



River's Edge Bike Park Master Plan

Project No. SMTW-00001

Study Committee Meeting No. 2

September 18, 2024

Township, Committee, and Consultant Attendees:

Alex Jackson, PhD, Conservation and Recreation Director – Smithfield Township

RJ Clarke – Committee Member

Michael Dwyer, Middle Smithfield Township Supervisor – Committee Member

Kyle Jenkins, PACT – Committee Member

Ken LeSure – Committee Member

Robert Lovenheim, Smithfield Township Supervisor – Committee Member

Melissa E. Hutchison, P.E. – T&M Associates

Public Attendees:

Resident Elisa Byrne

Resident Zak Klaplesky

Mike Reed, Pocono Disc Golf Club

Resident Margarite Vecchio

Resident Tarah Vecchio

A. Existing Features Base Plan

The meeting began with a review and discussion of the Base Plan prepared by T&M Associates.

1. Resident M. Vecchio questioned the location of the property line and FEMA Floodplain Map date. T&M obtained information from the online FEMA maps dated 2013 and Resident M. Vecchio obtained a map from FEMA dated 2023. The property line was discussed and clarified, and T&M will research the date of the Floodplain Map.
2. The Zoning District of the property was questioned by M. Vecchio. After reviewing the Township Zoning Map, it was found that the existing Park property is located within the R-1 Zoning District.
3. Alex Jackson provided photos of the existing pump track in Port Jervis and the proposed pump track in Williamsport as examples.
4. Kyle Jenkins suggested a jump line be added to the concept plan. Mr. Jenkins would like to see the jump line through existing woodlands and recommended Dirt Sculpt, LLC projects be used as examples.
5. Mr. Lesure would like to see the completed park appeal to all users suggesting that not all will want to or be able to ride bikes. T&M Associates discussed the intent to provide an ADA accessible loop trail for walkers/hikers/bikers. A. Jackson noted that the trail at Minisink Park is a good example of what the trail at the Rivers Edge Bike Park might be.



6. Parking was discussed. M. Reed from the Pocono Disc Golf Club voiced concern over the need for additional parking. The number of disc golf players (40 at one time) was discussed. T&M Associates noted that the number of players, the number of users determined during the key person interviews and public survey, and the required parking in the Zoning Ordinance will be considered when determining the number of proposed parking spaces.
7. Residents were concerned with the Lenape dig site and potential disturbance. T&M Associates noted that the dig site will be preserved.
8. Discussion regarding the recent ash tree removal project site occurred. Mr. Jackson also mentioned the need to remove existing knotweed and his desire to see a plan to remove the knotweed as part of the Master Plan.
9. Resident M. Vecchio questioned whether T&M Associates is the same group who originally designed the pump track. M. Hutchison noted that T&M Associates or any other she has worked for was not part of the original pump track design or its construction. T&M Associates has been tasked with correcting the existing pump track.
10. Resident M. Vecchio questioned why residents are just being notified of this project now. The Master Plan received a grant that provides funding for the Township to move forward with the concept plan. Without the funding, the Master Plan process would not occur.
11. Woodlands will be maintained as much as possible to create a plan with the desired amenities.
12. Residents are concerned with the possible kayak/canoe launch as they have already seen various instances where emergency management had to rescue and/or recover people from the river.
13. A. Jackson mentioned a boardwalk to provide access across wet areas for bird watching. Residents were concerned with flooding and having the public on the boardwalks. A. Jackson agreed that this would be a concern.
14. Residents raised concerns with hunting on the lands. The Township would need to handle the issue of hunting with its solicitor. RJ Clarke suggested signage as initial warning so those not following the signage could be fined immediately rather than simply given a warning.

B. Discuss Key Person Interviews

1. Sue Nicgorski and Kyle Jenkins were suggested as contacts for PACT.
2. A. Jackson requested a representative for the residents of Prices Landing Road. That contact will be provided to A. Jackson following the group's next meeting.



3. A. Jackson provided contacts for the Port Jervis and Williamsport bike parks. A list of other contacts was also provided to T&M Associates.
4. R. Lovenheim suggested contacting the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living regarding ADA accessibility of the Park.
5. Residents noted that the Pony Express transports kayakers to Smithfield Beach and may be a good contact.
6. M. Dwyer added Shawnee Fire Company.
7. Other suggestions for Key Person Interviews were given by residents including a Lenape resident, Emergency Management (Portland), National Park Service.

C. Discuss Citizens Survey

1. A link to the Citizens Survey will be placed on the Smithfield Township and Middle Smithfield Township websites. Paper copies of the survey will be provided in both Township lobbies. A QR code was also discussed.
2. A. Jackson will request the County Planning Commission to aid with creating the survey.
3. Residents concerned that the survey can be filled out by anybody. A. Jackson noted that the County Planning Commission can create a survey that identifies on a map where each person filled out that survey. The Committee noted that using the map would allow it to separate local residents feedback from broader public feedback. The Committee also noted that the survey results should not be strictly limited to just residents because ultimately the Park be used by all members of the public. The Committee seemed to agree that a longer survey time with more respondents is important and to extend the due date of the survey to January.
4. Committee member K. Lesure noted that he will review the survey and provide any comments or suggestions he has to A. Jackson.
5. A. Jackson suggested bird watching and educational kiosks including those for the Lenape be provided on the amenity list.
6. Incentive for those filling out the survey was briefly discussed.
7. The Citizens Survey will be completed sometime in late 2025 pushing the 2-3 concept plans to the January 2025 meeting.



D. Project Timeline

Public Meeting No. 1	Wednesday, December 11, 2024
Hybrid Committee Meeting/Public Meeting No. 2	Originally scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2025, but will be postponed to the end of January. This will be further discussed at Public Meeting No. 1.
Study Committee Meeting No. 3	TBD
Public Meeting No. 3	TBD
Final Report and Plan due	TBD (no later than July 2025)

E. Expectations for Public Meeting No. 1

1. The next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, 2024 will be an advertised public meeting with the Board of Supervisors. The key person interviews will be complete by this meeting and will be discussed. Also, one (1) concept plan will be prepared and discussed at this meeting.