

AGENDA
PARK AND SHADE TREE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2025 – 1:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order ****the public meeting is being recorded****
2. Public Comment- All public comments shall be related to the subject matter jurisdiction of the Borough Council, Committee, or Board conducting the public meeting, and shall be limited to matters of public concern, official action, or deliberations that are, or may come, before the Borough Council, Committee, or Board.
3. Summer Plans
 - a. Discuss what projects are scheduled for Summer, and what projects have been completed
 - b. Discuss any tree diseases and insect concerns
 - c. Discussion of how Parks Department staff spend their time year round and the limited amount of hours they are actually able to work in the parklands
4. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Bird Nest Box
 - Discuss data obtained from bird nest box management within the Parklands
 - b. Educational
 - c. Outreach
5. Statue Donation
 - a. A resident of the Borough would like to donate a lion statue to the Borough to be placed in the parklands or at a playground. The statue measures 64" wide x 36" deep x 33" high
 - b. The resident would transport the statue to the location of the Borough's choosing
 - A motion is needed to table, approve or deny, recommending Council accept the donated statue to be placed at a location of the Borough's choosing
6. Peace Pole Installation – West Reading – Wyomissing Rotary
 - a. The West Reading – Wyomissing Rotary Club is requesting permission to install a Peace Pole at the Stone House or in the parklands. The pole is 6' tall from grade and will be inscribed with the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in eight languages and Braille. More information may be found at <https://rotarypeacepoles.world/>
 - b. There is no cost to the Borough or staff labor required for installation of the pole. A dedication ceremony will be held and a press release issued once the pole is installed.
 - c. A motion is needed to table, approve or deny recommending Council allow

the West Reading – Wyomissing Rotary Club to install a Peace Pole at the Stone House or in the parklands

7. Forester Plan

- a. Jacob Schultz, Forester, has provided a proposal to create a forest management plan at a cost of \$3,000. The plan will be used to go after larger pots of grant money for implementation of the plan recommendations
- b. Grant funding to cover the \$3,000 cost may become available through the Berks County Conservation District in the Fall of 2025
- c. Alternatively, the plan could be paid for using a portion of the \$20,000 we budgeted for implementation of the forest stewardship plan this year
- d. A motion is needed to table, approve or deny, recommending Council approve the proposal provided by Shultz Forest Management & Consulting Services, LLC, at a cost of \$3,000

8. Playground Use Dusk to Dawn

- a. Ordinance #1451-2025 amending the rules and regulations for use of the parklands, including playground areas, was adopted by Council in January 2025
- b. The amended ordinance language unintentionally removed the restriction of the use of playground areas between dusk and dawn
- c. A motion is needed to table, approve or deny, recommending Council authorize advertisement and adoption of Ordinance #1454-2025, to restrict use of playground areas from dusk to dawn

9. Berks Rocks Installation in the Parklands

- a. Berks Rocks has been given permission to set up a painted rock snake in the parklands by the Enchanted Pines

10. Implementation of the Parklands Forest Stewardship Study

- a. \$20,000 was included in the 2025 budget for removal of invasives and to install temporary signs to educate the public on improvements being made.
- b. A grant application has been submitted through the West Reading-Wyomissing Rotary Club, requesting funding of up to \$10,000. This funding would also be used for the removal of invasives and educational signage, in addition to the installation of riparian buffers along the Wyomissing Creek. Grant awards will be announced in July 2025
- c. The Berks County Planning Commission is providing funding of \$10,000 for the removal of invasives, installation of riparian buffer areas and educational signage.
- d. The application submitted through the Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant program requesting \$8,000 in funding for parklands signage has been approved
- e. Trail Names – At the March meeting, the Commission decided on using the names of native plants as trail names.

- f. Bimbo Bakery has indicated they want to donate \$6,000 towards upkeep of the parklands. The donation can be used as matching funds towards several grants being used towards implementation of the parklands study.
- g. Discuss Larry Lloyd working as an independent contractor for implementation of the study recommendations

11. November 2025 Meeting Date

- a. Discuss moving the November meeting date up one week to Wednesday, November 19, 2025, due to the regular meeting date falling the day before Thanksgiving
- b. A motion is needed to table, approve or deny, recommending the meeting date be moved to November 19, 2025 and advertised accordingly

12. Next Meeting – September 24, 2025 – 1:00 PM