

Borough of Chester Heights Mini-PROST Plan

big opportunities in a small town



Mini Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Plan

Borough of Chester Heights, Delaware County, PA

In 2025, the Borough of Chester Heights purchased the Powell property, 40.2 acres of rolling meadows and wooded hillside above a tributary to Chester Creek. Having saved the land from development, the borough recognized they needed a plan to transform the site into useable community open space and a place for passive recreation.

With public funding support, the borough worked with Natural Lands to create a mini-PROST Plan. Natural Lands worked with borough leadership, staff, and a task force of residents to determine the most important priorities for responsible development and expansion of the borough's recreation system as a whole. The public contributed input through meetings, an online questionnaire, and individual interviews.

This assessment and study revealed key properties—including the newly acquired Powell parcel—that form a hub of Chester Heights' recreation lands. The Octoraro Railway line, a portion of which the borough owns, could be transformed into a cross-borough trail. Valleybrook Road may be able to accommodate a north-south trail as well.

These opportunities to build trails, connect parks and open spaces, and improve land through stewardship hold the promise of transforming the Borough of Chester Heights' recreation spaces, offering abundant passive recreation opportunities for its residents.



PROJECT SNAPSHOT

services: park assessments, park programming needs assessment, demographic study, open space assessment, trail study, community outreach, master planning

client: Chester Heights Borough

key partner: Chester Heights Borough

key recommendations

- Form a Parks & Recreation Commission.
- Develop a Master Plan for the Powell property.
- Expand trail network.
- Maintain, steward, and upgrade existing parks and amenities.
- Increase visitation and awareness.
- Form Friends of the Parks and Trails groups.

