

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAC)

2016-2017 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Prepared December 2017

PROJECTS

Project EAC-2017-01 Environmental Tips

The project creates monthly Environmental Tips and an Environmental Checklist to be distributed to all residents through the town website, McMail and newsletters. The Environmental Checklist was distributed in the Town Crier and the North Allegheny School District. The Tips are posted on the Town EAC website and this is an ongoing project.

Project EAC-2017-02 Green Space Inventory

This project prepared a green space inventory for the Town of McCandless. The report and map identify where public green space is located within the Town. Green space in the Town includes totals: 25-Town properties (including 5 parks), 5-school campuses, and North Park. The Town is fortunate to include approximately 2,132 acres of green space lands that represent approximately 20.3% of the total acreage within the Town (10,496 acres). Active and passive recreation can be conducted on the properties identified within the constraints provided by the owners. **It is the user's responsibility to check with property owners to determine if they authorize the intended use. Do not trespass or block driveways when accessing green space lands.** The green space inventory information is available in the current version (August 2017) of the report and mapping as provided on the Town EAC web page.

Project EAC-2017-03 Community Outreach

This project prepared for and staffed outreach booths at the Garden in the Park event on August 19, 2017 with the Penn State Master Gardeners and McCandless Community Day on September 9, 2017. EAC members handed out environmental materials, Green Space Maps, car trash bags, and bird feeders, and answered questions.

Project EAC-2017-04 Wall Park Valley Recreational Property Screening

This project prepared a recreational property screening for the properties in the valley adjacent to Wall Park. The Green Space Inventory identified the properties for review as Mc 2 (Brandt), Mc 3 (Brandt), Mc 9 (Glen Manor), Mc 12 (Kocan), Mc 15 (Marymont), and Mc 19 (Petrush). Properties Mc 23 (Wall Park) and Mc 24 (Wall Park) are part of Wall Park and were not under additional review. The screening evaluated potential active and passive recreational activities that could be conducted on the properties in accordance with the limitations in the deeds. The potential for establishment of an extension to the Wall Park Trail was examined and suggested for further study. The screening report was provided to Council in October 2017 and is available on the Town EAC website.

Project EAC-2017-05 Sustainable Community Certification Review

EAC Members are assisting Town Council and Town Staff in evaluating if the Town should undertake the application process to recognize the Town under a Sustainable Community Certification. The Certification would provide recognition of the Town as a sustainable community. This EAC project will assist the Town Council in determining the Staff commitments and costs associated with pursuing the certification. The certification application process will encourage the implementation of additional sustainable policies and procedures. It is envisioned that the certification will increase the livability and value of real estate within the Town. Sustainable Pittsburgh provided a presentation to the EAC and Town Council on the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification program. Sustainable Pittsburgh administers the certification program. The certification is a voluntary program that measures sustainability using 131 criteria in nine subject areas. This is an ongoing project and the EAC continues to evaluate other options.

Project EAC-2017-06 Business Recycling

EAC Members are assisting Town Staff in conducting site visits that review compliance for recycling at businesses and commercial establishments within the Town. The business visits review ongoing recycling activities. If recycling is not occurring, the visits provide the business with an awareness of the Town Ordinance (Part 9 Title 5 Article 929. Recycling), that requires recycling. The visits encourage additional recycling, thereby reducing the volume of trash generated. The visits are envisioned to continue for the next two years. Businesses that accept specific recyclable materials are listed on the Town EAC website.

Project EAC-2017-07 Wall Park Valley Trail Feasibility

This project is preparing a feasibility study evaluating the potential for trail development in the Wall Park valley properties. The Green Space Inventory identified the properties under review as Mc 2 (Brandt), Mc 3 (Brandt), Mc 9 (Glen Manor), Mc 12 (Kocan), Mc 15 (Marymont), Mc 19 (Petrush), Mc 23 (Wall Park) and Mc 24 (Wall Park). This feasibility study is envisioned to be completed by the EAC Project Team with the assistance of Town Staff and trail associations. The information for this feasibility study is being gathered through site visits; public meetings; review of existing data in the Town, County, and internet files; interviews with Town Staff and other public and private agency staff; and comments from residents. The project is ongoing and will continue into 2018.

Project EAC-2017-08 Town Cleanup Day 2018

This project will plan for and conduct a Town Cleanup Day in Spring of 2018. The focus of efforts will be on Town roads and Town parks. The project will be coordinated by the EAC and utilize Town residents, scouting organizations, athletic organizations, school clubs, and volunteers. Resident coordinators will be assigned Town roads or parks, where they will lead cleanup efforts to beautify the Town. Town staff and residents will identify locations and problems to be addressed. The Town website will be used to identify sites and solicit volunteers. Safety will be a key concern to selection of the groups working on the project locations. The EAC Project Team will compile the information into an activity listing for EAC, Town Staff, and Town Council review. The project is ongoing through 2018 and may continue in years to come.

Non-Numbered Project/Reviews/Tasks

December 2016, McCandless Township Sewer Authority – The EAC toured several facilities that are part of the McCandless Township Sewer Authority operations and treatment for the sewage collected from the Town.

August 2017, Beehive Rescue – A resident contacted the EAC about moving a beehive. EAC members made contacts and provided information that indicated the nest of concern was most likely yellow jackets and could be exterminated. Honeybees do not set up hives in ground which was the location of the nest of concern.

September 2017, Potential Property Donation - A property owner met with the EAC to discuss the potential for donating his property to the Town in the next few years. The owner also noted an adjacent 5-acre parcel that he does not own that could be connected to a Town park and the 10-acre parcel. Topics of concern included the availability of parking, steepness of the property, logistics of crossing the road to get to a nearby park, what the use of the property could/should be, and the possibility of obtaining the adjacent 5-acre parcel. This potential action was turned over to Town Staff and Council for further action.

September 2017, Storm Water Management – The EAC attended a tour of “best management practice” storm water management facilities that are decreasing storm runoff, reducing pollutant loads on streams and increasing infiltration. The tour was coordinated through Three Rivers Wet Weather.

October 2017, Recycling Plant Tour – The EAC was provided a tour of the Pittsburgh Materials Recovery Facility located on Neville Island. This is the recycling facility operated by the Town’s waste hauler, Waste Management. The tour strengthened the EAC’s understanding of recycling and limitations.

November 2017, Home Sustainability Video – Members of the EAC provided demonstrations of recycling and sustainability in their homes. A video was prepared and placed on the Town Website to encourage residents to consider better options for the environment in their everyday living.

December 2017, The EAC was contacted to review information on agents to be used for roadside spraying. Members are checking with contacts and providing information to the Town Public Works Department. This task will continue into 2018.