Susquehanna TOWNSHIP



Neighborhood Park Programs

Why Pickleball, Dog Parks, and Splash Pads are Not Included.

Clarifying Park Design Choices

In the context of park planning and design, the Neighborhood Park Program refers to the types of facilities and physical features that are included in neighborhood parks and not recreation programs, events, or activities offered by the Township.
The Neighborhood Park Program aims to provide accessible, welcoming, and practical everyday recreation spaces for all residents. When planning and designing our neighborhood parks, the focus has been on creating areas that best serve the greatest number of people within a short walking distance from home. This approach is rooted in guidance from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and national best practices, ensuring parks are family-friendly, encourage informal play, and foster social connections.

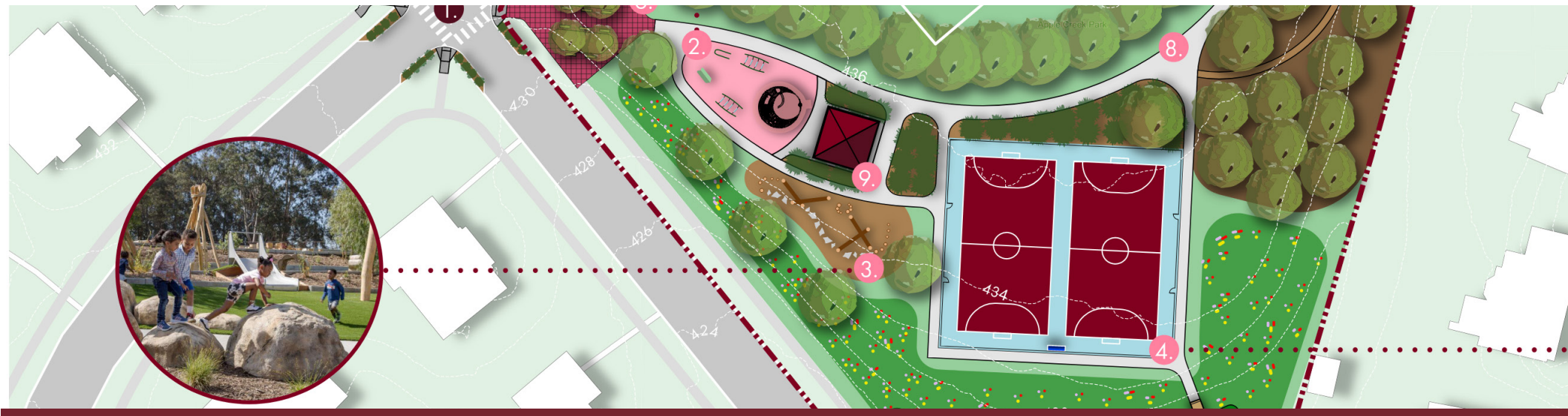
What Neighborhood Parks Are Designed to Include

Neighborhood parks are small (1–10 acres) and focus on unstructured, drop-in activities. As a result, they feature:

1. Playgrounds For All Ages
2. Accessible Play Elements
3. Walking Paths
4. Benches, Seating, and Gathering Areas

These features fit comfortably in the residential settings, support daily use by people of all abilities, and encourage social interaction fostering a strong sense of community.

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Why Certain Facilities Are Not Part of the Neighborhood Park

Specialized facilities such as pickleball courts, dog parks, and splash pads are not well-suited to the neighborhood settings and are more appropriate for larger community parks. They were excluded due to:

- Limited space, which favors flexible, multi-use features over large, single-purpose facilities.
- A priority on informal, open recreation rather than dedicated uses for smaller groups.
- Potential noise and traffic concerns with high-use or noisy activities.
- Higher maintenance and infrastructure needs that don't suit neighborhood park size or purpose.

By focusing on core, versatile amenities, the Neighborhood Park Program ensures these spaces remain welcoming, relaxing, and accessible to everyone in the community. Larger, specialized facilities may be considered at citywide or regional parks, where space and resources can better accommodate them.

Looking Forward

The Township remains committed to creating a balanced park system that supports daily life, encourages neighbors to connect, and offers simple, high-quality recreation close to home while also planning for specialized recreation opportunities in other locations and community parks designed to support them.