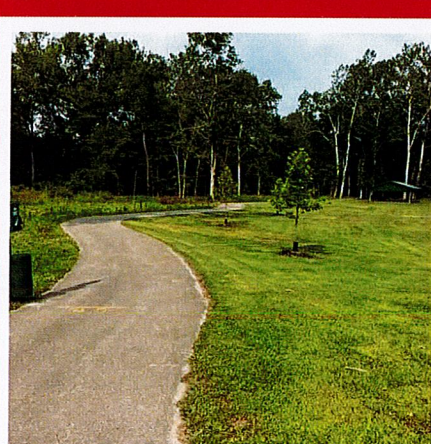
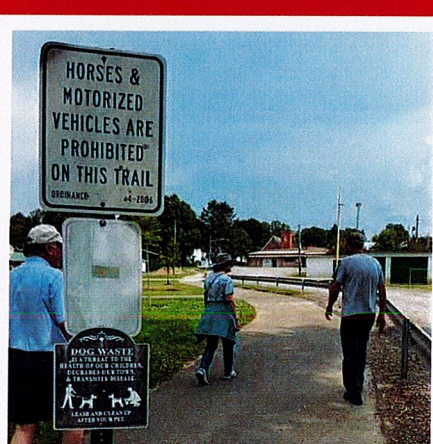
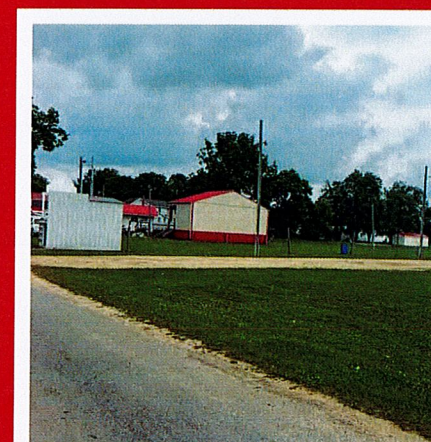
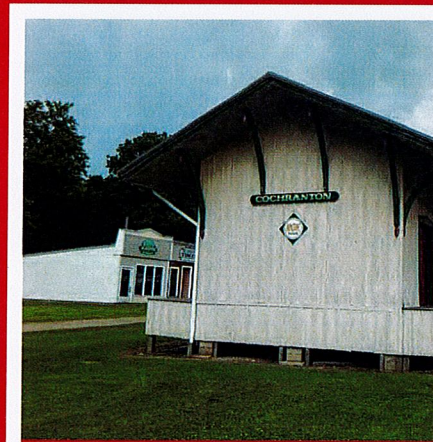
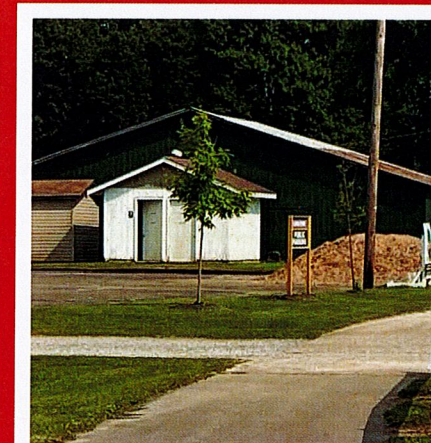
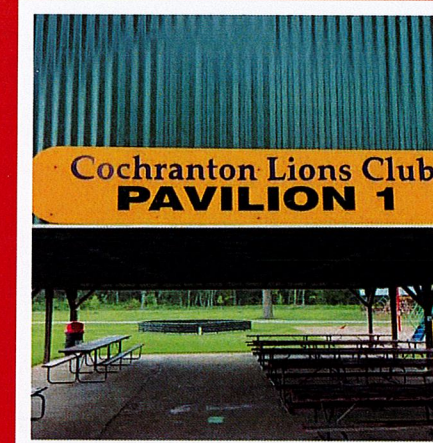
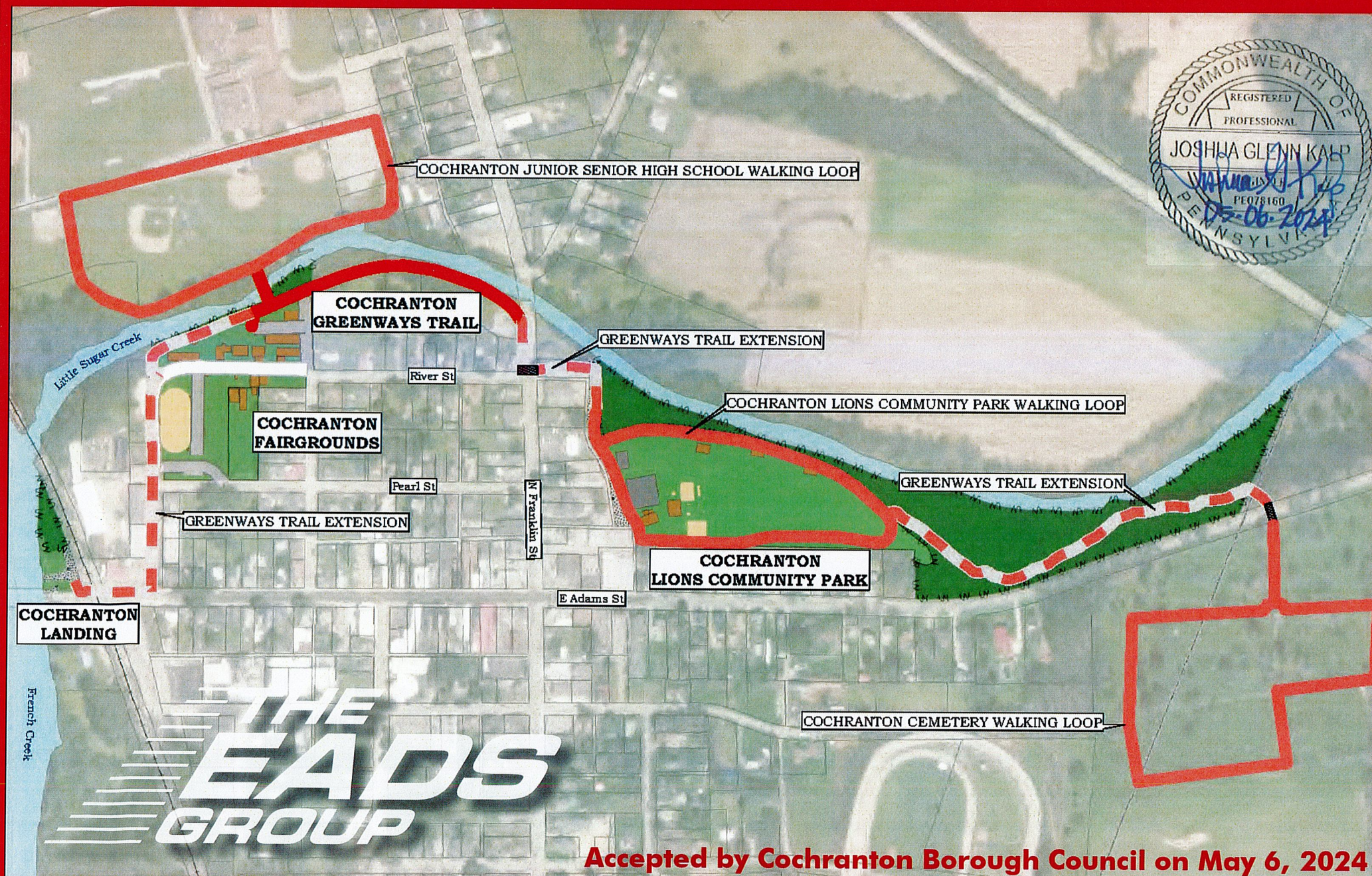


COCHRANTON COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARK, OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAYS PLAN

Prepared for Cochranon Borough



Accepted by Cochranon Borough Council on May 6, 2024

***Cochranton Borough
Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space
and Greenways Plan***

**The Plan was Accepted by Cochranton Borough
Council on May 6, 2024**



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Acknowledgements

Special thanks to all the representatives of Cochranton Borough and members of the Project Steering Committee who participated in preparing this Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan.

Steering Committee members were actively involved throughout this planning process. They participated in several Steering Committee meetings, answered questions, shared their knowledge of local conditions and provided quality input and guidance as the Plan was being prepared. The Steering Committee is credited with identifying Recreation Priorities, reviewing and discussing those Priorities with residents, and for bringing together and evaluating different types of information and input to help formulate this Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan.

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Project Steering Committee Members

Susan Armburger, Cochranton Borough Manager; Lead Contact

Marilyn Black - Outdoor Writer

Philip Angell - CARE Vice President

Melissa Mack Maruska - Council Member & CARE Board Member

Curtis Oakes - Cochranton Community Fair Association, President

Bryan Miller – Former School Board Member, Crawford Central School District

Cynthia Phelps - Former CARE President; now retired

Erin J. Roche - Elementary Health & Phys. Ed. Teacher; Cochranton Elementary School & CARE Board Member

Mark E. Roche – Cochranton Borough Mayor & CARE Board Member

Lucy A. Schall - CARE Board Member & retired teacher

Recognition is given to the Cochranton Area Public Library for providing use of their conference room for Steering Committee meetings and Public meetings.

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PURPOSE - GOALS - OBJECTIVES

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Purpose of the Plan

Public utilization of Cochranton Landing, Cochranton Fairgrounds and Cochranton Lions Community Park has significantly increased in recent years. There is also growing interest in extending the Cochranton Greenways Trail into a continuous recreational trail linking the Cochranton Fairgrounds, the Jr./Sr. High School, Cochranton Landing and the Cochranton Lions Community Park. Residents also are advocating for developing a larger community wide walking/biking trail linking the Greenways Trail to the Elementary School. Residents are also requesting additional active and passive outdoor recreational facilities and amenities, including inclusive equipment and ADA compliant accessible routes. The Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space, and Greenways Plan will serve to document and coalesce the recreation need and wants from Borough residents. The Plan will also serve as a guiding template for future improvements at the Parks and Recreation areas in the Borough. The Plan is also an important grantsmanship tool. The Plan will identify and encourage coordinated development opportunities to help prioritize projects and avoid redundancy while making properties and facilities more accessible and safer for residents and visitors of all ages, skills. The Plan also identifies non-physical improvements including recreation programming, resources and operations.

Plan Overview

The Cochranton Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space, and Greenways Plan lays the groundwork for future development and management of the Borough's Parks, Greenways Trail and their associated recreation facilities. Cochranton Borough has determined that it is now necessary to more clearly define which types of activities and facilities are of most interest to the community and to determine the most effective ways for improving recreation opportunities for the betterment of the entire community and surrounding areas. Cochranton Borough conducted a community driven, collaborative and implementable planning approach that emphasized public outreach and the need to develop an implementation framework and a strategy to identify key issues, inventory and analyze existing recreation and park resources and to identify accessibility deficiencies, identify community connections, and overall maintenance, budgetary and personnel needs. The Borough has identified a range of projects and initiatives such as equipment, facility and access improvements and promotion, signage and programming enhancements that will maximize the collective potential of the Borough's Parks and Recreation areas. The Borough and its partners will ultimately use this Plan to prioritize and implement future rehabilitation and development projects so that the Borough can have high quality parks and recreation facilities that will accommodate everyday users and that will accommodate recreation events and programming opportunities that will connect residents to recreation opportunities.

Project Goals

The overall purpose of this Plan is to increase recreation opportunities for Cochranton Borough residents and visitors. The following Goals were established for the Plan:

1. To better understand who uses the Parks and Recreation areas in the Borough, how often and for what reasons
2. Identify the most wanted recreation facility and programming improvements identified by residents, officials and other stakeholders
3. Identify a set of recommendations that will provide the types of recreation opportunities wanted by Borough residents
4. Conduct a multi-faceted public engagement process, including input provided by the Project Steering Committee, as part of the planning process
5. Make the Parks and Greenways Trail a four (4) season (at least a 3-season) recreation hub.
6. Make the Parks and Greenways Trail more attractive to families with younger children as well as to senior citizens and teens.

Project Approach

A simple set of principles underlies the methodologies and the planning approach conducted for this Project:

A Focus on the Community - The approach relied on the input and guidance provided by residents and the Project Steering Committee which included representatives of Borough Council, Cochranton Area Redevelopment Effort (CARE), Cochranton Fair Association, Cochranton Public Library and the School District

A Focus on Issues and Assets - An asset-based and issues-oriented planning approach was followed to create an "implementable" Plan

A Focus on Solutions - The planning approach relied heavily on collaboration to identify achievable solutions for Cochranton Borough

A Focus on Implementation - Completion of this document is not the end point of the process but rather the beginning of the 'doing' part of the planning process. Cochranton Borough and members of the Steering Committee will be critical for follow-up activities and implementation efforts



BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND DATA

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Cochranton Borough

Cochranton Borough is a small town situated at the confluence of French and Sugar Creeks in southeastern Crawford County. Cochranton Borough is located along PA Rt. 173 and just off US Rt. 322. The Borough has a total area of 1.2 square miles and is part of the Crawford Central School District. Cochranton Borough is surrounded by Fairfield Township, East Fairfield Township and Wayne Township.

The area was settled in the first years of the 19th Century. Cochranton Borough is made up of the original land grants of John Adams and Thomas Cochran, for whom the village was named. The original town plot was surveyed by Cochran's son Joseph, the first school teacher, and was chartered as a borough on April 5, 1855.

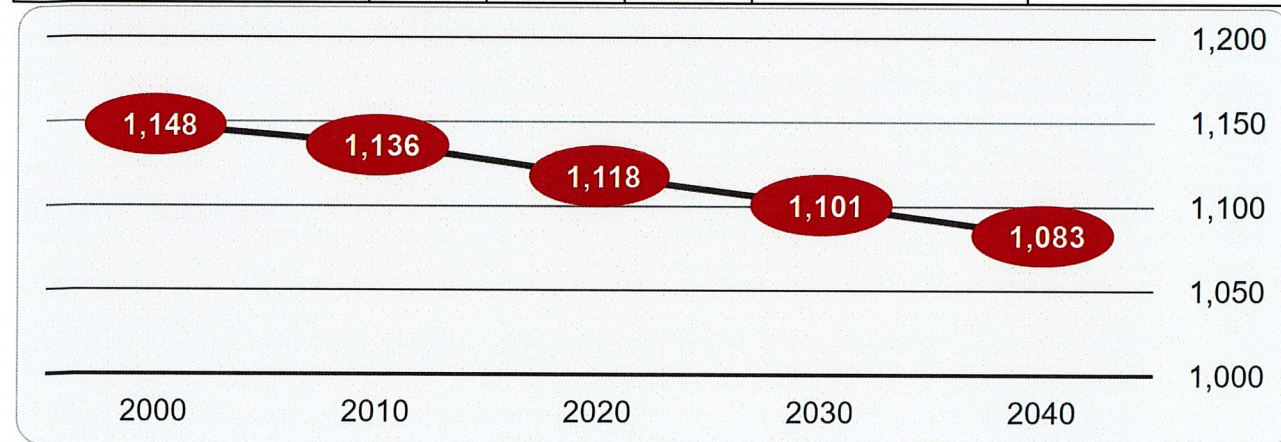
While Cochranton's sons served during the Civil War, the southern branch of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway made its entrance. This transportation line opened a market place for the rich agricultural area. The mid 1870's ushered Cochranton into its golden era of growth. A banking system and local newspaper marked important additions to the community. At this time the fire department was organized and neighbors joined together to celebrate its first agricultural fair. Town improvements included a water system and natural gas service. Wood sidewalks and dusty streets soon became concrete and brick. The lamplighter was replaced with electric lighting and the small town moved into the 20th Century.

Many of today's businesses can trace their starts to the first half of the century, constantly evolving to meet the needs of Borough residents. Cochranton takes pride in its schools, churches, library and community services. Its businesses, clubs and organizations work together to maintain a quality small town lifestyle. Although separated by many generations, the original ideals of its pioneers remain and continue to make Cochranton a place its citizens are proud to call "home".

Population Profile

The population in Cochranton Borough is slowly decreasing. The 2010 Decennial Census reported that Cochranton Borough had a population of 1,136. 2020 Decennial Census reported that Cochranton Borough had a population of 1,118. The 2022 5-year American Community Survey reported there were 1,043 people living in the Borough. The following provides a population trend summary and includes population projections to 2040.

Population					
Municipality	2000	2010	2020	2030 projected	2040 projected
Cochranton Borough	1,148	1,136	1,118	1,101	1,083



Age Profile

Cochranton's population is aging. The current median age of residents is now over 51 years of age. Approximately 26% of Borough residents are over 65 years of age while only approximately 22% of residents are under 18 years of age.

Housing Profile

There are just over 500 housing units in the Borough. Approximately 87% of homes in Cochranton are occupied. Approximately 72% of these homes are owner occupied. The median value of owner-occupied housing units is \$114,400.

Community Profile

The following provides an overall view of Borough demographics.

- Gender – 52% are males and 48% are female
- Households – 440 households; 2.4 persons per household
- Education – 56% are high school graduates, 13.8% have a bachelor's degree or higher
- Employment – 48.5% of residents over 16 years of age are employed
- Health – 6.5% without Health Care Coverage
- Income – \$54,773 median household Income; \$27,809 per capita income
- Poverty – 9.8% of all residents are living below the poverty line. 9% of children under 18 years of age and 4% of residents over 65 years of age are living in poverty.
- 10-Minute Walk to a Park – 49% of all Borough residents, 48% children, 50% adults

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Land Description

The following describes the land area that makes up the three (3) Park areas owned by Cochranton Borough. The Borough owned Park areas include three (3) individual parcels, totaling approximately 19 acres. The Cochranton Fairgrounds also includes parcel 1802-092 – 0.65 acres that is owned by the Cochranton Community Fair Association. The Cochranton Greenways Trail is aligned along Little Sugar Creek and along the back side of a residential area. There is a buffer between the Trail and the residential area. The Parks and Greenways Trail are in the central part of the Borough and are mainly surrounded by residential areas. The Parks and Greenways Trail are also located near the Borough's main business / commercial area.

Cochranton Lions Community Park

Tax Parcel #: 1803-037 - 16 ACRES & BLDG

The southern edge of Cochranton Lions Community Park is adjacent to a residential neighborhood area. The Western edge is near a mixed-use commercial area. The northern edge is bounded by Little Sugar Creek.

Cochranton Fairgrounds

Tax Parcel #: 1802-033 - 2.4 ACRES & BLDG

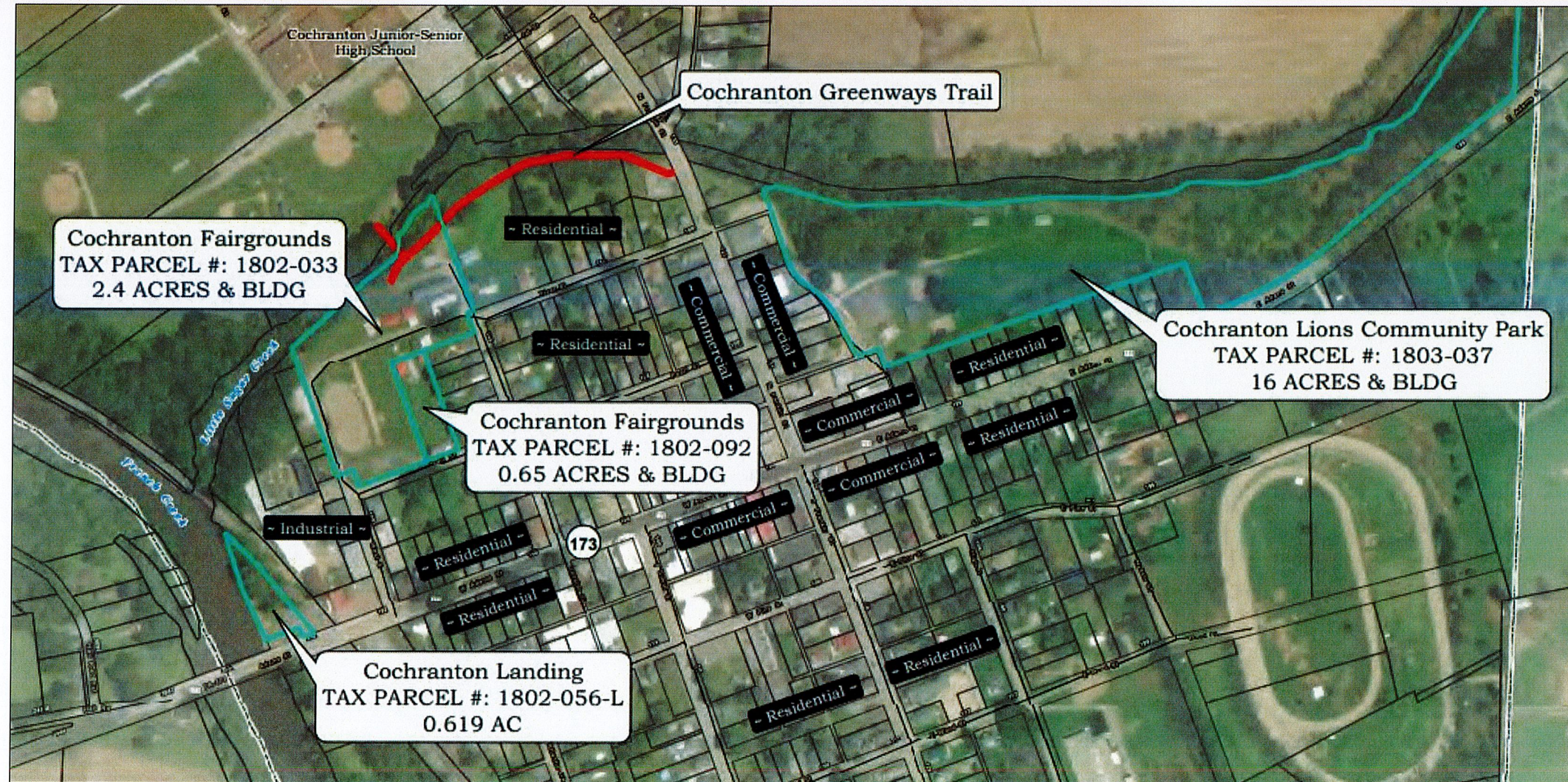
Tax Parcel #: 1802-092 - 0.65 ACRES & BLDG

Cochranton Fairgrounds is adjacent to residential areas. Its northern edge is bounded by Little Sugar Creek.

Cochranton Landing

Tax Parcel #: 1802-056-L - 0.619 AC

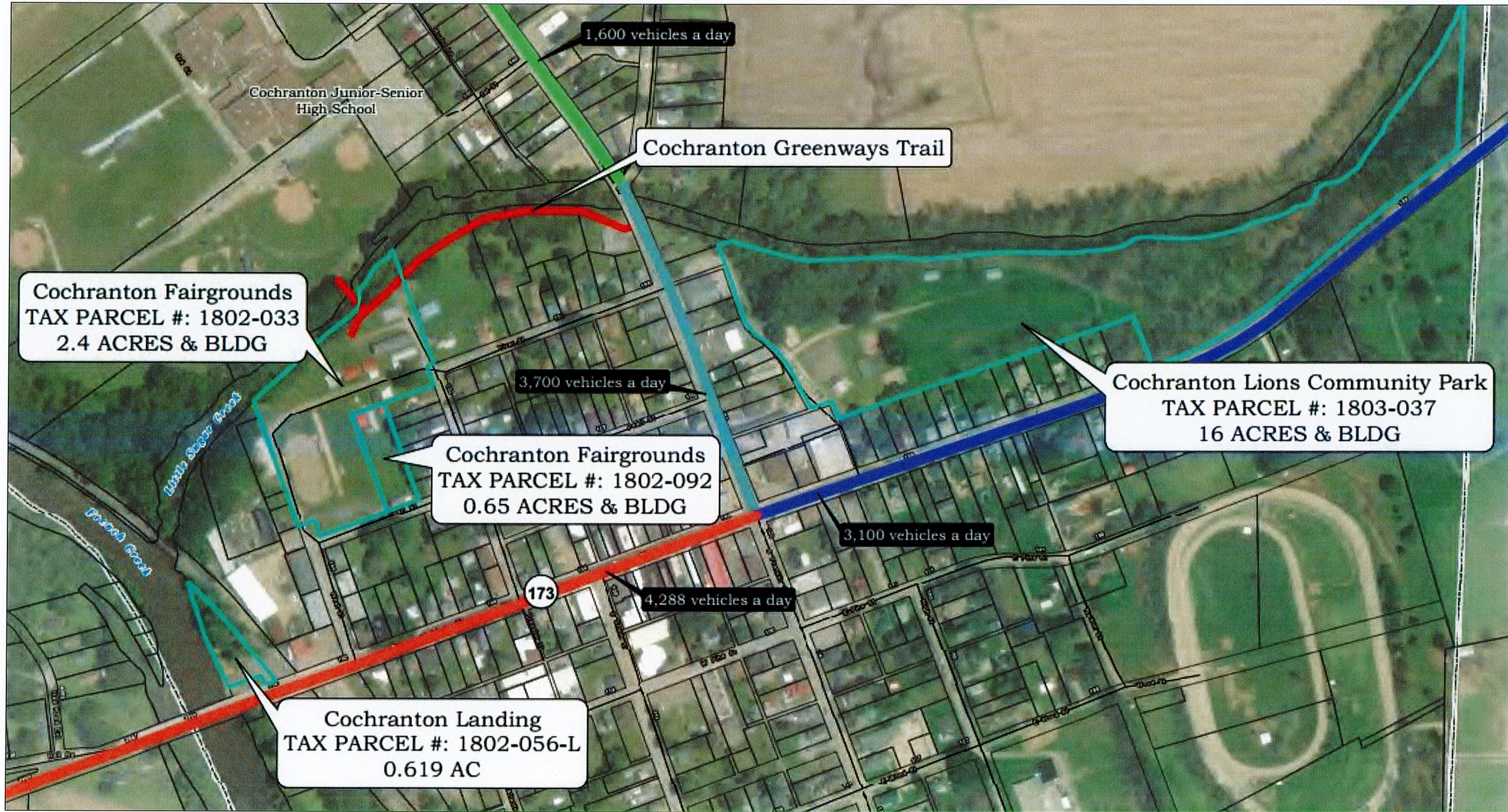
Cochranton Landing is located between French Creek, an active rail line and an industrial operation. PA Route 173 forms the southern edge.



Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Average Daily Traffic Counts

The map below summarizes traffic volumes near Cochranton Lions Community Park, Cochranton Fairgrounds, Cochranton Landing and the Cochranton Greenways Trail. As shown, PA Route 173 by Cochranton Landing experiences the highest volume of traffic with over 4,000 vehicles a day. N. Franklin Street near Cochranton Lions Community Park and the Cochranton Greenways Trail also experiences a high volume of traffic with 3,700 vehicles a day. PA Route 173 near Cochranton Lions Community Park experiences over 3,000 vehicles a day.



Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Floodplain

The following shows the 100-yr floodplain as mapped by FEMA. The 100-yr floodplain of French Creek and Little Sugar Creek extends throughout Cochranton Borough. Improvements at the Park, Fairgrounds, Landing and Greenways Trail will need to consider the floodplain areas.

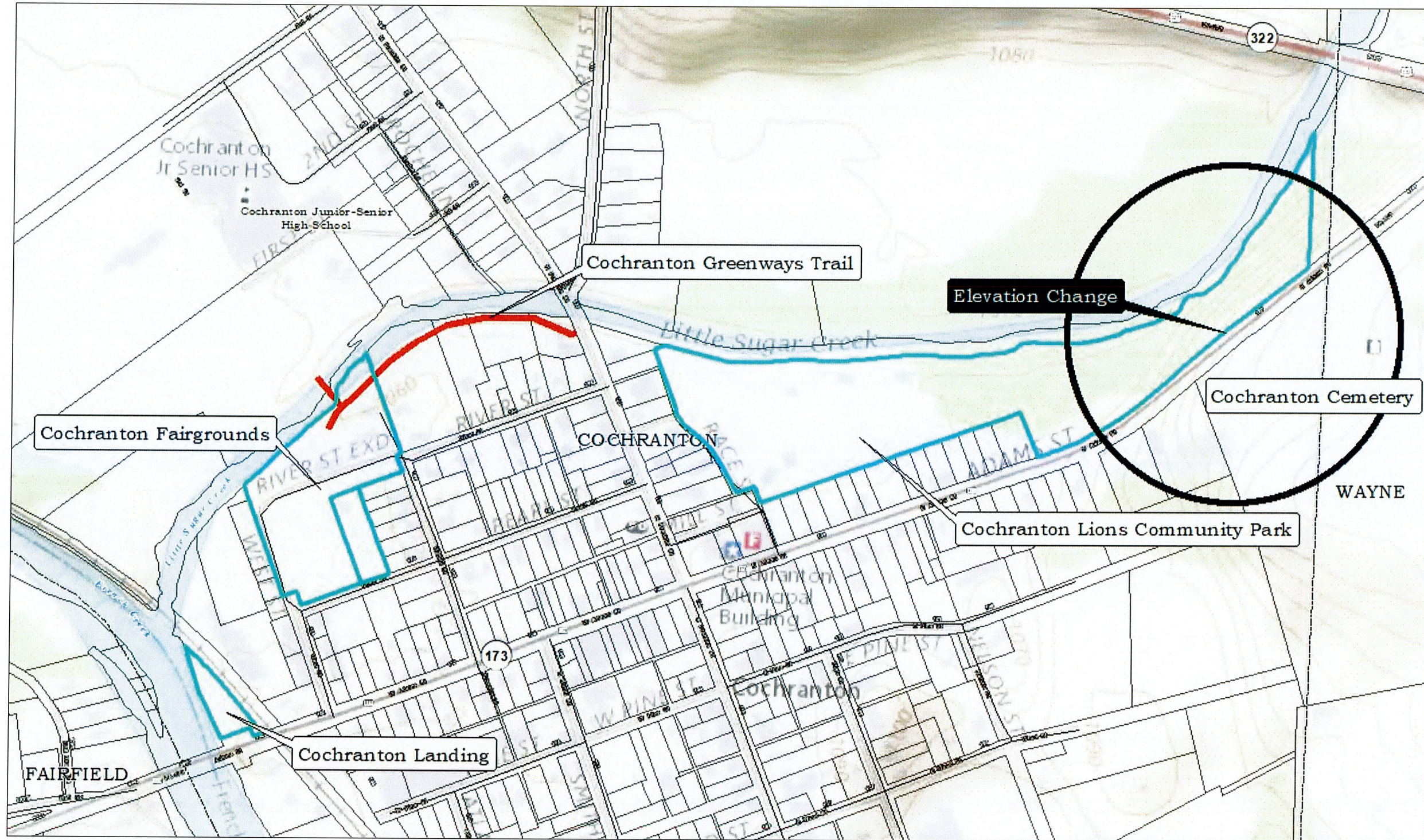
- **Cochranton Lions Community Park** – Most of Cochranton Lions Community Park is within the 100-yr Floodplain
- **Cochranton Fairgrounds** – The entire Cochranton Fairgrounds is within the 100-yr Floodplain
- **Cochranton Greenways Trail** – The Cochranton Greenways Trail between the Fairgrounds and N. Franklin Street is elevated out of the Floodplain, but almost all of the trail loop within Cochranton Lions Community Park is within the 100-year Floodplain.
- **Cochranton Landing** – The entire Cochranton Landing site is within the 100-yr Floodplain



Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Topography

Cochranton Borough is located on mostly level flat land. Exceptions are steep slopes created around the French Creek and Sugar Creek banks and the area between the Cochranton Cemetery and the Cochranton Lions Community Park.



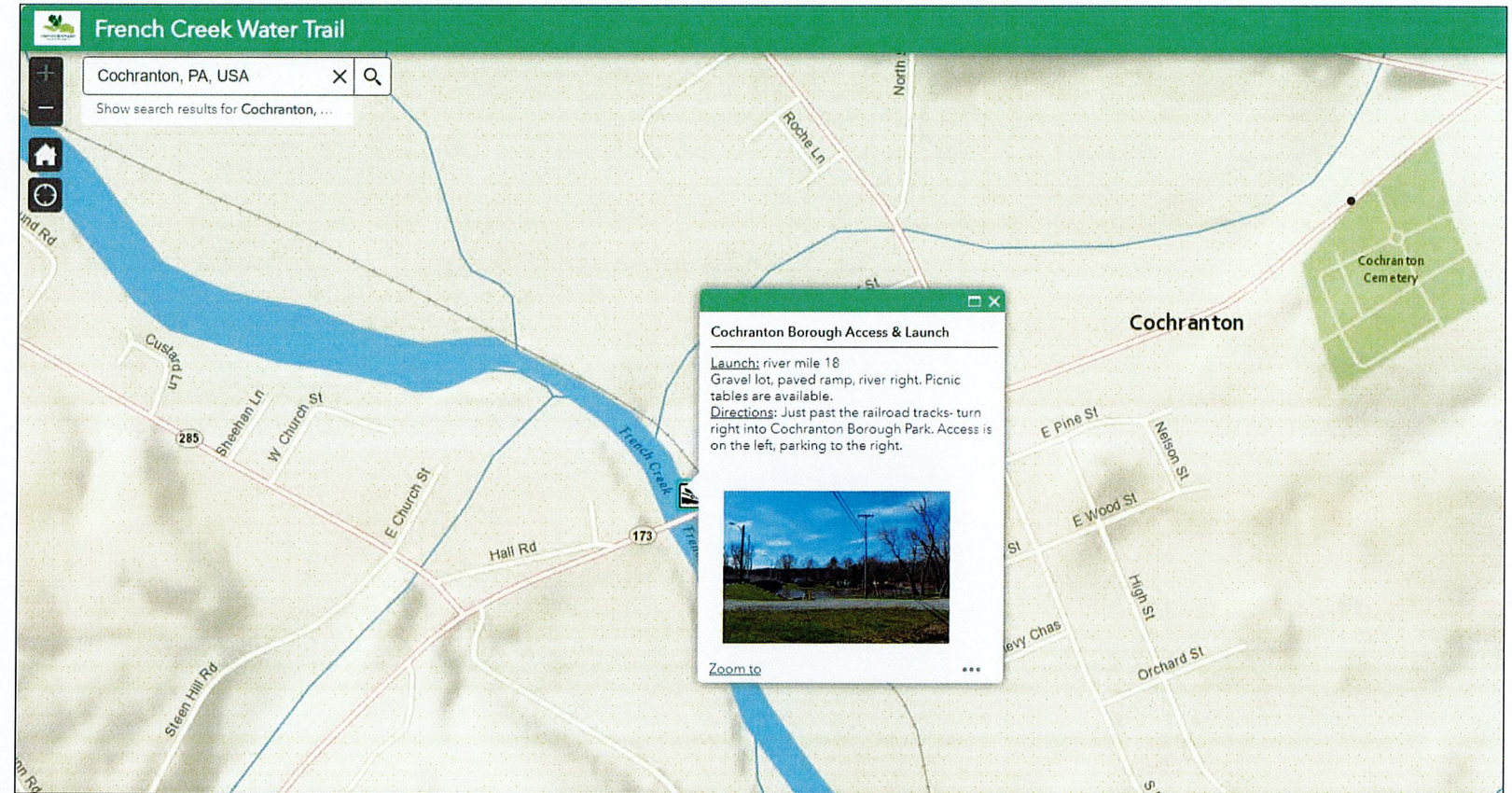
Cochranton Borough Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan

French Creek

French Creek is world renowned for its biodiversity. French Creek houses over 80 species of fish, and 26 species of freshwater mussels. This is more than any other stream in the Northeast United States. This includes over 15 species that are endangered or threatened. It has been said that French Creek is "undeniably one of Pennsylvania's foremost aquatic treasures." It has been designated by the Nature Conservancy as one of its original "Last Great Places."

French Creek Greenway and Water Trail

Cochranton Borough is located within the nationally recognized French Creek Greenway. French Creek is a designated Pennsylvania Water Trail with French Creek Valley Conservancy designated as manager. French Creek has functioned as a transportation corridor throughout history. It also was a vital resource for Native Americans and George Washington's 1753 campaign. Originating in Chautauqua County in western New York, the French Creek Water Trail flows southerly through Erie, Mercer, Crawford, and Venango Counties, ultimately joining the Allegheny River in Franklin, PA. The creek, along with its tributaries, is responsible for draining 72 municipalities in four Northwestern Pennsylvanian counties. French Creek is outstanding for fishing, paddling, and provides water for communities and agricultural activities. Thanks to its outstanding water quality, rich biodiversity, and notable history, French Creek is one of the most important streams of its size in the Northeastern United States.



The French Creek Valley Conservancy has created a French Creek Paddling Guide and two (2) French Creek Water Trail Maps that covers the Upper and Lower sections of French Creek. This Guide and these Maps highlight paddling access along the 74-mile French Creek Water Trail, from Union City Dam in Erie County, through Crawford and Mercer Counties, to its confluence with the Allegheny River at the City of Franklin in Venango County. Over this length, French Creek winds its way through the towns of Cambridge Springs, Venango, Saegertown, Meadville, Cochranon, Utica and Franklin. There are at least fourteen (14) public access points along this route's length. Cochranon Borough owns and operates Cochranon Landing which provides an access point to French Creek. Cochranon Landing is located at mile 18 along the Water Trail.

Cochranon Borough is a designated Creek Community along French Creek. Creek Communities have many treasures that present great history to the region. Residents and local organizations also provide amenities and hospitality to Water Trail users. French Creek, Little Sugar Creek and other bodies of water in the Cochranon area provide excellent fishing opportunities. French Creek has smallmouth bass, walleye, musky, and



Cochranon Situated at the confluence of Little Sugar Creek and French Creek, Cochranon is said to have been settled as early as 1805 when the first house was built by John Adams. Cochranon is a Borough of Crawford County and was officially created on April 5, 1885. Today's borough is made up of the original land grants of John Adams and Thomas Cochran, for whom the village was named. Currently, Cochranon Area Redevelopment Effort (CARE) has been working to keep improving the Cochranon area. The town has seen additions including a credit union, pharmacy, two doctors' offices, a launch and landing site along French Creek, a community playground at Lions Park, and the French Creek Heritage Event held in Mid-July.

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

some northern pike; Little Sugar and Deer Creek support stocked trout; Conneaut Marsh has bowfin, northern pike, crappies, and largemouth bass.

French Creek Valley Conservancy

French Creek Valley Conservancy is a private 501(c)3 accredited non-profit land trust dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the exceptional water quality, natural habitat, biological diversity and recreational opportunities of the French Creek Watershed in Northwest Pennsylvania. The Conservancy works in land protection, stewardship, education and community outreach and is supported by members, donors and partners. The following highlights some of the native vegetation species found along French Creek. The vegetation types can be incorporated into Cochranton beautification projects.

Native Trees:

- Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)
- Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
- Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
- Common Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)

Native Shrubs:

- Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)
- Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
- Common Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
- Lowbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)

Native Grasses, Ferns, and Forbs:

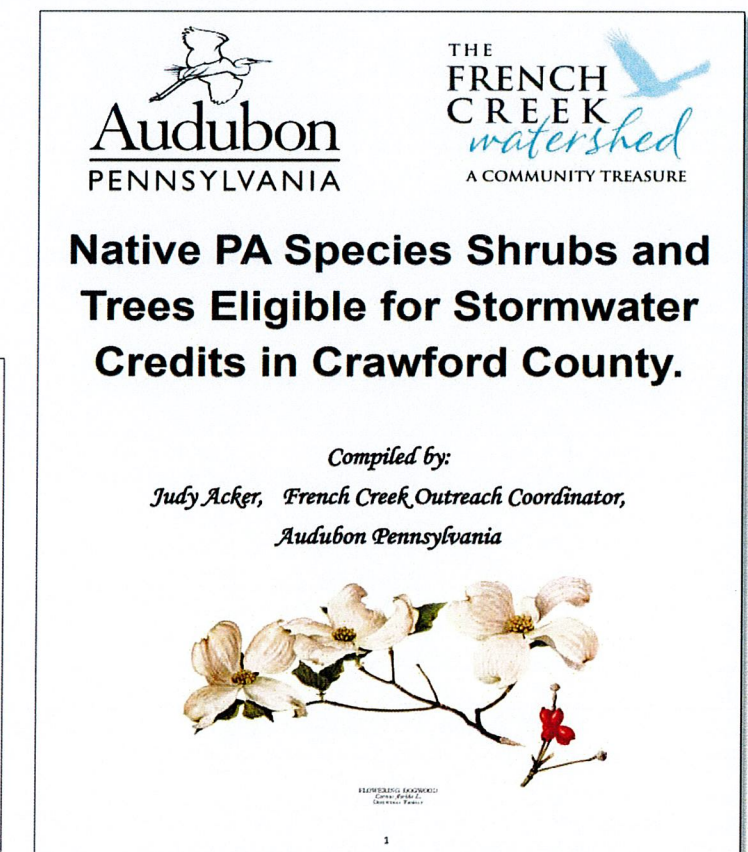
- Bush Clover (*Lespedeza hirta*)
- Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- Wool Grass (*Scripps cyperinus*)
- Common Ladyfern (*Athyrium filix-femina*)
- Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepius incarnata*)
- Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*)
- Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)
- Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*)
- Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*)

More information on French Creek, native plant descriptions and conservation efforts in the French Creek Watershed included in the following resources should be consulted when developing Riparian and Habitat Improvements in Cochranton Borough.

- French Creek Valley Conservancy - <https://www.frenchcreekconservancy.org/>
- *Pennsylvania Native Plants of the French Creek Watershed - Culture and Use Guide* – a booklet by Judy Acker, Education & Outreach Specialist with the French Creek Valley Conservancy
- *Audubon Pennsylvania - Native PA Species Shrubs and Trees Eligible for Stormwater Credits in Crawford County* - compiled by Judy Acker Education & Outreach Specialist with the French Creek Valley Conservancy
https://pa.audubon.org/sites/default/files/crawford_trees_and_shrubs_eligible_for_stormwater_credits.pdf

Cochranton Borough Comprehensive Plan – 1990

A future land use challenge expressed in Cochranton's Comprehensive Plan is to preserve the excellent quality of life which currently exists. The Plan calls for the development of a working committee of local recreational organizations who guide development of recreation projects in the Borough. The Plan also suggests that recreation projects should be included in a prioritized list, have defined project budgets, and should ensure that post development maintenance and operational costs are aligned with affordable maintenance efforts. The Plan recognizes that the Borough has an aging population, and that recreation facilities and programs should be consistent with the needs of older residents.



Cochranton Borough Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan

Crawford County Comprehensive Plan – 2024 Update

Crawford County is preparing an update to their Comprehensive Plan. Crawford County's 2024 Plan will be data-driven and community minded and will provide a vision for the County for the next 20 years. The County Plan will build on efforts already underway at the local level and supports local champions working toward a brighter future in Crawford County. The County did an outreach mapping dot activity specific to Cochranton Borough. Residents were asked about community assets, opportunities and unique characteristics. The following highlight results related to community destination and recreation opportunities collected from Cochranton Borough residents.

Community Opportunities –

- Opportunities for improvements to Cochranton Lions Park
- Summer Soccer Program in Cochranton Lions Park
- Walking Trail – connections to existing walking trails
- Recreation equipment rental outfitters – bicycles and kayaks
- Increase and diversify use of the fairgrounds – land, structures and buildings
- Cochranton is a Kayaking destination

Community Destinations

- Cochranton Area Public Library
- Jr. Sr. High School and Elementary School
- Adams Place Senior Housing
- Businesses on West Adams Street
- Cochranton Marketplace
- Motzing Center
- Bowling Alley
- Police Department
- Cochranton Cemetery

Northwest Commission Greenway Plan – 2022 Update

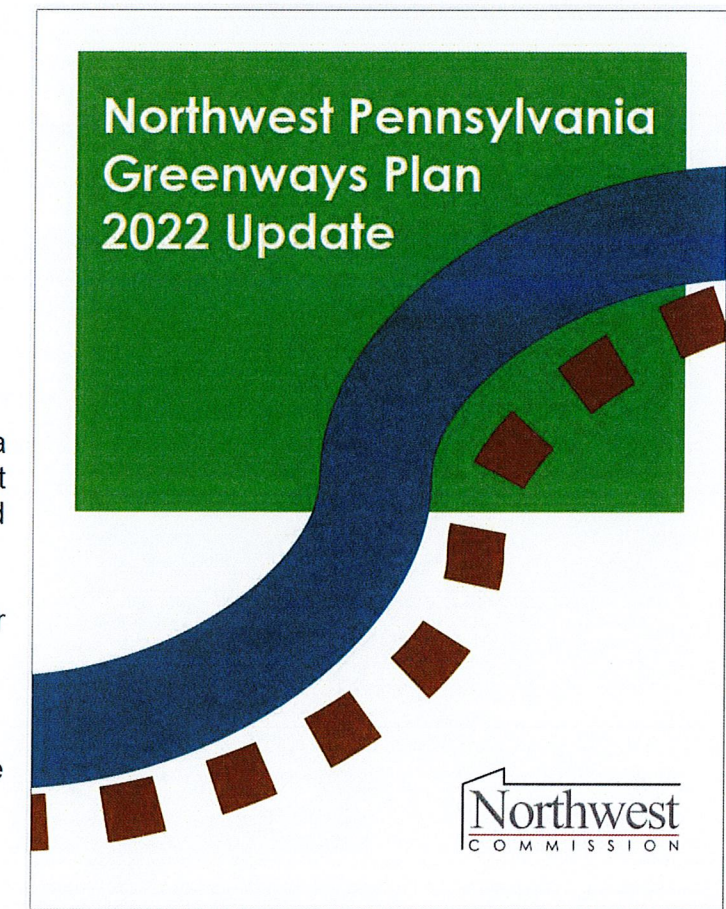
Northwest Pennsylvania is rich in recreation opportunities and natural resources that are unique and special to the area. The Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways Plan, originally adopted in 2009, was a multi-county planning effort undertaken by the Northwest Regional Planning and Development Commission (Northwest Commission) on behalf of the eight (8) counties it serves: Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren. The updated Greenways Plan was adopted on February 3, 2023 by the Northwest Commission.

The Northwest Commission initiated an update of the Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways Plan in the Spring of 2022 with the goal of furthering their efforts to:

- Conserve the region's essential natural resources
- Identify projects which foster economic development through recreation and recreational partnerships
- Determine techniques to strengthen regional resiliency in ways that both enhance quality of life and promote sustainable growth through the development of regional greenways and natural assets



Background Getting Engaged





Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

The EADS Group along with the Plan Steering Committee conducted multiple public engagement initiatives during the planning process that provided residents and officials multiple opportunities and options to participate and to provide input. The Public engagement process included the following:

- The Plan Steering Committee was engaged monthly during the planning process. The Steering Committee was also engaged during the Community Engagement events.
- Field Tour – held on July 25, 2023, with members of the Steering Committee, at Cochranton Landing, Cochranton Fairgrounds, Cochranton Lions Community Park and the Cochranton Greenways Trail
- Community Engagement Event – held on September 27, 2023, at the Cochranton Area Public Library
- Open House Public Meeting– held on January 25, 2024, at the Cochranton Area Public Library
- Public Meeting with Public Officials – held on February 5, 2024, during an advertised Borough Council meeting
- Parks and Recreation Survey – conducted using an on-line *SurveyMonkey* System. The Survey was prepared to obtain input on improvements, facilities, amenities, events and programming that the community values and wants to have at the Parks and Greenway. A total of 79 Survey responses were collected and incorporated into the planning process.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CochrantonParks>
- Key Person Interviews- the following describes the results of the Interviews.



- Barbara Cummings – Owner, the Fitness Center of Cochranton – She was very positive about the recreation potential in Cochranton and the involvement the Fitness Center has with providing fitness and exercise opportunities. There is an opportunity for the Borough to collaborate with her to develop a mutually beneficial approach for improving the parking lot area serving the Fitness Center and extending the Greenways Trail extension between N. Franklin St. and Cochranton Lions Community Park. There is also an opportunity to collaborate to develop class areas and programming in Cochranton Lions Community Park.
- Johanna Schneider – Cochranton Fair Association Fair Board Member (former Board Secretary). The discussion focused on the improvements recommended at the Cochranton Fairgrounds. She emphasized the need to focus on improving what is at the Fairgrounds and how the Fairgrounds are used. She also expressed the need to improve ADA access and internal circulation in the Fairgrounds. She noted that most users must use the gravel surfaced Marine Alley to access different places in the Fairgrounds and that Marine Alley is challenging for those needing mobility assistance to use.
- Zachary Norwood – Planning Director, Crawford County Planning Office. Zach provided results of the Community Conservation session held in Cochranton during the planning process for the Crawford County Comprehensive Plan Update. He noted that the Crawford County Comprehensive Plan will have a strategy to help communities like Cochranton and organizations like CARE to undertake projects or initiatives to provide recreation services to their citizens.
- Brenda Costa, Executive Director - French Creek Valley Conservancy –The French Conservancy has a long standing and mutually beneficial relationship with Cochranton Borough. As managers of the French Creek Water Trail, Brenda noted that Conservancy always welcomes opportunities to work with communities to improve their launch areas. Suggested improvements to Cochranton Landing include installing restroom facilities, having a single-site camping area, providing a kayak rack with a lock system and expanding parking facilities. Cochranton Borough should collaborate with the Conservancy to have these types of improvements completed at Cochranton Landing or at the Cochranton Fairgrounds. These types of projects may be eligible for Water Trail related funding. It was also suggested that Cochranton leaders talk with representatives from Cambridge Springs about improvements they are making to their Fireman’s Carnival grounds.



Borough of Cochranton

109 E. ADAMS ST., P.O. BOX 66, COCHRANTON, PA 16314
OFFICE: 814-425-3365
FAX: 814-425-7055

PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

Cochranton Landing - Cochranton Lions Community Park
Cochranton Fairgrounds - Cochranton Greenways Trail

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT

Provide your input...

What Kinds of Improvements, Facilities, Amenities, Programming and Trail Connections Do You Want?

Are you looking for more Neighborhood Connections, Walking Loops, Pickleball Courts, a Splash Pad, Youth Programs, Parking and Access Improvements, Play Equipment, Music/Shows, Signage, Restroom Improvements?

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #c00000;">WHERE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cochranton Area Public Library 107 W Pine St. Cochranton, PA 16314</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join us and bring a friend!</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: #c00000;">WHAT</p> <p>Cochranton Borough is preparing action strategies for improving Cochranton Landing; Cochranton Lions Community Park; Cochranton Fairgrounds; Cochranton Greenways Trail; and creating connections to the elementary school, junior/senior high school, borough-owned properties and other community destinations.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #c00000;">WHEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, September 27th 5:30pm – 7:00pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join us anytime during the Event</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: #c00000;">TOPICS</p> <p>Representatives from the Borough plan steering committee, and The EADS Group, the consultant for this planning effort, will be available throughout the meeting.</p> <p>Come and discuss ways you think the Parks and Recreation areas could be improved.</p> <p>Light refreshments will be available.</p>

Community input and suggestions are critical and necessary to this important Project

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

- Keith Jones – Cochranton Youth Soccer League – The Cochranton Soccer League uses soccer fields at the Cochranton Lions Community Park. The League has a good working relationship with Cochranton Borough. Keith noted that facility conditions, maintenance and support have all improved since the Borough took over ownership of the Cochranton Lions Community Park. Suggested improvements include expanding the parking area at the front of the Park, creating a secondary access point (for emergency vehicles and pedestrians) along Adams St., and leveling the ground on the soccer field areas.
- Cindy McGarvey – Director, Happy Time Preschool Ministry of CMA Church – Cindy mentioned that the Preschool does not have their own outdoor greenspace, so they often use the Cochranton Lions Community Park for outings and general play opportunities. The children use the small play apparatus including the GaGa ball court and the climbing net. The children also use the Park’s walking path for exercise and group learning opportunities. Cindy suggested that the recommendation for adding exercise stations around the walking path include equipment/activities for younger children. She also suggested the stations could include educational based facilities so that the children could learn while they play. Cochranton Borough should collaborate with the Preschool during completion of this project.
- Curtis Oakes – President, Cochranton Community Fair Association Board. He is also a member of the Plan Steering Committee. He was contacted separately and specifically in his capacity as the President of the Fair Association. The discussion focused on the Fair Association’s plans to construct a multi-use building on Fair Association property. Information on a cost-estimate for the building, construction schedule, on-going fundraising efforts and the Fair Association’s vision for the use of the building were discussed.
- Robert Jehn – Cochranton Borough Council. The discussion with Robert provided an independent glimpse into what Cochranton Borough Council will focus on during implementation efforts. This is important for the planning process so that implementation efforts can be aligned with how the Borough Council view project completion. The Borough will want to know if they will need to raise taxes to fund projects; will projects add liability to the Borough; will completing projects lead to Borough/resident inconveniences. Council will also want to know that the recommended projects and actions are being proposed for a good cause and that they will benefit the community and residents.

Community Engagement Event – September 27, 2023

A Community Engagement Event was held at the Cochranton Area Public Library on September 27, 2023. Approximately 40 residents participated. The Event was designed to gather input and guidance from residents on the types of improvements the community wanted at Cochranton Landing; Cochranton Lions Community Park; Cochranton Fairgrounds; and the Cochranton Greenways Trail. Members of the EADS Consultant Team along with members of the Project Study Committee attended and facilitated the meeting. Four (4) stations were available for attendees to provide input. One (1) station was provided to distribute hard copies of the Parks and Recreation Survey. One (1) station was provided to collect input on the Greenways Trail and community connections. Two (2) stations were provided to collect input on Cochranton Landing, Cochranton Fairgrounds and the Cochranton Lions Community Park. The following highlights important input and guidance obtained at the Event.

Greenways Trail –

- Provide links from Cochranton Landing and the Lions Community Park to the Greenways Trail - Connect sites via a linked trail that is open to public use year round
- Open up views of Little Sugar Creek from High School Side – create an observation area(s)
- Repair upheaved spots on existing trail
- Repair areas where roots are exposed near the Fairgrounds
- Consider paralleling active rail lines for a trail
- Define trail more for biking and walking
- Connect signage to indicate links to the big loops
- Create as many connections as possible
- Create a Branding Slogan for the larger community walking/biking loop – similar to the Green Necklace Loop in Cleveland



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Cochranton Lions Community Park –

- Add exercise stations – similar to Meadville’s Roche Park
- Add Disc Golf Hole(s) (teenager comment)
- Do not use wood materials to replace the merry-go-round – splinter hazard (youngster comment)
- Two (2) Tennis Courts
- Install Pickleball Courts
- New Stage/bandshell for concert series – other entertainment and events
- Keep the wooded area in the northern edge and a natural/wild area. Save “fairy” garden!

Cochranton Landing –

- Provide an ADA accessible restroom/comfort station – provide a portable facility from spring to fall (May through October)
- Fishing Contest for kids on French Creek or Little Sugar Creek
- Host Kayak/paddling demonstrations
- Provide more vehicle parking areas – (existing parking is crowded on weekends)
- Use signage to remind kayakers and canoeists that in the cold months, Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) must be worn by all in the watercraft/boat
- Mulch the boat ramp slope

Cochranton Fairgrounds –

- Host farmers markets most months of the year
- Use stage and bleachers for music and programs
- Conduct summer children’s activities using shelters, open space etc.
- Continue the horseshows
- Sell plants in the spring
- Bring back car/truck shows, antique steam and farm equipment shows
- Plant more flowers and a pollinator and native plant gardens
- Have an event paired with a chicken barbeque.
- On former site of home show building– provide picnic tables
- Open up views of Little Sugar Creek
- Acquire rest of the land under cattle barn
- Consider installing solar lighting for the existing new LED Lights
- Encourage walkers to use the Fairgrounds area
- Fair board plans to construct a new 32’x72’ barn style steel building along Pearl Street - Ensure the new multi-use building will be available during than Fair week.
- Continue accessing the 20-new trees/year grant. Spots for new tree plantings in the Fairgrounds will be jointly determined by the Fair Association leadership and Cochranton Borough personnel.
- Add a long ADA paved walkway
- Provide more exhibits inside RR station building
- Add roof to pedestrian bridge over Little Sugar Creek – improve railing system
- Be aware of electrical lines and service
- Add recycling bins
- Disc Golf – removable during fair time

Other comments – Consider adding a Pump Track/Park



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Open House Public Meeting – January 25, 2024

A Community Open House Meeting was held with Cochranton Borough residents at the Cochranton Area Public Library on January 25, 2024. There was a total of 17 attendees including 16 adults and one young child. Members of the EADS Consultant Team along with members of the Recreation Plan Steering Committee and three (3) members of Cochranton Borough Council attended. The Meeting was designed to present the priority Park and Greenways Improvement concepts and Vision Statements prepared for the Park and Greenways Trail. The following highlights important input and guidance obtained at the Open House Meeting.

Cochranton Landing

- Definitely include as high priority providing on-site portable restroom facilities. A suggested template might be the one now at Utica at Krabby Kelly's Bar and Convenience Store near French Creek.

Cochranton Lions Community Park

- When a spot is selected for a stage-type amenity, please keep it near vehicle parking.
- The high priority mentioned by several attendees is providing year-round indoor ADA accessible restrooms. This could be by remodeling part of the Lions Building or other approaches.
- At least two (2) attendees agree that the upper (northeastern) end of the Park should remain a natural setting especially immediately adjacent to Little Sugar Creek.
- The map for the Park indicates the installation of multiple exercise stations along the Greenways Trail. Mr. Donovan Lacy during the meeting offered to help select types of exercise stations, so suited to not only year-round use but also in case the Park or Fairgrounds hosts future Murph Challenge Events (nationwide Memorial Weekend veteran competitions like 'pull-ups, etc. using permanent or temporarily installed equipment.
- Everyone knows that the existing basketball court floods often and has much mud on it nearly year-round. After significant land re-contouring, this spot (which already has electric access) could be better-suited as something other than basketball since there are outdoor courts in the High School parking lot nearby. This spot is within the floodplain, which limits the types of development which would be permitted. Various suggested uses for this part of the park mentioned during today's meeting included pickleball court(s) and/or temporary stage.
- Could a stage be on wheels, or use a truck bed only during special events or performances?

Cochranton Fairgrounds

- A couple of attendees indicated that an early-action item could be adding ADA walkways through key sections of the fairgrounds. The options and decisions on placement/routing of such walkways need to be made in conjunction with the Fair Board, especially near the 'midway' area on the grounds.
- All agreed that when a new building is constructed on the Fairgrounds to serve as a multi-purpose community facility, it should include indoor ADA accessible restrooms.

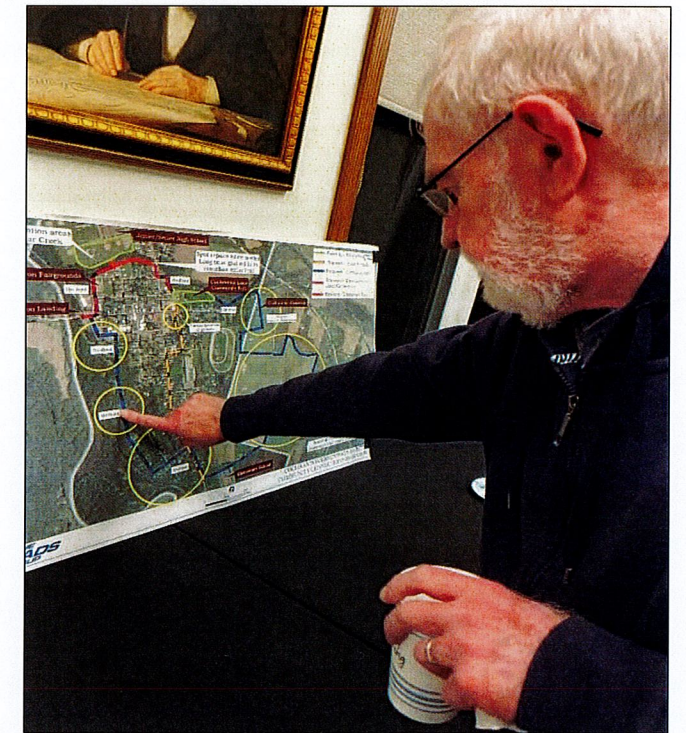
Cochranton Greenways Trail

- There was substantial interest and curiosity about the visual map showing a recommended routing of links among the Park, High School, Fairgrounds, and Landing and perhaps the Cochranton Cemetery (with attendees indicating these links would be their early action suggestion). Most attendees realized that detailed property owner discussions, perhaps some easement agreements, engineering, and major fund-raising will need to occur prior to linking the Greenways Trail with the Elementary School and Oak Street.
- The two attendees whose homes and/or land property are near Atlantic Street expressed general support, and suggested early discussions with the families which own larger parcels potentially involved in linking to Oak Street and the Elementary School.



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- For the link of Landing to the Fairgrounds, the general sentiment is that an on-road routing would be safe due to few vehicles, slow speeds, and good line-of-vision for drivers, bicyclists, and walkers alike as indicated on the map panel displayed during this public meeting.
- One attendee expressed concern that vehicle speeds on East Adams Street/Route 173 near the entrance to Cochranton Cemetery may be too fast for Greenways Trail users on bicycles or on foot. PennDOT will likely require an official road-crossing to be signed and painted for such a crossing.
- The Greenways Trail crossing of North Franklin Street would be within the authority of the Borough.
- Don't forget that the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad has a very long-term easement for not just the width of the active railroad tracks, but also for additional footage (check the dimension) on both sides of the tracks.
- Especially if the large complete looped future Greenways Trail is partly on-road and mostly off-road, some wondered if all of it had to be paved asphalt or concrete. Or, if other surfaces might suit some of the terrain.
- The Borough does have an easement obtained primarily for the sewage treatment system, running between the east bank of French Creek and Atlantic Street. Depending on its width, would that easement be wide enough to do the trail while not covering up the important sewage pipelines?



Overall Recreational Facilities

- Attendees realize that the Comprehensive Recreation Plan will typically be a guide for the next ten years or more, and that 'early-action' items are intended for within three years of adoption.
- Attendees realize that the pace of detailed engineering and development will depend in large part on the financial commitment by Borough and partner entities for the initial up-front and development costs.
- Attendees also realize that the nature of and costs of good ongoing maintenance to existing and new recreational equipment, property, and services will be taken into consideration, especially by Borough Council and personnel.

Meetings with Cochranton Borough Council – February 5, 2024 and May 6, 2024.

The EADS Consultant team provided Plan briefings to Borough Council during public Council meetings on February 5 and May 6, 2024. The February 5 briefing provided an opportunity for elected local officials to see and hear the primary elements of the draft Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, Open Space, and Greenways Plan. EADS discussed the citizen input at the public meetings held to date and from the Steering Committee meetings. EADS explained that this is a Plan for the future, and the progress made on implementing the Plan will depend on future planning and funding available. Items indicated as 'Early Action' were identified and were noted as high priority for implementation (and thus within three years following plan adoption). It was emphasized that the Plan is a conceptual Plan, and future outgoing grant applications will propose implementing the recommendations contained in the approved Plan. The Final Draft Plan was presented to the Cochranton Borough Council at their May 6 meeting. The Cochranton Borough Council accepted the Plan at their May 6, 2024 meeting.



Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Cochranton Parks and Recreation Survey – Summary of the Results

The Cochranton Parks and Recreation Survey was open from September to November 2023. The Survey was made available on-line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CochrantonParks>, and using hard copy forms. There were 79 total responses to the Survey. Forty-three (43) responders were from Cochranton Borough residents and twenty-eight (28) were from residents of the adjacent East Fairfield and Wayne Townships. The remaining eight (8) responders were from another Crawford County community. Considering the household size of each responder, the results represent approximately 274 individuals. The following highlights important input and guidance.

How important are the Parks and Recreation areas to the overall quality of life in Cochranton Borough?

	Important	Somewhat Important/Neutral	Not Important
Cochranton Lions Community Park	93%	6%	1%
Cochranton Greenways Trail	80%	18%	2%
Cochranton Fairgrounds	67%	32%	1%
Cochranton Landing	49%	46%	5%

How do you most frequently get to the Park Areas/Greenways Trail in Cochranton Borough?

Drive	Walk	Bike
49%	40%	6%

On average, how often do you or any other member of your household visit/use the Parks and Recreation areas?

	Daily/Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Never
Cochranton Lions Community Park	49%	28%	22%	1%
Cochranton Greenways Trail	39%	20%	24%	17%
Cochranton Fairgrounds	11%	11%	74%	4%
Cochranton Landing	8%	18%	44%	30%

Please give your overall rating of the condition of the amenities/facilities at the Parks and Recreation areas.

	Excellent/Good	Fair/Poor
Cochranton Lions Community Park	70%	28%
Cochranton Greenways Trail	75%	10%
Cochranton Fairgrounds	52%	42%
Cochranton Landing	70%	6%

Note: some responders indicated no-opinion



Borough of Cochranton

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PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

Cochranton Landing - Cochranton Lions Community Park
Cochranton Fairgrounds - Cochranton Greenways Trail

PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY

Provide your input...

What Kinds of Improvements, Facilities, Amenities, Programming and Trail Connections Do You Want?

Are you looking for more Neighborhood Connections, Walking Loops, Pickleball Courts, a Splash Pad, Youth Programs, Parking and Access Improvements, Play Equipment, Music/Shows, Signage, Restroom Improvements?

You can access the Survey using the following link or from your Smartphone using the QR code:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CochrantonParks>



Hard copies of the Survey are available in the Borough Office

Community input and suggestions are critical and necessary to this important Project

PLAN

Cochranton Borough is preparing action strategies for improving Cochranton Landing; Cochranton Lions Community Park; Cochranton Fairgrounds; Cochranton Greenways Trail; and creating connections to the elementary school, junior/senior high school, borough-owned properties and other community destinations.

SURVEY

A Survey has been prepared to obtain input on facilities, amenities, events, programming and other improvements that the community values and wants to have at the Park/Recreation areas and the Greenways Trail. Please take the Survey and tell us what you think.

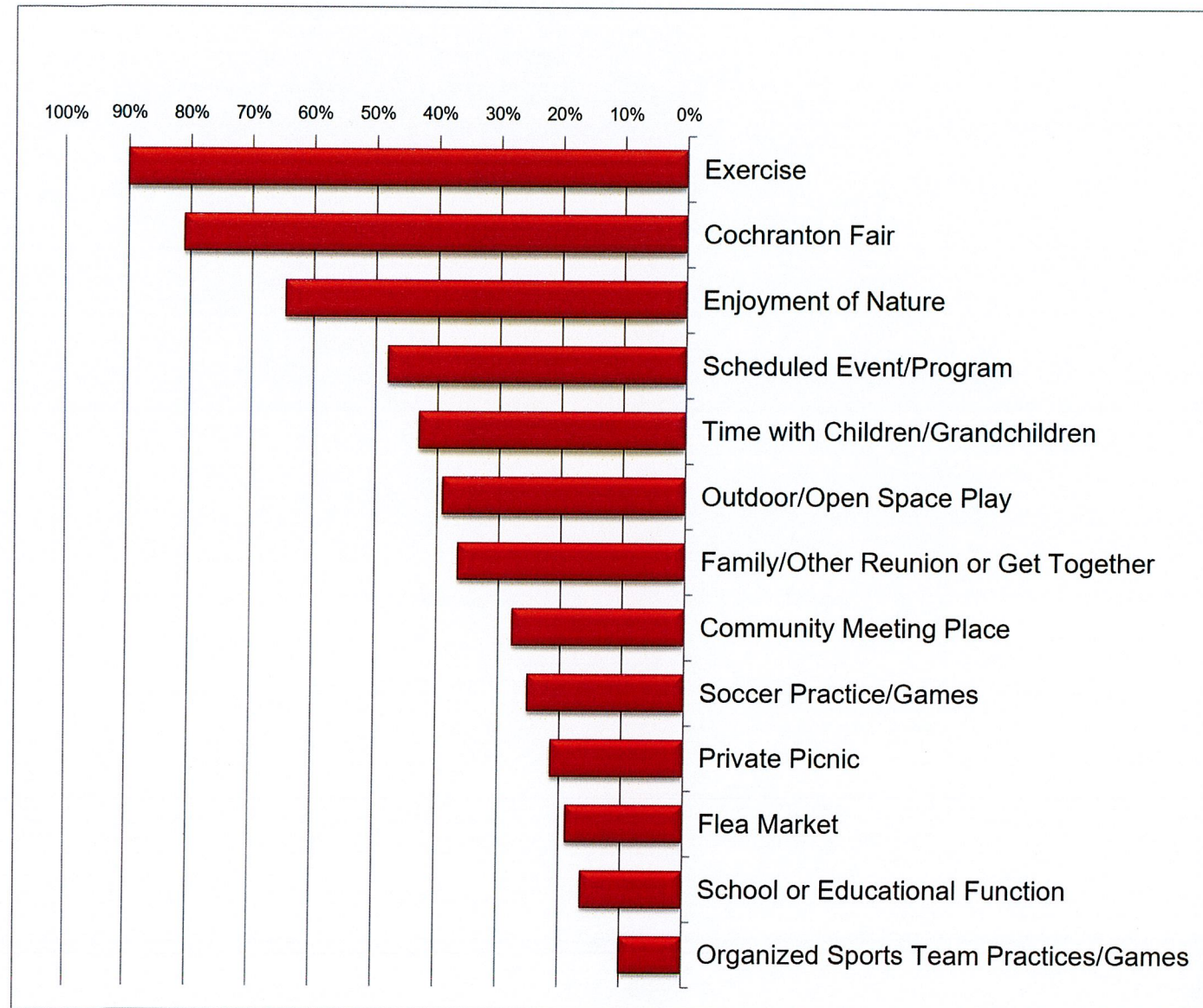
We would like responses by November 1.

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Please Give Us An Idea Of Why You Use/Visit The Park Areas In Cochranton Borough?

The following lists the top five (5) responses. The graphic below provides the complete results.

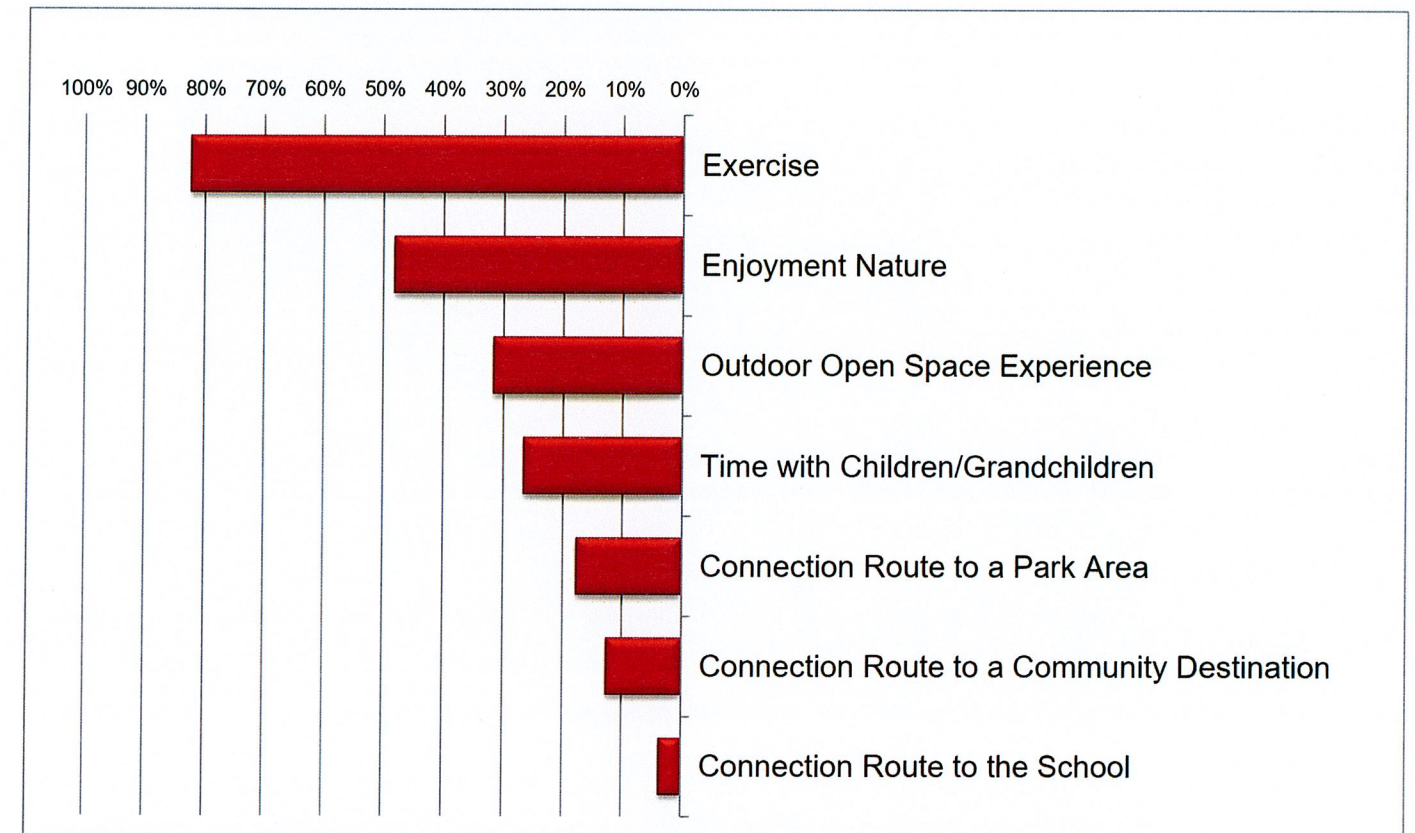
- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|---|-----|
| 1. | Exercise | - | 90% |
| 2. | Cochranton Fair | - | 81% |
| 3. | Enjoyment of Nature | - | 65% |
| 4. | Scheduled Event/Program | - | 48% |
| 5. | Time with Children/Grandchildren | - | 43% |



Please Give Us An Idea Of Why You Use The Cochranton Greenways Trail?

The following lists the top five (5) responses. The graphic below provides the complete results.

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|---|-----|
| 1. | Exercise | - | 82% |
| 2. | Enjoyment of Nature | - | 48% |
| 3. | Outdoor Open Space Experience | - | 32% |
| 4. | Time with Children/Grandchildren | - | 27% |
| 5. | Connection Route to a Park Area | - | 18% |



Responders were also given the opportunity to describe additional community destinations and places they want connected by the Greenways Trail?

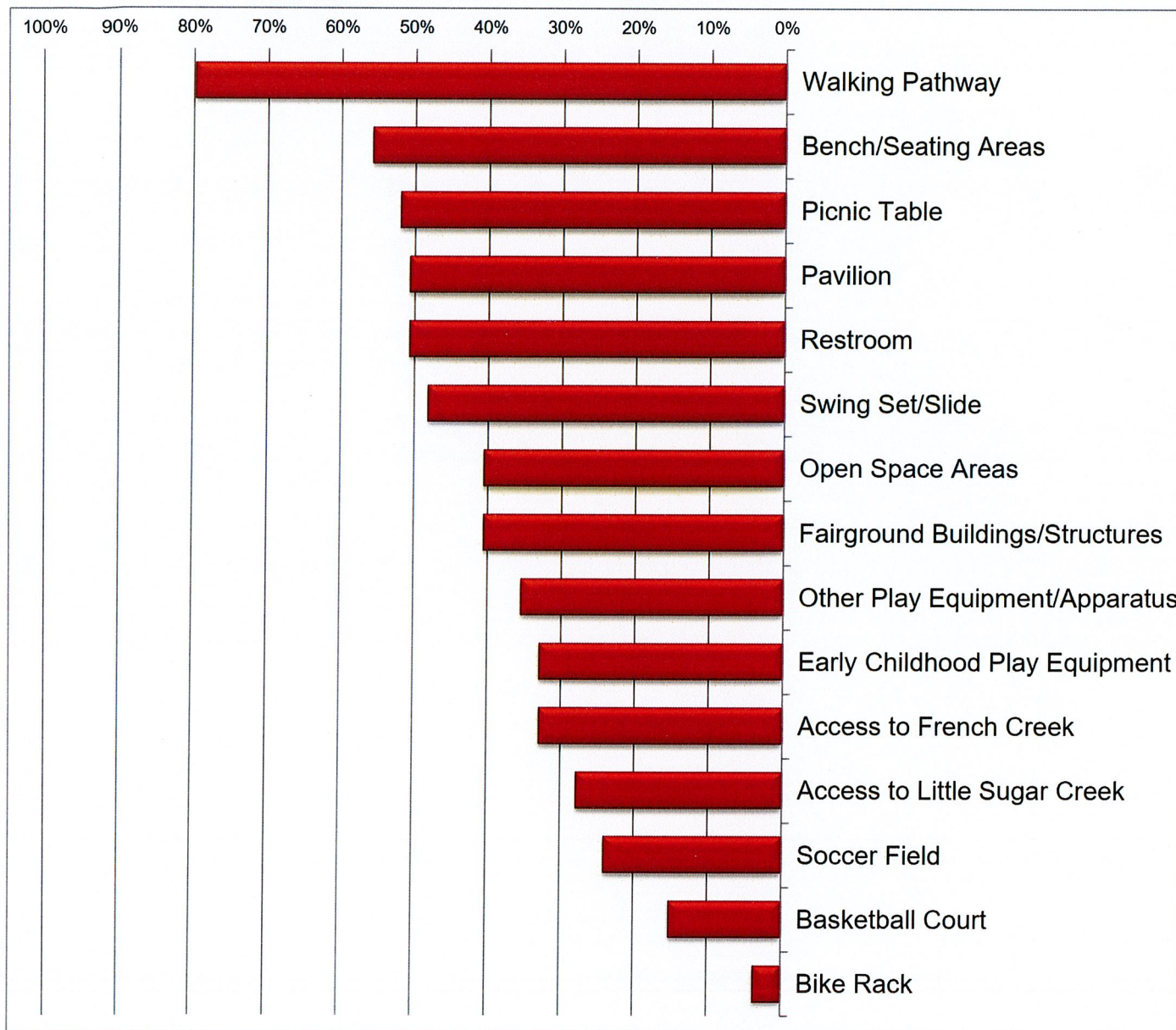
- More connections for better exercise experience and a longer biking experience
- Cochranton Schools
- Cochranton Library
- French Creek
- Cross Country Course
- Cemetery

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Which Facilities/Amenities Do You Or A Member Of Your Household Use At The Park Areas In Cochranton Borough?

The following lists the top five (5) responses. The graphic below provides the complete results.

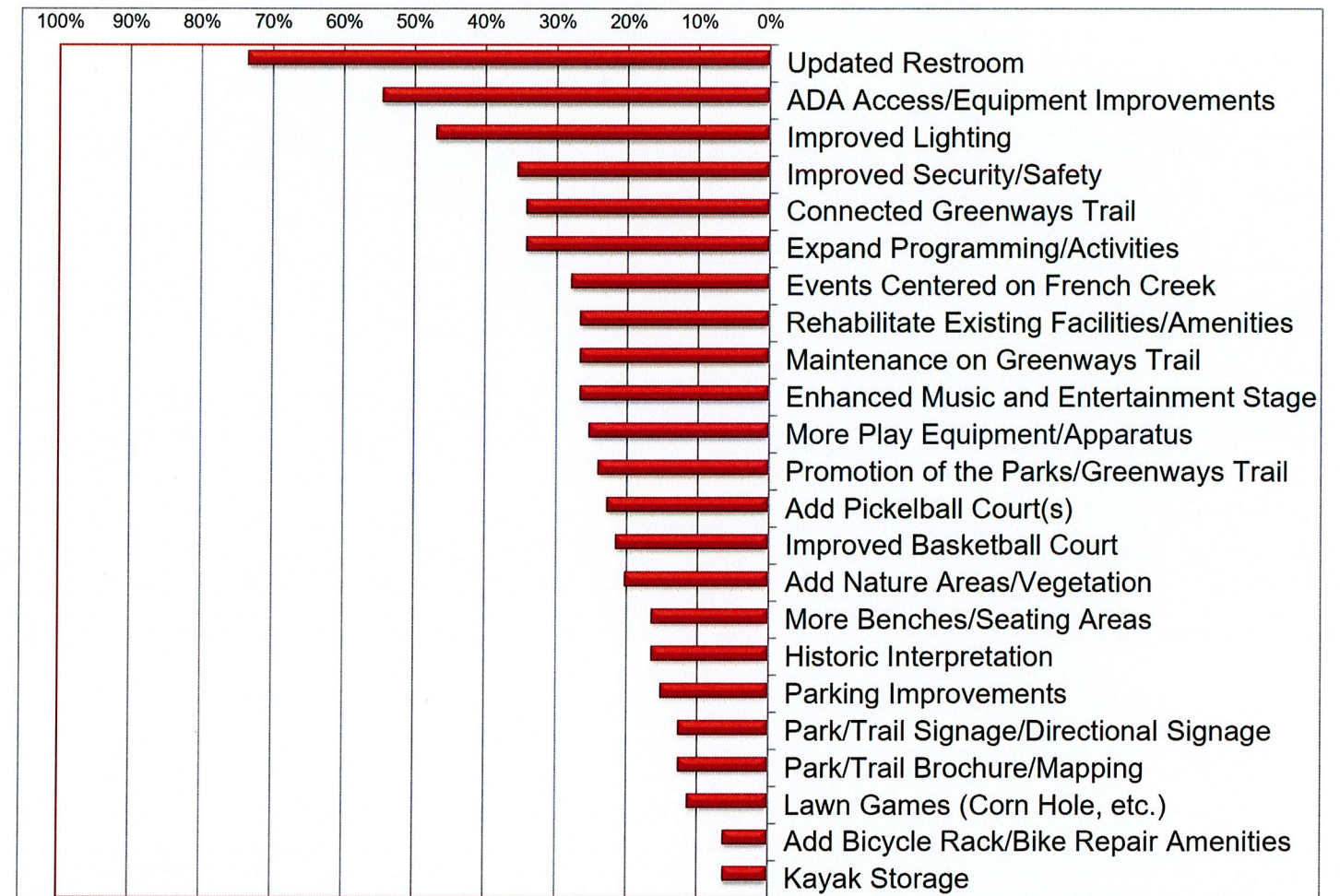
1. Walking Pathway – 80%
2. Bench/Seating Areas – 56%
3. Picnic Table – 52%
4. Pavilion – 51%
5. Restroom – 51%



How Would You Rank The Following As High Priorities For The Parks And Greenways Trail In Cochranton Borough Over The Next 5 Years?

The following lists the top five (5) responses. The graphic below provides the complete results.

1. Updated Restroom – 73%
2. ADA Access/Equipment Improvements – 54%
3. Improved Lighting – 47%
4. Improved Security/Safety – 35%
5. Connected Greenways Trail – 34%



OTHER RESPONSES:

• Tennis courts	• Bike Trails – Bike Pump Track
• Frisbee/Disc Golf	• Facilities/Activities for Smaller Children
• Nature Based Play Area	• Events at Fairgrounds

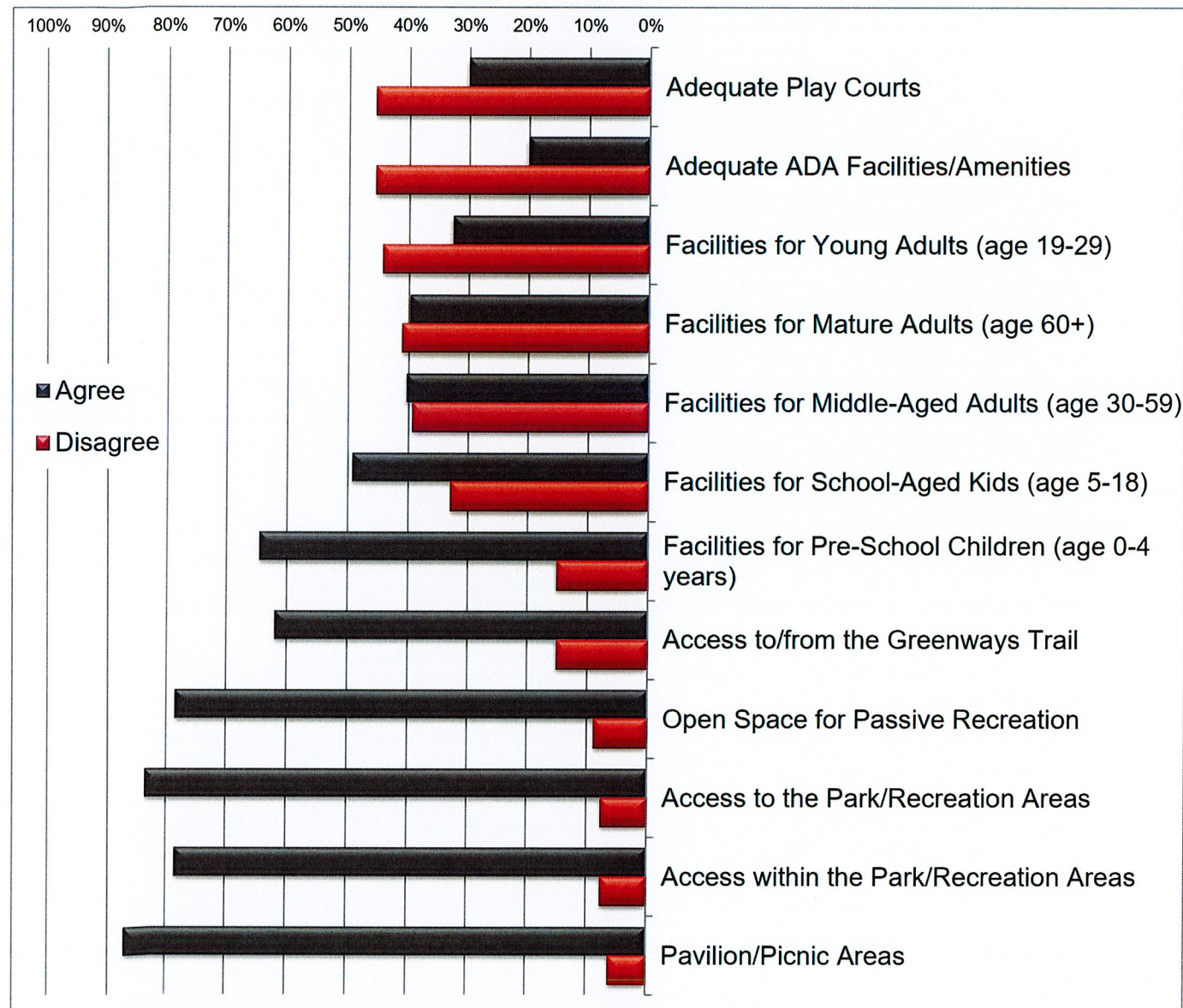
Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Please Note Your Agreement Or Disagreement With Each Of The Following Statements On Recreation Facilities/Amenities

The following lists the four (4) responses that had a higher percentage of 'Disagree' responses than 'Agree' responses. The graphic below provides the complete results.

Facility/Amenity	Disagree	Agree
Adequate Play Courts	46%	30%
Adequate ADA Facilities/Amenities	46%	20%
Facilities for Young Adults (age 19-29)	44%	33%
Facilities for Mature Adults (age 60+)	41%	40%

Note: some responders indicated no-opinion

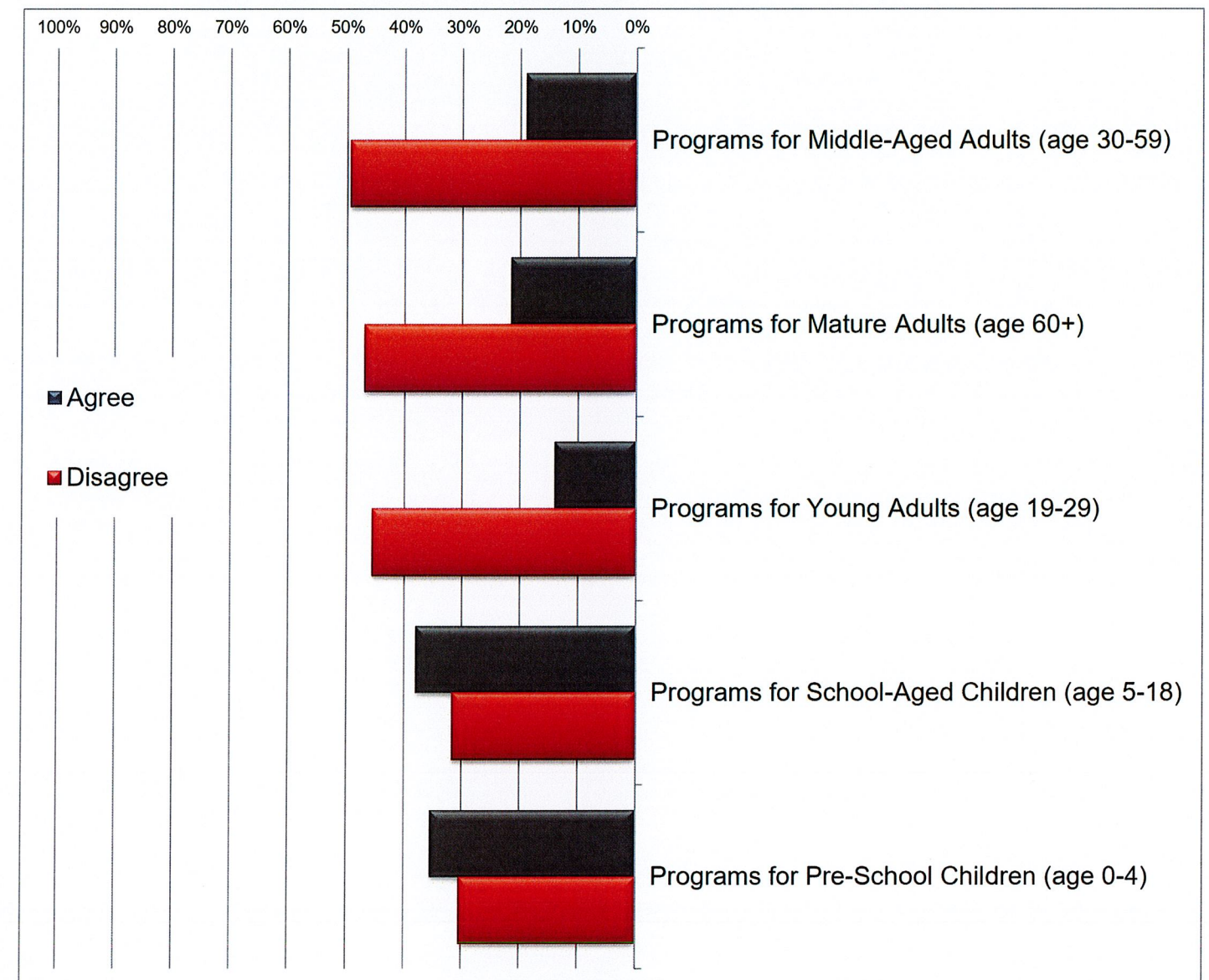


Please Note Your Agreement Or Disagreement With Each Of The Following Statements On Recreation Programs/Activities (I.E., Organized Sports/Recreation, Fitness, Etc.)

The following lists the three (3) responses that had a higher percentage of 'Disagree' responses than 'Agree' responses. The graphic below provides the complete results.

Program/Activity	Disagree	Agree
Programs for Middle-Aged Adults (age 30-59)	49%	22%
Programs for Mature Adults (age 60+)	47%	19%
Programs for Young Adults (age 19-29)	46%	14%

Note: responders also indicated no-opinion

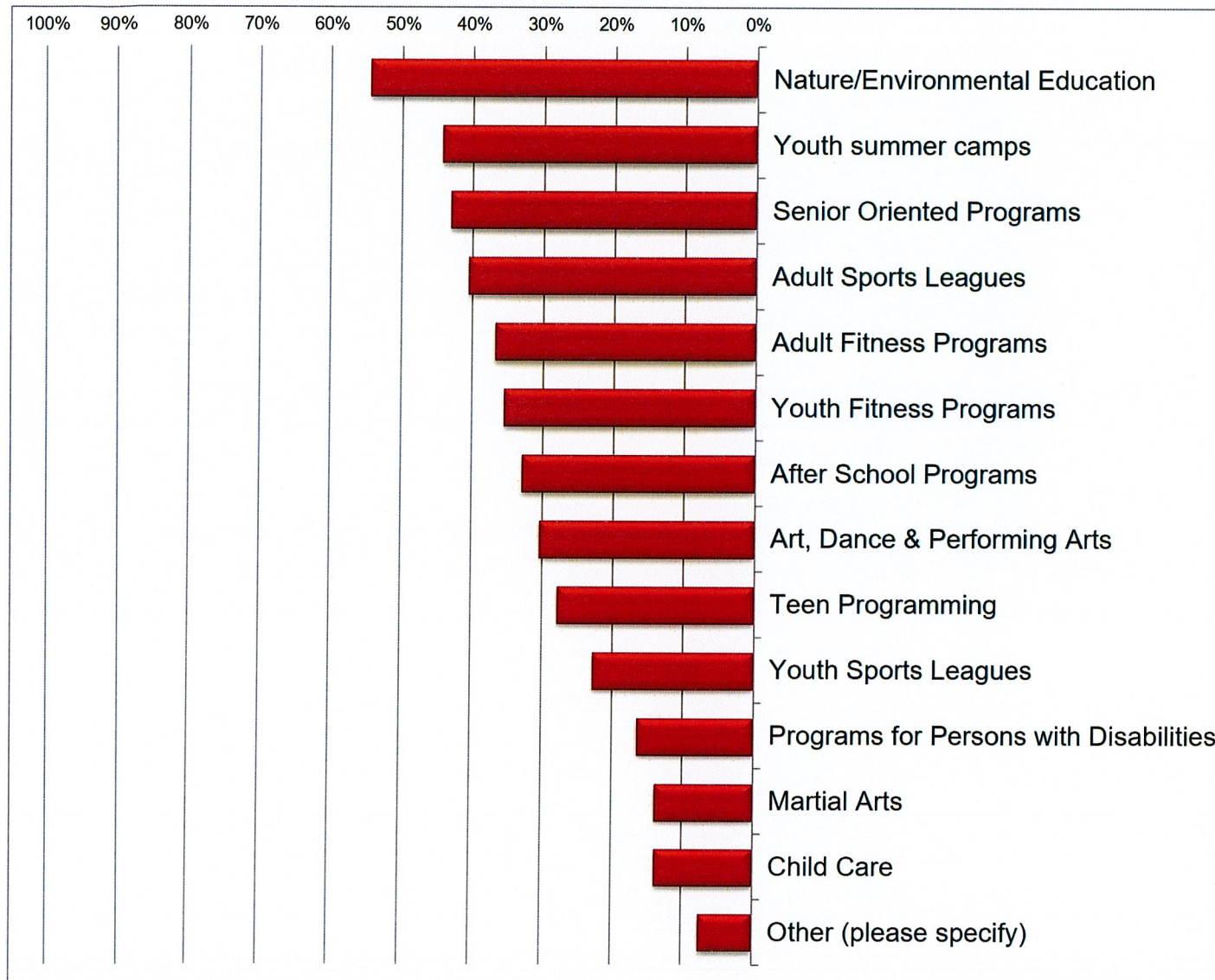


Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Please Identify The Following Recreation Programs/Activities You Feel Are Needed

The following lists the top five (5) responses. The graphic below provides the complete results.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----|
| 1. Nature/Environmental Education | – | 54% |
| 2. Youth Summer Camps | – | 44% |
| 3. Senior Oriented Programs | – | 43% |
| 4. Adult Sports Leagues | – | 41% |
| 5. Adult Fitness | – | 37% |



Wanted Improvements – Parks

Programming/Events

- Provide year-round activities for preschool age children
- Increase usage of the Fairgrounds – as a four (4) season use area
- Have more organized Community Events that bring people to Cochranton

Equipment/Facilities

- Add a splash pad
- Improve Basketball Court
- Continue to upgrade playground equipment
- Add Pickle Ball Courts
- Add Frisbee Disc Golf facilities
- Add additional parking options
- Pump track or bicycle skill area intended for youth to safely exercise and improve bicycle skills.
- Restore the former Lions Building.
- Provide new pavilion roofs and painted picnic tables
- Install a stage/amphitheater area with artistic architecture
- Install a new four (4) season home show building with restrooms at the fairgrounds
- Install exercise stations along walking path in Lions Park

Amenity

- Better access to French Creek and Little Sugar Creek
- ADA improvements – walkways, restrooms in Lions Park, playground equipment
- Lighting along the walking path in Lions Community Park
- Security – limit unattended school age and teenage kids loitering in the Parks
- More vegetation plantings – native flower plantings in the Parks

Wanted Improvements – Greenways Trail

- Extend the Trail to connect with community destinations
- Maintain the Trail – Keep it free of debris, leaves, snow
- Spot repairs along the Trail are needed.
- Add landscaping with benches, native plants/wildflowers along the Trail
- Add lighting along the Trail – start near the Fairground/School area

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Park Improvement Ideas

The EADS Planning Team and the Steering Committee used the information obtained from the Community Survey and from the public meetings conducted to develop the following first set of initial Park Improvement ideas.

Cochranton Landing –

- Provide an ADA accessible restroom/comfort station – a portable facility could be provided from spring to fall (May through October)
- Fishing Contest for kids on French Creek or Little Sugar Creek
- Host Kayak/paddling demonstrations
- Provide more vehicle parking areas – (existing parking is crowded on weekends)
- Use signage to remind kayakers and canoeists that in the cold months, Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) must be worn by all in the watercraft/boat
- Mulch the boat ramp slope

Greenways Trail (also see maps of local and community connections)

- Provide links from Cochranton Landing and the Lions Community Park to the Greenways Trail - Connect sites via a linked trail that is open to public use year round
- Open up the view of Little Sugar Creek from High School Side – create an observation area(s)
- Repair upheaved spots on existing trail
- Repair areas where roots are exposed near the Fairgrounds
- Consider paralleling active rail lines for a trail
- Define trail more for biking and walking
- Connect signage to indicate links to the big loops
- Create as many connections as possible
- Create a Branding Slogan for the larger community walking/biking loop – similar to the Green Necklace Loop in Cleveland

Cochranton Lions Community Park

- Add exercise stations – similar to Meadville's Roche Park
- Add Disc Golf Hole(s) (teenager comment)
- Do not use wood materials to replace the merry-go-round – splinter hazard (youngster comment)
- Two (2) Tennis Courts
- Install Pickleball Courts
- New Stage/bandshell for concert series – other entertainment and events
- Keep the wooded area in the northern edge and a natural/wild area. Save "fairy" garden!

Cochranton Fairgrounds –

- Host farmers markets most months of the year
- Use stage and bleachers for music and programs
- Conduct summer children's activities using shelters, open space etc.
- Continue the horseshows
- Sell plants in the spring
- Bring back car/truck shows, antique steam and farm equipment shows
- Create a pollinator and native plant gardens
- Plant more flowers throughout the area
- Have an event paired with a chicken barbeque.
- On former site of home show building– provide picnic tables
- Open up views of Little Sugar Creek
- Acquire rest of the land under cattle barn
- Consider installing solar lighting for the existing new LED Lights
- Encourage walkers to use the Fairgrounds area
- Fair board plans to construct a new 32'x72' barn style steel building along Pearl Street - Ensure the new multi-use building will be available during than Fair week.
- Continue accessing the 20-new trees/year grant. Spots for new tree plantings in the Fairgrounds will be jointly determined by the Fair Association leadership and Cochranton Borough personnel.
- Add a long ADA paved walkway
- Provide more exhibits inside RR station building
- Add roof to pedestrian bridge over Little Sugar Creek – improve railing system
- Be aware of electrical lines and service
- Add recycling bins
- Disc Golf – removable during fair time

Other comments – Consider adding a Pump Track/Park – similar to pump park in Buhl Park in Hermitage, PA and at the Cliffs in Medinam OH. Benefits include:

- Serves many age groups
- Can be used by bikers, skaters, scooters, RC cars
- Builds Community
- Gets kids outside
- Improves health and wellness

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Proposed Park and Greenways Trail Improvement Priorities

The first set of initial Park Improvement ideas were further evaluated and evolved by the Steering Committee during the planning process. Existing conditions and trends in Park usage, other Borough operations and partnerships were considered to evolve the project ideas into a set of Proposed Park and Greenways Trail Improvement Priorities. The Project Steering Committee members also provided their own input and guidance on the types of facilities and amenities they would like to see at the Parks and Greenways Trail. Their input was part in-reflection of the Community Engagement results and part from their local knowledge of the Cochranton Community and their personal experiences with recreation in the Borough. Collaboration with the EADS Planning Team, Steering Committee, Cochranton Borough officials and Borough residents resulted in the following refined set of proposed Park and Greenways Trail Improvements.

Park	Priorities	Comments
Cochranton Lions Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install Pickleball Courts • New Stage/bandshell for concert series – other entertainment and events • Add exercise stations along the walking path – similar to Meadville’s Roche Park • Add Disc Golf Hole(s) – not for competitive play – focus is to provide another fun activity. 1-2 holes in the Park, another 1-2 holes at the High School • Keep the wooded area in the northern edge and a natural/wild area. Save “fairy” garden! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a spot is selected for a stage-type amenity, please keep it near vehicle parking. • The high priority mentioned by several attendees is providing year-round indoor ADA accessible restrooms. This could be by remodeling part of the Lions Building or other approaches. • At least two attendees mentioned very much agreeing that the upper (northeastern) end of the park should remain a natural setting especially immediately adjacent to Little Sugar Creek. • The map for the park indicates the installation of multiple exercise stations along the Greenways Trail in park and at other spots along Greenways Trail. Mr. Donovan Lacy during the meeting offered to help select types of exercise stations, so suited to not only year-round use but also in case the Park or Fairgrounds hosts future Murph Challenge Events (nationwide Memorial Weekend veteran competitions like ‘pull-ups, etc. using permanent or temporarily installed equipment. • Everyone knows that the existing basketball court floods often and has much mud on it nearly year-round. After significant land re-contouring, this spot (which already has electric access) could be better-suited as something other than basketball since there are outdoor courts in the High School parking lot nearby. This spot is within the floodplain, which limits the types of development which would be permitted. Various suggested uses for this part of the park mentioned during today’s meeting included pickleball court(s) and/or temporary stage. • Could a stage be on wheels, or use a truck bed only during special events or performances?
Cochranton Landing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an ADA accessible restroom/comfort station – a portable facility could be provided from spring to fall (May through October) – CARE has committed to providing a restroom facility near the Bike Rack. Restroom will not be a permanent facility because the entire area is in the floodplain. • Fishing Contest for kids on French Creek or Little Sugar Creek • Host Kayak/paddling demonstrations – July Clinic - CARE • Formalize an overflow vehicle parking area across the street – (existing parking is crowded on weekends). Need agreement with property owner. • Use signage to remind kayakers and canoeists that in the cold months, Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) must be worn by all in the watercraft/boat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitely include as high priority providing on-site portable restroom facilities. A suggested template might be the one now at Utica at Krabby Kelly’s Bar and Convenience Store near French Creek.

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Park	Priorities	Comments
Cochranton Fairgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision the Fairgrounds as a community event location • Enhance the farmers markets by selling plants in the spring • Create windows onto Little Sugar Creek by creating places where the Creek can be viewed • Use stage and bleachers for music and programs • Conduct summer children’s activities in shelters & open space • Create a pollinator and native plant gardens • Enhance the Fairgrounds by planting more flowers, vegetation and trees throughout the area • On former site of home show building– provide picnic tables • Acquire rest of the land under cattle barn • Encourage walkers to use the Fairgrounds area • Fair board plans to construct a new 32’x72’ barn style steel building along Pearl Street - Ensure the new multi-use building will be available during than Fair week. • Continue accessing the 20-new trees/year grant. Spots for new tree plantings in the Fairgrounds will be jointly determined by the Fair Association leadership and Cochranton Borough personnel. • Add a long ADA paved walkway • Provide more exhibits inside RR station building • Add roof to pedestrian bridge over Little Sugar Creek – improve railing system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A couple attendees indicated that an early-action item could be adding ADA walkways through key sections of the fairgrounds. The options and decisions on placement/routing of such walkways need to be made in conjunction with the Fair Board, especially near the ‘midway’ area on the grounds. • All agreed that when a new building is constructed on the fairgrounds to serve as a multi-purpose year-round community facility, it should include indoor ADA accessible restrooms.
Greenways Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Connections - provide links from Cochranton Landing and the Lions Community Park to the Greenways Trail - Connect sites via a linked trail that is open to public use year round • Community Connections – develop a larger trail loop through the Borough • Open up the view of Little Sugar Creek from High School Side – create an observation area(s) • Repair upheaved spots and areas where roots are exposed near the Fairgrounds – long term goal will be to resurface entire Trail • Consider paralleling active rail lines for a Trail • Install directional signage to the Greenways Trail and signage to the community trail • Create a Branding Slogan for the larger community walking/biking loop – similar to the Emerald Necklace Loop in Cleveland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was substantial interest and curiosity about the visual map showing a recommended routing of links among the Park, High School, Fairgrounds, and Landing and perhaps the Cochranton Cemetery (with attendees indicating these links would be their early action suggestion). Most attendees realized that detailed property owner discussions, perhaps some easement agreements, engineering, and major fund-raising will need to occur prior to linking the Greenways Trail with the Elementary School, Oak Street. • The two attendees whose homes and/or land property are near Atlantic Street expressed general support, and suggested early discussions with the families which own larger parcels potentially involved in linking to Oak Street and the Elementary School. • For the link of Landing to the Fairgrounds, the general sentiment is that an on-road routing would be safe due to few vehicles, slow speeds, and good line-of-vision for drivers, bicyclists, and walkers alike as indicated on the map panel displayed during this public meeting. • One attendee expressed concern that vehicle speeds on East Adams Street/Route 173 near the entrance to Cochranton Cemetery may be too fast for Greenways Trail users on bicycles or on foot. PennDOT will likely require an official road-crossing to be signed and painted for such a crossing. • The Greenways Trail crossing of North Franklin Street would be within the authority of the Borough. • Don’t forget that the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad has a very long-term easement for not just the width of the active railroad tracks, but also for additional footage on both sides of the tracks. • Especially if the large complete looped future Greenways Trail is partly on-road and mostly off-road, some wondered if all of it had to be paved asphalt or concrete. Or, if other surfaces might suit some of the terrain. • The Borough does have an easement obtained primarily for the sewage treatment system, running between the east bank of French Creek and Atlantic Street.



ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION

Cochranton Borough is fortunate to have within its borders a wide variety of recreational opportunities. Cochranton Borough has a long-standing commitment to improving the quality of life of its residents through ownership, operation, management of the Cochranton Landing, Cochranton Fairgrounds, Cochranton Lions Community Park and the Greenways Trail.

Cochranton Borough is governed by a Mayor and a Borough Council. The Cochranton Borough Council consists of the Mayor and seven (7) Council Persons.

Cochranton's Borough Manager, Susan Armburger, is responsible for overseeing the care and maintenance of recreation lands, facilities and programs. The Borough Manager relies on support from Borough Council persons, committees and the Borough Mayor, Mark Roche, to ensure that the day-to-day delivery of recreation opportunities are satisfactory for Borough residents and the recreation facilities and play areas are safe, secure and well-functioning. The Borough Manager may also assign recreation administration duties to other personnel as needed.

The role of the Borough Manager is also to coordinate and oversee the sound operation of the Borough's recreation assets in a cost-effective manner.

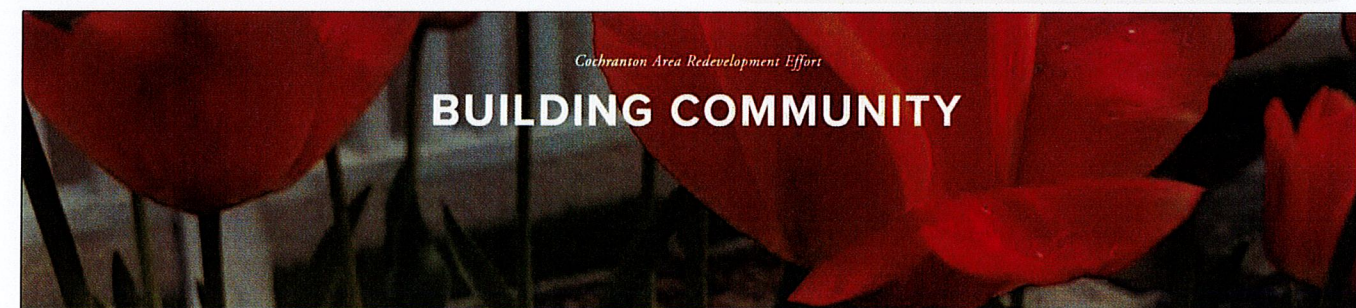
The following describes the Key Partners, Athletic Organizations, Cultural and Recreation Opportunities and Parks and Recreation Marketing and Promotion Methods that together form the recreation network in Cochranton Borough.

Partnerships

Cochranton Borough relies on the support from two (2) established partnerships, including the Cochranton Area Redevelopment Effort, Inc (CARE) and the Cochranton Community Fair Association (CCFA) to foster recreation improvements, host events and to support other community improvements in the Cochranton Area.

CARE – Cochranton Area Redevelopment Effort, Inc. – CARE is a 501 (c)(3) organization that fosters a broad range of improvements in the Cochranton area. CARE has been able to support the Borough achieve multiple Park improvements. As an example, in the Fall of 2016, CARE began a capital campaign to raise funds to update the playground equipment at the Lions Community Park. CARE was able to install new swings, slides, hopscotch boards and a large climbing net in the Park. CARE was also able to assist the Borough to make improvements to the Cochranton Landing. CARE continues to build momentum and continues to work with the Borough on Park improvement projects.

Cochranton Community Fair Association – The Fair Association operates the annual week-long Cochranton Community Fair at the Cochranton Fairgrounds. The Cochranton Community Fair was established in 1928. The Fair is built on the backbone of local farmers, townfolk, and various organizations. The Fair strives to provide family fun during the summer. The Fair features fireworks, games, animals, a parade, live music, home show exhibits, rides for the kids, and fair food. Fair admission is free. In addition to the Fair, the Association hosts other seasonal community events including the Cochranton Halloween display, an indoor Christmas Tree display, and Christmas in Cochranton at the Fairgrounds.



Cochranton Area Redevelopment Effort

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Community Planning • Historic Preservation • Beautification

Targeted goals include bringing medical services to town, initiate the development of senior housing, updating the community park, promoting the community's Creek Town status, adding green spaces in and about town, preserving and passing along the history of the French Creek Valley in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Athletic Organizations

Cochranton Borough has a network of youth sports organizations that offer access to organized baseball, softball and soccer programs.

Cochranton Youth Soccer League – Is the Youth Soccer League in Cochranton. Their season usually runs from June through July. The League uses the Cochranton Lions Community Park to conduct practices and competitions.

Cochranton Youth Football – Is the youth football starter program for Cochranton High School and the surrounding areas. The program operates under the Crawford County Youth Football League (CCYFL).

Cochranton Little League – The league owns and operates multiple fields located between the Cochranton Fairgrounds and the Cochranton Jr./Sr. High School.

Local Cultural and Recreation Opportunities

Cochranton Borough provides residents with various indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities, recreation fields for athletic sports and cultural venues.

Cochranton Lanes (Bowling) –
142 Pine St.

The Fitness Center –
128 N. Franklin St.
and 137 W. Adams St.

Provides/offers a diverse range of workout options

Motzing Center/Iris Theatre – 157 W. Adams St.

The Motzing Center houses the Iris Theatre and Kovfino the Coffe Lounge

Cochranton Area Public Library –
107 W. Pine St.

French Creek –
paddling and water sports

Cochranton Jr./Sr. High School – 105 Second St.

Cochranton Elementary School –
225 South Franklin St.

Cochranton Cemetery –
4284 PA-173

Regional Cultural and Recreation Opportunities

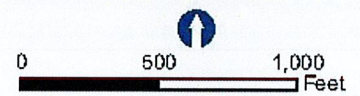
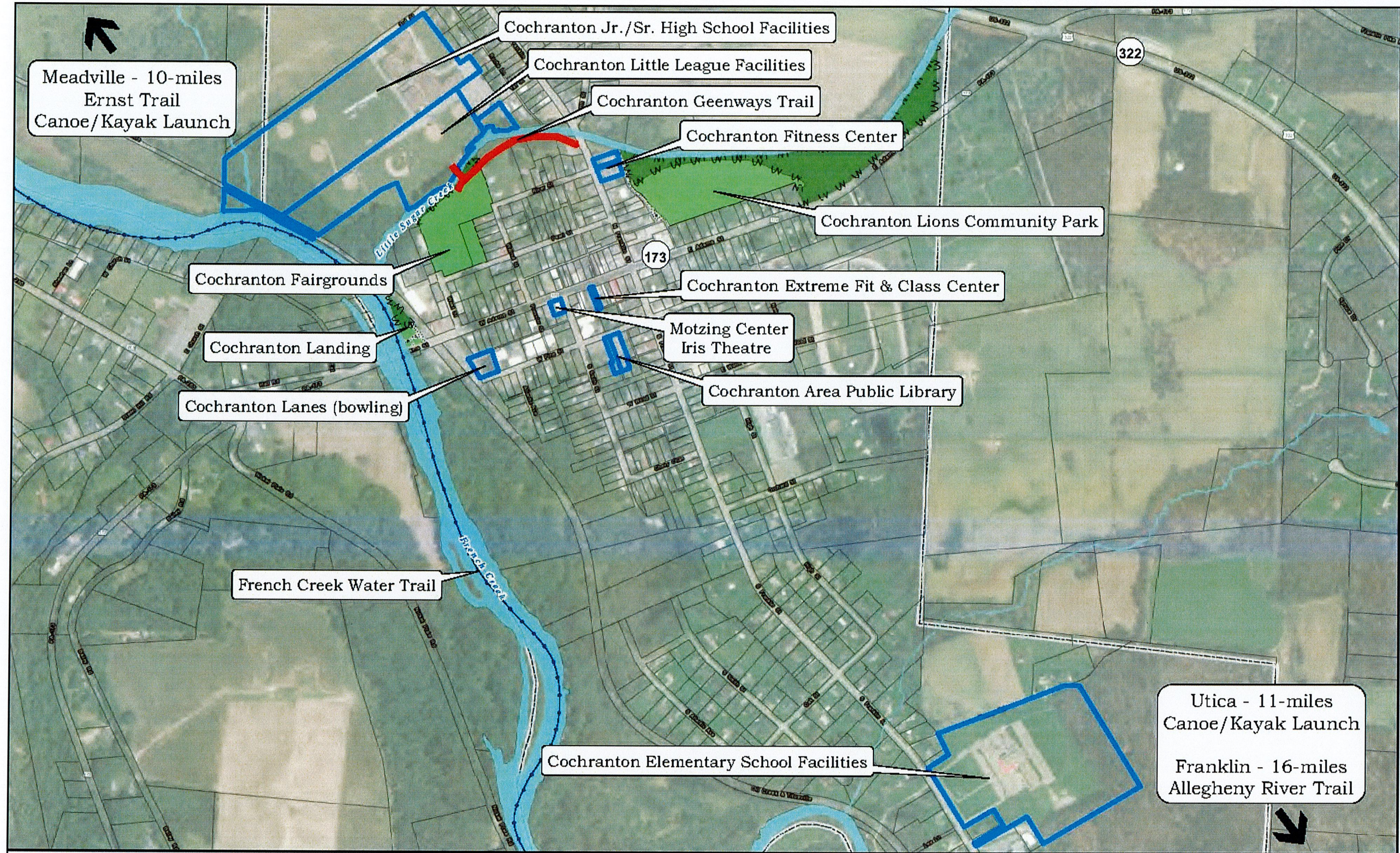
Cochranton Borough is near regional outdoor recreation resources in Meadville and the City of Franklin (Venango County).

Ernst Trail
Near Meadville
Approximatley 10-miles from Cochranton

Allegheny River Trail (part of Erie-to-Pittsburgh Trail)
Near Franklin
Approximatley 16-miles from Cochranton

French Creek Greenway and Water Trail
Meadville - River Mile 31
Cochranton Landing - River Mile 18
Utica - River Mile 10

Cochranton Borough Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan



**COCHRANTON BOROUGH
CULTURAL AND RECREATION RESOURCES**

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Parks and Recreation Marketing and Promotion

Cochranton Borough uses four (4) methods to promote its recreation opportunities and services.

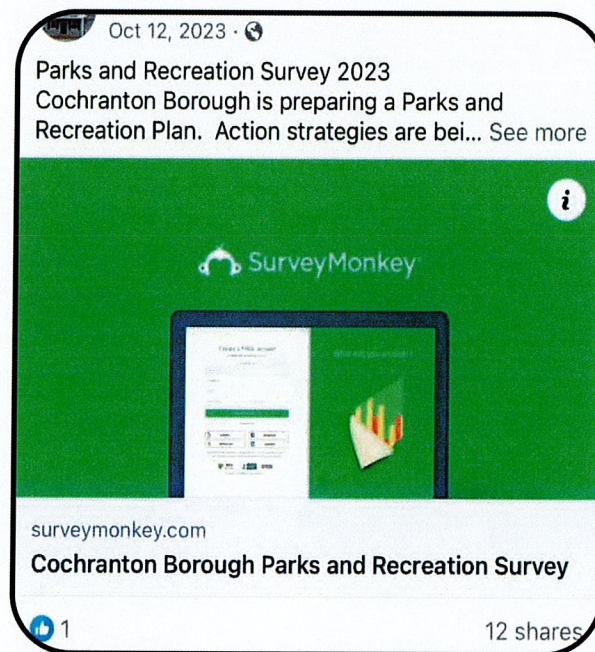
The Borough provides information on Lions Park and Cochranton Landing, Pavilion Rentals and Park related news and updates on their Parks & Recreation section on their website:

www.cochrantonboro.org



The Borough uses their Borough of Cochranton Facebook site to promote Park and Recreation related information.

The Borough's Facebook site was effectively used to distribute information on the Parks and Recreation Survey to residents.



Specific recreation-related information, including meetings, surveys and project updates are made available to residents using posters. This method was effectively used to provide information on the Community Engagement events held during the development of this Parks Plan.



Cochranton Borough has a good relationship with the Meadville Tribune. The Tribune has published several articles related to recreation topics in Cochranton. Recent articles have focused on Cochranton Landing, the Parks and Recreation Plan and other park improvement projects.



Future Considerations

Administering Parks and Recreation facilities and areas requires interdisciplinary skills which balance care and maintenance of facilities and programs and financial management. The Borough will continue to coordinate and oversee the safe, secure and sound operation of the Borough's recreation assets in a cost-effective manner.

1. Conduct semi-annual collaborative meetings with committees, businesses, service providers, partners, athletic associations and other recreation providers to strengthen relations and to work together to establish long-term recreation initiatives and funding strategies.
2. Align administrative capabilities with needs to enhance the functionality of programs, facilities, maintenance operations, finance and project management.
3. Organize administration roles and responsibilities, utilize strategic management systems to plan and implement policies, and to schedule procedures and projects.

FUNDING AND FINANCING

The Borough passes an annual budget each year that outlines all funds to support Borough operations and needs. The Borough maintains a General Fund Budget, Sewer Fund Budget, Water Fund Budget, Police Fund Budget and Liquid Fuels Fund Budget. Funding for parks and recreation operation and maintenance activities are funded through the Borough's General Fund Budget. The Borough does not maintain a separate Recreation Fund.

Recreation-related revenues are solely derived from pavilion rentals at the Lions Community Park. Funding of Park improvement projects is obtained through grant funding awards, locally raised financial contributions and capital campaigns. Capital fund campaigns initiated by CARE have successfully been able to raise grant matching funds and funding to directly conduct Park and recreation area improvements.

High-quality parks and recreation offerings in Cochranton Borough will directly impact resident quality of life and will attract new resident and visitors to the Borough. The Borough will continue to maintain parks and recreation at a high level, while still being good stewards of Borough funds.

An analysis of Park and Recreation Revenues and Expenses is provided on the following pages.

Park and Recreation Revenues

The following shows actual Park and Recreation general fund revenues for 2022 and 2023. Budgeted Park and Recreation revenues for 2024 are anticipated to be \$4,750 in 2024. The revenues do not take into account funds received from grant awards. The percentage of total Borough Income coming from Parks and Recreation revenues is also provided for comparison purposes.

Item	Actual	Actual	Proposed
	2022	2023	2024 Budget
389.100 –Lions Community Park	\$5,002	\$2,750	\$4,750
Total Income	\$650,608	\$459,578	\$580,090
% of Total Income	0.8%	0.6%	0.8%

Cochranton Lions Community Park Picnic Pavilion Rentals and Rates

Cochranton Borough uses the following fee schedule for rental of Park facilities at the Cochranton Lions Community Park. Information on Picnic Pavilion rentals, Rental Rates and included amenities is posted on Cochranton Borough's website. The rental rates charged for the pavilions are consistent with rates charged in other small communities in northwest area of Pennsylvania

Facility	Location	Size	Picnic Tables	Seating Capacity	Rental Rate	Amenities
Pavilion #1	Near Park Entrance	36' x 48'	8 – 16' tables	128 persons	\$80.00	Each pavilion is handicapped accessible, have electricity and have trash containers
Pavilion #2	Along walking path following Little Sugar Creek	24' x 30'	5 – 16' tables	80 persons	\$65.00	
Pavilion #3						
Pavilion #4						

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Park and Recreation Expenses

The following shows actual Park and Recreation general fund expenses for 2022 and 2023. The expenses do not take into account matching funded needed for grant funding awards. Budgeted Park and Recreation expenses for 2024 are anticipated to be \$12,775.

Item	Actual	Actual	Proposed
	2022	2023	2024 Budget
409.221 - Mowing – Building, Dike, Fairground	\$245	-	-
409.222 - Mower- Gas, Maintenance	\$232	\$143	\$275
453.450 - Recreation- Mosquito Spray	\$1,872	-	-
454.000 - Lions Park	\$21,975	\$10,259	\$12,500
Sub-total	\$24,324	\$10,402	\$12,775
<i>Total Income</i>	\$669,055	\$522,540	\$579,353
<i>% of Total Income</i>	3.6%	2.0%	2.2%

Revenues vs. Expenses

Comparing Park and Recreation revenues with expenses shows that expenses are far greater than the revenues being generated.

Item	2022	2023	2024 Budget
Revenues	\$5,002	\$2,750	\$4,750
Expenses	\$24,324	\$10,402	\$12,775
<i>difference</i>	<i>(\$19,322)</i>	<i>(\$7,652)</i>	<i>(\$8,025)</i>

Future Considerations

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 'Park Metrics' report provides insight into the range of resources that other small communities dedicate to park and recreation efforts. Cochranton Borough's typical annual Parks and Recreation operating expenditures are approximately \$11.42 per capita and \$672 per acre. In comparison, NRPA reports in communities less than 20,000 residents, the typical expenditure per capita is between \$69.65 and \$120.79. The NRPA also reports that in communities of less than 20,000 residents, the typical expenditure per acre is between \$3,692 and \$7,495. A goal over the next ten (10) years is for the Borough to provide additional general fund dollars towards Parks and Recreation needs.

Additional Revenue Opportunities

Cochranton Borough has limited funding available to expand park operations and/or activities. There is a need to supplement municipal budgeted funds by raising funds for park maintenance, programming, special events, capital improvements and other Park related needs.

- **Research and Pursue Available Grant Opportunities** - There are numerous grant opportunities available for parks and recreation. The most typical sources are listed in the Implementation Section of this Plan.
- **Pursue Sponsorships of Special Events and Recreational Programs by Area Businesses, Community Groups and Organizations** - Offering sponsorships for recreational programs and special events is a great way to help offset Park expenses. It's important to offer sponsors an appropriate amount of recognition for their contribution.
- **Pursue Service Providers to Operate Specific Recreation Programs and Events** - Many recreation programs and activities can be run on a break-even basis, in terms of direct municipal expenses, if the programs and activities are organized and operated by third-party entities. The actual program and activity operator would be responsible for assigning and collecting user fees paid by the participants. For example, the operator, not the Borough, would charge fees to offset the costs of things like supplies needed for an arts & crafts class, hiring an instructor for a yoga or aerobics class, or renting a facility for a club meeting. In some cases, net proceeds from a program or activity could be donated back to the Borough to help offset the costs of maintenance and other services.
- **Hold Fundraising Events/Activities** - There are endless possibilities for fundraising events and activities. Pancake breakfasts, raffle tickets and bake sales are just a few ideas. Many more ideas are available online. It is also recommended that project partners ask for monetary donations, and/or something of value to be provided for a project.
- **Host Events that Require Vendors and/or Event Operators to Pay a Location Fee** - Examples include reserving space(s) for Farmers Markets, Christmas tree sales, Food Truck Festivals, Arts and Craft Events, etc.



MAINTENANCE

Cochranton Borough knows that a well-maintained Park and Recreation system will enhance a user's experience which will lead to good word of mouth promotion and increased usage levels. Participants in the planning process noted that the Park's facilities are in good or fair condition. Results of the Community Engagement process highlighted the following as top maintenance priorities.

- Beautification - Eliminating unsightly conditions. Including adding flower gardens, bushes and vegetation, and other beautification intentioned projects.
- Reducing inconveniences for Park users and ensuring proper functioning of Park facilities and amenities.
- Maintenance along the Greenways Trail including keeping it free of debris and addressing surfacing issues.

Cochranton Borough will provide clean, safe and well-maintained park facilities that will enhance peoples' recreation experiences, save money, reduce liability and help to build and maintain a positive public image. The Borough's maintenance approach includes daily housekeeping tasks, regularly scheduled tasks, annual repairs needed to help prevent excessive wear and contracted repairs to address more excessive types of scheduled and emergency repairs.

Borough Maintenance personnel consists of two (2) full-time workers and one (1) seasonal worker. The maintenance personnel adequately completes maintenance tasks at the Parks and recreation areas in the Borough.

Maintenance Approach

Cochranton Borough's Park Maintenance Plan is focused on building a positive image by keeping Park and Recreation facilities well maintained.

Scheduling and management of maintenance tasks are completed during daily lunch-time Maintenance Management meetings conducted with Cochranton's Borough Manager, Susan Armburger, and sometimes Borough Mayor, Mark Roche. Borough personnel also participate in the meetings. This approach effectively allows the Borough to identify daily maintenance needs and to coordinate and schedule maintenance activities.

Maintenance personnel typically start each day with a visual inspection of the Parks and Greenways Trail. Miscellaneous cleanup, trash pickup and debris removal tasks are completed during the inspections. Documentation of more lengthier tasks and those requiring equipment support is made and brought to the daily Maintenance Management meetings.

The following describes typical maintenance focus areas and tasks completed by the Borough and Partners:

Trash and Debris - this includes picking up and removing trash and debris found along the Greenways Trail and other existing walkways in the Parks and within reason, in adjacent areas.

Vegetation - this includes mowing and weed whacking, as necessary, the grass areas in the Parks. Cutting and pruning trees and tree limbs back as needed to allow unobstructed passage and cutting back areas with unwanted weeds or invasive species will also be required.

Surfaces - tasks are focused on maintaining the integrity of the Greenways Trails, walkways, play area surfaces and open space areas. Activities range from routine inspection to periodic spot repairs to entire resurfacing efforts. Activities will also include being prepared to address emergency situations as they arise.

Structures - routine maintenance and upkeep of existing pavilions, buildings, facilities and play areas is a priority. Activities include routine inspections, periodic repair and replacement tasks.

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

The following is a suggested Maintenance Schedule that Cochranton Borough can use as part of their Maintenance and Operation efforts. Documentation of completed maintenance tasks will be kept by the Borough.

Category	Item	Suggested Schedule	Comments	Operation
Trash and Debris	Trash/Litter Collection and Removal	Weekly – as required	Along the Greenways Trail, Walking Paths and at all facilities	Cochranton Borough and Volunteers
Vegetation	Mowing of grassy area	Weekly – as required	In the grassy open space areas	Cochranton Borough
	Pruning/Removal of Trees/Limbs	Review and monitor trees monthly Prune Trees in the Spring and Fall	Maintain records of trees in need of pruning Identify dangerous trees during site inspections Remove felled (or those in immediate need) limbs upon identification	Chain Saws or manual cutting required – equipment operators may be needed
	New and Existing Flowers/Shrubs	As Required	Planting, tending, weeding, watering, and season-ending care	CARE and Volunteers
	New Trees	As young trees area delivered, plant	Planting, tending, watering	CARE
	Soccer Fields	During Soccer Season – as required; and removal at end of season	Lines, goal nets, and net frames	Soccer League
Surface	Inspection and repair of the Greenways Trail, walking paths, parking areas, play areas and open space grass areas.	Monthly – as required	Check surfaces for signs of rutting, surface drainage and washouts and areas in needs of resurfacing Remove impediments, blockages, buildups immediately upon identification	Cochranton Borough – major repairs may require professional support and oversight
Structures	Pavilions	On-going Care and Maintenance	Monthly cleaning and repairs as needed. Conduct annual inspection and complete identified maintenance tasks	Cochranton Borough – major repairs may require professional support and oversight
	Facilities	Semi-Annual	Check condition of all Play Areas, Play Equipment and Buildings for signs of wear and vandalism	Cochranton Borough – major repairs may need professional assistance
	Greenways Trail	Every 2 years	Every two (2) years have the bridge inspected by a Professional Engineer	Professional Engineer
	Porta Johns	Weekly and additional as needed	Clean interior and exterior; restock supplies	Porta John Contractor

Future Considerations

Increased usage of the Parks and Greenways Trail will occur as the improvements recommended in this Recreation Plan are completed. The National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) 2023 report identified that in communities with less than 20,000 residents, it is typical to have 6 to 22 full-time equivalent Parks and Recreation staff and maintenance personnel. The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) recommends a best practice ratio of one full-time equivalent employee for maintenance per 18-20 acres of parkland. Consideration of staffing levels and the need for additional staff/personnel support will need to be evaluated annually to keep pace with evolving Parks and Recreation facilities and amenity maintenance needs.

Cochranton Borough may want to consider other alternatives to increasing staff/personnel for future maintenance needs. As the Borough's Parks and Recreation opportunities grow, increasing maintenance needs may validate the purchase of additional equipment to maintain the park areas more efficiently (mowers, power tools, vehicles). It also may be beneficial for the Borough to consider larger and different types of equipment purchases (excavator, skid-steer, tractor, etc.).

The other consideration to cut down on maintenance costs and improve aspects of the Park and Recreation system may be to look for opportunities to train and educate existing staff or hire new staff with appropriate skills such as vegetation management, forestry or landscape design. The Borough should also consider the benefits of having a Landscape Architect or ISA Certified Arborist as a third-party consultant to assist with proper vegetation and tree maintenance.

1. Provide specialized training and education opportunities for personnel responsible for park maintenance activities. Cochranton Borough employees, staff and officials should attend training conferences and educational seminars (such as the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society) to ensure that best management practices are followed.
2. In addition to Borough led efforts, at least one (1) volunteer led 'park clean-up days' can be held each year. Additional clean-up days can be scheduled based on need and volunteer support. Special volunteer clean-up projects will also be conducted for the play areas, play equipment, parking areas, pavilions and other places in the Parks. [Keep PA Beautiful](#) provides support for 'clean-up' days and events and can be a resource for volunteer clean-up events. Likely volunteer groups could include members of the Project Steering Committee, local church groups, Boy Scout and Girl Scouts and similar service provider organizations.
3. Additional maintenance tasks can include improving the visual attractiveness of the Greenways Trail and the Park areas by planting vegetated areas with shrubs, flowers and decorative trees.



COCHRANTON LIONS COMMUNITY PARK

What is known today as Lions Park in Cochranton began as a community project in 1960 by the Cochranton Lions Club. Today, the land that once housed a saw mill (1803) and later a grist mill (1809) is now a recreational area open to the public. The Lions Club continued to operate and maintain the park until August 2019 when ownership was turned over to the Cochranton Borough. In recent years, the park has seen the addition of a walking trail, youth soccer in the summer and a fully renovated playground. There are 4 picnic pavilions for rental.

Cochranton Lions Community Park is a 16-acre parcel lining the south bank of Little Sugar Creek from Route 322 to Race Street. Most of the site is wooded. The active Park area is grassy open space. The Park offers the types of facilities and amenities found in typical Community Park. It contains swings and playground, picnic pavilions, soccer fields, paved 2,400' bicycle/pedestrian trail (Walking Path), benches, little library, restroom building, portable toilets during high-use seasons, former Lions Club building, basketball court, parking areas, pavilion/picnic tables and playground equipment.

The Park's walking path is well laid out and is well used by residents. The path can be accessed from the parking lot area and extends into the back section of the Park. The Cochranton Youth Soccer League maintains several soccer fields within the Park. These fields are well used and bring a substantial number of cars, parents and players to the Park during practices and games. The soccer field areas are available as open greenspace play areas outside of the soccer season.



**THE
EADS
GROUP**

0 250 500 Feet

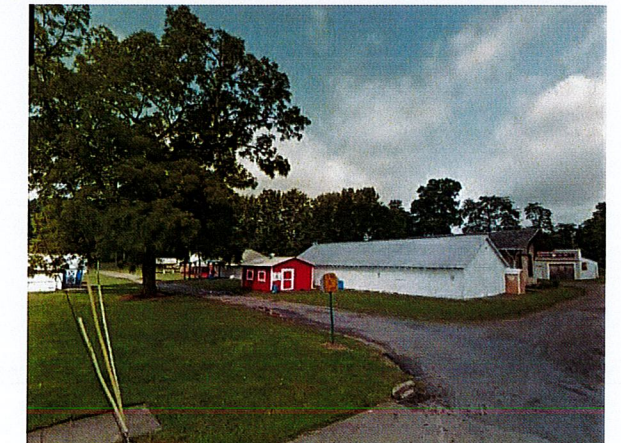
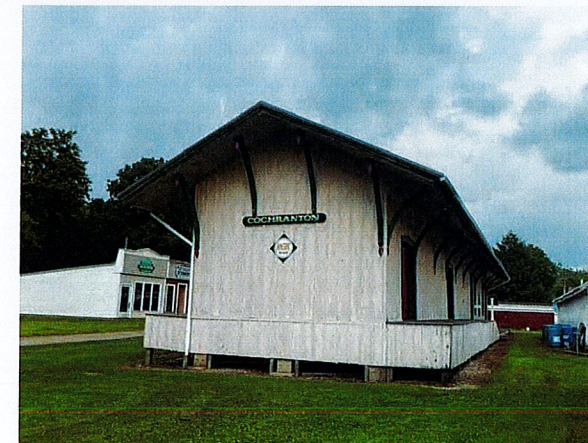
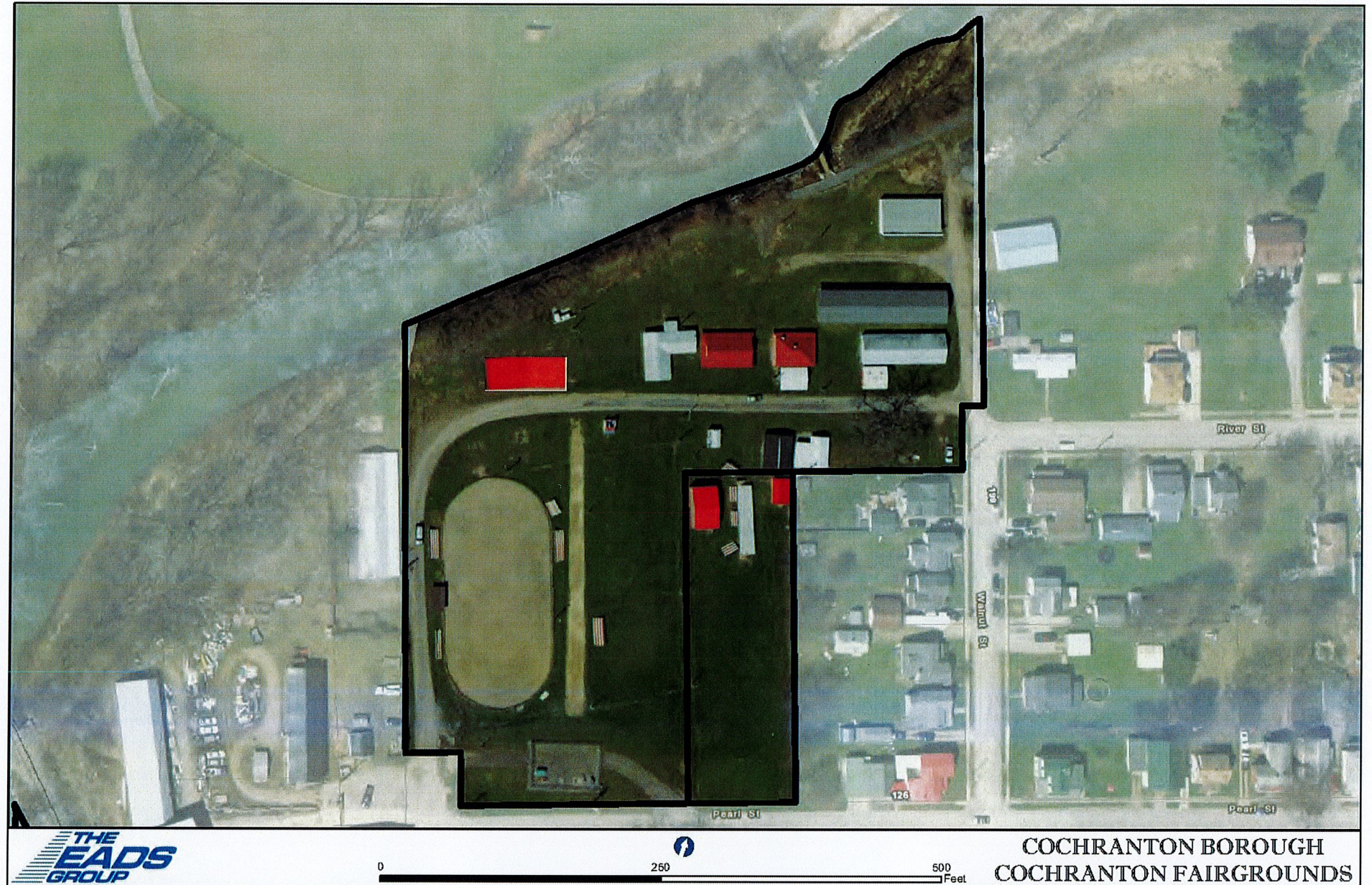
**COCHRANTON BOROUGH
LIONS COMMUNITY PARK**



COCHRANTON FAIRGROUNDS

Cochranton Fairgrounds as hosted the Cochranton Community Fair since 1928. It consists of 2.4 acres owned by the Borough and an adjacent 0.65 acre parcel owned by Cochranton Community Fair Association.

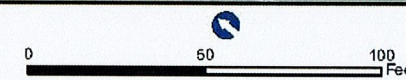
Monthly flea markets, occasional horse shows, equipment shows, and special events also use the fairgrounds. There is an existing public road aligned through the fairgrounds and several buildings/structures. Additional structures are being renovated to create a museum facility/amenity. A band/performance stage structure with adjacent bleacher seating is also in the Fairgrounds. The Cochranton Community Fair Association owns 0.65 acre parcel of land within the Fairgrounds. The association is actively developing their property for the benefit of the Fair.



COCHRANTON LANDING

Cochranton Landing is located on French Creek immediately upstream of Route 173/Adams Street bridge. The Landing is 0.6 acres and has been owned by the Borough since 2014. A kayak/canoe launch area, it also includes picnic tables, historic markers, interpretive panels, bike rack, flags, garbage cans, parking, dry hydrant, fishing line recycling station, and signage welcoming paddlers to the community. A 2022 Pa. Water Trails Mini-Grant from PEC helped fund some of these amenities.

Cochranton Landing area is used locally as a place of rest and relaxation - residents come to eat lunch, observe French Creek and to use the picnic tables/open green space area. There is good pedestrian and bicycle access from Adams St. There is a vehicle parking area, parking area for canoe/kayak trailers and a bike rack available. A newer historic interpretation area with interpretation panels is located near the entrance. The water access is equally used as a take-out for paddlers coming downstream from Meadville and as a put-in for paddlers going downstream to Utica and Franklin.



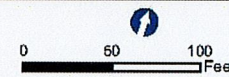
COCHRANTON BOROUGH
COCHRANTON LANDING



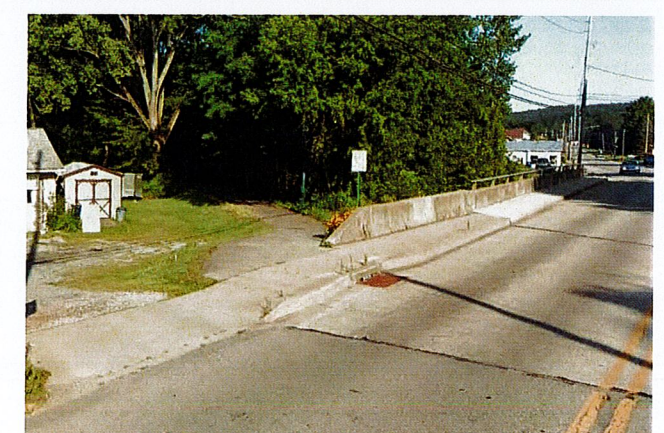
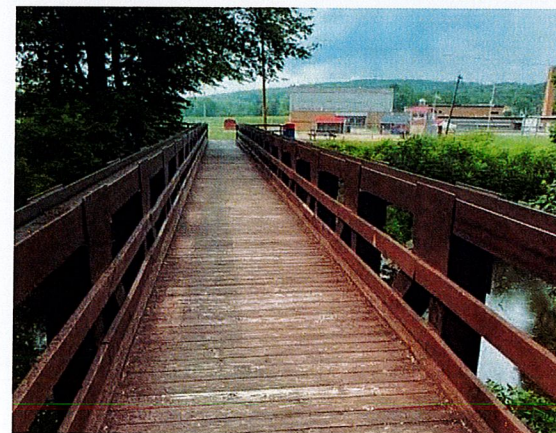
COCHRANTON GREENSWAY TRAIL

The Cochranton Greenways Trail is paved for approximately 1,100-ft between the Cochranton Fairgrounds and the Cochranton Lions Community Park. Access to the Cochranton Greenway Trail is provided within the Fairgrounds. The Cochranton Fairgrounds and the Lions Community Park are both accessible by using the Cochranton Greenways Trail. A paved spur of the Trail extends into the Cochranton Lions Community Park. A spur of the Greenway Trail also crosses Little Sugar Creek onto the existing walking loop around the Cochranton Little League Association fields and the Cochranton Junior/High School campus. The looped walking pathway extends around the baseball/softball fields and the High School. Many students use the Trail to access the school. Many parents and players use the Trail to access the baseball/softball fields.

The main stem of the Greenways Trail extends towards Franklin Street. An un-designated section of the Trail extends from the bridge on N. Franklin Street towards River Street, crosses Franklin Street and extends through the parking lot of the Jezepe's Pizza & Subs plaza where it connects with the Cochranton Lions Community Park.



COCHRANTON BOROUGH
COCHRANTON GREENWAYS TRAIL



Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Facility	Cochranton Lions Community Park	Cochranton Fairgrounds	Cochranton Landing	Cochranton Greenways Trail
Playfields	G	-	-	-
Basketball Court	P	-	-	-
Tennis Court	-	-	-	-
Pickleball Court	R	-	-	-
Play Equipment	G	-	-	-
Pavilions	G	G	-	-
Buildings	P	P	-	-
Benches	G	R	G	-
Walking Path	G	-	-	G
Connections	P	P	P	P
ADA Sidewalks	P	R	-	-
Parking	G	P	G	-
Lighting	P	P	-	-
Stage Area	R	G	-	-
Restroom	P	P	-	-
Resting Areas	G	-	-	G
Water Fountain	-	-	-	-
Waterway Access	-	-	G	-

G-Good Condition P-Poor Condition R-Recommended

Park Metrics

The EADS Group conducted an inventory of existing facilities and amenities available at each Park and Recreation Area. EADS also conducted a conditions evaluation of the available facilities and amenities. The table to the left summarizes the findings. The table shows the types of facilities and amenities within each area and provides its general condition. Since each Park and the Greenways Trail provides a different type of recreation purpose, it was not expected that each facility would contain similar types of facilities and amenities. Facilities with a **G** rating indicates the facility is provided and is functioning adequately for its purpose. Facilities with a **P** rating indicates the facility is provided, but not directly, or has deficiencies, or has a condition that can be improved. Facilities with a **R** rating indicate the facility is not currently provided, but is recommended to be installed or completed. The following narrative further describes the results.

Cochranton Lions Community Park

- Basketball Court** - The basketball court is located in a low lying area and is prone to flooding during rain events. The court surface is spalled and the basketball hoops are declining. It is suggested that the basketball court area be removed and replaced with a newer type of recreational facility.
- Buildings** - The former Lions Building is older and is in need of renovations. Vacant spaces within the building could be repurposed to better serve park users.
- Connections** - The Park is not connected to Cochranton Greenways Trail. It is suggested that a Trail extension to the Park be completed.
- ADA Sidewalks** - The Borough is completing an ADA upgrade project including installing Inclusive Playground Equipment and American Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessible Parking and Walkways at the Park. This project should be completed by the end of 2024.
- Lighting** - Existing lighting in the Park is sufficient in many areas. However, several areas remain dimly lit. This is particularly noticeable around the walking path near the pavilions. Installing additional lighting would also improve safety and functioning on the walking path.
- Restroom** - The current free-standing restroom facilities are not ADA accessible, are unheated and do not have electrical utilities. It is suggested that the existing restroom be disassembled and replaced with a new comfort station, or remodel the Lions Building interior to provide ADA comfort facilities.
- Pickleball Court** - Borough residents have expressed an interest in having Pickleball Courts in the Park.
- Stage Area** - Borough residents have expressed an interest in having a performance stage area in the Park.

Cochranton Fairgrounds

- Buildings** - There are several older buildings at the Fairgrounds that should be monitored to limit structural deficiencies.
- Connections** - The Park is connected to Cochranton Greenways Trail, but not to any other Park. It is suggested that a Trail extension from the Park to Cochranton Landing be completed.
- Parking** - A Parking Lot is not provided. Parking for the Fairgrounds is provided across Little Sugar Creek at the Jr./Sr. High School. ADA vehicle parking should be added on fairgrounds Borough-owned property.
- Lighting** - Existing lighting in the Park is sufficient in many areas. However, several areas remain dimly lit. Additional lighting should be considered.
- Restroom** - Portable Restrooms are provided. It is suggested that a permanent comfort station be installed, perhaps within the proposed new Multi-Use Building or as a free-standing new comfort facility.
- Benches** - Three (3) viewing areas to Little Sugar Creek are proposed. The viewing areas will include benches.
- ADA Sidewalks** - Internal sidewalks between buildings and the Cochranton Greenways Trail are not provided. It is suggested that connectign sidewalks be installed.

Cochranton Landing

- Connections** - The Landing is not connected to Cochranton Greenways Trail. It is suggested that a Trail extension to Cochranton Landing be completed.

Greenways Trail

- Connections** - It is suggested that a Trail extension to Cochranton Landing and Cochranton Lions Community Park be completed.



Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

The Cochranton Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan is provided in the following section. The Steering Committee helped to define 'what we want to do'; 'what we will do'; and 'how we will do it' in terms of improving recreation in Cochranton Borough. The Steering Committee believes that making the recommended improvements will make Cochranton Lions Community Park, Cochranton Fairgrounds, Cochranton Landing and the Cochranton Greenways Trail places where residents will play; where parents/grandparents can safely interact with their children; where residents can come and walk and exercise; where the community can gather for programs and events; where residents can enjoy open spaces; and where residents can interact with French Creek and Little Sugar Creek.

Design Considerations

Improvements to Cochranton's Lions Community Park, Cochranton Fairgrounds, Cochranton Landing and the Cochranton Greenways Trail will need to consider certain guidelines, regulations and principles during project design and construction phases. The following gives guidance on relevant guidelines, regulations and principles that will be considered as the projects move forward toward construction.

- **ADA Accessibility** – The regulatory guidelines of the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (2010 Standards) for providing universal accessibility to facilities will be followed as appropriate in the construction of parking areas, pedestrian access ways, pavilions and/or recreation-related facilities.
- **Climate Resiliency** – Material choices shall consider ecofriendly green materials as practical to reduce environmental impacts and disturbance to the natural setting. Green and Sustainable facilities and practices and Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) and the use of impervious surfaces will be incorporated as practicable during the construction phase of any project.
- **Vegetation Selection** – Recommended vegetation and landscaping will use native plants as appropriate.
- **Floodplain Regulations** – Portions of Cochranton are within the 100-yr floodplain of French Creek and Little Sugar Creek. Facilities installed within the floodplain will need to be consistent with floodplain regulations. Cochranton Landing is entirely within the 100-year floodplain of French Creek. Parts of the Cochranton Fairgrounds, Lions Park, and the Greenway Trail are within the 100-year floodplain of Little Sugar Creek.
- **Pickleball Courts** – Design of the Pickleball courts should follow design guidelines and other recommendations provided by USA Pickleball: [Pickleball Courts – USA Pickleball](#)

Recreation Improvement Categories

Given the number of different types of recommended improvements, it was necessary to organize them in the following categories for general understanding and implementation purposes.

- **Capital Improvements** – improvements focused on physically enhancing a facility or area within the Parks or on the Trail.
- **Resources** – improvements for how the Borough delivers recreation opportunities in Cochranton Borough.
- **Operations** – improvements for how the Borough operates recreation opportunities in Cochranton Borough.

A detailed description of each project is provided along with an estimate of probable cost. Conceptual plans for each Park and the Greenways Trail are also provided.

The provided cost estimates anticipate that Cochranton Borough will purchase materials and contract out all phases of construction. The Estimates of Probable Costs include related engineering and design costs (10%), construction contingencies (10%) and administration costs (2%). Cochranton Borough will need to account for these additional costs when applying for project funding. The EADS Group, Inc. is not a construction contractor and therefore the following cost opinions are based solely upon our experience with the construction of similar projects. This requires EADS to make several assumptions, including actual conditions to be encountered, specific decisions of other design/engineering professionals engaged, the means, methods and materials of construction, permitting and other factors not currently known. Cochranton Borough will be able to reduce project costs significantly by using Borough staff or volunteer groups to help prepare and construct portions of a project.

**COCHRANTON LIONS
COMMUNITY PARK**

Vision

Cochranton Lions Community Park is envisioned as a family-based recreation facility where residents and guests may play sports, play on recreation equipment, exercise, enjoy nature, gather and meet for education, fellowship, and entertainment in well-maintained settings accessible to all ages and abilities throughout the four seasons.

The following Improvement, Resource and Operation Recommendations are all top priorities designed to improve and expand existing facilities and amenities in the Park. The intent is to enhance the recreation experience for users that regularly use park facilities and to attract new users to the park. Descriptions of each recommendation and opinions of probable costs are provided on the following pages.

Improvements

Install Permanent ADA Accessible Restrooms (Highest Priority)

Construct Pickleball Courts

Install Exercise Stations

Create a Natural / Wild Area

Construct a Nature Trail

Install Disc Golf Practice Holes

Create an Emergency Vehicle Access

Construct a Stage / Bandshell

Resources

Additional Music / Entertainment Events

Encourage Community Events

Maintain Organized Sports

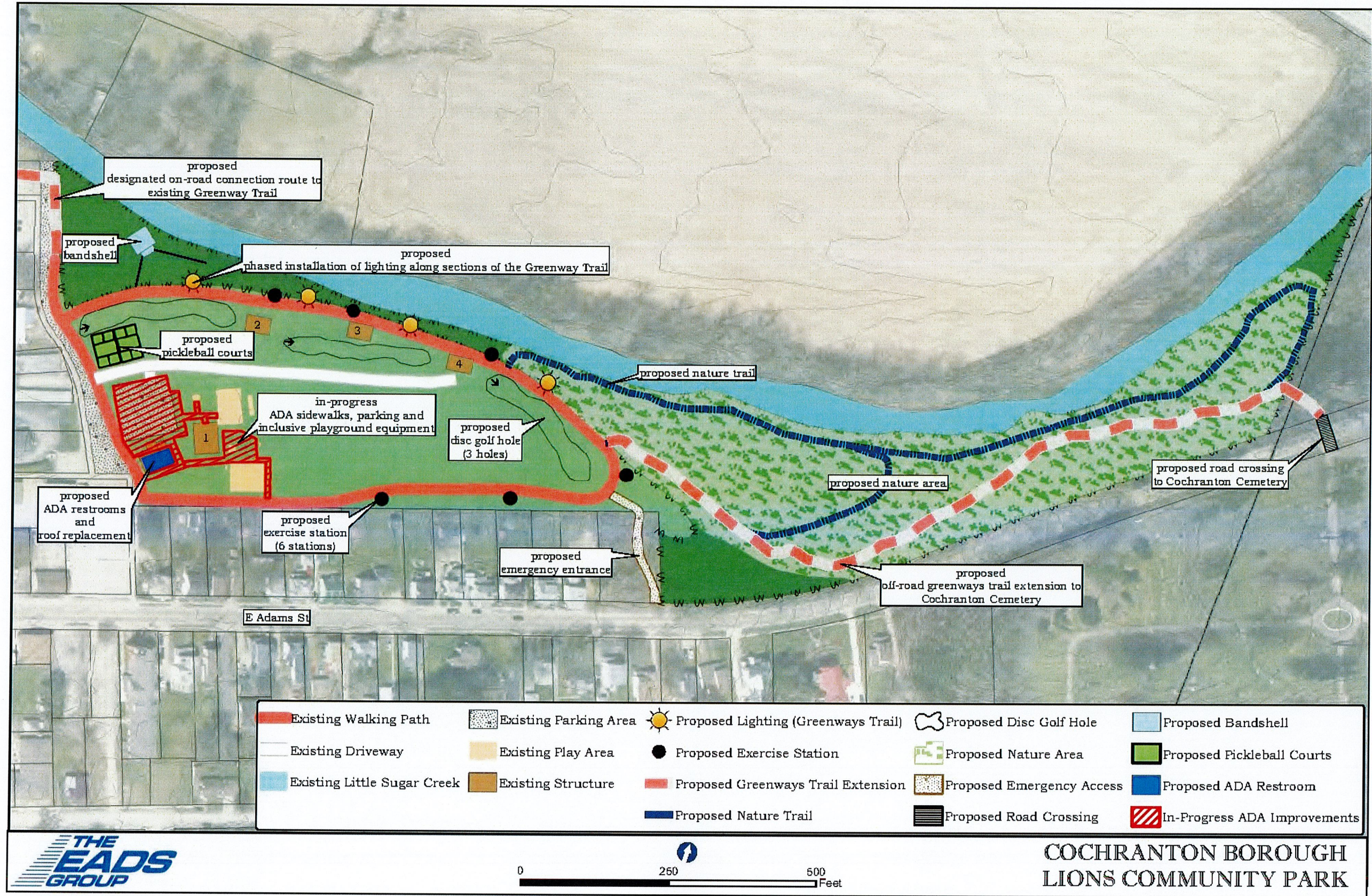
Promote Availability of the Pavilions to Encourage More Frequent Pavilion Rentals

Operations

Solicit and Collaborate with Potential Event Sponsors to Offset Programming Costs

Solicit and Collaborate with Event Partners to Host Programming and Events

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*



Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Phased Implementation Plan

The Phased Implementation Plan for improvements at the Cochranton Lions Community Park is presented below. It reflects the top priorities established by Cochranton Borough, the Project Steering Committee and the Cochranton Community as established in a Park and Recreation Survey and from Community Engagement Events. Overall, renovating the former Lions Building for ADA Restrooms is the Highest Priority project recommended in this Plan. The overall estimated project cost and implementation timeframe are provided for each project. The timeframes provide a practical sequencing of when projects can reasonably be expected to be completed. Project descriptions and budget details for each project is provided on the following pages.

- Short-Term/Early Action Items – high priority improvements to be completed in 1-3 years
- Medium-Term – high priority improvements to be developed and completed within 4-7 years
- Long-Term – high priority improvements to be further developed and completed within 8+ years

Cochranton Lions Community Park		
Phase Timeframe	Description of Proposed Improvements	Total Estimated Development Costs
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Install ADA Accessible Restrooms in Former Lions Building and Replace Roof	\$170,000.00
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Create an Emergency Vehicle Access Area from Adams Street	\$15,860.00
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Construct a Stage / Bandshell Entertainment Area	\$57,950.00
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Construct two (2) Pickleball Courts	\$136,091.00
	<i>Subtotal</i>	\$379,901.00
Medium-Term	Install three (3) Disc Golf Practice Holes	\$2,562.00
Medium-Term	Install Exercise Stations along Existing Walking Pathway	\$14,640.00
	<i>Subtotal</i>	\$17,202.00
Medium-Term	Add exterior door on north side of Lions Building, upgrade exit door on east side of Lions Building	To Be Determined
Long-Term	Create a Natural / Wild Area in the Rear Wooded Area	\$9,760.00
Long-Term	Construct a Nature Trail / Greenways Trail Extension in the Natural / Wild Area	\$17,080.00
	<i>Subtotal</i>	\$26,840.00
	Total	\$423,943.00

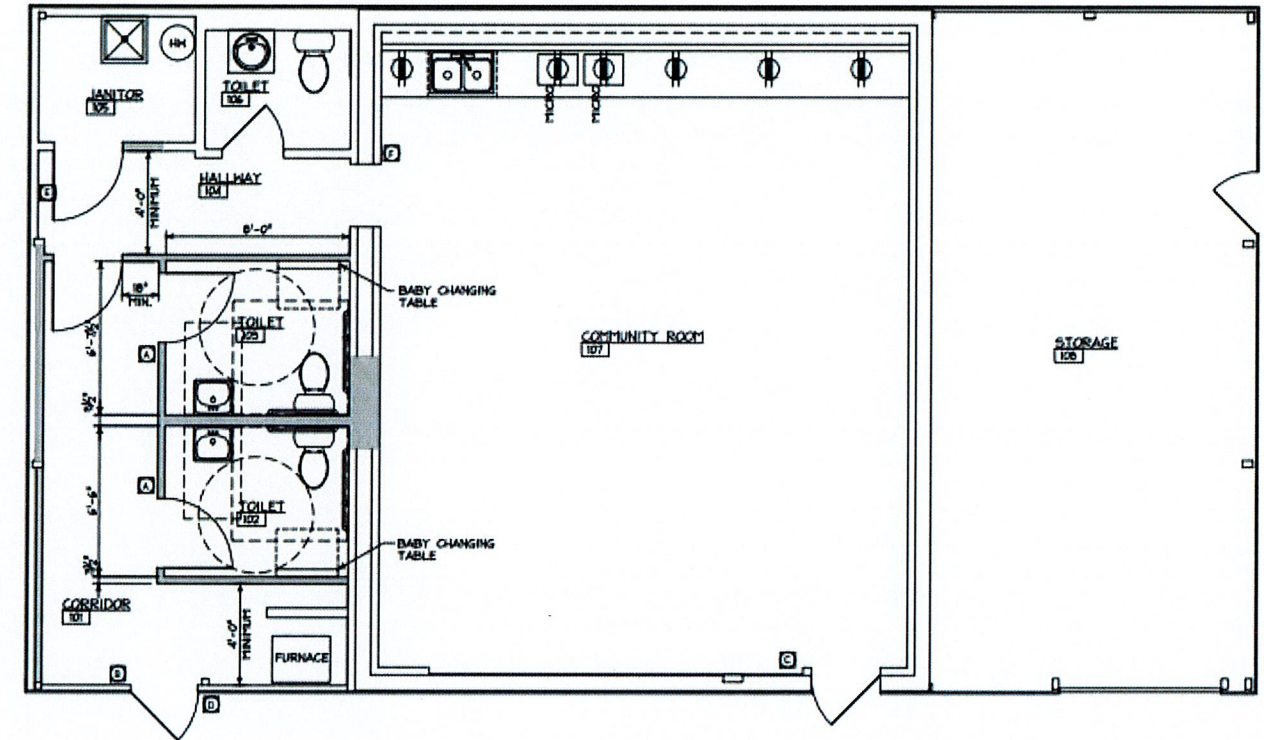
Cochranton Borough Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan

Install ADA Accessible Restrooms in Former Lions Building

In 2022, Cochranton Borough applied for and received a PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources Small Communities Grant #BRC-SC-28.6-18 for Inclusive Playground Equipment and American Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessible Parking and Walkways at Cochranton Lions Community Park. The related engineering is done; playground equipment has arrived; and soon the parking lot and network of concrete walkways will go out to bid; the overall project is on track (aiming to finish by December 2024) and within budget.

Phase II of ADA improvements in Cochranton Lions Community Park will provide ADA-accessible restrooms inside the former Lions Building. The ADA restrooms and interior ADA accessible spaces will provide Park users with safe and secure sanitary facilities. This project will replace a current free-standing, unheated, non-electric, non-ADA accessible, restroom unit in the Park. The existing restroom unit will be disassembled. The project will also include installing a new roof on the building and installing insulation in the building. The images to the right provide a project design schematic and sign schedule for the project. A project budget is provided below.

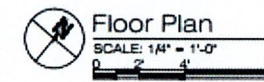
This ADA Restroom project is the highest priority 'Early-Action' project recommended in this Cochranton Borough Comprehensive Recreation Plan. Results of the Community Engagement process show that this project is greatly needed and wanted by Cochranton residents. A DCNR field review of the building has been completed. A structural analysis of the building has also been completed. Letters of Match Commitment are on hand from Cochranton Borough for \$10,000 as In-House Services up to \$60,000 as cash; and from CARE for \$15,000 as cash. This project is ready to be completed once funding is received.



Estimate of Probable Cost:

The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$170,000**. The following provides an itemized breakdown of the project components.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Site Preparation And Restoration	1	L.S.	\$19,765.00	\$19,765.00
2	Accessible Restrooms Construction In Existing Building	1	L.S.	\$68,000.00	\$68,000.00
3	Professional Services	1	L.S.	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
4	Concrete ADA-Accessible Walkway From Parking To Building Outer Walkway	1	L.S.	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
5	General Conditions, Project Manager, Dumpster, etc.	1	L.S.	\$18,412.00	\$18,412.00
6	Sign Acknowledging DCNR Grant And Partner Support	1	L.S.	\$500.00	\$500.00
7	Other	1	L.S.	\$15,900.00	\$15,900.00
8	Contingency	1	EACH	\$31,423.00	\$31,423.00
total					\$170,000.00



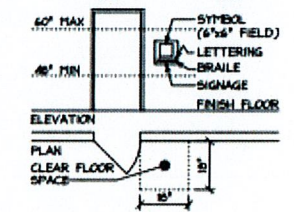
Interior Sign Schedule

Scale: N.T.S.



SIGNAGE NOTES:

1. ALL SIGNAGE PLATES TO HAVE BORDER, SYMBOL AND TEXT IN ONE COLOR, BACKGROUND ANOTHER.
2. ALL SIGNAGE SHALL BE MECHANICALLY FASTENED TO WALL.
3. MOUNT SIGNAGE PLATES TO LATCH SIDE OF DOORS. WHERE THERE IS NO HALL SPACE ON THE LATCH SIDE OF A SINGLE DOOR, OR TO THE RIGHT OF DOUBLE DOORS, SIGNS SHALL BE ON THE NEAREST ADJACENT WALL.
4. ALL SIGNAGE WITH TEXT SHALL INCLUDE BRAILLE.
5. SIGNS CONTAINING TACTILE CHARACTERS SHALL BE LOCATED SO THAT A CLEAR FLOOR AREA 18" MIN. BY 18" MIN., CENTERED ON THE TACTILE CHARACTERS, IS PROVIDED BEYOND THE ARC OF ANY DOOR SWING BETWEEN THE CLOSED POSITION AND THE 45° OPEN POSITION.



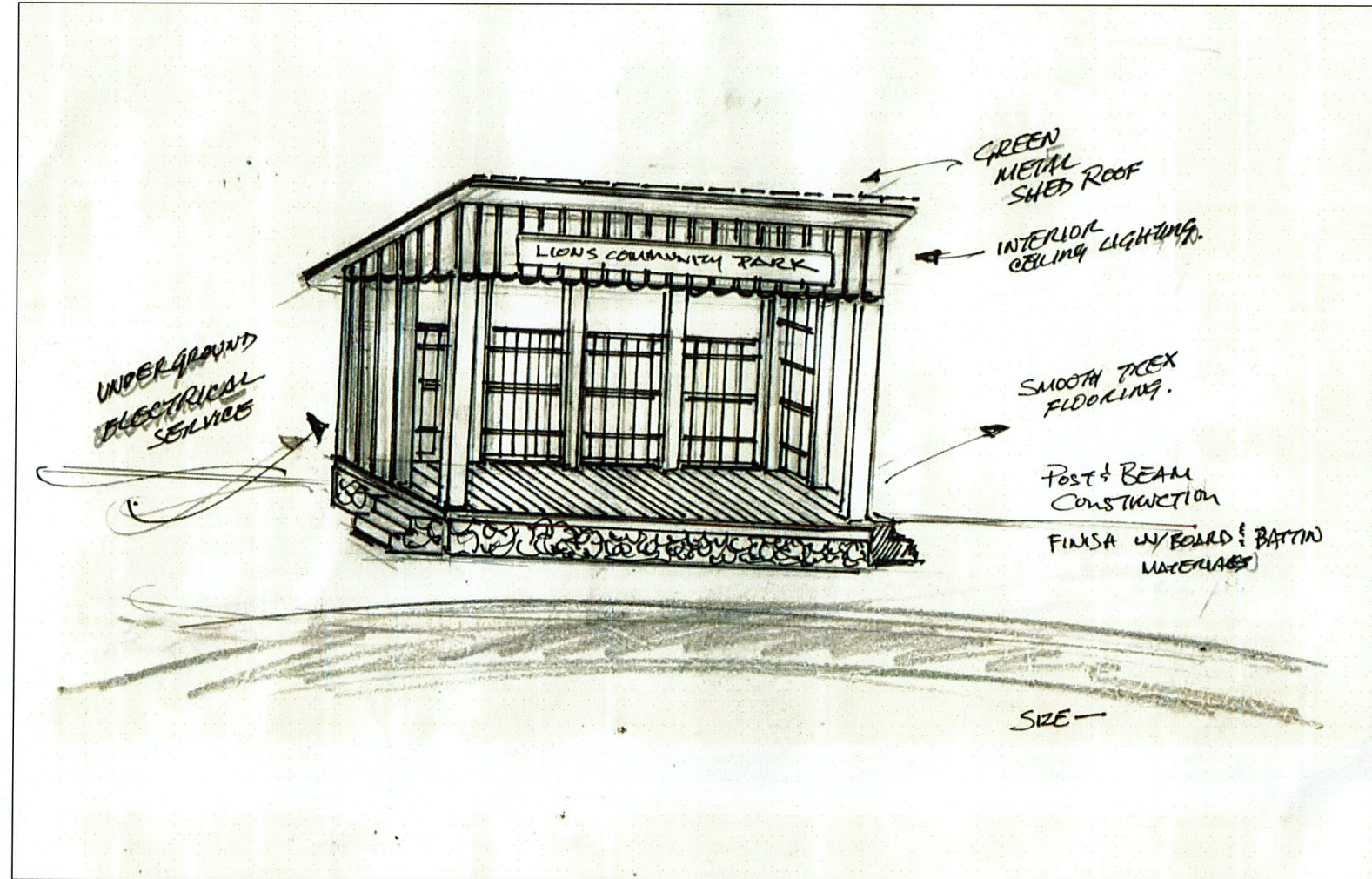
StruXures, LLC of Seneca, PA prepared for Cochranton Borough the project design, schematics, and cost estimate shown on this page. The information and visuals are used in this Comprehensive Recreation Plan with the permission of StruXures.

Cochranton Borough Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan

Construct a Stage/Bandshell Entertainment Area

The Stage/Bandshell facility will be approximately 20' x 32' in size and will set 3' off the ground. The facility will also have a ten-foot (10') proscenium opening. In keeping with the rural character of Cochranton, the structure will resemble a barn-like building, utilizing a post and beam construction. The stage will be enclosed with a board and batten rough-cut lumber, which will be left to weather naturally. A simple shed roof will have a green metal roof to match the existing pavilions. The interior will mirror the exterior with the board and batten look. The floor will be made of Trex material to provide a smooth surface that will require no maintenance. The electrical service will be run underground to the rear. Two wide stairways will provide access from each side. The interior will be lit with rows of overhead LED lights. Around the base of the structure, the three-foot (3') raised area will be finished with a faux-stone material. A concrete ramp could be added to one side or to the rear of the stage for ADA access.

The Stage/Bandshell facility will be installed between the Greenway Trail and Little Sugar Creek in the general area across from where the existing basketball court is situated. This will provide green-space seating to the left of Pavilion #2. A small driveway, along the edge of the creek will provide access to the rear of the stage and a small parking area will be provided for loading and unloading equipment.



The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$57,950**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost
1	Bandshell Concrete Foundation	LS	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
2	20' x 32' Bandshell	LS	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
3	Underground Electric Service Connection	LS	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
4	Engineering and Design (10%)			\$4,750.00
5	Administration (2%)			\$950.00
6	Contingency (10%)			\$4,750.00
total				\$57,950.00

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Create an Emergency Vehicle Access Area

The Park is designated as a medi-vac landing zone. A dedicated Emergency Access Area will be established off East Adams Street to better connect emergency response vehicles to the landing zone. The Emergency Access Area will provide emergency vehicles with a more direct access to the designated medi-vac landing zone in the play areas and fields in the Park. The Emergency Access Area will have a compacted gravel surface. This access will enable park visitors to depart the park grounds to PA Route 173 and paved sidewalks if the western end of the park becomes blocked due to unusual circumstances. The access area will not be promoted as a secondary entrance or parking area for the Park. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$15,860**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Gravel Access Road	650	SY	\$20.00	\$13,000.00
2	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$1,300.00
3	Administration (2%)				\$260.00
4	Contingency (10%)				\$1,300.00
<i>total</i>					\$15,860.00

Construct two (2) Pickleball Courts

Not surprisingly, considering its popularity, the addition of pickleball courts was identified as another high priority action item by the Borough and the public through the public participation process. The area of the existing undersized basketball court was identified as the best location for a new pickleball court complex to consist initially of two (2) courts. Lighting, fencing, and a connection to the parking area will be included. Site preparation work will be completed to elevate the court area and to install a berm around the courts to redirect stormwater. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$136,091**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Fencing (4-ft high)	450	LF	\$90.00	\$36,000.00
2	Site Preparation – Infill	1	LS	\$25,000	\$25,000.00
3	Asphalt Wearing Coarse Surface	350	SY	\$35.00	\$8,750.00
4	Subbase	100	CY	\$60.00	\$4,800.00
5	Line Painting	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$7,000.00
6	Lighting	8	EA	\$5,000.00	\$30,000.00
7	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$11,155.00
8	Administration (2%)				\$2,231.00
9	Contingency (10%)				\$11,155.00
<i>total</i>					\$136,091.00

Install three (3) Disc Golf Practice Holes

The addition of three (3) Disc Golf holes will add a unique feature to the Park. The holes will be for fun, and practice use only (not formal competition). This will not be a full Disc Golf course. The holes are intended for park users and families using the pavilions. The holes will not be designed for advanced disc golf players. The holes will use in-ground and removable 'tee pads' and 'metal basket poles' for flexibility. Additional practice holes could be installed at nearby school properties. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$2,562**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Disc Golf Hole	3	EA	\$700.00	\$2,100.00
2	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$210.00
3	Administration (2%)				\$42.00
4	Contingency (10%)				\$210.00
<i>total</i>					\$2,562.00

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Install Six (6) Exercise Stations along Existing Walking Pathway/Greenway Trail

The existing walking path is a well-used facility in the Park. Installing exercise equipment along the walkway will add another feature to the Park. Borough residents suggested that the exercise stations will be used by walkers on the Greenway Trail and by others looking for an active recreation experience. Adding the exercise stations will also increase the recreation appeal of the Park and help the Borough promote the walking path as a wellness trail. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$14,640**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Exercise Stations	6	EA	\$2,000.00	\$12,000.00
2	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$1,200.00
3	Administration (2%)				\$240.00
4	Contingency (10%)				\$1,200.00
<i>total</i>					\$14,640.00

Create Natural/Wild Area

The far end (east end) of the Park is not currently being used for recreation activities. This part of the Park is unimproved and is mainly covered with trees and scrub-shrub vegetation. Borough residents and members of the Steering Committee indicated that the overgrown wooded area should be managed as a passive natural area. Management activities include removing non-beneficial and invasive vegetation, and then planting native species. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$9,760**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Vegetation and Landscaping	1	LS	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
2	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$800.00
3	Administration (2%)				\$160.00
4	Contingency (10%)				\$800.00
<i>total</i>					\$9,760.00

Construct a Nature Trail / Greenways Trail Extension

In conjunction with managing the wooded area of the Park as a natural area, residents also want to have a set of primitive nature trails that will provide opportunities to passively observe the surrounding natural landscape and the sounds of Little Sugar Creek and to enjoy greater access to a beautiful stretch of Little Sugar Creek. The intent of this project is to construct a looped rustic nature path through the natural area. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$17,080**. A portion of the nature trails will also become part of the Greenways Trail extension between the Park and Cochranton Cemetery.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Gravel Trail	700	SY	\$20.00	\$14,000.00
2	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$1,400.00
3	Administration (2%)				\$280.00
4	Contingency (10%)				\$1,400.00
<i>total</i>					\$17,080.00

COCHRANTON FAIRGROUNDS

Vision

Cochranton Fairgrounds are envisioned as the combination of well-maintained grounds, buildings, and temporary structures hosting not only the Cochranton Community Fair but also other public entertainment, educational programs, competitions, demonstrations, markets, and other events/activities/programs suited to the agricultural, health, and community focus and infrastructure on site.

COCHRANTON COMMUNITY FAIR BOARD

Mission Statement

The Cochranton Community Fair Board is committed to providing a positive enjoyable experience while maintaining traditional values emphasizing youth and agriculture. With this objective in mind, the Cochranton Community Fair is dedicated to preserving our agricultural heritage and presents an opportunity for all members of our community, as well as neighboring communities, to exhibit their special skills and hard work in the science of agriculture, horticulture, household arts, and family living. Our goal is to maintain and improve our fairgrounds and provide the area for the agricultural community and all other avenues that make a solid foundation for a rural fair

The following Improvement, Resource and Operation Recommendations are all top priorities designed to improve and expand existing facilities and amenities in the Fairgrounds. The intent is to enhance the recreation experience for users that regularly use Fairground facilities and to attract new users to the Fairgrounds. Descriptions of each recommendation and opinions of probable costs are provided on the following pages.

Improvements

Create Viewing Areas to Little Sugar Creek

Create Pollinator and Native Plant Gardens and Plant additional trees

Fair Association Constructs a new Multi-Use Building

Construct ADA Walkways to Connect Existing Buildings

Construct ADA Parking Lot

Resources

Encourage the Cochranton Heritage Society to have more exhibits of local interest in Railroad Museum

Enhance Existing Farmers Markets by selling plants in the spring

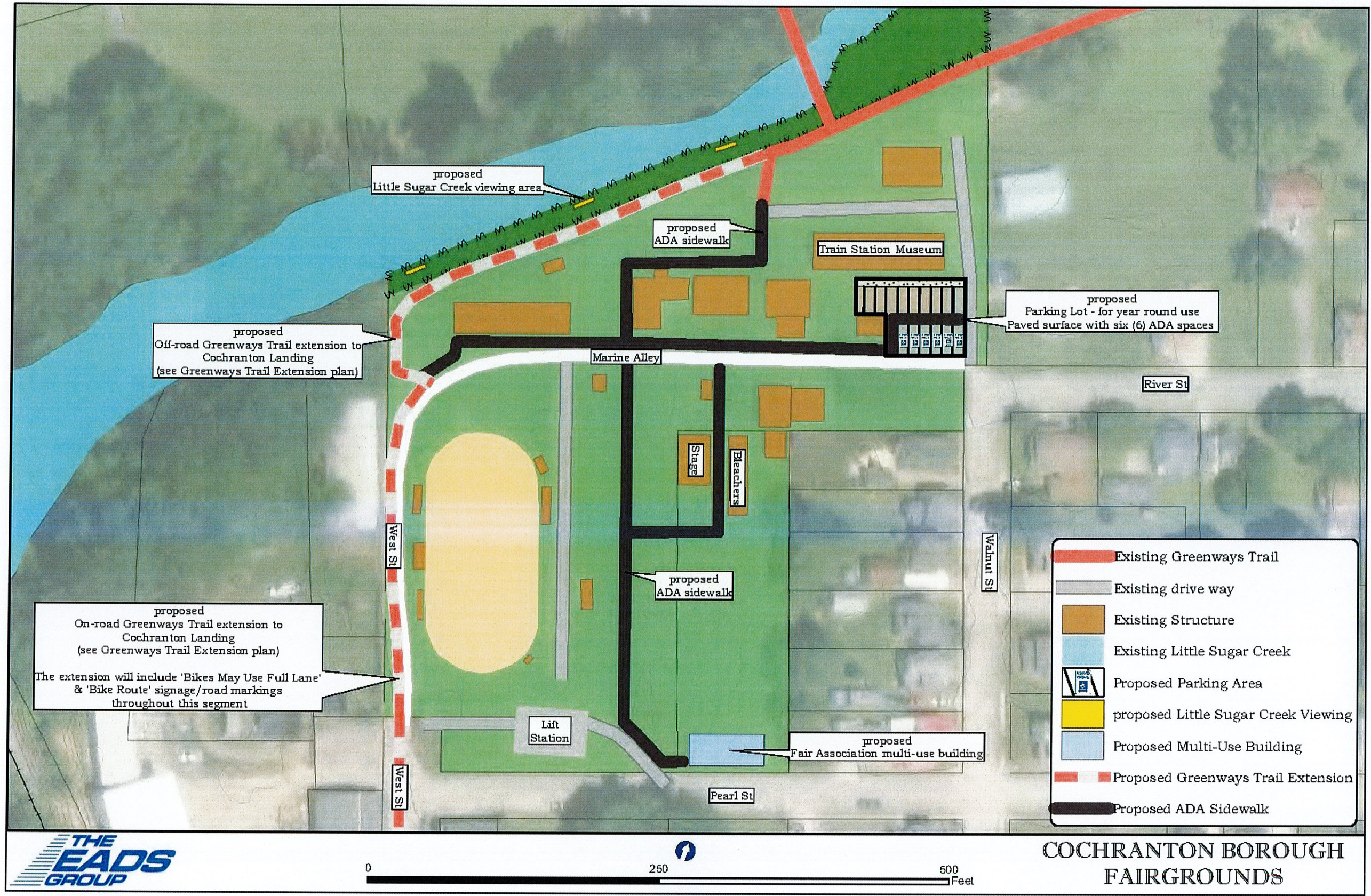
Utilize Existing Stage and Bleachers for Music and Entertainment Programs

Operations

Solicit and Collaborate with Event Partners to Host Summer Children's Programming and Activities

Solicit and Collaborate with Event Partners to Host Community Gathering Events

Cochranton Borough Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan



Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Phased Implementation Plan

The Phased Implementation Plan for improvements at Cochranton Fairgrounds is presented below. It reflects the top priorities established by Cochranton Borough, the Project Steering Committee and the Cochranton Community as established in a Park and Recreation Survey and from Community Engagement Events. Each project is considered a high priority. It also reflects a practical sequencing of when projects can reasonably be expected to be completed. The overall cost and implementation timeframe is provided for each project:

- Short-Term/Early Action Items – high priority improvements to be completed in 1-3 years
- Medium-Term – high priority improvements to be developed and completed within 4-7 years
- Long-Term – high priority improvements to be further developed and completed within 8+ years

Cochranton Fairgrounds		
Phase Timeframe	Description of Proposed Improvements	Total Estimated Development Costs
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Install ADA Walkways to Connect Existing Buildings and Greenways Trail	\$145,339.00
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Construct ADA Parking Lot	\$41,187.00
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$186,526.00</i>
Medium-Term	Install Three (3) Viewing Areas to Little Sugar Creek	\$15,250.00
Medium-Term	Beautification/Landscaping/Gardens	\$9,760.00
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$25,010.00</i>
	Total	\$211,536.00
Medium-Term	Fair Association Constructs a new Multi-Use Building	To Be Determined

Fair Association Constructs a new Multi-Use Building

The Fair Board plans to construct a new multi-use building along Pearl St. by 2028 for their 100-year anniversary.

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Install ADA Walkways

The Cochranton Fairgrounds is heavily used during the annual Cochranton Community Fair and for other smaller events. The need to improve access and mobility within the Fairgrounds was identified as a priority improvement. The project will install ADA sidewalks connecting Marine Alley and Pearl St., connecting Marine Alley to the stage and bleachers, connecting existing buildings along Marine Alley, and connecting Marine Alley to the existing Greenways Trail. The project will encourage walkers to use the Fairgrounds year-round by adding ADA-paved walkways to connect key facilities and locations within the Fairgrounds. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$145,339**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	ADA Concrete Sidewalk	722	SY	\$165.00	\$119,130.00
2	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$11,913.00
3	Administration (2%)				\$2,382.60
4	Contingency (10%)				\$11,913.00
total					\$145,339.00

Construct Parking Area with ADA Spaces

It is anticipated that the existing Home Show building will be demolished within the next two (2) years. An asphalt parking area will be constructed where the Home Show building is currently located. The parking area will also be extended towards the intersection of Marine Alley, River Street and Walnut Street. The parking area will be used by vehicles year-round and not just during Fair week. The parking area will include approximately sixteen (16) total spaces, with at least six (6) spaces being designated for ADA parking. The ADA spaces will be directly accessible from Marine Alley. A row of parking will be installed behind the ADA spaces. These parking spaces will be accessible from a driveway installed at the rear of the parking areas. The project is consistent with Cochranton Borough's goal of improving ADA accessibility at the Fairgrounds. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$41,187**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Asphalt Parking	422	SY	\$80.00	\$33,760.00
2	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$3,376.00
3	Administration (2%)				\$675.20
4	Contingency (10%)				\$3,376.00
total					\$41,187.00

Install Three (3) Viewing Areas to Little Sugar Creek

After completion of the Greenways Trail extension along Little Sugar Creek, the Borough will install three (3) viewing platforms to Little Sugar Creek. The viewing areas will provide a passive recreation amenity in the Fairgrounds and will provide an amenity to Fairground and Trail users. The viewing areas can also be completed independent of developing the Trail extension. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$15,250**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Benches (3)/pad	3	EA	\$2,500.00	\$7,500.00
2	Brush Removal	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
3	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$1,250.00
4	Administration (2%)				\$250.00
5	Contingency (10%)				\$1,250.00
total					\$15,250.00

Beautification/Landscaping/Gardens

Adding flower gardens, bushes and similar vegetation, and other beautification projects were suggested as ways to improve the appeal of the Fairgrounds. Community Garden Plots were suggested to connect residents to the Fairgrounds. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$6,100**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Planting Areas - Preparation	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
2	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$500.00
3	Administration (2%)				\$100.00
4	Contingency (10%)				\$500.00
total					\$6,100.00

COCHRANTON LANDING

Vision

Cochranton Landing is envisioned as a well-maintained water-based outdoor recreation destination used year-round by residents and by regional paddlers and anglers.

The following Improvement, Resource and Operation Recommendations are all top priorities designed to improve and expand existing facilities and amenities in the Landing. The intent is to enhance the recreation experience for users that regularly use Landing facilities and to attract new users to the Landing. Descriptions of each recommendation and opinions of probable costs are provided on the following pages.

Improvements

Provide a Portable ADA Accessible Restroom Facility

Install PA Fish & Boat Commission Water Safety Signage

Resources

Encourage Anglers to Access French Creek

Evaluate Options and Engage with Surrounding Land Owners to Formalize an Agreement to provide Overflow Vehicle Parking

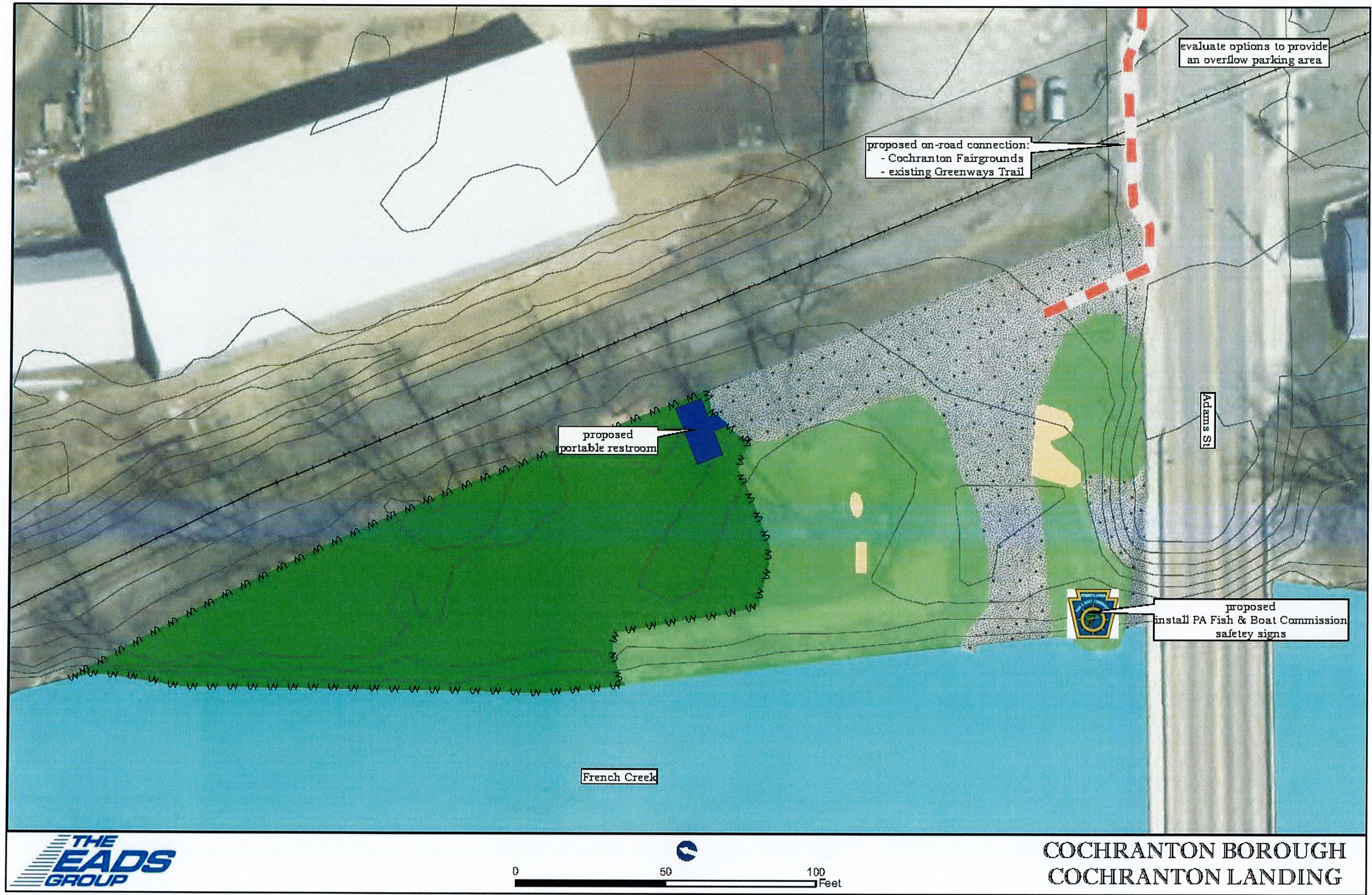
Promote the Landing Site as a Passive Recreation Area for Outdoor Resting and Enjoying Views of French Creek

Operations

Solicit and Collaborate with Event Partners to Host Fishing Contests, Derbys and Outdoor Education Events

Solicit and Collaborate with Event Partners to Host Kayak Demonstrations, Paddling Safety Programs and Water Based Events Centered Around French Creek

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*



Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Phased Implementation Plan

The Phased Implementation Plan for improvements at Cochranton Landing is presented below. It reflects the top priorities established by Cochranton Borough, the Project Steering Committee and the Cochranton Community as established in a Park and Recreation Survey and from Community Engagement Events. Each project is considered a high priority. It also reflects a practical sequencing of when projects can reasonably be expected to be completed. The overall cost and implementation timeframe is provided for each project:

- Short-Term/Early Action Items – high priority improvements to be completed in 1-3 years
- Medium-Term – high priority improvements to be developed and completed within 4-7 years

Cochranton Landing		
Timeframe	Description of Proposed Improvements	Total Estimated Development Costs
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Seasonal Portable Restroom	\$3,000.00
Medium-Term	PA Fish and Boat Commission Safety Signs	\$610.00
Total		\$3,610.00

Seasonal Portable Restroom –

Residents and members of the Steering Committee identified providing accessible on-site portable restroom facilities at Cochranton Landing as a high priority. An accessible portable restroom facility will be installed annually from approximately May through October by the Cochranton Area Redevelopment Effort (CARE). A permanent comfort station is not feasible due to the Landing being in the 100-yr floodplain. Providing a restroom facility at the Landing will provide a needed amenity that will make the Landing a more attractive place for local and regional paddlers. The facility will also allow the Landing to host events, including contests, outdoor education sessions, kayak demonstrations, paddling safety programs and water-based events centered around French Creek.

PA Fish and Boat Commission Safety Signs –

The Cochranton Landing is a popular put-in/take-out location on French Creek. It is used by local and regional paddlers. It is important to the long-term success of the Landing that paddlers of all ages and abilities are educated on boat and water safety topics. Cochranton Borough will coordinate with the PA Fish and Boat Commission to install appropriate safety signage near the water access ramp. Safety signs geared to casual users of the Landing will also be installed. The purpose of these signs will be to ensure that passive users remain safe while at the Landing.

COCHRANTON GREENWAYS TRAIL

Vision

Cochranton Greenways Trail is envisioned as a year-round community connection facility and amenity where recreation enthusiasts of all ages can enjoy nature and exercise.

The following Improvement, Trail Extension, Resource and Operation Recommendations are all top priorities designed to improve and expand existing facilities and amenities on the Greenways Trail. The intent is to enhance the recreation experience for users that regularly use the Trail and to attract new Trail users. Descriptions of each recommendation and opinions of probable costs are provided on the following pages.

Improvements

Phased Installation of Lighting

Repair Upheaved Spots and Root Exposures

Resurface Paved Sections of the Trail

Improvements to Bridge Over Little Sugar Creek - Install Roof Over Bridge and Improve Railing System

Trail Extension

Connection from Cochranton Fairground to Cochranton Landing

Connection from Cochranton Fairgrounds to Cochranton Lions Community Park

Connection from Cochranton Lions Community Park to Cochranton Cemetery

Evaluate Feasibility for creating community wide trail connections

Resources

Install Directional Signage to the Trail

Create a Branding Slogan for the Trail

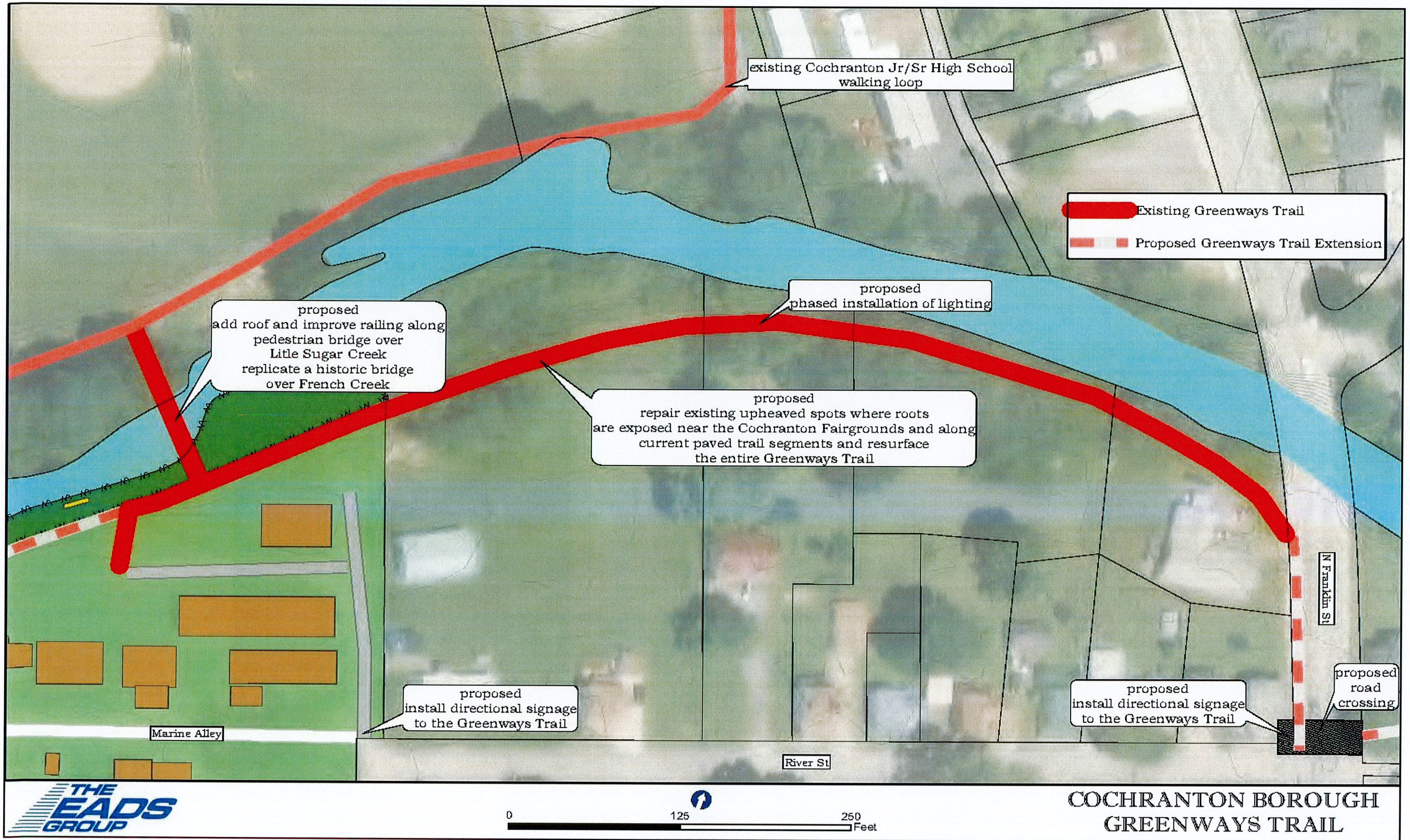
Create Branding Slogan for the three (3) Loop Trail Opportunities

Operations

Coordinate with Cochranton Cemetery to Designate the Cochranton Cemetery Walking Loop

Conduct a Trail Feasibility for a larger Community Pedestrian and Biking Loop Trail

Cochranton Borough Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan



Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Phased Implementation Plan

The Phased Implementation Plan for improvements to the existing Greenways Trail is presented below. It reflects the top priorities established by Cochranton Borough, the Project Steering Committee and the Cochranton Community as established in a Park and Recreation Survey and from Community Engagement Events. Each project is considered a high priority. It also reflects a practical sequencing of when projects can reasonably be expected to be completed. The overall cost and implementation timeframe is provided for each project:

- Short-Term/Early Action Items – high priority improvements to be completed in 1-3 years
- Medium-Term – high priority improvements to be developed and completed within 4-7 years
- Long-Term – high priority improvements to be further developed and completed within 8+ years

Existing Cochranton Greenways Trail Improvements		
Timeframe	Description of Proposed Improvements	Total Estimated Development Costs
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Install Signage to Attract Users to the Trail (approximately 5)	\$7,625.00
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Phased Installation of Lighting along Sections of the Greenways Trail	\$36,600.00
	<i>Subtotal</i>	\$44,225.00
Medium-Term	Spot Repairs and Resurface Entire Trail Section	\$61,000.00
	Total	\$105,225.00
Long Term	Add Roof and Improve Railing on the Trail Bridge avross Little Sugar Creek	Cost to be determined

Add Roof and Improve Railing on the Trail Bridge

A long-term goal is to improve the existing Trail bridge over Little Sugar Creek. Adding a roof or cover over the bridge and improving the safety of the railing system were identified by Borough residents as priorities. The total cost of this project will be determined after completion of a detailed structural evaluation.

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Install Directional Signage to the Trail

Input received during the engagement process revealed that residents need better guidance on the location of the Trail and Trail access points. Regional walkers and bikers and visitors to Cochranton will also benefit from signage related to the Trail's location. Directional signage also provides the Borough with an opportunity to promote and highlight the Trail as a community asset. The project will result in more walkers and bicyclists using the Greenways Trail. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$7,625**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Directional Signs	5	EA	\$1,250.00	\$6,250.00
2	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$625.00
3	Administration (2%)				\$125.00
4	Contingency (10%)				\$625.00
total					\$7,625.00

Phased Installation of Lighting along Sections of the Greenways Trail

The existing Greenways Trail and Walking Paths are well-used facilities in the Park. Many walkers prefer to walk later in the evening and/or earlier in the morning. It can still be dark or there can be limited ambient light around portions of the path during evening and early morning times. Trail lighting will be installed at locations along the walking path near the pavilions and along the existing Greenways Trail between North Franklin Street and the Fairgrounds to improve safety for walkers and to encourage more walkers to use the path during later or earlier times. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$36,600**.

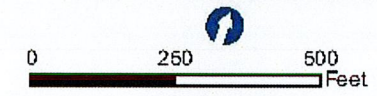
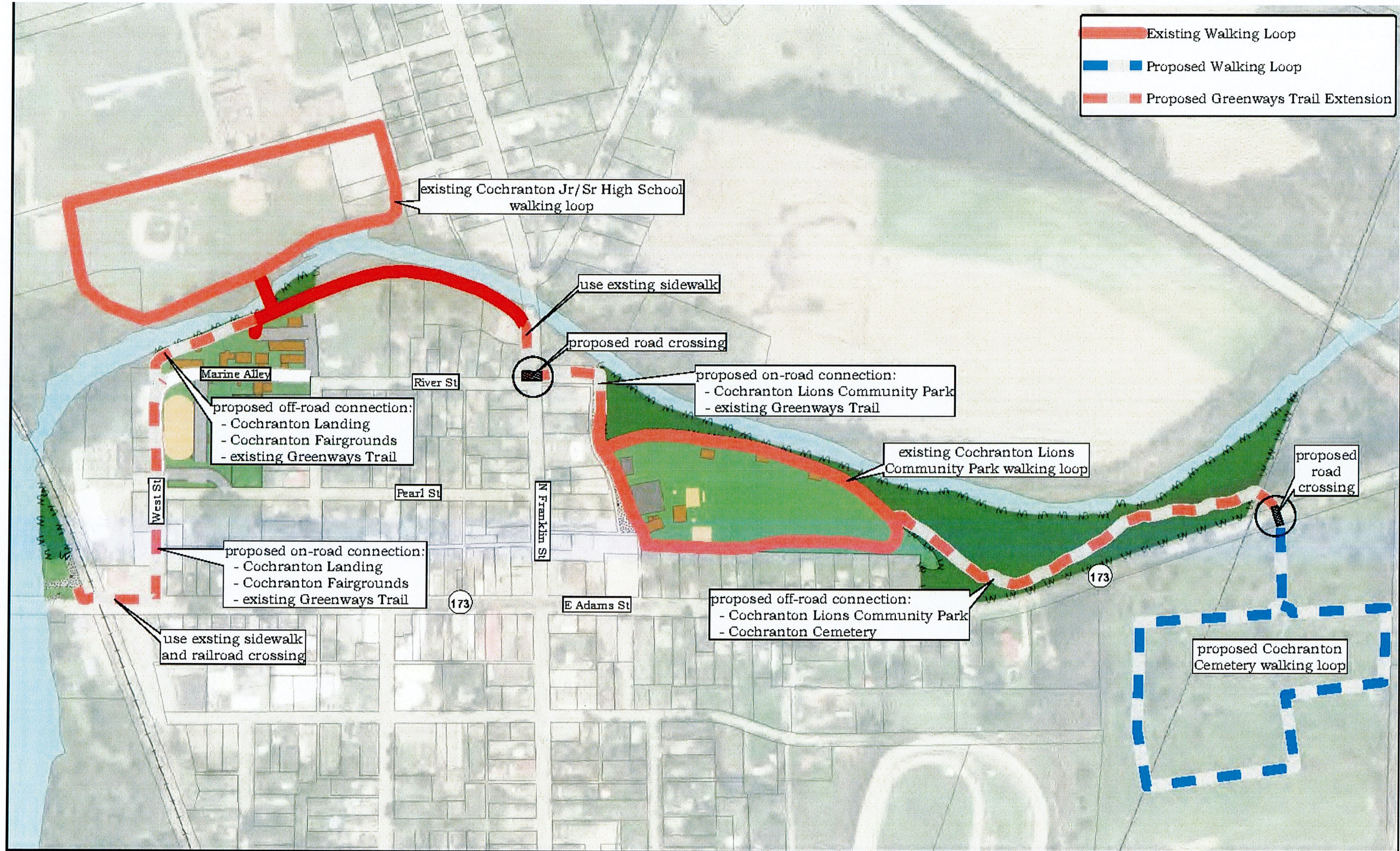
Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Electrical Extension and Connections	1	LS	\$100,000.00	\$30,000.00
2	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$3,000.00
3	Administration (2%)				\$600.00
4	Contingency (10%)				\$3,000.00
total					\$36,600.00

Spot Repairs and Resurface Entire Trail Section

Sections of the Trail near the Cochranton Fairgrounds are being upheaved from underlying roots. A goal is to complete spot repairs and then resurface the entire Trail. Repaving the top layer of the Trail will enhance the functionality of the Trail and will improve users' experiences. The project will provide opportunities to address drainage and subsurface issues. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$61,000**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Levee Root Damage Repairs	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
1	Trail Resurfacing	1,600	SY	\$25.00	\$40,000.00
3	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$5,000.00
4	Administration (2%)				\$1,000.00
5	Contingency (10%)				\$5,000.00
total					\$61,000.00

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*



COCHRANTON BOROUGH
GREENWAYS TRAIL EXTENSION

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Phased Implementation Plan

The Phased Implementation Plan for extending the Cochranton Greenways Trail is presented below. It reflects the top priorities established by Cochranton Borough, the Project Steering Committee and the Cochranton Community as established in a Park and Recreation Survey and from Community Engagement Events. Each project is considered a high priority. It also reflects a practical sequencing of when projects can reasonably be expected to be completed. The overall cost and implementation timeframe is provided for each project:

- Short-Term/Early Action Items – high priority improvements to be completed in 1-3 years
- Medium-Term – high priority improvements to be developed and completed within 4-7 years
- Long-Term – high priority improvements to be further developed and completed within 8+ years

Cochranton Greenways Trail Extension		
Timeframe	Description of Proposed Improvements	Total Estimated Development Costs
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Connection Between Cochranton Fairgrounds and Cochranton Landing	\$42,700.00
Medium-term	Connection Between Cochranton Fairgrounds and Cochranton Lions Community Park	\$10,370.00
Long-term	Connection Between Cochranton Lions Community Park and Cochranton Cemetery	\$114,070.00
Total		\$167,140.00

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Connection Between Cochranton Fairgrounds and Cochranton Landing

This Extension is approximately 1,500-ft in total length and will consist of three (3) segments. Segment 1 will involve constructing an off-road Trail Extension along the existing earthen dike along Little Sugar Creek and around the perimeter of the Fairgrounds to Marine Alley. This segment is approximately 500-ft in length. Segment 2 will share the road with Marine Alley and then West St. to its intersection with West Adams Street. The segment will include 'Bikes May Use Full Lane' and 'Bike Route' signage/road markings. This segment is approximately 700-ft in length. Segment three (3) will use the existing sidewalk and railroad crossing, as-is, along West Adams Street to Cochranton Landing. This segment is approximately 300-ft in length. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$42,700**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	10' Paved Wide Trail	500	LF	\$60.00	\$30,000.00
2	Share the Road	1	LS	\$5,000	\$5,000.00
3	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$3,500.00
4	Administration (2%)				\$700.00
5	Contingency (10%)				\$3,500.00
total					\$42,700.00

Connection Between Cochranton Fairgrounds and Cochranton Lions Community Park

This Extension is approximately 600-ft in total length and will consist of three (3) segments. Segment 1 will involve using an existing sidewalk section, as-is, along N. Franklin St. for approximately 200-ft. Segment 2 will involve installing a new road crosswalk (signage and crosswalk markings) across N. Franklin St. This segment is approximately 50-ft in length. Segment 3 will run along the outside edge of the existing parking lot to its connection with the existing walking path loop in Cochranton Lions Community Park. This segment is approximately 350-ft in length. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$10,370**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	New Crosswalk	1	LS	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
2	Share the Road	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
3	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$850.00
4	Administration (2%)				\$170.00
5	Contingency (10%)				\$850.00
total					\$10,370.00

Connection Between Cochranton Lions Community Park and Cochranton Cemetery

This Extension is approximately 1,500-ft in total length and will consist of two (2) segments. Segment 1 will involve following a proposed Nature Trail in a proposed Nature Area in Cochranton Lions Community Park. This segment is approximately 1,350-ft in total. Segment 2 will include a new road crosswalk (signage and crosswalk markings) across East Adams Street (PA Route 173). This segment is approximately 150-ft in length. This segment will connect with a proposed walking loop in Cochranton Cemetery. The total cost of this project is estimated to be **\$114,070**.

Item	Work Item Description	#	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	10' Wide Trail	1,500	LF	\$60.00	\$90,000.00
2	Crosswalk Markings	1	LS	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
4	Engineering and Design (10%)				\$9,350.00
5	Administration (2%)				\$1,870.00
6	Contingency (10%)				\$9,350.00
total					\$114,070.00

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

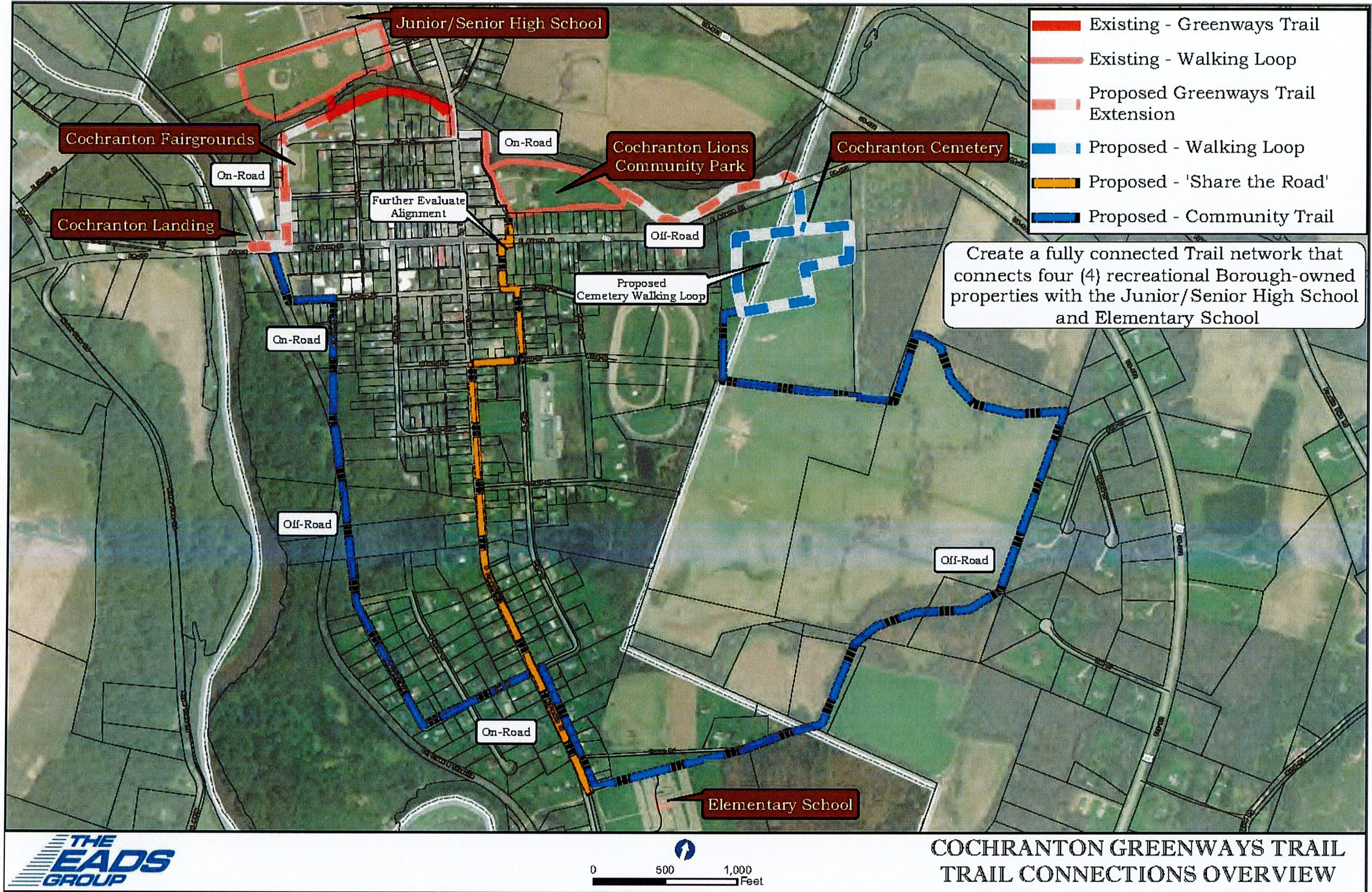
Community Connections – High Priority

The Project Steering Committee and Borough residents identified the need to connect community destinations through a community-wide walking and biking network. The map to the right shows a plan to connect the existing Greenways Trail and existing walking loops, the Jr./Sr. High School, Elementary School, Cochranton Cemetery, Cochranton Lions Community Park, Cochranton Landing and Cochranton Fairgrounds. The proposed community-wide Trail network will be just over 4.4 miles in length. The plan also includes designating a 'Share the Road' segment between the Elementary School and Lions Community Park. This segment will provide an on-road bicycle route in the Borough.

Completion of this community-wide Trail network will create multiple different walking loop opportunities. These include: 1. existing Jr./Sr. High School Loop; 2. existing Cochranton Lions Community Park Loop; 3. Cochranton Cemetery Loop (proposed); 4. a larger Community walking loop. Promoting these multiple walking loop opportunities will be a recreation feature unique to Cochranton Borough.

Completing the community-wide Trail network is a high priority. The project will involve negotiating trail easement agreements, engineering and design tasks, and constructing the linkages.

The first step will be for Cochranton Borough to apply for funding to conduct a feasibility study(s) to further evaluate alignments, determine private property owner willingness to provide a trail easement(s), prepare preliminary engineering designs and to determine costs for constructing the Trail network. It is estimated that the cost to complete a Trail Feasibility Study will be approximately \$40,000.



Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Recommendations Summary

The following summarizes all the priority improvements to the Cochranton Lions Community Park, Cochranton Fairgrounds, Cochranton Landing and the Cochranton Greenways Trail

Timeframe	Description of Proposed Improvements	Total Estimated Development Costs	Location
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Install ADA Accessible Restrooms in Former Lions Building and Replace Roof	\$170,000.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Seasonal Portable Restroom	\$3,000.00	Cochranton Landing
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Install Signage to Attract Users to the Trail (approximately 5)	\$7,625.00	Cochranton Greenways Trail
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Create an Emergency Vehicle Access Area from Adams St	\$15,860.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Install ADA Walkways to Connect Existing Buildings and Greenways Trail	\$145,339.00	Cochranton Fairgrounds
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Construct an ADA Parking Lot	\$41,187.00	Cochranton Fairgrounds
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Construct a Stage / Bandshell Entertainment Area	\$57,950.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Greenways Trail Extension - Between Cochranton Fairgrounds and Cochranton Landing	\$42,700.00	Greenways Trail Extension
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Phased Installation of Lighting along the Greenways Trail	\$36,600.00	Cochranton Greenways Trail
Short-Term/Early Action Item	Construct Two (2) Pickleball Courts	\$136,091.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park
Medium-Term	Beautification/Landscaping/Gardens	\$9,760.00	Cochranton Fairgrounds
Medium-Term	PA Fish and Boat Commission Safety Signs	\$610.00	Cochranton Landing
Medium-Term	Install three (3) Disc Golf Practice Holes	\$2,562.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park
Medium-Term	Install Exercise Stations along Existing Walking Pathway	\$14,640.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park
Medium-Term	Spot Repairs and Resurface Entire Trail Section	\$61,000.00	Cochranton Greenways Trail
Medium-Term	Install Three (3) Viewing Areas to Little Sugar Creek	\$15,250.00	Cochranton Fairgrounds
Medium-Term	Greenways Trail Extension - Between Cochranton Fairgrounds and Cochranton Lions Community Park	\$10,370.00	Greenways Trail Extension
Medium-Term	Add Exterior Door on North Side of Lions Building, Upgrade Exit Door on East Side of Lions Building	To be determined	Cochranton Lions Community Park
Medium-Term	Fair Association Constructs a new Multi-Use Building	To be determined	Cochranton Fairgrounds
Long-Term	Create a Natural / Wild Area in the Rear Wooded Area	\$9,760.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park
Long-Term	Construct a Nature Trail / Greenways Trail Extension in the Natural / Wild Area	\$17,080.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park
Long-Term	Connection Between Cochranton Lions Community Park and Cochranton Cemetery	\$114,070.00	Greenways Trail Extension
Long-Term	Add Roof and Improve Railing on the Trail Bridge Over Little Sugar Creek	To be determined	Cochranton Greenways Trail

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Recreation Resource Recommendations Summary

The following summarizes proposed improvements for delivery of recreation opportunities in Cochranton Borough. Results from the Community Engagement process and the Parks and Recreation Survey highlighted the need to focus on how the Borough provides and delivers recreation opportunities to residents. Input from the Steering Committee also provided guidance on the types of recreation programming, events, activities and promotional efforts wanted in the Borough. Cochranton Borough will collaborate with service providers, partners and sponsors to provide the types of recreation activities wanted by Borough residents. The following includes the type of recreation activities wanted in the Borough and identifies which facilities/areas are best suited to hold those types of activities.

Type	Examples	Location	Schedule
Music/Entertainment Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerts/Music/Entertainment Shows • Summer Concert series • Music entertainment in the Parks • Movies in the Park 	Cochranton Lions Community Park Cochranton Fairgrounds	Monthly – Series Based
Active Recreation Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Organized Sport Opportunities • Encourage Anglers to Access French Creek 	Cochranton Lions Community Park Cochranton Landing	Seasonal and Event Based
Family Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festivals • Fun Days • Gathering Opportunities 	Cochranton Fairgrounds Cochranton Lions Community Park	Monthly - Annually
Enhance Existing Events / Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance Existing Farmers Markets by selling plants • Encourage the Cochranton Heritage Society to have more exhibits of local interest in Railroad Museum • Evaluate Options and Engage with Surrounding Landowner(s) to Formalize an Agreement to provide Overflow Vehicle Parking 	Cochranton Fairgrounds Cochranton Landing	Spring - Annually
Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the Landing Site as a Passive Recreation Area for Outdoor Resting and a place to enjoy views of French Creek • Install Directional Signage to the Trail • Promote / Create Branding Slogan for the Loop Trail Opportunities • Promote Availability of the Pavilions to Encourage More Frequent Pavilion Rentals 	Cochranton Landing Community - Wide	Annually

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Recreation Operation Recommendations Summary

The following summarizes proposed improvements for operating recreation opportunities in Cochranton Borough. Results from the Community Engagement process and the Parks and Recreation Survey highlighted the need to focus on how the Borough can efficiently and effectively operate recreation opportunities. Cochranton Borough does not have a Recreation Programming Department responsible for developing programming at the Park. Therefore, guidance is provided on activity/event schedules and the types of service providers that may be able to develop a program or host an event at the Park on behalf of the Borough. The Approach will be implemented by directly engaging potential service providers to explore their willingness and capacity to develop a class, activity or event in the Parks. Cochranton Borough will actively promote the availability of the Park for programs, activities and events to local groups and organizations through word-of-mouth promotion and at annual events and dinners.

Type	Examples	Location
Solicit and Collaborate with Event Sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To Offset Programming Costs 	Cochranton Lions Community Park Cochranton Fairgrounds
Solicit and Collaborate with Event Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To Develop and Host Community Gathering Events To Develop and Host Summer Children's Programming and Activities To Host Fishing Contests, Derby's and Outdoor Education 	Cochranton Lions Community Park Cochranton Fairgrounds Cochranton Landing
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the Cochranton Cemetery to Formally Designate the Cochranton Cemetery Walking Loop 	Cochranton Greenways Trail Extension
Planning/Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for Funding and Secure Local Matching Funds to Conduct a Trail Feasibility for a larger Community Pedestrian and Biking Loop Trail 	Cochranton Greenways Trail Extension
Enhance Existing Events / Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance Existing Farmers Markets by selling plants Encourage the Cochranton Heritage Society to have more exhibits of local interest in Railroad Museum Evaluate Options and Engage with Surrounding Landowner(s) to Formalize an Agreement to provide Overflow Vehicle Parking 	Cochranton Fairgrounds Cochranton Landing
Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the Landing Site as a Passive Recreation Area for Outdoor Resting and Enjoying Views French Creek Install Directional Signage to the Trail Promote / Create Branding Slogan for the Loop Trail Opportunities Promote Availability of the Pavilions to Encourage More Frequent Pavilion Rentals 	Cochranton Landing Community - Wide



Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

Cochranton Borough will be a central focal point involved with facilitating and coordinating project implementation efforts. Cochranton Borough will rely on the expertise and capacity of the Project Steering members, other local organizations and partners to ‘keep things moving’ by carrying out activities and encouraging actions. Cochranton Borough will take the lead on identifying appropriate grant funding opportunities, managing the grant preparation and submission process and administering funds as they are awarded. It will take the creativity of Cochranton Borough to identify and secure grant funding. Cochranton Borough will need to interpret grant source requirements and, when appropriate, coordinate multiple grant applications and local funding sources to take advantage of opportunities.

Municipal Support

Successfully implementing the projects recommended in this Plan will involve many different participants and steps and will rely on obtaining public, private and local funding and various forms of support. Continuing support by Cochranton Borough Council, partners and residents will be necessary for implementation efforts to be successful. It is strongly advised that Cochranton Borough Council be prepared to support grant applications by providing Letters of Support and by advocating for recreation improvement projects.

Implementation Partners

Cochranton Borough elected officials and staff will not be able to implement the projects alone. Partnering organizations such as CARE and the Fair Association are important to the completion of recreation improvements. Other local partners and community organizations, local businesses and residents will also need to support recreation improvement projects and will also need to assist with implementation efforts.

Local Match Sources

Common among most funding sources is the requirement of a local cash or in-kind service match. Ultimately a local source of funding or contribution of services will need to be documented prior to submitting grant applications. The responsibility for providing local match funding will most often fall to Cochranton Borough and CARE if other sources are not readily available. Other local organizations, businesses and groups must be prepared to contribute financially and/or with services to cover match requirements.

Local Funding

Local cash contributions and/or in-kind service matches will be needed to complete projects independently or as a match contribution to grant awards. Local funding can also be used to continue installing elements of a larger project. The following are creative ways for attracting local donations and funding.

- **Adopt-a-Project** – Cochranton Area businesses, civic organizations, families and groups/clubs can formally adopt a Project by providing funding or volunteer efforts for maintaining a specific Project. This type of program will be focused on building community pride for the Parks by connecting residents and organizations to the long-term sustainability of the Park.
- **Sponsorship Program** – A Sponsorship Program allows annual donations to be received from individuals, organizations and businesses and provides a sense of ownership to the sponsor. Sponsorships for a portion of a Project including signage, benches, picnic tables and trail section development can be obtained. Sponsorships can also include donations of services, equipment, labor or reduced costs for supplies.
- **Park Improvement Fund** – Establishing an Improvement Fund allows smaller donations to be accepted and pooled together to be used in developing or maintaining an improvement project. Cochranton Borough could maintain and administer the Improvement Fund. Various funding levels could be established, ranging from \$25 upwards. An option to allow donors to contribute any amount would also be included.
- **Membership Campaign** – Cochranton area residents, organizations and businesses could also individually contribute to the development of the Park by purchasing an annual ‘Cochranton Park’ membership. No specific incentive or advantage would be offered to an ‘Cochranton Park’ member other than some form of special recognition which could be in the form of a unique decal sticker that can be placed on a member’s car or business window. Different membership levels could be established for students, Individuals, Businesses and other Organizations.

Cochranton Borough *Comprehensive Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan*

State Funding

The following provides guidance on the most applicable sources of State level grant funding for parks, recreation and trail projects. Specific consideration should be given to the maximum level of funding available from each source. Some are best considered as supplemental funding options while others can be the single source of funding. Due to ever-changing grant funding requirements, availability and funding levels, it is difficult to predict with certainty or to describe an exact funding path for each project.

- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) - Community Conservation Partnership Program (DCNR - C2P2)
<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/Pages/default.aspx>

The C2P2 provides funding to municipalities and authorized nonprofit organizations for recreation, park, trail and conservation projects. Examples of projects include: planning, land acquisition and construction for trails, recreation facilities, conservation projects, parks and open spaces/greenways. Priority trail projects include projects that close trail gaps as well as projects that rehabilitate or upgrade existing trails.

Local Match Requirement: Projects require a 50% match which can include a combination of cash and/or non-cash values.

- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) – Small Communities Development Funding
<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/Pages/default.aspx>

Commonwealth municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less are eligible to receive grant funds with a reduced match requirement under the Small Community Program. Grant funds must be used for rehabilitation and/or new development of basic outdoor recreation and park facilities that provide a high level of recreational value, such as playgrounds and pavilions with ADA accessibility.

Local Match Requirement: The required match is calculated based on the grant award amount. The first \$30,000 in grant funds does not require a match. Each grant dollar above \$30,000 requires a \$1 for \$1 match.

- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) - Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program (DCNR - PRT)
<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/Pages/default.aspx>

The Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program is an assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The FHWA provides funds to state agencies, local governments, non-profit and for-profit organizations to assist with the construction, renovation and maintenance of trails and related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use, the purchase and lease of equipment for trail maintenance and construction and the development of educational materials and programs.

Local Match Requirement: Projects require a 20% match, which can include a combination of cash and/or non-cash values.

- Commonwealth Financing Agency (CFA) - Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (CFA - GTRP)
<http://dced.pa.gov/programs/greenways-trails-and-recreation-program-gtrp>

Administered through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCEd), the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) provides funding for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of recreational trails, greenways, open space, parks and beautification projects. The program awards up to \$250,000 per project to eligible applicants.

Local Match Requirement: Projects require 15% cash match.

- Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) - Multimodal Transportation Fund (CFA - MTF)
<http://dced.pa.gov/programs/multimodal-transportation-fund/>

Administered through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCEd), the Multimodal Fund provides funding for the development, rehabilitation and enhancement of transportation assets to existing communities, streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets and transit-oriented development. Grants are available for projects with a total cost of \$100,000 or more. Grants shall not exceed \$3,000,000 for any project.

Local Match Requirement: Projects require 30% cash match.

- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) - Transportation Alternatives Program (PennDOT - TAP)
<http://www.penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Pages/Transportation-Alternatives-Program.aspx>

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The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) was authorized under Section 1122 of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) for community-based projects including the construction of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. As administered by PennDOT, TAP funds can only be used for construction.

Local Match Requirement: The local applicant is responsible for all Pre-Construction activities including engineering/design and permitting.

- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) - Multimodal Transportation Fund (PennDOT - MTF)
<http://www.penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/MultimodalProgram/Pages/default.aspx#.Vfwm17HD-Uk>

The Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) was created under Act 89 of 2013 which provides funding for the development, rehabilitation, and enhancement of transportation assets to existing communities, streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets and transit-oriented development.

Local Match Requirement: Projects require 30% cash. The match requirement may be waived for municipal applicants.

- Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
<http://dced.pa.gov/programs/community-development-block-grant-cdbg/>

CDBG funding provides grants and technical assistance for federally designated municipalities for any type of community development and can be used for housing rehabilitation, public services, community facilities, infrastructure improvement, development and planning. Projects must be qualified according to federal guidelines.

STATE FUNDING SOURCES GRANT SUMMARY

The following provides a summary of state-level funding sources applicable to the recommendations included in this Plan.

Criteria	DCNR – C2P2	DCNR – Small Communities	DCNR - PRT	DCED CFA - GTRP	PennDOT – TA-Set Aside	PennDOT – MTF	CFA– MTF
Grant Award Amounts	varies	\$60,000 - \$100,000	varies	Up to \$250,000	\$50,000 – \$1,000,000	\$100,000 – \$3,000,000	\$100,000 – \$3,000,000
Funding Level	single source	single-source	supplemental	supplemental	supplemental	single source	single source
Local Match Requirement	50%	0% first \$30,000 \$1 to \$1 above \$30,000	20%	15%	Pre-Construction Activities	30%	30% (may be waived)
Typical Submission Cycle	Annually - April	Annually - April	Annually - April	Annually - May	2-yr cycle	Annually - Fall	Annually – Summer (July)

DCNR - Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
DCED - Department of Community and Economic Development
CFA - Commonwealth Financing Agency

PennDOT - Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
C2P2 - DCNR's Community Conservation Partnerships Program
PRT – DCNR's Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program

GTRP – CFA's Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program
TA-Set Aside – PennDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program / Safe Routes to Schools
MTF – Multimodal Transportation Fund

- State funding sources also include Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) funds [Local Share Account - Statewide](#). Funding in this program is available to design and build sidewalks that are for public use. This includes sidewalk projects located on private property. This funding is relevant to communities that want to improve existing sidewalks that are in poor condition and are located on private property. This funding is also relevant to communities who want to acquire right-of-way to construct new sidewalks to make key connections in the pedestrian network. Funding amounts range from \$25,000 to 1 million. No local matching funds are required. Applications are accepted annually in the fall (September 1 to November 30).

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- The PennDOT – TA Set Aside program also includes funding for trail and recreation infrastructure projects costing between \$50,000 and 1.5 million. Awards up to 2 million can be justified on a case-by-case basis. Traditionally, such projects include sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, signs and signals, although smaller improvement projects such as bike racks and bike lockers will qualify too. There is no minimum award amount for Safe Routes related planning and programming projects that serve to increase awareness, encourage safe use of existing or future facilities, and those that develop, implement or expand programs that educate, promote equity and encourage, engage and evaluate safe routes to schools. Applications are accepted on a 2-yr cycle. Pre-application submissions are due in July. Final applications are due in September.
- Foundations - There are several local, regional and corporate foundation funding sources like the AARP Livable Communities Challenge, AmericaWalks Community Vision Grants, and on occasion, from the American Heart Association. Many other opportunities can be found here: <https://gwpa.org/directory>. Community leaders should explore this list for appropriate project funders and cultivate relationships with their staff and/or trustees. Additional guidance can be found at <https://gwpa.org/grantseeker-resources>.

County and Regional Sources

- Crawford County Act 13 Program – Crawford County receives an annual allocation from fees collected on gas and oil wells drilled throughout the State for the purpose of administering an Environmental Initiative Fund Program. The County's Environmental Initiative Fund Program is overseen by the Crawford County Planning Office. Crawford County's program aims to improve the quality of life of County citizens through the preservation and enhancement of the county's natural, scenic, and recreational resources for public use and enjoyment.

Act 13 Environmental Initiative Fund Grants are eligible to be used toward the planning, acquisition, design, conservation, construction, development, repair, rehabilitation, or beautification of:

- Greenways
- Recreational Trails
- Open Spaces
- Natural Areas
- Community and Heritage Parks
- Water Resource Management.

The County's Environmental Initiative Fund Program focuses around the following priority areas:

- Recreation for All
- Health & Wellness
- Sustainable Systems
- Tourism & Economic Development
- Cultural & Historic Resources.

Projects funded under the Recreation for All priority includes, but are not limited to:

- Increased availability and promotion of adaptive facilities and equipment
- Increased access to "first-time" programs in recreation, such as fishing and hunting mentorship
- Expanded recreation opportunities in communities lacking amenities through the utilization of recreational features such as pocket parks or outdoor classrooms.

Municipal governments, local Authorities, Commissions or Boards, or other organizations making impacts within Crawford County are eligible to apply for Environmental Initiative grant funds. Crawford County will make available a link to the program guidelines and application process on the Planning Office's web page. All submissions will be through an online platform found via a link on the Act 13 Program web page.

- Northwest Commission Greenways Block Grant program (NW Mini-Grant) – This is a mini-grant program was established to implement the recommendations contained in the Northwest PA Greenways Plan. Grant funds are leveraged through partnerships with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to reduce the local match requirement, supporting smaller-scoped projects which may not have been eligible or unable to compete for alternative funding methods.

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Implementation Matrix - The following table summarizes the improvement recommendations, project timeline, total estimated costs, location, project lead and most likely funding source.

Timeframe	Description of Proposed Improvements	Total Estimated Development Costs	Location	Project Lead	Funding
Short-Term Early Action Item	Install ADA Accessible Restrooms in Former Lions Club Building and Replace Roof.	\$170,000.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park	Cochranton Borough	DCNR – C2P2 (match provided by Cochranton Borough & CARE)
	Seasonal Portable Restroom	\$3,000.00	Cochranton Landing	CARE	Local Funding NW Mini-Grant
	Construct a Stage / Bandshell Entertainment Area	\$57,950.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park	CARE	DCNR – C2P2
	Install Signage to Attract Users to the Trail (approximately 5)	\$7,625.00	Greenways Trail	Cochranton Borough	Local Funding
	Create an Emergency Vehicle Access Area from Adams Street	\$15,860.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park	Cochranton Borough	NW Mini-Grant, Act 13
	Install Internal ADA Walkways to Connect Existing Buildings and Greenways Trail	\$145,339.00	Cochranton Fairgrounds	Cochranton Fair Association	LSA funds DCED CFA - GTRP
	Construct ADA Parking Lot	\$41,187.00	Cochranton Fairgrounds	Cochranton Fair Association	DCNR – C2P2, Act 13
	Greenways Trail Extension - Between Cochranton Fairgrounds and Cochranton Landing	\$42,700.00	Greenways Trail Extension	Cochranton Borough	DCED CFA – GTRP PennDOT – Multimodal DCNR – C2P2, Act 13
	Phased Installation of Lighting along the Greenways Trail	\$36,600.00	Greenways Trail	CARE	LSA Funding
	Construct two (2) Pickleball Courts	\$136,091.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park	Cochranton Borough	DCNR – C2P2
Medium-Term	Beautification/Landscaping/Gardens	\$9,760.00	Cochranton Fairgrounds	Cochranton Fair Association	Local Funding NW Mini-Grant
	PA Fish and Boat Commission Safety Signs	\$610.00	Cochranton Landing	Cochranton Borough	
	Install three (3) Disc Golf Practice Holes	\$2,562.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park	Cochranton Borough	
	Spot Repairs and Resurface Entire Trail Section	\$61,000.00	Greenways Trail	Cochranton Borough	DCED CFA – GTRP, DCNR – C2P2
	Install Exercise Stations along Existing Walking Pathway	\$14,640.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park	Cochranton Borough	Local Funding
	Install Three (3) Viewing Areas to Little Sugar Creek	\$15,250.00	Cochranton Fairgrounds	Cochranton Borough	NW Mini-Grant
	Greenways Trail Extension - Between Cochranton Fairgrounds and Cochranton Lions Community Park	\$10,370.00	Greenways Trail Extension	Cochranton Borough	DCED CFA – GTRP Act 13
	Add Exterior Door on North Side of Lions Building, Upgrade Exit Door on East Side of Lions Building	To Be Determined	Cochranton Lions Community Park	Cochranton Borough	Local Funding NW Mini-Grant
	Fair Association Constructs a new Multi-Use, Building	To Be Determined	Cochranton Fairgrounds	Cochranton Fair Association	Local Funding State Fair Association
Long-Term	Create a Natural / Wild Area in the Rear Wooded Area	\$9,760.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park	CARE	Local Funding NW Mini-Grant
	Construct a Nature Trail / Greenways Trail Extension	\$17,080.00	Cochranton Lions Community Park	Cochranton Borough	DCED CFA – GTRP PennDOT – Multimodal DCNR – C2P2, Act 13
	Greenways Trail Extension - Between Cochranton Lions Community Park and Cochranton Cemetery	\$114,070.00	Greenways Trail Extension	Cochranton Borough	
	Feasibility Study for a community-wide connected Trail network	\$40,000.00	Greenways Trail Extension	Cochranton Borough	
	Add Roof and Improve Railing on the Trail Bridge	To Be Determined	Greenways Trail	Cochranton Borough	

Short-Term/Early Action Item - 1-3 years

Medium-Term - 4-7 years

Long-term – 8+ years