

CHAPTER 2

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

THE 1995 ROCKLEDGE OPEN SPACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PLAN

Rockledge Borough completed the Open Space and Environmental Resource Plan in 1995. At that time a series of goals and objectives were developed to address issues regarding the preservation of open space and the protection of environmental resources. As a part of the update process required by the Montgomery County Open Space Program, Rockledge has evaluated its previous goals and objectives to address whether the goals are still valid and to evaluate why some of the last plan's recommendations were not implemented. Below are listed the previous goals and objectives with accompanying explanation of their status.

- **GOAL:** Provide recreation opportunities and open space experiences for all neighborhoods in Rockledge. Objectives within this goal included acquiring certain parcels prioritized for open space acquisition, achieving a balance of recreation facilities in the neighborhoods in the Borough, and improving existing recreation facilities in the Borough.

STATUS: With the acquisitions of Rockledge Park (1.5 acres of passive open space) and Mill Park (.75 acres of passive open space), virtually all part of the Borough are within 1/4 mile of parks or open space. The western part of Strockville is the only part of Rockledge not within 1/3 mile of parks or open

space. The Borough has improved existing recreation facilities at Jarrett Avenue Playground with new play equipment, and at the basketball court at Cegielski Park.

POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION: The Borough should consider whether it is feasible to provide better access from Strockville to Cegielski Park. Acquisition of land in or near Strockville, and acquisition of unused cemetery land in the Borough for parks or open space might also be considered.

- GOAL: Establish open space linkages within the Borough and between the Borough of Rockledge and adjacent municipalities and public open space.

STATUS: The Borough acquired the 1.5 acre Vogt Property in 1996 (now Rockledge Park), and a small parcel where Blake Avenue and Rockledge Avenue meet. These acquisitions facilitate future connections to Montgomery County's proposed Pennypack Trail along the abandoned Newtown Branch of the former Reading Railroad. The Borough

has not established open space linkages within the Borough, or between Rockledge and adjacent municipalities' trails or public open space.

- GOAL: Make application to Montgomery County Tree Planting Program. Objectives within this goal included appointing a Shade Tree Committee and developing a landscaping ordinance.

STATUS: The Borough appointed a shade tree committee and made application to Montgomery County Tree Planting Program. Borough was awarded \$26,910 authorization for tree planting. The Borough did not utilize these funds because they needed to be spent on trees planted by 2004. The timelines of the Huntingdon Pike Revitalization Project precluded this.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2005 OPEN SPACE PLAN

The Open Space Committee has evaluated the goals and objectives of the previous plan and revised them to reflect what was discussed during the audit process. This section will serve as the framework for Rockledge's plan for open space preservation and protection of natural resources. Goals are provided regarding retention of open space, enhancement of existing facilities, coordination of open space, and protection of natural and cultural features followed by a series of objectives. Action items related to these goals and objectives will be created throughout the open space planning process and included in the recommendations and implementation chapters of this plan.

GOAL: IMPROVE EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

OBJECTIVE:

- Make improvements to existing parks and public open space.



Rockledge Park, purchased by the Borough with County Open Space Funds

Action Steps:

- Rockledge Park—Improve with walking path, benches, landscaping, lighting, waste receptacles, water fountain, water spigot.
- Mill Park—Create master plan and improve with walking path, benches, lighting, landscaping, waste receptacle, water fountain, and water spigot.
- Cegiolkowski Park- Upgrade recreation equipment, plant trees, add benches at tennis court, pave tennis and hockey court, add play piece, improve ball field, picnic table, make drainage improvements.
- Jarrett Avenue Playground– Upgrade recreation equipment, add benches and picnic tables, and plant trees

GOAL: IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

OBJECTIVES:

- Establish linkages among existing Borough parks and open space.
- Establish linkages to parks and trails outside the Borough.

Action Steps:

- Acquire, preferably via fee simple purchase, land to facilitate a linkage between Church Road and Cegiolkowski Park including the vacated Loney Street right-of-way. Improve by clearing vegetation, paving, landscaping and adding lighting and signage. Erect bollards to prevent motorized vehicle access.
- Negotiate an access easement located between Strockville and Cegiolkowski Park over the Lawnview Cemetery. Pave trail and add lighting.
- Establish a Borough Trail that would link all Borough parks and open space, traverse attractive tree-lined portions of the Borough, and connect with

Lorimer Park and the Abington Township trail system. The Trail would be enhanced by signage, beautification/ landscaping, and new or more visible crosswalks.

GOAL: ESTABLISH A PEDESTRIAN LINKAGE TO LORIMER PARK

OBJECTIVE:

- As a short-term objective, establish a linkage with Lorimer Park as soon as possible. This trail or pathway might require an access easement from a nearby property owner, and will require adequate protection for pedestrians to cross Shady Lane. The linkage could exit the Borough at North Jarrett Avenue. Another possible route would take the trail over the railroad tracks and through a neighboring property.
- As a long-term objective, work with the various stakeholders (including the County, Abington Township, SEPTA, County Parks Department, and the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust) to ensure the best trail option linking Rockledge with Lorimer Park is established as early as possible.

GOAL: IMPROVE THE BOROUGH'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

OBJECTIVES:

- Enhance important Borough gateways

Action Steps: Enhance the following gateways to the Borough with attractive welcome signage, landscaping, and other features:

1. On Huntingdon Pike at boundary with Abington Township (while ensuring consistency with Huntingdon Pike revitalization project).
2. On Church Road at boundary with Abington Township.
3. On Huntingdon Pike at the boundary with Philadelphia (provided it is consistent with the Huntingdon Pike Revitalization project). The Borough would

support any improvement of the gateway monument posts by the Fairmount Park Commission.

- Revise Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SLDO) to incorporate tree replacement requirements.
- Plant shade trees in key locations

Action Steps:

1. Establish Huntingdon Pike Re-Greening Program to plant shade trees with cooperation of local property owners.
2. Plant shade trees in areas of the Borough where there are gaps in the shade tree canopy, particularly along the proposed Borough Trail system linking parks and open space.

central Rockledge (NE of Huntingdon Pike and NW of Park Avenue).

2. Acquire the vacant portion of the parcel bounded by Blake Avenue, Rockledge Avenue, and Robbins Avenue.
3. Establish endowment and/or gift giving program to encourage donations of open space or park amenities and recognize donors for their contributions.
4. Investigate joint acquisition opportunities with Abington Township.
5. Protect unused cemetery land in the Borough via conservation easement or acquisition.

GOAL: PRESERVE AND ENHANCE HISTORIC RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE:

- Preserve and enhance sites of historic significance and tell their story.

Action Steps:

1. Support any effort by Fairmount Park Commission to improve condition of monuments on Huntingdon Pike near Fillmore Street.
2. Link selected existing historic properties to the proposed Borough Trail.
3. Erect historic marker on former site of Huntingdon Turnpike toll house (at Lawnview Cemetery near Huntingdon Pike).

GOAL: ACQUIRE OR PROTECT ADDITIONAL PARKLAND

OBJECTIVE:

- Acquire properties via fee simple acquisition (purchase). These purchases would be targeted to provide parks for residents living farthest from existing parks.

Action Steps:

1. Acquire property to provide more pocket parks in Strockville and north-