

# Bucks town consults teens on riverfront

Bensalem High School students are teaming with officials to redevelop a stretch along the Delaware.

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**BENSALEM** — Successful riverfront redevelopment comes, experts say, with the right mix of businesses, residences, and cultural or entertainment centers.

Such redevelopment, however, has been slow along the 25 miles of Lower Bucks County's riverfront where the Delaware River borders five towns, including Bensalem.

Professionals are working on a county plan to study the waterfront again, but Bensalem officials are looking to the township's high school students for fresh ideas.

Last night, at a forum in Bensalem High School's auditorium attended by about 100 people, students discussed what they had found so far in their research of the riverfront and asked the public for input.

"The riverfront needs to be developed for all ages to enjoy. No one should be left out," said Andie Solomon of Bensalem, who accompanied her daughter Erika Nutinsky to the forum.

Among the ideas brought forth by students and residents were a small theme park, a boardwalk, horse trails, topiary gardens, a skateboard park, and boat rentals.

The high school students conducted the forum with assis-

tance from students at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. The graduate students and members of the university's Project 540 team — a national civic-engagement initiative for high school students — helped ready the Bensalem students for the forum.

The university, through its Penn Praxis studio, a clinical consulting practice of Penn's School of Design, contracted with the Bensalem Economic Development Corp. to analyze and suggest development ideas for Bensalem's four-mile stretch of the waterfront.

The university's graduate landscape-architecture students are leading the project.

Bensalem Mayor Joseph DiGirolomo and school and municipal officials attended last night's forum.

The high school students will present a final plan in January, along with those from Penn Praxis.

"There is great potential at the waterfront," said Alexander Jones, 16, who moderated one of the public workshops. "A drive-in movie theater would be great there."

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**The town held a forum on ideas to develop the area along the Delaware River "for all ages to enjoy."**