



Steve Landes

Recreation Planner

Steve Landes is a recreation planner specializing in park, open space, trail, and greenway acquisition, development, and maintenance. He is a people person who loves engaging with the public and is an experienced public meeting facilitator with strong skills in negotiation and conflict management.

As the former parks and recreation director for Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Steve negotiated the purchase and coordinated the design and development of 10 neighborhood parks, two large community parks, and a two-mile rail-trail that spanned the center of the township. The completed trail connects the school campus, three neighborhood parks, the public library, a youth sports facility, homes, and businesses. Working with a parks and recreation board and arts board, he organized and conducted recreation and cultural arts programs and special events for the community. Over the years, Steve garnered millions of dollars in grant funding and received numerous awards for innovation in parks and recreation services for the township.

Steve is well-versed in all aspects of local government management. For 20 years of his 47-year career, he served as a township manager. Steve has significant expertise in parks and recreation operation, maintenance, and development; park and trail project funding, site design, recreation programming, public works, personnel administration, public safety services including police and fire, labor union bargaining, engineering, finance and budgeting, code enforcement, and municipal planning.

Steve led numerous park master plan, trail feasibility, economic development, and comprehensive recreation, park, and open space plan projects while at Muhlenberg Township. As township manager, Steve guided Honey Brook Township, a rural community of 7,600 residents, to complete its first-ever comprehensive recreation, park, and open space plan and revived the township's parks and recreation board.

Education

Bachelor of Science, Parks and Recreation Administration,
Pennsylvania State University

Experience

- Recreation Planner, Recreation and Parks Solutions: 2000 - present
- Township Manager, Honey Brook Township: 2015 - 2022
- Township Manager, Muhlenberg Township: 2002 - 2015
- Parks and Recreation Director, Muhlenberg Township: 1974 - 2002

Professional Affiliations

- Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) Past President, Secretary, State Conference Chair, Branch President, and Finance Committee Member
- DCNR Peer Consultant
- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Council of Affiliate Presidents and Mid-Atlantic Regional Council
- Schuylkill River Greenway Association President
- Schuylkill River Heritage Corridor Feasibility Study and Management Action Plan Committees

Certifications

- NRPA Certified Park and Recreation Professional (retired)
- North Carolina State University/NRPA Maintenance Management School
- Temple University, Certificate in Marketing Recreation Services

Awards

- Penn State Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Management Outstanding Alumni Award
- PRPS Fred M. Coombs Honor Award
- PRPS Distinguished Member Award