

AGENDA
PARK AND SHADE TREE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2025 – 1:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment- All public comments shall be related to the subject matter jurisdiction of the Borough Council, Committee, or Board conducting the public meeting, and shall be limited to matters of public concern, official action, or deliberations that are, or may come, before the Borough Council, Committee, or Board.
3. Summer Plans
 - a. Discuss what projects are scheduled for Summer, and what projects have been completed this Spring
 - b. Discuss any tree diseases and insect concerns
4. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Bird Nest Box
 - Discuss data obtained from bird nest box management within the Parklands
 - b. Educational
 - c. Outreach
5. Penn State Berks and Park and Shade Tree Commission Collaboration Opportunities
 - a. Discuss collaboration opportunities with Bryan Wang, Biology professor from Penn State
6. Parkland Concerns
 - a. Discussion with Anne Desjardins regarding ticks and Trevor Blackwood related to mosquitos in the Parklands. Information to be presented on things the Borough and residents can do to prevent both.
 - b. Discuss the increased sightings of groundhogs in the Parklands, and potential repercussions
7. Meadow Trail Parking Lot Accessibility
 - a. Discuss the removal of railing at the Meadow parking lot to make room for a gentler slope, or other changes to improve trail accessibility
 - b. Discuss what changes could occur in-house and approximate costs
8. Memorial Benches and Trex Decking Bench Program
 - a. Discuss the implementation of a Memorial Bench program
 - b. Discuss the Trex Decking Bench Program

9. Master Gardener Bee Study in the Parklands

- a. Denise Wessels, a Borough resident and Master Gardener with the PSU Berks County Extension Office, will be setting up a bee collection station in the parklands, as part of a bee monitoring program to identify and catalog bees across the state. Educational signage will be installed to notify visitors to the parklands as to what the station is and that it was installed with the Borough's permission, through the Park and Shade Tree Commission. Information on the bee monitoring research program is available via this four minute YouTube video <https://youtu.be/M1chVaJH074>.

10. Implementation of the Parklands Forest Stewardship Study

- a. \$20,000 was included in the 2025 budget for removal of invasives and to install temporary signs to educate the public on improvements being made.
- b. A grant application has been submitted through the West Reading-Wyomissing Rotary Club, requesting funding of up to \$10,000. This funding would also be used for the removal of invasives and educational signage, in addition to the installation of riparian buffers along the Wyomissing Creek. Grant awards will be announced in July 2025
- c. The Berks County Planning Commission is providing funding of \$10,000 for the removal of invasives, installation of riparian buffer areas and educational signage.
- d. An application has been submitted through the Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant program requesting \$8,000 in funding for parklands signage
- e. A group of citizens that reside at The Highlands have offered to donate to the Borough up to 400 trees that were privately purchased and are being kept in a greenhouse at The Highlands. Greg and Michele, along with Larry Lloyd from Berks Nature, went to inspect and tag trees that will be saved for riparian buffer areas and other screening areas in the parklands.
- f. Michele will work with ECON Partners, the Borough's grant writer, on a C2P2 and Growing Greener grant in late 2025, for submission in 2026. These grant applications will focus on addressing known SW issues with the existing inlet and pipe system by Flannery Field and High Road. Funding through each program of up to \$500,000 may be requested, with a match of only \$25,000 required.
- g. Trail Names – At the March meeting, the Commission decided on using the names of native plants as trail names.
- h. Signage – Example photos were provided with the agenda. Randy has spoken with the company that designed these signs and will provide more information at the meeting. The Borough's Mechanics in the Public Works Department can fabricate and powder coat the signs, significantly reducing cost. The graphic to be installed on each sign would need to be designed and produced by a sign company.

11. Eagle Scout projects

a. Discuss additional Eagle Scout project opportunities

12. Next Meeting – July 23, 2025 – 1:00 PM