PIERCE
Township

Park & Nature Spaces

Master Plan

Prepared By
Pierce Township
Green Space & Parks Committees
April 2016

INTRODUCTION

This masterplan is not a blueprint for construction. It is a look into the future, a vision, of what our Pierce Township Park and Nature Spaces might be. The plan will only become reality with the support, involvement, and the contribution of effort and equity by the residents, businesses and elected officials of our Township to bring it to life.

This plan is based on a comprehensive benchmarking of what other townships and park districts have accomplished and what Pierce Township residents have indicated they would like to see. It is recognized that this plan will not be executed in a single project or appropriation, but rather the plan can evolve and construction can occur in stages as funds from grants, donations, fundraising and budget become available.

This plan includes recommended locations of major elements so as to make full use of the assets we have and sets out design standards and guidelines so that as the plan is executed over time, it maintains a consistent architectural look and feel, rather than an eclectic collection of disparate designs.

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Existing Park & Nature Space Assets

Pierce Township is blessed with over 137 acres of parkland and nature spaces which have been set aside for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors. Approximately 84% of this land is undeveloped and maintained in its natural state. These 137 acres are the canvas upon which this master plan will build.

This plan will cover the Nature Space at 867 (approximate address) Locust Corner Rd., and the Park and Sports Fields at 950 Locust Corner Rd.

Locust Corner Park and Sports Fields

Today's Pierce Township Park encompasses 63.67 acres on the south side of Locust Corner Rd (Parcel ID # 272813D033)., adjacent to the Township Cemetery, and 10.0 acres of sports fields (2 baseball/softball diamonds, 2 tennis courts, a basketball court, and a large field used primarily for soccer practice) on the north side of Locust Corner Rd. (Parcel ID # 272813E122), and adjacent to the Township Administration Building and Service Department facilities. Paved parking exists for the Playground (17 spaces), the Tennis/Basketball/Soccer fields (51 spaces), and Baseball/Softball (36 spaces). Overflow parking for park events such as concerts and Police Night Out makes use of currently unused but maintained grassy areas between the cemetery and the main park area, providing overflow space for up to 160 cars.

Only a small portion, approximately 12 acres, of the 63.67 acres on the south side of Locust Corner Rd. is developed as park land, the remainder being heavily wooded and contoured and maintained in a natural state. Nature trails have existed in this natural area, but have become overgrown and in disrepair such that they are of very limited access and use today.

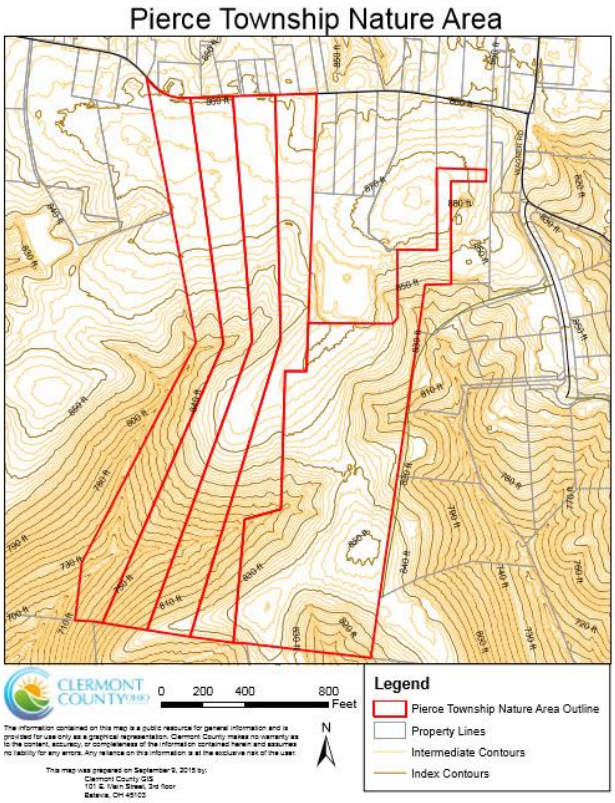
On the developed portion of this parcel, the playground and paved walking trails get the most use. The playground lacks ADA compliant features, and some of the walking trails are in need of repair or repaving. There are no bathrooms on site, with the only sanitary facilities being provided by a Port -A- Let. There is no shelter house, limited picnic tables, and a lack of shaded areas near the playground. A large portion of the maintained and mowed areas of the park (south and west of the area used for concerts and events) do not get much use. There are limited electrical outlets, and available sewer lines are a considerable distance away.

Nature Area

Less than a quarter mile west of the above park and sports fields, also on Locust Corner Road, is another 63.65 acres used and maintained as nature trails (Parcel ID #s 272812A001, 272812A129, 272812A130, 272812A127, 272812A092). The northern portion of this area is maintained as a grassy plain, with mowing only done about every 2 years in order to prevent wooded growth. The southern portion is maintained in a natural state, portions of which are very contoured, with hiking trails that have been

maintained by both volunteers and Township Services staff. There are several trails extending throughout this nature area that are maintained by Township Services staff and community volunteers. Parking is available for approximately 10 cars.

Pierce Township Park and Sports Fields



Master Plan Layout & Elements

PROPOSED PARK LAYOUT

The proposed park layout on the following page is focused on the parkland on the south side of Locust Corner Rd. While improvements are planned for both the sports fields and the nature area further west, these changes will not substantively affect the layout or location of features at either of these locations.

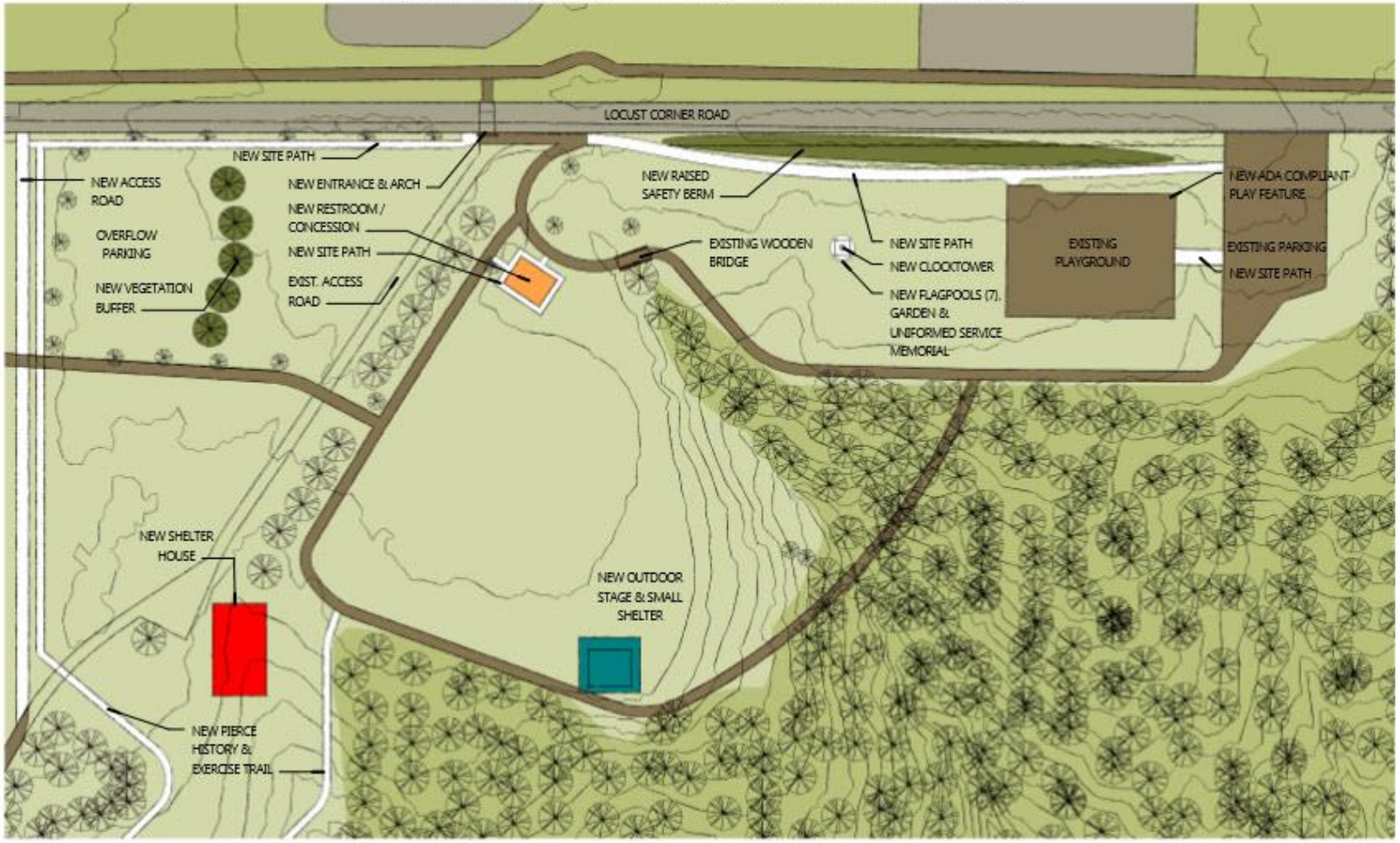
The proposed park layout is designed to add features and make improvements that have been identified by residents in their responses to the 2015 community survey, and from benchmarking parks and facilities in neighboring communities (Anderson, Batavia and Union Townships). Of the 63.47 acres of parkland on the south side of Locust Corner Rd., all but approximately 12 acres is maintained in its natural state. Of these 12 acres, which are regularly maintained and mowed by the Township Services staff, only about 6 acres, or 50%, have been developed with features or walking paths that promote and drive its use. The remainder of this mowed and maintained land is rarely used except for overflow parking during park events. Therefore, one of the objectives of the proposed layout is to add and locate features and improvements that will more fully utilize these full 12 acres and drive community use and enjoyment of this land.

Currently, the large area west of the event space area, and immediately east of the cemetery, is regularly mowed and maintained, but used only for overflow parking during events like Police Night Out and concerts. The master plan seeks to increase the use of this area by the construction of an 1800-foot-long Pierce Exercise & History Trail (see description that follows under Master Plan Elements) that will follow the outline of this area, as well as the unused area south of the current event space. To facilitate the integration into the rest of the park, the master plan envisions moving the access drive for the communications tower from its current location to the western edge of the park property, next to the cemetery fence. This may require the renegotiation of easements for this access drive.

Similarly, the master plan envisions opening up the maintained but unused area south of the event space by the location of a new large shelter house and the Pierce Exercise & History Trail.

While the 6-8 mile network of paved walking and bike trails in the Township, connecting 9 subdivisions (approximately 1,100 homes) and Locust Corner Elementary School, is not included in this plan (see section on Potential Future Features & Amenities), it is useful to think of the park and ballfields not as stand-alone township assets but as the trailhead and central access point for the public to this trail system. There is no other access point that provides parking or facilities that make this trail system easily accessible for Township residents who do not live immediately adjacent to these walking and bike trails.

THE FUTURE OF PIERCE TOWNSHIP PARK



PIERCE TOWNSHIP SITE PLAN DRAFT

GRAPHIC SCALE

0 60 120 180 240

NORTH

MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS

New Bathrooms

The top priority expressed by Township residents in the 2015 community survey was for bathrooms with running water and toilets to replace the portable restroom currently employed. While detailed design will take place after funding is secured for this improvement, for the purposes of this study, the bathrooms at Anderson Township's Kellogg Park were used as our benchmark and conceptual model. In addition to 3 individual bathrooms, this building also encompasses a concession area for events and a small storage area for equipment storage. Comparisons were also made with the shelter and bathrooms recently constructed for the soccer fields at the corner of Clough Pike and Amelia Olive Branch Rd. For its location, the Master Plan team chose an area that is central to the park on the south side of Locust Corner Rd., but also easily accessible by a crosswalk to the sports fields and courts across the road.

While bathrooms are the top priority for park improvements, they are also the most expensive due to the distance, approximately 1200 feet, to existing public sewer lines that can be tapped into. Adding to the cost of the sewer tie in is the fact that a major portion of this distance must be constructed to public sewer standards since the sewer extension will cross several parcels of property and must cross Locust Corner Rd. A septic system was eliminated as practical due to the amount of land that would be required for the drainage field, taking away from usable park land. Future value engineering studies should look at possible options to reduce the amount of public sewer line that is required.

The Anderson Kellogg Park bathrooms also incorporate a concession area into the building design. As part of future design studies this option, as well as a patio and seating area (either covered or served by umbrella tables) should be considered due to the location of this building being central to the park as a trailhead for the extensive walking and bike trails throughout the neighborhoods nearby, and its accessibility to the ball fields and event area.

Shelter House

A shelter house was another high priority of residents in last year's community survey. Benchmark installations studied were all metal shelter houses at Anderson Township's Kellogg and Beech Acres parks, the two shelter houses at Batavia Park, and the wooden shelter house being constructed for the soccer fields at Clough and Amelia Oliver Branch roads. We chose the metal designs because of their reduced maintenance, a size in the neighborhood of 35' x 60' that can accommodate larger family gatherings. We located the shelter house in the now unused area south of the park's event area to open up more areas of the park for use.

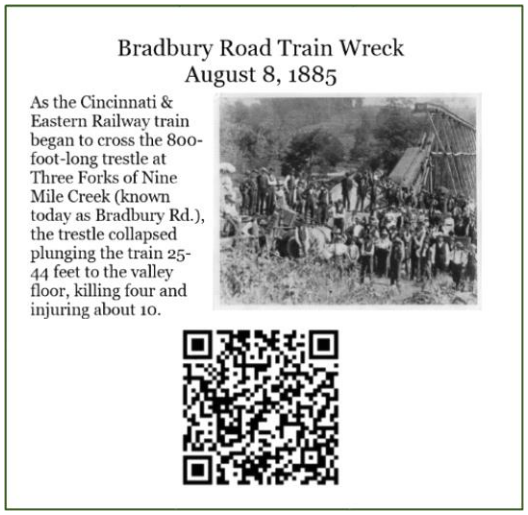
Stage & Small Shelter House

For concerts in the park and other events needing a stage, the Township has borrowed a low, portable stage from a local church. However, increasingly bands are demanding a stage with a roof to protect their equipment in the event of inclement weather. Rental of such a stage is in the range of $1500-2000. We found a band shell execution (pictured at right), built on a low concrete platform that would serve both for concerts and events, and as a small shelter house for small family gatherings. The location was picked to take advantage of the wooded backdrop of the park's nature space.

New Pierce Exercise & History Trail

One of the most used features of the park today are the paved walking trails. We envision an 1800-foot addition to the existing trail system that will encircle and open up the southern and western half of the maintained park area that is little used today. As has been done in many parks in recent history, including Batavia Township Park, we see this trail being augmented with exercise equipment at stations along the path.

We also came to realize that Pierce Township's history, dating to 1852, is not enshrined anywhere (the extent of the Township's history files are limited to a few boxes in the storage room of the Administration Building). As longtime residents age, any recollections of the Township's history (hamlets such as Ninoveh, Palestine, Span, moments such as the 1885 Bradbury Road train wreck, the interurban rail lines on the north and south Township boundaries, the 1937 flood, etc.) are quickly being lost. Therefore, we see the opportunity to preserve and bring the Township's history alive for present and future residents, by capturing the history on the Township's website and linking it via monuments containing QR codes along the new trail, making our history available to anyone with a smart phone. A prototype of such a marker is at right. A click on the QR code with your smart phone will take you to a prototype Pierce History web page.



Nature Trails

As stated previously, the Township's Nature Space (867 Locust Corner Rd.) of 63.65 acres, and approximately 51 acres of the park land, are maintained in their natural state. Hiking trails in the Nature Space have been maintained by Township Services staff and volunteer labor in recent years has removed some of the invasive species that have encroached on indigenous plant life. However, the nature trails in the beautiful 51 acres of undeveloped park land, originally created by the Boy Scouts, have become overgrown and largely unusable.

Park Trails Being Developed by Boy Scouts

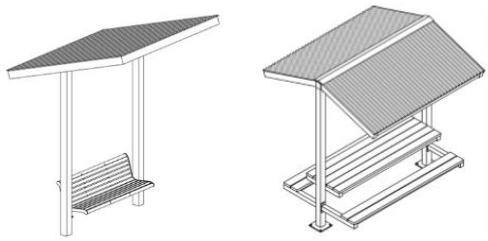
Once again volunteers and the Boy Scouts have begun the renovation and enhancement of trails in the natural area of the park, which should be completed by the summer of 2016. As volunteer labor permits, we see the expansion of the trail system throughout this area.

In both the Nature Space and the trails in the natural areas of the park, there is a need for improved signage (trail maps, trail head identification, species identification). For the species identification we envision utilizing small signs with QR codes that will allow visitors to access detailed species information located in the parks section of the Township website. A prototype of such a QR code sign is at right, which will take you to a prototype web page. Trail maps, with "You Are Here" indicators should be located along the trail, both for the benefit of hikers and for emergency crews in the event of an injury.

Playground Enhancements

The playground is also a popular and heavily used feature of the park today. An audit by the firm who installed the current equipment found it to be in very good shape and well maintained. However, it is lacking in Americans Disability Act (ADA) compliant features and, while it has some seating around the boundary of the playground, there is very little shade for parents and grandparents.

The Master Plan envisions the addition of an ADA compliant play feature (see picture at right) that is attractive to all children in the 3-6 year old range. To make room for this, the "Xcelerator" in the northeast corner would be relocated as well as at least two of the spring mounted animals.



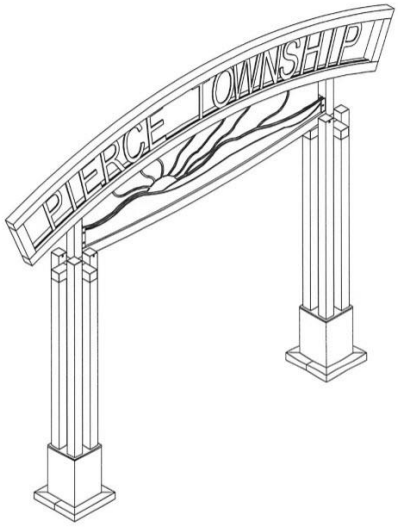
We would also like to see some shaded seating added in the vicinity of the playground. Fixed roof shaded seating, such as that pictured at right from Icon Shelter Systems is the most durable but also comes at a much higher price premium.

MULTI-GENERATIONAL PLAY

Today's trails get significant use by senior members of our Township and the playground is a favorite place for grandparents to bring their grandchildren. The expansion of the trail system and addition of exercise equipment will expand on the multi-generational attractiveness of Pierce Park. Careful attention to the selection of exercise equipment, and additions such as corn hole will further that objective.

Cornhole at Batavia Park

ENTRANCE ARCH



With the additions of the many improvements envisioned in this Master Plan, particularly the bathrooms, possible concession area, and shelter houses, Pierce Park will become the point of entry and trail head for the extensive walking and bike trails that connect the park with surrounding neighborhoods and Locust Corner Elementary School, especially for those that do not live in close proximity to the trail. In addition, as stated elsewhere in this report, we recommend expanding the use of the ball and soccer fields to league play in order to drive use of the park. To tie the play fields and the adjacent parking lots with the park and bathrooms, we envision an entrance arch at the existing crosswalk by the ball fields. This entrance arch will serve to identify and help brand the park.

SERVICE MEMORIAL

Batavia Township Park Union Township Park

The Master Plan envisions a memorial to uniformed service members (military, police & fire/ems) in the open area just west of the playground. Such a memorial would serve not only as a memorial to those that have served us, but as an iconic structure that would brand both the park and the township.

Both Union and Batavia Township have such memorials. Batavia's incorporates a Humvee, and Union's Veteran's Park has a helicopter. For purposes of this master plan, the exact nature of the iconic structure is not important. That can be determined by a citizen's committee in the future. For purposes of this plan and conceptual pricing, we have used a clock tower as a placeholder, which we envision being surrounded by flag poles for each service, and gardens.

SAFETY BERM & RELOCATED PATH

The existing walking path adjacent to the south side of Locust Corner Rd. has been identified as a serious safety hazard due to its elevation 4-5' below the road surface. The layout on page 7 shows a relocated path, separated from the road by a new earthen safety berm that will rise at least 3' above the road surface.

EXPANDED PARK AREA

As stated previously, only 12 of the 65 acres of park land on the south side of Locust Corner Rd. has been developed and maintained as recreational park land with the remaining 81% being preserved in its natural state. However, while all 12 developed acres are regularly mowed and maintained, only 6 acres, or 50%, are routinely used. This plan envisions opening up the area south and west of the event space with the addition of a shelter house and the Pierce History and Exercise Trail. In addition, the possibility exists for the area west of the event space, today used only for overflow event parking, to be used for a soccer field or other sports field, as well as the History and Exercise Trail which will encircle this area. This expansion of useable park area would be helped by moving the access drive, for the communications tower at the southern edge of this space, further west toward the cemetery fence. This would also push any use for overflow parking to the western portion of the park property. In moving the access drive to the west, consideration should be given to ensuring that access for emergency and other vehicles is maintained to the shelter house, stage and event areas.

PLAYFIELD FENCING

The metal screen fencing for the ball fields, basketball courts and tennis courts are rusted and in need of replacement. We recommend replacement of all of this with vinyl coated metal screen fencing that will prolong the life of the fencing and reduce future maintenance costs.

PARKING

There is currently paved parking at the park for a total of 126 cars, which is judged to be adequate for park usage for the foreseeable future, except for events such as concerts and Police Night Out. For events such as these, the area between the event space and the cemetery has been used for overflow parking, holding up to 160 cars.

Existing Parking

	# Cars
Tennis/Basketball Courts	51
Playground	17
Ballfields	36
Administration Bldg.	22
Total	126

The possibility exists that arrangements could be made for overflow parking to use the parking lots at Locust Elementary School, which is connected by a walking path, where there are a total of 140 spaces.

If the Township does add paved parking in the near term, the recommendation is to expand the number of spaces at the Administration Building which has been exceeding capacity for numerous hearings and trustee meetings over the past few years. As use of the ball fields and park increases, opportunities exist to expand the ball field parking and possibly a new lot in the area next to the cemetery in the space now used for overflow parking.

The Nature Space at 867 Locust Corner Rd. has parking for 10 vehicles and is judged to be adequate for current use levels.

MAINTENANCE

Finding capital dollars to make this master plan a reality is only half of the challenge we face. Once built it must be maintained. Throughout this plan, attention has been paid to optimize ongoing maintenance costs by the selection of designs and details (metal structures, vinyl coated fencing, concrete pads flush with ground level, etc.). However, with more facilities, particularly restrooms, will come increased maintenance costs for a township already facing budget constraints. Therefore, we recommend the following to be phased into budget planning by the Township over the next few years:

- A seasonal full time service department position dedicated to maintenance &, mowing for the park, nature area, cemetery, administration building and the walking/bike trails throughout the Township. This role could be partly paid for by replacing the current mowing contract.
- Purchase of a 4x4 “Gator” (or similar) for off road access and maintenance in park, nature area and the 6-8 miles of hike/bike.
- As each element in this plan is funded and engineered, there should be a maintenance review for how on-going operating costs could be reduced. For example, it was pointed out to the committee that horizontal structural members in the shelter house and band shell structures, although aesthetically pleasing, increase maintenance due to bird droppings and nesting.

Design Standards

Since this master plan will be implemented in stages as funds from grants, sponsorships, donations and the township budget become available, it is important that each element and phase be designed and completed to a common, but limited, set of design standards so as to maintain a consistent look and feel to the park. While the design standards do not have to exactly match that of the Administration and Fire Station across Locust Corner Rd. from the park area, the look and feel of the park should be complementary with those existing building's colors and textures.

The colors chosen below are commonly available from many manufacturers, although by different names. For purposes of this master plan, we have chosen to use the colors available from Icon Shelter Systems since this was the vendor for the Batavia and Anderson Kellogg park structures we benchmarked against.

STEEL ROOFING

Evergreen

STRUCTURAL STEEL

Almond

STONE (Real or Simulated)

Raw Siena, Burnt Umber with Gray Ledgerock

TRAILSIDE STRUCTURES

Trailside installations, such as benches and exercise equipment should be installed on a concrete pad so as to minimize special grass trimming and to avoid mud and ponding in areas of heavy use.

In addition, benches along the trail should be of a consistent slat design, with steel posts, and aluminum, steel or recycled plastic slats. Colors should be consistent with those shown above. Such a design is available from numerous manufactures.

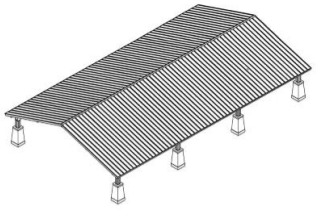
Pierce Township Park & Nature Area Master Plan Conceptual Estimates

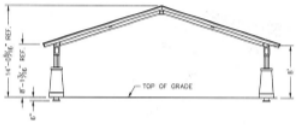
All estimates are conceptual and preliminary and based on quotes and information available at the time of this report. On many items, there are opportunities for savings from value engineering studies and installation by volunteers and/or Township Services staff.

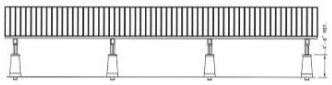
Bathroom & Concession Area

Estimates are based on using a design and size that approximates that used for the Anderson Kellogg Park facility (pictured at left), with a major cost of the sewer connection nearly 1200' away.

• Building, Pad & Utilities except sewer.	$ 128,750
• Sewer Connection per input of Clermont County	$ 110,639
TOTAL (w/ Engineering)	$ 239,389



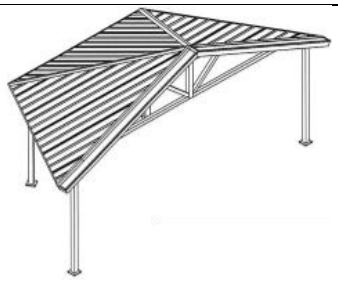
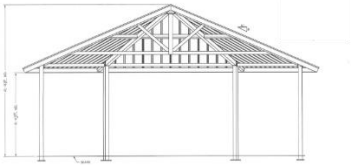
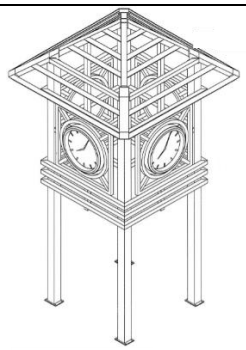
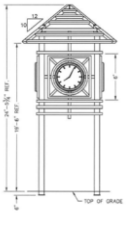


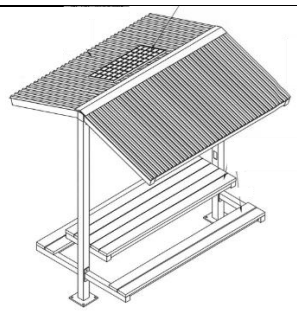
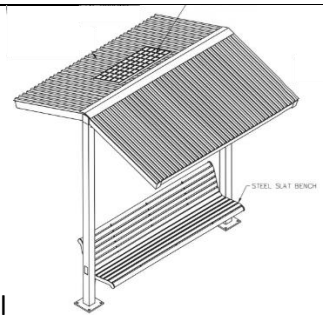
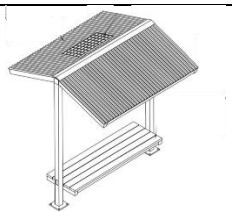


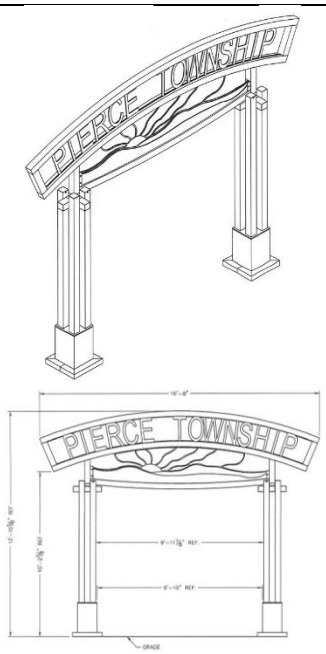
Large Shelter House

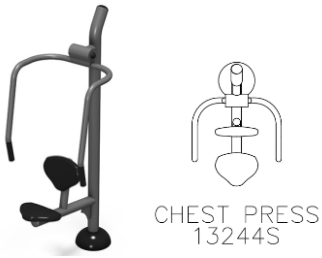
Estimate is based on a 1/25/2016 quote for the purchase of a powder coated steel rectangular gable roof shelter, 35 x 60', with tongue and groove roof deck under a metal roof and faux stone bases.

• 35 x 60' shelter	$ 70,788
• Assembly & Installation of Shelter	$ 9,300
• Concrete Pad (45 x 70') @ $8.50/sf	$ 26,775
• Electrical (underground feed, 8 outlets)	TBD
• Permits, Engineering & Reserve @ 10%	TBD
TOTAL	

  		**Stage w/ Small Shelter House** Estimate is based on a 1/25/2016 quote for the purchase of a powder coated steel hexagon band shell, 32'W x _____, on a 2' high concrete pad with front steps, which will also serve as a small shelter house when not in use for events. • 32' wide band shell with tongue and groove roof deck under a metal roof. Faux rock column base surrounds • 18 oz. vinyl walls for back and sides w/ pulley lift system for concerts • Assembly & Installation of Band Shell/Shelter • Raised Concrete Pad (• Electrical (underground feed, 8 outlets) • Permits, Engineering & Reserve @ 10% TOTAL	$ 17,659 $ 5,176 $ 5,800 TBD TBD TBD
  		**Clock Tower & Service Memorial** Estimate is based on a 1/25/2016 quote for 12 x 12 x 24' high steel powder coated clock tower with 4 48" diameter clocks. Clock tower accented with a 20' diameter garden at the base and 6 flag poles (for US and service flags) • 12 x 12 x 24' Clock tower w/ 4 48" diameter clocks • 6 flag poles • Assembly & Installation of clock tower • Concrete Pad (16 x 16') @ $8.50/sf • Electrical (underground feed, 8 outlets) • Permits, Engineering & Reserve @ 10% TOTAL	$ 96,870 TBD $ 6,300 $ 2,175 TBD TBD

		**Covered Picnic Table** Estimate is based on a 1/25/2016 quote for 8 x 8 x 8'9" high steel powder coated covered picnic table. Table and bench seat are available in recycled polymer wood or thermo-plastic coated metal. • Covered table w/ benches • Assembly & Installation of Table & Bench Seats • Concrete Pad (10 x 10' @ $8.50/sf TOTAL	$ 4,280 $ 3,300 $ 850 $ 8,430
 abl		**Covered Bench w/ Back** Estimate is based on a 1/25/2016 quote for 8 x 8 x 8'9" high steel powder coated covered bench w/back. Steel bench seat slats • Covered bench • Assembly & Installation of Bench Seat • Concrete Pad (10 x 10' @ $8.50/sf) TOTAL	$ 4,924 $ 3,300 $ 850 $ 9,074
		**Covered Trail Bench w/o Back** Estimate is based on a 1/25/2016 quote for 8 x 8 x 8'9" high steel powder coated covered bench seat. Bench seat is available in recycled polymer wood or thermos plastic coated metal. • Covered bench • Assembly & Installation of Shelter • Concrete Pad (10 x 10', @ $8.50/sf) TOTAL	$ 4,144 $ 3,300 $ 850 $ 8,294
		Trail Benches Slat benches with aluminum or recycled plastic slats were found from several vendors with a price range of $500-700, • 6' Bench (uncovered) • Concrete Pad (5' x 6', @ $8.50/sf)	$ 600 $ 255 $ 855

		TOTAL	
		**Park Entry Arch** Estimate is based on a 1/25/2016 quote for a 16'8" wide x 13'10" high entry of powder coated steel. Test is laser cut steel. • Entry Arch • Assembly & Installation of Arch • Concrete Pad (2 -2x2) TOTAL	 $ 11,518 $ 2,900 $ 100 $ 14,518
		Ball Diamonds (2), Tennis Courts, & Basketball Court All existing chain link fabric to be removed and replaced with new vinyl coated chain link fabric. Foul poles to be painted. All existing framework is to remain and any painting provided by others. This estimate is based on a 2/5/2016 quote, good for 30 days with all work to be completed by October 2016.	$ 50,640
		Playground Enhancements Estimate is based on a 2/25/16 quote. • GameTime Powerscape Ramped Play Structure (ADA compliant) • Installation • Removal and relocation of Xcelerator and Spring Animals TOTAL	 $ 41,444 TBD $ 1,200

 		**Exercise & History Trail** Trail Construction • 1800' of asphalt trail (8' wide), with sub-base and 3 culverts Exercise Equipment estimates are from 2015 Game Time catalog and are representative only. Actual prices will depend on final selections of equipment and dependent on donors and available funds. • CHEST PRESS w/ variable resistance (Item # 13244) 10 x 10' concrete pad adjacent to trail • SIT-UP / BACK EXTENSION (Item # 13249) 10 x 10 concrete pad adjacent to trail • BENCH DIP STATION (Item # 13180) 10 x 10' concrete pad adjacent to trail • JOINT USE CHIN-UP BAR (Item # 13240) 10'x10' concrete pad adjacent to trail • HORIZONTAL CHIN-UP BAR (Item # 13187) 10 x 10' concrete pad adjacent to trail • Assembly & Installation of Equipment Pierce History Markers (6) – Allowance (actual price TBD based on prototype design) TOTAL	$ 55,167 $ 3,230 $ 850 $ 3,484 $ 850 $ 1,753 $ 850 $ 1,187 $ 850 $ 1783 $ 850 $ 2,500 $ 6,000 $ 76,721

		Safety Berm & Relocated Path • Relocated Path – Same construction as History & Exercise Trail, at existing elevation but next to playground. • New berm at 3' above road elevation (1970 cu yd) (8' above playground), 30° slope, fine grading & seeding. • 10% General Requirements TOTAL	$ 13,500 $ 28,000 $ 4,150 $ 45,650
		New & Renovated Nature Trails in both Park & Nature Area • Trail development & restoration (Boy scout troop 443 & volunteers.) • Tree ID markers. Assume 6 species with 4 markers each, engraved and 3' above grade. (Allowance @ $100 each)	$ 0 $ 2400

Increasing the Use of the Park and Nature Spaces

Execution of all or many of the features in this master plan will require significant investment as well as ongoing maintenance costs. To justify that investment, the master plan sees a need to increase the use of the park and its facilities by both residents and guests and making it a center of activity for the Township. Following is a list of ideas generated during the course of this planning to achieve increased use and to continue to make progress of Pierce Township's Park and Nature Spaces becoming the center of community activity in the Township.

League Play on Ball & Soccer Fields

While the Township would maintain the fields as they do now, ongoing tasks such as striping, putting up goal nets, etc. would be expected from the leagues. Our soccer fields might be particularly attractive for some of the younger age groups, and space for new fields is possible.

Movie Night at the Park

Ice Skating in Winter

The idea has been raised for putting in temporary ice skating rinks on the baseball fields during winter.

Concerts in the Park

Historically, concerts in the park have been sporadic. Neighboring Townships (Anderson and Union) have a record of concerts throughout the summer months with high quality bands. However, top entertainment comes with a price, and often with a condition of a covered stage. The addition of the covered stage in this plan would simplify the planning and out of pocket costs for future concerts. In addition, the Park Committee should explore how to make these concerts more self-sustaining with minimal public funding from the Township. Benchmarking how other townships have budgeted and funded their concerts would be valuable.

Corn Hole Tournaments

5K Run/Walk

With the installation of bathrooms and other facilities, the park's role as a trailhead for the Township's network of walking and bike trails makes it ideal for an annual run/walk event (possibly a fundraiser for the park).

Pickle Ball Leagues

Potential Future Features & Amenities

As a result of this report being prepared solely with volunteer effort, only those items where people stepped forward to volunteer their time to research the details involved and do benchmark studies where appropriate with other nearby parks are included. There were several ideas suggested where we did not have volunteers to do the work, and therefore are not included in this plan. This is not to say those ideas are not worthy of inclusion. In the following, we list those items that were suggested but not included, in the hope that future studies may be able to study their feasibility and costs for future additions to the park and nature areas.

Completion of the Hike/Bike Trails

Pierce Township is blessed with the 6-8 miles of paved hike/bike trails that today connect 9 neighborhoods with the park, cemetery and Locust Corner Elementary School. As stated in the master plan, developing the park as the trailhead, with parking and facilities, for this network of hike/bike trails will open up the trails for use by many more township residents and guests. However, gaps exist today in the trail network that keep it from being continuous, and with some relatively short additions, even more neighborhoods would be connected to the trails and the park and nature area. Future study and planning of the following would be helpful:

- A comprehensive map of the existing trail network, with gaps that need to be completed.
- An analysis of how additional neighborhoods could be connected to the hike/bike path network.
- Feasibility, routing and cost for a trail connection from the Park & Sports Fields to the 65-acre Nature Area approximately ¼ mile away.
- How can the planning of new developments in the Merwin -Ten Mile Rd. and Bradbury Rd. areas include hike/bike paths that connect to the existing trail network?
- What should be included in the planning of future trails and trailhead along US 52 and former Sky Valley property on SR 749?

Dog Park

There were several suggestions in last year's community survey that a dog park be added. The Master Plan committee did conclude that possible locations for a dog park are possible at the Locust Corner Nature Area and at the rear of the

maintained area of the Park. However, there are numerous questions to be resolved, in addition to the layout and cost of the dog park area. Those issues are:

- Who should have access, anyone or just residents? Anderson's dog park at their Kellogg Park is accessible only to Anderson residents who register with the Park District.
- What are the maintenance and clean up issues? Pierce Township's Service Department is already stretched for Park and Nature Area mowing and maintenance.
- How will dog park rules and access be enforced?
- What are liability issues for the Township due to dog fights, either injury to the dogs or to humans trying to break up the fights.

Skateboard Park

A skateboard facility was suggested by several students. However, this suggestion came too late in the planning process to be included or fully analyzed for this master plan. Items to be looked at in the future if there is sufficient interest in a skateboard facility are:

- What are the liability issues of a skateboard park for the Township?
- What issues do neighboring townships with skateboard facilities have and how do they manage them?
- What are the ongoing maintenance issues and costs in addition to the substantial construction costs?

Benchmark Studies on How Other Jurisdictions Have Funded Concert Series and Other Events

To the greatest degree possible, we should seek ways to make events and activities in the Park and Nature Areas self-sustaining, with a minimum amount of Township funding beyond maintenance and capital improvements.

Utilities

As structures like bathrooms, shelter houses and stage are designed and funded, the parks committee should look at how utilities such as electricity, water and fire hydrants can be included to benefit the long term future of the park.

Possible Sponsorship & Fundraising Opportunities

FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Parks Committee and Township Trustees are already in the process of applying for government and foundation grants available for parks, recreation, trail development and preservation of the environment to begin the funding of some of the elements in this Master Plan. The data gathered to put together this plan has allowed us to begin the grant application process for grants that have a deadline in the first half of 2016. Typically, these grants have a 20-25% local match requirement.

SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorships and Naming Rights of one of the new major elements of this Parks and Nature Area Master Plan (Shelter House, Stage, History & Exercise Trail, Event Lawn or Playground or Sports Field Modernization) are a possibility. (For example: "XYZ Corporation Shelter House or Stage")

CONTRIBUTION TO THE PIERCE TOWNSHIP PARK & NATURE AREA FUND

A tax deductible contribution to support the ongoing development and upkeep of our Park and Nature Areas can be made to the Pierce Township Parks Fund.

INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY CONTRIBUTION

Individuals and families have the opportunity to be part of the renovation of our Park and Nature Area with a tax deductible donation to cover the cost of a new bench, picnic table or a piece of exercise equipment. Donations should be acknowledged with a small plaque on each piece indicating the donors name or "In Memory Of..... ".

VOLUNTEER

This report, the new and renovated nature trails in the park, and the removal of invasive species from the Nature Area have all been made possible by volunteers. We anticipate this type of contribution will continue, particularly for the nature trails, garden planting and maintenance and fundraising will continue. These park and nature areas are expected to become a symbol, and point of pride, of what a community working together can accomplish.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

5k Run/Walk, Corn Hole Tournament, Skirt Softball Game (like annual Delhi event), Golf Outing at Legendary Run Course

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It took many people to prepare this report, do the background benchmark studies of installations in neighboring townships, research available equipment and facility options, and prepare the cost estimates. All of the efforts to complete this master plan were volunteered, including the professional skills necessary for the layout studies and cost estimates, resulting in this report being prepared at no cost to the Township. We list those volunteers and contributors below in alphabetical order.

Community Volunteers and Members of the Township's Green Space and Parks Committees

Nancy Ball
Sherrill Callahan
Mark Cann
Donna Cann
George Carpenter
Alex Dadalt
Doug Dressie
Robert Hinklin
Pat Hogan
Ralph Malany
Herb Penry
Judith Penry
Rick Rack
Clarence Roller

Pierce Township Government

Laura Bassett – Admin. Assistant to Zoning and Services Departments
Bonnie Batchler – Pierce Township Trustee
Claudia Carrol – Assistant to Fiscal Officer
Allen Freeman – Pierce Township Trustee
Tim Hershner – Pierce Township Administrator
John Kohler – Pierce Township Services Director
Jenny Newcomb – Pierce Township Digital Media and Communications Specialist
Bob Pautke – Pierce Township Trustee

Contributions of Professional Skills and Effort

This plan could not have been completed without the contributions of time, effort and technical skills and knowledge of many professionals. We are extremely grateful for their contributions to the future of Pierce Township's parks and nature areas.

Lyle Bloom – Director of Utilities – Clermont County Water Resources Department
Chris Clingman – Clermont County Parks Director
Bob Griewe – President, David Williams & Associates
Janet Hahn - Artist
Ken Kushner – Executive Director, Anderson Township Park District
Joseph O'Brien – Clermont County GIS
Rex Parsons – Batavia Township Administrator
Rich Riebel – CEO, Cornerstone Development
Jamie Wagner – AIA, Burlington, Vermont
Robert Wildey – Director of Water & Waste, Clermont County Public Health

RESOURCES

In Alphabetical Order

David Williams & Associates
www.davidwilliamsassociates.com
- Shelter houses, band shells, miscellaneous park structures, playgrounds and ballfield structures, grant information

EnWood Structures
www.enwood.com
- Shelter houses, bridges

GameTime
www.gametime.com
- Playgrounds, benches, trailside exercise equipment

Icon Shelter Systems
www.iconshelters.com
- Shelter houses, band shells, trailside benches and tables

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
www.realestate.ohiodnr.gov/outdoor-recreation-facility-grants.com
- Grants

Playworld
www.PlayworldMidstates.com
- Playgrounds, trailside exercise equipment, benches

RCP Shelters, Inc.
www.rcpshelters.com
- Shelter houses, band shells, bridges