

Jim Morrison, Chief Administrator  
Municipality of Murrysville  
4100 Sardis Road  
Murrysville, PA 15668

Murrysville Trail Alliance  
c/o Betsy Aiken  
4106 Hilty Road  
Export, PA 15632



April 24, 2014

Dear Jim,

As you know, you recently asked the Parks & Recreation Commission (P & RC) to review and make a recommendation to the municipal staff about the recreational value of the property located at 2885 School Road South (the site of the old municipal building). In a March 12 email to Jim Boyd of the P & RC, you mentioned that:

“Items to consider among other things are:

- Its value to the Rails to Trails project;
- Overflow parking for Duff Park; and
- The value as open space.”

At its meeting on April 9, the Murrysville Trail Alliance (MTA) also discussed this question, as it relates both to visits to Duff Park and to the prospective Turtle Creek rail trail. The MTA discussed the present insufficiency of the Duff Park parking lot. On many days, including those scheduled for hikes sponsored by the MTA of the Friends of Murrysville Parks, the existing parking lot has been completely full, requiring visitors to turn around and leave without being able to enjoy the park.

Another concern is the future need for parking in Murrysville for the prospective Turtle Creek rail trail. While there are some apparent possibilities for parking in and near Export, there seem to be few possibilities for significant parking along or near Murrysville’s Route 22 commercial corridor. Parking near this corridor will be important to entice people to visit Murrysville and patronize Murrysville shops, restaurants, and other businesses.

Given the present insufficiency of the Duff Park lot and uncertainty about opportunities for future parking along the Route 22 corridor, the group’s consensus was that it would be prudent for Murrysville to defer any consideration of sale of this land until needs and opportunities for future parking are more clearly known.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Aiken  
Chair, Murrysville Trail Alliance