

INTRODUCTION



Tarentum has one main park which provides plentiful opportunities for recreation. Historic Riverview Memorial Park is part of the legacy of the boom all western Pennsylvania communities experienced at the end of World War I. The move to purchase the riverfront property was a progressive step. Decades later, it remains the only natural waterfront park of its size in all of Allegheny County. For years, residents have gathered in this area to play on the cannons overlooking the river, take wedding pictures and listen to concerts.



Over the years, the Borough has expressed a desire to make this park relevant to all age groups. As a result, a “Snoopy” wading pool was installed for toddlers to splash in during the summer months; and a state-of-the-art playground was designed with a soft surface and a wide variety of the latest equipment for

kids to swing, slide and climb on. Older kids can enjoy the new James E. Wolfe Skate Park, and play softball, baseball and t-ball games at Dreshar Stadium.



Throughout the year, adults and seniors also make use of the miles of bricked sidewalks winding through the park, and visit the memorials marking the names of those who have served our country and honor their contributions.



Much of the social culture of Tarentum is centered in the park during the warm summer months. Summer recreation programs are plentiful and designed to attract all ages. A summer concert series is held each year; making perfect use of the stage, covered pavilion, and permanent seating. On weekdays, Allegheny County provides free summer lunches to children at Riverview Park, and Tarentum resident Becky May spends that lunch

hour with the children completing craft projects.



The Borough also maintains the playground at Grandview Elementary. The playground is currently in a state of disrepair, and holds many potential hazards for children. The majority of these hazards stem from the rough asphalt and pebble surface in the child and toddler areas. Children falling off of swings and slides run the risk of sustaining scrapes, bruises and broken bones. Toddlers playing in the area designated for their use are frequently grabbing pebbles and attempting to eat them and throw them at other children.



Metal hurricane fencing around the area limits accessibility to one entrance point at the top of the basketball court opposite Grandview Elementary’s entrance, posing the obstacle of a delayed response time should a vehicle need to access the playground in an emergency. A gate

which would allow vehicles immediate access to the playground area remains locked.

To remedy this situation in part, the Borough is in contact with several soft playground surface providers to upgrade the area – protecting children from scrapes, bruises, and perhaps even broken bones by padding their landing in the event of a fall. The Penn State Cooperative Extension has also offered to provide Penn State Grass, a hearty mixture which can withstand rigorous activity, should the Borough choose that option. In this manner, the Grandview Elementary School playground will begin its transformation to the modern park facility at Riverview featured below.



The Borough also replaces the basketball hoop nets at the basketball court on West 6th Avenue, but does not provide any other services to the court.

PARKS AND RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Borough is seeking to replace the bricks in the sidewalks throughout Riverview Park with concrete. The bricks are being unearthed by growing tree roots and posing a hazard to walkers. As it is the goal of the Borough to make all recreational activities safe for its residents, Tarentum find it necessary to replace

the visually attractive brick surface with a more functional and safe concrete surface.



The Borough plans to add more concrete space to the Snoopy pool area so that more parents may be comfortably accommodated while supervising their wading toddlers.



The Borough maintains that vandalism occasionally occurs at the James E Wolfe Skate Park. To curb vandalism activities, the Borough has been closing the skate park when incidents occur. The Borough emphasizes that most park patrons have been correctly using the facilities. Closing the park for brief intervals to repair damage has helped to curb incidences of vandalism, graffiti, and littering on the premises. If increased vandalism continues to be a problem at the Skate Park, video monitoring, perhaps funded through grants, may be a consideration.



Dreshar Stadium will see several improvements as early as 2009. The stadium serves as one of two playing fields for Highlands Little League, a staple of the community since 1952. It will have new batting cages installed between the major and minor fields. The Borough also hopes to be receiving further funds from grants to construct a new playground and picnic area.



The Borough is seeking a safer surface and easier access for emergency vehicles at the Grandview Playground.



Summer Concert series selections may be expanded to include more generationally appealing bands; representing the preferences of young children, teens, young adults, mid-aged adults, baby boomers and senior citizens.

The Borough should consider locating a Farmer's Market to the Riverview Park Area after business hours. The Farmer's Market sponsored by the Tarentum Business Area Advisory Committee is currently operating from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Train Station Restaurant with the purpose of drawing crowds to the business area.



Many residents would appreciate the opportunity to purchase fresh produce grown by local farmers, but may not actually work in the Borough and be able to shop at that time. An alternate farmer's market would serve as a wonderful draw to the park on a summer evening.

It is recommended that the Borough continue with the minimal cost practice of replacing hoops at the West Tarentum basketball park.