



City of Lewisburg Comprehensive Plan Update

Final Draft: September 2015

Chapter 3: Recreation



City of Lewisburg Comprehensive Plan

Recreation Facilities

State Facilities

Greenbrier State Forest

Greenbrier State Forest is approximately 14 miles from the City of Lewisburg. The state forest consists of over 5,000 acres of mountainous terrain that is known for hiking and mountain biking, as well as disc golf. Cabins and a campground are also available for those wishing to stay overnight. A swimming pool is open in the summer.

County Facilities

Andrew Lewis Park

The Andrew Lewis Park is located along US 219 and includes Lewisburg's original spring. The park also consists of parking for visitors.



Municipal Facilities

The Board of Park Commissioners (BPC) is in charge of improving, developing, operating, and maintaining the municipal park system. The Board consists of five citizens who are appointed by the Mayor and approved by Council.

Hollowell Park

Hollowell Park is located on Greenbrier Road near the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. A paved walking path is located around the perimeter of the park. Other recreational facilities at the park include:

- Three fields with lights
- Bleachers
- Football field
- Two playgrounds
- Swingset
- Skate park
- Pavilion with electric





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Dorie Miller Park

Dorie Miller Park is located on County Route 32. Recreational facilities at this park include:

- Two basketball courts
- Volleyball court
- Three playgrounds
- Picnic tables
- Ballfield with lights
- Three swingsets
- Slides
- Two pavilions



Center Green

In the heart of the downtown is the Center Green, which is a small park with a play water fountain, trees, benches, flowers, and limestone boulders. The park serves as a gathering place for residents. During special events, performances are often located in the park. Public restrooms are also located in the park.

Caldwell Boat Launch

Lewisburg received a grant in 1996 to construct a trailhead and picnic area at the Greenbrier River off of US Route 60, outside of city limits. In 1997 the boat launch was upgraded. The city owns and maintains the boat launch.





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Private Facilities

The Greenbrier

The Greenbrier offers many recreational activities for visitors. Activities include:

- Adventure zone
- Alpine Tower adventure
- Bowling
- Croquet
- Golf
- Fitness Center
- Gun club
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Ice skating
- Swimming pool
- Tennis
- Mountain biking
- Off road driving
- Paintball

Greenbrier Bowling and Recreation Center

The Greenbrier Bowling and Recreation Center is located on North Jefferson Street in Lewisburg. The center consists of a bowling alley, arcade, and restaurant. The center is available for birthday parties, league play, and special events.

Lewisburg Elk's County Club

The Country Club is located in Lewisburg on US Route 219 less than one mile from I-64. The Country Club consists of 18 holes of golf, lodge, clubhouse, pool and dining room. The golf course, pool, and dining room are open to the public.



Lost World Caverns

Lost World Caverns is located on Fairview Road in Lewisburg. The caverns are 120 feet underground. A 45 minute self-guided tour of the cavern is available, as well as a four hour guided tour. A dinosaur museum, picnic facilities, gift shop and event space are also available.

Montwell Park

Montwell Park is located on the old Fort Savannah property along US 219 in Lewisburg. The park is in the planning and construction stages but will consist of space for farmers' market vendors, pavilion, common green space, walking



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paths, gardens, and a small water feature.

Recreational Programs

Baseball and softball opportunities are provided by the Central Greenbrier Little League. The little league offers teams for major baseball, minor baseball, coach pitch baseball, minor softball, coach pitch softball, senior league, and t-ball. Games are played in locations throughout Greenbrier County. Games in Lewisburg are played at Hollowell Park.

Youth football is provided by the Lewisburg Steelers. The team offers the following opportunities:

- Flag football– Ages 4-5
- Peanut/Pee Wee football– Ages 6-7
- Junior football– Ages 8-9
- Varsity football– Ages 10-11

The Lewisburg Steelers also consist of cheerleaders for each football team.

There is also a youth basketball league and soccer league. The Northern Greenbrier Youth Soccer league plays at a field at the State Fair, Dorie Miller Park, and Hollowell Park.

Trails

Greenbrier River Trail

The Greenbrier River Trail is located approximately 5 miles from the City. The trail begins in Caldwell and ends near Cass. The total length of the trail is approximately 78 miles. The trail is used for walking, bicycling, hiking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding. The trail is part of the West Virginia State Park system. There are 15 rustic camping areas located along the trail for users to spend the night.

Lewisburg Ronceverte Trail

The Lewisburg and Ronceverte (L&R) Trail begins in Lewisburg with plans to extend the trail approximately six miles to the Town of Ronceverte. The L&R Trail is a paved path for those wishing to walk. Bike riding will be permitted along wider sections.





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Needs Assessment

Lewisburg provides two wonderful parks for its residents and is in close proximity to County and State recreational facilities. However, the availability of recreation was identified by the public as a critical issue in Lewisburg. Of those who completed the online comprehensive plan survey, the majority feel that additional recreational facilities are needed in Lewisburg for both families and senior citizens.

Assets

- Lewisburg Ronceverte Trail
- Greenbrier River Trail
- Greenspace
- Hollowell Park
- Dorie Miller Park
- Country Club
- Greenbrier State Forest

Challenges

- Andrew Lewis Park
- Updated facilities
- More fields

What is your opinion about the recreation provided in Lewisburg?

	Yes	No
There are enough recreational facilities for families	22.6%	77.4%
There are enough programs and facilities for teens and children	16.9%	83.0%
There are enough programs and facilities for senior citizens	42.0%	57.9%
The facilities are adequately maintained	73.3%	26.7%
More park space and facilities are needed	75.6%	24.4%

Table 1: NPRA Standards for facilities

Activity/Facility	NRPA Guideline:	Existing	Need	Surplus/ Deficient
Baseball	5,000	1	1	0
Softball / Little	5,000	3	1	+2
Basketball Courts	15,000	2	0	+2
Football / Soccer	15,000	1	0	+1
Tennis Courts	2,000	0	1	-1
Volleyball Courts	5,000	1	1	0
Swimming Pools	20,000	0	0	0

To better understand the types of facilities that are needed and if the city has sufficient parkland for its population, the National Parks and Recreation Association Standards were examined. According to the standards Lewisburg is only deficient in providing tennis courts. However, many people that live in Eastern Greenbrier County utilize Lewisburg's park system. Taking into account the population of the surrounding areas of Lewisburg, the city most likely does not provide enough recreational facilities to meet the demand of the region. The city would like to provide additional recreational facilities; however



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there is no room for expansion of the existing parks. The only way Lewisburg can provide additional parkland and facilities would be to annex land.

During the planning process it was mentioned that additional softball and soccer fields are needed. This would also help Lewisburg attract regulation tournaments.

Most residents who completed the survey feel that the city is doing a good job maintaining existing facilities, The city has actively been upgrading facilities in recent years. Recent improvements include:

- Purchased 3 scoreboards for Hollowell Park
- Worked with the Boy Scouts from the Bechtel Summit Jamboree to build 500 feet of walking paths and trails behind the library and Dorrie Miller Park. The trail will link the library to Maple Street and the Confederate Cemetery. The other trail will link the community garden and picnic shelter to Dorie Miller Park.
- Re-graded and re-sodded Matthews Football Field at Hollowell Park
- Rebuilt baseball field #1 at Hollowell Park
- Installed new drainage, re-graded and added new sod to outfield at Hollowell Park

Other recreational issues include the lack of a recreation center for residents. Residents would also like a designated dog park within the city limits. Walking and bicycling are a concern as well as there are either no sidewalks or designated bicycle lanes.

The city is also concerned with the underutilization of the Andrew Lewis Park. Currently the park is being used as a parking lot with the county considering the construction of a parking deck and judicial annex. As it is owned by the county, city has no authority to make changes to the park.



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Action Plan

Goal: Expand and improve recreational opportunities and facilities for residents and visitors of Lewisburg

Objective 1:

Explore possibilities for new recreational opportunities

Action Step 1: Investigate the feasibility of obtaining privately owned land

There is no room for the city to expand its current recreational facilities and very little land left within municipal boundaries to develop a new park. Therefore, the city should explore the possibility of obtaining land for recreational purposes.

Action Step 2: Explore annexation as a means to acquire additional recreational land

Annexation would allow the city to develop another park as currently there is no room to expand existing parks or develop new parks in city limits. Lewisburg not only provides recreation to city residents but surrounding county residents as well. New softball and baseball fields are needed to meet the growing demand. There is also the need for a designated dog park.

Objective 2:

Provide recreational opportunities for families

Action Step 1: Consider planning small recreational events monthly for young children and families

Currently the city does not provide any types of recreational programs for children and families. The town should explore holding small recreational events that do not take significant amount of money and time to plan. Examples of smaller events include:

- Family movie nights
- Events in park (crafts, contests, etc)
- Holiday themed events