

Community Background

Regional Setting

Solebury Township is a 26.7 square mile municipality located in the central portion of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The Township is bordered by Upper Makefield, Buckingham and Plumstead Townships in Bucks County and by the Delaware River, which separates it from Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Solebury Township surrounds New Hope Borough, which is located along the Delaware River. U.S. Route 202 serves as a major north / south arterial roadway and roughly bisects the Township. Many portions of the Township remain rural in character, though suburban development exists along the Route 202 corridor.

Demographics

Socio-Economic

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Solebury Township has a total population of 8,692. New Hope Borough has a total population of 2,528. The total population under 18 years of age in the two communities is 2,287. This total population of 11,220 is served by the recreational programs and facilities provided by Solebury Township through an Intergovernmental Agreement between the two municipalities. The median household income in Solebury Township is \$116,364 (ACS Survey—2010 inflation adjusted dollars).

Projected Population Growth

The DVRPC estimates that Solebury Township's population in 2020 will be 9,250 for an increase of 19.5 % from the year 2000. The DVRPC estimates that New Hope Borough's population in the year 2020 will be 2,670 for an increase of 18.6 % from the year 2000. Since the Township, in fact, provides facilities and recreational programs for residents of New Hope, the Borough's population must also be included when estimating future recreational programs and facility requirements.

Relevant Planning Documents

Solebury Township Comprehensive Plan

Updated in 2002, the Comprehensive Plan recognized that recreational programs and facilities serve both Solebury and New Hope residents; and, therefore recommended monitoring of recreation demand in order to identify and meet this need. The Plan also recommended that the Township monitor and coordinate trail planning efforts with adjacent municipalities. The survey results at that time listed "adequate parks and recreation opportunities along with activities for youth" as the most often selected choices for what is lacking or needed in Solebury.

Solebury Township Open Space Plan

Completed in November 2008, the Open Space Plan states that one of its goals is "to preserve greenways along stream corridors and establish trails for recreation as part of the open space strategy." The plan recommends that bicycle and pedestrian circulation be considered in all development plan reviews and that the existing trails be extended by coordinating Park and Open Space Preservation efforts.

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Solebury Township Parks & Recreation Plan

The first Parks and Recreation Plan was adopted in 1989, and later updated in 2000, and again in 2006. Each of these plans included recommendations for additional programs, athletic fields and facilities, and improvements in order to accommodate the desires and needs of the existing residents and future population growth.

Short term recommendations of the 2006 Plan included the construction of one (1) full-size 90 ft baseline baseball field at Laurel Park, and the construction of two (2) multi-purpose athletic fields at Canal Park.

Among its long term recommendations, the 2006 Parks and Recreation Plan determined that additional parkland should be acquired for active and passive recreation that would include the ability to provide for 4 to 6 multi-purpose fields in the future. The Plan also recommended the construction of a Township Community Center with an indoor gym and basketball facility, and meeting space and rooms for community events and activities.

Many of the recommendations from prior plans were included in the 2006 Plan update since they were determined to still be viable.

Development of a trail system remained an important feature of all the plans since walking, hiking, and bicycling continued as the most popular activities of residents. Playground usage was the second most popular activity.

New Hope-Solebury School District Campus Master Plan

Completed in 2010 after years of study and a detailed site analysis, the Plan proposed a phased improvement project that included a new synthetic turf stadium, gymnasium and field house, aquatic center, multi-purpose fields, parking and traffic flow improvements. The Athletic Facilities Study prepared by school district consultant architerra, p.c. determined that the campus was approximately 12 fields deficient in being able to adequately accommodate the use currently experienced on the fields.



Solebury Park Benches



Solebury Township Unique Front License Plate



*Lumberville Footbridge over the Delaware River
to Bull's Island State Park*