

February 25, 2026



# KANE PARKS COMMISSION

## Kane Parks Commission Annual Report

Year End 2025

The Kane Parks System Management Plan (the Plan) adopted in April 2018 was written to describe the assets of the Kane Park System, review the progress since establishment of the Kane Parks Commission (Aug. 2015) and make recommendations to Kane Borough Council. The Mission Statement of the Kane Parks Commission is to enhance the health and quality of life for residents and visitors to the Kane area by maintaining and enhancing the Kane Borough Park system for a full range of recreational, educational, and cultural experiences.

The full plan may be found on the Kane Borough website at: <https://kanepa.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/ParkManagementPlanApril2018-2.pdf>

The Plan included thirty-seven specific recommendations covering policies, short term project goals and long-term infrastructure issues. These recommendations are listed at the end of this report with Plan page numbers for reference as well as current status toward meeting those recommendations.

The current roster of board members remains unchanged as Tom Hartman whose term was to expire on December 31, 2025 agreed to serve another term expiring December 31, 2030.

Current board members and term expiration dates:

Dan Farnsworth	12/31/2026
Mike London	12/31/2027
Mary Bizzak	12/31/2028
Jack Ball	12/31/2029
Tom Hartman	12/31/2030

### 2025 Annual Meeting

While all KPC meetings are open to the public and comments are welcome, the KPC has held an 'Annual Public Meeting' to receive comments and suggestions from the public regarding maintenance and improvements to the parks system as well as to better inform the public regarding activities and plans for the future.

The 2025 Annual Public Meeting was held at the Kane Borough Building on February 26, 2025. After a review of accomplishments completed during the year 2024, public comment was received from two guests.

Royce Novosel-Johnson gave a presentation on a proposal by the Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau (ANFVB) to install three “Troll” sculptures to be created by artist Thomas Dambo in various locations across McKean County. This proposal is further discussed in the Public Comment section (page 4)

Jack Zelina gave a presentation about the vision for the former depot at the Biddle Street Trailhead. A steering committee had been formed in the fall of 2024 to guide development at the site. (Public Comment, page 4)

### **Kare for Kane:**

Kare for Kane was held on May 9, 2025. Favorable weather and a good turnout of volunteers led to many projects being completed throughout the parks system. Specific projects within the parks system are discussed within this report.

## **2025 Projects**

### **Evergreen Park:**

#### **Milton Craven Disc Golf Course:**

Wood chips were placed at the Tees and goal baskets during Kare for Kane. 3 hazardous wooden footbridges were removed from the Drainage ditch below T#8.

#### **Evergreen Enchanted Playland:**

Minor repairs were performed by volunteers at Kare for Kane. General cleanup, sweeping and raking of leaves around the playground and in the ditch uphill from the playground was completed.

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, approximately 40 youth and adult volunteers from the Highlander Christian Camp assisted in the ongoing re-staining of the Evergreen Enchanted Playland. Volunteer partnerships are a valuable resource for maintenance of Parks facilities. Long-term maintenance of the playground continues to be a topic of discussion with recommendations to form a citizens group to help with routine maintenance. Further recommendations include studying the eventual replacement of the playground structure.

The Highlander group also performed landscaping work where several small trees and brush had been removed near the north-east corner of the basketball court, spreading topsoil and planting grass. Parks Commission members Tom Hartman and Mike London supervised the volunteers.

#### **Gazebo:**

As part of the Kare for Kane projects, the Art in the Wilds group performed general grounds maintenance, raking leaves, and picking up sticks in the display area occupied by their annual Art in the Wilds show. They mulched and tended the plantings at the gazebo. They spread topsoil and planted grass, covering exposed tree roots to enhance safety for attendees at the annual show. They applied top dressing and seeded areas where grass was thin. The boxwood shrubs at the gazebo were trimmed before the Art in the Wilds show.

**Central Pavillion:**

Painting of picnic tables and cleaning of the floor and ceiling were done during Kare for Kane.

**T-Ball Area:**

During Kare for Kane, general groundskeeping was performed around the t-ball field and bleachers. The "warming hut" was painted.

**Florence Newcomer Natural Area:**

The Florence Newcomer area extends along the spring run upstream from the central footbridge and was established to honor Florence Newcomer, the founder of the Kane Garden Club. The Garden Club charter states that they are responsible for maintenance of the area.

Wood chips were applied to the nature trail and drainage ditches and pipes were cleaned out during Kare for Kane.

The club performed further planting and tending at the native pollinator garden near the springs that feed the stream which flows through the natural area.

**Rent.Fun Game courts:**

Game courts were installed by Rent.Fun in 2024. The facilities include 2 bocce ball courts and one cornhole court installed just south of the Park Avenue pavilion. The treated lumber curb surrounding the courts was painted during Kare for Kane. Kiosks for the rental of bocce ball and cornhole equipment as well as golf discs and pickleball equipment at the appropriate sites were installed in the spring of 2025. Cost for the installation was \$24,500. Usage data is available to the Borough through the company website.

**Basketball, Tennis and Pickleball courts:**

General groundskeeping was performed at Kare for Kane.

Discussions on renovating the court area have been a recurring topic. E&M Engineering was retained to develop an Engineering plan to be submitted with grant applications to PA Greenways and Trails, DCED and the US Tennis Association. We were not awarded any grants and will re-submit for the 2026 grant period.

**Central Natural Area:**

Through a combination of natural regeneration and planting in much this area, trees are gradually returning to dominate the site. Areas determined to be overstocked with trees were thinned during Kare for Kane by Ned Karger. Several more trees were planted within the area.

**Birch Street Sidewalk:**

The entire length of the existing sidewalk along Birch Street was replaced during the fall of 2025, ending opposite the alley at the bend in Birch Street. The project included a paved pad and bench adjacent to the sidewalk.

## **Glenwood Park:**

Many projects were completed at Glenwood Park during Kare for Kane. General landscaping projects included litter pick-up, cutting of weeds, and raking of leaves along all fences. Split rail fence along entrance of road was repaired and stained. Tree plantings were mulched. Mulch was spread under the playground.

During the Summer of 2025, Dan Imbrogno Forestry Services cleared brush and sprayed herbicide for invasive species control in the area between the Glenwood Park service road and Kinzua Avenue Extension.

## **Santilli Field:**

After extensive renovations to the playing field in 2024, Kane High School baseball returned to Santilli Field in the Spring of 2025 after allowing a short period for the recently planted grass to become established. The field was reported to have held up well during spring play. Covers to protect the pitcher's mound and home plate were placed.

## **Soccer field:**

General maintenance and seeding of field were completed at Kare for Kane.

## **Southover Park:**

Several projects were done at Southover Park during Kare for Kane by Mike London and a group of Kane school students. General cleanup of fallen sticks and litter was done along with removal of debris from a few fallen trees. Broken rails and posts were replaced and the rail fence was re-stained.

**Steve Jerman Memorial:** Weeded and edged the planting area. Wood chips were applied to the mulch beds.

## **Steve Jerman Trail:**

Fallen sticks and branches were removed

The Dam removal project spearheaded by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the McKean County Conservation District was completed in September of 2025. Concrete remnants of the dam were removed, stream improvement devices were installed, the slopes re-graded and seeded and the route used for access to the work site from South Fraley Street was reclaimed. Past discussions have centered on using that access for a walking path directly from South Fraley Street to Southover Park.

## **Public Input:**

Several comments, ideas or suggestions were proposed by members of the public at monthly meetings.

- At the January meeting, Ben Aesl gave a short re-cap of the Haunted Path event he held in October of 2024. The event was deemed a success with great attendance and good community assistance and participation. The Parks Commission voted to endorse the event again for the 2025 Halloween season but unfortunately the event was cancelled due to personal reasons.
- At the February KPC meeting Royce Novosel-Johnson presented the proposal for the installation of a "Troll" sculpture by artist Thomas Dambo within the Park system. Kane Borough Parks System properties were thought to have suitable sites for such an installation. The Parks commission passed a motion by Dan Farnsworth and seconded by Jack Ball to endorse further exploration by the Boro into this proposal. With the Parks Commission and the Boro Council in favor of moving ahead with

the proposal, on August 16<sup>th</sup>, Tom Hartman and Mike London from the Parks Commission and Boro president Tom Kase met with Royce Novosel-Johnson and artist Thomas Dambo to determine a site suitable for the artist's vision for the installation. A site was selected within Southover Park several hundred yards west of the Steve Jerman memorial in a heavily wooded section of the park. The Boro has signed an agreement to proceed. Installation is expected to be in 2027. Funding for the sculptures is to be through the ANFVB and various regional donors.

- At the February meeting, Jack Zelina gave a presentation about plans and ideas for repair and maintenance of the Biddle Street Trailhead Depot building.
- Jack Zelina spoke again at the March meeting with a more detailed presentation on plans for the Biddle Street Depot. Phase 1 would include cleaning up of the exterior and painting eaves and corbels.
- Marilyn Blackmore spoke at the April meeting to convey the Art in the Wilds group's plans and needs for the upcoming Kar for Kane projects.
- Keith Regiel and Rob Merry spoke at the July meeting about conditions at the pickleball courts. The playing surface has many cracks, water seeps up through the playing surface and contributes to an accumulation of mold on the surface, creating unsafe, slippery conditions across the court. The status of the proposed project was explained that an engineering plan had been developed with an estimated cost in the range of \$400,000 and grants were pending. The suggestion was made that interested parties form a group to initiate fundraising efforts and the Boro would open a dedicated account for managing associated funds. A suggestion was made at the September meeting that if the 2025 grant money does not come through, a simple resurfacing and relining of the courts be done to keep the courts playable until grant money is awarded.

## **Progress Report on Recommendations in the Kane Parks System Management Plan**

### **Page 5: (Evergreen Park Memorial Fund)**

Recommendation: Raise awareness and encourage contributions to the Evergreen Park Memorial Fund.

Recommendation: Individuals wishing to fund tree planting or a specific bench, picnic table or other facility should be encouraged to donate to the Evergreen Park Memorial Fund. Donators may be permitted to place a plaque on a specific item or facility. Style, design, facility naming and placement of the item or facility shall be determined solely by the Parks Commission and Boro Council.

STATUS-YE2018: Evergreen Park Memorial Fund was designated as the Boro fund for donations to the Memorial Point Project.

STATUS-YE2019: The Evergreen Park Memorial Fund is a longstanding fund which can be used for any project in Evergreen Park. The Memorial Point Project Committee (Boro, KPC, KADC & VFW partnership) established a project account at Hamlin Bank under the VFW Post. Money in Evergreen Park Memorial Fund which was donated specifically for the Memorial Point project was transferred to this new account.

STATUS-YE2021: The Evergreen Memorial Fund remains an option for those who wish to make a memorial. Potential donors are encouraged to use this fund as opposed to requesting permission to plant a memorial tree or place a bench.

STATUS- YE2023: The Parks Commission recommended that a dedicated fund be established where donors could restrict donations to tree planting and care.

**Page 6: (All Parks)**

Recommendations: Boro Council should maintain the rule excluding dogs from the Kane Parks System. Proposals for a dog park within Kane Parks System should be closely scrutinized by the Commission and Council.

STATUS-YE2021: Additional "No Dogs" signage has been placed around the perimeter of the parks.

**RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2021**

**Page 7: (Glenwood and Evergreen Parks)**

Recommendation: Establish a sub-committee or ad hoc committee to research and develop a plan to fund and construct improved, handicapped accessible bathroom facilities at Evergreen and Glenwood Parks. This committee should include citizens, members of the Kane Parks Commission, Kane Boro Council properties committee and representatives of relevant utility providers.

STATUS-YE2023: No formal development on this recommendation although there has been continued suggestions from the public for such improvements including the suggestion to install bathrooms closer to the top of the hill in the east end of Evergreen Park.

STATUS-YE2025: No formal development on this recommendation

**Page 8: (All Parks)**

Recommendation: The Kane Parks Commission should review and approve a standardized design and color scheme for signs in the Kane Parks System. This should be done so priority signs may be ordered and installed by May 2018.

STATUS-YE2023: No standardized design has been created; however, any proposed signage is reviewed for approval by the Parks Commission

**Page 8: (All Parks)**

Recommendation: The planting of individual memorial trees and placement of memorial plaques or monuments within the Kane Parks System should be discontinued.

Recommendation: Monuments and statues should be restricted to US Armed Services and Law Enforcement memorials ONLY and should be limited to Memorial Point at the east end of Evergreen Park or near the Steve Jerman Memorial in Southover Park.

STATUS-YE2023: This has become the standard when information on memorials is requested. Donors are recommended to make donations to the Evergreen Park Memorial Fund. Donations may be restricted to tree planting or care by specifying Kane Parks Tree Fund.

**RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2018**

STATUS-YE2024: This recommendation has been expanded to include memorials for not only members of the US Armed Services and Law Enforcement but to also include Firefighters and Fire Police.

**Page 9 (Evergreen Park):**

Recommendation: The tree inventory partnership for Evergreen Park should be supported to provide improved mapping and tree management as well as educational opportunities for the KASD Vo-Ag students.

STATUS-YE2018: This partnership is continuing with all data now collected on hand held computers with GPS capabilities and the latest GIS software. A complete inventory of all trees over 1" diameter should be available after the data collection in September of 2019.

STATUS-YE2019: The KAHS Vo-Ag Forestry class has acquired GIS software to handle the data collection and reporting and used it to collect data for 2018 and 2019. Each year the students cover approximately 1/4 of the park. The first year of data collection was done on paper tally sheets with incomplete GIS/GPS data. This data will be recollected in 2020 so a completed GIS based inventory will be available. 2020 data collection will be done in Sept. & Oct.

STATUS-YE2021: The KPC continues to support this educational opportunity with the possibility of moving on to other parks within the Parks system.

STATUS-YE2023: The Parks Commission and Shade Tree Commission is looking into an urban tree inventory and tracking application to better record and track borough trees, not only in the park system but for street trees as well. It has been suggested to encourage the Vo-ag teacher to implement this app to make the data more useful for all.

STATUS YE-2025: No formal development on this proposal. Kane High School Vo-Ag faculty has not approached the KPC about continuing tree inventory on Parks System

### **Page 10 (Francis Newcomber Natural Area):**

Recommendation: Continue to manage this area as a natural area. Continue to maintain and improve the trail during volunteer events.

STATUS-YE2022: The parks commission has continued to manage this as a natural area. The trail is maintained regularly at volunteer events by application of wood chips and improvements to drainage. Overgrown and hazardous vegetation has been removed as well as invasive species.

STATUS-YE2023: The Kane Garden Club, in co-operation with Bob Barron of Kane Greenhouse implemented a cleansing cut in the Florence Newcomber area, removing overgrown rhododendron, trees and shrubs. The goal was to improve safety and visibility as well as allow sunlight to reach the ground.

STATUS- YE-2024: The Kane Garden Club, which, by its charter, is charged with maintenance of this area has continued in its efforts to beautify the site. In 2024 they established a pollinator garden of native flowering species at the north end of the area, occupying an area approximately 30'x50' near the spring boxes. Both wooden footbridges along the nature trail were refurbished and stained creating a safer walkway. In addition, two permanent benches were installed.

This is an ongoing recommendation.

Recommendation: Monitor condition of concrete bridge and begin considering design and replacement criteria.

STATUS-YE2019: KPC has discussed the bridge during regular meetings in 2019 but a decision on designs and how to proceed has not been made. This is currently on a long list of possible KARE for Kane 2020 projects.

STATUS-YE2021: The foot bridge should be moved to high priority for 2022. Proposals should be reviewed by several contractors.

STATUS -YE2022: The stone work structure was repaired in 2022 and a poured concrete walking surface was installed on top of the bridge. Railings should be replaced in 2023.

STATUS-YE 2023: Railings were completed in 2023.

### **RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2023**

### **Page 11 (Natural Area between Park Road & Birch St):**

Recommendation: This area should remain a natural area. Area should be allowed to develop naturally, a process that can be enhanced by the planting of native tree, shrub, and flowering species and by favoring desirable trees.

Recommendation: Support an interpretive trail through this area.

STATUS-YE2018: Kane Rotary Club planted 53 trees and installed protective fences in the natural areas in Evergreen Park during KARE for Kane. 75 sycamore trees donated by the McKean Co. Conservation District were planted in the natural areas in June.

STATUS-YE2019: Removal of blown down and hazard trees was done in April by Steve Dyne Excavating. The disturbed areas were graded. The logs were moved to Birch St. and donated to the KAHS Vo-Ag Forestry class. Many treetop branches were removed and some were piled during KARE for Kane and later removed by Boro crew personnel. The area seeded in well in the spring and many small trees (planted and natural regeneration) are growing. This recommendation has been discussed at KPC meetings this year. Ned Karger is looking into an interpretive sign describing the Natural Area and its unique ecology including wet soils, wildlife habitat, plants, old trees, and young trees.

STATUS-YE2021: Tree seedlings continue to become established in all but the wettest of the area. A water management demonstration project has been proposed in cooperation with the McKean County Conservation District.

STATUS-YE 2022: Volunteers have identified favorable seedlings and taken measures such as mulching and weeding to favor those seedlings. There has been no further development on Interpretive trail or with the MCCD on proposed demonstration project.

STATUS-YE 2023: Dense sapling size trees dominate in parts of the area. Thinning of undesirable stems to favor more desirable stems should be conducted before trees reach a size too large for easy removal. This could be done with experienced volunteers.

STATUS-YE 2024: Many sapling size trees were removed during Kare for Kane 2024 to favor desired saplings. Further planting of native species was conducted.

STATUS YE-2025; Further removal of overstocked sapling sized trees was conducted in 2025. Additional trees were planted in the period 2023-2025.

No formal action has been taken non signage or creation of an interpretive trail.

### **Page 12 (Memorial Point):**

Recommendation: Parks Commission and the Boro should seek partners and funding for this project. This project should be a priority with a deadline of July 4, 2019.

Status-YE2021: Memorial Point was completed in May of 2021 with the first event being the annual Memorial Day observance. Additional suggestions from the public include benches for seating within the memorial area. Planting of shrubs/trees around the perimeter of the memorial. Installation of permanent water tap near memorial.

### **RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2021**

### **Page 12 (Gazebo Area):**

Recommendation: Completion of a walkway from the north entrance to a handicapped parking space along the park road should be a priority for 2018.

STATUS-YE2018: The walkway was completed in June prior to Art in the Wilds. The walkway was the 2018 Kane Rotary Club President's (Tyler Hannah) Grant project. The Rotary grant provided \$3000 for the project. The walkway meets ADA standards for handicapped accessibility which required additional base to reduce the grade. Additional dirt and topsoil were applied to landscape the surrounding area which was replanted with grass. The paver walkway was laid on a stable concrete base. During the concrete part of the gazebo project, 8 sections of badly cracked sidewalk along Chestnut St. were removed and replaced. Total project cost: \$18,000.

### **RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2018**

Recommendation: Shingle repairs, painting, resurfacing the concrete floor and relocating the granite monument recognizing the original construction efforts should be priority maintenance in 2018.

STATUS-YE2019: Painting of posts and benches was completed during KARE for Kane. The granite monument recognizing the Telephone Pioneers of America who originally built the gazebo in 1987 was moved after the new sidewalk was constructed. During KARE for Kane, the monument was reset along the walk at the north entrance to the gazebo. The base material has settled and the monument has shifted slightly. This will be corrected during KARE for Kane 2020. Shingle repairs, concrete floor – planned for 2020.

STATUS-YE2021: Further painting was completed during 2021. Concrete monument was repositioned in 2020. Roof was replaced in 2021.

#### **RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2021**

#### **Page 13 (Creative Playground):**

Recommendation: The Boro should target annual maintenance toward extending the life of this structure for as long as possible.

STATUS-YE2019: A partnership with KARE was set up by KPC Chairman Garth Magnuson to repair and paint the Creative Playground. KARE paid for the stain and donations of brushes, rollers and buckets were made by various individuals and businesses. A three day “KARE for Kane” volunteer event was planned for Friday, August 23-Sunday, August 25. Local restaurants donated pizzas and beverages for lunch. The weather was excellent and the volunteer turnout was tremendous. The project was finished on Saturday afternoon in only two days.

STATUS-YE2021: Re-staining has been conducted annually as needed as part of Kare for Kane. Physical repairs are also being done as part of that event. Further repairs were done by a local carpenter. Tire ladders to the dragon will need replaced as a 2022 priority.

STATUS-YE2022: Repairs and Re-staining continue annually at volunteer events held by the Parks Commission and Kare for Kane. Tire Ladders were repaired in 2022 as well as replacement of a few damaged boards.

STATUS-YE 2023: A partnership with the Highlander Christian Camp was instituted in 2023 to re-stain a portion of the creative playground. This type of partnership along with volunteer events such as Kare for Kane can help to maintain and extend the life of the playground.

STATUS-YE 2024: Continued volunteer events are the main source of maintenance activities. There has been increased discussion about the lifespan of the facility and possible need for future replacement.

STATUS YE 2025: KARE FOR KANE and the Highlander Christian Camp service project continue to be primary sources of volunteer labor to re-apply stain to the playground.

Replacement of tire ladders should be a priority for 2026

#### **Page 14 (Basketball/Tennis Courts):**

Recommendation: Improved entrances to the courts or new entrances from the sidewalk should be constructed. Entrances should be designed to prevent dirt from being washed or tracked onto the court surfaces.

STATUS-YE2019: A project was done during KARE for Kane which diverted much of the water from the area below the playground and along the sidewalk to the storm drain grate just above the basketball court gate. The area was seeded and mulched and could be mowed. Gravel (donated by KARE) was placed below the storm drain to the basketball court gate. This was the area of mostly bare dirt which washed silt onto the courts during rain events. This area should be monitored to see if these improvements solve the mud and drainage problem over the long term or if additional improvements are needed.

#### **RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2019**

Recommendation: A comprehensive drainage plan should be developed for the area from the Enchanted Playground to Park Ave. including water draining from the two Natural Areas. Area excavating contractors and the McKean Co. Conservation District would be excellent partners with relevant expertise.

STATUS-YE2022: No further development on comprehensive drainage plan. Drainage continues to be a problem at the tennis courts.

STATUS-YE 2023: The borough has begun discussion with various firms about drainage improvements and re-surfacing of the tennis courts.

STATUS-YE 2024: The KPC has fielded increasing comments regarding the condition of the pickleball/tennis courts surface. The Parks Commission recommended at their September meeting that Kane Borough Council explore the design and construction of drainage and resurfacing work at Evergreen Park's tennis, pickleball and basketball courts. Such design and construction of drainage work should be completed before the court is re-surfaced. As recommended above, a comprehensive drainage plan for the entire southwest corner of the park should be developed.

The KPC has determined that because of the popularity of pickleball over tennis, once drainage and resurfacing have been completed, two of 3 tennis courts should be converted to 6 pickleball courts.

STATUS-YE 2025: E&M Engineering was retained to develop an engineering plan addressing drainage and re-construction of the combination courts. Implementation of the plan is estimated to cost in the range of \$400,000. Several grants were applied for to help with funding of the project, with no favorable results. The Boro will re-apply for grants during the 2026 grant season. It has been recommended that the Boro implement a short-term fix by resurfacing or applying a sealer coat and re-lining the surface

#### **Page 16 (Pavilions):**

Recommendation: A paved, handicapped accessible parking space adjacent to the existing concrete pad at the Central Pavilion should be constructed.

Recommendation: Signage to clarify the handicapped and five-minute unloading policy should be installed on the pavilion.

STATUS-YE2022: No further action has been taken on this recommendation.

STATUS -YE2025: No further action has been taken on this recommendation.

#### **Page 17 (Ice Skating):**

Recommendation: It is recommended that the area between the tennis courts and Park Ave. be considered for an ice skating, roller, or deck hockey facility at some point in the future. The area should be kept in an open mowed condition and tree planting in the area should be limited. Any tree planting should focus on evergreens on the south and southwest side of this area which would eventually provide winter shade to an outdoor skating rink.

STATUS-YE2022: No further plantings have been done in this area. Other suggestions have been made to consider a skating area where volleyball courts are located.

STATUS-YE2025: No further action has been taken on this recommendation.

#### **Page 17 (Glenwood Park):**

Recommendation: Engage a surveyor to review current maps and deed documents to improve mapping. Survey and establish corners where needed. Adjacent landowners should be contacted and may be willing to cooperate on establishing the shared boundaries lines and corners.

STATUS-YE2018: This survey was completed in March 2018 by Sylvan Surveys. Property corners were found or set. Boundary was marked with yellow paint through the wooded sections which are primarily against the Kane Estate lands. An updated survey map was completed. Total project cost: \$3100.

**RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2018**

**Page 18: (Glenwood Park):**

Recommendation: A strategy of manual cutting and selective use of glyphosate (Round-up) herbicides should be started. Treatments and monitoring over the next few years should be designed to reduce and eventually eliminate the Knotweed from Glenwood Park.

STATUS-YE2018: This area was review by Allegheny Plateau Invasive Plant Management Area (APIPMA) and McKean Co. Conservation District (MCCD) personnel. Knotweed and several other invasive species were identified. They endorsed the recommended treatments. The Kane Parks Commission met at Glenwood Park on Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> and looked at the invasives plant issue and endorsed the recommendations. The treatments were done by Ned Karger in late August.

STATUS-YE2019: In 2019, the Knotweed in Glenwood Park was cut in July and then treated with herbicide as per the recommendation. While the Knotweed patch remains, it is not spreading anymore and is somewhat smaller in size. Monitoring and continued treatments will be necessary.

Small patches of other invasive plants (Phragmites, Multiflora rose, honeysuckle) treated in 2018 were much reduced. Minor mop up treatments were performed as needed in 2019.

STATUS-YE2021: Invasive species control has been continued and should be considered as ongoing landscape maintenance.

STATUS-YE 2022: Mop up treatment was continued on Japanese knotweed and multiflora rose

STATUS-YE 2023: Manual cutting of honeysuckle and multiflora rose was conducted along the south property line of Glenwood Park during Kare for Kane.

STATUS-YE-2025: Monitoring and spot treatment continues at Glenwood.

**Page 18: (Glenwood Park):**

Recommendation: A utility map of all surface and underground utilities in Glenwood Park should be created with GPS technology.

STATUS-YE2025: No further action has been taken on this recommendation.

**Page 18 (Glenwood Park):**

Recommendation: Parking area north and east of the soccer fields should be graded and expanded to provide additional parking.

STATUS-YE2022: This area has been used for material and equipment storage by the contractor working on water and sewer lines within the borough over the last year or two. Additional water and sewer work will be conducted in the vicinity of Glenwood Park in 2023, again using this area for materials and equipment storage. Upon completion of this work, the borough should ensure that the area is left in an improved state suitable for parking. Additional parking options should be considered in closer proximity to the baseball field.

STATUS-YE 2024: Equipment and materials storage also occupied the area in 2024. The area should be enhanced for parking.

The Borough acquired a .29-acre parcel on the west side of Hacker Street which could provide parking for several cars. This parcel should be developed to allow for the maximum number of parking spaces available.

STATUS-YE 2025: Equipment and materials storage still occupied much of the lot north and east of the soccer fields. No further action on the .29 acre lot on the west side of Hacker Street.

It has also been recommended that the Boro explore the possibility of purchasing the approximately 4-acre tract owned by the Kane Estate that lies adjacent to the south property line of Glenwood Park. This would allow for ample parking near the baseball field and provide access to Janeway street.

STATUS-YE 2025: No formal development on this proposed acquisition

**Page 18 (Glenwood Park):**

Recommendation: PennDOT should be consulted on the realignment and moving of the park entrance road. Signage and an attractive entrance should be enhanced with landscaping and plantings of native shrubs and flowering plants.

STATUS\_YE2022: This area will be impacted by the water/sewer project in 2023. The borough should ensure that the final restoration of the site is in alignment with borough visions for the area.

STATUS-YE2024: The water/ sewer project has been completed in this area. No developments toward enhancing this park entrance.

STATUS-YE 2025: No formal development on this recommendation

**Page 20 (Glenwood Park):**

Recommendation: The Boro should continue to support the efforts to rebuild a skate/bike park at Glenwood Park. This should be a high priority for Kane Parks System improvements for 2018.

**RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2018**

STATUS-YE2018: This project was in planning and fund-raising stages for the last 2 years. Project construction was completed in early August with assistance from many of members of the community during public work sessions. Funding included over \$100,000 raised locally and a \$92,800 grant from the PA DCNR. A report on the project and the dedicated bank account are being prepared. A small balance is expected to remain in the fund. Maintenance needs and additional improvements to the area such as benches, picnic tables and a pavilion or shelter are being planned.

STATUS-YE2019 Pavilion structure was added in 2019. Plans for 2020 include a concrete floor in the pavilion and a bulletin / message board.

STATUS-YE2021 Concrete floor and message kiosk were installed in 2020. Bench in memory of Mick Petruney was planned to be installed in 2021.

STATUS-YE2022 Bench in memory of Mick Petruney was installed in 2022. Bicycle Repair station was installed in 2022. The Skate Park account has been "zeroed" out. Further maintenance and repairs of the skate park is now under the Parks commission and the Borough Council

**RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2022**

**Santilli Field:** While not included in the list of recommendations in the Parks Plan, the conditions during the spring high school baseball season, had deteriorated to the point that Kane High baseball games had been played at the Mt. Jewett legion field for the last several years. A parent's organization, The Dugout Club was formed in 2022 to address the situation and promote the refurbishment of Santilli Field.

STATUS-YE2024 Hummer Turfgrass was contracted to completely refurbish Santilli Field. Installing drainage, re-surfacing the field and planting grass at a cost of approximately \$350,000.

**RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2024**

**Page 21 (Southover Park):**

Recommendation: Engage adjacent landowners and a surveyor to review current maps and deed documents to improve mapping. Survey and establish corners and mark boundary line where needed.

STATUS-YE 2025: A surveyor has been engaged to survey the entire Southover Park tract. Work is expected to be completed in the spring of 2026

**Page 21 (Southover Park):**

Recommendation: After boundary marking is improved, forest mapping should be improved. This will identify sites of invasive species, opportunities for nature education, potential sites for wildlife habitat enhancement and potential sites for stream restoration projects.

STATUS-YE2018: This area was also review by APIPMA (Allegheny Plateau Invasive Plant Management Area) and MCCD (McKean Co. Conservation District) personnel. They are working on a partnership with the Kane Area School District on education, identification, and mapping of invasive species in Southover Park and the adjacent KASD property. They held preliminary meetings with teachers and KASD administrators to plan and discuss how to coordinate the invasives program with specific classes and curriculum in August. In September, APIPMA and MCCD personnel presented to the classes of students. In the spring, teachers, students and MCCD personnel will work on mapping and treatments on KASD and Southover Park properties. MCCD has applied for grants to enhance this initiative.

STATUS-YE2019: APIPMA/MCCD was active during KARE for Kane working with the students on mapping and removal of invasive plants from Southover Park. Multiple invasive species were mapped and Garlic mustard was removed from the Steve Jerman Memorial Area.

In 2021 a professional licensed spray contractor was hired to spray approximately 5 acres that were inundated with invasive honeysuckle immediately adjacent to the mowed area and extending west to more heavily forested areas and north to School district property.

STATUS-YE2022: Herbicide spraying conducted in 2021 was deemed successful. Further mop up spraying was conducted in 2022

STATUS-2023: Garlic mustard, continues to become established in many areas at Southover Park. This should be addressed in partnership with APIPMA and the MCCD.

This is an ongoing recommendation that will require regular attention.

STATUS-YE 2025: Garlic mustard was removed manually in 2025 by local contractor Dan Imbrogno.

The McKean Co. Conservation District reviewed the old dam in Southover Park in 2018. This was identified as an obstruction to the upstream migration of aquatic organisms in a report entitled "East Branch of Tionesta Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan". They suggested the use of grant money to remove the dam and restore the stream channel. A grant was applied for in September. Pending final approval, phase one would be dam removal in 2019 and phase 2 would be the stream restoration project in 2020. This was endorsed by the Kane Parks Commission and Boro Council. The dam removal grant application was not awarded. Additional funding sources are being considered.

STATUS-YE2021: No further developments on dam removal.

STATUS-YE2025: Through cooperation and funding by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and cooperation from the MCCD, the old dam at Southover Park was removed in September of 2025. The banks were stabilized; stream improvement devices were installed and concrete from the dam was disposed of. This completes Phase 1 of the initial plan which also described Phase 2 to include restoration of the stream banks upstream to the route 66 road crossing.

**Page 22 (Southover Park):**

Recommendation: Raise the paver walkway and relocate entrance to reduce accumulation of runoff and siltation and to reduce maintenance.

Kane Lawn and Garden replaced the walkway, pouring a concrete base and replacing pavers to raise the elevation of the walkway in 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2024**

**Page 23 (Southover Park):**

Recommendation: Create a map of the Steve Jerman Trail (geo-referenced pdf file) which can be viewed and downloaded from the Boro website. This map/brochure could also be available in printed brochure format.

STATUS-YE2018: This map has been created and can be posted to the Boro website or emailed.

#### **RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2018**

Recommendation: Enhance the Steve Jerman Memorial trail with a side spur trail to the Kane Family Mausoleum and the Civil War monument in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Partnerships with Scout groups, the Forest Lawn Cemetery and the Kane Historic Preservation Society could help facilitate this project.

STATUS-YE 2025: No formal development on this recommendation

#### **Page 23 (Southover Park):**

Recommendation: Improve walkable access to Southover Park along Rt. 66 (S. Fraley St.). This could be via a sidewalk along the west side of S. Fraley or via a crosswalk at Laurel Ave. This plan may also include a bridge in the vicinity of the old splash dam.

STATUS-YE2025: The access route used for access to the dam removal project at Southover Park would provide a walking route from South Fraley Street. The KPC recommends the development of a walking path following this route. The site of the old dam would provide a suitable site for a footbridge connecting this walking trail to the park. This project should be eligible for a waiver to the PADEP general permit for stream crossings. The Boro should consult with the MCCD on DEP requirements. The Boro should erect signage at the South Fraley/Laurel Avenue intersection directing walkers to the walking path.

#### **Page 23 (Southover Park):**

Recommendation: Remove trees and vegetation which reduce visibility to north (up S. Fraley St.) to improve access, parking, and safety along Rt. 66. This may require relocation of some of the split rail fence.

STATUS-YE2019: Overgrown crabapples were removed just prior to KARE for Kane day in May with assistance from Northwest Logging (Gary Rossman/Dan Gregory). Other small trees and honeysuckle west of the Rt. 66 guide rail and south of the Boro line were also cut. This is a 45 MPH speed limit area south of the Boro line. Visibility north towards Kane was greatly improved making pulling out of the park much safer. The split rail fence was moved during KARE for Kane.

Future plans call for removing sod between the fence and Rt. 66 and placing gravel to improve and expand the parking area and improve safety for vehicles entering highway. Trimming of trees along Rt. 66 from the Steve Jerman Memorial to Forest Lawn Cemetery is needed. These issues will be addressed during KARE for Kane planning in 2020.

STATUS-YE2021: Sod was removed, plantings were transplanted, parking area was expanded back to fence, topped with gravel

#### **RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2021**

#### **Page 23 (Kinzua Ave. Mini-park):**

Recommendation: Prune trees 3 & 4 to remove dead wood and reduce crown of tree 4. Plant several trees to enhance park and increase tree species and tree size diversity.

#### **Page 23 (Kinzua Ave. Mini-park):**

Recommendation: Repair court surface (\$2000) and replace basketball hoops (\$2800).

STATUS-YE2019: This has been discussed during KPC meeting and will be a priority for the next two years contingent on Boro budget.

STATUS-YE2021: This project was still on hold due to injury litigation.

STATUS-YE2022: With litigation completed, this recommendation should be moved to high priority for 2023

STATUS-2023: Basketball courts were paved and lines painted in 2023. New backboards and baskets were installed at the same time.

### **RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2023**

#### **Page 24 (Kinzua Ave. Mini-park):**

Recommendation: Replace playground equipment or just swing set (swing set estimate \$4000)

STATUS-YE2018: The swing set at Mini-park was installed at the Kinzua Ave. Mini-park in August by Kane Lawn & Garden. Installation included moving the domed monkey bars, removing the old swing set and installing the new swing set. Gravel was placed around the existing picnic table and new swings. The area directly under the swing set was covered with a protective layer of recycled materials for safety and erosion prevention. Costs included Kane Lawn and Garden-installation, gravel, recycled material, concrete, etc.- \$4002.53 and the swing set from Sports and Recreation Associates, LLC - \$5325.60. Total project cost: \$9328.13.

STATUS-YE2021: The surface under the swing set needs replenished and should be considered a regular maintenance need to be addressed on a recurring basis.

STATUS-YE2023: Dense rubber stall mats were placed under the swing sets in place of gravel, wood chips, or rubber mulch

### **RECOMMENDATION COMPLETED 2023**

#### **Page 25 (Connecting Kane Parks...):**

Recommendation: The Kane Parks Commission and Boro should work with these organizations to establish a system of trails, walking routes and bicycle routes to provide connectivity of the Kane Parks System to the cultural, historical and recreational facilities in the Kane area.

STATUS-YE2024: Tom Kase, Boro Council President and leader in the rail trail group (Trail Association of the McKean Elk Divide-TAMED) has looked at this recommendation in relationship to the development of a trailhead for the rail trail on Boro owned property along Biddle St.

A Trailhead Steering Committee was formed in 2024 to help guide the development of the Biddle Street Trailhead site. The first accomplishment of the group was to install a large trail map on the side of the former depot building.

Additional improvements at the site included the planting of 8 maple trees through a Trees Pennsylvania grant.

To observe the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation's founding, the Freemasons planted a tulip Poplar tree at the site, directly descending from the last of the original Liberty Trees. The original Liberty Trees were used as symbolic meeting places for the "Sons of Liberty" throughout the 13 colonies in the years leading up to the American Revolution. The current program aims to plant a Liberty Tree in each of Pennsylvania's 67 counties

Lastly, an art installation created by Jody Aiello was erected through funding by the PA Council on the Arts and many local and area donors. The sculpture denotes a trout constructed mainly of old bicycle parts, tying together some of the recreational opportunities available in the Kane area.

STATUS-YE2025: Five additional trees were Planted at the site in the fall of 2025 through the Trees Pennsylvania grant program.

With the end goal of connecting the Knox and Kane Rail Trail to the Kane business district, Boro property was surveyed in 2025 in preparation for locating a trail extension from the Biddle Street Trailhead to Fraley Street at the Kane Historical Society Depot

## **Additional Parks Commission Highlights from 2024 and Initiatives for 2025**

**KARE for Kane Day** was a successful event. Several projects in all the parks were completed with a complete list in KPC meeting minutes.

### **Art in the Wilds:**

The annual juried fine arts show was held 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of June. The weather was good resulting in good attendance.

**Pumpkin Walk:** The Pumpkin Walk was cancelled for 2025. The Kane Garden Club was unable to find enough volunteers to continue the popular event.

**Nightmare in Evergreen:** The first Nightmare in Evergreen was deemed a success family event. Plans for a second annual event in 2025 were suspended by organizer Ben Asel.

## **Suggested projects for 2026:**

**Tree planting:** The borough should continue its involvement with the Trees Pennsylvania program which provides trees for planting on public property. The hemlock wooly adelgid has recently been identified in Kane and has the potential to wipe out hemlock throughout the borough. The borough should coordinate with The Allegheny Plateau Invasive Pest Management Area (APIPMA) and the McKean County Conservation District to develop a plan to protect existing hemlocks throughout the parks system. Ideally, the maximum number possible of large specimen trees would be treated to prolong their health and vigor. Future tree plantings in the park system should focus on other native evergreen species such as white pine and white spruce, gradually shifting from hemlock to other evergreen species in plantings at the parks.

**Southover Park Recommendation:** The borough should continue to treat invasive species, particularly at Southover Park. The borough has partnered in the past with (APIPMA) and the McKean County Conservation District and should continue efforts with those partners.

With confirmation of the upcoming installation of the "Troll" sculpture by artist Thomas Dambo, the borough should consider projects to facilitate the project. This will include establishing access to the installation site, preferably from the lower cemetery road along the edge of Forest Lawn Cemetery.

The borough should develop a plan for increased parking space at Southover Park as these art installations have become a tourist attraction wherever they are located.

The borough should develop a walking trail including signage and a footbridge to provide walking access to Southover Park from South Fraley Street.

**Evergreen Park Recommendations:** The borough should continue to move forward with drainage improvements and re-surfacing of the tennis/basketball courts at Evergreen Park. With 2025 grant applications being denied the borough should re-apply for the 2026 grant season. In the absence of funding for major renovations, the borough should consider short term fixes to keep the surface safe and playable, including cleaning the surface, sealing cracks or resurfacing and re-lining the courts.

The tire ladders at the Evergreen Enchanted Playland should be repaired by replacing several of the tires

**Glenwood Park:**

The playing surface was damaged by actors on atv's during the fall of 2025. Fencing should be constructed between the dugouts and the foul poles on both the right and left field sides of Santilli field to deter unauthorized motor vehicle use on the fields. The fencing would also delineate "out of play " area for the baseball field.

**Parking recommendations:** The limited parking at Santilli Field continues to be a problem. Several options have been discussed. The borough has acquired a .29 -acre property on the west side of Hacker Street which will allow for a limited number of parking spots. The borough should develop this site to construct the maximum number of parking spaces it can provide. The area along Hacker Street, north of the service road could provide multiple parking spots. The use of this site will require the re-design and construction of the access road entrance.

Additionally, it was suggested by Tom Hartman that the borough look in to acquiring the 3.34-acre parcel owned by the Kane Estate that lies adjacent to the Glenwood Park to the south. This parcel borders the private lots along Hacker Street and Janeway Street and would be accessed from Hacker Street though the gate at the south west corner of the park. This site would provide ample parking space for any activities that might occur at Glenwood. This parcel also provides access to Janeway Street at the foot of Yarnell Street which would provide a link to connect to the Knox and Kane Rail Trail through the less travelled Yarnell, and Clay Streets (Page 25 of the Plan).