

Executive Summary

The Southwestern Lehigh County Area Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan was a joint planning effort by Emmaus Borough, Macungie Borough, Upper Milford Township and Lower Milford Township. The goal of the plan is to assess the individual and collective park, recreation and open space needs and desires of the participating municipalities to determine how planning on a regional perspective could enhance the entire area.

Although the four communities differed greatly in a number of needs and priorities, the planning efforts served as a forum to discuss the present challenges and projected needs of the larger area. While the two boroughs are generally completely developed and have existing recreational facilities, the two townships have a broader geographic area with more available open space, less dense populations and newer recreation facilities.

Historically, the boroughs have been the primary provider of recreation facilities for the surrounding township, but as time has progressed, this trend has diminished as the stock of recreational facilities and open space in the townships has grown.

In general the Boroughs are looking to secure their existing recreation and provide for renovations and updating of facilities, while the Townships are more concern with securing open space and acquiring preservation easements.

From observations, key interviews, public meetings and presentations the Southwestern Lehigh County Area Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan was developed as a comprehensive planning document to guide future recreation choices and open space needs in this area of Lehigh County.