

Needs Assessment

For the 2000 and 2006 Parks and Recreation Plans, surveys were used to measure the level of interest Township residents had in various recreational activities. Both surveys showed passive activities such as Walking and Hiking were a top priority for residents (see appendix for historical data). Passive recreation has long been a favorite of Solebury residents. One such activity recently gaining support from residents is the creation a Township Dog Park. A petition to create a Dog Park was been signed by over 100 residents and a proposed Plan for the park has been prepared by a Township resident and presented to the Parks and Recreation Board for review.

In addition to interests in passive recreation, many residents and their families participate in the active recreation opportunities that are available. In fact, there was a major shift in public opinion between the 2000 and 2006 survey resulting in an increased level of interest in active/organized recreational activities. This interest has continued to build since 2006 with a record number of children currently participating in youth soccer, basketball, baseball and newly added football and wrestling programs.

The reason for this continued increase in active recreation participation is likely from families with children residing in densely populated areas such as North Pointe, Fieldstone, Peddlers View and Riverwoods. An analysis of the New Hope-Solebury School District enrollment data shows that from 1991 to 2012, the school enrollment has increased more than 98% from 806 students to 1,599 students (see appendix).

In order to address the growth of the youth population, both the School District and the Township have been working over the years to add facilities and recreational programs. In 2010, the School District completed an Athletic Facilities Study and Campus Master Plan (see appendix) to evaluate how well they are meeting the recreational demands of their students. In that study, they identified that the school is short 12 playing fields in order to adequately accommodate the current field usage. A Solebury Township Parks and Recreation Sub-Committee conducted a similar study in 2010 in collaboration with all of the current youth sports organizations (see appendix).

Facilities Needed

Using existing scheduling data for athletic fields and participation levels to determine availability of individual facilities, the results of the study by the Solebury Township Parks and Recreation subcommittee show that the Township is short five (5) playing fields in order to adequately accommodate the current field usage.

The types of fields the Township needs remain consistent with the recommendations in the previous Parks and Recreation Plans.

In addition to playing fields, both the School District Study and the Township Study have identified and re-affirmed the need for another indoor basketball gym facility/community center for both the School and the Township.

Fortunately, the youth population growth trend appears to be slowing as the School District enrollment projections for the next five years indicate slightly more than a 1% increase. This suggests that the new fields and facilities, when built, will accommodate the youth

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populations active participation needs for at least the next 3-5 years.

In summary, the number of additional active recreation facilities needed by the Township is as follows in order to accommodate use through the next 3 to 5 years beyond 2013.

	2006 Plan	2013 Update
Indoor Gym/Community Center	1	1
Multi-purpose game fields (Soccer, Football, Lacrosse)	2	1
Multi-purpose Practice Field (for practices, field resting and best management practices)	1-2	3
Baseball field (full-size) (90 ft basepaths)	1	1