

Upper Gwynedd Township

Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan

Public Meeting #1

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

6:30 - 8:30 PM

Meeting Agenda

Introductions

Project Team & Experience

Why Plan?

Project Scope & Schedule

Existing Data

Township Tour

Brainstorming & Discussion

Public Opinion Survey

Next Steps



Project Committee

Anthony Hoxie

Jeff Zoll

Mark Methlie

Robert Kelly

Isabella Juarez

Thomas Alvarez

David Kratz

John Pyle

Mary Burns

Stephen Finley

Thomas Duffy

Township Staff / Representative

Sandra Zadell

Sarah Prebis

Liz McNaney

Township Manager

Director, Parks & Recreation

UGT Commissioner



Project Team

Simone Collins Landscape Architecture

- Peter Simone, RLA, FASLA
- Tim Adams, Staff Planner
- Michelle Armour, Staff Landscape Architect

Certified Park & Recreational Professional

- Derek Dureka, CPRP



Experience

Simone Collins, Inc.

- 33nd year of service
- Principals – 45+ years experience, each
- Primary focus: parks, recreation & trails
- Trusted partner/ consultant to DCNR
- Scores of park and recreational projects
- Experience with communities across PA

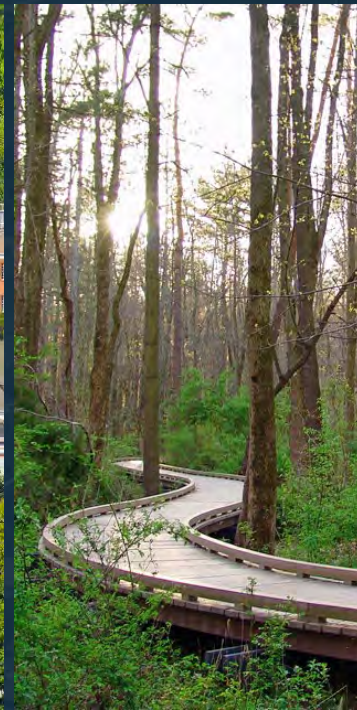
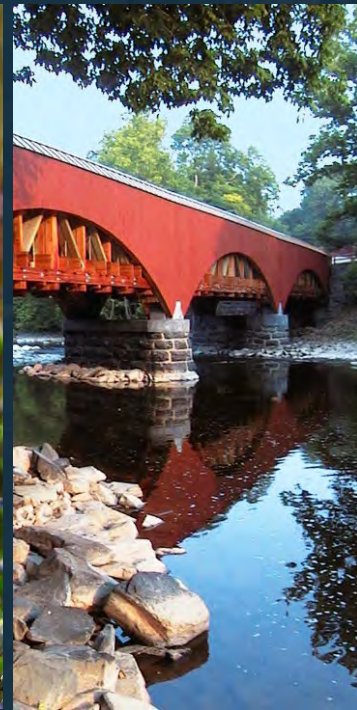
Derek Dureka, CPRP

- Director, Upper Dublin Township Parks & Recreation Department
- 26,000 residents and annual budget in excess of \$2.4 million
- Responsible for 13 full time, 11 part time and 50+ seasonal staff
- Plans and runs over 500 programs, events, trips and ticketed programs
- Directs maintenance of 45 sites comprising over 600 acres





Simone Collins Landscape Architecture is a planning and design firm committed to creating an ecologically enduring society.



Conduct
Careful research

Respect
ecological
context & limits
of each site

Build
on sustainable
practices of the
past

Employ
new methods
prudently

Conserve
materials &
energy

Support
local economies

Design
biologically &
culturally diverse
communities



Planning Process

Upper Gwynedd Township Comprehensive Recreation, Park & Open Space Plan

Why Plan?

Township park and recreation facilities are the most visible component of local government.

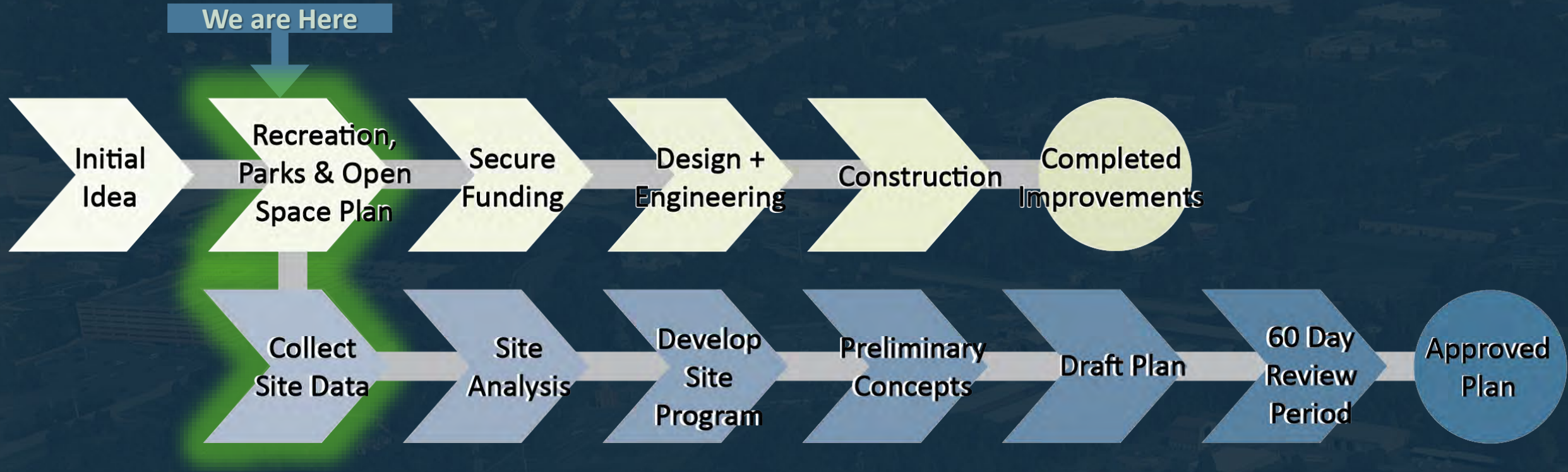
Residents interact with their Township through parks and recreation more than any other facility/ program.

- To meet current needs and future growth of UGT parks, open space, and recreation system.
- Community park facilities are essential green infrastructure that provide physical, spiritual & health benefits.
- Make the community attractive to residents and businesses.
- Create a planning tool to guide Township decision-making for 10 to 20 years – to improve facilities, preserve open space, and enhance recreational programming, maintenance and staffing.



Project Process

"All voices are heard and all ideas are honored"



Transparent Public Outreach Process:

- (5) Public Meetings
- (8) Steering Committee Meetings
- (2) Focus Group Meetings
- (20) Key Person Interviews
- Public Opinion Survey
- Public Draft Plan Review

Project Scope

- Purpose, Goals, Objectives
- Public Participation
- Background Information
- Agency Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives
- Agency Administration
- Agency Personnel
- Facilities and Open Space Inventory and Analysis
- Facilities and Equipment Maintenance
- Recreation Programs and Services
- Financing
- Cost Estimates and Recommendations
- Plan Implementation



Project Schedule



Meeting	Purpose	Date	Time	Location
Study Committee Meeting #1	Kick off, Goals & Brainstorming	Thursday, November 16th, 2023	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Hybrid
Public Meeting #1	Programming & Brainstorming	Wednesday, November 29th, 2023	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Township Building
Online Public Survey	November 29 – March 31			
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Existing Data

Upper Gwynedd Township Comprehensive Recreation, Park & Open Space Plan

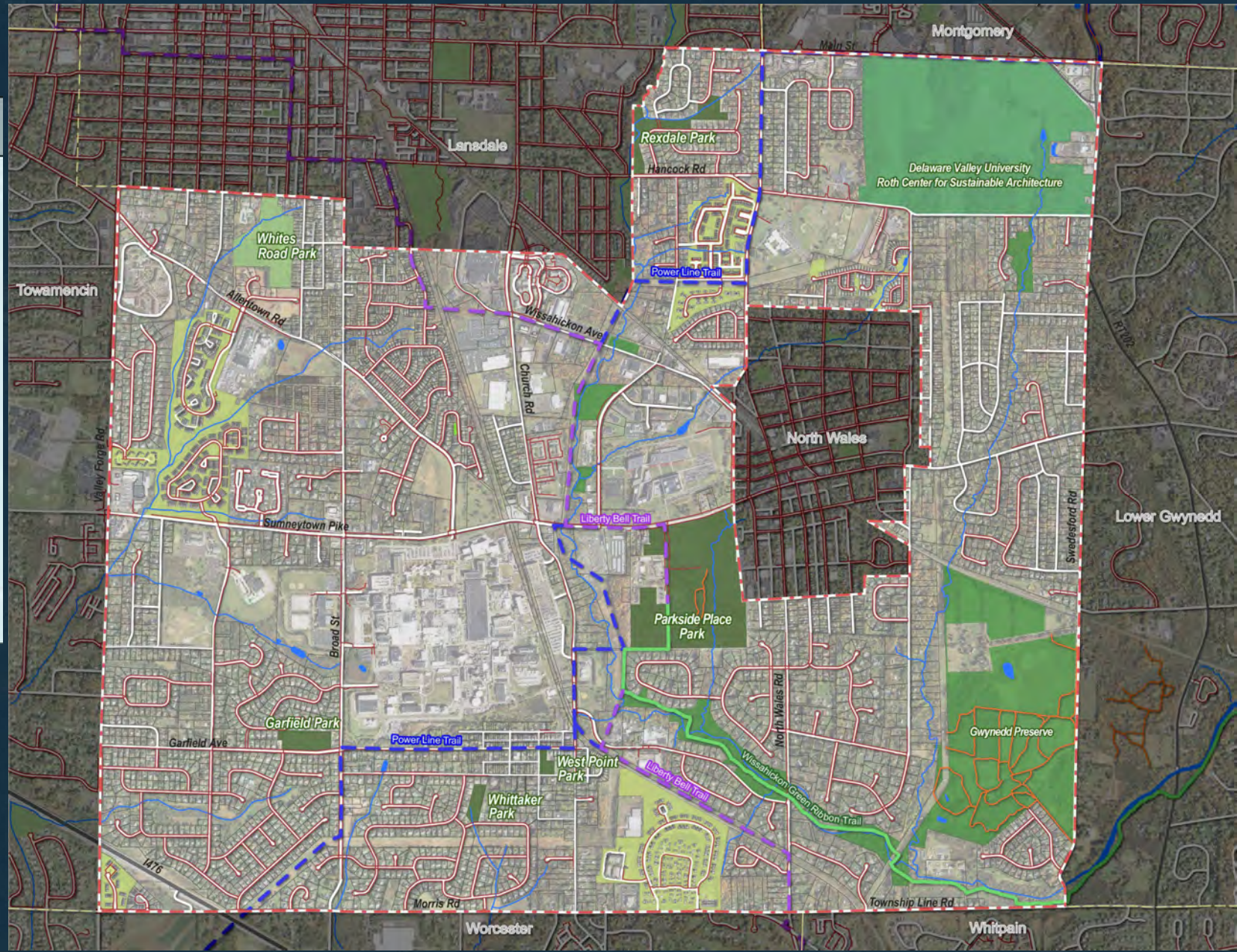
Existing Data *Project Base Map*

Legend

- Upper Gwynedd Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Parcels
- Completed Trails
- Trails
- Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail
- Proposed Trails
- Liberty Bell Trail
- Power Line Trail
- Sidewalks
- Streams
- Streets
- Highways
- Township Parks
- Non-Township Parks
- Preserved Farmland
- Private Open Space
- Conservation Land



0 0.3 0.6 0.9 Miles
1 INCH = .3 Mi.



Existing Data *Land Uses*

Legend

- Upper Gwynedd Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries

Land Use Category

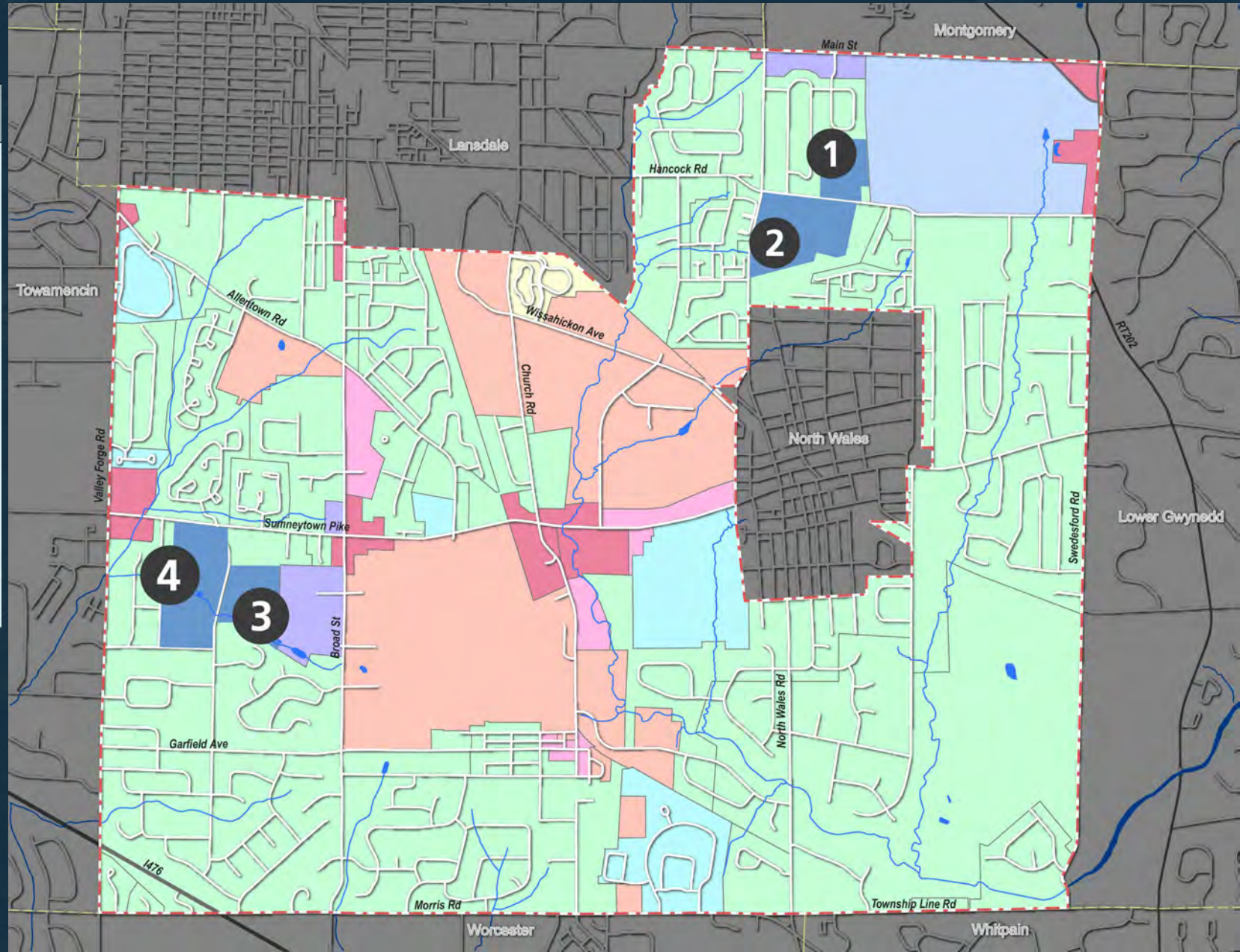
- Residential
- Education
- Commercial
- Institutional
- Business/Office Park
- Industrial
- Mixed Use
- Overlay

- Streams
- Streets
- Highways



0 0.3 0.6 0.9 Miles
1 INCH = .3 Mi.

1. Gwyn-Nor Elementary
2. Pennbrook Middle School
3. Gwynedd Square Elementary
4. Corpus Christi Parochial School



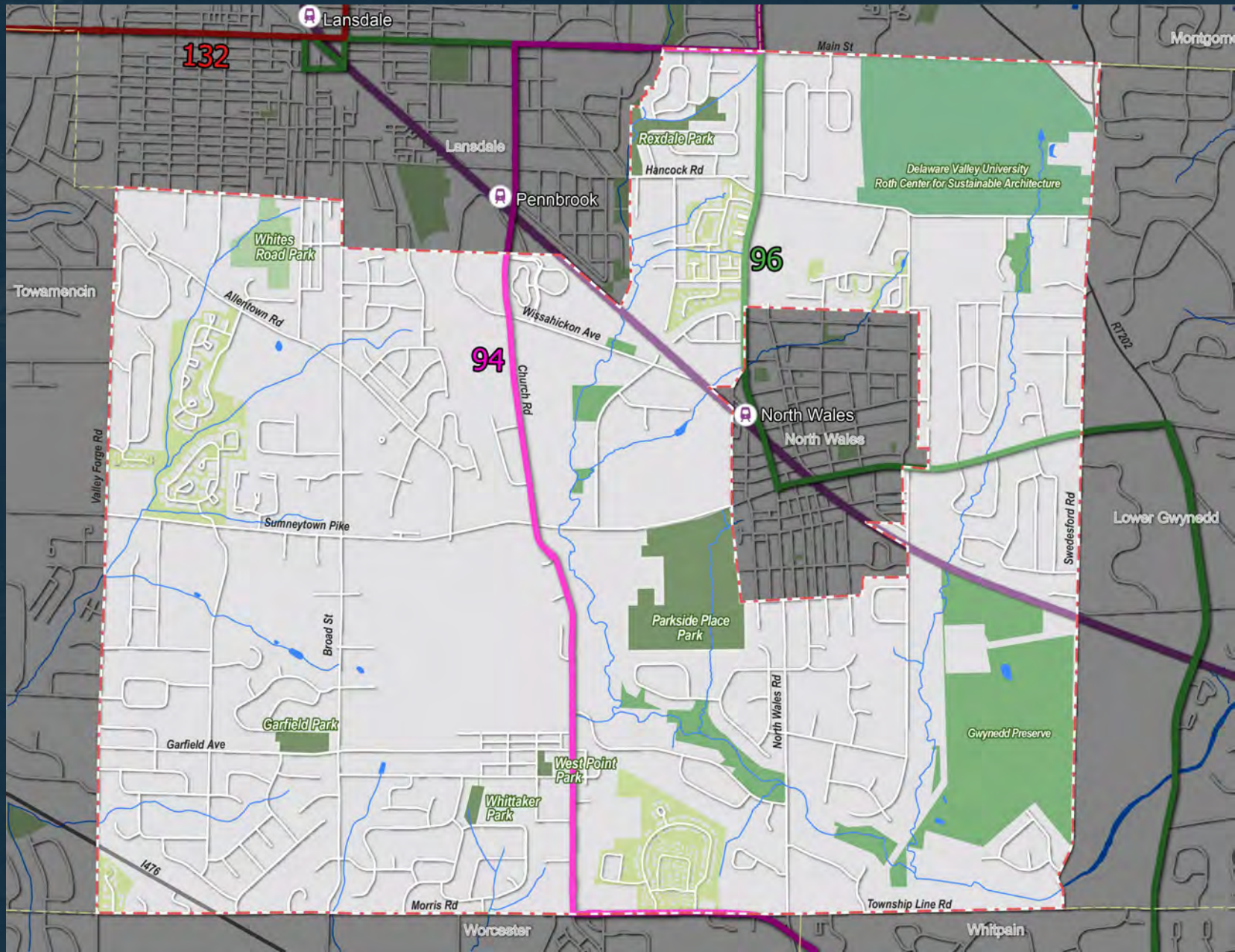
Existing Data *Public Transit*

Legend

- Upper Gwynedd Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Lansdale/Doylestown Regional Rail Line
- Regional Rail Stations
- SEPTA Bus Route
 - 132
 - 94
 - 96
- Streams
- Streets
- Highways
- Township Parks
- Non-Township Parks
- Preserved Farmland
- Private Open Space
- Conservation Land



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1 INCH = .3 Mi.



Existing Data *Sidewalk + Trails Inventory*

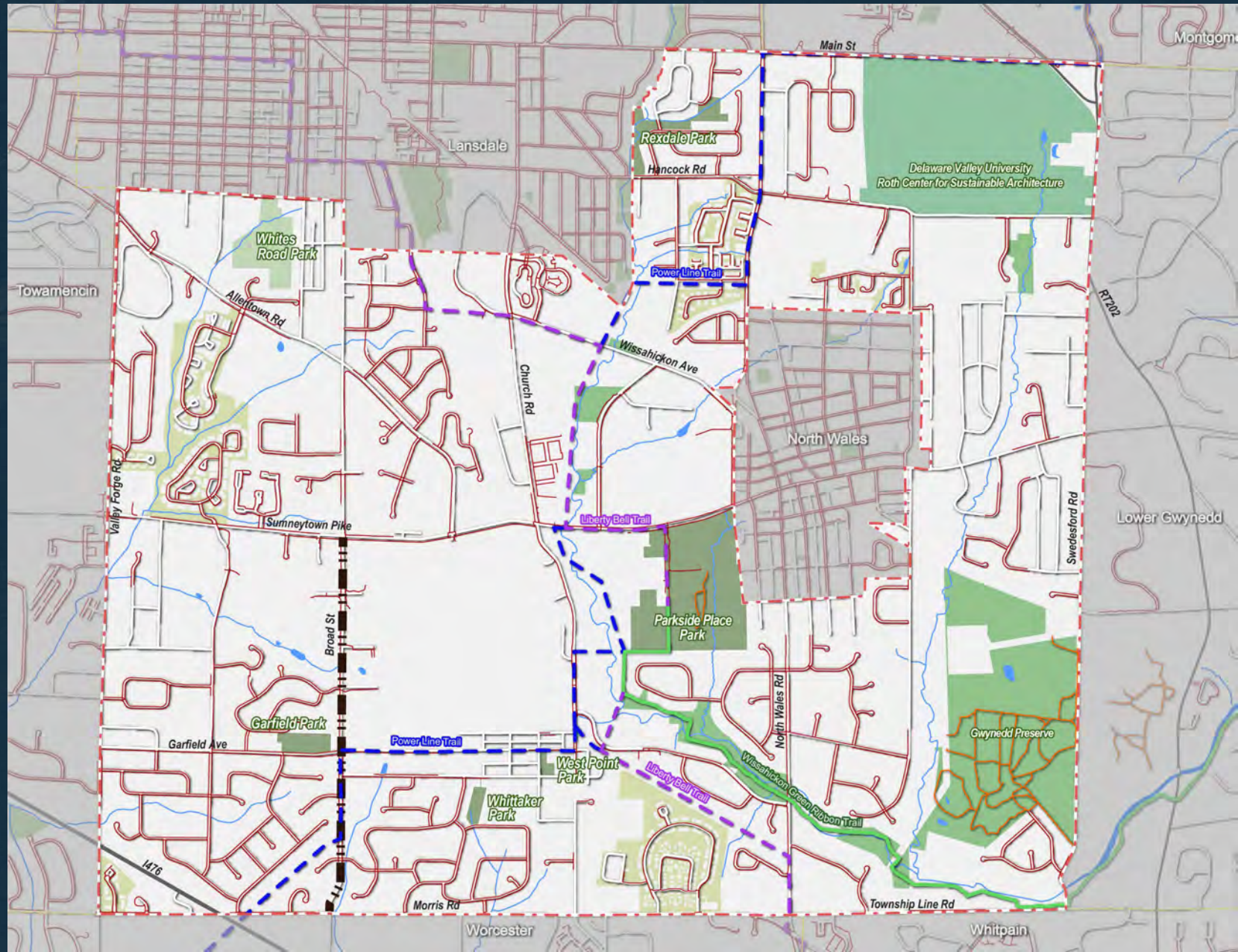
Legend

- Upper Gwynedd Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Parcels
- Completed Trails
- Trails
- Wissahickon Green
- Ribbon Trail
- Proposed Trails
- Liberty Bell Trail
- Power Line Trail
- Planned Bike Lane
- Sidewalks
- Streams
- Streets
- Highways
- Township Parks
- Non-Township Parks
- Preserved Farmland
- Private Open Space
- Conservation Land



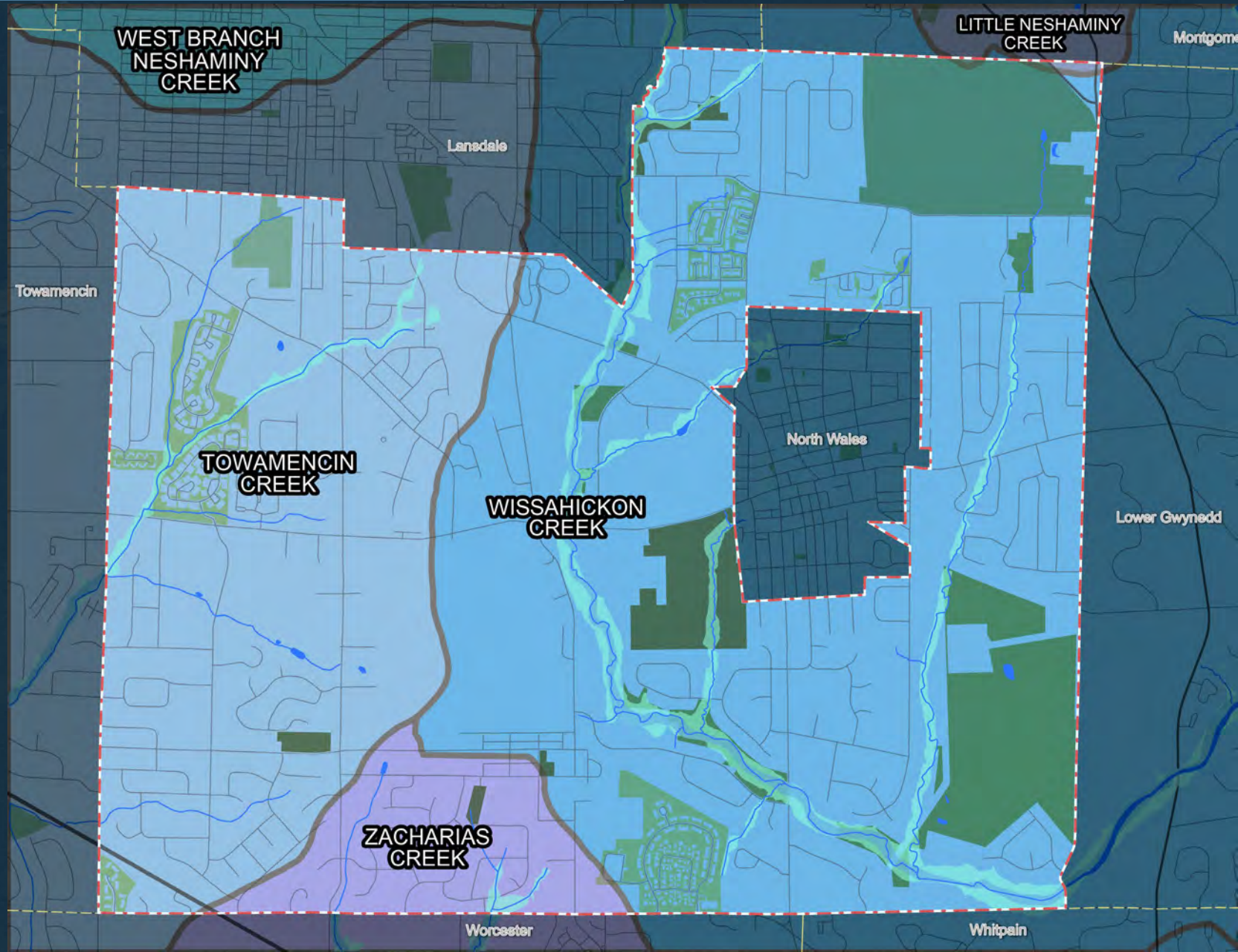
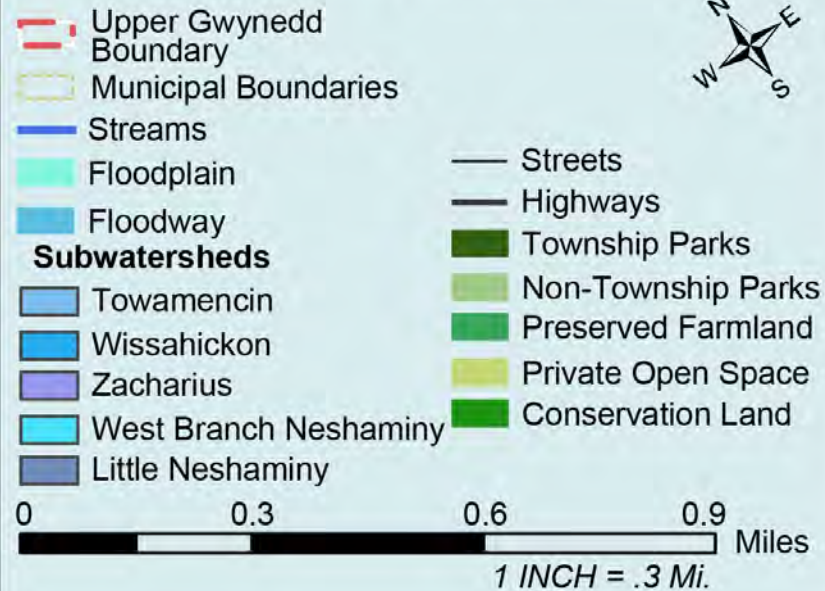
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1 INCH = .3 Mi.

Planned on-road bike lanes on Broad between Morris and Sumneytown



Existing Data *Hydrology*

Legend



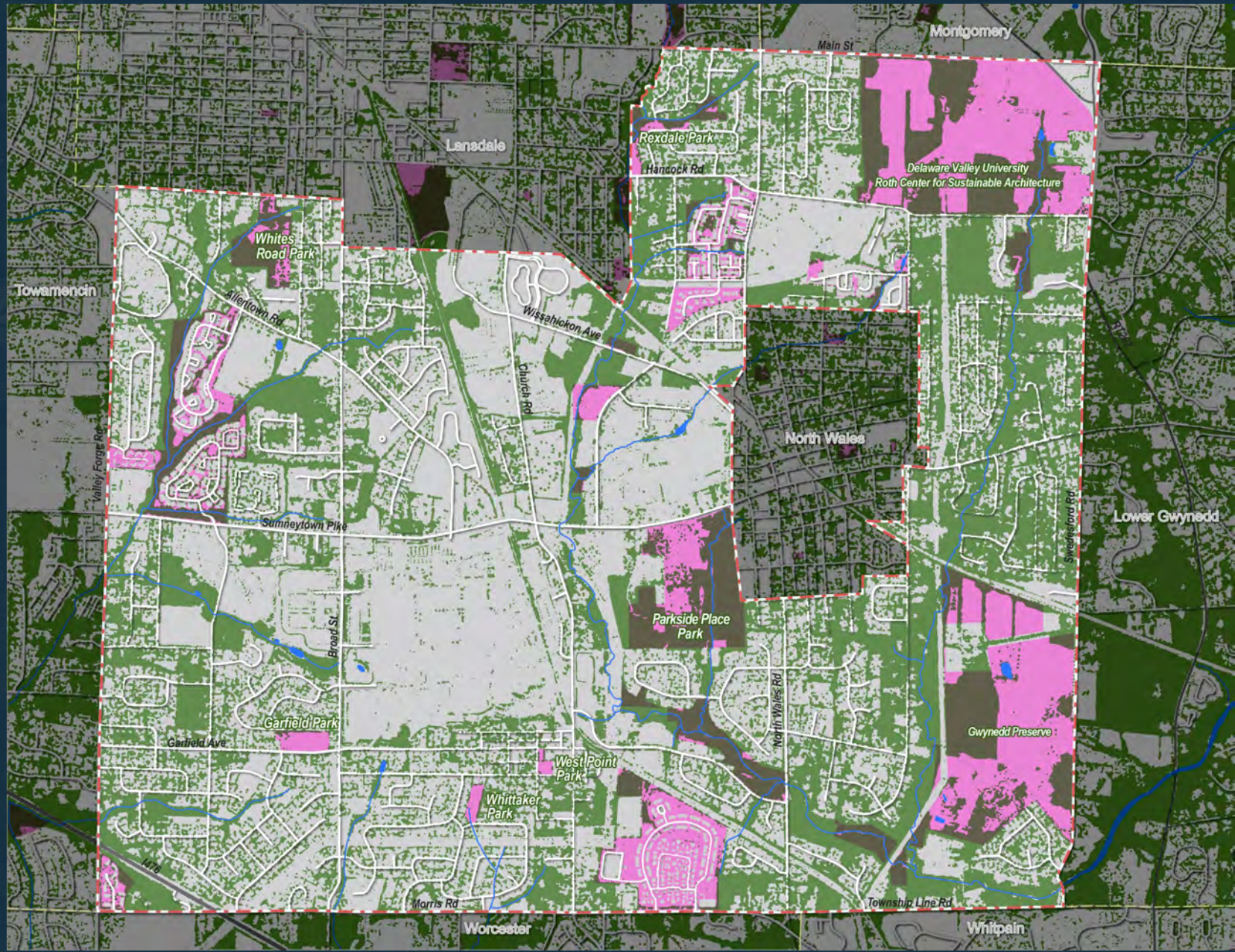
Existing Data *Tree Canopy*

Legend

- Upper Gwynedd Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Parks, Open Space, Farmland, Conserved Land
- Tree Canopy
- Streams
- Streets
- Highways

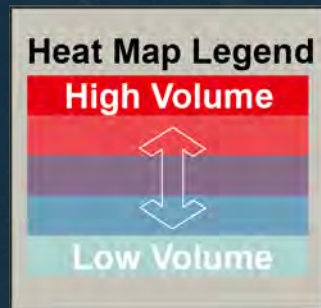


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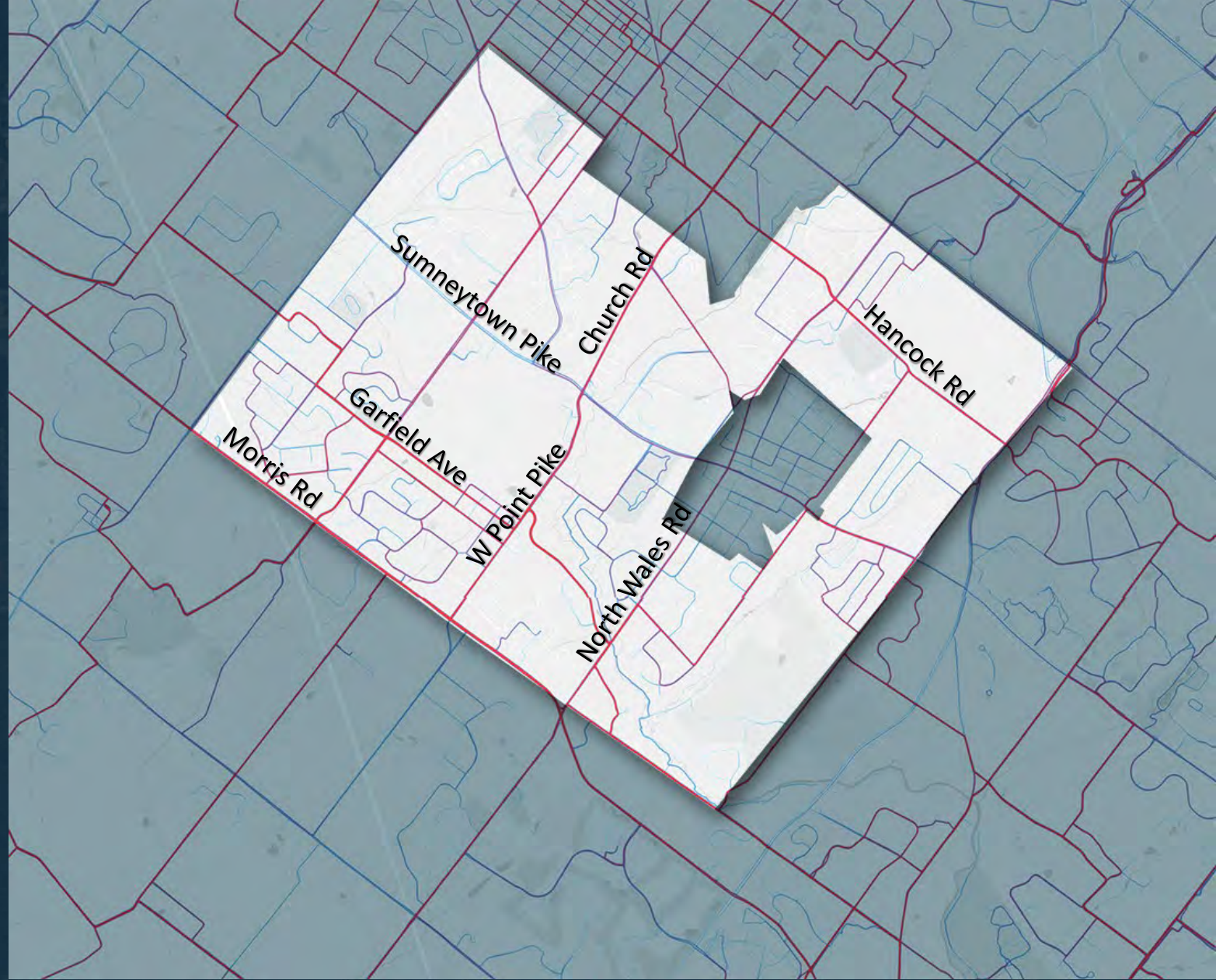
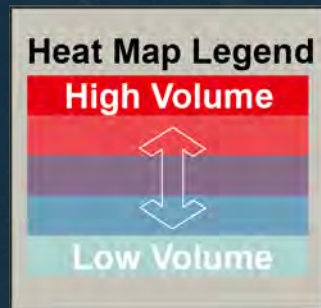
STRAVA Run Data

- The heatmap shows 'heat' made by aggregated, public activities over the last year. The heatmap is updated monthly. Activity that athletes mark as private is not visible.



STRAVA Bike Data

- The heatmap shows 'heat' made by aggregated, public activities over the last year. The heatmap is updated monthly. Activity that athletes mark as private is not visible.



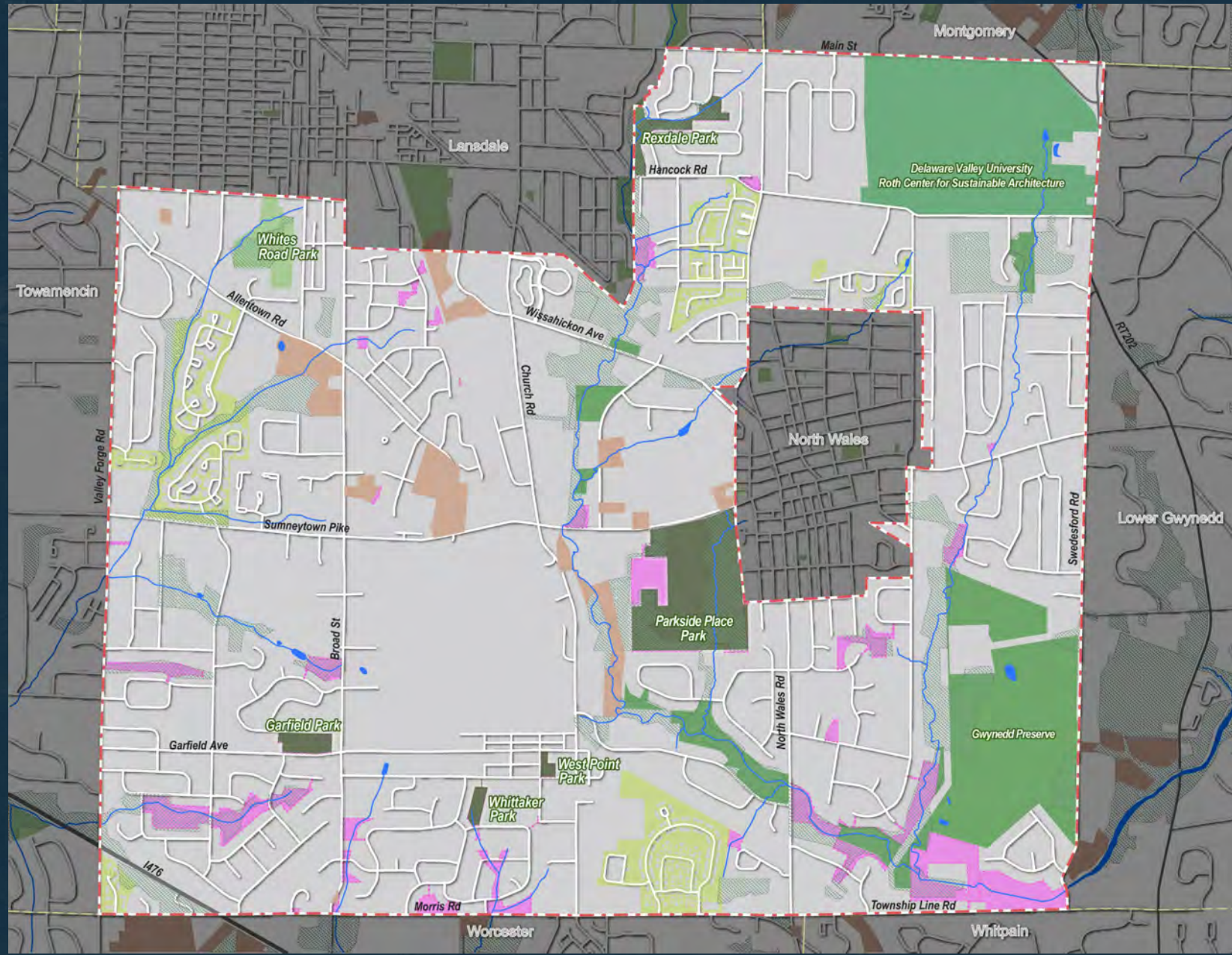
Existing Data *Parks + Open Space*

Legend

- Upper Gwynedd Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Township Parks
- Non-Township Parks
- Preserved Farmland
- Private Open Space
- Conservation Land
- Township Owned Parcels
- Vacant/Agriculture Use
- Wooded
- Streams
- Streets
- Highways



0 0.3 0.6 0.9 Miles
1 INCH = .3 Mi.



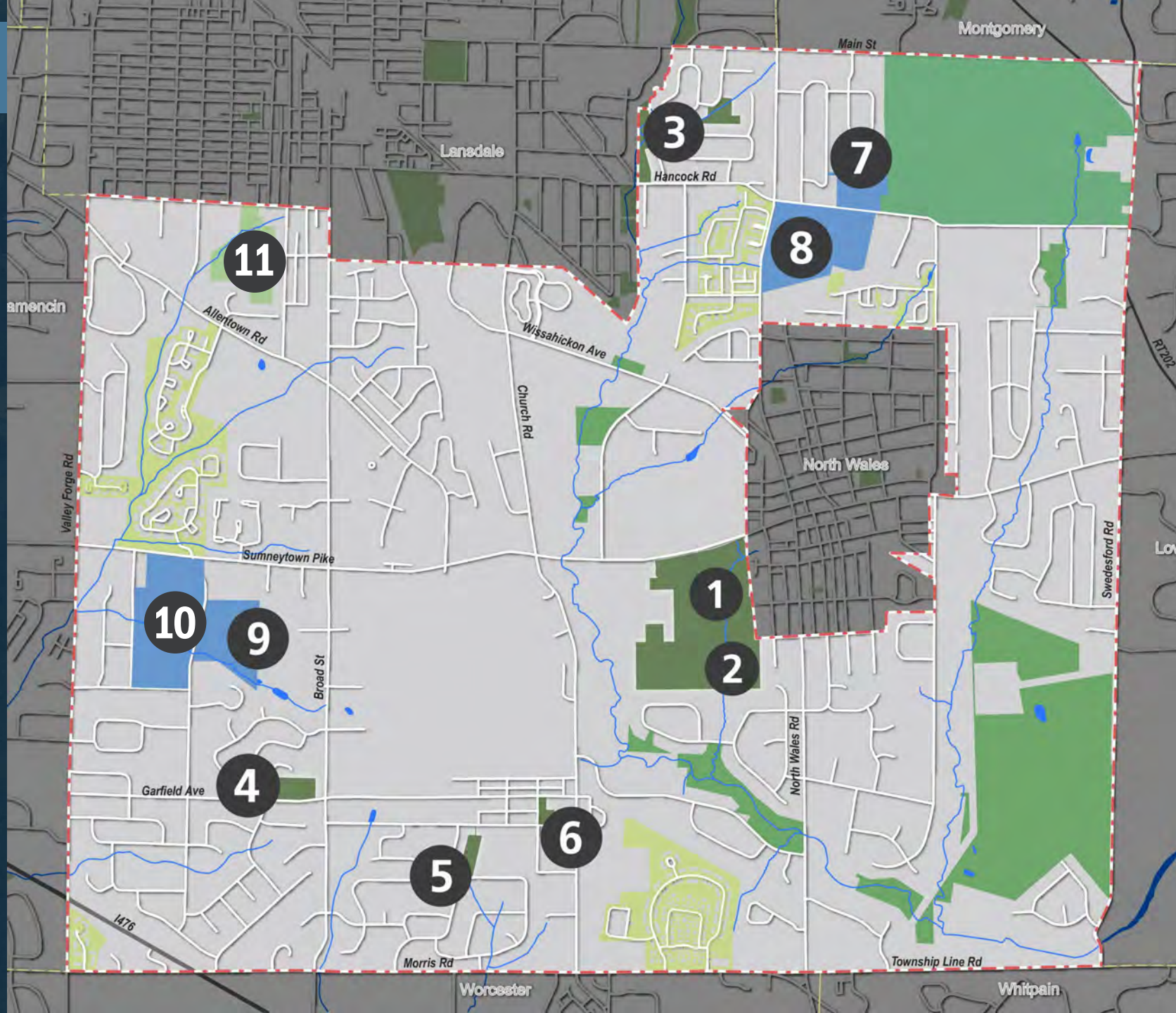
An aerial photograph of a town, likely Upper Gwynedd, is shown with a semi-transparent dark blue overlay. The town features a mix of residential houses, commercial buildings, and green spaces. A river or stream is visible winding through the landscape. The text 'Township Tour' is prominently displayed in the lower-left quadrant in a large, white, serif font.

Township Tour

Upper Gwynedd Township Comprehensive Recreation, Park & Open Space Plan

Township Tour

1. Parkside Place Park
2. Nor-Gwyn Pool
3. Rexdale Park
4. Garfield Park
5. Whittaker Park
6. West Point Park
7. Gwyn-Nor Elementary School
8. Pennbrook Middle School
9. Gwynedd Square Elementary School
10. Corpus Christi
11. Whites Road Park



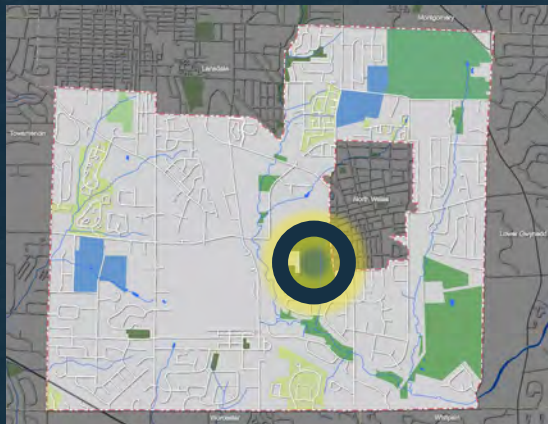
Parkside Place Park

Facilities

- Tennis Courts
- Pickleball Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Pool Complex
- Pavilion
- Gazebo
- Castle Park
- Amphitheater
- Exercise Equipment

Trails

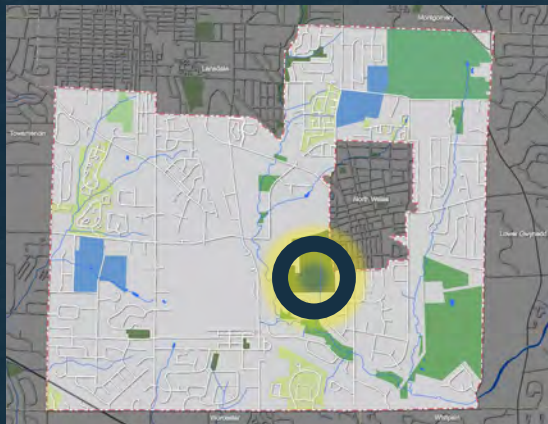
- Woodlands Trail
- Parkside Trail
- Wissahickon Trail
- Future Liberty Bell Trail
- Future Power Line Trail



Nor-Gwyn Pool

Facilities

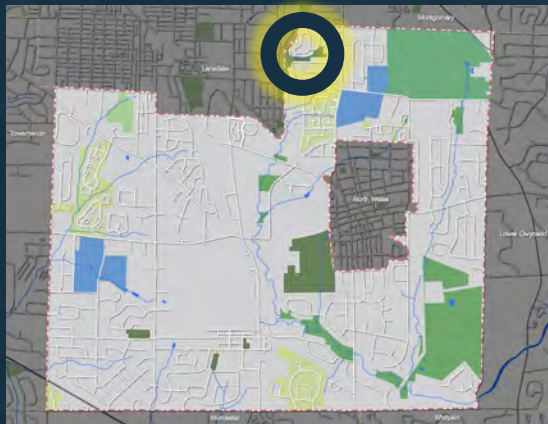
- Large Swimming Pool
- Wading Pool
- Concessions
- Gaga Pit



Rexdale Park

Facilities

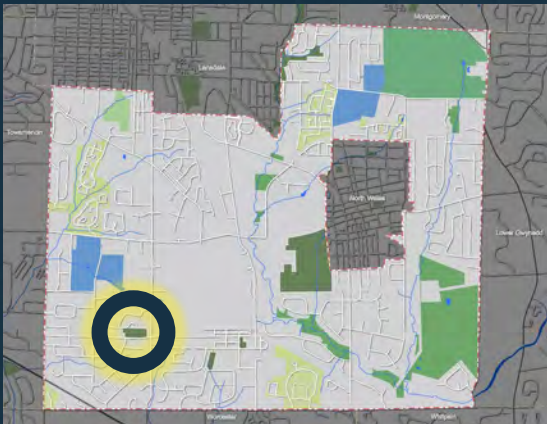
- 5-12yr Play Equipment
- Bucket Swings
- Animal Rider
- Picnic Tables



Garfield Park

Facilities

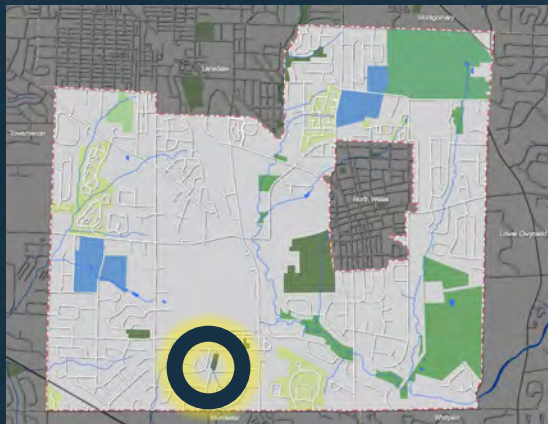
- 5-12yr Play Equipment
- Swing Set
- Tot Swings
- Climber
- Multi-Use Field
- 24 space Parking Lot



Whittaker Park

Facilities

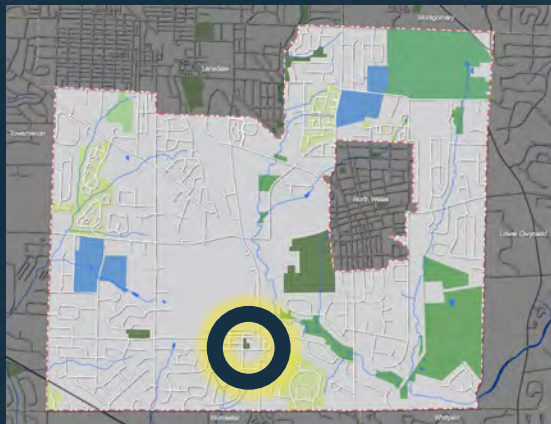
- Multi-Use Play Equipment
- Animal Riders
- Tot Swings
- Swing Set
- Full-Size Soccer Goal



West Point Park

Facilities

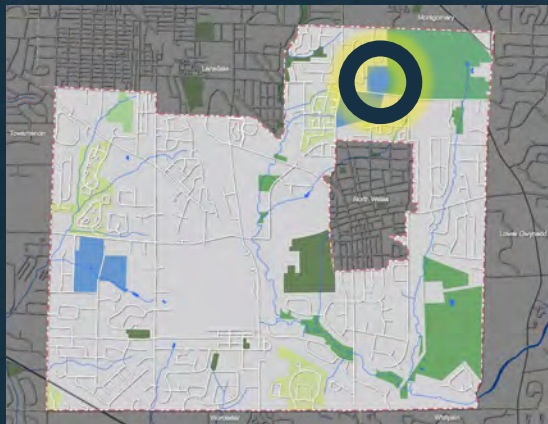
- Merry-Go-Round
- Tot Climber
- Tot Swings
- Swing Set
- 5-12yr Play Equipment
- Basketball Court
- Baseball field with backstop
- Picnic Area



Gwyn-Nor Elementary

Facilities

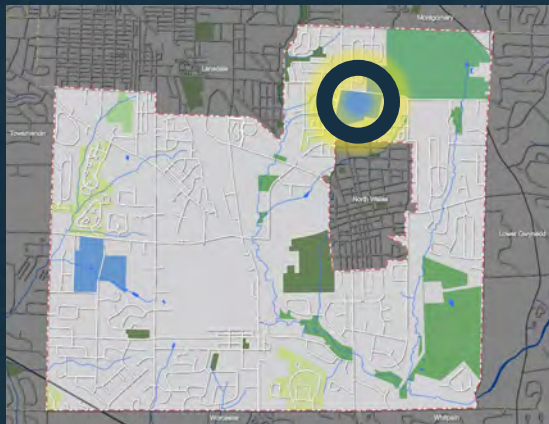
- Playgrounds



Pennbrook Middle School

Facilities

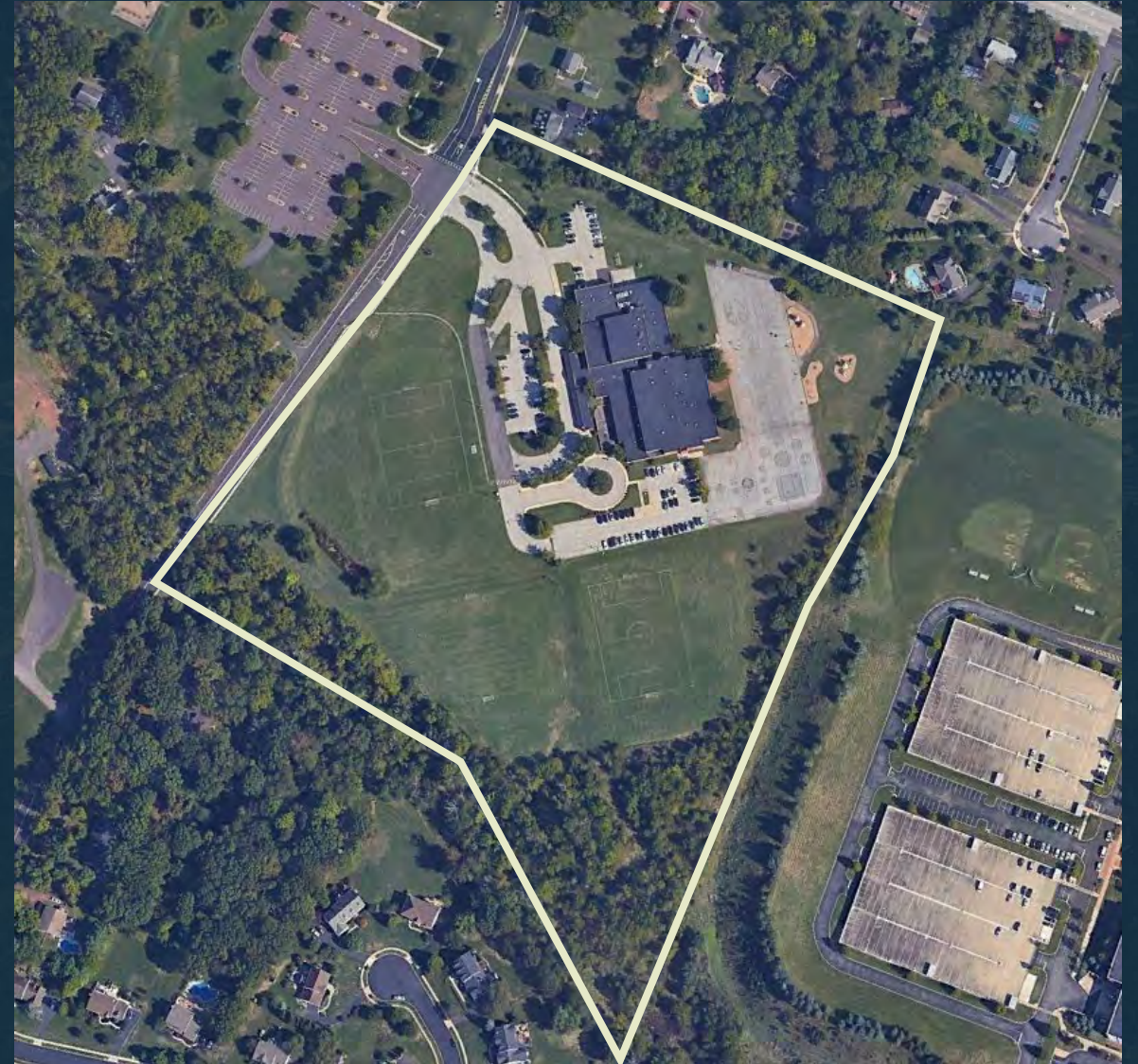
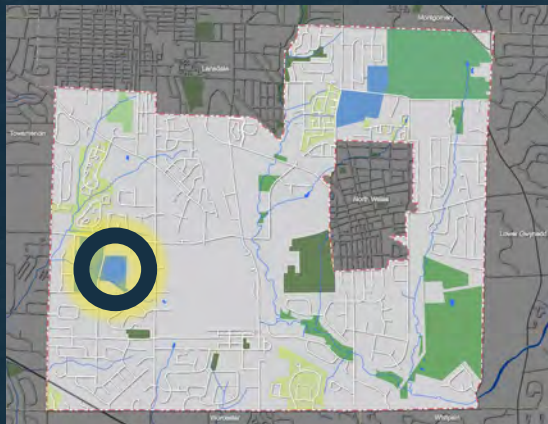
- Ball Fields



Gwynedd Square Elementary

Facilities

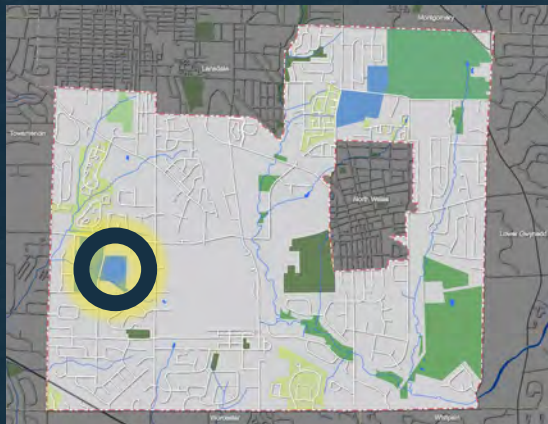
- Playground
- Soccer Fields



Corpus Christi

Facilities

- Ball fields
- Running track
- Soccer Fields



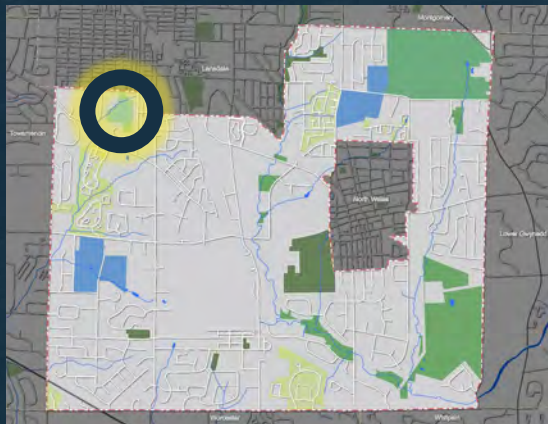
Whites Road Park

Facilities

- 2-4 year old & 5-12 year old play equipment
- Basketball court
- Swimming Pool
- Tennis courts
- Pavilion
- Comfort station
- Amphitheater
- Band shell
- Picnic areas

Trails

- Loop Trail





Brainstorming

Upper Gwynedd Township Comprehensive Recreation, Park & Open Space Plan

Brainstorming

Your Ideas, Comments, Suggestions...create a program for improvements

GOALS

Goals for the Project Initially broad, then specific: “Protect Sensitive Area” or “Provide facilities for all ages & Abilities”

Facts Neighboring land use, site conditions, existing trail, existing facilities, potential partners.

FACTS

CONCEPTS

Ideas for Attaining Project Goals “Disc Golf Course”, or “Invasive Species Management” or “Seek DCNR funding”

Brainstorming – Card Technique

*Your Ideas,
Comments,
Suggestions...*

GOALS

PROVIDE FOR
ALL
AGES & ABILITIES

PRESERVE RESOURCES

IMPROVE SAFETY
FOR PEDESTRIANS
& BICYCLES

FACTS

MANY MUNICIPAL
PARKS

EXISTING
TRAILS

EXISTING
PLAYGROUNDS

CONCEPTS

INCLUSIVE PLAY
PLAYGROUND

INVASIVE SPECIES
MANAGEMENT

“50 FOOT
TALL WATER
SLIDE”

PARTNERS

DCNR

MONTGOMERY
COUNTY

WISSAHICKON CREEK
WATERSHED



Next Steps

Upper Gwynedd Township Comprehensive Recreation, Park & Open Space Plan

Key Person Interviews

The SC team will conduct up to twenty (20) Key Person Interviews - following Public Meeting 1.

Key person interviews are with 1 to 3 people with specific knowledge or concerns regarding the planning process.

Potential Key Person Interviews include:

- Park Staff
- Maintenance Staff
- Emergency Responders
- DCNR Representative
- Any Others??



Focus Group Meetings

The SC team will conduct two (2) Focus Group Meetings - following Public Meeting 1.

Focus group meetings can be held with or without Township Committee attendance. The meeting goals are to enable key groups of individuals in the community to speak openly about needs and ideas.

Typically, these meetings are by invitation.

Potential Focus Groups:

- Organized Sports?
- Senior Citizens?
- Teens?
- Passive Recreation Users?



Web-Based Public Opinion Survey

- The survey is a tool to take the pulse of the community. It is not a vote.
- Survey will be open from **November 29th to March 31st**



<https://qrco.de/UGT-CRPOSP-Survey>

Public Meetings

- UPCOMING - Public Meeting #2:
Wednesday, March 27 at 6:30PM
- Public meeting information; meeting agenda, notes, and slide presentation, can be found on the Township website to review after each meeting.
- <https://www.uppergwynedd.org/parks-recreation/pages/comprehensive-recreation-park-and-open-space-plan>

Upper Gwynedd Township Comprehensive Recreation, Park & Open Space Plan

PUBLIC MEETING #1

Residents of Upper Gwynedd Township, what do you want and need in your parks and trails?
This meeting will give attendees the opportunity to ask questions and provide input on Upper Gwynedd Parks & Recreation facilities and programming.



November 29th, 2023 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Upper Gwynedd Township Building

1 Parkside Place, North Wales, PA 19454



Public Opinion Survey
will be LIVE from
November 29th to March 31st!



Scan the QR code or visit the link below:

<https://qrco.de/UGT-CRPOSP-Survey>

Share the link on social media with your community!

Can't make it? Additional meetings
will be held on the following dates:

March 27, 2024 @ 6:30pm

September 12, 2024 @ 6:30pm

October 15, 2024 @ 6:30pm

December 4, 2024 @ 6:30pm

For more information, please contact:

Emma Haley, RLA
ehaley@simonecollins.com
(610) 239-7601

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Thank You!

Please feel free to contact us with any questions:

Simone Collins Landscape Architecture
(610) 239-7601

Pete Simone, Principal
psimone@simonecollins.com

Tim Adams, Staff Planner
tadams@simonecollins.com

Michelle Armour, Staff Landscape Architect
marmour@simonecollins.com

