Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Management Plan



Table of Contents

1	Over	view	3
	1.1	Parks & Recreation Goals	3
	1.2	Parks and Recreation Board	4
2	Park	and Greenspaces	4
	2.1	Peppermint Park	4
	2.2	Lime Kiln on Woodbyne Road Greenspace	6
3	Trails	S	7
	3.1	Upper Bucks Rail Trail	7
4	Prog	rams	8
	4.1	Youth Projects	8
	4.2	Community Day	8
	4.3	Volunteers / "Friends of the"	8
	4.4	Art in the Park – TBD	9
	4.5	Springfield 5K / fun run – TBD	9
	4.6	Bird / Nature walks – TBD	9
	4.7	Donations and Sponsorships	9
	4.8	Memorial Bench Program – TBD	9
5	Fisca	l Responsibility	. 10
	5.1	Permitted Uses	. 10
6	Арре	endix A – Maintenance Unit Types	14
	6.1	Management Types by Facility	. 14
	6.2	Management Types	. 15
7	Chan	ge Log	. 19

1 Overview

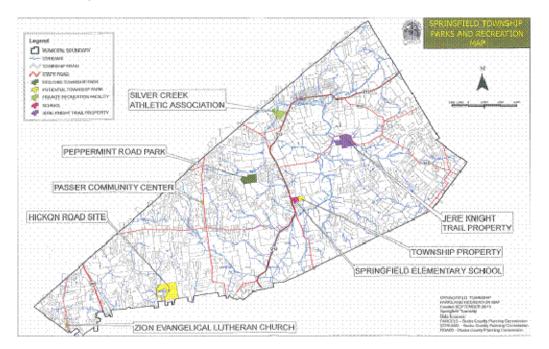
1.1 Parks & Recreation Goals

In 2012, the Springfield Township Board of Supervisors (BoS) initiated work on a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The effort was facilitated by a paid consultant and involved a group of interested township citizens. The combined group surveyed township residents, worked to create the master plan, and facilitated a number of public forums throughout the township in order to gain feedback. The Master Plan was provided to the BoS in fall of 2013.

The Master Plan recommended four goals for Parks and Recreation:

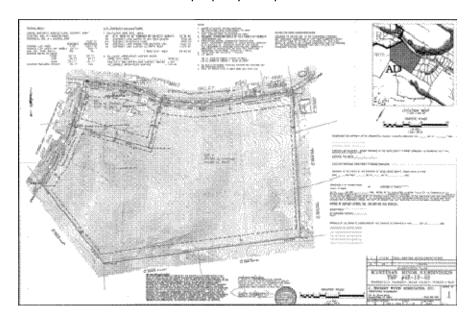
- Parks Establish parks and recreation facilities as community destinations where residents can have fun, experience nature, socialize, and lead active healthy lifestyles.
- Trails Connect our community through a system of greenways and trails.
- Programs Facilitate recreation opportunities to help the citizens engage in active healthy living.
- Fiscal responsibility Provide operational excellence and financial sustainability that will garner widespread public support for parks and recreation.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan indicated that several properties within the township may be suitable to become part of the township Parks and Recreation. A Township Map indicating locations of Parks and Trails is depicted below.



1.2 Parks and Recreation Board

In May 2014, the Springfield Township BoS impaneled the Parks and Recreation Board (PRB) with the longer term objective of managing Parks and Recreation activities within the township and the near term goal of utilizing a PA state grant awarded to the township in November 2013. The grant was for \$111K with a matching requirement and the goal of developing and establishing a Park on the Kurtesan property on Peppermint Road which the township had purchased in 2002. A topographical map from the 2002 purchase of the ~45 acre Kurtesan property is depicted below.



The PRB maintains an annual budget and reports to the BoS. The township retains actual check writing and accounting responsibility.

2 Parks and Greenspaces

2.1 Peppermint Park

Park Name: Peppermint Park

Objectives: Passive recreation, land preservation

Dedicated: 23 April 2016

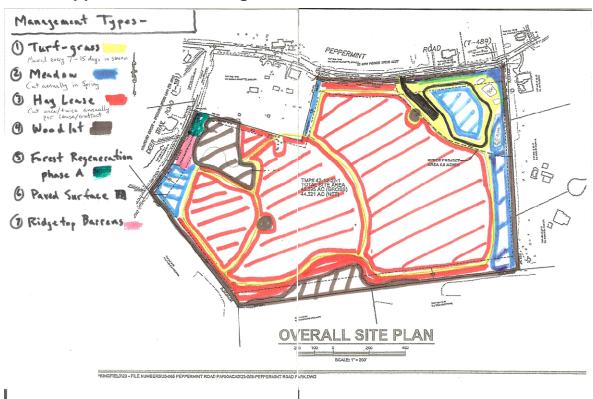
Description: in 2002, Springfield Township purchased a ~45 acre property along Peppermint and Deer Trail Roads which was part of the former Playland property. In 2013, the Township was awarded a State Grant to develop the property into the Township's first park. The property consists of a ~5 acre woodlot, ~35 acres of open field, and ~5 acres including a parking lot, paved walking trail, a small ridgetop barrens biome, and a rain garden. Walking paths have been mowed into grass around the park and offer various lengths via a series of loops. The park offers an approximate 200 foot elevation change from the bottom to the highest point.

Table with listing of amenities



View from top of hill in the park looking northeast.

2.1.1 Peppermint Park Management Units



Management types for the park are indicated in the diagram above. A key for the major maintenance types is:

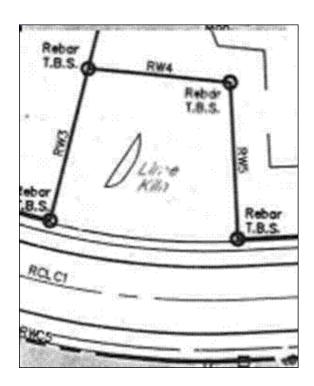
- 1. Turf grass (yellow areas)
- 2. Meadow (blue areas)
- 3. Hay Lease (red areas)
- 4. Woodlot (brown areas)
- 5. Reforestation (green area)
- 6. Paved Surface (black areas)
- 7. Ridge-top barrens biome (pink area)

2.2 Lime Kiln on Woodbyne Road Greenspace

PRB is considering that the Township owned property for the Lime Kiln on Woodbyne Road for greenspace and it may be a candidate for a future park. Springfield Township has ownership of a small plot of ground with a historic stone Lime Kiln in Springtown. The Township owned the property since 2014 Road dedication. This is the last known intact Lime Kiln in Springfield Township. The Lime Kiln is in danger of collapse which may result in loss of history. The Springfield Township Historical Society has been instrumental in providing:

- Awareness,
- Education, and
- Initiation of fundraising to preserve the Lime Kiln

Initial efforts might focus on preservation of the Lime Kiln with subsequent creation of a master plan for the site and update of this management plan. A plot plan of the property and a photo of the Lime Kiln are below. Vegetation including several large trees with roots impinging on the Lime Kiln were removed in 2017. The plot was over seeded with grass seed to mitigate any erosion concerns and to control return growth of shrubs and trees. The PRB is pursuing masonry work to preserve the exposed portion of the Kiln.





3 Trails

3.1 Upper Bucks Rail Trail

Trail Name: Upper Bucks Rail Trail

Objectives: Active recreation including walking, running, bike riding

Dedicated: TBD

Description: In January 2016, the Bucks County Commissioners approved a Design and Engineering contract for the section of rail from the county line south to veteran's Park in Richland Township. The contract is expected to be completed by end of calendar 2016 and result in construction documents to allow future construction. As of this time, the funding for construction and any approval for construction is TBD, although Buck County has indicated it will fund construction, but not maintenance.

The length of the unused rail line in Springfield Township is approximately 1.2 miles. Along most of the distance, the track is two sets of rails wide. The line crosses one township road – Mine Road – and traverses under the Springfield Street bridge. From Mine Road north to near the old Hilltop Train Station on Route 309, there are three sets of rails. The PA DEP determined that an area around the Springfield Street bridge should be considered as wetlands. Bucks County Planning Commission is considering installation of a 800 foot boardwalk section in this area.

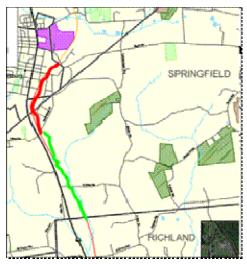


Table with listing of amenities
Photo of Trail sign / logo
DRAFT Trail Rules – see Section 5.1

3.1.1 Upper Bucks Rail Trail Management Units - TBD

4 Programs

4.1 Youth Projects

The PRB will support local youth related groups (e.g., Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H) and work with Leaders and youth for service projects.

4.2 Community Day

The PRB will continue to support Springfield Community Day by sponsoring a booth at the event. The intention is to allow open communication with the public as to current park and recreation activities and gathering feedback from the community.

4.3 Volunteers / "Friends of the ..."

The PRB has benefited from generous citizens that volunteer their time in support of Parks and Recreation. Because of the support, the PRB is able to offset Operations and Maintenance costs and therefore request fewer budget funds annually from the Board of Supervisors.

An electronic newsletter is sent to individuals that have volunteered their email addresses for the purpose of sharing Parks and Recreation related information and volunteer work days.

4.4 Art in the Park - TBD

TBD

The PRB invites members of the community to capture images of the park in different media (e.g., photography, drawing, painting) as part of an annual contest. Images may depict anything at the park.

4.5 Springfield 5K / fun run – TBD

TBD

4.6 Bird / Nature walks - TBD

TBD

Springfield Township is officially a Birdtown, USA as sponsored by the Audubon Society. The PRB will work with the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) to sponsor activities in the Park related to birding and bird watching. Additionally, guided nature walks / sessions will be another avenue of PRB programs.

4.7 Donations and Sponsorships

The PRB has benefited from generous support of township residents.

4.8 Memorial Bench Program - TBD

The PRB is considered adoption of a memorial bench program to allow donation to memorialize individuals. The BoS is reviewing a new memorialization ordinance at their 15 May 2018 meeting, which may result in updates to this section.

Parks and Recreation Board (PRB) Memorial Bench Program Policy

Springfield Township

DRAFT – 15 January 2018

- A program whereby individuals and organizations can purchase a memorial bench that will be located in Springfield Township. Currently the program is limited to Peppermint Park, but may be expanded in the future to the pending Upper Bucks Rail Trail.
- In Peppermint Park, five (5) locations are made available initially along the 1 mile outer loop section of the trail. The locations are purposely remote from any residences abutting the park to avoid any disturbance. Depending on the popularity of the program more locations may be selected in the future.
- Bench locations will be selected by Springfield Township, Parks and Recreation Board (PRB).

- The approved color for the park benches is red (Cranberry).
- The program will be limited to individuals/residents and local Springfield Township organizations. No commercial sponsorships will be accepted.
- Individuals and organizations purchasing the benches will make payment directly to Springfield Township who will assemble the bench, prepare the engraved memorial plaque and install the bench at the location chosen in the Park. No costs will be incurred by the Township.
- The benches selected are very durable, will be anchored securely, and should withstand normal usage by users. However, if the bench is damaged or stolen, the Township will not be responsible for its repair or replacement.

For information on how to purchase these benches, contact Mike Brown, Township Manager, at (610) 346-6700 x12 or at manager@springfieldbucks.org.

5 Fiscal Responsibility

The PRB has been chartered with performing duties in a fiscally responsible manner. Springfield Township is small and budgets are typically not large enough to accomplish all Park and Recreation wants and needs. It is incumbent on the PRB to manage efforts carefully and making the most of volunteer effort and donations is prudent.

Another aspect of managing the facilities is to adjudicate possible conflicts of usage within the Parks and Recreation system. This may include maintenance activities, planned work by the hay lease farmer, programs (e.g., 5K run, 1 mile fun walk, outdoor led nature walks), other municipal activities (e.g., police fitness tests), and possibly in the future, reservation of portions of the park for township residents (e.g., wedding photos).

5.1 Permitted Uses

5.1.1 Peppermint Park Rules

- 1. The park is open to the public only during the hours of day light (dawn to dusk), or as otherwise posted by Springfield Township.
- 2. Drinking and/or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- 3. Intoxication, indecent language, disorderly conduct, or other nuisance behavior is prohibited.
- 4. All pets brought to the park must be controlled on a leash and not be a nuisance or a danger to other park users. Pet owners are required to remove their pet's fecal deposits from the park grounds and place their waste in a suitable receptacle.

- 5. Building fires, hunting, trapping, camping, horseback riding, driving golf balls, operating off-road vehicles (e.g., ATVS, 4 wheelers, motorcycles), and riding snowmobiles are prohibited.
- 6. The possession or use of firearms, crossbows or weapons of any kind is prohibited.
- 7. Damaging, defacing, or removing any park property is prohibited.
- 8. Littering is prohibited. Glass containers of any kind are prohibited. All rubbish must be placed in park receptacle(s).
- 9. Non-official motorized vehicles are to be parked and operated only in designated areas. Motorized vehicles are prohibited when park is closed. Official vehicles are Township, Municipal, and PRB authorized.
- 10. For the promotion of health and wellness, smoking is not permitted on park property.
- 11. Individuals using park facilities assume personal responsibility and risk.
- 12. Selling of food, concession or solicitation of any kind is prohibited without a permit from Springfield Township.
- 13. Individuals should not enter, exit, or establish access to the park through neighboring properties. Stay on the maintained paths.
- 14. Do not drive, operate or use a bicycle or mountain bike in an unsafe or hazardous manner. Yield right-of-way to other trail users remember that pedestrians and runners are more vulnerable trail users.
- 15. All signs except those established by Springfield Township are prohibited.

5.1.2 Upper Bucks Trail Rules – Springfield Section DRAFT

No person shall commit any of the following acts within the Rail Trail system:

- 1. Engage in any violent, abusive, loud, boisterous, vulgar, lewd, wanton, obscene or otherwise disorderly conduct tending to create a breach of the peace or to disturb or annoy others, while in or on any property administrated by or under the jurisdiction of the Township.
- 2. Possess or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage while in or upon any property administered by or under the jurisdiction of the Township.
- 3. Possess or be under the influence of any illegal drug or narcotic while in or upon any property administered by or under the jurisdiction of the Township.
- 4. Throwing or propelling stones or missiles of any kind.
- 5. Hitting or driving golf balls.
- 6. All pets brought to the park must be controlled on a leash. All fecal matter shall be bagged and removed by the owner.

- 7. Horses are prohibited on the Trail.
- 8. Littering is prohibited. All rubbish must be placed in park receptacles.
- 9. Peddle or solicit business of any nature or collect any funds for any service of charity, or to distribute handbills or other advertising matter, to post unauthorized signs on any property administered by or under the control of the Township without first obtaining a permit from the Township.
- 10. Setting off, or discharging any firearms, air rifles, air pistols, sling shots or fireworks, including sparklers
- 11. Drive, operate or park any motor vehicle including but not limited to, recreation vehicle, ATV, snowmobile, dirt bike, and unlicensed vehicles with motors in or on any real estate
- 12. Drive, operate or use a vehicle or vehicular device in such a manner as to constitute "trick riding", or in an unsafe or hazardous manner
- 13. Unless authorized by the Township or PRB, operating off-road vehicles is prohibited.
- 14. Obstructing, in any way, either totally or partially, any of the paths or roadways in said recreation places.
- 15. Entering or leaving any recreation place by motor vehicle except at the establishing and designated ways of entrance and exit
- 16. Cut, remove, or destroy any trees, sapling, seedling, bush or shrub, whether alive or dead, or chip, blaze, box, girdle, trim or otherwise deface or injure any tree or shrub, or pick, gather, uproot, remove or destroy any flower, plant or grass, except with a permit issued by the Township.
- 17. Remove or cause to be removed or to dig any sod, earth, humus, peat, boulder, rock, gravel or sand, except with a permit issued by the Township.
- 18. Posting or displaying any sign, banner, or advertisement of a political or commercial nature.
- 19. Building, starting or lighting any fires except at those places or structures provided therefore.
- 20. Injuring or destroying any wildlife.
- 21. Defacing, writing upon, or mutilating any notice posted within the recreation places by order of Township officials.
- 22. Camp, except in such areas as may be provided and designated for such purposes by the Township. No person or group shall camp without a permit issued by the Township.

5.1.3 Permit Process – TBD

As the Parks and Recreation facilities gain usage there will need to be a transparent way to manage usage and avoid conflicts. Springfield residents may request a permit of usage from the PRB. For special

events that would restrict public access, the PRB will forward a completed, approved permit to the BoS for awareness.

6 Appendix A - Maintenance Unit Types

6.1 Management Types by Facility

Table below provides a high level view of maintenance type with indication of what is planned to be used at individual facilities.

Management Type	Peppermint	Rail Trail –	Lime Kiln	TBD
	Park	TBD	– TBD	
Turf-Grass	Yes	No		
Meadow	Yes	No		
Hay Lease	Yes	No		
Rain Garden	Yes	No		
Trees	Yes	Yes		
Ridge-top Barrens	Yes	No		
Shrubs	Yes	Yes		
Pervious Surface	Woodlot Trail	Yes		
Paved Areas	Yes	Yes		
Invasive	Yes	Yes		
Woodlot	Yes	Yes		
Deer and Wildlife	Yes	Yes		
Storm water inspection (last / next)	2015 / 2016	TBD		
Amenities	Waste, Recycle	Waste, Recycle		

6.2 Management Types

6.2.1 Turf-grass Management

Turf grass areas that are mowed (i.e. Mowed paths) and contained within the Hay Lease areas may have *collateral* herbicide and/or fertilizer application as part of the larger Hay Lease area management. Mowed paths will not independently have herbicide and/or fertilizer application.

The mowed paths will be cut approximately every 14 days during growing season. Cutting frequency will be less at start and end of season.

Turf Grass Management		
Mowing and Trim	Satisfactory turf coverage will be mowed and trimmed as needed to maintain a height-of-cut (HOC) between 2.5" and 4". Clippings will be side discharged or mulched into the turf canopy.	
Seeding	Thin or bare areas deemed unacceptable will be documented and addressed by priority. Renovation will consist of soil cultivation, seeding, and possibly fertilization using a "starter" type product. Methods of renovation will be determined by site restrictions, equipment, labor, and material availability.	
Herbicides	Obstructions requiring hand trim work (such as: fences, permanent structures, and other immovable objects) will be assessed. The areas may be treated with non-selective herbicides to reduce labor inputs, or alternative methods used (e.g., small stones / sand).	
PGR's	Plant growth regulators (PGR's) may be utilized on turf areas to reduce labor requirements.	

6.2.2 Meadow Management

Meadows should be mowed to a height (typically 4-6 inches during the first year) just above the tops of the native grasses, which are growing below the weeds and annual grasses. During the second growing season only 1 to 2 of perennial invasive such as Canada thistle may require the use of broadleaf herbicide (e.g., stinger) or manual eradication in addition to mowing. Following establishment, meadows should be mowed once a year during early spring (April). Unless additional mowings are required to present thistle, mugwort, spotted knapweed or other invasives from going to seed. Early spring mowings provides winter habitat, as well as a sequence of blooming wildflowers.

Meadow areas reserved for wildflowers (such as inside paved path of Peppermint Park) will not have herbicide applications.

The meadow fragment surrounded by the paved walking path at the park is a unique and special habitat as an excellent example of an original plant community within the Reading Prong of the Northeastern Highlands physiographic region. Maintained purely by annual mowing for more than 50 years, the plant

species present within the meadow fragment represent those that would have been present before the arrival of European settlers. Several plant species growing in the meadow fragment are quite difficult to find elsewhere in the region and play an important role in the survival of the Monarch butterfly and other indigenous insects: Monarda fistulosa, Asclepias _merican, Sisyrinchium mucronatum, and Solidago speciosa.

6.2.3 Hay Lease Management

Hay Lease area managed initially per Contract.

Notice must be given prior to herbicide or fertilizer treatments. Pesticides are not expected to be applied in Peppermint Park as part of the Hay Lease.

6.2.4 Rain Garden Management

Storm-water management BMP shall be maintained on an annual basis for the first tow years following completion of construction. Accumulated sediment within forebay or main rain garden can be removed by hand (e.g., with a shovel) or by using a small rubber tire or rubber tracked loader such as a "bobcat". BMP can be mowed annually on the same schedule as meadow areas following establishment of plantings within them. Alternatively, if BMP hydrology results in a more wetland type community, annual mowing may not be desirable. Since pollutant removal efficiencies will be enhanced by leaving vegetation un-mowed, as the site becomes more stabilized, less sediment should accumulate annually within the BMP and the frequency of maintenance can be adjusted to maintain the BMP designed storage volume and function as a sediment trap. If BMP are maintained on a 3-5 year schedule (or longer), the top layer of plants, roots, and seeds can be stockpiled and replaced after excess underlying sediment is removed to regain lost storage volume.

Inside the rain garden and forebays will not be mowed (exception is the landbridge between the rain garden and the forebays which will be mowed).

A rain garden is a more natural alternative to a storm water basin, sometimes referred to as green infrastructure. It is intended to showcase a collection of the best moist-to-wet soil plant species indigenous to Bucks County including Alnus serrulata, Cephalanthus occidentalis, Rosa palustris, Aronia melanocarpa, Sambucus _mericana_, Salix sericea, the edible Apios _mericana (groundnut), and several representative wetland flower species. The plant collection is meant to inspire homeowners to explore the beauty of our common and uncommon native plant species by planting them on their own properties.

6.2.5 Tree Management

There are numerous native Tree Types in the Township Parks and Recreation system. Non-native trees will be reviewed for possible removal or identification as a specimen tree.

For new tree plantings, PRB will endeavor to use Native Species recommended from SALDO Appendix E.

PRB will adhere to Buffer Requirements from Zoning Ordinance Guidelines for maintenance by type

Proper pruning, fertilization, weed control, and water management will all result in plant material and overall landscaping that are aesthetically pleasing.

Any heritage trees on the site may be subject to entry into the county sponsored program.

6.2.6 Ridge-top Barrens Management

Several ridgetops in Upper Bucks still contain remnants of plant communities that would have once dominated the area several thousand years ago and that now only exist in abundance in the Poconos. Peppermint Park retains a small area that is representative of this barrens-like plant community on the Deer Trail Road side of the hill from the parking lot. This type of plant community emerges on very thin soil that typically overlays a granite outcrop and features diminutive plant species that are difficult to observe elsewhere in the region, including Danthonia spicata. This unusual area is under threat from both invasive non-native plants, sediment deposition, and by forest encroachment.

This unique area in Peppermint Park is intended to be managed to allow it to continue.

6.2.7 Shrub Management

There are numerous Shrub Types in the Township Parks and Recreation system. Non-native shrubs will be reviewed for possible removal or identification as a specimen shrub.

For new tree plantings, PRB will endeavor to use Native Species recommended from SALDO Appendix E PRB will adhere to Buffer Requirements from Zoning Ordinance Guidelines for maintenance by type

Proper pruning, fertilization, weed control, and water management will all result in plant material and overall landscaping that are aesthetically pleasing.

6.2.8 Pervious Surface Management

Trail Types

	Pervious Surface Management		
Woodlot trail	The woodlot trail shall be maintained as wood chips. Small branches and cut		
	saplings will be placed on the sides to help delineate the trail.		
Aggregate trail	Trail will be top dressed and compacted with matching material to maintain a		
	surface free of ruts or other tripping hazards. Stabilization of surface material may		
	be achieved using various products in areas that consistently experience water		
	erosion.		

6.2.9 Paved Area Management

Debris deposited on pavement surfaces shall be swept and collected on a monthly basis. Damaged pavement areas shall be removed and replaced with new paving to prevent further erosion and off-site migration of sediment.

Paved areas are estimated to have a 30 year lifespan. Seal-coating may be performed at an intermittent point to extend the wear life of the paved area. The table below indicates when paved areas were first installed and any projected seal-coating.

Park and Recreation Facility	Approximate size	Pavement installed	Seal-coating Performed
Peppermint Park – Parking Lot		June 2015	TBD
Peppermint Park – Paved path	8ft x 0.21 miles	June 2015	TBD

6.2.10 Invasive Management

A long-term program to control invasive plants within naturalized areas includes monthly inspections of meadows, ponds and basin (during the growing season) to identify and remove invasive vegetation. Some plants (e.g., trees, large shrubs) can be physically removed. However, herbaceous species and vines (e.g., Japanese honeysuckle, common reed, Canadian thistle) will likely require the use of a broadleaf herbicide to achieve effective long-term results. Cattails, although native species, are not included as part of the long term vegetation of pervious areas and the basin and should be removed from such facilities, and Best Management Practice (BMP) facilities, at least until installed vegetation has become well established. Otherwise, these aggressive species will overgrow and kill off the installed vegetation and form undesirable monocultures.

List of invasive plants: Japanese Barberry Multi-flora rose

6.2.11 Woodlot Management

Woodlots are managed in a different way than individual trees.

6.2.12 Deer and Wildlife Management

Although entirely native, white-tail deer represent a challenge similar to invasive exotic plants. In areas of excessive deer damage, consideration should be given to installing a deer fence around any plantings during the plant establishment period. When this fence is removed, all available options to control deer population should be considered. Options may include bio-safe liquid deer fencing.

6.2.13 Storm-water Management

All storm-water management and water quality facilities shall be inspected by the owner (Township) annually and after any storm event larger than the one year frequency (probability) storm event.

Storm-water control BMPs shall be inspected on the following basis by the township:

- Annually for the first five (5) years.
- Once every three (3) years thereafter.
- After the cessation of a 100-year storm event.

Written reports of inspection findings and any repairs completed must be maintained by the township for each inspection completed.

6.2.14 Site Amenities

Trash / Waste

Trash receptacles on site shall be inspected on a biweekly basis and removed to allow capacity.

Recycling

Recycling receptacles will be placed on site, co-located with trash receptacles, to encourage public recycling. Recycling receptacles shall be inspected on a biweekly basis and removed to allow capacity.

DRAFT List of Items that other local Facilities have

Restroom

Drinking water, etc.

7 Change Log

Date	Changes
5 Nov 2015	Initial Version
	Identified Peppermint Park and Rail Trail as initial properties for PRB to manage.
5 Feb 2016	Expanded Management Unit Types and indication of Management Units for
	Peppermint Park.
12 Nov 2016	Updated descriptions for Programs – Included Youth Projects.
14 Jan 2017	Updated Park management map and added Ridge-top Barrens biome to
	Peppermint Park. Added information about Lime Kiln on Woodbyne Road. Added
	draft Rail Trail rules.

10 April 2017	Plan approved by PRB at 10 April Meeting.
21 Oct 2017	Added Park rule #15 which was approved at 10 July 2017 PRB meeting.
15 January	Added Bench Program as TBD. Bench program was approved as draft at 15 Jan
2018	2018 PRB meeting. Updated descriptions for Peppermint Park, Lime Kiln, and Rail
	Trail to reflect progress. Updated Management Unit descriptions.
14 May 2018	Plan approved by PRB at 14 May 2018 meeting.