

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP
PARKS and RECREATION**

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Mowing Less at Parks for Sustainable Stewardship

GENERAL STATEMENT:

Parks require careful planning, maintenance and stewardship to make them special places for visitors as well as the natural world and the environment. The lines may not always be clear between what should be left in a natural state and what should be mowed, but in most park locations, the two can overlap and be compatible. Parks designed for multiple uses, and containing athletic playing fields for the public to recreate, can also provide a habitat for a variety of plants and wildlife that coexist.

By mowing less, Solebury Township is able to reduce greenhouse gases and provide a more natural and better habitat. In place of short cut grass "lawns," many areas are mowed just once or twice a year, thus providing a more diverse and natural park setting.

Solebury Township's sustainable park development and maintenance also incorporates more native plants, vegetation and trees, along with other environmental considerations that improve the quality of the habitat without compromising the ability to meet their needs of the local community.

The environmental benefits include reduced flooding and erosion, air pollution filtration, air cooling and protection of biodiversity. And less mowing can be a model for both residential backyards and community public spaces. Vast areas of lawn require a lot of mowing, maintenance and gasoline!

Solebury Township continually evaluates mowing and maintenance operations on a yearly basis to ensure the best approach to sustainability.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

The cut for infield and playing field areas inside the fences shall be 2 1/4 inches unless directed otherwise. Cut for all other areas shall be 2 1/2 or 3 inches or as directed. Weather conditions may necessitate more or less frequent mowing, and certain outlying areas and boundaries will not be mowed, or mowed once or twice each season, as determined by the Director of Parks and Recreation. Once the playing season has concluded, mowing of those athletic fields shall occur on a less frequent basis and at a length TBD based on existing weather and environmental conditions.

Laurel Park:

The following areas are not mowed, or mowed once or twice each year.

- Outlying areas and boundaries along property lines
- Areas surrounding the east side of the intermediate and softball field
- Areas along and around drainage swales and water basins
- Natural habitat areas
- Gravel driveway access from Laurel Road
- Areas along Laurel Road parallel between the corner property and Fire Station

Some Photo Examples:



East side of Intermediate & Softball fields



Gravel Driveway Access



Natural Habitat Areas



Drainage and Basin Areas

Canal Park:

The following areas are not mowed, or mowed once or twice each year.

- Outlying areas and boundaries along property lines
- Areas on the south side of the access drive next to the Route 202 Bridge
- Areas along and near the Delaware Division PA Canal
- Areas adjacent to practice fields
- Natural habitat areas

Some Photo Examples:



Area adjacent to practice fields



Area along and near the Canal



Area adjacent to Route 202 Bridge



Increased native plants & vegetation areas

Magill's Hill Park:

The following areas are not mowed, or mowed once or twice each year.

- Outlying areas and boundaries along property lines
- Sledding hillside and west area at the top of the hill along power line
- Areas adjacent to picnic and public area
- Natural habitat areas

Some Photo Examples:



Picnic and public area



Hillside and west area at top of hill

Pat Livezey Park:

The following areas are not mowed, or mowed once or twice each year.

- Outlying areas and boundaries along property lines
- Bank and hillside surrounding the lower lighted soccer field and upper field
- Areas adjacent to the connector pathways from lower to upper fields
- Natural habitat areas

Solebury Trail:

The following areas are not mowed, or mowed once or twice each year.

- Outlying areas and boundaries along property lines and along power line
- Natural habitat areas
- Only a 3 ft wide section is mowed along the sides of the trail

Aquetong Spring Park / Solebury Park / North Pointe Park / Lumberville site / Route 202 property / Sugan & Greenhill Road property

The following areas are not mowed, or mowed once or twice each year.

- Outlying areas and boundaries along property lines
- Natural habitat areas
- Areas along water courses and drainage facilities
- Lawn areas are reduced to the smallest extent possible