

acre area for small dogs and a 2.4-acre area for large dogs. The entrance to the dog park areas is through a double-gate bull-pen. A trail surrounds the fence enclosures providing a 0.33-mile walking trail loop. The trail extends to the southeast to the point of land formed by the confluence of the Schuylkill River and the West Branch Schuylkill River. A two-tiered overlook plaza is developed on the point for resting and enjoying river views. The riparian buffer vegetation along the river is enhanced with native species and openings are provided in the buffer to provide views of the river from the trail. Amenities include benches in the plaza area and along the trail, trash receptacles, drinking fountains in the dog park fenced enclosures, an information kiosk at the entrance to the dog park, and step connection to the adjacent parking area for overflow/shared parking.

## Pottsville Street Dog Park Concept Plan

Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania  
January 2018



Pottsville Street Dog Park offer opportunities for dog owners to exercise their dog off-leash while socializing and enjoying the park setting. Dog owners can also walk their dogs on-leash along the trail. The trail offers a short loop for visitors to walk and exercise. Because the loop is 0.33-miles in length, visitors can readily challenge themselves to walk different measured distances. The plaza offers a location for visitors to view the river and relax.

- Seek lands that provide opportunities for access to the Schuylkill River, Little Schuylkill River, and their tributaries for launch of paddle craft and fishing.
- Explore the possibility of partnering with the Bethesda Evangelical Church Meadowbrook Drive Center (former State Police building) to develop the lawn on the west side of the building and parking area as an outdoor gathering and activity area if the site becomes a satellite office of the Blue Mountain Recreation Commission (BMRC). The lawn could be

developed to complement the senior adult activities of the Center and programs of the BMRC. The lawn area has the size and characteristics compatible with developing sitting areas, lawn game areas (bocce, horseshoe pits, etc.), gardens, and other site features. Vegetative planting along Route 183 is suggested to buffer the road noise.

#### Objective 4: Provide recreation facilities for public uses that comply with accessibility and safety regulations and guidelines.

---

- Provide playground areas and play equipment that meets the safety criteria of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Guidelines for Public Playground Safety. Several playgrounds in the region are outdated and need to be replaced with playground equipment that meets the latest safety standards. Two concerns observed, beyond outdated play equipment, are the layout and surface material of the playgrounds. Playground should be developed to be age separated and located within defined area of safety surfacing material.
- Many of the playgrounds in the region are developed without consideration of the age of the child using the equipment. The CPSC recommends the equipment for tots (2-5-year-old) and youth (6-12-year-old) be separated into two play areas. This will require the redesign of many of the playgrounds in the region. Plaza space is suggested to provide physical separation between the tot and youth areas to provide locations for benches and picnic tables. If room is available, the plaza may contain a small pavilion. Benches, picnic tables, and pavilions are amenities that are used by caregivers. These amenities add function by providing locations for caregivers and children to gather, snack, and socialize, extending the recreation time. The CPSC guidelines recommend the age separation of equipment as follows:

*Age Separation – For playgrounds intended to serve children of all ages, the layout of pathways and landscaping of the playground should show the distinct areas for the different age groups. The areas should be separated at least by a buffer zone, which could be an area with shrubs or benches. This separation and buffer zone will reduce the chance of injury from older, more active children running through areas filled with younger children with generally slower movement and reaction times.*

- Playground must be located over safety surfacing that is specifically designed to meet safety criteria for falls. Several playgrounds in the region do not have acceptable safety surfacing. The CPSC guidelines recommend safety surfacing as follows:

*The surfacing under and around playground equipment is one of the most important factors in reducing the likelihood of life-threatening head injuries. A fall onto a shock absorbing surface is less likely to cause a serious head injury than a fall onto a hard surface. However, some injuries from falls, including broken limbs, may occur no matter what playground surfacing material is used.*

Safety surfacing can be engineered wood fiber or poured-in-place resilient rubber surfacing. Playground manufacturers can provide the area of safety surfacing for each piece of playground equipment.