



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, May 21st, 2024, 10:30 AM
AGENDA

THE MEETING CAN BE ACCESSED AT <https://tinyurl.com/LVPC2024> OR VIA PHONE 610-477-5793 Conf ID: 928 251 831#.

Roll Call

Courtesy of the Floor

Committee Business:

1. *ACTION ITEM*: Comprehensive Recreation & Open Space Plan Update Amendment – Upper Saucon Township (CM)

Other Business:

1. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Stormwater Application Trends and Outreach
2. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Update on 2024 Work Program
3. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Sue Rockwell's Retirement, Celebration of 29 Years Service, May 22nd, Monocacy Park/Illick's Mill, 100 Illick's Mill Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017, Pavilion 1, 4 - 6PM

Next Environment Committee Meeting
June 25, 2024 at 10:30 AM



DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

May xx, 2024

Ms. Trisha Lang, AICP
Director of Community Development
Upper Saucon Township
5500 Camp Meeting Road
Center Valley, PA 18034

RE: Proposed Amendment to the 2020 Upper Saucon Township Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan

Dear Ms. Lang:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) considered the above referenced amendment at its Environment Committee and Full Commission meetings, pursuant to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Both meetings were virtual, and occurred on:

- LVPC Environment Committee Meeting
 - May 21, 2024, at 10:30 AM
 - <http://www.tinyurl.com/LVPC2024>
- LVPC Full Commission Meeting
 - May 23, 2024, at 7:00 PM
 - <http://www.tinyurl.com/LVPC2024>

The Plan’s goal is to “Create a sustainable plan for parks, recreation and open space that will provide equitable access and opportunities to all residents while preserving the cherished rural, agricultural and suburban characteristics and valued natural resources that make Upper Saucon Township a unique community.” This goal is consistent with Policy 3.1 of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, ‘Preserve the natural, recreational, cultural, historical and scenic assets and Policy 5.3 ‘Improve access to green space.’ The current amendment identifies and ranks 2 additional sites that may become available for use as public open space. Based upon our review, we offer the following comments:

The LVPC commends the Township on continuing to plan for and increase open space and recreation opportunities (*Lehigh County Livable Landscapes*, Goal 1). Additionally, LVPC commends the Township on the following aspects of the plan amendment:

- Identifying Parcel 34 and its connection to Parcel 32, and therefore expanding upon the largest contiguous forested area in the Township (*Livable Landscapes*, Goal 1)

Ms. Trisha Lang, AICP
May xx, 2024

- Identifying Parcel 35 as an opportunity to be used as both a park and trailhead (*Livable Landscapes*, Goal 2)
- Utilizing open space acquisition as a tool to expand the Township's trail network (*Livable Landscapes*, Goal 2)
- Recognizing Parcel 35 for its potential as a segment of the Liberty Bell Trail. This intersects with Visionary Bicycle Network Map ID #1, from *Walk/Roll LV*, the Lehigh Valley's region-wide active transportation plan

The LVPC also offers the following recommendations upon review of the amendment:

- Expanding the Preservation Priorities scoring matrix to include location within or adjacent to a Natural Heritage Area, scenic viewshed or corridor, and conservation priority area of the Natural Resources Plan from *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*
- Indicating the potential trailhead at Parcel 35 on maps, such as on page 51.

The LVPC provided a review of the Upper Saucon Township Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan in its entirety in June 2022. The LVPC asks the Township to consider the comments in that review as well during the amendment process. The LVPC is supportive of the Township as it looks to implement its updated Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan and is available as a resource if Township staff would like to discuss plan revisions or implementation strategies.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Susan Myerov, AICP
Director of Environmental Planning

Christian Martinez
Environmental Planner