



Curtis Arboretum Conservation & Landscape Management Plan Citizen Survey

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Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager, Township of Cheltenham
8230 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027-1589

Dear Cheltenham Township resident or business owner,

Did you know that two parks in Cheltenham Township got a complete makeover in the last several years? The transformation of Wall Park into a premier outdoor sports center for our youth and of High School Park from a former school site to an enhanced nature preserve are due to the outstanding efforts of consultants and volunteers in researching and planning new park designs and amenities. Park planners were greatly aided by citizens like you that helped assess the potential of these parks for improving our community's recreational and environmental resources and activities.

Now our Township government is turning its attention to the restoration and enhancement of Curtis Arboretum, a 45-acre site located in the Wyncote neighborhood of Cheltenham. Curtis Arboretum has been frequented and beloved by many generations of our town's residents, and it hosts our annual Harvest Festival and summer concert series. The former Curtis Estate provides park goers with wonderful natural, historic, recreational and architectural resources, with its wooded and grassy hills, its network of ponds and streams, and elegant Curtis Hall, which hosts all of the meetings of our Township's Board of Commissioners and generates income for the Township as a rental facility.

In this planning effort NAM Planning and Design LLC is serving as the project consultant, along with volunteers serving on a Project Steering Committee. Together, they have been charged with planning the renovation of the Arboretum and the innovation of its recreational and/or educational activities. **We welcome your help in meeting this challenge. Please fill out the survey below to let us know how you currently use the park and what you love about it. Also, please consider the various prospects for park improvements listed in the survey and give us your opinion about which you think might be most appropriate for this site and which would be of greatest interest to you. Thank you very much for helping us to better understand the role that Curtis Arboretum plays in your life and how it could serve as a more valuable resource in the future.**

If you would like progress updates and public meeting notices regarding Curtis Arboretum, please provide the information requested in question 23. If you require additional information or have questions, please contact me at 215-887-1000. Again, thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Bryan T. Havir

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The Curtis Arboretum Conservation & Management Plan study is funded in part through a grant from The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR)

Are you a residence, apartment or business in Cheltenham Township, or non-township park visitor?
 (please circle)

What is your zip code? _____

How long have you lived/worked in Cheltenham Township? _____

How many people live in your home, related or unrelated to you, including yourself? _____

How many people under 18 reside in your household? _____

1. Presently, do you or anyone in your household or workplace participate in any of the following activities at Curtis Arboretum? (check all that apply)

Activity	More than 10 times/month	Less than 5 times/month	Between 5 and 10 times/ month	Never
Run or jog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bike, hike or walk recreationally	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk dog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use dog park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Study/ look at plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sitting/ walking along the creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Study/look at architectural features	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Overall, how would you rank your experience(s) at Curtis Arboretum? (check one)

Excellent Fair Poor

Please explain:

3. How frequently do you attend the summer concerts at Curtis Arboretum?

4+/year 1 – 4/year Every other year Never

4. How many times have you attended the annual Community Harvest Festival? (check one)

20+ 10 – 20 0 – 10 Never

How would you rate your experience(s)? (check one)

Excellent Fair Poor

5. How many times have you attended the annual November Hayride and Bonfire? (check one)

4 – 8 0 – 4 Never

How would you rate your experience(s)? (check one)

Excellent Fair Poor

6. Have you ever attended a non-township sponsored event at Curtis Hall?

Yes No

7. If yes to #6, please check all that apply:

Wedding Baby Shower
 Birthday party Bar/Bat Mitzvah
 Anniversary Other _____

How would you rate your experience(s)? (*check one*)

Excellent Fair Poor

Please explain:

8. Do you feel that your township is utilizing Curtis Arboretum as a community park to it's maximum potential?

Yes No

If no, please share your thoughts:

9. Are the facilities adequate?

	Yes	No		Yes	No
Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sidewalks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Security	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

If no, please explain:

10. Do you feel that the level of maintenance is adequate throughout the park?

Yes No

11. What features attracts/draws you to Curtis Arboretum? (*check all that apply*)

<input type="checkbox"/> History	<input type="checkbox"/> Passive recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Design & layout of overall park	<input type="checkbox"/> Mature trees
<input type="checkbox"/> Craftsmanship of architectural features	<input type="checkbox"/> Ponds
<input type="checkbox"/> Dog park	<input type="checkbox"/> Tookany Creek
<input type="checkbox"/> Peace and solitude	

12. What programs, if developed, would you or your family participate in on a regular basis?

<input type="checkbox"/> Self-guided tours	<input type="checkbox"/> Community gardening
<input type="checkbox"/> Guided seasonal walks	<input type="checkbox"/> Lectures
<input type="checkbox"/> Labeled plant material	<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops
<input type="checkbox"/> Children activities	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

13. Are you aware of the historical significance of Curtis Arboretum?

Yes No

14. If yes to #13, are there certain aspects that you would want to learn more about? (*check all that apply*)

<input type="checkbox"/> The house/architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> The Olmstead Brothers
<input type="checkbox"/> The family	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> The landscape/design	

15. How would you like to learn about these topics? (check all that apply)

- Special exhibits/events
- Permanent installations
- Other _____
- Guided tours
- Geotagging¹

16. Do you have a dog?

- Yes
 - No
- Do you take it to the park?
- Yes
 - No

17. Please check the improvements or features you would like to see happen at Curtis Arboretum:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Historic preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Activities for children | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Active recreation (sports) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Activities for young adults | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Passive recreation (Running, walking) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Activities for seniors | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dog park | <input type="checkbox"/> | Internal walking trails | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Promote stormwater best management practices | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trails connecting to neighborhoods | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community events | <input type="checkbox"/> | Parking | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Regional events | <input type="checkbox"/> | Protect/enhance wildlife habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Promote more access to natural resources-based recreational opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> | Plants labeled | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | CSA ² (community supported agriculture) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Community gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> |

18. Do you feel Curtis Arboretum would be a suitable location to provide fresh, local produce?

- Yes
- No

19. Are there specific production/farming activities you would encourage or discourage?

Activity	Encourage	Discourage	Neutral
Community garden plots	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nutrition education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small Farming education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chicken raising	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Compost disposal/source	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CSA (community supported agriculture)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bee keeping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmers' market	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permaculture ³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ Geotagging is the marking of a video, photo, or other form of digital media to a location. This enables users to find information based on location and to create location-based news and media feeds by combining an application like Google Maps with geotagged blogs, news articles and websites, etc.

² CSA allows residents to have direct access to high quality, fresh produce grown locally by regional farmers. When you become a member of a CSA, you're purchasing a "share" of vegetables from a regional farmer.

³ Permaculture is based on ecological design principles that promote sustainable architecture and self-maintaining horticultural systems modeled after natural ecosystems and processes. Food is grown, diminished landscapes and ecosystems are restored, rainwater is stored, and communities are built.

20. If pedestrian walking and biking access were improved, would you or your household or business be more inclined to use the park more often?
 Yes No

21. Please check off one box indicating your level of interest in following the progress of the *Curtis Arboretum Conservation & Management Plan study*. (On a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the least and 5 being the most)

- 1 great interest - want to attend and participate in all public meetings, receive written updates
- 2 some interest – would like to attend some meetings and possibly receives written updates
- 3 interested – would only like to receive written updates
- 4 somewhat interested- only interested in knowing if it affects my property or neighborhood
- 5 no interest

22. Do you have any additional comments regarding the future development of Curtis Arboretum?
(If you need more space, please feel free to write on the last page of this survey)

23. Do you want to be placed on our mailing or emailing list for updates and public meeting notices regarding Curtis Arboretum?
 Yes No

If yes, please provide your name, mailing address, and/or email address (*optional*):

Today's date: _____

Please COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE and leave at the Township, or mail to Bryan Havir, Township Manager, Township of Cheltenham, 8230 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027-1589 by September 1, 2013.

Thank you