



Chapter 8

Community Facilities

Overview

There are numerous public services and facilities which must be provided by local government to meet the daily health, safety, convenience, and cultural needs of the community. Community facilities refer to a variety of public and non-public uses and services that may be provided to residents of a community, such as emergency services, schools, solid waste disposal, sewer and water service, government office facilities, and libraries. The management of these facilities is extremely important since they have a direct impact on residents. In general, Springfield has a reputation for quality community services and strives to deliver them in an efficient manner.

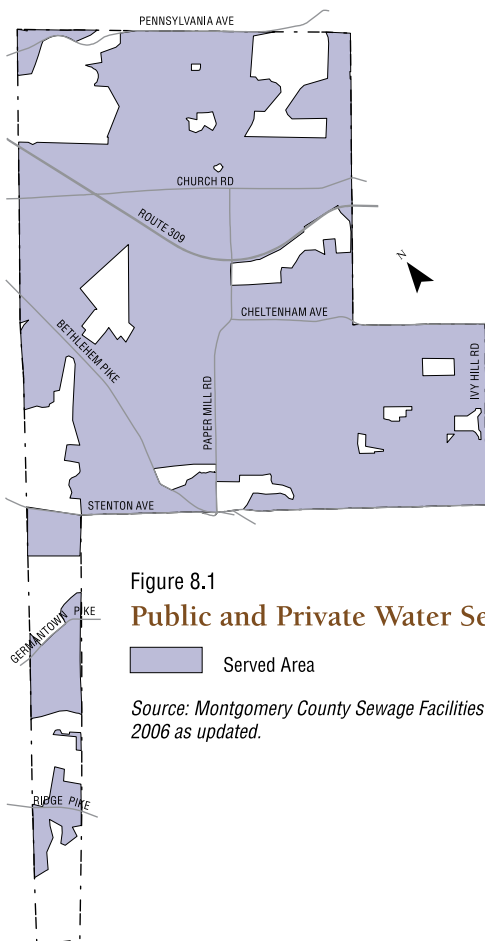
Community Services

Water Supply

Springfield's public water is supplied by Aqua America. Aqua America serves 1.4 million customers in 30 counties across Pennsylvania. Currently, it serves 92 percent of residents in Springfield Township with treated drinking water. The regional drinking supply has been interconnected with other systems so that it may be withdrawn from multiple sources. Approximately 8 percent of the residents in the township continue to receive water from private wells, Figure 8. 1. Future development in the township will be served by public water through the extension of services provided by Aqua America.

Sewerage Facilities

Springfield's waste water system includes 88 miles of publicly owned sewer lines that are gravity fed, with the majority of all sewage being treated by the City of Philadelphia through an intergovernmental agreement. The township's future needs are tied to its infill and redevelopment opportunities. Future development in the township will be served by the extension of services provided by capacity available from the city's system. Figure 8.2 shows the existing and future public sewerage facility service area.



The township's capital improvement plans provide for long-term maintenance of the delivery system which seeks to repair and stabilize manholes, eliminate illegal connections and minimize stormwater infiltration. The waste water system is monitored and maintained by the Public Works Department.

Stormwater Management

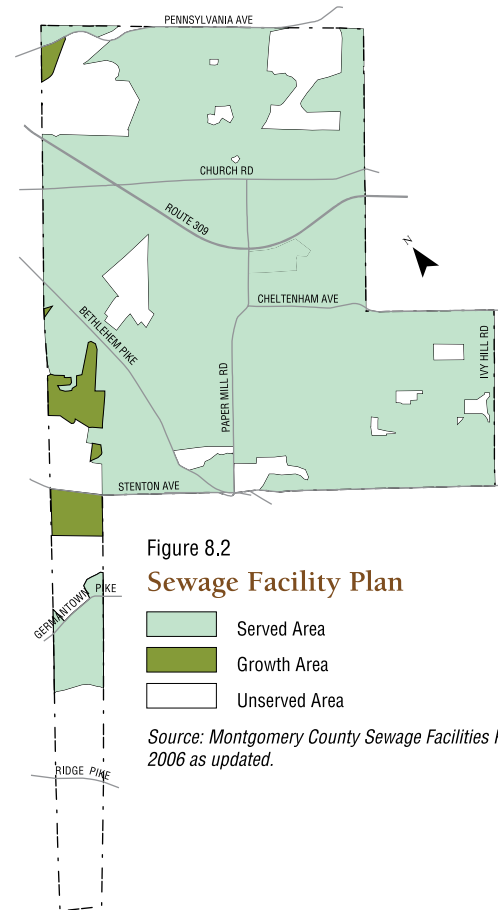
The township participates in the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permitting regulation program. The purpose of the program is to manage quantity and the quality of stormwater runoff at its source by regulating activities that cause the problems. The program has 6 elements that township has put into practice.

- Public education and outreach
- Public participation and involvement
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Construction site runoff controls
- Post construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment
- Pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations and maintenance

In 2004, the township adopted a stormwater management ordinance in support of its general NPDES permit. The ordinance regulates earth disturbance of 5,000 square feet or more, provides for soil erosion and sediment controls, encourages the use of best management practices for water quality, and the use of low impact development techniques.

Solid Waste Management

The public works department manages the weekly curbside household refuse and recycling program. Springfield delivers its solid waste to a regional transfer facility in Upper Dublin along with 6 neighboring communities. It is then compacted into trailers and taken to a facility in Plymouth Township where it is burned for electricity generation. Township participation in the Consortium-owned facility means that trash and recycling trucks have a short distance to travel for disposal and therefore control the cost to the township in employee hours and truck maintenance. Township residents can safely dispose of hazardous items such as herbicides, non-latex paint, and electronics by participating in Montgomery County's annual household hazardous waste collection program at various nearby locations.



The township participates in a seasonal multi-municipal leaf, yard waste and Christmas tree collection program. The Morris Arboretum recycles the leaf and yard waste into leaf mulch that become available for residents. All township residents are also encouraged to practice responsible home-based composting of organic yard waste materials.

Emergency Services

STEMS

The Springfield Township Emergency Management Systems (STEMS) is an organization of emergency personnel who oversee the organization and delivery of services. In addition to organizing emergency response, it provides review and input on proposed developments to ensure compliance with public safety standards. The Montgomery County Emergency Communication Center provides the public safety calling and dispatch system (911) for all police, fire, emergency medical and emergency management calls.

Police Department

The Police Department includes 29 sworn officers that in addition to their regular duties, provides community programs. The Welcome Wagon program has an officer visit every new homeowner shortly after the resident moves in and delivers a comprehensive packet of information on all the township services.

The Springfield Township Operation Project or “STOP” program was developed by the Township Police Department. It is designed to deter car theft by providing interested residents with a decal for their car that permits officer to stop the vehicle between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. to ensure its operation was authorized by the owner.

The Snow Shoveler Registry program pairs elderly residents with middle and high school students to clear sidewalks and driveways during inclement weather. The Intern Program provides an opportunity for residents in their final year of college to gain practical experience in aspects of police work which are not considered hazardous.

Springfield is a town watch community that provides residents with training and equipment to patrol their neighborhoods and notify police personnel in the event something suspicious is observed.

Ambulance Service

Springfield Ambulance Association was incorporated in 1950. It provides advanced life support (ALS) and emergency medical services (EMTs) to Flourtown, Erdenheim, Wyndmoor, Oreland and neighboring communities. It was formerly dispatched through the Springfield Police Department but is now dispatched by the Montgomery County Emergency Communication Center.



Fire Protection

Three volunteer fire companies serve the township with stations in Flourtown, Oreland and Wyndmoor. The fire companies provide fire and rescue services to the residents and commuters that travel through the township with a variety of ladder, pump and other support vehicles. Through cooperative agreements the companies provide and receive assistance from Fort Washington (Upper Dublin), Wissahickon (Ambler Borough), and Barren Hill (Whitemarsh Township) fire companies.



Fire Department

Hospitals

The residents are primarily served by Chestnut Hill Hospital and Abington Memorial Hospital. Chestnut Hill Hospital belongs to the University of Pennsylvania's Community Healthcare Network and is located within 2 miles of the township. It provides a wide variety of specialties and services and has 164 beds and 11 critical care beds. Abington Memorial Hospital is a regional referral center and teaching hospital with 665 beds. The hospital is equipped with a rooftop helipad that supports its emergency trauma unit.

Institutional Services and Facilities

Government Facilities

Township Complex

The township's complex consists of four buildings that house the administrative offices and meeting rooms, police department, public works facilities, parks and recreation office,



Municipal Complex

Springfield Library, and Springfield Ambulance Association. It is centrally located in the township making it convenient for residents needing services and assistance. As the result of a preliminary analysis of the physical plant of the township complex dating back to 2004, combined with the growth of the library program, and physical



limitations of the public works facility, the township has recognized the need to continue the campus master planning process. Because the facilities are located adjacent to an existing residential neighborhood, the visual impacts of any improvements, as well as noise and lighting will be considered. Any improvements to existing buildings or expansion of the facility in its present or other location should also consider the costs and benefits of energy and natural resource conservation and new “green” technologies.

Schools, Universities, and Daycare Centers

Public Schools

Springfield Township School District consists of two elementary, one middle school, and one high school. The current student population is approximately 2070 with an average



Erdenheim Elementary School

student/teacher ratio of 14:1. The district is affiliated with the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology, located in Upper Moreland. It offers vocational-technical training to both secondary and post-secondary students. The school district employs 421 staff.

The elected school board is made up of nine members that provide for the operation and oversight of the district. The schools communicate with the residents via a 24-hour cable television station, website, email-service, district information hotline, an automated calling system and a comprehensive annual report.

The Springfield Middle School and the Erdenheim Elementary School have recently undergone reconstruction and now contain all of the components to achieve LEED for schools (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification that include the but are not limited to latest technology in lighting, acoustics and climate control.

Private and Parochial Schools

There are a number of private and parochial schools in the area including Mt. St. Joseph Academy and St Genevieve in Springfield and Germantown Academy in Whitmarsh.

Universities

Nearby colleges include; Temple University – Ambler (Upper Dublin), Manor College (Abington), Arcadia University (Cheltenham), and Montgomery County Community College (Whitpain).

Daycare Centers

Daycare centers serve a vital role in today’s economy by services that support our



workforce. Springfield and the surrounding region provide many alternatives in childcare in addition to traditional daycare centers including: private nursery schools, preschools, kindergartens, before and after school programs and summer camp programs.

Library and Historical Society

The Free Library of Springfield, founded in 1966, is considered by the residents to be “a community center for lifetime learning.” Centrally located in the township complex on Paper Mill Road, it provides free access to 60,000 books and other education materials including reference, children’s services and internet access. The library participates in the MCLINC, a consortium of libraries that provides online access to the Montgomery County library collections and online databases from the library, home or office. Supported by a cadre of volunteers and a small staff that manages to provide a high level of services and programs to the residents. Housing volumes well beyond its design capacity of 43,000, additional space is needed to support the growing program.

The Springfield Township Historical Society was organized in 1985 with the purpose of researching and preserving the history of Springfield Township and educating the public about its rich history. They research and collect materials that pertain to the township’s history; maintain records of its historically significant buildings; document the history of local individuals, families, businesses, institutions; and work toward the preservation with architectural or historical merit. The society recently moved from a temporary location in Chestnut Hill to its new home in the Black Horse Inn located in Flourtown.



Historic Black Horse Inn

Recreation and Public Open Space

Existing public parks, recreation and open space, along with future needs and proposed improvements for the township are examined in detail in the 2008 Springfield Park and Recreation Connections Plan (SPARC). An overview and major findings from the plans are highlighted here.

Overview

Springfield Township has 118.6 acres of parkland located within 10 recreation sites distributed throughout the municipality. The current acreage available for resident use is approximately 53 acres which excludes Sandy Run Park (proposed for park development) and the Flourtown Country Club which is a membership based facility, Figure 8.3.



Based upon the prevailing standard of 10.5 acres of parklands per thousand population, Springfield Township is significantly under the recommended parkland acreage by 152 acres. The Flourtown Country Club with 51 acres in the largest recreational land in the township occupying 43 percent of the township's total park acreage.

Figure 8.3

Springfield Township Public Parks, Recreation and Schools Lands

Municipal Park	Acreage	Park Type	Characteristic/Facilities	Neighborhood
Laurel Beech Park	6.5	Neighborhood	Soccer field, playground, parking	Wyndmoor
Mermaid Park	7.0	Natural Resource Area	Pond, benches	Wyndmoor
Veterans Park	6.0	Neighborhood	Picnic pavilion, 2 baseball fields, 2 T-ball fields, inline skate rink, parking, concession/storage building	Wyndmoor
Wyndhill Park	4.5	Neighborhood	Playground, 1 tennis court, open field area	Wyndmoor
Cisco Park	13.0	Neighborhood	Softball/multipurpose field, playground, baseball field, band shell, trail, pond, picnic area, parking	Wyndmoor
Bysher Fields	10.5	Neighborhood	2 baseball fields, 1 softball field, batting cages, concession/restroom building, storage building, parking	Erdenheim
Marlow Fields	5.3	Neighborhood	2 baseball fields, batting cages, basketball court/parking, concession/restroom building	Oreland
Oreland Park	0.8	Mini	3 basketball courts	Oreland
Sandy Run Park	14.0	Natural Resource Area	Undeveloped open space, quarry lake	Oreland
Flourtown Country Club	51.0	Special Use	Golf Course, swimming pool, club house	Flourtown
Total acreage	118.6			
Total excluding undeveloped open space and membership only acreage	53.6			
Public Schools	Acreage	School Type	Characteristics/Facilities	Neighborhood
Springfield Township Elementary School – Enfield Campus	5.4	Elementary School	2 ball fields, basketball court, playground	Oreland
Springfield Township Elementary School – Erdenheim Campus	4.7	Elementary School	Open field, basketball court, playground	Erdenheim
Antonelli Institute- formerly Penn Manor Elementary School. Property is owned by STSD and leased to Antonelli.	7.0	Elementary School	2 ball fields, playground	Erdenheim
Springfield Township Middle School	13.8	Middle School	10 tennis courts, basketball court, open field, 2 ball fields, track	Oreland
Springfield Township High School	21.1	High School	4 ball fields, 4 tennis courts, track	Erdenheim

Source: Springfield Township.

Trails and Pedestrian Connections

In Chapter 7 of the Springfield Park and Recreation Plan, the potential for a network of greenways and trails “hubs” and “spokes” was contemplated. The plan indicates that the public participation process revealed that while the township is not opposed to a trail system, there are residents with concerns about public safety, individual property rights and the loss of privacy by adjoining neighbors that must be addressed as part of any trail planning effort. Figure 8.4 identifies the plan's existing and proposed



trails and pedestrian connection opportunities located in the township. The “Hubs” include municipal parks, schools, library, commercial centers, and other community destinations. The “Spokes” are the greenway system of the community’s linear resources, including stream corridors, drainage ways of former rail corridors, and utility corridors.

Summary of the Plan’s Key Findings

The key findings that emerged from the 2008 park and recreation planning process are organized around seven goals. The goals represent the long-term conditions for which the township will strive toward.

Goal 1: Provided parkland that is sufficient in acreage, location, suitability, and configuration to serve the citizens of Springfield Township.

Goal 2: Insure that recreation facilities offer safety, accessibility, variety, appearance, availability, beauty, and function to meet the needs of the community.

Goal 3: Interconnect the neighborhoods of the community and the region.

Goal 4: Manage the parks and recreation system in a professional manner that conveys the greatest possible benefit to the public.

Goal 5: Build upon the existing programs and services to create recreation opportunities that enrich the quality of life for people who live, work, and visit here.

Goal 6: Invest in parks and recreation to sustain and enhance the health, safety and welfare of the community.

Goal 7: Increase public awareness and stewardship regarding parks, recreation greenways, trails and natural resources conservation in Springfield Township.

Government

Boards and Commissions

Springfield Township was believed to be under some form of government as early as 1755. It was incorporated in 1901 and became a township of the first class under Commonwealth law. It has a council-manager form of government with an elected board of commissioners and an appointed professional manager. There are seven commissioners, each representing a ward in the township. Each commissioner holds a position on one or more of the township committees and takes an active role in creating new legislation, adopting ordinances, resolutions, motions and approval of annual budgets. The commissioner’s primary role is to serve his or her constituents during the present term and also to prepare the township for the future.

The township manager is appointed by the commissioners and works closely with



Springfield Township

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

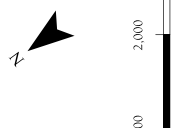
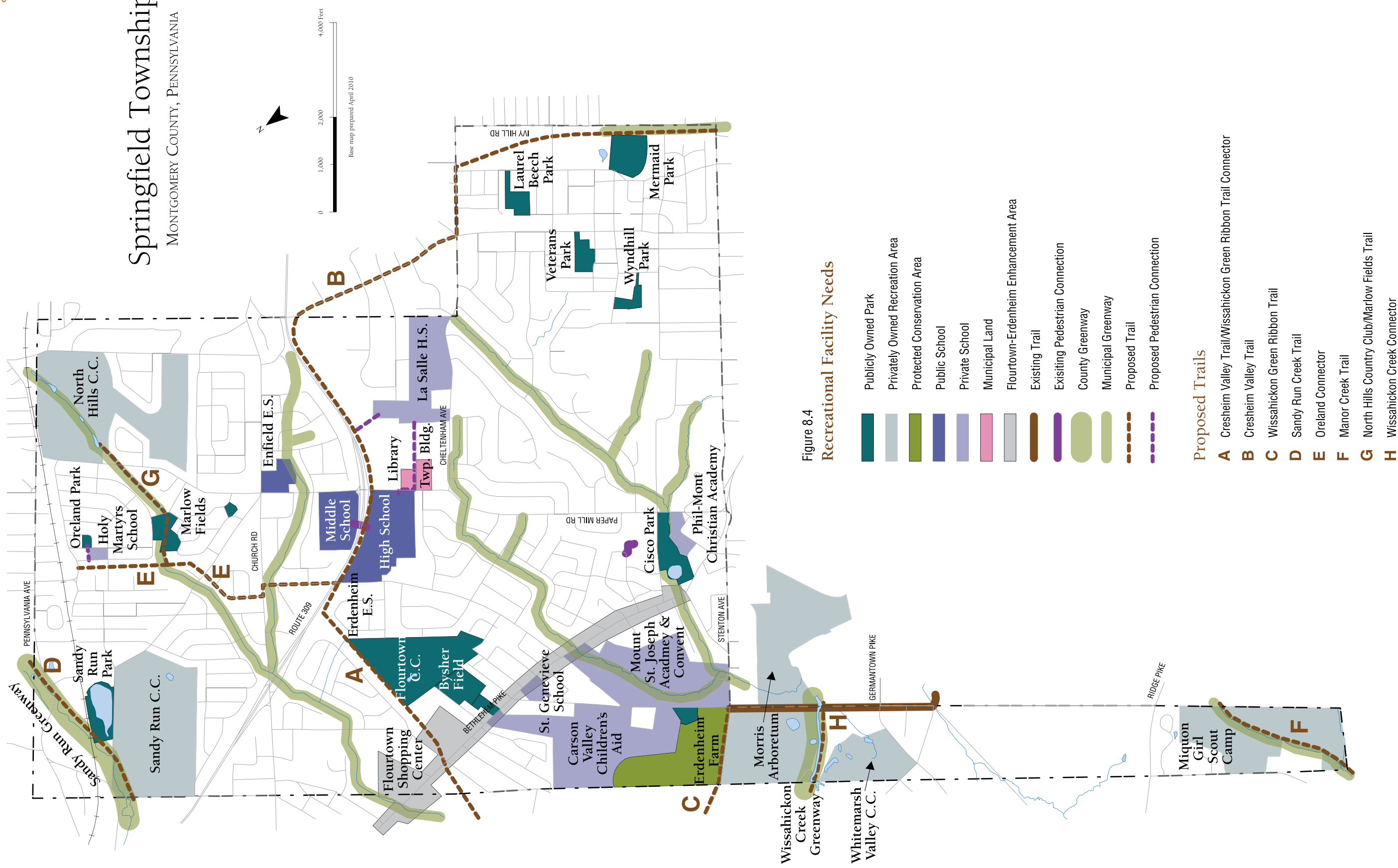


Figure 8.4
Recreational Facility Needs

- Publicly Owned Park
- Privately Owned Recreation Area
- Protected Conservation Area
- Public School
- Private School
- Municipal Land
- Flourtown-Erdenheim Enhancement Area
- Existing Trail
- Existing Pedestrian Connection
- County Greenway
- Municipal Greenway
- Proposed Trail
- Proposed Pedestrian Connection

Proposed Trails

- A** Cresheim Valley Trail/Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail Connector
- B** Cresheim Valley Trail
- C** Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail
- D** Sandy Run Creek Trail
- E** Oreland Connector
- F** Manor Creek Trail
- G** North Hills Country Club/Marlow Fields Trail
- H** Wissahickon Creek Connector

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all of the department heads and other appointed professional consultants to ensure the health and welfare of the township residents. The township administration employs 97 employees.

Township boards and commissions include; Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Environmental Advisory Board, Library Board of Directors, Police Civil Service Commission, and the Shade Tree Commission.

Community Facilities and Municipal Services Goals

Provide for the needs of the municipal government to supply the level of service required by the residents and businesses of the township. Ensure that all areas of Springfield Township are adequately served by public safety agencies.

Objectives

1. Provide for streets, utilities, stormwater management systems, solid waste management and other infrastructure at sufficient levels to meet the changing needs of township residents.
2. Establish/maintain annual Capital Improvement Plan to provide for maintenance and improvements of all community facilities.
3. Implement the recommendations of the 2008 Springfield Township Park and Recreation Connections Plan (SPARC).
4. Provide administration, code enforcement, emergency, police and other services at sufficient levels to meet the needs of the community.
5. Conduct periodic assessments of the municipal complex so that it continues to meet the needs and expectations of the residents and businesses.
6. Plant and maintain trees along public right-of-ways and in township parks.
7. Encourage the creation of new passive and active recreation facilities that support the health and welfare of the residents of all ages and abilities.
8. Encourage development of appropriate types of recreation facilities on lands that may be developed and that are not targeted for permanent protection.
9. Maintain and enhance existing parks and recreation facilities and programs.
10. Support the township's recreation programs and services.

