

WORCESTER



TOWNSHIP

At the Center Point

of Montgomery County

2022 Budget Adopted No New Taxes, No Tax Increases

The 2022 Budget, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 15, includes no new taxes and no tax increases, and maintains the higher-quality services and programs our community enjoys today.

The current Township real estate tax, at 0.05 mills, is the lowest municipal millage rate in Montgomery County. This means that the owner of a property in Worcester Township that is assessed at \$300,000 (about a \$670,000 sales price) pays \$15 in property tax to the Township.

The Budget funds more than \$900,000 in road improvements (to keep roads safe), provides a 5% increase to the Township's contribution to the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department (our community's all-volunteer emergency service provider) and replaces important Public Works equipment (that have reached the end of its useful life).

The Budget provides a half percent (0.5%) increase in residential and commercial sewer rates in 2022. For residential customers the sewer rate will increase by about \$0.22 per month.

The 2022 Budget document includes easy-to-understand narratives, useful graphics and other helpful information so residents can better understand how their tax dollars are collected and spent. Check it out at worcestertwp.com!

WORCESTER TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PROGRAM *300 by 300!*

The Board of Supervisors has launched an Open Space Program that aims to permanently preserve at least 300 acres of land

by 2033, the Township's 300th anniversary. When achieved more than 20% the Township's total land area will be preserved forever... that's one in every five acres!

The Board of Supervisors also created a program that matches private donations made to open space preservation efforts. The Township will match every dollar contributed, up to \$300,000 per year, with all funds held in a special account dedicated for open space preservation.

Open space has always been a top priority for Worcester Township. To date about 1,825 acres have been preserved throughout our community. In addition, more than 1,000 acres are presently enrolled in the Worcester Township Agricultural Security Area (ASA). The owners of farms and other lands enrolled in the ASA are provided with incentives to keep the property open and to maintain active agricultural uses. But enrollment in the ASA is voluntary (by State Law), and an owner can remove land from the ASA, and develop the property, at any time.

Complete information about the Worcester Township Open Space Program will be mailed to all residents later this spring. Until then, should you have questions about the program please contact Stacy Crandell, Assistant Township Manager, by phone at (610) 584-1410, or by e-mail at scrandell@worcestertwp.com. 📧



2022 Sewer Fees

Residential and commercial sewer fees for properties connected to the Worcester Township sanitary sewer system will increase by one-half percent in 2022. For residential customers the fee will increase by about \$0.22 per month, to \$134.04 from \$133.37 per quarter. The new rate will be reflected in sewer bills to be mailed on April 1, for service provided in January, February and March.

Ask Mary Ann

When the telephone rings at the Township Building, and the resident on the line asks a question, Receptionist extraordinaire Mary Ann always has the answer. Here's one of questions that Mary Ann often fields, and her answer...

RESIDENT: "For field, pavilion and gazebo rentals, are the bathrooms accessible?"

MARY ANN: "For the convenience of our Park visitors, the bathrooms are available from dawn to dusk."

Branch Drop-Off Location - Nike Park!

The branch drop-off at Nike Park, 1575 Trooper Road, just south of Potshop Road, will be open two days a week Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 10am to 2pm from March-October. The location will be open on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm (except when there is holiday, the drop-off will be Wednesday) from November-February.

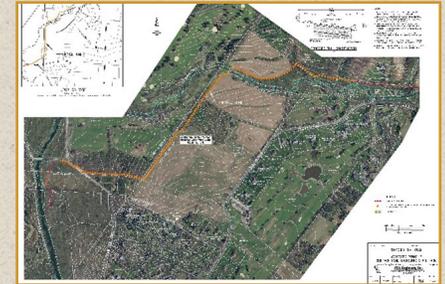
The Township chips tree branches and makes the mulch available to Township residents at no cost. The mulch and other materials are available for pick-up at the compost bins that are located near the Public Works Building 24/7 and at our new branch drop-off location during hours of operation. Please note the mulch must be self-loaded.

For more information and the most up to date schedule, please visit worcestertwp.com/departments/public-works/branch-drop-off-site/.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS COMING SOON!

Things are happening in Worcester Township! The Township is working hard to provide some much-needed improvements to the community. All of these enhancements were made possible with grant funding that was received! See what is coming soon and some plans/renderings to illustrate these improvements to the community!

Zacharias Trail Extension (Joint partnership with Skippack Township funded in part by DCNR Non-Motorized Trails Grant)–Design and Survey Work should be completed by the end of 2022 and construction is slated to begin in 2023. As was noted in the previous newsletter, the trail route has changed slightly to avoid the PECO powerlines. The plan here shows the updated trail route and is available to view on our website under the News tab.



Defford Park Improvements (Funded in part by PECO Green Region Program)–The Township has added a buffer of trees and shrubs along the existing trail near Valley Forge Road. The Township will also add a picnic area near the clearing along the trail and the creek. Improvements should be completed in Spring/Summer 2022.



Mt. Kirk Park Improvement Project (Funded in part by a Montgomery County 2040 Grant)–The Township will be installing a pavilion with a restroom and drinking fountain. The parking lot and trail will be paved and the fencing and guardrails will be replaced. Tables and benches along with landscaping will be added as well. Construction is slated to begin in Spring 2022 and should be completed by late Summer/Fall 2022.



Community Classroom in the Park (Funded in part by the DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program)–The Community Classroom in the Park will be located in the Township Complex area right outside of the Township Building near the basketball courts, where currently there is a sand mound. This 40x50 modular building will be approximately 2,000 square feet and will offer an area to hold different recreation programs and special events for all ages. Site work is tentatively scheduled to be completed in 2022 with the modular building on-site by 2023.



“WHO GETS THE PROPERTY TAXES THAT I PAY?”

It's a question we often receive at the Township Building, because the collection of real estate taxes can be a little confusing. So here's the skinny...

A real estate tax bill includes three separate taxes... the property tax that's levied by the county, the property tax that's levied by the school district, and the property tax that's levied by the municipality. Each entity has a different tax rate, so each entity receives a different percent of the total taxes paid..

So who gets the property taxes that are paid by property owners in Worcester Township?

88.7% goes to the **Methacton School District.** School districts usually have the highest tax rate.

11.2% goes to **Montgomery County.** This includes the County's community college tax.

0.1% is collected by **Worcester Township.** Yes, our property tax rate is really that low! 🙄

WHEN DO I NEED A PERMIT?

Worcester Township helps preserve and improve the quality of life for residents and businesses within the community through the enforcement of the codes and ordinances of the Township. One of the ways the Township makes sure codes and ordinances are being followed is through the use of building permits.



When do you need a permit? The Township requires a building for any addition, alteration, demolition, replacement or new construction prior to the start of any work. Below is a list of some common projects that require a permit:

- New construction
- Additions & interior renovations
- Electric & plumbing improvements
- HVAC & hot water heater installations
- Decks, patios & walkways
- Fences
- Gas fireplaces
- Swimming pools & hot tubs
- Sheds
- Detached garages
- Whole-house generators
- Grading (over 500 square feet)

After the building permit is issued and work begins, the Township will inspect the improvements to ensure the work done meets the approved plans. The required inspections will be listed on the permit.

To schedule inspections, please contact the Township at (610) 584-1410 at least 48 hours in advance. Inspections are scheduled on first-come, first-served basis. Please have the property address or permit number, inspection type, and contact name and phone number readily available when scheduling.

For permit applications, please visit www.worcestertwp.com. For more information about the permitting process contact Stephanie MacInnes, Codes Clerk, (610) 584-1410, or by e-mail at smacinn@worcestertwp.com. 🙄

2022 Road Improvement Program

Worcester Township will continue implementation of its annual road improvement program in 2022. This program is designed to maximize the useful life of infrastructure through an aggressive maintenance plan and appropriately-scheduled capital improvements. The program, which includes a maintenance plan and a capital plan, allows the Township to maintain more than fifty-five miles of roads in good condition.

The maintenance plan includes pothole repair, street sweeping, roadside brush trimming, roadside swale maintenance and patch milling.

The capital plan includes the replacement and installation of culverts and stormwater pipes, and the resurfacing and reconstruction of roads. On average, the Township resurfaces and/or reconstructs between three and five miles of roadways each year.

The number of roads treated depends on many factors, including the extent of repairs needed, the cost of materials, and the damage done during the winter months. As such, road projects are often subject to change.

At this time projects proposed in 2022 include the repaving of:

- East Adair Drive
- West Adair Drive
- Methacton Avenue
- Plumlyn Avenue
- Markley Avenue
- Slough Road
- Reichenbach Road
- Shefley Lane
- Hollis Road
- Doe Brook Road
- A portion of Heebner Park/walking trail

When the list of roads to be resurfaced is confirmed this information will be posted to the Township website. Motorists using the above-noted roads may experience delays during construction. We thank you for your understanding and patience as we work to improve our community's roadways.

Subdivision & Land Development Update

The following projects are now under review:

- **Huganir** – An eight-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Artmar Road.
- **Palmer** – Seven commercial lots and one residential parcel at Skippack Pike & Valley Forge Road.
- **Palmer Village** – An eleven-lot single-family detached home subdivision, with a bank, convenience store, and pharmacy, at Skippack Pike & Valley Forge Road.

The following subdivision and land development projects are among those receiving approval in the recent years, and construction has not yet begun:

- **Bethel Development Associates** – A two-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Skippack Pike.
- **Gunsalas Tract** – A three-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Mill Road.
- **Meadowood** – A 4,200 sf addition for administrative offices and resident amenities at an existing retirement community at Skippack Pike.
- **Sparango Construction** – An eight-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Berks Road.
- **Stony Creek Village** – Office, retail, and restaurant buildings at North Wales Road & Township Line Road.

The following approved subdivision and land development projects are now under construction:

- **Meadowood** – A 20-bed memory care facility at an existing retirement community at Skippack Pike.
- **Reserve at Center Square** – A residential subdivision at Skippack Pike that includes 125 townhomes and 125 single-family detached homes.
- **Whitehall Estates** – A 39 single-family detached home subdivision at Whitehall Road.

RECYCLING LEAF & YARD REGULATIONS

Last year, the Worcester Township Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 2021-286, which enacted recycling requirements, specifically leaf and yard waste, in order to make sure the Township is compliant with recycling requirements as mandated by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for municipalities with populations over 10,000.

You should have received notification from your trash hauler that there will be monthly curbside collection of leaf and yard waste. The leaf waste will have to be bagged in biodegradable bags in order to be picked up. Some haulers may accept branches and other yard waste items. The Township has placed the information received from each of the trash haulers that service our community and the schedules for the monthly curbside collection on our website.

There are many reasons for the implementation of this regulation:

- **Good for the Environment!** – The leaf and yard waste collected by each of the haulers will be recycled at a DEP-permitted facility. These facilities will recycle the materials instead of the leaf and yard waste ending up in a landfill.
- **Grant Money!** – The Township will now be eligible for grant money by implementing and enforcing these requirements and will be eligible to apply for other grant opportunities.
- **Convenience!** – This will allow another convenient way for residents to dispose of leaf and yard waste without having to load it up in your vehicle and driving it to a separate location for disposal.



For more information on the recycling requirements and information for each of the haulers that service our community, please visit our Recycling page on our website at worcestertwp.com. 🗑️

HOME COOKIN' AT MEADOWOOD

By Meadowood Resident and Amateur Chef /Slow Cooker, Joyce Hutton

The original recipe is attributed to a resident of Ripley, Mississippi, who, back in 1990, adapted a family recipe and just called it “Roast Beef” when she shared it with a friend. That woman included it in her church’s cookbook and titled it “Mississippi Pot Roast.” According to a national newspaper, it became “the roast that owns the internet.” I read about it and first served it to guests in October 2018. Since then, the recipe has “gone viral” here at Meadowood; and at a staff potluck party, it was such a hit that it was renamed “Bangin’ Beef.” 🗑️



The photograph shows all five of the ingredients (the beef is in the slow cooker).

SPRING YARD CARE TIPS FOR WATER QUALITY

Here are some tips from the Penn State Extension to consider when thinking about spring projects that can enhance water quality and manage stormwater.



Cleanup – Collect and properly dispose any stray trash winter winds may have left behind. Mulch or compost fallen leaves and garden cuttings you missed in the fall so they don't get washed away during a spring storm and end up in a stream or lake where they can lower oxygen levels.

Patch Grass – Inspect for bare spots in your lawn and landscape beds, especially if they are located on a hillside. A thick lawn produces less runoff than a thin lawn with exposed soil. Reseed grass in mid-spring, when the threat of hard frost is past but it's still too early for most weeds to grow. Add a layer of mulch to bare planting beds anytime, and consider planting them permanently with native meadow plants or groundcover before summer heat arrives.

Mulch Clippings – Grass clippings are a free source of nitrogen fertilizer, so let them decompose into your lawn.

Mow Sharp and High – A sharp mower blade cuts grass cleanly which improves turf health and promotes denser growth. Setting the mower deck high, 2 ½ inches or more, helps lawn grass shade-out weeds and survive dry spells reducing the need for weed control and irrigation.

Sweep Away Clippings and Fertilizer – Use a leaf blower or a broom to push stray grass clippings and fertilizer granules off sidewalks and driveways onto your lawn where they can do some good. Otherwise, they turn into runoff pollution when they wash into storm sewers, ditches, and streams.

Plant Trees and Shrubs – Spring is a good time to plant native trees and shrubs which provide important water quality benefits. They reduce stormwater when their leaves intercept rainfall, increase infiltration when their roots penetrate the soil, and filter pollutants in the rich leaf litter that gradually develops beneath their canopy. If you plant them along the edges of your lawn, they also gradually shrink the total area you need to mow!

Aerate Turf – Grass does best, and traps more stormwater, when it grows in loose soils. Surprisingly, many home lawn soils are just the opposite. They're often compacted from years of heavy use including outdoor parties, riding mowers, small tractors, and even parked cars. If your grass struggles despite proper fertilization and watering, compaction may be the problem. Core aeration is a process that removes finger sized soil plugs from the top layer of a lawn so air and rain water can support better root growth. Most yard care companies offer core aeration as a service and many garden centers rent the equipment for ambitious DIY's.

Go Big – Is this your year to install a major water quality practice on your yard? Possibilities include replacing turf with native meadow plants; protecting a stream or drainage swale with native trees and shrubs; capturing the discharge from your downspouts in a rain garden, or rain barrel; or redirecting any downspouts that currently spill onto sidewalks or a driveway into your lawn or planting beds so the stormwater soaks into the ground instead of running off. Finishing these projects in the spring means you get to watch them provide water quality benefits before winter returns. 🐾

Worcester Historical Society News

The Worcester Historical Society, in partnership with the Montgomery County Registrar of Deeds, presents "Worcester Land Deeds & Your House History" on Sunday, March 27 from 2-4 pm at the Farmers Union Hall and Museum. The presentation will focus on early deeds in Worcester and their interpretation. This will be followed by a "Deed History" of ten properties selected from the Worcester Historic Properties Survey. All are invited and come prepared with your questions!

Annual Antique Fair and Flea Market to be held on May 7 from 8 am to 2 pm at the Worcester Township Community Hall in Fairview Village. If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please check their website www.worcesterhistorical.org for further details.

Days Gone By

The beginning of Worcester Township as a political and geographic entity was in 1733 when a group of twenty-two landowners petitioned the court to form the Township. Prior to 1733, the area was identified as New Bristol Township. The founders of Worcester Township were English, German, Welsh, and Dutch. *Source: A History of Worcester Township.*

Leashes Required in Township Parks



Pennsylvania law requires dog owners to control their animals at all times. When a dog is safely confined to its owner's property, leashing isn't needed. But when the dog is on another's property a leash is the best way to control the dog... and in Worcester parks and on Worcester trails the use of a leash is required at all times. Thank you for considering your neighbors' safety!

Enjoy Our Parks But Please Keep Them Clean!

As we move into Spring and Summer, we encourage everyone to get out and enjoy our beautiful parks and facilities! The Public Works Department works very hard to keep our facilities maintained but we need everyone to do their part! Please keep our parks, sports facilities (sport fields, basketball courts, and tennis courts) and walking trails clean by throwing your trash in the trash receptacles that are located throughout the parks and trails.



Farmer's Union Horse Company

The Farmer's Union Horse Company has been a local organization here in Worcester for over 185 years! Most people know them from visiting or participating in their annual June Horse Show that has taken place for over 80 years. This year, they will be hosting three horse shows: a jumper show on April 24, their annual show on June 4, and their fun show in October, all at Heyser Field in Fairview Village. If you are a local horse owner, horse enthusiast, or history buff, they would love for you to join them! You can find out more by visiting: farmersunionhorsecompany.org.

DECLUTTERING, SPRING CLEANING & RECYCLING TIPS

Spring is here! It is a great time to declutter, reduce, recycle and get some spring cleaning done.

- **Reduce:** Go room-by-room, drawer-by-drawer, closet-by-closet and group the items that you haven't used in a while. Chances are if you cannot remember the last time you used it, or you forgot that you had it, it is time to pass it on.
- **Reuse:** Avoid the "throw it away" mentality and think about how the item can be re-used. Can old furniture be re-finished or re-upholstered? Are there creative uses for the item that you haven't thought of?
- **Recycle:** Check out our Recycling page on our website, www.worcestertwp.com that has links on how to recycle different items.
- **Donate or Sell:** If you have items that you don't need or want, consider donating your items to Goodwill or a local clothing drive. If you think the item has value, try selling it at a garage sale or on an online site.



Reminder, all Montgomery County Residents are able to schedule curbside pickups for electronics and clothing. retrievr collects clothing at no cost, and charges a modest fee for the collection of certain electronics.

And scheduling a pick-up couldn't be easier. Simply...

- text PICKUP to 757-70-FETCH, or
- visit retrievr.com and click the "schedule" button.



Visit retrievr.com for the complete list of accepted items, fees, and additional program information. 🐾

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS HOURS LOGGED

In 2021, the men and women of the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department logged **6,696 hours** conducting drills and responding to calls for help. If these volunteers were paid firefighters, the estimated cost to Worcester taxpayers for the same number of service hours would total about **\$723,000**.

If the Township were to employ a full-time paid fire department this cost would top \$2 million per year, or about \$180 for each person now living in Worcester!

Our volunteer firefighters may not be paid, but maintaining a dependable volunteer fire department isn't free. The Worcester Volunteer Fire Department is always looking for individuals who can help protect our community. If you don't have the time to volunteer, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to those who are willing to put themselves in harm's way to keep our families safe.

Send your contribution to: Worcester Volunteer Fire Department, 1725 Valley Forge Road Post Office Box 1, Worcester, PA 19490 🐾

Election Day Plant & Bake Sale

Tuesday, May 17th
9am to 2pm

Variety - the Children's Charity
2950 Potshop Road
Worcester, PA

FOR SALE:

Annuals and Perennials
Homemade Baked Goods

Seeking Community Business Partners

We are always looking for community business partners to volunteer, welcome an intern or hire a VarietyWorks participant. If interested, email programs@varietyphila.org



HOW MUCH CANDY IN THE FISHBOWL?

There is a fish bowl in the lobby of the Worcester Township Building. And in this fish bowl there is candy... lollipops and hard candies to be exact. And lots of them.

How many lollipops and hard candies are in the fish bowl is your guess, and if your guess is the closest to the actual number you'll win the candy, and sweet bragging rights. Submit your guess at the Township Building, before 4:00 pm on April 30th. One guess per person please. The winner will be announced in our next newsletter.

And congratulations to Sheila Stith who was closest guess of 89 to actual number of twizzlers (103) in the fishbowl in our last contest. Sheila, don't forget to share! The candy is kindly contributed by the employees of Worcester Township, who are not eligible to submit a guess. 🍬



Tennis Anyone?

The always-popular PSCTA youth tennis program returns in 2022! Children ages 10 & under can learn the sport and develop skills with the help of professional coaches from the PennSuburban Community Tennis Association.



Here are the sessions that will be offered this year...

Spring Session 1: Wednesdays, April 20 to May 18 (make-up date: May 25th)

Spring Session 2: Wednesdays, June 8 to July 6 (make-up July 13th)

Summer Session: Wednesdays, July 27 to August 24 (make-up date August 31st)

Fall Session: Wednesdays, September 14 to October 12 (make-up date October 19th)

All sessions take place at the Heebner Park tennis courts. Children ages 5 to 8 will play from 5:15 to 6:00pm, and children ages 9 and 10 will take to the courts from 6:00 to 7:00pm. \$60 for residents, \$65 for non-residents.

Want to give it a try before signing-up? Join us for a free Play Date on Sunday, April 10 from 11am to noon!

To register complete and submit a Recreation Activity Form, available at worcestertwp.com.

Questions? Contact Mary Ann at (610) 584-1410, or by e-mail at mmurray@worcestertwp.com.



At the Center Point

of Montgomery County

1721 VALLEY FORGE ROAD
P.O. BOX 767
WORCESTER, PA 19490

HOURS: 7:00 AM-4:30 PM
PHONE: (610) 584-1410
FAX: (610) 584-8901
WORCESTERTWP.COM

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Richard DeLello, Chair
Lou Betz, Vice Chair
Stephen Quigley, Member

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Get Connected and Stay Informed!

There are many ways to get connected and stay informed about the happenings around Worcester Township!



Our website, worcestertwp.com, provides the most up-to-date information on public meetings, proposed land developments, community events, road projects, and much more! Check out Top Topics (*at the top of home page*) for in-depth information on key projects throughout the Township.

Our award-winning newsletter (you are reading now!) is mailed to every household in the Township four times a year.

Connect with us on social media! Instant information about breaking news and events, timely tips, and much more!

Facebook – @Worcestertownship

Twitter – @WorcesterTwp

Instagram – @worcestertwppa

For weekly updates sent directly to your inbox, sign-up for the Peek at the Week! To enroll simply click the link at the top of our home page.

If you have any questions about Township communications please contact Stacy Crandell at (610) 584-1410, or by e-mail at scrandell@worcestertwp.com.

Boy Scout Troop 133 Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 9th at 10 am
Rain Date: Sunday, April 10th at 1pm



Boy Scout Troop 133 will hold its Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Heebner Park. Making a very special appearance this year will be the Easter Bunny, so grab a big basket and hop on down to Heebner Park! The event is free and open to children of all ages.

Save The Date for these Events!

All of these events will be free and take place at Heebner Park.

- **July 16th**
Movie in the Park
- **August 13th**
Movie in the Park
- **September 10th**
Pony Rides/Petting Zoo
(rain date: September 11th)
- **October 8th**
Bounce Out Hunger
(rain date: October 9th)

