

**Heuser Park**  
**Upper Merion Township**  
**Montgomery County, PA**

**Project Description:**

As Montgomery County grows in size, the recreational needs of its residents must be met. Trying to organize a local youth sports team without a field to play on would be quite a challenge. Responding to the growing recreational needs of its residents, Upper Merion Township, with funding support from DCNR and DCED, partnered to develop the Heuser Park athletic complex consisting of two football fields, three baseball fields, and a clubhouse. Parking lots, lighting, a playground, and landscaping are also provided within the park. The area was perfect for the athletic fields because it was vacant land that had been reclaimed from prior silt basins and no trees needed to be cleared. Portions of the site that had been a silt basin were cleared of all coal deposits by a private company, leaving open land for the Township to reuse. Another portion of the site located in a floodplain was already used for recreation by local kids and was unusable for anything but park use.

This 111 acre park will allow the local sports teams to continue to grow, one of which had seen an increase in participants of 10 % in just one year. There are baseball, football, lacrosse and school teams that currently use the fields.

**Quote:** Scott Sibley, Chairman, Township Board of Supervisors  
 "Heuser Park has become a focal point for many community activities that previously were scattered among a number of facilities. The whole community considers it a great asset. We are considering further expansion and enhancements, such as trails, additional practice fields, and a farmer's market."



According to the Upper Merion Park and Recreation Director, the fields are always full of people.

The development of Heuser Park did not impact the natural areas at all. Minimal grading of the area was needed, and the bird habitats nearby were not affected. Another way the Township reduced the environmental impact on the development was using

recycled materials when constructing picnic tables and park benches. The Township is looking into opportunities to connect the park for easier access by residents. Bob Case Park is located only a half mile away and a trail to connect the two is planned. A multi-municipality effort to create a trail along the West Bank of the Schuylkill will hopefully include a stop at Heuser Park. The park has had a tremendous benefit to the community, specifically local youth organizations. Getting kids outdoors makes them healthier and

more aware of the valuable of protecting our natural resources.



**Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:**

- 2006: \$100,000 Keystone Grant
- Matching Funds – \$5,400,000
- Upper Merion Township Bond - \$5,380,000
- DCED - \$20,000