



Alexandria Borough Park

Huntingdon County, PA

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roject Description:

Alexandria Borough is a small community located in Huntingdon County. It has a population of 379 and is located in the Huntingdon metro area. This borough park project was spearheaded by Mayor Ronald Gorsuch. As a native of Alexandria Borough, Mayor Gorsuch recognized the need for his community to replace the antiquated and unsafe playground equipment in the borough's only park. Furthermore, he recognized the need to provide young residents with a safe place to play that was within walking distance of home. The mayor wanted to ensure that children did not have to travel to neighboring Porter Township just to have a safe place to play.

In 2003, Mayor Gorsuch approached the Alexandria Borough Council to seek approval to search out grant funding to rehabilitate the borough park and replace the equipment. He was referred to the DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation web site where he learned that Keystone Grant funding could help him accomplish his goal.

Mayor Gorsuch then contacted the BRC's South Central Regional Office and requested that a park and recreation advisor meet with him on site to discuss the project and begin to assist the borough in applying for the Keystone Grant funding. As a result of the



mayor's diligence, in 2004 Alexandria Borough received a Small Community Grant for \$25,000. The Borough supplied \$5,000 in matching funds. The project was completed in 2007.

Keystone Funding is used for recreation facility development projects under DCNR's Small

Communities Program. Only municipalities with populations of 5,000 and under are eligible for the Small Communities Program. The total project cost cannot exceed \$60,000. These impactful projects typically entail the installation of playgrounds, pavilions and walkways. The Small Communities Program carries an 80 percent state/20 percent local match. This means that grant awards can be made up to \$48,000, which would require a local match of \$12,000.

Small Community Projects that have a total project cost of \$20,000 or less are eligible to receive full funding with no local match requirements.

Mayor Ronald Gorsuch stated that before he left office, he wanted to do a project that would benefit his community --- both young and old. He went on to say that the children now have a safe place to play which they can walk to, and will hopefully now have something to do. What's more, the home values of adjacent property owners also have increased. All due to the use and availability of Keystone Grant funding.

"Living close to the park, I see a lot of people using the park. There are a number of people that come in from out of the Borough and park in the parking lot to let their children play in the park. The citizens of the Borough do not have to leave the borough to let their children have a good time in a very clean and organized park. The equipment was installed correctly and no one has to worry about the children getting injured in the park."

Richard L. Phillips Sr.

Amount of funds awarded, year and matching sources:

Total Project Cost:	\$30,000
Grant Amount:	\$25,000
Match:	\$5,000