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# Manheim Township: A Healthy Community

Manheim Township is a very desirable community in which to live. The excellent parks and recreation system contributes to the community's appeal. The citizens have a range of experiences in the parks including fitness, nature appreciation, swimming, socializing with family and friends, golf, disc golf, miniature golf, boating on the river, bicycling, organized sports and having a party or a bite to eat in township owned restaurants and banquet facilities. The citizens celebrate the times of their lives in community parks for everything from children's birthday parties and championship games to weddings.

## About Manheim Township

Established in 1729, Manheim Township is one of the oldest and largest communities in Lancaster County. The Township is located in central Lancaster County and occupies approximately 22.6 square miles and is roughly 7.5 miles wide and 3.2 miles long and has a population of 38,133. The Township is situated immediately north of the City of Lancaster, which serves as the County seat of government.

## Location and Access

The Township's east and west boundaries are generally determined by natural features, the Conestoga River and Little Conestoga Creek respectfully, whereas the northern and southern boundaries are man-made lines. Annexation of land by the City of Lancaster beginning in 1931 and ending in 1952 has resulted in a very irregular southern boundary that includes "islands" of Township land area completely surrounded by Lancaster City. Manheim Township is contiguous to the Townships of Warwick, West Earl, Upper Leacock, East Lampeter, Lancaster, East Hempfield, and Penn and East Petersburg Borough.

Convenient linkages to major transportation routes through the Lancaster metropolitan area are available to Township residents and businesses. Two Federal (US Route 222 and 30), and seven State roads (PA Routes 283, 4011, 72, 501, 272, 23 and 230) connect the Township to the region. The proximity of the City of Lancaster to many larger eastern cities provides Manheim Township residents with convenient access to Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Wilmington, and reasonable access to New York, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C.

## Heritage

For over 200 years since its establishment, Manheim Township would have been described as a small and tranquil farming community. The Township's topography and proximity to suitable farmland and transportation helped to stimulate a stable rural economy at the edge of the City of Lancaster. The character of the community has changed gradually since the 1950's from its original rural farming community to a more rapidly growing suburban "bedroom" community. The Township still hosts rural lands in its northeast quadrant. However, being bisected by New Holland Pike (PA 23), US 222, Oregon Pike (PA 272), Lititz Pike (PA 501) and Manheim Pike (PA 72) and US 30, the Township has remained an attractive place to live and conduct business that is most accessible to many community centers in the region.

With its rich cultural heritage, Manheim Township has six properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places including: Shenk House/Oregon Mill, Risser's Mill Covered Bridge, Pinetown Road Covered Bridge, Landis Mill Covered Bridge, Shreiner Farm and Landis Valley Museum. According to the Lancaster County Historic Register, Manheim Township has 35 properties that are listed in the Level I Exceptional category. The Level 1 designation means the structures are examples of the highest quality architectural design and/or of historical importance. They are of countywide, regional, state or national significance and should be preserved and protected at all costs.

The Recreation Department personifies the historic importance and dedication of its citizens in its home in two historic buildings in the system, Stauffer Mansion and Boettcher House. These buildings serve in the important role of enabling citizens to experience their local heritage and culture through recreation. Stauffer Mansion was built in 1870 by John Frederick Sener, grandfather to Elizabeth Ludgate who in July 1975 willed her 16-acre estate to be deemed a public community park. Her will also asked for the formation of a 3-member trust that would help control financing and development of the park. The Stauffer Trust generates revenues through investment of the principle for the dedicated annual funding of operations and maintenance of the park. This led to what all of us know now to be Stauffer park complete with a softball field, tennis and basketball courts, formal gardens, a children's play area, and parking for visitors when the Mansion became home to the Recreation and Parks department in January of 1976. Other historic structures under the Recreation Department are Boettcher House, the Barn and Stoner House. Boettcher House is an historical Landmark in Landes Woods that serves as a museum for native animals and a public space available for community recreation as well as private parties on a rental basis. The house is a fine example of the evolution of a Lancaster County farmhouse. It is a story and a half Germanic-style structure, expanded to late Federal style by 1850, with a Victorian wing added on around 1890. The Stoner House renovation and regeneration project is one of the main projects of the Manheim Township Historical Society. The house is a visual centerpiece in the broad vista of the Overlook Community Campus in Manheim Township. The related barn has been historically adapted for use as a restaurant and banquet center. The goal of the Historical Society is to save, renovate, and create a viable, self-sustaining use for the house. The preference is to use the home as the house of record and repository for the historical society in an environment for education, research, and preservation efforts.

## Vision for Manheim Township's Future

Manheim Township is at the crossroads of many years of energetic growth and being a fully built out community. The vision for the future is one of a mature and vibrant community. Here, people of all ages, incomes and life statuses will live harmoniously in a community that protects its cultural and natural resources while community facilities such as parks, recreation, greenways, trails contribute the residents' already high quality of life.

## Demographics

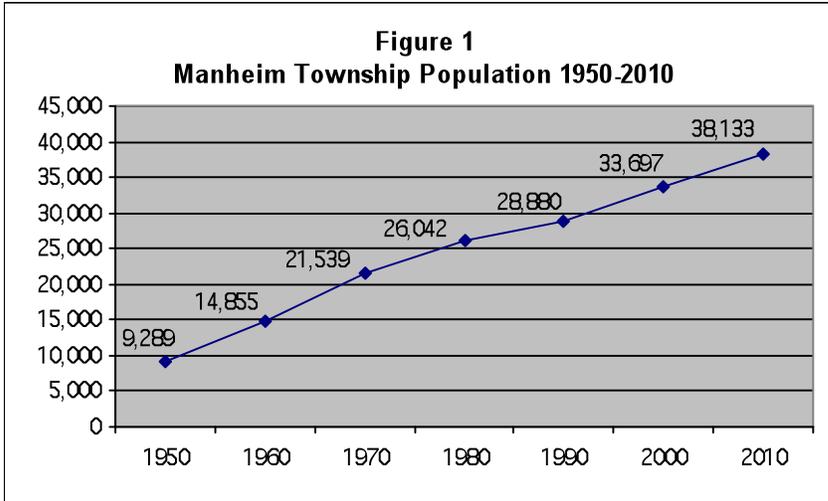
The demographic profile builds upon the data presented in the **2010 Manheim Township Comprehensive Plan**. It characterizes present day Manheim Township and examines changes that have occurred in the Township since the 2000 Census. It specifically focuses on population, age, race and ethnicity, educational attainment, and income. The analysis demonstrates that Manheim Township is a highly populated and growing township. It is an aging, well educated, and relatively affluent community, and although largely racially and ethnically homogenous, the Township is diversifying. The Township's population is expected to increase over the next two decades, and aging and diversification trends are expected to continue. The result is an increasing demand for park, recreation, and open space resources targeted to a diverse population of all ages, but with emphasis on seniors.

## Population Trends

Population counts for the Township from 1950 through 2010 demonstrate a constant and high rate of growth over the last six decades. Since 1950, the Township's population has increased 311%, far exceeding the growth of Lancaster County (121%) and Pennsylvania (22%) (Table 2-1 and Figure 2-1).

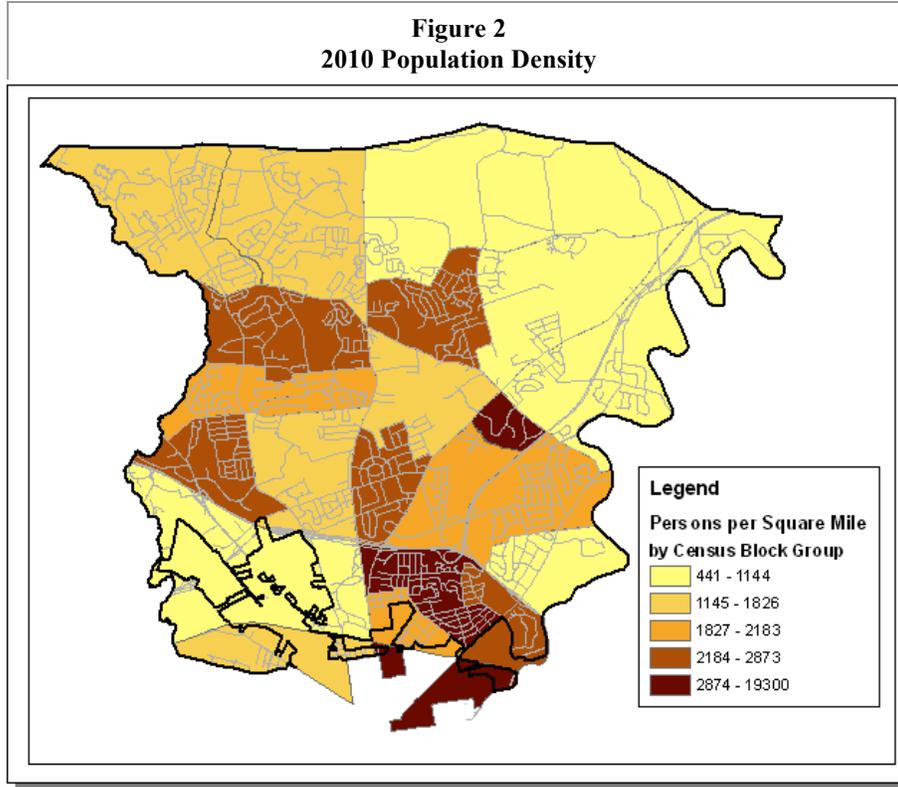
Census Year	Manheim Township			Lancaster County			Pennsylvania		
	Population	# Change	% Change	Population	# Change	% Change	Population	# Change	% Change
1950	9,289	n/a	n/a	234,717	n/a	n/a	10,411,626	n/a	n/a
1960	14,855	5,566	59.9%	278,359	43,642	18.6%	11,242,501	830,875	8.0%
1970	21,539	6,684	45.0%	320,079	41,720	15.0%	11,758,458	515,957	4.6%
1980	26,042	4,503	20.9%	362,346	42,267	13.2%	11,855,687	97,229	0.8%
1990	28,880	2,838	10.9%	422,822	60,476	16.7%	11,882,842	27,155	0.2%
2000	33,697	4,817	16.7%	470,658	47,836	11.3%	12,281,054	398,212	3.4%
2010	38,133	4,436	13.2%	519,445	48,787	10.4%	12,702,379	421,325	3.4%
1950-2010	n/a	28,844	311.0%	n/a	284,728	121.3%	n/a	2,290,753	22.0%

Source: US Census Bureau



Source: US Census Bureau

The population is concentrated in suburban developments throughout the central and western portions of the Township and is most highly concentrated in the south, bordering the City of Lancaster (Figure 2).



Source: US Census Bureau; Consultant's Analysis

## Population Projections

The **2010 Manheim Township Comprehensive Plan** projected the Township's population for 2010, 2020, and 2030 using five projection methods. Comparing the actual 2010 Census population figure to the results of the various projection methods reveals that the linear projection and cohort projection with migration yielded the most accurate figures. The two methods result in a 2020 population ranging from 42,154 to 43,013 and a 2030 population ranging from 46,807 to 47,515 (Table 2). These figures represent increases ranging from 4,021 to 4,880 persons by 2020 and from 8,674 to 9,382 persons by 2030. Given such large projected increases, the Township can anticipate a high level of demand for parks, recreation, and open space resources over the next two decades.

Year	Cohort (with migration)			Linear		
	Population	# Change	% Change	Population	# Change	% Change
2010 Census	38,133	n/a	n/a	38,133	n/a	n/a
2020 Projection	42,154	4,021	10.5%	43,013	4,880	12.8%
2030 Projection	46,807	4,653	11.0%	47,515	4,502	10.5%

Source: Source: US Census Bureau; 2010 Manheim Township Comprehensive Plan

## Gender and Age Characteristics

### Gender

Both Manheim Township and Lancaster County have a higher percentage of females, but the difference is higher in Manheim Township. In Manheim Township, the number of females is 6 percentage points higher than males, while in Lancaster County the number of females is only 2 percentage points higher (Table 3).

Gender	Manheim Township		Lancaster County	
	2010 Census	% of Total	2010 Census	% of Total
Male	17,968	47.1%	253,836	48.9%
Female	20,165	52.9%	265,609	51.1%
Total	38,133	100%	519,445	100%

Source: US Census Bureau

### Median Age

The median age of Manheim Township rose from 42.6 to 44.0 between 2000 and 2010 (Table 4). This indicates that Manheim Township is an aging community (as are Lancaster County and Pennsylvania). With a median age of 44, the population of

Manheim Township is comparatively older than that of Lancaster County and Pennsylvania.

Table 4 Median Age 2000 and 2010			
Year	Manheim Township	Lancaster County	Pennsylvania
2000	42.6	36.1	38
2010	44	38.2	40.1

Source: US Census Bureau

### Age Trends

Age trends in Manheim Township from 2000 to 2010 show increases across all age groups with the exception of the population aged 25 to 44 year, which experienced a decline of -0.6% (Table 5). This trend is also seen countywide. In Manheim Township, large increases occurred in the population aged 55 to 59 years (41.6%), 60 to 64 years (61.2%), and 85 years and over (32.9%), consistent with the trend of an aging population.

### Population Composition by Age

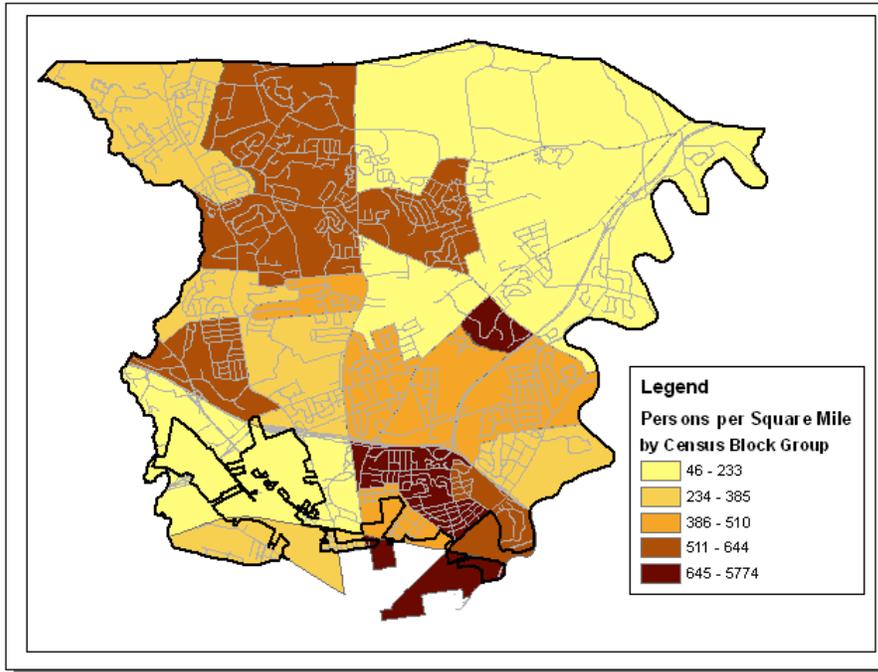
According to data on population composition by age (Table 4, column 5), 23% of the Township’s population is under 18 years of age and of this group, 17.4% are between the ages of 5 and 17 years. This represents the school-aged population, a group that is largely engaged in organized youth athletic activities. High concentration of the young population exists in the southern portion of the Township, bordering the City of Lancaster, and in the northwest (Figure 3). Nearly 21% of the Township’s population is aged 65 years and over, compared to 15% countywide, again indicating an aging population. In contrast, this population segment is more heavily concentrated in the eastern portion of the Township (Figure 4). Lancaster County has the highest proportion of youth under the age of five of all counties in Pennsylvania.

Age data suggest that demand for parks and recreation currently exists across all age groups in Manheim Township, but is especially high among school aged youth. Furthermore, assuming that individuals aged between 55 and 64 years will remain in the Township and age in place, the Township can expect to see an increase in the number of seniors in the coming decades, and park and recreation facilities and programs specifically targeted to seniors will continue to be in demand in the future.

Table 5 Age Trends 2000 to 2010										
Age Range	Manheim Township					Lancaster County				
	(1) 2000 Census	(2) 2010 Census	(3) # Change 2000-2010	(4) % Change 2000-2010	(5) 2010 % of Total	(1) 2000 Census	(2) 2010 Census	(3) # Change 2000-2010	(4) % Change 2000-2010	(5) 2010 % of Total
Under 5 years	1,862	2,124	262	14.1%	5.6%	32,680	35,521	2,841	8.7%	6.8%
5 - 17 years	5,941	6,651	710	12.0%	17.4%	92,611	93,494	883	1.0%	18.0%
18 - 20 years	976	1,129	153	15.7%	3.0%	20,653	23,261	2,608	12.6%	4.5%
21 - 24 years	984	1,312	328	33.3%	3.4%	22,540	27,377	4,837	21.5%	5.3%
25 - 44 years	8,393	8,344	-49	-0.6%	21.9%	133,185	124,619	-8,566	-6.4%	24.0%
45 - 54 years	5,152	5,674	522	10.1%	14.9%	62,360	75,401	13,041	20.9%	14.5%
55 - 59 years	1,871	2,650	779	41.6%	6.9%	22,425	33,534	11,109	49.5%	6.5%
60 - 64 years	1,455	2,346	891	61.2%	6.2%	18,144	28,458	10,314	56.8%	5.5%
65 - 74 years	3,028	3,249	221	7.3%	8.5%	32,706	38,240	5,534	16.9%	7.4%
75 - 84 years	2,683	2,857	174	6.5%	7.5%	24,389	26,694	2,305	9.5%	5.1%
85 years & over	1,352	1,797	445	32.9%	4.7%	8,965	12,846	3,881	43.3%	2.5%
Under 18 Years	7,803	8,775	972	12.5%	23.0%	125,291	129,015	3,724	3.0%	24.8%
18 - 64 Years	18,831	21,455	2,624	13.9%	56.3%	279,307	312,650	33,343	11.9%	60.2%
65 and over	7,063	7,903	840	11.9%	20.7%	66,060	77,780	11,720	17.7%	15.0%

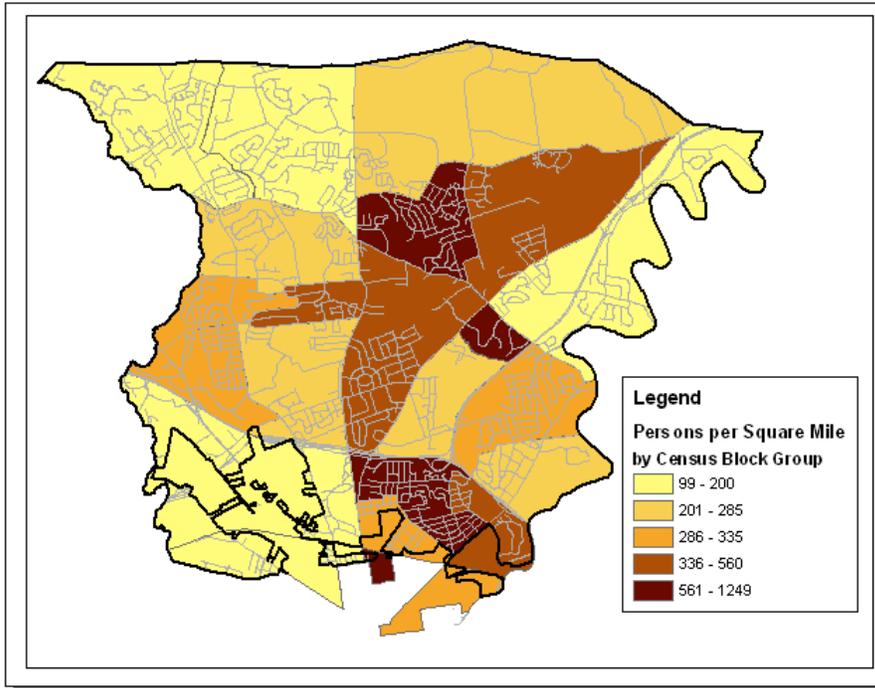
Source: US Census Bureau

Figure 3  
2010 Density of Population Under 18 Years of Age



Source: US Census Bureau; Consultant's Analysis

**Figure 4**  
**2010 Density of Population 65 Years and Over**



Source: US Census Bureau; Consultant's Analysis

## Race and Ethnicity

The Township and County are diversifying. The White population remains the largest population group in Manheim Township at 87.6% of the total population, but it experienced the lowest rate of increase from 2000 to 2010 at 6.4% (Table 6). The Hispanic and African American populations more than doubled from 2000 to 2010, and the Hispanic population surpassed the Asian population as the second largest in the Township with 6.6% of the total population.

Table 6 Racial and Ethnic Characteristics									
Population by Race and Ethnicity	Manheim Township					Lancaster County			
	2000 Census	2010 Census	# Change 2000-2010	% Change 2000-2010	2010% of Total	2000 Census	2010 Census	% Change 2000-2010	2010% of Total
White	31,400	33,405	2,005	6.4%	87.6%	430,456	460,171	6.9%	88.6%
Black or African American	491	1153	662	134.8%	3.0%	12,993	19,035	46.5%	3.7%
American Indian & Alaska Native	36	42	6	16.7%	0.1%	681	1,195	75.5%	0.2%
Asian	1056	1894	838	79.4%	5.0%	6,802	9,860	45.0%	1.9%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific	2	3	1	50.0%	0.0%	158	164	3.8%	0.0%
Other Race	344	922	578	168.0%	2.4%	13,669	18,819	37.7%	3.8%
Two or More Races	368	714	346	94.0%	1.9%	5,899	10,201	72.9%	2.0%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	932	2498	1,566	168.0%	6.6%	26,742	44,930	68.0%	8.6%

Source: US Census Bureau

## Educational Attainment

Because the 2010 Census does not include data on educational attainment, 2009 estimates are provided (Table 7). The data demonstrate that Manheim Township is a well educated community with 42.7% of persons over the age of 25 holding a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 23.2% countywide. Approximately 16% of Manheim Township residents hold a graduate or professional degree, compared to 7.6% countywide.

<b>Table 7 Educational Attainment</b>						
Level of Education	Manheim Township			Lancaster County		
	2009 Estimate	Margin of Error	% of Total	2009 Estimate	Margin of Error	% of Total
Population 25 years and over	25,663	+/- 606	100.0%	326,234	+/- 112	100.0%
Less than 9th grade	764	+/- 161	3.0%	25,431	+/- 1215	7.8%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	1,408	+/- 227	5.5%	33,678	+/- 1136	10.3%
High School Graduate	7,159	+/- 479	27.9%	127,367	+/- 1792	39.0%
Some College, no degree	3,832	+/- 383	14.9%	45,192	+/- 1283	13.9%
Associate Degree	1,553	+/- 240	6.1%	18,739	+/- 840	5.7%
Bachelor's Degree	6,803	+/- 470	26.5%	50,891	+/- 1420	15.6%
Graduate or Professional Degree	4,144	+/- 390	16.1%	24,936	+/- 958	7.6%
% high school or higher	n/a	+/- 1.1%	91.5%	n/a	+/- 0.4%	81.9%
% bachelor's degree or higher	n/a	+/- 1.9%	42.7%	n/a	+/- 0.5%	23.2%

Source: US Census Bureau

## Income

Income estimates from 2009 indicate that Manheim Township is an affluent community in comparison to Lancaster County. Both median household income and per capita income are substantially higher in the Township than the rest of Lancaster County.

<b>Table 8 Income Characteristics</b>				
	Manheim Township		Lancaster County	
	2009 Estimate	Margin of Error	2009 Estimate	Margin of Error
Median Household Income	\$66,314	+/- \$2,071	\$54,893	+/- \$592
Per Capita Income	\$37,194	+/- \$2,100	\$25,813	+/- \$333

Source: US Census Bureau

## Public Participation

This plan is rooted in public participation. Public involvement included five components: a Plan Study Committee, key person interviews, focus groups, a community public opinion survey, and public meetings. This process provided valuable information from those in the community who are involved in various parks and recreation related efforts, as well as the general public. Through these components, the needs of both the general citizens and community organizations that provide recreation services were considered. By combining interviews of key stakeholders that provide valuable support and services for parks and recreation with the opinions and needs of the general public, the process achieved a balanced perspective on special needs and overall community interests.

### Plan Study Committee

The Plan Study Committee guided the planning process by serving as the eyes and ears of the community. Members embodied a broad spectrum of community interests including representatives of the Parks and Recreation Board, Township Planning & Zoning Department, Recreation Department, conservation, senior adults, sports, Manheim School District, and business. Committee members provided ideas, presented concerns, worked on formulating recommendations, participated in public forums, arranged interviews, and reviewed and revised the plan. The Committee focused on achieving a balanced, realistic achievable plan that would enhance the quality of life in Manheim Township.

### Focus Groups

Small groups of citizens came together to discuss their interests ideas and concerns regarding specific areas of parks and recreation. These groups included individuals and organizations devoted to the particular topic under discussion. The focus groups and their findings were as follows:

**Youth and Young Adults**– Two youth focus groups found that teens are interested in having places to socialize, safe places to bicycle, more indoor recreation space during inclement weather, and opportunities to volunteer. They wanted convenient access to restrooms and food service in places where they gather such as at the skatepark. Having a year round indoor recreation facility where young adults can participate in events and socializing would complement hiking and biking in Manheim Township. Leagues for young adults would be fun but gym time is hard to get. A teen camp in the summer would be a good idea and it would need to be planned collaboratively with teens. A creative name (such as “Great Escape”) that does not include “Camp” in the title would be more likely to attract participants. Youth also mentioned the need to have great playgrounds that children and their families can enjoy together. The parks should have something for everyone to do regardless of age.

**Senior Adults** – A focus group was held with an ongoing senior group that meets at a local church. The activities for the group are planned and coordinated by the Recreation Department. The group is an older demographic of seniors and they list their primary park related activities as walking the trails and visiting the parks for picnics, reunions, and other planned gatherings. Discussion of ideas for activities and

programs that might draw them to the parks included concerts, movies with discussions following the viewing (perhaps at the library), and special events. They cited the need for shade and ease of parking and getting to their destination as key considerations for attendance.

**Nature** – Habitat MT - A focus meeting was held with Habitat MT, a volunteer organization formed in early 2010 with the support of the Manheim Township commissioners to enhance the municipal parks through ecological landscape practices. The group has taken on projects in the parks such as the design and development of Discovery Meadow at the library, native plantings at the wetlands at Overlook Community Campus, community maintenance events, and installation of native plants at Destination Playground. Habitat MT shared some of their priorities for the parks: low maintenance landscaping, use of native plants, especially pollinators, water quality initiatives, riparian buffers, and control of invasive species. They recognize the need to share the importance of enhancing the natural landscape with the general citizenry and Habitat MT is involved in outreach and education as well as landscaping and habitat enhancements. The group supports the use of interpretative signs and demonstration projects to illustrate key concepts and initiatives that help to inform and educate the public. Habitat MT is a potential partner for natural area improvements to the parks.

**Parents** – Outreach and advertising did not generate any participants for the parents group. Consequently, intercept interviews with parents attending township programs was used as an alternative. Overall they indicated a high level of satisfaction with township recreation programming and leadership. The day camp works especially well for working parents due to the extended hours offered for childcare before and after the daily camp program. The playground program has shorter hours with no before or after child care which works for families with care givers who stay at home.

**Recreation Leaders** – The Manheim Township Recreation Department playground program and the summer camp are very popular. Even with increasing fees, the public supported the programs. The programs enable participants to meet friends and interact with others of different interests and ages. They expressed the need for an indoor recreation center such as the Lititz Community Center. The Township's relationship with the School District is very important as the staff at the schools is vital to program success and harmonious operations.

## **Public Forums**

About 50 people participated in a public forum about parks and recreation. The consulting team presented information about the parks and recreation system and the findings from the survey results. The citizens' discussion focused on trails, conservation, trees, security, township planning and community involvement, and dissemination of information. The points made included:

- Continue to involve the citizens in trail planning and inform them of trail development with the goal of heightened public awareness through all phases.
- Continue to focus on natural resource conservation. Tree care and planting is especially important.
- Be fiscally responsible.

- The Park and Recreation Board is responsible for rules and regulations. Citizens should call the police when they see bad things going on in parks or on trails. Criminal activity needs to be prosecuted. We want to maximize service for all those who want to use facilities properly.
- This plan is rooted in a strong public participation process that includes public forums, focus groups, interviews, and a direct mail survey. The consulting team was selected through a competitive bidding process in which firms submitted proposals and were interviewed so that the plan can be accomplished professionally and objectively.
- Maximize existing facilities and complete projects rather than starting new ones.
- Address needs of senior citizens and encourage them to use parks and recreation facilities and programs.
- Post the trails and the greenway system on the WEB site.

A second public meeting will be held in conjunction with the Board of Commissioner's discussion of the plan

## Interviews

Interviews were conducted with 72 individuals regarding parks, recreation, open space and greenways/trails. These included community organizations, citizens with identified interests, people who asked to be interviewed, schools, business people, private non-profit organizations, regional recreation, park and trail groups, township management and staff, elected and appointed officials, survey non-respondents, park visitors, and recreation based organizations. Findings of interviews were specific to individual interests and perspectives and mirrored the results of other segments of the public participation process.

## Public Opinion Survey

Manheim Township conducted a public opinion survey in 2011. The purpose of the survey was to determine the opinions, ideas and concerns of the residents to serve as a foundation for decision-making regarding parks, recreation, open space and greenways/trails. By understanding the citizens' needs and interests, the Township is able to direct planning and resources for the benefit of the community.

The survey included a random sample of 1,500 households including 1,454 that were successfully delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. Every household had an equal chance of being selected for the direct mail survey. Completed surveys totaled 573 for a total response of 39.4 percent. Typically direct mail surveys result in a two to four percent return.

## Findings

- **Manheim Township's parks, recreation, open space and greenways/trails system garners high ratings by the citizens.** – 81 percent of the survey respondents rated the parks as good to excellent. 59 percent rated the programs as good to excellent. These are very favorable ratings.

- **Parks are popular.** – Respondents reported the most use at Overlook Park (73%), Community Park (62%), Compost Park (61%), Landes Woods (51%). Respondents reported using all other parks with Perelman Park getting the least reported use at 12%. However, this limited reported use correlates with the high lack of awareness of it by the respondents at 25%. Greater community awareness of this park would generate more use.
- **Parks are places for fun, fitness and nature.** – The top reasons for using township parks are for fun (57%), fitness (55%) and to experience nature (44%). People also like to socialize with family and friends and get away from it all in Manheim Township’s parks. Playing league sports, participating in a program or attending a special event were the least important reasons to use a park.
- **Nature is important.** – The most desired improvements for the parks are nature based: walking paths, access to natural areas, and greenways over the next ten years.
- **Active facilities rank high as immediate priorities.** Regarding improvements that respondents would like to within the next five years, more playgrounds, sports fields and games courts ranked as the top three facilities to develop or improve.
- **Indoor recreation facility interests.** – Less than 20 percent of the respondents indicated that indoor recreation facilities should never be developed. The most preferred facilities include fitness (51%), senior center (45%), a gym (44%) and swimming pool (44%). About 4- percent of the respondents were not sure what indoor recreation facility improvements should be developed or improved.
- **Top five recreation activities for participation.** – Walking (68%), socializing in township parks (63%), nature enjoyment ((58%), bicycling (43%), and special events ((39%) are the top five activities in which the respondents participate.
- **Top five recreation activities of interest.** – Walking (68%), socializing in township parks (63%), nature enjoyment ((58%), bicycling (43%), and special events ((39%) are the top five activities in which the respondents participate.
- **Family and adults services needed in the future.** – Families (37%) and adults ages 45 -64 (36%) are the two group most likely to participate in recreation programs. Written comments revealed that respondents feel that children and youth are very well served and that families and adults could use more service.
- **Conservation first.** – Respondents stated that the conservation of open space and natural resources (74%) should be the most important focus of parks, recreation, greenways and open space over the next five years. *Achieving a balance* of programs, park improvements, additional indoor recreation, enhancing park maintenance and development of trails ranked

next in importance to the residents. Half of the respondents stated that enhancing park maintenance is important or very important.

- **Support for Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways/Trails**  
– Respondents indicated their willingness to support parks and recreation through user fees, facility charges, additional taxes, and volunteerism. Paying fees and charges for programs (58%), facility rental fees (59%) and facility fees for high maintenance facilities (50%) have substantial support. About 41 percent of the respondents expressed a willingness to pay an additional amount per capita for parks and recreation in Manheim Township including \$2-4 (28%), \$5-7 (38%), or \$8-9 (26%). No doubt, the high usage and positive public regard for Manheim Township’s parks and recreation system contributed to the willingness to pay fees and additional per capita funding to support parks and recreation in this time of great economic challenges.

In summary, parks and recreation are very important to the people of Manheim Township. Over the long term, the conservation of Manheim Township’s natural resources and scenic beauty is of the greatest importance to the respondents. In the immediate time frame of the next five years, respondents indicated a need for more sports facilities and game courts. Safe places to walk, bicycle and access to nature are important to people of all ages. The future direction for programs is in service to families and adults primarily in the area of self-directed recreation, adult classes, trips, the arts and fitness. Continuing to use volunteers to support parks and recreation should continue. Over 90 respondents provided information regarding their willingness to volunteer with parks and recreation projects.

## Trends

When Manheim Township adopted the last parks and recreation plan in 1998, the world was much different. Laptops and cell phones were only beginning to appear. Cameras still had film. The Internet was by dial-up. There was no texting, Facebook or Twitter. Trends represent underlying forces, basic human needs, attitudes, and aspirations. They help the Recreation Department understand what is happening and why, and prepare for what is yet to come. Trends identify emerging currents or forces gaining momentum in the community. Monitoring the pulse of culture as it shifts enables the Department to ensure that their services and facilities remain relevant to the citizens for the future. For example, monitoring how citizens get information has implications in how the Department delivers it. The future starts now and the challenge to the Recreation Department is figuring out how to apply the trends in public service. Trends affecting society and that have relevance to parks and recreation planning include those shown in Table 2 -1<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Popcorn, Faith. (2011). **TrendBank**. Brain Reserve. <http://brainreserve.com>.

**Table 2-1. Societal Trends and Implications for Parks and Recreation**

Trend	Implication
Awareness that good health extends longevity and leads to a new way of life.	Continue Manheim Township's focus and identity as a healthy community with active healthy living recreation programs as a focus.
Working women and men, questioning personal/career satisfaction and goals, opt for simpler living.	Increase public awareness about close to home, free recreation opportunities that citizens can do on their own such as bicycling, walking, experiencing nature and playing with family and friends.
Too fast a pace, too little time, forces people to assume multiple roles.	Make experiencing parks and recreation convenient, easy in any way possible from registration through scheduling and serving as the "go to" resource for information on enjoying free time.
A reaching back to spiritual roots.	Build a sense of community by personalizing contacts with citizens and participants as much as possible. Use information database to identify citizen interests and develop outreach programs tailored to individual participants. Feature photos and testimonials about parks and recreation in publications and on WEB site.
Belonging to a group that represents common feelings, causes or ideals; validating one's own belief system.	
Need to protect oneself from the harsh, unpredictable realities of the outside world.	Establish Manheim Township's parks and recreation system and services as a haven for individual growth and establishment of healthy family and social bonds that create a sense of community.
Nostalgic for their carefree childhood, baby boomers find comfort in familiar pursuits and products from their youth.	Explore the creation of activities, programs and leagues that are emerging as popular nationwide such as kick-ball leagues, day camps for adults.
To offset a depersonalized society, consumers crave recognition of their individuality.	Strive to develop targeted outreach programs based upon interest in the way that on-line business do. Provide excellent customer service.
Desire for adventure.	Consider the development of adventure-based programs, trips and opportunities. Use this desire in advertising and images to generate more participation and use of township parks and recreation facilities
Consumers, anxiety-ridden by social, economic, political and ethical chaos, find themselves beyond their ability to cope today or imagine tomorrow.	Continue to provide outstanding customer service. Make participation as easy and convenient as possible. Provide information in real time through the WEB site or social messaging about schedule or facility changes.
The country rediscovers a social conscience of ethics, passion and compassion.	Support and build upon efforts in Manheim Township such as Habitat MT.
Stressed-out consumers want to indulge in affordable luxuries and seek ways to reward themselves.	Develop a way to tell the story of how community parks and recreation present a means for people to reward and refresh themselves. Citizens can improve their lives through active living, personal growth and development and by experiencing nature.

## Trends in Manheim Township

Trends that affect parks and recreation in Manheim Township are shown in Table 2-2. The Table identifies the trend and presents potential ways to address it to benefit the public through parks, recreation, open space and greenways.

Table 2-2. Manheim Township Trends and Implications for Parks and Recreation	
Trend	Implication
<p><b>Cultural Diversification</b> - 34% of students in the school district are minorities. About 400 students are in the ESL (English as a Second Language) program. About ten years ago 10% of the students were minorities. This has major implications for community recreation planning and services.</p>	<p>Planning for recreational services to a diversifying culture is essential. This will be a growing need as more than one out of three students age. This should include potential fluency in other languages by recreation staff. A School District/Recreation Department partnership would help.</p>
<p><b>Conservation of Natural Resources is a Public Priority</b> – Trees are important. In this community that was primarily farms, there has been a shortage of trees due to the past agricultural use. The Township only requires developers to plant street trees in PRDs (Planned Residential Development). Concern about native plantings and removal of invasive species in the parks is evident.</p>	<p>Continue the work of Habitat MT with support by township management and staff. Develop a natural resources plan for the Township, geared primarily to public lands. Set a goal of making every landowner a steward for the environment and develop a long-term plan for addressing this concept.</p>
<p><b>Volunteerism in Conservation: On the Rise</b> People want to volunteer but don't know how or where to go or who to contact to get involved. May don't even know what they could do as volunteers but would like to serve.</p>	<p>Increase awareness and opportunities of a volunteer program in the Recreation Department.</p>
<p><b>Sense of Community: Ever More Important to the Citizens</b> – Manheim Township citizens want to have a sense of community and be socially connected. Cultural diversity is increasing. Concern is evident regarding “no sense of place” in Manheim Township. In comparison, town centers in the area such as Lititz have people walking around at night for fun and fitness. There is no “community center” or “main street” area that could be considered the hub of the Township.</p>	<p>The parks and recreation programs provide a vehicle for establishing a sense of community in Manheim Township. Providing ways for citizens to come together on shared interests builds community. Involving people of various cultures, ethnicities, and economic levels in community parks and recreation planning will become increasingly important. Overlook campus could potentially serve as the central gathering hub of the community.</p>
<p><b>Desire for Premiere Public Spaces</b> - Township parks tend to look alike without imbuing unique characteristics for each site. The planning process for parks does not address creating great public spaces. Emphasis is on the facility not the park visitor.</p>	<p>Plan parks with sense of community and unique identity to foster public interest. Adopt a park visitor orientation rather than focusing on the facilities per se.</p>

**Table 2-2. Manheim Township Trends and Implications for Parks and Recreation (cont.)**

Trend	Implication
<p><b>Township Build-Out</b> - The Township is becoming more developed and approaching build out. There is a higher population density and fewer large tracts of land remaining open.</p>	<p>Continuing planning to focus on providing recreation opportunities close to home is essential.</p>
<p><b>School Busing Trends</b> - Nearly all of the school students take the buses to school. However, the schools are within walking or cycling distance according to state standards. Statewide trend is reductions in school busing.</p>	<p>Continuing to create safe routes to school will become more important over time as fiscal challenges in the school district and municipal government increase. Connections from neighborhoods to community destinations are highly desirable.</p>
<p><b>Bicycling: Safe Places to Ride for Transportation and Recreation Needed</b> – Bicycling is a major interest of the citizens. They want to be able to cycle safely for recreation, transportation and fitness. Youth want to be able to ride their bikes to parks.</p>	
<p><b>Year Round Recreation</b> – There appears to be need and support for year round indoor recreation in Manheim Township.</p>	<p>Explore expanded partnership with the Manheim Township School District for use of facilities after school hours. Churches are adding recreation facilities such as gyms. Some may be available for rent. Expand Overlook Activity Center.</p>
<p><b>Holistic Improvements Needed</b> - A sense of urgency drives the Township. It is part of the culture here to move ahead and get things done. Concern is evident about having projects done as piecemeal efforts and that tend not to reach completion to the degree desired.</p>	<p>Adopt a planning process that includes professional expertise, targeted community involvement, a maintenance and operations plan, a financing program with sources and expenditures and a schedule for implementation.</p>
<p><b>Services for teens</b> - There is not enough for teenagers to do here.</p>	<p>Consider the establishment of an advisory committee for teens, undertaking discrete planning efforts for teen related facilities and services, and/or establishing a teen position on the Parks and Recreation Board. Consider services for summer as a pilot project.</p>
<p><b>Evolving Senior Population: more active, healthy, involved and interested.</b> Independent and focused on leading active healthy lifestyles. People are retiring later.</p>	<p>Planning for facilities that people can use throughout their lifetime and on an expanded basis when they retire will help Manheim Township to make the best use of resources.</p>
<p><b>Retirement Community Living</b> - Many retirement communities have located in Manheim Township. This is a significant portion of the population.</p>	<p>They have many recreation related services and facilities such as trails that are only available to residents of the retirement community. It is important to look at the needs of the aging population that lives in the community at large not in age restricted housing and determine if any partnerships could be formed for recreation service planning and delivery.</p>
<p><b>Recreation Facilities in Homeowners' Associations</b> - Some of the homeowners associations are removing their play equipment to save money on maintenance.</p>	<p>Consider ramifications on the public park system and potential need to serve these neighborhoods.</p>

## Planning for Recreation, Parks, Greenways and Open Space

Manheim Township, the LIMC (Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee) communities, and Lancaster County are on the forefront of contemporary planning practice. All are nationally recognized for their innovation and success in community and land use planning. Manheim Township's Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program serves as a model for farmland and open space preservation, while the LIMC and Lancaster County have been recognized with awards for their outstanding comprehensive plans.

Consistent with the LIMC and Lancaster County comprehensive plans, the 2010 **Manheim Township Comprehensive Plan** directs future development to the Township's Urban Growth Area (UGA) and Village Growth Area (VGA). It identifies very few large undeveloped properties in the growth areas where new development could take place. Because available land in the UGA and VGA is scarce, the Comprehensive Plan promotes future growth in the form of high-density infill development and redevelopment in order to accommodate projected population. The Comprehensive Plan also identifies a Designated Agricultural Area in the northeast quadrant of the Township, which, due to its importance for agricultural production, is intended to remain in agricultural use.

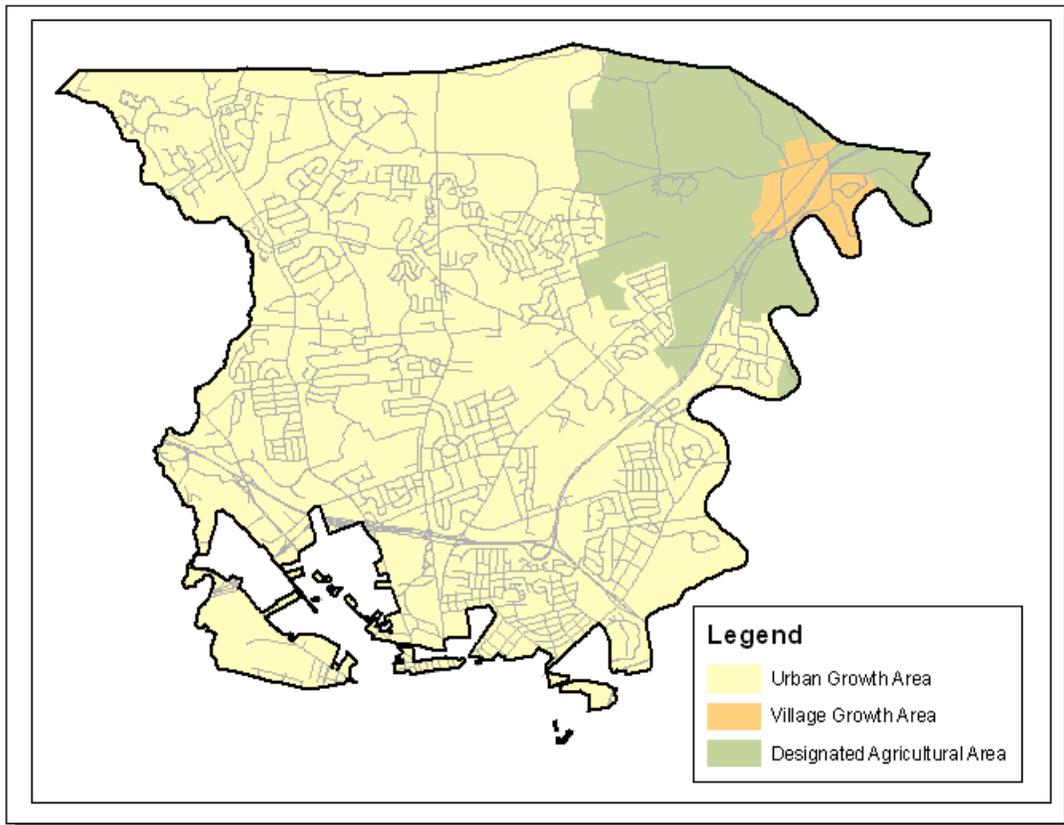
The Manheim Township Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) currently contain provisions for the mandatory dedication of parkland, dedication of greenways and trails, natural resource protection, and open space preservation through TDR and Planned Residential Development. Although the ordinances are effective, opportunities to strengthen them remain.

The **Manheim Township Recreation, Park, Greenways and Open Space Plan** advances the policies set forth in the Manheim Township, LIMC, and Lancaster County comprehensive plans, specifically those related to the protection of natural resources, community character, and the health and welfare of residents. Recommendations for future recreation, parks, open spaces and greenways are formulated in the context of these comprehensive plans, as well as the Township zoning ordinance and SALDO, and other ongoing community and land use planning initiatives, in order to achieve a consistent and holistic vision and action plan for the Township.

The **Recreation, Park, Open Space and Greenways Plan** recognizes that future growth and development will occur within the UGA and VGA and that parks and recreational facilities will be needed to serve the growing population in these areas. Thus the focus of park and recreation planning, especially active recreation, is directed to the UGA and VGA (Figure 5). In the Designated Agricultural Area, the emphasis is on open space and farmland preservation. Proposed open space and greenways coincide with natural resource protection areas, and trails provide links to destinations throughout the Township. The overall vision is of parkland in proximity to population and linked by a contiguous network of open space, greenways, and trails that provides recreational opportunities while protecting resources.

Manheim Township has done an excellent job of providing recreation and open space for its residents. The Township has an excellent park and recreation system offering a variety of pursuits to residents in safe and well-maintained facilities. In the short-term, Manheim Township has an opportunity to enhance the existing park system to improve accessibility, safety, and function, and to meet the needs of residents. Over the long-term, Manheim Township is faced with the challenge of providing sufficient parkland for both active and passive recreational pursuits in order to keep pace with an expected large population increase. The Township's planning efforts must continue if it is to address current needs and meet projected demand for recreation. This does not suggest, however, that the Township must rely solely on land acquisition to meet demand; rather, the Township can employ a combination of planning tools--regulatory and non-regulatory--as recommended below.

Figure 5 Manheim Township Growth Areas



### **Land for Parks and Greenways**

The analysis of parkland acreage (Chapter 5) yields a current total deficit of 102.2 acres of parkland based on the current (2010 Census) population of 38,133, and a total deficit of 181.6 acres of parkland by 2030 based on a projected population of 46,800. To overcome these deficits, the Township must expand its park and recreational facilities to provide both active and passive recreational opportunities to its residents.

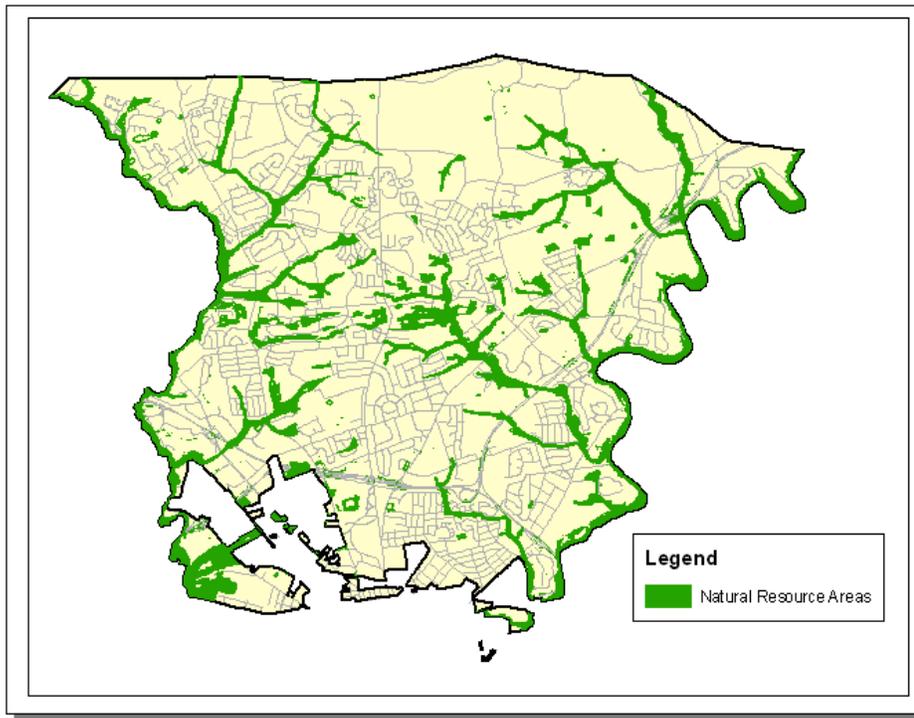
## Parks

Efforts to expand park and recreational facilities should be primarily focused in the UGA and VGA. Expansion of existing park sites provides an economical means of meeting demand by enabling the Township to capitalize on existing park infrastructure and facilities. The Existing Land Use map contained in the 2010 Manheim Township Comprehensive Plan identifies several parcels classified as “Agricultural” that are contiguous to existing parks and that could be candidates for park expansion. In addition, new parks and recreation areas should be established in conjunction with new development that takes place in the UGA and VGA. Manheim Township has an adopted ordinance requiring the dedication of parkland in conjunction with new development that is intended to address parkland needs arising from future development.

## Open Space and Greenways

For the purposes of this plan, open space is intended to represent land conserved in its natural condition for the purpose of passive recreational use and environmental and scenic resource protection. Open space can be unimproved or minimally improved to accommodate facilities such as trails, picnic areas, nature education, river access points, and similar low impact facilities. Contiguous open space that connects a networked greenway system is preferable to an assortment of isolated fragments of open space due to the increased benefit to recreation and ecological function. The Existing Land Use Map in the 2010 Manheim Township Comprehensive Plan identifies several contiguous undeveloped parcels that could form one such open space network through the center of Township. Areas of undisturbed slopes, floodplains, wetlands, and riparian buffers could also form greenway networks and could extend into adjoining municipalities forming a regional greenway system (Figure 6). Regional greenways are envisioned along Conestoga River and Little Conestoga Creek as Major Greenways. Minor Greenways are identified along Bachman Run and its tributary, the tributary to the Little Conestoga Creek, Lititz Run, Kurtz Run and its tributary, Landis Run and its tributary, and the tributary to the Conestoga River. In addition to the major greenways, priority for acquisition of easements should be given to the Lititz Run greenway, as neighboring Warwick Township has secured easements along this waterway providing an opportunity for a multi-municipal greenway that links to the Conestoga River.

Figure 6 Natural Resource Areas



### Trails and Sidewalks

Existing and proposed trails create a greenways network formed by a number of connected trail loops. Trail loops facilitate hiking and walking by having coincident start and end points, and connected loops provide hikers/walkers the option of stringing together longer trips if desired. The proposed trail network also connects parks, open space areas, neighborhoods, schools, shopping areas, and other key destinations. Trail routes traverse currently undeveloped land to the extent possible, assuming greater feasibility of establishing trails on such land. Connections to trail systems in neighboring municipalities are intended to facilitate the establishment of a regional trail network. Sidewalks should be required in new residential and non-residential developments as appropriate. Trails and sidewalks are intended to accomplish the following:

- Provide for non-motorized access to destinations throughout the Township.
- Facilitate the formation of a regional trail system.
- Provide ADA accessible trails and paths.
- Derive public health benefits that result from pedestrian activity.

## Summary

Manheim Township is at the crossroads of becoming a fully built-out community as the population is projected to increase by over 8,600 people by 2030. This anticipated growth of about 23 percent places a sense of urgency on the community to round out its parks system to meet future recreation needs, connect it through greenways and trails, and protect its scenic beauty and natural resources. Planning recreation services to serve more citizens also requires consideration of an aging and culturally diversifying population. With a significant number of citizens in the younger age groups as well, family oriented recreation services will continue to be important. Manheim Township residents take pride in living here and treasure their parks and recreation system. The findings of the public participation process indicate that there is strong interest in the conservation of natural resources, development of more athletic fields, more recreation programs for families and adults; and support for paying for parks and recreation.