Mary D Fire Company
Sports Complex & Walking Trail

BACKGROUND: Constructed at the site of the former Mary D Colliery, the Sports Complex and Trail are products of successful community partnerships. An idea by volunteer groups to treat acid mine drainage from the boreholes at the former Mary D ball field resulted in a home run for the community. (Boreholes were drilled years ago to drain groundwater from active deep mines.) Relocation of the field to construct a treatment system became possible with Blaschak Coal Company's donation of 10 acres, funding secured by Schuylkill Headwaters Association from the William Penn Foundation, PA DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, and other funding from the

Schuylkill Township Board of Supervisors and the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission. The treatment system, to be completed in 2011, will improve water quality in the Schuylkill River by removing iron and acidic pH from the discharge.

INFORMATION: This level, paved walking trail is ADA compliant, and encircles the beautiful sports complex of a youth baseball field, soccer field, and ice skating pond. Walking "regulars" on the trail say three laps equal one mile. A large, paved lot affords ample parking. Sixty-five tree seedlings planted by Silberline in recognition of their 65th year in business creates "Silberline Grove" near home plate.

CONTACT: For more information, call Mary D Fire Company at 570-668-5566 or Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission at 570-668-2919.

DIRECTIONS: Travel north on SR 209 from Pottsville through Middleport and turn left into the Village of Mary D, named for Mary Delores Dodson, wife of colliery owner Truman Dodson. Turn right onto Sanderson Street and continue to Complex on left.

AREA ATTRACTIONS: This trail is a short drive from Tuscarora and Locust Lake State Parks, Heisler's Dairy Bar and Miniature Golf Course, local farm markets (in season), and Rosemount Camping Resort.

GPS COORDINATES:
Lat 40°45'40.85" N Lon 76°03'13.35" W

RECOMMENDED GEAR: Comfortable walking shoes.