

# Allentown Parks Plan 2025

*Our City in a Park*



City of Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Comprehensive Recreation, Open Space, and Parks Plan

# Project Team

## SIMONE COLLINS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Pankaj Jobanputra, AICP, Project Manager

[pjobanputra@simonecollins.com](mailto:pjobanputra@simonecollins.com)

Robert Gladfelter, RLA, ASLA

Project LA, Natural Resources Analyst

[rgladfelter@simonecollins.com](mailto:rgladfelter@simonecollins.com)

Toby Levin, RLA, ASLA, Staff LA

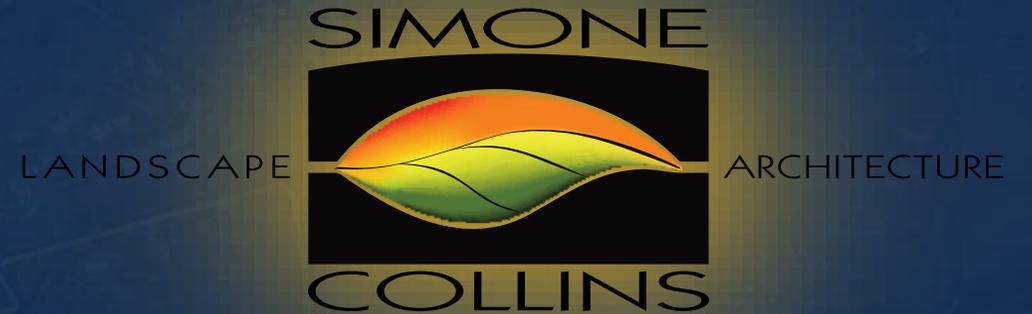
[tlevin@simonecollins.com](mailto:tlevin@simonecollins.com)

Jordan Upadhyay, Staff LA

[jupadhyay@simonecollins.com](mailto:jupadhyay@simonecollins.com)

William Collins, RLA, Principal

[wcollins@simonecollins.com](mailto:wcollins@simonecollins.com)



## CERTIFIED PARK & RECREATION PROFESSIONALS

Derek Dureka, CPRP

[derekdureka@gmail.com](mailto:derekdureka@gmail.com)

Kathleen Muller, CPRP

[muller.recreation@gmail.com](mailto:muller.recreation@gmail.com)

# Acknowledgements

## **Mayor of the City of Allentown:**

The Honorable Matt Tuerk

## **Allentown City Council:**

Daryl Hendricks, Council President

Cynthia Mota, Council Vice President

Candida Affa, Council Person

Ce-Ce Gerlach, Council Person

Santo Napoli, Council Person

Natalie Santos, Council Person

Ed Zucal, Council Person

## **Parks and Recreation Team:**

Mandy Tolino, Director of Parks and Recreation

Lucinda Wright, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation

Bryne Heffner-Bair, Project Coordinator

Chris Hendricks, Recreation Manager

Priscilla Reyes, Special Events Manager

Christian Bianco, Parks Superintendent

## **Project Committee:**

Laura Ballek Cole - Mayor's Office

Rebecca Kiss - COA Board of Recreation

Nancy Wilt - COA Board of Recreation

Dave Snyder - COA Board of Recreation

Candida Affa - City Council

CeCe Gerlach - City Council, Parks & Recreation Committee Chair

Natalie Santos - City Council

Christian Brown - COA Shade Tree Commission and Planning Commission

Tony Hanna - Resident

Carol Robb - Volunteer

Darron Benson Jr - Allentown A's (AYOUTH)

Shaniqua Leak / Rashard Wilkerson - H.D.Y.A. (AYOUTH)

Kevin Ervin / Marlon Thomas - East Side Youth Center (AYOUTH)

Jessica French / Peter Allen - Mountainville Memorial Association (AYOUTH)

Kim Schaffer - Community Bike Works

Scott Slingerland - CAT Lehigh Valley

Simon Moore / Ruffian Tittmann - Parknership

Rosaria Stoops - Friends of Allentown Parks

Rick Daugherty - Lehigh Valley Active Life

Leslie Billowitch / Neil Novak - Lehigh Valley Road Runners

Ana Tiburcio / Randy Atiyeh - Allentown School District

Janet Roth - Trexler Trust

John Leonard - COA Police

Efrain Agosto - COA Fire

Julio Guridy - Allentown Housing Authority

Becky Bradley, AICP - Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Christian Martinez - Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Scott Greenly - Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Susan Myerov - Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Liz Rosencrans / Brit Kondravy - D&L Heritage Corridor

Darian Colbert - Cohesion

Shannon Fugate - Allentown Arts Commission

Andrew Atiyeh - KNT Basketball

Kyle Edwards - A True L.O.V.E. Story

Daniel Bosket - Community Action Development Allentown

Samantha Shaak - Leonard Parker Pool Institute for Health

Flor and Robert Velez - Puertorican Culture Preservation

Carmen Bell / Jose Rivera - United Way of Greater Lehigh Valley

Fatima Nabavian - Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living

Marci Klinger - Lehigh Valley Disc Club

Christina DiPierro - Valley Youth House

Abigail Goldfarb - Conference of Churches

## **Prepared by:**



Kathleen Muller, CPRP  
Derek Dureka, CPRP

## **Funded by:**



Issue Date: December 2025  
SC#: 22028.10

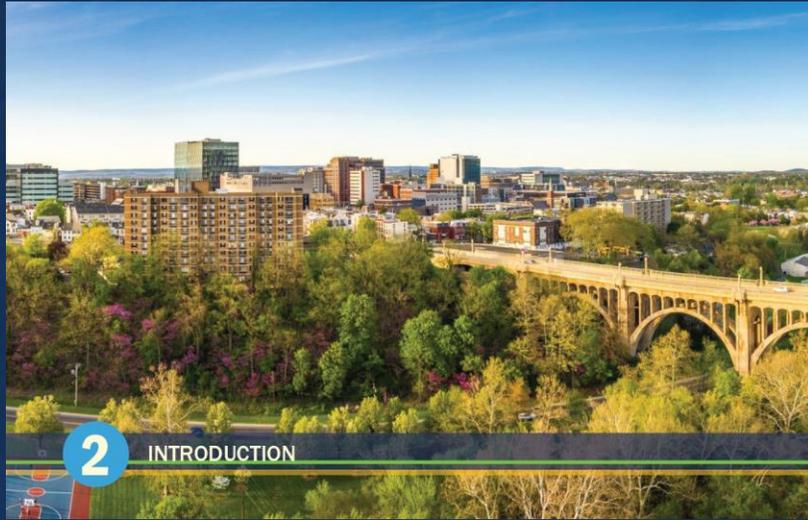
## **Acknowledgments**

This CROSP plan was partially funded by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, and was prepared according to DCNR guidelines.



1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



2

INTRODUCTION



3

INFRASTRUCTURE



4

PROGRAMS



5

MANAGEMENT



6

OPPORTUNITIES

# REPORT CHAPTERS (6)

## OUR GOALS & OPPORTUNITIES: COMMUNITY IDEAS

Nine (9) major goals were expressed by the Allentown community, and are described under three (3) primary categories of park system stewardship:

# Categories of park stewardship

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure is the physical and organizational structures and facilities required for the operation of civic spaces and can be categorized as either grey, green or blue. Gray infrastructure typically includes traditional civic structures, such as roads, sidewalks, stormwater pipes/basins, utilities, dams, water/sewer systems, bridges, transportation systems, and most building structures.

Green infrastructure are natural or engineered sustainable systems that use vegetation and other natural resources. They are used to manage water, temperature, air and water quality and provide social and economic benefits to open space in the City.

Blue infrastructure is a term used to describe a network of interconnected water management systems – including both natural aquatic and man-made and hydraulic systems. Refer to [Section 3.1](#) for additional information.



## PROGRAMS

Programs relate to services, activities or events that provide organized recreational or relaxed enjoyment. They include games, sports, camps, classes, social events and other activities and are provided to people of all ages and abilities.

Programs can take place at parks, playgrounds, schools, civic institutions or at private facilities.



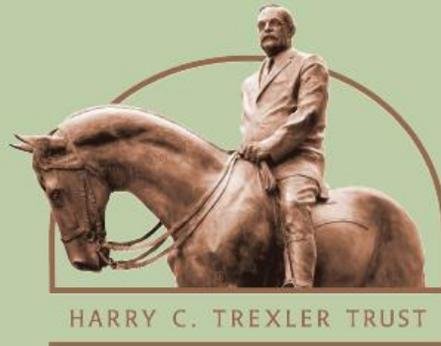
## MANAGEMENT

Management refers to the daily administration and oversight of the overall park system. It encompasses the work done by Parks and Recreation staff to maintain parks and park apparatus, equipment, fields, courts, support structures and other amenities, such as benches, lighting and water fountains.

Management also includes the planning of park improvements, the development and construction of those improvements, and the management of natural resources. On an administration level, it includes the hiring and training of full-time and seasonal staff and the annual development of the department's budget.



# Special partnerships



## SPECIAL THANKS

### The Trexler Trust

General Harry C. Trexler, considered to be the Founder of the Allentown Parks System, bequeathed in his will that the City parks system would receive, in perpetuity, significant contributions from his trust every year for *“the improvements, extension and maintenance of all its parks.”*

By 2025, the Trust has awarded more than \$193 million to charitable organizations in Allentown and Lehigh County including over \$60 million to the City of Allentown’s park system.

The City recognizes and thanks its long-time partner, the Trexler Trust, for its decades of equity and annual financial commitments to the Allentown Parks system.



## SPECIAL WELCOME

### The Allentown Parknership

The Allentown Parknership, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, was founded in 2024 through a collaboration of the Trexler Trust and the City of Allentown. It is dedicated to partnership with Allentown Parks & Recreation Department to enhance the City’s park system. The Allentown Parknership builds on the legacy of General Trexler. The board of the Parknership includes City leadership and representation from Allentown and Lehigh County.

Projects identified within this Allentown Parks Plan report are eligible to be advanced by the Parknership, where its capability to serve as lead project partner can strategically advance park improvement priorities in coordination with the City. The Parknership brings additional fundraising capacity and can serve as an advocate for Parks & Recreation during municipal budget discussions with a level of flexibility often unavailable to government agencies.

The Parknership worked with the Parks and Recreation Department to complete its first project by providing a new full court basketball court at Stevens Park.



Partners gather to celebrate park improvements to Stevens Park.

## 2.1.4 Public Participation

What does Allentown need to conserve its parks and open spaces and continue to deliver high-level recreation services to City residents in the second quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> century ?

In 2025, residents confirmed that “Our City in a Park” remains their preferred vision for how the municipal parks system is central to community life in Allentown.

The public outreach process for the project was a pivotal opportunity for a broad cross-section for people to champion the Allentown parks system, discuss history, and offer new ideas. Participants included: residents, visitors, Parks & Recreation staff, other city departments, open space organizations, and environmental stakeholders from across the Lehigh Valley.

People remain the greatest resource for Allentown, and conversations during the planning process highlighted multiple parks “champions” across the City, as well as recent success stories by Parks & Recreation staff and their partners.

The public meetings for this Plan were held at the following locations:

- Public Meeting #1: November 13, 2024, Bucky Boyle Training Room (Center City)
- Public Meeting #2: January 8, 2025, East Side Youth Center (East Side)
- Public Meeting #3: February 26, 2025, Ripple Church (Center City)
- Public Meeting #4: April 30, 2025, Theatre514 (West End)
- Public Meeting #5: June 25, 2025, Fearless Fire Company (South Side)

In addition, engagements were held with the public to discuss the site master plans for Bucky Boyle Park, Fountain Park and Roosevelt Park at the Easter Egg Hunt at Bucky Boyle Park on April 19, 2025 and the Earth Day Celebration at Cedar Beach Park on April 26, 2025.

# Listening to people



Public Meeting #1 at Bucky Boyle Park.

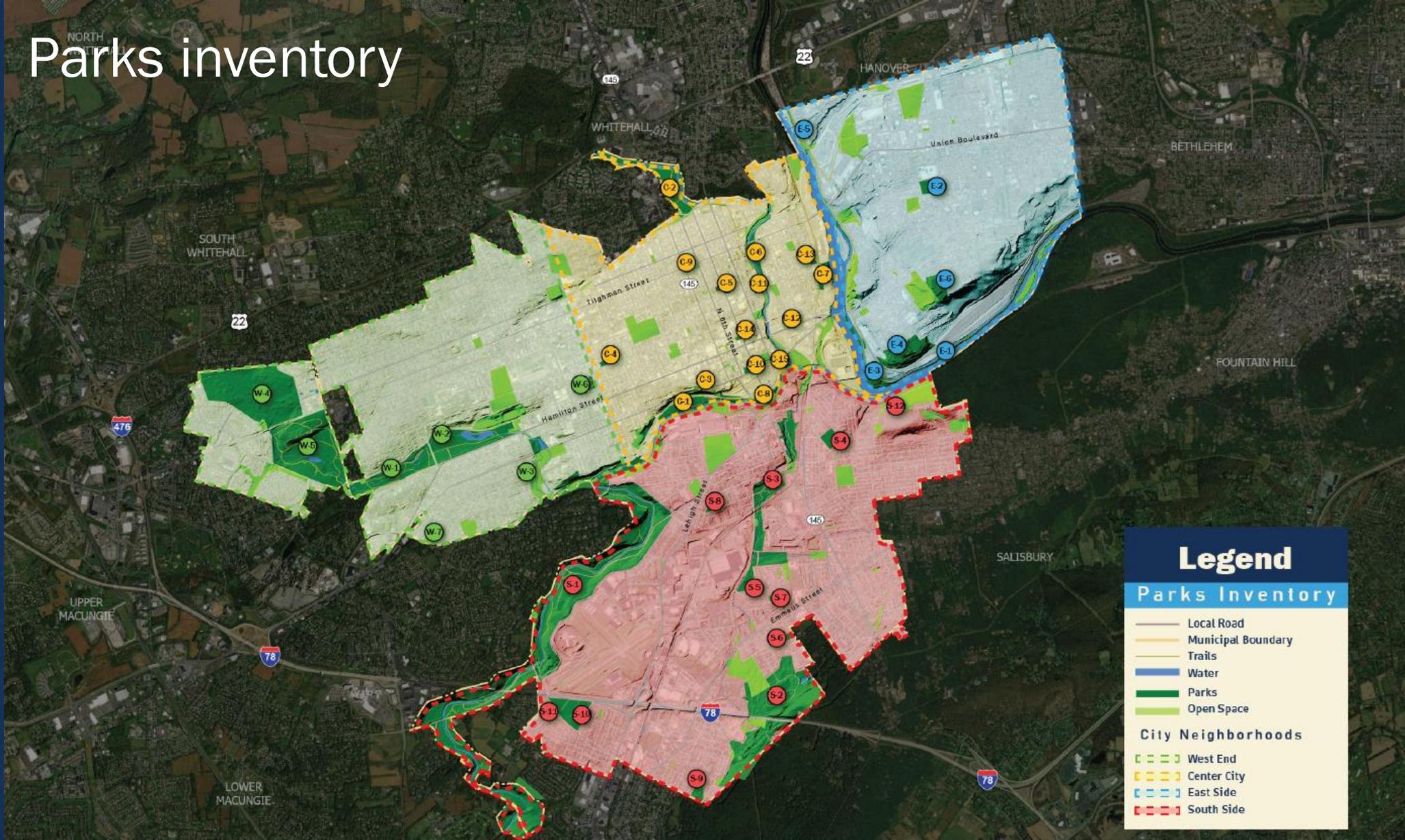


Public Meeting #3 at Ripple Church.



Easter Egg Hunt festivities sponsored by The A's at Bucky Boyle Park.

# Parks inventory



**Legend**

**Parks Inventory**

- Local Road
- Municipal Boundary
- Trails
- Water
- Parks
- Open Space

**City Neighborhoods**

- West End
- Center City
- East Side
- South Side

## PARK IMPROVEMENT TOOLBOX

The Park Improvement Toolbox delivers options for Parks & Recreation and its partners to consider each time a park enters the active planning and design phases.

This Toolbox identifies “types” of improvement opportunities that might be used at any Allentown park. Every Allentown park is assessed in this section.

# Parks “TOOLBOX”

SAFETY/ACCESS	RECREATION/FACILITIES	ENVIRONMENTAL/ECOLOGY
 <p>Access to Parks</p>  <p>Speeds</p>	 <p>Master Planning for Parks</p>  <p>New Equipment</p>	 <p>Riparian Buffer</p>  <p>Habitat</p>
 <p>ADA Accessible and Universal Elements</p>  <p>Signage</p>	 <p>Repair Existing Park Elements</p>  <p>Water Access at Streams and Rivers</p>	 <p>Stormwater Management</p>
 <p>LANTA Service</p>  <p>Lighting</p>	 <p>Upgrade</p>  <p>Additional Programming</p>	

## West End

The West End District of Allentown includes a large percentage of the total City park acreage but much of it is primarily dedicated to passive or special recreation uses. The two largest parks - Allentown Municipal Golf Course and Trexler Memorial Park are adjacent and together comprise over 300 acres of the 451 total City park acreage in the West End. Cedar Creek Parkway is another large park resource that features the highest concentration of active recreation resources.



Trexler Memorial Park is a place many people visit for a nice walk in a park experience. April Gamiz / The Morning Call

West End				
Classifications: <b>G</b> = Greenway <b>C</b> = Community Park <b>N</b> = Neighborhood Park <b>M</b> = Mini Park				
#	Park Name	Size	Classification	Park Improvement Opportunities
W-1	Cedar Creek Parkway	121 ac	<b>G</b>	
W-2	Cedar Beach Park	72.7 ac	<b>C</b>	
W-3	Joseph S. Daddona Lake and Terrace Park	15.3 ac	<b>C</b>	
W-4	Allentown Municipal Golf Course	151.3 ac	<b>C</b>	No recommendations at this time
W-5	Trexler Memorial Park	155.8 ac	<b>C</b>	
C-6	West Park	6.5 ac	<b>N</b>	
C-7	South Street Playlot	1.2 ac	<b>M</b>	

= Access to Parks   
 = Speeds   
 = ADA Accessible and Universal Elements   
 = Signage   
 = LANTA Service   
 = Lighting  
 = Master Planning   
 = New Equipment   
 = Repair Existing Park Elements   
 = Water Access   
 = Upgrade   
 = Additional Programming  
 = Riparian Buffer   
 = Habitat   
 = Stormwater Management

## Resources by neighborhood: West End Parks

W-2 CEDAR BEACH PARK



# Resources by park: Cedar Beach Park

(72.7 acres) This community park is larger segment within the larger Cedar Creek Greenway south of North Ott Street. Cedar Beach is a destination for many events and features multiple active recreation facilities that attract residents from every corner of the City, and from areas surrounding Allentown.

Cedar beach has a major Allentown pool and pool house, that was once the site of a community "beach" for swimming along the Creek. The site features: nine basketball courts (recently re-coated); two pavilions; a large destination playground, fully accessible playground; four volleyball courts; an exercise park, and restrooms. A walking trail surrounds Lake Muhlenberg, with scenic views.

At the southeast corner, Cedar Creek flows under Hamilton Boulevard toward Union Terrace Park. This riparian segment demands ecological restoration and a physical trail connection as a priority to make the greenway corridor connected, safe, modern, and environmentally sustainable.

Contains:

- Playground - universal play
- 4 basketball courts (an additional 5 temporary courts are available, two on unused hardcourt volleyball courts)
- 2 pavilions
- Pool
- Restrooms
- Trails
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- 4 sand volleyball courts
- Art

Pictures

1. Destination playground with universal play elements
2. People in line for the snack stand at the pool
3. Rock climbing features
4. Lake Muhlenberg
5. The basketball courts were refreshed in 2025



**SAFETY/ACCESS**



Access – more trails along roads and through park to connect to surrounding streets and through other open spaces such as the arboretum, Signage – kiosk, wayfinding, and educational

**RECREATION FACILITIES**



Repair – parking areas, walkways, and some hard courts

**ECOLOGY**



Riparian buffers – improve riparian buffer around lake and creek, Habitat – reduce lawn and add meadows – especially around arboretum , Stormwater management – add more tree canopy, improve bioswales, and investigate keeping more water on site

## PARK SUCCESS STORY

### Completed Major Capital Projects

The Parks and Recreation Department have a long list of needs for the parks and continue to work hard to provide the best facilities for the citizens of Allentown. Recent projects that are completed or nearly completed are Irving Pool, the Mini-Pitch at Jordan Meadows, Phase 2 of Jordan Skatepark, building full court basketball at Stevens Park, and securing funding to complete trails such as the D&L Trail connections and the Little Lehigh Parkway. The Martin Luther King Jr Trail and the Cedar Creek Trail will provide off road connections through the City, with investment in historic park infrastructure including WPA structures at Union Terrace Amphitheater, Malcolm Gross Rose Garden and Lehigh Parkway, and renovations to the West Park Bandshell.



“sustainability initiatives” that are focused on environmental, economic, climate change mitigation, and social well-being for current and future generations.

The work of the Sustainability Coordinator includes: developing / implementing sustainable practices and operations across all City departments; securing grant funding for related projects; and fostering community engagement in environmental issues. The sustainability coordinator serves multiple City departments, from a position housed within Parks & Recreation. The Bureau will be working with Allentown’s Environmental Advisory Committee to prepare a Climate Action Plan for the City.

## 5.3 PERSONNEL

The 2025 Operating Budget for Parks & Recreation accounted for 67 full-time and 183 seasonal employees across all four Bureaus. Some position responsibilities cross over multiple bureaus and include sharing personnel.

### 5.3.1 Staff - by Bureau

#### Maintenance Bureau

53 Full-time staff, 6 - 12 Seasonal staff (as budget supports and can be onboarded)

- Parks & Recreation Director (1)
- Parks Superintendent (1)
- Operations Manager (1)
- Chief Maintenance Supervisor (1)
- Maintenance Supervisor (5)
- Project Coordinator (1)
- Clerk (1)
- Various Service Employees International Union (SEIU) staff (42)
- Seasonal Laborer (6)

#### Sustainability Bureau

1 Full-time staff, 2 Seasonal interns

- Sustainability Coordinator (1)
- Seasonal Interns (2)

#### Recreation Bureau and Special Events Bureau

8 Full-time Staff, 167 Part-Time Staff

- Deputy Director – Parks & Recreation (1)
- Event Manager (1)
- Recreation Manager (1)
- Outreach Coordinator (1)
- Events Coordinator (1)
- Recreation Specialist (2)
- Clerk (1)
- Aquatics Staff various (80 – includes Aquatics Manager, Lifeguards, and Cashiers)
- Playground Staff various (80 – includes Summer Playground Program Manager)
- Park Specialists (4)
- Interns (3)

#### Golf Course Bureau

5 Full-time, 31 Part-time staff

- Golf Course Manager (1)
- Golf Course Superintendent (1)
- Greenskeeper (1)
- Maintenance Worker (2)
- Seasonal Laborer (10)
- Proshop Attendants (7)
- Starters (8)
- Driving Range Attendants (6)

### 5.3.2 Staffing considerations

Over recent years, the Parks & Recreation Department has reorganized with several important changes, including:

- some existing staff were reassigned to other existing positions,
- staff promotions,
- new staff was recruited and trained, and
- new positions were created.

Recent changes have enabled the Department to operate more effectively to serve the residents of Allentown – including the hiring of a new Director of Parks & Recreation. This action immediately strengthened internal operations of the Department, which has helped retain personnel; recognize staff commitments; deliver program consistency; and advance priority City initiatives.

Filling unstaffed Department positions will always be an imperative for fulfilling the Parks & Recreation mission.

Changes in the Department have also helped Recreation & Parks to be better prepared to collaborate with staff in other City departments where project’ jurisdictions overlap.

## 5.4 MAINTENANCE / OPERATIONS

### 5.4.1 Facilities / Equipment

#### Space / facilities limitations affect programming

Gyms, fields, pools and meeting rooms are precious recreational facilities in Allentown and additional future facilities will likely be needed to accommodate growing public needs, especially during peak season.

In Allentown, many strong cultural connections to the game of soccer have sustained adult pickup games; informal leagues; and community-based tournaments. Soccer continues to grow among youth populations and is supported by school and neighborhood league programs.

Expanding access to soccer opportunities directly supports equitable recreational access for residents of all ages and backgrounds. Soccer was identified clearly during public meetings as a highly popular activity that does not yet have a tournament-level facility managed by the City.

Another activity in demand is swimming. The City was lacking a pool in the East Side for five years before the renovated Irving Pool at Andre Reed Park reopened in 2024. The new pool has a zero-depth beachfront entrance area, 3-foot-deep wading space for smaller children, a whirlpool and other amenities.

# Operations, and success stories

## 5.5 FINANCING

The Parks & Recreation Department 2025 operating budget totals \$8,087,937. This total represents about 5% of the Allentown total annual budget. Comparing this to national NRPA standards, jurisdictions with 100,000 to 250,000 residents have a median operating budget of \$13,552,112. Parks & Recreation's full-time employee staff levels are 60% less than the national standard, while annual operating expenses are half that of the national standard.

Operating expenditure per capita for Allentown is approximately \$64. This is lower than the median of \$87 for jurisdictions with 100,000 to 250,000 residents.

Parks & Recreation current annual revenue tallies are minimal with primary generators being:

- \$290,000 Light in the Parkway (between admissions & sponsorships)
- \$250,000 Swimming Pool Fees
- \$ 92,000 Recreation Fees
- \$ 20,000 Special Events/Rentals/Permits
- **\$652,000 Total (Source: 2025 City of Allentown General Fund)**

Revenue figures do not include tallies from awarded grants, funds from the Trexler Trust, and revenue from the golf course.

The Allentown Municipal Golf Course operates its finances independently from the Parks & Recreation Department budget – and typically generates a positive net revenue ranging between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000 depending on annual costs of course capital improvements and other course-related expenses.

The Department has been successful recently in securing various grants to support recreation programming efforts and capital improvements to its parks. The Project Coordinator position ensures that the Department is constantly seeking and applying for grants as well as overseeing the administration of grants and the capital projects they are funding.



Nearby residents of Clyde E. Bosket, Sr. Park volunteer their time to clean up trash to keep the park looking clean.

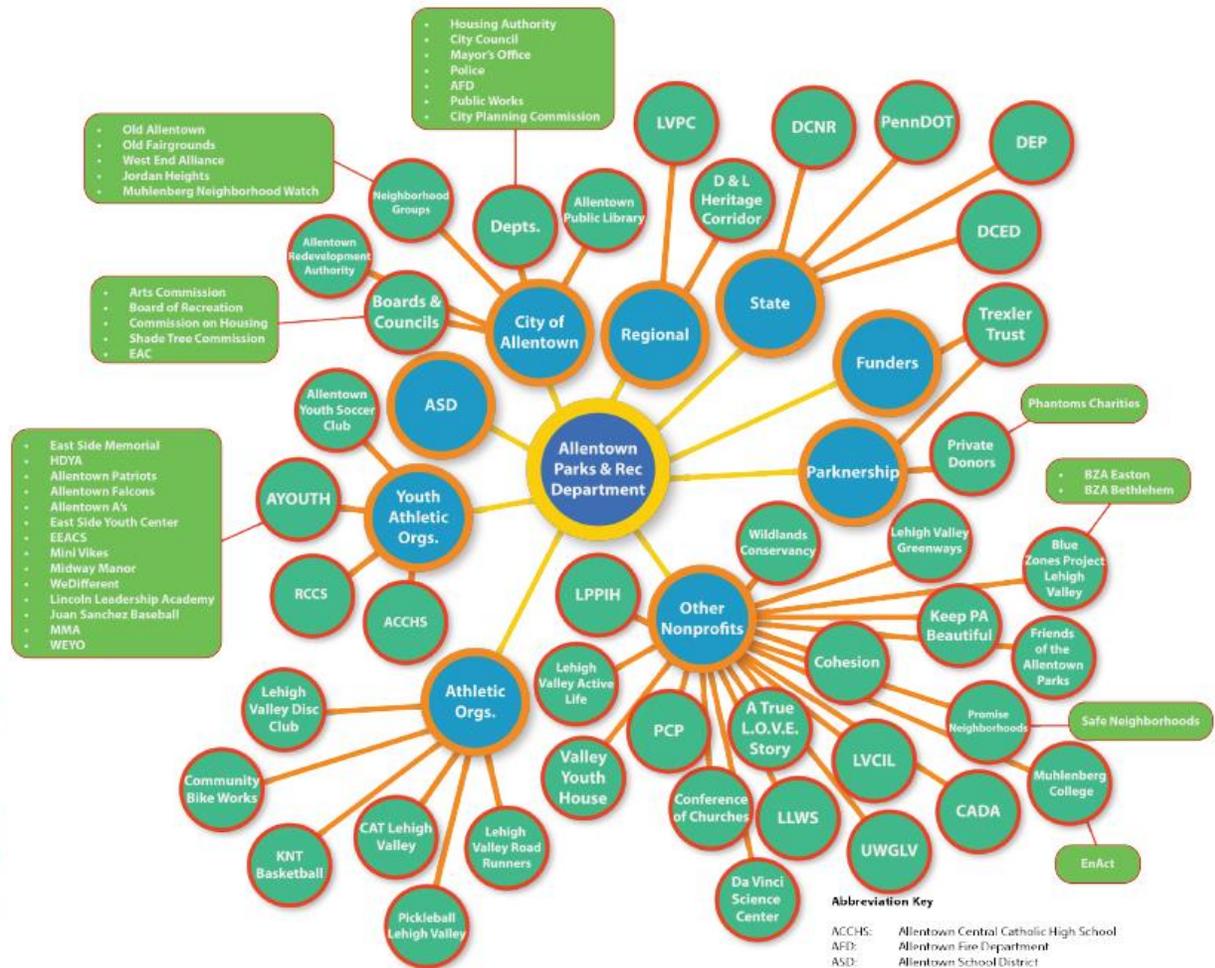


Fig. 5.1 Partnership Diagram

This partnership diagram was derived from discussions with staff and input from public meetings, but it does not represent all partners. It begins to show the reach and impact of the Parks and Recreation Dept across many user groups in the City and region.

**Abbreviation Key**

ACCHS:	Allentown Central Catholic High School
AFD:	Allentown Fire Department
ASD:	Allentown School District
CADA:	Community Action Development Allentown
COH:	Commission on Homelessness
DCED:	Department of Community and Economic Development
DCNR:	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
DEP:	Department of Environmental Protection
EAC:	Environmental Advisory Council
EEACS:	Executive Education Academy Charter School
HDYA:	Hardwork Dedication Youth Association
LPPIH:	Leonard Parker Pool Institute for Health
LVCIL:	Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living
LVPC:	Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
MMA:	Mountainville Memorial Association
PCP:	Puerto Rican Culture Preservation
PennDOT:	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
RCCS:	Roberto Clemente Charter School
UWGLV:	United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley
WEYO:	West End Youth Organization

# Funding, partnerships

Opportunities are choices the City of Allentown may elect to advance priority improvements to its Parks, Recreation and Open Space system. Opportunities are categorized by: Infrastructure; Programs; and Management.

City Council and the Administration, including the Department of Parks and Recreation may select opportunities to pursue each year based on multiple factors, including but not limited to:

- available funding
- geographic distribution
- service priorities
- equity
- other criteria per Council discretion

# A palette of opportunities

Opportunities	
6.1 Infrastructure	
6.1.1	Parks and Recreation Facilities - Advance Park Master Plans
a	Bucky Boyle Park
b	Roosevelt Park
c	Fountain Park
d	Samuel McHose Memorial Park
e	Other recreation infrastructure
6.1.2	Street meets Park
a	Continue the Legacy of Allentown Tree Stewardship
b	Continue pursuing comprehensive safety improvements
6.1.3	Waterways in Parks
6.1.4	Utilities in parks
6.1.5	Stormwater Management and Parks
6.1.6	Cultural Resources within Parks
6.1.7	Trail & Greenway Connections to Parks
6.1.8	Ecosystems of Public Spaces
6.2 Programming	
6.2.1	Programming Partnerships
6.2.2	Serving the Under-represented
6.2.3	Integrating Recreation Programming
6.3 Management	
6.3.1	Policies & Procedures
a	Seek Rec TAP or DCNR Peer Grant for Management Assessment
b	Document Dept Policies & Procedure clearly
c	Simplify Administrative Procedures for Non-City Planners
d	Continue Periodic Public Involvement Venues
e	Continue Periodic User Surveys
f	Revisit Agreements Between City and School District
g	Educate Residents About Their Civic Responsibilities
h	Improve Intra-department Communications
i	Plan Collaboratively Across City Agencies
j	Evolve the Details of the City-Parknership Collaboration
6.3.2	Operation and Maintenance
a	Compile and Regularly Update a Procedures Manual
b	Maintain Up-To-Date Records of Facilities and Procedures

c	Repair, Maintain, and Improve Existing Park Infrastructure
d	Pursue a Single, Central Maintenance Building Solution
e	Retain Current and Increase the Number of Park Staff
f	Opportunities for the Golf Course
g	Opportunities for Aquatics/ Pools
h	Formalize a Parks Maintenance Manual
6.3.3 Governance	
a	Consider non-profit partnerships to help supplement services
b	Formalize Inter-Department Planning in Allentown
c	Foster External Agency Partnerships
d	Strategically Balance Investments with Maintenance Efficiency
6.3.4 Finance	
a	Allow flexibility within the City of Allentown Budgeting
b	Seek to Increase Income Generation Opportunities
c	Increase Collaboration with Funding Partners
d	Advocate for additional Operating/Capitol Funds
e	Match Transportation Funding Sources with Strategic Funding for Capital Improvement of Parks
f	Use Municipal Stormwater fees to leverage other funds for parks
g	Target Ecological Priorities within the Parks to Secure Habitat Restoration Funding
h	Require Development Partners to Contribute to Improvements
i	Bring Services to the Parks
6.4 Partnership Dreams	
a	Historic Industrial Infrastructure - Canal Park
b	Riparian Restoration of Cedar Creek where MLK Trail will Connect Cedar Beach and Union Terrace
c	Multi-Modal Highway Retrofits - Cedar Creek Trail between Cedar Beach and Trexler Park
d	Road Diet for Safe Ped-Bike Travel on Hamilton Street Bridge
e	Private Contributions to Public Access Improvements – Bridges, Ramps, Stairs
f	Private Property Donations to the Allentown Parks System
g	Highway Safety Improvements to Connect People to Parks - a Jefferson St. / Tioga St. / Lehigh Pkwy. / Park Dr. Roundabout
h	Deepening the Relationship Between Allentown Residents and their Park System

Previous page: *Stretching at Fountain Park*

## 6.1 INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITIES

### General

Parks are more than civic spaces with facilities for recreation.

Parks combine diverse elements of public infrastructure - “gray, green, and blue” – which can function together to deliver multiple levels of resilient public services when smartly designed and well maintained.

Well-maintained parks require the combined skills of those who manage recreation facilities (gray infrastructure) with the experience of those who steward natural resources (blue and green infrastructure.) Allentown has a tradition of managing facilities and caring for natural resources in its parks. This can be observed in the historic and continued City stewardship of its majestic canopy trees in both Allentown parks and along its public streetscapes.

The parks of Allentown are legacy hubs for community activities. Parks unite people behind shared values of safety, access, and inclusion. And those physical spaces present a collective sense of place for people to belong.

Well-managed parks and natural infrastructure may be the most recognizable civic face of Allentown’s commitment to its people. The conditions of park infrastructure signal Allentown community values.

### 6.1.1 Parks and recreation facilities

This Allentown Parks Plan 2025 presents the work of City staff, residents, and stakeholders to describe a collective vision for the future of the entire Allentown Parks and Recreation system – that was developed through a public process that is generally called a “Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan” (CROSP).

This Plan report addresses infrastructure and programming and management opportunities at the City-wide level.

#### *Infrastructure Opportunity 1-1 – Advance park master plans*

Master plans engage additional public participation and dive into deeper levels of analyses and opportunities for park infrastructure – which also informs programming and management opportunities at that specific site.

The City of Allentown selected three parks for master planning within the scope of this municipal-level CROSP project. Allentown selected four parks for master planning as part of the Allentown Parks Plan 2025 process:

- Bucky Boyle Park
- Roosevelt Park
- Fountain Park
- Samuel McHose Park

The products of these four master plans include: records of specific public participation; preferred site plans; and master plan-level cost estimates for each park. Brief narrative descriptions of each park and potential improvements for each are described below.

All four parks, and previously-completed master plans stand ready as opportunities for the City to advance into the design/construction-phases of infrastructure projects.

Refer to the Appendix for master plan site plans and costs.

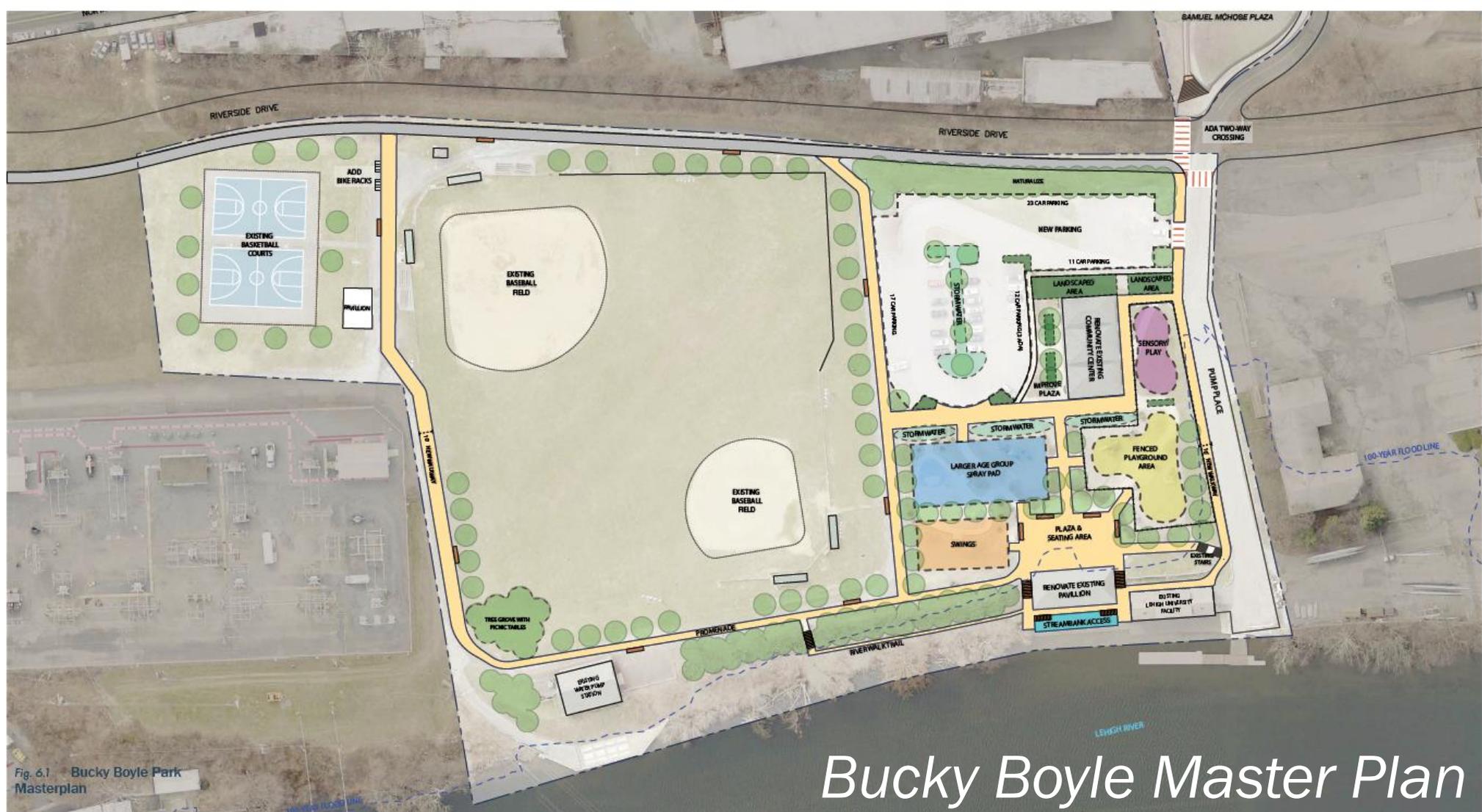
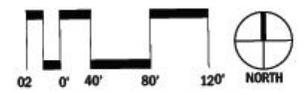


Fig. 6.1 Bucky Boyle Park Masterplan

# Bucky Boyle Master Plan

## Bucky Boyle Park Master Plan

Allentown Parks Plan 2025







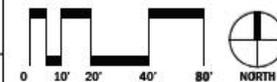
# McHose Plaza Master Plan



Fig. 6.4 Samuel McHose Plaza Masterplan

## Samuel McHose Plaza Master Plan

Allentown Parks Plan 2025



OPPORTUNITIES

113

Thank You!

People of Allentown

*for the opportunity to be of service!*



[www.simonecollins.com](http://www.simonecollins.com)