

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

The EADS planning team and the study committee collaborated during working meetings to gain consensus on the top park improvement priorities to include in the plan. Existing conditions and trends in park usage, other Delmont Borough planning efforts, known local and state funding opportunities, and potential partnerships were considered to evolve the project ideas into a set of park improvement priorities.

The study committee and planning team together helped to define what we want to do, what we will do, and how we will do it in terms of improving Shields Farm Park. The top park improvement priorities were also field-viewed and further developed by the EADS planning team as part of the process. Discussions with residents, study committee members, and Delmont Borough officials verified the value of developing a set of improvement priorities that will address what the community wants to have at the park.

The Shields Farm Park Master Site Development Plan is provided on the following page. The Master Plan for Shields Farm Park represents a vision of a well-balanced, inclusive, and community-driven recreational space. It reflects a thoughtful blend of active and passive recreation, preservation of the park's natural and historic character, and the integration of modern amenities to meet current and future needs. The plan also envisions Shields Farm Park as a multi-use destination that supports events, family gatherings, everyday recreation, and quiet nature experiences. With features like accessible trails, updated facilities, expanded parking, and new activity areas like a playground and disc golf course, the park is a flexible, welcoming space for residents of all ages while honoring its unique setting and history.

Park Improvement Categories

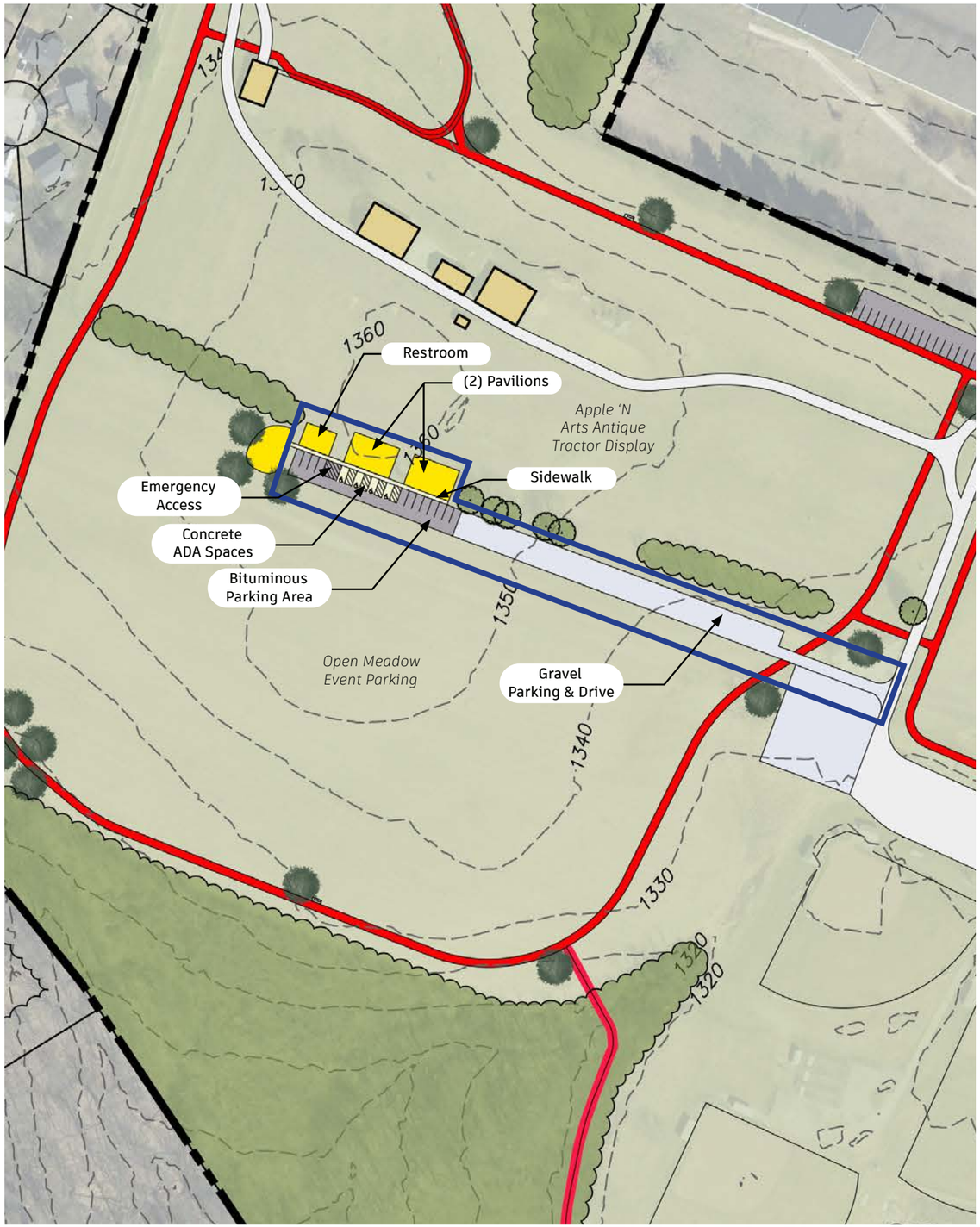
- **Recreational Facilities**
- **Gathering and Event Spaces**
- **Parking and Access**

The following sections present conceptual plans that outline the top priority projects within each category. Each project includes a detailed description and an estimate of probable costs. These cost estimates assume that Delmont Borough will contract out all phases of construction; however, costs could be significantly reduced if the Borough utilizes its own staff or volunteer groups for portions of the work. For example, Borough staff and community volunteers could assist with tasks such as clearing and preparing trail bases, installing signage, or completing basic landscaping—helping to lower overall expenses.
Additionally, this section identifies which priority projects will include ADA accessibility improvements. A Phased Implementation Plan and a list of Early Action Items are also included to guide the next steps in bringing the vision for Shields Farm Park to life.

The EADS Group, Inc. is not a construction contractor; therefore, the following cost estimates are based on experience with similar projects and include assumptions about site conditions, design decisions, construction methods, and permitting. These estimates are considered fair and reasonable but do not include utility connection or service fees.
Additional costs such as professional services, engineering/design, construction contingencies, and administration are not included. For most recreation grant applications, these typically add 10-15% for engineering and design, 5% for construction contingencies, and 2% for administration. Delmont Borough should account for these when seeking project funding.

OVERALL MASTER SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN





PROJECT CLUSTER 1 - CENTRAL GATHERING AREA

Project 1 focuses on creating a central gathering hub within Shields Farm Park and is considered a high-priority improvement. This area would feature two pavilions and one restroom facility, connected by a concrete sidewalk for accessibility. Parking would include an asphalt lot with concrete ADA spaces, supported by a gravel drive and additional gravel parking leading to the main lot. A key design element is the space between the restroom and one pavilion, intentionally kept open to maintain emergency access in the same location historically used for past events.

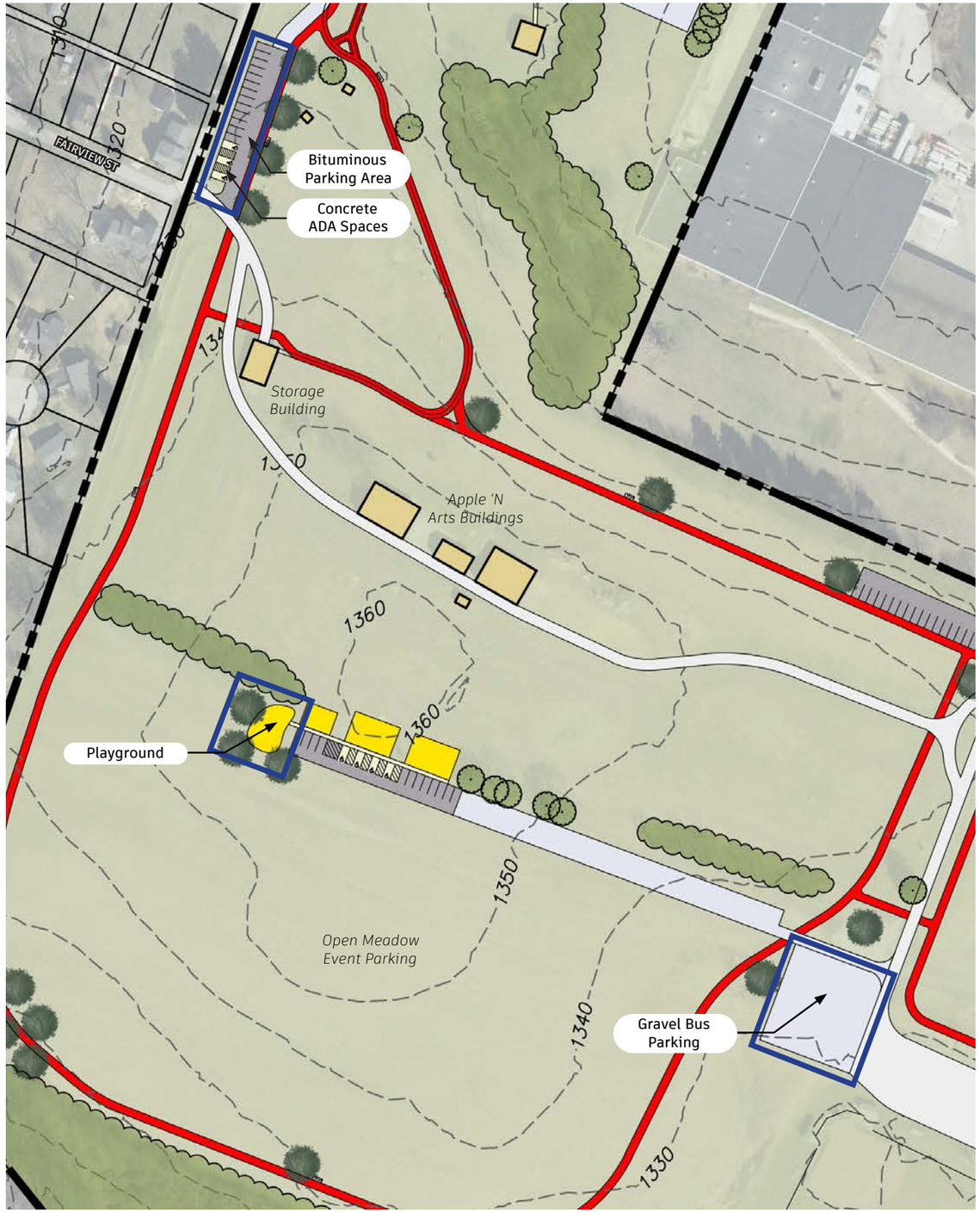
ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COST:

The total cost of this project is estimated to be **$779,322.50**. The following provides an itemized breakdown for the project components.

Item/Description		Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
PROJECT 1					
a.	Pavilion (40'x60')	2	EA	$120,000.00	$240,000.00
b.	40'x60' Conc. Pad for Pavilion	535	SY	$165.00	$88,275.00
c.	Restroom (20'x30')	600	SF	$350.00	$210,000.00
d.	1,000 Gal. Holding Tank	1	LS	$10,000.00	$10,000.00
e.	Bituminous Pavement (Parking)	625	SY	$75.00	$46,875.00
f.	Concrete - ADA Parking	225	SY	$165.00	$37,125.00
g.	Concrete - Sidewalk	120	SY	$165.00	$19,800.00
h.	Gravel Parking Area & Driveway	1880	SY	$30.00	$56,400.00
k.	Basic Engineering Design & Construction Management Services (10%)				$70,847.50
				Total Cost of Project 1	**$779,322.50**

PARK IMPROVEMENT CATEGORIES:

- Gathering & Event Spaces
- Parking & Access



PROJECT CLUSTER 2 - PLAYGROUND AND PARKING

Project 2 combines several improvements aimed at enhancing both recreational opportunities for children and parking capacity for different types of park visitors. A children's playground would be placed near the central pavilions and restrooms, allowing families to enjoy multiple amenities in one area and improving the park's appeal for community gatherings. To better accommodate tournaments and events at the DAAA Ballfields, a gravel parking area would be constructed specifically for bus parking. Additionally, the Fairview Street entrance would be upgraded with a bituminous parking lot that includes concrete ADA spaces, ensuring accessibility and creating a welcoming, functional gateway into the park from that side of the property.

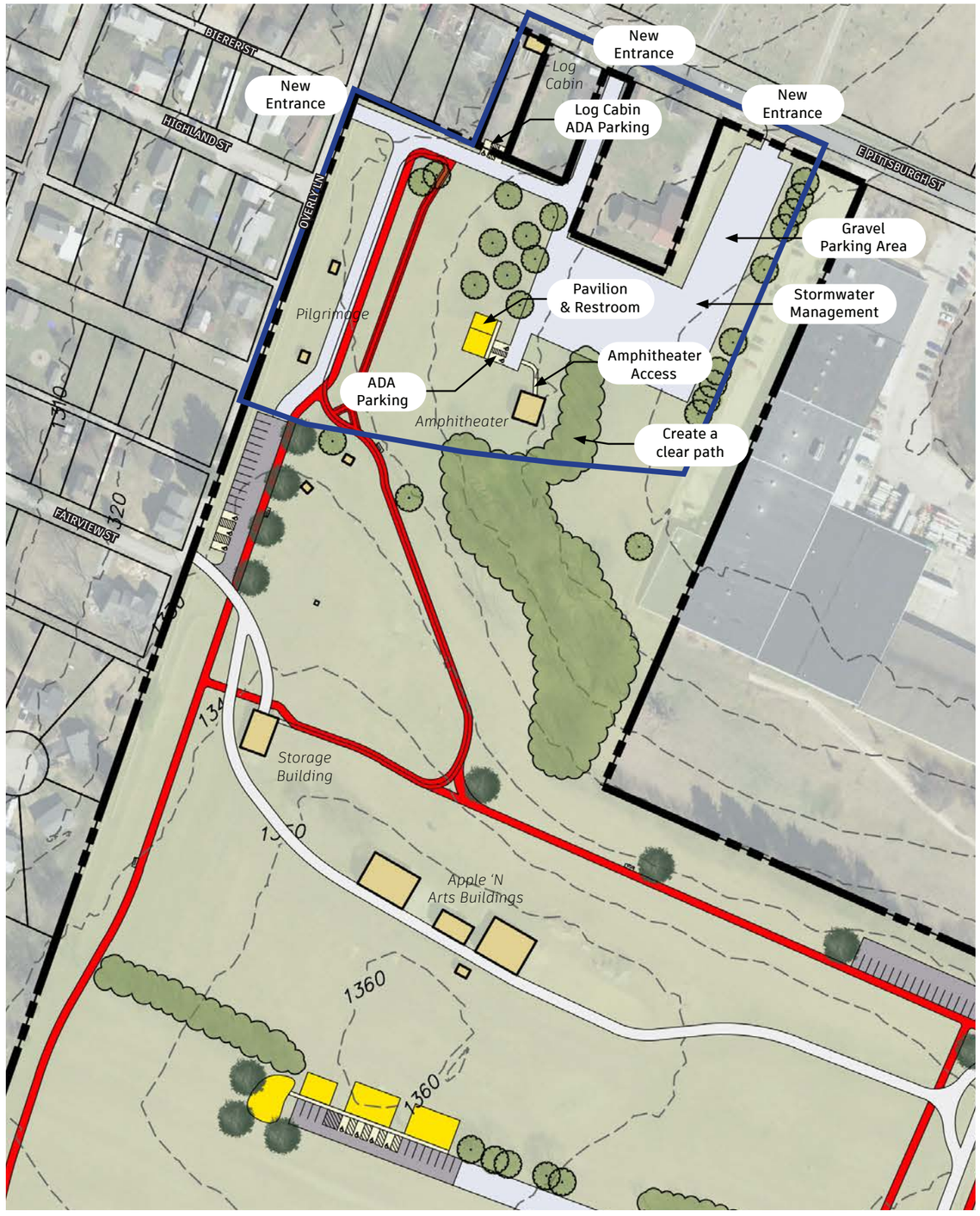
ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COST:

The total cost of this project is estimated to be **$205,870.50**. The following provides an itemized breakdown for the project components.

Item/Description		Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
PROJECT 2					
a.	Playground (Equipment and Surface Material)	1	LS	$60,000.00	$60,000.00
b.	Gravel Parking (Bus Parking)	1710	SY	$30.00	$51,300.00
c.	Concrete - ADA Parking (Fairview Street)	112	SY	$165.00	$18,480.00
d.	Bituminous Pavement (Parking) - Fairview Street Entrance	765	SY	$75.00	$57,375.00
e.	Basic Engineering Design & Construction Management Services (10%)				$18,715.50
				Total Cost of Project 2	**$205,870.50**

PARK IMPROVEMENT CATEGORIES:

- Recreational Facilities
- Parking & Access



PROJECT CLUSTER 3 - AMPHITHEATER

Project 3 focuses on improving amenities and accessibility around the amphitheater while enhancing event logistics. It includes an attached pavilion and restroom to provide convenient facilities for event attendees, as well as a large gravel parking area designed with stormwater management to handle high-capacity use. To improve site access and traffic flow, two new gravel entrances would be added along E Pittsburgh Street, along with a dedicated vendor entrance at Overly Lane and Bierer Street. Accessibility upgrades include installing concrete ADA parking spaces at both the log cabin and pavilion locations, and creating an accessible path leading directly to the amphitheater. Additionally, a clear path would be established through the trees behind the amphitheater to support the cross country team's training and event needs. The hillside facing the ampitheater should be addressed to create more of a tiered effect. Together, these improvements support large-scale events, improve visitor experience, and address accessibility needs.

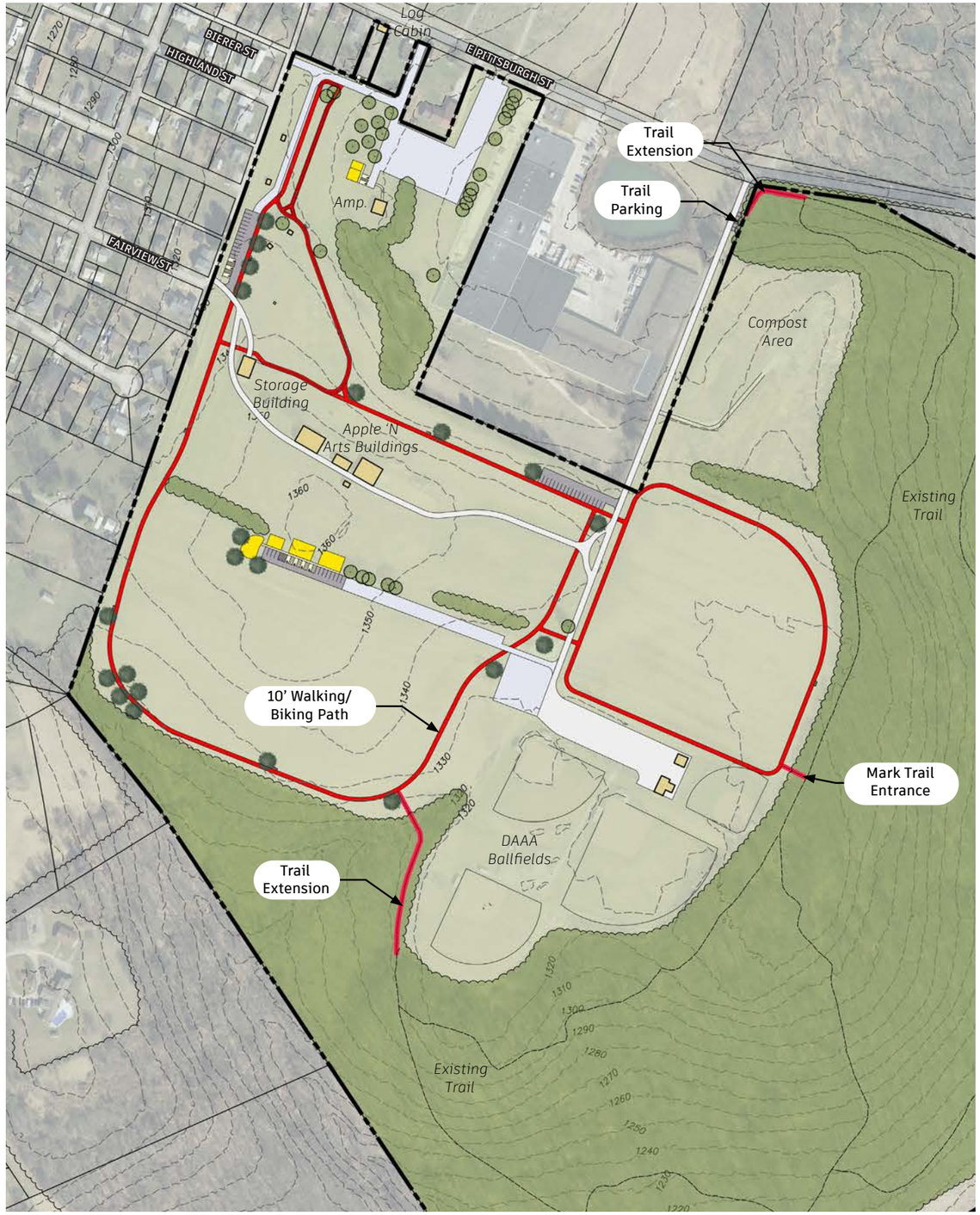
ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COST:

The total cost of this project is estimated to be **$619,113.00**. The following provides an itemized breakdown for the project components.

Item/Description		Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Phase 3					
a.	Pavilion (30'x30')	1	EA	$50,000.00	$50,000.00
b.	Restroom (20'x30')	600	SF	$350.00	$210,000.00
c.	1,000 Gal. Holding Tank0	1	LS	$10,000.00	$10,000.00
d.	Gravel Parking Area	7155	SY	$30.00	$214,650.00
e.	Concrete - ADA Parking (Log Cabin & Pavilion)	134	SY	$165.00	$22,110.00
f.	Concrete - Sidewalk	58	SY	$165.00	$9,570.00
g.	Concrete - Pavilion	100	SY	$165.00	$16,500.00
h.	Stormwater Management	1	LS	$30,000.00	$30,000.00
i.	Basic Engineering Design & Construction Management Services (10%)				$56,283.00
				Total Cost of Phase 3	**$619,113.00**

PARK IMPROVEMENT CATEGORIES:

- Gathering & Event Spaces
- Parking & Access



PROJECT CLUSTER 4 - RECREATION TRAILS

This project includes a 10-foot-wide walking and biking path with trail surface aggregate, totaling approximately 7,635 linear feet. The trail forms loops throughout the entire park, connecting key areas and amenities. As shown on the map, one section of the trail creates a one-mile loop that offers a continuous, accessible route for walkers, runners, and cyclists. Signage will be installed for wayfinding, safety, and interpretation.

Separate from the main trail, the project also includes wooded trail extensions. One extension at the DAAA Ballfields will connect directly to the 10-foot-wide path, enhancing access between recreational areas. Another extension will be added at the E Pittsburgh Street entrance, linking the wooded trail network to the new parking area.

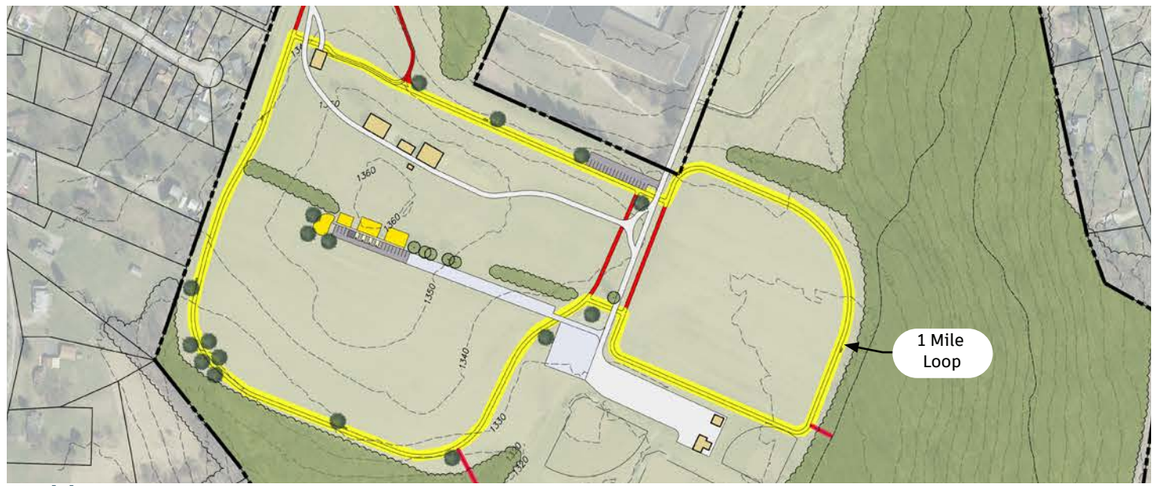
ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COST:

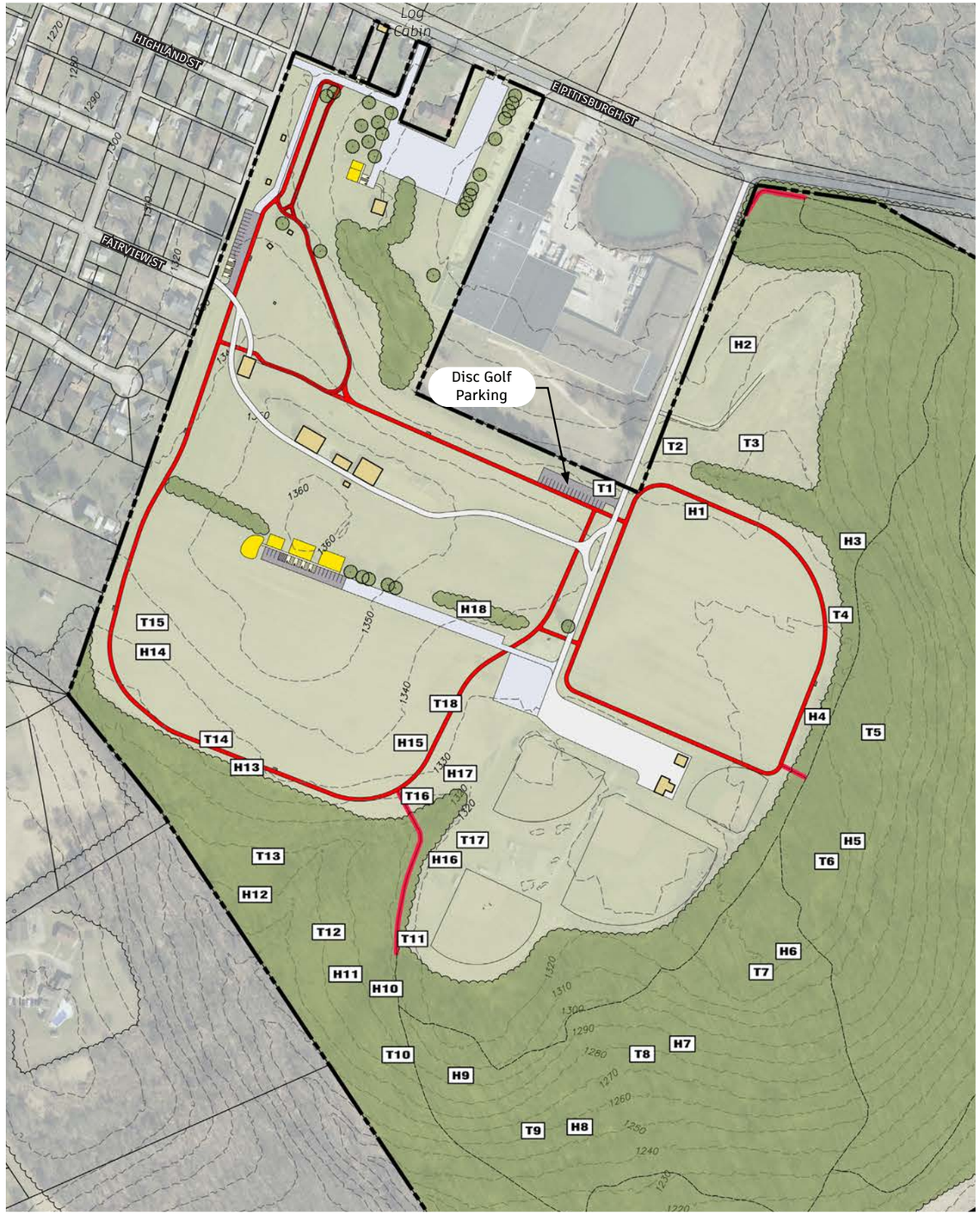
The total cost of this project is estimated to be **$181,802.50**. The following provides an itemized breakdown for the project components.

Item/Description		Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
PROJECT 4					
a.	Trail Extensions	1	LS	$10,000.00	$10,000.00
b.	Bituminous Trail Parking (5 spacfes)	112	SY	$75.00	$8,400.00
c.	Signage	1	LS	$5,000.00	$5,000.00
d.	Walking/Biking Trail - Trail Surface Aggregate (4" Depth)	945	CY	$75.00	$70,875.00
e.	Walking/Biking Trail - 2A Subbase (6" Depth)	1420	CY	$50.00	$71,000.00
f.	Basic Engineering Design & Construction Management Services (10%)				$16,527.50
				Total Cost of Project 4	**$181,802.50**

PARK IMPROVEMENT CATEGORIES:

- Recreational Facilities
- Parking & Access





PROJECT CLUSTER 5 - DISC GOLF

This project includes the installation of a full 18-hole disc golf course designed to accommodate players of all skill levels, with a variety of hole lengths and challenges integrated into the park's landscape. The course will be laid out to maximize use of existing open spaces and wooded areas, creating a unique and engaging recreation option. A dedicated parking area will be provided at the start of the course to improve accessibility and convenience for players.

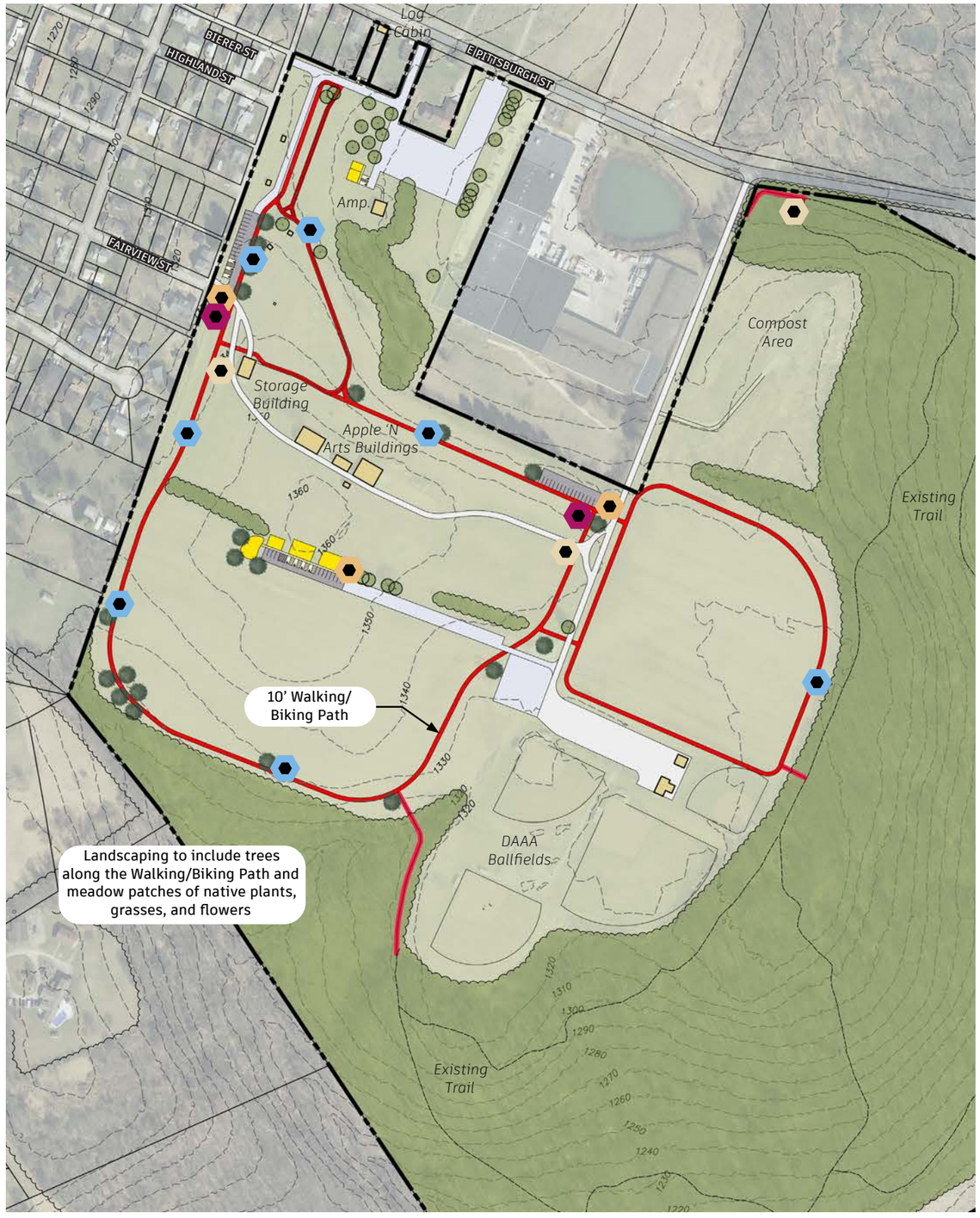
ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COST:

The total cost of this project is estimated to be **$99,275.00**. The following provides an itemized breakdown for the project components.

Item/Description		Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
PROJECT 5					
a.	Bituminous Disc Golf Parking	870	SY	$75.00	$65,250.00
b.	Signage	1	LS	$5,000.00	$5,000.00
c.	18-Hole Disc Golf Course	1	LS	$20,000.00	$20,000.00
d.	Basic Engineering Design & Construction Management Services (10%)				$9,025.00
				Total Cost of Project 5	**$99,275.00**

PARK IMPROVEMENT CATEGORIES:

- Recreational Facilities
- Parking & Access



PROJECT CLUSTER 6 - SITE AMENITIES & LANDSCAPING

This project focuses on enhancing visitor comfort, accessibility, and aesthetics throughout Shields Farm Park. Planned amenities include benches for resting along trails and gathering areas, dog waste receptacles to support responsible pet use, bike repair stations and bike racks to encourage cycling, and landscaping improvements to beautify key entrances and gathering spots. These additions will complement other park improvements, create a more welcoming environment, and encourage year-round use by a wide range of visitors. Shown on the map is suggested locations for these amenities, but utimately these locations can vary in the field.

ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COST:

The total cost of this project is estimated to be **$58,850.00**. The following provides an itemized breakdown for the project components.

Item/Description		Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
PROJECT 6					
a.	Benches	7	EA	$2,000.00	$14,000.00
b.	Dog Waste Receptacles	3	EA	$500.00	$1,500.00
c.	Bike Repair Station	2	EA	$1,000.00	$2,000.00
e.	Bike Racks	3	EA	$2,000.00	$6,000.00
f.	Landscaping	1	LS	$30,000.00	$30,000.00
g.	Basic Engineering Design & Construction Management Services (10%)				$5,350.00
				Total Cost of Project 6	**$58,850.00**

LEGEND

- Dog Waste Receptacles
- Bench
- Bike Rack
- Bike Repair

PHASED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

There are several ways to implement these park improvements. Each project is considered a high priority by the project committee, but priorities can shift, meaning the sequence of projects may vary. These changes may occur for several reasons, including funding sources and limitations.

In the previous pages, projects were grouped into clusters, with some combined due to close proximity and others because of similar functions. In this section, implementation is presented as Early Action Items, and Short-, Mid-, and Long-Term Projects. This approach ensures that projects are completed based on community needs. Note that the timelines shown indicate when projects should be initiated, not necessarily when they will be completed.

- Early Action Items - low-cost improvements that can be completed in-house and/or without limited grant funding.
- Short-term - high-priority improvements to be initiated/completed in 1-2 years.
- Mid-term - high-priority improvements to be initiated/completed in 3-5 years.
- Long-term - high-priority improvements to be initiated/completed in 5+ years.

Timeframe	Description	Category	Cost
Early Action	Entrace Beautificaion	Existing Facility	$10,000.00
Early Action	Dog Waste Receptacles (2)	Existing Facility	$1,000.00
Early Action	Extend Trail at DAAA Ballfields	Existing Facility	$8,000.00
Early Action	18-Hole Disc Golf Course	New Facility	$25,000.00
		Subtotal	**$44,000.00**
Short-term	Finish Nature Trail Extensions & Bituminous Parking (5 Spaces)	Existing Facility	$10,400.00
Short-term	Disc Golf Parking Area	New Facility	$65,250.00
Short-term	(1) Restroom & Holding Tank - Central Park Area - (apply for funding)	New Facility	$220,000.00
Short-term	Central Parking Area - Gravel, Bituminous, ADA parking, & Sidewalk	New Facility	$160,200.00
Short-term	Update Existing 10' Walking Path (Pilgrimage Area)	Existing Facility	$33,425.00
Short-term	Entrance Parking at Fairview Street	New Facility	$75,855.00
Short-term	Signage	New Facility	$1,000.00
		Subtotal	**$566,130.00**
Mid-term	Playground	New Facility	$60,000.00
Mid-term	(2) Central Pavilions & Concrete Slabs	New Facility	$328,275.00
Mid-term	Gravel Bus Parking	New Facility	$10,008.00
		Subtotal	**$398,283.00**
Long-term	Finish 10' Walking & Biking Path	New Facility	$108,450.00
Long-term	Path Amenities & Landscaping	New Facility	$45,000.00
Long-term	Amphitheater & Log Cabin - Parking, Pavilion, Restroom, & Stormwater	New Facility	$562,830.00
Long-term	Signage	New Facility	$1,500.00
		Subtotal	**$717,780.00**
		Total	**$1,726,193.00**

**These cost estimates are rough numbers. 10% of the total cost should be considered for basic engineering design and construction management serices ($173,625.00). Bringing the total cost of all of the projects to approximately $1.9M*

EARLY ACTION ITEMS

Entrance Beautification - This involves improving the visual appeal and sense of arrival at the park's entrances. Enhancements could include landscaping with native plants and flowers, updated signage, and small aesthetic features like stone planters or decorative fencing. These improvements would create a more welcoming atmosphere for visitors and strengthen the park's identity.

Dog Waste Receptacles - Two dog waste receptacles would be installed in the park at locations such as near the trail entrances or high-use open spaces. These receptacles would provide bags and disposal bins to encourage responsible pet use and help maintain the park's cleanliness.

Wooded Trail Extension near the DAAA Ballfields - The wooded trail system near the DAAA ballfields would be extended to connect with the bottom of the large open field. This extension would provide a new scenic route and entrance, create better connectivity between open spaces and wooded areas, and expand recreational opportunities for walkers, runners, and nature enthusiasts.

18-Hole Disc Golf Course - An 18-hole disc golf course would be installed across the park, designed to integrate with both wooded and open areas. The course would appeal to a wide range of ages and skill levels and expand the variety of recreational options offered at Shields Farm. Shortly after the completion of the course, a short-term project should be to complete the parking area at the start and end of the disc golf course.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING & EVENTS

Programming & Events

Shields Farm Park has long been home to beloved community traditions like the Apple 'n Arts Festival and the Christmas Pilgrimage. Building on these strong foundations, there are many opportunities to expand and enhance programming that will draw residents of all ages to the park throughout the year. The following suggested events and programs provide a balanced mix of recreation, culture, wellness, and family-friendly activities. By introducing new offerings and strengthening existing ones, the park can become an even more active, inclusive, and vibrant gathering place for Delmont Borough and the surrounding community.

Community & Cultural Events

- Concerts in the Park (local bands, school groups, or community orchestra)
- Movie Nights (family-friendly films with food trucks)
- Cultural Heritage Festival (highlight local traditions, crafts or food)

Schedule:

- Summer evenings (June–August) for concerts/movies
- Fall weekend (September/October) for cultural events, aligned with Apple 'n Arts

Family & Youth Programs

- Summer Playground Program (structured play, games, and crafts)
- Nature Play Days (guided exploration of trails and wooded areas)
- Storytime in the Park (partnering with the library for young children)

Schedule:

- Weekly programs in summer (June–August)
- Monthly or seasonal family days in spring/fall

Nature & Outdoor Recreation

- Guided Hikes (wildflower walks, birdwatching tours)
- Community Garden or Composting Workshops (expand on current composting activity)
- Disc Golf Tournaments (once course is installed)

Schedule:

- Spring and fall for hikes and workshops
- Summer weekends for disc golf tournaments

Fitness & Wellness

- 5K/10K Races or Fun Runs using the trail network
- Yoga in the Park (open lawn or amphitheater area)
- Fitness Boot Camps (partner with local gyms or trainers)
- Dog Walk Days (charity dog walks, pet adoptions with shelters)

Schedule:

- Spring/Fall for races/walks
- Weekly yoga or fitness classes during summer months

Seasonal & Holiday Traditions

- Expand the Christmas Pilgrimage
- Fall Harvest Festival (small-scale version tied to Apple 'n Arts or separate community day)
- Easter Egg Hunt (partner with local churches or schools)
- Pet Trick or Treat (tie-in with Halloween events)

Schedule:

- Spring (April) for Easter Egg Hunt
- October for Harvest-themed event/pet-friendly Halloween

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS & FUNDING

Implementation Partners

Delmont Borough, as the owner and operator of Shields Farm Park, will play a central role in facilitating and coordinating project implementation. The Borough will rely on the expertise and capacity of the project study committee members, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development, other local organizations, and the EADS planning team to keep projects moving forward through coordinated activities and community engagement. Delmont Borough will take the lead in identifying appropriate grant funding opportunities, managing the preparation and submission of grant applications, and administering funds once awarded.

Partnerships – The recommendations in this Master Plan are intended to be further developed through collaboration with regional, county, and state partners. Key partners may include the Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development, the Westmoreland County Community Foundation, and state agencies such as the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), and the Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

State Funding

The following section identifies potential funding options for the park improvement projects. Specific consideration should be given to the maximum level of funding available from each source. Some sources are best suited as supplemental funding, while others may serve as the primary funding source. Because grant requirements, availability, and funding levels are constantly changing, it is difficult to predict with certainty or define an exact funding path for each project. The following provides guidance on the most applicable sources of state-level grant funding for parks and recreation projects.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) - Community Conservation Partnership Program (DCNR - C2P2)

- C2P2 provides grants to municipalities and nonprofits for planning, land acquisition, and construction of parks, trails, conservation projects, and greenways, with priority given to closing trail gaps and upgrading existing trails.
- Local match requirement: Varies by project. Most projects require 50/50, some have lower requirements.
- Annually - April

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) - Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program (DCNR - PRT)

- The Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program, funded by the FHWA, provides grants to support the construction, renovation, and maintenance of motorized and non-motorized trails, related facilities, equipment, and educational programs.
- Local match requirement: Projects require a 20% match, which can include a combination of cash and/or non-cash values.
- Annually - April

Commonwealth Financing Agency (CFA) - Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (CFA - GTRP)

- The Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP), administered by DCED, provides up to $250,000 for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and repair of trails, greenways, parks, open space, and beautification projects.
- Local match requirement: Projects require 15% cash match.
- Annually - May

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS & FUNDING

Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) - Mutimodal Transportation Fund (CFA - MTF)

- The Multimodal Fund, administered by DCED, provides $100,000–$3,000,000 in grants for projects that develop, rehabilitate, or enhance transportation assets, including streetscapes, lighting, sidewalks, pedestrian safety, connectivity, and transit-oriented development.
- Local match requirement: Projects require 30% cash match
- Annually - Spring

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) - Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program (PennDOT - TASA)

- The Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program (TASA), administered by PennDOT, funds the construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities–including trails, sidewalks, signals, lighting, traffic calming, and ADA-compliant infrastructure–but is limited to construction costs only.
- Local match requirement: Local applicant is responsible for all pre-construction activities including engineering/design services.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) - Multimodal Transportation Fund (PennDOT - MTF)

- The Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF), created under Act 89 of 2013, provides funding for developing, rehabilitating, and enhancing transportation assets, including streetscapes, lighting, sidewalks, pedestrian safety, connectivity, and transit-oriented development.
- Local match requirement: Projects require 30% cash match.
- Annually - Fall

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- CDBG funding provides grants and technical assistance to counties and federally designated municipalities for community development projects, including housing rehabilitation, public services, community facilities, infrastructure improvements, and planning.

It will take the creativity of Delmont Borough to identify and secure grant funding. The Borough will need to carefully interpret grant requirements and, when appropriate, coordinate multiple grant applications and local funding sources to maximize opportunities for Shields Farm Park improvements.

State funding sources also include the Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) program. Funding through this program is available to design and build sidewalks for public use, including projects located on private property. It supports communities seeking to repair private properties, as well as those acquiring right-of-way to construct new sidewalks that create key connections within the pedestrian network.

Funding amounts range from $25,000 to $1 million, and no local matching funds are required. Applications are accepted annually in the fall (September 1 to November 30)

(See more on following page)

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS & FUNDING

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – Special Considerations

Shields Farm Park is already subject to a perpetual deed restriction as a result of prior LWCF funding. This designation makes the site a strong candidate for future LWCF funding opportunities, since the property already meets key eligibility requirements tied to land protection. However, it also means that any future improvements, new structures, or lease agreements must be coordinated with DCNR to ensure compliance with LWCF program requirements. This deed restriction ensures the land will remain outdoor recreation space in perpetuity, aligning with the goals of the program and supporting the long-term vision for the park.

Foundations – There are several local, regional, and corporate foundation funding sources, such as the AARP Livable Communities Challenge, AmericaWalks Community Vision Grants, and, on occasion, support from the American Heart Association. Many additional opportunities can be found at gwpa.org/directory. Community leaders should explore this list to identify appropriate project funders and build relationships with their staff and/or trustees. Additional guidance is available at gwpa.org/grantseeker-resources

Westmoreland County Funding Sources

At the county level, there are a few funding sources that can be explored to support improvements at Shields Farm Park. The Westmoreland County Local Arts Grants, offered through the County Bureau of Parks and Recreation, provide support for cultural events, performances, and projects that integrate arts into community spaces—making them a potential fit for festivals or public art enhancements at the park. Another option is the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County, which funds projects that strengthen community assets, often prioritizing youth, education, and civic engagement. This foundation could be a valuable partner in supporting park projects such as playground upgrades, trail improvements, or community programming that increases public use and access.

Local Funding

Local organizations and groups must be prepared to contribute financially to the future of the park. Local cash contributions and/or in-kind service matches will be needed to complete projects independently or as matching contributions to grant awards. Local funding can also be used to continue implementing elements of larger projects. The following are examples of creative ways to attract local donations and funding.

Sponsorship Programs

Invite local businesses, civic groups, and service clubs to sponsor amenities such as benches, picnic tables, playground equipment, or landscaping. Recognition can be provided with small plaques, signage, or mentions in borough publications.

Adopt-a-Project

Create opportunities for individuals or groups to “adopt” a section of trail, a pavilion, or a landscaped area. Their commitment could include modest financial support or volunteer hours for upkeep and beautification.

Community Events/Festivals

Leverage existing events like the Apple ’n Arts Festival or the Christmas Pilgrimage by incorporating donation booths, raffles, or percentage-of-proceeds partnerships. Hosting new, small-scale fundraisers (e.g., 5K runs, family fun days, or disc golf tournaments) can also raise both awareness and funds.

Donor Recognition/Memorials

Offer naming opportunities for larger projects such as pavilions, playgrounds, or trail segments. Families and community members often support projects when they can dedicate them in honor or memory of loved ones.

Online & Grassroots Campaigns

Use online platforms (e.g., GoFundMe, social media campaigns) to raise small donations that add up, especially for specific visible projects like trail signage or benches. Pair this with direct appeals in local newsletters or through borough utility bills.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS & FUNDING

Municipal Funding

Input received during the planning process indicates that direct, full funding from Delmont Borough for completing improvement projects without the benefit of grants is not likely. However, it is important to note that the Borough could still choose to directly fund certain improvements. Delmont Borough could redirect a portion of available funds toward project construction and/or set aside funds to be used as a local match for grant funding. The Borough could also consider issuing General Obligation Bonds to raise funds for construction. In lieu of direct funding, Delmont Borough can provide in-kind services, such as labor or equipment, to help support project implementation.

Path to Implementation

The information in this recommendations section provides Delmont Borough and the project study committee with guidance to support project implementation efforts. Maintaining flexibility and capitalizing on opportunities will be key to successfully carrying out this master plan. Unforeseen opportunities—such as new grant funding sources, unsolicited donations, or offers of in-kind services—will often influence which projects or project components move forward first.

All of the proposed improvement projects in this master plan will contribute to the betterment of Shields Farm Park, regardless of the order in which they are implemented. This gives Delmont Borough the freedom to advance projects as funds become available and as future conditions require. What can be said with certainty is that this master plan provides a broad mix of improvement projects, recreation programming, and facility connections that reflect the vision of Delmont Borough, the project study committee, and the wider community for how Shields Farm Park should serve residents now and in the years to come.