

A photograph of a park with many bare trees and a wooden bench in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image.

Public Meeting Saylor Park Improvements Plan

Presented by Saylor Park Improvements -- Advisory Committee

02/26/25

Introductions – Saylor Park Improvements Advisory Committee



- **Tina Genchur**
 - **Don Hebenthal**
 - **Floyd Hilty**
 - **Kathy Monko**
 - **Carl Ostach**
- **Nick Puzak**
 - **Grant Reeger**
 - **Meghan Shoemaker**
 - **Robert Thompson**
 - **Wendy Thompson**

NOTE – Advisory Committee reports to the Burrell Parks and Recreation Board, which reports to the Township Supervisors

Purpose of Public Meeting

- The Saylor Park Improvements – Advisory Committee is pursuing development of a Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan to identify Saylor Park's needs and improvement opportunities.
- The Advisory Committee will inform the Public of its work, initial findings, proposed projects, and planned activities.
- The Advisory Committee is seeking additional input and suggestions from the Public

Saylor Park Overview



- **86-acre park in Black Lick that was founded in 1974.**
- **Managed by the Burrell Parks and Recreation Board under direction of Burrell Township Supervisors.**
- **Provides several on-site recreational opportunities and hosts several events throughout the year.**

Park Recreation

- **Tree Grove**
- **Picnic Pavilions**
- **Walking Trail**
- **Playground Equipment**
- **Boat Ramp**
- **Ghost Town Trail**
- **Hoodlebug Trail**



Tree Grove, Pavilions, and Walking Trail



Ghost Town and Hoodlebug Trails



Park Sports

- **Baseball Field for School District Games**
- **Softball Field for School District**



Park Events

- Fun in the Park Summer Festival
- Tractor Pulls
- Concert Bands
- Harvest Day Festival
- Veteran's Memorial Marathon Race



Fun in the Park Summer Festival



Tractor Pulls

-New Track Installed



Concert Bands



Harvest Day Festival



Veterans' Memorial Marathon Race

- 350 Racers in Half and Full Marathon Ghost Town Trail Runs.
- Racers from Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington, and Ontario Canada. Race conducted by InFirst Bank.



Where We are Headed

- Saylor Park is a beautiful Park and we believe it can be **even better**
- Saylor Park needs some repairs, modernization, and improvements
- The Advisory Committee is taking steps to engage the Public, develop a Comprehensive Plan, and implement Improvements

Saylor Park – Comprehensive Improvement Plan

- **Advisory Committee proposes to apply for a PA DCNR grant to fund a Comprehensive Planning Study**
- **Extensive Public Engagement (Community Surveys, Site Surveys, Key Leader Interviews, Letters of Support from Area Partners, and Public Meeting) is being conducted to identify priorities and get support to pursue grants for improvements**
- **Advisory Committee has identified and prioritized Proposed Projects to review with and receive input from the Public**
- **Expect to seek grants from Pennsylvania Agencies as well as Foundation Grants**

Public Input – Initial Community Survey Results

102 Community Surveys completed to date (6 questions)

Question 1 – How often do you use Saylor Park?

- 0 to 1 times per year = 19%
- 2 to 5 times per year = 21%
- 6 to 15 times per year = 33%
- More than 15 times year = 27%

Public Input – Initial Community Survey Results

Question 2 – What do you visit Saylor Park for most often?

- Walking /Running Trails = 27.7%
- Playground = 21%
- Events = 16.5%
- Bicycle Trails = 11.7%
- Pavilions = 11%
- Ballfields / Basketball Court = 5.6%
- Tractor Pull = 3.9%
- Other = 1.7% (Quiet Time, Walk, Church Egg Hunt, Dog Walking)
- Boat Ramp = 1.0%

Public Input – Initial Community Survey Results

Question 3 – What is the most appealing part of Saylor Park?

- **Walking Trails = 26.9%**
- **Playground = 19.7%**
- **Pavilions = 16.1%**
- **Bicycle Trails = 12.9%**
- **Tree Grove = 7.6%**
- **Ballfields / Basketball Court = 7.6%**
- **Tractor Pull = 4.4%**
- **Other = 2.8%**
- **Boat Ramp = 2.0%**

Public Input – Initial Community Survey Results

Question 4 – What parts of Saylor Park should be improved?

- Restroom = 32.5%
- Parking Areas = 17%
- Playground Equipment = 13.3%
- Pavilions = 12%
- Ballfields / Basketball Courts = 9%
- Boat Ramp = 5.4%
- Tractor Pull = 4.2%
- Other = 3.6%
- Tree Grove = 3.0%

Public Input – Initial Community Survey Results

Question 5 – What facilities would you like to see added to Saylor Park?

- Restrooms with Water and Sewer Lines = 21.5%
- Grills = 15.1%
- Concert and Awards Stage = 14.8%
- Benches = 11.3%
- Expanded Parking = 11.3%
- Camping Spots = 9%
- Bleachers = 7%
- Pickleball Courts = 6%
- Other = 4% (Disc Golf, Pollination Gardens, Gaga Pits, Splash Pad, Dog Area Enclosure)

Public Input – Initial Community Survey Results

Question 6 – Would you support Burrell Township pursuing Grant Funding to improve Saylor Park?

- **Yes = 79%**
- **Neither= 18%**
- **No = 3%**

Community Survey Input Summary – Initial Findings

- 60% Surveyed Visit Park 6+ Times/Year
- Walking/Running Trails and Playgrounds are Used Most Often
- Walking/Running Trails and Playgrounds are the Most Appealing
- Restrooms, Parking Areas and Playground Equipment Should be Improved
- Water and Sewer Lines, Grills and Concert Stage Should be Installed
- We should pursue Grant Funding to improve Saylor Park

Public Input – Initial Site Survey Results

110 Site Surveys completed to date (5 questions)

Question 1 – How often do you use Saylor Park?

- 1 time per year = **46.4%**
- 2 to 5 times per year = **27.3%**
- 6 to 15 times per year = 9%
- More than 15 times year = 17.3%

Public Input – Initial Site Survey Results

Question 2 – What brings you to Saylor Park today?

- Event = 35.8%
- Walking/Running Trails = 26.5%
- Tractor Pull = 15.2%
- Bicycle Trails = 8.6%
- Other = 5.3% (Concession Stand, Vendors and Volunteer Workers)
- Playground Equipment = 4.6%
- Pavilions = 2.6%
- Ballfields / Basketball Court = 1.3%
- Boat Ramp = 0%

Public Input – Initial Site Survey Results

Question 3 – What is the most appealing part of Saylor Park?

- Walking/Running Trails = 36.8%
- Bicycle Trails = 16%
- Tractor Pull = 14.6%
- Playground = 9.9%
- Pavilions = 9.4%
- Ballfields / Basketball Court = 5.8%
- Tree Grove = 2.9%
- Other = 2.9% (Family Friendly, Scenery, Softball Games, Very Clean, Volleyball Courts)
- Boat Ramp = 1.8 %

Public Input – Initial Site Survey Results

Question 4 – What parts of Saylor Park should be improved?

- Restroom = 36.1%
- Parking Areas = 18.8%
- Tractor Pull = 12.5%
- Playground Equipment = 11.1%
- Ballfields / Basketball Courts = 7.6%
- Boat Ramp = 4.2%
- Pavilions = 4.2%
- Other = 4.2%
- Tree Grove = 1.4%

Public Input – Initial Site Survey Results

Question 5 – What facilities would you like to see added to Saylor Park?

- Restroom with Water and Sewer Lines = 25.9%
- Camping Spots = 12.2%
- Concert and Awards Stage = 11.2%
- Bleachers = 10.7%
- Pickleball Courts = 10.2%
- Other = 9.8% (Tractor Pull Track Lighting+++, Playground Equipment, Tables, Tennis Court)
- Expanded Parking = 7%
- Benches = 6.3%
- Grills = 6.3%

Site Survey Input Summary – Initial Findings

- 73% Surveyed Visit Park 1 to 5 Times per Year
- Park visitors come for Events, Walking/Running Trails and Tractor Pulls
- Walking/Running Trails, Bicycle Trails and Tractor Pulls are the Most Appealing
- Restrooms, Parking Areas and Tractor Pull Track Should be Improved
- Water and Sewer Lines, Camping Spots and Concert Stage Should be Installed

Public Input – Key Leader Interview Results

14 Key Leaders (Business, Church, School & Local Leaders) – 8 Questions

Question 1 – Which age groups are Best and Least served by Saylor Park?

Best Served

1 to 6 years = 15.4%

7 to 12 years = 15.4%

13 to 19 years = 23.1%

20 to 40 years = 7.7%

40 plus years = 34.6%

Not Applicable = 3.8%

Least Served

1 to 6 years = 14.3%

7 to 13 years = 7.1%

13 to 19 years = 21.4%

20 to 40 years = 28.6%

40 plus years = 14.3%

Not Applicable = 14.3%

Public Input – Key Leader Interview Results

Question 2 – Any additions or changes to improve RECREATION opportunities?

➤ **Yes = 86%** **No = 7%** Not Applicable = 7%

+ Birding + Flag Football

+ Bocce Ball + Fireworks

+ Car Shows + Horseshoes

+ Children's Play Equipment + Open Artist Sessions

+ Camping Spots and Trails + Pickleball

+ Disc Golf + Sports Leagues (Girls Flag Football)

+ Exercise Equipment for Seniors + Splash Pad

Public Input – Key Leader Interview Results

Question 3 – Any additions or changes to improve the FACILITIES?

➤ **Yes = 86%** **No = 7%** Not Applicable = 7%

- + Benches (add)
- + Pavilion (add)
- + Bleachers (add)
- + Repave Walking Trails (improve)
- + Concession Stand (add)
- + Restrooms (add and improve)
- + First Aid Station (add)
- + Water Fountain at Lower End (add)
- + Fire Extinguishers (add)
- + Water and Sewer Lines (add)
- + Landscaping and Pollinators (add)
- + Card Key Security Gate (add)
- + Parking (improve and expand)

Public Input – Key Leader Interview Results

Question 4 – How would you rank these Prioritized Projects?

Key Leaders

Water & Sewer Lines Installation = 1.4
= 1

New Bathroom Lower End = 2.6

Concert and Awards Stage = 3.2

Camping Spots Installation = 3.3

Pickleball Court = 4.4 Pickleball Court Installation = 5

Advisory Committee

Water & Sewer Lines Installation

New Bathroom Lower End = 2

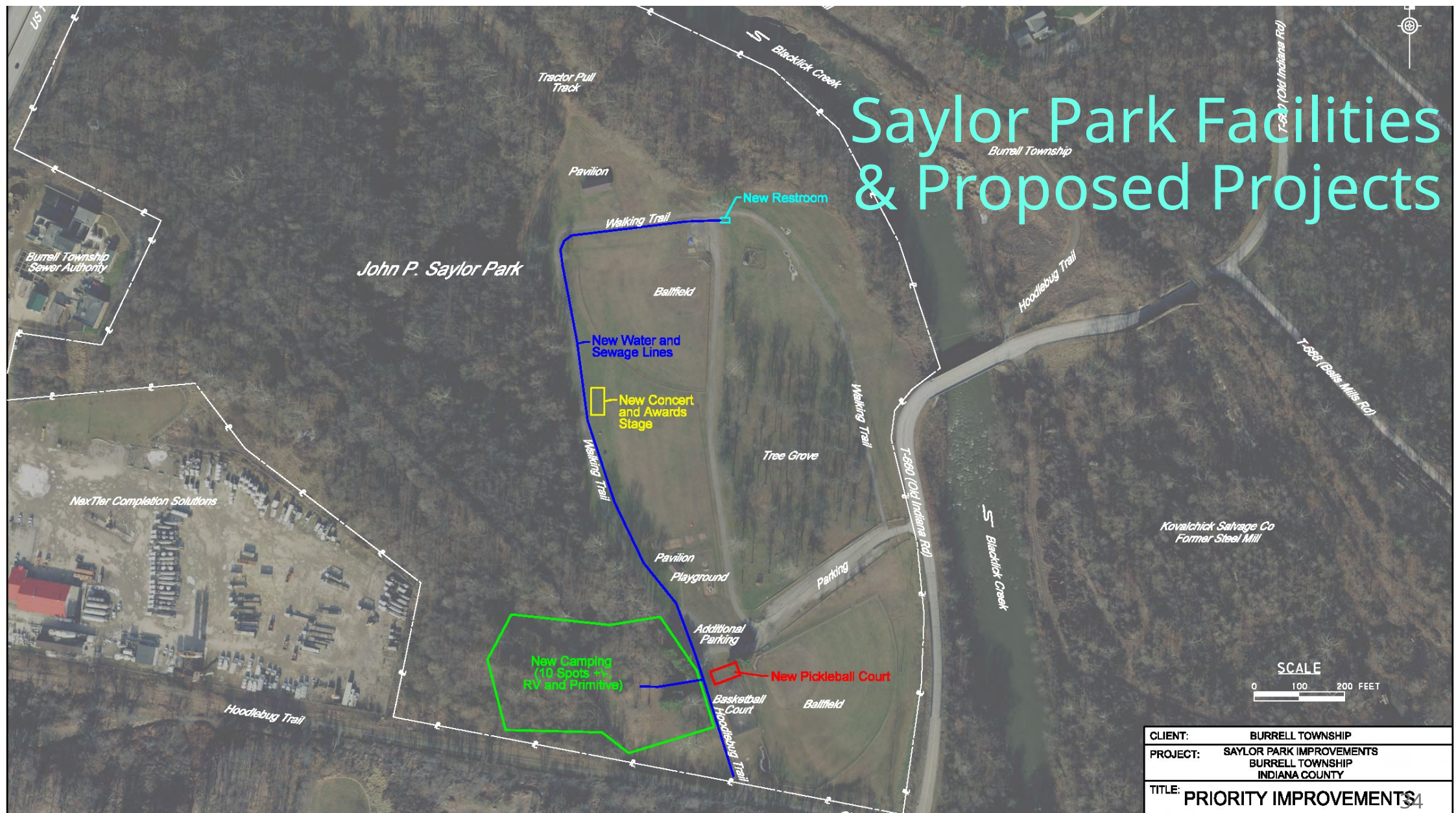
Camping Spots Installation = 3

Concert and Awards Stage = 4



Saylor Park Facilities & Proposed Projects

Burrell Township



CLIENT:	BURRELL TOWNSHIP
PROJECT:	SAYLOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS BURRELL TOWNSHIP INDIANA COUNTY
TITLE:	PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed Projects with Estimated Timeframe & Costs

Proposed Projects	Estimated Timeframe	Estimated Cost
Water and Sewer Line Installation	2025 / 2026	\$215,280
Restroom Upgrades	2025 / 2026	\$150,000
Concert and Awards Stage Installation	2026 / 2027	\$142,882
Campground Installation	2026 / 2027	\$250,000
Pavement Repairs, Expanded Road and Lot	2026 / 2027	\$445,539

Public Input – Key Leader Interview Results

Question 5 -- Should any of the Advisory Committee's Priority Projects not be pursued?

- **No= 79%** (Strong support that all are valid projects)
- **Yes = 21%** (Concert Stage = 1, Pickleball Court* = 2)

Public Input – Key Leader Interview Results

Question 6 – What Economic Benefit would the Priority Projects create for the Community?

- **Increased General Revenue = 47.1%**
- **Increased Food Sales = 29.4%**
- **Increased Gas Sales = 11.8%**
- **Increased Hotel Business = 11.8%**

Public Input – Key Leader Interview Results

Question 7 – Is it appropriate to recommend Projects that generate revenue?

- **Yes =100%** **No= 0%**
- Yes, need to cover costs.
- Yes, must pay for investment.
- Yes, necessary to avoid taxes.
- Yes, helps to maintain and sustain Park.
- Yes, it is done in other areas and is effective.
- Definitely. Must generate revenue and become independent.

Public Input – Key Leader Interview Results

Question 8 – What other Revenue Generating ideas are appropriate & effective?

- **Food and Alcohol Sales* = 27.4%**
- **Business Donations = 17%**
- **Grants = 14%**
- **Raffle Tickets = 14%**
- **Event Fees = 14%**
- **Bicycle Rentals = 8% (Electric Bicycles Rack)**
- **Canoe Rentals = 5.6%**

Key Leaders Input Summary – Initial Findings

- 40+ Year Olds are Best Served and 20 to 40 Year Olds are Least Served
- Several Recreational Opportunities Should be Evaluated
- Several Facility Improvements Should be Evaluated
- The Proposed Project Priorities are Valid and Should be Pursued
- It is Appropriate to Pursue Projects that Increase Revenue and Charge Fees
- Food & Alcohol Sales Generate More Revenue but Must be Managed Effectively

Letters of Support Received

- Burrell Township Supervisors
- Burrell Township Parks and Recreation Board
- River Valley School District
- Indiana County Conservation District
- Others Requested

Advisory Committee Request for Public

- Consider the Advisory Committee's Initial Findings and Proposals
- Give us your **FEEDBACK** so we can incorporate it into the Proposals
 - Do you support pursuing a Planning Grant from the PA DCNR?
 - Do you support the Proposed Priority Projects?
 - Do you have any major concerns or follow up questions?
- Stay informed by reading "Update Reports" posted on Township Bulletin Board
- Attend Parks & Recreation Events and consider Volunteering

Next Steps for Advisory Committee

- **Further Integrate Public Input into Proposal**
- **Acquire Support from Area Political Leaders**
- **Submit Applicable Grant Applications to Pursue Funding**
- **Implement Approved Priority Projects as Funding Becomes Available**
- **Conduct Comprehensive Plan Study in 2026**

Thank You

Saylor Park Improvements – Advisory Committee

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Wendy Thompson

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www.burrellparks&recreation.com (coming soon)