed a working list of considerations for prioritization
- Asked for Feedback at:
 - Steering Committee
 - Public Meeting #2
- Refined the characteristics and their priority level

Upper Dublin Township Missing Connections Prioritization Worksheet			
Category	Priority	Response	Notes
About the Connection			
Type of Connection	Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Use <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian Only <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle Only	Type of user served by the connection
Project Length	Low	<input type="checkbox"/> 2,000+ ft <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000 - 1,999 ft <input type="checkbox"/> 500 - 999 ft <input type="checkbox"/> 100 - 499 ft <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 100 ft	Length of the connection
Improving Pedestrian Safety of an Identified Area of Conflict	High	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Has this area been noted as area of conflict by the Township, Police Department or Public (Multiple Residents)
Project Implementation			
Existing Right-of-Way	High	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Is there an existing right-of-way to help with the development of the connection
Existing Access Easement	High	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Is there an existing access easement to help with the development of the connection
Deferment for Sidewalk	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If the connection is sidewalk, is there a deferment on the property(ies)
Number of Property Owners to Negotiate with	Low - High (Based on # of Residents)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Property Owner <input type="checkbox"/> 2-4 Property Owners <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ Property Owners	How many property owners would the Township need to negotiate to develop the connection
Age of Road Surface		<input type="checkbox"/> Under 2 Years <input type="checkbox"/> 3 to 5 Years <input type="checkbox"/> 6 to 8 Years <input type="checkbox"/> 9 to 12 Years <input type="checkbox"/> 13 to 15 Year <input type="checkbox"/> 15+	PennDOT states for Local Roads desired seal is every 7+ years, with structural resurfacing every 15-20 years.
Estimated Cost Range	Medium	Cost Estimate from an Engineer or Planning Level Cost Estimate	What is the Cost Estimate from an engineer, or the estimated planning level cost estimate based on cost per linear foot, (below)? Sidewalk (5' wide) = \$72 / LF Paved Trail (10' wide) = \$36 / LF Pavement Widening (for Bike Lanes 6' wide) = \$21 / LF *Notes: - Planning level cost estimates are for construction only. Does not include costs for engineering, permitting, CACI, utility adjustments or relocation, etc. - Cost does not include: Clearing & Grubbing, Erosion and Sediment Control, Signing and Pavement Markings, Mobilization and Traffic Control.
Price per Residential Unit Served	Medium	Above cost per residential unit within a 10 minute walk	What is the estimated project price based on cost per Residential Unit Indirectly and Directly served by the connection
Grant Worthy Connection	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Does the connection have the potential to be funded by a grant
Connections Created			
Number of Residential Units with Direct Access to the Connection	Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are there residential units that have direct access to the connection along their property frontage

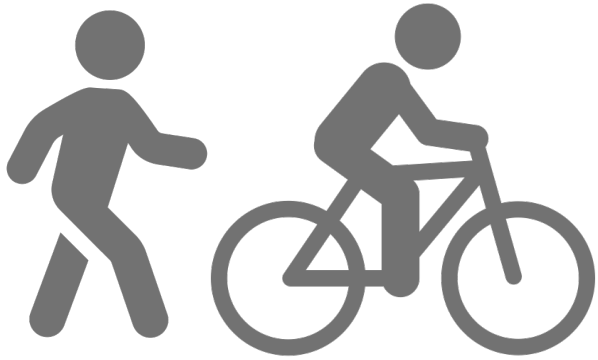
PRIORITIZATION WORKSHEET

- 24 Different Characteristics
- Prioritization Characteristics were grouped into 3 Categories
 1. About the Connection
 2. Project Implementation
 3. Connections Created
- Worksheet identified:
 - Characteristics
 - Priority (High, Medium and Low)
 - Response
 - Notes

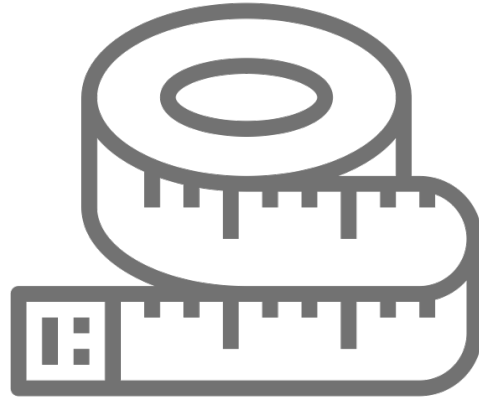
Upper Dublin Township Missing Connections Prioritization Worksheet			
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PRIORITIZATION WORKSHEET

ABOUT THE CONNECTION



Type of Connection



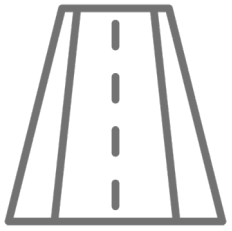
Length



Area of Conflict

PRIORITIZATION WORKSHEET

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



Existing
Right-of-Way



Existing Access
Easement



Deferred Sidewalk



of Property Owner
Negotiations



Age of Road
Surface



Cost Estimate
Range



Price Per
Residential Unit



Grant Worthy

PRIORITIZATION WORKSHEET

CONNECTIONS CREATED



of Properties
with Access



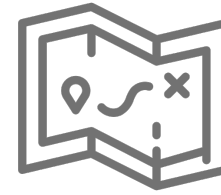
of Residential
Units in ½ Mile



Connects
to a Park



Connects to
a Local Trail



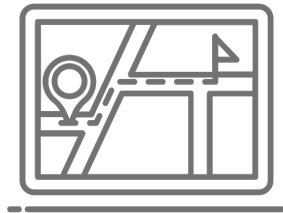
Connects to a
Regional Trail



Connects to
a School



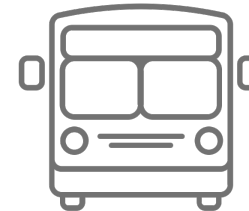
Connects to
Community
Amenities



Connects to
Adjacent
Neighborhoods



Connects to
Businesses



Connects to
Public Transit



Connects to a
Place of Worship

MISSING CONNECTION IMPLEMENTATION



GOALS: 10-MINUTE WALK & CONNECTIVITY

1. Develop a network of sidewalks, trails, crosswalks, greenways and bike lanes to provide safe places for recreation, more community connectivity and improve access to local amenities.
 - 1.1 **Construct at least one** identified Missing Connection every year.
 - 1.2 **Regularly issue an update** to the Missing Connections listing and map to identify any changes.
 - 1.3 **Regularly meet** with regional transportation staff, Township traffic engineer, School District transportation staff, Township Police Department, Township Public Works staff, Township Planning staff and others with insight on potential missing connections, barriers and desires related to community connectivity.
 - 1.4 Regularly **survey the community** to determine potential missing connections, barriers and desires related to community connectivity.

GOALS: 10-MINUTE WALK & CONNECTIVITY

2. Provide safe access to at least one park for passive or active recreation within a 10-minute walk of every Township residence.

2.1 **Identify missing or damaged infrastructure** as well as areas of conflict that prevent residents from accessing a park within a 10-minute walk.

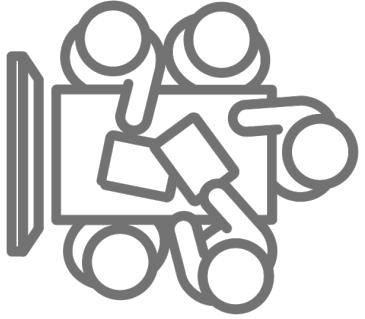
2.2 **Prioritize** completing Missing Connections that provide safe access for **residences currently without access** to a park within a 10-minute walk.

GOALS: 10-MINUTE WALK & CONNECTIVITY

3. Provide safe access to a neighborhood or school playground within a 10-minute walk of every Township residence.

3.1 Prioritize completing Missing Connections that provide safe access for **residences currently without access** to a neighborhood or school playground within a 10-minute walk.

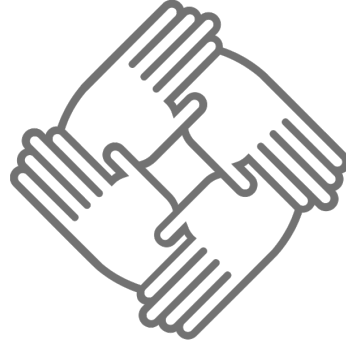
IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS



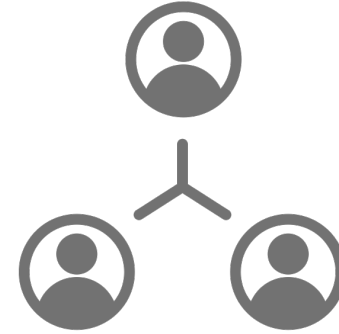
Working
Committee



Official Map



Collaborate with
Township Entities



Coordination of
Efforts



Pursue Grants &
Funding Sources



Assess
Fee-in-Lieu



Assess Open
Space Tax



Provide Regular
Updates



Formalize
Communication



Continue
Engagement

LESSONS LEARNED



LESSONS LEARNED

- Provides a Blueprint for the Future
- Develops Consistent Feedback Loop
- Living Document & Tools
- Easily Implementable
- Provides Supports Grant Applications



THANK YOU!

KAITLIN MILLS

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DEREK DUREKA

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