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Questions 8—10 focused on recreation facilities

Question 8: From the following list, please indicate if the facility is adequate, should be improved or needs a lot of attention.

	Adequate	Should be Improved	Needs a lot of attention	No opinion
Montour Trail	56.9	20.4	2.4	8.2
Moon Park	47.5	35.7	6.3	0.4
Robin Hill Park	40.8	24.7	4.3	15.3
Robin Hill Trails	31.0	20.0	1.6	28.6
Private Ball Fields	29.8	10.6	2.4	34.1
Moon Park Trails	29.8	24.3	3.5	24.3
Whispering Woods Ball Field	20.0	16.5	3.9	36.9
Golf Courses	20.0	13.3	6.7	38.4
Amherst	13.7	9.4	3.5	49.0
Private Recreation Facilities	12.9	9.8	2.7	45.9
Meade Drive	7.1	9.4	7.8	50.6
Cedar Drive	6.7	4.7	1.6	60.0
Loch Shin	6.7	7.8	5.5	54.5
Overlook	5.9	5.5	2.4	60.0

Question eight shows that the respondents feel the Montour Trail is the most adequate recreation facility in the township. Of the township owned facilities, Moon Park is shown to be the most adequate, but it also ranks the highest out of all the facilities listed in terms of needing improvement.

Question 9: What do you like best about township parks?

Location	36.9	Costs	11.0
Open Play Areas	31.0	Path / Walkways	9.4
Lack of Litter	20.0	Facilities	8.6
Refreshments	20.0	Maintenance	8.6
Picnic Facilities	19.2	Organized Activity	8.2
Parking	17.3	Lack of Animal Waste	8.2
Natural Features	16.5	Lighting	3.1
Lack of Vandalism & Graffiti	15.3	Handicap Access	2.4
Lack of Drug & Alcohol Usage	14.1	Restrooms	2.0
Access	12.5	Lack of Insects	2.0
Appropriate Facilties	12.5	Overcrowding	1.6
Lack of Loitering	11.4	Other	1.2
Size	11.4	Water Fountains	0.4
Shade	11.0		

Location of the parks as well as open play areas ranked the highest regarding what respondents like best about parks. The lack of litter and refreshments also ranked fairly high in terms of what people like about the parks.

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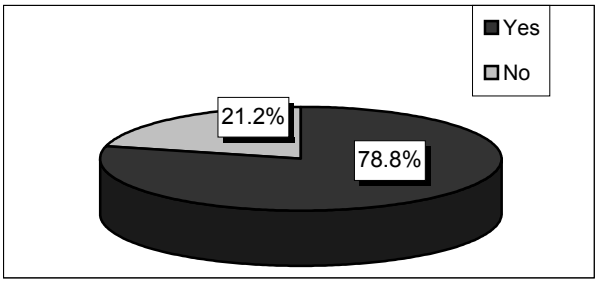
Question 10: What do you like least about the township parks

Lack of Restrooms	17.3	Costs	3.9
Lack of Water Fountains	16.1	Loitering	3.5
Don't Know Where They Are	11.4	Litter	3.5
Lack of Refreshments	10.6	Lack of Natural Features	3.1
No Pets Allowed	9.4	Overcrowding	3.1
Poor Maintenance	9.4	Inappropriate Facilities	2.7
Other	9.0	Poor Access	2.4
Lack of Organized Activity	8.6	Lack of Shade	2.0
Too Small	7.8	Drug & Alcohol Usage	2.0
Lack of Paths/Walkways	7.1	Loud Noises	2.0
Lack of Parking	6.7	Poor Location	1.6
Lack of Facilities	6.3	Lack of Open Play Areas	1.6
Lack of Lighting	5.1	Vadalism & Graffiti	1.6
Lack of Picnic Facilities	3.9	Many Insects	1.6
Inadequate Parking	3.9	Animal Wastes	0.8
Poison Ivy	3.9	No Handicap Access	0.0

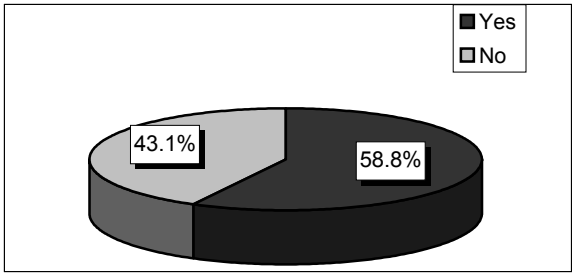
The lack of restroom and water fountains ranked the highest in terms of what people don't like about the township parks. Not knowing where the parks are and the lack of refreshments also ranked fairly high in this category.

Questions 11—15 dealt with funding issues

Question 11: Would you want a portion of your taxes to go to parks?



Question 12: Would you pay user fees for park facilities and programs?



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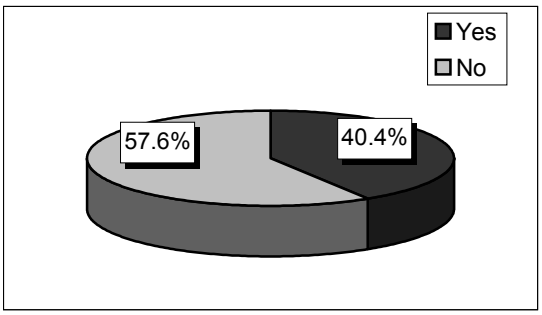
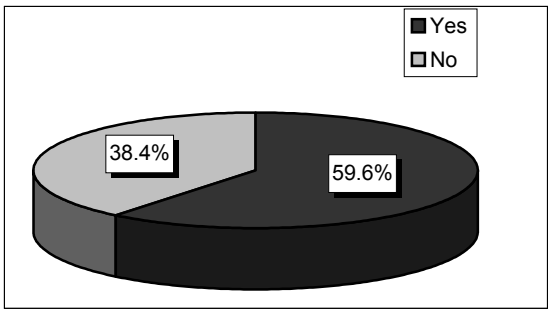
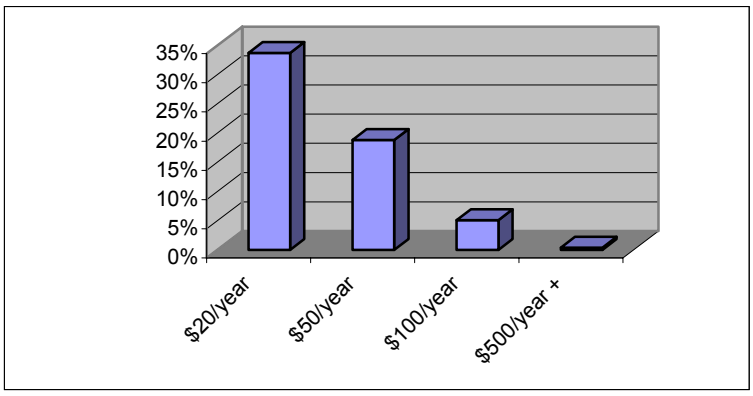
Question 13: Would you support a dedicated tax for park facilities and programs?



Question 14: Would you donate money to support parks, recreation and trails/greenways?



If you would donate, how much would you be willing to contribute?



In terms of funding, residents overwhelming agreed with having a portion of their taxes go to parks. The results showed that a majority of people would be willing to pay user fees for parks facilities and programs (58.8% yes), while a majority would not support a dedicated tax for parks (57.6% no). As for people willing to donate money to parks and recreation, a slight majority of people said they would be willing to do so. As for the amount, most people would be willing to donate $20 per year with a very small amount willing to donate $100 per year or more.

Questions 16—20 dealt with household and demographic information

Question 16: What factors prohibit your household from using facilities or attending programs?

Parks / Trails	
Location Too Hard to Find	12.2%
Too Far Away from my House	9.4%
Not Well Maintained	8.6%
Not Safe	3.9%
Too Crowded	2.7%
Not ADA/Handicap Accessible	1.6%
Too Hard to Access	1.2%

Programs	
Not Well Publicized	48.6%
Do Not Have What I'm Interested in	21.6%
Times Inconvenient	16.5%
Other	7.1%
Too Hard to Register	5.1%
Fees Too Expensive	5.1%

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The majority of respondents to question 16 felt that the parks and trails are too hard to find and this prohibits them from using these facilities. In terms of programs, the majority of respondents felt that the programs were not well publicized and this is why they weren't attending.

Question 17—19 asked demographic questions regarding age and income range, and question 20 asked if people would be willing to volunteer time or equipment to the Moon Township parks and recreation department or if there were any additional comments. For the full survey results, see Appendix D.II.

Community Meetings

In order to gather as much public input as possible, two community meetings were held throughout the planning process.

The first meeting was held in March of 2004, and was designed to introduce the project and gather initial public input regarding parks and recreation in Moon Township. The agenda for this meeting included a short presentation to discuss the scope of work for this project, a community imaging exercise (CIE), and a issues identification exercise.

Communnity Imaging Exercise

The CIE involved displaying a series of photographic images of various types of recreation from both within and outside of Moon Township. The meeting participants were asked to rate the images on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the most positive, based upon their first reaction. The last several slides asked meeting participants to rate how they felt about programming (Summer, Winter, Senior and ADA programming) and maintenance in each of the Moon Towsnhip parks. To gather additional public input, the CIE was also placed on the Moon Township website in order to allow people who didn't attend the meeting to participate in the exercise. Very few people completed the exercise online so the total results from the CIE will be balanced with all of the public input collected throughout the planning process.

Images that ranked the highest were images outside of the township and dealt with river recreation (boating and docks along the Monongahela River)and attractive gateway treatment (Gazebo in Blairsville, Indiana County). The image from within the township that ranked the highest was a picture of Flaugherty Run.

The images that ranked low were a community center in Blairsville, Indiana County and a photo of Overlook Park in Moon Township.

The following two tables show the results of the CIE questions regarding programming and maintenance.

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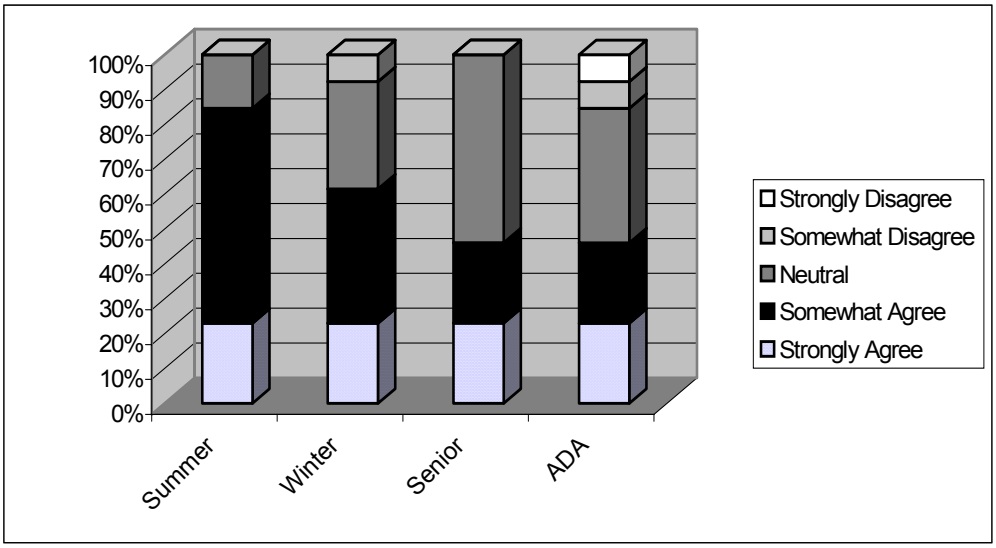
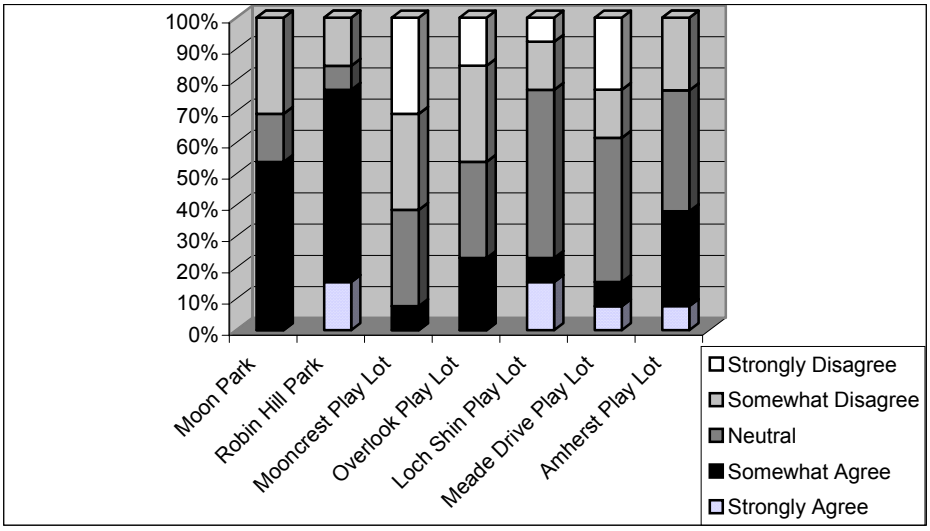
The following programs are well provided for in Moon Township.



The following parks are well maintained.



Issues Identification

This exercise was intended to allow people the chance to discuss the issues facing parks and recreation in the township. The following are the results from this exercise:

PROGRAMS

- More Senior Programs—Only in Robin Hill Park right now
- Increase Awareness—Utilize Channel 14, Mooncrest Community Center
- Create Township Newsletter to list recreation programs and other Township news
- Need something for teens to do

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- Need additional winter programs for young people
- Offer Teen Focus / Discussion Groups (Offer in different areas of the Township)
- Outdoor Skating Rink
- Community Pool
- Need Programs for 20—65
- Not enough non-sport activities for youth and teens
- Need to promote / advertise programs more
- Need more facilities to be available more

OPEN SPACE

- Need to acquire more open space
- Land is very valuable (need incentive to keep open)
- How to use and level of use
- Preserve native flora / fauna
- Dedicate natural / passive park
- Hollow Oak Land Trust owns 200 acres
- Encourage green / open areas / buffers
- Conservation Easement with other entities
    - Provide legal assistance to protect open space
- Water—consideration in Olsen Park (fishing)
- Flaugherty Run and Montour Run are stocked with trout
- Protect the high quality streams
- Protect viewsheds
    - Overlook Park and Mooncrest
- Market the open space better
- Connect sidewalks to open space
- Identify key areas on the river and access for boating, trails, etc.

PARKS

- Need thematic signs for all parks
- Need more shelters at the parks
- Need more ADA facilities at all parks
- Vandalism occurs in all parks—Increased visability will help this (especially the Mooncrest Community Center)
- Park maintenance needs to be improved
- The western side of the township is lacking park facilities
- Different parks should serve different needs (natural vs. developed)
- Volunteer opportunities need to be increased (environment, program, maintenance, fundraisers)

- Moon Park
    - Replace playground equipment
    - Need parking by pond and throughout the park

    - Vandalism is a problem—need to improve visability
    - Access in and out of Moon Park is a problem—need to improve road surface

- Robin Hill Park
    - Benches at the amphitheater are bolted down
    - Need to utilize the park and the Nimick House more efficiently—Need more activity in this park
    - Need more parking
    - Access is poor

- Trails (Who is going to build –Township or private?)
    - Need trails throughout township
        - Connect Overlook Park to Cedar Park along hillside)
    - Need bike trails (should be separate from roads where possible) - have signs where shared with cars—SAFETY
    - Create more awareness of trails
    - Need more ADA and paved trails (with finished surfaces)
    - Connect the trails throughout the township
    - Improve the signs for the trails
    - List trail difficulty, type of trail, length of trail, ADA accessibility, etc.)
    - System for greenways exist—needs to be protected
    - New development should be required to have greenway / trails
    - Lacking an ordinance and enforcement of sidewalks
    - Mandatory dedication
    - Need transitions between paved pathways and natural
    - Pedestrian pathways are needed

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Need more indoor facilities
    - Indoor play area for kids
    - Something for kids to do in the winter
- Public / community pool is needed
- Increase relationship with school to make their facilities open to the public
- Connect parks to the schools
- Cedar Drive needs improvements
    - Playground equipment for small children, add courts and lighting
- Need a central community center near the high school
- Need non-league fields for open recreation
- Look at artificial surfaces for more heavily used fields
- Racquet ball court
- Outdoor ice skating / deck hockey
- Dirt bike / BMX track
- Horseback riding trails
- Amphitheater in Mooncrest

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- Need public golf course / driving range
- Better organization of existing facilities
- No YMCA / community center or pool
- Promote recreation facilities to residents and visitors
- Need authority in place to create indoor facilities

MAINTENANCE

- Nimick House in Robin Hill Park needs work
- Courts (basketball / tennis) need improved maintenance
- Overlook park needs attention
- Smaller play lots have some safety hazards
- Pond in Moon Park is in bad shape
    - Not deep enough and would like to see fish in it
- Trails and amphitheater at Robin Hill Park need help
- Are both amphitheaters needed
- Parks and equipment maintenance in general needs improved maintenance
- Volunteer program needed
- General maintenance schedule needed
- Need three levels
    - Every day (mow, trash, flowers, etc.)
    - Preventative maintenance (safety, equipment, painting, etc.)
    - Expansion / renovation (shelters, construction, etc.)

FINANCING

- Horse breeding would bring in money
- Charge user fees—Lower fees for residents, higher for non-residents
    - Have a "hardship clause"
    - Have to be careful—where do you draw the line
- Charge flat fee to all residents and have the recreation be free—Dedicated tax for recreation
- Fundraisers
    - Township wide
    - Sell crafts
    - Have the fundraisers in parks
    - Work with community organizations
    - Sponsorships
    - Naming rights
    - Sales
    - Gift lists
    - Donations
    - Grants
    - Advertisements
- Coordination with schools—Sharing of costs and services
- Fees for associations / organizations

- Hire a grant writer
- Need a cost / benefit analysis for programs
- Volunteers
- University students

ADMINISTRATION

- Need to expand staff—current staff is good but need more
    - Need additional maintenance staff
- Director of Moon Park
- Capital improvement program
- Need more personnel for programs
- Utilize Robert Morris and other universities for interns

Goal Prioritization Exercise

The second public meeting was held in June of 2004. A discussion of the results from the first meeting's CIE exercise was held as well as participants were asked to rank the goals in order of priority that had been developed for the plan (with one being the highest priority). The goals were based on background studies, public / stakeholder input as well as facility inventories. The goals were divided into the following elements:

- Facilities and Equipment
- Environment / Greenways / Open Space
- Recreation Programs
- Administration / Personnel
- Financing

The goal ranking exercise was also placed on the Moon Township web site in order to get more individuals involved in the ranking. The complete results from the goal ranking exercise can be found in Appendix F.

Goal Ranking Exercise Methodology

Goals were identified for each of the elements included in the Moon Township Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan based on input from the steering committee, stakeholders, township staff, and the public. An exercise was conducted whereby participants were asked to prioritize each of the goals (in each plan element) according to its importance when compared to the other identified goals. Our methodology used a weighting system based on the number of available choices, in this case it was the number of goals identified under each plan element, and the weights were assigned in a reverse order so that the goals receiving votes as the highest priority also received a the highest weighted value. An example of this is as follows:

Plan Element A has 5 identified goals. Participants ranked the five goal statements 1 through 5 in order of importance or significance. At the conclusion of the goal prioritization exercise, the

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total number of votes for each priority was totaled and multiplied by the assigned weighting value. In this instance, the total number of Priority 1 votes was multiplied by 5 - because there were 5 possible choices - if there would have been 7 identified goals, the highest priority column would have been assigned a weighting of 7. The Priority 2 votes were multiplied by 4, Priority 3 votes multiplied by 3, Priority 4 voted multiplied by 2 and Priority 5 votes multiplied by 1.

The weighted score (W) was determined by adding the total of each column (Priority and number of total votes x weighting) and the average weighted score (AW) was nothing more than this number divided by the total possible choices (goal statements).

The percentile weighted rank (PWR) for each goal was created to allow the average weighting of goals to be compared to goals in other elements to determine their importance overall.

If we look at this formula to determine the PWR it is shown as:

PWR = [(N1 + N2 + N3 + N4 + N5) / 5) / Total number of votes in the element] x 100

or, PWR = (AW / Sum n) x 100

Plan Element A

Goal Statement 1
Goal Statement 2
Goal Statement 3
Goal Statement 4
Goal Statement 5

First Priority Score: (n x 5*) = N1
Second Priority Score: (n x 4*) = N2
Third Priority Score: (n x 3*) = N3
Fourth Priority Score: (n x 2*) = N4
Fifth Priority Score: (n x 1*) = N5

n = total number of votes for the priority
* = weighting assigned to each priority

Weighted Score (W) = N1 + N2 + N3 + N4 + N5
Average Weighted Score (AW) = W/3
Percentile Weighted Rank for Each Goal (PWR) = (AW/Sum n) x 100

Sum n = total number of votes in the element

The prioritization of goals may change as philosophies change, elected officials or staff change, and funding sources change. It is important to concentrate on goals that are achievable and can show success.

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Stakeholders

Stakeholders are persons who are knowledgeable about particular elements of the community or who have an interest in the future development of parks and recreation in Moon Township. The steering committee identified 28 stakeholders during the planning process. These stakeholders are involved in social, athletic, church or business organizations. Table 2-1 lists the stakeholders that received a survey. A copy of the stakeholder survey can be found in Appendix E.

Table 2-1: Stakeholders
Felician Sisters
West Hills Christian Church
Sharon Community Presbyterian Church
Robin Hill Park Trust
Moon Area Senior Citizens Association
Moon Township Historical Society
Moon Township Garden Club
West Hills Art League
West Hills Women's Club
Mooncrest Neighborhood Association
Moon Crescent Athletic Association
Moon Area Soccer Association
MASCA
Moon High School Swim Team
Moon Hockey Association
Western Area YMCA
Moon Township Ford
Rhema Christian School
The First Baptist Church
St. Margaret Mary Parish
St. Philip's Episcopal Church
St. Andrew Lutheran Church
Robin Hill Associates
Tyler Mountain Water
Moon Little League Association
Airport Area Chamber of Commerce
Moon Softball Association
Environmental Advisory Council

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A summary of the results from the 19 surveys that were returned follows:

A majority of the stakeholder surveys showed that the organizations in general feel that Moon Township's facilities are in good condition and are well used. The items that were mentioned that the township is lacking are:

- An indoor community center
- A pool
- Practice fields for various sports (namely football)
- Township facilities for various sports (namely hockey and swimming)