



Minersville Pool
Minersville Borough

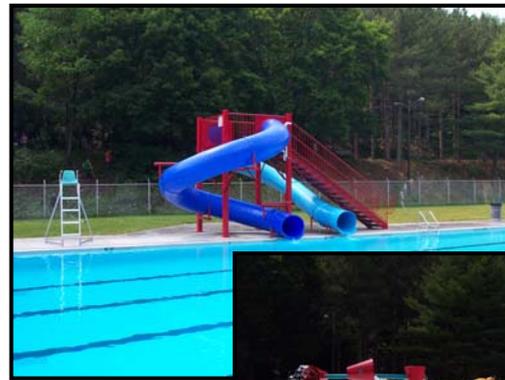
Schuylkill County, PA

P roject Description:

The Minersville Pool had been in operation for the residents of Minersville and the surrounding communities of Cass, Branch, Foster and Reilly townships for 54 years. The pool has long been an important piece of the Minersville community Fourth street recreation complex. The complex is a beautiful nine acre multi use recreation facility that includes three baseball fields, an outdoor pavilion, playground, soccer field, basketball court and a half mile asphalt walking path with a pine tree canopy extending over much of the trail. Unfortunately, in the summer 2004 the continuous repairs to the pool became too costly for the community to bear. The pool had to be closed. When news of the closing reached the community, a "Save the Minersville Pool" committee was immediately formed comprised of individuals from Minersville and the nearby communities.

A feasibility study was completed that looked at the existing conditions. The study compared the cost of repairing the existing pool and building a new one in the same location. It was determined from the study that it was now time to rebuild the pool completely and eliminate all of the safety and ADA issues that existed with the old structure.

Having a small population of around 5,000 people Minersville did not have the money needed for repairs from their general fund. They needed to use their local community development dollars, private funds and a grant from the department of community and economic development. All of these sources together with a \$400,000 Keystone grant from DCNR made it possible for the community to make the needed repairs to their pool.



When faced with the dilemma of closing Minersville's swimming pool or spending nearly \$2 million dollars to renovate the facility, Minersville's Mayor, David Dutcavich, and Borough Council opted to keep the 54-year old community landmark open. "Fifty years ago, there were several public and private swimming pools in our area," Dutcavich said, "But maintenance is costly, and is rarely outpaced by revenue. Our pool was the only one left." Especially troubling to Dutcavich and other officials was Minersville's geography. "There are dozens of water-filled coal lands where kids might congregate; and the age-old question kept popping up about recreational activities for kids." It's a common lament among young people, Dutcavich said, saying that many children and parents complain that "There's nothing for us to do here." But our recreational facilities have always been the gem of our community, with the pool acting as the centerpiece," he said. "With both community integrity and child safety as prevalent issues, we pushed our proposal to DCNR," the mayor recalls. Dutcavich committed his mayoral salary to the effort; while businesses and private donors have also contributed. "Certainly, we have a long way to go in paying for the pool upgrades; but DCNR made it possible for us to proceed quickly," Dutcavich said. In its inaugural season, the Minersville Community Pool has broken attendance records. "I'm grateful that DCNR is helping with this important project," the Mayor said, "With all the worthy proposals DCNR sees every year, I'm glad that they saw the value that we saw."

David Dutcavich, Minersville Mayor

Amount of funds awarded, year and matching sources:

2006: \$400,000 Keystone funding
Matching funds-County CDBG funds, Minersville friends of pool and Minersville general fund \$500,000