

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

BRECKNOCK TOWNSHIP

BERKS COUNTY



October 6, 2009

Township Board of Supervisors

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Introduction

Open Space and Recreation Plan for Brecknock Township, Berks County

Brecknock Township is still generally rural in nature, with many beautiful open areas such as agricultural lands and stream valleys. In recent years, however, the Township has experienced increased residential development. With residential development comes demand for recreation facilities.

The goal of the Township is to preserve the beautiful open spaces in the Township, while also providing for the recreation needs of a growing population.

In this Open Space and Recreation Plan, existing recreation facilities within the Township have been identified, standards for the provision of recreation areas and for specific activities and facilities have been listed, goals of the Township have been established, proposals constituting the Open Space and Recreation Plan have been listed, provisions for implementation of the Open Space and Recreation Plan have been identified, and standards for recreation areas for subdivisions and land developments have been provided.

Open spaces and resources in the Township such as floodplains, wetlands, agricultural lands, steep slopes and woodlands can be preserved through provisions of the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. As the need for recreational facilities is generated by the residential development occurring within the Township, the Township will look to developers to provide the land and monies to supply the recreation facilities which the residents of the Township will need in the future.

Based on the Berks County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan dated December 2007, the Brecknock Township U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 Estimate for population is 5184. The PaDEP 2006 State Water Plan projected the Brecknock population at 5399 for 2010 and 6196 in 2020. The National Recreation & Park Association, NRPA suggests that a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a core system of parklands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed close-to-home space per 1000 population. Currently there is no developed Township recreation acreage in Brecknock. Recreation areas are currently being shared with existing facilities within the Township. The NRPA projections above suggest that for the Township's population, 33.74 acres be available in 2010 and 38.72 acres in 2020.

Background Recreation Board

Ordinance No. 131 of the Township of Brecknock dated August 5, 2003 established a Recreation Board to supervise, regulate, equip and maintain Township-funded recreation Programs and Facilities. The Township Recreation Board currently meets in the Township Building at 7:00 PM on the first Monday of each month and it is advertised and open to all Residents.

Demographics

As of the census² of 2000, there were 4,459 people, 1,558 households, and 1,282 families residing in the township. The population density was 250.0 people per square mile (96.5/km²). There were 1,611 housing units at an average density of 90.3/sq mi (34.9/km²). The racial makeup of the township was 97.85% White, 0.61% African American, 0.13% Native American, 0.22% Asian, 0.25% from other races, and 0.94% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race was 0.92% of the population.

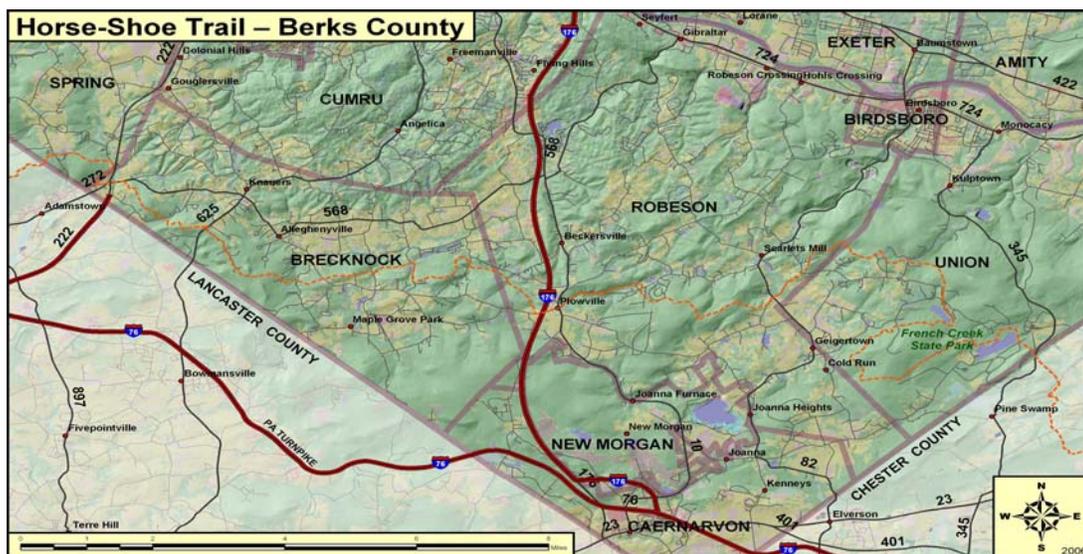
There were 1,558 households out of which 40.2% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 74.8% were married couples living together, 4.5% had a female householder with no husband present, and 17.7% were non-families. 13.2% of all households were made up of individuals and 4.9% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.86 and the average family size was 3.17.

In the township the population was spread out with 27.4% under the age of 18, 6.1% from 18 to 24, 30.5% from 25 to 44, 26.8% from 45 to 64, and 9.2% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 39 years. For every 100 females there were 103.3 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 100.4 males.

The median income for a household in the township was \$65,903, and the median income for a family was \$79,143. Males had a median income of \$46,495 versus \$27,307 for females. The per capita income for the township was \$42,712. About 2.0% of families and 2.7% of the population were below the poverty line, including 2.5% of those under age 18 and 7.6% of that age 65 or over.

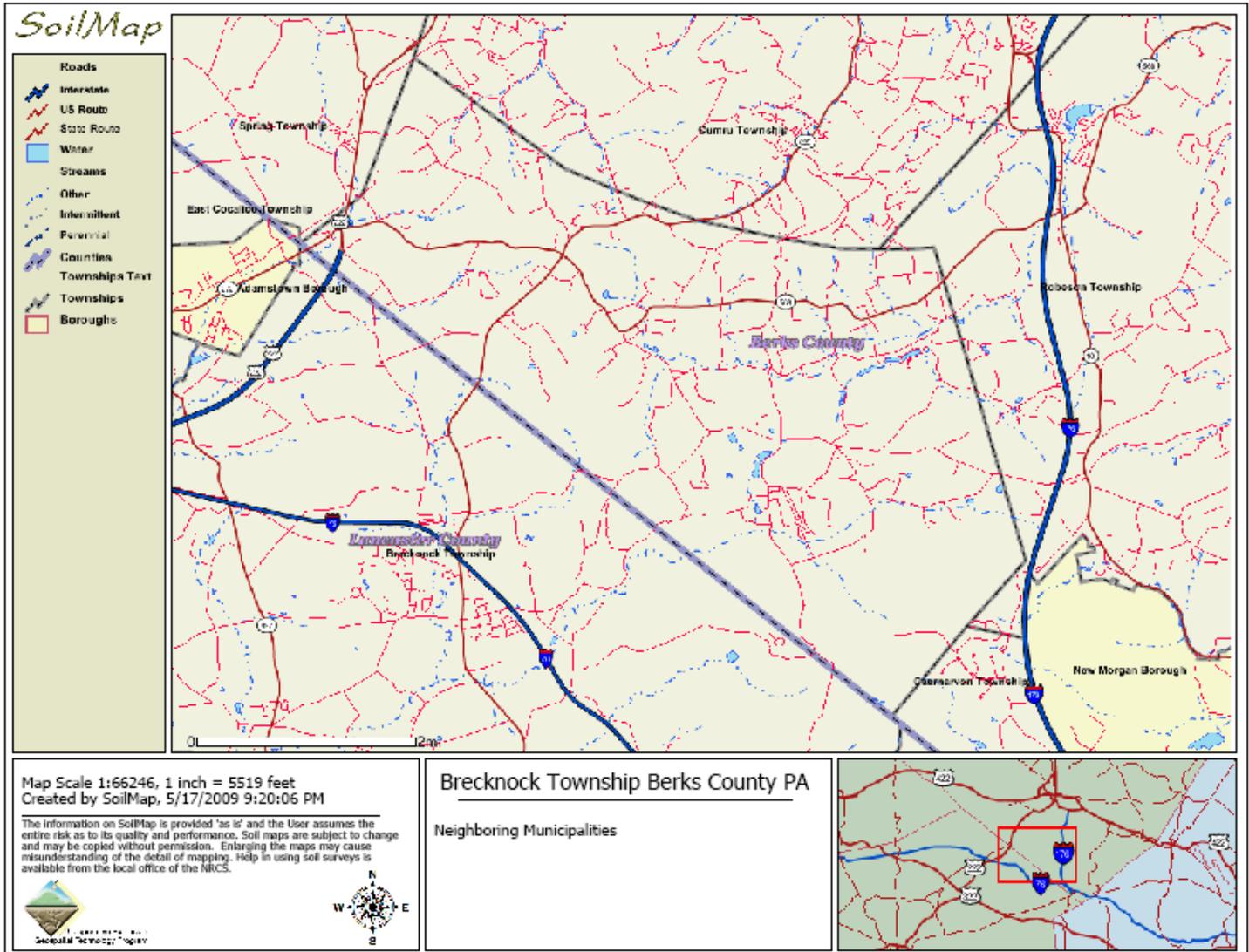
Geography

The below map shows the Horse-Shoe Trail through the Township and the relationship to other Townships and Lancaster County: The Township includes a ridge close to the Trail referred to as Brecknock Heights. A large portion of State Game Land #52 is also within the Township.

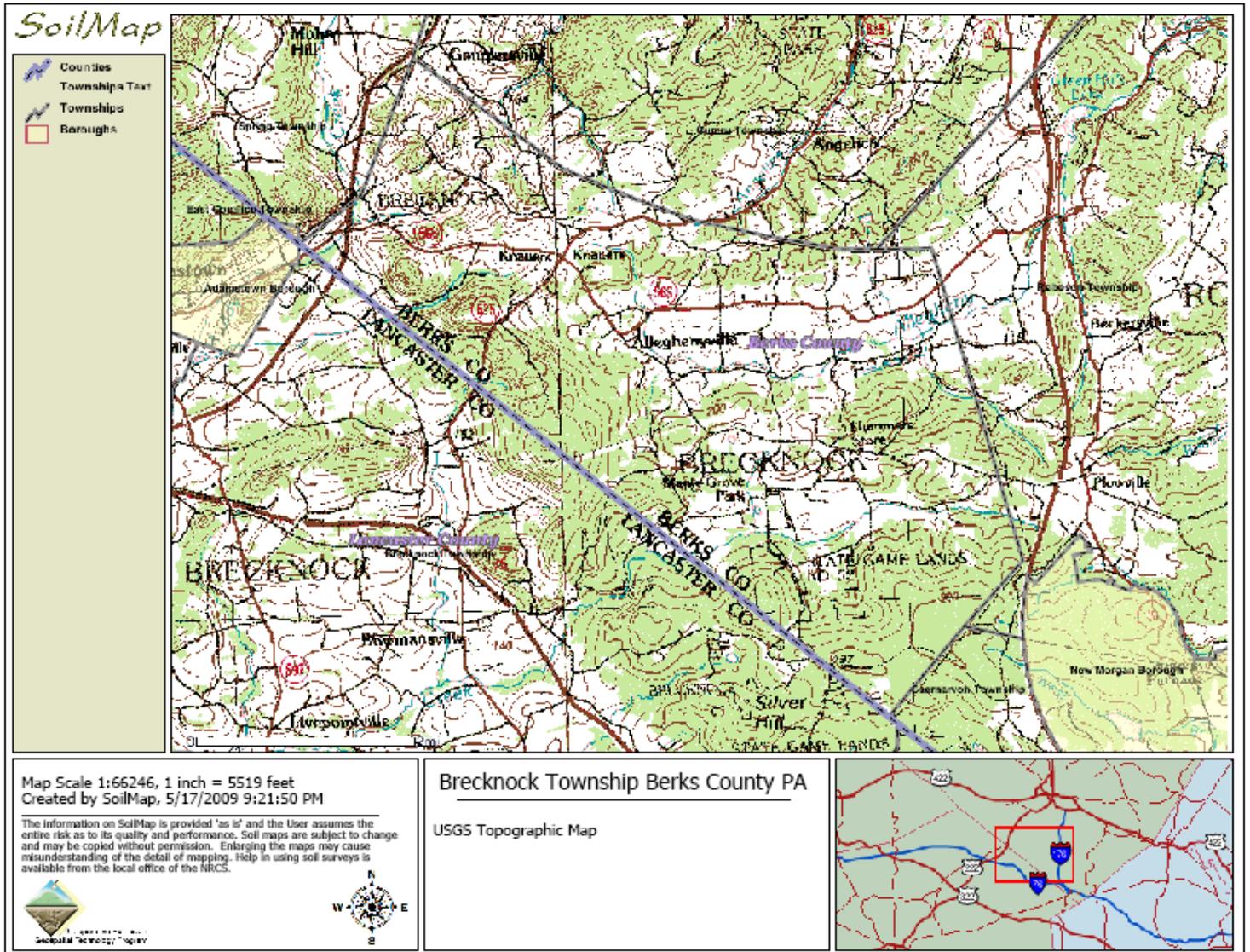


Maps

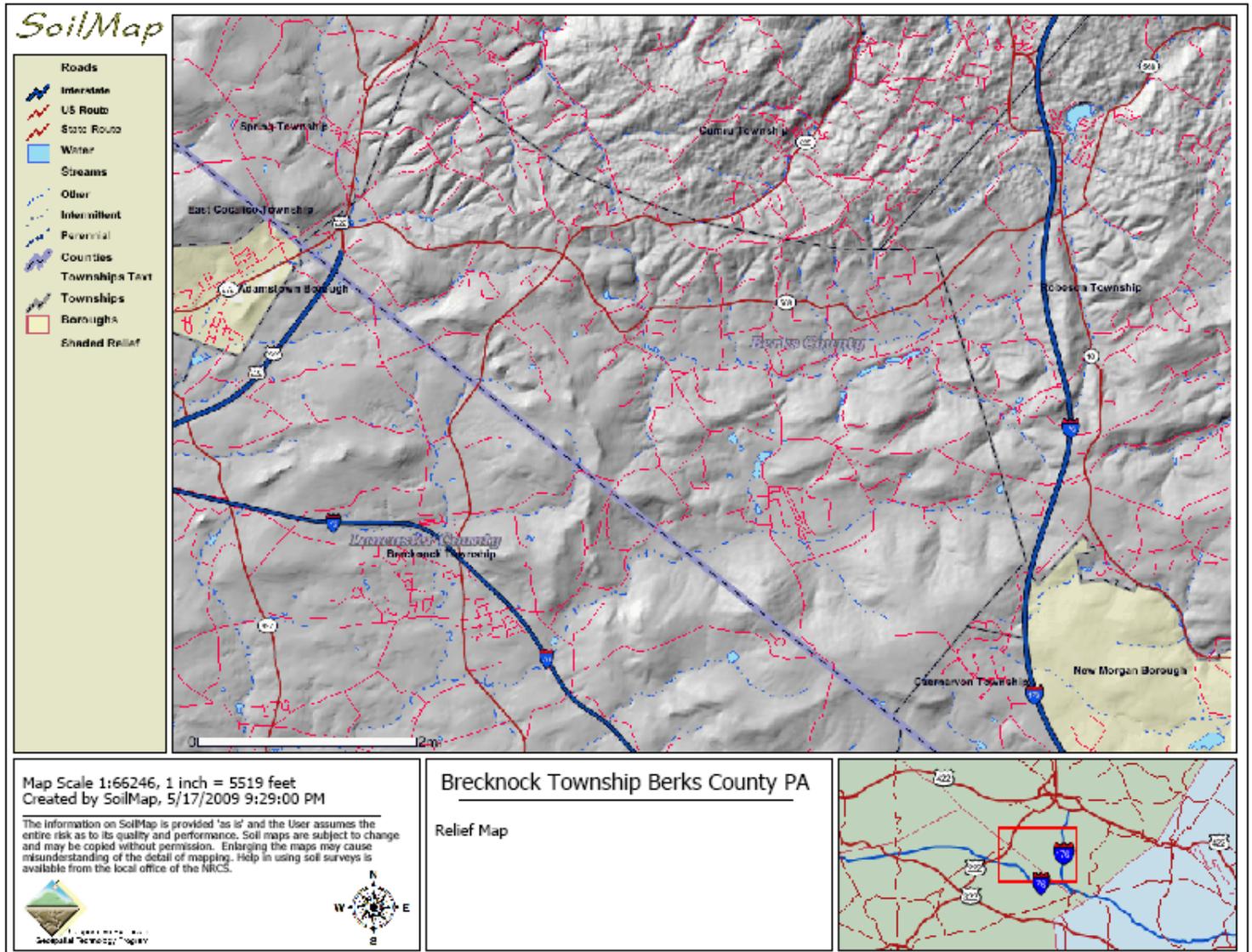
Area Map



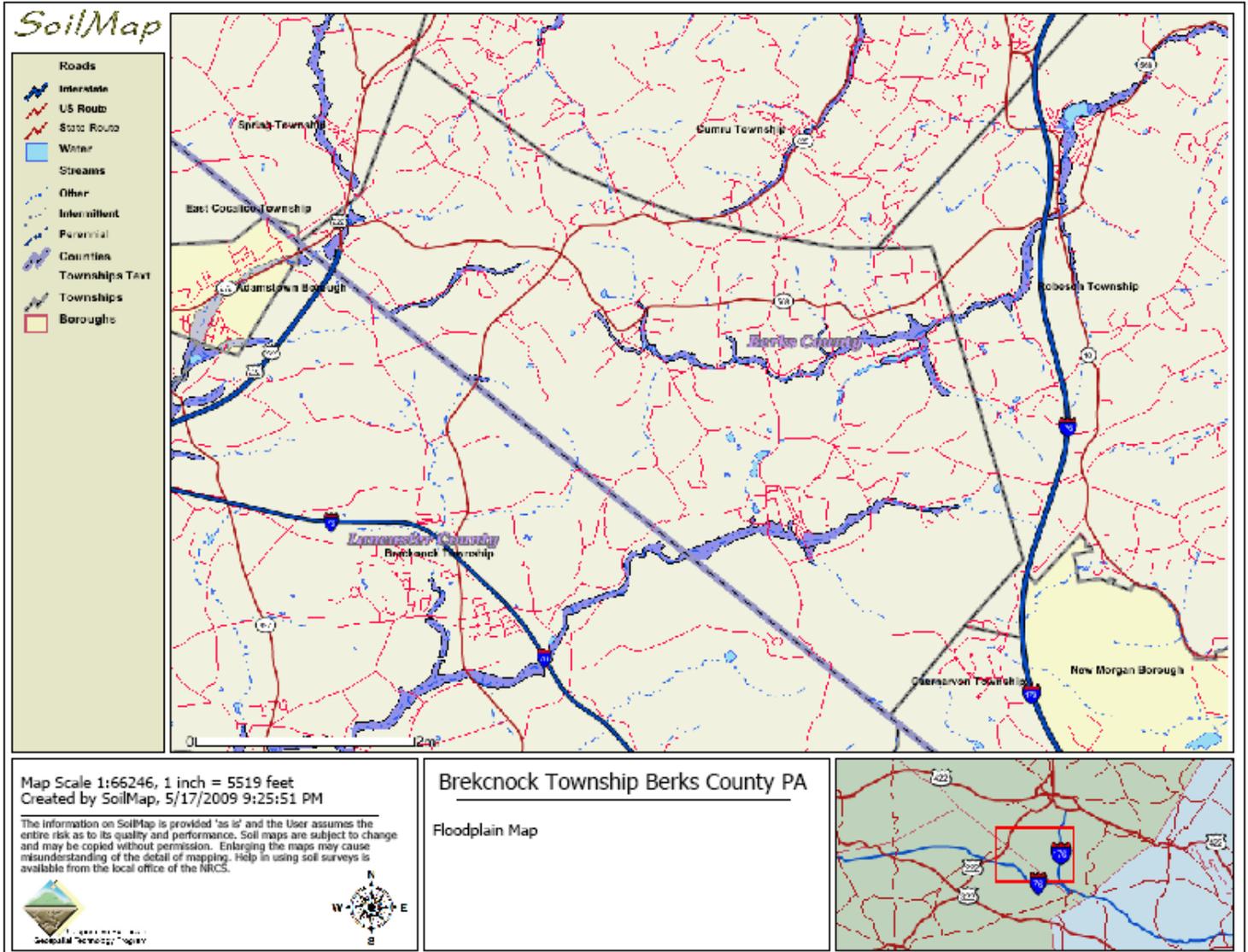
USGS Topographic Map



Relief Map



Floodplain Map



EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES - BRECKNOCK TOWNSHIP

The following are the existing recreation areas, organizations and facilities available to residents in Brecknock Township. The types of facilities available at each area are given.

I. SCHOOL - Brecknock Elementary School, Knauers

- a. Baseball Field
- b. Playground
- c. Soccer Fields
- d. Summer Playground Program

II. PUBLIC

- a. Horse-Shoe Trail
 - i. Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy
 - ii. Boy Scout Troop 241
- b. Township Building
 - i. Outdoor Parking areas
 - ii. Meeting Room
 - iii. Basement open areas
- c. Fire Station
 - i. Outdoor Parking areas
 - ii. Meeting Room
 - iii. Kitchen Facilities
- d. State Game Land # 52

III. PRIVATE

- a. Maple Grove Park Development Corporation
 - i. Pavilion
 - ii. Softball fields
 - iii. Soccer fields
- b. Camp Adahi
 - i. Swimming Pool - outdoor
 - ii. Pavilion
 - iii. Ponds
 - iv. Hiking Trails

IV. CHURCH

- a. Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran Church
 - i. Fellowship Hall use
 - ii. Kitchen Facilities
- b. Allegheny United Church of Christ
 - i. Pavilion

V. SUBDIVISION

- a. None at this time

VI. EXISTING RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

- a. Summer Playground Program:
Over 60 children ages 5 to 15 participate in an 8 week, 4 hour per day, Monday through Friday supervised playground program with games and activities planned each week day by a staff of trained leaders. This program is held at the Brecknock Elementary School.
- b. Fall Festival:
The Recreation Board and other Township volunteers have organized a Fall Festival for Township residents to be held rain or shine at the Township Building, in October from noon to 4 PM for the last several years. Events include: hay rides, refreshments, pumpkins for the children, pumpkin painting, children activities, health checks, Medivac helicopter display, antique vehicles, Conservancy open space display, Horse-Shoe Trail awareness display, animal clinic and participation by the police and fire departments.
- c. Market Place:
Market Place is held on a Saturday morning in August and September each year. Township Residents are able to come to display and sell the fruits of their labor from Township homes and gardens at the Township Building to discover the creativity and ingenuity of their neighbors.
- d. Summer Family Fun Event at Camp Adahi -
Swimming/Canoeing/Fishing/Hiking Market Place:
The Recreation Board sponsors an event at Camp Adahi currently on two Sunday afternoons in the summer. For the cost of \$1.00 per resident, a family can enjoy the opportunity to swim, fish, canoe and hike. Certified life guards are on duty and a changing area and snack bar are available.
- e. Reduced Price Ticket Sales:
The Recreation Board has regularly made arrangements for Township Residents to purchase reduced price tickets for venues such as Ski tickets to

be used at Bear Creak in Berks County's Macungie, PA. Tickets are available at the Township Building. Information for future opportunities is available on the Township web site.

f. Volksmarch:

Each year in early spring the Recreation Board has sponsored a Volksmarch, a hike on a feeder trail with connections to the Horse-Shoe Trail. This event for our Residents includes lunch and presentations on the importance of the trails in our community and the benefits of conservation and providing open space for all. Future plans include expanding the hikes on the Trail from the Township Building to Camp Adahi or other portions of the Trail with events held at the Township Building in conjunction with a hike.

Hiking and Biking Trails and Paths

Presently, the Horse-Shoe Trail is 140 miles long, running from Valley Forge National Park to The Appalachian Trail on Stony Mountain. According to the Horse-Shoe Trail website, <http://hstrail.org/> the trail was developed in 1935 as a hiking trail and bridal path and is maintained by volunteers and the Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy. The Township is a member of the Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy and the local Boy Scout Troop 241 maintain much of the Trail through our Township. The Horse-Shoe Trail also ties into other trails, opening up many other opportunities for extended hiking.

Brecknock Township is host to approximately 10 miles of the trail. At the same time, the trail is increasingly being pushed from private lands onto public road surfaces which are extremely hazardous to trail visitors. The Trail is marked by yellow blazes and maroon posts with yellow lettering seen along the road sides. Many of these awareness posts have been furnished by the Township in corporation with the Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy and installed by the Boy Scouts. There currently is limited developed, parking areas for easy on and off access.

The Parks and Recreation board wishes to serve the Township residents' wishes of developing passive recreational opportunities, as specified by the Township Residents' survey results of 2003; and working on an existing trail with the landowners who see it as a *community jewel* and something to be preserved and shared.

Camp Adahi currently has a feeder trail from the Camp to the Horse-Shoe Trail that is available to residents through membership in the Camp Adahi program.

Additional trails could include a feeder trail to the State Game Land #52 at the south edge of the Township in the Southern Highlands Region as described on page 168 in the Berks County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan adopted December 20, 2007 and / or connections to Nolde Forest in conjunction with Cumru Township. Loop trails could also be developed within the Township that inter-connects with the Horse-Shoe Trail or in cooperation with neighboring Townships.

Biking trails for non-motorized use as well as walking paths should also be considered along existing roadways when repaving or widening the Township Roadways and as new trails are developed.

A big part of all trail development and use of existing trails is the accessibility of the facility with development implementation of an easement program to include parking for users.

Citizen Involvement

In November of 2003, a Survey was sent to all Township Residents. Residents were asked what kind of Recreational opportunities that they would like to see established in the Township. There were 73 responses received. Survey choices and their percentage response was: 1. Hiking trails/biking paths – 92%, 2. Playground/picnic areas – 46%, 3. Open Space – 39%, 4. Bird watching – 21%, or 5. Tennis Courts – 14%. When Residents were asked if they were in favor of future recreational projects into neighboring municipality recreation areas or into established areas such as the Horse-Shoe Trail, 73% voted in favor of this approach. In the fall 2008 Survey update, similar responses were received from Residents.

In continuing support of the Horse-Shoe Trail in the Township, Boy Scout Troop 241 has committed to maintain most of the trail through the Township.

Several landowners have committed to the establishment of permanent trail easements through and around their properties to ensure for future open space and recreational opportunities in the Township. Currently, over a mile of the Trail has been committed in this way.

Goals for Brecknock Township

1. Provide for a variety of recreation facilities or activities for current and future Township residents.
2. Be proactive in the identification of lands appropriate for procurement of easements for a Township passive recreation area accessible to all residents to enjoy as previously identified as a Resident priority. This would include hiking / biking trail easements, where practical with outside volunteer organizations providing the maintenance.
3. Develop a working relationship with all existing recreational facilities within the Township, such as schools, churches, private parks, and camps.
4. Consider biking and walking safe havens along roadways whenever practical.
5. Provide for lands appropriate for recreation within new subdivisions and land developments.
6. Conserve environmentally sensitive open spaces and resources, such as the floodplains, wetlands, wooded areas, wildlife habitats, steep slopes, historically and archeologically significant features, scenic overlooks, rock outcroppings, large individual trees, aquifers and aquifer recharge areas and agricultural areas within the Township. In particular, the floodplain along Allegheny Creek.

7. Provide for the implementation of the stated goals through the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance utilizing the guidance provided by the Planning Commission and Recreation Board.
8. Utilize the majority of recreational fees received from developers on acquisition of land and improvement of land for recreation areas within the Township and a minor portion of fees to be used for Township recreation programs.
9. Develop standards for recreation areas. Including recreational uses and preservation of natural habitat.
10. Provide for the implementation of the stated goals through the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. (See Ordinance 142 below)
11. Raise the awareness of the Horse-Shoe Trail through the Township by improving access and identification. Continue to implement the permanent easement program with Landowners of Horse-Shoe Trail crossings. Approximately 73 Landowners in Brecknock Township have a portion of the Horse-Shoe Trail on their property.
12. After approval of this Open Space and Recreation Plan it is intended that it be re-visited and updated every five years.
13. Participate in the Governor Mifflin Area Coordinating Council with other municipalities within the District to implement a Smart Growth Pilot and to foster an on-going communication among the municipalities and the School District on issues of common interest.

PROPOSED OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

BRECKNOCK TOWNSHIP

1. Existing facilities will remain.
2. The Township will consider development of recreation facilities at locations approved by the Board of Supervisors and in residential areas of the Township. Development of such facilities would be funded by recreation fees paid by developers and generally not from tax resources, upon recommendation of the Township Board of Supervisors.

(Ordinance No. 142 of the Township of Brecknock dated August 3, 2004 amends Chapter 22 of the Code of Ordinances, pertaining to subdivision and land development, by deleting and replacing Section 22-518, and therein requiring the dedication of Recreation Areas in all residential subdivisions and land developments or payment of a fee in lieu thereof, setting forth the amount of land and standards for the Recreation areas to be dedicated, providing the calculation of the fee in lieu of dedication, and establishing the schedule for completion of development of recreation areas.)

3. In large subdivisions and land developments, the developer will provide recreation facilities within the development for use of the residents of the development. Depending on the nature of the development, the recreation facilities will either be managed by the owner of the development or by a bank-run trust or association. It would be the goal of the Township to open hiking recreational areas within these developments to all Township Residents.
4. Recreation facilities will be required in subdivisions and land developments of smaller size if the Township determines that a need for recreation facilities will be created in the development. For those developments not providing recreation facilities, fees will be charged pursuant to the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
5. Floodplains and wetlands will remain undeveloped. If subdivision or land development occurs abutting these areas, the floodplains and wetlands will be incorporated into an open space system within the development and managed either by the owner of the development or his assignees.
6. The Township will continue to encourage sub dividers and land developers to make every effort to include passive recreational features, such as trails and to preserve wooded areas, wildlife habitats, steep slopes, historically and archaeologically significant features, scenic overlooks, rock outcroppings, large individual trees, aquifers and aquifer recharge areas and to incorporate them into an open space system managed by either the owner of the development or his assignees.
7. The Township will continue to encourage the preservation of agricultural areas within the Township through its zoning practices.
8. Alternate recreation facilities may be recommended by the Recreation Board to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on an "as needed basis".
9. The Township will take every opportunity to seek Grants appropriate to the funding of recreation facilities using the guidelines such as those DCNR has established.
 - a. Project Benefits (Description of the project, identifying the need, urgency and justification of the Project)
 - b. Project Site Compatibility (Why was the site chosen? What are the environmental conditions? Identify how the Residents will access the site and the permitted site usage)
 - c. Project Schedule/Timeline (It should be as comprehensive as possible)
 - d. DCNR Keystone Principles (A. Build and maintain sustainable communities. B. Promote statewide land conservation. C. Increase outdoor connections for citizens and visitors.)
10. Identify and employ appropriate organizations to gain grant funding and implement the Open Space and Recreation Space goals of the Township.
11. The Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) recommends a minimum acreage of 29.61 acres (page 169 of the December 2007 report) to be available for recreation acreage in Brecknock Township as part of the Southern Highlands Region. The National Recreation & Park Association suggests that a park system be composed of a core system of parklands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed close-to-home space per 1000 population. The BCPC report notes that Brecknock Township falls short of this suggestion. For a complete

listing of all the regional recreation statistics reference is made to the BCPC report cited above.

- 12 . The BCPC specifically recommends the following in conjunction with the Township's Comprehensive Plan:
 - a. require new developments to have pedestrian and bicycle interconnections with other developments and park systems;
 - b. work to maintain a passable Horse-Shoe Trail system through Brecknock Township;
 - c. preserve areas along creeks in as natural conditions as possible; and
 - d. seek to maintain interconnected corridors for wildlife;

- 13 . Brecknock Township is also included in the 2004-2005 Governor Mifflin Region Comprehensive Plan formulated to establish the overall policies for the development and conservation of the Governor Mifflin Region over the following 15 years.

IMPLEMENTATION OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

1. As part of the review of subdivision and land development plans, the Township Planning Commission in accordance with Ordinance No. 142, will make a recommendation whether recreation areas will be provided within a subdivision or land development or the developer will make a cash contribution to the Township in lieu of providing recreation areas. The Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance states that the determination of whether dedication of land or payment of a fee-in-lieu of dedication of land will be required is at the sole discretion of the Board of Supervisors.

The amount of land that must be dedicated for recreation or open space purposes is based upon providing 10.0 acres of open space per 1,000 residents for new subdivisions and land developments. The total acreage of land, which must be dedicated in each subdivision, is calculated as follows:

$(\# \text{ of new housing units}) \times (\text{persons/housing unit}) \times 0.010 \text{ or } \frac{1}{2} \text{ acre, whichever is greatest.}$

Where a fee is to be paid in lieu of dedication of land, the amount of such fee shall be equivalent to the fair market value of the acreage required by the calculation above.

Sufficient, land shall be set aside to provide the recreational facilities specified in Standards for Recreation Areas for Subdivisions and Land Development in accordance with NRPA Activity/Facility Design Standards.

The Township Supervisors will make the final decision regarding provision of recreation areas and the payment of fees in lieu of providing recreation areas. If fees are paid, they will be in accordance with a schedule set forth in the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance or in a Resolution of the Township Supervisors as determined by them from time to time.

2. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (PMPC) requires that fees are to be used for the purpose of providing park and recreation facilities accessible to the developments from which they originated. If new recreation areas are developed, consideration will be given to providing for activities which are not available, or are not sufficiently available, at other recreation areas in the Township. Consideration will also be given, if feasible within the directive of the PMPC, to providing facilities in portions of the Township which do not contain recreation areas.

3. During the review of subdivision and land development plans, the Township Planning Commission will review the plans to determine whether floodplains, wetlands, wooded areas, wildlife habitats, steep slopes, historically and archaeologically significant features, scenic overlooks, rock outcroppings, large individual trees, aquifers and aquifer recharge areas are proposed to be preserved and incorporated into an open space system, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. And keep in mind possible trail development locations and easements for loop and connector trails to the Horse-Shoe Trail or the Horse-Shoe Trail itself.

4. Developers of subdivisions and land developments shall install as a minimum the following recreational facilities, or the equivalent if approved by the Township, on land which has been reserved for recreational purposes:

Dwelling Units	Play ¹ Areas	BB/VB ² Courts	Tennis Courts	Ball ³ Diamonds	Pavilions	Soccer/FB ⁴ Fields
24 or less	1	—	—	—	—	—
25-49	1	1	—	—	—	—
50-99	1	1	—	—	1	—
100-199	2	2	1	1	1	—
200-299	2	2	2	1	1	1
300-400	2	2	2	2	2	1
over 400	3	2	2	2	2	2

The mix of facilities shall be approved by the Township.

¹ Includes such uses as tot lots, playgrounds, and mini-parks.

² Basketball and/or volleyball court

³ Softball and/or baseball diamond.

⁴ Soccer and/or football field.

**STANDARDS FOR RECREATION AREAS
FOR SUBDIVISIONS AND LAND DEVELOPMENTS**

1. Recreation areas provided within subdivisions and land developments shall meet the following standards:
 - a) Land proposed for dedication shall be safely accessible to the residents of Brecknock Township. Access shall be provided by a public roadway abutting at least one side of the site for a minimum distance of 50 feet or shall adjoin and become part of an already existing public park or open space area which is accessible from a public roadway. No public roadways shall traverse the site(s). If public easements are the sole access, they shall be at least 50 feet wide.
 - b) The shape, topography and soil conditions of the dedicated land should be suitable to accommodate those recreation activities appropriate to the location and needs of Township residents and configured to include natural features worthy of preservation. The Township Supervisors may, at their discretion, require that land to be dedicated be located along a property boundary so that such land may be combined with dedicated land or other recreation areas that are or will be adjacent to the land to be dedicated.
 - c) The land to be dedicated shall be accessible to utilities, such as water, sanitary sewer and electrical service, if any, that are provided within the subdivision or land development.
 - d) Land proposed to be dedicated as recreation or open space shall meet all of the following standards:
 - (1) A maximum of 25% of the land to be dedicated can have a maximum slope of 6% or more.
 - (2) A maximum of 25% of the land can be a wetland under Federal and/or State regulations, be within the one-hundred-year floodplain, as defined by official FEMA floodplain maps of the Township, or contain detention basins or other stormwater management facilities.
 - (3) It shall be a part of a contiguous tract of land that meets the amount of required land to be dedicated, where possible and practical.
 - (4) It shall be aesthetically pleasing, regular in shape, not burdened with an undue number of restrictions on the proposed use (i.e., overhead or underground utilities or stormwater management facilities), and environmentally hazard-free.

- e) The land shall be designed and developed for its intended recreation or open space use in accordance with the recommendation for such as contained in the National Recreation and Park Association's Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, 1983, as amended, and in accordance with the standards set forth in this Open Space and Recreation Plan.

NATIONAL RECREATION STANDARDS

The following classification system is published by the **National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) in Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines** is intended to serve as a guide to planning recreation facilities- The NRPA suggests that a park system, at a minimum be composed of a "core" system of parklands with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population.

COMPONENT	USE	SERVICE AREA	DESIRABLE SIZE	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	DESIRABLE SITE CHARACTERISTICS
A. Local / Close-to-home space:					
Mini-park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens	Less than 1/4 mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5 A	Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse development housing for the elderly,
Neighborhood Park/Playground	Area for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools etc.	1/4 to 1/2 mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood)	15+ acres	1.0 to 2.0A	Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population. Geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a school park facility.
Community Park	Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking, May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.	Several neighborhoods. 1-2 mile radius	25+ acres	5.0 to 8.0A	May include natural features, such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhoods served.
Total Close-to-home space - 6.25 to 10.5 A / 1,000					

COMPONENT	USE	SERVICE AREA	DESIRABLE SIZE	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	DESIRABLE SITE CHARACTERISTICS
B. <u>Regional Space:</u>					
Regional / Metropolitan Park	Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation., such as picnicking, boating, fishing, camping, and trail uses; may include play areas	Several communities. 1 hour driving time	200+ acres	5.0 to 10.0 A	Contiguous to or encompassing natural areas
Regional Park Reserve.	Area of natural quality for nature oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and trail uses. May include active areas. Generally 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% used for recreation and development.	Several communities. 1 hour driving time.	1,000+ acres; Sufficient area to encompass the resource to be preserved and managed	Variable	Diverse or unique natural resources, such as lakes, streams, marshes, flora, fauna, topography
Total Regional Space - 15 – 20 A / 1,000					

COMPONENT	USE	SERVICE AREA	DESIRABLE SIZE	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	DESIRABLE SITE CHARACTERISTICS
B. Space that may be local or regional and is unique to each community:					
Linear Park	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. May include active play areas. (Note: any included for any of the above components may occur in the "Linear Park")	No Applicable Standard	Sufficient width to protect the resource and provide maximum use	Variable	Built or natural corridors, such as utility rights-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities, such as schools, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas.
Special use	Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites and objects of archeological significance. Also plazas near commercial centers, boulevards and parkways.	No Applicable Standard	Variable depending on desired size	Variable	Within Communities
Conservancy	Protection and management of the natural / cultural environment with recreation use as the secondary objective	No Applicable Standard	Sufficient to protect the resource	Variable	Variable, depending on the resource being protected.

The following information is from the NRPA's, **National Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines.**

The table gives specific standards for various recreation activities and facilities. These standards should be used when developing recreation areas.

<u>ACTIVITY / FACILITY DESIGN STANDARDS</u>			
ACTIVITY / FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION
Badminton	1620 sq. ft.	Singles-17'x44' Doubles-20x44' - With 5' unobstructed space on all sides	Long axis north-south
Basketball 1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegiate	2400-3036 sq. Ft. 5040-7280 sq. Ft. 5600-7980 sq. Ft.	46-50' x 84' 50' x 84' 50' x 94' - With 5' unobstructed space on all sides	Long axis north-south
Handball 3 – 4 wall	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall; 1000 for 3-wall courts. Minimum 20' overhead clearance	20' x 40' Minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall	Long axis north-south front wall at north end
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq. ft. including support area	Rink 85' x 200' (Minimum 85' x 185'). Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area	Long axis north-south if outdoors
Tennis	Minimum of 7200 sq. ft. single court (2 acres for complex)	36' x 78'. 12' clearance on both sides: 21' clearance on both ends	Long axis north-south
Volleyball	Minimum of 4000 sq. ft. on all sides	30' x 60'. Minimum 6' clearance	Long axis north-south
Baseball 1. Official 2. Little League	Minimum: – 3.85 Acres 1.2 Acre	Baselines – 90' Pitching Distance – 60½' Foul Lines (Min.) – 320' Center Field – 400' Baselines – 60' Pitching Distance – 46'	Locate home plate so pitcher is throwing across sun and batter is not facing it. Line from home plate through pitcher's mound runs east-Northeast

		Foul Lines (Min.) – 200’ Center Field – 200–250’	
Field Hockey	Minimum 1.5 Acres	180’ x 300’ with a minimum of 10’ clearance on all sides	Fall Season – Long axis northwest to southeast. For longer periods, north to south
Football	Minimum 1.5 Acres	180’ x 360’ with a minimum of 6’ clearance on all sides	Fall Season – Long axis northwest to southeast. For longer periods, north to south
Soccer	1.7 to 2.1 Acres	196’ to 225’ x 330’ to 360’ with a 10’ clearance on all sides	Fall Season – Long axis northwest to southeast. For longer periods, north to south
Golf Driving Range	13.5 A Minimum of 25 tees	900’ x ‘690’ wide. Add 12’ for each Additional tee	Long axis southwest – northeast with golfers driving towards northeast
¼ Mile Running Track	4.3 Acres	Overall width – 276’ Length 600.02’ Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32’	Long axis is in sector from north to south to northwest-south-east with finish line at northerly end
Softball	1.5 to 2.0 Acres	Baselines – 60’ Pitching Distance – 46’ men – 40’ women Fast pitch field radius from plate – 225’ between foul lines. Slow Pitch – 275’ (men) 250’ (women)	Locate home plate so pitcher is throwing across sun and batter is not facing it. Line from home plate through pitcher’s mound runs east-Northeast
Multiple Recreation Court	9340 sq. ft.	120’ x 80’	Long axis of courts with primary use is North South
Trails	N/A	Well defined head maximum 10’ width, maximum average grade 5% not to exceed 15%. Capacity: <u>Rural Trails</u> 40	N/A

		<p>hikers/day/mile.</p> <p><u>Urban Trails</u></p> <p><u>90</u></p> <p>hikers/day/mile</p>	
Archery Range	Minimum 0.65 Acres	300' length x a minimum of 10' wide between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range of minimum 30'. Clear spaces behind targets of 90' x 45' with bunker	Archer Facing North +/- 45°
Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 Station)	Minimum 30 Acres	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within two superimposed segments with 100-yard radii (4 acres), shortfall danger zone is contained within two superimposed segments with 300-yard radii (36 acres)	Centerline of length runs northeast-southwest with shooter facing northeast
Golf			
1. Par 3 (18 hole)	50 – 60 Acres	Average length varies – 600 – (2700 yards)	Majority of holes on north-south axis
2. 9 hole standard	Minimum 50 acres	Average length 2250 yards	
3. 18 hole standard	Minimum 110 Acres	Average length 6500 yards	
Swimming Pools	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually ½ to 2 Acres Site	Teaching – Minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 feet. Competitive – minimum of 25m x 16m. Minimum of 27 sq. ft. of water per swimmer.	None although care must be taken in sighting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun

		Ratios of 2:1 deck vs. water	
Beach Areas	N/A	Beach Areas should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4 acres of supporting land per acre of beach.	N/A

Recreation facilities should be available to meet the needs of all residents of the Township. Thus, facilities should be available for all age groups and for a variety of types of recreation. The NRPA recommends that there should be different types of parks, not just one large single purpose park to meet the suggested acreage standards it has prepared.

BCPC RECREATION STANDARDS:

The NRPA standards represent general guidelines. The Berks County Planning Commission has developed a series of recreation standards specifically for Berks County. These standards set forth the commission’s recommended minimum size per 1000 population served for local metropolitan and regional park and recreation areas. Recommendations concerning service areas are indicated for regional parks and local playgrounds only.

<u>BCPC RECREATION STANDARDS</u>			
Classification	Types of Uses	Acres/1000 People	Service Area
Local Recreation Area	Playfields, playgrounds swimming pools, and neighborhood parks	3.5	Playgrounds within 1/2 mile radius of neighborhood exceeding 700 persons per sq. mile
Metropolitan Area	County or large City parks to include golf courses, special function parks. (e.g. arboreta), developed stream valley parks	6.5	
Regional Parks	State or bi-County parks to include developed recreation areas, historic sites	15.0	Within one hour driving time