

Executive Summary

Upper Macungie Township has a recreation plan that served as a guide since 2009. Most of the goals have been met by providing open space, conservation lands and athletic fields and playgrounds with recreation fees, grants and conservation design ordinances.

The plan included a capital improvements plan to meet those goals and projected the need for indoor recreation facilities in 2019. ***The purpose of this study is to determine the needs, financing and sustainably of a recreation center.***

A Study Committee of 10 residents who have active roles and involvement in recreation activities in the Township met and visited many recreation facilities and developed the following Mission Statement which was presented to the Recreation Board and recommended to the Board of Supervisors :

UMT provides a safe, family-friendly community center. The facility is a state-of-the-art complex for year-round recreation and wellness for all ages and abilities. Utilizing well-trained staff, we enrich the quality of life of the community by providing engaging, innovative, and diverse programming to build skills and community involvement.

The Committee compiled a "Wish List "of facilities which was estimated to cost between 15 and 20 Million Dollars. This would require funding from the tax base with bank or bond financing. The Board of Supervisors indicated that they would propose to fund this with available funds and through development recreation fees rather than the real-estate tax revenue. Reserve Funds would be available for 3.5 million dollars. The study considers three building construction types and phased construction based on projected revenues from builder's recreation fees and donations and sponsorships.

The first Section of the study analyzed the demographics of Upper Macungie Township. According to National Recreation and Park Association data, ***Upper Macungie Township residents have the needs, finances and spending history to support a Community Recreation Center*** based on Census Data and comparisons with similar communities to Upper Macungie Township.

Public Participation was engaged through the committee and presented at public meetings with the recreation board and two public Board of Supervisors meetings. Additional input is sought from residents with a proposed survey to be provided by the Township newsletter which is mailed to each residence in the Township. This Study will

Recreation Center Feasibility Study **DRAFT STATUS - FOR PUBLIC INPUT AND REVIEW – SURVEY RESULTS TO BE ADDED**

be referenced in the Spring 2017 newsletter and can be reviewed on the Township Website. The survey seeks to verify the needs and support of the residents for indoor recreation from all age groups.

Needs were determined through the demographic study and survey as well as interviews with the South Parkland Youth Association who provide programs that use the facilities in Upper Macungie Township. Currently there are not enough gymnasiums to all the youth who sign up for basketball. Recreation facility research was done in the first section to determine the available facilities and the current fees that are charged which were used to prepare a spread sheet for facilities programs **revenue** and **operation costs**. This is done with each phase of construction to plan for **sustainability**.

Building construction sketch design was considered for three different building types. **Post frame building** construction such as manufactured by Graber Post Frame building construction. A complete facility was sketched and priced and RFQ provided by Engle Architects who work with these structures. An alternate layout similar to an existing facility in Montgomery Township was sketched and priced. Construction of a structure comprised of **aluminum arch beams with PVC** interior and exterior liner and insulation such as manufactured by Sprung Construction was provided with example projects and prices provided. **Pre-Engineered steel frame structure with split face block**, stone veneer front and sides and steel sheet exterior and roof was sketch designed by Howard Kulp Architects. These were analyzed for cost, flexibility in design and long term durability. Based on this criterion the Pre-Engineered building is recommended. Detailed sketch layouts for four phases of construction were provided by Kulp Architects.

Construction and Operation Costs and Revenue are estimated by phase for the complete facility program, Expenditures and Revenues are prepared for each phase along with a **projected Capital Improvements Plan to complete all four phases within 12 years. The initial phase would provide two gymnasiums, fitness center, locker rooms offices, restroom, kitchen and community rooms for various activities such as aerobics, stretching and meeting room to provide current needs.**

The site has an approved NPDES permit which expires Summer 2018.

This plan and study was reviewed by the Recreation Board and the Steering Committee for input and support at advertised public meetings. The survey will be completed May this year and public meetings will be held with the recreation and Board of Supervisors to review the survey and report.