

# Board of Supervisors Adopt 2021 Implementable Comprehensive Plan

In December, the Board of Supervisors adopted the 2021 Brighton Township Implementable Comprehensive Plan. The prior comprehensive plan was adopted in 1999 and amended with an update in 2007. The newly adopted 2021 Plan was initiated in October 2019 and is an issues-based planning document utilizing the planning principles identified in the Pennsylvania Department of Community Development's (DCED) "Creating an Implementable Comprehensive Plan." The DCED provided \$30,000 in funding assistance for the planning effort. The Plan focuses on identifying community issues, steps to address the issues, persons or groups responsible for addressing the issues and a timetable for implementation that identifies short, medium and long range efforts.

Through the community engagement process the Township received 570 survey responses and nearly 200 participants provided input on more specific topics. Stakeholder interviews were conducted, and a steering committee was utilized in conjunction with the Planning Commission throughout the outreach process. Items identified during this process included: 94% of workshop participants supporting land conservation, 61% desiring walking and/or biking paths and identification of the

interchange area for any community scale development. Key takeaways are a desire to conserve land and resources, protect rural environment or character and provide connectivity through trail connections. Funding strategies include: accessing grant opportunities through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources or the PA Act 13 Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program; continuing annual allocations to the Land Reserve account; and evaluating the referendum process for earned income tax options provided for municipalities by the Open Space Lands, Acquisition and Preservation Act. These options provide funding for both land and/or easement acquisitions and recreational development/construction projects.

The recommendations also encourage the Planning Commission to evaluate zoning and other land development codes that will assist in maintaining rural character through the incorporation of greenspace, natural features and buffering into site development standards, and improved connectivity within and between neighborhoods. Through 2022 the Commission will evaluate the recommendations of the 2021 Plan and begin action steps towards implementation.

## First Phase of Two Mile Run Park Trail System Under Construction

Construction for the first phase of the Two Mile Run Park trail project has been started by the successful bidder, LM&R Excavating, LLC. The \$335,350 project includes the construction of 7,400 LF of natural surface trail, 1,100 LF of ADA accessible paved trail, two (2) trailhead locations and information kiosks. The trail will be marked with universal symbols to identify trail difficulty by segments. Related amenities, such as trash receptacles and benches are included in the project scope. A grant award of \$155,000 was secured from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for this project. The trails are an additional recreation feature that was identified as a community need within the Two Mile Run Park Master Plan.

