



Point Marion Borough Community Park
 Point Marion Borough

Fayette County, PA

Project Description:

Point Marion Borough is located in the southwestern corner of Fayette County. It is bordered by the Monongahela River on the West and West Virginia to its south. It also is poised to be a great "Trail Town" when the future planned Greene River and Sheepskin trails are complete in Pennsylvania and the already complete Mon River North Trail in West Virginia. The Point Marion Community Park is the only park in the borough, ideally located to attract resident and visitors off the river and trails.

The effort to build a walking/fitness trail involved many in the community. First, the Borough created a Recreation Committee comprised of three councilman and two local licensed engineers/outdoorsmen. Their charge is to enlarge the recreational opportunities for all residents. Secondly, a group of concerned citizens started The Friends of the Point Marion Park (Friends). Their board is comprised of one councilperson; a local clergyman; veteran, two parents-- one of grade school and one teenager; a young adult; a businesswoman; senior citizen; and civic activist. This group cuts across a wide band of local population and interest groups.

Friends put together a detailed questionnaire regarding the potential improvements to the park and went door-to-door throughout town. Plus, the questionnaire was distributed to high school students, made available at the local library, members of the Golden Pointers Senior Citizen Club and another local women's club. Next, a master site development plan was created, which gave a detailed list of priorities as well as a plan for implementation.

"We did not do it alone that is the key! It was the Friends of the Park who were the catalyst for the project and took the idea to the borough council who were very supportive. Actually, several years ago, the local lodge of the International Order of Oddfellows originally had the idea to upgrade the park but the support or timing was not right. Since then, council, community and business support has really blossomed."

Mary Murphy, Chairman of the Friends of the Point Marion Park.

A \$40,000 Keystone funded grant through DCNR was for the number one priority identified in the master site plan—a walking/fitness trail along the perimeter of the community park to serve the needs of walkers and joggers of all ages while providing a safe and convenient place to exercise. This trail will link all of the recreational facilities of the park and perhaps most importantly, it will allow ADA access to all of the parks amenities.

Further, it will provide access from the parking area to the existing boat ramp, under lease by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, allowing boaters easy access to restrooms and other amenities.

Since the completion of Phase I, the trail is receiving a very high use and the borough has since secured a second DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Grant, through the Keystone Fund for Phase II for \$179,000. This phase includes additional partners such as the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission who will help with constructing a dock, pilings, gangways and lighting along the river; Department of Community and Economic Development; cash donations, in-kind services from contractors; High School Vo-Tech, Friends of the Park and the borough. Other improvements will include upgrades to the concession stand and maintenance building, changing the tennis court into two basketball courts with lighting and playground upgrades.

Amount of funds awarded, year and matching sources:

2005: \$ 40,000 Keystone Funding
 Matching Funds: Redevelopment Authority of Fayette County Community Development Block Grant \$10,550
 Private individuals and organizations \$ 4,800 In-Kind: Private individuals and organizations \$300
 Point Marion Borough \$ 8,212