

**Community Park Rehabilitation
 Lansford Borough
 Carbon County, PA**

Project Description:

A zip line, climbing wall and multiple slides make the Ashton Hill Park in Lansford Borough a stimulating place for children to play. The safety surfacing and lighting make the park a safe one, too. Two separate play structures, designed differently with either older or younger children in mind, cater separately to their needs while allowing the different age groups to interact.

"The kids tried to get in before it was even finished. They were so anxious and so happy they had something to play on," said Karen Burrell, Assistant Secretary for Lansford Borough.

Enthusiasm about the project was evident from the start.

"One of the things that stands out is the cooperation from the whole community. We have very little money to spend on recreation so this project was mainly done by volunteers," said Burrell, who wrote the Community Conservation Partnerships Program grant application on her own time.

Others volunteered their time and donated funds; a local contractor leveled the ground and completed the cement work; and, the day the play



structure was assembled, about 40 residents showed up to aid in its construction.

"There's been a tremendous outpouring by the community for the community, said Robert Gaughan, Lansford Borough Council President. "This just shows what's possible with strong community involvement," he added.

Describing the park as "the anchor of the west end of Lansford" because of its proximity to the community pool and school district's football field, Gaughan said, "I'd go as far to say that

there's been a 10 fold increase in the number of people who go there. Since we've installed the equipment, you can go to the area when the weather is halfway decent and see 14, 16, 18 people – not just kids, supervised kids."

In addition to the play equipment,

the \$20,000 Keystone grant from DCNR helped cover the costs of adding benches and signs to the park in addition to landscaping and other related site improvements. The park also includes a pool and pavilion and, according to Gaughan, the borough hopes to add additional benches and a second pavilion in 2009.

Quote: Karen Burrell, Assistant Secretary, Lansford Borough

"Now we have a beautiful park. It's always crowded and all we hear are compliments. People even come from Tamaqua and Jim Thorpe, which are two towns over. Everyone's excited to have the playground here because it really dressed up the whole community."

Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:

2005: \$20,000