



BOROUGH OF STATE COLLEGE

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Borough Addresses Concerns about Proposed Action Sports Park

An action sports park proposed for Orchard Park, which would provide amenities for bicycle and skateboard enthusiasts has not been approved by Borough Council. Additionally, no funding has been secured for the project to move forward with the planning or construction of the project, nor has any preliminary design work been authorized or completed for a project.

The proposal for an action sports park was first documented in the 2015-2019 and 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Plans as a potential use of funds for Park Land Acquisition/Improvements. The project is also listed as a potential project in the draft 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The Capital Improvement Plan is a short-range plan that identifies potential capital projects, provides a tentative planning schedule and helps the municipality identify potential financing opportunities. Although the CIP is adopted by Borough Council each year, capital improvements are not approved by Council until adoption of the annual budget.

Council has not approved the actions sports park project, nor has Council selected a location or accepted funds to construct the project. In previous conversations with members of the bicycle and skate communities in 2013 and 2014, conceptual drawings were created to illustrate the elements and amenities an action sports park could include, but do not constitute a specific plan. The conceptual drawing was prepared by Jamie Bestwick and was not site specific. Community members have offered to help raise funds and apply for grants for a potential project, but at this time no funds have been provided or offered to the Borough. The Borough will not lose any money if the project is not pursued.

No park location has been decided upon by the Borough. Potential locations for an action sports park would be determined by a number of factors including proximity to schools and potential users, bike path accessibility and visibility and accessibility from the road. Orchard Park is one park that meets these criteria. The Borough has no plans for removing any amenities in Orchard Park – basketball courts, tennis courts, playgrounds, fruit trees, etc.

Anyone interested in submitting comments regarding an action sports park should submit their comments or concerns to Council by emailing them at councilmembers@statecollegepa.us. Council will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on August 1, 2016 to receive public comment on the proposed 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Plan.

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