

## **EXISTING PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM**

The parks, recreation and open space system in Amity Township includes three main components:

- *Recreation Lands and Facilities* - parks, other publicly accessible open spaces and the facilities available at these sites for people to use.
- *Recreation Programs* - formal recreation activities sponsored by the Township or other recreation providers in Amity, such as the local athletic organizations, among others.
- *Recreation Administration* - the operational aspects of the Township's recreation services, including management, maintenance and funding.

### **Recreation Lands and Facilities**

The Township, a homeowners association, non-profits, the Daniel Boone School District and private entities each own and operate parks and/or recreation facilities in Amity. These recreation areas are identified below and shown on the accompanying Existing Recreation Areas map.

### ***Township Recreation Sites and Open Space Properties***

#### **Lake Drive Park and Recreation Area**

Lake Drive is a 25-acre recreation site located on both sides of Lake Drive between Park Lane and Rosewood Drive in an older residential area. The park contains two baseball fields with manual scoreboards, portable toilets, two basketball courts, three tennis courts, a playground area and a short walking trail that features a small pedestrian bridge. A picnic area with picnic pavilion located at the park is available for informal use or by making a reservation with the Township. A small concession stand is available during baseball games.

Lake Drive is a community-serving park in that it is used by people who live throughout the Township. The Douglassville Youth Baseball Association uses the Little League baseball field at Lake Drive and the Daniel Boone Coaches Association uses the larger field for Junior Legion and Babe Ruth League baseball. The Daniel Boone School District 8<sup>th</sup> grade baseball team also uses the larger field. Adult softball uses the larger field on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Amity Township sponsors a summer playground program at Lake Drive for four weeks each summer. The tennis courts and basketball courts at Lake Drive are lit for evening use but the two baseball fields are not. There is a small amount of off-street parking at the site.

Amity has discussed upgrading the restrooms and tennis court lighting at Lake Drive. The Township Parks and Recreation Board has also recommended new playground equipment and improvements to the park's playground surface and picnic pavilion.

#### Hill Road Recreation Area

Hill Road is a 10-acre, community-serving recreation site on the east side of Hill Road. It is located between Loyalsock Drive and Antietam Drive, adjacent to West Ridge, a new single-family subdivision. Hill Road is a park still under development. It currently contains two Little League baseball fields. Douglassville Youth Baseball Association is the primary user of the park.

There is an unpaved off-street parking area at Hill Road and a picnic area/picnic pavilion is under construction. A small concession stand is operated during baseball games. Additional improvements planned but not yet implemented include a snack bar, restrooms, a park identification sign, baseball field lighting and a landscape buffer between the park and the adjacent residential area. Amity Township recently acquired approximately one acre that will provide access to the park from the West Ridge subdivision via Letort Lane. The Township also plans to construct a tot lot on this newly acquired land.

#### Myron S. Wheeler Recreation Area

Myron S. Wheeler Recreation Area refers to the baseball fields located behind the 6-acre Township Building site on Weaversville Road. There are two, unlighted Little League baseball fields on-site, manual scoreboards and dugouts. Picnic tables, a portable toilet and the paved parking area adjacent to the Township Building are available to park users. The baseball fields are used primarily by the Douglassville Youth Baseball Association.

#### Locust Grove Recreation Area

Locust Grove Recreation Area is a 0.4 acre park located in an older residential area of Amity known as Earlville. The park is situated between 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Amity Avenue and Shore Avenue. Facilities available at Locust Grove include a basketball/street hockey court, playground equipment, and picnic tables. Amity Township has recently refurbished this park, which is used mostly by Earlville area residents.

#### Monocacy Hill Recreation Area

Monocacy Hill is a unique, 420-acre, undeveloped wooded area that Amity Township purchased in 1968 with federal, state and municipal funds. This picturesque natural preserve is situated in the southern part of the Township between Monocacy Hill Road, Geiger Road, Hill Road, U.S. 422 and Limekiln Road. While Amity Township owns the site, the quarry from which a major portion of the property was acquired still retains mineral rights. The park is managed and operated by volunteers from the Monocacy Hill Conservation Association.

Monocacy Hill offers many outdoor activities, including hiking, birdwatching, biking, horseback riding and cross country skiing. Hunting is permitted in season six days per week, in accordance with Pennsylvania game laws. The park has a wide variety of plant life. To date, 170 species of herbaceous plants have been identified, along with 65 species of trees and shrubs, and 17 species of ferns and related plants. Two of the park's plant species are on the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory as Plants of Special Concern. Please see the Recreation Programs section of this Plan for information on environmental education and other programming offered at the park.

Facilities at Monocacy Hill Recreation Area include a 5.5-mile looped trail system, picnic tables, barbeque grilles and pit toilets. A small, paved parking lot exists at the park entrance on Geiger Road. In 2000, Amity used a State matching grant to buy a 1.3-acre property on Geiger Road adjacent to the existing parking area. The Township acquired this parcel to expand parking and to prevent it from being developed. The parcel includes a small, badly deteriorated, wooden building that will be demolished or adapted for a park-related use if feasible.

#### Amity Park Road Recreation Area

The Amity Park Road Recreation Area is located between Amity Park Road and Monocacy Hill Road adjacent to the Amity Athletic Club, a non-profit sports organization and swim club. The park is 7 acres in area and contains two full-size soccer fields used by Amity Athletic Club soccer teams. Besides adding a park identification sign, the Township does not plan to construct any additional facilities at this recreation site.

#### Weavertown Road Open Space (Haas Farm)

Amity Township recently acquired a 68-acre undeveloped tract known as the Haas Farm. The property is on Weavertown Road adjacent to St. Paul's United Church of Christ and across from the Amity Township Municipal Building. The Township bought the tract to preserve it for future recreational use when a 91-home subdivision was proposed there in 1995. Of the site's 68 acres, 60 acres are currently being farmed under a five-year lease with the Township. Amity has not yet formulated specific plans for the property other than the intention to use it in the near future to help meet the demand for more recreational facilities in the Township. The site has some steep areas but most of it is well-suited for developing both indoor and outdoor recreational facilities.

#### Cider Mill Open Space

The Township acquired this undeveloped, 9-acre property from the developer of the Cider Mill subdivision through mandatory dedication. There is a pumping station on-site that is accessed from Verdure Lane. While part of the site fronts on PA 662, Verdure Lane is the only way in and out at present. The property is bisected by Leaf Creek, along which a major sewer line runs in a 25' wide easement.

### Old Airport Road Open Space

Amity Township recently acquired 12 acres of property off Old Airport Road a short distance south of the existing baseball fields at the Township's municipal building. The property is in farming at present but has potential for future recreational use, especially in view of its proximity to existing Township property.

### Greenbriar Open Space

Through mandatory dedication, Amity acquired approximately 49 acres in several small parcels from the developer of the Greenbriar subdivision. One such 5-acre parcel, at the southeastern corner of Morlatton Road and Old Airport Road, is planned to become the site of the new Birdsboro Library, which is relocating from Birdsboro Borough. The Township has no current plans to develop any of the other open space parcels at Greenbriar, although the developer is obligated to grade and seed a specific area that could then be used as a playing field.

### Open Space Adjacent to the Sewage Treatment Plant

Amity Township owns 4.5 acres of heavily wooded property on Old Philadelphia Pike in Douglassville. The property, which also fronts on the Schuylkill River, is situated between the Amity Township Sewage Treatment Plant and the historic Mouns Jones House. The Township has no plans for this undeveloped site.

### Open Space Along Schuylkill River

This site is similar to the property described immediately above. It is a heavily wooded, undeveloped, 28-acre, floodplain parcel located along the Schuylkill River. The site is situated just west of Main Street in the Monocacy Station section of Amity. The Township has no current plans for the site.

### ***Semi-Public Recreation Sites***

#### Amity Athletic Club Pool and Recreation Area

This 27-acre property is owned and operated by the Amity Athletic Club, which is managed by a nine-person Board of Directors. The park is located east of Limekiln Road between Amity Park Road and Monocacy Hill Road. The main entrance is off Amity Park Road and there is a second accessway off Monocacy Hill Road. Recreation facilities at the park include two full-size soccer fields, one mid-size soccer field and three soccer fields strictly for players eight years old or younger. The larger fields can also be refigured to accommodate younger players. The Club's soccer program is the only user of these fields.

There are also two swimming pools on-site. The existing pool, which has a maximum depth of 12 feet, includes five racing lanes, a baby pool area and two diving boards. The new pool, which will open in Spring 2001, will have six racing lanes and also be used for adult swims. The pools are served by restrooms and locker rooms. There is also a full-service refreshment stand on-site. Parking is provided in an unpaved area adjacent to the main entrance. There is no additional room at the Amity Athletic Club for any further expansion of facilities.

#### Wood's Edge Open Space

A homeowners association owns approximately 17 acres of open space at the Wood's Edge subdivision off Farmingdale Drive in the northeastern section of the Township. The property is included in this inventory because a multipurpose/soccer field is being built there. At this point, only informal use of the field by neighborhood residents is envisioned.

#### Thun Trail

The Thun Trail refers to abandoned railroad right-of-way that the Schuylkill Valley Greenway Association owns between Pottstown and Reading. The Amity Township portion of the Thun Trail, which is approximately 4,000 feet in length, is located between Union Township, where the trail crosses the Schuylkill River, and Douglass Township, just east of where the trail crosses U.S. 422.

The Thun Trail is one leg of the Schuylkill Valley Heritage Park, a corridor that extends along the Schuylkill River from Philadelphia to Schuylkill County. State heritage parks are not traditional parks with clear boundaries under public ownership. They are areas designated by the Commonwealth for special conservation and economic development because of their contribution to Pennsylvania's historic industrial development. A major goal of the Schuylkill Valley Heritage Park effort is to link existing and future trails along the corridor together via a greenway network. Other aims include using public-private partnerships to promote tourism, conserve folklife, preserve historic places and protect environmental resources along the Schuylkill River.

While some portions of the Thun Trail have already been developed for trail use, the Amity segment has not. The Schuylkill Valley Greenway Association would like to establish a landing for the trail in the Douglassville/Old Morlatton vicinity that could include parking and a canoe launch. There is an old pedestrian tunnel under the railroad tracks behind the Douglassville Hotel that provides direct access to the Thun Trail. On the opposite side of the railroad tracks, the trail right-of-way can be accessed from the Old Morlatton vicinity. Eventually, the Township would like to connect Monocacy Hill Recreation Area to the Thun Trail. There is also the possibility of connecting the Amityville section of the Township to the Thun Trail via a 25' wide easement for the Leaf Creek Interceptor, a sewer line that runs between the Cider Mill subdivision and the Amity Township Sewage Treatment plant on the Schuylkill River next to Old Morlatton.

### ***School District Recreation Sites***

#### **Amity Elementary School**

Amity Township students and other residents have access to all Daniel Boone School District facilities. However, the Amity Elementary School at PA 662 and Old Airport Road is the only school property within Amity. During basketball season, the Amity Township Park and Recreation Board sponsors an adult basketball program at the school's gym on Monday nights. The Amity Athletic Club uses the gym for youth basketball Tuesday through Friday nights and on Saturdays. The gym is old, small and generally considered marginal for basketball. Nonetheless, it is the only gym in Amity Township. The Douglassville Youth Baseball Association runs a T-Ball program on the elementary school grounds. Other outdoor facilities at Amity Elementary, such as the basketball courts and playground, are used mainly by the students who attend the school.

Requests from community organizations to use outdoor fields, gyms, auditoriums or any other Daniel Boone School District facility must be made by submitting a School District form to the Office of the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director then reviews the form and coordinates its approval with the School District Superintendent, School District Business Manager and building principal. The Daniel Boone School District does not charge any fee to Amity Township, the Douglassville Youth Baseball Association or the Amity Athletic Club for use of School District facilities.

The Daniel Boone School District is constructing a new elementary school on this site adjacent to the existing school building. The new elementary school will be used in addition to the current school, which is not being demolished. The School District expects the new elementary school, which will include a gym, to be ready by September 2002. The Daniel Boone School District also is now looking for a site to construct a new middle school. A search committee that will work with School District officials to identify potential locations held its first meeting in November, 2000.

### ***Private Recreation Sites***

While the Township has no input into their planning and operation, privately-owned recreation sites provide additional leisure opportunities to Amity residents. The Arrowhead Golf Course, which is located on Weavertown Road between Limekiln Road and Amity Park Road, is open to the public on a fee basis. The Amity Gardens Apartments Pool on Lake Drive is private, primarily for apartment residents. Membership is available to others for a fee but very few people outside the apartment complex belong. Mary Merritt's Doll Museum and Mary Merritt's Museum of Childhood on U.S. 422 are interesting attractions available to the public for an admission fee.

## **Recreation Programs**

Recreation programs in Amity Township are sponsored by a variety of organizations. The Amity Athletic Club, the Douglasville Youth Baseball Association, the Daniel Boone Coaches Association, the Monocacy Hill Conservation Association and Amity Township are the most prominent recreation providers. Recreation activities sponsored by each of these entities are described below.

### Amity Athletic Club Soccer

In 2000, approximately 150 boys and girls participated in the Amity Athletic Club's intramural soccer program, which featured teams for under 6 years old and under 8 years old. An additional 425 youths participated on teams for players ranging in age from under 9 to under 16. These older teams travel in the fall as part of the Reading-Berks Junior Soccer League and play in intramural competition in the spring. While there are no official residence rules, participants in Amity Athletic Club soccer are almost entirely from the Daniel Boone School District. An estimated 50% live in Amity Township. The Club reports that the number of participants in its soccer program has been steady in recent years but is expected to grow in step with local population increases.

The Amity Athletic Club does not foresee the need for additional soccer fields in the next five years. Based on recent participation trends, there appears to be a sufficient number of fields considering fields located on the Club's property and fields available at the Township's Amity Park Road site immediately adjacent to the Amity Athletic Club. There are two lighted soccer fields at this site.

### Amity Athletic Club Basketball

The Amity Athletic Club basketball program is for boys and girls in 4<sup>th</sup> grade through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. In 1999, there were approximately 150 participants, about 90% of which were Amity Township residents. The program is held at the Amity Elementary School, which as noted above, is the only gym in the Township and must be shared with Amity Township's adult basketball program. The existing gym is undersized and must be heavily scheduled to accommodate the Club's basketball program. Use of the gym that will be part of the new school being constructed next to Amity Elementary would help address this problem.

### Amity Athletic Club Swimming

In 2000, 380 families belonged to the Amity Athletic Club Pool, for a total membership of 1,600 people. The Club hopes to raise membership to 400 families with the opening of its new pool in Spring 2001. Approximately 70 boys and girls participated in the Club's competitive swim teams in 2000, with teams for youths 6 years old to 16 years and over. The Amity Athletic Club offers swimming lessons but for members only. There has been interest

expressed in starting an aquatics program, which may be possible when the new pool becomes operational.

#### Doulassville Youth Baseball Association

The Doulassville Youth Baseball Association (DYBA) sponsors T-Ball and Little League baseball for youths who live in Amity Township and those who live on the opposite side of the Schuylkill River from Amity but attend Amity Elementary School. The program is growing rapidly. When it formed in 1995, DYBA started with 150 participants ages 6 to 12 on 12 teams. In 2000, DYBA fielded 23 teams consisting of 287 players ages 5 to 12. Games consist of intramural play and inter-area play with the Blazer Youth Sports organization in Birdsboro and Pine Forge Athletic Club. In addition to regular season baseball, DYBA fields a team in each of four age groups for post season tournaments and runs an intramural Fall Ball program that involved 106 youth on eight teams in 2000.

During DYBA's Spring 2000 season, eight T-ball teams (ages 5, 6 and 7) played on the two fields at Amity Elementary School. Five Rookie teams (ages 7 and 8) played on one field at the Amity Township Building. Five minor division teams (ages 9 and 10) played on one field at the Amity Township Building and one field at Hill Road. Five major division teams (ages 11 and 12) played on one field at Lake Drive and one field at Hill Road. DYBA reports that the number of baseball fields in Amity Township available for its use is adequate at present. However, DYBA expects a shortage of fields soon due to the following circumstances:

1. DYBA expects the number of participants in its baseball program to continue increasing in the foreseeable future. The organization will add an additional (sixth) team to both its minor division and major division in 2001. If current trends continue, DYBA believes its registration could double in the next five years.
2. There are no lighted baseball fields in the Township. Hill Road is approved for lights but they have not yet been constructed. There is no approval to install lights at either Lake Drive or the baseball fields at the Amity Township Building.
3. The DYBA T-Ball program is losing use of the two baseball fields at Amity Elementary School beginning in Spring 2001 due to the construction of the new school on this property.

#### Daniel Boone Coaches Association Baseball

The Daniel Boone Coaches Association (DBCA) offers Babe Ruth and Junior Legion baseball for 13 to 15 year old boys from the Daniel Boone School District and the Berks County portion of the Twin Valley School District. The DYBA (described above) is the primary feeder league for the DBCA. As DYBA has expanded, so too has DBCA. In 1990, DBCA fielded one team of 14 players. By 1999, DBCA was sponsoring three teams involving 47 players.



In 2001, DBCA expects to register up to 55 boys, considering both returnees from last year and boys graduating from DYBA. This will require DBCA to create a fourth team because its charter organization maintains an upper limit on the number of boys who can play on any one team (and as a practical matter, 55 boys is too many players for only three teams). Because of the progression of boys from DYBA to DBCA, the two organizations believe that every three major league teams (ages 11 and 12) in DYBA generates the need for one full-size baseball field for DBCA in the next year to accommodate boys moving up. As mentioned above, DYBA plans on having six major league teams in 2001.

There is only one field suitable for 13 to 15 year old baseball in Amity Township: the full-size field at Lake Drive, which is also used by the Daniel Boone School District 8<sup>th</sup> grade baseball team and Adult Softball. This is a problem currently and will get worse as DBCA adds a fourth team. In 1999, the School District allowed DBCA to use the full-size baseball field at Daniel Boone High School in Birdsboro. For the reasons stated, DBCA reports the immediate need for a second full-size baseball field to accommodate 13 to 15 year olds.

#### Monocacy Hill Conservation Association

The Monocacy Hill Conservation Association was formed by a group of concerned citizens in response to a 1991 proposal to permit logging on Monocacy Hill. The Association is managed by a five-person Board of Directors, two of whom are currently members of the Amity Township Park and Recreation Board. The Monocacy Hill Conservation Association maintains a mailing list of over 250 people but its annual donation and volunteer base is approximately 50 people. The Association has no permanent staff. Volunteers do all trail clearing and maintain all trails, trail markers and trail signs. In 1999, this work involved over 300 volunteer hours.

According to its official mission statement, "The purpose of the Monocacy Hill Conservation is to preserve the Monocacy Hill Recreation Area in its natural state and to maintain the forest for recreation and as a retreat for the study and appreciation of nature. In addition, we are committed to protecting the environmental quality of of our township and local area".

The Monocacy Hill Conservation sponsors both a spring and fall program that includes bird watching walks, wild flower walks, fitness hikes, fall foliage walks and similar outdoor activities. Dr. Susan Munch, a professor of botany from Albright College leads some of these walks. In other cases, members of the Mengel Natural History Society also participate. Classes from the Daniel Boone School District have also held scavenger hunts and environmental education sessions on-site.

Monocacy Hill will remain open to everyone for walking, hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, horseback riding and hunting. At the same time, the Monocacy Hill Conservation Association is trying to enhance its environmental education programming. The Association has begun work on a slide program that schools can use for this purpose. Natural Lands Trust is currently consulting with the Association on how to deal with invasive plant species on-site.

### Amity Township Adult Basketball

The Amity Township Park and Recreation Board sponsors an adult basketball program for Daniel Boone School District residents on Monday nights at the Amity Elementary School gym from October through March. The program is free and there are no formal teams or uniforms. There are two time periods: 19 to 30 year olds play from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the over 30 group plays from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. In 1999-2000, an average of 35 players participated per week. Based on registration, the Township expects an average of over 50 players per week for the 2000-2001 season.

### Amity Township Summer Playground

The Amity Township Park and Recreation Board sponsors a summer playground program at Lake Drive Park and Recreation Area for children registered for 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 12 years old. The playground program runs for four weeks starting the week following the Fourth of July. It is held from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. five days per week. The program includes crafts, games, walks and similar activities. An average of approximately 40 children per day participated in 2000. Last year, the playground program was supervised by three part-time personnel paid by the Township. Because of potential liability issues, the Township is now looking into the feasibility of hiring the YMCA in Reading to run the program for the 2001 season.

## **Recreation Administration**

Recreation Administration refers to the management, maintenance, and funding of parks and recreation services in Amity Township. Each of these topics is covered below.

### ***Recreation Management***

The five-person Amity Township Park and Recreation Board, which was formed in 1968, plans and oversees all recreation services provided by Amity Township. The Park and Recreation Board meets once per month and its activities are an integral part of Township government. The Park and Recreation Board communicates regularly with the Township Board of Supervisors. The Township Manager attends each Park and Recreation Board meeting, as does a member of the Board of Supervisors. The Township Manager gives a report from the Park and Recreation Board at each regular Board of Supervisors meeting. A representative from the Park and Recreation Board usually attends the Board of Supervisors meetings.

The Park and Recreation Board also maintains strong communications with local youth athletic organizations and the Monocacy Hill Conservation Association. As mentioned earlier, two members of the Amity Township Park and Recreation Board are also members of the Board of Directors for the Monocacy Hill Conservation Association. As part of its duties, the Amity Township Park and Recreation Board reviews new subdivision plans and makes

recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on whether to accept land or fees, in accordance with the Township's mandatory dedication regulations.

***Recreation Maintenance***

The Township Manager supervises the maintenance of all parkland and open space owned by Amity Township. Amity has one full-time maintenance person who splits his time approximately 50/50 between park maintenance and road crew duties. The Township also hires seasonal personnel to assist with park maintenance during the busiest part of the year. Amity Township retains a private contractor for all grass mowing. The Amity Township Park and Recreation Board also conducts an inspection of each Township-owned park twice per year.

By formal agreements, Amity Township shares maintenance responsibilities with the local youth athletic organizations that use Township-owned playing fields. In general, the Township mows the grass outside of the playing fields, provides portable bathrooms and does related park-wide maintenance. The athletic organizations are responsible for mowing, fertilizing, raking and weed control on the fields they use. The athletic associations must also fund park improvements directly related to their sports activities, such as field lighting, concession stands, dugouts, equipment sheds, backstops, field fences, score boards, etc. In exchange for assuming defined maintenance duties, the athletic organizations receive priority use of the fields for practices and games.

***Recreation Funding***

Revenues

Revenues to fund Amity Township's park, recreation and open space services come from the Amity Township general fund and mandatory dedication fees.

General Fund

The Amity Township Board of Supervisors traditionally budgets annual general fund revenues for parks and recreation. The Park and Recreation Board's budgets for 2000 and 2001 are shown on the following table.

**TABLE 5  
GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR PARKS AND RECREATION  
Amity Township - 2000 and 2001**

BUDGET CATEGORIES	2000	2001
Wages	\$ 22,100	\$ 28,000
Electric, Sewer - Parks	2,500	2,500
Vehicle Maintenance	1,000	1,500
Contracted Services - Parks (mowing)	6,000	7,000
Capital Outlay - Open Space (Purchase of Haas property)	70,000	65,000
Capital Outlay - Site Improvements	10,000	44,500
Supplies, General Expenditures - Parks	6,000	6,000
Maintenance and Repairs - Parks	19,500	22,000
Affiliate Libraries	6,434	6,000
Berks County 250 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	-	1,025
Historical Society	500	500
Capital Purchase / Equipment - Parks	-	-
Contracted Programs and Services	-	7,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 144,034</b>	<b>\$ 191,525</b>

Source: Amity Township

The \$191,525 that Amity budgeted for recreation in 2001 represented nearly 7% of the Township's total budgeted expenditures for the year. This is a significant proportion of the municipal budget in a rural area such as Berks County—even considering that 34% of the Township's total 2001 parks and recreation budget was devoted to acquisition of the Haas Farm.

Mandatory Dedication

Section 518.2 of the Amity Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance requires applicants submitting subdivisions or land developments proposals in Amity to donate land or fees for recreation if the Township Supervisors, in conjunction with the Township Park and Recreation Board, and Township Planning Commission, determine such a donation is necessary. For residential developments, the current fee in lieu of donating land is \$1,710 per home. The fee for non-residential developments is based on the acreage of the proposed subdivision or land development. While Amity has accepted land donations, recently the Township has usually accepted fees instead.

According to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, municipalities that collect recreation fees by mandatory dedication must spend these fees on recreation improvements accessible to the occupants of the development from which the fees originate. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code further stipulates that municipalities must use the fees for land acquisition or capital improvements, not maintenance, supplies and salaries. In 2000, Amity Township collected \$68,495 in mandatory dedication fees for recreation. Based on the origins of these fees and current needs, the Amity Township Park and Recreation Board recommended to the Amity Township Supervisors that fees collected in 2000 be used in 2001 to improve local parks as follows.

**TABLE 6**  
**MANDATORY DEDICATION FEES FOR RECREATION**  
**COLLECTED AND DESIGNATED**  
**Amity Township - 2000**

AREA	AMOUNT
Lake Drive Park and Recreation Area	\$ 10,300
Hill Road Recreation Area	15,435
Weavertown Road Open Space	42,750
TOTAL	\$ 68,485

Source: Amity Township

Amity Township forecasts that it will receive over \$400,000 in recreation fees from developments that will be under construction in 2001.