

**Twin Lakes Park – Skate Park
Westmoreland Township Westmoreland County**

Project Description:

After compiling a comprehensive parks and recreation plan in 2000, it became apparent that Westmoreland County was lacking street skating facilities for BMX bikers, skateboarders and inline skaters. The closest skate park was in Pittsburgh, about an hour away.

When community leaders decided to address the issue, they looked to community youth. “There was a public design process. The kids got to choose what they wanted and really participated in the planning of it,” said, Malcolm Sias, Westmoreland County Parks & Recreation Parks Planning Coordinator.

Sias asked those at the planning meetings to participate in the fundraising efforts for the park, challenging them to raise \$20,000.

Groups of teenage boys set up car washes, concerts and food stands. They returned with \$25,000 - \$5,000 more than they were challenged to raise.

One of the biggest skate park design groups in the country designed Peach Plaza Skate and Action Park. With steps, rails, blocks and quarter pipe transitions, it is oriented toward street skating.

Peach Park officially opened in June of 2008. “We had a huge turnout. I’ve seen 75-80 kids there at one time. They really work with each other and share the space,” Sias said.

To further accommodate users, additional access roads, parking areas, comfort facilities and signs were constructed as part of the \$900,000 project - \$390,000 of which was funded by DCNR Growing Greener funds.

Located in Twin Lakes Park, in the center of Westmoreland County and just off Route 30 (Lincoln Highway), Peach Park is accessible from all areas of the county.

The rest of the park offers two large lakes for fishing and boating, picnic areas, pavilions, brick walkways and ADA accessibility.

“The park used to be more passive activities like walking but now it’s really active. We want to have a winter sports area, dog park and a couple of playgrounds,” Sias said of future plans for the park.



Quote: Malcolm Sias, Westmoreland County Parks & Recreation Parks Planning Coordinator

“The kids helped plan, design, build and fund the park. They have a sense of ownership in it.”



Amount of Growing Greener funding awarded and matching sources:

Total Project Cost	\$390,000
Growing Greener 2 Grant:	\$100,000
LWCF:	\$290,000
Local Match:	\$325,000