

Parks & Nature Spaces







# Master Plan

(2021 Update to 2016 Original Plan)

Prepared By
Pierce Township
Green Space & Parks Committees
June 2021 Update

## INTRODUCTION

In 2016, the Pierce Township Greenspace/Parks Committee, with support and approval of the Trustees, developed the Master Plan for Park & Nature Spaces. Since that time, there have been many accomplishments and improvements. Along with these improvements, Pierce Township has also gained Park and Nature Space assets since the development of the original Master Plan, which has resulted in the need for updates.

This masterplan is not a blueprint for construction. It is a look into the future, a vision, of what our Pierce Township Parks 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 developments 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 in order 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.

# **Table of Contents**

т. 1	Page
Introduction	2
Accomplishments from 2016	4
Existing Assets Including additions since 2016	5
Master Plan New Initiatives A detailed description of suggested changes and improvements	8
Design Standards A consistent look and feel	18
Conceptual Estimates	19
Increasing Use of Parks	23
Potential Future Features & Amenities Potential ideas for future studies and analysis	24
Possible Sponsorship & Fundraising Opportunities	25
Acknowledgements A thank you to the many people who made this report possible	26
Resources	27

# Accomplishments since 2016

#### Locust Corner Park & Trails

- Rehabilitating existing hiking trails as well as adding 3 miles of new trails (Volunteer and Eagle Scout projects)
- Addition of signs for hiking trails (Volunteer projects)
- Tree identification signs added to hiking trails (Eagle Scout Project)
- Replacement of deteriorating wooden bridge, including landscape enhancements (Clermont County Parks Levy Grant)
- New aluminum picnic tables and benches
- Rehabilitation of existing benches (Volunteer project)
- Invasive plant removals (Volunteer projects)
- Park sign replacements
- Park information bulletin board (Donated)
- Electrical additions in event space and upgrade to electrical service (Donated)
- Construction of Learning Center which includes restrooms, stage, and storage (Ohio Capital Fund Grant)
- Addition of safety berm along Locust Corner Road (OKI Grant)
- Addition of paved walking/biking paths (OKI Grant)
- Construction of Dog Park (Volunteer fundraising)
- Resurfacing basketball and tennis courts (Clermont County Parks Levy Grant)
- Addition of Pierce Township History Trail
- Established a Bench Donation Program

#### Locust Corner Nature Area & Trails

- Invasive plant removals (Volunteer projects)
- Sign replacement
- Removal of deteriorating fence
- Rehabilitation of existing trails (Eagle Scout and Volunteer projects)
- Trail marker replacement (Eagle Scout project)

# Existing Parks & Nature Space Assets

Pierce Township is blessed with over 310 acres of various parkland and nature spaces which have been set aside for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors. Since the original Master Plan developed in 2016, the Township has gained Pierce Preserve & Trails, Groh Park, Spencer Shank Park, and Arrowhead Playground. These assets are the canvas upon which this update to the Master Plan will build.

## Locust Corner Park and Sports Fields

Today's Locust Corner Park, located at 961 Locust Corner Road, encompasses 63.67 acres on the south side of Locust Corner Rd., 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., 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 fundraising events, concerts, and Police Night Out make 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 and added to in the past five years in this natural area, which has become a popular use for hikers 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. With the addition of the Learning Center, there are now restrooms on site. There is no shelter house 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) are seeing increased use with the addition of paved walking paths, the new Dog Park, and addition of History Trail markers.

## Nature Area & Trails

Less than a half mile west of the above park and sports fields, located at 879 Locust Corner Road, is another 63.65 acres used and maintained as nature trails. 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 Preserve & Trails (Added in 2018)

The Pierce Preserve & Trails is located at 3131 Pond Run Road, and encompasses approximately 147 acres. Walkers and hikers enjoy access to this exceptionally beautiful land on over three and one-half miles of completed, unpaved trails; several miles of additional trails are being planned for the future. There are approximately 20,000 square feet of native wildflowers planted within the prairie areas. There is a small gravel lot available for parking (12 spaces).

## Groh Park (Added in 2019)

Groh Park is located at 3390 Huntsman Trace, which is 0.1 mile south of State Route 125. This park offers basketball courts, skate board equipment, picnic tables and shelter, playground equipment and walking trail. This park offers a large grassy area that can be utilized for flag football games, a wild wiffle ball match or just catching some rays.

## Spencer Shank Park (Added in 2019)

Spencer Shank Park is located at 70 Robin Way, on the corner of Robin Way and Canary Ln., 1.6 miles southwest from State Route 125. This park offers multiple family friendly amenities, including playground equipment, picnic tables and shelter, frisbee disc golf course, basketball courts, a mile marked walking path, and fitness equipment.

Great Amelia Paw Park is located in back of Spencer Shank Park. This dog park has a gated transfer area and 2 separate play areas, 1 for smaller breed dogs and 1 for our larger breeds. The smaller area is designed so that the smaller dogs can feel safe and not intimidated by the larger breeds. The larger area is designed so that dogs can socialize with each other and enjoy themselves. Each side has benches, pet waste bags and trash cans available. Please clean up after your animals so that the park can be enjoyed by all.

## Arrowhead Playground (Added in 2019)

Arrowhead Park is located at 25 Arrowhead Drive, which is 0.8 miles off of State Route 125, on Arrowhead Drive. This playground has had unsafe playground equipment removed and is under review for replacements.



## Master Plan New Initiatives

#### LOCUST CORNER PARK PROPOSED

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, the Greenspace/Parks Committee, Pierce Township employees, and Trustees. 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%, had been developed with features or walking paths prior to development of the original Master Plan developed in 2016. Over the past five years, many elements have been added which drives further community use.

This master plan update envisions adding the Bill Brewer Memorial, a First Responders Memorial, and a Shelter House. While the map on the following page does not reflect it, some consideration should be made to adding additional paved parking in the future as further elements are added.

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.



#### LOCUST CORNER PARK INITIATIVES

## **Bill Brewer Memorial**

On February 2, 2019, Detective Bill Brewer of the Clermont County Sheriff's Office, was shot and killed in the line of duty while called to assist the Pierce Township Police with a stand-off at an apartment complex. Detective Brewer was a Pierce Township resident, and was laid to rest in the Pierce Township Cemetery. Pierce Township is working with the Brewer family to develop a Memorial to celebrate the life of Detective Brewer and his 20 years of service to the community.



#### **Shelter House**

A shelter house was another high priority of residents in previous community surveys. 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 Olive 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.





## New Locust Corner Exercise Equipment

One of the most used features of the park today are the paved walking trails. The southern and western half of the maintained park area has increased usage with the recent addition of 1800 feet of paved walking trail. 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.



## **Playground Enhancements**

The playground is also a popular and heavily used feature of the park today. 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.





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

## **First Responders Memorial**

The Master Plan envisions a memorial to first responders (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 structure is not important. That can be determined by the Trustees and Committee in the future. The Township still owns the original fire truck (circa 1950's) which is stored in the Service Department warehouse. The fire truck could be a central structure in the Memorial.





Batavia Township Park Union Township Park



## **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. The Township has received some grant funding to start with this replacement; however, this will require additional funding to complete all of the fence replacement.



## **Dog Park Enhancements**

The recently opened Dog Park is a great addition. While fencing, waste bag dispenser, and water fountain are a reality, there is a need for benches in both sections. In the original Dog Park Master Plan, there are also agility and play equipment planned as funds are raised.

#### NATURE AREA INITIATIVES

## **Trail Improvements and Signs**

The trails in the meadow portion of the Nature Area are mowed as part of the Township annual mowing contract. The trails in the wooded area are in need of repairs due to erosion and will continue to be monitored for invasive plant removals. There is currently an Eagle Scout project planned to address one of the eroded portion of a wooded trail. Typically Scout Groups have provided assistance with small projects and invasive removals at the Nature Area.

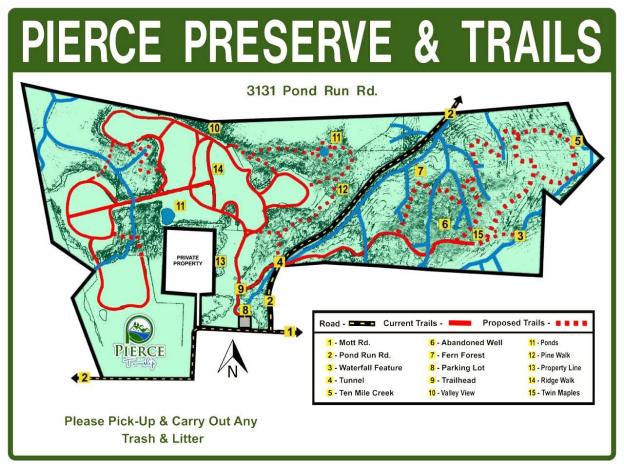
Another need is to add signs and markers for trails at the Nature Area. An Eagle Scout project recently replaced some signs, but others are needed.

## PIERCE PRESERVE & TRAILS INITIATIVES

## **Additional Trails and Signs**

Pierce Preserve is intended to remain a natural area. The meadow areas are mowed and bushhogged to keep areas maintained. The map of the Preserve does indicate future trails in the wooded area. Eagle Scout projects have added trails in the Preserve in the past and will be the future source of adding these trails. Any proposed work to the trails or any other initiative at the Preserve, must be coordinated with and approved by the

NOPE Group, whose efforts many years ago made this Preserve possible, and continue to be stewards of this wonderful property.



#### **GROH PARK INITIATIVES**

## Playground Equipment Replacement

The playground equipment at Groh Park needs to be replaced due to age, weathering, and use. Funding will need to be raised to replace this equipment and should be considered a top priority due to safety concerns.

## **Shelter House Repairs/Upgrades**

Over the years, the Shelter House and tables have weathered and been abused. The Shelter House should be evaluated for general repairs and maintenance. The tables should be reworked or replaced.

#### SPENCER SHANK PARK INITIATIVES

#### **Public Restrooms**

Recent survey results from area residents indicates strong support for adding public restrooms with running water. This is a need as this is a large park with many amenities. With a Shelter House in place, public restrooms would provide for facilities that would be a need for larger gatherings. The park is in a residential area with public utilities available.

#### **New Signs for Disc Golf Course**

Spencer Shank Park is the only park in Pierce Township with a Disc Golf Course. The baskets are in good condition; however, the old signs marking starting points and the layout of the course have deteriorated or been removed. Replacing and remarking the course would provide a much needed upgrade and would enhance usage.

#### **Basketball Court Coating**

The basketball court paving is in good condition; however, it needs to have minor cracks repaired, be recoated, and then re-striped. This will increase longevity and provide a better playing surface.

## **Exercise Equipment**

Spencer Shank Park is the only park in Pierce Township with exercise equipment. The equipment is in good shape; however, repainting and removal of minor rust will prolong its life. Some pieces of equipment should be reviewed for safety purposes and evaluated for replacement.

#### Dog Park

There is a Dog Park in the back portion of Spencer Shank Park. There are separate areas for large and small breeds. Consideration should be made for adding a bottom rail to the fence along the perimeter to reinforce the strength of the fence fabric at ground level. There are benches for dog owners; however more shade would be beneficial either by adding strategically placed, fast growing trees, or by adding shade structures.

## ARROWHEAD PLAYGROUND INITIATIVES

## **Replace Playground Equipment**

The former wooden playground equipment in this area was deteriorating and became a safety hazard; therefore, it was removed. Residents in the neighborhood have expressed a desire for it to be replaced so that children have a nearby neighborhood playground.

#### TREE DONATION PROGRAM INITIATIVE

Since the development and publication of the Master Plan in 2015/2016 and subsequent completion of several projects outlined therein, there has been an increased interest in tree donations. Some of this interest is focused on the cemetery grounds as a way to memorialize a loved one while others would focus their attention to park grounds. At the Locust Corner Park it seems only natural to tie these two areas together since the park walking path also connects to the cemetery path/roadway.

With the addition of the Groh and Spencer Shank Park, plus the Nature Park and Pierce Preserve, there is an increased need to remove invasive plants and have a plan for reforestation in some areas.

Rather than have a random planting of trees, it is the view of the Park's Committee and Township Service Department to have an overall plan for planting a variety of trees to add contrast and color. A Tree Donation Program would provide donors with options for location, size and specie of tree and cost information.



#### ARBORETUM DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

The development of an Arboretum is a natural extension to the Tree Donation Program.

As we develop an overall plan for the Tree Donation Program, the current layout and species of trees should be defined. Based on that layout, proposed locations and species could be added. These are also the first steps in a natural progression toward developing an arboretum.

Arboretums are classified by Levels of Accreditation. The four levels of accreditation recognize arboreta at various degrees of development, capacity, and professionalism.

Level One arboreta are generally smaller publicly accessible sites with at least 25 species of identified and labeled trees and woody plants, one or a few employees or volunteers, a governing body, and an arboretum plan. Examples of arboreta at this level may include

golf courses, college arboreta, cemeteries, zoos, private estates, or towns with an organized tree collection.

With a strong group of volunteers and the oversight of the Park's Committee it seems practical for Pierce Township to develop and maintain a Level One Arboretum. An arboretum at the Locust Corner Park could include the natural area with the marked trails, the main park area and the cemetery.

## **501C3 DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

Since the development of the original Master Plan in 2016, the Parks Committee has worked to raise funds for improvements from available grants and conducting fundraising events. While these efforts have had positive results and much has been accomplished, there are simply too many needs to fund projects as quickly as desired. The Parks Committee has reached out to private organizations inquiring about grant opportunities and found that some will only donate to private non-profit groups and not government entities such as Townships. The Park Committee believes that by forming a 501c3 Park Fund, we may be able to access additional funding sources which may not be available to the Township.

#### **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 for the park facilities, nature areas, cemetery, and administration building.
- Continue to evaluate costs of maintenance of Township properties including mowing and bushhogging nature areas.
- 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 other 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

STRUCTURAL STEEL

STONE (Real or Simulated)

#### TRAILSIDE STRUCTURES

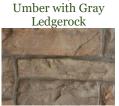
Trailside installations, such as benches and exercise equipment should be installed on a concrete pad so as to minimize special grass trimming and to avoid mud and ponding in areas of heavy use.

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.

## Evergreen

#### Almond













## 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.



#### Restrooms

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.

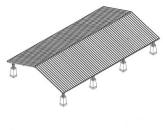
- Building, Pad & Utilities except sewer.
- Sewer Connection per input of Clermont County

TOTAL (w/ Engineering)

\$ 150,000

\$ 75,000

\$ 225,000







## Large Shelter House

Estimate is based on a 6/9/2021 quote for the purchase of a powder coated steel rectangular gable roof shelter,  $35 \times 60$ , with tongue and groove roof deck under a metal roof and faux stone bases.

- 35 x 60' shelter
- Assembly & Installation of Shelter
- Concrete Pad (45 x 70') @ \$8.50/sf
- Electrical (underground feed, 8 outlets)
- Permits, Engineering & Reserve @ 10%

**TOTAL** 

\$ 89,780

\$ 20,650

\$ 33,350

TBD

**TBD** 

	Covered Picnic Table Estimate is based on a 6/2/2021 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	\$ 6,480 \$ 5,025 \$ 1350
abl	Covered Bench w/ Back Estimate is based on a 6/2/2021 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)	\$ 12,855 \$ 7,045 \$ 4,700 \$ 1350
	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	\$ 13,095 \$ 6,255 \$ 4,700 \$ 1350 \$ 12,305
	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)	\$ 1,045 \$ 255 

	TOTAL	
	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.	\$ 75,000++
	Playground Enhancements Potential ADA Upgrades TOTAL	TBD
CHEST PRESS 13244S	Exercise Equipment Exercise Equipment estimates are from 6/8/2021 Game Time quote 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 # 13555I) Engineered wood fiber mulch surface  • SIT-UP / BACK EXTENSION (Item # 13561I) Engineered wood fiber mulch surface  • BENCH DIP STATION (Item # 13580) Engineered wood fiber mulch surface  • JOINT USE CHIN-UP BAR (Item # 13575) Engineered wood fiber mulch surface	\$ 4,036 \$ 600 \$ 4,228 \$ 600 \$ 1,485 \$ 600 \$ 1,206 \$ 600

<ul> <li>HORIZONTAL CHIN-UP BAR (Item # 13586I)</li> <li>Engineered wood fiber mulc surface</li> <li>Assembly &amp; Installation of Equipment</li> </ul>	\$ 1,462 \$ 600 \$ 3,200
TOTA	L

# Increasing the Use of Parks 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 or Theater 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. Top entertainment comes with a price; however, with the addition of the Learning Center there is no longer the need to rent stage structures. 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?

## 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.

# Possible Sponsorship & Fundraising Opportunities

#### **FOUNDATION GRANTS**

The Parks Committee and Township Trustees are already had success applying for government and foundation grants available for parks, recreation, trail development and preservation of the environment which have provided funding of some of the elements in this Master Plan which have been completed since its inception in 2016. The Township will continue to pursue grants to fund sone elements of the Master Plan. 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, snack sales at Park Events

## **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

Michelle BalsideGeorge CarpenterDan NewyearAnne CampbellDoug DresieDarlene PageMark CannTina FredricksRandy PageDonna CannPat HoganLori Wilson

## **Pierce Township Government**

Claudia Carrol – Assistant to Fiscal Officer

Allen Freeman – Pierce Township Trustee

Pete Kambelos – Pierce Township Trustee

Nick Kelly – Pierce Township Trustee

John Koehler – Pierce Township Services Director

Eddie McCarthy – Planning and Zoning Coordinator

Loretta Rokey – Pierce Township Administrator

Debbie Schwey – Fiscal Officer

Laura Waczovszky – Admin. Assistant to Zoning and Services Departments

## **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.

Kevin Padgett – KEP Electric

Midwestern Plumbing Service

Chris Clingman – Clermont County Parks Director

Grant Griewe - Sales Associate, David Williams & Associates

Ken Kushner – Executive Director, Anderson Township Park District

Joseph O'Brien – Clermont County GIS

Jamie Wagner – AIA, Burlington, Vermont

## **RESOURCES**

## In Alphabetical Order

#### David Williams & Associates

www.davidwilliamsassociates.com

• Shelter houses, band shells, miscellaneous park structures, playgrounds and ballfield structures, grant information

#### 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